United States Patent [19]

Graham

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[54] **STRIP MATERIAL CONTAINER AND DISPENSER**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **242/55.53,** 206/397, 206/408, 206/414

[51] **Int. Cl.**..... **B65d 65/672,** B65h 19/00

[58] **Field of Search**..... 206/52 R, 52 A, 52 S, 52 F, 206/52 W, 58, 389, 397, 403, 408, 414; 223/106; 242/55.2, 55.53, 55.54

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A strip material container and dispenser, particularly adapted for use in containing and dispensing a roll of paper or the like. The container has a floor at the lower end thereof and an open upper end, which is normally closed with a lid or cover or the like. The container has an elongate longitudinally extending slit in the side wall thereof, through which a strip of paper extends from the container. The container and the cover or lid thereof are preferably of transparent material. Extending upwardly from the floor of the container at the central portion thereof is a stem, and encompassing the stem is a bearing member. Carried by the cover and extending downwardly therefrom is a stem which is coaxial with the stem which extends upwardly from the floor. Ordinarily, the roll of paper within the container is wound upon a tube or spool or the like which encompasses the stems and which rests upon the bearing member which encompasses the stem which extends upwardly from the floor.

4 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures

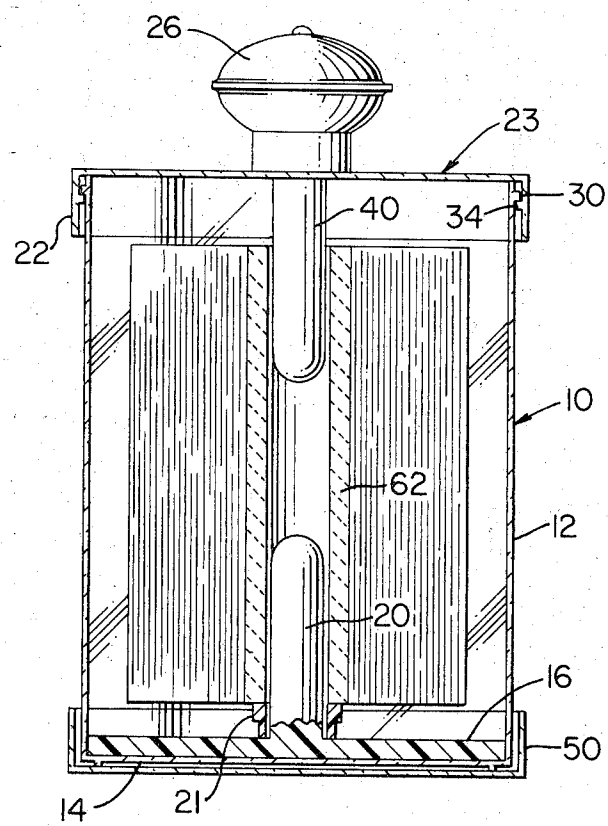


FIG. 1

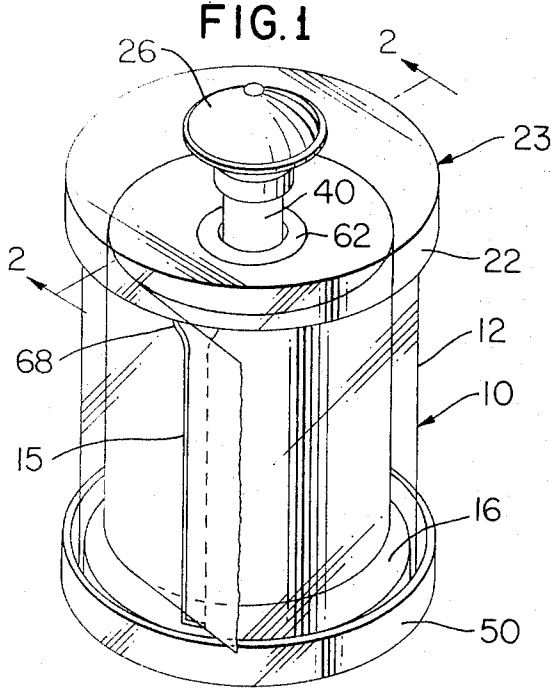


FIG. 2

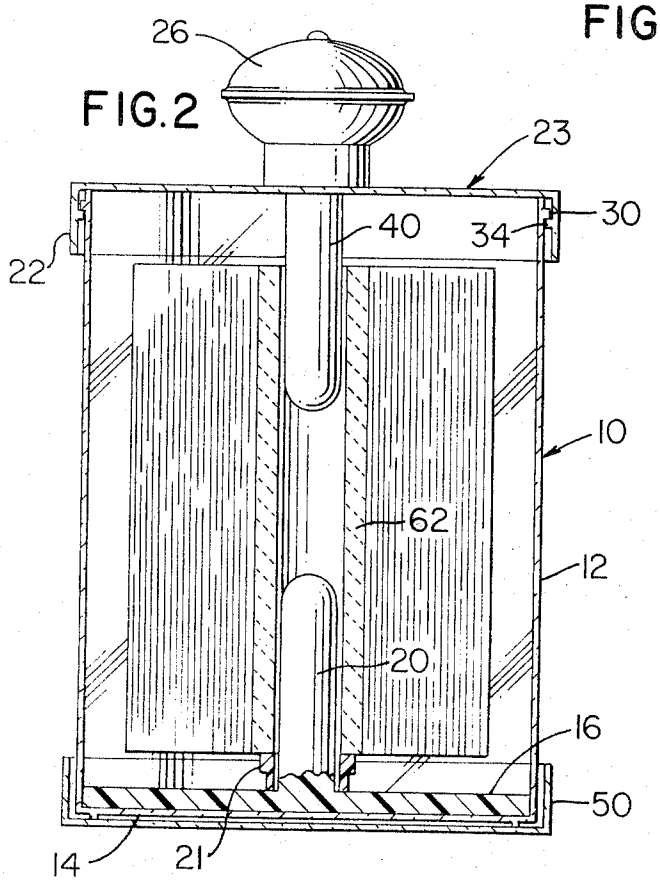
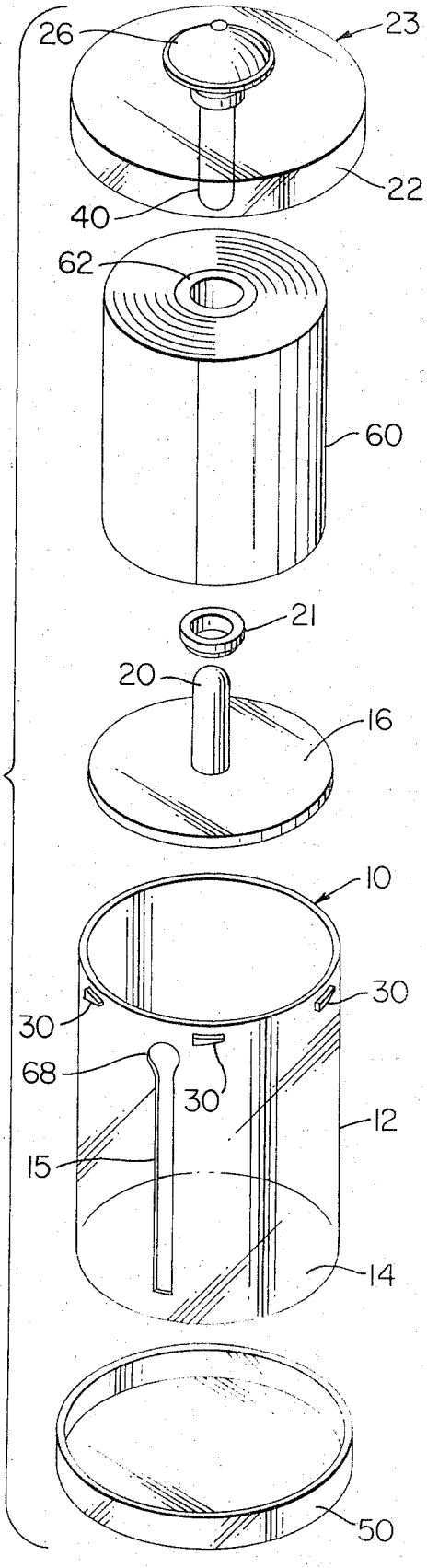


FIG. 3



STRIP MATERIAL CONTAINER AND DISPENSER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In numerous situations it is desirable to have a roll of paper sitting on a table or shelf or the like, for example, in a bathroom, or bedroom, or kitchen of a home, or in a workshop of a home or industry. The roll of paper consists of an elongate strip which is wound into a roll and when desired a length of the strip is unwound from the strip and then torn from the roll for use.

It is an object of this invention to provide an attractive container for a roll of paper as the roll is positioned upon a shelf or table or the like.

Another object of this invention is to provide such a container which is also a dispenser from which a length portion of the strip extends and from which a portion of the strip may be severed.

Another object of this invention is to provide such a container which includes means for assisting in the severing of a desired portion of the strip from the remainder of the roll thereof.

It is another object of this invention to provide such a container which is provided with means to maintain the roll in a fixed central location within the container.

It is another object of this invention to provide such a container which has bearing means for support of a roll of strip material so that minimum frictional forces are involved in rotation of the roll when the roll is rotated for removal of a portion thereof.

Other objects and advantages of this invention reside in the construction of parts, the combination thereof, the method of manufacture, and the mode of operation, as will become more apparent from the following description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a container and dispenser of this invention, showing a roll of strip material therein, with a portion of the strip material extending therefrom.

FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken substantially on line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of a container and dispenser of this invention with a roll of strip material therein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A container and dispenser of this invention comprises a shell **10**, which has tubular side walls **12** and an integral floor **14**. The side walls **12** have a vertical slot **15** therein. Resting upon the floor **14** and in firm engagement with the side walls **12** is a base **16**. Extending upwardly from the base **16**, integral therewith, at the central portion thereof is a stem **20**. Encompassing the stem **20** is a bearing member **21** which may be loose with respect to the stem **20** and the base **16**, or the bearing member **21** may be attached to the stem **20** and/or to the base **16**. Preferably the bearing **21** is made of a material having a very low coefficient of friction, such as nylon or teflon or the like.

As shown in FIG. **3**, the shell **10** is open at the top thereof, but is normally closed with a cover or lid **23** having a flange **22**. The cover **23** is shown as being provided with a knob or handle **26**, attached thereto at the upper part thereof.

The upper portion of the exterior surface of the side walls **12** of the shell **10** has spaced-apart tapered or sloping protuberances **30** and the inner surface of the flange **22** of the cover **23** has complementary tapered or sloping protuberances **34**. The tapered or sloping protuberances **34** and the tapered or sloping protuberances **30** are so positioned as to intermesh one with the other, so that when the cover **23** is resting upon the shell **10** at the upper end thereof, slight rotative movement of the cover **23** results in intermeshing of the protuberances **30** and **34** for locking the cover **23** in position on the shell **10**, as illustrated in FIG. **2**.

The cover **23** has a stem **40** attached thereto on the lower surface thereof and extending downwardly therefrom at the central portion thereof. The stem **40** is thus substantially coaxial with the stem **20** which extends upwardly from the base **16**.

If desired, the lower portion of the shell **10** may be positioned within a receptacle **50**, which may rest freely upon a table or shelf or the like or which may be attached thereto, if desired.

An elongate strip of paper or the like in the form of a roll **60** is shown as having a tubular core **62** upon which the paper strip is wound. The core **62** rests upon the bearing **21** as the core **62** encompasses the stem **20**. A portion of the strip of paper extends from the roll **60** outwardly from the shell **10** through the slot **15**. If desired, the slot **15** may have an enlarged portion **68** at the upper part thereof, to facilitate threading of the strip through the slot **15**. The core **62** also encompasses the stem **40** which extends downwardly from the cover **23**. Thus, as the strip is pulled outwardly through the slot **15**, the roll **60** is maintained by the stems **20** and **40** in a central location within the shell **10**. Also, as the strip is pulled outwardly from the shell **10** through the slot **15**, the roll **60** rotatively moves as the core **62** rests upon the bearing **21**. If the bearing **21** is loose with respect to the stem **20** and the base **16**, the bearing **21** may freely rotatively move as the roll **60** and the core **62** rotatively move. If the bearing **21** is attached to the stem **20** and/or to the base **16**, the bore **62** easily rotates upon the bearing **21**. Thus, the roll **60** readily rotates as continuous successive portions of the strip are drawn outwardly from the shell **10** through the slot **15**.

When the desired length portion of the strip extends outwardly from the shell **10**, the length portion is severed from the remainder of the roll by tearing the strip along an edge of the slot **15**.

Although the preferred embodiment of the device has been described, it will be understood that within the purview of this invention various changes may be made in the form, details, proportion and arrangement of parts, the combination thereof, and mode of operation, which generally stated consist in a device capable of carrying out the objects set forth, as disclosed and defined in the appended claims.

The invention having thus been described, the following is claimed:

1. A device for containing a roll of paper-like strip material and from which the strip material is dispensed, comprising:

an upright shell including vertical annular side walls and a floor at the bottom thereof, the side walls being provided with a portion having a vertically extending slot therein,

a circular base within the shell and resting horizontally upon the floor, but unattached thereto and engaging the internal surface of the side walls to position the base within the shell,

a stem integral with the base at the central part thereof and extending vertically upwardly therefrom,

a removable circular cover member, the cover member having a horizontal portion having a lower surface resting upon the upper end of the shell and having a downwardly extending vertical annular flange encompassing the upper part of the shell,

a downwardly extending stem attached to the lower surface of the horizontal portion of the cover member at the central part thereof and being coaxial with the stem which is attached to the base,

a knob attached to the upper surface of the horizontal portion of the cover member for movement of the cover member from the shell for placing a roll of paper-like strip material into the shell and for repositioning the cover member upon the shell, the roll of strip material encompassing the stem which is attached to the base and the stem which is attached to the cover member, a portion of the roll of strip material extending from the shell through the vertically extending slot in said portion of the side walls of the shell.

2. The device of claim **1** in which the shell and the cover member are transparent.

3. The device of claim **1** which includes a bearing member encompassing the stem which extends upwardly from the base, the bearing member being adapted to support a roll of strip material and to permit rotation thereof with respect to the stems.

4. The device of claim **3** in which the bearing member loosely encompasses the stem which extends upwardly from the base and is rotatable with respect thereto.

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