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TOILET TISSUE MAGAZINE AND DISPENSING CABINET

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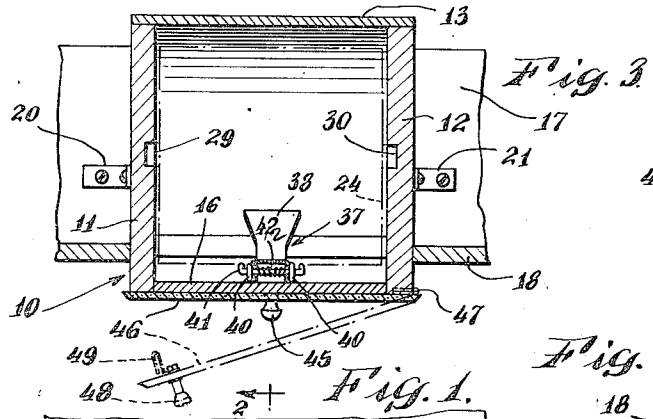


Fig. 1.

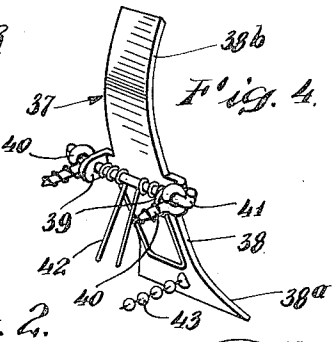


Fig. 4.

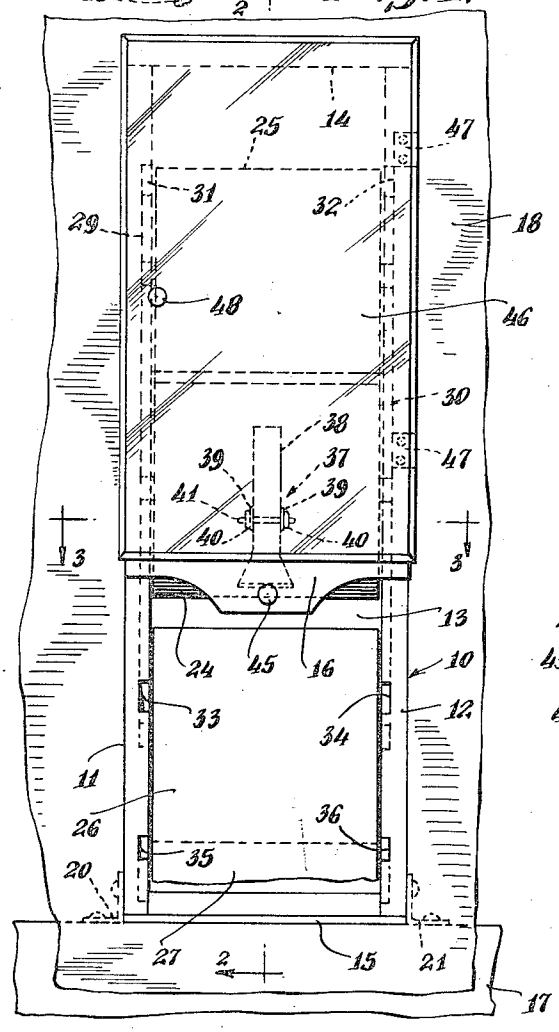


Fig. 3.

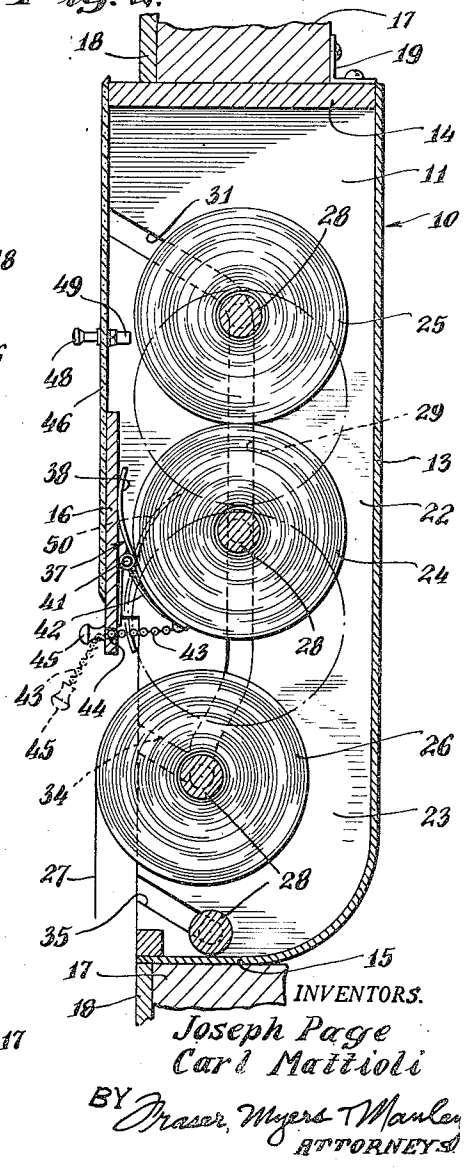


Fig. 2.

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TOILET TISSUE MAGAZINE AND DISPENSING CABINET

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3 Claims. (Cl. 242—55.3)

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The present invention relates to a magazine and dispensing cabinet for rolls of toilet paper, toweling or the like, and aims to provide certain improvements in such cabinets.

Various types of magazine and dispensing apparatus for toilet paper, toweling and the like have been heretofore proposed but comparatively few of such devices have found acceptance, especially in the home, for various reasons, such as, they were too costly, or embodied delicate mechanism which would rapidly get out of order, or they required complicated means for replacing an empty spindle or roller with a fresh roll of paper in dispensing position.

The present invention has for its object: (1) to provide a device of the character set forth that is exceedingly simple in construction and operation; (2) which is free of complicated or delicate operating mechanism; (3) which is so simple that a child of tender years can operate it; and (4) which may be embodied in a wall cabinet or in a built-in cabinet.

The foregoing and other objects of our invention not specifically enumerated we accomplish by providing a cabinet having a magazine compartment adapted to hold a plurality of rolls of toilet paper, toweling or the like and a feed roll compartment, the respective compartments being arranged in superposed and communicating relation and being so related that, upon the feed roll becoming exhausted, it is merely necessary to remove the empty spindle or roller and to operate a simple releasing means, whereupon a fresh roll of paper will move by the action of gravity from the magazine compartment into operative position in the feed roll compartment. The device also includes a storage space for the retention of empty spindles or rollers until such time that said spindles will be required for insertion into the core of new rolls of paper to be stored in the magazine compartment. The invention will be better understood from the detailed description which follows when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 shows a front elevational view of a magazine and dispensing cabinet embodying our invention.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view, on a somewhat enlarged scale, of the roll-retaining and releasing device.

Referring to the drawings, wherein we have

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shown a preferred embodiment of our invention, the reference numeral 10 indicates a substantially rectangular cabinet having side walls 11 and 12, a rear wall 13, a top wall 14, a bottom wall 15 and a front wall 16. As herein shown, the cabinet 10 is of the built-in type which seats within a recess in a wall 17 having a decorative front panel 18, the cabinet extending somewhat in front of the panel 18, as best shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The cabinet may be supported within the wall 17 in any desired manner and is herein shown as held by brackets 19, 20 and 21.

The cabinet 10 may be said to contain a magazine compartment 22 which is superposed and in communication relation to a feed roll compartment 23, the magazine compartment being intended to hold one or more reserve rolls of paper 24 and 25 while the feed roll compartment is intended to support a roll of paper 26 in dispensing position so that the paper therefrom may be withdrawn as required by grasping the free end 27 thereof and withdrawing as much of the paper as desired, the roll being free to rotate upon a spindle 28.

The side walls 11 and 12 are preferably formed with opposed, longitudinal guideways 29 and 30 which extend from an upper portion of the magazine section 22 to the feed roll section 23, and said side walls are also formed with opposed, laterally-extending guideways 31 and 32 in the magazine compartment and with opposed, laterally-extending guideways 33 and 34 in the feed roll compartment. The inner ends of the guideways 31, 32, and 33, 34 intersect the guideways 29 and 30, the intersection between the guideways 33, 34, and 29, 30 providing a support for the spindle 28 within the feed roll section. Preferably the guideways 33, 34 extend downwardly from the front of the cabinet so that when paper is withdrawn from the roll 26 there will not be present the tendency of withdrawing the roll 26 from its compartment. If desired, an additional pair of lateral, downwardly-inclined guideways 35, 36 may be provided in the side walls below the guideways 33, 34 so as to clear a full roll 26 when positioned in the feed roll compartment, for a purpose which will presently appear.

Mounted in the cabinet between the magazine compartment 22 and the feed roll compartment 23 is a roll-retaining and releasing device 37, herein shown as consisting of an arcuate plate 38 formed at approximately midway between its ends with a pair of perforated ears 39 adapted for cooperation with a pair of screw eyes 40 mounted on the inner face of the front wall 16 and ex-

tending through the ears **39** and eyes **40** is a pin **41** having mounted thereon a tension spring **42** adapted to normally bias the lower end **38***a* of the arcuate plate **38** so that said end will be disposed in the path of downward movement of the roll **24** in the magazine section and the upper end **38***b* of the arcuate plate will be disposed out of the path of the roll **25** which is normally supported in the magazine section upon the roll **24**. Secured to the rear face of the lower end **38***a* of the arcuate plate is one end of a flexible ball chain **43**, the other end of which extends through an opening **44** in the front wall **16** and is provided with an enlarged, finger-engaging knob **45**.

To give the device a finished appearance the front of the cabinet is provided with a door **46** which is hinged at **47** to the side walls and is provided with a finger-engaging knob **48** and a spring latch **49** to permit opening and latching of the door when it is desired to re-charge the magazine with fresh rolls of paper.

In the operation of the device the magazine compartment **22** is charged with two rolls of paper **24** and **25**, from which the wrappers have been removed, each roll being provided with a spindle extending through the core of the roll, the said spindles having reduced ends which are inserted into the front ends of the opposed guideways **31** and **32** and move by gravity down the guideways **29** and **30**. The lower end **38***a* of the arcuate plate being biased inwardly by the spring **42**, said end **38***a* will provide a support for the roll **24** and the roll **25** superimposed upon it. Let us now assume that the feed roll compartment **23** is empty and that the spindle normally held at the intersection of the guideways **29**, **30**, and **33**, **34** has been removed and inserted in the guideways **35**, **36**. Then, upon pulling on the knob **45**, the arcuate plate **38** will pivot about the pin **41** to the broken line position designated **50** against the tension of the spring **42**, the roll **24** with its spindle will drop by gravity into the recesses provided at the intersection of the guideways **29**, **30**, and **33**, **34** and will be there held in position for dispensing the paper from said roll. In the course of dispensing a roll as described in the preceding sentence, the upper end **38***b* of the arcuate plate will engage the roll **25** as it partially descends within the magazine compartment and hold it in an intermediate position until the knob **25** is released, whereupon the plate **38** will be moved under the tension of the spring **42** to its normal position and will there arrest the roll **25** in its further downward movement. When the feed roll in compartment **23** has been exhausted, the spindle **28** is withdrawn, inserted into the guideways **35**, **36** and a fresh roll fed into position in the manner above recited. Both the rolls from the magazine section having been thus dispensed, the spindles from guideways **35**, **36** are inserted into fresh rolls after removing their wrappers and said spindles, together with the rolls, are charged into the magazine section in the manner aforementioned.

It will thus be seen that we have provided a magazine and dispensing cabinet for rolls of toilet paper which is exceedingly simple in construction and operation and, while we have shown and described a preferred embodiment of our invention, it is to be understood that changes in details of the construction disclosed may be resorted to within the range of mechanical skill without departing from the spirit of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

What we claim is:

1. A magazine and dispensing cabinet for rolls of toilet paper, toweling and the like, comprising an upright container formed with a magazine section and a feed roll section arranged in superposed and communicating relation, means in the feed roll section for removably supporting a spindle upon which a roll of paper may be held in dispensing relation, a roll-retaining and releasing device in the magazine section having a first part normally disposed in the path of downward movement of the lowermost roll in the magazine section for supporting said roll and any superposed rolls by engaging the body of the lowermost roll, and a second part normally disposed out of the path of downward movement of the rolls in the magazine section and means operable from the exterior of the cabinet for operating the retaining and releasing device to move the said first part out of the path of the lowermost roll in the magazine section and simultaneously moving said second part into the path of the next to the lowermost roll in the magazine section whereby to release the lowermost roll from the magazine section so that it will drop into the feed roll section and retain the next to the lowermost roll in the magazine section, within said section, the roll-retaining end and releasing device including spring means for normally biasing the device to hold the said first part in the path of downward movement of the lowermost roll in the magazine section.

2. A magazine and dispensing cabinet according to claim 1 wherein the roll-retaining and releasing device comprises an arcuate plate, means pivotally mounting said arcuate plate so that it may move about an axis parallel to the axes of the rolls in the magazine section, said spring means biasing said arcuate plate so that normally a first end portion thereof will be disposed in the path of downward movement of the lowermost roll in the magazine section and the other end portion thereof will be disposed out of the path of downward movement of the roll next above the lowermost roll.

3. A magazine and dispensing cabinet according to claim 2 wherein the means operable from the exterior of the container for operating the retaining and releasing device is a flexible pull element connected at one end to the said first end portion of the arcuate plate and having its opposite end extending through the front of the cabinet.

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