Nov. 14, 1961 C. D. SMITH 3,008,600

CUP AND SAUCER

Filed April 3, 1959

FIG. 1.

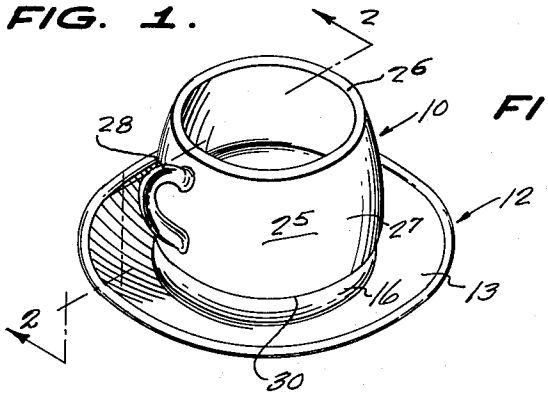


FIG. 5.

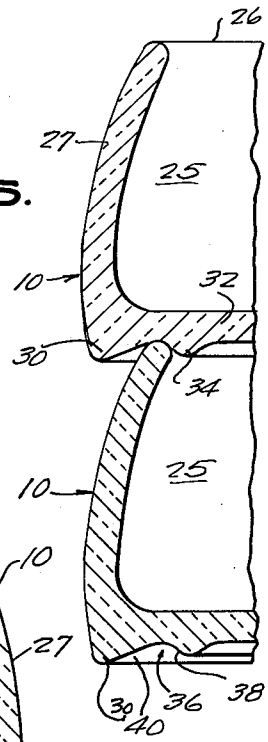


FIG. 2.

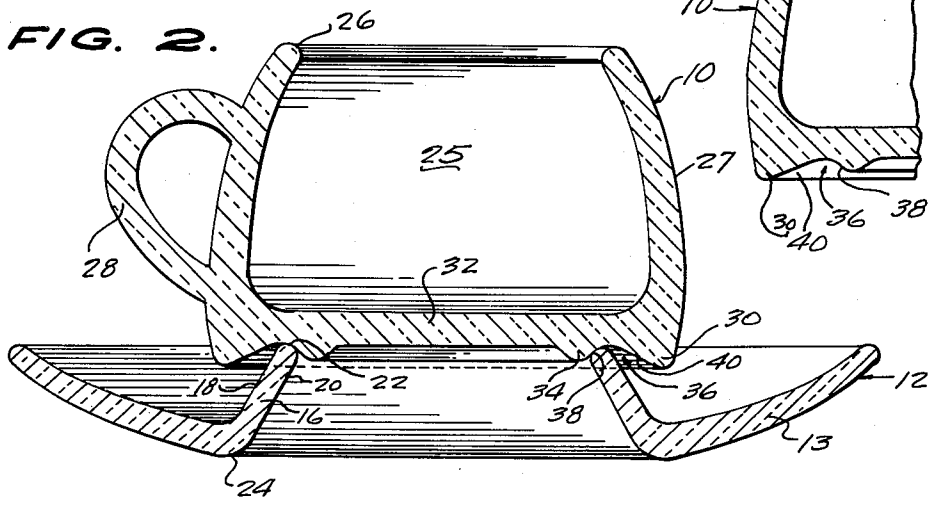


FIG. 3.

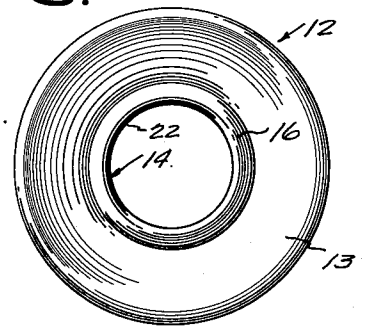
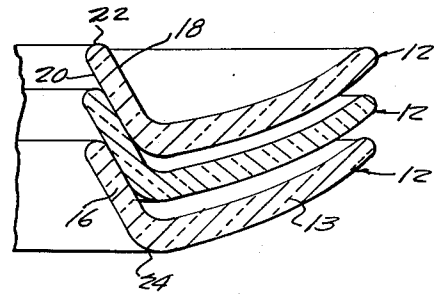


FIG. 4.



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CUP AND SAUCER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 220—23.83)

This invention pertains generally to cups and saucers, and more specifically, to cups and saucers constructed and assembled in such manner as to preclude the possibility of fluids which may, by accident or inadvertence, be introduced into the saucer from adhering to the base of the cup when the cup is removed from the saucer and subsequently dripping on or spilling on the user's clothing or an adjoining area such as a tablecloth. This objective is achieved through the unique formation of the cup and saucer which places their respective structural elements in such relationship to one another as to render impossible the aforementioned adherence or drippage of fluid.

An additional object of the instant invention resides in the formation of a cup and saucer wherein the base of the cup is held wholly in spaced relation to those portions of the saucer which may retain fluids, thereby avoiding contact between any fluids finding their way into the saucer and the base of the cup.

Another object and advantage of the present invention is that cups and saucers constructed under the teachings thereof may be readily stacked.

It has been previously known to provide cup and saucer assemblies for the purpose of obviating the objectional feature of coffee, or the like, being transferred out of the saucer by adherence to the base of the cup. Various constructions have been proposed by the prior art to meet this objective, and the present invention departs from the previously known constructions in several material and important respects. Among these departures is the formation of the saucer to support the base of the cup in such position that there is no possibility of the cup contacting fluids retained in the saucer, and to do this without unduly complicating the formation of the saucers and cups so that a plurality of the same may be nested together, respectively, and thereby readily stacked. Unduly complicated constructions are also objectionable from the standpoint of sanitation.

An additional object which is related to the foregoing, is to provide a cup and saucer of such construction that, even in the unlikely event that the saucer should become filled with liquid to such an extent that the bottom of the cup comes into contact therewith, the construction of the cup is such that there will be a tendency for the liquid to remain in the saucer when the cup is removed rather than adhering thereto. This advantage is occasioned by the spacing of the outer rim of the cup outwardly from, and wholly clear of the adjacent portions of the saucer.

Another object of this invention is to provide a saucer having an opening formed substantially at its center which renders it easily stackable, and which makes it easy to grasp during cleaning. The provision of the central open portion in the saucer which is occasioned by reason of the construction suggested by this invention also results in a savings of material during the manufacture of the saucers.

Among the additional objects and advantages of this invention is the provision of a cup and saucer of the type generally described supra, the cup and saucer being non-complex in construction and assembly, inexpensive to manufacture, and durable in use.

Other and further objects and advantages of the instant invention will become more readily apparent from a consideration of the following specification when read in conjunction with the annexed drawing, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a cup and saucer constructed and assembled in accordance with the teachings of this invention;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional view thereof taken substantially on the vertical plane of line 2—2 of FIGURE 1, looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIGURE 3 is a top plan view of the saucer in diminished scale;

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary view of a plurality of the saucers shown in stacked relation relative to each other; and

FIGURE 5 illustrates, fragmentarily, the stacking of the cups relative to each other.

The cup and saucer of this invention are denoted generally by the reference numerals **10** and **12**, respectively. The saucer **12** is seen to comprise a concave-convex annular member **13** encompassing an opening **14** and having at its inner diameter an upwardly and inwardly converging cylindrical flange **13** forming a circular base to support the cup **10**, as will be set forth more specifically below. For purposes to be made more clear as this specification progresses, the flange **16** is provided with opposed sides **18**, **20** and an upper outer end **22**. The annular member **13** is integrally connected, preferably with the lower end of the flange **16** at **24** to form support means for the saucer.

The cup **10** comprises a generally frusto-conical receptacle **25** having an upper rim **26**, side wall **27**, a handle **28**, and a depending lower rim **30**. The cup **10** also includes a substantially flat base **32** which is spaced inwardly of the lower rim **30**. The base **32** has a second depending rim **34** spaced concentrically inwardly from the rim **30** and as seen in FIGURE 2, the lower edge of the rim **30** occupies a plane below that of the lower edge of the rim **34**.

As is seen in FIGURE 2, there is formed a circular depression or concavity **36** which extends between the rims **34** and **30**. The depression **36** may be arbitrarily divided into a side **38** of the rim **34**, and a confronting and merging side **40** of the rim **30**. The depression **36** receives the flange **16** of the saucer **12**, and it is important to note that the side **38** contacts the outer side **20** of the flange **16**, thus leaving a space of substantial width between the lowermost sections of the cup and the inner portions of the saucer. In other words, the cup is supported wholly outside of the material containing portions of the saucer.

It will therefore readily be seen that the base of the cup **10** does not directly contact the portions of the saucer **12** which may retain spilled liquid. It will also be apparent that the side wall **27** of the cup **10** is of such formation that there will be a tendency for any liquid whic may be spilled over the edges of the rim **26** to gravitate toward the rim **30** and to drip into the saucer **12**.

In the unlikely event that a large amount of liquid fills the saucer to such depth as to cause it to contact the rim **30** when the cup **10** is rested on the saucer, the angularity of the side **40** in the adjacent portion of the wall **27**, coupled with the inherent surface tension of the aforesaid liquid creates a tendency on the part of the liquid to remain in the saucer when the cup is removed therefrom rather than being carried by the cup to subsequently drip on the user's clothing or other areas.

FIGURES 4 and 5 illustrate the adaptability of the cup **10** and saucer **12** to be individually stacked. The fact that the saucers **12** are each provided with central openings **14** render it possible for the user to easily and safely lift several of the saucers that are stacked at one time by merely placing the fingers within the coaligned openings. The particular formation of both the cups and the saucers is seen to be such that they are readily adaptable to indi-

vidual stacking, and the chances of the stacks being displaced accidentally are lessened by the construction supplied. In the case of the cup, this resides in the fact that the rims **26** are received in the depression **36** of the next adjacent one thereof; while the flanges **16** of the saucers **12** are received in the openings **14** when stacked.

Having described and illustrated a single embodiment of this invention in complete detail, it is to be understood that this illustration is offered merely by way of example, and that this invention is to be limited in scope only by the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

In a cup and saucer; a saucer which includes an upstanding, annular flange, defining a central opening therein, said flange having inner and outer sides; and a cup, the cup including a base and side wall, and an upper rim on the side wall, the upper rim being of substantially equal diameter to the diameter of the annular flange; a depending, annular outer support rim on said base, said outer support rim including a smooth inclined inner wall, a concentric depending, annular inner support rim on the base, said outer support rim being of greater depth than said inner support rim, said inner support rim having a smooth, inclined inner wall which merges with the inclined inner wall of the outer support rim, said inner support rim being spaced inwardly of said outer support rim and having an inner wall engaging against the inner side of the flange of the saucer to thereby support the cup thereon in such manner that the outer rim is held in spaced-apart relationship with respect to the saucer, and the cup being adapted for stacking with similar cups with the upper rims seated between the inner and outer support rims.

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