

Sept. 29, 1964

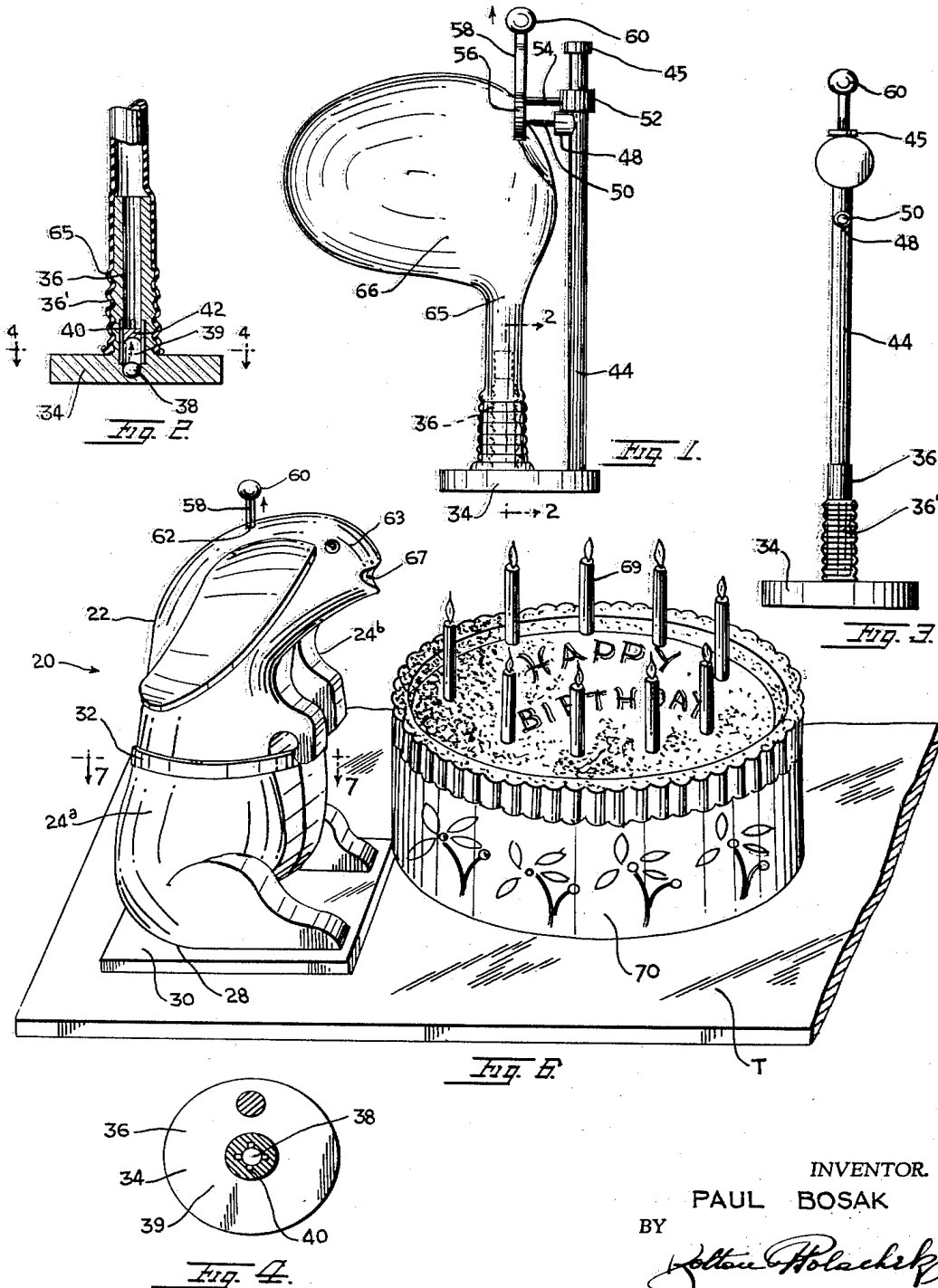
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3,150,831

BIRTHDAY CAKE CANDLE EXTINGUISHER

Filed March 15, 1963

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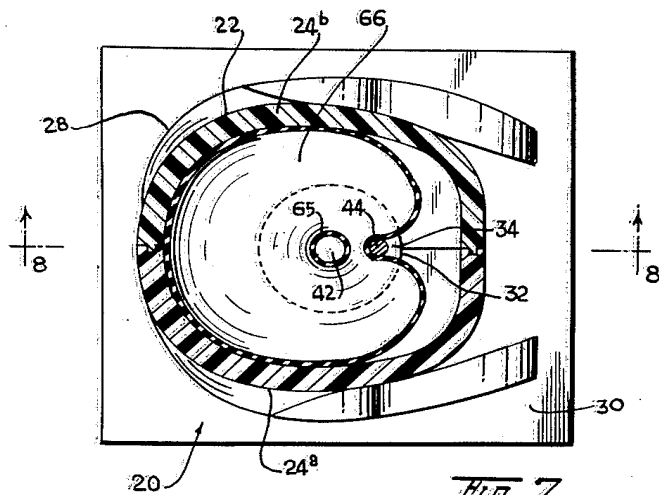


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BIRTHDAY CAKE CANDLE EXTINGUISHER

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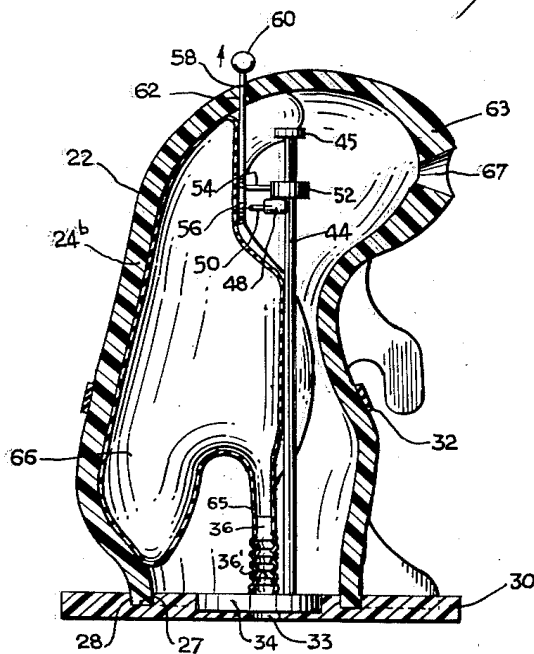


Fig. 8.

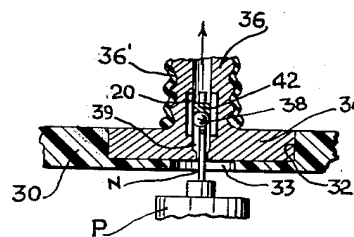


Fig. 5.

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3

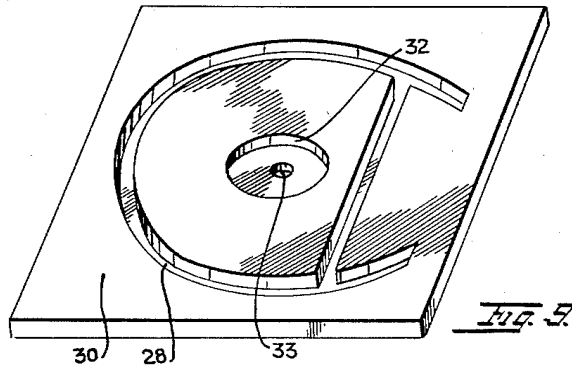


Fig. 9.

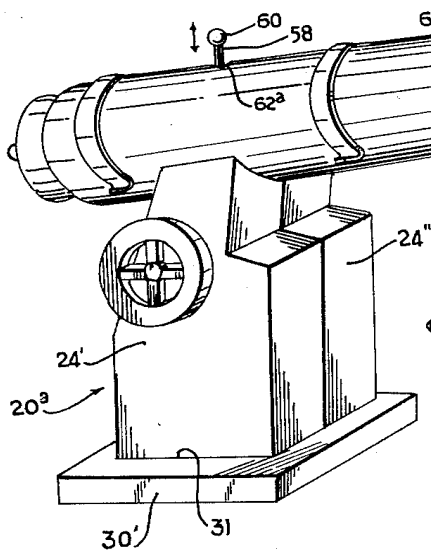


Fig. 10.

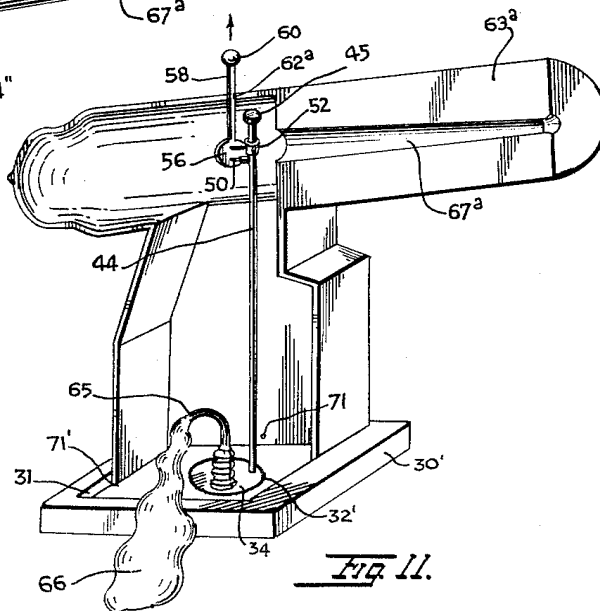


Fig. 11.

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BIRTHDAY CAKE CANDLE EXTINGUISHER

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10 Claims. (Cl. 239—211)

This invention concerns a candle extinguisher particularly adapted for extinguishing lighted candles on birthday cakes and the like.

According to the invention there is provided a device having a base with a valved fitting upon which a balloon can be engaged. The balloon can be inflated by an air pump. On the base is a post carrying a sharp pointed needle and a movable guard which covers the needle and shields it from the inflated balloon. When the guard is moved away from the needle the balloon is punctured to release the air therein. The device includes a casing provided for the base, balloon and puncturing means. The casing has a nozzle which can be directed at candles to be extinguished. The casing can be made in a decorative form simulating an animal, doll, toy soldier, cannon or other toy figure or figurine. The air released from the punctured balloon passes out of the nozzle of the casing with considerable force to extinguish the lighted candles. The device is a useful and amusing party table decoration. It serves the useful function of extinguishing candles mechanically. This device fulfills a long felt need at birthday parties for small children who may have insufficiently forceful breath to extinguish candles on a cake. The device avoids the fire hazard commonly encountered when small children approach too close to lighted candles in an attempt to blow them out. The device also avoids the unsanitary condition encountered when children inexpertly blow on candles and inadvertently expectorate upon the cake carrying the handles. The device is constructed so that the broken balloon can be removed and a new one substituted for repeated use of the device.

It is therefore one object of the invention to provide a device useful for extinguishing candles on a birthday or holiday cake.

A further object is to provide a candle extinguisher in which a casing contains a balloon for storing air under pressure, with manually operable means for puncturing the balloon to release the air through an opening in the casing.

Another object is to provide a candle extinguisher as described, wherein the casing is in the form of a figurine or toy figure.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of part of a candle extinguishing device embodying the invention, with a balloon shown in inflated condition.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a front elevational view of part of the device with balloon removed.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 4—4 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view similar to a part of FIG. 2, showing details of a valve and pump.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a device embodying the invention shown with a birthday cake and lighted candles.

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view on an enlarged scale taken on line 7—7 of FIG. 6.

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FIG. 8 is a vertical sectional view taken on line 8—8 of FIG. 7.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of a base of the device of FIG. 6.

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of another device embodying the invention.

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 10 with part of the casing thereof removed.

Referring to FIGS. 1—9, there is shown one form of the device 20, which has an outer casing 22 in the form of a simulated bunny rabbit. The casing has two separable half shells 24^a, 24^b. On opposing abutting edges of the shells are interfitted ridges 25 and grooves 26. The bottom edges 27 of the shells fit removably into a groove 28 formed in a flat base plate 30. A rubber band 32 or other elastic member can be engaged around the casing to hold the two shells together. The base plate 30 holds the bottom ends of the shells together to form a closed enclosure for other parts of the device.

In the plate 30 is a recess 32 with central hole 33. In recess 32 fits a disk 34. This disk has an upstanding fitting or nipple 36 provided with a ball valve 38. The valve normally seats on and closes the bottom constricted end of valve passage 39; see FIG. 2. Slots 40 are formed in the fitting 36 extending from passage 39 in which the ball moves to points above transverse baffle 42 which serves as a stop to limit upward movement of the ball. An apertured needle N of a manually operable pump P can be inserted through hole 33 into passage 39 for elevating the ball to pump air through the fitting 36 as shown in FIG. 5.

On the disk 34 is a post 44 extending upwardly perpendicularly to the disk. This post has a flange 45 on its top end. An arm 48 extends radially from the post near its upper end. In the end of the arm is fitted a sharp pin or needle 50. Slidably fitted on the post between arm 48 and flange 45 is a collar 52 carrying a radial arm 54 on which is secured a disk or plate 56. This disk is disposed in front of the point of pin 50 when the collar rests on arm 48. Extending upwardly from the disk is a shaft 58 which may have a removable knob 60 at its end. The knob and shaft can be grasped manually for lifting the disk 56 upwardly to the position of FIG. 3 to clear the pin 50. The shaft extends upwardly through a slot or hole 62 defined by two opposing notches formed in facing edges of the half shells 24^a, 24^b. The knob is located outside of and is accessible at the top of the casing 22.

The fitting or nipple 36 has an outer corrugated side 36' on which can be detachably engaged the neck 65 of an inflatable rubber balloon 66. When the balloon is inflated it presses against the disk 56 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 8. The disk 56 guards or shields the balloon from the point of pin 50. When the disk 56 is raised upwardly to clear the pin, the point of the pin punctures the inflated balloon.

The casing has a tapered nozzle 63 at its upper end, with a tapered passage 67. This simulates the mouth of the rabbit as shown in FIG. 6. When the balloon is punctured the air under pressure passes outwardly of nozzle 63 to extinguish the lighted candles 69 on cake 70 disposed on table T.

After the balloon collapses, the rubber band 32 can be removed and the shells can be lifted out of the base plate and separated to expose the collapsed balloon. The balloon can then be removed from the fitting 36 and a new one can be placed on the fitting.

FIGS. 7 and 8 show how the inflated balloon expands laterally to the inner walls of the casing and presses against the disk 56 and post 44. The disk 56 need be drawn up only a very short distance to clear the pin 50 so that the

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expanded balloon contacts the pin and is punctured thereby. The air pressure in the balloon holds the ball 38 seated at the bottom of passage 39, so that the valve is closed as shown in FIG. 2.

FIGS. 10 and 11 show another form of the invention in which the assembly of disk 34, post 44, disk 56, collar 52, post 44 and other parts are the same as explained above and are identically numbered. The device 20^a of FIGS. 10 and 11 is in the form of a toy cannon having two facing shells 24' and 24'' seated in a recess 31 in base plate 30'. Disk 34 fits in recess 32' of the plate.

The casing 22^a of the device has a forwardly extending nozzle 63^a with a tapered passage 67^a which simulates the barrel of the cannon. The cannon can be drawn up and aimed at the flame of a candle or candles to be extinguished. When the shaft 53 and disk 56 are pulled upwardly, the balloon 66 will be punctured to discharge air under pressure out of the nozzle of the device.

It is desirable that the shells defining the casings 22 and 22^a be rather tightly fitted in the base plates, or detent pins 71 engaging in grooves 71' can be provided as indicated in FIG. 11 for snapping the flexible shells into place and for holding them securely until somewhat forcefully removed manually. This is to insure that the inflated balloon does not separate the casing from the base plate.

It will be noted that each casing is entirely closed except for the nozzle opening. The base plate closes the open bottom of the casing. The slot or hole 62 or 62^a through which the shaft 53 passes is closed by the shaft so that no air can escape through this hole.

The several shells, base plate and other parts can be made of metal, plastic, wood or other suitable materials. Other forms of figures and figurines can be used such as a toy soldier aiming a toy gun through which air would be discharged in a manner similar to that of the cannon of device 20^a. Other simulated human figures, dolls, etc., may be used. The casing of the device can take the form of other animals such as a bear, seal, elephant etc. Various other simulated objects and decorative articles can be used to embody the invention.

In all forms of the invention, there will be provided a casing in decorative form for housing a removable balloon with means for puncturing the balloon upon manual actuation of a puncturing member, to discharge air under pressure from the casing.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A device for extinguishing lighted candles, comprising a base plate, a fitting on the plate for engaging the neck of an inflatable rubber balloon, one-way valve means in the fitting enabling the balloon to be inflated with air and retaining the air in the inflated balloon, a post supported by said plate and having a pin extending radially therefrom for puncturing the balloon, guard means movably carried by the post shielding the pin from the inflated balloon, and a projection extending outwardly of the guard means for moving the same to clear said pin, so that the inflated balloon is punctured by the pin.

2. A device for extinguishing lighted candles, comprising a base plate, a hollow casing removably supported on the plate, said casing having a nozzle at one end for passing a stream of air therethrough under pressure, a fitting on the plate, an inflatable rubber balloon having a neck engaged on said fitting, one-way valve means in the fitting enabling the balloon to be inflated with air and retaining the air in the inflated balloon, a post supported by said plate and having a pin extending radially there-

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from for puncturing the balloon, guard means movably carried by the post shielding the pin from the inflated balloon, and a projection extending outwardly of the guard means for moving the same to clear said pin, so that the inflated balloon is punctured by the pin, whereby air released by the punctured balloon passes outwardly of the casing through said nozzle.

3. A device for extinguishing lighted candles, comprising a base plate, a fitting on the plate, an inflatable rubber balloon having a neck engaged on said fitting, one-way valve means in the fitting enabling the balloon to be inflated with air and retaining the air in the inflated balloon, a post supported by said plate and having a pin extending radially therefrom for puncturing the balloon, guard means movably carried by the post shielding the pin from the inflated balloon, and a projection extending outwardly of the guard means for moving the same to clear said pin, so that the inflated balloon is punctured by the pin for releasing the air therefrom.

4. A device for extinguishing lighted candles, comprising a base plate, a hollow casing removably supported on the plate, said casing having a nozzle at one end for passing a stream of air therethrough under pressure, a fitting on the plate, an inflatable rubber balloon having a neck engaged on said fitting, one-way valve means in the fitting enabling the balloon to be inflated with air and retaining the air in the inflated balloon, a post supported by said plate and having a pin extending radially therefrom for puncturing the balloon, guard means movably carried by the post shielding the pin from the inflated balloon, and a projection extending outwardly of the guard means for moving the same to clear said pin, so that the inflated balloon is punctured by the pin, whereby air released by the punctured balloon passes outwardly of the casing through said nozzle, said casing having the form of a simulated animal, said nozzle being part of the head of said animal.

5. A device for extinguishing lighted candles, comprising a base plate, a hollow casing removably supported on the plate, said casing having a nozzle at one end for passing a stream of air therethrough under pressure, a fitting on the plate, an inflatable rubber balloon having a neck engaged on said fitting, one-way valve means in the fitting enabling the balloon to be inflated with air and retaining the air in the inflated balloon, a post supported by said plate and having a pin extending radially therefrom for puncturing the balloon, guard means movably carried by the post shielding the pin from the inflated balloon, and a projection extending outwardly of the guard means for moving the same to clear said pin, so that the inflated balloon is punctured by the pin, whereby air released by the punctured balloon passes outwardly of the casing through said nozzle, said casing having the form of a simulated cannon, said nozzle being part of the barrel of the cannon.

6. A device for extinguishing lighted candles, comprising a base plate, a hollow casing removably supported on the plate, said casing having an opening therein for passing a stream of air under pressure therethrough, a fitting on the plate for engaging the neck of an inflatable balloon, a post supported by said plate and having a pin extending radially therefrom for puncturing the balloon, guard means movably carried by the post shielding the pin from the inflated balloon and a projection extending outwardly of the guard means for moving the same to clear said pin, so that the inflated balloon is punctured by the pin for releasing air therefrom to pass through said opening.

7. A device for extinguishing lighted candles, comprising a base plate, a hollow casing removably supported on the plate, said casing having an opening therein for passing a stream of air under pressure therethrough, a fitting on the plate for engaging the neck of an inflatable balloon, a post supported by said plate and having a pin extending radially therefrom for puncturing the balloon, guard means movably carried by the post shielding the

pin from the inflated balloon, and a projection extending outwardly of the guard means for moving the same to clear said pin, so that the inflated balloon is punctured by the pin for releasing air therefrom to pass through said opening, said casing having the form of a toy figure with a portion thereof defining a nozzle, said opening being formed in said nozzle.

8. A device for extinguishing lighted candles, comprising a base plate, a hollow casing removably supported on the plate, said casing having an opening therein for passing a stream of air under pressure therethrough, a fitting on the plate for engaging the neck of an inflatable balloon, a post supported by said plate and having a pin extending radially therefrom for puncturing the balloon, guard means movably carried by the post shielding the pin from the inflated balloon, and a projection extending outwardly of the guard means for moving the same to clear said pin, so that the inflated balloon is punctured by the pin for releasing air therefrom to pass through said opening, said casing having the form of a toy figure with a decorative doll, figurine, toy soldier, animal, or other simulated object or article, said casing being a two-part structure, the two parts of the casing being separable for exposing the fitting to enable removal and replacement of the balloon.

9. A device for extinguishing lighted candles, comprising a base plate, a hollow casing removably supported on the plate, said casing having a nozzle at one end for passing a stream of air therethrough under pressure, a fitting on the plate, an inflatable rubber balloon having a neck engaged on said fitting, one-way valve means in the fitting enabling the balloon to be inflated with air and retaining the air in the inflated balloon, a post supported by said plate and having a pin extending radially therefrom for puncturing the balloon, guard means movably carried by the post shielding the pin from the inflated balloon, a projection extending outwardly of the guard means for moving the same to clear said pin, so that the inflated balloon is punctured by the pin, whereby air released by

the punctured balloon passes outwardly of the casing through said nozzle, said guard means including a collar engaged by the post, and a disk plate secured to the collar and positionable at the point of the pin, said projection including a shaft attached to the disk plate and extending through the casing for manual movement of the disk plate away from the pin.

10. A device for extinguishing lighted candles, comprising a base plate, a hollow casing removably supported on the plate, said casing having a nozzle at one end for passing a stream of air therethrough under pressure, a fitting on the plate, an inflatable rubber balloon having a neck engaged on said fitting, one-way valve means in the fitting enabling the balloon to be inflated with air and retaining the air in the inflated balloon, a post supported by said plate and having a pin extending radially therefrom for puncturing the balloon, guard means movably carried by the post shielding the pin from the inflated balloon, and a projection extending outwardly of the guard means for moving the same to clear said pin, so that the inflated balloon is punctured by the pin, whereby air released by the punctured balloon passes outwardly of the casing through said nozzle, said casing having a two-part structure, with the two parts separable to expose the fitting and enable removal and replacement of the balloon.

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