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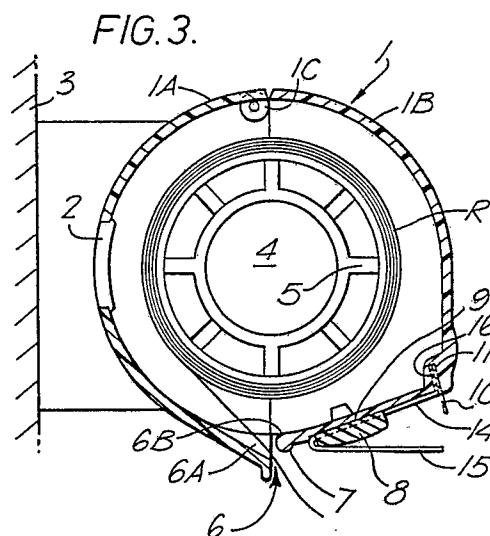
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(54) Dispenser.

(57) A dispenser for dispensing a length portion of Clingfilm or like film material from a roll (R) thereof comprises a housing (1) having a chamber to receive the roll (R), the chamber having an elongate outlet slot (6), a cutting blade (10) spaced from one side of the slot and a gripping surface (8) adapted to grip a trailing portion of the film by frictional engagement, while the leading portion is being cut. Release means (13) in the form of a spring finger (15) may be present to urge the adherent trailing end portion away from the surface (8), so that the user can easily grasp that end when he or she next needs another length of film.



Description

DISPENSER

The invention relates to a dispenser, in particular to one for installation in a domestic environment e.g. a kitchen and for dispensing sheet plastics film material known colloquially as "Clingfilm." Such dispensers are known from, e.g. GB-A-1124769, US-A-3311278 and GB-A-1,488946.

GB-A-1488946 discloses a dispenser for dispensing a length portion of Clingfilm or like film material from a roll thereof, the dispenser comprising a housing having a chamber to receive the roll, the chamber having an elongate outlet slot, cutting means spaced from one side of the slot and gripping means to grip a trailing portion of the film while a leading portion is being cut. In this known device the gripping means comprises a clamping arrangement in which the user presses the edge of the cover of the dispenser onto a resilient pad, while the leading portion is being cut.

It is one object of the invention to provide a dispenser which is easy and reliable to use with minimal operational steps. It is another object to provide such a dispenser which is free of clamping parts.

According to the invention, a dispenser described above is characterised in that the gripping means comprises a surface adapted to frictionally engage the trailing portion of the film.

The gripping means preferably comprises a body of natural or synthetic rubber or plastics having a gripping surface which has sufficient coefficient of friction that the Clingfilm can be held thereto solely by the frictional engagement. The selection of the material to provide the gripping surface will depend on the particular film used and can readily be determined by routine testing.

Preferably the cutter means comprises a blade located on the outside of the housing, and the gripping means is also located on the outside of the housing between the outlet slot and the blade generally parallel to the outlet slot.

There can be a tendency for the film to adhere to the gripping surface even after the leading portion has been detached, e.g. because of a build up of static electricity, which can make it difficult for the user to grip the adherent end portion and pull more film off the roll when he or she needs to wrap an object. Release means are therefore preferably present to urge the film material away from the gripping surface, once a leading portion has been cut off. In a preferred embodiment, the release means are resilient, and are arranged at rest to be located remote from the gripping surface and to be urged towards that surface when the film is moved to contact the gripping surface, and to be urged to the at rest condition thereby urging the trailing film away from the gripping surface, once the leading portion of the film has been cut off.

The gripping surface is preferably in the form of two longitudinally spaced apart strips generally parallel to the outlet slot and the release means preferably comprises a spring finger located within

the space between the strips.

In a further preferred feature extra guide means are provided, such as a bead along the adjacent edge of the slot.

In a much preferred feature the outlet slot is wide e.g. flares outwardly so that a leading portion of the sheet material may be pulled off the roll within the chamber of the housing through a range of included angles, say between 0° and 90° to the horizontal.

It is further preferred that the housing be in two interengagable parts so that it may readily be opened to allow for the insertion of a roll of the film material, typically Clingfilm.

In order that the invention may be well understood it will now be described, by way of example only with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a front elevation of one dispenser

Figure 2 is an underneath plan of the dispenser

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view through the dispenser of Figure 1 taken along lines X-X when attached to a vertical surface; and

Figure 4 is an end elevation.

The dispenser comprises an elongate cylindrical housing 1 in two longitudinal halves, 1A, 1B, hinged together about a common edge. The two longitudinal halves of the housing incorporate complementary latching parts 1D by which the halves may be held releasably together by a hinge 1C. One of the halves 1A has a number of spaced apart holes 2 by which it may be releasably secured to corresponding pegs in support 3 e.g. a bracket screwed to a kitchen wall or the wall of a kitchen unit. The inner faces of the end walls 4 of the housing 1 have shoulders including radial spokes 5, to receive the ends of a roll, R, on which is wound plastics sheet material called "Clingfilm". At the lower side of the housing as seen in Figure 1, is a longitudinal slot 6. One side 6A of the slot 6 is inclined outwardly so that the slot 6 defines a wide outlet. The facing wall of the slot 6B incorporates a longitudinal bead 7. The surface of the bead 7 is textured so that the film will glide over and not adhere thereto. A gripping or friction strip 8 of natural or synthetic rubber or plastics is fixed e.g. glued or mechanically latched in an elongate slot 9 in the outside wall of the housing a short distance from the bead 7 and beyond that is a cutter blade 10 mounted in a parallel slot 11. The strip 8 may be made of a wide variety of materials such as natural or synthetic rubber or plastics, including neoprene, thermoplastic vulcanised rubber or the like, which are selected and arranged so as to allow the film to be gripped thereby by friction alone, without requiring extra clamping means. The corner 12 of the strip 8 is slightly rounded as shown. The blade 10 may be of metal and be provided with a serrated edge, as shown.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the strip 8 is in two longitudinal halves 8A, 8B with a gap in between, near the longitudinal centre of the housing 1. A

release spring 13 made of metal is secured to the housing in that gap and comprises a base 14 in contact with the housing and from which extends an integral spring finger 15. As best shown in Figure 3, the free end 16 of the base 14 in contact with the housing is secured within the slot 11. The finger 15 is hinged near the slot 6 so that it can be flexed towards the housing between the halves 8A, 8B of the strip 8. The resilience of the release spring 13 is selected such that tension applied to the film by the user as he urges the film towards the gripping surface will be sufficient to urge the spring 13 towards the housing 1 to allow the surface 8 to grip the film, but will urge the film away from the surfaces when the leading portion of the film has been detached.

In use, the housing 1 is opened and a roll R of Clingfilm is fitted inside, the ends of the roll R being engaged in the end spools 5 of the housing. The housing 1 may be engaged with the bracket 3 by which it is held to a wall. When the user wants to wrap an article in Clingfilm, the user pulls sufficient leading end portion of the film out of the outlet slot 6. As shown, he pulls the film downwardly. He then wraps that leading end portion about the article while the portion is still part of the roll R. Because the outlet slot 6 is so wide, the film can be pulled out at any angle. The user then brings the portion of the film rearward of the wrapped leading end portion upwardly to engage the adjacent edge of the bead 7 which directs the film towards the rubber strip 8. This action urges the spring finger 15 towards the housing until it rests between the halves 8A, 8B. When the film contacts the strip, first at the leading corner 12, the film is held thereto. This anchors the portion of the film behind the wrapped portion of the film and adjacent the intended line of cut. Continued upward movement of the film brings the film on to the edge of the cutter blade 10 which accordingly cuts the film. In this way the user has removed sufficient Clingfilm from the dispenser appropriate to his need and separated it from the remainder of the roll. Once the portion has been cut off, the resilience in the spring finger 15 urges the finger 15 away from the housing 1, so forcing the portion of the film extending through the slot 6 away from the strip 8, and thus readily available to be grasped by the user for the next use. All this has been done from outside the dispenser and without the need for extra tools e.g. cutting knives and the like or to move clamping parts. For example the user can pull out enough film to wrap about a plate of food and then separate that film from the remainder of the roll. It will be noted that although as described the film is urged downwardly, the housing may be reversed so that the outlet slot is uppermost in which case the film is pulled upwardly.

In an alternative method, the user may use the dispenser while detached from the bracket 3 by bringing the dispenser to the article to be covered, securing the free end of the film to the article and moving the dispenser across the article so as to dispense sufficient film to wrap that article. The dispenser may then be rotated until the gripping surface 8 grips the film and the leading portion of the

film is urged against the cutting blade 10 to cut off that portion.

The dispenser may be used with a wide range of cuttable films, including wrap or shrink wrap films, perforated or not. These may be made of polyvinylchloride, polyethylene, SARAN or the like. Some may be plasticiser-free or especially adapted for food or microwave use.

The invention is not limited to the embodiments shown. The gripping surface may be roughened and the cutter and/or the spring 13 may be integrally formed with the housing. The cutter blade 10 may be formed of a suitable plastics. The dispenser may be used in a domestic or industrial (eg catering) environment.

Claims

1. A dispenser for dispensing a length portion of Clingfilm or like film material from a roll (R) thereof, the dispenser comprising a housing (1) having a chamber to receive the roll (R) the chamber having an elongate outlet slot (6), cutting means (10) spaced from one side of the slot (6) and gripping means (8) to grip a trailing portion of the film while a leading portion thereof is being cut characterised in that the gripping means (8) comprises a surface adapted to frictionally engage the trailing portion of the film.

2. A dispenser according to Claim 1 characterised in that the trailing portion is held to the gripping means (8) solely by the frictional engagement between the surface thereof and the adjacent face of the film.

3. A dispenser according to Claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the gripping means (8) comprises a body of natural or synthetic rubber or plastics located on the outside of the housing (1) adjacent the outlet slot (6).

4. A dispenser according to any preceding Claim characterised in that release means (13) are present to break the frictional engagement between the film and the surface of the gripping means (8) once the leading portion has been cut.

5. A dispenser according to Claim 4 characterised in that the release means (13) are resilient and are arranged at rest to be located remote from the gripping surface and to be urged towards that surface (8) when the film is moved to contact the gripping surface, and to be urged to the at rest condition thereby urging the trailing portion of the film away from the gripping surface (8), once the leading portion of the film has been cut off.

6. A dispenser according to Claim 4 or 5 characterised in that the release means (13) comprises a spring finger (15) mounted on the outside of the housing (1).

7. A dispenser according to any of Claims 4, 5 or 6 characterised in that the gripping means (8) comprises longitudinally spaced apart lengths (8A, 8B) with a space in between the adjacent

lengths, and the release means (13) is present in the space.

8. A dispenser according to any preceding claim characterised in that a bead (7) is present adjacent a longitudinal side of the slot (6) to guide the film towards the cutting means (10).

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9. A dispenser according to any preceding Claim characterised in that the outlet slot (6) flares outwardly so that the leading portion of the film may be pulled off the roll (R) within the chamber of the housing (1) through an angle of between 0° and 90° to the horizontal.

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FIG.1.

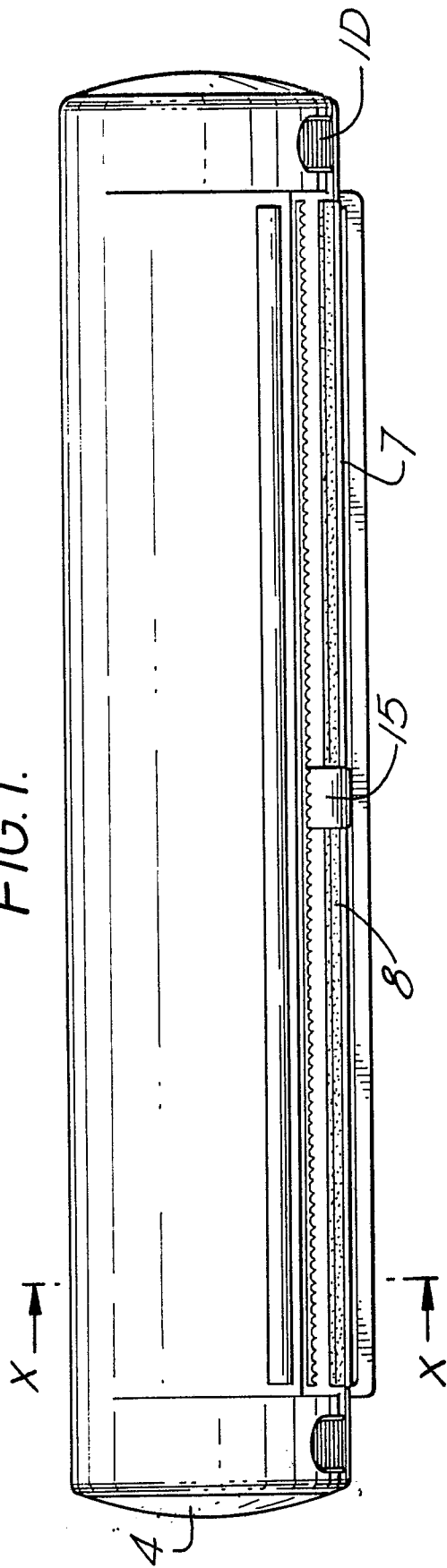


FIG.2.

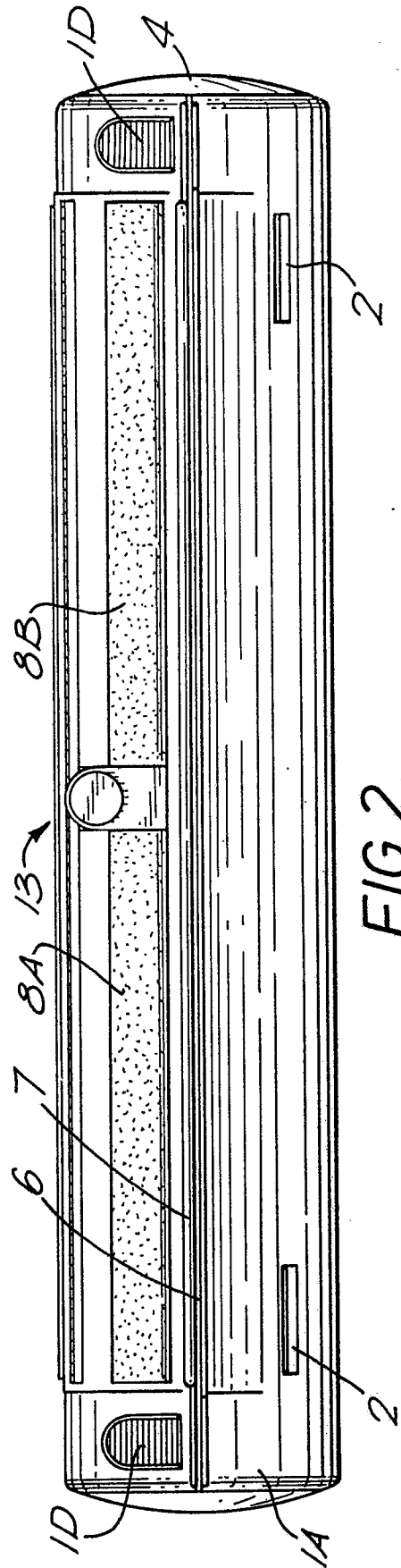


FIG.3.

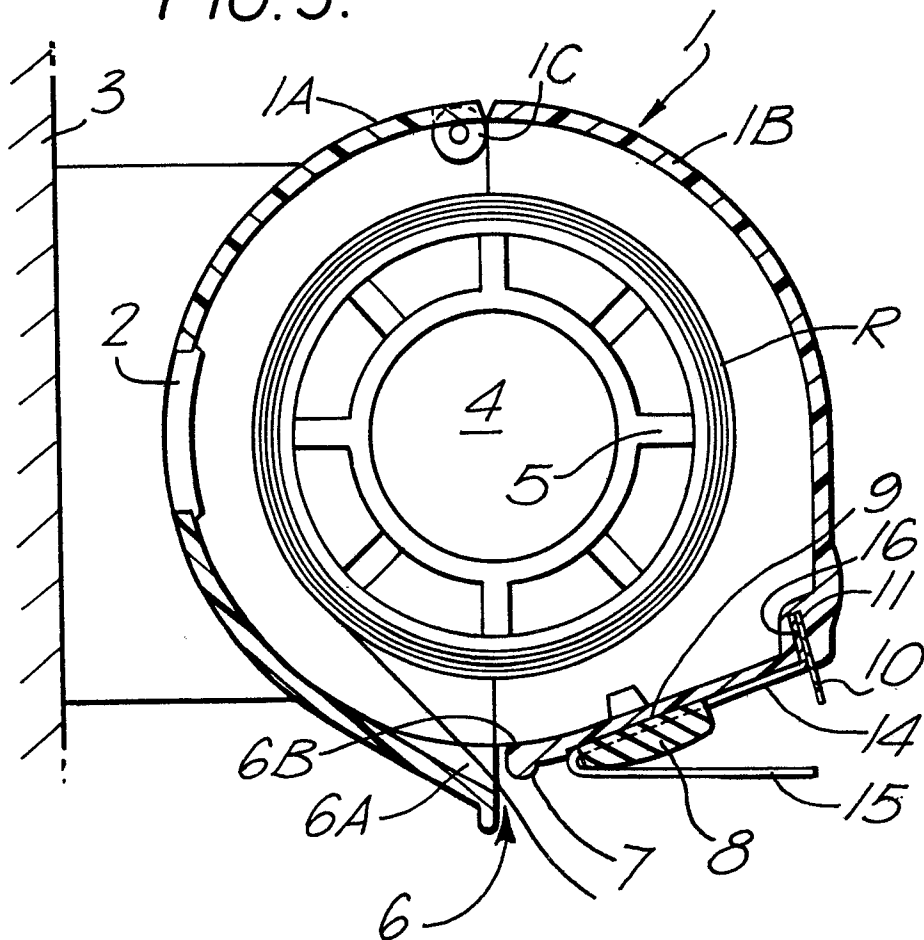
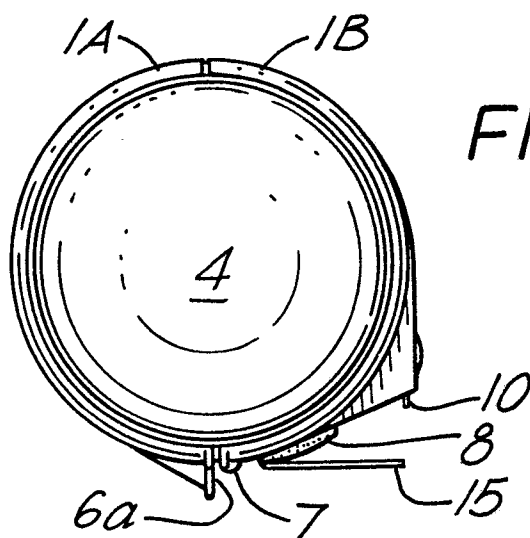


FIG.4.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	US-A-3 549 066 (WANKOW) * Column 2, lines 31-75; column 3, lines 1-15; figures 1,2 *	1-3	B 65 H 35/00 B 65 D 85/671 A 47 K 10/38
Y	---	4,5,7	
X	EP-A-0 046 372 (GATWARD) * Page 4, lines 8-24; page 6, lines 6-25; figures 1,4 *	1,2	
A	---	9	
Y	US-A-3 565 307 (WILEY) * Column 2, lines 25-58; column 3, lines 44-75; column 4, lines 1-7,71-75; column 5, lines 1-50; figures 1,3-6 *	4,5,7	
A	---	1,2	
A	FR-A-2 602 758 (BARATCABAL) * Page 1, lines 1-16; page 3, lines 15-19; figures 15-16 *	8	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) A 47 K B 65 D B 65 H
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18-10-1989	Examiner BARBAS A.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	