July 27, 1943. G. A. BLAKE 2,325,363

DISPENSING APPARATUS

Filed Oct. 16, 1941

FIG. 1.

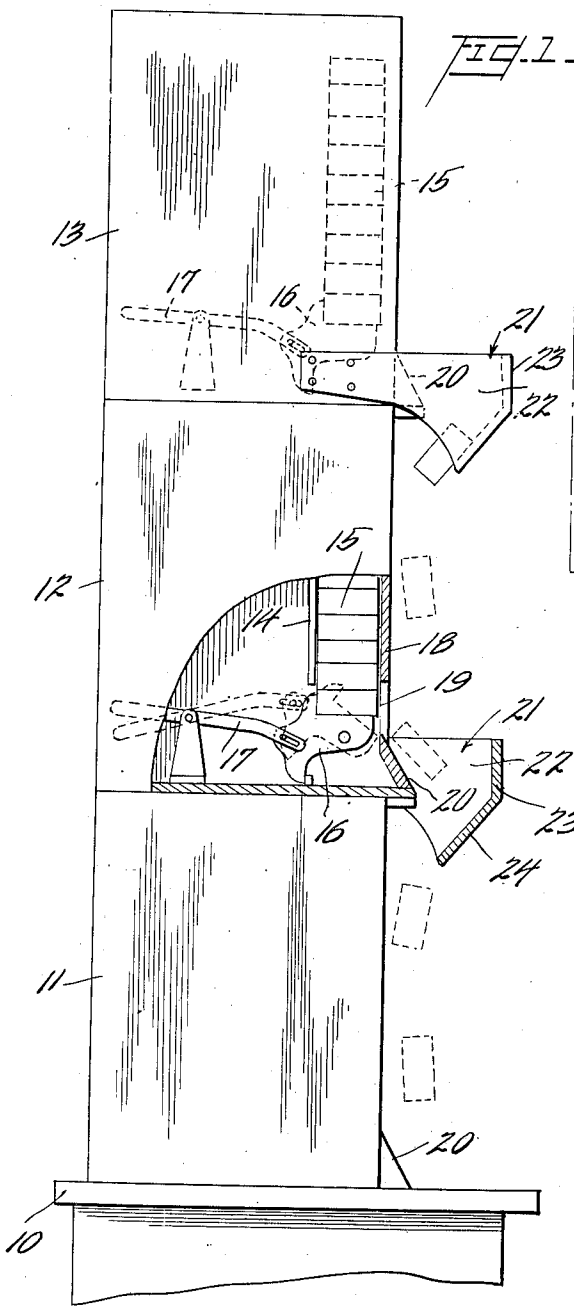


FIG. 2.

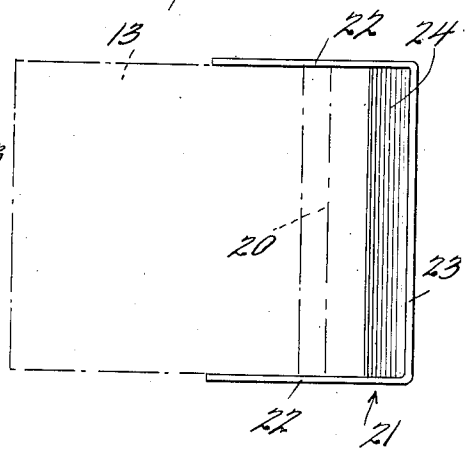
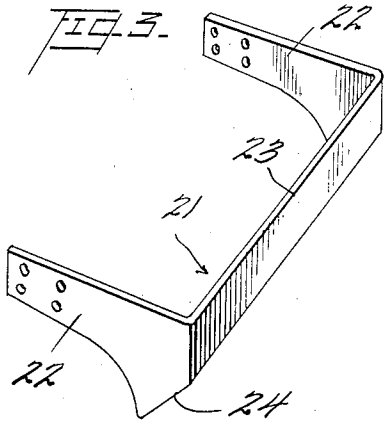


FIG. 3.



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DISPENSING APPARATUS

George A. Blake, New Bedford, Mass.

Application October 16, 1941, Serial No. 415,323

2 Claims. (Cl. 312—42)

This invention relates to package dispensing apparatus, and more particularly to an improvement upon the type of dispensing device described and claimed in my United States Patent No. 2,163,081, whereby such devices are adapted to be disposed one above another in a vertical series or stack, means being provided for guiding packages dispensed from any device of the series, and retarding the rate of fall of such packages, in order that they will be deposited, without injury, upon the counter or other support on which the series of devices is stacked.

It is the general object of the present invention to provide dispensing apparatus of the type in question, and of simple, rugged and economical construction, adapted to dispense all manner of articles commonly packed in small packages, such as cigarettes, matches, chewing gum, candies, and the like. More specifically, it is an object of the invention to provide a dispensing device, adapted to serve as one member of a stack or vertical series, and having associated therewith means providing an inclined surface for initially receiving a package ejected from the delivery orifice of the device, and means providing a second inclined surface adapted to receive the package from said first surface and to direct it toward a third inclined surface associated with the next lower device in the stack.

Other and further objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will be apparent to one skilled in the art from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a side view, partly in elevation and partly in section, of a stack of dispensing devices according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a plan view of one of the dispensing devices; and

Figure 3 is a perspective view of one of the guiding baffles associated with the dispensing devices according to the invention.

In order to facilitate an understanding of the invention, reference is made to the embodiment thereof shown in the accompanying drawing and detailed descriptive language is employed. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitation of the invention is thereby intended and that various changes and alterations are contemplated such as would ordinarily ocur to one skilled in the art to which the invention relates.

Referring to Figure 1, the numeral 10 represents a store counter or other support upon which rests a vertical series or stack of individual dispensing devices 11, 12, and 13. The stack may consist of two or more devices, up to the greatest number which may conveniently be manipulated by the storekeeper or attendant behind the counter, the number of devices usually being dependent upon the variety of articles to be dispensed and the vertical dimensions of the individual devices.

The dispensing devices may and preferably will correspond generally with that illustrated and described in my aforesaid prior patent, but it will be understood that any suitable dispensing mechanism, manually or otherwise operated, may be employed. The dispensing device illustrated in the present embodiment comprises generally a receptacle or chute 14 adapted to receive a stack of packages 15 to be dispensed, an ejector 16 for supporting the stack of packages 15 and for ejecting the lowermost package when actuated by means of the pivoted lever 17.

The lower portion of the front panel 18 of the dispenser is provided with a delivery orifice 19 and, beneath the latter, is formed to provide a downwardly and outwardly inclined delivery surface 20, which initially receives the packages ejected through the orifice 19. In the case of the lowermost dispenser 11, the packages 15 passing down the surface 20 are deposited upon the counter 10.

Each of the upper dispensers 12 and 13 carries a baffle member 21, seen in perspective in Figure 3, which comprises a pair of lateral extensions or arms 22, by which the member 21 is secured to the respective sides of a dispenser 12, 13, and a central portion connecting the arms 22 and formed with an upper vertical wall portion 23 and a lower, rearwardly inclined portion 24. The member 21 is disposed relative to the dispenser in such a position that the inclined portion 24 is displaced downwardly of the delivery surface 20, and in such a position as to receive and retard the rate of travel of a package falling from the latter.

Due to the rearward inclination of the portion 24, a package received thereon will be discharged with a component of motion in the direction of the front of the next lower dispenser, and will thus fall onto the delivery surface 20 of the said dispenser, whence it will pass to the baffle member 21 associated with that dispenser, and so on, until it reaches the counter 10.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the present invention provides means whereby a plurality of dispensers may conveniently be stacked one upon another, while at the same time, articles ejected from the upper dispensers are

guided downwardly past the several devices and deposited relatively gently upon the ultimate receiving surface.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. In combination, a plurality of package dispensing devices arranged in a vertical series, each said dispensing device having a delivery orifice and a member disposed below said orifice and providing an outwardly and downwardly extending delivery surface, and a baffle member associated with each said device above the lowermost, each said baffle member having an inclined surface adapted to receive a package from the said delivery surface of the associated device and to direct said package toward the delivery surface of the next lower device.

2. In combination, a plurality of package dispensing devices arranged in a vertical series, and a pair of inclined surfaces associated with each said device above the lowermost, the respective surfaces of each said pair being oppositely inclined and vertically displaced, one surface of each said pair being adapted to initially receive packages ejected from the delivery orifice of the associated device to direct them toward the second surface of the pair, said second surface of the pair being adapted to direct packages toward the next lower initial receiving surface whereby the operation is repeated.

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