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LIPSTICK CUP LOCKING DEVICE

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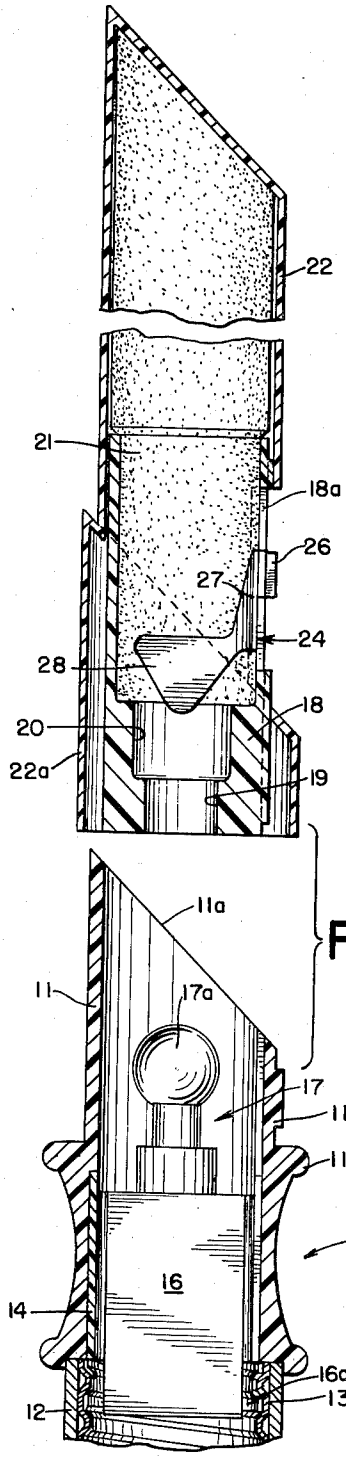
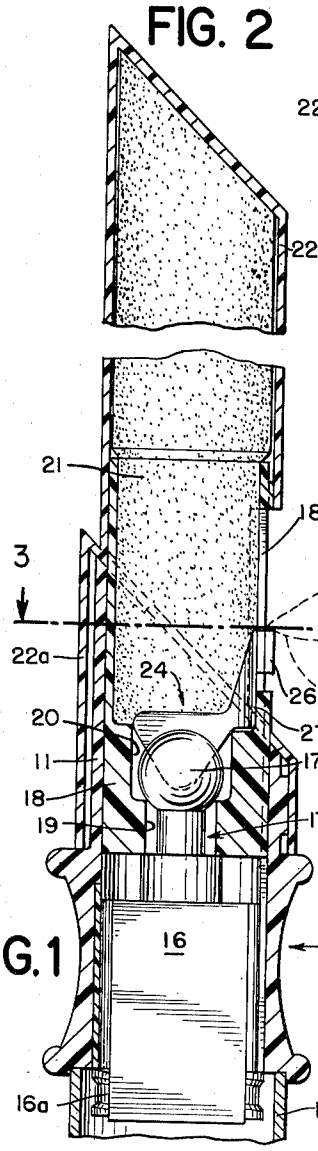


FIG. 1

FIG. 2



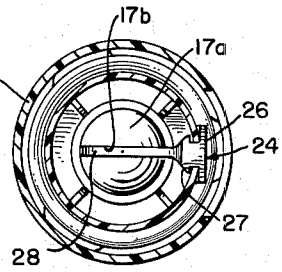


FIG. 3

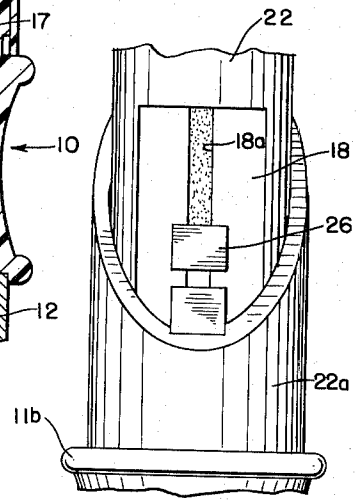


FIG. 4

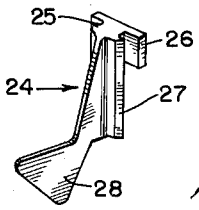


FIG. 5

INVENTORS
RONALD M. KATZ
DAVID A. KOSLOW
M. OLIVER FLOWER

BY Pennie, Edmonds, Morton, Taylor & Adams
ATTORNEYS

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LIPSTICK CUP LOCKING DEVICE

Ronald M. Katz and David A. Koslow, Los Angeles, and Milton Oliver Flower, Covina, Calif., assignors to Max Factor & Co., Hollywood, Calif., a corporation of Delaware

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This invention relates generally to lipstick holders and more particularly to a holder having a refill capability wherein a locking member is provided to assure positive engagement between drive portions of the holder and the refill.

In accordance with the present invention, a lipstick holder has been devised wherein a ball-in-socket connection is effected between the pomade receptacle and the cup carrier which comprises a portion of the drive mechanism. In effecting the refill, a new pomade and receptacle are urged longitudinally with respect to the holder proper until the ball is received within a cavity within the base of the receptacle. Thereafter, the drive mechanism of the holder may be operated to retract the pomade into the holder.

The lipstick refill is engaged within its plastic container and during the aforementioned retraction it is necessary to withdraw the pomade from its container and to overcome the frictional forces between the pomade and the interior of the refill container.

It is a primary feature of the present invention to provide a locking member within the base of the refill which will secure the pomade cup and holder drive mechanism in locking engagement prior to withdrawal of the pomade from its refill container. The provision of the locking member greatly enhances foolproof operation of the refill sequence and in effect makes impossible the disengagement of the respective parts which may otherwise occur due to the internal frictional forces attendant upon withdrawal of the lipstick pomade from the refill container.

In the following description reference is made, by way of a non-limiting example, to one form of construction of a combination holder and locking device devised in accordance with the invention and illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which:

FIG. 1 is a view showing the relative holder and refill in position before their mutual engagement;

FIG. 2 shows the holder and refill after engagement;

FIG. 3 is a cross section taken in the direction of arrows 3—3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a detail showing the side elevation of portions of the refill, including exterior portions of the locking member; and

FIG. 5 is a detail perspective showing of the locking member.

Referring now to the drawing, reference numeral **10** indicates generally the upper applicator tip portion of a lipstick holder. The holder **10** includes an upper casing **11** which includes an inclined applicator tip **11***a* and a collar **11***b*. A lower casing **12** is disposed below the collar **11***b* for free rotation with respect thereto as will be seen. A low pitched helically threaded sleeve **13** is frictionally secured to the casing **12**.

Coaxially within the members **12**, **13**, is a hollow inner body **14** which is secured within the collar **11***b* for common rotation therewith. Within the body **14** is a carrier **16** having teeth **16***a* at opposite sides thereof which extend through diametrically opposed longitudinal slots in the body **14**. The teeth **16***a* are engaged within the helices of the sleeve **13** such that relative rotation of the members **12** and **13** with respect to the inner body **14** and carrier **16** will cause translation of the carrier.

At its upper end, the carrier **16** mounts a ball plug **17** which is adapted to form a connection within a lipstick pomade cup or receptacle **18**. The latter is provided with a restricted bore **19** permitting the passage of the ball **17***a* and an upper larger cavity **20** wherein the ball may expand to prevent disengagement from the receptacle **18**. Preferably the carrier **16***a*, ball **17** and the lipstick receptacle are made of deformable plastic such as nylon to permit the ball **17** to be deformed as it is forced through the restricted passage **19**, thereafter assuming its normal expanded shape within the cavity **20**. Also, the ball will be provided with a slot **17***b* which will assist its deformation, which slot cooperates with the locking member of the invention as will be described.

The cup **18** contains the base of a lipstick pomade **21** and advantageously, the cup and pomade are packaged for refill purposes within a plastic outer sheath or container **22**. The container **22** will have a configuration **22***a* enabling it to be received over the applicator tip of the holder with the lower edge of the container **22** resting upon the upper end of the collar **11***b*, as shown in FIG. 2.

In accordance with the invention, a locking member **24** is provided within the receptacle **18**. The member **24** has a button or slide projection **26**, a flange **27** and an intermediate groove **25**. The slide projection **26** extends outwardly of the receptacle wall, the latter having a slot **18***a* therein permitting limited longitudinal travel of the locking member. The flange **27** engages and will slide along the internal wall surface of the receptacle **18** while the slide projection **26** engages the outer wall surface thereof.

The locking member **24** has a spade-shaped internally projecting end **28** which when the slide projection **26** is depressed, may be urged into the slot **17***b* in the ball **17***a*. This may be done immediately after the insertion of the ball **17***a* into the chamber **20** and will have the effect of expanding the ball **17***a* sufficiently to prevent withdrawal of the ball from the receptacle. It will be understood that when the drive mechanism is operated to withdraw the pomade **21** from the container **22**, frictional forces may be relatively high and the locking member **24** will positively prevent the disengagement of the respective parts during this operation.

Subsequently, when it is desired to replace a depleted lipstick pomade, it is necessary only to elevate the slide projection in the slot **18***a* until disengagement of the end **28** of the locking member from the ball **17***a* occurs. Thereafter, with the receptacle **18** in its extended position, the receptacle may be grasped without touching the pomade for disengagement from the drive mechanism.

It will be appreciated therefore, that the locking member of the invention enhances and makes positive, the trouble-free operation of the aforedescribed refill process. Since the embodiment presented herein is merely representative, reference should be made to the appended claims in order to appreciate fully the spirit and scope of the invention in which:

We claim:

1. In a lipstick container having a lipstick holder assembly and a lipstick pomade receptacle separably mounted together and drive means within the receptacle holder for axially moving the pomade receptacle, the improvement in combination therewith in connection and locking means for selectively maintaining the holder assembly and lipstick pomade receptacle operatively connected comprising a ball member extending from said pomade receptacle and operatively connected to said drive

means, a narrow slot cut into said ball member, a socket formed on said pomade receptacle and extending therefrom, said ball member separably held within said socket to join the holder assembly and pomade receptacle together, and a locking device mounted on said pomade receptacle and having an actuable portion positioned externally of said pomade receptacle and an internal portion positioned within said pomade receptacle and dimensioned for tight fitting engagement within said slot, said locking device mounted on said pomade receptacle to slide from a first position wherein said internal portion is separated from said ball member to a second position in locking engagement within the slot in said ball member.

2. A lipstick container according to claim 1 wherein said ball member and said socket are made of a deformable plastic material.

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FRANKLIN T. GARRETT, *Primary Examiner.*