

Oct. 13, 1953

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2,655,282

CONTAINER AND SEAL

Filed June 11, 1953

FIG. 1.

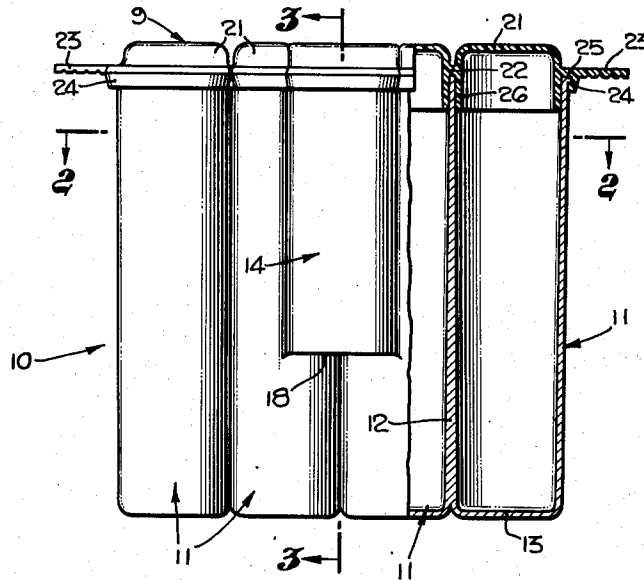


FIG. 2.

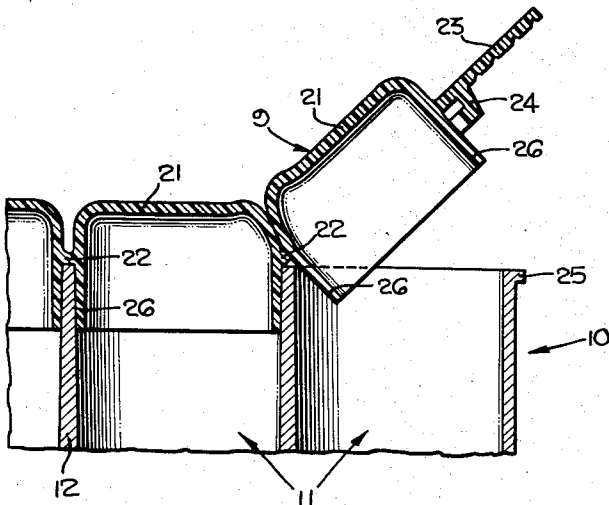
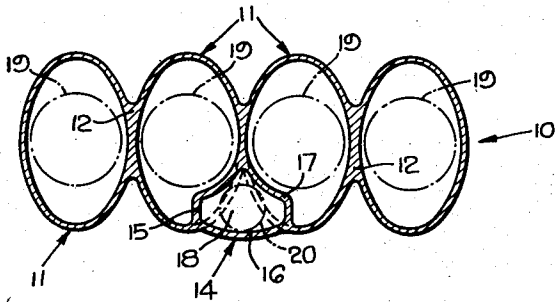


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

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2,655,282

CONTAINER AND SEAL

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Application June 11, 1951, Serial No. 230,925

4 Claims. (Cl. 220—21)

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This invention relates to a container and a novel form of seal therefor and is particularly directed to improvements in a compartmented container having a single closure or cover which may be opened to expose one or more of the compartments as desired. A more detailed object is to provide a novel form of cover and seal for a container of this type.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide a compartmented container having high strength characteristics which may be produced economically on a quantity basis and which may be formed of plastic material.

Another object is to provide a cover and seal for such a container which will stay in place regardless of rough handling or shocks or jolts and yet which may be readily and quickly opened to expose one or more of the compartments as desired.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will appear hereinafter.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation partly in section showing a preferred embodiment of my invention.

Figure 2 is a sectional plan view taken substantially on the line 2—2 as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a sectional elevation taken substantially on the line 3—3 as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a sectional elevation partly broken away showing the manner in which the cover may be removed section by section to expose one or more compartments as desired.

Referring to the drawings, the container body or shell generally designated 10 is composed of a plurality of oval shaped compartments 11 positioned in side-by-side relationship and connected by integral webs 12. Each of the compartments 11 is open at the top and is provided with an integral bottom wall 13. For purposes set forth herein below I prefer to provide a smaller compartment 14 which is formed by the side walls 15, 16 and 17 and provided with a bottom wall 18. This compartment 14 is also open at the top.

The oval shape for the principal compartments is chosen to provide the maximum strength and stiffness against deflection. The smaller supplementary compartment 14 need not extend for the full length of the container 10, but on the contrary the bottom wall 18 may be positioned between the bottom walls 13 and the upper open ends of the compartments.

The particular form of the invention illus-

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trated in the drawings may be employed as an ointment container for two forms of ointment having medicinal properties. Separate ointment containing tubes 19 may be placed in each of the oval shaped compartments 11 while a smaller ointment tube 20 may be placed in the smaller compartment 14. The ointment in the tubes 19 may be substantially the same, whereas the ointment in the tube which is placed in the smaller compartment 14 may be of a different type or concentration. For example, the ointment in tubes 19 may be useful for general application to the skin of persons exposed to poisonous or skin irritating gases, such as, for example, Lewisite. The ointment in the small tube 20 may be of weaker concentration and applicable to the skin areas adjacent the eyes of such persons. The particular form of the invention illustrated is intended to be carried in a pocket of a soldier's uniform. If the soldier is exposed to Lewisite gas he applies ointment from the tubes 19 to the affected areas of the skin except near the eyes. The ointment from the tube 20 is used on the skin adjacent the eyes.

Means are provided to form an airtight seal for the upper open ends of the compartments 11 and 14. As shown in the drawings, this means includes a unitary cover member 9 formed of flexible material and having a plurality of individual dome-like sealing caps 21 connected by integral webs 22. Tabs 23 integrally formed with the caps 21 extend laterally from each side of the container 10. The tabs 23 extend from rims 24 which extend around the periphery of each of the sealing caps 21 and which cooperate with the laterally extending lips 25 on the upper end of the compartments 11 and 14 to form a seal. Each of the caps 21 is provided with a continuous skirt 26 which extends downward within the upper end of the compartments 11 and 14.

The cover member 9 is preferably formed of flexible material such as, for example, polyethylene, while the container body or shell 10 is preferably formed of high impact styrene. The skirts 26 and rims 24 on the flexible cover 9 engage the relatively rigid parts of the shell 10 to form an effective seal to minimize entrance of air and escape of volatile constituents from the ointment tubes 19 and 20. The position of the tabs 23 with respect to the rims 24 is such that lifting movement of the tabs 23 first acts to disengage the rims 24 from the lips 25 and thereafter serves to withdraw each of the skirts 26 from its sealing position within the interior of its respective compartment. The webs 22 permit the individual

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sealing caps 21 to be sequentially moved from sealing position. This construction provides a sealing device for a compartmented container which maintains a tight seal in spite of the blows and shocks occasioned by rough usage, and yet which seal may be readily broken to expose the contents of the container for use.

The shapes of the compartments 11 and 14 are chosen so that they may readily be distinguished by the sense of touch and without requiring that the user see the container shell or cover. By placing his finger in the various compartments the user is able to distinguish which of them contains the small tube 20 having the eye ointment, and conversely, which of them contains the larger tubes 19.

Having fully described my invention, it is to be understood that I do not wish to be limited to the details herein set forth, but my invention is of the full scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a compartmented container, the combination of: a rigid shell having walls defining a plurality of upright parallel compartments open at the top and connected by integral webs, a flexible cover having a plurality of sealing caps integrally connected by flexible webs, each cap having a continuous skirt extending into one of the compartments in sealing engagement with the wall thereof, a peripheral lip on the wall of each compartment adjacent the open end thereof, and a depending rim on each of the sealing caps engaging over said peripheral lip to hold the cover in place on the shell.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of: a compartmented container shell formed of relatively rigid material, the shell having walls defining a plurality of compartments disposed in side-by-side relationship, a cover formed of flexible material and having individual sealing caps for each of the compartments, the sealing caps being connected by flexible webs, each of the sealing caps having a continuous skirt extending into its respective compartment and engaging the wall thereof to form a seal, interengaging lip and rim means connecting the cover and the shell, and means including a laterally projecting tab on the cover for successively disengaging each lip and rim means and removing the individual sealing caps one at a time from the sealing position.

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3. In a device of the class described, the combination of: a compartmented container shell formed of relatively rigid material, the shell having walls defining a plurality of oval-shaped compartments disposed side by side and connected by integral webs, a cover formed of flexible material and having individual sealing caps for each of the compartments, the sealing caps being connected by flexible webs, each of the sealing caps having a continuous skirt extending into its respective compartment and engaging the wall thereof to form a seal, interengaging means connecting the cover and the shell, said means including a peripheral lip on a wall of each of the compartments, and a rim on each of the sealing caps engaging the lip, and means including a laterally projecting tab on the cover for successively disengaging the rims and lips and removing the individual sealing caps one at a time from sealing position.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination of: a compartmented container shell formed of relatively rigid material, the shell having walls defining a plurality of generally oval-shaped compartments disposed side by side and connected by integral webs, the walls also defining a single smaller compartment having a different shape, the upper ends of all of the compartments terminating in the same plane, a removable cover formed of flexible material and having individual sealing caps for each of the compartments, the sealing caps being connected by flexible webs, each of the sealing caps having a continuous skirt extending into its respective compartment and engaging the wall thereof to form a seal, and interengaging lip and rim means connecting the cover and the shell.

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