June 14, 1932. J. S. DANIELS 1,863,240

NAPKIN DISPENSER

Filed Dec. 31, 1928

Fig. 1

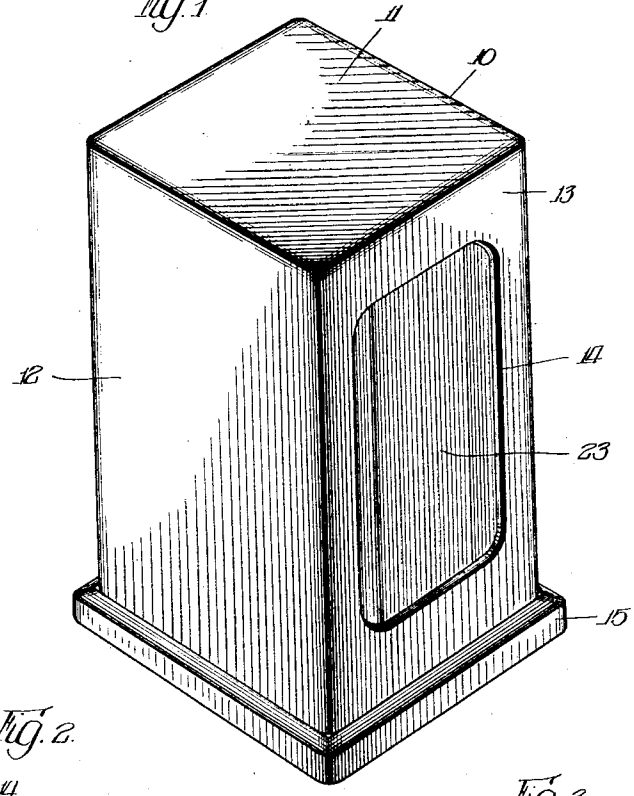


Fig. 2

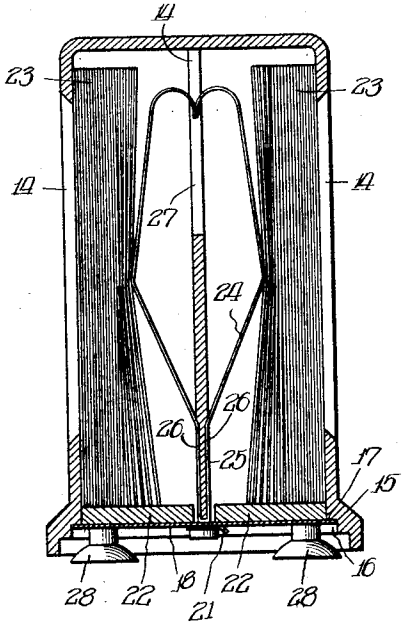
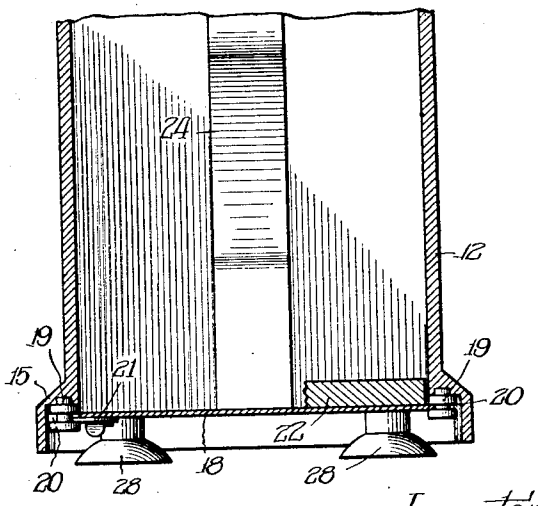


Fig. 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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NAPKIN DISPENSER

Application filed December 31, 1928. Serial No. 339,337.

This invention relates to dispensing devices, and more particularly to devices for containing and dispensing sheet material such as folded paper napkins, towels and similar articles.

An object of this invention is to provide a novel dispensing device from which napkins or similar articles, usually in folded form, may be readily dispensed from one or a plurality of sides of the container.

Another object is to provide a napkin dispensing device which is simple in construction, having relatively few parts such as will facilitate assembly as well as the manufacturing course, is durable in use, is readily cleaned and is of such construction that napkins can be readily taken therefrom by a simple removing operation without difficulty in the withdrawing movement or liability of damage to the napkin.

Another object of this invention is to provide a napkin dispensing device made from a moulded artificial resin composition of phenol-formaldehyde either with or without coloring material incorporated therewith, whereby a device having resistance to heat and water is provided, as well as being light in weight, presenting a smooth, pleasing finish and attractive color.

Another object is to provide a napkin dispensing device composed of a phenol-formaldehyde resin possessing sanitary characteristics to a high degree, it being found that compositions of this kind which embody phenol and formaldehyde are antiseptic in character and consequently possess properties highly desirable for use in forming a napkin container and dispensing device.

This invention contemplates a device having dispensing openings of any desired size and shape so as to accommodate any suitable size and fold of napkin or similar article, one preferred form being hereinafter illustrated by way of example.

The invention is disclosed as embodying in one form a napkin dispensing device adapted to receive paper napkins of the so-called 1/8th fold having a plait extending along both sides of its middle portion by which it is grasped for the removing operation. These features however, form no part of the invention, the embodiment is given merely by way of example and the scope of the invention will be ascertainable from an understanding of the embodiment and a recognition of the advantages produced by the invention in the illustrated embodiment.

The description of the preferred embodiment will be better understood by referring to the drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a napkin dispensing device embodying the present invention.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view in cross section of reduced size, revealing the internal construction of the dispensing device shown in Figure 1 and the manner in which the napkins are received and held therein.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view of an end elevation in cross section disclosing the construction of the bottom plate and means for retaining the bottom plate in operative association.

In the drawing, the invention is disclosed as embodied in a rectangular container 10 having a top 11, side walls 12, end walls 13, and a center partition 14, all formed of a unitary integral structure. The end walls are provided with dispensing openings 14 shown of general rectangular shape through which the napkins are adapted to be withdrawn.

It is obvious that the various parts above described may be made of separate parts and assembled to form a structure corresponding to the integral structure shown, although in practice it is found more convenient to form the parts integrally in the manner referred to.

At the bottom of the rectangular construction a beading or bottom flange 15 is provided, having a groove on the under side thereof as at 16, in a manner to form a step or shoulder 17. The groove and step forms a means for receiving a bottom plate 18 which is shaped to conform to the bottom opening and constructed of any suitable material, such as thin sheet metal, for instance. Secured within the beading 15 of the body portion of the dispenser are a plurality of securing lugs 19, each formed with a groove 20.

These lugs may be of metal or other suitable material and are preferably secured within the body of the dispenser such as being located therein during the moulding operation although it is conceivable that any suitable means may be utilized. For instance, the body of the container may be moulded with lugs of the same material of some suitable shape and construction to form securing means for the bottom plate 18. The lugs are located on opposite sides and may be of any desired number but in practice it is found that two on one side and one centrally located on the opposite side serve well.

The single lug is attached to cooperate with a latch 21 which is in the nature of a pivoted tongue adapted to move upon rotation into the groove 20 of the lug. It is obvious from this construction that the plate may be inserted with one edge located in the grooves 20 on one side and the plate brought into seated position at the opposite side and latched by moving the tongue into engagement with the opposite lug.

It is preferable, but not necessary, to provide the weights 22, such as of lead attached to the bottom plate, so as to give the device stabilizing weight at its base so that its center of gravity will be lowered to a point where accidental upsetting of the device is prevented. This is particularly true when the device is made from an artificial resin of the type referred to which is very much lighter in weight than metal.

The central partition 14, forms the interior of the container into two compartments, each adapted to receive a bundle of napkins 23. The spring element 24, having a lower gripping portion 25, is adapted to be inserted over the lower end of the partition and to assume the position shown in Figure 2, whereby it will exert a pressure against the two bundles of napkins to hold each bundle in intimate contact against the end wall and dispensing opening.

This spring will act as a feeding spring for maintaining the napkins in intimate contact irrespective of the quantity remaining in each compartment so that a uniform dispensing operation is produced down to the last napkin contained within the compartments. The partition 14 is provided on its opposite faces at the lower end thereof with indentations 26 of a shape and size to receive the gripping portion 25 of the spring so that the outer surface of this portion of the spring will be maintained flush with the surface of the partition.

An opening 27 may be provided at the upper portion of the partition whereby material is conserved and the moulding operation facilitated, and an open area is provided into which the ends of the spring may extend and come into engagement in the manner shown in Figure 2 to facilitate the spring operation.

On the bottom plate are a plurality of feet, which may be of rubber or other suitable material, held by any suitable means such as rivets, to the bottom plate. These are preferably four in number and of such construction that the body of the dispensing device such as the lower portion of the beading 15, is held slightly spaced from the surface on which the device rests.

Attention is directed to the formation of the spring 24 which is herein shown as one piece and held in position by its own resilience, frictionally pressing the lower portion thereof in engagement with the bottom end of the flange. This permits, after the removal of the bottom plate, the spring to be quickly and easily inserted into and out of position without requiring further attachment or securing. The particular shape of this spring may be selected according to the particular needs, it being found that the one piece spring shown in Figure 2 serves well for use with the device herein disclosed.

When the device is made from a moulded resin composition such as a condensation product of phenol and formaldehyde, it is moulded with the parts of the body construction formed as a unitary piece, having the necessary openings and with the securing means moulded therein or otherwise formed thereon.

In assembling, it is merely necessary to insert the spring and place the bottom in position and latch it thereon. The filling of the device as accomplished through the bottom where the two bundles of napkins are inserted in each compartment while the bottom is removed. The spring is shaped to offer no resistance to the inserting movement of the bundles of napkins.

The device, when made of a phenol-formaldehyde composition will be antiseptic in character and consequently will be free from germs, eliminating all danger of germs being lodged on the napkins as used. The container is constructed to render washing and cleansing thereof easy and thorough.

The device is light, but is not subject to being readily upset, is durable and is one which may be made in pleasing colors inherent in the material as distinguished from paint, which is subject to being washed and chipped off, offering ugly, undesirable appearance. The coloring pigment can be introduced in a manner well known in the resin art in order to match table tops, soda fountain equipment or other articles or surfaces associated with the napkin dispensing device in use.

An important feature of the invention as illustrated in the disclosed embodiment, is the provision of suction pads for feet whereby the dispensing device can be firmly anchored to any smooth surface upon which it

rests. This makes for considerable advantage in connection with the dispensing devices having a body portion of resinous material, which is quite light in weight, as it prevents accidental upsetting.

The scope of this invention will be particularly set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A napkin dispensing device comprising a body portion having a top, side and end walls, dispensing openings on said end walls, a central partition forming two napkin compartments, an open bottom, and a removable bottom plate closing said open bottom.

2. A napkin dispensing device comprising a body portion having a top, side and end walls, dispensing openings on said end walls, a central partition forming two napkin compartments, an open bottom, and a removable bottom plate closing said open bottom and a spring of U construction embracing said partition and extended into each of said compartments.

3. A napkin dispensing device comprising, in combination, a weighted base plate having legs secured to the bottom thereof for support in spaced relation with a supporting surface, and a body portion comprising integrally formed top, side and end walls, a transverse member dividing said body portion into two compartments, a spring mounted on said transverse member having portions extending into each compartment, said body portion being adapted to be mounted on and secured to said base plate so as to be supported thereby in spaced relation to said supporting surface and provide a depending portion for concealing said supporting legs.

Signed at Rhinelander, Wisconsin, this 27th day of December, 1928.

J. S. DANIELS.