Mar. 13, 1923. 1,448,326

C. E. ARNOLD

CIGARETTE PACKAGE

Filed Sept. 17, 1921

Fig. 1.

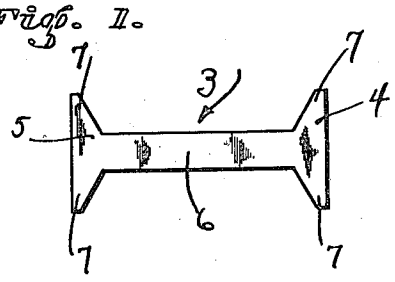


Fig. 2.

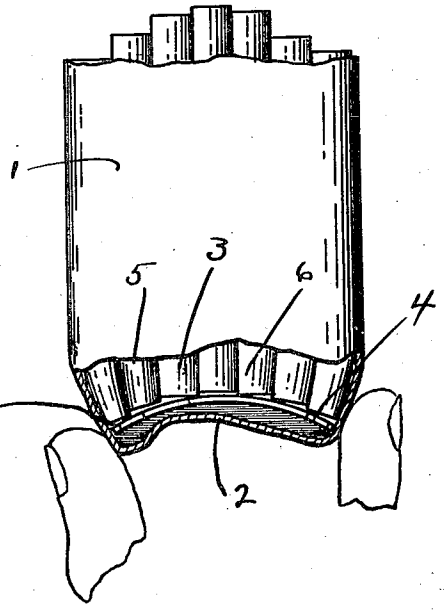


Fig. 3.

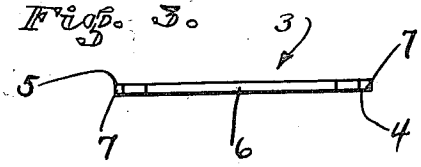


Fig. 4.

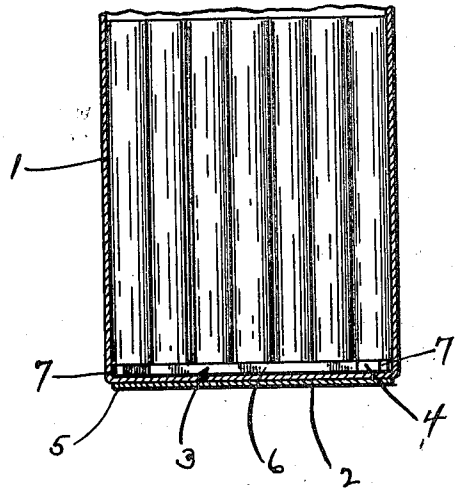
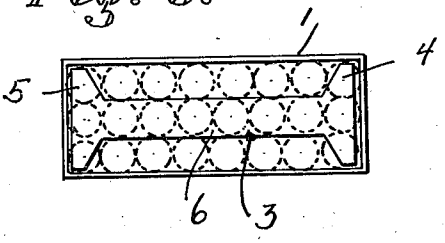


Fig. 5.



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Patented Mar. 13, 1923. 1,448,326

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. ARNOLD, OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.

CIGARETTE PACKAGE.

Application filed September 17, 1921. Serial No. 501,376.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. ARNOLD, a citizen of the United States, and resident of San Diego, county of San Diego, and State of California, have invented a new and useful Cigarette Package, of which the following is a specification.

My invention, while relating in general to cigarette packages, has particular reference to an attachment therefor which is adapted to be associated with the package in such a manner that the individual user thereof may rely on the same as a convenient means of obtaining access to the cigarettes within the package when the same is first opened.

Various standard brands of cigarettes are usually packed and offered to the trade in paper packages in which the cigarettes are more or less tightly confined and with the package sealed on all sides, with one end, however, adapted to be broken open for obtaining access to the contents. The cigarettes are so packed that when the end of the package is opened it is somewhat difficult to withdraw the first one or two cigarettes, and in doing so the cigarettes are often broken and the package unnecessarily torn, which works to a disadvantage when the same is called upon to act as a holder for the remaining cigarettes especially after several of them have been used.

According to the salient features of my invention I propose to employ means which by suitable manipulation will impart a push to several of the cigarettes after the top of the package has been opened so as to project their ends above the edge of the package leaving it convenient for the user to selectively or collectively withdraw several of the cigarettes and at the same time leaving the package practically uninjured so that the same may be used as a container so long as the remainder of the cigarettes last.

In its preferred form the device which I contemplate using as a medium for realizing the above results is extremely simple to produce and the cost of including it as a part of the package need not increase the cost production of the cigarette to an appreciable extent.

In the accompanying drawing which illustrates this preferred form and the application of the idea to a cigarette package, Figure 1 is a plan view of the device, Figure 2 is a view of a cigarette package with the top broken open and the lower part broken away illustrating the application of the idea as it works in practice; Figure 3 is a side view of the thickness of the device; Figure 4 is a vertical section showing the normal inactive position of the device within the package, and Figure 5 is a horizontal section showing the relative position of the device in the bottom of the package and with the cigarettes upon which it is to perform shown in dotted lines as resting thereon.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, a cigarette package usually comprises a rectangular shaped paper container (1), the bottom (2) of which being closed and sealed and the top being likewise sealed and closed, but adapted to be broken open to expose the ends of the cigarettes which are to be withdrawn. As heretofore practiced the relative nesting position of the cigarettes made it necessary to really dig them out as their ends were in the same plane and there was no space between each one which would make it easy to pick out selective ones of the same.

According to my conception I propose to use a relatively thin, double headed, T-shaped strip (3), the respective heads (4) and (5) thereof, as above stated, simulating at T head and with the heads joined by a narrow intermediate web (6). The straight edges of the heads (4) and (5) are in length substantially that of the thickness of the cigarette package so that their short straight ends (7) contact with the sides of the package and with the inner contour of the heads slanting toward the web portion (6).

This device, as stated, is made of relatively thin flexible material, such as celluloid, light spring metal, or any other material which will have a sufficient degree of stiffness but springy enough so that it may be bowed by suitable manipulation, and with the flexibility of the same capable of springing it back to its normal inactive position flush with the bottom of the cigarette package, as best shown in Figure 4. In Figure 2 the relative active position of the device is shown, which may be realized considering the device as being inserted in the bottom of the package with the cigarettes resting thereon by squeezing the lower narrow sides of the package together by the thumb and second finger of the hand. If necessary the index finger of the hand may also be used to impart a slight thrust to the bottom of the package in the middle of the web portion

(6) of the device so as to induce the same to spring into its bowed active position. This manipulation will impart a push to several of the cigarettes within the package, particularly those nested around the web portion (6) of the device and will project their opposite ends above the edge of the package in a more or less irregular relative position one to the other. In other words, one will be projected higher than the other so that they may be selectively withdrawn from the package by the other hand of the user. If desirable several of them may be picked out at the same time.

In making up the device I have kept in mind that the commercial possibilities of the same can be realized to the best advantage when the device is used by the manufacturer or packer of the cigarettes and for this reason I propose to select the material from which the device is made which will enable it to be produced exceedingly cheap and in great numbers, and thus overcome the possibility of the cost price of the cigarettes prohibiting its use. The device may be stamped or rather cut from sheets of material in relatively large numbers, and attention is called to the fact that it requires no special skill or extra work in incorporating the same in the package. Unless otherwise desired it may be simply dropped in the bottom of the package and need not be directly attached or otherwise fixed therein.

I claim:

1. A cigarette package having a flexible strip made to assume a normal inactive straight position at one end of the package but adapted to be bowed inwardly of the package to impart a push to several of the cigarettes contained therein to project their opposite ends above the open end of the package substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. A cigarette package having a flexible strip with T-shaped ends, the straight edges of which having a length of substantially that of the thickness of the package and with the strip adapted to assume a normal inactive position at one end of the package, but capable of being bowed inwardly of the package to impart a push to several of the cigarettes contained therein to project their opposite ends above the open end of the package substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. In a cigarette package of the class described, the combination of means for projecting the ends of the cigarettes above the open end of the package when occasion arises comprising a flexible strip of relatively thin material, the respective ends of said strip being enlarged in the same plane as that of the strip and with the straight edges of the enlargements having a length of substantially that of the width of the cigarrette package whereby application of pressure applied by the fingers at opposite sides of the package at a point adjacent the large strip ends will bow the strip and impart a push to the cigarettes to project their ends above the open end of the package substantially as and for the purpose described.

CHARLES E. ARNOLD.