April 12, 1927.

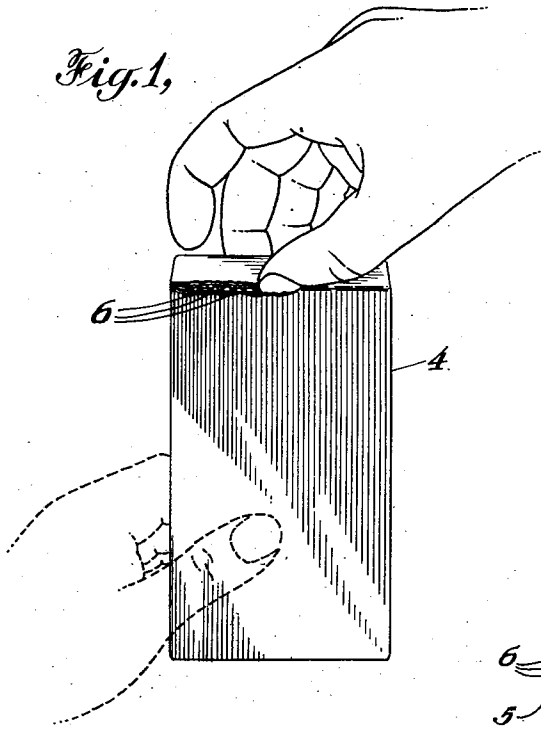
1,624,375

J. C. THOM

CONTAINER OPENER

Filed Jan. 9, 1925

Fig. 1,



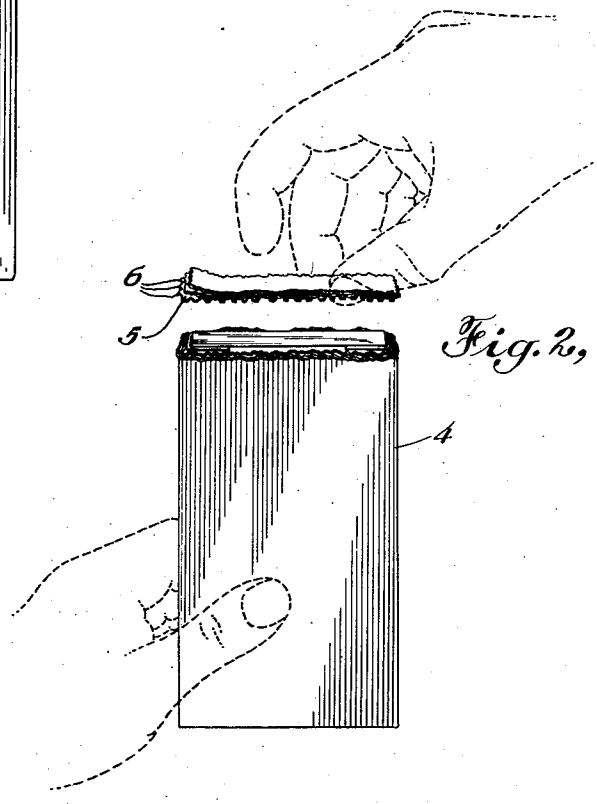


Fig. 2,

Fig. 3,

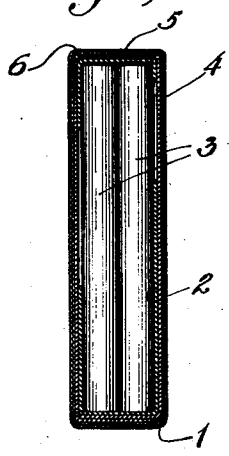
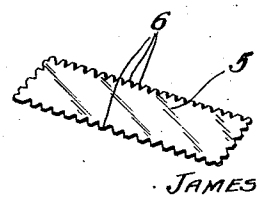


Fig. 4,



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES C. THOM, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO COMBINATION MACHINE COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE.

CONTAINER OPENER.

Application filed January 9, 1925. Serial No. 1,459.

This invention is an improvement in container openers, and with respect to its more specific features to openers for containers of cigarettes, small cigars, and like articles.

Containers for cigarettes, small cigars and like products, are usually composed of a slide for the immediate reception of the articles, a shell in which the slide is movable, and an outer wrapper enclosing the shell, which wrapper may be of foil, paper, or both, usually water proofed to retain the contents in the desired condition as regards moisture content and the like.

The shell is open at one end, the end which is the top of the package usually, and in order to preserve the contents as nearly as possible in their original condition, while the goods are being used, it is desirable that the wrapper be broken at the open end of the shell, and over only a sufficient extent to permit withdrawal of the slide.

This restricted breaking of the wrapper requires more time and patience than is usually given to the operation, and as a consequence, the wrapper, or a large portion thereof, is practically destroyed, so far as its usefulness as a protector is concerned, and the package is left in an unsightly condition, and with its contents open to the deterioration.

An object of the present invention is to provide simple and inexpensive means in connection with packages of the character in question, by means of which the wrapper may be broken or weakened along selected lines, to provide an opening for the withdrawal of the slide.

Another object is the provision of means so constructed and arranged, that the performance of its intended function releases it from the package.

Another object is the provision of means which in no way changes the character of the package, and which does not alter or interfere with the usual method of packing the articles.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and such other objects as may hereinafter appear, the invention consists in the construction and novel combination of parts fully described hereinafter, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims appended hereto, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details of construction, within the scope of the claims, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a package provided with the improved opening means, showing the means for breaking or weakening the wrapper, and the method of operating the same.

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the opening completed and the means itself completely detached from the package.

Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the package.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the opening means.

The present embodiment of the invention is shown in connection with a package of cigarettes. The package comprises the container proper composed of a shell 1 and a slide 2, which may be of any usual or suitable character.

The cigarettes indicated at 3 are placed within the slide, which is then inserted within the shell, and the container is enclosed in an outer wrapping 4 of any character, as for instance foil, foil and paper, or the like.

The outer wrapper is usually moisture proofed, to preserve the contents of the package from the atmospheric changes, and to obtain access to the slide, so that it may be withdrawn to expose the contents of the package, it is only necessary to break the wrapper at one end of the slide.

One end of the slide is open, usually the end which will be at the top of the package, and at this end the mechanism for weakening or breaking the wrapper is arranged, the said mechanism being normally inoperative, to break or weaken the wrapper until cooperating pressure is brought to bear upon the outer surface of the wrapper.

The said mechanism is in the form of a plate 5 of rigid or substantially rigid sheet material, as for instance metal, celluloid, or the like, and the said plate is of a size corresponding approximately to that of the shell end.

Before the wrapper is sealed, the plate 5 is placed within the open end, abutting against the slide and the shell. The wrapper is then closed and sealed, leaving the plate

in place, and inoperative to affect the wrapper until pressure is exerted upon the wrapper against the edges of the plate.

By means of the thumb, the wrapper may be sufficiently weakened, or entirely broken along the edge of the plate, so that the entire end of the wrapper may be removed. Or if desired, the weakening may be along one side edge and the ends of the plate, leaving a portion of the wrapper to form a hinge. In either case, the breaking of the wrapper permits the removal of the plate, which, its function served, may be discarded.

The edge of the plate may be serrated, as indicated at 6, or the edge may be beveled to form a blunt cutting edge. A cutting edge is not however, absolutely essential, since the edge of the plate provides also a guide for the thumb nail, which may be used to break the wrapper, the plate edge serving as a guide.

The improved opener provides a very simple inexpensive and convenient means to open the end of a package, along selected lines inoperative without cooperative external pressure. If desired the plates may be provided with suitable display matter, referring to the goods contained within the package, or to other goods of the same manufacturer.

While the improved opener is shown in connection with a package of cigarettes, it will be understood that it is equally useful and equally adapted for use with packages containing commodities of any character.

While the opener is shown as occupying substantially the area of the end of the package, it is obvious that it might be of a size to occupy only a portion, of its area, as for instance one end of the said area. This would permit the user to tear off a portion only of the end of the package, thereby to expose the ends of one or more cigarettes.

I claim:

1. A commodity package including an enclosing wrapper of paper, or the like, and an opener at one end of the package underlying the wrapper, said opener having an area substantially that of the cross-section of the package, and presenting a resistant cutting-edge coextensive with a wall of the package, which, upon the application of external pressure upon said wall of the package at the said end, will cause the cutting edge of the opener to sever the wrapper along said wall to facilitate opening of the package.

2. A commodity package including a wrapper of paper or the like enclosing the commodity, and an opener at one end of the package underlying the wrapper, said opener being of an area substantially that of the cross section of the package and presenting at each face of the package a firm resistant edge against which the wrapper may be cut without bodily movement of the opener and while the opener is firmly held in place, said opener being a rigid plate with serrated cutting edges.

3. In a commodity package including a shell, a slide, and a wrapper of paper or the like enclosing the shell and slide, an opener at one end of the package between the wrapper and the shell of an area substantially that of the cross section of the shell, and presenting at each face of the package a firm resistant edge against which the paper may be cut by external pressure at the opener edge without bodily movement of the opener, and while the opener is firmly held in place, said opener being a rigid plate with serrated cutting edges.

Signed at Chicago, in the county of Cook, and State of Illinois, this 5th day of January A. D. 1925.

JAMES C. THOM.