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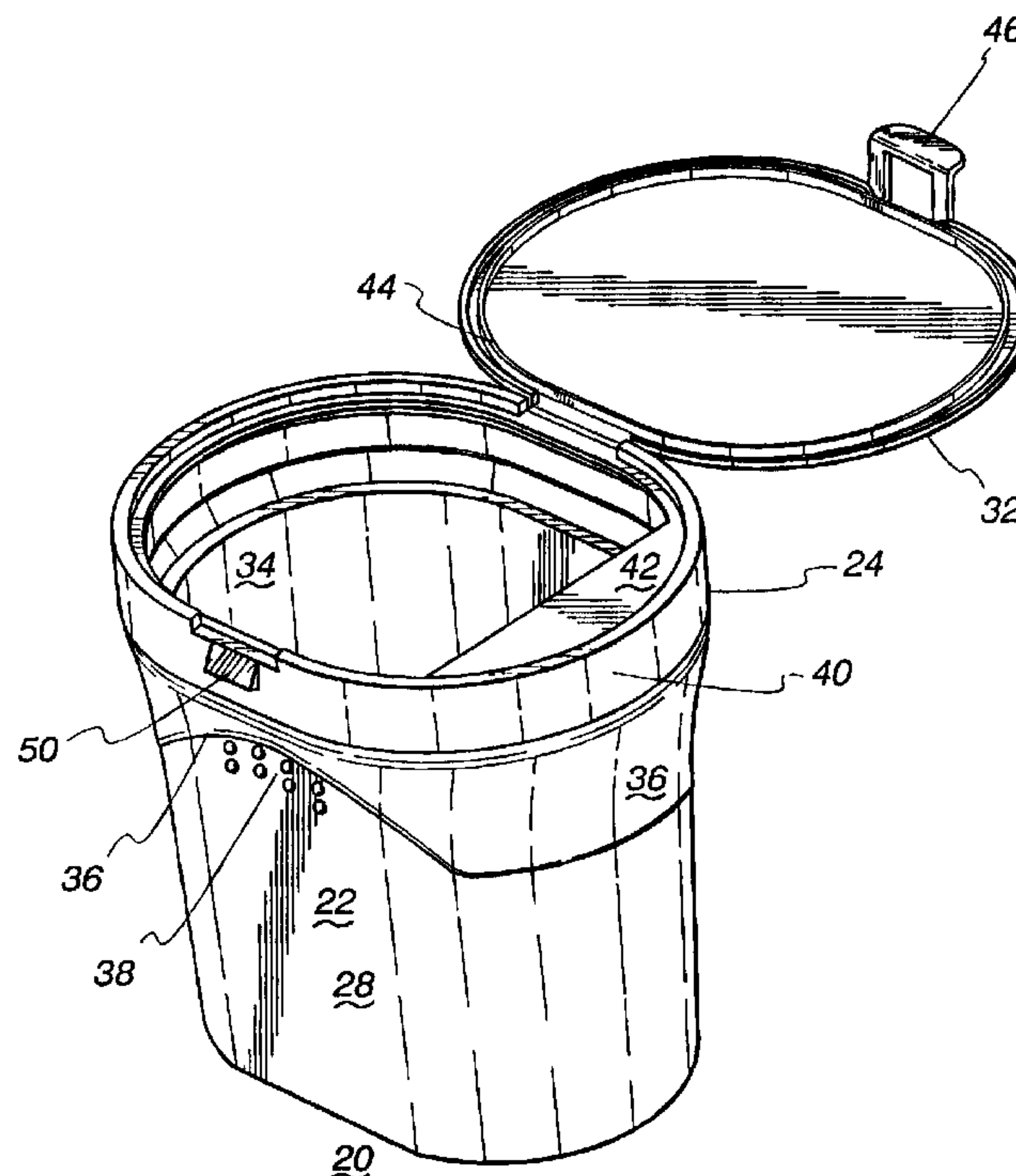
(72) Inventeurs/Inventors:
GILLIAM, CHERYL M., US;
BUCHER, ANNE, US

(73) Propriétaire/Owner:
KRAFT FOODS HOLDINGS, INC., US

(74) Agent: MCFADDEN, FINCHAM

(54) Titre : CONTENANT POUR PRODUITS ALIMENTAIRES

(54) Title: CONTAINER FOR FOOD PRODUCTS



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The invention provides a container for viscous dressing products that includes a jar and a closure or lid. The lid may be hingedly attached to the container so as to remain attached to the jar after opening. The container provides protection for the viscous dressing product during packaging, shipping, handling, retail display and consumer use, and also makes the viscous dressing readily accessible to the consumer. The container preferably includes a shelf or wiper on the closure to permit the consumer to swipe a serving utensil on the shelf to remove excess viscous dressing product from the utensil. The jar is preferably provided with improved handling characteristics as compared with prior art jars of circular cross section. In the preferred embodiments, the shape of the jar as viewed in plan is generally oval.

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

1 The invention provides a container for viscous dressing products that includes a jar
and a closure or lid. The lid may be hingedly attached to the container so as to remain
attached to the jar after opening. The container provides protection for the viscous
5 dressing product during packaging, shipping, handling, retail display and consumer use,
and also makes the viscous dressing readily accessible to the consumer. The container
preferably includes a shelf or wiper on the closure to permit the consumer to swipe a
serving utensil on the shelf to remove excess viscous dressing product from the utensil.
9 The jar is preferably provided with improved handling characteristics as compared with
prior art jars of circular cross section. In the preferred embodiments, the shape of the jar as
viewed in plan is generally oval.

CONTAINER FOR FOOD PRODUCTS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates generally to containers for food products, and more particularly to a container including a jar and a closure or lid for containing viscous dressing products.

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

The invention relates to packaging for food items, and in particular, to reclosable containers. The prior art includes reclosable screw top jars within which spreadable foods are contained, e.g., containers for foods such as mayonnaise, Miracle Whip® dressing, other viscous dressings, jams, jellies, nut butters and spreads. Such containers are intended to permit insertion of a knife, spoon or other utensil into the container. In providing a container for this type of product, among the considerations that must be addressed are the ability of the container to receive food product in high-speed commercial filling operations; the degree of difficulty that will be encountered by the consumer in removing product from the container; the ability of the container to withstand various loads, such as stacking loads, during filling, sealing, shipping, display, and consumer use; the ability of the container to be packed efficiently among like containers; the cost of manufacture of the container; the ability of the container to exclude air to enable acceptable shelf life to be maintained, and the costs and difficulty associated with forming, filling and sealing the container. It is also important that containers of this type be aesthetically pleasing where they are intended to be displayed for commercial sale to consumers in grocery stores and/or other retail establishments.

One of the problems with existing containers of this type is that, during dispensing, residual quantities of food product may accumulate on the threads at the top of the jar. Another problem is that the jar may be difficult to hold securely.

It is a general object of the invention to provide an improved, commercially viable container for food products which adequately addresses the considerations cited above.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides a container for viscous dressing products that includes a jar and a closure or lid. The lid may be hingedly attached to the container so as to remain attached to the jar after opening. The container provides protection for the viscous dressing product during packaging, shipping, handling, retail display and consumer use, and also makes the viscous dressing readily accessible to the consumer. The container preferably includes a shelf or wiper on the closure to permit the consumer to swipe a serving utensil on the shelf to remove excess viscous dressing product from the utensil.

The jar is preferably provided with improved handling characteristics as compared with prior art jars of circular cross section. In the preferred embodiments, the shape of the jar as viewed in plan is generally oval, with flat sidewalls, an effectively flat bottom wall and rounded end walls. Labeling may be attached to the sidewalls to describe the viscous dressing product and the suggested use of the viscous dressing product of the container. The side walls of the jar comprise a raised brow ridge protruding near the top of each side wall. Preferably, the brow ridge has a concave lower surface located centrally of the side wall so that the thumb of a consumer gripping the container may nestle in the curve of the brow ridge. Beneath the brow ridge, the walls include texture to improve engagement of the container by the consumer. The container may be shaped to as to be suggestive of a slice of bread.

Preferably, the closure is securely attached to the jar, and the lid of the closure sealably closes the container as desired by the consumer. The lid is configured to snap into a closed position. The closure includes a flexible hinge attaching the lid to the body of the closure. The closure is generally oval-shaped in plan to fit atop the oval-shaped jar. The closure has a wide opening, to easily permit a consumer to remove viscous dressing product using a serving spoon. The shelf or wiper is preferably positioned within the closure. The shelf is preferably horizontal and the edge of the shelf is preferably perpendicular to the side walls of the jar. The top surface of the lid is preferably flat.

In one embodiment of the present invention there is provided a container capable of receiving a food product and which facilitates the removal of the food product for consumption, the container comprising: a bottom wall having a bottom peripheral circumference; a pair of generally flat sidewalls having flat lower portions and a top end, each sidewall of the pair of sidewalls having a brow ridge protruding near the top end of each sidewall, the brow ridge, having brow ridge ends being curved upward between the brow ridge ends; a pair of generally semicircular end walls having a top end; the bottom wall, sidewalls and end walls forming an interior of the container; and a hinged lid; the sidewalls and end walls having a stepped portion flared outwardly near the top ends to form an upper end flared portion having an enlarged internal volume and at least one peripheral circumference greater than the bottom peripheral circumference, the upper end flared portion terminating in a top lip, the top lip defining a top opening in the container, the upper end flared portion adapted for providing access and removal of food; a wiper edge in the upper end flared portion extending inwardly into the interior of the container such that the wiper edge overhangs the interior of the container, the wiper edge in a plane over and parallel to the bottom wall; and, a snap lock for holding the hinged lid in a position covering the top opening.

The brow ridge preferably has a length, is curved over the length, and defines a recess to be stably engaged by a user, and the brow ridge is crescent shaped. Desirably, the end walls flare outwardly at the end wall top end 20% to 30%, and the sidewalls flare outwardly at the sidewall top end 15% to 30%.

It is further preferable the container further includes a textured area beneath and adjacent to the brow ridge, the container is capable of being held securely in one hand with a thumb under the brow ridge of one sidewall of the pair of sidewalls and at least one finger engaging the other sidewall of the pair of sidewalls, the at least one peripheral circumference of the container includes a plurality of curved concave surfaces with a large radii of curvature, and the brow ridge is angled outward and upward from the flat lower portions of the pair of sidewalls.

In another embodiment of the present invention there is provided a retail food product and container comprising: a quantity of a food product; a hermetically

sealed container capable of receiving the food product in high speed commercial filling operations, the container including a bottom wall having a bottom peripheral circumference, a pair of generally flat sidewalls having flat lower portions, a brow ridge and a top end, the brow ridge having brow ridge ends and protruding near the top end of the sidewall, a pair of generally semicircular end walls having a top end, and a hinged lid;

the bottom wall, sidewalls and end walls forming an interior of the container and the brow ridge being curved upwardly between the brow ridge ends; the sidewalls and end walls having a stepped portion flared outwardly near the top ends to form an upper end flared portion having an enlarged internal volume and at least one peripheral circumference greater than the bottom peripheral circumference, the upper end flared portion terminating in a top lip, the top lip defining a top opening in the container and being adapted for providing access and removal of food; a wiper edge in the upper end flared portion extending inwardly into the interior of the container such that the wiper edge overhangs the interior of the container; and, a snap lock adapted to hold the hinged lid in a position covering the top opening.

It is desirable the brow ridge has a length and is curved over the entirety of the length to define a recess to be stably engaged by a user, the brow ridge is crescent shaped, the end walls flare outwardly at the end wall top end 20% to 30%, and the sidewalls flare outwardly at the sidewall top end 15% to 30%.

The container further preferably includes a textured area beneath and adjacent to the brow ridge, and the container is capable of being held securely in one hand, with a thumb under the brow ridge of one sidewall of the pair of sidewalls and at least one finger engaging the other sidewall of the pair of sidewalls.

The food product is preferably mayonnaise.

It is also desirable at least one peripheral circumference of the upper end flared portion includes a plurality of curved concave surfaces with a large radii of curvature, and the brow ridge is angled outward and upward from the flat lower portions of the sidewall.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention there is provided a container capable of receiving a food product and which facilitates the removal of the food product for consumption, the container comprising: an oval shaped bottom wall having a bottom peripheral circumference; a pair of generally flat sidewalls for applying a label thereon with at least one of the sidewalls of the pair of generally flat sidewalls having a top end and a crescent shaped brow ridge having brow ridge ends, the brow ridge being defined by a recess, protruding near the top end of the sidewalls and curving upwardly between the brow ridge ends; a pair of semi-circular shaped end walls having top ends being smaller than the sidewalls; the bottom wall, sidewalls and end walls forming an interior of the container; and a hinged lid; the at least one of the sidewalls and end walls having a stepped portion flared outwardly near the top ends to form an upper end flared portion of the container, the upper end flared portion having at least one peripheral circumference greater than the bottom peripheral circumference and terminating in an oval shaped top lip, the top lip defining a top opening in the container, the upper end flared portion adapted to provide access and removal of food, the hinged lid adapted to cover the top opening; a wiper edge positionable in the upper end flared portion extending inwardly into the interior of the container; and, a snap lock adapted to hold the lid over the top opening.

Desirably, the wiper edge is positioned in the hinged lid, and the wiper edge is perpendicular to the hinge.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention there is provided a container capable of receiving a food product and which facilitates the removal of the food product for consumption, the container comprising: a bottom wall having a bottom peripheral circumference; a pair of generally flat sidewalls having flat lower portions, a top end and a crescent shaped brow ridge having brow ridge ends, the brow ridge being defined by a recess in each sidewall of the pair of sidewalls, the brow ridge protruding near the top end of each sidewall of the pair of sidewalls and curved upward between the brow ridge ends; a pair of generally semicircular end walls having top ends; the bottom wall, sidewalls and end walls forming an interior of the container; the sidewalls and end walls having a stepped portion flared outwardly near the top ends to form an upper end flared portion having an enlarged internal

volume and at least one peripheral circumference greater than the bottom peripheral circumference, the upper end flared portion terminating in a top lip, the top lip defining a top opening in the container, the upper end flared portion adapted to provide access and removal of food; and, a closure assembly detachably engageable with the upper end flared portion, the closure assembly including a closure body, a snap lock and a hinged lid, the closure body having a wiper blade extending inwardly into the interior of the container such that the wiper blade overhangs the interior of the container, the snap lock being adapted to hold the lid to cover the top opening.

Desirably, the wiper blade is perpendicular to the hinge.

1 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIGURES 1 and 2 are perspective views illustrating a container in accordance with a first embodiment of the invention;

5 FIGURE 3 is a cross-sectional view from the side illustrating the container of FIGURE 1 in closed position;

FIGURE 4 is a plan view of the closure of the container of FIGURE 1 in open position;

9 FIGURE 5 is a perspective view illustrating a container in open position in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention;

FIGURE 6 is an exploded perspective view illustrating the container of FIGURE 5;

FIGURE 7 is a cross-sectional view from the side illustrating the container of FIGURE 5 in closed position;

13 FIGURE 8 is a cross-sectional view from the side illustrating the hinge of the container of FIGURE 5;

FIGURE 9 is a perspective view illustrating a container in closed position in accordance with a third embodiment of the invention;

17 FIGURE 10 is a perspective view illustrating the container of FIGURE 9 in open position;

FIGURE 11 is a cross-sectional view from the side illustrating the container of FIGURE 9 in closed position;

21 FIGURE 12 is an exploded perspective view illustrating a fourth embodiment of the invention;

FIGURE 13 is an exploded perspective view illustrating a fifth embodiment of the invention;

25 FIGURE 14 is a side elevational view illustrating the container of FIGURE 13;

FIGURE 15 is an end elevational view illustrating the container of FIGURE 13.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

29 The invention is preferably embodied in a container 20 for viscous dressing products that includes a jar 22 and closure 24. In the preferred embodiments, the container

1 is used in combination with viscous dressing products, e.g., mayonnaise or other viscous
salad dressing, but in other embodiments the container may be used with other products
including spreadable and/or spoonable products, granular or other particulate products, dry
powders, grated cheese, liquids, etc.

5 For the purpose of illustrating the container of the invention, there are shown in the
drawings, which form a material part of this disclosure, preferred embodiments of the
invention. The various components of the container of the invention may be generally
arranged as shown in the drawings, or as described hereinbelow. However, the invention
9 is not limited to the precise arrangements, configurations, dimensions and/or
instrumentalities shown in these drawings, or described hereinbelow. The arrangements,
configurations, dimensions and instrumentalities may be otherwise, as circumstances
require.

13 In the drawings, like reference symbols indicate the same components throughout
the different views.

FIGS. 1-11 show containers for viscous dressing products with three different
closures. FIGS. 5-8 show a second embodiment. FIGS. 9-11 show a third embodiment.
17 FIG. 12 shows a fourth embodiment. FIGS. 13-15 show a fifth embodiment.

The container 20 defines an enclosed interior space for containing viscous dressing
product. The container includes a jar 22 having a bottom wall 26, side walls 28 and end
walls 30, and a closure 24 comprising a lid 32 to sealably close the container. The lid 32
21 has a surface along its edge which permits the consumer to readily open the container by
inserting a digit beneath a surface of the lid and reversibly lifting the lid off the container.
The lid is hingedly attached to the container so as to remain attached to said container after
opening. The closure provides an opening 34 large enough to permit dispensing of viscous
25 dressing products by insertion of a serving spoon.

The jar 22 and closure 24 of the container 20 may be injection molded,
thermoformed, extrusion blow molded or otherwise manufactured from any suitable
material, and are preferably made of a plastic material such as polypropylene, high density
29 polyethylene, low density polyethylene, polyester, nylon, polystyrene, polycarbonate,
polyethylene terephthalate or various multi-layer plastic substrates, polyurethane, and the

1 like.

The height of the preferred container may range from about 5 to about 7 inches, and is preferably about 5.75 inches . The width of the top of the preferred container may range from about 4 inches to about 7 inches, and is preferably about 4.75 inches. The depth of the container may range from about 3 inches to about 6 inches, and is preferably about 3.75 inches. The width of the opening of the preferred container may range from about 3 inches to about 5 inches, and is preferably about 4 inches. The depth of the opening of the preferred container is about 2 inches to about 4 inches, and is preferably about 3 inches.

The Jar

In the preferred embodiments, the shape of the jar 22 is generally oval, with the sidewalls generally flat, and the end walls being generally semicircular. The jar has a wide opening 34, which preferably is oval shaped.

To improve the handling characteristics of the jar, and specifically to provide an ergonomic improvement to the ability of the jar to be held securely by a consumer with one hand, while also providing improved access to the contents, the side walls 28 and the end walls 30 of the jar are stepped and/or flared outward near their upper ends, over about the top 20% to 30% of the end walls, and about the top 15% to 30% of the side walls. Thus, the entire upper periphery of the jar is enlarged, and preferably presents gently curved concave surfaces with large radii of curvature to engage the thumb and fingers of the user.

In the illustrated embodiments, a concave brow ridge 36 is provided near the top of each side wall. The brow ridge 36 is preferably undercut and curved in a crescent shape as shown, and is angled outward and upward from the lower portion of the side wall. Preferably the brow ridge is curved to define a recess for stably engaging the thumb of a consumer gripping the container. The brow ridge 36 extends from about 2.5 to about 4.0 inches across the side wall, and angles upward toward the lid of the container at an angle of about 10° to 20°. Alternatively, the brow ridge may be a straight protruding ridge parallel to the top edge of the container.

Beneath the brow ridge 36, a textured area 38 further improves the handling

1 characteristics of the container. The textured area 38 may consist of raised circular beads
beneath and adjacent to the brow ridge, as depicted in FIGS. 1, 2, 4, 6, 9 and 10.

Alternatively, the textured area may comprise vertical ribs, raised hatching, horizontal or
vertical ridges, or other three dimensional patterns of linear or curved configurations.

5 The combination of the brow ridge 36 and the textured area 38 adjacent to the brow
ridge serves to provide the consumer with a convenient and easy mode of gripping the
container so that it should not easily slip out of the consumer's hand. The consumer may
have wet hands from working in the kitchen, and the brow ridge and textured area beneath
9 it lends assurance to the consumer that the jar will not slip out of his or her hand.

In one embodiment, the side walls 28 beneath the brow ridge and textured area are
relatively flat and the side walls include label panels. The container is stackable with other
like containers, and the wide label panels of the containers provide visual impact in a
13 display, particularly when a large number of the containers are included in the display.

The container may be suggestive of a slice of bread as viewed from the front, in
that its size and shape are generally similar to those of a slice of bread, and in that the
curvature of the brow ridge is suggestive of the rounded top crust of a loaf of bread.

17 Preferably, the jar 22 is securely and permanently attached to the closure 24, with
the lid 32 of the closure sealably closing the container as desired by the consumer. In one
embodiment, the jar may be detached from the closure, allowing the consumer to clean the
jar of viscous dressing product, and to clean the closure of the viscous dressing product, so
21 that the combination of jar and closure may be used for storing other items. See FIG. 6.

The Closure

The closure comprises a body 40 or base for attachment to the jar, and a lid 32 to
25 sealably close the container. The lid preferably has a surface along its front edge which
permits the consumer to readily open the lid by inserting a digit beneath a surface of the lid
and lifting the lid. The closure is preferably oval-shaped, to fit atop an oval-shaped jar.
The base of the closure has a wide opening to permit a consumer to remove viscous
29 dressing product using a serving spoon, knife or other utensil. Within the closure is a shelf
or wiper blade 42 to permit the consumer to wipe excess viscous dressing product from the

1 utensil. The shelf 42 overhangs the interior of the jar so that when a knife blade, spoon, or
other utensil is drawn upward, the food product can be wiped from the utensil by the edge,
and any accumulation may remain on the bottom surface of the shelf.

5 The closure may be manufactured in a variety of embodiments, five of which are
illustrated in FIGS. 1-15. Preferably, the lid is attached to the body of the closure by a
hinge 44. The hinge may consist of a single piece of flexible material attaching the lid to
the body of the closure, as depicted in FIGS. 2-4 and FIGS. 10-11. Alternatively, the hinge
44 may comprise two or more separate, interfitting elements pivotally attaching the lid to
9 the body of the closure, as illustrated in FIGS. 5 and 6. In addition, the lid on the closure
may be completely detachable, as shown in FIGS. 12-15.

13 The surface to facilitate opening may comprise a tab 46 at the junction of the side
wall and the end wall (FIG. 12). Alternatively, the surface may comprise a tab 46 centered
relative to the side wall opposite the hinge(s) (FIGS. 1-11), or the surface may be an
extension which protrudes from the bottom edge of the lid extending all the way around
the perimeter of the lid. The surface may also comprise any other type of extension that
permits the consumer to insert a digit to lift up the lid and open the container.

17 The base or lower portion of the closure may include a recess or an interruption
positioned to facilitate engagement of the lifting surface.

21 The lifting surface or tab 46 may also function as part of a snap lock 50 or other
mechanism to hold the lid in place once the lid is closed. To this end, a surface may be
provided on the body of the closure over which the lifting surface fits when the lid is
closed.

25 The snap action lock 50 sealing mechanism of the lid and closure is desirable for
several reasons. It is easy for the consumer to use. It is especially easy for a busy family
member to snap the lid shut after reaching for the open jar with the hinged lid hanging
open. The snap-on mechanism permits the avoidance of accumulation of viscous dressing
product on the edge of the closure. Thus, the container of the invention is easier to keep
clean than viscous dressing product containers with screw-on lids. The lid may be
29 manufactured so as to lock onto the body of the closure with a snapping sound, thus
confirming to the consumer that the lid is sealed in place.

1 The closure may be made tamper-evident with a removable or frangible foil 48 or plastic seal across the closure. This seal preferably covers the opening 34 and the wiper blade 42. (See FIG. 6).

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A container capable of receiving a food product and which facilitates the removal of the food product for consumption, the container comprising:
 - a bottom wall having a bottom peripheral circumference;
 - a pair of generally flat sidewalls having flat lower portions and a top end, each sidewall of the pair of sidewalls having a brow ridge protruding near the top end of each sidewall, the brow ridge, having brow ridge ends being curved upward between the brow ridge ends;
 - a pair of generally semicircular end walls having a top end;
 - the bottom wall, sidewalls and end walls forming an interior of the container;
 - and
 - a hinged lid;
 - the sidewalls and end walls having a stepped portion flared outwardly near the top ends to form an upper end flared portion having an enlarged internal volume and at least one peripheral circumference greater than the bottom peripheral circumference, the upper end flared portion terminating in a top lip, the top lip defining a top opening in the container, the upper end flared portion adapted for providing access and removal of food;
 - a wiper edge in the upper end flared portion extending inwardly into the interior of the container such that the wiper edge overhangs the interior of the container, the wiper edge in a plane over and parallel to the bottom wall; and,
 - a snap lock for holding the hinged lid in a position covering the top opening.
2. The container in accordance with claim 1, wherein the brow ridge has a length, is curved over the length, and defines a recess to be stably engaged by a user.
3. The container in accordance with claim 1 or 2, wherein the brow ridge is crescent shaped.
4. The container in accordance with claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the end walls flare outwardly at the end wall top end 20% to 30%.

5. The container in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the sidewalls flare outwardly at the sidewall top end 15% to 30%.
6. The container in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the container further includes a textured area beneath and adjacent to the brow ridge.
7. The container in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the container is capable of being held securely in one hand with a thumb under the brow ridge of one sidewall of the pair of sidewalls and at least one finger engaging the other sidewall of the pair of sidewalls.
8. The container in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the at least one peripheral circumference of the container includes a plurality of curved concave surfaces with a large radii of curvature.
9. The container in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the brow ridge is angled outward and upward from the flat lower portions of the pair of sidewalls.
10. A retail food product and container comprising:
 - a quantity of a food product;
 - a hermetically sealed container capable of receiving the food product in high speed commercial filling operations, the container including a bottom wall having a bottom peripheral circumference, a pair of generally flat sidewalls having flat lower portions, a brow ridge and a top end, the brow ridge having brow ridge ends and protruding near the top end of the sidewall, a pair of generally semicircular end walls having a top end, and a hinged lid;
 - the bottom wall, sidewalls and end walls forming an interior of the container and the brow ridge being curved upwardly between the brow ridge ends;
 - the sidewalls and end walls having a stepped portion flared outwardly near the top ends to form an upper end flared portion having an enlarged internal volume and at least one peripheral circumference greater than the bottom peripheral circumference, the upper end flared portion terminating in a top lip, the top lip

defining a top opening in the container and being adapted for providing access and removal of food;

a wiper edge in the upper end flared portion extending inwardly into the interior of the container such that the wiper edge overhangs the interior of the container; and,

a snap lock adapted to hold the hinged lid in a position covering the top opening.

11. The container in accordance with claim 10, wherein the brow ridge has a length and is curved over the entirety of the length to define a recess to be stably engaged by a user.

12. The container in accordance with claim 10 or 11, wherein the brow ridge is crescent shaped.

13. The container in accordance with claim 10, 11 or 12, wherein the end walls flare outwardly at the end wall top end 20% to 30%.

14. The container in accordance with any one of claims 10 to 13, wherein the sidewalls flare outwardly at the sidewall top end 15% to 30%.

15. The container in accordance with any one of claims 10 to 14, further including a textured area beneath and adjacent to the brow ridge.

16. The container in accordance with any one of claims 10 to 15, wherein the container is capable of being held securely in one hand, with a thumb under the brow ridge of one sidewall of the pair of sidewalls and at least one finger engaging the other sidewall of the pair of sidewalls.

17. The container in accordance with any one of claims 10 to 16, wherein the food product is mayonnaise.

18. The container in accordance with any one of claims 10 to 17, wherein the at least one peripheral circumference of the upper end flared portion includes a plurality of curved concave surfaces with a large radii of curvature.

19. The container in accordance with any one of claims 10 to 18, wherein the brow ridge is angled outward and upward from the flat lower portions of the sidewall.

20. A container capable of receiving a food product and which facilitates the removal of the food product for consumption, the container comprising:

- an oval shaped bottom wall having a bottom peripheral circumference;
- a pair of generally flat sidewalls for applying a label thereon with
 - at least one of the sidewalls of the pair of generally flat sidewalls having a top end and a crescent shaped brow ridge having brow ridge ends, the brow ridge being defined by a recess, protruding near the top end of the sidewalls and curving upwardly between the brow ridge ends;
- a pair of semi-circular shaped end walls having top ends being smaller than the sidewalls;
- the bottom wall, sidewalls and end walls forming an interior of the container;
- and
- a hinged lid;
- the at least one of the sidewalls and end walls having a stepped portion flared outwardly near the top ends to form an upper end flared portion of the container, the upper end flared portion having at least one peripheral circumference greater than the bottom peripheral circumference and terminating in an oval shaped top lip, the top lip defining a top opening in the container, the upper end flared portion adapted to provide access and removal of food, the hinged lid adapted to cover the top opening;
- a wiper edge positionable in the upper end flared portion extending inwardly into the interior of the container; and,
- a snap lock adapted to hold the lid over the top opening.

21. The container in accordance with claim 20, wherein the wiper edge is positioned in the hinged lid.

22. The container in accordance with claim 20 or 21, wherein the wiper edge is perpendicular to the hinge.

23. A container capable of receiving a food product and which facilitates the removal of the food product for consumption, the container comprising:

- a bottom wall having a bottom peripheral circumference;

- a pair of generally flat sidewalls having flat lower portions, a top end and a crescent shaped brow ridge having brow ridge ends, the brow ridge being defined by a recess in each sidewall of the pair of sidewalls, the brow ridge protruding near the top end of each sidewall of the pair of sidewalls and curved upward between the brow ridge ends;

- a pair of generally semicircular end walls having top ends;

- the bottom wall, sidewalls and end walls forming an interior of the container;

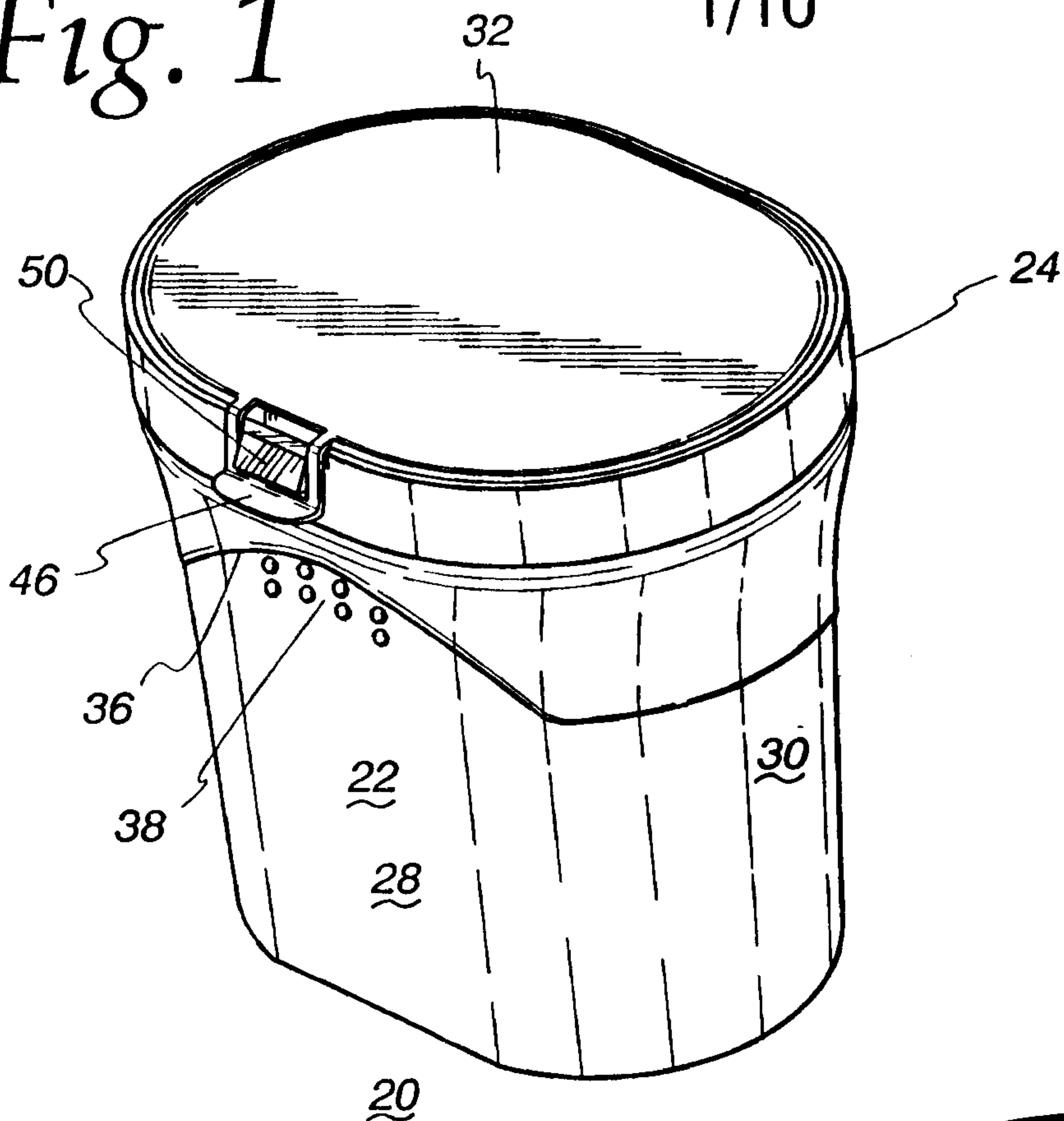
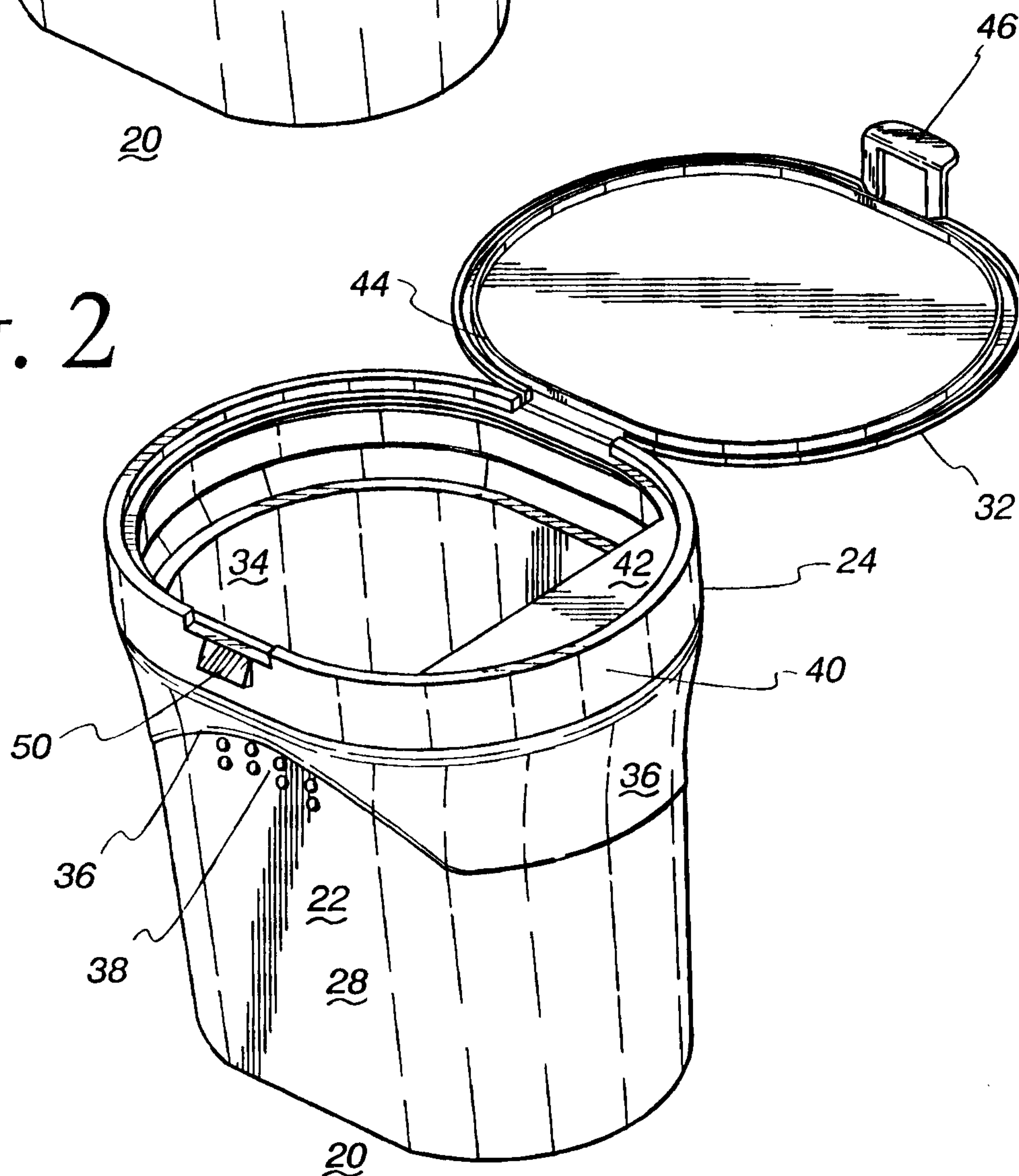
- the sidewalls and end walls having a stepped portion flared outwardly near the top ends to form an upper end flared portion having an enlarged internal volume and at least one peripheral circumference greater than the bottom peripheral circumference, the upper end flared portion terminating in a top lip, the top lip defining a top opening in the container, the upper end flared portion adapted to provide access and removal of food; and,

- a closure assembly detachably engageable with the upper end flared portion, the closure assembly including a closure body, a snap lock and a hinged lid, the closure body having a wiper blade extending inwardly into the interior of the container such that the wiper blade overhangs the interior of the container, the snap lock being adapted to hold the lid to cover the top opening.

24. The container in accordance with claim 23, wherein the wiper blade is perpendicular to the hinge.

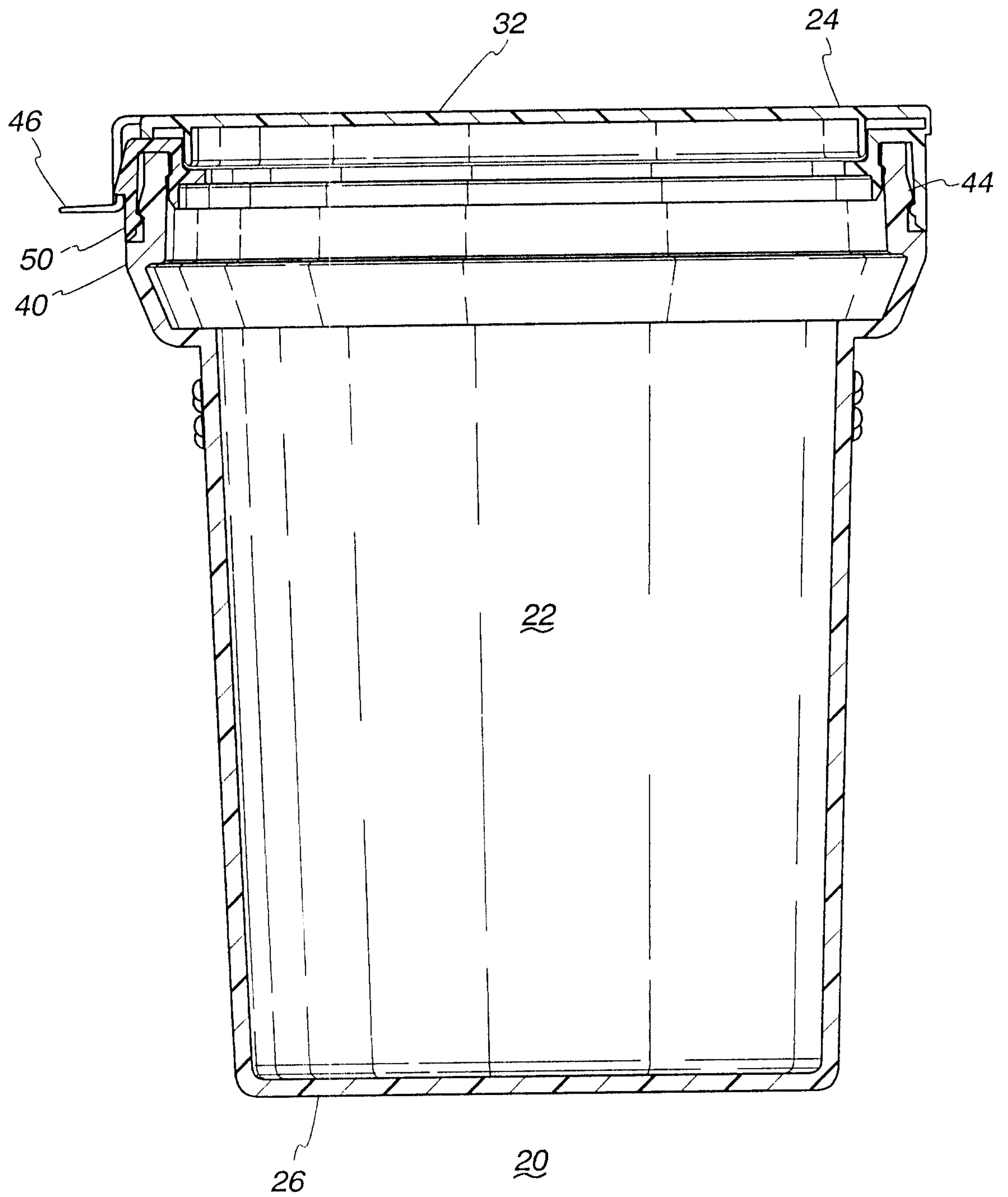
Fig. 1

1/10

*Fig. 2*

+

2/10

Fig. 3

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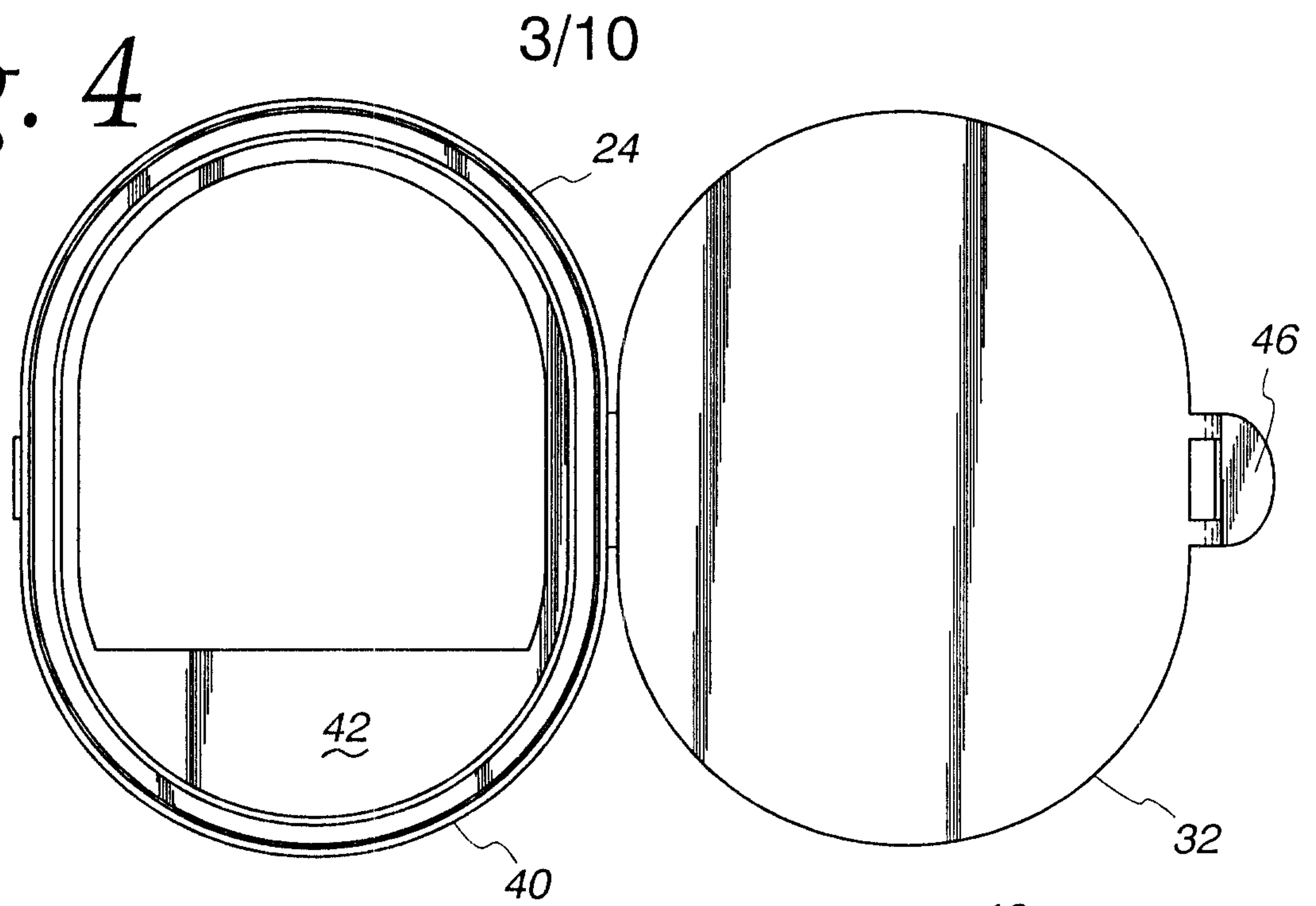
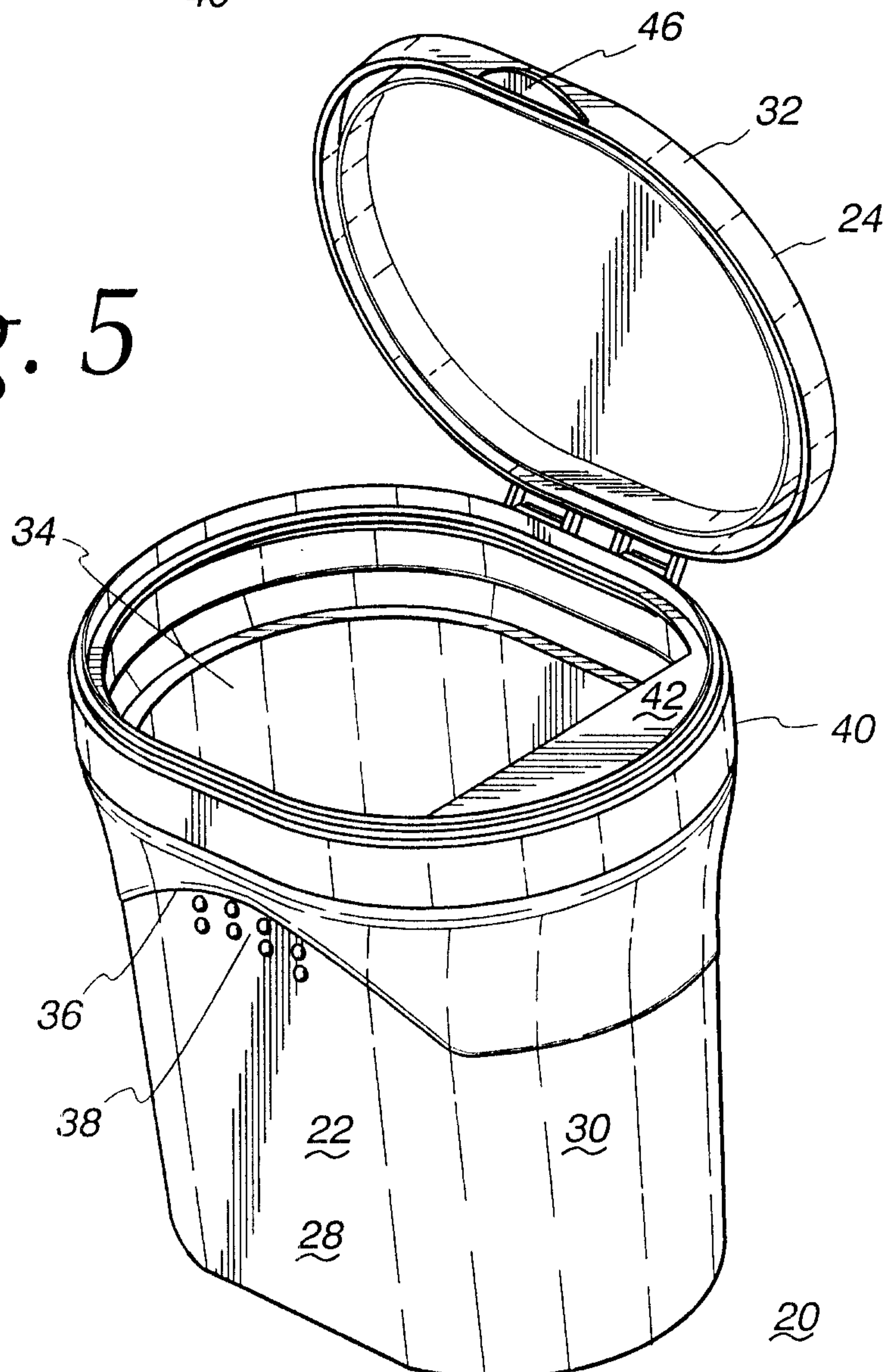
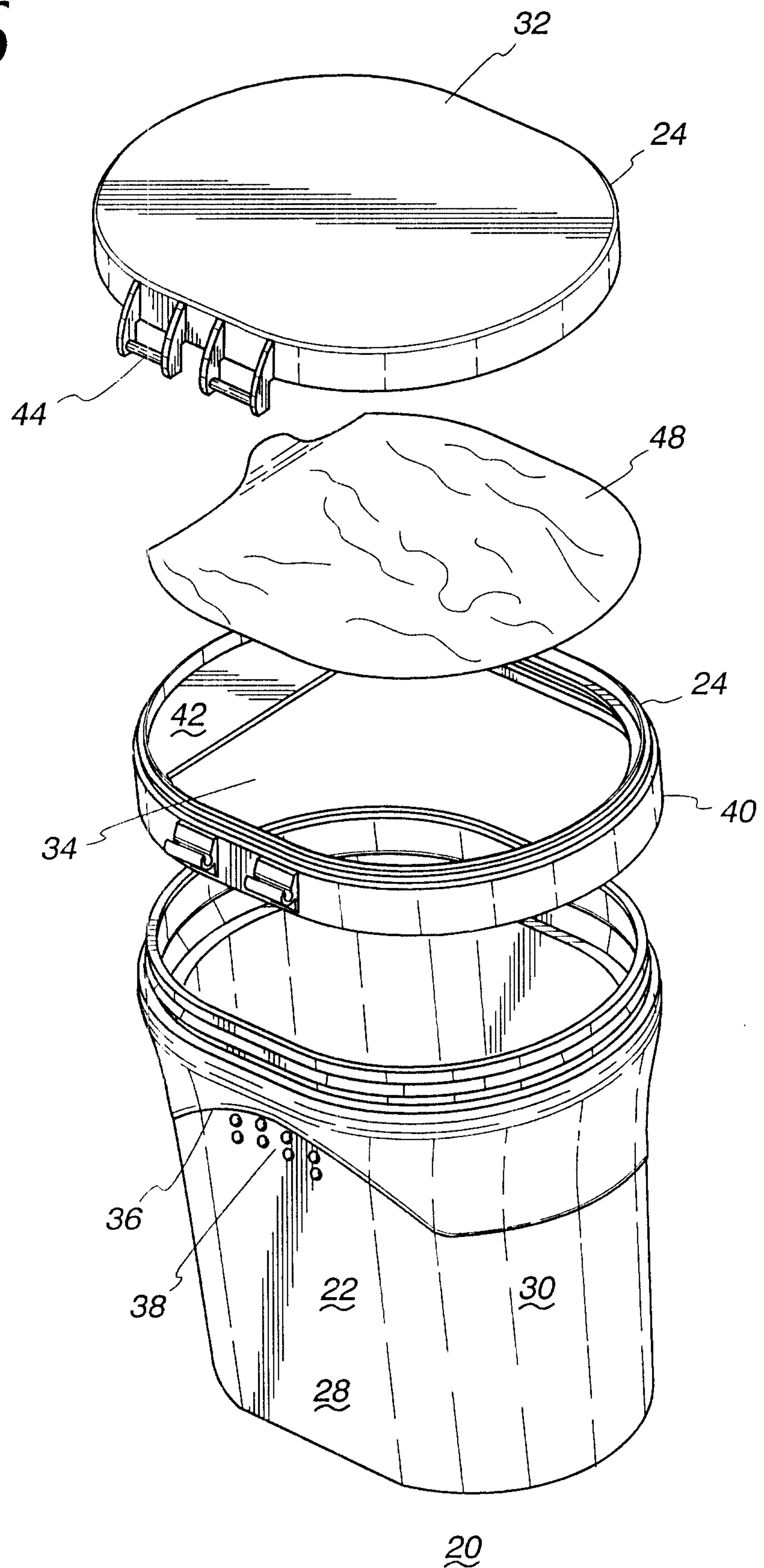
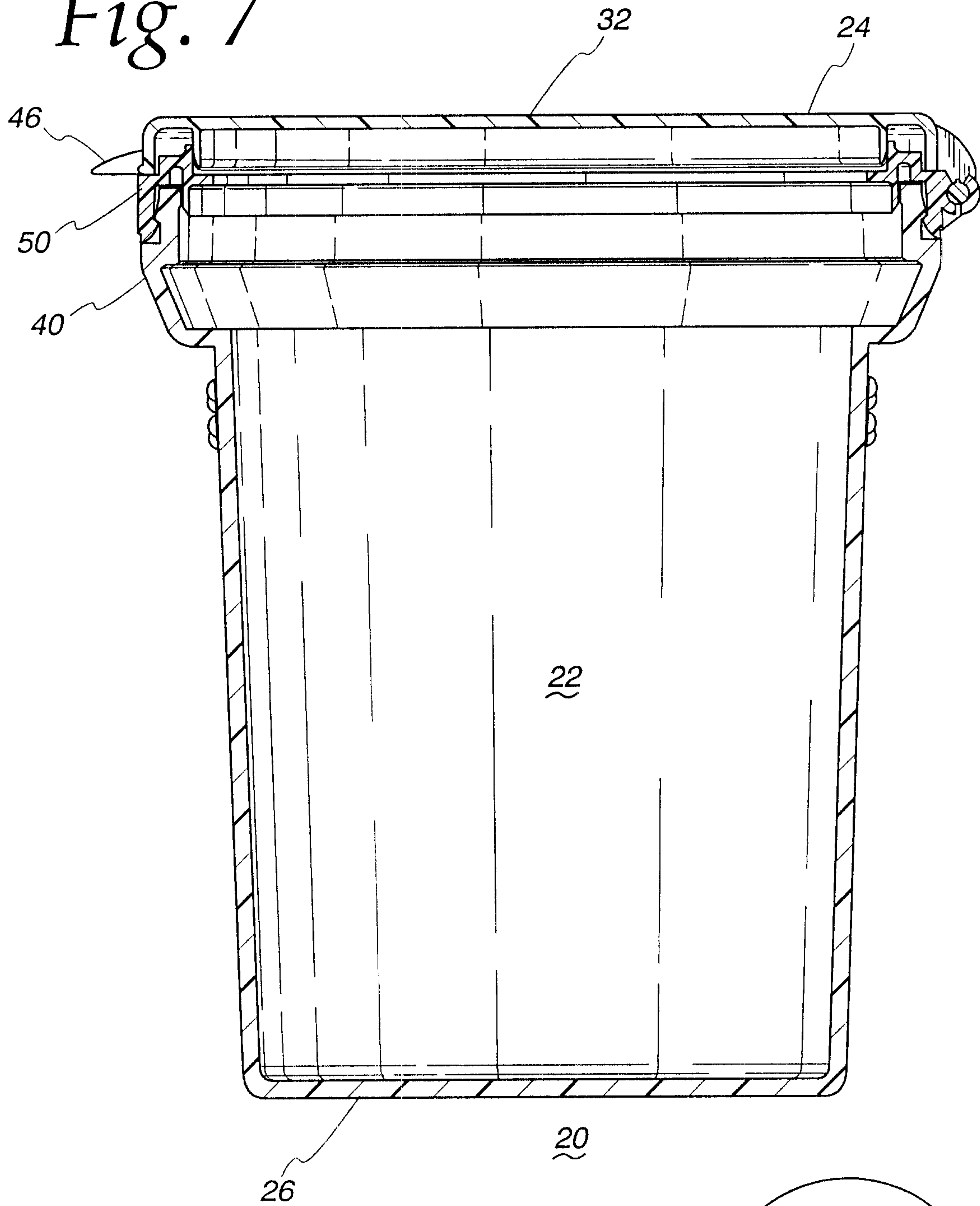
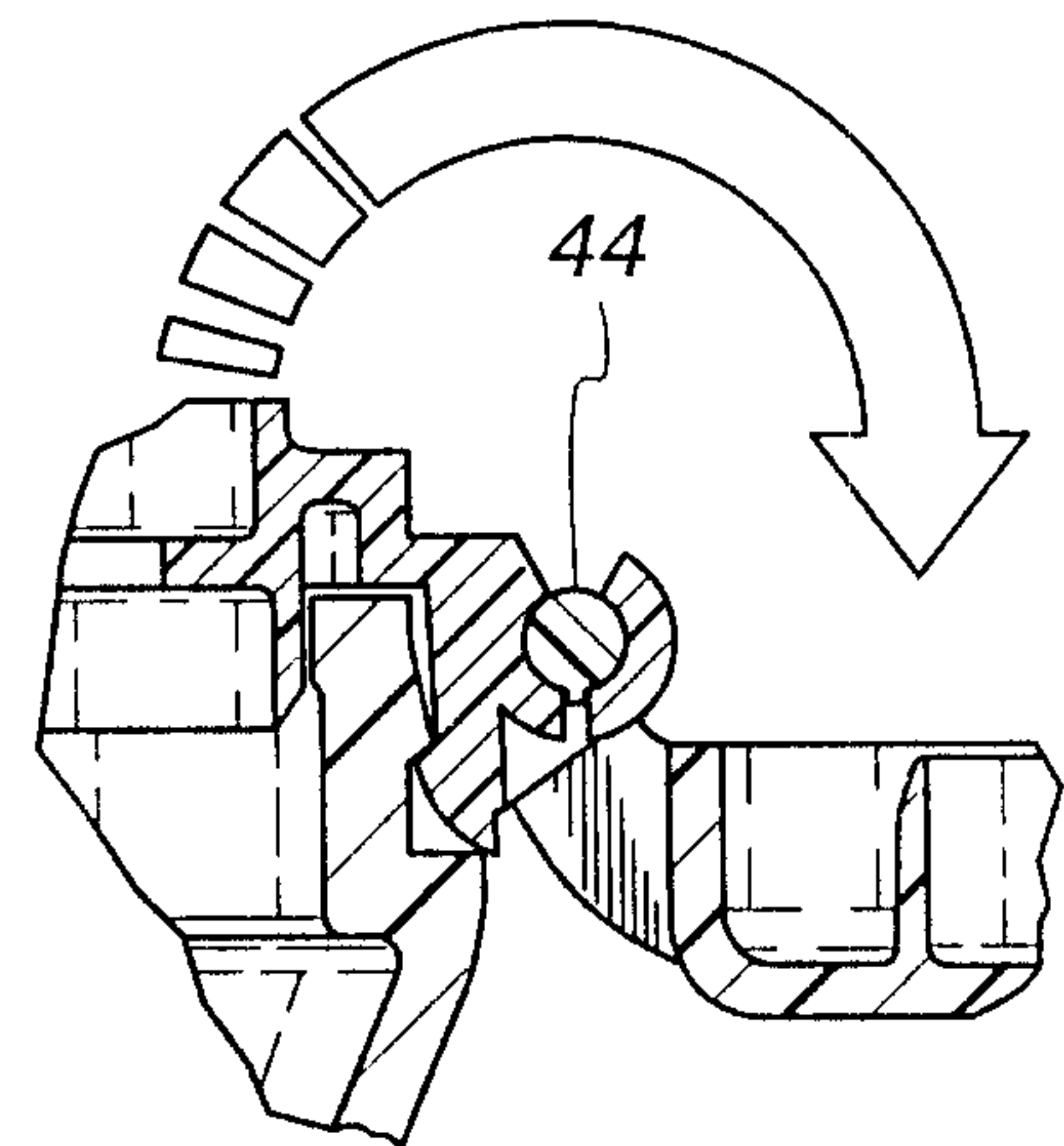
Fig. 4*Fig. 5*

Fig. 6



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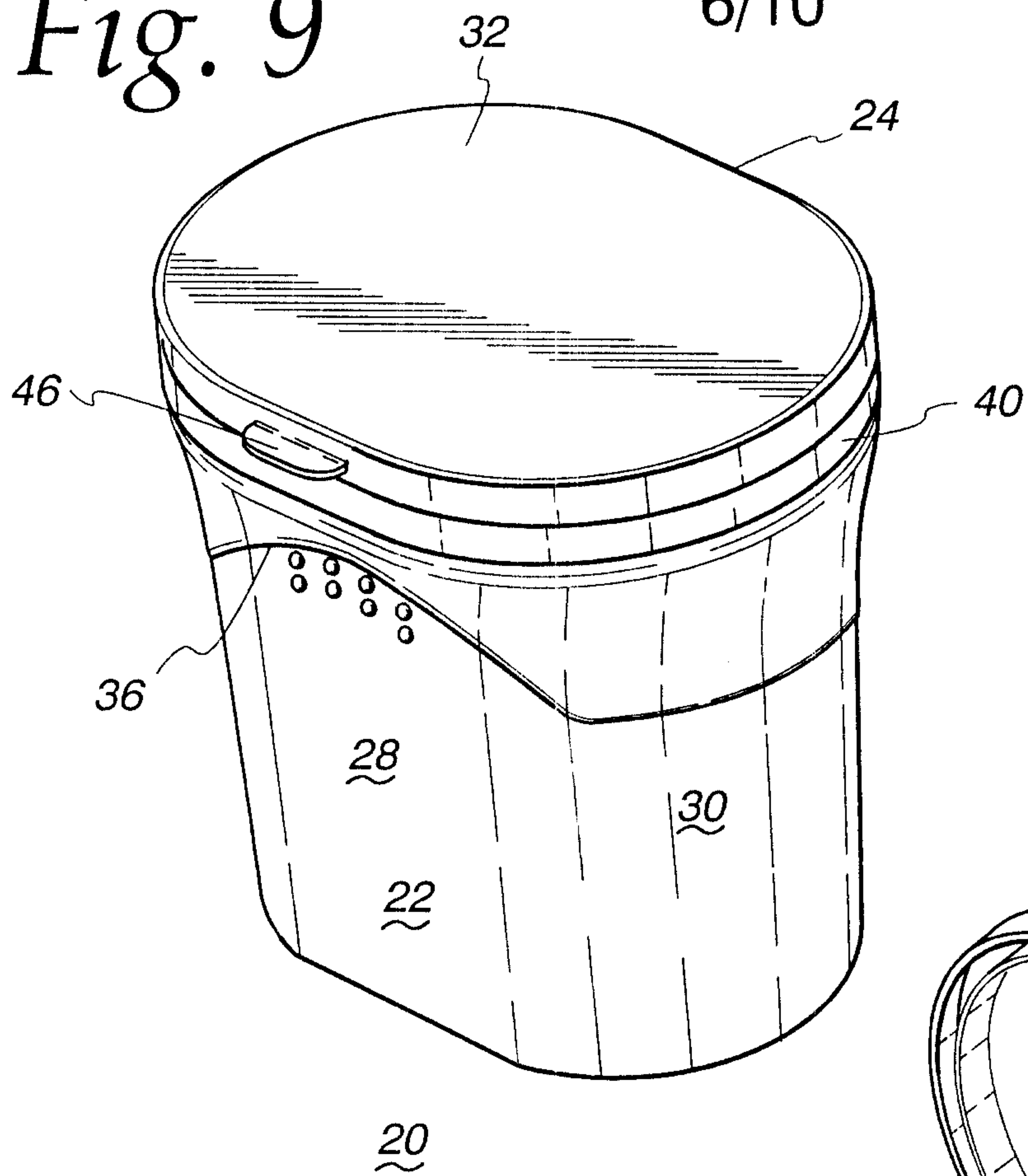
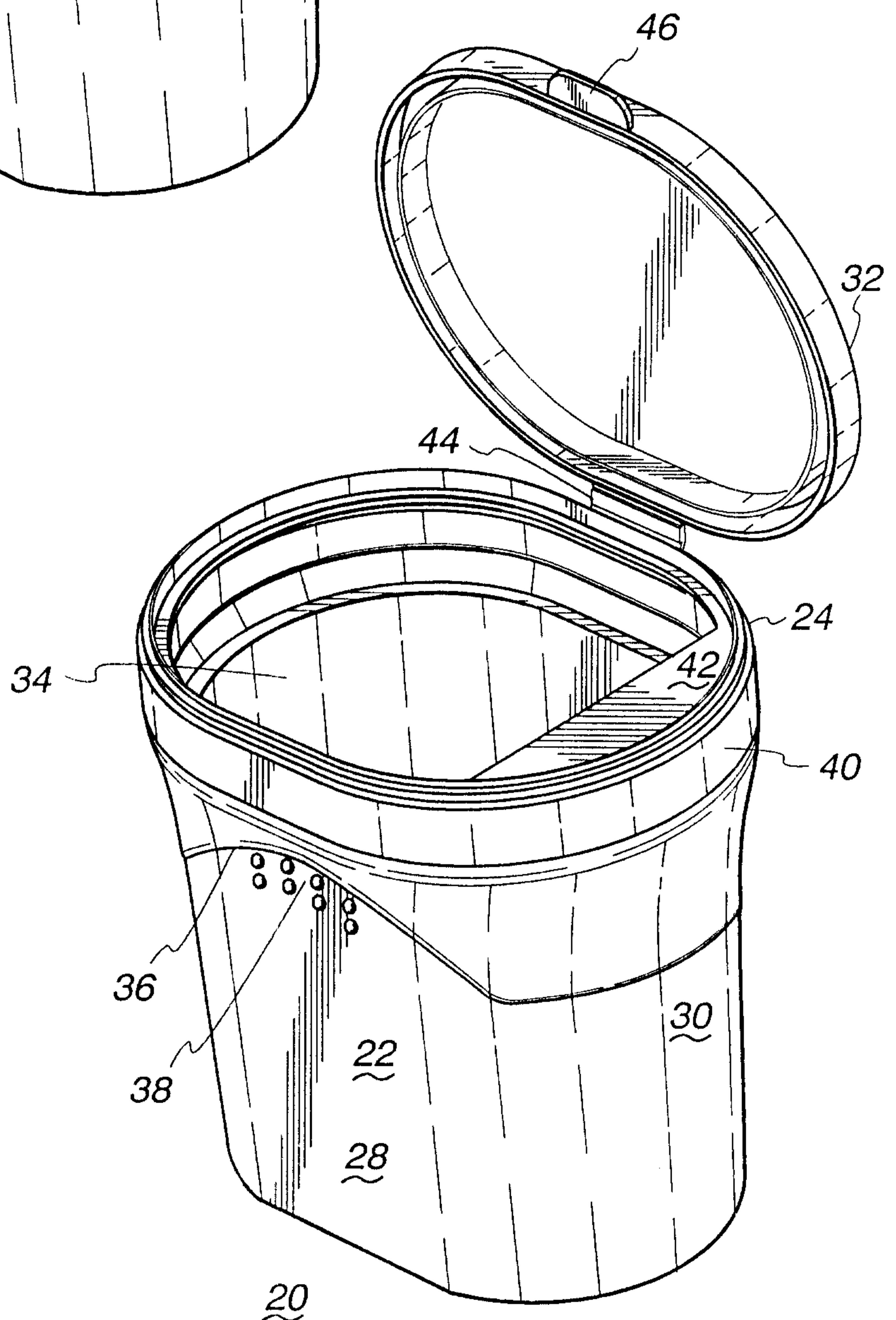
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Fig. 7*Fig. 8*

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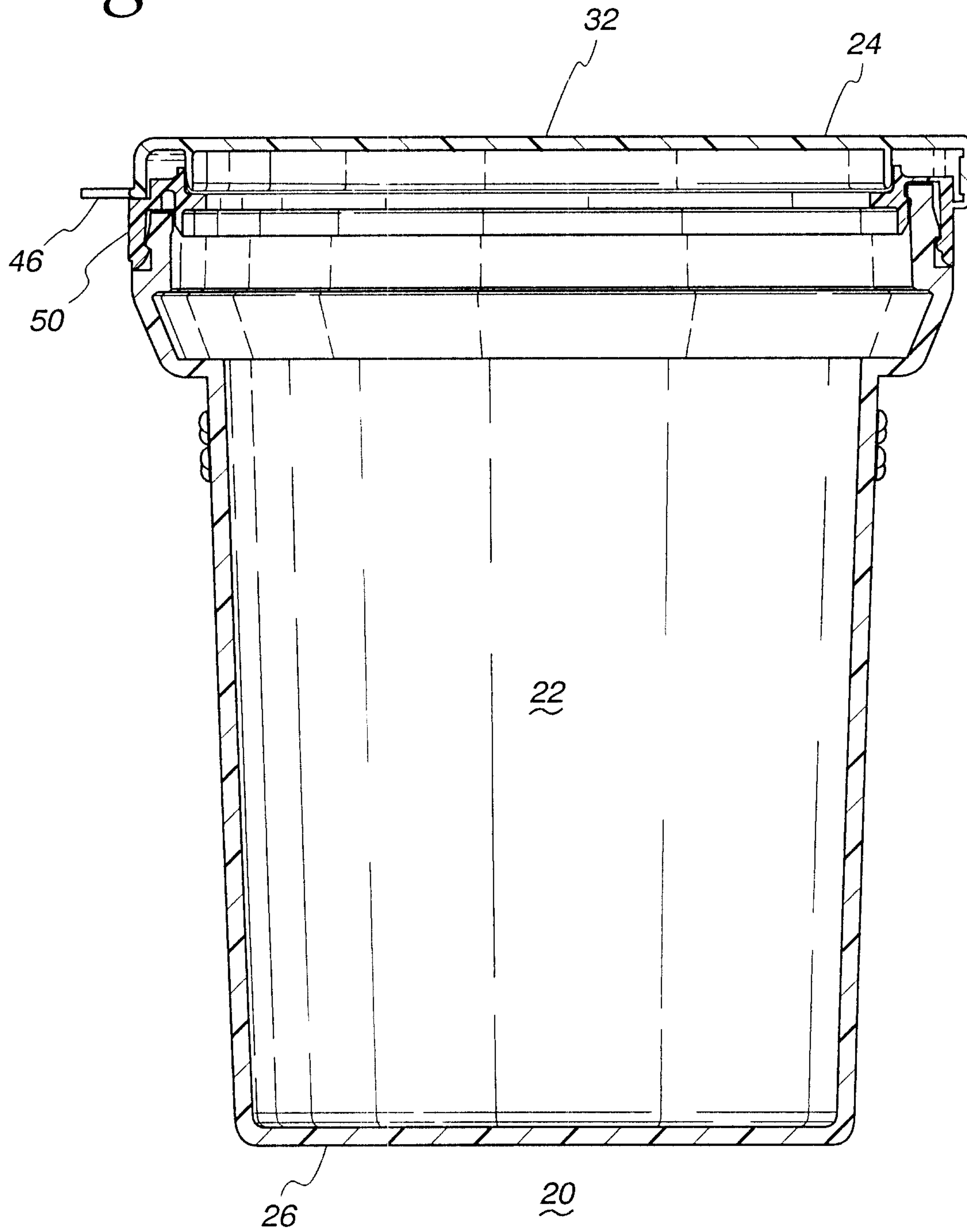
Fig. 9

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*Fig. 10*

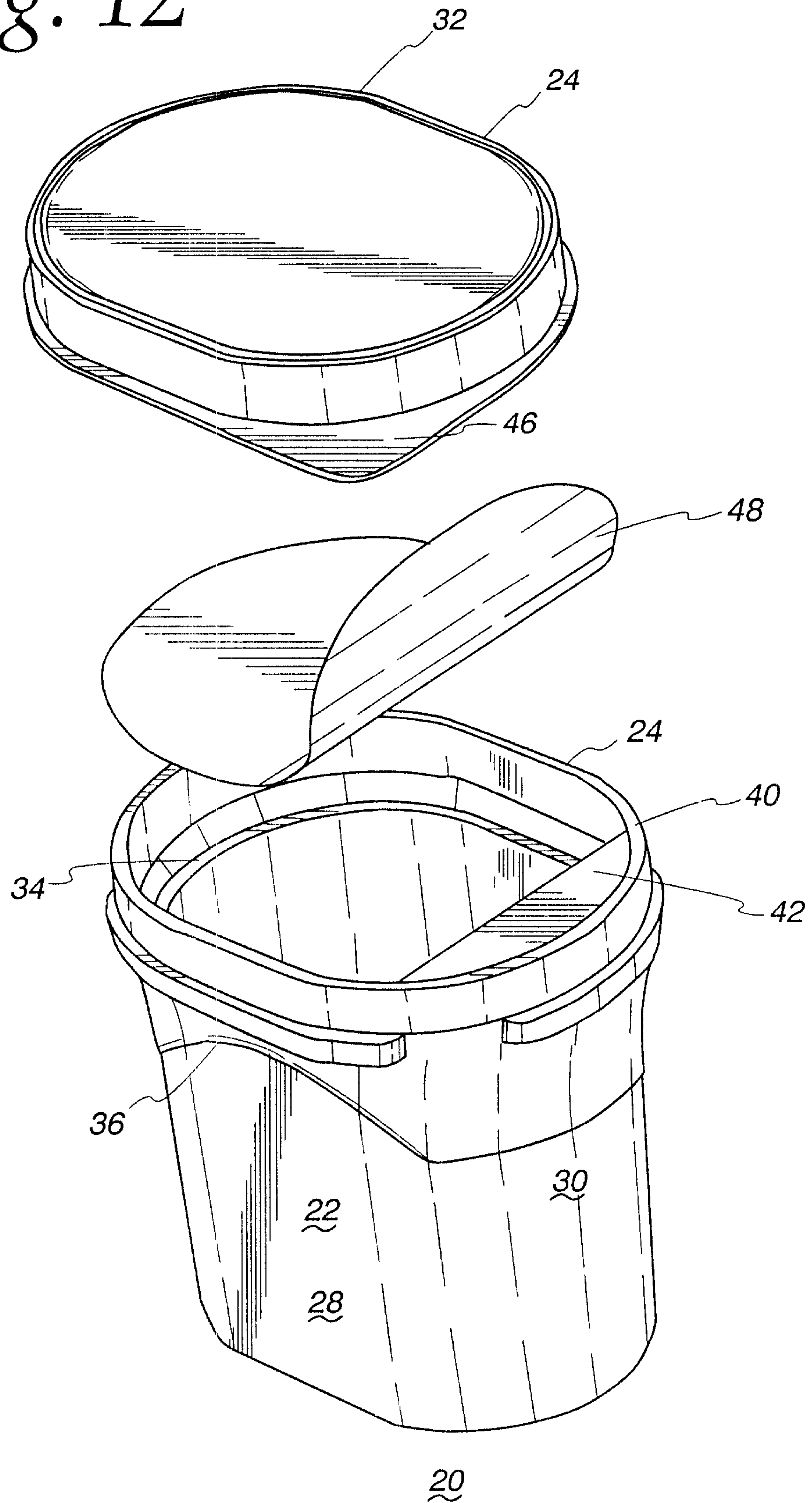
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Fig. 11

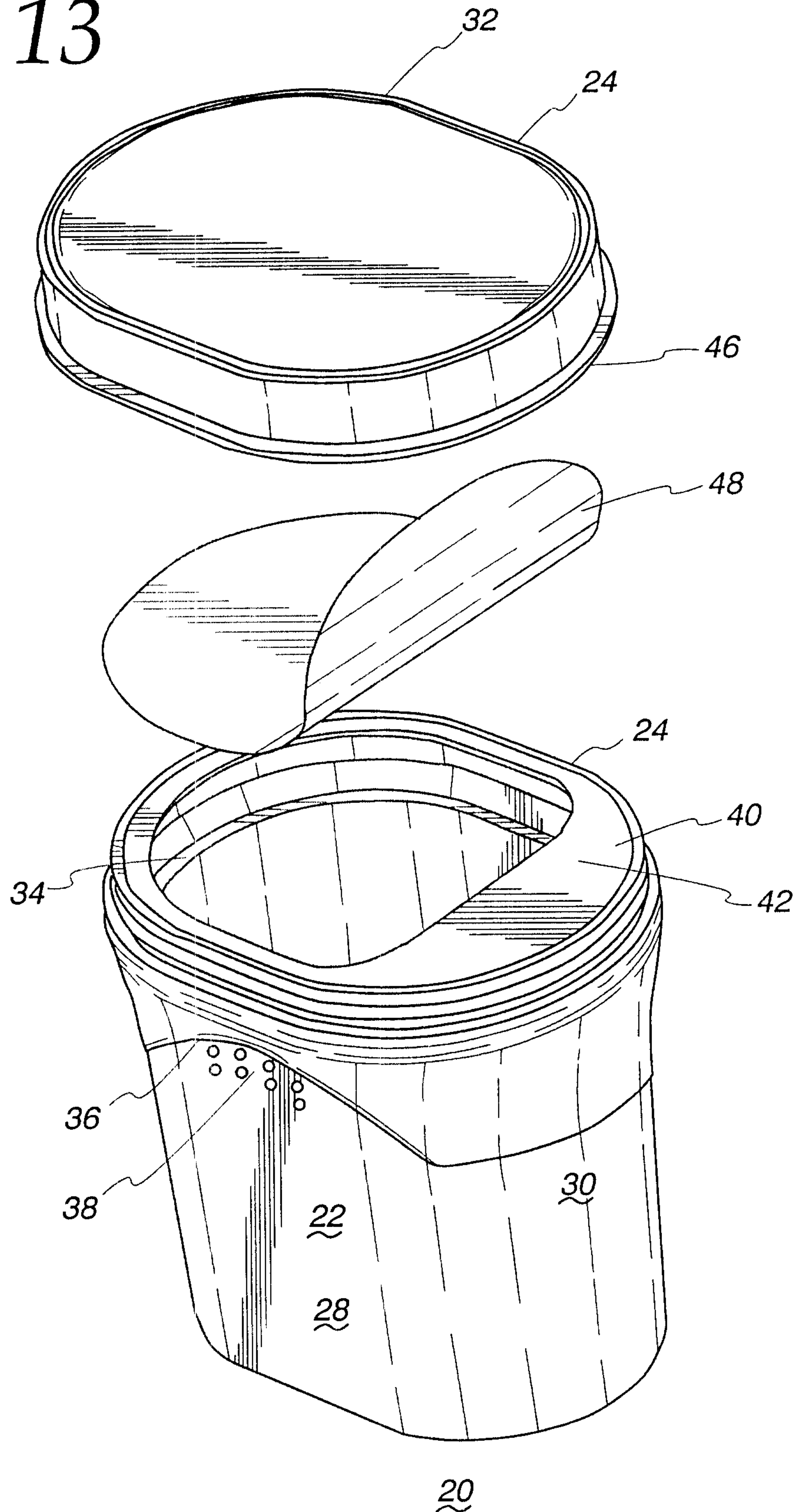
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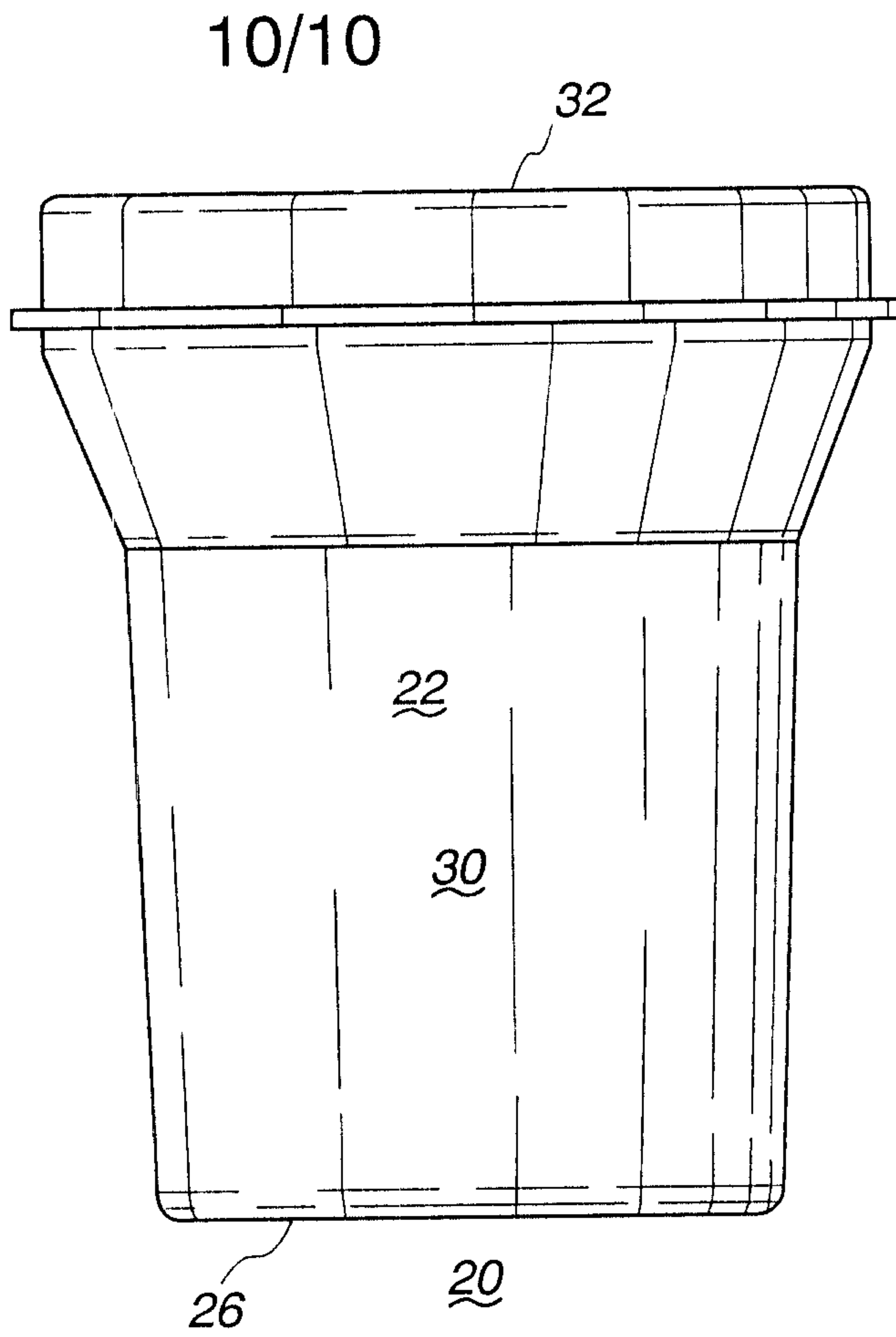
Fig. 12

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Fig. 13



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Fig. 14*Fig. 15*