J. E. P. PENDER.

CIGARETTE CASE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 4, 1906.

932,569. Patented Aug. 31, 1909.

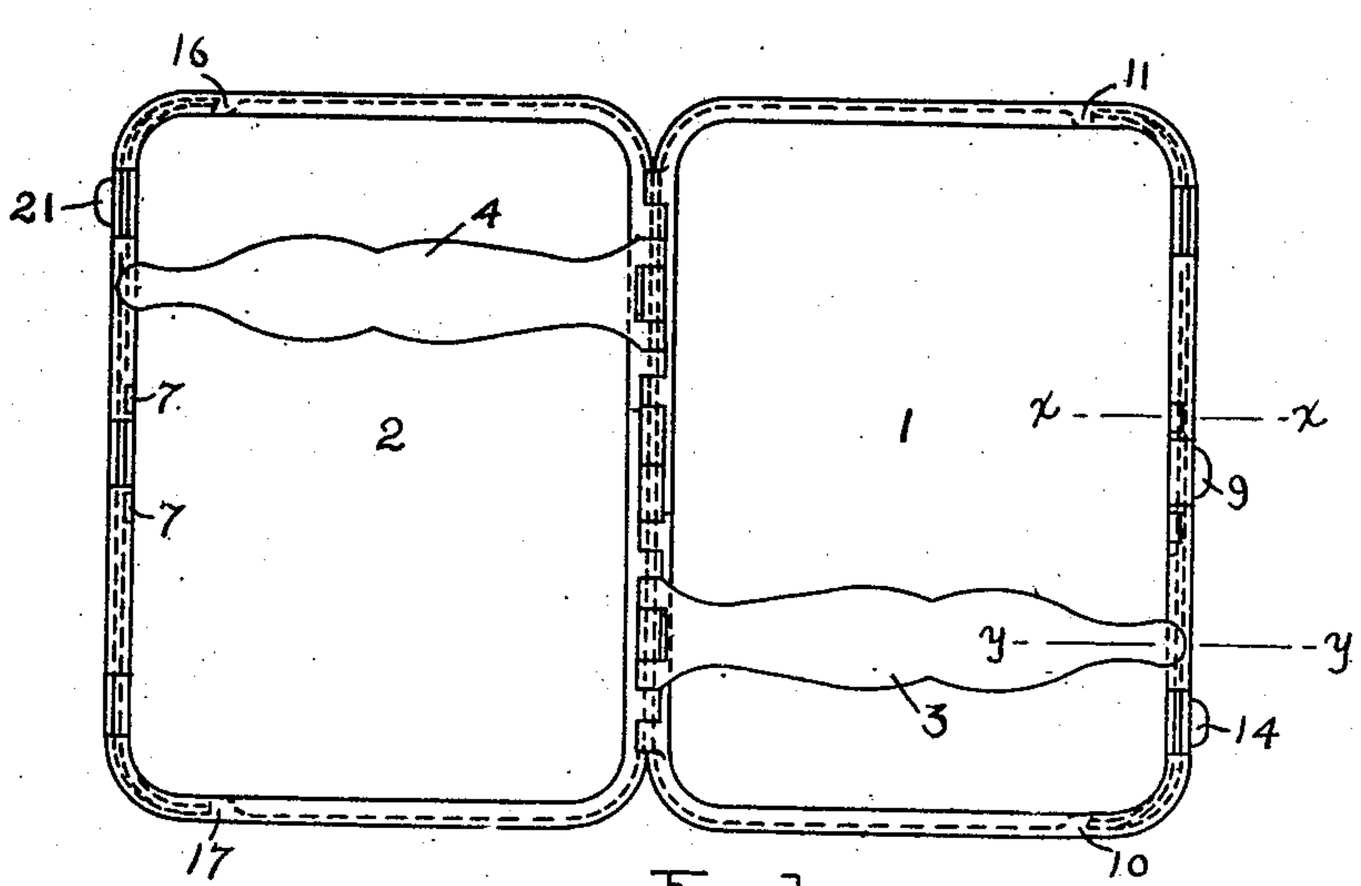

Fig. 1

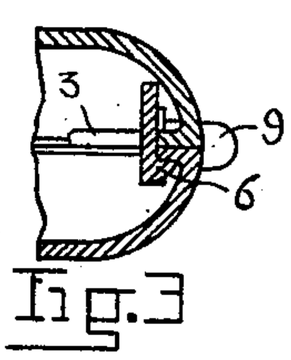

Fig. 3

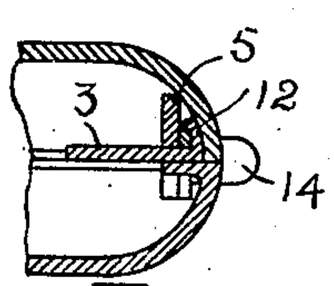

Fig. 4

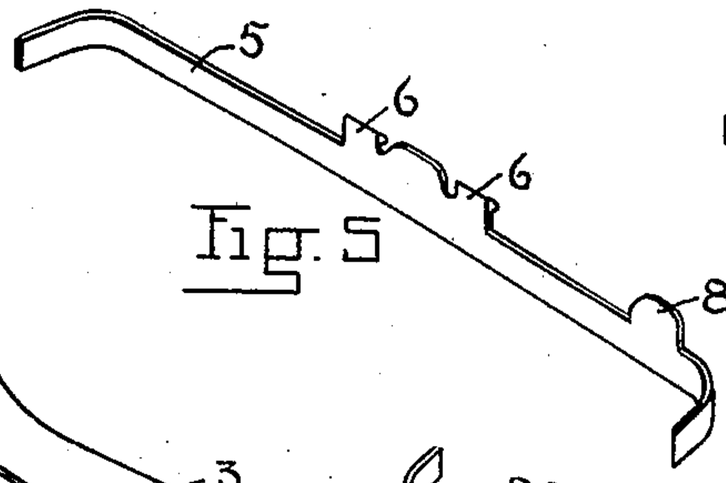

Fig. 5

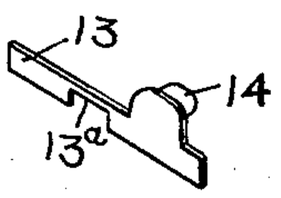

Fig. 6

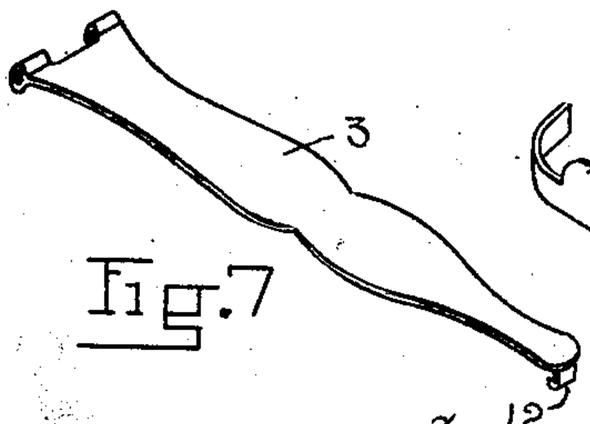

Fig. 7

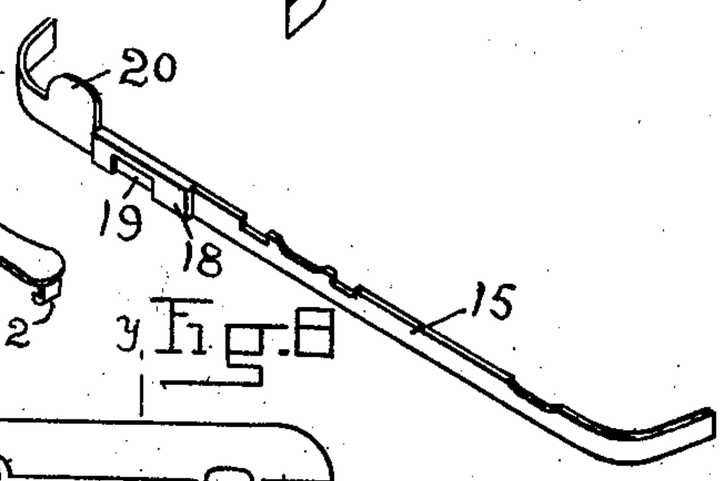

Fig. 8

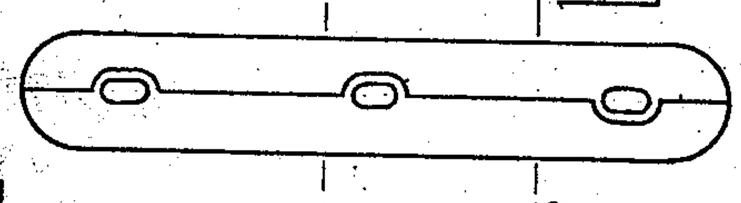

Fig. 2

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CIGARETTE-CASE.

932,569. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 31, 1909.

Application filed June 4, 1906. Serial No. 320,024.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES E. P. PENDER, of Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cigarette-Cases; and I do hereby declare the following specification, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the same, to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

The invention relates to that class of cigarette cases composed of two sections hinged together in which means in the form of a swinging arm is provided for holding the cigarettes in position, and in which such swinging arm is normally latched in holding position against the action of a spring tending to swing said arm away from its holding position, means being also provided for unlatching said arm.

One object of the invention is to improve, simplify and cheapen the construction of such cases, and another object is to provide a construction in which the operating parts, except the projecting finger-pieces, are practically concealed from view.

To that end the invention consists in the construction and combinations of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of a cigarette case embodying the invention with the hinged sections in open position and showing the interior of the case; Fig. 2 is a front edge view of the case closed; Fig. 3 is an enlarged section at the line *x*—*x*, and Fig. 4 a corresponding enlarged section at the line *y*—*y* of Figs. 1 and 2, but showing the case closed; Figs. 5, 6, 7 and 8 are detailed views of the several parts.

The case comprises the two sections 1 and 2 hinged together by any suitable hinge construction. Preferably these two sections are hinged together by some suitable form of spring hinge, with the spring arranged to throw open the case and requiring the employment of a catch to hold the case closed against the action of such spring. The swinging arms 3 and 4 are also provided with spring hinges, with the springs arranged to throw said arms away from their holding position.

Spring catches are provided for holding the case closed and for retaining the swinging arms in their holding position, said catches being adapted to be operated by finger-pieces extending to the outside of the case.

One feature of the present invention consists in a construction whereby one spring serves in connection with both the catch for the case itself and the catch for one of the swinging arms. Such a single spring 5 adapted to operate in connection with both of said catches is shown in Fig. 5. As there shown this spring 5 is a flat spring constructed to extend along the outer side and for a certain distance along each end of the section 1, said section being provided with an overhanging edge and said spring 5 being constructed to underlie this overhanging edge, as indicated in Fig. 1. Formed integral with the spring 5 are two catches 6, 6, adapted to enter suitable recesses 7 in the opposite overhanging edge of the section 2 and engage said overhanging edge. Located between the two catches 6, 6, is an integral projection 8, against which the finger-piece 9 bears, said finger-piece projecting through the edge of the section 1 to the outside thereof and being held in place by the spring 5.

One end of the spring 5 is hooked under the undercut projection 10 formed on or secured to the section 1, and the spring is forced into place with its other end abutting against the projection 11 formed on or secured to said section. To insure the retention of the spring 5 in place it is preferred to make the bent ends of said spring somewhat flaring or at somewhat more than a right angle with the main body of the spring. With such construction the inward movement of the spring under the action of the finger-piece 9 will serve to force the spring more firmly against the projections 10 and 11.

The operation of the parts thus far described is as follows: When the case is closed the catches 6, 6, engage the overhanging edge of the section 2, as clearly shown in Fig. 3, and hold the sections closed against the action of the spring in the spring hinge of said sections. When it is desired to open the case the user presses inward upon the finger-piece 9 which results in bending inward the spring 5 at the point where the finger-piece bears against said spring, thereby releasing the double catch 6, 6, whereupon

the two sections will fly open under the action of the spring hinge. Upon closing the case the spring 5 will yield and permit the catch 6 to engage the edge of the section 2 to hold the case closed.

Each of the swinging arms 3 and 4 is constructed as shown in Fig. 7, each arm being provided at its free end with a catch 12 as shown. Arranged in proper relation to the arm 3 and adapted to be engaged by the catch 12 thereon is a catch-piece 13 provided with a recess 13ª to receive the overhanging portion of said catch 12. This catch-piece has a finger-piece 14 secured thereto, which said finger-piece projects through a suitable opening in the edge of the section 1 to the outside of the case. Said catch-piece 13 is located in the recess formed by the overhanging edge of section 1 and back of the spring 5, and so that said catch-piece will be held in place, with the finger-piece projecting through the opening therefor, by said spring 5, said catch being held against endwise displacement by the finger-piece.

With the catch-piece 13 in position, when the arm 3 is swung to its holding position, the catch 12 thereon will engage said catch-piece, the spring 5 yielding to permit such engagement, and thereby the arm 3 will be retained in its holding position overlying the cigarettes contained in section 1 of the case. By pressing inward on the finger-piece 14, the catch-piece 13 and the adjacent portion of the spring 5 will be moved inward sufficiently to release the catch 12, and the arm 3 will be thrown over by the spring in its spring-hinge, so as to leave free access to the contents of said section 1 and permit the ready removal thereof. As the case is at this time open, it is immaterial whether the inward movement of the spring 5 under the action of the finger-piece 14 is or is not a sufficient movement to uncatch the catch 6. As the catch-piece 13 is entirely separate and independent of the spring 5, the inward movement of the spring 5 under the action of the finger-piece 9 has no effect to uncatch the arm 3, to do which will require an independent manipulation of the finger-piece 14.

For a cigarette case adapted to hold only a single row of cigarettes the parts above described, minus the swinging arm 4, complete the construction. The case shown in the drawings, however, is adapted to hold two rows of cigarettes, one in each section of the case, the swinging arm 4 being employed to hold in position the row of cigarettes in the section 2. In this case a corresponding flat spring 15 is employed to form a spring catch for the arm 4. This spring 15 is of the same general shape as the spring 5 and is held in place beneath the overhanging edge of the section 2 in the same manner, that is, one end of said spring is hooked under the undercut projection 16, and the spring is forced into position with its opposite end abutting against the projection 17, as shown in Fig. 1. Secured to the back of the spring 15 is a short piece 18, provided with a recess 19 to receive the overhanging portion of the catch 12 of the arm 4. Said spring 15 is also provided with a projection 20 against which the finger-piece 21 bears, said finger-piece projecting through a suitable opening in the edge of section 2 to the outside of the case.

The operation of the spring 15 in connection with the swinging arm 4 will be readily understood. With the arm 4 in its holding position, as shown in Fig. 1, the catch 12 is engaged by the overhanging wall of the recess 19 so as to hold the arm in place. When the finger-piece 21 is pressed inward the spring 15 is moved inward so as to release the catch 12 and permit the arm 4 to swing over under the action of its spring. When the arm is moved back to its holding position the spring 15 yields, permitting the passage of the catch 12 and its engagement with the wall of the recess 19.

As will be seen, the construction above described either for a single row case or a double row case is very simple, comprising few parts, and these parts may be very easily and quickly assembled, greatly reducing the cost of construction as compared with cases of this character as heretofore constructed. In addition it will be noted that with the construction shown and described a single spring serves as the spring both for the main catch of the case and for one of the swinging arms. This still further simplifies the construction, the arrangement being such that one spring is thus made to do the work of two. It will be further seen that the catch for each of the swinging arms is at the outer end of said arm, and so that the outer end of the arm is positively latched and firmly held in position, while at the same time the latching and unlatching of the arm are easily effected by the manipulation of its appropriate finger-piece.

It will also be noted that all the parts, except the projecting portions of the finger-pieces, are practically concealed from view and protected by the overhanging edges of the sections of the case, while the flat springs themselves present smooth surfaces and serve to give a finish to the inside of the case, the construction being such that the interior of the case not only presents a neat and attractive appearance, but is substantially free from projections and recesses which, if present, would serve to catch loose tobacco, dirt, and other foreign matter.

The case above described, while especially designed for holding cigarettes, might of course be employed for holding any other articles that might be desired, the size and dimensions of the case being varied to suit

the particular articles to be carried therein.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a case formed of two sections hinged together, a spring catch for holding said sections closed comprising a flat spring extending along one side of one of said sections and around the corners thereof and with its ends bent to abut against fixed projections at the ends of said section, substantially as described.

2. In a case formed of two sections hinged together, a spring catch for holding said sections closed comprising a flat spring extending along one side of one of said sections and around the corners thereof and with the ends of said spring bent at an obtuse angle to the body thereof and abutting against fixed projections at the ends of said section, substantially as described.

3. In a case comprising two sections hinged together, with a chamber or receptacle in one of said sections, the combination of a swinging arm extending across said chamber, a spring tending to swing said arm away from said chamber, and means for engaging the outer end of said arm to hold it against the action of said spring, substantially as described.

4. In a case comprising two sections hinged together, the combination of a swinging arm, a catch to hold the two sections closed, a catch to hold said swinging arm in position, and a single spring for controlling both of said catches, substantially as described.

5. In a case comprising two sections hinged together, the combination of a spring-actuated swinging arm, a catch to hold the two sections closed, a catch to hold said swinging arm against the action of its spring, and a single spring for controlling both of said catches, substantially as described.

6. In a case comprising two sections hinged together, the combination of a swinging arm, a main catch to hold the two sections closed, a supplemental catch to hold said swinging arm in position, a single spring for controlling both of said catches, and means for releasing said main catch without releasing said supplemental catch, substantially as described.

7. In a case comprising two sections hinged together, the combination of a swinging arm, a main catch to hold the two sections closed, a supplemental catch to hold said swinging arm in position, a single spring for controlling both of said catches, means for releasing said main catch, and independent means for releasing said supplemental catch, substantially as described.

8. In a case comprising two sections hinged together, the combination of a flat spring extending along the side of one of said sections and carrying a catch to engage the other section, a swinging arm extending across one of the sections, a supplemental catch for engaging said swinging arm, said supplemental catch being independent of, but arranged to be operated by, said flat spring, a finger-piece for operating said main catch, and a separate finger-piece for operating said supplemental catch, substantially as described.

9. In a case provided with a chamber or receptacle, the combination of a swinging arm and a spring catch for engaging the outer end of said arm, said catch comprising a flat spring extending along one side of the case and with its ends bent to engage fixed projections at the ends of said case, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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