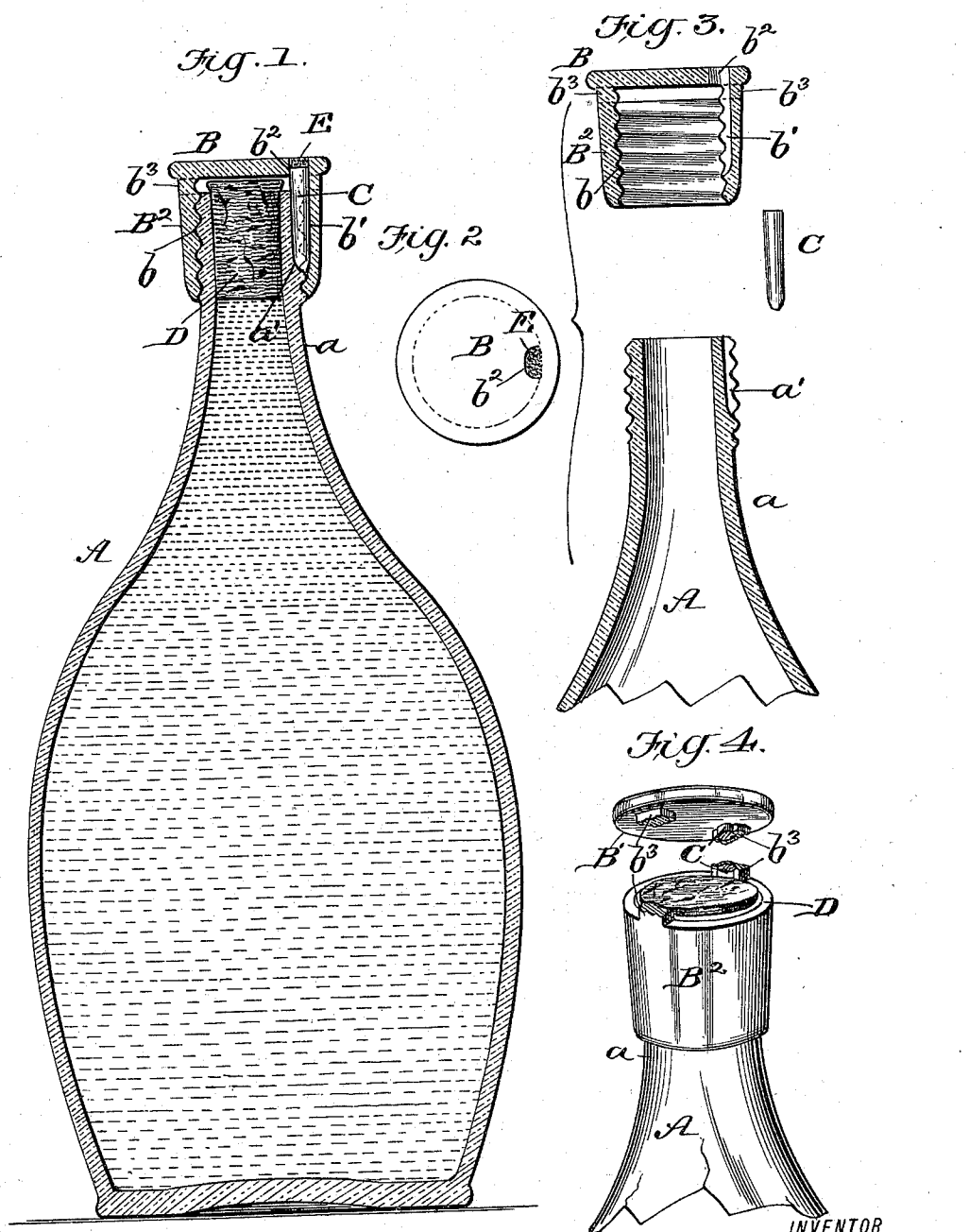


(No Model.)

A. M. COWART.
BOTTLE SEALING DEVICE.

No. 571,262.

Patented Nov. 10, 1896.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW M. COWART, OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA.

BOTTLE-SEALING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 571,262, dated November 10, 1896.

Application filed March 17, 1896. Serial No. 583,536. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW M. COWART, a citizen of the United States, residing at Punta Gorda, in the county of De Soto and State of Florida, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bottle-Sealing Devices, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a bottle provided with my improved sealing device. Fig. 2 is a detail plan view of the cap. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the several parts detached; and Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the cap, showing the same as it appears when broken.

My invention relates to that class of bottle-sealing devices in which the bottle is sealed by a cap permanently secured over the neck thereof and formed of frangible material, so that the top of the cap must be broken off before the cork can be reached.

The object of the invention is to lock a frangible screw-cap to the neck of the bottle by an inaccessible key, so that the top of the cap must be broken off to gain access to the cork and thereby prevent the bottle being refilled with imitations of its original contents and used over again as an original package.

The invention will first be described, and then specifically pointed out in the claims.

A represents an ordinary bottle having an externally-threaded neck *a*, provided with a longitudinally-extending keyway *a'* intersecting its threads.

B is a cap formed of frangible material, such as glass or even metal. The interior of the cap is screw-threaded, as at *b*, and provided with a longitudinally-extending keyway *b'*, which will register with the keyway *a'* when the cap is screwed on the bottle-neck. The top of the cap is provided with an aperture *b²*, which registers with the keyway *b'*, so that the key C, of glass or other material, may be inserted in the ways *a' b'* after the cap has been screwed down. The top B' of the cap is connected with the tubular body B² thereof by means of legs *b³*, in order that the top may be readily severed or broken off by a light blow when access to the bottle is desired. The key will hold the cap from being unscrewed, and if undue force is applied

the top of the cap will be wrenched off. After the bottle has been closed by the cork the cap B will be screwed on and the hole *b²* filled with some cement that will not be affected by heat, cold, or moisture, and the key C will be inserted down through the cement while still plastic and the head of the key will be covered over thereby; or the key may be coated with a suitable cement and then inserted to hold the cap in place.

It will be seen that the purchasing public will be protected and assured in getting a bottle filled with its original contents, as the absence of the cap-top will show conclusively that the contents of the bottle have been tampered with.

The lower end of the key cannot be reached to drive it upward, as the keyways are not extended down far enough to permit entrance to the key.

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

1. A bottle, provided with a frangible cap to fit over its neck, keyways in the cap and neck, an aperture being formed in the cap in line with its keyway and a non-removable key adapted to be inserted through said aperture into the ways to lock the cap against removal; the key being of a length to cause its upper end to lie within the aperture and thereby permit of the insertion of a non-removable cement thereover, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination with a bottle having an externally-threaded and longitudinally-grooved neck, and a cork closing the neck, of an internally-threaded cap screwed on the neck and having an internal groove or keyway registering with that in the neck and an aperture in its top leading thereto; the top of the cap being connected to the body by frangible legs, and a key inserted into the keyways through said aperture the aperture being permanently closed above the key, substantially as set forth.

ANDREW M. COWART.

Witnesses:

J. L. JONES,
H. RICE.