

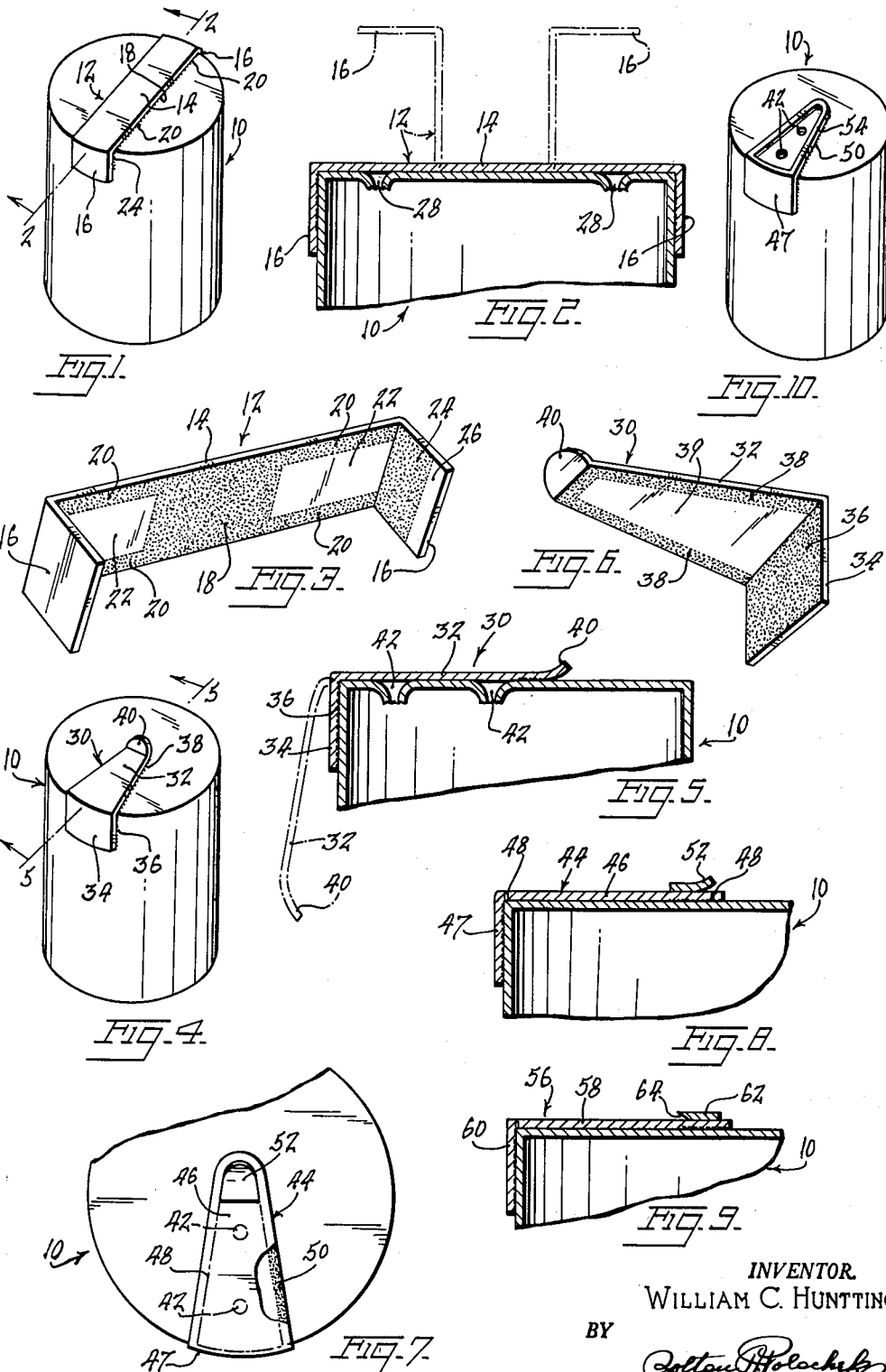
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SANITARY POURING SURFACE FOR CANS AND THE LIKE

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SANITARY POURING SURFACE FOR CANS AND THE LIKE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 220—24)

This invention relates to a tab or cover strip, appli-
cable to the surface of a can of the type adapted to be
punctured for removal of the contents. More particu-
larly, the invention has reference to a tab which will main-
tain in a substantially sterile condition that portion of
the container surface in which the discharge and air vent
openings are to be formed, until such time as the con-
tainer is to be punctured and the contents thereof re-
moved.

Evaporated or condensed milk, and various other food
products, are normally sealed within a can, after which
the can or container and its contents are brought to a
heat that sterilizes the contents and cleans the outer
surface of the container. At this stage, the container is
in a completely sanitary condition. However, after appli-
cation of a label thereto, the container is packaged with
others in a carton, and is subsequently removed and
placed upon a store shelf or other exposed location where
dirt or harmful bacteria can lodge upon the surface there-
of due to handling by store employees, customers, etc.
As a result, when the container is punctured and the
contents poured therefrom, said contents may pick up
some of the dirt or other undesirable elements, to the
possible detriment of the user's health.

The main object of the present invention, in view of
the above, is to provide a tab-like strip applicable to a
container at the time the container is still in a sanitary
condition, and is being labeled preliminary to packaging
in a carton and shipment, which strip will sealably cover
and maintain in a substantially sterile condition that
portion of the container surface which will subsequently
be contacted by the contents when the container is
punctured and the contents are being poured.

Another object is to so design the strip as to promote
not only ease of application by the producer, but also
ease of removal by the ultimate consumer.

A further object is to prevent the strip from interfer-
ing with normal packaging of the container in cartons, or
with other conventional manufacturing and merchandis-
ing practices, by fashioning the strip as a thin, flat article
that will lie flat upon the container surface and will not
define an undesirable projection thereupon.

Yet another object is to permit the strip, in at least
one form of the invention, to be pressed back into posi-
tion over the discharge and vent openings, if only part of
the contents are used, thus to protect the remaining por-
tion of the contents pending eventual use thereof.

A further object of importance is to design the strip
so that it can be manufactured and applied with a mini-
mum of expense, and so that it can in addition serve to
carry printed or pictorial advertising matter.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of
the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had
to the following description and accompanying drawings,
and to the appended claim in which the various novel
features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

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In the accompanying drawings forming a material part
of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a container to which has
been applied a protective strip formed in accordance
with the invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged, fragmentary sectional view on
line 2—2 of Fig. 1, the dotted lines showing the strip
lifted for pouring of the container contents.

Fig. 3 is a bottom perspective view of the strip or tab
per se, on an enlarged scale.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing a modifica-
tion.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view on line 5—5 of
Fig. 4, the dotted lines showing the strip position when
the contents are being poured.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged bottom perspective view of the
form of Fig. 4.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary top plan view of a container
and of another modified strip applied thereto, part of
the strip being broken away.

Fig. 8 is a longitudinal sectional view through the
strip of Fig. 7 and container.

Fig. 9 is a view similar to Fig. 8 in which the strip
shown in Fig. 8 has a modified tab applied thereto.

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of a container and of the
protective strip of Figs. 7-9, showing the strip as it ap-
pears after a portion thereof has been removed to per-
mit pouring of the container contents.

The reference numeral 10 has been applied generally
in the several figures of the drawing to a conventional
container of the type used for evaporated milk or other
food products. In Figs. 1 and 2, there has been illus-
trated in applied position a protective cover strip 12
formed in accordance with the invention. The strip can
be formed of paper or like material, and in these figures
of the drawing, is shown as having an elongated, rec-
tangular configuration. The strip is bent downwardly
at its ends when applied to the container, and thus, there
is defined an elongated body 14 in the strip, said body
extending diametrically across one end wall of the con-
tainer in contact therewith.

The end portions defined by bending the strip have
been designated by the reference numeral 16 and as
shown, extend in contact with the side wall of the con-
tainer at diametrically opposite locations thereupon.

As shown in Fig. 3, the midlength part of body 14 is
coated on its underside with adhesive as at 18, from
side to side of the body, this adhesively coated area
merging into adhesively coated side areas 20 of the under-
side of the body. The areas 20, being confined to the
longitudinal edge portions of the body, define at each end
of the body clear or uncoated midwidth areas 22, the
areas 22 overlying those portions of the container surface
which are to be punctured when the contents are to be
poured.

The end portions 16 are coated with adhesive 24 from
side to side thereof, said adhesive terminating short of
the free ends of end portions 16 to define uncoated areas
forming lifting tabs 26.

As previously noted herein, the strip is applied to the
top of the can while the can is still in a sanitary condi-
tion. Thereafter, since the particular portions of the
container that are to be punctured will be completely
surrounded by areas of the strip that are adhesively en-
gaged with the container surface, said container portions
will be completely sealed against the admission of air
and will be maintained in a sterile condition.

When the consumer is about to open the container, it
is necessary merely that the lifting tabs 26 be grasped,
and pulled upwardly, so as to peel the strip away from
the protected, spaced portions of the container surface.

The strip will now be disposed as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, the only part of the strip remaining in adherence to the container surface being the midlength part 18.

The container may now be punctured at spaced locations to form discharge and air vent openings 28, and the contents are poured from one of said openings. If the full contents are not to be used, the strip ends are pressed back into their original positions, so as to sealably cover the openings 28 until the remaining contents are to be dispensed.

In Figs. 4-6, the strip has been designated generally at 30, and includes a tapering body 32 merging at its wider end into a depending end portion 34 the inner surface of which is entirely coated with adhesive 36. The underside of the body is coated with adhesive 38 along its longitudinal edges, the areas 38 merging at one end into the adhesively coated inner surface of end portion 34. At their other ends, the areas 38 merge into a narrow, transversely extending adhesively coated area extending from side to side of the body adjacent the narrower end thereof. This defines a clear or uncoated center area 39 on the underside of the body 32, which area 39 will be adapted to overlie a portion of the upper end wall of the container sufficient for the formation of spaced openings therein.

The narrower end of the body, beyond the transversely extending adhesively coated area, is left uncoated and is bendable upwardly to form a lifting tab 40.

In use of this form of the invention, the strip is applied to the container as shown in Fig. 4, while the container is still sanitary. Subsequently, when the container is to be punctured, the lifting tab is grasped, and the strip is peeled partially from the container to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 5. This exposes the portion of the container surface that was previously sealed by the adhesively coated strip areas bounding the same, and in this portion discharge and air vent openings 42 are formed.

As in the first form of the invention, the strip can be pressed back into its original position if all the container contents are not dispensed on the initial use, to provide a seal for the punctured container.

In Figs. 7 and 8, there is shown another modification 44, the general shape of the strip being the same as that shown in Figs. 4-6. The strip here includes a tapered body 46, and spaced a short distance inwardly from and extending parallel to the periphery of the body is a continuously extending scored or weakened line 48. The wide end of the body is integral with a depending end portion 47, which is wholly coated with adhesive on its inner surface for engaging the side wall of the container.

On its underside, the body 46 of the strip is coated with adhesive 50 through its full periphery, the adhesive being confined to the space between the line 48 and the edge of the body.

At the narrow end of the body, and disposed wholly within the area bounded by the weakened line 48, a tab 52 is secured. As a result, when the container is to be punctured, tab 52 is grasped, and upward pull is exerted thereupon. This tears the body along the weakened line, and permits removal of the portion thereof bounded by the weakened line. The adhesively coated marginal portion of the strip will remain in engagement with the container, however, as shown in Fig. 10 at 54.

The previously protectively sealed portion of the con-

tainer surface will now be exposed, and openings 42 can be formed therein for pouring of the contents.

In Fig. 9, the strip 56 has a body 58 and end portion 60, these being like those of the Fig. 7 form, so far as their outer configuration, location of the adhesively coated areas, and use of a weakened line is concerned. However, in this form, the tab 52 is not used, and instead, there is employed a lifting tab 62 formed from a small piece of fibrous stock having its inner edge undercut as at 64 for insertion of one's fingernail. Tab 62 is, of course, confined to the portion of the body bounded by the weakened line.

In all forms of the invention, there is the common characteristic of a strip adhesively engaged with the container surface, and having uncoated areas bounded entirely by adhesively coated areas, with said uncoated areas overlying the portion of the container surface which is to be punctured, thus causing said surface portion to be sealably protected against the admission of air, dirt, or other deleterious elements.

It will be understood that the material from which the strip is formed, and the adhesive applied thereto, will be selected so as to be non-toxic and adhesive may be sprayed or otherwise applied to the desired areas.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

The combination with a cylindrical container having a side wall and a top wall and having portions of its top wall surface adapted to be punctured for dispensing of its contents of a protective strip, comprising a body adapted to overlie said surface portion, at least one end portion on the body being adhesively coated for engaging the container, an adhesive coating on the body in areas bounding the part of the body overlying said surface portions, for sealably protecting said surface portions until the same is to be punctured, said strip having an elongated rectangular shape with depending end portions engaging the side wall of the container, said end portions being adhesively coated over part of their inner surfaces, and being clear of adhesive over the remaining part of their inner surfaces to define lifting tabs at the ends of the strip, said body being adhesively coated over its full width at its midlength location, and being coated only along its longitudinal edges at its ends to define clear areas at the ends of the body bounded entirely by adhesively coated areas, said clear areas of the body overlying said surface portions of the container.

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