

disclosed provides a closure mechanism that is easily releasable by a physically feeble adult user since only a minimal amount of force is required for actuation of the flexible tabs 26, 26'. Moreover, the cap provides to the user audible sounds and/or simple visual verification that the cap is properly locked. Yet, the cap 18 cannot be readily removed by, for example, a 2-year old child who has not yet developed the necessary mental skills and/or physical dexterity to manipulate the tabs 26, 26' for cap removal.

Thus, while there have been shown and described and pointed out fundamental novel features of the invention as applied to a preferred embodiment thereof, it will be understood that various omissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the devices illustrated, and in their operation, may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention. For example, it is expressly intended that all combinations of those elements and/or method steps which perform substantially the same function in substantially the same way to achieve the same results are within the scope of the invention. Moreover, it should be recognized that structures and/or elements and/or method steps shown and/or described in connection with any disclosed form or embodiment of the invention may be incorporated in any other disclosed or described or suggested form or embodiment as a general matter of design choice. It is the intention, therefore, to be limited only as indicated by the scope of the claims appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A combined child-resistant cap and container, comprising:

a container having an externally threaded neck portion defining an opening, said container including a tooth affixed at a radial distance from said neck portion and projecting axially toward the opening, said tooth having an inside surface facing said neck portion; and

a cap comprising a top wall and an inner and outer skirt depending from said top wall of said cap, said inner skirt being concentric with and spaced inward of said outer skirt and having a threaded surface complementary to and engageable with said threaded neck portion of said container to permit rotation of said cap into a locked position, said outer skirt including a flexible downwardly extending tab formed by and between a first and a second longitudinal slot provided in a bottom

portion of said outer skirt, said flexible tab having a free end movable radially between an undeflected position and a radially inwardly deflected position, said tab being spaced from said neck portion at substantially said radial distance so that when said cap is rotated into said locked position, said tab and said tooth are edge-wise engageable for preventing removal of said cap from said container by rotating said cap in a retrograde direction, said cap being removable from said container only when said free end of said flexible tab is moved to said radially inwardly deflected position so that said free end of said flexible tab slides along the inside surface of said tooth as said cap is rotated in the retrograde direction.

2. The child-resistant cap and container of claim 1, wherein an outside surface of said outer skirt is disposed at a distance less than said radial distance of said tooth, said flexible tab being defined by a first or leading lateral edge and a second or trailing lateral edge, and a tapered outer surface extending from said first lateral edge to said second lateral edge such that said first lateral edge is substantially flush with the outside surface of said outer skirt and said second lateral edge protrudes radially beyond said outside surface of said outer skirt, so that said tooth may slide from said first lateral edge to said second lateral edge thereby causing said flexible tab to move to said radially inwardly deflected position as said cap is rotated into said locked position.

3. The child-resistant cap and container of claim 2, wherein said tab is dimensioned to give off an audible sound upon return from its deflected position to its normal position for alerting a user that said cap is in the locked position.

4. The child-resistant cap and container of claim 1, further including another flexible tab formed by and between a third and a fourth longitudinal slot notched in the bottom portion of said outer skirt, and another tooth affixed at said radial distance from said container neck and projecting radially toward said opening of said container for edgewise engagement with said another tab for preventing removal of said cap from said container.

5. The child resistant cap and container of claim 4, wherein said tabs and teeth are disposed diametrically opposite one another.

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