

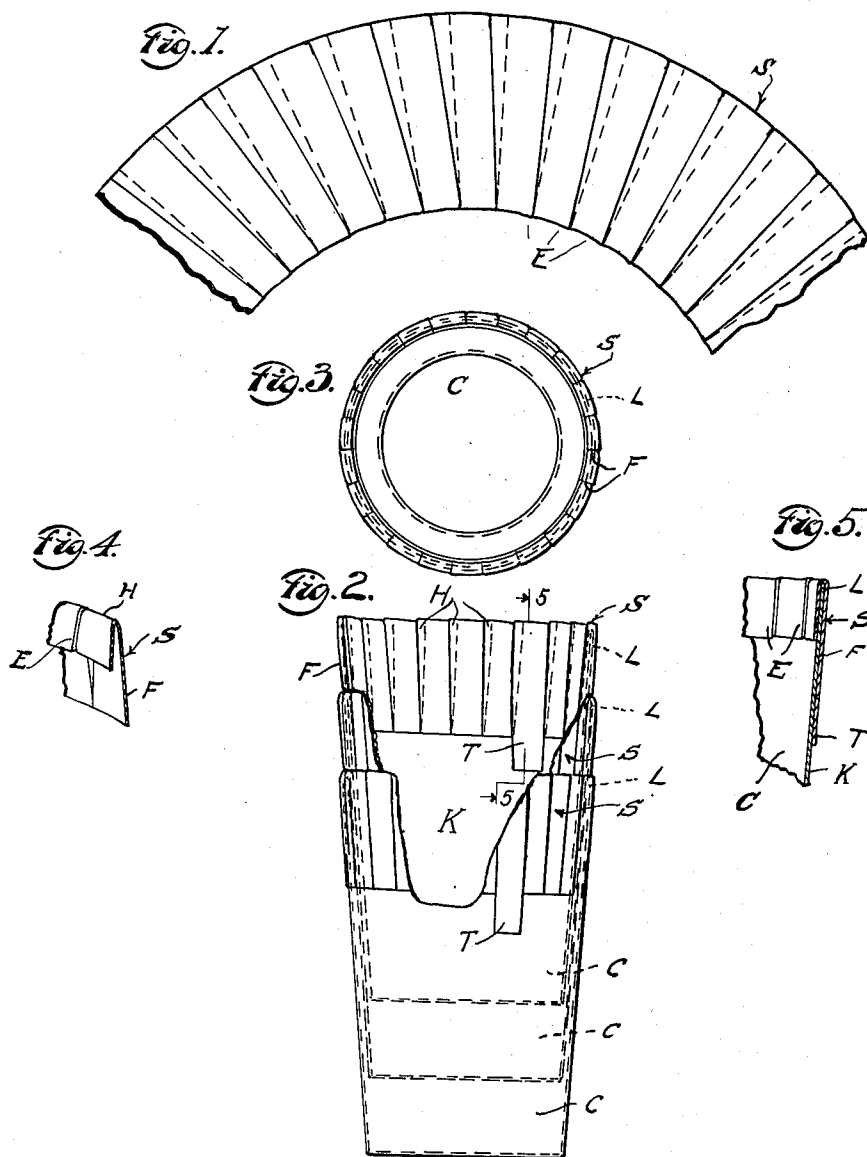
June 8, 1943.

F. M. DESSART

2,321,284

SANITARY SEAL FOR DRINKING CUPS

Filed Sept. 30, 1939



INVENTOR;
Franklyn M. Dessart.
BY
Harold D. Penney, ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,321,284

SANITARY SEAL FOR DRINKING CUPS

Franklyn M. Dessart, New York, N. Y.

Application September 30, 1939, Serial No. 297,264

21 Claims. (Cl. 206—65)

This invention relates to sanitary means for protecting drinking cups, and more particularly to nested drinking cups provided with sanitary seals for keeping the cups and tips thereof clean, though it is noted that in some of the claims the invention is not limited to nests of cups.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved seal adapted to be received on the lip of a cup or the like to keep the latter clean until ready for use.

Other objects of the invention are to provide an improved seal for the cups of nests arranged to protect the lips and all exposed parts of the intermediate cups of the nest.

Additional objects of the invention are to effect simplicity and efficiency in such seals and nests and to provide an extremely simple device of this kind which is convenient, sanitary and reliable in operation, and economical to manufacture and apply.

Still other objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds; and while herein details of the invention are described in the specification and some of the claims, the invention as described in the broader claims is not limited to these, and many and various changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as claimed in the broader claims.

The inventive features for the accomplishment of these and other objects are shown herein in connection with a sanitary nest of cups which briefly stated, includes a plurality of cups each nested within and projecting above the cup next below, and a strip of thin paper or the like formed into an annular seal removably received on the lip of each cup and comprising an inner skirt engaging the inner face of the lip and an outer skirt engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip, the outer skirt being provided with a downwardly projected tab for removing the seal before drinking.

In the accompanying drawing showing, by way of example, one of many possible embodiments of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a fragmental side elevation showing the pleated strip from which seal is made;

Fig. 2 is a fragmental side elevation showing a nest of cups with seals on the lips thereon, parts being torn away to show a tab against the outer face of the uppermost cup;

Fig. 3 is a plan of a cup or nest;

Fig. 4 is a fragmental transverse vertical sectional view, partly in perspective, showing a fragment of the seal removed or ready to be applied; and

Fig. 5 shows a transverse section taken substantially on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2, looking in the direction of the arrows of said line.

My improved seals are shown in combination with a nest set of paper drinking cups comprising

a plurality of slightly tapered drinking cups C each nested within and projecting above the cup next below though the invention is adapted for use with glass tumblers or other articles. The sanitary seal S may be made of thin and/or waxed paper, Cellophane or other suitable material and is removably received on, covers and protects the lip L and projecting part of each cup.

Each seal comprises a strip of paper joined or overlapped at its ends to form an annulus and folded to provide an inner skirt E having vertical pleats or overfolds for engaging and extending a short distance down the inner face of the lip L, and an outer skirt F having vertical pleats engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip and extending down to or into the skirt next below, thereby to cover the lip and all portions of the cups which project above the other cups. A fold H over the lip edge integrally connects said skirts E and F. One of the skirts preferably said outer skirt F is provided with downwardly projected tab T engaging against the outer face K of the cup and projecting into the cup next below and adapted when exposed, on separation of a cup, to be grasped for pulling off the seal from the lip, thereby to expose the previously sanitarily covered and protected lip and present it in clean sanitary condition for use.

The seal serves to protect the cups during shipping, storage, or sale, and/or use, and when the cups are being inserted in cup dispensers. If the cups are supplied in nests or singly to users without the use of a dispensing device, the seal may remain on the cup until just before it is used for drinking, thus insuring a clean and sanitary drinking lip.

If nests of glass or other fragile tumblers or containers are used, the pleated inner skirt E serves as a cushioning means to prevent breakage.

As shown in Fig. 2, the pleats of the seal are downwardly tapering substantially to a point at the lower edge of the outer skirt, whereby the outer skirt is free of pleats or wrinkles at the lower edge, whereby the seal may tightly engage the outer face of the cup below the largest diameter of the cup at the upper edge, thereby to facilitate retaining the seal on the cup.

As shown in Fig. 5, the inner skirt of the seal extends only a short distance down the inside of the cup, whereby the seal may be retained on the nearly filled cup without touching the contents, and then easily removed just before the cup is drunk from, thus to retain the lip of the cup entirely free of contamination until the contents are served.

As shown in Fig. 2, the outer skirt of the seal on the outside of the cup may extend downwardly a short distance into the nested cup next below, thus to prevent contamination just below the seal.

The invention claimed is:

1. A sanitary nest-set of paper drinking cups, comprising, in combination a plurality of slightly tapered drinking cups each nested within and projecting above the cup next below; and an annular sanitary seal of thin paper or other suitable material removably received on, covering and protecting the lip and projecting part of each cup, each seal comprising an inner skirt having vertical pleats or over folds engaging and extending a short distance down the inner face of the lip; an outer skirt having vertical pleats engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip and extending down to or into the cup next below, thereby to cover the lip and all portions of the cups which project above the other cups; and a fold over the lip edge integrally connecting said skirts; said outer skirt being provided with downwardly projected tab projecting into the cups next below and adapted when exposed on separation of a cup from the next to be grasped for pulling off the seal from the lip; thereby to expose the previously sanitarily covered and protected lip and present it in clean sanitary condition for use.

2. A sanitary nest-set of paper drinking cups, comprising, in combination a plurality of slightly tapered drinking cups each nested within and projecting above the cup next below; and an annular sanitary seal of thin paper or other suitable material removably received on, covering and protecting the lip and projecting part of each cup, each seal comprising an inner skirt having pleats or over folds engaging and extending a short distance down the inner face of the lip; an outer skirt having pleats engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip and extending down to or into the cup next below, thereby to cover the lip and all portions of the cups which project above the other cups; and a fold over the lip edge integrally connecting said skirts.

3. A nest set of drinking cups, comprising, in combination cups each nested within and projecting above the cup next below; and an annular sanitary seal of thin material removably loosely received on, covering and protecting the lip and projecting part of each cup and stretchable in circumferential direction, each seal comprising an inner skirt engaging and extending only a short distance down the inner face of the lip; an outer skirt engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip and extending down to or only a short distance into the cup next below; said skirts being formed into cushions to cushion the cups from each other, and a fold over the lip edge integrally connecting said skirts; the material of said skirts and fold being continuous and free of openings; the limited length of the skirts and the stretchability of the seal facilitating easy upward removal of the seal from the lip without preliminary tearing.

4. In a set as in claim 3 said outer skirt being provided with a downwardly projected tab projecting into the cups next below and adapted when exposed on separation of a cup from the next to be grasped for pulling off the seal from the lip, thereby to expose the previously sanitarily covered and protected lip and present it in clean sanitary condition for use.

5. A sanitary nest set of drinking cups, comprising, in combination a plurality of slightly tapered drinking cups each nested within and projecting above the cup next below; and an annular sanitary seal of a single piece of thin paper or other suitable material removably loosely re-

ceived on, covering and protecting the lip and projecting part of each cup, each seal comprising an inner skirt having vertical pleats or over folds rendering the skirt stretchable, and engaging and extending only a short distance down the inner face of the lip; an outer skirt having vertical pleats engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip and extending down to or only a short distance into the cup next below, thereby to cover the lip and all portions of the cups which project above the other cups; the pleats of the skirts forming cushions to cushion the cups from each other; and a fold over the lip edge integrally connecting said skirts; the material of said skirts and fold being continuous and free of openings, in order to protect the cup lip; said outer skirt being provided with a downwardly projected tab projecting into cups next below and adapted when exposed on separation of a cup from the next to be grasped for pulling off the seal from the lip.

6. A sanitary nest set of drinking cups, comprising, in combination tapered drinking cups, each nested within and projecting above the cup next below; and an annular seal of a single piece of thin material loosely received on, covering and protecting the lip and projecting part of each cup; each seal comprising an inner skirt having vertical pleats, rendering the skirt stretchable, and engaging and extending only a short distance down the inner face of the lip; an outer skirt having vertical pleats engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip and extending down to or only a short distance into the cup next below; the pleats of the skirts forming cushions to cushion the cups from each other, and a fold over the lip edge integrally connecting said skirts, the material of said skirts and fold being continuous and free of openings, in order to protect the cup lip.

7. A nest set of cups, comprising nested cups each projecting above the cup next below; and an annular seal of thin material removably received on and continuously covering the lip of each cup and comprising an inner skirt engaging the inner face of the lip, an outer skirt engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip and extending to the seal next below, and a fold disposed over the lip and connecting said skirts; said seal extending only a short distance down the inside of the cup.

8. A nest set of cups, comprising nested downwardly tapered cups each projecting above the cup next below; and an annular seal of thin material removably received on the lip of each cup and comprising an inner skirt engaging the inner face of the lip and extending only a short distance down the cup, an outer skirt closely engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip, and a fold disposed over the lip and connecting the skirts; the diameter of each cup being largest at the upper edge, the outer skirt being free of pleats or wrinkles at the lower edge and closely engaging the outer face of the cup for retaining the seal on the cup.

9. A nest set of cups, comprising nested downwardly tapered drinking cups each projecting above the cup next below; and an annular seal of thin material removably received on, and unadhered to, the lip of each cup and comprising an inner skirt engaging the inner face of the lip, an outer skirt engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip and extending into the seal of the cup next below, and a fold disposed over the lip and connecting said skirts; said seal extending only a short distance down the inside of the cup and

into the next lower seal on the outside; the diameter of each cup being largest at the upper edge, the lower part of the outer skirt being free of wrinkles or folds and snugly engaging the cup below the largest diameter of the cup for facilitating holding the seal on the cup.

10. In combination, a drinking cup; and an annular seal of thin material removably received on the lip of the cup and comprising a pleated inner skirt engaging the inner face of the lip, an outer skirt closely engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip, and a fold disposed over the lip and connecting the skirts; the outer skirt having pleats forming continuations of the pleats of the inner skirt and downwardly tapering substantially to a point at the lower edge of the outer skirt.

11. A nest set of cups, comprising nested cups each projecting above the cup next below; and an annular seal of thin material removably received on the lip of each cup and comprising a pleated inner skirt engaging the inner face of the lip, an outer skirt closely engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip, and a fold disposed over the lip and connecting the skirts; the outer skirt having pleats forming continuations of the pleats of the inner skirt and downwardly tapering substantially to a point at the lower edge of the outer skirt, whereby the outer skirt is free of pleats or wrinkles at the lower edge, whereby the seal closely engages the outer face of the cup.

12. A nest set of cups, comprising nested downwardly tapered drinking cups each projecting above the cup next below; and an annular seal of thin material removably received on the lip of each cup and comprising an inner skirt engaging and extending only a short distance down the inner face of the lip, an outer skirt engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip, and extending a short distance substantially to the seal of the cup next below, and a part disposed over the lip and connecting said skirts; said seal continuously effectively covering all parts of the lip and outer face of the cup above the seal next below.

13. A nest set as in claim 12, the diameter of each cup being largest at the upper edge and smaller at the lower edge of the outer skirt; all parts of the lower edge of the outer skirt being free of folds and forming a continuous annulus engaging the cup at said smaller diameter.

14. A nest set as in claim 12 said outer skirt at said lower edge engaging the cup tightly enough to hold the seal on the cup.

15. A nest set of cups comprising nested downwardly tapered drinking cups each projecting above the cup next below; and an annular seal of thin material removably received on the lip of each cup and comprising an inner skirt engaging and extending only a short distance down the inner face of the lip, an outer skirt engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip, and extending only a short distance into the seal of the cup next below, and a fold disposed over the lip and connecting said skirts; said seal being free of openings and continuously covering all parts of the lips and outer face of the cup above the seal next below, thereby to protect the set from contamination.

16. A nest set as in claim 15, the diameter of each cup being largest at the upper edge of the cup and smaller at the lower edge of the outer skirt; all parts of the lower edge of the outer

skirt forming a continuous annulus with all parts firmly joined together all around and snugly engaging the cup at said smaller diameter of the cup some distance below said largest diameter tightly enough to extend into the seal next below and to prevent the removal of the seal from the cup past the largest diameter except by tearing the seal, thereby holding the seal on the cup, and preventing contamination of the nested cups.

17. A nest set of cups, comprising nested downwardly tapered drinking cups projecting above the cup next below; and an annular seal of thin material removably received on and unadhered to, the lip of each cup and comprising an inner skirt engaging and extending only a short distance down the inner face of the lip, an outer skirt engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip, and extending a short distance substantially to the seal of the cup next below, and a part disposed over the lip and connecting said skirts; said seal being free of openings and extending continuously around and covering all parts of the lip and outer face of the cup above the seal next below, thereby to protect the set from contamination; the diameter of each cup being largest at the upper edge of the cup and smaller at the lower edge of the outer skirt; all parts of the lower edge of the outer skirt being free of wrinkles or folds and forming a continuous annulus with all parts firmly joined together all around and snugly engaging the cup at said smaller diameter of the cup some distance below the largest diameter of the cup.

18. A nest set as in claim 17, said lower edge engaging the cup at said smaller diameter tightly enough to prevent the removal of the seal from the cup except by tearing the seal, thereby holding the seal on the cup, and preventing contamination of the nested cups.

19. A nest set as in claim 17, each outer skirt having pleats downwardly tapering substantially to a point at the lower edge of the outer skirt.

20. In combination, a downwardly tapered drinking cup; and an annular seal of thin material removably received on and unadhered to, the lip of each cup and comprising an inner skirt engaging and extending only a short distance down the inner face of the lip, an outer skirt engaging the outer face of the cup at the lip, and extending a short distance down, and a part disposed over the lip and connecting said skirts; said seal being free of openings and continuously covering all parts of the lip and outer face of the cup above the lower edge of the seal, thereby to protect the lip from contamination; the diameter of the cup being largest at the upper edge and smaller at the lower edge of the outer skirt; all parts of the lower edge of the outer skirt forming a continuous annulus with all parts firmly joined together all around and holding said edge in tight engagement with the cup at a smaller diameter of the cup some distance below the largest diameter of the cup tightly enough to prevent the accidental removal of the seal from the cup, thereby holding the seal on the lip.

21. A combination as in claim 20, the outer skirt having pleats downwardly tapering substantially to a point at the lower edge of the outer skirt, whereby the outer skirt is free of pleats or wrinkles at the lower edge, whereby the seal closely engages the outer face of the cup.

FRANKLYN M. DESSART.