My invention relates to stamp retaining clamps and certain objects of the invention are to provide a clamp that is adapted to retain a revenue or other stamp in place on the spout of a beer or other container. Further objects are to provide a clamp which may be stamped or punched from a single piece of metal and which may, therefore, be manufactured at comparatively small cost.

With the above and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists of the novel construction, adaptation, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed. These objects are accomplished by devices illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective showing the device installed on the spout of a beer container and showing the stamp retained thereby in dotted lines; Fig. 2 is a detail view in bottom perspective of the clamp; Fig. 3 is a view in central vertical section taken on a broken line 3-3 of Fig. 1, and showing in dotted lines a beer tap connected to the spout whereby the clip is forced to a lowered position; Fig. 4 is a detail view in perspective showing a tool that is ordinarily used in removing the clamp from the lowered position; Fig. 5 is a detail view in perspective of a slightly modified clamp; Fig. 6 is a detail view in perspective of a still further modified form adapted to fit another type of container; and Fig. 7 is a view in central vertical section showing the latter form in use.

Referring to the drawing throughout which like reference numerals indicate like parts, beer containers in present day use are provided with an upstanding spout housing 5 and a spout 6 centrally threaded into the housing. The top of the spout is disposed on a level with the top of the housing and is provided with an outwardly projecting flange 7 having oppositely disposed notches 8 provided therewith. When the contents of the container is withdrawn, a tap 9, usually constructed as shown in Fig. 3, is used. Said tap is provided with an annular groove 10 which receives the flange 7, and projections 11 which are received by the notches 8 whereby the tap may be turned and thus form a tight connection with the spout. A cork 12 is used to plug the spout and is usually driven down into the container when the contents is withdrawn. It is now customary to seal the top of the spout 6 with a revenue stamp 13.

My invention consists essentially of a clamp comprising a ring 14 whose inner edge is adapted to slip over the flange 7 of the spout 6. Said ring is provided with a pair of oppositely disposed spur points 15 depending from its inner edge and inwardly offset therefrom whereby the distance between said points is substantially equal to the distance between the notches 8. Said ring is further provided with a pair of oppositely disposed spur clips 16 depending from its inner edge and disposed at right angles with the said spur points. Said spur clips are longer than the spur points and are curved or bowed outwardly as at 17.

The revenue stamp 13, being in place on top of the spout 6, is pierced by the spur points 15 and by the spur clips 16 when the device is installed. Said spur points snugly enter the notches 8 and the spur clips snugly engage the outer edge of the flange 7 and, when said ring is pressed down the curved or bowed places 17 of the spur clips receive the outer edge of said flange thus holding the stamp down against the top of the spout as most clearly shown in Fig. 3 of the drawing.

When the tap 9 is installed on the spout 6 the ring 14 is forced downward to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3, and the stamp 13 is thereby mutilated. To remove the ring from this depressed position a tool such as shown in Fig. 4 may be used. Said tool comprises a bowed portion 18 which is used as a handle, and outwardly projecting ends 19 which are sprung under the inner edge of said ring whereby the device may be removed from the spout.

In Fig. 5 is shown a slightly modified form. Here the ring 14 has a plurality of depending spur clips 16 which are likewise bowed outwardly as at 17. Two inwardly projecting lugs 20 are provided to engage the flange 7 and are for the purpose of preventing the device from being accidentally pressed down too far and thus mutilating the stamp 13 prematurely. By having a plurality of the depending spur clips 16, there is no need to get the ring 14 placed in any required position over the spout for should two of the clips 16 perchance slip into the slots 8, there are a sufficient number remaining to engage the flange 7 securely.

There is another form of beer or beverage container in present day use in which the spout 21 is somewhat larger than the previous form and has an interior flange 22 and slots 23, said spout being threaded into the container 24. To fit this type a modified form of clip is required, said form being shown in Fig. 6.
This form comprises the usual ring 14 which is provided with a plurality of depending spur clips 25. Said spur clips are curved or bowed inwardly as at 26, and have outwardly curved pointed ends 27, thus holding the stamp down against the top of the spout as most clearly shown in Fig. 7 of the drawing. The clip is pressed out of such thin material that it does not interfere with the placing of the beer tap on the spout.

Having thus described my invention, it being understood that minor changes may be resorted to without departing from its scope, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. The combination with an upstanding spout of a beverage container having an outwardly projecting top flange with notches therein, of a stamp retaining clamp comprising a ring adapted to fit over the flange, depending spur points formed on the inner edge of the ring and received in the notches of the flange, and depending spur clips formed on the inner edge of the ring and having outwardly curved portions snugly receiving the outer edge of the flange on the spout.

2. The combination with an upstanding spout of a beverage container having an outwardly projecting flange with notches therein, of a stamp retaining clamp comprising a ring having depending points to be received in the notches; and depending points adapted to receive and retain the outer edge of the flange.

3. A stamp retaining clamp comprising a ring, a plurality of short depending spur points inwardly offset from the inner edge of the ring, and a plurality of long spur clips depending directly from the inner edge of the ring, said spur clips having outwardly curved places therein.

4. A stamp retaining clamp comprising an open body having an opening through which a stamp may be seen, the body having a bearing surface for pressing against a stamp, and a plurality of resilient arms projecting from the inner marginal edge of the body about the opening, said arms extending substantially axially of the body from the face of the body having the stamp engaging surface, the arms being each provided with means on the center side thereof for holding engagement under the resilient action of the arms with a tangential abutment.

5. A stamp retaining clamp comprising a ring-like body of resilient material having inner and outer marginal edges and defining an opening through which a stamp may be seen, one face of the body constituting a bearing surface for pressing against a stamp, and a plurality of resilient arms formed integral with the body and bent to extend away from the stamp engaging surface substantially axially of the body about the inner marginal edge thereof, said arms being each provided with means on the side thereof facing the opening for holding engagement under the resilient action of the arms with a tangential abutment.

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