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(54) **APPARATUS FOR DISGUIISING LIQUID
CONTENTS IN POSSESSION**

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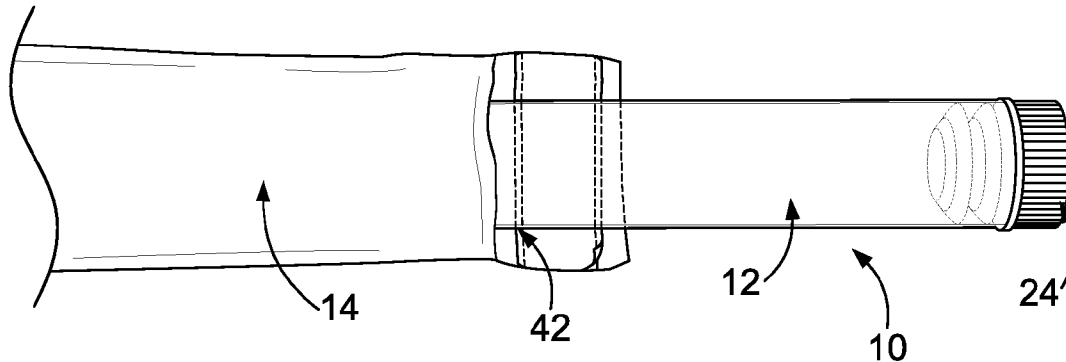
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A device in the form of a container is disclosed which obscures and/or misdirects another person from recognizing the device contains potable fluid. The device is generally constructed with the size and shape and appearance of a tampon within a tampon wrapper. The device includes a sealable/re-sealable vessel with a cap, and a wrapper constructed and printed to appear like a tampon wrapper.



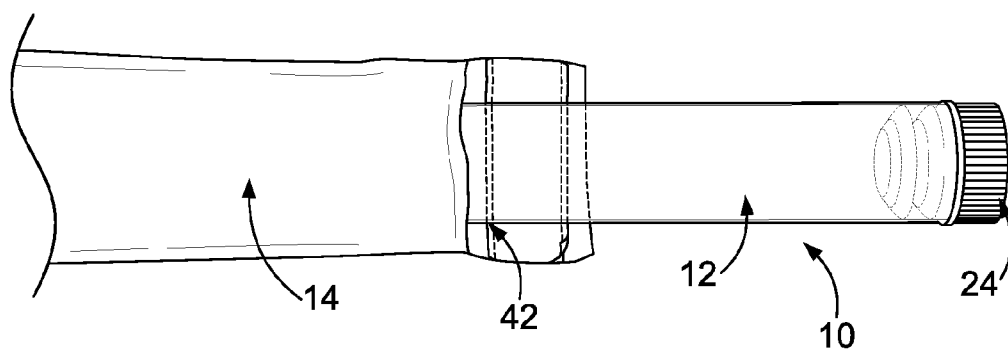


FIG. 1

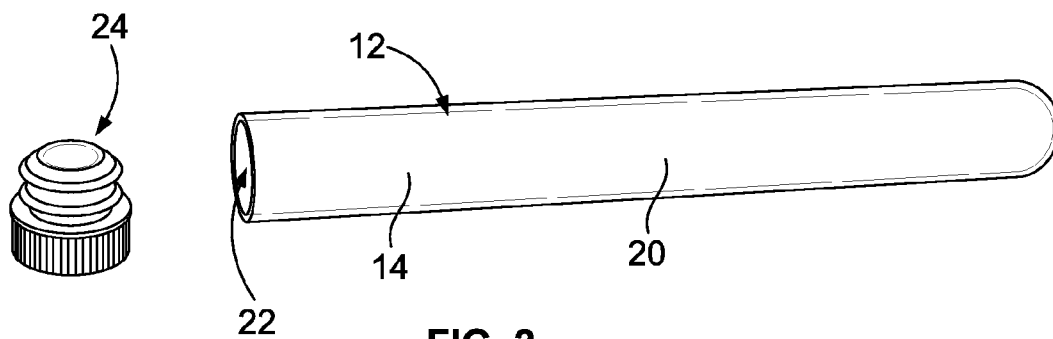


FIG. 2

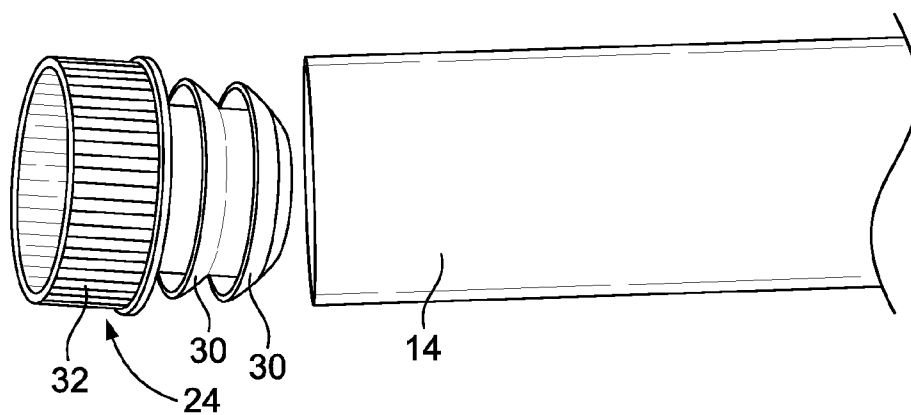


FIG. 3

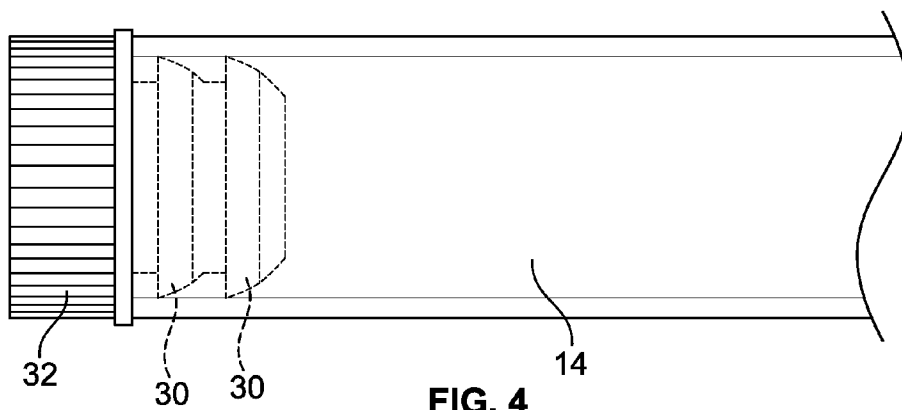


FIG. 4

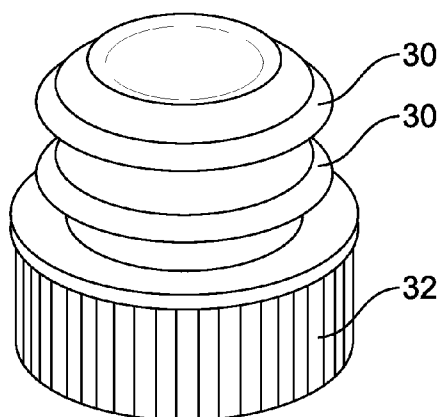


FIG. 5

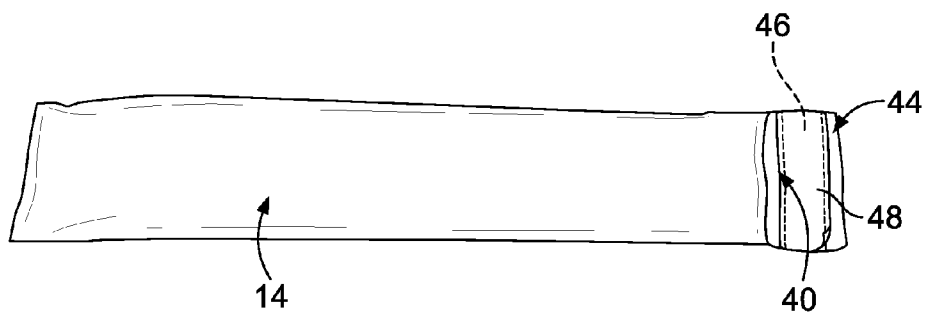


FIG. 6

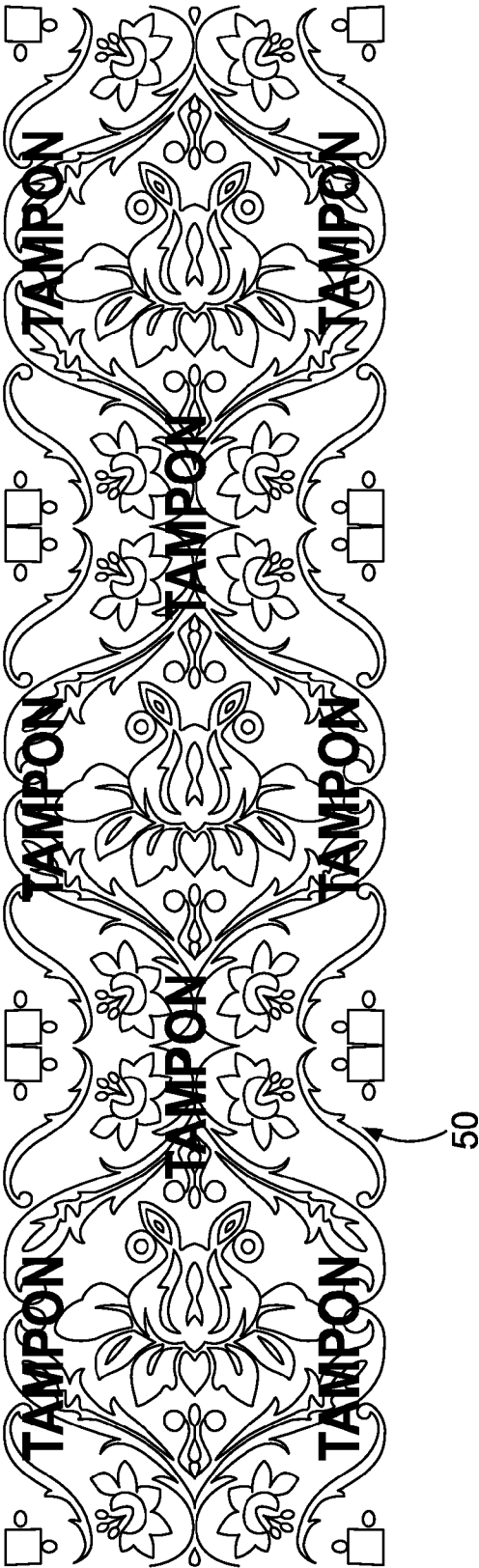


FIG. 7

APPARATUS FOR DISGUIISING LIQUID CONTENTS IN POSSESSION

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/807,368, filed Apr. 2, 2013, the entirety of which is incorporated by reference herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention relates to a device or apparatus for holding potable fluids and for disguising the nature of the fluid and, in particular, to flask-like apparatus for containing and transporting potable fluid while giving the appearance of containing or being something other than a flask.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Currently, many containers are known for storing, transporting, and permitting dispensing of fluids. The range of such containers includes large water coolers, sport bottles, flasks, and original containers such as liquor or soda bottles. The common denominator for many of these containers is that it is immediately apparent to another person that such either hold or likely hold potable liquid.

[0004] Of course, in most instances people are not concerned with others being aware that a possessed container indeed suggests possession of a liquid. As an example, a person working out in a gym would almost be expected to possess a sport bottle, and few would expect that bottle to contain anything other than water or a sport drink.

[0005] It is known to have a re-usable container for possessing and transporting a relatively small amount of liquid. That is, it is known to have so-called travel-sized mouthwash containers, and it is known to have a flask for liquor poured from a larger bottle so that a person may carry just the flask. However, these devices typically clearly display that they are in fact devices for carrying potable fluid.

[0006] In some instances, it is undesirable for others to know that potable liquid is possessed. For instance, a person prone to low blood sugar may carry a candy bar, but may also like to carry a sugary drink: such person may rather not have to explain to an inquiring person why they are carrying a flask and what the contents are. Another person may be taking regular doses of oral liquid medicine and may not want others being aware that they require such. In another example, a person may want to imbibe alcoholic beverages in a place in which such is permitted, yet not want others to know they are doing so: for instance, people may be wary of setting a poor example for children by bringing along a flask or liquor bottle to a picnic and thus would rather others not recognize that alcoholic beverages are possessed. The difficulty in such cases is that most devices for containing and possessing potable fluids are identifiable as being exactly that.

[0007] Accordingly, there has been a need for an improved device for containing, storing, transporting, and dispensing of potable fluids.

SUMMARY

[0008] In accordance with an aspect of the invention, a device for containing, storing, transporting, and dispensing of potable fluids, wherein said device disguises the contents thereof. In the present form, the device presents itself as a tampon and tampon wrapper.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] In the Figures, FIG. 1 is partial perspective view of a form of the present invention, the view depicting a vessel in the form of a tube being sealingly/resealingly engaged with a cap for storing and dispensing fluid therefrom, the vessel partially received through an opening into a pocket formed by a wrapper, the wrapper having a flap for closing/reclosing the wrapper with the vessel entirely received therein, the combination of the size, shape, and external appearance of the wrapper presenting the appearance of a tampon;

[0010] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the vessel and the cap;

[0011] FIG. 3 is a second perspective view of the vessel and the cap;

[0012] FIG. 4 is a perspective view similar to FIG. 3 with the cap received within the vessel;

[0013] FIG. 5 is a close-up perspective view of the cap showing a pair of seals for engaging with the interior of the vessel when received therein;

[0014] FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the wrapper with an opened pocket and opening to illustrate receipt of the vessel therein; and

[0015] FIG. 7 is a plan view of exemplary artwork for the wrapper.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0016] Referring to the FIGS., a device 10 for containing, storing, transporting, and dispensing of potable fluids, wherein said device 10 disguises the contents thereof, is illustrated. In the present form, the device 10 has an external appearance that is generally that of a tampon and tampon wrapper. Specifically, the device 10 includes a vessel 12 and a cover in the form of a wrapper 14, wherein the vessel 12 has a size and shape generally similar to that of a conventional tampon, and wherein the wrapper 14 is presented with the appearance of a conventional tampon wrapper, the vessel 12 being received within the wrapper 14 during use. As used herein, tampon is used to mean a conventionally available feminine hygiene product including an absorbable plug and its associated dispenser, as is known in the art. Generally, such tampons are approximately 1/4" to 1/2" in diameter with a length of 3-6".

[0017] Turning to the details of the vessel 12, a body 14 is provided with a size and shape generally corresponding to a tampon. The body 14 is shown as being tubular, such as may colloquially be called a "test tube." The body 14 has walls 20 defining a fluid storage volume 22. The vessel 12 includes a cap 24 for sealingly engaging with the body 14. In the present form, a portion of the cap 24 is received within and sealingly engages against an inner surface of the walls 22. As shown, the cap 24 includes a pair of radially extending seals 30 formed of elastically deformable material such that the seals 30 are compressed by the walls 20 upon receipt therein. The cap 24 includes a head 32 for defining the extent of receipt of the cap 24 within the body 14. In some forms, an additional seal may be formed between the head 32 and the body 14. The cap 24 is sized to be received within the body 14 and, therefore, both are sized for permitting pourable liquids such as water or alcohol-based products including liquor to pass when the cap 24 is removed. Such pourable fluids may have a viscosity of 100 centipoise or less and preferably at 20 centipoise or less, at ambient temperatures such as approximately

50-80 degrees F. For instance, the cap **24** and the corresponding vessel may be approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " in size or larger such as up to 1" diametrically.

[0018] The vessel **12** can vary significantly in length and features, and it need not correspond in great detail to a tampon. That is, tampons come in a variety of lengths and diametral sizes, and the vessel may be larger than some tampons. The principal concern is that the vessel **12**, when received within the wrapper **14**, does not belie its underlying nature.

[0019] Specifically, it is the wrapper **14** that disguises and/or misdirects an observer as to the contents thereof. The wrapper **14** is given an appearance of a tampon wrapper. The wrapper **14** may be formed of paper or plastic, as is conventionally known. However, it is preferred that the wrapper **14** be plastic as it is believed to balance durability with the proper, expected appearance of a disposable tampon wrapper. In the present illustrated form, the plastic wrapper **14** is a strip of plastic folded over itself: the fold forms a first edge, while two other edges are made by connecting the strip edges. Thus, the wrapper **14** forms a pocket **40** with an opening **42** into which the vessel **12** may be received.

[0020] Importantly, and a distinction from conventional tampons, the wrapper **14** has a flap **44** extending beyond the opening **42** and pocket. The flap **44** includes a securement which, in the present preferred form, includes adhesive **46**. The adhesive may be any pressure sensitive adhesive, though resealable adhesive is the preferred form such that the wrapper **14** like the vessel **12** may be repeatedly reused. The adhesive **46** may be exposed by removing a peelable layer **48**, as seen in FIG. 6.

[0021] It should also be noted that food safety is of concern. That is, it is known that plastics have a wide range of materials. Chemicals that are unhealthy or even carcinogenic leach out of plastics, particularly when in contact with other active fluids such as alcohol. Therefore, any portions of the vessel **12** (body **14** and cap **24**) that may come into contact with liquid therein are formed of food-safe, food grade plastics.

[0022] As can be seen in the Figs., the device **10** is packaged like a tampon, exemplary printed artwork **50** being shown in the Figs. A person is able to re-usably fill and dispense fluid from the vessel **12**, and is able to carry the device **10** and its contents in public with a significantly reduced concern with other people recognizing or suspecting that the device **10** contains potable liquid. Moreover, with the disguised packaging, another person would be misdirected from believing the device contains potable fluid.

[0023] While the invention has been described with respect to specific examples including presently preferred modes of carrying out the invention, those skilled in the art will appreciate that there are numerous variations and permutations of the above described systems and techniques that fall within the spirit and scope of the invention.

1. An apparatus for containing and dispensing fluid, the device comprising:

- a vessel for containing said fluid, said vessel including,
 - a generally tubular body formed of food-safe polymeric material, and
 - a cap for sealingly engaging with said body; and
- a wrapper for covering said vessel.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said body is elongated with a size approximate to a conventional tampon.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said cap is removably receivable within an open end of said body.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said body has an open end sized to permit pouring of liquid.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the cap received within said body is between $\frac{1}{4}$ " and 1".

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said wrapper is sized to receive said vessel.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said wrapper has the appearance of a tampon wrapper.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the apparatus has a general size and shape of a tampon.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the wrapper defines an interior space and permits insertion and removal of the vessel.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said wrapper includes an opening for insertion and removal of said vessel, and a sealable/resealable portion proximate the wrapper opening for closing and opening of said wrapper with the vessel therein.

11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said wrapper includes an opening for insertion and removal of said vessel, and said wrapper includes a flap proximate the wrapper opening, said flap permitting insertion and removal of the vessel, wherein the flap includes a sealable/resealable portion proximate the wrapper opening for closing and opening of said wrapper with the vessel therein.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the wrapper includes three closed sides and an open end for insertion and removal of the vessel wherein the wrapper is defined by a sheet of plastic folded to form a first closed side of the three closed sides and by securing portions of the sheet to form second and third sides of the three closed sides.

13. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the wrapper gives a visual indication of being a tampon wrapper.

14. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the wrapper has indicia printed thereon to present itself as a tampon wrapper.

15. A device for disguising pourable fluid contents, the device comprising:

- an elongate tubular body having a size corresponding to commercially available tampon products;

- a cap removably and sealingly engagable with the tubular body; and

- a cover for receiving said body and cap therein,

wherein said tubular body permits receiving and dispensing of pourable fluid of up to 100 centipoise at ambient temperatures when said cap is removed.

16. The device of claim 15 wherein said tubular body permits receiving and dispensing of pourable fluid of up to 20 centipoise at ambient temperatures.

17. The device of claim 15 wherein said wrapper is sized to receive easily said tubular body and cap therein such that the device gives the overall appearance of a tampon.

18. The device of claim 17 wherein the wrapper is resealably closable.

19. The device of claim 17 wherein the wrapper defines an interior space with an opening thereto, said wrapper opening permitting a user to insert the tubular body and the cap into said interior space.

20. The device of claim 19 wherein the wrapper includes a portion proximate said wrapper opening to close said opening when said tubular body and cap are received in said interior space.

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