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DISPENSING CONTAINER

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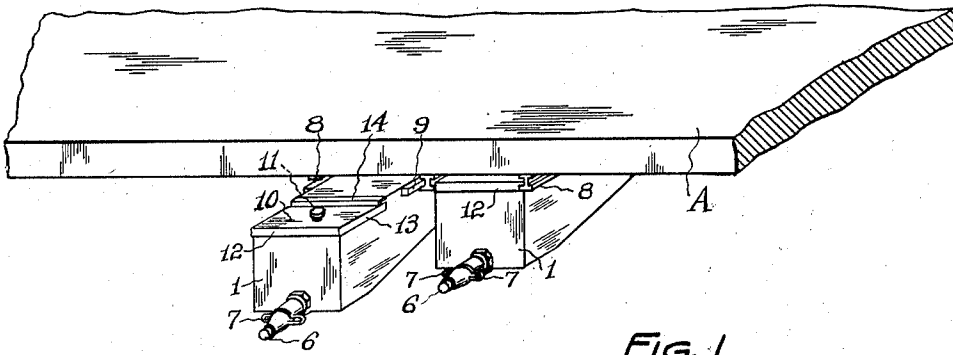


FIG. 1

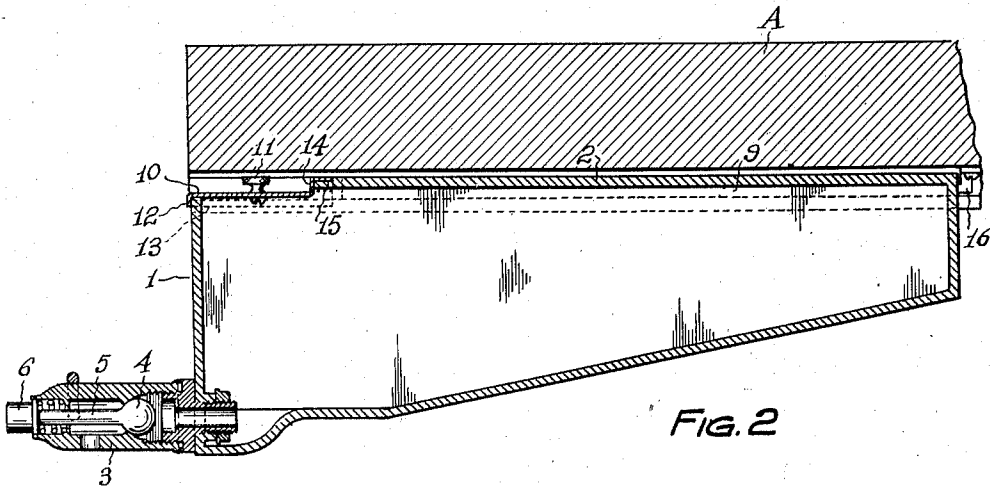


FIG. 2

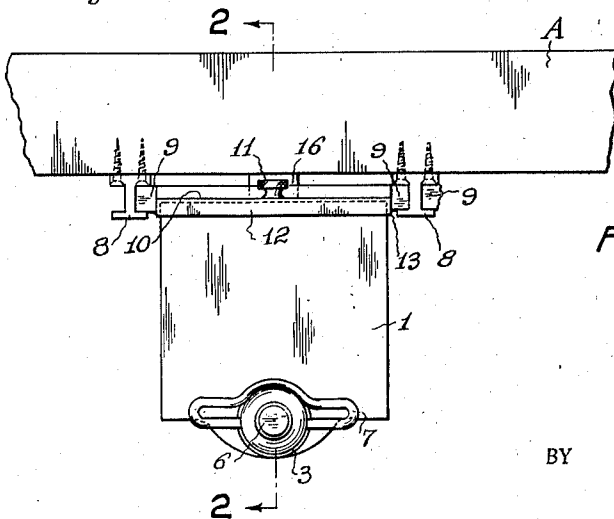


FIG. 3

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## DISPENSING CONTAINER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 225—37)

This invention appertains to the art of dispensing containers and primarily those containers of the type intended to supply syrup or flavors for drinks vended over bars of taverns, or counters of stores, and at soda fountains. At the present time the syrups or flavors are frequently contained in a jar container that sits on top of the counter or a shelf adjacent thereto and occupy a considerable amount of room very desirable to be used for some other purpose, especially where the counter arrangements are required to economize space as much as possible.

The primary object of this invention has been to design a dispensing container adapted to slide in and out relatively to the counter or bar and mounted upon the underside of the latter so as to be out of the way and yet quickly accessible for the operation of its dispensing valve for the purposes of use indicated above. The dispensing container will normally be positioned so that its outer end is substantially flush with the front edge of the counter, bar, or shelf, upon the under side of which it is movable under normal conditions of use.

According to the invention, the container is equipped with a special cover for refill and cleaning purposes, which cover is removable for ready replenishment of the contents of the container by simply pulling out the latter a slight distance sufficient to free the latter from its housed position beneath the part upon which the container is supported. The container is intended to be cleaned by removing it completely from its supporting guides carried by the counter, bar, or shelf, at which time of course the cover is also accessible for removal for the same purpose.

A feature of the invention resides in the construction including the arrangement of the cover so that it is clamped and held in position by cooperation with the undersurface of the supporting member on which the container is movably mounted, said cover also having means for spring clamping engagement with the dispensing container.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a counter or bar showing two of the dispensing containers of the invention disposed thereon, though any suitable number of these containers may be employed, one of the containers being pulled outwardly as when arranged for convenient lifting or removal of the refill cover and the other container being illustrated in a normal position of use for the ordinary operations of dispensing the flavor or liquid contents thereof.

Figure 2 is a transverse sectional view through the support for the dispensing containers, illustrating one of the containers in longitudinal section to bring out the general construction of the parts.

Figure 3 is a front view of one of the containers showing the guide members.

Describing the invention specifically, there is illustrated in the drawing a conventional supporting means that may be a bar, counter, or shelf of any suitable type, designated A. Upon the under side of the said support A are disposed preferably a plurality of the dispensing containers 1 which are elongated receptacles comprising a front end, a rear end, sides, bottom, and the top 2. Upon the front end of the container 1 is supported a conventional type of dispensing valve 3, the same including the valve part 4, plunger 5, and pressure piece 6; also the laterally projecting portions 7 forming finger pieces to be engaged by the fingers as the thumb presses upon the member 6 to open the valve and permit the liquid contents of the container 1 to pass therefrom.

It will be understood that any suitable type of valve means such as described may be employed with this part as used in conjunction with the invention and is not necessarily made like the means illustrated.

Carried by the under side of the support A are the laterally spaced guides 8, and each of the containers carries at its sides and with the upper surfaces thereof in the same plane as the top 2, a pair of guide members 9 which are adapted to project into the grooved sides of two spaced guides 8, whereby the container 1 is not only supported upon the support A but is freely movable inwardly and outwardly in respect to the upper edge of said support.

In the normal position of the container 1 its outer end will preferably be disposed about in the vertical plane of the front edge of the counter or support A, though if desired it may be located inwardly somewhat from such position if it is preferred that the valve means with which the front end of the container is equipped shall not project from the support or only partly from the support.

At its upper portion and near the front end thereof the container 1 is provided with a refill opening formed by cutting away the top 2 for a short distance from the front wall of the container. This refill opening also forms the function of permitting cleaning of the container when it is removed from the support A and is suffi-

ciently large to permit a cleaning cloth to be introduced into the container if so desired. Normally, however, the refill opening is closed by means of a special form of cover 10 that may be made of a metal plate, enamelled or otherwise finished, the said cover 10 having a handle 11 for manipulation thereof in removing and replacing the same. The cover 10 is formed at its front edge with a downwardly extending flange 12 and at its side edges with downwardly extending flanges 13. In order that there may be clearance for the handle 11 to slide underneath the support A the body of the cover 10 is disposed in a plane below the plane of the upper surface of the top 2 of the container. This provides the space desired for the movement of the handle 11 underneath the counter or support A without engaging the support, thus preventing the cover 10 from being displaced as the container 1 is shoved backwardly to assume its normal dispensing position underneath the member 8. At the rear end of the cover 10 and at opposite sides the material of the cover is slit so that the rear end portion may be bent upwardly and rearwardly to provide the flange 14 which overlies the front end of the top 2 of the container and is countersunk in a groove or recess 15 formed at said front end of the part 2. When the container is pushed inwardly relative to the support A and disposed thus in its normal dispensing position, the flange 14 is clamped between the under surface of the part A and the bottom of the recess 15 so that accidental movement of the cover 10 which might tend to displace it is avoided. Likewise, the side flanges 13 of the cover are resilient flanges that bind with a certain degree of clamping or frictional action upon the side walls of the container 1 at the opposite sides of the opening over which the cover 10 is disposed.

The container 1 may be made of any suitable material such as molded glass or other ware, or, if desired, enamelled or rust-proof metal structure may be employed. If the container is molded the guide members 9 will be of course integrally molded therewith and if the container is made of metal the guide members 9 may be pressed suitably off from the body of the container at the upper edge portions thereof.

Any suitable stop means 16 for limiting the inward movement of the container 1 and abutting therewith at its rear end when the container is disposed in normal dispensing position may be employed.

In the use of the dispensing container of the invention normally it will be disposed in the position illustrated at the right in Figure 1 and as shown in Figure 2. Since the use of the dispensing valve or cock 7 necessitates inward pressure on the pressure piece 6 this action may be performed readily and quite constantly without the displacement of the container 1 inwardly owing to the provision of the stop means 16.

For replenishing the supply of syrup, flavor, or other liquid contents in the container 1, it will be pulled outwardly to the position as shown in the left illustration of the container in Figure 1. Thereupon, by grasping the handle 11 the cover 13 may be removed, the container refilled and then the cover may be replaced very readily by sliding it rearwardly on the front upper end portion of the container 1. In so doing the flanges

13 will frictionally bind on the side walls of the container.

When the container is in the normal dispensing position shown in the right in Figure 1, the flange 14 is frictionally engaged by the under surface of the support A and there will be no tendency for the cover to become loose or raised from its normal closed position. For washing or cleaning the container, it is only necessary to slide the same forwardly until the guide members 9 are entirely disengaged from the guides 8 and the receptacle will then be bodily removable from the counter or support A to be washed or submerged in washing fluid or otherwise cleansed.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:

1. In combination, a support, a dispensing container slidably mounted upon the support beneath the same and movable to project outwardly from the support and to be disposed with its front end approximately in line with the front edge of the support, a dispensing cock carried by the front end of the container, and a cover extending over the front top portion of the container and spaced from the under surface of said support, and a handle for the cover arranged in the space between the same and the under surface of the support.

2. In combination, a support, a dispensing container slidably mounted upon the support beneath the same and movable to project outwardly from the support and to be disposed with its front end approximately in line with the front edge of the support, a dispensing cock carried by the front end of the container, and a cover extending over the front top portion of the container and spaced from the under surface of said support, and a handle for the cover arranged in the space between the same and the under surface of the support, said container being formed with a top portion terminating short of its front end to provide a refill and cleaning opening over which the cover extends, said cover having a flange at its rear end engaging beneath the top portion of the container and the under surface of the support for preventing the cover from becoming loose or accidentally displaced.

3. In combination, a support, a dispensing container disposed beneath said support, a dispensing cock at the front end of the container, spaced guides on the under side of the support between which the container is adapted to move, guide members on the opposite upper sides of the container engaging in the guides on the support for permitting longitudinal movement of the container, the container comprising front and rear ends, sides, bottom, and a top portion terminating short of the front end to provide a refill and cleaning opening, a cover mounted on the front end of the container extending over said opening and detachably engaging said container, said cover being disposed in a plane lower than the upper surface of the top of the container, together with a handle on said cover, and having its upper portion in a plane terminating short of the under surface of the support on which the container is movable.

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