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(54) GROUP OF POTS FOR FOOD PRODUCTS

GRUPPE VON GEFÄSSEN FÜR LEBENSMITTEL

GROUPE DE POTS POUR PRODUITS ALIMENTAIRES

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Description

[0001] The subject of the present invention is a packaging for food products.

[0002] More precisely, the present invention relates to a group of pots for food products forming a pack, the pots being divisible from each other.

[0003] Various groups of pots packaged in divisible packs are known from the prior art. In practice, when a pot is detached from the group and put on a plane horizontal surface for consumption the upper rims of the pot surrounding the upper opening of the pot are oriented in an approximately horizontal manner. The upper rims are therefore not optimally oriented towards the user when the pot is put on a horizontal consumption surface. The presentation of the food product before and during consumption, along with the ergonomics during consumption are disadvantaged. In practice, the use must often tilt the pot during consumption, in particular in order to see and consume the food when reaching the end of the pot. Document WO 2006 025132 A1 discloses a pack in which the pots have a pyramidal shape and document DE 77 34 168 U shows a group of pots having spherical bases.

[0004] Starting with this observation, the present invention aims to improve the presentation of the food product in the pot before and during consumption while allowing the use of existing machines for filling, sealing and packaging for groups of pots forming a divisible pack.

[0005] To this end, the invention proposes a group of at least two pots for food products forming a pack as defined in claim 1.

[0006] Advantageously, a group according to the invention makes it possible to improve the presentation of the food product in the pot before and during consumption as the pot is tilted. In this way, the upper rim of the pot is oriented towards the consumer. The ergonomics during consumption are also improved to the extent that the consumer no longer has to tilt the pot, in particular when reaching the end of the pot, the pot according to the invention being oriented towards the consumer during the act of consumption.

[0007] In addition, a group according to the invention is suitable for the use of existing filling, sealing and packaging machines for the groups of pots forming a divisible pack. Specifically, the group of pots forming a pack is designed to present an upper surface parallel to the surface on which it is placed, which allows the use of existing filling and sealing means, designed to operate with the upper rims of pots arranged in the same horizontal plane. For the same reasons, the existing means for packing packs of pots are advantageously able to be used with the pack of pots according to the present invention.

[0008] According to advantageous features of the invention, optionally combined:

- the base has on its outer surface a flattening in a plane inclined relative to the plane of the upper rim of the pot;

- the flattening is the outer surface of the base of the pot;
- the group has at least one divisible tab between the upper rims of two pots defining an axis joining the, at least two, pots, and the flattening of each of the pots is D-shaped with the straight rim oriented so as to form an angle relative to the axis of the divisible tab of the pot in question;
- each pot in the group of pots is filled so that the surface of the food product packaged is approximately parallel to the plane of the upper rim of the corresponding pot;
- the food product packaged in the pots has a viscosity such that the surface of the product preserves a positioning parallel to the upper rim of the pot for at least 30 seconds, preferably at least 60 seconds, and in a particularly preferred manner for at least one hour after the pot has been detached from the pack and placed in the inclined position on a horizontal plane for consumption;
- the viscosity is chosen so as to be between 500 cP and 10 000 cP on dosing, and between 10 000 cP and 50 000 cP, preferably between 15 000 cP and 20 000 cP at consumption;
- the food product packaged in the pots is a fermented or unfermented, stirred or set yoghurt, fruit mousse or vegetable purée, fromage frais, cream, a product based on milk of an animal origin or soya milk, a cereal-based preparation, ice cream or a composite food product combining two or more of the aforementioned products and optionally including a gel-type preparation or an oven-baked preparation, such as a biscuit, pieces of fruit or one or more fruit or chocolate based crunchy layers;
- the base has an inclined plane of polygonal, circular or elliptical outline over the whole of its outer surface;
- the pots each have a ledge designed for the application of a protective film for sealing the pot on the inside wall of the pot between its upper rim and its base, the plane of said ledge being parallel to the oblique plane of the base of the pot;
- the pots are made of a transparent material;
- the pots are sealed using a lid made of a transparent material.

[0009] These provisions advantageously make it possible to improve the presentation of the food product in the pot before opening and during consumption.

[0010] According to another aspect, the invention proposes a method for filling a group of pots such as described above in which, during filling, the pots of the group forming a pack are arranged in such a way that their upper rims are positioned in the same plane parallel to the horizontal, so that after filling the upper surface of the product packaged is approximately parallel to the plane of the upper rims of the pots of the group forming the pack. According to an advantageous feature, the pots of the group are closed using a transparent lid.

[0011] The exposition of the invention will now be continued through the detailed description of exemplary embodiments, provided below by way of nonlimiting example with reference to the appended drawings. In the latter:

- Figure 1 is a side view of a pot according to the invention;
- Figure 2 is a side view of four pots forming a pack according to the invention;
- Figure 3 is a schematic perspective view of the group of four pots from Figure 2;
- Figure 4 is a top view of the group of four pots from Figure 3;
- Figure 5 is a top view of a group of two pots according to the invention;
- Figure 6 is a side view of another embodiment of a pot according to the invention; and
- Figure 7 is a side view of yet another embodiment of a pot according to the invention.

[0012] Figure 1 is a side view of a first embodiment of a pot 2 according to the invention. The pot has an upper rim 3 surrounding an opening 4 intended for the filling then the consumption of the food product contained in the pot. The upper rims of the pot support a lid 5 for closing the pot provided with a primer tab 6, known per se, for facilitating the removal of the lid for consumption.

[0013] As can be seen in Figure 1, when the pot is placed on a reference plane 10 the upper rim 3 of the pot 2 is located in a plane 11 inclined relative to the reference plane 10. In this way, the upper rim of the pot surrounding its opening 4 is oriented towards the consumer. The pot 2 has a base 7 approximately opposite the upper rim 3. On its outer surface the base 7 has a flattening 8 in a plane inclined relative to the plane 11 of the upper rim of the pot. In the present embodiment, the pot has an overall shape of part of a sphere. According to an embodiment not shown, the pot has a cylindrical shape in which the outer surface of the base of the pot forms a flattening in a plane inclined relative to the plane of the upper rim of the pot.

[0014] Figures 2 and 3 represent a group 1 of pots 2 for food products according to the invention. Each of the pots has an upper rim 3 and a structure approximately identical to that of the pot of Figure 1, with the exception that each of the pots is provided with a ledge 9 designed for the application of a lid 5. The ledge 9 is provided on the inside wall of the pot between its upper rim 3 and its base 7, the plane of said ledge being parallel to the plane of the upper rim 3 of the pot.

[0015] The group of pots 1 as shown in Figures 2 and 3 has divisible tabs 13 between the upper rims of the pots.

[0016] In the present embodiment, a group of four pots such as shown in Figure 1 has two of the four tabs which are not immediate neighbours with a greater width than the two other tabs so as to locate there, in a manner known per se, the primers 6 for opening the lid 5 as represented in Figure 2.

[0017] However, In an alternative embodiment, the tabs 13 are all identical.

[0018] Advantageously, as can be seen in Figures 2 and 3, when the pots are grouped in packs, since the packs are placed in a reference plane 10, the upper rims of the pack are located in the same plane 12 parallel to said reference plane 10. Thus, a group of this type is suitable for the use of existing filling, sealing and packaging machines for groups of pots forming a divisible pack, which are designed to operate with the upper rims of the pots positioned in the same horizontal plane 12.

[0019] During filling of the pots, the upper surface 14 of the food product 15 is parallel to the plane of the upper rim 3 or to the plane of the opening of the corresponding pot 2. The food product packaged in the pots has a viscosity such that the surface 14 of the product 15 preserves its position parallel to the upper rim 3 of the pot for at least 30 seconds, preferably at least 60 seconds, and in a particularly preferred manner at least one hour after the pot has been detached from the open pack by the consumer and placed in the inclined position on a plane 10 for consumption, as can be seen in greater detail in Figure 1. To this end, the viscosity is chosen so as to be between 500 cP ($1 \text{ cP} = 1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Pa.s}$) for a liquid (milk or liquid yoghurt, for example) and 1000 cP for a stirred yoghurt, on dosing, and between 10 000 and 50 000 cP, preferably between 15 000 and 20 000 cP at consumption (oblique position), i.e. in the pots on the manufacture/filling lines and "forming" in the pots, i.e. taking on their texture and their viscosity in the pots.

[0020] As can be seen in greater detail in Figure 4, the flattenings 8 of the group of pots shown in Figures 2 and 3 have a round shape,

[0021] According to another embodiment, which can be seen in Figure 5, a group of two pots according to the invention has a divisible tab 13 between the upper rims 3 of the two pots, thus defining an axis A-A joining the two pots. The straight edge 81 of the D-shaped flattenings 8 is oriented perpendicular to the axis A-A so that, when the pots are grouped in the pack of two pots, the pack being placed on a reference plane, the upper rims 3 of the pots remain parallel to the reference plane on which the pack is placed. When the pots are detached and placed on the reference plane on the D-shaped flattening 8, the upper rim of each of the pots is located in a plane inclined relative to the reference plane.

[0022] This embodiment of a D-shaped flattening 8 is suited in a particularly advantageous manner to a group of two or more pots. This is because these flattenings make it possible to obtain stability of the pack even when only two pots remain in the pack. In other words, when the pots of the pack are not all consumed at the same time, but one by one, the packet remains stable in relation to a reference plane, the upper rims of the pots of the pack being located in the same plane parallel to the reference plane, and this being the case even when only two pots remain in the pack. Thus, the food products advantageously preserves its position parallel to the up-

per rim of the pot until the two last pots of the group are detached. Then, according to the viscosity of the food product, the position parallel to the upper rim of the product is retained for a predetermined duration.

[0023] For reasons of stability in relation to the reference plane, according to the invention a group of at least three pots will be preferred when the entire base is inclined and, for example, circular or elliptical in shape and a group of at least two pots will be preferred when the entire base is inclined and polygonal in shape, as the embodiment of Figure 6 shows with a pot 2 of hexagonal cross section and its inclined base 7 of hexagonal outline.

[0024] According to an embodiment not shown, the pot has a polygonal cross section and its inclined base has a corresponding polygonal outline.

[0025] The pot may be filled with any food product intended to be consumed in pots or groups of pots. These are, in particular, fermented or unfermented, stirred or set yoghurts, fruit mousse or vegetable purée, fromage frais, creams, products based on milk of an animal origin or soya milk, cereal-based preparations, ice cream or composite food products combining two or more of the aforementioned products. Optionally, such composite products may include, for example, a gel-type preparation or an oven-baked preparation, such as a biscuit, pieces of fruit or alternatively one or more fruit or chocolate based crunchy layers.

[0026] In the cross section of the pots the portion may have any shape.

[0027] It may also be a product that can be turned out, for instance a dairy base in the upper part of the pot and a coulis in the lower part of the pot, so as to be above the dairy base after turning out.

[0028] According to another embodiment shown in Figure 7, a pot according to the invention has a ledge 9 intended for the application of a lid 5 for sealing the pot opening. The ledge 9 is provided on the inside wall of the pot between its upper rim 3 and its base 7, the plane 91 of the ledge 9 being parallel to the plane of the flattening 8 of the base 7 of the pot. The lid 5 has a primer tab 6, known per se.

[0029] The material of the pots is polystyrene (PS) or polypropylene (PP) injected or, preferably, thermoformed. The pot may be transparent, translucent or opaque, coloured or colourless.

[0030] More generally, the sealing of the pot may be carried out by means of any type of lid, made of multilayered plastic or aluminium, transparent or non-transparent, and welded, preferably, to the upper rim of the pot by ultrasound or heat sealing.

[0031] Advantageously, the pots are made of a transparent material, which makes it possible to improve the presentation of the food product before and during consumption.

[0032] Advantageously, the pots are sealed using a transparent lid, which makes it possible to improve the presentation of the food product in the pot before opening.

[0033] For reasons of stability of the content of the pot, the roughness of the inside surfaces of the pot is chosen so as to contribute to maintaining the inclination of the content relative to the horizontal after tilting the pot. The roughness values are chosen depending on the characteristics of the food product contained in the pot, in particular depending on its viscosity. The choice of roughness values is within the compass of the person skilled in the art.

[0034] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method for filling a group of at least two pots is used for food products such as described above in which, during filling, the pots of the group forming a pack are arranged so that their upper rims lie in the same plane parallel to the horizontal. In this way, after filling, the upper surface of the product packaged is approximately parallel to the plane of the upper rims of the pots of the group forming a pack.

[0035] This makes it possible to use existing filling, sealing and packaging machines.

[0036] After filling, the pots of the group are advantageously closed using a transparent lid, which makes it possible to improve the presentation of the food product before opening.

[0037] Many other variants are possible depending on circumstances, and it should be recalled in this respect that the invention is not limited to the examples as represented and described.

Claims

1. Group (1) of at least two pots (2) for food products (14) forming a pack, said pots being divisible from each other, **characterized in that:**

- each of the pots has an upper rim (3) surrounding an opening (4); and
- when the pots are grouped in the pack, the pack being placed on a reference plane (10), the upper rims of the pots of the pack are located in the same plane (12) parallel to said reference plane (10); and
- when one of the pots (2) is detached from the pack for consumption, the pot being placed on a reference plane (10), the upper rim of the pot is located in a plane inclined relative to said reference plane; and
- each of the pots of the group has a base (7) approximately opposite the upper rim (3), **characterized in that** the base (7) of each pot (2) has over all or part of its outer surface a plane through which the pot bears on the reference plane (10) and which extends obliquely relative to the plane of the upper rim (3) of the pot.

2. Group of at least two pots (2) according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the base has on its outer sur-

face a flattening (8) in a plane inclined relative to the plane of the upper rim of the pot.

3. Group according to Claim 2, **characterized in that** the flattening (8) is the outer surface of the base (7) of the pot. 5
4. Group according to one of Claims 2 to 3, **characterized in that** the group has at least one divisible tab (13) between the upper rims (3) of two pots defining an axis joining the, at least two, pots, and **in that** the flattening (8) of each of the pots is D-shaped with the straight rim (81) oriented so as to form an angle relative to the axis of the divisible tab of the pot in question. 10
5. Group according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** each pot in the group of pots is filled so that the surface of the food product packaged is approximately parallel to the plane of the upper rim (3) of the corresponding pot. 20
6. Group according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the food product (14) packaged in the pots has a viscosity such that the surface of the product (15) preserves a positioning parallel to the upper rim (3) of the pot for at least 30 seconds, preferably at least 60 seconds, and in a particularly preferred manner at least one hour after the pot (12) has been detached from the pack and placed on a horizontal plane for consumption. 25
7. Group according to Claim 6, **characterized in that** the viscosity is chosen so as to be between 500 cP and 10 000 cP on dosing, and between 10 000 cP and 50 000 cP, preferably between 15 000 cP and 20 000 cP at consumption. 30
8. Group according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the food product (14) packaged in the pots is a fermented or unfermented, stirred or set yoghurt, fruit mousse or vegetable purée, fromage frais, cream, a product based on milk of an animal origin or soya milk, a cereal-based preparation, ice cream or a composite food product combining two or more of the aforementioned products and optionally including a gel-type preparation or an oven-baked preparation, such as a biscuit, pieces of fruit or one or more fruit or chocolate based crunchy layers. 40
9. Group according to Claim 2, **characterized in that** the base has an inclined plane of polygonal, circular or elliptical outline over the whole of its outer surface. 45
10. Group according to any one of Claims 2 to 9, **characterized in that** the pots each have a ledge (9) designed for the application of a protective film (5) 50

for sealing the pot on the inside wall of the pot between its upper rim (3) and its base (7), the plane of said ledge being parallel to the oblique plane of the base (7) of the pot (2).

11. Group according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the pots (2) are made of a transparent material.
12. Group according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the pots (2) are sealed using a lid (5) made of a transparent material.
13. Method for filling a group of at least two pots (2) for food products (14) according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** during filling, the pots of the group forming a pack are arranged in such a way that their upper rims (3) are positioned in the same plane (12) parallel to the horizontal, so that after filling the upper surface of the product packaged (14) is approximately parallel to the plane of the upper rims (3) of the pots of the group forming the pack.
14. Method according to the preceding claim, **characterized in that**, after filling, the pots (2) of the group are closed using a transparent lid (5).

Patentansprüche

1. Gruppe (1) aus mindestens zwei Gefäßen (2) für Lebensmittelprodukte (14), welche eine Packung bilden, wobei die Gefäße von einander getrennt werden können, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass:**
 - jedes der Gefäße einen oberen, eine Öffnung (4) umgebenden Rand (3) aufweist; und
 - wenn die Gefäße in der Packung als Gruppe angeordnet werden, wobei die Packung auf einer Bezugsebene (10) angeordnet ist, die oberen Ränder der Gefäße der Packung in derselben Ebene (12) parallel zu der Bezugsebene (10) liegen; und
 - wenn eines der Gefäße (2) zum Verzehr von der Packung abgetrennt wird, wobei das Gefäß auf einer Bezugsebene (10) angeordnet ist, der obere Rand des Gefäßes in einer relativ zur dieser Bezugsebene geneigten Ebene liegt; und
 - jedes Gefäß der Gruppe einen Boden (7) annähernd gegenüber dem oberen Rand (3) aufweist, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Boden (7) jedes Gefäßes (2) über seine gesamte oder einen Teil seiner Außenfläche eine Ebene aufweist, durch die das Gefäß auf der Bezugsebene (10) aufliegt und die in Bezug auf die Ebene des oberen Randes (3) des Gefäßes schräg verläuft.

2. Gruppe aus mindestens zwei Gefäßen (2) gemäß Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Boden auf seiner Außenfläche eine Abflachung (8) in einer bezüglich der Ebene des oberen Randes des Gefäßes geneigten Ebene aufweist. 5
3. Gruppe gemäß Anspruch 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Abflachung (8) die Außenfläche des Bodens (7) des Gefäßes darstellt. 10
4. Gruppe gemäß einem der Ansprüche 2 bis 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Gruppe mindestens einen teilbaren Streifen (13) zwischen den oberen Rändern (3) von zwei Gefäßen aufweist, der eine die mindestens zwei Gefäße verbindende Achse festlegt, und dass die Anflachung (8) jedes der Gefäße D-förmig ist, wobei der gerade Rand (81) derart ausgerichtet ist, dass er einen Winkel relativ zur Achse des teilbaren Streifens des betreffenden Gefäßes bildet. 15
5. Gruppe gemäß einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** jedes Gefäß in der Gruppe von Gefäßen derart gefüllt ist, dass die Oberfläche des verpackten Lebensmittelproduktes annähernd parallel zur Ebene des oberen Randes (3) des entsprechenden Gefäßes ist. 20
6. Gruppe gemäß einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das in den Gefäßen verpackte Lebensmittelprodukt (14) eine Viskosität aufweist, so dass die Oberfläche des Produktes (15) für mindestens 30 Sekunden, vorzugsweise für mindestens 60 Sekunden, und besonders bevorzugt für mindestens eine Stunde, nachdem das Gefäß (12) von der Packung abgetrennt und zum Verzehr in eine horizontal Ebene gebracht werden ist, eine Lage parallel zu dem oberen Rand (3) des Gefäßes beibehält. 25
7. Gruppe gemäß Anspruch 6, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Viskosität so gewählt wird, dass sie bei der Dosierung zwischen 500 cP und 10 000 cP liegt und beim Verzehr zwischen 10 000 cP und 50 000 cP, vorzugsweise zwischen 15 000 cP und 20 000 cP. 30
8. Gruppe gemäß einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das es sich bei dem in den Gefäßen verpackten Lebensmittelprodukt (14) um fermentierten oder unfermentierten, gerührten oder stichfesten Yoghurt, Fruchtmousse oder Gemüsepuree, Frischkäse, Creme, ein auf tierischer Milch oder Sojamilch basierendes Produkt, eine Zubereitung auf Cerealienbasis, Eiskrem oder ein zusammengesetztes Lebensmittelprodukt handelt, das zwei oder mehr der vorgenannten Produkte kombiniert und wahlweise eine geleeartige Zuberei-

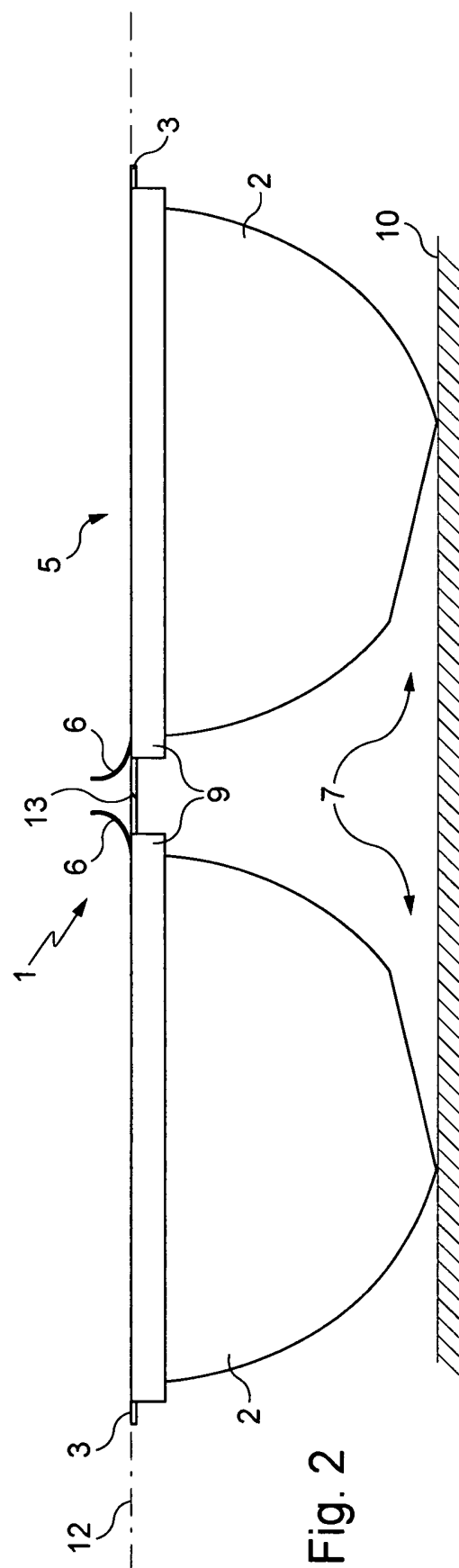
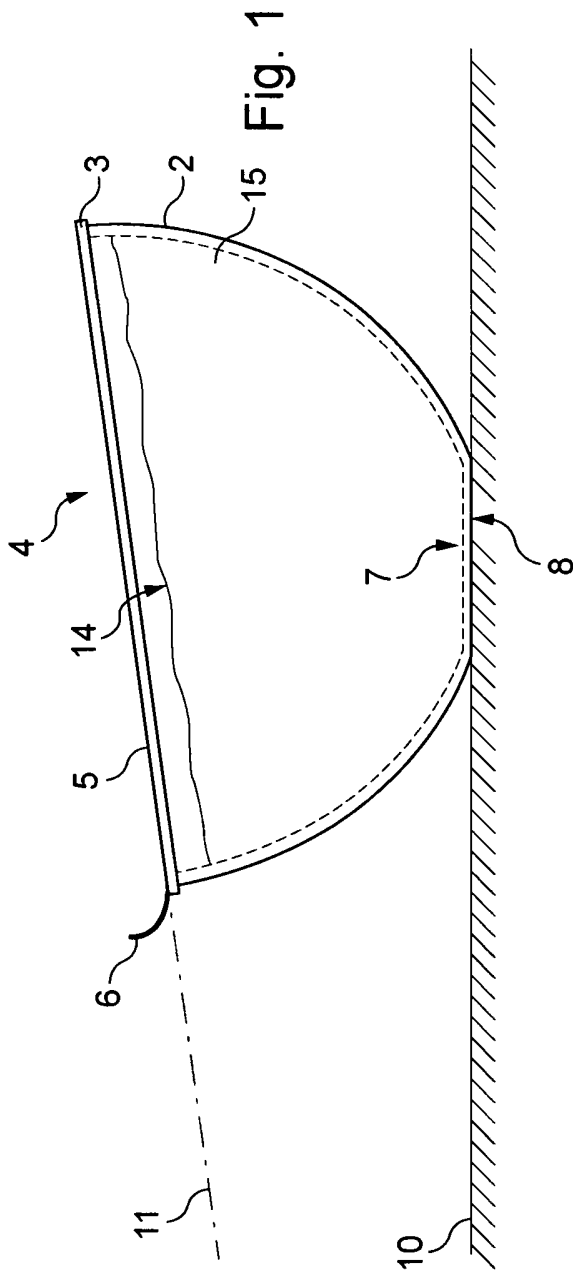
tung oder eine Gebäckzubereitung, wie z.B. einen Keks, Fruchtstücke oder eine oder mehrere Knusperschichten auf Frucht- oder Schokoladenbasis enthält.

9. Gruppe gemäß Anspruch 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Boden eine geneigte Ebene von polygonalem, kreisförmigem oder elliptischem Umriss über seine gesamte Außenfläche aufweist. 35
10. Gruppe gemäß einem der Ansprüche 2 bis 9, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Gefäße jeweils einen Vorsprung (9) zum Aufbringen einer Schutzfolie (5) aufweisen, um das Gefäß an der Innenwand des Gefäßes zwischen seinem oberen Rand (3) und seinem Boden (7) zu versiegeln, wobei die Ebene dieses Vorsprungs parallel zu der schrägen Ebene des Bodens (7) des Gefäßes (2) verläuft. 40
11. Gruppe gemäß einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Gefäße (2) aus einem transparenten Material bestehen. 45
12. Gruppe gemäß einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Gefäße (2) unter Verwendung eines aus einem transparenten Material bestehenden Deckels (5) versiegelt sind.
13. Verfahren zum Befüllen einer Gruppe von mindestens zwei Gefäßen (2) für Lebensmittelprodukte (14) gemäß einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Gefäße der eine Packung bildenden Gruppe während des Befüllens derart positioniert sind, dass ihre oberen Ränder (3) in derselben Ebene (12) parallel zur Waagrechten positioniert sind, so dass nach dem Befüllen die Oberfläche des verpackten Produktes (14) annähernd parallel zur Ebene der oberen Ränder (3) der Gefäße der die Packung bildenden Gruppe verläuft. 50
14. Verfahren gemäß dem vorhergehenden Anspruch, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Gefäße (2) der Gruppe nach dem Befüllen unter Verwendung eines transparenten Deckels (5) verschlossen werden. 55

Revendications

1. Groupe (1) d'au moins deux pots (2) pour produits alimentaires (14) formant un pack, lesdits pots étant scellables les uns par rapport aux autres, **caractérisé en ce que** : 50
 - chacun des pots présente un bord supérieur (3) entourant une ouverture (4) ; et
 - lorsque les pots sont groupés dans le pack, le pack étant posé sur un plan de référence (10),

- les bords supérieurs des pots du paquet se trouvent dans le même plan (12) parallèle audit plan de référence (10) ; et
- lorsque l'un des pots (2) est détaché du paquet pour consommation, le pot étant posé sur un plan de référence (10), le bord supérieur du pot se trouve dans un plan incliné par rapport audit plan de référence ; et
 - chacun des pots du groupe présente un fond (7) sensiblement opposé au bord supérieur (3),
- caractérisé en ce que** le fond (7) de chaque pot (2) présente sur tout ou partie de sa surface extérieure un plan par lequel le pot vient prendre appui sur le plan de référence (10) et qui s'étend en oblique par rapport au plan du bord supérieur (3) du pot.
2. Groupe d'au moins deux pots (2) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** ledit fond présentant sur sa surface extérieure un méplat (8) dans un plan incliné par rapport au plan du bord supérieur du pot.
 3. Groupe selon la revendication 2, **caractérisé en ce que** le méplat (8) est la surface extérieure du fond (7) du pot.
 4. Groupe selon l'une des revendications 2 à 3, **caractérisé en ce que** le groupe présente au moins une languette sécable (13) entre les bords supérieurs (3) de deux pots définissant un axe joignant les, au moins deux pots, et **en ce que** le méplat (8) de chacun des pots présente une forme en D dont le bord rectiligne (81) est orienté de manière à former un angle par rapport à l'axe de la languette sécable du pot en question.
 5. Groupe selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** chaque pot dans le groupe de pots est rempli de telle sorte que la surface du produit alimentaire conditionné soit sensiblement parallèle au plan du bord supérieur (3) du pot correspondant.
 6. Groupe selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** le produit alimentaire (14) conditionné dans les pots présente une viscosité telle que la surface du produit (15) conserve une disposition parallèle par rapport au bord supérieur (3) du pot pendant au moins 30 secondes, de préférence au moins 60 secondes et de manière particulièrement préférée, au moins une heure après que le pot (2) a été détaché du paquet et disposé sur un plan horizontal pour consommation.
 7. Groupe selon la revendication 6, **caractérisé en ce que** la viscosité est choisie de sorte à être comprise entre 500 cP et 10000 cP au dosage et entre 10000 cP et 50000 cP, de préférence entre 15000 et cP et 20000 cP à la consommation.
 8. Groupe selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** le produit alimentaire (14) conditionné dans les pots est un yaourt, fermenté ou non, brassé ou non, une mousse de fruits ou une purée de légumes, du fromage frais, une crème, un produit à base de lait d'origine animale ou de lait de soja, une préparation à base de céréales, une crème glacée ou un produit alimentaire composite combinant deux ou plus des produits précités et incluant optionnellement une préparation de type gel ou une préparation cuite au four, telle qu'un biscuit, des morceaux de fruits ou une ou plusieurs couches craquantes à base de fruits ou de chocolat.
 9. Groupe selon la revendication 2, **caractérisé en ce que** le fond présente un plan incliné de contour polygonal, circulaire ou elliptique sur la totalité de sa surface extérieure.
 10. Groupe selon l'une quelconque des revendications 2 à 9, **caractérisé en ce que** les pots présentent chacun un rebord (9) destiné à la mise en place d'un film protecteur (5) pour fermeture du pot sur la paroi intérieure du pot entre son bord supérieur (3) et son fond (7), le plan dudit rebord étant parallèle au plan oblique du fond (7) du pot (2).
 11. Groupe selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** les pots (2) sont réalisés dans un matériau transparent.
 12. Groupe selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** les pots (2) sont scellés à l'aide d'un opercule (5) réalisé dans un matériau transparent.
 13. Procédé de remplissage d'un groupe d'au moins deux pots (2) pour produits alimentaires (14) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que**, lors du remplissage, les pots du groupe formant un pack sont disposés de manière à ce que leurs bords supérieurs (3) soient disposés dans un même plan (12) parallèle à l'horizontale, de manière à ce que, après remplissage, la surface supérieure du produit conditionné (14) soit sensiblement parallèle au plan des bords supérieurs (3) des pots du groupe formant le paquet.
 14. Procédé selon la revendication précédente, **caractérisé en ce que**, après remplissage, les pots (2) du groupe sont fermés à l'aide d'un opercule (5) transparent.



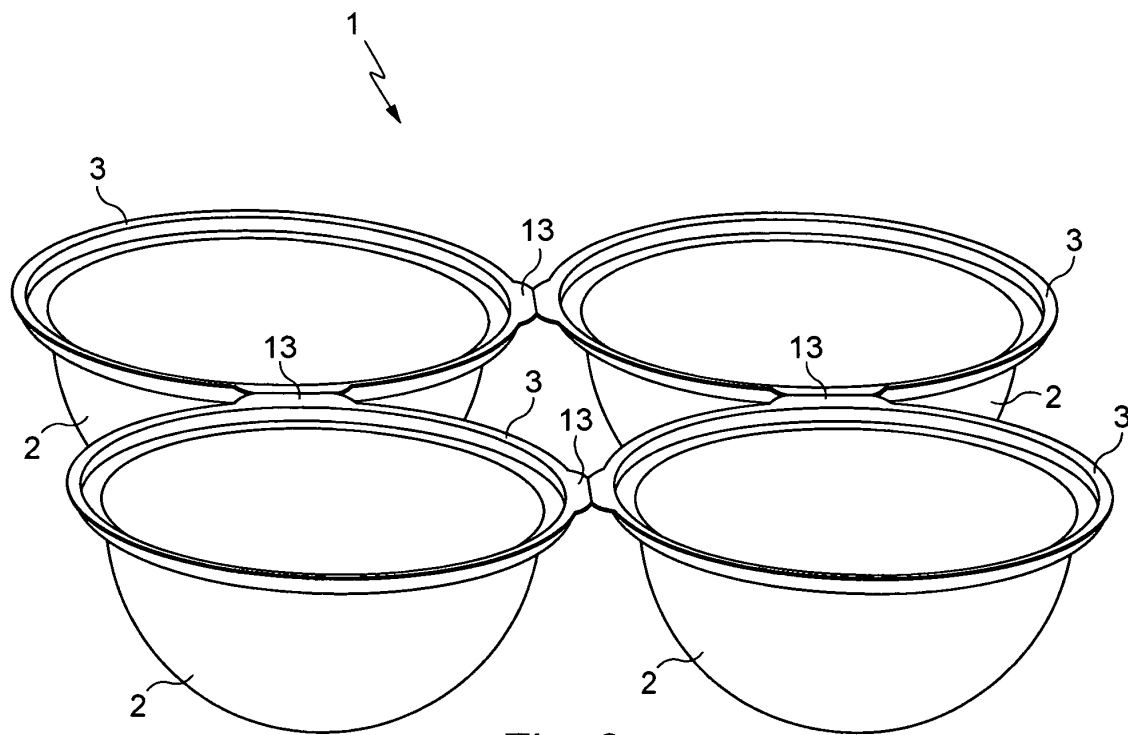


Fig. 3

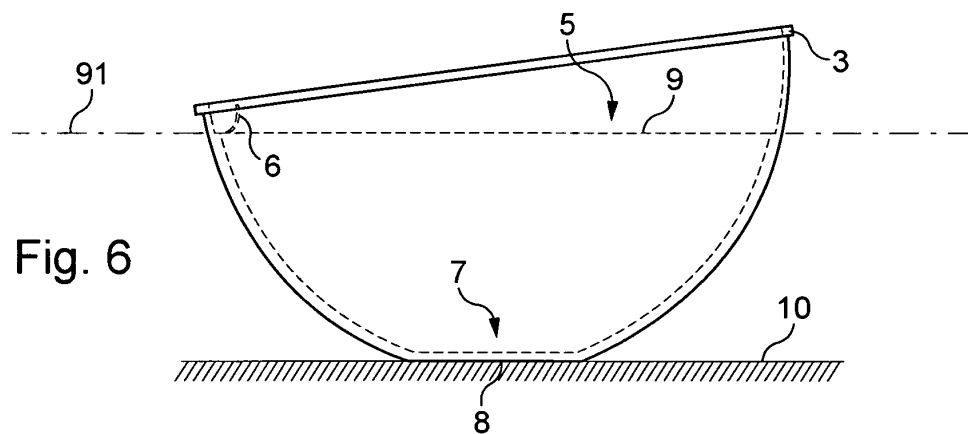


Fig. 6

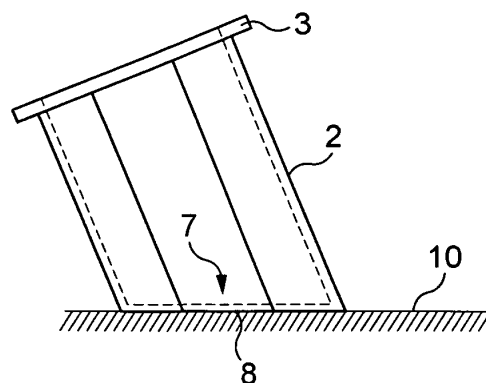


Fig. 7

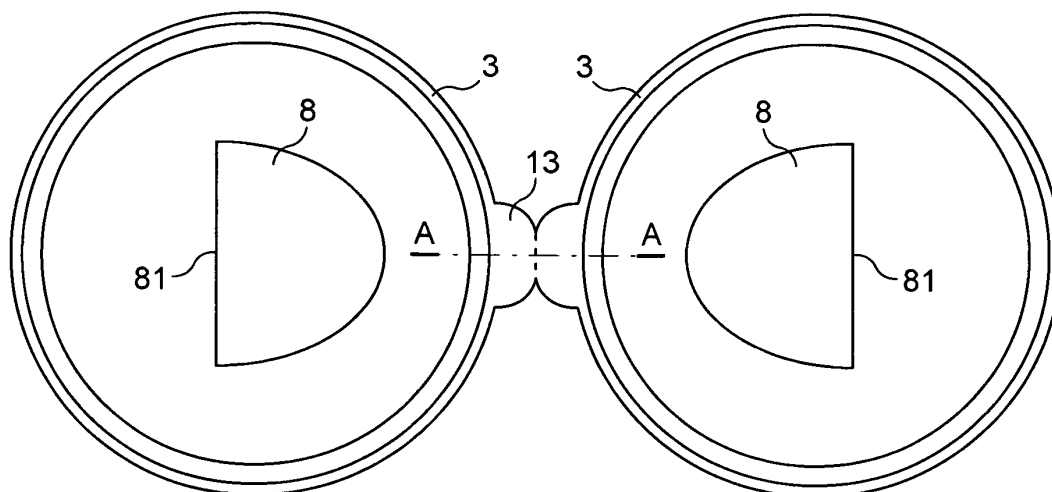


Fig. 5

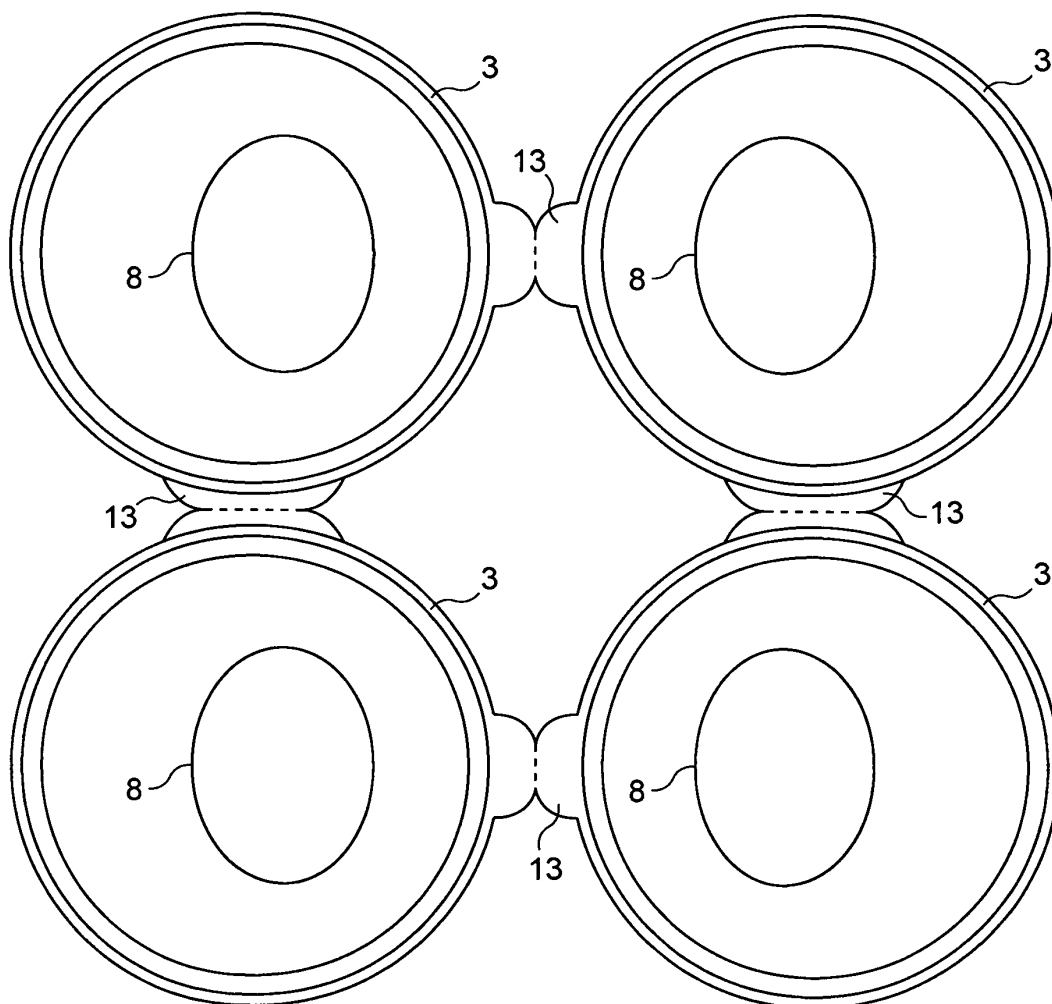


Fig. 4

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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