Sept. 27, 1955 E. J. KILGORE 2,718,964

DEVICE FOR CLOSING OPENING IN A CIGARETTE PACK

Filed Dec. 8, 1952

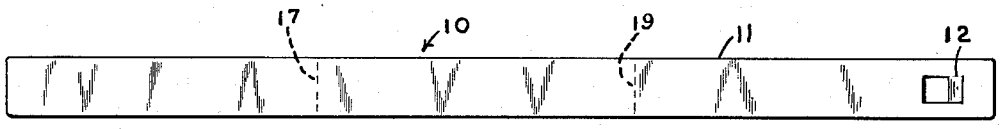


FIG. 1

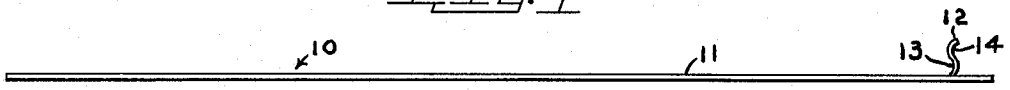


FIG. 2

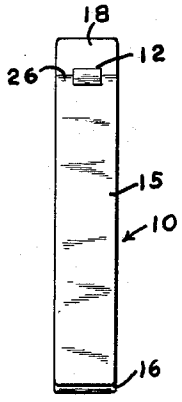


FIG. 3

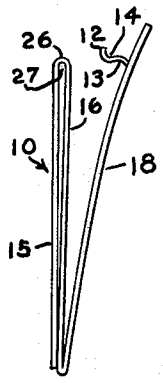


FIG. 4

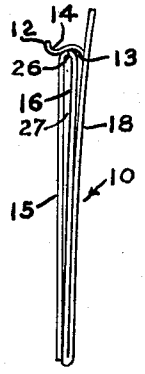


FIG. 5

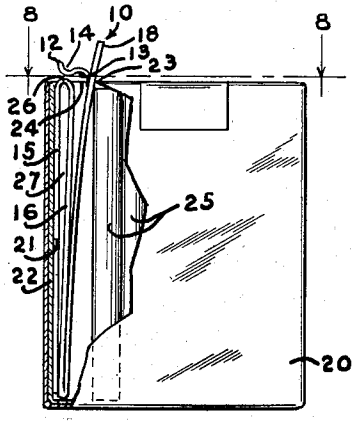


FIG. 6

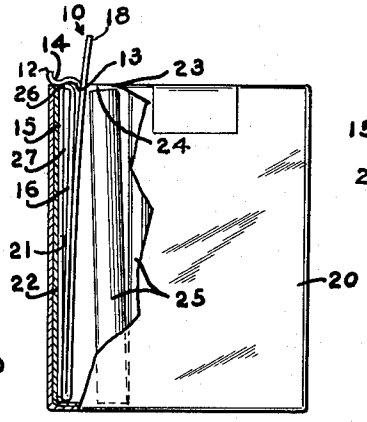


FIG. 7

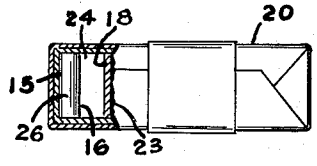


FIG. 8

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DEVICE FOR CLOSING OPENING IN A CIGARETTE PACK

Earl Junior Kilgore, Kenvir, Ky.

Application December 8, 1952, Serial No. 324,644

1 Claim. (Cl. 206—41)

The present invention relates to a device for closing an opening made in the top of a package of cigarettes.

The present method in use today, is to make a partial opening in the top of a package of cigarettes at one corner. After two or three cigarettes have been removed, the remaining cigarettes in the package become loose, fall to the opening in the pack and fall out into pockets, pocketbooks and the like. The cigarettes also dry out due to the opening and the looseness in the pack.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a device that may be inserted into an opening in a pack of cigarettes.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a device made from a single strip of material.

A still further object of the present invention is the provision of resilient means for closing an opening in a package of cigarettes.

A still further object of the present invention is the provision of means for locking the resilient means to permit removal of cigarettes through an opening.

A still further object of the present invention is the provision of a device that will keep the cigarettes in a pack in a semi-sealed position, and keep them clean and sanitary, thus preventing dust and grit contacting the ends, and further preventing particles of tobacco from getting into pockets, pocketbooks and the like.

The novel structural features of my device, its application, and the many advantages therein will be more readily understood by persons familiar with the art, by reference to the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein I have illustrated a practical and workable embodiment of the invention, and I would have it understood that changes may be made in details without departing from the spirit or scope of the claim hereto appended.

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a strip of material and showing a locking means stamped therefrom, the dotted lines indicating points where the strip is bent to form the device.

Figure 2 is an edge view of Figure 1 showing the locking means in elevation.

Figure 3 is a front elevational view of the device after it is formed.

Figure 4 is a side elevational view of the device and showing the locking or resilient arm in unlocked position.

Figure 5 is a side elevational view similar to Figure 4 and showing the locking or resilient arm in locked position.

Figure 6 is a side elevational view of a package of cigarettes showing the device in position therein, a portion of the view being broken away and in section.

Figure 7 is a view similar to Figure 6 and showing the locking arm in locked position, and

Figure 8 is a top plan view taken on line 8—8 of Figure 6, parts being shown in section and broken lines.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral **10** represents the device in its unformed and formed shape, and as shown in Figures 1 and 2, the numeral **11** represents a strip

of resilient metal material, having a struck out or stamped out catch **12**, the catch having substantially reversed curves **13** and **14**.

Arms **15** and **16** are formed by bending the strip on the dotted line **17**, and arm **18** is formed by bending along dotted line **19**. Arm **16** is slightly longer than arm **15**, and arm **18** is slightly longer than arm **16**, and it is to be noted that arm **18** is of a slightly curved configuration for a purpose to be later described. As shown in Figure 4, the arm when in unlocked position is normally disposed away from arm **16**.

In Figure 6 the device **10** is shown applied to a pack of cigarettes **20**, arm **15** impinging the inner wall **21** of the wrapper **22**, the resilient arm **18** being shown in unlocked position, the upper portion of arm **18** impinging the torn edge **23** closing the opening **24** thus sealing the cigarettes **25** in the pack **20**.

In Figure 7 the resilient arm **18** is shown in locked position, the curved portion **13** of the catch engaging the curved end **26** of arms **15** and **16**. In locked position, the opening **24** is exposed, thus permitting removal of one or more cigarettes **25**. By providing the arm **18** of curved configuration, and due to its resiliency, the arm will at all times when in unlocked position cover the opening **24**. By providing a space **27** between arms **15** and **16** a slight resilient pressure is imparted to arms **15** and **16** when the device is in unlocked position which assists arm **15** in impinging the wall **21** of the wrapper.

In using the device, one end of a package of cigarettes is torn as shown in Figures 6, 7 and 8 forming an opening **24**. After the first two cigarettes are removed from the pack the device **10** is inserted into the pack as shown, the arm **18** closing the opening in unlocked position, thus preventing the cigarettes from casual removal from the pack. When the arm is pulled back and locked as shown in Figure 7, the opening **24** is exposed and removal of a cigarette from the pack is made.

From the above description it can be seen that I have provided a device that will retain the cigarettes in a package so long as the closure arm is unlocked and prevent them from casual displacement from the pack, it can be further seen that by the provision of a device having its transverse width substantially that of the pack of cigarettes particles of tobacco are prevented from falling out of the pack into pockets, pocketbooks and the like.

What is claimed is:

In combination with a cigarette package, a device for closing an opening in the top wall of said package adjacent an end wall, said device comprising a single strip of material substantially the width of said package bent into a Z-shaped configuration, one arm of the Z being an end wall engaging portion, an intermediate arm of substantially the same length as said one arm joined to said one arm at its upper edge by a bight and being substantially parallel thereto, and a resilient arm of greater length than either of the other two arms joined to said intermediate arm at it lower end and extending vertically outwardly of the opening above said package, the upper end of said resilient arm being normally biased away from said intermediate arm so as to engage the torn edge of the package opening on its side remote from said end wall when in operative position, said resilient arm having latch means struck out above and extending towards the shorter arms, said latch means engaging over the bight portion formed by the joined edges of the shorter arms when maintaining the device in an inoperative position.

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