

Jan. 21, 1930.

I. E. BROWN ET AL
CONDIMENT HOLDER
Filed April 30, 1929

1,744,358

Fig. 1.

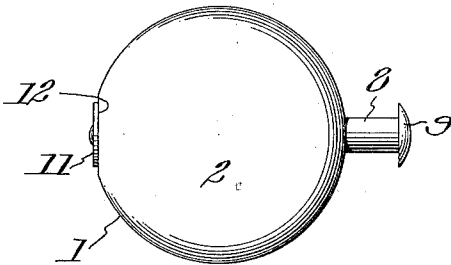


Fig. 2.

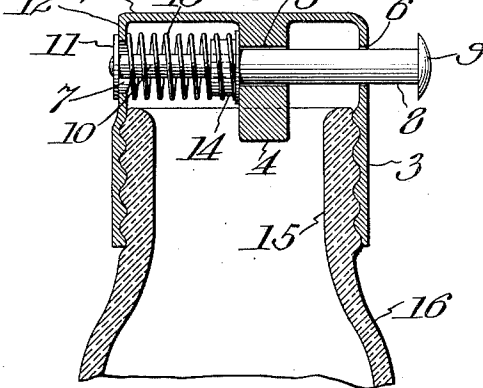
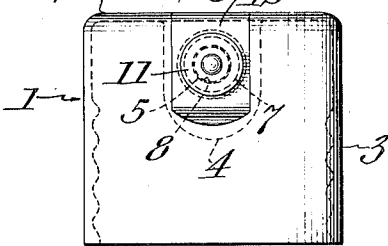


Fig. 3.



Inventors:

Irving E. Brown
Nicholas Hoffman
by W. H. Finer
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

IRVING E. BROWN AND NICHOLAS HOFFMAN, OF PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY

CONDIMENT HOLDER

Application filed April 30, 1929. Serial No. 359,376.

The object of this invention is to provide a holder for salt, sugar, and other substances or condiments, which while being easily operable for the discharge of the substances, is closed substantially air-tight when not in use.

The invention consists of a cap adapted to be applied to a bottle, jar or other container, in such way as to permit the filling of the container, said cap having a lateral, instead of an end discharge provision, and this lateral discharge opening being normally closed by a spring valve, mounted in the cap, the valve being of the nature of a push valve and operable from outside the cap, the top of the cap being closed, as we will proceed now more fully to explain and finally claim.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating the invention, in the several figures of which like parts are similarly designated, Figure 1 is a top plan view of the cap. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the cap applied to a container shown only partially. Fig. 3 is an end elevation.

1 is a cap, preferably made of metal, having a closed top 2 and the skirt 3, which last may be of any suitable construction to afford an easy means of attachment to and detachment from a container; in the drawing the attaching and detaching means being shown as a screwthread.

Depending from the inner side of the top is a bearing lug 4 having a transverse opening 5, and in alignment with this opening are the openings 6 and 7 opposite each other and made in the skirt 3. The openings 5 and 6 are of a size to receive and support a stem 8 having a head 9. Between the lug 4 and the opening 7 the stem is reduced, as at 10, and the outside end of the reduced portion of the stem is provided with the valve disk 11 which is enough larger than the opening 7 to close said opening. Preferably the cap is flattened at 12 adjacent to the opening 7, so that the valve may seat closely around said opening, to close it. To hold the valve closed, a spring 13 is mounted within the cap so as to bear at one end against the inside of the cap opposite the opening 7 and having a seat 14 including a washer member moving with the stem to compress the spring and permit the uncovering

of the opening 7 by lengthwise pressure on the stem, the valve 11 automatically closing under the retractive action of the spring as force is released from the stem. Obviously, the valve mechanism is in the nature of a push-button.

As shown in Fig. 2, the cap is applied to the mouth or neck 15 of the container 16, part only of which last is shown, and this container is of such nature as to hold salt, sugar, and other substances or condiments, which are to be dispensed by a shaking motion when the valve is open. Obviously the cap not being provided with top end perforations, as usual in condiment holders, and the laterally arranged discharge opening being normally closed by the valve 11, the entrance of moisture from the atmosphere into the container is excluded, and the contents, therefore, are preserved against agglomerating, caking, or becoming lumpy. Moreover, should the container tip over sidewise, the contents of the container will not escape.

Should the contents agglomerate, cake or be lumpy, its contact with the lug 4, stem 8, the spring 13, and the washer member of the spring seat, when the container is being shaken, would tend to break up lumps or cakes, and thus keep the contents in easily dischargeable condition.

Any arrangement may be used for confining the spring between the stem 8 and the portion of the cap next to the discharge opening 7 in such position and alignment as to prevent accidental displacement of the spring, or in other words, to hold the spring in alignment with the stem.

It will be observed that the cap itself contains the operating mechanism as a unit, without requiring any change in the container, and thus the device, among other advantages, is self-contained and capable of use on different containers which have appropriate necks.

Variations are permissible within the principle of the invention and the claims following.

What we claim is:—

1. A condiment holder cap, closed at one end at the top, and having a skirt adapted to be applied to a container, said cap provided

with a lug depending from the inside of the top of the cap and having a transverse opening, the skirt of the cap having opposite perforations, one of which constitutes the discharge opening, and a spring-closed valve applied to the discharge opening and having its stem mounted in the other opposite perforation and the opening in the lug.

2. A condiment holder cap, closed at the top end and having a skirt adapted to be applied to a container, said skirt having oppositely arranged perforations, a lug depending from the inside of the top of the cap and having a transverse opening, one of the opposite perforations constituting a discharge opening, a stem movably supported in said transverse opening of the lug and having a push head at one end extending through the opposite perforation in the skirt and outside of the cap, a valve applied to the other end of the stem and located on the outside of the skirt and covering its opposite perforation, and a spring mounted on the valved end of the stem between the lug and the discharge opening.

3. A condiment holder cap, closed at the top end and having a skirt adapted to be applied to a container, said skirt having oppositely arranged perforations, a lug depending from the inside of the top of the cap and having a transverse opening, one of the opposite perforations constituting a discharge opening, a stem movably supported in said transverse opening of the lug and having a push head at one end extending through the opposite perforation in the skirt and outside of the cap, a valve applied to the other end of the stem and located on the outside of the skirt and covering its opposite perforation, and a spring mounted on the valved end of the stem between the lug and the discharge opening, the spring and the supporting lug located wholly within the cap and serving in use to break up any lumps of material in the container.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 27th day of April, A. D., 1929.

IRVING E. BROWN.
NICHOLAS HOFFMAN.