Dec. 6, 1966 J. W. VILLAVECES 3,289,885

TAMPER PROOF TABLET DISPENSER

Filed Aug. 10, 1964

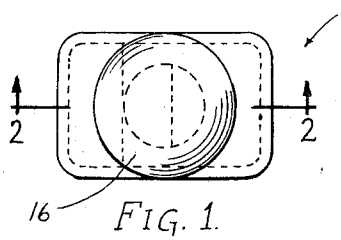


FIG. 1.

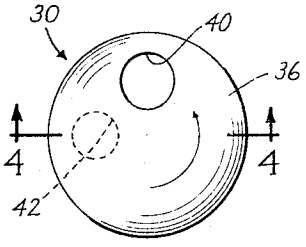


FIG. 3.

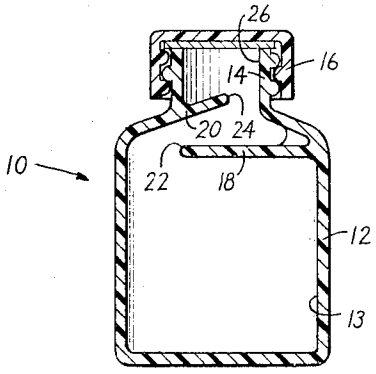


FIG. 2.

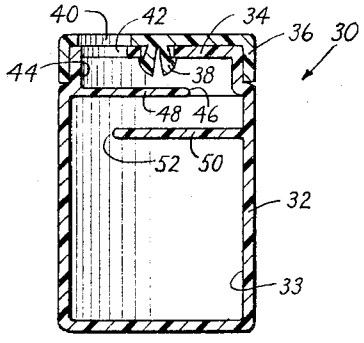


FIG. 4.

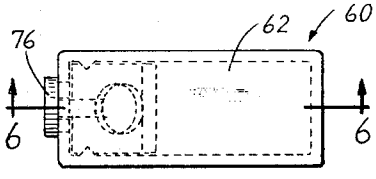


FIG. 5.

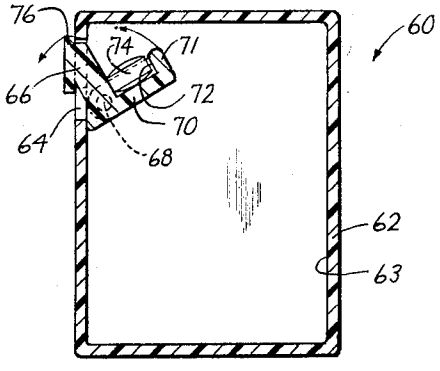


FIG. 6.

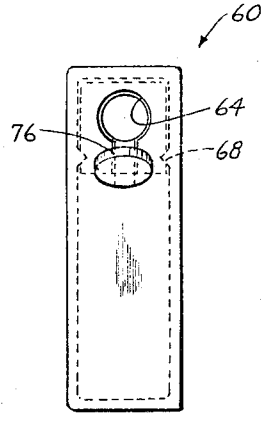


FIG. 7.

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3,289,885

TAMPER PROOF TABLET DISPENSER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 221—288)

This invention relates to tablet dispensers and, more particularly, to a tamper proof tablet dispenser for dispensing individual pills or tablets which will prevent access thereto by children and infants.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a safe, tamper proof and tablet dispenser which requires considerable manual dexterity for the removal of the contents, thus providing a safe and effective container for storing drugs and medicines in the presence of children which lack the dexterity required to remove the contents therefrom.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an attractive and convenient pill and tablet dispenser which will effectively dispense single tablets whenever required, but which requires a predetermined method of operation and dexterity beyond the skills of young children and infants, whereby such can be safely stored in the presence of children.

All of the foregoing and still further objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from a study of the following specification, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of a tamper proof tablet dispenser made in accordance with one form of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a longitudinal cross sectional view taken along line 2—2 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a top plan view of a modified form of construction;

FIGURE 4 is a longitudinal cross sectional view taken along line 4—4 of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is a top plan view of still another form of the present invention;

FIGURE 6 is a longitudinal cross sectional view taken along line 6—6 of FIGURE 5; and

FIGURE 7 is a left end elevational view of the embodiment illustrated in FIGURES 5 and 6.

Referring now to the drawings, and more particularly to FIGURES 1 and 2 thereof, a tamper proof tablet dispenser **10** made in accordance with one form of the present invention is shown to include a main housing **12** having an interior tablet storage compartment **13** at the lower end thereof and an upwardly protruding neck **14** at the opposite upper end, upon which a closure cap **16** is normally threadedly supported. Intermediate the storage compartment **13** and the outlet neck **14**, is a laterally extending baffle plate **18** in spaced proximity with an upper baffle plate **20** and defining a narrow passageway **22** therebetween, through which a single tablet is receivable. The upwardly inclined baffle plate **20** defines a narrow space **24** with one side of the neck **14** for receiving the tablet further upwardly into the upper compartment **26** in the neck **14**.

It will thus be recognized that upon inverting the main housing **12**, a single tablet can be manipulated through the spaces **22**, **24** defined by the baffles **18**, **20**, to place a single tablet within the discharge portion of the neck **14**, so that upon removal of the closure cap **16**, the single tablet may be conveniently removed. However, because of the manual dexterity required to manipulate the tablet through the baffle arrangement, such is beyond the usual skills of young children.

Referring now to FIGURES 3 and 4 of the drawing, a slightly modified form of construction **30** is shown to include a main housing **32** having an interior tablet storage compartment **33** at the lower end and a closure wall **34** at the opposite upper end. A closure **36** is rotatably mounted upon the closure wall **34** by means of a self contained pivot structure **38**. The closure **36** includes an aperture **40** which is rotatable into communication with similar aperture **42** in the closure wall **34**, through which a single tablet may be removed. Intermediate the discharge aperture **42** and the tablet storage portion **33**, the main housing **32** is provided with a pair of oppositely extending baffle plates **48**, **50**. The upper baffle plate **48** defines an upper compartment **44** into which a single tablet is receivable through a restricted opening **46** formed between the end of the baffle plate **48** and the side wall of the main housing **32**. In spaced relationship beneath the upper baffle plate **48**, a lower baffle plate **50** defines a restricted passageway **52** with an opposite side of the main housing **32**.

It will thus be recognized that a single tablet may be conveniently dispensed from this dispenser **30** by inverting the main housing and manipulating a single tablet through the restricted passageways **52**, **46** into the upper compartment **44**, upon which rotation of the closure member **36** to align the aperture **40** thereof with the discharge aperture **42** in the closure wall **34** will permit convenient removal of the tablet.

In FIGURES 5 to 7 of the drawing, a further embodiment **60** of the present invention is shown to include a main housing **62** having a lower tablet storage compartment **63** and an upper discharge aperture **64**. A combination baffle member and closure device in the form of a V-shaped valve member **66** is pivotally supported within the interior of the main housing **62** upon pintles **68**. The innermost portion of the valve member **66** includes a leg **70** having a marginal flange **71** defining a tray **72** for receiving a single tablet **74**. The edge of the flange **31** defines a restricted passageway with the upper wall of the main housing **62**, allowing only a single tablet **74** into the tray **72**. The other leg of the valve member **66** includes an enlarged closure member **76** that normally overlies and seals the discharge aperture **64** of the main housing. However, by pulling outwardly upon the tab **76** after a tablet has been positioned in the tray **72**, the outlet aperture **64** may be opened to permit discharge of the tablet **72** therethrough. In this embodiment, a considerable amount of manual dexterity is also required to first position a single tablet within the tray **72**, and then to open the valve member **66** to allow the discharge of the tablets **74** through the outlet opening **64**.

It will thus be recognized that in all embodiments of the present invention, at least several manual movements are required to first position and then discharge the tablets through the respective baffle and discharge means, and that such dexterity is normally beyond that of small children and infants. In each embodiment, the main housing is preferably constructed of a molded plastic material, which will absorb high impact, thus preventing breakage or forced opening thereof by such children. Of course, the size and external shape of the main housing may be varied to suit convenience and purpose, and the size of the respective portions varied to accommodate tablets and pills of different sizes and shapes.

While this invention has been described with particular reference to the construction shown in the drawing, it is to be understood that such is not to be construed as imparting limitations upon the invention, which is best defined by the claim appended hereto.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

A tamper proof tablet dispenser comprising a hollow medicine bottle having a main bottom housing, a vertical

upper hollow neck open at its throat, shoulder means connecting said housing to said neck, said neck and housing being integral, a cap detachably securable to the throat of said neck for detachably sealing same, a first horizontal baffle plate in the top of said housing and sealing a major portion of said housing from said neck while leaving a small first horizontal opening through which a pill positioned in said housing can fall toward said neck when said dispenser is inverted, and a second upwardly inclined baffle plate inserted in the bottom of said neck and extending over said first opening, said second plate sealing a major portion of said neck while leaving a small second horizontal opening above said first plate, said second plate being vertically separated from the first plate and positioned thereabove, said second opening permitting said pill to fall therethrough after falling through said first opening and guided by said second plate to said second opening when said dispenser is inverted.

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