(No Model.)

P. C. TOMSON.

SIFTING BOX FOR CAUSTIC LYE.

No. 307,506. Patented Nov. 4, 1884.

Fig. 1.

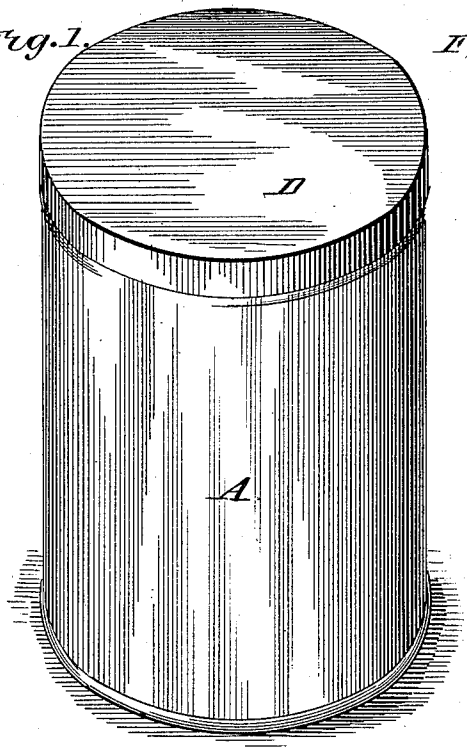


Fig. 2.

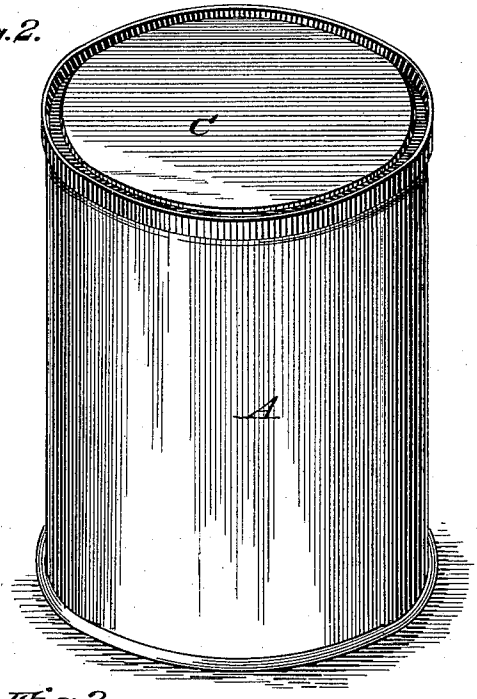


Fig. 3.

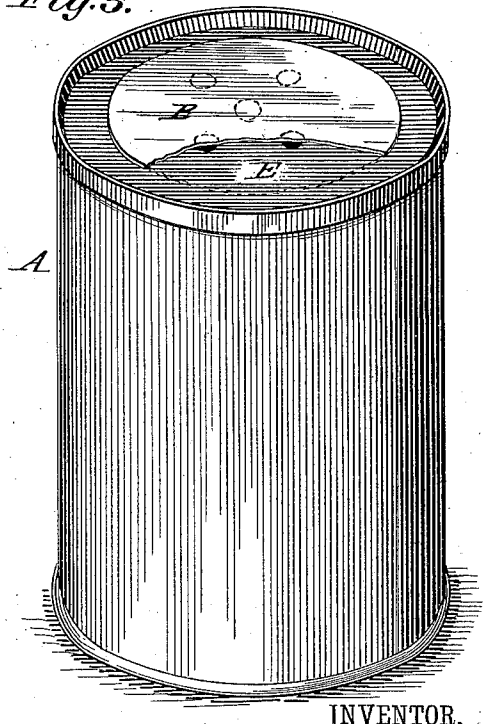
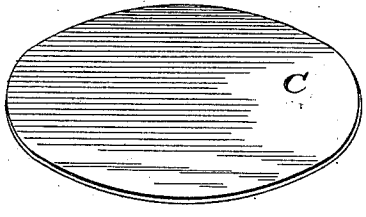


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER COOLEY TOMSON, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

SIFTING-BOX FOR CAUSTIC LYE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 307,506, dated November 4, 1884.

Application filed January 10, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PETER COOLEY TOMSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Sifting Caustic-Lye Box, of which the following is a specification, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

In this invention I have two purposes in view, one of which is to provide a neat and convenient mode of keeping caustic lye from the neutralizing effect of the atmosphere after the box containing it shall have been opened, and the still more important purpose of preventing the spilling of the lye, to the manifest peril of sight and even life. It is well known that by the use of the ordinary box with a mere loose cover eyes have been injured, if not destroyed, while in some instances young children have swallowed the substance, and thereby lost their lives. By my invention the caustic lye is excluded from the air, which, as experience has demonstrated, destroys the strength of the article and makes it useless for its intended purpose, and when not in actual use it is hermetically sealed.

To carry my invention into effect I make a box of sheet-iron or other suitable cheap metal of the shape of boxes commonly employed for the purpose of containing such material in commerce, and the box being filled with the material, a perforated cover is permanently soldered or otherwise secured thereto. Over the perforations of the cover is pasted a label with marks thereon to indicate the exact situation of the holes beneath, so that when the lye is required to be used the label (which is of paper or other soft material) can be punctured and the lye be allowed to sift out. Having filled the box and sealed the perforations by means of the label, a circular close-fitting card or disk is laid on the top of the box, and over that is placed a metal cover fitting down closely over the edges, so that the air is effectually excluded from the holes after they shall have been punctured in the permanent top of the box. This is a cheap and efficient means of preserving the strength of the lye, and also of preventing disagreeable, if not dangerous, results from the spilling out of the powerful caustic. I attain these desirable objects by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a representation of the box with removable cover on when not in use. Fig. 2 shows the cover removed. Fig. 3 shows the box with the card or disk removed, so as to show the label that covers the perforation in the metal over which it is pasted; and Fig. 4 is a view of the circular card to be placed between the outside and the inside covers.

A is the box. B is the label for covering the perforations. C is the removable circular card or disk; E, the permanent perforated top, and D is the outside removable cover.

I am aware that sifting devices on the principle of the ordinary pepper-box or caster have been made before my invention; but I believe myself to be the first one who has ever by such cheap and comparatively cheap combination overcome objections to the use of the powerful agent caustic lye for domestic use.

I am aware that spice-cans have been used with a perforated removable cover and a paper stop placed within the cover; but to obtain a discharge of the contents it is necessary to remove the cover and take out said paper stop. This will do in the case of spices; but in the case of caustic lye it is very undesirable, inasmuch as the lye is very corrosive and discolors and eats the skin of the fingers if handled. It is very desirable to be able to discharge such contents without having to open the can. This I accomplish by my invention, it being only necessary to rupture the paper over the holes to have the contents entirely at convenience.

I acknowledge that a patent was granted to Edwin Norton, No. 92,538, issued July 13, 1869, for a spice-can which is differently constructed from mine, hereinbefore described, both as regards the movable cap and the false top of said patent of Norton; and I am aware that a patent was granted to W. P. Tenny, No. 142,963, dated September 16, 1873, for an improvement in disinfectant packages, but which is essentially different from mine in construction.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

A can for the packing and using of caustic lye, consisting of a body, A, of suitable form, a detachable top or cover, D, a removable circular disk, C, used as a lining or packing between D and B, a permanent perforated top or cover, E, having a number of small holes covered by the paper cover and attached to the body A, as shown in Fig. 3, after the lye is introduced, aad a paper cover or label, B, for said top E, pasted thereon and outside thereof, whereby the contents may be securely retained during transportation and sale, and afterward, when required for use, be readily delivered through holes designed to be punctured in the said paper cover over the location of the holes in the permanent top E without the removal of the said paper cover, the whole being substantially as described.

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