

J. M. Earle,

Canister.

No. 110,125.

Patented Dec. 13. 1870.

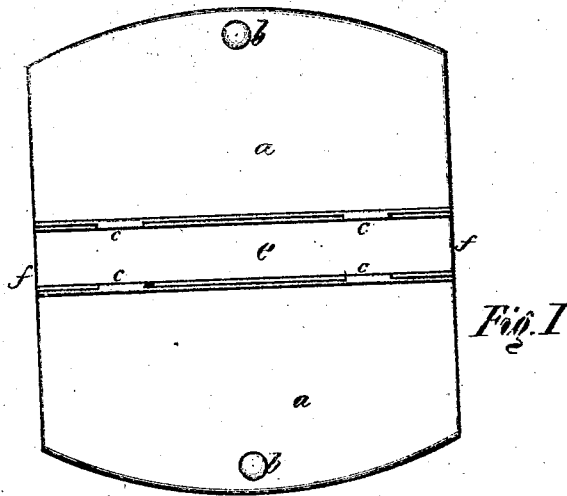


Fig. 1

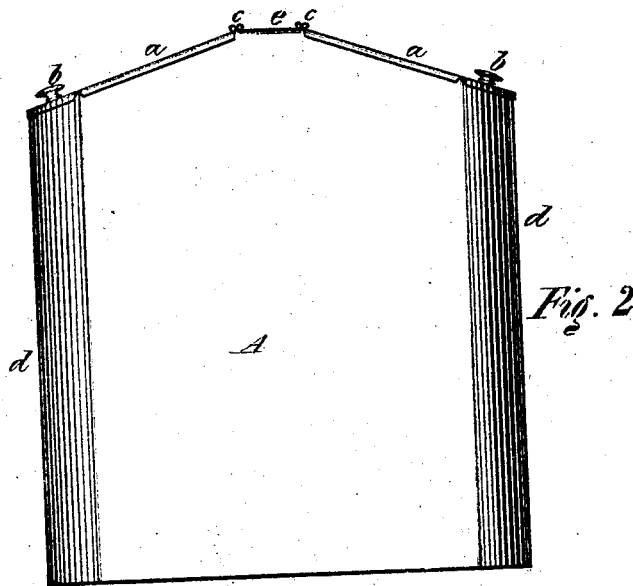


Fig. 2

Witnesses. J. A. Curtis James M. Earle Inventor.
W. A. Fallis

United States Patent Office.

JAMES M. EARLE, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 110,125, dated December 13, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN COFFEE, TEA, AND SPICE-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, JAMES M. EARLE, of Springfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improved Coffee and Spice-Can; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my invention, and Figure 2 is a side view of the same.

My invention relates to the construction of a can to contain coffee, tea, or spices, to be used by grocers in displaying such goods to customers. The cans now in use for that purpose are made with a single hinged cover upon the top, and near the side, and several such cans are usually set upon the counter, at the front side, so that it will be convenient for customers to open the cans from the front of the counter.

When the dealer desires to weigh out goods from such cans he is obliged either to walk around to the front side of the counter, or to take the can out of its place, weigh out the goods, and then replace it.

My invention is designed to obviate all this inconvenience and trouble.

That others skilled in the art may be able to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the same.

In the drawing—

A represents the body of the can, two sides of which, *ff*, fig. 1, are made flat, and the other two sides, *dd*, may be made either flat or curved, as desirable. I prefer to make them curved, as shown in the drawing.

The top has a straight flat piece, *e*, extending entirely across from side to side, and attached thereto by soldering or otherwise; and the top inclines downward each way from the piece *e*; and hinged to this piece *e*, at *c*, are the two covers *aa*, so the can may be opened from either side by lifting one of the covers *a*.

It is designed that the can shall be lettered upon both the sides *dd*, designating the name of the article it contains, whether coffee, tea, spice, or other article, and any number of the cans may be placed upon the counter in a position with one of the curved sides *d* toward the front, and the opposite curved side *d* toward the back of the counter.

It is customary to place cans containing coffees, teas, &c., close together in a row upon store-counters, and, when they are constructed as described, the customer may, from the front of the counter, examine the different goods in the cans by raising the front lid *a*, knowing the kind or name of the article by the label upon the front. The shopkeeper can then easily weigh out the article, lifting the opposite lid *a* at the back side to take it out of the can.

By this construction much time is saved in waiting upon customers, and also much of the labor; and, if the different articles displayed in the cans are kept in bulk behind the counter, as is most commonly the case, it is much easier to refill the empty cans through the back lid, and directly from the back side of the counter, instead of taking down or turning around the can having a single lid.

I do not claim a can having a single lid, as I am aware that they have long been in use; but I am not aware that a can made as described has ever been made or used before my invention thereof.

Having, therefore, described my invention,

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

As a new article of manufacture, a coffee or spice-can having the two lids *aa* hinged to the piece *e*, all constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purpose herein described.

JAMES M. EARLE

Witnesses:

T. A. CURTIS,
W. A. FULLER.