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E. R. SCHMELING

2,539,276

CIGARETTE HOLDING DEVICE

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Fig. 1.

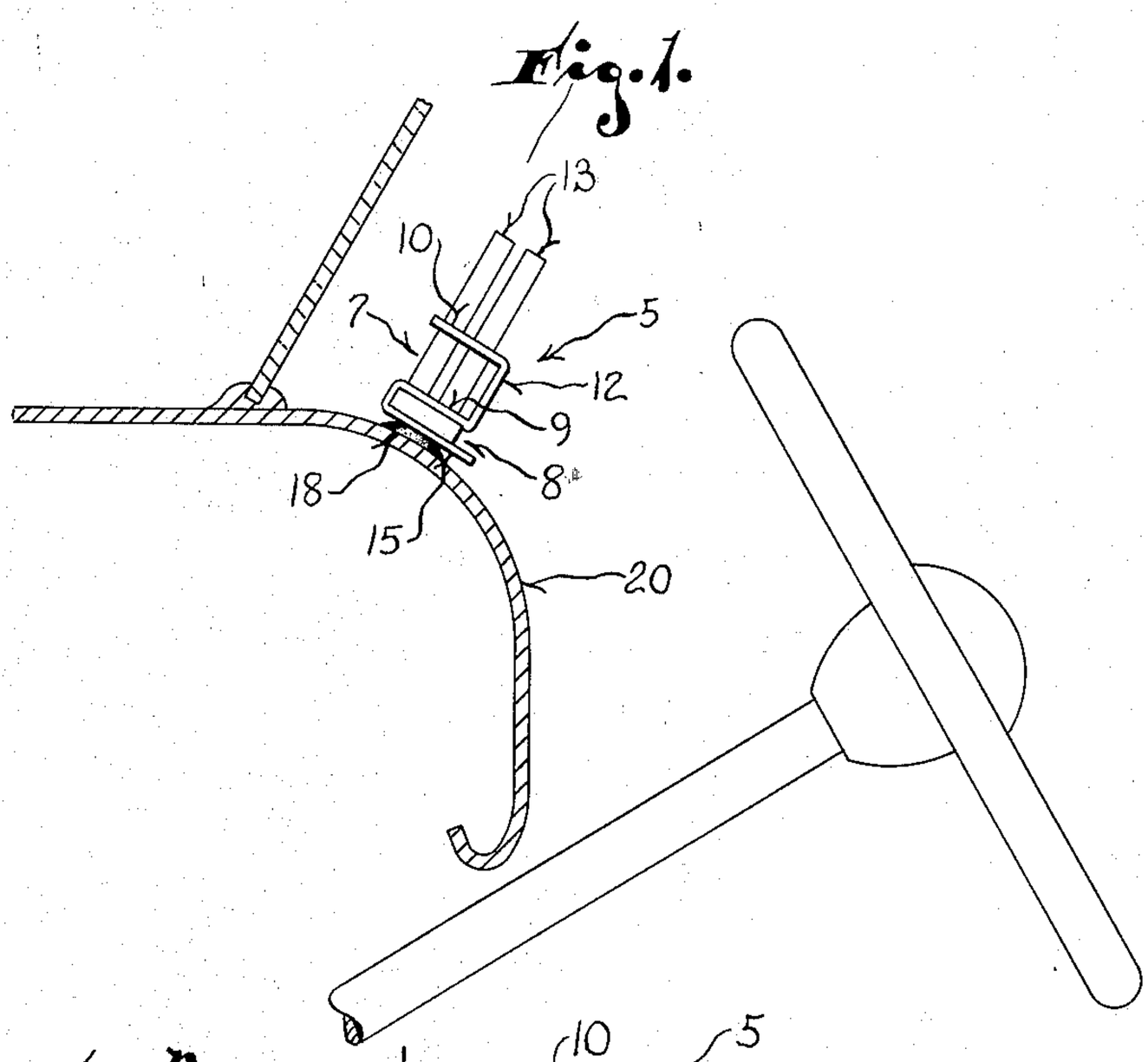


Fig. 2.

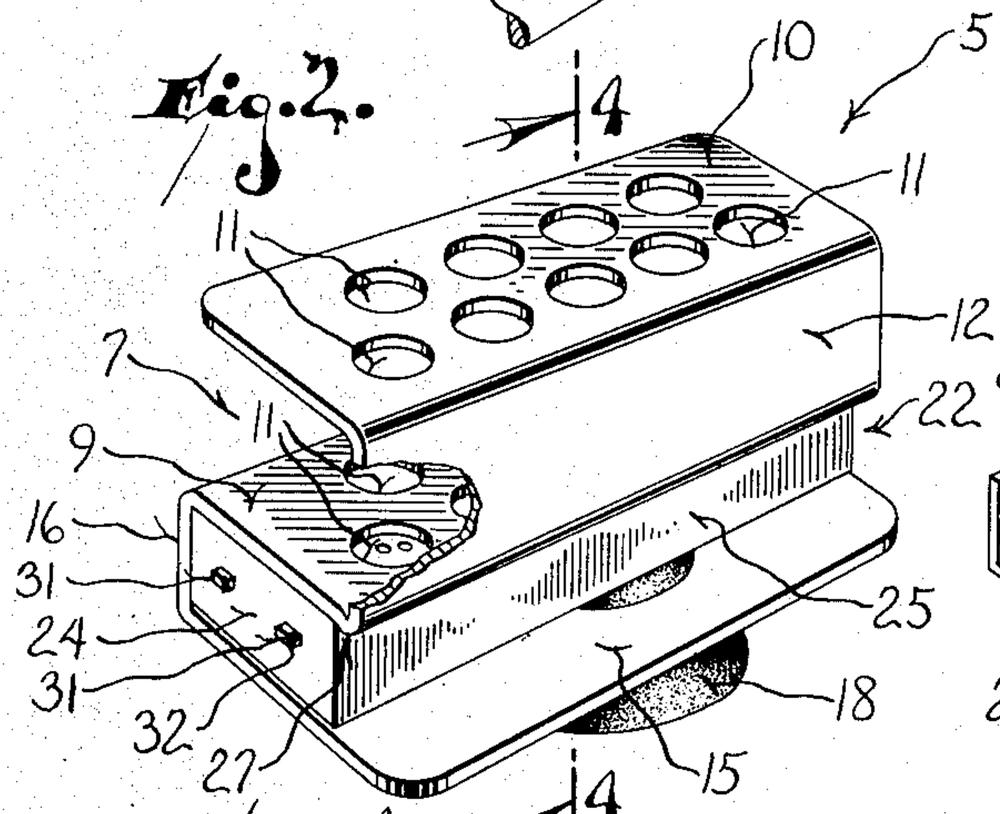


Fig. 3.

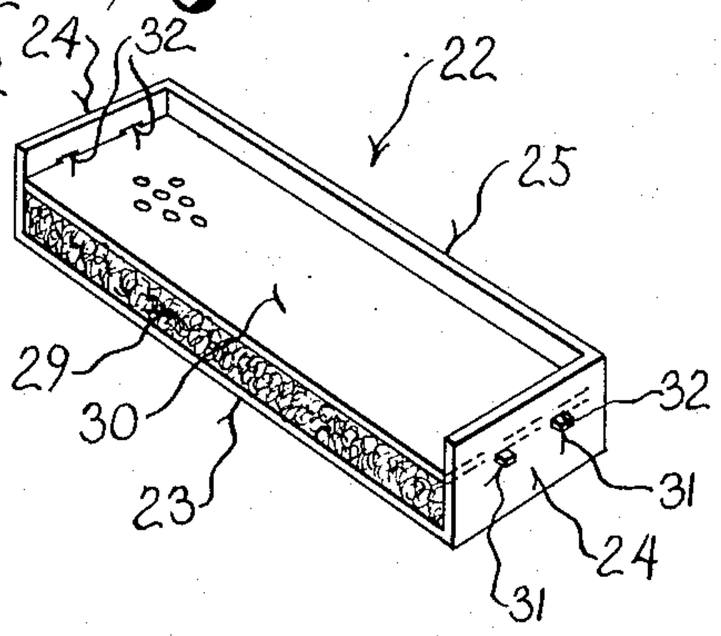
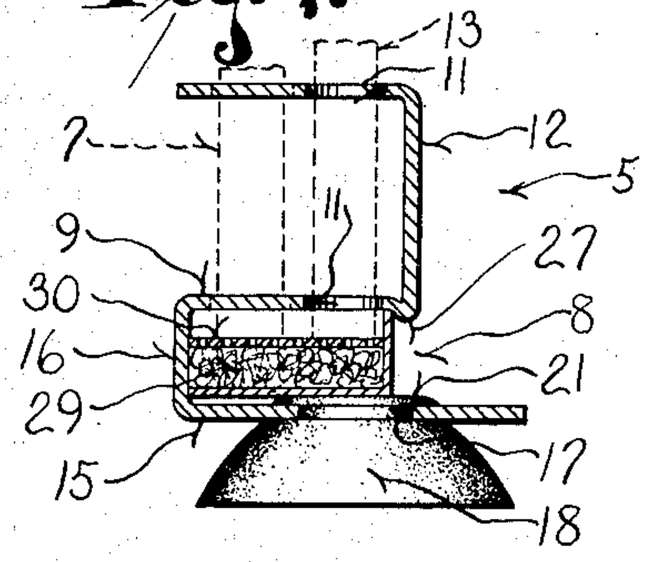


Fig. 4.



Inventor
Ernest R. Schmeling
By Dallas Milton Jones
Attorney

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CIGARETTE HOLDING DEVICE

Ernest R. Schmeling, Union, Mich.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 211—60)

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This invention relates to cigarette holding devices and has more particular reference to holders of the type capable of supporting a number of cigarettes with portions thereof exposed for easy access.

One of the objects of this invention resides in the provision of a cigarette holding device by which a number of cigarettes are held individually in a substantially upright condition with their upper ends exposed for easy access and withdrawal from the device.

Another object of this invention resides in the provision of a cigarette holding device of the character described which is readily attachable to any suitable supporting surface.

Still another object of this invention resides in the provision of a cigarette holding device of the character described which is provided with attaching means in the nature of a suction cup on the underside thereof so as to enable the device to be readily attached to a supporting surface, such as the instrument panel of an automobile, in a position holding the cigarettes readily accessible to the driver of the automobile.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a cigarette holding device of the character described with a readily detachable humidifying unit for supplying moisture to portions of the cigarettes held by the device to thus maintain freshness of the cigarettes.

With the above and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, this invention resides in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts substantially as hereinafter described and more particularly defined by the appended claims, it being understood that such changes in the precise embodiment of the herein disclosed invention may be made as come within the scope of the claims.

The accompanying drawing illustrates one complete example of the physical embodiment of the invention constructed according to the best mode so far devised for the practical application of the principles thereof, and in which:

Figure 1 is a more or less diagrammatic longitudinal sectional view through a portion of an automobile at the instrument panel thereof illustrating one use for the cigarette holding device of this invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the device having portions thereof broken away and shown in section;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the humidifying unit per se, and;

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Figure 4 is a cross sectional view taken through Figure 2 on the plane of the line 4—4.

Referring now more particularly to the accompanying drawing in which like numerals indicate like parts, the numeral 5 generally designates the cigarette holding device of this invention. As here shown the device comprises a bracket preferably made from a single length of relatively lightweight sheet metal bent to form an upper channel member 7 and a lower channel member 8. These channel members, in the normal use of the device, lie on their sides one above the other so as to dispose their flanges in substantially spaced apart horizontal relationship.

The intermediate flange 9 of the bracket is common to both channel members, that is, it provides the lower flange of the upper channel member as well as the upper flange of the lower channel member. The flange 9 as well as the flange 10 thereabove are each provided with rows of apertures 11 with said rows aligning with the back 12 of the upper channel member and with each of the apertures of the upper flange 10 aligning with one of the apertures of the common flange 9 therebeneath. These apertures are of a size to freely receive cigarettes, indicated at 13 in Figures 1 and 4, and since the apertures in the flanges align with one another it will be apparent that the cigarettes are held in a substantially upright condition and have their lower ends projecting into the space between the flange 9 and the flange 15 at the bottom of the bracket which provides the lower flange of the lower channel member 8. As clearly shown in Figures 2 and 4, the back or web 12 of the upper channel member lies over the open side of the lower channel member, while the back or web 16 of the lower channel member lies beneath the open side of the upper channel member.

The flange 15 of the lower channel member is provided with an aperture 17 in which is secured a suction cup 18 to provide for easy attachment of the bracket to a supporting surface such as the instrument panel 20 of an automobile, in the manner indicated in Figure 1. As is customary, the suction cup has a head 21 overlying the inner side of the lower flange 15 for retaining the cup connected with the bracket.

Although it will be readily appreciated that the bracket thus far described is capable of supporting a number of cigarettes inserted in the apertures with their lower ends received on and supported by the lower flange 15 of the channel

member 8 and their upper ends accessible for withdrawal at the top of the bracket, it is desirable in many instances to provide the device with a humidifying unit generally designated 22. The unit 22 is of drawer-like shape and is easily insertable into the space between the flanges of the lower channel member from the open side thereof.

The humidifying unit comprises a bottom wall 23 having a length not greater than the length of the lower channel member 8 and a width just slightly less than the width of the flanges of the lower channel member. End walls 24 on the unit are bent up from the opposite ends of the bottom wall to close the opposite ends of the lower channel member, and a front wall 25 bent up from one side edge of the bottom wall closes the front side of the lower channel member.

Referring to Figure 4, it will be seen that the height of the front and end walls of the humidifying unit is slightly less than the space between the flanges of the lower channel member so as to accommodate the head 21 of the suction cup beneath the bottom wall 23 of the unit, but that the height of these walls is such as to require compression of the head of the suction cup when the unit is in place so that the expansive force of the head 21 firmly presses the upper edges of the front and end walls of the unit against the underside of the flange 9. The expansive force of the head of the suction cup is thus utilized to maintain the humidifying unit in place inside the lower panel member and to hold the humidifying unit against rattling which would be highly distracting and objectionable, for instance, to the occupants of the driver's compartment of an automobile.

In order to further assure against accidental displacement of the humidifying unit from the lower channel member, the outer portion of the flange 9 is formed with a ridge 27 projecting slightly downwardly substantially in line with the web 12 of the upper channel member. This ridge engages ahead of the front wall 25 of the humidifying unit as clearly shown in Figure 4 and restricts the entrance to the lower channel member to an extent such as to require a slight spreading of its flanges for insertion or detachment of the humidifying unit from the device.

The humidifying unit 22 further includes a moisture retaining element 29 which rests on the bottom wall 23 and may be made of felt, asbestos, or a well known type of clay having the desired moisture retaining characteristics. The moisture retaining element 29 occupies only the lower portion of the humidifying unit and is retained in place by means of a foraminous platform 30 in the nature of a screen or perforated plate. The plate or screen 30 is located intermediate the bottom wall 23 and the flange 9 in substantially parallel relationship with these members, and its function, of course, is to prevent the lower ends of the cigarettes projecting into the humidifying unit from contacting the moisture retaining element 29.

As seen in Figure 3, the plate or platform 30 is provided with a pair of relatively short tongues 31 projecting from its opposite ends into apertures 32 in the end walls 24 to provide a secure connection between the plate and the humidifying unit.

When suitably moisturized, the element 29 will retain its moisture for relatively long periods of time because of the fact that the walls of the humidifying unit cooperate with the flange 9 and the web 16 of the lower channel member to enclose the same; and when the humidifying element has been properly selected, it will give off its moisture gradually to the lower end portions of the cigarettes inside the humidifying chamber to keep the same in fresh condition.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, it will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art that this invention provides a cigarette holding device which is especially useful for the operators of automobiles and the like and which in addition to holding a quantity of cigarettes at all times accessible to the driver maintains the cigarettes in a desirably fresh condition.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. In a cigarette holding device: a bracket comprising connected upper and lower channel members having their flanges in spaced superimposed relationship and having a common flange between them with said common flange and the flange thereabove provided with aligning sets of apertures to receive and hold cigarettes in a substantially upright condition with their lower ends projecting into the space between the flanges of the lower channel member; a suction cup carried by the bottom flange of the lower channel member to provide for attachment of the bracket to a suitable support, said suction cup being of resilient material and having a portion disposed inside the lower channel member; a humidifying unit readily detachably confined in said lower channel member between said portion of the suction cup and the common flange of the channel members to hold said portion of the suction cup under compression and to be yieldingly pressed thereby against the underside of the said common flange, said humidifying unit substantially closing the space between the flanges of the lower channel member; and a foraminous platform carried by the humidifying unit intermediate the flanges of the lower channel member to support cigarettes in said apertures with their upper ends accessible at the top of the bracket.

2. The structure set forth in claim 1 further characterized by the provision of a ridge on said common flange restricting the entrance to said lower channel member for maintaining the humidifying unit in place against accidental displacement, said ridge requiring that the flanges of the lower channel element be spread apart slightly for detachment of the humidifying unit from the lower channel member.

3. The structure set forth in claim 1 wherein said humidifying unit comprises a drawer-like element having front and end walls closing the open side and ends of the lower channel member, a bottom wall engaged by said portion of the suction cup and bearing the force thereof, a moisture retaining element on said bottom wall of the unit, and a foraminous platform interposed between said moisture retaining element and the lower ends of cigarettes in said space between the flanges of the lower channel member to prevent their contact with the moisture retaining element and for holding the cigarettes with their upper ends accessible at the top of the bracket.

4. In a cigarette holding device: a bracket having three superimposed, spaced apart substantially parallel flanges, the upper and middle flanges being provided with aligned sets of apertures to receive and hold cigarettes in a substantially upright position with their lower ends projecting into the space between the middle

and lower flanges and the middle and lower flanges being connected by a web extending along the rear of the bracket; a downwardly extending ridge along the front edge of the middle flange; a suction cup of resilient material secured beneath the lower flange by means of a knob-like portion on said cup projecting through a closely fitting hole in the lower flange and extending above the lower flange, said cup enabling attachment of the bracket to a suitable support; a drawer-like element having a bottom, a front and end walls and adapted to close the space between said middle and lower flanges with the upper edge of its front wall in engagement with said ridge and with its bottom wall engaged by said upwardly extending knob-like portion of the suction cup to be securely but readily detachably retained in place thereby; a moisture retaining element on said bottom wall of the unit; and a foraminous platform interposed between said

moisture retaining element and the middle flange to prevent the lower ends of cigarettes held in said aligned apertures from contacting the moisture retaining element and for holding the cigarettes with their upper ends accessible at the top of the bracket.

ERNEST R. SCHMELING.

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