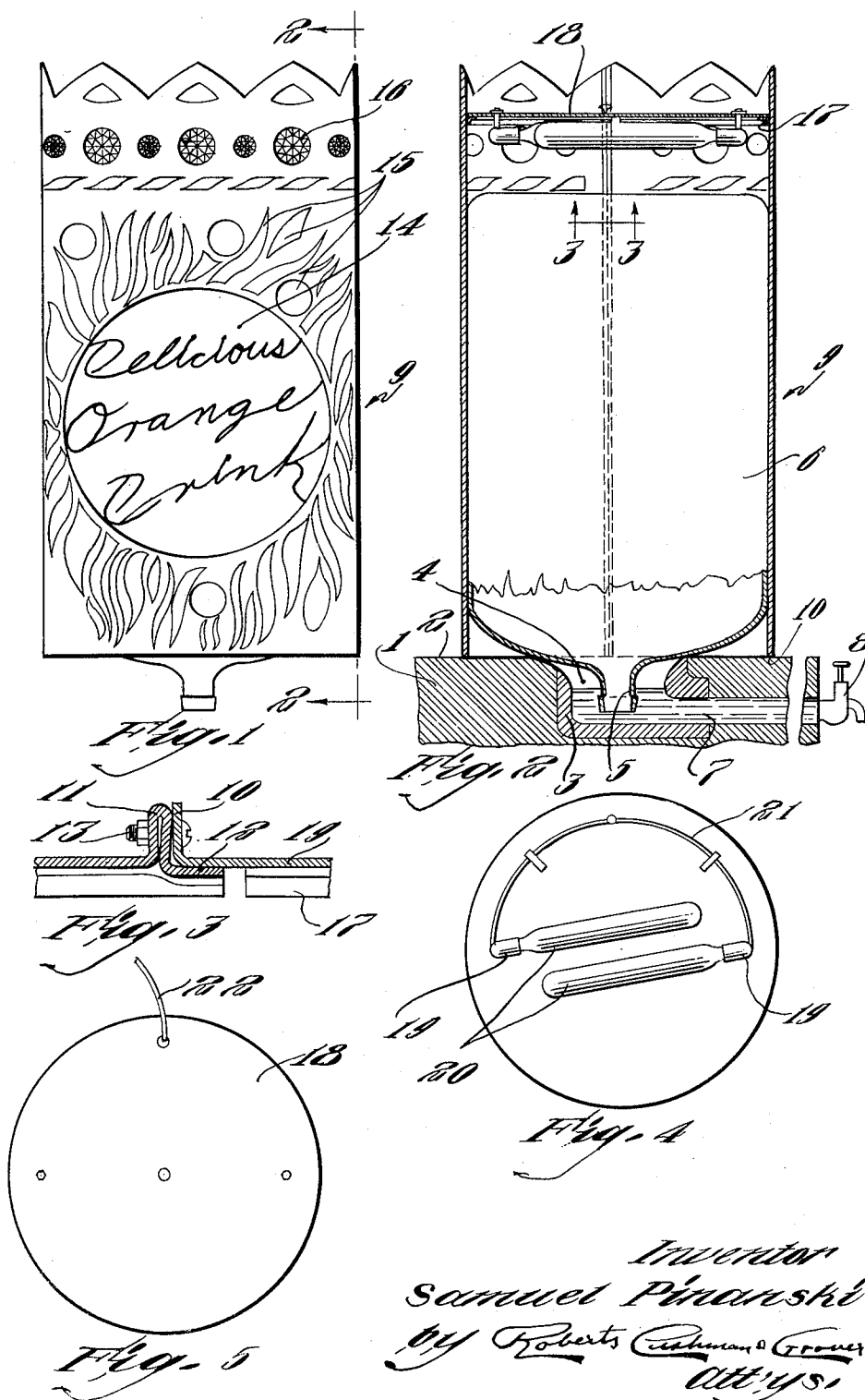


July 11, 1950

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ORNAMENTAL ENVELOPE FOR APPARATUS
FOR DISPENSING BEVERAGES
Filed Sept. 12, 1946

2,514,558



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,514,558

ORNAMENTAL ENVELOPE FOR APPARATUS
FOR DISPENSING BEVERAGES

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Application September 12, 1946, Serial No. 696,482

4 Claims. (Cl. 40-130)

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This invention pertains to apparatus for use in dispensing beverages, for example fruit sirups, orange juice, fruit punch, etc., and more particularly to apparatus of the kind in which the beverage to be dispensed is drawn from an inverted bottle. The invention is more especially directed to novel means for protecting, supporting, illuminating and imparting an ornamental appearance to the inverted bottle from which the beverage is drawn.

Customarily the inverted bottle is arranged with its neck in an open-topped cup or reservoir from which a pipe leads to a faucet conveniently located. The bottle is thus freely exposed and subject to accidental blows and breakage; the bottles supplied for this purpose are designed purely for utilitarian purposes and without pretense to pleasing appearance; the neck portion of the bottle does not always find a firm and level support in the holder or reservoir within which the neck is disposed so that often times the bottle assumes a tipsy appearance and may even incline so far as to fall out of the holder; and the pleasing and enticing color of the beverage is often obscured by inefficient lighting or by a background of a clashing color.

An object of the present invention is to provide means for protecting the inverted bottle while in the dispensing position; for supporting the bottle with its axis substantially vertical and in a stable position; to provide means for concealing the outline of the bottle although exposing its contents to view; and to provide means for effectively illuminating the bottle and its contents. A further object is to provide a jacket device, preferably of ornamental and pleasing appearance which may be applied to a dispensing bottle and which protects the bottle from mechanical injury; which may constitute the support for the bottle; which is easily applied to and removed from the bottle and which provides a suitable support for illuminating means. Other and further objects and advantages of the invention will be pointed out in the following more detailed description and by reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the bottle enclosing jacket of the present invention with the bottle arranged within it;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary section, substantially on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1, showing the bottle supported in the position for use in the dispensing apparatus;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary section, to larger scale, on the line 3-3 of Fig. 2;

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Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of a cover plate constituting a support for illuminating means; and

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the cover plate.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 1 designates a support, for example a counter or bar having the horizontal upper surface 2 and having a cavity within which is disposed the cup-like member 3 which defines the open-topped reservoir 4 in which the neck 5 of the bottle 6 is disposed during the dispensing operation. From the reservoir 4 a pipe 7 leads to a conveniently located dispensing faucet 8. The bottle is arranged in inverted position with its neck 5 in the reservoir 4, and the liquid in the bottle is delivered into the reservoir 4 under barometric control as is customary in apparatus of this type.

In accordance with the present invention, the bottle is supported upon the counter or bar 1 by means of a jacket device 9, having a lower edge 10 which, in use, is in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the bottle and which rests upon and finds a firm support on the surface of the bar 1.

This supporting and protecting jacket 9 is preferably of sheet metal, somewhat resilient, the sheet metal being rolled, bent or otherwise shaped substantially to cylindrical form. One edge of the sheet from which this cylindrical jacket is formed is provided with the out-turned flange 11 (Fig. 3) and the opposite edge is doubled upon itself, as shown at 11, with its marginal portion 12 bent at right angles and arranged to lap against the inside surface of that margin from which the flange 11 projects. The flange 11 and the fold 11 are furnished with a series of aligned openings for the reception of clamping bolts 13. Several of these bolts are arranged at spaced intervals longitudinally of the jacket. The jacket is preferably of a length substantially greater than that of the bottle, and the diameter of the jacket, when the bolts 13 are loosened, is slightly greater than the outside diameter of the bottle, so that the jacket may be slipped down over the inverted bottle, as shown in Fig. 2. When the jacket is in place, the bolts 13 are tightened, thus firmly clamping the bottle within the jacket. In thus arranging the jacket around the bottle, the lower edge 10 of the jacket is so located, relatively to the lower end of the neck of the bottle, that when the edge 10 of the jacket is set down upon the top surface 2 of the bar, the neck of the bottle will be properly disposed within the reservoir 4. With this arrangement the full diameter of the jacket is available for supporting the bottle, thus

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providing a very firm and stable support and maintaining the bottle in accurately upright position. Thus, the bottle is far more firmly supported than when it depends for its support merely upon the engagement of its neck portion with the upper edge of the reservoir 4, as is customary in devices of this type.

Preferably the jacket is provided at its front side, at least, with a large aperture 14 through which the contents of the bottle may be observed. If desired, such openings may be arranged at diametrically opposite sides of the jacket so that light may pass through the bottle from one side to the other. If desired, the jacket may be provided with other openings, for instance the openings 15 arranged in an ornamental pattern or of ornamental shape and/or openings 16 in which there are set colored or faceted glasses, adding to the ornamental appearance of the device. As shown, the upper edge of the jacket is scalloped for further ornamental appearance.

Preferably the jacket is provided near its upper end with a peripheral internal flange 17 which forms a support for the margin of a removable cover plate 18. This cover plate may be of sheet metal or other suitable material; it is of a diameter to fit within the jacket but to receive secure support from the flange 17; and it is provided with brackets carrying the sockets 19 at its under side for the incandescent bulbs 20. The sockets 19 are connected by a conductor 21, supported by the plate 18, to a cable 22 leading from a source of current.

When the jacket has been properly assembled with the bottle and the bottle placed in the dispensing position, the current may be turned on, thus illuminating the upper part of the bottle so that the color of its contents is easily discernible from the exterior. Likewise the light from the lamp bulbs passes out through the ornamental openings of the jacket or through the glazed opening 16 thus adding to the attractiveness of the device.

When the bottle has been emptied it is merely necessary to loosen the bolts 13 to permit the jacket to expand enough to slip it off of the bottle. A filled bottle is now put in position, the jacket slipped down over it and the bolts tightened, an operation which may be performed in a very few minutes and without requiring any particular skill.

Since the bottle is housed in the jacket, it is protected, to a substantial degree, from mechanical injury and thus breakage of these expensive bottles is greatly reduced.

Although sheet metal would ordinarily be employed in making the jacket, it is contemplated that other materials, for example synthetic resin or similar plastic, may be used for the purpose and that in that event highly ornamental effects may be obtained by employing a resin of a color which would match or pleasingly contrast with that of the beverage. It is further contemplated that if the jacket be of metal its outer surface may be highly polished, for example it may be of stainless steel or aluminum or it may be plated with gold or silver, or otherwise finished to provide an attractive appearance.

While one desirable embodiment of the invention has been illustrated by way of example it is to be understood that the invention is broadly inclusive of any and all structures falling within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In combination with a beverage-dispensing

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bottle, an ornamental envelope comprised of a rectangular sheet of metal, having ends and edges, bent to form a cylinder having open ends constituted by its edges, within which the bottle may be concealed, means for drawing the ends together about the bottle, thereby firmly to grip the bottle, the lower edge of the envelope being in a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis of the bottle and forming a support for the bottle and the upper end extending appreciably beyond the bottom of the bottle, the cylindrical surface of said envelope being suitable for receiving decorative media and having a plurality of symmetrically arranged apertures therein, the largest diameter of any one of which is substantially less than the radius of the bottle, through which light may be transmitted to reveal the content of the bottle without disclosing the character of the bottle.

2. In combination with a beverage-dispensing bottle, an ornamental envelope comprised of a rectangular sheet of metal, having ends and edges, bent to form a cylinder having open ends within which the bottle may be concealed, means for drawing the ends together about the bottle, thereby firmly to grip the bottle, the lower edge of the envelope terminating substantially at the junction between the shoulder and neck of the bottle, being in a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis of the bottle and forming a support for the bottle and the upper end extending appreciably beyond the bottom of the bottle, the cylindrical surface of said envelope being adapted to receive decorative media and having substantially midway between its ends apertures, the maximum dimensions of which are substantially less than the diameter of the bottle so that light may be transmitted directly through the bottle to reveal the content thereof while concealing the character of the bottle.

3. In combination with a beverage-dispensing bottle, an ornamental envelope comprised of a rectangular sheet of metal, having ends and edges, bent to form a cylinder having open ends constituted by its edges, within which the bottle may be concealed, means for drawing the ends together about the bottle, thereby firmly to grip the bottle, the lower edge of the envelope being a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis of the bottle and forming a support therefor and the upper extending appreciably beyond the bottom of the bottle, the cylindrical surface of said envelope being suitable for receiving decorative media and having a plurality of symmetrically arranged apertures therein, the largest dimensions of which are substantially less than the radius of the bottle through which light may be transmitted, a disk fixed in the upper end of the envelope transversely thereof and spaced from the bottom of the bottle, and illuminating means attached to the under side of the disk, the light from said illuminating means being transmitted axially through the content of the bottle so as to be visible through said apertures in the cylindrical wall of the envelope.

4. In combination with a beverage-dispensing bottle, an ornamental envelope comprised of a rectangular sheet of metal, having ends and edges, bent to form a cylinder having open ends constituted by its edges, within which the bottle may be concealed, means for drawing the ends together about the bottle, thereby firmly to grip the bottle, the lower edge of the envelope being a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis of the bottle and forming a support therefor and

the upper extending appreciably beyond the bottom of the bottle, the cylindrical surface of said envelope being suitable for receiving decorative media and having a plurality of symmetrically arranged apertures therein, the largest dimensions of which are substantially less than the radius of the bottle through which light may be transmitted, a flange fixed to the inside wall of the envelope at the upper end thereof so as to project inwardly, a closure disk situated on the flange below the open end of the envelope but above the bottom of the bottle, and lamp sockets fixed to the under side of the disk, said disk being removably fastened to said flange.

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