J. Bellerjeau.

Sealing Cans & Jars.

No 76149 Patented Mar. 31, 1868.

Fig. 3.

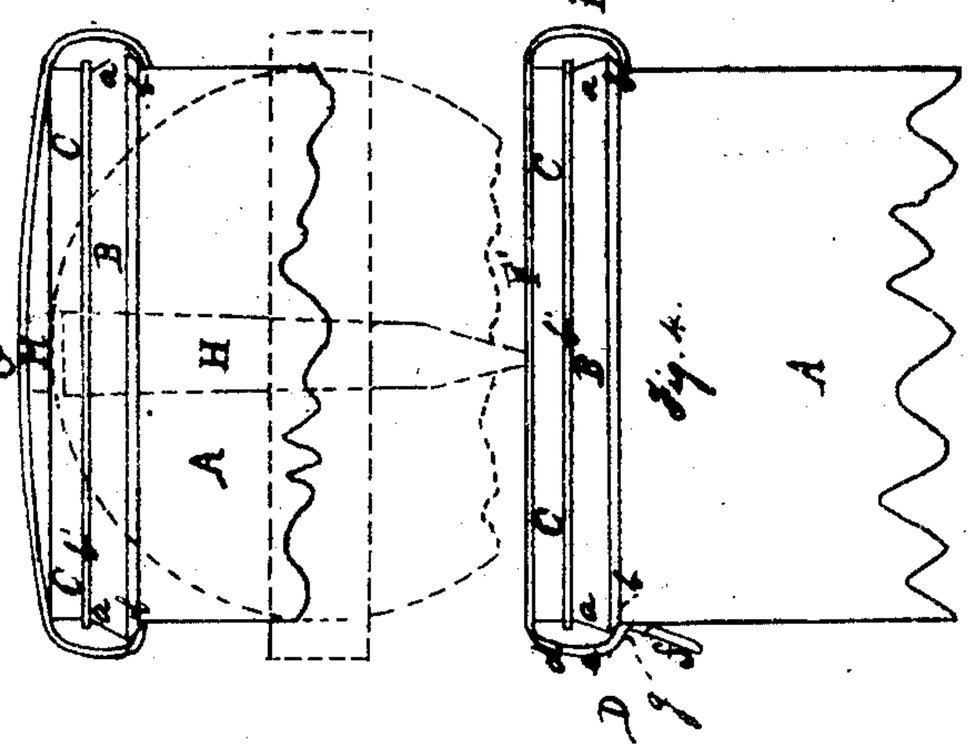


Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

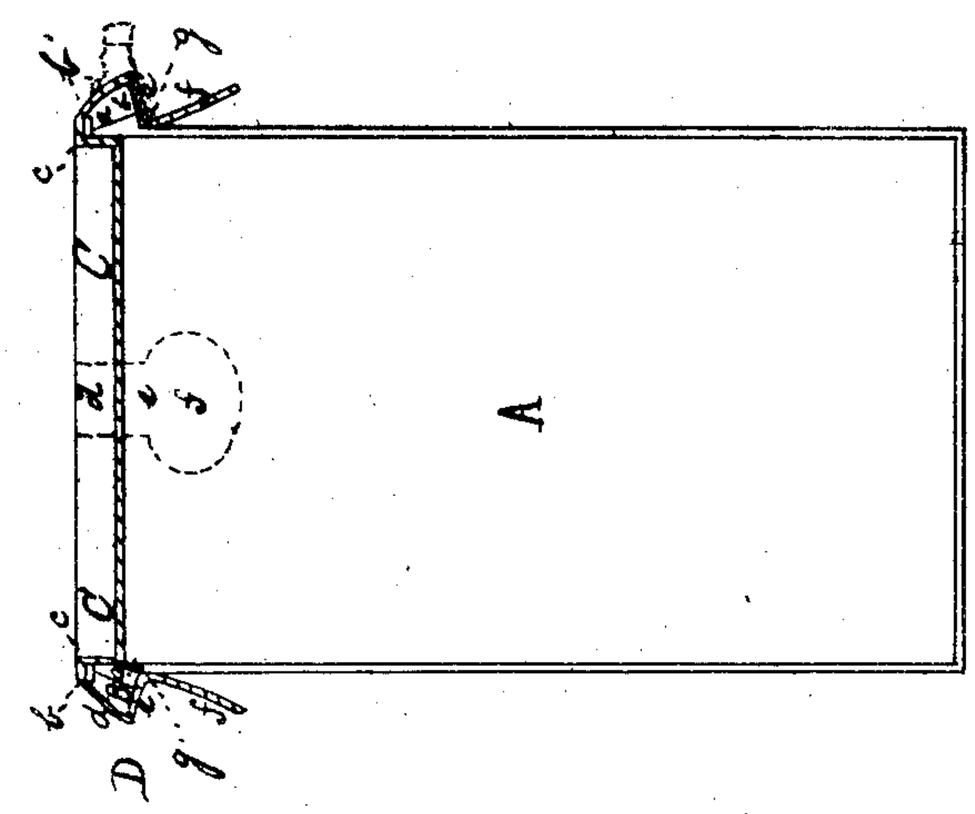
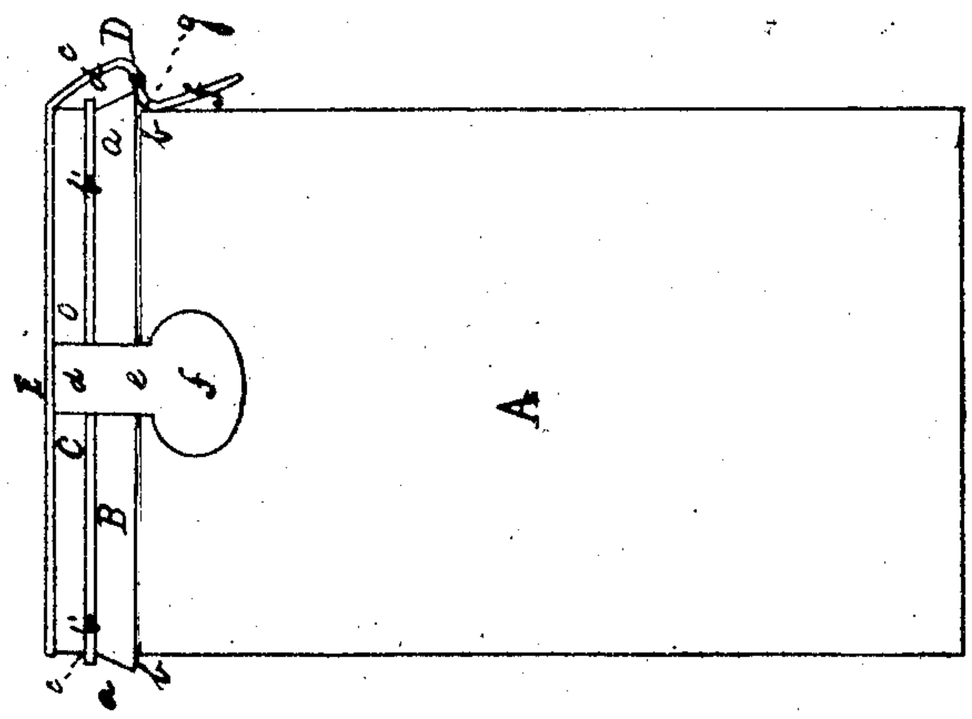


Fig. 1.



WITNESSES

Wm. Wiedersheim

Cyrus Lukens

INVENTOR

John Bellerjeau

by Wiedersheim & Co

attys

United States Patent Office.

JOHN BELLERJEAU, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 76,149, *dated March* 31, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN SEALING CANS AND JARS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOHN BELLERJEAU, of the city and county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and improved Self-Sealing Can or Jar; and I do hereby declare the following to be a clear and exact description of the nature thereof, sufficient to enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to fully understand and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device illustrating my invention.

Figure 2 is a central vertical section thereof.

Figures 3 and 4 are modifications thereof.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

My invention is a new and useful self-sealing can or jar, of glass, metal, wood, clay, or any other suitable material, and consists in securing the top, cap, or lid to the body by means of clasping-springs, or a hook and clasping-spring, or a hooked bar and wedge, or its equivalent. The springs and hooks may be united directly to the top or lid, or form parts of separate plates or bars, and they are adapted to catch under an angular rim or flange at or near the open end of the body at its outer surface. The internal surface of the body is unbroken from top to bottom, and possesses the same diameter throughout.

A can or jar constructed according to my plan is quickly and firmly closed or sealed, and readily opened, as will be hereinafter more fully described.

In the drawings, A represents the body of the can or jar, being of cylindrical form, and constructed of glass, metal, wood, clay, or any other suitable material. The internal surface is uniform throughout, being unbroken from top to bottom, and possessing the same diameter. The body is provided, on its outer surface, at or near its upper or open end, with an angular rim or flange, B, which projects downwardly and outwardly, forming a bevel, *a*, and terminating in a shoulder, *b*, which forms the bottom or lower side of said rim or flange. C is the lid, cover, cap, or top. It is constructed of any proper material, and of form to correspond to the shape and size of the body. Suitable rubber packing, or other sealing medium, *b'*, is applied between the cap C and body A. The cap may have a shoulder, *c*, which rests on the top of the body, the joint between the two having the interposed packing or sealing medium, and thus being entirely closed. To the cap or top C, I apply, in any known manner, two or more clasping-springs, D, which are made of suitable elastic material, and of an angular or rounded part, *d e*, forming a catch, and a continuation or thumb-piece, *f*. The said springs project downwardly, and may be attached directly to the top or cap C, or to a separate disk or plate, E, which lies or fits over the top or cap C, as in fig. 1.

The operation is as follows: The cap or top and disk are arranged on the top of the jar or can, with the interposed packing or sealing medium, and then pressed to their places. The point of junction, *g*, between the angular or rounded part *d e* and thumb-piece *f* of the springs D, will come in contact with the angular or bevel rim B. The downward movement of the cap will force the springs outwardly until the point *g* clears the bevel *a*, when they will spring inwardly towards the body of the can, and the part *e* catch under the shoulder *b*. The cap or top and body will thus be firmly clamped together and securely fastened. To release the cap it is only necessary to throw one or more of the springs off from the rim by drawing them upwardly away from the body, when the cap or top is easily detached.

Any number of these clasping-springs may be applied, but it is desirable that at least two should be used, and so arranged as to press the cap uniformly on the body. The cap, if constructed of metal, may be counter-sunk to form a shoulder, and the springs cut out of the same piece of metal, and then suitably bent so as to catch under the rim B.

A modification of the above is in applying a clasping-spring at one part of the cap, and a hook, F, at another part, or they may be constructed at the ends of a separate strip or bar, F', and laid or fitted over the cap or cover, as shown in fig. 4. The hook should be secured or caught under the flange or rim B, thus forming a hinge, and the cap is then pressed to its place, the rubber or sealing medium being before applied. The spring D catches under the rim or flange, and, with the hook at the opposite end, will hold the cap firmly in

place. In order to release the cap, the spring D is forced upwardly off from the rim or flange, when the cap can be readily detached.

Fig. 3 is a modification in which hooks alone are used, being formed on both ends of a bar or strip, G, which is slipped over the top of the cap, with the hooks under the rim or flange until the bar is over the middle of the cap. A wedge, H, is now inserted under the bar, between it and the top or cap C, and forced through as far as necessary, when it will be perceived that the top or cap is firmly pressed against the body of the can. To release the cap, it is only necessary to withdraw the wedge and slip off the hooked bar or strip G. A full equivalent to the wedge is found in forming an inclined plane on the upper side of the top or cap C, or in making the entire cap with an inclined upper surface. The rubber packing will project beyond the outer surface of the can or jar, so as to be grasped or caught, and thus be drawn away from the joint, and thereby allow air to flow into the can previous to opening or unsealing the same.

The advantages of my jar or can are, that it can be opened, emptied, and cleaned easier and better than jars having shoulders in the neck; that fruit can be introduced whole into it; and that it can be readily made, there being no complication of parts. If formed of glass, it may be made in a mould having a plunger, so as to secure to the jar a uniform thickness throughout, and which is therefore less liable to break through changes of temperature. In full, my can or jar possesses simplicity, cheapness, durability, and utility.

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

1. The cap or top C, having clasping-springs, D, and the body A with the bevel flange B, combined and operating substantially as described.

2. The clasping-springs D and hook or hinge F, in combination with the cap or top C and the body A, having flange B, and operating substantially as described.

3. The combination of the wedge H, hooked bar or strip G, and body A, having angular flange B, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

To the above I have signed my name, this 30th dav of October, 1867.

JOHN BELLERJEAU.

Witnesses:

DANIEL L. GABEL,

LEVI FRAZIER.