

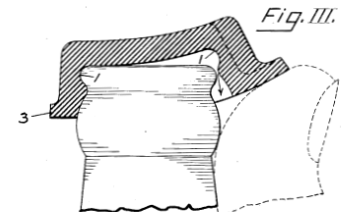
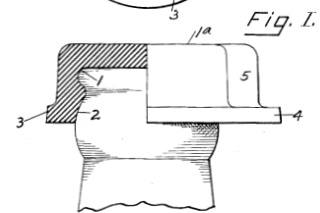
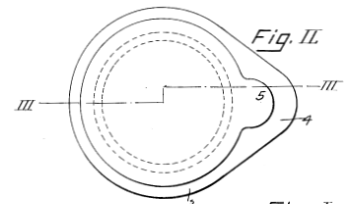
Just For Openers January-December 2025 1

Earl S. Bellow's Rubber

Uze-Again and Again By Don Thornton

They retailed at less than 3 cents each and could be used again and again. In fact they were embossed **UZE-AGAIN**. They were manufactured by Huntington Rubber Mills in Portland, Oregon, along with rubber shoe heels, soles and a flexible rubber button. Earl S. Bellows was granted Patent No. 1,863,081 on June 14, 1932 for a rubber bottle cap he assigned to Huntington, his employer. The rubber mill, founded by Harry C. Huntington in 1912, sold tens of thousands of the black rubber cappers over the years.

June 14, 1932. E. S. Bellows 1,863,081
BOTTLE CAP
Filed Aug. 4, 1930



Inventor,
EARL S. BELLOW.
By *[Signature]*
Attorney.



The flexible capper is just under 2-inches at its widest point and just under 1/2-inch high. It is marked on the top: **USE AGAIN BOTTLE CAP REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.** The bottom rim is marked: **HUNTINGTON RUBBER MILLS, PORTLAND, ORE.**



“My invention relates to closures for glass bottles designed to contain effervescent fluid producing a pressure in the container....” Bellows said in his patent application. “The particular feature of my new bottle cap is its capability of being re-used many times and the provision made for removing it without the use of tools or implements which will tend to destroy it.” Another “essential feature,” he said, “is the thumb tab” that allows a bottle cap to be removed with just “thumb pressure.” The retail price, according to a 1931 newspaper grocery store ad, was 5 cents a dozen.

UZE AGAIN BOTTLE CAPS

35c Dozen 3 Dozen \$1.00

Economical because they can be used over and over again.