

Jan. 7, 1930.

J. H. LEAL

1,742,548

MOISTENING DEVICE

Filed April 9, 1928

FIG. 1

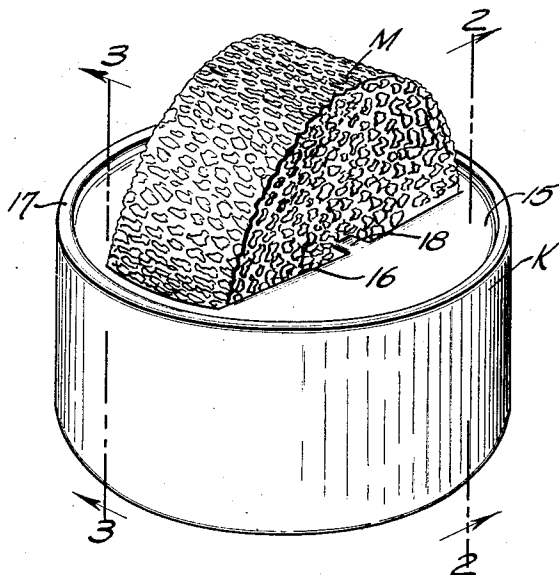


FIG. 2

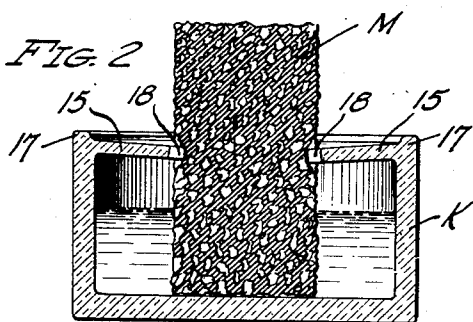


FIG. 3

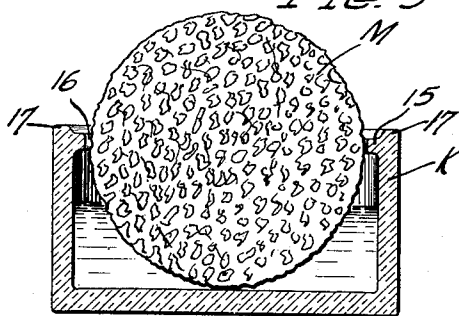
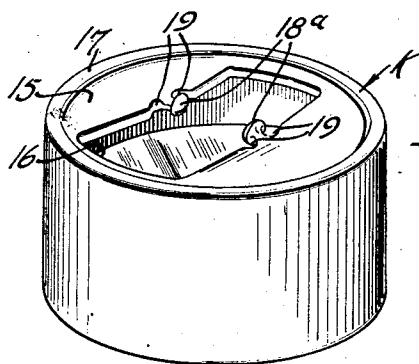


FIG. 4

INVENTOR

JOSEPH H. LEAL

Munn & Co.

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOSEPH H. LEAL, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MOISTENING DEVICE

Application filed April 9, 1928. Serial No. 268,690.

My invention relates to devices for moistening the fingers to facilitate the handling and counting of money, checks and the like, and particularly to that class of moistening devices comprising a liquid container and a moistening member of liquid absorbing material rotatable in the container to expose freshly moistened portions of its periphery. Mounting means for sustaining the moistening member for rotation in the liquid container in moistening devices as heretofore proposed are generally formed of metal and hence are subject to rust with consequent deterioration of both the mounting means and the moistening member. Further, the structure of the mounting means is of such complexity as to greatly increase the cost of manufacture and of such form as to necessitate the projection of a portion of the means through the moistening member with the resultant disadvantage of preventing or rendering the mounting means difficult of removal and thus precluding the removal and cleansing of the moistening member by washing and squeezing, which it is required to do from time to time for sanitary and other reasons.

It is a purpose of my invention to provide a moistening device of the class above specified wherein the disadvantages recited are eliminated by the provision of a liquid container constructed of any suitable non-metallic material and in which a moistening member of resilient material, preferably sponge rubber, is removably received and rotatably mounted by non-metallic trunnions or other suitable means which embraces the moistening member axially in a manner to compress the member sufficiently to form an imaginary axis about which the member can be manually rotated in exposing freshly moistened portions of its periphery to the user.

It is a further and broader purpose of my invention to provide a liquid container and moistening member in which no metallic parts are used and wherein the moistening member is rotatable in the container to expose different portions of its periphery and yet freely removable therefrom to permit cleansing thereof.

Another purpose of my invention is the provision of a moistening device of the above-described character in which liquid deposited upon the top of the liquid container is drained back into the container, and wherein the trunnions are formed integral with the container thus reducing the cost of manufacture.

I will describe only two forms of moistening device embodying my invention and will then point out the novel features in claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a view showing in perspective one form of moistening device embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the moistening device shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a similar view taken at right angles to Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of another form of moistening device embodying my invention with the moistening element removed.

In carrying out my invention, I provide a container K for a liquid, such as water, constructed of any suitable material, such as china, and cast or molded to form a cup-shaped body of circular form having a top wall 15 provided with a diametrically disposed slot or opening 16. The upper edge of the body is formed with an annular bead 17, and from this bead the top wall is inclined toward the center and in two directions so as to effect drainage of water deposited thereon back into the container through the slot 16. Cast integral with the top wall are a pair of lugs 18, which project into the slot from the side walls thereof and which constitute trunnions about which a moistening element is adapted to rotate within the slot. These trunnions 18 are medial of the ends of the slot and as shown in Fig. 1 they are of angular form while as shown in Fig. 4 they are circular in form and provided with rounded heads 18^a for the purpose of reducing the friction between the trunnions and the moistening member and to thereby facilitate rotation of the moistening member within the container. At opposite sides of the trunnions, as shown in Fig. 4, the walls of the slot are recessed as indicated at 19 to

form drain openings through which water from the surface of the container can pass freely back into the container. By reference to Fig. 4 it will be noted that the inclination of the top wall 15 is such as to drain water toward these openings.

The moistening member is indicated at M, and it is essential that this member be constructed of resilient material. In the present instance I have shown it as formed of sponge rubber and of a diameter and width that when inserted into the slot 16 it can be manually rotated therein. The prerequisite of resiliency is necessary to permit an insertion of the moistening member into the slot, the sides of the member yielding to the trunnions 18. When the moistening member is once in place the trunnions are disposed axially thereof and they project into opposite sides of the member so as to slightly compress the rubber and thereby form an axis about which the moistening member rotates.

In actual practice, the container is partly filled with water as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 so that the lower portion of the moistening member is submerged. The upper portion which is disposed exteriorly of the container may be engaged by the hand and moved to effect rotation of the member so that the moistened periphery previously submerged will be elevated and thus exposed to permit moistening of the fingers. During rotation of the moistening member, the trunnions operate to maintain the member centered, and as a consequence they form an imaginary axis for the member which operates to prevent bodily displacement of the member from the container as a result of rotating the member. In this manner the moistening member is at all times mounted for rotational movement, to expose freshly moistened portions of its periphery, and yet it can be readily removed without injury thereto to permit cleansing thereof. It will be understood that to properly clean the moistening member it is necessary to alternately rinse and squeeze the sponge rubber, and where there are no solid parts washed with the member when removed from the container, it will be manifest that proper squeezing of the sponge rubber will be effected incident to its cleaning.

When the member M is saturated with water there is a preponderance of weight at its lower portion which seems to counterbalance any pulling action applied to its upper part when rotating the member and which operates in conjunction with the trunnions to maintain the member centered within the slot so that it cannot be accidentally removed from the container. Rotation is further facilitated by the reduction of friction at the points of contact of the sponge rubber with the edges of the slot because of the fact that the rubber and slot edges are moistened.

Although I have herein shown and de-

scribed only two forms of moistening device embodying my invention, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be made herein without departing from the spirit of the invention and the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A moistening device comprising a liquid container having an opening in the top thereof, trunnions fixed on the walls of said opening, and a moistening member of resilient material rotatable within the opening and engaged and compressed by said trunnions whereby an axis is formed about which the moistening member can be rotated to present newly moistened peripheral portions exteriorly of the container.

2. A moistening device comprising a liquid container of circular form having a diametrically disposed slot in the top thereof, trunnions formed integral with and projecting inwardly from the walls of the slot at opposite points, and a disk-shaped moistening member of resilient material rotatable in the slot and compressed axially by the trunnions whereby an axis is formed about which the moistening member can be rotated.

3. A moistening device as embodied in claim 1 wherein the walls of the openings are recessed to provide drain openings and the top wall of the container is inclined in such directions as to secure drainage of liquid thereon into the drain openings.

4. As an article of manufacture, a liquid container having a slot in the top wall thereof, and trunnions projecting into said slot from the walls thereof and formed integral with said walls and adapted to coact in rotatively supporting a moistening member within the slot.

5. A moistening device, comprising a liquid container having an opening in the top thereof, a disk shaped moistening member of resilient material within said opening, and trunnions fixed to the walls and projecting into said opening to penetrate the sides of the member and thus provide a centering axis about which the member may be rotated.

Signed at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles, and State of California this 22d day of March, 1928.

JOSEPH H. LEAL.