

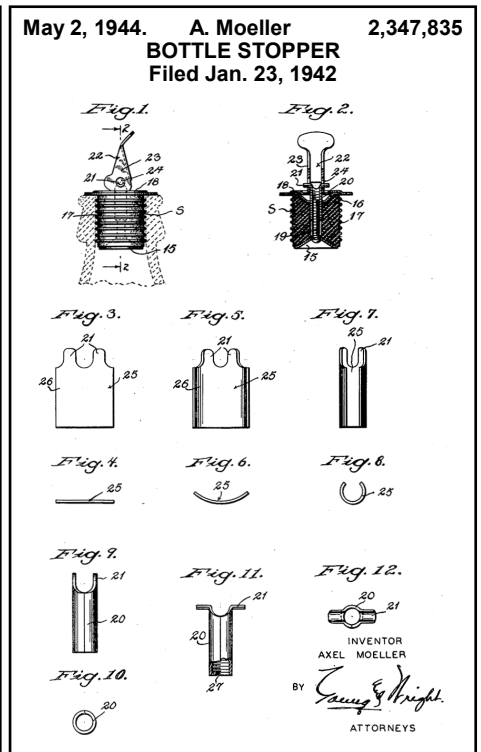
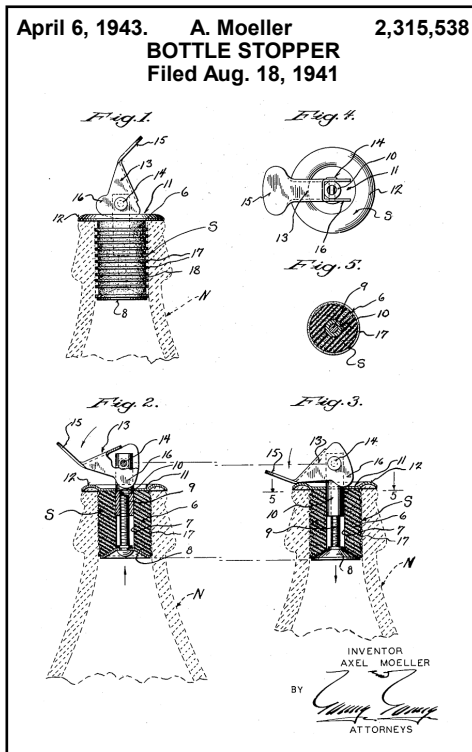
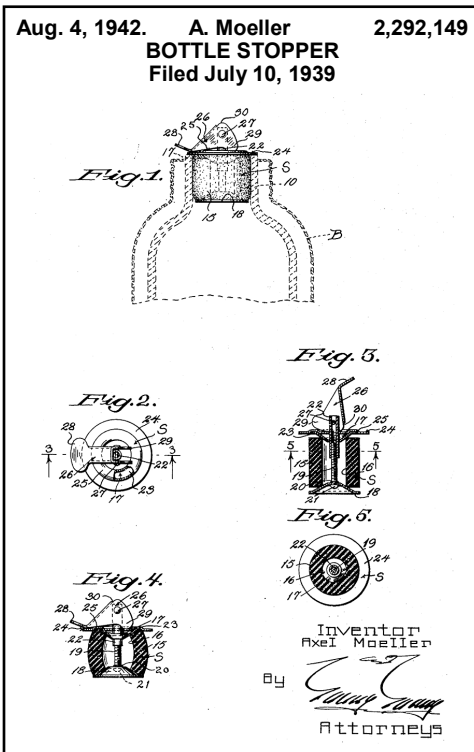
# Just For Openers January-December 2026 1

## Alex Moeller's Snap-Tite Stopper

By Don Thornton

If you couldn't finish that bottle of beer or other beverage just a few decades ago, Alex Moeller had your back. His inventions could not only seal that bottle to keep its fizz, but he had stoppers for thermos and other vacuum containers, picnic jugs, floor and small boat drains and dip stick holes.

Moeller was awarded 12 patents from 1942 to 1967 all for stoppers. A native of Demark, Moeller moved to the U.S. in 1912 and launched the very successful Moeller Manufacturing Company in Racine, Wisconsin in 1938, incorporating the business in 1940. He filed for his first stopper patent July 10, 1939 and the "SNAP-TITE" line of beverage bottle stoppers was born. The patent was granted August 4, 1942 No. 2,292,149. The three-year delay in the approval of the patent remains a mystery -- but production was already underway. Moeller followed that patent with two others for bottle stoppers, describing them as improvements to his original.



Models of the bottle stopper range from 1-inch to 1 1/2-inches high (not counting the lever). The larger model pictured is packed with information on the top: **SNAP-TITE MOELLER MFG CO. RACINE, WIS. SMALLER** (with arrow) **LARGER** (with arrow) **SEE INSTRUCTIONS**. The lever is marked: **PRESS HERE** and **PATENT**. The other pictured stoppers are marked: **SNAP-TITE MFD BY MOELLER MFG CO. RACINE, WIS.** The levers are marked: **PRESS HERE** and **PATENT**.



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The SNAP-TITE line quickly expanded to include vacuum bottle stoppers as shown in an ad featuring eight models in the March 1954 issue of *Popular Mechanics*. Another ad, in the *Journal Times* of Racine August 7, 1955, showed the company had expanded into TWIS-TITE floor drain stoppers. Prices for bottle stoppers ranged from 15 cents to 23 cents.



**Outstanding Products**  
**Needed in Every Home!**

**Snap-Tite**  
ADJUSTABLE BOTTLE STOPPERS  
In sizes to fit all makes of vacuum bottles, beverage bottles, and picnic jugs. Seal airtight, can't leak. Sanitary, easy to clean. Impart no taste to food.

**Twis-Tite**  
FLOOR DRAIN STOPPERS  
Prevents basement flooding through floor drains, even during heavy rains. Seal water-tight. Can be installed or removed in seconds. Available with or without 30" standpipe.

Made in Racine . . . Used the Country Over!  
**MOELLER MANUFACTURING CO., INC.**  
2401 Durand Avenue • Pat. U. S. A. and Canada

In 1960 the Moeller firm pulled the plug on Racine and moved its operations to Greenville, Mississippi. The *Journal Times* reported the move on July 27, 1960. The news story described Axel Moeller at the time as president and chairman of the board, living in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida since 1958. The newspaper gave the following background on the firm: "The basic product line consisted of stoppers for vacuum and beverage bottles but since 1950 approximately half of Moeller production has been in closures and plugs for industrial and marine purposes."

Moeller's stopper improvement patents continued until his 12<sup>th</sup> and final patent was awarded October 31, 1967, Patent No. 2,349,944 for a sealer "for dip stick closures." Moeller described his invention as "an oil level dip stick and closure having a resilient expanding stopper plug to tightly engage the entrance throat of an oil filling spout." It is not known if was manufactured.

**Snap-Tite Adjustable Bottle STOPPERS**  
For Beverage Bottles  
Only ..... **15c**  
For Vacuum Bottles  
Only ..... **20c**

**Thermos Bottle Stopper**  
Patented SNAP-TITE stopper for all sizes of vacuum bottles. Sanitary, no cork odors, tight fit.  
**23c**

The Tampa Tribune reported October 11, 1984 that Moeller had died in St. Petersburg Beach at the age of 90. The obit gave only a scant tribute, saying: "He was an inventor and former owner of Moeller Mfg. Co. in Racine and Greenville, Miss."

**FOOTNOTE:** The plug pun was intentional, for the second time.

