April 14, 1942. W. H. ST. THOMAS 2,279,696

CIGARETTE CASE

Filed Feb. 26, 1940

Fig.1

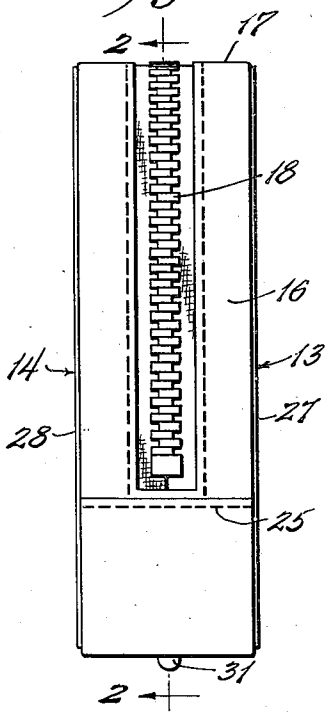



Fig.2

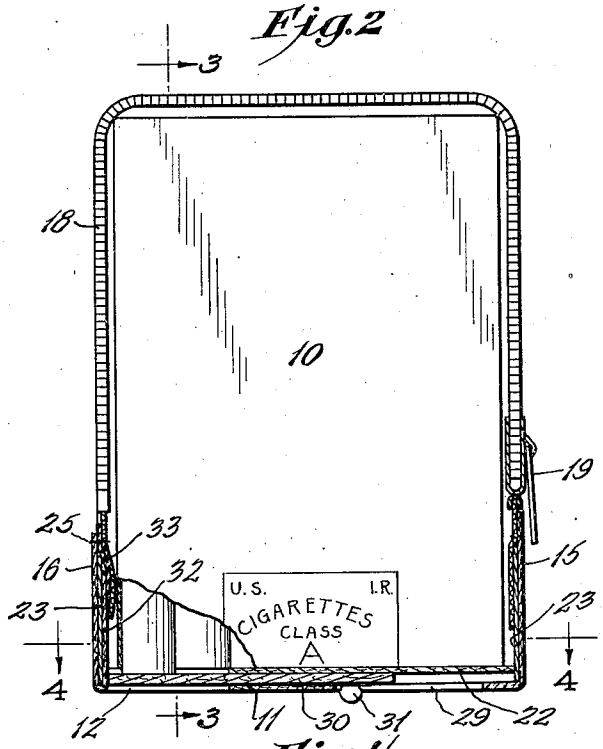



Fig.3

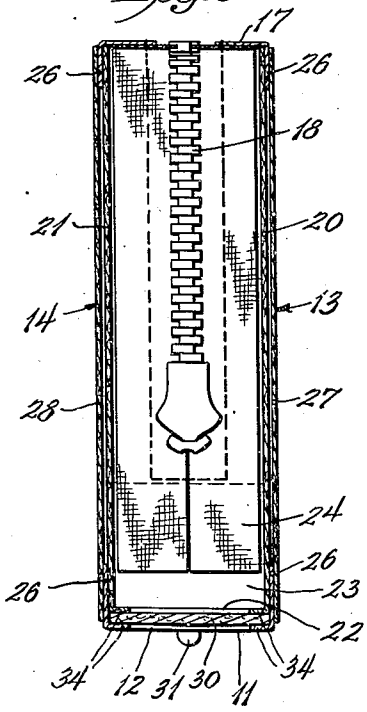



Fig.4

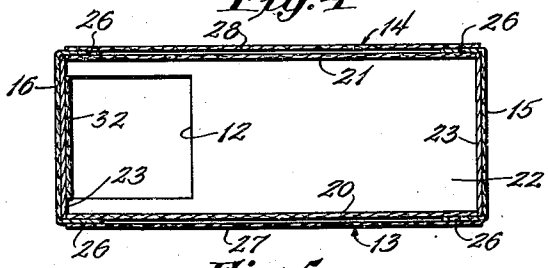
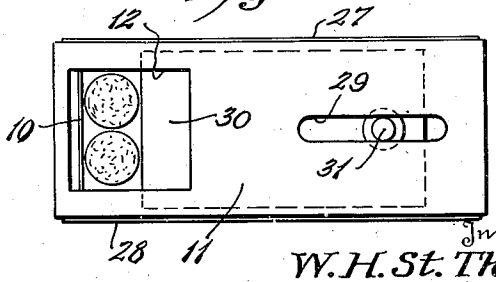



Fig.5




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2,279,696

## CIGARETTE CASE

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Application February 26, 1940, Serial No. 320,947

7 Claims. (Cl. 206—41)

This invention relates to cigarette cases and, among other objects, aims to provide an attractive and very durable case made of semi-flexible material, such as leather or fabric designed to hold a whole package of cigarettes and having provision for dispensing them through an opening adapted to be closed by a sliding closure. Another aim is to provide a case of this type having a slide fastener adapted to be opened to receive a whole package of cigarettes and closed so that the case fits snugly around the package.

Other aims and advantages of the invention will appear in the specification, when considered in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation or edge view of a case embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 5 is a bottom plan view of the case showing the closure partly open to expose the ends of cigarettes within the package.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the cigarette case there shown is of the semi-flexible type and is designed to receive a full package of cigarettes 10 without necessitating removal of the cigarettes therefrom to be inserted in the usual type of dispensing carton or holder. It is here shown as comprising a relatively rigid bottom wall 11 having a dispensing opening 12 and flexible front and back walls 13 and 14, side walls 15 and 16 and a top wall 17. The top and both side or edge walls are provided with an ordinary slide fastener 18 which is designed to open the case to permit the insertion of the cigarette package 10, the usual slide fastener element 19 being employed for opening and closing the case. In this instance, the opening on the sides 15 and 16 extends below the middle of the case.

While the case may be made in various ways, it is here shown as having an inner leather lining providing inside front and rear walls 20 and 21 connected by a bottom wall 22. The lining is preferably, though not necessarily, made of a single piece of leather bent U-shaped and it may be formed on a block or pattern which is substantially the same shape and size as the finished case. After the lining is temporarily secured on the block (not shown), the top, bottom and side walls of the case are assembled on the block in the form of a single strip of leather having the fastener elements already assembled in it. In this instance, sheet metal reinforcing plates 23 are secured to the inner face of this strip adjacent to the lower corners at the opposite ends of the bottom wall. They are conveniently held in place by any suitable adhesive and the lower ends of the fabric fastener tape 24 overlap them, it being understood that the tape is stitched near its lower ends to the side walls. At the left hand side of the case, the strip forming the side walls is overlapped and stitched together by a row of stitches 25. This is done before the strip is assembled on the block and the strip is wider than the edge of the block, presenting thin edges 26 to be turned in and attached to the inside lining walls 20 and 21. Front and rear face panels 27 and 28 are then secured to the turned-in edges. These turned-in edges 26 are clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 4 and the face panels are conveniently glued or otherwise adhesively secured to them.

Referring now to the bottom wall and the dispensing means, the bottom is shown as having an elongated slot 29, and a slidable closure 30 carrying a button 31 projecting through the slot 29 is mounted between the inside wall 22 and the bottom wall 11. Incidentally, this sliding closure may be assembled inside of the bottom wall 11 when the side wall strip is placed upon the block or form. It is rectangular and of the same width as the bottom wall and can be moved back and forth a sufficient distance to uncover and cover the dispensing opening 12. After the case is assembled in this manner, the opening 12 is cut in the bottom wall adjacent to the side edge or wall 16 and it is narrower than the width of the bottom wall. The dispensing opening 12 is conveniently formed by cutting the leather on three sides of the opening. Both walls 11 and 22 are cut at the same time. This completely severs the cut away portion of the inside wall or lining 22 since the cut extends to its left hand end, leaving a rectangular tab 32 hinged at the left hand lower end of the side wall 16 or corner of the case. This tab is folded inwardly against the metal reinforcing plate 23 and is preferably adhesively secured to it, the upper edge being slipped under the projecting under-lapping lower end 33 of the strip which forms the side walls. This securely holds the reinforcing plate in place and makes a better finish. The opposite edges of the inner wall 22 and bottom wall 11 provide opposed channel guides 34 for the sliding closure 30 and the end of the closure abuts the infolded

tab 32 when it is in closed position, as shown in Fig. 2. This provides a neat closure and the relatively stiff closure member may be covered at least on its outside with leather which matches that of the bottom wall. However, the closure may be of any suitable relatively stiff material to reinforce and help to prevent the bottom wall from being crushed.

As has already been stated, the case will hold a full package of cigarettes. The cigarette package is torn, as usual, at one top corner or the whole top may be torn off. Then, the package is inserted in the case while the case is held upside down and the slide fastener is closed. The torn opening in the cigarette package will, of course, be matched with the dispensing opening in the case. The case may be carried in a pocket without doing any damage because it has only one relatively stiff wall and does not present any sharp metal corners. When it is desired to remove a cigarette, the case is held in upright position, as shown in Fig. 2, and the closure is operated by the finger button 31 to expose the lower end or ends of cigarettes in the package and one or more cigarettes will fall through the opening by gravity, ready to be grasped and removed. This can be done with one hand. The second cigarette which may have protruded through the opening may be pushed back into the package and the closure again closed by manipulating the button.

From the foregoing description, it will be seen that cases of this type may be made very attractive. They serve to protect the cigarettes as well as prevent loose tobacco in an open package from falling into the pocket. They also help to keep the cigarettes in an open package fresh by preventing exposure to the open air.

What is claimed is:

1. A cigarette dispensing case made of leather and shaped to receive and hold a package of cigarettes snugly therein, said casing having a continuous slide fastener opening in one end wall and in the adjacent portions of the side walls to permit insertion of the package; a double end wall having a dispensing opening adjacent to one side of the case; a sliding closure of relatively stiff material confined in the double end wall for opening and closing the dispensing opening; said double end wall including an outer strip of leather forming a continuation of one of the side walls and having bent flanges at opposite edges adhesively secured to the inner faces of the adjacent portions of the front and rear walls; and a flat reinforcing member carried by the side wall adjacent to the dispensing opening and substantially the same width as the side wall.

2. A cigarette dispensing case made of leather and shaped to receive and hold a package of cigarettes comprising, in combination, an inner lining for the front, back and lower walls; a single strip of leather forming the top, side and bottom end walls secured to said lining; front and rear panels secured to said side and end walls; a slitted opening having a slidable fastener to permit insertion of a cigarette package in the case; a dispensing opening formed in the bottom wall at one side of the case; and a relatively stiff slidable closure housed in the bottom wall to open and close said dispensing opening.

3. A cigarette dispensing case made of leather and shaped to receive and hold a package of cigarettes comprising, in combination, a U-shaped lining having front, rear and bottom wall portions; a strip of leather forming the top, side and bottom walls secured at its opposite edges to the edges of the lining; front and rear leather panels secured to the edges of the side and end walls; a slitted opening in the top portion of the case to permit insertion of the cigarette package; closure means for said opening; a cigarette dispensing opening cut in the bottom wall at one end thereof; a tab on one side wall formed by cutting said opening reversely bent against the inner face of the side wall; a slidable closure within the bottom wall for said dispensing opening; guiding channels formed on opposite sides of the dispensing opening for said slidable closure; and reinforcing plates on the inside of the side walls adjacent to said lower end wall.

4. A cigarette dispensing case made of leather or the like and shaped to receive and hold a package of cigarettes comprising, in combination, a U-shaped inside lining made of relatively stiff material providing front, rear and bottom inside wall portions; a strip of leather down through the center of which is attached a sliding fastener, said strip forming the top, side and bottom walls and secured at its opposite edges to the lining; front and rear panels secured to the lining; a cigarette dispensing opening cut in the bottom wall at one end thereof; reinforcing plates on the inside of the side walls adjacent to the bottom walls; a tab formed by cutting the dispensing opening being folded inwardly over one of the reinforcing plates; a slidable closure between the bottom walls; and a propelling button extending through a slot in the lower end wall attached to the slider.

5. A cigarette dispensing case made of leather or the like and shaped to receive and hold a package of cigarettes comprising, in combination, a U-shaped lining having front, rear and bottom wall portions; a strip of leather forming the top, side and bottom walls secured at its opposite edges to the edges of the lining; front and rear leather panels secured to the edges of the side and end walls; a slitted opening in the top portion of the case to permit insertion of the cigarette package; closure means for said opening; a cigarette dispensing opening in the bottom wall at one end thereof; a slidable closure within the bottom wall for said dispensing opening; and a relatively rigid reinforcing member on the inside of the side wall adjacent to said opening.

6. A cigarette dispensing case made of leather and shaped to receive and hold a package of cigarettes snugly therein, said case having a continuous slide fastener opening in one end and in the adjacent portions of the side walls to permit insertion of a package of cigarettes, the other end of the case being provided with a double end wall having a dispensing opening located adjacent to one side of the case, a slidable closure plate of relatively stiff material confined in the case in face contact with the double end wall for controlling the dispensing opening, said closure plate having an operating element projecting through the end wall and accessible on the outside of the case, and a flat reenforcing member carried by the side wall adjacent to the dispensing opening and substantially the same width as the said side wall.

7. A cigarette dispensing case made of leather and shaped to receive and hold a package of cigarettes snugly therein, said case having a continuous slide fastener opening in one end and in the adjacent portions of the side walls to permit insertion of a package of cigarettes, the other end wall of the case having a dispensing

opening located adjacent to one side of the case, a slidable closure plate of relatively stiff material confined in the case for controlling the dispensing opening, said closure plate having an operating element projecting through the end wall and accessible on the outside of the case, guide means in operative association with said closure plate to direct movement of said plate to close the dispensing opening, and a flat reenforcing member carried by the side wall adjacent to the dispensing opening and substantially the same width as the said side wall.

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