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SHEET DISPENSER

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6 Claims. (Cl. 312—62)

This invention relates to dispensers for sheets of flexible material, such as paper food wrappers, towels and napkins, and has for an object to provide an improved and efficient dispenser for this purpose which is of simple, compact and in-
expensive construction, which is easily loaded
with sheets, and which can be used in either
horizontal or vertical position.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sheet dispenser having swingable cover mem-
bers which form a sheet-dispensing slot between
them and which serve to position the sheets
longitudinally of the slot.

A further object is to provide a sheet dispenser
having an improved spring hinge for the cover
element.

The invention further consists in the several
features hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing, illustrating one
form of sheet dispenser constructed in accord-
ance with the invention,

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the dispenser;

Fig. 2 is an end view;

Fig. 3 is a bottom or rear view;

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional elevation, taken
generally along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1, the dis-
penser having sheets therein, and an open posi-
tion of swingable cover members of the dis-
penser being indicated in broken lines;

Fig. 5 is a side view of the dispenser as it ap-
pears when mounted in vertical position on a
wall, parts being shown in longitudinal section;

Fig. 6 is a detail sectional view of a pivotal
mounting for one of the cover members, taken
generally along the line 6—6 of Fig. 2, and

Fig. 7 is a detail view of a cover member blank.

In the drawing, 10 designates a rectangular
tray-like container or casing for holding therein
a pack of interfolded sheets 11, such as the
parchment-like paper food wrappers used in re-
tail stores for wrapping meat and other prod-
ucts. The casing is constructed of a single piece
of sheet metal bent to form a bottom wall 12,
opposite parallel end walls 13 and opposite up-
wardly diverging side walls 14. The end walls
have flanges or ears 15, Figs. 4 and 5, which are
spot-welded or otherwise rigidly secured to the
inner faces of the side walls, and the upper edges
of the side walls have inturning longitudinal
flanges 16. Each end wall has a curved or arched
upper or front edge which extends higher than
the side walls and which is inwardly folded on
itself to form a smooth rounded bead 17. Ex-
tending centrally along the inner side of the
bottom wall is a longitudinal rib 18 to support

the middle portion of the pack of sheets. This
rib may be formed in any suitable manner, as by
an angle bar spot-welded to the bottom wall.
The bottom wall of the casing is provided with
rubber feet 19 for supporting the casing on a
counter or table, and is further provided with
embossments 20 having keyhole-shaped open-
ings 21 to receive screws 22 for attaching the
casing to a vertical supporting wall 23, Fig. 5,
when it is desired to support the casing in a ver-
tical position.

Extending along the top or front portion of
the casing are a pair of transversely arched or
bulged cover members 24 which are laterally
spaced to form a central longitudinally extend-
ing sheet-dispensing slot 25 for receiving there-
through a portion of the uppermost or foremost
sheet. Each cover member is constructed of a
single piece of sheet metal, the blank for which
is shown in Fig. 7, bent to form two angularly
extending wall sections 26 and 27 and opposite
triangular end walls 28, the longitudinal free
edge portion of the wall section 27 being curled
to form a bead 29 which fits about the rounded
ends of the end walls 27. The end walls of each
cover member have outwardly directed aligned
embossments 30 which fit against similar inward-
ly directed aligned embossments 31 formed on
the inner side of the casing end walls 13 near the
side walls 14, the embossments 30 and 31 being
secured together by aligned pivot-forming rivets
32, the heads of which lie within the emboss-
ments, as seen in Fig. 6. The pivotal axes of the
two cover members are substantially parallel, and
the plane of these axes is here shown to be lo-
cated approximately midway of the effective
height or depth of the casing end walls 13. The
longitudinal bead 29 of each cover member ex-
tends adjacent to the inturned top flange 16 of
the corresponding casing side wall. The portions
of the cover members adjacent to the hinge axes
form, in effect, extensions of the casing side
walls. The wall section 26 of each cover member
24 has formed thereon a pair of longitudinally
spaced elongated embossments 33 to hold the
protruding portion of the sheet above or away
from the cover member so as to facilitate grasp-
ing of the sheet by the fingers. The pivoted
cover members normally extends toward each
other to form the dispensing slot between their
free edge portions. The slot-forming edge of
each cover member has a curved lip 34 to bear
on the pack of sheets, and further has a raised
rounded fingerhold 35 to facilitate opening of the
cover member. The arched portion of each

cover member extends over the greater part of the width of this member, and the inner sides of the arched cover members form recesses or cavities to receive the opposite sides of the sheets, thus permitting the dispenser to accommodate a relatively thick pack of sheets extending considerably above the plane of the cover member axes.

In some instances, the weight of the cover members may be sufficient to hold them against the pack of sheets in the casing, but preferably the cover members are spring-urged to their closed, slot-forming position. For this purpose a coiled torsion spring 36 surrounds the cooperating embossments 30 and 31 at one end of each cover member, one end of the spring engaging a lug 37 struck up from the adjacent end wall 13 of the casing, and the other end of the spring engaging a lug 38 struck up from the adjacent end wall 28 of the cover member. The embossments serve to position the convolutions of the spring.

When a pack of sheets is to be placed and stored in the dispenser, the two cover members are swung upwardly to the open position shown by broken lines in Fig. 4 and the pack is then introduced into the casing and rests on the longitudinal bottom rib 18. The cover members are then released and snap back to their closed position to form the dispensing slot, the free end of the uppermost sheet having been raised so as to extend in dispensing position above one of the cover members, as seen in Figs. 1 and 4. The upper portions of the ends of the pack are confined by the end walls of the cover members, thus preventing the pack from shifting against the end walls or against the cover springs. The pack of sheet is adequately enclosed by the dispenser even though the full pack is considerably thicker than the height or depth of the casing side walls 14.

When a sheet is desired, the uppermost sheet is pulled out by its exposed free end and carries with it the free end of the succeeding sheet, so as to place the latter in dispensing position. During the withdrawal of the sheets the spring-urged cover members may yield slightly independently of each other, thus facilitating the dispensing operation. As the sheets are progressively withdrawn, the slot-forming edges of the cover members descend to remain in contact with the pack, the width of the dispensing slot remaining approximately constant. The normal range of travel of the slot-forming free edges of the pivoted cover members during the depletion of the stack of sheets is approximately bisected by the plane of the pivotal axes of the cover members. The bead 29 along the outer edge of each cover member remains uniformly close to the inwardly flanged upper edge of the adjacent casing side wall in all angular positions of the cover member. The effective depth of each of the arched cover members is in the same order of size as the normal extent of travel of the free edge portion of the cover member outwardly beyond the plane of the cover member axes.

When the dispenser is used in the vertical position of Fig. 5, the operation and use of the device is the same. The lower end walls of the cover members prevent the stack from dropping against the lower end wall of the casing or against the lower cover spring.

The bulged, arched or angular cross-sectional shape of each cover member not only provides support for the protruding portion of the fore-

most sheet, but also permits the pivotal axes of the cover members to be located closer to the bottom wall of the casing and at a distance therefrom considerably less than the maximum height or depth of the casing end walls. This location of the pivotal axes also results in less variation in the width of the dispensing slot during the depletion of the stack.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A sheet dispenser comprising a casing adapted to contain a pack of interfolded sheets and having opposite end walls with inwardly directed embossments adjacent to the opposite sides of the casing, a pair of cover members extending between said casing end walls and having end walls with outwardly directed embossments adapted to register with said casing embossments, pivot means for connecting the corresponding embossments of the casing and cover members, the free edge portions of said cover members forming between them a dispensing slot for the sheets and bearing on said pack, and a coiled spring for each cover member for urging said cover member against said pack, said spring surrounding a cooperating pair of the embossments on said casing and cover member.

2. A sheet dispenser comprising a casing adapted to contain a pack of interfolded sheets and having opposite end walls and opposite side walls, the intermediate portions of said end walls projecting forwardly beyond said side walls, a pair of cover members extending between said casing end walls, means for pivotally mounting said cover members on said casing end walls to swing about substantially parallel axes adjacent to the opposite side walls of the casing, the free edge portions of said cover members being spaced to form between them a dispensing slot for the sheets and being normally urged against said pack, and each cover member being of angular shape in transverse cross-section and forming a sheet-receiving cavity at its inner side.

3. A sheet dispenser comprising a casing adapted to contain a pack of interfolded sheets and having opposite end walls, a pair of cover members extending between said casing end walls, each cover member having an end wall, means for pivotally mounting said cover members on said casing end walls to swing about substantially parallel axes adjacent to the opposite sides of the casing, the free edge portions of said cover members being spaced to form between them a dispensing slot for the sheets and bearing on said pack, and spring means extending between an end wall of each cover member and the adjacent casing end wall for urging said cover member against said pack.

4. A sheet dispenser comprising a casing adapted to contain a pack of interfolded sheets, and a pair of cover members normally urged against said pack and pivotally mounted on said casing to swing about substantially parallel axes adjacent to the opposite sides of the casing, the free edge portions of said cover members forming between them a dispensing slot for the sheets, the normal range of movement of said slot-forming free edge portions of said cover members in the closed dispensing position of said cover members extending on both sides of the plane of said pivotal axes, and each of said cover members being outwardly bulged in transverse cross-section to form a sheet-receiving recess at its inner side, the bulged portion of each cover

member extending forwardly beyond the pivotal axis of the cover member.

5. A sheet dispenser comprising a casing adapted to contain a pack of interfolded sheets and having opposite side walls and opposite end walls, and a pair of cover members extending between said casing end walls and pivotally mounted on said casing to swing about substantially parallel axes adjacent to said opposite side walls, said cover members normally extending toward each other and having free edge portions adapted to bear against said pack of sheets, said free edge portions forming between them a dispensing slot for said sheets, said casing end walls projecting forwardly of said casing side walls and of the plane of said pivotal axes, each of said cover members being transversely arched to present a sheet-receiving cavity at its inner side, the portions of said arched cover members adjacent to said pivotal axes forming forward extensions of said casing side walls, said casing and said transversely arched cover members defining a pack-storage space extending both forwardly and rearwardly of the plane of said pivotal axes, the free edge portions of said cover members being movable inwardly during the depletion of the pack, and the normal range of movement of said slot-forming free edge portions of said cover

members in the closed dispensing position of said cover members extending on both side of the plane of said pivotal axes.

6. A sheet dispenser comprising a casing adapted to contain a pack of interfolded sheets, and a pair of cover members for said casing pivotally mounted on said casing to swing about substantially parallel axes adjacent to the opposite sides of said casing, said cover members normally extending toward each other and having free edge portions adapted to bear against said pack of sheets, said free edge portions forming between them a dispensing slot for said sheets, each of said cover members being transversely arched to present a sheet-receiving cavity at its inner side, said casing and said transversely arched cover members defining a pack-storage space extending both forwardly and rearwardly of the plane of said pivotal axes, the free edge portions of said cover members being movable inwardly during the depletion of the stack, and the normal range of movement of said slot-forming free edge portions of said cover members in the closed dispensing position of said cover members extending approximately equal distances on opposite sides of the plane of said pivotal axes.

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