

June 9, 1942.

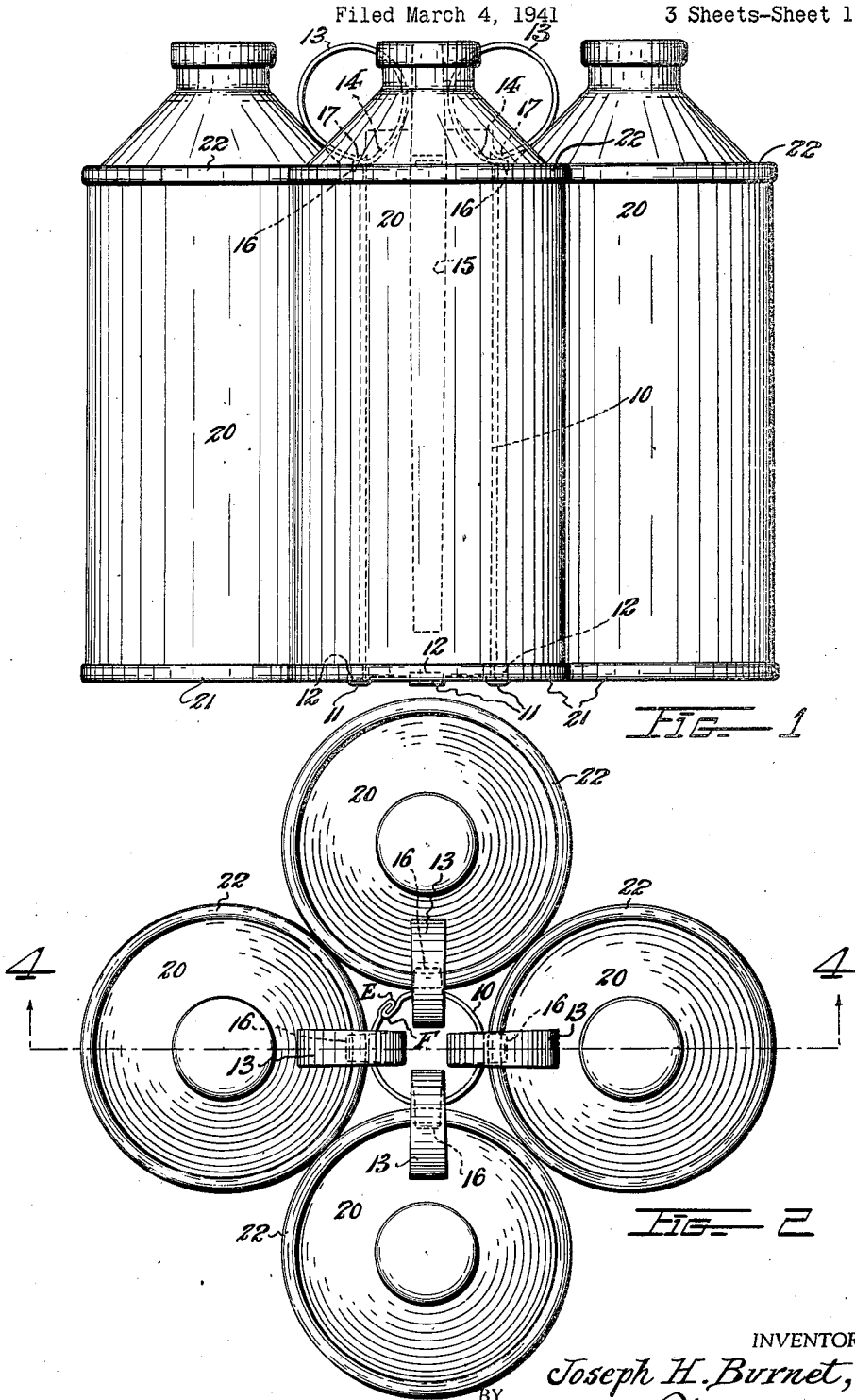
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2,285,801

CONTAINER CARRIER AND DISPLAY MEANS

Filed March 4, 1941

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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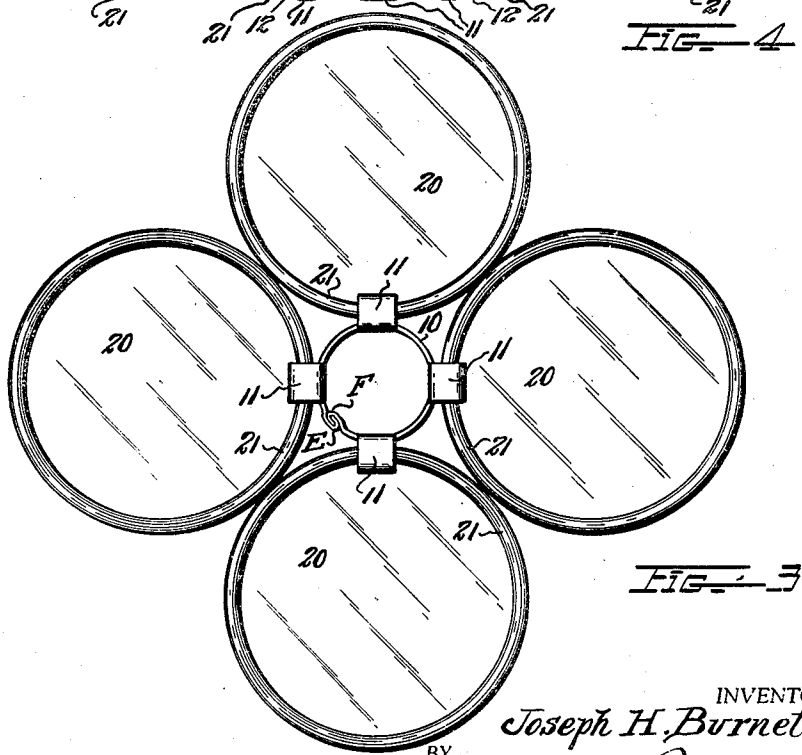
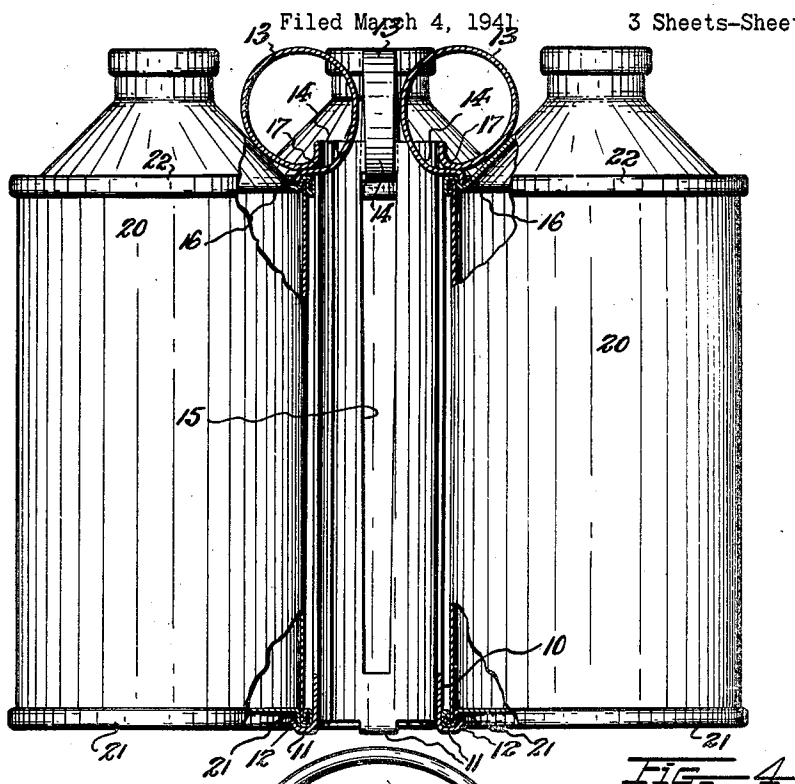
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CONTAINER CARRIER AND DISPLAY MEANS

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3 Sheets-Sheet 2



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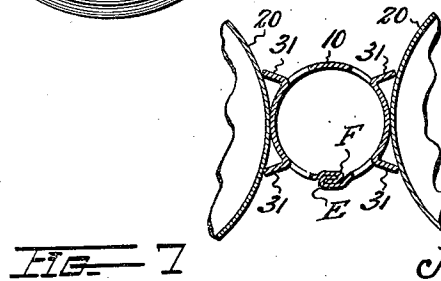
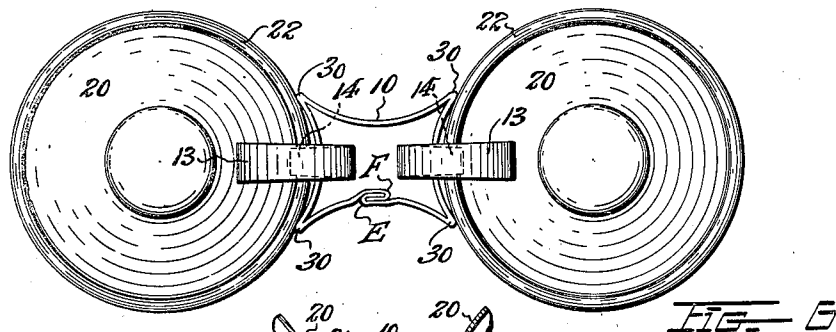
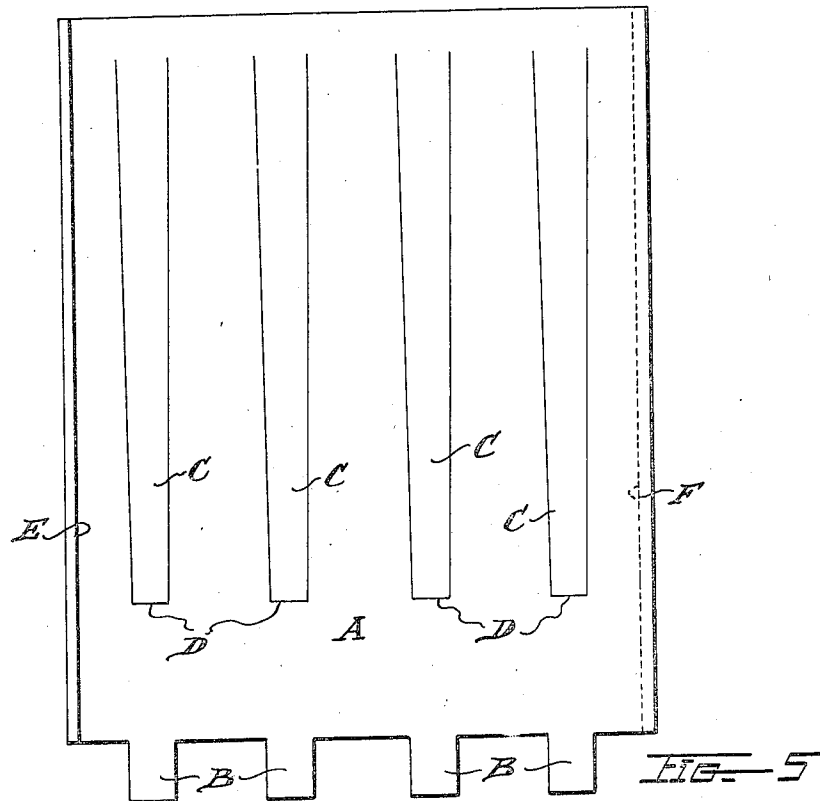
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CONTAINER CARRIER AND DISPLAY MEANS

Filed March 4, 1941

3 Sheets-Sheet 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CONTAINER CARRIER AND DISPLAY MEANS

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Application March 4, 1941, Serial No. 381,629

6 Claims. (Cl. 224-45)

This invention relates to carriers for cans and like containers, and the invention has reference, more particularly, to a novel construction of carrier for transporting a plurality of cans or the like.

This invention has for an object to provide a novel construction of carrier around the exterior of which a plurality of cans to be carried may be grouped and supportingly engaged or gripped by the carrier at inner side portions thereof in such manner that labels, advertising matter or the like on the exterior of the cans are exposed to view while the carrier itself is substantially concealed, and consequently, not only are the cans efficiently supported for transportation, but the same are so exposed that identity and advertising of the product packed therein by the external labels and dress of the cans is well displayed and suffers no concealment by the carrier means per se.

This invention has for a further object to provide a novel construction of carrier, for the purposes stated, which is adapted to be formed from flat sheet stock, such as a sheet metal stamping, which may be folded or rolled transversely upon itself and secured to provide a body of cylindrical shape, said body having means at its respective ends to supportingly engage and grip the upper and lower rims of the cans to be carried; the upper gripping means being of such novel form and being disposed in such novel relation to the body as to also provide the handle means of the carrier.

This invention has for another object to provide, in a carrier of the kind mentioned, novel can gripping means including a fixed bottom can rim engaging means and a movable top can rim engaging means; the latter comprising carrier handle loop means having a fulcrumed free end portion terminating in a rim gripping jaw, said free end portion having a lever-like action, when the carrier is lifted by the handle loop means, which strongly thrusts said jaw downwardly into engagement with the can top rim, and in such manner as to cooperate with the fixed bottom can rim engaging means in exerting a tong-like gripping of a can body between said top and bottom engaging means.

Other objects of this invention, not at this time more particularly enumerated, will be understood from the following detailed description of the same.

Illustrative embodiments of this invention are shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a plurality

of cans operatively assembled with a carrier means according to this invention for transportation thereby; Fig. 2 is a top end view of the same; Fig. 3 is a bottom end view of the same; and Fig. 4 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the same, taken on line 4-4 in Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the blank from which a carrier means, such as shown in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive is produced.

Fig. 6 is a top end view of a plurality of cans operatively assembled with a somewhat modified form of the carrier means according to this invention; and Fig. 7 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view of another modification of the carrier.

Similar characters of reference are employed in the above described views, to indicate corresponding parts.

The novel carrier of this invention, in one form thereof as illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, is produced from a sheet metal blank A, such as shown in Fig. 5. The blank A is of rectangular shape, of suitable width, and of a height adapted to suitably conform to the requirements of the cans desired to be served by the carrier formed from the blank. The width of the blank will be so predetermined that, when the blank is rolled transversely upon itself into cylindrical shape, the resulting carrier body will be properly sized to accommodate the grouping of a desired number of cans to be carried around the same in laterally abutting relation. In the illustrative carrier shown in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, the body thereof is so devised as to accommodate four cans, but it will be obvious that the carrier body may be made to accommodate more or less than such number of cans. The blank A is provided along its bottom margin with spaced projecting tongues B, corresponding in number to the number of cans to be accommodated by the carrier, said tongues providing the elements from which can bottom rim engaging means of the carrier are formed. Struck from the blank A in alignment with and corresponding in number to the tongues B are a plurality of downwardly extending tapered strips C having free ends D, the same providing elements from which the combined handle loop and can top rim engaging means of the carrier are formed. The longitudinal side marginal portions of the blank A are doubled back upon themselves to provide cooperative interengageable hook-like coupling lips E and F for securing the blank in cylindrical carrier body shape.

In forming the carrier from the above described blank, the blank is folded or rolled transversely upon itself to provide a carrier body 10 of cylindrical shape, the same being retained in such shape by interengaging or hooking, one into the other, the coupling lips E and F. The tongues B are bent outwardly from the lower end of the carrier body 10 to project therefrom, and thus provide can bottom supporting and engaging elements 11, the free end portions of which are upturned to provide can rim engaging or gripper lips 12. The tapered strips C, which are integral with and spring from the upper end portion of the carrier body 10, are outwardly and upwardly and then inwardly and downwardly turned to form loop members 13 projecting upwardly from the upper end of the carrier body 10. Said loop members each terminate at their inner sides in a free end portion, hereinafter referred to as the lever portion 14, which is threaded or passed through the opening 15 in the body wall that is left by the displacement of the given strip C, so that the free terminal end of said lever portion 14 projects exteriorly of the wall of the carrier body 10. The tip of each lever portion 14 is downturned to provide a can rim engaging or gripper lip 16.

In assembling cans with the carrier for transport thereby, the cans 20 are grouped in laterally abutting relation around the carrier body 10, and in such manner that each can bottom rim 21 rests upon a bottom supporting element 11, the gripper lip 12 of which hooks behind the inner side of said rim 21, whereby the lower end of the can 20 is both supported and held against displacement from the carrier body. The outwardly projecting free end parts of the lever portions 14 extend over the can top rims 22, in such manner that said can rims are gripped thereby with the gripper lips 16 hooked behind the inner side thereof, whereby the upper ends of the cans are held against displacement from the carrier body. The relation of the lever portions 14 to the butt ends 17 of the loop members 13 is such that the former are fulcrumed on the latter, so that the natural spring or tension of the loop members tends to rock the lever portions 14 about their fulcrum points so as to swing downward the tips thereof and the gripper lips 16 tensionally against the can top rims 22. When transporting the assembled cans by the carrier, the user inserts fingers through the loop members 13, and lifts and carries the assembly thereby. Under these circumstances the weight of the assembly so stresses the loop members 13 as to further increase the leverage action and bearing of the lever portions 14 upon the can top rims, whereby the cans are gripped endwise between the bottom and top rim engaging elements with a tongs-like effect, the gripping pressure of which is thus enhanced by the weight of the assembly. It will therefore be apparent that the heavier the cans the stronger will be the tongs-like grip exerted thereupon by the engaging parts of the carrier, and consequently the can assembly is assured of being safely transported without risk of displacement of the cans from the carrier. Since the cans abut one another laterally, no possibility of sidewise displacement of the cans relative to the carrier wall occurs.

It will thus be obvious that a very simple and yet effective can engaging and carrying means is provided; the same being of such novel form, and being related to the carried cans in such

novel manner, that the exposed exterior surfaces of the cans are not hidden, and consequently labels and advertising matter provided thereon is advantageously displayed to view.

It may be desired to provide the carrier in a form suitable for carrying one or two or more cans in laterally spaced non-abutting relation, as, for example, in the manner shown in Fig. 6. In such case, the carrier body 10 may be modified in cross sectional shape so as to provide laterally spaced abutments 30 to brace the assembled can or cans against lateral displacement relative to the carrier body 10, when gripped by the top and bottom rim engaging elements. In Fig. 7 is shown another modified arrangement suitable for this purpose, wherein the spaced abutments adapted to engage the can sides comprise abutment lugs 31 struck out of the carrier body 10 to radially project therefrom, and between which a can to be carried is disposed, subject to engagement by the top and bottom rim engaging or gripping elements of the carrier.

The carrier device may be knocked down into a substantially flat shape for storage, shipment, etc., by disengaging the coupling lips E and F, and unfolding the body 10 to flat condition, with the strips C straightened out and laid in the plane of the body 10.

I am aware that various changes could be made in the constructions above described and shown in the accompanying drawings, and many apparently widely different embodiments of this invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof. It is therefore intended that all matter shown in the accompanying drawings or contained in the above description shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. A carrier for cans which have projecting top and bottom rims comprising, a body formed from sheet material against which the side of a can to be carried may abut, said body having at its lower part can bottom rim engaging means, and said body having at its upper part a convolute loop element having a free end portion to project through and exteriorly of the body, said free end portion terminating in can top rim engaging means, said loop element serving as the handle means of the carrier.

2. A carrier for cans which have projecting top and bottom rims comprising, a body formed from sheet material into cylindrical shape around which cans to be carried are grouped, said body having at its lower part can bottom rim engaging means, and said body having at its upper part convolute loop elements struck out of the body material to extend outwardly and upwardly and then inwardly and downwardly to terminate in lever portions adapted to project exteriorly through said body wall so as to be fulcrumed on the butt portions of the loop elements, said lever portions terminating in can top rim engaging means, and said loop elements serving as the handle means of the carrier.

3. In a carrier for cans which have projecting top and bottom rims, a body formed from sheet material, said body having at its lower end an outwardly projecting means terminating in a gripper lip adapted to supportingly embrace a can bottom rim, said body having a strip struck therefrom which extends lengthwise of the body from an anchor point adjacent the upper end thereof to terminate in a free end, said strip

being in alignment with said can bottom rim supporting means, said strip being formed into a convolute loop element extending outwardly and upwardly and then inwardly and downwardly to terminate in a lever portion adapted to project exteriorly through the body wall opening left by displacement of said strip and so as to be fulcrumed on the butt portion of said loop element, said lever portion terminating in means including a gripper lip adapted to embracingly engage and thrust against the can top rim, and said loop element serving as a carrier handle means.

4. In a carrier for cans which have projecting top and bottom rims, a body formed from sheet material, said body having at its lower end an outwardly projecting means terminating in a gripper lip adapted to supportingly embrace a can bottom rim, said body having a strip struck therefrom which extends lengthwise of the body from an anchor point adjacent the upper end thereof to terminate in a free end, said strip being in alignment with said can bottom rim supporting means, said strip being formed into a convolute loop element extending outwardly and upwardly and then inwardly and downwardly to terminate in a lever portion adapted to project exteriorly through the body wall opening left by displacement of said strip and so as to be fulcrumed on the butt portion of said loop element, said lever portion terminating in means including a gripper lip adapted to embracingly engage and thrust against the can top rim, said loop element serving as a carrier handle means, and said body having outwardly projecting laterally spaced abutments to support a can against sidewise displacement when gripped by the top and bottom rim engaging means.

5. A carrier for cans which have projecting top and bottom rims comprising, a body formed from sheet material into cylindric form shape around which cans to be carried are grouped, said body having at its lower end spaced radially projecting supporting tongues terminating in gripper lip portions adapted to supportingly embrace the bottom rims of cans applied thereto, said body having strips struck therefrom to extend lengthwise thereof from anchor points adjacent the

upper end of the body and respectively in alignment with the respective can bottom rim supporting means, said strips terminating in free ends, each strip being formed into a convolute loop element extending outwardly and upwardly and then inwardly and downwardly relative to the upper end of the body and so as to terminate in lever portions adapted to project exteriorly through a body wall opening left by displacement of the strip, said lever portions being fulcrumed on the butt portions of loop elements from which they extend, and said lever portions terminating in means including gripper lips adapted to embracingly engage and thrust against the top rims of cans applied to the body, said loop elements serving as the handle means of the carrier.

6. A carrier for cans which have projecting top and bottom rims comprising, a body formed from sheet material into cylindric form shape around which cans to be carried are grouped, said body having at its lower end spaced radially projecting supporting tongues terminating in gripper lip portions adapted to supportingly embrace the bottom rims of cans applied thereto, said body having strips struck therefrom to extend lengthwise thereof from anchor points adjacent the upper end of the body and respectively in alignment with the respective can bottom rim supporting means, said strips terminating in free ends, each strip being formed into a convolute loop element extending outwardly and upwardly and then inwardly and downwardly relative to the upper end of the body and so as to terminate in lever portions adapted to project exteriorly through a body wall opening left by displacement of the strip, said lever portions being fulcrumed on the butt portions of loop elements from which they extend, said lever portions terminating in means including gripper lips adapted to embracingly engage and thrust against the top rims of cans applied to the body, said loop elements serving as the handle means of the carrier, and said body having outwardly projecting laterally spaced abutments to support applied cans against sidewise displacement when gripped by top and bottom rim engaging means.

JOSEPH H. BURNET.