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R. BAINTON

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COVER FOR SEALING LIQUID SURFACES

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Fig. 1.

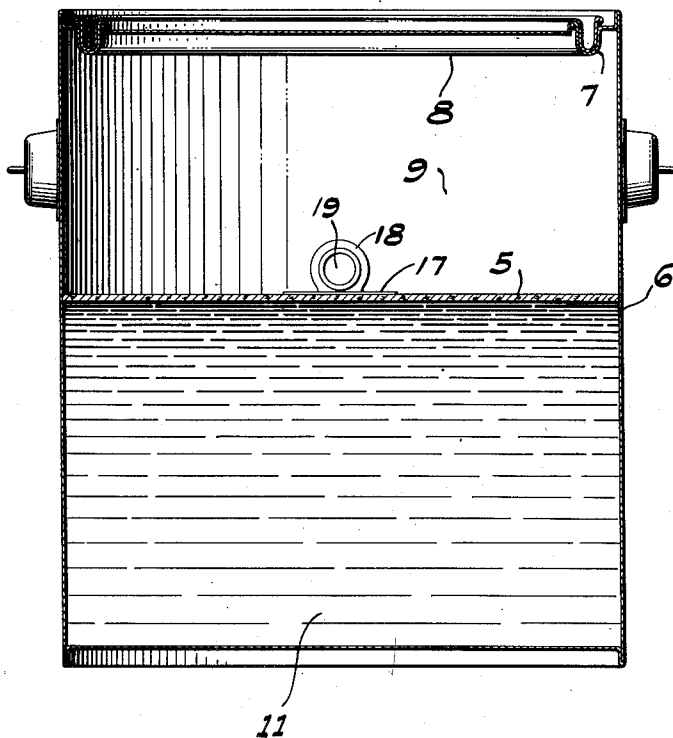


Fig. 2.

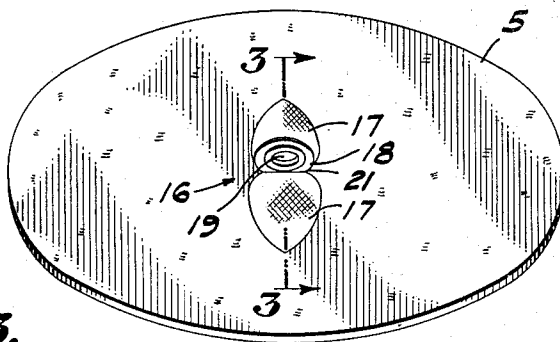
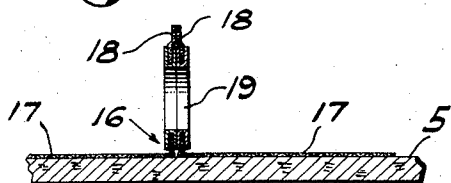


Fig. 3.



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COVER FOR SEALING LIQUID SURFACES

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2 Claims. (Cl. 220-93)

This invention relates to a cover for sealing liquid surfaces.

The invention is more particularly intended for use in connection with cans of paint to prevent the formation of a skin upon the surface of the body of paint contained in a can whenever it becomes necessary to allow an unused portion of the contents of a can to remain standing for a time.

It often occurs that a painter will open a can of paint and withdraw the contents thereof in several different installments, a considerable interval of time elapsing between the periods of use. In the absence of any means of sealing off from the air the top surface of the paint during such intervals, a tenacious coat or skin or hardened, thickened paint ingredients will be formed which will have to be removed and thrown away each time the painter uses an additional quantity of paint from the can. The part which is thus thrown away reduces the quantity of vehicle in the paint to such an extent as often to seriously lower the quality of the paint by the time the lower portion of the contents of the can is put into use. This loss destroys the ratio of vehicle and pigment originally established by the manufacturer.

By this invention, an efficient means is afforded for excluding the air from the surface of the body paint in a can which will effectively prevent the injurious effect upon the paint which would otherwise occur as the result of the formation of one or more skins or coats upon the paint as already stated.

Though the invention is primarily intended as a means for offsetting the deterioration of paint, as aforesaid, yet it may also be found useful as a means of preventing the formation of an undesirable skin or coating upon other liquid mixtures.

Other objects, advantages, and features of invention will hereinafter appear.

Referring to the accompanying drawing, which illustrates what is at present deemed to be a preferred embodiment of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a vertical mid-section through a partly filled can of paint, showing the invention therein.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing separately the liquid sealing cover provided by the invention.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional detail taken on line 3-3 of Fig. 2.

Referring in detail to the drawing, by preference and as shown, the cover member 5 provided by the invention is disk shaped and is of

a sufficient flexible character to make it possible to insert it through an opening somewhat less in diameter than the interior diameter of the can 6.

Said can 6 is shown having around its mouth an interiorly directed rim 7, the usual can cover 8 being shown fitted within said rim. In the can shown, about forty per cent of the paint has been removed, leaving an air chamber 9 above the paint body 11.

In order to facilitate the insertion and removal of the disk 5 to the central portion of one face of said disk, is fastened a manually graspable handle means 16 which consists of a pair of tab members 17, each having an ear 18 furnished with a good-sized eyeletted aperture 19. Said eyeletted apertures strengthen said ears and, as they are positioned to come into registry with each other, the ball portions of the ends of thumb and finger find a more secure seat in them as they are manually gripped between thumb and finger when the cover member 5 is inserted or removed.

Said disk 5 is shown as composed of cork, and as this substance has a sufficient coefficient of expansion to cause it to expand somewhat when it comes into contact with paint, the result is that when it is manufactured of a diameter nearly equal to that of the interior of the can, after insertion it increases slightly in diameter, and, owing to its under face being moistened by the paint then fits with practically fluid tight snugness within the can. The flexibility of said disk 5 not only enables it to be concaved sufficiently to be inserted through the circular opening through the can rim 7, but also makes it possible to dispose it upon the surface of the paint body 11 in such a manner that a diametrical zone across the under face of the disk is the first part thereof to come into contact with the paint; and as the disk is allowed to lose its concaveness, the air glides outwardly toward opposite edge portions thereof, and by the time the disk is fully seated upon the paint, all air bubbles have been forced out from thereunder.

Referring more in detail to the shapes of the tab members 17, each of the members has a cordate body portion, to the wide end of which is connected one of the ears 18, thus providing a divided basal attaching means for the handle element afforded. Said ears outside of their eyelets each have a gummed surface which can be adhered to that of the other to maintain them in an outwardly projecting relation to the disk. In order to make this possible, it is necessary to secure the body portions of the tabs to the disk

with their wide ends in a substantially contacting relation to each other. The attachment of these tabs to the disk will stiffen its central portion a little, but flexion of the disk along a diametrical line running between the tabs and through the notches 21 at each side of them will not be materially interfered with. The disk should be made sufficiently thick and stiff not to flex until a material stress is applied thereto.

10 After the complete emptying of a paint can in which the disk 5 has been used, said disk may be transferred to another paint can and used therein in the manner which has been described.

13 As the disk 5 is made from cork of a kind suitable for making machine gaskets, it will readily float upon the surface of the paint.

The capacity of the disk for being diametrically flexed to a concave-convex shape enables the user to wipe the surplus paint off from its lower face by a scraping movement as he withdraws it through the circular opening at the top of the can.

20 It should be understood that the present disclosure is for the purpose of illustration only, and that this invention includes all modifications and equivalents which fall within the scope of the subject matter claimed.

What is claimed is:

30 1. The combination, with a cylindrical container having a circular contracted mouth; of a disk insertable within said container to form an air-excluding seal for a body of liquid partly fill-

ing said container, said disk having a normal diameter approximately equal to the internal diameter of said container and being sufficiently flexible to render it insertable through said contracted mouth, said disk also having manually graspable handle means protruding from a face thereof, said handle means having a divided basal attaching portion which restricts the flexibility of said disk across one diameter thereof and leaves substantially unrestricted its flexibility throughout the diameter thereof which extends at a right angle to the first recited diameter.

2. The combination, with a cylindrical container having a circular contracted mouth; of a disk insertable within said container to form an air-excluding seal for a body of liquid partly filling said container, said disk having a normal diameter approximately equal to the internal diameter of said container and being sufficiently flexible to render it insertable through said contracted mouth, said disk also having manually graspable handle means protruding from a face thereof, said handle means consisting of a pair of elongated tab members substantially abutting against each other at the central portion of the disk, each of said tab members having an elongated basal attaching portion of sheet material secured to the disk and materially stiffening it along one of its diameters without adding to its stiffness along the diameter thereof at a right angle thereto.

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