Nov. 20, 1951 C. A. T. AGEE 2,575,857

ASH RECEPTACLE

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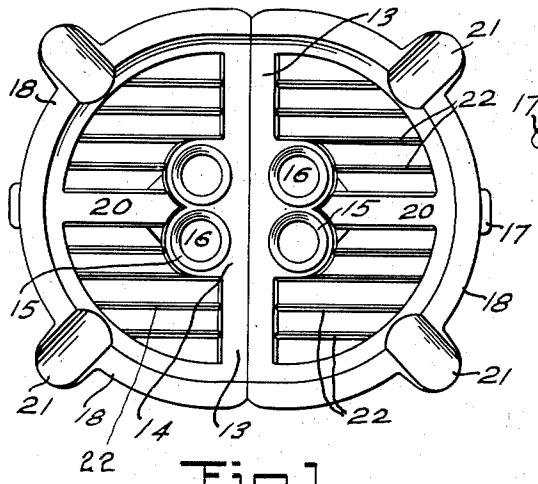


Fig. 1.

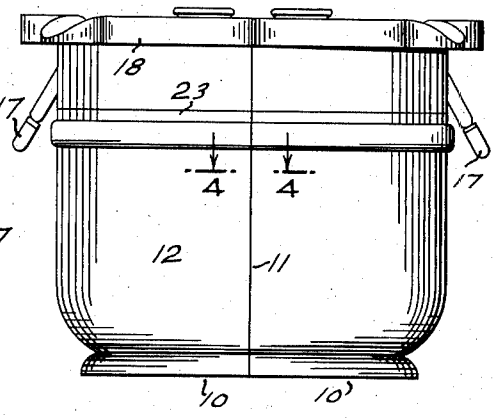


Fig. 2.

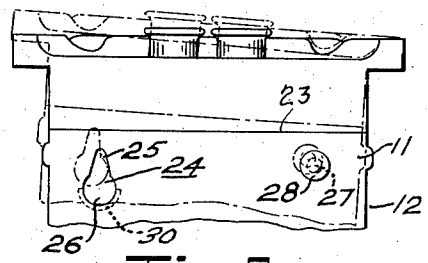


Fig. 3.

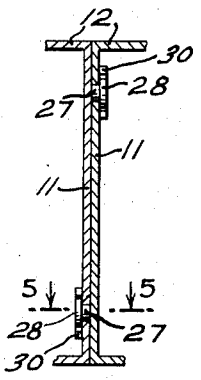


Fig. 4.

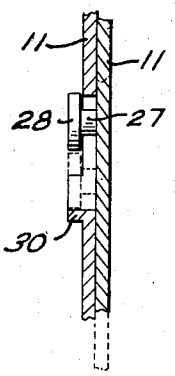


Fig. 5.

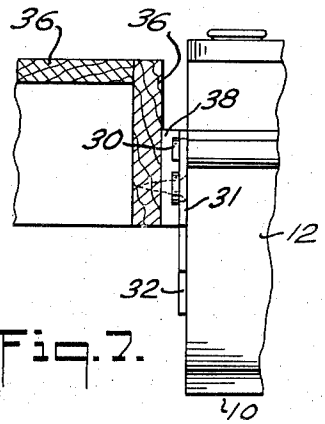


Fig. 7.

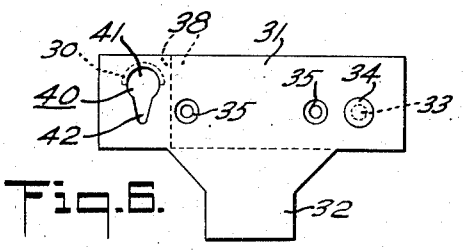


Fig. 6.

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ASH RECEPTACLE

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8 Claims. (Cl. 220—18)

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This invention relates to combined cigarette extinguishers and ash receptacles.

There are many occasions in which a portable or table model of ash receptacle arranged to rest upon a table or tray or the like is proper and represents a convenience to users seated about the tables, but which is a definite inconvenience when the surface of the table or tray is to be used for other purposes, such as for playing cards and the like. On the other hand, ash receptacles which clamp to the edge of a table or the like may be satisfactory for use of the particular table to which they are attached, but lack portability and are incapable of satisfactory use as a conventional table or tray-supported ash receptacle.

It is among the objects of this invention: to provide an ash receptacle selectably useable as a unitary table-supported portable device, or which is separable into two individual ash-receiving elements arranged for detachable connection to brackets mounted on suitable supports; to improve the art of ash receptacles; to provide an ash receptacle arranged for interlocking temporary mounting on a bracket support, and which is also arranged for interlocking association with an identical counterpart to form a rigid portable single entity as a compound ash receptacle; to provide improvements on the combined cigarette extinguisher and ash receptacle of my earlier application Serial Number 571,607, now matured into Patent No. 2,495,496, as well as my United States Patent No. 2,256,420; and many other objects and advantages will become more apparent as the description proceeds.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this description:

Fig. 1 represents a plan of the assembled symmetrical composite unit comprising two identical asymmetrical ash-receiving portions or elements, arranged and interlocked in back-to-back relation.

Fig. 2 represents a side elevation of the same symmetrical unit.

Fig. 3 represents a fragmentary rear elevation of one of the individual asymmetrical ash receptacles showing the combined slot and stud disposition of the interlocking or supporting arrangement and in dotted lines shown as tilted for interlocking associated with a complemental unit.

Fig. 4 represents a fragmentary transverse section through the interlocked units of the composite portable ash receptacle taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 represents a fragmentary section taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

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Fig. 6 represents a front elevation of the improved bracket according to one form of the invention.

Fig. 7 represents a fragmentary vertical section through a table at its edge showing the bracket and attached single asymmetrical ash receptacle temporarily interlocked therewith and supported thereby.

The individual ash receptacles can be, and preferably are, formed in accordance with the disclosures of the said co-pending application Ser. No. 571,607, although within the broader view of the invention such construction is not essential. Each identical asymmetrical unit ash receptacle has a bottom comprising a lower planar surface 10, from which a vertical planar rear wall 11 extends perpendicularly, and the body of the receptacle comprises a rounded front and side surface 12 merging into the rear wall 11 and forming with the rear wall 11 and bottom 10 the ash receptacle. Preferably, removably mounted on the receptacle, is the upper extinguishing portion and closure comprising the transverse member 13 forming a terminal surface edge to rear wall 11, having the enlarged central portion 14 in which is located the cigarette-butt receiving extinguishing cylinders 15, normally closed at their bottoms by the sliding trap door element 16 upon which lighted stumps rest while the ignited end is quenched through lack of combustion-supporting air. The trap door element 16 has a horizontal movement which is controlled by the thumb lever 17 which is preferably spring-pressed, and which, upon sliding actuation, drops the extinguished cigarette stump down into the body of the receptacle. The transverse portion 13 of the closure merges into a peripheral margin 18 connected to the enlargements 14 by a median bar 20 and forming a terminal edge to the body surface 12, and the margin 18 preferably has a plurality of temporary supports or resting places for cigarettes or the like as at 21. As it is desired that the extinguished cigarette stumps in the receptacle be prevented from ignition from lighted cigarettes dropped through the spaces defined between the transverse portion 13, and the marginal edge 18, a plurality of parallel ribs 22 are formed rigidly between these portions. The ribs may be of any formation, but for appearance and ease of formation, with strength, are preferably triangular in cross section, and are spaced apart a distance slightly less than the diameter of a cigarette, so that any lighted cigarette carelessly deposited thereon in place of into cylinders 15 will be prevented from dropping down into the receptacle

where, if still lighted, it may cause the contents to smoulder in a disagreeable and potentially unsafe manner. Preferably, the entire upper portion is formed as a unit detachable from the receptacle along a line of division, such as at 23, for ease of dumping the contents of the receptacles.

The backing plate 11 of each ash receptacle at one side is provided with a modified key hole slot or the like female element as at 24, having a tapered upper narrow portion 25 and an enlarged lower portion 26. In proper complemental laterally spaced relation the backing plate 11 is provided with a male locking member comprising the shank 27 arranged to wedge in the convergent surfaces of the narrow portion 25 of a female slot 24, and has the enlarged head 28 of such diameter as just to enter the enlarged portion 26 of such slot of a juxtaposed backing plate of a complemental ash receptacle unit. The shank 27 is either cylindrical or complementally tapered so as to move into easy interlocking wedged engagement with the tapering end 25 of the slot 24. In the asymmetrical units the female slot has the narrow portion presenting away from bottom surface 10. Each backing plate is provided with both a slot and a pin or locking shank, as are the brackets to be described. In order to expedite disassembly, it is preferred that a portion of the material from the slot 24 be bent or shaped inwardly in a cup or series of fingers as at 30, below and on each side, partially, of the large hole 26, to form a stop for the sliding movement of the shank out of the narrow tapering end by abutment of the cup 30 by the edge of the head 28 to prevent the enlarged head 28 from relatively dropping down too far and hooking over the material surrounding the enlargement 26 of the slot. This functioning is clarified in Fig. 5 in which the relative movement of the parts for unlocking is indicated in dotted lines, by which the edge of the head 28 is shown abutting the inturned portion 30.

A pair of brackets is provided for association with each pair of complemental ash receptacles and these each provide a plate 31 having a depending extension 32 comprising a handle, if desired, and on the same relative side as in the individual asymmetrical ash receptacles, a male stud or shank is provided as at 33, having the enlarged head 34, and a female slot 40 is provided laterally spaced therefrom. The bracket has a pair of screw-holes 35, to enable attachment of the bracket to the side 36 of a table or the like having a top as at 37. A spacing plate, as of wood or the like 38 is attached in superposed parallel relation to the plate, by which the plate is prevented from getting too close to the table edge 36, as it is thereby spaced from surface 36 and disposed in a plane parallel therewith when screwed to the table. The plate 31 includes a female key hole slot 40 having the enlarged portion 41 and the tapering narrow portion 42, but in this case, preferably, the tapered narrow end is downwardly inclined. The preferred reversal of the position of the female member in the preferred form of bracket is for the reason that in this case the ash receptacle unit is to be supported against gravitational pull only so that it is desirable to have the gravity pulled asymmetrical ash receptacle unit pulling the narrow end of its female locking slot against and upon the male shank of the bracket, while the male shank which the asymmetrical unit carries is pulled gravitationally into the narrow end of the female locking slot in the bracket. It is to be understood, however, that if desired the female slot in the bracket can have the same position as in the individual ash receptacle units. Obviously, the narrow portion of any of the slots can be disposed asymmetrically of the large opening as by being arcuate or the like, if desired.

It will be understood that by cocking both units slightly relative to the vertical, so that the edges of transverse strips 13 intersect in the center in a very flat X formation in elevation, the enlarged head of one male locking member of one unit is aligned with the enlarged portion of the slot of female locking slot of the other asymmetrical unit, and vice versa, so that movement axially of the shanks, normal to the planes of the backing plates 11 bring the two backing plates 11 in parallel contacting disposition and will interengage the locking element and dispose both shanks at the large ends of the narrow parts of the complemental female slots. Thereupon a relative twist of both to the vertical position with the transverse strips 13 parallel and in the same plane causes each respective shank to wedge into each of the respective cooperating narrow slot portion of the other, to the wedged and interlocking position shown in Figs. 1 and 2. At this juncture the individual asymmetrical ash receptacles are joined to form a rigid portable symmetrical unit which can be handled, moved and used as a complete and satisfactory unitary ash receptacle. With a table or the like equipped with the brackets, however, a simple twist of the wrists, so to speak, and the halves are readily separable, pursuant to which either may be applied to either of the brackets mounted on the table, in the manner described, whereby they then become rigidly clamped thereto in a convenient but non-interfering position, ready, however, for prompt and easy separation from the table for either individual standing use, or in mutually coupled interlocked disposition as a complete symmetrical unitary ash receptacle.

The efficiency and ready adaptability of the devices to the purpose of the invention as set forth will be apparent, and it will be understood that the invention lends itself particularly well to formation by plastics or the like, as well as by metals, and such construction is contemplated.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A combined substantially symmetrical ash receptacle comprising two complemental asymmetrical complete ash receptacle units, means for interlocking the two complete units into a rigid portable ash receptacle whole, said means comprising in each unit a flattened wall surface, a tapering slot formed in said surface at one side of the unit including a head-receiving enlarged portion at one end of the slot and a headed projection formed at the other side of the unit in alignment transverse of the unit with a portion of the tapering slot too narrow to receive the head of a headed projection, with the headed projection so proportioned as to be engageable in a juxtaposed slot of a complemental unit.

2. A combined visually substantially symmetrical ash receptacle having a plane of symmetry, said plane being formed by juxtaposed substantially flat walls of individual asymmetrical units, each said wall having a generally tapering slot formed therein with the respective slots widely spaced out of mutual registration in the juxtapositioning of the respective walls, means carried by one flat wall engaging in the said slot in the other, and means carried by said other

flat wall for interengaging in the said slot in the first said wall to detachably interengage the units together.

3. A combined substantially symmetrical ash receptacle comprising two complemental asymmetrical complete ash receptacle units, means for interlocking the two units into a rigid portable complete ash receptacle whole, said means comprising in each unit a flattened wall surface, a tapering slot formed in said surface at one side of the unit including a head-receiving enlarged portion at one end of the slot and a narrow portion at the other end of the slot and a headed projection formed at the other side of the unit in alignment transverse of the unit with the narrow portion of the tapering slot, said narrow portion being too narrow to receive the head of a headed projection, with the headed projection so proportioned as to be engageable in a juxtaposed slot of a complemental unit, and a projection on said wall in alignment with a portion of said head-receiving enlarged portion of said tapered slot opposite to the narrow portion thereof to receive and guide the head of a headed projection to facilitate locking and unlocking of the respective units.

4. An ash receptacle including a substantially flat side wall having a first generally tapered slot merging from a narrower projection-receiving portion into an enlarged head-receiving portion to receive the head of a headed projection and formed toward one side transversely of said side wall, a first headed projection extending from said side wall on the other side thereof transversely of and transversely in alignment with the projection-receiving portion of said slot, and a complemental element for interlocked association with said receptacle comprising a substantially flat element having a second generally tapered slot merging from a narrower projection-receiving portion into an enlarged head-receiving portion to receive the head of said first headed projection and formed on one side transversely of said element, a second headed projection extending from said element transversely spaced from said second slot aligned transversely with the narrower portion thereof and receivable in said first slot.

5. An ash receptacle as recited in claim 4 wherein the element constitutes a complemental ash receptacle.

6. An ash receptacle as recited in claim 4 wherein the element constitutes a bracket.

7. An ash receptacle as recited in claim 4 wherein the two said slots taper in opposite directions.

8. A combined substantially symmetrical ash receptacle comprising two complemental asymmetrical complete ash receptacle units, each unit comprising a bottom and means joined to the bottom defining lateral boundaries of the receptacle including a substantially flat side wall having a central axis generally normal to said bottom, said side flat walls of the respective units being juxtaposed in generally parallel relation, and means for interlocking the two complete units into a rigid portable ash receptacle whole, said means comprising two sets of complemental fastenings respectively on opposite sides of the respective central axes of said side walls, one set comprising a key hole slot formed of a narrow fastener-receiving portion communicating with an enlarged head-receiving portion in one said flat side wall and a headed fastener mounted on the other said flat side wall and disposed in said key hole slot, the other set comprising a key hole slot formed of a narrow fastener-receiving portion communicating with an enlarged head-receiving portion in said other flat side wall and a headed fastener mounted on said one flat side wall, the headed fastener on each wall being misaligned with the enlarged head-receiving portion of the key hole slot in the same wall transversely of the said central axis of said wall.

CHARLES A. T. AGEE.

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