TOKEN DISPENSING DEVICE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 221—279)

The present invention relates to dispensing devices and more particularly to a device for dispensing tokens or markers used in games of amusement such as Lotto, Bingo, or the like.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a token dispensing device which is easily operable by one hand to dispense tokens one at a time in rapid succession at desired locations on a game board or card.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a token dispensing device that is operable to dispense a single token at a chosen location on a game board or card by merely pressing the delivery end of the dispenser down upon the card or board at the desired location.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a dispensing device having the above features which is easily loaded with a plurality of tokens and one wherein the number of tokens in the dispenser after a period of use is easily determined or estimated.

The above and further objects and features of the present invention will be more apparent in the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment thereof wherein reference is made to the accompanying drawings in the latter of which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the dispensing device of the present invention;
FIG. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on line 2—2 of FIG. 1;
FIG. 3 is a horizontal sectional view taken on line 3—3 of FIG. 2;
FIG. 4 is a bottom end view of the dispenser; and
FIG. 5 is a view partly in section taken on line 5—5 of FIG. 2.

Referring now to the drawings, reference numeral 11 indicates in general the dispensing tube of the device which may be of any suitable material, preferably plastic, which is closed at one end, as at 12, and open at the other end. Where the tokens 13 are of the usual circular or disc shape, the dispensing tube 11 will be of cylindrical cross-section with an inside diameter slightly greater than the diameter of the tokens 13 so that the tokens are free to move and stack therein.

The bottom or discharge end of the dispensing tube 11 is open and attached thereto is the so-called token retaining ring 14. The retaining ring 14 fits over the reduced diameter section 15 at the end of the tube 11 and has formed therein inwardly projecting pins 17 adapted to engage lips or surfaces 18 or slots 19 in the section 16 of the tube 11 to hold the two units together. A slight turning of the retaining ring 14 with respect to the tube 11 to move the pins 17 into alignment with the axial part of the slots 19 permits the retaining ring to be separated from the tube 11. With the retaining ring 14 removed, the tube can easily be loaded with a supply of tokens 13 which assume a slacked position therein.

Positioned within the retaining ring 14, at the end of the tube 11 and at shoulder 21 on the inside of the ring 14 is a circular element 22 having a series of teeth 23 formed along the lower edge thereof. The teeth 23 extend inwardly at a slight angle to the axis of the tube and are flexible. The element 22 may be made of suitable material such as spring brass, for example, and the teeth 23 thereof are adapted to prevent the tokens 13 from freely falling out of the tube 11.

The tube 11 has a pair of diametrically opposed axial slots 24 therein extending a substantial part of its length and extending through these slots are pins 26. The outer ends of the pins 26 have knurled thumb and finger gripping heads 27 and the inner ends of the pins are either anchored or fixed in appropriate openings in a relatively short cylindrical member 28 hereinafter called a token pusher. The pusher 28 is slightly less in diameter than the inner diameter of the tube 11 and has a circular groove 29 in the periphery thereof in which is mounted a ring of suitable friction material 31 such as felt or the like. The felt 31 prevents the token pusher 28 from freely moving in the tube and as will be hereinafter apparent provides sufficient friction between the pusher and the tube to enable the dispenser to be picked up by grasping the thumb and finger heads 27 without movement of the pusher 28 relative to the tube 11 even with the tube 11 substantially full of tokens.

In using the dispenser of the present invention, the heads 27 are grasped by the thumb and forefinger and the lower end placed over or on the location where it is desired to deposit a token. A downward pressure is then exerted on the heads 27 which forces the lowest token engaged by the teeth 23 of the ring 22 to be forced out of engagement therewith and permits the teeth to engage and retain the next above token. The dispenser can then be raised and the lowest token will be left on the board. The location of the teeth 23 above the extreme end of the dispenser are such with respect to the thickness of the tokens that only one token at a time will be deposited.

From the above description of the preferred embodiment of my invention, it will be apparent that I have provided a token dispenser of novel construction with a number of advantages over those heretofore available. The advantages include a dispenser having a usable length whether loaded, partly loaded or empty of token, positive feed of the tokens in depositing, one where the supply of tokens in the dispenser is readily apparent at all times and one from which the tokens can easily be dispensed at desired locations in very rapid succession.

While the invention has been described in but its preferred embodiment, it will be obvious that various modifications can be made therein without departing from spirit or essential attributes thereof and it is desired therefore that only such limitations be placed thereon as are imposed by the appended claims.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A token dispenser comprising a hollow cylindrical casing for containing a stack of tokens, said casing being closed at one end and having the other end open, a token retaining ring, means for releasably attaching said ring to the open end of said casing, said means including axially extending pins on said ring engageable with slots adjacent the open end of said casing, said retaining ring being resiliently held on the inner surface thereof, a resiliently expandable toothed member adapted to resiliently engage the inner surface of said ring with the teeth thereof extending inwardly and adapted to engage the lowestmost one of a stack of tokens in said casing to normally retain the stack of tokens therein, a token pusher in said casing above said tokens, a pair of diametrically opposed axial slots in said casing, a pair of pins extending through said slots with the inner ends thereof anchored in said pusher and the outer ends having enlarged finger gripping heads on the exterior of said casing, means including said finger gripping heads to manually apply pressure to said token pusher and the stack
of tokens in said casing to discharge the lowermost one of the stack from engagement with said toothed resilient member with said resilient member being spaced a predetermined distance above the lowermost end of said retaining ring to permit only a predetermined number of tokens to be discharged past said member when the lower end of said retaining ring is in engagement with a token receiving surface.

2. The token dispenser as set forth in claim 1 and including resilient frictional means on said token pusher and engaging the inner walls of said casing whereby there is no relative axial movement between the pusher and the casing when the dispenser is lifted by the finger gripping heads from the token receiving surface.

3. A token dispenser comprising a hollow cylindrical casing for containing a plurality of tokens in a stacked condition, said casing being open at one end and closed at the other, a ring at the open end of said casing, means including axially extending pins on said ring engageable with slots on said casing for removably securing said ring to said casing, said ring having on the inner circumference thereof means for resiliently engaging the periphery of the lowermost token of the stack contained in said casing, said means including a resilient member expandable against the inner surface of said ring, said member having inwardly extending teeth engaging said lowermost token, a token pusher in said casing between the closed end thereof and the uppermost token of the stack, a plurality of axial slots in the wall of said casing, finger gripping means extending through said slots to said token pusher whereby manual pressure may be applied to the stack of tokens, said pressure being effective to move the lowermost token out of engagement with said token engaging means and cause the next above to be engaged thereby, said token engaging means being spaced above the open end of said ring to permit a predetermined number of tokens to move past said token engaging means when the lower end of said ring is placed on a token receiving surface and pressure applied to said token pusher.

4. The token dispenser as set forth in claim 3 and including means on said token pusher adapted to frictionally engage the inner walls of said casing to premit said dispenser to be lifted by said finger gripping means without movement of said pusher in said casing.

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