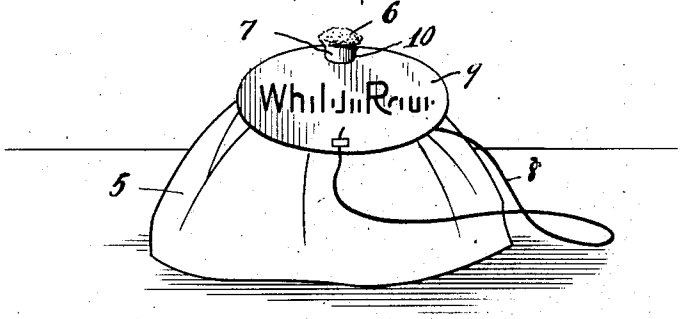
June 5, 1928. 1,672,518

R. ENSKO

TEA BALL

Filed March 6, 1928

Fig. 1.



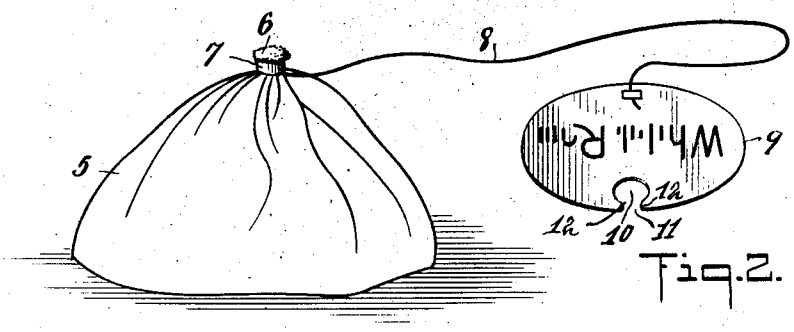


Fig. 2.

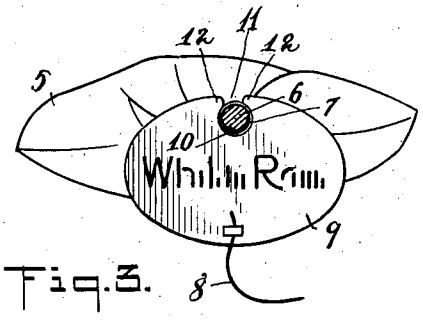


Fig. 3.

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TEA BALL.

Application filed March 6, 1928. Serial No. 259,435.

The invention relates more particularly to measured quantities of tea each designed on immersion in hot water, to provide an individual cup of tea. The portions of tea are usually presented in the form of small bags of suitable fabric inclosing the desired quantities, closed at the neck and having a light cord or heavy thread attached thereto, adapted to hang outside the cup and provided at the end with a tag by which the bag may be withdrawn from the cup after the tea has steeped sufficiently.

These containers known as "tea balls", are packed in quantities in suitable boxes or cartons, and the packing therein, and especially the selection of a single bag therefrom, is rendered difficult by reason of the entanglement of the many cords and their attached tags.

The object of the invention is to provide simple, inexpensive and efficient means whereby the entangling is avoided, thus facilitating the counting and packing by the manufacturer and the extraction of the bags individually by the consumer.

The invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement by which the above objects are attained, to be hereinafter described and claimed.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification and show an approved form of the invention.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a tea ball with its cord and tag, the latter shown as separably joined to the neck of the bag.

Figure 2 is a similar view showing the tag detached from engagement with the neck, and the bag in condition for service.

Figure 3 is a plan view corresponding to Figure 1, showing the neck of the bag in horizontal section and the separable connection of the tag to the neck.

Similar reference numerals indicate the same parts in all the figures.

The small bag of loosely woven muslin or linen is marked 5. Its open end is gathered together in a neck 6 and tightly closed and fastened by any suitable means, shown as a cylindrical collar 7 of aluminum or other material.

Permanently attached to the neck or other portion of the bag is a light cord 8 long enough to depend outside the cup when the bag or tea ball is immersed therein, and permanently attached to the free end of the cord 8 is the tag 9 of cardboard or the like serving as a convenient means of handling the tea ball in inserting the latter in the cup and removing it therefrom.

As stated above, the entanglement of the cords 8 and tags 9 when a number of the bags are thrown together in a mass is a serious hindrance and annoyance to the packer and also to the consumer. To obviate this difficulty the tag is separably attached to the bag while permanently secured to the end of the cord. This arrangement holds the tag closely adjacent to the bag and by thus forming a loop in the cord lessens the length of free cord liable to entanglement. The cord thus formed into a bight or loop with its tag held in place conditions the tea ball for easy handling under all circumstances.

This is effected in the present instance by forming the tag 9 with a circular recess 10 at its margin having a relatively small opening or throat 11 extending to the periphery with the corners of the throat rounded as at 12. Thus shaped and properly proportioned the tag is separably attached to the neck 6 by engaging the neck in the recess 10 by exerting the slight force required in passing the neck through the throat 11.

The engagement thus afforded is sufficient to hold the tag reliably in the handling, counting and packing, and distributing operations, while all that is required by the consumer is to simply withdraw the tag from its engagement.

Modifications may be made in the forms and proportions of the parts within wide limits without departing from the principle of the invention or sacrificing its advantages, and although the invention is shown and described as applied to a tea ball it will be understood that it will serve with other tagged packages and in other situations to which it may be adapted.

I claim:—

1. The tea ball described comprising a container, a cord attached to said container at one end, a tag secured to the free end of said cord, and means independent of said cord for separably attaching said tag to said container.

2. A tea ball comprising a container, a cord attached at one end to said container, and a tag secured to said cord and having provision independent of the cord for separably attaching the latter to the container.

3. In a device of the character set forth, a container having a neck, a cord attached to

said container at one end, and a tag secured to the free end of said cord, said tag having a recess adapted to engage separably with said neck.

4. In a device of the character set forth, a container having a neck, a cord attached to said container at one end, and a tag secured to the free end of said cord, said tag having a recess, a throat narrower than such recess and extending therefrom to the periphery of said tag, said recess and throat adapted partially to inclose said neck and separably attach said tag thereto.

5. The tag described having a recess adjacent its edge, and a throat narrower than such recess and extending therefrom to such edge, said recess and throat adapted to engage said tag separably to a member inclosed thereby.

6. A tea ball of fabric, and a ligament having one end attached to the same, the other end of said ligament having means for separable connection with said fabric.

In testimony that I claim the invention above set forth, I affix my signature hereto.

ROBERT ENSKO.