Oct. 12, 1948. H. L. ELFNER 2,451,281

RETAINER AND DISPENSER FOR SANITARY TISSUES

Filed March 29, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

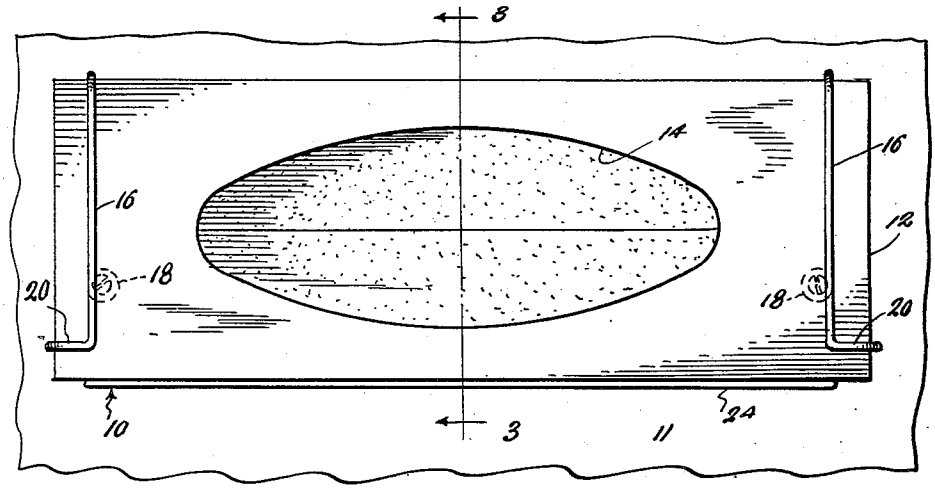


Fig. 2.

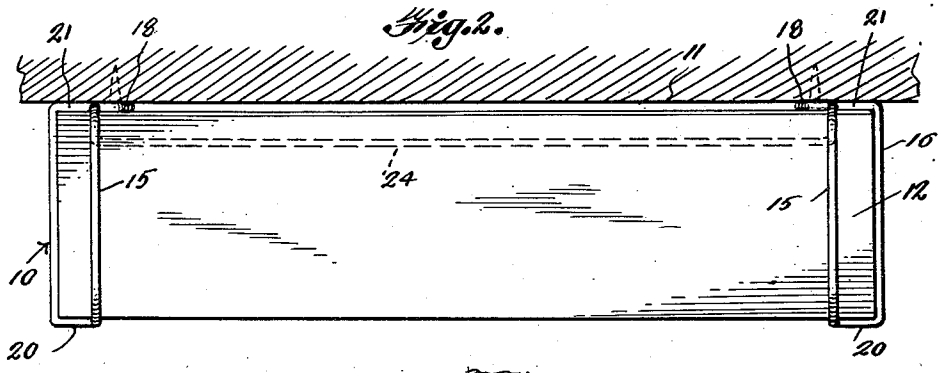


Fig. 3.

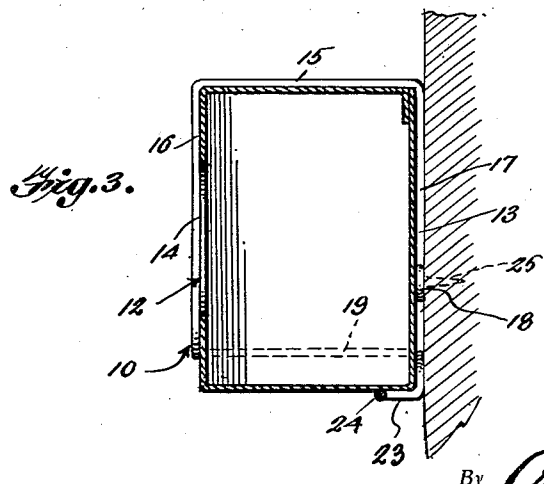
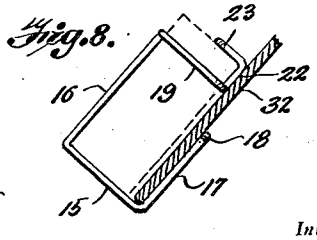


Fig. 8.



Inventor
HENRY L. ELFNER

By Randolph & Reavers
Attorneys

Oct. 12, 1948. H. L. ELFNER 2,451,281

RETAINER AND DISPENSER FOR SANITARY TISSUES

Filed March 29, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 4.

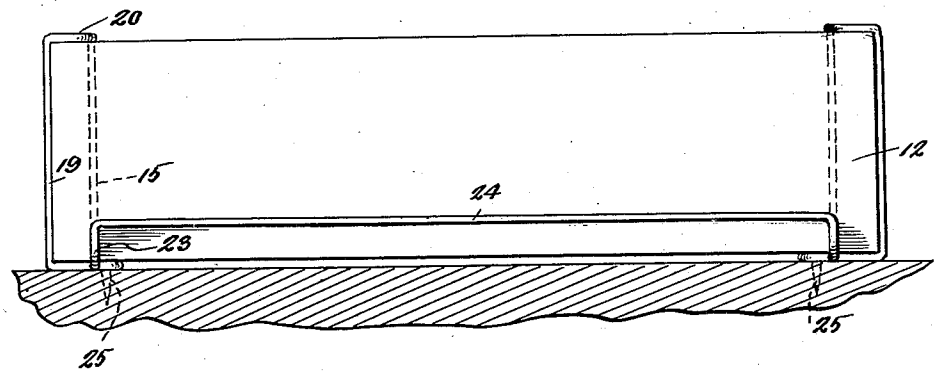


Fig. 5.

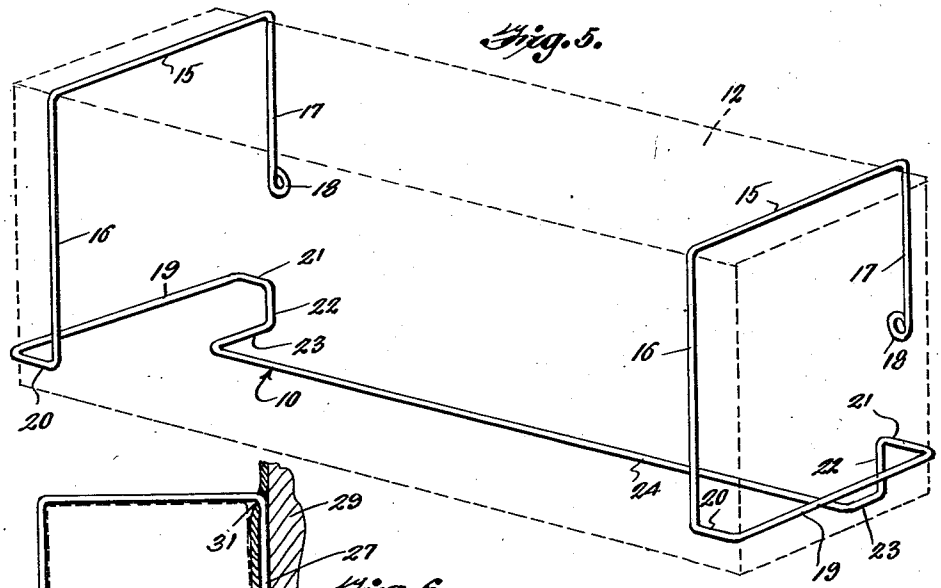


Fig. 6.

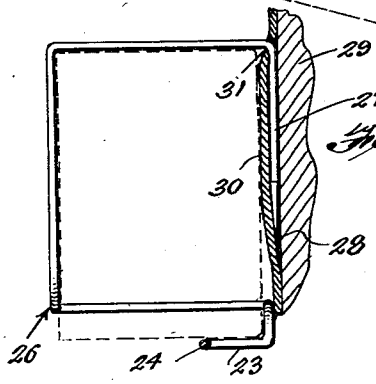
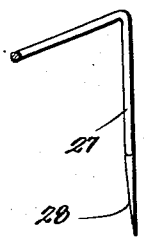


Fig. 7.



Inventor

HENRY L. ELFNER

By Randolph & Beavers

Attorneys

Patented Oct. 12, 1948

2,451,281

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,451,281

RETAINER AND DISPENSER FOR SANITARY TISSUES

Henry L. Elfner, Indianapolis, Ind., assignor of one-half to Emil H. Stein, Marion County, Ind.

Application March 29, 1946, Serial No. 658,043

4 Claims. (Cl. 248—311)

1

This invention relates to a rack universally adaptable for holding and dispensing sanitary tissues and which is particularly adapted for supporting the box containing such tissues in such a manner that the tissues may be readily withdrawn individually from the box.

More particularly, it is the aim of the present invention to provide a rack or holder of the above described character wherein the holder is so constructed that it will not interfere with removal of the tissues from their original container, which is supported in the holder or rack, through a slit in one side of the container provided for the removal of the tissues singularly.

A further object of the invention is to provide a holder or rack of extremely simple construction which is capable of being economically manufactured and sold and which is particularly characterized by the fact that it can be quickly and conveniently mounted in a plurality of locations in which it will be convenient to the user.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a retainer or rack which is constructed and arranged so that the boxes containing sanitary tissues may be quickly applied thereto or removed therefrom.

Numerous other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawings, which illustrate preferred embodiments thereof, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of one form of the holder or rack, shown in an applied position and containing a box or package of sanitary tissues;

Figure 2 is a top plan view thereof;

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a bottom plan view thereof;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the rack or holder unmounted and with the tissue container removed therefrom;

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 3 of a slightly modified form of the rack;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective view of a portion of the rack shown in Figure 6; and

Figure 8 is an end view in elevation showing the rack mounted on a windshield visor.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, and especially to Figures 1 to 5, inclusive, 10 designates generally the holder or rack comprising the invention. In Figures 1 to 4 the holder or rack 10 is shown attached to a supporting surface 11, which may be either horizontal or vertical such as a ceiling or wall. A conventional

2

container 12 for toilet tissues 13 is shown mounted in the rack 10. The package or container 12 as illustrated is of the size, shape and construction as conventionally used to package "Kleenex" or "Scott tissues." It is to be understood, however, that the rack 10 may be made of various sizes for accommodating a plurality of types of packaged sanitary tissues. The package 12 is provided in one of its wider side walls with a longitudinally extending slit 14, formed in a conventional manner by rupturing such wall along a perforated line. The container 12 is mounted in the rack 10 so that the side thereof containing the slit 14 will be facing outwardly and remote to the supporting surface 11.

The rack or holder 10, as best illustrated in Figure 5, is formed from a single strand of heat treated and plated relatively heavy gauged wire the end portions of which are bent into substantially arched shaped formation and each of which includes an upper, substantially straight portion 15, having at the ends thereof depending legs 16 and 17. The portions 15, and 16 and 17 constituting the said arches are located adjacent the ends of the rack 10. The said portions 17 constitute the terminals of the wire strand and terminate at their lower ends in eyes 18, which are located above the level of the lower ends of the legs 16. The rack 10 includes corresponding end portions 19 having inturned ends 20 and 21. The inturned ends 20 are integral with the lower ends of the legs 16 and constitute outwardly projecting extension thereof and in conjunction with said legs 16 constitute the front of the rack or holder 10, as clearly illustrated in Figure 1. The inturned ends 21 terminate in downturned portions 22 which, together with the portions 21, the legs 17 and the eyes 18 are disposed in substantially the same plane, as best illustrated in Figure 3. The portions 22, at their lower ends, terminate in outwardly projecting portions 23 which are disposed below the level of and substantially parallel to the portions 19, which last-mentioned portions constitute the outwardly offset sides or ends of the rack 10. The intermediate portion 24 of the strand of wire, constituting the rack 10, has its ends terminating in the portions 23 and said intermediate portions 24 and the portions 23, as best seen in Figure 3, are disposed in substantially the same plane and together constitute the bottom of the rack 10.

From the foregoing it will be readily apparent that conventional driven or screw fastenings 25 can be secured through the eyes 18 in the surface 11 for mounting the rack 10 thereon with the

portion 17, 18, 21 and 22 bearing against the surface 11 to form the back of the rack 10. The rack 10 is sufficiently resilient so that one or both of the legs 16 can be swung outwardly for inserting the package or box 12 into the rack 10 or for removing it therefrom. As clearly illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 4, the portions 19 will engage the ends of the box 12, the portion 15 will engage the top thereof, portions 16 and 20 will engage the front thereof and the portions 23, 24 and 25 will engage the bottom to efficiently and effectively support the container 12 therein. The legs 16 are sufficiently spaced apart so as not to interfere with dispensing of the tissues 13 through the slot 14.

The rack 10, previously described, may be mounted on a wall, the under surface of a table, bench or chair or in any other convenient location. The terminal portions 17 are also sufficiently resilient to permit mounting the rack 10 on a windshield visor 32 by positioning the portions 17 on one side of the visor 32 and the remainder of the rack 10 on the opposite side thereof. When thus disposed, the portions 21 and 22 will bear against said opposite side of the visor 32 to cooperate with portions 17 and 18 in resiliently attaching the rack to the visor.

In Figures 6 and 7 a slightly modified form of rack, designated generally 26, is illustrated. The rack 26 differs from the rack 10 only in that instead of the legs 17 and eyes 18, the terminal portions of the strand forming the rack 26, designated 27, terminate at their lower, free ends in tapered points 28. The rack 26 is adapted to be used particularly in automobiles and may be mounted on any part of the upholstery, visors or lining thereof, as for example on the top or front of the seat, windshield visors or seats, on either side of the back rest, or any portion of the lining of the side, top or doors or beneath the hood and within the trunk. In Figure 7 a portion of a vehicle is shown at 29 having a lining 30 on the inner side thereof through which the pointed ends 28 have been passed at 31 so that the legs 27 are disposed between the lining 30 and the vehicle portion 29 for supporting the rack 26 removably upon the vehicle. The manner of using the box or package 12 in conjunction with the rack 26 is identical with its use in conjunction with the rack 10, as previously described. Further, it will be readily apparent that the rack 26 can be mounted upon a wall, upholstery of furniture or upon any supported piece of fabric such as a curtain or a part of a bed.

Numerous other modifications and changes are contemplated and may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter defined by the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a universally adaptable rack or holder for sanitary tissues, said rack being formed from a single strand of wire, the intermediate portion of the strand forming the bottom of the rack, the ends of the strand including arch portions forming the front, top and portions of the back of the rack, said strand having portions between said intermediate portion and the arch portions forming the ends or sides and other portions of the back of the rack, and means associated with the first-mentioned back portions of the rack for securing it to a supporting surface.

2. In a universally adaptable rack or holder for sanitary tissues, said rack being formed from a single strand of wire, the intermediate portion of the strand forming the bottom of the rack, the ends of the strand including arch portions forming the front, top and portions of the back of the rack, said strand having portions between said intermediate portion and the arch portions forming the ends or sides and other portions of the back of the rack, and means associated with the first-mentioned back portions of the rack for securing it to a supporting surface, said side or end portions of the rack being outwardly offset relatively to the arch portions.

3. In a universally adaptable rack or holder for sanitary tissues, said rack being formed from a single strand of wire, the intermediate portion of the strand forming the bottom of the rack, the ends of the strand including arch portions forming the front, top and portions of the back of the rack, said strand having portions between said intermediate portion and the arch portions forming the ends or sides and other portions of the back of the rack, and means associated with the first-mentioned back portions of the rack for securing it to a supporting surface, said bottom portion of the rack being disposed longitudinally thereof and between the front and rear portions.

4. A universally adaptable retainer or holder for sanitary tissues, comprising a single strand of wire bent to provide a bottom portion formed of the intermediate portion of the strand and corresponding end portions forming the front, sides, top and rear portions of the retainer or holder, and means associated with said rear portions for attaching the retainer to a supporting surface.

HENRY L. ELFNER.

REFERENCES CITED

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

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,378,902	Roehl	May 24, 1921
1,936,517	Maine	Nov. 21, 1933
2,278,011	Murdock	Mar. 31, 1942
2,300,692	Olsen	Nov. 3, 1942