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ADAPTER TOP FOR GLASS DECANTERS

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Fig. 1

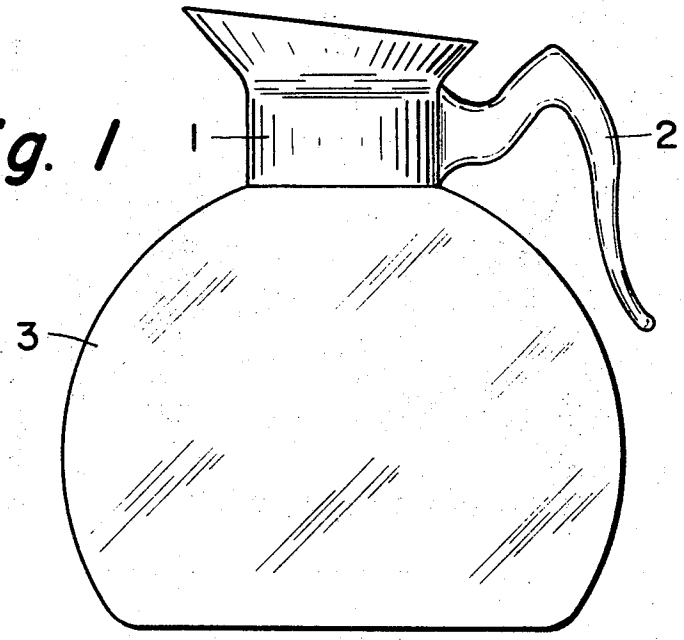
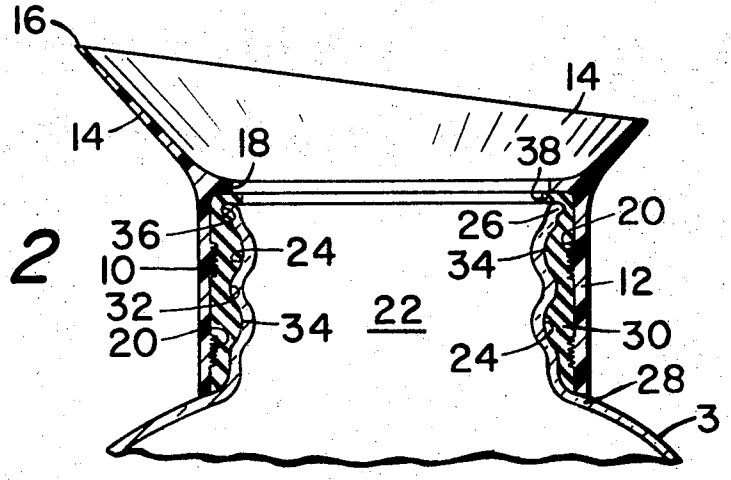


Fig. 2



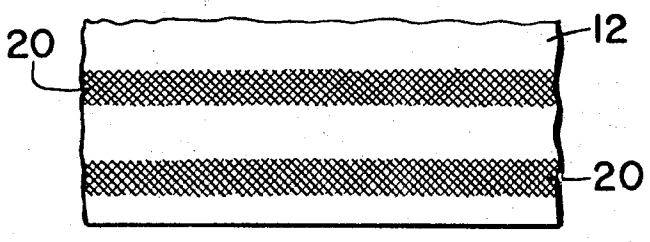


Fig. 3

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ADAPTER TOP FOR GLASS DECANTERS

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U.S. Cl. 222—542 1 Claim

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A one-piece adapter top for facilitating the pouring and holding of a glass decanter is permanently secured to an undulated neck portion of the decanter by means of a press-on compression fit provided by a deformable elastic gasket positioned between a portion of the adapter and said neck portion.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Most food-serving establishments, such as restaurants, utilize glass beverage decanters for serving hot coffee, not only because the level and nature of the contents can be readily seen, but also because glass is well recognized as a particularly sanitary material. However, when the pouring spout of such decanters is also made of glass, there is a high incidence of breakage due to the spout striking against other objects during normal usage. Therefore, it is customary to provide such glass beverage containers with a durable pouring spout made of stainless steel or plastic, which is attached to the neck of the glass container by means of a sealing gasket and clamping band. The clamping band usually secures a suitable handle as well as the adapter top to the decanter. While this conventional construction, such as shown in U.S. Pat. No. 2,885,949, has been found to be generally satisfactory in service, it has the disadvantages of being unduly complicated and expensive, as well as being awkward and time consuming to assemble.

Rubber-like gasket material has been used in the past to prevent abrasion and facilitate a snug fit when applying metallic band members to a glass vessel. As shown in U.S. Pat. No. 2,993,629 and in U.S. Pat. No. 2,265,615, resilient gasket members have also been utilized in coffee maker constructions to effect a temporary seal between members which may be inserted within one another during the coffee-making or serving operation. Unlike the prior art devices which merely utilize gaskets to provide temporary seals or abrasion resistance when banding, the present invention incorporates a unique concept of providing a permanently secured one-piece adapter top which is easily assembled on a glass vessel by means of a press-on compression fit provided by resilient gasket material.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an improved one-piece adapter top which is easily permanently assembled upon the neck portion of a glass decanter. The adapter top not only enhances the aesthetic value of the decanter but also protects the neck portion from impact damage and provides a lip for facilitating the pouring of the contents from the decanter. If desired, the one-piece adapter top may be provided with an integrally formed handle portion.

In order to facilitate the permanent attachment of the adapter top to the decanter, the neck portion of the decanter is preferably provided with an undulated outer surface having a plurality of recessed portions. A preformed gasket of resilient material, having an inner surface formed with ridge portions which complement the recessed portions on the neck of the decanter, is snugly positioned about the outer surface of the neck portion. The one-piece adapter top, having a collar with knurled inner surface portions, is forced over the outer surface of the gasket to compressibly displace the same and thereby securely lock and permanently retain the adapter top thereon.

It thus can be seen that the present invention provides an improved one-piece adapter top which obviates the problems encountered in the prior art, by not only eliminating numerous parts and accordingly a complex time-consuming assembly, but also by providing an easily applied attachment means which permanently secures the adapter top to the neck portion of the glass decanter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of a glass decanter having a one-piece adapter top embodying the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a fragmental elevational view in section illustrating the attachment means for the adapter top shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a fragmental view of an expanded inner surface of the adapter top showing knurled portions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to the drawings, adapter top assemblies embodying the present invention are shown permanently secured to a glass vessel. As shown in FIG. 1, a one-piece adapter top **1** having a handle **2** integrally formed therewith is permanently secured as a unit to a glass vessel **3** such as a carafe, decanter, or coffee server.

In a like manner, an adapter top **10** of similar construction but without a handle, may be provided on the glass vessel **3** as shown in FIG. 2. The adapter top has a lower continuous cylindrical collar portion **12** and an outwardly flaring upper rim portion **14** providing a pouring lip **16**. A flange portion **18** extends inwardly from the inner surface of the adapter top between the lower cylindrical portion **12** and the upper rim portion **14**. As greatly exaggerated in FIG. 2, and as more clearly shown in FIG. 3, the inner surface of the cylindrical collar portion **12** is provided with knurled portions **20** to provide positive gripping as set forth hereinafter.

The glass vessel or decanter **3** is shown having an undulated neck portion **22** providing a plurality of recessed or groove portions **24** in its outer surface. The upper edge of the neck portion **22** terminates in an outwardly extending edge bead **26**, and the lower end of the neck portion **22** forms a shoulder **28** with the glass decanter **3**.

A preformed gasket **30** of resilient material is positioned intermediate the outer surface of the neck portion **22** and the inner surface of the collar portion **12** of the adapter top. The inner surface of a gasket **30** is preformed with an undulated inner surface **32** having a plurality of ridge portions **34** which complement the recessed portions **24** of neck **22**. An annular positioning groove **36** is provided in the inner surface of the gasket **30** adjacent its upper end to complementarily receive and be positioned by the edge bead **26** of neck portion **22**. The upper extent of the gasket **30** is provided with a flange portion **38** which extends between and radially inwardly of the flange portion **18** of the adapter top and edge bead **26** of the neck portion.

The one-piece adapter top is preferably formed from plastic material such as polypropylene, although suitable metals may be utilized if desired. The gasket **30** is formed of any resilient material such as natural rubber, silicone rubber, or neoprene. The inner diameter of the gasket **30** is formed slightly less than the outer diameter of the neck **22**, so that when the gasket is forced over the neck portion it will be expanded outwardly, thus providing an inward

compressive force against the neck portion due to its elasticity. The gasket is usually wetted in order to facilitate its positionment upon the neck portion.

As shown, the lower end of the gasket abuts the shoulder portion **28**, whereas the upper flange portion **38** is retained in overlying position above bead **26** by means of annular groove **38** positionably retaining edge bead **26**. In addition, the interfitting complementary relationship between ridge portions **34** and groove portions **24** function to securely retain the gasket **30** in position upon neck portion **22**.

The thickness of the gasket **30** is controlled with respect to the internal diameter of the cylindrical collar portion **12** of the adapter top so that such internal diameter is slightly less than the outside diameter of the expanded gasket. Accordingly, when the wetted collar portion of the adapter top is forced over the gasket, the gasket being generally incompressible is deformed between the inner surface of the collar portion and the outer surface of the neck portion, and tends to flow outwardly along flange portion **38**. A compression fit is obtained between the gasket **30** and the adapter top, due to the force exerted by the elastic material attempting to overcome the elastic deformation. Further, the knurled portions **20** securely grasp the outer surface of the gasket **30** to prevent any material slippage therebetween. As noted, the lower edge of the collar portion **12** rests upon the shoulder portion **28** of the vessel **3**, whereas the flange portion **38** is interposed between the upper bead edge **26** of the neck portion and the abutment flange **18** of the adapter top.

It thus can be seen that the present invention provides a novel one-piece adapter top construction which is not only easily assembled upon a glass container, but also is permanently attached thereto. Accordingly, the invention eliminates the need for sundry parts customarily utilized in an adapter top assembly such as neck bands, clamps, screws, and individual handles, together with the complex assembly previously required. Although the now preferred embodiments have been disclosed, it will be understood that various changes and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A press-on adapter top assembly permanently secured to a neck portion of a glass vessel which comprises, a glass vessel having a neck portion provided with recessed portions in its outer surface, a one-piece adapter top positioned on said container and surrounding the outer surface of said neck portion, resilient gasket means for permanently securing said adapter top to said neck portion solely through compressive and frictional forces generated through the press-on application of said adapter top, said gasket means being positioned between said adapter top and said neck portion in compressive engagement with the outer surface of said neck portion, said gasket means having a plurality of ridge portions projecting inwardly from an intner surface thereof and complementarily received within said recessed portions formed in the outer surface of said neck portion, said adapter top having an upper pouring rim portion and a lower continuous cylindrical collar portion, said lower cylindrical collar portion compressibly encompassing outer surface portions of said gasket means along the extent of said collar portion to deform said gasket means between said collar portion and said neck portion and provide a compression fit therebetween for permanently mounting the adapter top on said container, and means formed integrally with an inner surface of said collar portion for securely grasping an outer surface of said gasket means and retaining said adapter top thereon.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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