June 17, 1930. E. Y. CROSSMORE 1,765,299

DISPLAY CONTAINER

Filed March 31, 1928

Fig. 1.

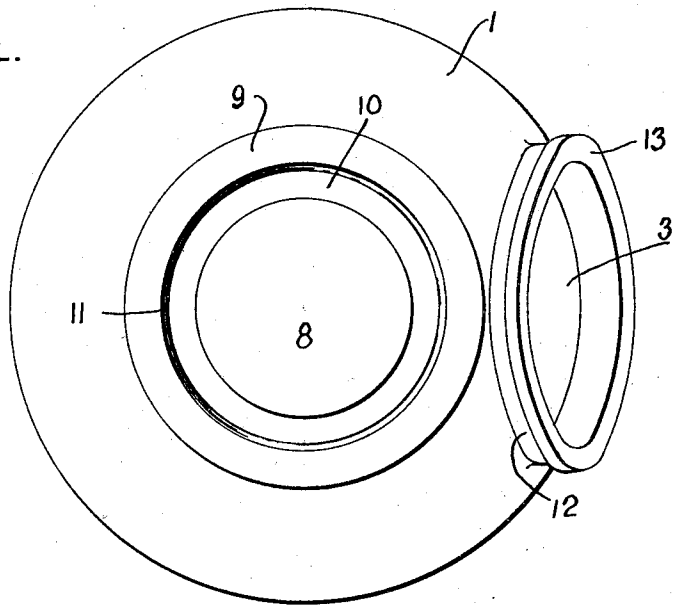
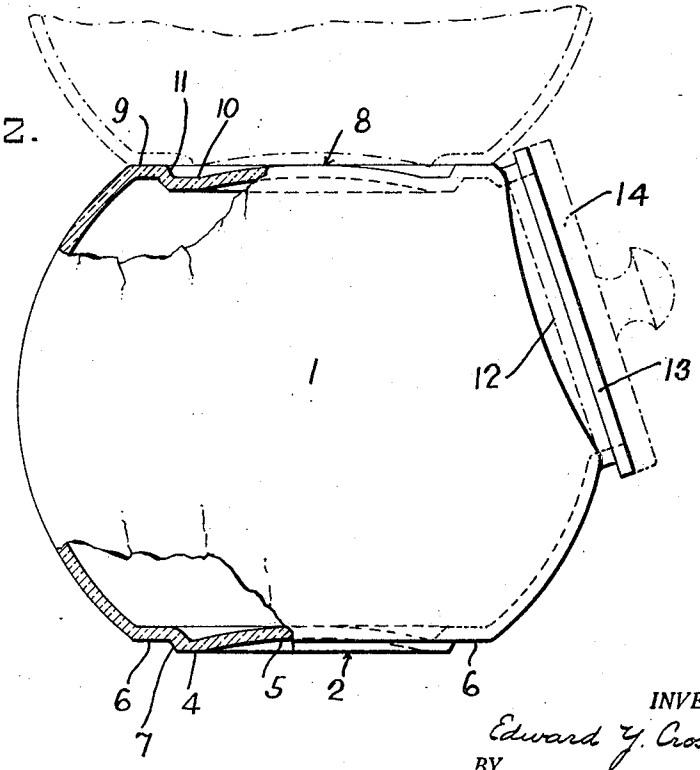


Fig. 2.



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DISPLAY CONTAINER

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This invention relates to receptacles for holding foods, cakes, confections and the like, and more particularly to receptacles of the display type which may be placed on store counters, shelves or racks to display the contents to customers, while providing convenient access by the attendant.

General objects of the invention are to provide devices of the type described which are neat and compact in form, which may be readily emptied and cleaned, and which may be conveniently positioned on a shelf or store counter to provide large capacity and display per unit of space occupied.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a device which displays the contents efficiently and attractively, while protecting them from dust and the loss or taking up of moisture.

Another object is to provide a device which may be used as a unit of a series of units, stacked or partially nested adjacent each other, each unit being provided with means whereby ready access may be had thereto and all of its contents removed without the necessity of disturbing the stack.

Other objects of the invention will in part be obvious and will in part appear hereinafter.

The invention accordingly comprises an article of manufacture possessing the features, properties and the relation of elements which will be exemplified in the article hereinafter described, and the scope of the application of which will be indicated in the claims.

For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of the invention reference should be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of one exemplification of the invention comprising one unit with the filling and emptying opening uncovered;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the unit shown in Fig. 1, parts being broken away, with the cover in place in the opening, and with a second unit partially indicated in dotted lines as disposed thereon.

In its general aspects the invention comprises a hollow receptacle unit, preferably having its interior free from sharp corners or angles in which crumbs, etc. would tend to accumulate, and also preferably being so constructed as to have a flat bottom portion and a laterally-positioned transparent portion through which the contents will be displayed to the customer.

In a preferred form, such as that exemplified in the drawings, the device comprises a receptacle 1, which is transparent throughout, and may be made of glass or other suitable transparent material. This unit is generally globular or spherical in form and has a substantially flattened bottom portion 2, whereby it may rest with stability on a flat surface, such as a counter, a laterally-disposed filling and emptying opening 3; the side of the container substantially opposed to this opening being transparent to display the contents to the customer. As shown, the unit is approximately circular in medial horizontal cross section, although, if desired, other modifications in outline may be used without departing from the spirit of this invention; it being desirable that the interior be relatively free from sharp corners, as above indicated.

In order that there may be provided increased capacity and display per unit of counter or shelf space occupied, and for other purposes, each unit preferably is provided with opposed flattened portions which are transversely disposed with respect to the lateral opening and transparent portions mentioned, and which allow of the units being placed more closely adjacent to each other than would be the case if the spherical outline were continued throughout. These flattened portions may, as shown, be characterized by complementary configurations which are so constructed as to mate respectively with the opposed portion of another unit, thereby increasing the stability of a series of units. Also, as shown, these flattened portions may be so designed as to give increased strength against breaking, and one thereof may, if desired, be positioned at the bottom of the container whereby it acts as the sup-

porting surface for the container when placed on the counter.

More particularly, in the form of device exemplified in the drawings, the flattened portions are disposed at the bottom and the top of the container. The bottom flattened portion 2 may comprise an annular rim-portion 4, within which the wall of the container is bowed upwardly slightly as at 5 to give added strength. Externally of the rim-portion 4, and peripherally adjacent thereto, the bottom portion of the receptacle is formed into a second bearing rim 6, which is disposed on a plane slightly higher than that of the rim 4 and is separated therefrom by a shoulder 7. Similarly, the opposed flattened portion 8, as shown at the top of Fig. 2, is of complementary configuration, being formed with annularly-disposed bearing seats 9 and 10, which coact respectively with the bearing surfaces 4 and 6 of another unit when disposed thereon. The seats 9 and 10 are likewise separated by a shoulder 11, which is adapted to mate and coact with the shoulder 7 to resist lateral displacement of the units with respect to each other. It will be understood, of course, that the relative radial positions and elevations of the bearing surfaces 4 and 6 and 9 and 10 respectively, and the angular disposition of the shoulders 7 and 11, may be varied as desired.

Whether or not the device is provided with opposed flattened portions, such as, for example, 2 and 8, and, regardless of the circumferential disposition thereof, the opening 3 is laterally disposed with respect to the flattened portion constituting the bottom of the receptacle and is preferably positioned toward the upper portion and above the medial horizontal plane of the receptacle. In a preferred form, this opening 3 is disposed also in a projecting neck-portion 12, which, particularly when the receptacle is constructed entirely of glass, may be provided with a strengthening rim 13, and is provided with a suitable closure, such as 14, adapted to keep the contents of the unit in the desired state of humidity and free from dust or the like.

As will be readily understood from the above, although the stacked members have been indicated in the drawings as being vertically disposed with respect to each other, obviously the units may be formed so that they can be laterally disposed, or separate units may be both laterally and vertically disposed with respect to each other, as desired, merely by varying the position and/or number of the flattened and opposed portions of complementary configuration without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Therefore, since certain changes may be made in the above article, and different embodiments of the invention could be made, without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described and all statements of the scope of the invention which as a matter of language might be said to fall therebetween.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A container unit, comprising a hollow receptacle generally spherical in form and having its interior relatively free from sharp corners, a laterally-disposed emptying opening disposed mainly above the medial horizontal plane of the receptacle, and a plurality of opposed flattened portions disposed transversely of said lateral emptying opening; said portions being complementary in configuration with each other whereby a plurality of said units may be stacked vertically upon each other.

2. A container unit, comprising a hollow receptacle generally spherical in form, said receptacle having its top and bottom portions substantially flattened and being provided with a laterally-disposed emptying opening, said flattened portions being formed with bearing surfaces disposed so that the top bearing surface of one unit will mate with the bottom bearing surface of another unit.

3. A container unit, comprising a hollow receptacle generally spherical in form, said receptacle having opposite portions substantially flattened and being provided with a laterally-disposed emptying opening, said flattened portions being formed with annular bearing surfaces disposed so that a bearing surface of one unit will mate with an opposite bearing surface of another unit.

4. A container unit comprising a hollow receptacle generally spherical in form, said receptacle having its top and bottom portions substantially flattened and being provided with a laterally-disposed emptying opening, said flattened portions being formed with bearing surfaces disposed on different planes with respect to each other, the bearing surfaces of the bottom and top being complementary in configuration so that the top bearing surfaces of one unit will mate with the bottom bearing surfaces of another unit.

5. A display container unit constructed of transparent material and being hollow and generally spherical in form, said unit having at least two opposite portions substantially flattened and being provided with a laterally-disposed emptying opening, said flattened portions being formed with bearing and interfitting surfaces complementary in configuration; one of said flattened portions constituting a bottom rest for said unit.

6. A display container, comprising a hollow, generally spherical receptacle, provided with a laterally-extending neck-portion having a filling and emptying opening disposed substantially above the medial horizontal plane of the receptacle, said receptacle having opposed, substantially flattened portions complementary in configuration, whereby a bearing face is provided to rest against and laterally interlock with the complementary face of an adjacent container, said receptacle being adapted to rest with stability on a flat surface and being transparent through the portions surrounding said flattened portions and said openings.

7. A display container, comprising a hollow receptacle shaped to avoid interior corners, having a filling and emptying opening mainly disposed above the medial horizontal plane of the receptacle, said receptacle having opposed substantially flattened portions complementary in configuration, whereby a bearing face is provided to rest against and transversely interlock with the complementary face of an adjacent container; said receptacle being adapted to rest with stability on a flat surface and being transparent through the portions surrounding said flattened portions and said openings.

8. A container unit, comprising a hollow receptacle generally spherical in form, said receptacle having its top and bottom portions substantially flattened and being provided with a laterally-disposed emptying opening; said flattened portions being formed with circumferential bearing surfaces disposed on different planes with respect to each other on each surface, the bearing surfaces of the bottom and top being complementary in configuration so that the top bearing surfaces of one unit are adapted to mate with the bottom bearing surfaces of another unit.

9. A display jar, adapted to be assembled in stacked relation with similar jars, including a substantially spherical body portion flattened at the poles, a complementary base and seat at opposite poles thereof, and an open-mouthed neck extending outwardly and upwardly from the body portion intermediate the poles and permitting access to the body interior.

10. A display jar, comprising a substantially spherical body portion formed with oppositely disposed complementary portions whereby the jar may be associated with similar jars, said complementary portions including interlocking means, and said body being provided with an opening intermediate said complementary portions for affording access to the interior thereof.

11. A display jar adapted to be assembled in stacked relation with similar jars, comprising a substantially spherical body portion formed with a supporting base and with a complementary seat at its upper end, said base and seat being formed with interlocking means, and said body portion being provided with an opening in its side wall for permitting access to the interior thereof.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

EDWARD Y. CROSSMORE.