March 26, 1940. E. LOCKER 2,194,707

DEVICE FOR OPENING CIGARETTE PACKAGES

Filed March 21, 1939

Fig. 1.

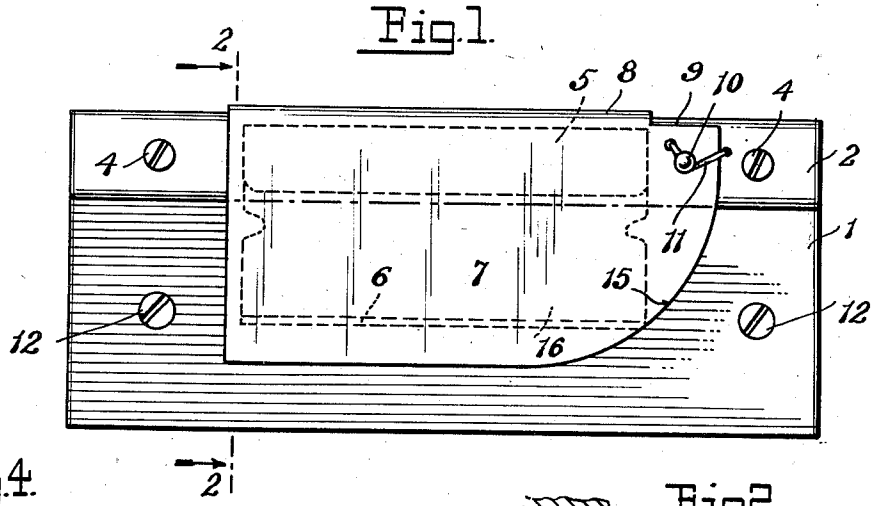


Fig. 4.

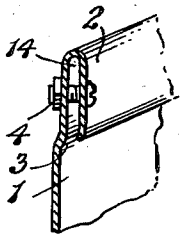


Fig. 2.

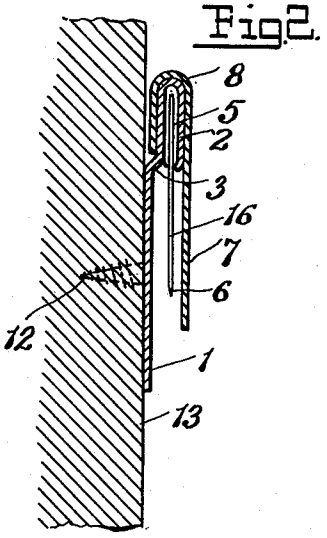


Fig. 3.

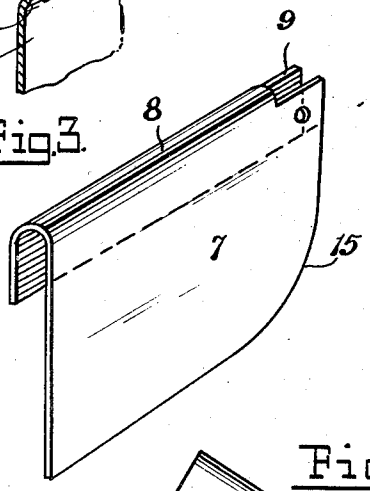
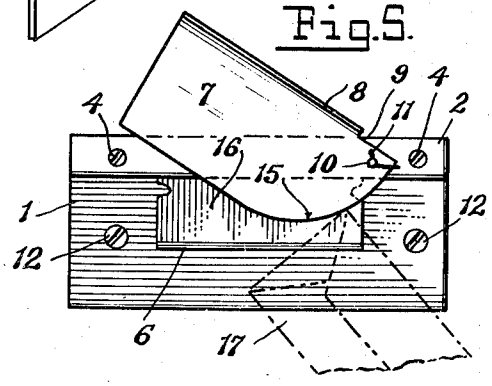


Fig. 5.



Inventor
Edward Locker
by his Attorney:
Harry Rozinsky

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DEVICE FOR OPENING CIGARETTE PACKAGES

Edward Locker, Monsey, N. Y.

Application March 21, 1939, Serial No. 263,101

6 Claims. (Cl. 30—2)

This invention relates to a device for slitting or opening cigarette packages and similar containers; for cutting cigars, and for other purposes, and has for its object the provision of a simple, effective device by which the wrappers of packages may be slit to permit the convenient removal of the contents, or the ends of cigars may be cut off.

At the present time cigarettes and similar articles of merchandise are contained in wrappers of several layers, the outer of which is the familiar transparent sheet material, an example of which is known under the trade-name of "Cellophane". The difficulty of tearing open a cigarette package is known to all cigarette smokers and the primary object of this invention therefore is to provide a simple device which will greatly facilitate this operation.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device of the character mentioned which can be conveniently attached to cigarette vending machines; to or at cigarette counters, in the home, or at other locations to permit the smoker to easily and conveniently open cigarette packages. A further object of the invention is to provide such a device in which the cutting instrumentality or blade shall be easily renewable, and in which the possibility of damage or injury by the blade will be prevented by a movable guard member provided with means for normally holding it in blade-covering position.

These and other objects are accomplished by the invention hereinafter set forth and more particularly pointed out in the claims appended hereto.

In the accompanying drawing, wherein an embodiment of the invention is shown, Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the improved device; Fig. 2 is a sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the guard member; Fig. 4 is a sectional view through a portion of the base plate or support member; and Fig. 5 is a view, similar to Fig. 1, showing the guard raised by a cigarette package that is being slit.

In the drawing, 1 indicates the base member or body portion of the device, the same being preferably in the form of a substantially flat plate of any suitable shape or outline, the same being formed near one edge with an offset 3 and a bent-over portion 2, said portion 2 forming a channel 14. Adapted to be clamped within the channel 14 is a cutting blade 16 which may, if desired, be a safety razor blade of the type illustrated, which is provided with a substantially thick back 5 received and clamped within the channel 14 and with the cutting edge 6 exposed. Bolts 4 or equivalent fastening members extending through the sides of the channel operate to clamp the portion 5 of the cutting blade within the channel and hold it securely, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, with its cutting edge 6 exposed and spaced at a slight distance away from the face of the plate 1, this distance being dependent upon the extent of the offset 3. Pivotally mounted to overlie and cover the blade 16 is a guard member 7, said member having its upper end turned over as indicated at 8 to fit over the channeled edge 2 of the plate 1. The guard member 7 is cut away as indicated at 9 to permit it to swing about its pivot 10 in the manner indicated in Fig. 5.

If the plate 1 is mounted vertically, as indicated in Fig. 2, upon the side of a support 13, gravity will normally tend to maintain the guard member in the operative position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 where it covers and protects the blade 16. It may be found desirable however, to use a torsional spring 11 of conventional character, mounted around the pivot 10 for the purpose of normally holding the guard member in its protective position, shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Such spring is particularly desirable when the device is mounted horizontally. For securing the plate 1 to any suitable support, the screws 12 or other equivalent fastening means may be employed.

To open a package of cigarettes, a portion thereof being indicated at 17 in Fig. 5, the package is held against the plate 1 at the right end of the same as viewed in Fig. 1, and the package is moved toward the left. The guard member 7 is provided with a rounded or curved edge 15 with which the package contacts as the package is moved toward the left. The package upon striking the curved edge 15 raises or swings the guard member 7 on its pivot as indicated in Fig. 5 to enable the cutting edge 6 of the blade to be brought into contact with the package and slit the same for a relatively short distance to permit the cigarettes to be taken therefrom. As soon as the slitting operation has occurred and the cigarette package is withdrawn from the support, and the pressure of the package against the guard member 7 is discontinued, the guard member 7 will move into protective position as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2, either under the force of gravity or under the impulse of the spring 11. Since the cutting element or blade 16 is removable and replaceable, and discarded safety razor blades can be used if desired for this purpose, it will be obvious that the device may be constructed

and used very economically. The operation of the guard member is entirely automatic so that the blade will be at all times covered when not in use and the possibility of damage by the cutting edge of the blade will thus be effectively prevented.

While I have herein described the device as being particularly adaptable for use in slitting open packages of cigarettes and the like, it is obvious that the same may be effectively used as a cigar cutter, or for many other slitting or package-opening purposes.

What I claim is:

1. An opener for cigarette packages and the like comprising, a plate member and means for attaching it to a support, means for affixing a cutting blade to said plate whereby said blade is held with its cutting edge elevated above the face of the plate, a guard member pivoted to the plate and disposed to normally cover and protect the blade, said guard member being disposed to be swung to one side by a package that is moved over the face of the plate and into position to be split by the blade.

2. An opener for cigarette packages and the like comprising, a plate member and means for attaching the same to a support, said plate member having an edge formed with a channel, a cutting blade having one edge disposed in said channel, means for clamping the channel on the edge of the cutting blade disposed within it, said channel holding the blade disposed flatwisely over the plate but slightly raised above the face of the same whereby a package moved along the surface of the plate will be brought into contact with a cutting edge of the blade and slit thereby, a swinging guard pivoted to the channel and normally disposed to extend over and cover the blade except when swung to one side of the blade by a package moved along the plate member to reach the blade for slitting thereby.

3. An opener for cigarette packages and the like comprising a base member, a blade attached to the same and overlying but raised from one face of the base member, a swinging guard member secured to the base member, and means for normally holding said guard member in a position to extend over and cover the blade, said means permitting the guard member to be swung away from the blade by a package moved over the face of the base member on its way to cutting position by the blade.

4. An opener for cigarette packages and the like comprising, a base member, a blade attached to the same and overlying but raised from one face of the base member, a swinging, channelled guard member having a portion overlying one edge of the base member and a flat portion extending over and covering the blade, means for supporting the base member so that the guard member will normally be disposed in blade-covering position and will have an edge portion disposed in the path of movement of a cigarette package on its way to the blade and moved by contact with the package out of blade-covering position.

5. An opener for cigarette packages and the like comprising, a flat plate, means for attaching the same to a support, one edge of said plate being provided with a raised channelled portion, means for clamping the walls of said channelled portion upon a portion of a cutting blade to hold the blade with its cutting edge exposed and raised above the face of the plate whereby a package moved along the face of said plate will be brought into contact with said cutting edge of the blade and split thereby, and a pivoted guard member secured to the plate and covering the cutting edge of the blade when the package is moved toward the blade to be split thereby.

6. An opener for cigarette packages and the like comprising, a plate having a raised channelled edge portion, a cutting blade having an edge seated within said channel and held with its cutting edge slightly raised from the surface of the plate, means for clamping the blade in the channel, a pivoted guard secured to the channel, a spring for causing said guard to be normally held to overlie the blade and protect the cutting edge thereof, said guard having a curved edge portion for contact with a portion of a package moved along the face of the plate to cause said guard to be moved to blade-exposing position and to permit the package to contact with the raised cutting edge of the blade, and a stop for limiting the movement of the guard in one direction.

EDWARD LOCKER.