

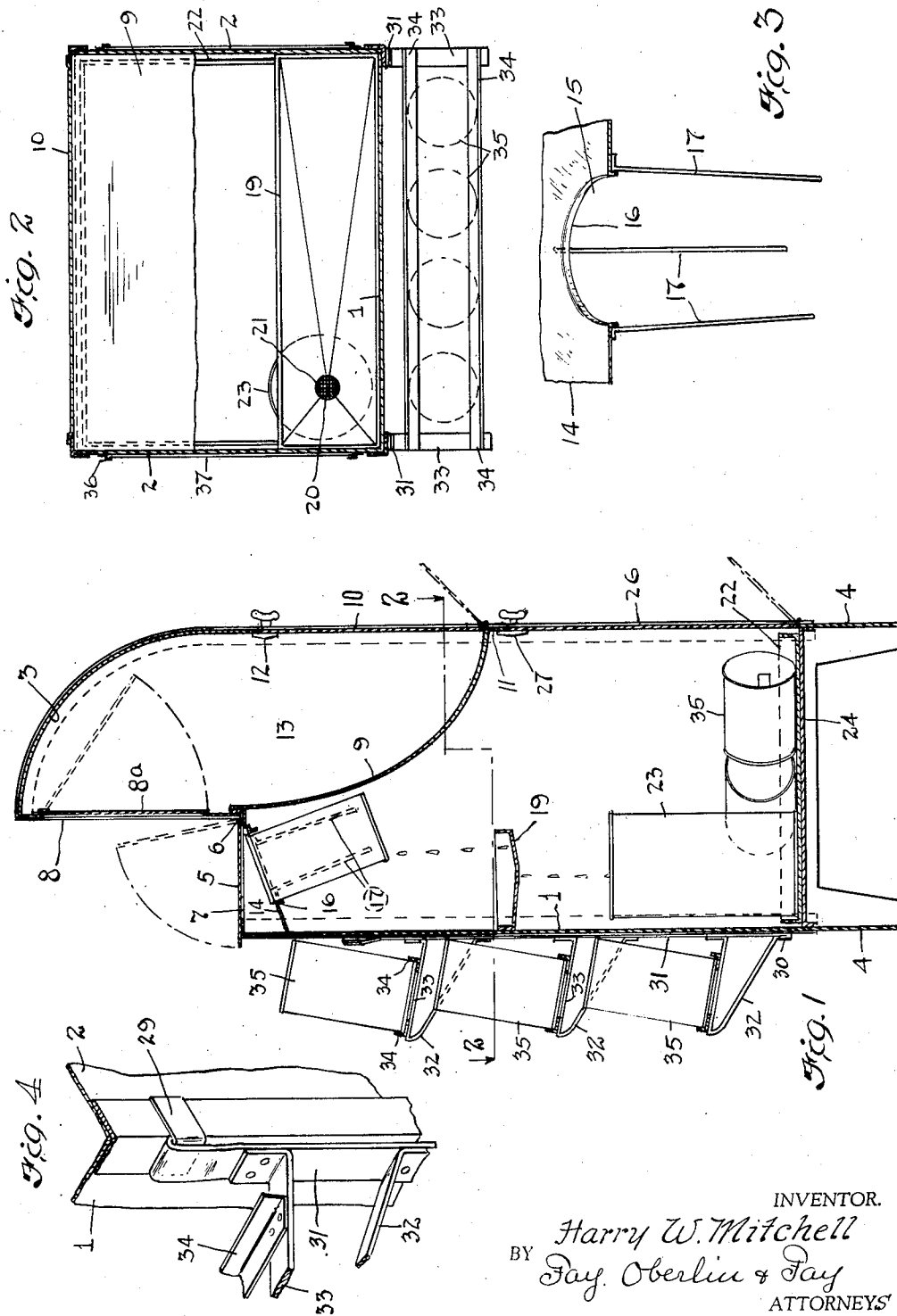
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COMBINATION OIL SALVAGE AND REFUSE CONTAINER AND DISPLAY RACK

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COMBINATION OIL SALVAGE AND REFUSE
CONTAINER AND DISPLAY RACKHarry W. Mitchell, Shaker Heights, Ohio, as-
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8 Claims. (Cl. 221-69)

The invention relates, as indicated, to a novel combination oil salvage and refuse container and display rack.

In the operation of gasoline stations, it has heretofore been customary for the gas station attendants, in selling oil in quart cans to automobile owners, to puncture one end of the can with a suitable tool provided therefor, and to drain the contents of the can into the crank case of the car. Such oil as remains in the can after the can has been thus drained, is usually salvaged by the attendants and either used by them in their own cars or sold to others at reduced prices. It has been estimated that about five per cent of all oil thus sold is salvaged in this manner, so that the customer gets no more than about ninety-five per cent of the oil which he buys.

This practice naturally provides an inducement for the attendants to salvage increasingly large amounts of oil from each can, and to cheat the customer in this as well as other respects of a petty character.

It is a primary object of the present invention to provide a container of the character described which is neat and attractive in appearance, and the use of which will effectively discourage the aforesaid practice of salvaging oil.

Another object of the invention is to provide a container which is not only useful for salvaging oil, but which serves also as a refuse container, as well as a support for a display rack upon which the cans of oil to be sold are conveniently displayed, and are readily accessible to the gas station attendant.

A further object of the invention is to provide a container of the aforesaid character which is admirably adapted for use in displaying advertising matter.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, said invention, then, consists of the means hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims; the annexed drawing and the following description setting forth in detail certain structure embodying the invention, such disclosed structure constituting, however, but one of various structural forms in which the principle of the invention may be used.

In said annexed drawing:

Fig. 1 is a vertical cross-sectional view of a device embodying the principal features of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a horizontal cross-sectional view of the device, taken on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary perspective view, show-

ing the can retaining fingers on the drainage plate; and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the manner of mounting the display rack.

Referring now particularly to the drawing the device comprises a sheet metal cabinet having a closed front 1, sides 2, and a back comprising a curved sheet 3 secured to and extending between the sides. The front and sides are formed to provide legs 4 for the support of the cabinet.

The upper portions of the sides 2 are cut away adjacent the front of the cabinet to provide space for a ledge or cover 5, which is hinged at the rear, as at 6, and which may be lifted at times to expose an opening 7 in the cabinet. Above and to the rear of the ledge 5 is an opening 8, the function of which will hereafter appear, this opening being normally closed by a gravity closing door 8a, hinged to the cabinet at its upper edge.

Extending entirely across the cabinet, and from a point adjacent the lower edge of the opening 8 to a point intermediate the rear edges of the sides 2 of the cabinet, is a sheet 9, which is curved reversely to the back sheet 3. The space between the lower edges of the sheets 3 and 9 is open and is adapted to be closed by means of a door 10, hinged at its lower edge to a flange 11 of the sheet 3. The door 10 is provided adjacent its upper edge, with a catch 12 engageable with the rear face of the lower edge of the top sheet 3 for the purpose of retaining the door in closed position. With the door 10 in closed position, a chamber or receptacle 13 is provided, which is defined by the sheets 3 and 9, the doors 8a and 10, and the portions of the sides 2 extending between the sheets 3 and 9. Refuse of a dry character may be thrown into this receptacle through the opening 8. By opening the door 10 the refuse within the receptacle 13 may be periodically removed.

Secured to the cabinet, immediately below the opening 7 is a plate 14, having a multiplicity of spaced openings 15 of a diameter slightly larger than that of an ordinary quart can of oil, such as is usually sold by gasoline filling stations. Each of these openings is bounded by a flange 16, and to each of the flanges is secured a plurality of converging circumferentially spaced downwardly extending wires 17. These wires are adapted to resiliently engage the side of a can of the aforesaid character and hold the can pending drainage of the contents thereof. To facilitate insertion of the cans in the openings 15, without opening the cover 5 to its fullest extent,

and also, to facilitate the removal of the cans from the openings, as will be presently described, the plate 14 is inclined slightly towards the front of the cabinet, as shown.

5 Supported below the plate 14 in any suitable manner is a pan 19 which extends substantially the entire width of the cabinet, is open at the top, and is provided at the bottom, adjacent one end of the pan with an opening 20, covered by a
10 strainer 21. Disposed below this opening, and resting on a pan 22, is a receptacle 23, which is preferably about the size of the ordinary five-quart oil can. The pan 22 rests on the bottom 24 of the cabinet, so as to be readily removable
15 through an opening between the flange 11 and the bottom 24, which opening is normally closed by a door 26, hinged at its lower edge to the rear edge of the bottom 24. The door 26 is provided at its upper edge with a latch 27, which may be
20 locked, as by a key-actuated lock.

The cabinet also serves to support a display rack for unused cans of oil, and for this purpose is provided adjacent its sides with vertically spaced pairs of lugs or clips 29 and 30.

25 The rack consists of spaced bars 31 having hook-like upper ends adapted to engage over the clips 29 and having their lower ends engaging behind the clips 30. Secured to each of the bars 31 at spaced points therealong are brackets 32
30 having rearwardly inclined upper portions 33 forming supports for angles 34, two angles being secured to each pair of brackets and being spaced apart sufficiently to support the quart cans 35 of oil, which are to be displayed. When the front
35 of the cabinet is to be cleaned, the entire rack may be removed by unhooking it from the clips 29.

In the use of the device, a can will be removed by the attendant from the rack and punctured so that its contents may be drained into the purchaser's car. After the contents have been thus drained, a certain amount of the oil, the amount depending on the viscosity and temperature of the oil and the extent to which the can has been
45 drained, will remain in the can, adhering to the walls and bottom thereof.

The attendants will then lift the cover 5 of the cabinet and insert the can, bottom side up, in one of the openings 15, pushing the can downward until the bottom thereof is substantially flush with the plate 14. To the casual observer it will appear that the can has been merely thrown into a receptacle, and this illusion will be heightened by the fact that the lid or cover 5 is immediately dropped into its normal position, concealing the can from view. Actually the can will be retained in the position to which it is pushed by the attendant by the resilient finger 17, and will be left in this position, until the remaining
60 oil has drained therefrom into the pan 19, the oil then passing through the opening 20 and thence into the receptacle 23, which is large enough to receive the salvaged contents of a large number of oil cans.

65 After all of the available openings 15 are occupied by cans which have been inserted therein to be drained, the operator or attendant will then push the next can to be drained into one of the occupied openings, thereby forcing the can which thus occupies said opening downwardly and beyond the tension of the fingers 17. The can which is thus pushed downwardly beyond the control of the fingers 17 falls through the space between the pan 19 and the curved sheet 9, and
75 into the pan 22, providing space for the can

which replaces it, the latter being then held in draining position by the fingers 17. The pan 22 is sufficiently large to hold a large number of drained cans.

Since the portion of the cabinet into which the
5 cans fall and in which the salvage receptacle 23 is disposed, is closed and locked, as by a key which is retained only by the owner or operator of the gas station, the attendants at the gas station will not have access to the receptacle 23, and hence
10 cannot use this oil in their own cars or sell it to others. This will tend to discourage cheating of customers by depriving the latter of the maximum available contents of the quart cans, and since the owner or operator will have an accurate
15 check on the number of cans sold from the number of empty cans in the pan 22, it is not likely that the attendants will attempt to salvage the oil by draining the contents of cans into a receptacle other than the present one, which
20 will be the only one provided at the station. Since the owner or operator of the station is not interested in cheating his customers in the aforesaid petty manner, he will see to it that the receptacle 23 will always contain a minimum
25 amount of oil commensurate with the number of empty cans in the cabinet.

In view of the neat and attractive appearance of the cabinet, it is well adapted for the display of advertising matter, and for this purpose the
30 sides 2 of the cabinet may be provided with holders 36 into which cards 37, bearing suitable advertising matter, may be inserted. The holders 36 may be utilized for supporting additional display racks, if desired.
35

Instead of the wires or fingers 17, any other means may be employed for temporarily holding the cans pending drainage of the contents thereof.

Other modes of applying the principle of my
40 invention may be employed instead of the one explained, change being made as regards the form or construction herein disclosed, provided the means stated by any of the following claims or the equivalent of such stated means be employed.
45

I therefore particularly point out and distinctly claim as my invention:

1. A device of the character described, comprising a cabinet having a closed compartment
50 therein, and a plate mounted in said compartment having a plurality of openings therein, each opening having a plurality of circumferentially-spaced resilient metallic fingers extending downwardly from points adjacent the periphery
55 of the openings, said finger being spaced more closely at their lower ends than at their upper ends.

2. A device of the character described comprising a cabinet having an oil salvage compartment, a plate mounted in said compartment
60 having openings of a size to receive oil cans to be drained, means comprising resilient fingers for retaining the cans in said openings, said fingers being formed of metal, and means to receive the oil drained from said cans.

3. A device of the character described comprising a cabinet having an oil salvage compartment, a plate mounted in said compartment and
70 arranged at an angle to a horizontal plane, said plate having openings to receive the cans from which the oil is to be salvaged, means extending from said plate for temporarily retaining said cans while oil is drained therefrom, and a pan
75 arranged below said openings to receive said

salvaged oil, the relative arrangement of said means and pan being such that the cans when pushed downwardly clear of said means will clear said pan and fall to the bottom of said cabinet.

4. A device of the character described comprising a cabinet having an oil salvage compartment and an opening leading into said compartment, a plate having openings therein and arranged below said opening, and a cover for said first-named opening for normally concealing the openings in said plate, said plate having means for temporarily retaining in said plate openings cans from which oil is to be drained.

5. A device of the character described comprising a cabinet having an oil salvage compartment and an opening leading into said compartment, a plate arranged below said opening, said plate having spaced openings for receiving cans from which the oil is to be salvaged, means for temporarily retaining said cans during the salvaging operation, a receptacle for collecting the salvaged oil, and a pan removable from said cabinet and adapted to receive the cans following the draining of oil therefrom.

6. A liquid salvaging device comprising a support and downwardly extending resilient metallic fingers secured thereto, said fingers being spaced

more closely at their lower ends than at their upper ends and so arranged as to be capable of frictionally retaining a container in a position for draining the contents thereof.

7. A device of the character described comprising a plate having an opening therein, and downwardly extending resilient metallic fingers spaced circumferentially about said opening and secured to said plate, said fingers being spaced more closely at their lower ends than at their upper ends and adapted to frictionally retain a container in a position for draining the contents thereof.

8. A device of the character described comprising a cabinet having two compartments, one for dry refuse and the other for salvaging liquids from containers, said salvaging compartment having means therein for temporarily retaining cans while the contents thereof are being salvaged, an exit through which the empty cans are removed, and a closure for said exit, said dry refuse compartment having a portion extending to a point below the lower level of said can-retaining means, so that when said closure is opened, said can-retaining means are concealed from view by said extension.

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