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(71) Applicant(s)
Reckitt Benckiser (UK) Limited

(72) Inventor(s)
Barraclough, Andrew Douglas; Dibnah, Carl

(74) Agent/Attorney
FB Rice & Co, Level 23 44 Market Street, SYDNEY, NSW, 2000

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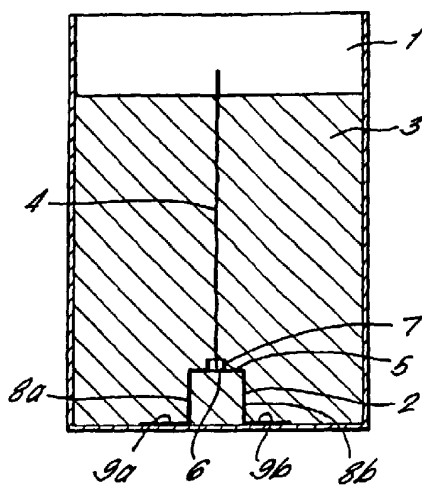
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **RECKITT BENCKISER (UK) LIMITED** [GB/GB]; 103-105 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 3UH (GB).
- (74) Agents: **MCKNIGHT, John Crawford** et al.; Reckitt Benckiser plc, Group Patents Department, Danson Lane, Hull HU8 7DS (GB).
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- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **DIBNAH, Carl** [GB/GB]; 5 Navigation Way, Victoria Dock, Hull, East Yorkshire HU9 1SW (GB). **BARRACLOUGH, Andrew Douglas** [GB/GB]; 40 Jay Close, Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 4HE (GB).

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(54) Title: CANDLE COMPRISING A CONTAINER AND A WICK SUSTAINER



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a containerised candle having a candle wick sustainer (2) having an upper section (5) for holding the wick (4) supported by supporting side walls (8a, 8b) which may be provided with stabilising flanges (9a, 9b). This enables the wick to burn down whilst leaving an insulating layer of wax in the base of the container.



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CANDLE COMPRISING A CONTAINER AND A WICK SUSTAINER

The invention relates to an improved candle wick sustainer.

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Containerised candles having a container filled with candle wax through which a wick passes are generally known. To prevent the wick from floating in liquid wax, or molten wax, the lower end of the wick is usually mounted in a sustainer. The sustainer is generally in the form of a flat metal disc having a central aperture in which the end of the wick is secured. To prevent excessive heating of the bottom of the container and to prevent movement of the sustainer across the bottom of the container, such that the wick is so close to the sides of the container to be able to heat them excessively, users of candles in containers are generally instructed to extinguish the candle when the height of the wax remaining in the container is about one centimetre. However these instructions are not always followed and so alternative solutions to this problem of excessive heating have been sought.

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GB-A-1514338 describes an alternative containerised wax candle. In this candle the wick is inserted into a metallic wick pipe and the pipe is attached to a base disc. The wick is non-combustible and will only enable combustion of the wax which has saturated the wick by way of a slit in the pipe. Thus combustion will be maintained as long as wax remains in the container. Furthermore, the use of a metallic pipe which conducts heat to the metallic disc helps to ensure that the wax at the bottom of the container is molten and thereby exacerbates the problem of heating

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the bottom of the container.

In another field, that of oil burning lamps, US-A-4 134 718 describes yet another wick holding device. This consists of a hollow tube which grips the wick sufficiently to allow it to stand freely at any height in the tube and draw up through the hollow bottom, by a capillary action, oil from the surrounding container. The wick holder is supported in position by a sleeve having a plurality of horizontally extending projections. However, this is a very complicated arrangement which would not be suitable for candles which have a flammable wick, such that the height of the flame lowers as the candle burns. Furthermore candles are generally for one time use and disposal thereafter. The wick holding device of this prior art would be far too expensive to make it commercially viable for use in a candle.

Other combustion devices have been proposed, such as that of US-A-5425633, which provides apparatus to enable the wick to float. In such devices the wick must be non-flammable and held in a buoyant holder that floats on the top of the combustible fuel. As the fuel is gradually used up, the buoyant device travels slowly downwards. As such devices work by capillary action the wick will enable the candle to continue to burn until all the fuel is used. This could therefore cause excessive heating of the base of the container, although the sides are protected by the use of arms extending horizontally from the buoyant device.

Any discussion of documents, acts, materials, devices, articles or the like which has been included in the present specification is solely for the purpose of providing a context for the present invention. It is not to be taken as an admission that any or all of these matters form part of the prior art base or were common general knowledge in the field relevant to the present invention as it existed before the priority date of each claim of this application.

It is therefore a preferred feature of the present invention to provide an improved sustainer which is appropriate for use in a candle having a flammable wick.

According to the invention there is provided a candle comprising a container containing candle wax, said container having at least one side wall and a base, a candle wick sustainer located on the container base comprising a body having an upper section provided with means for securely attaching a wick thereto, the upper section being supported by supporting means such that the sustainer has a hollow space defined by the supporting means and the upper section, and a flammable wick extending through the wax, one end of which wick is securely attached to said sustainer, wherein the supporting means are of a height such that, in use, the candle self extinguishes when the wick has burnt to said end leaving a layer of wax remaining on the base of the container, and wherein, in use, said hollow space provides wax to the wick even when the wick has burnt down to the level of the upper section of the sustainer.

The depth of the wax remaining in the container can be selected to be appropriate according to the material/nature of the container as it depends upon the length of the supporting means of the sustainer. Therefore excessive heating of the sides and base of the container is prevented, the latter especially because the remaining layer of wax in the container insulates the base of the container from the flame.

The height of the sustainer is generally sufficient for the wick to be extinguished before all of the wax in the candle is consumed. This height can be varied according to the circumstances.

Throughout this specification the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps, but not the exclusion of any other element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps.

Preferred embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

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Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional side elevation of a candle holder comprising a candle wick sustainer in accordance with the present invention, candle wax and a wick;

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Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional side elevation of the candle wick sustainer of Fig. 1 on the line II-II of Fig. 3;

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Fig. 3 is a plan view of the sustainer shown in Fig. 2;

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Fig. 4 is a plan view of an alternative embodiment of a candle wick sustainer in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional side elevation of the sustainer of Fig. 4 on the line V-V.

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Fig. 6 is a plan view of a third embodiment of a candle wick sustainer in accordance with the present invention; and

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Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional side elevation of the sustainer shown in Fig. 6 on the line VII-VII.

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Referring now to Figs. 1 to 3, there is shown a candle comprising a container 1 filled with wax 3 which may be solid or liquid, through which extends a wick 4 attached to a sustainer 2 situated on the base of the container. The container 1 can be of any

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suitable shape, but is preferably in the form of a cup having a base and side walls. The container 1 may be made of any suitable material such as glass or ceramics although glass is commonly preferred as it provides better illumination from the flame. The wick is made of any suitable flammable material.

The sustainer 2 is typically made from metal or another inflammable material. Examples of suitable materials include tin plate, aluminium, brass, copper, steel, lead, fibreglass (especially when treated with a flame retardant) or a ceramic material. Aluminium is preferably used for commercial reasons, in that it is relatively cheap and is easily formed by a pressing process.

The sustainer 2 has upwardly extending side walls 8a, 8b supporting an upper section 5. In the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 to 3 there are a pair of opposing vertical side walls 8a, 8b and the upper section 5 extends horizontally from one wall 8a to the other 8b. In this embodiment the side walls 8a, 8b are provided at their lower ends with substantially horizontally extending flanges 9a, 9b which help to provide additional stability to the sustainer 2.

The sustainer 2 thus has a hollow space defined by the side walls 8a, 8b and upper section 5.

The upper section 5 defines an aperture 6, extending upwardly from which is an annular collar 7. The collar 7 is of a sufficient height and made of a suitable material to enable it to be crimped to securely clamp and hold an end of the wick 4.

In use, when the upper end of the wick 4 is lit,

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the flame burns both wax fed via the wick 4 from the wax pool below the flame and the wick 4 itself. When the wick 4 has burnt down to the level of the upper section 5 of the sustainer 2, the flame continues to burn wax which enters the wick 4 from the hollow space beneath the sustainer walls 5, 8a, 8b up through the aperture 6. When the level of the wax 3 in the container 1 is lower than the aperture 6, the wick 4 will no longer be in contact with the wax 3 and will very quickly burn out. The level of the wax 3 left in the container 1 will thus be slightly lower than the under surface of the sustainer upper section 5.

Referring now to Fig. 4 and 5, there is illustrated an alternative sustainer 2 according to the present invention. This sustainer 2 has a substantially cylindrical side wall 8. The upper section 5 is thus an annular plate supported by the side wall 8. Although not illustrated, this version of the sustainer may also be provided with one or more stabilising flanges 9a, 9b.

Referring now to Figs. 6 and 7 there is shown a third embodiment of a sustainer 2 having frusto-conical side walls 8. The upper section 5 can either be defined by the upper edges of the side walls 8 as shown or may comprise an annular plate such as that illustrated in Fig. 5.

Thus it will be acknowledged that the sustainer 2 can take many different shapes with one or more supporting side walls. Other embodiments could include skirts of polygonal cross section, e.g. triangular, square, rectangular or pentagonal etc. Where the supporting side wall is in the form of a skirt it is optionally perforated with apertures. The

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advantage of having such apertures in the skirt is that wax is better able to flow into the hollow space defined by the side wall 8 and upper section 5 to give it a more aesthetically pleasing appearance. The perforations may also be advantageous whilst the container 1 is being filled with wax as the sustainer 2 is less likely to move out of position.

Where there are a plurality of separate supporting side walls 8, such as those shown in Figs. 1 to 3, again the shape of these may vary, e.g. triangular, square, rectangular. Alternatively there may be three or even more separate tubular or planar legs.

In another embodiment of the invention the supporting side wall or walls may be perpendicular to the plane of the upper section or at an angle thereto. Additionally, it should be noted that the upper section 5 does not need to be horizontal although the collar 6 is preferably located around a vertical axis.

As mentioned above, the sustainer 2 may or may not have stabilising flanges, the dimensions of which will depend on the dimensions of the sustainer and the container in which it is located.

Although all of the embodiments described above incorporate an aperture 6 in the upper section 5, this is not strictly necessary as long as means are provided, say in the form of the annular collar 7 or other appropriate means, for securely clamping the wick thereto.

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The above embodiments have been described by way of example only and many variations are possible without departing from the scope of the invention.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. A candle comprising a container containing candle wax, said container having at least one side wall and a base, a candle wick sustainer located on the container base comprising a body having an upper section provided with means for securely attaching
5 a wick thereto, the upper section being supported by supporting means such that the sustainer has a hollow space defined by the supporting means and the upper section, and a flammable wick extending through the wax, one end of which wick is securely attached to said sustainer, wherein the supporting means are of a height such that, in use, the candle self extinguishes when the wick has burnt to said end leaving a layer of
10 wax remaining on the base of the container, and wherein, in use, said hollow space provides wax to the wick even when the wick has burnt down to the level of the upper section of the sustainer.
2. A candle as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sustainer supporting means is
15 provided with at least one outwardly extending stabilising flange.
3. A candle as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the wick attaching means comprise an annular collar having a side wall which is crimpable to hold the wick securely in place.
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4. A candle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims comprising two or more supporting means
5. A candle comprising a container and a candle wick sustainer substantially as
25 hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying Figures 1-7.

Dated this 13 day of May 2003

Reckitt Benckiser (UK) Limited
Patent Attorneys for the Applicant:

F B RICE & CO

FIG. 1.

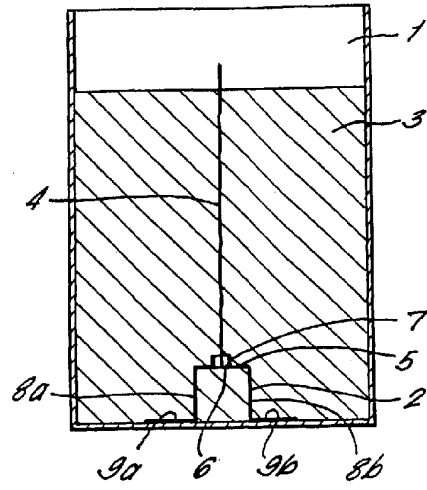


FIG. 2.

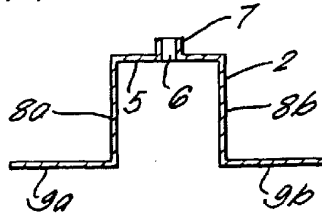


FIG. 3.

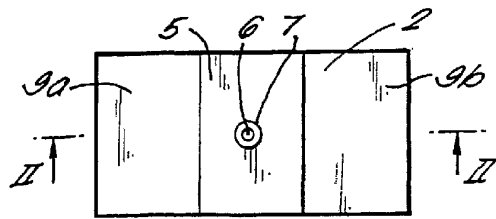


FIG. 4.

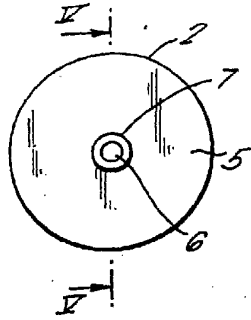


FIG. 5.

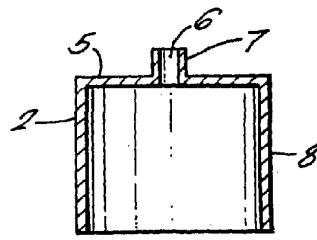


FIG. 6.

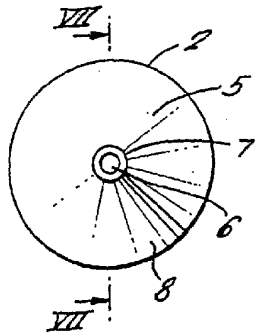


FIG. 7.

