May 31, 1932. F. W. VON MEISTER 1,860,637

CONTAINER FOR CIGARETTE PACKAGES

Filed March 23, 1931

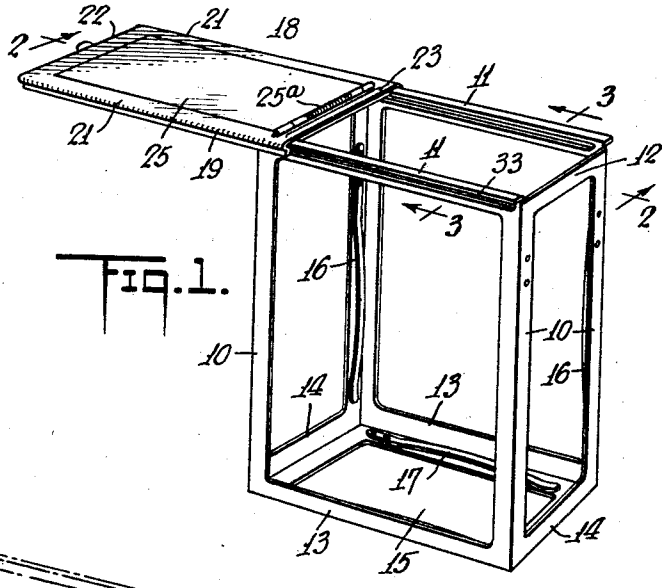


FIG. 1.

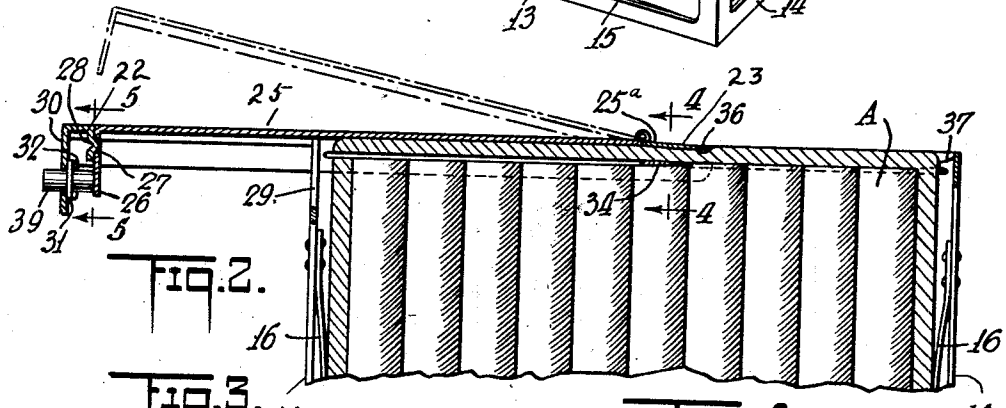


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

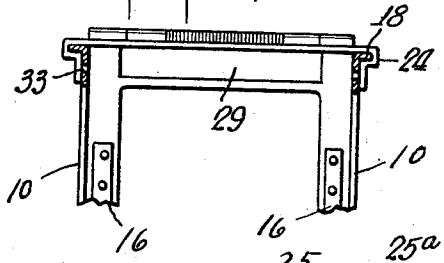


FIG. 4.

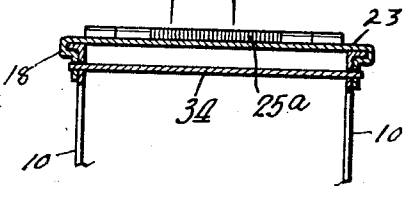


FIG. 6.

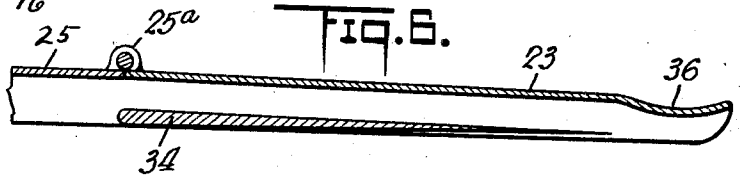


FIG. 5.

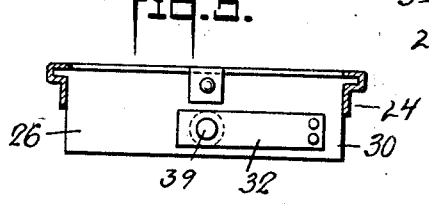
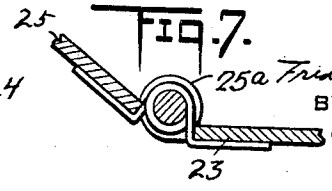


FIG. 7.



INVENTOR
Fredrick W von Meister
BY
Dean Lambert Hueck & Foster
ATTORNEYS

Patented May 31, 1932

1,860,637

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

FREDRICK W. von MEISTER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CONTAINER FOR CIGARETTE PACKAGES

Application filed March 23, 1931. Serial No. 524,420.

The invention relates to containers, and more particularly to a container for paper wrapped packages. As one important feature, I provide a new and improved dispensing cover, and as another important feature, I provide a new and improved mechanism for opening the paper wrapping of the package.

Hitherto, containers have been used for holding cigarettes in the original packages in which they are sold, and for retaining the integrity of these packages. However, in all of these containers, it is necessary to remove the upper end of the wrapping before inserting the package in the containers, so as to render the cigarettes accessible for removal when the dispensing cover of the container is opened. The operation of removing the top portion of the paper packing of the cigarettes must be done with more or less care to insure against injury to the cigarettes and the tearing of this top portion below the ends of the cigarettes.

One object of the present invention is to provide a container for cigarette packages, said container having a dispensing cover which is slidable to permit the insertion of a new package or the withdrawal of an old one. The cutting means which is adapted to cut the top portion of the package wrapper may be, and preferably is, carried by said dispensing cover, so that it is operated when the cover is returned to closing position.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a slidable dispensing cover having an auxiliary closure member which slidably moves therewith, and which is movable independently of said slidable cover to permit the opening thereof for the removal of the cigarettes.

By means of the construction of the present invention, the dispensing cover of the package container can be slid to expose the top thereof for the insertion of a fresh package, and slid into position to cover said package. The same operation of sliding the dispensing cover into closing position simultaneously effects the cutting of the top portion of the package, so as to permit the removal of the cigarettes therefrom.

In the accompanying drawings, there is shown for purposes of illustration, one form of device embodying the present invention, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective of a package container embodying my invention, the cover being open for the admission of a package.

Fig. 2 is a section taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1 but on a larger scale, the closure being partly shut.

Fig. 3 is a section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a section taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a section taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged section similar to a portion of Fig. 2, and showing details of the knife and portion of the slidable cover member, and

Fig. 7 is a section showing details of the hinge supporting the auxiliary closure member.

In the illustrated embodiment of the invention, there is provided a package container which may have solid walls to entirely enclose the usual size of standard cigarette package having a flexible wrapper. However, this container is preferably of skeleton character, and comprises upright frame bars 10 connected at the top by two pairs of frame bars 11 and 12, and at the bottom by two corresponding pairs of frame bars 13 and 14. The upright bars 11 are angled to engage the vertical corners of a package A, and the bottom bars 13 and 14 angled to engage the bottom corners of the package, and to provide a seat for said package. These bars 13 and 14 conjointly define a bottom opening 15 by means of which the cigarettes in the package may be pushed up beyond the top edge of the package, so that these cigarettes may be easily withdrawn.

In order to snugly retain the cigarette package in the container, a side pair of frame bars 10 are provided with spring members which in the specific form shown comprise spring bars 16 having the upper ends thereof riveted or otherwise connected to said bars, and the lower ends free and unattached.

The intermediate portions of these spring bars 16 are curved inwardly to contact with one side of the cigarette package, and to urge said package against the opposite side of the frame structure. The bottom frame bars 13 may be similarly provided with spring bars 17 for urging the cigarette package towards the closure end of the container.

One important feature of the invention resides in the provision of a cover which is slidable to expose the top of the package, whereby an old package can be withdrawn, and a new package inserted in place, and which is provided with an auxiliary hinged closure member or lid which can be opened independently of said slidable cover to permit withdrawal of the cigarettes. The top frame bars 11 are shown as having flanges 18 extending outwardly therefrom and serving as guides for the sliding movement of a dispensing cover member 19. This cover member 19 comprises a frame structure consisting of front and rear frame members 21, and side frame members 22 and 23. The frame members 21 are provided with downwardly extending flanges 24 which are offset so as to receive and enclose the flanges 18. The cover member 19 has an opening in which is disposed an auxiliary closure member or lid 25 connected to the side frame member 23 by means of a suitable hinge 25*a* preferably associated with a spring so as to be normally urged to open position with respect to the container.

In order to latch the lid 25 in closed position with respect to the slidable cover 19, the outer end of said lid is advantageously provided with a downwardly extending flange 26 having an opening 27 which receives a projection formed in a flange 28 depending from the frame member 22. To permit this flange 26 to pass beyond the frame structure of the container when the cover 19 is moved into closure position, the frame bar 12 nearest to said flange is provided with a slot 29 which is large enough to permit a passage of said flange.

For releasing the latch which holds the auxiliary closure member 25 in closed position, the flange 26 has a portion extending below the flange 28 and engaging one end of a push pin 39 projecting through a hole in a flange 30 depending from the frame member 22. This push pin 29 is provided with a shoulder 31 which abuts the inside of the flange 30, and is urged into contact with said flange by means of a leaf spring 32 connected thereto. The flange 30 extends downwardly a sufficient distance to abut the frame bar 12 nearest thereto, thereby limiting the closed position of the cover 19.

An important feature of the present invention resides in the provision of means whereby the top portion of the cigarette package is cut while the slidable closure member is returned into closing position. For that purpose, the top frame members 11 are provided with a knife 34 mounted in slots 33 of the frame, and connected to the flanges 24 of the cover member. The knife has a cutting edge turned in a direction to cut the package when the cover member 19 is slid into closing position. This knife 34 extends below the frame member 23 and is protected thereby against injury to its cutting edge. The frame member 23 extends beyond the cutting edge so as to prevent the cutting edge from abutting the container at the end of its cutting stroke. The slots 33 and the knife 34 also serve to prevent the detachment of the slidable cover member 19 from the container.

Means are provided whereby the slidable cover member 19 may be retained in position while in closing relationship with the container. For this purpose, the frame member 23 is equipped with a downwardly extending projection 36 which engages a corresponding indentation or groove 37 in the top frame members 11 while in closing position.

In the operation of the device, the cover member 19 is slid to open the top of the container and the cigarette package is inserted in place. The spring bars 16 insure the snug engagement of the package in the container, and also serve to move one side of the package into abutting engagement with the frame members opposite to said spring bars. In this way, the package is held against lateral movement while being subjected to the cutting action of the knife.

The bottom springs 17 serve to urge the package upwardly so as to insure the projection of the top portion of the package wrapper above the cutting edge of the knife 34. The portion of the member 23 projecting beyond the knife 34 travels ahead of said knife during the cutting operation, and serves as a guard against cutting more than a predetermined amount of the wrapping or just the top thickness of the wrapper. The cut portion of the wrapper may be retained over the exposed end of the cigarettes so as to protect them against drying.

After the cigarette package has been inserted in the container, and the slidable closure member slid into closing position, it is then not necessary to slide this closure member to open position in order to withdraw the cigarettes. The cigarettes can then be made accessible merely by pushing the push pin 39, which causes the lid 25 to automatically swing into open position. This auxiliary closure member 25 may be large enough to substantially cover the entire opening of the container, or may be just large enough to expose a sufficient portion of the top of the package to permit the withdrawal of a cigarette.

Having thus described my invention, what

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

1. A container for cigarette packages, comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of a package and adapted to receive the entire package, a slidable cover member for the top of the container and of substantially the same size as the package to permit the insertion of a package into snug relationship with the interior of said container, an auxiliary closure member carried by said slidable cover member and movable independently of said slidable closure member for permitting access to the top of the package when the slidable cover member is in closed position with respect to said container, and a cutting knife carried by said slidable cover member and adapted to cut the top portion of the cigarette package while the closure member is sliding into closed position.

2. A container for cigarette package, comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of the package and adapted to receive the entire package and hold it in fixed position with respect thereto, a cover member extending over the top of the container, of substantially the same size thereof, and slidable therealong to permit the insertion of a package into snug relationship with the interior of said container, and a cutting knife carried by said slidable cover member and adapted to cut the top portion of the cigarette package when said cover member is slid into closure relationship with said container, said frame structure being provided with a pair of slots extending in the direction of slidable movement of said cover member and adapted to receive the knife and serve as a guide therefor.

3. A container for cigarette packages, comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of the package and adapted to receive the entire package and hold it in position with respect thereto, spring means connected to said frame structure for urging the package into abutting relationship with one side of said frame structure, a cover member extending over the top of the package, of substantially the same size thereof, and slidable therealong to permit the insertion of a package into snug relationship with the interior of said container, said cover member being slidable in a direction towards and away from the portion of the frame structure against which the cigarette package abuts under the action of said spring means, and a cutting knife carried by said slidable cover member and adapted to cut the top portion of the cigarette package while said cover member is sliding into closing relationship with said container.

4. A container for cigarette packages comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of the package and adapted to receive the entire package and hold it in position with respect thereto, a pair of oppositely facing, outwardly extending flanges connected at the top of the frame structure, a cover member extending over the top of the container and of substantially the same size thereof, flanges connected to said cover member and adapted to embrace said first mentioned flanges to permit slidable movement of said cover member, and a cutting knife carried by said slidable cover member and adapted to cut the top portion of the cigarette package when said cover member is slid into closure relationship with said container, said frame structure being provided with a pair of slots extending in substantially the same direction as the first mentioned flanges and adapted to receive the end portion of said knife whereby said cutting knife is guided along said slot and said cover member is prevented from being detached from the frame structure.

5. A container for cigarette packages, comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of the package and adapted to receive the entire package, a cutting knife slidable transversely of the container and adapted to cut off the top portion of the cigarette package, said cutting knife extending entirely across the top of the container and spaced below the top thereof, and a cover member slidable with the knife and extending forward of the cutting edge of said knife, whereby said knife is protected from damage.

6. A container for cigarette packages, comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of the package and adapted to receive the entire package and hold it in position with respect thereto, a cover member extending from the top of the container, slidable therealong, and of substantially the same size thereof, and a cutting knife carried by said slidable cover member and adapted to cut the top portion of the cigarette package when said cover member is slid into closing relationship with said container, said cutting knife extending entirely across the top of the container and spaced below said cover member, said cover member having the end transverse to its direction of movement extending forward of the cutting edge of said knife, whereby said knife is protected from damage.

7. A container for cigarette packages, comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of the package and adapted to receive the entire package, a cover member extending over the top of the container, slidable therealong, and of substantially the same size thereof, a cutting knife carried by said slidable cover member and adapted to cut the top portion of the cigarette package when said cover member is slid into closure relationship with said con-

tainer, said knife being spaced below said cover member, said cover member having the edge transverse to its direction of movement extending beyond the cutting edge of said knife, whereby said knife is protected against injury, and spring means connected to the bottom of the frame structure for urging said package so that the top portion thereof will abut the portion of the cover member extending beyond the cutting knife, whereby the thickness of the wrapping cut by said knife is predetermined.

8. A container for cigarette packages, comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of the package and adapted to receive the entire package, a cover member extending over the top of the container, slidable therealong, and of substantially the same size thereof, and a cutting knife carried by said slidable cover member and adapted to cut the top portion of the cigarette package when said cover member is slid into closure relationship with said container.

9. A container for cigarette packages, comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of a package and adapted to receive the entire package and hold it in position with respect thereto, a cover member extending over the top of the container, of substantially the same size thereof, and slidable therealong to permit the insertion of a fresh package into snug relationship with the interior of said container, and a knife carried by said slidable cover and adapted to cut the top portion of the cigarette package while said closure member is sliding into closing relationship with said container.

10. A container for cigarette packages, comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of a package and adapted to receive the entire package, a slidable cover member for the top of the container and of substantially the same size as the package to permit the insertion of a package into snug relationship with the interior of said container, and a knife carried by said cover to cut off the top of the package.

11. A container for cigarette packages, comprising a frame structure conforming generally to the shape and size of a package and adapted to receive the entire package, a slidable cover member for the top of the container and of substantially the same size as the package to permit the insertion of a package into snug relationship with the interior of said container, a knife carried by said cover to cut off the top of the package, and a lid carried by said cover member.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 19th day of March, A. D. 1931.

FREDRICK W. VON MEISTER.