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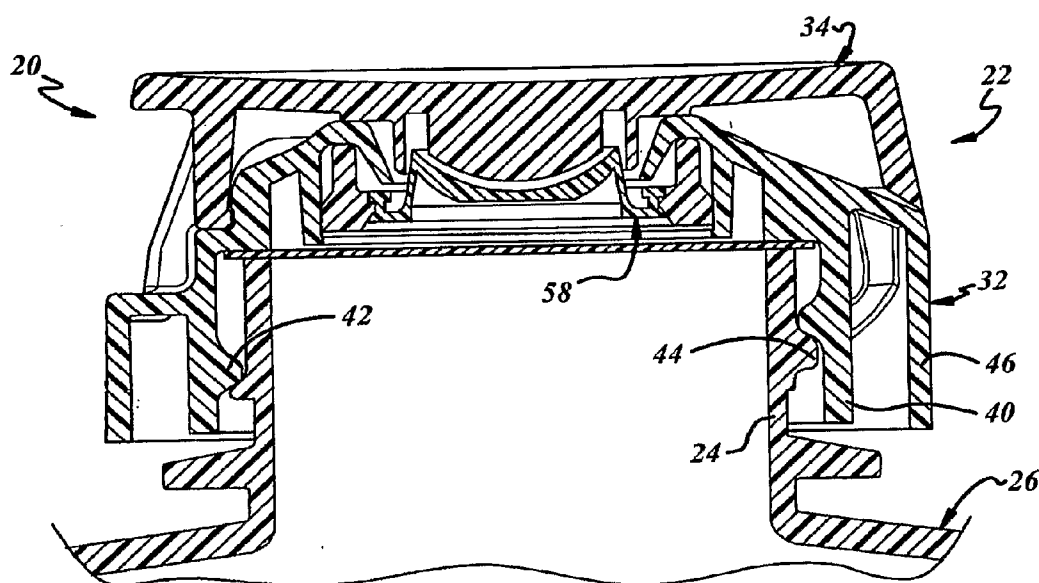
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DISPENSING CLOSURE, PACKAGE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE



(57) Abstract: A closure includes a shell (28 or 92) of relatively rigid plastic material having a deck (38) and a peripheral skirt (46), at least one recessed shoulder (60 or 62) in the deck adjacent to the skirt, and a plurality of angularly spaced external channels (64) extending along the skirt from the recess. An external feature (74 or 76 and 80 or 94) of flexible resilient second plastic material different from the first plastic material is integrally molded onto the shell within the recessed shoulder and the channels. By way of example only, the shell may be of polypropylene material and the external feature may be of thermoplastic elastomer material. Lock elements, such as openings (66) in the deck recessed shoulder and/or pegs (68) in the skirt channels, cooperate with the external feature molded onto the shell to retain the external feature on the shell.

WO 2007/145831 A3



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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))* — *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

Published:

- *with international search report*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B65D47/08 B65D47/20 B65D21/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

B29C B65D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/113032 A1 (BLOMDAHL CORI M [US] ET AL BLOMDAHL CORI M [US] ET AL) 22 August 2002 (2002-08-22)	1,6,13, 23,24
Y	paragraphs [0037], [0038], [0050] - [0052]; figures 1,7,8	2-5, 7-12, 14-20
Y	US 2005/145593 A1 (SIMONE JAIMEE T [US] ET AL) 7 July 2005 (2005-07-07) paragraph [0034]; figure 2	2,3, 7-12, 14-18
Y	EP 0 026 405 A (HC IND [US]) 8 April 1981 (1981-04-08) page 5, line 34 - page 6, line 30; figures 1-5 ----- -/--	4,5,9, 10,15,16

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

1 April 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report

16/04/2008

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 03/055756 A (A C I OPERATIONS [AU]; GROB ROLF [AU]; SMITH RICHARD [AU]; CLARK ROGER) 10 July 2003 (2003-07-10)	21,22
Y	page 7, line 15 - line 22; figure 1 -----	19,20
X	EP 1 645 519 A (RUBBERMAID INC [US]) 12 April 2006 (2006-04-12)	1,6,13, 23
A	paragraphs [0018], [0044], [0045]; figures 1,4 -----	4,5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2007/012773

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1,4-6,13,23,24

Closure having means for retaining two parts of the closure together.

2. claims: 21,22

Container for storing products.

3. claims: 2,3,7-12,14-20

Closure with means for facilitating the stacking of the containers having the closure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2007/012773

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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