Aug. 21, 1945. N. P. COURTNEY 2,382,977

CIGARETTE EJECTING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 3, 1942 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

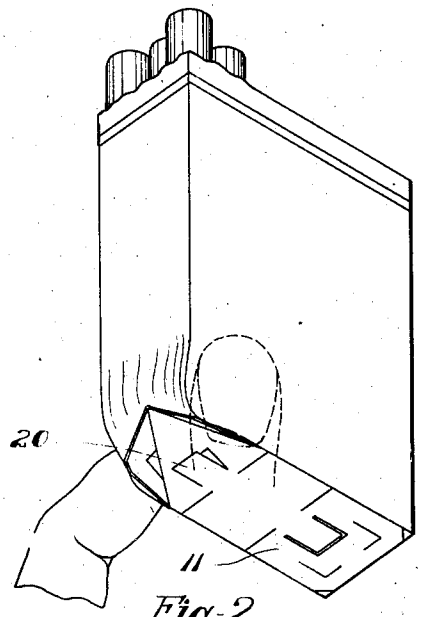


Fig-2

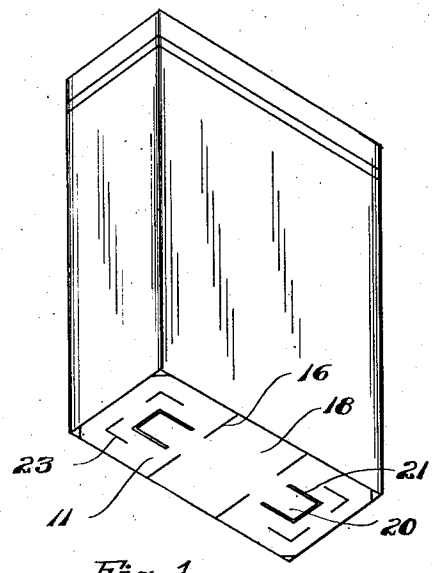


Fig-1

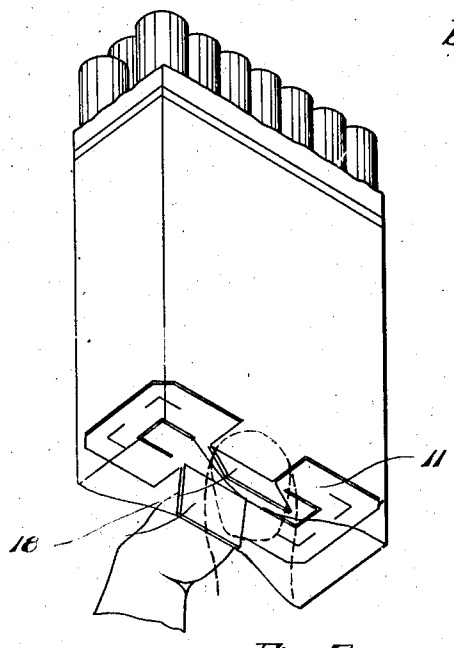


Fig-3

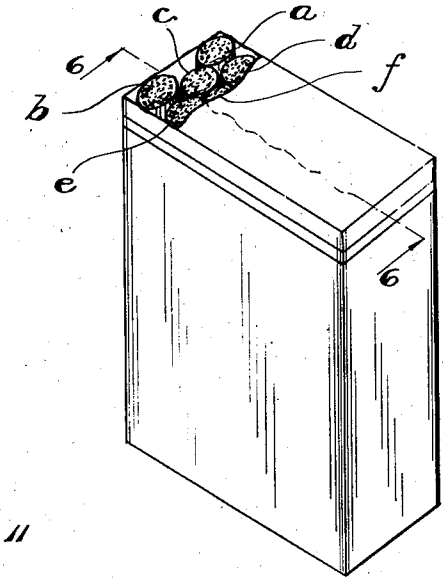


Fig-4

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CIGARETTE EJECTING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 3, 1942 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

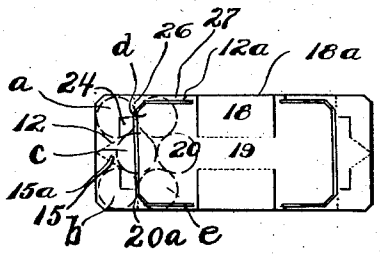


Fig-7

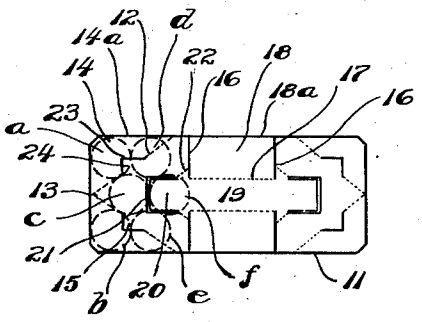


Fig-5

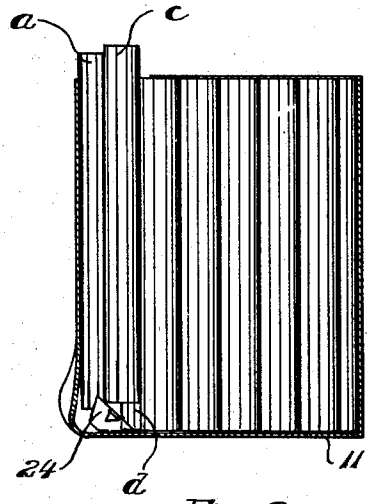


Fig-8

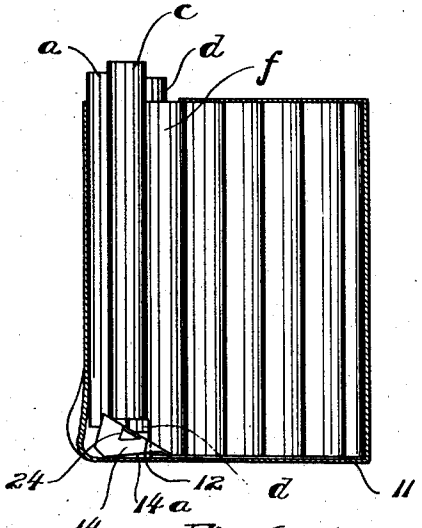


Fig 6

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CIGARETTE EJECTING DEVICE

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Application September 3, 1942, Serial No. 457,142

19 Claims. (Cl. 206—41.2)

This invention relates to an improved cigarette ejecting device for cigarette packages and the like and is more particularly intended for assisting one to remove the first few cigarettes from a package or, in an alternative use, to render substantially all cigarettes in a package easily removable to permit their transfer to a cigarette case or other container.

It is common practice for cigarette users, in first opening a package of cigarettes, to tear away a portion of the top of the package, toward one end thereof, whereby to provide an opening permitting the removal of the first one or several cigarettes. These packages are ordinarily formed and closed by machinery and the cigarettes are usually packed so tightly within the package that even with the mentioned end portion of the top torn away it is difficult to start the package. Some users tap the package to cause one or more cigarettes to rise through the mentioned opening. This expedient often is ineffective and in any event has a tendency to shake some of the tobacco out of the cigarette. Another expedient often employed is to tear down the side of the package from the mentioned top opening and then attempt to grip one side of the cigarette between one finger and the fingernail of an adjacent finger. This usually results in damaging the cigarette and, in any event is troublesome and difficult to accomplish.

An important object of the present invention is to provide practical means, associated with and preferably incorporated into a cigarette package at the time it is formed and filled, whereby the first one or several cigarettes may be moved upwardly to protrude out of the mentioned small opening torn into the top of the package to an extent sufficient to enable the user to easily grasp one or several cigarettes and remove them without damage thereto. The removal of subsequent cigarettes, of course, is no problem inasmuch as the removal of the first one or two leaves the remainder enclosed loosely within the package and hence they are easily removed.

Another object of the invention is the provision of means which will enable a user, if he so desires, to tear away the entire top covering of the package and to readily and easily move substantially the entire contents of the package upwardly so that they protrude sufficiently to enable him to conveniently remove them and transfer them to a cigarette case or other container.

The foregoing and other objects are accomplished according to the present invention by the use of a flat insert of cardboard or other similar relatively rigid material placed in the bottom of the pack underneath the lower ends of the cigarettes, the said insert being so cut at certain portions and so scored at other portions that it may be deformed by pressure at one or more points along the bottom of the package to cause portions of said insert to be pushed upwardly from the bottom of the package and to impart an upward movement to the cigarettes, thus causing them to protrude as desired through an opening in the top of the package.

In order to explain the present invention with more particularity, two embodiments of the invention are shown in the accompanying drawings for illustrative purposes, and without limiting the invention thereto.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cigarette package looking upwardly at the bottom thereof, the bottom of the package being indicated as transparent in order to show the underside of one form of the mentioned insert (hereinafter referred to as the "first embodiment").

Fig. 2 is a similar view of a like package showing the effect of pressing the sides of the package together at one end of the bottom thereof and showing cigarettes at that end of the package moved upwardly by such pressure through an opening torn in the corresponding end of the top of the package.

Fig. 3 is another somewhat similar view of the package in which the entire top of the package has been torn away and showing the effect of pressing the sides of the package together at the center of the bottom thereof.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a cigarette package looking downwardly upon the top thereof and showing a limited portion of the top torn away to form a small top opening according to the preference of many cigarette users.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the top of the insert according to the first embodiment of the invention, the approximate relationship of certain cigarettes thereto being indicated in broken lines.

Fig. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view of a package of cigarettes taken substantially on the line 6—6 of Fig. 4, the insert, however, being shown entirely in elevation. In this view the package and its contents and the insert are shown in approximately the positions which the mentioned elements assume when pressure is applied to the package in the manner indicated in Fig. 2.

Fig. 7 is a plan view, somewhat similar to Fig. 5, of the top of a modified form of insert (hereinafter referred to as the "second embodiment").

Fig. 8 is a sectional view substantially similar to Fig. 6 showing the insert of Fig. 7 within a package.

It is understood, of course, that the wrappings of cigarette packages may be of different materials according to the preferences of the manufacturers and their desire to deliver a satisfactory package to the user. At the present time it is common practice to employ one or several layers of paper and an outer wrapping of suitable transparent material. Also different types of packaging machines are employed by the use of which the wrapping material is folded in different ways. However, the wrapping of most cigarette packages is quite pliant and this pliancy makes it possible to compress the package in the manner already explained.

The present invention comprises an insert **11**, substantially rectangular in shape, snugly disposed within the package between the lower ends of the cigarettes and the layers of wrapping material constituting the bottom of the package. The said insert is preferably formed of a thin piece of relatively rigid material. Cardboard having suitable characteristics is thought to be best for the purpose although, obviously, various other materials may be used.

The inserts, in the illustrated embodiments, preferably are cut completely through the thickness thereof as indicated in full lines in Figs. 5 and 7 and scored on the top faces thereof as indicated in dotted lines in said figures. It will be understood that by providing the mentioned scoring on the top face of the insert, the deformation of the insert resulting from pressure at the outer edges thereof will be such as to cause inner portions thereof to rise within the package while certain outer edges thereof press downwardly upon the inside of the bottom of the package. All the scoring described in this specification is preferably done on the top face of the insert, although scoring which may possibly be done on the bottom face thereof without defeating the objects of this invention, is not to be considered as avoiding the present inventive concept. The inserts, further, preferably are conventional in design, cutting and scoring so that the desired results are obtained as a result of compression at the center of the bottom of the package or at either end thereof. In the embodiments described and illustrated herein, the mentioned conventionality is present laterally of the insert as well as longitudinally thereof.

Referring now to Figs. 5 and 6 it should be observed that the insert illustrated therein is scored along opposite diagonal lines **12** which converge to form an apex **13** at the center of each end of the insert. The scored diagonal lines **12** provide substantially triangular corner sections **14** and inner triangular sections **15**. The bases of the triangles of sections **15** are defined, for the greater part, by opposed cuts **16** extending from opposite side edges of the insert to points therein near the centers of said bases. The mentioned cuts **16**, together with opposed longitudinal scores **17**, define rectangular tabs **18** at the centers of opposite sides of the insert, and the arrangement of the scores **17** is such as to provide a central neck portion **19** connecting the mentioned inner triangular sections **15** located toward opposite ends of the device.

Within each of the inner triangular sections **15** an extension **20** of the central neck portion **19** is formed by substantially U-shaped cuts **21**. These cuts, preferably, are formed not merely by effecting a cut through the insert material, but by actually cutting away a narrow U-shaped portion of said material; this to permit a triangular section **15** to freely move upwardly out of the general plane of the insert (its principal plane when in flat condition) when the corresponding lower end portion of the package is compressed, while permitting the extension **20** to remain substantially in the said general plane.

Scores **22** are preferably provided extending from the free ends of the U-shaped cuts **21** to the cuts **16**. It may be observed that there are preferably no cuts or scores whatever as lines of demarcation between the central neck portion **19** and the extensions **20**, and hence those parts, in the operation of the device, remain substantially undeformed although some deformation might possibly occur at said lines of demarcation if the insert is made of material which possesses some pliancy, as distinguished from the substantially rigid material hereinbefore recommended. As deformation between the central neck portion **19** and the extensions **20** is somewhat undesirable, the scores **22** are adapted to weaken or break down the material substantially along the lines which they follow whereby to encourage a free upward pivotal movement of the triangular sections **15** about said scores, when the device is operated, thus avoiding the transmission of forces, to the said neck portion and extensions, which might tend to cause such undesired deformation.

The diagonal scores **12** are each preferably interrupted at intermediate points thereof by angular cuts **23** forming triangular extensions **24** on the sides of the inner triangular sections **15**. Under this arrangement, when the device is operated, the triangular sections **24** remain substantially as a part of and in the same plane as the related triangular section **15**, and the said sections **24**, as hereinafter explained, assist in ejecting the cigarettes in the manner desired.

In the following detailed explanation of the operation of the device the several cigarettes at one end of a full freshly opened package are designated according to the reference characters *a, b, c, d, e, f,* applied to said cigarettes in Fig. 4, and to the approximate positions of said cigarettes as indicated in broken lines in Figs. 5 and 7.

Upon desiring to open a fresh package of cigarettes, it is common practice for the user to tear away the packaging material on the top of the package toward one end thereof, as shown in Fig. 4. The tearing away of such material is facilitated by the fact that said material is ordinarily folded over in the formation of the package and the said folds permit the tearing of said material to be easily started and completed. When the package is torn open in this fashion, usually about five cigarettes *a, b, c, d, e,* are completely or substantially uncovered so that all or several of them are free to rise and protrude from the package upon the application of suitable means for that purpose.

According to the present invention the said purpose is accomplished through the compressing of the package in the manner already described. The manner in which the mentioned compressing action accomplishes the elevation of several cigarettes in the package may best be understood by reference to Figs. 5 and 6. When the lower end of the package is pressed together in the manner just mentioned, the corresponding corner sections **14** are forced to pivot downwardly about the scores **12** and thus the outer edges **14***a* of said sections move inwardly with the depressed sides of

the material constituting the package. As the said package material prevents any downward movement of the edges 14a during the mentioned deformation of the package, it follows that, when the sections 14 move downwardly and inwardly, the inner triangular sections 15 necessarily swing upwardly in a partial circular or pivotal movement about a point corresponding substantially to the scores 22. As the scores 22 are relatively short, and the material at said scores constitutes the only connection between the triangular section 15 and the remainder of the insert, it will be understood that the said scored portions function substantially as hinges, permitting the mentioned movement of the section 15, while the neck portion 19, the extensions 20 and all portions of the device toward the other end of the insert remain substantially in their original plane.

It may be seen, by reference to Fig. 5, that portions of cigarettes *a* and *b* extend portions of the triangular sections 24, cigarette *c* is disposed over triangular section 15 slightly removed from the apex thereof, and cigarettes *d* and *e* are disposed within opposite base angles of said section 15. Thus, the deformation of the insert resulting from compressing the end of the package causes the several mentioned cigarettes to rise and protrude from the package substantially to the same extent that the mentioned portions of the insert underlying said cigarettes, are caused to rise as a result of such deformation. Fig. 6 serves to illustrate further the manner in which the said cigarettes are elevated in the package. From the foregoing, it will be apparent that, when the first embodiment of the invention is employed in a package and only an end portion of the top of the package is torn away as shown in Fig. 4, compression of the sides at the corresponding end of the bottom thereof, causes five cigarettes to partly protrude from the top of the package so that one or more may easily be removed.

If, on occasions, a user desires to remove the contents of an entire pack of cigarettes to put them into a cigarette case or other container, the entire top of the package is first torn away and then the sides of the package are pressed together between the thumb and another finger at a central point at the bottom of the package in the manner illustrated in Fig. 3. The effect of this pressure is to cause the rectangular tabs 18 to pursue a pivotal movement downwardly and inwardly, and as the outer edges 18a of said tabs are restricted against downward movement relatively to the package it follows that all portions of the insert except said tabs move upwardly and carry substantially all of the cigarettes upwardly to cause their upper ends to protrude above the top of the package, whereupon they can easily be removed and transferred to another container.

Although it might seem that the several cigarettes directly above the tabs 18 would not rise as a result of the mentioned operation of the device, elevation of such cigarettes would occur in most instances due to the frictional engagement thereof with other adjacent cigarettes. This frictional elevation of the cigarettes disposed above the tabs 18 would, of course, be aided by reason of the fact that the lower central portion of the side wall of the package is pressed inwardly somewhat in the mentioned operation.

The second embodiment of the invention, illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8, differs from the first embodiment chiefly in that the extensions 20 are enlarged to almost the entire width of the device as best seen in Fig. 7. The purpose of this enlargement of the said extensions is to render substantially the entire area of the insert underneath cigarettes *d*, *e* and *f* substantially rigid with the neck portion 19 to minimize the tendency of the last three mentioned cigarettes to be elevated when the device is operated. Of course, as a practical matter, the said tabs can not very well be made to include the entire area underneath the mentioned three cigarettes, as to do so would make it difficult, if not impossible, to maintain a connection between the end portions of the device and the central portions of the device to constitute it a unitary structure. However, the embodiment now being described includes scores 26 substantially in line with the outer edges 20a of said extensions, which, with the end portions 12a of the diagonal scores 12, render substantially pliant and capable of a slight twisting action, the narrow connecting portions 27 which connect the outer ends of the device to the inner portion thereof as a unitary structure. This pliancy and the capacity to twist slightly, permits the area 15a of the triangular section 15 to swing upwardly about a line passing substantially between cigarettes *a* and *d* on the one side of the package, and *b* and *e* on the other side of the package.

It will be seen by reference to Figs. 7 and 8 that when pressure is exerted on the lower end of the package including this embodiment and partially opened as shown in Fig. 4, cigarettes *a* and *b* are elevated by the triangular sections 24, and cigarette *c* is elevated by engagement with the triangular section 15 at a point slightly removed from the apex thereof. When this embodiment is used, however, cigarettes *d* and *e* are not positively elevated by the insert because of the flexing of the latter at the scores 26 and, of course, as cigarette *f* rests entirely upon the extension 20 it likewise would not be positively elevated by the insert. If the package is torn open in such manner that the tops of cigarettes *d*, *e* and *f* are fully exposed, they may rise somewhat in the package through frictional engagement with cigarettes *a*, *b* and *c*, but such movement is entirely consistent with the objects of the invention. In order to elevate all the cigarettes in a pack the second embodiment functions similarly to the first embodiment.

It will be seen that by using either form of the invention illustrated and described herein, very simple means are provided for accomplishing the desired results. The inserts may be made of relatively inexpensive material, preferably a cardboard of suitable thickness and other characteristics satisfactory for the purpose, and such inserts can readily be incorporated into the package during or after the formation of the latter. Hence, the cost of the insert and of incorporating it into the package is almost negligible and yet the result to be achieved, namely, a package which may be easily opened and started, is highly desirable.

In referring herein to "scoring" without describing a particular type of scoring or a particular means of forming it, the said term comprehends scoring of any type adapted to facilitate deformation of flat material, irrespective of the means employed in forming such scoring.

It should be understood, of course, that the inventive concept disclosed herein may be practiced in many forms and that such variations in form, although not specifically illustrated and described herein, may nevertheless be within the invention as defined in the accompanying claims.

What I claim is:

1. A package comprising a plurality of cigarettes or like articles, a covering of pliant material substantially enclosing said articles, and a substantially flat element within the covering and in addition to the covering material, the said element being of relatively rigid material and underlying the common ends of a plurality of the articles and extending substantially across at least one dimension of the package, the said element comprising hingedly-connected sections with the axis of the hinge extending transversely of said dimension, a portion of the said element being adapted, in response to pressure exerted transversely of said axis on outer edges of said sections, to pivot from the general plane of said element, and the latter, in consequence of such pivotal movement, being adapted to coact with the package covering and one or more of the articles to urge the latter toward and partly through an opening in said covering registering with the urged articles.

2. A package according to claim 1, further characterized in that the connection between the hingedly-connected sections comprises a hinge adapted to constrain the outer edge of at least one of said hingedly-connected sections to pivot downwardly relatively to the general plane of the element.

3. A package according to claim 1, further characterized in that the connection between the hingedly-connected sections comprises a weakened portion adapted to bend under the mentioned pressure to permit such pivotal movement of said sections.

4. A package according to claim 1, further characterized in that the connection between the hingedly-connected sections comprises a portion scored predominantly on the face of the element adjacent the articles, the scoring being of a character adapted to constrain the outer edge of at least one of said hingedly-connected sections to pivot downwardly relatively to the general plane of the element.

5. A package comprising a plurality of cigarettes or like articles, a covering of pliant material substantially enclosing said articles, and a substantially flat element within the covering and in addition to the covering material, the said element being of relatively rigid material and underlying the common ends of a plurality of the articles and extending substantially across at least one dimension of the package, the said element comprising separate pairs of hingedly-connected sections at opposite sides of the element with the axes of the hinges extending transversely of said dimension, the sections of each pair being adapted, in response to pressure exerted transversely of the hinge axis of the pair on outer edges of said sections, to pivot from the general plane of the element, and the latter, in consequence of such pivotal movement of the sections of either of said pairs, being adapted to coact with the package covering and one or more of the articles to urge the latter toward and partly through an opening in said covering registering with the urged articles.

6. A package according to claim 5, further characterized in that the said pairs are in spaced relation longitudinally of the element, and in having a pair of hingedly-connected sections, intermediate the mentioned separate pairs with the axis of the hinge of the latter sections extending longitudinally of the element; the sections of the intermediate pair being adapted, in response to pressure exerted oppositely on outer edges of the latter sections, to pivot from the general plane of the element, and the element being adapted, in consequence of the latter pivotal movement, to coact with the package covering and substantially all articles in the package to urge all said articles toward and partially through an open end of the package.

7. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and an inner triangular section.

8. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and inner triangular sections, and also has opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element, which cuts define substantial parts of the bases of the said inner triangular sections.

9. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and an inner triangular section, opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element, which cuts

define a substantial part of the base of the said inner triangular section, and parallel longitudinal scores defining the sides of a central neck portion and the inner limits of rectangular tabs at opposite sides of said neck portion.

10. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and an inner triangular section, opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element, which cuts define a substantial part of the base of the said inner triangular section, parallel longitudinal scores defining the sides of a central neck portion and the inner limits of rectangular tabs at opposite sides of said neck portion, and a cut extending between points slightly removed from the inner ends of the said opposed, laterally extending cuts.

11. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and inner triangular sections, opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element, which cuts define substantial parts of the bases of the said inner triangular sections, parallel longitudinal scores defining the sides of a central neck portion and the inner limits of rectanagular tabs at opposite sides of said neck portion, and an inner cut extending between points slightly removed from the inner ends of the said opposed, laterally extending cuts, scoring being provided connecting the last mentioned cuts and the ends of the said inner cut.

12. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and inner triangular sections, opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element, which cuts define substantial parts of the bases of the said inner triangular sections, parallel longitudinal scores defining the sides of a central neck portion and the inner limits of rectangular tabs at opposite sides of said neck portion, and inner cuts extending between points slightly removed from the inner ends of the said opposed, laterally extending cuts, the said inner cuts being U-shaped and having their convex sides extending toward the apex of the related inner triangular section, thereby partially defining extensions to the said central neck portion.

13. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and an inner triangular section, opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element, which cuts define a substantial part of the base of the said inner triangular section, parallel longitudinal scores defining the sides of a central neck portion and the inner limits of rectangular tabs at opposite sides of said neck portion, a cut extending between points slightly removed from the inner ends of the said opposed, laterally extending cuts, and cuts forming supplemental tab portions on the sides of the said inner triangular sections, the diagonal scoring being interrupted at the bases of the said supplemental tab portions.

14. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said

device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and inner triangular sections, opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element, which cuts define substantial parts of the bases of the said inner triangular sections, parallel longitudinal scores defining the sides of a central neck portion and the inner limits of rectangular tabs at opposite sides of said neck portion, a cut extending between points slightly removed from the inner ends of the said opposed, laterally extending cuts, and cuts forming supplemental tab portions on the sides of the said inner triangular sections, the diagonal scoring being interrupted at the bases of the said supplemental tab portions, the last-mentioned cuts being angular and the said supplemental tab portions being triangular.

15. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and an inner triangular section, parallel longitudinal scores defining the sides of a central neck portion and the inner limits of rectangular tabs at opposite sides of said neck portion, opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element and partially defining said tabs, and a cut extending between points slightly removed from the outer ends of the said opposed, laterally extending cuts.

16. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and inner triangular sections, parallel longitudinal scores defining the sides of a central neck portion and the inner limits of rectangular tabs at opposite sides of said neck portion, opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element and partially defining said tabs, and an inner cut extending between points slightly removed from the outer ends of the said opposed, laterally extending cuts, the said inner cut being U-shaped and having its convex side extending toward the apex of an adjacent inner triangular section, thereby partially defining a laterally extending extension to the said central neck portion.

17. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and inner triangular sections, parallel longitudinal scores defining the sides of a central neck portion and the inner limits of rectangular tabs at opposite sides of said neck portion, opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element and partially defining said tabs, and inner cuts extending between points slightly removed from the outer ends of the said opposed, laterally extending cuts, the said inner cuts being U-shaped and each having its convex side extending toward the apex of an adjacent inner triangular section, thereby partially defining a laterally extending extension to the said central neck portion, and scoring being provided extending substantially from the outer ends of said extension to the adjacent outer edge of the said element.

18. A device, for partially ejecting cigarettes or the like from a package formed of pliant material, comprising a flat element adapted for disposition in the bottom of the package under a plurality of cigarettes therein, the said element having scoring predominantly on one face thereof and cuts therethrough, the said scoring and cuts coacting to permit portions of said element to pivot inwardly in response to pressure exerted inwardly upon outer edges thereof, the said portions, when so pivoted inwardly, being adapted to coact with adjacent packaging material and with other portions of the said element whereby to raise the said other portions within the package and, consequently, to move upwardly the cigarettes overlying said other portions, the said device being further characterized in that the said element is substantially rectangular and has diagonal scoring lines partially defining triangular corner sections and inner triangular sections, parallel longitudinal scores defining the sides of a central neck portion and the inner limits of rectangular tabs at opposite sides of said neck portion, opposed cuts extending laterally, inwardly from the sides of said element and partially defining said tabs, a cut extending between points slightly removed from the outer ends of the said opposed, laterally extending cuts, and cuts forming supplemental tab portions on the sides of the said inner triangular sections, the diagonal scoring being interrupted at the bases of the said supplemental tab portions.

19. A package comprising a plurality of ciga-

rettes or like articles, a covering of pliant material substantially enclosing said articles, and a substantially flat element at one end of the package and in substantial face to face relation to said pliant material with outer edge portions of the element in contact with portions of the pliant material, the said element being in addition to the covering material and of relatively rigid material and underlying the common ends of a plurality of the articles and extending substantially across at least one dimension of the package, the said element comprising hingedly-connected sections with the axis of the hinge extending transversely of said dimension, outer edges of said sections being restrained at all times against movement relatively to the portions of said pliant material contacted by said edges, a portion of the said element being adapted, in response to pressure exerted transversely of said axis on said outer edges of said sections, to pivot from the general plane of said element, and the latter, in consequence of such pivotal movement, being adapted to coact with the package covering and one or more of the articles to urge the latter toward and partly through an opening in said covering registering with the urged articles.

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