Oct. 25, 1960 E. J. KRAJCOVIC 2,957,614

PAPER CUP COVER

Filed Oct. 3, 1958

Fig.1

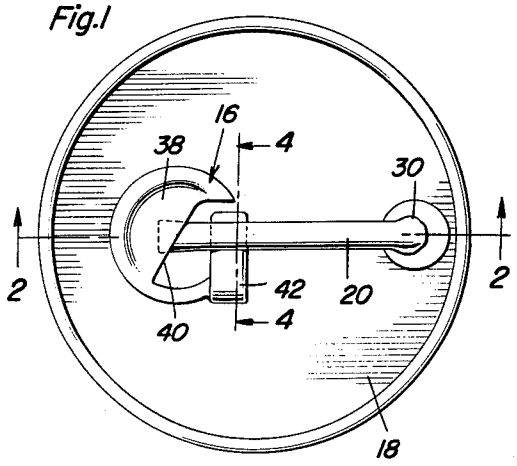


Fig.5

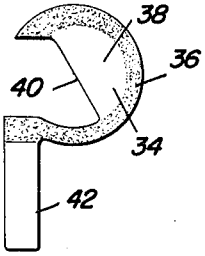


Fig.6

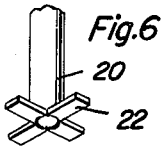
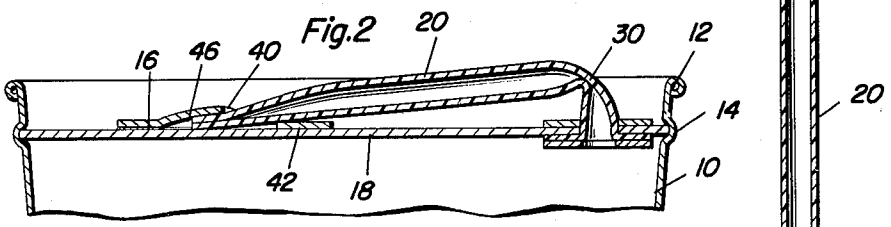


Fig.2



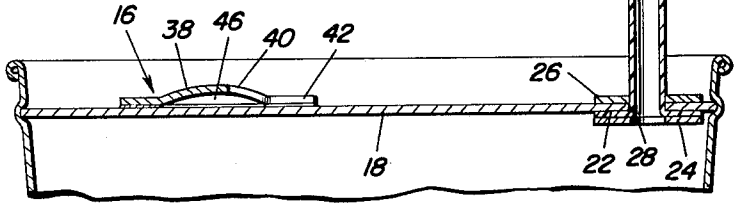
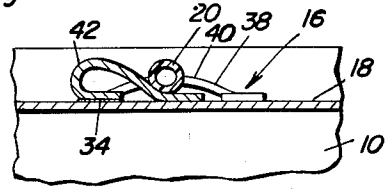


Fig.3

Fig.4



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PAPER CUP COVER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 229—7)

This invention relates to a cover for a receptacle and more particularly to a cover for an ordinary paper cup.

An object of the invention is to provide a cover for a receptacle making it unnecessary to remove the cover for drinking from the receptacle. There are numerous times when it is impractical or undesirable to remove the cover from a paper cup in order to drink from the cup. For instance on the beach in the presence of sand, while travelling especially by bus and automobile, while attending a ball game, etc. Accordingly, this invention solves the problem by providing means of a practical nature for withdrawing liquid from the cup through a drinking straw without removing the cover. The contents of the cup may be fully and completely consumed at one time or the cover of this invention may be adjusted to the drinking and non-drinking positions any number of times.

Further, the size of the assembly on the cup cover will always be the same regardless of the cup and/or cover size.

The opening and closing of the straw may be accomplished with only one finger (usually the index finger) and the cup held in the same hand, so that the user's other hand is always free.

If for any reason it is desired to remove the cover it may be separated from the cup by pulling on the straw.

On the highways, this kind of cup may be served at drive-in stands directly to the occupants of an automobile or other motor vehicle.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a top view of a receptacle having a cover constructed in accordance with the invention thereon.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a sectional view similar to Figure 2 but showing the cover for the receptacle in the receptacle contents consuming position.

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken approximately on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is an elevational view of the straw holder and lifter that constitutes a part of the invention.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the lower end of the straw.

In the accompanying drawings a fragment of receptacle **10** is shown. This is a conventional paper cup in all respects, having a rolled upper edge **12** and a circumferential groove **14** near the rolled edge and adapted to accept a conventional paper cover for the cup. The improved cover **16** is made of a circular panel **18** adapted to fit in the groove **14** and be held in place just as any ordinary conventional cover. However, panel **18** has a drinking straw **20** attached to it. The drinking straw

may be made of plastic or paper material or any other suitable material which is flexible so that it may assume the positions of Figure 2 and Figure 3 respectively. The lower end of the drinking straw has means for fastening it to the panel **18**. These means may be varied, one suggestion being to use a disk secured to the straw and secured to the panel **18**. Another suggestion is to use a plurality of flaps or arms **22** adhered to the straw **20** and fitting flush against the bottom surface of panel **18**. Arms **22** may be separate parts attached to straw **20** or may be integral with the straw (Figures 2 and 3). Regardless of the type of construction, it is preferred that the arms **22** be cemented or otherwise adhered to the inside surface of panel **18** and held in place by lower and upper rings **24** and **26** cemented to the panel **18** around aperture **28** thereof through which the straw **20** extends.

Straw **20** is held in a depressed condition providing a bend **30** in it which closes the straw. The means for holding the straw in such position that it has bend **30**, are seen in Figures 1–5. These means include a small panel **34** having a generally annular area **36** on which there is a pressure sensitive cement. The central region **38** of panel **34** is left uncemented, and there is an entrance **40** also uncemented. Tab **42** extends from the main body of the panel **34** and is looped (Figure 4) so that it fits under the straw. The extremity of the straw is slipped beneath the panel **34** and explicitly, the part of the panel that does not have a film of cement thereon. This part constitutes a pocket **46** within which the extremity of the straw is held.

The panel **34** is made of a plastic that has some elasticity and resilience or made of a paper possessing similar characteristics. The reason is that when the straw **20** is withdrawn from pocket **46**, the tab **42** pops or lifts the straw up so that it is more easily returned to its normal, erect position (Figure 3) for drinking. When returning the straw to the position shown in Figure 2, at which the carton is closed, the tab is looped again (Figure 4) and the straw slipped into the pocket **46**. Accordingly, the cup may be used and reused any number of times until the contents have been exhausted. During the non-use interval, the container may be sealed by tucking the end of the straw in pocket **46**.

Various modifications of the invention may be made. For instance, the tab **42** may be completely omitted with of course, the loss of the flipping or popping function thereon exerted on straw **20**. However, the straw **20** may be made of plastic material, such as polyethylene, which has a certain amount of inherent resiliency so that when its extremity is removed from the pocket **46**, the straw will return generally to an upright position. If more elasticity is desired, a different selection of plastic material may be made, such as a number of the polystyrenes which are rubber-like.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A cover for a receptacle comprising a panel adapted to fit the receptacle and be held secure thereto, a drinking straw connected to said panel in an opening in the panel to register with the interior of the receptacle, means connected to said panel for retaining said straw with a bend therein thereby sealing the contents of the receptacle in the latter, said drinking straw being separably connected to said means so that said straw may

be moved to a position at which the bend in the straw is removed to thereby establish a drinking position for the straw, said means including a relatively small panel attached to said first mentioned panel and having a pocket therein within which the outer extremity of the straw is adapted to be inserted, a tab connected to said small panel and looped under said straw, said tab having resilience and elasticity so that when the extremity of said straw is separated from said pocket, said looped tab pushes said straw in a direction to remove the bend from said straw.

2. A receptacle cover comprising a panel provided with an aperture, a drinking straw having one end thereof secured in said aperture and a free other end, said straw being bendable from a substantially straight drinking position to a laterally bent sealing position wherein said free end thereof lies against said panel, and means for releasably retaining said straw in the sealing position, said means comprising a substantially disc-shaped plate secured along a major portion of its marginal edge to said panel at a point spaced from said aperture and defining a pocket under itself, a minor portion of the marginal edge of said plate being detached from said panel and providing an entrance for said pocket oriented in the direction of said aperture, the free end portion of said straw being removably received in said pocket through said entrance when the straw is in the sealing position, means provided on said panel adjacent the entrance of said pocket and engageable with said straw for urging the latter toward its drinking position upon removal of the free end of the straw from the pocket.

3. The device as defined in claim 2 wherein said last mentioned means comprise a resilient tab engageable with said straw.

4. The device as defined in claim 2 wherein said last mentioned means comprise a resilient tab formed integrally with said plate and operatively engageable with said straw.

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