

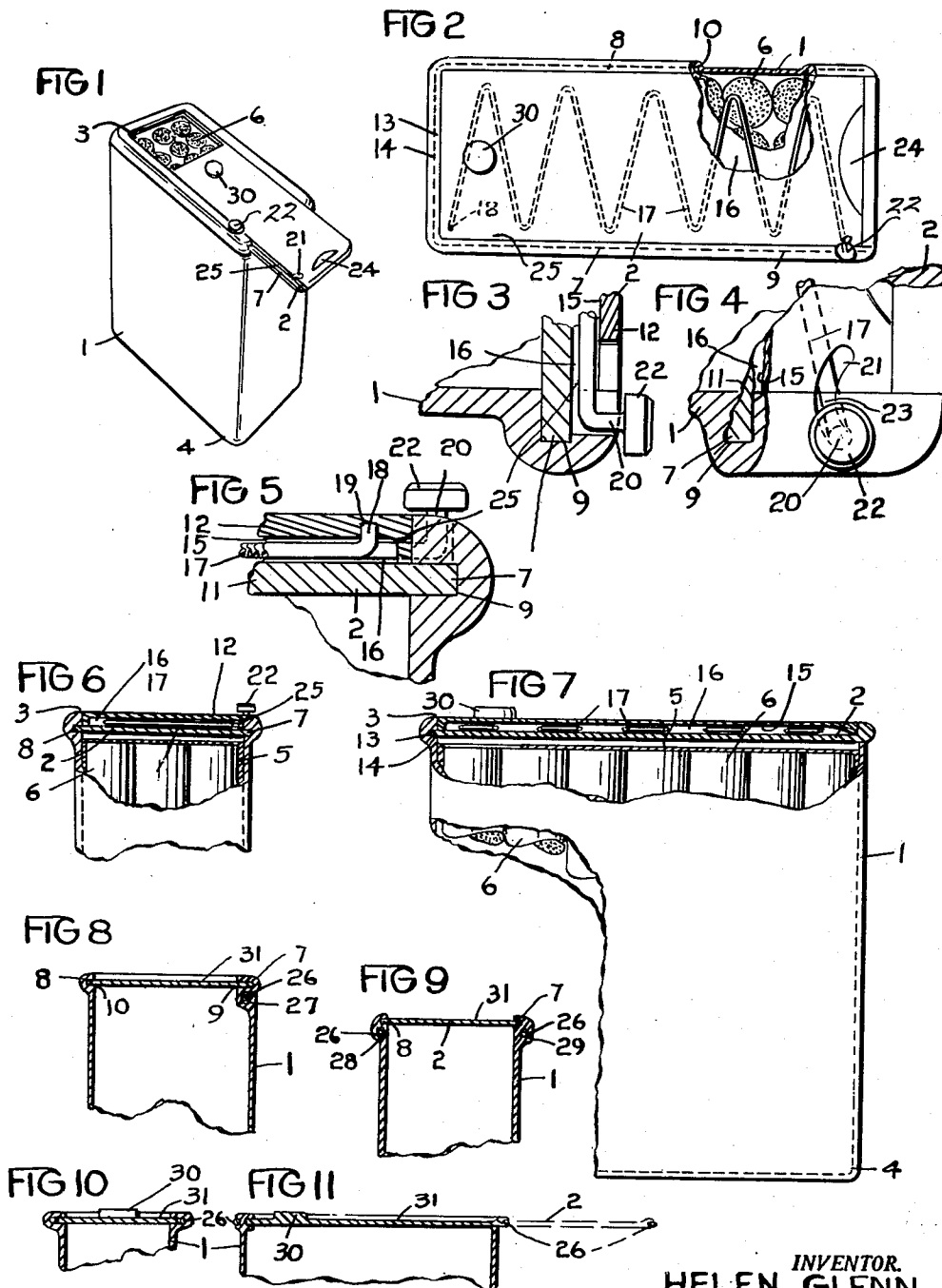
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H. GLENN

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CIGARETTE CASE

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INVENTOR.
HELEN GLENN
BY Paul A. Talbot.
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CIGARETTE CASE

Helen Glenn, New York, N. Y.

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5 Claims. (Cl. 206—41)

My invention relates to an improvement in cigarette packages and cases particularly to cigarette cases which are suitable for a pack of cigarettes and has among its purposes and objects to provide:

A means of preserving and dispensing the cigarettes singly or a few at a time with one hand.

A package for cigarettes which prevents the cigarettes from being crushed and broken.

A package for dispensing cigarettes.

A cigarette case which will hold a pack of cigarettes in the arrangement they are received from the packing machine or from the store to make their insertion into the case most convenient.

A durable, compact and simple cigarette package case.

I accomplish these and other objects by the construction herein described and shown in the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view.

Fig. 2 is a plan view.

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 are fragmentary details.

Fig. 6 is an end elevation.

Fig. 7 is a side elevation.

Figs. 8, 9, 10 and 11 are modification details of the cover.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawing and in the specification to follow.

To the cigarette smoker the many cigarette cases intended to preserve cigarettes particularly from being crushed are inconvenient because they usually require unpacking the cigarettes from the pack or carry the ordinary pack of cigarettes without rearranging in the cigarette case. After the cigarettes are unpacked and inserted in the cigarette case, and when a cigarette is desired for smoking both hands are required in opening and removing the cigarette from the case.

All of this inconvenience is eliminated by the use of my simple invention which permits the case to be loaded directly at the factory in the same manner as when filling the ordinary pack. The cigarettes being thus shipped in a cigarette case rather than in the ordinary soft paper and Cellophane package. My device may be also made of metal, plastics or other suitable material and used to repack or carry the ordinary pack of cigarettes without unpacking. The ordinary pack may also be inserted into the case after tearing a portion of the end of the pack open and by the sliding cover, one or more cigarettes may be caused to drop out by gravity by partially opening the cover. One hand serves to complete the operation.

While I have herein shown and described my invention in one simple form of construction it will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which it pertains that many modifications may be made to the construction herein shown and described without departing from the principles embodied in my invention.

Referring to the drawing, I have shown my cigarette case 1 conforming in size and shape to the ordinary pack of cigarettes so that the cigarettes only or the pack may be easily inserted into the case without unpacking it. The case and its sliding cover 2, may be of any durable material of sufficient stiffness to be carried in the pocket or pocket-book without danger of being crushed or damaged.

When the cover is removed the top 3 is open and of substantially the size and shape of the four walls which are parallel from top to the bottom 4 and also of a size to permit the pack 5 of cigarettes 6 to be freely inserted wherein the cigarettes lie parallel to the sides and may be removed or dropped out. When the pack is inserted after removing a part of the end of the pack the cigarettes may be removed in like manner.

The cover 2 is then inserted by engaging the projecting flanges 7 and 8 in the slides or grooves 9 and 10 of the case 1. The cover is preferably constructed of three parts comprising the inner cover plate 11 which is of sufficient width and length to protect beyond the width and length of the outer cover 12 to provide the flanges 7 and 8 as well as the end flange 13 which engages the end groove 14 in the case, the outer cover 12 and the retracting means located between the inner and outer cover. The inner cover and outer cover may be secured to each other by welding, soldering, or other suitable means after the retracting means has been placed between the covers.

The under surface 15 of the outer cover is recessed to provide the spring chamber 16 into which the zigzag spring 17 is secured at one end by inserting its upturned end 18 into the socket 19 in the surface 15. The opposite end 20 of said spring is also turned upwardly and passes through the slot 21 to the outside of the outer cover 12 where a button 22 is secured.

When the cover is inserted and in place the cigarettes are completely housed and practically hermetically sealed within the case. The slot 21 in the cover is then in alignment with the slot 23 in the case and by a lateral movement of the button 22 the end 20 of the spring 17 is placed in its normal position in the case 1 and when the cover 2 is moved the compression of the spring is increased

causing the cover to at once close upon releasing it.

To permit the spring end to travel when compressed in opening the cover, I have provided the side slot 25 in the side of the outer cover 12 communicating with the spring chamber 16. The slot 25 and the spring 17 limit the travel of the cover so that it can not pull out of its guides or be removed without disengaging the button 22 from the slot 23.

To facilitate movement of the cover against the spring I have provided the thumb nail notch 24 in the upper end surface of the cover making it convenient to operate the cover by movement of the same hand holding the case.

When the cover is partially opened and the case partially inverted the cigarettes by a slight shake or jar will drop out as desired.

After all of the cigarettes have been removed the button 22 is returned from the end of the slot 23 in the case to the end of the slot 21 in the cover thus disconnecting the spring from the case and permitting the cover to be freely removed and thus the empty pack may be replaced by a full fresh one.

By referring particularly to Fig. 4 of the drawing it will be seen that both the slots 21 and 23 are inclined and thus are not precisely disposed transversely in relation to the case and cover. This angular disposition of the slots due to the compression of the spring forces its end into the end of either slot to which it has been carried by moving the button 22 and thus prevents accidental movement.

In Figs. 8, 9, 10 and 11 I have shown modifications of the cover of my case in which the cover is closed by an elastic strip 26 which may be positioned in an interior compartment 27 as in Fig. 8 or exterior compartment 28 and 29 as in Fig. 9 or in the grooves 9 and 10 and through and around the case as in Figs. 10 and 11 or the elastic may be carried around the top of the case 1 on the exterior and so positioned or secured to it and the cover at each end as to yieldingly hold the cover in its closed position.

In addition to the notch 24 or in its stead I have provided an upward projecting member 30 on the top surface 31 of the cover 2 to facilitate engagement by the thumb or finger of the operator to open or slide the cover against the tension of the cover closing means such as the elastic or spring.

The use of elastic and a simplified cover construction makes it possible to construct my device very cheaply so that my case may be substituted for the ordinary wrapping or pack commonly used in packing cigarettes at the cigarette factory.

The cover may be retracted by other forms of

springs or rubber bands and the cover may be modified to move and be removed in numerous ways. I do not wish to be limited to the details of construction herein shown and described as I may wish to depart from the details within the scope of the appended claims which set forth my invention.

I claim:

1. In a cigarette case, a case having an opening at its end substantially the size of a pack of cigarettes and a cover slidably mounted in said case closing said opening said case having grooves receiving the edges of said cover, said cover having a chamber and retracting means within said chamber secured to said cover and detachably secured to said case.

2. In a case, a slidable cover at the end of the case guided and movable to open a part or to fully open the entire end of said case, means retracting said cover to its closed position from its position of fully opening the end of said case, said retracting means comprising a spring, one end of which is held against said cover and the other end of which is movable to either engage the case or the cover, said spring being disposed and positioned outside the closed interior of said case, and means on the outside of said case disengaging said retracting means, thereby permitting the removal of said cover, said retracting means preventing the removal of said cover when engaged.

3. In a case, a cover closing one of the ends of said case and slidable therein, said case having grooves along its interior end surface receiving the side edges of said cover to guide said cover and to permit its withdrawal and retracting means preventing the free withdrawal of said cover from said case comprising a spring, one end of which is movable to engage either the cover or the case, said spring permitting the free removal of said cover when said movable end of said spring is in engagement with said cover.

4. In a case, a slidable cover removable to open the entire end of said case, said cover having a chamber between its outer and inner surface and means in said chamber secured to said cover and said case retracting said cover and means on the exterior of said case movable to engage and disengage said retracting means with and from said case.

5. In a case, a slidable cover removable to open the entire end of said case, said cover having a chamber between its outer and inner surface and means in said chamber secured to said cover and said case retracting said cover, means on the exterior of said case movable to engage and disengage said retracting means, said retracting means limiting the travel of said cover.

HELEN GLENN.