March 4, 1958 J. L. WEIR, JR 2,825,444

LUNCH BOX

Filed Nov. 15, 1954

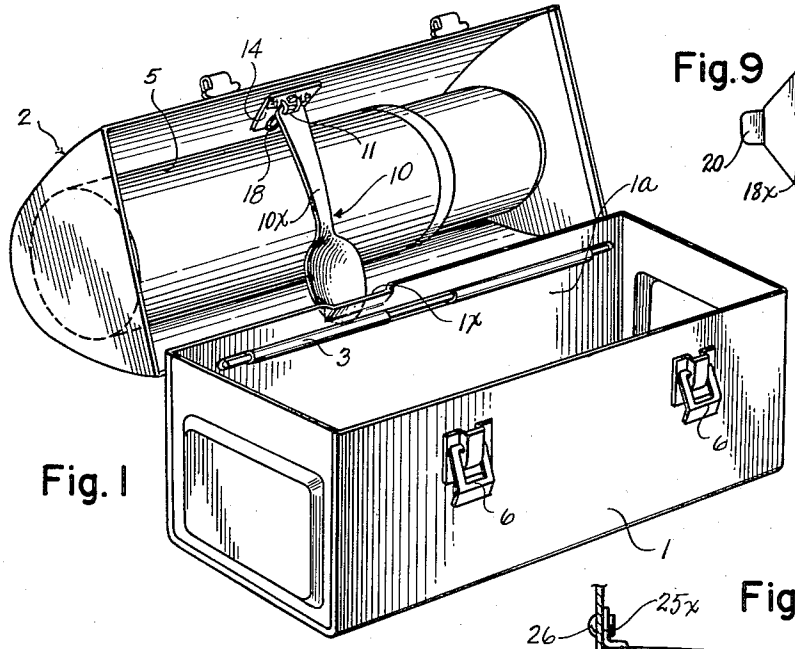


Fig. 1

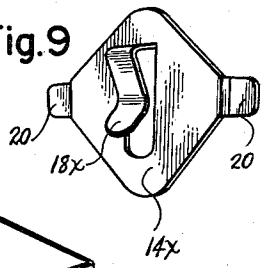


Fig. 9

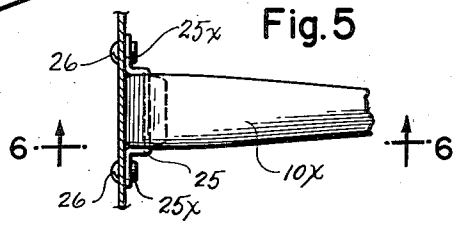


Fig. 5

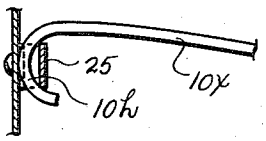


Fig. 6

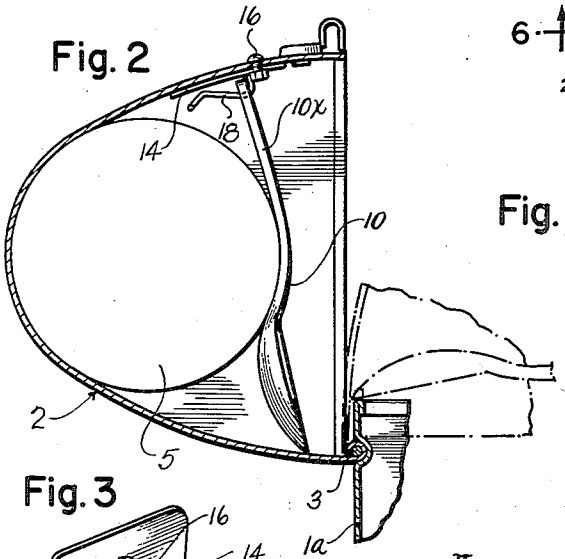


Fig. 2

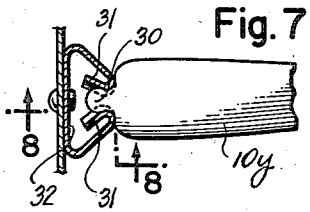


Fig. 7

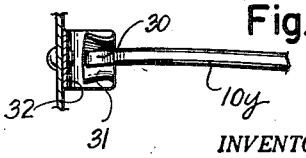


Fig. 8

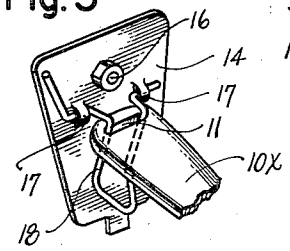


Fig. 3

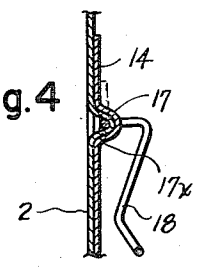


Fig. 4

INVENTOR.
John L. Weir, Jr.

BY
Cook & Robinson
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office

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LUNCH BOX

John L. Weir, Jr., Seattle, Wash.

Application November 15, 1954, Serial No. 468,845

5 Claims. (Cl. 206—4)

This invention relates to lunch boxes, and it has reference more particularly to improvements in those types of metal lunch boxes that are equipped with a hingedly attached lid or cover portion within which a "Thermos" bottle is adapted to be contained; the box cover portion being so shaped that when the bottle is disposed lengthwise therein, the cylindrical housing of the bottle will fit firmly thereagainst, and can be held firmly in place by the applying of a spoon, or the like, transversely of the medial portion of the bottle and holdingly engaging the spoon ends with walls of the arched cover at opposite sides of the bottle.

It is the principal object of the present invention to provide a novel and practical means for holding a "Thermos" bottle in the manner above noted in the cover or lid portion of a lunch box of the above described character; this novel means being characterized by the use of a spoon of predetermined length that permits it to be applied to the box cover in a particular way, and which spoon has its handle portion equipped at its end for holding application to a hook, clip or clasp that is fixed to one sidewall of the cover, and when so applied, the end of the bowl of the spoon is positioned for support by engaging with a wall of the box to which the cover is attached thus to hold the spoon in its intended supporting position.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a clip, clasp or hook that may be easily and readily applied to one wall of a lunch box cover for the purpose of fixing a spoon thereto to serve its "Thermos" bottle supporting function; such hooks, clips or clasps being mounted through the medial plates that serve to protect the material of the lid from being scratched, dented or otherwise damaged by reason of the wedging action of the spoon when held in bottle supporting position.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention resides in the details of construction of the spoon holding clips, clasps or hooks, and in the details of the spoon and the manner of applying it in the cover portion of the lunch box.

In accomplishing these and other objects of the invention, I have provided the improved details of construction, the preferred forms of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a lunch box as equipped with a spoon and spoon holding means embodied by the present invention; the cover portion being shown in its open position.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the lunch box cover portion showing the position in which a "Thermos" bottle is applied thereto, and the mode of application of the spoon for holding the bottle in place.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the spoon supporting hook and plate on which the hook is mounted.

Fig. 4 is a sectional detail of a wall portion of the box cover and the hook mounting plate, illustrating an alternative manner of securing the plate and hook in place.

Fig. 5 is a view showing an alternative means for and mode of attaching the spoon to the box cover.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of parts taken on line 6—6 in Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a sectional detail showing another means for and mode of attaching a spoon in the box cover for support of the "Thermos" bottle therein.

Fig. 8 is a sectional view taken on the line 8—8 in Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of an alternative form of spoon securing hook designed for use in lieu of that of Figs. 1 and 4.

Referring more in detail to the drawings:

1 designates what may be a lunch box of a type presently in general use, and equipped with a cover portion 2 that is hingedly attached along its lower edge to the back wall 1*a* of the box, by conventional means, as shown at 3, in Figs. 1 and 2, to swing between the open position in which it is shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and its closed position in which it has been shown in dot and dash lines in Fig. 2. The box 1 is usually constructed of metal and is made in the elongated, rectangular form shown. Boxes now generally in use are about four and three-fourths inches wide, four inches deep and ten inches long. The cover portion 2 is made in the dome form shown in Fig. 2, with its top portion cylindrically curved to conform substantially to the cylindrical curvature of a standard "Thermos" bottle, such as that designated by reference numeral 5. It is intended, and it is customary to store the "Thermos" bottle in the cover or lid portion 2, as shown in Fig. 1, then to close the cover over the box for its securement by suitable clasps, such as those shown at 6, in Fig. 1, or by other suitable means.

The present invention anticipates the use of a spoon, or the like for holding the bottle in place in the cover 2, and invention is based upon the details of construction of the speen and of a hook, or the like, for the securement of the spoon in the cover so that it can serve the intended function of supporting the bottle in place as stored in the cover.

In the present showing, 10 designates a spoon that is made in the conventional shape and in a predetermined length to adapt it to be applied to the cover and against the bottle, transversely thereof, as seen in Fig. 2. Adjacent its outer end, the spoon handle 10*x* is formed with a transverse slot 11. This slot is designed to receive a hook therethrough for support of the spoon; the hook being applied to the inside of the front wall of the cover midway of its ends as seen in Fig. 1.

In Fig. 3, I have shown the present preferred form of hook and the hook mounting plate 14. This plate is of thin sheet metal, in near rectangular form. It is applied against the inside of the lid wall and is fixed thereto for example by passing a short bolt 16 through plate and wall as shown in Fig. 2 or by spot welding. Punched inwardly from the plate, in spaced relationship in a direction lengthwise of the cover, are paired loops 17—17 in which the opposite end portions of hook forming wire are contained. This wire is so bent as to provide the spoon securing hook 18 of the form best shown in Fig. 3. It will be observed also, by reference to Fig. 2, that the hook is directed toward the top, and away from the open lower side of the cover or lid. This provides that when the hook is applied through the slot of the spoon handle, and the handle is directed across the bottle, the end of the bowl of the spoon can come to rest against the box wall. The pressure of the "Thermos" bottle against the spoon cannot then disengage the spoon handle from the hook.

In the application of the spoon to the box cover for the support of the bottle therein, the procedure is to extend the end of the spoon handle into the cover beyond the hook end, then to pass the end of the hook shank through

the spoon slot **11**, and swing the spoon down and against the cover wall to the bottle engaging position shown in Fig. 2. Upon closing the cover, the lower end of the spoon will then come to a position of support on the top edge of the back wall **1***a* of the lunch box, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2; the wall **1***a* being recessed, as at **1***x* in Fig. 1, to seat the spoon end therein. Thus the spoon, as so positioned and held will retain the bottle securely in place.

To remove the spoon from its bottle retaining position, the cover is opened to position of Fig. 2, then the spoon is merely grasped by its lower end portion and pulled upwardly as the upper end of the handle is pushed inwardly and disengaged from the hook. The end of the hook is normally disposed close to the cover wall and thus the entrance to the hook seat is normally closed, but by reason of the resiliency of the hook forming wire, the hook can be sprung outwardly for the applying or disengaging of the spoon handle.

As an alternate form of hook, I provide the device of Fig. 9. This comprises a base plate **14***x* that is substantially square, and formed at least two opposite corners with extended ears **20—20** that may be passed through slots provided therefor in the cover wall, and then clinched to secure the plate in place. A hook **18***x* is struck from the plate and bent to assume substantially the same form as the hook **18** of Fig. 2 and it is used in the same way as hook **18**.

It will be here explained that the plate **14** of Fig. 3 might also be provided with tabs, like the tabs **20** of Fig. 9, for use in the attachment of the plate **14** to the cover wall, either by themselves or to supplement the bolt **16**.

Another alternative construction is shown in Fig. 4, wherein it is noted that the wall of the cover has loops **17***x* struck inwardly therefrom and these are adapted to nest, as illustrated, within the loops **17—17** of the plate **14** to receive the aligned and outturned end portions of the wire which secures the hook **18** in place. This provision for loops **17***x* eliminates the need for the use of a bolt, as in Fig. 3, for the securement of the plate in place. However, this form of connection might also be supplemented by spot welding or by use of tabs on the plate.

In Figs. 5 and 6, I have illustrated another manner of and means for securement of the handle portion of a spoon to the cover wall. However, this calls for a special shaping of the spoon handle. In these views, **25** designates a metal strap that has opposite end portions **25***x* offset in the same direction and secured as by rivets **26** shown or by spot welding to the inside surface of the sidewall of the cover **2**. The spoon has the outer end portion of its handle **10***x* turned backwardly and forwardly to provide a hook-like end portion **10***h*. This is adapted to be hooked over the outset central portion of the secured strap, as shown best in Fig. 6, to hold that end of the spoon when the spoon is placed in bottled holding position of Fig. 2.

In the other form of spoon attaching means shown in Figs. 7 and 8, the spoon handle **10***y* is shown to be equipped at its end with a knob **30**. Attached to the cover wall is a clip **32**. This comprises two coacting yieldable jaws or fingers **31—31** between which the knob can be applied and held. The knob can be pulled from between the jaws, but under normal use the clip will hold the spoon sufficiently secure for its support of the "Thermos" bottle.

In the use of the spoon securing hooks, as of Figs. 2, 3, 4 or 9, the hook end is applied through the slot in the end portion of the spoon handle, and the direction of the hook is such that the pressure of the retained "Thermos" bottle **5** against the spoon will hold it against any accidental release from the hook. The other end of the spoon will be supported on the box wall while the cover is closed.

One advantage of the use of the plate **14** of Figs. 3 and 4 or plate **14***x* of Fig. 9, is that it prevents pressure of the spoon end from denting or marring or deforming the lid wall.

With the parts so designed and assembled, the spoon retains the bottle in place while the cover is closed, and when the cover is opened, the spoon can be easily and readily removed for use, and such removal, releases the bottle.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new therein and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a lunch box of the character described, comprising a box-like body and a cover therefor hinged along one edge to the backwall of the body to swing between closed and open positions; said cover being of campanulate form in cross-section, a "Thermos" bottle removably seated within the cover, a hook mounting plate disposed flatly against and fixed to that wall of the cover that is opposite its hinged edge at a location, within the cover, intermediate the ends of the bottle a hook attached to said plate and overlying it, and a spoon disposed in the cover and across the bottle to support it as disposed within the cover; said spoon having a slot through the outer end portion of its handle through which said hook is passed for support of the spoon at that end, and said spoon being of such length that, when so applied, its slotted end will bear against said plate and the end of its bowl will wedgingly engage with the hinged wall of the cover and will rest for support when the cover is closed over the body on the top edge of the body wall to which the cover is hinged.

2. A lunch box as recited in claim 1 wherein said hook mounting plate is formed with aligned, and spaced apart, loops pressed outwardly from the plate, and said hook is formed from a single piece of wire that is bent to hook form with the opposite end portions of the wire extended through said loops to mount the hook on the plate.

3. A lunch box as recited in claim 1 wherein the said hook is directed away from the open side of the cover to prevent release of the spoon handle therefrom under pressure thereagainst by the "Thermos" bottle.

4. A lunch box as in claim 3 wherein the box wall to which the cover is hingedly attached is formed with a depression in its top edge to seat the end of the spoon bowl therein as a means of retaining it against displacement from functional position.

5. A lunch box as in claim 3, wherein the spoon handle is curved along its medial portion, to conform to the curvature of the wall surface of the "Thermos" bottle against which it engages when in bottle supporting position.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 2,825,444 March 4, 1958

John L. Weir, Jr.

It is hereby certified that error appears in the printed specification of the above numbered patent requiring correction and that the said Letters Patent should read as corrected below.

Column 1, lines 18, 29, 44 and 64, column 2, lines 7, 27, 29 and 67, column 3, line 66, and column 4, lines 3 and 4, 23, 49 and 57, for '"Thermos"', each occurrence, read -- vacuum --.

Signed and sealed this 4th day of August 1959.

(SEAL)
Attest:
KARL H. AXLINE
Attesting Officer

ROBERT C. WATSON
Commissioner of Patents