Sept. 10, 1968 J. P. HESTER 3,400,865

BEVERAGE DECANTER CONSTRUCTION

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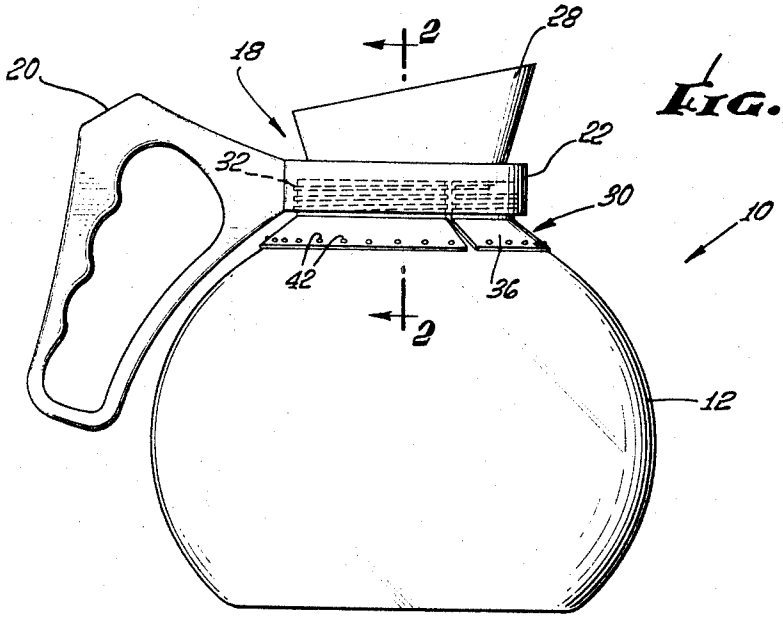
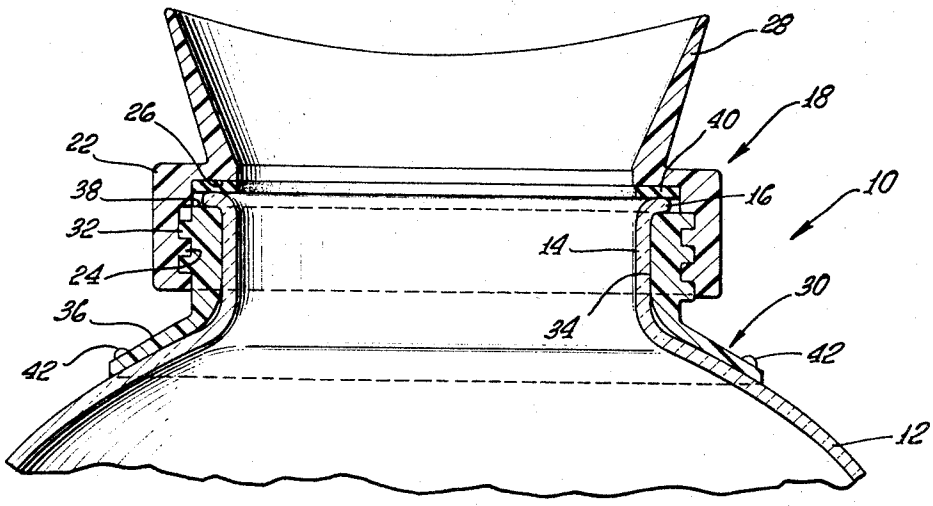


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.



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FIG. 3.

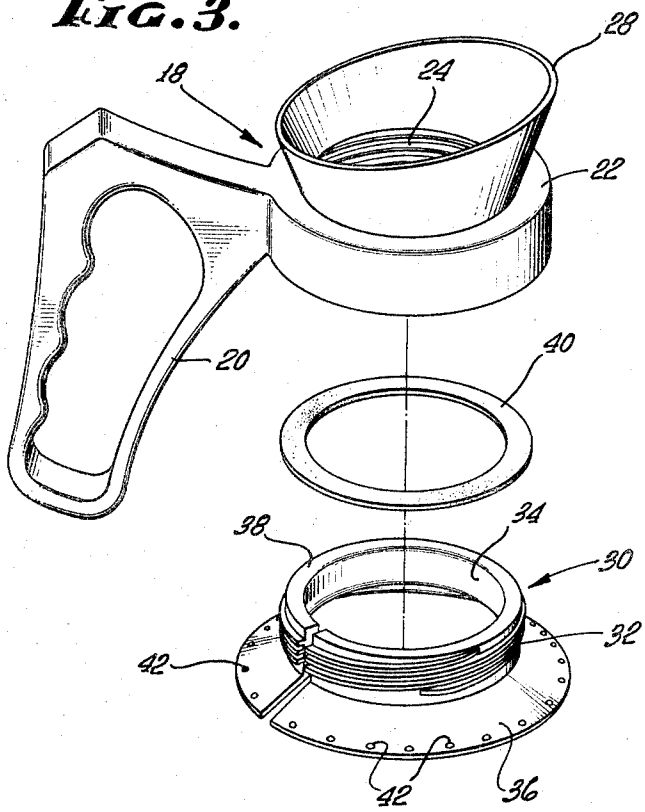


FIG. 5.

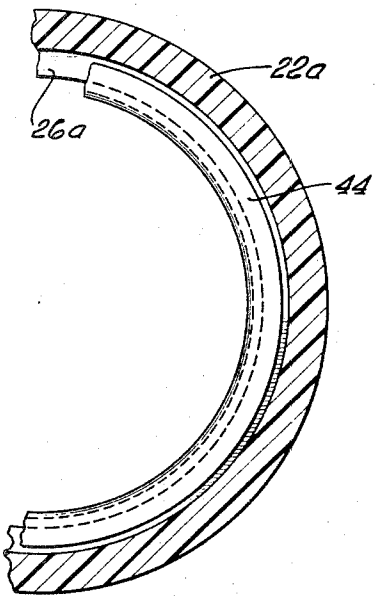
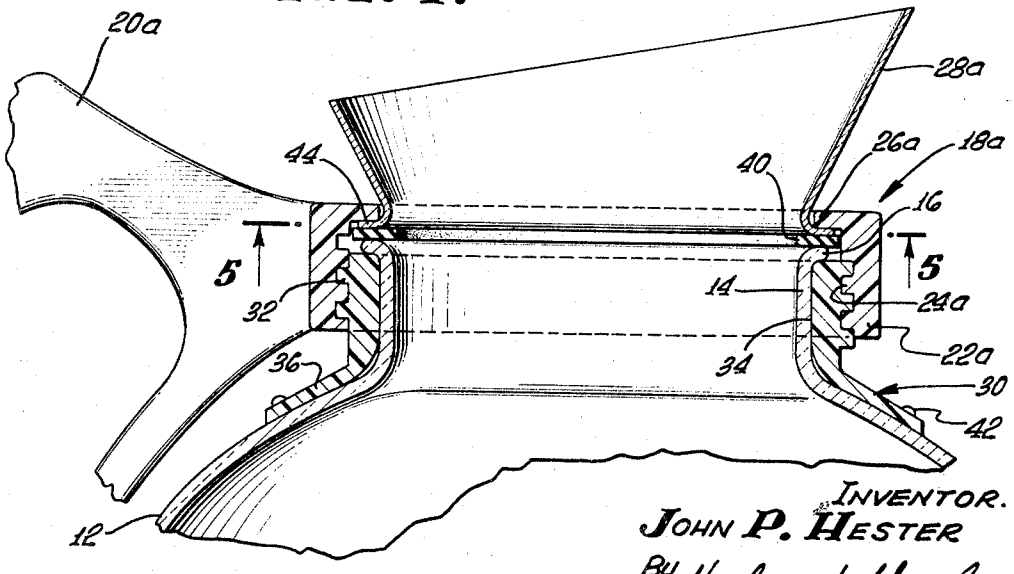


FIG. 4.



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BEVERAGE DECANTER CONSTRUCTION

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus for attaching a handle and pouring spout assembly to the neck of a glass flask having an outwardly beaded upper edge. A split locking sleeve engages around the neck of the flask under the bead, and a collar forming a part of the handle and spout assembly is threadedly engaged over the locking sleeve.

Glass beverage decanters are almost universally employed today in restaurants for serving hot coffee because the level and nature of the contents can be seen at a glance, and also because glass is well recognized as a particularly sanitary material. However, it has been found that when the pouring spout is also made of glass, there is a high incidence of breakage because of the pouring spout striking against the cup during pouring. Accordingly, most of such glass beverage decanters now employ a durable pouring spout that is made of stainless steel or plastic which is attached to the glass decanter at the neck thereof by a band clamp which also serves to secure the handle to the decanter. A somewhat intricate rubber gasket is also employed in effecting this connection at the neck of the decanter. While this conventional construction has been found to be generally satisfactory in service, it has the disadvantages of being unduly complicated and expensive, as well as being awkward and time-consuming to assemble. The present invention provides a much simpler means for attaching the handle and pouring spout to the glass flask, and permits assembly to be accomplished far more easily and rapidly.

According to the present invention, an externally threaded, expandable locking sleeve, preferably in the general form of a split ring, is engaged about the neck portion of the glass flask, immediately under the outwardly projecting annular bead or lip which is normally provided at the upper rim of the neck. The handle and pouring spout are both secured to an internally threaded annular collar as a unitary assembly, and this collar is engaged over the said lip or bead at the top of the flask neck and is threadedly connected to the locking sleeve to hold the locking sleeve in a constricted position under the bead or lip of the glass and thereby prevent upward shifting of the entire apparatus off of the neck. The collar has an inwardly extending annular flange above its threaded portion which provides a shoulder that overlies the top of the bead or lip on the collar, and a resilient sealing gasket may be interposed between this shoulder and the lip or bead of the glass. The threaded engagement of the collar over the locking sleeve is advanced until the bead or lip at the top of the glass is clamped between the shoulder on the collar and the locking sleeve, thereby securely fastening the handle and spout assembly to the neck of the flask.

Further objects and advantages of this invention will appear during the course of the following part of this specification, wherein the details of construction and mode of operation of a preferred embodiment are described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of a beverage decanter embodying the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged, fragmentary, vertical section taken on the line 2—2 in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is an exploded perspective view of the handle and spout assembly, gasket and split locking sleeve of FIGURES 1 and 2 axially aligned for assembly.

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary, enlarged, vertical section illustrating a modified form of the invention employing a metal spout.

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary horizontal section, with portions broken away, taken on the line 5—5 in FIGURE 4.

Referring to the drawings, and at first to FIGURES 1 through 3 thereof, a beverage decanter **10** according to the present invention employs a conventional rounded glass jar or flask **12** having a generally cylindrical neck portion **14** with an out-turned annular bead or lip **16** at its upper rim.

The handle and spout assembly **18** illustrated in FIGURES 1 to 3 is a unitary molded structure made of any suitable plastic material, as for example, polypropylene. The handle and spout assembly **18** includes a handle portion **20** which is joined to a generally circular collar portion **22** that has coarse internal threads **24**. A radially inwardly directed annular flange provides a shoulder **26** at the top of the collar portion **22**, the shoulder **26** preferably being spaced somewhat upwardly from the threads **24** to provide adequate room immediately under the shoulder **26** for a sealing gasket to be described hereinafter. A pouring spout **28** flares upwardly from the inner edge of the shoulder **26**. While the handle **20**, collar **22** and pouring spout **28** have been illustrated in FIGURES 1 to 3 as a single molded plastic structure, it is to be understood that one or more of these parts may, if desired, be separately formed and the parts then joined together by any conventional means to provide the handle and spout assembly **18**.

A split locking sleeve **30** is provided for connecting the handle and spout assembly **18** to the flask **12**. The sleeve **30** is preferably made of a suitable plastic material, as for example, polypropylene, which has a certain amount of resiliency, and preferably has only a single split. The locking sleeve **30** is provided with coarse external threads **32** which mate with the internal threads **24** of the collar **22**, and has a contoured inner surface **34** which is generally complementary to the external surface of the neck portion **14** of the flask so as to snugly fit therein. The locking sleeve **30** also preferably includes a downwardly flaring skirt portion **36** adapted to engage against the body of the flask where it bulges outwardly immediately below the neck portion **14** thereof, and the sleeve **30** has a curved or beveled upper rim **38** which seats against the underside of the bead or lip **16** of the flask. In its position of repose the locking sleeve **30** is constricted so as to fit snugly within the annular concavity presented by the outer surface of the neck portion **14** of the flask, with the external threads **32** of the locking sleeve projecting radially outwardly further than the bead or lip **16** of the flask. Because of the resiliency of the material of the sleeve **30** the sleeve is readily engageable in this operative position about the neck portion **14** of the flask by merely snapping the sleeve **30** down over the bead or lip **16** at the top of the neck.

Although the preferred split locking sleeve **30** has only a single split therein as illustrated in the drawings and as described hereinabove, it is to be understood that if desired the locking sleeve may alternatively comprise a plurality of separate sleeve segments which, when assembled about the neck portion **14** of the flask, cooperate to provide a substantially complete sleeve.

Because of the generally rigid structure of the collar portion **22** of the device, and the likelihood that some irregularities will exist in the shape of the annular bead or lip **16** at the upper rim of the neck of the flask, it is preferred to employ a resilient annular sealing gasket **40**

between the shoulder **26** of the collar **22** and the bead or lip **16**. This will provide a complete seal between the neck portion **14** of the flask and the pouring spout **28** so as to eliminate the possibility of leakage during pouring.

Assembly of the decanter **10** is accomplished simply by first snapping the split locking sleeve **30** down onto the neck **14** of the flask over the bead of lip **16**, either inserting the gasket **40** into the collar **22** under the shoulder **26** or placing the gasket **40** on top of the bead or lip **16** of the flask, and then engaging the collar **22** over the bead or lip **16** and threadedly coupling the collar **22** with the split locking sleeve **30**. The coarse threads **24** and **32** permit this coupling to be rapidly accomplished by merely twisting the collar **22** through several turns relative to the locking sleeve **30**. This assembly of the parts is greatly facilitated by the handle **20** attached to the collar **22** and the skirt **36** attached to the locking sleeve **30**. The skirt **36** may be held down against the body of the flask by one hand so as to hold the locking sleeve **30** against rotation relative to the flask, and then the handle **20** gripped by the other hand and turned so as to threadedly couple the collar to the locking sleeve. If desired, gripping of the skirt **36** may be facilitated by a series of projections **42** on its exposed surface.

Many users of beverage decanters of this general type prefer a metal pouring spout over a plastic spout, and for this reason I have provided an alternative handle and spout assembly **18***a*, shown in FIGURES 4 and 5, which embodies as a unitary part thereof a pouring spout composed of stainless steel or other suitable metal. The handle and spout assembly **18***a* includes a handle portion **20***a* and a collar portion **22***a* which has internal threads **24***a* and shoulder **26***a*, the handle and collar portions **20***a* and **22***a* being substantially the same as the corresponding handle and collar portions **20** and **22**, respectively, of the embodiment of the invention shown in FIGURES 1 to 3. The metal pouring spout **28***a* is attached to the shoulder or flange part **26***a* of the collar **22***a* and flares upwardly from the collar. The presently preferred method of attaching the metal pouring spout **28***a* to the collar **22***a* is to set the pouring spout in the mold for the collar before the molding of the collar has been completed, and then to mold the shoulder or flange portion **26***a* of the collar about the pouring spout. It is desirable to have an outwardly turned curl or flange **44** at the bottom of the pouring spout **28***a* which serves to lock the pouring spout in position in the collar, and which also provides a downwardly facing annular surface of the pouring spout which is engaged directly by the gasket **40** so that the gasket **40** provides a direct seal between the bead or lip **16** of the flask and the pouring spout **28***a*.

Disassembly of the apparatus for cleaning or replacement of parts is just as easily accomplished as assembly, merely by holding the skirt portion **36** of the split locking sleeve **30** against the body of the flask with one hand, and unscrewing the handle and spout assembly from the locking sleeve with the other hand.

While the instant invention has been shown and described herein in what are conceived to be the most practical and preferred embodiments, it is recognized that departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the invention, which is therefore not to be limited to the details disclosed herein, but is to be accorded the full scope of the claims so as to embrace any and all equivalent devices.

I claim:

1. A beverage decanter comprising a glass flask having a constricted neck with an outwardly beaded upper edge, a pouring spout flaring upwardly from said neck, a handle extending generally laterally from said neck and clamp means engaged about said neck and connected to said spout and said handle to attach the spout and the handle to the flask, wherein the improvement comprises an externally threated split sleeve forming an inner portion of said clamp means engaged about said neck of the flask under the bead, and an internally threaded collar forming an outer portion of said clamp means and having said pouring spout and handle connected thereto, said collar being threadedly engaged over said locking sleeve to lock the locking sleeve to the neck of the flask and to effect attachment of the pouring spout and handle to the flask, and said split sleeve having an integral downwardly flaring skirt portion which overlays the body of the flask immediately below the neck, said skirt portion providing gripping means for holding the split sleeve against rotation when said collar is rotated relative thereto for coupling and uncoupling.

2. A beverage decanter as defined in claim **1**, wherein said skirt portion of the split sleeve has an irregular exposed surface to facilitate holding of said locking sleeve against rotation.

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WALTER SOBIN, *Primary Examiner.*