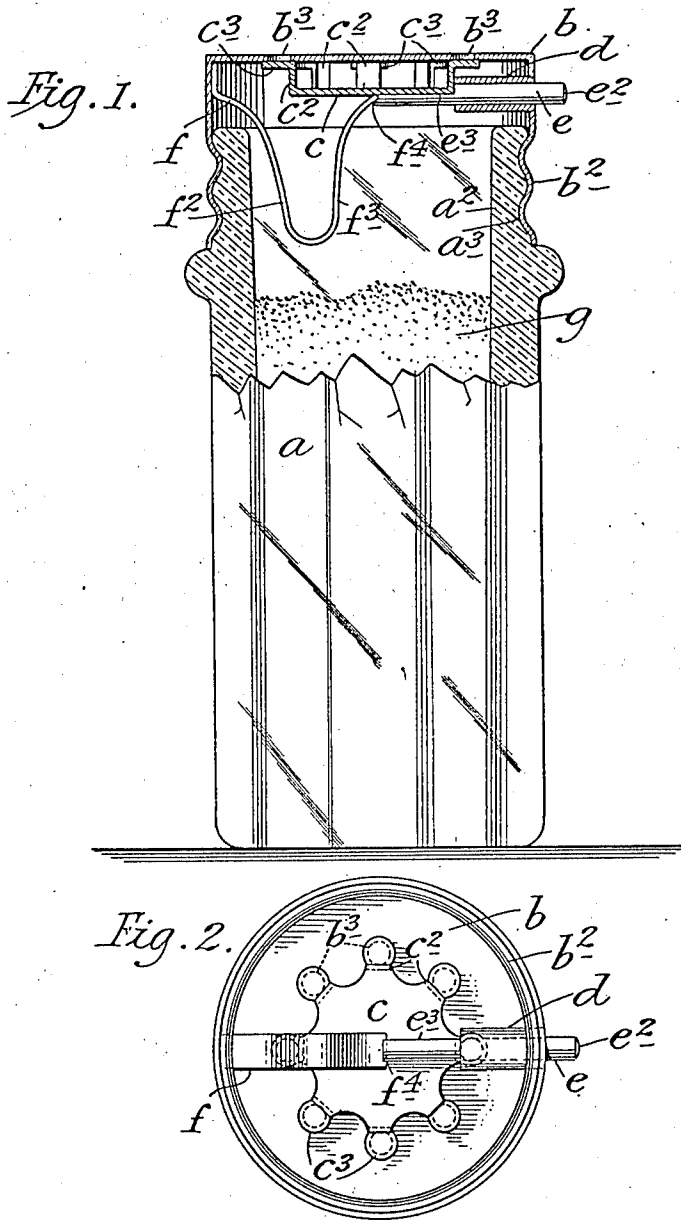


J. T. STAPLETON.
SALT AND PEPPER HOLDER.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 18, 1909.

963,333.

Patented July 5, 1910.



WITNESSES:

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SALT AND PEPPER HOLDER.

963,333.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 5, 1910.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN T. STAPLETON, a citizen of the United States, and residing at Jersey City, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Salt and Pepper Holders, of which the following is a specification, such as will enable those skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to salt and pepper holders, and the object thereof is to provide an improved device of this class which is simple in construction and operation, and which when not in use is securely closed so as to keep out moisture, and which will not clog up or be otherwise affected in such manner as to prevent the use thereof in the operation of shaking or distributing the salt or pepper.

The invention is fully disclosed in the following specification, of which the accompanying drawing forms a part, in which the separate parts of my improvement are designated by suitable reference characters in each of the views, and in which:—

Figure 1 is a side view of a salt or pepper holder made according to my invention, the top portion thereof being in section. Fig. 2 a bottom plan view of the cap of the holder.

In the practice of my invention, I provide a salt or pepper holder *a* which may be of the usual or any preferred form, and which is provided with a cap *b*. In the form of construction shown, the top portion *a*² of the holder is provided with a thread *a*³ and the cap *b* with a correspondingly threaded flange or rim *b*², and with this construction the cap may be screwed onto the holder and detached therefrom when desired, or this connection may be made in any desired manner.

The top of the cap *b* is flat and smooth on its under side, and said cap is provided with a plurality of circularly arranged perforations or apertures *b*³, and beneath the cap, or the top part thereof, is placed a slide *c* which is also circular in form and provided at regular intervals corresponding with the perforations or apertures *b*³ with upwardly directed projections *c*² having laterally directed valve devices *c*³ adapted to close the perforations or apertures *b*³.

In one side of the cap is placed or secured

a tube *d* through which passes a radially movable plunger *e*, the outer end of which projects a short distance as shown at *e*², and the inner end of which is secured to the slide *c*. One side part of the inner end of the plunger *e* is cut out longitudinally to form a recess *e*³ in which the slide *c* fits, and the inner end portion of said plunger lies flat on the bottom of said slide and extends to about the middle thereof in the form of construction shown. Secured to the side of the cap *b* opposite the plunger *e* is a spring *f* which is bent to form a depending loop-shaped portion *f*² having an upwardly directed arm *f*³, the end *f*⁴ of which fits in a recess in the inner end of that part of the plunger *e* which is secured to the slide *c*. The normal position of the slide *c* is that shown in Figs. 1 and 2, in which position the perforations or apertures *b*³ are securely closed, and in practice the holder *a* is filled, or partially filled, with salt or pepper as shown at *g*, and the cap *b* secured thereon and the device is ready for use. Whenever it is desired to shake out the salt or pepper the plunger *e* is forced inwardly and this operation moves the slide *c* diametrically across the under surface of the top of the cap *b* and opens the perforations or apertures *b*³. At this time the salt or pepper may be shaken out of the holder *a* in the usual manner, and when this operation is completed the pressure on the outer end of the plunger *e* is released and the spring *f*, or the arm *f*³ thereof, immediately forces said plunger back into the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and the perforations or apertures *b*³ are securely closed by the valve devices *c*³. The tube *d* through which the plunger *e* passes forms a stop for the slide *c* when the plunger *e* is moved outwardly by the spring *f*, or the arm *f*³ thereof, and said slide is normally held in the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and all that is necessary to open the perforations or apertures *b*³ is to press inwardly on the outer end *e*² of the plunger *e*.

With this construction there is no danger of the perforations or apertures *b*³ becoming clogged in any way and, in practice, the upwardly directed projections *c*² with which the valve devices *c*³ are connected form agitators for the salt, or pepper, when the device is inverted for use, and the said salt or pepper is free to circulate between the slide

c and the top of the cap *b* and the radial movement of said slide occasioned by forcing the plunger *e* inwardly, and by the spring *f* when the pressure on said plunger is released also serves to retain the perforations or apertures *b*³ clear of obstruction at all times. The spring *f* also serves to hold the slide *c*, or the valve devices *c*³ thereof, in firm connection with the bottom surface of the top of the cap *b* as well as to return said slide to its normal position as shown in Fig. 1, after it has been forced out of said position by means of the plunger *e*.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A salt or pepper holder provided with a removable cap having a flat top with perforations or apertures formed in a circle therein, and a slide mounted in said cap below the top thereof and provided with upwardly directed projections having laterally directed valve devices adapted to close said perforations or apertures, and which press on the bottom of the top of said cap, said cap being also provided with a radially arranged plunger which passes through one side thereof and is connected with said slide and opposite said plunger with a spring device which normally holds the valve devices seated on the bottom of the top of the cap and which also serves to force said slide in a direction opposite to that in which it is moved by the plunger.

2. A device of the class described, comprising a holder provided with a removable cap having a flat top portion, said top por-

tion being provided with perforations or apertures, a slide mounted in said cap and provided with upwardly directed projections having laterally directed valve devices adapted to close said perforations or apertures and to bear on the bottom of the top of the cap, a tube secured in one side of the cap, a plunger passing through said tube and connected with said slide, and a spring secured in the opposite side of the cap and connected with said slide, said spring normally serving to force the slide upwardly and the valve devices against the bottom surface of the top of the cap and also to hold said slide against said tube.

3. A device of the class described, comprising a holder having a removable cap provided with a flat top having perforations or apertures formed therein, and a slide mounted in said cap below the top thereof and provided with upwardly directed projections having laterally directed valve devices adapted to bear on the bottom side of the top of the cap and to normally close said perforations or apertures, a plunger for moving said slide in one direction and a spring device for moving it in the opposite direction.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of the subscribing witnesses this 17th day of November 1909.

JOHN T. STAPLETON.

Witnesses:

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B. M. RYERSON.