April 30, 1946. W. L. SNELLING 2,399,400

MOISTENING DEVICE

Filed July 8, 1944

Fig. 1

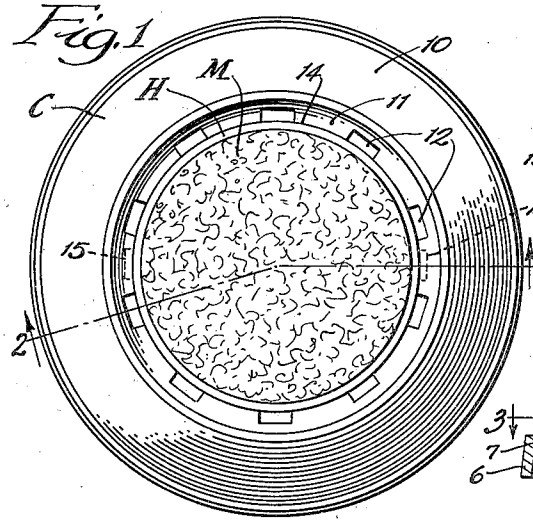


Fig. 2

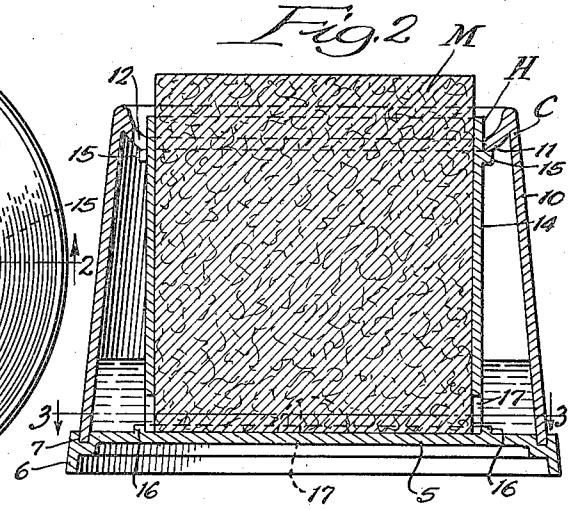


Fig. 3

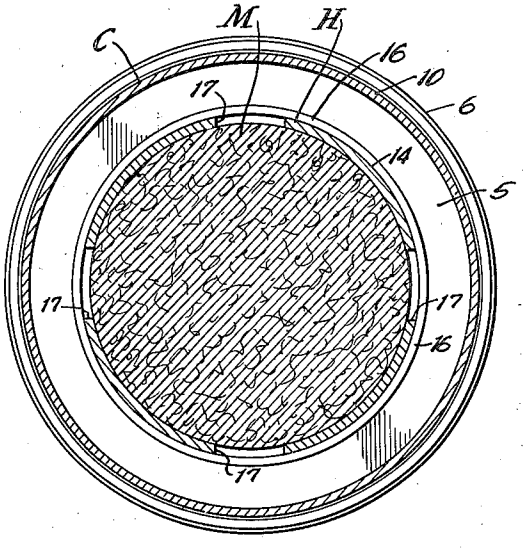
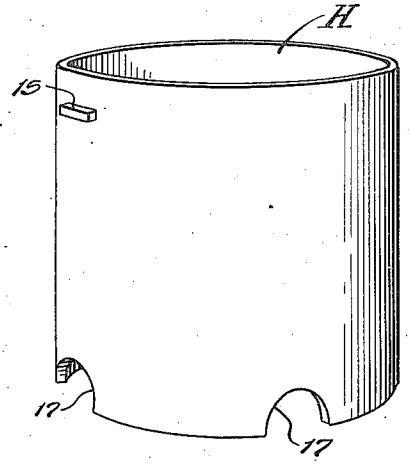


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MOISTENING DEVICE

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5 Claims. (Cl. 91—54.4)

The present device relates to a moistening device of the type in which is comprised a yieldable absorbent body supported within a holder that is releasably fitted within a container wherein is placed a quantity of liquid for feeding into the absorbent body to maintain it in a constantly wet condition for transfer of moisture from its exposed upper end to objects brought into contact therewith. Such a device will be found advantageous for use in offices and other places where objects, such as gummed paper, stamps, etc., require moistening as an incident to their use. The moistening device of my invention comprises a tubular sleeve or holder for the absorbent body, together with a container wherein the sleeve holder is releasably mounted, the walls of the container being spaced from those of the holder to define therewith an annular chamber providing a reservoir for the reception of liquid which over a prolonged period will act to maintain the absorbent body in a wet condition.

The principal objects of my invention are to provide a moistening device of the kind noted in which the sleeve holder may be readily and fixedly secured in position within the container, and be conveniently removable therefrom if and when access to the interior of the container is desired; in which means are provided to receive liquid that is expressed from the absorbent body and drain such expressed liquid into a reservoir within the container; in which the same drainage means may be used also to admit into the reservoir fresh liquid that may be needed from time to time for refill purposes; in which the sleeve holder and the container are formed as separate entities susceptible of assembly and disassembly with a minimum of effort; and in which the sleeve holder and the container may be optionally produced from various materials such as metal, plastic, ceramic, etc., according to whatever may be found most desirable.

These and other objects of my invention will appear from the description to follow wherein reference is made to a suggestive embodiment of my invention as set forth in the accompanying drawing wherein—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the moistening device;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section therethrough, taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a transverse section therethrough, taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the sleeve holder removed from the container.

As shown, I have provided a container C having a raised bottom 5 formed with a depending peripheral flange 6 adjacent which is an annular channel 7 for receiving the lower edge of a circular wall 10. Desirably this wall is tapered inwardly toward the top from which is extended a flange 11 extending inwardly and downwardly for a short distance to terminate in a large circular opening through which may be inserted the circular wall 14 of a sleeve holder H. The flange 11 is in supporting engagement with the sleeve holder at a point relatively close to its top, and defines therewith an annular channel sloping inwardly with one or more slotted openings 12 therethrough to permit the passage of liquid into the reservoir provided by the container therebelow. A container, widened toward the base, in conjunction with a cylindrical sleeve therewithin, is advantageous in that its stability and reservoir capacity is thereby increased, the annular channel at its top being narrowed to the point of facilitating movement of objects thereover into contact with an exposed moistening body as will presently be explained.

The sleeve holder may be formed with a pair of oppositely disposed lugs 15 of a size to pass through two of the drain openings 12. When the sleeve is in operative position within the container its lower end is rested on the bottom 5 where it is centered between a plurality of upstanding arcuate lugs 16 which permit communication between the sleeve interior and the reservoir through a plurality of openings 17 at the lower end of the holder (see Fig. 4).

In the manufacture of the container the circular wall 10 during or after assembly and connection with the base, is made liquid tight at the joint in any approved manner. When the sleeve holder is fitted in place and slightly rotated its lugs 15 will underlie the channel flange 11 to normally prevent separation of these two parts. A moisture absorbent body M of cylindrical form, such as a sponge (natural or artificial) is fitted within the sleeve holder for support and confinement thereby, its lower end extending close to and preferably in engagement with the container bottom. The upper end of the absorbent body is protruded slightly beyond the upper end of the holder and container so as to be exposed to objects which may be brought into contact therewith. Liquid within the reservoir is free to enter into the interior of the sleeve holder for absorption into the moistener body which is thereby maintained in the requisite wet condition for use. In response to any substantal pressure directed against the top of the moistener body, a com-

pression thereof will take place, thereby expressing some of the liquid into the annular channel provided by the flange 11. None of the liquid thus expressed will overflow upon the exterior face of the container, but all of it will drain through one or more of the openings 12 back into the reservoir where it again becomes available for maintaining the moistener body in a wet condition. In this way water damage to the table or desk on which the device is used cannot take place.

In use, liquid for refilling purposes may either be poured into the annular channel at the top for passage into the reservoir within the container, or the entire sleeve holder with the absorbent body retained therein may be turned and lifted out of the container thereby exposing the interior thereof. In this way it is possible to conveniently flush out, clean, and refill the container whenever such an operation is necessary or desirable.

I claim:

1. A moistening device comprising a yieldable absorbent body, a sleeve holder surrounding and supporting the absorbent body all except its bottom and upper end portion, a container surrounding the sleeve holder in spaced relation thereto to provide an annular chamber defining a reservoir for reception of liquid therein, a bottom for the container against which the sleeve lower end may be rested, there being openings adjacent the sleeve lower end affording communication between the sleeve interior and the reservoir exteriorly thereof, a container top wall extending inwardly and downwardly to a point adjacent the top of the sleeve holder and defining therewith an annular channel, there being an opening through the channel wall to permit flow of liquid therethrough into the reservoir therebelow, and means for releasably securing the sleeve holder within the container.

2. A moistening device comprising an open ended sleeve holder, a yieldable absorbent body supported within the sleeve holder and extended therewithin to a point adjacent its bottom end, a container for receiving the sleeve holder in engagement with its bottom and in spaced relation to its surrounding walls, there being an opening through the sleeve holder adjacent its bottom for the passage of liquid therethrough, a flange extending inwardly and downwardly from the container wall adjacent its top into supporting engagement with the sleeve holder and provided therethrough with a slotted drain opening communicating with a reservoir chamber between the container and holder, and means extended laterally from the sleeve holder movable through the slotted opening to a position below the flange adapted, upon rotation of the sleeve holder, to prevent separation of the sleeve holder from the container.

3. A moistening device comprising an open ended sleeve holder, a yieldable absorbent body supported within the sleeve holder and extended therewithin to a point adjacent its bottom end, a container for receiving the sleeve holder in engagement with its bottom and in spaced relation to its surrounding walls, there being an opening through the sleeve holder adjacent its bottom for the passage of liquid therethrough, a flange extending inwardly and downwardly from the container wall adjacent its top into supporting engagement with the sleeve holder and provided therethrough with a slotted drain opening communicating with a reservoir chamber between the container and holder and means on the container bottom engaging the holder to prevent lateral movement thereof.

4. A moistening device comprising a tubular holder, a yieldable absorbent body supported within the sleeve holder and extended therewithin to a point adjacent its bottom end, a bottomed container provided near its top with an inwardly and downwardly extending flange defining an annular channel having a large central opening through which the tubular holder may be inserted and by which it is laterally supported in spaced relation to the container walls when rested on its bottom, means on the container bottom in engagement with the holder for centering the same relative thereto, interengageable means on the container and holder for securing one to the other against separation, there being openings through the flange into the space exteriorly of the holder and there being other openings through the holder in its lower end region whereby to provide passages for liquid within the container to enter into the holder for transfer into the absorbent body and thence, when expressed from its upper end, for drainage into the flange channel for discharge into the container interior.

5. A moistening device comprising a tubular holder, a yieldable absorbent body supported within the sleeve holder and extended therewithin to a point adjacent its bottom end, a bottomed container provided near its top with an inwardly and downwardly extending flange defining an annular channel having a large central opening through which the tubular holder may be inserted and by which it is laterally supported in spaced relation to the container walls when rested on its bottom, there being openings through the flange into the space exteriorly of the holder and there being other openings through the holder in its lower end region whereby to provide passages for liquid within the container to enter into the holder for transfer into the absorbent body and thence, when expressed from its upper end, for drainage into the flange channel for discharge into the container interior.

WALTER L. SNELLING.