United States Patent [19]

Guerard

[11] **3,853,159**

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[54] **CATSUP TRANSFER FRAME**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **141/364,** 141/319, 222/181

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B65b 1/04**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 222/180, 181, 185, 568; 141/319, 363, 364, 106, 383–386; 211/14, 74; 285/235, 236, 137 R

[56] **References Cited**

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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Howard I. Podell

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A device for the consolidation of catsup from partially filled bottles by means of gravity actuated transfer to a common bottle. The device consists of a frame of joined plastic coated metal rings, with each ring binding a flexible plastic collar that serves as the locking means for holding an inverted bottle of catsup against an upright receiving bottle to effect the gravity actuated transfer.

3 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures

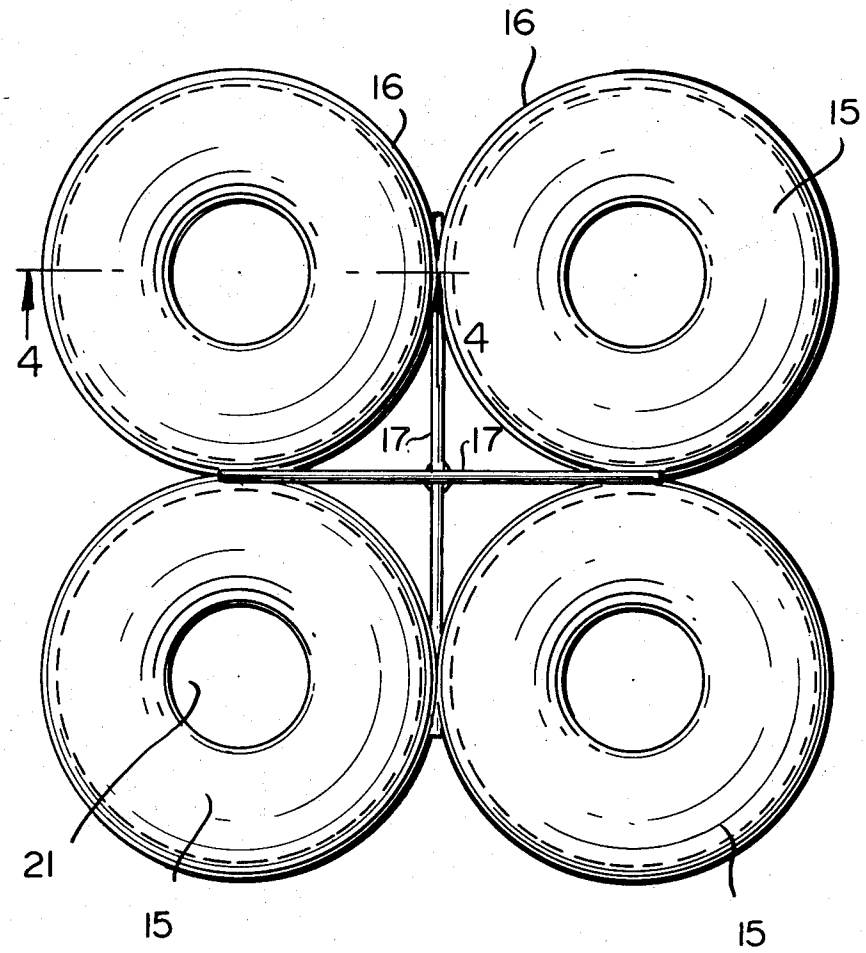
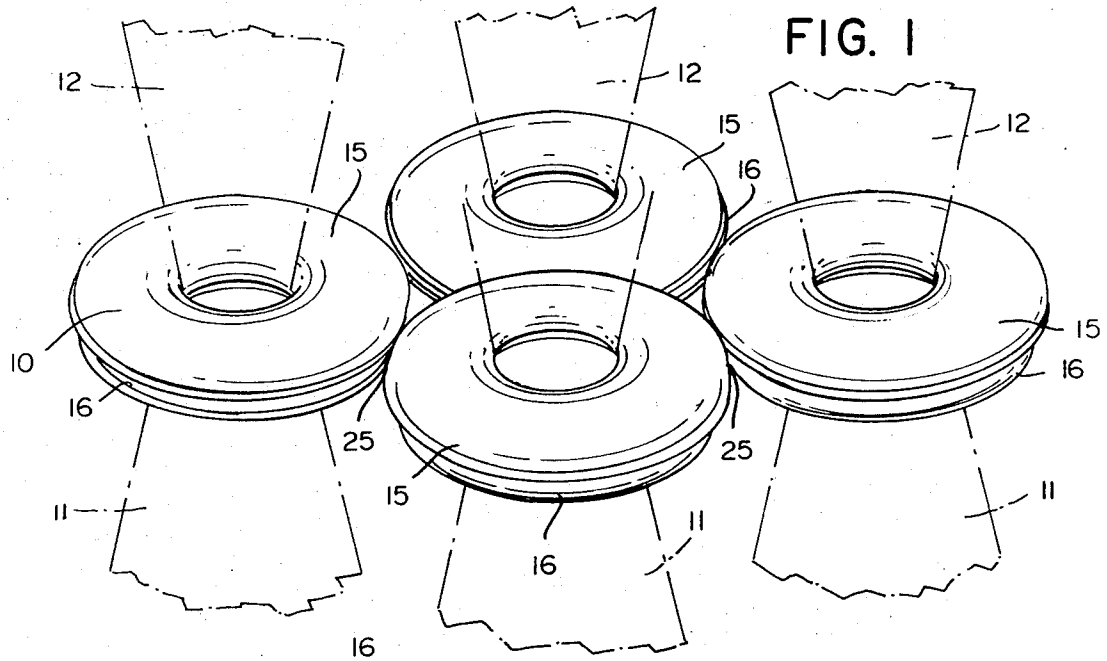


FIG. 1



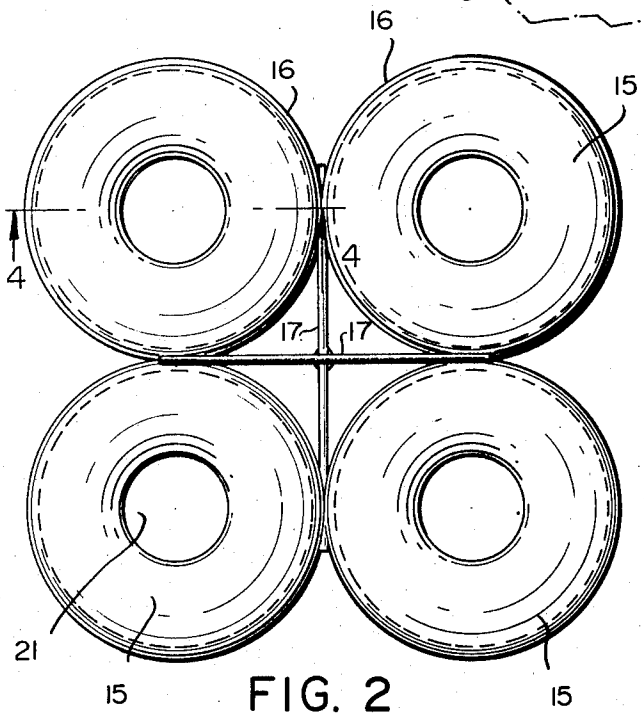


FIG. 2

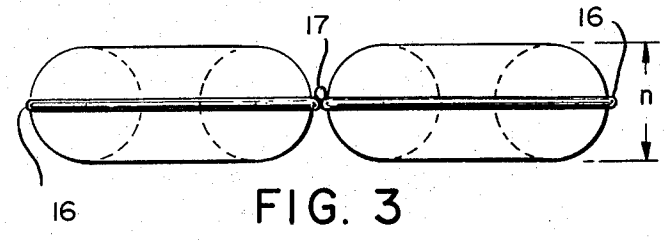


FIG. 3

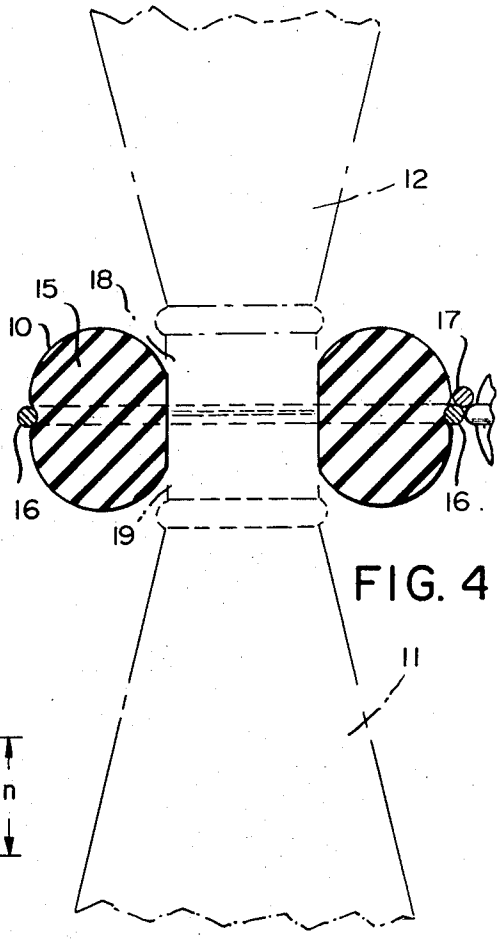


FIG. 4

CATSUP TRANSFER FRAME

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

This invention relates to a device for use in effecting a gravity actuated transfer of catsup from several partially filled bottles for the purpose of consolidation of such catsup in one bottle.

An advantage of the invention is that it is of simple construction and permits the conservation of catsup which would otherwise be discarded because of the difficulty and time required in pouring the last remnants of catsup from a partially empty bottle.

A further advantage of this invention is that the transfer of catsup is accomplished in an unattended manner and in a sanitary fashion, with the catsup being directly transferred to a bottle from which it will be directly dispensed. Potential contamination of large batches of conserved catsup is thus avoided by this invention.

The device consists of a frame of several plastic coated metal rings, with each ring binding a flexible plastic collar which serves as a compact locking frame to hold an inverted catsup bottle firmly to an upright bottle for the purpose of transferring catsup from the inverted bottle to the upright bottle below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING:

The objects and features of the invention may be understood with reference to the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment of the invention, taken together with the accompanying drawing in which:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the invention with a fragmentary outline of catsup bottles attached to the frame for effecting the transfer of catsup;

FIG. **2** is a plan view of the invention;

FIG. **3** is a side view of the invention; and

FIG. **4** is a cross-section in elevation of the invention taken at line **4—4** of FIG. **2.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT:

Turning now descriptively to the drawing, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, FIG. **1–4** illustrate the device **10** consisting of four flexible plastic collars **15,** each collar **15** retained by a metal ring **16,** with all metal rings **16** being joined together at their points **25** of common tangency as shown in FIG. **1** or alternately joined to metal crossbars **17** as shown in FIG. **2.** The metal rings **16** are preferably cushioned by a plastic coating of vinyl or nylon, said plastic coating acting also to protect the metal of the rings **16** from corrosion or other unsanitary effects.

In use, the neck **18** of an inverted catsup bottle **12** is fitted into the inner circumference of a flexible plastic collar **15** to rest firmly against the neck **19** of an upright bottle **11** which is also fitted into the inner circumference of the same plastic collar **15.** The catsup in the inverted bottle **12** drains under the effect of gravity into the upright bottle below without requiring any supervision or assistance of an attendant.

An important feature of this invention is the relative stability furnished by the use of multiple rings **16** and collars **15** so that two or more inverted bottles **12** may

be joined to an equal number of upright bottles **11.** Catsup bottles are particularly distinguished by the disproportionate ratio of height to base so that when a catsup transfer mechanism provides means solely to invert one catsup bottle over one upright bottle, the structure of such a transfer mechanism is quite unstable and readily subject to upset and spillage caused by minor environmental vibration or shock.

In this invention, the frame of multiple bound collars **15** permits the ensuring of the stability of the device **10** by means of mounting two or more upright bottles to joined collars **15** at all times.

While the preferred embodiment has been illustrated as consisting of a unit of four joined collars **15,** alternate embodiments of equal utility and practicability may be formed utilizing units of three joined collars **15.** The three collars may be joined in a triangular configuration with each collar being mounted tangent to two adjoining collars, or the three collars may be joined in linear configuration.

The flexible plastic collar **15,** which holds both the necks **18** and **19** of the catsup bottles **11** and **12,** may be fabricated in the shape of a solid doughnut or it may be fabricated in the shape of a hollow balloon tire. In the preferred embodiment, the free diameter of the aperture **21** of the collar **15** is less than seven-eighths of an inch so as to grip the neck of a standard catsup bottle, with the height of the collar **15** being 1 ½ inches.

Since obvious changes may be made in the specific embodiment of the invention described herein, it is indicated that all matter contained herein is intended as illustrative and not limiting in scope.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A device to effect the transfer of catsup from a partially filled bottle to another bottle by means of gravity actuated transfer consisting of

a frame of several joined plastic rings, with each ring binding a flexible plastic coupling collar that is adaptable to serve as a locking frame for holding an inverted catsup bottle firmly above an upright catsup bottle where the necks of both catsup bottles are fastened into the same plastic collar, in which the flexible plastic collar is of a hollow balloon tire shape.

2. A device to simultaneously effect the transfer of catsup from several partially filled inverted bottles to other erect bottles, by means of gravity actuated transfer, said device maintaining the axis of the attached bottles securely in the verticle position during the transfer operation, consisting of

a frame of several joined plastic rings, with each ring binding a flexible plastic coupling collar that is adaptable to serve as a locking frame for holding an individual inverted catsup bottle firmly above another individual upright catsup bottle fastened into the same plastic collar.

3. The combination as recited in claim **2** together with several erect catsup bottles to which the device is attached, said erect bottles serving as a stable base for the device.

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