

Oct. 1, 1963

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3,105,612

ANIMATED TOY TOOTH PASTE CONTAINER

Filed Sept. 8, 1960

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

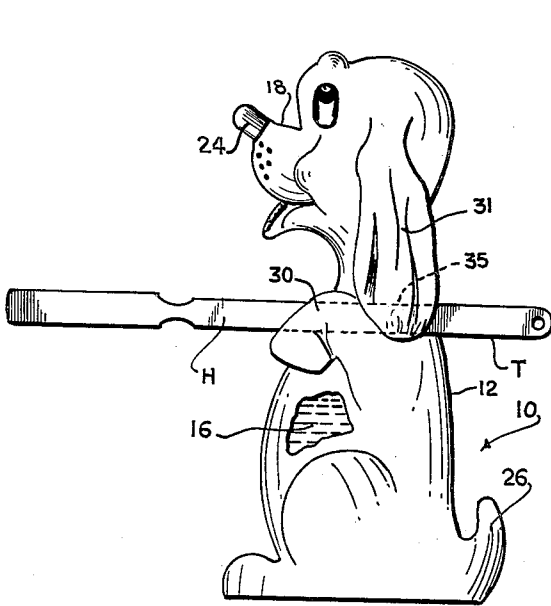


Fig. 1.

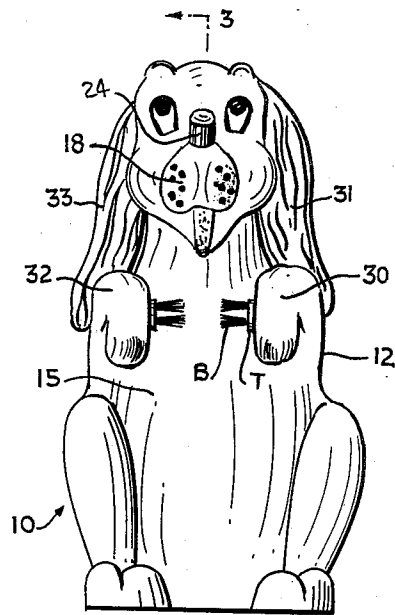


Fig. 2.

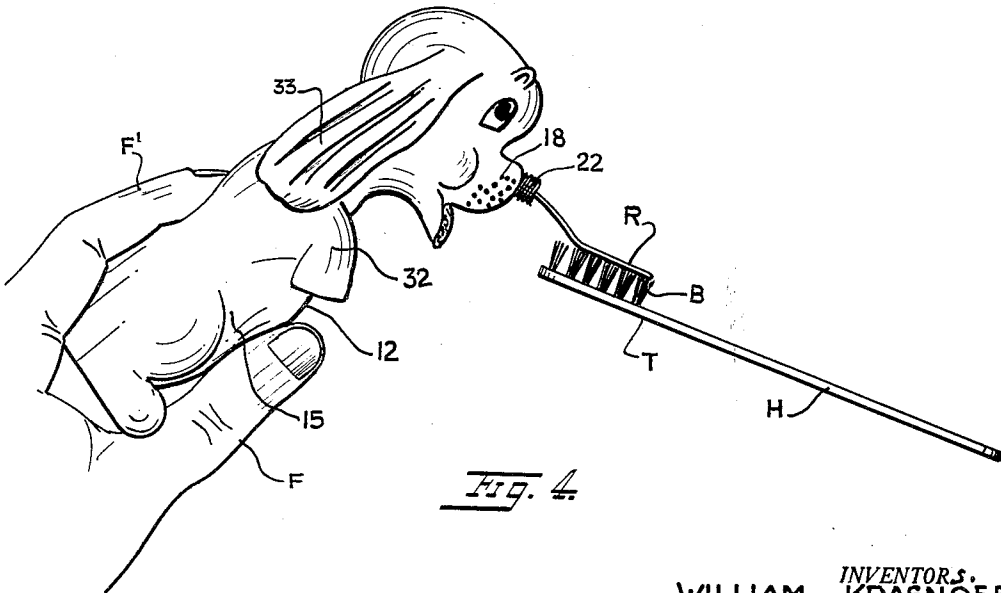


Fig. 4.

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3 Sheets-Sheet 2

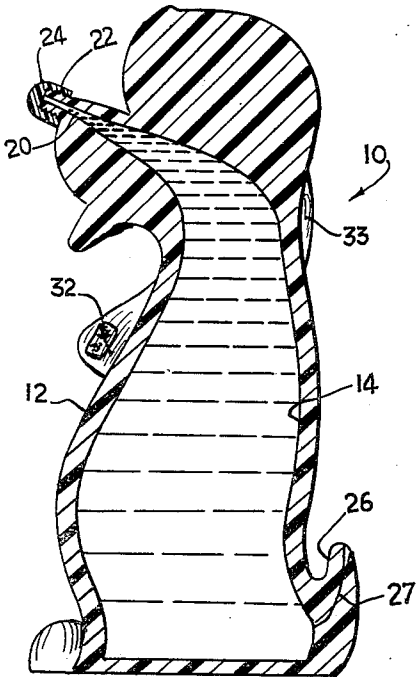


Fig. 3.

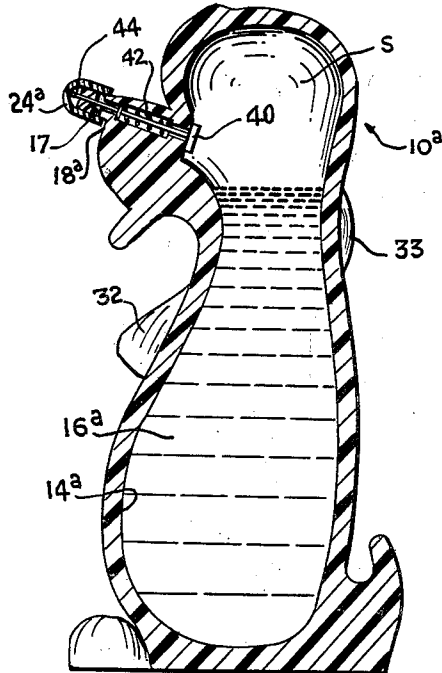


Fig. 4.

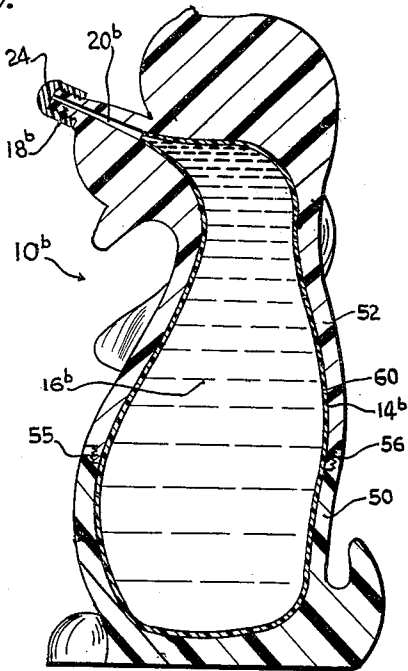


Fig. 5.

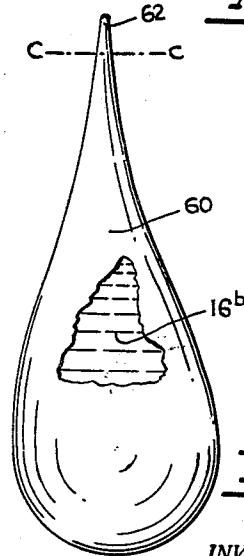


Fig. 6.

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3

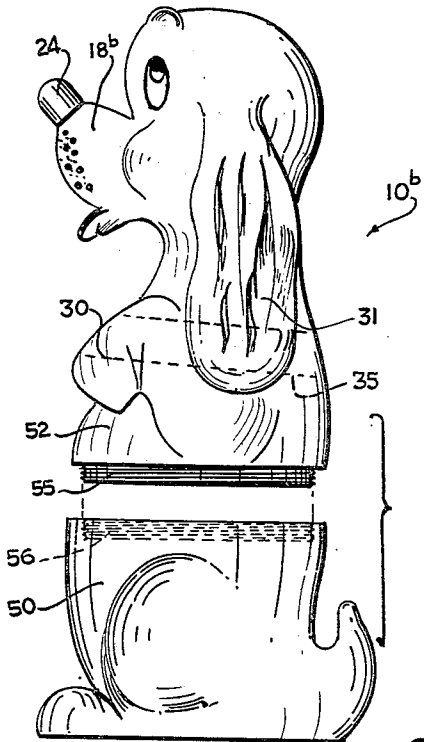


Fig. 8.

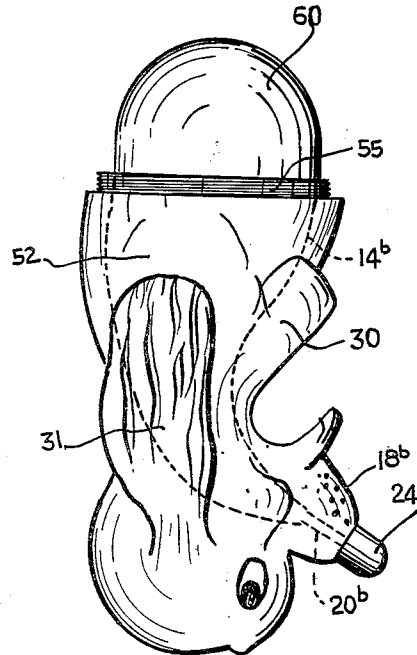


Fig. 9.

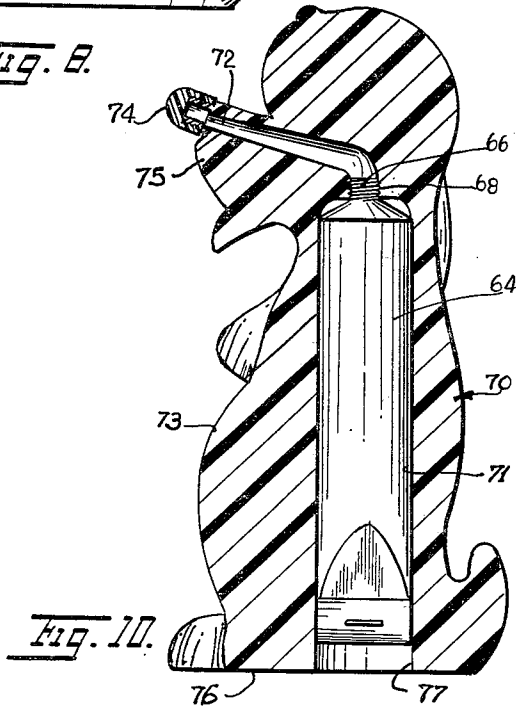


Fig. 10.

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ANIMATED TOY TOOTH PASTE CONTAINER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 222-78)

This invention relates to the container art and particularly concerns flexible containers for fluids or semi-fluids such as toothpaste, medicine, condiments and comestibles, etc.

According to the invention there is provided one or more containers formed of rubber or plastic material and containing or adapted to contain fluids or semifluids of various types. The fluids are discharged from nozzles in the containers normally closed by caps, stoppers, valves, etc. The containers have the forms of toy figures such as animals, clowns, birds, fish, etc. These containers are especially attractive to children and tend to induce the children to use their contents which may be toothpaste, medicine or the like. The contents may be dispensed by squeezing the containers.

It is therefore one object to provide a flexible container in the form of an animated toy figure and adapted to contain and dispense a fluid.

A further object is to provide a flexible container adapted to receive a package of fluid and to dispense the fluid when the container is squeezed.

A still further object is to provide a container in the form of an animated toy figure in which a fluid is packed under pressure, for dispensing the fluid by valve means from the container.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of a container embodying the invention, parts being broken away.

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view of the container of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on line 3-3 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a side elevational view showing the container dispensing toothpaste therefrom.

FIGS. 5 and 6 are sectional views similar to FIG. 3 showing other embodiments of the invention.

FIG. 7 is a side elevational view of a toothpaste package filler employed in the embodiment of FIG. 6, parts being broken away.

FIG. 8 is an exploded side elevational view of components of the toy figure container of FIG. 6.

FIG. 9 is a side elevational view of one component of the container of FIG. 6 inverted while being loaded with the filler of FIG. 7.

FIG. 10 is a view similar to FIG. 3 of still another modification of the invention.

In FIGS. 1 to 4 there is shown a toy or animated figure 10 in the form of a shell 12 made of flexible plastic or rubber material. In the shell is a compartment 14 which contains toothpaste 16 or other fluid or semifluid material. The figure constitutes a container for the fluid contents. The particular container illustrated is that of a simulated dog. The nose 18 of the dog has a passage 20 communicating the compartment or chamber 14 with the exterior of the container. The nose has a threaded end 22 on which is removably threaded a cap 24. The container can be filled through the tail portion 26 which can then be heat-sealed or cemented closed as indicated by the sealed joint 27 in FIG. 3.

The figure has a pair of simulated paws 30, 32 and ears 31, 33 with slits or openings 35 provided between the body 15 and the paws and ears of the figure. These openings can receive the handles H of toothbrushes T as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. The toothbrushes will be supported in an elevated spaced array and will be securely held due to the flexibility of the paws and ears pressing against the handles H.

FIG. 4 shows how the toothpaste can be dispensed in a ribbon R upon the bristles B of the toothbrush T. Cap 24 is removed and the body 15 of the figure is squeezed between the fingers F, F' of the user. This forces the fluid ribbon R out of the passage in the nose 18 on to the toothbrush. Due to the comical, amusing and attractive appearance of the figure, children are encouraged to use the container frequently. This leads to proper and hygienic health habits. The fluid 16 could be medicine such as cough syrup, vitamin doses, or other therapeutic medium. Other applicators such as medicine droppers, swabs, etc., may be substituted for the toothbrushes in openings 35.

The figure could be a simulated cowboy, clown, fish, bird, animal or any other amusing or comical animated figure. It may be decorated in various colors. If desired, a plurality of different container figures simulating a circus could be provided. A number of children in a family could each be assigned his own toy figure containing toothpaste. All the figures assembled on a shelf or at a sink where the containers would be used would provide a very attractive and appealing display and invite regular use.

FIG. 5 shows a modification of the invention in which the fluid 16^a is packed under pressure of a gas in the space S above the fluid 16^a in compartment 14^a of FIGURE 10^a. A valve 40 biased outwardly by a spring 42 has its operating pin 44 extending out of nose or nozzle 18^a. When the cap 24^a is removed and the pin is pressed inwardly while the FIGURE 10^a is inverted, then the fluid will be discharged out of the lateral opening 17 in the nose. Other parts of the container corresponding to those of container 10 are identically numbered. The nose 18^a is unthreaded and cap 24^a is frictionally fitted on the nose.

In FIGS. 6-9 is illustrated another form of the invention. Container 10^b includes a flexible base portion 50 and a flexible body portion 52 which may be attached together by engaging threaded flange 55 in the threaded seat 56 formed in the base. A package in the form of a bulb 60 containing toothpaste or other fluid 16^b is provided as a filler for the figure 10^b. This bulb is generally conoidal in form as clearly shown in FIG. 7 and tapers upwardly to a point 62. This bulb is preferably formed of thin, flexible plastic material such as polyethylene. The tip or point 62 can be cut off along line C-C and the body portion 52 can be fitted over the bulb 60 which will fit into the compartment 14^b up to the passage 20^b in the nose 18^b. Then the loaded body portion will be inverted to the position shown in FIG. 9. The base portion 50 will then be screwed on to the body portion and the assembled container will then be ready for use. By squeezing the body portion of the figure 10^b the fluid 16^b will be discharged out of nose or nozzle 18^b similar to the manner illustrated in FIG. 4, the cap 24 having first been removed. Cap 24 will be screwed on the threaded end of the nozzle 18^b to protect and retain the contents of the container.

In the modified figure 70 illustrated in FIG. 10, the compartment 71 is cylindrical and disposed centrally of the body 73 of the figure. The discharge passage 72 extends to the center of the body and communicates with the top of the compartment 71. The outer end of the passage is sealed by a removable cap 74 on nose 75. In

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this form the broad base 76 of the body of the figure is flat so that the figure can stand upright on a supporting surface. In the center of the flat base there is an inlet opening 77 communicating with the compartment 71.

A cylindrical tube 64 of toothpaste or the like is adapted to be inserted inwardly of the inlet opening 77 after the removable cap is removed from the neck portion 66 of the tube so that the open neck portion communicates with the discharge passage 72. When the body 73 of the figure is squeezed, the contents of the tube oozes through the passage 72 and out through the passage in the nose 75. The tube 64 may be readily removed and a fresh tube inserted, through the inlet opening 77.

Any of the containers of FIGS. 5, 6 and 10 can be made in different, fanciful, simulated animated forms as mentioned above in connection with container 10. The containers can be arranged to support more or less than two toothbrushes, medicine droppers or other utensils for applying and using the fluid contents of the containers.

While we have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of our invention, it is to be understood that we do not limit ourselves to the precise constructions herein disclosed, and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

A dispensing container in simulation of an animal, said

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container comprising a flexible squeezable hollow body in simulation of the body of a dog in sitting position for containing a fluid, said body having an upwardly extending tail, with the paws of the front legs in outstretched condition, and the ears depending adjacent the body, the ears and paws being spaced from the body to define horizontal openings for the reception of toothbrush handles on opposite sides of said body, the mouth opened and the nose upturned, said nose having a central passage communicating with the interior of the body, said passage constituting a discharge passage, whereby fluid is dispensed upon squeezing of the body, the outer surface of said nose being threaded, a screw threaded cap fitted over said threaded surface of the nose, said tail having an opening therethrough for the introduction of fluid into said body, said opening being heat sealed after said fluid is introduced.

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