Aug. 22, 1950 L. E. PASTORIUS, III 2,520,054

CLOTHESPIN CONTAINER

Filed April 22, 1947

Fig. 1.

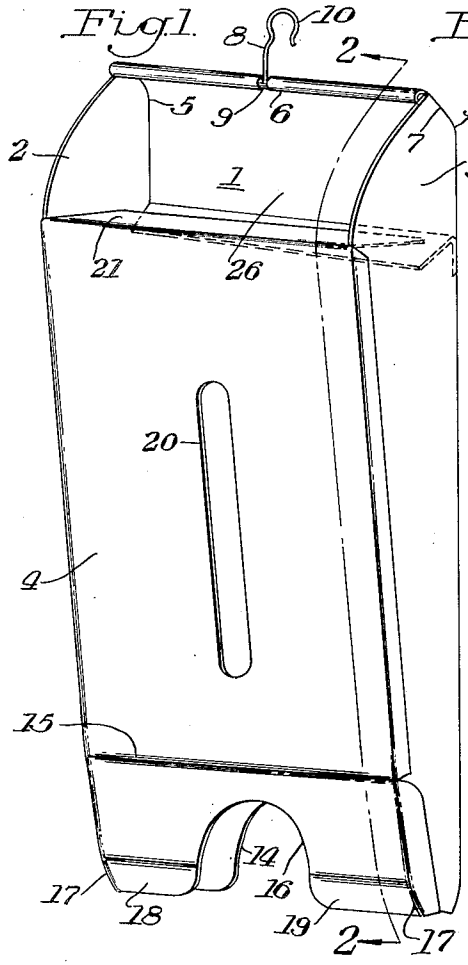


Fig. 2.

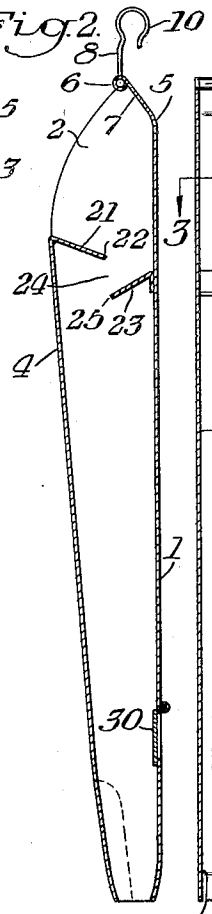


Fig. 4.

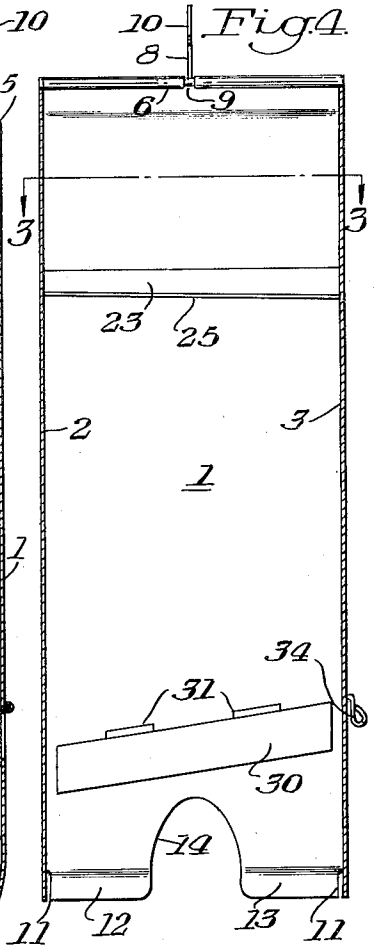
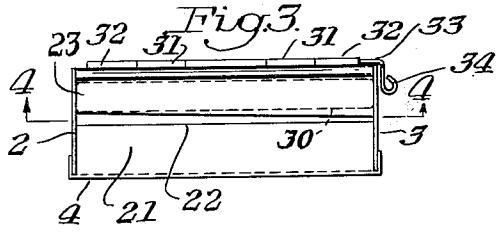


Fig. 3.



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CLOTHESPIN CONTAINER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 312—73)

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This invention relates generally to dispensers and more particularly to a container for storing clothespins and from which the clothespins may be dispensed singly.

The principal object of this invention is the provision of a clothespin dispenser arranged to receive clothespins in a haphazard manner and dispense them with single delivery in a uniform manner.

Another object is the provision of a dual shelf in the upper end of a clothespin dispenser which is structurally provided to properly arrange the clothespins in a neat and orderly fashion within the container.

Another object is the provision of a sloping shelf of variable depth on which clothespins are deposited and from which they roll into the container in a predetermined manner.

Another object is the provision of an adjustable shelf within a clothespin container arranged to guide the movement of the clothespins passing the same.

Another object is the provision of a shelf arranged to extend into the path of the clothespins, passing through a clothespin container and having one end disposed at a lower elevation than the other causing the clothespin to pause and roll from the shelf with one end leading the other one on its way to the bottom of the container.

Another object is the provision of a shelf projecting inwardly and downwardly within a clothespin container and having one end lower than the other, said shelf being further characterized by the fact that it is movable from an operative to an inoperative position.

Other objects and advantages appear in the following description and claim.

A practical embodiment illustrating the principles of this invention is shown in the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a prospective view of a clothespin and dispensing unit comprising this invention.

Fig. 2 is a view in vertical section taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a view in horizontal section taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 4 is a view in vertical section taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

The clothespin dispenser container shown in the drawings is constructed of metal being stamped from two sheets, and shaped to produce the open-ended container as shown in Fig. 1. One sheet makes up the continuous back wall 1 and the side integral walls 2 and 3. The other sheet forms the front wall 4. The side walls 2

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and 3 match one another and reduce in width from the top to the bottom of the container so as to provide a fixed dimension within the container which will not permit the clothespins to arch or otherwise become wedged in any position from the top to the bottom of the container. Thus, the dimensions of the side walls 2 and 3 are important in this container as they provide only a sufficient space for the clothespins to be fed singly in consecutive order from the top to the bottom of the container even though they may assume a staggered position near the top of the container. Although the clothespin container is shown to be constructed of metal it may be made of wood, plastic, or other suitable material.

Near the top of the container the back wall 1 is notched from the side walls 2 and 3 from the point 5 upwardly forming a tongue, the upper end of which is rolled into the bead 6. The notching of the material forms this tongue at the upper end of the back wall 1 and also provides the slope 7 on the side walls 2 and 3 and when the tongue is curved to match the slope 7 and position the bead 6 substantially over the center of the container, the tongue is then soldered or otherwise secured to the walls 2 and 3.

A bail or hook member 8 is provided with a T-shaped head 9 arranged to be received in the rolled bead 6 and is provided with a hook section 10 having a restricted mouth which permits it to be snapped over a clothes line. The bail of the hook 10 is sufficiently large in diameter to permit it to be slid back and forth along the clothes line but its restricted mouth prevents the hook from becoming accidentally dislodged when the container is caused to oscillate or swing on the clothes line.

The rear wall 1 of the container is substantially straight for the greater part of its length but is notched at the bottom adjacent the side walls 2 and 3 as shown at 11 in Fig. 4 to provide the inwardly bent tongues 12 and 13 which are spaced by the finger clearance hole 14.

Owing to the shape of the side walls 2 and 3 the front wall 4 is disposed at an angle relative to the rear wall and is provided with a slight break 15 near the bottom thereof but above the finger clearance hole 16. The front wall 4 is also notched adjacent the side walls 2 and 3 at the lower end as indicated at 17 to provide the tongues 18 and 19 which are separated by the finger clearance hole 16. The tongues 12 and 13 of the rear wall 1 and the tongues 18 and 19 of the front wall 4 are bent toward each other and

provide matching resilient fingers which hold the lowermost clothespin and consequently all the clothespins thereabove but will permit the clothespins to be withdrawn in turn from the container only when grasped by the fingers and forcibly pulled. The width of the side walls 2 and 3 below the inturned flange 23 is less than twice the width of the side walls immediately above the notches 11 and 17 in the front and rear walls that form the depending flexible tongues 11 and 12, 18 and 19. Thus the dimension of the side walls immediately above the tongues, which is for the purpose of sheaving only one clothespin, is less than twice the dimension of the side walls of the container immediately under the inturned flange 23.

The front panel 4 is provided with an open slot 20 to visually show the number of clothespins stored within the container.

The upper end of the front panel 4 of the container is provided with an inwardly and downwardly projecting flange 21 that extends substantially half way across the chamber of the container as illustrated in Fig. 3 leaving ample room between the edge or lip 22 of the flange and the rear wall 1 for the passage of a clothespin. It will be noticed in Figures 1 and 2 that the flange 21 slopes inwardly and downwardly to allow the clothespins to roll off the flange 21.

A second flange 23 is secured to the inner face of the rear wall 1 and projects frontwardly and downwardly toward the front wall 4 and is disposed below the flange 21 to provide a feeding throat 24 therebetween. The flange 23 slopes downwardly and forwardly to allow the clothespins to roll from its surface but is disposed in a single plane. However, the flange 23 varies in width from the side wall 2 to the side wall 3 which makes the free edge 25 of the flange 23 appear to slope from one side as shown in Fig. 1 to the other, but in Fig. 3 this flange is shown to be narrower adjacent the wall 2 than it is adjacent the wall 3.

When the clothespins are tossed or otherwise deposited in the opening 26 at the top of the container they first strike the inturned flange 21 of the front wall 4 and roll from this flange to the flange 23. Regardless of the manner in which the clothespin is inserted or dropped in the opening 26 it is straightened in rolling from the flange 21 to the flange 23 and as it rolls forwardly off the flange 23 through the throat 24. The end of the clothespin adjacent the wall 2 is first to drop from flange 23 owing to the fact that this flange is narrower adjacent the wall 2. Thus, the clothespin descends into the chamber of the container with one end slightly ahead of the other which permits the successive clothespins to properly fall in a horizontal position within the container thus permitting them to stack uniformly one upon the other. Owing to the fact that the dimension of the side walls 2 and 3 is such as to prevent wedging or arching of one or more clothespins within the chamber of the container, the stored clothespins will feed singly in staggered relation until they approach the dispensing mouth at the bottom of the container where they pass in single file and they will not become jammed or otherwise prevented from providing a single feed from the top to the bottom of the container. This uniform storing of the clothespins is believed to be principally gained through the use of the two spaced inwardly projecting

flanges 21 and 23 with a slight variation in the width of the flange 23. However, a similar effect may be obtained by disposing the flange 23 at an angle relative to the horizontal which is illustrated by the inwardly projecting flange 30 which is hingedly attached to the rear wall 1 by the hinge elements 31 and 32 that are held in aligned relation by the hinge pin member 33 that is provided with an offset handle 34 arranged to move the flange 30 to any desired position. Owing to the fact that the hinge elements 31 and 32 are disposed at an angle to the horizontal the flange 30 is likewise disposed at an angle to the horizontal although it is made up of uniform width. By rotating the handle 34 the flange 30 may be positioned at any desired angle from its completely retracted position as shown in Fig. 2 to approximately forty-five degrees. When the flange 30 is moved to its innermost position it is arranged to stop the supply or movement of clothespins to the dispensing mouth at the bottom of the container. However, when retracted partially it permits the clothespins to pass in single file to the dispensing end of the container. It is unnecessary to employ the flange 30 in this clothespin container when the flange 23 is used at the upper end thereof and it is likewise unnecessary to use the flange 23 when the flange 30 is employed. Both flanges 23 and 30 will function in substantially the same way in properly straightening the clothespins for single delivery as they pass through the container to the dispensing end.

I claim:

A clothespin container comprising an open-ended box rectangular in cross section and having front and back walls greater in width than the length of the clothespins and narrow side walls, a flange extending rearwardly from the front wall adjacent the top, a second flange extending frontwardly from the back wall and disposed below the first flange to provide a throat therebetween through which the clothespins must pass upon entering the container, the lower flange being shorter at one end than at the other to cause one end of each clothespin passing through said throat to drop slightly ahead of its other end and properly stack the clothespins within the container, resilient tongue means at the bottom of the container to releasably hold the lowermost clothespin but permit it to be forcibly withdrawn therefrom, the width of the narrow side walls below said flanges being less than twice the width of the side walls immediately above said resilient tongue means to prevent wedging or arching of the clothespins within the container.

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