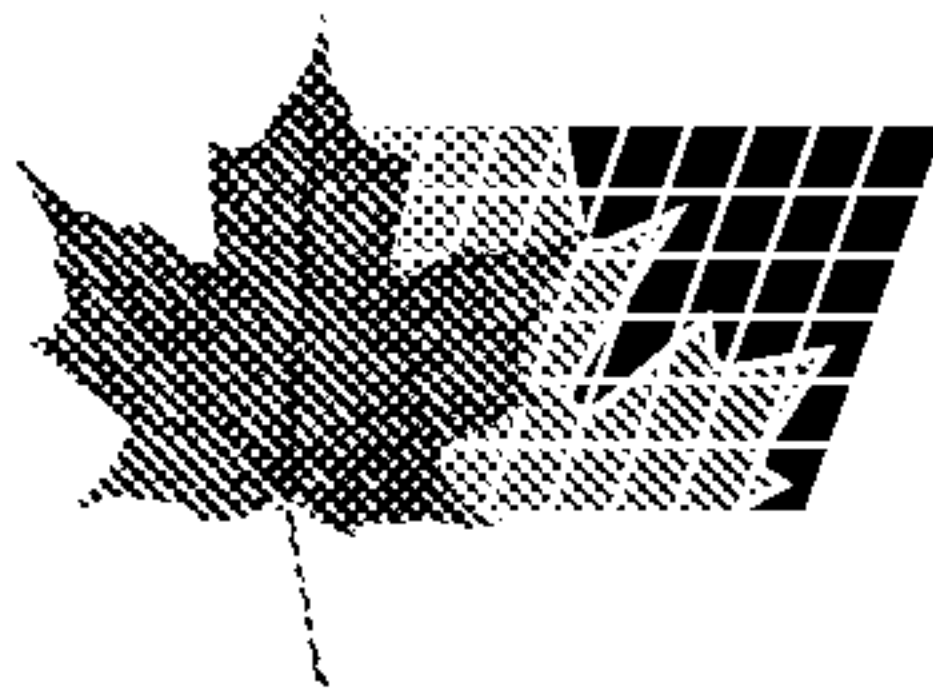




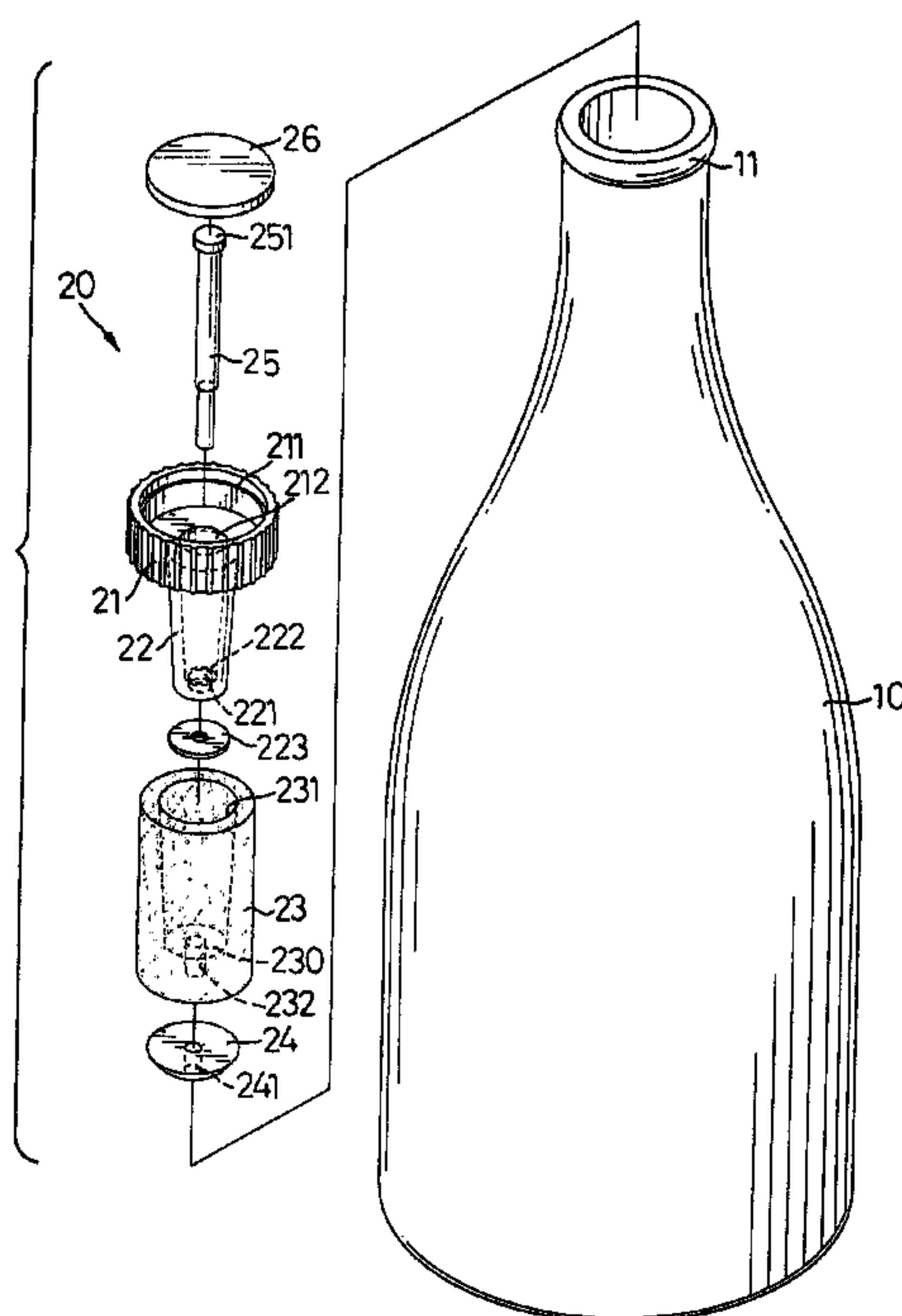
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(51) Int.Cl.⁷ B65D 39/12

(54) **BOUCHON DE BOUTEILLE FACILE A OUVRIR**

(54) **EASY OPEN STOPPER FOR A BOTTLE**



(57) A convenient stopper for a bottle is disclosed. The stopper includes a plug slidably retained in a cylinder by a connecting pin. The cylinder is sized to be received in an opening of the bottle. In a contracted mode of the stopper, the plug is disposed at the top of the connecting pin and away from the cylinder, whereby an outer wall of the cylinder contracts from the neck of the bottle, to allow easy removal from the bottle, without use of a corkscrew. In an expanded mode of the stopper, the plug is urged into the cylinder whereby the outer wall of the cylinder tightly seals the opening of the bottle. The stopper can be re-used to permit storage of remaining contents of the bottle to be consumed later.

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2 A convenient stopper for a bottle is disclosed. The stopper includes a plug slidably
3 retained in a cylinder by a connecting pin. The cylinder is sized to be received in an opening
4 of the bottle. In a contracted mode of the stopper, the plug is disposed at the top of the
5 connecting pin and away from the cylinder, whereby an outer wall of the cylinder contracts
6 from the neck of the bottle, to allow easy removal from the bottle, without use of a corkscrew.
7 In an expanded mode of the stopper, the plug is urged into the cylinder whereby the outer wall
8 of the cylinder tightly seals the opening of the bottle. The stopper can be re-used to permit
9 storage of remaining contents of the bottle to be consumed later.

EASY OPEN STOPPER FOR A BOTTLE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a stopper, especially to a stopper for a bottle which can be removed without use of a corkscrew and can be used repeatedly.

2. Description of Related Art

As shown in Fig. 5, a wine bottle (30) has a mouth (31) and a cork (32). The cork (32) has an upper portion (321) and a lower portion (322).

To remove the cork (32) of the wine bottle (30) needs a corkscrew. However, on many occasions, there is no such tool at hand, and it will then be extremely difficult to remove the cork (32).

Additionally, when the conventional cylindrical cork (32) is removed from the mouth (31) of the bottle (30), it will swell and be very difficult to insert into the mouth (31) again as originally air tight. In such a situation the wine will have to be consumed fairly quickly, or be transferred to another container, or replace it with other caps.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One objective of the invention is to provide a stopper for a bottle which does not require use of a corkscrew in its extraction from the bottle.

Another objective of the invention is to provide a stopper for a bottle which can be used repeatedly.

Other objects, advantages and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

1 Fig. 1 is an exploded top perspective view of the invention;

2 Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional side view of the invention when the stopper is inserted into the
3 mouth of a bottle;

4 Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional side view of the stopper partly removed from the
5 bottle;

6 Fig. 4 is an enlarged cross-sectional side view of the stopper completely removed from
7 the bottle; and

8 Fig. 5 is a top perspective view of a conventional stopper.

9 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

10 Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, a stopper (20) for an opening (11) of a bottle (10) comprises a
11 plug (21), a cylinder (23), a retainer (24), a pin (25) and a disc (26). The plug (21) is hollow
12 and substantially T-shaped in side cross-section, with a head and a taper neck (22) integrally
13 extending downward from the head. A circumferential wall of the head has an outer diameter
14 similar to an outer diameter of the neck of a bottle (10). The circumferential wall defines a top
15 opening leading into a top cavity. An inner flange (222) defines a bottom opening (221) in
16 the neck (22) leading upward to a taper cavity (212) which is in communication with the top
17 cavity. The taper cavity (212) has a small bottom diameter and a large top diameter.

18 The disc (26) is securely received on a circumferential step (211) defined in an inner
19 face of the circumferential wall.

20 The cylinder (23) is hollow and has an outer diameter dimensioned to fit in the opening
21 (11) of the bottle (10). The cylinder (23) defines an open top end in communication with a
22 large recess (231) thereunder. The recess (231) is taper in side cross-sectional view with a
23 large upper diameter and a small lower diameter, and is configured to mate with the taper
24 neck (22). A step defining the bottom of the recess (231) further defines a small bore (232)

1 therethrough which is in communication with the recess (231) and the under face of the
2 cylinder (23). The pin (25) includes a rod and an integral cap (251) formed at the top of the
3 rod. The cap (251) has a diameter larger than the bottom opening (221) of the neck (22) of the
4 plug (21). The rod is sized to extend through the bottom opening (221) of the neck (22), the
5 recess (231) and the small bore (232) of the cylinder (23), and into a hole (241) defined in the
6 retainer (24). The retainer (24) has an outer diameter slightly smaller than the outer diameter
7 of the cylinder (23).

8 In assembly, the pin (25) is received in the taper cavity (212) of the plug (21), and
9 extends sequentially through the bottom opening (221) of the neck (22), the recess (231) and
10 small bore (232) of the cylinder (23), whereafter a protruding tip of the pin (25) is securely
11 received in the hole (241) of the retainer (24) which is secured to the underface of the cylinder
12 (23). The pin (25) has a length dimensioned to allow the plug (21) to rise out of the cylinder
13 (23) but not knock out the disc (26) fitted on the step (211) when the plug (21) is in its
14 lowermost position in the cylinder (23). In its uppermost position, the plug (21) is clear of the
15 cylinder (23) and the outer wall of the neck (22) does not contact the inner wall of the cylinder
16 (23), whereby the stopper (20) is in a contracted mode. In the lowermost position of the plug
17 (21), the outer wall of the neck (22) urges against the inner wall of the cylinder (23) and
18 pushes it outward, whereby the stopper (20) is in its expanded mode.

19 Still referring to Fig. 2, in use, the plug (21) is pushed into the cavity (231) of the
20 cylinder (23), whereafter, due to the design of the plug (21), the stopper (20) can be eased into
21 the opening (11) of the bottle (10).

22 Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, to remove the stopper (20) from the opening (11) of the bottle
23 (10), the head of the plug (21) is pulled away from the cylinder (23) until the cap (251) of the
24 pin (25) abuts on the inner flange (222) whereafter further pulling urges the retainer (24)

1 against the underface of the cylinder (23) and the stopper (20) is ultimately extracted.
2 A ring gasket (223) is optionally fitted between the bottom opening of the plug (21) and the
3 step of the neck (230).

4 The head of the plug (21) may optionally have ridges around the circumferential wall
5 thereof, to increase easy opening.

6 The cylinder (23) may be made of cork or any material commonly employed in the
7 manufacture of stoppers.

8 Although the stopper of the present invention is directed toward a wine bottle, it will be
9 equally effective on any bottle and its contents.

10 From the above description, it is noted that the invention has the following advantages:

11 1.the stopper can be removed without using a corkscrew; 2. the stopper can be used
12 repeatedly which makes the preservation of the remaining contents in the bottle easily
13 achieved.

14 It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous characteristics and
15 advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together
16 with details of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only,
17 and changes may be made in detail, especially in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of
18 parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general
19 meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

1 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2 1. A stopper for a bottle, comprising:

3 expandable means for engagement in the neck of a bottle;

4 a device receivable in the expandable means; and

5 a link movably linking the device to the expandable means from a contracted mode to an
6 expanded mode and vice-versa.

7 2. The stopper for a bottle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the expandable means is a
8 cylinder defining a large recess therein which is taper, and further defining a small bore
9 below the large recess and in communication therewith.

10 3. The stopper for a bottle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the device is a plug comprising
11 a head, a taper neck integrally extending downward from the head, a top cavity defined in the
12 head, and a taper cavity defined in the taper neck and in communication with the top cavity,
13 whereby the taper neck is received in the large recess of the cylinder to urge thereagainst
14 when the stopper is in the expanded mode.

15 4. The stopper as claimed in claim 1, wherein the linking means comprises a pin with a top
16 cap and a rod, and a retainer, whereby the pin extends through the plug and the cylinder to
17 fixedly engage with the retainer, such that the plug may retainedly rise to an uppermost
18 position whereby the stopper is in the contracted mode, and descend to a lowermost position
19 whereby the stopper is in the expanded mode.

20 5. The stopper as claimed in claim 4, wherein the top cap of the pin has a diameter larger
21 than the bottom opening of the neck of the plug.

22 6. The stopper as claimed in claim 3, wherein the head of the plug defines an inner
23 circumferential step to securely receive thereon a disc.

24 7. The stopper as claimed in claim 3, wherein a ring gasket is optionally received between

- 1 the bottom of the taper neck and a step defining the bottom of the recess of the cylinder.
- 2 8. The stopper as claimed in claim 1, wherein the expandable means is made of cork or
- 3 any material commonly employed in the manufacture of the stoppers.
- 4 9. The stopper as claimed in claim 3, wherein the head has a plurality of ridges formed on
- 5 an outside circumference thereof.

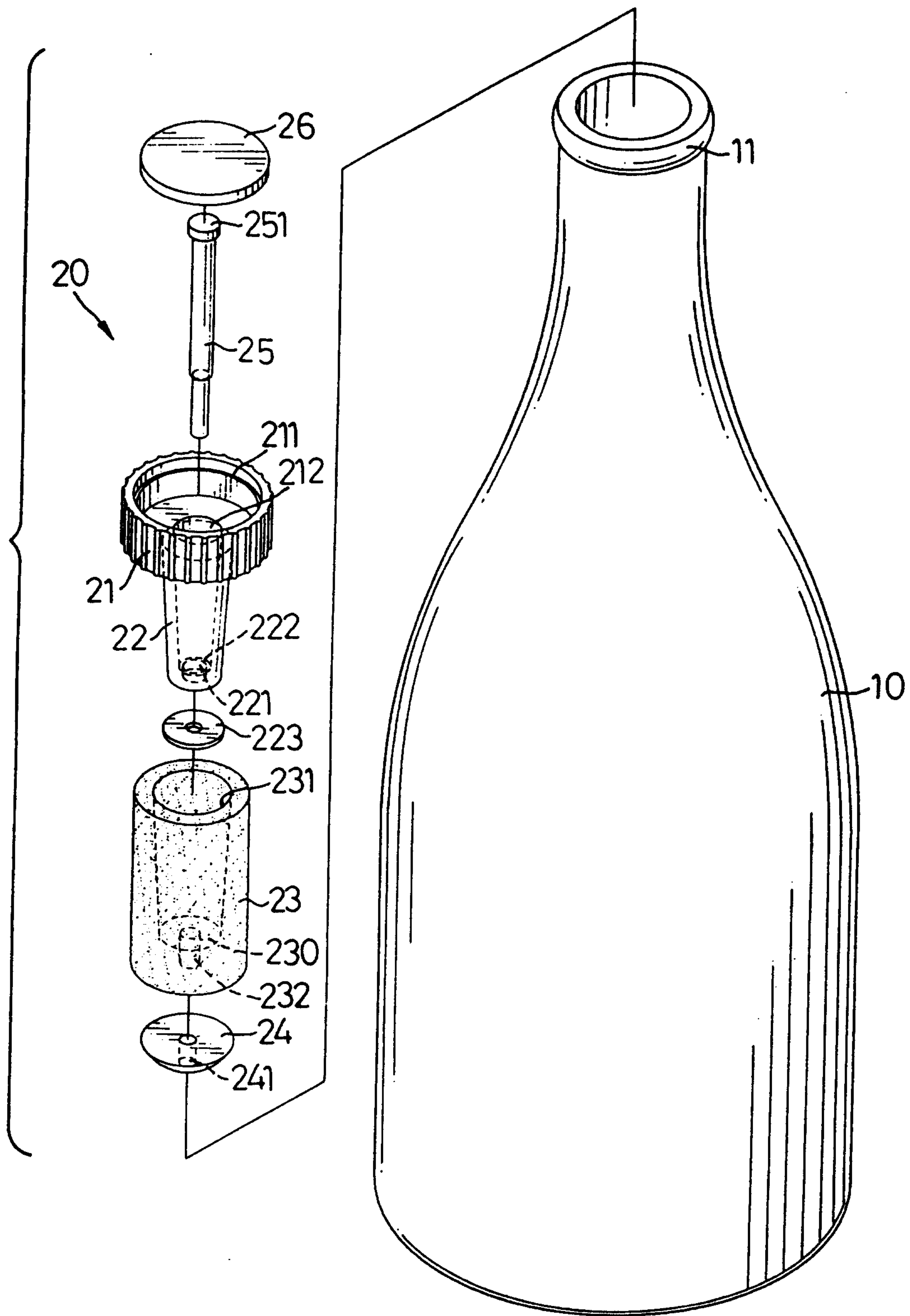


FIG.1

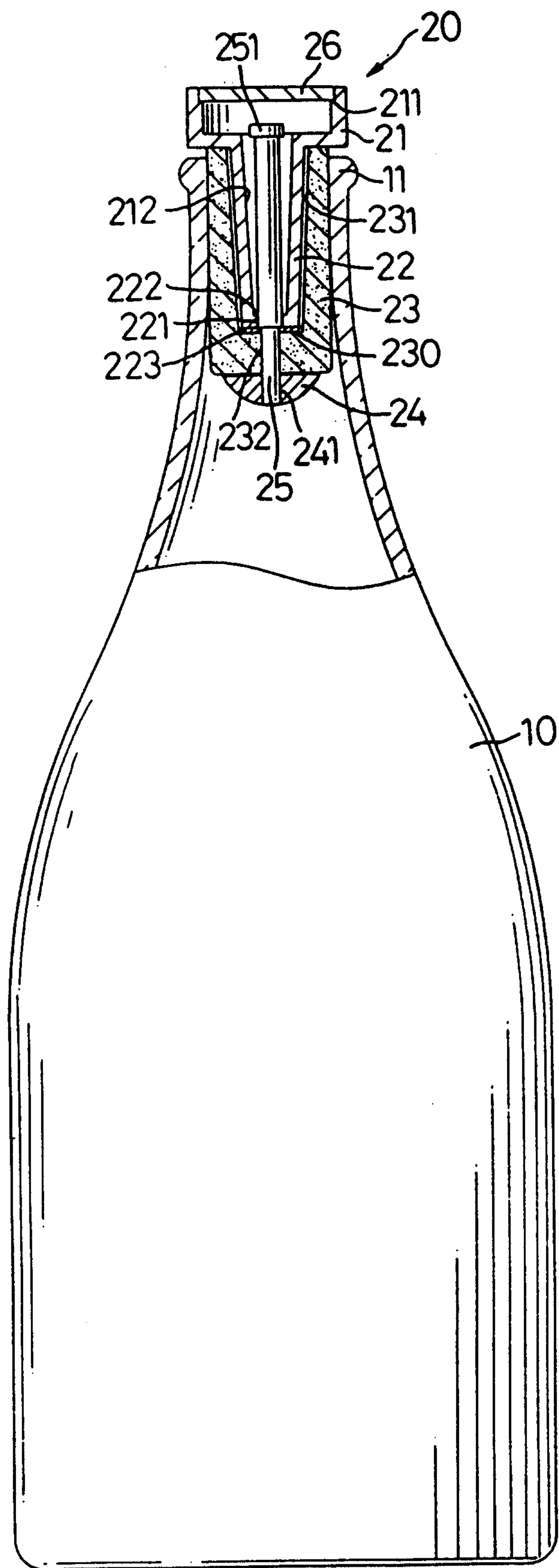


FIG. 2

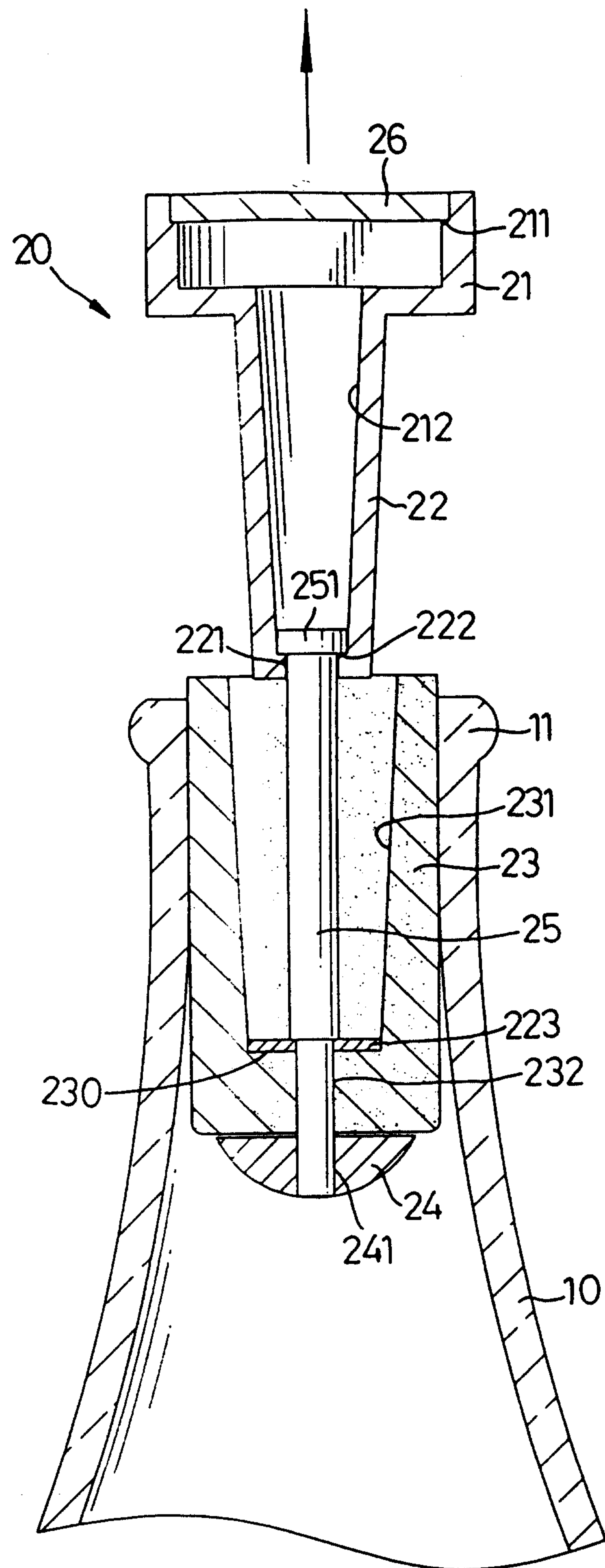


FIG. 3

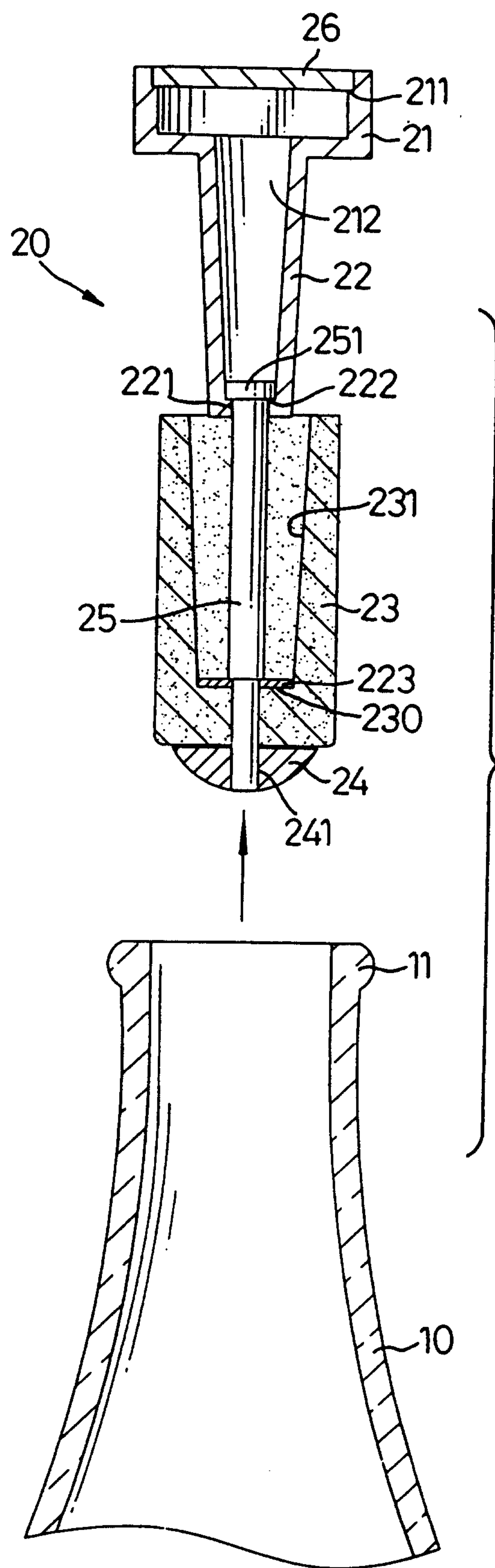


FIG. 4

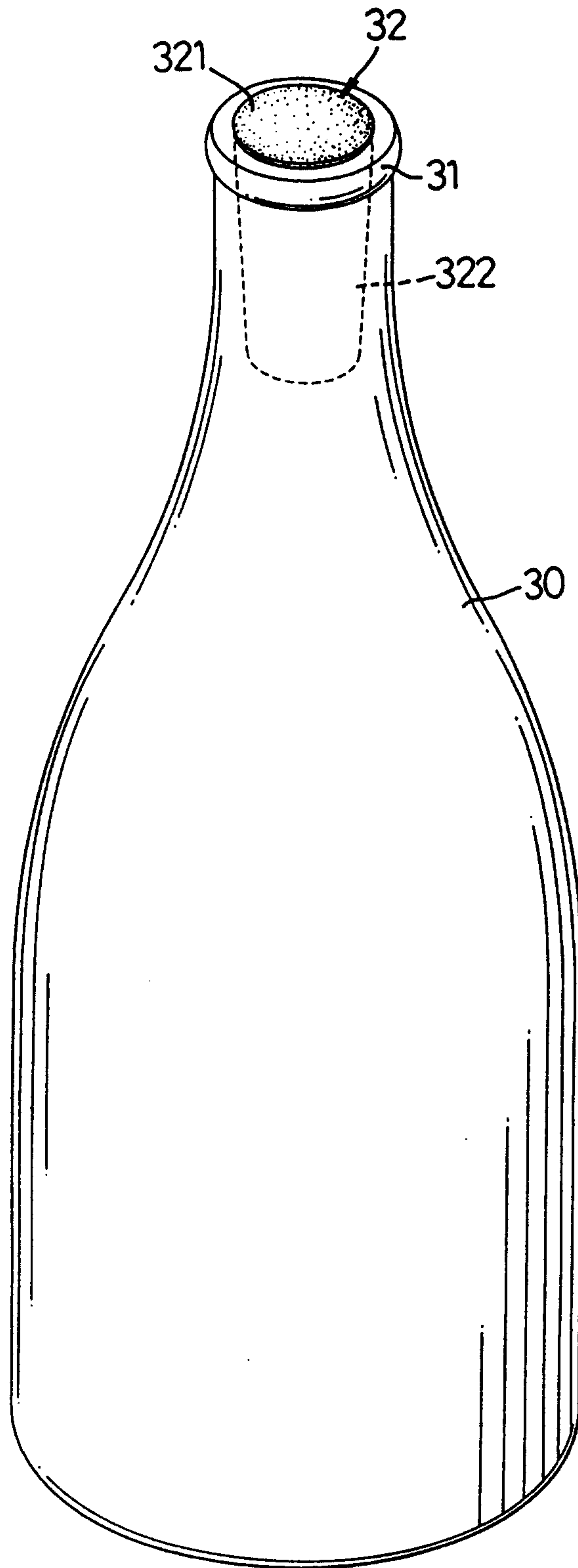


FIG. 5
PRIOR ART

