

May 29, 1923.

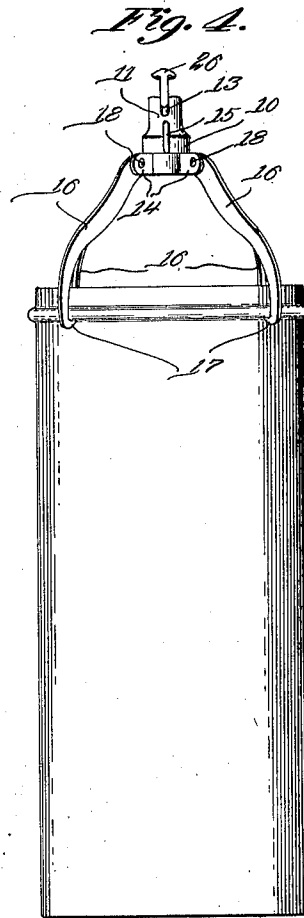
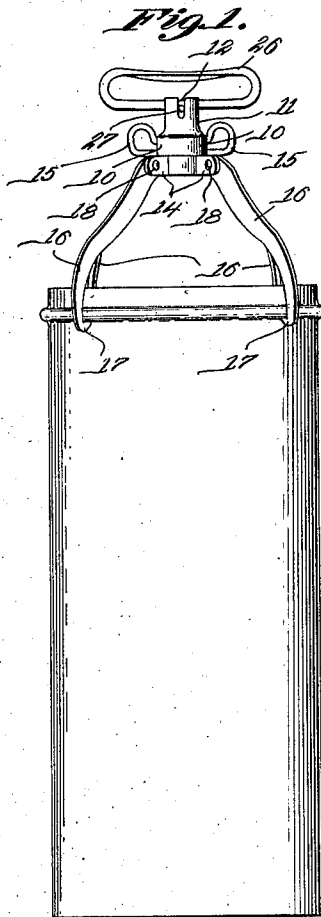
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G. VERGOTE

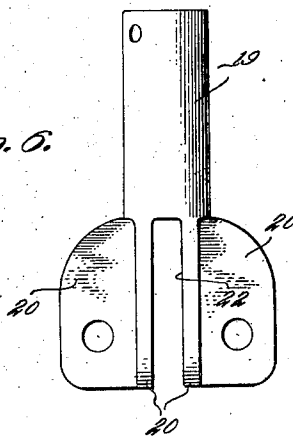
CAN LIFTER AND ICE TONGS

Filed Jan. 24, 1922

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



*Fig. 6.*



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INVENTOR

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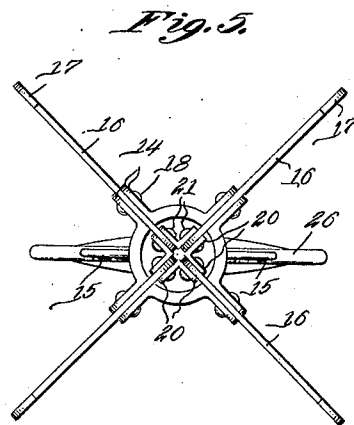
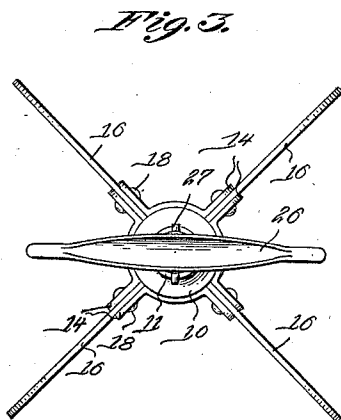
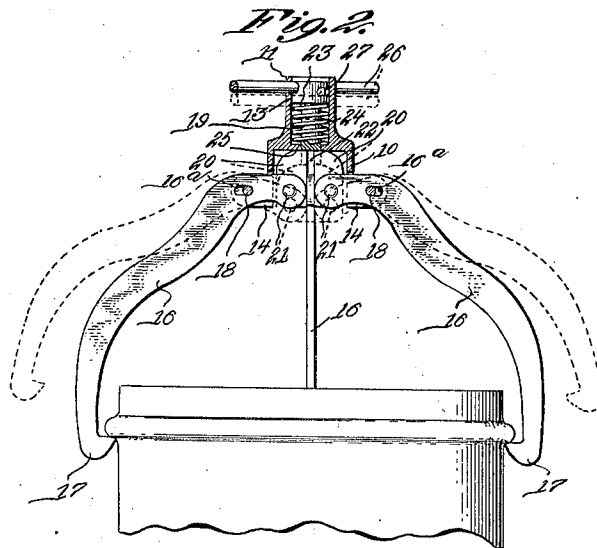
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CAN LIFTER AND ICE TONGS

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



J. M. Evans

WITNESS:

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INVENTOR

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GUSTAVE VERGOTE, OF MARSHALL, MINNESOTA.

CAN LIFTER AND ICE TONGS.

Application filed January 24, 1922. Serial No. 531,398.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GUSTAVE VERGOTE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Marshall, in the county of Lyon and State of Minnesota, have invented new and useful Improvements in Can Lifters and Ice Tongs, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to carrying devices, particularly to devices for carrying cans and the like, and has for its object the provision of a novel device so constructed as to enable an operator to carry ice cream or other cans conveniently without the necessity of touching the can with the hands.

An important object is the provision of a device of this character which is provided with automatically operated spring gripping means whereby the device will engage upon the can, means being also provided for releasing the gripping means to permit the disengagement of the device from the can.

Still another object is the provision of a device of this character which might be easily constructed for use as an ice carrier as well as a can carrier, it being merely necessary in this instance to omit one of the carrying prongs.

An additional object is the provision of a device of this character which will be simple and inexpensive in manufacture, easy to use, which being short will greatly facilitate the carrying of cans by a man of short stature, which will be highly efficient in use, durable in service and a general improvement in the art.

With the above and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists in the details of construction to be hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device showing it in engagement with an ice-cream can,

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view showing the device operated to bring it into releasing position,

Figure 3 is a plan view,

Figure 4 is an elevation taken at right angles to Figure 1,

Figure 5 is a bottom plan view and

Figure 6 is a detail view.

Referring more particularly to the drawings I have shown my device as comprising a head 10 which is here shown as cylindri-

cally formed and which is hollow. This head is formed at its upper end with a reduced extension 11 which is likewise hollow or tubular and which is formed at diametrically opposite points with slots 12 and at other intermediate diametrically opposite points with slots 13 for a purpose to be described. Extending outwardly from the head 10 at the lower portion thereof is a plurality of lugs 14 arranged in pairs as clearly shown, and extending outwardly from the head 10 at diametrically opposite points, in fact immediately below the larger slots 13 are finger engaging loops 15.

Pivoted between the pairs of lugs 14 is a plurality of arms 16 which are curved as shown and which extend downwardly and which have their lower ends provided with inwardly extending projections 17 constituting hooks. These arms 16 are pivoted at 18 between the pairs of lugs 14 as clearly disclosed and have their upper ends extending into the interior of the head 10. The arms 16 are slotted at 16<sup>a</sup> for the passage of the pivots 18, the purpose being to permit use of the device for carrying cans or articles of different sizes.

Slidable longitudinally through the head 10 and extension 11 is a bolt member 19 which has its lower end provided or formed with a plurality of spaced pairs of lugs 20 within which the inner ends of the arms 16 are pivoted by means of pivot pins 21 which pass through the lugs 20 and through slots 22 in the inner or upper ends of the arms 16. The bolt member 19 is formed with an annular projection or flange 23 against which abuts one end of a coil spring 24 which has its other end seating against a flange or projection 25 in the interior of the head, the purpose of this spring being to urge the bolt member 19 upwardly at all times. It will be observed that owing to the peculiar construction the upward movement of the bolt member is limited by the engagement of the stop flanges.

The upper end of the bolt member carries an elongated loop like handle 26 which is slidable through the larger slots 13 and which is provided with laterally extending pins 27 which are slidable through the smaller slots 12, and it is the bottom of this upper end of the bolt member which is formed as the flange 23 as clearly disclosed.

Assuming that the device has been con-

structed and assembled as above described, the operation is as follows;

When the operator desires to lift out an ice cream can from the ice tub, it is necessary that he grasp the handle member 26 and press the device down into the ice tub, the hooks, being beveled, passing over the can and the spring being compressed. When the operator subsequently pulls upwardly upon the handle, it is apparent that the spring 24 will cause the arms 16 to swing inwardly so that the lower hook like ends thereof will grippingly engage the flange or bead provided on a can below the cover thereof.

The operator can then extract the can from its packing of ice and carry the can readily to any desired place. In order to release the can it is merely necessary that the operator press the loops 15 toward the handle 26 whereupon the arms 16 will swing outwardly out of engagement with the can. The arms may be swung outwardly to engage cans of all sizes owing to the slot and pivot connections.

In the drawings I have shown the device as provided with four arms 16 though it should be understood that only three are really necessary and the device might be so constructed if preferred. It is also to be seen that in case it is so desired the device might be formed with only two of the arms 16 in which event it would be readily adapted for use in carrying blocks or cakes of ice.

From the foregoing description and a study of the drawings it will be apparent that I have thus provided a simply constructed and consequently inexpensive device which is readily adapted for use in extracting ice-cream cans from their packing of ice and transporting them to any desired location without it being necessary in any way for the operator to touch the cold cans. It is also to be observed that the device is readily capable of use for other similar purposes for extracting and lifting as well as carrying other articles or cans in addition to ice cream cans. Naturally, it is apparent that the device may be built in any and all sizes depending upon the size and nature of the cans to be handled.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of the invention, it is of course to be understood that I reserve the right to make such changes in the form, construction and arrangement of parts as will

not depart from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described my invention I claim.

1. A device of the character described comprising a hollow head, a plurality of downwardly extending arms pivotally connected with said head and terminating inwardly extending hooks, a bolt member slidable through the head and pivotally connected with the inner ends of said arms, spring means normally swinging said arms with their inner ends inwardly, a handle connected with said bolt member, and finger engaging loops projecting laterally from said head.

2. A device of the character described comprising a hollow head, finger engaging loops extending laterally from said head, a bolt member slidable longitudinally within said head, a handle carried by the upper end of said bolt member in alignment with said loops, means for preventing rotation of the handle member with respect to the head, a series of lugs arranged in pairs and extending laterally from the head, a plurality of downwardly extending arms pivoted between said lugs and having their inner ends extending into the head and their lower or outer ends provided with inwardly extending hooks, said bolt member being pivotally connected with said inner ends of said arms, and spring means normally urging said bolt member upwardly for bringing said arms into clamping relation.

3. A device of the character described comprising a hollow head provided at opposite sides with a pair of finger engaging loops, said head being formed at opposite sides with slots, a bolt member slidable longitudinally through said head and having its upper end formed as a handle slidable through said slots, said handle being in alignment with said finger engaging loops, a plurality of lugs arranged in pairs and extending radially from said head, a plurality of downwardly extending arms pivoted between said pairs of lugs and terminating at their lower ends in inwardly directed hooks and having their upper ends extending into the head, and pairs of lugs carried by the bolt member and having a slot and pin connection with the inner ends of said arms.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

GUSTAVE VERGOTE.