

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MATCH SAFE AND VENDING DEVICE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROSTUS BUTLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Little Cohary, in the county of Sampson and State of North Carolina, have invented new and useful Improvements in Match Safes and Vending Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a match safe and vending device, and the primary object of the same is to provide a container for the purpose specified wherein a quantity of matches may be safely stored and disposed to gravitate towards a lower specially constructed and novel form of outlet extremity from which only one match can be removed at a time by the user in several particular ways, and thereby economize in domestic or public distribution or use of matches in households or tobacco or other stores. A further object of the invention is to provide a simple form of match safe and vending device which may be cheaply manufactured, easily charged and readily mounted in operative position and adapted to be generally used for vending matches and also advantageously serve as an advertising means for a particular brand of matches.

With these and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists in the construction and arrangement of the several parts which will be explained more fully in the subjoined description and the features of the invention specified in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a sectional side elevation of the improved match safe and vending device embodying the features of the invention and showing individual matches in position for removal therefrom in three different ways; and

Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section of the safe and vending device as shown by Fig. 1.

The improved device structurally comprises a solid back 5 and ends 6, the latter having their lower extremities reduced and of substantially V-shaped form or taper, as at 7. The back 5 and ends 6 are secured by a top strip 8, which preferably has an opening 9 at the center thereof, the back strip being continued upwardly in the form of a hanger extension 10 and has an opening 11 in the center of the reduced part thereof, to engage a nail or other device. Across

the upper portion of the ends 6 at the front is a cross strip 12, which also has a central curved recess 13 opening upwardly through the upper edge thereof. The ends 6 adjacent the front edges thereof have inner grooves 14 extending fully from the upper terminals of the ends downwardly to points from which the lower extremities of said ends begin to reduce, as clearly shown by Fig. 2. The grooves 14 provide seats for the opposite edge portions of a glass panel 15, said panel extending fully up to and coincident with the top surface of the strip 8 and the upper terminals of the ends 6. The opening 9 in the strip 8 and the recess 13 in the strip 12 expose the central portion of the upper extremity of the panel 15, to permit the panel to be grasped at this point and withdrawn from the improved device or reapplied to the latter for the purpose of opening the front to charge the improved safe or vending device with matches and for enclosing the said matches by replacing the panel. The front of the improved device at a point slightly above the lower reduced extremities 7 of the ends 6 is reinforced and strengthened by a cross strip 16, similar to the strip 12. The parts of the container or body of the device thus far described are preferably made of wood, but can be made of any other material, or the entire device may be formed of metal. To assist in keeping the improved device in steady position when suspended, a metal bracket 17 projects from the rear thereof and has an angular flange 18 with an opening 19 through which a nail or other device may be driven, to prevent the improved safe or vending machine from laterally swaying or becoming displaced.

The lower end of the improved match safe and vending device is covered at the front and rear by a substantially V-shaped sheet metal enclosure 20, which is firmly secured at opposite edges to the tapered edges of the lower reduced extremities 7 of the ends 6, the front member of this metal enclosure extending up to the lower edge of the strip 16, as shown by Fig. 2. The upper portion of the front member of the metal enclosure provides a stop terminal for the two grooves 14 and the lower end of the glass panel when the latter is fully inserted bears against the inner side of the upper portion of the said front member of the metal enclosure. The rear member of the metal enclosure does not

extend upwardly as far as the front member thereof, as the back 5 depends a considerable distance below the lower edge of the panel 15 when the latter is fully inserted, and to the inner portion of the lower extremity of the said back the upper end of the rear member of the metal enclosure is secured, as at 21. The lower terminal of the metal enclosure is in the form of a curved trough 22 and depends below the lower straight edges 23 forming the minimum reduced portions of the lower extremities of the ends 6, thus providing a transverse discharge opening 24. This discharge opening 24 extends fully through the lower reduced extremity or terminal of the improved safe or vending device, and at the center the front and rear members of the enclosure 20 are formed with opposed similarly shaped discharge slots 25. Above the slot 25 of the front member of the sheet metal enclosure 20 is an opening 26, preferably of rectangular form, this opening 26 being large enough to permit the fingers of the hand to be inserted therethrough to arrange any of the matches which may be feeding irregularly or do not extend straight across in parallel relation to the remaining matches. The slots 25 in the front and rear members of the metal enclosure 20 are continuous one with the other, or the lower central portion of the trough and the said members of the enclosure have the metal cut and removed therefrom, so that an opening fully through the lower portion of the lower reduced extremity of the improved device is thus provided.

Loosely and gravitatingly mounted in the body of the improved safe and vending device is a follower 27, of the same contour but materially smaller than the interior of the said body. This follower is disposed on the charge of matches placed within the body, to effect a regular downward and compact feed of the matches towards the lower reduced extremity or trough 22, this trough 22 being continuous on opposite sides of the lower slots 25.

In charging the improved match safe and vending device, the glass panel 15 is withdrawn and the follower 27 moved towards the top cross or closure strip 8. The matches are then disposed in the body of the improved device and forced downwardly and regularly, in parallel relation, into the reduced extremity of the device between the front and rear members of the sheet metal enclosure 20 and into the lower divided trough 22. It is proposed to form the body of such dimensions that the usual large size box of matches may have the slide containing the matches turned over into the body, to simultaneously deliver all of the contents of the slide into the body, and this operation may be repeated with respect to a number of

match boxes or slides in accordance with the capacity of the improved device, or until the body is properly filled. After the matches have been regularly arranged in the body, the follower 27 is placed in position against the upper portion of the matches and the improved safe is closed by again replacing the panel 15. When the improved device is suspended and held in fixed position, the matches may be readily removed from the lower trough 22 in either one of three ways, but one match only can be removed at a time. The match to be removed is exposed through the central openings 25 and is grasped and pushed laterally through the trough and withdrawn from the end of the said trough, as shown by Fig. 1. The match to be removed may be moved either to the right or left and withdrawn from either end of the improved device, or either end outlet of the trough or discharge channel, and in the event the matches crowd down on the match which is grasped and shifted for removal, the choked match may be released by pushing it in the other direction. In the first instance, however, the match may be shifted to the left and removed, thereby providing two ways of laterally removing a match from the lower discharge extremity of the improved device.

If it is found necessary in view of the position of the matches relatively to the discharge trough or channel to remove the match through the lower discharge openings 25, the latter operation may be readily accomplished by pushing the match first to one side to clear one end thereof and then causing the match to assume the angle illustrated by dotted lines in Fig. 1.

The hanger extension and the glass panel may be provided with suitable advertising or indicating matter, and the front of the lower delivery extremity may also have explanatory or advertising matter applied thereto. It is proposed to make the improved match safe and vending device in various sizes, to adapt the same for domestic and public use. It will be seen that the glass panel permits the matches in the safe or device to be exposed and clearly show when it is necessary to recharge the improved device. Changes in the minor details of structure may be adopted without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed as new is:

1. In a match safe and vending device, a hollow body for receiving the matches having a front glass panel removable vertically through the top of the body and a solid back and opposite closed ends with lower tapered extremities, and a lower enclosure closely applied over the lower tapered extremities of the ends and secured to the back and front in advance of the glass panel, the enclosure having a lower non-yielding metal

trough below the termination of the ends of the body, the said trough having a lower intermediate opening transversely there-through, the parts of the trough on opposite sides of said latter opening being closed at the bottom between the ends and said opening, the trough at each end being formed with an opening therethrough, whereby matches may be manually discharged longitudinally through either end or drawn downwardly at an angle through the said intermediate opening.

2. In a match safe and vending device, the combination of a body having a lower converged extremity, a non-yielding metallic enclosure over the lower extremity of the body of substantially V-shaped form provided with a round trough at the lower termination of the enclosure, the trough having an opening at each end below the converged extremity of the body and also having an opening transversely through the center continued through the bottom of the trough, the bottom portions of the trough on opposite sides of the central opening being closed and providing for manual withdrawal of the individual matches longitudinally through either end opening of the trough or at the center of the bottom of said trough.

3. In a match safe and vending device, a hollow body having a lower converged end with a non-resilient metallic enclosure having a lower round trough with an opening in each end slightly larger than the maximum diameter of a match and also provided with a central opening transversely through the trough and also through the bottom of the latter, the one side of the

enclosure above the lower central opening being also provided with an opening for manually straightening the matches which move down into the trough.

4. In a match safe and vending device, a containing body having a lower converged discharge extremity formed with a lower terminating trough provided with an opening at each end and also a larger opening at the center, the said larger opening extending transversely and also downwardly through the trough, the trough being closed between the end openings and the said center opening thereof.

5. In a match safe and vending device, a hollow body having a front transparent vertically movable panel which is slidable in the ends of the body and insertible and withdrawable through the top of the latter to give access to the interior of the body for depositing the contents of match boxes at one operation within the body, a follower mounted in the body to engage the matches and force them downwardly, the lower extremity of the body being converged and having a V-shaped enclosure secured thereto and provided with a lower round trough with an opening therein at each end for longitudinal movement of the matches in opposite directions through opposite ends of the trough, the trough also having a central opening extending transversely and downwardly therethrough to permit matches to be manually withdrawn at the lower portion of the center of the trough.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

ROSTUS BUTLER.