Abstract: A food and beverage appliance is described which enables storage and consumption of a food and beverage snack, such as cereal and milk, in a portable form factor suitable to consume the snack while in motion or during or after traveling. The appliance stores the food and beverage separately to preserve the crispiness and freshness. It dispenses the food and beverage separately and nonsimultaneously to preserve the crispness and freshness until tasting, and to allow the user to control exactly the size of each portion dispensed. The appliance prevents leakage of the beverage out its container, whether during filling, storage, traveling, or dispensing, to avoid getting the food soggy prior to dispensing and to avoid messes.
before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - B65D 81/32, 1/24, 25/04, 77/08 (2016.01)
CPC - B65D 81/3283, 81/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC (8) - B65D 81/32, 1/24, 25/04, 77/08 (2016.01)
CPC - B65D 81/3283, 81/32

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

CPC - B65D 81/3261, 1/24, 25/04, 77/08

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

Patbase; Google Patents; Google Scholar; Google Web; Espacenet;

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No.

X US 5,588,561 A (Ness) 31 December 1996 (31.12.1996), Fig. 6, col. 5, In. 12-30 1

X US 6,079,586 A (Hanneman) 27 June 2000 (27.06.2000), Figs. 1-4, col. 4, In. 17 - col. 5, In. 45 1


A US 2013/0171303 A1 (Larsen et al) 04 July 2013 (04.07.2013), Figs. 1A-1B, para [0022]-[0025] 1

A US 2011/0272300 A1 (Henderson) 10 November 2011 (10.11.2011), Fig. 1, para [0025]-[0030] 1

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

S*IMIL categories of cited documents:

*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

*E* earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

Later document published after the international filing date or priority date and in not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

Further document referred to in PCT Patent Application

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 April 2016 (15.04.2016)

Date of mailing of the international search report

05 MAY 2016

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. 571-273-8300

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2015)
### Box No. II  Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. □ Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. □ Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. □ Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box No. III  Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

--- See supplemental box ---

1. □ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. □ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. □ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. □ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

□ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

□ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

□ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (2)) (January 2015)
Continuation of Box No. III - Observations where unity of invention is lacking

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I: Claim 1, directed to a storage and dispensing Cup.

Group II: Claim 2-19, directed to a dry food and beverage storage and dispensing Appliance.

Group III: Claim 20, directed to a business process of providing a meal to a consumer.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because under PCT Rule 13.2 they lack the same or corresponding technical features for the following reasons:

Special Technical Features

Group I includes the special technical features of a first compartment designated for a beverage and fluidically sealed and adapted with a normally closed valved port for dispensing a beverage directly into the mouth that are not required by Groups II-III.

Group II includes the special technical features of (a) A Container with a closed bottom and open top, and comprising: i) A rim around the open top, part of the rim at a first height, ii) A wall intersecting the Container from bottom to top, defining a first and second compartment separated by the wall, the wall having (1) a left and right edge, and (2) a top extending to a height above the rim first height from its left to right edge, iii) A left and right ramp connecting the left and right edge of the top of the wall to the rim of the first compartment, (b) A Lid with a top surface and a bottom surface, and comprising: i) A seal element on the bottom surface, the seal element adapted to make contiguous contact with the top of the container wall, the left and right ramp, and the rim of the first compartment, ii) A first and second side, the first side defined by the area inside the perimeter of the bottom surface seal element, iii) an opening in the Lid second side, the perimeter of the opening including a raised rim extending a distance from the Lid top surface, iv) A movable Door in the second side on the bottom surface, adapted to close and open the food spout opening, v) An opening through the first side, (c) A Straw assembly adapted to pass through the Lid first side opening and extending a distance from the Lid top surface; (d) A connection means to connect the Lid and Container together that are not required by Groups I and III.

Group III includes the special technical features of (4) either (a) filling either the food or the beverage or both into the container before time of purchase or before point of service, or (b) providing the means for filling the container with the beverage or the food or both, at or after or before the time of purchase or point of service that are not required by Groups I-III.

Shared Technical Features

Groups I-III share the technical features of a container with two compartments for storing a beverage / liquid separately from a solid / dry food. However, these shared technical features do not represent a contribution over prior art as being anticipated by US 6,079,586 A (Hanneman) which discloses a container (10, Figs. 1-4) with two compartments (14, 15) for storing a beverage / liquid separately from a solid / dry food (Abstract, 'container for holding a liquid beverage and a dry food snack in a single unit').

Groups II share the technical feature of a valve. However this shared technical feature does not represent a contribution over prior art as being anticipated by Hanneman which discloses a valve (col. 4, ln. 67 - col. 5, ln. 1, 'the mouth spout may have a valve 25 therein').

Therefore, Groups I-III lack unity under PCT Rule 13 because they do not share a same or corresponding technical feature.

NOTE: Claims 18-19 refer to ‘An appliance...’ and depend from claim 1. However, claim 1 is directed to a storage and dispensing cup. Claim 2 is directed to a dry food and beverage storage and dispensing Appliance...’. Accordingly, claims 18-19 are treated as depending from claim 2 instead of claim 1.