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DRINKING CUP DISPENSER

Filed Jan. 21, 1929

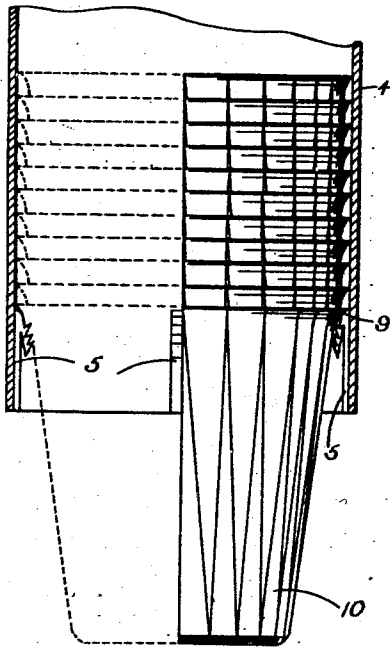


FIG. 1.

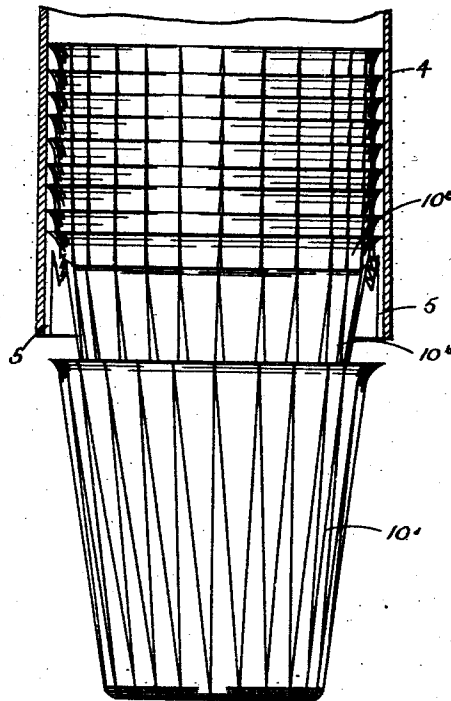


FIG. 2.

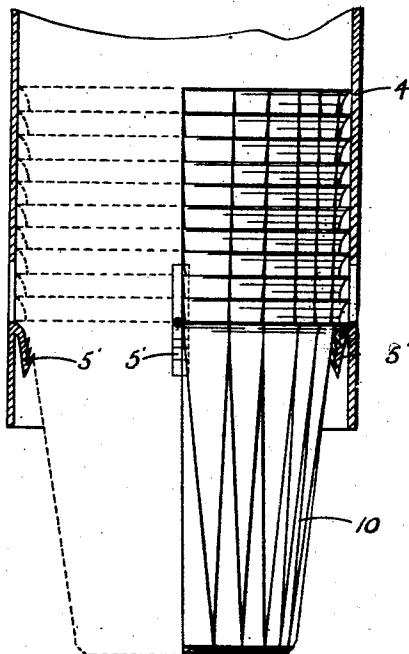


FIG. 3.

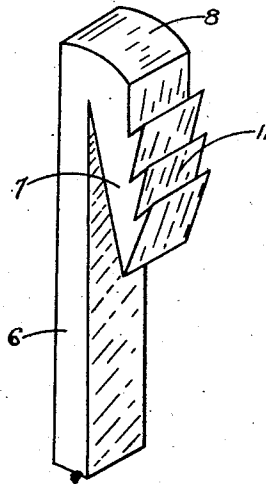


FIG. 4.

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DRINKING-CUP DISPENSER

Application filed January 21, 1929. Serial No. 333,967.

This invention relates to a drinking cup dispenser and the principal object of my invention is to provide a container having on the inner face thereof a plurality of retaining members, the upper portion of each being provided with a contacting face corresponding in curvature to the curvature of the under face of the lips of the cups to be dispensed therefrom.

10 A further object of my invention is to provide a container having on the inner face thereof a plurality of retaining members, the upper portion of each being provided with a contacting face corresponding in curvature to the curvature of the under face of the lips of the cups to be dispensed therefrom and the remaining portion of the contacting face of each retaining member being serrated.

20 A further object of my invention is to provide a container having on the inner face thereof a plurality of retaining members so formed that their upper portions act as a base on which the lip of the lowermost of a plurality of nestled cups will normally rest, while the remaining portions of the respective contacting faces will act as a segregating means should the second lowermost cup be pulled past the base on which it should have normally rested after the lowermost cup had been withdrawn.

35 With the foregoing and other objects in view as will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists of the novel construction, combination and arrangement of co-operating elements as hereinafter more specifically set forth, claimed and shown in the accompanying drawings forming a part of the present application, in which:

40 Fig. 1 is a sectional view of a portion of a container, illustrating the preferred embodiment of my invention.

45 Fig. 2 is a similar view to Fig. 1, showing the second lowermost cup as having been drawn down with the lowermost cup past the normal retaining base while the third lowermost cup is being supported on the normal retaining base and having been arrested by the serrated portions of the retaining members.

Fig. 3 is a similar view to Fig. 1 showing a modified form of the retaining members.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged perspective view of one of the retaining members.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the different views.

In the dispensing of drinking cups, it is desirable to provide a device which will be inexpensive to produce, yet efficient in the dispensing of only one cup at a time. I appreciate that there are dispensing devices in use today which embody a structure which will dispense only one cup at a time, but the apparatus, forming such devices is expensive to manufacture, cumbersome in operation and constantly requires repair or adjustment to the various moving parts.

In the construction disclosed in this application, I provide a cup dispenser which can be manufactured at a most reasonable cost, will provide most efficient service in the proper dispensing of cups one at a time and has no moving parts to adjust or repair.

4 represents a container which may be of any desired shape convenient for holding a plurality of drinking cups in upright nestled position. In spaced relationship around the inner contour of the container 4 and adjacent the discharge end thereof, I provide a plurality of retaining members 5. In the preferred embodiment of my invention, these retaining members are separately formed and their body portion 6 riveted, brazed, welded or otherwise fixedly connected to the inner contour of the container 4. In the modified form shown in Fig. 3, these retaining members are provided by stamping tongues 5' from the material forming the side walls of the container 4, which tongues are bent inwardly and formed in corresponding shape to the free ends 7 of the retaining members 5. The free ends 7 of the retaining members 5 are formed inwardly of and downwardly from the upper end of the body portions 6 as clearly shown in Fig. 4.

The adjoining portion of each of the free ends 7 is provided with an outer face 8, having a curvature of corresponding relationship to the curvature of the under face of

the lip 9 of the cup 10. When a plurality of cups are in the container 4, the under side of the lip of the lowermost cup will normally rest on the retaining base provided by the faces 8 in full contact therewith.

5 The remaining portion of each of the contacting faces of the free ends 7 is provided with a plurality of transverse serrations as at 11. These serrations extend down a greater
10 distance from the top of the respective body portions 6 than the distance between the lips of the cups when in normal nestled formation. The purpose of this is illustrated in Fig. 2. In this illustration, 10^a is the lower-
15 most cup which is being pulled down to be removed. 10^b is the second lowermost cup which had become stuck to the lowermost cup and has been pulled over the normal retaining base formed by the faces 8 on which it should
20 have rested after the lowermost cup 10^a was pulled down. While passing over the plurality of serrations, the cup 10^b will be loosened from its stuck relationship to the lowermost cup 10^a and will be arrested, thus permitting
25 the lowermost cup 10^a to be withdrawn freely from the remaining cups in the container. In view of the spacing between the lowermost serrations and the tops of their respective retaining members, the weight of the remain-
30 ing cups in the container will be taken up by the lip of the third lowermost cup 10^c coming in contact with the base formed by the faces 8 and thus the second lowermost cup 10^b will be relieved from the additional weight of the
35 remaining cups which will facilitate the action of the serrations as at 11. The same desirable action is obtained by the tongues 5' disclosed in Fig. 3.

40 The foregoing specification and annexed drawings disclose the preferred embodiment of my invention, but it is to be understood that minor changes may be resorted to in the commercial adaptation of my invention without departing from the scope of the invention
45 as hereinafter claimed.

What I claim as new is:

1. A cup dispenser composed of a container; a plurality of retainer members of rigid
50 formation carried in spaced relationship around the inner contour of said container and adjacent the discharge end thereof; the upper portion of each of said retainer members providing a resting base; the contacting
55 faces thereof corresponding to the under contour of the lips of the cups to be used in said container and the cup contacting face of each retainer member being serrated.

2. A cup dispenser composed of a container; a plurality of retainer members of rigid
60 formation carried in spaced relationship around the inner contour of said container and adjacent the discharge end thereof; the upper portion of each of said retainer members providing a resting base, the contacting
65 faces thereof corresponding to the under con-

tour of the lips of the cups to be used in said container and the cup contacting face of each retainer member being serrated, said serrated faces extending down a greater distance from said resting base than the distance between
70 the consecutive lips of a plurality of cups in normal nestled formation.

3. A cup dispenser composed of a container; a plurality of retainer members of rigid
75 formation carried in spaced relationship around the inner contour of said container and adjacent the discharge end thereof; the cup contacting faces of each of said retainer members being so formed at their upper end
80 as to provide a resting base on which a plurality of cups in nested formation may be supported by the under contour of the lip of the lowermost cup fully contacting with
85 said respective faces and each of said retainer members having a serrated face below said base for separating and arresting cups accidentally pulled from said faces when the
lowermost cup is being withdrawn.

4. A cup dispenser comprising a container, a plurality of rigid retainer members carried
90 in spaced relationship around the inner surface of said container adjacent the discharge end thereof, the upper portion of each of said retainer members providing a resting base
95 for the cups, the said members being provided with inwardly projecting portions contoured to fit the outer surfaces of the lips of the cups to be dispensed.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

HAROLD A. MILLER. 100

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