Feb. 14, 1928. 1,658,931

A. MEYER

CONTAINER

Filed Jan. 8. 1926 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

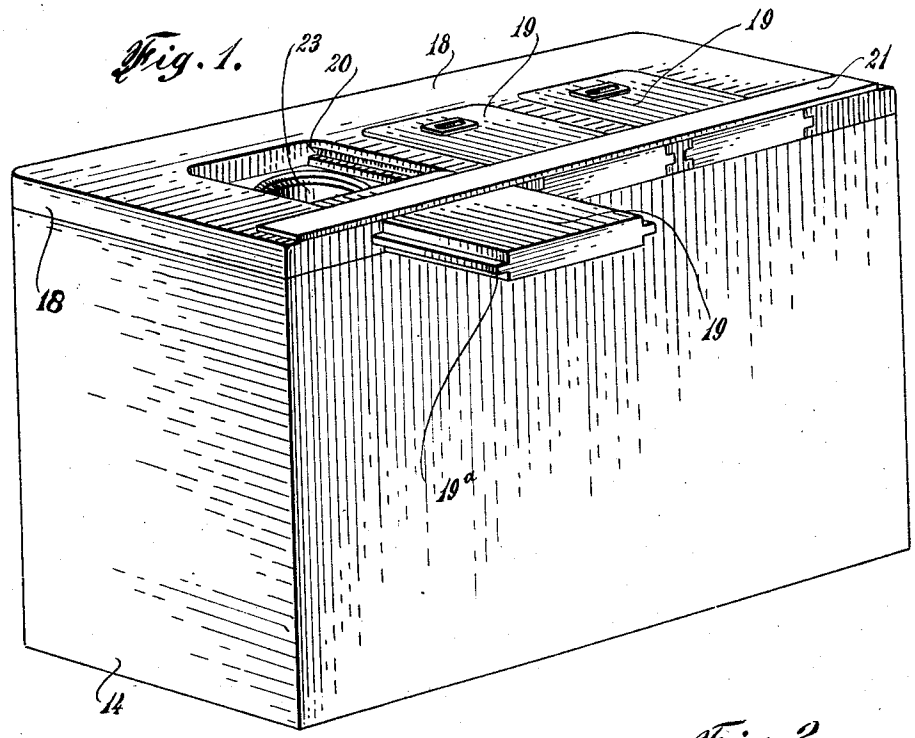
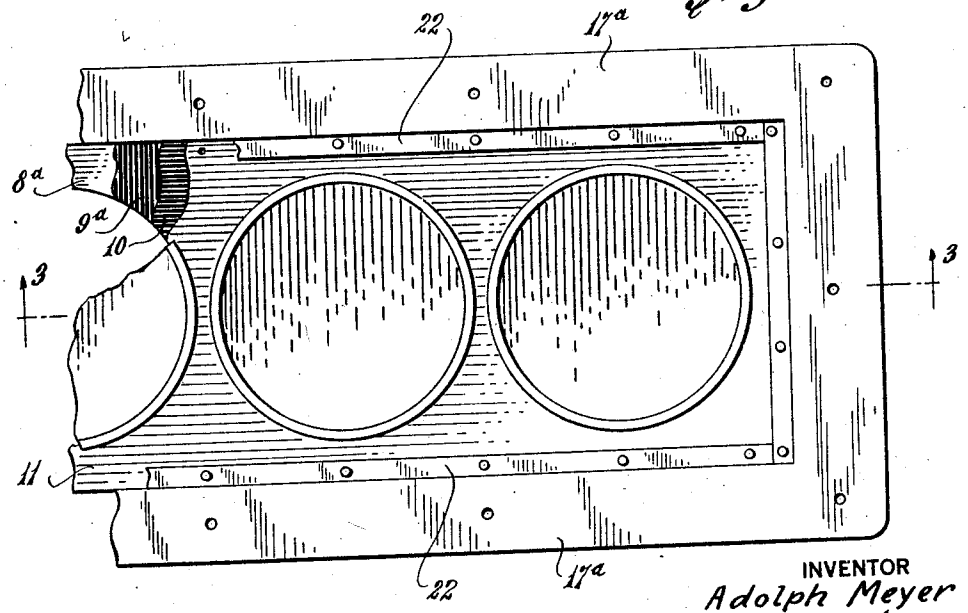


Fig. 2.



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CONTAINER

Filed Jan. 8, 1926 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

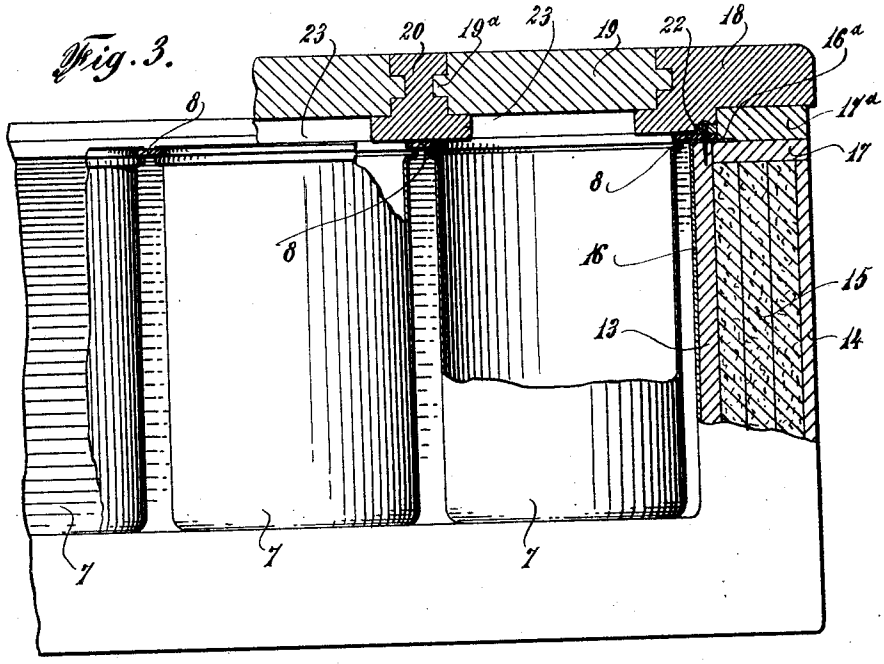


Fig. 4.

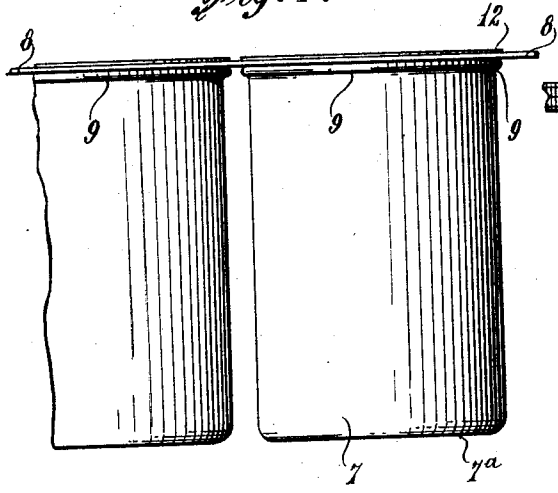
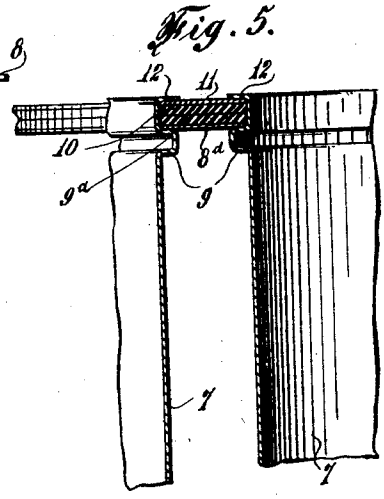


Fig. 5.



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Patented Feb. 14, 1928. 1,658,931

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ADOLPH MEYER, OF WOODHAVEN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO FRED'K ELFLEIN & SONS, INCORPORATED, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

CONTAINER.

Application filed January 8, 1926. Serial No. 79,922.

The present invention relates generally to improvements in containers and is more especially directed to containers for food stuffs and the like which are particularly adapted to the requirements of refrigerating apparatus, especially of those types in which the refrigerant is circulated by mechanically or electrically actuated means.

While, as above stated, my invention is broadly directed to containers which are capable of a multiplicity of uses as will be evident from the present disclosure, for the purpose of presenting a clear and concise description of my invention, I have elected to describe it as used in conjunction with a refrigeration apparatus such as may be employed in confectioners' and other shops for maintaining ice cream and similar frozen products at a proper temperature.

As is well known, it has heretofore been the practice to enclose the so-called ice cream cans in a cabinet or the like, these cans being supported in various ways. In some instances, the mouths of the cans which usually remain uncovered within the cabinets, are not properly protected, resulting in spoilage of the contents by the refrigerant splashing over the edges thereof. Also, the methods of supporting the ice cream cans have been such as to make it more or less difficult to handle them, when inserting them within the cabinet and withdrawing them therefrom, with that facility which is desirable in the maintenance of those sanitary conditions which are demanded by the public.

Further, owing to the construction of existing types of cabinets and the methods employed for supporting or housing the food cans therein, the temperature losses are relatively high. This is largely due to the rapid fluctuations in the cabinet temperature resulting from the necessity of frequent opening of the cabinet in the dispensing of the food product. Obviously, unless a substantially constant temperature is maintained within the cabinet, efficient and economical operation cannot be obtained.

The general object of the present invention is to provide a container for ice cream cans and similar articles, which may be economically produced, and which will overcome the disadvantages of present structures in a simple and effective manner.

More specifically, it is an object of my invention to provide a container for the purposes aforesaid, which is adapted to be used in conjunction with cabinets of various types, and which embodies features of construction whereby the temperature losses resulting from the frequent opening and closing of the cabinets to obtain access to the stored material will be reduced to a minimum.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a cabinet which is particularly advantageous for use in conjunction with my container, wherein a substantially constant temperature may be maintained more economically than is possible in existing types of cabinets in which frozen food stuffs and similar materials are stored.

My invention also contemplates a structure wherein the container may be readily removed from the cabinet, if desired, for the purpose of making repairs or for cleaning, so as to preserve the highest sanitary conditions.

Briefly stated, my invention is directed to the provision of a container embodying a plurality of sleeves, each of which is adapted to hold a can or the like, these sleeves being connected at or adjacent their upper ends or mouths by a support embodying insulating elements, the said sleeves being united or joined to said support in a manner whereby they are in effect integral therewith, the said support functioning as a cover or closure for the refrigeration chamber or interior of the cabinet when my container is in position therein.

Other objects and advantages flowing from the practicing of my invention will present themselves as the description proceeds, and I would have it clearly understood that I reserve unto myself all rights to the full range of equipments, both in structure and in use, to which I may be entitled under my invention in its broadest aspect.

In the accompanying drawings, I have shown a preferred embodiment of my invention as employed in a refrigerator for ice cream or the like, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a cab-

inet made in accordance with my invention, in which the container is enclosed.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of a fragment of the structure shown in Figure 1, with the cover of the cabinet removed, the supporting element of the container being partly broken away to disclose its components.

Figure 3 is an elevation, partly in section, of a portion of the cabinet shown in Figure 1, together with the container therein disposed.

Figure 4 is an elevation of a section of the container and

Figure 5 is an enlarged sectional detail of the container structure.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, in which like characters of reference are employed to designate similar parts throughout the several views, the container embodies a plurality of cylindrical sleeves 7 open at one end, which are suspended from a member 8. The sleeves 7 may be drawn up from sheet metal as unitary structures, or the walls may be shaped as desired, and the bottoms 7^a soldered or otherwise permanently fastened thereto. Adjacent to the upper end or mouth of each container, I provide a peripheral bead or shoulder 9, the purposes of which will be hereinafter described.

The member 8 which is preferably rectangular in outline, is composed of superposed sheets of metal and insulating material. Any arrangement of these sheets or layers of material, which is suitable to the purpose for which the container is specifically designed may be followed. However, in the present showing, the supporting member 8 comprises a sheet of metal 8^a on which is superposed two sheets of rubberoid or other insulating material, as indicated at 9^a and 10, a sheet metal plate or blank 11 overlying the sheet of insulation 10. (See Figure 2).

The sheets of metal 8^a and 11, with the interposed sheets of insulating material 9^a and 10, are brought into registration and perforated or cut out in any suitable manner to provide openings to receive the upper ends of the sleeves 7, the diameter of the aforesaid openings being sufficient to permit of the location of the sleeves therein. When the open ends of the sleeves 7 have been located within the openings in the supporting member, as just described, the body of the supporting member is pressed down so that the lowermost metal sheet 8^a is in close contact with the beads or shoulders 9 upon the sleeves 7. The upper end of each sleeve is then spun or flanged over as shown at 12 into engagement with the upper surface of the topmost metal sheet 11, adjacent the aperture with which such sleeve is associated. It will be observed that by the formation of this flange 12, the components of the supporting member 8 are frictionallly held between the bead 9 and said flange, so that for all practical purposes, the sleeves and their supporting member function as a unitary structure.

The cabinet, as will be seen from Figure 3, comprises a base, sides and removable top, the base and sides being built up to provide an inner wall 13, and an outer wall 14, with a filler of cork sheets or other suitable insulating material 15 therebetween. The interior of the cabinet is provided with a suitable lining of sheet metal shown at 16, which may be of a tanklike construction, the upper edge being outwardly flanged at 16^a for engagement with the horizontally disposed strips 17, which are employed to close the space between the inner and outer walls 13 and 14 of the cabinet.

The cover of the cabinet may be of any form desired, that in the present showing embodying three slides, which are movable to afford access to the respective containers located in the cabinet as hereinafter set forth. As will be noted, the body portion 18 of the cover is removably supported on the bed blocks or strips 17^a associated with the aforesaid strip 17 as clearly shown in Figure 3, the slides 19 being movable through the medium of the cooperating tongues and grooves 19^a and 20 respectively. A suitable retaining strip 21 may be provided along the top of the rear edge of the cabinet to retain the slides in operating position.

As will be clearly seen from Figure 3 of the drawing, when the container which may embody one or a plurality of sleeves is located within the cabinet, the bottoms of said sleeves will rest upon the inner wall of the base of the cabinet, the edges of the supporting member 8 bearing upon the top edge of the inner wall 13. When the container is so disposed within the cabinet, suitable moulding 22 is superposed upon the upper surface of the supporting member 8 and fixed to the inner wall members 13 by means of nails, screws or other suitable securing mediums which pass through the components of the supporting member, a watertight and substantially hermetic joint between the container and the cabinet being thus obtained.

The cabinet and the tank 16 contained therein, may be of any desired dimensions, the cabinet cover 18 being provided with openings 23, closed by the aforesaid slides 19, positioned above each sleeve. While, if desired, the sleeves may be used as receptacles for food stuffs or the like, it is the practice to insert cans or the like therein, in which the ice cream or other material may be packed. To permit of the insertion of these cans, the cover 18 of the cabinet is removed, it being apparent that when the cover is replaced, and in its normal position, the aforesaid openings 23 will be in

registration with the sleeves 7 and the mouths of the cans therein contained.

While I have described my invention with reference to the specific showing herein, it is obvious that various changes in details and structure may be made without departing from the spirit or scope thereof; also, I would have it clearly understood that my invention is not limited in its application to the art of refrigeration, as the cabinet, and more especially the container, may be used for various purposes, all such uses being within the province of my invention as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. As a new article of manufacture, a closure for the refrigerant chamber of a refrigerator, comprising a pair of oblong sheet metal plates having insulating material interposed therebetween, said closure being provided with a plurality of spaced apertures, and a receptacle, open at one end and having an integral peripheral shoulder adjacent such end, associated with each of said apertures, the wall of each receptacle above its peripheral shoulder extending through the associated aperture and being flanged downwardly into flat engagement with the surface of the top plate of said closure, whereby said receptacles and the members of said closure are rigidly interlocked by the cooperating shoulders and flanges of said receptacles.

2. A combination closure and container unit for a refrigerator, embodying cylindrical receptacles open at one end and formed with integral peripheral beads adjacent such end, said receptacles being adapted to be located within the refrigerant chamber of a refrigerator and supported in an upright position on the base thereof, a pair of sheet metal plates having insulating material interposed therebetween and apertured to pass over the outer walls of said receptacles, whereby said plates will be supported by the beads of said receptacles, and integrally formed flanges at the open ends of said receptacles in engagement with the topmost of said plates, said beads and said flanges functioning to interlock said receptacles and said plates to form a unitary structure, the plate assembly constituting a closure for the aforesaid refrigerant chamber.

3. A combination closure and container unit for a refrigerator, comprising cylindrical receptacles open at one end and formed with an integral peripheral bead adjacent such end, said receptacles being adapted to be located within the refrigerant chamber of a refrigerator, and a closure for said chamber, said closure embodying a pair of sheet metal plates, insulating material interposed therebetween, said plates and said material being apertured to pass over the open ends of said receptacles to abut upon the beads thereof and flanges integral with the open ends of said receptacles in engagement with the uppermost of said plates, the said plates and insulating material being compressed between the cooperating flanges and beads of the respective receptacles whereby said closure and said receptacles are interlocked by the cooperating shoulders and ments of which are relatively immovable.

4. A unit for a refrigerator, comprising a plurality of cylindrical sheet metal containers, each of said containers having an integral peripheral shoulder formed adjacent its open end, and means for permanently interconnecting and maintaining said containers in laterally spaced relation, said means forming a closure for the refrigerant chamber of a refrigerator and consisting of vertically spaced oblong sheets of metal, having sheet insulating material interposed therebetween, the plates and the insulating material being apertured to pass over the walls of the respective spaced containers and abut upon the aforesaid shoulder thereof, that portion of the wall of each container projecting above the uppermost metallic plate being spun outwardly to form a flat flange in continuous engagement with said latter plate, the respective plates and the interposed insulating material being clamped between said outwardly spun flanges and the supporting shoulders of the respective containers.

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