March 16, 1965 J. W. DONEGAN 3,173,573

COLLAPSIBLE PAINT BUCKET

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Fig. 1.

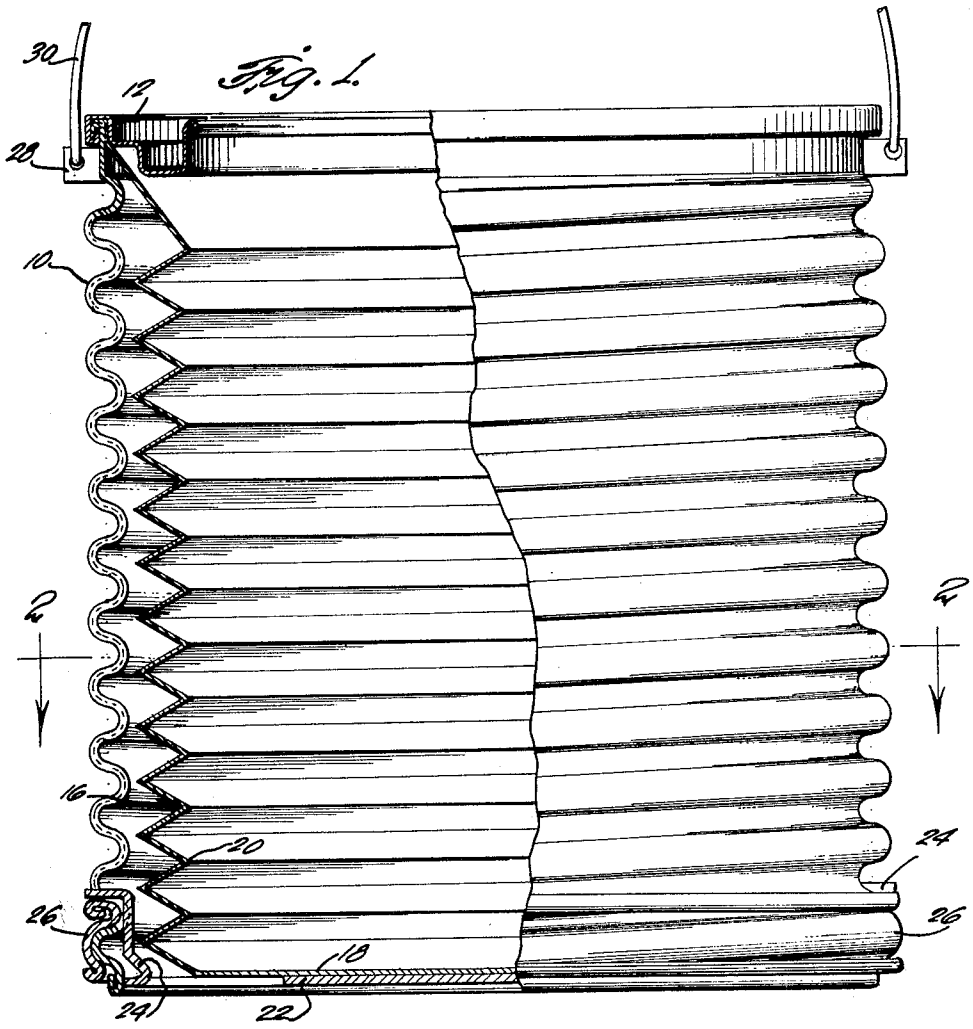
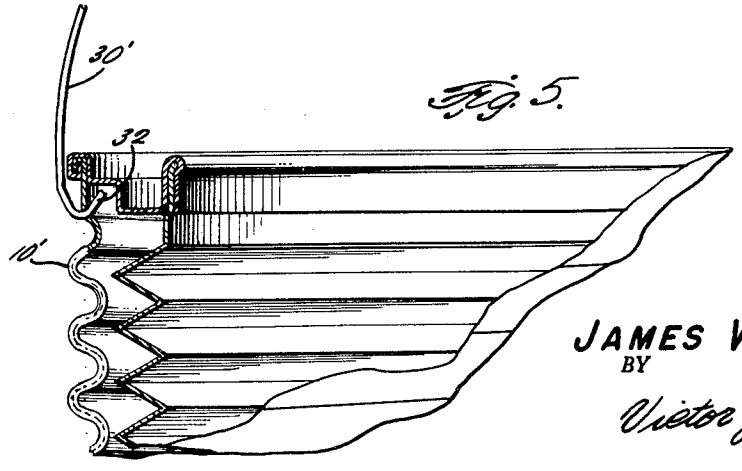


Fig. 5.



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Fig. 2.

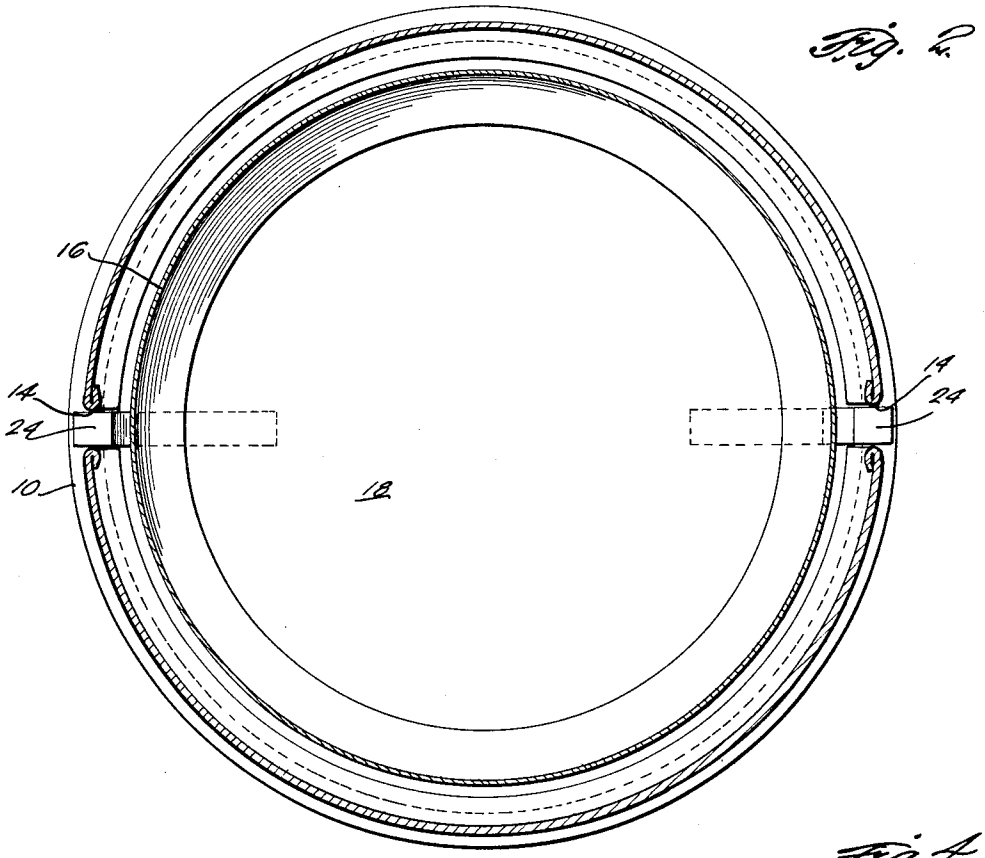


Fig. 4.

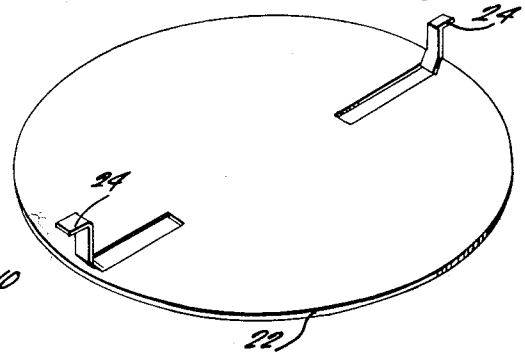
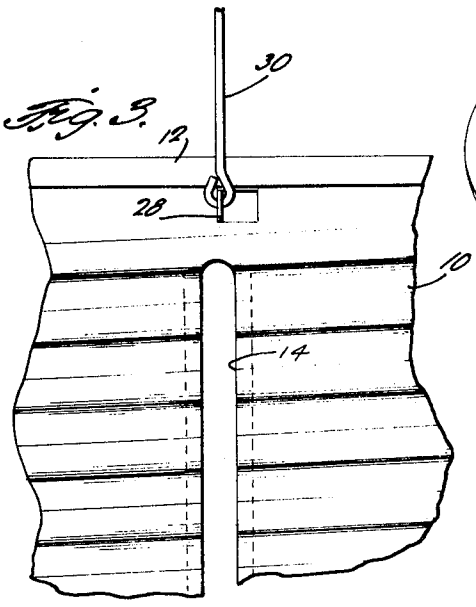


Fig. 3.



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3,173,573
COLLAPSIBLE PAINT BUCKET

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2 Claims. (Cl. 220—93)

The present invention relates to containers generally and in particular to a collapsible bucket for use as a container for paint or the like.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a collapsible bucket for paint or the like which may be partially collapsed as the paint is used up so that the surface of the paint is not exposed to air.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a collapsible bucket which lends itself to ease of manufacturing, one sturdy in construction and of simple structure, one which may be manufactured in quantity at reasonable cost, and one which is highly effective in action.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will be understood from the following description when taken in connection with the annexed drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is an elevational view partially in section showing the collapsible bucket according to the present invention,

FIGURE 2 is a view taken on the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1,

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary elevational view showing the upper end portion of the bucket,

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of a component of the bucket, and

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary view similar to FIGURE 3 showing a modified form of the bucket.

With reference to the drawings in detail, the bucket of the present invention comprises an outer shell **10** having a rim **12** on the upper end thereof, the rim **12** being crimped to the edge portion of the outer shell **10**.

The outer shell **10** is provided with vertically disposed diametrically opposed slots **14** and the outer shell **10** is formed so as to have external threads running from the top to the bottom.

An inner shell **16** having a bottom **18** formed integrally therewith, is positioned within the outer shell **10** and has its upper end edge portion secured to the outer shell **10** by crimping together with the rim **12**.

The inner shell **16** is provided with a plurality of annular fold lines, as at **20** in FIGURE 1, the fold lines **20** permitting collapse of the inner shell **16** upon upward movement of the bottom **18** towards the rim **12**.

The present invention provides a support member **22** having tab elements **24** projecting outwardly from opposed points thereof. The tab elements **24** are received in the slots **14** and they connect the support member **22** to the outer shell **10** for upward and downward movement relative to the shell **10**.

A ring actuator **26** is provided conformably shaped to fit the threads of the outer shell **10** and is threadably engaged therewith. As shown in FIGURE 1, the actuator **26** forms a support for the support member tab elements **24** and as the actuator **26** is turned on the threads of the outer shell **10** it serves to raise the support member **22** with respect to the outer shell **10**.

In FIGURES 1 and 3 it will be seen that a portion of the outer shell **10** adjacent the upper end thereof is struck outwardly to form an ear **28** through which is projected an end portion of a bail **30**.

In FIGURE 5 a different form of bail **30'** is shown in which an end portion **32** is inserted through a hole provided in the outer shell **10'**.

In use, as paint or other material is used up from the bucket of the present invention, the actuator **26** is turned on the outer shell **10** so as to raise the support member **22** and thereby collapse the inner shell **16**.

In a preferred form of the invention the inner shell **16** may be fabricated of soft pliable plastic or the like.

In addition to using the bucket of the invention for paints, other uses may be found, such as a container for food from which air is to be excluded after opening of the bucket.

While only preferred embodiments of the invention are shown and described, other embodiments are contemplated and numerous changes and modifications may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A collapsible bucket comprising an outer shell having threads on an external surface thereof and vertical slots in the external surface thereof, an inner shell having a bottom and a continuous wall extending from the bottom, the wall of said inner shell having a plurality of annular fold lines, means for supporting the bottom of said inner shell and including tabs each slidably disposed in a respective one of the slots, and means threadably engaged with the external surface of said outer shell for moving each of the tabs within a respective slot.

2. The bucket of claim 1 wherein said moving means is for providing an indication of the position of the bottom with respective to said outer shell.

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