Feb. 27, 1962 J. C. WISTRAND 3,022,924

SUGAR DISPENSER

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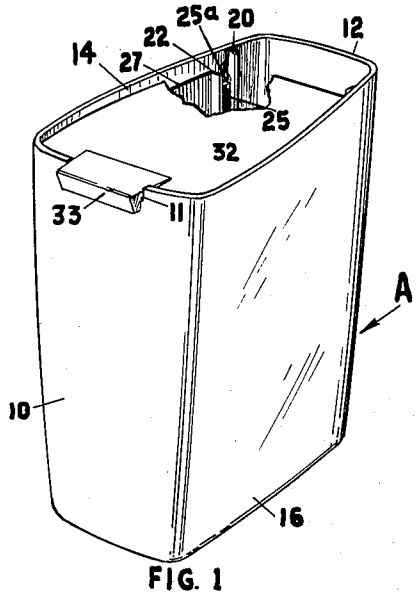


FIG. 1

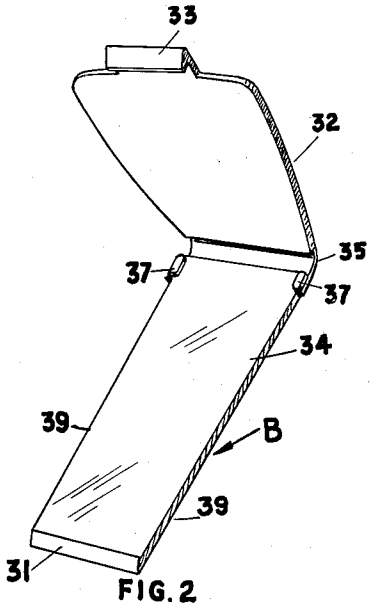


FIG. 2

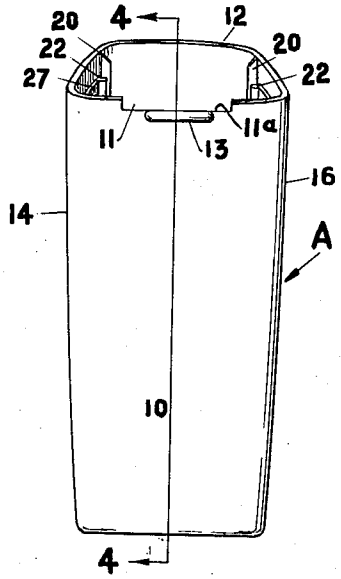


FIG. 3

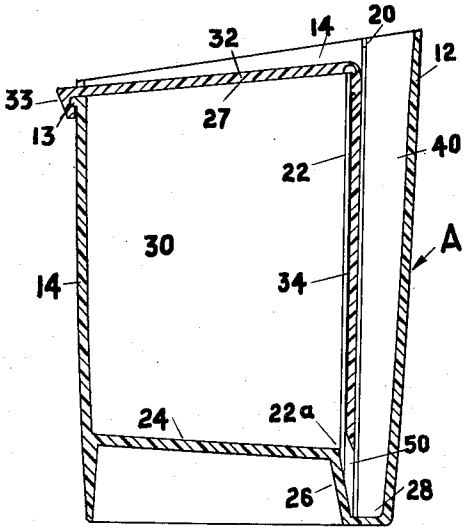


FIG. 4

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SUGAR DISPENSER

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This invention relates to an improved means for storing and dispensing crystalline substances commonly used in the household; more particularly it comprehends a novel sugar dispenser characterized by simple structural and novel functional features.

Although the device described and claimed herein is eminently adapted for handling sugar it will be understood, of course, that the invention may be used for the storage and dispensing of other suitable granular materials. In the average household, it has been found that most sugar dispensers are of the bowl type requiring a spoon or other instrument for metering the sugar. While such containers have undoubtedly enjoyed great popularity and use, it is manifest that shortcomings do inhere in their construction. For example, a separate instrument for removing the sugar is necessary and both hands often must be employed to hold the bowl and dip out the contents. For the busy housewife or cook such limitations are bothersome and inefficient.

The present invention provides a container having means for storing sugar and delivering a measured amount by merely tipping the container. No separate dispensing instrument is required and the storage chamber of the container remains closed at all times except for filling and cleaning.

Accordingly, it is a broad object of the present invention to provide an improved container for crystalline substances;

Another object of the present invention is to provide a container adapted to store and dispense a discrete amount of sugar and similar substances;

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a sugar dispenser for household use having features that permit ease of manufacture, provide structural rigidity and present a pleasing exterior shape;

Another object of the present invention is to provide in a sugar dispensing container a novel means of separating the storage chamber from the dispensing chamber;

A further object of the present invention is to provide in a sugar dispenser a combined baffle and cover that is removable;

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a sugar dispenser having a closed storage chamber and an open dispensing chamber connected together by novel means;

Another object of the present invention is to provide a two-piece molded container adapted to be easily taken apart and cleaned.

These and other objects will become apparent from a consideration of the accompanying drawings in which is shown an illustrative embodiment of the invention.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the dispenser completely assembled with a portion of the cover cut away;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the cover and interior baffle member;

FIGURE 3 is an end elevational view of the dispenser; and

FIGURE 4 is a vertical section taken substantially on the line 4—4 of FIGURE 3 with the removable cover and baffle inserted in the device of FIGURE 3.

As shown in the several figures, the dispenser is characterized by an outer elongated casing generally designated by the reference character A. The casing A is preferably molded of a suitable material such as polystyrene, polyethylene or the like. Into casing A is fitted baffle member B, shown separately in FIGURE 2. Baffle member B, which effectively divides container A into storage chamber 30 and dispensing chamber 40, is removable from casing A and may be molded of the same or similar materials as casing A.

In the particular construction shown, casing A has two end walls 10 and 12 and two side walls 14 and 16 intersecting each other with generous radii to give an over-all pleasant appearance and structural rigidity. End wall 10 is of greater width and lesser height than end wall 12 and both end walls 10 and 12 taper slightly from top to bottom. End wall 10 is further characterized by a centrally located rectangular notch 11 on the top edge thereof, and an elongated outwardly projecting bead 13 formed with its upper edge coplanar with the horizontal surface 11*a* of notch 11.

A pair of closely spaced vertical ribs 20 and 22 project inwardly from the internal surfaces of side walls 14 and 16 in lateral register with each other, as more fully shown in FIGURE 3. Laterally opposed ribs 20 extend substantially the entire length of the internal surface of container A while ribs 22 terminate at their upper ends short of the upper edge of container A. The lower ends 22*a* of ribs 22 terminate at their intersection with sloping wall 26 which connects the bottom surface 24 of storage chamber 30 to the bottom surface 28 of dispensing chamber 40. Bottom surface 24 of storage chamber 30 is a false bottom recessed into container A in the manner shown in FIGURE 4 while bottom surface 28 is at a lower elevation. Bottom surface 28 is the inner surface of the container bottom itself. This construction provides a stepped relation between the storage chamber 30 and the dispensing chamber 40 permitting sugar to flow by gravity into the dispensing chamber 40.

Between each pair of the closely spaced ribs 20 and 22 located on the inner surface of side walls 14 and 16 a filler 25 (FIGURE 1) is positioned. Filler 25 is approximately triangular in shape so as to compensate for the tapered horizontal cross section of container A and to present a substantially squared guideway between laterally opposed ribs 20 and 22 located on the internal surfaces of side walls 14 and 16. Filler 25 extends from the lower extremity of ribs 20 and 22 to a point slightly below the upper end of rib 20 thereby defining an upper shoulder 25*a* between each pair of ribs 20 and 22.

From the upper extremity of ribs 22 an internal shelf 27 extends around the internal surfaces of sidewalls 14 and 16 and around end wall 10 of storage chamber 30. Shelf 27 converges at end wall 10 with surface 11*a* of notch 11 and serves as a support for cover 32 of baffle member B.

Baffle member B is of one-piece construction and is made up of an upper cover 32 and a lower depending tongue 34. A transverse groove 35 is located between upper cover 32 and lower tongue 34 to allow baffle member B to be flexed so that cover 32 is in a closed position. Cover 32 has an integral latch 33 engageable with bead 13 to releasably secure it to container A in abutting engagement with shelf 27. Projecting lugs 37, oppositely spaced on the upper sides of tongue 34, engage shoulders 25*a* in ribs 20 and 22 and also wedge baffle member 13 securely in position. As shown in FIGURE 2 tongue 34 tapers slightly from top to bottom in accordance with the internal configuration of container A between the opposed pairs of ribs 20 and 22. The contacting edge surfaces 39 of tongue 34 are thus adapted to slidably engage fillers 25 between ribs 20 and 22. The lower extremity of tongue 34 is preferably cut at an angle as at 31 to prevent clogging of sugar in its passage from storage chamber 30 to dispensing chamber 40. To this end bottom 24 of storage chamber 30 is also sloped slightly down towards

dispensing chamber 40. In its assembled position the lower extremity of tongue 34 and bottom surface 28 define passageway 50 between storage chamber 30 and dispensing chamber 40. Passageway 50 is of such size that it permits approximately one teaspoonful of sugar to flow by gravity from storage chamber 30 into dispensing chamber 40.

In the use of the dispenser, cover 32 is released by finger pressure from bead 11 and allowed to spring away from shelf 27 of storage chamber 30. The natural resiliency of the cover material causes cover 32 to assume an attitude normally defining an obtuse angle with tongue 34 of baffle member B. Sugar or any other crystalline substance is then poured into chamber 30 and cover 32 is snapped shut by forcing latch 33 over bead 11. In a preferred embodiment of the device, as illustrated in the drawings, chamber 30 holds slightly more than a cupful of sugar or other material.

After chamber 30 is filled and cover 32 is secured in place, the dispenser is ready for operation. By tipping the container forwardly, dispensing chamber 40, which contains approximately one teaspoonful of sugar, discharges its contents. The return of container A to a normally horizontal position allows another quantity of sugar to flow by gravity from storage chamber 30 through passageway 50 into dispensing chamber 40 where it is ready for further dispensing.

It is to be noted that the particular spatial relationship of tongue 34 permits not only a measured quantity of sugar to flow each time the device is tipped but also prevents indiscriminate filling of dispensing chamber 40 when container A is in an inverted position. The operation described may be repeated until refilling of the storage chamber 30 is necessary.

Thus there has been provided a compact functional sugar dispenser intended for everyday household use as well as for use in commercial establishments. It can be used during the day by the housewife for cooking and preparing meals, and at mealtime it can be used on the table by the whole family.

Although the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the present disclosure has been made by way of example only and that numerous changes in the details of construction and the combination and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

A dispenser for granular materials comprising a case having a pair of side and end walls, a stepped bottom having integrally joined sections, a first section of said bottom being elevated and inclined angularly downward to define the bottom surface of a storage chamber, a second section of said bottom disposed below and adjacent to said first section to define the bottom surface of a dispensing chamber, said bottom also having an inclined wall joining the first and second sections thereof, said side walls having opposed pairs of vertical ribs positioned on the inner surface of said side walls between the storage chamber and the dispensing chamber, a removable tongue partition frictionally held between said pairs of vertical ribs, said tongue partition having its lower end disposed in spaced relationship above said stepped bottom to form a rectangular aperture therebetween, a storage chamber cover flexibly attached to said tongue partition at the top thereof, and inter-engageable latch means on said cover and said case to retain said cover in closed position, the dispensing chamber adapted to receive a metered amount of granular material through the rectangular aperture from the storage chamber when said dispenser is upright, said tongue partition preventing the flow of granular material from the storage chamber to the dispensing chamber when said dispenser is inverted thereby permitting the discharge of only the metered amount of granular material from the dispensing chamber.

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