

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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INDICATOR

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This invention is a device by means of which a customer for the purpose of informing a salesman, delivery man, or the like, who is to call later, may leave on his doorstep an indication of the quantity and character of merchandise which the customer desires to have delivered.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide a simple form of disk indicator, so constructed that it may be temporarily held within the mouth of an empty milk bottle or other similar container. A further object is to provide a device of the character mentioned which will have the capability of being supported in container mouths of different diameters. A further object is to provide an indicator device having means for engaging the side of a door frame, window frame or other suitable penetratable surface, so that it may be conveniently supported when not required for use.

The invention will be hereinafter fully set forth and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing:—

Figure 1 is a top plan view illustrating an indicator constructed in accordance with the invention, it being understood that the legends and other indicia thereon are being used solely for illustrative purposes and without intention to limit the invention. Figure 2 is a sectional view illustrating the device supported in the mouth of a standard type milk bottle.

Referring to the drawing, 10 indicates a carrier member provided at one end with a knob-like abutment member 11, and at its other end with a point 12, the shank of said carrier member being threaded as indicated at 13. The upper extremity of the carrier member is enlarged so as to limit upward movement of the abutment member 11. The carrier member is passed axially through indicator disk 15, preferably of circular form and provided with suitable indicia designating the character and various quantities of merchandise for which the device is intended to serve as an index. Rotatably mounted upon the carrier member 10 and interposed between the knob 11 and the disk 15 are a

plurality of hands 16, two being shown, although it is understood that any desired number may be employed.

Said carrier member 10 is also passed through two supporting disks 17 and 18, which are held in spaced relation with respect to each other by a spacer member 19, the disk 17 being held in spaced relation with respect to the disk 15 by another spacer 20. It will be noted that the disk 18 is of smaller diameter than the disk 17 and is located below it. The various disks, spacer members and pointers are held in assembled relation upon the carrier member 10 by means of a nut 21 engaging the screw threads 13 and clamping all of said parts between it and the head 11, so that all of the elements of the device may be inserted into and removed from a container, such as a milk bottle for instance, as an assembled unit.

In practice, any number of supporting disks similar to the disks 17 and 18 may be employed, conforming to the mouths of containers of different sizes, the supporting disk of smallest diameter being in the lowermost position, so that if the larger disk is to be employed the smaller ones will pass into the container. When the device is not in use, it may be conveniently stored in any suitable place, but if desired the point 12 of the carrier member 10 may be pressed into the side of a door frame or window frame or the rail of a porch, or any other penetratable surface, and thus the device will be supported by the carrier member until required. When it is desired to use the device, the support disk of the desired size is placed in the neck of a container, such as the milk bottle B, as shown in Figure 2, and the pointers 16 may then be adjusted to indicate to the driver, salesman or delivery man who will call later, the quantity and character of the goods which his customer desires. Of course, if desired, the pointers 16 may be adjusted before the device is placed in the container.

The advantages of the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which it belongs. An important advantage is that an exceedingly simple indicating device is provided, which may be left out of

doors at the home of a customer, so that a salesman or delivery man calling later may know just what purchase the customer desires to make. For instance, the milk man calling in the early morning will find his order, the same having been left over night by the customer. A further advantage is that the parts of the device are firmly held in assembled position, but may be readily separated for replacement or repair, as the case may be. It will also be observed that the pointed carrier member may also be conveniently used to remove the closure disks of milk bottles and the like, in those instances where such disks are not equipped with means to facilitate their removal.

Having thus explained the nature of the invention and described an operative manner of constructing and using the same, although without attempting to set forth all of the forms in which it may be made, or all of the forms of its use, what is claimed is:—

1. A portable indicator of the character described comprising an indicator disk, a support disk adapted to be inserted into the mouth of a container, a portable carrier member extended centrally through said disks and carrying abutment means at its upper end, means on said carrier member for maintaining said disks in axially spaced relation, pointers rotatably mounted on said carrier member between the indicator disk and the abutment means, and means cooperating with said carrier member and said abutment means to retain the parts in assembled relation, so that they may be inserted into and removed from a container as an assembled unit.

2. A portable indicator of the character described comprising an indicator disk, a support disk adapted to be inserted into the mouth of a container, a portable carrier member extended centrally through said disks and having an enlargement at one end, an abutment member mounted on said carrier member, the movement of the abutment member in one direction being limited by the enlargement at the end of said carrier member, means on the carrier member for maintaining said disks in axially spaced relation, pointers rotatably mounted on said carrier member between the indicator disk and the abutment member, and means cooperating with said carrier member and said abutment member to retain the parts in assembled relation, so that they may be inserted into and removed from a container as an assembled unit.

3. A portable indicator of the character described comprising an indicator disk, a support disk adapted to be inserted into the mouth of a container, a portable carrier member extended through said disk and provided with abutment means at its upper end, said carrier member being screw threaded and pointed at its other end, means on said carrier member for maintaining said disks in axially spaced relation, pointers rotatably mounted on said carrier member between the indicator disk and the abutment means, and means cooperating with the threaded portion of the carrier member and with said abutment means to retain the parts in assembled relation, so that they may be inserted into and removed from a container as an assembled unit.

4. A portable indicator of the character described comprising an indicator disk, a plurality of support disks of different diameters each adapted to be inserted into the mouth of a container, a portable carrier member extended centrally through all of said disks and carrying an abutment member at its upper end, means on said carrier member for maintaining said disks in normally fixed axially spaced relation with respect to each other, pointers rotatably mounted on said carrier member between the indicator disk and the abutment means, and means cooperating with said carrier member and said abutment means to retain the parts in assembled relation, so that they may be inserted into and removed from a container as an assembled unit.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

GARRETT ELLIOTT CONOVER.