April 29, 1952 J. H. TABERER 2,595,113

SECTIONAL CONTAINER

Filed Jan. 20, 1948 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 1.

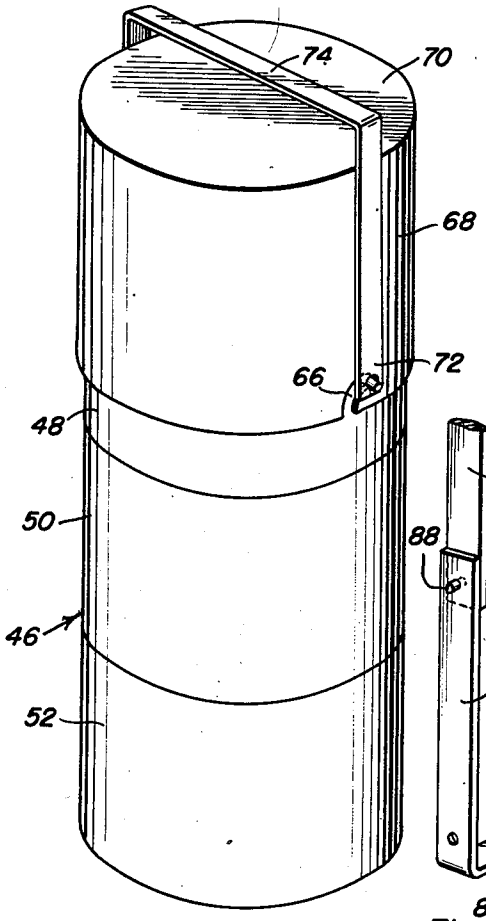

Fig. 2.

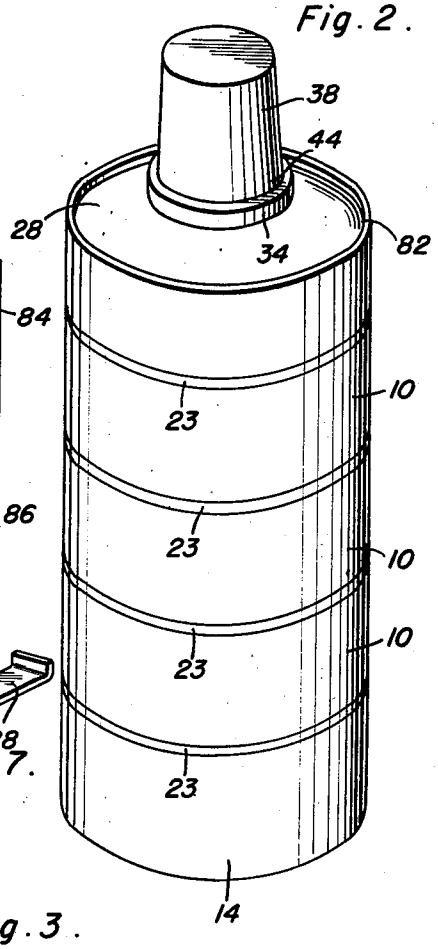

Fig. 7.

Fig. 3.

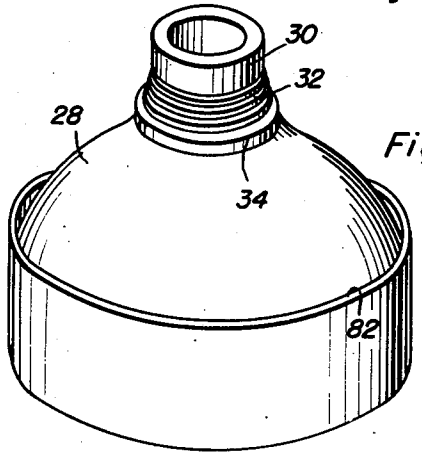

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Fig. 4.

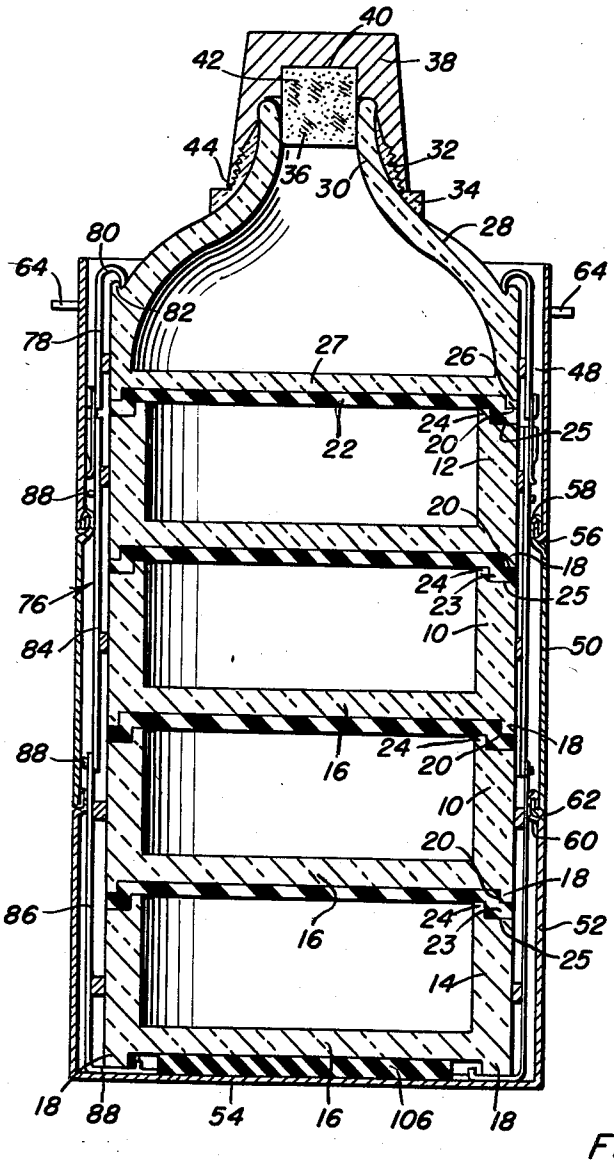
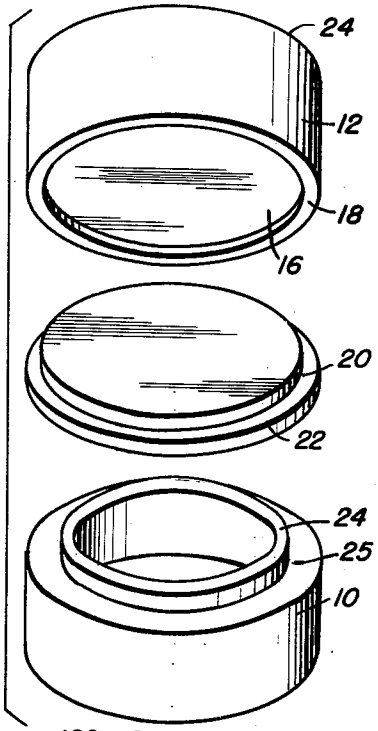


Fig. 5.



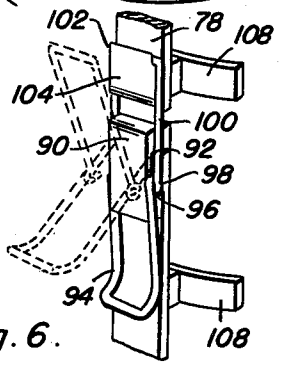


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SECTIONAL CONTAINER

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Application January 20, 1948, Serial No. 3,309

3 Claims. (Cl. 220—4)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in containers for edibles and the primary object of the present invention is to provide a container including a plurality of food holding receptacles and embodying novel and improved means for adjustably retaining said receptacles in a stacked position so that one or more of the receptacles may be removed for reducing the overall length of the assembled container.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide a sectional container including a group of dish-like food receptacles and novel and improved means for sealing said receptacles in stacked position one above the other to retain food placed in the same in a fresh condition for long periods of time.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a sectional container including a sectional housing having a plurality of separable sections facilitating the removal of a selected section or sections for reducing the length of the container.

A still further aim of the present invention is to provide a sectional container for edibles that is small and compact in structure, simple and practical in construction, strong and reliable in use, neat and attractive in appearance, relatively inexpensive to manufacture, and otherwise well adapted for the purposes for which the same is intended.

Other objects and advantages reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the sectional container constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a similar view of Figure 1, and showing the housing, closure and carrying handle removed therefrom;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the liquid chamber used in conjunction with the present invention, and showing the closure cup and stopper removed therefrom;

Figure 4 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken substantially through the center of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a group perspective of a pair of food receptacles and a sealing disk that is disposed between the same;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of the latching means employed for retaining the

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section holding straps in a fixed position; and,

Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective view of one of the section holding straps used in conjunction with the present invention.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, wherein for the purpose of illustration, there is disclosed a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the numeral 10 represents a plurality of annular dish-like receptacles or sections, preferably of durable glass construction. For the purpose of description, one of the receptacles will be referred to as an upper section and will be indicated by the numeral 12 and a further of the receptacles will be referred to as a lower section which is indicated by the numeral 14. Projecting outwardly from the lower walls 16 of each of the dish-like sections, is an annular rib or flanged portion 18 that frictionally engages an annular recess or seat 20 provided in the upper face of a sealing disk 22. One of these sealing disks 22 is frictionally positioned on the upper reduced annular edge 24 of the dish-like sections 10. Integrally formed with the lower face of the disks 22 are annular sealing rings 23 that frictionally engage annular notches or recesses 25 provided in the upper edges of the dish-like sections 10 adjacent the edges 24.

Frictionally engaging the annular recess in the sealing disk that is supported on the upper edge 24 of the upper section 12, is an annular ring 26 integrally formed with the flat lower wall 27 of a hollow substantially frusto-conical liquid chamber 28 having a discharge mouth 30. Fixedly secured to the outer periphery of the mouth 30, is an externally threaded sleeve 32 having an inner, enlarged annular flanged portion 34. In order to close the mouth 30, there is provided a stopper 36 of cork or any other suitable resilient material. Receivably engaging the sleeve 32, is an internally threaded closure cap 38 having a central, annular recessed portion 40 that frictionally engages one end 42 of the stopper 36 that extends outwardly from the mouth 30. When this closure cap 38 is properly applied on the sleeve 32, the innermost extremity 44 of the said cap 38 will frictionally engage the flanged portion 34 of the sleeve to prevent foreign matter from entering between the sleeve 32 and cap 38.

The numeral 46 represents the housing used in conjunction with the present invention generally, including an upper sleeve-like section 48, an intermediate sleeve-like section 50, and a lower sleeve-like section 52 that is closed at its lower end by an integral closure plate 54.

Turned inwardly from the lower edge of the upper sleeve-like section 48, is a plurality of circumferentially spaced arcuate channels 56 that slidably engage circumferentially spaced arcuate channels 58, offset at the upper edge of the intermediate sleeve-like section 50 so that the outer periphery of the upper sleeve-like section 48 will be coplanar or flush with the outer periphery of the intermediate sleeve-like section 50. Offset at the upper edge of the lower sleeve-like section 52 are circumferentially spaced arcuate channels 60 that slidably engage circumferentially spaced inwardly turned arcuate channels 62 at the lower edge of the intermediate section 50 so that the lower sleeve-like section 52 will be coplanar with sections 48 and 50.

Projecting outwardly from diametrically opposite sides of the upper section 48 is a pair of locking pins or lugs 64 that lockably engage arcuate slots or bayonet slots 66 in the annular wall 68 of a closure cup 70 which may be employed for receiving liquid poured from the chamber 28. Pivotally and removably engaging the lugs 64 are the eye ends 72 of a U shaped carrying handle 74.

The numeral 76 represents the sectional strap used in conjunction with the present invention generally, comprising an upper arm 78 having a hook 80 at one end that frictionally engages an annular rib 82 about the outer periphery of the chamber 28, an intermediate arm 84, and a lower arm 86 having an angulated lower end 88 that engages the annular rib 18 projecting outwardly from the lower wall of the lower dish-like section 14. Projecting outwardly from the intermediate arm 84, is a plurality of lugs 88 that selectively engage a suitable lug engaging recess provided in the upper end of the lower arm 88. Fixed on the upper end of the intermediate arm 84, is a pivot block 90 that pivotally supports the inturned ends 92 of a U shaped actuating lever 94 having loops 96 adjacent its inturned ends 92 that pivotally engage the inturned ends 98 of a U shaped latch element 100 that lockably engages a lip 102 at one edge that is provided at one end of a rigid plate 104 fixed on the lower end of the upper arm 78.

It should be noted, that a cushion disk 106 of suitable resilient material is fixed to the inner face of the closure plate 54 to frictionally engage the lower wall of the lower section 14 to space the annular rib 18 from the closure plate 54. Also, arcuate straps 108 fixedly spaced relative to the arms 78, 84 and 86 frictionally embrace the sections 10 and chamber 28 to provide a space between the housing and sections 10 and chamber 28.

In practical use of the device, a group of straps 76 are employed for retaining the sections 10 in a fixed stacked position one on the other. Obviously, one or more of the sections 10 and the sections 50 may be removed from the present container for reducing the overall length of the same and without disturbing the efficiency of the same for retaining food or liquid in a cool or hot condition.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings it is believed that a clear understanding

of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

It is to be understood, however, that even though there is herein shown and described a preferred embodiment of the invention the same is susceptible to certain changes fully comprehended by the spirit of the invention as herein described and the scope of the appended claims.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A container comprising a plurality of dish-like sections stacked one above the other and including an upper section having an upstanding peripheral rib on its outer surface and a lower section having a peripheral rib on its undersurface, a pair of elongated members retaining said sections in assembled position, said members having upper terminal hooks overlying and engaging said rib on said upper section and lower terminal hooks engaging under the rib on said lower section, said members including a pair of straps, and means releasably joining said straps.

2. The combination of claim 1 and arcuate straps fixed to said members and embracing said sections.

3. In a container, upper and lower dish-like sections, each of said sections including a flat bottom wall and a peripheral wall rising from said bottom wall, the upper edge of the peripheral wall of said lower section having a continuous recess therein, a continuous rib depending from the bottom wall of the upper section, and a resilient sealing disk interposed between said section and having a continuous rib on its lower face, the rib on said disk being received in the recesses in the peripheral wall of said lower section, and the upper face of said disk having a continuous groove receiving the rib depending from the bottom wall of said upper section.

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