

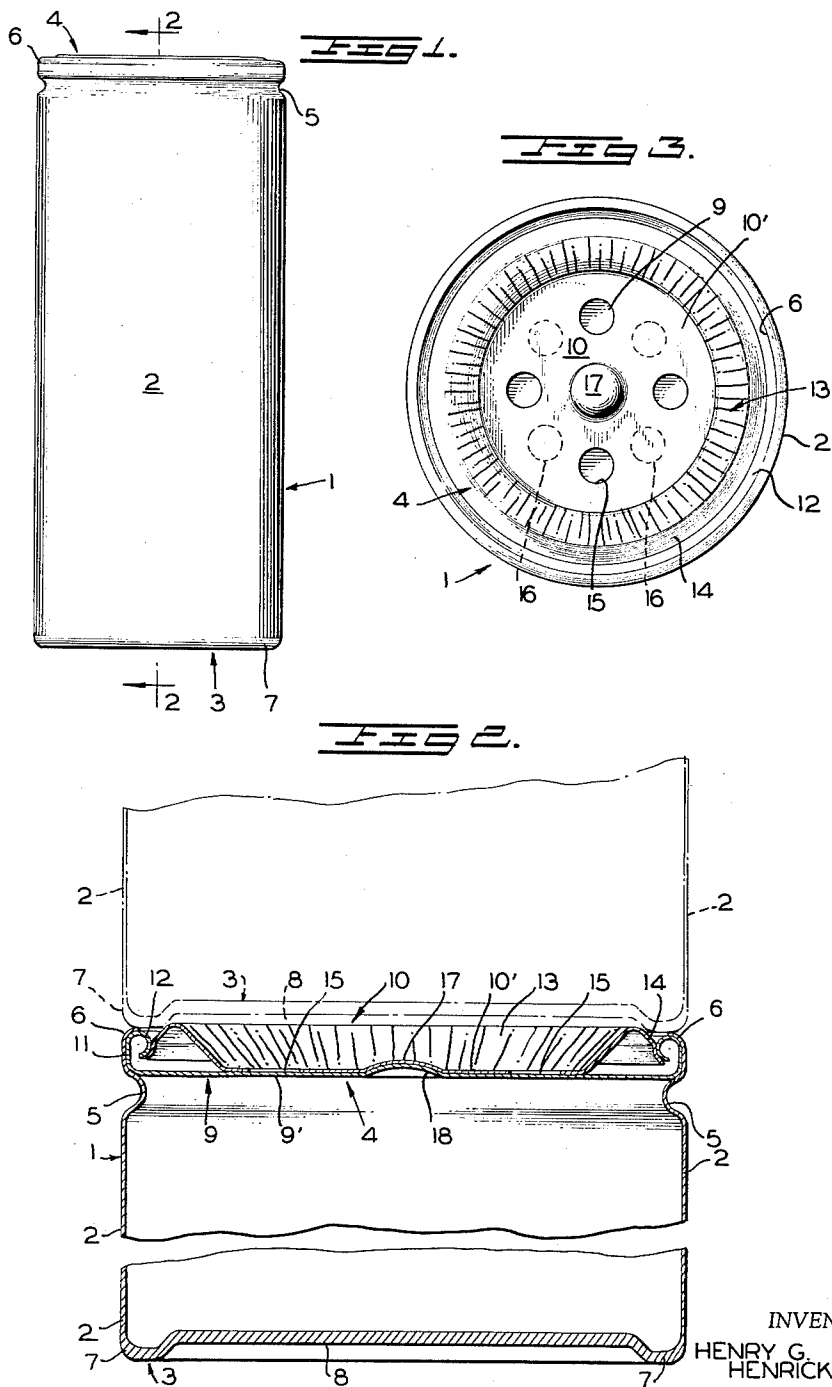
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NESTABLE DISPENSING CONTAINER

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NESTABLE DISPENSING CONTAINER

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This invention relates to containers of a type commonly employed for packaging and subsequently dispensing granular type food products such as condiments and like commodities and to one especially adapted for the merchandising, handling, storage and display of such products. More particularly, it is directed to an improved container for packaging such products, wherein the container is provided with a novel top and wherein novel means are also employed for superimposing and nesting such containers one upon the other in non-slipping relationship.

Accordingly, it is a primary object of this invention to provide a dispensing container having novel means for stacking the same upon another container having similar characteristics during storage, shipment and display of the same.

A further object of this invention is to provide a novel container having a rotatable cap element which is anchored to the container top in a unique fashion and wherein several such containers may be interchangeably stacked upon one another regardless of the positions of the rotatable cap elements of either container.

A further object of this invention is to provide a novel container having a rotatable cap element wherein the container is adapted to be interlockingly nested with another container of similar construction.

These and other objects are attained by providing in a nestable dispensing container the combination of an upstanding wall, bottom and top. The bottom includes a centrally disposed recessed portion and the upstanding wall is provided with an inwardly directed ledge means adjacent the top thereof. The top edge of the wall terminates in an inwardly directed flange means. The top of the container includes a perforated lid mounted on the said ledge means and intermediate the ledge means and the flange means on the upstanding wall as well as a rotatable perforated cap mounted on the lid. Flange means on the lid holds the cap in firm but rotatable engagement with the lid and a finger engaging raised element is also provided on the cap. The top of this finger engaging raised element advantageously protrudes above the top edge of the upstanding wall of the container whereby, when one container is nested upon another container having similar characteristics, the finger engaging raised element on the cap of the bottommost container will be interlockingly received within the recessed portion of the bottom of the topmost container and the peripheral edge on the bottom of the topmost container will rest on the inwardly directed flange means on the wall of the bottommost container.

Other objects and advantages of the instant invention will become more apparent by reference to the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of the container of the instant invention;

FIGURE 2 is a broken sectional view of the container disclosed in FIGURE 1 with another container of similar construction, as shown in dotted lines, being nested thereon; and

FIGURE 3 is a top plan view of the container shown in FIGURES 1 and 2.

The container of the instant invention may be of a type which is generally used for merchandising and dis-

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persing grated food products such as grated cheese, condiments or the like. It may be comprised of a cylinder 1 or the like having a continuous upstanding wall 2, a bottom 3 and a top 4. The upstanding wall 2 includes an inwardly directed curved ledge 5 adjacent the top of the wall 2. The top free edge of the wall 2 terminates in an inwardly directed flange 6.

The bottom 3 which is advantageously integrally formed with wall 2 includes a substantially continuous and outwardly directed peripheral rib 7, which defines or encompasses annular dish-shaped section 8 concentrically disposed with respect to the rib 7.

The top 4 of the container includes a lid 9 and a rotatable cap 10. The lid 9 comprises a flat base portion 9' and an upstanding wall section 11, the top edge of which terminates in an inwardly directed curled portion or lip 12. Wall section 11 and lip 12 of lid 9 interlockingly engage the wall 2 and flange 6 respectively of the cylinder 1 of the container.

The rotatable cap 10 of top 4 is provided with a base portion 10' and a raised finger engaging element or rib 13. The top of rib 13 also protrudes above the flange 6 on the wall 2. This raised rib element may also be knurled, if desired. The outwardly curved portion of the outer wall 14 of the rib 13 is adapted to contact the curled portion on section 12 of the upstanding wall section 11 of the lid 9 in such a fashion that the curled lip 12 will firmly hold the cap in place and yet allow the cap 10 to be freely rotatable with respect thereto. It is also to be noted that the cap 10 and lid 9 are advantageously provided with one or more perforations or apertures 15 and 16 respectively, whereby upon the rotation of the cap with respect to the lid these apertures will be placed in registry one with another so that the contents of the container may be dispensed. In a further advantageous embodiment of the invention and in order to maintain a centering of the cap 10 with respect to the lid 9, it is also contemplated that the cap 10 and lid 9 may be provided with cooperating centrally disposed button-like elements such as button-like element 17 in the case of the cap 10 and a corresponding button-like element 18 in the case of the lid 9.

With further reference to the drawings and in particular to FIGURE 2 it will be noted, when a container of the type described is nested upon another container of similar characteristics, that the rib element 13 of the cap, which protrudes slightly above the top flanged edge 6 of the wall 2, will be interlockingly and nestingly received within the central recessed portion 8 on the bottom of the topmost container. At the same time, the rib 7 on the bottom 3 of the topmost container will rest upon the top flanged edge 6 of the wall 2 of the lowermost container. Due to the interengagement of the rib 13 on the top 4 of one container with the rib 7 on the bottom of the other container, a lateral displacement of one container with respect to the other is effectively prevented. The construction of the top of the container is also such that similar containers can be interchangeably nested with each other regardless of the positions of the several rotatable caps thereon.

In certain applications the body or wall portion 2 of the nestable dispensing container may be formed with an elliptical or other cross sectional configuration in which event the nesting or stacking features of the container would remain substantially unchanged.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made in the instant device without departing from the spirit and scope thereof as defined by the appended claims wherein:

What is claimed is:

1. As an article of manufacture, a nestable dispensing container of the type described comprising the combina-

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tion of an upstanding wall, bottom and top, the container bottom being integrally formed with said wall and including a centrally disposed recess encompassed by a ribbed portion, the container wall having an inwardly directed ledge located adjacent the top marginal edge of said wall with said top edge of said wall terminating in an inwardly directed flange, said container top comprising a lid supportingly mounted on said ledge and a cap rotatably mounted on said lid, said cap also being provided with an outwardly curved portion, said lid including an upstanding wall section which terminates in an inwardly curved outer lip, said lid wall section and lip interlockingly engaging the wall and flange of the container respectively, the inwardly curved outer lip on said lid also engaging the outwardly curved portion of the cap and holding the cap in firm but rotatable engagement therewith and a finger engaging raised element on said cap, which protrudes above the top edge of said wall and the flange thereon, whereby, when one container is nested upon another container having similar characteristics the finger engaging raised element on the cap of the lowermost container will be interlockingly and nestingly received within the recess in the bottom of the topmost container and the ribbed portion on the bottom of the topmost container will rest on the inwardly directed flange on the top edge of the lowermost container.

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2. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 1 wherein the cap and lid are each provided with at least one perforation.

3. An article of manufacture as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cap and lid are both provided with cooperating cap centering means.

4. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 1 wherein the finger engaging element on the cap is in the form of a continuous annular rib.

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