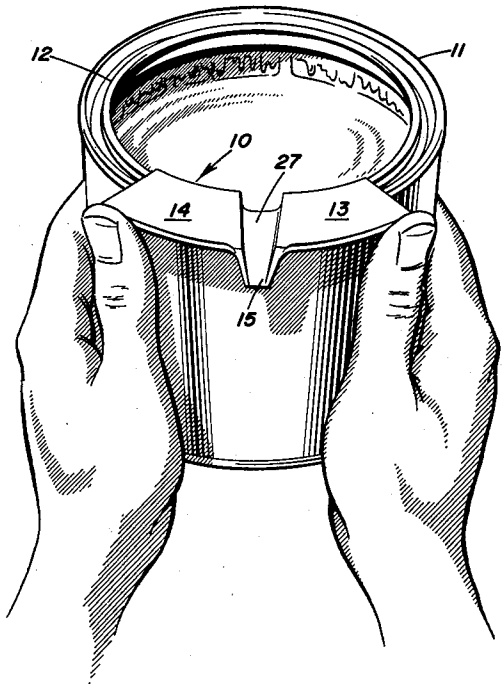
Jan. 22, 1963 C. BAROUD 3,074,604

PAINT CAN ATTACHMENT

Filed Oct. 12, 1960 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.



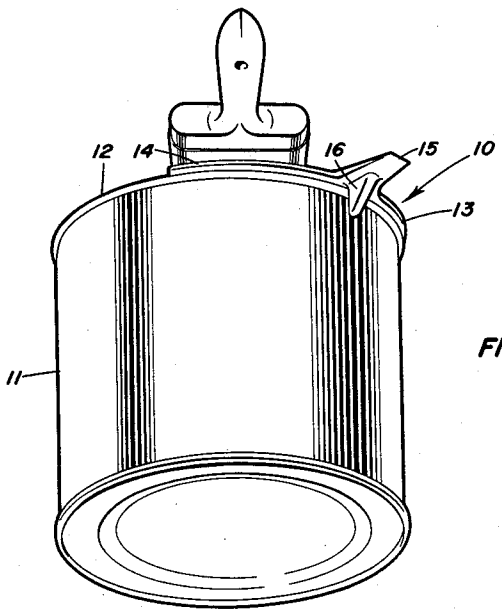


FIG. 2.

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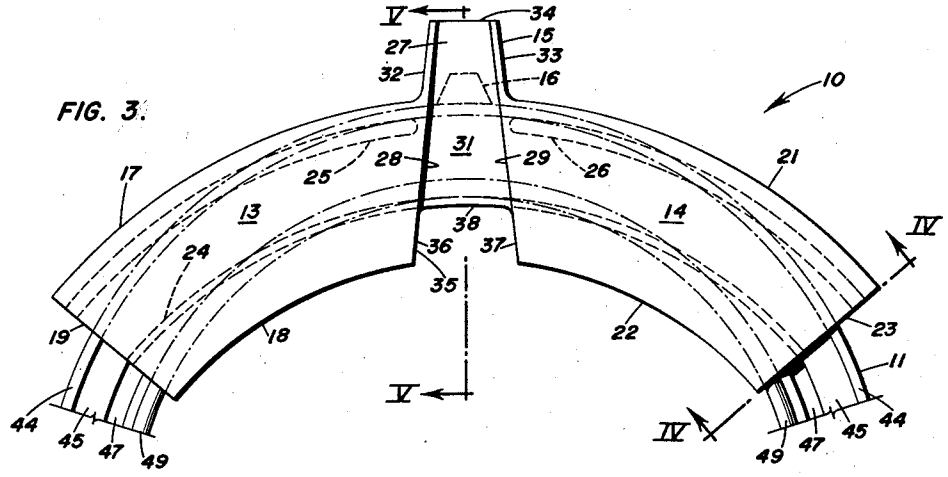
Filed Oct. 12, 1960 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 3.



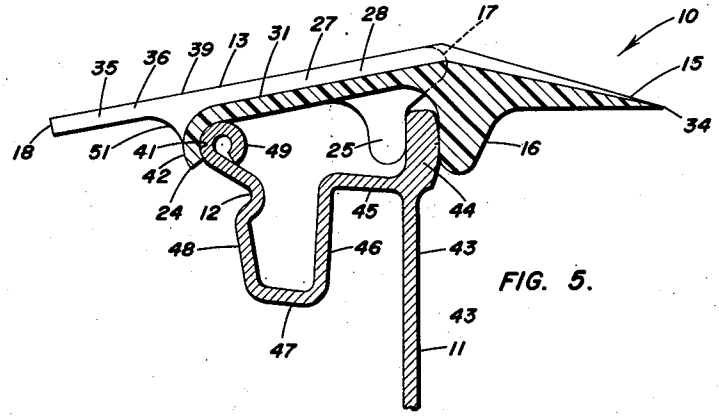


FIG. 5.

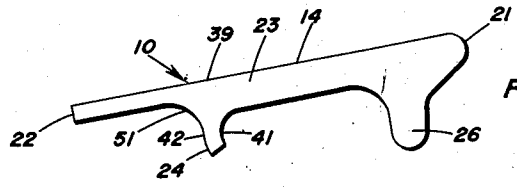


FIG. 4.

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3,074,604

PAINT CAN ATTACHMENT

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Filed Oct. 12, 1960, Ser. No. 62,121
3 Claims. (Cl. 222—569)

This invention relates to a paint can attachment and more particularly to apparatus arranged to be used with a conventional can of paint as a paint pourer, saver, and brush rest.

In painting, there are many occasions in which it is desirable to be able to remove excess paint from the paint brush. At the same time, there are times when one wishes to find a place to rest the brush when it is not being used. Furthermore, particularly when large cans of paint are involved, it is desirable to pour some of the paint into a smaller receptacle. In the past, devices have been known for accomplishing all of these functions, but it has been necessary to use of one several devices for this purpose. Furthermore, there have been devices that have not been useful with all sizes of cans and that have easily been rendered inoperative by an accumulation of dry paint. Furthermore, as time goes on, these devices, particularly when they are made of sheet metal, get out of shape and will no longer fit the can properly. These and other difficulties experienced with the prior art devices have been obviated in a novel manner by the present invention.

It is, therefore, an outstanding object of the invention to provide a paint can attachment which is capable of performing the functions of acting as a paint pourer, a brush rest, and an excess paint scraper.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a paint can attachment of the type described which is formed in such a manner and of such a material as to render it capable of attachment to the conventional paint can despite accumulations of dry paint and despite variations in can size.

A further object of the present invention is the provision of a paint can attachment which is readily adapted to being injection molded of an elastomer plastic in a variety of sizes for attachment to various standard paint cans.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a paint can attachment which may be readily manufactured of inexpensive material and which is capable of a long life of useful service with a minimum of maintenance problems.

With these and other objects in view, as will be apparent to those skilled in the art, the invention resides in the combination of parts set forth in the specification and covered by the claims appended hereto.

The character of the invention, however, may be best understood by reference to certain of its structural forms as illustrated by the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a paint can attachment embodying the principles of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view from beneath the paint can on which the attachment has been placed;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the invention;

FIG. 4 is an end elevational view of the invention taken on the line IV—IV of FIG. 3; and

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of the invention taken on the line V—V of FIG. 2.

Referring first to FIGS. 1 and 2, wherein are best shown the general features of the invention, it can be seen that the paint can attachment, indicated generally by the reference numeral **10**, is shown in use with a paint can **11** having a conventional lip **12**. The attachment consists in a general way of a right hand shelf portion **13**, a left hand shelf portion **14**, and a nose **15**. A brace **16** extends from the underside of the nose and rests against the side of the paint can.

In FIG. 3 it can be seen that the right hand shelf portion **14** is defined by two concentric circular edges **17** and **18** and a radial end edge **19**; in a similar manner the left hand shelf portion **14** is defined by concentric circular edges **21** and **22** and a radial end edge **23**. Circular edges **13** and **21** lie on the same imaginary circle and the circular edges **18** and **22** are similarly related. Spaced inwardly of the edges **18** and **21** is a downwardly-extending flange **24**. Inwardly of the circular edge **17** the right hand shelf portion **13** is provided with a concentric downwardly-extending flange **25**, while a similar flange **26** extends downwardly from the left hand shelf portion **14** a similar distance inwardly of the circular edge **21**. Centrally of the attachment it is provided with a radial groove **27** which extends otuwardly over the nose **15** and is defined by sides **28** and **29** and a bottom **31**. The nose **15** is defined in the plan view by two sides **32** and **33** and an end **34**. The sides **32** and **28** of the groove and nose are generally parallel as are the sides **29** and **33**. The sides **28** and **29** are inclined toward one another as they extend outwardly and so the sides **32** and **33** of the nose **15** are similarly related. At the other side of the attachment it is provided with a notch **35** which is defined by a side **36** which constitutes an extension of the side **28** of the groove **27** by a side **37** which constitutes an extension of the side **29** of the groove and by an inner edge **38**; the inner edge **38** lies in alignment with the inner side of the flange **24**.

As is evident in FIG. 4, the upper surface of the right hand shelf portion **13** and the left hand shelf portion **14** is a broad flat surface **39**. It can be seen that the circular edge **22** is quite square with sharp edges, whereas the outer edge **21** is fairly thick and is smoothly beveled. The flange **24** is provided with an inner concave surface **41** and an outer convex surface **42** which is concentric with it. The flange **26** extends inwardly at a right angle to the surface **39** and is provided with a generous bevel at its lower edge and at the areas at which it merges with the underside of a shelf portion.

FIG. 5 not only shows the cross-section of the attachment in the vicinity of the nose **15** but also shows the shape of the lip **12** of the can **11**. Also, it shows the relationship of the brace **16** to the can and the flange **25**. Also evident is the groove **27** with its side **28** and its bottom **31**. As is clearly shown, the nose **15** tapers outwardly to a sharp edge at its outer end; the nose tilts slightly away from the plane of the upper surface **39**. The can **11** and its lip **12** are shown as having a wall **43** at the upper side of which is located a vertical flange **44**. From the junction of the wall **43** and the flange **44** the lip consists of a generally horizontal portion **45** followed by a vertical portion **46**; this is followed by another horizontal floor **47**, this being the lowermost portion of the lip.

The inner edge of the floor **47** merges into a generally vertical portion terminating at its upper edge in a bead **49**.

In FIG. 3 the attachment **10** is shown in its normal condition before being snapped onto the can. The can **11** is shown with its flange **44** and its bead **49** so that it is quite clear that the radius of curvature of the flanges **25** and **26** is much greater than that of the outer flange **44** and that the curvature of the inner flange **24** is considerably greater than the curvature of the bead **49**. In FIG. 5 it can be seen that a fillet **51** is provided in the junction between the underside of the shelf portions and the inner flange **24**, except in the vicinity of the notch **35**. It is contemplated that the apparatus be made of an elastomer substance such as polyethylene, Teflon, or rubber.

The operation of the invention will now be readily understood in view of the above description. After the cover has been removed from the can **11**, the attachment is

grasped in both hands as shown in FIG. 1. The apparatus is bent to conform to the curvature of the can and the brace 16 is slipped along the outer surface of the flange 44 of the can, while the flange 25 and the flange 26 are slipped along the inner surface of the flange 44. Then the flange 24 is moved downwardly over the bead 49 and the attachment is released. The natural resiliency of the article makes it tend to resume its natural state and the concave surface 41 of the flange 24 snaps into place securely around and under the bead 49. During the painting operation, after the painter has dipped the brush into the paint, he may draw the brush along the circular edges 18 and 22 which, as has been described, are provided with sharp edges which remove most of the paint from the brush to a degree sufficient to ensure good painting. Since the edges 18 and 22 are spaced inwardly a considerable distance from the side 43 of the paint can and from the lip 12, the excess paint will fall directly into the body of paint in the paint can. Furthermore, the paint, when removed from the brush, will not flow along the surface of the lip and foul it against use with the can cover. As a matter of fact, when using the present invention, it is contemplated that no paint will remain in the groove in the lip formed by the vertical portion 46 and 48 in the bottom 47. In order to pour the paint from the can into a smaller receptacle, it is merely necessary to tip the can. The paint flows through the groove 27 and leaves the end of the nose 15. The tight manner in which the attachment grasps the lip and covers the can on both sides of the nose for a considerable distance ensures that there be no danger of the paint running down the side of the can or otherwise behaving in an unsatisfactory manner. Because the right hand shelf portion 13 and the left hand shelf portion 14 have broad flat upper surfaces 39 a desirable surface is provided for laying a brush when it is not in use, as is illustrated in FIG. 2. In FIG. 5 it can be seen that the surface 39 is inclined slightly toward the inside of the can so that paint will run off the brush into the can.

Because of the integral construction of the attachment it is a relatively easy matter to clean it after it has been used for a certain color of paint. Most of the elastomer plastics are resistant to chemical action and strong paint removers and cleaners may be used, if necessary.

It is obvious that minor changes may be made in the form and construction of the invention without departing from the material spirit thereof. It is not, however, desired to confine the invention to the exact form herein shown and described, but it is desired to include all such as properly come within the scope claimed.

The invention having been thus described, what is claimed as new and desired to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A paint can attachment formed of an elastomer material, comprising two shelf portions having inner and outer concentric edges and having upper surfaces lying in a common plane, the shelf portions being adapted to overlie the lip of the paint can, a nose extending radially outwardly of and between the outer circular edges, a groove extending radially between the shelf portions and over the nose to its outer end, at least two radially-spaced concentric flanges extending downwardly from the shelf portions and adapted to grasp annular portions of the lip, each flange having a radius of curvature substantially different from that of its respective annular portion, one of the flanges having a concave side facing the other flange and adapted to engage a bead on the lip formed at the upper edge of its respective annular portion.

2. A paint can attachment integrally formed of an elastomer material, comprising two shelf portions having inter and outer concentric edges and having upper surfaces lying in a common plane, the shelf portions being adapted to overlie the lip of the paint can, a nose extending radially outwardly of and between the outer circular edges, a groove extending radially between the shelf portions and over the nose to its outer end, at least two radially-spaced concentric flanges extending downwardly from the shelf portions and adapted to grasp annular portions of the lip, each flange having a radius of curvature substantially different from that of its respective annular portion, a brace extending downwardly from the nose and having a substantially vertical surface facing toward the outer flange, the outer flange and the vertical surface of the brace being adapted to clamp the lip between them.

3. A paint can attachment integrally formed of an elastomer material, comprising two shelf portions having inner and outer concentric edges and having upper surfaces lying in a common plane, the shelf portions being adapted to overlie the lip of the paint can with their surfaces inclined downwardly toward the center of the can, a nose extending radially outwardly of and between the outer circular edges, a groove extending radially between the shelf portions and over the nose to its outer end, first and second radially-spaced concentric flanges extending downwardly from the shelf portions and adapted to grasp annular portions of the lip, each flange having a radius of curvature substantially different from that of its respective annular portion, the first flange having a concave side facing the other flange and adapted to engage a bead formed on the upper edge of the respective annular portion, and a brace extending downwardly from the nose and having a substantially vertical surface facing toward the second flange, the second flange and the vertical surface of the brace being adapted to clamp the lip between them.

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