United States Patent [19]

O'Connor

[11] **Patent Number: 4,801,081**

[45] **Date of Patent: Jan. 31, 1989**

[54] **RECEPTACLE FOR STORING ARTICLES SUCH AS NEWSPAPERS**

[75] Inventor: **James C. O'Connor**, Tonawanda, N.Y.

[73] Assignee: **Joseph P. Armenia**, Tonawanda, N.Y. ; a part interest

[21] Appl. No.: **173,877**

[22] Filed: **Mar. 28, 1988**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[4] **B65D 91/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **232/1 C**; 248/101; 108/61; 211/57.2; 211/DIG. 1

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 232/1 C, 1 R, 1 E; 383/43, 49, 75; 248/95, 99, 101

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

511,156	12/1893	Newton .	
2,665,842	1/1954	Weintraub et al.	232/1
2,671,486	3/1954	Shaw	383/43 X
2,731,054	1/1956	Driben	383/43
2,894,708	7/1959	Kaplan	248/99
3,029,853	4/1962	Piazze	383/75
3,168,209	2/1965	Brookins et al.	383/43 X
3,632,029	1/1972	Sonner	248/95 X
3,802,620	4/1974	Ferrara	232/19
3,901,433	8/1975	Jacobs et al.	232/1
3,912,208	10/1975	Grenetier	248/101 X
4,069,994	1/1978	Wharmby	248/101
4,694,503	9/1987	Hydorn	383/12

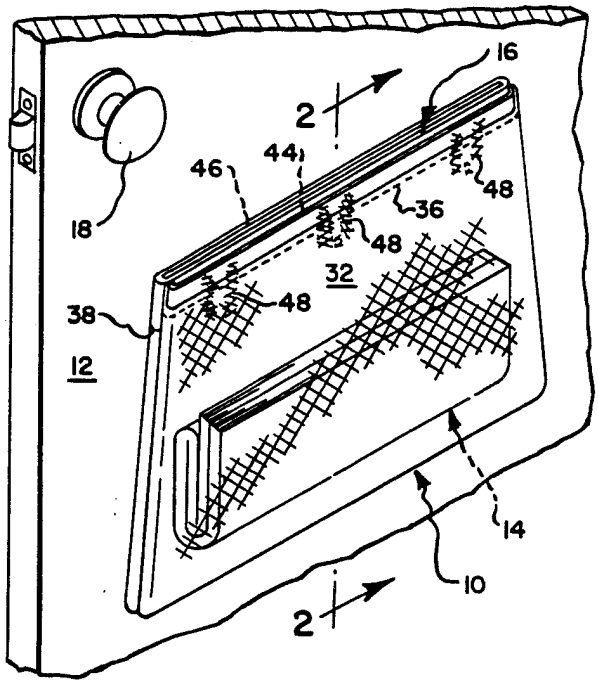
Primary Examiner—Robert W. Gibson, Jr.

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bean, Kauffman & Bean

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An open mouth receptacle adapted for mounting on a vertically disposed surface, such as a door or wall, is provided for receipt of articles, such as newspapers and packages, delivered to a residence. The receptacle is fabricated from flexible material and has its mouth bounded by facing strips of a relatively rigid and elastic material; the rigid strip assisting in the mounting of the receptacle and the elastic strip tending to normally retain the mouth of the receptacle in a closed condition.

3 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet



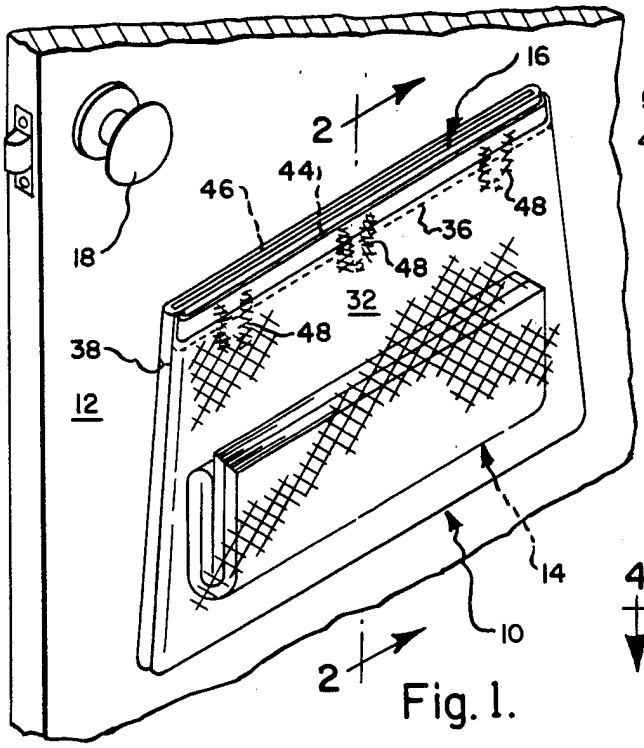


Fig. 1.

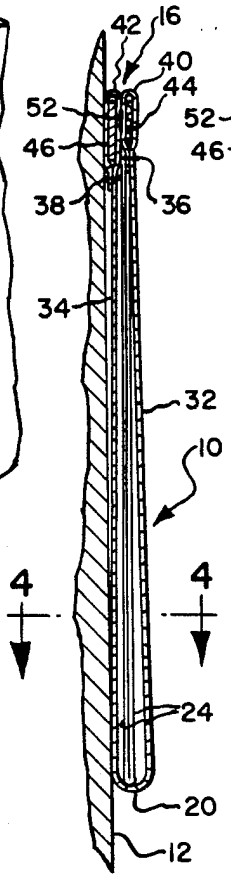


Fig. 2.

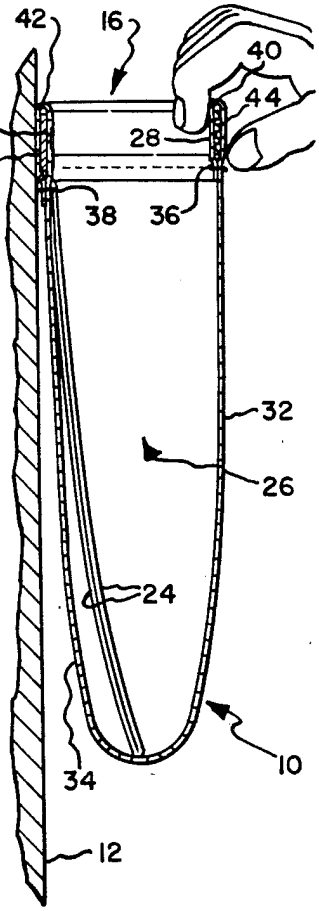


Fig. 3.

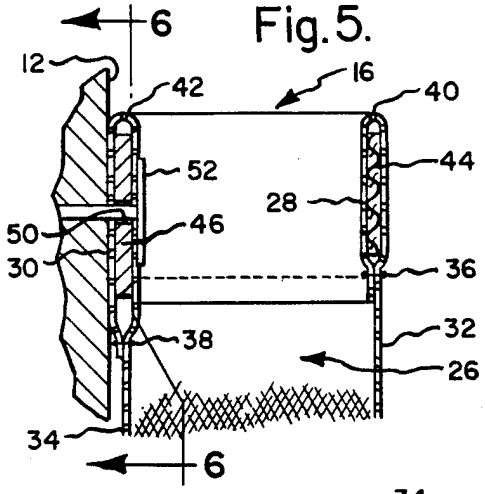
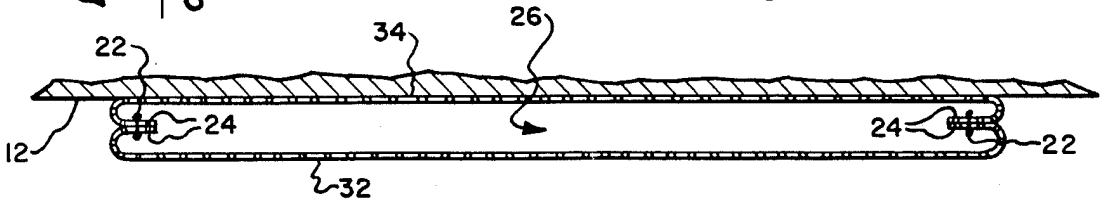


Fig. 5.

Fig. 4.



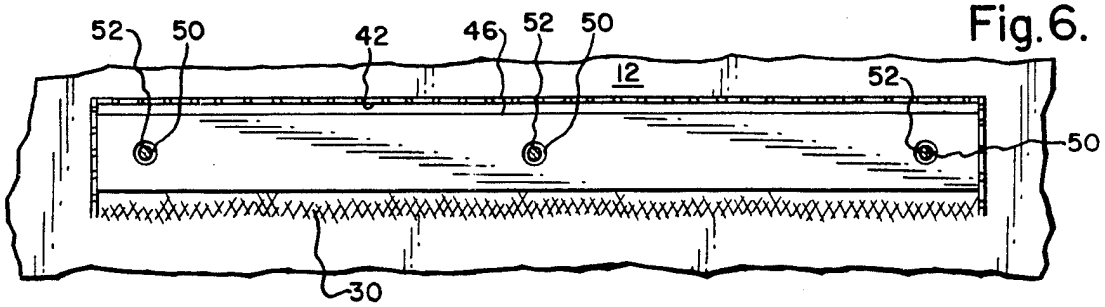


Fig. 6.

RECEPTACLE FOR STORING ARTICLES SUCH AS NEWSPAPERS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In rural areas, it has been common practice to provide post mounted cylindrical tubes at the edges of roadways for receipt of newspapers delivered by a newspaper carrier. However, in urban and suburban areas, it is not common practice to provide receptacles for newspapers and as a result newspaper carriers typically leave newspapers on front porches or steps or between a screen/storm door and a front door of each residence.

Placement of newspapers between a screen/storm and front doors is most desirable in that it serves to prevent newspapers from being blown away and offers some protection from the elements. However, there are several drawbacks to this procedure including the time required by the newspaper carrier to open and then firmly close each screen door on an assigned route and the inability to use this delivery procedure in a uniform manner due to the tendency of many customers to keep their screen/storm doors in a locked condition. Also, even where this delivery procedure is possible, it may be objected to by some customers since they are required to bend or stoop in order to pick up their newspapers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is primarily directed to a receptacle intended to facilitate the delivery of newspapers to the door of urban and suburban residences or the like.

The receptacle of the present invention is fabricated from a flexible material and shaped to define a storage chamber sized to freely accommodate a newspaper and an open mouth sized to permit removable insertion of a newspaper into the storage chamber. The mouth is bounded by facing strips of relatively rigid and elastic materials. The rigid strip is preferably formed with mounting aperture sized to receive screw fasteners or nails by which the receptacle may be affixed for instance to a door, porch post or swelling wall for purposes of arranging the mouth of the receptacle at a height convenient for removable insertion of a newspaper thereinto. The elastic strip serves to normally maintain the mouth of the receptacle in closed condition.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The nature and mode of operation of the present invention will now be more fully described in the following detailed description taken with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view showing the receptacle of the present invention mounted on a door;

FIG. **2** is a sectional view taken generally along the line **2—2** in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a view similar to FIG. **1**, but showing the mouth of the receptacle in open condition;

FIG. **4** is a sectional view taken generally along the line **4—4** in FIG. **2**;

FIG. **5** is an enlarged view of the upper end of the receptacle, as viewed in FIG. **3**; and

FIG. **6** is a sectional view taken generally along the line **6—6** in FIG. **5**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Reference is first made to FIG. **1**, wherein a receptacle formed in accordance with a preferred form of the present invention is generally designated as **10** and shown as being mounted on an exterior surface of a door **12** of a residence at a height convenient to permit removable insertion of a newspaper **14** into the receptacle through an upwardly openings receptacle mouth **16** when the latter is temporarily enlarged in the manner depicted in FIG. **3**. The exact height at which receptacle **10** is mounted is a matter of choice, but preferably it would correspond essentially to the height of door knob **18**, so as to permit removable insertion of newspaper **14** without excessive bending, while at the same time permitting the interior of the receptacle to be viewed by the newspaper carrier and/or the party to whom newspapers are to be delivered.

In the illustrated form of the invention, receptacle **10** is formed from a loosely woven or open mesh fabric of weather resistant plastic material, such as Nylon, which permits the contents of the receptacle to be viewed without opening mouth **16**. However, it is anticipated that receptacle **10** may be formed of any other desired non-rigid or pliable/flexible sheet material, such as for instance canvas or a suitable moisture-proof, plastic sheet material, which may be opaque or transparent, as desired.

More specifically, receptacle **10** is shown as being fabricated by folding a generally rectangular sheet of material in half to define a fold line **20** defining the bottom of the receptacle and then stitching together, as shown at **22** in FIG. **4**, the facing in-turned side edge portions **24** of the rectangular sheet to define opposite vertically extending sides of the receptacle and thus bound an inner storage chamber **26**, which is sized to freely receive newspaper **14** and disposed in communication with receptacle mouth **16**. Assembly of receptacle **10** is completed by folding the front and rear or upper end edge portions **28** and **30**, and then stitching same to front and rear panels or surfaces **32** and **34** of the receptacle, as shown at **36** and **38**, to define sleeves **40** and **42**, which bound the front and rear side edges of mouth **16** and are sized to receive relatively thin, generally rectangular or strip shaped front and rear inserts **44** and **46**.

Front insert **44** is in the form of as suitable woven elastic fabric or strip of elastomeric material, such as rubber, having its opposite ends suitably secured or fixed to the opposite ends of sleeve **40**, as by stitching **22**, while being otherwise free to move or slide within such sleeve as an incident to stretching of the front insert incident to the opening of receptacle mouth **16** as shown in FIGS. **3** and **6**. Upon release of front insert **44**, it tends to contract or return to its normal non-stretched condition for purposes of maintaining receptacle mouth **16** in its closed condition shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**. Expansion and contraction of front insert **44** within sleeve **40** is permitted by providing tucks or loosely gathered areas **48** in the sleeve and front panel **32**, as shown in FIG. **1**.

Rear insert **46** is formed from a relatively rigid material, such as a wood or plastic slat, which is best shown in FIG. **6** as being sized to extend between the opposite closed ends of sleeve **42** and formed with a plurality of through bore openings **50** adapted to freely receive nails or other suitable headed fasteners **52** adapted to secure receptacle **10** to door **12**. Moreover, rear insert **46**

serves to maintain sleeve **42** and rear panel **34** in an extended condition, such that a fixed distance is maintain between the opposite ends of elastic front insert **44**. As a result, the front and rear side edges of receptacle mouth **16** are maintained essentially straight and in close proximity to one another when the receptacle mouth is in its closed condition shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**.

In use, receptacle **10** is first attached to door **12** or other convenient vertically disposed mounting surface adjacent the entrance of a residence to which newspaper **14** is to be delivered. Thereafter, a newspaper carrier, when making a delivery, would simply manually open mouth **16** of receptacle **10**, as depicted in FIG. **3**, sufficiently to permit a newspaper to be deposited within storage chamber **26** and then release the receptacle to permit elastic front insert **44** to return the receptacle mouth to its initial closed position. Newspaper **14** would simply remain in receptacle **10** until such time as it was retrieved by a person at the residence to which it had been delivered.

The side of receptacle **10** is a matter of choice, but a presently preferred size of about twelve inches high and twenty inches wide is adequate to permit removable insertion of newspapers. As will be apparent, the size of the receptacle may be increased by any desired amount, particularly if it were desired to employ the receptacle as a receiver for delivered packages or other articles in addition to newspapers.

While a preferred receptacle construction has been specifically shown and described, it is contemplated that alternative forms are susceptible of use. One such form would be particularly adapted for use in installations where it would not be desirable or practical to mount the receptacle by means of nails or screws. Specifically, it is contemplated that other receptacle mounting means may be employed, as for instance comprising a first strip of a Velcro fastener attached by stitching or adhesive to the rearwardly facing surface of sleeve **42** and a second strip of a Velcro fastener, which normally engages with the first strip and is provided with an adhesive backing suitable for attachment to a door. The adhesive backing would preferably be protected prior to mounting of the receptacle on the door by a peel-away tape.

I claim:

1. A receptacle adapted for mounting on a vertically disposed surface, such as a door, and for removably storing articles, such as a newspaper, delivered to a residence, said receptacle comprising: non-rigid sheet material forming a storage chamber communicating with a mouth of the receptacle through which said articles may be removably inserted into said chamber, said sheet material is a generally rectangular sheet folded in half with its facing side edge portions joined together and its opposite end portions defining opposite side edges of said mouth, said opposite end portions being folded upon themselves to define a pair of sleeves; a relatively rigid strip extending along one of said opposite side edges of said mouth; a strip of elastic material extending along the other of said opposite side edges of said mouth and tending to resiliently retain said mouth in a closed condition wherein said one and said other of said opposite side edges are disposed in close proximity to one another, said strips are disposed one in each of said sleeves; and means for mounting said receptacle on said surface to arrange said mouth to open upwardly with said relatively rigid strip adjacent said surface.

2. A receptacle according to claim **1**, wherein said means for mounting said receptacle are fasteners extending through said relatively rigid strip and said sleeve in which it is received.

3. A receptacle according to claim **2**, wherein said sheet material is a loosely woven fabric to permit viewing of contents of said storage chamber.

* * * * *