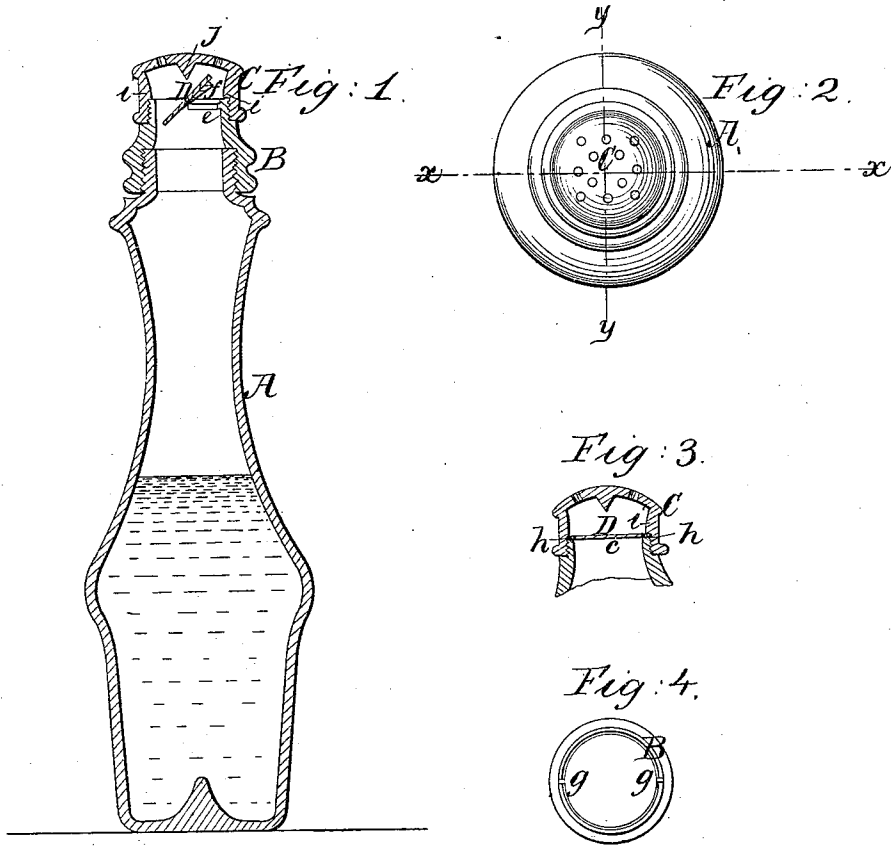


A. H. Newton,

Pepper Box,

No 50,727,

Patented Oct. 31, 1865.



Witnesses;
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

A. H. NEWTON, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVED PEPPER-BOX.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 50,727, dated October 31, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, A. H. NEWTON, of Worcester, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Pepper and other Spice Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a vertical section of a pepper-box to which my invention has been applied. Fig. 2 is a top view of the box and cover. Fig. 3 is a section of the top of the box in the line *y* of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the neck B.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention consists in applying a valve in the cover or top of a spice-box in such a way as that the valve will be open when the box is turned for the purpose of sprinkling its contents through the perforations in its cover and be closed when the box is brought back again, thereby preventing such contents from losing their strength by exposure to the air.

Pepper and other spice boxes which are made for culinary and table use are provided with perforated covers or tops, through which their contents are ejected in the same manner as flour is dredged from a dredging-box. Since no diaphragm is provided below the perforated top, it follows that the contents are constantly open to the atmosphere, and they thereby soon become deteriorated in quality, or, in other words, lose their strength. This result will follow with more less rapidity in proportion to the activity with which the spice emits the odor peculiar to it. Besides this they are liable to become foul with dust which enters with the air through the perforations in the top.

My invention provides a remedy for these disadvantages; and it consists in placing a valve, D, in the neck or upper part of the box, which valve is so made and applied as to be automatic in its operation.

In this example I have shown the upper part of the neck B as made separate from the lower part of the box, but it may be a permanent part thereof.

On the upper edge of the neck or of the part B, I form notches *g*, which serve as bearings for the journals *h* of the valve.

The top C of the box fits over and is secured to the neck B by means of screw-threads or other suitable devices, and within it I provide a shoulder, *i*, which covers the rim or highest part of the neck B, and thus covers the notches *g* and confines the journals of the valve in said notches. One side of the valve is loaded, as seen at *f*, and a semicircular ledge, *e*, is made within the neck B on that side which receives the loaded side of the valve, so that the valve will be supported in a horizontal position when the box stands on its bottom. In Fig. 1 the valve is shown raised from its seat to give a better view of the parts, although the box is therein also represented as standing upright.

In the top of the cover, in its inside, I form a pendent stop, *j*, whose office is to arrest the valve when the box is inverted and prevent it from making a complete revolution.

The operation is as follows: When one desires to sprinkle spice from the box, he inverts it, when the loaded side of the valve will fall toward the cover C, against whose stop *j* it will rest. The valve will then stand nearly vertical, and the spice or other contents of the box is then free to pour out through the perforations in the cover. When the box is returned to its first position the loaded side of the valve will fall and rest on the ledge *e*, and the interior of the box will thus be shut off from the perforated top, and air and dust will be excluded.

This invention is applicable to all spice and other boxes whose covers or tops are perforated for the purpose of sprinkling their contents through their covers, and it is therefore applicable to all dredging-boxes. It is also applicable to bottles containing liquids, and is especially useful where such liquids are volatile. It is also applicable to bottles or cruetts containing pepper-sauce and Worcestershire and other volatile sauces, which, by my invention, can be obtained in limited or graduated quantities, and yet without a constant exposure to the air.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The use of a valve beneath the top or cover of spice boxes and bottles to exclude air from their contents when in a state of rest, substantially as above described.

A. H. NEWTON.

Witnesses:

J. E. DAVIS,
DWIGHT T. BREWSTER.