Nov. 11, 1958 B. B. WILLIAMS 2,859,865

CIGARETTE RETAINING MEANS

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Fig. 1

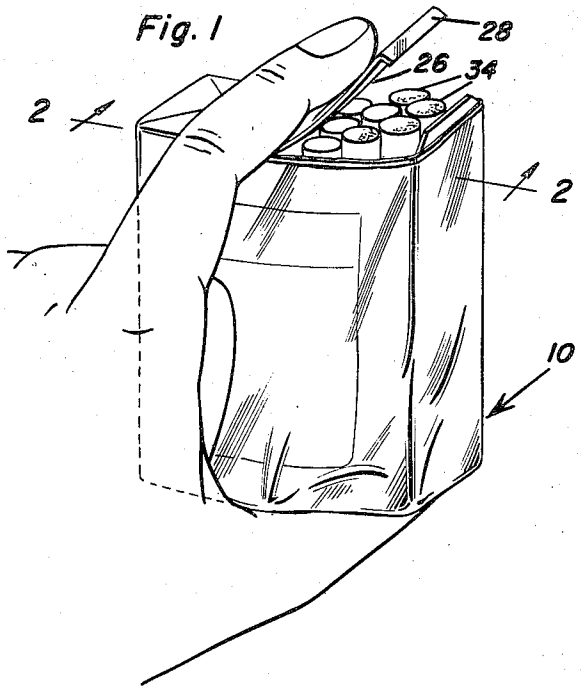


Fig. 5

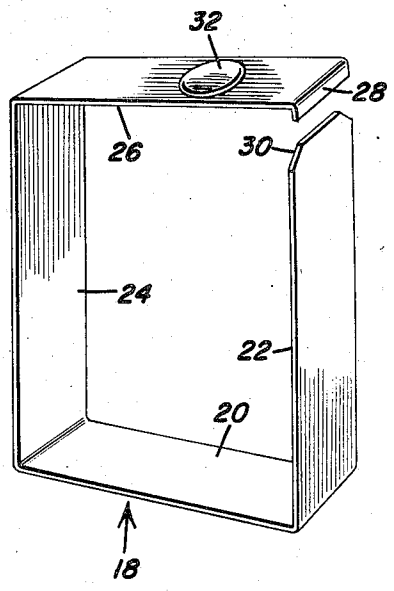
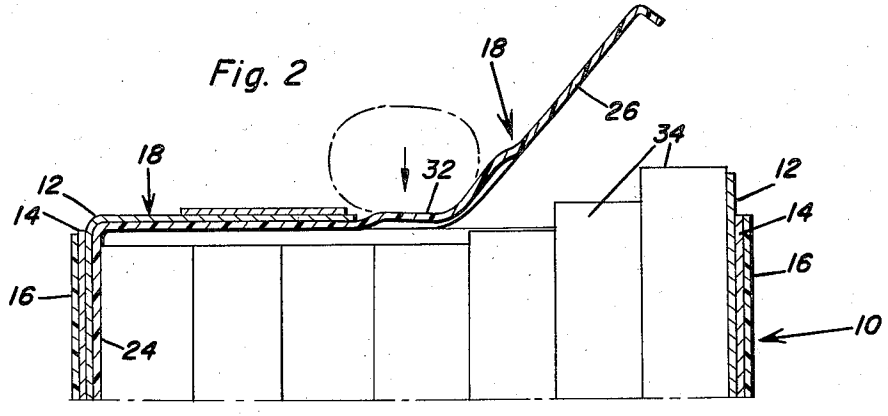


Fig. 2



Barney B. Williams

INVENTOR.

BY Clarence A. O'Brien and Harvey B. Jacobson

Attorneys

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Fig. 3

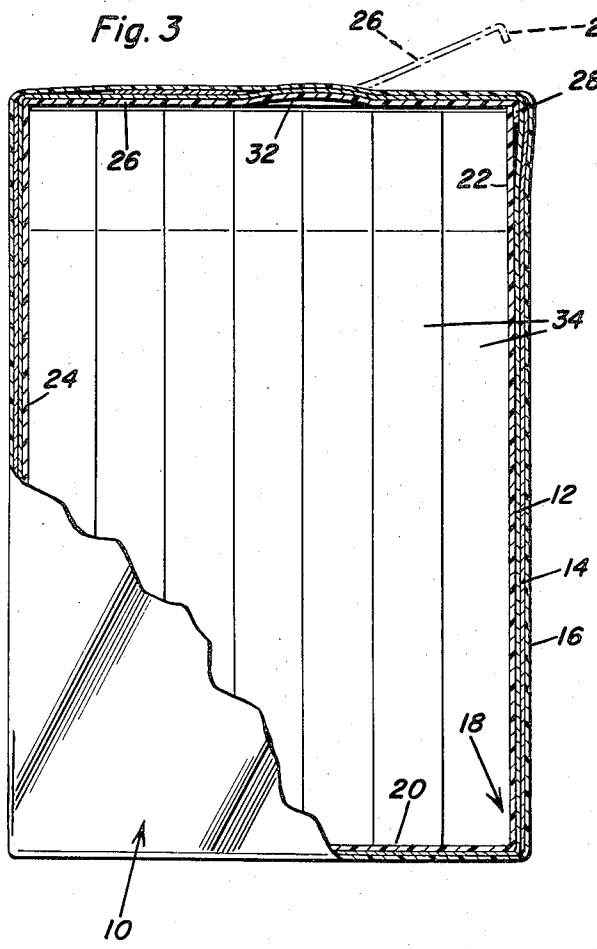


Fig. 6

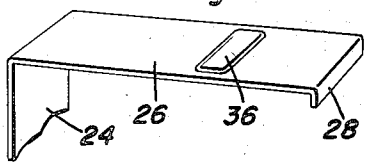


Fig. 7

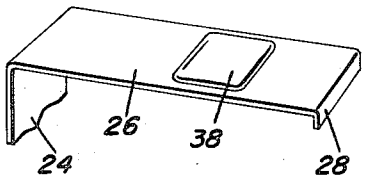


Fig. 8

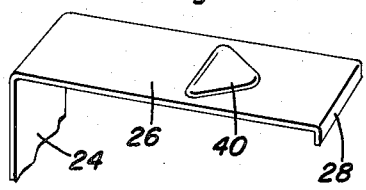


Fig. 9

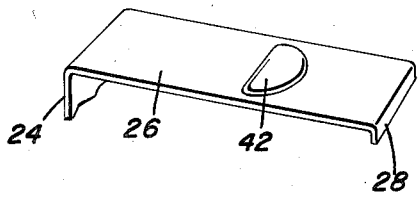
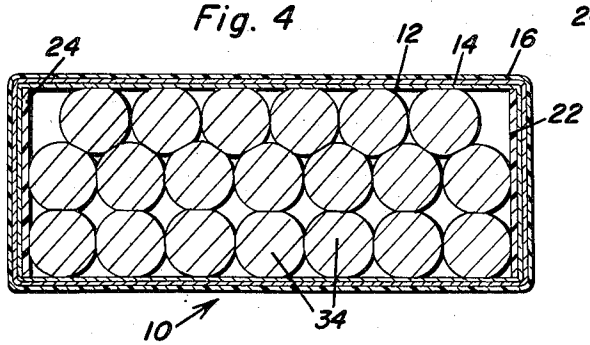


Fig. 4



Barney B. Williams

INVENTOR.

BY Clarence A. O'Brien and Harvey B. Jacobson

Attorneys

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CIGARETTE RETAINING MEANS

Barney B. Williams, Albany, Ga.

Application July 5, 1957, Serial No. 670,033

7 Claims. (Cl. 206—41)

This invention relates in general to new and useful improvements in cigarette packages, and more specifically to a cigarette package which has disposed therein a member which both serves to retain the cigarettes in place and to protect such cigarettes.

Another object of this invention is to provide a combined retaining and protecting member for cigarettes, the member being of such configuration and size whereby it may be mounted in existing types of cigarettes and, while properly retaining the cigarettes in the package and protecting the cigarettes, will permit the ease of removal of a cigarette.

Another object of this invention is to provide a cigarette package reinforcing member, the reinforcing member being in the form of a strip which is formed of rigid and resilient material, the strip being generally rectangular in outline and including a top which is bendable so as to facilitate the removal of a cigarette.

A further object of this invention is to provide a combined retaining and protective member for cigarette packages, the member being in the form of a generally rectangular outline strip and including a top having one end free, the top being provided with an upwardly projecting bulge intermediate the ends thereof, the bulge being depressible so as to cause upward flexing of the free end of the top and facilitate the removal of a cigarette from a package.

These, together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent, reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cigarette package which has been opened, the cigarette package being provided with the combined retaining and protective member which is the subject of this invention, the member being shown in a flexed state to permit the removal of a cigarette;

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken through the upper part of the cigarette package of Figure 1 along the section line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an enlarged elevational view of the cigarette package of Figure 1 with a majority thereof shown in section, the top of the member being shown in a flexed state;

Figure 4 is a transverse horizontal sectional view taken substantially upon the plane indicated by the section line 4—4 of Figure 3 and shows further the arrangement of the combined retaining and protective member within the cigarette package; and

Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9 are enlarged fragmentary perspective views showing the upper portion of the modified combined retaining and protective members and shows modified forms of bulges to facilitate the flexing of the tops thereof.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, it will be seen that there is illustrated a cigarette package which is referred to in general by the reference numeral **10**. The

cigarette package **10** is of a conventional construction and includes an inner container **12**, an outer container **14**, and a cellophane wrapping **16**. Disposed within the cigarette package **10** and reinforcing the containers **12** and **14** is the combined retaining and protective member which is the subject of this invention, the member being referred to in general by the reference numeral **18**.

As is best shown in Figure 5, the combined retaining and protective member **18** includes a base **20** which has extending upwardly from opposite ends thereof and formed integrally therewith sides **22** and **24**. Formed integrally with the upper end of the side **24** and extending in overlying relation with respect to the base **20** is a top **26**. The top **26** has the end thereof remote from the side wall **24** free and is provided with a depending flange **28**. When the combined retaining and protective member **18** is disposed within the cigarette package **10**, the flange **28** overlaps the upper end of the side **22**, as is best shown in Figure 3.

It is also to be noted that the upper end of the side **22** is tapered as at **30**.

In order to facilitate the upward flexing of that part of the top **26** remote from the side **24**, the top **26** is provided with an upwardly projecting bulge **32** disposed intermediate the ends thereof. The bulge **32** is circular in outline and extends substantially all the way across the top **26**.

As is best shown in Figures 3 and 5, the combined retaining and protective member **18** is generally rectangular in outline. Also, the member **18** is formed of a single elongated strip which is preferably formed from a relatively rigid and resilient material.

In Figures 1 and 2, the cigarette package **10** is shown in its normal open state whereby access to the cigarettes **34** disposed therein may normally be had. However, the cigarettes **34** are protected by the combined retaining and protective member **18** and are retained in place within the package **10** by means of the member **18**.

When it is desired to remove cigarettes **34** from the package **10**, one grasps the cigarette package **10** in the manner shown in Figure 1 with the forefinger engaging the bulge **32**. The bulge **32**, when depressed, results in the upward flexing of the free end of the top **26**, as is best shown in Figure 2. At this time, access to certain of the cigarettes **34** is facilitated. When the bulge **32** is released, the top **26** will resume its normal position and thus again serve to protect and retain the cigarettes **34** within the package **10**.

It is to be understood that the combined retaining and protective member **18** is of a size and shape so as to be readily insertable in existing cigarette packages. Thus, the use of the present invention does not require special packages or special equipment other than that necessary to place the member **18** within the package.

Referring now to Figure 6 in particular, it will be seen that the top **26** is provided with a modified form of bulge **36**. The bulge **36** is generally rectangular in outline. Like the bulge **32**, the bulge **36** extends substantially entirely across the top **26**.

Referring now to Figure 7 in particular, it will be seen that the top **26** is provided with a modified form of bulge **38**. The bulge **38** is similar to the bulge **36** in that it is square in outline. The bulge **38** functions the same as the bulge **32** in facilitating the bending or flexing of the top **26**.

Referring now to Figure 8 in particular, it will be seen that there is illustrated still another modified form of bulge **40**. The top wall **26** is provided with a triangular outline bulge **40**. The bulge **40** extends substantially entirely across the top **26** and facilitates the flexing of the top **26**.

In Figure 9 there is illustrated a final modified form of

bulge 42 which is semi-circular in outline. The bulge 42, like the other bulges, extends substantially across the top 26 and facilitates the flexing of the top 26 whereby cigarettes may be removed from a package in which one of the combined retaining and protective members 18 is positioned.

While five different outlines of bulges have been illustrated and described, it is to be understood that other outlines of bulges may be used, although the bulges illustrated and described are found to be the most effective ones.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A retaining and protective member for cigarette packages, said member being in the form of an elongated strip formed of a relatively rigid and resilient material, said strip being generally rectangular in outline and including a base and upstanding sides integrally connected to said base at opposite ends thereof, a top integrally connected to one of said sides at the upper end thereof, the opposite end of said top terminating adjacent the upper end of the other of said sides, said top including an upwardly directed bulge intermediate the ends thereof, said bulge extending substantially entirely across said top whereby, when said bulge is depressed, said opposite end of said top bows upwardly away from said other side.

2. A retaining and protective member for cigarette packages, said member being in the form of an elongated strip formed of a relatively rigid and resilient material, said strip being generally rectangular in outline and including a base and upstanding sides integrally connected to said base at opposite ends thereof, a top integrally connected to one of said sides at the upper end thereof, the opposite end of said top terminating adjacent the upper end of the other of said sides, said top including an upwardly directed bulge intermediate the ends thereof, said bulge extending substantially entirely across said top whereby, when said bulge is depressed, said opposite end of said top bows upwardly away from said other side, said bulge being generally circular in outline.

3. A retaining and protective member for cigarette packages, said member being in the form of an elongated strip formed of a relatively rigid and resilient material, said strip being generally rectangular in outline and including a base and upstanding sides integrally connected to said base at opposite ends thereof, a top integrally connected to one of said sides at the upper end thereof, the opposite end of said top terminating adjacent the upper end of the other of said sides, said top including an upwardly directed bulge intermediate the ends thereof, said bulge extending substantially entirely across said top whereby, when said bulge is depressed, said opposite end of said top bows upwardly away from said other side, said bulge being semi-circular in outline.

4. A retaining and protective member for cigarette packages, said member being in the form of an elongated strip formed of a relatively rigid and resilient material, said strip being generally rectangular in outline and including a base and upstanding sides integrally connected to said base at opposite ends thereof, a top integrally connected to one of said sides at the upper end thereof, the opposite end of said top terminating adjacent the upper end of the other of said sides, said top including an upwardly directed bulge intermediate the ends thereof, said bulge extending substantially entirely across said top whereby, when said bulge is depressed, said opposite end of said top bows upwardly away from said other side, said bulge being circular in outline.

5. A retaining and protective member for cigarette packages, said member being in the form of an elongated strip formed of a relatively rigid and resilient material, said strip being generally rectangular in outline and including a base and upstanding sides integrally connected to said base at opposite ends thereof, a top integrally connected to one of said sides at the upper end thereof, the opposite end of said top terminating adjacent the upper end of the other of said sides, said top including an upwardly directed bulge intermediate the ends thereof, said bulge extending substantially entirely across said top whereby, when said bulge is depressed, said opposite end of said top bows upwardly away from said other side, said bulge being rectangular in outline.

6. A retaining and protective member for cigarette packages, said member being in the form of an elongated strip formed of a relatively rigid and resilient material, said strip being generally rectangular in outline and including a base and upstanding sides integrally connected to said base at opposite ends thereof, a top integrally connected to one of said sides at the upper end thereof, the opposite end of said top terminating adjacent the upper end of the other of said sides, said top including an upwardly directed bulge intermediate the ends thereof, said bulge extending substantially entirely across said top whereby, when said bulge is depressed, said opposite end of said top bows upwardly away from said other side, said bulge being square in outline.

7. A retaining and protective member for cigarette packages, said member being in the form of an elongated strip formed of a relatively rigid and resilient material, said strip being generally rectangular in outline and including a base and upstanding sides integrally connected to said base at opposite ends thereof, a top integrally connected to one of said sides at the upper end thereof, the opposite end of said top terminating adjacent the upper end of the other of said sides, said top including an upwardly directed bulge intermediate the ends thereof, said bulge extending substantially entirely across said top whereby, when said bulge is depressed, said opposite end of said top bows upwardly away from said other side, said bulge being triangular in outline.

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