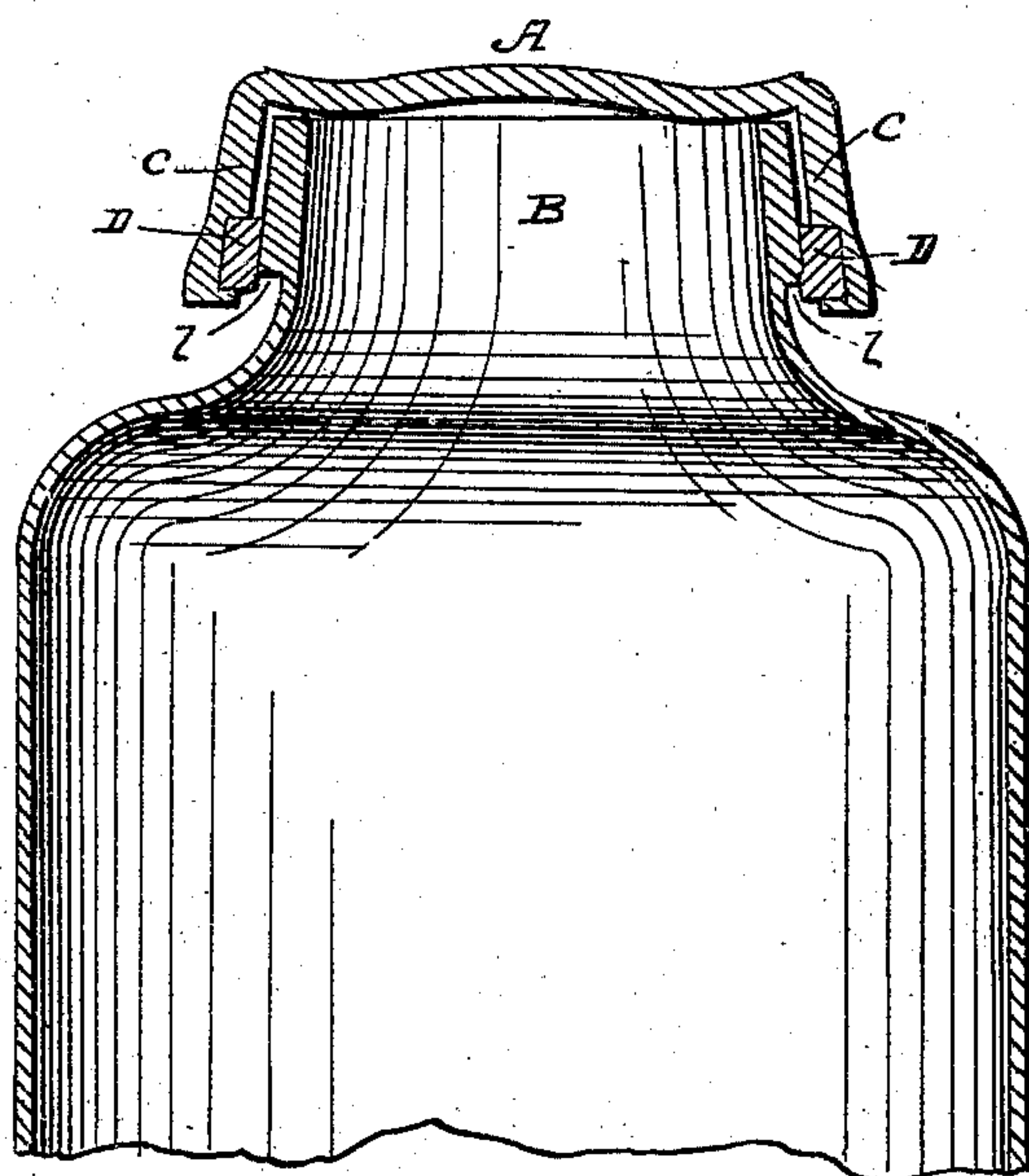


N. S. GILBERT.  
Closing Fruit Cans.

No. 39,643.

Patented Aug. 25, 1863.

*Fig. 1.*



Witnesses:  
*Charles Alexander*  
*Frost*

Inventor:  
*N. S. Gilbert*  
*Per J. H. Alexander Atty*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

N. S. GILBERT, OF LOCKPORT, NEW YORK.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CLOSING FRUIT-CANS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **39,643**, dated August 25, 1863.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, N. S. GILBERT, of Lockport, in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stopples for Fruit-Jars; and I hereby declare that the following is a true and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 represents a vertical section of the neck of a fruit-jar with the top or stopple in position.

The letter A designates the stopple, which is made of wood or any other suitable material, and is in the form of an inverted cup, three-quarters of an inch in depth, being conical in form and the interior corresponding in form with the exterior. That portion of the neck of the jar on which the stopple is to fit constitutes the frustum of a cone, B, the base of which is larger than the lower part of the neck and forms the offset *b*. There is a space between the interior of the stopple and the exterior of the neck B, (marked by the letters *cc*.) The lower part of this space is occupied by the india-rubber band D, which is cemented in the interior of the stopple near the lower edge.

My invention is operated by placing the stopple over the mouth of the jar and forcing it down, the band D being compressed in its downward course on the cone-shaped neck. The moment the lower edge reaches the offset *b* it expands, and in its enlargement forms a shoulder under *b*, which holds the stopple in position and enables it to resist the upward pressure of the gas within the jar.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The ring of india-rubber or other elastic material secured by cement or otherwise to the interior of the stopple or cap, in the described combination with the tapering neck B and shoulder *b*, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I hereby affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

N. S. GILBERT.

Witnesses:

M. L. BURRELL,

G. W. PERRIGO.