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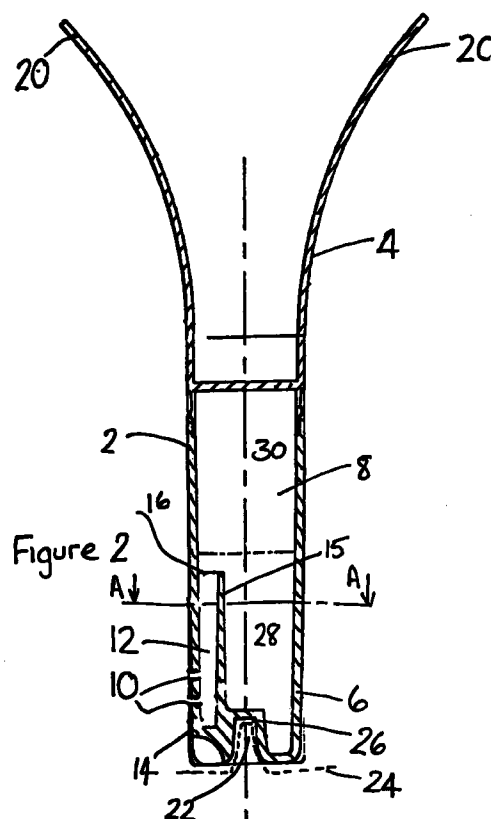
(71) Applicant: **NITROFLO DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED**
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 1AB (GB)

(72) Inventor: **NITROFLO DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED**
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 1AB (GB)

(74) Representative: **Wood, Graham et al**
Leeds LS1 2SD (GB)

(54) **Cartridge for containing a pressurised fluid**

(57) The present invention relates to a cartridge for holding at least one charge of pressurised fluid therein and formed to allow the selective release of the pressurised fluid into a beverage in a container in which the cartridge is placed. The cartridge is provided with at least one aperture (10) in a wall thereof which allows the entry and/or exit of the pressurised fluid and is improved by the provision in the chamber (8) formed in the cartridge of a cavity (12) which connects the aperture to the chamber and this allows the control of the characteristic of the pressurised fluid to be controlled. In a further aspect there is provided a cartridge having resilient members (20) depending therefrom which serve to locate the cartridge in the container and a method for forming a cartridge is also disclosed.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 10 3496

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X,P	WO-A-94 14678 (PA CONSULTING SERVICES ;REYNOLDS ANDREW JOHN (GB); SKINGSLEY JOHN)	1-3, 9-11, 16, 17	B65D79/00
Y		5, 12-15, 18, 19	
A	* abstract; figures 12,13 *	6-8	
Y	WO-A-91 13006 (PRICE DEV LTD E J) * page 4, line 26 - line 32; figures *	5	
Y	EP-A-0 518 522 (GUINNESS)	12-14	
A	* abstract; figures *	1, 4	
Y	WO-A-93 24384 (COSTELLO) * page 2, line 53 - line 59 *	15	
Y	GB-A-1 266 351 (GUINNESS) * page 3, line 56 - line 65 *	18, 19	
A	GB-A-2 267 882 (SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE) * abstract; figure 1 *	1, 16, 18, 20	
A	WO-A-93 25452 (CARLSBERG TETLEY BREWING LTD) * the whole document *	1	
A,P	EP-A-0 594 221 (WHITBREAD) * the whole document *	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 July 1995	Examiner ZANGHI, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respects of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims,

namely claims: *1 - 20*



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EP 95 10 3496 -B-

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims 1-20:

A cartridge adapted to contain a pressurized fluid in a chamber which has an aperture to communicate with the outside, whereby aperture inside the cartridge opens into a cavity

2. Claims 21-26:

A cartridge, adapted to contain a pressurized fluid in a chamber, provided with resilient members for maintaining the cartridge in the desired position inside a container

3. Claims 27-34:

Method for assembling and inserting a cartridge adapted to contain a pressurized fluid in a chamber, whereby the cartridge is formed at least of two parts (a top and a bottom)

The only feature common to all inventions is represented by the cartridge adapted to contain a pressurized fluid in a chamber.

However, the search has revealed that this feature is not novel since it is disclosed in document WO 94 14 678.

Thus the only common feature among the above mentioned inventions is not a special technical feature since it makes no contribution over the prior art.

Furthermore, the 3 inventions attempt to solve different problems.

Consequently it appears that claims 1, 21 and 27 do not satisfy the requirement of unity of invention.

The method claimed in claims 27 to 34 is not specifically limited to a cartridge as claimed either in claim 1 or in claim 21 of the present application and furthermore it refers to a particular cartridge formed from two parts (a top and a bottom).

The search has been carried out for the first mentioned invention.

If a search has to be carried out for the other inventions as well, we ask you to advise us accordingly.