A plurality of candy and gum containers with a variety of shapes and features. The shapes of the different embodiments include a guitar, a race car, a surfboard, a book, a star, a rectangle, a lighter and an ice cream cone. All embodiments are made of metal and the upper portion of each embodiment can be hinged together to the lower portion of that embodiment or the upper portion of each embodiment can be separated from the lower portion of that embodiment.
Fig. 4
Fig. 6
Fig. 8
CANDY AND GUM CONTAINERS
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/389,900, filed Jun. 20, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to candy and gum storage containers having a variety of shapes.

[0004] 2. Description of Related Art

[0005] There are many types of containers and objects with ornamental designs. Most of these containers and objects have at least some functional purpose, such as lunch boxes and candy tins. These containers can vary greatly in size and shape, as is shown in the related art.


[0008] U.S. Pat. No. Des. 408,211 issued to Cordell, outlines an ornamental design for a cake pan in the shape of a car.

[0009] U.S. Pat. No. Des. 424,931 issued to Teasdale et al., outlines an ornamental design for a packaged food carton.


[0013] U.S. Pat. No. Des. 6,006,945 issued to Kirkland, outlines the use of a container structure suitable for containing non-beverage materials, such as solid or semi-solid foods or non-food items. The container structure is sized and shaped to be dispensed from a vending machine and configured for dispensing conventional drink cans. Accordingly, food items and non-food items alike may be made readily available to the public from conventional canned vending machines.

[0014] U.S. Pat. No. 6,325,211 issued to Greiner, outlines the use of a decorative container for displaying items in internal cavities and includes an inner container and an outer container, defining a hollow region therebetween. The decorative container also includes a plurality of dividers within the hollow region separating the region into a plurality of internal cavities. The outer container also includes a removable plate, configured to provide access to each of the internal cavities, so that decorative objects within the internal cavities can be easily changed or rearranged.

[0015] U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,163 issued to Coleman et al., outlines a morphing candy holding device that includes a main housing with a primary chamber and secondary chamber. The primary chamber includes an aperture through which a piece of candy secured in the primary chamber can be pushed upward for consumption by a consumer. A lower housing includes a candy stick holder in the primary chamber which pushes the candy up through the aperture for consumption. A secondary electrical circuit includes a power source, an integrated circuit and a control switch for controlling the electrical circuitry. The electrical circuitry in addition to the integrated circuit includes four LED lights which are in a series from a bottom of the secondary chamber to an upper end of the chamber. The LED lights shine through a series of transition pictures which change from one form to another form from the lower end of the secondary chamber to the upper end of the secondary chamber.

[0016] Web site URL www.rmpalmer.com, outlines candy that is placed in a container in the shape of various race car tins.


[0018] Each of the previously described patents and Web site URLs outline decorative containers for various uses. However, only the www.rmpalmer.com Web site and the www.anniems.com Web site outline decorative containers that are used for storing candy and gum. Although useful, these containers are not hinged and are not designed to be used repeatedly over a long period of time. That would be something of interest to candy and gum users, candy and gum containers that are uniquely ornamental, yet can be hinged and durable to be used over and over again.

[0019] None of the above inventions and patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0020] The invention is a plurality of candy and gum containers with a variety of shapes and features. The shapes of the different embodiments include a guitar, a race car, a surfboard, a book, a star, a rectangle, a lighter and an ice cream cone. All embodiments are made of metal and the upper portion of each embodiment can be hinged to the lower portion of that embodiment or the upper portion of each embodiment can be separated from the lower portion of that embodiment.

[0021] Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention to provide decorative candy and gum containers in a variety of decorative shapes.

[0022] It is another object of the invention to provide decorative candy and gum containers with hinged closeable tops.

[0023] It is a further object of the invention to have an aesthetically pleasing way for people to store candy and gum.

[0024] It is a further object of the invention to have a reusable container for storing candy and gum that is also aesthetically pleasing.

[0025] It is an object of the invention to provide improved elements and arrangements thereof in an apparatus for the
purposes described which is inexpensive, dependable and fully effective in accomplishing its intended purposes.

[0026] These and other objects of the present invention will become readily apparent upon further review of the following specification and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0027] FIG. 1 is an environmental, perspective view of a guitar embodiment of a candy and gum container, according to the present invention.

[0028] FIG. 2 is an exploded overhead perspective view of a guitar embodiment of a candy and gum container.

[0029] FIG. 3 is an overhead perspective view of a hinged guitar embodiment of a candy and gum container.

[0030] FIG. 4 is an exploded overhead perspective view of a race car embodiment of a candy and gum container.

[0031] FIG. 5 is an overhead perspective view of a hinged race car embodiment of a candy and gum container.

[0032] FIG. 6 is an exploded overhead perspective view of a surfboard embodiment of a candy and gum container.

[0033] FIG. 7 is a front perspective view of a compact embodiment of a candy and gum container with an inside mirror.

[0034] FIG. 8 is an exploded overhead perspective view of a star embodiment of a candy and gum container.

[0035] FIG. 9 is an exploded overhead perspective view of an ice cream cone embodiment of a candy and gum container.

[0036] FIG. 10 is a front overhead perspective view of a book embodiment of a candy and gum container.

[0037] FIG. 11 is a front overhead perspective view of a lighter embodiment of a candy and gum container.

[0038] Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0039] The present invention is a candy and gum container 10, as shown in FIG. 1. In FIG. 1, the candy and gum container 10 is shown with candy C being stored in the candy and gum container 10.

[0040] The first embodiment of the candy and gum container 10 is in the shape of a guitar and is comprised of a top portion 20 and a bottom portion 30, the top portion 20 having a top surface 22 and sidewalls 24 on the perimeter of the top surface 22 and the bottom portion 30 having a bottom surface 32 and sidewalls 34 on the perimeter of the bottom surface 32, the top portion 20 aligning together with and closing over the bottom portion 30, forming the container 10 for holding candy C and the like. The top portion 20 and bottom portion 30 can also be completely separated and opened into two separate pieces that form the candy and gum container 10.

[0041] In another embodiment of the candy and gum container 10, the top portion 20 can also be hinged together with a small wire hinge 45 to the bottom portion 30, allowing the candy and gum container 10 to be opened and closed as desired by the user. Similar hinged and non-hinged candy containers are known in the related art, however, the point of novelty with this embodiment of the candy and gum container 10 is its decorative guitar shape. The candy and gum container 10 is made of metal and is aesthetically made in the shape of a guitar. The hinged and non-hinged candy and gum containers 10 are structurally identical, except for the hinge 45 being added to the hinged candy and gum container 10. Both candy and gum containers are shown in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3.

[0042] An additional embodiment of the invention includes a candy and gum container that is in the shape of a race car 50, as is shown in FIG. 4. Like the first embodiment, this candy and gum container 50 is comprised of a top portion 60 and a bottom portion 70, the top portion 60 having a top surface 62 and sidewalls 64 on the perimeter of the top surface 62 and the bottom portion 70 having a bottom surface 72 and sidewalls 74 on the perimeter of the bottom surface 72, the top portion 60 aligning together with and closing over the bottom portion 70, forming a cavity (not shown) within the candy and gum container 50 for holding candy and gum and the like. The middle of the top surface 66 is raised to represent a race car roof, while the front of the top surface 67 represents a race car hood. The back of the top surface 65 represents a race car trunk. This candy and gum container 50 can have a separate top portion 60 and a separate bottom portion 70 or have the top portion 60 hinged to the bottom portion 70 with a small wire hinge 85, as shown in FIG. 5. The point of novelty of this candy and gum container 50 is also its overall shape, which is in the shape of a race car and is depicted in FIG. 4 and FIG. 5.

[0043] An additional embodiment of the invention includes a candy and gum container that is in the shape of a surfboard 90, as is shown in FIG. 6. Like the previous embodiments, this candy and gum container 90 is comprised of a top portion 100 and a bottom portion 110, the top portion 100 having a top surface 102 and sidewalls 104 on the perimeter of the top surface 102 and the bottom portion 110 having a bottom surface 112 and sidewalls 114 on the perimeter of the bottom surface 112, the top portion 100 aligning together with and closing over the bottom portion 110, forming a cavity (not shown) within the candy and gum container 90 for holding candy and gum and the like. This candy and gum container 90 can have a separate top portion 100 and a separate bottom portion 110 or have the top portion 100 hinged to the bottom portion 110 with a small wire hinge (not shown). The point of novelty of this candy and gum container 90 is also its overall shape, which is in the shape of a surfboard and is depicted in FIG. 6.

[0044] An additional embodiment of the invention includes a candy and gum container that is in the shape of a rectangle 120, as is shown in FIG. 7. Like the previous embodiments, this candy and gum container 120 is comprised of a top portion 130 and a bottom portion 140, the top portion 130 having a top surface 132 and sidewalls 134 on the perimeter of the top surface 132 and the bottom portion 140 having a bottom surface 142 and sidewalls 144 on the perimeter of the bottom surface 142, the top portion 130 aligning together with and closing over the bottom portion 140, forming a cavity within the candy and gum container 120 for holding candy and gum and the like. This candy and
gum container 120 can have a separate top portion 130 and a separate bottom portion 140 (not shown) or have the top portion 130 hinged to the bottom portion 140 with a small wire hinge 150. There is also a mirror 160 provided on the inside of the top portion 130. The point of novelty of this candy and gum container 120 is the presence of the mirror 160 and not its overall shape, which is in the shape of an ordinary rectangle and is depicted in FIG. 7.

[0045] An additional embodiment of the invention includes a candy and gum container that is in the shape of a star 170, as is shown in FIG. 8. Like the previous embodiments, this candy and gum container 170 is comprised of a top portion 180 and a bottom portion 190, the top portion 180 having a top surface 182 and sidewalks 184 on the perimeter of the top surface 182 and the bottom portion 190 having a bottom surface 192 and sidewalks 194 on the perimeter of the bottom surface 192, the top portion 180 aligning together with and closing over the bottom portion 190, forming a cavity (not shown) within the candy and gum container 170 for holding candy and gum and the like. This candy and gum container 170 can have a separate top portion 180 and a separate bottom portion 190 or have the top portion 180 hinged to the bottom portion 190 with a small wire hinge (not shown). The point of novelty of this candy and gum container 170 is also its overall shape, which is in the shape of a star and is depicted in FIG. 8.

[0046] An additional embodiment of the invention includes a candy and gum container that is in the shape of an ice cream cone 200, as is shown in FIG. 9. Like the previous embodiments, this candy and gum container 200 is comprised of a top portion 210 and a bottom portion 220, the top portion 210 having a top surface 212 and sidewalks 214 on the perimeter of the top surface 212 and the bottom portion 220 having a bottom surface 222 and sidewalks 224 on the perimeter of the bottom surface 222, the top portion 210 aligning together with and closing over the bottom portion 220, forming a cavity (not shown) within the candy and gum container 200 for holding candy and gum and the like. This candy and gum container 200 can have a separate top portion 210 and a separate bottom portion 220 or have the top portion 210 hinged to the bottom portion 220 with small wire hinges (not shown). The point of novelty of this candy and gum container 200 is also its overall shape, which is in the shape of an ice cream cone and is depicted in FIG. 9.

[0047] An additional embodiment of the invention includes a candy and gum container that is in the shape of a book 230, as is shown in FIG. 10. Like the previous embodiments, this candy and gum container 230 is comprised of a top portion 240 and a bottom portion 250, the top portion 240 having a top surface 242 and sidewalks 244 on the perimeter of the top surface 242 and the bottom portion 250 having a bottom surface 252 and sidewalks 254 on the perimeter of the bottom surface 252, the top portion 240 aligning together with and closing over the bottom portion 250, forming a cavity (not shown) within the candy and gum container 230 for holding candy and gum and the like. This candy and gum container 230 can have a separate top portion 240 and a separate bottom portion 250 or have the top portion 240 hinged to the bottom portion 250 with small wire hinges 260. The point of novelty of this candy and gum container 230 is also its overall shape, which is in the shape of a book and is depicted in FIG. 10.

[0048] An additional embodiment of the invention includes a candy and gum container that is in the shape of a cigarette lighter container 270, as is shown in FIG. 11. Like the previous embodiments, this candy and gum container 270 is comprised of a top portion 280 and a bottom portion 290, the top portion 280 having a top surface 282 and sidewalks 284 on the perimeter of the top surface 282 and the bottom portion 290 having a bottom surface 292 and sidewalks 294 on the perimeter of the bottom surface 292, the top portion 280 aligning together with and closing over the bottom portion 290, forming a cavity (not shown) within the candy and gum container 270 for holding candy and gum and the like. This candy and gum container 270 can have a separate top portion 280 and a separate bottom portion 290 or have the top portion 280 hinged to the bottom portion 290 with small wire hinges 300. There is also a small tab 310 to help open the top portion 280 of the container 270. The point of novelty of this candy and gum container 270 is also its overall shape, which is in the shape of a cigarette lighter and is depicted in FIG. 11.

[0049] All embodiments are made of metal and can be easily handled manually. The guitar embodiment of the candy and gum container 10 is approximately 113 mm. long, 68 mm. wide at its widest point and 13 mm. deep. The race car embodiment of the candy and gum container 50 is approximately 62 mm. long, 40 mm. wide, (with rounded corners) and 13 mm. deep. The surfboard embodiment of the candy and gum container 90 is approximately 3.5" long, 1.25" wide and 0.625" deep. The rectangular embodiment of the candy and gum container 120 and the book embodiment of the candy and gum container 230 is approximately 2.375" long, 1.625" wide and 0.625" deep. The star embodiment of the candy and gum container 170 is approximately 2.5" in diameter and 1.0" deep. The ice cream cone embodiment of the candy and gum container 200 is approximately 3.0" long, 1.5" wide at its widest point and 0.625" deep. The lighter embodiment of the candy and gum container 270 is approximately 2.75 long, 1.5" wide and 0.50" deep.

[0050] It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.

We claim:

1. A candy and gum container, comprised of:
   a top portion and a bottom portion, the top portion having a top surface and sidewalks on the perimeter of the top surface, and the bottom portion having a bottom surface and sidewalks on the perimeter of the bottom surface, said top portion aligning together with and closing over said bottom portion, forming said container for holding candy and gum and the like; and the top portion being slightly larger and in the same shape as the bottom portion, allowing the top portion sidewalks to close on the bottom portion as desired.
   2. The container according to claim 1, wherein the container is in the shape of a guitar.
   3. The container according to claim 1, wherein the container is in the shape of a race car.
   4. The container according to claim 1, wherein the container is in the shape of a surfboard.
   5. The container according to claim 1, wherein the container is in the shape of a rectangle.
6. The container according to claim 5, wherein the container has an interior mirror.

7. The container according to claim 1, wherein the container is in the shape of an ice cream cone.

8. The container according to claim 1, wherein the container is in the shape of a star.

9. The container according to claim 1, wherein the container is in the shape of a book.

10. The container according to claim 1, wherein the container is in the shape of a lighter.

11. A candy and gum container, comprised of:

   a top portion and a bottom portion, the top portion having a top surface and sidewalls on the perimeter of the top surface and the bottom portion having a bottom surface and sidewalls on the perimeter of the bottom surface, said top portion aligning together with and closing over said bottom portion, forming said container for holding candy and gum and the like;

   the top portion being slightly larger and in the same shape as the bottom portion, allowing the top portion to close on the bottom portion as desired; and

   the top portion is hinged to the bottom portion, allowing the container to open and close as desired.

12. The container according to claim 11, wherein the container is in the shape of a guitar.

13. The container according to claim 11, wherein the container is in the shape of a race car.

14. The container according to claim 11, wherein the container is in the shape of a surfboard.

15. The container according to claim 11, wherein the container is in the shape of a rectangle.

16. The container according to claim 15, wherein the container is provided with an inside mirror.

17. The container according to claim 11, wherein the container is in the shape of an ice cream cone.

18. The container according to claim 11, wherein the container is in the shape of a star.

19. The container according to claim 11, wherein the container is in the shape of a book.

20. The container according to claim 11, wherein the container is in the shape of a lighter.