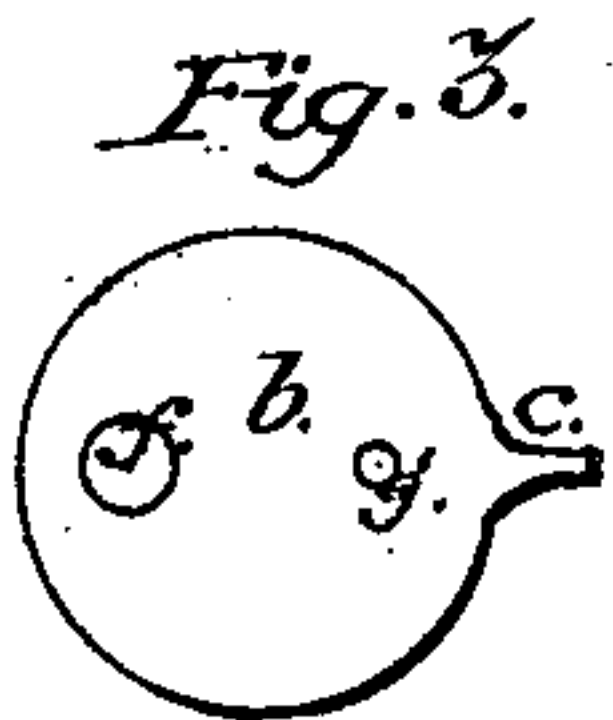
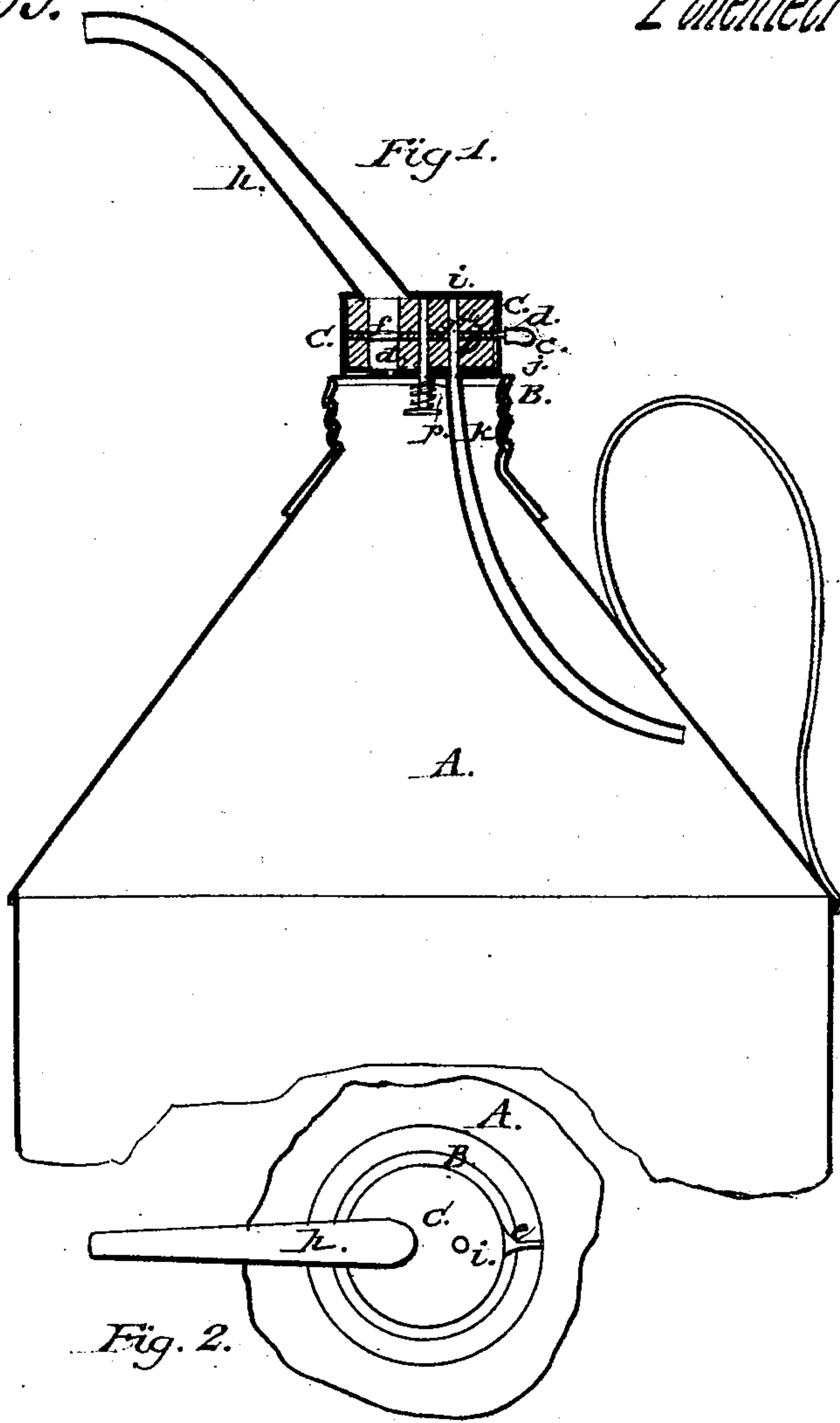


W. A. Fern,

*Oil Can.*

No. 89299.

*Patented Apr. 27. 1869.*



Witnesses:  
R. F. Osborn  
Geo. W. Miatt

Inventor:  
Wm. A. Green  
By J. Fraser & Co.  
attys.

# United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM A. FENN, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND HENRY B. BEACH, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 89,299, dated April 27, 1869.

## IMPROVEMENT IN OIL-CANS.

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, WILLIAM A. FENN, of the city of Rochester, in the county of Monroe, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Cans for Household Use in Holding Liquids; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a section of my improvement.

Figure 2 a plan.

Figure 3, a view of the cut-off gate detached.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention consists in the application of a ventilating and cut-off attachment to a can, for containing liquids, constructed substantially as hereinafter set forth.

In the drawings—

A represents a can of ordinary construction, having a screw-top, or cover, B, such as is employed in common oil-cans.

On top this cover I secure, by soldering or otherwise, a small cylinder, C, containing two disks, *a a*, of cork or other packing, filling the body of cylinder.

Between these packings rests a circular gate, *b*, with a stem, *c*, projecting out through the side of the cylinder and resting in a slot, *d*, of sufficient extent to allow a degree of lateral motion.

Through the packing and through the gate, are made two holes or passages, *f g*, the first corresponding in position with the spout *h*, attached to top of cylinder C, and the latter with a hole, *i*, in the top of cylinder, and a vent-tube, *k*, which extends down into the body of the can, and preferably, but not necessarily, turns up on the back side, as clearly shown.

The action of this device will be readily understood. When the gate is turned in one position, the passages *f g* will coincide with the parts *h i k*, and the liquid will pass out of the one, and the air into the other, to fill the vacuum, thus insuring a clear and steady flow. When turned in the other position, both passages will be cut off, and the contents closed against evaporation. This is especially effective in cans for holding kerosene oil, which is very ethereal in its character, and requires to be kept very close.

I am aware that in various devices, provision is made for ventilation in drawing the liquid. I claim nothing broader than a gate, or slide, employed in combination with a packing, having two passages that eject the liquid from the one, and admit air

through the other, as before described. I prefer the form shown, but various modifications or changes may be made without changing the nature of the invention.

By the attachment of this device to the cover instead of the can, the simplest, most compact, and cheapest form is secured. The cover can be removed from place with the greatest facility, and when thus removed, the can is entirely free from any impediment, such as the ordinary spout, and can be filled as easily as if no such arrangement were used. Still, if desirable, the improvement may be attached to the can itself instead of the cover.

A small spring, *p*, rests beneath a follower, *j*, beneath the packing *a*, the object of which is to press the packing up, as shown in fig. 1. This serves to keep the joint between the packing and the gate always tight. In order to insure the proper action of the vent, the air tube *k* is attached to this loose follower.

I am aware that a combined stopper, or valve to the spout, and a vent, have been before employed, as shown in patent No. 71,887.

I am also aware that a simple vent has been before employed, as in patent No. 76,802; but I am not aware that these effects have ever been produced in an arrangement like mine.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The employment, in an oil or other can, of a turning or sliding gate, *b*, used in combination with packing *a*, and so arranged as to perform the double effect of opening both the spout passage and the vent at one action, and *vice versa*, substantially as herein described.

2. The combination, with the cover of an oil or other can, of a spout, *h*, a vent, *k*, and a cut-off device, *b*, substantially as herein set forth.

3. The arrangement of the cylinder C with spout *h*, the packings *a a*, the gate *b*, and the air-tube *k*, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

4. The combination, with the packings *a a*, of the follower *j* and spring *p*, operating in the manner and for the purpose specified.

5. Attaching the vent tube *k* to the follower *j*, in the manner and for the purpose specified.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WM. A. FENN.

Witnesses:

R. F. OSGOOD,  
GEO. W. MIATT.