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CIGARETTE CASE AND DISPENSER

2,548,310

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Fig. 1

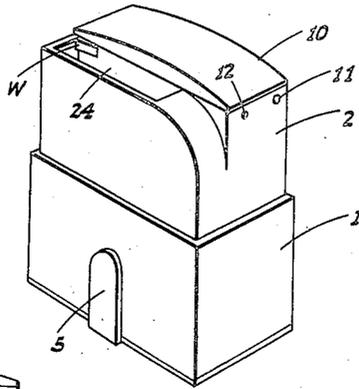


Fig. 2

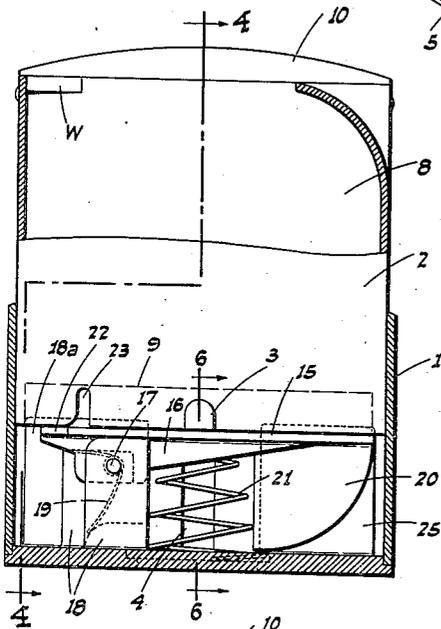


Fig. 3

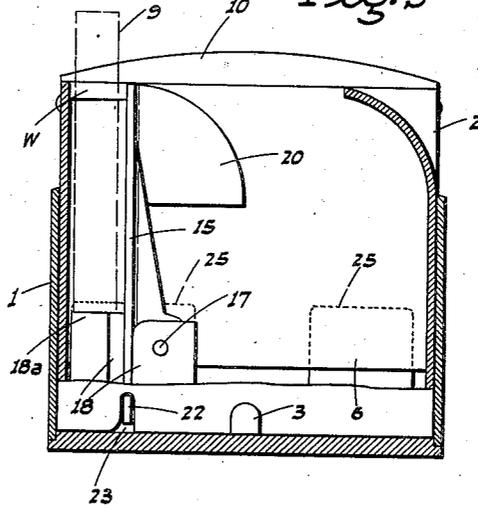


Fig. 4

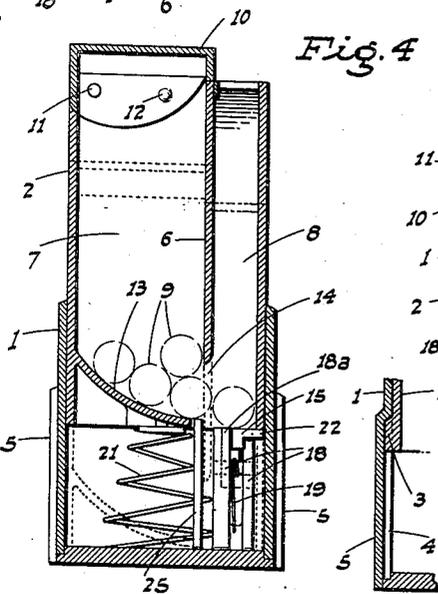


Fig. 5

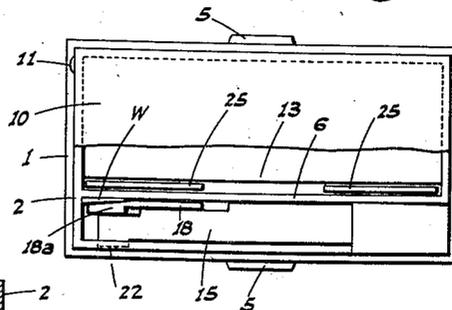
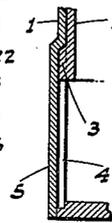


Fig. 6



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## CIGARETTE CASE AND DISPENSER

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10 Claims. (Cl. 312-77)

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This invention is directed to, and it is an object to provide, a novel table or desk type cigarette case and dispenser.

Another object of the invention is to provide a case and dispenser, as above, which is arranged to hold a plurality of cigarettes, and to dispense the same, one at a time, upon a simple, one-hand manipulation of the device.

A further object of the invention is to provide a combination cigarette case and dispenser which is compact, light weight, and handy; the device thus being adapted for easy and convenient use.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a combination cigarette case and dispenser which is designed for ready and economical manufacture and assembly, particularly when the major parts are of plastic.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a combination cigarette case and dispenser which is neat, and attractive, in appearance.

A further object of the invention is to provide a practical and reliable combination cigarette case and dispenser, and one which will be exceedingly effective for the purpose for which it is designed.

These objects are accomplished by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts as will fully appear by a perusal of the following specification and claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the combination cigarette case and dispenser.

Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation of the same with the parts in normal position.

Fig. 3 is a similar view but shows the upper and movable case unit as depressed to dispense a cigarette.

Fig. 4 is a cross section on line 4-4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the device, with the lid partially broken away.

Fig. 6 is a cross section on line 6-6 of Fig. 2.

Referring now more particularly to the characters of reference on the drawings, the combination cigarette case and dispenser comprises a box-like housing 1, initially open at the top, and of somewhat elongated rectangular configuration in plan.

A case unit, indicated generally at 2, is engaged in the initially open-topped housing 1 for vertical reciprocation, with an easy but relatively close running fit.

The case unit 2 projects some distance above the housing 1, and said case unit is normally in a relatively raised position, as in Figs. 1 and 2. The extent of raising movement of the case unit

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2 is limited by a guide boss 3 on each side of said case unit 2, running in a vertical groove or channel 4 formed at the corresponding side of the housing 1 by side members 5. The grooves 4 are of a length such as to permit the case unit 2 to be depressed from its normally raised position downwardly in the housing 1 to a point in engagement with the bottom of the latter.

The case unit 2 is separated, internally, by a vertical, longitudinal partition 6, into a cigarette holding compartment 7 of substantial transverse width, and a vertical passage 8 which is very narrow transversely. Both the cigarette holding compartment 7 and the vertical passage 8 are of a length, horizontally or longitudinally, slightly greater than the length of a cigarette 9; a quantity of the latter being carried in said compartment 7.

A lid 10 is provided, on the case unit 2, for the top of the cigarette holding compartment 7; such lid being pivoted, as at 11, and normally but releasably held in closed relation by detents 12. At the bottom of the cigarette holding compartment 7, the case unit 2 is formed with a transversely curved bottom 13, which inclines downwardly in the direction of the vertical passage 8; there being a horizontal, longitudinal slot 14 opening from the compartment 7 into the vertical passage 8 at the bottom of the case unit 2, and through the partition 6, whereby the cigarettes 9 may feed, horizontally and at a time, from said compartment 7, in the passage 8.

Each cigarette, as it feeds through the slot 14, comes to rest atop a relatively narrow, normally horizontal swing platform 15, mounted, as hereinafter described, in the housing 1 in alinement with, and for upward swinging motion through, the vertical passage 8; said swing platform 15 being disposed in said housing 1 in a plane so that it normally blocks the bottom of passage 8 of the normally raised case unit 2.

The relatively narrow, normally horizontal swing platform 15 includes, on the bottom, a longitudinal web 16 pivoted, adjacent but short of one end of said platform, as at 17, between ears 18 which upstand from the bottom of the housing 1; there being a spring 19 which normally maintains the swing platform 15 horizontal. At the end opposite the pivot 17, the swing platform includes a depending baffle plate 20 which normally engages the bottom of the housing 1 and prevents swinging of said platform 15 below horizontal under the influence of the spring 19. This depending baffle plate 20 serves a further purpose, as will hereinafter appear.

A telescoping type compression spring 21 is engaged between the bottom of the housing 1 and the bottom of the case unit 2, whereby to normally maintain the latter in its raised position; such spring being disposed so that it in no way interferes with actuation and swinging of the platform 15 from its normal horizontal position, as in Fig. 2, to its upright cigarette dispensing position, as in Fig. 3.

When the case unit 2 is in its normally raised position, a cigarette 9 has automatically fed through the slot 14 and come to rest on the swing platform 15; this being the cigarette to be dispensed. The dispensing operation is accomplished as follows:

The user, holding the housing 1 in his hand, depresses the case unit 2 against the action of the spring 21; said case unit 2 lowering from the full line position of Fig. 4 to the dotted line position therein. When this occurs, the adjacent portion of the lower edge of said case unit 2 strikes and depresses a lateral tongue 22 on the short end of the swing platform 15, causing the latter to swing in an arcuate path upwardly through the vertical passage 8 to an upstanding position, as in Fig. 3; the tongue then having turned 90 degrees and found its way into a slot 23 formed in the adjacent side of the case unit 2; such slot 23 having a rounded entry, for the tongue, as shown.

When the swing platform 15 is erected by depression of the case unit 2, the normally horizontal cigarette on said platform is swung to an upright position, as in Fig. 3, at which time the cigarette projects upwardly out of the case unit 2 through a throat 24. A holding wedge W in said throat at the end where the then vertical cigarette comes to rest, grips said cigarette. As so gripped the cigarette remains in an upstanding, ready for removal position, even though the case unit 22 may be released to return to its normally raised position, with resultant lowering of the swing platform 15 to horizontal.

The following arrangement is provided in order to prevent any cigarette 9 from passing through the slot 14, or jamming therein upon depression of the case unit 2 to dispense the cigarette which rests on the swing platform 15:

A pair of longitudinally spaced, upstanding baffle plates 25 are mounted on the bottom of the housing 1 in position to close the slot 14 upon depression of the case unit 2.

The baffle plates 25 serve the further purpose, upon depression of the case unit 2, of relatively advancing upward to engage or shift cigarettes in the bottom of compartment 7 adjacent the slot 14, whereby to break up any cluster of said cigarettes which might otherwise tend to jam in said slot and prevent proper feeding of cigarettes therethrough.

The dependent baffle plate 20 on the long end of the swing platform 15 baffles or shuts off one end of the slot 14 immediately upon said platform beginning to rise, whereby to further assure of accidental escape of any cigarette from the compartment 7 during a dispensing operation.

After each dispensing operation, and upon raising of the case unit 2 to its normal position, the upstanding baffle plates 25, and depending baffle plate 20, move clear of said slot 14, and the next cigarette to be dispensed feeds from compartment 7, through slot 14, onto the spring platform 15 at the bottom of the vertical passage 8.

One of the upstanding ears 18 includes, alongside the short end of the swing platform 15, an

upwardly facing abutment 18a, upon which the lower end of each cigarette rests when it is swung upward to its vertical or dispensing position, as in Fig. 3. This prevents the dispensed cigarette from possibly falling back into the container before it is engaged or gripped by the holding wedge 25.

The above described combination cigarette case and dispenser being quite compact in structure and light in weight provides a convenient and practical article for holding cigarettes on a table or desk; the cigarettes being dispensed from the device, one at a time, by a simple one-hand manipulation, which comprises merely the depression of the case unit 2 relatively into the housing 1.

The structure of the device is such that it can be manufactured readily and economically, and such device, when in use, works easily and smoothly.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that there has been produced such a device as substantially fulfills the objects of the invention as set forth herein.

While this specification sets forth in detail the present and preferred construction of the device, still in practice such deviations from such detail may be resorted to as do not form a departure from the spirit of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, the following is claimed as new and useful, and upon which Letters Patents are desired:

1. A combination cigarette case and dispenser, comprising a housing, a normally raised manually depressible case unit mounted in connection with the housing, said case unit being divided internally into a cigarette holding compartment and a vertical passage, there being a cigarette dispensing opening at the top of the case unit in communication with the vertical passage, cigarettes in the chamber tending to feed one at a time into the vertical passage, mechanism operative to feed a cigarette from the vertical passage into said opening, means responsive to manual depression of the case unit operative to cause actuation of said mechanism; said mechanism including a normally horizontal, longitudinal swing platform normally at the bottom of the vertical passage, and each cigarette fed from the compartment initially resting lengthwise on said platform; the swing platform being pivoted adjacent but short of one end for upward, cigarette dispensing motion, and means operable through vertical movement of the case to engage the short end of the swing platform and swing the platform whereby to tilt the cigarette through the opening.

2. A cigarette case and dispenser, as in claim 1, in which the last named means includes an element on the short end of the swing platform in the path of depression of the case unit.

3. A combination cigarette case and dispenser comprising an initially open topped housing, a normally spring raised, manually depressible case unit slidably engaged in the housing from above, a vertical, longitudinal partition in the case unit forming a compartment for a plurality of cigarettes and, to one side, a relatively narrow vertical passage open at the top of the case unit to provide a cigarette dispensing opening, the compartment and said passage being of a length to receive cigarettes horizontally, there being a longitudinal passage through the partition at the bottom thereof whereby cigarettes feed one at a time into the vertical passage in a horizontal position, a

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relatively narrow platform mounted in the housing for motion through the vertical passage from a normal horizontal position at the bottom thereof, each cigarette fed into said vertical passage resting longitudinally on the platform, and means responsive to manual depression of the case unit operative to move the platform through said vertical passage to feed the supported cigarette into said dispensing opening.

4. A combination cigarette case and dispenser comprising an initially open topped housing, a normally spring raised, manually depressible case unit slidably engaged in the housing from above, a vertical, longitudinal partition in the case unit forming a compartment for a plurality of cigarettes and, to one side, a relatively narrow vertical passage open at the top of the case unit to provide a cigarette dispensing opening, the compartment and said passage being of a length to receive cigarettes horizontally, there being a longitudinal passage through the partition at the bottom thereof whereby cigarettes feed one at a time into the vertical passage in a horizontal position, a relatively narrow platform pivoted in connection with the housing adjacent but short of one end of said platform for upward swinging motion through the vertical passage from a normally horizontal position at the bottom thereof, each cigarette fed into said vertical passage resting longitudinally on the platform, and means responsive to manual depression of the case unit operative to swing the platform through the vertical passage to an upstanding position whereby to project the supported cigarette into said opening in a corresponding position.

5. A combination cigarette case and dispenser comprising an initially open topped housing, a normally spring raised, manually depressible case unit slidably engaged in the housing from above, a vertical, longitudinal partition in the case unit forming a compartment for a plurality of cigarettes and, to one side, a relatively narrow vertical passage open at the top of the case unit to provide a cigarette dispensing opening, the compartment and said passage being of a length to receive cigarettes horizontally, there being a longitudinal passage through the partition at the bottom thereof whereby cigarettes feed one at a time into the vertical passage in a horizontal position, a relatively narrow platform pivoted in connection with the housing adjacent but short of one end of said platform for upward swinging motion through the vertical passage from a normally horizontal position at the bottom thereof, each cigarette fed into said vertical passage resting longitudinally on the platform, and means responsive to manual depression of the case unit operative to swing the platform through the vertical passage to an upstanding position whereby to project the supported cigarette into said opening in a corresponding position; there being means to frictionally engage the cigarette, and hold it in said last named position upon return of the platform to its normal horizontal position.

6. A combination cigarette case and dispenser comprising an initially open topped housing, a normally spring raised, manually depressible case unit slidably engaged in the housing from above, a vertical, longitudinal partition in the case unit forming a compartment for a plurality of cig-

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rettes and, to one side, a relatively narrow vertical passage open at the top of the case unit to provide a cigarette dispensing opening, the compartment and said passage being of a length to receive cigarettes horizontally, there being a longitudinal passage through the partition at the bottom thereof whereby cigarettes fed one at a time into the vertical passage in a horizontal position, a relatively narrow platform pivoted in connection with the housing adjacent but short of one end of said platform for upward swinging motion through the vertical passage from a normally horizontal position at the bottom thereof, each cigarette fed into said vertical passage resting longitudinally on the platform, and a lateral tongue on the short end portion of the platform in position for engagement and lowering by the case unit upon depression thereof so as to swing the platform through the vertical passage to an upstanding position whereby to project the supported cigarette into said opening in a corresponding position.

7. A cigarette case and dispenser, as in claim 3, including baffle means automatically operative to close the longitudinal passage between the compartment and vertical passage upon depression of the case unit, and resultant upward motion of the platform.

8. A cigarette case and dispenser, as in claim 3, including baffle means automatically operative to block the longitudinal passage between the compartment and vertical passage upon depression of the case unit, and resultant upward motion of the platform; said baffle means being in part upstanding from the bottom of the housing.

9. A cigarette case and dispenser, as in claim 3, including baffle means automatically operative to block the longitudinal passage between the compartment and vertical passage upon depression of the case unit, and resultant upward motion of the platform; said baffle means being in part upstanding from the bottom of the housing, and in part on and moving with the platform.

10. A combination cigarette case and dispenser, as in claim 3, including baffle means automatically operative to block the longitudinal passage between the compartment and the vertical passage upon depression of the case unit; said baffle means, when in passage blocking position, engaging and acting to break up any cluster or jam of cigarettes adjacent said longitudinal passage.

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