

PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in apparatus for the Collection of Latex and the like from Trees

5 We, POLY PLASTICS (MALAYA) LIMITED, a Company incorporated under the Laws of the Federation of Malaya, of 36A/36B Jalan Scudai, Johore Bahru, in the Federation of Malaya, and TAY ENG TAK, a citizen of the State of Singapore (formerly Chinese), of the said Company's address, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

10 This invention is concerned with apparatus for the collection of rubber latex and similar saponaceous materials from trees and has particular reference to the collection of latex in rubber plantations.

15 The normal procedure in collecting rubber latex is to use a cup with flat base, which cup is supported at its rim in a loop formed in a length of wire placed around the tree, a spout for the latex being jabbed into the tree at a few inches above the cup with its outer end placed so that the exuding latex will drip into the cup.

20 It is necessary that the said cups be dry and clean when first put into position but it is found in practice that these conditions do not always obtain as the cups, when not in use, are frequently left in positions where they can collect water and dust. Moreover, the cups, when taken out of their wire loops and emptied, often become lost or misplaced say by being blown away with the wind, and time is lost in retrieving them or expense is incurred in replacing them.

25 It is therefore the object of the present invention to provide an improved form of cup which avoids all these difficulties in that it may be kept dry and clean when not in use and which also may be retained in a convenient position ready for immediate use when required.

30 According to the invention a cup of suitable shape and size to receive the latex is provided at the underside with a hook formation whereby, when inverted, it may be hooked on

to the normal supporting wire around the tree and thus be retained adjacent the place of use but in the inverted position where it will not collect rain or dust.

35 The improved cup may be made of any suitable material, either metal or otherwise, but preferably is a synthetic plastics moulding with the said hook formation moulded as an integral part of it. When the cup is of metal the hook may be attached thereto either by riveting, brazing, screwing or otherwise.

40 An embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:—

45 Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic view showing the cup in use on a tree;

50 Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing the cup inverted;

55 Fig. 3 is a part-sectional side view of the cup;

60 Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken at right angles to Fig. 3; and

65 Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view illustrating a modification described below.

70 The cup illustrated is a plastic moulding and in practice could be either self-coloured or patterned (e.g. mottled) as desired and has a slightly tapering side wall and domed edge. It has a bowl part 1 around the free edge of which is a lip or beading 2 whereby the cup may be supported on the usual wire loop 3 in a substantially upright position to collect the latex.

75 Extending out of the domed part of the cup, on the underside, is an integral open hook 4, of a size and shape such that when the cup is inverted (as in Fig. 2) it may be hooked on to the said wire loop 3 and be retained in an inverted position where it will drain and dry and also be held safely against dislodgement by the wind.

80 The interior of the cup is kept therefore dry, ready for immediate use at any time, and the cup is always at hand in its place of use when wanted.

85 In order to minimise the chance of the hook



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materials

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normal

4 breaking off, the material of the cup may be thickened up at 5 as shown in Fig. 5.

The cups may be made of other materials than synthetic plastics, and instead of the bowl and hook being integral they could be separately made and afterwards fitted together. The hook part could be of metal or of rubber and the bowl part be of the same or any other suitable material. Any necessary markings to denote ownership and/or locality and/or grade of rubber may be made on or added to the cup.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. For the collection of rubber latex and similar saponaceous materials, a cup provided at the underside with a hook formation whereby, when inverted, it may be hooked on to the normal supporting wire around the tree

and thus be retained adjacent the place of use but in the inverted position where it will not collect rain or dust.

2. A cup according to claim 1, made as a synthetic plastics moulding with the said hook formation moulded as an integral part of it.

3. A cup according to claim 1 or 2, having a slightly tapering side wall and a domed base, with an outward lip or beading around the mouth and a hook at the centre of the base.

4. A cup according to claim 1, constructed substantially as the example herein described with reference to and as illustrated in Figs. 1—4 of the accompanying drawing.

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