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(54) BEVERAGE CONTAINER WITH RIGID INNER CONTANER

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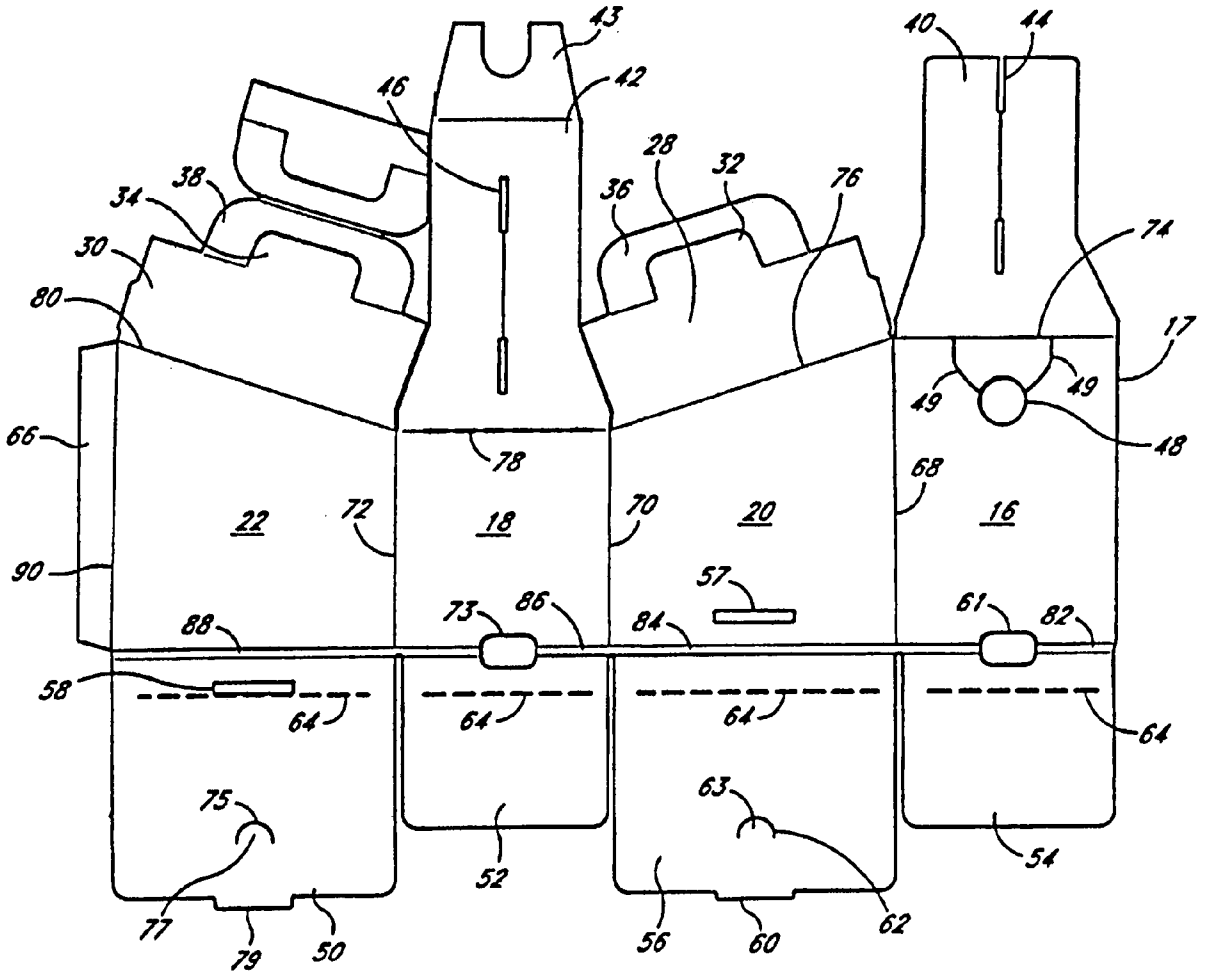
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **220/717**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A container includes an outer shell, a rigid inner container within the outer shell, a mouth and a handle. The outer shell has a top, a bottom and sidewalls. The outer shell also defines an opening. The inner container within the outer shell defines an aperture. The mouth is secured to the inner container surrounding the aperture and defines a fluid passageway. The mouth is sized and shaped such that fluid can be poured through the mouth from a source having an outlet spaced above the mouth. The handle extends outward from the top of the outer shell and has sufficient strength to provide all support for the container when the inner container is filled with liquid in either of two positions, with the first position being where the opening is facing upwards and the second position being where the opening is facing sidewards. Desirably, the mouth and opening are sized and shaped such that when the opening is facing upwards the human eye can detect when a level of fluid in the container is approaching the mouth.



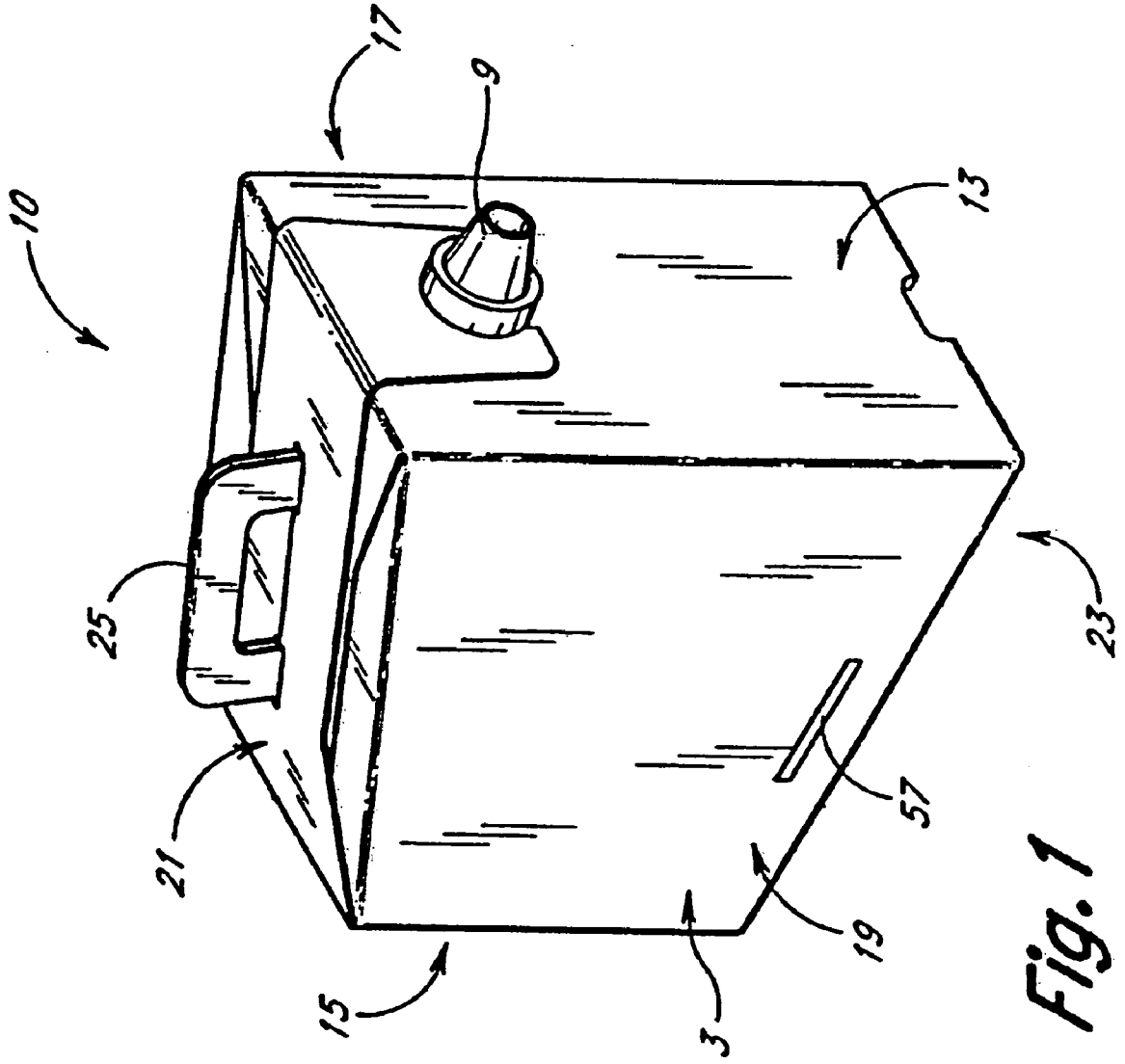


Fig. 1

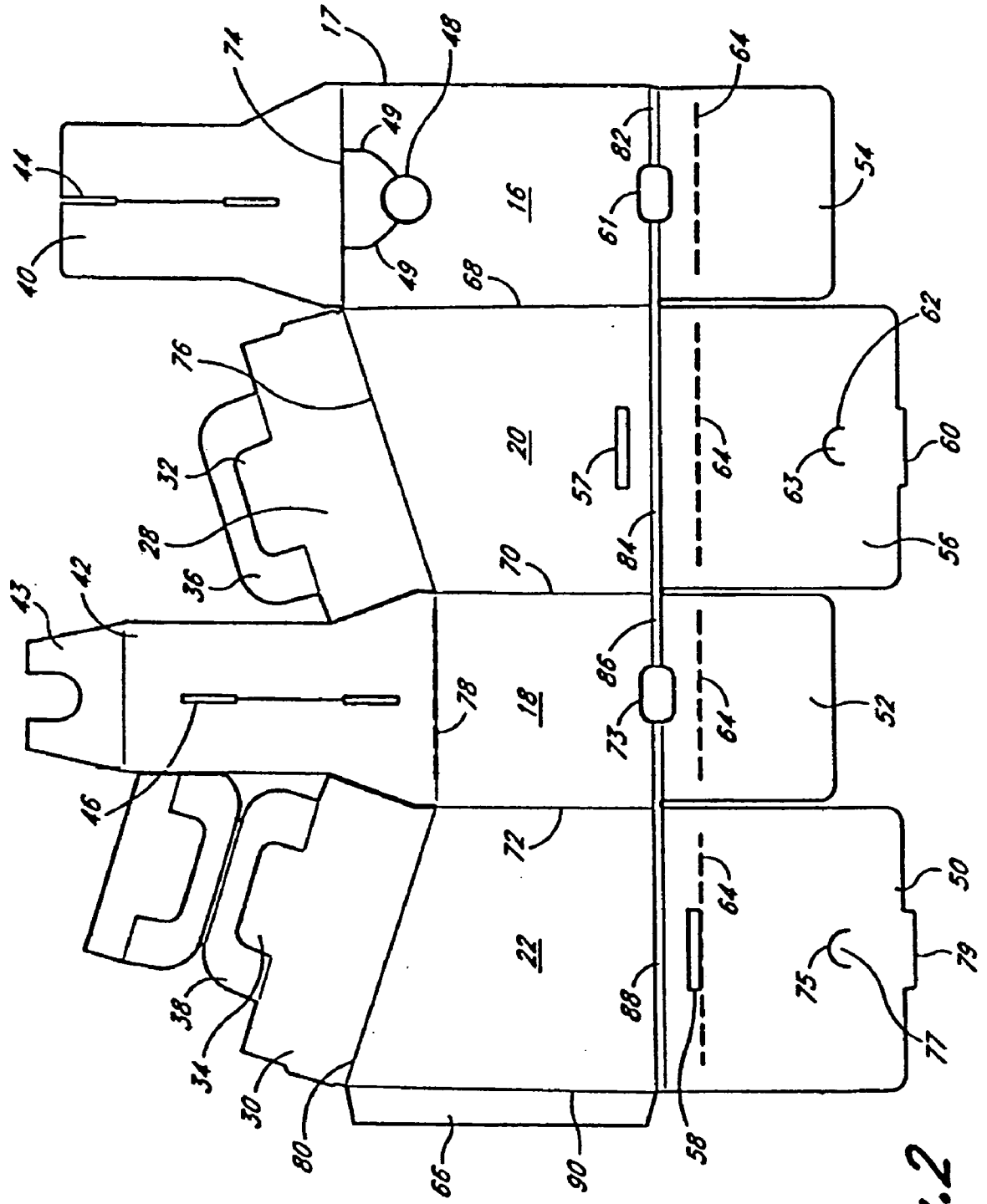

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Fig.2

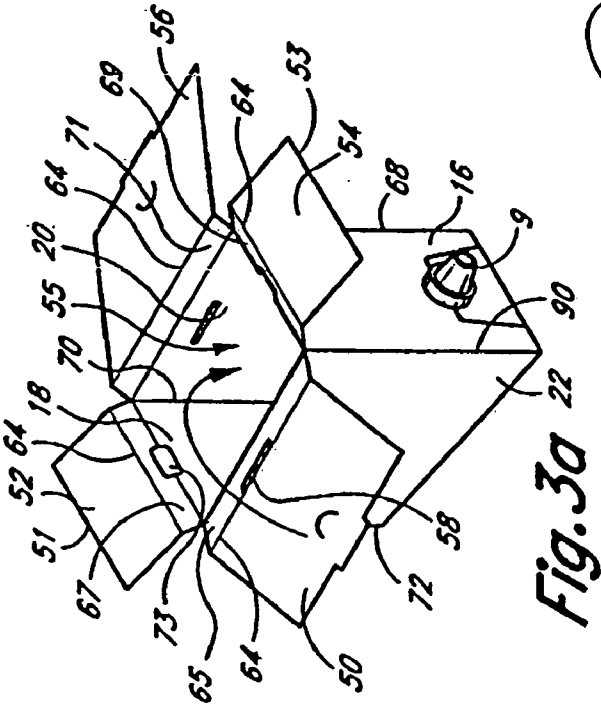

Fig. 3a

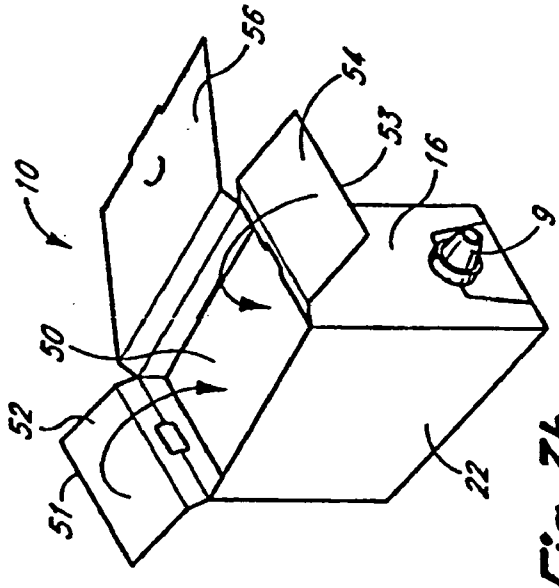

Fig. 3b

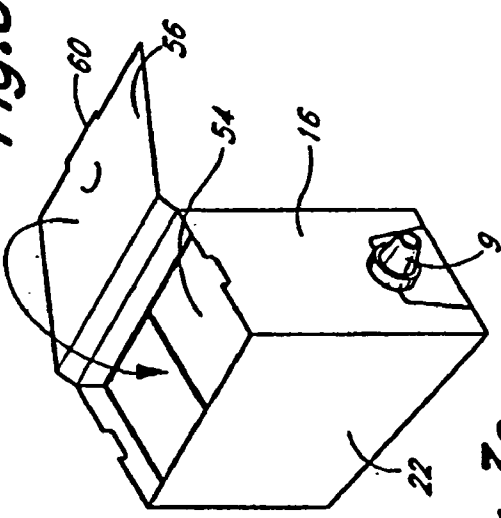

Fig. 3c

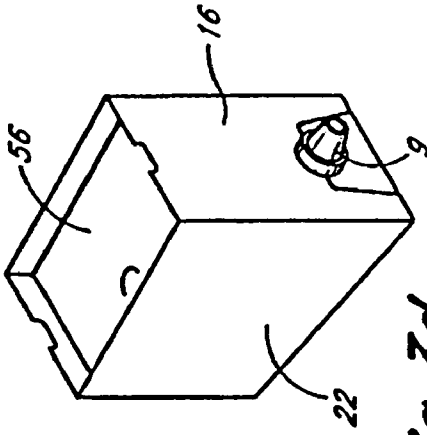

Fig. 3d

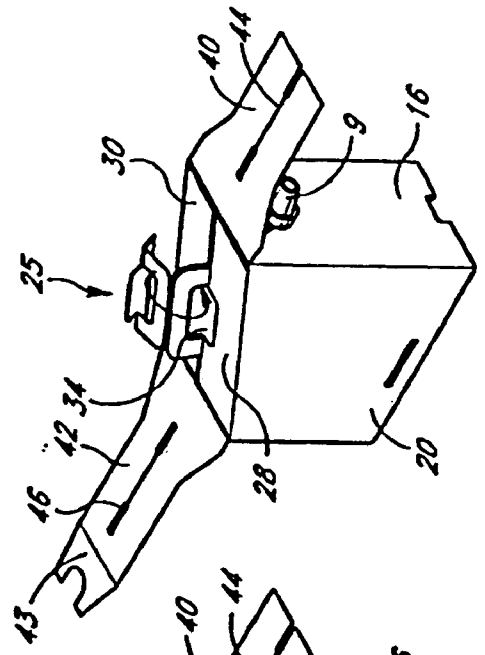

Fig. 4c

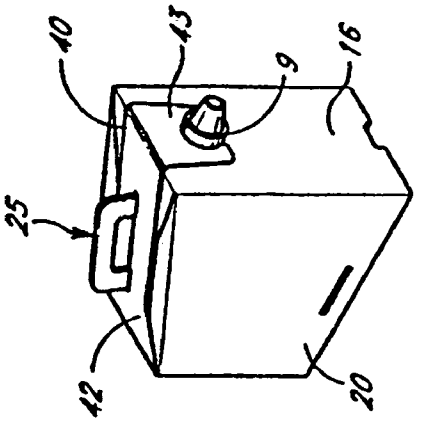

Fig. 4f

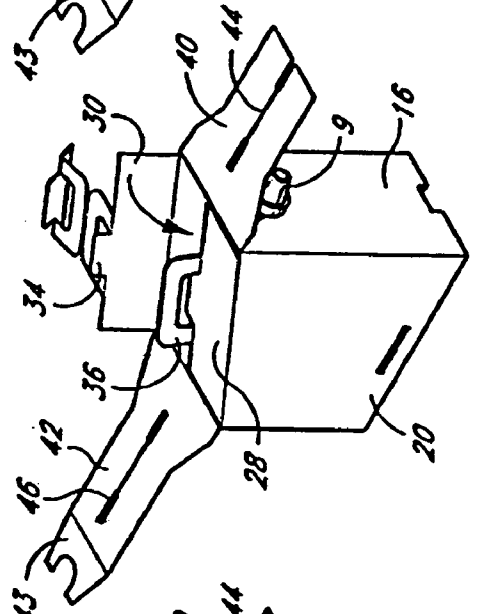

Fig. 4b

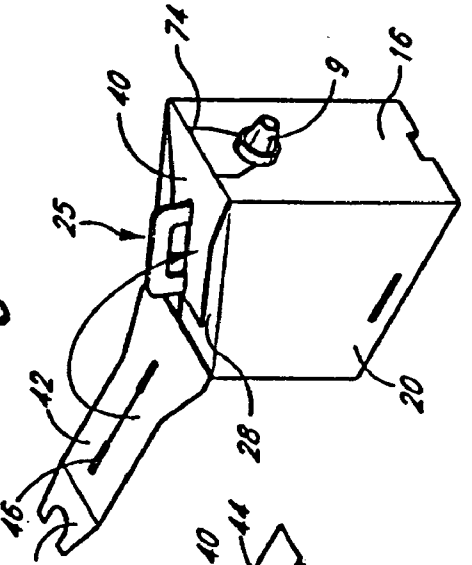

Fig. 4e

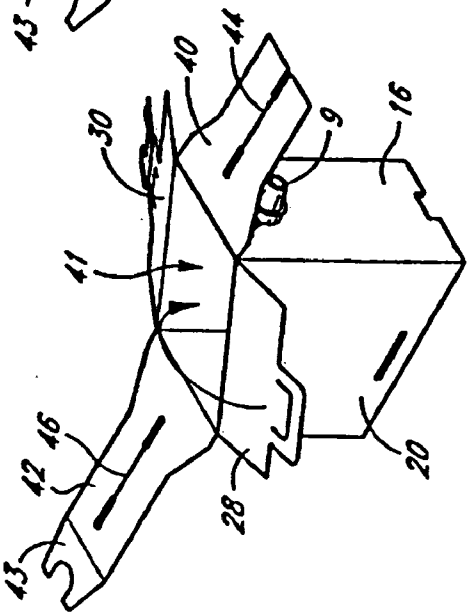

Fig. 4a

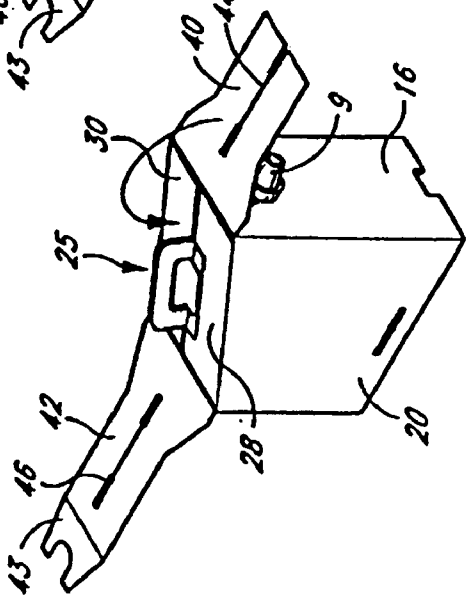

Fig. 4d

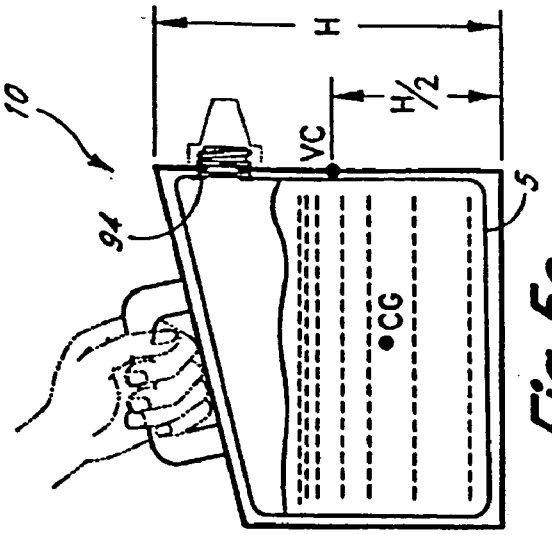

Fig.5c

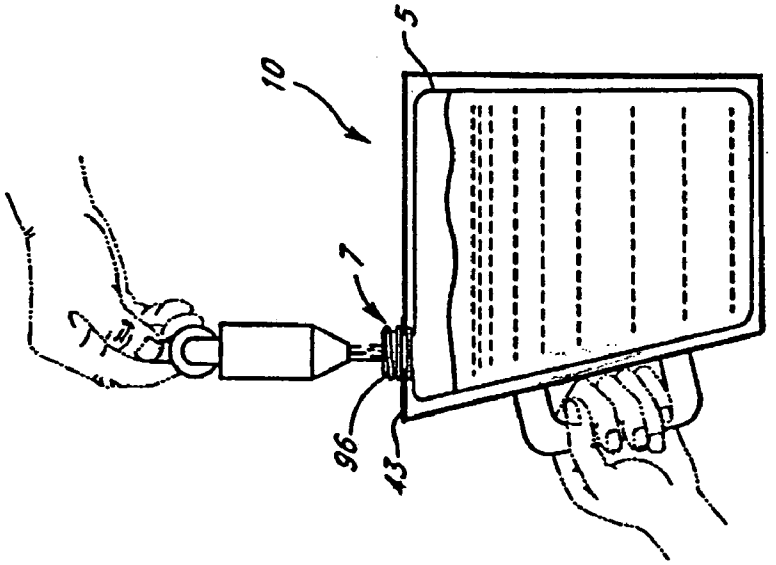

Fig.5b

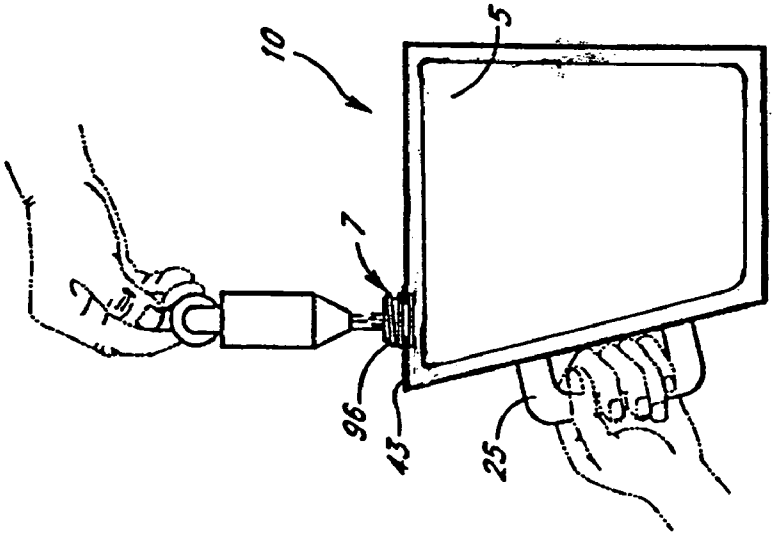

Fig.5a

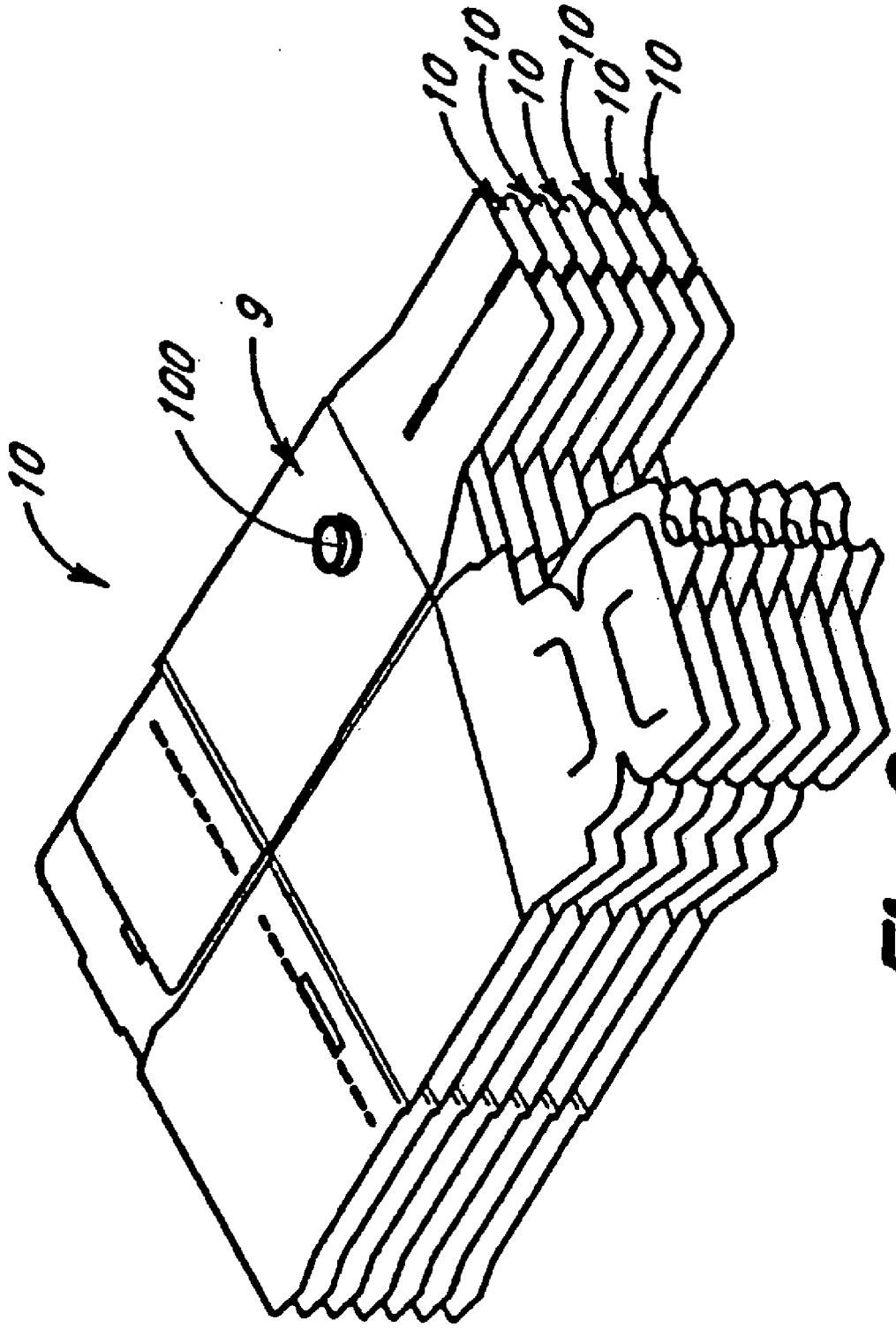

Fig. 6

BEVERAGE CONTAINER WITH RIGID INNER CONTANER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of the priority date of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No 60/519,037 filed Nov. 10, 2003.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to an improved beverage container. More specifically, this invention is directed to an improved container for storing and transporting several cups of fluid, such as coffee.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Gourmet coffee shops typically sell individual cups of coffee for consumption on or off the premises. Typically, these shops are very small and utilize high-quality coffee beans and coffee-making equipment to provide consumers with a higher quality cup of coffee than would be available in other establishments. In this regard, many gourmet coffee shops have developed internal procedures particularly adapted to ensure a uniformly high-quality cup of coffee. Particularly at peak periods, these shops must dispense coffee to a relatively large group of consumers in a short amount of time. Typically, the worker holds the coffee cup below the spout and utilizes the other hand to actuate the spout until the worker sees that the coffee cup is nearly full.

[0004] Consumers accustomed to the high-quality of coffee available from such gourmet coffee shops have come to desire this high level of quality at other locations, such as offices or meeting places. Gourmet coffee shops have met this need by providing thermos canisters which are loaned out and then returned by the consumer. These canisters are often elongate, cylindrical thermoses having a pump button in the top, which dispenses coffee from a nozzle. Unfortunately, the inconvenience of needing to return the canister and the typical requirement that a deposit be left deters consumers from purchasing larger quantities of coffee. These canisters also have several drawbacks for the coffee shop. Specifically, they are relatively large and difficult to store, are breakable and require careful cleaning after use.

[0005] Applicant's invention is an improved liquid container particularly adapted to store and insulate multiple cups of fluid. Advantageously, the preferred container is quickly and easily deployable. Importantly, the container can desirably be filled with existing equipment utilizing the existing procedures utilized in most coffee shops. The container is also desirably particularly adapted to be easily carried and poured. Advantageously, the structure of the container reduces the likelihood that the container will tip over during transport and incorporates safety features which reduce the risk of injury to the user from hot coffee. Importantly, the container is also structured to reduce the risk of damage to furniture resulting from the temperature of the fluid in the container. Because the container is particularly adapted to be made of very inexpensive materials, the container need not be returned nor cleaned.

[0006] One aspect of the invention is a container including an outer shell, a rigid container within the outer shell, a mouth and a handle. The outer shell has a top, a bottom and sidewalls. The outer shell also defines an opening. The rigid container within the outer shell defines an aperture. The mouth is secured to the rigid container surrounding the aperture and defines a fluid passageway. The mouth is sized and shaped such that fluid can be poured through the mouth from a source having an outlet spaced above the mouth. The handle extends outward from the top of the outer shell and has sufficient strength to provide essentially all support for the container when the rigid container is filled with liquid in either of two positions, with the first position being where the opening is facing upwards and the second position being where opening is facing sidewards.

[0007] Desirably, the mouth and opening are sized and shaped such that when the opening is facing upwards the human eye can detect when a level of fluid in the container is approaching the mouth. Advantageously, the mouth defines an aperture having a span of at least one inch.

[0008] In another aspect, the outer shell has a lower panel upon which the rigid container rests when it is filled with liquid which is spaced at least one-quarter and, preferably, one-half inch above bottom of the outer shell.

[0009] In another aspect, the inner container and the outer shell are sized and shaped such that when the rigid container is substantially full of liquid, the center of gravity of the container is located at least one-half inch and, preferably, at least one inch, below the vertical center of the container.

[0010] Yet another aspect of the invention is a container, including a collapsible outer shell and a rigid container within the outer shell which defines an aperture. The outer shell comprises a first pair of sidewalls aligned generally in the same plane as one another and a second pair of sidewalls aligned generally in the same plane as one another. The outer shell further includes a plurality of upper end flaps secured to the first pair of sidewalls and the second pair of sidewalls. Desirably, at least one of the upper end flaps forms at least a portion of a handle when the container is folded and a plurality of lower end flaps secured to the first pair of sidewalls and the second pair of sidewalls. The outer shell also defines an opening in one of the pairs of sidewalls. The mouth is secured to the rigid container surrounding the aperture and defines a fluid passageway. The mouth is sized and shaped such that fluid can be poured through the mouth from a source having an outlet spaced above the mouth.

[0011] Another aspect of the invention is a liquid container including an outer shell having a top and a bottom, the outer shell having an opening on a side of the container, a rigid container within the outer shell, a mouth secured to the rigid container surrounding the aperture and defining a fluid passageway and a handle extending from the top of the outer shell, the rigid container sized and shaped such that when the rigid container is filled with a fluid to a first level proximate the mouth when the mouth is facing upwards and the container is rotated to rest on the bottom, the fluid assumes a second level below the mouth. Desirably, the rigid container and the outer shell are sized and shaped such that when the rigid container is substantially full of liquid, the center of gravity of the container is located at least one inch below the center of the container.

[0012] Advantageously, the top side of the container ramps upward in an incline from the back side panel to the

front side panel with the opening for the spout. Such a design facilitates dispensing fluid from the container when a user grips the handle and rotates the container forward to raise the level of the fluid to the spout. Other aspects of the invention include an improved liquid container for chilling fluid and an improved liquid container for storing and mixing dried flavor crystals with liquid.

[0013] In its preferred embodiment, the present invention overcomes a variety of key problems in the prior art since it provides an easily deployable, inexpensive yet safe means for carrying, insulating, storing and dispensing hot fluids which conserves storage space and can be disposed of after use.

[0014] Further, the use of a rigid inner container to contain the fluid to be dispensed overcomes problems associated with the use of a flexible bag-type inner container. Such flexible, bag-type containers are more susceptible to puncture, leaking and bursting. The flexible, bag-type containers can be difficult to fill completely and/or to pour liquid from due to their being susceptible to the creation of vacuums within the bag.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] The preferred embodiments of this invention, illustrating its features, will now be discussed in detail. The drawings depict a preferred beverage container for illustrative purposes only. These drawings include the following figures, with like numerals indicating like parts:

[0016] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view of the beverage container of the present invention.

[0017] **FIG. 2** is a top plan view of a blank from which the outer shell of the present invention is manufactured.

[0018] **FIGS. 3***a-d* are perspective views illustrating the formation of the bottom of the beverage container of the present invention.

[0019] **FIGS. 4***a-f* are perspective views illustrating the formation of the top of the beverage container of the present invention.

[0020] **FIGS. 5***a-b* are cross-sectional front views illustrating the filling of the rigid inner container of the beverage container of the present invention.

[0021] **FIG. 5***c* is a cross-sectional side view illustrating the container of the present invention rotated 90degrees with respect to the **FIGS. 5***a-b*.

[0022] **FIG. 6** is a perspective view of several beverage containers of the present invention stacked in collapsed form.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0023] **FIG. 1** illustrates a perspective view of a preferred beverage container **10** in its assembled form. Referring to **FIGS. 1-6**, the container **10** includes an outer container or shell **3**, an inner container **5**, a mouth **7** and a spout **9**. The inner container **5** is positioned within the outer shell **3** and communicates with the exterior of the container **10** by means of the mouth **7** and spout **9**. The inner container **5** is a rigid container, such as, for example, a plastic or foam container formed by injection molding. The container **10** has a front **13**, a back **15**, a left side **17**, a right side **19**, a top **21** and a bottom **23**. In addition, the container advantageously defines a handle **25**.

[0024] As seen in **FIG. 2**, the outer shell **3** is advantageously configured to be constructed from a single one-piece cardboard blank. The shell has a front wall panel **16**, a back wall panel **18**, a right side wall panel **20**, a left side wall panel **22** and a side attachment tab **66**. The front wall panel **16** defines a circular opening **48** and tapered slits **49**. The front wall panel **16** is hingedly attached along a right front fold line **68** to right side wall panel **20**. Opposite the right front fold line **68**, the right side panel **20** is hingedly attached to the back wall panel **18** along a right back right back fold line **70**. The right wall panel further defines a lower slot **57**. Opposite the right back fold line **70**, the back wall panel **18** is hingedly attached to the left wall panel **22** along a left back fold line **72**. Opposite the left back fold line **72**, the attachment tab is attached to the left wall panel **22** along a left front fold line **90**.

[0025] The blank further incorporates a series of top flaps and a series of bottom flaps. The top flaps include a top front flap **40**, a top right handle flap **28**, a top back flap **42** and a top left handle flap **30**. The bottom flaps include a front bottom flap **54**, right bottom flap **56**, a back bottom flap **52** and a left bottom flap **50**. The front wall panel **16** is hingedly secured along a top front fold line **74** to the top front flap **40**, and also hingedly secured along a double bottom front fold line **82** to a bottom front flap **54**. The double fold line facilitates the folding of the blank against itself along the double fold line, as is well-known in the art. The opening **48** is defined within the front wall panel **16** in close proximity to the top front fold line **74**. The top front flap **40** defines an open-ended slot **44** extending to a distal edge of top front flap **40**. The front wall panel **16** and bottom front flap **54** cooperate to define a front air aperture **61** along the bottom front fold line **82**.

[0026] The right side panel **20** is hingedly coupled along a top right fold line **76** to top right handle flap **28** and is also hingedly secured along a double bottom right fold line **84** to a bottom right flap **56**. The top right handle flap **28** includes a right handle portion **36** and a right tab portion **32**. The bottom right flap **56** defines a small, generally semi-circular slit **63** which forms a finger flap **63**. The bottom right flap **56** also defines a tab **60** extending from a distal edge of the bottom right flap **56**.

[0027] The back side wall panel **18** is hingedly secured along a top back fold line **78** to the top back flap **42** and also hingedly secured along a double bottom back fold line **86** to the bottom back flap **52**. The back wall panel **18** and bottom back flap **55** cooperate to define a back air aperture **73** along the bottom back fold line **86**. The top back flap **42** includes a closed slot **46** and a generally U-shaped distal locking portion **43**. The left side wall panel is hingedly secured along a top left fold line **80** to the top left handle flap **30** and hingedly secured along a double bottom left fold line **88** to the bottom left flap **50**.

[0028] The top left handle flap **30** includes a double left handle portion **38** and a pair of left tab portions **34** which are formed by cutouts to define an opening underneath the left handle portion **38**. Each of the bottom flaps **50**, **52**, **54** and **56** further defines a spacer fold line **64** approximately one-half inch from its respective wall panel **22**, **18**, **16** and

20. Directly above the fold line **64** on the bottom left flap **50** is a slot **58** sized for receiving the tab **60** of bottom right flap **56** when the container **11** is assembled. The fold line **64** along bottom left flap **50** further defines a left spacer strip **65** of the bottom left flap **50** that is defined by the parallel fold lines **64** and **82**. The bottom left flap **50** defines a small, generally semi-circular slit **75** which forms a finger flap **77**. The bottom left flap **50** also defines a tab **79** extending from a distal edge of the bottom right flap **50**.

[**0029**] The mouth **7** of rigid container **5** has an annular outer rim **94** having external threads **96**. Mouth **7** is desirably provided with a raised annular ring spaced slightly from the outer rim **94** which forms an annular groove. Mouth **7** further defines a generally cylindrical internal channel **100**. The mouth **7** is advantageously sized and shaped for the external threads **96** and raised annular ring to be slightly larger than the opening **48** in the front wall panel **16** of the outer shell **3**. The slits **49** in the front wall panel **16** facilitate their insertion through the opening **48**. Thus positioned, the mouth is secured within the outer shell **3** by the outer rim **94**.

[**0030**] Referring to **FIGS. 4 and 5**, the spout **9** of the container will now be described. The spout is desirably conical in shape and is internally threaded to mate with the mouth **7**. For convenience, the mouth may include a tear-off portion for sealing the container, until the destination is reached.

[**0031**] The tab **66** of the left side wall panel **22** is fastened to the front side wall panel **16** along an edge **17** of the front side wall **16** opposite of the right front fold line **68**. The fastening may be accomplished by double sided adhesive, glue or other fastening means known to those of skill in the art. Upon fastening, the outer shell **3** may then be laid and stored flattened with two adjacent side wall panels, panels **16** and **20** for example, facing upwards, and the other two side wall panels, panels **18** and **22**, facing downwards. The outer shell is thus ready for quick assembly and may be stored efficiently in stacks as illustrated in **FIG. 6**. Advantageously, the spout **9** is threaded onto the mouth after the container has been filled.

[**0032**] The assembly of the container **10** will now be described. **FIGS. 3***a-d* illustrates the assembly of the bottom of the outer shell **3**. **FIG. 3***a* shows the container **10** turned over so that the bottom flaps **50**, **52**, **54**, and **56** are facing upwards and the side wall panels **16**, **18**, **20**, and **22**, folded to form a substantially rectangular opening **55**. In this position, the front side wall panel **16** is folded along left front fold line **90** so that the front side wall panel is perpendicular to the left side wall panel **22**. The front wall panel **16** is also oriented perpendicularly with respect to right side wall panel **20** along right front fold line **68**, so that left side wall panel **22** and right side wall panel **20** are parallel to each other. The back wall panel **18** is folded along the left back fold line **72** to be perpendicular to the left side wall panel **22**, and is also folded along the right back fold line **70** to be perpendicular to the right side wall panel **20**. The back wall panel **18** is thus parallel to the front wall panel **16**.

[**0033**] **FIG. 3***a* indicates that the bottom left flap **50**, which is secured to the left side wall panel along bottom left fold line **88**, is the first flap that is folded over and is folded along the bottom front fold line **88** into the opening **55**. When the bottom left flap **50** is turned over, the left spacer strip **65** is folded down against the interior of left side wall panel **22**, the tab **79** extends through slot **57** in the right side panel **20** and the distal edge of the bottom left flap **50** contacts the interior of right side wall panel **20** as shown in **FIG. 3***b*. The bottom left flap **50**, with the exception of the spacer strip **65** is thus oriented perpendicularly to the wall panels **16**, **18**, **20**, and **22**, and is recessed below the bottom left fold line **88**.

[**0034**] **FIGS. 3***b* and **3***c* indicate that the bottom back flap **52** and bottom front flap **54**, which are secured to the back wall panel **18** and the front wall panel **16**, respectively, are then folded over on top of the bottom left flap **50** about their respective bottom fold lines **86** and **82**. As with the bottom left flap **50**, the back spacer strip **67** of the bottom back flap **52** and the front spacer strip **69** of the bottom front flap **54** are folded down along the fold line **64** against the interior of the back wall panel **18** and the interior of the front wall panel **16**, respectively. When the bottom flaps **52** and **54** are folded over onto bottom left flap **50**, the edge **51** of the bottom back flap **52** meets with the edge **53** of the bottom front flap **54** to create a second layer of cardboard on top of the first layer, the bottom left flap **50**.

[**0035**] **FIGS. 3***c* and **3***d* illustrate that the bottom right flap **56** is the last bottom flap to be folded over to create the bottom of the outer shell **3**. When the bottom right flap **56** is folded over, the right spacer strip **71** of the bottom right flap **56** is folded down along the fold line **64** against the interior of the right side wall **20**. The bottom flap **60** is then folded over onto the bottom flaps **52** and **54**, thereby creating a third recessed cardboard layer. The tab **60** of the bottom right flap **56** is inserted onto the slot **58** of the bottom left flap **50** to secure the bottom flaps **50**, **52**, **54**, and **56** in place. Thus assembled, the front air aperture **61** and the back air aperture **73** form air vents to permit the circulation of air under the bottom right flap **56**. To remove the bottom flaps from the secured position shown in **FIG. 3***d*, a user may pull the bottom flap out of its secured position by using the finger flap **63** of the bottom flap **60** or the opening formed by pushing the finger flap **63** inward.

[**0036**] **FIGS. 4***a-f* illustrate the formation of the top and handle **25** of the outer shell **3** of the present invention. **FIGS. 4***a* and **4***b* indicate that the top right handle flap **28**, which is secured to right side wall panel **20** along top right fold line **76**, is folded over into opening **41** in the top so that the top right handle flap **28** is in alignment with the top right fold line **76**. **FIG. 4***b* illustrates that right handle portion **36** is then folded upward from the top right handle flap **28** so that the right handle portion **36** is perpendicular to the top right handle flap **28**.

[**0037**] **FIG. 4***c* shows that the top left handle flap **30** is then folded down and the left handle portion **38**, which is also folded upright like the right handle portion **36**, cooperates with right handle portion **36**. The tab **34**, which is cutout from underneath the left handle portion **38** is placed through the opening underneath the right handle portion **36** and over the right tab **32**. As shown in **FIG. 4***d*, the left handle portion **38** is then folded over the right handle portion **36** and the distal tab **34** of the left handle portion **38** is slid under the proximal tab **34** of the left handle portion to form the handle **26** of the outer shell **3**.

[**0038**] **FIG. 4***e* shows top front flap **40** folded over along top front fold line **74** onto the top right handle flap **28** and

the top left handle flap **30**. The handle **26** is inserted through the open-ended slot **44**, thereby allowing the top front flap **40** to rest flat against the right and left handle flaps **28** and **30**. As shown in **FIG. 4***f*, the top back flap **42** is folded over along top back fold line **78** onto the top front flap **40** and the top right and left handle flaps **28** and **30**. The handle **26** is inserted through the slot **44** of the top back flap **42**, allowing the top back flap **42** to rest flat against the top front flap **40** and the top right and left handle flaps **28** and **30**. The distal locking portion **43** of the top back flap **42** is inserted into the groove formed by the body **92** of the mouth so that the locking portion prevents the mouth from being pulled back into the outer shell **3** by the weight of the liquid when filled. The top front flap **40** and the top back flap **42** lock the handle flaps **28** and **30** in place. Thus assembled, the handle **25** defines a first end proximate the front wall panel **16** and a second end spaced further from the front wall panel than the first end, and the handle defines an opening between first end and the second end sized and shaped to receive the fingers of a hand.

[**0039**] Desirably, the front **13** of the outer shell **3** has a vertical height of roughly 8½ inches and a width of roughly 6⅛ inches. The bottom **23** has a width of roughly 6⅛ inches and a length of roughly 8½ inches. The back **15** of the outer shell has a height of roughly 6 inches and a width of roughly 6¼ inches.

[**0040**] **FIGS. 5***a* and **5***b* illustrate the filling of the container **10** of the present invention. **FIG. 5***a* is a schematic view illustrating the empty inner container **5** located within the outer shell **3** and the container in the "fill" position namely, held in the right hand of the user with the container **10** resting on its back side wall panel **18** with the front side wall panel **16** facing upwards. The left hand of the user actuates the spigot from the pot. **FIG. 5***b* illustrates coffee being poured into the rigid container **5** through the mouth **7** from a spigot spaced over the mouth **7**. Advantageously, the container has a capacity of at least 48 ounces of fluid, desirably, between 70 and 200 ounces of fluid and, most desirably, roughly 96 ounces of fluid.

[**0041**] Since the mouth **7** desirably defines a flow channel having a diameter of at least ¾ inches, desirably at least one inch and most desirably 1¼ inches, the user is able to visually determine when the level of fluid in the inner container **5** is proximate the bottom of the mouth **7** and moves the spigot to cut off the flow of fluid into the container **10**. The inner container **5** is desirably sized such that when the level of fluid in the container is proximate the bottom of the mouth **7** when the container is positioned with its back wall panel **18** faced downward and in a horizontal orientation, when the container **10** is rotated to rest on its bottom **23** with the handle **26** facing up, the level of fluid in inner container **5** is below any opening formed by the spout **9** and, desirably, below the internal flow channel **100** of the mouth **7**. This reduces the risk of spilling during transport and the risk of injury to the user from spillage of hot coffee when the spout is opened. The volume of fluid in the container when the container is in its fill position and the level of fluid in the container is proximate the bottom of the mouth **7**, is referred to as the "normal fill volume."

[**0042**] An important aspect of the invention is that the flaps **40** and **42** provide the advantage of minimizing the load on the handle **26** by transferring a portion of the load from the weight of the container **10** and the contents from the handle **26** across the flaps **40** and **42**. With the handle **25** secured in place, the container **10** may be easily transported and carried like a briefcase. The carrier thus avoids having to hold the outer shell **3** by the wall panels, which may be hot from the coffee or other liquid inside.

[**0043**] Yet another important advantage of the invention is that when the container is filled to its normal fill volume and positioned with its bottom facing downward and in a horizontal orientation, the center of gravity CG of the filled container is located at least one-half inch below the vertical center of the container VC (i.e., half-way between the top and bottom of the outer shell) and, preferrably, at least one inches below the center of gravity of the container. This is important to reduce the risk that the container will tip over during transport. In addition, the cross-sectional area of the bottom of the outer shell **3** is desirably as large as any horizontal cross-section of the container to further reduce the risk that the container will tip over when transporting or manipulating the container.

[**0044**] Advantageously, the top of the outer shell **3** ramps upward from the back side wall panel **18** to the front side wall panel **16**, which has the opening **48** for a spout. This preferred design facilitates dispensing fluids from the container when a user grips the handle **26** and rotates the container **10** forward to pour the fluid within the container out of the spout **9**. Specifically, the amount the user needs to pivot their hand relative the arm to pour is reduced, because the fluid in the container is already tipped toward the spout when the handle is horizontal from the rest position (with the bottom supported on a horizontal surface).

[**0045**] Importantly by having the bottom of the outer shell **3** configured as shown in **FIG. 3***d* with a recessed bottom, only the thin edges formed by the bottom fold lines **82**, **84**, **86** and **88** contact a support surface when the outer shell **3** is set on in its bottom **23**. Because the bottom flaps **50**, **52**, **54**, and **56**, are recessed from the bottom **23** of the container, heat is not transferred directly from the bottom flaps to the support surface. The transfer of heat is further reduced by the air vents formed at the front and back of the container. Furthermore, the present invention provides multiple layers of cardboard in bottom flaps **50**, **52**, **54**, and **56**, thereby providing extra insulation from the heat. All of this is possible in a low cost container **10** particularly adapted to be constructed of such low cost materials that it can be disposable.

[**0046**] Finally, the container **10** is also particularly adapted to be used to heat or cool liquids by placing a source of heat or a cold pack or ice in the outer shell **3** before closing either the top flaps or the bottom flaps of the outer shell. Alternatively, it is possible to insert ice through the mouth **7** into container **5**, to chill fluid therein.

[**0047**] Those of skill in the art will recognize that there are numerous variations and modifications of this invention which are encompassed by its scope. Accordingly, the foregoing description should be considered illustrative of the invention and not deemed to limit its scope.

What is claimed is:

1. A container for liquids, comprising:

an outer shell having a top, a bottom and sidewalls, the outer shell having an opening in one of said sidewalls;

a rigid inner container within said outer shell defining an aperture;

a mouth secured to said inner container surrounding said aperture and defining a fluid passageway, said mouth sized and shaped such that fluid can be poured through said mouth from a source having an outlet spaced above said mouth; and

a handle extending outward from said top of said outer shell, said handle having sufficient strength to provide essentially all support for said container when said inner container is filled with liquid in a first position wherein said opening is facing upwards and in a second position wherein said opening is facing sidewards, one of said sidewalls facing downward in said first position and the bottom facing downward in said second position.

2. The container of claim 1, wherein said handle defines a first end and a second end spaced further from said one of said sidewalls than said first end, said handle defining an opening between said first end and said second end sized and shaped to receive the fingers of a hand.

3. The container of claim 1, wherein said mouth and said opening sized and shaped such that when said opening is facing upwards the human eye can detect when a level of fluid in the container is approaching the mouth.

4. The container of claim 3, wherein said mouth defines an aperture having a span of at least one inch.

5. The container of claim 4, further comprising a spout removably coupled to said mouth, said spout in fluid communication with the inside of said inner container for pouring fluid from said container.

6. The container of claim 1, wherein said inner container and said outer shell are sized and shaped such that when said inner container is substantially full of liquid, the center of gravity of said container is located at least one-half inch below said center of said container.

7. The container of claim 1, wherein said inner container and said outer shell are sized and shaped such that when said inner container is substantially full of liquid, the center of gravity of said container is located at least one inch below said center of said container.

8. The container of claim 1, wherein said handle defines an integral portion of said outer shell.

9. A liquid container comprising:

an outer shell having a top and a bottom and a plurality of sidewalls extending between said top and said bottom, said outer shell having an opening in one of said sidewalls;

a rigid inner container within said outer shell;

a mouth secured to said inner container surrounding said opening and defining a fluid passageway; and

a handle extending from said top of said outer shell, said top sloped relative to said bottom.

10. The container of claim 9, wherein said handle defines a first end and a second end spaced further from said one of said sidewalls than said first end, said handle defining an opening between said first end and said second end sized and shaped to receive the fingers of a hand.

11. The container of claim 9, wherein said inner container and said outer shell are sized and shaped such that when said inner container is substantially full of liquid, the center of gravity of said container is located at least one-half inch below said center of said container.

12. The container of claim 9, wherein said inner container and said outer shell are sized and shaped such that when said inner container is substantially full of liquid, the center of gravity of said container located at least one-half inch below said center of said container.

13. A liquid container comprising:

an outer shell having a top and a bottom opposite said top, said outer shell having an opening on a side of said container;

an inner container within said outer shell;

a mouth secured to said inner container surrounding said opening and defining a fluid passageway, said mouth sized and shaped such that fluid can be poured through said mouth from a source having an outlet spaced above said mouth;

a spout removably coupled to said mouth, said spout in fluid communication with the inside of said inner container for pouring fluid from said container; and

a handle extending from said top of said outer shell, said top sloped relative to said bottom, said inner container sized and shaped such that when said inner container is filled with a fluid to a first level proximate said mouth when said mouth is facing upwards and said container is rotated to rest on said bottom, said fluid assumes a second level below said spout.

14. A liquid container comprising:

an outer shell having a top and a bottom, said outer shell having an aperture on a side of said container;

an inner container within said outer shell;

a mouth secured to said inner container surrounding said aperture and defining a fluid passageway, said mouth sized and shaped such that fluid can be poured through said mouth from a source having an outlet spaced above said mouth;

a spout removably coupled to said mouth, said spout in fluid communication with the inside of said inner container for pouring fluid from said container; and

a handle integrally extending from said top of said outer shell, said inner container sized and shaped such that when said inner container is filled with a fluid to a first level proximate said mouth when said mouth is facing upwards and said container is rotated to rest on said bottom, said fluid assumes a second level below said spout.

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