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2,213,465

INKWELL

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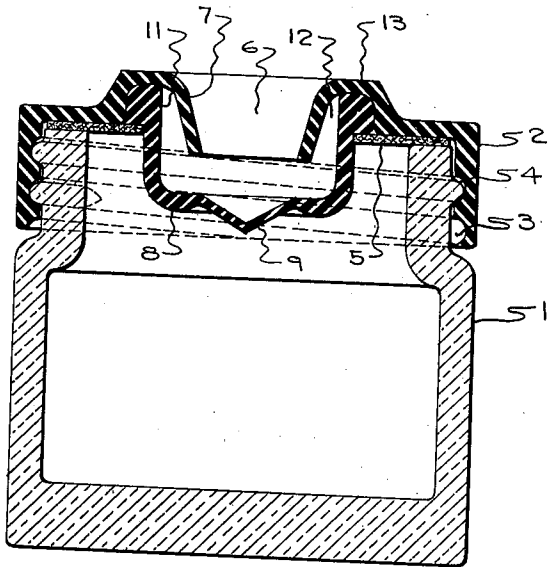


Fig. 1

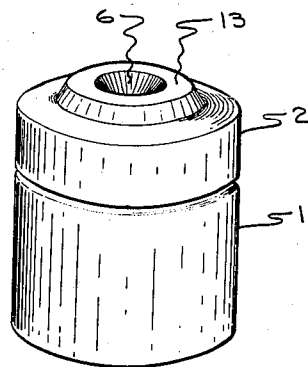


Fig. 2

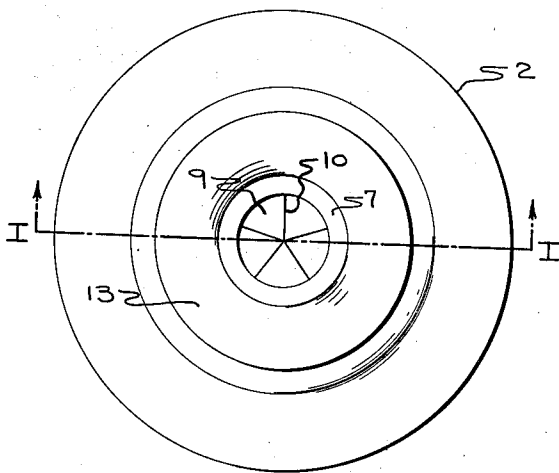


Fig. 3

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INKWELL

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4 Claims. (Cl. 120—68)

The present invention relates to inkwells and the like and more particularly to an ever-ready inkwell having a seal to prevent evaporation and a construction to prevent spilling of the ink should the inkwell be accidentally over-

turned. Ever-ready inkwells having arrangements to prevent evaporation of the ink and spilling upon accidental over-turning have broadly been known for a long time. Such arrangements usually consist of a pliable closure having radially projecting slits for permitting the insertion of the pen into the ink. However, with such devices, in use a small amount of ink usually collected on the top of the closure and when the inkwell accidentally over-turned, this ink on the top of the closure was spilled. The present invention contemplates structure so arranged as to catch this small amount of ink and therefore to prevent its spilling.

An object of the present invention is to provide an inkwell or the like having a pliable split closure member and a downwardly opening chamber surrounding the inkwell opening and above the closure member to catch any ink that might be on top of the closure member when the inkwell is accidentally over-turned.

Another object of the invention is to provide a removable rubber closure member which is supported on a gasket held between the ink container and its cap.

These and other objects will be apparent from the following specification when taken with the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a section on the line I—I of Fig. 3, Fig. 2 is a perspective of an inkwell according to the present invention, and

Fig. 3 is a plan view of an inkwell according to the present invention.

Referring particularly to the drawing, the reference character 1 indicates a liquid container which preferably is of transparent glass, but which may be made of any suitable and desired material. The container 1 has a wide mouth at the top thereof and is covered with a cap 2 which, as shown, is made of molded hard rubber, although other materials, such as phenol formaldehyde condensation products or the like may be employed. Male threads 3 on the container 1 and corresponding female threads 4 on the cap 2 provide a suitable means for effecting a connection between the container 1 and the cap 2. Disposed between the container 1 and the cap 2 is a gasket 5 having a central opening the edge of which is disposed inwardly from

the edge of the container 1 for a purpose to be hereinafter explained. The gasket 5 should be of some gasket material such as fiber and resistant to ink or whatever writing liquid is disposed in the container 1.

The cap 2 is provided with a central opening 6 and is outlined by a depending flange 7 which preferably is conical for the purpose of easily guiding a pen or other writing instrument into the container 1. Supported beneath and around the opening 6 is a closure member 8 which is cup-shaped in form and is of some pliable material such as soft rubber. At the bottom of the closure member 8 is a central relatively thin and pliable portion 9 provided with a plurality of splits 10 radiating from a central point. The purpose of the pliable portion 9 and its splits 10 is to permit the insertion of a pen or other writing instrument into the container 1 and at the same time when the pen is withdrawn from the container 1 to seal the interior of the container against circulation of air from the atmosphere which would cause evaporation and against outflow of ink from the container 1 in the event that it is accidentally over-turned. The sealing of the container 1 against accidental outflow of ink in the event of accidental over-turning is materially assisted by the fact that the pliable portion 9 is conical with the apex of the cone pointing inwardly so that pressure of ink from within the container 1 tends to force the edges of the splits 10 together and to increase the sealing. It will be understood that the pliable portion 9 would have the same sealing action should it be concavo-convex in configuration and such a form is contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention.

The sealing member 8 is provided at its upper edge with a bead 11 which is so related to the gasket 5 that the body of the sealing member 8 passes through the central opening in the gasket 5 and the bead 11 rests on the top surface of the gasket 5. It should be observed that the depending flange 7 surrounding the central opening 6 of the cap 2 is spaced radially inwardly from the sides of the cup-shaped closure member 8 in such a manner as to provide around the depending flange portion 7 an encompassing chamber or channel 12 which has an open bottom communicating with the space immediately above the flexible portion 9 of the closure member 8. Thus should the container 1 be accidentally overturned, any ink that might have been transferred past the splits 10 of the pliable portion 9 during continued use of the inkwell,

onto the top side of the closure member 8 will be caught in the chamber 12. For the purpose of raising the lowermost extremity of the closure member 8 to as high a level as possible thus making possible the placing of a maximum amount of ink in the container 1, the cap 2 is provided with a raised portion 13 surrounding the opening 6 for receiving the bead 11. The portion 13 also improves the general appearance of the inkwell as a whole by breaking what would otherwise be a flat top.

It should be understood that while the invention has been described as applied to an inkwell, it may equally well be applied to other similar containers having equivalent uses.

Having thus described my invention what I desire to secure by Letters Patent and claim is:

1. A device of the character described, comprising a liquid container having an open top, a detachable cap therefor having a central opening, a depending flange outlining said opening, a closure for said opening, said closure being in the form of a cup into which said flange projects, a gasket between the top of said container and said cup, said gasket having an annular portion disposed inwardly from said container, a bead around the upper edge of said cup, said gasket having a central opening through which said cup projects, said opening being defined by said annular portion, said bead resting on the top of said annular portion of said gasket, said closure having a pliable split portion to permit the entrance of an instrument into said container, said cap clamping said gasket against said container and independently holding said bead against said gasket.

2. A device of the character described comprising a liquid container having an open top, a detachable cap therefor having a central opening, a depending flange outlining said opening, a closure for said opening, said closure being in the form of a cup into which said flange projects, the bottom and outside of said flange being spaced from said cup, said flange and cup providing an open bottomed chamber surrounding said flange, a gasket between the top of said container and said cup, said gasket having an annular portion disposed inwardly from said container, a bead around the upper edge of said cup-shaped closure, said gasket having a central opening through which said cup-shaped closure projects, said opening being defined by said annular portion, said bead resting on the top of said annular portion of said gasket, said closure

having a pliable split portion beneath said opening for permitting the entrance of an instrument into said container, said cap clamping said gasket against said container and independently holding said bead against said gasket.

3. A device of the character described comprising a liquid container having an open top, a detachable cap therefor having a central opening, a depending flange outlining said opening, a closure for said opening, said closure being in the form of a cup into which said flange projects, the bottom and outside of said flange being spaced from said cup, said flange and cup providing an open bottomed chamber surrounding said flange, a gasket between the top of said container and said cup, said gasket having an annular portion disposed inwardly from said container, a bead around the upper edge of said cup, said gasket having a central opening through which said cup projects, said opening being defined by said annular portion, said bead resting on the top of said annular portion of said gasket, said cup being pliable and having a central portion beneath said opening of relatively thin construction being split for permitting the entrance of an instrument into said container, said cap clamping said gasket against said container and independently holding said bead against said gasket.

4. A device of the character described comprising a liquid container having an open top, a detachable cap therefor having a central opening, a depending flange outlining said opening, a closure for said opening, said closure being in the form of a cup into which said flange projects, a gasket between the top of said container and said cup, said gasket having a central opening and projecting inwardly beyond the edge of said container, a bead around the upper edge of said cup, said cup projecting through said opening and said bead resting on the upper face of said gasket, said cap having an upwardly extending portion surrounding said opening, and receiving said bead, said depending flange and upwardly extending portion forming a downwardly facing channel surrounding said opening, said bead being disposed in said channel, the bottom and outside of said flange being spaced from said cup, said flange and said cup providing an open bottomed chamber surrounding said flange, said closure having a pliable split portion beneath said opening for permitting the entrance of an instrument into said container.

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