

(No Model.)

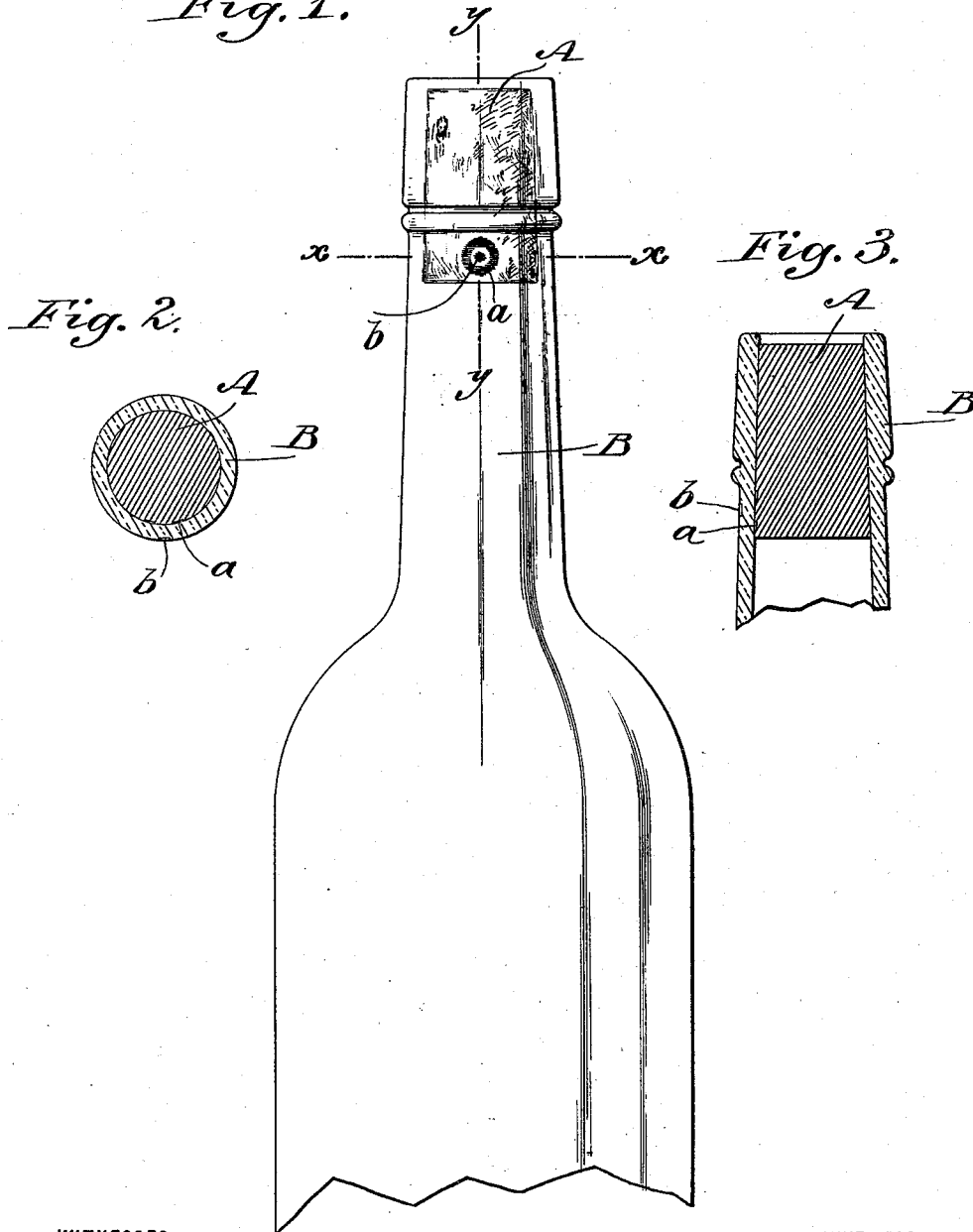
B. NICHOLS.

MEANS FOR DETECTING WITHDRAWAL OF BOTTLE STOPPERS.

No. 543,217.

Patented July 23, 1895.

Fig. 1.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENITO NICHOLS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

MEANS FOR DETECTING WITHDRAWAL OF BOTTLE-STOPPERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 543,217, dated July 23, 1895.

Application filed October 24, 1894. Serial No. 526,854. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENITO NICHOLS, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, and a resident of New York, county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Means for Detecting the Withdrawal of Bottle-Stoppers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

This invention relates to bottles and the stoppers thereof, and has for its object to provide means for the prevention of refilling or manipulation of the contents of a bottle without detection by the purchaser or consumer.

The invention consists in the novel means hereinafter fully described for rendering the withdrawal and reinsertion of the stopper perceptible.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a bottle and stopper secured therein, both embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a central vertical section taken upon the line *xx*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a transverse section taken upon the line *yy*, Fig. 1.

In the practice of my invention I brand upon the periphery of the cork or other stopper A an open circle or ring-shaped or other mark *a* of sufficient size to be conspicuous through the glass of the bottle B. The stopper having been inserted in the bottle in the usual or any other approved manner, the outer surface of the bottle B is etched with hydrofluoric or other acid or by any other means to form a small white dot or otherwise-shaped mark *b*, aligning exactly with the center of the ring *a*.

When the stopper A is once removed from the bottle, it is practically impossible to reinsert the same in such manner as to bring the spot *b* into alignment with the center of the ring *a*. The purchaser by a mere glance at

the bottle is thereby enabled to determine at once whether or not the bottle offered is an original package.

It is to be understood that the cork or other stopper is inserted tightly into the neck of the bottle, as is common with corks used for champagne and other expensive wines or liquors, wherein the cork is of such size as to require to be compressed before insertion, and my invention is particularly adapted for such corks which, once removed, can never be reinserted without passing through a compressor, in which case it would not be possible to make the mark upon the stopper coincide with that upon the bottle-neck. I do not claim the use of such means upon the stopper and bottle as will constitute a mechanical obstacle to the removal of the cork, as the object of my invention is to provide such means for enabling the detection of the withdrawal of the stopper as may be used in connection with ordinary bottles and corks and substantially without other expense than the mere labor of marking.

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

The combination, of a bottle and a compressed stopper tightly inserted therein, whereby it is incapable of turning or manipulation, having a conspicuous mark formed or branded thereon, and said bottle being etched upon its exterior to form a mark thereon in exact alignment with the mark upon the stopper within the same, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of two witnesses, this 22d day of October, 1894.

BENITO NICHOLS.

Witnesses:

PERCY I. GRIFFITH,
L. MULLER.