

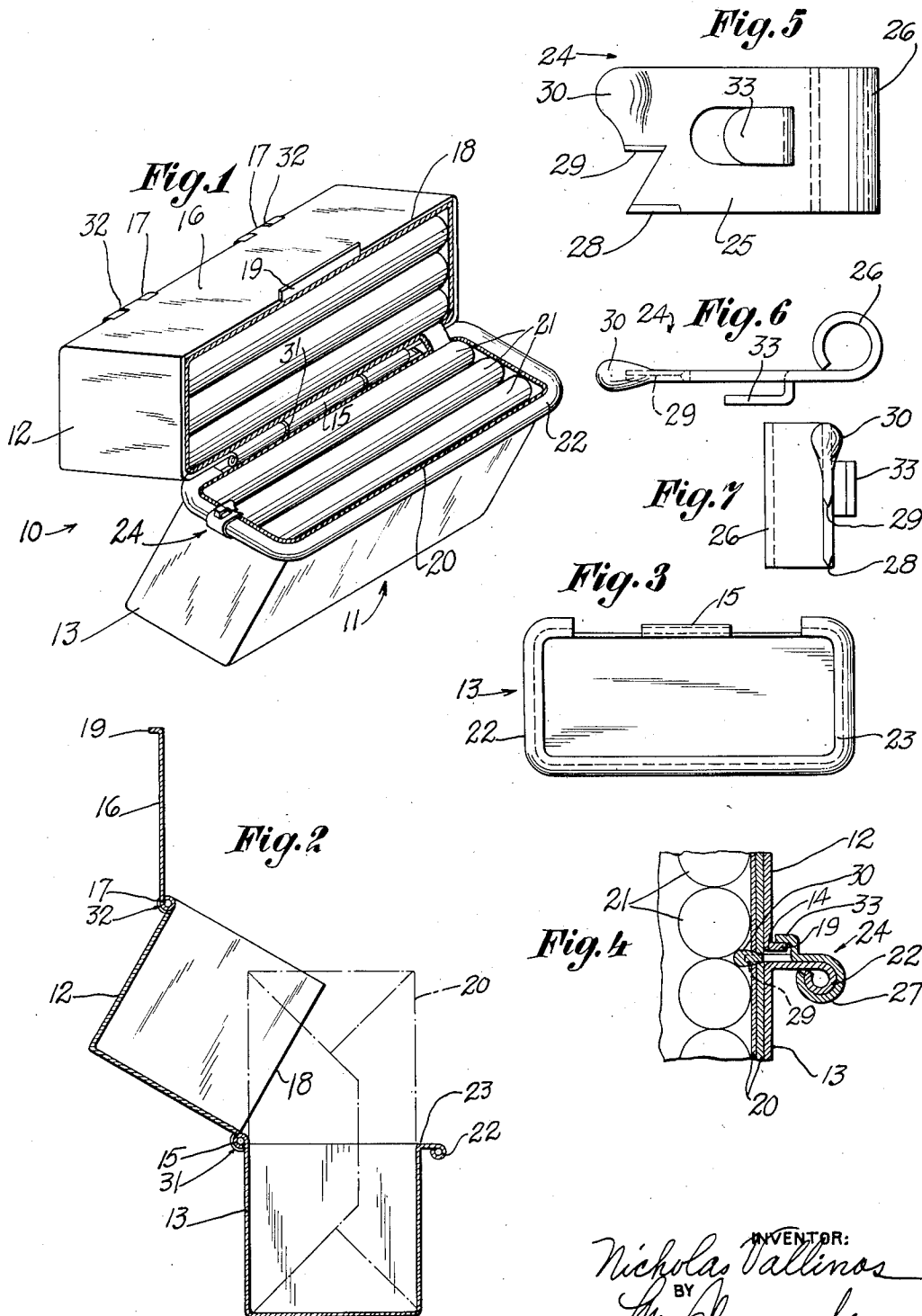
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CIGARETTE PACKAGE CASE AND OPENER

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CIGARETTE PACKAGE CASE AND OPENER

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This invention relates to cases for packages, with particular reference to cigarette packages.

One object of the invention is to provide a case or holder for a package and improved means for opening the package.

Another object of the invention is to provide a case for a package of cigarettes or the like which is adapted to open the package in such a manner that the package is separable into two parts for easy access to the contents of the package, especially where the package is thus separated or opened longitudinally of the cigarettes.

Another object of the invention is the provision of an improved case of the character described having a plurality of openable parts to facilitate insertion of a package that snugly fits the case.

A further object of the invention is to provide improved means for cutting the wall of a package without damaging the contents of the package.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a device of the nature set forth having relatively few and simple parts, and which is inexpensive to manufacture, compact, neat in appearance, durable, reliable and convenient in use.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

With the aforesaid objects in view, the invention consists in the novel combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described in their preferred embodiments, pointed out in the subjoined claims, and illustrated in the annexed drawing, wherein like parts are designated by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a device embodying the invention, including a typical use thereof.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view thereof substantially completely open and showing the package in dot-dash lines.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of one section of the container before the latter is assembled.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary cross sectional view of the device, showing the cutter means, and a part of the cigarette package.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged top plan view of the cutter means before being assembled in the device.

Fig. 6 is an edge view thereof.

Fig. 7 is an end view thereof.

The advantages of the invention as here outlined are best realized when all of its features and

instrumentalities are combined in one and the same structure, but, useful devices may be produced embodying less than the whole.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, that the same may be incorporated in several different constructions. The accompanying drawing, therefore, is submitted merely as showing the preferred exemplification of the invention.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 10 denotes a device embodying the invention. The same includes a package holder which may be in the nature of a container or case 11 that includes a plurality of sections, of which one may be regarded as a cover. Preferably said sections 12, 13 may be of equal size and may have a longitudinal opening 14 between the sections, the said opening being thus along the center of the container although it may be variously located and in different containers, to guide a cutter means as hereinafter described.

The sections 12, 13 may be associated for movement relative to each other as by being hingedly or swingably interconnected as by a hinge connection at 15 at one side of the container. Thus the sections are swingable toward and away from each other for closing and opening the container. With the open position being as shown in Fig. 1, in the closed position of the device, the sections 12, 13 are in register with each other and the rims of said sections are in alinement in corresponding planes, to provide a rectangular case of relatively uniform appearance and construction.

The section 12 may have one of its long walls movable to open said section. For example, a wall 16 may be hingedly mounted at 17 for swinging movement into open or closed position. The hinges 15 and 17 may be parallel but are desirably on opposite sides of the case, relatively to each other, as can be understood by considering the case as in closed position. In the latter position the section 12 may be said to have a continuous rectangular rim 18. Said rim may be interrupted at one portion by an outwardly bent lip 19 for a purpose hereinafter stated.

The container arrangement is such that on opening the same as shown in Fig. 2, a package 20 of cigarettes or the like, may be inserted therein so as to closely fit the closed container. Since the section 12 and its cover 16 open and close in like directions, the manipulation in opening and closing the container is rapid and convenient, a single motion being sufficient. It may be noted that the package 20 is inserted with its ends at the ends of the container, and the ciga-

rettes or other elongated articles 21 lying lengthwise of the container and parallel to the plane of the container opening 14.

The section 13 is provided with a guide rail 22 extending along the rim or edge 23 of the section. Said guide rail is disposed externally of the case so as not to obstruct the interior thereof and is continuous along the ends and a side of the section 13 and extends partially along the hinge side thereof into relative proximity to the ends of the hinge 15. Desirably the guide rail may consist of a marginal bead as shown whereby the maximum radius is obtained at the corners of the case.

Movable along the rim or guide rail is a means for weakening or cutting the adjacent wall of the package 20, as by perforating, marring or severing the same. Said means may be such as shown at 24, and may be in the nature of a plate 25 having a curved portion 27 for engaging around the guide rail 22 for permanent slidable engagement therealong. The plate 25 may include a cutter having one or more blades or edges 28, 29 that may be parallel and transverse to the guide rail. The edge 28 forms the advance or main cutter portion and the edge 29 the supplemental cutter portion to assure complete action or severance of the wall of the package 20 in course of a single movement of the means 24 along the guide rail 22.

The length of the edges 28, 29 may be such as to cause sufficient penetration into the package to properly cut the wall thereof without damaging the contents. To render further assurance in this respect, the means 24 may be provided with a guide or presser element such as a finger 30 associated for movement with the cutter and spaced from but in relative proximity to the cutter and projecting therebeyond into the package 20. Desirably the finger 30 may be relatively blunt so as not to damage the delicate paper of the cigarettes.

The case 11 may be maintained closed by coil springs such as 31, 32 mounted on or forming a part of the respective hinges 15 and 17. A positive lock closure may include a tongue 33 struck up from the plate 25 and adapted to releasably slidably engage over the lip 19.

The operation of the device will now be briefly described. A complete standard cigarette package having a soft paper wall is inserted into the device 10 by pulling the lid 16 rearward, causing both the lid and section 12 to swing to facilitate insertion of the package. Then the device is closed by a reverse movement. During this time the cutter means is located at a corner of the device near an end of the hinge 15, where the package can readily clear the cutter as by slightly pressing in the adjacent corner of the package. Now the cutter means is moved along the rail 22, as by manipulating the portion 27, the edges 28, 29 penetrating the package wall and the finger, in its spaced relation, avoiding interference and rather simplifying said penetration by buckling the paper. As soon as a slit is cut in the package by the cutter edges 28, 29, the finger 30, being in the plane thereof, springs into the slit and slightly presses the cigarette away from the adjacent wall of the package, so that the cutter edges cannot reach the cigarettes. By continued movement of the cutter means, the cigarette package is cut in half along the ends and one side thereof, so that the package can now be opened with the case, as shown in Fig. 1. The wall of the package along the hinge 15 may

remain intact, but is partially broken away to show the hinge 15. In this position, cigarettes can be conveniently withdrawn. To lock the case, the device 24 is merely moved back until tongue 23 engages the lip 19.

It will be appreciated that various changes and modifications may be made in the device as shown in the drawing, and that the same is submitted in an illustrative and not in a limiting sense, the scope of the invention being defined in the following claims.

I claim:

1. A device including a container for snugly receiving a package, said container having a plurality of container sections swingably interconnected at one side for movement toward and away from each other, said container sections being in register and the rims thereof in substantial alignment with each other, in the closed position of the container, one of said sections having a cutter means mounted for movement along a portion of the rim of said section, and the other section having a wall on the opposite side of the container relative to the said interconnection, said wall being movable to open and close the last mentioned section.

2. A device including a case for snugly receiving a package, said case including a plurality of sections in register with each other, said sections being movable toward and away from each other to close and open the case, said sections having their rims brought into juxtaposition to each other in the closed position of the case, one of said sections having an external guide rail extending along a portion of the rim thereof, and cutter means movably mounted on said guide rail and projecting into the case between the said rims and adapted to sever the wall of said package, said cutter means including a plurality of blades for successive severing action.

3. A device including a container for snugly receiving a package, said container having a plurality of container sections swingably interconnected at one side for movement toward and away from each other, said container sections being in register and the rims thereof in substantial alignment with each other, in the closed position of the container, one of said sections having a cutter means mounted for movement along a portion of the rim of said section, and the other section having a wall on the opposite side of the container relative to the said interconnection, said wall being movable to open and close the last mentioned section, and said cutter means and said wall having portions releasably interengageable in one position of the cutter means to maintain the container closed.

4. A device including a container adapted to snugly receive a package, said container being divided into a plurality of sections hinged together at one side of the container, one of the sections having its rim outwardly beaded along the ends and the opposite side so as to provide a continuous external guide rail, means engaged with said guide rail for movement therealong and projecting into the container between the sections thereof so as to be adapted to cut a slit in an adjacent wall of the package, said means including a cutter to cut said slit and an element to prevent said cutter from substantially damaging the package contents, said element and said cutter lying in a plane and the element being spaced from said cutter edge but being in relative proximity thereto, said element projecting beyond the cutter edge so as to be adapted

to move the package contents away from the adjacent package wall, and the other section of the container having a wall movable to permit a package to be snugly inserted into the container in position to be acted upon by the cutter, as set forth.

5. A device according to claim 4, wherein said cutter is provided with an offset portion, and said movable wall with a lip releasably engageable by said portion.

6. A device including a container having a plurality of sections swingable toward and away from each other to open and close the container, one of the sections having an external rail along the rim thereof, and means adapted to cut the wall of a package inserted into the container, said means being mounted on said rail for movement therealong.

7. A device including a container having a plurality of sections swingable toward and away from each other to open and close the container, one of the sections having an external rail along the rim thereof continuously along the end walls and along a side wall opposite to the interconnection and a cutter mounted on said rail and continuously movable therealong for severing the wall of a package that is snugly fitted into the container.

8. A device including a container having a plurality of sections movable toward and away from each other to open and close the container, a cutter mounted for movement along one of the sections adjacent to the rim thereof, said cutter having a catch portion movable therewith, and the other section having a part releasably engageable by said catch portion.

9. A device including a container adapted to snugly receive a package of cigarettes, and means mounted in a wall of the container for movement therealong, said means including a cutter having a cutting edge at an angle to said container wall and projecting inward thereof so as to sever an adjacent wall of the package on movement of the cutter, and a finger lineal with the cutter and disposed along an edge of the cutter rearward only of the cutting edge and projecting beyond the latter, the cutting edge being free of any obstruction, whereby the cutter is adapted to strongly penetrate the package wall to cut a slit therein with said finger entering the

slit to press an adjacent cigarette away from the cutting edge.

10. A device including an oblong container for snugly receiving a package, said container having a plurality of generally rectangular container sections swingably interconnected at one side for movement toward and away from each other to close and open the container, said container sections being in register with the rims thereof in substantially continuous engagement along a side and along the ends of the container in the closed position thereof, and one section having a one piece side wall swingable relatively thereto about a line parallel to and diagonally opposite to the swinging interconnection for the section having the swingable side wall to open and close the section of which said side wall forms a part, whereby the container sections can be swung toward each other to close the container, with the package initially inserted into one section, and the said side wall being finally closed to completely house the package.

11. A device including a container for snugly receiving a package, said container having a plurality of container sections swingably interconnected at a side for movement toward and away from each other, one of the sections having side, end and bottom walls continuously permanently interconnected in a substantially one piece structure adapted to snugly hold the package, the other of the sections having a side wall swingable relatively thereto about a line parallel to said swingable interconnection, whereby said container can be caused to snugly house a package by successive movement of a section and of said side wall.

12. A device including a container for snugly receiving a package, said container having a plurality of container sections swingably interconnected at a side for movement toward and away from each other, one of the sections having side, end and bottom walls continuously permanently interconnected in a substantially one piece structure adapted to snugly hold the package, the other of the sections having a side wall swingable relatively thereto about a line parallel to said swingable interconnection, and being diagonally opposite to said swingable interconnection with respect to the section having the movable side wall, as and for the purpose set forth.

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