April 3, 1928.

1,664,515

W. R. LAMBERT

OPENING DEVICE FOR CANS

Filed Nov. 6. 1926

Fig. 1.

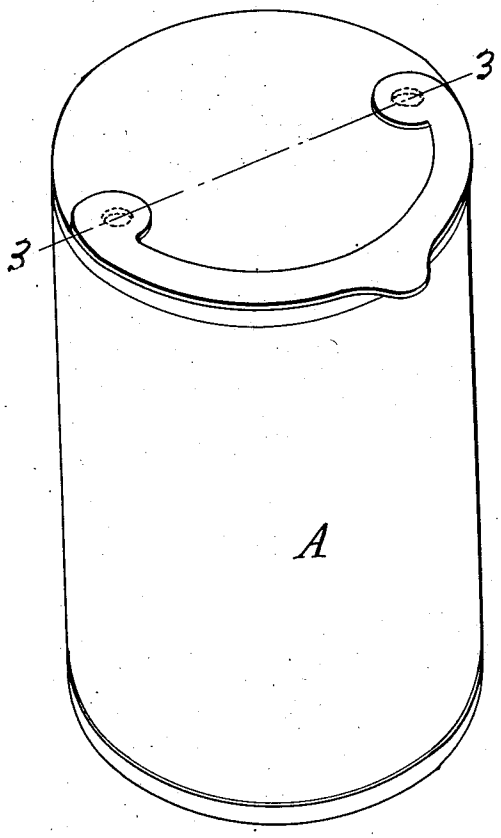



Fig. 2.

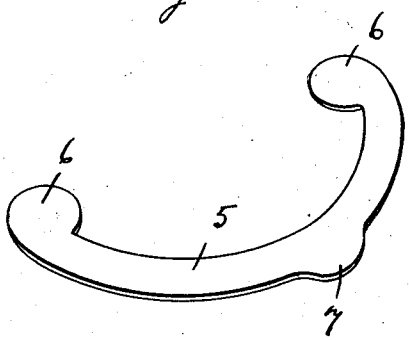
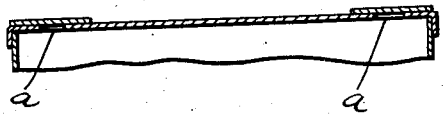



Fig. 3.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## OPENING DEVICE FOR CANS.

Application filed November 6, 1926. Serial No. 146,690.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in cans, particularly for use in the packaging of condensed milk and cream, the invention having more particular reference to a means whereby preformed and sealed openings within the lids of the cans may be opened when it is desired to remove the contents therefrom.

Ordinarily, access to the contents of a condensed milk or cream can is made by puncturing two holes at opposed points of the can lid so that the material may be poured from one opening while the air may enter through the other opening.

My invention broadly consists of a unit that is so constructed as to be disposed upon the can lid and have means at its opposite ends for covering a pair of preformed openings in the lid, said means being so secured to the can as to seal the openings but at the same time to permit of the same being readily ripped from the can to uncover the openings.

One of the main objects of the invention is to provide a can constructed in accordance with the foregoing that may be manufactured and marked at a cost but slightly greater than the cans now in use.

Other objects will become apparent as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same comprising the novel form, combination, and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawing and claimed.

In the drawing wherein like reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a perspective of a can constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective of the sealing member for the openings in the can, and

Figure 3 is transverse section through the upper end of the can taken substantially upon line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Now having particular reference to the drawing, A designates a conventional condensed cream or milk can that is in the present instance formed at its upper end with a pair of diametrically opposed openings *a*—*a*. In carrying out the present invention I provide a semi-circular strip of thin flexible metal 5 formed at its opposite ends with circular portions 6—6 and at its front edge intermediate said ends with an outwardly projecting tongue 7. In actual practice this semi-circular strip of metal is applied to the top side of the can A at the edge thereof, the inner circular ends 6—6 being disposed over the openings *a*—*a* in the can top, while the tongue 7 projects slightly beyond the edge of the can as clearly disclosed in Figure 1. The ends 6—6 of the metallic strips are soldered to the can top around the openings *a*—*a* or otherwise secured to the can top so as to seal said openings. When it is desired to uncover the openings, the tongue 7 of the metallic strip is grasped between the fingers after which the strip is turned backward and forcibly pulled from the can in an obvious manner.

It will thus be seen that I have provided a highly novel, simple, and efficient can construction wherein a pair of preformed openings may be readily uncovered so as to permit the contents of the can to be discharged therefrom, and even though I have herein shown and described the preferred embodiment of the invention it is nevertheless to be understood that some departures may be had without affecting the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In a can of the class described wherein the same is formed in its top with a pair of spaced openings, a flat strip lying flush against the top of the can, the ends of the strip being enlarged for disposition completely over the respective openings in the top of the can, said enlarged ends of the strip being soldered to the top of the can for maintaining the can sealed, and means formed on the strip to facilitate the removal of the same from the can to uncover the opening.

2. In a can of the class described wherein the same is formed in its top with a pair of spaced openings, a flat strip lying flush

against the top of the can, the ends of the strip being enlarged for disposition completely over the respective openings in the top of the can, said enlarged ends of the strip being soldered to the top of the can for maintaining the can sealed, means formed on the strip to facilitate the removal of the same from the can to uncover the opening, said means comprising a tongue extending laterally from the intermediate portion of the strip.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM R. LAMBERT.