

ABSTRACT

A dispensing device having a housing capable of receiving a pre-packaged charge of pre-whipped topping or icing. The housing has an inner wall with a slot formed therein for receiving a rod. The rod engages with a pawl mechanism to move a piston in the axial direction to force the pre-whipped topping or icing through the outlet in its packaging. The pawl engages with the rod when it moves in a first direction and the pawl disengages with the rod when it is moved in a second direction opposite the first direction.

ORIGINAL

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. . A dispenser, comprising:
  - a housing having a cavity defined therein and having an outlet;
  - a piston disposed inside the housing;
  - a spring-biased pawl mechanism connected to the piston and having an opening defined therein;
  - an elongate member capable of translatory motion in a first direction and in a second direction opposite the first direction, the elongate member capable of frictionally engaging with the pawl mechanism at an edge of the opening such that when the elongate member is moved in the first direction the pawl mechanism causes the piston to move in the first direction, the pawl mechanism capable of pivoting when the elongate member is moved in the second direction such that the elongate member passes through the opening in the pawl mechanism and moves in the second direction independently of the piston;
  - a trigger in operative relation to the elongate member such that actuation of the trigger causes the elongate member to move in the first direction and release of the trigger causes the elongate member to move in the second direction.
2. The dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the piston has an elongate portion with an opening defined therein for receiving the elongate member.
3. The dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the trigger is mechanically coupled to the elongate member by a rotating link.

4. The dispenser of Claim 1, further comprising a cover capable of being removably attached to the housing at the outlet.
5. The dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the cover has an opening defined therein.
6. The dispenser of Claim 5, wherein the housing has a protrusion capable of engaging with the opening on the cover to hold the cover in place.
7. The dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the housing has a hook disposed thereon.
8. The dispenser of Claim 1, further comprising a flexible, cylindrical shaped bag filled with a paste-like product, the bag sized to fit inside the cavity in the dispenser, the bag having an outlet at a first end.
9. The dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the housing has a first portion and a second portion, the second portion having a smaller cross-sectional area for receiving the elongate member.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2009

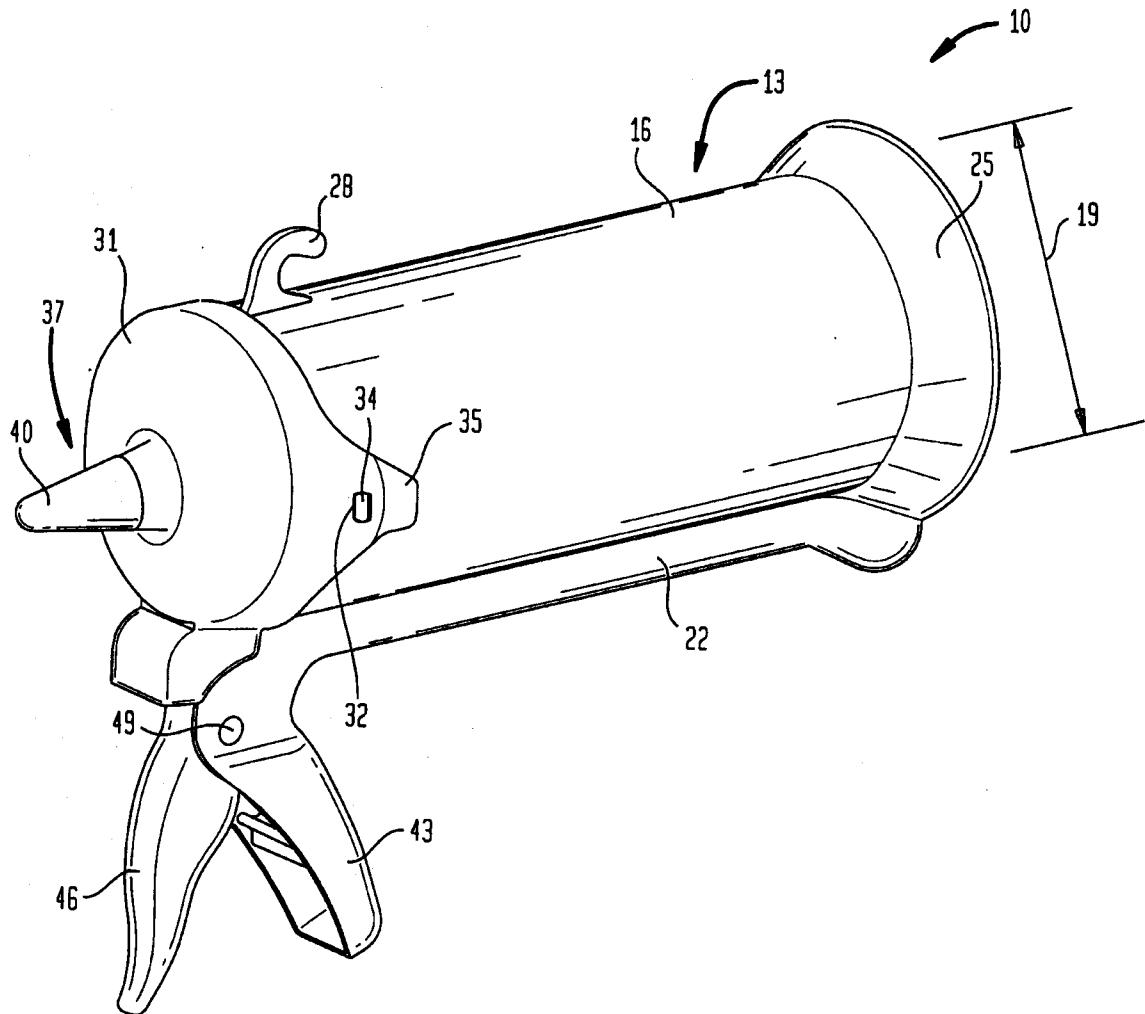
  
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FIG. 1

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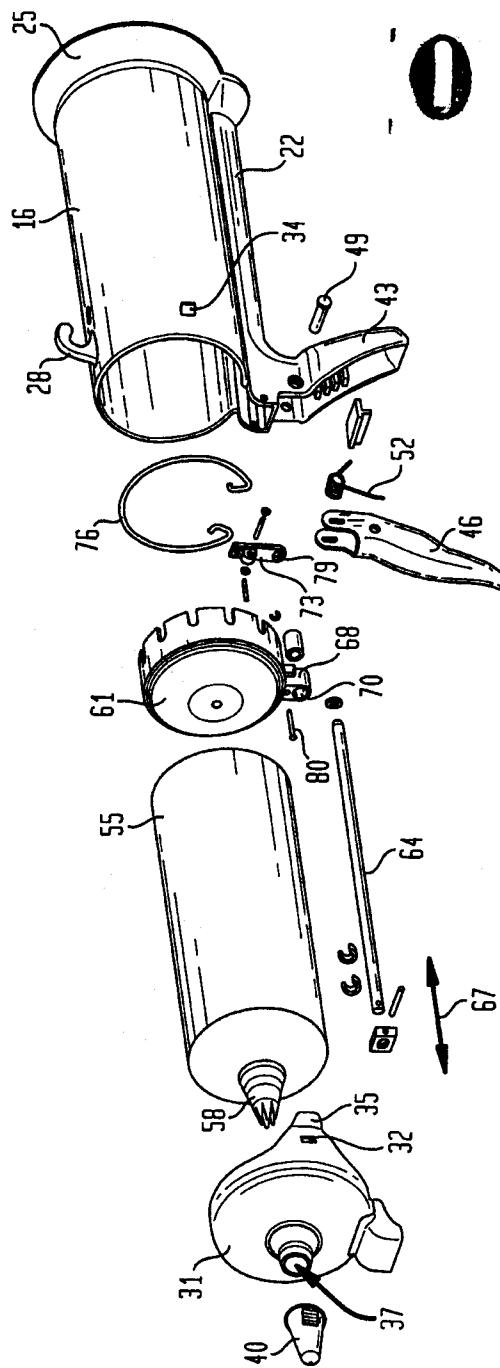
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FIG. 2



  
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FIG. 3

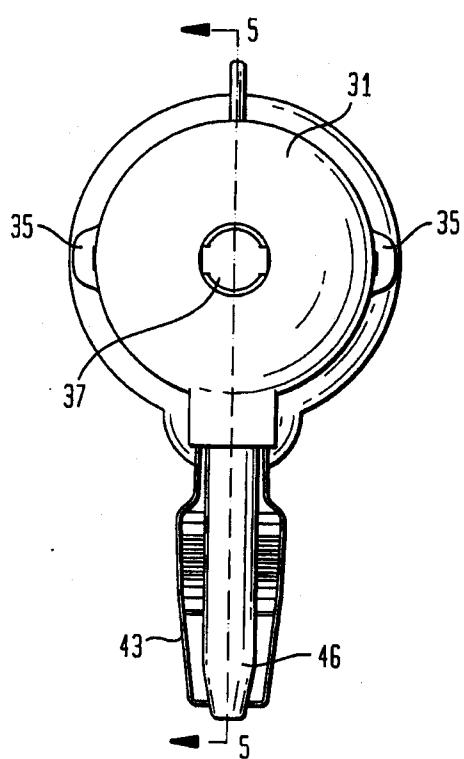


FIG. 4

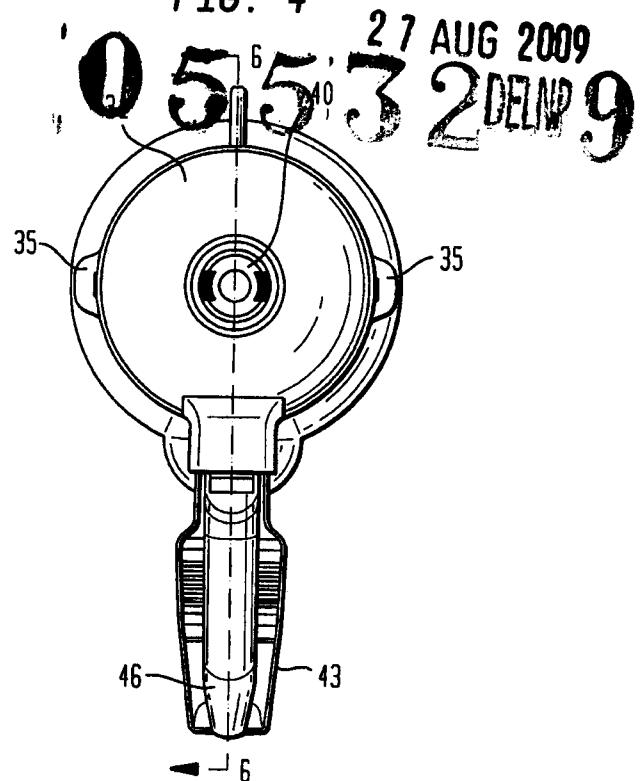
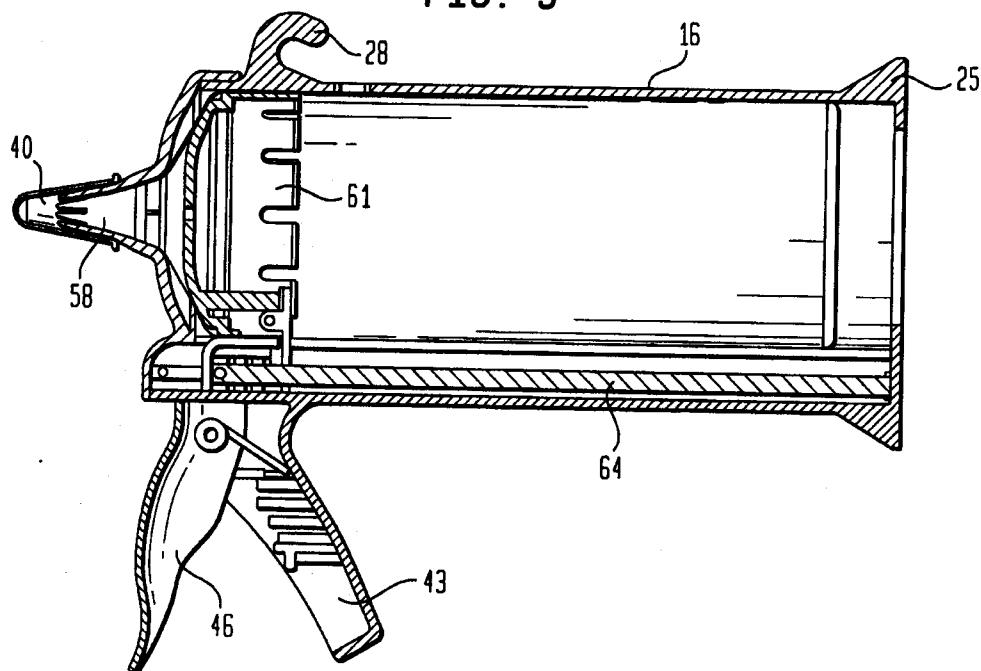


FIG. 5



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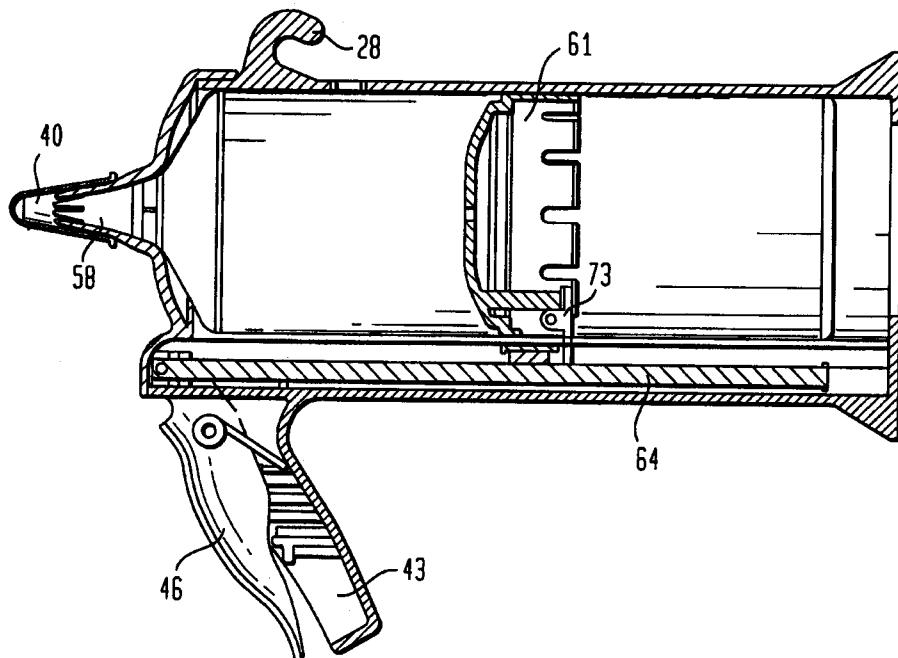
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FIG. 6

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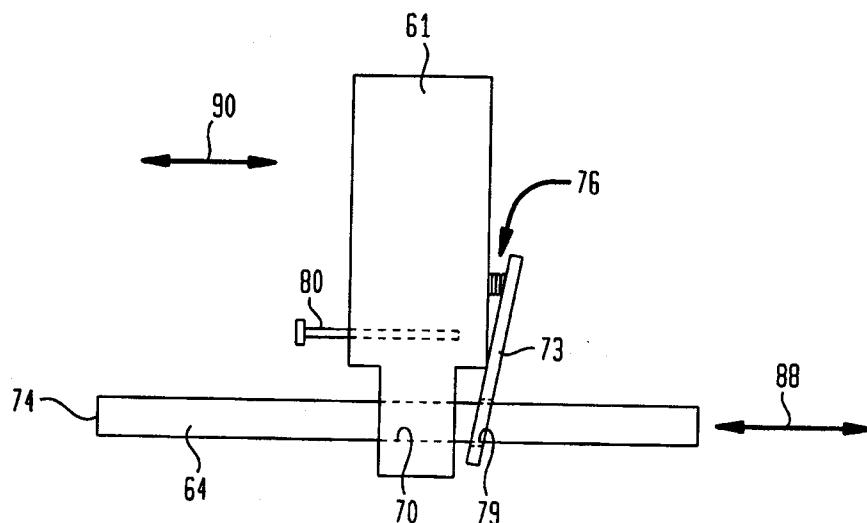
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FIG. 7



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Turning to Fig. 2, the device 10 may receive a cylindrical shaped flexible package 55 with a built-in dispensing tip 58. The construction of the built-in dispensing tip 58 will be evident to those of ordinary skill in the art and therefore will not be discussed in detail herein. A piston 61 provides the force for causing a viscous material such as a pre-whipped topping to exit from the package 55. The piston 61 is mechanically coupled to a reciprocating rod 64. The rod 64 is moved back and forth in the axial direction indicated by arrow 67 by means of the spring biased trigger 46.

The rod 64 is coupled to the piston 61 by means of a pawl mechanism. The piston 61 has an extended portion 68 with an opening 70 that receives the rod 64 therethrough. A pawl 73 is biased by a spring 76 in an angled position relative to the piston 61 (best shown in Fig. 7). When the rod 64 moves from right to left with respect to the orientation of Figs. 2 and 7, the frictional engagement between the rod 64 and the opening 79 in the pawl 73 causes the piston 61 to move forward in unison with the rod 64. The movement of the rod 64 caused by squeezing the trigger 46 causes the piston 61 to move from right to left with respect to the figure. This movement of the piston 61 compresses the flexible packaging 55 causing product to exit through the outlet opening 37. When the trigger 46 is released and the rod 64 moves in the opposite direction (from left to right with respect to the figure), the piston 61 moves from left to right slightly and decouples from the rod 64. As the rod 64 moves from left to right, the pawl 73 pivots away from the piston 61, and the rod 64 slides through the opening 79 in the pawl 73 into its spring-biased