W. SELLERS.
Salt-Cellar.

No. 212,518. Patented Feb. 18, 1879.

Fig. 1.

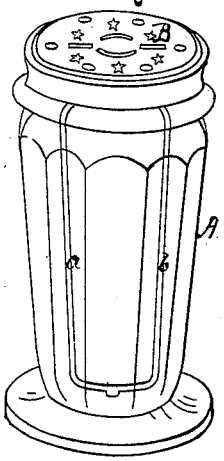


Fig. 2.

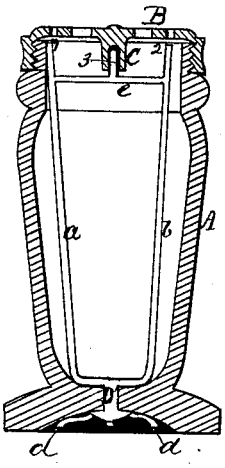
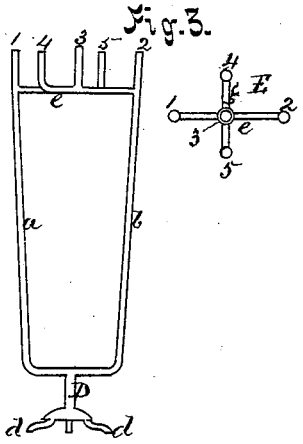


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
W. Brock.
T. F. Lally

Inventor:
William Sellers
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Atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM SELLERS, OF HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN SALT-CELLARS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **212,518**, dated February 18, 1879; application filed November 18, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM SELLERS, of Haverhill, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Table-Salt Bottles, of which the following is a specification:

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and effective means for separating the particles of salt in a salt bottle or box, and also for insuring a free discharge of the salt through the perforated cap or top of the bottle.

The invention consists in the employment of a frame composed of two upright side bars extending from the bottom to the top of a bottle or box in which the salt or other substance is to be placed, and surmounted by a series of points or prongs so arranged that when the said frame is rotated the ends of the prongs will pass over the holes in the cover or top of the bottle, when it is upside down, in such a manner as to clear the holes of the overlying salt, and thus permit the loosened particles of salt to drop out, as they will do, without the necessity of shaking the bottle. The spindle of the frame passes through a hole in the bottom of the bottle, so as to admit of the frame being rotated, and is supported at the top by a socketed projection on the under side of the cover of the bottle.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a bottle containing my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same. Fig. 3 represents the device for loosening the particles of salt and clearing the holes in the top or cover of the bottle.

A represents a bottle for containing the salt or other substance to be discharged from the same. This bottle or receptacle may be of any desired size, shape, or material.

B is a perforated cap or cover, securely fitted to the top of the receptacle A. Within the receptacle A is placed an agitator or frame consisting of two upright bars or rods, *a b*, connected near their upper ends by a cross-bar, *e*, at right angles with which is another cross-bar, *f*. From the intersection of the bars *e* and *f* projects upward a pin, 3, constituting a spindle for the frame or agitator *a b*, and is fitted to turn freely in a socket formed in a projection, C, extending downward from the under side of the center of the perforated cover B, as shown.

Extending upward from the ends of the cross-bars *e* and *f* are the projections or prongs 1 2 4 5, acting as clearers, and arranged at different distances from the center, as shown in Fig. 3, the upper ends of the said prongs coming in contact, or nearly so, with the under surface of the perforated cover B, so that as the frame *a b*, with the prongs, is rotated, the ends of the prongs will pass over the several series of holes in the cover and remove or clear from the same the overlying salt or other substance in the receptacle. It is to be understood that the receptacle A is to be held bottom upward when the prongs are rotated, and the result will be that the loosened salt will drop out of the holes as soon as the ends of the prongs have passed over the same without shaking the bottle.

The lower portion of the frame *a b* is supported on the bottom of the bottle A, and from its center projects downward through a hole in the bottom of the bottle a stem or spindle, D, which fits in the said hole snugly, but so as to turn freely, and is provided at its lower end with a device by which frame and prongs can be readily turned or rotated. This device consists of projections *d d*, of which there may be two or more, attached to the base of the spindle D, and arranged within the concave space in the base of the bottle, as shown in Fig. 2.

The surface of the perforated cap B is preferably made flat; but it may be of convex form if desired, the prongs being correspondingly adapted in length.

The frame *a b* and the prongs may be made of metal or any other material of sufficient rigidity to answer the purpose for which they are intended. The bars *a b*, when rotated, serve to loosen the particles of salt and prepare it for ejection from the receptacle A.

When in use the receptacle A is turned upside down, and if the salt fails to drop out freely by shaking, the frame may be readily turned by simply applying the finger to the points *d* while the receptacle A is held in the hand, thus requiring only one hand to manipulate it. As the prongs pass the holes the salt will drop out freely without shaking the bottle.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The combination, with the perforated cover B, of a series of prongs or clearers attached to a spindle having its bearing in a socketed projection on the under side of the cover, all constructed and arranged to operate substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. A series of prongs or clearers arranged to operate with a perforated cover, as described, in combination with a frame or agitator having a spindle passing through the bottom of the receptacle, and provided with a device for actuating the frame, as set forth.

3. The frame or agitator *a b*, provided with the spindle 3, fitted in the socketed projection C on the under side of the perforated cover B, and the spindle D, passing through the bottom of the receptacle A, as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM SELLERS.

Witnesses:

J. H. ADAMS,

T. F. LALLY.