

Feb. 24, 1953

D. M. SÉE  
LIPSTICK CASE

2,629,488

Filed Nov. 18, 1949

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

FIG. 1.

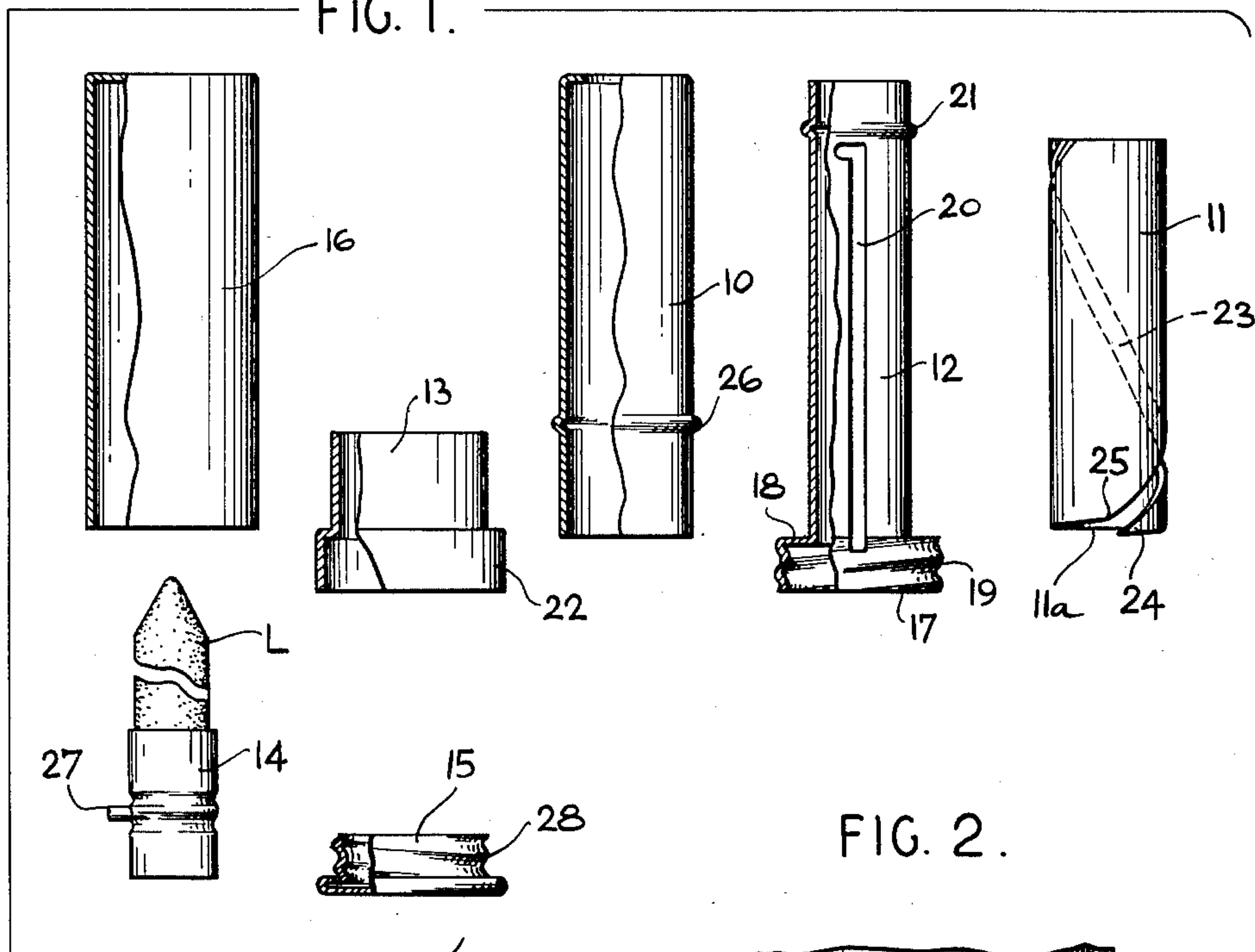


FIG. 2.

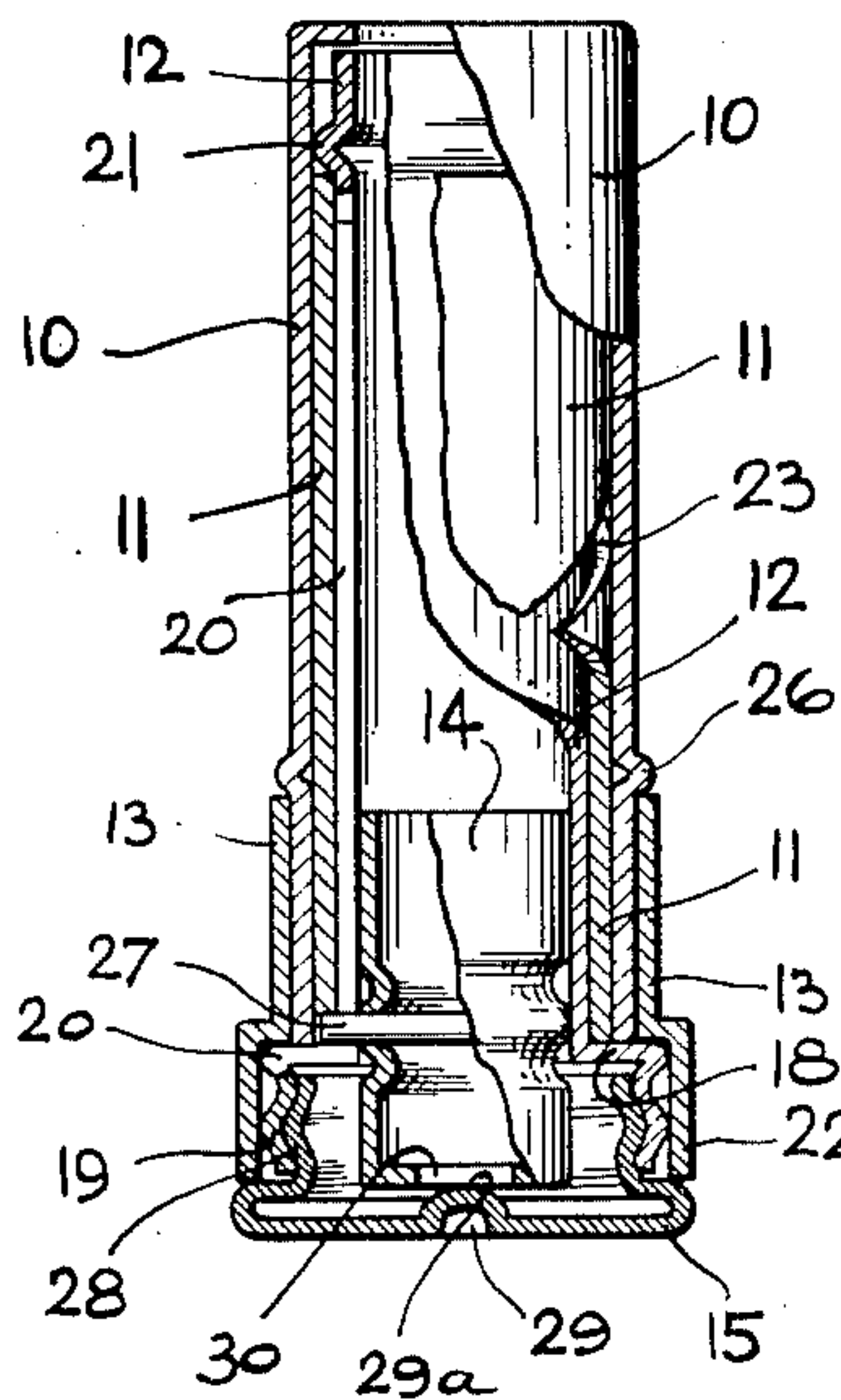
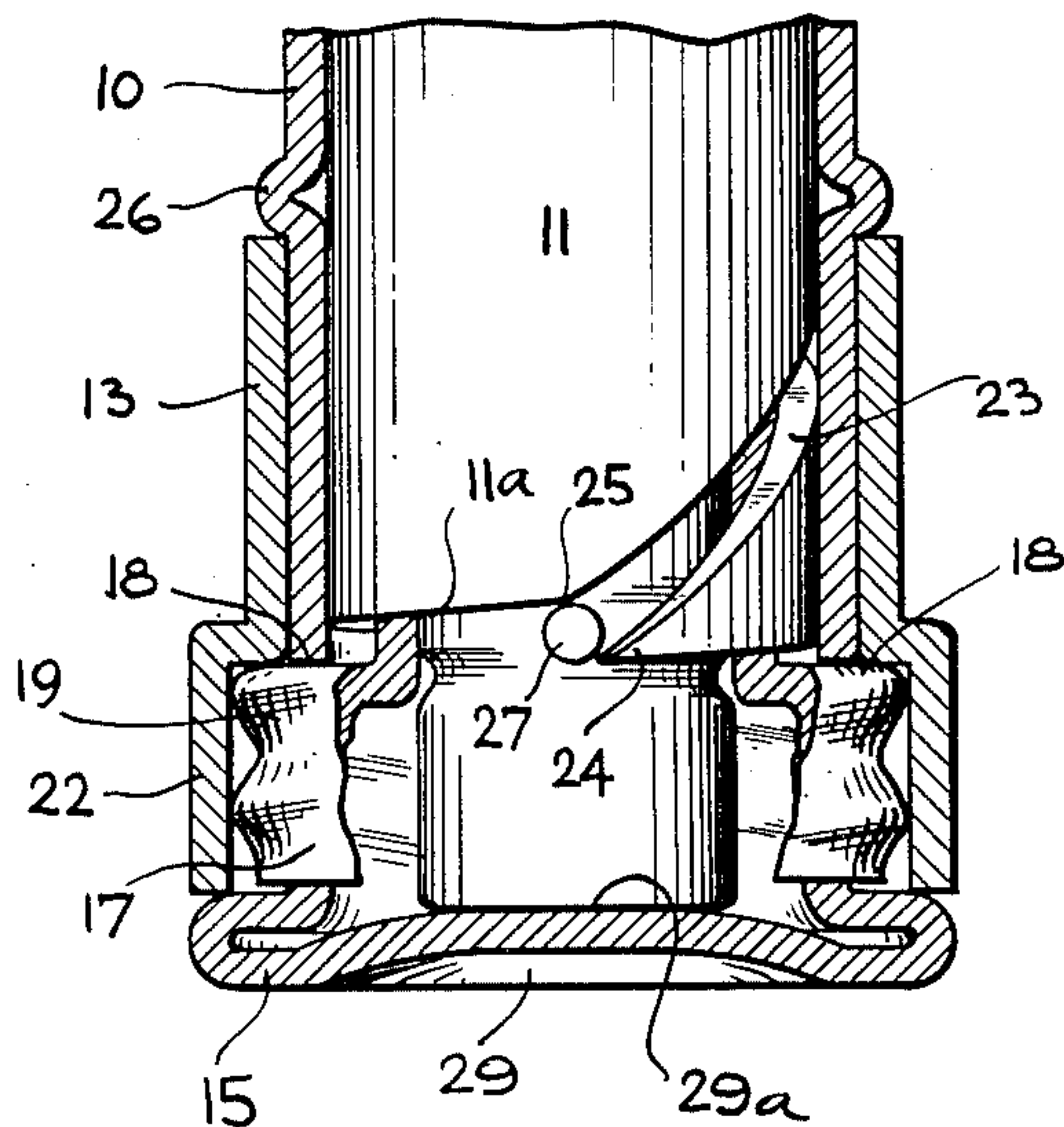


FIG. 3.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

FIG. 4.

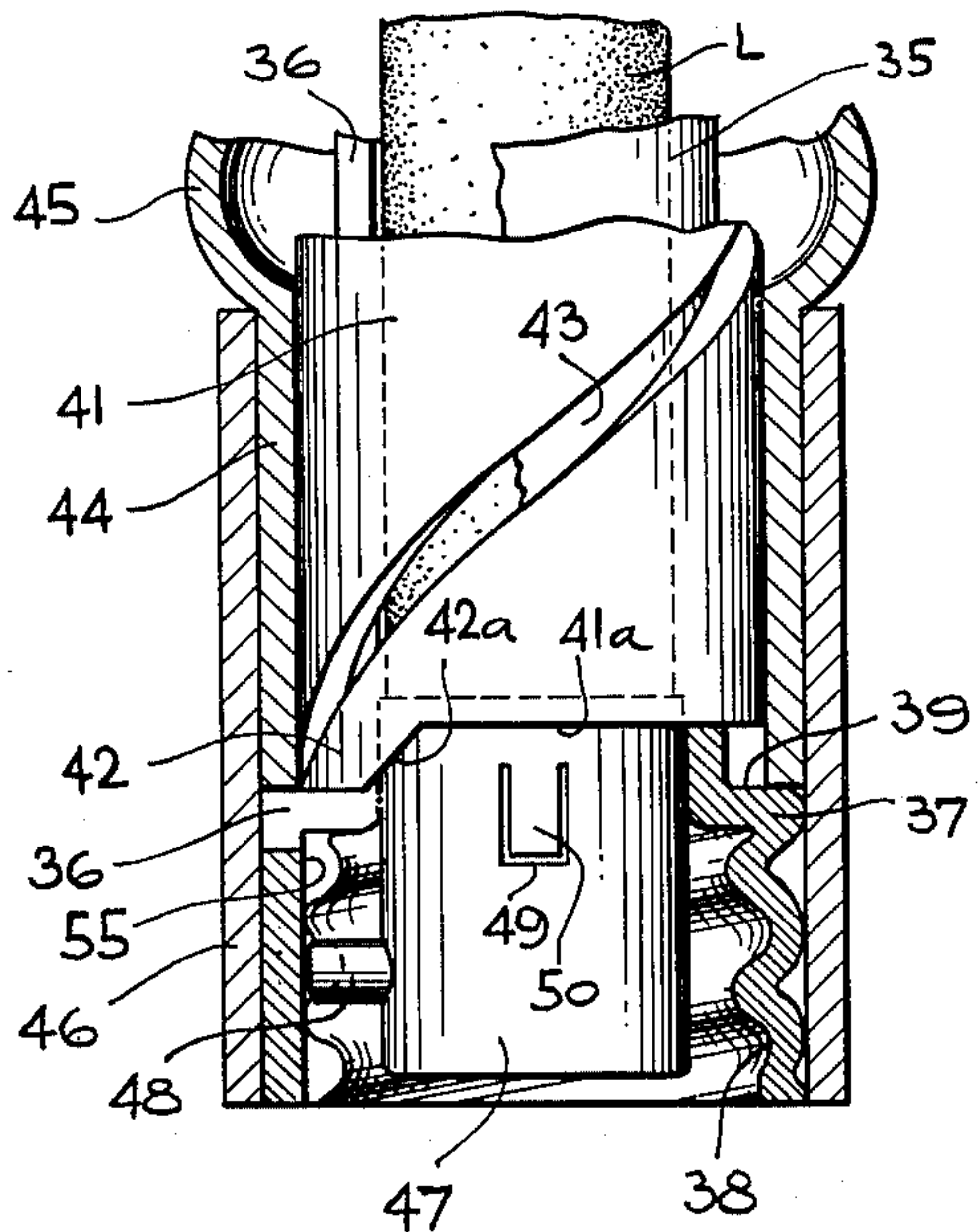


FIG. 5.

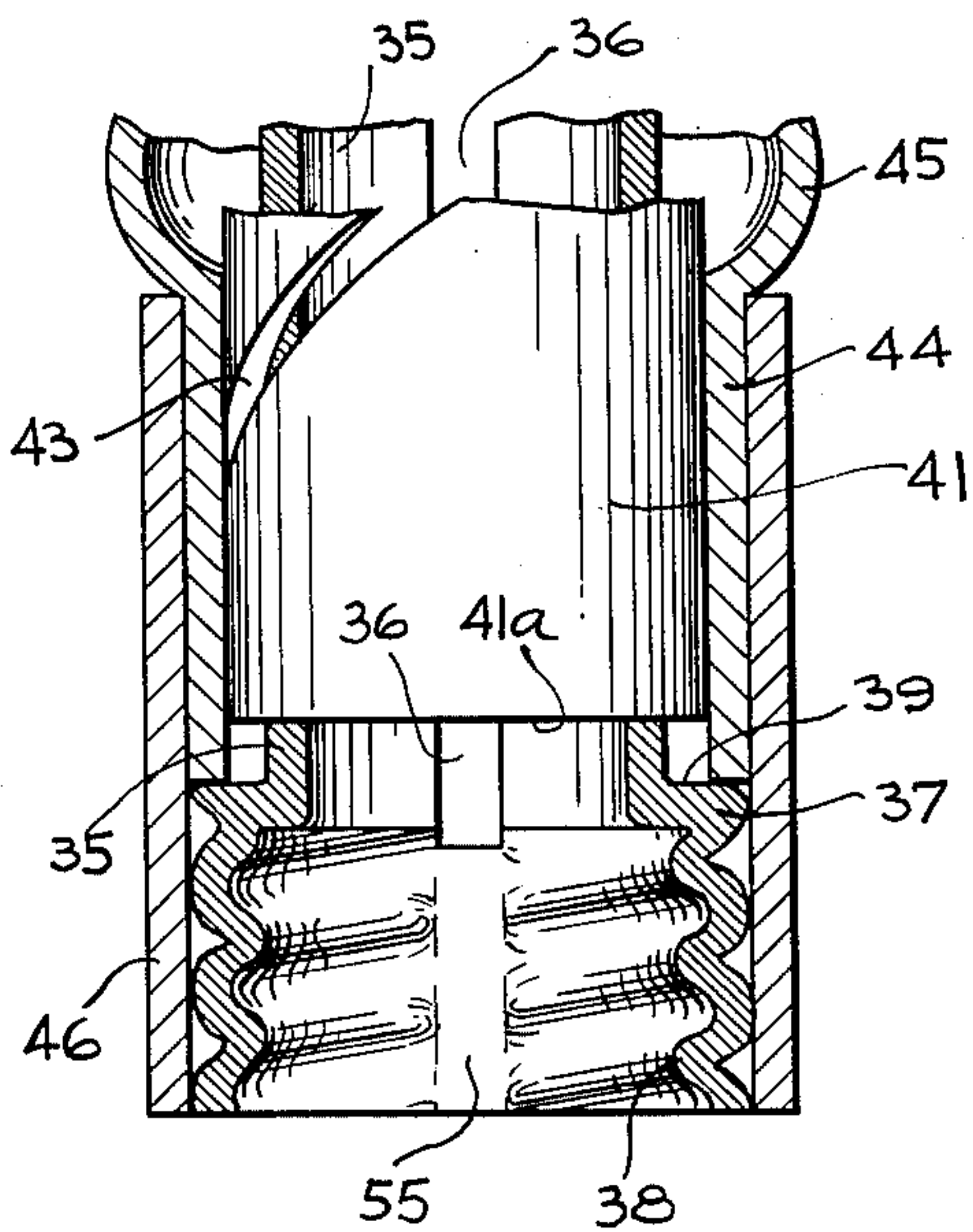


FIG. 6 .

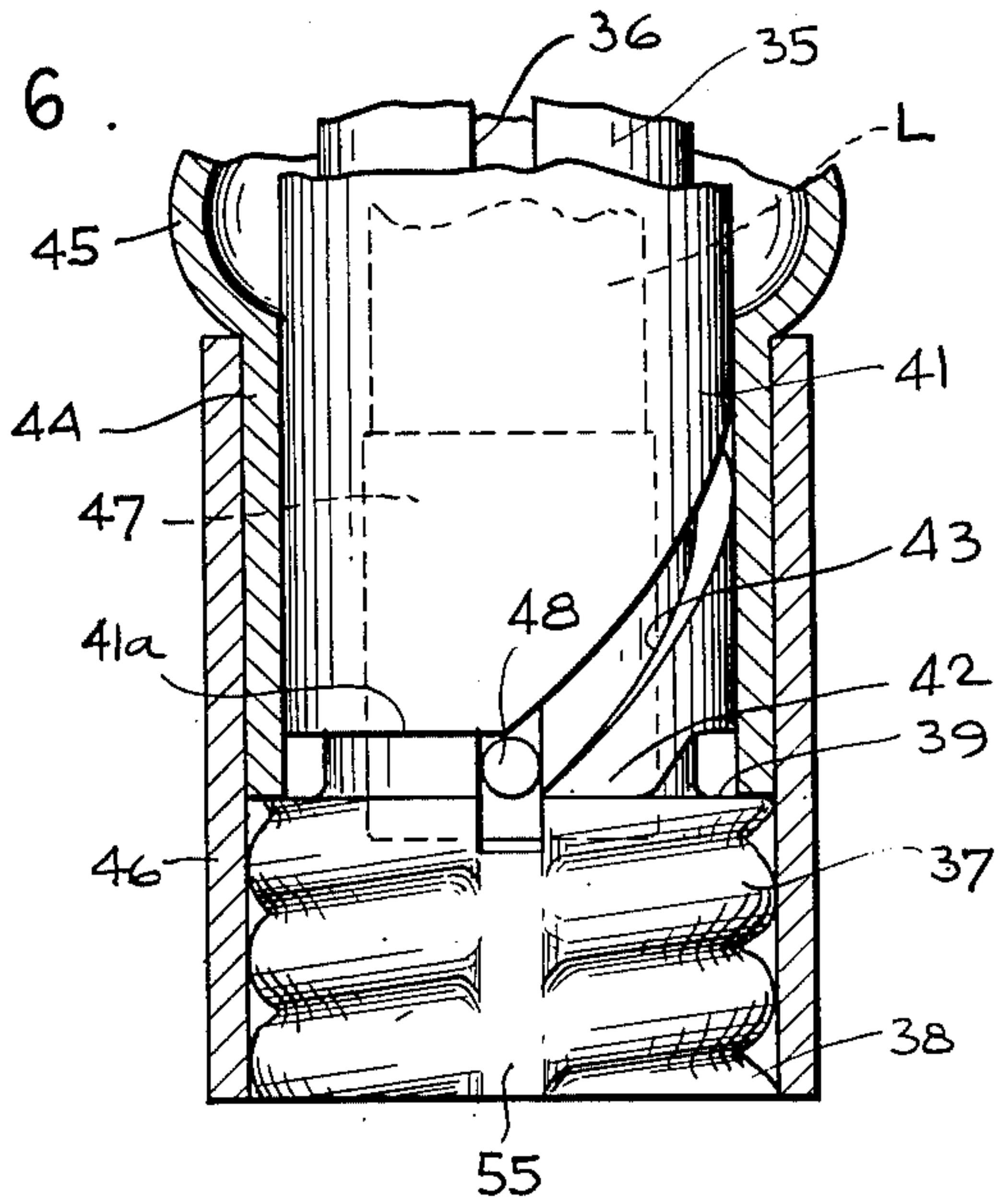
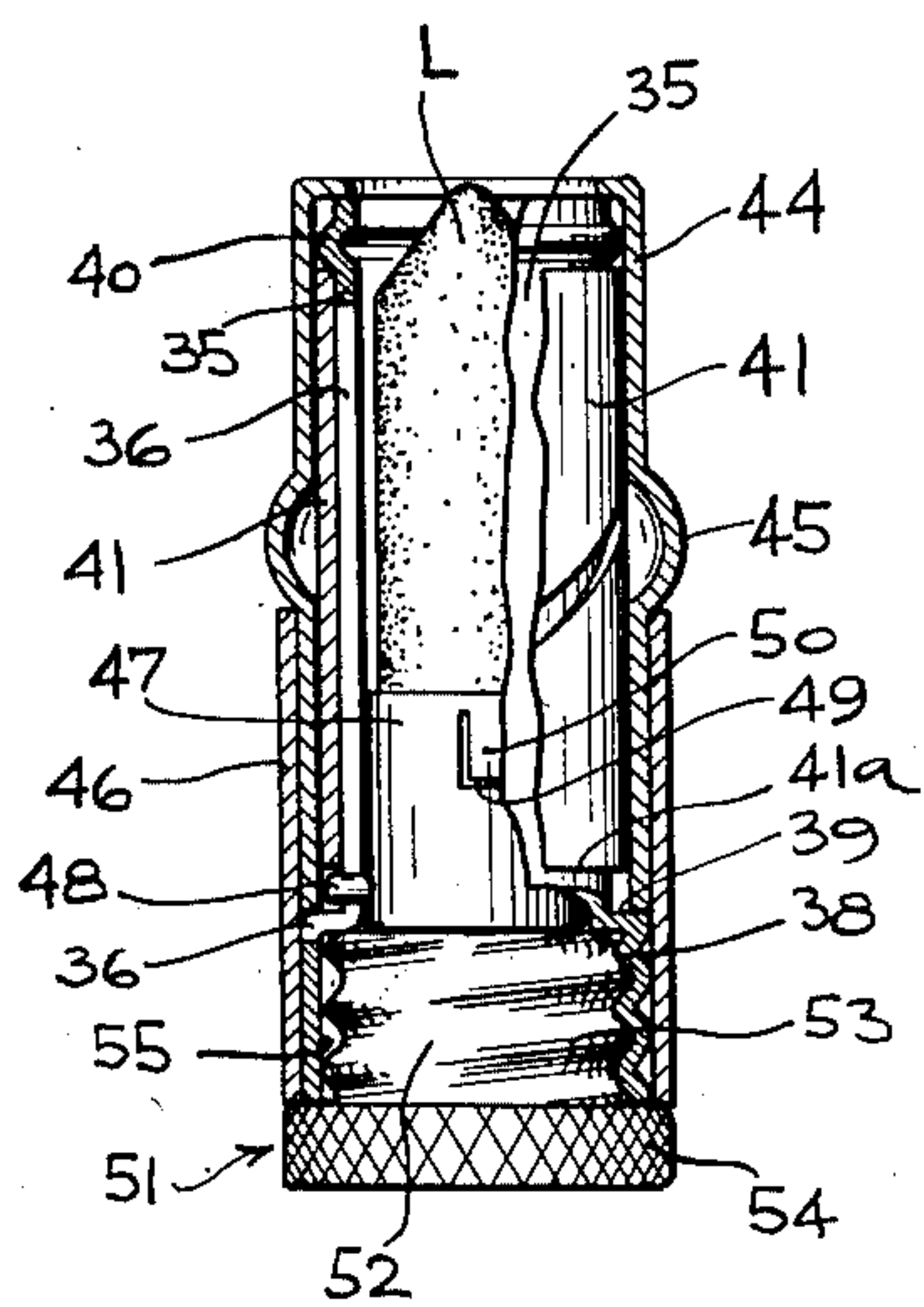


FIG. 7.



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,629,488

## LIPSTICK CASE

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Application November 18, 1949, Serial No. 128,151

3 Claims. (Cl. 206-56)

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My invention relates to improvements in cosmetic containers, and in particular to an improved retractable lipstick case of the swivel type in which the lipstick holder or cup may be removed and replaced.

In my prior U. S. Patent No. 2,355,565 issued August 3, 1944, I have disclosed a lipstick case of the swivel type which was provided with the usual longitudinal and helical slots into which the projecting pin of the lipstick cup extended and was moved longitudinally within the case when one of the slots was rotated relative to the other. Both of the slots were open at their bottom ends so that the lipstick cup could be removed from the lipstick case and a new cup inserted. The lipstick case also had a removable base closure member which could be detached for removal of the lipstick cup.

The aforementioned lipstick case described in said patent was found, however, to be subject to several disadvantages which made the operation thereof cumbersome and difficult. For instance, the construction of the lipstick cup and of the base closure member was such that said cup would drop out of engagement with the aligned open bottom ends of the slots when the cup was brought to its fully retracted position. The cup would then rest upon the bottom wall of the base closure member in a position in which its pin could not re-engage with the bottoms of the slots when it was again desired to advance the lipstick. It was therefore necessary to remove the base closure member and reinsert the pin of the lipstick cup into the bottoms of the aligned slots each time the lipstick cup was to be propelled from its fully retracted position.

In addition, the construction of the casing was such that it was necessary to aline the bottom open ends of the slots before the pin of the lipstick cup could be operatively inserted therein. This was a difficult and inconvenient operation of the user to perform since the relative positions of the ends of the slots were not readily discernible from the bottom of the lipstick casing.

I provide an improved lipstick casing in which the aforementioned difficulties are eliminated.

It is an object of my invention to provide a lipstick container of the character described in which the lipstick cup will remain in operative engagement with the actuating slots, even when the lipstick cup is fully retracted in the casing.

Another object of my invention is the provision of a lipstick container of the character described in which the removable base closure member is firmly locked in position so that it cannot

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be forcibly detached by the lipstick cup when said cup is fully retracted.

Still another object of my invention is the provision of a lipstick container of the type described in which the lipstick cup may be inserted and automatically brought into operative position even when the actuating slots are not initially aligned.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent in the course of the following specification when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a lipstick container made according to my invention, with portions of the parts thereof being shown in section;

Fig. 2 is a partial vertical section of the lower portion of the assembled lipstick container;

Fig. 3 is an elevational view of the lipstick container shown partially broken away and partially in section, with the container turned 90° from the position of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a vertical section through the lower portion of a different type of lipstick case embodying a modification of my invention;

Fig. 5 is a vertical section similar to Fig. 4, but with the lipstick case turned 90° and the lipstick cup removed.

Fig. 6 is a vertical section similar to Fig. 5, but with the lipstick case turned 180° from the position of Fig. 5 and the lipstick cup inserted.

Fig. 7 is a vertical section of the entire lipstick case of Figs. 4-6.

Referring in detail to the drawings and in particular to Figs. 1 through 3, the improved lipstick container generally comprises an outer casing 10, an intermediate sleeve 11, an inner sleeve 12, a lower casing 13, a retractable lipstick holder or cup 14, a base closure member 15, and a cover or closure cap 16. The relative positions of these members are shown in the exploded view of Fig. 1, while Fig. 3 shows the members in their assembled position with the exception of the closure cap 16. The members may be made of metal or any other suitable material used in the construction of lipstick casings. All of the aforementioned parts are preferably cylindrical, although the outer casing and closure cap may be made in any desired geometric shape.

The inner sleeve 12 has a vertical cylindrical wall which terminates in a lower enlarged portion 17 of increased diameter, which enlarged portion 17 forms a shoulder 18 with said vertical wall. The enlarged portion 17 has an internal helical thread 19. Inner sleeve 12 also contains



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a longitudinal slot 20, the upper end of which is spaced from the top of said sleeve 12, and the lower end of which extends through the shoulder 18, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3. Inner sleeve 12 also has a laterally-projecting peripheral rib 21 located above the top of longitudinal slot 20.

Lower casing 13 has a cylindrical wall which also terminates in an integral enlarged bottom portion 22, the inner diameter of said bottom portion conforming in size to the outer diameter of the enlarged lower portion 17 of inner sleeve 12. In assembly the enlarged portion 17 is secured within the enlarged portion 22 as by a force fit, so that the inner sleeve 12 and the lower casing 13 will turn in unison.

The intermediate sleeve 11 is made of a length which is equal or approximately equal to the distance between the peripheral rib 21 and the shoulder 18 of inner sleeve 12. Said intermediate sleeve contains a helical groove 23 which extends from the top of said sleeve 11 to the bottom thereof.

Outer casing 10 has a cylindrical longitudinal wall, the outer surface of which bears a peripheral rib 26 which is spaced from the bottom edge thereof. Outer casing 10 has an inner diameter which is slightly smaller than the normal outer diameter of intermediate sleeve 11. Said sleeve 11 is made of a resilient material which enables said intermediate sleeve 11 to be press-fit within outer casing 10 in its assembled position shown in Fig. 3 in which said intermediate sleeve 11 is tightly and rigidly retained within outer casing 11 and will turn with outer casing 11. It may be said, therefore, that the intermediate sleeve 11 serves to present a helical track on the inner surface of outer casing 10. If the outer casing 10 is made of a plastic or similar composition, the helical track may be moulded directly into the inner wall of said outer casing 10, although in the preferred embodiment in which said casing is made of metal, it is more economical to use the slotted intermediate sleeve 11.

The lipstick cup 14 is of the usual type, having a transverse cross section similar to that of inner sleeve 12, and containing a lipstick L. The cup 14 has a laterally-extending pin or pintle 27 which may extend transversely through the body of said cup as shown in Fig. 3. Lipstick cup 14 optionally has a hole or aperture 30 in the bottom wall thereof through which a stick or other object may be inserted for removal of a depleted lipstick from said cup.

In the assembly of the lipstick container, the inner sleeve 12 and the lower casing 13 are first rigidly secured together at their respective enlarged lower portions 17 and 22, as was previously described. The resilient intermediate sleeve 11 is then slipped over the top of inner sleeve 12 and is pressed downwardly until the bottom edge of said intermediate sleeve is resting upon the shoulder 18 of inner sleeve 12. In this position, the intermediate sleeve 11 fits snugly between the shoulder 18 and the peripheral rib 21 of inner sleeve 12, and is thus restrained from longitudinal movement. The outer casing 10 is then inserted over the intermediate sleeve 11 to its secured position in which its peripheral rib 26 abuts the top edge of lower casing 13 as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The outer casing 10 is turnable relative to lower casing 13.

The lipstick cup 14 is then inserted in its operative position within the lipstick casing in a

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manner which will be presently described. In this operative position, the projecting pin 27 of said lipstick cup extends through the aligned portions of the longitudinal slot 20 and the helical slot 23. The lipstick cup 14 and its contained lipstick L may be raised or lowered in the usual manner by rotating the inner sleeve 12 relative to the intermediate sleeve 11, which movement may be performed by rotating the lower casing 13 relative to the outer casing 10. The position of the lipstick cup 14 within the lipstick case depends upon the point at which the helical slot 23 intersects the longitudinal slot 20. The helical slot 23 extends in such a direction that the lipstick cup 14 is raised or propelled within the casing when the lower casing 13 is turned in a clockwise direction and is lowered or retracted when said lower casing 13 is turned in a counter-clockwise direction.

The base closure member 15 has a vertical wall which is provided with an external helical thread 28, which matches the internal helical thread 19 of inner sleeve 12. Said base closure member 15 may thus be removably but rigidly secured to the bottom of the assembled lipstick case as shown in Fig. 3. The bottom wall of said base closure member 15 has a diameter which conforms in size to the outer diameter of the enlarged bottom portion 22 of lower casing 13. The outer edge of said base closure member 15 therefore, is flush with the outer lower wall of the lipstick case. In order to attach and detach the base closure member 15, the bottom wall of said closure member is provided with a transverse groove 29 into which a coin, key, or similar article may be inserted for turning said base closure member 15. This slot 29 forms a protruding rib 29a on the inner surface of said bottom wall. The lipstick cup 14 rests upon this protruding rib 29a when said cup is brought to its fully retracted position shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

When lipstick L contained in the lipstick cup 14 becomes depleted or damaged, or when it is desired to change the lipstick for one of a different shade, the lipstick cup 14 and its contained lipstick L may be entirely removed from the lipstick case. This operation is accomplished by bringing the lipstick cup 14 to the fully retracted position shown in Figs. 2 and 3, in which the bottom ends of the slots 20 and 23 are in alinement. The base closure member 15 may then be removed, and the pin 27 of lipstick cup 14 will disengage from the aligned bottoms of the slots, so that the cup 14 will drop out of the casing.

In order to reinsert the lipstick cup 14 to its operative position within the lipstick case, it is only necessary to insert the pin 27 into the bottom open end of the longitudinal slot 20 of inner sleeve 12, attach the base closure member 15 to its fully secured position, and turn the lower casing 13 in a clockwise direction. The pin 27 will enter the bottom of the helical slot 23 even if the bottom of said helical slot 23 is not initially aligned with the bottom of longitudinal slot 20. For this purpose the bottom edge 11a of intermediate sleeve 11 is inclined uniformly in the same direction as the curvature of the helical slot 23, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Thus, the highest point on the bottom edge 11a is located adjacent the top edge of the end of helical slot 23 as indicated by reference numeral 25 in Fig. 2, while the lowest point on said bottom wall 11a is located adjacent the bottom edge of said helical slot 23, as indicated by reference numeral 24.



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The construction of the lipstick case is such that when the pin 27 is inserted in the longitudinal slot 20, and the base closure member 15 is screwed into position, the pin will be held against the highest point 25 of the bottom wall 11a of the resilient intermediate sleeve 11 under a slight pressure. Should any other portion of the bottom wall 11a be in registry with the longitudinal slot 20 at the time, the pin 27 will exert a proportionately increased pressure upon said portion. When the lower casing 13 is turned in a clockwise direction, the pin 27 will slide along the bottom wall 11a of the intermediate sleeve 11 until it reaches the position shown in Fig. 2 at which said pin automatically enters the helical slot 23. In this connection, it should be noted that the vertical distance between the lowermost point 24 and the uppermost point 25 of bottom edge 11a is at least as large as the width of the slot 23.

The insertion of the lipstick cup 14 to its operative position within the lipstick case is therefore a simple and easy operation and merely involves the dropping of the projecting pin 27 into the bottom of the longitudinal slot 20, replacing the base closure member 15 to its fully inserted position, and the turning of the lower casing 13 clockwise relative to the outer casing 10.

The pin 27 is located well above the bottom edge of lipstick cup 14, so that when the lipstick cup is dropped into the open bottom end of the lipstick case, the bottom end of the lipstick cup may be grasped and turned until the pin 27 enters the open end of longitudinal slot 20.

The position of the pin 27 is also critical in the efficient operation of the lipstick case. It will be noted that in the fully retracted position of the lipstick cup 27, the bottom wall of said cup 27 is seated upon the ridge 29a formed by the transverse groove 29 of base closure member 15. The distance of the pin 27 above the bottom wall of cup 27, in relation to the height of the ridge 29a must be such that the pin 27 is always held against the bottom edge 11a of intermediate sleeve 11. Thus, when the base closure member 15 is inserted and the lower casing 13 turned in a clockwise direction, the entry of the pin 27 into the bottom of helical groove 23 is insured. If the transverse groove 29 and its corresponding ridge 29a is eliminated, the pin 27 must be raised a greater distance above the bottom of the cup 14, or else the length of the cup 14 must be increased proportionately.

As an alternative method of inserting the lipstick cup 14, the lipstick casing may be inverted and the pin 27 dropped into the open end of longitudinal slot 20. Before inserting the base closure member 15, the lower casing 13 is turned in a clockwise direction. The weight of the cup 14 and its contained lipstick L in the inverted lipstick case will cause the pin 27 to ride along the bottom edge 11a of intermediate sleeve 11 and to enter the helical groove 23. The base closure member 15 may then be attached.

When, during ordinary use of the lipstick case, it is desired to bring the lipstick cup 14 to its fully retracted position without removing said lipstick cup, the base closure member 15 is, of course, not removed. The bottom wall of the cup 14 will come to rest upon the rib 29a and the pin 27 will remain within the longitudinal slot 20 of inner casing 12. Fig. 2 shows the position of pin 27 relative to the helical slot 23 of intermediate casing 11. If the lower casing 13 is turned further in a counter-clockwise direction, the pin 27

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will leave the helical slot 23 and ride in a counter-clockwise direction along the bottom edge 11a of intermediate sleeve 11. When it is again desired to advance the lipstick cup 14, the lower casing 13 is turned clockwise, and the pin 14 will automatically re-enter the helical slot 23 in the manner previously described. The lipstick cup 14 is therefore always held in a position in which it may be operatively actuated. This is a decided improvement over the lipstick case disclosed in my aforementioned U. S. Patent No. 2,355,565 in which the lipstick cup would drop out of operative contact with the longitudinal slot as well as the helical slot, each time said cup was brought to its fully retracted position.

The assembly of the lipstick case is completed by the cover or closure cap 16 which has an inner diameter sized to fit frictionally around the upper vertical wall of lower casing 13.

Figs. 4-7 show a modification of my invention as applied to a swivel-type lipstick of a different design. As shown in Fig. 7, the lipstick case has an inner sleeve 35 which is similar to the inner sleeve 12 of the previously described embodiment, having a longitudinal slot 36 which terminates in an enlarged lower portion 37 which lower portion has an internal thread 38. The enlarged lower portion 37 forms a shoulder 39 with the upper wall of inner sleeve 35. The inner sleeve 35 also has a peripheral rib 40 adjacent its top edge.

The resilient intermediate sleeve 41 is rotatably mounted about the inner sleeve 35, between the shoulder 39 and the peripheral rib 40. Said intermediate sleeve 41 has a bottom wall 41a which has a depending or lowermost segment 42. The remainder of the wall is planar and corresponds to the uppermost portion 25 of the previously described intermediate sleeve 11. The depending segment 42 is located adjacent the lower edge of the bottom of a helical slot 43 which extends from the top to the bottom of intermediate sleeve 41. An inclined surface 42a is formed at the junction point of the depending segment 42 with the planar upper portion of bottom wall 41a, as is clearly shown in Fig. 4. The height of the lower segment 42 is at least as great as the width of the helical slot 43.

The outer casing 44 has an enlarged protruding peripheral rib 45 approximately at its center. The intermediate sleeve 41 is frictionally fit within said outer casing 44 so that said intermediate sleeve will turn when said outer casing is turned.

Lower casing 46 is cylindrical and has a uniform diameter throughout its length, there being no lower enlarged portion as in the previously-described lower casing 13. The lower casing 46 is press fit about the enlarged lower portion 37 of inner sleeve 35, with its top edge abutting the peripheral rib 45 of outer casing 44. The inner sleeve 35 is thus adapted to turn in unison with lower casing 46.

The lipstick cup 47 has a shorter length relative to the lipstick casing than the cup 14 of the previous embodiment. The projecting pin 48 is also located lower in the cup 47, it being adjacent the bottom edge thereof. In order to grip the contained lipstick L, the cylindrical wall of lipstick cup 47 has a U-shaped slit 49 which defines a cut-out section 50. This cut-out section 50 may be pressed inwardly until it bites into the body of the lipstick L.

The base closure member 51 has a high solid insert portion 52 which is provided with an external thread 53 which matches the internal thread 38 of the enlarged lower portion 37 of



inner sleeve 35. This insert portion 52 is preferably integral with an enlarged headpiece 54 which is located outside the lipstick case and has a diameter equal to or greater than the outer diameter of lower casing 46. The outer periphery of the enlarged headpiece 54 is knurled or bevelled, as shown in Fig. 7, to provide a finger grip for screwing the base closure member 51 to its inserted position.

The pin 48 of the lipstick cup 47 normally extends through aligned portions of the longitudinal slot 36 and helical slot 43 so that when the lower casing 46 is turned clockwise relative to the outer casing 44, the lipstick cup 47 will be propelled or advanced. When the lower casing 46 is turned in a counter-clockwise direction, the lipstick cup 47 may be brought to its fully retracted position shown in Fig. 7. In this fully retracted position the lipstick cup 47 rests upon the upper surface of the inserted base closure member 51 with the pin 48 remaining in the longitudinal slot 36 of inner sleeve 35. If the base closure member 51 is not detached and the lower casing 46 is continued to be turned in a counter-clockwise direction, the pin will leave the helical slot 43 and ride along the bottom wall 41a, down the inclined surface 42a and over the depending segment 42.

The lipstick cup 47 may be removed from the lipstick case in the same manner as with the embodiment of Figs. 1-3, namely by bringing said lipstick cup to its fully retracted position and removing the base closure member 51.

Since the pin 48 of lipstick cup 47 is located proximate to the bottom wall of said lipstick cup 47, the insert portion 52 of base closure member 51 must be made of sufficient height to engage the bottom wall of said lipstick cup in its fully retracted position and maintain pin 48 in slidable abutment with the bottom edge 41a of intermediate sleeve 41. If the cup 47 is constructed with the pin 48 located a greater distance from the bottom wall thereof, it is obvious that the height of the base closure member may be proportionately decreased.

Since the pin 48 in the fully retracted position of the lipstick cup 47 is always held in abutment with said bottom edge 41a of intermediate sleeve, it is apparent that said pin will always enter into operative engagement with the bottom end of helical slot 43 when the lower casing 46 is turned in a clockwise direction. This is true even though the helical slot 43 may not be initially aligned with the longitudinal slot 36. In order to insert the lipstick cup 47, therefore, it is merely necessary to drop the pin 48 in the open bottom end of longitudinal slot 36.

In order to insure that the pin 48 enters the longitudinal slot 36 when the lipstick cup 47 is inserted in the open bottom end of the lipstick case, the internal thread 38 of the enlarged bottom portion 37 of inner sleeve 35 is flattened immediately below the longitudinal slot 36. This flattened portion defines a longitudinal groove 55 extending through said internal thread 38. This longitudinal groove 55 communicates with the longitudinal slot 36 and is, in effect, a continuation of said longitudinal slot 36. One end of said groove 55 is aligned with and accessible from the open end of the lipstick case. The internal diameter of the internal threaded portion 38 has a sufficiently small inner diameter to prevent the lipstick cup 47 from being inserted therethrough unless the pin 48 is aligned with the longitudinal groove 55. To insert the cup 47 through the open

end of the lipstick case it is therefore necessary to place the pin in the open end of longitudinal groove 55. The pin will then slide through said groove 55 and enter the longitudinal slot 36. Fig. 4 shows the pin 47 in the course of its travel through longitudinal groove 55, while Fig. 6 shows the pin after it has left said groove 55 and entered the slot 36.

By providing a screw-type base closure member in the lipstick casings, I have eliminated the possibility of said closure member being forcibly detached when the cup is brought to its fully retracted position. It is to be understood, however, that any of the well known and equivalent means of attachment may be substituted for the threaded means of attachment, as, for example, a bayonet slot and pin, or the like.

Alternatively, the base closure member may be frictionally fitted within the open end of the lipstick case. If this construction is applied to the type of container shown in Figs. 1-3, it is apparent that the transverse slot 29 may be eliminated. If this is done, the cup may be made longer, and will protrude beyond the open end of the lipstick case in a position in which it may be more easily grasped for guiding the pin into the longitudinal slot. The cylindrical wall of base closure member may also be provided with vertical slits in the well-known manner to provide several resilient wall sections which hold the closure member in secured position under tension.

While preferred embodiments of the invention have been shown and described herein, it is obvious that numerous changes, omissions, and additions may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit and scope thereof. For instance, the modifications of structure in the embodiments shown may be freely interchanged. In the claims, the lipstick case, for convenience, is described as being held in a vertical upright position, it being understood that the case may be held in any position in use.

I claim:

1. A swivel-type lipstick case comprising an outer casing, an intermediate casing fixed within said outer casing and turnable therewith, an inner casing turnably mounted within said intermediate casing, a lipstick holder, and a removable closure member secured to the bottom end of said lipstick case, said intermediate casing having a helical slot formed therein, which has an open bottom end extending through the bottom edge of said intermediate sleeve, said inner casing having a longitudinal slot formed therein which has an open bottom end, said lipstick holder having a laterally projecting pin sized to fit within said helical and longitudinal slots to advance and retract said lipstick holder within said inner casing when said inner casing is turned in respective opposite directions relative to said intermediate casing, said lipstick holder being movable to a fully retracted position in which said pin is located in the registering bottom open ends of the longitudinal slot and helical slot for removal of said lipstick holder when the closure member is removed, said closure member in its secured position abutting the bottom surface of the lipstick holder and acting as stop means to prevent said lipstick holder pin from falling below the bottom open end of said longitudinal slot when the lipstick holder is in its fully retracted position, the bottom edge of said intermediate sleeve having an inclined cam surface adjacent the bottom open end of said helical slot positioned to engage and guide said pin into said helical slot when the



bottom end of the helical slot is out of registry with the bottom end of said longitudinal slot, the pin is placed in the bottom open end of the longitudinal slot, and the intermediate sleeve is turned in a direction to advance the lipstick holder.

2. A swivel-type lipstick case comprising an outer casing, a resilient intermediate casing fixed within said outer casing and turnable therewith, an inner casing turnably mounted within said intermediate casing, a lipstick holder, and a removable closure member secured to the bottom end of said lipstick case, said intermediate casing having a helical slot formed therein, said slot having a bottom open end, said inner casing having a longitudinal slot formed therein which has a bottom open end, said lipstick holder having a laterally-projecting pin which operatively and slidably engages registering portions of the helical and longitudinal slots, said lipstick holder being thus adapted to be moved longitudinally within said lipstick case when the inner casing is turned relative to the intermediate casing, and to be repelled to its fully retracted position in which said pin is located at the bottom of said longitudinal slot, said closure member acting as a stop means to retard the downward movement of said lipstick holder and to prevent said pin from moving out of contact with the bottom open end of said longitudinal slot when the lipstick holder is brought to its fully retracted position, said intermediate sleeve having a bottom edge which has an inclined surface leading to the upper edge of the bottom end of said helical slot, the vertical distance between said inclined surface and lower-most portion of the helical slot being greater than the diameter of said pin, said pin being located a sufficient distance above the bottom of said lipstick holder to enable said closure member to maintain the fully retracted lipstick holder with its pin abutting the bottom edge of the intermediate sleeve and in position to operatively engage with the helical slot.

3. In a swivel type lipstick case, an outer casing, a sleeve fitted on the lower end of said outer casing and projecting downwardly therefrom, the

internal diameter of said downwardly projecting part being greater than the external diameter of said outer casing, an intermediate casing fixed within said outer casing and provided with a spiral slot extending from the top to bottom of said intermediate casing and open at each end, an inner casing having a longitudinal rectilinear slot therethrough, said inner casing having an enlarged and screw-threaded end revolubly fitting in the downwardly projecting end of said sleeve, a closure having threaded engagement with the enlarged end of the inner casing and a closed end engaging against the lower end of said sleeve, and a lipstick cup normally resting on the bottom of said closure and provided with a radial pin extending through the rectilinear slot into said spiral slot, the top of the enlarged end of the inner casing having an abrupt upwardly facing shoulder whereon the intermediate casing rests, the bottom edge of the intermediate casing forming a sharp cusp in connection with one side of said spiral slot at its lowermost point and rising gradually through a helix of substantially 360° to meet the opposite side of said spiral slot.

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