Nov. 7, 1950 E. LAPPE, JR 2,529,472

DISPENSER FOR SALT OR THE LIKE

Filed Jan. 21, 1948

FIG. 1

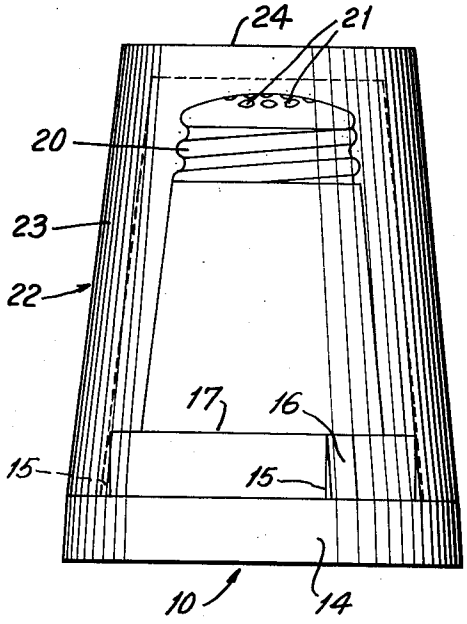


FIG. 2

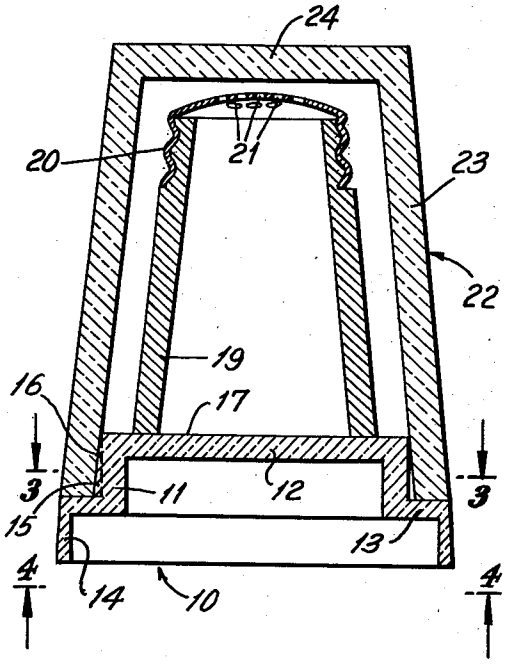


FIG. 3

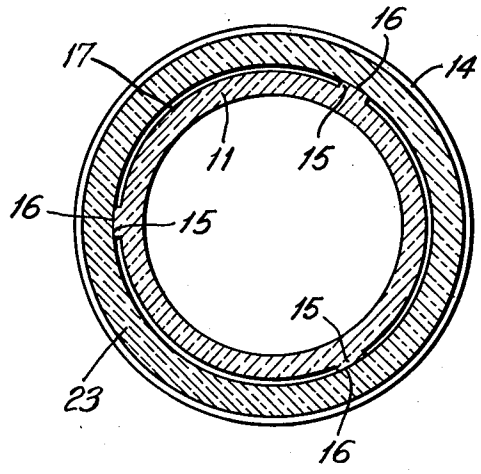
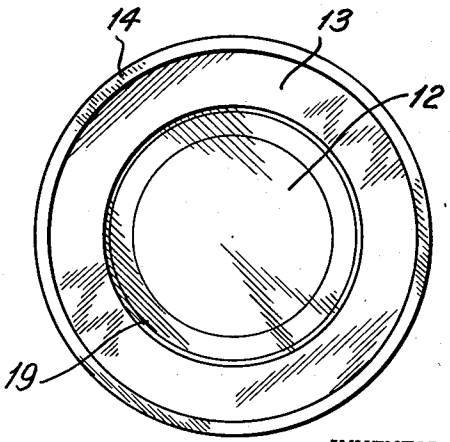


FIG. 4



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DISPENSER FOR SALT OR THE LIKE

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6 Claims. (Cl. 222—183)

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This invention relates to containers for condiments, and, more specifically, to improved dispensers for salt or the like.

It is well known that conventional receptacles of the character intended for use in containing and dispensing a condiment, such as granular salt, at the table are frequently incapable of dispensing the salt through the usual perforations due to the caking of the salt. This is especially true in moist climates and during humid periods in temperate climates, for the reason that moisture in the air is absorbed by the contents of the container, causing it to cake and preventing its free delivery, as required. The present invention obviates these difficulties as it provides a dispenser of the type indicated which effectively excludes airborne moisture and foreign material from the interior thereof.

A dispenser constructed in accordance with this invention preferably consists of a pair of units, namely, a shaker unit and a cap unit. The shaker unit may comprise a pedestal including a cylindrical base having a planar top wall. Integral with the base is a continuous lateral flange that carries a depending flange which completes the pedestal. Also integral with and projecting outwardly of the peripheral surface of the base is a plurality of angularly spaced ribs. The outer surface of each rib constitutes a portion of the surface of revolution of a right circular cone. The upper end of each rib merges with the upper edge of the base. Mounted on the top wall of the base is an upstanding tubular wall that is positioned inwardly of the upper edge of the base. The tubular wall is formed with external threads at its upper end for engagement with corresponding threads in a cover having perforations through which the salt or other condiment is adapted to be discharged.

The cap unit comprises an imperforate frustro-conical tubular member open at its lower end and closed at its upper end.

The cap unit is adapted to be placed over the shaker unit and moved downwardly with respect thereto so that its inner frustro-conical surface frictionally engages the outer surface of each rib and forms substantially continuous and line contact with the upper edge of the base. Also, the open end of the cap unit is adapted to rest on the upper surface of the lateral flange of the shaker unit to form substantially continuous contact therewith. The frictional engagement between the inner surface of the cap unit and the outer surface of each rib maintains the units in assembled relation. The contact between the

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frustro-conical inner surface of the cap unit and the upper edge of the base, and between the open end of the cap unit and the upper surface of the lateral flange effectively excludes moisture and foreign matter in the air from the interior of the shaker, and thereby prevents caking of the salt or other condiment that may be contained in the shaker, as will be apparent from the detailed description that follows, taken in conjunction with the annexed drawing.

Either or both of the units may be made of any suitable material that is impervious to moisture. Among the materials that are well suited for use in the manufacture of the dispenser of this invention are various known moldable thermoplastic materials, metals or glass. When a plastic or glass is used, it may be either translucent or transparent and tinted, as may be desired. I have found that thermoplastics are particularly suitable in attaining the objects of the invention.

The invention has for its primary object the provision of an improved dispenser for salt or the like that is adapted to insure the maintenance of its contents in a relatively dry state and free from foreign matter transmitted by air.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved dispenser of the above nature which is simple in construction, attractive in design, and inexpensive to manufacture.

A further object of the invention is to provide a dispenser of the character indicated, that performs its intended functions in an effective and trouble-free manner.

With the foregoing, as well as other objects in view, the invention comprises the devices, combinations and arrangements of parts set forth in the following detailed description and shown in the accompanying drawing, from which the construction, operation and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent to persons skilled in the art.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation of a dispenser constructed in accordance with this invention;

Figure 2 is a central vertical cross-sectional view of the structure shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a view taken along line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a view taken along line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Referring to the drawing, wherein like reference numerals denote corresponding parts throughout the several views, a hollow imper-

forate pedestal, generally indicated by numeral 10, includes a cylindrical base 11 having a top wall 12. Integral with base 11 is a continuous lateral flange 13 that carries a depending flange 14. Also integral with the base is a plurality of angularly spaced ribs 15 that project outwardly of the peripheral surface of the base. The outer surface 16 of each rib constitutes a portion of the surface of revolution of a right circular cone and the upper edge of each rib merges with and is coincident with the uper edge 17 of the base.

A tubular wall 19, preferably frustro-conical, is mounted on base wall 12 inwardly of upper edge 17 of the base. The upper end of wall 19 is externally threaded for engagement with the correspondingly threaded portion of a removable cover 20 that is provided with a series of perforations 21 through which the contents of the dispenser are adapted to be discharged.

It is preferred and recommended that pedestal 10 and tubular wall 19 be made from a readily moldable thermoplastic material, and that at least the portion of base wall 12 directly below tubular wall 19 be transparent to permit a user to visually determine the amount of salt or the like that may be contained within the tubular wall at any desired time.

An imperforate cap unit 22 comprises a frustro-conical tubular wall 23 that is open at its lower end and is closed, as indicated at 24, at its upper end.

When the parts are assembled as shown in Figures 1 and 2, it will be observed that the inner frustro-conical surface of cap 22 frictionally engages the outer surface 16 of each rib 15, and the open end of the cap bears against the upper face of pedestal flange 13. Also, the inner frustro-conical surface of cap 22 forms substantially continuous and line contact with edge 17 of the base. Thus, the cap is frictionally maintained in engagement with the pedestal and excludes moisture, dust and other airborne particles from the interior of tubular wall 19.

To dispense salt or other condiment that may be contained within the confines of wall 19, the individual merely removes cap 22 and uses the shaker unit in the usual manner. It will be apparent that the cap may be readily redisposed on the shaker unit after use so as to protect the contents of the shaker unit.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same, and that various changes in the shape, size, arrangement and materials of the parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of my invention or the scope of the sub-joined claims.

I claim:

1. In a dispenser for salt or the like, a base comprising a cylindrical upper portion, a plurality of angularly spaced ribs integral with the base, at least the major portion of each rib projecting outwardly of the peripheral surface of said upper portion, and a continuous lateral flange portion below the ribs, an upstanding tubular wall mounted on said upper portion and positioned inwardly of the upper edge thereof, a removable imperforate hollow cap closed at its upper end and open at its lower end surrounding and spaced from the tubular wall, the inner surface of the cap frictionally engaging the outer surface of each rib and forming substantially continuous and line contact with the upper edge of the upper portion of the base, and the lower end of the cap forming substantially continuous contact with the upper surface of the flange portion of the base.

2. In a dispenser for salt or the like, an imperforate base comprising a cylindrical upper portion having an upper flat surface that is normal to the cylindrical surface, a plurality of angularly spaced ribs integral with the base, at least the major portion of each rib projecting outwardly of the peripheral surface of said upper portion, and a continuous lateral flange below the ribs, an upstanding tubular wall mounted on said upper flat surface and positioned inwardly of the upper edge of said upper portion, at least the portion of the base below the interior of the tubular wall being transparent, a removable perforate closure across the upper end of the tubular wall, a removable imperforate hollow cap closed at its upper end and open at its lower end surrounding and spaced from the tubular wall, the inner surface of the cap frictionally engaging the outer surface of each rib and forming substantially continuous and line contact with the upper edge of the upper portion of the base, and the lower end of the cap forming substantially continuous contact with the upper surface of the flange portion of the base.

3. In a dispenser for salt or the like, a cylindrical base, a plurality of angularly spaced ribs integral with the base, at least the major portion of each rib projecting outwardly of the peripheral surface of the base, the outer surface of each rib constituting a portion of the surface of revolution of a right circular cone, an upstanding tubular wall mounted on the base and positioned inwardly of the upper edge thereof, a removable imperforate cap surrounding and spaced from the tubular wall, said cap having a frustro-conical inner surface frictionally engaging the outer surface of each rib and forming substantially continuous and line contact with the upper edge of the base.

4. In a dispenser for salt or the like, a base comprising a cylindrical upper portion, a plurality of angularly spaced ribs integral with the base, at least the major portion of each rib projecting outwardly of the peripheral surface of said upper portion, the outer surface of each rib constituting a portion of the surface of revolution of a right circular cone, and a continuous lateral flange portion below the ribs, an upstanding tubular wall mounted on said upper portion and positioned inwardly of the upper edge thereof, a removable imperforate hollow cap closed at its upper end and open at its lower end surrounding and spaced from the tubular wall, said cap having a frustro-conical inner surface frictionally engaging the outer surface of each rib and forming substantially continuous and line contact with the upper edge of the upper portion of the base, and the lower end of the cap forming substantially continuous contact with the upper surface of the flange portion of the base.

5. In a dispenser for salt or the like, an imperforate cylindrical base having an upper flat surface normal to the cylindrical surface, a plurality of angularly spaced ribs integral with the base, at least the major portion of each rib projecting outwardly of the peripheral surface of the upper portion of the base, the outer surface of each rib constituting a portion of the surface of revolution of a right circular cone, an upstanding tubular wall mounted on said upper flat surface and positioned inwardly of the upper edge of the base, a removable perforate closure

across the upper end of the tubular wall, a removable imperforate cap surrounding and spaced from the tubular wall, said cap having a frustro-conical inner surface frictionally engaging the outer surface of each rib.

6. In a dispenser for salt or the like, an imperforate base comprising a cylindrical upper portion having an upper flat surface normal to the cylindrical surface, a plurality of angularly spaced ribs integral with the base, at least the major portion of each rib projecting outwardly of the peripheral surface of said upper portion, the outer surface of each rib constituting a portion of the surface of revolution of a right circular cone, and a continuous lateral flange below the ribs, an upstanding tubular wall mounted on said upper flat surface and positioned inwardly of the upper edge of the base, at least the portion of the base below the interior of the tubular wall being transparent, a removable perforate closure across the upper end of the tubular wall, a removable imperforate hollow cap closed at its upper end and open at its lower end surrounding and spaced from the tubular wall, said cap having a frustro-conical inner surface frictionally engaging the outer surface of each rib and forming substantially continuous and line contact with the upper edge of the upper portion of the base, and the lower end of the cap forming substantially continuous contact with the upper surface of the flange portion of the base.

EDWARD LAPPÉ, JR.

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