June 30, 1964 R. R. CADOTTE 3,139,179

LUNCH BOX STRUCTURE

Filed May 17, 1962

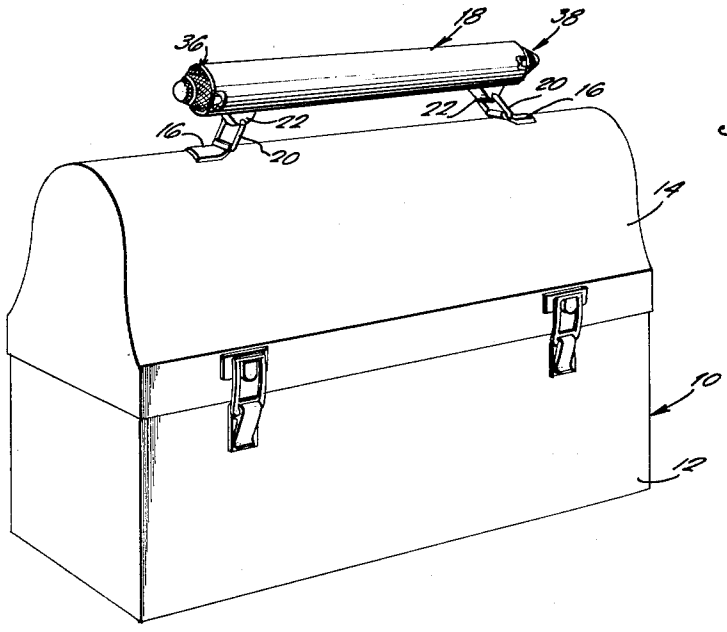


Fig. 1.

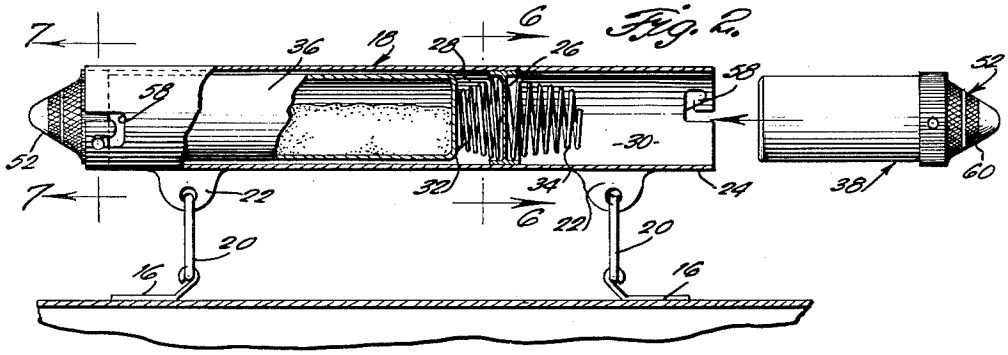


Fig. 2.

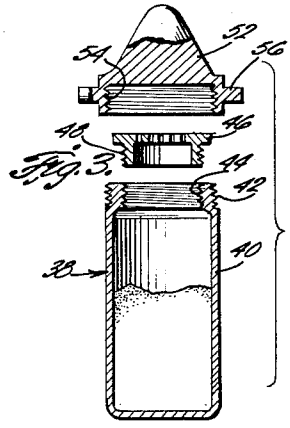


Fig. 3.

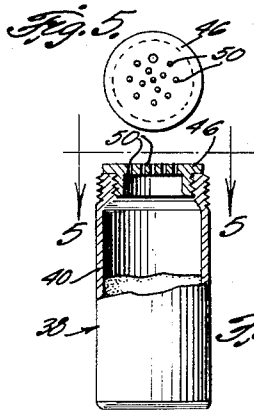


Fig. 4.

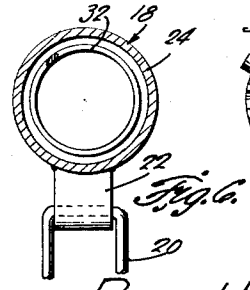


Fig. 6.

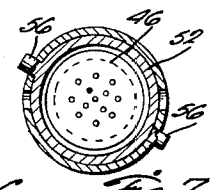


Fig. 7.

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LUNCH BOX STRUCTURE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 206—4)

The present invention relates to lunch boxes generally and in particular to a lunch box in which the handle serves as a holder for salt and pepper shakers.

An object of the present invention is to provide a new and novel lunch box structure having provision in the handle for supporting two canisters, one for salt and one for pepper.

Another object of the present invention is to provide in a lunch box, salt and pepper shakers that are readily accessible to the user.

A further object of the present invention is to provide in a lunch box structure, a handle which is simple in structure, one sturdy in construction, one having a novel means therein for holding salt and pepper shakers, and one which is economical to manufacture and assemble.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be fully apparent from the following description when taken in connection with the annexed drawing, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the lunch box structure according to the present invention,

FIGURE 2 is a view on an enlarged scale, of the handle of the lunch box shown in FIGURE 1, with portions broken away and with the pepper shaker removed therefrom,

FIGURE 3 is an exploded view partially in section of one of the condiment holders,

FIGURE 4 is an elevational view of one of the condiment holders with the cover removed,

FIGURE 5 is a view taken on the line 5—5 of FIGURE 4,

FIGURE 6 is a view taken on the line 6—6 of FIGURE 2, and on an enlarged scale, and

FIGURE 7 is a view taken on the line 7—7 of FIGURE 2 and on an enlarged scale.

Referring to the drawing in detail, in which like numerals indicate like parts throughout the several views, in FIGURE 1 the reference numeral **10** designates the lunch box generally and which has a compartment section **12** and a cover section **14**.

Secured to the top of the cover section **14** are a pair of trunnions **16** which form the means for securing a handle **18** to the section **14**.

A pair of closed loop links **20** have their one ends pivotally connected to the free ends of the trunnions **16** and have their other ends pivotally connected to the handle **18** by means of tabs **22** which depend from the handle **18**.

The present invention provides in the handle **18** an elongated hollow tubular member **24** open at both ends. A partition **26** within the member **24** sub-divides the member **24** into a large compartment **28** and a smaller compartment **30**. A spring **32** is within the compartment **28** and has its one end secured to the partition **26**. Another spring **34** is similarly positioned within the compartment **30** and has its one end secured to the partition **26**.

A canister **36** is insertable into and withdrawable from the compartment **28** and is of a size to conformably shape within the tubular member **24**. Another canister **38** is insertable into and withdrawable from the compartment **30** and is also of a size to fit within the tubular member **24**. The canister **36** is of a larger size than the canister **38** but the structure of each is similar. As shown in FIGURE 3, the canister **38** consists in a receptacle **40** having an open top provided with a neck of thickened proportions with external threads **42** and internal threads **44**. A closure element **46** has external threads **48** and is adapted for screwing into the open top of the receptacle **40**.

As shown in FIGURES 4 and 5, the closure element **46** is provided with a plurality of spaced apertures **50** for the egress therethrough of the condiment to be held in the receptacle **40**.

A cover member **52** is provided having internal threads **54** which engage the threads **42** on the receptacle **40**. The cover member **52** is also provided on its periphery adjacent the threads **54** with diametrically opposed lugs **56** which cooperate with means on the tubular member **24** to secure the canister **38** within the handle **18** after insertion thereinto.

This cooperating means on each of the canisters **36** and **38** consists in the lugs **56** and bayonnet slots **58** provided adjacent each open end of the tubular member **24**, the slots **58** being diametrically opposed at each end of the tubular member **24**.

Each of the canister cover members **52** is provided with knurling, as at **60** in FIGURE 2, so as to provide gripping means for the fingers of the hand of the user for untwisting the cover member **52** from the adjacent end of the tubular member **24**. Also, the ends of the lugs **56** of the canister **38** are of a dark color so as to indicate that the canister **38** is to contain pepper while the canister **36** contains salt.

In use, each of the canisters **36** and **38** are filled with their respective condiments and the closure elements **46** are inserted into the open tops of the receptacles and screwed on. Then the cover member **52** is threaded onto the neck of the receptacle **40** and the canisters **36** and **38** are in condition for insertion into the open ends of the tubular member **24** where they compress the springs **32** and **34**, respectively, and permit their lugs **56** to be releasably engaged in the slots **58**.

When it is desired to use one of the condiments it is only necessary to push in on the cover member **52**, rotate the respective canister and let the spring **32** or **34** push the canister out to the position shown in FIGURE 2 for removal of the respective cover member **52** and shaking out of the condiment as desired.

While only a preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown and described, other embodiments are contemplated and numerous changes and modifications may be made in the invention within the scope of the claim without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

In a lunch box structure:

(*a*) an elongate tubular handle open at both ends, each end portions have a J-shaped slot formed therein;

(*b*) means pivotally connecting the under end portions of said handle to upper longitudinally aligned portions of said lunch box;

(*c*) a centrally disposed, transversely positioned partition in said handle that divides the interior of said handle into two compartments;

(*d*) two helical springs disposed in said compartments, with the ends of said springs being in abutting contact with said partition;

(*e*) two cylindrical canisters in which condiments may be stored, the outer end portions are externally threaded, said canisters are slidably insertable in said compartments;

(*f*) two internally threaded covers having transverse cross section less than that of said handle, said covers threadedly engaging said threaded end portions of said canisters; and

(g) a lug on each of said covers that slidably engages one of said slots when said canister with which said lug is associated is slidably inserted in one of said compartments, with each of said lugs after insertion in one of said slots being longitudinally and rotatably movable therein to a first position whereby said cover and canister cannot be moved longitudinally out of said handle, each of said springs being of such length as to be compressed when said canister with which it is in contact is in said first position to maintain said canister in said handle, said canisters and covers are capable of being moved longitudinally and rotatably relative to said handle to permit withdrawal thereof from said handle, said covers serving the dual function of preventing inadvertent discharge of condiments from said canisters and as supports for said lugs.

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