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I. COMO

2,597,567

HERMETICALLY SEALED MEAL COMPACT

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Fig. 1

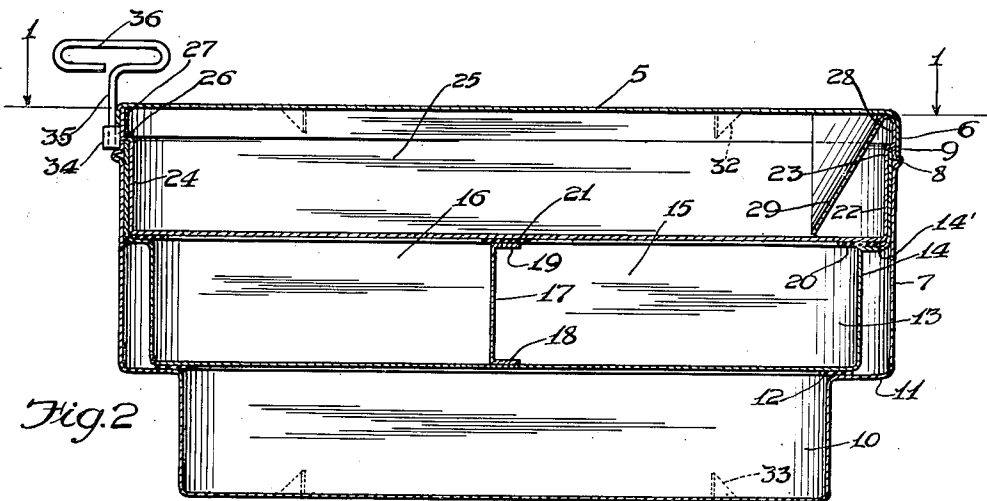
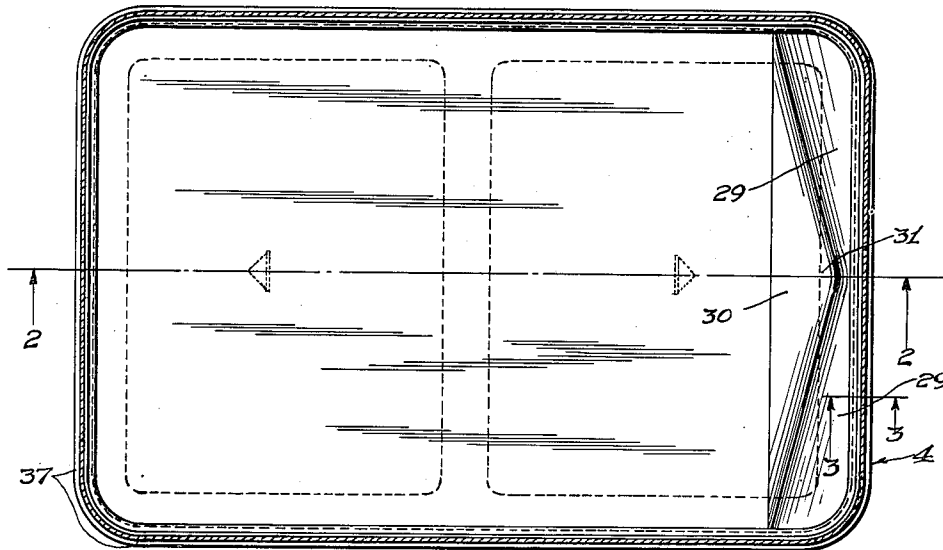


Fig. 2

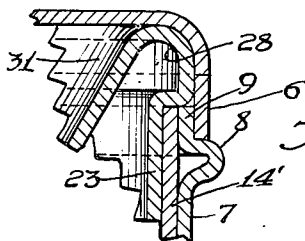


Fig. 3

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HERMETICALLY SEALED MEAL COMPACT

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8 Claims. (Cl. 220—8)

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My invention relates to hermetically sealed meal compacts.

An important object of my invention is to provide a meal compact of the aforementioned character, which may be made available for distribution and sale in stores.

A further object of my invention is to provide a meal compact of the aforementioned character, which is subdivided into wells or compartments, each hermetically sealed, each compartment or well being individually sealed so that there will be no contamination of foods, odors or admixtures of the same.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a meal compact which will accommodate, in hermetically sealed arrangement, at least one beverage and one or more solid foods.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a meal compact of the aforementioned character, in which the liquid compartment, or compartments, may be accessible to permit removal of the contents therein, without destroying the sealing effect of the remainder of the compartments.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a meal compact having an upper chamber or compartment, an intermediate chamber or compartment, preferably subdivided into two sub-compartments and a lowermost compartment; all arranged to be hermetically sealed by means of evacuation and metallic band reinforcing means, which is removable by means of conventional key construction.

A still further object of my invention is to provide in the liquid containing, or retaining, chamber concealed spout means to facilitate dispensing of the liquid therein.

A still further object of my invention is to provide single sealing means for sealing all chambers in one unitary structure.

A further object of my invention is to provide a meal compact of the aforementioned character, which is simple in construction, practical for the purposes for which it is to be used, and of such elemental construction as to lend itself ideally for economical manufacture in quantity production.

Other objects and advantages inherent in my invention will become apparent from an examination of the accompanying drawings, bearing further elucidation in the ensuing description, wherein like symbols are used to designate like parts, and in which;

Fig. 1 is a sectional view taken substantially on line 1—1 of Fig. 2.

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Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken substantially on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary enlarged cross-sectional view showing the structural relationship of the parts at the seam where the entire device is hermetically sealed for preservation of the contents therein.

Referring to the various views, my invention is generally designated 4 and consists of a number of can-like elements or container elements arranged in nesting relationship and in superimposition, one over the other. The lowermost element is designated as 7 and is of oblong configuration as shown, being provided at its uppermost portion with a locating bead 8 terminating in a lip portion 9, the purpose of which will be hereinafter explained in greater detail.

The lowermost portion of the outer container 7 is reduced in size and provides the chamber or compartment 10, which is adapted to hold a liquid, such as soup, coffee, milk or any other drink or beverage.

The reduced portion or chamber 10 is connected to the outer container 7 by the intermediate shoulder portion 11, forming a seat for the container 14, the bottom of which rests thereon, having intermediately positioned between the said bottom and the shoulder 11 a gasket 12 of rectangular configuration, so as to form a good seal for the liquid or beverage retaining chamber 10.

The intermediate container element 14 is also provided with a shoulder 14' which acts as a seat for the gasket 20 to seal the upper container 23; the said upper container having upwardly extending nesting walls 22, which in addition to the lips 9 are positioned in abutting relationship against the shoulder 26 of the upper container 23; the walls 24 thereof confining also a beverage or liquid which may be a fruit juice or a vegetable juice.

The upper container 23 is enclosed by the cover element 5 and the same is held to the remainder of the nested construction illustrated in Fig. 2 by means of a sealing ribbon 6, which is partially fractured all along the perimetral configuration of the upper container so that the same is severable from the remainder of the unit by rolling the conventional key 36, used for such purposes, after its stem 35 has engaged a loose portion or tab of the sealing ribbon 6, thus coiling the same upon the stem 35 of the key as indicated at 34, facilitating removal of the cover 5 and affording access to all of the compartments.

It will be noted that the intermediate unit 14 has the compartment 13, which is subdivided into two sub-compartments 15 and 16 by the partition 17 having flanged portions 19 and 18; portion 18 being soldered or welded to the bottom of the intermediate container 14; the upper portion serving to abut against the bottom of the upper container 23, so that the gasket 20, having a web 21 at the center thereof, will seal the sub-compartments 15 and 16 against contamination or admixture of the foods therein, maintaining the foods separately and in total isolation.

The upper container 23 is provided with the compartment or chamber 25, in which a liquid such as fruit juice or vegetable juice may be confined.

It will be noted that the one side of the upper container 23 at the edge 28 is provided with an extended metal portion or apron, which is folded as indicated at 29 to form the web 30 in dihedral and angular formation 31 to act as a concealed spout when the cover 5 is removed and the contents of the chamber 25 are to be spilled, emptied, or dispensed into a glass, cup or other suitable drinking container. The edges 27 lie in the same horizontal plane as the surface 28.

It may be desired not to consume the entire meal packaged in the meal compact, in which event the liquids in the chamber 25 and in the chamber 10 may be independently consumed by piercing as indicated at 32 and 33 and thus dispensing the liquid contents therefrom without resorting to opening the entire compact by means of the key 36, leaving the ribbon 6 under seal and thus preserving the solid foods in the sub-compartments 15 and 16 without affecting them in any manner whatsoever; thus the meal compact has another decided advantage that some of the foods therein, the liquid foods or the beverages, may be consumed without destroying the protective sealing effect to the solid foods contained therein, or the entire compact may be opened by the removal of the sealing ribbon 6; thus making available all the courses contained in the meal compact.

It goes without saying that the meal compact will furnish an ideal arrangement for bachelors, who, for example, would like to have a complete meal, and who having no cooking facilities available, may purchase these meal compacts, which will be labeled with the types of foods contained in each of the chambers and certain of the foods, such as the specific beverages or solid foods. Should certain foods require heating, and since the average bachelor apartment has facilities for heating, my invention will provide an ideal meal compact for such individuals.

It goes without saying that such an arrangement will also save time and should be economically a profitable venture. These meal compacts may also be used especially for packing dietary foods in various combinations required for meals, such as luncheon, breakfast or dinner, and the food required for the dietary purposes measured out in specific amounts either volumetrically or gravimetrically as required by stipulations of dieticians and other individuals who recommend prescribed diets.

The entire unit makes available all the foods from the compact by merely removing the ribbon 6 coiling it up as indicated at 34, by means of the conventional key 36 operated perimetally about the contour 37 of the unit.

Although I have herein described rather succinctly the nature and use of my invention so that

persons skilled in the art will have no difficulty apprising themselves of the teachings thereof and, inasmuch as the disclosure is susceptible of various alterations, modifications, and improvements, I hereby reserve the right to all modifications, alterations, and improvements falling within the scope and spirit of my invention, as well as any modifications that are embraced suggestively in the accompanying drawings, and any that may come within the purview of the foregoing description; my invention to be limited only by the appended claims.

Having thus disclosed and revealed my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. Hermetically sealed meal compact means, comprising an outer container element provided with an intermediate shoulder portion defining a reduced liquid compartment, an intermediate container element provided with an intermediate shoulder portion and a reduced compartment, the said intermediate container element nested within the said outer compartment element and having its bottom portion resting on the said first-mentioned intermediate shoulder portion also having its top edges in the same horizontal plane with the edges of the said outer container element, an upper container element provided with an intermediate shoulder portion in abutting relationship with both the said first-mentioned top edges and the said second-mentioned top edges, the bottom portion of the said upper container element resting on the said second-mentioned intermediate shoulder portion, a cover element secured to the said upper container element, a locating bead portion provided adjacent the top edges of the said outer container element, and a sealing ribbon securing the edges of the said cover element to a lip portion above the said locating bead portion and provided with a free end engageable by a key for severing the said sealing ribbon to permit its removal rendering accessible the various compartments in the said meal compact means.

2. Hermetically sealed meal compact means, comprising an outer container element provided with an intermediate shoulder portion defining a reduced liquid compartment, an intermediate container element provided with an intermediate shoulder portion and a reduced compartment, the said intermediate container element nested within the said outer compartment element and having its bottom portion resting on the said first-mentioned intermediate shoulder portion also having its top edges in the same horizontal plane with the edges of the said outer container element, an upper container element provided with an intermediate shoulder portion in abutting relationship with both the said first-mentioned top edges and the said second-mentioned top edges, the bottom portion of the said upper container element resting on the said second-mentioned intermediate shoulder portion, a cover element secured to the said upper container element, a locating bead portion provided adjacent the top edges of the said outer container element, a sealing ribbon securing the edges of the said cover element to a lip portion above the said locating bead portion and provided with a free end engageable by a key for severing the said sealing ribbon to permit its removal rendering accessible the various compartments in the said meal compact means, and concealed spout means formed along one upper edge of the said upper container element.

securing the edges of the said cover element to a lip portion above the said locating bead portion and provided with a free end engageable by a key for severing the said sealing ribbon to permit its removal rendering accessible the various compartments in the said meal compact means, and gasket means interposed between the said bottom portions and the said shoulder portions upon which the said bottom portions rest, the said reduced compartment of the said intermediate container element being partitioned to form a plural number of sub-compartments.

8. Hermetically sealed meal compact means, comprising an outer container element provided with an intermediate shoulder portion defining a reduced liquid compartment, an intermediate container element provided with an intermediate shoulder portion and a reduced compartment, the said intermediate container element nested within the said outer compartment element and having its bottom portion resting on the said first-mentioned intermediate shoulder portion also having its top edges in the same horizontal plane with the edges of the said outer container element, an upper container element provided with an intermediate shoulder portion in abutting relationship with both the said first-mentioned top edges and the said second-mentioned top edges, the bottom portion of the said upper container element resting on the said second-mentioned intermediate shoulder portion, a cover element

secured to the said upper container element, a locating bead portion provided adjacent the top edges of the said outer container element, a sealing ribbon securing the edges of the said cover element to a lip portion above the said locating bead portion and provided with a free end engageable by a key for severing the said sealing ribbon to permit its removal rendering accessible the various compartments in the said meal compact means, concealed spout means formed along one upper edge of the said upper container element, and gasket means interposed between the said bottom portions and the said shoulder portions upon which the said bottom portions rest, the said reduced compartment of the said intermediate container element being partitioned to form a plural number of sub-compartments.

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