

## Improvements in and relating to lighters

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Improvements in and relating to Lighters We, ARNOLDUS MARTINUS JOSEPHUS VAN POPPEL, a Dutch citizen, and ALBERTUS VAN POPPEL, a Dutch citizen, trading as the firm of HANDELSONDERNEMING GEBR VAN POPPEL, of 58 Jacob van der Borchstraat, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 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:-  
<RTI The present invention relates to a lighter comprising a reservoir for a low-boiling point liquid fuel having a stop valve; a lever for releasing the stop valve; and an igniting device having a flint wheel; the lever being arranged to be biased to either of two positions by means of a spring and being rotatably supported on a shaft about which the flint wheel of the igniting device is rotatable.

In known lighters of this type the lever of the releasing means is rotatably supported by a shaft journaled in the walls of the body of the lighter, the lever being provided with recesses which form spaces beneath the lever, in which spaces the flint wheel and the parts associated therewith are accommodated. The lever is provided at one end with a grip, by means of which the lever can be engaged and operated with the user's thumb. At its other end the lever is provided with a closing cap which co-operates with the stop valve of the fuel reservoir.

The space beneath the grip of the lever in which space various parts of the igniting device of known lighters are accommodated is in open communication with the atmosphere, so that dust and further contaminants have access to the igniting means, which in the long run will lead to breakdown.

An object of the present invention is to overcome this disadvantage.

To achieve this and according to, the invention the shaft is journaled in upstanding walls located opposite one another and joined by an interconnecting wall, the lever having two side plates which overlie the said upstanding walls and are joined by a further interconnecting wall which, in either of the two, positions of the lever overlaps the said wall interconnecting the two upstanding walls.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side sectional view of a lighter according to the invention; and Figure 2 is a rear and partly sectioned view of the lighter shown in Figure 1.

The lighter shown in the drawings is provided with a reservoir 2 for a low boiling point liquid fuel mounted in a holder 1. The reservoir 2 has a stop valve 4 and a burner 3.

The lighter is provided with a lever 5 for actuating the stop valve and the igniting means. The lever 5 is pivotable about a shaft 6, and is provided at one end with two side plates 28 joined by an interconnecting wall formed with a ribbed grip 7, by means of which said lever can be engaged and operated with the user's thumb. At the other end the lever carries a closing cap, which bears on a stem 9 of the stop valve 4.

In the space beneath the grip of the lever the igniting device for the lighter is located. The device comprises a flint-wheel 10 rotatable about the shaft 6, the wheel being provided with teeth at one of its side walls, which teeth co-operate with a leaf spring 11 providing a pawl. The leaf spring has a recess 12, which co-operates with a projection 13 secured to the lever 5.

The shaft 6 about which the lever 5 and the flint-wheel 10 are rotatable is journaled in upstanding walls 14 of a separate bearing block 15. The upstanding walls 14 are joined by a curved interconnecting wall 16.

The bearing block 15 comprises a sub-

stantially drum-shaped body, whose end faces are formed by upstanding walls and the cylindrical wall of which is partly cut away so that the side directed towards the burner 3 is open.