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1,665,080

W. T. ABBOTT

INDIVIDUAL TEA BAG

Filed Jan. 14, 1928

Fig. 1

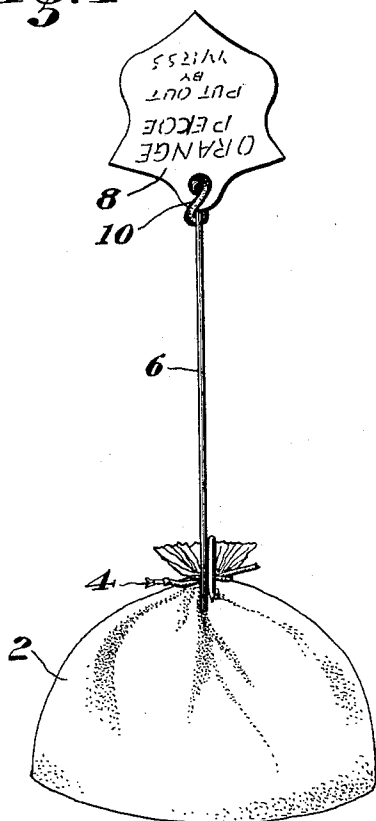


Fig. 4

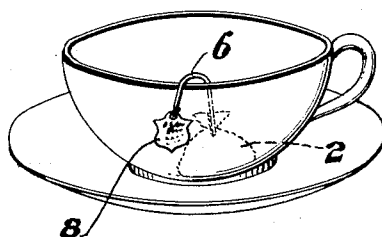


Fig. 3

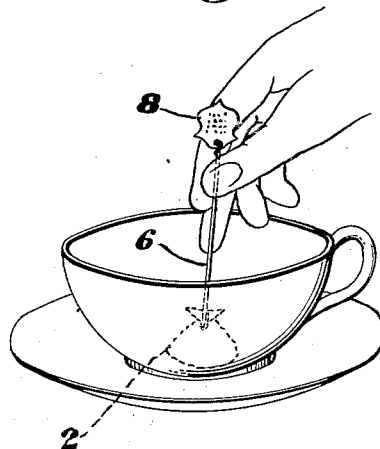
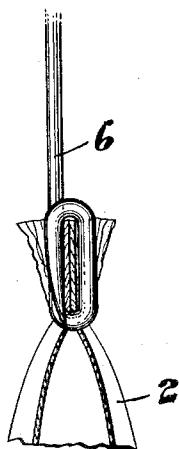


Fig. 2



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INDIVIDUAL TEA BAG.

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This invention relates to an improved and novel individual tea bag in which is permanently enclosed a small quantity of tea leaves suitable for brewing a single cup or individual portion of tea.

Articles of this class now on the market and in use comprise a bag of textile material holding the tea, with the neck of the bag drawn into folds suitably held so as to close the bag, and having a short length of string to attach the tag or handle to the closed neck of the bag. Such articles are subject to several defects and disadvantages. For example, it is troublesome to initially and properly immerse the bag or keep it immersed, the entire length of the string and the colored and printed tag often are drawn into the cup in stirring the tea with the spoon, and in removing the bag from the cup by means of the string, or by means of a spoon, as is frequently necessary, it is difficult to hold and control the bag, string and tag, and the infusion is liable to drip upon and soil the table cloth. When such packets are used in restaurants, hotels, or the like, where a supply of bags is kept in a container of some kind, the strings become entangled the necessary identifying tags torn off and the tangled mass frequently is thrown away rather than to attempt to untangle the strings. It is sometimes desired, for sanitary reasons, to enclose each bag with its string and tag in a sealed envelope or wrapper, and it is preferable, for the same reasons, to perform this operation by automatic machinery. Here the string and tag are exceptionally troublesome. This, then, is the state of the practical commercial art, and though the patented prior art discloses unused schemes for employing limp or flexible wire attached at the neck of a gathered bag simply as an equivalent and substitute for a string, and discloses other devices involving wire associated with a tea packet in an expensive and impractical manner, it does not disclose anything which effectually deals with the problems presented by the conditions above outlined, nor does it disclose an individual tea bag having the advantages of a tea bag made in accordance with this invention.

The present invention involves a tea bag which not only will avoid the objections above described, but which will also be far more effective and convenient to use, and

which also may be readily and cheaply made by automatic machinery.

Referring now to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a complete tea bag embodying this invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged view, partly in cross-section, illustrating the preferred method of securing the stirring shank to the bag; and

Figures 3 and 4 are perspective views illustrating different methods of using the packet.

The construction shown comprises a bag 2 which may be made of any suitable open mesh fabric, such for example, as cheesecloth. The mouth of this bag is closed by being gathered into folds, and it is held closed by means of a string 4, or the like, fastened around the neck of the bag. The packet also includes a stirring shank 6 which preferably consists of aluminum wire of such size as to be relatively stiff while still being capable of being bent by the fingers. This stirring shank is secured at one end to the bag, preferably by forcing the end of the wire through the bag just below the string 4 and then bending the end portion upwardly beside the gathered portion of the bag and then across the mouth of the bag and downwardly, as clearly shown in the drawings, the bent portions of the wire then being crimped or pinched to grip the neck of the bag firmly. In cutting off the lengths of wire for individual stirring shanks, a diagonal cut may be made so as to produce a sharp point which will easily penetrate the bag. The end of the stirring shank opposite to the bag carries a tag 8, the shank being passed through a hole in the tag and bent over to form a loop 10. This tag usually bears the name or brand of the tea and the name of the vendor.

It will be seen that this tea bag with its stirring shank and tag forms, so to speak, a unitary device in that the stirring shank has a firm grip on the bag so that the device may be used to perform the functions of a spoon in stirring it, as shown, for example, in Fig. 3, as well as providing an effective means for handling the bag. In fact, this stirring tea bag displaces the spoon and at the same time provides means for making a more perfect cup of tea, because by so stirring the tea bag, the water is enabled to percolate all sides equally, produce a better in-

fusion and more quickly, and, therefore, the theine, or active principle of the tea, can be uniformly and quickly extracted, and the bag at once removed before the tannin or bitter principle of the tea is released.

The bag also may be inserted, moved about and controlled much more accurately and effectively than when a string is used, which is of advantage both in submerging the tea initially in the hot water in the cup and also in disposing of the wet bag after the tea has been brewed. If it is desired to leave the tea bag in the cup for a few minutes, the shank may be bent over the edge of the cup, as shown in Fig. 4, where it will definitely keep the printed tag outside the cup. This arrangement also is more convenient to handle, it avoids tangling of one packet with another, and facilitates manufacturing and packaging by automatic machinery.

Having described my invention what I desire to claim as new is:

1. A stirring tea bag comprising a bag adapted to hold an individual portion of tea, and a normally rigid, bendable stirring shank secured at one end to the mouth of the bag.

2. A stirring tea bag comprising a bag adapted to hold an individual portion of tea, the mouth of said bag being gathered and closed, and a normally rigid, bendable stirring shank secured at one end to the gathered portion of the bag.

3. A stirring tea bag comprising a bag adapted to hold an individual portion of tea, the mouth of said bag being gathered into folds and closed, means for holding the mouth of said bag closed, and a normally rigid, bendable stirring shank secured at one end to the gathered portion of the bag.

4. A stirring tea bag comprising a fabric bag adapted to hold an individual portion of tea, the mouth of said bag being gathered into folds and closed, and a normally rigid, bendable stirring shank secured at one end to the gathered portion of the bag, and adapted to hold said portion closed.

5. A stirring tea bag comprising a fabric bag adapted to hold an individual portion of tea, the mouth of said bag being gathered into folds and closed, and a normally rigid, bendable stirring shank having one end crimped to the gathered portion of the bag whereby it is secured to the bag and maintains the gathered portion closed.

6. A stirring tea bag comprising a bag of textile fabric adapted to hold an individual portion of tea and having its mouth gathered into folds and closed, a normally rigid, bendable stirring shank having one end thereof extending through and crimped over the gathered portion of the bag whereby it is secured to the bag, and a tag carried by the end of the said stirring shank opposite to the bag.

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