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2,102,886

CONTAINER FOR PRESERVING EGGS

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FIG. 1

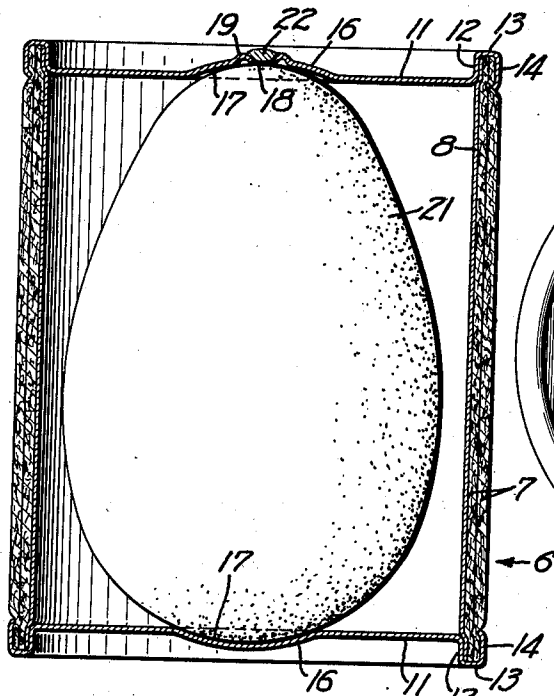


FIG. 2

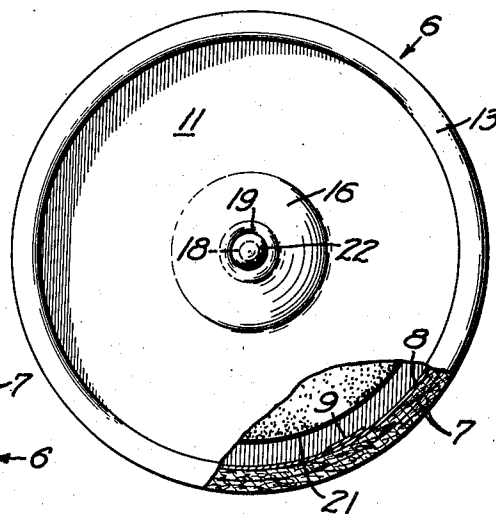


FIG. 4

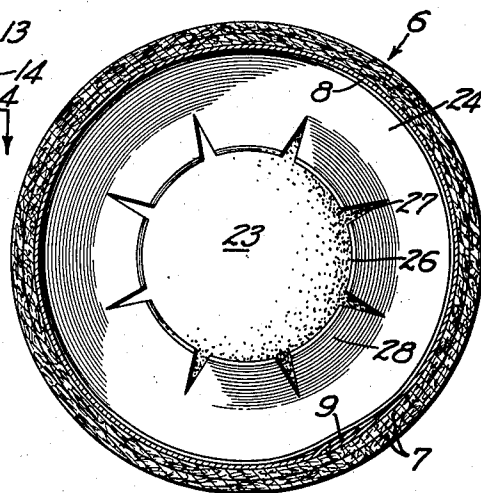
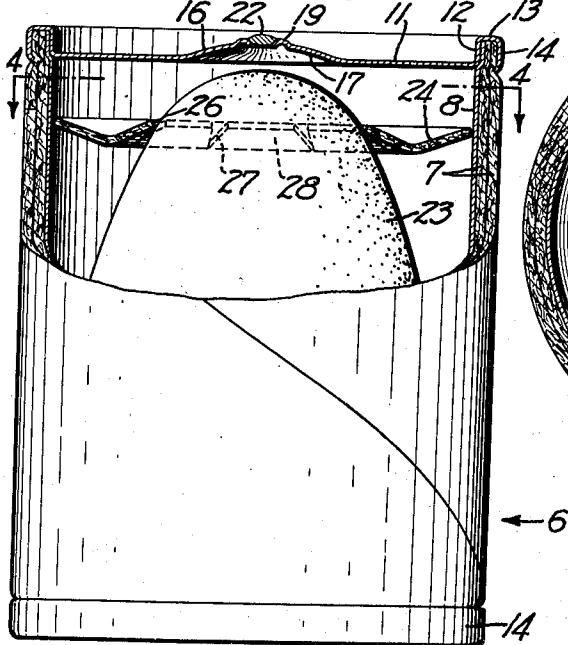


FIG. 3



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CONTAINER FOR PRESERVING EGGS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 229—1.5)

This invention relates to containers for preserving foodstuffs, particularly eggs.

It is an object of the invention to provide a container, for individual eggs, which will preserve the egg in a fresh condition for a considerable period of time.

Another object of the invention is to provide a container which will preserve the egg in an atmosphere of reduced pressure.

10 A further object of the invention is to provide an improved fluid-tight container for preserving foodstuffs.

Still another object of the invention is to provide means, in a container of the character described, which will prevent moving of the egg about in the container after the egg has been sealed therein.

20 The invention possesses other objects and features of value some of which, together with the foregoing, will be specifically set forth in the detailed description of the invention which follows. It is to be understood, however, that the invention is not to be limited to the particular species thereof shown and described as various other embodiments thereof may be employed within the scope of the appended claims.

Referring to the drawing:

30 Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view through a container incorporating the principles of this invention.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the structure shown in Figure 1, portions of the figure being broken away to more clearly disclose the interior construction.

35 Figure 3 is a front elevational view, partly in vertical section, of the container showing the support collar mounted therein.

Figure 4 is a horizontal sectional view taken in the plane indicated by the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

40 In detail, the container comprises a cylindrical body, generally indicated by the numeral 6, consisting of superposed, adhesively joined, sheets 7 of fiberboard, or similar material, and provided, on the inner surface thereof, with a sheet 8 of metal foil whose overlapped ends 9 are soldered, or otherwise joined together, to provide an airtight joint. Provided at each end of the body 6 is a pair of metal closure caps each comprising 45 a disk 11 having a channel shaped peripheral rim consisting of an inner flange 12, a bottom rim 13, and an outer flange 14, and a spherically embossed portion 16, at its center, to provide, on one side of the disk, a socket 17. One of the caps 50 is provided, in the disk portion thereof, with an

aperture 18 bordered by a bead 19 to form a conical depression about the aperture.

The lower cap is first connected with the body 6, this being done by setting the end of the body in the peripheral rim of the cap and spinning or crimping the outer flange 14 inwardly toward the flange 12 so as to sufficiently squeeze the sheets 7 and the metal foil 8 between the flanges to obtain an airtight joint. An egg 21, the shell of which has been thoroughly cleaned, is now placed 10 in the container so that one end thereof rests in the socket 17 of the lower cap, after which the upper cap is placed over the end of the body and secured in place in the same manner in which the lower cap was secured. The eggs 21 may be 15 selected so that their individual lengths are approximately equal thus insuring that the respective ends thereof seat in the sockets 17. However it is obvious that by increasing or decreasing the length of the body 6, eggs of various lengths 20 may be accommodated. After the top cap has been sealed in place, the assembled container is placed in an evacuating mechanism which exhausts the air in the container through the aperture 18 and seals the latter, while the interior of 25 the container is at reduced pressure, by closing the aperture with a quantity of solder 22. The container after proper marking or labeling which may be conveniently applied by printing directly on the surface of the fiberboard body 6 is now 30 ready for shipment or storage.

In order to permit the packaging of eggs which are slightly shorter than the distance between the opposite closure caps, I provide the structure shown in Figures 3 and 4. In Figure 3 it will 35 be noted that the egg 23 is not of sufficient length to permit seating of its upper end in the socket 17 of the top cap and that, lacking means to secure it against striking the walls of the container, the fragile shell thereof is quite likely to become 40 broken during subsequent handling of the container. To prevent movement of the egg, and thereby eliminate the danger of breakage thereof, I have provided an insert comprising a disk 24 of fiberboard, slightly larger in diameter than the 45 inner diameter of the container, having a central aperture 26 whose periphery is divided by radial slits 27 into a plurality of tabs 28. After placing the egg 23 in the container, so that its lower end rests in the socket provided therefor in the lower 50 closure cap, the disk 24 is inserted in the open upper end of the container and pressed downwardly thereinto until the upper end of the egg enters the aperture 26 and flexes the tabs 28 upwardly thereby forming a socket which will 55

- securely hold the egg in position. Due to the fact that the diameter of the disk is slightly in excess of that of the inside of the container the disk will assume a conical shape when inserted in the container and this, together with the upward flexing of the tabs 28 will provide, as shown in Figure 3, an annular truss peripherally between the egg and the container. Once the disk has been positioned in the container it will not, regardless of the degree of rough handling to which the container is subjected, be readily displaced. After insertion of the disk 24 the upper closure cap is secured and sealed in the pre-described manner.
- 15 From the foregoing description of my invention it will be seen that I have provided a container in which individual eggs may be preserved for extended intervals of time, that the egg is maintained in a partial vacuum thereby arresting decomposition thereof, that an improved container has been provided which although being particularly adapted to the preservation of eggs, may also be used to pack other foodstuffs, and that improved means has been provided for in-

suring against the movement, in the container, of eggs which do not properly fit the container.

I claim:

In combination, a container for an egg comprising a cylindrical fiberboard body, a metallic liner within and extending between the ends of said body, closures for the respective ends of said body each comprising a disk of metal having a channel-shaped peripheral rim in which an end of said body and said liner may be secured, one of said closures having a depressed portion therein to provide a socket in which an end of said egg may be seated, and the other of said closures having a sealable aperture therein through which air may be exhausted from said container, and means within said container for supporting said egg against movement therein, said means comprising a disk of sheet material within said body in peripheral contact with the inner surface thereof, said disk having a central aperture therein through which a portion of said egg may project, and a plurality of resilient tabs on said disk contacting the surface of said egg.

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