Oct. 6, 1936. M. E. CLAWSON 2,056,827

CONTAINER

Filed July 9, 1934

Fig. 1.

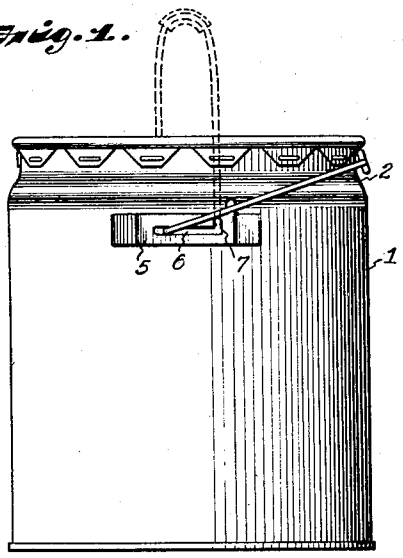


Fig. 2.

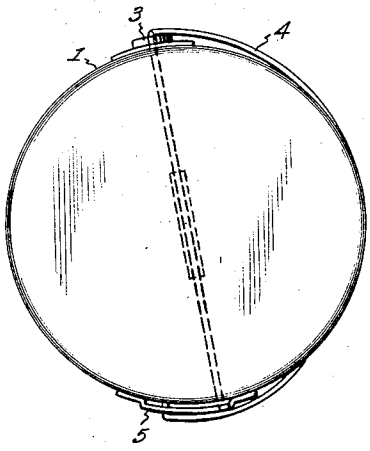


Fig. 3.

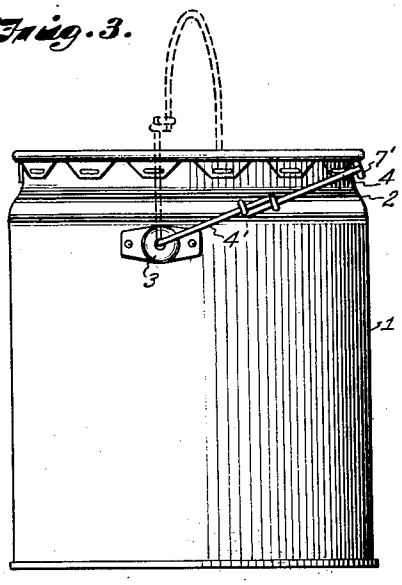
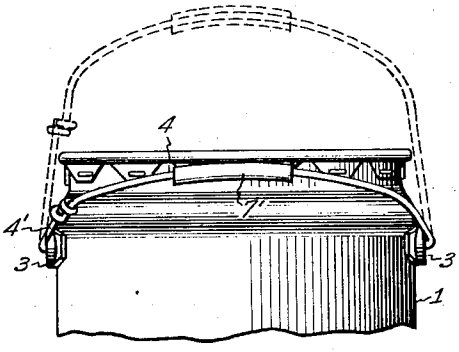


Fig. 4.



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Patented Oct. 6, 1936 2,056,827

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,056,827

CONTAINER

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Application July 9, 1934, Serial No. 734,297

1 Claim. (Cl. 220—95)

My invention relates to containers and more particularly to containers having adjustable bails. Many types of containers are equipped with bail handles or carrying devices. These containers may be from a very small size to a relatively large size and are of varied shapes and designs. The bail makes it very convenient for the manufacturer to handle during filling and preparation for shipment and is convenient for the subsequent handlers in moving and in carrying. Containers with bail handles have been in use many years and have been found very satisfactory in most cases.

One very common and serious objection to all bail type containers results from effort to handle a large number of such containers, such as stacking, packing, shipping, shelving, et cetera. When in use the bail is up above the top of the container and as a rule such containers are handled individually. When it is necessary to stack or pack such bail type containers, the bails on adjoining containers interfere with each other and with adjoining cans. The result is that it is impossible to stack the containers closely and in the minimum space. If the bail is placed in the upright position as in use, it is then impossible to stack two containers one on top of the other. This is a very serious objection in preparing cars or truck spaces for shipment or hauling and for storage in general. If the containers are forced together when the bail is in the drop position, the containers are scratched and the general external appearance greatly marred.

The primary object of this invention is to provide an improved type of bail which may be satisfactorily disposed of when not in use.

Another object of this invention is to provide a container and bail which can be stacked closely and compactly when not in use without marring the appearance of other containers.

Still another object is to accomplish the very desired characteristics of a substantially disappearing bail in a very economical manner without in any way marring the general appearance of the entire container.

Still other objects of this invention will be evident to those skilled in the art from the following specification and claim.

In the accompanying drawing which forms part of the instant specification and is to be read in conjunction therewith and in which like reference numerals are used to indicate like parts in the various views;

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a container fitted with one mode of carrying out my invention.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the container shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a side elevation of a container showing another mode of carrying out my invention.

Figure 4 is a side view of the container shown in Figure 3.

In general, my invention provides a means of shortening or reducing the radius of the bail when not in use. This permits pushing the bail down against the can in a position which makes it possible to stack the cans against each other on all sides without causing denting and/or marring of the sides of the adjacent cans.

More particularly referring now to the drawing, a container 1 is of any suitable type and is preferably made with a reduced top portion 2, enabling the bail to be stowed in position clear of adjacent containers when they are packed, stored, biped, or racked. In the form shown in Figure 1, one end of the bail is secured in the socket lug or the like 3 in a manner well known to the art. The other end of the bail 4 is secured in the member 5 which is provided with elongated slot 6, having a notch 7 in which the bail end is adapted to rest when the bail is being used to carry the container. The notch 7 is diametrically opposite the point of attachment of the other end of the bail 4 in member 3. It will be understood, of course, that member 5 may be made with a shorter slot and a similar member substituted for member 3. Member 5 may be secured to the container in any suitable manner known to the art. In the position shown in Figure 1, the bail is housed in the position clear for stowage.

It will be observed that similar containers may be piled one on top of each other or adjacent to each other without interference from the bail. When it is desired to be used as a carrying member, the bail 4 is pulled, sliding the end disposed in slot 6 into the notch 7. The bail then may be raised to the dotted line position and the container transported.

In operation, when it is desired to stow the container, all that is necessary is to drop the bail clear of the top of the container and push it against the container. This causes the end of the bail to move into the slotted member 5 and reduces the radius of the bail with respect to the diameter of the container.

In the form shown in Figure 3, the bail is made in two pieces which are connected to each other by any suitable slidable joint, as can readily be seen by reference to Figures 3 and 4. In the form shown in the drawing, one piece of

the bail 4' is joined to the other bail member 4 by a telescoping joint formed by bending the respective ends around the main portion of the opposite member. It will be readily understood that any type of sliding joint will be operative, such as for example a slot and rivet joint, or other form of telescoping joint.

In the form shown in Figure 1, member 5 is provided with protruding corner 8. When the bail 4 is dropped to the position shown in Figure 1, the bail frictionally engages the corner 8 and the bail is thus immobilized, in that it is constrained from movement up or down.

In operation, when it is desired to stow the bail in position for stacking, members 4 and 4' will overlap, shortening the bail radius and enabling it to rest upon the radius end portion 2. It will be understood, of course, that any suitable rest may be provided, as for example, a pin or groove or the like. The bails are provided with any suitable handle member 7'.

It will be observed that I have accomplished the objects of my invention. I have provided a simple and expedient bail handle which will enable containers to be conveniently stowed, making the most use out of a storage place or in shipping, while precluding any scratching or marring of contiguous containers by contact with the bail.

It will be understood that certain features and sub-combinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and sub-combinations. This is contemplated by and is within the scope of my claim. It is further obvious that various changes may be made in details within the scope of my claim without departing from the spirit of my invention. It is, therefore, to be understood that my invention is not to be limited to the specific details shown and described.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

A container comprising in combination a bail having a curved portion and a straight portion, means for securing said bail to said container at points lying along a diameter of said container, and telescopic means in said straight portion for varying the length of said bail, the construction being such that the bail radius may be reduced to position the bail in contact with a side of the container.

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