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(11) **EP 1 127 798 B1**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION**

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
14.12.2005 Bulletin 2005/50

(51) Int Cl.7: **B65D 5/74**

(21) Application number: **00103429.7**

(22) Date of filing: **25.02.2000**

(54) **Pouring spout attachment with automatic opening feature**

Selbstöffnender Ausgiessaufsatz

Bec verseur à ouverture automatique

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**

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(43) Date of publication of application:
29.08.2001 Bulletin 2001/35

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(56) References cited:
WO-A-98/41452 **FR-A- 2 766 464**
FR-A- 2 779 418 **US-A- 5 833 112**

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Description**TECHNICAL FIELD**

[0001] The present invention relates to an auto-opening pouring fitment, comprising: a fitment, said fitment having a base and an upstanding wall defining a pouring zone therein; a flap hingedly retained within said pouring zone; a cam follower extending upward from said flap; a cap retained on said fitment, said cap having a top wall and a depending side wall, said top wall having a spiral cam depending therefrom and engageable with said cam follower.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Pouring spout attachments have been used for cartons and particularly for liquid carrying containers. These attachments are typically mounted on the outside of cartons surfaces or have flanges which are secured on the interior surface of the carton and extend outward through an opening in the container sidewall. Several prior art patents disclose utilization of a pull tab for opening of this container spout. There are also push in tabs for weakened panel zones within the spouts for opening the container. Such spouts are disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,101,999 and 4,934,590.

[0003] Other patents are known such that the push-in aspect of the spout for opening of the container has a latch feature such that the push-in flap for the spout remains in the open position. Such a disclosure is found in U.S. Patent 5,833,112. A drawback to these prior art spouts is that they require user intervention for actual opening of the container separate and apart for opening the spout itself, traditionally through either a standard threaded closure or a snap on cover.

[0004] Other prior art which automatically punctures or opens the container upon removal of the cap is found in the prior art. These structures however suffer from a drawback in that they require serrated or rough edges to puncture the container wall thereby possibly causing shards to appear in the contents within the container. Such a disclosure is contained within U.S. Patent 5,960,992.

[0005] Additional prior art spout fitments incorporate a third insert or blade which is acted upon by an extension of the cap. Inclusion of separate elements which are not integral with the fitment and which require assembly within the design increases the overall costs of production and assembly. Further, tolerance issues between the non-integral pieces may prevent the fitment from acting properly to open the container.

[0006] Document FR-A1-2 766 464 discloses an opening fitment, the design of which clearly does not utilize the novel features of the present invention. The design shown in this French reference requires that the tamper indicating band be removed after which the cap is tightened or turned in the clockwise direction in order

that the cam axially forces vertical or downward pressure on the post in order to force the flap in the open position. Thus, the user is required to tighten the cap onto the fitment in order to forcibly provide the axial force necessary to puncture the container. After puncturing the container and tightening of the closure, the cap is unthreaded in the counterclockwise direction and the user is required to push open the flap the remainder of the way and then pour the contents of the container through the opening.

[0007] FR-A1 2 766 464 only provides for axial or vertical force downward on the post to open the container provided only upon threading the closure on, not when removing the closure. This is counter-intuitive in that the user is required to initially tighten the cap before use. Another problem associated with such a design is that the upward resistance imparted by the post onto the cam frequently causes the cap to strip off of the threads of the fitment, particularly when the container is a cardboard container. As noted, the design set forth in this citation works in the opposite fashion of the presently claimed device in that it operates on the flap of the fitment only after threading the closure onto the fitment and even then only imparts a vertical force downward on the post. Therefore, this known fitment is not an auto-opening fitment like the present invention.

[0008] WO-A-98/41452 lacks the teaching of the presently claimed pour spout design. Here, as clearly seen in Fig. 6, a fitment design wherein a threaded cap having a cam again imparts an axial or vertical force on the cutter along angled or inclined surface. As can be appreciated, this reference works upon unthreading of the cap as is operable in the present invention. However, the WO-A-98/41452 represents a design which again only imparts an axial force and provide a single cam surface for imparting the downward force onto the inclined surface of the cutter. This again may cause stripping of the cap off of the threads from the fitment if a significant force is required to open the container.

[0009] Document FR-A1-2 779 418 (corresponds to EP-B1-1 091 879 discloses a closure with perforating means and pouring nozzle comparable with the one known of FR-A1-2 766 464. Again, this closure requires that the tamper indicating band (anti-tampering ring) has to be removed before the cap has to be turned in the clockwise direction in order that the inner wall activates the flap having cutting parts on its surface in order to destroy the package material.

[0010] There does not exist in the prior art references an economical and easy to use automatic opening pour spout which attaches to a container such that the user, upon unthreading of the closure, causes the opening of the container without ragged tearing of the container side wall or creating chaff.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] A general object of the present invention is to

provide an automatically opening pour spout fitment wherein the user, upon unthreading of the closure, causes the fitment to puncture the container and allow the contents to be readily poured therefrom.

[0012] It is another object of the present invention to provide a pour spout fitment wherein user intervention is not required to puncture the container sidewall.

[0013] An additional object of the present invention is to provide an automatically opening fitment wherein the auto opening feature provides downward force in a direction which is parallel to the bore of the spout of the fitment.

[0014] Another object of the present invention is to provide an automatic opening pour spout fitment wherein the puncturing apparatus does not cause tearing of the carton sidewall or generate foreign material within the container.

[0015] A further object of the present invention is to provide an easy opening fitment wherein even rotational pressure is required to open the container through use of the auto opening feature of the fitment.

[0016] Still another object of the present invention is to provide a pour spout fitment wherein the rotational movement of the closure on the pour spout is converted to vertical pressure on the container to adequately open the container and fitment. It is further desirable to have the pour spout fitment remain in the open position once opened by the user.

[0017] Still another object of the present invention is to provide a pouring spout fitment wherein the closure on the pour spout is threadably attached to the spout of the fitment and wherein the closure has a tamper indicating band or other frangibly attached indicator to indicate prior opening of the spout. Further, upon opening of the closure by the user, the tamper indicating band is fractured from the closure and the fitment pierces the container and opens it for dispensing of the contents.

[0018] These and other objects heretofore stated are met by the automatically opening pour spout fitment of the present invention. The pour spout fitment of the present invention is characterized in that said cam follower having a substantially vertical back edge surface and a top surface and that said spiral cam contacting said cam follower on both said substantially vertical back edge surface and said top surface during rotation of said cap in the counterclockwise direction.

[0019] All of the above outlined objectives are met by the automatically opening pouring fitment of the present invention described herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] These and other objects and advantages will become more apparent when references made to the following drawings and the accompanying descriptions.

Figure 1 is a side cutaway view of the pouring spout fitment with automatic opening feature of the

present invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the pouring spout fitment of Figure 1 without the closure attached;

Figure 3 is a bottom perspective view of the closure shown in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a bottom view of the closure shown in Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view of the fitment of Figure 1 with the fitment partially opened;

Figure 6 is a side-sectional view of the fitment shown in Figure 1 with a closeup of the hinge area;

Figure 7 is a top view of an alternative embodiment for the present invention of the pouring spout fitment;

Figure 8 is a side-sectional view of the alternative embodiment for the pouring spout fitment of Figure 7;

Figure 9 is a side-sectional view of the pouring spout fitment shown in Figure 7;

Figure 10 is a side-sectional view of the pouring spout fitment of Figure 7 partially opened; and

Figure 11 is a sectional view of the pouring spout fitment of Figure 7 in the fully opened position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0021] As shown in Figure 1, the automatically opening pour spout fitment of the present invention is shown. The pour spout fitment 10 of the present invention is comprised of a threaded cap 20 which threadably engages a fitment 40. As is commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art, the fitment 40 is affixed to the sidewall of a container or other carton wherein upstanding sidewall 46 of the fitment extends outward therefrom. Typically, below hinged flap 42 of the fitment 40 is found a weakened portion of the container sidewall, the container not being shown in the figures. This weakened portion allows the flap to rupture the wall and open the carton when downward pressure is applied.

[0022] The fitment 40 is comprised of base portion 49, flap 42 and upwardly extending sidewall 46. Extending upward from the hinged flap 42 is a cam follower 44 which is more clearly shown in Figure 2. The design of the automatically opening pour spout fitment 10 shown in Figure 1 is such that upon rotational movement of cap 20 to remove the cap from the sidewall 46 of the fitment, a spiral cam 24, extending downward from the top wall

of the cap 20 contacts cam follower 44 causing rotation about the hinge and opening of the container.

[0023] With the design of the cam follower 44 and spiral cam 24 of the present invention, opening of the cap 20 causes first downward pressure to achieve tearing of the container and then rotational pressure so that the flap rotates about the hinge. Spiral cam 24 initially operating on back edge surface 45c in order to apply the downward cutting or tearing force. Continued turning of the cap 20 causes the spiral cam 24 to pass upward along the back edge surface 45c and in the last 90 degrees of rotation, in the third quarter turn, the spiral cam 24 acts vertically downward upon the cam follower 44 on the tip portion 45b.

[0024] For example, in the first portion of turning of the cap 20, i.e. first 180 degrees, the spiral cam 24 contacts the vertical edge or back edge surface 45c of the cam 44. As the tip portion 45b of the cam follower 44 approaches center of the cap 20 (i.e. it begins to move from right to left as shown in Figure 1 due to the rotation about hinge 39), the spiral cam 24 passes over the tip portion 45b and acts directly downward on the tip for final portion of the opening rotation. Horizontal action is therefore provided upon the vertical or back edge surface 45c to provide downward tearing force on the container and then vertical action is provided on the tip portion 45b of the cam follower 44 to allow the flap 42 to enter through the torn portion and fully open the container.

[0025] Turning directly to the design of the fitment 40, the fitment is comprised of a base 49 which provides an affixation point for the fitment to the container. The base portion 49 may overlay the exterior of the container, may be integrated within the sidewall of the container or may be placed on the interior of the sidewall of the container with the annular sidewall 46 of the fitment 40 extending outward through an annular opening. In any design, a weakened section of the wall of the container is found directly below flap 42 of fitment 40. This weakened section is such that sufficient downward force on flap 42 causes the weakened section to rupture or tear and open the fitment for dispensing of the container through sidewall 46.

[0026] As can be seen in Figure 2, the fitment 40 may be of rectangular shape and provide sufficient area for affixing the fitment to the container. Annular sidewall 46 extends upward from the base portion 49 and forms a pouring zone there through in order to dispense the contents of the container to which the fitment is attached. The fitment is additionally comprised of a plurality of notch apparatus 41 formed along the conjoining section of the annular sidewall 46 and base 49. Notches 41, shown in Figure 2 as being separate by 90° along the base of sidewall 46 are positioned so as to contact similar notches formed on a tamper indicating band 30 which depends from a cap 20. Notches 41 will coact with these notches on the cap 20 so that the tamper indicating band 30 will rupture from the lower edge of the cap

sidewall and separate therefrom.

[0027] Returning to Figure 2, the fitment 40 further contains at least one helical thread 47 for threadably engaging the cap 20. Upon review of Figure 2, it is apparent that the fitment 40 has formed within the confines of the pouring zone, defined by the sidewall 46 a flap 42. The flap 42 is hingedly connected to the base 49 via hinge 39. Hinge 39 is defined as a weakened area of the base portion along one segment of the flap such that the flap may rotate about the hinge line thereby entering the container and piercing the weakened portion there below. The flap further contains the cam follower 44 which, as is seen in the Figures, has a slightly triangular shape and extends upward from the flap 42. The cam follower 44 in this embodiment is shown as being perpendicular to the hinge line 39.

[0028] The flap 42 of the fitment 40 may generally be about 20mm in diameter and is separated from the annular sidewall 46 by a slight gap 43 shown in Figure 2. This gap provides sufficient clearance for the annular flap to rotate about the hinge line 39 and move upward or downward through the pouring zone defined by the annular side wall 46.

[0029] The cam follower 44, as described above, is shown as being perpendicular to the hinge line 39 in this example. The cam follower 44 may be placed slightly above the center line of the flap so as to provide a positive angle of attack and engagement via surfaces 45b and 45c, as outlined above, against the spiral cam 24 and its depending contacting driving edge 23, shown in Figure 3. Thus, with this particular design, the cam follower 44 allows the spiral cam 24 to provide initial downward force on the flap 42 when the cap 20 is rotated in the counter clockwise direction. Hinge line 39 allows the flap to move downward when the cap 20 is rotated thereby providing sufficient downward force to pierce the weakened container sidewall found below flap 42 and then rotational force to allow the flap to fully open the pouring zone of the fitment.

[0030] Turning to Figure 3, the cap 20 of the present invention which works in conjunction with the fitment 40 is clearly shown with the spiral cam 24 extending away from the top wall 22. The cap 20 is generally comprised of a top wall 22, a sidewall 21 extending downward therefrom and a tamper indicating band 30 which is frangibly attached to the lower edge of sidewall 21. Of particular importance in this design is the spiral cam 24 which provides the downward force on flap 42 of the fitment 40. The cam 24 has a center post 28 which, as can be seen from Figure 4, extends approximately from the center of the top wall 22. The cam 24 spirals in a clockwise fashion from the center post 28 and descends downward to lower portion 29 and has a contacting driving edge 23 which is defined by the width of the spiral cam 24. Driving edge 23 of the spiral cam 24 engages the cam follower 44 found on flap 42. As previously mentioned, the cam follower 44 is positioned slightly off of the center line of flap 42 so that it positively engages the

driving edge 23 of spiral cam 24.

[0031] The spiral design of the cam 24 allows the cam to exert downward thrust onto the cam follower 44 along a horizontal plane. As can be seen from the Figures, the spiral cam 24 and cam follower 44 provide a means to provide a downward driving force on the force concentrator which is initially parallel to the direction of the bore of the spout. In other words, the downward force is applied in a direction which extends through the pouring zone of the fitment. Such directional downward force allows the spiral cam design of the present invention to more particularly distribute the downward thrust of the cam as well as provide more leverage against cam follower by the cap 20. Thus, the spiral cam 24 having depending driving edge 23 acts to drive the cam follower 44 along the rear vertical surface 45c and tip portion 45b. By providing a spiraling depending surface or driving edge 23 in conjunction with engagement surfaces 45b and 45c of the cam follower 44, horizontal and rotational pressure is applied to flap 42 ensuring that the side wall of the container located thereunder is adequately pierced by the flap 42.

[0032] As can be seen in Figure 3, the cap 20 is further comprised of a tamper indicating band 30 which detaches from the sidewall 21 of the cap upon first removal of the cap 20. The tamper indicating band 30 is provided with a plurality of notches 32 which align directly with notch members 41 formed on the base 49 of the fitment 40. The notches 42 of the cap receive notch members 41 and prevent the tamper indicating band from rotating when rotational force is provided to the cap by the user. Thus, positive indication that the cap has been previously removed is provided.

[0033] Turning to Figure 5, it can be seen that the flap 42 has been pushed downward after the cap 20 has been rotated and removed from annular side wall 46 of the fitment. Reaching the end of its travel, cam 24 is shown passing over the tip portion 45b of cam follower 44 and has forced flap into the full downward position as shown. The flap 42 has rotated about the hinge 39, which is more clearly shown in Figure 6. The hinge 39 is provided along a segment of the flap 42 and is weakened line which, due to its reduced thickness, allows the flap to rotate thereabout. The hinge 39 as is shown in Figure 6 may be weakened sufficiently that it is less than one half the thickness of the remaining portion of the flap 42 but alternative formations of an adequate hinge are well within the design capabilities of one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0034] Returning to Figure 5, after full counter clockwise rotation of the cap 20, the spiral cam 24 has contacted the cam follower 44 and forced the flap 42 in the downward position. The contents of the container may now be dispensed through the pouring zone which is defined by the side wall 46 of the fitment 40.

[0035] Turning to Figure 7, an alternative fitment 100 is shown. In this alternative design, the fitment 100 is provided with a stay open feature so that the flap 42,

when pushed in the downward position as was previously shown in Figure 5, maintains its open position allowing the contents to be poured from the container in routine fashion. The stay open feature of the fitment 100 shown in Figure 7 is comprised of a shoulder 50 which extends across the flap 42 adjacent to the hinge 39. The shoulder 50 as can be more clearly shown in Figure 8, extends upward from the flap and rotates forward and downward about the hinge line 39 when rotational force is applied upon the cam follower 44. The downward movement of the shoulder 50 forces it into contact with the stop members 52 and 53 which extend inwardly from the annular sidewall 46 into the pouring zone. Stop members 52 and 53 as are seen in Figure 7, thereby engage the shoulder 50 after it has rotated downward and, once the shoulder 50 is forced past the stop members 52 and 53, causes the flap to maintain an open position. Therefor, sufficient downward force upon the cam follower 44 is provided by the spiral cam 24 during rotation of the cap such that, when the spiral cam 24 has reached the lower portion 29 thereof, rotation of the cap 20 in the counter clockwise and opening direction eventually causes the spiral cam 24 to force the cam follower 44 downward and the shoulder 50 to by pass the stop members 52 and 53. Thus, even at this lower position of the spiral cam 24 and cam follower 44, sufficient downward force is provided to snap the shoulder 50 past the stop members 52 and 53 so that it maintains an open position.

[0036] While a first and a second stop member 52 and 53 are provided, it is readily apparent that unitary stop members or shoulder elements may be provided to sufficiently retain the flap 42 in the open position. Further, alternative stay open features for retaining the flap 42 in the open position after the flap 42 is rotated in the downward direction about the hinge 39 are well within one of ordinary skill in the art to design and implement on the fitment 100 of the present invention.

[0037] Also shown in Figure 7 is the force concentrating member 54 which extends downward from the bottom surface of flap 42. In the fitment 100 of the present embodiment, the force concentrating member 54 is designed so that a slightly sharpened portion may extend downward from the flap and provide maximum concentration of force to initiate tearing of the weakened portion directly below the flap 42 along the container wall. Force concentrating member 54 as is shown in Figure 8, is slightly trapezoidal in shape but may alternatively be triangular or other possible designs. Force concentrating member 54 extends downward from the flap and, is shown in Figure 9 does not extend through the sidewall of the container below the flap 42 upon shipment. As shown in Figure 9, the flap 42 is in a slightly raised position allowing the force concentrating member to remain slightly apart from the weakened portion of the container sidewall. The hinge 39 of the fitment 100 allows the flap 42 to be rotated along the hinge in the upward and downward direction. As is shown in Figure 9,

the force concentrating member 54 is provided so that, upon turning of the cap, which is not shown in these Figures, the spiral cam contacts the cam follower 44 along the vertical back edge surface 45c providing a horizontal force to act thereon pushing the force concentrating member downward against the weakened portion of the container. Force concentrating member 54 is thus provided to allow for less downward force which enables the flap 42 to fully open the container and tear the weakened portion of the container there below.

[0038] As can be seen in Figures 9, 10 and 11, the various positions of the flap 42 during opening are shown. Initially, as shown in Figure 9, the force concentrating member 54 may be slightly above the weakened portion of the container side wall. In Figure 10, as the cap is rotated in the counter clockwise direction causing the spiral cam to act upon the top portion 45b of the cam follower 44, the flap 42 rotates downward causing the force concentrating member 54 to extend through the weakened portion of the container sidewall. Further, as the flap 42 is forced downward, shoulder 50 may contact stop members 52 and 53 and pass thereby. As the spiral cam further rotates and forces the cam follower 44 downward even further, shoulder 50 snaps past the projections 52 and 53 due to this downward rotational movement. As shown in Figure 11, the flap 42 is now maintained in the opened position allowing the contents of the container to pass through the opening and through the pouring zone defined by the annular sidewall 46 of the fitment 100.

[0039] While one embodiment of a cam follower 44 shown in the Figures is described herein to work in conjunction with a spiral cam 24 depending from a cap top wall to engage said cam follower, it will be obvious to those of skill in the art that variations utilizing a spiral cam and cam follower can be incorporated in the herein disclosed automatically opening pour spout. The spiral cam 24 of the present invention, which depends from top wall 22, may be varied so as to properly contact the cam follower and provide sufficient downward force so that the flap penetrates the sidewall of the container. While the embodiments shown herein work sufficiently to provide such downward force, other modifications thereof are possible and within the scope of the following claims.

Claims

1. An auto-opening pouring fitment, comprising:

- a fitment (10), said fitment having a base (49) and an upstanding wall (46) defining a pouring zone therein;
- a flap (42) hingedly retained within said pouring zone;
- a cam follower (44) extending upward from said flap (42);

a cap (20) retained on said fitment (40), said cap (20) having a top wall (22) and a depending side wall (21), said top wall (22) having a spiral cam (24) depending therefrom and engageable with said cam follower (44);

characterized in that

said cam follower (44) having a substantially vertical back edge surface (45c) and a top surface (45a) and that said spiral cam (24) contacting said cam follower (44) on both said substantially vertical back edge surface (45c) and said top surface (45a) during rotation of said cap (20) in the counterclockwise direction.

2. The fitment of claim 1 wherein said spiral cam (24) further comprises a center post (28) extending downward from said top wall (22).
3. The fitment of claim 2 wherein said spiral cam (24) extends clockwise around said center post (28) and extending outward therefrom towards said side wall (21).
4. The fitment of claim 3 wherein said spiral cam (24) has a driving face (23) along said cam, said driving face (23) extending downward from said center post (28) to a lower portion (29) thereof adjacent said side wall (21), said lower portion (29) contacting said back edge surface (45c) during initial counterclockwise rotation of said cap (20) to provide a horizontal force on said substantially vertical back edge surface (45c), the remaining portion of said cam (24) contacting said top surface (45a) during continued counterclockwise rotation of said cap (20).
5. The fitment of claim 1 wherein said flap (42) has a hinge (39) extending along a segment thereof and wherein said flap (42) is bounded by a gap in between said flap (42) and said upstanding wall, said gap allowing said flap (42) to rotate about said hinge (39).
6. The fitment of claim 1 wherein said cam follower (44) on said flap (42) is triangular in shape.
7. The fitment of claim 1, **characterized in that** said cam follower (44) is formed on said flap (42) perpendicular to said hinge (39).
8. The fitment of claim 1 wherein said cap (20) has at least one thread formed on the interior of said side wall (21), said at least one thread engageable with at least one thread (47) formed on said upstanding wall (46) of said fitment (10).
9. The fitment of claim 1 further comprising a shoulder

(50) formed on said flap (42);
at least one stop member (52, 53) formed on said side wall (46) of said fitment (10) engageable with said shoulder (50) when said shoulder (50) rotates downward.

10. The fitment of claim 9 wherein said side wall (46) of said fitment (10) has a first stop member (52) and a second stop member (53) opposite each other on said side wall (46), each of said first and second stop member engageable with said shoulder (50) to retain said flap (42) in a downward position.

11. The fitment of claim 1 further comprising a force concentrating member (54) extending downward from said flap (42).

Patentansprüche

1. Selbstöffnendes Gießzubehörteil, umfassend:

ein Zubehörteil (10), wobei das Zubehörteil eine Basis (49) und eine aufrechte Wand (46) aufweist, die einen Gießbereich darin definieren;

eine Klappe (42), die angelenkt in dem Gießbereich festgehalten ist;

einen Nockenläufer (44), der sich von der Klappe (42) nach oben erstreckt;

einen Deckel (20), der auf dem Zubehörteil (40) festgehalten ist, wobei der Deckel (20) eine obere Wand (22) und eine anhängige Seitenwand (21) aufweist, wobei die obere Wand (22) eine spiralförmige Nocke (24) aufweist, die davon abhängt und gegen den Nockenläufer (44) anstellbar ist;

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass

der Nockenläufer (44) eine im wesentlichen vertikale Hinterkantenfläche (45c) und eine obere Fläche (45a) aufweist, und dass die spiralförmige Nocke (24) den Nockenläufer (44) während der Drehung des Deckels gegen den Uhrzeigersinn sowohl an der im wesentlichen vertikalen Hinterkantenfläche (45c) als auch an der oberen Fläche (45a) berührt.

2. Zubehörteil nach Anspruch 1, wobei die spiralförmige Nocke (24) eine zentrale Stütze (28) aufweist, die sich von der oberen Wand (22) aus nach unten erstreckt.

3. Zubehörteil nach Anspruch 2, wobei die spiralförmige Nocke (24) im Uhrzeigersinn um die zentrale Stütze (28) verläuft und sich davon nach außen zu

der Seitenwand (21) hin erstreckt.

4. Zubehörteil nach Anspruch 3, wobei die spiralförmige Nocke (24) eine Triebfläche (23) entlang der Nocke aufweist, wobei sich die Triebfläche (23) von der zentralen Stütze (28) nach unten zu einem unteren Abschnitt (29) davon der Seitenwand (21) benachbart erstreckt, wobei der untere Abschnitt (29) die Hinterkantenfläche (45c) während einer anfänglichen Drehung des Deckels (20) gegen den Uhrzeigersinn zum Vorsehen einer horizontalen Kraft auf die im wesentlichen vertikale Hinterkantenfläche (45c) berührt, wobei der restliche Abschnitt der Nocke (24) während der fortgesetzten Drehung des Deckels (20) gegen den Uhrzeigersinn die obere Fläche (45a) berührt.

5. Zubehörteil nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Klappe (42) ein Gelenk (39) aufweist, das sich entlang eines Segments davon erstreckt, und wobei die Klappe (42) durch einen Spalt zwischen der Klappe (42) und der aufrechten Wand begrenzt ist, wobei es der Spalt ermöglicht, dass die Klappe (42) um das Gelenk (39) dreht.

6. Zubehörteil nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Nockenläufer (44) auf der Klappe (42) dreieckig ist.

7. Zubehörteil nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Nockenläufer (44) auf der Klappe (42) senkrechtstehend zu dem Gelenk (39) ausgebildet ist.

8. Zubehörteil nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Deckel (20) zumindest ein Gewinde aufweist, das auf der Innenseite der Seitenwand (21) ausgebildet ist, wobei das zumindest eine Gewinde (21) mit zumindest einem Gewinde (47) in Eingriff bringbar ist, das an der aufrechten Wand (46) des Zubehörteils (40) ausgebildet ist.

9. Zubehörteil nach Anspruch 1, ferner umfassend einen Ansatz (50), der auf der Klappe (42) ausgebildet ist; zumindest ein Anschlagglied (52, 53), das an der Seitenwand (46) des Zubehörteils (10) ausgebildet und mit dem Ansatz (50) in Eingriff bringbar ist, wenn der Ansatz (50) nach unten dreht.

10. Zubehörteil nach Anspruch 9, wobei die Seitenwand (46) des Zubehörteils (10) ein erstes Anschlagglied (52) und ein zweites Anschlagglied (53) einander gegenüberliegend an der Seitenwand (46) aufweist, wobei jedes des ersten und zweiten Anschlagglieds zum Festhalten der Klappe (42) in einer Abwärtsposition mit dem Ansatz (50) in Eingriff bringbar ist.

11. Zubehörteil nach Anspruch 1, ferner umfassend ein

Kraftkonzentrierungsglied (54), das sich von der Klappe (42) nach unten erstreckt.

supérieure (45a) pendant que se poursuit la rotation dans le sens inverse des aiguilles d'une montre dudit capuchon (20).

Revendications

1. Élément verseur à ouverture automatique comprenant :

- un élément (10), lequel élément comprend une base (49) et une paroi droite (46) dans laquelle est formée une zone de versage ;
- un volet (42) retenu de manière articulée dans ladite zone de versage ;
- un suiveur de came (44) s'étendant vers le haut depuis ledit volet (42) ;
- un capuchon (20) retenu sur ledit élément (40), lequel capuchon (20) possède une paroi supérieure (22) et une paroi latérale dépendante (21), ladite paroi supérieure (20) comportant une came en spirale (24) qui en dépend et qui peut entrer en contact avec ledit suiveur de came (44) ;

caractérisé en ce que ledit suiveur de came (44) possède une surface de bord arrière essentiellement verticale (45c) et une surface supérieure (45a), et **en ce que** ladite came en spirale (24) entre en contact avec ledit suiveur de came (44) sur ladite surface de bord arrière essentiellement verticale (45c) ainsi que sur ladite surface supérieure (45a) pendant la rotation dudit capuchon (20) dans le sens inverse des aiguilles d'une montre.

2. Élément selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la came en spirale (24) comprend en outre un montant central (28) qui s'étend vers le bas depuis ladite paroi supérieure (22).

3. Élément selon la revendication 2, dans lequel ladite came en spirale (24) s'étend dans le sens des aiguilles d'une montre autour dudit montant central (28) et vers l'extérieur par rapport à celui-ci en direction de ladite paroi latérale (21).

4. Élément selon la revendication 3, dans lequel ladite came en spirale (24) possède une surface d'entraînement (23) le long de ladite came, ladite surface d'entraînement (23) s'étendant vers le bas depuis ledit montant central (28) vers une partie inférieure (29) de celui-ci adjacente à ladite paroi latérale (21), ladite partie inférieure (29) entrant en contact avec ladite surface de bord arrière (45c) pendant la rotation initiale dans le sens inverse des aiguilles d'une montre dudit capuchon (20) afin d'exercer une force horizontale sur ladite surface de bord arrière (45c) essentiellement verticale, la partie restante de ladite came (24) entrant en contact avec ladite surface

5. Élément selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit volet (42) comporte une charnière (39) s'étendant le long d'un segment de celui-ci et dans lequel ledit volet (42) est délimité par un jour entre ledit volet (42) et la paroi droite, ledit jour permettant au dit volet (42) de tourner autour de ladite charnière (39).

6. Élément selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit suiveur de came (44) sur ledit volet (42) est de forme triangulaire.

7. Élément selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** ledit suiveur de came (44) est formé sur ledit volet (42) de manière à être perpendiculaire à ladite charnière (39).

8. Élément selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit capuchon (20) comprend au moins un filetage formé sur l'intérieur de ladite paroi latérale (21), ledit au moins un filetage entrant en interaction avec au moins un filetage (47) formé sur ladite paroi droite (46) dudit élément (10).

9. Élément selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un épaulement (50) formé sur ledit volet (42), et au moins un élément d'arrêt (52, 53) formé sur ladite paroi latérale (46) dudit élément (10) entrant en contact avec ledit épaulement (50) lorsque ledit épaulement (50) tourne vers le bas.

10. Élément selon la revendication 9, dans lequel ladite paroi latérale (46) dudit élément (10) comprend un premier élément d'arrêt (52) et un second élément d'arrêt (53) opposés l'un à l'autre sur ladite paroi latérale (46), chacun desdits premier et second éléments d'arrêt entrant en contact avec ledit épaulement (50) afin de retenir ledit volet (42) en une position vers le bas.

11. Élément selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un élément de concentration de force (54) qui s'étend vers le bas depuis ledit volet (42).

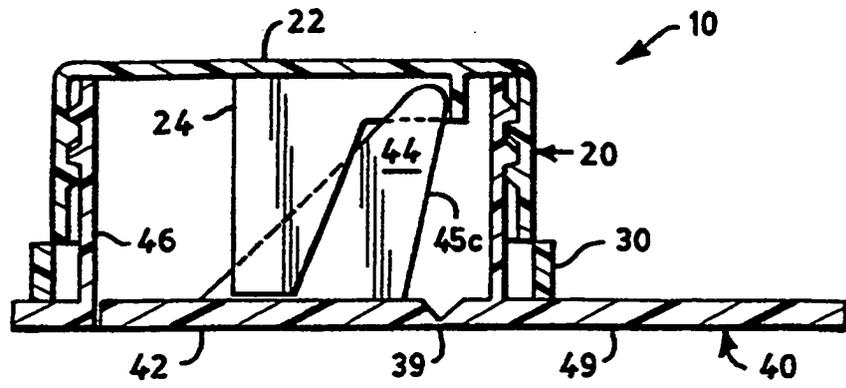


FIG. 1

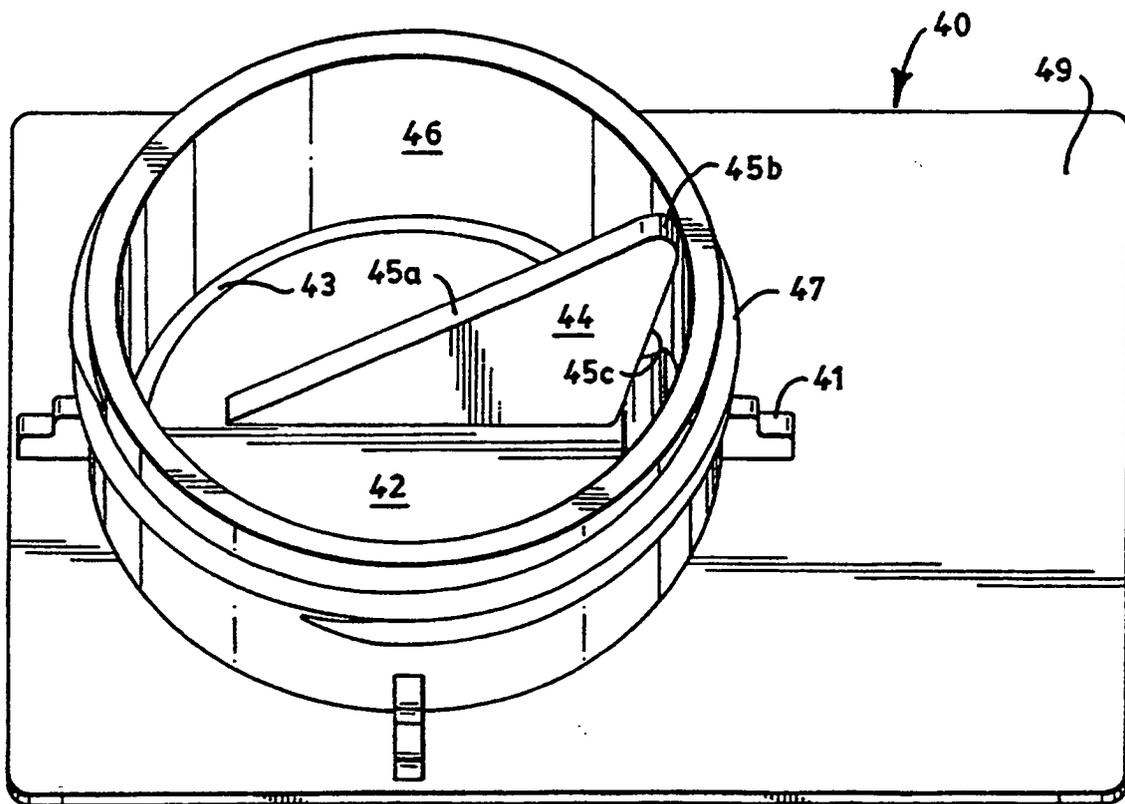


FIG. 2

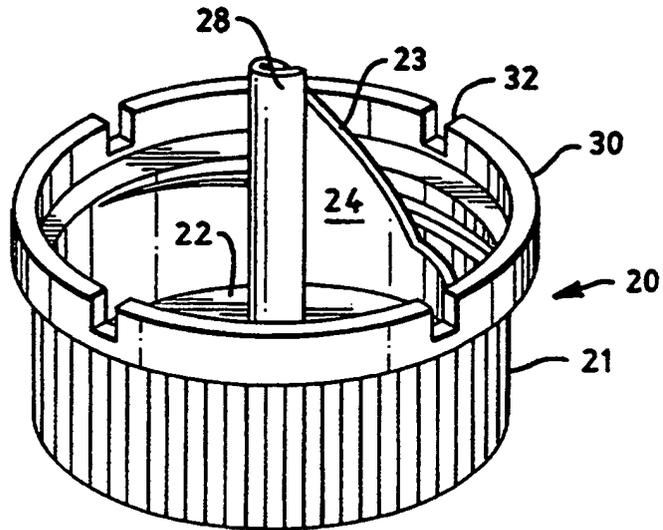


FIG. 3

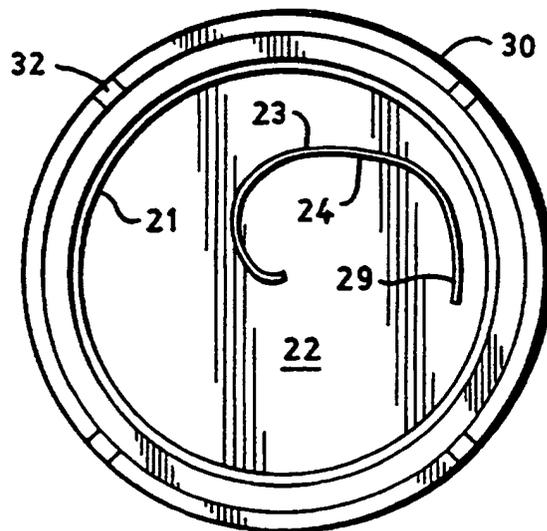


FIG. 4

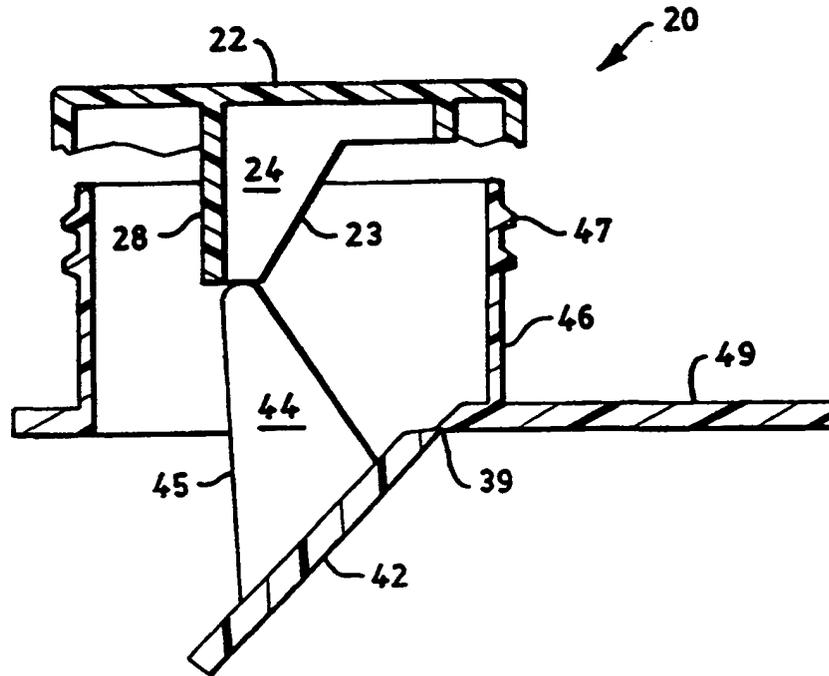


FIG. 5

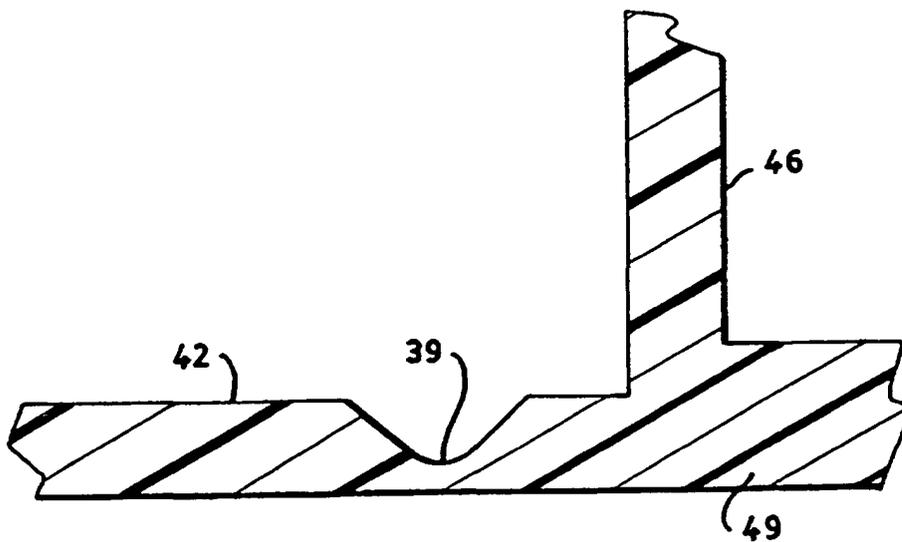


FIG. 6

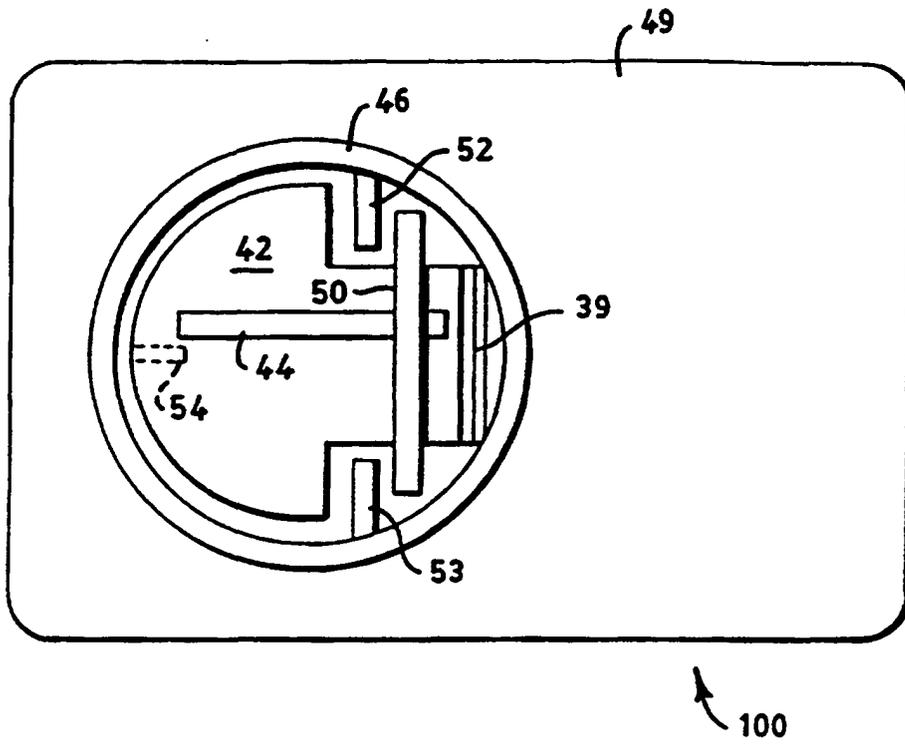


FIG. 7

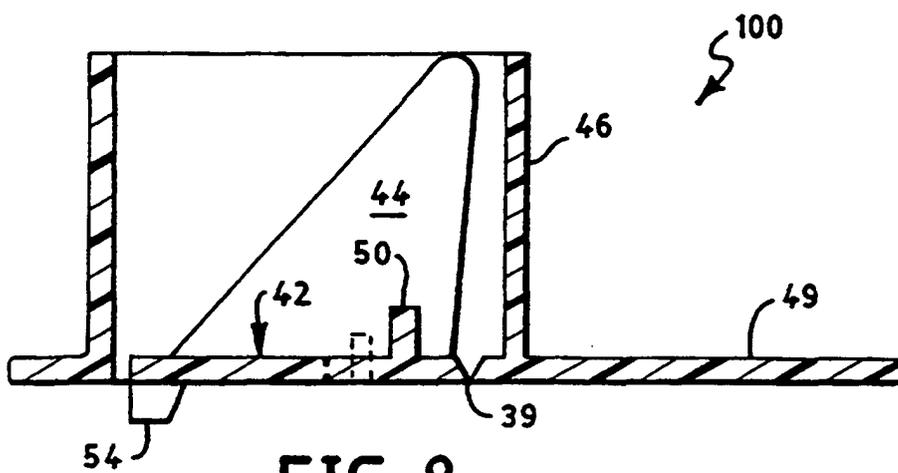


FIG. 8

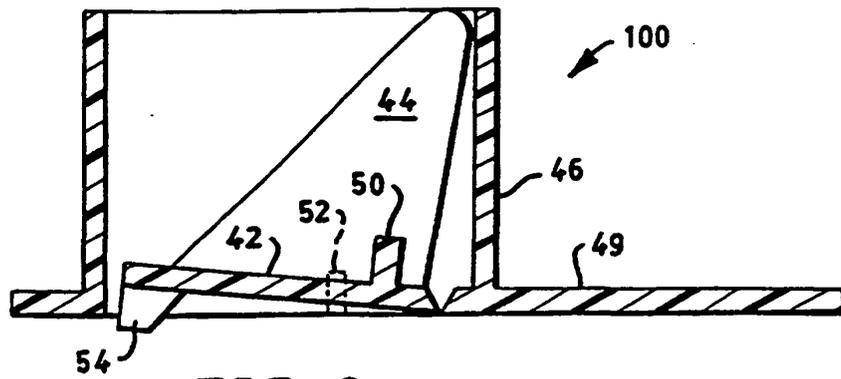


FIG. 9

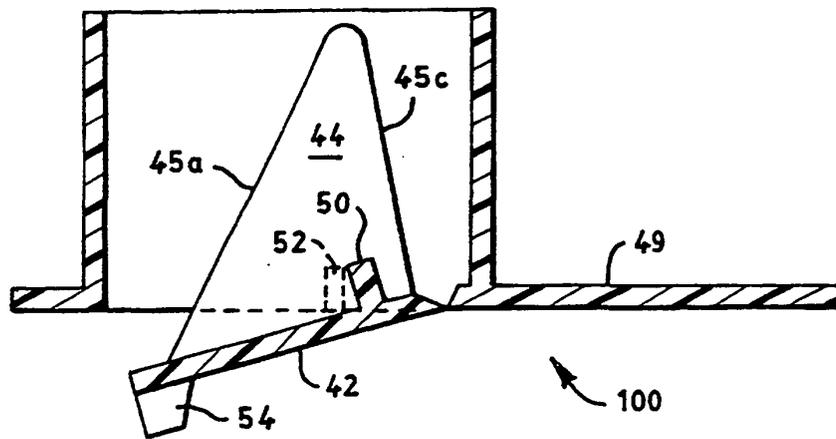


FIG. 10

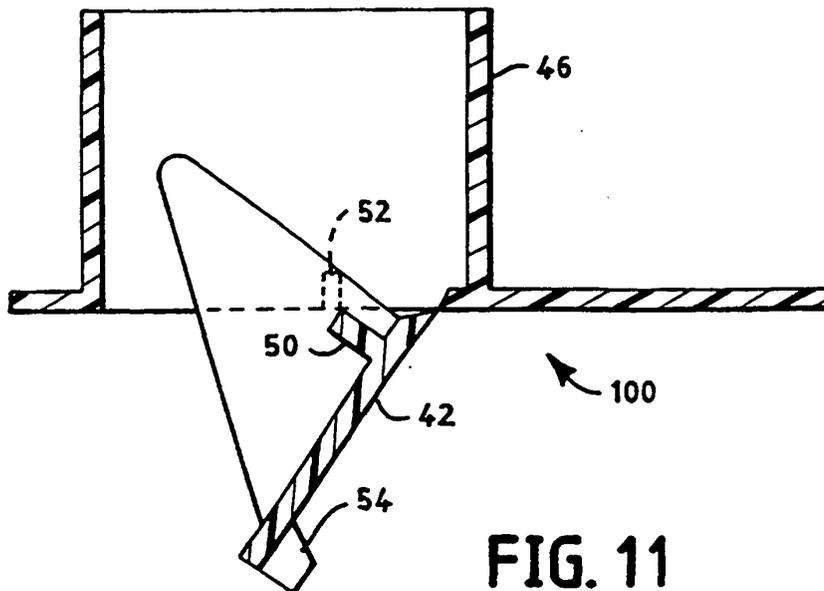


FIG. 11