H. E. TUNNELL.

HOLDER FOR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND OTHER ARTICLES.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 5, 1920.

1,360,829. **Patented Nov. 30, 1920.**

Fig. 1.

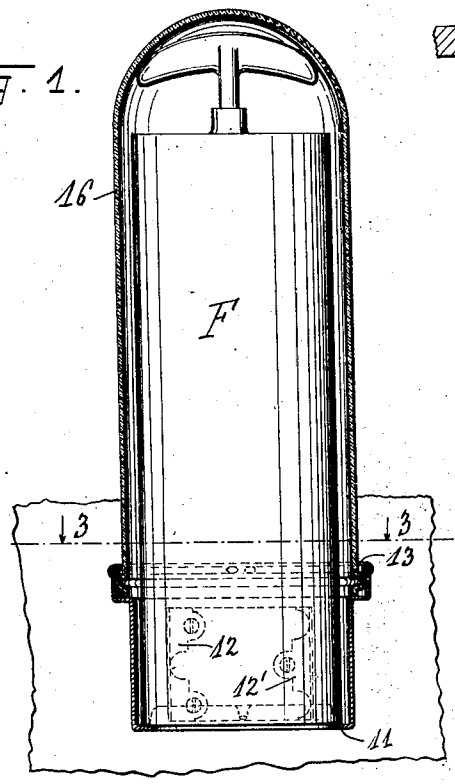


Fig. 3.

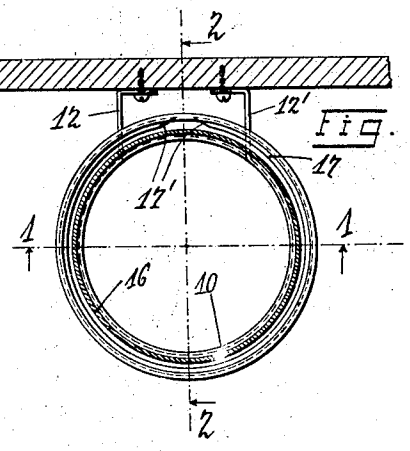


Fig. 2.

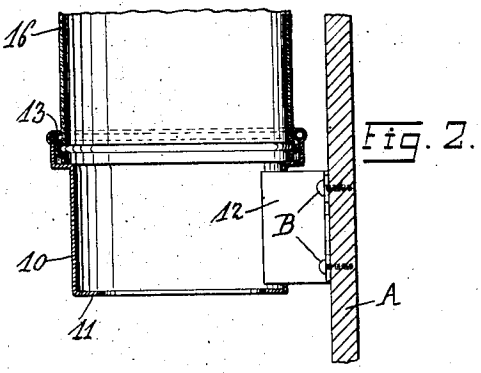
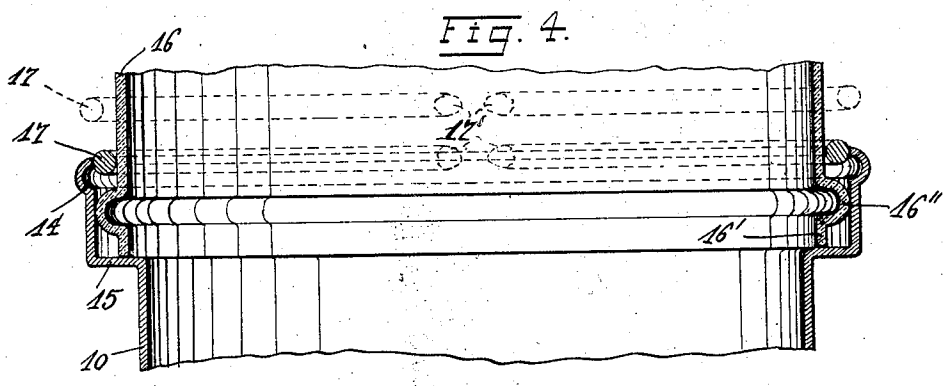


Fig. 4.



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HOLDER FOR FIRE-EXTINGUISHERS AND OTHER ARTICLES.

1,360,829. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 30, 1920.

Application filed April 5, 1920. Serial No. 371,541.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY E. TUNNELL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the borough of Manhattan, city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Holders for Fire-Extinguishers and other Articles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to holders for fire extinguishers and other articles which are to be used only on special occasions and which it is desirable to protect against unauthorized handling until a need for their use arises. The invention disclosed herein provides a holder which will make it impossible for the fire extinguisher or other device to be taken out without detection, and which preferably will expose the said device to view even when safely contained in its intact holder, it being necessary to break a portion of the holder in order to enable the fire extinguisher or other article to be removed therefrom.

A preferred and satisfactory embodiment of my invention is represented in the accompanying drawings, in which Figure 1 is a vertical section of the device on line 1—1 of Fig. 3; Fig. 2 is a partial vertical section on line 2—2 of Fig. 3; Fig. 3 is a horizontal section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 4 is a partial vertical section, on the same plane as Fig. 1, illustrating the manner of assembling the holder.

The holder shown in the drawings comprises three main parts, viz: a fixed supporting member, a frangible cover therefor, and an elastic member for connecting said supporting member with said cover.

The supporting member is cup-shaped, having a cylindrical surrounding or upright shell 10 and a horizontal wall or ledge 11 extending inwardly from the bottom of the shell 10 to form a support for the fire-extinguisher or other article F. I prefer an apertured bottom, or a bottom ledge, as shown (although this is not essential), inasmuch as this exposes to view from below, the bottom of the fire-extinguisher or other article, enabling the inspector or the intending user to ascertain the type of apparatus contained in the holder. The supporting member is made to be secured to a wall A or the like, as by means of screws B passing through suitable holes in brackets 12, 12′ formed integral with said supporting member. In the particular construction shown, the brackets 12, 12′, as will be seen best in Figs. 1 and 3, are made by cutting appropriate circumferential and upright slits in the shell 10 and bending the portions thus obtained, into the shape of brackets, Fig. 1 showing clearly that the upright (scalloped) edges of these brackets are counterparts, indicating that they were produced by the same slit. At its upper end, the supporting member has a circular opening 13, and at a short distance below the same, an annular internal groove 14 of greater diameter than said opening, and still farther down, an annular ledge or surface 15, of smaller inner diameter than the opening 13, so as to form a support in the path of the cover when the latter is introduced through said opening.

The cover 16 is made of glass or other suitable frangible material, preferably transparent so that the upper part of the fire-extinguisher or other article F will be visible therethrough. This cover is shown dome-shaped, with its lower edge portion 16′ adapted to become seated on the support 15. Above the edge 16′, the cover is provided with an external annular projection or bead 16″ the outer diameter of which is slightly smaller than the diameter of the opening 13, so that the cover may be readily introduced into the upper portion of the supporting member and made to rest on the support 15.

To hold the cover 16 in the position illustrated, I provide a split locking or connecting ring 17, made of spring steel or other elastic material, and having a tendency to expand to the diameter shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, and indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 4. Preferably the ends of the ring 17 are beveled or tapered in such a manner that their inner circumference will be shortened while their outer circumference will remain unaltered, as indicated at 17′ in Fig. 3; this enables the ring to be contracted more readily and provides an additional safeguard against tampering, as explained hereinafter. The diameter of the opening 13 should be slightly greater than the dimension obtained by adding twice the thickness of the ring 17 to the diameter of the upper or body portion of the cover 16. Also, the greatest external diameter of the bead 16″ should be

greater than the smallest internal diameter of the ring 17 when the latter is in its expanded condition.

To assemble the holder, after the fire-extinguisher or other article has been placed on the support 11, the cover 16 is rested on the support 15, and the ring 17, in its expanded condition, is slipped down over the cylindrical upper or body portion of the cover 16. In its normal expanded condition, the ring 17 cannot enter the opening 13 (see dotted lines in Fig. 4), but by contracting the ring forcibly, it can be brought into said opening, as illustrated by full lines in Fig. 4. By then pressing the ring 17 down, it will be carried into registry with the groove 14, and since the ring tends to expand, it will snap into said groove, thus assuming the locking position illustrated by Figs. 1, 2, and 3. In this position, the ring 17 will prevent removal of the cover 16 from the supporting member, since any upward pull on the cover will only force the ring 17 more firmly into the locking recess or groove 14, by a wedging action.

The only way the fire-extinguisher or other articles contained in the holder can be removed, is to break the cover 16. As long as the cover is whole, this shows that the article has not been taken out since such cover was placed in position. My invention provides an effective safeguard against unauthorized use of the fire-extinguisher or other article, in that it is impossible to take the apparatus out of its holder without detection, the fact that the cover is broken being presumptive evidence that the apparatus has been tampered with, unless it is known that it was used in a legitimate way.

My invention also affords increased protection against theft of the fire-extinguisher or other article, inasmuch as the thief would have to break the cover 16, and the resulting noise would attract the attention of any person within hearing.

It will be obvious from Fig. 3, that it would be very difficult and, in fact, next to impossible to pry the connecting ring 17 out of the recess 14 so as to release the cover 16 without injuring it; however, if additional safety against tampering of this character should be desirable, the annular space above the ring 17, between the cover 16 and the uppermost portion of the supporting member, might be filled with cement or other suitable material, after the ring has been placed in the position shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

Various modifications may be made without departing from the nature of my invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A holder provided with a support for an article, with an additional support, and with an annular recess adjacent to the last-named support, a cover adapted to rest on said additional support and provided with an external bead, and an elastic connecting ring adapted to be seated in said recess and to engage said bead to lock the cover to the portion having said recess.

2. A holder provided wtih a support for an article, with an additional support, and with an internal recess adjacent to the last-named support, a cover adapted to rest on said additional support and provided with an external projection, and an elastic connecting member adapted to be seated in said recess and to engage said projection to lock the cover to the portion having said recess.

3. A holder provided with a support for an article, with an additional support, with an annular recess adjacent to the last-named support, and with a portion located above said recess and surrounding an opening, a cover having an externally-beaded lower portion of smaller diameter than said opening, and adapted to become seated on said additional support, and an elastic ring, tending to expand, which in its normal expanded condition is of greater diameter than said opening, said ring being adapted to fit into said recess and to engage the bead of the cover, to lock the cover to the portion having sad recess.

4. A holder comprising a carrying member having a support for an article, another support, an annular recess adjacent to the last-named support, and an opening at the top, a cover adapted to rest on the second-named support and provided with an external projection which is below the level of said opening when the cover rests on said support, and an elastic connecting ring adapted to be seated in said recess of the supporting member and also to fit against the external projection of the cover, the outside diameter of said ring, when contracted into contact with the body of the cover, being less than the diameter of said top opening of the supporting member, while in its expanded condition said ring has an outside diameter greater than the diameter of said top opening.

5. A holder provided with a support for an article, with an additional support, and with an internal recess, a cover adapted to rest on said additional support and having an engaging surface which in the position of use is adjacent to said recess, and a split elastic connecting ring adapted to be seated in said recess and to engage said surface to lock the cover to the portion having said recess, the ends of said ring beveled in such a way that their oblique surfaces will diverge inwardly.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification.

HARRY E. TUNNELL.