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CIGARETTE DISPENSER

Filed Oct. 22, 1946

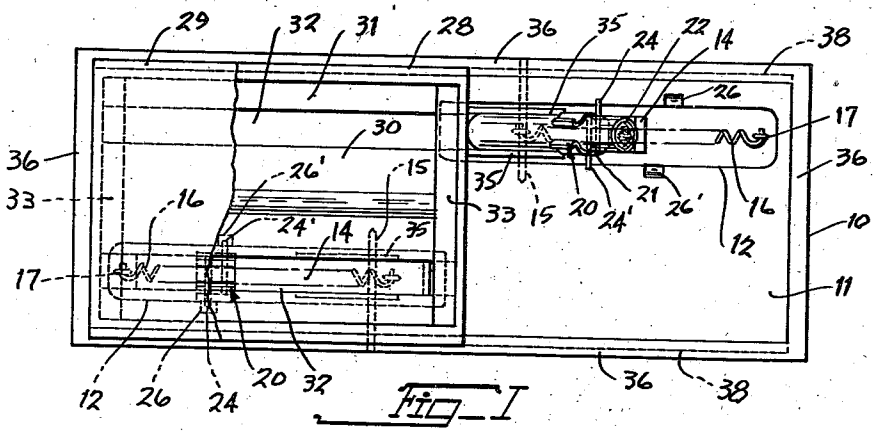


Fig. 1

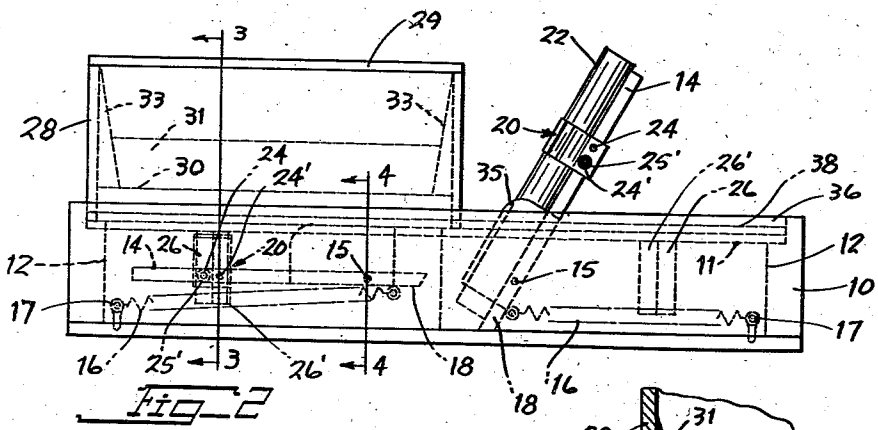


Fig. 2

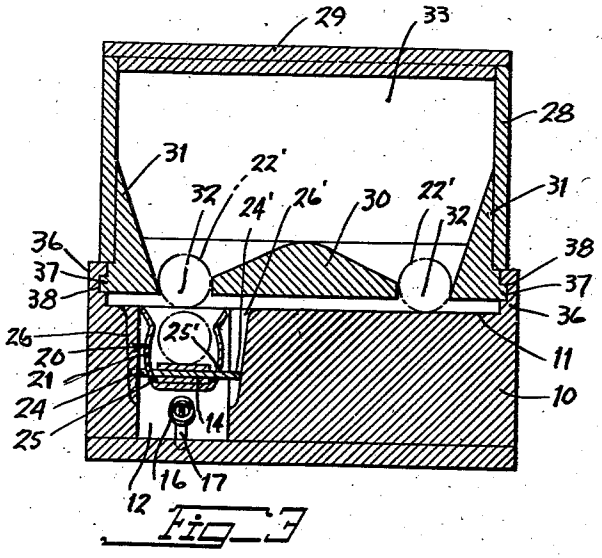


Fig. 3

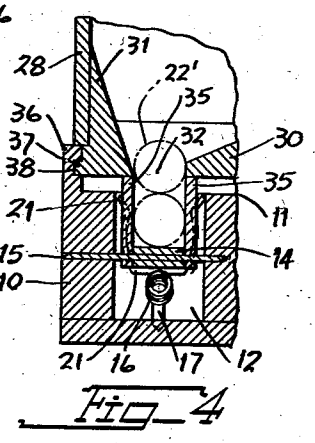


Fig. 4

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CIGARETTE DISPENSER

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10 Claims. (Cl. 312—77)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in cigarette dispensers.

More particularly, this invention relates to a cigarette dispenser having a flat base upon which a cigarette holding and feeding box is slidably mounted. It is proposed to provide certain mechanism which will dispense one cigarette at a time in an upwardly or upwardly oblique position each time that the cigarette holding and feeding box is moved from one end to the other end of said base.

More particularly, the invention proposes the provision of one or more cigarette support arms normally disposed in elongated slots extended inwards from the top face of the base and pivotally mounted near one of their arms and adapted to have their free ends pivot upwards of said base to an upwardly directed oblique position or vertical position. It is proposed to provide each support arm with a cigarette holding clamp adapted to receive and hold a cigarette so that it may be conveniently picked off the arm when desired. It is further proposed to provide cam means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said cigarette support arms down into substantially horizontal positions in said slots, when said box is moved to positions over said slots.

It is also contemplated to provide each cigarette support arm with means for urging or moving it into an upwardly directed oblique position or vertical position for the purpose of suitably holding the dispensed cigarette so that the cigarette may be conveniently gripped and removed.

Another object of the invention is the construction of a device as described which is simple and durable and which may be manufactured and sold at a reasonable cost.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawing forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a cigarette dispenser constructed in accordance with this invention.

Fig. 2 is an elevational view of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged transverse vertical sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary enlarged vertical sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

The cigarette dispenser, in accordance with this invention, includes a base 10 having a flat top 11 provided with elongated slots 12 extended downwards from its top face. These slots 12 are disposed longitudinally of the base. There are two slots 12 arranged at opposite sides and opposite end portions of the base. A cigarette support arm 14 is disposed in each of the slots 12 and is pivotally mounted near one of its ends by a pintle 15. These cigarette support arms 14 are adapted to have their free ends pivot upwards of said base. The cigarette support arm 14 at the right hand end portion of the base 10 is illustrated in its upwardly extended oblique position. The other cigarette support arm 14 is illustrated in a substantially horizontal position disposed within its slot 12.

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Resilient means, or other means, is associated with each cigarette support arm 14 for normally pivoting its free end upwards. These resilient means comprise springs 16 disposed within the slots 12 and having one of their ends attached to fastening elements 17 and the other of their ends attached to the support arms 14 at points offset of the pintles 15. Each cigarette support arm 14 is associated with means for limiting its pivoting to an upwardly directed vertical or oblique position. This means comprises a projecting end portion 18 formed upon the pivoted end of the support arm 14 and engageable against the bottom wall or other stationary element in the elongated slot 12 when the support arm 14 is located in its upwardly directed position.

A cigarette holding clamp 20 is mounted on each cigarette support arm 14. Each of these clamps 20 comprises a U-shaped metal strip 21 engaged beneath the arm 14 and having its end portions extended upwards and adapted to engage against the sides of a cigarette 22 rested on the support arm 14. The resilient action of the clamp 20 is depended upon to hold the cigarette 22 firmly enough to maintain it in position and yet loose enough so that the cigarette may be gripped and easily pulled free of the clamp 20. Each clamp 20 is associated with means for opening the clamp when the cigarette support arm 14 assumes a substantially horizontal position in its slot 12 and for closing the clamp 20 in other positions of the support arm 14. This means includes a pin 24 mounted on one of the end portions of the U-shaped strip 21 and passing through an opening 25 formed in the other end portion of the U-shaped strip 21 and engageable with a cam-like groove 26 formed in the side wall of the slot 12. Another similar pin 24' is mounted on the other end portion of the U-shaped strip 21 and passes through a similar opening 25' formed in the other arm of the U-shaped strip 21 and engaging a similar

cam-like groove 26' on the other wall of the slot 12.

In Figs. 1 and 2 the clamp 20 of the right hand cigarette support arm 14 is shown gripping and holding the cigarette 22. The clamp 20 at the left, that is the one upon the left cigarette support arm 14 which is in its horizontal position, is shown in an open condition because the pins 24 and 24' have been forced towards each other by the cam-like grooves 26 and 26'. Cigarettes which are schematically indicated by the dot and dash circles 22' in Fig. 3 may fall upon the cigarette support arm 14 when it is in the horizontal position and its clamp 20 is open.

A cigarette holding and feeding box 28 is slidably mounted on the base 10 and is movable from one end of the base 10 to the other end of the base 10. This box 28 has a removable top cover 29 which may be opened to permit the box to be filled with cigarettes. The box 28 has an open bottom which is partially closed by a longitudinally extending beveled top central bridge 30 and by side beveled members 31 which form elongated openings 32 through which the cigarettes may drop one at a time into the slots 12 as hereinafter more fully explained. A flange 36 extends around the sides and ends of the base 10 and projects above the face 11. The beveled members 31 have tongues 37 slidably engaging complementary grooves 38 formed in the side portions of the flange 36, by which the box 28 is slidably guided on the base 11.

The box 28 also has end beveled members 33 upon its ends for further assisting in directing the cigarettes correctly through the open spaces 32. The cigarette support arms 14 are provided with cam-like members 35 mounted upon their sides in the vicinity of the pivoted ends of the support arms 14. These cam-like members 35 are adapted to be engaged by the bottom faces of the members 30 and 31 for forcing the cigarette support arms 14 downwards into their slots 12.

The operation and use of the cigarette dispenser may be understood from the following:

The cover 29 may be removed and the cigarette holding and feeding box 28 may be filled with cigarettes. One of the cigarettes will immediately fall through one of the spaces 32 and come to rest upon the cigarette support arm 14 which is at the left, in a horizontal position. The clamp 20 of this cigarette support arm 14 is open because the pins 24 and 24' are engaging the cam-like grooves 26 and 26'. A cigarette may be dispensed by merely moving the cigarette holding and feeding box 28 to the right hand end of the base 10.

When the box 28 is moved to the right the bottom portion of the box will strike the cam members 35 of the right cigarette support arm 14 and force the right cigarette support arm 14 from its upwardly directed position down into its slot 12. The cigarette support arm 14 at the left will be pivoted upwards when the box 28 reaches a certain midway position to the right because the cam-like members 35 will be freed which allows the spring 16 at the right to move the cigarette support arm 14 upwards. When the cigarette support 14 at the left pivots upwards the pins 24 and 24' of its clamp 20 ride free from the cam grooves 26 and 26' so that the clamp 20 closes and grips and holds the cigarette. This prevents the cigarette support arm 14 from throwing the cigarette when it comes to a stop in its upright oblique position.

The cigarette holding and feeding box 28 may be moved back and forth across the top of the base 10 from end to end and each time will be dispensed a cigarette which may be conveniently removed from the cigarette support arm 14.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise construction herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A cigarette dispenser, comprising a flat top base having an elongated slot extended downwards from its top face, a cigarette support arm disposed in said slot and pivotally mounted near one of its ends and adapted to have its free end pivot upwards of said base, means for moving said arm to pivot its free end upwards, means for limiting pivoting of said arm to an upwardly directed position, a cigarette holding clamp on said arm, means for opening said clamp when said arm assumes a substantially horizontal position in said slot and closing said clamp in other positions of said arm, a cigarette holding and feeding box slidably mounted on said base and movable from a position adjacent the pivoted end of said arm to a position over said slot to drop a cigarette on said cigarette support arm, and means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said arm down into a substantially horizontal position in said slot when said box is moved to a position over said slot, whereby when said box is moved back to its first named position the arm will pivot upwards for holding a dispensed cigarette in an upwardly directed position.

2. A cigarette dispenser, comprising a flat top base having an elongated slot extended downwards from its top face, a cigarette support arm disposed in said slot and pivotally mounted near one of its ends and adapted to have its free end pivot upwards of said base, means for moving said arm to pivot its free end upwards, means for limiting pivoting of said arm to an upwardly directed position, a cigarette holding clamp on said arm, means for opening said clamp when said arm assumes a substantially horizontal position in said slot and closing said clamp in other positions of said arm, a cigarette holding and feeding box slidably mounted on said base and movable from a position adjacent the pivoted end of said arm to a position over said slot to drop a cigarette on said cigarette support arm, and means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said arm down into a substantially horizontal position in said slot when said box is moved to a position over said slot, whereby when said box is moved back to its first named position the arm will pivot upwards for holding a dispensed cigarette in an upwardly directed position, said cigarette support arm being pivotally mounted with a pintle pin engaged in said base and extending through said elongated slot.

3. A cigarette dispenser, comprising a flat top base having an elongated slot extended downwards from its top face, a cigarette support arm disposed in said slot and pivotally mounted near one of its ends and adapted to have its free end pivot upwards of said base, means for moving said arm to pivot its free end upwards, means for limiting pivoting of said arm to an upwardly

directed position, a cigarette holding clamp on said arm, means for opening said clamp when said arm assumes a substantially horizontal position in said slot and closing said clamp in other positions of said arm, a cigarette holding and feeding box slidably mounted on said base and movable from a position adjacent the pivoted end of said arm to a position over said slot to drop a cigarette on said cigarette support arm, and means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said arm down into a substantially horizontal position in said slot when said box is moved to a position over said slot, whereby when said box is moved back to its first named position the arm will pivot upwards for holding a dispensed cigarette in an upwardly directed position, said means for moving said arm comprising a spring connected between said cigarette support arm and said base.

4. A cigarette dispenser, comprising a flat top base having an elongated slot extended downwards from its top face, a cigarette support arm disposed in said slot and pivotally mounted near one of its ends and adapted to have its free end pivot upwards of said base, means for moving said arm to pivot its free end upwards, means for limiting pivoting of said arm to an upwardly directed position, a cigarette holding clamp on said arm, means for opening said clamp when said arm assumes a substantially horizontal position in said slot and closing said clamp in other positions of said arm, a cigarette holding and feeding box slidably mounted on said base and movable from a position adjacent the pivoted end of said arm to a position over said slot to drop a cigarette on said cigarette support arm, and means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said arm down into a substantially horizontal position in said slot when said box is moved to a position over said slot, whereby when said box is moved back to its first named position the arm will pivot upwards for holding a dispensed cigarette in an upwardly directed position, said means for limiting pivoting of said arm comprising a projection from said arm engageable against said base.

5. A cigarette dispenser, comprising a flat top base having an elongated slot extended downwards from its top face, a cigarette support arm disposed in said slot and pivotally mounted near one of its ends and adapted to have its free end pivot upwards of said base, means for moving said arm to pivot its free end upwards, means for limiting pivoting of said arm to an upwardly directed position, a cigarette holding clamp on said arm, means for opening said clamp when said arm assumes a substantially horizontal position in said slot and closing said clamp in other positions of said arm, a cigarette holding and feeding box slidably mounted on said base and movable from a position adjacent the pivoted end of said arm to a position over said slot to drop a cigarette on said cigarette support arm and means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said arm down into a substantially horizontal position in said slot when said box is moved to a position over said slot, whereby when said box is moved back to its first named position the arm will pivot upwards for holding a dispensed cigarette in an upwardly directed position, said means for limiting pivoting of said arm comprising a projection from said arm engageable against said base, said cigarette holding clamp comprising a metal clamp strap having side portions which engage the sides of the cigarette.

6. A cigarette dispenser, comprising a flat top base having an elongated slot extended downwards from its top face, a cigarette support arm disposed in said slot and pivotally mounted near one of its ends and adapted to have its free end pivot upwards of said base, means for moving said arm to pivot its free end upwards, means for limiting pivoting of said arm to an upwardly directed position, a cigarette holding clamp on said arm, means for opening said clamp when said arm assumes a substantially horizontal position in said slot and closing said clamp in other positions of said arm, a cigarette holding and feeding box slidably mounted on said base and movable from a position adjacent the pivoted end of said arm to a position over said slot to drop a cigarette on said cigarette support arm, and means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said arm down into a substantially horizontal position in said slot when said box is moved to a position over said slot, whereby when said box is moved back to its first named position the arm will pivot upwards for holding a dispensed cigarette in an upwardly directed position, said means for limiting pivoting of said arm comprising a projection from said arm engageable against said base, said cigarette holding clamp comprising a metal clamp strap having side portions which engage the sides of the cigarette, said means for opening said clamp comprising pins mounted on the side portions of the clamp and engaging cam grooves formed in the sides of said elongated slot.

7. A cigarette dispenser, comprising a flat top base having an elongated slot extended downwards from its top face, a cigarette support arm disposed in said slot and pivotally mounted near one of its ends and adapted to have its free end pivot upwards of said base, means for moving said arm to pivot its free end upwards, means for limiting pivoting of said arm to an upwardly directed position, a cigarette holding clamp on said arm, means for opening said clamp when said arm assumes a substantially horizontal position in said slot and closing said clamp in other positions of said arm, a cigarette holding and feeding box slidably mounted on said base and movable from a position adjacent the pivoted end of said arm to a position over said slot to drop a cigarette on said cigarette support arm, and means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said arm down into a substantially horizontal position in said slot when said box is moved to a position over said slot, whereby when said box is moved back to its first named position the arm will pivot upwards for holding a dispensed cigarette in an upwardly directed position, said cigarette holding and feeding box having a cover removable for filling the box with cigarettes.

8. A cigarette dispenser, comprising a flat top base having an elongated slot extended downwards from its top face, a cigarette support arm disposed in said slot and pivotally mounted near one of its ends and adapted to have its free end pivot upwards of said base, means for moving said arm to pivot its free end upwards, means for limiting pivoting said arm to an upwardly directed position, a cigarette holding clamp on said arm, means for opening said clamp when said arm assumes a substantially horizontal position in said slot and closing said clamp in other positions of said arm, a cigarette holding and feeding box

slidably mounted on said base and movable from a position adjacent the pivoted end of said arm to a position over said slot to drop a cigarette on said cigarette support arm, and means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said arm down into a substantially horizontal position in said slot when said box is moved to a position over said slot, whereby when said box is moved back to its first named position the arm will pivot upwards for holding a dispensed cigarette in an upwardly directed position, said cigarette holding and feeding box having a cover removable for filling the box with cigarettes, and also having beveled members extended across its bottom and forming a space through which cigarettes may pass one at a time.

9. A cigarette dispenser, comprising a flat top base having an elongated slot extended downwards from its top face, a cigarette support arm disposed in said slot and pivotally mounted near one of its ends and adapted to have its free end pivot upwards of said base, means for moving said arm to pivot its free end upwards, means for limiting pivoting of said arm to an upwardly directed position, a cigarette holding clamp on said arm, means for opening said clamp when said arm assumes a substantially horizontal position in said slot and closing said clamp in other positions of said arm, a cigarette holding and feeding box slidably mounted on said base and movable from a position adjacent the pivoted end of said arm to a position over said slot to drop a cigarette on said cigarette support arm, and means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said arm down into a substantially horizontal position in said slot when said box is moved to a position over said slot, whereby when said box is moved back to its first named position the arm will pivot upwards for holding a dispensed cigarette in an upwardly directed position, said means for limiting pivoting of said arm comprising a projection from said arm engageable against said base, said cigarette holding clamp comprising a metal clamp strip having side portions which engage the sides of the cigarette, said means for

opening said clamp comprising pins mounted on the side portions of the clamp and engaging cam grooves formed in the sides of said elongated slot, said base having flanges and said cigarette holding and feeding box having tongues engaging grooves in said flanges for slidably holding it in position.

10. A cigarette dispenser, comprising a flat top base having an elongated slot extended downwards from its top face, a cigarette support arm disposed in said slot and pivotally mounted near one of its ends and adapted to have its free end pivot upwards of said base, means for moving said arm to pivot its free end upwards, means for limiting pivoting of said arm to an upwardly directed position, a cigarette holding clamp on said arm, means for opening said clamp when said arm assumes a substantially horizontal position in said slot and closing said clamp in other positions of said arm, a cigarette holding and feeding box slidably mounted on said base and movable from a position adjacent the pivoted end of said arm to a position over said slot to drop a cigarette on said cigarette support arm, and means operative by the sliding motion of said box for moving said arm down into a substantially horizontal position in said slot when said box is moved to a position over said slot, whereby when said box is moved back to its first named position the arm will pivot upwards for holding a dispensed cigarette in an upwardly directed position, said means for moving said arm down comprising cam-like members mounted on the sides of said arm and engageable by said box.

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