



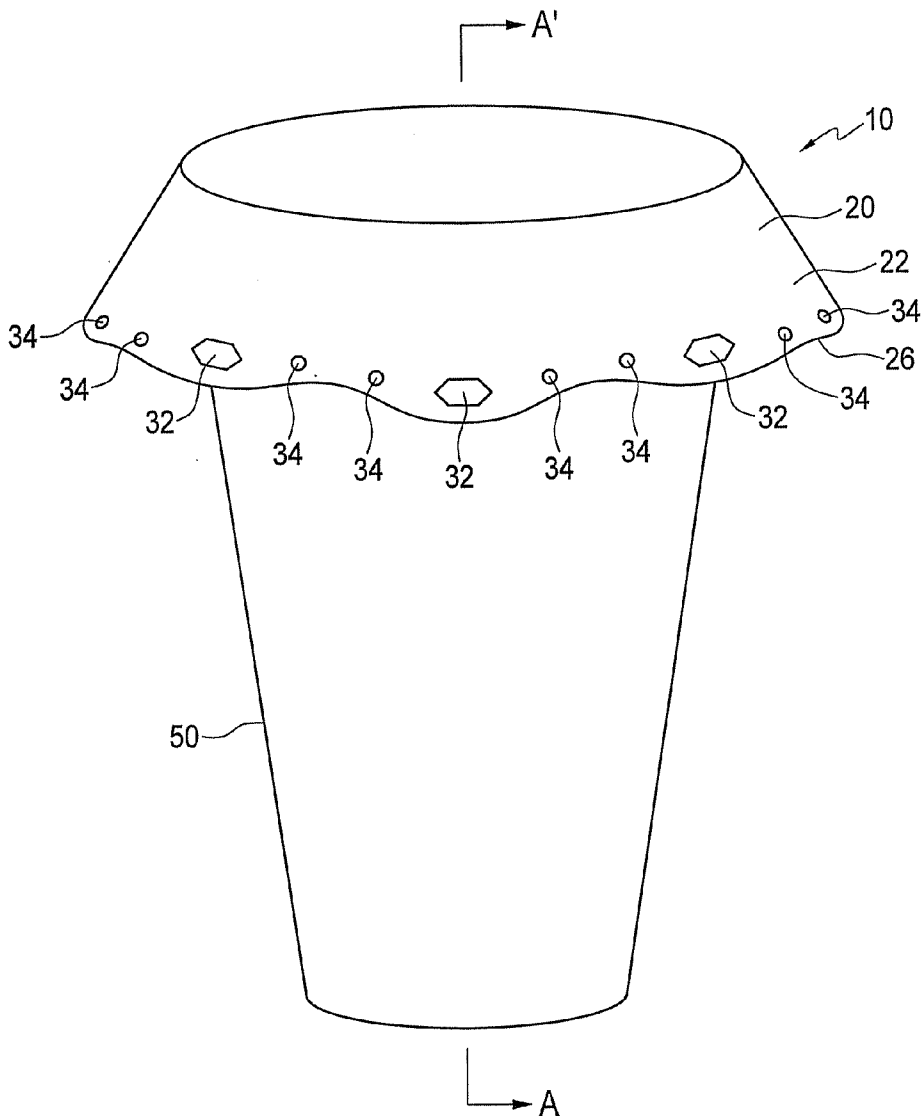
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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Marceca et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2011/0049153 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Mar. 3, 2011**(54) **DRINK COVER**(52) **U.S. Cl. 220/287**(76) Inventors: **Lana Marceca, Regina (CA); Lara Stokes, Priddis (CA)**(57) **ABSTRACT**(21) Appl. No.: **12/767,968**

A drink cover for covering an open top of a drink container is provided. The drink cover comprises a sheet made out of a pliable material having an upper surface, a lower surface, and an outer edge configured to extend beyond the open top of the drink container. A plurality of peripheral weight members are attached to a periphery of the sheet such that opposite sides of the periphery are weighted substantially the same. A method of covering an open top of a drink container comprises the steps of positioning a drink cover over an open top of the drink container with the outer edge of the sheet extending beyond the open top of the drink container. Peripheral weight members weigh down the outer edge such that the lower surface of the sheet sits substantially flat against the open top of the drink container.

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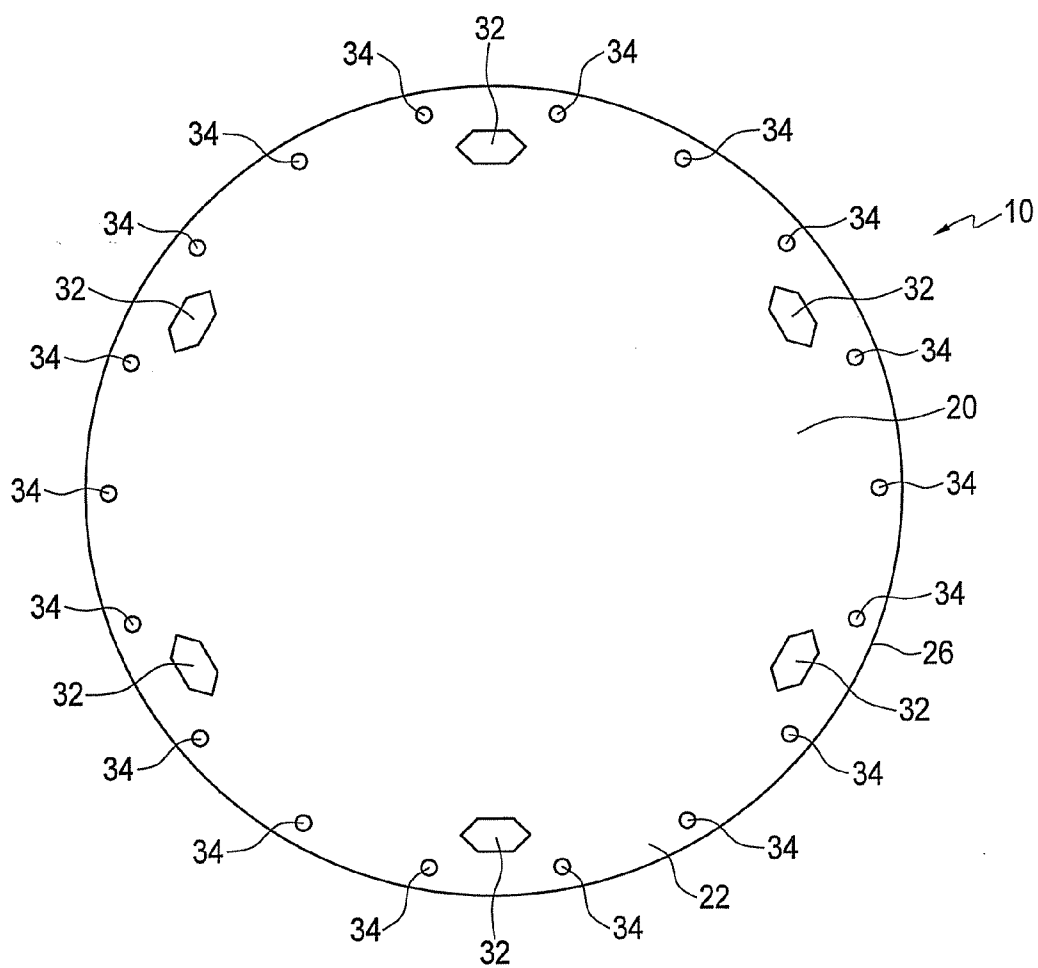


FIG. 1

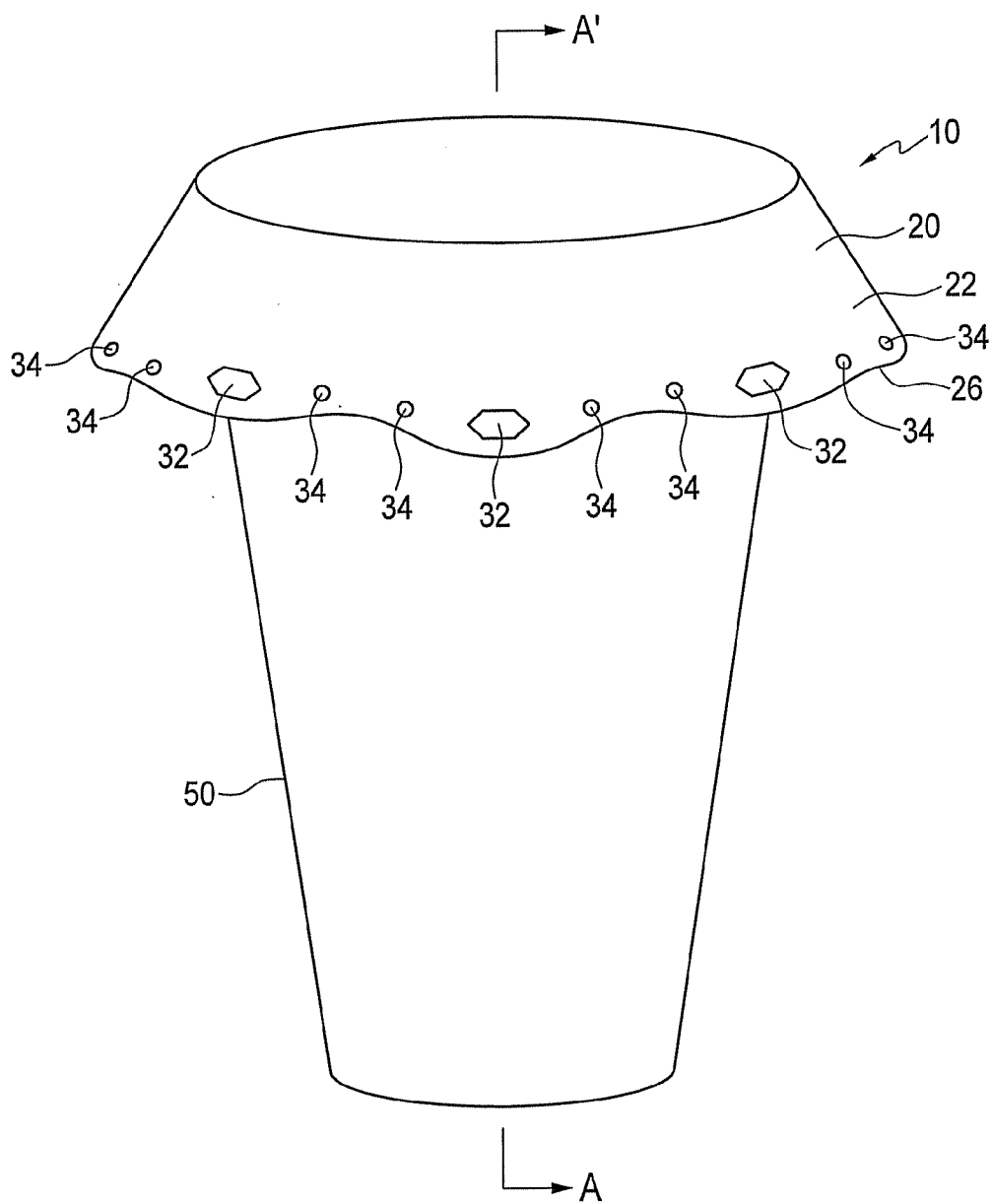


FIG. 2

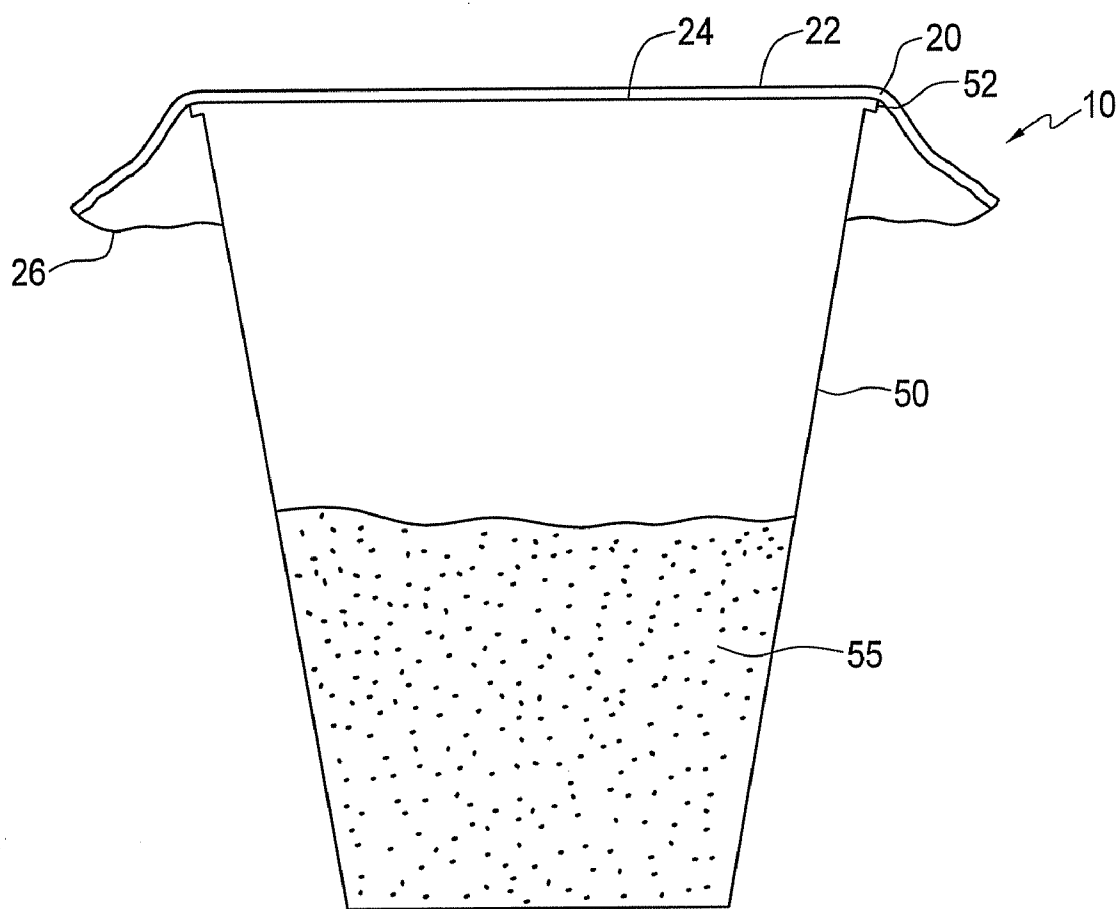


FIG. 3

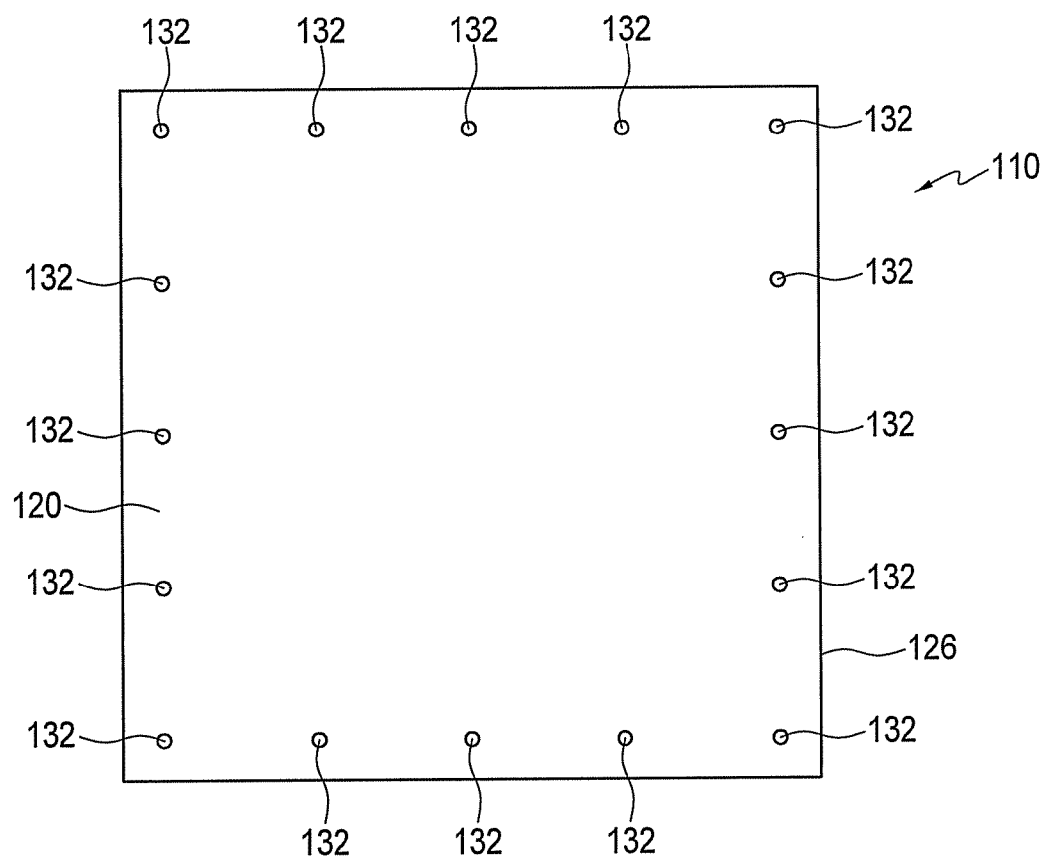


FIG. 4

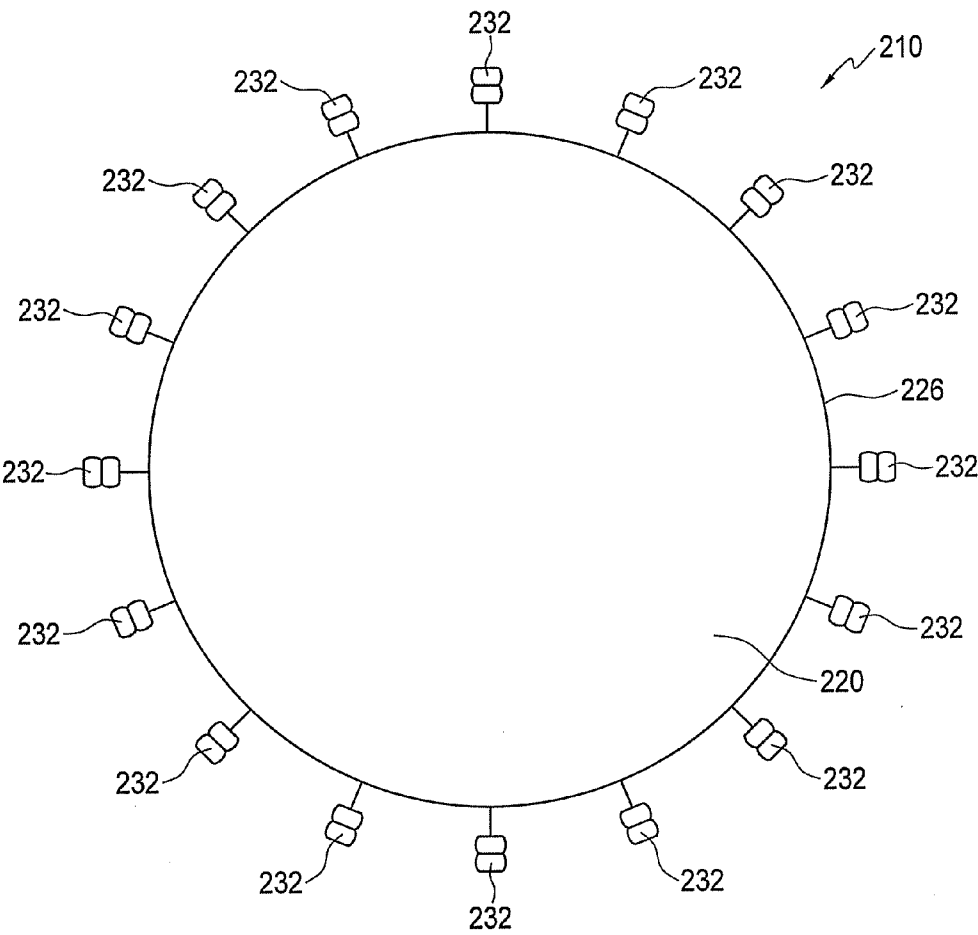


FIG. 5

DRINK COVER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention is in the field of covers for a drink, and more specifically to such covers for temporarily protecting the top surface of a drink container against bugs, dirt, dust, bacteria, and the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] A person enjoying a drink in the outdoors such as on a beach, in a park, or on a porch may often leave their unfinished drink unattended standing on a table while dealing with other matters or while their attention is drawn into a conversation. During this time bugs, dirt, dust, sand, and bacteria are free to float or fly into the top of the drink container and into the drink itself. When the person returns their attention to their unfinished drink, their drink will have been contaminated and therefore undrinkable.

[0003] For this reason, a person may wish to carry their drink with them wherever they go. This is undesirable, however, because it requires that the person pays constant attention to their drink so as not to spill it or to allow any free floating matter or bugs to fly into their drink. Oftentimes both hands of the person are occupied in protecting their drink: one hand to hold their drink and the other to cover the top of the drink container so as not to allow any matter to fly into the top of the drink container or to swat away flies and other bugs from getting into her drink. This solution to preventing matter from contaminating a person's drink is frequently impractical. A person will often have need of both hands in order to go to the bathroom, make food, play outdoor sports, etc. making it frustrating and difficult to continuously swat away bugs or to otherwise use one's hands to prevent matter from being carried into one's drink by the wind.

[0004] It is therefore desirable to have some sort of cover to temporarily protect the open top of a drink container while one leaves it unattended. The cover would prevent floating matter such as dust and sand, and flying bugs from entering the open top of the drink container, and in that way, prevent the drink from being contaminated. Furthermore, such a cover would allow a person to leave their drink unattended while having both hands free to attend to other activities.

[0005] A person might use a readily available object with a flat surface such as a coaster or piece of paper as a temporary cover for their drink. However, this solution is undesirable for many reasons. A person needs to search for a usable object with a flat surface and of a suitable size to fit over the open top of the particular drink container they are using, which may not always be on hand. Even if an object with a flat surface is found, it must be of a suitable size for fitting over the open top of the drink container, and furthermore, must be able to form somewhat of a seal between the flat surface and the open top of the drink container. If such an object is found, once the object is in place, it may still be necessary to pay attention to the drink, as a slight breeze could easily blow the object off of the top of the drink container if the object is not properly weighted down, leaving the drink once again open to contamination. A desire to have a temporary drink cover that fits over the open top of a drink container and can form somewhat of a seal between the temporary drink cover and the open top of the drink container, and that is also properly weighted so as

not to be brushed off the top of the drink container by a slight breeze is therefore reasonable.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] It is an object of the present invention to provide a drink cover that overcomes problems in the prior art.

[0007] In an embodiment, a drink cover for covering an open top of a drink container comprises a sheet made out of a pliable material having an upper surface, a lower surface, and an outer edge, the outer edge configured to extend beyond the open top of the drink container. A plurality of peripheral weight members are attached to a periphery of the sheet such that opposite sides of the periphery of the sheet are weighted substantially the same.

[0008] In another embodiment of the present invention, a method of covering an open top of a drink container comprises the steps of providing a drink cover having a sheet made out of a pliable material having an upper surface, a lower surface, and an outer edge, and a plurality of peripheral weight members attached to a periphery of the sheet. The drink cover is positioned over an open top of the drink container with the outer edge of the sheet extending beyond the open top of the drink container. The peripheral weights weigh down the outer edge of the sheet such that the lower surface of the sheet sits substantially flat against the open top of the drink container.

[0009] The drink cover blocks bugs and dust, sand, and other matter suspended in the air from entering through the open top of the drink container and into the drink. This allows one to temporarily leave their drink unattended while attending to other matters without having their drink contaminated by airborne bugs and particles. The drink cover is furthermore able to be used over a variety of drink containers, including cups and cans, and is maintenance-free once set in place, making it a quick and easy method of allowing a person to leave their drink completely and have both hands free to attend to other activities.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] While the invention is claimed in the concluding portions hereof, preferred embodiments are provided in the accompanying detailed description which may be best understood in conjunction with the accompanying diagrams where like parts in each of the several diagrams are labeled with like numbers, and where:

[0011] FIG. 1 is a top view of a drink cover in an aspect of the invention;

[0012] FIG. 2 is a front perspective view of the drink cover shown in FIG. 1 placed over the open top of a drink container;

[0013] FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the drink cover shown in FIG. 1 along sectional lines AA';

[0014] FIG. 4 is a top view of a drink cover with a rectangular outer edge; and

[0015] FIG. 5 is a top perspective view of a drink cover with peripheral weights extending beyond the outer edge of the sheet of the drink cover.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0016] FIGS. 1, 2, and 3 illustrate a drink cover 10 in an embodiment of the present invention. Drink cover 10 has a base of uniform cross section consisting of a pliable sheet of material 20. Sheet 20 is defined by an upper surface 22, a lower surface 24, and an outer edge 26. Sheet 20 of the drink

cover **10** is unperforated or has pore spaces that are generally so small as to prevent bugs, dust, sand and other airborne particles from passing therethrough. In one embodiment, the sheet **20** is made up of tulle. However, the material of the sheet **20** may be varied and selected suitably depending on what is esthetically most pleasing.

[0017] Sheet **20** is circular in an embodiment, however, it is anticipated that outer edge **26** may be given a geometrical configuration more closely resembling a rectangle so as to be more esthetically pleasing to the eye. Other geometrical shapes are also possible.

[0018] Sheet **20** of the drink cover **10** has a number of peripheral weight members **32** and **34** attached thereto. Around the periphery of sheet **20** near outer edge **26** are peripheral weight members **32** and **34**. Peripheral weight members **32** and **34** are placed such that the opposite sides of the sheet **20** at any point along the outer edge **26** are similarly weighted. Peripheral weight members **32** and **34** are typically beads or gems so as to be esthetically pleasing to the eye. Peripheral weight members **32** and **34** are of sufficient weight so as to be able to ply the sheet **20** downward over the rim **52** of a drink container **50** when the peripheral weight members **32** and **34** are extended beyond the rim **52** of the drink container **50**.

[0019] It is anticipated that there may be more or less peripheral weight members **32** and **34** as is needed to sufficiently weigh down the drink cover **10**. The number of peripheral weight members **32** and **34** is dependent on the size and weight of the drink cover **10**. It is further anticipated that the peripheral weight members **32** and **34** could comprise first and second weight members **32** and **34** wherein the first weight members **32** are spaced equidistant along the periphery of the sheet **20** and the second weight members **34** are spaced equidistant along the periphery of the sheet **20**. The first and second weight members will typically be different gems or beads or combinations thereof, and have different weights. Equally spacing the weight members of different weights about the periphery of the sheet **20** results in the opposite sides of the sheet **20** at any point along the outer edge **26** being similarly weighted.

[0020] Alternatively, the peripheral weight members **32** and **34** could comprise first, second and third weight members with the first and second weight members having substantially the same weight and the third weight member having a different weight. Either one of the first and second weight members could be equidistantly interspersed along the periphery, since they have the same weight, and the third weight members could be spaced equidistant along the periphery, again resulting in opposite sides of the sheet **20** at any point along the outer edge **26** being equally weighted.

[0021] To use the drink cover **10**, a drink **55** contained in the drink container **50** is provided. The drink cover **10** is placed over the open top of the drink container **50** allowing the drink cover **10** to rest on the rim **52** of the drink container **50** and such that the drink cover **10** covers the entire area of the open top of the drink container **50** with the entire outer edge **26** of the drink cover **10** extending beyond the rim **52** of the drink container **50**. The peripheral weight members **32** and **34** weigh down the outer edge **26** of the drink cover **10** such that the lower surface **24** of the drink cover **10** sits substantially flat against the rim **52** of the drink container **50**, forming somewhat of a seal between the lower surface **24** of the drink cover and the rim **52** of the drink container.

[0022] The drink cover **10** blocks bugs and dust, sand, and other matter suspended in the air from entering through the open top of the drink container **50** and into the drink **55**. This allows one to temporarily leave their drink **55** unattended while attending to other matters without having their drink **55** contaminated by airborne bugs and particles.

[0023] To remove the drink cover **10**, one simply lifts the drink cover **10** off of the rim **52** of the drink container **50**, and sets the drink cover **10** aside to be reused.

[0024] FIG. 4 illustrates a drink cover **110** with a rectangular outer edge **126**. It is anticipated that the sheet **120** can have other shapes such as oval, triangular, trapezoidal, etc. and that the sheet **120** may be made with other materials such as plastic or woven fabric. It is further anticipated that there may be any number of different types of peripheral weight members **132** on the same sheet **120**, so long as each point along the outer edge **126** has an opposite side that is similarly weighted thereto.

[0025] FIG. 5 illustrates a drink cover **210** in a further aspect with peripheral weight members **232** that extend beyond the outer edge **226** of the sheet **220**. It is anticipated that peripheral weight members **232** may be ornamental beads or gems to be esthetically pleasing to the eye.

[0026] The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous changes and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all such suitable changes or modifications in structure or operation which may be resorted to are intended to fall within the scope of the claimed invention.

1. What is claimed is:

A drink cover for covering an open top of a drink container, the drink cover comprising:

- a sheet made out of a pliable material having an upper surface, a lower surface, and an outer edge, the outer edge configured to extend beyond the open top of the drink container;
- a plurality of peripheral weight members attached to a periphery of the sheet;
- wherein opposite sides of the periphery of the sheet are weighted substantially the same.

2. The drink cover of claim 1 wherein the peripheral weight members comprise first and second weight members wherein the first weight members are spaced equidistant along the periphery and the second weight members are spaced equidistant along the periphery.

3. The drink cover of claim 1 wherein the peripheral weight members comprise first, second, and third weight members and the first and second weight members have substantially the same weight and the third weight member has a different weight, and wherein either one of the first and second weight members are equidistantly interspersed along the periphery and the third weight members are spaced equidistant along the periphery.

4. The drink cover of claim 1 wherein the peripheral weights extend beyond the outer edge of the sheet.

5. The drink cover of claim 1 wherein the outer edge of the sheet has a circular geometric configuration.

6. The drink cover of claim 1 wherein the outer edge has a rectangular geometric configuration.

7. The drink cover of claim 1 wherein the peripheral weights comprise at least one of beads and gems.

8. The drink cover of claim 1 wherein the pliable material of the sheet is tulle.

9. A method of covering an open top of a drink container, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a drink cover having:

a sheet made out of a pliable material having an upper surface, a lower surface, and an outer edge; and

a plurality of peripheral weight members attached to a periphery of the sheet and arranged such that opposite sides of the periphery of the sheet are weighted substantially the same;

positioning the drink cover over an open top of the drink container with the outer edge of the sheet extending beyond the open top of the drink container; and

wherein the peripheral weights weigh down the outer edge of the sheet such that the lower surface of the sheet sits substantially flat against the open top of the drink container.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the peripheral weight members comprise first and second weight members wherein

the first weight members are spaced equidistant along the periphery and the second weight members are spaced equidistant along the periphery.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the peripheral weight members comprise first, second, and third weight members and the first and second weight members have substantially the same weight and the third weight member has a different weight, and wherein either one of the first and second weight members are equidistantly interspersed along the periphery and the third weight members are spaced equidistant along the periphery.

12. The method of claims 9 wherein the peripheral weights extend beyond the outer edge of the sheet.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein the outer edge of the sheet has a circular geometric configuration.

14. The method of claims 9 wherein the outer edge has a rectangular geometric configuration.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein the peripheral weights comprise at least one of beads and gems.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein the material of the sheet is tulle.

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