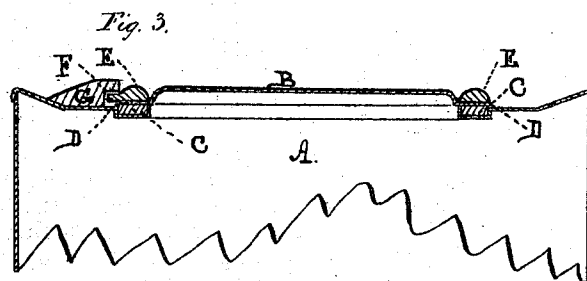
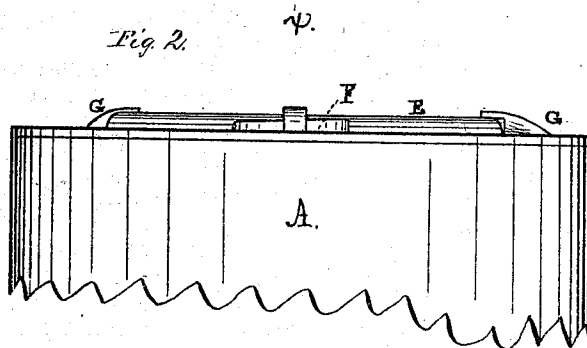
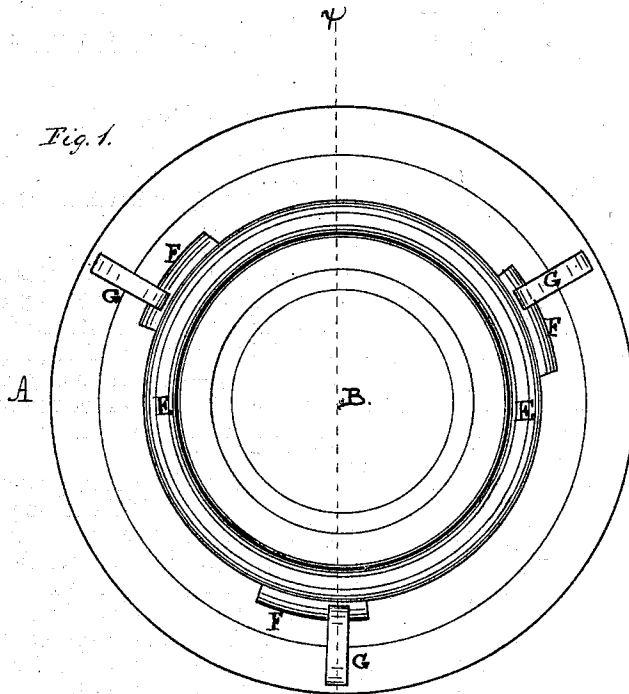


AUSTIN A. WILCOX.
Fruit Can.

No. 124,710.

Patented March 19, 1872.



Witnesses:
Jacob E. Schindler
Alfred C. Savidge

Inventor:
Austin A. Wilcox.
by *John A. Wilcox.*
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUSTIN A. WILCOX, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FRUIT-CANS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 124,710, dated March 19, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUSTIN A. WILCOX, of the city and county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fruit-Cans; and I do hereby declare the following to be a clear and exact description of the nature thereof, sufficient to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to fully understand and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a top view of the device illustrating my invention. Fig. 2 is a side view thereof, the body of the can being broken away. Fig. 3 is a vertical section in line *x x*, Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The objects to be derived, in tin or metallic cans for the preservation of fruit, &c., are to provide simple and reliable means of fastening or closing the cans and render the lids, tops, or covers thereof available for subsequent use. Jars constructed of glass, earthenware, and like material, possess some of these advantages, but are expensive and easily fractured and broken. Metallic lids are liable to bulge at certain points, and unless this is prevented air is admitted into the can and the contents thereof are rendered unfit for use.

My invention is designed to remedy these evils and possesses the advantages set forth. It consists in an independent ring having a series of inclined projections, the ring lying on the lid or cover, and the projections adapted to engage with lugs or catches on the can, so that, by rotation, the inclined projections will cause the ring to tighten, and thus press firmly the lid, which, in turn, will be held securely and uniformly on its seat.

Referring to the drawing, A represents the body of the can, and B the lid thereof. This lid will rest on a rubber gasket or packing, C, located as usually, and has its main portion preferably raised, so as to leave a depressed edge or rim, D. On this rim is laid a ring or band, E, which I term the confining and tightening ring, and has formed with it a series of projections, F, whose upper faces are inclined in the direction of their lengths, beginning at or about the

upper side of the ring. A series of hook-shaped lugs, G, are secured to the top of the body of the can, and are so constructed and arranged that the projections F of the ring will engage with said lugs—that is to say, the projections are adapted to pass under the lugs—and said projections and lugs come to a bearing with each other.

In operation the can is properly filled with the fruit or other article to be preserved. The lid is then laid on the top of the can and the ring placed in position on the lid. By rotating the ring the inclined projections move under the hooked lugs, and the result is that the ring is forced down against the top, which, in turn, is pressed firmly on its seat, and thus the can is securely closed.

It will be seen that the ring presses uniformly on the top or cover, and, consequently, the latter cannot bulge at any portion of its circumference.

In practice the ring and projections will preferably be formed of cast metal. The ring encircles the raised portions of the top or cover, and thus serves to hold it in place while being applied to the can. After the can is emptied of its contents, the ring and top will be found to be readily available for subsequent use.

When, as is common, the hooked lugs are arranged to project over the sides of the can to engage projections thereon to lock the same in position, the fastening devices would interfere with and prevent close packing of a number of cans and the locking lugs would be liable to be knocked off during handling and transportation, and the contents of the can be destroyed.

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

The ring E, movable independently of the cover, and provided with the inclined projections F which lock under the hooked lugs G, said device being arranged on top of the can, and operating as set forth.

The above signed by me this 10th day of January, 1872.

AUSTIN A. WILCOX.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. WIEDERSHEIM,
ALFRED C. SAVIDGE.