June 19, 1923.

1,459,696

S. SPRAGUE

MATCH CASE

Filed Dec. 28, 1921

Fig. 1.

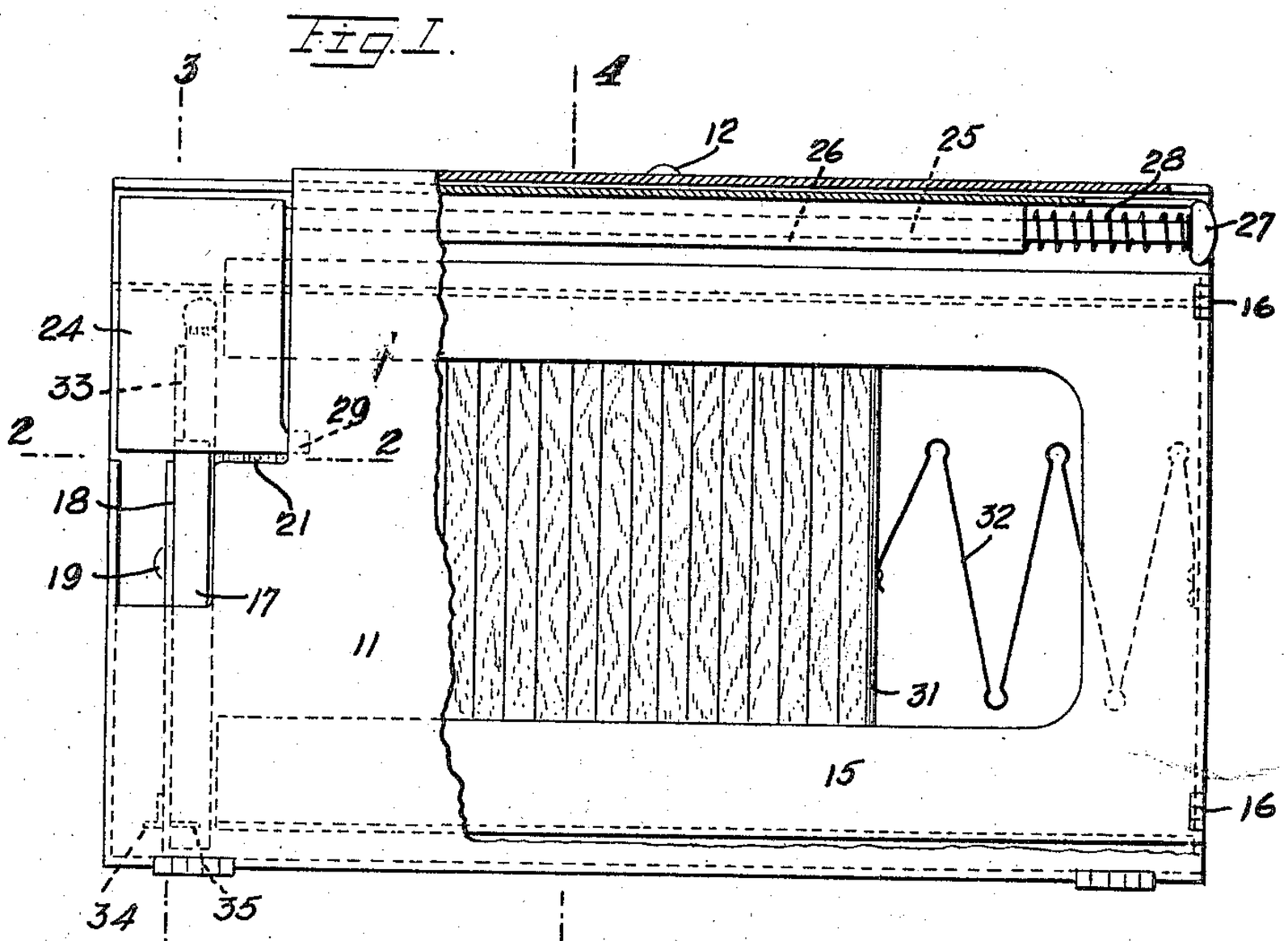


Fig. 2.

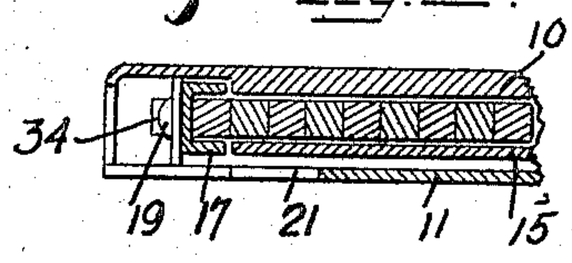


Fig. 3.

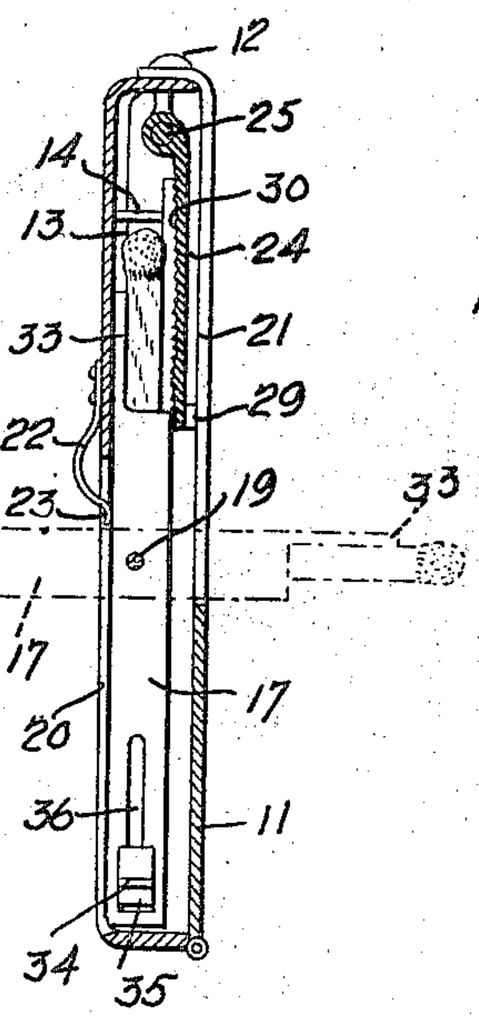


Fig. 4.

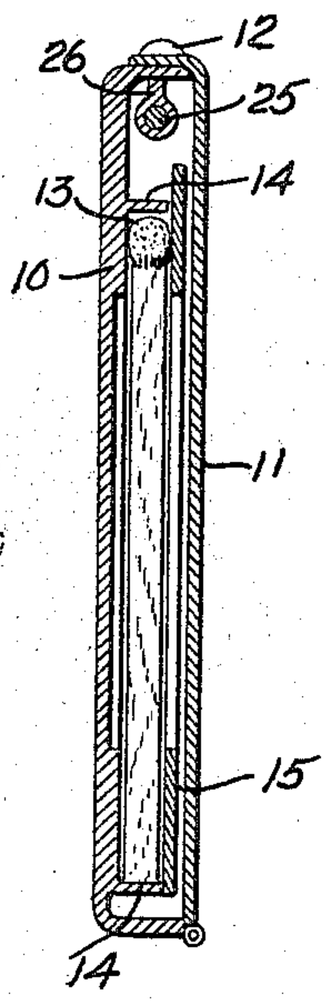
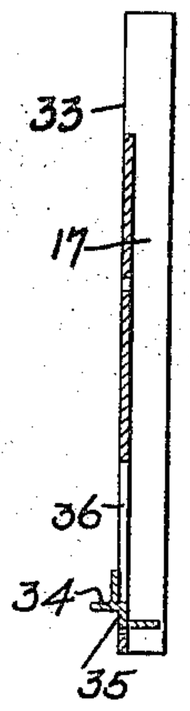


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES

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Patented June 19, 1923. 1,459,696

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SIDNEY SPRAGUE, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-FOURTH TO BENJAMIN FUTTERMAN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

MATCH CASE.

Application filed December 28, 1921. Serial No. 525,292.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SIDNEY SPRAGUE, a subject of the King of Great Britain, and a resident of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Match Case, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to match cases or containers and refers more particularly to dispensing containers for matches.

The invention contemplates for its principal object to provide a match case or container for dispensing the contents thereof to deliver the matches singly therefrom.

A further object in view resides in the provision of means for igniting the match coincident with its delivery whereby the case may be employed as a holder for the lighted match to preclude the possibility of burning the fingers.

A still further object of the invention resides in the provision of means for discarding or ejecting the used match, and means for returning the operating parts to normal position.

A further object of the invention resides in the provision of a case of the character described which may be used in connection with either the common form of friction matches or safety matches.

Another object in view resides in the provision of a match case of the character described which is comparatively simple in its construction, inexpensive to manufacture and which is thoroughly reliable and efficient in its operation.

With the above recited and other objects in view, the invention resides in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts set forth in the following specification, particularly pointed out in the appended claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the match case constructed in accordance with the invention, parts being broken away and shown in section to disclose the underlying structure, the elements being shown in normal or closed position.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken approximately on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a similar view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view through the match receiving and delivery housing.

Referring to the drawings by characters of reference, 10 designates the body of the container having hinged to one side edge thereof the outer cover 11 which is normally retained in place by any suitable form of friction catch 12. The container body is provided with an inner supply chamber 13 formed by the flanges 14 and the inner cover member 15 which is hinged to one end of the body as at 16. The supply chamber is of a size in transverse section to snugly accommodate a single match and is of a length to accommodate a large supply of matches arranged parallel and in alignment. The forward end of the chamber terminates an appreciable distance from the forward end of the case and a match receiving and housing member 17 is pivoted to the flange 18 at the forward end thereof as at 19. The housing member 17 is of U-shaped formation in cross section with its open side disposed toward the open end of the supply chamber, the same being slightly less in length than the width of a single match. The rear wall of the container body is slotted as at 20 from a point above the pivot 19 to the lower wall thereof and the outer cover member 11 is slotted from a point below the pivot 19 to its upper end whereby to permit of the turning of the housing member 17 on its pivot to a position substantially at a right angle to the major axis of the container. A leaf spring 22 is secured to the rear wall of the container body and the free terminal 23 thereof is positioned to engage and exert a pressure on the forward end wall of the housing member 17 above its pivotal point.

A combined striker and retaining plate 24 is mounted on the forward extremity of a longitudinally slidable and rotatable shaft 25 mounted in the bearing 26 which is provided within the upper portion of the container body. The rear extremity of the shaft 25 is provided with an enlarged head 27 and a coil expansion spring 28 encircles the shaft 25 and is disposed between the head 27 and the rear end of the bearing 26

to normally exert a tension to shift the shaft rearwardly. The striking and retaining plate 24 is provided with a rearwardly projecting lug 29 which when the parts are in normal position engages under one edge of the slotted portion 21 of the outer cover member. The inner surface of the plate 24 is provided with serrations 30, or if desired may be provided with a removable striker strip in lieu thereof. The inner end of the supply chamber 13 has mounted therein a follower plate 31 and a leaf spring 32 of any desired configuration is interposed between the rear surface of the follower plate and the inner rear wall of the chamber. This arrangement serves to normally force the supply of matches toward the forward end of the case and to singly feed the end of the match into the match receiving and housing member 17. The upper end of the housing is provided with an extension 33 which extends approximately up to the head of the match to back-up the same and prevent breaking thereof during the striking operation.

The operation of the device is as follows: To obtain a match, user presses the head 27 of the shaft 25 forwardly against the action of the spring 28 thereby moving the striking and retaining plate 24 forwardly to disengage the lug 29 from the slotted edge of the outer cover 11. When the lug 29 is disengaged the leaf spring 22 will exert a tension on the housing 17 thereby swinging the same and forcibly moving the head of the match over the inner serrated face of the plate 24 to ignite the same. The user then employs the case as a means for supporting the lighted match to carry out the desired purpose. When it is desired to discard the used match the handle 34 of the ejector 35 which is slidably mounted in the slot 36 is shifted to dislodge the match from the housing. The housing 17 is then returned to normal position and the plate 24 swung downwardly to dispose the lug 29 under the slotted edge of the outer cover, the spring 28 functioning to return the shaft 25 to normal position. To fill the case, the friction catch 12 is manipulated to release the outer cover and the inner cover 15 is free to be opened for replenishing the supply of matches to the supply chamber.

It will thus be seen that a simple and efficient match case is provided which operates to singly deliver a lighted match to the user by simply pressing the head 27.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A match case comprising an open ended supply chamber adapted to receive a plurality of matches, a match receiving member pivoted adjacent said open end, means for retaining said receiving member in a position to receive the matches from the open end of said supply chamber, means for advancing the supply toward said open end and forcing the outermost match into said receiving member, and means for releasing said retaining means to deliver the match to the user.

2. A match case comprising an open ended supply chamber adapted to receive a plurality of matches, a match receiving member pivoted adjacent said open end, means for retaining said receiving member in a position to receive the matches from the open end of said supply chamber, means for advancing the supply toward said open end and forcing the outermost match into said receiving member, and means for releasing said retaining means to deliver the match to the user, and means for igniting the match during the delivery operation.

3. A match case comprising an open-ended supply chamber adapted to receive a plurality of matches, said chamber consisting of hingedly connected sections and means for retaining the same in closed position, a match receiving member consisting of a channel shaped bar pivoted adjacent the open end of the supply chamber with the open side confronting the open end of the supply chamber, means for turning said receiving member at an angle to the supply chamber, a swinging and slidable plate engaging the supply chamber for holding the receiving member against turning movement, means for advancing the supply toward said open end and for forcing the outermost match into the receiving member, and means for releasing the sliding and swinging plate to permit the receiving member to assume its angular position.

4. A match case comprising an open ended supply chamber adapted to receive a plurality of matches, said chamber consisting of hingedly connected sections and means for retaining the same in closed position, a match receiving member consisting of a channel shaped bar pivoted adjacent the open end of the supply chamber with the open side confronting the open end of the supply chamber, means for turning said receiving member at an angle to the supply chamber, a swinging and slidable plate engaging the supply chamber for holding the receiving member against turning movement, means for advancing the supply toward said open end and for forcing the outermost match into the receiving member, means for releasing the sliding and swinging plate to permit the receiving member to assume its angular position, and abrasive means on the inner face of the plate over which the head of the match is adapted to wipe during the turning of the receiving member to effect the ignition thereof.

5. A match case comprising an open ended supply chamber adapted to receive a plurality of matches, said chamber consist-

ing of hingedly connected sections and means for retaining the same in closed position, a match receiving member consisting of a channel shaped bar pivoted adjacent the open end of the supply chamber with the open side confronting the open end of the supply chamber, means for turning said receiving member at an angle to the supply chamber, a swinging and slidable plate engaging the supply chamber for holding the receiving member against turning movement, means for advancing the supply toward said open end and for forcing the outermost match into the receiving member, means for releasing the sliding and swinging plate to permit the receiving member to assume its angular position, abrasive means on the inner face of the plate over which the head of the match is adapted to wipe during the turning of the receiving member to effect the ignition thereof, and means on the receiving member for engaging and ejecting the match therefrom after use.

SIDNEY SPRAGUE.