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DISPENSING SPOOL OF ADHESIVE TAPE AND SUPPORTING ENCLOSURE THEREFOR

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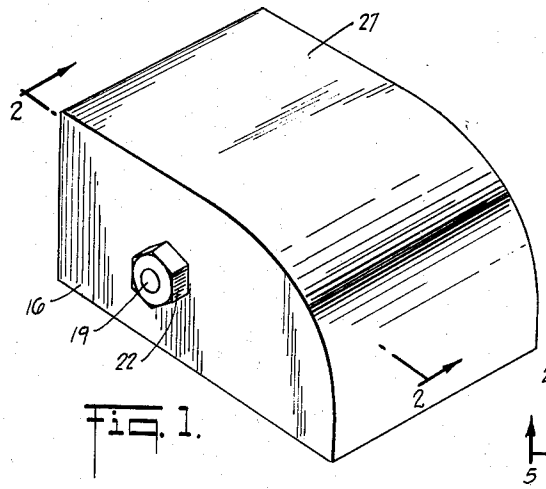


Fig. 1.

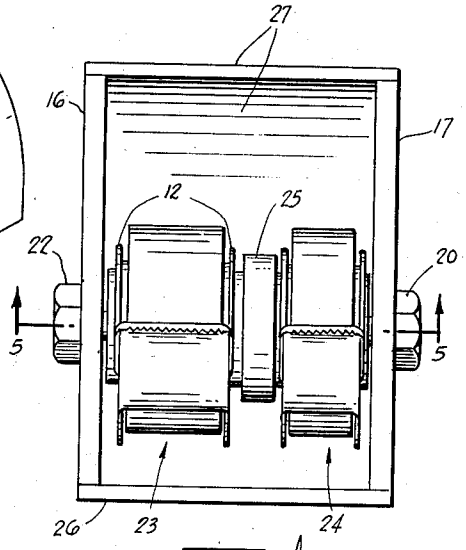


Fig. 4.

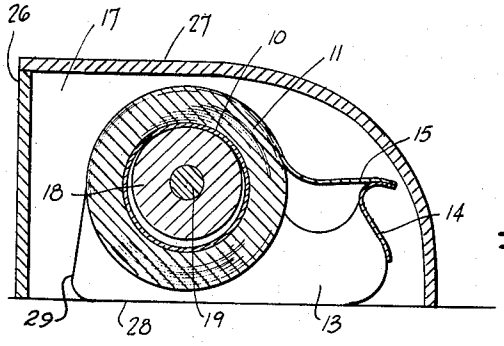


Fig. 2.

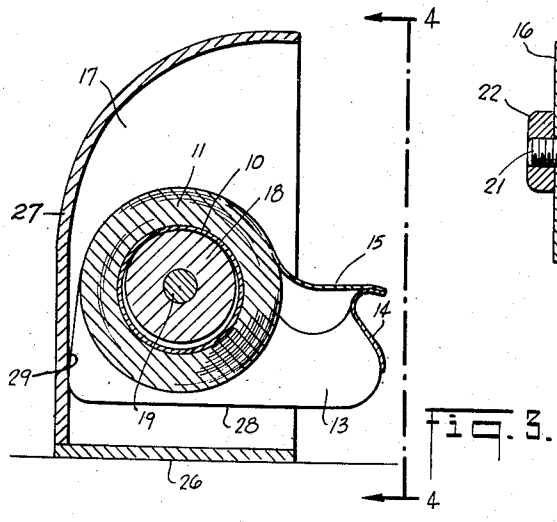


Fig. 3.

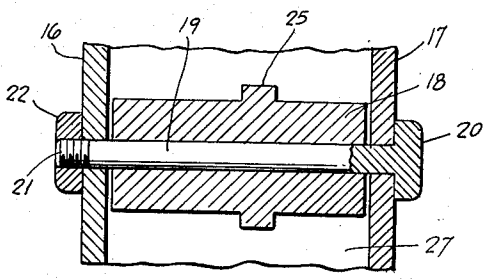


Fig. 5.

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## DISPENSING SPOOL OF ADHESIVE TAPE AND SUPPORTING ENCLOSURE THEREFOR

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5 Claims. (Cl. 242—55.5)

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My present invention relates generally to desk accessories, and has particular reference to an ornamental device for supporting one or more dispensing spools of adhesive tape.

It is a particular object of the invention to provide an enclosure for a dispensing spool of conventional construction, in which there is a hub upon which the tape is wound, and a tangential projection to support the free end of the tape. The present enclosure is so designed that it may be optionally rested on a desk or table in a position which completely conceals the spool of tape, or in an adjusted position in which the spool is exposed and accessible for use.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention herein chosen for illustration, the device is adapted to support two spools of tape in side by side aligned relationship. The spools are supported on a common horizontal axis, and are freely and independently rotatable about this axis. Tape may be withdrawn from either or both of these spools when the device is in tape-dispensing position.

The supporting enclosure is of such a nature that it lends itself readily to the employment of ornamental materials, such as attractive leathers or fabrics. It serves, therefore, in a uniquely attractive manner, to retain one or more tape spools in handy accessible condition, ready for use, while serving as a concealment for the spool or spools, and as an ornamental desk accessory, during those periods of time when the tape spools are not being used.

One way of achieving these general objects and advantages, and such other objects and advantages as may hereinafter appear or be pointed out, is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the present device in its normal desk-ornamenting position;

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view taken substantially along the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2, showing the relationship of the parts when the enclosure is adjusted to a position which makes the tape dispenser accessible;

Figure 4 is an elevational view taken substantially in the direction 4—4 of Figure 3; and

Figure 5 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken substantially along the line 5—5 of Figure 4, with the tape spools omitted.

The type of dispensing spool which enters into the present assembly of parts consists essentially of a cylindrical hollow hub 10 upon which the tape 11 is wound. At its ends, the hub is usually provided with flanges 12 (Fig. 4). These

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flanges may be extended in a tangential direction to provide the spaced ears 13. At the free ends of the latter, a cross piece 14 serves to connect and rigidify the ears 13, and serves also to support the free end 15 of the tape. It is customary to form the outer edge of the piece 14 with serrations so that after any desired length of tape has been pulled off the spool, it may be severed along this serrated edge.

The ears 13 and the piece 14 which connect them project in a substantially tangential direction with respect to the hub of the spool, and impart to the spool a weight eccentricity which is taken advantage of in a unique manner by the present invention.

The supporting enclosure of the present invention consists essentially of a pair of parallel vertical walls, and transverse walls extending between them. The two vertical walls are shown at 16 and 17. Supported by them is a means for mounting the tape spool or spools in a freely rotatable manner. This mounting means may consist of a simple wooden hub 18 adapted to fit loosely into the hub of each tape spool. This loose fit is shown in a somewhat exaggerated manner in Figures 2 and 3. The hub 18 itself is provided with a longitudinal bore adapted to receive a rod 19 (Fig. 5). To provide for a removability of the hub or spindle 18, the rod 19 may be provided with a head 20 at one end, and threads 21 at the opposite end, adapted removably to receive a nut 22.

In the preferred embodiment herein illustrated there are two tape spools. These are designated generally by the reference numerals 23 and 24 in Figure 4. The construction of each spool is the same as has been hereinbefore described, and the only difference in the spools illustrated in Figure 4 is that the spool 23 supports a tape which is slightly wider than that which is supported by the spool 24. To accommodate two spools of this kind in side by side horizontally aligned relation, it is preferable to form the spindle 18 with the flange 25. The part of the spindle on one side of this flange fits into the hollow hub of one of the spools, and the part on the opposite side of the flange fits into the hub of the other spool. The flange 25 is larger in diameter than the hub of either spool, and thus serves to maintain the spools in a desired spaced relationship.

The transverse walls which connect the parallel side walls 16, 17 comprise an end wall 26 which is substantially flat, and a wall 27 which has a part that is parallel to the open side of the enclosure and another part which is convexly curved downwardly into a position defining an

opposite end wall. The transverse walls 26, 27, along with the parallel side walls 16, 17 define an enclosure which is closed on all sides but one. The open side is shown downward in Figure 2 and in an upright position in Figures 3 and 4. This open side lies substantially in a single plane, so that the enclosure may be rested thereon (as shown in Fig. 2). In this relationship of the parts, the spool or spools within the enclosure are completely concealed. The flatness of the transverse wall 26 adjacent to the open side of the enclosure permits the enclosure to be optionally rested on the flat wall 26, as shown most clearly in Figure 3; and in this relationship of the parts the spool or spools are exposed and readily accessible.

It is an important feature of the invention to support the spool with its tangential projection downward, and facing away from the flat end wall 26 when the enclosure is in the spool concealing position shown in Figure 2. As a result of this mode of mounting the spool, the eccentricity of weight automatically causes the spool to remain in substantially the same position regardless of the disposition of the supporting enclosure.

Thus, it will be observed, by comparing Figures 2 and 3, that the enclosure of Figure 3 is substantially at right angles to the position it previously assumed; nevertheless, the spool shown in these figures remains in substantially the same relationship. It follows that whereas the spool is completely concealed when the parts are in the relationship shown in Figure 2, the tangential projection of the spool automatically protrudes from the open side of the enclosure when the latter is adjusted into the upright position shown in Figure 3. Where there are two spools, as shown in the present drawings, the spools act independently to project their respective tape ends automatically out of the open side of the enclosure when the latter is tilted from the position of Figures 1 and 2 to the position of Figures 3 and 4.

The parts are preferably so proportioned, and the axis of the spools is so supported with respect to the enclosure, that when the parts are in the relationship shown in Figures 1 and 2, the bottom edges 28 of each spool lie substantially in the plane of the open side of the enclosure; and when the parts are in the relationship shown in Figure 3, the rear end 29 of the spool constitutes an abutment that abuts rearwardly against the transverse wall 27.

It will be understood that the curvature of the transverse wall 27, as shown in the present drawings, is not essential, and that the curvature illustrated is merely for ornamental effect. Similarly, while I have shown a simple nut 22 on the rod 19, it will be obvious that this nut may be of ornamental configuration, if desired.

The device is obviously useful with one dispensing tape alone, or may readily be adapted to support more than the two tapes shown in the present drawing.

The enclosure may obviously be composed of any desired or suitable material, and I have found it eminently satisfactory to make the enclosure of wood or cardboard, covered with ornamental leather.

The replacement of the spool or spools, when the supply of tape is exhausted, is a relatively simple procedure and involves merely the removal of the spindle which supports the spool, and a replacement of the same after a fresh spool has been applied to it.



In general, it will be understood that those skilled in the art may readily modify many of the details herein described and illustrated without necessarily departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention and illustrated its use, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. The combination with a dispensing spool of adhesive tape comprising a hub and a tangential projection eccentric to the hub to support the free end of the tape, of a supporting enclosure comprising a pair of parallel vertical walls, means carried by said walls for engaging the spool hub to support the latter in a horizontal disposition and for free rotation about its axis, transverse walls extending between said vertical walls to form an enclosure closed on all sides but one, the open side lying in a single plane so that the enclosure may be rested thereon to conceal said spool, the transverse wall adjacent to said open side being flat so that the enclosure may be optionally rested on said flat wall to bring the open side into upright position and thereby expose and afford access to said spool, said spool being supported with its tangential projection downward and facing away from said flat wall when the enclosure is in the spool concealing position, whereby the eccentricity of said projection automatically causes it to protrude out of said open side of the enclosure when the enclosure is rested on said flat wall.

2. The combination of elements set forth in claim 1, in which the spool hub is hollow and the support for it comprises a spindle removably supported between said vertical walls and adapted to pass through said hollow hub.

3. The combination with a pair of dispensing spools of adhesive tape each comprising a hub and a tangential projection eccentric to the hub to support the free end of the tape, of a supporting enclosure comprising a pair of parallel vertical walls, means carried by said walls for engaging the spool hubs to support the latter side by side in horizontal alignment and for free independent rotation about their axes, transverse walls extending between said vertical walls to form an enclosure closed on all sides but one, the open side lying in a single plane so that the enclosure may be rested thereon to conceal said spools, the transverse wall adjacent to said open side being flat so that the enclosure may be optionally rested on said flat wall to bring the open side into upright position and thereby expose and afford access to said spools, said spools being supported with their tangential projections downward and facing away from said flat wall when the enclosure is in the spool concealing position, whereby the eccentricity of said projections automatically causes them to protrude out of said open side of the enclosure when the enclosure is rested on said flat wall.

4. The combination of elements set forth in claim 3, in which the spool hubs are hollow and the support for them comprises a spindle removably supported between said vertical walls and having parts adapted to pass through said hollow hubs, the spindle being provided with a flange between said parts adapted to maintain the spool hubs in separated relation.

5. The combination with a dispensing spool of adhesive tape comprising a hub, a tangential projection eccentric to the hub to support the free end of the tape, and an abutment oppositely

disposed with respect to said tangential projection, of a supporting enclosure comprising a pair of parallel vertical walls, a spindle supported between said vertical walls and adapted to pass through said hub, said spindle being adapted to support said spool hub in a horizontal direction and for free rotation about its axis, transverse walls extending between said vertical walls to form an enclosure closed on all sides but one, the open side lying in a single plane so that the enclosure may be rested thereon to conceal said spool, the transverse wall adjacent to said open side being flat so that the enclosure may be optionally rested on said flat wall to bring the open side into upright position and thereby expose and afford access to said spool, said spool being supported with its tangential projection downward and facing away from said flat wall when the enclosure is in the spool concealing



position, whereby the eccentricity of said projection automatically causes it to turn about said spindle and to protrude out of said open side of the enclosure when the enclosure is rested on said flat wall, and said spindle being spaced from one of the other of said transverse walls a distance sufficient to permit said abutment to engage thereagainst and to prevent a further turning of said tangential projection about said spindle.

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