

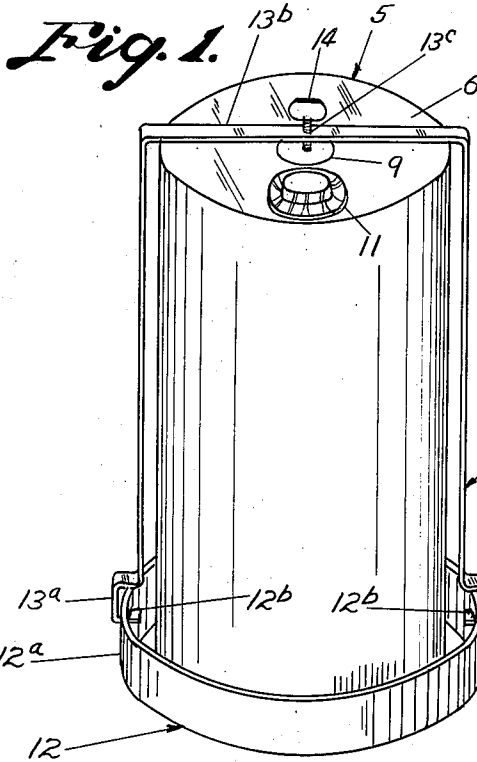
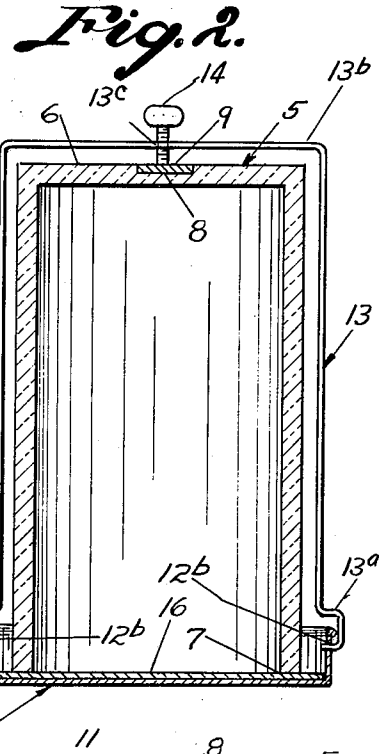
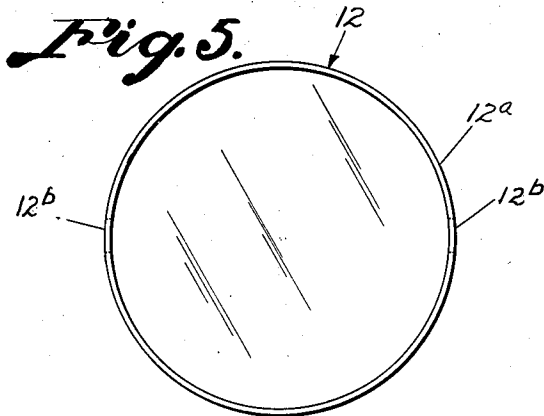
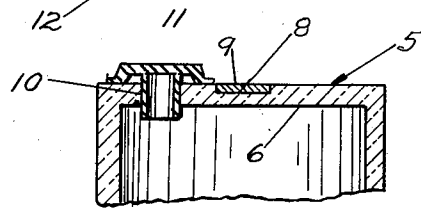
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MEANS FOR HUMIDIFYING CIGARS

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MEANS FOR HUMIDIFYING CIGARS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 299—20)

This invention relates primarily to means for humidifying cigars and tobacco as displayed in glass cases in stores, although the same might be applied with equal efficacy to the proper humidification of other goods or articles, wherever found necessary.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a humidor unit, including a container for holding water, for positioning in the case with the cigars, the container being constructed in whole or part of a specially proposed porous composition, and with walls of a correlated thickness, and being properly dimensioned relative to the porosity and thickness of the walls, so that when water is placed therein and the open end inverted upon a tray, plate, cap or other closure, the weight of the water will not be sufficient to push out under or through the closure, but the water will fall to the bottom of the container and be there retained by the closure under atmospheric pressure without, the partial vacuum formed in the upper end of the container assisting in the retention of the water, whereby the water will gradually penetrate or soak through the porous container walls and form a moisture on the exterior surfaces that will be taken up by the surrounding atmosphere for humidifying the cigars or the like in the case.

Another object is to provide a humidor unit including a container for the purposes referred to, made of a special porous material and of correlated dimensions, so that when partially or wholly filled with water and inverted on a suitable closure, such as a smooth tray or plate, the water will be retained because of atmospheric pressure and the partial vacuum in the upper part of the container, and can escape only by slow degrees by seepage and evaporation through the container walls.

Still another object is to form a container of the kind described, having a convenient form of removable closure for its open and inverted end, with means for securing it in place and for handling the assembled unit.

With the stated objects in view, together with such other objects and advantages as may appear from the following specification, preferred embodiments of the container, as made from the specified porous material, are shown in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a humidifier unit made in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section through the assembly shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary sectional detail, showing

the construction of the auxiliary filler cap or plug.

Figure 4 is a detail of the bearing button for the upper, closed end of the container.

Figure 5 is a top plan view of the closure tray or plate for closing the open end of the inverted container.

The invention comprises a container made of any suitably porous material, of suitable size for the purpose in hand and of any desirable form or shape. The preferred form shown in the drawing at 5 is in the form of an elongated cylinder, closed at one end 6 and open at the opposite end 7. A small recess or depression 8 is formed in the center of the closed end, and a button 9 of some non-corrosive material such as aluminum is pressed into the bottom of this recess, for a purpose later explained.

While it is contemplated that the container will be normally supplied with water through the open end 7, an auxiliary screw filler port 10 with cap 11 may be provided in the closed end 6, if desired.

A closure tray, plate or cap 12 is provided for the open end 7 of the container, same being greater in width or diameter than that of the container. As here shown this cap is in the form of a shallow tray with raised sides 12a for catching any accidental excess flow of water from the container 5. As shown in the drawing, the sides 12a are diametrically slotted at 12b. A looped handle or bail 13 is formed of a flat strip of metal or other suitable material, the free ends thereof being formed into hooks 13a adapted to releasably engage the slots 12b of the sides of the closure cap 12. The bight 13b of the bail is dimensioned to pass freely over the closed end of the container, and is pierced medially by a threaded bore 13c through which a thumb screw 14 is passed, down upon the button 9, and whereby the bail is releasably locked to its upright position, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. To remove the bail and the closure cap 12, the screw 14 is unturned and the bail 13 is swung aside from the container, thus releasing the cap or tray 12. If desired a thin, smooth cover plate 16 may be placed over the open end of the container, within the closure tray 12.

The container 5 may be supplied with water either by removing the closure cap 12 and pouring in the water at that open end and then inverting the container upon the cap 12 and locking same in place by turning up the bail 13 and turning down the screw 14; or if preferred the container may be filled through the auxiliary port 10 at

the normally closed end 6, the plug or cap 11 being of course removed for the purpose. With this arrangement, the container may remain seated on its closure cap at the lower end, and fresh water supplied through the auxiliary port.

If preferred and in lieu of the free closure plate, cap or tray 12, a screw or threaded form of cap (not shown), may be employed, as a safeguard against accidental spilling of water through over-turning the container.

A preferred method of making the porous container, and a preferred formula for the composition of the materials thereof is as follows:

Take 65 lbs. of clay containing rock fibers, 25 lbs. crushed or comminuted flint, 10 lbs. white clay, and 5 lbs. fine, screened sawdust, all thoroughly intermixed and mixed with sufficient water to form a plastic paste.

This material is then molded by conventional methods to form the containers, and the latter are finally heated in ovens to about 1958 degrees Fahrenheit, which process results in burning out the sawdust, and leaving a porous or semi-porous vessel through and up which water may seep and work by capillary action, for the uses and purposes as above described.

From the foregoing description it is thought the use and operation of the device, as well as its mode of construction, will be fully understood. The container is partially or entirely filled with water in manner explained and then is inverted upon the closure tray or cap and locked thereto, and then is placed within the case with the cigars or tobacco, the resultant humidifying action being as above described.

While I have here shown and described a certain embodiment of the container unit and its

accessories as used in the invention, together with the formula and method of composition of the materials of the container, structural features thereof, as well as the proportions of the ingredients of the composition of the container, and the steps of the method itself, may be varied within the scope of the claims.

I claim:

1. An elongate porous vessel closed at one end and open at the other end, whereby the vessel may be supplied with water, and inverted upon a tray with the open end turned downward upon the tray, the juncture of the vessel and tray being substantially air-tight, and the porosity of the vessel being such that the water is held in suspension by the vacuum formed in the upturned end of the vessel by the weight of the water, the latter escaping only gradually through the porous sides of the vessel.
2. In a structure according to claim 1, a looped handle adapted at its ends for releasable connection with the tray, and having a bight portion for passing over the top of the vessel, and a thumb-screw passed down through the bight of the handle and adapted to bear upon the upper end of the vessel, for locking the elements together with the handle in upright position.
3. In a structure according to claim 1, a bearing button seated centrally in the upturned closed end of the said vessel, a looped handle connected at its ends with the tray and having a bight for passing over the top of the vessel, and a thumb screw passed centrally through the bight of the handle and adapted to bear upon the said button, for locking the elements together with the handle in upright position.

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