E. C. AUSTIN.

MEANS FOR FACILITATING THE OPENING OF CONTAINERS.

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1,103,859. Patented July 14, 1914

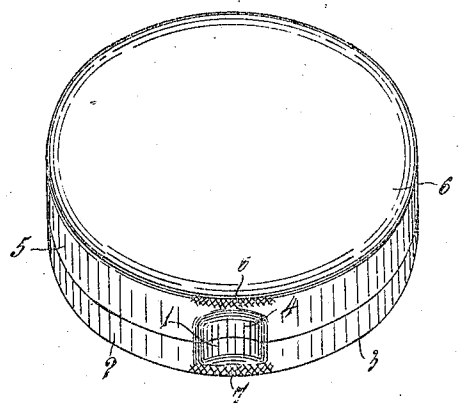


FIG. 1

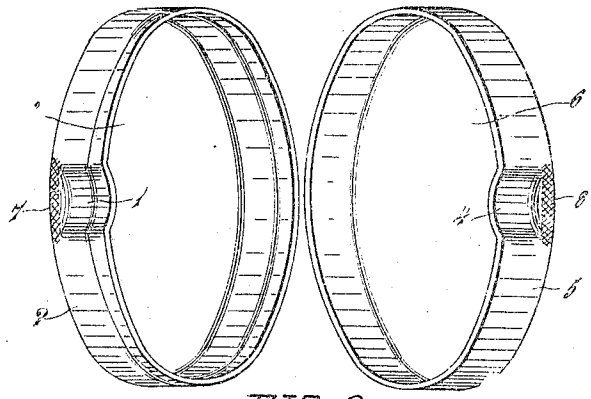


FIG. 2.

WITNESSES:-

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MEANS FOR FACILITATING THE OPENING OF CONTAINERS.

1,103,859. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 14, 1914.

Application filed August 27, 1912. Serial No. 717,285.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNEST CHARLES AUSTIN, a citizen of New Zealand, and residing at 215 Lambton Quay, Wellington, in the Provincial District of Wellington, in the Dominion of New Zealand, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Means for Facilitating the Opening of Containers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to containers such as circular rectangular or other shaped tins or cans used for holding or packing food stuffs, blacking, tobacco and many other substances and provides means whereby the lids of such containers are easily removed.

It is well known that difficulty is constantly experienced in removing the lids from containers and various methods and expedients are resorted to, such as hammering or heating the lid, for the purpose of its removal.

My invention adds practically nothing or very little to the cost of manufacture and does not disfigure the containers.

I form an indentation sufficiently large to admit or partially admit the tips of the thumbs and having its deepest part coinciding with the edge of the lid. The indentation is formed partially in the lid and partially in the body of the container. In making the indentation, ribs, bosses or beads are formed at the top and bottom of the indentation and these ribs are milled to give a firm grip to the thumbs.

The rim of the body of a container and particularly of a circular container when surrounded by the rim of a lid, form a construction which frequently will not yield sufficiently to permit the removal of the lid by the hands alone. The indentations in the lid and body of the container form breaks in the rims, which allow the said rims to spring sufficiently for the lid to be removed with facility. One or more indentations may be provided. The indentation enables a lid to be placed in position upon the body of a container more readily than an ordinary lid. The indentation of the lid is adjusted upon the indentation in the body, and the lid is then readily pushed into position without trouble.

To remove the lid of a container, the thumbs are placed in the indentation, and the lid is then readily removed from the body of the container by pulling apart, or the thumbs may be pressed one against the other, or used as levers one against the other for this purpose.

The drawing herewith illustrates a form of my invention applied to a circular container. The invention can be applied with equal facility to containers of shapes other than circular containers.

Figure 1 is a perspective elevation of a closed container embodying the invention. Fig. 2, is a perspective view showing the lid removed from the body of the container.

Referring to the drawing, an indentation 1 is made in the rim 2 of the body 3 as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and a corresponding indentation 4 is made in the rim 5 of the lid 6, so that when the lid is in its closed position upon the body 3, the indentation 4 fits closely into the indentation 1.

The making of the indentations 1 and 4 form ribs, ledges or beads 7 and 8 at the bottom of the indentation 1, and at the top of the indentation 4 respectively. These ribs are milled or otherwise roughened, to afford a firm grip. When the lid is in position upon the body, the indentation or depression between the ribs 7 and 8 is sufficiently large to admit or partially admit the tips of an operator's thumbs, and the lid is then readily removed from the body by pulling apart, or the thumbs may be pressed one against the other or used as levers one against the other for removing the lid. In ordinary cases the lid will readily leave the body, but in the case of a very tight lid, the indentation 1 is pressed inward by the thumb to make the rim of the body yield and allow the lid to be readily removed.

What I do claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. A container body, having an indentation extending through its upper edge, a cover, having an indentation therein corresponding to and adapted to receive said indentation in the container body, the indentations together forming a recess adapted to receive the thumbs, substantially as set forth.

2. In a container body having adjacent

its upper end an indentation closed at the bottom and open at the top and one side, a cover having an indentation closed at the top and open at the bottom and one side, the indentations together forming a recess and having roughened lower and upper portions and adapted to receive the thumbs.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two witnesses.

ERNEST CHARLES AUSTIN.

Witnesses:

CECIL BALFOUR MELVILLE,

ANNA DOROTHY MCKENZIE.