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(54) **DISPENSER FOR LIGHTABLE WICK**

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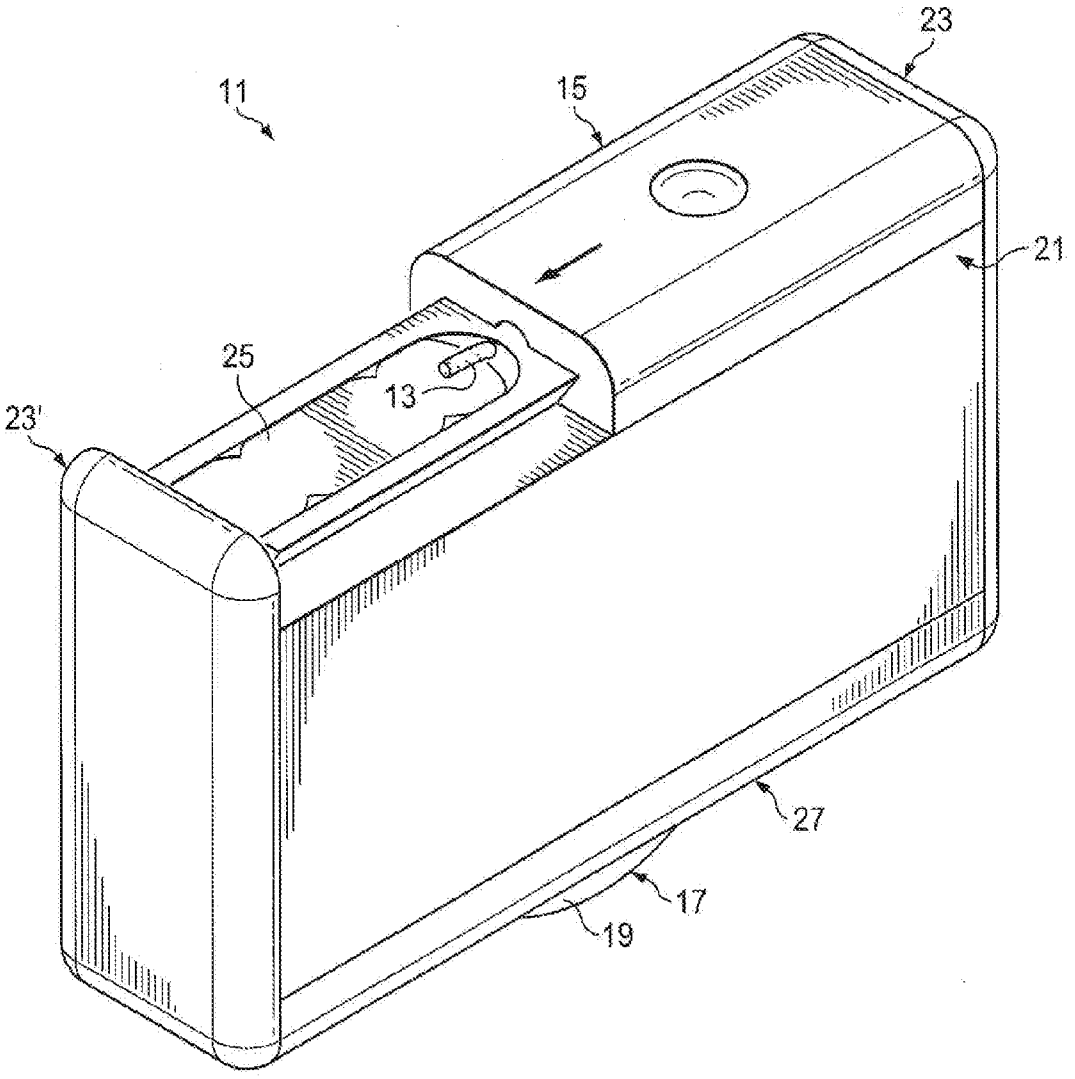
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A lightable wick dispenser has a body and a cavity. A spool of wick is rotatably located in the body cavity and retained therein by a spool retainer. A portion of the spool is accessible from the exterior of the body. The body has an extinguisher plate and extinguisher slide that moves over the extinguisher plate, and away from the extinguisher plate. Wick extends from the spool to the extinguisher plate. The extinguisher slide extinguishes the wick and covers the sooty wick end.



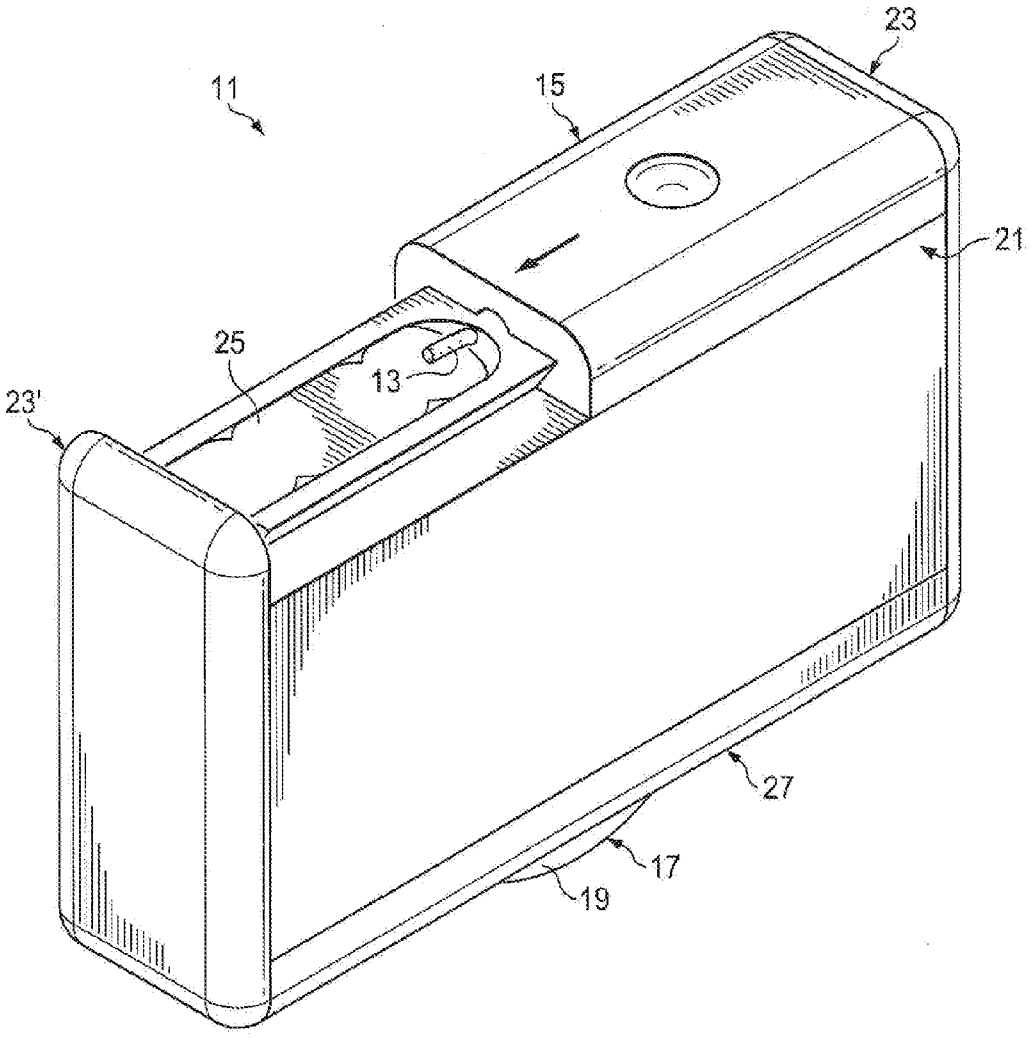


FIG. 1

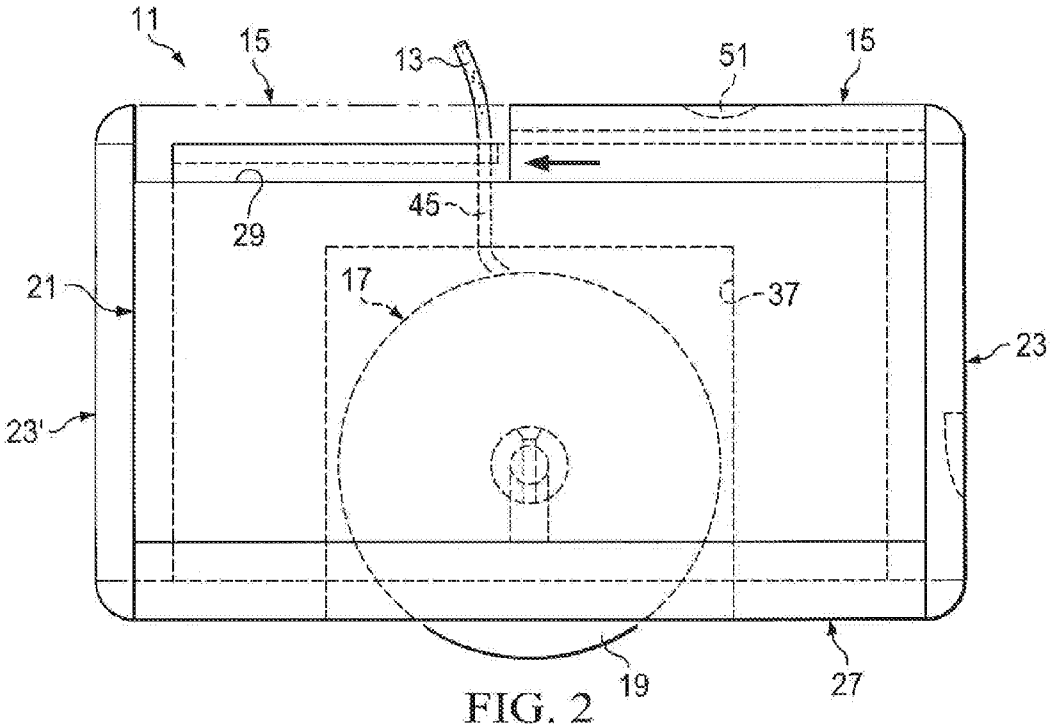


FIG. 2

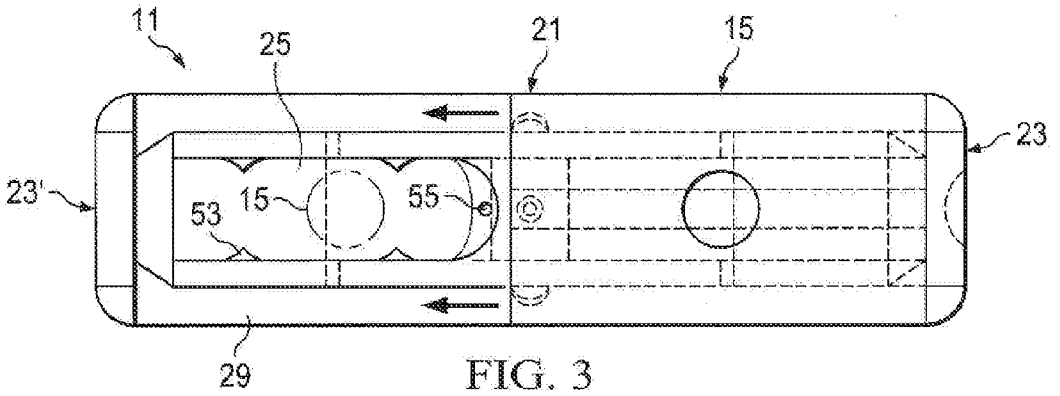


FIG. 3

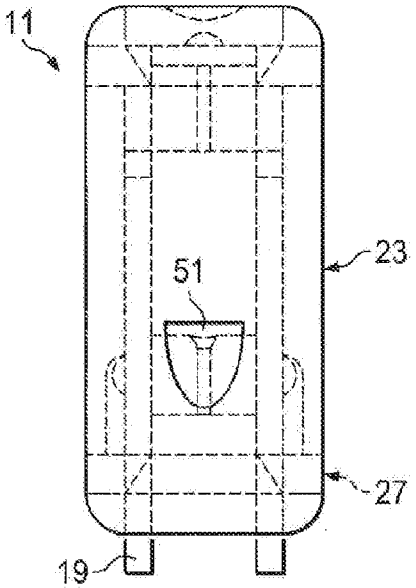


FIG. 4

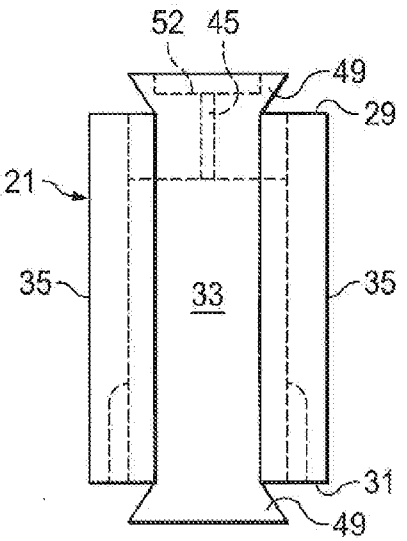


FIG. 7

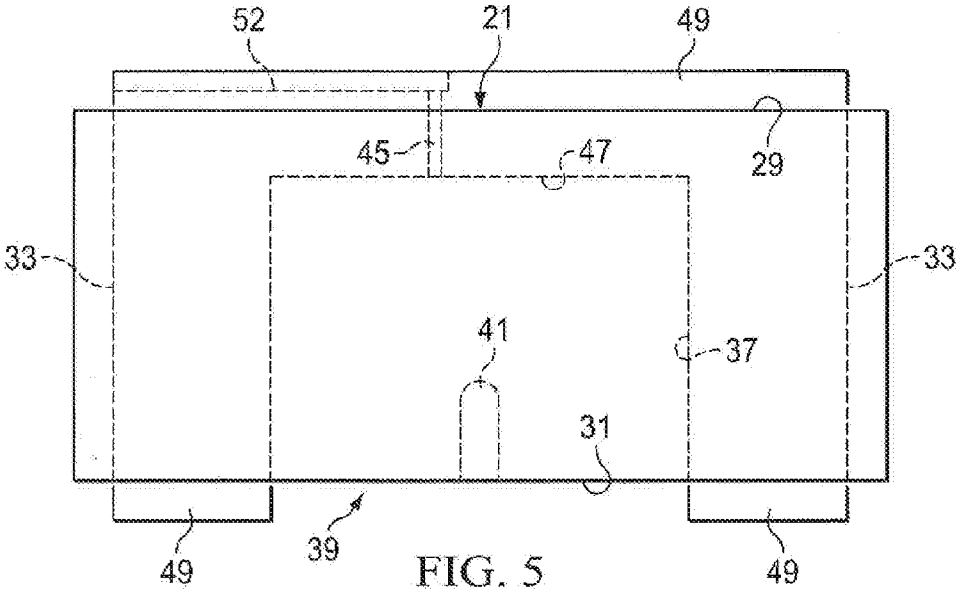


FIG. 5

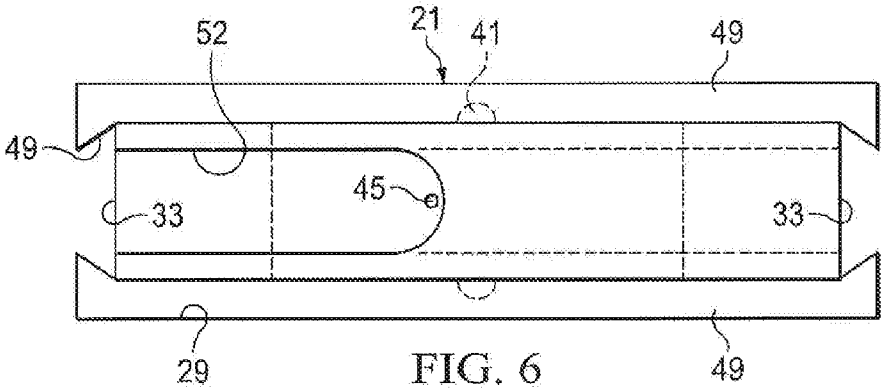


FIG. 6

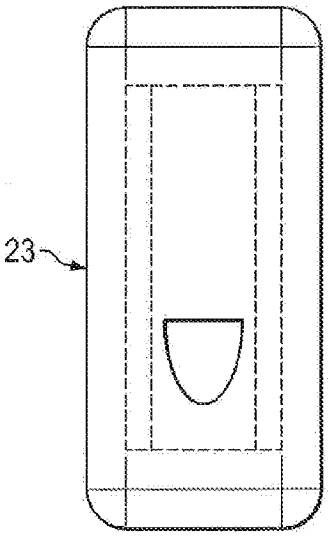


FIG. 8

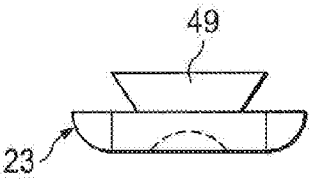


FIG. 9

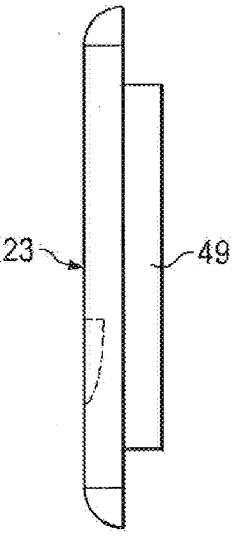


FIG. 10

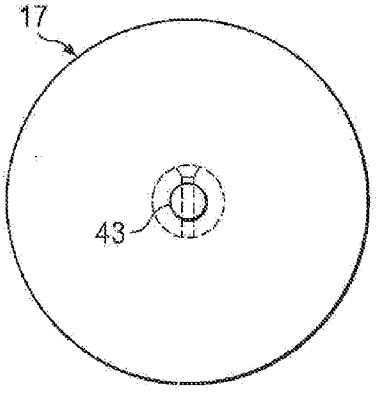


FIG. 11

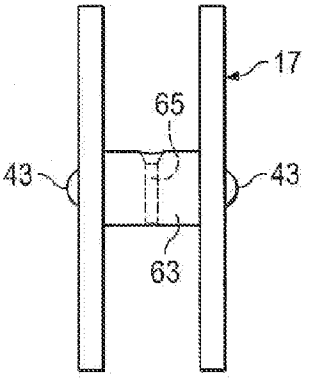


FIG. 12

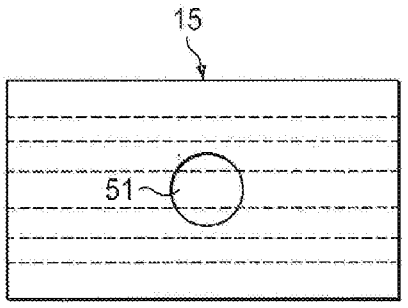


FIG. 13

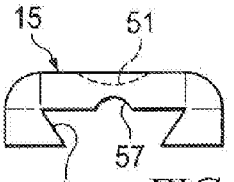


FIG. 14

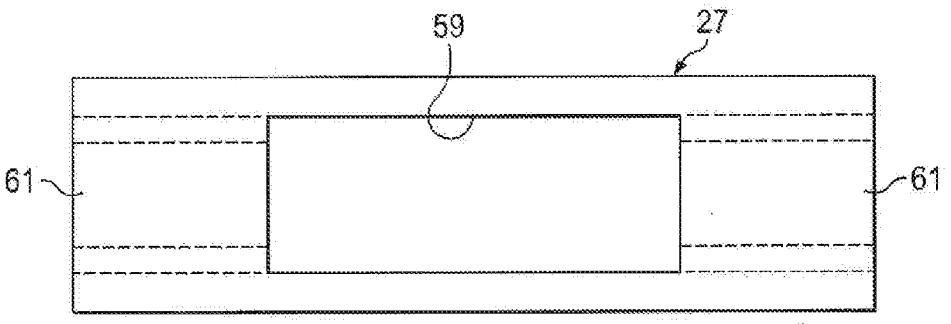


FIG. 15

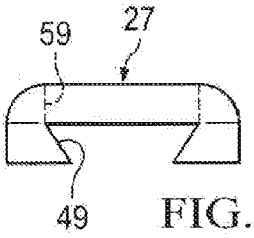


FIG. 16

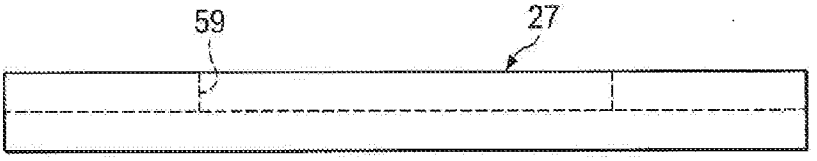


FIG. 17

DISPENSER FOR LIGHTABLE WICK

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 61/980,279, filed Apr. 16, 2014.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to devices that dispense wicks or strings that are capable of being lit.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Pipe and cigar smokers use a variety of tools to light their smoking articles. For example, matches and lighters are commonly used.

[0004] In addition to these prior art items, smokers also use wicks as an element to hold the flame for lighting purposes. The wick is typically a waxed natural fiber.

[0005] In the prior art, smokers have wound a length of wick about a lighter. However, this arrangement suffers from a variety of problems. For example, the wick tends to become unwound when the lighter is not in use. Also, once the end of the wick is extinguished, it has soot. When not in use, the lighter and wound wick is typically located in a pocket of the user. The sooted end tends to blacken the clothing and finger of the user.

[0006] Another prior art device is a lighter having a spool of wick located at the bottom end of the lighter. The wick is pulled up alongside of the lighter. With these prior art devices, the amount of wick that can be stored is a relatively short length and therefore must be replenished frequently. Still another prior art device is a spool of wick having a center cavity for receiving a lighter. This spool of wick can be difficult to use and to maintain the wick in a wound condition. The wick tends to unwind fairly easily.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] A lightable wick dispenser comprises a body having at least first and second sides, the body having a cavity with an opening in the first side. A spool for the wick is located in the cavity and rotatable therein, the body having a wick passage from the cavity to an opening on the second side, a portion in the spool exposed from the exterior of the body. An extinguisher slide is coupled to the body, the extinguisher slide moveable between a lit position and an extinguish position, wherein in the lit position, the opening for the wick passage is uncovered and in the extinguish position, the opening for the wick passage is covered by the extinguisher slide.

[0008] In one aspect, an extinguisher plate is located between the extinguisher slide and the body when the extinguisher plate is in the extinguish position, the extinguisher plate extending from the wick passage opening for a distance.

[0009] In another aspect, the extinguisher slider has a side that faces the extinguisher plate when the extinguisher slide is in the extinguish position, the extinguisher slide side comprises a groove for receiving a length of the wick when the extinguisher slide is in the extinguish position.

[0010] In still another aspect, the first and second sides are opposite one another.

[0011] In still another aspect, a spool retainer is removability coupled to the first side of the body, wherein the spool retainer can be removed from the body to allow the spool to be removed from or placed into the cavity.

[0012] In still another aspect, an extinguisher plate is located between the extinguisher slide and the body when the extinguisher plate is in the extinguish position, the extinguisher plate extending from the wick passage opening for a distance. The extinguisher slider has a side that faces the extinguisher plate when the extinguisher slide is in the extinguish position, the extinguisher slide side comprises a groove for receiving a length of the wick when the extinguisher slide is in the extinguish position. The first and second sides are opposite one another. A spool retainer is removability coupled to the first side of the body, wherein the spool retainer can be removed from the body to allow the spool to be removed from or placed into the cavity.

[0013] In still another aspect, the body further comprises third and fourth sides that are opposite each other, the body having a length that is between the third and fourth sides and a height that is between the first and second sides, the length being greater than the height, the body having a width of the first, second, third, and fourth sides, the width being less than the height.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the dispenser, in accordance with a preferred embodiment, shown with the extinguishing slide in the open position.

[0015] FIG. **2** is a side view of the dispenser of FIG. **1**.

[0016] FIG. **3** is a top view of the dispenser of FIG. **1**.

[0017] FIG. **4** is a right end view (using the orientation of FIG. **2**) of the dispenser of FIG. **1**.

[0018] FIG. **5** is a side view of the base block.

[0019] FIG. **6** is a top view of the base block of FIG. **5**.

[0020] FIG. **7** is an end view of the base block of FIG. **5**.

[0021] FIG. **8** is a side view of a side slide.

[0022] FIG. **9** is an end view of the side slide of FIG. **8**.

[0023] FIG. **10** is an edge view of the side slide of FIG. **8**.

[0024] FIG. **11** is a side view of the spool.

[0025] FIG. **12** is an edge view of the spool.

[0026] FIG. **13** is a top view of the extinguisher slide.

[0027] FIG. **14** is an end view of the extinguisher slide.

[0028] FIG. **15** is a top view of the spool retainer.

[0029] FIG. **16** is an end view of the spool retainer.

[0030] FIG. **17** is a side view of the spool retainer.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0031] FIG. **1** shows the dispenser **11** in accordance with a preferred embodiment. The dispenser holds a large quantity of wick **13** that can be pulled (or pushed) from the dispenser for use. Once the end of the wick **13** is lit, the dispenser is easily held by the user. The wick is extinguished by moving an extinguishing slide **15** over the wick. The extinguishing slide also covers the burned wick end so that the user's clothes or fingers are not soiled with soot.

[0032] The wick **13** is wound about a spool **17** contained in the dispenser **11**. As the wick is pulled out, the spool **17** revolves inside of the dispenser. A portion **19** of the spool is exposed so that the user can rewind the wick back onto the spool. Also, the spool can be removed and replaced for refilling.

[0033] The various components of the dispenser will now be discussed. The dispenser **11** has a base block **21**, side slides **23**, **23'**, an extinguisher slide **15**, an extinguisher plate **25**, a spool **17** and a spool retainer **27**.

[0034] The base block **21**, or body, is shown in FIGS. **1-7**. The block **21** is generally rectangular. Referring to the orien-

tation shown in FIGS. **1**, **2**, **6**, which is how the dispenser is typically oriented during use, the base block **21** has a top edge **29**, a bottom edge **31**, two side edges **33** and two sides **35** that extend between the top, bottom and side edges. The extinguisher slide **15** is slidingly coupled to the top edge **29**, the spool retainer **27** is slidingly coupled to the bottom edge **31** and the side slides **23**, **23'** are coupled to the side edges **33**. The base block **21** has an interior cavity **37** for holding the spool **17**. The cavity **37** has an opening **39** along the bottom edge to allow the spool to be replaced. The cavity **37** has slots **41** extending from the opening **39** inwardly; the slots receive pins **43** or an axle on the spool **17** (see FIGS. **11** and **12**). An opening or passage **45** extends from the cavity **37** through the top wall **47** to the top edge **29**. The passage **45** is for the wick.

[0035] The top, bottom and side edges **29**, **31**, **33** are provided with rails **49** to allow the corresponding pieces to slide thereon (see FIGS. **5-7**). Rails allow the corresponding pieces to move in a sliding configuration, but not to be pulled off. In the preferred embodiment, these rails **49** are dovetails. For example, the top and bottom edges are provided with male dovetails, while the side edges are provided with female dovetails. However, the edges can be provided with either male or female dovetails. The corresponding slides are provided with female or male dovetails. The dovetails **49** along the top and side edges **29**, **33** extend the length of the respective edges. On the bottom edge **31**, the dovetail is interrupted by the opening **39** into the cavity **37**.

[0036] A side slide **23** is shown in FIGS. **8-10**. The slide **23** is equipped with a corresponding rail **49** or dovetail so as to fit onto one of the side edges **33** of the base block **21**. In the preferred embodiment, only one side slide **23** need slide on the base block. The other side slide **23'**, which is substantially similar to the one side **23**, can be permanently coupled the base block **21**, such as by an adhesive. The side slide **23**, and the extinguishing slide **15**, can be provided with a depression **51** for a finger hold, to allow for better grip on the respective slide.

[0037] The extinguisher plate **25** (See FIGS. **1** and **3**) is a plate that is located along a portion of the length of the top edge **29**. The plate is made of metal or some other non-flammable material (at the temperature of a burning wick). The plate can be coupled to the base block **21** by tabs **53** or teeth which are formed in the edges of the plate and then bent down to engage the base block material as the plate is pressed in place. Alternatively, the plate **25** can be nailed in place. As shown in FIGS. **5-7**, the base block **21** has a recess **52** for receiving the extinguisher plate **25**. The plate has a hole **55** that is aligned with the passage **45**. This end of the plate, with the hole, is bent downward into the base block, so as to minimize interference with the extinguisher slide **15**.

[0038] The extinguisher slide **15** is shown in FIGS. **13** and **14**. The extinguisher slide **15** has corresponding dovetails **49** to slide on the top end **29** dovetails **49** of the base block **21**. The extinguisher slide **15** is about one-half the length of the top edge **29**. Thus, the extinguisher slide can move or slide between a lit position (shown in FIG. **1** and in solid lines in FIGS. **2** and **3**) and an extinguished position (shown in dashed lines in FIG. **2**). When the extinguisher slide **15** is in the lit position, the wick can be lit and remain so. When the extinguisher slide **15** is in the extinguished position, the slide covers the lit end of the wick to extinguish the wick. The slide **15** may be provided with an interior longitudinal channel **57** to accommodate the wick as the slide is moved into the extinguishing position.

[0039] The spool retainer **27** is shown FIGS. **15-17**. The spool retainer **27** is the same length as the bottom edge **31** of the base block. The spool retainer has a central opening **59** that corresponds to the cavity **37** in the base block. The spool retainer has dovetails in its end portions **61**, about the central opening **59**.

[0040] The dispenser can be made with a variety of materials such as wood, plastic, etc.

[0041] As shown in FIGS. **11** and **12**, the hub **63** of the spool **17** has a hole **65** located therethrough, with a countersink at least one end. The wick is inserted through the hole and a knot tied and then seated into the countersink, before winding the wick about the hub and the spool.

[0042] To assemble the dispenser **11**, the spool **17**, containing a length of wick **13**, is obtained. The wick may be made of a variety of materials. One such material is hemp with a wax (such as beeswax) coating. The spool **17** is inserted into the cavity **37**, with the wick **13** extending through the passage **45** and the hole **55** in the extinguisher plate **25**. The pins **43** of the spools are located in the slots **41** of the cavity. The spool **17** can be inserted in the cavity **37** a sufficient distance so that the spool retainer **27** can be copied to the base block **21**. The spool retainer **27** is coupled to the base block **21** by engaging the respective dovetails **49** and sliding the spool retainer **27** onto the base block. One of the side slides **23'** is already in place; the other is not yet on the base block. The spool retainer **27** contacts the one side slide **23'** as a stop. The spool retainer **27** closes the slots **41** and prevents the egress of the spool **17** from the cavity. The extinguishing slide **15** is then slid on to the top edge and the remaining side slide **23** is then slid on to the remaining side edge. The spool retainer **27** is captured and movement prevented by the two side slides **23**, **23'**. Likewise, the movable side slide **23** is prevented from movement by the spool retainer **27** and the extinguishing slide **15** (See FIG. **2**). The extinguishing slide is free to move between the lit position and the extinguishing position.

[0043] A portion **19** of the spool **17** protrudes out beyond the spool retainer **27** (see FIGS. **2** and **3**). This exposed portion allows a user to rotate the spool to rewind the wick thereon.

[0044] The dispenser is now ready for use. To use, with the extinguishing slide **15** in the lit position, a length of width **13** is pulled out; the spool **17** turns inside of the cavity **37** as the wick is pulled out. The end of the wick is lit with a match, lighter, etc., and the flame used. To extinguish the wick, the extinguishing slide **15** is slid into the extinguished position. The lit end of the wick is located between the extinguishing plate **25** and the extinguishing slide **15**. Deprived of air, the flame goes out on the wick. The end of the wick may be left covered by the extinguishing slide **15**. If the wick is too long, before or after being extinguished, the user rotates the spool by way of the exposed portion **19** to rewind a portion of the wick. To advance the wick so that a longer length is available for lighting, the user rotates the spool. Thus, the user need not touch the sooted end of the wick. The size of the passage **45** is such that the wick can be easily pushed or pulled therethrough.

[0045] The spool **17** holds several feet (for example five to ten feet) of wick. When the last of the wick is used, the spool **17** is easily replaced. The extinguishing slide **15** is slid to the extinguishing position and the side slide **23** is slide off of the base block. This allows the removal of the spool retainer **27**, wherein the spool can be removed from the cavity. A fresh spool is then replaced in the cavity, with the wick being

threaded through the passage **45** and hole **55** of the extinguishing plate. The dispenser is then reassembled.

[0046] The dispenser has a length located between slides **23** and **23'**, a height located between slides **15** and **27** and a width, which is the width of the slides **23**, **23'**, **15**, **27**. The length of the dispenser is greater than the height. The width of the dispenser is less than the height. Thus, the dispenser forms a generally rectangular shape. The wick **13** is dispensed in the direction of the length. The spool **17** rotates about an axis that is parallel to the dispenser width. The extinguisher slide **15** moves along the length of the dispenser. All of these orientations make the dispenser easy for a user to grasp and use. The user grasps the dispenser in one hand, contacting the dispenser across its width. The dispenser is generally oriented so that the wick is up and the spool is down. With one hand, the user can slide the extinguisher slide **15** back to expose the wick. Fingers on that same hand can be used to rotate the spool to advance the wick. When the wick is ready to be extinguished, the user can use the thumb to advance the extinguisher slide **15**.

[0047] The foregoing disclosure and showings made in the drawings are merely illustrative of the principles of this invention and are not to be interpreted in a limiting sense.

1. A lightable wick dispenser, comprising:

a) A body having at least first and second sides, the body having a cavity with an opening in the first side;

b) A spool for the wick located in the cavity and rotatable therein, the body having a wick passage from the cavity to an opening on the second side, a portion in the spool exposed from the exterior of the body;

c) An extinguisher slide coupled to the body, the extinguisher slide moveable between a lit position and an extinguish position, wherein in the lit position, the opening for the wick passage is uncovered and in the extinguish position, the opening for the wick passage is covered by the extinguisher slide.

2. The lightable wick dispenser of claim **1**, further comprising an extinguisher plate located between the extinguisher slide and the body when the extinguisher plate is in the extinguish position, the extinguisher plate extending from the wick passage opening for a distance.

3. The lightable wick dispenser of claim **2**, wherein the extinguisher slider has a side that faces the extinguisher plate when the extinguisher slide is in the extinguish position, the extinguisher slide side comprises a groove for receiving a length of the wick when the extinguisher slide is in the extinguish position.

4. The lightable wick dispenser of claim **1**, wherein the first and second sides are opposite one another.

5. The lightable wick dispenser of claim **4**, further comprising a spool retainer removability coupled to the first side of the body, wherein the spool retainer can be removed from the body to allow the spool to be removed from or placed into the cavity.

6. The lightable wick dispenser of claim **1**, further comprising:

a) An extinguisher plate located between the extinguisher slide and the body when the extinguisher plate is in the extinguish position, the extinguisher plate extending from the wick passage opening for a distance;

b) The extinguisher slider has a side that faces the extinguisher plate when the extinguisher slide is in the extinguish position, the extinguisher slide side comprises a groove for receiving a length of the wick when the extinguisher slide is in the extinguish position;

c) The first and second sides are opposite one another;

d) A spool retainer removability coupled to the first side of the body, wherein the spool retainer can be removed from the body to allow the spool to be removed from or placed into the cavity.

7. The lightable wick dispenser of claim **6**, wherein the body further comprises third and fourth sides that are opposite each other, the body having a length that is between the third and fourth sides and a height that is between the first and second sides, the length being greater than the height, the body having a width of the first, second, third, and fourth sides, the width being less than the height.

* * * * *