FOLLOWER RETAINER FOR NAPKIN DISPENSERS

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Application February 26, 1946, Serial No. 650,237

5 Claims. (Cl. 312—62)

1. The invention relates to napkin dispensers and has as an object the provision of a dispenser having a lid which may be opened for replenishing of napkins and means controlled by the lid to hold a follower in retracted position while the napkins are being replenished.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a device of the character referred to having means to cause the lid to be automatically lifted when it is unlatched to be accessible for further opening.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a dispenser having means projecting at one side of the dispensing slot to cause the end of the napkin to be removed, to project in an accessible position.

Further objects will appear from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawings showing an illustrative embodiment of the invention and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a dispenser; Figure 2 is a detail vertical section showing the device with the lid open;

Figure 3 is a detail section on line 3—3 of Figure 4;

Figure 4 is a vertical longitudinal section of the structure of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a plan view showing a portion of the lid open and in section and broken away to shorten the figure.

As shown, the device comprises a drawer type dispenser comprising a casing 16 which may be utilized by itself or in conjunction with other like elements bolted together.

The casing 10 provides a front panel 11 having a dispensing slot 12 with an outstanding lip 13 above the slot to cause the projecting end 14 of a napkin in dispensing position to stand at an angle to the front panel 11 as indicated in Figures 1 and 4.

The front panel is internally formed with a curved plate 15 to cause the stack of napkins to bulge forwardly whereby the projecting ends 14 of napkins in dispensing position will be more readily positioned when a napkin is withdrawn from an interleaved type of package.

The device comprises a follower plate 18 having a guide plate 17 travelling in a slot 18 in the side wall of the dispenser, the plate 17 projecting into hollow walls 19, 20 and operated by spring means of the nature shown in Patent 2,085,479. The spaced side walls comprising the hollow wall 19 may be secured to each other by means of bolts 21. It will be seen that the bolts 21 at one side of the structure shown in Figure 1 may be removed, a second casing of the same character may be placed with the outer walls of the contiguous casings in contact and longer bolts 21 may be used to connect the two casings together.

The lid 22 of the device is shown as hinged at 23 to the body of the casing and may be retained in closed position by means of a latch 24 accessible to a finger placed in said opening 25 to press upon the finger piece 26 to unlatch the lid. When the lid is thus unlatched it will be automatically lifted by a spring pressed bolt 27 to the position shown in dotted lines in Figure 4 whereby the front edge of the lid is accessible for lifting thereof to the open position shown in Figure 2.

With the lid thus lifted, the follower plate 18 may be forced to the rear against the action of the spring feed mechanism, not shown, whereupon the sloping end 28 of a hook 29 carried by a link 30 pivoted connected at 31 to the lid 22, as by means of a perforated ear 32. The link 30 as shown is guided in its movement by passing the same through an opening in an angle 33 secured at 34 to the rear wall of the casing. When the lid is lifted and the follower plate 18 forced to the rear to the position shown in Figure 2, the hooked end 28 will enter an opening 35 in the guide plate 17 to retain the follower plate in its rearmost position while napkins are replenished.

When the lid is then lowered and the hook 28 pressed to the position shown in Figure 4, the follower plate 18 will be released and will be free to yield to the spring feed mechanism.

It will be seen that the link 30 performs the double function of restraining the follower and of preventing excess movement of the lid about its hinge while holding the lid open. Obviously more than one link 30 may be used.

The casing is shown as provided with longitudinal ribs 36, 38 upon its bottom to lessen the friction of napkins in their travel toward the front of the container.

Minor changes may be made in the physical embodiment of the invention within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. In a napkin dispenser of the type including an elongated casing having a lid hinged to one end wall, a dispensing opening in the remaining end wall and a follower yieldingly urged toward the discharge opening; a rigid member projecting rearwardly from said follower and formed with an opening; a rigid member projecting forwardly from said one end and formed with an
opening; rigid means coacting with said openings to interlock said rigid members with the follower in its rearmost position; and means actuated by movement of the cover to open position, acting to move said rigid means to member interlocking position.

2. The combination of claim 1 wherein said rigid means is U-shaped with an upstanding leg engaging said openings when in locking position.

3. The combination of claim 1 in which the interlock actuating means is pivotally connected to the cover, closely adjacent the hinge thereof.

4. In a napkin dispenser of the type including a follower yieldingly urged toward a dispensing opening in a dispenser casing, and including a hinged lid; a link pivoted on said lid and depending into said casing; an eye secured in said casing through which said link reciprocates as the lid is moved about its hinge; a hook carried by said link; said follower structure formed with an opening engageable with said hook when the lid is raised and the follower fully retracted; whereby to hold the follower retracted when the lid is open and to release the same when the lid is moved toward closed position.

5. The structure of claim 4 with a catch to hold the lid closed and with spring means to initiate opening movement of the lid when the catch is released.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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