

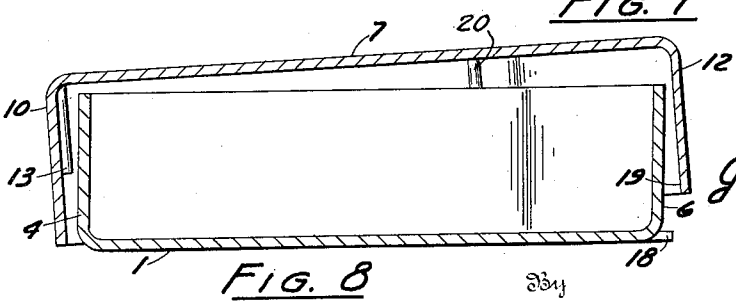
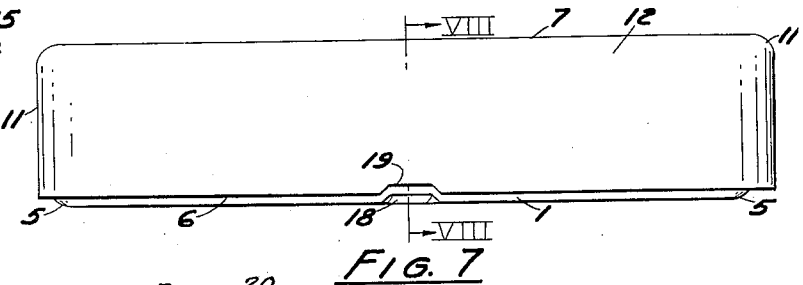
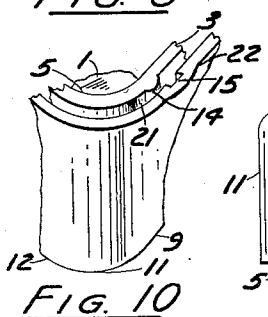
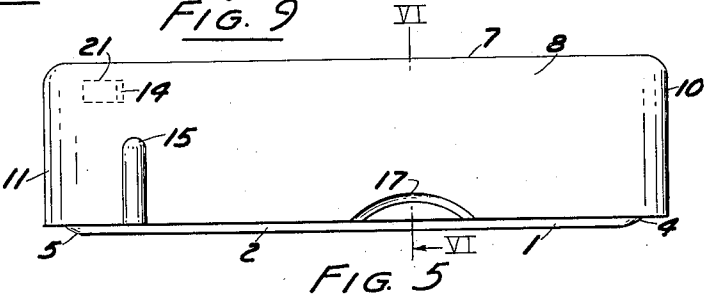
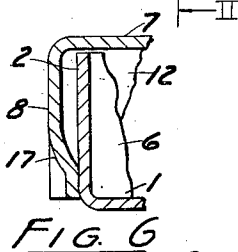
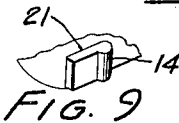
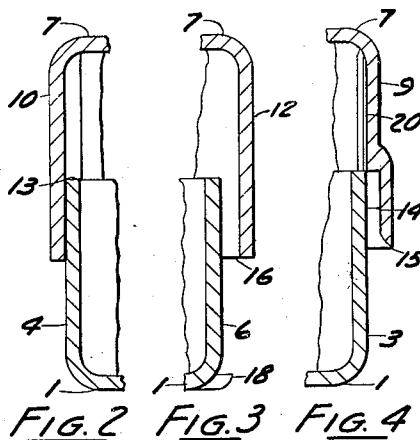
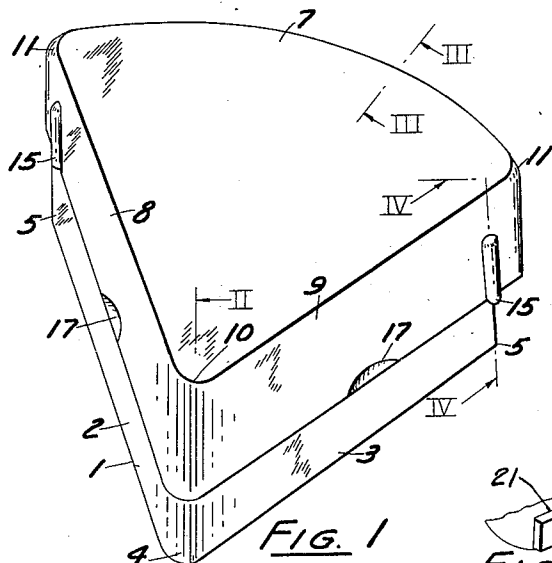
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TELESCOPIC CONTAINER

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TELESCOPIC CONTAINER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 206-4)

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This invention relates to containers, and more particularly to plural capacity telescopic special contour type.

This invention has utility when incorporated in sector shaped pairs of relatively telescopic sections to form a bottom and top. The sectional containers may be grouped with the points converging to form a circular assemblage for selective contents or knick-knacks. The individual sector shaped containers may have attractive appeal, especially when the container walls be decorative, as of colored plastic. A more important use is for compact lunch boxes. A piece of pie in such a sector container may be placed in the box and the pie, thru the rigid wall of the container, kept from crushing or its juice leakage into other victuals. Its multiple height permits ready adjustment for clearing the frosting or meringue or fluffy top of a thick piece of pie; while lunch box capacity is conserved in collapsing fully the emptied container for deposit in the lunch box to be used for a succeeding trip. A pie of usual filler and overall thickness may have its top not crushed when the upper section be fully telescoped with the lower section. The container appearance when of transparent plastic is sanitary and carries an appetizing appearance of its contents to the one to be fed.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the invention as a container for a piece of pie, the showing being in an adjusted or but partially collapsed assembly of the telescopic sections;

Fig. 2 is a section on the line II—II, Fig. 1, showing the collapse limit stop at the pie point or sector apex;

Fig. 3 is a section on the line III—III, Fig. 1, showing the clearance at the arched back;

Fig. 4 is a section on the line IV—IV, Fig. 1, showing the register and stop at the outer radial portions of the sectors which establish the back clearance and hold the axis or apex in register;

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of a radial side of the fully collapsed sector shaped container of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a section on the line VI—VI, Fig. 5, showing the frictional holding as coacting between the sections;

Fig. 7 is an elevation of the container looking at the arc shaped back or portion remote from the center or axis;

Fig. 8 is a section on the line VIII—VIII, Fig. 7,

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but showing the tilting of the top or cover section as a first step in removing the bottom section therefrom, say to remove contents or to charge the container; Fig. 9 is a detail view of an inner section lug; and Fig. 10 is a reverse nesting detail view.

The container herein disclosed comprises a minor or inner section having a triangular shaped flat bottom 1 with side walls rising therefrom in radial portions 2, 3, from a center or apex 4. Remote from the center 4, the radial side portions 2, 3, extend to rounded corners 5 between which is a side 6 completing the bounds about this open-top bottom section of sector form.

A somewhat larger dimension flat triangular top 7 has a pair of radially extending diverging sides 8, 9, from a center or apex 10. Remote from the center 10, the side portions 8, 9, end at rounded corners 11 between which is a side 12 completing the bounds about the open bottom of this top sector form section of the container.

The center 10 has an inward offset or ledge providing portion 13 (Fig. 2) adapted to rest on the top of the center 4. At this register relation between the portions 10, 13, 4, lugs 14 may slide into flare entrance grooves 15. A limit of telescopic relation is thus determined for the sides 2, 8, and 3, 9, with a clearance 16 (Fig. 3) between the sides 6, 12. At this partial telescopic assembly, the bottom 1 is parallel to the top 7. Medially along the lower portions of the radial sides 8, 9, inward bow portions 17 provide slight frictional yield sufficient to preclude the inner or bottom section dropping out when the assembled container be grasped at the top section.

In the fractional collapsed relation between the triangular or sector shaped reversely assembled container elements of interfitting cup form, there is sufficient minor element exposure for effective grasping to permit pulling of the major element clear thereof, notwithstanding the friction offsets 17.

At the additional or fully collapsed relation, the centers 4, 10 are spaced so that the ledge 13 may ride clear of the top of the center 4. This reduces the clearance 16 and brings the lug or tongue 14 out of register alignment as to the groove or seat 15. A lug or minor tongue projection 18 from the bottom 1 adjacent the arc side 6 is exposed by a notch 19 in the side 12, so that the user of the container may with a thumb or finger nail pull the minor section or element away from the major element (Fig.

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8) in thereby exposing more extended portions of the minor element for generous grasping in drawing the elements apart as resisted by the frictional holding means 17.

From the foregoing, it is to be understood that the degree of overlapping, or telescoping may be varied. To the extent such may be determined as partial, it may be in order to have one section with a major wall or flange, and the other considerably minor, but still having slip cover or telescopic interfitting coaction.

When the sections be of rigid, or substantially rigid material, there may be nicety in play-minimizing register or interfitting. This is especially important as the item may be of substance for extended or general re-use, instead of single service. For multiple use, plastic, say as transparent or translucent may enhance sight appeal. An appropriately coated metal may be acceptable. However, for widening the use, metal may answer for baking or cooking therein, whether or not there be dough jacket therefor, a paper or fiber may be adopted; while even, as going into single service, the form itself may be edible.

While the internal rib 13 on the outer section center or corner region 4 constitutes the stop or abutment at the apex for the fractional telescopic adjustment, there is stabilizing for the outer corners 11 by having internal ribs 20 aligning with and extending from the ends of the grooves 15. A definite three-point suspension or holding is thus established against the ribs 14 slipping out of the grooves 15 when the stop 13 is holding.

Furthermore, with the inner section corner 4 snugly nesting with the outer section corner 10, the clearance 16 does not act to have the arcs 6, 12, contribute to centralizing the relation between the partially nesting or telescoping sections. Therefore in order the more to facilitate register accuracy for the lug 14 with the groove 15, a wall-thickening approach 21 merging with the lug 14 provides an automatic directing means for centering the inner section with its corner 4 to ride into the corner 10 against the ledge 13, so to center the arc 6 with the arc 12 that the lugs 14 ride directly into the grooves 15.

Streamlining, of at least one side of each of the sections may be had under the disclosure herein. The inner section (Fig. 8) has no inner lugs or grooves, and the container section is thus symmetrical for receiving a piece of pie, or other article as of food. Streamlining of the outer section may also be adopted by having outer symmetrical thickening region 22 (Fig. 10) to conceal the external location for the groove 15 as on the inside. The interfitting for plurality of telescopic volume positions, has the control means therefor on the sides as riding against each other for the respective sections.

For closed container uses, the pair of sections of cup form are assembled with the flanges toward each other. Should occasion arise for us-

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ing but one of the containers and that for open top, the smaller or inner section may be so used, with its flat side 1 against the top or now bottom side 7 of the larger section. The bottom 1 is bounded by an endless side wall 2, 3, 6. Complementary thereto is the top 7 bounded by endless side wall 8, 9, 10. The bottom 1 and the top 7 are diaphragms for the respective cup elements of the container.

What is claimed and it is desired to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. The combination of a pair of plastic elements, each having a peripherally endless wall extending to a free edge in a plane, one of said elements being adapted to embrace the other in telescopic coaction between the planes defined by said free edges; one of said walls having, spaced from its plane-defining edge, ledge means integral with said wall and extending toward the other wall; said other wall having, spaced from its plane-defining edge, complementary seat means abutted by said ledge means at register therebetween to provide a first stop positively holding the elements from further telescoping, said elements having sufficient clearance between the telescoping wall portions to permit relative shifting to an out-of-register position between the ledge and seat means of said first stop, there being additional inter-element abutment means providing a second stop with one element further shifted into the other than at the first stop.

2. The combination of a pair of plastic elements, each having a peripherally endless wall terminating in a free-edge-defining plane, one of said elements being adapted to embrace telescopically the other, one of said walls having ledge means integral therewith and extending toward the other wall, said other wall having complementary seat means abutted by said ledge means at register therebetween to provide a first stop, there being a diaphragm for each element bounded by its wall and coacting at the first stop in determining a first volume for the elements combined in a container at one spaced relation between said planes, said elements having inter-wall clearance sufficient to shift the ledge and seat means out of register for the diaphragms to approach into a second lesser volume container, there being abutting means between the elements coacting at this second volume assembly.

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