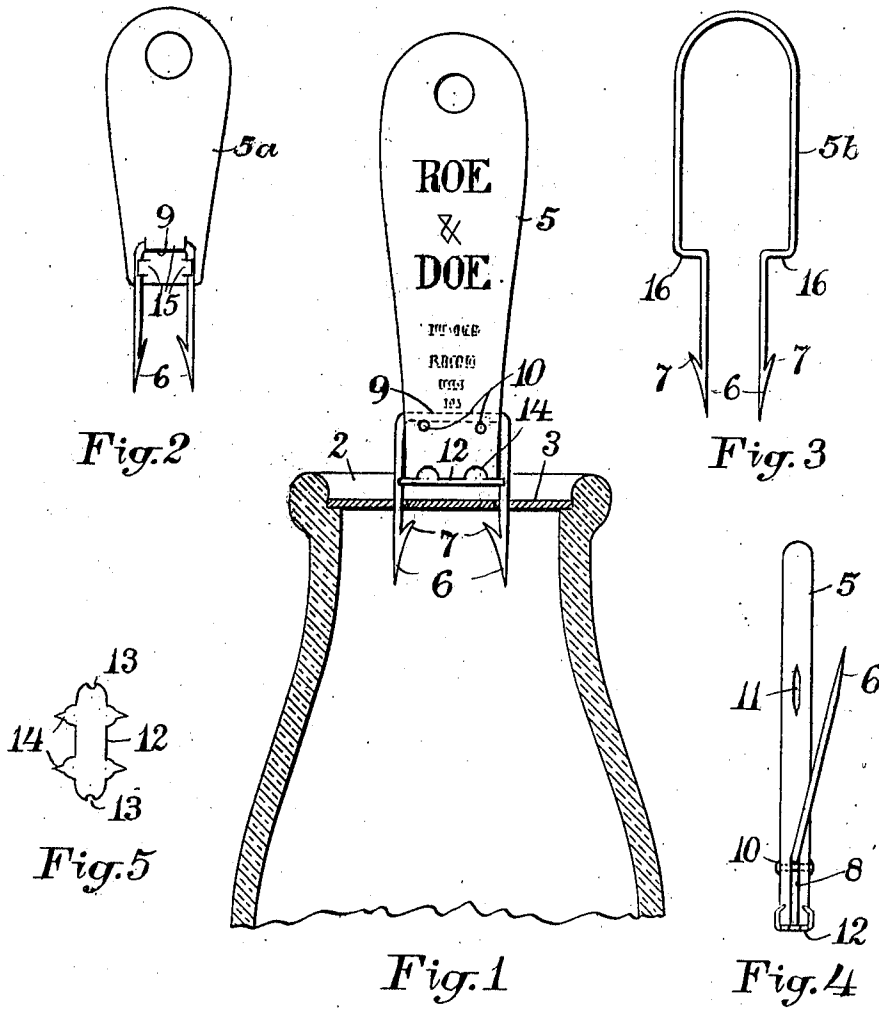


E. A. SIMMS.
MILK TOP REMOVER.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 4, 1910.

970,759.

Patented Sept. 20, 1910.



Witnesses;
E. E. Waite
M. P. Healy

Inventor,
Erskine A. Simms;
By *A. B. Upsham*
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERSKINE A. SIMMS, OF BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS.

MILK-TOP REMOVER.

970,759.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 20, 1910.

Application filed March 4, 1910. Serial No. 547,233.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERSKINE A. SIMMS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Belmont, in the county of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Milk-Top Removers, of which the following is a specification.

It is customary to seal milk jars and the like by means of heavy paper disks pressed down into the mouths thereof. For removing such disks, several expedients have been adopted, such as providing them with permanently connected lips, strings and the like, and even special tools adapted to be thrust through the disks for engagement therewith and to thereby pull the latter out.

My invention is in the last-recited class, and it relates to certain details of construction hereinafter set forth.

Referring to the drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a vertical section of the upper part of a milk jar, showing its seal-disk about to be removed by a device made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a face view of a modification of the same. Fig. 3 is a similar view of still another modification. Fig. 4 is an edge view of the preferred form of the invention. Fig. 5 is a face view of the locking cap used in the preferred form.

As shown in Fig. 1, the milk jar 1 is formed with a slightly overhung mouth 2 closed by the seal-disk 3. The seal remover comprises a handle 5 having a plurality of barbed points 6, preferably two, projecting therefrom. By thrusting these points, or tines, down through the disk 3, the barbs 7 thereof engage the disk as they are drawn upward, and thereby remove it with them.

In my preferred construction, that shown in Fig. 1, the handle 5 is of wood given a substantially handle-shape as viewed in the position here illustrated, but made flat and thin, as shown in Fig. 4.

I prefer to make the points 6 as the extremities of a single length of wire bent parallel with each other, as in Figs. 1 and 2, and secure it to the wooden handle in the following manner: In the lower end of the handle 5, and parallel with the flat faces thereof, is sawed a narrow slit 8 fitted to tightly receive the wire 9. After the wire bident has been pressed up into this slit, one or more nails or pins 10 are driven

through the wood close beneath the wire for preventing the bident's withdrawal. This permits the bident's being swung up as shown in Fig. 4, until its barbs engage notches 11 in the edges of the handle, and so retain the bident in such position. This fits the remover for transportation and storage; and considerably reducing the cost of packaging them when sold at retail.

To retain the bident 6 in its usable position, I provide a sheet metal cap 12 for fastening over the end of the handle, and having notches 13 in its ends adapted to be engaged by the bident, as in Figs. 1 and 5, and thereby keep the latter rigidly in line with the handle. This cap is preferably formed with spurs 14 at its edges adapted to be bent over into the handle as in Fig. 4, for securing it in place.

Ordinarily, the wire bident rests in said notches 13 and is capable of indefinite use without accidental disengagement; but when it is desired to swing the bident up beside the handle, the wire can be easily sprung apart sufficiently to withdraw its members from said notches and permit the desired act.

In the construction set forth in Fig. 2, the handle 5^a is of sheet metal having spurs 15 struck up therefrom, beneath which the fork can be fastened to the handle.

In Fig. 3 is illustrated a form of the invention wherein a single length of wire composes both the handle and the points. The handle-section 5^b is joined to the points by shoulders 16, the purpose of which is to provide means for pressing the impaled disk back again into the jar, in case the housewife wishes to close the jar after the use of a part of its contents. This gives the remover the function of a handle to remain in the disk so long as desired.

In the constructions set forth in Figs. 1 and 2, the lower ends of the handles serve the purpose of the shoulders just described.

I prefer to make the handles of wood and flat, in order to employ the same for advertising purposes, as illustrated in Fig. 1. The wood is not only inexpensive, but permits the ready printing thereon of advertising matter.

In the construction shown in Fig. 1, the barbs 7 are made to face each other in order to permit their engagement with the wooden handle when turned up; the latter serving

both to hold the bident thus adjusted, and to guard the barbs from injuring anything when so placed.

What I claim as my invention and for which I desire Letters Patent is as follows, to wit:—

1. A milk-top remover comprising a handle, a wire bent into a U-shape having its extremities sharpened, and means pivotally securing the same to said handle and fastening it rigid therewith.

2. A milk top remover comprising a handle, and a single length of wire bent into a U-shape and having its extremities sharpened and barbed, and means pivotally securing the intermediate section of the wire to said handle for permitting said pointed and barbed ends to be swung up beside the handle.

3. A milk top remover comprising a thin flat handle, a single length of wire bent into a U-shape and having its ends sharpened

and barbed, means pivotally securing the intermediate section of the wire to the handle and notched locking means for normally holding said sharpened ends projecting from the handle.

4. A milk top remover comprising a flat handle having a notch in its end, a single length of wire bent into a U-shape and having its ends sharpened and barbed, means for fastening the intermediate section of said wire in said notch, and a terminally notched metal plate adapted to be fastened upon the notched end of the handle, and to receive the wire members in its said notches.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing invention, I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of February, 1910.

ERSKINE A. SIMMS.

Witnesses:

ALBERT F. AMEE,
CORA B. HENNAN.