Jan. 6, 1959 H. B. LA TOURETTE, JR 2,867,365

CONTAINER

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Fig. 1

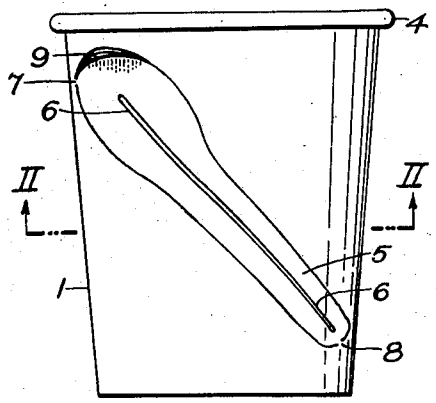


Fig. 2

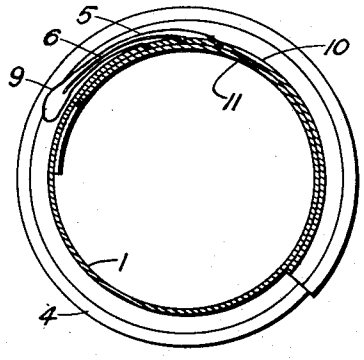


Fig. 3

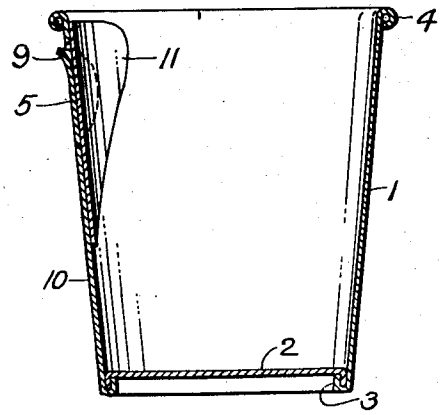


Fig. 4

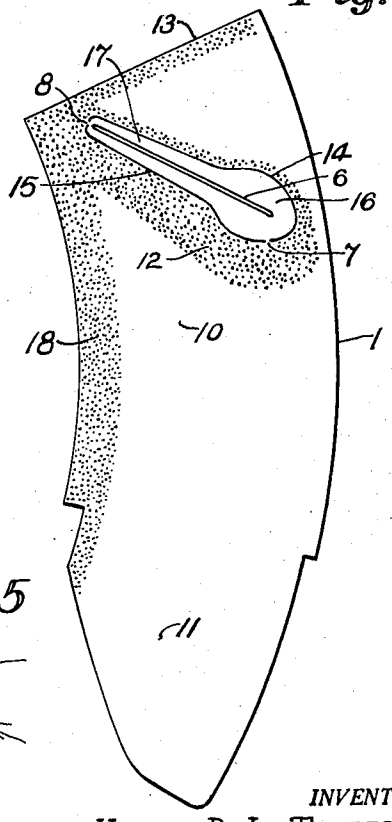
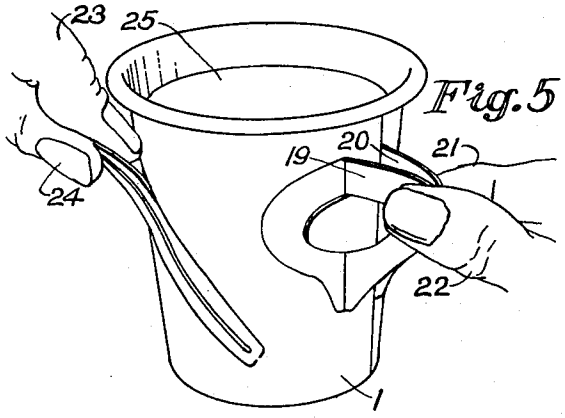


Fig. 5



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Fig. 6

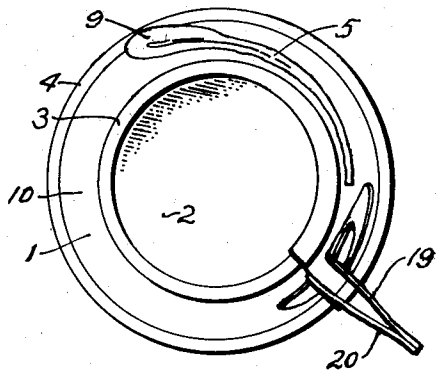
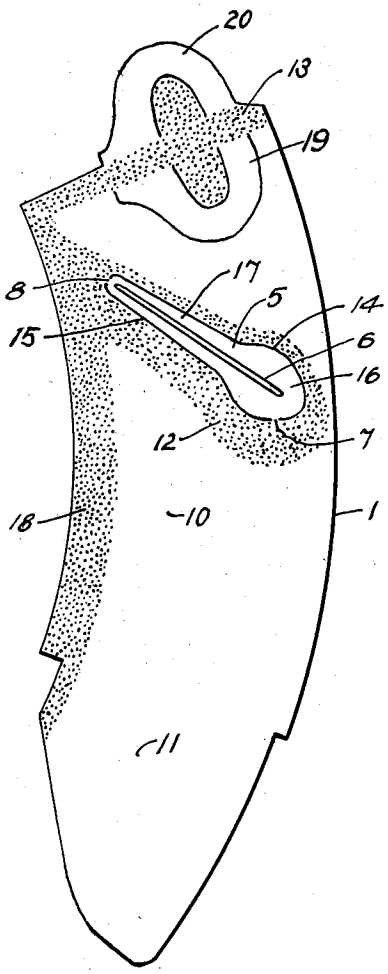


Fig. 7



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CONTAINER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 229—1.5)

This invention relates to paper receptacles and more particularly to a paper cup or dish.

When paper dishes or cups are used, the person holding it frequently finds himself unable to partake of the contents immediately for want of means with which to ladle, stir, or dispense the contents. In the past the user has been inconvenience by delay until able to find a spoon or something which will serve as such. Especially when paper cups are used for holding hot coffee, is the lack of a spoon disagreeable to say the least. To obviate such inconvenience for the user, it has heretofore been necessary for the dispenser of goods in these containers to supply a spoon separately. Where dispensing is from a vending machine, this necessitates an additional operation or a third supply item for handling coordinately with the goods and containers. The latter situation involves not only a supply storage and handling problem but also a problem of coordination.

It occurred to me that the way out of this difficult situation is to provide a cup which always carries its own spoon or stirrer.

One object of this invention, therefore, is to provide a cup or dish having a self-contained stirrer or spoon. Another object is to provide in paper containers, an integral stirrer or spoon readily separable from the body of the container for use. A further object is to provide a new and improved stirring strip or spoon structure in association with paper containers. Another object is to provide such a stirrer or spoon secured to and conforming to the sides of the receptacles, adapting them to be nested into each other. Another object is to provide a paper receptacle having a separable spoon structure adaptable to association with a handle or the like. A still further object is the provision of a cup with a spoon which can be readily produced from container stock and by machinery now employed in making paper cups.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawing of various illustrative embodiments in which: Figure 1 is a side elevational view of one embodiment of my invention; Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of the embodiment of Figure 1 taken on line II—II; Figure 3 is an elevational view in cross section taken on a diametrical plane of Figure 1 passing through the upper end of the stirrer; Figure 4 is a plan view of a blank for forming the body or side wall of the embodiment of Figure 1; Figure 5 is a perspective view of another embodiment of my invention showing the spoon being separated from the cup; Figure 6 is a bottom view of the embodiment of Figure 5 and Figure 7 is a plan view of the blank with modification for forming the embodiment of Figures 5 and 6.

In carrying out this invention, I provide a stirrer or spoon carried by the side wall of the cup itself. The stirrer or spoon may be a separate piece secured by adhesive or otherwise to the container or disposed in a cut-out recess in the container or paper cup body in which event suitable material different from that of the cup may be used for the spoon. Preferably it is formed out of the same container stock as the side wall. To obtain a desirable length in the spoon sufficiently in excess of the depth of the cup it is disposed at an angle to the vertical dimension of the side wall of the container. Preferably the spoon is of a knock-out construction only partially cut out of the container wall stock. To assist in straightening the spoon and to adapt it to stiffening so as to enable it to resist undesired bending and collapse, it is provided with at least one scoring or scarification or the like down the length of the spoon along which it may be folded. Before use the spoon lies normally in coincidence with or closely along the outer side wall of the container, conforming to the curvature thereof, to permit nesting of a plurality of cups of the tapering type. However, it is to be understood that the spoon structure is of utility and advantage in various types of containers other than those that are nestable. To facilitate separation of the spoon from the container, one end is cut away and turned out of the stock and permitted to protrude from the wall. That the contents of the container might be spilled in severance of the spoon from the side wall and that the easy nesting of the empty cups where desirable not be interfered with, the free edge of protrusion is formed preferably on the topside of the upper end of the stirrer or spoon. The operative end or bill of the self-contained spoon may be adjacent the rim or adjacent the base of the cup.

My improved form of container, dish, or cup illustrated in the drawing includes the tapered side wall **1** fashioned of an arcuate blank, a bottom **2** in the form of a disk which is positioned within the smaller end of the side wall and is engaged by and secured to the supporting bottom around the lower or smaller end of the side wall where the joint is sealed in any suitable manner such as by the adhesive at **18** along the arcuate edge of the blank Figure 4. The larger end or top of the side wall is formed with the outwardly turned bead or flange **4** for forming a smooth rounded edge suitable for the lips in drinking from the cup. Upon the outside of the side wall there is provided a spoon or stirrer **5** as shown in Figure 1. For obtainment of desired length the axis of the spoon is obliquely disposed making an angle at its midpoint of about 50° with the generating radius of the blank shown in Figure 4. That the spoon may be straightened and stiffened for use, it is provided with a longitudinal fold line such as groove or scoring **6**. Unsevered portions **7** and **8** form easily rupturable spanning strips or connections between the wall **1** and the spoon **5**. At the top of the separable spoon there is an outwardly turned edge **9** forming a resilient tab by which the spoon may be readily grasped between the fingers to facilitate removal of the spoon **5**. This tab **9** will not interfere with nesting of the cups closely so as to get the greatest number of them in columnar arrangement. In the embodiment of my invention as illustrated in the figures, the wall **1** of the cup and the spoon **5** are formed of a blank of container paper of the desired weight and thickness. The blank, Figure 4, is arcuate shaped having an outer wrap or body portion **10** of extra width and an inner wrap or sealing flap **11** of reduced width. The extra width on the body portion **10** goes into making the supporting or bottom flange **3** and the bead **4**. The inner flap **11** is not included in the round bead **4** or the flange **3** at the bottom of the cup.

Figure 2 illustrates the double wrapped side wall structure wherein the overlapped body portion **10** and the sealing flap **11** are secured together by the adhesive applied at **12**, Figure 4, on the inner side of the outer wrap **10** lapped upon and secured to the flap to form the tapering side wall **1** and to provide a leak-proof seal. A bit of adhesive is applied adjacent the outer edge **13** of

the outer wrap **10**. The body portion **10** of the blank adjacent the outer edge **13** and between this edge and adhesive strip **12** is slitted at **14** and **15** to provide the severable spoon **5** having a bowl, bill or paddle section **16** and a shank section **17** by which the spoon may be handled. The spoon **5** is not entirely cut out of the blank but remains connected therewith by connecting portions **7** and **8**. Glue or adhesive is omitted from the inner side of the spoon so that it may be readily lifted out from the plane of the side wall by merely grasping the tab **9** and pulling outwardly and downwardly until the connecting portions **7** and **8** are torn. The manner of removing the spoon for use is pretermined by the disposition of the tab **9** as shown and permits removal with the least possibility of overturning the cup and with the greatest convenience.

In operation the cup is held in one hand while the fingers of the other hand conveniently grasp the tab **9** of the spoon. By pulling tab **9**, the spoon **5** is easily severed from the outer wrap **10** while the side wall **1** still remains capable of retaining the contents of the cup inasmuch as inner wrap **11** covers this outer portion **10** of the wall **1** which has been opened as is evident from Figure 3. As soon as the connections **7** and **8** are torn, the spoon **5** is free to be folded, bent, or creased along **6** to provide desirable stiffness to the spoon.

The spoon construction of this invention is particularly adaptable to association with a handle positioned for holding the cup advantageously which is not only desirable when the cup is filled with hot liquids but also for assisting in the removal of the spoon for use. The diametral relationship of the spoon and handle portions is shown in Figure 6. The blank for making this embodiment of cup (Figures 5 and 6) according to a preferred construction is a modification of the blank of Figure 4 shown in Figure 7. At the end **13** of the outer wrap **10** of the blank illustrated in Figure 4 there may be provided a handle construction of the type disclosed in U. S. Patent No. 2,060,781, for example, forming integral members **19** and **20** positioned approximately diametrically opposite the pull tab **9** and tear connection **7**. This advantageous positioning of the handle and spoon is enabled by my invention and is within the purview of it which will be most clearly understood from Figure 5 where the fingers **21** and **22** of one hand are shown holding the handle members **19** and **20** while the fingers **23** and **24** of the other hand pull the spoon **5** from the side wall **1** of the cup with the least probability of spilling the contents **25**.

It will be understood also that as an alternative embodiment of my invention, the spoon need not be formed of the same material as the side wall of the container. Instead there may be formed in the outer wrap **10** of the side wall a spoon-shaped cavity for reception of a spoon of a shape congruent with that of the cavity and formed of a different paper stock or material than the side wall. This separate spoon is then secured severably in any suitable way such as with an adhesive in the cavity leaving only a pull tab protruding at the top when desirable. Furthermore, if the spoon is formed of material which tends to spring flat and is of suitable stiffness the groove for creasing may be omitted. If nestability of the cup is of no importance the spoon may be a separate but a conformable member secured removably as by adhesive

to the outside of the side wall of the cup at an angle adaptable to a spoon length in excess of the interior of the container.

A still further modification within the concept of this invention is one where only one severable connection, i. e. the lower connection, is provided between the spoon **5** and the side wall **1**; and in this modification the spoon, before being bent outwardly and separated from the side wall, lies closely within the sidewall cavity to conform to the shape of the sidewall.

The foregoing description is intended to illustrate what is now believed to be the most practicable embodiments of my invention, but other embodiments and modifications thereof within the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Having thus fully described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A paper container comprising a side wall consisting of a blank coiled on itself to provide overlapping outside and inside wall end portions adhesively secured together in sealing relationship, a spoon detachably carried by the outer overlapping end portion as an integral side-wall-conformable extended part of said portion at least partially cut out of said portion sufficiently to be readily and completely removable therefrom by hand, and an outwardly foldable handle portion also integral with said outside end portion adjacent the outer edge of the sidewall in laterally displaced relationship with respect to said spoon whereby the container may be firmly grasped by said handle portion while the spoon is being pulled from said outer end portion.

2. A tapered paper container comprising a side wall formed of an arcuate blank coiled to provide in said side wall overlapping outer and inner end portions adhesively secured together, and in the outer overlapping end portion a spoon partially cut out of the outer end of the blank and disposed obliquely therein and extending substantially from the bottom adjacent the outer edge of the blank to the top of the side wall, said spoon having a pull tab protruding from the upper margin of the upper end of said spoon and a scarification along the center line of the spoon to adapt it to straightening and longitudinal stiffening, and including an outwardly foldable handle portion attached at the outer edge and positioned substantially diametrically opposite the pull tab at the upper end of said spoon.

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