COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Patents Act
APPLICATION FOR A PATENT

I/We (a) RIZLA LIMITED

of (c) Severn Road, Treforest Estate,
Pontypridd, Glamorganshire, Wales.

hereby apply for the grant of a Patent for an invention entitled
(d) "Improved Floating Wick Holder"

which is described in the accompanying (e) complete
specification.

(Note: The following paragraph applies only to Convention applications)

This application is a Convention application based on the basic application(s) for a
patent or similar protection identified by number, country, and filing date as follows:

Address for Service: PHILLIPS ORMONDE AND FITZPATRICK
Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys
37-41 Queen Street
Melbourne, Australia

Dated (w) 30th August, 1973

RIZLA LIMITED
By its Patent Attorneys,
PHILLIPS, ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK

David F. FitzPatrick
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Patents Act

DECLARATION FOR A PATENT APPLICATION

In support of the (a) application made by (b) RIZLA LIMITED

(hereinafter called "applicant(s)") for a patent (c) for an

INVENTION

IMPROVED FLOATING WICK HOLDER

I/We, (d) BRIAN SYLVESTER MINSHULL - MANAGING DIRECTOR, RIZLA LIMITED, SEVERN ROAD, TREFOREST INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PONTYPRIDD, GLAMORGAN,

do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

1. I am/We are authorized to make this declaration on behalf of the applicant(s).

2. I am/We are the actual inventor(s) of the invention and the facts upon which the applicant(s)

is/are entitled to make the application are as follows:

Applicant is the assignee of the invention from the actual inventor(s)

(Note: Paragraphs 3 and 4 apply only to Convention applications)

3. The basic application(s) for patent or similar protection on which the application is based

is/are identified by country, filing date, and basic applicant(s) as follows:

4. The basic application(s) referred to in paragraph 3 hereof was/were the first application(s)

made in a Convention country in respect of the invention the subject of the application.

Declared at PONTYPRIDD


Signature(s) of declarant(s)

Note: No legalization or other witness required.
COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
(ORIGINAL)

Application Number: 59890/73
Lodged: 31.8.73

Complete Specification Lodged: 31.8.73
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Name(s) of Applicant(s):
RIZLA LIMITED

Address(es) of Applicant(s):
Severn Road, Treforest Estate,
Pontypridd, Glamorganshire, Wales.

Actual Inventor(s):
Philippe Lambert Jean-Paul Rasquinet.

Address for Service is:
PHILLIPS, ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK
Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys
37-41 Queen Street
Melbourne, Australia, 3000

Complete Specification for the invention entitled:
"IMPROVED FLOATING WICK HOLDER"

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to applicant(s):
This invention relates to a floating wick-holder which in use floats upon a body of combustible oil.

An object of the present invention is to provide a floating wick-holder which although formed from a plastics material is not liable to ignite or distort when the wick is alight or sink in the body of combustible oil if the surface of the latter is accidently disturbed.

Accordingly, the invention provides a floating wick-holder comprising a thin sheet of plastics material formed with at least one flat area extending from the central part to the periphery thereof, a wick-retaining recess in the flat area and at least one airtight cavity above the flat area and opening to the lower surface thereof and providing sufficient buoyancy to maintain the said flat area just submerged in combustible oil upon which the holder is floated.

The holder is preferably circular in plan and the cavity shape is hemispherical or substantially segmental in plan.

Several embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:

Figures 1 and 2 are plan and cross sectional views respectively of one embodiment of wick-holder,

Figures 3 and 4 are plan and cross-sectional views respectively of a second embodiment of wick-holder, and

Figures 5 and 6 are plan and cross sectional views respectively of a third embodiment of wick-holder.

Referring to the drawing, each wick-holder consists of an imperforate, circular, one-piece, thin-walled
member 1 of a plastics material such as cellulose acetate, P.V.C. polystyrene or polypropylene, the member having a wall thickness of between 0.01 and 0.02 and preferably 0.015 inches.

In the embodiment shown in Figures 1 and 2, the member is moulded or vacuum-formed so as to have two portions 3 which define segmental cavities opening to the underside of the member and separated by a diametral flat area 2 which is below the level of the rims of the portions 3 so that when the member is set upon the surface 5 of a body of combustible oil, on which the member is caused to float because of the buoyancy-imparting effect of air trapped in the cavities 3, oil flows over the flat area to feed a wick W. The wick is supported in a recess within a tube 4 which projects down from the underside of the flat area and is located at the centre of the member. It will be noted that no part of the member which is in contact with the wick or is at all close to it is above the level of the oil surface. Consequently, there is no risk of the material of the member igniting or being distorted by the heat of the flame. In use the body of oil is supported on an non-inflammable liquid such as water so that when the oil is exhausted the water floods over the flat area and extinguishes the wick. Because buoyancy is imparted to the member by air trapped beneath the member there is less risk of the member capsizing than if, otherwise than in accordance with the invention, buoyancy were imparted by dish-shaped portions opening to the upperside of the member.
In the embodiment of Figures 1 and 2, the flat area is enlarged to form a substantially circular portion 5 in the vicinity of the tube 4. The embodiment shown in Figures 3 and 4 is similar to that shown in Figures 1 and 2, identical reference numerals being used to indicate identical parts, except that the flat area is cruciform in plan and is defined between four cavity-forming segmental portions 3.

The cavities in which air is entrapped may be decreased still further in size and increased in number so that the member appears as a submerged substantially flat plat 6 with hemispherical buoyancy-imparting cavities 3 spaced around its periphery. The tube within which the wick is supported may be open at its lower end and it may project upwardly from the member although not, of course, so as to have a mouth above the surface of the body of the oil. If the thickness of the member is increased at its centre, the wick may be held within a bore in the thickened centre part without a projecting tube being necessary.

It will be understood that there may be more than one wick, and the wick or wicks need not be supported at the centre of the holder. Thus, an embodiment which has a single central buoyancy-imparting cavity and a rim supporting several wicks falls within the scope of the invention.

When a wick holder in accordance with the present invention is formed from a transparent or translucent plastics material and is floated on oil contained in a transparent vessel such as a wine glass, or in a trans-
lucent vessel, an attractive form of illumination is obtained, the flame being visible from positions both above and below the plane of the wick-holder.
THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A floating wick holder comprising a thin sheet of plastics material formed with at least one flat area extending from the central part to the periphery thereof, a wick-retaining recess in the flat area and at least one airtight cavity above the flat area and opening to the lower surface thereof and providing sufficient buoyancy to maintain the said flat area just submerged in combustible oil upon which the holder is floated.

2. A wick-holder as claimed in Claim 1, which is circular in plan.

3. A wick-holder as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the cavity is hemispherical.

4. A wick-holder as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the cavity is substantially segmental in plan.

5. A wick-holder as claimed in Claim 1, having a plurality of cavities spaced around its periphery and surrounding the wick-retaining recess.

6. A wick-holder as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the recess is defined within a tube extending downwardly from the flat area.

7. A wick-holder as claimed in any preceding claim, in combination with a wick supported thereby.

8. A lamp including a vessel containing a body of combustible oil, on which floats a wick-holder bearing a wick, as claimed in Claim 7.


PHILLIPS, ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK
Attorneys for:
RIZLA LIMITED

[Signature]