Oct. 10, 1961 C. ZICK 3,003,711

MERCHANDISING AND DISPENSING PACKAGE

Filed Dec. 23, 1958

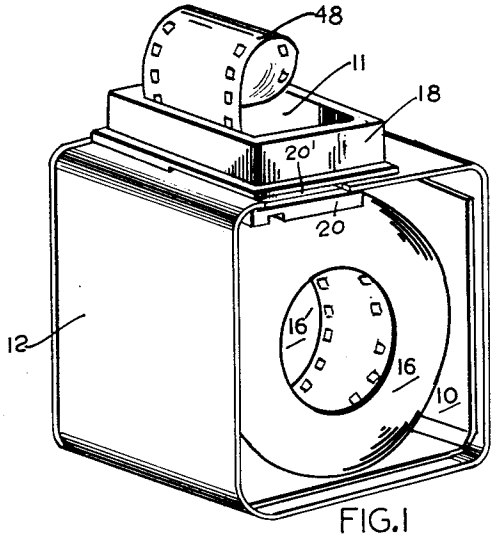


FIG.1

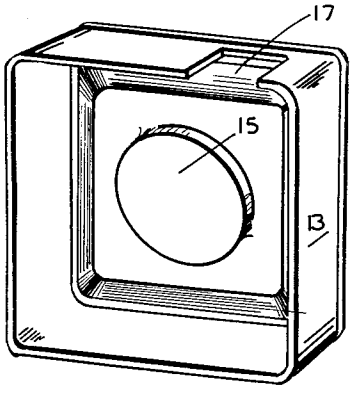


FIG.2

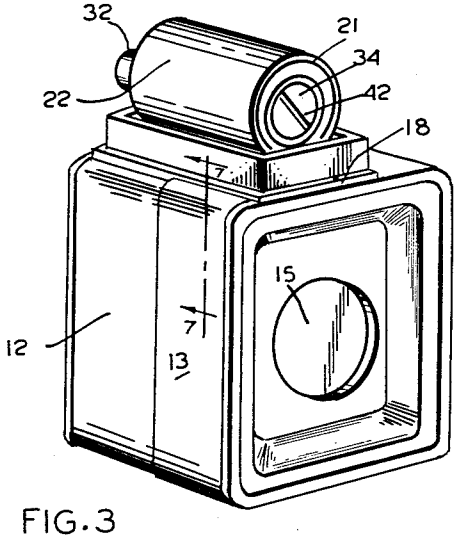


FIG.3

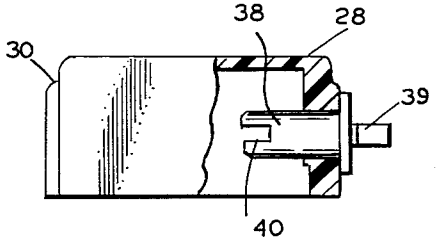


FIG.4

FIG.5

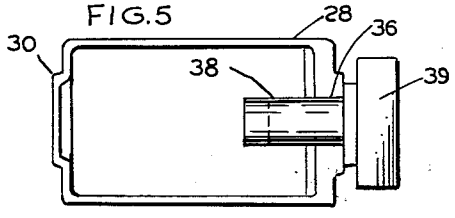


FIG.7

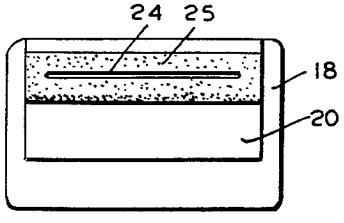
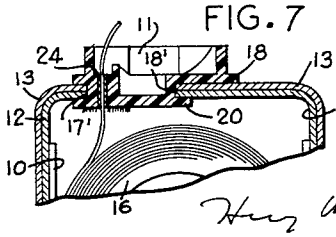


FIG.6



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3,003,711

MERCHANDISING AND DISPENSING PACKAGE

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This invention relates to a merchandising package and, more particularly, to a dispensing package for light-sensitive material, such as photographic film.

Certain types of photographic film, such as 35 mm. size, are marketed in cartridges which are of standard construction to accommodate all cameras utilizing the particular size. These cartridges contain a spool on which a given length of film is wound and a cylindrical metal cover to form a light-tight enclosure. These are loaded at the factory and sold for use by the purchaser. After the film is used up, the cartridges are generally discarded.

Considerable saving could be effected by the photographer if he could reload the cartridges with film stock which could be purchased at a lower price compared to the cost of a complete loaded cartridge. However, to do so, the facilities of a darkroom are needed, since the film cannot be handled in daylight.

It is the primary object of this invention to provide a film dispensing merchandising package which will enable the purchaser to reload used cartridges in daylight in a simple manner.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a film dispensing package which is inexpensive to manufacture containing a roll of film stock of sufficient length to enable reloading of several cartridges or one cartridge several times.

It is a particular feature of this invention that a separate light-tight loading chamber is attached to the film storage container. This chamber accommodates a cartridge and permits the insertion of a winding knob for rotation of the cartridge spool, thereby permitting daylight loading of the cartridge.

Other objects and features will be apparent from the following description of the invention, pointed out in particularity in the appended claims and taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the dispensing package with one side removed, showing the location of the film roll;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the side removed from FIG. 1 showing the inner construction thereof;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the closed package with the cover of the loading chamber removed, showing the location of the cartridge in the base portion thereof;

FIG. 4 is a side elevational view of the cover of the loading chamber in partial section with the winding knob inserted;

FIG. 5 is a bottom view of the cover of FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is a bottom view of the base of the loading chamber; and

FIG. 7 is a section on line 7—7 in FIG. 3.

Referring to the figures, it is seen that the dispensing package is in two parts: a substantially rectangular storage compartment **10** and a loading chamber **11**. The storage compartment **10** comprises a body portion **12** and a telescoping side wall **13**, the latter having an inwardly extending circular projection **15** over which the film roll **16** is supported. The other side wall which is part of the body portion **12** is similarly constructed, having an inwardly extending circular portion **16'** so that the film roll is centrally supported over these projections. A cutout **17** is provided in the side wall **13** and a contiguous cutout **17'** is provided contiguously in the body portion **12**. The loading chamber **11** is positioned for sliding movement over the cutout **17'** in the body portion with the base **18** resting on the wall in which the cutout is formed. A flange **20** of greater width than said cutout extends in parallel spaced relation below base **18** and is joined to the base by a connecting portion **18'** extending through the cutout forming a groove **20'** between the base **18** and flange **20** of an extent just sufficient to accommodate the thickness of the wall of the storage compartment surrounding the cutout at the rear of the body portion. The groove **20'** is enlarged toward the front to permit the side wall **13** to telescope over the body portion **12**. When the side wall **13** is telescoped over the body portion the connecting portion **18'** fits into the cutout **17** thereby forming a light seal. The assembly of the body portion **12** and the side wall **13** is seen in FIG. 3, indicating also the placement of the cartridge **21** to be loaded into the chamber **11** with the lip **22** of the cartridge facing downwardly opposite the slit **24** in the base **18**, as seen in FIG. 6. To insure light-tightness, the slit **24** is surrounded by a velvet material **25**.

The cover **28** is so dimensioned as to fit tightly over the loading chamber and has at one end an extension **30** to make room for the shaft **32** of the spool **34** of the cartridge **21**. The opposite end of the cover **28** has a circular opening **36** through which the shaft **38** of the winding knob **39** may enter. The latter has a key slot **40** which fits the key **42** of the spool **34** of the cartridge **21**.

In assembling the film package, a portion of the film is fed through the slit **24** to form a leader **48** to be used for the loading of the cartridge **21**. This may be accomplished in a very simple manner. The cartridge is disassembled and the leader **48** inserted into a slit which is provided in the spool **34** of the cartridge **21** and secured thereto by giving it a few turns. The cartridge **21** is then assembled in the form seen in FIG. 3 and placed into the chamber **11** with the lip **22** facing downward. The cover **28** is now replaced over the chamber and base **18** so that the loading chamber is light-tight, ready for spooling of the film. The knob **39** is inserted so that the key slot **40** engages the key **42** provided in the spool **34** of the cartridge **21**. Turning the knob **39** a given number of revolutions will wind a desired length of film upon the spool **34**. The cover **28** is then removed and the cartridge **21** taken out far enough to cut off the film and leave a leader **48** for the next loading operation.

In winding the film onto the spool it is important that the number of revolutions of the knob be counted to determine the exact length of film removed from the storage compartment. If the knob is inadvertently released during winding operation, the expanding force of the film will rotate the winding knob in the reverse direction. Under such circumstances, the knob is wound back until film tension is reached and counting may then be resumed for the successive turns.

I claim:

1. A merchandising and dispensing package for a roll of photographic film of which predetermined lengths are to be wound onto a spool in a cartridge, comprising a substantially rectangular box accommodating said roll, said box having an open side and a removable closure for closing said side, a cutout in a wall of said box, said cutout extending from the open side of the box toward the opposite side thereof, a loading chamber positioned over said cutout and slidably supported by said wall, said loading chamber comprising a base and a cover, said base being of greater width than said cutout, a connecting portion extending from said base into the cutout, a

flange extending from said connecting portion in spaced substantially parallel relation to said base to form a groove of sufficient extent to accommodate the thickness of the wall surrounding the cutout and an edge of the closure thereby forming a light seal for the interior of the box, said groove also forming a slideway which enables the loading chamber to slide on the box when the closure is removed, said chamber being so dimensioned as to accommodate said film cartridge, a winding knob, an opening in one side of said cover rotatably accommodating the shaft of said knob, and a slit in said base portion facing the inside of said box permitting said film to enter said chamber to be wound onto said spool in said cartridge upon rotation of said knob in one direction.

2. A package as recited in claim 1 wherein the closure

and the wall of the box opposite the closure are each provided with a circular, inwardly extending projection over which said roll of photographic film is supported.

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