March 28, 1939. R. NYDEN 2,152,271

DISPENSING CONTAINER

Filed May 24, 1938

FIG. 1.

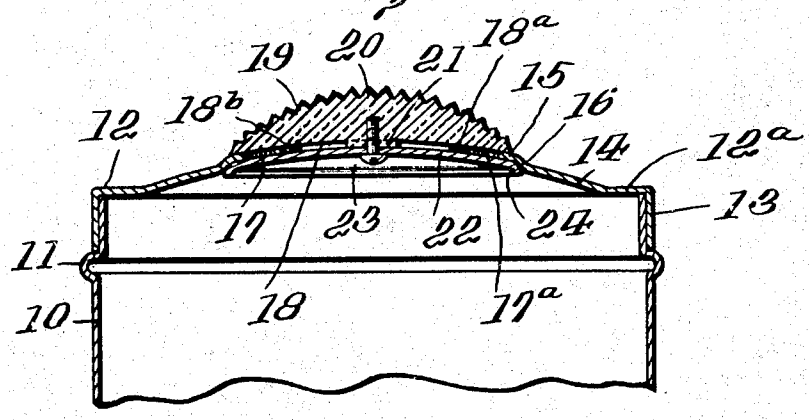


FIG. 2.

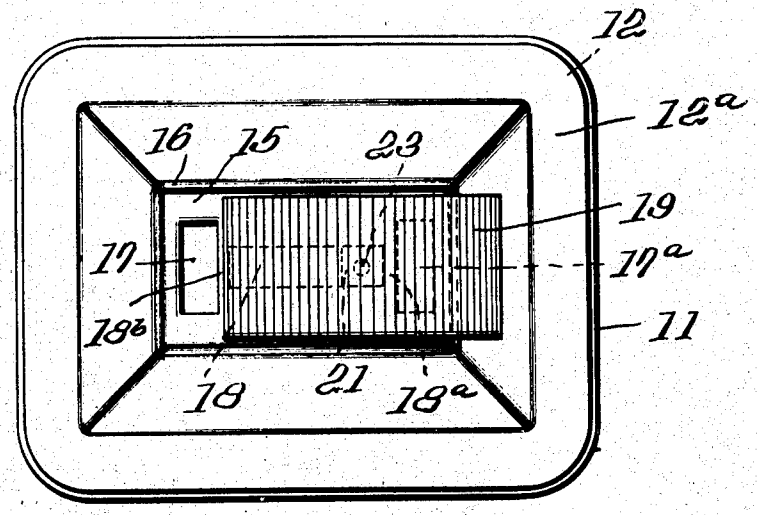
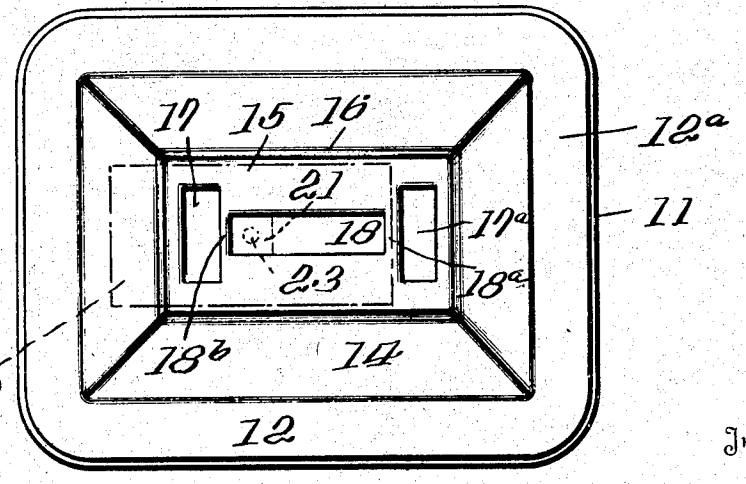


FIG. 3.



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DISPENSING CONTAINER

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7 Claims. (Cl. 221—62)

The present invention relates to new and useful improvements in dispensing containers, and more particularly to improvements in a dispensing container having a closure which is shiftable in opposite directions from an intermediate closing position in order to selectively control a plurality of dispensing openings.

An object of the invention is to provide a dispensing container of the above type, wherein the closure includes inner and outer closure members which are resiliently maintained in contact with the respective faces of the container top.

A further object of the invention is to provide a dispensing container of the above type, wherein the container top is provided with spaced dispensing openings and with an elongated slot between the dispensing openings, and wherein the closure members are secured through the slot which serves to guide the closure members in their movement to various positions.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a dispensing container of the above type, wherein the inner closure member is formed of resilient material for maintaining the closure members in contact with the respective faces of the container top and for centering the closure members in a position for closing the dispensing openings.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a dispensing container of the above type which is inexpensive to manufacture, of relatively simple construction, and which is efficient in operation.

The above and other objects of the invention will in part be obvious, and will be hereinafter more fully pointed out.

In the accompanying drawing,

Figure 1 is a fragmentary side view, in section, showing a container with the closure means in an intermediate or closed position.

Figure 2 is a top plan view showing the closure means in a position for permitting dispensing of the contents of the container through one of the dispensing openings.

Figure 3 is a similar top plan view, showing, in dotted lines, the position of the closure means when the opposite dispensing opening is uncovered.

Referring more in detail to the accompanying drawing, the container is illustrated as including a body portion 10 having an outward bead 11 spaced from the upper edge thereof. The can top 12 is provided with a depending flange 13 which fits over the body portion 10 and abuts against the outward bead 11. It is to be clearly understood that the can top 12 may be secured to the body portion 10 in any suitable manner. For purposes of illustration, the container is illustrated as being substantially rectangular in shape. The can top 12 is provided with a substantially horizontal portion 12*a* and an upwardly bowed central portion 14, which is provided with an outwardly offset portion 15. This outwardly offset portion 15 is outwardly curved and forms an internal recess thereunder and the wall portion 16 joining the portions 14 and 15 of the can top defines an internal shoulder. The outwardly offset portion 15 is provided with transversely extending dispensing openings 17, 17*a*, at opposite ends thereof. Between the dispensing openings 17, 17*a* there is a longitudinal slot 18 extending through the offset portion 15. The portions 18*a*, 18*b* of the offset portion 15 serve to separate the ends of the slot 18 from the dispensing openings 17, 17*a*.

The closure means for the container includes an outer closure member 19 which may be provided with a knurled or roughened outer finger engaging surface 20. The outer closure member thus forms a knob and may be made of Bakelite or other suitable material. The inner surface of the knob 19 is curved to conform to the curvature of the outwardly offset portion 15 on the can top 12. The knob 19 is provided with a depending central boss 21 which is of substantially the thickness of the metal forming the offset portion 15. This boss 21 is illustrated as being rectangular in shape so as to snugly fit within the slot 18 in the outwardly offset portion 15. Thus, the boss 21 serves as a guide for the closure member 19 and also as a spacer for an inner spring closure member 22 which is secured thereto by a screw 23 or the like. The inner spring closure member is adapted to normally underlie the dispensing openings 17, 17*a* and slot 18 in the offset portion 15, as shown in Figure 1. The edges of the inner spring closure member 22 are turned downwardly, as at 24, and these edges abut against the internal shoulder formed by the joining wall portion 16. The outer closure member is dimensioned so as to overlie the dispensing openings 17, 17*a* and the slot 18 when in the intermediate position, shown in Figure 1. Thus, the edges 24 of the inner spring closure member 22 cooperate with the internal shoulder beneath the wall portion 16 to center and locate the closure members in the intermediate closing position. When in this intermediate closing position, the edges 24 of the

inner closure member 22 also serve to prevent accidental movement of the closure members.

When it is desired to uncover one of the openings 17, 17a for dispensing a portion of the contents of the container, finger pressure may be applied to the surface of the outer closure member 19 for shifting both closure members in unison. When the closure members are shifted to the position shown in Figure 2, the inner closure member 22 will ride over the inner shoulder of the wall portion 16 and the dispensing opening 17 will be uncovered. Finger pressure in the opposite direction on the outer closure member 19 will effect uncovering of the dispensing opening 17a in substantially the same manner.

From the foregoing description, it will be seen that the closure members 19, 22 are secured together for movement in unison from an intermediate closed position to one of two opening positions. The depending boss 21 on the outer closure member 19 cooperates with the edges of the slot 18 in the outwardly offset portion 15 to guide the closure members for rectilinear movement only. The inner spring closure member 22 serves to properly center the closure members in their intermediate position for closing the dispensing openings and also serves to prevent accidental movement of the closure members from this closed position. The closure members are limited in their movement to either of the open portions by engagement of the boss 21 with the portion 18a or 18b. Thus, when the dispensing opening 17 is uncovered, the depending boss 21 will abut against the portion 18a. Similarly, when the dispensing opening 17a is uncovered, the depending boss 21 will abut against the portion 18b.

It is to be clearly understood that various changes in the details of construction and arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A dispensing container comprising a body portion, a can top therefor having a slot and a dispensing opening at each end thereof, an outer closure member overlying said slot and said dispensing openings in the intermediate position thereof, a spring member abutting against the inner face of said can top, one of said members having a boss snugly fitting the side walls of said slot for guiding said members for rectilinear movement, and means extending through said boss for connecting said members for movement in unison for uncovering one or the other of said dispensing openings.

2. A dispensing container comprising a body portion, a can top therefor having a slot and a dispensing opening at each end, an outer closure member overlying said slot and said dispensing openings in the intermediate position thereof, an inner spring closure member abutting against the inner face of said can top, one of said closure members having a boss extending through said slot and contacting with the side edges thereof for guiding the said closure members for rectilinear movement, and means extending through said boss for connecting the said closure members for movement in unison for uncovering one or the other of said dispensing openings.

3. A dispensing container comprising a body portion, a can top therefor having a slot and a dispensing opening at each end thereof, an outer closure member overlying said slot and said dispensing openings in the intermediate position thereof and having a depending boss extending into said slot and contacting with the sides thereof, an inner spring closure member abutting against the inner face of said can top and underlying said slot and said dispensing openings in the intermediate position thereof, and means connecting said spring closure member with the boss on said outer closure member for permitting rectilinear movement of both said closure members in unison for uncovering one or the other of said dispensing openings.

4. A dispensing container comprising a body portion, a can top therefor having an outwardly offset central portion defining an internal recess thereunder, said outwardly offset portion being provided with a slot and a dispensing opening at each end thereof, an outer closure member overlying said slot and said dispensing openings in the intermediate position thereof, spring means abutting against the inner face of said can top and normally disposed within the recess beneath said outwardly offset portion for maintaining said outer closure member in its intermediate position, and means extending through said slot for connecting said spring means with said closure member, said connecting means cooperating with the edges of said slot for causing rectilinear movement of said closure member and said spring means in unison for uncovering one or the other of said dispensing openings.

5. A dispensing container comprising a body portion, a can top therefor having an outwardly offset central portion defining an internal recess thereunder, said outwardly offset portion being provided with a slot and a dispensing opening at each end thereof, an outer closure member overlying said slot and said dispensing openings in the intermediate position thereof, an inner spring closure member abutting against the inner face of said can top and normally disposed within the recess beneath said outwardly offset portion underlying said slot and said dispensing openings for maintaining the outer closure member in a closed position, and means extending through said slot for connecting said inner closure member to said outer closure member, said connecting means cooperating with the edges of said slot for causing rectilinear movement of both said closure members in unison for uncovering one or the other of said dispensing openings.

6. A dispensing container comprising a body portion, a can top therefor having an outwardly offset central portion defining an internal recess thereover, said outwardly offset portion being provided with a slot and a dispensing opening at each end thereof, an outer closure member overlying said slot and said dispensing openings in the intermediate position thereof and having a depending boss extending into said slot and snugly fitting against the edges thereof, an inner spring closure member abutting against the inner face of said can top and normally disposed within the recess beneath said outwardly offset portion underlying said slot and said dispensing openings for maintaining the outer closure member in a closed position, and means connecting said inner closure member with said depending boss for causing rectilinear movement of both said closure members in unison for uncovering one or the other of said dispensing openings.

7. A dispensing container comprising a body portion, a can top therefor, said can top having spaced dispensing openings and an intermediate longitudinal slot terminating short of the dispensing openings for providing stop means, an

outer closure member overlying said slot and said dispensing openings in the intermediate position thereof, an inner spring closure member abutting against the inner face of said can top, one of said closure members having a boss extending through said slot and contacting with the said edges thereof for guiding the closure members for rectilinear movement, and means extending through said boss for connecting said closure members for movement in unison for uncovering one or the other of said dispensing openings, said boss being adapted to abut against the can top at the ends of said slot for limiting movement of the closure members in either direction.

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