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CONTAINER AND COVER THEREFOR

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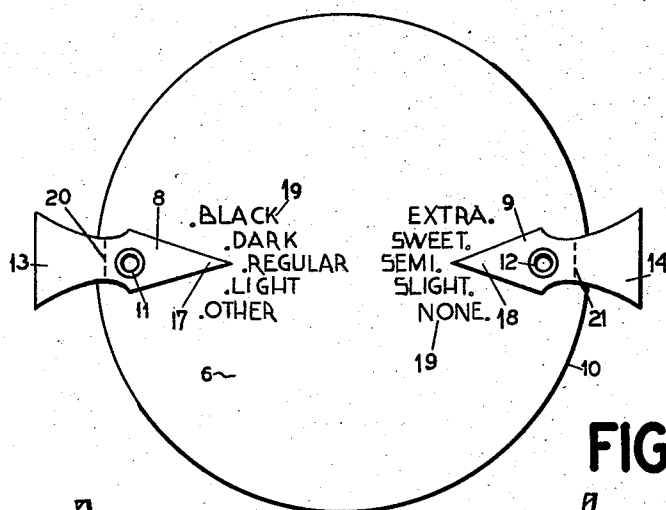


FIG. 1

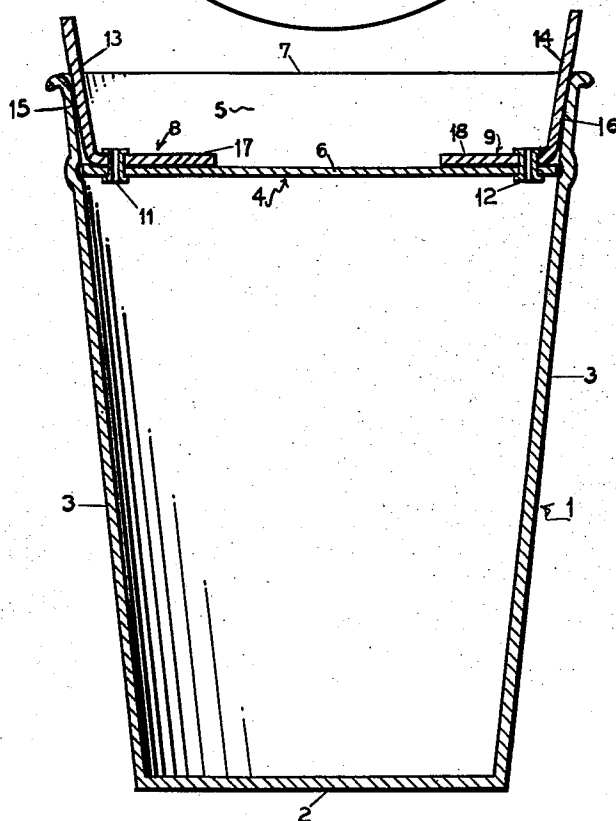


FIG. 2

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CONTAINER AND COVER THEREFOR

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5 Claims. (Cl. 116—134)

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The present invention relates to a cover and container made of paper, cardboard, paper board or similar material which is disposable and more particularly to a means for readily identifying the exact nature of the contents of the disposable container.

When coffee, tea etc. is taken out of restaurants and other shops it is usual to mark the container or cover with some indication of the contents as whether it has sugar, cream, or some such other contents. However, this is time consuming, often results in unsanitary practises and frequently the inscription is illegible.

The present invention overcomes these difficulties by providing a container having a cover which has mounted on the outside, one or more rotatable indicators which when turned will point to different inscriptions on the cover which particularly indicate the exact nature of the contents. These indicators may be pivoted near the edge of the cover with one end extending upwards and frictionally engaging the side wall of the container when the cover is in place on the container. The projecting end of the indicator when bent upward also serves as a tab for removal of the cover. In this invention the pivoting means of the indicator may be provided by a hollow rivet which also serves as a vent hole for the expansion of the hot liquid contents.

The cover may be printed with a great number of different legends to which the indicators may be pointed to indicate the contents of the container. These and other advantages of the present invention will be more clearly indicated by a consideration of the invention in conjunction with the drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the cover.

Figure 2 is a sectional elevation of the cover and the container into which it has been positioned.

The container 1 as illustrated in Figure 2 may be made of an inexpensive paper or cardboard which has been treated to make it resistant to penetration by liquids. This container may have a conventional shape of an inverted frustum, preferably of a cone as is illustrated in Figure 2, and having its sidewall 3 at a slight angle to the bottom 2. However, containers of other shapes such as cylindrical, and containers with straight-sided sections and covers fitting thereto may also be used.

The cover 4, having a circular shape to correspond with a cross-section of the container, fits snugly down into the container a short distance leaving a marginal area 5 between the top sur-

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face 6 of the cover and the upper edge 7 of the container.

A pair of indicators 8 and 9 are rotatably attached to the cover near its edge 6 by the hollow rivets 11 and 12 respectively, which extend through the cover and which in addition to rotatably holding the indicators to the cover, also permits free passage of air to and from the closed container. By providing hollow rivets in this manner, expanding air under the cover due to hot liquid contents will not cause the cover to pop off, nor are the rivet holes large enough to permit the liquid contents to splash out through the holes. Though it is preferable that two indicators positioned near the edge diametrically opposite each other be used, one or more of such indicators are also suitable. On the top of the cover are imprinted the various legends 19 from which the exact nature of the contents of the container may be indicated by suitably turning the indicators 8 and 9 so that the ends 17 and 18 respectively of the indicators point to the desired legend as illustrated in Figure 1. When the cover is inserted down into the container as illustrated in Figure 2, the ends 13 and 14 respectively of the indicators 8 and 9 are bent upwardly against the marginal area 5 of the sidewall 3 at points 15 and 16, and are frictionally held there until the cover is removed. The frictional contact of the ends 15 and 16 of the indicators 8 and 9 respectively with the sidewall 3 will firmly keep the indicator pointing to the selected legend while the cover is on the container. If desired a crease 20 and 21 across the indicators 8 and 9 respectively may be provided to facilitate the bending of the end of the indicator against the sidewall margin 5. Where the container has straight sides the ends 13 and 14 will also be in contact with the sidewalls of the container.

It should be noted that when the cover is positioned in the container the ends 13 and 14 of the indicators project beyond the upper edge 7 of the container so that they may be readily used as tabs to help remove the cover from the container.

Before these covers are placed in the container they may be packed compactly one on top of the other since the indicators 8 and 9 are held flat against the cover 6.

Having now described my invention I claim:

1. In a cover for a container of the type described a cover element having characters imprinted on the top surface thereof for indicating the contents of the container, an indicator element adapted to be pointed to any of said charac-

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ters, and hollow rivet means rotatably fixing said indicator element to the cover element, said hollow rivet means passing through said indicator element and through said cover element.

2. In combination with a container of the type described having a sidewall, a cover element having characters imprinted on the top surface thereof for indicating the contents of the container, said cover element adapted to fit down into the said container below the top edge of said sidewall, at least one indicator element adapted to be pointed to said characters, and means rotatably fixing each indicator to the top of said cover element near the edge of the cover element, the end of said indicator element adapted to be bent upwards to make contact with the sidewall.

3. In combination with a container of the type described having a sidewall, a cover element having characters imprinted on the top surface thereof for indicating the contents of the container, said cover element adapted to fit down into the said container below the top edge of said sidewall, at least one indicator element having one end shaped to be selectively pointed to said characters and the other end normally projecting beyond the cover element, and frictionally contacting said sidewall members, and means rotatably fixing each indicator to the top of said cover element near the edge of the cover element.

4. In combination with a container of the type described having a sidewall, a cover element having characters imprinted on the top surface thereof for indicating the contents of the con-

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tainer, said cover element adapted to fit down into the said container below the top edge of said sidewall, at least one indicator element having one end shaped to be selectively pointed to said characters and the other end normally bent upwards and extending above the top edge of the sidewall element and having one part frictionally contacting said sidewall element.

5. In combination with a container of the type described having a side wall, a cover element having characters imprinted in the center of the top surface thereof for indicating the contents of the container, said cover element adapted to fit down into said container below the top edge of said side wall, a pair of indicator elements adapted to be pointed to said characters, each of said indicators positioned near the edge of the cover diametrically opposite one another, and means rotatably fixing said indicators to the top of said cover element, the end of said indicator elements normally bent upwards and projecting beyond the top edge of the cover and having one part frictionally contacting said side wall element.

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