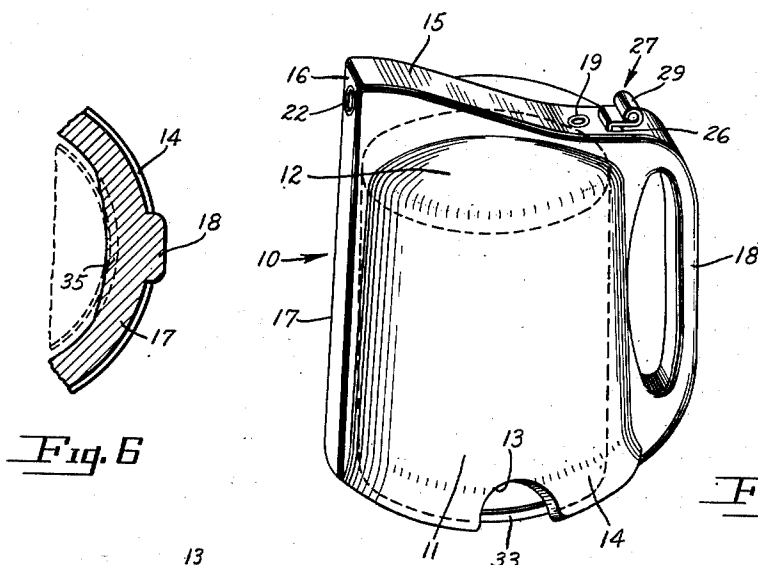
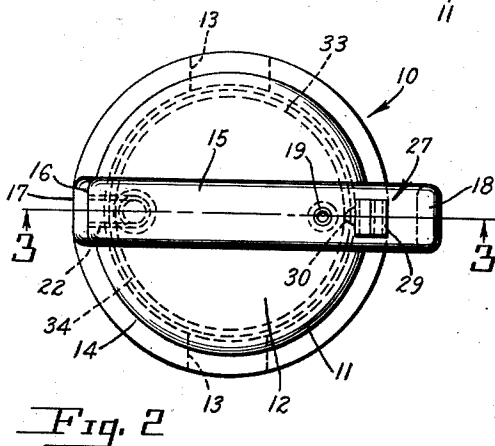
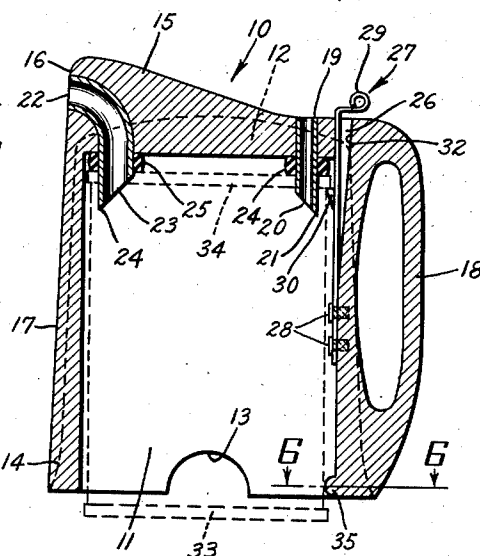
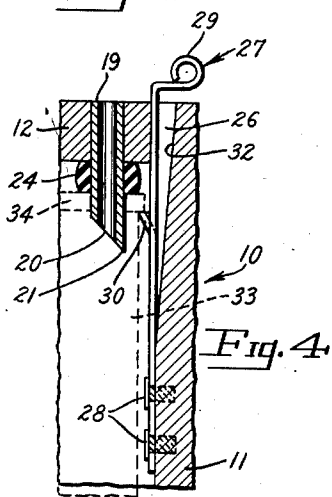
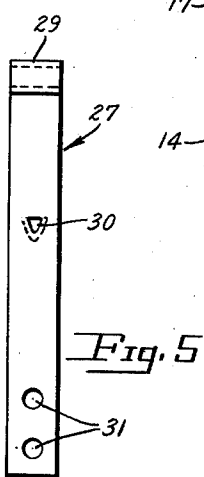


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CAN OPENER AND POURING HOLDER

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CAN OPENER AND POURING HOLDER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 222—86)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in dispensers for canned liquids and relates particularly to a can opener and pouring holder.

An object of the invention is to provide a dispensing device adapted to be pressed into place over a can of evaporated milk, or the like, and which automatically perforates the can top and attaches itself to the can and provides a means of neat and attractive appearance for enclosing or concealing the can and through which the contents of the can may be poured.

A more specific object is to provide an apparatus of the above stated character including an improved means for automatically latching the apparatus to the can and which means is of simple and inexpensive construction, reliable in operation, and adapted to be readily shifted to released position to permit the removal of the device from an empty can.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein a satisfactory embodiment of the invention is shown. However, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the details disclosed but includes all such variations and modifications as fall within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is an isometric view showing the combined can opener and pouring holder of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a vertical central sectional view taken as along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail sectional view through the latch means and surrounded portions;

Fig. 5 is a rear elevational view of said latch means detached; and

Fig. 6 is a detail sectional view taken as along the plane of the line 6—6 of Fig. 3.

Referring in detail to the drawing, the improved can opener and pouring holder of the present invention is generally designated 10 and the same is shown as molded from any suitable plastic composition and as including a hollow body comprising a cylindrical or skirt-like portion 11 and a top wall 12. The body is open at its lower end and as shown, said cylindrical or skirt-like portion 11 is externally tapered, so that while internally it is of a uniform, or substantially uniform, diameter,

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externally it is of gradual increasing thickness (see Fig. 3) toward its lower end.

In such lower end the skirt portion is provided at its diametrically opposite sides with finger openings 13, the purpose of which will appear. The external thickening of the walls of the body 11 gives the same a somewhat flared appearance, as suggested at 14. Across the top 12 the device includes a thickening rib 15, the forward face 16 of which is flush with a forward rib-like portion 17. The rear of the thickened portion 15 merges into a handle construction 18 which is shown as an integral part of the molding comprising the general device.

Extending through the top wall 12 and, in fact, the thickened strengthening rib 15 of said wall, is a metal tube 19 the upper end of which is shown as flush with the upper surface of the rearward portion of the rib 15. Tube 19 extends vertically inwardly so as to project into the upper portion of the body 11 and the inner end of the tube is cut or is bevelled as at 20 thereby providing a sharp penetrating point 21. A second tube 22 extends through the top and the rib 15 and such tube is bent into an L whereby its outer end is located flush with the surface 16 while its inner end portion extends into the upper portion of the hollow body inwardly of the inner surface of the top 12. This projecting portion of tube 22 is also cut or bevelled as indicated at 23, providing it with a sharp penetrating point 24.

Located about the inner portions of the tubes 19 and 22 and against the inner surface of the top wall 12 of the holder are sealing gaskets 24 and 25, respectively. These gaskets are preferably of rubber or rubber-like material whereby they are compressible and whereby they may function as seals, all as will later appear. A longitudinally tapering slot-like opening 26 is provided, opening through the top wall 12 and, in fact, through the thickened rib portion 15 of said wall slightly rearwardly of the tube 19. This opening enters into the interior of the holder body 11.

A latch device 27 extends through said opening and has its inner portion secured to an inner surface of the skirt-like portion of the body 11, as by rivets or the like 28. In addition to the elongated body, the lower end of which is anchored by the rivets 28, the latch 27 includes a finger or thumb portion 29 located at the outer side of the holder and formed as by rolling up or reversely bending the upper end portion of the latch device. Intermediate its ends, device 27 has a portion lanced and pressed from it thereby providing a tooth or lug 30 which in the completed device

extends inwardly of or toward the vertical center of the body 11.

As best shown in Fig. 5, the latch 27 towards its inner end is provided with spaced openings 31 for the accommodation of the rivets, drive screws, or the like 28. The latch 27 is preferably formed of a spring metal as from strip stock of the desired width and the natural tendency of the same is to assume the vertical position shown in Figs. 3 and 4. However, as the rear wall 32 of the slot 26 is tapered, it will be clear that by engaging the finger or thumb piece 29 of the latch, the same may be drawn rearwardly to dispose its body along said wall 32.

To maintain the can in a truly vertical position, when in the present holder, the latter adjacent its lower edge, in its portion below the latch 27, is provided with a short, shallow rib 35. As best shown in Figs. 3 and 6 this rib is arcuate and is shallow being in actual practice about one-eighth of an inch thick at its mid-portion. When a can 33 is in place within the holder, this rib 35 contacts the side wall of the can above the lower bead of the latter to prevent the can being tilted under the lateral pressure applied to the upper portion of the can by the spring latch 27.

It will be understood that if the can was permitted to tilt or cant there would be lateral pressure against the seal 24 and that the means 25 would be out of position and would not make sealing contact with the can top about the pouring tube 22. Thus, owing to the presence of the rib 35, the can is maintained in truly vertical alignment with the body of the holder and effective seals about the tubes 19 and 22 is assured. In the drawing, the rib 35 is shown as formed separate from and attached to the holder, although it will be understood that this is a manufacturing problem and that the invention is not limited to the structure shown.

The holder, generally designated 10, as above suggested is preferably formed of a suitable plastic material, as by molding. The holder may be of the desired color and may be provided with exterior ornamentation either in the form of molded configuration; or later applied ornamentation. Preferably, the same is made of neat and attractive appearance since it is designed to be used on a dining table. While the present can opener and pouring holder is especially adapted for use with cans of evaporated milk, it will be understood that the same can be applied to any can which is adapted to be opened for the pouring out of its liquid contents.

When applying the device of the invention to a can, as, for example, the can 33, the device is simply placed over or lowered over the can until the penetrating points 21 and 24 of the tubes 19 and 22 engage the can. Then pressure is applied, as a downward thrust on the rib 15 of the device, to cause said ends of the tubes to penetrate through the upper wall of the can. Very little actual pressure is required since the tube ends readily cut through the can top. However, a certain downward thrust must be given and this thrust is continued until the tooth 30 springs under the upper flange or annular bead 34 of the can as to the positions shown in Figs. 3 and 4. Since the tooth 30 is tapered towards its lower end, it will be apparent that the tooth will simply ride over the bead 34 as the holder 10 is forced downwardly over the can and that immediately said tooth passes below the bead, it will snap into position under the same.

The relationship of the parts is such that the

tooth 30 snaps into position below the bead 34 only after the tubes 19 and 22 have been caused to penetrate the can to a predetermined extent. The extent of penetration is such that the washers or gaskets 24 and 25 are sufficiently compressed between the inner surface of the wall 12 and the top of the can, about the tubes and the openings formed in the can top by the tubes, so as to effect a seal to avoid any of the contents of the can escaping to the outer side of the top wall thereof. When the holder is forced into the proper position on the can, there is an audible "click" as the tooth 30 snaps into position below the bead 34.

With the holder positioned as described, the contents of the can is readily poured by gripping the holder by the handle 18 and manipulating the holder in the same manner as a pitcher. The contents are poured out through the tube 22 and the tube 19 serves merely as a vent providing for the admission of air to replace the can's contents as such contents are poured. Since the tube 22 is directed downwardly from its pouring end, it will be apparent that when the device is returned to an upright position after a pouring operation, the liquid remaining in said tube will drain back into the can and not drip from the discharge end of the tube.

When the can is emptied, the present holder is easily removed from the can since the person gripping the handle 18 may, with the thumb or finger, draw rearwardly on the finger piece 29 so as to flex the latch body back against the inclined wall 32 and draw the tooth 30 from under the bead 34. Then the holder is simply lifted off the can.

Should there be any tendency to stick, the lower end of the can is gripped through the finger openings or notches 13 in the lower edge of the holder and the parts separated.

As the can and holder are assembled, there is a downward thrust on the can due to the compression of the gaskets 24 and 25 so that the can is held tight against the latch tooth 30. Thus, the parts are securely assembled and the contents of the can is conveniently poured by manipulating the device in the same manner as a pitcher. It is noted that with the device, while the unused contents are permitted to remain in their original container, the same is substantially concealed whereby a table device of attractive appearance replaces the can with its advertising matter and the like.

Having thus set forth the nature of our invention, what we claim is:

In a can opener and pouring device, a molded plastic hollow body having a cylindrical side wall open through its lower end and a top wall integral with said side wall and forming a closure for the upper end thereof, said body adapted to be disposed over a can the contents of which are to be poured, a handle along the rearward portion of said side wall, said top wall thickened in its forward portion providing an extension at the upper end of the forward portion of said side wall, a pair of metal tubes rigidly engaged in said top wall and extending downwardly therefrom into the hollow of said body and arranged to be forced through the top of a can when the body is placed over such can, said tubes spaced apart and comprising a rear venting tube extending directly through said top wall and a forward pouring tube curved longitudinally and extending upwardly and forwardly through said thickened top wall portion and terminating flush with the forward face of said thickened top wall portion; a latch

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device comprising a flat spring strap on the inner side of the rear wall portion of said body and extending upwardly through said top wall and having its upper end terminating adjacent the upper end of said handle for manipulation by the thumb of a hand gripping said handle, and a lug on said latch device intermediate the ends thereof and adapted to snap under the upper bead of a can when said holder is fully assembled on the can.

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