

- (21) Application No 8005166
- (22) Date of filing 15 Feb 1980
- (30) Priority data
- (31) 54/018000U
- (32) 15 Feb 1979
- (33) Japan (JP)
- (43) Application published 12 Nov 1980
- (51) INT CL³
A47G 19/24
- (52) Domestic classification
B2F 13X
A4A C1
B8T WR
- (56) Documents cited
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- (58) Field of search
A4A
B2F
B8T
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(54) **Container for Dispensing Particulate Material**

(57) A container for dispensing particulate material by inverting and shaking has a dispensing aperture (3) through which extends a rod (9) of smaller diameter than that of the aperture. The rod has portions (7,8) disposed externally and internally with respect to the aperture (3) both

portions being of greater diameter than the aperture, so that, in a non-inverted position of the container, the outer portion (7) of the rod (9) blocks the aperture (3) and, in an inverted position of the container, the inner portion (8) causes the rod to oscillate when the container is shaken to scatter the contents from the container through the aperture.

The container may be made at least partly of a transparent, synthetic resin.

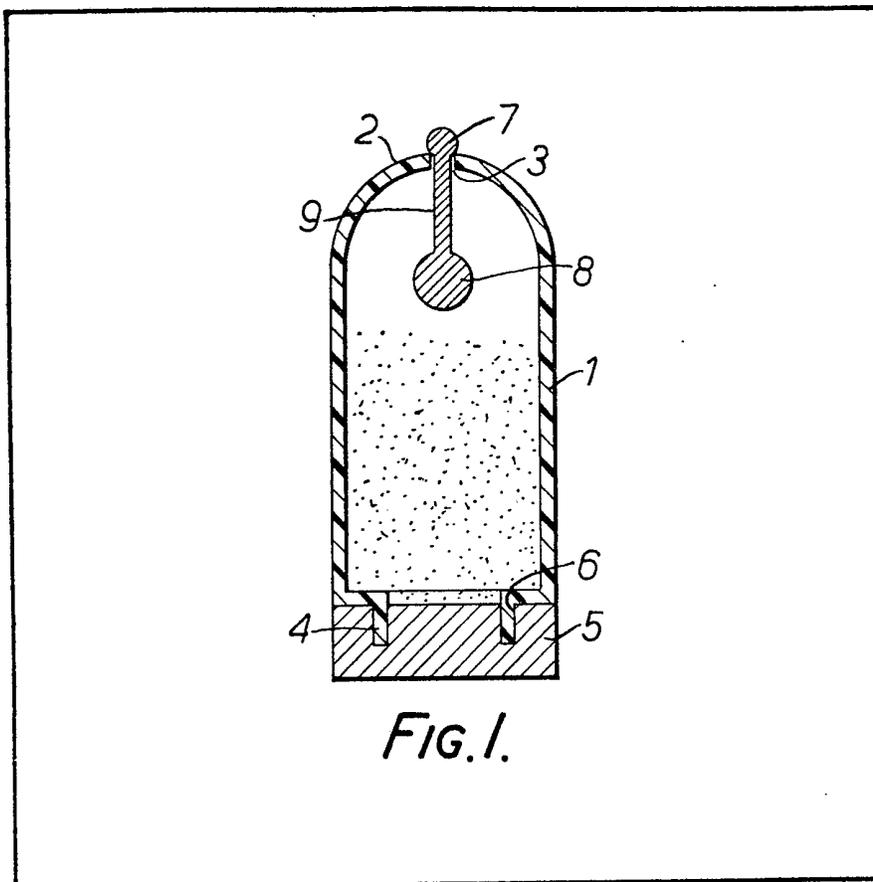


FIG. 1.

The drawing originally filed was informal and the print here reproduced is taken from a later filed formal copy.

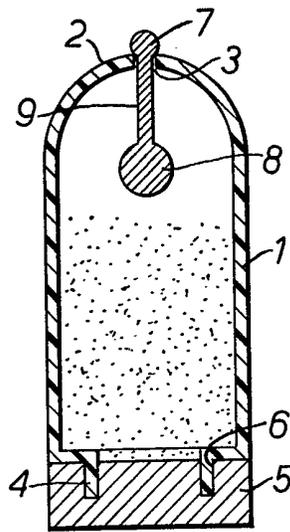


FIG. 1.

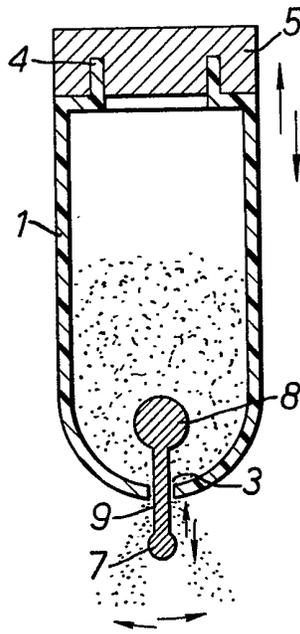


FIG. 2.

SPECIFICATION

Container for Dispensing Particulate Material

This invention relates to a container for dispensing particulate material.

5 According to the present invention, there is provided a container for dispensing particulate material by inverting and shaking the container, the container having a dispensing aperture through which extends a rod of smaller diameter than that of the aperture, said rod having portions disposed internally and externally with respect to said aperture, both being of greater diameter than said aperture, so that in a non-inverted position of said container, said outer portion of said rod blocks said aperture and, in an inverted position of said container, said inner portion causes said rod to oscillate when the container is shaken to scatter the contents from the container through said aperture.

20 For a better understanding of the invention and to show how the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

25 Figure 1 is a vertical section through a container for dispensing particulate material, the container being shown in an out-of-use position, and

30 Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 but showing the container in an in-use position to illustrate operation thereof.

Referring to the drawing, reference numeral 1 designates the container itself, which is shown as a cylindrical vessel made of a transparent synthetic resin and having a semi-spherical top portion 2. A small aperture 3 is formed centrally in the top portion 2 and a skirt portion 4 of the main body of the container 1 is so shaped as to fit in grooves 6 formed in a bottom plate 5. A small rod 9 is loosely fitted in the aperture 3 and is provided with portions 7 and 8 disposed respectively externally and internally with respect to the aperture 3, both portions 7 and 8 being of greater diameter than the aperture 3. As shown, the portions 7 and 8 are formed as spherical bodies, the portion 8 being of greater diameter than the portion 7 so as to act as a weight.

The container 1 can be filled with seasonings or the like by removing the bottom plate 5 or a plug in the plate, the plug being fastened by screws to seal the container tightly.

50 As can be seen from Figure 1, the aperture 3 is uppermost when the container is in its storage position, the portion 7 blocking the aperture 3, assisted by the portion 8 within the container pulling the portion 7 downwards. Thus the aperture 3 is tightly closed and entry of moisture into the vessel can thereby be prevented.

In use of the container, as shown in Figure 2, the container is inverted and shaken and this

60 action causes the portion 8 to cause the rod 9 to oscillate to scatter the contents from the container through the aperture 3. More particularly, the portion 8 is able freely to move vertically and horizontally in the manner of a pendulum and the contents of the container pass through gaps formed between the rod 9 and the aperture 3. At the same time, since the rod 9 is caused to move vertically in the aperture 3, the possibility of clogging of the aperture is reduced and, since the contents come into contact with the portion 7 and are scattered, they are not deposited at one place.

70 It will be appreciated that the present container is well adapted for dispensing sugar, salt, pepper and the like.

Claims

1. A container for dispensing particulate material by inverting and shaking the container, the container having a dispensing aperture through which extends a rod of smaller diameter than that of the aperture, said rod having portions disposed internally and externally with respect to said aperture, both being of greater diameter than said aperture, so that in a non-inverted position of said container, said outer portion of said rod blocks said aperture and, in an inverted position of said container, said inner portion causes said rod to oscillate when the container is shaken to scatter the contents from the container through said aperture.

2. A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said container comprises a substantially cylindrical main body portion with a lower skirt portion of the body being of reduced diameter and fitted into grooves fitted in a bottom plate.

3. A container as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein at least part of the container is made of a synthetic resin.

4. A container as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein at least part of the container is transparent.

5. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said inner and outer portions of said rod are substantially spherical.

105 6. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said inner portion of the rod is of greater diameter than said outer portion of said rod so as to act as a weight to draw said outer portion onto said aperture to close it when the container is in its out-of-use position.

7. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a plug is provided in its base portion to enable the container to be charged with particulate material.

115 8. A container for dispensing particulate material, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.