Sept. 4, 1956 K. C. MORSE 2,761,583

CONTAINER OPENER

Filed March 5, 1954

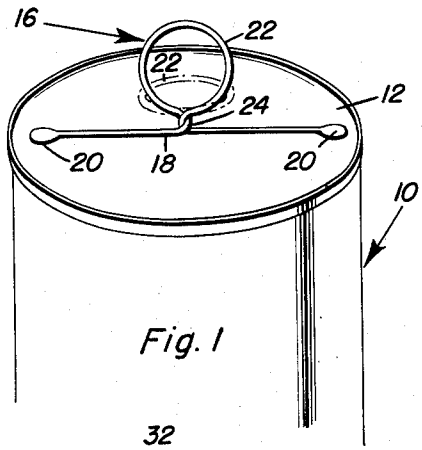


Fig. 1

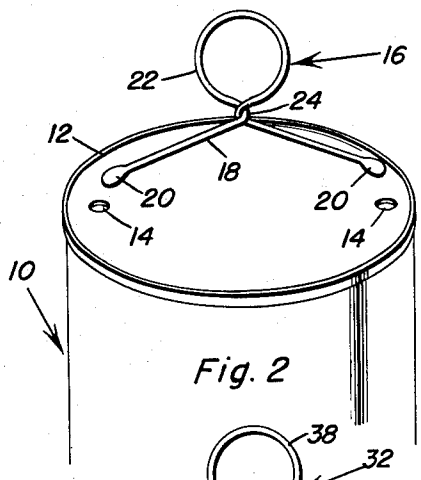


Fig. 2

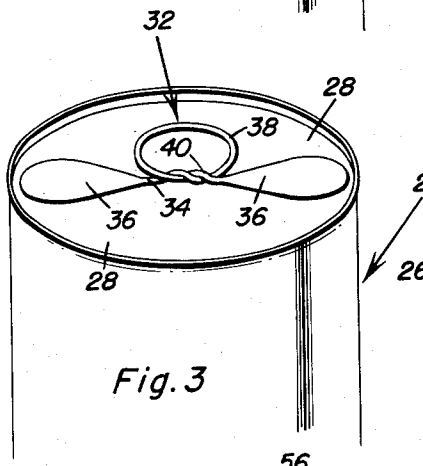


Fig. 3

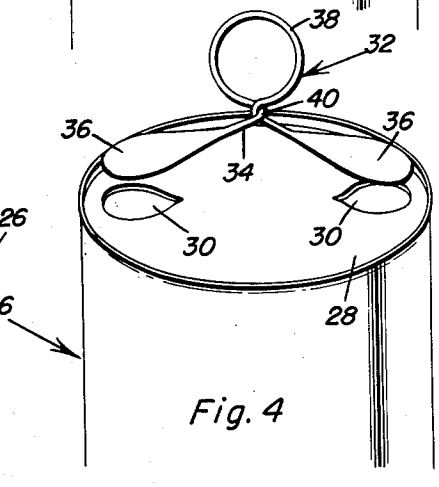


Fig. 4

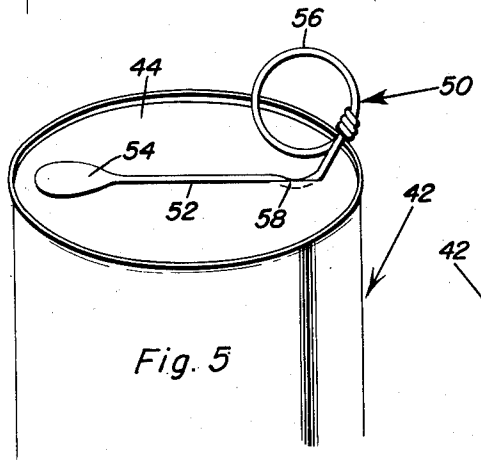


Fig. 5

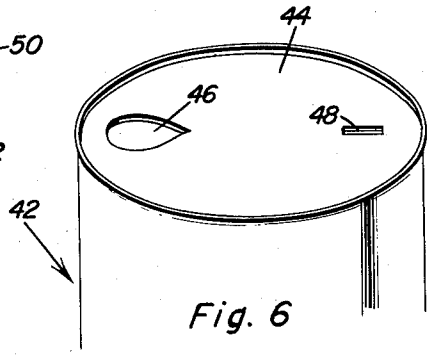


Fig. 6

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2,761,583

Patented Sept. 4, 1956

2,761,583

CONTAINER OPENER

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Application March 5, 1954, Serial No. 414,336

4 Claims. (Cl. 220—53)

This invention relates in general to improvements in containers, and more specifically to a container having a novel container opener.

At the present time, metal cans are widely used for holding various liquids including beverages, oil and milk. However, there are many times when one is desirous of opening a can and finds that he does not have in his possession a can opener. It is then necessary for him to hunt for a can opener before he can dispense the contents of the can.

It is therefore the primary object of this invention to provide an improved can construction which includes a built-in can opener.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved can which includes pouring spouts, the pouring spouts being suitably sealed with a sealing means and the latter being provided with means for removing the same.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved container construction which is formed with a wall having spaced openings therein, the spaced openings being closed by closures and the closures being connected by a pull wire, whereby the closures may be simultaneously removed with a single pull on the pull wire.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary top perspective view of a can which may be considered a milk can and shows the same provided with the closures and can opener which are the subject of this invention, the finger receiving loop of a pull wire of the can opener being shown in an upright position ready for receiving one's finger, the normal shipping position of the loop being shown in dotted lines;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary top perspective view similar to Figure 1 and shows the closures and can opener removed from the can and disposed immediately above the top of the can;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary top perspective view of a modified form of can construction and shows a modified form of closure;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary top perspective view similar to Figure 3 and shows the closures and pull wire of the container of Figure 3 in a removed position relative to the top of the can;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary top perspective view of a still further modified form of can construction and shows the can opener in position for movement to a can opening position; and

Figure 6 is a fragmentary top perspective view of the container of Figure 5 and shows the top thereof open with the closures and the can opener being removed.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, it will be seen that there is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 a container

construction which is referred to in general by the reference numeral **10**. The container construction **10** includes a top wall **12** which is formed of a suitable metal, such as the tin plated steel sheets normally utilized in can construction. The top wall **12** is provided with a pair of spaced pouring openings **14** which are of relatively small size.

In order that the pouring openings **14** may be conveniently sealed and opened, there is provided a combination can opener and sealing device which is referred to in general by the reference numeral **16**. The combination closure and can opening device **16** is in the form of an elongated pull wire **18** which is provided with flattened end portions **20**. The end portions **20** are of a size to completely cover the pouring openings **14** and are sealed to the top wall **12** surrounding the pouring openings **14** by suitable sealing means which may include a solder-like material.

In order that the combination pull wire and closure means may be conveniently removed relative to the top wall **12**, the pull wire **18** is provided with a finger receiving loop **22** which is disposed at its midpoint. The finger receiving loop **22** is formed by twisting the pull wire **18**, as at **24**.

The container **10** is intended to contain a liquid which is to be dispensed therefrom in small quantities. Therefore, the pouring openings **14** are relatively small.

While the finger receiving loop **22** is in an upstanding position when initially receiving a finger, it is normally disposed in a flat position overlying the top wall **12**, as is best illustrated in dotted lines in Figure 1 to facilitate packing and shipping. It is first moved to a vertical position and then one's finger is placed therethrough so that the pull wire **18** may be tensioned to pull the end portions **20** out of sealing engagement with the top wall **12**.

Referring now to Figures 3 and 4 in particular, it will be seen that there is illustrated a modified form of container which is referred to in general by the reference numeral **26**. The container **26**, like the container **10**, includes a top wall **28** which is preferably formed of a tin coated sheet of metal. As is best illustrated in Figure 4, the top wall **28** is provided with a pair of diametrically oppositely disposed pouring openings **30** which are of a relatively large size. The pouring openings **30** are intended to permit the pouring of a relatively heavy liquid, such as motor oil and the like.

In order that the container **26** may be conveniently opened, there is provided a combination can opener and closure construction which is referred to in general by the reference numeral **32**. The combination can opener and closure construction **32** includes an elongated pull wire **34** which terminates at its ends in enlarged flattened end portions **36**. The flattened end portions **36** are of a size to completely cover the pouring openings **30** and to be sealed to the top wall **28** surrounding the pouring openings **30** by a suitable sealing material, such as solder.

In order that the combination can opener and closure construction may be conveniently removed from the top wall **28**, the pull wire **34** is provided intermediate its ends with a finger receiving loop **38**. The loop **38** is formed by knotting the pull wire **34**, as at **40**. If desired, the twists and knots can be secured by solder.

As is best illustrated in Figure 3, the finger receiving loop **38** is normally disposed in a horizontal position directly overlying the top wall **28**. When it is desired to remove the end portions **36** from overlying relation with respect to the pouring openings **30**, the finger receiving loop **38** is bent up to a vertical position and one's finger is placed therethrough and tension is applied to the pull wire **34** to pull the end portions **36** thereof out of sealing engagement with the top wall **28**.

Referring now to Figures 5 and 6 in particular, it will be seen that there is illustrated a still further modified form of container which is referred to in general by the reference numeral **42**. The container **42** includes a metallic top wall **44**. The top wall **44** is provided with a relatively large pouring opening **46** which is aligned with a diametrically opposite elongated slit **48**. The container **42** is intended to contain a liquid such as beer or other beverage, and the slit **48** is intended to function as a breathing opening.

In order that the container **42** may be conveniently sealed and at the same time conveniently opened, there is provided the combination can opener and closure construction which is referred to in general by the reference numeral **50**. The combination can opener and closure construction **50** includes an elongated length of pull wire **52** which is provided at one end with a flattened end portion **54** which functions as a closure for the opening **46**. The flattened portion **54** is suitably sealed to the top wall **44** surrounding the pouring opening **46** by a solder-like material.

The opposite end of the pull wire **52** is in the form of a finger receiving loop **56** to facilitate the pulling of the pull wire **52**. An intermediate portion of the pull wire **52** is pressed into the slit **48** and is suitably sealed with respect thereto, as at **58**.

When it is desired to open the container **42**, one's finger is inserted in the finger receiving loop **56** and a pull is applied. The intermediate portion of the pull wire **52** is first pulled out of the slit **48** and then the flattened end portion **54** is pulled from overlying relation to the pouring opening **46**. The liquid contained in the container **42** may then be easily poured out of the pouring opening **46** at the same time air may enter through the slit **48** so that the container **42** may be properly vented.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that there has been illustrated and described a container construction in which the top walls thereof are provided with suitable pouring openings which are normally closed by a closure element, and that the closure elements are connected to can openers so that the containers may be quickly and easily opened, as desired, without the use of any tool whatsoever.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A container construction comprising a container embodying a top wall having at least one pre-formed pouring opening therein, said opening being positioned within the outer marginal limits of said wall, a readily applicable and removable closure of an area greater than and overlying and completely covering said opening and having its marginal edge portions detachably sealed to the exterior surfaces of said wall and requiring the application of intentionally applied force in order to effect its detachment and consequent uncovering of said opening, a wire superimposed against said top wall and of a length less than the diameter of the wall and connected at one end with said closure, and a finger pull in the form of a loop, said loop permanently attached to said wire, whereby upon placing a finger in the loop and yanking the wire while holding the container said closure may be ripped off to allow the contents of the container to be emptied by way of the opening.

2. In combination, a commodity containing tin embodying a flat top wall having diametrically opposite pouring holes therein located inwardly of the marginal edge of the top wall, a length of wire superimposed against the exterior surface of said top wall and having flattened ends constituting closures, said closures being each of an area greater than the opening and the respective closures covering the openings and being detachably sealed to the top wall, the intermediate portion of said wire being twisted and formed into a finger loop, said loop constituting a pull and serving to permit one to hold the tin in one hand and to catch hold of the loop with a finger of the other hand and to yank the wire off thus separating the respective closures and uncovering the openings.

3. The structure defined in claim 2 and wherein said finger loop is normally bent flatwise against the exterior surface of said top wall and is capable of being bent up and at right angles to the top wall where it may be conveniently grasped for handy usefulness.

4. In combination, a commodity can having a flat top wall provided within its perimeter limits with a pouring opening and at a diametrically opposite point with a relatively restricted slit, a length of wire flattened at one end and providing a closure, said closure overlying said opening and having its marginal edges detachably sealed by solder-like material to the wall of the can, an intermediate portion of said wire being lodged in said slit and removably soldered in place, the adjacent end of the wire being formed into a loop-shaped finger pull which may be grasped and utilized to rip the wire off and to remove the closure.

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