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C. H. THOMPSON  
DISPENSING CONTAINER

2,474,076

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FIG. 1

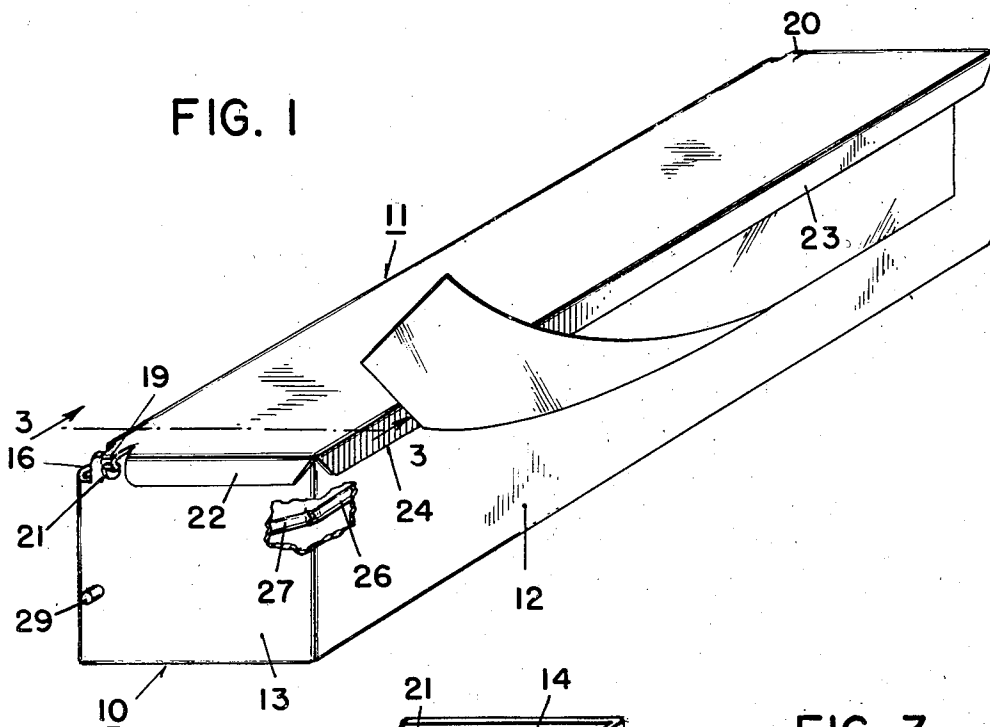


FIG. 2

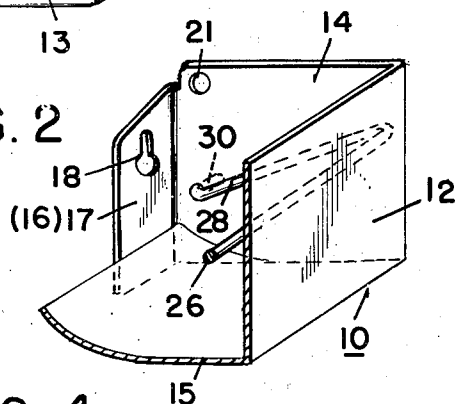


FIG. 3

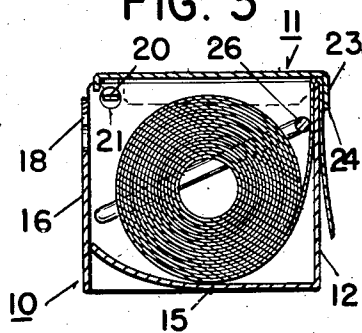


FIG. 4

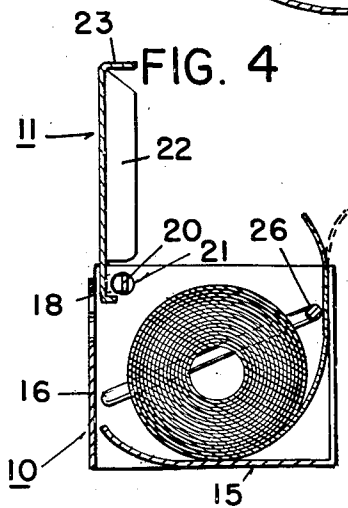
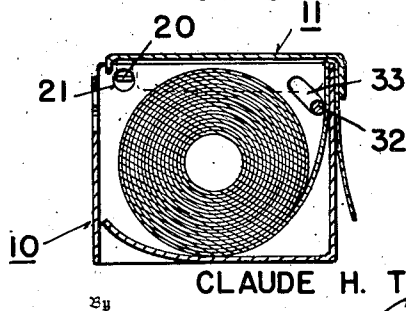


FIG. 5



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## DISPENSING CONTAINER

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7 Claims. (Cl. 312—39)

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This invention relates to improvements in dispensing containers for paper and like sheet material which is usually supplied in roll form.

Broadly stated, the invention contemplates a dispensing container of the type providing an effective dirt and dust-proof housing for a roll of paper or like material which is required to be kept in clean condition prior to withdrawal, that is moreover so constructed as to permit ready re-loading of a roll as well as simple withdrawal of the paper in desired lengths, and whose design is such that it may be simply and inexpensively manufactured.

Another important object of the invention is the provision of a dispensing container incorporating simple and effective means for holding the free end of the paper in position such that the edge portion thereof resulting from a preceding tearing-off operation may be readily grasped and withdrawal of paper from the roll accordingly facilitated.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a dispensing container for sheet material, such as paper usually supplied in roll form, of the type wherein withdrawal of the paper in desired length is effected by drawing the free end of the sheet from the roll in upward direction and tearing the same against a tearing or cutting edge provided on the container cover, for example, which incorporates novel means to hold the free end of the paper in position such that its edge portion forms an upstanding lip capable of being readily grasped so as to facilitate withdrawal of the paper from the container.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a dispensing container for a roll of paper of the type wherein the paper is drawn upwardly from the roll and over the top edge of the container front wall, which is provided with means operating more or less automatically to hold the free end portion of the paper against the inside face of the container front wall in such manner that the edge portion of the paper which extends over said top edge forms an upstanding lip which may be readily grasped to effect withdrawal of a desired length of paper from the roll.

The above and other objects and features of advantage of the invention will appear from the following description, taken with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a dispensing container according to the invention which illustrates the hinged mounting of the cover and the manner in which a desired length of paper is severed from the roll as by tearing the same

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against a cutting or tear-off edge provided on the cover front flange;

Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view looking into an end of the container body, the view illustrating one form of holding means effective to hold the free end of the paper so that its edge portion forms an upstanding lip which may be readily grasped so as to facilitate paper withdrawal;

Fig. 3 is a section taken along line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a similar section through the container with the cover in raised position, the view illustrating the action of the holding means on the free end of the paper; and

Fig. 5 is a similar section illustrating a modified form of holding means.

Referring to the drawings, a dispensing container according to the invention comprises an open top container body generally designated 10 which is closed at its top by a hinged cover 11. Preferably, the container body is of integral, one-piece construction and includes a front wall 12, end walls 13 and 14, and a bottom of wall 15. By reference to Figs. 1 and 2, the end walls carry integral attaching tabs 16, 17 which are preferably in-turned as shown and are pierced to provide suitable openings 18 through which an attaching screw may be passed, thereby to secure the container against a vertical supporting surface such as a wall functioning as a rear wall closing the container body.

The bottom wall 15 is formed as a horizontal continuation of the front wall 12 and extends rearwardly for the full depth of the container body. Preferably, the inner end or edge portion of the bottom wall is inclined upwardly as by gently curling the same along an arc of large radius, and its depth dimension is such that the inner edge of the bottom wall engages against the front faces of the attaching tabs 16, 17 somewhat above the bottom edge thereof, whereby the bottom wall leans against and is thereby effectively supported along its rear edge by said flaps. Due to this inward support, no positive connection of the bottom wall to either the end walls 13, 14 or said attaching tabs is provided, and the fabrication of the container body is accordingly simplified.

The cover 11 is shown to be hingedly connected to the rear top corners of the container end walls 13, 14 by means of hinge pintles 19, 20 which are preferably formed as integral tangs initially extending outwardly from the cover at its rear corners. In assembling the cover on the container body, the tangs are bent downwardly and

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thence inwardly through pivot holes 21 provided in the box ends as shown, with the result that the inbent ends of the tangs are masked from view. The cover 11 is moreover provided with end flanges 22 which lap the end walls 13, 14 of the container, and with a front flange 23 which laps the container front wall and whose lower horizontal edge 24 provides a cutting or tear-off, against which a desired length of paper drawn from the roll may be torn.

It will be understood that the container as herein contemplated will have the proper interior dimensions as to house the roll of paper or like sheet material to be dispensed in desired lengths. The closed construction of the container maintains the paper roll in clean condition prior to use, and the swing cover permits simple re-loading as well as ready access to the free end of the paper therein. When it is desired to sever a length of paper from the roll, the cover 11 is manually raised, and the free end of the paper is grasped and drawn upwardly and then over the top edge of the container front wall 12. Upon lowering of the cover to its closed position, the desired length of paper may be severed by tearing it against the cutting edge 24 of the cover top flange 23, the cover being meantime held in closed position.

To insure easy withdrawal of the paper from the roll, it is of advantage that the roll be mounted so that it can turn freely within the container as the paper is withdrawn. However, this free mounting of the roll introduces the disadvantage that the free end thereof has a tendency, when the cover is raised, to curl back on the roll or otherwise fall away from the top edge of the container front wall, so that it cannot be readily grasped. To overcome this disadvantage, the invention provides means for holding the free end of the paper against the inner face of the container front wall and adjacent its top edge, with the result that the edge portion thereof, i. e. the portion immediately adjacent the torn edge of the paper, provides a substantially upstanding lip which may be readily grasped by the fingers, so as to facilitate paper withdrawal.

As seen in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, such holding means illustratively takes the form of a swing bar having a holding bar or rod portion 26 extending substantially the full width of the container front wall 12 and end legs 27, 28 which extend to the rear of the container and parallel to the container end walls 13, 14. The ends of the legs 27, 28 are angularly offset to provide trunnions 29, 30 which are passed through aligned openings provided for their reception in the end walls, said openings being located adjacent the rear vertical edges of the end walls and substantially above the container bottom 15. The length of the legs 27, 28 is such that the holding bar 26 tends by its own weight to swing toward and lean against the inner face of the container front wall 12. Preferably, such line engagement of holding bar with container front wall is along a horizontal line that is spaced a small distance from the top edge of the front wall over which the end portion of the paper is drawn.

By reference to Figs. 3 and 4, wherein the free end of the paper is shown to be threaded through the space between the holding bar 26 and the inner face of the container front wall, it will be observed that the action of the holding bar 26 is to hold the free end of the paper against said inner face in both the closed and open positions of the cover. When the cover is raised to effect

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paper withdrawal, the edge portion of the paper strip extending over the top edge of the container front wall has a tendency to move rearwardly, i. e. to coil itself on the roll within the container.

However, consequent to the action of the holding bar in securing the free end portion of the paper, its edge portion can move rearwardly by only a limited amount, and in actual practice will assume a position somewhere between the dotted and full line positions thereof, shown in Fig. 4. When so positioned, the aforesaid edge portion forms a substantially upright grasping lip which can be readily grasped to effect withdrawal of a desired length of the paper from the roll. Due to the swing mounting of the holder, it may swing away from the container front wall as the paper is drawn in upward direction from the roll, and hence imposes no substantial restriction to paper withdrawal.

Referring to Fig. 5, illustrating a modified form of means for holding the free end of the paper against the inner face of the container front wall, such comprises a straight-way extending bar 32 of somewhat greater length than the width of the container and whose ends project through openings or slots 33 formed in the end walls 13, 14. Said slots are downwardly inclined to the front wall as shown, with the result that the rod tends to move by gravity to its lowermost position, in which it engages against the inner face of the container front wall and somewhat below the top edge thereof, whereby substantially the same holding action is obtained as with the ball-type of holding means. As with the prior described type, upward withdrawing motion imparted to the free end of the paper effects limited separating movement of the holding bar relative to paper, and hence the holding bar imposes no restriction to the free withdrawal of the paper in desired lengths. On the other hand, the holding bar functions similarly to the prior described ball-type holding means in securing the free end of the paper against the inner face of the container front wall and relatively close to the top edge thereof over which the paper is drawn, so that the edge portion of the paper may provide a substantially upright grasping lip serving to facilitate paper withdrawal.

Without further analysis, it will be seen that a dispensing container as described achieves the above stated and other objects of the invention in practical and effective manner. A dispensing container characterized as in the foregoing can be readily and inexpensively manufactured, since its simple design lends itself to quantity production. Moreover, a dispensing container incorporating means of the general type described for holding the free end of the paper in position such that its terminal edge portion forms a grasping lip represents an extremely practical yet simple improvement in dispensing containers of the type herein contemplated.

As many changes could be made in carrying out the above constructions without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. A dispensing container for a roll of paper and like strip material, comprising a one-piece container body having a front wall, end walls integral with the front wall, attaching tabs integral with the end walls providing for attachment of the

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container body to a vertical supporting surface which serves to close the rear of the container body, and a bottom wall integral with said front wall and being inclined upwardly in its rear edge portion so as to bear against the front faces of the attaching tabs and thereby derive support from said tabs.

2. A dispensing container for a roll of paper and like strip material, comprising a one-piece container body having a front wall, end walls integral with the front wall, attaching tabs integral with the end walls providing for attachment of the container body to a vertical supporting surface which serves to close the rear of the container body, and a bottom wall integral with the front wall and extending rearwardly to said attaching tabs, the rear edge of said bottom wall leaning against the front faces of said tabs but being devoid of any physical securement with said tabs and with said end walls.

3. A dispensing container for a roll of paper and like strip material, comprising a one-piece container body having a front wall, end walls integral with the front wall, attaching tabs integral with the end walls providing for attachment of the container body to a vertical supporting surface which serves to close the rear of the container body, and a bottom wall integral with said front wall and extending to said attaching tabs, said bottom wall in its rear portion being inclined upwardly by an amount such that its rear edge engages against the front faces of the tabs above their bottom edges.

4. A dispensing container for a roll of paper and like strip material, comprising an open top container body including front and end walls and a cover hingedly connected to said end walls, the cover having a depending front flange adapted to lap the container front wall and whose lower edge provides a tear-off edge for the paper which is drawn upwardly from the roll and over the top edge of the container front wall, and a holding member extending substantially from end to end of the container body and mounted so as to move under its own weight into engagement with the inner face of the front wall adjacent the top edge thereof, said member being operative to hold the free end of the paper in substantially upright position against said face whereby its edge portion forms an upstanding grasping lip.

5. A dispensing container for a roll of paper and like strip material, comprising an open top container body including front and end walls and a cover hingedly connected to said end walls, the cover having a depending front flange adapted to lap the container front wall and whose lower edge provides a tear-off edge for the paper which is drawn upwardly from the roll and over the top edge of the container front wall, and a longitudi-

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nal holding member extending substantially from end to end of the container and being mounted for swinging movement about an axis extending through said end walls adjacent the rear edges thereof to a position in which it leans under its weight against the inner face of said front wall and adjacent the top edge thereof, said holding member being operative to hold the free end of the paper in substantially upright position against said face so that its edge portion forms an upstanding grasping lip.

6. A dispensing container for a roll of paper and like strip material, comprising an open top container body including front and end walls and a cover hingedly connected to said end walls, the cover having a depending front flange adapted to lap the container front wall and whose lower edge provides a tear-off edge for the paper which is drawn upwardly from the roll and over the top edge of the container front wall, and a longitudinally extending holding member having its ends extending through slots formed in said end walls adjacent the top edges thereof, said stops being inclined downwardly to said front wall, whereby the holding member is movable by gravity into a position such that it holds the free end of the paper against the inner face of the container front wall and adjacent the top edge thereof.

7. A two-part dispensing container for a roll of paper and like strip material, one part comprising an open top container having front and end walls and a bottom wall, the other part comprising a cover providing a closure for said open top including a hinge for connecting itself to the container body, the hinge comprising integral tangs on the cover at its rear corners providing hinge pintles, said tangs being bent downwardly from the plane of the cover and outwardly of the end walls of the container body and thence inwardly so as to extend through pivot holes provided in the upper rear corners of said end walls.

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