United States Patent [19]

Mulberry

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[45] **Sept. 4, 1973**

[54] **OVER-ALL LOCKING DEVICE FOR CAPS**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **70/164,** 70/232, 215/98

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B65d 55/14**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 70/158, 159, 163, 70/164, 166, 232, 416, DIG. 58; 215/98; 292/DIG. 2; 339/37

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to locking device for locking caps upon the filling necks of tanks, the primary use being for securing the caps of motor vehicle gas tanks in place to prevent theft of fuel. It is a locking device consisting of a cylindrical body member, having a cup-like form, terminating in a two-part inwardly extending collar. The device is designed so that the inwardly extending collar portion may bypass the tank cap as the device is installed or removed and yet be locked so as to prevent installation or removal. The two inwardly extending collar members are disposed in overlaying relationship and held together on one end by means of a rivet so as to render one collar member pivotally movable, both having on their opposite ends an aligned aperture to register affording passage of the shackle of a suitable locking mechanism therethrough. With the device in locked position, locking a cap upon the filling neck of a tank, and the shackle of a locking mechanism in said registering apertures, the shackle is holding also the end of a flexible, theftproof ligament connecting the lock mechanism to a part of the vehicle body other than the over-all locking device, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

1 Claim, 5 Drawing Figures

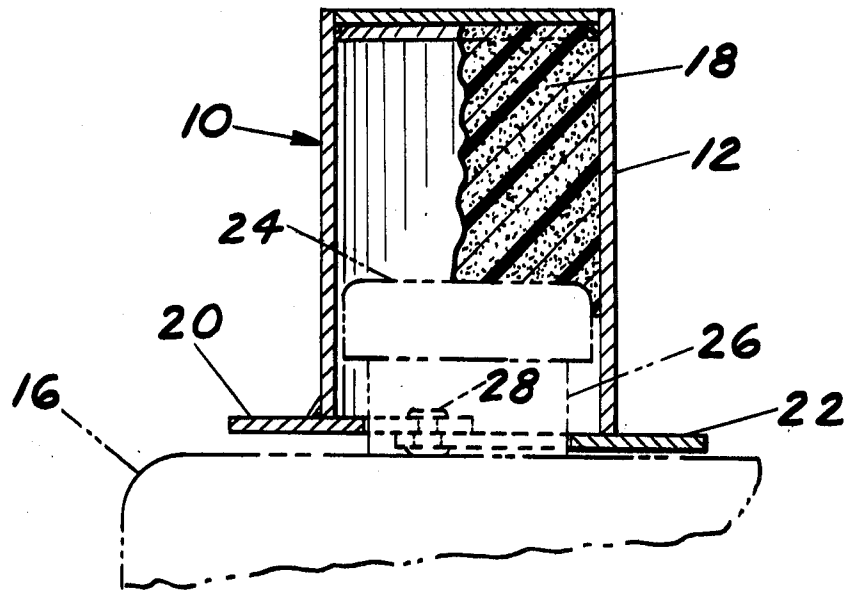
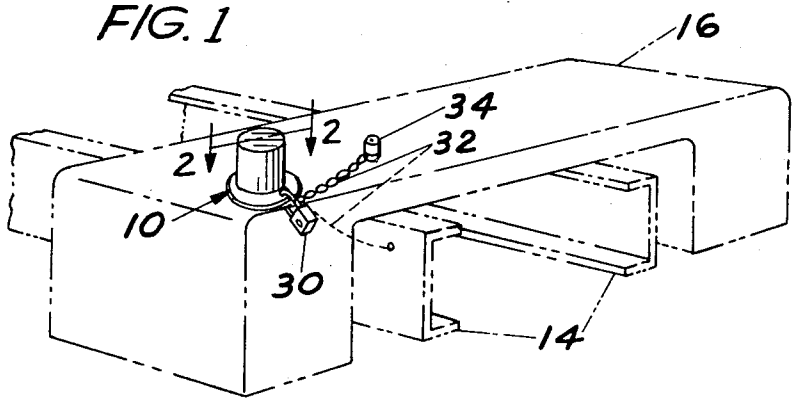


FIG. 1



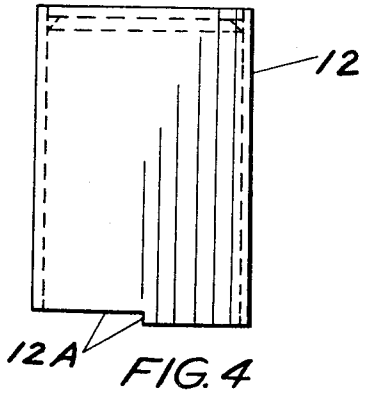


FIG. 4

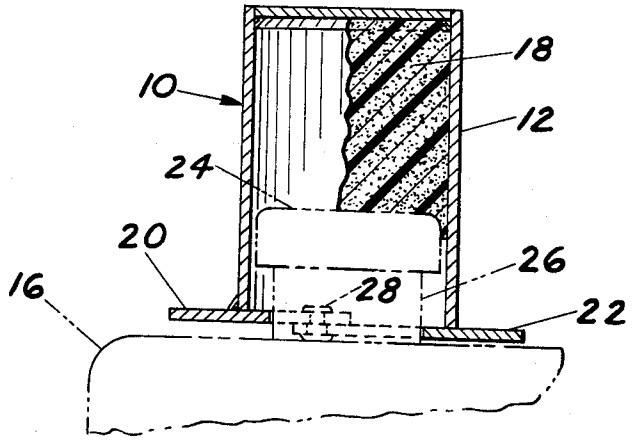
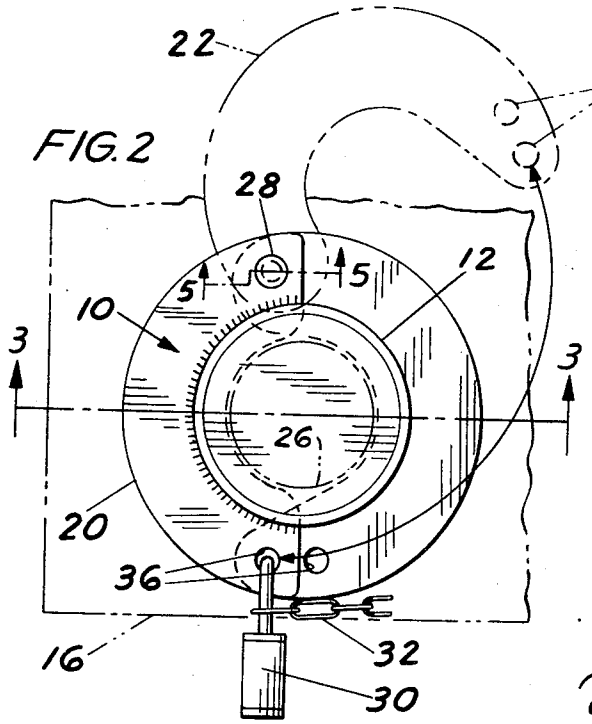


FIG. 3

FIG. 2



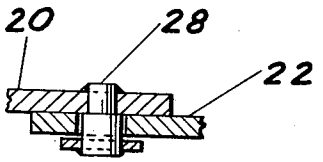


FIG. 5

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OVER-ALL LOCKING DEVICE FOR CAPS

The present invention relates to a locking device for locking caps upon the filling necks of tanks, the primary use being for securing the caps of motor vehicle gas tanks in place to prevent theft of fuel.

Another object of the invention is to provide a simple, strong, noiseless, safe, and inexpensive locking device for caps, one that is efficient, long-lasting and easy to operate.

The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the invention will become more apparent as the description proceeds, reference being made from time to time to the accompanying drawing, forming part of the within disclosure, in which drawing:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the locking device upon the filling neck of a fuel tank in locked position;

FIG. 2 is the top plan view taken on the line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a side elevation view of the cylindrical body member;

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of FIG. 2.

Referring to the drawing, I have indicated a motor vehicle fuel tank **16,** and my novel device **10** securely locked in position to the top of the filling neck **26** of the fuel tank **16.** A flexible, theftproof ligament **32,** shown for example as a chain, is held on the one end by the shackle of a locking mechanism **30,** shown for example as a padlock, and is fastened with the other end to a part of the vehicle body **34,** other than the locking device **10,** said locking mechanism **30** registering passage with its shackle through the aligned apertures **36** of both collar members **20** and **22,** preventing locking device **10** from turning or being turned by an unauthorized person.

All members of the device **10** are made of a tough material, such as metal, except for the sponge-like, fuel and acid resistant cushion pad **18** which is housed inside body member **12.** When device **10** is in locked position, locking tank cap **24** upon tank filling neck **26,** the inside surface of the top of the body member **12** is

pressing down upon pad **18,** and pad **18** in turn is pressing down upon tank cap **24,** cushioning the locking device **10,** and holding it noiseless and safe from friction-sparks in place while the vehicle is in operation.

With collar member **20** permanently fastened into recess **12A** of the body member **12,** the other collar member **22** is fastened to one end of collar member **20** by means of a rivet **28,** rendering collar member **22** pivotally movable. Collar member **20** and collar member **22** are inwardly extending so that the inwardly extending portion of both collar members may bypass the tank cap **24** as the device **10** is installed upon filling neck **26** or removed from it and yet be locked so as to prevent installation or removal. The two-part inwardly extending collar, part **20** and part **22,** when in locked position upon cap **24** and filling neck **26,** is fitting around the tank filling neck **26** and securely stationed under the tank cap **24,** with both collar members **20** and **22** disposed in an overlaying relationship, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

As an article of manufacture, it will be understood that the present invention may be applied as an accessory to motor vehicle gas tanks or other tanks, and that it may be operated simply by manual means.

Having described my invention, attention is invited to the fact that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, may be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letter Patent is as follows:

1. A locking device for locking a cap upon the filling neck of a tank, comprising a cup-like, cylindrical body member which terminates in a two-part inwardly extending collar, the ends of the collar parts being disposed in an overlaying relationship, one of the collar parts being movable so that the inwardly extending portion of both collar parts may bypass the tank cap as the device is installed or removed and yet underlie the peripheral portion thereof to prevent removal, and means for lockably securing the movable collar part against movement.

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