Sept. 30, 1952 H. M. VON DUYKE 2,612,292

CONDIMENT DISPENSER

Filed Jan. 29, 1947

Fig. 1

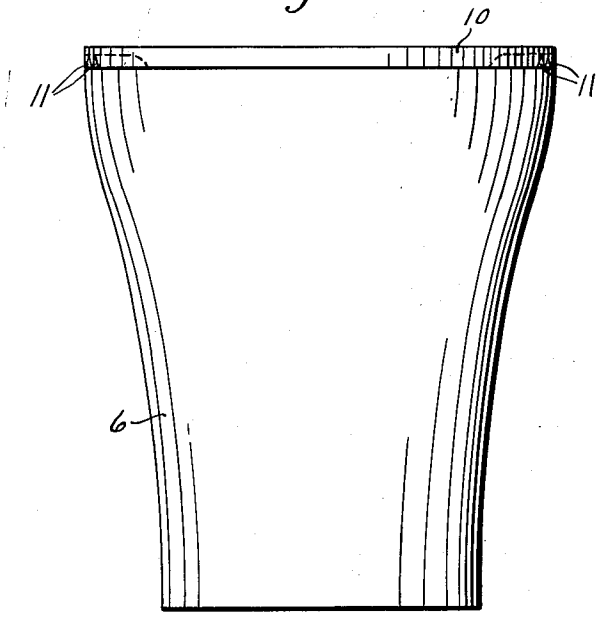


Fig. 2

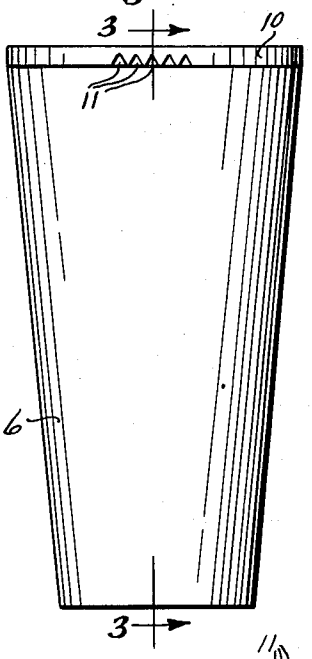


Fig. 3

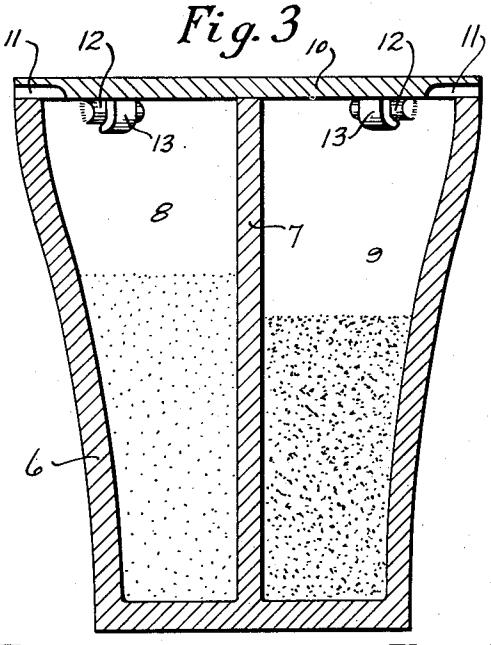


Fig. 4

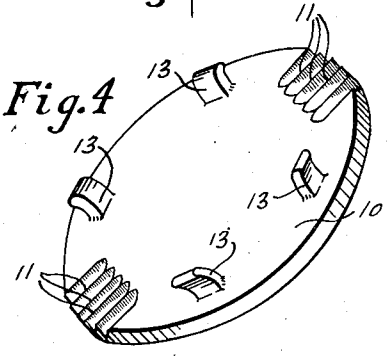


Fig. 5

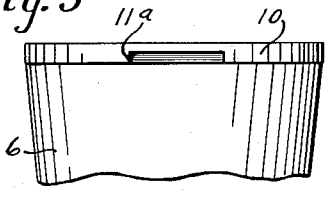


Fig. 6

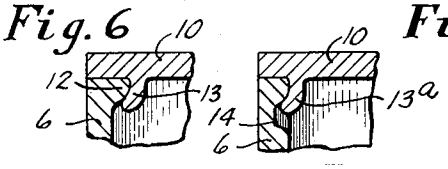


Fig. 7

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CONDIMENT DISPENSER

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Application January 29, 1947, Serial No. 724,944

6 Claims. (Cl. 222—142.4)

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This invention relates to condiment dispensers, and it relates more particularly to dipensers designed for the ready and convenient use of salt, pepper, and the like, at a dining table.

One of the principal difficulties heretofore encountered in the use of condiment dispensers, particularly those used for discharging common table salt, was due to the natural tendency of the salt to absorb moisture from the air, and to then accumulate in and around the discharge openings so that the same quickly became clogged and the dispensers became inoperative.

In the use of dispensers of the ordinary type, having a plurality of holes for the discharge of the contents, when the holes become clogged or stopped up, they are difficult to clean, and persons attempting to use the same usually become greatly exasperated.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a dispenser for table condiments, such as salt and pepper, of novel construction and arrangements, so that in the event the discharge opening became clogged, the same may be quickly cleaned and the device put in condition for use with a minimum of effort.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the character aforesaid, in which the tendency of the discharge openings to become clogged, will be reduced to a minimum.

A further object of the invention is to provide, as a specific form of device, a unitary container having a plurality of compartments from either of which the material contained therein may be dispensed without the material from the other compartment being discharged at the same time.

More specifically considered, the present invention relates to a modification of the device shown in my previous application for Letters Patent filed December 5, 1946, Serial No. 714,300 now Patent No. 2,566,004, issued August 28, 1951.

The nature and characteristic features of the present invention will be more readily understood from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing forming part hereof, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a combined salt and pepper shaker embodying the main features of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof;

Fig. 3 is a vertical central section thereof taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the lid member of the device, the same being shown removed, and looking toward the under face thereof;

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the upper portion of a modified form of the device;

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Fig. 6 is a detail view showing certain of the parts in cross-section to illustrate means for securing the lid member in place; and

Fig. 7 is a similar view of a modified form of the means shown in Fig. 6.

It should, of course, be understood that the description and drawing herein are illustrative merely, and that various modifications and changes may be made in the structure disclosed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Referring now more particularly to Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the drawing, the invention as there shown comprises a suitably shaped container 6 having a central vertically disposed partition 7, so as to provide two interior compartments 8 and 9, designed to hold salt and pepper respectively.

A lid member 10 is provided, the marginal portion of the under face of which engages the top edges of the walls of the container 6. At suitable locations on the under face of the lid member 10, there are provided a plurality of grooves or serrations 11 which extend from the marginal edges inwardly a sufficient distance to provide at each side a plurality of openings for the discharge of the material from within the compartments 8 and 9 respectively.

The lid 10 may be secured to the container 6 in any suitable manner, but preferably it is designed to be mounted on the top of the container 6 in such manner as to be easily and readily removable therefrom. For example, on each side of the container 6, on the inside, there may be provided lugs 12, which may be engaged by suitable spring tongues 13 extending downwardly from the under face of the lid 10. The tongues 13 not only serve to retain the lid against detachment but also prevent sliding of the lid sideways on the top of the container 6.

In the modified form of the attaching means for the lid, shown in Fig. 7 of the drawing, the lugs 12 are omitted, and in lieu thereof there are provided recesses 14, in which event the tongue 13a will be correspondingly located on the under face of the lid 10.

The operation of the device as above described will be readily understood. When it is desired to discharge the contents of either of the compartments 8 or 9, the container 6 is tilted with the desired side portion disposed downwardly, thereby to cause the material in the proper compartment to be discharged through the apertures provided by the grooves 11, the discharge being assisted, if necessary, by shaking the device.

If it should be found that the material does not flow or discharge properly, by reason of the

grooves 11 being closed by accumulations of the material which should normally pass therethrough, the same may be quickly cleared by removing the lid 10 which, in most instances, will cause the material which has accumulated in the grooved portions 11 to remove itself therefrom. However, if necessary, the grooved portion 11 may be cleaned with any suitable implement, such as a knife, fork, or any other table utensil which may be convenient. Also, if the material within one of the compartments should become caked or hardened, it will be comparatively easy to break up and pulverize the same, upon the removal of the lid 10, by means of any available table utensil.

In Fig. 5 of the drawing there is shown a modified form of the invention in which, instead of a plurality of grooves or serrations being provided for the discharge of the material, a relatively narrow slot 11a is provided for the discharge of the material from within the container.

This slot 11a is provided by cutting out a shallow indentation in the under face of the lid member 10 of the container, so that when said lid member 10 is placed thereon the top edge of the wall of the container will define one edge of the slot. An arrangement such as this may be even more readily cleaned than is the case with serrated device shown in Figs. 1 to 4, although in some respects it may not be so desirable.

I claim:

1. A condiment dispenser comprising a container having a smooth top marginal edge, a closed top lid removably secured on said container and having its marginal portion normally extending over and engaging the top edge of the container, said marginal portion of the lid having on its under face an indentation extending from the outer edge of the lid toward the center thereof beyond the top edge of the container thereby providing, when the lid is positioned on the top of the container, an opening for the sidewise discharge of the material from within the container, and spring means for normally holding the lid on the top of the container, said holding means permitting the lid to be readily removed for the purpose of clearing the discharge opening of any of the material which may lodge therein.

2. A condiment dispenser comprising a container having a smooth top marginal edge, a closed top lid removably secured on said container and having its marginal portion engaging the top edge of the container, said marginal portion of the lid having on its inner under face a series of parallel indentations extending from the outer edge of the lid toward the center thereof beyond the top edge of the container thereby providing, when the lid is positioned on the top of the container, a plurality of openings for the sidewise discharge of the material from within the contaner, and spring means for normally holding the lid on the top of the container, said holding means permitting the lid to be readily removed for the purpose of clearing the discharge openings of any of the material which may lodge therein.

3. A condiment dispenser comprising a container having a smooth top marginal edge, a closed top lid removably secured on said container and having its marginal portion engaging the top edge of the container, said marginal portion of the lid having on its inner under face a serrated portion adjacent the edge of the container of a greater extent than the width of said edge thereby providing, when the lid is normally positioned on the top of the container, a plurality of passageways extending from the outer edge of the lid toward the center thereof for the sidewise discharge of the material from within the container, and spring means for normally holding the lid on the top of the container, said holding means permitting the lid to be readily removed for the purpose of clearing the discharge openings of any of the material which may lodge therein.

4. A condiment dispenser comprising a container having a smooth top marginal edge, a closed top lid removably mounted on said container and having its marginal portion engaging the top edge of the container, said marginal portion of the lid having on its inner under face a serrated portion adjacent the edge of the container of a greater extent than the width of said edge thereby providing, when the lid is normally positioned on the top of the container, a plurality of passageways extending from the outer edge of the lid toward the center thereof for the sidewise discharge of the material from within the container, said lid having internally disposed spring tongues engaging portions of the container for normally holding the lid on the top of the container, said holding means permitting the lid to be readily removed for the purpose of clearing the discharge openings of any of the material which may lodge therein.

5. A condiment dispenser comprising a container having a vertical partition subdividing the interior thereof into two compartments and having a smooth top edge, a closed top lid removably mounted on said container having its marginal portion engaging the top edge of the container, said marginal portion of the lid having on its inner under face separated portions on each side of the central partition and of a greater extent than the width of said edge of the container thereby providing, when the lid is normally positioned on the top of the container a series of passageways extending from the outer edge of the lid toward the center thereof on each side for the selective sidewise discharge of the material from the respective compartments, and spring means for normally holding the lid on the top of the container, said holding means permitting the lid to be readily removed for the purpose of clearing the discharge openings of any of the material which may lodge therein.

6. A condiment dispenser comprising a container having a vertical partition subdividing the interior thereof into two compartments and having a smooth top edge, a closed top lid removably secured on said container having its marginal portion engaging the top edge of the container, said marginal portion of the lid having on its inner under face an indentation on each side of the central partition and of a greater extent than the width of said edge of the container thereby providing, when the lid is normally positioned on the top of the container a passageway extending from the outer edge of the lid toward the center thereof on each side for the selective sidewise discharge of the material from the respective compartments, and spring means for normally holding the lid on the top of the container, said holding means permitting the lid to be readily removed for the purpose of clearing the discharge openings of any of the material which may lodge therein.

HARRISON M. VON DUYKE.

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