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(54) **VIAL WITH HOOK**

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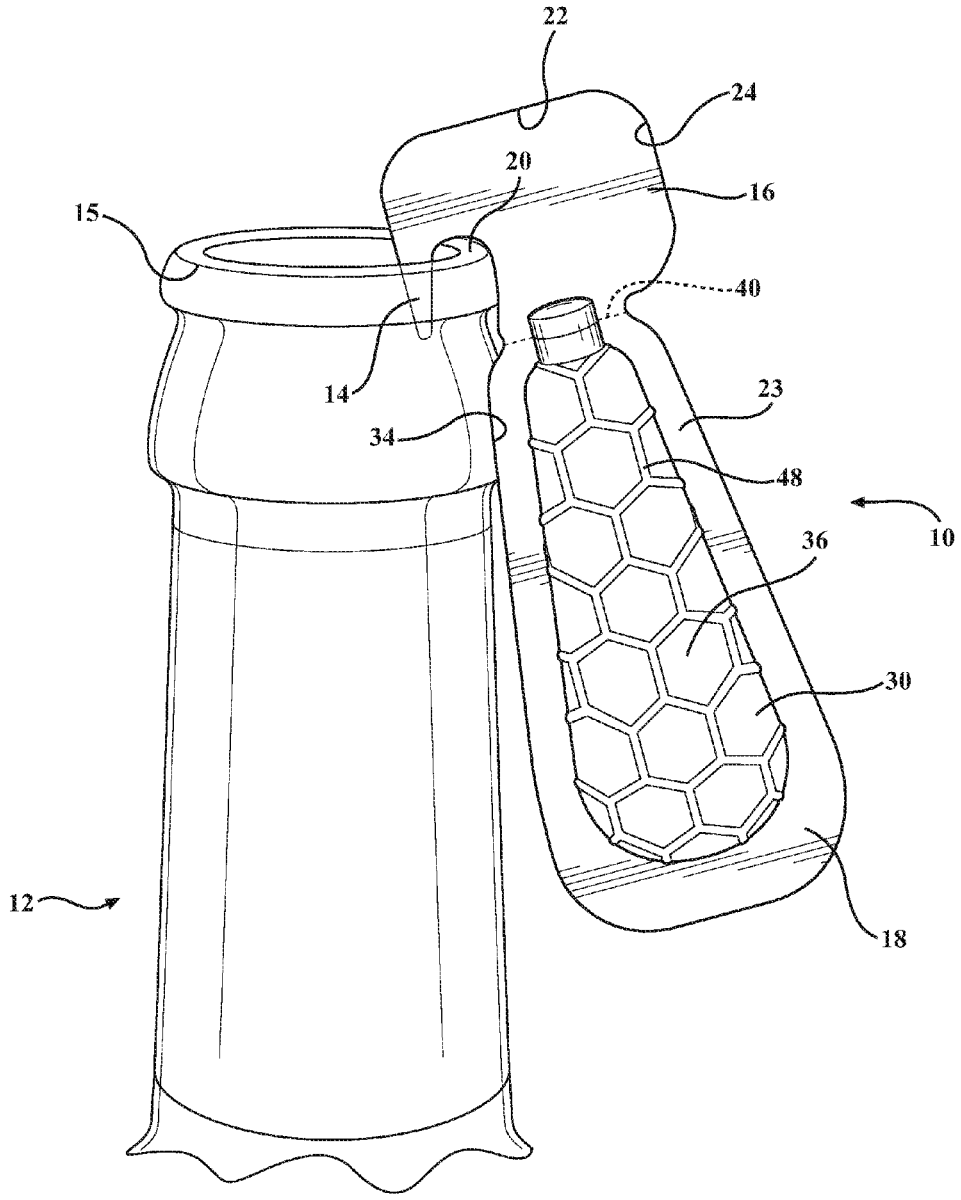
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A vial formed two pouches of thermoformed material has a planar top portion and a lower portion with a bulbous portion. The top portion has a notch forming a hook adapted to receive the top of a bottle to hold the vial on the bottle. The bulbous portion defines a cavity for holding contents to be added to the bottle. A line of weakening extends across the vial for opening.



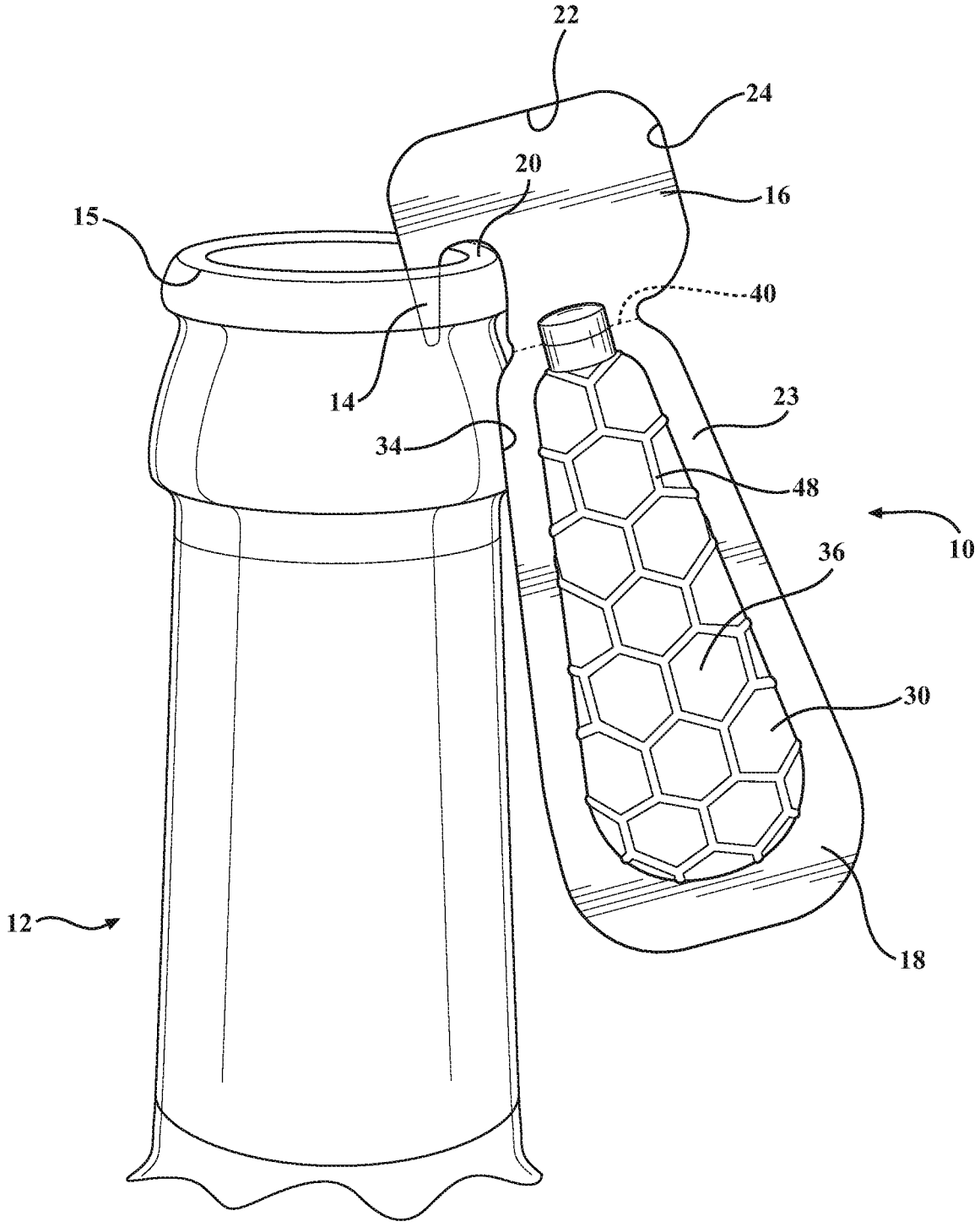


FIG. 1

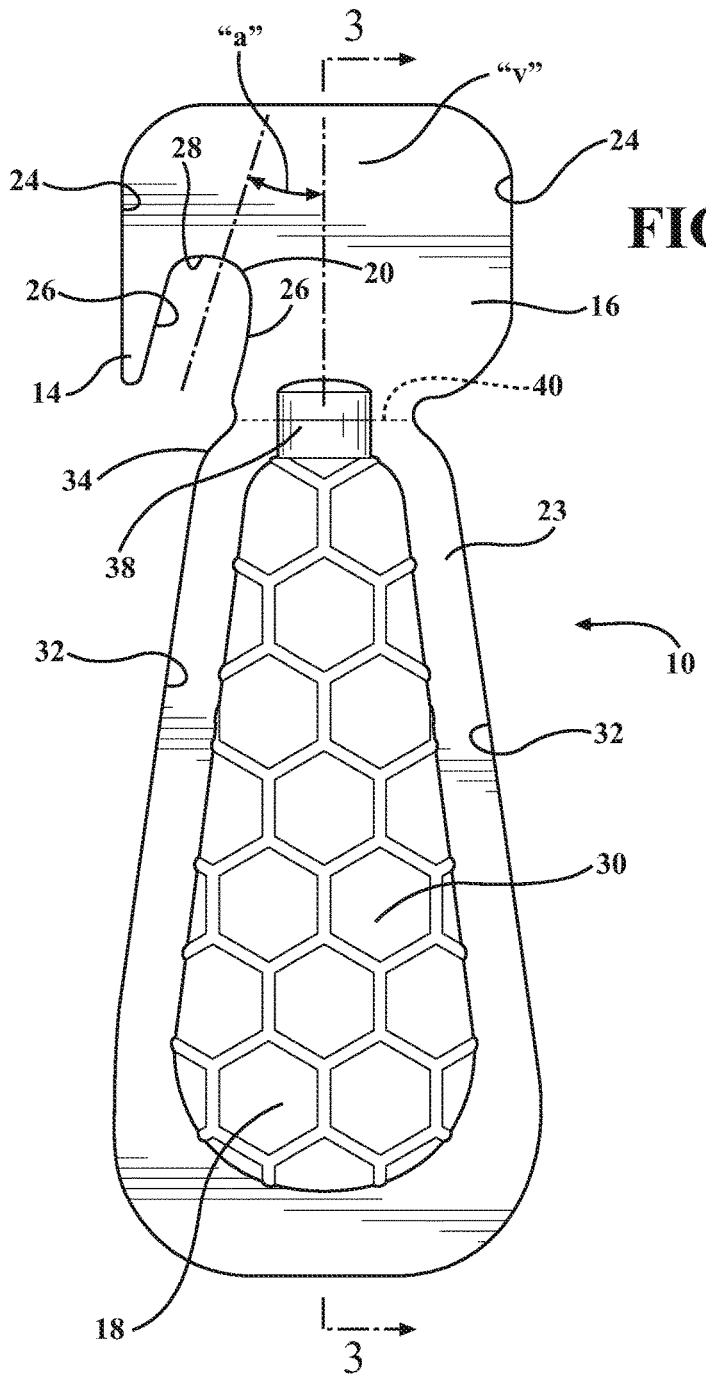

"a"
3
"v"
24
28
24
26
20
26
16
14
40
34
38
23
10
32
32
30
18
3

FIG. 2

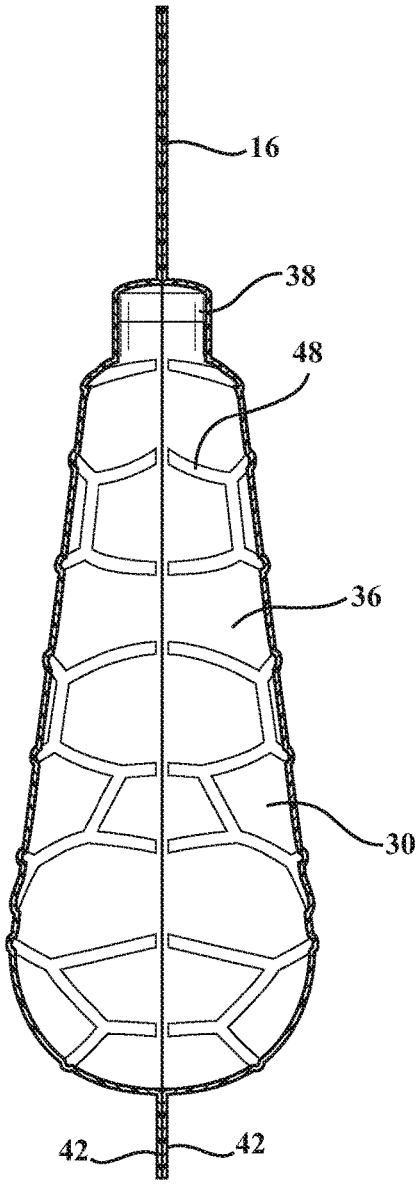

16
38
48
36
30
42
42

FIG. 3

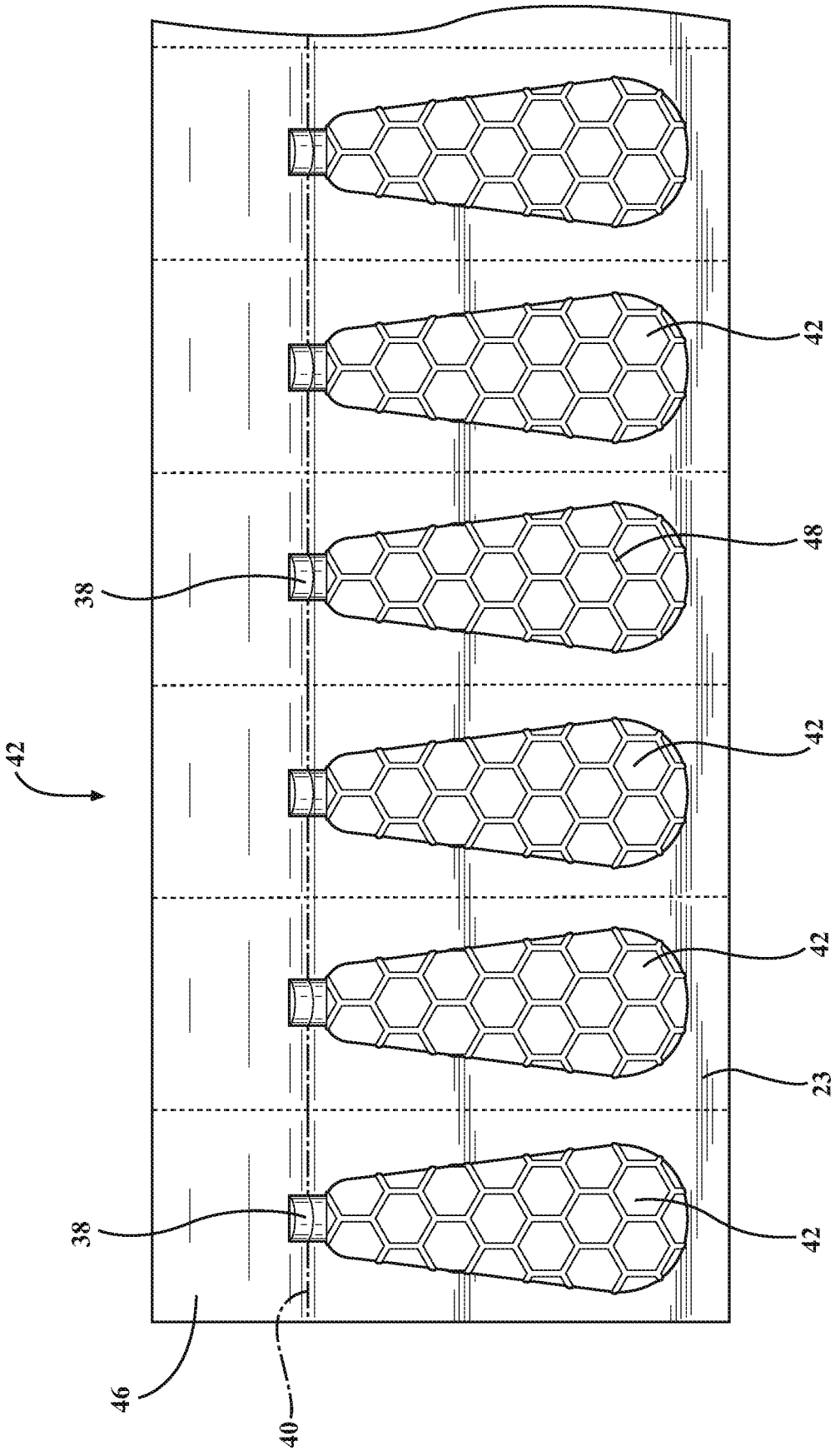


FIG. 4

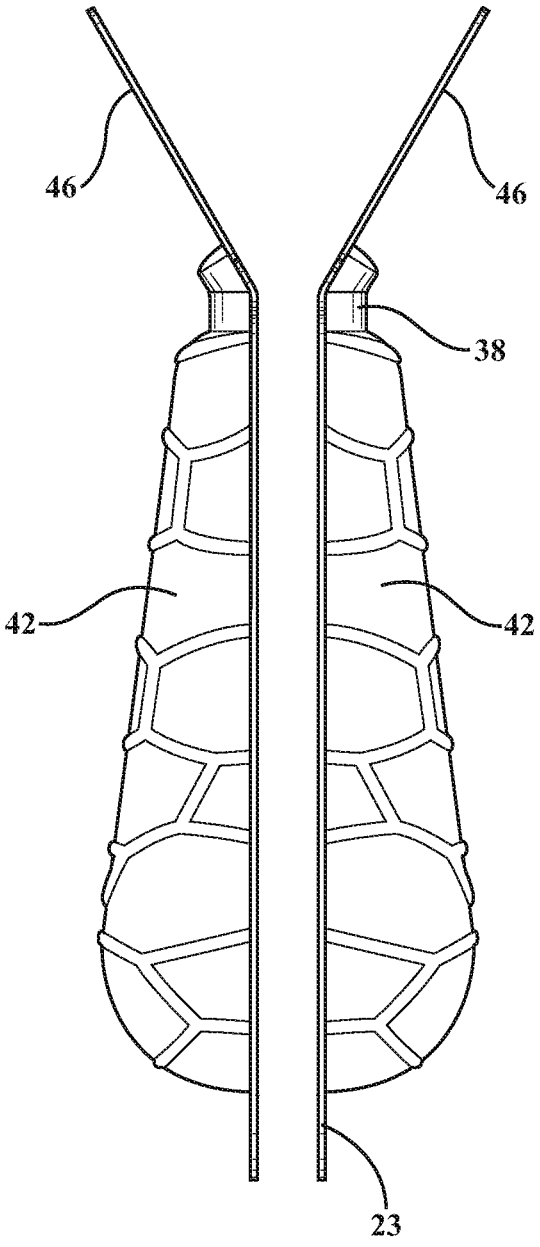


FIG. 5

VIAL WITH HOOK

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The instant application is a U.S. utility application which claims the benefit of 62/870,260 filed Jul. 3, 2019, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] A vial for hanging on a bottle top and more particularly a vial for holding product for adding to a beverage.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Many consumers wish to add products such as dietary supplements, vitamins to their beverages. These products may be vitamins, dietary supplements and CBD oil, etc. Many of these products are best when added to beverage liquid just prior to drinking. Some of these products lose their strength if added to the beverage before drinking. Additionally, it is desirable to provide a component in an amount which is proper to be mixed with volume of the liquid. Thus, it would be advantageous to have a container which could be used in a bar or restaurant to deliver the product to the consumer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] A vial for hanging on a top of a bottle includes a body with an upper portion with a hook and a lower portion having a bulbous portion defining a cavity for holding a product. The hook is formed by a notch extending upwardly from a bottom of the top portion. The lower portion has a peripheral edge which extends parallel with the axis of the notch to position the vial on a neck portion of the bottle. The body is formed of two thermoformed panels.

[0005] described herein, including the detailed description which follows, the claims, as well as the appended drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a vial for use of a bottle top in accordance with the invention;

[0007] FIG. **2** is a frontal view of the vial in accordance with the invention;

[0008] FIG. **3** is a sectional view taken along lines **3-3** of FIG. **2**;

[0009] FIG. **4** is a view of a panel before assembly; and

[0010] FIG. **5** is a exploded side view of two panels.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

[0011] As shown in FIGS. **1-3**, a vial **10** for a product to be added to beverages contained in bottle **12** has a hook **14** for hanging on a top **15** of the bottle **12**. The product is, typically, an additive, such as vitamins, CBD oil, of which are to be added to the beverage. The product may be liquid or granular. The vial **10** has a top portion **16** and a lower portion **18** for holding a product. The top portion **16** has an upper edge **22** extending between a pair of side edges **24**. The hook **12** is formed by one of a pair of side edges **26** forming a notch **20** which extends upwardly from a bottom **27** of the top portion **16** of the vial **14** and one of the side edges **26**.

[0012] The pair of sides **26** extend inwardly to a curved portion **28** to define an inverted U-shape. The sides **26** are generally parallel and the axis "a" extends at an angle of approximately 7-11® with respect to a vertical axis "v" of the vial to position the vial on the bottle **12**. The notch **20** has a width and depth which is formed to accommodate the dimensions of the bottle top **15** of a typical glass container, such as a beer bottle. In the preferred embodiment, the sides **26** are spaced apart approximately 5.3 mm to freely accept the top of the bottle.

[0013] As shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**, the lower portion **18** has a flat peripheral portion **22** which extends around bulbous portion **30**. The peripheral portion **23** has a pair of opposed side edges **32** which extend upwardly towards the top portion **16**. The side edge **32** beneath the hook **14** has an abutment portion **34** formed to rest on a portion of the neck of the bottle keep the vial in a generally vertical alignment.

[0014] The bulbous portion **30** defines a cavity **36** for holding the product. The top of the bulbous portion **30** has a cylindrical neck portion **38** at the top. A line of weakening **40** extends across the neck portion **38** to permit the top portion **16** to be separated from the lower portion **18** and provide access to the contents of the bulbous portion **30** through the neck portion **38**. The planar top portion **16** is grasped to bend the top portion **16** downwardly to open the vial **10**.

[0015] As shown in FIGS. **4** and **5**, the vials are formed from two rectangular panels **42** of a thermoformed laminate material. A suitable laminate is polyvinylchloride/ethylene vinyl/polyethylene "PVC/EVOH/PE. Each panel has a series of depressions **44** are heat molded both panels **42**. Alternatively, one panel may be flat. A top portion **46** of the panel **42** is angled downwardly. The depressions **44** are spaced apart and have the shape of the bulbous portion **30**. A decorative pattern **48** may be molded into the depression **42**.

[0016] As shown in FIG. **5**, the two panels **42** are overlayed are the bonded together along the peripheral portion **23** of the bottom portion by heat sealing. However, depending upon materials used, other method of sealing may include ultrasound welding or glue. After the peripheral portions of the panels around the bulbous portion are sealed together, the top portions **46** are angled apart to form a V shape extending down to an opening formed by the neck portion **38** to provide access to the cavity. The bonded pairs of panels are then fed into a filling machine which deposits the desired amount of the product into the cavity through the neck. The panels are then moved to a seal machine which then uses seal bars to push the top portions **46** of the panels together and then seal the top portions **46** together. The sealed panels are then moved to a die cutter. Individual vials are formed by dies which cuts the shape of the top, the hook and trim the outer peripheral edges to form a desired shape of the vial. The line of weakening is also cut. The line of weakening has a depth of one half of a thickness of one panel **42**.

[0017] Thus is disclosed a new vial for containing dry or liquid components which has a hook to hang the container on the top of a bottle so that the product may be served at the same time as the open bottle. The vial is easy to use and inexpensive.

We claim:

1. A vial for hanging on a top of a bottle comprising:

a pair of panels affixed together forming a body having a top portion and a bottom portion, the top portion having a side edge and a notch forming a hook, the bottom portion having a bulbous portion defining a cavity for holding contents and a parting line exiting across the bulbous portion opening of the cavity.

2. The vial of claim **1**, wherein the panels are thermoformed material.

3. The vial of claim **1**, wherein the top portion has a bottom and an upper edge wherein the notch extends towards the upper edge.

4. The vial of claim **1**, wherein the notch extends at an angle of 7 to 11 degrees with respect to a vertical axis of the vial.

5. The vial of claim **1**, wherein the notch is defined by a pair of spaced apart generally parallel edges.

6. The vial of claim **1**, wherein the bulbous portion has a spout portion and the parting line extends across the spout portion.

7. The vial of claim **1**, wherein the laminate is PVC/EVOH/PE.

8. The vial of claim **1**, wherein the top portion is generally planar.

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