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(54) Title: REMOVABLE HANDLE FOR A VESSEL

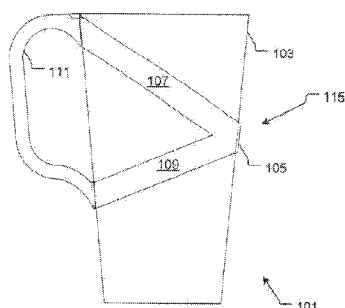


Fig. 1A

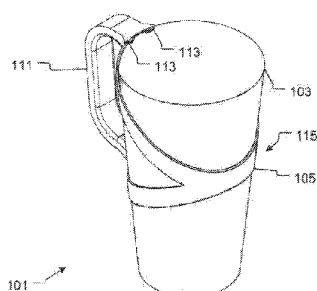


Fig. 1B

(57) Abstract: A handle for a vessel such as a pint glass, a disposable cup, and or a brandy sniffer, having a banded portion and a handle portion. The handle portion extends from the banded portion and rests upon a part of the vessel. Users deform the vessel or the holder to insert the vessel into the banded portion. The vessel may be slightly compressed by the banded portion while secured. The banded portion may utilize a clip in the band to receive a rim of a body of the vessel.

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REMOVABLE HANDLE FOR A VESSEL

Technical Field

The present invention relates generally to a system and a method for securing a vessel to a removable handle such as a pint glass, snifter, or disposable cup.

Description of the Prior Art

5 Pint glasses are utilized around the world for drinking. During use pint glasses become slick and susceptible to slipping. Additionally, the liquids contained in pint glasses are typically chilled and the user prefers that the liquid stays as cold as long as possible.

10 Cups such as those manufactured by SOLO® are typically utilized for consuming liquids and then discarded. Disposable cups are typically just a cup without a handle. The costs associated with manufacturing a handled drinking vessel are greater than the market will bear for disposable drinking vessels.

15 Stemmed vessels, such as snifters, are utilized for retaining liquids to be consumed by users. Typically users hold portions of the vessel while consuming the various liquids interior to the vessel. The vessel is designed in such a way to focus aroma to the user's nose while consuming the liquid. A thermal transfer occurs when users hold the vessel with their hands as the user's body warms the contents or cools the contents of the vessel. While there are many holders for cups well known in the art, considerable room for improvement remains.

20 Brief Description of the Drawings

The novel features believed characteristic of the application are set forth in the appended claims. However, the application itself, as well as a preferred mode of use, and further objectives and advantages thereof, will best be understood with reference to

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the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1A is a side view of a handle for a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

5 Figure 1B is a perspective view of a handle for a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 2 is a top view of a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

10 Figure 3A is a top view of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 3B is a side view of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 3C is a perspective view a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

15 Figure 4A is a top view of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 4B is a side view of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

20 Figure 4C is a perspective view a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

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Figure 5 is a perspective view of a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 6A is a top view of a handle for a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

5 Figure 6B is a side view of a handle for a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 6C is a perspective view a handle for a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

10 Figure 7A is a top view of a handle for a stemmed drinking vessel coupled to a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 7B is a side view of a handle for a stemmed drinking vessel coupled to a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 7C is a perspective view of a handle for a stemmed drinking vessel coupled to a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

15 Figure 8A is a top view of an alternative handle for a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 8B is a side view of an alternative handle for a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

20 Figure 8C is a perspective view an alternative handle for a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

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Figure 9A is a top view of an alternative handle for a stemmed drinking vessel coupled to a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 9B is a side view of an alternative handle for a stemmed drinking vessel coupled to a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

5 Figure 9C is a perspective view of an alternative handle for a stemmed drinking vessel coupled to a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 10A is a top view of an alternative handle for a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

10 Figure 10B is a side view of an alternative handle for a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 10C is a perspective view of an alternative handle for a drinking vessel coupled to a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

15 Figure 11A is a top view of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 11B is a side view of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 11C is a perspective view a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

20 Figure 12A is a top view of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

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Figure 12B is a side view of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 12C is a perspective view a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

5 Figure 13A is a top view of an alternative handle for a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application; and

Figure 13B is a perspective view of an alternative handle for a stemmed drinking vessel coupled to a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

10 Figure 14 is a perspective view of an alternative handle for a drinking vessel coupled to a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application;

Figure 15 is a perspective view of an alternative handle for a drinking vessel coupled to a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application; and

Figure 16 is a perspective view of an alternative handle for a drinking vessel coupled to a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application.

15 While the system of the present application is susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments thereof have been shown by way of example in the drawings and are herein described in detail. It should be understood, however, that the description herein of specific embodiments is not intended to limit the invention to the particular embodiment disclosed, but on the
20 contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the process of the present application as defined by the appended claims.

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Description of the Preferred Embodiment

The system of the present application will be understood, both as to its structure and operation, from the accompanying drawings, taken in conjunction with the accompanying description. Several embodiments of the system are presented herein. It should be understood that various components, parts, and features of the different embodiments may be combined together and/or interchanged with one another, all of which are within the scope of the present application, even though not all variations and particular embodiments may be specifically illustrated in each figure.

Illustrative embodiments of the apparatus for a removable handle for a drinking vessel are provided below. It will, of course, be appreciated that in the development of any actual embodiment, numerous implementation-specific decisions will be made to achieve the developer's specific goals, such as compliance with assembly-related and business-related constraints, which will vary from one implementation to another. Moreover, it will be appreciated that such a development effort might be complex and time-consuming, but would nevertheless be a routine undertaking for those of ordinary skill in the art having the benefit of this disclosure.

A holder slides on to a pint glass and adds a handle to the pint glass. The handle allows a user to hold the beverage with one finger (or multiple fingers) securely instead of gripping the entire glass. Many elderly and/or those users with disabilities are better able to drink from vessels having a handle because of the additional control provided by the handle.

A detachable handle apparatus or holder is used for fluid storing glasses such as pint glasses. The holder comprises a first circular ring; a second circular ring coupled to the first circular ring; a generally C-shaped handle member comprising an upper end coupled to the first circular ring and a lower end coupled to the second circular ring, wherein the first and second circular rings are disposed around a fluid storing glass.

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Referring now to Figures 1A-1B in the drawings, various view of a handled drinking vessel are illustrated according to the present application. System 101 is comprised of a vessel 103 and holder 105. Holder 105 is comprised of at least a first strap 107 and preferably a second strap 109. While preferably the straps are rigid, it is contemplated that they could be elastic. Holder 105 is further comprised of a handle 111 and at least one clip 113. Holder 105, handle 111, and straps 107 109 are preferably formed of a one-piece member and are integral with each other. First strap 107 and second strap 109 are coupled together at a first end 115. At a second end 117 the handle 111 couples the first strap 107 to the second strap 109 to form the holder 105. Clip 113 is protrusion of material configured to apply force to an upper lip of the vessel 103. Clip 113 precludes the vessel 103 from sliding out of the holder when inverted. The lip of the glass or vessel 103 can be secured to the handle and bands by the rigidly fixed clips 113. While preferably the clips 113 are integrally formed with the rest of the holder the clips may be swivel clips and or hinge clips.

The handle allows the holder 105 to securely retain a standardized pint glass/vessel. The vessel is inserted into the holder and the holder clips into and over the vessel. This secures the vessel or glass into place and allows for enhanced control of the vessel. The entire holder 105 can be made of an elastomer and perform the same functions as the solid structures described. If entirely made of elastomers, a rigid rod (may include curved features in the rod) may be needed to be located in the handle to ensure control of the vessel.

Typically the holder 105 is of one-piece construction with the handle being connected to a securing band(s) and clip(s) that holds the glass/vessel. Alternatively, the holder has hinges affixed at joints to provide collapse-ability and portability. There can be multiple bands or a single one and the handle can attach to one or both. The band/straps secure the glass/vessel but don't necessarily have to fully surround the circumference of the glass. The clip(s)/swivel clip(s)/hinge clip(s) attach to

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bands/handles/ or both. The holder is preferably a single piece structure of the flexible or semi-flexible material.

5 The decreasing radius of the standard pint glass from top to bottom, with respect to how the user holds the glass vessel, allows for structure complementing the decreasing radius, as to allow a secure hold of the glass/vessel. The invention, when in proper configuration(if hinges present or elastic band present), allows the user to insert and secure the pint glass/vessel within the invention. A structure such as a clip(s)/hinge(s)/swivel(s) ensures the pint glass/vessel is securely affixed to the invention. When properly emplaced, the user will have an enhanced experience and control of their beverage, and maintaining the beverage's temperature due to the distance between the hand and the glass due to the user gripping the handle and not the bare glass. The upper fixtures over the lip, such as the clips 113, allow for easy inversion of the glass/vessel. The invention reduces drops and spillages and allows users to use the glass/vessel along with handheld electronic devices. One component construction reduces complexity.

15 The holders 105 can be 3D printed, injection molded, or another thermoplastic molding techniques. If an elastic band(s) are used, they will be separately molded and affixed to the handle. The holders 105 may be machined out of metal, wood, or ceramics, as long as a structure, sufficient for clipping in the handle, allows for deformation for full insertion of the glass/vessel below the clips.

25 Referring now also to Figure 2 in the drawings, a perspective view of a disposable cup illustrated according to the present application. Cup 201 is comprised of a body 205 and a rim 209 and is configured for holding liquids inside the cup and for allowing users to drink from the cup. Cup 201 is conical shaped and typically fabricated from plastic or Styrofoam as cup 201 is disposable. Rib 213 is located on body 205 and acts to provide strength to the cup 201 while the cup is filled with liquid. Lip 215 extends from the top of the cup. Cup 201 is thin-walled and made of plastic therefore as users hold the cup it deforms. Furthermore, the thermal nature of the thin-walled cup transfers

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heat from the user's hand into the preferably cold liquid. Thereby leaving the user's hand colder and the drink warmer.

Referring now also to Figures 3A-3C in the drawings, various views of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. Holder 301 is comprised of a band portion 305 with an integral handle portion 309. Holder 301 is preferably fabricated from plastic however other materials are contemplated such as elastomers, metals, composites, and wood. Optionally the lateral geometries of the banded portion allow for a slight circumferential expansion of the banded portion. While the integral handle portion is shown being one piece with the banded portion, it is contemplated that the handle portion is separate from the banded portion and is fastened together.

Band portion 305 is a ring configured to receive the lip of the disposable cup and provide access to the rim of the cup for drinking. Band portion 305 is comprised of a lip 311, a notch 313, a drinking opening 315, and a pinch opening 317. Lip 311 is located adjacent the notch 313 and creates an upper surface of the holder. Lip 311 retains the upper most portion of the disposable cup. Notch 313 further retains the rest of the lip 215 of the disposable cup 201. Notch 313 may alternatively be utilized for securing generally conically shaped vessels having similar geometries to the disposable cup such as glass vessels and rigid plastic vessels. Band portion 305 may utilize more or fewer openings, such as drinking opening 315 and pinch opening 317, so long as a region of the band portion is configured to receive and retain the lip of the cup. Securing the lip portion of the cup prevents the cup from sliding out of the holder during use and while partially inverted during drinking from the cup.

As illustrated the banded portion 305 utilizes two separate drinking openings 315 to allow a user to place their lips on the disposable cup instead of the holder. Additionally, as illustrated the banded portion utilizes two separate pinched openings 317 to allow a user to compress the disposable cup while inserting the cup into the

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banded portion while not touching the cup near the drinking opening. Pinching the cup away from the drinking openings reduces germs and keeps the cup cleaner.

Integral handle portion 309 extends from the band portion 305 and rests upon the lower portion of the disposable cup. As illustrated the handle portion is comprised of
5 various bends configured for a user's thumb to apply downward pressure to the handle.

Referring now also to Figures 4A-4C in the drawings, various views of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. System 301 is comprised of a holder 301 and a cup 201. Users deform the cup from opposite directions, thereby creating an elliptical shape in the cup. The rimmed lip of the
10 generally conical deformable disposable cup deforms with pressure, as applied by the user, and the rimmed lip of the cup is pushed under the upper lip of the holder and into the notch of the holder. The cup is received by the holder and remains deformed while retained in the holder. Users are able to securely hold and drink from the vessel while using the handle of the holder.

15 While the preferred embodiment utilizes a cup that deforms as a result of being inserted into the holder, it should be apparent that the holder may be utilized with a non-deformable cup. For example, a cup fabricated from glass or metal when inserted into the holder would not be deformed. In this embodiment, the holder would still retain the cup having a similar conical shape and size to the disposable cup described above.

20 Certain beverages such as brandy and beers having an average alcohol content of 8% are consumed from snifters or vessels that are configured to maximize the drinking experience through the inhaled aroma of the beverage. Referring now to Figure 5 in the drawings, a perspective view of a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. Vessel 501 is comprised of a body 505, a rim 509, a bottom
25 513, and a stem 515 coupling the body to the bottom and is configured for holding liquids inside the cup or vessel and for allowing users to drink from the cup. Vessel 501 has a varied diameter and focuses the aroma of the liquid to the user's nose while the

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vessel of glass is raised to the user's lips. Vessel 501 is thin-walled and made of glass therefore as users hold the snifter, the snifter does not deform. Furthermore, the thermal nature of the thin walled vessel transfers heat from the user's hand into the preferably cold liquid. Thereby leaving the user's hand colder and the drink warmer. Alternatively, the user's ignites the alcoholic contents of the vessel to raise the temperature of the vessel. The holder prevents the transfer of heat from the vessel into the user's hand. Furthermore, the holder prevents the cooling of heated beverages, such as hot cider, served in pint glasses.

Referring now also to Figures 6A-6C in the drawings, various views of a handle for a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. Holder 601 is comprised of a band portion 605 having an integral handle portion 609, a clip 611, and a lower attachment 615. Holder 601 is preferably fabricated from plastic however other materials are contemplated such as elastomers, metals, composites, and wood. The vertical geometries of the banded portion allow for a slight circumferential expansion of the banded portion thereby allowing the holder to stretch around a vessel. While the integral handle portion is shown being one piece with the banded portion, it is contemplated that the handle portion is separate from the banded portion and is fastened together. Furthermore, indicia can be located in the handle portion 609 and utilized to vary the elasticity of the handle. For example, a cutout of a state's shape can be located on the handle to make the handle more elastic. Clip 611 is coupled to an upper portion of the band 605 and is configured to retain a rim of the vessel underneath the clip. The vessel cannot move once retained by the clip other than slide out from clip.

Lower attachment in this embodiment is a pair of protruding tabs 621 coupled to a lower end of the band portion 605. Tabs 621 are curved in at least two directions to rest against the bulbous portion of the body of the vessel. Each of the tabs 621 are a mirror image of each other along the center of the drinking vessel. At an end of the tabs, 621 away from the handle portion is an additional member 625. Additional member 625 is configured to increase the surface area between the lower attachment and the vessel

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so that the clip 611 can be coupled to the rim of the vessel as the holder is flexed or stretched onto the vessel. The lower attachment prevents the vessel from leaving the clip unless the handle is deformed by the user.

Referring now also to Figures 7A-7C in the drawings, various views of a handle
5 for a stemmed drinking vessel coupled to a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. System 701 is comprised of a holder 601 and a stemmed vessel 501. Users deform the holder from opposite directions, thereby creating an elongated shape in the holder. Typically, the holder is deformed by first clipping the clip 611 to the rim of the vessel and then pulling the lower attachment
10 around the body of the glass. The stemmed vessel is received by the holder and the holder remains deformed while retaining the stemmed vessel. Users are able to securely hold and drink from the vessel while using the handle of the holder without transferring heat to the contents of the vessel.

The snifter holder may, with modification or with inherent geometries, fit multiple
15 stemmed glassware of different sizes and/or shapes.

For example, the lower attachment, such as the ring or tabs may be of a small diameter or narrow opening, allowing thin wine, champagne, or brandy vessels' stems to fit. Furthermore, flexural geometries or materials may allow a small or large-diameter stem to fit. These portions may be comprised of 2 or more mechanical parts, allowing
20 for the desired diameter to be set, or clipped in when inserted.

The handle portion of the vessel may be of a different length or include flexural geometries or materials to allow for expansion to allow for glasses of different heights or diameters. The handle may be made of 2 or more parts, allowing for the user to set the desired height or diameter.

25 Multiple clips or overhangs of the lip-holding portion of the invention may also allow for different size vessels to fit into a single version of the system, a mechanical 2-part system may allow for the user to set the clips for different heights or diameters.

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In the pronged version of the system, the prongs may be flexible enough to allow for expansion, while maintaining sufficient force toward the clip, and allow stemmed vessels of different heights and diameters to fit securely. The prongs may attach to one-another providing a more secure attachment to the stem.

5 Referring now also to Figures 8A-8C in the drawings, various views of an alternative handle for a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. Holder 801 is comprised of a band portion 805 with an integral handle portion 809, a clip 811, and a lower attachment 815. Holder 801 is preferably fabricated from plastic however other materials are contemplated such as elastomers, metals,
10 composites, and wood. The vertical geometries of the banded portion allow for a slight circumferential expansion of the banded portion thereby allowing the holder to stretch around a vessel. While the integral handle portion is shown being one piece with the banded portion, it is contemplated that the handle portion is separate from the banded portion and is fastened together.

15 Lower attachment in this embodiment is a member 821 coupled to a lower end of the band portion 805. Member 821 is curved in at least one direction to go around against the bulbous portion of the body of the vessel. Member 821 is preferably curved in at least two directions to helically rest against the bulbous portion of the body of the vessel.

20 Referring now also to Figures 9A-9C in the drawings, various views of a handle for a stemmed drinking vessel coupled to a stemmed drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. System 901 is comprised of a holder 801 and a stemmed vessel 501. Users deform the holder from opposite directions, thereby creating an elongated shape in the holder. Typically, the holder is deformed by first
25 wrapping the lower attachment around the stem of the vessel and then pulling the handle such that the clip couples to the rim of the vessel and then releasing the handle. The stemmed vessel is received by the holder and the holder remains deformed while retaining the stemmed vessel. Users are able to securely hold and drink from the vessel

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while using the handle of the holder without transferring heat to the contents of the vessel.

Referring now also to Figures 10A-10C in the drawings, various views of a handle for a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. System 1001 is comprised of a holder 1003 and a drinking vessel 1005. Holder 1003 is comprised of a single strap 1007 that protrudes from handle 1009. Handle 1009 is configured to be received by only a single finger of the user. Handles 1009 features an opening selectively sized for a single digit. Furthermore, the specific finger the opening is sized for is an index finger. Preferably the opening is sized larger than average to be used by a wide variety of users having differently sized fingers. However, it is contemplated that the openings could be sized much a fashion ring and configured specifically for each user differently.

Strap 1007 is comprised of a band of material extending from each side of the handle 1009 and surrounds the vessel 1005. Strap 1007 is angled to be flush with the conical shape of the drinking vessel 1005. Strap 1007 is also angled to extend away from a portion of a rim of the drinking vessel located opposite the handle 1009, thereby creating a region of the system 1001 configured for the user to place their lower lip and drink from the vessel without contact of the holder 1003.

Holder 1003 further comprises at least one expansion region 1011. Expansion region is a folded portion of strap 1007 that is selectively configured to stretch along a center axis of the strap 1007. The stretching of the strap 1007 in the expansion region 1011 allows a diameter of the holder to vary as different diameter vessel are inserted into the holder 1003. Holder 1003 further comprises lower clip 1013 extending inwardly from the handle 1009 and upper clip 1015 extending inwardly as well. Lower clip 1013 and upper clip 1015 apply a force to the rim of the vessel 1005 to keep the vessel in the holder while inverted.

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Users deform the holder by sliding a drinking vessel, preferably a pint glass have a conical shape, into the holder. The contour of the clip slides up the side of the vessel until clearing the rim. Once the clip is above the rim, the clip then flexes into a position where the rim is caught by the clip. To remove the vessel, the clip is flexed out of the way of the rim of the vessel and the vessel is slid up and out of the holder.

Referring now also to Figures 11A-11C in the drawings, various views of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. Holder 1101 is comprised of a band portion 1105 with an integral handle portion 1109. Holder 1101 is preferably fabricated from plastic however other materials are contemplated such as elastomers, metals, composites, and wood. Optionally the lateral geometries of the banded portion allow for a slight circumferential expansion of the banded portion. While the integral handle portion is shown being one piece with the banded portion, it is contemplated that the handle portion is separate from the banded portion and is fastened together.

Band portion 1105 is a ring configured to receive the lip of the disposable cup and provide access to the rim of the cup for drinking. Band portion 305 is comprised of a first band 1111 and a second band 1113. An upper portion of the first band 1111 is secured to an upper end of the handle portion 1109. A lower portion of the second band 1113 is secured to a lower end of the handle portion 1109. Both the first band 1111 and the second band 1113 are coupled together at an interconnect portion opposite the handle portion 1109.

Holder 1101 further comprises lower clip 1115 extending inwardly from the handle 1109 and upper clip 1117 extending inwardly as well. Lower clip 1115 and upper clip 1117 apply a force to a rim of a vessel to keep the vessel in the holder while inverted. The two different clips are utilized depending upon a height of the vessel in the holder.

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Referring now also to Figures 12A-12C in the drawings, various views of a handle for a disposable drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. System 1201 is comprised of a holder 1101 and a cup 201. Users deform the cup from opposite directions, thereby creating an elliptical shape in the cup. The rimmed lip of the generally conical deformable disposable cup deforms with pressure, as applied by the user, and the rimmed lip of the cup is pushed under the upper lip of the holder and into the holder. The cup is received by the holder and remains deformed while retained in the holder. Users are able to securely hold and drink from the vessel while using the handle of the holder.

For other beverage vessel types that are not strictly conical, this holder may utilize one or more bands or straps that more closely compliment the specific curves that are unique to each respective glass, or may, in the conical version, possess some inherent geometry that the conical version already compliments. Combinations of these complimentary geometries may be imbedded in a single version of the holder, allowing multiple vessels to fit securely in the holder.

In the case of larger plastic cups, the holder may allow for the clips to acutely press into the sidewalls of the cup, thereby creating a frictional force sufficient enough to not fall off when the cup is set down or inverted. A conical version of the holder with additional clips above or below the conical vessel clip may allow the holder to clip onto conical vessels of different sizes, or other geometries in general.

In the case of stemmed or non-stemmed glassware with a generally bulbous midsection, the conical 2-band version of the holder may flex and reflex to receive the bulbous portion between the upper and lower bands and allow sufficient constrain for a pleasant drinking experience. In the single-band version, there may also be complimentary geometries allowing a bulbous portion of a vessel to have to fit between an upper and lower portion of the band. Many vessels, including chalices, flutes, goblets, nonics, pilsners, pokals, sniffers, thistles, tulips, willibechers, wheat beer glasses, and tulips may all fit into this category. The holder may also have versions that

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have features specific to one of these vessels or bands with flexural geometries sufficient enough to cover multiple glasses.

5 Mechanical devices on the upper and/or lower parts of the handle or clip area, with single or multiple parts, may allow the holder to receive different vessels with actuation or activation of the mechanical devices. The mechanical devices may include such variations as a cam-swivel, or extendable latch that increases or decreases that portion of the handle or clips in distance towards or away from the vessel. The bands may insert into one or more sides of the handles and cinch to the desired diameters. Protruding members may be added to the handle or bands to add flexural resistance to
10 further secure the clips over the vessel.

Referring now also to Figures 13A-13B in the drawings, various views of a handle for a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. System 1301 is comprised of a holder 1303 and a drinking vessel 1305. Holder 1003 is comprised of a first strap 1307 that protrudes from handle 1309, as well as, a second
15 strap that protrudes from the handle 1309. Handle 1309 is configured to be received by several fingers of the user. Handle further comprises a guard 1313 located between an upper end of the handle 1309 and the first strap 1307. Guard is configured to channel excess liquid down and away from a top of the handle 1309. A gap exists between edges of the guard and the first band so that any liquid that spills is directed down and
20 away from the user's hand while holding handle 1309.

The system provides advantages over current systems and methods of holding a snifter such as. First, heat transfer between the user's hand and the glass is minimized. Second, a larger number of vessels can be retained by a single user because the handles can be stacked around a user's hand. Third, snifter glasses that have fallen
25 over are less likely to roll off a table or a tray. Fourth, since the holder is readily removable the indicia associated with the contents of the vessel can be readily changed without labeling the glass.

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Referring now also to Figure 14 in the drawings, a perspective view of a handle for a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. Holder 1401 is comprised of a first band 1403, a second band 1405, and an integral handle 1407 that spans from the first band 1403 to the second band 1405. Holder 1401 further comprises a clip 1409 configured to retain vessel 1411 inside of first band 1403 and second band 1405.

Referring now also to Figure 15 in the drawings, a perspective view of a handle for a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. Holder 1501 is comprised of a lower band 1503, an integral handle 1505 that spans from the lower band 1503 to a handle clip 1507. Handle clip 1507 is configured to retain vessel 1509 inside of lower band 1503. Holder 1501 further comprises a vertical clip 1511 that extends from the lower band opposite the handle 1505. While preferably the vertical clip 1511 is integrally formed with the handle and bands, alternatively a hinge couples the While preferably the lower angled band 1603 is integrally formed with the handle and clips, alternatively a hinge couples the lower angled band 1603 to the vertical clip 1511.

Referring now also to Figure 16 in the drawings, a perspective view of a handle for a drinking vessel illustrated according to the present application. Holder 1601 is comprised of a lower angled band 1603, an integral handle 1605 that spans from the lower angled band 1603 to a handle clip 1607. Handle clip 1607 is configured to retain vessel 1609 inside of lower angled band 1603. Holder 1601 further comprises a clip 1611 that extends from the lower angled band opposite the handle 1505. While preferably the lower angled band 1603 is integrally formed with the handle and clips, alternatively a hinge couples the lower angled band 1603 to a lower end of the handle 1605.

It is apparent that an assembly and method with significant advantages has been described and illustrated. The particular embodiments disclosed above are illustrative only, as the embodiments may be modified and practiced in different but equivalent manners apparent to those skilled in the art having the benefit of the teachings herein. It

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is, therefore, evident that the particular embodiments disclosed above may be altered or modified, and all such variations are considered within the scope and spirit of the application. Accordingly, the protection sought herein is as set forth in the description. Although the present embodiments are shown above, they are not limited to just these
5 embodiments but are amenable to various changes and modifications without departing from the spirit thereof.

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Claims

1. A holder for a drinking vessel, comprising:
 - a handle;
 - a first strap extending from the handle; and
 - a clip configured for retaining a rim of the vessel.
- 5 2. The holder according to claim 1, wherein the first strap is configured for receiving a conical shaped glass.
3. The holder according to claim 1, wherein the first strap is configured for receiving
- 10 a stemmed glass.
4. The holder according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a second strap extending from the handle.
- 15 5. A holder for a drinking vessel comprising:
 - a handle, having;
 - an upper end;
 - a lower end;
 - a first strap attached to the upper end of the handle; and
 - 20 a second strap attached to the lower end of the handle.
6. The holder according to claim 5, wherein the first strap is coupled to the second strap.
- 25 7. The holder according to claim 5, further comprising:
 - an upper clip.
8. The holder according to claim 5, further comprising:

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a lower clip.

9. The holder according to claim 5, further comprising:
at least a first expansion joint located in the first strap.

10. The holder according to claim 5, further comprising:
at least a second expansion joint located in the first strap.

11. The holder according to claim 5, further comprising:
a guard located on the upper end of the handle.

12. The holder according to claim 11, wherein the guard is comprised of a pair of channels.

13. The holder according to claim 5, wherein the first strap angles away from the upper end of the handle to form a drinking region near a rim of the vessel.

14. A holder for a fluid storing vessel comprising:
a first circular ring;
a second circular ring coupled to the first circular ring;
a generally C-shaped handle member comprising:
an upper end coupled to the first circular ring; and
a lower end coupled to the second circular ring;
wherein the first and second circular rings are disposed around the fluid storing glass.

15. The holder according to claim 14, further comprising:
a pair of expansion joints located in the first circular ring.

16. The holder according to claim 15, further comprising:

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a pair of expansion joints located in the second circular ring.

17. The holder according to claim 15, further comprising:
a pair of clips located on the handle member.

18. A holder for a fluid storing vessel comprising:
a circular ring defining a conical opening;
a generally C-shaped handle member comprising:
an upper end coupled to the circular ring; and
a lower end configured to rest against the fluid storing vessel;
wherein the circular ring is disposed around the fluid storing glass.

19. The holder according to claim 19, further comprising:
a groove circumferentially disposed in the circular ring, the groove
configured for retaining a rim of the fluid storing vessel.

20. The holder according to claim 19, further comprising:
a first pair of openings;
wherein the first pair of openings are configured to allow a user to
compress the fluid storing vessel along a first axis while inserting the fluid storing vessel
into the holder.

21. The holder according to claim 20, further comprising:
a second pair of openings;
wherein the second pair of openings are configured to allow a user to
drink from the fluid storing vessel along a second axis perpendicular to the first axis.

22. A holder for a fluid storing vessel comprising:
a handle having:
a clip located on a first end of the handle; and

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a pair of tabs located on a second end of the handle.

23. The holder according to claim 23, further comprising:
a member extending from each tab.

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24. A holder for a fluid storing vessel comprising:
a handle having;
a clip located on a first end of the handle; and
a curved member located on a second end of the handle.

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25. The holder according to claim 23, wherein the curved member is helical shaped.

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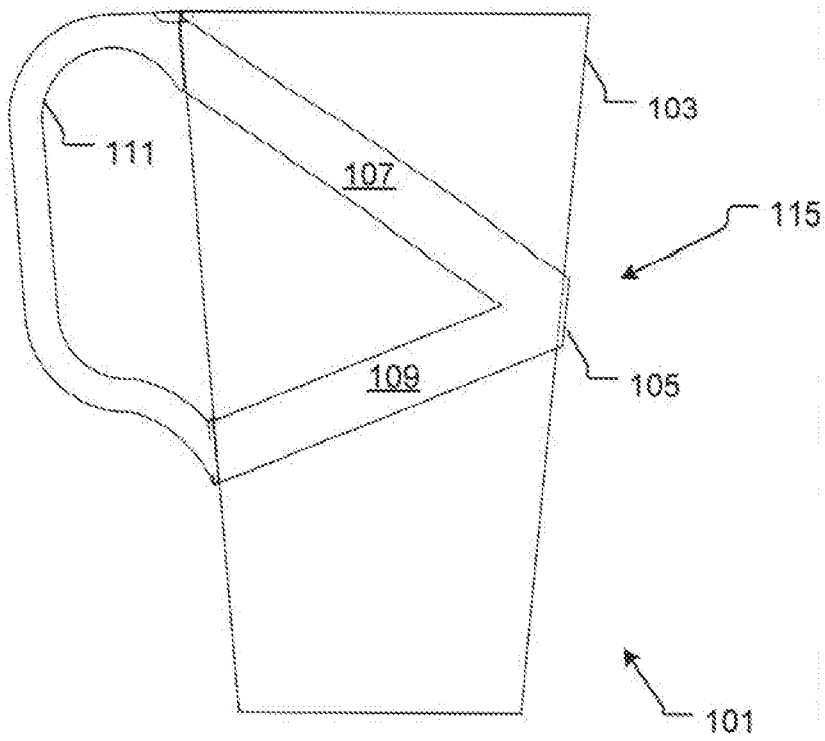


Fig. 1A

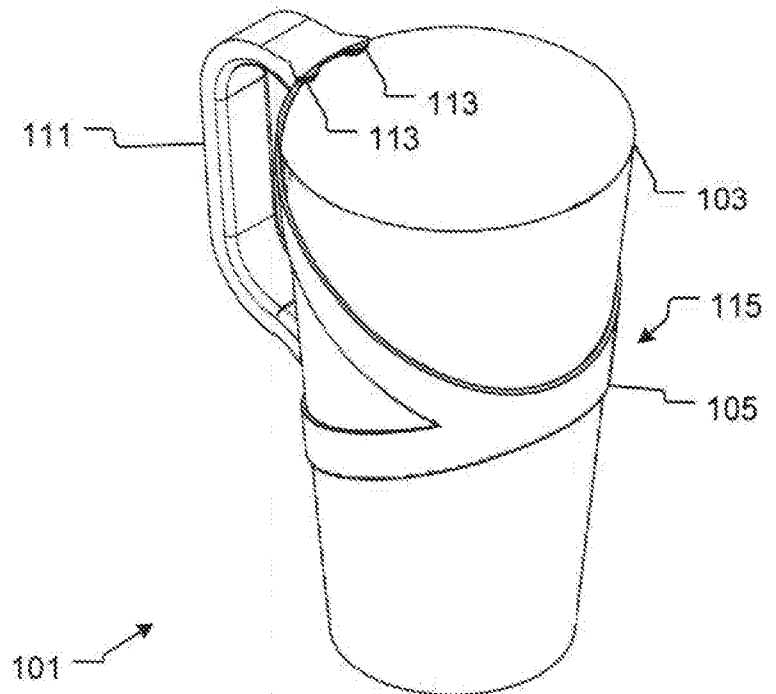
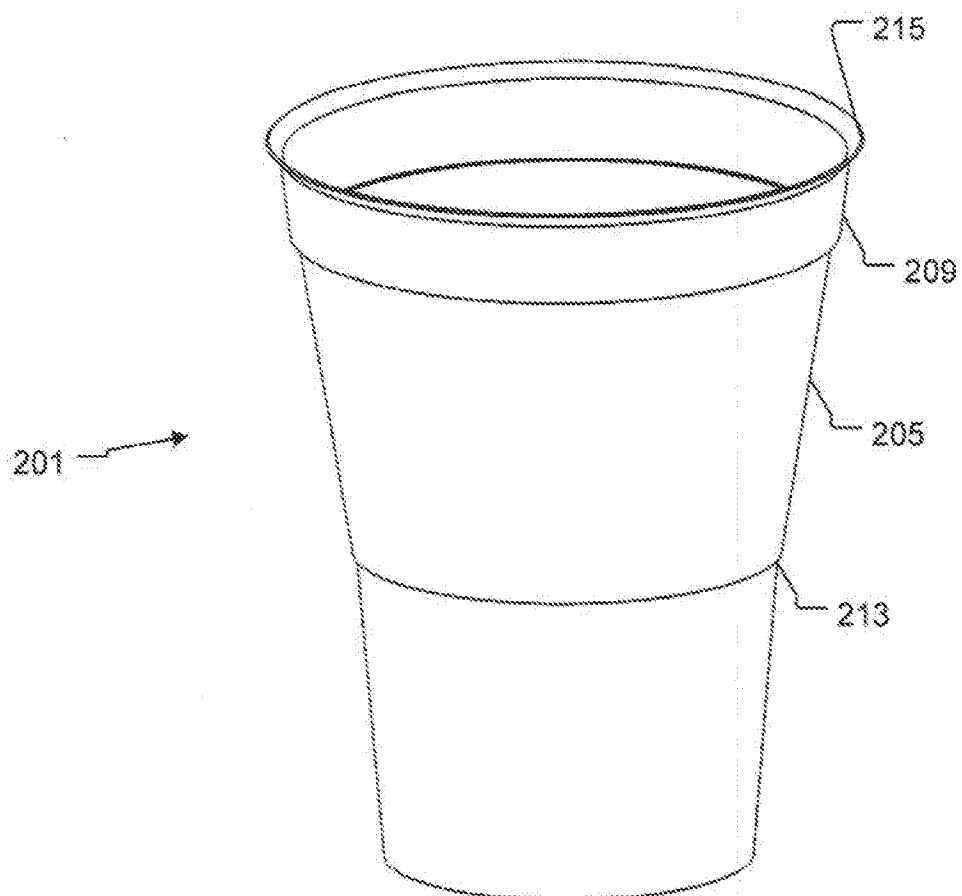


Fig. 1B

**Fig. 2**

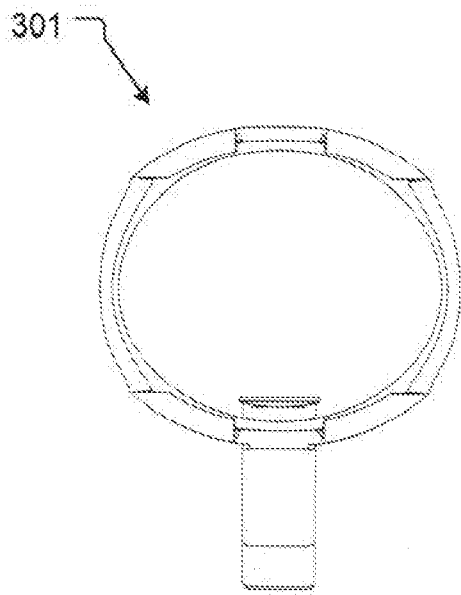


Fig. 3A

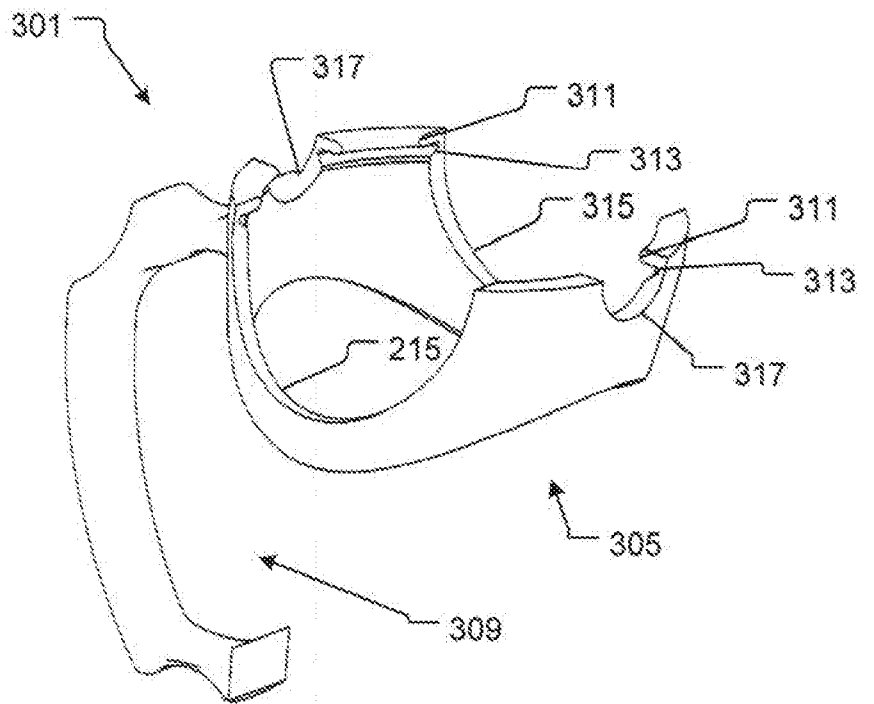


Fig. 3C

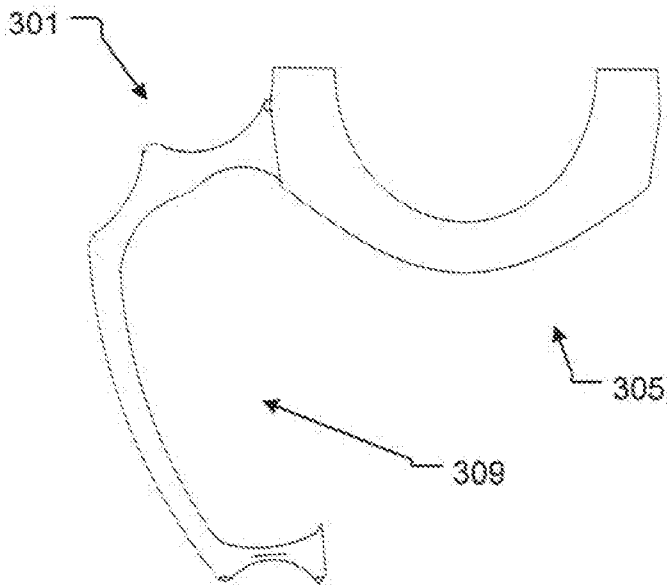


Fig. 3B

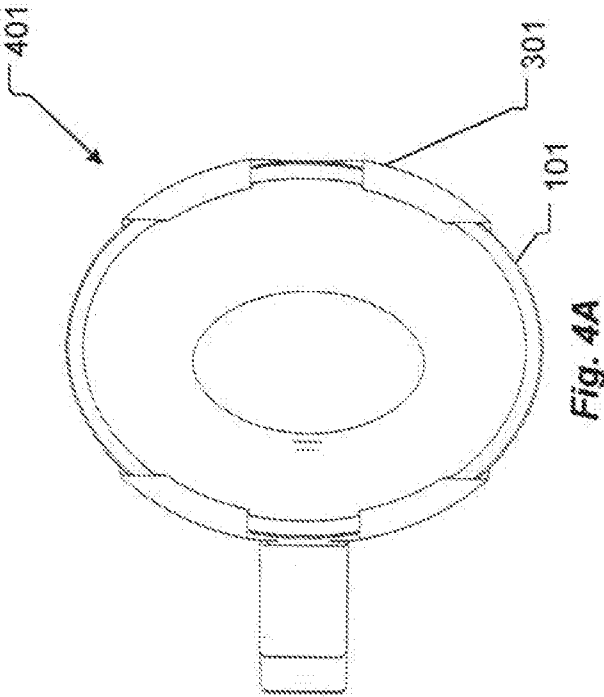


Fig. 4A

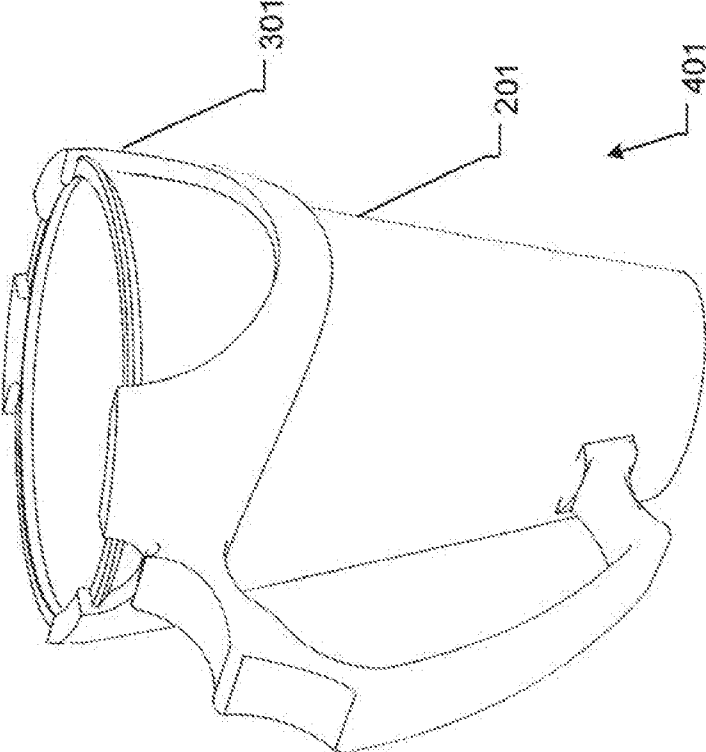


Fig. 4C

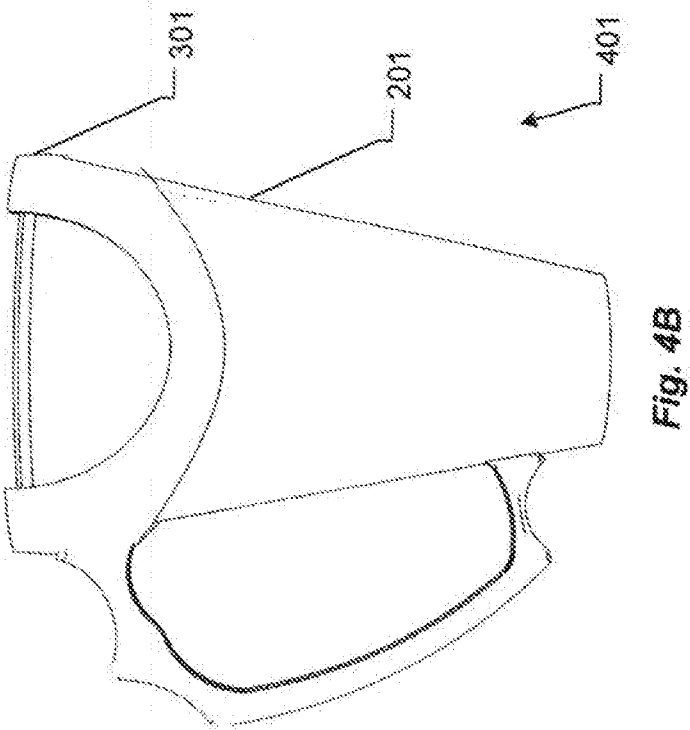
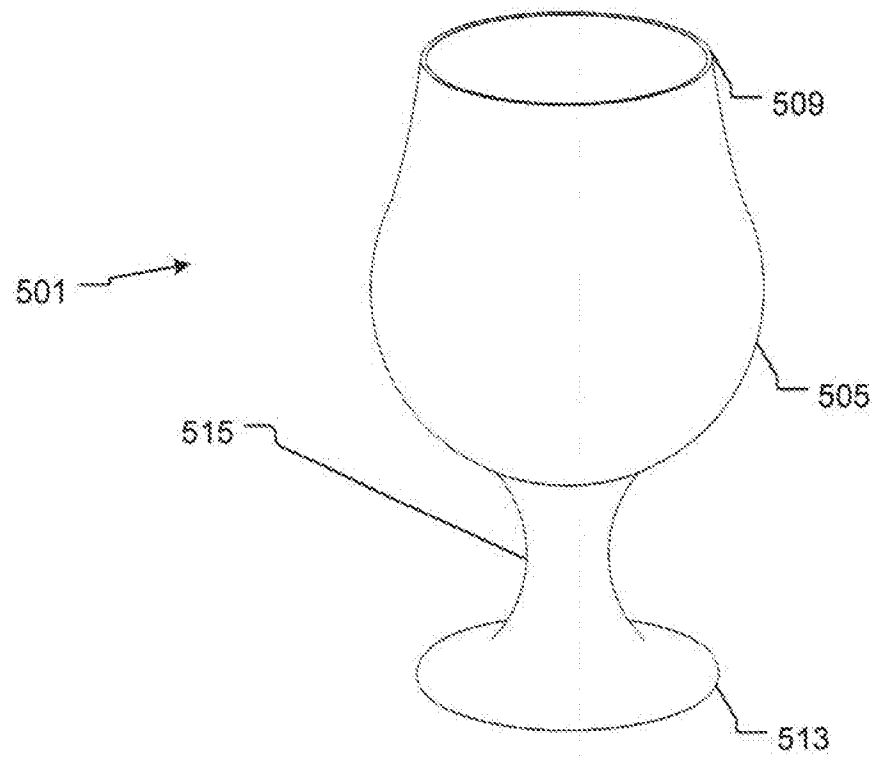


Fig. 4B

**Fig. 5**

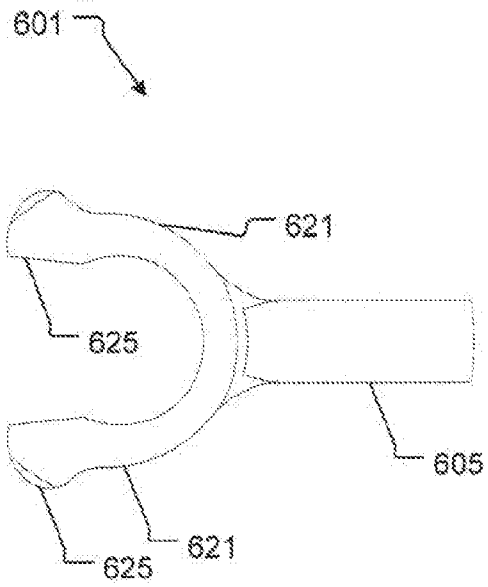


Fig. 6A

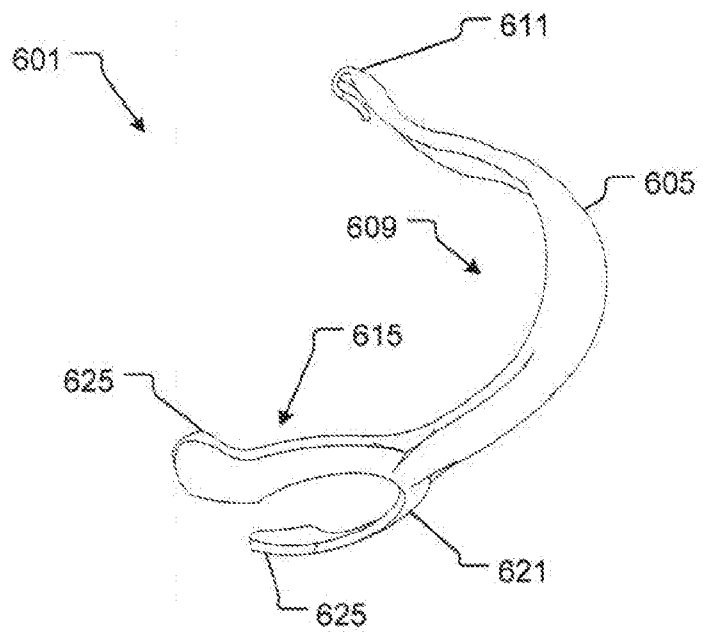


Fig. 6C

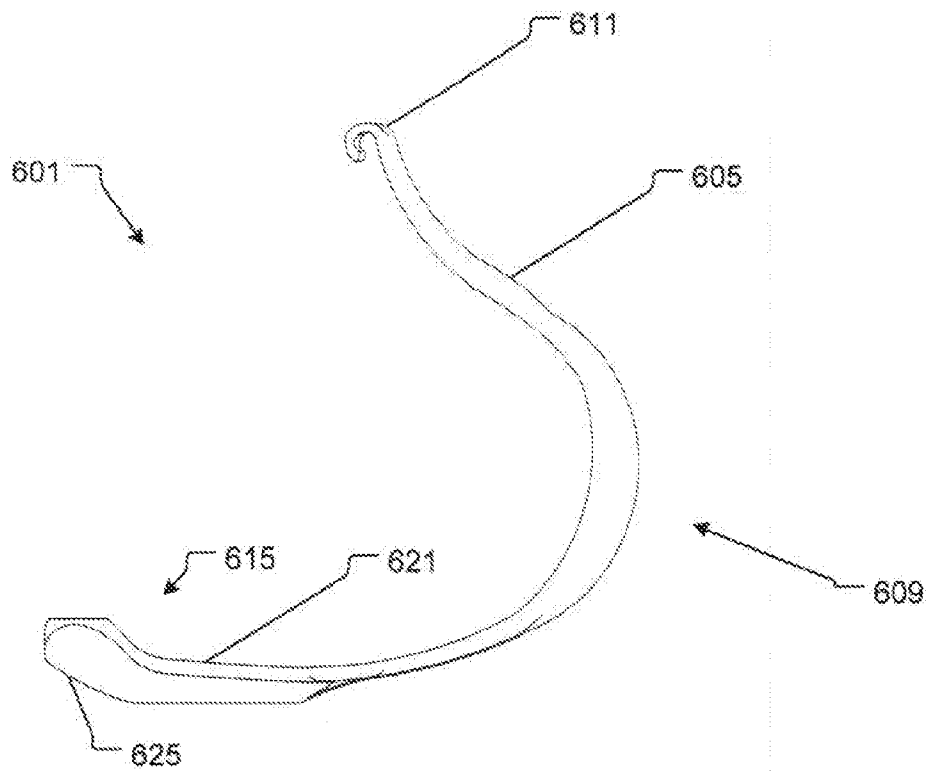


Fig. 6B

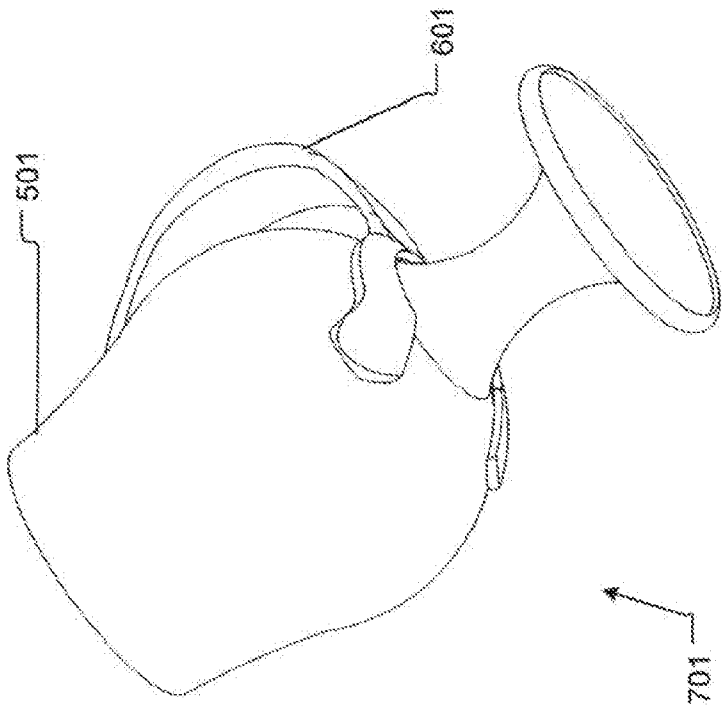


Fig. 7C

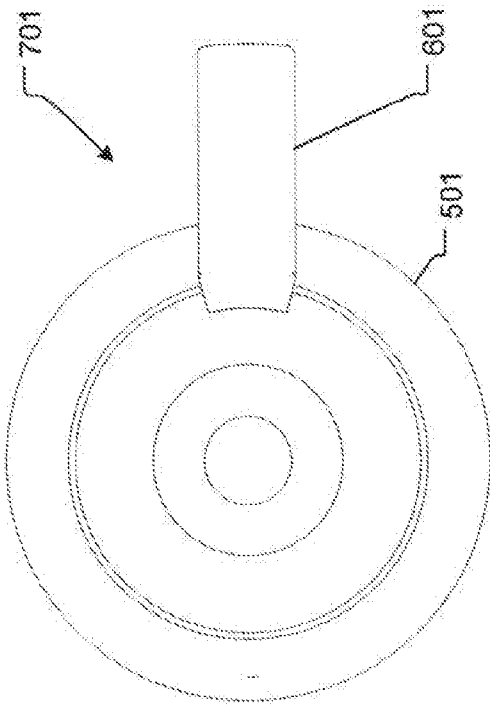


Fig. 7A

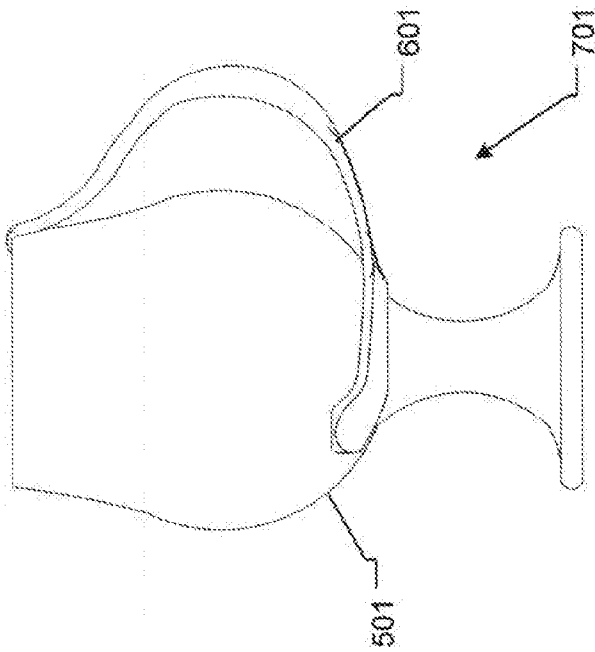
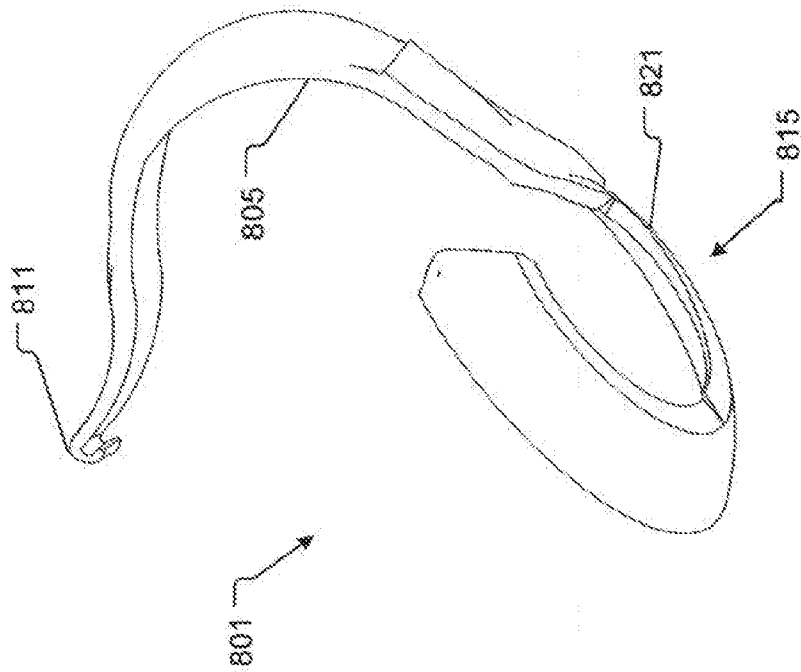
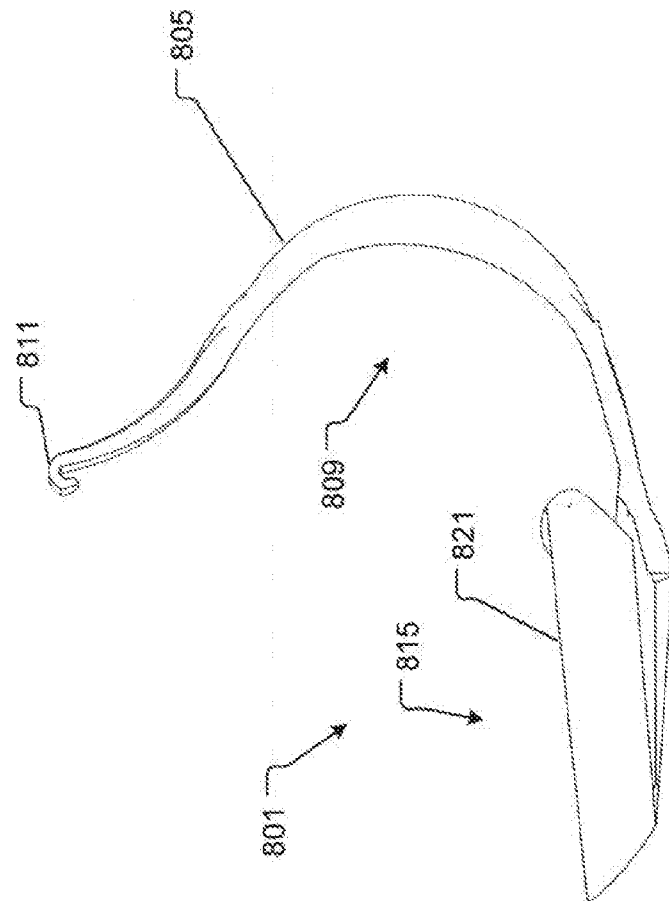
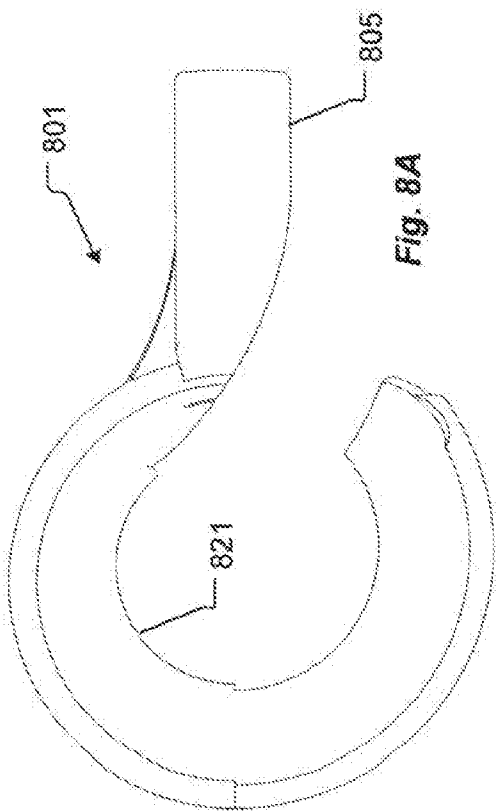


Fig. 7B



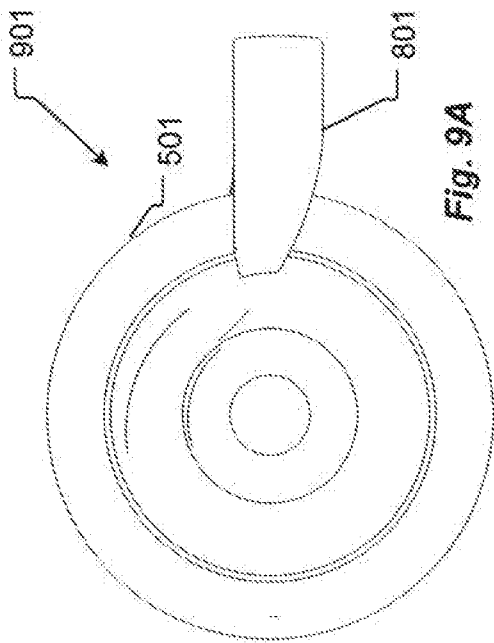


Fig. 9A

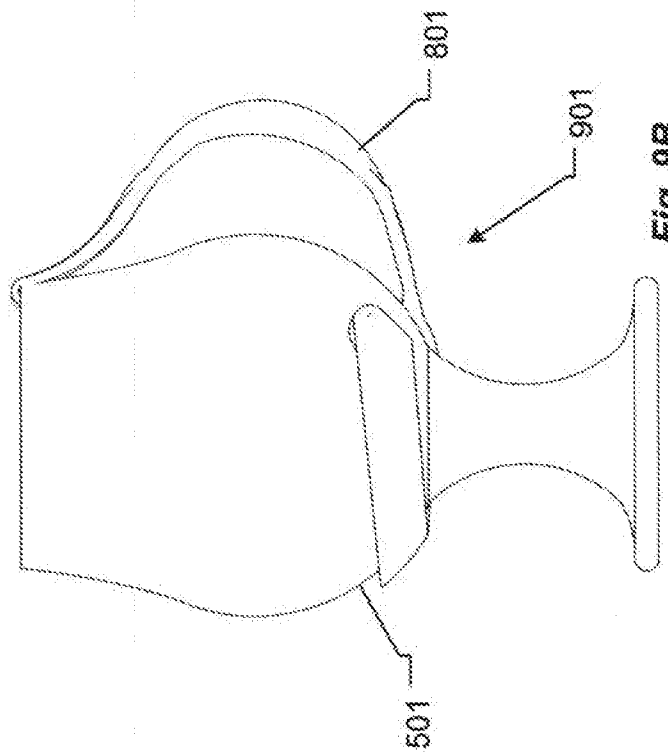


Fig. 9B

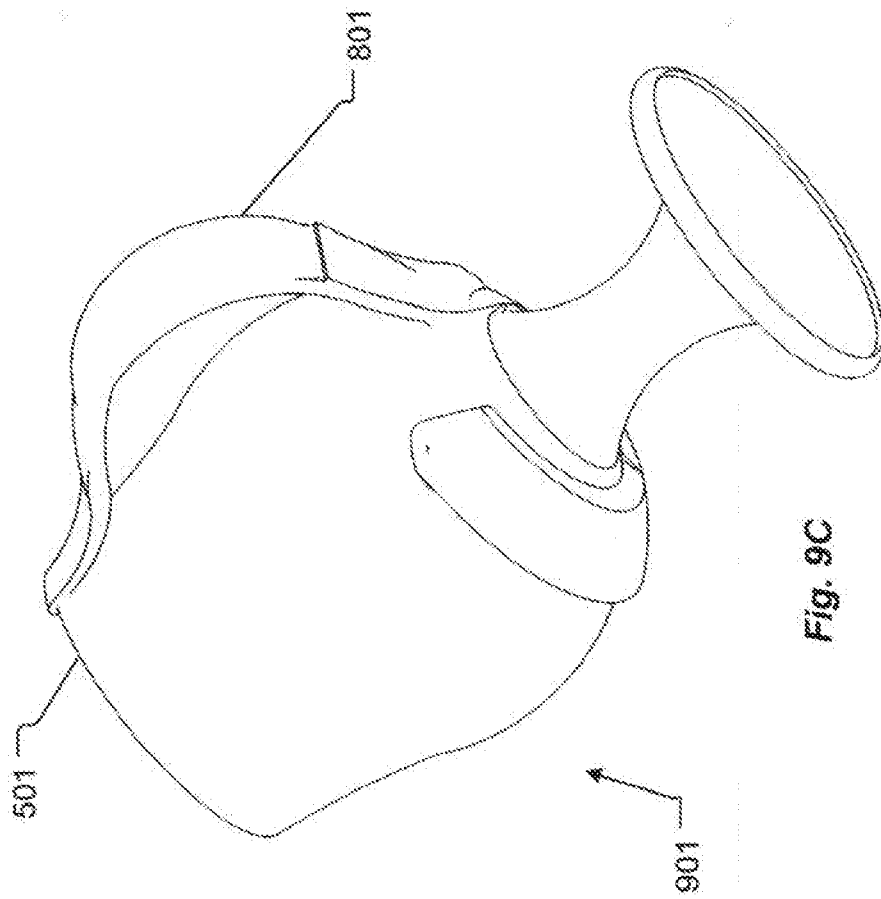
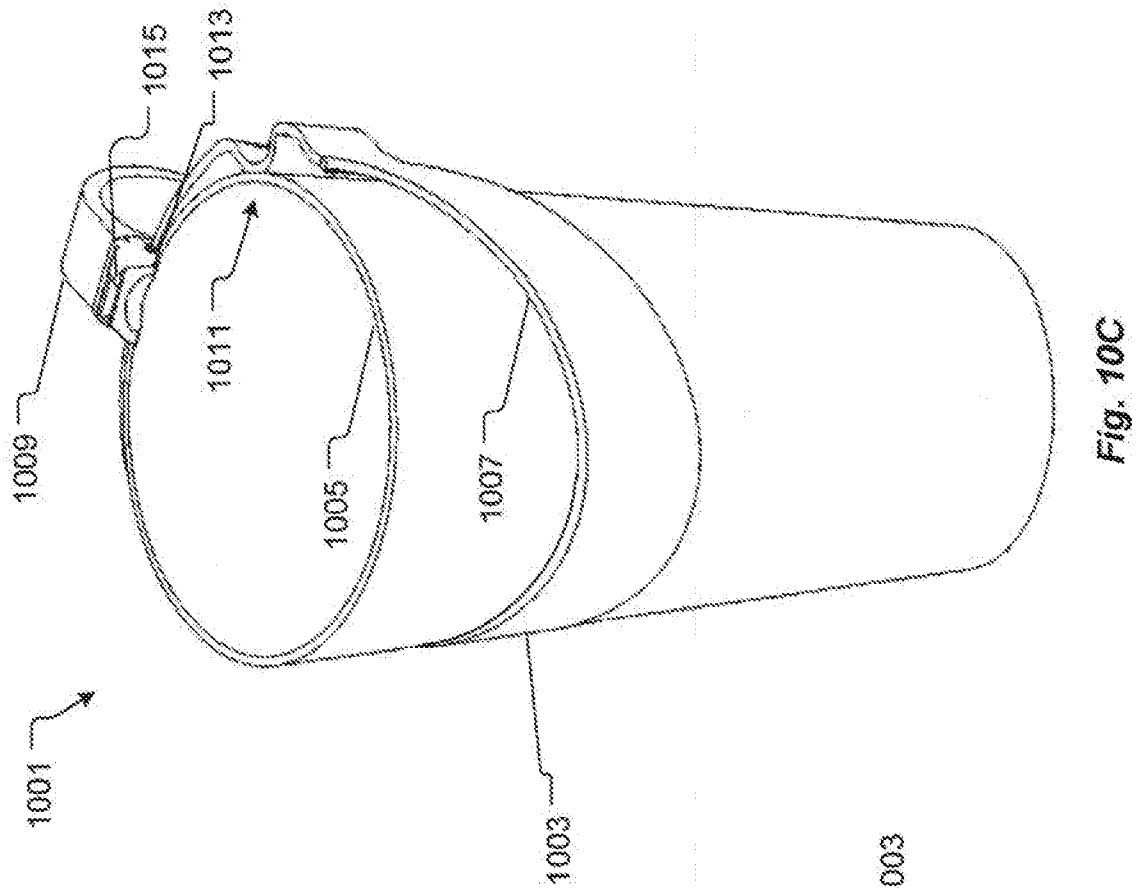
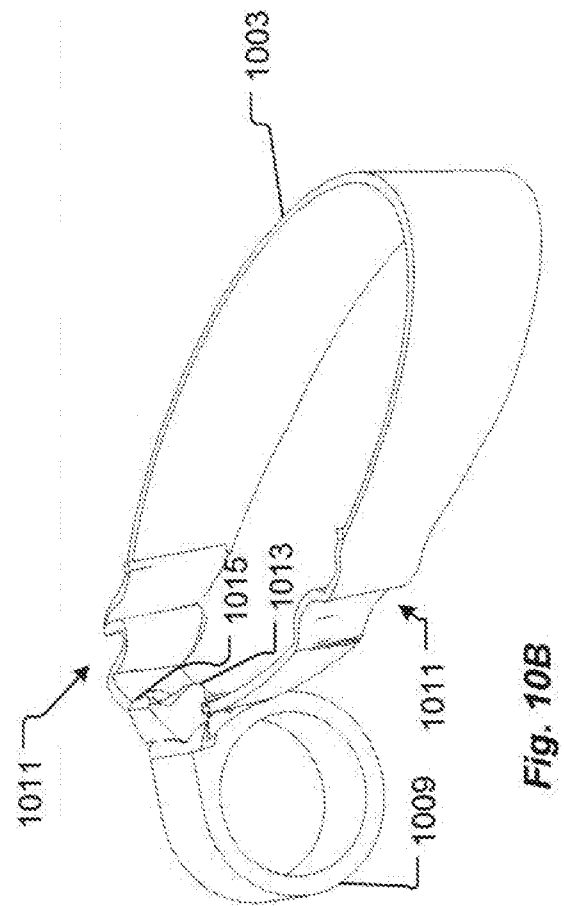
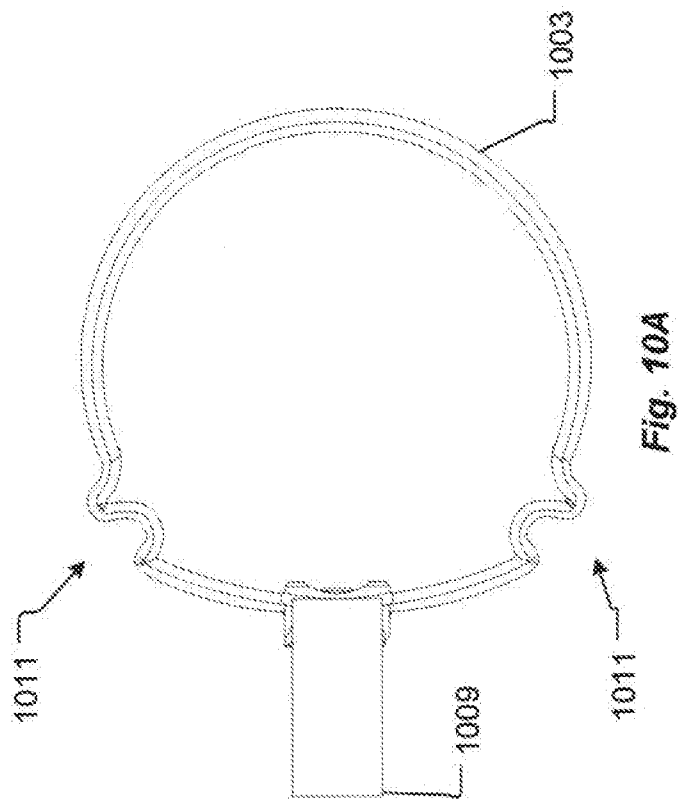


Fig. 9C



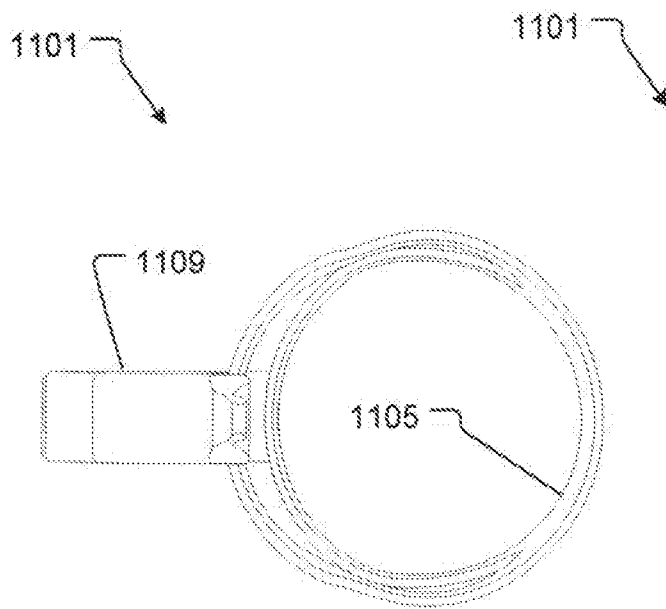


Fig. 11A

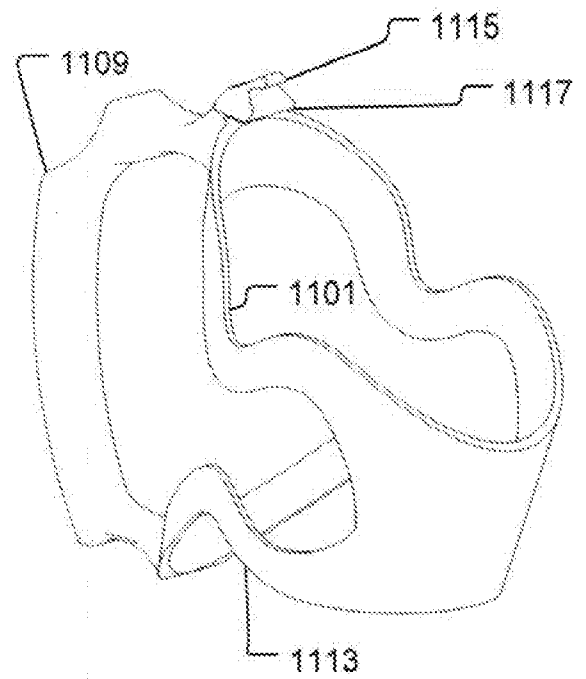


Fig. 11C

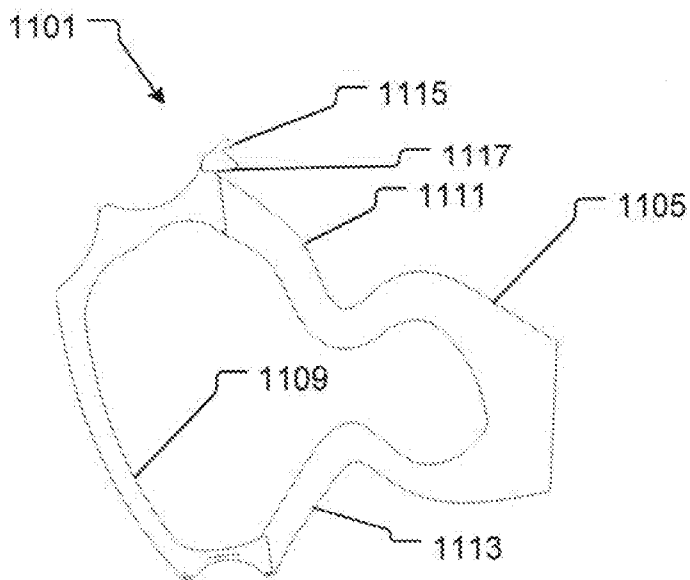


Fig. 11B

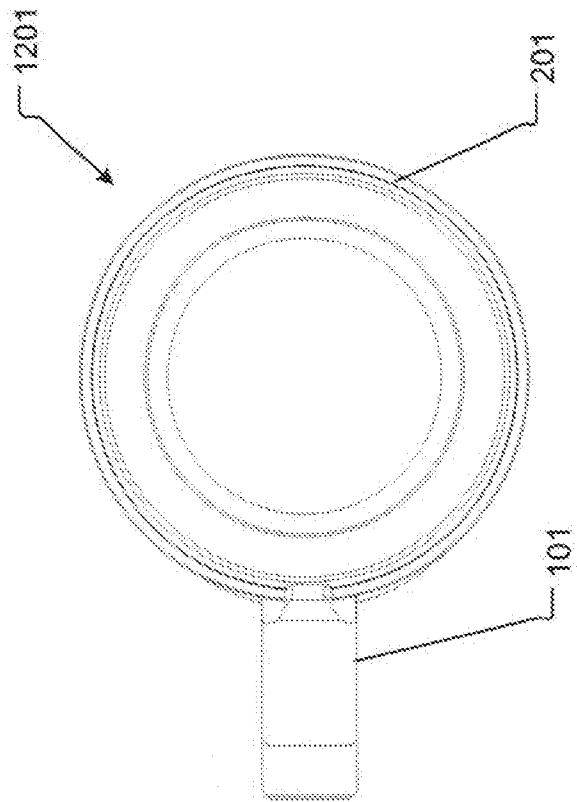


Fig. 12A

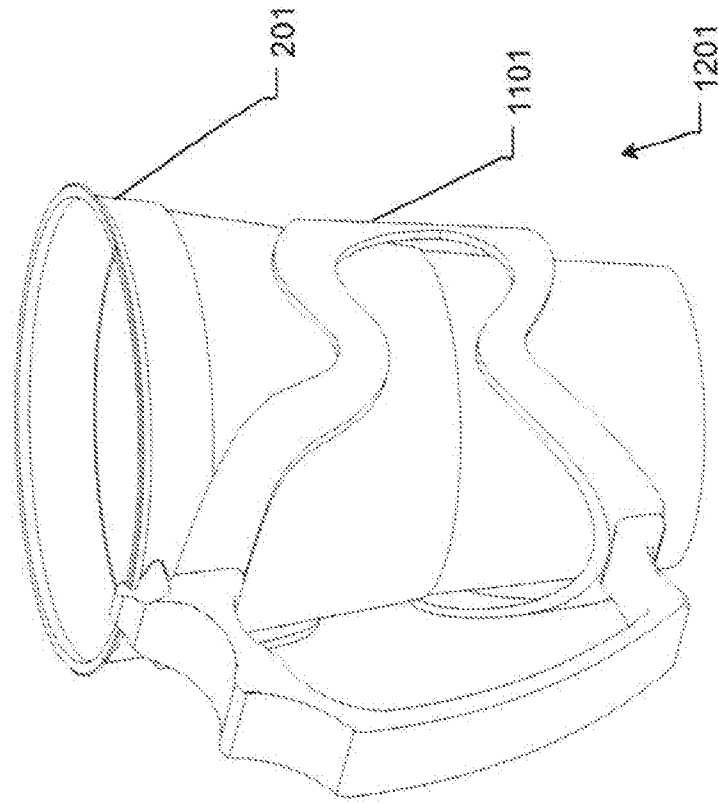


Fig. 12C

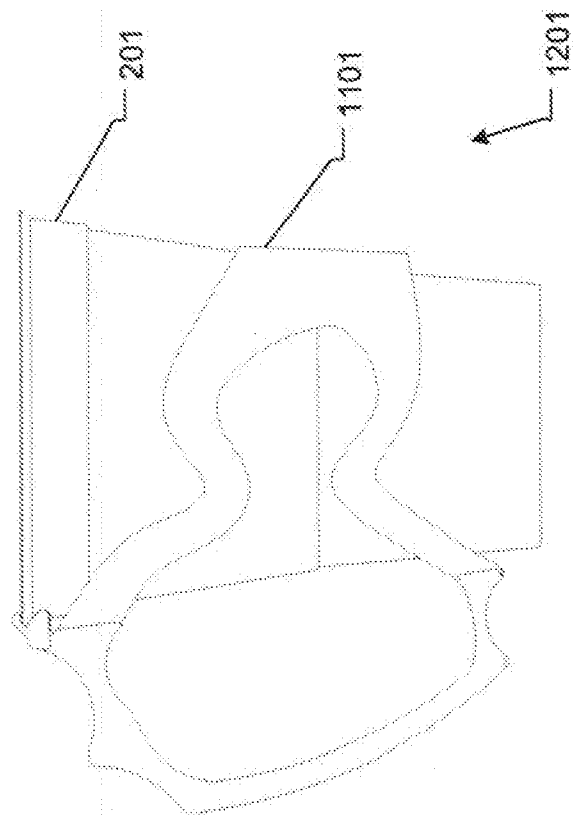


Fig. 12B

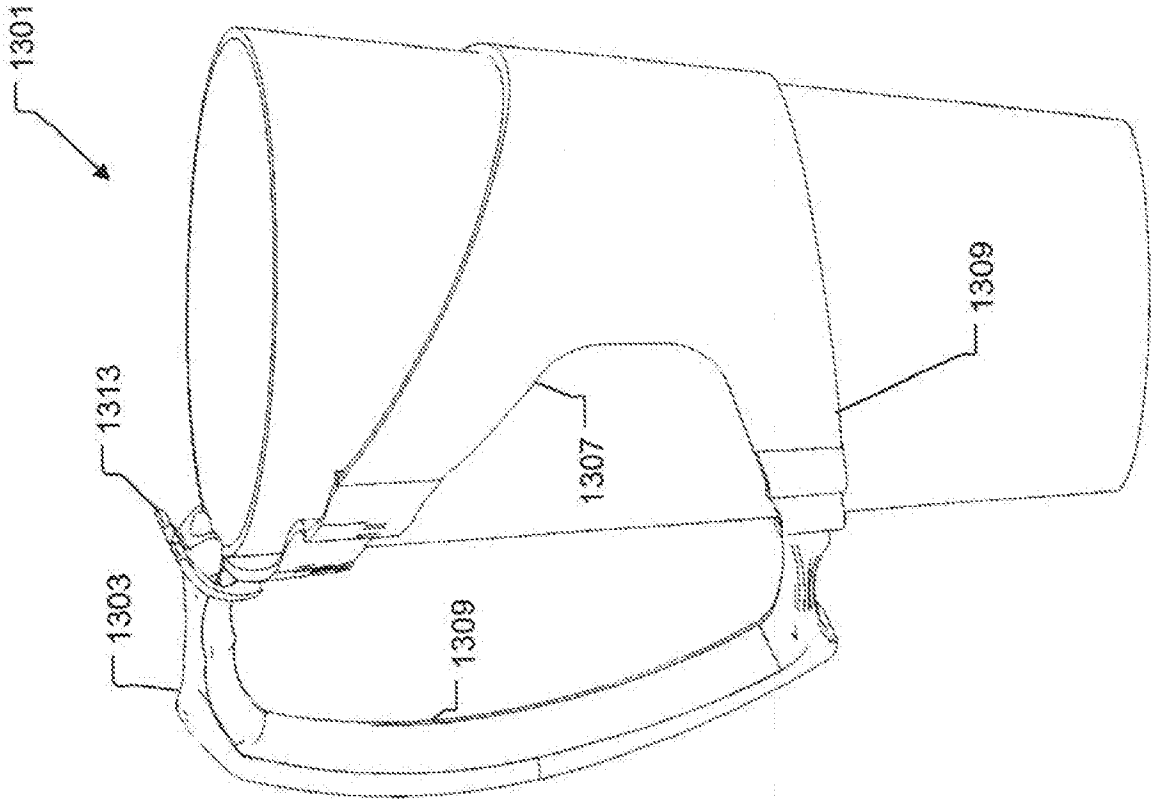


Fig. 13B

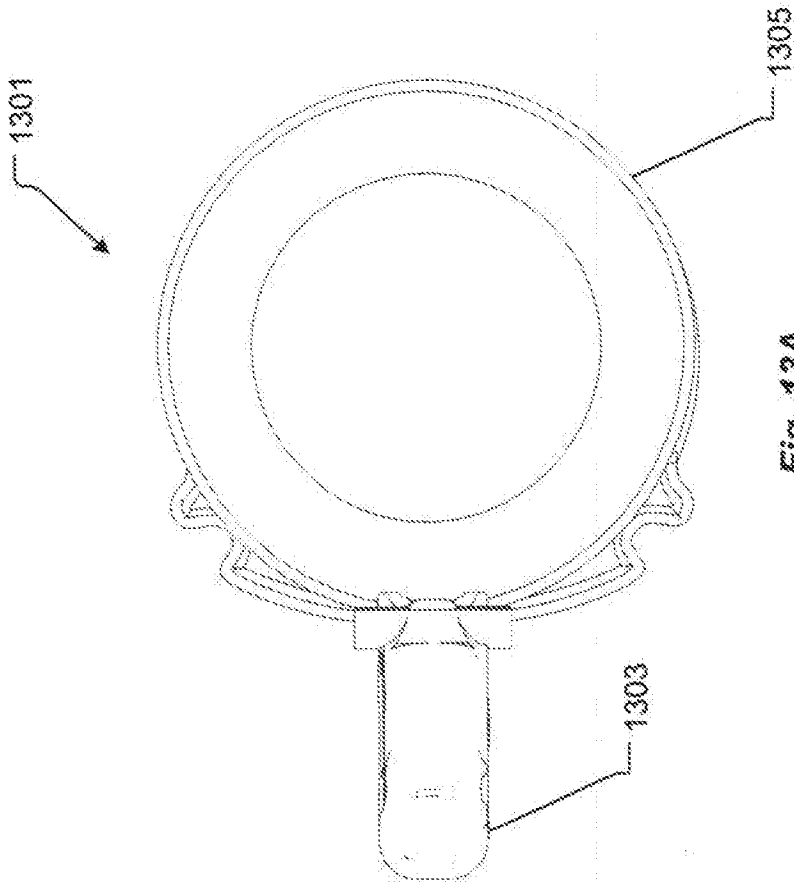


Fig. 13A

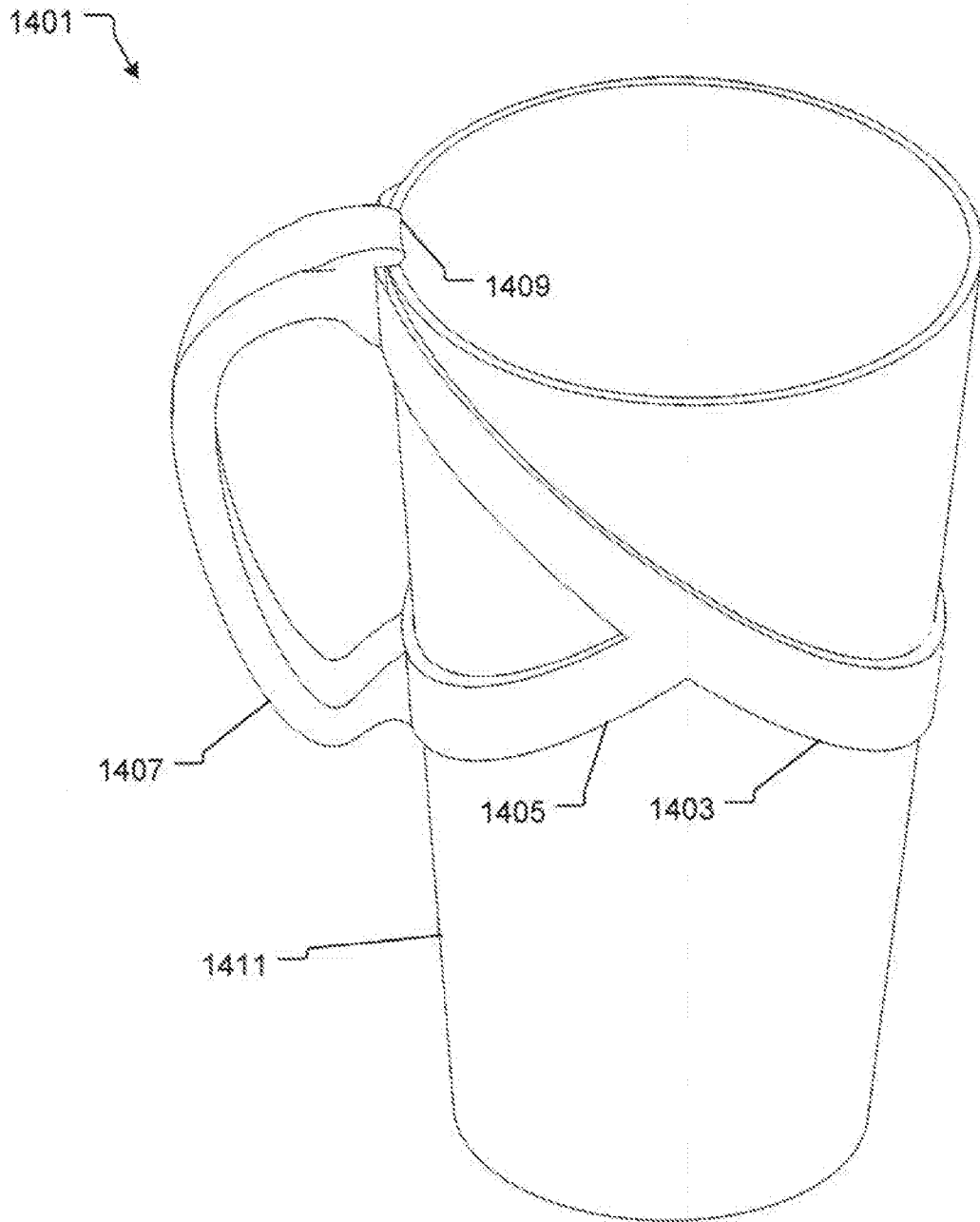
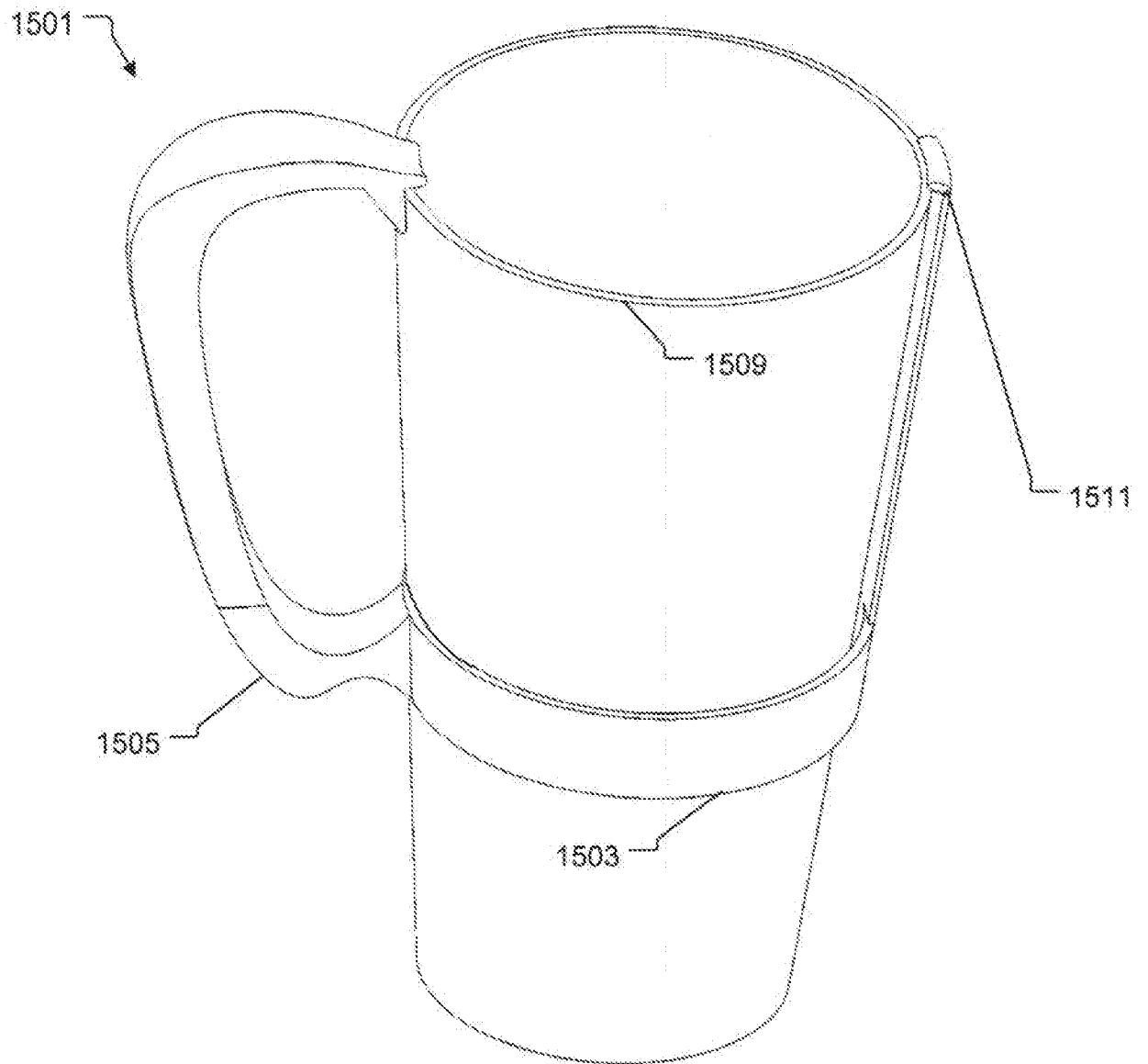
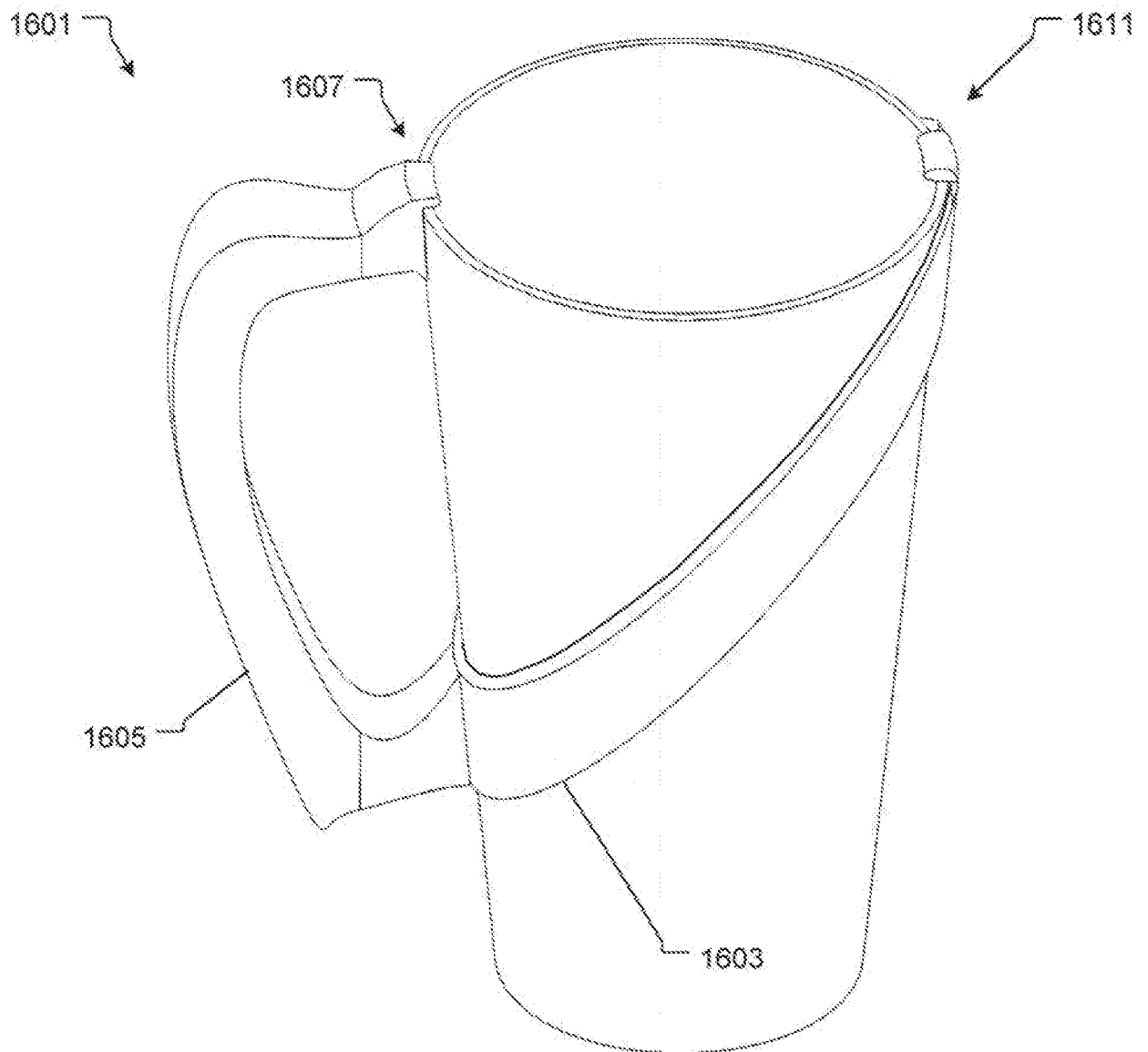


Fig. 14

**Fig. 15**

**Fig. 16**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 17/29222

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - B65D 25/28 (2017.01) CPC - B65D 25/282		
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)		
See Search History Document		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
See Search History Document		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
See Search History Document		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 2014/0014670 A1 (Bergman et al.) 16 January 2014 (16.01.2014), entire document, especially fig 15; para [0045]-[0046]	1-8, 11, 14 ----- 9-10, 12, 15-17
X --- A	US 3,979,011 A (Schleicher) 07 September 1976 (07.09.1976), entire document, especially fig 1-2, 4; col 2, ln 14-31; col 3, ln 9-22	18-19 ----- 20-21
X	US 2010/0282767 A1 (Wren) 11 November 2010 (11.11.2010), entire document, especially fig 2b-4; para [0038]	22-23
X	US 2,632,320 A (Liss) 24 March 1953 (24.03.1953), entire document, especially fig 1-2; col 1, ln 48 - col 2, ln 10	24-25
Y	US 2008/0303298 A1 (Jones) 11 December 2008 (11.12.2008), entire document, especially fig 1-4; para [0018]	9-10, 15-17
Y	US 2004/0195849 A1 (Coppotelli et al.) 07 October 2004 (07.10.2004), entire document, especially fig 1-2; para [0025]	12
X	US 3,682,352 A (Doucette) 08 August 1972 (08.08.1972), entire document, especially fig 2	5, 13
A	US 2004/0154936 A1 (Kenney) 12 August 2004 (12.08.2004), entire document, especially fig 1-4; para [0035], [0037]-[0039]	20-21
A	US 2003/0088945 A1 (Raum) 15 May 2003 (15.05.2003), entire document	1-25
☒ 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 application or patent 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		Date of mailing of the international search report
28 August 2017		15 SEP 2017
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-8300		Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 17/29222

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 902,236 A (Kintz) 27 October 1908 (27.10.1908), entire document	1-25
A	US 5,570,863 A (Cooper) 05 November 1996 (05.11.1996), entire document	1-25

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 17/29222

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:
This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I: Claims 1-4 and 22-25 directed to a holder for a drinking vessel, comprising: a clip.

Group II: Claims 5-13 directed to a holder for a drinking vessel, comprising: a second strap.

Group III: Claims 14-21 directed to a holder for a fluid storing vessel comprising: a circular ring.

--- continued on extra sheet ---

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying 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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 17/29222

Continuation of Box III. This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

SPECIAL TECHNICAL FEATURES

The invention of Group I includes the special technical feature of a clip configured for retaining a rim of the vessel, not required by the claims of Groups II-III.

The invention of Group II includes the special technical feature of a second strap attached to the lower end of the handle, not required by the claims of Groups I or III.

The invention of Group III includes the special technical feature of a first circular ring; a second circular ring coupled to the first circular ring, not required by the claims of Groups I-II.

COMMON TECHNICAL FEATURES

Groups I-III share the common technical feature of a handle having; an upper end; and a lower end. However, this shared technical feature does not represent a contribution over prior art as being anticipated by US 2014/0014670 A1 to Bergman et al. (hereinafter ?Bergman?), which discloses a handle having; an upper end; and a lower end (upper and lower portions 114 and 116 form a handle, fig 15; para [0046]).

Groups I-II additionally share the common technical feature of a first strap extending from the handle. However, this shared technical feature is does not represent a contribution over prior art as being anticipated by Bergman), which discloses a first strap extending from the handle (first strap 122 extending from the upper portion of the handle 114, fig 15; para [0045]).

As the common technical features were known in the art at the time of the invention, these cannot be considered special technical feature that would otherwise unify the groups.

Therefore, Groups I-III lack unity under PCT Rule 13 because they do not share a same or corresponding special technical feature.