Dec. 19, 1961 W. M. PRENTICE 3,013,691

HOLDER FOR BEVERAGE CAN

Filed June 20, 1960 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

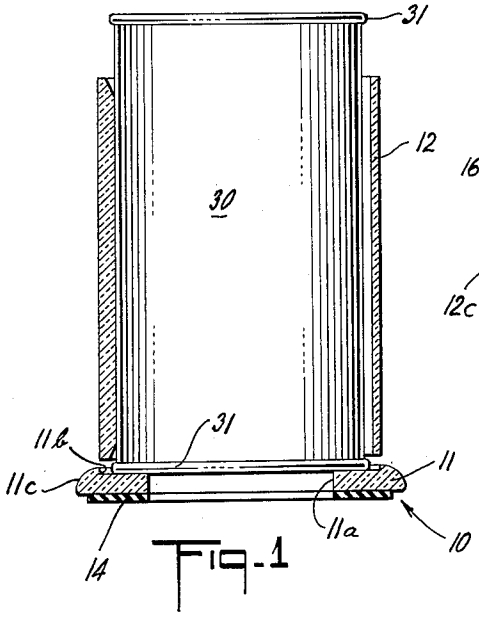


Fig. 1

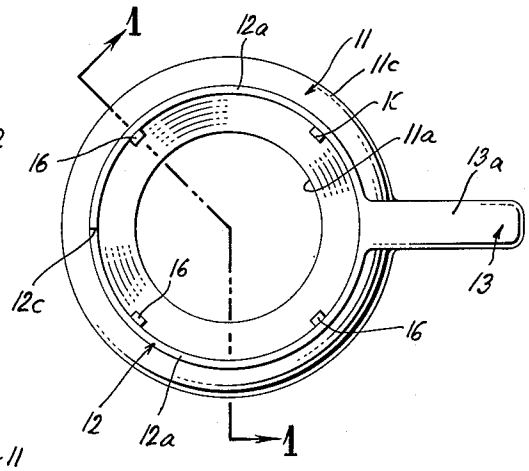


Fig. 2

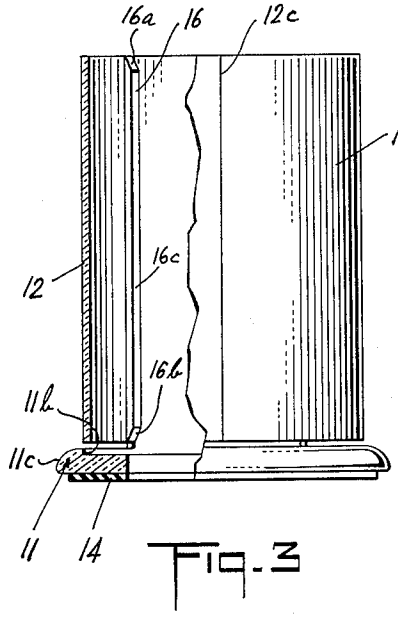


Fig. 3

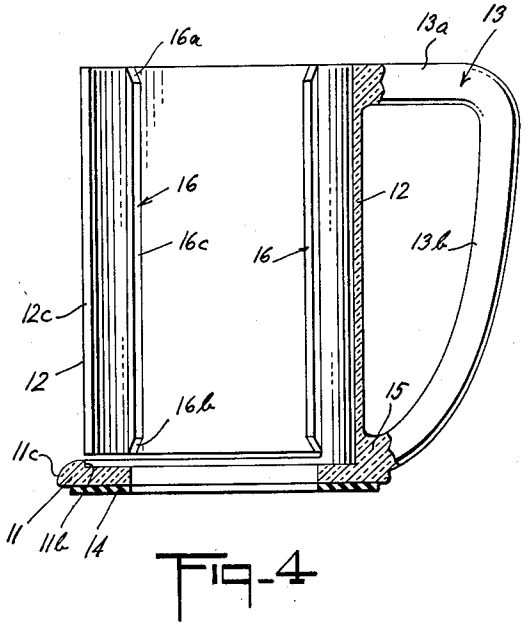


Fig. 4

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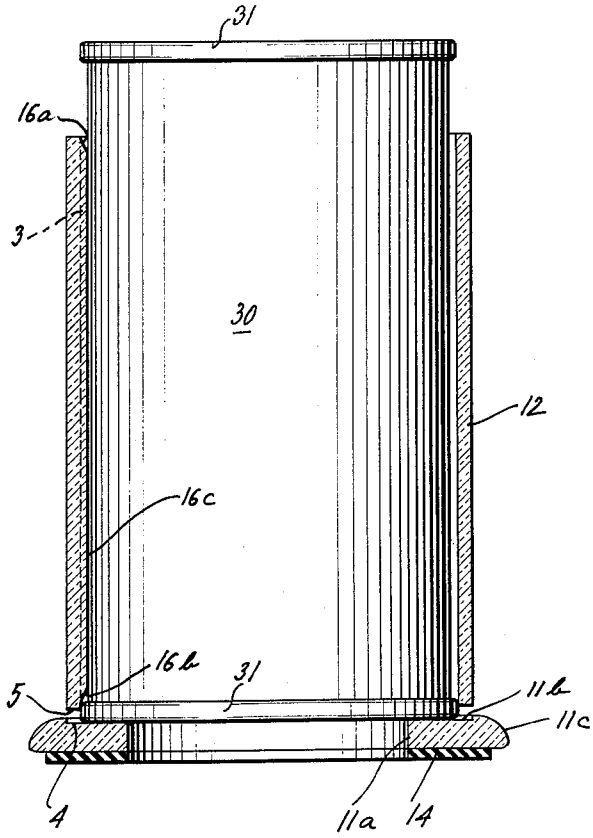


FIG. 5.

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HOLDER FOR BEVERAGE CAN

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This invention relates to an improved holder for a can containing a beverage, and is particularly intended for the purpose of providing a cup-like article having a handle which is adapted to hold a can securely and releasably, while permitting the beverage to be drunk directly from the can.

In many instances, people have preferred to drink beverages directly from a can, rather than pour the contents of the can into a cup, glass or other container. On the other hand, the advantages of a handled cup for drinking purposes are well known.

An important object of the invention is to provide a handled holder for a beverage can or the like, which is adapted to hold the can securely and yet releasably, so as to permit the user to drink directly from the can while having the advantages of a handle for holding the combined holder and can.

It will be understood that the invention has other applications, in that the can which is held by the holder may contain other commodities besides beverages.

Another object of this invention is to provide a holder for a beverage can or the like which may be readily fabricated from plastic or other suitable material, which has a minimum number of parts and which is economical to manufacture, durable and easy to use.

Another object of this invention is to provide a sanitary holder of the above type which will hold the beverage can in such a way that the user can drink from the can without his face coming into contact with the holder.

Another object of the invention is to provide a holder of the above type which will combine with the can to form an insulation medium surrounding the can, thereby making it possible, for example, for the chilled contents of the can to remain cool for a longer period of time than if the can were not in the holder.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the following description, in conjunction with the annexed drawing, in which preferred embodiments of the invention are disclosed.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a section on line 1—1 of FIG. 2, showing the holder and a can received by said holder;

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the empty holder;

FIG. 3 is a front elevation of the holder, partly in section; and

FIG. 4 is a vertical longitudinal section of the holder, partly in elevation; and

FIG. 5 is a view similar to FIG. 1, drawn to enlarged scale, showing a preferred form of holder which is adapted to provide a seal against the lower bead of the can.

Holder **10**, as shown in the drawing, may be made of any suitable material, such as plastic, so as to be generally rigid. Holder **10** is shown as molded in one piece, but it will be apparent that the invention is not so limited.

Holder **10** comprises base **11**, peripheral wall **12** and handle **13**. Holder **10** is adapted to receive a can **30** within peripheral wall **12** and resting upon base **11**. Said can **30** may contain a beverage or any other desired commodity.

Can **30** is of cylindrical shape and of greater height than wall **12**. Can **30** has respective end beads **31** of increased diameter. While said end beads **31** may be formed in any desired way, the invention has particular

application to use in conjunction with conventional cans having the usual end beads of enlarged diameter.

Base **11** is preferably annular in shape and has an external diameter which is substantially greater than the diameter of bead **31**, and a central opening **11***a* of diameter which is less than the diameter of bead **31**. Optionally and preferably, an annular disc **14** is fixed to the underside of base **11**, the central opening of disc **11** having the same diameter as opening **11***a*. Said disc **14** may be made of foam material or any other suitable material which prevents a table from being scratched and which has the properties of a coaster to prevent moisture from damaging the table.

Optionally and preferably, said base **11** has an annular recess **11***b* in the upper surface thereof. The external diameter of recess **11***b* is somewhat greater than the diameter of bead **31**. The internal diameter of recess **11***b* is the same as the diameter of opening **11***a*. The height of recess **11***b* is preferably substantially one half the height of bead **31**. Outwardly of recess **11***b*, the peripheral surface of base **11** is optionally curved as shown by the reference numeral **11***c*.

Peripheral wall **12** is generally cylindrical in shape. Handle **13** has an upper horizontal arm **13***a* which connects with the top rear of wall **12** and extends longitudinally rearwardly thereof. The rear end of arm **13***a* connects with a leg **13***b* which extends downwardly and at its lower end is inclined toward and connects with the upper rear of base **11** at a junction area designated by the reference numeral **15**. Said junction area **15** also connects with the lower rear of peripheral wall **12**, with the lower end of wall **12** being otherwise spaced above the upper face of base **11**. In the form shown in FIG. 5, the height of bead **31** is preferably approximately equal to the distance between the lower edge **5** of wall **12** and the bottom **4** of recess **11***b*, and accordingly approximately twice the distance between the lower edge **5** of wall **12** and the top of base **11**.

Said wall **12** is divided by a vertical slit **12***c*, which extends the entire height thereof, into two wall portions **12***a* which are identical and which are each substantially semicylindrical. Said slit **12***c* is located at the front of the holder and is diametrically opposed to the location of handle **13**, as is clearly shown in FIG. 2.

Said wall portions **12***a* are somewhat flexible and resilient so that they may be spread to widen the slit **12***c* under conditions to be described below. Ordinarily, however, the adjacent vertical edges of the wall portions **12***a* abut each other at slit **12***c*.

Holder **10** is provided with a pair of ribs **16** on each wall portion **12***a*. Said ribs **16** are preferably equally spaced around the periphery of wall **12**, there being four ribs **16** in all. The invention is not limited to this number of ribs. Each said rib extends vertically the entire height of wall **12** and extends radially inwardly from the inner face of wall **12**. Each said rib is preferably generally rectangular in cross section. In the form shown in FIG. 5, the distance between the inner face **16***c* of rib **16** and the inner surface of wall **12** (indicated by broken line **3** in FIG. 5) is approximately equal to the radial dimension of bead **31**, whihc may be approximately $\frac{1}{32}$ inch.

Each said rib **16** has a downwardly inwardly inclined upper surface **16***a* and an upwardly inwardly inclined lower surface **16***b*. Said surfaces **16***a* and **16***b* are optionally and preferably flat.

The inner faces **16***c* of ribs **16** are on an imaginary cylindrical surface, the diameter of which is less than the diameter of bead **31**, so as to permit spreading of wall portions **12***a* when bead **31** is located between ribs **16**. Also, in the form shown in FIG. 5, the diameter of this imaginary cylinder is approximately the same as the diameter of the main portion of the peripheral wall of can **30**, to permit

ribs 16 to abut the peripheral wall of can 30 frictionally, and with substanital closing of slit 12*c*, when can 30 is extended through holder wall 12 with bead 31 clear of ribs 16.

In the use of the holder, with the holder assumed to be held in normal upright position, can 30 is held above the holder and in registration therewith and is moved downwardly with relation to the holder. The lower bead 31 strikes the upper cam surfaces 16*a* of ribs 16, and causes the two wall sections 12*a* to be flexed away from each other, widening slit 12*c*, until bead 31 moves below the cam surfaces 16*a* and against the main inner surfaces of ribs 16. While the can continues to be lowered, wall sections 12*a* remain outwardly flexed.

Can 30 is lowered until bead 31 is located below the level of wall 12 and is seated against the lower face 4 of recess 11*b* of base 11. In this position, the inner faces 16*c* of ribs 16 are in frictional abutment with the outer periphery of can 30, with wall sections 12*a* approximately in their normal positions and with slit 12*c* approximately closed. Preferably, the proximate vertical edges of wall sections 12*a* are slightly spaced, so that wall sections 12*a* are under slight tension.

In the form shown in FIG. 5, the inner surface of wall 12 frictionally abuts lower bead 31 of the seated can, approximately at the upper outer edge of bead 31.

Preferably, in the seated position of the can within the holder, the upper portion of can 30 projects above the upper edge of wall 12. It will be appreciated that if can 30 contains a beverage, by way of example, the usual hole or holes may be formed in the upper end of the can and the contents of the can may be consumed while holding the holder by means of handle 13, and without the face touching the holder.

When can 30 is seated within holder 10, a space is defined bounded by each pair of circumferentially successive ribs, the peripheral wall of can 30, and bottom bead 31. This space is substantially closed, with the exception of the slight gap at slit 12*c* between two ribs 16 and except at the top, and accordingly there is very little air circulation in the space. Can 30, therefore, is surrounded by four "dead air" spaces, which act as heat insulation spaces, retarding warming of the contents of the can (assuming initial chilling thereof).

Can 30 may be withdrawn from holder 10 by raising can 30 with respect to base 11. Force may be exerted on the bottom of can 30, through opening 11*a*, to aid in ejecting can 30 from holder 10. Bottom bead 30 strikes rib cam surfaces 16*b* and flexes ribs 16 and wall portions 12 outwardly, so that bead 30 can slide between inner rib surfaces 16*c*. Upon complete withdrawal of the can, wall portions 12*a* return to their normal position.

While I have disclosed a preferred embodiment of my invention, and have indicated various changes, omissions and additions which may be made therein, it will be apparent that various other changes, omissions and additions may be made in the invention without departing from the scope and spirit thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A combination can and insulating holder therefor, said can having a cylindrical main peripheral wall and end beads of increased diameter, said holder comprising a base, a generally cylindrical holder peripheral wall, means mounting said holder peripheral wall above said base in upstanding relationship thereto, the lower end of said holder peripheral wall being spaced from said base, said base having a seat for reception of an end of said can, the distance between the lower end of said holder peripheral wall and said seat being approximately equal to the thickness of said end bead, said holder peripheral wall having a slit extending the entire length thereof to divide said holder peripheral wall into a pair of wall portions, the proximate upstanding edges of said wall portions normally substantially abutting each other, said wall portions having ribs on the inner faces thereof, said ribs extending the entire length of said holder peripheral wall, the diameter of the space between the inner surfaces of said ribs being normally less than the diameter of said bead, and substantially equal to the diameter of said can peripheral wall, said can being adapted to be moved axially through said holder peripheral wall in either direction, said wall portions being adapted to be spread by the entrance of said bead between said ribs and to tend to return to normal condition when said bead leaves said ribs, whereby said can may be releasably mounted in said holder with said bead resting upon said seat, said holder being of height such that the upper can bead is then above said holder peripheral wall, said ribs then frictionally abutting said can peripheral wall, said holder peripheral wall then abutting said bead, whereby to define insulating dead air spaces respectively bounded by two ribs, said bead, said can peripheral wall and said holder peripheral wall.

2. A combination can and insulating holder therefor, said can having a cylindrical main peripheral wall and end beads of increased diameter, said holder comprising a base, a generally cylindrical holder peripheral wall, means mounting said holder peripheral wall above said base in upstanding relationship thereto, the lower end of said holder peripheral wall being spaced from said base, said base having a seat, the distance between said seat and the lower end of said holder peripheral wall being approximately equal to the thickness of said bead, said holder peripheral wall having a slit extending the entire length thereof to divide said holder peripheral wall into a pair of wall portions, the connection of said wall portions being somewhat flexible and resilient, said wall portions normally substantially abutting each other at said slit but being adapted to be flexed away from each other to enlarge said slit, said wall portions having ribs on the inner faces thereof, said ribs extending the entire length of said holder peripheral wall, said can being adapted to be releasably assembled with said holder by spreading said wall portions and with one of said end beads in said seat, the other end bead being spaced above the top of said holder peripheral wall, said ribs frictionally abutting the periphery of said can, said wall portions being approximately in their normal position relative to each other, the lower end of said holder peripheral wall frictionally abutting said bead, whereby to define a plurality of dead air spaces each between successive ribs and also bounded by said can peripheral wall and by said holder peripheral wall and on the bottom of said bead.

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