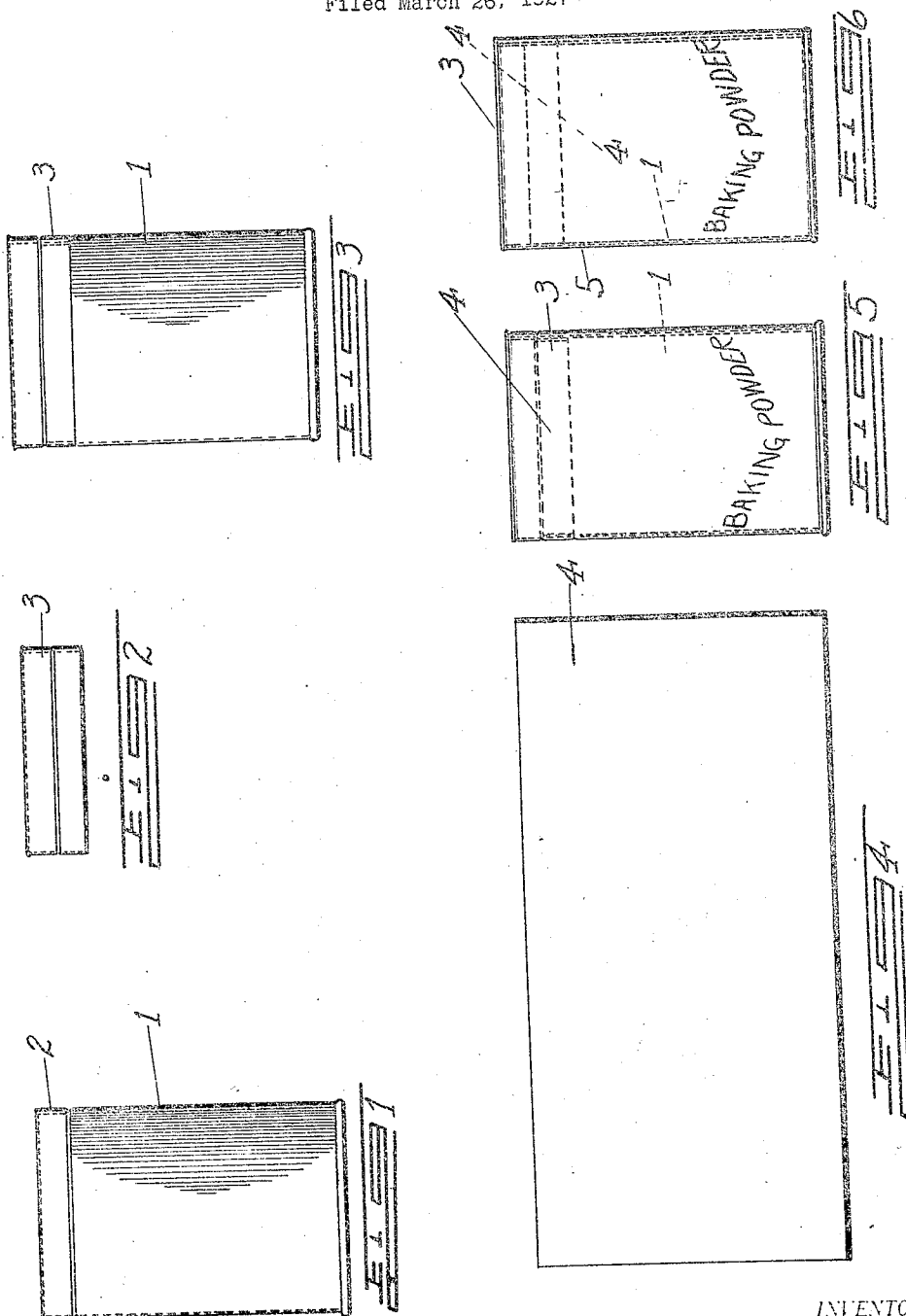


Sept. 20, 1927.

1,642,984

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PROCESS FOR SEALING CANS

Filed March 26, 1927



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PROCESS FOR SEALING CANS.

Application filed March 28, 1927. Serial No. 178,731.

My process relates broadly to the art of sealing cans and particularly to a process for hermetically sealing cans which contain products which deteriorate with exposure to air.

It is the object of my invention to add to the known steps of can labeling a final treatment which will result in rendering the label moisture and air-proof and which will also seal tightly a printed paper label, which may be pasted over the joint between the can body and lid. It is further my object to coat a printed label with a thin layer of varnish subsequent to the application so that the effect of a lithographed can is well simulated.

I have illustrated a preferred application of my process in connection with the required steps of hermetically sealing a baking powder package of usual type. The type of can which I have shown has a slip-on cover or lid which telescopes over the open top of the can body.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a can body. Figure 2 is a side elevation of a cover for the can.

Figure 3 is a side elevation of the can with the cover attached.

Figure 4 is a plan view of a label.

Figure 5 is a side elevation after the application of the label to the can.

Figure 6 is a side elevation of the labeled can after the final varnishing step.

The can body, which is generally indicated at 1, has an annular top edge portion 2, which is adapted to frictionally seat a lid or cover 3. The slip-on cover, as this type of closure may be called, telescopes down over the annular top edge of the can body. A label 4 of sufficient width to extend approximately from the bottom edge of the can to the top edge of the lid is pasted around the can so as to overlap the joint between the lid and the can body. If a varnished printed wrapper is applied to the can, there are usually wrinkles in the wrapper which extend longitudinally from the can joint to the edge of the wrapper. Such wrinkles prevent a hermetic seal and then, if unvarnished wrappers are used, the paper itself being

somewhat porous will allow some passage of air through to the joint of the lid and the can.

The difficulty with wrinkled wrappers is particularly noticeable when large sized cans are packed. In order to make the wrapper fit snugly about the can I have found that if the wrappers are moistened prior to their application and then are heated subsequently to their application, the wrappers will shrink and fit snugly about the cans. In the case of wrapping cans that do not have a slip-on cover or which are of small dimensions the use of wet wrappers and the shrinking of the wrappers about the cans is not essential. Notwithstanding a thorough drying of the cans after the cans are wrapped improves the snugness of the fit of the wrappers.

As a final treatment to insure a substantially hermetically sealed joint between the can and cover and give the appearance of a lithographed metal body, I coat the side walls of the can with varnish. I have indicated a coating of varnish as applied to the can at 5, in Figure 6. I preferably utilize my novel process for coating the cans as disclosed in my co-pending application, Serial No. 127,602, filed August 6, 1926, which application will issue as Patent Number 1,622,174, of March 22, 1927. In this process the can is placed between two rollers, to which films of varnish is supplied, one roller which rotates the can, and another roller which rotates at an increased speed and thus builds up a wave in the varnish film which thoroughly coats the side walls of the labeled cans. Other devices for applying the varnish to the walls of the can may be used, however, and I do not wish to limit myself to the particular method described in my co-pending case. It will be apparent that any ridges in the position in which the wrapper overlaps the joint will tend to be smoothed over with the application of the varnish so that a can having a smoother and neater appearance will result.

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

1. The process of labeling cans which

consists in moistening the wrappers, applying a wrapper to each can, drying the wrapped can, and varnishing the side walls of the can subsequent to the application of the wrapper and drying thereof.

2. The process of labeling a can having a slip-on cover which consists in applying a

dampened wrapper to the side walls of the can so as to overlap the joint between the cover and can, drying the wrapped can, and applying a coating of varnish to the dried and wrapped can. 10

ROBERT F. BECHT.