Dec. 31, 1946. M. S. POLLOCK 2,413,552

MOISTENING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 17, 1943

FIG. 1

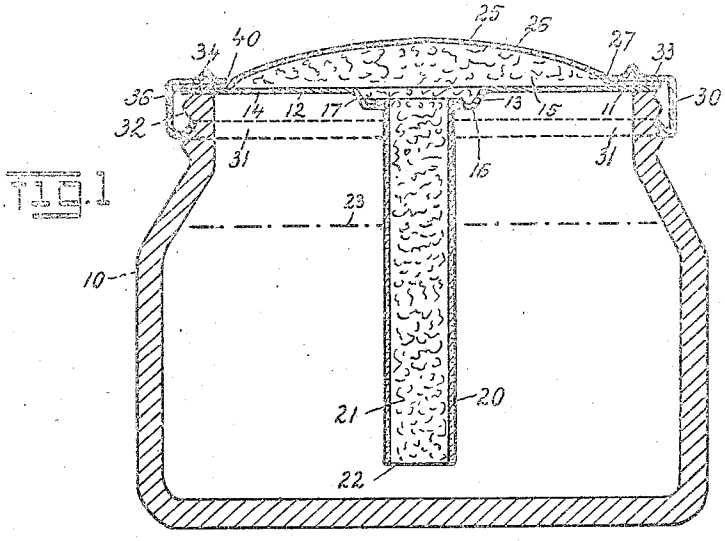
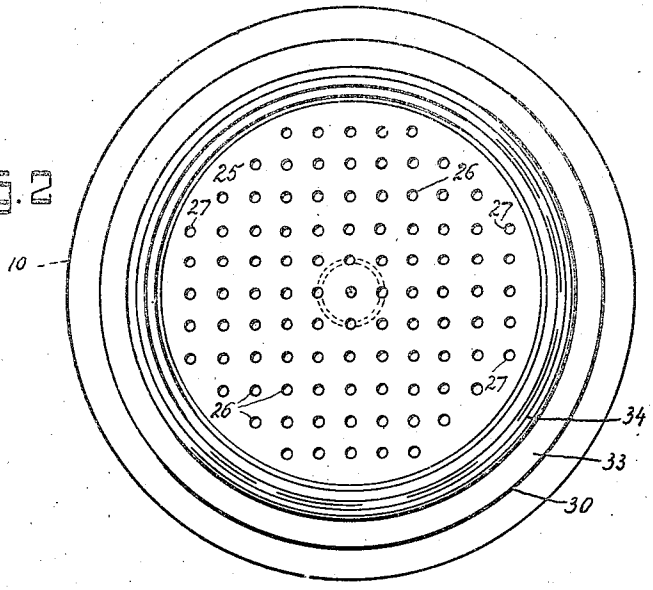


FIG. 2



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MOISTENING DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 91—54.4)

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This invention relates to moistening devices and has particular reference to a device for moistening gum coated articles.

Objects of the invention include the provision of a moistener of this type which is efficient and reliable in practice, economical of construction, consisting of few easily fabricated parts; and a moistener which will withstand ordinary usage, even when the latter is of large proportions, for long periods of time without becoming impaired.

Connected with the foregoing, another object of this invention is, therefore, to provide a moistener which, particularly, when in use in offices, mercantile houses, banks, post offices and the like, will overcome disadvantages which have heretofore existed in articles used for approximately the same purpose, and which moistener is, moreover, of a sanitary nature, the amount of manipulation called for, in using the moistener, being negligible.

A feature of the invention is a particularly rounded or convex top surface, which, in a manner hereinafter more specifically set forth, is adapted to substantially remain in moistened condition, this surface being in effect the moisture applicator, and said surface being surrounded by an annular rib or elevation, said rib being higher than part of the applicator surface, but below the apex thereof.

Absorbent material is herein used, in and with a supply receptacle for moistening fluid or water, and yet other features of advantage of this invention are found in the provision of an expansive distribution of said material at the delivery area, although that part of said material which connects with or reaches into the fluid is relatively small.

The applicator surface is in effect, in accordance with still another object as herein involved, a compound surface, since over and engaging the expanded absorbent material is a foraminate sheath, and therefore as a gummed face of an article, stamp, envelope flap or gummed attaching band is placed on said sheath, portions of the material project substantially through the perforations of the sheath, thereby to sufficiently moisten the gum.

With the above indicated objects and advantages in view, as well as others, which will hereinafter appear, the invention resides in certain novel constructions and arrangements of parts, the essential features of which are herein clearly described, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is vertical central sections of a moistening device embodying the present invention; and

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Fig. 2 is a top plan view thereof.

In said drawing, represented in broken lines in a fluid receptacle 10, on the top edge of which a marginal flange 11 of a plate 12 of sheet material finds a seat. The plate 12, which has a central depression 13, is provided with an annular line of apertures 14, only two of which are shown, these apertures providing a communication means between the interior of the container 10, and absorbent material 15, some of which is disposed above said plate.

The depression 13 includes a lower-most flange 16, and on this flange an annular flange 17 of a tube 20 is seated. The tube 20, which is herein of glass, having therein material 21 continuous with the material 15, is open at the top, and also at the lower end 22, which is in communication with fluid, having an upper level, as at 23, in the container 10.

Metallic parts may be used herein, and as represented, are of rust proof type, and the sheet material of an uppermost foraminate sheath or cover 25, exerting a certain pressure against the material 15, is extremely thin and may be of a plastic material, rubber or thin metal. For this reason, since apertures 26 of the cover 25 are of selected dimensions, particles of the absorbent material tend to project through said apertures, and moisture is carried and delivered to a gummed surface, when placed against said cover. As stated, the materials 21 and 15 are identical as to function.

A union ring 30 of sheet material, as aforesaid, may have resilient properties. The ring 30 has a lowermost curled flange 31, which is movable over a bead 32 of the container 10, where parts are shown in exaggerated condition in the drawing, for clarity.

The union ring 30 has a substantially flat top flange 33, which is formed with an elevated integral rib 34, and below the flange 33 is tightly gripped, with the aforesaid flange 11, on rim of the container 10, an imperforate flange or outer margin 36 of the perforated sheath 25. The gripping action of the flange 33 cooperates with the holding function of the flange 31.

When once in the container 10 a certain quantity of fluid 23 is placed, the device being momentarily inverted, if and when necessary, to cause increased fluid action, functioning as herein described in detail is substantially automatic, and it is seen that at least some of the apertures 26, such as those identified at 27, are quite near to and lower than the level of the top of the annular rib

34. In this way an annular well or auxiliary holder 40 is formed.

For extremely rapid operation, the device may be inverted to apply the surface 25 to articles to be moistened, but ordinarily this is not necessary, and articles placed on said surface, and especially if merely moved thereon slightly will be sufficiently moistened.

Any excess fluid which passes through apertures 26, near the apex of the sheath 25, tends to move downwardly towards the well 40. Then such excess fluid tends to trickle back, again to marginal parts of the material 15, through the apertures 27, and in this way a circulatory system is established.

Fluid action through the material 21 in the tube 20 is a part of this system. The apertures 14 are mostly for heavy duty operation, and sometimes moistening fluid may be added to the system by and through the well 40.

As disclosed, fluid action, in one aspect of operation, is upwardly by capillary attraction, through the tube 21 and medial apertures 26. If and when the device is inverted, fluid movement through the apertures 14 is in the same direction as through said tube, but as fluid seeps from the auxiliary container 40 through the apertures 27, then such fluid tends to drip back to the container 10, through the apertures 14.

Variations may be resorted to within the scope of the invention and parts of the improvements may be used without others.

I claim:

1. In a moistening device for gummed surfaces, a container comprising a mouth including a seat and having a bead thereat, a plate including a depressed center with an opening and having a flat flange on said seat, a flexible foraminate sheath providing an extended receptacle above said plate, said sheath having a flange mating with said flat flange, a hollow tube having its upper end held in said depressed center, the lower end of said tube in communication with the interior of said container absorbent material disposed in the hollow of said tube, beneath said foraminated sheath and in the receptacle, a union band having a flange held below said bead, and another flange of said band tightly embracing said mating flanges, said last named flange having an elevated rib the top of which is above certain of the perforations of said sheath.

2. In a moistening device for gummed surfaces, a liquid container comprising a mouth including a seat and having a bead thereat, a plate including a depressed center with an opening and having a flat flange on said seat, a medially upwardly curved flexible foraminate sheath providing an extended receptacle above said plate, said sheath having a flange mating with the flat flange, a hollow tube having one end held in the opening of said center, the tube having its opposite end within the container, absorbent material disposed in the hollow of said tube, and in the receptacle, a union band having a flange held below said bead, and another flange of said band tightly embracing said mating flanges, said last named flange having an elevated rib the top of which is above certain of the perforations of said sheath.

3. In a moistening device for gummed surfaces, a container having at its mouth an outer bead, a plate having a marginal flange on said mouth at the bead, said plate having a depressed center with an opening, an upwardly curved perforated flexible sheath having a flange mating with said marginal flange, a hollow tube depending from the opening of said center into the container absorbent material disposed in the hollow of said tube, beneath said sheath and in the receptacle, a union band having a flange engaged below said bead, a second flange on said band embracing said mating flanges, and an elevated rib on said second flange, said rib having its top part above the level of certain perforations of said sheath.

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