

J. F. Merrill,

Fruit Can.

No. 112,477.

Patented Mar. 7. 1871.

FIG. 1.

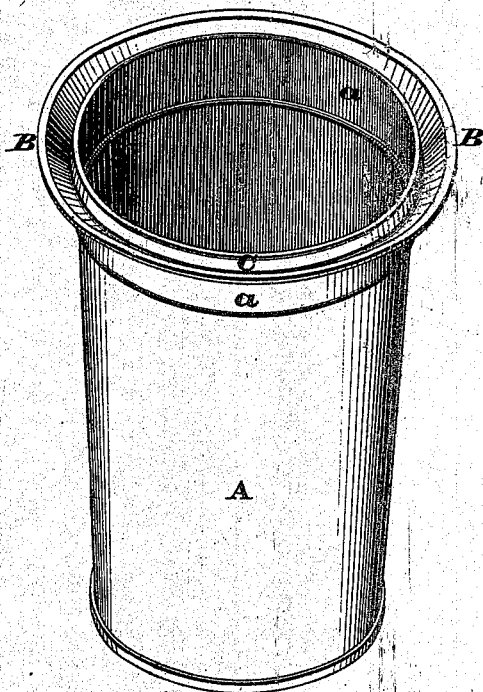


FIG. 3.

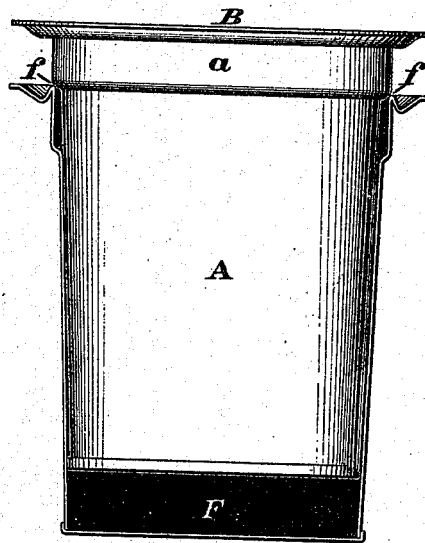


FIG. 2.

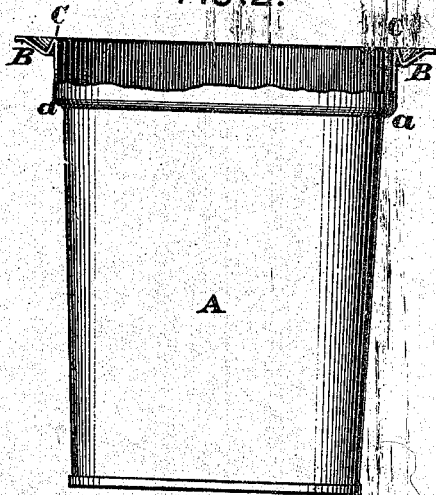


FIG. 4.

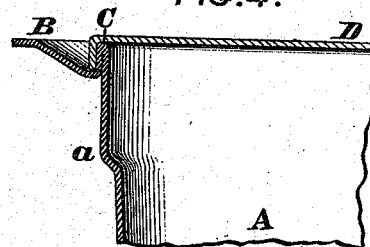
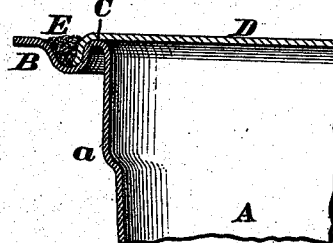


FIG. 5.



ATTEST.
Wm. H. Layman.
William Bauer

J. F. Merrill
INVENTOR.
By Knight Bros.
attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN F. MERRILL, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND
ALEXANDER STEWART, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN TIN CANS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **112,477**, dated March 7, 1871.

I, JOHN F. MERRILL, of Cincinnati, Hamilton county, Ohio, have invented new and useful Improvements in Fruit-Cans, of which the following is a specification:

Nature and Objects of the Invention.

This invention relates to that class of fruit-cans which are provided with external sealing-troughs; and my improvements consist in providing the upper portion of the body of the can with a swell or enlargement, which prevents the cans sticking to one another when they are "nested" together for the purpose of packing or transportation.

General Description with Reference to the Drawing.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a fruit-can embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is a partially-sectionized side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a representation of two cans nested together, the outer one being shown in section and the inner one in elevation. Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional view of the top part of the can with cap applied; and Fig. 5 represents a modification of my can with lid applied, and the sealing-wax shown in the trough.

In packing cans, either for the purpose of storage or transportation, it is customary to nest them one within another, so as to economize space, and it frequently happens that cans packed in this manner become so tightly

stuck together that the troughs are bent, and the cans themselves injured in attempting to separate them.

This difficulty I effectually overcome by the following expedient: I provide the upper part of the can with a swell or enlargement, *a*, which is of such increased diameter, in comparison to the body proper, *A'*, as to permit of said swell resting upon the neck of the can immediately below it when two or more are nested together.

The manner in which these cans are nested together will be understood by referring to Fig. 3, from which it will be seen that the inner can, *A*, is supported upon the outer one, *F*, by means of the swell *a* of the former resting upon the neck *f* of the latter, the bodies of the cans being nowhere in actual contact with one another.

Cans constructed and packed as above described are capable of being separated in a moment, and without straining or injuring them in the least.

I claim herein as new and of my invention—

The fruit-can *A*, having the swell or enlargement *a*, for the objects herein described.

In testimony of which invention I hereunto set my hand.

JOHN F. MERRILL.

Witnesses:

GEO. H. KNIGHT,
JAMES H. LAYMAN.