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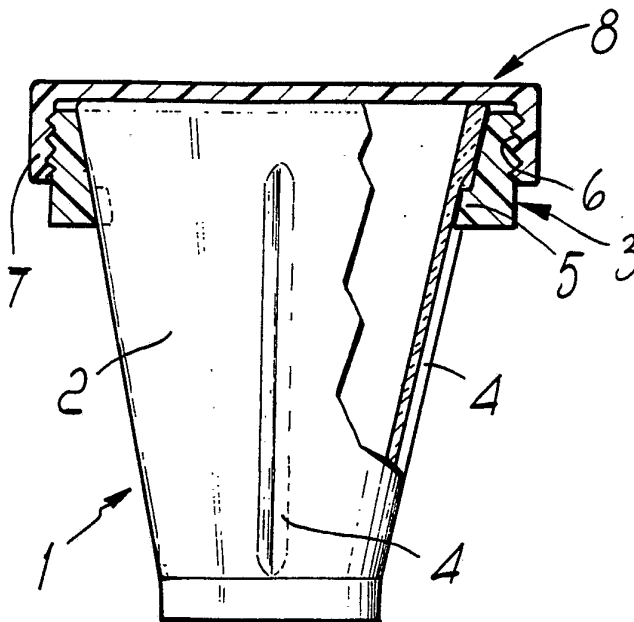
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(54) Title: CONTAINER STRUCTURE



(57) Abstract

The container structure comprises a cup-like element (1) to which a ring (3) is removably coupled against an upper circumferential portion of the sidewall (2) of cup-like element (1), and a lid is screwed on the ring. The coupling between the cup-like element and the ring and between the ring and the lid is liquid-tight.

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CONTAINER STRUCTURE

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a container structure.

Background Art

It is known that many carbonated and non-carbonated beverages are packaged in bottles made of glass or plastic material with a screw or crown cap.

5 Therefore, in order to drink a beverage, after removing the cap, currently there are substantially two possibilities: the first one is to drink directly from the bottle, and the second one is to pour the contents into a cup.

10 The first case is disadvantageous from a hygienic point of view, since in any case one's mouth makes contact with the upper wall of the neck of the bottle, on which dirt unavoidably deposits during transport and storage.

Furthermore, bottles whose end is threaded for a screw
15 cap are not suitable for drinking.

In the second case, the requirements of cleanliness and hygiene are transferred from the bottle to the cup and are usually satisfied if said cup is made of plastic and is disposable.

20 Instead, in the case of glass or otherwise reusable cups, especially if consumption occurs in bars or other public concerns, the rules of cleanliness and hygiene are often disregarded or at least there is no absolute assurance that they are observed.

25 In any case, the operation of cleaning or washing the cup is a cost burden for a public concern and is naturally transferred onto the cost of the beverage.

Generally, bottles for beverages are disposable, and if the cup is also disposable, at the end of consumption one has two waste items to be disposed.

Disclosure of the Invention

The aim of the present invention is to provide a
5 container structure which integrates an element whose shape is suitable for consumption and which ensures compliance with the ordinary rules of cleanliness and hygiene.

A consequent primary object is to provide a container which allows to eliminate the cups currently used for
10 consumption, with a consequent reduction in purchase costs, in the case of disposable cups, and in washing and cleaning costs in the case of reusable cups.

Another important object is to provide a container which can be recycled.

15 Another important object is to provide a container structure which can also be thermal and thus suitable to contain and store cold or hot beverages.

Not least object is to provide a container structure which can be manufactured at low cost with conventional
20 equipment and facilities.

This aim, these objects and others which will become apparent hereinafter are achieved by a container structure, characterized in that it comprises a cup-like element to which a ring is coupled in a removable manner and rests in a
25 liquid-tight manner against a circumferential portion of the side wall, a lid being engaged with said ring in an equally removable and liquid-tight manner.

Brief description of the drawings

Further characteristics and advantages of the present

invention will become apparent from the following detailed description thereof, which is illustrated only by way of non-limitative example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

5 figure 1 is a partially sectional elevation view of the container structure according to the invention;

figure 2 is an exploded perspective view of the container structure of figure 1;

figure 3 is a sectional elevation view of a variation
10 of the container structure according to the invention.

Ways of carrying out the Invention

With reference to the above figures 1 and 2, a container structure according to the invention comprises a cup-like element 1, for example shaped like an inverted truncated cone, which is conveniently made of glass or
15 plastic material or other suitable material.

Advantageously, a ring 3 is coupled in a removable manner to said cup-like element 1 and rests against the upper circumferential portion of its side wall 2.

Said ring 3 is conveniently shaped complementarily to
20 the side wall 2 and is made of plastic material or in any case of a material which is capable of providing a liquid-tight seal therewith.

It should also be stressed that the side wall 2 of the cup-like element 1 is longitudinally provided with grooves 4
25 which are engaged by internal ridges 5 of the ring 3 so as to form a rotation-preventing restraint for said ring.

Naturally, the grooves 4 of the cup-like element may be replaced with longitudinal ridges and the ridges 5 of the ring may be replaced with grooves.

The ring 3 is provided with an outer thread 6 upon which a complementarily shaped threaded cylindrical edge 7 of a lid 8 is screwed.

Advantageously, the coupling between the lid 8 and the ring 3 is also liquid-tight, and said lid 8 is made of plastic material or in any case of such a material as to provide this kind of seal.

It should be noted, as can be seen in figure 1, that the upper part of the lid 8 abuts against the upper edge of the cup-like element 1 and that the screwing of said lid on the ring 3 causes traction on said ring and its perfect adhesion to the side wall 2.

When the lid 8 is unscrewed, instead, the ring 3 can be easily uncoupled, by moving it downward, from upper edge of the cup-like element 1.

Conveniently, the height of the ring 3 is such that it covers the upper part of the cup-like element 1 which makes contact with one's mouth when said element is used to drink for example a substance contained therein.

In this manner the ordinary rules of cleanliness and hygiene are observed.

With reference now to the above mentioned figure 3, a variation of the container structure according to the invention provides for the downward extension, from the ring now designated by the reference numeral 103, of a containment body 109 which encloses the lower part of the cup-like element, now designated by the reference numeral 101.

The shape of the lid, now designated by the reference numeral 108, remains substantially unchanged.

In this case, the stop abutment of the ring 103 can be provided indifferently either on the wall of the cup-like element 101 or on the bottom thereof by virtue of the resting of the containment body 109.

5 Said containment body 109 can be made of thermally insulating material, so that it can maintain, for a certain period of time, after heating or cooling of the unit, the beverage for example contained therein at a higher or lower temperature than the ambient temperature.

10 As regards use, the cup-like element 1, which can be designed for disposable or recyclable use, constitutes both the container for example of a beverage and the cup for its consumption; the part related to the ring and to the lid is suitable to sealingly keep the beverage inside it and to
15 prevent the part suitable to make contact with one's mouth from being exposed and subject to dirtying.

After packaging, the container has the appearance shown in figure 1, and the consumer simply has to unscrew the lid 8 and disengage it, together with the ring 3, from the cup-
20 like element 1, which is thus ready for use.

In practice it has thus been observed that the above described container structure has achieved the intended aim and objects of the present invention.

In practice, the conventional use of cups is eliminated
25 together with the problems related thereto for washing and cleaning.

Naturally, the same technical concept is valid both for the containment of beverages and for other food products in general as well as for other substances.

30 The invention thus conceived is susceptible to numerous

modifications and variations, all of which are within the scope of the inventive concept.

All the details may furthermore be replaced with other technically equivalent elements.

5 Thus, for example, the threaded coupling between the ring 3 and the lid 8 may be replaced with other technically equivalent couplings.

10 In practice, the materials employed, so long as they are compatible with the contingent use, as well as the dimensions, may be any according to the requirements.

15 Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly, such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the scope of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.

CLAIMS

1 1. Container structure, characterized in that it
2 comprises a cup-like element (1;101) to which a ring (3;103)
3 is coupled in a removable manner and rests in a liquid-
4 tight manner against a circumferential portion of the side
5 wall (2) of said cup-like element, a lid (8;108) being
6 engaged with said ring in an equally removable and liquid-
7 tight manner.

1 2. Container structure according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that at least the upper part of the side
3 wall (2) of said cup-like element (1;101) is shaped like an
4 inverted truncated cone.

1 3. Container structure according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that the portion of said ring (3;103) which
3 rests on the side wall (2) of said cup-like element is
4 shaped complementarily to said wall.

1 4. Container structure according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that means (4,5) suitable to prevent mutual
3 rotation are provided between said cup-like element (1;101)
4 and said ring (3;103).

1 5. Container structure according to claim 4,
2 characterized in that said means suitable to prevent mutual
3 rotation are constituted by grooves (4) provided on one of
4 the elements and by corresponding ridges (5) which are
5 provided on the other element and are suitable to be
6 inserted in said grooves.

1 6. Container structure according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that the engagement between said lid
3 (8;108) and said ring (3;103) is provided by means of a

4 thread or of another equivalent means.

1 7. Container structure according to claim 6,
2 characterized in that said thread has an outer thread on
3 said ring (3;103) and an inner thread on a lower edge of
4 said lid (8;108).

1 8. Container structure according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that the height of said ring (3;103) is
3 such that it covers the upper part of said cup-like element
4 (1;101) which is suitable to make contact with the
5 consumer's mouth.

1 9. Container structure according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that a containment body (109) extends
3 downwardly from said ring (103) and encloses the lower part
4 of said cup-like element (101).

1 10. Container structure according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that said containment body (1;101) is made
3 of thermally insulating material.

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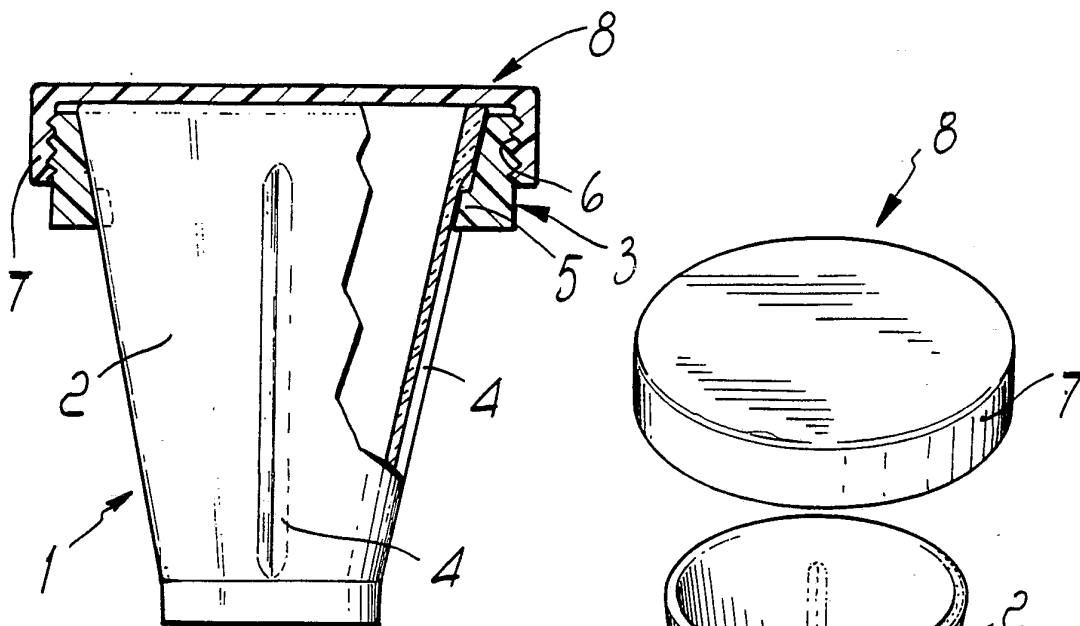


Fig. 1

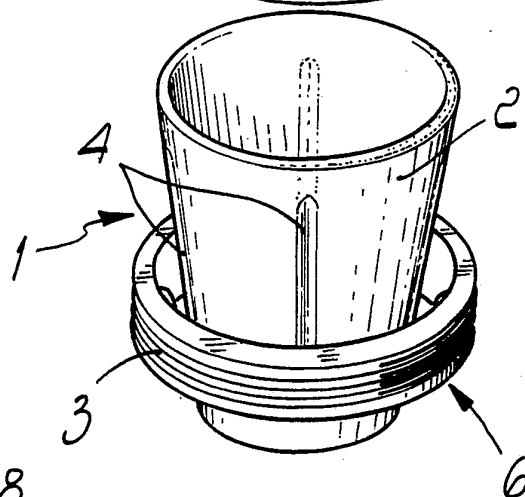


Fig. 2

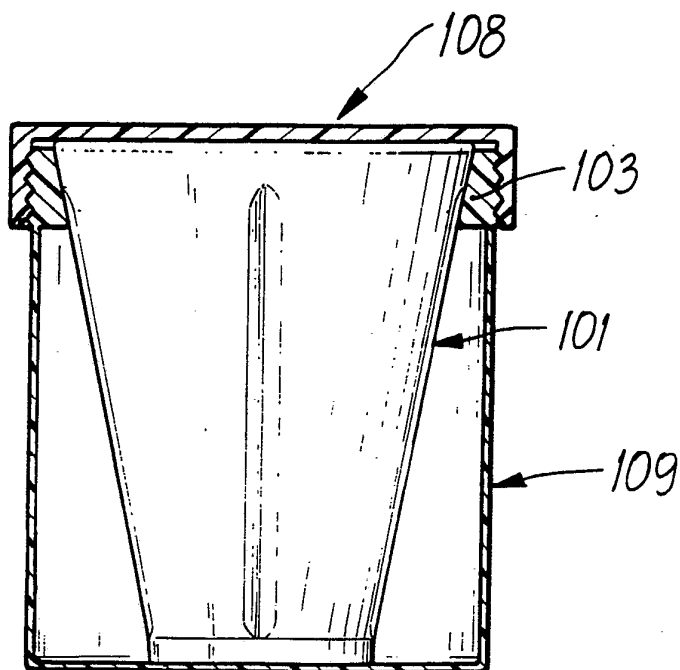


Fig. 3