Jan. 11, 1966 H. H. HARR 3,228,568

COUNTER-ATTACHABLE BEVERAGE DISPENSER

Filed Oct. 12, 1964

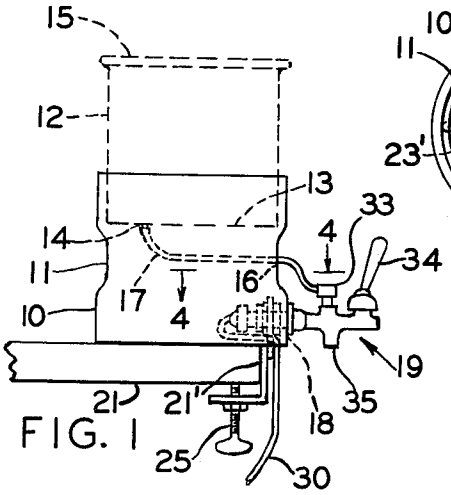


FIG. 1

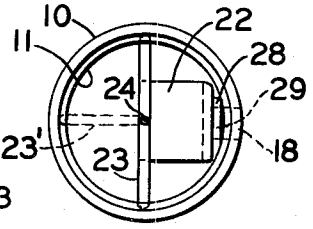


FIG. 2

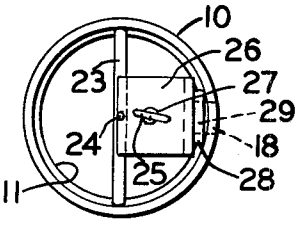


FIG. 3

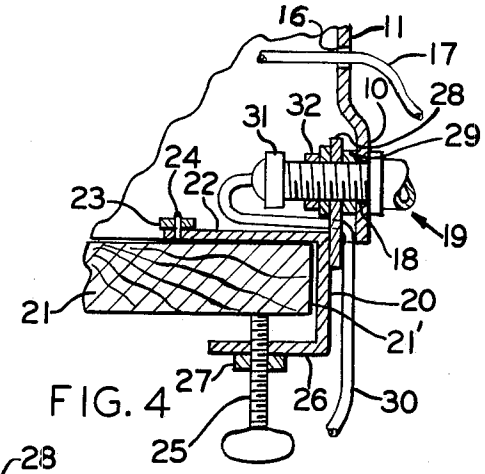


FIG. 4

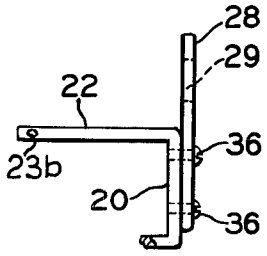


FIG. 5

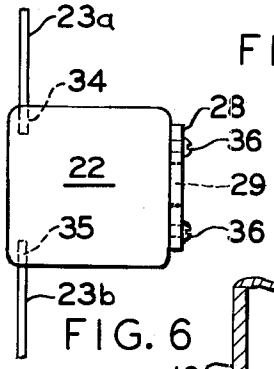


FIG. 6

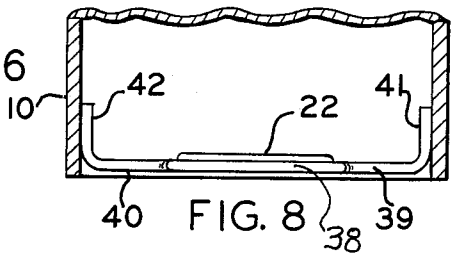


FIG. 8

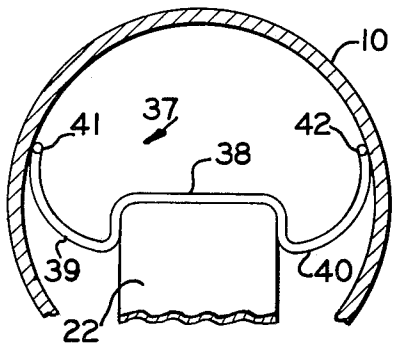


FIG. 7

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COUNTER-ATTACHABLE BEVERAGE DISPENSER

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This invention deals with a dispenser which is attachable to a fountain counter and which is used for dispensing carbonated or uncarbonated beverages. More specifically, it relates to a dispenser having a relatively high hollow frame base with an opening for egress of the beverage concentrate or syrup discharge tube, and a support means which combines the features of a lateral positioner and support for said frame, as well as a support for the faucet.

In copending application Serial No. 324,069, filed on November 15, 1963, by Herman H. Harr, now Patent No. 3,204,830, there is described a drink dispenser counter attachment having a low frame designed to hold beverage concentrate flowing from an inverted bottle of concentrate disposed thereover. Attached to this frame is a support therefor as well as for the faucet used for dispensing the beverage. The faucet is designed to dispense either carbonated or uncarbonated water alone, or a mixture of syrup and water. The dispenser described herein is designed to be used with a faucet of this type. However, the present dispenser affords a number of valuable features not enjoyed by that disclosed in the aforesaid application. For example, the beverages are dispensed above the counter. Also, a much simpler and yet sturdier support is provided having multiple utility features.

The invention will be more readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawing in which a preferred embodiment is described, and in which FIGURE 1 presents a side elevational view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention, in condition to receive an inverted bottle of syrup, when it is ready for the dispensing of beverages. FIGURE 2 illustrates a top or plan view of the embodiment shown in FIGURE 1, minus the faucet, while FIGURE 3 depicts a bottom view of the unit shown in FIGURE 2. FIGURE 4 shows an enlarged cross-sectional side elevational view of a portion of the dispenser taken along a plane along line 4—4 of FIGURE 1, with the faucet cut away. FIGURE 5 illustrates a side view of the upper portion of a different embodiment of a mounting unit of the present invention, while FIGURE 6 depicts a side view thereof. FIGURE 7 shows a top or plan cross-sectional view of the upper clamp and housing portions of another embodiment, while FIGURE 8 presents a cross-sectional side view of the portion illustrated in FIGURE 7. The same numerals refer to similar parts in the various figures.

Referring again to the drawing, numeral **10** represents a hollow shell frame or base, made of a hard plastic, metal, or the like, and having a centrally disposed indentation or corrugation **11** serving as a stop for concentrate receptacle **12**, and for strengthening said frame. The concentrate receptacle has a closed bottom **13** provided with an outlet nipple **14**. The upper portion of receptacle **12** is open, and its upper edge is provided with a resilient bumper channel strip **15**, on which rests the inverted bottle of concentrate or syrup (not shown).

A hole **16** is provided in constricted portion **11** of base **10** for permitting extension therethrough of tube **17** carrying concentrate from nipple **14**. Also, a larger hole **18** is provided in the lower wall portion of base **10** for mounting therein of the dispensing faucet, designated generally as **19**.

As shown in FIG. 4, the mounting or support for base **10** and faucet **19** comprises a U-shaped clamp **20** which

is mounted over the edge **21'** of a counter **21**. The upper side **22** of clamp **20** rests on top of counter **21**, and on its end is attached positioning and strengthening arm **23** pivoted at its center by pivot **24**. Arm **23** has a length substantially equal to the inner diameter of frame **10**, and thus serves both as a positioning member and as a support for the hollow shell of frame **10**. Thumbscrew **25** mounted on arm **26** of clamp **20** insures a tight grip on counter **21**, which grip is insured by lock nut **27**.

Although arm **23**, projecting away from each side of clamp top **22** is generally adequate as a strengthening and positioning element for base **10**, an additional arm **23'** may be attached to pivot **24** at right angles to arm **23**, for additional strengthening and support of shell base **10**. Also, as shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, arms **23***a* and **23***b* may be used in lieu of pivoted arm **23** for the same purposes. In this case, the ends of the arms are driven into holes **34** and **35** drilled into the sides of clamp top **22**.

Welded to the upper rear vertical portion of clamp **20** at its lower end is a vertically-directed supporting and mounting plate **28** which has a hole **29** for mounting therein of faucet **19**. Faucet **19** is separated from plate **28** by a washer and it projects beyond the edge **21'** of counter **21**, so as to leave adequate room to permit entry therethrough of tube **30** which carries water, under pressure, to faucet **19**, via connecting coupling **31**. The faucet is held in place by means of nut **32**. Tube **17** has its discharge end connected to concentrate inlet **33** of faucet **19**.

As shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, plate **28** may be made separable from clamp **20**, to which it is attachable by means of screws or bolts **36**. This is desirable if receptacle **12** and base **10** are made of one piece, so that clamp **20** may be separated from plate **28** to facilitate adjustment of coupling **31** and nut **32**. If desired, plate **28** may be made as a part of base **10** during the manufacture or molding thereof.

Although the base-supporting arms **23** have been shown as affixed to the clamp top **22**, it is possible to employ arms which are not affixed to the clamp. For example, in FIGS. 7–8, there is shown a heavy formed spring wire, indicated generally as **37**, which has a straight central portion **38** disposed against the front end of clamp top **22**. Spring **37** has two ends **39** and **40** which are bent partially around the sides of clamp top **22**, and then curved forwardly and outwardly, terminating against the inner wall of base **10** with short upwardly directed ends **41** and **42**. The spring **37** is slightly longer than the internal diameter of base **10**. In mounting the spring, straight portion **38** is set against the end of clamp top **22** while the spring is in tilted position. Then, the ends are lowered, which action causes the ends **41** and **42** to be drawn tightly against the wall of base **10**. The bends in spring ends **39** and **40** serve to lock the spring in position against the end of clamp arm **22**.

The unit of the present invention is mounted by attaching clamp **20** onto base **10** and then mounting faucet **19** onto arm **28** and base **10**. Then, the unit is attached to counter edge **21'** in the manner indicated, and tube **30** is led within base **10**, and is then connected to faucet end **30**. Thereafter, tube **17** extending from nipple **14**, is led through hole **16** in base **10** and its end is attached to concentrate inlet **33** of faucet **19**. Finally, concentrate receptacle **12** is inserted in the upper portion of base **10**, and a bottle of concentrate (not shown) is inserted in inverted position in receptacle **12**. The dispenser is now ready for use.

Handle **34** of faucet **19** is manipulated, so that either water (carbonated or uncarbonated) or a mixture of concentrate and water are discharged through outlet **35** of the faucet. For ordinary fountain counters, base **10** may be about 5¾" high and of 5$\frac{3}{16}$" inside diameter.

This size accommodates the conventional concentrate bottle. Clamp **20** may be made of ¼" steel stock, about 2" wide, while plate **28** may be of 5/32" steel stock about 1½" wide and extending 1½" above clamp arm **22**. It may be attached to clamp **20** by ¼" bolts.

From the foregoing, it can be seen that the dispenser of the present invention offers a minimum of parts and avoids a frame of excessive thickness. Yet, the unit is adequately sturdy, it permits dispensing above the counter, and enables ready assembly and disassembly.

I claim:

1. A counter-attachable beverage dispenser to be used with a dispensing faucet attachable thereto, comprising,

a hollow shell base designed to hold in its upper portion, a concentrate receptacle provided with a drain tube in its bottom, said base having a hole in its wall serving as an outlet for a concentrate drain tube, to be connected to a faucet and also having a faucet-mounting hole in its lower portion,

a clamp disposed under said base and designed to be affixed to the edge of a counter,

a plate projecting upwardly from the rear portion of said clamp and having a faucet-mounting hole in lateral alignment with said base faucet-mounting hole, and

at least two arms projecting laterally from the upper portion of said clamp within the center of said base and extending to said base, and serving as positioners and lateral supports for said base.

2. A counter-attachable beverage dispenser to be used with a dispensing faucet attachable thereto, comprising,

a hollow round shell base designed to hold, in its upper portion, a concentrate receptacle provided with a drain tube in its bottom, said base having a hole in its wall serving as an outlet for a concentrate drain tube to be connected to a faucet, and also having a faucet-mounting hole in its lower portion below said outlet tube,

a clamp disposed under said base and designed to be affixed to the edge of a counter,

a plate projecting upwardly from the rear portion of said clamp and having a faucet-mounting hole in lateral alignment with said base faucet-mounting hole, and

a pair of oppositely-directed arms projecting laterally from the upper portion of said clamp within the center of said base and extending at each side to said base and serving as a positioner and lateral support for said base.

3. A counter-attachable beverage dispenser according to claim **2**, in which the base has a lateral inner corrugation serving as a support for a concentrate receptacle, said base being positioned slightly over the edge of said counter to provide entry space therein for a water supply tube.

4. A counter-attachable beverage dispenser to be used with a dispenser faucet attachable thereto, comprising,

a hollow shell base designed to hold, in its upper portion, a concentrate receptacle provided with a drain tube in its bottom, said base having a faucet-mounting hole in its lower portion to accommodate a faucet connectable to a concentrate drain tube,

a clamp, having a top portion, and disposed under said base and designed to be affixed to the edge of a counter, and

a plate projecting upwardly from the rear portion of said clamp and having a faucet-mounting hole in lateral alignment with said base faucet-mounting hole.

5. A counter-attachable beverage dispenser according to claim **4**, and a formed wire spring fitting in locking relation against the forward end of the clamp top and having extending ends disposable in thrust relation against the inside of said base.

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