March 17, 1942.  W. J. DONLON  2,276,268
SEAL CUTTER FOR BOTTLES
Filed July 12, 1941

Inventor

Walter J. Donlon

Thomas L. Wilder
Attorney
My invention relates to a seal cutter for bottles and I declare the following to be a full, clear, concise and exact description thereof sufficient to enable anyone skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing in which like reference characters refer to like parts thereof.

The object of the invention is to provide a device that will cut the seal around a liquor bottle without injuring the cork stopper. The cork stopper of a liquor bottle is sealed usually by cellulose wrapper under which is placed the U.S. Internal Revenue stamp. The cellulose is tough and not easily cut by the ordinary knife or by the use of a sharp instrument which is often used by the bar tender when in a hurry. At such times he is apt to spill the contents of the bottle or injure his hands. The present device can be easily and quickly applied and the cellulose seal cut without spilling any of the contents.

Furthermore, the cutter is so disposed relative to device that there is very little danger of its cutting a person's hands when using the same.

The object will be understood by referring to the drawing in which:

Fig. 1 shows perspective view of the bottle with the seal cutting device applied thereto, parts being broken away.

Fig. 2 shows an elevation of a bottle with the device in section applied thereto.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the device, somewhat enlarged.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged view showing a central vertical section of the device.

Fig. 5 is a plan view showing a modified form of the device.

Fig. 6 is a central vertical section of the modified form shown in Fig. 5.

Referring more particularly to the drawing the device comprises a U-shaped member 1 in the shape of an open band or open ring member made of some sheet metal which is more or less resilient, or if desirable it may be made of a plastic or non-resilient or hard metal. The ends of member 1 are curved at 2, 2 forming cylinders, or holding members for the application of the fingers of the user. Portions 2, 2 can be used also for hanging the device on a hook when not in use.

A V-shaped knife member 5 is formed integral with member 1 at its central portion by cutting out a portion of the metal and pressing it down into a plain at right angles to that of member 1.

The edges of the V-shaped knife 5 are ground or honed to a knife edge, whereby to cut the cellulose seal 10 applied to the neck 11 of the bottle 12. The extension of knife 5 is somewhat limited, whereby not to cut the cork stopper, when the knife is being used.

In using the device it is applied to the neck of the bottle. The user generally holds member 1 with his thumb and forefinger pressing against the sides of member 1 and the ends of said thumb and forefinger against the cylindrical ends 2, 2 and moves member 1 lateral towards the bottle neck 11 in such manner that the V-shaped knife 5 will project between the upper edge of the bottle 12 and the lower edge of the cork stopper 14. The knife 5 will wedge itself between those surfaces sufficiently far to cut the cellulose seal 10 but will not penetrate beyond to the cork stopper 14. The operator then either turns member 1 circumferentially around the bottle neck 11 and at the same time holds bottle 12 stationary or vice-versa he holds member 1 stationary and rotates bottle 12, whereby the knife 5 will cut the cellulose seal 10 whereupon the operator can draw the cork stopper 14 out of the bottle neck 11 to empty the contents of the bottle 12.

Although the device has been described with reference to a bottle 12 containing liquor which is under seal, obviously it could be applied to many other uses such as cutting the seal of jars and other like purposes.

Figs. 5 and 6 show a modification in which the knife holding member comprises an open ended cylinder or ring 13. Cylinder 15 may be made of a non-resilient material such as plastic or hard metal. In the event that it is made of plastic, the knife 16 can be either formed integral therewith as in the case of knife 5 or it can be made of metal. In this latter instance knife 16 will have its rear edge turned at right angles as at 17, whereby to form a supporting bracket. A slit will be made in the side 18 of cylinder 15, the knife 16 projected therethrough and the rear portion 17 riveted at 19 to latter surface 16 of cylinder 15.

In using this modified form of construction, the operator lowers ring member 15 down over the top part of the neck 11 of the bottle 12 and engages the knife 16 with the cellulose seal 10 at the location of the upper edge of bottle 12 and the lower edge of cork stopper 14 as in the former instance.

Advertising matter can be placed on the outer lateral surfaces of either members 1 or 15.

When either knife 5 or 16 cuts the cellulose
2,276,268

2. In a seal cutter for bottles an open ring member and a knife formed on said ring member by cutting a V-shaped slot therein and pressing the cut portion down at right angles to said ring member, whereby to form a knife to cut a seal brought in contact therewith.

WALTER J. DONLON.