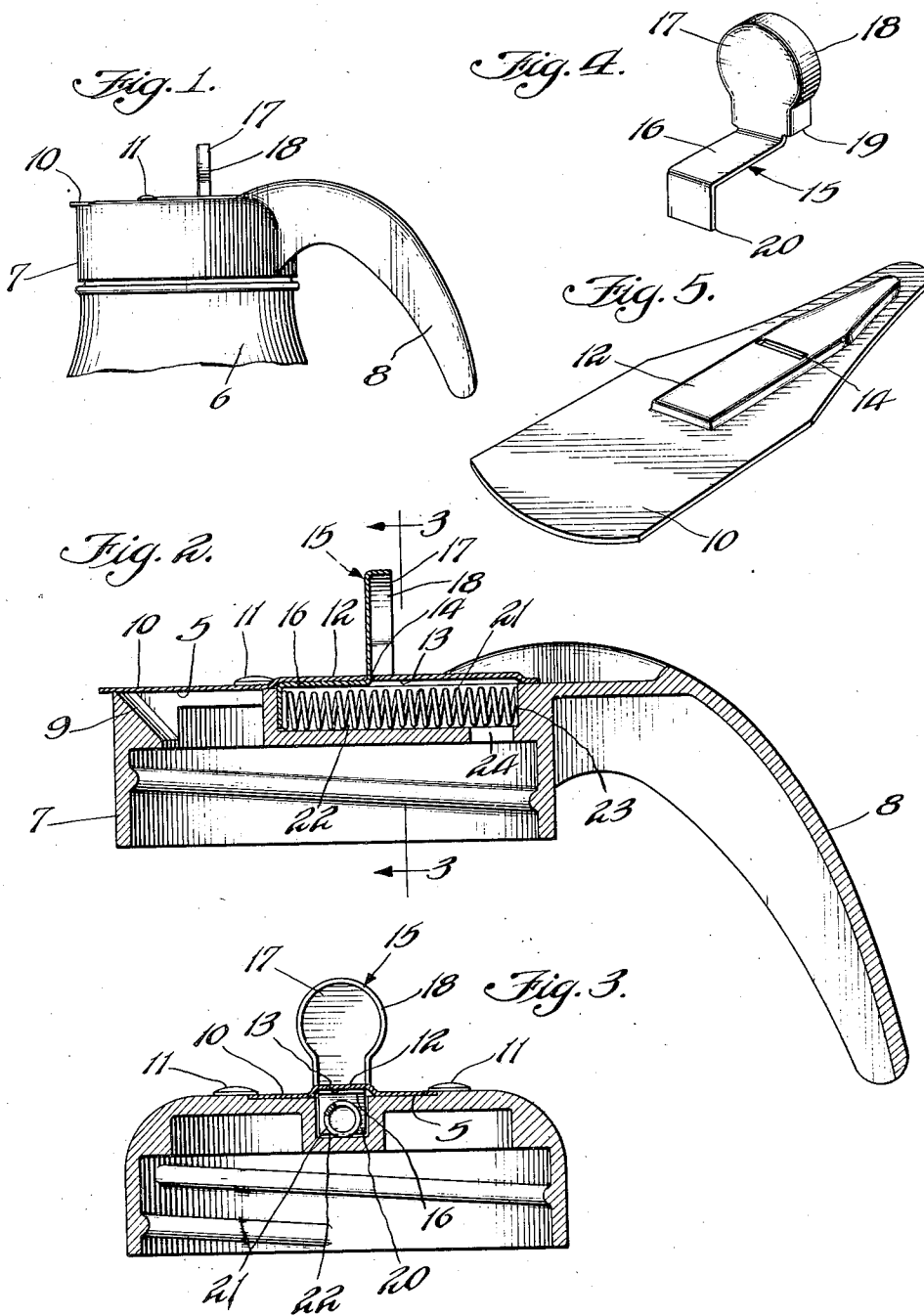


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R. BERNHARDT
SERVER OR DISPENSER
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INVENTOR.
Rudolph Bernhardt
BY *Glenn S. Noble*
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SERVER OR DISPENSER

Rudolph Bernhardt, Chicago, Ill.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 65-31)

This invention relates to servers or dispensers such as syrup pitchers or the like, having spring-pressed closures or slides for closing the spouts and is particularly directed to means associated with the slides for opening the same and for providing abutments for the closure springs.

Heretofore devices of this kind have been proposed or used in which the slide is provided with a button riveted or otherwise attached thereto to provide a finger or thumb piece and other means provided on the slide for engagement with the spring.

In accordance with the present invention I provide a combined thumb piece and spring abutment or retainer which may be readily applied to the slide and will remain in operative position without being rigidly secured thereto.

In general the objects of the present invention are to provide an improved slide or closure blade for containers, having a combined thumb piece and spring engaging member detachably engaging therewith; to provide a novel thumb piece for a server cut-off or closure blade; to provide a combined thumb piece and spring abutment which may be readily and cheaply made and easily applied to the blade; and to provide such other advantages and improvements as will appear more fully hereinafter.

In the accompanying drawing illustrating this invention,

Figure 1 is a side view of the top portion of a pitcher or server embodying this invention;

Figure 2 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3-3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the thumb piece member; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the slide or blade.

As shown in the drawing, 6 indicates any suitable container having a cap or top 7 provided with a handle 8. The cap has a pouring spout 9 on the side opposite from the handle and has a guideway 5 for receiving and guiding a cut-off slide or closure blade 10, preferably of the form shown in Figure 5. This blade is held in operative position by means of buttons or retainers 11.

The blade 10 has a longitudinal embossment or raised portion 12 providing a bearing or recess 13 on the inner side thereof. The embossment is also provided with a transverse slot 14 positioned at some distance from the forward end thereof as shown in Figure 5.

The thumb piece or actuating member 15 is preferably made substantially as shown in Figure 4, and includes a longitudinal strip or tongue 16 which is adapted to fit in the recess 13, and a thumb piece 17 which extends upwardly through the slot 14, and which has a substantially circumferential flange portion 18. The lower edges 19 of the flange or thumb portion engage with the top surface of the blade when in operative position and extend slightly beyond the ends of the slot 14. The forward end of the tongue 16 is bent downwardly or at substantially right angles to provide a projection or abutment 20 which is engaged by one end of an operating spring 21 as shown in Figure 2. This spring is mounted in a channel 22 in the cap or cover 7 which is preferably made of plastic material with the channel formed integrally therein. The opposite end of the spring engages with an abutment 23 forming one end of the channel. The cap may also be provided with a vent 24 which is located adjacent the rear end of the channel.

It will be readily seen that the blades 10 and the operating members 15 may be easily stamped from sheet metal and made at a very low cost. When the parts are to be assembled the projection or abutment 20 and the tongue 16 are inserted in the slot 14 and then swung up to operative position as shown in Figure 2, with the shoulders 19 resting on the top of the slide. The tongue and the spring are then assembled in position in the cap or top as shown in Figure 2. When thus assembled the spring engages with the projection or abutment 20 and tends to urge the slide or blade 10 to closed position, and also holds the operating member 15 in its operating position.

When the server is to be used the operator will ordinarily grasp the handle 8 with the thumb against the thumb piece 17 and press back on the thumb piece to open the slide to permit the contents to pass out the spout. When the thumb is removed the slide will be returned to closed position by means of the spring.

While I have shown my improved operating member or thumb piece as applied to a particular form of slide, it is apparent that these parts may be modified or made of different shapes for other forms of servers and therefore I do not wish to be limited to the particular construction herein shown and described except as specified in the following claims, in which I claim:

1. In combination, a spout closure blade having a longitudinal embossment providing a recess on the lower side thereof and having a transverse

slot in the embossed portion, an operating member having a narrow strip adapted to be inserted through the slot and having one end bent to form an abutment for a spring, the opposite end of the member extending upwardly and having a flanged portion with its lower edge resting on the blade and tending to hold said portion at right angles to the blade.

2. A container of the character set forth, having a cap with a spout at one side thereof and having a guideway in the upper surface in alignment with the spout, and a channel extending longitudinally of the guideway, a cut-off blade slidably mounted in the guideway, means for holding the blade in the guideway, a blade operating member having one portion extending through the blade into said channel and providing an abutment for one end of a spring, a spring interposed between the abutment and the oppo-

site end of the channel, said operating member also extending upwardly from the blade and providing a thumb piece for moving the blade to open position.

5 3. The combination with a container having a cap provided with a spout, of a blade slidably mounted on the cap for opening and closing the spout, said blade having a transverse slot therein, an actuating member having a thumb piece extending upwardly through the slot, and also having a tongue at right angles to the thumb piece engaging with the lower surface of the blade, the end of the tongue being bent downwardly at substantially right angles to the blade, and a spring coacting with the cap and the downwardly bent end of the tongue tending to urge the blade to closing position.

RUDOLPH BERNHARDT.