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Hagert et al.

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[54] **LEATHER ENCASED FLASK**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **150/52 E,** D9/60

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B65d 65/04**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 150/52 R, 52 E; 215/12, 215/13, 73, 99

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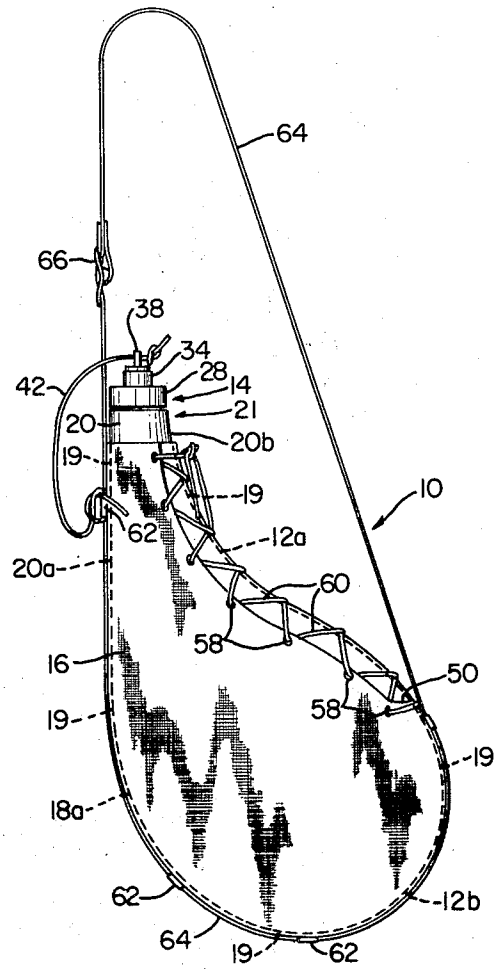
Primary Examiner—Herbert F. Ross

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A flask having good heat insulating characteristics includes a generally kidney-shaped vessel, commonly referred to as a bota, a cap assembly having a base cap with a relatively narrow passage therethrough and an auxiliary cap for selectively closing the narrow passage in the base cap whereby liquid in the vessel can be discharged through an opening in the vessel or through the relatively narrow passage in the base cap. A removable outer skin or casing of a flexible material fits tightly around the vessel and has a slotted neck portion covered by a flexible tongue through which the vessel can be removed from or inserted into the casing. The outer casing is secured to the vessel by a lace which is threaded across the tongue and releasably secures the vessel in the casing. An adjustable carrying strap is affixed to the casing to facilitate carrying the flask.

4 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures



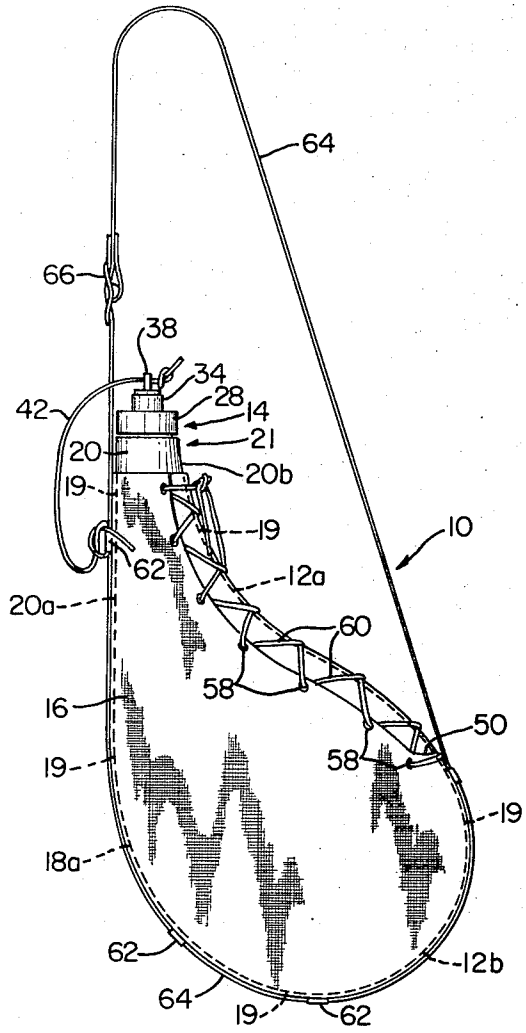


FIG. 1

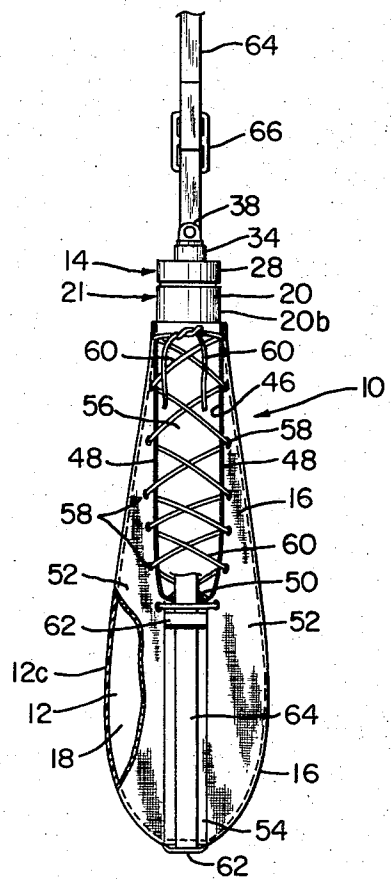


FIG. 2

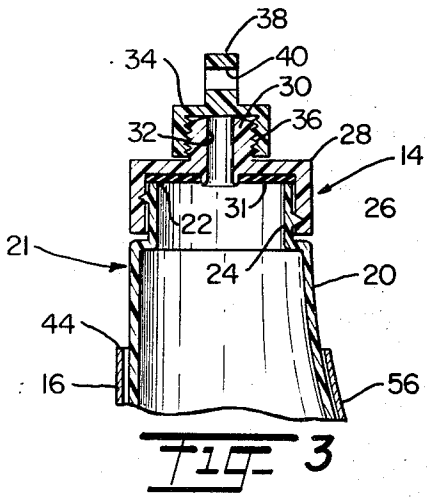


FIG. 3

LEATHER ENCASED FLASK

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to portable liquid containers and more particularly to a new and improved flask type container having an inner vessel of an insulating material and a flexible skin tight insulating casing.

For years there has been a demand for portable liquid containers that can be hand carried for use in connection with various outdoor activities. However, it has proved difficult to devise a container that is entirely satisfactory insofar as having heat insulating qualities to maintain the temperature of the liquid inside and at the same time being light, convenient to carry and aesthetically pleasing. Probably the most conventional commercially available portable container that provides good heat insulating qualities for temperature maintenance is the thermos or vacuum bottle. The typical thermos, however, is normally relatively heavy, awkward to carry and fragile. Other portable liquid containing devices, such as the so-called "wine skins," are convenient to carry but lack adequate temperature maintenance qualities desirable for use in connection with outdoor activities.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been designed to satisfactorily maintain the temperature of liquids, such as wine, within the container, to be easy and convenient to carry, and to be aesthetically pleasing in appearance.

As will be further appreciated from the detailed description hereinafter, the container or flask is particularly well suited for carrying liquids during numerous outdoor activities such as skiing, boating, picnicking, spectator sports, and the like.

The container includes a light, preferably molded plastic kidney-shaped vessel having an opening which is selectively closed or opened with a cap assembly that includes a base cap with a reduced diameter passage therethrough and an auxiliary cap removably attached to the base cap for closing the reduced diameter passage. In this manner the liquid in the vessel can be removed in either one of two flow patterns by pouring through the opening in the vessel or squirting in a confined manner through the relatively narrow passage in the base cap. A flexible outer skin tight casing of a leather-like material tightly surrounds the vessel and has an elongated closure portion that can be selectively opened or closed so that the vessel can be removed from or inserted into the casing. In the preferred form, the closure portion is an elongated slotted opening with a tongue secured to the casing adjacent one end of the slotted opening so as to bridge the opening. A lace is used for connecting the casing across the slotted opening in a releasable manner. The casing is also provided with a carrying strap which is adjustable and may be used to pass over the shoulder of the user. Additionally, an attachment strap connects the auxiliary cap to the outer casing so that either the auxiliary cap or the base cap can be opened and will remain secured to the casing.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a flask having an inner insulating vessel and a flexible skin-tight outer insulating casing with a slotted opening through which the vessel can be inserted into or removed from the casing and including lace means for closing the slotted opening to secure the vessel within the casing.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a portable liquid container made of an insulating material and having a cap assembly including a base cap with a reduced diameter passage whereby liquid can be dispensed from the container in either one of two flow patterns.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Other objects, advantages and capabilities of the present invention will become more apparent as the description proceeds taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a side elevation of the portable container of the present invention;

FIG 2 is a front elevation of the container of FIG. 1 with portions removed for clarity; and

FIG. 3 is an enlarged vertical section taken through an upper portion of the container of FIG. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference first to FIGS. **1** and **2**, the flask or portable liquid container **10** of the present invention is seen to include a vessel or inner container **12**, a closure cap assembly **14** for the vessel and an outer skin or casing **16** surrounding the vessel.

The vessel **12** is substantially kidney-shaped having a main body **18** and a relatively narrow neck **20**. The main body **18**, when viewed from the side as in FIG. **1**, is somewhat oval shaped with the neck **20** extending substantially tangentially upwardly from the rear **18***a* of the main body. The rear **20***a* of the neck extends straight downwardly to the rear **18***a* of the main body, but the front **20***b* of the neck diverges downwardly forming a concave intermediate portion **12***a* of the vessel which is continuous through a reversing curve into a rounded convex bottom **12***b* of the vessel that is continuous with the straight rear **20***a* of the neck **20**. As best seen in FIG. **2**, the side faces **12***c* of the vessel are slightly bulged so as to be fullest in the main body **18** of the vessel and taper inwardly and upwardly to the uppermost end **21** of the neck which is substantially cylindrical. The side faces **12***c* of the vessel establish broad arcuate surfaces that are continuous around a relatively narrow arcuate periphery **19** of the vessel. This configuration of the vessel allows the container **10** to lie confortably at one's side when carried as will be pointed out later.

The vessel **12** is hollow and opens through a circular opening **22** in the uppermost end **21** of the neck **20** allowing the free flow of liquid therethrough. The vessel is preferably made of a material having insulating properties whereby the temperature of the liquid within the vessel will be maintained for a reasonable period of time. For example, the vessel may be composed of identical opposing blow-molded half-segments of a light plastic material heat sealed along a peripheral seam. The plastic material should be somewhat rigid so that the vessel will normally maintain its configuration, shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, but can be temporarily deformed or squeezed, such as, by applying manual pressure against the side faces, and when released will immediately return to its normal configuration.

As seen in FIG. **3**, the uppermost end **21** of the neck **20** of the vessel **12** has a reduced diameter cylindrical extension **24** which has external threads **26** for releasably securing the cap assembly **14** to the vessel. The cap assembly **14** can be seen to include a generally cup

shaped base cap portion **28** opening downwardly and having internal threads adapted to mate with the external threads **26** on the extension **24** of the vessel. The base cap portion **28** of the cap assembly has a raised centrally located externally threaded head portion **30** with a narrow axial passage **32** therethrough. A circular sealing washer **31** of cork or other suitable material is seated in the base cap to effect a fluid-tight seal between the base cap and the vessel. An auxiliary cap **34**, similar in configuration to the base cap **28** has internal threads **36** adapted to mate with the external threads on the head portion **30** so that the narrow passage **32** is closed when the auxiliary cap **34** is screwed onto the externally threaded head portion. The auxiliary cap has an upwardly extending rib **38** with a horizontal opening **40** therethrough, the horizontal opening being provided for attachment of an attachment strap or thong **42** to the auxiliary cap as shown in FIG. **1** for a purpose to be explained later.

It can, therefore, be appreciated that when the cap assembly **14** is removed from the vessel **12,** liquid within the vessel can be poured through the opening **22** in the neck **20** but when the cap assembly, including the auxiliary cap **34,** is screwed onto the neck, liquid within the container is prevented from escaping. If, however, it is desired to obtain a confined relatively high velocity flow of liquid from the vessel, the vessel can be inverted whereby the neck points downwardly and the auxiliary cap **34** removed so that the liquid within the vessel will flow through the narrow passage **32** in the base closure cap **28** by gravity, or can be forced therethrough by squeezing and thereby depressing the side faces of the vessel. As previously mentioned, the body **18** of the vessel will return to its normal configuration when the pressure thereon is released.

Looking more particularly now at the outer casing **16,** it can be seen to comprise a tight form-fitting skin or covering for the vessel **12.** Preferably, the casing **16** is composed of a flexible leather-like material so as to readily conform to the configuration of the vessel and provide an insulating cover for the vessel. The casing **16** is shaped in conformity with the configuration of the vessel **12.** It has an open top **44** and a closure portion extending across the concave intermediate portion **12***a* of the vessel. In the preferred form, the closure portion comprises a rectangular slotted opening **46** extending along the front **20***b* of the neck **20** of the vessel and continuing over the intermediate portion **12**a of the vessel. The slotted opening **46** is defined by spaced substantially parallel side edges **48** and a bottom edge **50** that crosses the relatively narrow arcuate periphery **19** of the vessel near the forwardmost extent of the vessel so that the distance from the location at which the edge **50** crosses the periphery to the rear **18***a* of the main body of the vessel is at least as great as the maximum width dimension of the vessel so that the vessel can be removed from or inserted into the casing through the slotted opening. The slotted opening opens through the open top of the casing which is sized to recieve the neck **20** of the vessel.

In the disclosed form, the outer casing **16** is comprised of two identical half-segments **52** that are connected by a seam strip **54** which passes along the relatively narrow arcuate periphery of the vessel **12.** The seam strip **54** is also composed of a flexible leather-like material that is somewhat heavier than the material from which the half-segments are made giving added strength along the narrow periphery **19** of the vessel. A tongue is affixed to the underside of the outer casing **16** along the bottom edge **50** of the slotted opening **46** and extends upwardly along the intermediate portion **12***b* and the front **20***b* of the neck to the open top **44** of the casing so as to bridge the opening between the spaced parallel edges **48.** Spaced eyelets **58** are affixed in each half segment **52** of the casing adjacent to and along the side edges **48** so that a lace member **20** can be threaded through the eyelets **28** and releasably connected to secure the vessel **12** within the casing.

Strap loops **62** are affixed to the seam **54** at peripherally spaced intervals so as to lie transversely to the narrow periphery of the vessel and are adapted to retain a carrying strap **64** which is passed beneath the strap loops **62** and thereby passes around the narrow periphery **19** of the vessel. The carrying strap has an adjustable buckel **66** whereby the effective length of the strap **64** can be selectively adjusted as desired. For example, the strap can be lengthened to provide a large loop that can pass over the head and shoulders of a user whereby the container will be suspended along the user's side or the strap may be shortened to thereby serve as a handle so that it can be carried in the hand of the user.

As a precautionary measure and to prevent loss of the cap assembly **14,** the attachment strap or thong **42** is secured to the uppermost strap loop **42,** adjacent the upper rear portion of the outer casing **16,** and is passed through the horizontal passage **40** in the rib **38** on the auxiliary cap **34** and knotted so that the auxiliary cap, and the base cap **28** when connected to the auxiliary cap, are secured to the outer casing **16.** In this manner, when the auxiliary cap **34** is removed from the base cap, it will simply dangle from the outer casing, or when the base cap **28** is removed from the vessel with the auxiliary cap connected thereto, it will similarly dangle from the casing until it is again screwed onto the vessel.

It will, therefore, be appreciated that a flask or portable liquid container has been described which is light, easy to manage, has insulating properties to maintain the temperature of the liquid retained therein and is aesthetically pleasing to the eye. It should be noted that due to the generally flattened configuration of the container, it is easily carried and will hang flat against the side of a user when the carrying strap is passed over the user's shoulder and the casing includes a selectively operable closure portion to allow insertion or removal of the vessel into or out of the casing.

Although the present invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the present disclosure has been made by way of example and that changes in details of structure may be made without departing from the spirit thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. In an insulated portable container for carrying liquids in which a substantially kidney-shaped vessel includes a main annulus of generally oval-shaped configuration and a neck tapering away from one end of the annulus, said neck having a concavo-convex surface portion forming a continuation of one peripheral surface portion of the annulus and a tangentially extending surface portion defining a continuation of the opposite peripheral surface portion of the annulus, the said neck terminating in an open end, and a cap releasably con-

nected to the open end of the neck, the improvement comprising:

a removable outer flexible, but non-elastic casing form-fitting the said vessel, said casing comprising an elongated slot along the said concavo-convex surface portion of the neck and extending from near the open end of the neck to near the point of maximum width or apex of the vessel through which the vessel can be releasably inserted into the casing;

a tongue flexibly connected to the said casing at the end of the elongated slot near the said apex and extending to the neck end of the said slot, said tongue being slightly wider than said slot such that the tongue can selectively bridge the slotted opening;

a plurality of spaced eyelets on each side of the said elongated slot;

lacing means interconnecting the said eyelets whereby the ends of the lacing means can be releasably secured to positively interconnect the opposite edges of the casing on both sides of the elongated slot such that the said tongue is firmly seated between the vessel and the lacing means; and

a carrying strap secured at one end to the outer casing near the said apex and just below the end of the said elongated slot and secured at the other end to the midpoint of the tangential section of the said neck of the casing, said carrying strap being adapted to pass over the shoulder of a user.

2. In an insulated portable container according to claim **1** wherein said casing is leather and comprises two identical half-segments on opposite sides of the vessel connected by a seam strip.

3. In an insulated portable container according to claim **1** wherein said vessel is composed of an insulating molded plastic material.

4. In the insulated portable container of claim **1** wherein said releasable cap comprises:

a base cap with a passage therethrough of reduced diameter relative to the said opening in the neck with one end being releasably threaded to the terminal end of the neck and the other end having a threaded connector member;

an auxiliary cap with one end releasably threaded to the said connector member and the other end affixed to an attachment strap; and

an attachment strap connecting the auxiliary cap to the said casing.

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