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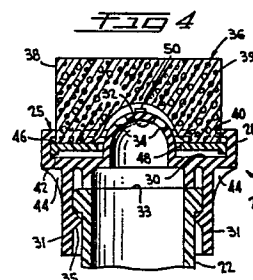
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54 **Fluid applicator for shoes and the like.**

57 A novel fluid applicator (24), together with a combination comprising the fluid applicator and a fluid container (22), are disclosed. The fluid applicator comprises a container cap (25) having an external sidewall (28) defining an exterior cavity (30). The fluid applicator further comprises an insert (36) removably disposable into the cap cavity and engageable with the cap sidewall. The cap cavity insert comprises a fluid-distributing substance such as a foam pad or dauber (38). The cap has a resiliently-deformable domed surface, surrounded by the sidewall. A portion of the domed surface extends outwardly from the cap cavity. The domed surface defines at least two spaced-apart apertures or slits (34), at least one of which provides the domed surface (32) with a valve means that opens in response to deformation of the domed surface, to allow fluid to flow by gravity through the one aperture or slit and to effect fluid communication from the fluid container to the fluid-distributing substance when a portion of the domed surface in the vicinity

of such aperture or slit is subjected to a predetermined, dome-deforming force. Upon removal of the predetermined force, the valve means closes automatically in a substantially fluid-tight manner. At least a portion of the cap cavity insert is movable relative to the domed surface, for removably applying the predetermined force to the domed surface for opening and closing the valve means. The domed surface, moreover, is so configured as to enable fluid to flow by gravity generally away from each of the apertures or slits when the container is disposed in an upstanding position.



EP 0 271 044 A3



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	US-A-3 410 645 (SCHWARTZMAN) * Whole document *	1-2,4, 10-12	A 47 L 23/05
Y		5	
A		7-9	

Y	GB-A- 920 330 (KORK-N-SEAL) * Whole document *	5	
A		1,4,7- 12	

A	US-A-4 201 491 (KOHLER) * Whole document *	1,10-12	

A	FR-A-1 462 824 (SCHWARTZMAN) * Whole document *	1,10-12	

A	DE-A-2 017 009 (FRITZ) * Whole document *	1,10-12	

A	DE-B-1 271 920 (SCHWARTZMAN) * Figures *	1,10-12	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			A 47 L
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		01-06-1988	RAYBOULD B.D.J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or, after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	