To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WENDELL M. SAUNDERS and LLOYD V. ROY, citizens of the United States, residing at Reading, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, and Beverly, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, respectively, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fruit-Jar-Sealing-Ring Openers, of which the following is a specificat guardian.

This invention has reference to fruit jar sealing ring openers and its object is to provide means whereby the fruit jar seal may be broken when it is desired to gain access to the contents of the jar.

Ordinarily, fruit jars are provided with sealing rings of rubber or like material and often times considerable difficulty is had in breaking the seal with the result that sometimes an implement is employed which is liable to break or injure the jar in some way in the effort to remove the top of the jar. Even with the use of a tool provided for the purpose, difficulty is often encountered in loosening the top because of the vacuum conditions present.

In accordance with the invention, the fruit jar ring instead of being a simple flat ring of rubber, is a composition ring having the usual flat rubber ring elements, and in addition thereto another element of similar character and possessing considerable strength whereby the sealing ring may be ruptured so as to admit air to the interior of the jar and thus break the vacuum, after which the top of the jar may be easily removed, usual by unscrewing, the vacuum conditions no longer being present.

A sealing ring constructed in accordance with the invention, includes the usual rubber ring with an interior member of rubberized fabric which may serve as a tearing member and is removable from beneath the jar cap to the exterior thereof whereby the fabric may be grasped by the fingers of the human hand and withdrawn in a manner to separate the rubber ring and admit air to the interior of the jar, thus breaking the vacuum.

It is essential that the rubberized cloth or other tearing element run through the ring and it may extend part of the way around the inside of the ring. It is not necessary that the rubberized element be sunk flush with the inside circumference although this latter arrangement will make a neater finish than otherwise.

The invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, with the understanding however that the invention is not confined to any strict conformity with the showing of the drawings but may be changed and modified so long as such changes and modifications mark no material departure from the salient features of the invention as expressed in the appended claim.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the upper end of a fruit jar with the sealing ring partially pulled out.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the complete sealing ring ready for use.

Fig. 3 is a diametric section thereof.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown a fruit jar 1 provided with a top or cover 2 as of the screw type, but it is to be understood that any type of jar cover may be used.

Employed in conjunction with the cap is a sealing ring 3.

Such sealing ring 3 may be in the main of the customary flat rubber type to serve as a gasket lodged between the cover member or cap 2 and the top ledge 4 of the jar whereby such ring when lodged between the cap and the ledge of the jar constitutes a vacuum proof seal in accordance with the usual practice in rendering jars vacuum proof.

In conjunction with the rubber jar ring is a piece of rubberized fabric built into the rubber ring in such a manner that one end protrudes from the exterior or outer periphery of the ring. The rubberized fabric is indicated at 5 as extending part of the way about the inner periphery of the ring 3 and thence across the rubber ring to the exterior margin thereof beyond which the rubberized fabric is formed with a finger hold 6 readily accessible from the exterior of the rubber ring when the cap 2 is applied and the vacuum conditions are established within the jar.

The finger hold or tab 6 is made large enough to be readily grasped between the thumb and fingers beyond the outer periphery of the rubber ring 3 and the tearing
strip 5 may be vulcanized together with the rubber ring so that leakage under normal conditions cannot take place, the elastic nature of the rubber ring taking care of this condition so that the two elements of the sealing device are in effect a single piece structure, perfectly air-tight.

In use, the jar is sealed with the ring to make an air-tight joint between the cover and the jar in the usual manner. To open, the tab is grasped between the thumb and fingers and pulled in a direction tangentially away from the jar thus resulting in tearing that part of the rubber ring from which the rubberized fabric protrudes, this tearing action continuing until air is admitted to the jar thereby breaking the vacuum so that the cover of the jar may be easily lifted off or unscrewed as the case may be.

This of course means that the sealing ring is destroyed for any further use, but this is the case so far as the life of any sealing ring such as is used on fruit jars is concerned.

The advantages of the invention are numerous. There is no danger of the jar or cover being damaged in opening, as often occurs when an ordinary ring is pierced with a knife, an ice-pick or similar implement, often causing the container to leak when the attempt is made to use it again. The jar is quickly and easily opened by a single pull, there being no hunting for something to open the jar with or for somebody with strong hands. Also there is no danger due to slipping of the implement employed to open the jar. The composite ring is of very cheap construction and practically as cheap as the ordinary variety of sealing rings and the improved ring is positive in operation and in air sealing quality.

What is claimed is:

A fruit jar sealing device comprising a flat sealing ring of compressible material with an inextensible tearing strip vulcanized to the sealing ring along its inner edge and traversing the ring to its outer edge, and beyond the latter formed into a finger hold.

In testimony whereof, we affix our signatures hereto.

WENDELL M. SAUNDERS,

LLOYD V. ROY.