July 19, 1960 E. M. SIRE 2,945,583

SIMULATED CANDLE DEVICE AND PACKAGE

Filed Dec. 22, 1959

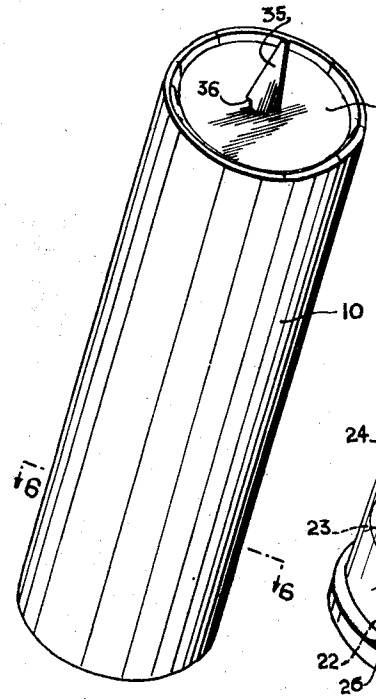

Fig. 1.

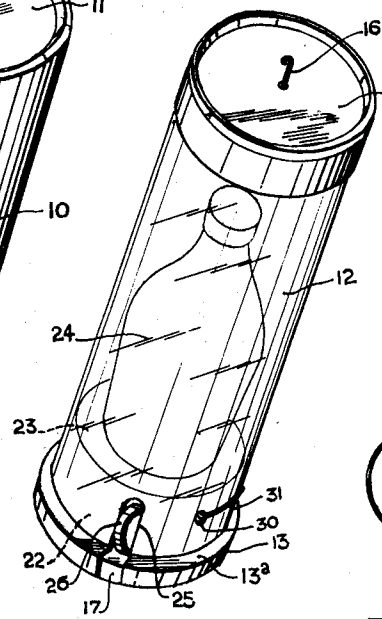

Fig. 2.

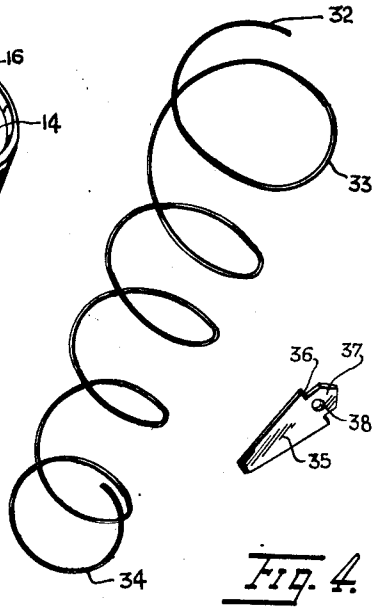

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

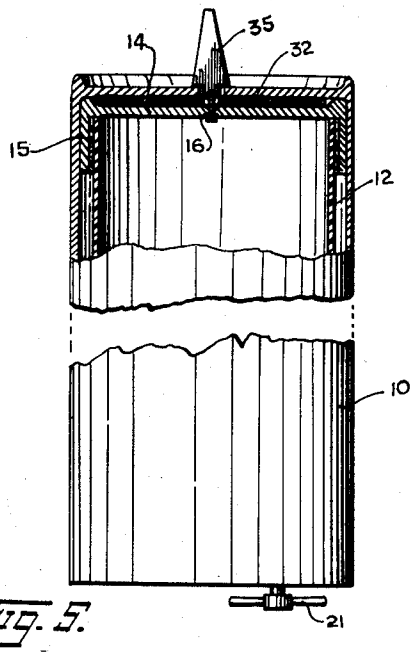

Fig. 5.

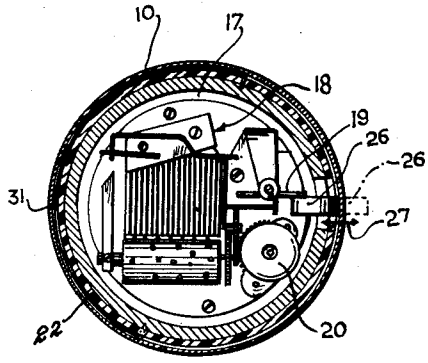

Fig. 6.

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2,945,583

Patented July 19, 1960

2,945,583

SIMULATED CANDLE DEVICE AND PACKAGE

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Filed Dec. 22, 1959, Ser. No. 861,358

7 Claims. (Cl. 206—1.5)

This invention relates to packages and more particularly to a simulated candle device which may incorporate a music box.

The invention comprises a package which has the appearance of a large candle. A burnable wick or fuse is provided. The candle body actually comprises an outer cap which encloses an inner transparent cylinder and a base. An article, such as a bottle of perfume or any other desired article is disposed within the inner cylinder. A spring, controlled by the wick or fuse, is disposed between the cap and the inner cylinder. When the fuse is burned, the cap flies away from the base, exposing the desired article. At the same time, the music box will begin to play.

The device is not dangerous to use and the article itself is not ejected or disturbed. This is of importance since it permits the use of a glass container or the like. Further, the spring is of special formation, it being long to insure forceful and complete ejection of the cap while nevertheless telescoping into a minimum area when compressed.

The invention will be further understood from the following description and drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the completely assembled device;

Figure 2 is a similar view with the outer cap removed or ejected, the perspective view being shown to illustrate details although the device will normally rest flatly on a table or other support;

Figure 3 is a similar view of the actuating spring;

Figure 4 is a similar view of the burnable wick or fuse;

Figure 5 is a longitudinal axial view partly in section, of the composite device; and

Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view as taken along the line 6—6 of Figure 1.

The outer cap **10** is provided with a roof **11**. The cap **10** may be of decorated cardboard, plastic or the like while the roof **11** is more rigid and is preferably formed of non-inflammable material such as metal.

The cap encloses a transparent cylinder **12** which is mounted upon and embraces a base **13**, the lower portion or skirt of the cap **10** completely covering the base including the shoulder **13***a* of the base. Cylinder **12** rests upon shoulder **13***a*. Cylinder **12** is provided with a metal or other sturdy roof **14**, the sides of the roof **14** being connected to the cylinder as by adhesive **15**. A lug or hook **16** is fixedly mounted as by being soldered to the center of roof **14**. However, it might obviously be integral therewith as by being struck out and bent up therefrom. The bottom end of cylinder **12** is open and it loosely embraces the neck of base **13**.

Base **13** comprises a wooden platform **17** upon which is mounted a Swiss type music box **18** the mechanism of which has been partially illustrated in Figure 6 but which is conventional as will be well understood. Insofar as the present application is concerned, the music box **18**

includes a conventional governor shaft upon which is mounted the governor **19** which takes the form of a rotating propeller as is well understood. When the rotation of propeller or governor **19** is interrupted, the music box stops playing. Accordingly, the governor may serve as a switch element, as is conventional. The spring housing **20** is wound up by means of the removable key **21** as is well understood.

Mounted upon platform **17** is a plastic shell **22** which encloses the spring box mechanism and also provides a floor **23** upon which may rest the contents **24** which may be a bottle of perfume, a small bottle of whiskey, a piece of jewelry or indeed any novelty.

Shell **22** is formed with an opening **25** through which projects leaf spring **26** the base of which is connected to platform **17** as is conventional in music box mechanisms. Figure 6 shows the normal position of the leaf spring **26** in broken lines. Arrow **27** shows how the leaf spring **26** may be actuated somewhat in a horizontal direction so that its upper end will make contact with the propeller **19** and interrupt the operation of the muisc box.

When the cap **10** is in normal position over the cylinder **12**, the lower end of cap **10** urges spring **26** inwardly and prevents operation of the music box.

As above stated, cylinder **12** loosely embraces the neck of base **13**. The reason therefore is to permit access to the bottle **24** when desired. However, it is necessary to connect the base **13** to the cylinder **12** as otherwise the parts would become disassembled. Accordingly, shell **22** is formed with two openings **30** which are opposed. An arcuate wire **31** having hooked inner ends is removably sprung in openings **30**. This will maintain the base **13** connected to the cylinder **12** but will enable easy removal thereof when desired.

The ejecting action is provided by elongated coil spring **32**. The normal length of coil spring **32** is at least equal to that of cap **10**. Coil spring **32** has coils of decreasing diameter, its top coil **33** being substantially the same as the inner diameter of cap **10** while its bottom coil **34** is of substantially less diameter. Accordingly, when the spring **32** is completely compressed as illustrated in Figure 5, it is flat, the coils thereof being spiral in the same plane. This not only conserves space but provides more spring action.

Assuming that the cylinder **12** has been assembled with the base **13**, the bottle **24** being enclosed, the assembly is completed by depositing spring **32** within cap **10**, the top coil **33** being against the underside of roof **11**. The cap is then deposited over the cylinder **12**, the bottom coil **33** of the spring pressing against the roof **14**. The spring will then become completely flat as illustrated in Figure 5. At the same time, the lower skirt of cap **10** will press inwardly upon leaf spring **26** so that the music box cannot operate. The platform **17** is then pushed manually inwardly against the action of spring **32**, until hook or lug **16** is accessible through the central hole of cap roof **11**. At this time, the burnable wick or fuse **35** is deposited in place so that it is engaged by the hook **16** and serves as a holder for the assembled device.

Fuse **35** is of cellulose acetate material of about .030" thick. In a satisfactory embodiment, it was about ¾" long. It is formed with shoulders **36** and a lower projection **37** in which hole **38** is formed, the hole being essentially lower than the shoulders **36**. When hole **38** is placed around hook **16**, manual pressure is released from platform **17**. The spring will then tend to pull fuse **35** downwardly so that its shoulders **36** firmly contact roof **11** as illustrated in Figure 5. The assembly of the device is now complete.

Before being used, the music box **18** will, of course, be wound up. Since spring **26** is held inwardly, it will not operate. Now, a match is applied to fuse **35**. Cellu-

lose acetate burns slowly and the fuse will burn down until it approaches the shoulders **36**. However, it will not burn down to the shoulders because, by that time, the fuse has become melted and softened and it will be pulled through the central hole of roof **11**. Any flame will now be extinguished as the fuse is pulled through the hole while of course, the cap **10** is then forcibly ejected into the air as the spring **32** decompresses. As a result, the decorated cap **22** and the enclosed spring **32** fly bodily outwardly so as to expose the cylinder **12** and its contents while, at the same time, the music box will play a tune. This tune may be appropriate to the occasion such as "Happy Birthday to You" or "Jingle Bells."

The contents may be removed as above described. On the other hand, the entire device may be simply reloaded by reassembling the cap **10** on the cylinder **12** and employing a new fuse **35**.

It is important that the diameter of the inner cylinder **12** approaches the inner diameter of cap **10** so that the cap **10** is guided upwardly as it is ejected.

There has been shown what is now considered a preferred embodiment of the invention but it is obvious that numerous changes and omissions may be made without departing from its spirit.

What is claimed is:

1. A novelty package device comprising a base, a hollow cylinder removably mounted on said base, an elongated outer cap covering said hollow cylinder, said cylinder and said cap each having a roof, a compression spring normally maintained in compressed form between the said roofs, a lug extending upwardly from said cylinder roof, and a holder connected to said lug and extending outwardly of said cap roof and holding said roofs adjacent to each other against the action of said spring whereby when said holder is incapacitated, said cap will fly away from said cylinder under the action of said spring becoming decompressed.

2. A device according to claim 1 and wherein said holder is of heat fusible material, the application of fire to said holder causing it to burn and at least partially melt.

3. A holder according to claim 2 wherein said cylinder roof is of metal and said lug comprises a metal hook solidly secured to said cylinder roof, said holder being of burnable plastic material and being formed with a neck and a hole therein to receive said hook, said cap roof being formed with a central opening through which said hook and neck extend, and a shoulder formed on said holder and normally resting on the outer surface of said cap roof.

4. A device according to claim 3 and including a music box disposed in said base, said music box comprising a spring drive motor and a rotatable driven member controlling the operation of said motor, and a leaf spring extending outwardly of said base and adapted to contact said rotatable driven member, said cap having the skirt thereof normally pressing against said leaf spring so as to cause it to bear against said rotatable driven member and prevent operation of said motor.

5. A device according to claim 3 and including a removable wire connecting to hollow cylinder to said base, whereby said cylinder may be removed therefrom to install or remove an article disposed on said base.

6. A novelty package device comprising a base, a music box disposed in said base, said music box including a spring drive motor and a rotatable driven member controlling the operation of said motor, and a leaf spring extending outwardly of said base and adapted to contact said rotatable driven member, a cap resting upon and extending upwardly from said base, compression spring means tending to separate said cap from said base, and hook means holding said cap and base together whereby, upon release of said hook means, said cap will fly away bodily from said base, said cap having its lower skirt normally pressing against said leaf spring so as to interrupt rotation of said rotatable driven member whereby said motor will begin operation when said cap flies away from said base.

7. A novelty package device comprising a base, a hollow cylinder removably mounted on said base, an elongated outer cap covering said hollow cylinder, said cylinder and said cap each having a roof, a compression spring normally maintained in compressed form between the said roofs, a lug extending upwardly from said cylinder roof, and a holder connected to said lug and extending outwardly of said cap roof and holding said roofs adjacent to each other against the action of said spring whereby when said holder is incapacitated, said cap will fly away from said cylinder under the action of said spring becoming decompressed, said spring being of coil form and of a normal length at least substantially equal to the length of said cap and having its coils of gradually increasing diameter from the bottom toward the top thereof.

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