

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO RAZOR BLADE DISPENSERS

- (71) We, WILKINSON SWORD LIMITED, a British Company, of Sword Works, Southfield Road, London, W.4., England, formerly of 16 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1., do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—
- 10 This invention relates to dispensers for razor blades.
- More particularly the invention relates to dispensers for razor blades of the kind which are an integral part of a shaving unit.
- 15 Such shaving units (hereinafter referred to as "of the kind specified") comprise a razor blade which is secured in a permanent manner to a substantially rigid member having a guard surface located at a pre-set
- 20 spacing from the cutting edge of the blade. Shaving units of this general type are described and illustrated in the Specification of British Patent 1,160,542.
- 25 According to the present invention there is provided a razor blade dispenser adapted to contain a plurality of shaving units of the kind specified, comprising a housing for said shaving units, an opening in said housing through which a shaving unit can be withdrawn, resilient means for urging shaving units, when stored in said housing, in the direction of said opening and means for preventing stored shaving units moving in the opposite direction.
- 30 The invention also provides a razor blade dispenser adapted to contain a plurality of razor blades which can be withdrawn sequentially through an opening in the dispenser, wherein there is a member which, when razor blades are stored in said dispenser, is in contact with the razor blades, said member being acted upon by resilient means to urge the razor blades in the direction of said opening, said member
- 45 being movable only in the direction of said
- [Price 25p.]

opening and not in the opposite direction.

One construction of dispenser in accordance with the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in 50 which:—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the dispenser with a single shaving unit visible in the withdrawal position;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the 55 dispenser, whilst

Figure 3 is an underside plan view with the base omitted and showing shaving units in position.

In the construction shown in the draw- 60 ings the dispenser 10 is basically a rectangular hollow box which at one end has a withdrawal opening 11 which in the top surface extends for a short distance back and at the end itself extends downwards to 65 within short distance of the base. For convenience, and as shown, the dispenser may be formed in two parts comprising an upper housing 12 and a base 13, the sides of the base 13 and the upper housing 12 each 70 sloping inwardly from the surface at which they are joined.

The dispenser is designed to hold a plurality of shaving units 14, for example five or ten, which in Figure 3 are indicated 75 diagrammatically only. In practice the shaving units 14 may take one of the forms shown in the aforesaid Patent Specification. The shaving units 14 are arranged in abutting relationship with the under surface of 80 the shaving unit facing the dispensing opening 11 and with the rear edge of the shaving unit uppermost. Sufficient of the shaving unit nearest the opening 11 is exposed in order that, in a similar manner to that shown 85 in Figure 15 of the aforesaid Patent Specification, this endmost shaving unit can be engaged between the jaws of a handle and a detent in the handle engage in an aperture in the under surface of the shaving unit 90

14, whereby the shaving unit may be withdrawn from the dispenser 10 by means of the handle. Whilst reference has been made to Figure 15 of the aforesaid Patent Specification it will be understood that other forms of holder may be employed.

In order that the endmost shaving unit may always be maintained in the dispensing opening 11 as each shaving unit is withdrawn in turn, means are provided for urging the stack of shaving units towards the opening 11. In the present construction this urging means consists of a slider 15 which abuts the shaving unit 14 furthest from the outlet and has side arms 15a which bear against the sides 16 of the dispenser. The slider 15 is of a material which allows it to flex sufficiently for the purpose to be described hereafter and may be pre-formed so that the side arms 15a are sprung slightly towards one another when the slider is placed in position. Each side arm 15a is provided with a tooth 15b for engaging in one of a number of square cross-section recesses or serrations 16a provided in the inner surface of the side walls 16 of the dispenser. The face of each tooth 15b which faces towards the dispensing opening 11 is inclined to the plane in which the slider 15 lies, the other face being parallel to the plane in which the slider 15 lies. Because of this the slider can be moved by resilient means towards the dispensing outlet 11, the inclination of the forward face of each tooth 15b allowing the tooth to ride out of the recesses with consequent inward flexing of the side arms 15a. However, because the rear face of the teeth 15b are substantially parallel to the sides of the recesses 16a the slider 15 cannot move backwards away from the dispensing opening 11. Thus, the teeth 15b co-operate with the recesses or serrations 16a to provide a ratchet action. Consequently, the slider will prevent any substantial rearward movement of the stack of shaving units which might result from rearward pressure applied to the stack of shaving units 14, when a holder is withdrawing the endmost shaving unit. When the endmost shaving unit is withdrawn the slider is urged by the resilient means towards the dispensing opening 11 thereby moving the stack of shaving units 14 forward until the now-endmost shaving unit engages the surround of the dispensing opening. It will be appreciated that the resilient means applying pressure to the slider 15 may take any convenient form but as illustrated comprises to coil springs 17, 18 having extended arms with hooked ends 17a, 17b, and 18a, 18b. One hooked end 17a, 18a of each spring engages against a respective step 15c pro-

vided on the rear face of the slider 15 whilst the other hooked end 17b, 18b of each spring engages behind a respective one of two tongues 19, 20 which project from the rear face of the housing 12. The arms terminating respectively in hooked ends 18b and 17a are each cranked in order to bring them to the appropriate level at their hooked end.

It will be understood that the invention is not limited to dispensers for razor blades of the kind illustrated. To the contrary, the invention can be used with dispensers for conventional razor blades, the blades being urged by a member, acted upon by resilient means, in the direction of a withdrawal opening, the member being movable only in the direction of the opening and not in the opposite direction. As with conventional dispensers the blades may be withdrawn successively by applying thumb pressure to the endmost blade, through an opening provided for this purpose, to initiate outward movement of the blade which can thereafter be withdrawn completely.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A razor blade dispenser adapted to contain a plurality of shaving units of the kind specified, comprising a housing for said shaving units, an opening in said housing through which a shaving unit can be withdrawn, resilient means for urging shaving units, when stored in said housing, in the direction of said opening and means for preventing stored shaving units moving in the opposite direction.
2. A dispenser according to claim 1, wherein said means engages the inner wall of said dispenser with a ratchet action, said ratchet action permitting movement of said means in the direction of said opening but not in the opposite direction.
3. A dispenser according to claim 2, wherein serrations are provided on the inner wall of said dispenser and said means has one or more teeth which engage said serrations, the relative shape of said serrations and teeth being such as to ensure said ratchet action.
4. A dispenser according to claim 3, wherein said means has a yoke portion a part at least of which is in contact with the shaving unit furthest from said opening, said yoke portion uniting two side arms which are provided with said teeth.
5. A razor blade dispenser adapted to contain a plurality of razor blades which can be withdrawn sequentially through an opening in the dispenser, wherein there is a member which, when razor blades are stored in said dispenser, is in contact with the razor blades, said member being acted



1 295 262

3

upon by resilient means to urge the razor blades in the direction of said opening, said member being movable only in the direction of said opening and not in the opposite direction.
6. A razor blade dispenser substantially as described herein.

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