

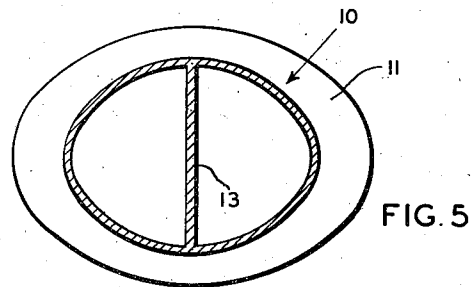
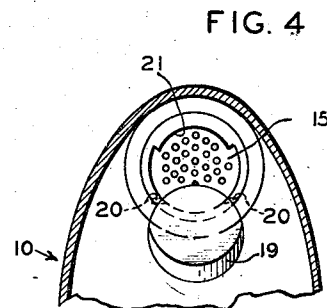
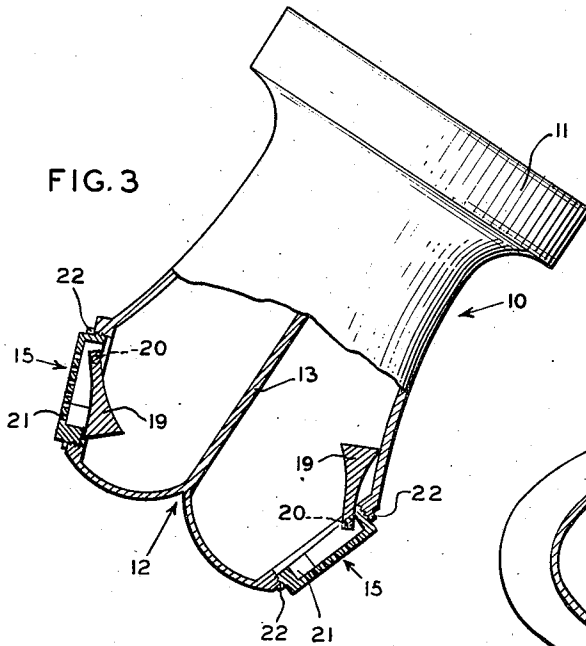
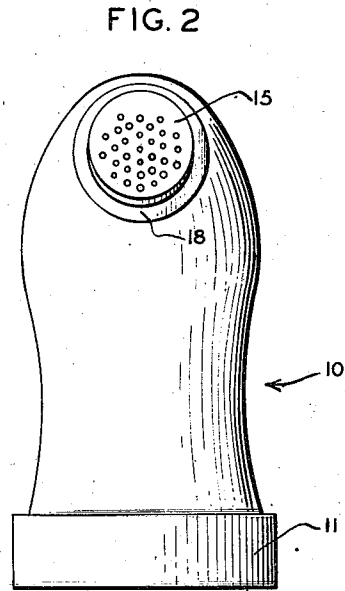
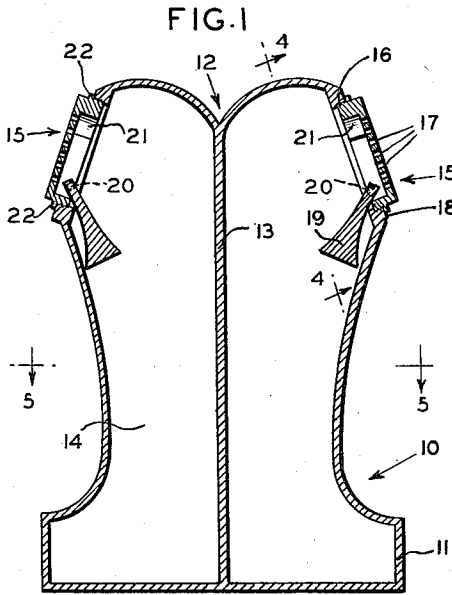
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COMBINATION DISPENSER

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2,358,723

COMBINATION DISPENSER

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9 Claims. (Cl. 65-45)

This invention relates to dispensers for salt and pepper, and aims to provide a practical and simple combination dispenser wherein a single article or container may be utilized selectively to dispense either salt or pepper, or either one of any other combination of two condiments. The body of the container, including all the parts thereof, may be made of any desirable or suitable material, but perhaps the preferred material would be one of the many varieties of plastic material available on the market.

Another object of the invention is the provision of means whereby inadvertent dispensing of both salt and pepper, resulting either from a careless or hasty handling of the container, is prevented. This means automatically shuts off one of the two condiments while the other is being dispensed, and it shuts off both in the event that the container is held in an upside down position. This means lends a fool-proof feature to the article.

The above and other objects will become apparent in the description below, wherein characters of reference refer to like-numbered parts on the accompanying drawing. It is to be noted that the drawing is intended to serve the purpose of illustration only, and that it is neither intended nor desired to limit the invention necessarily to the exact details of construction shown, excepting insofar as such details may be essential to the invention.

Referring briefly to the drawing,

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal cross-sectional elevational view of the dispenser.

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the dispenser.

Fig. 3 is a partly front view and a partly longitudinal cross-sectional view, of the dispenser in tilted position such as it may assume in the act of dispensing the contents of one of its two compartments.

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 4-4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 5-5 of Fig. 1.

Referring in detail to the drawing, the numeral 10 indicates the body of the combination dispenser and includes the enlarged base 11. The body is formed in rounded or curved outline, substantially as illustrated, and a transverse depression 12 is formed in the roof thereof. A transverse wall 13, extending down from the roof to the base or floor of the container and between the opposed side walls thereof, serves as a partition which divides the interior of the

body 10 into two compartments 14 and 15. Each compartment 14 or 15 is adapted to contain one of the two condiments in powdered or granular form, such as, for instance, salt and pepper.

At the top of each compartment 14 and 15, and at the outside thereof, openings 16 are provided through the body wall to give access into the compartment, the planes of these openings, which are circular, extending angularly toward each other, substantially as shown, although the degree of angularity may of course be varied as desired. The openings 16 are threaded, and caps 15, provided with a plurality of perforations 17, are screwed thereinto. A peripheral shoulder 18 surrounds the opening 16.

For each cap 15 a flap 19 is provided, and this flap has a pair of aligned pins or projections 20 extending from the peripheral edge thereof close to the perimeter thereof, the flaps 19 being circular in outline. The flaps 19 are thinnest in the neighborhood of the pins 20, and thicken toward the opposite perimeter, with the opposed surfaces of the flap being dished-out. Thereby the flaps are heaviest at the most distant points from the pins 20.

Recesses are provided in the inner wall of the flange of the cap 15 into which the pins 20 register pivotally, these recesses being so positioned with respect to the cap flange as to be complementary with the positioning of the pins 20 with respect to the flaps 19, so that when the flap 19 lies in maximum proximity to the cap, as will be set forth below, the flap will shut off the passage through the perforations of the cap. At a position diametrically opposed to the imaginary line joining the aligned pins 20 of the flap 19, or, rather, of the line through the recesses of the cap flange in which these pins register, the flange of the cap is widened to form an arcuate block 21, which serves as a limit stop for the cap as will presently become apparent. In order to assure proper positioning of the flaps 19 when the caps 15 are screwed into place, a collar 22 may be provided on the cap.

The device may be used as a combination dispenser either with simple perforated caps 15, or with the flaps provided in association with the caps. In the former case the dispenser will function satisfactorily for ordinary purposes, but in the latter case it will function satisfactorily and perfectly for all purposes and no matter how it is handled.

It is apparent that when the container is tilted into the position shown in Fig. 3, or approximately that position, the substance, let us say salt,

contained in compartment 14, can readily be dispensed through the perforated cap 15 thereof, but it is apparent that none of the material, say pepper, in the other compartment 15, is able to pass through the cap thereof owing to the obstruction provided by its flap 19 as a result of the action of gravity. This is illustrated by the left-hand flap 19 in Fig. 3. Should the dispenser be inadvertently handled in the manner of a common salt or pepper shaker and held completely upside down, it is apparent from Fig. 3 that both flaps 19 will then be swung by gravity into obstructing positions against their respective caps 15, thus preventing either salt or pepper from flowing through the perforations. In the normal position of the dispenser, that is, standing on its base, both flaps 19 are held in unobstructing position, as shown in Fig. 1.

If desired, legends may be printed on the body 10 near the caps 15 to indicate the contents of the compartments of the container. The device may of course be made in any manner as well as of any material; that is, it may be molded, stamped, pressed, fabricated of a number of independently made sections, or otherwise.

Obviously, modifications in form and structure may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. The device may, for instance, be readily adaptable for use as a dual liquid dispenser, in an obvious manner.

It is apparent from the above that a useful and extremely practical combination dispenser has been set forth, which is simple in construction and inexpensive in cost of manufacture.

I claim:

1. A combination dispenser comprising a hollow body having a base and a vertical partition therein dividing the interior thereof into two compartments, said compartments having oppositely disposed pouring openings through the walls of the body with the planes through said openings lying at opposite and equal angles to the vertical and meeting above the body, perforated caps removably secured in said openings, each of said caps having a pair of oppositely disposed recesses in the flange thereof near the lower edge thereof, each of said caps having a flap provided with oppositely disposed pin-like projections from the periphery thereof near one edge thereof, said projections registering pivotally in said recesses, said flap normally being held by gravity clear of said opening and being adapted to be swung by gravity against said opening to obstruct the same when the plane through said opening has been moved through the horizontal to an approximately vertical position.

2. A combination dispenser according to claim 1, having said flap thickened at that portion thereof distant from said projections.

3. The combination set forth in claim 1, having said cap flange enlarged at a position opposite to said recesses to provide a limit stop for said flap in said obstructing position.

4. The combination set forth in claim 1, said caps having collars thereon to serve as limit stops for said caps when said caps are inserted into said openings to position said flap pivots at the bottom of said openings.

5. A combination dispenser comprising a hollow body having a base and a vertical partition therein dividing the interior thereof into two compartments, said compartments having oppositely disposed pouring openings through the walls of the body with the planes through said openings lying at opposite and equal angles to the vertical and meeting above the body, perforated caps removably secured in said openings, each of said caps having a pair of oppositely disposed recesses in the flange thereof and a flap provided with projections from the periphery thereof near one edge thereof registering pivotally in said recesses, said flap normally being held by gravity clear of said opening and being adapted to be swung by gravity against said opening to obstruct the same when the plane through said opening has been moved through the horizontal to an approximately vertical position.

6. A combination dispenser comprising a hollow body having a base and a vertical partition therein dividing the interior thereof into two compartments, said compartments having oppositely disposed pouring openings through the walls of the body with the planes through said openings lying at opposite and equal angles to the vertical and meeting above the body, perforated caps removably secured in said openings, each of said caps having a flange and a flap pivotally secured near one end of the flap to the flange of said cap near the lower edge of said flange, said flap being thickened at that portion thereof distant from the pivoted end of the flap, said flap normally being held by gravity clear of said opening and being adapted to be swung by gravity against said opening to obstruct the same when the plane through said opening has been moved through the horizontal to an approximately vertical position.

7. The combination set forth in claim 6, having said cap flange enlarged at a position opposite to the pivot axis of said flap to provide a limit stop for said flap in said obstructing position.

8. The combination set forth in claim 6, having said caps provided with collars thereon, the pivotal axis of said flap being positioned near the lower edge of said cap flange, said collars serving as limit stops for said caps when said caps are inserted into said openings to position said pivotal axes at the bottom of said openings.

9. The combination set forth in claim 1, said flap being weighted at that end which is distant from the pivot axis thereof to shift the center of gravity of said flap per se toward the last named end of said flap.

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