Nov. 15, 1955 M. C. BALDWIN 2,723,763

SPICE HOLDERS

Filed March 20, 1953

Fig. 1.

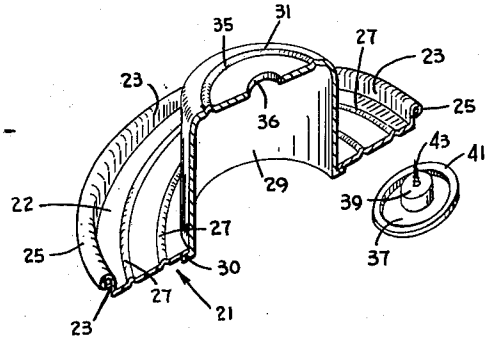


Fig. 2.

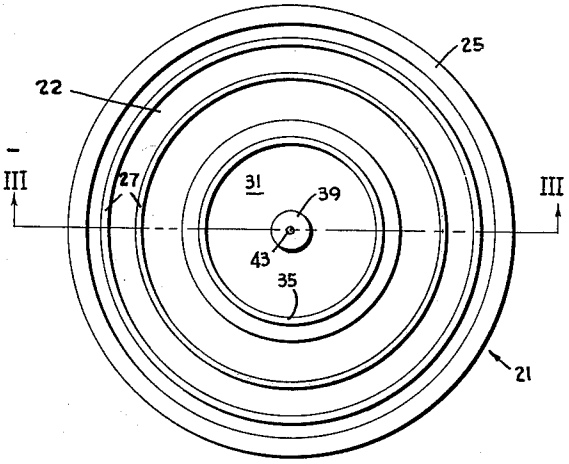


Fig. 3.

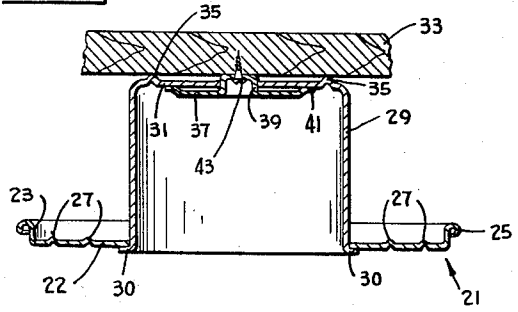
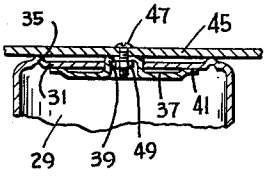


Fig. 4.



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United States Patent Office 2,723,763 Patented Nov. 15, 1955

2,723,763

SPICE HOLDERS

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Application March 20, 1953, Serial No. 343,664

6 Claims. (Cl. 211—78)

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in spice holders of the type adapted for mounting on the under side of shelves, cabinets and the like.

More particularly this invention relates to a spice holder having an annular tray for receiving boxes of condiments and bottles of flavoring extracts, said tray being supported rigidly on the lip of an inverted cup-like dome forming the central portion of the rotatable rack, in "Lazy Susan" fashion.

It is accordingly an object of the invention to provide a rotatable spice holder of the "Lazy Susan" type, which is adapted for quick and easy mounting on the under surface of a shelf or cabinet.

A further object of the invention is to provide such a holder with a central aperture rotatably engaging a hub carried by a disc-like attachment member.

It is another object to provide a rotatable spice holder having a bearing structure of simple, economical, yet highly effective design.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a novel attachment device for use in rotatably supporting a spice or similar holder.

It is a further object to provide a rotatable spice holder, the several parts of which can economically be die-formed of sheet metal or plastics and which requires only the use of a single screw or bolt for its installation.

It is a still further object of the invention to generally improve the design, construction and efficiency of spice holders.

The means by which the foregoing and other objects of this invention are accomplished and the manner of their accomplishment will be readily understood from the following specification upon reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view, partly in vertical axial section, of a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the spice holder of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a vertical axial section taken on the line III—III of Fig. 2, and including a portion of a supporting shelf.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view similar to Fig. 3, of a modified form of installation of the device.

Referring now to the drawings in which the various parts are indicated by numerals, the numeral **21** generally designates a flat annular platform which can easily be formed by stamping a disc **22** having a relatively large central hole therein, from sheet metal. Simultaneously with the cutting, or prior or subsequent thereto as desired, an upstanding flange **23** (with or without a rolled edge **25**) is formed along the periphery of disc **22** and the disc may be deformed to provide the annular upwardly projecting ridges **27**.

The upstanding flange **23** constitutes a retaining rim to prevent condiment and flavoring containers from falling off the platform **21**. The rolled edge **25** strengthens the member **21**, provides a smooth safe edge to the platform and adds to the esthetic appeal of the device. The

annular ridges **27** add to the rigidity of the platform, improve its appearance, and further serve as anti-slip devices inhibiting displacement of containers carried on the platform.

The platform **21** cooperates with an inverted cup **29** to form the hanging "Lazy Suzan" type of spice holder described. The cup **29** and the flange **23** form the sides of an annular trough-like rack of which the disc **22** proper is the bottom. The lower edge of cup **29** is outwardly flanged at **30** to provide a seat for the inner margin of platform **21**, which is press-fitted, welded or otherwise rigidly attached to the cup **29** and its flange **30**. The circular top **31** of cup **29** is adapted to press lightly and rotatably against the under surface of a shelf (or bottom of a cabinet) **33**. To reduce the area of contact, and thereby the friction, between parts **31** and **33** it is preferred that an annular bead or ridge **35** be pressed into the top **31**, as shown. Bead **35** also tends to rigidify the top **31** of the inverted cup **21**. The top **31** has a concentric bearing aperture **36** therein.

Cooperating with the under surface of part **33** to attach and form a flat bearing for the rotatable cup top **31**, is a disc **37**. Bearing disc **37** has formed therein an upstanding cylindrical boss or hub **39** which forms the shaft that passes through the bearing aperture **36** in top **31** and about which the cup **29** and the platform **21** carried thereby rotate. The bearing plate **37** also preferably has its marginal portion raised to form a small area contact rim **41** for low friction engagement with the under surface of top **31** of inverted cup **29**. The boss or hub **39** has a vertical dimension such that when its top surface is fastened against the under surface of a cabinet bottom or shelf **33**, the top **31** of the inverted cup **29** is held with bead **35** bearing snugly but rotatably against shelf **33**, against any appreciable movement except rotation about the axis of the cup and platform. A screw **43** or equivalent fastening means passes through a suitable hole in the top of post **39** to clamp the same firmly against cabinet bottom or shelf **33**.

In the modification of Fig. 4 the top **31** of inverted cup **29** is clamped between the disc **37** and a metallic cabinet bottom or shelf **45**. In place of the wood screw **43** (in the species of Figs. 1 to 3) a bolt **47** and nut **49** attach the hub **39** to the member **45**, the nut being preferably housed within the hub.

While the spice holder has been disclosed as being formed primarily of die-shaped sheet metal parts, it is apparent that some or all of the component parts could be formed as metallic or plastic castings, if and as desired.

In the installation of the device, disc **37** is positioned within cup **29**, with hub **39** projecting through aperture **36** and with rim **41** engaging the under surface of cup top **31**, concentric with and radially inwardly of bead **35**. Screw **43** (or **47**) is passed through the hole formed in the upper surface of hub **39** and attachment to shelf **33** (or **45**) effected. Such attachment holds disc **37** substantially against rotation and firmly holds cup **29** in position, the cup aperture **36** being rotatable on the hub, to permit rotation of the holder for access to containers supported thereon as desired. It will be seen that while the holder is easily rotatable as desired the frictional engagement between bead **35** and shelf **33** (or **45**) satisfactorily limits undesired rotation or over travel of the holder beyond desired position.

I claim:

1. A spice holder, comprising a dome having a laterally projecting platform rigidly fixed to its lower extremity, the top of said dome comprising a substantially horizontal plate-like portion, said top being centrally apertured to form an opening, an annular ridge formed in said top concentrically with and radially spaced from said opening, said ridge being of a depth to project a minor

distance above the upper surface of said top, a circular attachment disc mounted within said dome spaced above said platform, said disc having an upwardly projecting peripheral rim in contact with the under surface of said top, said disc having a diameter less than the diameter of said ridge, said rim contacting said top under surface radially inwardly of said ridge, a substantially cylindrical hub concentrically carried by and projecting upwardly from said disc, said hub projecting upwardly through said top opening and being of a depth to project above the upper surface of said top a distance substantially equal to the depth of said ridge, whereby the tops of said hub and said ridge are substantially coplanar, said dome opening being snugly rotatable on said hub, and means for rigidly fixing said disc and hub against rotation, to rotatably support said dome and platform.

2. A spice holder, comprising a dome having a laterally projecting platform rigidly fixed to its lower extremity, the top of said dome comprising a substantially horizontal plate-like portion, said top being centrally apertured to form an opening, an annular ridge formed in said top concentrically with and radially spaced from said opening, said ridge being of a depth to project a minor distance above the upper surface of said top, a circular attachment disc mounted within said dome spaced above said platform and in contact with the under surface of said top, said disc having a diameter less than the diameter of said ridge and contacting said top under surface radially inwardly of said ridge, a substantially cylindrical hub concentrically carried by and projecting upwardly from said disc, said hub projecting upwardly through said top opening and being of a depth to project above the upper surface of said top a distance substantially equal to the depth of said ridge, whereby the tops of said hub and said ridge are substantially coplanar, said dome opening being snugly rotatable on said hub, and means for rigidly fixing said disc and hub against rotation, to rotatably support said dome and platform.

3. A spice holder, comprising a dome having a laterally projecting platform rigidly fixed to its lower extremity, the top of said dome comprising a substantially horizontal plate-like portion, said top being centrally apertured to form an opening, spacer means formed in said top spaced from said opening, said spacer means projecting a minor distance above the upper surface of said top, an attachment disc mounted within said dome spaced above said platform and in contact with the under surface of said top, said disc contacting said top under surface radially inwardly of said spacer means, a substantially cylindrical hub concentrically carried by and projecting upwardly from said disc, said hub projecting upwardly through said top opening and being of a depth to project above the upper surface of said top a distance substantially equal to the projection of said spacer means above said top, whereby the tops of said hub and said spacer means are substantially coplanar, said dome opening being snugly rotatable on said hub, and means for rigidly fixing said disc and hub against rotation, to rotatably support said dome and platform.

4. In a spice holder, comprising a dome having a laterally projecting platform rigidly fixed to its lower extremity, means for rotatably supporting said dome and platform including a circular attachment disc mounted within said dome spaced above said platform, said disc having an upwardly projecting peripheral rim in contact with the under surface of the top of said dome, a substantially cylindrical hub concentrically carried by and projecting upwardly from said disc, said top being centrally apertured to form an opening and said hub projecting upwardly through said opening, spacer means formed in and projecting above the top of said dome, said hub being of a depth to project above the upper surface of said top a distance substantially equal to the projection of said spacer means, whereby the tops of said hub and said spacer means are substantially coplanar, said dome opening being snugly rotatable on said hub, and means rigidly fixing said disc and hub against rotation, to rotatably support said dome and platform.

5. In a spice holder, comprising a dome having a laterally projecting platform rigidly fixed to its lower extremity, means for rotatably supporting said dome and platform including an attachment disc mounted within said dome spaced above said platform in contact with the under surface of said top, a substantially cylindrical hub carried by and projecting upwardly from said disc, the top of said dome being centrally apertured to form an opening and said hub projecting upwardly through said top opening, spacer means formed in and projecting above the top of said dome, said hub being of a depth to project above the upper surface of said top a distance substantially equal to the projection of the spacer means, whereby the tops of said hub and said spacer means are substantially coplanar, said dome opening being snugly rotatable on said hub, and means for rigidly fixing said disc and hub against rotation, to rotatably support said dome and platform.

6. In a spice holder, comprising a dome having a laterally projecting platform rigidly fixed to its lower extremity, means for rotatably supporting said dome and platform including a circular attachment disc mounted within said dome spaced above said platform in contact with the under surface of said top, a substantially cylindrical hub concentrically carried by and projecting upwardly from said disc, said top being centrally apertured to form an opening and said hub projecting upwardly through said top opening, an annular ridge formed in said top concentrically with and radially spaced from said opening, said ridge being of a depth to project a minor distance above the upper surface of said top, said hub being of a depth to project above the upper surface of said top a distance substantially equal to the depth of said ridge, whereby the tops of said hub and said ridge are substantially coplanar, said dome opening being snugly rotatable on said hub, and means for rigidly fixing said disc and hub against rotation, to rotatably support said dome and platform.

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