# United States Patent [19]

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[11] **3,920,120**

[45] **Nov. 18, 1975**


[54] **COMBINATION PACKAGE**


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[22] Filed: **June 11, 1973**

[21] Appl. No.: **368,673**

[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **206/217;** 229/1.5 B; 206/520

[51] **Int. Cl.**[2]..... **B65D 77/00;** B65D 3/00

[58] **Field of Search**..... 229/1.5 B; 206/217, 219, 206/519, 520



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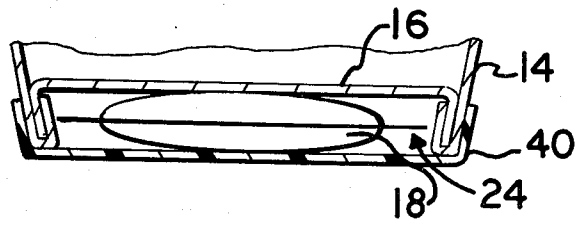
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A combination package for a primary product and a secondary product complementary to the primary product. The combination package is of the type having a tubular sidewall member and a bottom closure member attached to the sidewall member. The bottom closure member is spaced apart from the lowermost portion of the sidewall member to define a secondary product containment volume. A secondary product is placed in this volume and held in place with a restraining means such as a glue spot or a film of material over the end of the sidewall member. The secondary product may be placed in position at the time of manufacture of the package.


**5 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures**



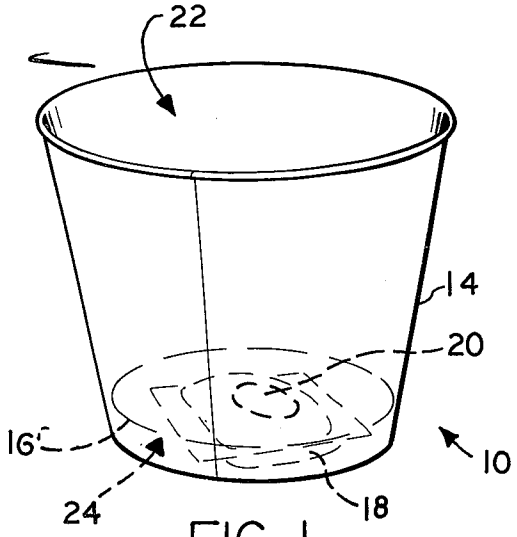



FIG. 1

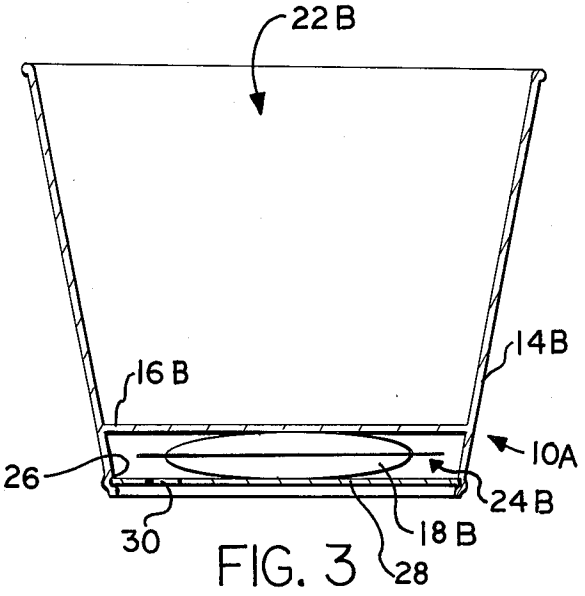



FIG. 3

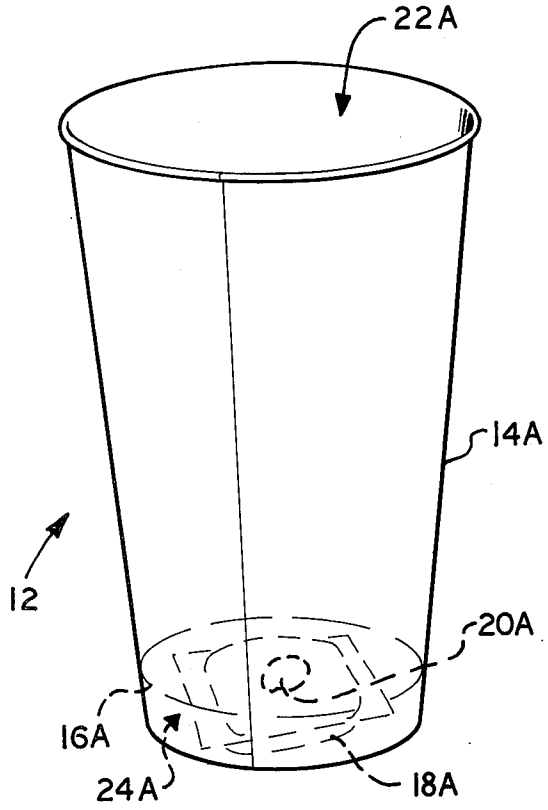



FIG. 2

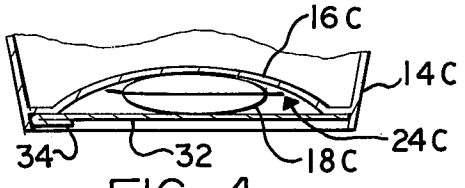



FIG. 4

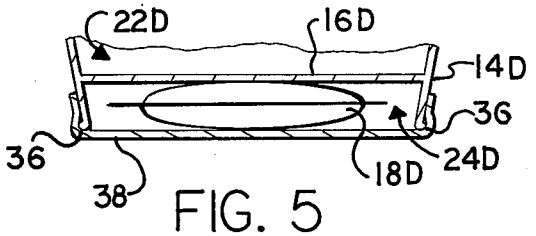



FIG. 5

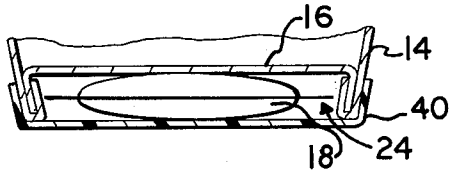



FIG. 6

# COMBINATION PACKAGE

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention generally relates to packages designed to contain two separate products. More particularly, this invention relates to a combination package for a primary product and a secondary product complementary to the primary product. Specifically, this invention relates to a combination package where a secondary product is restrained in a secondary product containment volume.

The packaging of two complementary products in a single package is known in the art. For example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 1,514,379; 1,547,903; and 2,034,067 all show such a package. However, the prior art packages required a separate insert or compartment to achieve this result, thus creating a more expensive package. In addition, these packages required the secondary product to be placed on top of the primary product. This would make it difficult to use such packages for primary products such as popcorn, beer or soft drinks which are usually dispensed at their point of use. I have devised a package which requires no special insert and which contains a secondary product in a volume below the volume to be filled by the primary product. In addition, my package offers a positive control on reuse of such containers. It is not unknown for vendors to recover and reuse containers at sporting events, since such vendors are usually monitored on the basis of the number of containers used, not the volume of product sold. Thus, reuse of a container would allow a vendor to withhold the proceeds of a sale for himself. By providing a secondary product with the container, removal of the secondary product will give a quick visual indication to a purchaser that the container has already been used.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

My invention is a combination package for a primary product and a secondary product complementary to the primary product. The package is made up of the following elements: a tubular sidewall containment member; a bottom member closing the lower portion of the tubular member, the bottom member being spaced-apart from the lowermost portion of the tubular member to define a primary product containment volume above the bottom member and a secondary product containment volume below the bottom member; a secondary product positioned in the secondary product containment volume; and means for restraining the secondary product against accidental removal from the secondary product containment volume.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of one embodiment of the package of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the package of the present invention;

FIG. **3** is an elevational view, in cross section, of a third embodiment of the package of the present invention;

FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view of the lowermost portion of a fourth embodiment of the present invention illustrating a modified bottom member and another restraining means for the secondary product;

FIG. **5** is a cross-sectional view of the lowermost portion of a fifth embodiment of the present invention illustrating a modification of the tubular sidewall member to accept a snap cap to retain the secondary product; and

FIG. **6** is a cross-sectional view of the lowermost portion of the embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. **1** illustrating a modified form of restraining means for the secondary product.



## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. **1** and **2** show two possible embodiments of the present invention. Both FIGS. **1** and **2** are essentially identical in concept, but show two different possible aspects of the present invention. FIG. **1** shows a combination package **10** for a primary product and a secondary product which is complementary to the primary product. FIG. **2**, likewise, shows a combination package **12** for a primary product and a secondary product which is complementary to the primary product. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, the combination package **10** is made up of a tubular sidewall containment member **14**, a bottom member **16**, a secondary product **18**, and a means for restraining the secondary product **18** in its position. In FIG. **1**, the bottom member **16** is spaced apart from the lowermost portion of the tubular member **14** to define a primary product containment volume **22**, which is above the bottom member **16**, and a secondary product containment volume **24**, which is below the bottom member **16**. The secondary product **18** is positioned in the secondary product containment volume **24**. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, the means for restraining the secondary product **18** against accidental removal from the secondary product containment volume is a spot of glue or adhesive material **20**, which interconnects the secondary product **18** and the bottom member **16**. The combination package **10** shown in FIG. **1** is of a shape and size which is primarily adapted to contain a product such as ice cream. In such a case, the secondary product **18** could be a sauce for the ice cream or a spoon for eating the ice cream.

In FIG. **2**, the combination package **12** is of a somewhat different shape than that of the combination package **10** shown in FIG. **1**, and would be particularly adapted to contain a product such as popcorn or beer. The combination package **12**, likewise, has a tubular sidewall containment member **14A** and a bottom member **16A**. As was the case before, the bottom member **16A** is positioned above the lowermost portion of the tubular sidewall member **14A** to define a primary product containment volume **22A** above the bottom member **16A** and a secondary product containment volume **24A** below the bottom member **16A**. Again, a secondary product **18A** is contained within the secondary product containment volume **24A**. This secondary product **18A** is held in place with an adhesive material **20A** which interconnects the secondary product **18A** with the bottom member **16A**. In the case of the combination package **12** shown in FIG. **2**, the secondary product **18A** could be a napkin or a small package of peanuts or other such food product which could be complementary to the primary contents of the combination package **12**. For example, if the combination package **12** were to contain popcorn, the secondary product **18A** could be a napkin to allow one to clean one's fingers after having eaten the popcorn contained within the primary product volume **22A**. As was pointed out previously, the removal of the secondary product **18** or **18A** gives a distinct and readily apparent visual proof that the combination package **10** or **12** has

been used.

The precise material used to make the combination package **12** is of importance only with respect to the primary product which it will be required to contain. In some situations, the combination package could be made of a coated paper material to resist either liquids or oils, in which case the bottom member **16** or **16A** would most typically be formed as a separate part and then mated with the tubular sidewall containment member **14** or **14A** during the manufacturing process. This type of construction lends itself most readily to the formation of a secondary product containment volume **24** or **24A.** A preferred type of construction is of the type wherein the sidewall containment member **14** or **14A** is of a generally frusto-conical shape, to allow stacking, and wherein there is a lapped side seam and the bottom member **16** or **16A** is attached with a double seam. This construction is generally shown in FIG. **6.** However, it would also be possible to form the entire combination package **10** or **12** as an integral package from a thermoplastic type material. In such case, it would be necessary to configure the mold such that the secondary product containment volume **24** or **24A** would be formed during the molding process. In this case, the bottom member **16** or **16A** would be formed as an integral part of the tubular sidewall containment member **14** or **14A** during the initial manufacturing process.

FIGS. **3, 4, 5** and **6** illustrate a number of methods or means for restraining a secondary product **18** within the secondary product containment volume **24.** In FIG. **3,** a combination package **10A** is shown having a somewhat modified tubular sidewall containment member **14B.** The tubular sidewall member **14B** is modified in that it contains an annular circumferential groove **26** formed near the lowermost portion of the tubular sidewall member **14B** on the interior thereof. Above the groove **26,** is a bottom closure member **16B.** In this situation, a secondary product **18B** is positioned adjacent to the bottom member **16B,** and is held in position with a flat disk member **28,** which is pressed into position in the groove **26,** and held in position in the groove **26.** In this case, it is the disk **28** which serves as a means for restraining the secondary product **18B** in a secondary product volume **24B.** The bottom member **16B** is attached to the tubular sidewall member **14B,** and a primary product containment volume **22B** is defined by the area above the bottom closure member **16B** that is confined by the sidewall member **14B.** The disk **28** may be provided with a finger hole **30** to facilitate removal of the disk **28** to allow the ultimate consumer to remove the secondary product **18B.**

With respect to FIG. **4,** a configuration is shown for a particular combination package **10** where difficulty might arise in providing a sufficient secondary product volume. That is, the configuration of a particular package may make it difficult to provide the relatively large space required to exist between the bottom member **16** and the lowermost portion of the tubular sidewall member **14.** As shown in FIG. **4,** a modified bottom member **16C** is attached to a tubular sidewall containment member **14C.** The bottom closing member **16C** is arched upwardly and thus provides a secondary product containment volume **24C** as before. However, in this case, the volume **24C** is provided by the arch of the bottom member **16C,** and the distance between the point of attachment of the bottom member **16C** and the lowermost portion of the tubular sidewall member **14C** is relatively short compared to the other examples cited. In this case, the secondary product **18C** may be contained with the adhesive material **20** or **20A,** as previously noted, or may be confined in place with a sealing disk **32,** which is frictionally engaged with the tubular sidewall member **14C.** The disk **32** would preferably be made of an inexpensive, yet somewhat resilient material, such as a thermoplastic or paper. It would be necessary, of course, to make the disk **32** somewhat larger in diameter than the space which it must close to ensure a proper frictional engagement and fit. A lifting tab **34** may be integrally formed with the disk **32** to facilitate removal of the disk **32** from the engagement with the tubular sidewall member **14C** to allow removal of the secondary product **18C.** It should be noted, of course, that a finger hole such as that shown at **30** in FIG. **3** could be substituted for the tab **34,** and likewise, the tab **34** could be substituted for the finger hole **30** in the configuration shown in FIG. **3.**

In FIG. **5,** yet another modified tubular sidewall containment member **14D** is shown. The sidewall member **14D** has formed on its lowermost peripheral region a circumferential radially extending bead **36.** Spaced apart from the bead **36** is a bottom member **16D** for closing the bottom portion of the tubular sidewall member **14D,** again defining a secondary product containment volume **24D** and a primary product containment volume **22D.** With the configuration shown in FIG. **5,** once a secondary product **18D** has been inserted in the secondary product containment volume **24D,** a conventional snap cap **38** may be placed in position and held by the bead **36.** Such caps are conventional and well known in the art and should require no further explanation to one skilled in the art.

Finally, FIG. **6** shows a portion of a configuration substantially identical to FIG. **1.** In this situation, the secondary product **18** contained within the secondary product containment volume **24,** is not held in place with an adhesive material **20** as shown in FIG. **1.** Rather, a film of material **40** is placed over the end of the tubular member **14** adjacent to the secondary product containment volume and secured in place. The film of material **40** may be any of a number of materials which are well known in the art. For example, a thermoplastic shrink film may be placed over the end of the tubular member **14** and heat-shrunk in place to secure the secondary product **18.** Alternatively, a section of a metallic foil which has been treated with an adhesive could be secured to obtain the same results. Likewise, a paper seal could be used to close the end of the tubular member **14** to retain the secondary product **18** in its assigned volume **24.** With the embodiment shown in FIG. **6,** the ultimate consumer simply rips the film **40** away to obtain the secondary product **18** for use. It should be noted that the thickness of the film **40** in FIG. **6** has been distorted for ease of explanation. The film **40** is actually quite thin and not as thick as shown in FIG. **6.** This thin film **40** allows the entire package to retain nesting features which could be designed into the package.

The secondary product **18** may be inserted into the secondary product containment volume **24** at the time of manufacture of the package. At this time, the means for restraining the secondary product **18** would also be employed to ensure that the secondary product **18** remained in its proper location until such time as it was utilized by the ultimate consumer. As previously noted, this restraining means may assume a number of config-

urations as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

What I claim is:

1. A combination package for a primary product and a secondary product complementary to said primary product, comprising, in combination:

a tubular sidewall containment member;

a bottom member closing the lower portion of said tubular member, said bottom member being in a spaced-apart relationship with respect to the lowermost portion of said tubular member to thereby define a primary product containment volume above said bottom member and a secondary product containment volume below said bottom member;

a secondary product positioned in said secondary product containment volume; and

a heat-shrunk film of thermoplastic material in engagement with the exterior surface of said tubular sidewall member and extending over the open end of said tubular sidewall member adjacent said secondary product containment volume.

2. A combination package for a primary product and a secondary product complementary to said primary product, comprising, in combination:

a tubular sidewall containment member;

a bottom member closing the lower portion of said tubular member, said bottom member being in a spaced-apart relationship with respect to the lowermost portion of said tubular member to thereby define a primary product containment volume above said bottom member and a secondary product containment volume below said bottom member;

a secondary product positioned in said secondary product containment volume; and

a film of thermoplastic material adhered to the exterior surface of said tubular sidewall member and extending over the open end of said tubular sidewall member adjacent said secondary product containment volume.

3. A combination package for a primary product and a secondary product complementary to said primary product, comprising, in combination:

a tubular sidewall containment member;

a bottom member closing the lower portion of said tubular member, said bottom member being in a spaced-apart relationship with respect to the lowermost portion of said tubular member to thereby define a primary product containment volume above said bottom member and a secondary product containment volume below said bottom member;

a secondary product positioned in said secondary product containment volume; and

a sheet of metallic foil adhered to the exterior surface of said tubular sidewall member and extending over the open end of said tubular sidewall member adjacent said secondary product containment volume.

4. A combination package for a primary product and a secondary product complementary to said primary product, comprising, in combination:

a tubular sidewall containment member;

a bottom member closing the lower portion of said tubular member, said bottom member being in a spaced-apart relationship with respect to the lowermost portion of said tubular member to thereby define a primary product containment volume above said bottom member and a secondary product containment volume below said bottom member, said tubular sidewall member including a circumferentially extending groove on the interior surface thereof adjacent the lower end of said tubular sidewall member, said groove defining a concave depression on the interior of said tubular member and a convex ridge in the exterior surface of said tubular member;

a secondary product positioned in said secondary product containment volume; and

a disc member in engagement with said groove in said secondary product containment volume with said secondary product being positioned between said bottom member and said disc member for restraining said secondary product against accidental removal from said secondary product containment volume.

5. A combination package for a primary product and a secondary product complementary to said primary product comprising, in combination:

a tubular sidewall containment member;

a bottom member closing the lower portion of said tubular member, said bottom member being in a spaced-apart relationship with respect to the lowermost portion of said tubular member to thereby define a primary product containment volume above said bottom member and a secondary product containment volume below said bottom member;

a secondary product positioned in said secondary product containment volume; and

a sealing disc, having a diameter slightly greater than the inside diameter of said secondary product containment volume, in frictional engagement with the interior of said tubular sidewall member in said secondary product containment volume with said secondary product being positioned between said bottom member and said sealing disc for restraining said secondary product against accidental removal from said secondary product containment volume.

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