

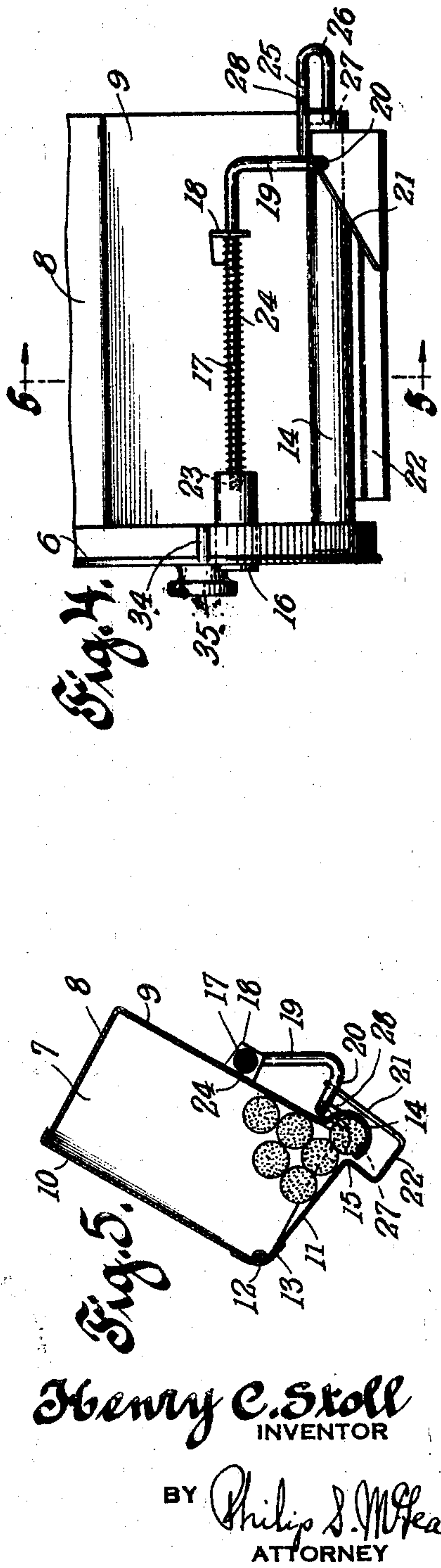
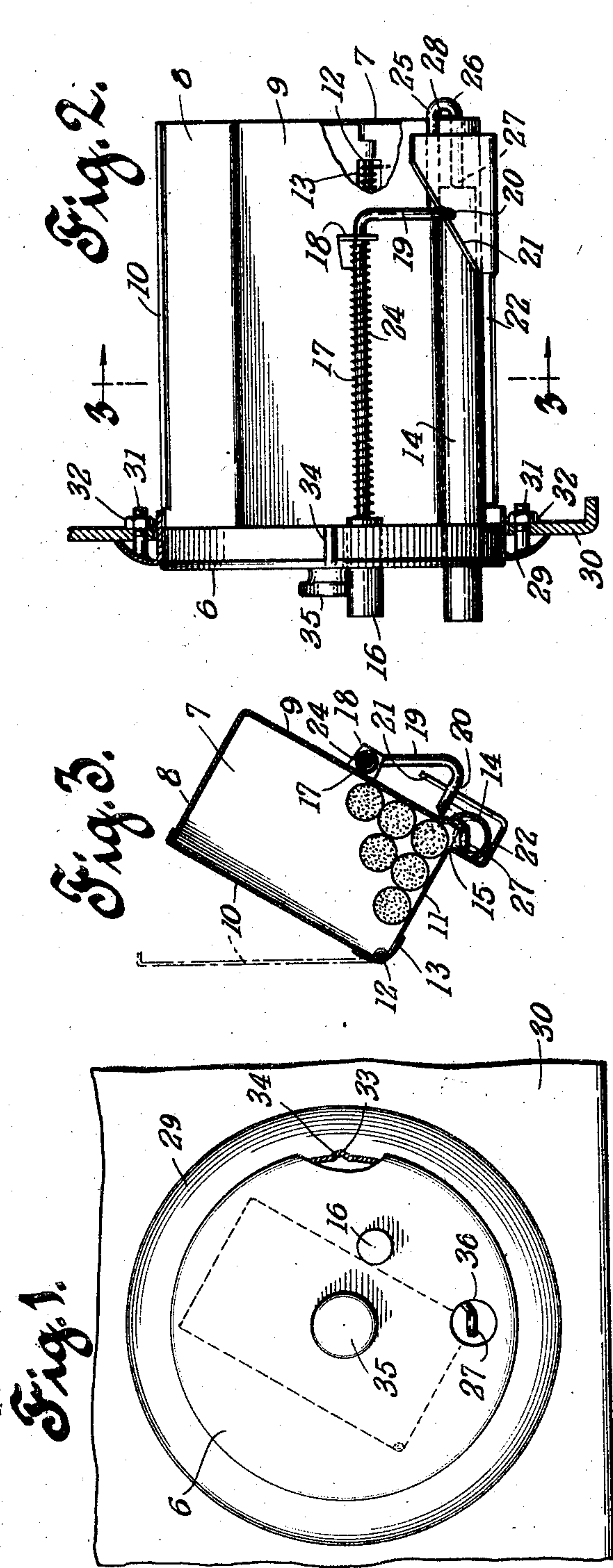
Oct. 7, 1930.

H. C. STOLL
CIGARETTE CONTAINER

1,777,813

Filed March 19, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



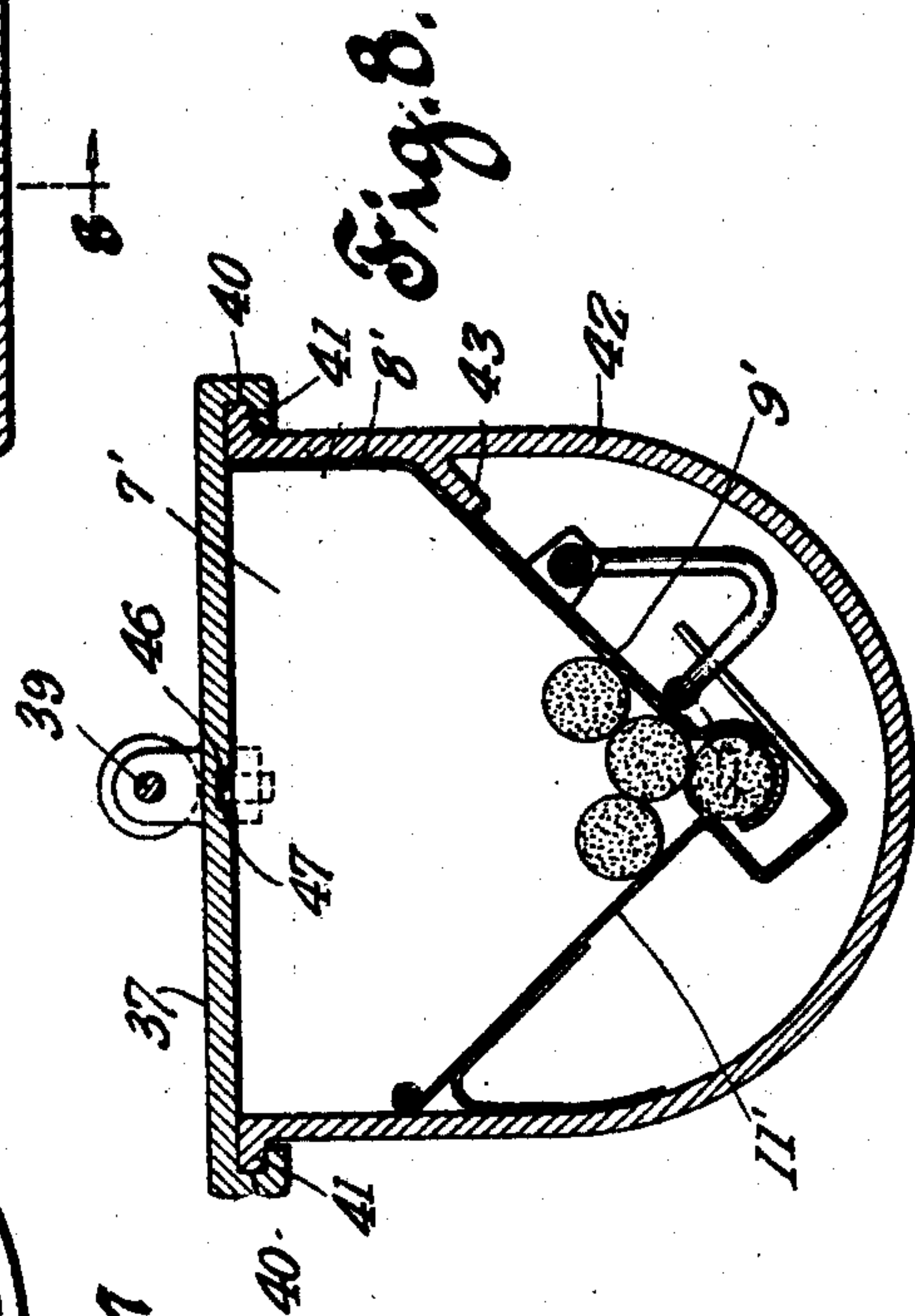
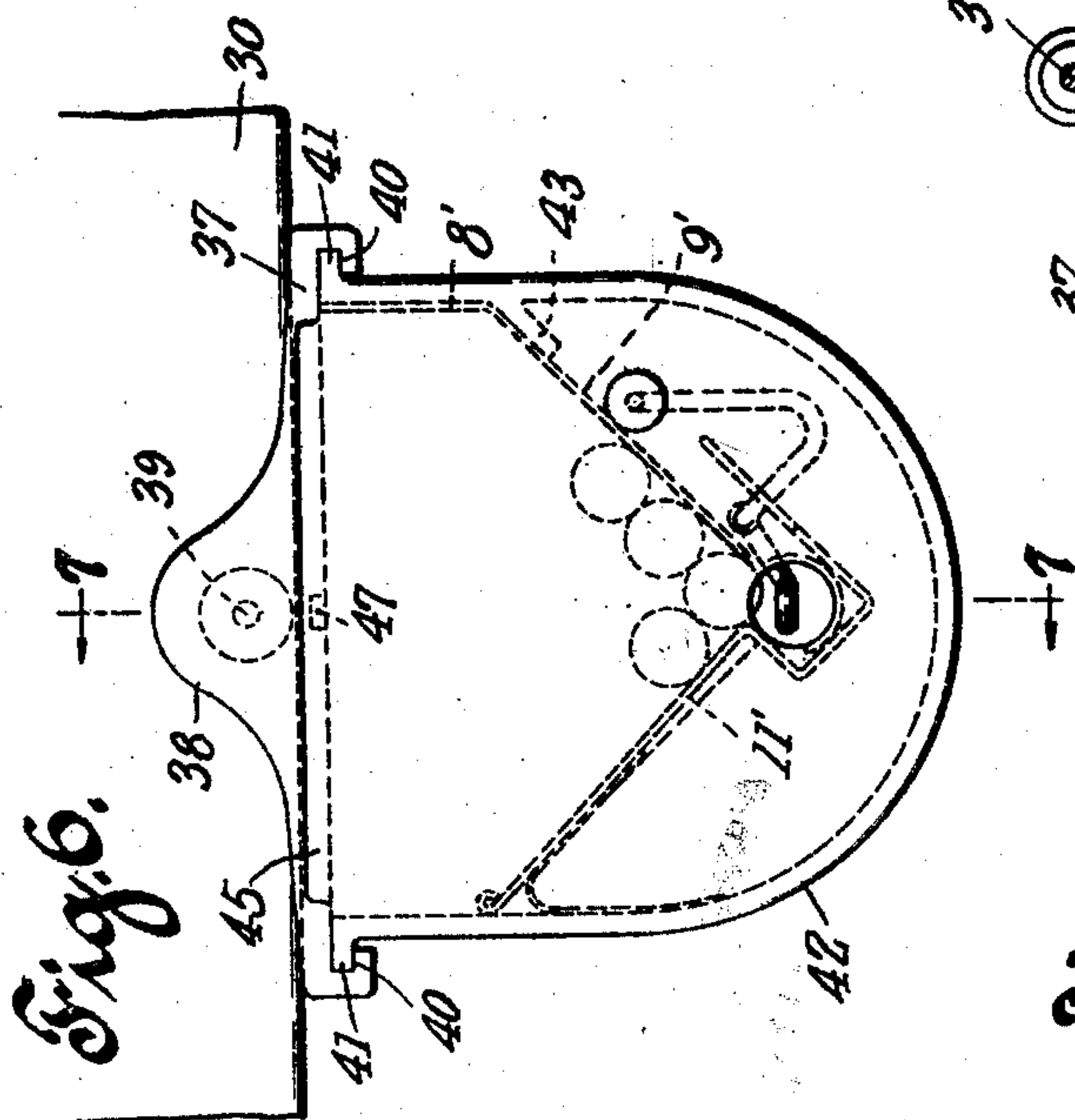
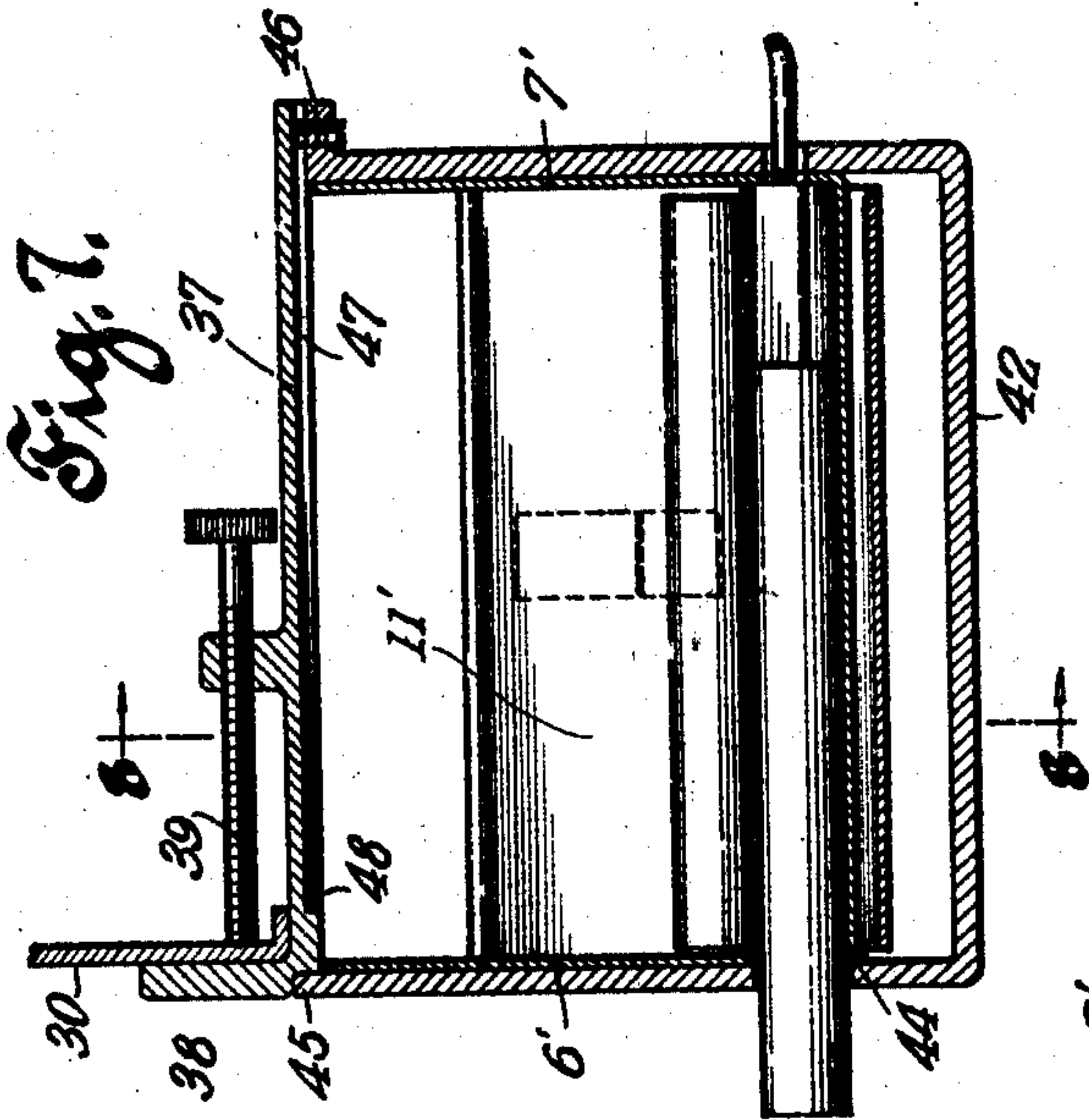
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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CIGARETTE CONTAINER

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Special objects of the present invention are to provide a holder for cigarettes, or other articles which will operate to deliver the articles as required and which will be of particularly simple, inexpensive construction and adapted to be readily mounted on the instrument panel of a motor vehicle.

The foregoing and other desirable objects are attained in this invention by the novel features of construction, combinations and relations of parts hereinafter described and particularly covered in the claims.

The drawing forming part of the specification illustrates one practical embodiment of the invention, it being understood that the structure may be modified as regards this disclosure without departure from the true spirit and broad scope of the invention.

Fig. 1 is a broken and part sectional front elevation of an embodiment of the invention mounted on a dash or instrument panel of an automobile; Fig. 2 is a broken part sectional side view of the device showing the parts as having been operated to deliver a cigarette; Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of the device substantially on the plane of 3—3, Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a broken side elevation of the device removed from its mounting and showing the button or plunger forced inward in the act of segregating a cigarette for delivery; Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view as on substantially the plane of line 5—5, Fig. 4; Fig. 6 is a front elevation of a modification; Fig. 7 is a longitudinal section taken on line 7—7 of Fig. 6; Fig. 8 is a cross-section taken on line 8—8 of Fig. 7.

The box part of the device is shown as made up of a front wall 6 which may be of ornamental or fanciful design as indicated, a back wall 7, the fixed side and bottom walls 8, 9 and the movable top and side walls 10, 11. The latter two movable walls are indicated as both pivoted, by suitable hinge lugs on a single pivot pin or rod 12 supported between the front and rear walls and as both yieldingly held in their closed relations indicated in Fig. 3 by the coil spring 13 common to both encircling the rod and having its

opposite ends bearing against the cover and the side wall 11 respectively.

The bottom wall 9 is shown as carrying a curved extension 14 at its lower edge forming a delivery trough for a single cigarette and the movable side wall 11 is indicated as having a cut-off shoulder or edge 15, partially obstructing the entrance to this trough in the closed position of the wall, Fig. 3. This side wall serves in effect as part of the bottom of the box cooperating with the wall 9 to provide a V-shaped support for the cigarettes. From this, it follows that if the lower wall 11 is sprung outwardly as in Fig. 5, the body of the cigarettes will be lowered and the lowest one in the group will be permitted to drop in the delivery trough. After which, the lower wall swinging inwardly to its closed position will lift all but the cigarette ready for delivery, the cut-off shoulder segregating this one cigarette from the mass supported above the same.

The means for effecting the outward lowering movement of the cut-off wall is shown as consisting in the present disclosure of a plunger or button 16 operating through the front or face plate of the device and connected at the rear with a rod or wire 17 sliding in a guide lug 18 struck out from the fixed bottom wall 9, said rod having an angular offset 19 carrying a transverse portion 20 riding over an inclined cam edge 21 carried by an arched extension 22 of the movable wall and lying beneath and in back of the delivery trough. The button 16 may have a screw-threaded, soldered or other suitable fastening 23 at the forward end of rod or wire 17 and thus mounted provides an abutment for the forward end of the spring 24, which has a bearing at its rear end against the guide lug 18. The spring automatically returns the button from the position shown in Fig. 4 to that shown in Fig. 2 as soon as pressure on the button is relieved, permitting the spring 13 to return the cut-off wall from the position shown in Fig. 5 to that shown in Fig. 3 as the button moves outward. The return stroke of the actuating mechanism described is utilized to eject the cigarette by forming the rod or wire with a

portion 25 extending rearwardly from the transverse cam engaging shoulder 20 and arched as shown at 26 to extend about and into the rear end of the trough where it is shown as transversely bent at 27 to form a plunger head for engagement with the end of the cigarette in the trough. To prevent the plunger rod from turning because of its thrust against the cam edge 21, the rearwardly extended portion 25 of the rod is shown as guided in a groove or opening in a fixed guide lug 28 at the back of the box. The rod being thus guided in a straight line movement and held against turning serves in its inward movement from the position shown in Fig. 2 to that shown in Fig. 4 to thrust back the cam 21 and to open out the movable wall as in Fig. 5 to drop the bottom cigarette into the delivery trough. In this movement, the ejector head 27 is carried clear to the rear so that the separated cigarette falls in front of the same, as shown in Fig. 4. When pressure on the button is relieved and the spring 24 thrusts the plunger outwardly, the ejector pushes the separated cigarette outwardly as in Fig. 2 and at the same time permits the cut-off wall to close back to the position indicated in Fig. 3 supporting the balance of the cigarettes. Thus each time the button is pressed and released a cigarette will be dropped into the trough and then automatically projected into position to be readily taken up in the fingers. If desired, the button may be released with a "snap" so as to entirely expel the cigarette.

An attractive and practical method of mounting the device is illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, wherein a bezel 29 of the desired ornamental form is shown seated in an opening in the instrument panel 30 and held therein by short bolts 31 on the back of the bezel passed through openings in the panel and secured by nuts 32. This bezel is shown as having a notch 33 at one point and the face plate as flanged and having a rib 34 on such flange to enter the nut, thus insuring that the device will be entered in the proper relation and frictionally held in such position. To facilitate removal and replacement of the device, an ornamental handle 35 may be provided on the face plate and a suitable discharge opening 36 is provided in the face plate in line with the delivery trough.

The container may be conveniently filled by withdrawing it from its mount and holding back the spring closed cover as indicated in the broken lines in Fig. 3. This throwing back of the cover exposes the entire interior of the container, enabling easy filling, or if desired, removal of any or all of the cigarettes.

The device is particularly simple and inexpensive and can be readily manufactured of light sheet metal and wire parts. The action is positive and certain and the ar-

range ment of the cigarettes in a substantially V-shaped support ensures that the cigarettes will feed automatically one at a time down into the delivery position.

To save cutting of the panel, the device may be made so as to detachably clamp over the edge portion of the panel, the face plate of the device then being modified accordingly.

The last form consists of a base 37 having an upstanding lug at 38 engaged in front of the panel 30 and a clamp screw 39 engaging the back panel. This base has grooves 40 in which slide the ribs 41 of the U-shaped body member 42. In this member is positioned the box portion of the device comprising the front and back walls 6', 7', the side and bottom walls 8', 9' and the movable cut-off wall 11'. The body member may be in the form of a single casting as indicated and the body portion of sheet metal inserted down in the U-shaped casting against positioning stops 43, 44. A rib 45 on the front of the body casting engages the supporting base to limit the inward sliding movement and a stop screw 46 similarly limits the outward sliding movement operating in a groove 47 in the underside of the support, against a stop wall 48 at the outer end of the groove.

This form of the invention is readily clamped in place on the instrument panel, but is used in the same way as the first form. The filling of the device however is accomplished simply by sliding out the draw portion so as to expose the open top of the same.

What is claimed is:

1. A container for cigarettes or the like, comprising a box-like structure having a movable wall for supporting articles in the box-like structure and a trough below said wall to receive an article released by the movement of said wall, a plunger projecting from the container and operable in its inward stroke to shift the wall to release an article into the delivery trough and an ejector connected with the plunger in line with the back of the trough, shiftable out of the trough on the inward stroke of the plunger and operable in the return movement of the plunger to enter the rear end of the trough to deliver the released article from the front end of said trough.

2. In an article of the character disclosed, relatively inclined box walls, one of said walls being movable away from the other to release an article supported between the walls, a delivery trough carried by one of said walls, a reversely shifting member operable in one movement to open the movable wall and maintain it in open position when said member is at the extremity of its movement, spring means operable in the reverse movement of the member to shift said movable wall in a closing direction and an ejector operable in said latter movement of the mem-

ber to shift the article longitudinally in the delivery trough.

3. A container for cigarettes or the like, comprising an enclosing structure for the articles, a delivery trough at the foot of the same, a movable cut-off to deliver the articles one at a time into said trough, an ejector in line with the trough and operating connections for causing the ejector to retreat from the trough on its idle stroke when the cut-off operates to deliver an article into the trough and to advance into the trough on its working stroke when the cut-off has completed the delivery of an article into the trough to thereby eject the article.

4. In an article of the character disclosed, a support, a face plate insertable in said support, a box structure on the back of said face plate, a push button plunger operable through said face plate, said box structure including a movable wall forming a support and cut-off for articles contained in the box structure, a delivery trough positioned to receive articles released by said cut-off, an ejector at the rear of the trough and operating connections from the push button to said cut-off and ejector to cause the ejector to retreat as the cut-off is actuated to release an article into the trough and to advance into the trough as the cut-off returns to its non-releasing position.

5. In an article of the character disclosed, a support, a face plate insertable in said support, a box structure on the back of said face plate, a push button plunger operable through said face plate, said box structure including a movable wall forming a support and cut-off for articles contained in the box structure, a delivery trough positioned to receive articles released by said cut-off, an ejector at the rear of the trough and operating connections from the push button to said cut-off and ejector to cause the ejector to retreat as the cut-off is actuated to release an article into the trough and to advance into the trough as the cut-off returns to its non-releasing position, the supporting means including a bezel and means for attaching the same to the instrument panel of a motor vehicle, said face plate and bezel having cooperating means for releasably securing the face plate in predetermined relation in the bezel.

6. In an article of the character disclosed, the combination of an article receptacle, a housing receiving said receptacle, said receptacle having a sliding frictional engagement in said housing and by which it is releasably confined in said housing, said removable receptacle having an article delivery way open to the front of the same, an ejector operating in the rear end of said delivery way, movable cut-off means for admitting articles in the receptacle into said delivery way and common actuating means at the front of the receptacle adjacent the mouth of the delivery

way for operating both the ejector and the cut-off means and including mechanism for actuating the cut-off means to admit an article into the delivery way on the rearward retractive movement of the ejector and to cause the ejector to project the selected article from the delivery way on the return movement of the ejector and common actuating means.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

HENRY C. STOLL.

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