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T. J. FOLEY ET AL

2,562,180

ARTICLE DISPENSER

Filed April 12, 1949

Fig. 1

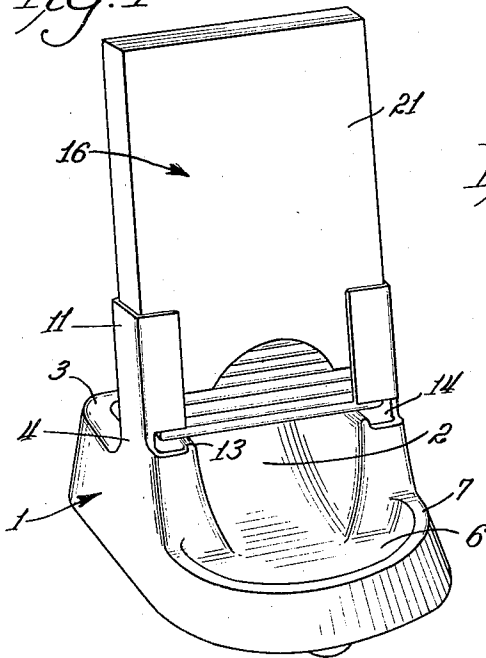


Fig. 2

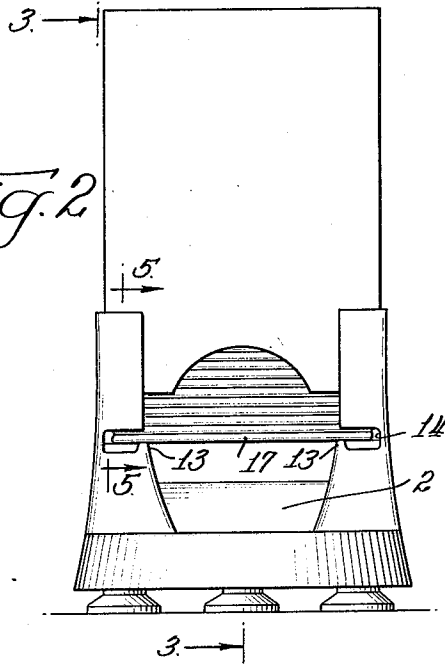


Fig. 4

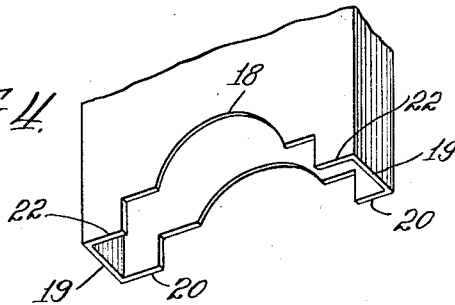


Fig. 3

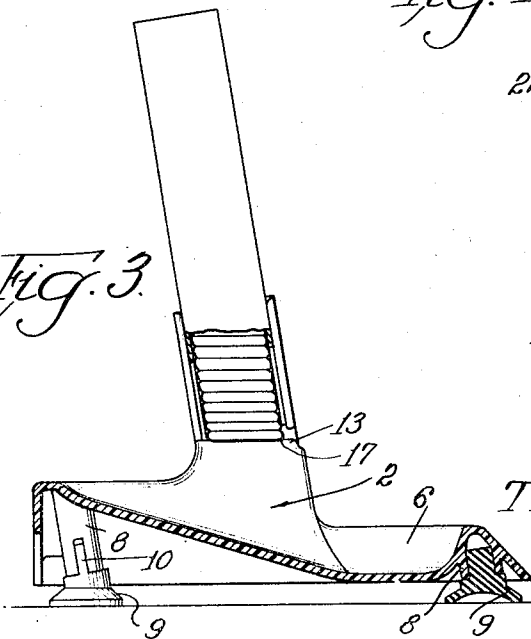
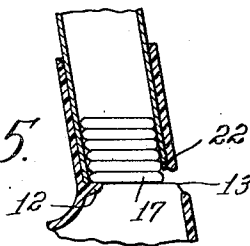


Fig. 5



INVENTORS:
Thomas J. Foley and
George W. Emmert
By: Louis Robertson, Att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ARTICLE DISPENSER

Thomas J. Foley, Chicago, and George W. Emmert, Berwyn, Ill., assignors to The Curtiss Candy Company, Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

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2 Claims. (Cl. 312-42)

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This invention relates to a combination change tray and dispenser for gum, candy bars or similar items.

One object of our invention is to provide a combination dispensing device and coin tray or chute so positioned as to occupy a minimum of space and to call potential customers' attention forcibly to the dispensing device. A device of this type is particularly adapted for use at such places as candy or cigarette counters and cashiers' desks in restaurants and stores, where the change from a previous sale is placed in the change tray, and thus aids in the sale of articles in the dispenser.

Another object is to provide such a device in an attractive, compact form which is simple and durable in construction and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

A further object is to provide such a device which may be reloaded readily and lends itself to advertising display.

Other objects and advantages will appear from the following description and from the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the invention chosen for illustration.

Fig. 2 is a front view of this embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 3 is a side view of this embodiment of the invention, some portions being cut away approximately to the line 3-3 of Fig. 2 to show more clearly the structure of the base and the lower end of the dispenser.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the lower end of one form of a cartridge which may be used with the dispenser.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken approximately along the line 5-5 of Fig. 2.

Although the law requires a full and exact description of at least one form of the invention, such as that which follows, it is, of course, the purpose of a patent to cover each new inventive concept therein, no matter how it may later be disguised by variations in form or additions of further improvements; and the appended claims are intended to accomplish this purpose by particularly pointing out the parts, improvements or combinations in which the inventive concepts are found.

In the embodiment of the invention chosen for illustration, the improved change tray and dispenser includes two parts, a base 1 and a cartridge 16. The base 1 may be molded from glass, metal, plastic or similar material, for instance butyrate. The base 1 is provided with an in-

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clined trough or face 2, onto which change may be placed, a rim or ledge 3 around face 2, to guard against loss of such change, devices or pedestals 4, adapted to receive cartridge 16, spaced on opposite sides of base 1, a pocket 6, into which such change will slide and concentrate, and a guard rim or ledge 7 around pocket 6. Preferably legs 8 are provided which are adapted to hold suction cups 9. These form ideal feet in any location and may be used as suction cups, to prevent shifting, on a glass counter. This is especially desirable in facilitating removal of the articles by resisting the attendant pull. The legs 8 may be hollow to receive tightly fitting stems extending up from the cups 9, and the stems may each have a flute 10 extending into a slot in leg 8 to prevent twisting of the cups and to properly position them.

Pedestals 4 extend upwardly from the base and have three-sided upward extensions to provide cartridge supports 11. Extending inwardly from the rear walls of cartridge supports 11 are shelves 12, adapted to provide vertical support for cartridge 16. Preferably, shelves 12 are wide enough to extend partially beneath articles 17 contained in cartridge 16, which ensures that edges 20 of the rear wall of the cartridge 16 will not slip off shelves 12. Parallel runners 13, preferably extending the thickness of supports 11 (from front to back) at the level of shelves 12, provide vertical support for articles 17 and also provide a smooth surface over which the lowermost articles may be slid out through horizontal slots 14. Runners 13 may be merely angular continuations of shelves 12.

Cartridge 16 may be the regular cardboard carton in which the gum, candy bars or other articles 17 to be dispensed are packaged. Preferably one end of the carton is die cut, or perforated, so that on being opened it may readily be torn approximately to the shape shown in Fig. 4, with the center portion 18 of the opening being higher than the ends 19 to permit the lowermost article to be gripped. One face of the box may be pre-cut to the contour shown, and the other may be largely pre-cut likewise but with a tuck-in flap extending therefrom and separable along perforations, especially where edges 22 will be left upon tearing off the flap.

The form of the invention chosen for illustration is particularly adapted for dispensing such flat articles as individual sticks of gum. For this purpose, cartridge 16 and cartridge supports 11 preferably slant rearwardly. This tilts the face 21 of cartridge 16, upon which ad-

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vertising matter may be displayed, toward potential customers so that it may be read easily and also, in effect, lifts the front edge 22. This permits the lowermost article to be removed without interference. If thicker articles are to be dispensed, it may be desirable to further raise front edge 22 by tilting more or perhaps by cutting it back. This latter could also be done if it were desired to maintain cartridge 16 in a more nearly vertical position. The tilting method of providing a withdrawal opening is preferred because it permits the use of a better carton.

While pedestals 4 and associated parts are shown as being at a substantially higher level than rim 3, this may not be necessary if the slope of inclined face 2 is sufficient to provide clearance. It is merely necessary to have sufficient clearance between inclined face 2 and the lowermost article to allow the opening between them to serve its dual purpose of permitting passage of change and of the fingers of customers.

Although we have illustrated an embodiment of the invention in which cartridge supports 11 are formed of continuous or solid walls except for slots through which to withdraw the lowermost article, and include shelves 12 for vertical supports of cartridge 16, other forms of horizontal supports may be used, such as mere corner pillars, pillars having arms extending around the ends of cartridge 16, and a pedestal at only one side, with cantilever support (as by one unitary housing) for the other side. Alternatively, supports could extend up into the cartridge, between its wall and the stacked articles. In fact, it is not necessary to provide a cartridge. The articles themselves would be stacked in the holder formed by the supports 11, especially if said supports are made higher.

Similarly, the size and shape of trough 2 and pocket 6 may vary.

Where cartridge 16 is the regular cardboard carton in which articles 17 to be dispensed are packaged, the end, before being torn to the shape shown in Figure 4, may have tuck-in flaps extending from ends 19. If such flaps are provided, it may be best not to tear them off, but to tuck them down past shelves 12 as cartridge 16 is inserted into cartridge supports 11. In that event the flaps are preferably notched to receive shelves 12, and interlock with them so as to hold cartridge 16 more firmly. Other forms of interlocking between cartridge 16 and its holder could be provided instead of that described.

We claim:

1. The combination of a cartridge having front and rear sides both terminating at the

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bottom end substantially in the same plane perpendicular to said sides, and supporting means including side members adapted to provide horizontal support for said cartridge and having openings, one in the front wall of each side member above said horizontal support, through which the lowermost article in the cartridge can be withdrawn and means approximately at the level of said opening in said supporting means beneath the rear side of said cartridge to support it vertically, and said side members being tilted rearwardly sufficiently to raise the end of the front side of said cartridge above the lower edge of said opening in said supporting means a distance greater than the thickness of said lowermost article to provide passage for said article.

2. The combination of a cartridge having front and rear sides both terminating at the bottom end substantially in the same plane perpendicular to said sides, and supporting means including side members adapted to provide horizontal support for said cartridge and having openings, one in the front wall of each side member above said horizontal support, through which the lowermost articles in the cartridge can be withdrawn, a shelf approximately at the level of said opening in said supporting means beneath the rear side of said cartridge to support it vertically, and runners extending toward said openings and having their upper surfaces positioned substantially level with said shelf, said side members being tilted rearwardly sufficiently to raise the front side of said cartridges above the lower edge of said opening in said supporting means and above said runners a distance greater than the thickness of said lowermost article to provide passage for said article.

THOMAS J. FOLEY.
GEORGE W. EMMERT.

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