Aug. 30, 1932. J. S. DANIELS 1,874,850

FOLDED PAPER NAPKIN AND DISPENSER THEREFOR

Filed March 25, 1929

Fig. 1.

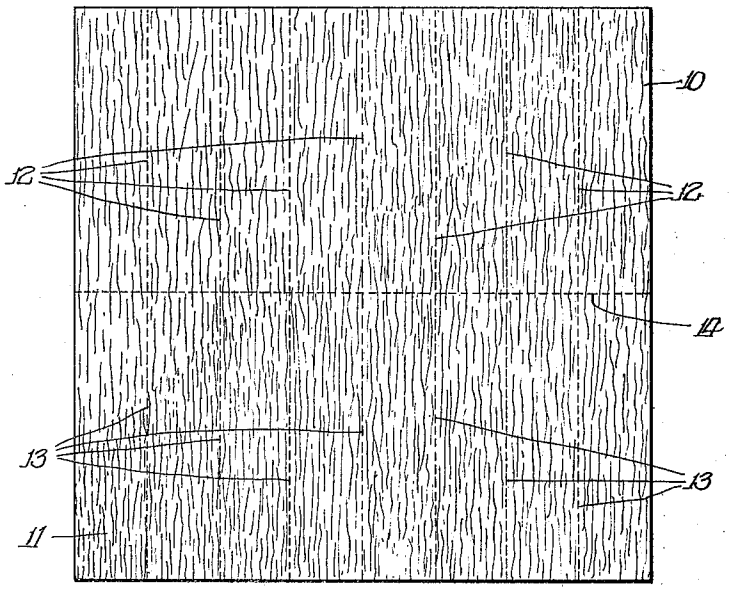


Fig. 2.

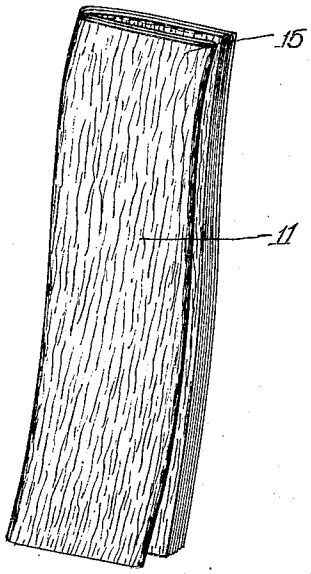
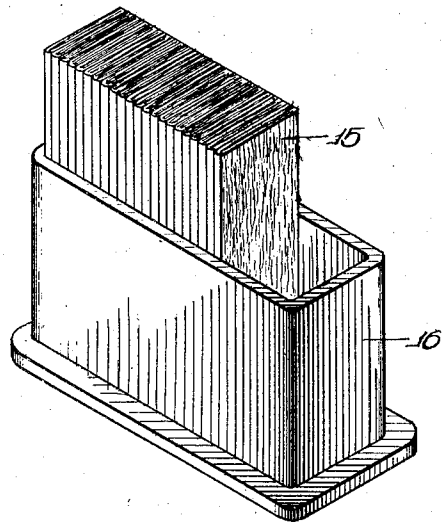


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FOLDED PAPER NAPKIN AND DISPENSER THEREFOR

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This invention relates to folded articles of materials such as paper and is herein illustrated as applied to folded paper napkins in combination with a dispensing container therefor.

The invention relates particularly to folded articles or napkins of crepe paper, and to the manner of folding the crepe paper to produce the finished article, possessing superior properties.

For convenience in handling articles such as napkins and the like, it is customary to supply them in a folded condition and it is often desirable in practice, to provide some simple and convenient means for containing and dispensing napkins or similar articles in their folded condition.

Such devices may be of any desirable form and type, and are often merely an opened top container in which the napkins or similar articles may be placed, with a substantial portion thereof projecting, to facilitate ready gripping thereof at the time and for the purpose of removing each of the napkins or similar articles singly or in any desired number; or such devices may be more elaborate in construction and provided with various mechanical means to aid in the dispensing operation or to produce a particular type of dispensing operation.

In any event, it is found that more advantageous results are had if napkins or similar articles used in the above outlined manner, have more body or rigidity than heretofore, as they are then more capable of remaining in place, being easily handled and are not subject to falling over when unsupported as for instance, in cases where a relatively few napkins remain in an opened top container of the above described type.

It is therefore proposed according to the present invention, to fold the napkin to a shape having greater length than width and in this manner to promote the rigidity in the direction of the width and in such manner that the grain of the crepe extends in the direction of the length of the napkins whereby a greater degree of stiffness is provided, resisting bending in a longitudinal direction.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide napkins or similar articles of the above described type.

Various other objects will appear as the following description proceeds, it being understood that the present embodiment is merely given by way of illustration and is not to be considered as limiting the invention in any particular. The scope of the invention may be determined after an understanding of the illustrated embodiment of the invention and an appreciation of the advantages the invention produces therein.

The particular embodiment will be better understood by referring to the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a sheet of crepe paper from which napkins folded in accordance with the present invention are produced.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a napkin folded in accordance with the present invention and,

Figure 3 is a perspective view showing a plurality of napkins folded according to the showing in Figure 2 and placed in an opened top container from which they may readily be removed for use.

By referring to the drawing, it will be noted that the napkins are formed from a sheet of paper 10, which has been previously creped by any suitable method such as by means of a creping machine, so that the grain of the crepe extends in one direction, such as shown at 11 in Figure 1. The napkin may then be folded along lines 12 and 13 which hinge in the longitudinal direction of the crepe grain and in addition, on the line 14 extending transversely of the grain at the mid-section of the sheet so as to produce the folded napkin 15 shown in Figure 2. In the folded condition, it will be noted the grain extends longitudinally of the strip as shown at 11 in Figure 2.

The important feature of this invention is to fold the napkin along hinge lines extending longitudinally of the crepe grain a predetermined number of times and also in a direction transverse to the direction of the crepe grain so that the folded napkin is of the desired final size and shape but of such shape that the length of the napkin is considerably

greater than the width and with the grain of the crepe extending longitudinally thereof.

Napkins so produced are relatively rigid in the direction of their width due to the shortness of this dimension and when folded in accordance with the above outlined method, the napkin is reinforced in a longitudinal direction due to the fact that the crepe grain extends longitudinally thereof.

It will be appreciated that the advantages of this invention may be realized in any instance where the napkin is folded into final form where it has one dimension greater than the other and with the crepe grain extending in a longitudinal direction but in practice, by way of example, the applicant has found that the particular fold hereinafter described makes for an improved napkin embodying all of the above stated advantages.

Among other ways, the present invention may be practiced by folding the sheet of paper shown in Figure 1 along the hinge lines 12, 13 and 14 shown thereon by first folding along hinge line 14 so as to bring the sheet 10 to one-half of its original size and then folding the rectangle so formed on the central hinge line 12—13 in a direction at right angles to the first fold or on a hinge line extending in the direction of the crepe grain to bring the sheet to a one-quarter size, and subsequently folding twice upon itself in the same direction as the latter fold on hinge line 12—13, each time to one-half of its former size to produce the final folded napkin. By this manner of folding, a napkin of $\frac{1}{16}$ of the original size is formed which size is now used to a large extent on the market.

The particular fold above outlined is found to readily adapt itself to folding machinery and is one which may be readily and cheaply produced. The finished napkins produced in this manner when the flat sheet is properly positioned relative to the folding mechanism, embody all of the advantages above set forth, namely, having greater body and rigidity than napkins heretofore produced.

Napkins folded in accordance with this invention, when placed in a dispensing container 16, such as shown in Figure 3, will stand upright and at all times be readily accessible for removal and in cases where one or only a few napkins remain in the container, the relative stiffness of each napkin holds it upright without liability of falling to the bottom of the container.

As shown in Figure 3, the dispenser comprises an open top container 16, having side walls which are of less height than the height of the napkin. The longitudinal stiffness of each napkin of the bundle of napkins placed therein causes them to stand erect without support at their upper portions or joint support afforded by a large number of napkins in the bundle. As above described, this is due to the reinforcing effect of the crepe grain which extends longitudinally of the relatively long and narrow fold whereby each napkin is self-sustaining while standing in the container.

I claim:

The combination which comprises a napkin dispensing receptacle and a bundle of folded paper napkins therein, characterized as follows, said napkins being formed of folded crepe paper into an elongated narrow strip with the grain of the crepe extending longitudinally thereof and said receptacle having a rectangular napkin receiving opening defined by side walls extending only partially up the sides of said bundle of napkins, said napkins being positioned therein on end whereby the grain of the crepe reinforces each individual napkin against bending on horizontal hinge lines and thereby provides self-sustaining napkins when unsupported by other napkins.

Signed at Rhinelander, Wisconsin, this 18th day of March, 1929.

J. S. DANIELS.