July 3, 1956 B. GAINES ET AL 2,753,049

STRAINER-PROTECTOR FOR DRINKING VESSELS

Filed Dec. 10, 1951

Fig. 1.

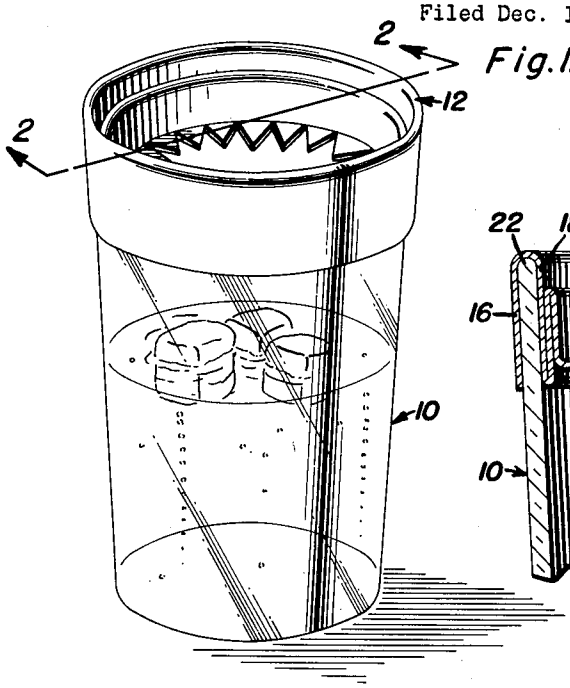


Fig. 2.

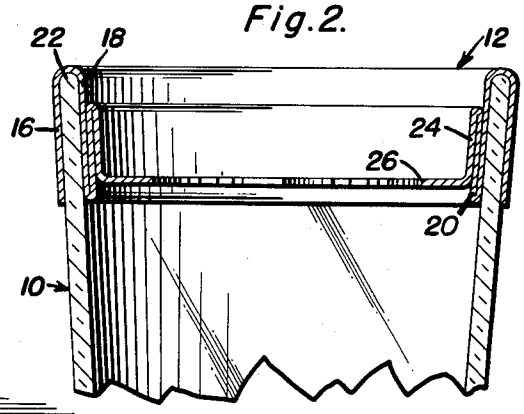


Fig. 4.

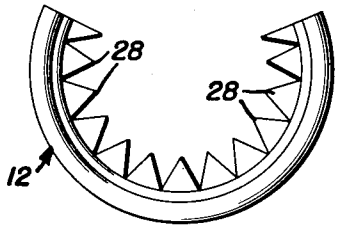


Fig. 3.

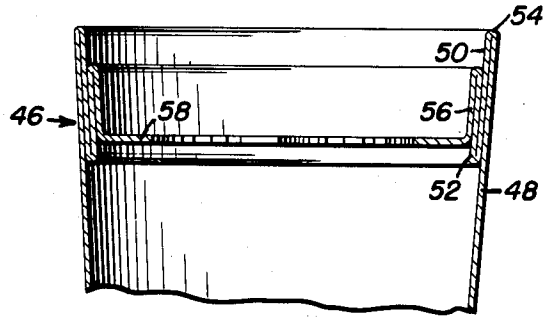


Fig. 5.

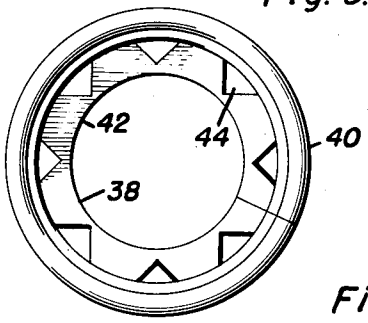
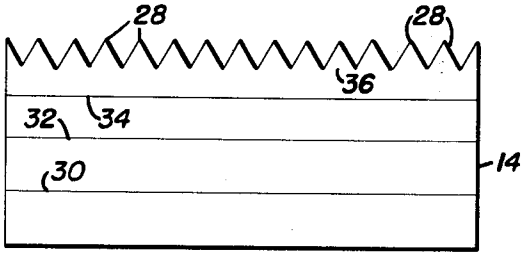


Fig. 6



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STRAINER-PROTECTOR FOR DRINKING VESSELS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 210—163)

This invention relates to protectors for drinking vessels which may either be made integral with the drinking vessel or may be applied to drinking vessels now in common usage, whereby it renders the same sanitary and at the same time prevents ice or other floating matter in the vessels from coming into engagement with the user's mouth.

A primary object of this invention is to provide a protector for drinking vessels which is of simple design and construction whereby it may be economically manufactured.

Another object of this invention is to provide a protector whereby a glass or other drinking vessel may be used without the user's mouth touching said drinking vessel.

Another object of this invention is to provide a protector for drinking vessels which has a portion disposed in the path of the liquid contained within the drinking vessel so as to prevent floating matter in the liquid from striking the user's mouth.

A further object of this invention is to provide a protector for drinking vessel which is disposable and may be applied to any size drinking vessel.

These, together with various ancillary objects and features of the invention, which will later become apparent as the following description proceeds, are attained by the present invention, a preferred embodiment of which has been illustrated by way of example only in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved protector shown applied to an ordinary drinking glass;

Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse sectional view, taken substantially upon the plane indicated by the section line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary vertical transverse sectional view of a drinking vessel having formed integral therewith the improved protector;

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the protector of Figure 1 shown extending through only a part of a circle;

Figure 5 is a top plan view of a modified form of protector; and,

Figure 6 is a plan view of a blank from which the improved protector for drinking vessels is formed.

Referring now more specifically to the accompanying drawings, wherein like numerals designate similar parts throughout the various views, it will be seen that the improved protector is shown in Figure 1 as being applied to a conventional drinking glass generally referred to by the reference numeral **10**. As will be seen by referring to Figure 2, the protector which is generally designated by the reference numeral **12** is formed of a first flange portion **16** and a second flange portion **18** which are in spaced parallel relation, and formed between them is a downwardly directed groove in which is received the upper portion of the drinking glass **10**. Integral with the flange portion **18** is a third flange portion **20** of lesser height than the flange portions **16** and **18** whereby its upper edge is disposed below the rim **22** of the glass **10**. Integral with the upper edge of the flange portion **20** is a downwardly directed flange portion **24** which is of lesser width than the flange portion **20**. Integral with the lower edge of the flange portion **24** is a guard portion **26**, which is disposed normal to the plane of the flange portion **24**. As is clearly shown in Figures 1 and 4, the guard **26** consists of a plurality of adjacent triangular elements **28** having their bases integral with the flange portion **24**.

Referring now to Figure 6, it will be seen that the protector may be formed of a substantially rectangular sheet **14**. The sheet **14** may be of any material, but a heavy waterproof paper is preferred, as the protector is intended to be used only once and then disposed of. If desired, the waterproofing may be in the form of a wax coating. The sheet **14** is provided with a plurality of approximately parallel bend lines **30**, **32**, **34** and **36**, with the adjacent bend lines being on the opposite side of the sheet. One edge of the sheet **14** is cut to provide a plurality of triangular elements **28** with their bases coinciding with the bend line **36**. It is readily apparent that the sheet **14** may be shipped in its flat state to the user where it is then folded on the bend lines **30**, **32**, **34** and **36** to form the protector **12**.

Since it is only necessary to protect a portion of the rim **22** of the drinking glass **10**, it is not necessary for the protector **12** to cover the entire periphery of the glass **10** as shown in Fig. 1. The protectors **12** are preferably made of a constant length, whereby they either cover the entire rim **22** of a glass as shown in Figure 1, or only a portion thereof as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 5 illustrates a modification wherein the guard portion is of a different design. The guard elements **38** of the modified protector **40** has a continuous free edge **42** which when applied to a drinking vessel is arcuate in plan view. The construction of the flange portions of the protector **40** is the same as shown in Figure 2, and the guard portion **38** is integral with a fourth flange portion. The guard **38** is provided with a plurality of triangular cutouts **44** extending from the fourth flange portion to substantially the edge **42**, the apexes of the triangular cutouts **44** being adjacent the edge **42**. Since the triangular cutouts **44** extend almost across the width of the guard **38**, the protector **40** may be folded from a single sheet similar to that shown in Figure 6.

Figure 3 illustrates a drinking vessel **46** which has the improved protector formed integrally therewith. The drinking vessel **46** consists of a first flange portion **48** which forms the sides of the vessel. Integral with the upper edge of the first flange portion **48** and folded back thereupon to form a rib is a second flange portion **50** which extends into the drinking vessel **46** a short distance. Integral with the lower edge of the second flange portion **50** is an upwardly directed third flange portion **52** which terminates below the rim **54** of the vessel **46**. A fourth flange portion **56** is attached integrally with the upper edge of the flange portion **52**. The flange portion **56** is also downwardly directed and terminates above the lower edge of the flange portion **52**. The flange portions **48**, **50**, **52** and **56** are in continuous parallel relation to provide a stiff upper portion of the drinking vessel **46**. A guard portion **58** is integral with and normal to the lower edge of the flange portion **56**. The guard portion **58** may be of any desired configuration including those shown in Figures 4 and 5.

It will be noted that since the protectors are normally flat and are arced in order to be placed over a rim of a drinking vessel, that the protectors have a tendency to return to their normal flat position and thereby exert a pressure on the surfaces of the drinking vessel whereby they tightly adhere thereto without the necessity of securing means such as glue, clamps, etc.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation

of the device will be readily understood, and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art after a consideration of the foregoing specification and accompanying drawings, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, but all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claims.

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

A protector for drinking vessels comprising an integral member having a first portion, a second portion in concentric relation thereto, third and fourth portions of progressively decreasing width, said third portion being in contiguous concentric relation to said second and fourth portions, a fifth portion normal to said fourth portion, said fifth portion forming a guard with open areas therein for permitting passage of liquid therethrough, all of said portions being annular, and first and second portion being spaced from each other and connected at their upper ends thereby forming a downwardly opening groove for receiving a rim of a drinking vessel, said guard including a plurality of adjacent triangular elements having their bases integral with the fourth portion, the diverging sides of said elements forming open areas for passage of liquid and preventing passage of solids for protecting the mouth of a person drinking from the vessel.

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