



PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to Cigarette Lighters

I, ERWIN THOMAS STEPPAN, a citizen of Canada, of 1705 De Lucon Street, Duvernay (near Montreal 40), Canada, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a smoker's requisite and particularly to a lighter and cigarette package holder or a lighter equipped with means for retaining it against a cigarette package.

Smokers know that the fact that the cigarette package and the lighting means, be it matches or lighter, are separate cause many inconveniences; the most irritating being, perhaps, the forgetting of one of the two, usually the lighting means. Also, the lighting means is usually in a pocket different from that of the cigarette package and is not always readily found when needed. Also, being separate, use of the two hands is required at all times.

According to the invention there is provided a lighter and cigarette package holder, comprising a lighter having combined therewith a guide member having a web and at least one side flange substantially normal thereto adapted to receive a cigarette package, and a clip fixed at one end to said member and extending inwardly of, and in close parallel relationship therewith, whereby a wall of a package can be held between said member and the clip.

Specific embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the invention, to be used with stiff cardboard packages,

Figure 2 is a partial view, in perspective, showing the holder being applied to a cigarette package,

Figure 3 is a partial longitudinal cross-section view of the holder, again as being applied to a cigarette package,

Figure 4 is a sectional view along line 4—4 of Figure 2,

Figure 5 is a view similar to that of Figure 1, showing another embodiment of the invention applicable to soft cardboard packages,

Fig. 6 is a perspective view illustrating how the holder is applied to the soft package,

Fig. 7 shows, in perspective, the type of lighter that may be used with the holder, and

Fig. 8 is a cross sectional view along line 8—8 of Fig. 6.

The holder of the invention is a unitary structure having a lighter 1 joined to a guiding member 3. The latter is to be attached to the side wall of a cigarette package, shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, and is retained thereon by means of a clip 5 which creates, with the guiding member 3, an elongated slot 7 into which the cover side wall 9 of a cigarette package may be inserted and held therein by friction.

In the preferred embodiment of Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4, the guiding member 3 is channel-shaped in cross-section (Fig. 4) and is formed of a web 11 flanked by two side flanges 13. The inner distance between the side flanges 13 is about equal to the thickness of a hard cardboard package so as to provide sliding contact therebetween.

The clip 5 has a front wing 15 that is fixed to the top of the guiding member 3. The front wing 15 projects inwardly of the member 3 and stands spaced from the web 11 a distance about equal to the thickness of the cigarette package cover. This distance defines the slot 7 which is such as to frictionally retain the side wall 9 when the latter is inserted therein.

For greater retaining power, a lateral wing 17, may be provided integral with the front wing 15 so as to form an L-shaped retaining clip (Fig. 4).

In inserting the guiding member into position, the preferred procedure is to slightly lift the inner envelope 21 of the cigarette package and lightly press the front wing 15 against the

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envelope side flap 23 to create a space 25 wherein the wing 15 may be inserted by pressure in the direction of the arrow A, in Fig. 3. Raising of the envelope 21 also prevents the wing 15 from being caught inwardly of the flap 23.

Care should also be taken to push the holder in with the lateral wing 17 sliding along the back of the cigarette package so that its insertion is unobstructed. If the wing 17 is located so as to be driven along the front of the package, its descent would be hindered by the lower flap 27 of the envelope 21. In other words, if the lighter and cigarette package holder is "right-handed," that is, the lighter has to be located on the right-hand side of a cigarette package when viewed from the front thereof, as in Fig. 3, the clip is a "left-hand" clip with the lateral wing 17 on the left-hand side as seen in Fig. 2, particularly. The reverse is true if the holder is "left-handed."

To ease the insertion of the clip 5, it is suggested that the lower end thereof be pointed as shown at 29 in Fig. 2.

The lighter 1 itself may be secured directly to the guiding member 3, as shown in Fig. 3, or else it may be inserted in a casing formed on the guiding member on the side opposite lateral flanges 13. In the latter case, a suitable slot 31 would be provided for maintenance purposes.

The embodiment shown in Figs. 5, 6, 7 and 8 is almost identical to that of the other figures and differs only in the width of the guiding member 3 which is greater to accommodate a thicker soft cardboard cigarette package and in the provision of a second lateral wing 19¹ on the clip which has the same function as a first lateral wing 19 on the clip.

As illustrated in Fig. 6, the guiding member 3 is easily inserted along the side of the package by slightly pressing on the sides with the thumb and the index finger as shown by arrows B. This will round the lateral side of the cigarette package and will create a space where the pointed end of the clip 5 may be inserted to initiate the fixing of the guiding member.

A type of lighter to be used in conjunction with the guiding member 3 is shown in Fig. 7. It is an elongated container, rectangular in cross section and topped with the lighting parts which include an operating lever 33. This lever could, advantageously, have an upward reciprocating displacement which takes up very little space and provides a strong leverage action.

The resistance to withdrawal of the pack-

age from the holder is due to the friction between the guiding member, the clip and the cigarette package. The friction, in turn, is a function of the closeness of the surfaces in contact and, of course, the coefficient of friction of the surfaces in contact. Simple experiments by those skilled in the art will readily demonstrate the various dimensional requirements for effective gripping of the package by the holding member.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A lighter and cigarette package holder, comprising a lighter having combined therewith a guide member having a web and at least one side flange substantially normal thereto adapted to receive a cigarette package, and a clip fixed at one end to said member and extending inwardly of, and in close parallel relationship therewith, whereby a wall of a package can be held between said member and the clip.

2. A combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the or each surface of the guide member which engages a wall of the package is substantially flat.

3. A combination as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the guide member has a web and two flanges, the web being adapted to engage a side wall of a package and the flanges to engage the adjoining front and rear walls of the package.

4. A combination as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the clip is of substantially L-shaped cross section.

5. A combination as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the clip is of substantially U-shaped cross section.

6. A combination as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the free end of the clip is pointed, and is spaced from the guide member a distance at least as great as the thickness of a side wall of a cigarette package to be held.

7. A combination as claimed in any of claims 3 to 6, wherein the clip is fixed to the web and to at least one flange.

8. A combination as claimed in any of claims 3 to 7, wherein the lighter is fixed to the outer surface of the web.

9. A combination as claimed in any of claims 3 to 7, wherein there is provided a casing fixed to the outer surface of the web, the lighter being located in the casing.

10. A combination as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the lighter is operated by means of an upright reciprocating lever vertically displaceable in a parallel relationship with said guide member.

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11. A lighter and cigarette package holder substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 1 to 4 and Figure 7 or Figures 5 to 8 of the accompanying drawings.

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