Sept. 7, 1965 B. N. FIDEL 3,204,826

CONDIMENT HOLDERS AND SUPPORT THEREFOR

Filed May 12, 1964

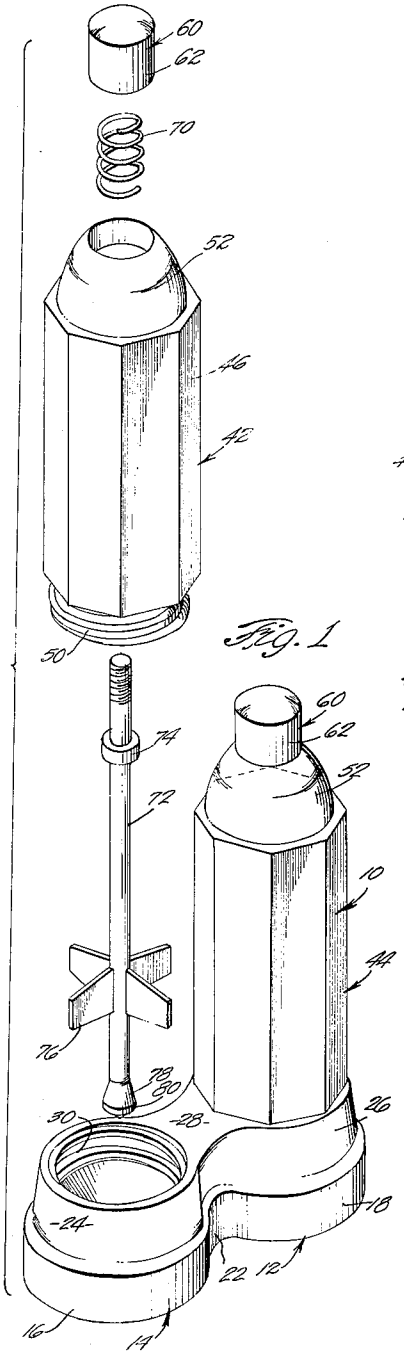


Fig. 1

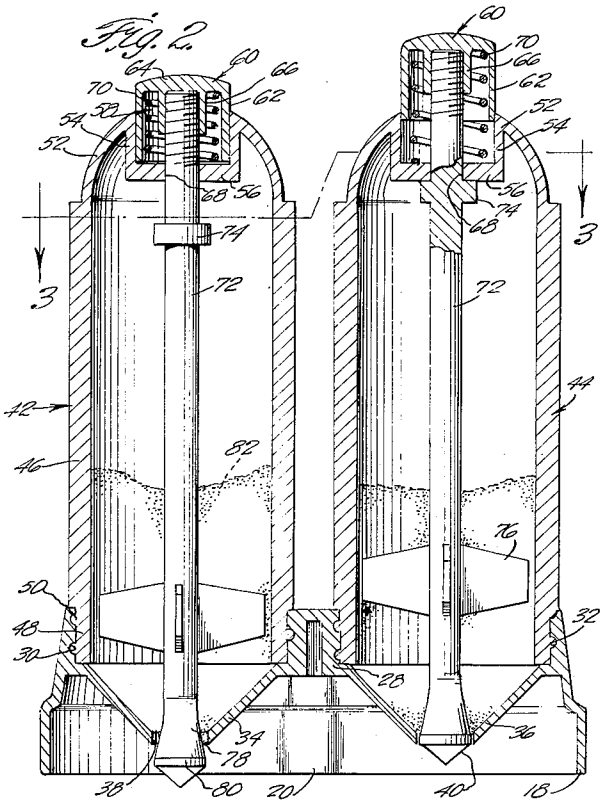


Fig. 2

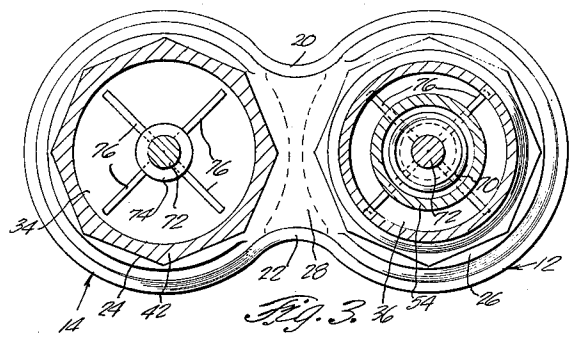


Fig. 3

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This invention relates to the general field of condiment holders and, more specifically, the invention pertains to the provision of separate salt-and-pepper shakers together with a single base support therefor.

One of the primary objects of this invention is to provide a combined salt-and-pepper holder for individual use together with means for manually-controlling, independently, the dispensing of the desired condiment.

Another object of this invention is to provide a condiment dispenser for dispensing a plurality of seasonings simultaneously or separately, one from the other, together with means for controlling, independently, the rate of flow of the condiments from the dispenser.

A further object of this invention is to provide a combined salt-and-pepper dispenser of such construction as to eliminate the necessity of inverting the dispenser to effect the discharge of the seasonings.

A still further prime object of this invention is to provide in a condiment dispenser, agitating means which is operable to maintain the condiments in powder or granulated condition and without coagulation, whereby the dispensing of the condiments from the dispenser is facilitated.

It is another object of this invention to provide in a condiment holder, reciprocable valve means to control the flow of the condiment from the holder together with means operable with the valve means to agitate the condiment within the holder to maintain the same in powder or granulated form.

This invention contemplates, as a still further object thereof, the provision of a plurality of condiment holders mounted on a single base, together with valve means for controlling the separate or simultaneous discharge of the condiments from the condiment holders, the condiment holders and base being non-complex in construction and assembly, inexpensive to manufacture, and which are durable in use.

Other and further objects and advantages of the instant invention will become more evident from a consideration of the following specification when read in conjunction with the annexed drawing, in which:

FIGURE 1 is an exploded perspective view of a condiment holder and base constructed in accordance with the instant invention;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged detail, medial, vertical cross-sectional view of the condiment holder illustrated in FIGURE 1, FIGURE 2 illustrating the valving means of one of the holders in its open position, and the valving means of the other of the holders being shown in its closed position; and

FIGURE 3 is a transverse cross-sectional view of the condiment holder and base, FIGURE 3 being taken substantially on the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring now more specifically to the drawing, reference numeral **10** designates, in general, a plurality of condiment holders and a support therefor constructed in accordance with the teachings of this invention. As illustrated therein, the support or base is identified by reference numeral **12** and is seen to comprise a continuous upright substantially oval skirt **14** having a pair of cylindrical end walls **16**, **18** disposed in confronting relationship. The adjacent confronting sides of the end walls **16**, **18** are connected by re-entrant walls **20**, **22**, and the end

walls **16**, **18** are inset at their respective upper ends to form a pair of substantially hollow elevated cylindrical shells **24**, **26** connected together by an integrally-formed centrally-located throat **28**. Each of the shells **24**, **26** is internally threaded as at **30**, **32**, and each shell **24**, **26** has integrally-formed therewith a depending substantially hollow inverted, frusto-conical closure wall **34**, **36**, respectively, having apertures **38**, **40** at their respective apex ends.

Reference numerals **42**, **44** denote a pair of identically-constructed housings or holders, and hence, a description of one is the description of the other.

Selecting the holder **42** for specific description, the holder **42** is seen to comprise an elongated normally upright, substantially hollow tubular member **46** having a lower substantially cylindrical end **48** externally-threaded at **50** for engagement with the threads **30**, **32**, respectively, of the base **12**. The upper end of the tubular wall **46** is provided with a substantially dome-shaped closure wall **52** having an integrally-formed depending, substantially cylindrical wall **54** at the apex end thereof, the cylindrical wall **54**, at its lower end, being closed by a discoidal end wall **56** to form a closed guide pocket **58**. Telescoped within the pocket **58** is a button **60** comprising a hollow cylindrical sidewall **62** and an upper integrally-formed end wall **64**.

Depending from the wall **64** is a hollow, internally-threaded, cylindrical sleeve **66** that is disposed in concentric relationship with respect to the sidewall **62** and is inwardly-spaced therefrom, the sleeve **66** also being coaxially-aligned with an opening **68** formed in the end wall **56**.

Disposed in the space between the sidewall **62** and the sleeve **66** is a helicoidal spring **70** which has an end thereof abutting the end wall **64** and its other end engaging the end wall **56**. The arrangement is such that the button is biased for movement out of the pocket **58** upon compression of the spring **70** by pressing the button **60** inwardly.

Threaded into the sleeve **66** is the upper end of an elongated normally vertically-extending, substantially cylindrical valve rod **72**, the other end of which passes through the opening **68** and is aligned with the aperture **38**. The upper end of the rod **72** is provided with an integrally-formed, cylindrical flange or boss **74** adapted to abut the underside of the discoidal end wall **56** and to serve as stop means to prevent displacement of the button **60** from the pocket **58** and to limit the movement of the rod **72** upwardly.

Secured to the rod **72**, adjacent to, but spaced from the lower end thereof are a plurality of substantially flat upright rhombical agitating blades **76**, and the lower end of the rod **72** terminates in an enlarged frusto-conical head **78** having an outwardly-projecting circumferential sealing flange **80** at the base thereof which is adapted to seat within the aperture **38** to completely seal the same.

To operate, and assuming the holders **42**, **44** are filled with a seasoning, such as indicated at **82**, the user need but grasp one of the holders **42**, **44** and elevate the same above the food to be seasoned. This action will, of course, cause simultaneous raising of the other of the holders together with the base **12**. The user may then depress either of the caps **60** causing the flange **80** to move below the aperture **38** to permit the dispensing of the desired seasoning or condiment onto the food from the selected holder **42**, **44**.

Upon release of either of the caps **60**, the helicoidal spring **70** will cause the rod **72** to move in the reverse direction to the extent that the flange or boss **74** is caused to engage against the underside of the end wall **56** and to simultaneously seat the flange **80** within the opening or aperture **38**.

It will be recognized, of course, that as the rod **72** is reciprocated, the blades **76** will move through the body of the seasoning **82** to agitate the same in such a manner as to preserve the seasoning in its pulverized, powdered or granulated natural condition and to prevent coagulation of the same which could interfere with the free dispensing of the seasoning from either of the holders **42, 44**.

Once the seasoning **82** has been dispensed from either of the holders **42, 44**, the same may be easily replaced through the simple expedient of inverting the holders **42, 44**, together with the base **12** from the positions shown in FIGURES 1 and 2 and unscrewing the container **42, 44** requiring replenishment. Since the flange **80** merely seats within the apertures or openings **38, 40** the frusto-conical head **78** of the piston rod **72** will easily be withdrawn from the inverted frusto-conical closure wall **34** or **36**. To assemble the holders **42, 44** with the base **12**, it is only necessary to re-engage the threads **50** with the threads **30, 32** and thereafter invert the position of the holders **42, 44** to the positons illustrated in FIGURES 1 and 2.

The holders **42, 44** and the base **12** may be formed of any desirable material. However, from the standpoint of lowered cost of manufacture, and the ease in maintaining the device in a relatively santiary condition, it is preferable that the holders and base be formed of a molded plastic. Furthermore, it is proposed that the holders **42, 44** be formed of a transparent or translucent material whereby the level of the seasoning **82** is made readily apparent.

Having described and illustrated one embodiment of this invention in detail, it will be understood that the same is offered merely by way of example, and that this invention is to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A condiment dispenser comprising a normally horizontal upright base comprising a skirt having a pair of hollow curvilinear internally-threaded ends opening into the top and bottom sides of said base, said base including an integrally-formed inverted frusto-conical closure wall extending, respectively, across the lower sides of each of said curvilinear ends, each of said closure walls having a condiment-discharge opening at the apex thereof, a pair of substantially cylindrical condiment holders each having a pair of opposed open ends, said holders each having one of their ends engaged, respectively, within one of said base ends, a closure wall extending across the other end of each of said cylindrical holders, an elongated valve rod

for each of said closure walls, each of said valve rods extending at one end through its associated closure wall and being reciprocable therethrough, and valve means on the other end of said rods normally seated within said openings to prevent discharge of said condiments from said holders and being unseated therefrom to permit discharge of said condiments.

2. A condiment dispenser as defined in claim **1**, wherein said valve means includes a substantially frusto-conical head having an outwardly-projecting circumferential flange adapted to seat, respectively, within said openings.

3. A condiment dispenser as defined in claim **2**, and a plurality of agitator blades mounted on each of said valve rods and projecting radially therefrom.

4. A condiment dispenser as defined in claim **3**, wherein said closure walls for each of said cylindrical condiment holders includes an intergrally-formed cylindrical sidewall disposed adjacent the center thereof and depending therefrom, an end wall extending across the lower end of said cylindrical wall, said last-named end wall having an opening formed therein to receive the upper end of said valve rod therethrough, and a button telescopically mounted within said last-named sidewall to provide manual means for moving said valve rod downwardly to unseat said cylindrical flange from said opening to permit the dispensing of the condiment within said holder.

5. A condiment dispenser as defined in claim **4**, wherein said button includes a substantially cylindrical sidewall telescopically engaged within said sidewall of said button, an end wall extending across the upper end of said last-named sidewall, and resilient means disposed between said last-named end walls, said resilient means constantly biasing said valve rod for movement in a direction to cause said circumferential flange to seat in its said opening.

6. A condiment dispenser as defined in claim **5**, and means on said valve rod limiting the movement of said valve rod in one direction.

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