

G. W. PUTNAM.

SPICE-BOX.

No. 178,878.

Patented June 20, 1876.

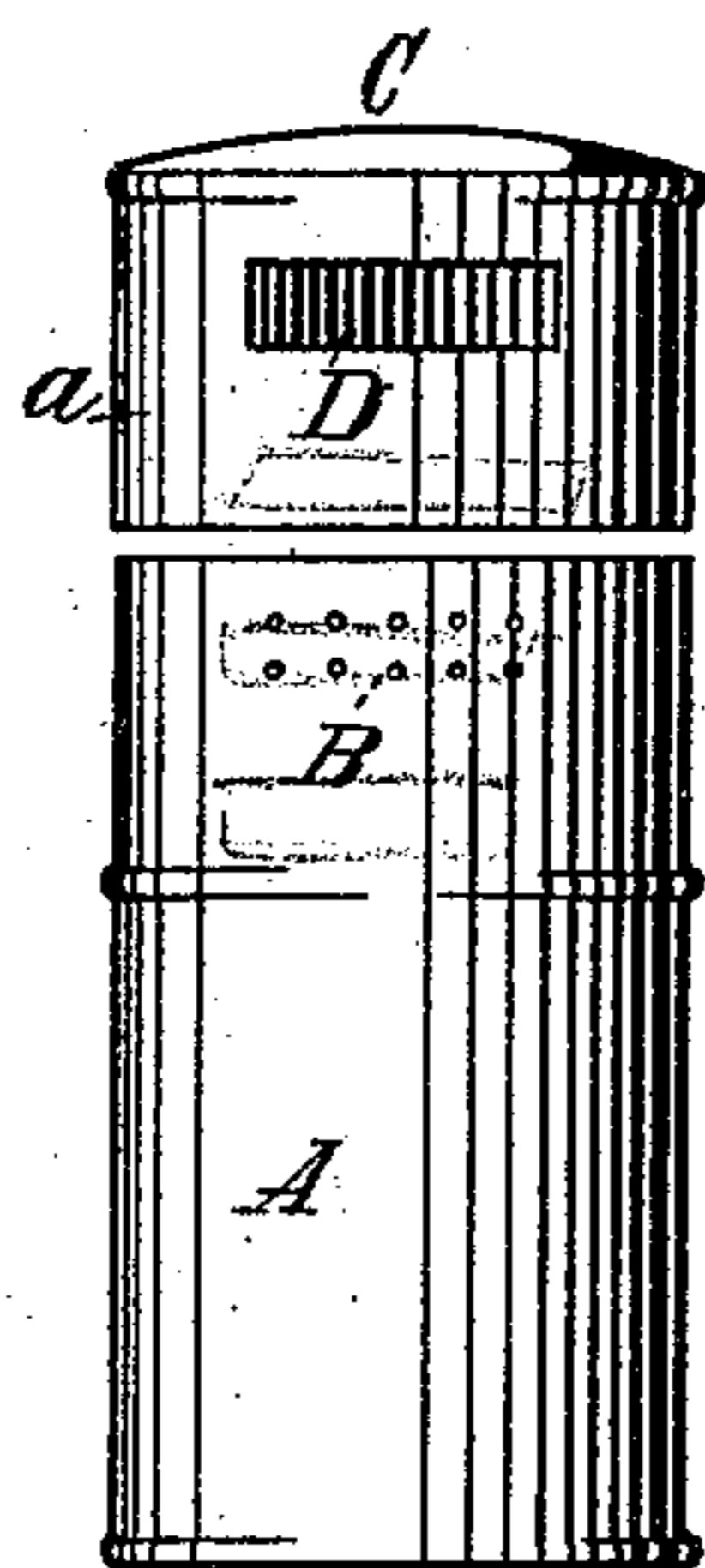


Fig. 1.

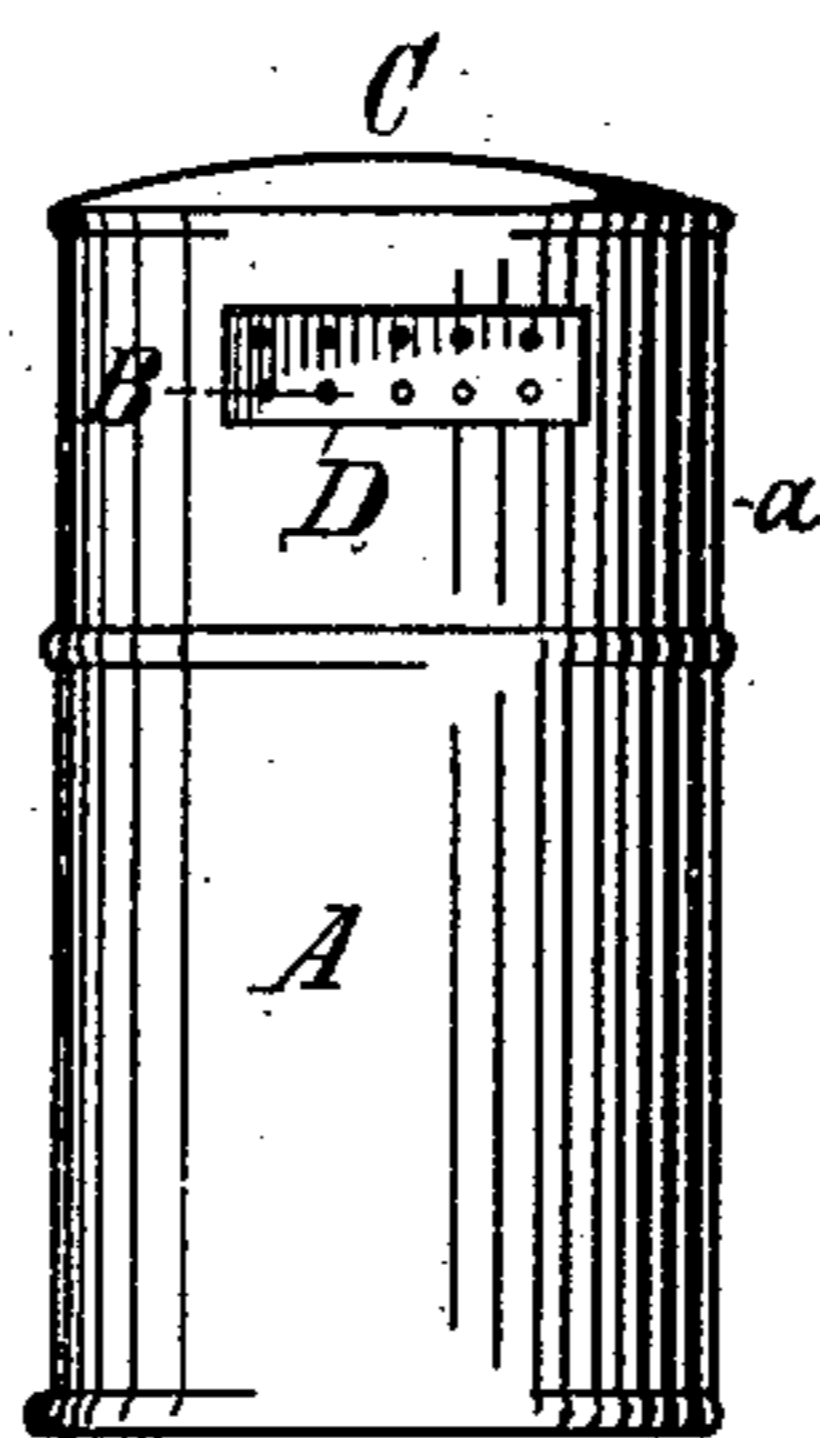


Fig. 2.

Witnesses;  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. PUTNAM, OF BILLERICA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT  
TO CHARLES ALBERT SHAW, OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SPICE-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 178,878, dated June 20, 1876; application filed  
December 11, 1875.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. PUTNAM, of Billerica, in the county of Middlesex, State of Massachusetts, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Spice-Boxes, of which the following is a description sufficiently full, clear, and exact to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation, showing the cover detached; and Fig. 2, a similar view, representing the box in readiness for use as a dredger.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the different figures of the drawing.

My invention relates, principally, to that class of boxes or cans which are employed in putting up or packing spices and other condiments; and consists in a novel construction and arrangement of the parts, as hereinafter more fully set forth and claimed, by means of which the same are not only adapted for ready use as dredgers for domestic purposes, but greatly simplified and cheapened.

It is well known that a large proportion of all the spices and other similar condiments sold at the present day are packed or put up in boxes or cans so constructed as to render them suitable for dredge-boxes, the spice being "dredged" or sifted directly from the original box or package—that is to say, the spice is put up or packed in regular dredge-boxes provided with means for closing the sieves or perforations, in such a manner as to securely retain the contents during transportation, and when not in use as dredgers, thus dispensing in a great measure with the necessity of employing independent dredge-boxes.

It is also well known that nearly all boxes of this character in ordinary use are objectionable for various reasons, the principal being the lack of simplicity in construction,

rendering their employment as dredgers sometimes difficult, and also greatly increasing the cost of manufacture.

My improvement is designed to obviate these objections; and to that end I make use of means which will be readily obvious to all conversant with such matters from the following description.

In the drawing, A represents the body of the box or can, which is provided upon one side, near its top, with a series of perforations, B. The cover C is constructed with an annular thimble or flange, *a*, having an elongated lateral opening, D, so disposed that when the cover is in position on the box the opening may be made to correspond in position with the perforations B, as shown in Fig. 2.

To convert my improved box into a dredger it will be seen that it is only necessary to turn or revolve the cover until the perforations B are exposed through the opening D, and when not desired for use as a dredger the cover may be adjusted to close the perforations.

It will be seen that the flange *a* is made to serve a double purpose—viz., to hold the cover in position on the box, and also as a means of opening and closing the outlets through which the spice is dredged, thus greatly simplifying and cheapening the article.

I prefer to make the box with the opening D in the flange of the cover C, and the perforations B in the body A; but it will be obvious that the relative position of these may be reversed without departing from the spirit of my invention, the essential feature of which consists in a spice box or can having lateral perforations through which the contents may be dredged or sifted, and provided with a cover so constructed and arranged to operate that the perforations may be closed as desired by manipulating the cover.

Having thus explained my invention, what I claim is—

1. A spice box or can having lateral perforations through which the contents may be

dredged or sifted, and provided with a cover so constructed and arranged to operate that the perforations may be closed by manipulating the cover, substantially as and for the purpose set forth and specified.

2. A spice box or can having the body A, provided with the perforations B, and the

cover C, provided with the opening D, combined to operate substantially as and for the purpose set forth and specified.

GEORGE W. PUTNAM.

Witnesses:

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