June 30, 1942. T. H. JENKINS 2,288,359

DETACHABLE HANDLE FOR CANS

Filed Sept. 9, 1940 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

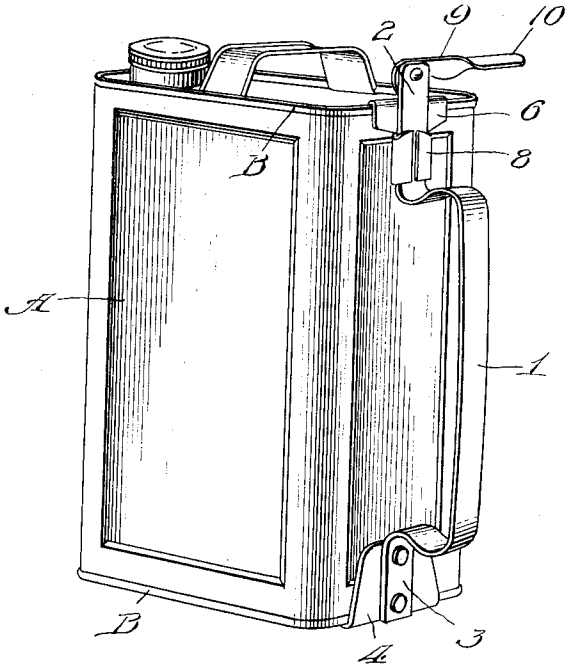


Fig. 2.

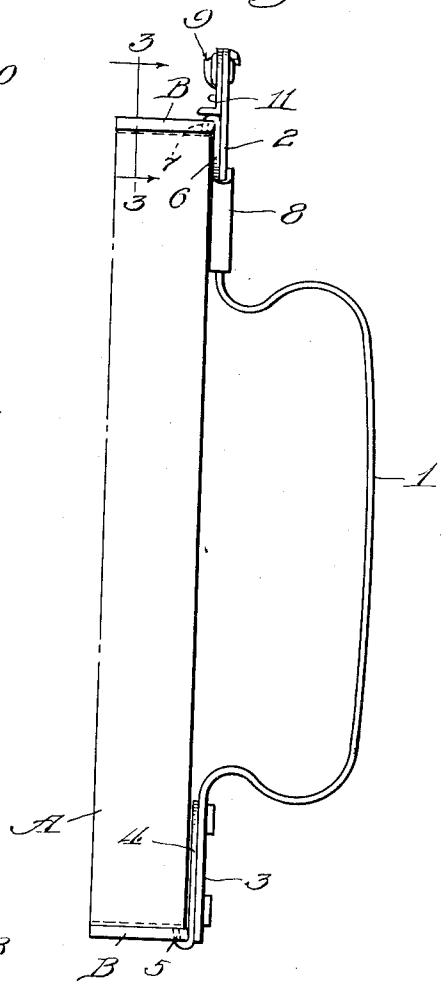


Fig. 3.

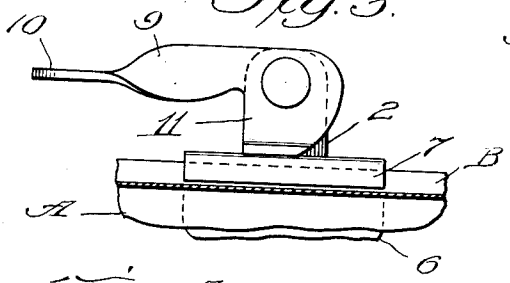
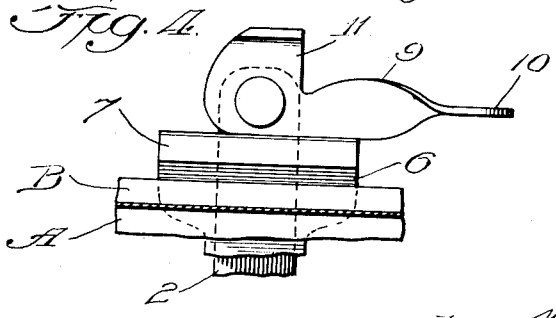


Fig. 4.



Inventor:
Tazewell H. Jenkins,
by W. F. Freudenreich,
Atty.

June 30, 1942. T. H. JENKINS 2,288,359

DETACHABLE HANDLE FOR CANS

Filed Sept. 9, 1940 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 6.

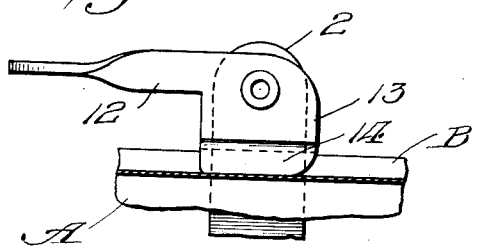


Fig. 5.

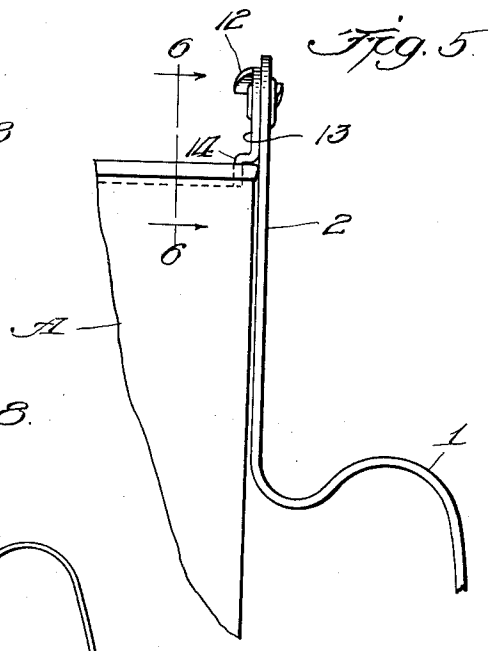


Fig. 7.

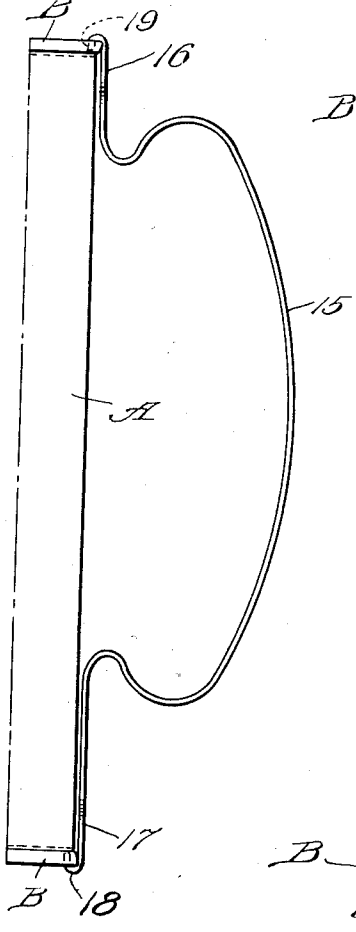


Fig. 8.

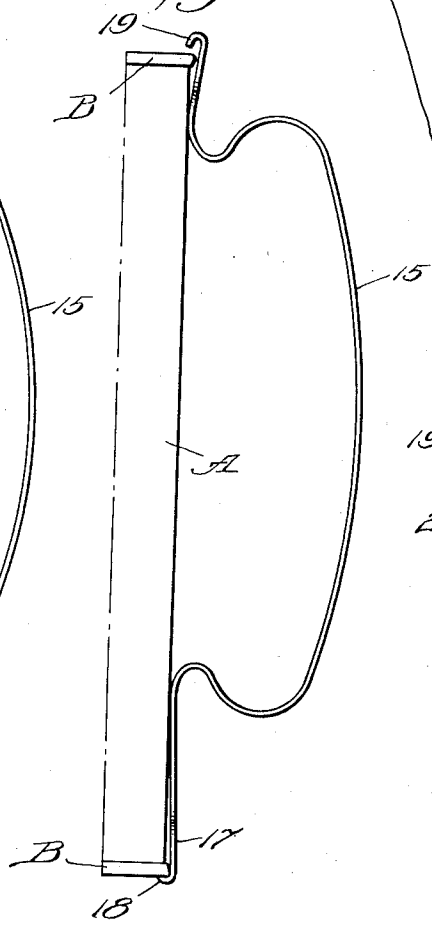
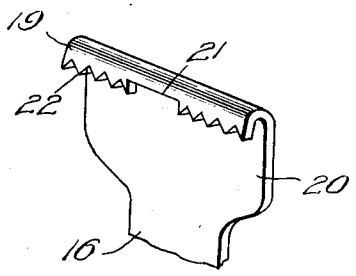


Fig. 9.



Inventor:
Tazewell H. Jenkins,
By Wm. F. Freudenreich,
Atty

Patented June 30, 1942 2,288,359

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,288,359

DETACHABLE HANDLE FOR CANS

Tazewell H. Jenkins, Chicago, Ill.

Application September 9, 1940, Serial No. 355,901

5 Claims. (Cl. 294—34)

Many fluids, employed as beverages and for other purposes, are sold in tin cans having a capacity of a gallon or more. Such cans are usually provided in their upper ends with pouring outlets and have at such ends handles for carrying them about. When it is desired to pour liquid from such a can, two hands are usually required to hold and adjust the can properly to direct and control the liquid stream leaving the can. The object of the present invention is to make it possible easily to handle a can of the aforesaid type, or other similar receptacle or container, by means of one hand only, in the act of pouring; thereby leaving the other hand of the user free for other purposes.

In order not to require any modification of the structure of the can or other container, I provide holding means that may temporarily be attached thereto for pouring purposes. Therefore, viewed in one of its aspects, the present invention may be said to have for its object to produce a simple and novel handle that may be attached and detached, at will, to a large can or like container to permit the latter to be supported and manipulated, for pouring purposes, with one hand only.

The various features of novelty whereby my invention is characterized will hereinafter be pointed out with particularity in the claims; but, for a full understanding of my invention and of its objects and advantages, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a common form of can having one of my improved handles attached thereto; Fig. 2 is a side view, on a larger scale than Fig. 1, showing a fragment of the can and the handle; Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 2, on a still larger scale; Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3, illustrating the locking device for the handle in its release position; Fig. 5 is a side view of a fragment of a can, showing a slightly modified form of handle attached thereto; Fig. 6 is a section on line 6—6 of Fig. 5; Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing a still further modification of the handle; Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 7, showing the handle sprung properly to detach it from the can; and Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the upper end of the handle shown in Figs. 7 and 8, but on a larger scale than that of the latter figures.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 4 of the drawings, A represents a can or other container having around the top and bottom flanges B, commonly formed in the operation of uniting the can ends to the body; the flange or bead at the top extending upwardly and that at the bottom extending downwardly.

1 is a handle in the form of a bar-like member bent into the form of a shallow flattened U, the free ends of which are bent laterally in the outward direction, as indicated at 2 and 3. The member 1 may be formed of any suitable material and may be built up in any suitable way or, as shown, be composed of a single strap-like piece of steel. Each of the end pieces 2 and 3 is provided with a hook-shaped part or lip which is adapted to be engaged over one of the beads or flanges on the can, gripping the same and holding the handle in fixed relation to the can while extending lengthwise of the latter from one end to the other. In the arrangement shown, there is secured to the lower end section 3 of the handle a fairly wide plate 4 the lower marginal portion of which is bent laterally and upwardly to provide a lip 5 spaced a short distance from and lying behind the plate. In other words, the lip 5 and the plate 4 provide a trough into which the flange or bead around the bottom of the can may be set. A plate 6, similar to the plate 4, and provided with a lip 7 corresponding to the lip 5, is engaged with the upper end section 2 of the handle. However, in the arrangement shown, the plate 6 is not fixed to the handle but is slidable lengthwise thereof; this being brought about by lengthening the plate 6 in the downward direction and folding it laterally from opposite sides to produce a flattened sleeve 8 that surrounds and is a sliding fit on the handle section 2. This arrangement permits the plate 6 to be moved upwardly along the handle bar to bring the lip above the upper flange or bead on the can, as shown in Fig. 4, after the plate 4 has been engaged with the lower end of the can. Then, by dropping the plate 6 down, it can be engaged with the upper flange, as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3.

Some means must be provided to press the plate down and hold it there while the handle is in use. To accomplish this, I have made the handle section 2 long enough to cause it to project somewhat above the can to which the handle is to be applied. Lying behind the handle above the plate 6, and pivotally secured to the handle, is a little lever 9 having a long arm provided at the free end with a finger piece 10 and a short arm 11 having a cam-shaped edge. In one position of the lever, namely that illustrated in Fig. 4, the cam-shaped end projects upwardly so as to permit the plate 6 to be lifted high enough to permit the lip 7 to clear the flange or bead on the can. On the other hand, when the lever is swung in the counter-clockwise direction from the position that it occupies in Fig. 4, the cam portion thereof engages with the upper edge of the plate 6 and, eventually, exerts a pressure that draws the handle up until it grips the can firmly at the bottom and forces the plate 6 down until the flange at the top of the can is firmly seated in the trough of that plate.

It will be seen that the hand-hold portion of

the handle is very long, so that it may be gripped at various points lengthwise of the can to cause the can to be balanced, when supported by this handle in the pouring position, regardless of the amount of liquid contained in the can at any given time. It will also be seen that the handle, although rigidly secured to the can after being applied thereto, can be quickly detached. Thus, the same handle may be used on an indefinite number of cans. Furthermore, if it be desired by the manufacturer or seller of the filled cans to supply each can with a pouring handle, shipping space need not be wasted by reason of the presence of the handle on the can as it leaves the factory; but the handle may be shipped separately or each may be placed alongside the corresponding can when the cans are packaged for shipping.

When a long bearing on the upper flange of the can is not needed, the plate 6 may be omitted, and the lever 12 corresponding to the lever 9 may have its short end 13 provided with a lip 14, corresponding to the lip 7, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. In Fig. 6 the handle is shown fastened to the can. When the handle is to be taken off, the lever 12 is simply swung in the clockwise direction through an angle of ninety degrees or more, thereby carrying the lip 14 above the flange B and leaving the handle free to be lifted off the can.

In Figs. 7, 8 and 9, there is illustrated a handle in its simplest form, consisting of a single member suitably shaped. In this construction the handle consists of a long bow-shaped member 15 which should be of spring metal. At the ends of the bow-shaped section are straight end sections 16 and 17, corresponding to the end sections 2 and 3 in the first form. The extreme ends of the handle member are bent rearwardly and then downwardly and upwardly, respectively, to provide lips 18 and 19, corresponding to the lips 5 and 7 of the first form. The parts are so proportioned that when the handle is flattened somewhat, as shown in Fig. 8, and the lower lip is hooked under the bottom flange of the can, the upper hook or lip lies a little above the upper flange when the upper end of the handle is placed against the side of the can. Then, when the handle is allowed to spring back and assume a sharper curvature, the upper hook or lip engages with the upper flange on the can, as shown in Fig. 7. Preferably the handle tends to assume a curvature which is still sharper than that of Fig. 7, so that it remains under tension even after both ends have gripped the corresponding flanges on the can, thereby holding the handle tightly in place.

If a long bearing is desired between the can and the ends of the handle, the handle may be widened at both ends as it is in the form illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4. Thus, as shown in Fig. 9, the handle bar is widened at the ends to produce plate-like sections 20 corresponding to the plates 4 and 6 of the first form. Furthermore, in order to facilitate the removal of the handle from the can, I prefer to provide the lip 19 with means to serve as a fulcrum for the end of a screwdriver or other implement by means of which the upper lip or hook may be pried up until it is clear of the top flange of the can. In the arrangement shown, a little notch 21 is cut in the long free edge of the lip 19. Thus, while the main portion of that edge may be pressing tightly against the top of the can, the notch leaves a portion of that edge free to be engaged by an instrument to pull or otherwise force the lip out into its released position. In order to prevent the handle from slipping sidewise on the can, the lips 18 and 19 may be provided with sharp points or teeth at their free, long edges, as indicated at 22. These teeth bite into the metal of the can ends and serve to hold the handle against sidewise movements relative to the can as long as they are subject to the spring pressure of the handle.

While I have illustrated and described with particularity only a single preferred form of my invention, with a few modifications, I do not desire to be limited to the exact structural details thus illustrated and described; but intend to cover all forms and arrangements which come within the definitions of my invention constituting the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A pouring handle for a container having peripheral flanges projecting upwardly from the top and downwardly from the bottom, comprising a bar having at one end a lip adapted to be engaged over one of said flanges, a slide mounted on the other end of the bar and having a lip adapted to be engaged over the other of said flanges, and a cam device pivoted directly on the bar beyond the outer end of the slide in position to act upon and lock said slide against movement in a direction to spread the lips apart.

2. A pouring handle for a container having peripheral flanges projecting upwardly from the top and downwardly from the bottom, comprising a bar having at one end a lip adapted to be engaged over one of said flanges, and a lever pivoted to the other end of said bar, said lever having a lip adapted to be swung into engagement with the inner side of the other of said flanges when the bar is in engagement with the exterior of the container.

3. A pouring handle for a container having peripheral flanges projecting upwardly from the top and downwardly from the bottom, comprising a single long bar having at one end a lip adapted to hook over and engage with the inner side of the bottom flange of the container and having at its other end means, including a cam device pivoted directly to the bar for engaging and gripping the upper flange of the container and placing said bar under tension.

4. A pouring handle for a container having peripheral flanges extending upwardly from the top and downwardly from the bottom, comprising a single bar member having at one end a lip integral therewith and shaped to hook over the flange of the bottom of the container, and means including a cam pivoted directly to the other end of the bar and an operating handle for said cam to grip the upper flange of the container.

5. A pouring handle for a container having peripheral flanges projecting upwardly from the top and downwardly from the bottom, comprising a single bar member having at one end a lip adapted to hook over the bottom flange of the container, and means, including a cam device pivoted directly to the other end of the bar, for gripping the upper flange on the container, said cam device having a laterally-projecting portion which overlies the upper flange on the container when the handle is attached thereto, and an operating lever fixed to and projecting from said cam device.

TAZEWELL H. JENKINS.