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2,913,140

CONTAINER COVER

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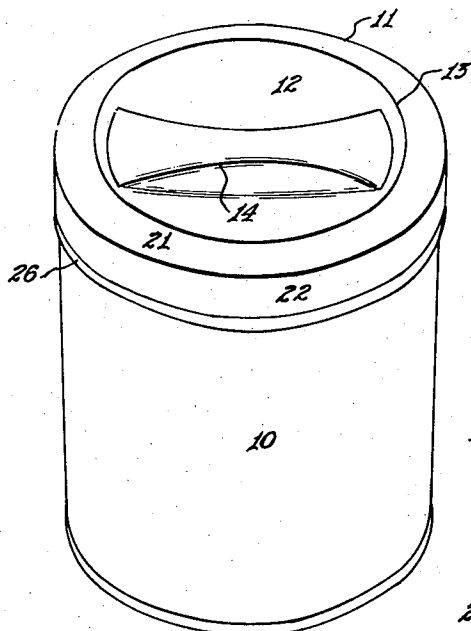


FIG. 1.

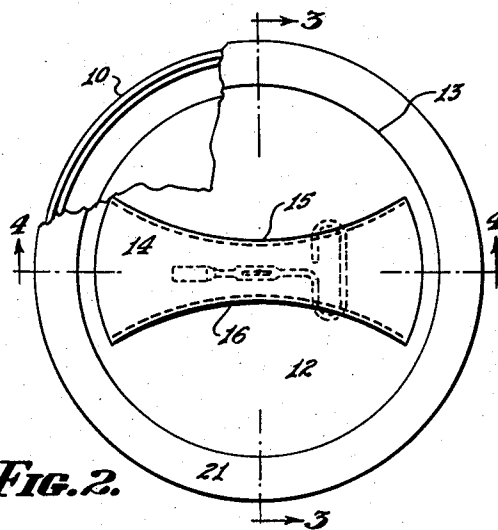


FIG. 2.

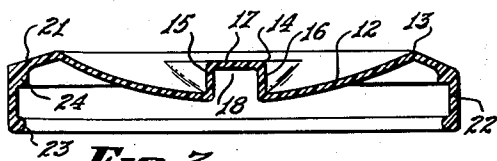


FIG. 3.

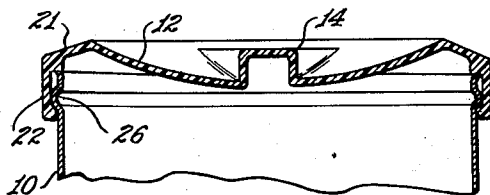


FIG. 5.

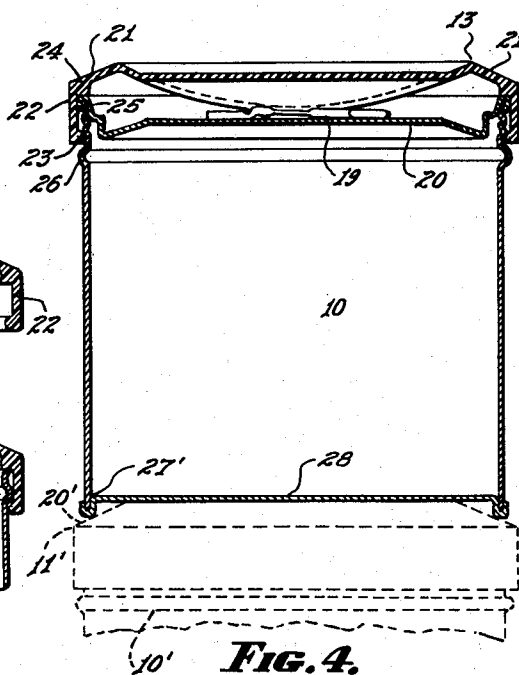


FIG. 4.

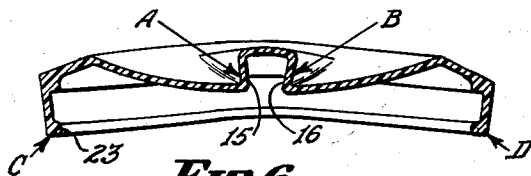


FIG. 6.

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CONTAINER COVER

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10 Claims. (Cl. 220—60)

This invention relates to a new and useful container cover and more particularly to one which is useful in covering either a sealed or unsealed container. In covering a sealed container the cover is useful as a means to aid vertically stacking a plurality of containers, to protect the opening key when attached to the top of the container lid, and as a carrying means. The cover can be used on an unsealed container to prevent foreign matter from entering the container and also for use as a carrying means. When the cover is used on an open-top container, a useful canister results.

The present invention, although particularly useful as a cover for cylindrical metal containers, especially those now in commercial use can, of course, be used as a cover for a container of any desired shape containing any desired product. The cover of the present invention has been found to be particularly useful for shortening containers, but it is not, by any means, limited to this specific application.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a flexible container cover which may be used as a cover for either a sealed or unsealed container which has novel features making it useful under either condition.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a container cover having projecting hand grip means with a central hollow portion beneath the hand grip means forming a cavity to protect and prevent interference with an opening key, when attached to the container lid.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a flexible cover having hand grip means extending no higher than the topmost projecting portion of the cover.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a cover having a chamfered peripheral edge which can be used to center a superimposed container having a peripheral projecting bead about the bottom thereof, thereby permitting a plurality of containers using the cover of the instant invention to be stacked vertically with great stability.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a flexible cover that can be removed and replaced with relative ease, having means in the cover for engaging ridges or depressions on the body of the container to provide a positive engagement and a relatively tight closure.

A further object is the provision of a container cover molded from slightly flexible material in which the cover may be grasped by the hand grip means to lift a full container without accidental dislodgement of the cover.

Briefly stated, in accordance with one aspect of the present invention, a flexible cover for a rigid container is provided which has a dished-down central portion with a diametrically disposed hand grip having side walls and a top wall, which, however, does not extend above the general level of the top of cover. A circumferential chamfered peripheral edge extends around the dished-

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down central portion. A downwardly extending skirt depends from the edge of the chamfered peripheral edge to form a substantially cylindrical side wall portion, the inner surfaces of which are provided with means for engaging and gripping the outer surfaces of a container to which the cover is attached.

While the specification concludes with claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which is regarded as comprising the present invention, the invention will be better understood from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the container cover attached to a typical container.

Figure 2 is a plan view, with part broken away, showing the top of the container and cover.

Figure 3 is a cross-section of the container and cover of Figure 2 taken along the section line 3—3.

Figure 4 is a cross-section of a sealed container and cover taken along the section line 4—4 of Figure 2, including an indication of another covered container upon which the first container is stacked.

Figure 5 is a sectional view showing the cover in place on an open topped container.

Figure 6 is a sectional view showing the gripping action hereinafter described.

Referring now to the drawings, Figure 1 shows a container 10 to which the cover 11 of the present invention is attached. The cover 11 is preferably molded from a slightly flexible and chemically inert plastic material such as polyethylene, polystyrene or the like. The cover 11 is designed for attachment to the container 10 in either the sealed or unsealed condition and has utility for either condition. The cover 11 is preferably attached to the container 10 after the container is sealed and then is supplied with the container for use as a container cover after the sealed container lid is removed.

The structure and function of the cover of the present invention will be better understood by referring to Figures 2, 3 and 4. The cover 11 has a central dished-down portion 12 terminating at an outer edge 13. A hand grip 14 projects from the dished-down portion 12. The hand grip 14 comprises a pair of upstanding laterally curved walls 15 and 16 which project upwardly from the dished-down portion 12. A substantially flat and horizontal top wall joins the side-by-side upstanding curved walls 15 and 16. The curved walls 15 and 16 and the horizontal top wall 17 form the hand grip 14 which can be used to grasp the cover 11 to carry about the container when container 10 and cover 11 are in engaging relationship as will be presently described. The top surface of the wall 17 preferably projects to a point no higher than the outer edge 13 of the central dished-down portion 12.

As best seen in Figures 2, 3 and 4, the hand grip 14 has a hollowed out portion or cavity 18 between the side walls 15 and 16. The hollowed out portion or cavity 18 permits the cover 11 to be placed on the container 10 without interfering with a key 19 secured to the top surface of the container lid 20. Containers having keys affixed to their top surface or lids are typically used for shortening or coffee. As shown in Figures 2 and 4 the shank of key 19 lies between the walls 15 and 16. The handle of the key 19 is off center with respect to the center of the container so that sufficient clearance is provided beneath the hand grip and the dished-down portion to avoid interference with the shank of the key or its handle.

A chamfered peripheral edge 21 extends from the outer edge 13 of the central dished-down portion 12. A depending skirt 22 extends downwardly from the chamfered peripheral portion 21 to form a substantially cylindrical

side wall. A peripheral bead 23 projecting inwardly on the inside of said skirt 22 and near the bottom edge thereof is adapted to engage ridges or depressions on the body of the container 10 when attached thereto as shown in Figure 4. An annular stop 24 near the inside upper end of the cylindrical side wall engages the upper edge of the container or its lid in order to limit the engaging distance of the cover with respect to the container.

In Figure 4 the cover 11 is shown attached to a typical container 10 having a lid 20 attached thereto. It will be noted that the bead 23 is forced past the ridge 25 projecting from the edge of the lid 20 and frictionally engages the sealed container between the ridge 25 and the second ridge 26. This second ridge 26, near the upper end of the container, is provided to engage bead 23 after the lid 20 has been removed and discarded. The tear strip of the container is normally located between the bead 25 and the bead 26. Thus, the contents of the opened container are protected against contamination by dust, insects, etc. by merely placing the cover 11 over the top of the container 10 and pushing downwardly until the bead 23 slides over the ridge 26. This is illustrated in Figure 5. When the original contents of the container have been removed and the container cleaned, a useful canister is provided.

In some constructions, a tear strip is provided which is not complete circumferentially so that, when the tear strip is removed, a small portion of the metal remains, hinging the lid to the container body. Such a container is intended to be reclosable; but it sometimes happens that the lid has a tendency to spring upwardly upon reclosure, exposing the contents of the container to dust and air. The cover of this invention, when used with a captive-lid container, has the function of keeping the lid closed and protecting the contents between uses thereof.

Figure 4 also shows the more positive and stable manner in which containers employing the instant invention can be stacked. It will be noted that the container 10 is centered by means of the projecting bead 27 engaging the chamfered peripheral edge 20' of a second cover 11' on a container 10' beneath the container 10. Preferably, the bottom 28 of the container rests upon the top surface of the cover 11' as indicated to provide a substantial support for the superposed container. The bead 27 prevents substantial lateral movement of the container with respect to the cover 11' since it is in relatively snug engagement with the chamfered peripheral edge 20', enabling containers to be stacked, as for example upon grocery shelves, with great stability.

Another aspect of the present invention is the increased gripping force with which the bead 23 engages the container when lifted by means of the hand grip 14. The cover 11 is made from relatively thin-walled, slightly flexible material so that when the fingers engage the outer surfaces of the upstanding curved walls 15 and 16 the whole cover tends to warp in the plane of the top as illustrated in Figure 6. The pressure of the fingers is exerted in the direction of the arrows A and B and will be roughly proportioned to the weight of the container and its contents. The resultant warpage tends to bring points C and D of the bead 23 closer together, thereby increasing the engaging or gripping force exerted by the bead 23 against the container. This feature makes it possible to lift a filled container or canister by means of the hand grip 14 without loss of engagement with the container as might be expected. Thus, one of the unique features of the present invention is that normal grasp of the hand grip tends to make the cover cling more tenaciously to the container and permits removal of the container from a shelf or support by means of the hand grip.

While a particular embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications can be made without departing from the invention. It is intended to cover in the appended claims all such changes

and modifications that come within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed as new is:

1. A container cover molded from slightly flexible and chemically inert plastic material comprising a central dish-down top portion having a hand grip formed therein, said hand grip formed from a pair of side-by-side upstanding curved walls projecting upwardly from the dish-down top portion and a substantially flat horizontal top wall, the top surface of said top wall being no higher than the outer edge of said dish-down top portion, a chamfered peripheral edge extending outwardly from the outer edge of said dish-down top portion, a skirt extending downwardly from said chamfered peripheral portion to form a substantially cylindrical side wall, an annular projecting bead on the inside and near the bottom edge of said side wall, said bead adapted to engage ridges or depressions formed on the body of the container, and an annular stop on the inner surface and near the top of said cylindrical side wall, said stop adapted to engage the top edge of a container in order to limit the engaging distance of the cover when engaging a container.

2. The cover claimed in claim 1 wherein said hand grip has a cavity between said upstanding curved walls to permit the cover to be placed on a container having a key secured to its top in order to protect the key without interfering with the key.

3. The cover of claim 1 wherein the cover is made of material having sufficient flexibility to permit warping in the plane of the top thereby increasing the force exerted by the bead on the container when lifting the container by means of the cover.

4. A cover for a rigid container, said cover having relatively thin, flexible walls and comprising a top and a circumferential skirt depending therefrom to form a substantially cylindrical side wall portion, there being means internally of said side wall portion for engaging the body of said container, said top having a dish-down central portion with an integral hand grip projecting upwardly therein, said hand grip having two laterally extending side walls and a top wall whereby when pressure is exerted on said side walls, said cover will tend to warp so as to increase its gripping force upon said container.

5. The cover claimed in claim 4 wherein the top of said hand grip is no higher than the outer rim of the dish-down central portion.

6. The cover claimed in claim 5 wherein said means comprise a projecting annular bead on the inner surface of said cylindrical side wall portion.

7. The cover claimed in claim 5 including a hollow hand grip adapted to clear a key secured to the lid of the container.

8. The cover claimed in claim 7 including an annular stop projecting from the inner surface of said cylindrical side wall.

9. In combination, a flexible cover for a rigid container comprising a dish-down central portion having a hand grip projecting upwardly therein, said hand grip having two side walls and a top wall, a chamfered peripheral edge extending outwardly from the outer edge of said central dish-down portion, a downwardly extending circumferential skirt depending from said chamfered peripheral edge to form a substantially cylindrical side wall portion and a projecting annular bead on the inner surface of said side wall portion adjacent its lower edge, and a container which in the closed condition has a top peripheral bead below which said first mentioned bead is engageable, said container having a top removable therefrom along with said peripheral bead, and said container also having a second peripheral bead spaced from the top peripheral bead of said container, said last mentioned bead being engageable by the bead on said cover after the top of said container has been removed.

10. The structure claimed in claim 9 wherein said container has a downwardly extending bead at its bottom,

said bead being engageable with the chamfered peripheral edge of the cover of a similar container-and-cover combination for stable stacking.

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