March 3, 1953 F. C. SCHNABEL 2,630,241

DRIP TRAY FOR PAINT CANS

Filed June 29, 1951

Fig. 1.

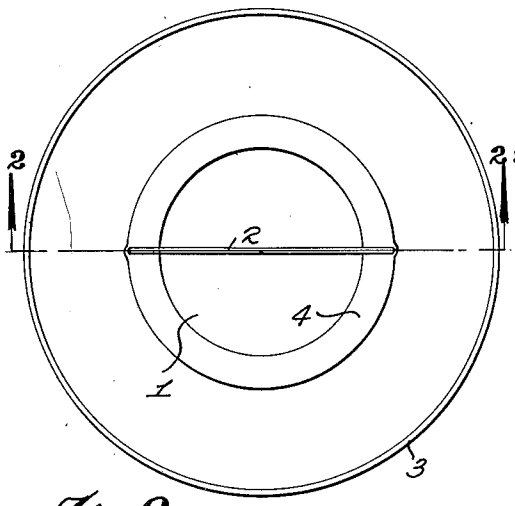


Fig. 4.

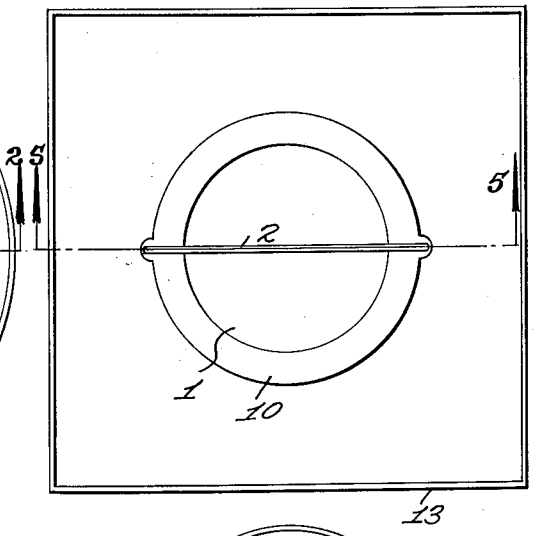


Fig. 2.

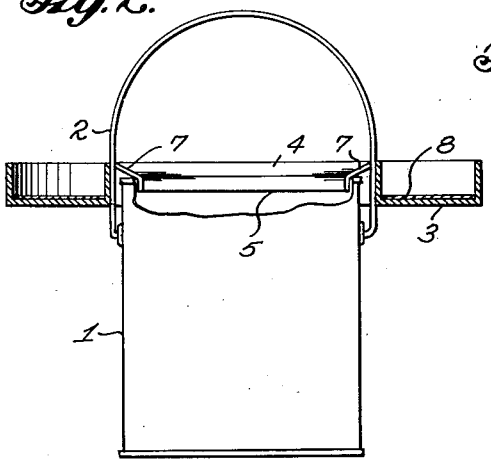


Fig. 5.

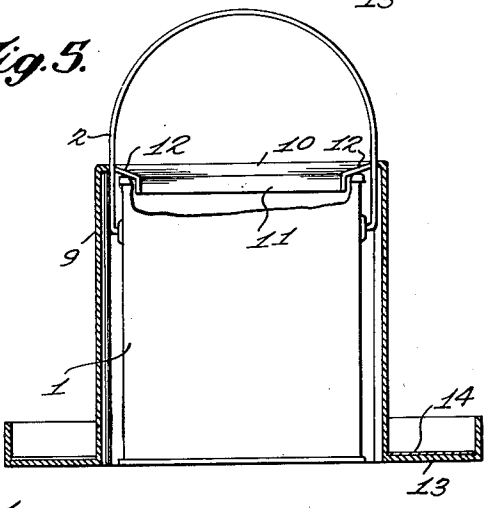


Fig. 6.

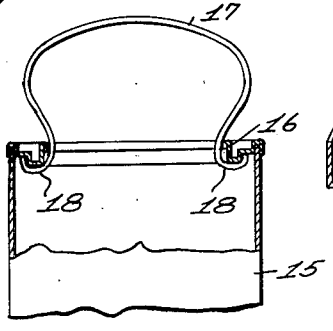
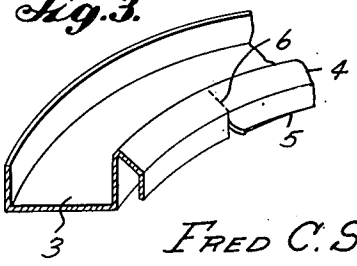


Fig. 3.



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DRIP TRAY FOR PAINT CANS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 220—85)

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This invention relates to a drip tray, and more particularly, has reference to a drip tray adapted to be removably mounted upon a paint can of conventional design.

The tendency of paint to drip down the exterior surface of a paint can and to fall to the floor is well known, and represents a considerable inconvenience and annoyance to the painter. Often, in such instances the can label becomes completely covered, so as to be illegible, so that thereafter the painter finds it difficult to know what paint is contained in a particular can. Additionally, the dripping of the paint to the floor involves a substantial loss of time in that the paint must be cleaned therefrom. Further, ordinarily it is somewhat difficult to find a convenient location for deposit of the paint brush during a temporary stop in the painting operations.

Heretofore, drip trays for application to paint cans, have been devised. However, to my knowledge these have not proved entirely satisfactory, due to the fact that in some instances, they have been so expensive insofar as the manufacture thereof is concerned as not to prove commercially feasible. In other instances, the trays themselves require cleaning after the painting operation. And, in still other instances, the trays have not been designed in such a manner as to cause paint to drip back into the can.

Accordingly, it is an important object of the present invention to provide a drip tray of the general type described that will be fully disposable, so that after use it may be removed entirely from the paint can and thrown away.

Another important object is to provide a drip tray which can be manufactured at a minimum of cost.

Yet another important object is to provide a drip tray novelly designed in a manner to cause paint to drip back into the can rather than exteriorly thereof, and also designed in a novel manner to provide a repository for paint brushes when the painting operation is being temporarily halted.

A still further object is to provide a drip tray that will be applicable to paint cans of any conventional construction, whether provided with or without a bail.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a drip tray formed in accordance with the present invention as it appears when applied to a paint can.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1.

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Figure 3 is a fragmentary perspective view.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of a modified form.

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken on line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a view partly in side elevation and partly in vertical section of the paint can having a removable bail applied thereto, said bail being designed for association with a drip tray formed in accordance with the present invention.

Referring to the drawings in detail, a conventional paint can 1 has the pivoted bail 2, this being a typical illustration of a paint can.

In the form of the invention illustrated in Figures 1–3, a flat, annular trough 3 is integrally formed with concentric, upstanding inner and outer side walls. The trough 3 is preferably formed from a readily disposable material, such as pressed paper or other fibrous stock. Further, as seen from Figure 2, the trough is so proportioned as to its inner diameter as to engage snugly against the upstanding side portions of the bail 2, when the drip tray is applied to the paint can.

The trough 3 is of any desired size, it being understood that the diameter of the trough will vary according to the diameter of the paint can to which it is to be applied. In any event, the trough surrounds and is spaced a short distance from the periphery of the can, and is disposed, in the form of the invention illustrated in Figures 1 to 3, at the upper end of the can.

Integral with the top edge of the inner wall of the trough is an annular, frusto-conical flange 4 extending inwardly of the trough and inclined downwardly toward the paint can to which the drip tray is applied. The flange 4 straddles and is supported upon the rim of the paint can, and is integrally formed along its inner edge with an annular depending lip 5 extending within the can below the can rim.

At diametrically opposite locations, the lip and flange are provided with radial score lines 6. If the paint can has a bail, the user is enabled to tear the flange and lip along said score lines, whereby to form slots 7 that receive the bail when the bail is positioned vertically as in Figure 2.

By reason of this arrangement, the bail, paint can, and drip tray are all interengaged against relative movement to any substantial degree, and the painter may conduct his painting operations without fear of relative separation of the drip tray from the paint can or disarrangement thereof upon the can.

Preferably, the base of the trough 3 is provided

with a protective coating of wax 8, plastic, or any other substance having the desired characteristic of preventing passage of the paint or other fluid into the material of which the base is formed.

In use of this form of the invention, the drip tray is merely applied over the paint can and bail, after which the painting operation is carried out in the regular manner. If the brush, after being dipped into the paint can, has excess paint, it may be drawn upwardly against the lip 5 and flange 4, and the excess paint will drip backwardly into the can.

Such drippings as may possibly drip exteriorly of the can will fall into the trough 3, thus to eliminate the possibility of said exteriorly dripping paint falling to the floor.

If it is desired to halt the painting operation temporarily, the brush can be laid in the trough 3.

After the painting operation has been completed, the drip tray can be removed bodily from the can, and disposed of. The paint can will be left clear of exterior drippings, so that the label thereof may be kept fully legible.

In the form of the invention illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, the drip tray has a trough, the inner wall of which is designated 9, said inner wall being annular and formed to a diameter slightly greater than the diameter of the paint can 1, so as to surround and be spaced from the paint can. The inner wall 9 projects slightly above the rim of the paint can, and is integrally formed with a frusto-conical inwardly extended flange 10 corresponding to the flange 4 of the first form of the invention, and straddling the rim of the paint can. The flange 10 is integrally formed along its inner edge with a depending lip 11.

Diametrically opposite slots 12, which may be formed in the same manner as the slots 7, receive the upstanding bail 2 of the paint can.

At its lower end, the inner wall 9 is integral with the flat trough 13. The trough 13 is in the plane of the bottom of the paint can, and in the illustrated example is of rectangular outer configuration, thus to permit its being positioned in room corners or against any wall of a room. A protective coating 14 is preferably applied over the base of the trough, and the trough, as in the first form of the invention, has a peripheral upstanding flange.

In actuality, the second form differs from the first form of the invention only in respect to the outer configuration of the trough, and in the height of the inner wall of the trough.

In Figure 6, a can 15 is illustrated, this being a type of paint can distributed commercially without a bail. Conventionally, this is provided with a grooved rim 16.

Either of the drip trays described above can be applied to the paint can 15, and in using the drip tray with a paint can of this type, the painter will not tear the frusto-conical flange and depending lip along the score line 6. Rather, it is proposed to apply to the can a removable bail 17 of spring wire material, having the upturned ends 18 engageable under the rim 16. The bail 17 is applicable to paint cans of any size, due to the inherent springiness thereof, it being understood that if the paint can is of small diameter, the side portions of the bail will merely be sprung inwardly so as to permit the bail to be entered into the upper end of the paint can.

When not in use, the bail 17 can be readily detached from the paint can, and can be deposited in the trough 3 or 13 as the case may be.

The detachable bail, of course, can be used as a brush rest whenever desired.

It will be understood that regardless of the outer configuration of the trough, said trough will have a center opening corresponding in shape to the cross sectional shape of the receptacle to which the drip tray is to be applied, whereby the trough may surround and be spaced closely from said receptacle.

It is also of importance that if it is desired to halt painting operations temporarily, the cap, not shown, of the paint can may be positioned upon the flanges 4 or 10 to keep the paint or other contents well covered. If the can has its own bail, as in Figures 1–5, the bail will not interfere with positioning of the lid or cap in this manner. If the can is of the type shown in Figure 6, the bail 17 is readily removed to permit application of the cap to said flange.

Additionally, the construction is such as to enable the painter to wipe "paint dirt" upon the flange of the trough of the drip tray in such manner as to insure that the dirt will fall into the trough.

Having described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A drip tray for containers comprising: a trough, said trough being of endless formation to form a center opening therein for circumposing of the trough about a container with the inner edge of the trough in close proximity to the side wall of said container, said trough having a flat bottom wall and inner and outer side walls extending upwardly from the bottom wall at the inner and outer edges, respectively, of the trough; an annular, frustro-conical flange having an outer edge integrally connected to the top edge of said inner wall, said flange being inclined downwardly from its integral connection to the inner wall of the trough within said center opening to straddle the upper end edge of a container about which the trough is circumposed, the flange being provided with diametrically opposite, radial score lines extending from the inner edge of the flange to said inner wall of the trough and adapted for tearing of the flange along said lines to provide radial slots for receiving a container bail extending upwardly from the upper end of the container; and an annular lip depending from the inner edge of the flange for engaging the inner surface of the container at the upper end thereof and thereby provide means cooperating with an engaged bail to interengage the container, bail, and tray against relative movement.

2. A drip tray for containers comprising: a trough, said trough being of endless formation to form a center opening therein, said trough having a flat, annular bottom wall and low, annular inner and outer side walls substantially coextensive in height and extending upwardly from the bottom wall at the inner and outer edges, respectively, of the trough; an annular, frusto-conical flange having an outer edge integrally connected to the top edge of said inner wall, said flange being inclined downwardly from its integral connection to the inner wall of the trough within said center opening to straddle the upper end edge of a container about which the trough is circumposed, the flange being provided with diametrically opposite, radial score lines extending from the inner edge of the flange to said inner wall of the trough and adapted for tearing of the flange along said lines to provide radial slots for receiving a container bail extending upwardly from the upper end of the

container; and an annular lip depending from the inner edge of the flange for engaging the inner surface of the container at the upper end thereof and thereby provide means cooperating with an engaged bail to interengage the container, bail, and tray against relative movement.

3. A drip tray for containers comprising: a trough, said trough being of endless formation to form a center opening therein, for circumposing of the trough about a container with the inner edge of the trough in close proximity to the side wall of said container, said trough having a flat bottom wall formed with a rectangular outer edge and with a circular inner edge extending about said opening, the trough having a low outer side wall extending upwardly from the outer edge of the bottom wall, and an inner wall substantially greater in height than the outer wall and extending upwardly from said inner edge of the bottom wall; an annular, frustro-conical flange having an outer edge integrally connected to the top edge of said inner wall, said flange being inclined downwardly from its integral connection to the inner wall of the trough within said center opening to straddle the upper end edge of a container about which the trough is circumposed, the flange being provided with diametrically opposite, radial score lines extending from the inner edge of the flange to said inner wall of the trough and adapted for tearing of the flange along said lines to provide radial slots for receiving a container bail extending upwardly from the upper end of the container; and an annular lip depending from the inner edge of the flange for engaging the inner surface of the container at the upper end thereof and thereby provide means cooperating with an engaged bail to interengage the container, bail, and tray against relative movement.

FRED C. SCHNABEL.

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