Feb. 6, 1940. R. E. BAKER 2,189,389

REFRIGERATOR TOP

Filed Feb. 1, 1936

Fig. 1.

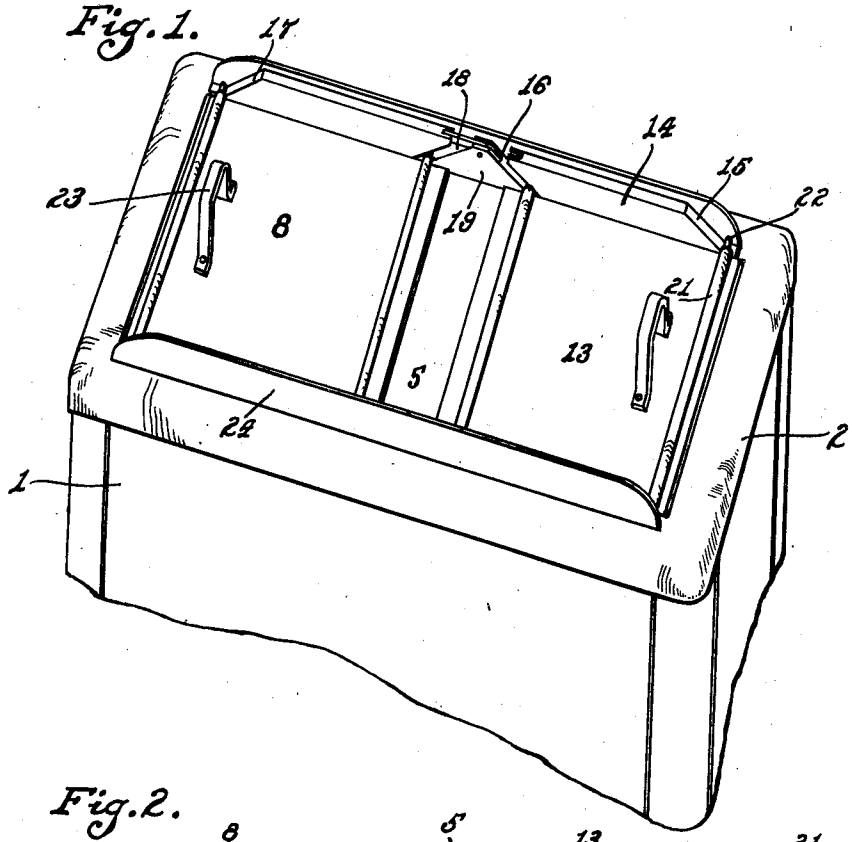


Fig. 2.

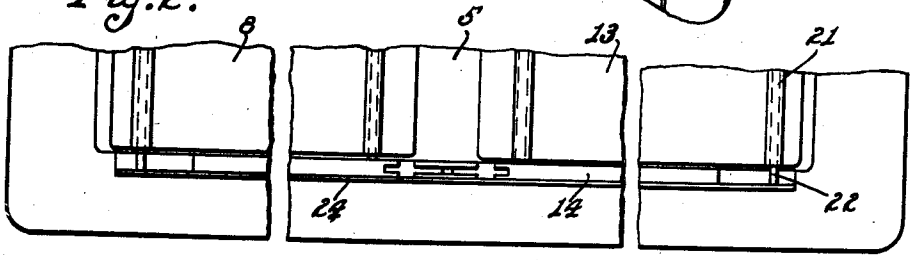
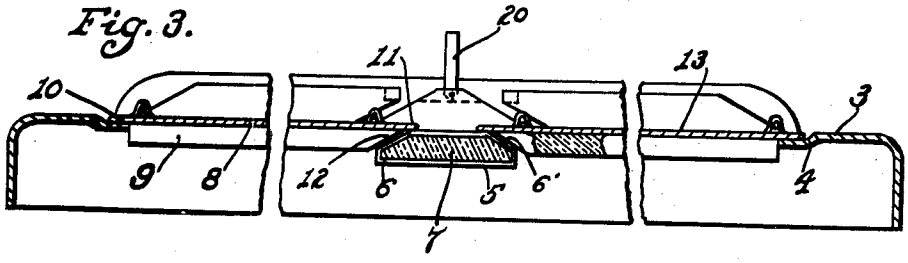


Fig. 3.



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Patented Feb. 6, 1940 2,189,389

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,189,389

REFRIGERATOR TOP

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Application February 1, 1936, Serial No. 61,853

1 Claim. (Cl. 220—41)

My invention relates to improvements in closures for refrigerators or like containers.

One of the objects of my invention is to provide a closure, primarily for refrigerators, of the horizontally disposed sliding type wherein there are provided a plurality of closure members, one adapted to slide on the top of the other to expose the contents of the container, which, when closed, shall effectively seal the top of the container against the ingress of warm air.

Another object of my invention is to provide a sliding panel closure top wherein the different panels are adapted all to lie in substantially the same plane and which are so arranged that when one panel is slid to open position, it will not disturb the position of the other panel, either in its opening movement or in its closing movement.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will appear more fully in the appending specification and claim.

For the purpose of disclosing my invention, I have illustrated in the accompanying drawing an embodiment thereof. In said drawing;

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the top of a refrigerator embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a partial plan view; and

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

In the embodiment illustrated, the refrigerator 1 is provided with a top frame 2 substantially rectangular in shape and having an internal flange 3. The inner edge of this internal inwardly extending flange is slightly depressed as at 4 whereby a slightly depressed flange surrounds the opening in the top of the container. Intermediate of the ends of the opening in the container, I provide a cross bar 5 which extends between the two side edges of the frame 3 and preferably takes the shape of a sheet metal tube 6 filled with insulating material 7. The top surface of this cross bar lies in the same plane as the top surface of the recessed edge 4 and the two side walls of the cross bar are inclined or cammed as at 6'. This cross bar, in effect, divides the top opening into two portions or provides two openings in the top. Each of these openings is closed by a cover member 8—13 preferably formed of sheet metal and having a thickened portion 9 adapted to be filled with insulating material. Surrounding the thickened portion, however, is a flange portion 10 adapted to rest on the recessed edge 4 and that flange portion 11 adjacent the cross bar 5 is adapted to rest on the cross bar, thereby effectually sealing the opening when the cover member is in position. The end of the cover member adjacent the cross bar is inclined as at 12 to coincide with the inclined portion 6' of the cross bar. It will be noted that when the cover members are in closed position, they lie in substantially the same horizontal plane and effectually seal the opening or openings in the top of the refrigerator against the ingress of air. Each of the cover members is of substantially the same construction so that it is hardly necessary to specifically describe the opposite cover member 13.

For guiding each cover member, when it is slid laterally to open position, up and over the adjacent cover member, I provide on each side of the frame 1 a longitudinally extending track 14. Each of these tracks is the same so that a description of one will be sufficient for both. Each of the tracks 14 is provided with a pair of cammed or inclined portions 15 and 16 inclined in one direction and a second pair of inclined portions 17 and 18 inclined in the opposite direction. The cammed portions 16 and 18 are preferably formed by cutting inclined slots downwardly through the track, thereby leaving a center triangular portion 19 between the two end sections of the track. At the apex of the triangular section, I provide a pivoted switch member 20, pivoted to swing to a position to close either of the slots or rather to bridge either of the slots, depending upon which of the cover panels or cover members is moved. Each of the cover members or panels is provided with transversely extending rods 21, the ends 22 of which are adapted to project over the track sections so that the ends will ride on the track sections when the cover member is slid transversely.

The operation of the device is obvious. When one of the cover members, as member 13, is slid laterally in an open direction, the projecting ends 22 of the rods will ride up respectively on the cam or inclined track surfaces 15 and 16. If the switch member 20 is in a position to close the gap in the track above the track surface 16, the projection 22 on one of the rods will, as the rod rides up the incline, eventually strike this pivoted switch member and cause it to swing to the position illustrated in Fig. 1 forming a complete track so that the projections 22 can ride on the top of the track member above the adjacent cover or panel member 8 and sufficiently clear the same to prevent frictional engagement of the underside of the cover member 13 with the top face of the cover member 8. The handle 23, of which there is one provided for each cover member, of the cover member 8, will act as a stop

to prevent the cover member 13 from being slid too far to its open position. When it is desired to close the cover member 13, it is merely slid in the opposite direction and will eventually drop down into position, the projections 22 riding down on the inclines 15 and 16. The operation of the panel or cover member 8 is similar except that it moves in the opposite direction.

Disposed on either side of the track members is a pair of shields or guards 24 extending upwardly along the side of the track members and projecting somewhat above the upper edges of the track members.

I claim as my invention:

A container, having a plurality of dispensing openings therein, a sliding closure member for each of said openings, having a portion engaging the edges of said openings on all sides, said closure members lying in the same horizontal plane, a track disposed on either side of said closure members and projecting above the top surface thereof, means on said closure members riding on said track, said track having upwardly inclined portions adjacent at least the leading edges of said closure members and having a pair of gaps therein, a swingable member moved into closing position by the movement of a sliding member for closing one of said gaps to permit a continued movement of the track engaging members.

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