Jan. 31, 1967 J. W. ROCKWELL 3,301,388

PLAYING CARD DISPENSER

Filed Oct. 22, 1965 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

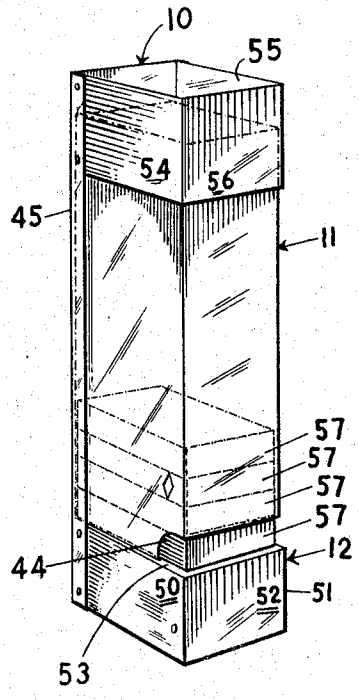


FIG. 1

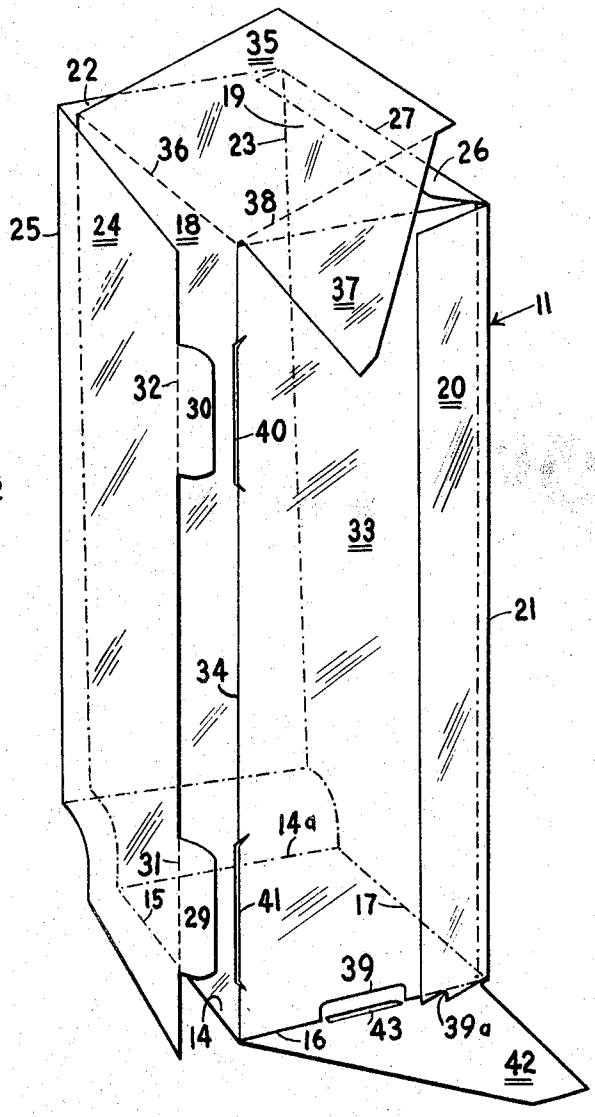


FIG. 3

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PLAYING CARD DISPENSER

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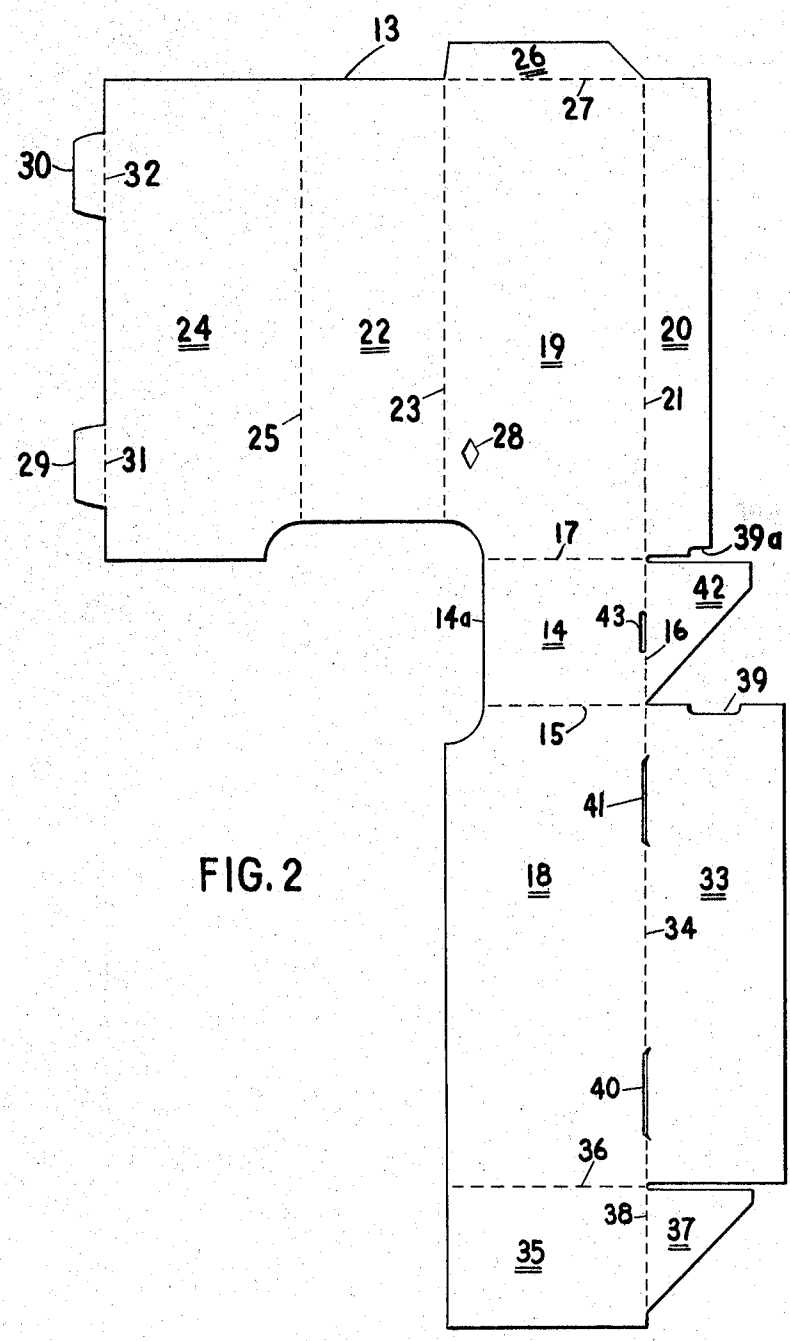


FIG. 2

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PLAYING CARD DISPENSER

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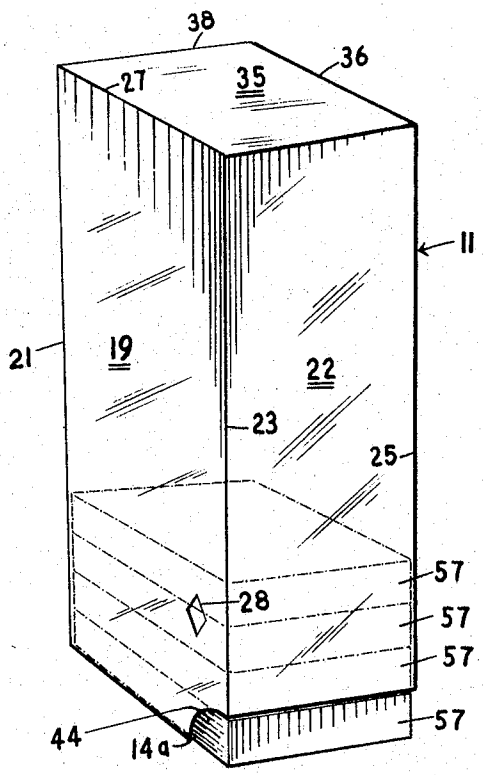


FIG. 4

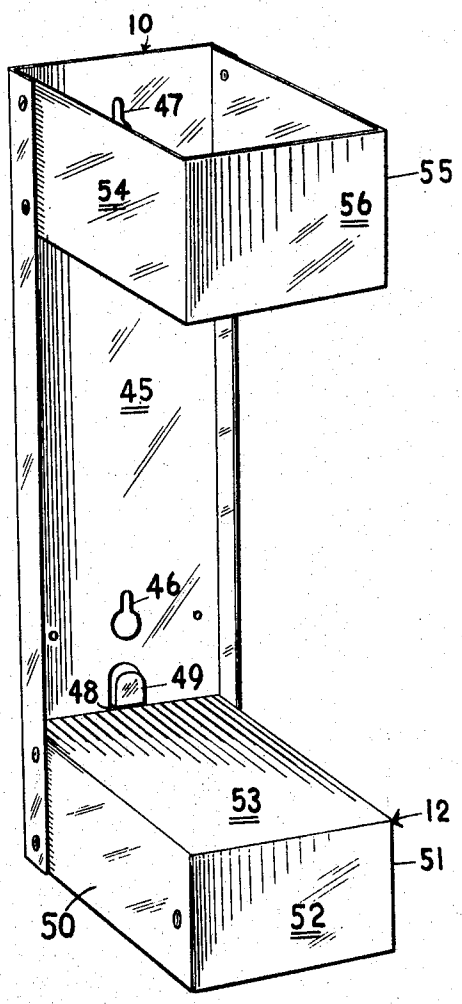


FIG. 5

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United States Patent Office 3,301,388 Patented Jan. 31, 1967

3,301,388

PLAYING CARD DISPENSER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 206—44.12)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements for storing decks of playing cards and dispensing same on a self serving basis at the point of sale.

Playing cards are now sold through a number of different retail sales outlets such as stationers, tobacco stores, drug stores, super markets, department stores and the like. Usually the decks of cards are displayed and stored on or in conventional store shelves, display cases, conventional playing card racks and other similar display devices or fixtures. In making a sale of playing cards the most frequent procedure is to have the purchaser point out his selection of cards in a display case and the retail store clerk will secure the selected type of cards from the case or a storage area behind the case. Sales of playing cards may also be made by requiring the purchaser to select and pick up a deck of cards from a display rack or stand and then take the cards over to a cashier to make the necessary payment. The attendant disadvantage of these usual forms of sale is that the dealer must allocate a considerable amount of store space to display and provide storage for the cards. Often a store clerk is necessary to retrieve the selected cards from storage.

The present invention eliminates these difficulties as it provides (1) a unique and compact storage carton or cartridge that requires a very limited amount of space and (2) a self service feature allowing the purchaser to remove the selected decks of cards from the device and pay a cashier or clerk for the purchase.

The principal object of this invention is, therefore, to provide a playing card dispenser that is compact in nature; stores several packaged decks of playing cards; has a self-service dispensing feature; and can be easily and economically manufactured.

Other objects inherent in the structure described, pictured and claimed will become more fully apparent as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends this invention will be described with reference to the drawings which illustrate it.

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the device showing the cartridge disposed in operative position within the frame and partially loaded with decks of playing cards;

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the inner surface of the cartridge blank prior to assembly;

FIGURE 3 is a rear perspective view of the cartridge partially assembled;

FIGURE 4 is a front perspective view of the cartridge completely assembled and partially loaded with decks of playnig cards; and

FIGURE 5 is a front perspective view of the frame without the cartridge seated therein.

As seen in FIGURE 1, the device comprises a frame generally designated **10** which supports a storage cartridge generally designated **11**. The lower portion of frame **10** has a platform generally designated **12** which supports the cartridge **11** and coacts with the cartridge for easy removal of a deck of playing cards as explained below.

As seen in FIGURE 2, cartridge **11** is formed from a blank **13** die cut to the format shown in the drawing. Blank **13** has a series of panels formed by a plurality of score lines so that the blank may be folded into an assembled position to form the cartridge **11**. It is to

be understood that the die cutting and the formation of the score or fold line may be easily produced and manufactured on standard box and carton forming equipment. As shown by the broken lines in FIGURES 1 and 4, cartridge **11** holds a plurality of packaged decks of playing cards. The cards are horizontally disposed in the cartridge in a stacked relationship, one deck positioned above the other. The cartridge is manufactured in the required height for holding the desired number of card decks. The interior dimensions of the cartridge **11** is approximately the same as the overall peripheral dimensions of the packaged decks of cards that are to be placed in the cartridge for dispensing.

The actual construction blank **13** comprises a bottom panel formed by score lines **15**, **16** and **17**. Side panels **18** and **19** are formed contiguous with the respective scores **15** and **17** and lie adjacent each side of bottom panel **14**.

Referring further to FIGURE 2, a series of four panels are formed adjacent and above the side panel **19** by score lines. These panels comprise an overlapping rear panel **20** formed contiguous with the right hand edge of side panel **19** and separated therefrom by score **21**. Along the left hand edge of side panel **19** is a front panel **22**, formed by means of score **23**. The third panel in this series consists of an overlapping side panel **24** formed contiguous with front panel **22** by means of score **25**.

The upper edge of side panel **19** has a truncated partial closure panel **26** formed by score **27**. Panel **19** also has a diamond die cut aperture **28** cut out of the panel so that when cartridge **11** is assembled and loaded with decks of playing cards the number of cards remaining in the cartridge can be ascertained. This feature will be explained below.

Included in this series of panels is a pair of locking tabs **29** and **30** formed along the outer edge of panel **24** by means of the respective scores **31** and **32**. Also overlapping panel **20** has a cut out portion **39***a* along the die cut edge adjacent the center portion of blank **13**. The cut **39***a* assists in mounting cartridge **11** on frame **10** as hereinafter explained.

Still referring to FIGURE 2, a second series of panels are disposed adjacent the side panel **18**. This second series of panels comprise rear panel **33** on the right hand side of panel **18** and joined thereto by score **34**. Also included is a closure panel **35** joined to the lower edge of panel **18** by score **36** and an adhesive flap **37** of triangular configuration joined to the right hand side of closure panel **35** by score **38**.

To assist in mounting cartirdge **11** on frame **10** the die cut edge of rear panel **33** adjacent the center portion of blank **13** has a U-shaped cut out **39** that mates and corresponds with cut **39***a* on panel **20** when the blank is assembled. It is also to be noted that two locking tab apertures **40** and **41** are disposed along the score **34** for receiving respectively tabs **30** and **29** when blank **13** is assembled.

Bottom panel **14** has an adhesive flap joined to its right hand edge along score **16**. Similar to flap **37** this flap is also of triangular configuration and is herein designated as adhesive flap **42**. The score **16** joins flap **42** to panel **14**. Score **16** has an elongated aperture **43** die cut through the blank to receive locking means which are integral with frame **10** to hold cartridge **11** in place when mounted on the frame.

It is to be noted that the blank is die cut in U-shaped configuration along the left hand edge **14***a* of panel **14** and **18** and the lower edges of panels **19**, **22** and **24** facing the center of the blank. This configuration forms the delivery opening for removal of playing cards when the blank is assembled.

Assembly of the blank is best understood from viewing FIGURES 2–4. With respect to FIGURE 3, first the right hand series of panels (panels **19**, **20**, **22** and **24**) are folded to a vertical position along score **17**. Second, the left hand series of panels, (panels **18**, **33**, **35** and flap **37**) are likewise folded along the score line **15**. Thus the two series of panels adjacent bottom panel **14** are now in position vertically with respect to panel **14**. Next panels **22** and **24** are folded along their respective scores **23** and **25** so that front panel **22** is disposed vertically over the edge **14***a* of bottom panel **14** and panel **24** is brought around in overlapping relation with the now vertically disposed side panel **18**. Rear panel **33** is folded generally inward along its score **34** and likewise overlapping rear panel **20** is folded along score **21** so that it is in overlapping relation with rear panel **33**. In this position rear panels **20** and **33** are disposed substantially vertically over score **16**. Closure panel **35** is now folded partially over the assembly along score **36** and adhesive flap **37** is folded down along score **38** in a substantially vertical position so that it is in a generally overlapping position with respect to the upper portion of rear panels **20** and **33**. At this point the blank is now in the position seen in FIGURE 3.

It is seen in this position that cut outs **39***a* and **39** of the respective rear panels **20** and **33** overlap each other in mating relationship to provide a void above aperture **43** so that the two rear panels will not interfere with the cartridge anchoring means on frame **10**. To complete assembly panel **24** is folded in a tight overlapping relationship with rear panel **18** and locking tabs **29** and **30** are inserted into their respective locking apertures **41** and **40**. Tabs **29** and **30** may be bent along their respective scores **31** and **32** to fit tightly against the inner surface of rear panel **33** and secured thereto by an adhesive if desired. Partial rear panel **20** is also tightly folded in overlapping relation with rear panel **33**. Next the partial closure panel **26** is folded at right angles along its score **27** and the closure panel **35** is brought down over it to close the top of the cartridge. If it is desired to seal the cartridge shut, an adhesive may be applied to either of panels **26** or **35** in their respective overlapping areas. It is to be understood that if a considerable amount of opening and closing is desired a more suitable means for closing panels **26** and **35** may be used.

To hold cartridge **11** in the assembled position, adhesive is applied to the inner surfaces of the flaps **37** and **42** that contact the rear panels **20** and **33**. Flap **37** is brought down along score **38** in an overlapping relation and secured to panel **33** and **20** by means of the adhesive. Likewise flap **42** is folded vertically up along score **16** in a similar overlapping relation and secured to panel **33** and **20**. The overlapping relation of the two adhesive flaps **37** and **42** over rear panels **20** and **33** hold and tightly secure the cartridge in its fully assembled position which is shown in FIGURE 4. Outside of sealing the closure panel **35** it is not necessary to use an adhesive in any place except flaps **37** and **42** to hold the cartridge **11** in assembled position.

As seen from FIGURE 4, a delivery opening **44** formed by the U-shaped die cut along the edge **14***a* and panels **19**, **22** and **24** position an open space along the bottom of the assembled cartridge so that purchaser can grasp the lowermost deck of cards and draw it out. Also, the aperture **28** provides a sight through side panel **17** into the chamber of the cartridge. Usually the sides of decks of playing cards inside of the chamber will be seen through the aperture **28**. However, when all but two decks are dispensed, the blank interior of the cartridge will be visible indicating a refill or a new fully packaged cartridge is necessary.

Turning now to the frame **10** which supports cartridge **11** the device may be made of metal or thermoplastics. The frame, as best seen in FIGURE 5 comprises a vertical member **45**. Two eyelets **46** and **47** are formed through the surface of member **45** so that the frame **10** may be supported on a wall or the like in conventional manner by wood screws positioned in the neck portions of eyelets **46** and **47**. Member **45** also has a cartridge anchoring device formed integral with the member and comprising a supporting stud **48** extending out at right angles to member **45** and a lip **49** extending upward at right angles from stud **48**. Lip **49** protrudes through aperture **43** of cartridge **11** when the latter is placed on frame **10** thus preventing any forward movement of the lower portion of cartridge **11**.

A supporting platform **12** is provided on the same plane as stud **48**. This platform is of box like configuration and is formed integrally with the lower portion of frame **10** to support cartridge **11** as well as the frame **10**. It also provides a delivery surface for decks of cards being dispensed. The platform **12** comprises vertical walls **50** and **51** and a front wall **52** integrally joined to each other and to the lower portion of member **45**. Walls **50–52** support member **45** in vertical position and also support a delivery wall **53** along their upper edges. Wall **53** forms the delivery platform and the base to support cartridge **11**. To hold the upper portion of cartridge **11** securely in position there is provided a series of plates **54** and **55** joined together by front plate **56**. These plates form a ring adjacent the forward surface of member **45** and when cartridge **11** is lowered onto wall **53** to the position shown in FIGURE 1 the plates hold the upper part of the cartridge in place in the frame **10**.

In operation, packaged decks of playing cards **57** are horizontally placed in stacked relationship within cartridge **11** by opening the closure panels **26** and **35**. Panels **26** and **35** are then sealed shut. The fully loaded cartridge is lowered down through the rings formed by plates **54**, **55** and **56** onto the supporting wall **53** of platform **12**. In lowering the cartridge it is readily understood that lip **49** is inserted into apertures **43** adjacent bottom panel **14** of the cartridge so that the lip will prevent any forward motion of the bottom of the cartridge over delivery wall **53**. The dispenser may now be placed on a supporting wall by means of eyelets **46** and **47** or merely disposed upright over any suitable flat supporting surface. It is now ready for operation. The purchaser merely grasps the lowest deck of cards **57** which appears in the delivery opening **44** and draws the deck out of the cartridge and over the forward portion of delivery wall **53**. At this point the packaged deck stacked immediately above the delivered deck will fall into delivery position and appear in the opening **44**. This latter deck is now ready to be dispensed for the next sale. To assist in the selection of cards, reproductions of the design of the card backs and packages may be printed on the cartridge.

It is apparent that many modifications and variations of this invention may be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof. The specific embodiments described are given by way of example only and the invention is limited only by the terms of the following claim.

What is claimed is:

A device for dispensing individual decks of playing cards comprising a vertically disposed elongated member; a plurality of plates integral with said elongated member and extending outwardly therefrom forming a ring at one end of said elongated member; a box member integral with said elongated member and disposed at the end opposite said ring forming plates, said box member having a horizontal planar delivery wall extending out from said elongated member in registry with the ring formed by said plates, the horizontal planar delivery wall having vertical side and end walls depending therefrom for supporting said device on a flat surface; and a cartridge having a bottom panel, a series of side, front

and closure panels adjacent said bottom panel forming an enclosure contiguous with and over the bottom panel, the side, front and bottom panels of said cartridge having a cut-out portion forming a delivery opening at the end of the cartridge formed by said bottom panel; said cartridge being disposed in said elongated member in vertical position parallel thereto and through the ring formed by said plates, the bottom panel of said cartridge being supported by and disposed over the planar delivery wall of said box member positioning the delivery opening of said cartridge contiguous with and over the planar delivery wall, whereby decks of playing cards may be drawn out of the delivery opening and out over said planar delivery wall.

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