

Oct. 5, 1943.

C. C. LEHMER

2,331,204

PACKAGE OPENER DEVICE

Filed Dec. 16, 1941

Fig. 1.

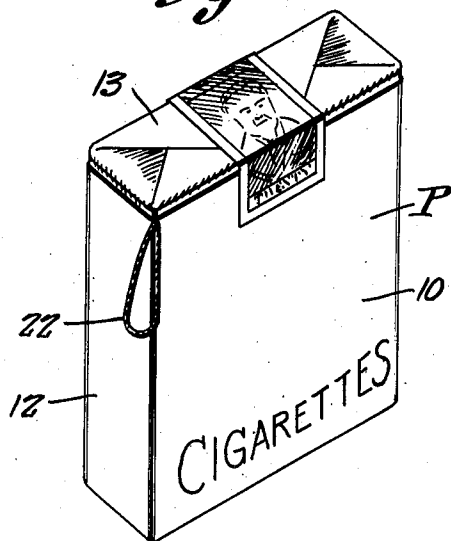


Fig. 2.

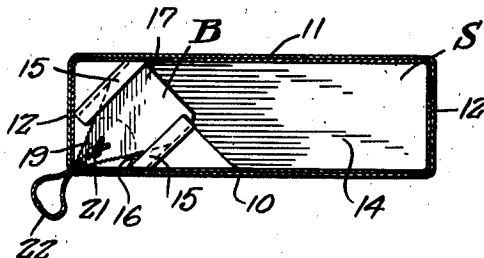


Fig. 3.

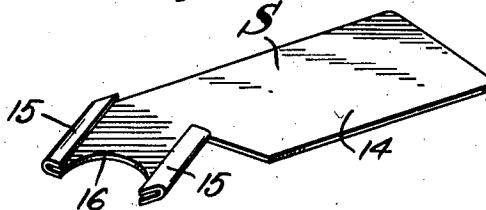
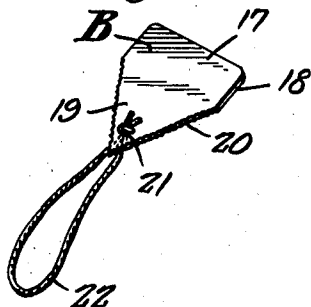


Fig. 4.



Charles C. Lehmer,

INVENTOR

BY *Victor J. Cranshaw,*

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,331,204

PACKAGE OPENER DEVICE

Charles C. Lehmer, Salt Lake City, Utah

Application December 16, 1941, Serial No. 423,248

3 Claims. (Cl. 229—51)

The present invention relates to new and useful improvements in devices for opening packages.

An object of the invention is to provide a device designed to effect quick and convenient opening of a package.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a device adapted to be carried within a package for cutting a slit in the corner thereof to enable opening of the package for removal of the contents.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device embodying a guide forming support member adapted to be fitted within a package and a cutter carried on the said support so that it may be pulled from the guide through the package wrapper for cutting slits in the package to form an opening.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of a package opening device which is relatively simple and inexpensive in construction and efficient for the purpose intended.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description and appended claims.

In describing my invention in detail, reference will be had to the accompanying drawing illustrating a practical adaptation of the invention, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a package equipped with the improved opening device,

Figure 2 is a transverse sectional view through the same,

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the support member of the device, and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the cutting element of the device.

With reference to the drawing, wherein like characters of reference denote corresponding parts throughout the several views, P generally designates a package of the type commonly employed for packing of cigarettes embodying a paper wrapper having relatively wide front and rear sides 10 and 11, narrow end walls 12 and top and bottom walls 13. The top or covering wall 13 is conventionally formed by imfolding of the side and end wall extensions as illustrated in Figure 1 and the entire wrapper is quite commonly covered by a transparent covering which may be formed of "Cellophane."

My invention particularly refers to a device to be enclosed within the top portion of the package P and embodies a support member S consisting of a flat elongated strip of relatively stiff material, indicated at 14 and which may be formed

of paper board or the like. This strip is of rectangular formation at one end while the opposite end portion is cut and bent to form a pair of complementary guide channels 15, formed by bending marginal portions of the strip upwardly and inwardly. As shown to advantage at Figures 2 and 3 these guide channels are arranged in spaced apart parallel arrangement and at an oblique inclination to the longitudinal extent of the strip, the end portion of the strip between the outer ends of the channels being shaped to provide a concave arcuate recess 16.

The obliquely directed end portion of the strip 14 is adapted to carry thereon a cutter blade B embodying a flat, relatively thin blade section formed of metal or the like. At one end the blade B is of rectangular formation as indicated at 17 having relatively short parallel side edges 18 while the opposite end has a diminishing transverse taper forming a relatively long V-shaped pointed end section 19. The relatively long converging and inclined side edges 20 of the pointed section 19 are roughened or serrated for cutting through the package, as will hereinafter appear. Adjacent the outer pointed end the blade B is provided with a round aperture 21 adapted to receive therethrough the end portions of a cord 22, the said end portions being knotted at one side of the aperture so as to preclude passage of the cord therethrough and forming a relatively large loop at the opposite side of the blade.

When employed in association with a package, for example a cigarette package indicated P, the support strip 14 is fitted within the upper portion of the package between the top wall 13 and the end of the cigarettes, that is, with the package in its customary upright position the strip is disposed horizontally between the upper ends of the cigarettes and the top, as illustrated to advantage in Figure 2. The blade B is fitted horizontally on the oblique guide end portion of the strip with the parallel side edges 18 slidably engaging the grooves in the channels 15 and the point of the blade directed outwardly thereof against the interior corner portion of the package.

The loop 22 attached to the outer end of the blade is projected through a small aperture in the corner of the package and extends exteriorly thereof.

When the purchaser desires to open the package he grasps the projecting loop 22 and quickly pulls the same outwardly in a plane approximately parallel with the plane of the package top 13, this sudden movement sliding the blade

B outwardly of the guide portion of the support strip and through the walls of the package so as to cut a slit in the corner thereof, the tapered cutting edges 20 of the blade severing the upper portion of one side wall 10 immediately below the top 13 and the adjacent portion of the contiguous end wall 12. This cutting action severs a corner of the top 13 from the adjacent portions of the side and end walls thereof so that such corner top portion may be readily bent upwardly to provide an opening suitable for removal of one or more cigarettes from the package, which corner portion of the top may be bent down thereafter to cover the removal opening.

Thus, the pulling of the blade from the guide portion of the support strip in the package effects the cutting of a strip of predetermined length at the corner of the package to define an opening section of the cover of predetermined dimensions which will facilitate the removal of cigarettes from the package with a minimum of exposure of the contents of the package.

It is to be understood that the invention is not confined to the specific construction, arrangement or use illustrated and described and that considerable modification may be made therein within the spirit of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A device of the character described comprising a stiff support strip having a pair of channels formed at one end portion, the said channels being disposed in parallel opposed positions at an oblique inclination on the strip, a flat blade having a rectangular shaped inner portion slidably fitted on the strip with the side edges engaging the said channels, the said strip having a tapered end portion having diverging cutting

edges, and a pull element attached to the pointed end of the blade for pulling the same along the guide channels and outwardly thereof to effect cutting action.

2. In a package opening device, a stiff strip adapted to be fitted parallel with the top of the package and adjacent to the said top, the said strip having side portions bent upwardly and inwardly to form parallel guide channels, the said channels being directed at an oblique angle to the body of the strip, and a flat blade slidably associated with the channels of the strip and tapering to a point at one end for pulling through the corner of the package and cutting a slit therein.

3. In an opening device for a rectangular shaped package having a severable wrapper, an elongated stiff strip mounted parallel with and adjacent the top of the package, a pair of parallel channels formed on an end portion of the strip and disposed at an oblique inclination to the longitudinal extent of the strip, a flat blade having an inner rectangular portion slidably fitted on the strip and having its opposed side marginal portions slidably engaging the channels, the said blade having an opposite end portion tapering to a point having diverging cutting edges, the pointed end of the blade being directed to a corner portion of the package, and a loop of flexible material connected to the tapered end portion of the blade and extended through an aperture in the corner of the package whereby the said blade may be pulled in a plane parallel with the top of the package through the guide channels and through the adjacent walls of the package to cut a slit in the corner thereof to define a portion of the cover which may be bent upwardly to form an opening in the package.

CHARLES C. LEHMER.