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2,630,154

CONTAINER FOR FOODSTUFF

Filed Feb. 9, 1951

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

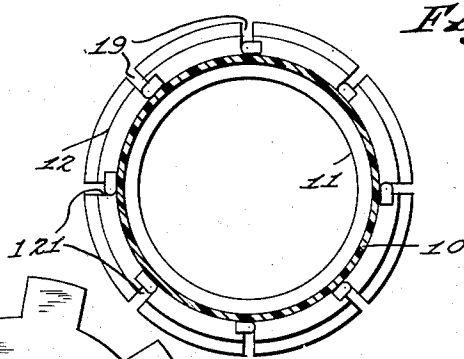
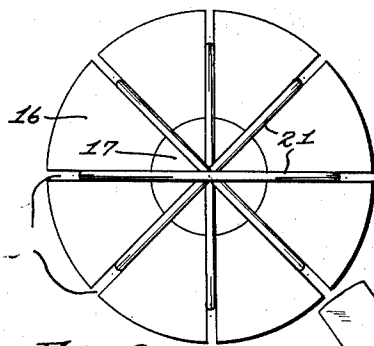
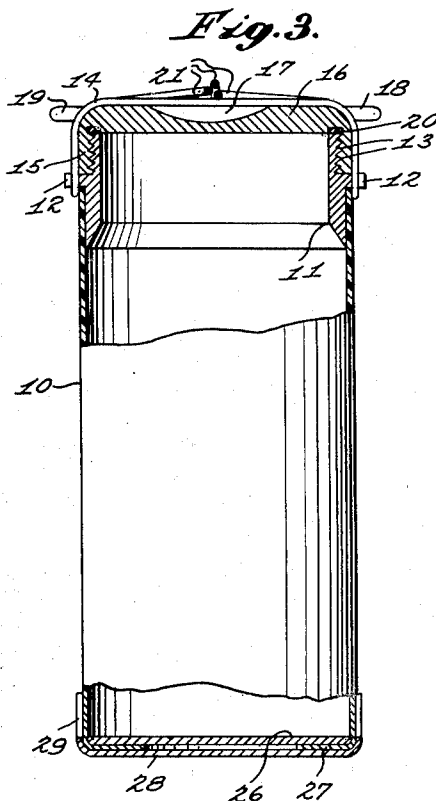
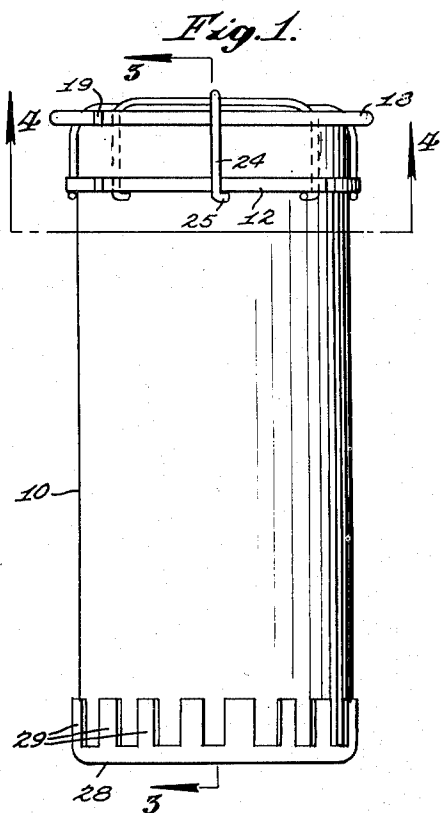
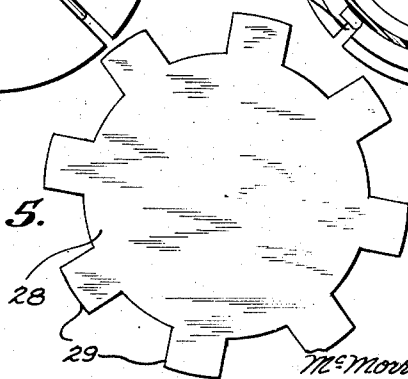


Fig. 5.



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2. SHEETS--SHEET 2

Fig. 6.

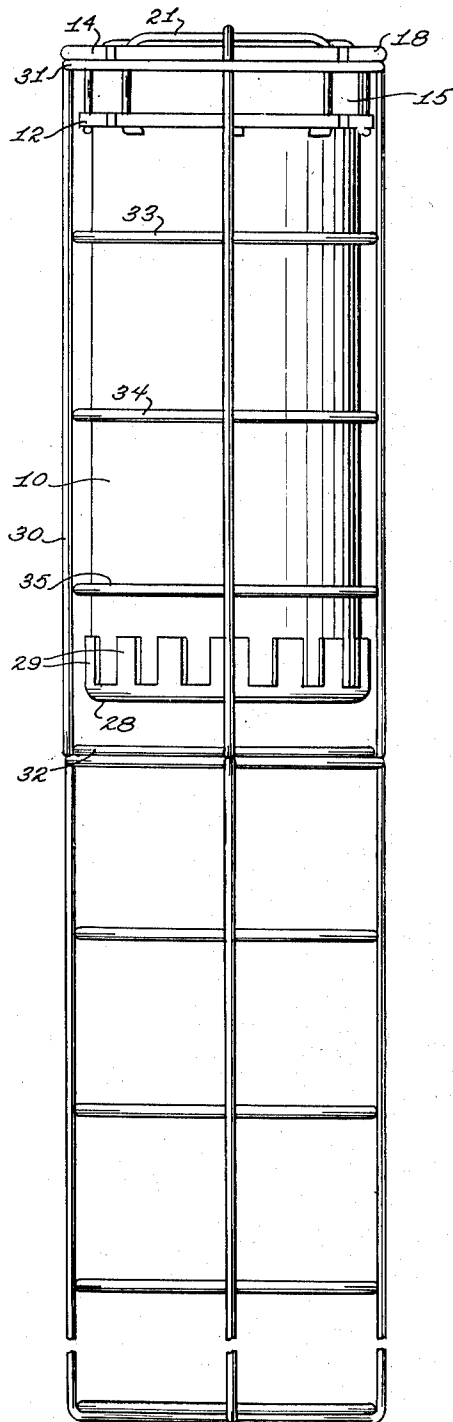


Fig. 8.

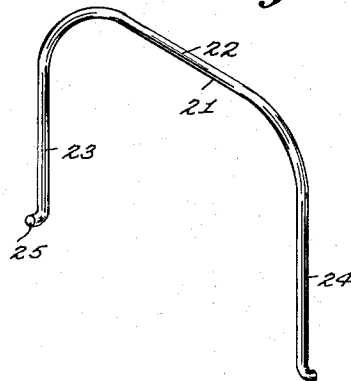
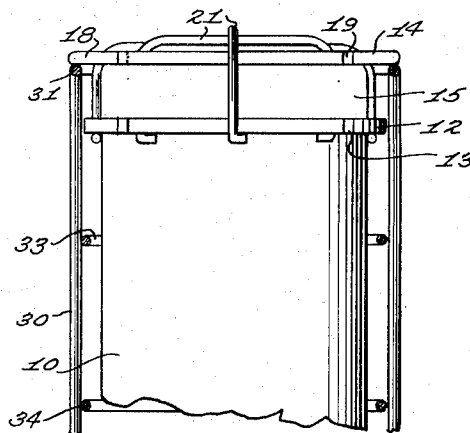


Fig. 7.



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CONTAINER FOR FOODSTUFF

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2 Claims. (Cl. 150—0.5)

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This invention relates to containers, and more particularly to a flexible container for foodstuff to replace metal, glass, paper and similar containers for storage, transportation and freezing of foodstuffs.

It is among the objects of the invention to provide an improved container for foodstuffs, such as cheese, sausage, butter, et cetera, which is flexible so that quantities less than the entire content can be removed at different times and the container resealed to preserve the remainder and correspondingly reduced in size; which can be thoroughly sterilized and will maintain its contents in a sterile and hermetically sealed condition; which includes cages or baskets of rigid construction for supporting the flexible containers in stacked condition; which can be reused a number of times; and which is simple and durable in construction, economical to manufacture, easy to use and neat and attractive in appearance.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent from a consideration of the following description and appended claims in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of a flexible food container illustrative of the invention;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the container illustrated in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a transverse cross-sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a plan view of a reinforcing member for the bottom end of the container;

Figure 6 is a side elevational view of a container mounted in a supporting cage;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary view of the upper portion of the assembly shown in Figure 6, with the container shown in side elevation and the cage shown in cross-section; and

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a bail or clip for securing a closure cap on the container.

With continued reference to the drawings, the container, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 3, comprises a tubular body 10 of flexible sheet material, preferably of uniform diameter and of a diameter and length to hold a desired quantity of food. This tubular body is formed of an air impervious, heat and acid resisting, flexible sheet material, such as a synthetic resin plastic or a synthetic rubber, and is preferably of seamless construction.

A sleeve 11 of rigid material is received at one end in one end of the tubular body 10 and has an outside diameter substantially equal to the inside diameter of the tubular body. The tubular body is bonded to the sleeve 11 with its end intermediate the length of the sleeve to provide an airtight seal between the tubular body and sleeve, and the sleeve is provided intermediate its length and at the corresponding end of the tubular body with an outwardly projecting, annular

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flange 12 having notches 121 therein at substantially equal angular intervals therearound.

At the side of the flange 12 remote from the tubular body 10 the sleeve is reduced in thickness and externally screw-threaded, as indicated at 13, and a closure cap 14 is threaded onto the screw-threaded portion of the sleeve.

This cap comprises a cylindrical wall 15 internally screw-threaded to receive the externally screw-threaded portion of the sleeve 11 and an end wall 16 closing one end of the cylindrical wall structure 15. The end wall 16 is thicker than the cylindrical wall 15 and is provided with a centrally located, concave depression 17 to facilitate the application of locking bails to the cap and sleeve. The end wall projects marginally beyond the cylindrical wall 15 to provide an external annular flange 18 having notches 19 at substantially equal angular intervals therearound.

Immediately within the cylindrical wall 15 the end wall is provided with a circular groove and a washer or gasket 20 of suitable resilient material is disposed in this groove and engages the outer end of the sleeve 11 when the cap is threaded onto the sleeve to provide an airtight seal between the cap and the sleeve.

A plurality of wire clips or bails 21, as particularly illustrated in Figure 8, are provided to lock the cap to the sleeve against accidental loosening by holding the cap notches 19 and the sleeve flange notches 121 in fixed aligned position. Each of these bails comprises an intermediate or bight portion 22 which extends diametrically across the outer side of the end wall 16 and a pair of spaced apart and substantially parallel legs 23 and 24 which extend through registering notches in the cap flange 18 and the sleeve flange 12 to hold the cap against rotation relative to the sleeve. The ends of the legs are bent, as indicated at 25, to engage under the sleeve flange 12 and secure the bails in operative engagement in the notches in the cap and sleeve flanges. A number of these bails may be engaged with the cap and sleeve of the container and crossed over each other at the center of the end wall of the cap, as is particularly illustrated in Figure 3. The depression 17 in the end wall of the cap facilitates obtaining a finger grip on the intermediate portions of these bails when it is desired to remove the bails.

The bails 21 are only a safety lock, and it is to be understood that the container may be used without them without in any way exceeding the scope of the invention.

A rigid, flat disc 26 is disposed in the tubular body 10 near the end of the tubular body remote from the sleeve 11 and constitutes the bottom of the container. A portion of the tubular body at the end thereof receiving the disc 26 is turned under the disc, as indicated at 27 and is bonded to the outer side of the disc to provide an airtight seal between the tubular body and the outer side of the bottom disc.

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A reinforcing body 28 of flexible sheet material in the form of a circular disc of a diameter slightly larger than the diameter of the bottom disc 26 and spaced apart tabs or tongues 29 projecting outwardly of the disc is secured to the bottom of the container so that the disc portion of the reinforcing body overlies the outer surface of the bottom disc 26 and the outer surface of the turned over portion 27 of the tubular body 10 and the tongues 29 are turned up and extend along the outer surface of the tubular body adjacent the bottom disc. This reinforcing member is bonded to the turned over portion 27 and to the outer surface of the tubular body and reinforces the bottom construction of the container.

When the container is filled with a soft food material, such as cheese, sausage or butter, the cap 14 may be removed from the sleeve 11 and a quantity of the food material less than the entire content of the container squeezed out of the container by compressing the flexible body 10. After the desired quantity of food material has been removed, the cap may be replaced, and, if desired, the locking balls replaced in operative association with the cap and sleeve, and the container returned to storage. If desired, the container can be compressed after each quantity of food has been removed to correspondingly shorten the container so that it will take up less storage space as its contents are used up, and by squeezing out air the food will be subject to less oxidation than in other containers, and no metal will come in contact with the food to cause discoloration, deterioration or generation of poisonous substances.

When it is desired to stack the containers for transportation or storage, wire cages of rigid construction are provided, one for each container, as illustrated in Figures 6 and 7.

Each of these wire cages or baskets comprises a plurality of longitudinal ribs 30 disposed in coterminous and parallel relationship to each other and centered around a common axis at substantially equal angular intervals apart and equal distances from the common axis. A plurality of wire rings are disposed within the wire ribs 30 substantially perpendicular to the ribs. In the arrangement illustrated in Figure 6 there are four longitudinal ribs 30, two end rings 31 and 32 and three intermediate rings 33, 34 and 35. The rings are preferably spaced apart substantially equal distances longitudinally of the longitudinal ribs, and have a common inside diameter slightly larger than the outside diameter of the tubular body 10 of the container, so that the container will be received loosely in the cage, but smaller than the maximum diameter of the cap flange 12, so that this cap flange will rest upon the top end ring and suspend the container in the cage, as is clearly illustrated in Figures 6 and 7.

It will be noted from an inspection of Figure 6 that when the container is received in the cage, the intermediate portions of the balls 21 are disposed above the top of the end wall 16 of the cap. The bottom ring 32 of a cage disposed on top of another container and cage assembly will surround these intermediate portions of the balls and rest on the upper surface of the flange 18 of the cap, so that the cages will stack one on top of the other and the cage and container assemblies can be conveniently stacked for storage or transportation. The rigidly constructed cages in which the rings and longitudinal ribs are securely interconnected, as by welding, pro-

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tect the flexible containers while in storage or transportation.

The invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof. The present embodiment is, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are, therefore, intended to be embraced therein.

What is claimed is:

1. A container comprising a tubular body of flexible sheet material, a sleeve of rigid material secured in the top end of said tubular body and having its lower portion bonded to said body, said sleeve projecting out of said body and having intermediate its length and at the top end of said body an external annular flange provided with notches at substantially equal angular intervals therearound, said sleeve having external screw threads above said flange, a closure cap including a screw threaded cylindrical wall and an end wall closing one end of said cylindrical wall threaded onto said sleeve to close the latter, the end wall of said cap projecting outwardly beyond said cylindrical wall and providing an annular flange, said last named flange having notches therein at substantially equal angular intervals therearound, and wire balls extending across said cap end wall and having legs extending through aligned notches in the cap flange and the sleeve flange.

2. A container comprising a tubular body of flexible sheet material, a sleeve of rigid material secured in the top end of said tubular body and having its lower portion bonded to said body, said sleeve projecting out of said body and having intermediate its length and at the top end of said body an external annular flange provided with notches at substantially equal angular intervals therearound, said sleeve having external screw threads above said flange, a closure cap including a screw threaded cylindrical wall and an end wall closing one end of said cylindrical wall threaded onto said sleeve to close the latter, the end wall of said cap projecting outwardly beyond said cylindrical wall and providing an annular flange, said last named flange having notches therein at substantially equal angular intervals therearound, wire balls extending across said cap end wall and having legs extending through aligned notches in the cap flange and the sleeve flange, and a rigid closure closing the bottom end of said body.

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