(No Model.)

G. H. COURSEN.

OIL CAN.

No. 386,576. Patented July 24, 1888.

Fig. 1.

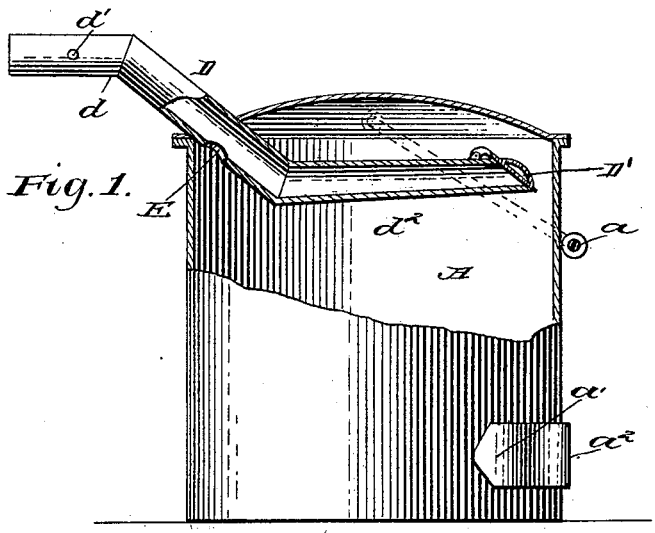


Fig. 2.

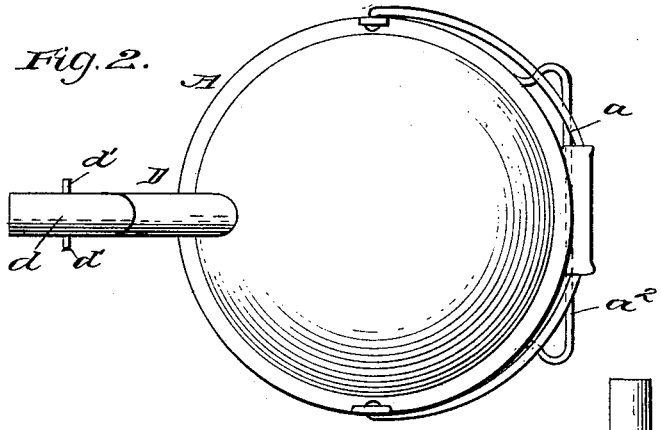
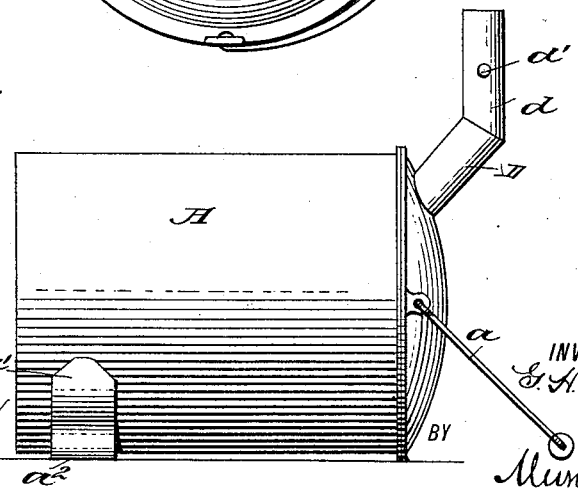


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

N. R. Davis.

C. Seagwick

INVENTOR.

G. H. Coursen.

BY

Munn & Co.

ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE HAMPTON COURSEN, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

OIL-CAN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 386,576, dated July 24, 1888.

Application filed May 31, 1888. Serial No. 275,599. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE HAMPTON COURSEN, of Baltimore, State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Oil-Cans, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in oil-cans, and has for its object to provide a can from which the oil will automatically stop flowing when the receptacle being supplied from said can is practically filled, and the further object of the invention is to provide a can of simple construction, which may be readily supplied with oil through the outlet-nozzle.

The invention consists in the construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the improved can, partly broken away and in section. Fig. 2 is a plan view, and Fig. 3 is a side elevation, of the said can when in position for filling.

In filling vessels with oil—metal lamps in particular—difficulty is experienced in avoiding an overflow, as the rise of the oil in the lamp cannot well be seen.

The object of the present invention is to dispense with such annoyance, and provide a can which will cease pouring when the oil in the lamp has reached to within about an inch from the top, and wherein, no matter what length of time the spout of the can is retained in the lamp after the oil has reached the above height, no more will flow from it.

A further object of the invention is to provide a can which will whistle while pouring, and wherein the cessation of the whistling will give notice that the lamp is filled.

In carrying out the invention the can or receptacle A may be of any ordinary construction; but preferably consists of a body having an hermetically-sealed top and bottom, the body being provided with a bail, *a*, and a strap, *a'*, attached to the rear at or near the base.

The strap *a'*, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, is constructed of a flat strip of metal, attached at its ends to the body and bent to form the flat horizontal surface a^2, the center of which surface practically engages the outer circumference of the can. The strap *a'* performs a dual function, serving, first, as a hand-hold, and, second, as a rest or support, to retain the can in a horizontal position upon its back, as best shown in Fig. 3. The sides and top of the can may be united in any manner known to the trade, or be made of one piece, if desired.

In the top of the can a spout or tube, D, is inserted, preferably made of sheet metal and about half an inch in diameter. This tube may be bent in angles, as illustrated, or it may be bent in curves, and the outer portion made in more or less ornamental form, if so desired; but the axis will remain practically the same, as shown in Fig. 1.

The tube D, as aforesaid, pierces the top of the can in the front near one edge, and the outer section, *d*, rising above the top in similar manner to the ordinary spout, is provided at a given distance from the extremity with aligning lugs or pins *d'*.

The section d^2 within the can extends downward at an angle from the top, and in an approximately-horizontal position beneath the same, nearly to the opposite side, as best shown in Fig. 1.

It is the intention to retain the inner extremity of the tube D as much as possible in the air-space or empty portion of the can. Thus should another shaped can be employed the direction of the tube may be altered.

The inner extremity of the tube D is cut obliquely, and a whistle, D', is hinged to the upper surface to normally rest against said extremity. The whistle D' may be constructed in any approved manner; but the character of whistle usually employed in the ordinary speaking-tube is preferred.

An aperture, E, is produced in the inner section of the tube, at or near the top of the can, the area of which is about one-third that of the tube.

To fill the can, it is placed upon its back, as shown in Fig. 3, and the oil poured down the spout. The whistle in this position will swing back and permit the oil to flow freely through the tube. One advantage of filling the can in

this manner consists in the fact that a separate inlet-opening which might admit air is dispensed with.

In use the spout of the can is inserted in the opening of the lamp until the stops or pins rest upon the rim. Upon tilting the can the oil will flow through the aperture E into the tube D, and, not being sufficient in volume to fill the latter, enough space will be left in the tube to permit air to pass back into the can, which, passing through the whistle, will produce a sound.

When the oil in the lamp has risen to the end of the spout and closed it, the air-supply is cut off, the oil will cease to flow, and the whistling will be discontinued, thereby apprising the operator that the lamp is full.

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

1. In an oil-can or similar vessel, the combination, with the body of the vessel, of an outlet-tube attached thereto extending within the vessel and provided with an inlet-aperture, and an alarm secured to the inner end of said tube, substantially as shown and described.

2. In an oil-can or similar vessel, the combination, with the body, of an outlet-tube attached thereto extending within the said vessel, provided with an aperture in one side smaller than the cross-section of the tube, and a whistle hinged to the inner extremity of the tube, substantially as shown and described.

3. A spout for oil cans or similar vessels, bent essentially as shown and described, provided with an aperture in one side smaller than the cross-section of the tube, and a whistle attached to its inner extremity, substantially as shown and described.

GEORGE HAMPTON COURSEN.

Witnesses:

C. R. GALLAGHER,

ADAM NEUS, Jr.