

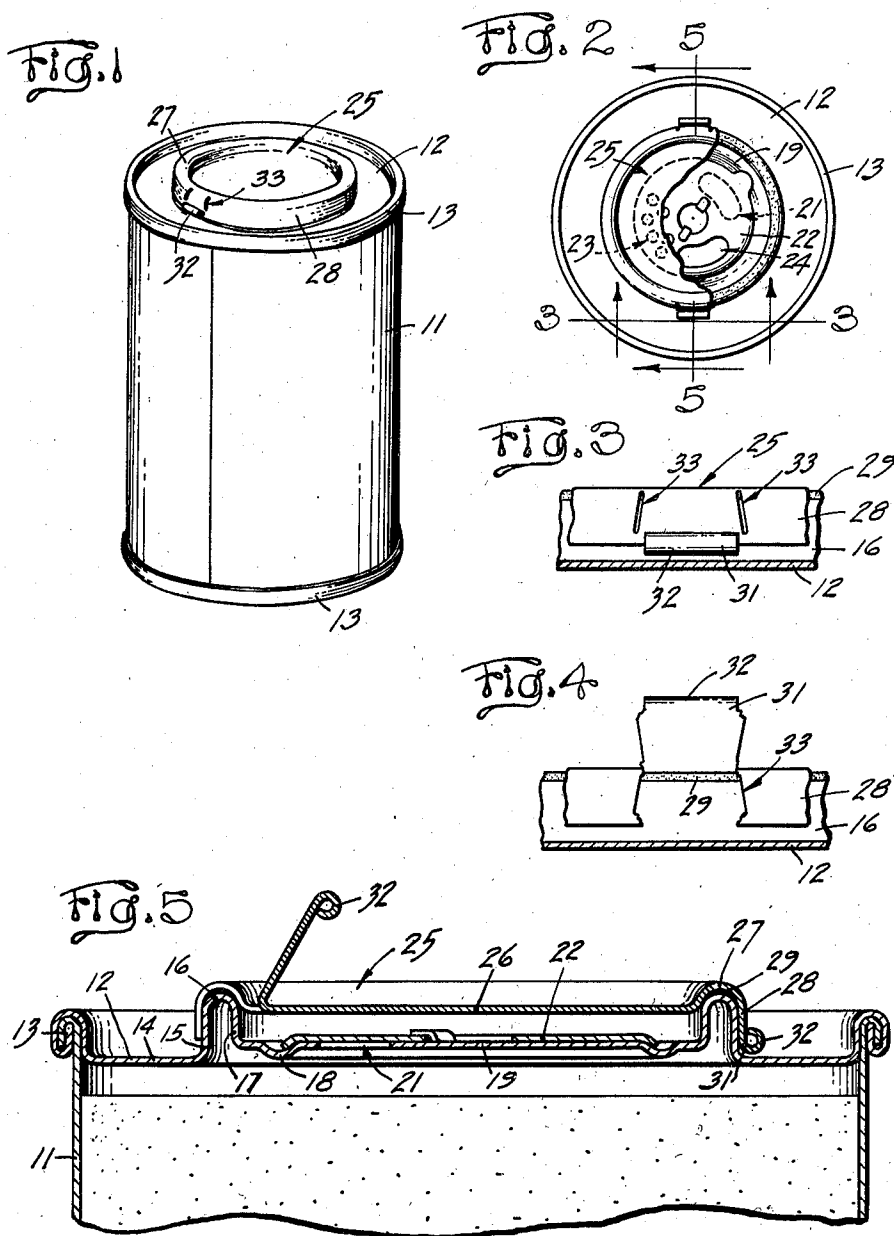
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CONTAINER

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## CONTAINER

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6 Claims. (Cl. 221-64)

The present invention relates to sifter top dispensing containers and has particular reference to a protective hermetic seal for the sifter dispensing outlet of such containers.

5 An object of the invention is the provision of a hermetic seal for a sifter top container which permits the container to be vacuumized, the seal holding the vacuum in the container and at the same time enclosing and protecting the sifter device against tampering until the seal is broken by the ultimate consumer.

10 Another object is the provision of a hermetic seal for such a container, which, in addition to holding a vacuum and protecting the sifter device and contents, is readily removable by the consumer without the use of any tools.

15 Numerous other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent as it is better understood from the following description, which, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, discloses a preferred embodiment thereof.

Referring to the drawing:

25 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a container with a protective hermetic seal embodying the instant invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged plan view of the top construction of the container illustrated in Fig. 1 showing the seal partially broken away;

30 Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary view partly in section and partly in side elevation, taken substantially along the line 3-3 in Fig. 2 showing one side of the seal before breaking.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 showing the 35 same side of the seal after breaking; and

40 Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view of the upper part of the container taken substantially along the line 5-5 in Fig. 2 showing the seal broken on one side as illustrated in Fig. 4 and on the other side still intact.

As a preferred embodiment of the invention the drawing discloses a tubular body 11 having a top end member 12 and a bottom end member secured to the body in any suitable manner as by 45 seams 13.

With reference to Fig. 5, the top member 12 comprises an annular horizontal outer panel 14 which merges into a vertical wall section 15 which merges into a curved wall section or shoulder 16 which in turn merges into a depending vertical wall section 17 spaced inwardly of and substantially parallel with but shorter than the wall section 15. The parts 15, 16 and 17 thus form a seal receiving rounded ridge or rib which prefer- 55 ably extends slightly above the top of the seam

13. From the lower end of the wall section 17 the material of the top member extends substantially horizontally, except for an annular channel depression 18, to form a central sifter slide support or panel 19. The panel wall 19 is provided with a dispensing opening 21 (also Fig. 2) which is closable by a rotatable disk 22 pivotally connected at the center of the panel 19. This disk is provided with a group of sifter perforations 23 and a pouring aperture 24, which group 10 or aperture is respectively coextensive and may be moved into register with the dispensing opening 21 in the usual manner for dispensing the container contents.

The container interior is adapted to be vacuum- 15 ized through the dispensing openings in the wall 19 and in the disk 22 and in order to hold the vacuum the container must be hermetically sealed. This sealing is effected by a cap or cover 25 which engages over the top of the seal receiving rib or ridge. This cap preferably comprises 20 a circular substantially flat central panel or wall 26 (Fig. 5) which at its outer marginal edge merges into an inverted shallow channel wall section 27 which curves over the top of the curved wall section or shoulder 16 of the rib and terminates in a depending flange 28. This flange extends down parallel with the rib wall section 15 and is in tight fitting engagement therewith.

A gasket 29 of compound or other suitable 30 material is carried in the channel 27 and is interposed between the channel and the rib shoulder 16. In this manner the container is hermetically sealed when the cap 25 is fully applied and the vacuum created therein is held and at the same time the cap 25 protects the sifter construction 35 against tampering until the seal is removed by the ultimate consumer.

To remove the cap 25 it is provided with a pair of opposed tearing tongues 31 formed in the 40 flange 28, which is extended and curled at these points to provide outwardly curled finger holds 32 for ready engagement and tearing.

To facilitate the tearing action a pair of slits or openings 33, which may also take the form 45 of score lines, is cut in the cap flange thereby defining the outline of each tongue.

In tearing the tongue away the material of the flange first tears from the flange edge, adjacent each edge of the curl 32, into the slits 33, as 50 shown in Fig. 4, which tearing may be done with only a slight pulling action. The tongue may then be lifted and the tearing continued from the upper ends of the slits through and beyond the sealed part of the cap. Tearing beyond the 55

seal immediately breaks the vacuum in the container and permits of removal of the cap with slight effort.

- 5 There is thus provided an easily removable cap which effects a hermetic seal for a vacuumized sifter dispensing container which at the same time provides a protective closure for the sifter dispensing device.

10 It is thought that the invention and many of its attendant advantages will be understood from the foregoing description, and it will be apparent that various changes may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention or sacrificing all of its material advantages, the form hereinbefore described being merely a preferred embodiment thereof.

I claim:

- 20 1. A dispensing container comprising in combination, a container body having a top end secured thereto provided with sifter means, said top end having an upstanding wall portion disposed inwardly of the container body walls surrounding and extending vertically above said sifter means, and a cap engaging and hermetically sealed to said wall above said sifter means whereby to hermetically seal said container and protect said sifter means against tampering until said sealing cap is removed.

- 30 2. A dispensing container comprising in combination, a body, an end closure secured thereto, sifter means in said closure, a wall in said closure surrounding and extending vertically above said sifter means, and a removable cap engaging said wall and hermetically sealed thereto above said sifter means to hermetically seal said container and to protect said sifter means.

- 40 3. A dispensing container comprising in combination, a container body having a top end secured thereto provided with sifter means, said top end having an upstanding wall portion disposed inwardly of the container body walls surrounding and extending vertically above said sifter means, and a cap engaging said wall and hermetically sealed thereto above said sifter means to hermetically seal said container and to

protect said sifter means, said cap having weakened portions extending inwardly from an edge thereof and defining a tongue for rupturing said cap beyond said hermetic seal to facilitate its removal.

- 5 4. A dispensing container comprising in combination, a container body having a top end secured thereto provided with sifter means, said top end having an upstanding wall portion disposed inwardly of the container body walls surrounding and extending vertically above said sifter means, and a cap engaging said wall and hermetically sealed thereto above said sifter means to hermetically seal said container and to protect said sifter means, said cap having slits extending inwardly from an edge thereof and defining a tearing tongue for rupturing said cap beyond said hermetic seal to facilitate its removal, said tongue having a finger hold extension for gripping it during the rupturing operation.

- 25 5. A dispensing container comprising in combination, a body closed at both ends with end closures, sifter means in one of said end closures, an upstanding wall formed in said closure surrounding and projecting above said sifter means, a cap for hermetically sealing said sifter means and spaced above the latter, said cap having a depending flange for tightly embracing said upstanding wall in friction engagement therewith, a sealing medium between said cap and said wall for hermetically sealing them together, and a tongue formed in said depending flange for tearing the same so that said cap may be removed.

- 30 6. In a dispensing container in combination, a tubular body, end closures hermetically secured to said body, a dispensing outlet in an end closure of said container, said end closure having an upstanding wall spaced inwardly from the walls of said body surrounding and projecting above said outlet, a cap adapted to be hermetically secured to said wall to enclose said outlet, said wall and cap cooperating to permit vacuumizing said container through said outlet and to hermetically hold said vacuum.

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