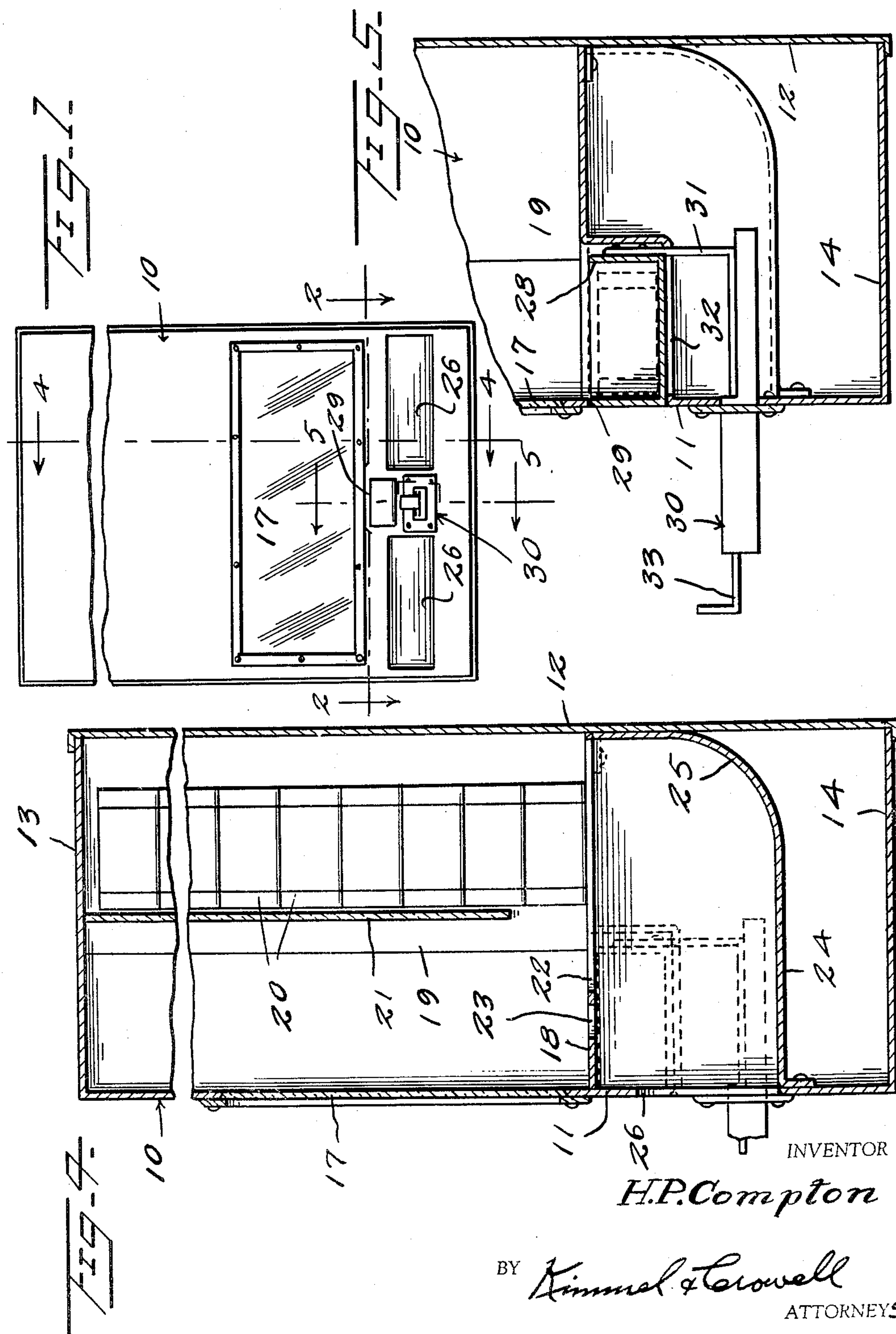


2,624,648

PACKAGE DISPENSER

Filed Dec. 29, 1950

2 SHEETS--SHEET 1



Jan. 6, 1953

H. P. COMPTON

2,624,648

PACKAGE DISPENSER

Filed Dec. 29, 1950

2 SHEETS--SHEET 2

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2,624,648

PACKAGE DISPENSER

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Application December 29, 1950, Serial No. 203,404

2 Claims. (Cl. 312-67)

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This invention relates to package dispensing machines.

An object of this invention is to provide a dispenser for dispensing packaged articles such as cigarette packages or the like wherein the packages are delivered after placement of a coin in a coin operated delivery means.

Another object of this invention is to provide a package dispensing machine for dispensing packages of various kinds such as various kinds of cigarettes which is so constructed and arranged that a selected kind or type of cigarette may be dispensed by manual selection and manual moving of the selected package to the coin dispensing or delivery member.

A further object of this invention is to provide a dispensing device of this kind which is of simple construction and is designed particularly for mounting behind a delivery counter for operation by the clerk upon placement of a coin in the coin operated delivery device.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the arrangement, combination and details of construction disclosed in the drawings and specification, and then more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a detailed front elevation partly broken away of a dispensing device.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2-2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 3-3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 4-4 of either Figures 1 or 2.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 5-5 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings the numeral 10 designates generally an upright housing formed of front and rear walls 11 and 12, a top wall 13, a bottom wall 14, and opposite side walls 15 and 16. The housing 10 has disposed in the front wall 11 thereof a transparent panel 17 which is positioned above a horizontal inner bottom 18 secured within the housing 10. A plurality of vertically disposed partitions 19 extend between the inner bottom 18 and the top wall 13 so as to separate stacks of packages 20 which are positioned between pairs of upright partitions 19. The packages 20 are preferably cigarette packages and a transparent panel 21 is positioned between each pair of partitions 19 so that the particular kind of cigarette packages in each stack may be readily viewed. The inner bottom 18 is provided with an elongated slot or opening 22 positioned be-

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neath each stack of packages 20, and the slot 22 projects from a point rearwardly of a stack of packages to a point spaced forwardly of the inner transparent panel 21. A longitudinally extending slot or opening 23 is also formed through the inner bottom 18, and the slots 22 and 23 are designed so that a finger may be initially inserted in slot 22 behind a stack of cigarettes so as to push the lowermost package forwardly to a point where the package will substantially contact with the front wall 11 and will overlie the longitudinal slot or opening 23. After the package has been pulled forwardly and overlies the longitudinal slot 23, a finger is inserted in slot 23 for engagement with one side of the package for the purpose of moving the package inwardly toward the center of the housing 10. A lower inner wall 24 is secured between the front and rear walls 11 and 12, respectively as shown in Figure 4 and is formed with an upwardly curved rear portion 25 so as to guide a hand which is extended through an elongated front opening 26 which is formed in the front wall 25.

The inner bottom 18 is formed centrally between the side walls 15 and 16 with a depressed channel shaped guide 27 and an upwardly opening receptacle 28 is slidably disposed in the channel 27. The front wall 11 is formed with an opening 29 within which the receptacle 28 is adapted to engage when the receptacle 28 is moved forwardly to a package delivery position. A coin operated member 30 of conventional construction is secured to a front wall 11 and includes an upwardly directed arm 31 which is fixedly secured to the receptacle 28. The arm 31 is slidable in an elongated forwardly extending opening 32 which is formed in the bottom of the channel member 27.

In the use and operation of this device the rear wall 12 which is preferably removable is initially removed so as to fill the spaces between the pairs of partition walls 19 with cigarette packages or other packaged materials.

When it is desired to remove a package from the housing 10 a hand is inserted in the lower portion of the housing through the opening 26 and a finger extended into a selected one of the slots or openings 22 beneath a particular stack of packages. The lowermost package is pulled forwardly, and as shown in Figure 4 the transparent inner panel 21 is spaced upwardly from the bottom member 18 a distance sufficient to prevent the forward movement of more than one package of material at a time. When the package has been moved forwardly toward the front wall 11,

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and overlies the opening or slot 23, a finger is inserted in the slot 23 on the outer edge of the package, and the package is then moved inwardly toward the center so that the package may gravitatingly drop into the receptacle or delivery member 28. When the package is in the delivery member 28 a coin may be inserted in the coin actuated means 30, and the pull bar 33 is pulled forwardly so as to move the receptacle or delivery member 28 outwardly through the delivery opening 29. The package may then be removed from the receptacle or delivery member 28.

A dispensing device as hereinbefore described will provide a means whereby selected ones of different types of packages such as different types or kinds of cigarettes may be dispensed from a single machine using a single coin operated delivery means, thereby effecting a substantial reduction in the cost of package dispensing machines of different types. While it is contemplated that a machine of this type be placed behind a counter for operation by the counter clerk, this machine may also be placed at any point convenient to a customer for operation by the customer.

What is claimed is:

1. A package dispensing machine comprising an upright housing, an inner bottom in said housing above the lower end thereof, a plurality of upright partitions between said inner bottom and the top of said housing, said inner bottom having a forwardly extending slot between each pair of partitions and also having an elongated longitudinal slot disposed at right angles to said first named slots, and a delivery receptacle slidably

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carried by said housing at one end of said longitudinal slot and disposed below the plane of said inner bottom wall, said housing having an opening in the front wall thereof whereby a hand may be extended below said inner bottom wall and a finger inserted in one of said slots for moving a package over said bottom wall, to a position above said delivery receptacle.

2. A package dispensing machine comprising a housing formed of front and rear walls, top and bottom walls and opposite side walls, an inner bottom in said housing above said bottom wall, upright partitions between said inner bottom and said top wall, said inner bottom having a forwardly projecting slot in said inner bottom between each pair of partitions, said inner bottom having a longitudinal delivery slot at the forward ends of said first named slots and at right angles to the latter, said front wall having a horizontally elongated opening between said bottom wall and said inner bottom whereby a hand may be extended into said housing and a finger inserted in one of said first named slots for shifting a lower package of a stock forwardly to a position overlying said longitudinal slot.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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