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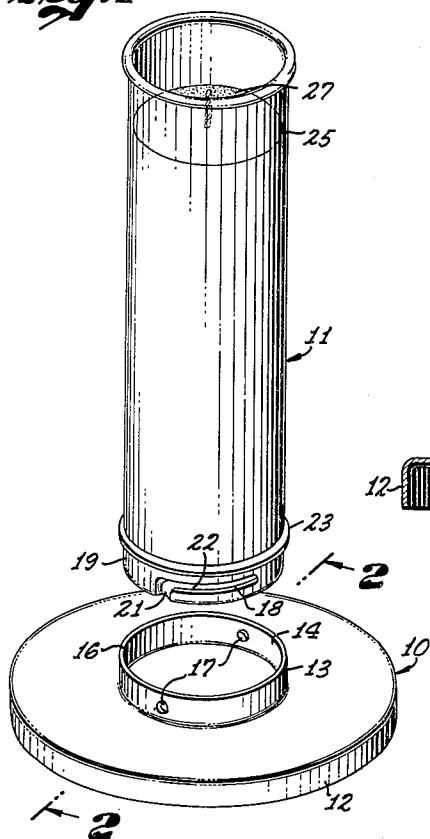
R. REACHI

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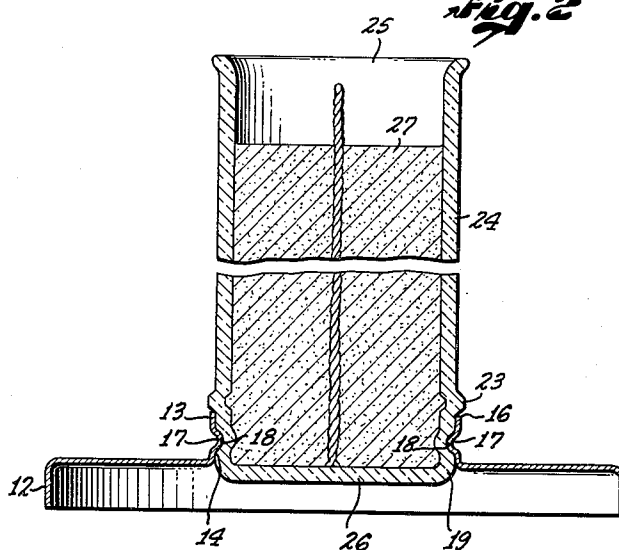
TABLE ORNAMENT AND STANDARD

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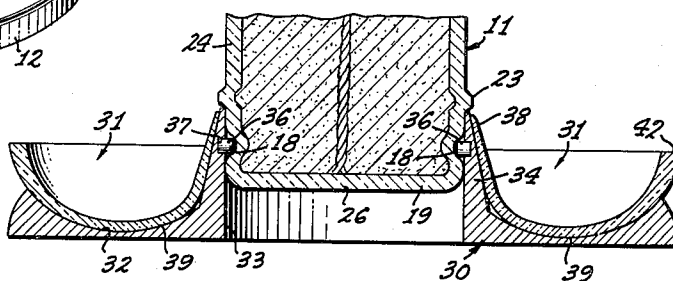
*fig. 1*



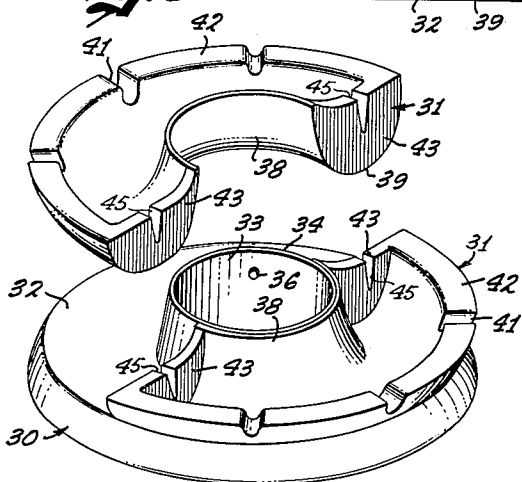
*fig. 2*



*fig. 4*



*fig. 3*



RAMON REACHI,  
INVENTOR.  
HERZIG & JESSUP,  
ATTORNEYS.

BY

Warren T. Jessup

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## TABLE ORNAMENT AND STANDARD

Ramon Reach, Los Angeles, Calif.  
(7418 N. Fulton Ave., North Hollywood, Calif.)  
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2 Claims. (Cl. 220—23.86)

This invention relates to a table ornament and standard, and more specifically to an ornamental combination of a container for holding a candle, flowers or the like, and a base for supporting the container.

Table ornaments incorporating standards such as lamps and flower vases are becoming increasingly popular for use on dining tables. Soft lighting is particularly desirable at informal settings or restaurants where a quiet, intimate atmosphere is desired. In these instances, a soft candle light is preferred, for ornamental purposes and at locations where it is impractical or unsafe to extend wires for electrical illumination. These ornamental devices must be sturdy in construction and stable in balance to avoid breakage and tipping. Attendants at a table frequently find it necessary to lift such devices to service the table, and much time is lost or breakage results if the component parts are not securely attached to each other.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a new and improved table ornament and standard which includes a container suitable for use as a candleholder, flower vase, or other, which is securely attached to a base in a vertical non-tipping position.

Another object of this invention is to provide a container and base of the character described incorporating a new and improved securement means whereby the container is readily locked to the base yet is instantly removable as for replacing and/or refilling.

A further object of this invention is to provide a new and improved base in one of its embodiments which is capable of supporting a pair of semi-circular trays of conforming configuration for use as ashtrays, planters, or the like.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a new and improved table ornament and standard which is economical to manufacture and capable of interchangeability of parts thereof.

A general object of this invention is to provide a new and improved table ornament and standard which overcomes disadvantages of prior devices heretofore intended to accomplish generally similar purposes.

These and other objects of this invention will be more readily apparent from the following detailed description of the drawings and appended claims.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is an exploded perspective view, in elevation, illustrating an embodiment of this invention;

FIGURE 2 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the embodiment of FIGURE 1, showing the component parts in secured relationship;

FIGURE 3 is an exploded perspective view in elevation of another embodiment of this invention; wherein the base includes a pair of trays; and

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary vertical cross-sectional view of the embodiment of FIGURE 3.

Referring to FIGURES 1 and 2 of the drawing, there is shown by way of illustration, but not of limitation, a first embodiment of this invention comprising a base 10 adapted to receive a container 11. Container 11 may hold a candle 27, and is so illustrated in the drawing.

The base 10 of this form is stamped or otherwise formed of a sheet of metal, plastics, or other suitable material, and includes a downturned annular flange 12 and a substantially centrally located up-turned flange 13.

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The flange 13 defines an opening or collar 14 in which the container 11 is disposed.

Spaced downwardly from the upper edge 16 of the flange 13 is a pair of opposed projections or dimples 17; formed integrally or otherwise thereof, and extending inwardly into the opening 14. The dimples 17 operatively associate with a plurality of angled grooves 18 formed in a lower end 19 of the container 11 to releasably lock the base 10 to the container.

The grooves 18 correspond in number to the dimples 17 and each is provided with a downwardly extending portion 21 open at the bottom to receive a dimple 17 when the lower end 19 of the container 11 is inserted into the opening 14. A horizontal portion 22 of each groove 18 extends from the portion 21 around a portion of the lower end 19, permitting rotation of the container 11 relative to the base 10 to move the dimples 17 out of register with the open groove portion 21, securing the container to the base.

The depth of the groove portions 22 is preferably of such dimension that the dimples 17 form an interference fit with the groove and slightly distort the flange when said parts are rotated, to provide a tight securement. Such a tight fit secures the base to the container sufficiently that it may be carried about or lifted by holding onto only one part, such as the container or the base, avoiding inadvertent detachment of the parts while being transported. A tight fit is also preferable to retain a desired position such as a vertical position of the container, for a neater appearance and to avoid spilling of the contents thereof or tilting of the candle 27 if so used.

The flange 13 is preferably formed with a relatively thin wall, which is sufficiently resilient to yield when distorted by the dimples 17 as described, and return to its original shape when the container is removed. If preferred, the flange 13 may be formed of a relatively rigid non-yieldable material and the bottom of the groove portion 22 slightly inclined to achieve a clamping engagement with the dimples 17.

To further insure the stability of the container with the base, an annular bead or shoulder 23 is provided on the container 11 superjacent the grooves 18. The shoulder 23 may rest on the top edge 16 of the flange 13 and keep the container erect if the fit between groove 18, dimple 17 is loose because of tolerance buildup during manufacture, or wear from continual use.

The container 11 is preferably formed of a transparent relatively rigid material such as glass, or the like and is preferably heat resistant to permit use of the candle 27 if desired. The container 11 includes an elongate cylindrical wall 24, an open top 25 and a closed bottom 26. The candle 27 may be molded within the interior of the container or the container may be optionally supplied to the user in an empty form for use as a flower vase, or for insertion of a preformed candle.

If desired, the flange 13 may comprise a rigid material, and the container 11 a yieldable material, resulting in a deformation of the container by the dimples of the flange.

Referring to FIGURES 3 and 4 another embodiment of this invention is illustrated, wherein like parts are referred to by like numbers.

The instant embodiment employs a base 30, which supports a pair of ash trays 31 nesting in the base. The base 30 is molded, or otherwise formed with an annular recess 31 in the upper surface thereof around an opening 33 defined by an upwardly extending flange 34. A pair of opposed pins 36 extend inwardly into the opening 33 from the flange 34, and may be fixed in suitable apertures 37 or be formed integrally therewith. The pins 36 are similar to the dimples 17 of the first embodiment in their function, i.e. to engage the grooves

18 of the container 11 when the lower end 19 is inserted into the opening 32 to secure the container to the base.

The trays 31 are semi-circular in configuration and identical to each other. Each has an inner wall 38 which rests against and around the flange 34. The lower surface or bottom 39 of the trays 31 conforms substantially to the configuration of the annular recess 32 to nest snugly therein. A plurality of transverse grooves 41 may be provided in the outer wall 42 of the trays to support cigarettes or the like when used as an ashtray, or optionally omitted, if desired, for use as a planter or the like. End walls 43 are preferably provided to enclose the concavity of the trays; said end walls of one tray 31 abutting the like walls of the other tray when both trays are seated in the recess 32.

A V-shaped notch 45 is preferably provided in each wall 43, the notch at one wall coinciding with the notch of an adjacent wall 43 when the trays 31 are seated in the recess 32. The notches 45 may be used to receive bases of book matches therein, and are preferably of a size to accommodate such books in a snug fit, thereby tending to secure the trays 31 to each other.

The base 30 may be formed as by molding or casting a relatively rigid material. If the container 11 is likewise formed of a relatively rigid material, such as glass or the like, a fairly loose fit is preferably provided between the diametrical dimension of the opening 33 and the outer diameter of the lower end 19 of the container, and between the inner faces of the pins 36 and the bottom and side walls of the groove 18 to allow for manufacturing tolerances and avoid breakage of the glass. The shoulder 23 is particularly useful in this embodiment to provide means for preventing tipping or rattling of the container 11 resulting from such a loose fit. The shoulder may abut the flange 34 to support the container in an erect position.

If desired, the container 11 may be used in a flanged and/or apertured base which is not provided with dimples or pins like 17, 36. The lower end 19 of the container in this instance, may be inserted into the base with the shoulder 23 forming a stop or support for the container 11 on the flange or edge of the aperture.

The trays 31 may be easily and readily removed from the recess for cleaning or other purposes, and quickly replaced.

The container 11 in either embodiment may be easily removed from the base 10 or 30 for replacement, refilling and/or cleaning, by rotating the container in a counter-clockwise direction relative to the base.

While the instant invention has been shown and described herein in what is conceived to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is recognized that departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the invention, which is therefore not to be limited to the details disclosed herein, but is to be accorded the full scope of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A table ornament and container comprising: a base having an upstanding annular flange and an annular recess around said flange; a cylindrical opening extending through said base, so that said flange surrounds said opening; a plurality of projections on said flange and extending into said opening; a container having a cylindrical lower end detachably fitting into said opening, said container having an equal plurality of angled grooves in said lower end, each of said grooves having a circumferential portion and an axial entrance portion communicating between said circumferential portion and a bottom of said lower end and a pair of semi-circular trays removably residing in said recess, said trays including end walls each having a notch, the notch of one of said end walls of one of said trays matching the notch of one an adjacent end wall of the other of said trays, said matched notches being adapted to removably support a locking member inserted therein.

2. A table ornament and container comprising: a base having an upstanding annular flange and an annular recess around said flange; a cylindrical opening in said base means defined by said flange; diametrically opposite pin projections extending inwardly into said opening from said flange; a vitreous container having a cylindrical lower end adapted to be disposed in said opening, said lower end of said container having a plurality of bayonet-type angled grooves in said lower end for receiving said pin projections to secure the said bottom end in said flange; and a pair of semi-circular trays seated in said recess, each said circular tray including end walls having vertical notches therein, said trays being adapted to be locked in abutting relationship when a wedged-shaped article is inserted in said notches.

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