

1,281,472.

Patented Oct. 15, 1918.

Fig. 1.

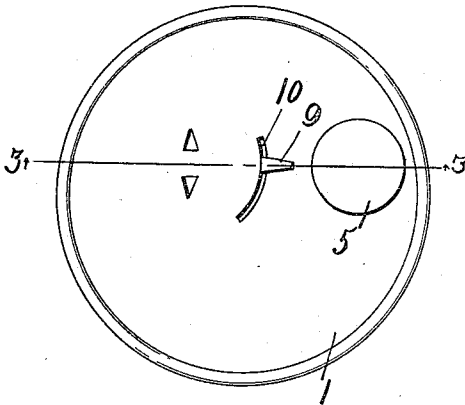
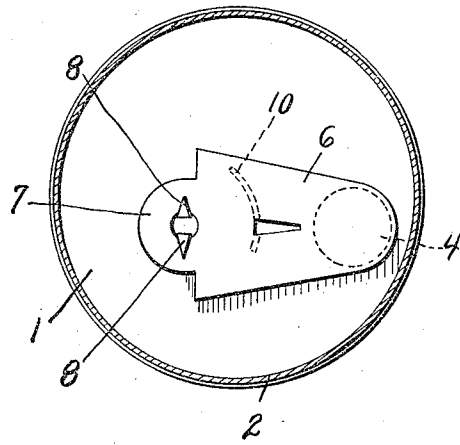


Fig. 2.

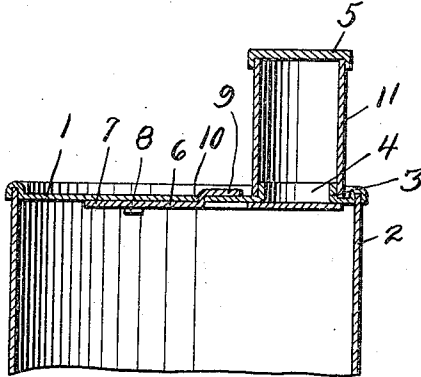
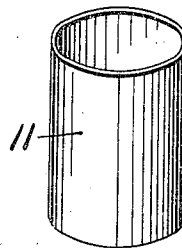


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. WOOTEN, OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

CAN-TOP.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 15, 1918.

1,281,472.

Application filed June 26, 1916. Serial No. 106,023.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. WOOTEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Little Rock, in the county of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Can-Tops; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to the class of can tops, and has particular reference to a combined cutoff and measuring spout for can tops.

The object of my invention is to provide a cutoff and measuring top for cans which is sufficiently practical to permit it to be economically constructed as a part of commercial containers for baking powders, spices, coffee, salt and similar household staples. To this end I have conceived a top provided with a discharge spout with which is associated a cutoff member which may be readily swung into or out of cutoff position. I have further associated with the spout and cutoff device, a measuring instrument which may be applied to the spout to receive therefrom the material in the container, the cutoff being used to regulate the flow of the material from the container to the measuring instrument.

In commercial use, the measuring instrument may be applied in various sizes, so as, according to the contents of the can a measuring device of suitable size may be furnished at the time of sale.

With the above object in view, and other, involving the details of construction which will hereinafter appear, my invention will now be fully set forth and described, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the top,

Fig. 2 is a bottom view,

Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a measuring attachment which accompanies the top.

Referring more particularly to said drawings, 1 represents the can top which may be of removable or other type, the construction in this case being contemplated as a fixed top having its peripheral edge crimped into the can body 2 and being countersunk below the edge of said can body. At a suitable point, which would most advantageously be to one side of the top, a flange 3 is upturned from the body of the metal, said upturned flange providing a discharge spout surrounding the opening 4. Preferably, the flange 3 does not project above the marginal edge of the can body 2, so that in shipment, the spout may not become damaged. A cap 5 is provided for closing the spout 3, when the can is not in active use. Mounted on the lower side of the top 1 is a cutoff 6 which is adapted to cover the opening 4, so that a measuring device 11 (Fig. 4) may be used with the top. Said cutoff consists of a metallic plate which is slidable over the lower face of the top 1, and is provided with a bearing section 7 which is centrally apertured to receive two or more prongs 8. Said prongs 8 are stamped downwardly from the body of the top 1, and are spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the width of the aperture formed in the bearing section 7. After the bearing section 7 has been seated over the prongs 8, the latter are bent outwardly to overlie the section 7, and thereby hold the plate 6 in rotatable relation to the top 1. When the bearing section 7 is thus positioned, the plate 6 may be swung across the opening 4 to cut the latter off from the interior of the receptacle. In order to provide a means for actuating the plate 6, a tongue 9 is stamped from the body of the plate 6 and bent upwardly to project through an arcuate slot 10 which is formed in the top 1, in suitable position, the arcuate slot 10 being concentric to the bearing of the plate 6, so that when the tongue 9 is moved from the slot, the plate 6 will be rotated around its bearing. The tongue 9, after being passed through the slot 10, is bent to overlie the top 1, so as to aid in supporting the plate 6, and also to be disposed wholly within the countersunk top.

Associated with the can top is a measuring receptacle 11, which consists of a tubular structure adapted to fit over the flange 3 when the cap 5 is removed. Said receptacle 11 is preferably closed at one end, so as to form a container, and according to the particular use to which the container is put, the measuring receptacle 11 is provided to contain sufficient quantities. Thus, for instance, if the can is to be dispensed as a container for baking powder which is most frequently measured in teaspoon quantities, the measuring receptacle 11 will be con-

structed to hold a teaspoonful. While, if the can is to contain coffee, the measuring receptacle 11 may be formed of sufficient size to measure tablespoonfuls. In cases where the capacity of the measuring receptacle is not too great, it may combine at once the functions of cover for the opening 4 and the measuring instrument.

While the operation of my improved device is obvious from the foregoing description, it should be noted that I have provided a combined cutoff and measuring device for small containers, such as baking power boxes, coffee canisters, and similar receptacles which may be economically manufactured as a part of the can to accompany the latter when the goods are sold. Thus, by removing the cap 5, and substituting the receptacle 11, the container can be inverted, the cutoff 6 having first been turned below the opening 4, and thus held until the container has been placed in inverted position, the receptacle 11 can be filled to measure a predetermined quantity for use, after which the cutoff member can be restored over the opening 4 and the measuring device 11 removed.

It is further to be noted that the top can be applied to containers of other materials

than tin, the top being formed as a unitary structure, combining the spout and cutoff, which can then be applied to pasteboard or composition receptacles with the same degree of success as with which the device can be applied to metallic receptacles.

What I claim as my invention is:—

A receptacle top provided with an opening, a cut-off plate pivoted at the inner face of the receptacle top and movable to close said opening, said receptacle being provided with an arcuate slot extending laterally from a line connecting the pivotal axis of the cut-off plate and the center of the receptacle top opening, said slot having as its center the pivotal axis of the cut-off plate, and a tongue struck laterally from the intermediate portion of the cut-off plate to extend through the slot, and then extended in substantial parallelism to the cut-off plate to overlie the receptacle top portion at the side of the slot remote from the pivotal axis of the cut-off.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN E. WOOTEN.

Witnesses:

L. M. CAMERON,
C. H. BECKER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."