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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: 85302342.2

51 Int. Cl.⁴: **B 65 D 51/28**
C 11 D 17/00

22 Date of filing: 03.04.85

30 Priority 04.04 84 US 596669

43 Date of publication of application:
 16.10.85 Bulletin 85/42

84 Designated Contracting States:
 AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE

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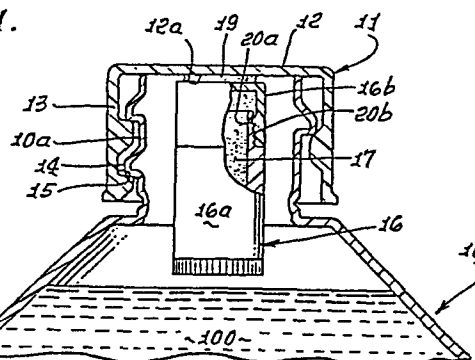
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54 Adjustable strength laundry bleaching.

57 The invention relates to products useful for home laundering, and more particularly to adjustable strength bleaching compositions, highly advantageous packaging of such compositions, and a method of bleaching involving the combination of the two. More specifically, the invention concerns a highly practical and saleable laundry aid having a main compartment (10) containing bleach and a secondary compartment (16) containing a bleach activator which can be used both on sensitive fabrics/dyes as an all-fabric safe oxygen bleach, and on less vulnerable fabrics/dyes as a much more effective hypochlorite bleach of potency similar to that of liquid chlorine bleach.

FIG. 1.



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ADJUSTABLE STRENGTH LAUNDRY BLEACHINGBACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to products useful for home laundering, and more particularly to adjustable strength bleaching compositions, highly advantageous packaging of such compositions, and a method of bleaching involving the combination of the two. More specifically, the invention concerns a highly practical and saleable laundry aid which can be used both on sensitive fabrics/dyes as an all-fabric safe oxygen bleach, and on less vulnerable fabrics/dyes as a much more effective hypohalite bleach of potency similar to that of liquid chlorine bleach.

Typical laundry wash temperatures in the United States continue to decline for various reasons; and with them, the bleaching ability of the oxygen bleaching agents in conventional all-fabric safe bleaches (e.g. sodium perborate). Such agents remain in wide use despite this fact, because of their efficacy at elevated temperatures, and their virtual inability to harm sensitive fabrics and dyes, regardless of the washing conditions. Chlorine bleaches on the other hand, though very potent even at low temperature, are well known to affect adversely many coloured fabrics, and they often substantially reduce the efficacy of many fluorescent

whitener agents contained in most detergent products.

The ability of peroxymonosulfate to oxidize halides to hypohalites and hypohalous acids; and to consequently boost the overall bleaching effectiveness, is well known in the industry. See U.S. Patent 3,458,446; French Patent 1,568,919; German patent 1,269,992, and U.S. Patent 1,162,754.

There is also substantial prior art concerning methods of reducing fabric degradation when using a sodium bromide activated bleach. German Patent 2,525,878 (see also U.S. Patent 4,116,878) issued to Fritz Deutscher in January of 1976 teaches that textile degradation can be minimized by adding urea or acetamide to a sodium bromide activated peroxymonosulfate bleach. U.S. Patent 4,123,376 issued to Frederick W. Gray in October of 1978 teaches that certain (other) N-Hydrogen compounds inhibit destruction of dyes and overbleaching of dyed materials when used in a sodium bromide promoted peroxymonosulfate bleach composition. U.S. Patent 4,028,263 issued to Frederick Gray in June of 1977 discloses certain fluorescent whitening agents which are relatively stable in such a system for use in a detergent/bleach composition. Each of these patents refers only to bleaching enhancement from bromide ion addition, with no mention of the synergism and possible toxicity

conditions which result from using a combination of chloride and bromide salts.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is based in part on the synergistic differential in bleaching performance
5 obtained by using a combination of chloride and bromide ions above the sum of the bleaching performances obtained when each is used alone, and the facilitation of such combination for use in bleach activation, through unique
10 packaging. In further contrast with the prior art, the present invention contemplates formulating the bromide salt as admixtures intimately comingled with the rest of the composition, with no discrete separation to provide for optional activation by the consumer. In addition to
15 the versatility of the bleaching product disclosed herein, the product also has the advantage of being more stable and consequently more practical and saleable. The formulations previously disclosed were characteristically extremely unstable with the addition of water, which
20 could occur either by passive transmission through the walls of the container in humid environments, or by inadvertent direct addition in use.

The present invention is a laundry aid package characterised by, in combination, a) a first
25 openable container containing a bleach base that includes

an oxygen bleaching agent for use in home laundering of fabrics, b) a dispensing container containing a bleach activator composition, and forming a fitment, c) the fitment carried by the first container to be
5 readily detachable at least in part for dispensing the activator composition to controllably activate the bleach at the time of fabric laundering.

Such multiple container integration into one package serves to physically separate the bleach base
10 and activator component, while enhancing stability as well as bleach strength adjustability. Also, storage, handling, use and effectiveness are facilitated.

A mixture of bromide and chloride ions may be provided in the activator, which provides synergistic
15 performance, lower cost, and a somewhat lower degree of toxicity as compared with bromide salts, alone.

Preferably there is provided a single package design such that the activator dispensing container is not only attached to or integral with the bleach base
20 container, but can be detached from or otherwise used separately from the bleach base product container. Such structural incorporation of the activator dispensing container into the bleach base container is referred to herein as a "fitment", the various unusually advantageous
25 forms of which can best be described by reference to the

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following drawings and descriptions. Dry bleach base containers useful with the fitment can take the form of bottles of folding cartons as will appear.

The present invention is also a method of
5 laundrying fabric, characterised by the steps of: a)
providing a first volume of a bleach base that
incorporates an oxygen bleaching agent, a portion of
which is to be added to fabric laundry wash water, b)
providing a second volume of a bleach activator
10 composition in close transported association with said
first volume of bleach base for presentation at the time of
laundrying, c) and separating some of said activator
composition from said close association with the bleach
base volume and applying same to controllably activate
15 the bleach base in said wash water containing said added
portion of the bleach base.

An embodiment of the present invention will
now be described, by way of example, with reference to
the accompanying drawings, in which:-

20 Fig. 1 is a vertical section showing a fitment
adhered to the underside of a bottle overcap;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section showing a fitment
cap seated on the bottle finish;

Fig. 3 is a section showing a fitment cap
25 snapped into a friction sleeve in a bottle overcap;

Fig. 4 is a section showing a fitment screwed into a cap in the bottle overcap;

Fig. 5 is a section showing a fitment flange engaging an indent on a bottle neck;

5 Fig. 6 is a section showing a tapered fitment wedged into a bottle tapered neck;

Fig. 7 is a section showing a fitment seated on a shelf formed in the bottle as an indent or part of the bottle handle;

10 Fig. 8 is a section showing an inner activator container seated inside a flanged cup fitment which engages the top of the bottle finish;

Fig. 9 is a section showing a collar under a fitment cap engaging a bottle sealing surface, and the
15 bottle cap sealing on a bottle shoulder;

Fig. 10 is a section showing a collar under a fitment cap engaging an indent on a bottle neck;

Fig. 11 is a section showing a fitment contained in a bottle snap-on overcap;

20 Fig. 12 is a section showing a fitment moulded as an integral part of a bottle overcap;

Fig. 13 is a section showing an inverted fitment thread connected into a double threaded overcap;

Fig. 14 is a section showing a fitment thread.
25 connected over the bottle finish, the fitment having a

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cap attached to a rotary dispensing closure;

Fig. 15 is a section showing a fitment snap connected onto a plug in the bottle overcap;

Fig. 16 is a section showing a fitment
5 received within a recess formed in the bottle as an indent or handle;

Fig. 17 is a vertical elevation showing a fitment moulded as an integral part of a bottle, thereby forming a dual chambered container;

10 Fig. 18 is a vertical elevation, partly in section, showing a fitment contained in a separate compartment that is an integral part of a folding carton used to hold the dry bleach base; and

Figs. 19(a) - 19(d) show alternative fitments
15 associated with cartons; and

Figs. 20 and 20(a) show activator tablets and granules packaged for carriage by bleach containers.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring first to the drawings, Fig. 1
20 illustrates a first container in the form of a bottle 10 having a threaded neck 10a, the bottle containing flowable dry bleach base 100 (as for example flowable dry granules). The bottle has a removable cap 11 which in turn has a top horizontal wall 12 overlying the neck
25 10a, and a depending skirt 13 that extends in interfitting

section with the neck. As shown, the skirt and neck have interfitting screw threads 14 and 15, other type connections being usable. The bottle, neck and cap may all consist of usable plastic material.

5 Also provided is a dispensing container as defined by fitment 16 containing a bleach activator composition 17 in flowable granule, tablet or other form. The fitment is indirectly carried by the bottle 10, and directly by the cap 11, to be readily detachable, at least in part, for dispensing the activator composition as at the time of fabric laundering. Thus, for example, removal of the cap 11 to provide access to the dry bleach immediately presents the user with the fitment projecting from the removed cap, reminding the user that
15 the fitment is ready to be used for application of the activator composition to wash water receiving the bleach granules, as at the precise time of laundering and in conjunction therewith, to obtain a resulting higher quality adjustable bleaching of the fabric (due to the
20 selection of relative amounts of bleach and activator).

As shown, the fitment has a sub-container 16a and a sub-container cap 16b, the latter being retained by the top wall 12, and specifically to its underside 12a as by means of adhesive, double tape, VELCRO
25 stripping, or other means, each of which is represented

by the layer 19. In use, the sub-container 16a may be removed from the cap, as by reverse rotation to unscrew threads 20a and 20b. The activator carried by sub-container 16a is then exposed for use, for example,
5 pouring into a measured volume of dry bleach granules to be added to wash water.

The dispensing device itself can be made from plastic, glass, metal or other suitable material for holding a liquid or a solid.

10 The dry bleach container 10 can be made from any suitable material including polyethylene, polypropylene, PVC and other plastics, glass, metal, or paperboard. In the case of paperboard, a suitable moisture barrier would be advantageous to maintain the
15 product's effectiveness during storage and use.

In Fig. 2, the elements bearing the same numbers as in Fig. 1 are the same. The fitment cap 16b in addition has a radially projecting flange 23 extending over the rim 10b of the bottle neck 10a and
20 retained on that rim by the underside 12a of the bottle cap 11. Thus, the fitment 16 is completely detachable from the cap 11 when the bottle is removed from the neck 10a.

In Fig. 3, the elements bearing the same
25 numbers as in Fig. 1 are the same. The cap top wall 12

in addition has an integral sleeve 24b depending therefrom, within the bottle neck. The fitment cap 16b may extend telescopically into the sleeve bore 24a, and a flange 25 on the cap may removably snap into an annular
5 recess 26 in the bore wall, as shown.

In Fig. 13, the elements bearing the same numbers as in Fig. 1 are the same. The cap top wall 12 in addition has an integral sleeve 27 depending therefrom, within the bottle neck. The fitment sub-
10 container 16b in this embodiment has threaded connection with the sleeve 27, as afforded by threads 28 and 29. The fitment sub-container cap 16a is thus presented to the user. He may detach the cap 16a and pour activator 29a from the sub-container 16b. Both cap and sub-
15 container frictionally interfit at 30, other methods of connection being usable. Fig. 4 is like Fig. 13 except the fitment 116 is in one piece and has an open top at 117, directly below wall 12. Fitment thread 28 engages sleeve thread 29. Activator granules in the fitment
20 appear at 118. Activator tablets may be used.

In Fig. 15, the elements bearing the same numerals as in Fig. 1 are the same. The fitment cap 16b and the bottle cap top wall 12 include removably inter-fitting snap connection elements, as for example small
25 flanged boss or plug 31 depending from top wall 12 and

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received through an opening 32 in the fitment cap top wall 33. Opening 32 is slightly smaller in diameter than the flange 31a, providing a snap-on interfit. Other forms of snap connection are usable.

5 In Fig. 12, the elements bearing the same numerals as in Fig. 1 are the same. The fitment sub-container 16a has a side wall 35 integrally moulded with the bottle cap top wall 12, at 35a, and wall 35 projects and is externally threaded at the upper exterior side of
10 the wall 12. Sub-container cap 16b' is internally threaded at 36 to engage the external thread 37 on wall 35, as shown. Thus, cap 16b' is easily removable, exteriorly, to allow pouring or other dispensing of the activator 17' which may consist of flowable granules, or
15 may be in other form.

 In Fig. 11, the fitment 16 is primarily (as for example completely) located outside and above the cap top wall 12, and auxiliary means is provided to retain the fitment in position, just above wall 12. In the example,
20 such auxiliary means has the form of a thin-walled plastic overcap 39, having a top wall 40 located to compressively retain the fitment vertically between walls 40 and 12, as shown. The overcap depending skirt 41 is removably mounted on the bottle cap, so that it may be
25 easily detached. As shown, two lips 42 engage the lower

rim 43 of the cap 11, and may be pulled free (see arrows 44) to release the overcap, providing access to the fitment 16.

In Fig. 14, the fitment 44 includes a sub-
5 container 45 integral with the bottle cap 11, and
extending thereabove. Sub-container cap structure 46 is
connected to the sub-container 45, to allow dispensing
of the flowable activator composition. As shown, the cap
structure includes first and second walls 48 and 49, each
10 containing ports 48a and 49a normally out of
registration. The walls extend adjacent one another, and
are relatively rotatable (i.e. wall 49 may rotate relative
to wall 48, for example) to bring ports 48a and 49a into
registration, allowing dispensing of activator. Wall 49
15 is shown as having a skirt 50 with annular detent
connection at 51 to the sub-container wall 45a, allowing
rotation of the skirt and wall 49. Flowable granules are
indicated at 17'.

In Fig. 5, the bottle neck 10a has an internal
20 ledge or ledges 52 seating the fitment sub-container 53.
The latter has a flanged undersurface 53a engaging the
ledge, which may be annular. In Fig. 6, the modified
ledge 52' tapers downwardly, and cooperatively engages or
seats the frusto-conical outer surface 53' of the fitment
25 sub-container 53, to position the fitment. Caps for the

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fitment sub-container appear at 54 in Figs. 5 and 6, and the fitments are loosely contained within the bottle neck to be completely removable when the bottle cap 11 is removed.

5 In Fig. 9, the bottle neck 10a has an upper rim 55, and an external flange 56 on the fitment 16 seats on that rim to retain the fitment sub-container 16a within the neck 10a, and the sub-container cap 16b projecting upwardly within the cap upper interior 57.

10 The lower edge or rim 58a of the cap skirt 58 seats and seals against the bottle shoulder 60 between neck 10a and bottle wall taper 10b. In Fig. 10, the bottle neck 10a has an internal integral flange or shoulder 61; and an external flange 62 on the fitment 16 seats on that

15 flange 61. The flange is annular, and the fitment sub-container 16a projects downwardly through the flange into the bottle upper interior 63. Top wall 12 of cap 11 seats and seals on the upper rim 55 of the neck 10a.

 In Fig. 8 a receptacle 64 has an external

20 flange 65 seating on the bottle neck rim, and retained in position by the top wall 12 of the cap 11. The upwardly opening receptacle extends downwardly within the bottle neck 10a, and fitment 16 is loosely received in the receptacle, and confined between bottom wall 66

25 of the receptacle and top wall 12. Receptacle 64 is

removable after cap 11 is removed.

In Fig. 7, the bottle 10 has side wall structure that forms a lateral hand reception opening 66 and a manually graspable handle 67 associated with that opening. The wall structure includes vertical walls 68 and 69, and wall upper portion 70 presented internally of the bottle and generally upwardly toward neck 10a and neck opening 71. The fitment 16 is seated at 72 on wall upper portion 70, within upper interior 73 of the bottle, and also extends upwardly into and within the neck opening 71, as shown. The fitment may be sufficiently large in diameter so as to be retained in position by the neck and by the wall portion 70. The opening 66 may be merely an indent, and other than associated with a handle. See also flowable bleach granules at 80, filling the bottle. In Fig. 16, the fitment 16 is received within the opening or indent 66, removably retained as by frictional engagement with the wall structure, as at points 74 and 75.

In Fig. 17, the fitment 85 extends externally of the bottle 10 and is attached thereto, as per example at the vertical location 85a, merging with the bottle side wall. Thus, the vertically elongated fitment may include a portion 85b forming a bottle handle associated with lateral opening 87 through the

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bottle for finger reception. The fitment is shown to extend upwardly from a location 85c near the bottom of the bottle to a location 85d near the top of the bottle. Fitment cap 88 is exposed externally of the bottle and
5 its cap 11, and is offset laterally from cap 11, so that if cap 88 is removed, the flowable activator contents of the fitment container can be poured onto fabric to be washed, or into bleach granules to be added to the wash, and if cap 88 is replaced and cap 11 removed, bleach can
10 be poured into the wash water.

In Fig. 18, the carton 89 (as for example cardboard) contains detergent such as dry granules seen at 90. A pour spout appears at 91. The fitment 16 is carried in a separate compartment 92 defined by the
15 carton, as for example by carton walls 93-95 at the top of the carton. A flap 96 is releasable to allow fitment removal.

Other possible ways of achieving the fitment using a carton are:

- 20 1) Twin bleach and activator cartons as shown at 160 and 161 in Fig. 19(a) attached face-to-face, top-to-bottom, or side-to-side using glue, double-sided tape, or Velcro strip, indicated at 162;
- 2) Twin bleach and activator cartons 163 and
25 164 banded together with tape, pressure sensitive sticker

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shrink wrap plastic, foil or paper overwrap, or a plastic sleeve, all of which are represented by band 165, in Fig. 19(b);

3) Twin bleach and activator cartons 166 and 167 in an open-end paperboard sleeve, two pack carrier or tray, represented by carrier 168 with handle 169, in Fig. 19(c);

4) A single carton containing two (bleach and activator) plastic bags, also as represented in Fig. 19(c).

5) A single bleach carton 180 with a domed plastic overcap 181 containing the activator, such as tablets 182.

Other fitment designs are possible, and it is not intended that this invention be limited to the designs described in these figures.

BLEACH BASE COMPOSITION

Suitable compositions of the unactivated bleach base for this invention are well known in the industry, and can take conventional form, provided that the oxygen bleaching agent selected is capable of oxidizing halide ions to hypohalite and hypohalous acid. Of special interest in this regard is a triple salt of potassium peroxymonosulfate, potassium bisulfate, and potassium sulfate in the mole ratio of about 2:1:1, which is

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commercially available as Oxone, marketed by DuPont.
Another bleaching agent, which has a sufficiently high
oxidation potential for this application is magnesium
monoperoxyphthalate, which is commercially available as
5 H-48, marketed by Interlox.

The base can be formulated to contain phosphate
either as a sequestrant (e.g. sodium tripolyphosphate) or
as a precipitative builder (e.g. tetra sodium pyro
phosphate). A particularly attractive variant, however,
10 is to formulate the base without any inorganic phosphate
enabling a single version of the product to be sold
throughout the country, including areas which restrict
or disallow the sale of laundry products containing
phosphate. The selection of an appropriate builder
15 system is of special importance in this application since
the wash solution pH can dramatically affect the bleaching
performance which results. Elevated pH's (e.g. in the
range of 9.2-10.2) enhances the performance of all oxygen
bleaching agents; and also the detergency in many bleach
20 resistant soils. Consequently, alkaline detergent/bleach
combinations which are well buffered in this range are
especially preferable when the unactivated bleach base
is used. The activated version however, is even more
effective at somewhat lower pH's (e.g. in the range of
25 8.5-9.5), due to the resulting increase in the ratio of

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hypohalous acid to hypohalite. It is therefore highly desirable to formulate the base to achieve a mid-range pH (e.g. about 9.2 to 9.5) in the wash water of a washing machine, providing effective bleaching performance both with and without activation. Another important variant is a weakly buffered base composition, coupled with the addition of a solid highly acidic substance in the activator (e.g. sodium bisulfate). It is necessary even in this approach, to include an alkalinity source since the peroxymonosulfate triple salt is itself acidic; and if used in conjunction with typical liquid laundry detergents which exhibit little buffering capacity, seriously reduce the detergency of the overall system. Depending on which of these goals is desired, appropriate builder compounds include pyrophosphates, tripolyphosphates, orthophosphates, carbonates, silicates, sesquicarbonate, bicarbonate, borates, zeolites, citrates, tartrate, gluconate, CMOS, EDTA, and NTA.

Including surfactants in dry bleach formulations is common especially given their increasingly important role as detergency boosters. Suitable surfactants for use in such a product include, but are not limited to linear alkylbenzene sulfonates, alkyl sulfates, alkyl ether sulfates, alpha olefin sulfonates, fatty acid soaps, ethoxylated nonyphenols, the ethoxylated long chain

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alcohols, and polyalkylene oxide block copolymers.

These surfactants can be used, alone, in combination, or omitted entirely depending on the performance characteristics desired.

5 A number of other components are common in dry bleach formulations. Those which affect the performance characteristics include fluorescent whitening agents, anti-redeposition agents (e.g. CMC), and enzymes (i.e. protease and/or amylase). Those affecting the aesthetic,
10 physical stability, and processing characteristics include dyes, perfumes, anti-caking agents, fillers, and diluents.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVATABLE FORMULATIONS:

		<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>VI</u>
15	Polyethoxylated nonylphenol	10	-	-	5	5	-
	Sodium alkylbenzene sulfonate	20	5	5	-	-	5
	Tetra sodium pyrophosphate	-	-	10	-	-	-
	Sodium tripolyphosphate	-	-	10	-	-	-
	Sodium carbonate	20	45	-	-	-	45
20	Sodium bicarbonate	-	-	-	20	5	-
	Sodium borate	-	-	-	10	-	-
	Sodium metasilicate (1:1)	-	-	5	-	10	-
	Sodium silicate (1:2.4)	10	10	-	10	-	10
	Oxone	10	25	25	25	25	-
25	Magnesium monoperoxyphthalate	-	-	-	-	-	25

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVATABLE FORMULATIONS: (continued)

	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>IV</u>
Fluorescent whitener	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Fumed silica	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
5 Perfume	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sodium sulfate	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.

These example formulations cover ranges of activatable dry detergent bleaches and dry bleaches as referenced in the previous discussion. The first example is a viable detergent which contains oxygen bleach as a relatively minor constituent. The second example is strongly buffered at a relatively high pH, while both the third and fourth examples are strongly buffered at a moderate pH. (The actual pH of the resulting wash solution depends upon the detergent selected.) The fourth example formulation has the added advantage of not containing any phosphate. The fifth example is weakly buffered and contains a relatively high alkalinity silicate (1:1 sodium oxide to silicate) to overcome Oxone's inherent acidity without contributing significantly to the system's buffering capacity. The sixth example contains magnesium monoperoxyphthalate as the oxygen bleaching agent.

The production of the bleach base can be accomplished in the conventional manner. Thus, it can

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be spray dried, with the oxygen bleaching agent subsequently admixed; alternatively, it can be either agglomerated, or simply dry mixed.

ACTIVATOR COMPOSITION

5 The activator portion of the product can contain any of the possible chloride and bromide salts. The potassium and sodium salts of each are of special interest, since they are readily soluble and do not contribute water hardness ions. The positive synergism
10 between the chloride and bromide salts was demonstrated in a Tergotometer tea bleaching study at 90°F, using water of 150 ppm hardness, with a commercial household laundry detergent at the suggested level (0.15%), and Oxone at 20 ppm available oxygen. The scaled down
15 equivalent of an eight gram sodium chloride tablet yielded 3% more soil removal; and the equivalent of a four gram sodium bromide tablet yielded 19% more soil removal. When both of these ingredients were added together (at the previous levels) however, the yield was
20 27% more soil removal, which is significantly greater than the sum of the two used alone. Other halide salts may be found to exhibit similar performance synergism, but the importance of this particular combination is reinforced by other considerations. The cost of sodium
25 chloride is approximately one thirtieth that of sodium

bromide. Also, although neither compound would be considered seriously toxic, they both have LD₅₀'s below 5 gram/kilogram. The toxicity of the mixed halides however, should be somewhat reduced, which is a highly desirable result when intended for household use.

The relative levels of bromide salt and chloride salt in the activator are affected by the amount of space available, the number of activations included per package, the magnitude of effect per use, and the amount(s) of minor ingredient(s) included. If this combination of factors does not restrict the space available for the activator, the preferred embodiment of this invention will include a high concentration of chloride salt relative to the bromide salt, thereby maximizing the synergistic advantages of the two in concert. In such a product, the weight of chloride salt may actually exceed the weight of bromide salt by as much as ten to one. If on the other hand, the amount of activator to be included is space limited then much smaller concentrations of chloride salt would be appropriate. In such an application, the chloride may actually be omitted entirely; forfeiting the positive synergism, lower cost, and any toxicity advantage.

Even extremely small amounts of sodium bromide alone have been shown to produce noticable activation

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under typical wash conditions (e.g. as little as one gram in a 16 gallon wash load with 20 ppm available oxygen at 90°F). There are consequently many possible ways through which it can be introduced. Large tablets (i.e. 6-20 grams) would be suitable for use in a product positioned as a dual action bleach, which would be designed to either be activated or unactivated with no adjustability between the two extremes. Smaller tablets (of about four grams) could be provided with instructions to use several on durable fabric/dyes, which have severe staining; and fewer for less extreme applications. Further, granules could be provided either in a shaker or with a measuring cap, enabling the consumer to fine tune the activation. This would also speed dissolution by increasing the surface area to volume ratio. Another suitable vehicle for the halide salt activator would be an aqueous solution contained in a squeeze or dropper bottle, offering immediate dissolution.

Other useful components of the activator besides halide salts include solid acidic compounds (e.g. sodium bisulfate) to reduce the pH of the activated wash solution; and agents to speed dissolution such as starch which swells, fragmenting a tablet; or possibly a combination of citric acid and sodium bicarbonate, causing effervescence with similar results.

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EXAMPLES OF ACTIVATOR FORMULATIONS:

	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>
Sodium bromide	20.0	40.0	60.0	75.0	-
Potassium bromide	-	-	-	-	95.0
5 Sodium chloride	75.0	10.0	35.0	-	-
Citric Acid	-	-	3.0	-	-
Sodium bicarbonate	-	-	2.0	-	-
Starch	5.0	-	-	5.0	5.0
Sodium bisulfate	-	-	-	20.0	-
10 Water	-	50.0	-	-	-

These example activator formulations were suggested in the previous discussion and are intended to cover a range of possibilities. The first example would be best suited for applications in which there is plenty of space available for the activator, and each successive example offers a higher bromide content and consequently more activation per unit weight (and per unit volume), but also much higher cost per unit weight. The second example is simply an aqueous solution of the halide salts, as discussed previously. The third example employs the citric acid/sodium bicarbonate effervescence for possible use in breaking apart a tablet; while the other three dry formulations include starch for that purpose. The fourth example contains sodium bisulfate for use with a weakly buffered bleach base to drop the

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pH of the activated system, thereby increasing the resulting activation.

There are a number of additional or variant ways in which the activator can be included in the product, and yet physically isolated from the bleach base, including:

- 1) A dial type tablet dispenser moulded into the top of the overcap, as in Fig. 14 but with tablets at 17.
- 10 2) Tablets in a strip pack, (see Fig. 20(a), with tablets 170 removable from strip 171, to be coiled and received in bottle cap).
- 15 3) Tablets in a punch-out card, (see Fig. 20(b) showing tablets 172 removable from card 173 carried by and removable from bleach carton 174).
- 4) Water soluble pouches of loose granules, (see Fig. 20(c) showing granules 175 within pouch 176 insertible within a dry bleach bottle or carton).
- 20 5) Halide granules in vial, with cap for measuring (see Figs. 5 and 6).
- 6) Halide solution in vial, with cap for measuring (see Figs. 5 and 6).

Both the bleach base container and the activator container can be made from any suitable material including polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl

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chloride and other plastic, glass, metal, or paperboard. In the case of paperboard, a suitable moisture barrier would be advantageous to maintain good flow characteristics after prolonged storage in humid environments.

5 The activator packaged in tablet form may comprise a dispenser hung on a bleach bottle neck, or attached to the exterior of a bleach carton (as for example as described above), or enclosed in a carton and supported on the dry bleach therein.

10 In the above description of bleach bottle and activator fitment examples, the bottle cap may define a first predetermined bleach fill volume, and the fitment sub-container cap may define a second predetermined activator fill volume. Such fill volumes may then
15 define a measuring system characterized in that the amount of activator (filled into the sub-container cap) to be mixed with a selected amount of bleach (filled into the bottle cap) for most effective activation of the bleach in the wash water is determined by a predetermined
20 established ratio of the two fill volumes. In this regard, the bleach activator composition may have one of the following forms: tablets, granules, water soluble packets, and solution.

 It will also be understood that the bottle, as
25 at 10 and/or 10a may have a transparent (glass, plastic,

etc.) side wall for viewing the bottle contents, and that the fitment dispensing container (as for example at 16) may extend within the bottle to an extent such that the dispensing container can be seen sidewardly
5 through the bottle side wall. In this regard, the dispensing container may also have a transparent side wall (16a, for example) whereby the composition in the dispensing container 16 can also be seen through both such transparent side walls.

CLAIMS:

1. A laundry aid package characterised by,
in combination,

a) a first openable container (10)

5 containing a bleach base (100) that includes an oxygen
bleaching agent for use in home laundering of fabrics,

b) a dispensing container (16) containing
a bleach activator composition, and forming a fitment.

c) the fitment carried by the first
10 container to be readily detachable at least in part for
dispensing the activator composition to controllably
activate the bleach at the time of fabric laundering.

2. A combination as claimed in claim 1,
characterised in that the first container (10) is a
15 bottle having a removable cap (12).

3. A combination as claimed in claim 1,
characterised in that the first container is a carton
(89).

4. A combination as claimed in claim 2,
20 characterised in that the bottle (10) has a neck 10a
and the cap has a top wall (12) and a depending skirt
(13) that extends in interfitting relation with said
neck, and the fitment is retained by said cap top wall.

5. A combination as claimed in claim 4,
25 characterised in that the fitment (16) is attached to

the underside of the cap top wall (12).

6. A combination as claimed in claim 5, characterised in that the fitment (16) includes a sub-container containing the activator composition, and a
5 removable sub-container cap (16b) which is attached to said underside of the cap top wall.

7. A combination as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the fitment includes a sub-container containing the activator composition, and a
10 removable sub-container cap.

8. A combination as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the bottle has a neck (10a), there being an internal ledge (52) on the said neck seating the fitment.

15 9. A combination as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the bottle has a neck with an upper rim (55), there being an external flange (56) on the fitment seating on said rim, and within the cap.

10. A combination as claimed in claim 2,
20 characterised in that the bottle has a neck, there being an internal flange (61) on said neck, and there being an external flange (62) on the fitment seating on said ledge.

11. A combination as claimed in claim 2,
25 characterised in that the bottle has a neck with an

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upper rim (55), there being a receptacle (64) having an external flange (65) seating on the rim and retained by the cap, the receptacle extending within the bottle neck, the fitment received within the receptacle.

5 12. A combination as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the bottle has a neck and side wall structure that forms a lateral opening (66), said wall structure having an upper portion (70) presented internally of the bottle and generally upwardly toward
10 a neck opening (71) defined by said neck, the fitment seated on said wall structure upper portion and also extending within said neck opening.

 13. A combination as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the bottle has side wall structure
15 that forms a lateral opening (66), said fitment received in said lateral opening, below the level of said cap.

 14. A combination as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the fitment extends externally of the bottle and is attached thereto, the fitment including
20 a detachable cap exposed exteriorly of the bottle and bottle cap.

 15. A combination as claimed in claim 3, characterised in that the fitment is carried in an auxiliary compartment defined by the carton.

25 16. A combination as claimed in any of claims

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1 to 15, characterised in that the bleach base contains an oxygen bleaching agent, and the activator includes a halide salt or salts selected from the group consisting of chloride salts and bromide salts of an alkali metal or metals.

17. A combination as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15, characterised in that the bleach base contains an oxygen bleaching agent and the activator consists essentially of one of the following compositions I, II, III, IV and V, wherein ingredient weight percentages are about the same as those listed:

	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>
Sodium bromide	20.0	40.0	60.0	75.0	-
Potassium bromide	-	-	-	-	95.0
15 Sodium chloride	75.0	10.0	35.0	-	-
Citric acid	-	-	3.0	-	-
Sodium bicarbonate	-	-	2.0	-	-
Starch	5.0	-	-	5.0	5.0
Sodium bisulfate	-	-	-	20.0	-
20 Water	-	50.0	-	-	-

18. A combination as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15, characterised in that the bleach base consists essentially of one of the following compositions I, II, III, IV, V and VI wherein ingredient weight percentages are about the same as those listed:

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	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>VI</u>
Polyethoxylated nonylphenol	10	-	-	5	5	-
Sodium alkylbenzene sulfonate	20	5	5	-	-	5
Tetra Sodium pyrophosphate	-	-	10	-	-	-
5 Sodium tripolyphosphate	-	-	10	-	-	-
Sodium carbonate	20	45	-	-	-	45
Sodium bicarbonate	-	-	-	20	5	-
Sodium borate	-	-	-	10	-	-
Sodium metasilicate (1:1)	-	-	5	-	10	-
10 Sodium silicate (1:2.4)	10	10	-	10	-	10
Oxone	10	25	25	25	25	-
Magnesium monoperoxyphthalate	-	-	-	-	-	25
Fluorescent whitener	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Fumed silica	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
15 Perfume	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sodium sulfate	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.

and the activator includes a halide salt or salts selected from the group consisting of chloride salts and bromide salts of an alkali metal or metals.

20 19. A method of laundering fabric, characterised by the steps of:

a) providing a first volume of a bleach base that incorporates an oxygen bleaching agent, a portion of which is to be added to fabric laundry wash water,

25 b) providing a second volume of a bleach

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activator composition in close transported association with said first volume of bleach base for presentation at the time of laundering,

c) and separating some of said activator
5 composition from said close association with the bleach base volume and applying same to controllably activate the bleach base in said wash water containing said added portion of the bleach base.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19,
10 characterised by adding said bleach base portion and fabric to the wash water in a washing machine and initiating operation of said machine to launder the fabric.

21. A method as claimed in claim 19,
15 characterised by
i) providing a container containing said first volume of bleach base,

ii) providing a sub-container containing said smaller volume of activator composition, and

20 iii) mounting said sub-container in close transported association with said container.

22. A method as claimed in claim 21,
characterised in that said iii) step includes mounting the sub-container in transported relation to the
25 container as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18, for

presentation to the user of the bleach base at the time of laundering.

23. A method as claimed in claim 20, characterised in that the bleach base is formulated to have a pH of between about 9.2 and 9.5 in the wash water.

24. A method as claimed in claim 20, characterised in that the bleach activator consists essentially of a salt or salts selected from the group consisting of chloride salts and bromide salts of an alkali metal or metals.

25. A method as claimed in claim 24, characterised in that the bleach activator also includes an acidic component.

26. A method as claimed in claim 25, characterised in that said component consists of sodium bisulphite.

27. A combination as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the bleaching agent is capable of oxidizing halide ions to hypohalite and hypohalous acid, and is either

- i) a triple salt of potassium peroxymono-sulphate, potassium bisulfate and potassium sulfate, or
- ii) magnesium monoperoxyphthalate.

28. A combination as claimed in any of

claims 1 to 15, characterised in that the bleach activator composition has one of the following forms:

- i) granular
- ii) tablets
- 5 iii) water soluble packet
- iv) solution.

29. A combination as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that the bottle has a cap defining a first predetermined bleach fill volume, and the fitment
10 sub-container cap defines a second predetermined activator fill volume, said fill volumes defining a measuring system characterised in that the amount of activator to be mixed with a selected amount of bleach is determined by a predetermined established ratio of
15 said fill volume.

30. A method as claimed in claim 21, characterised in that the container has a first cap and the sub-container has a second cap, and including the step of using said first cap to measure the relative
20 quantities of said bleach base and of said activator composition, respectively, to be added to the wash water.

31. A combination as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the two containers are exteriorly joined together.

25 32. A combination as claimed in claim 1,

characterised in that the activator comprises tablets supported by one of the following:

- a) a strip
- b) card.

5 33. A combination as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the dispensing container comprises a pouch containing activator granules.

 34. A combination as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the bottle has a transparent side
10 wall and the dispensing container extends within the bottle, whereby the dispensing container and the bleach base can be seen sidewardly through the bottle transparent side wall.

 35. A combination as claimed in claim 34,
15 characterised in that the dispensing container also has a transparent side wall, whereby the bleach activator can also be seen through both said transparent side walls.

FIG. 1.

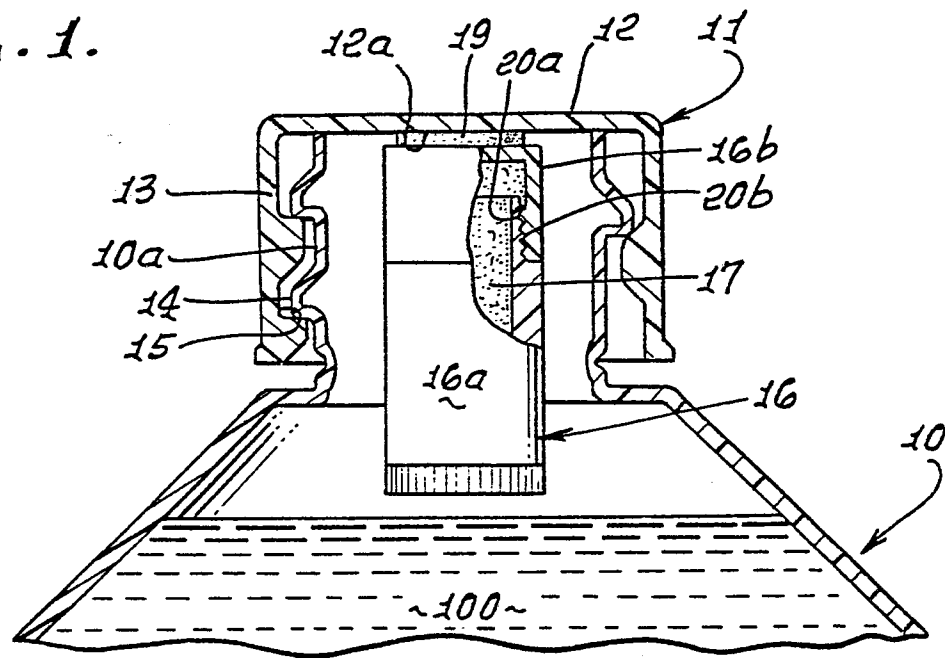
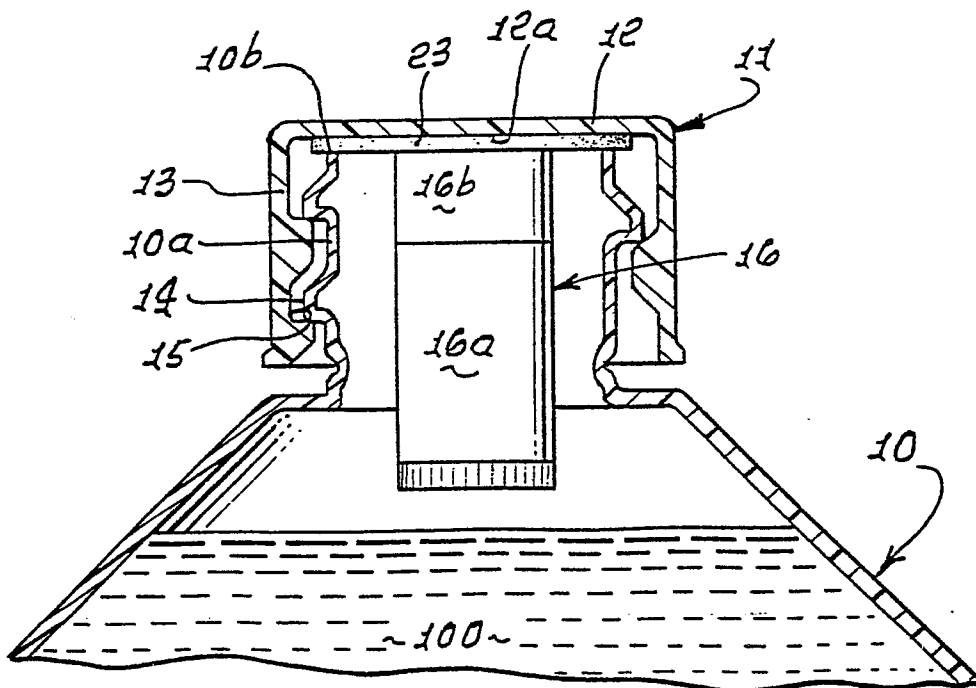


FIG. 2.



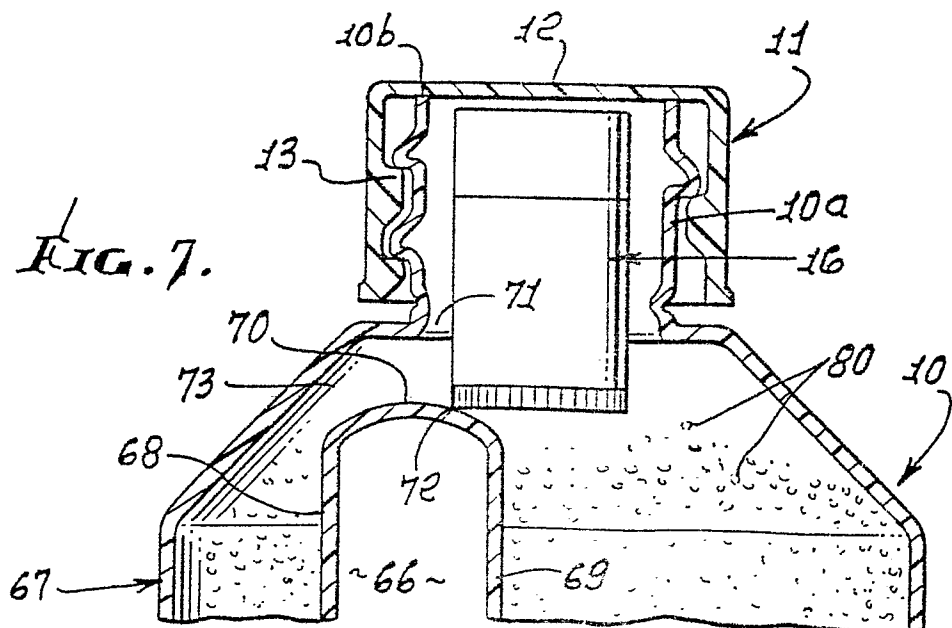
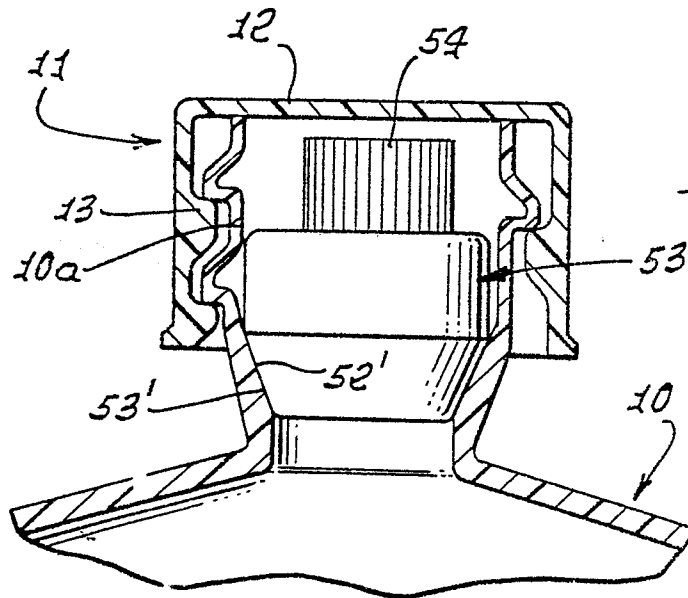
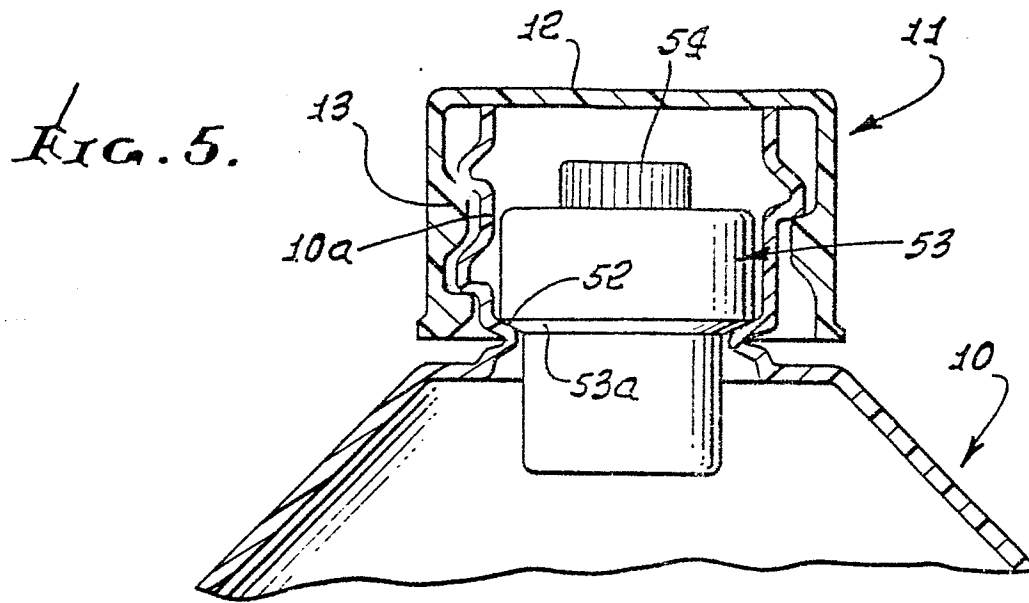


FIG. 8.

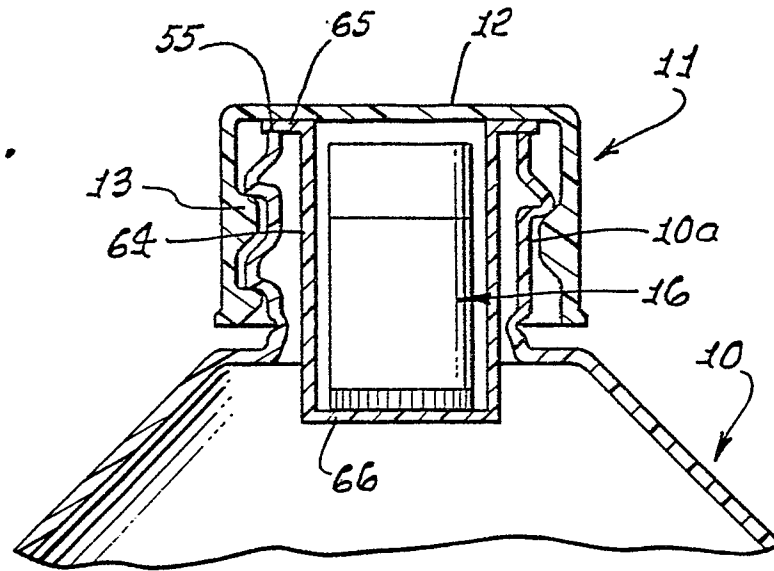


FIG. 9.

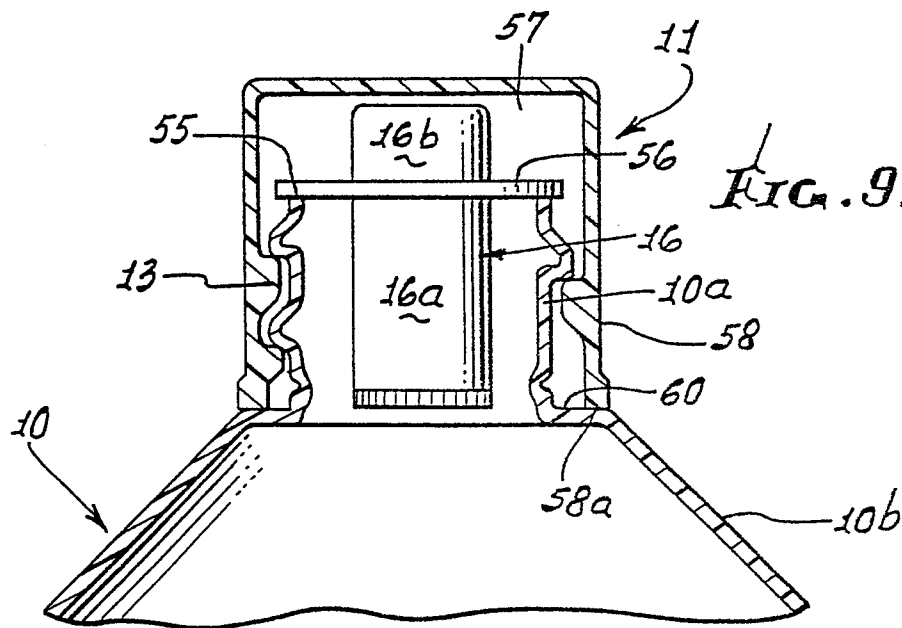


FIG. 10.

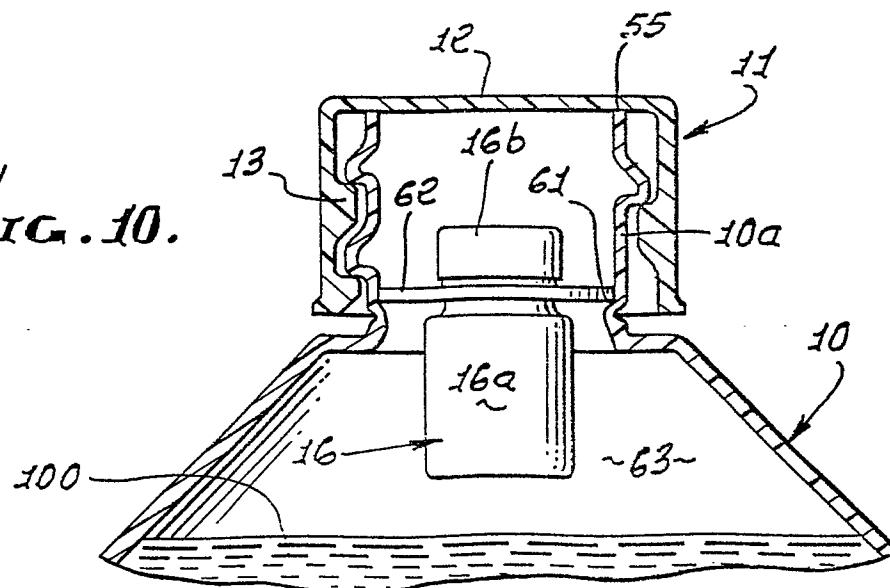


FIG. 11.

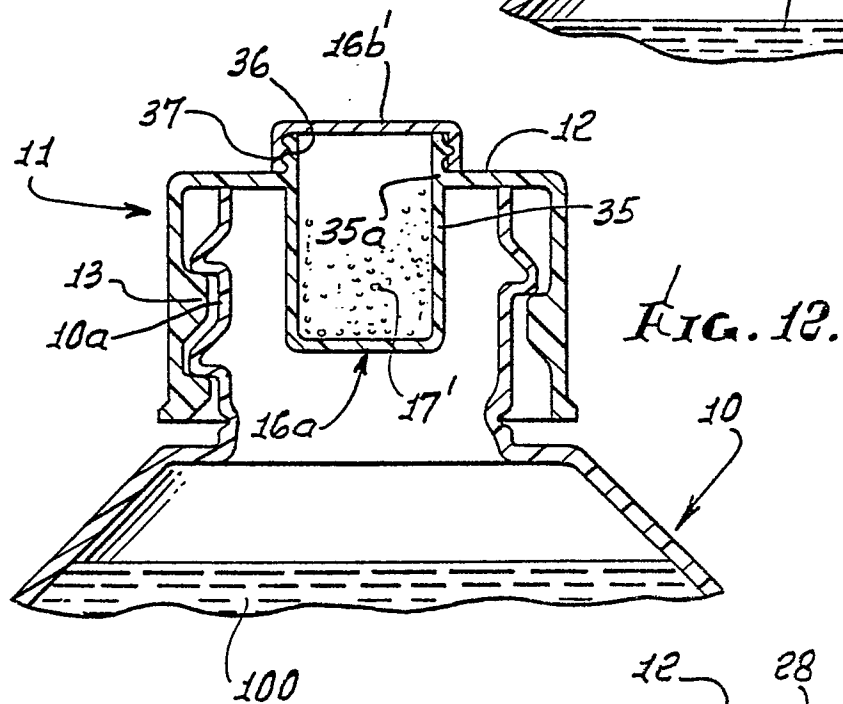
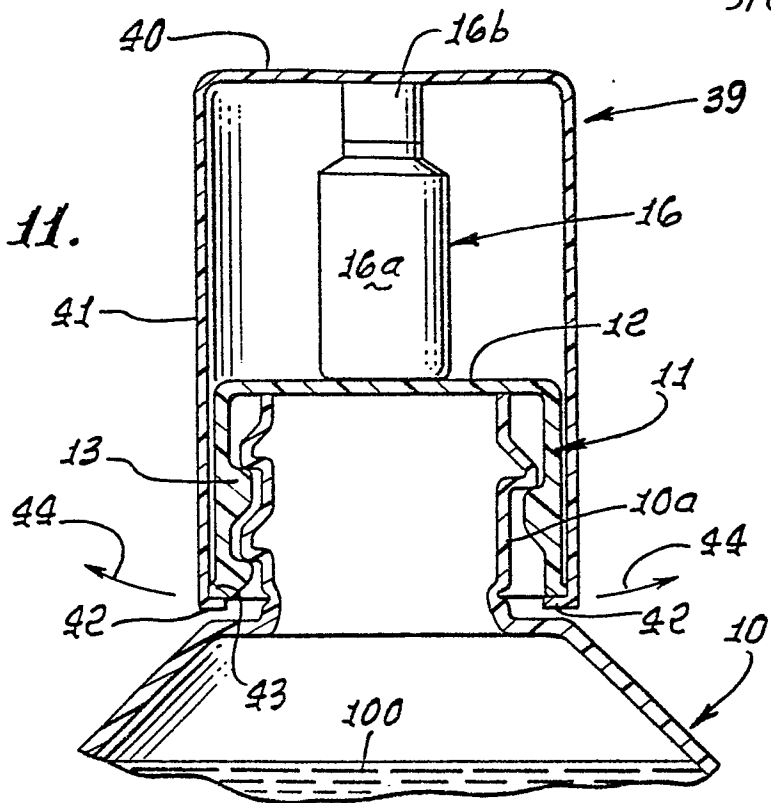


FIG. 12.

FIG. 13.

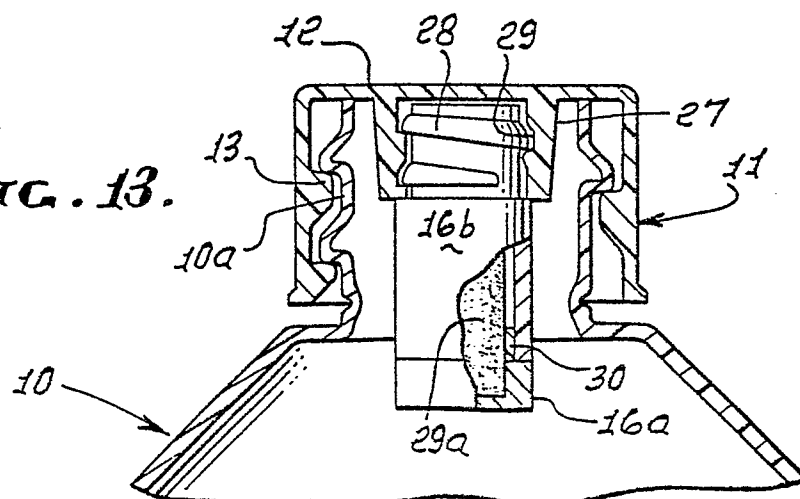


FIG. 14.

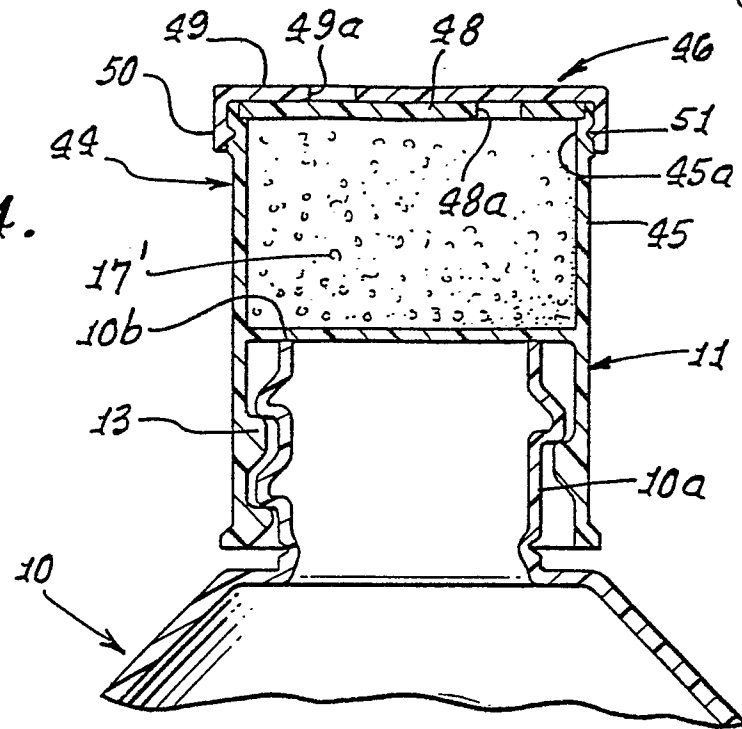


FIG. 15.

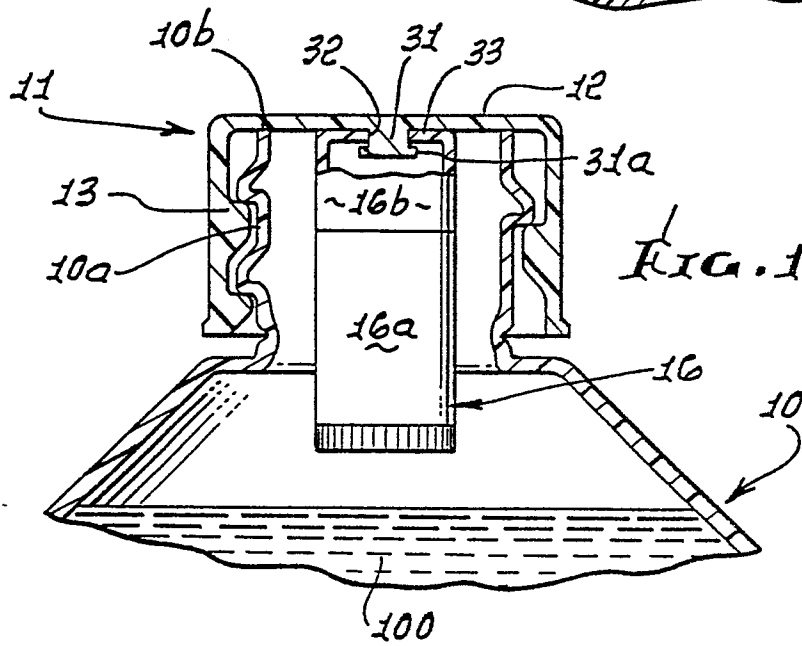
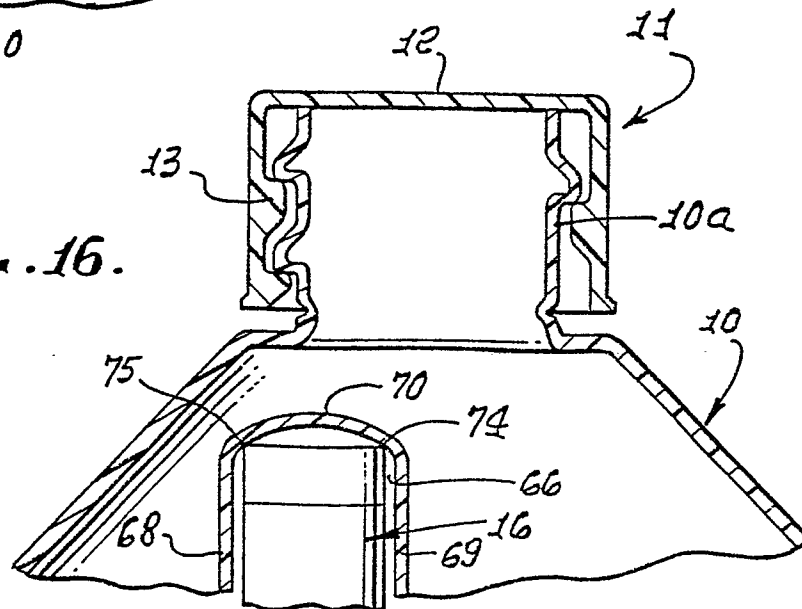


FIG. 16.



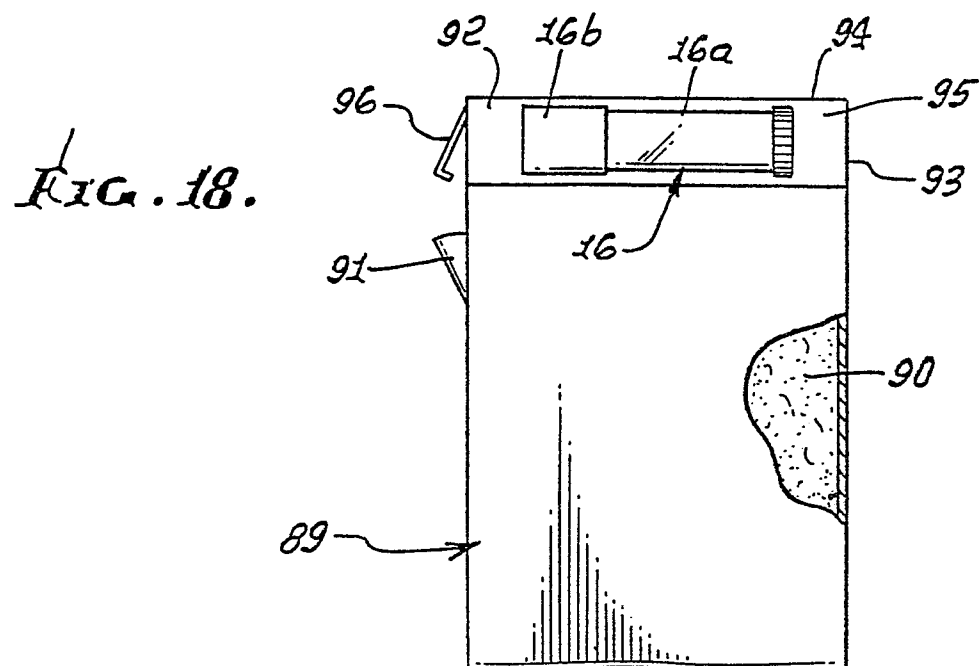
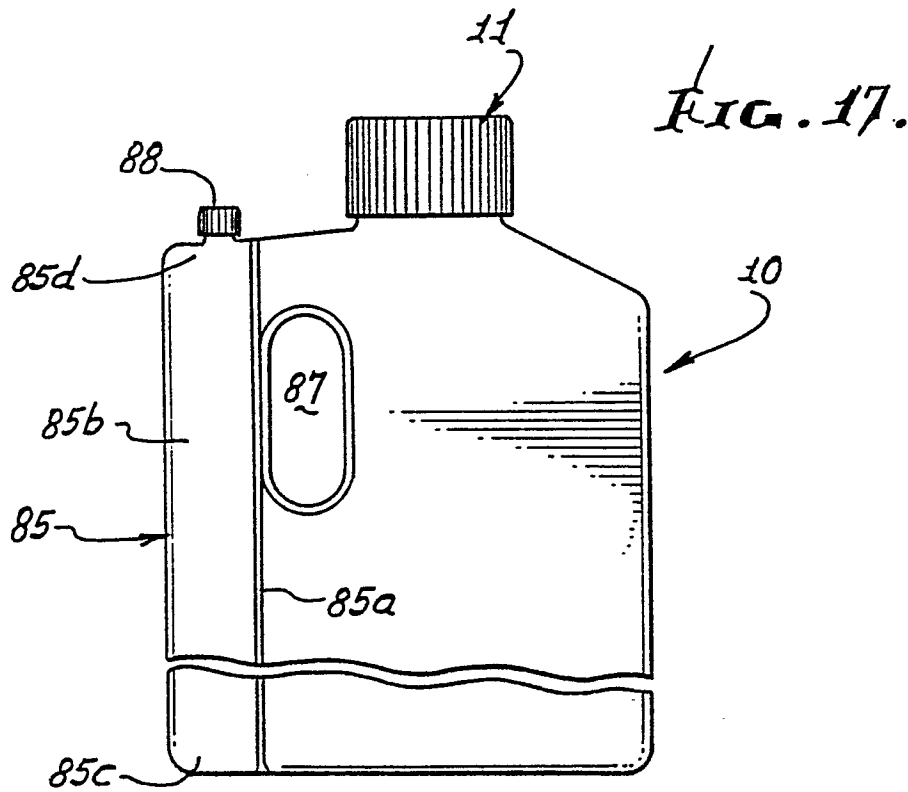


FIG. 19a.

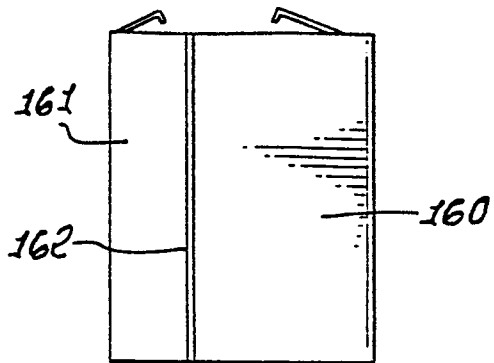


FIG. 19b.

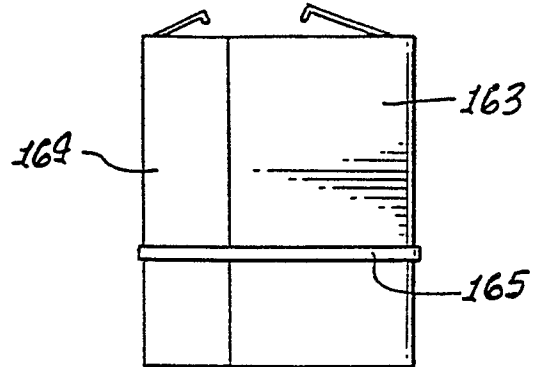


FIG. 19c.

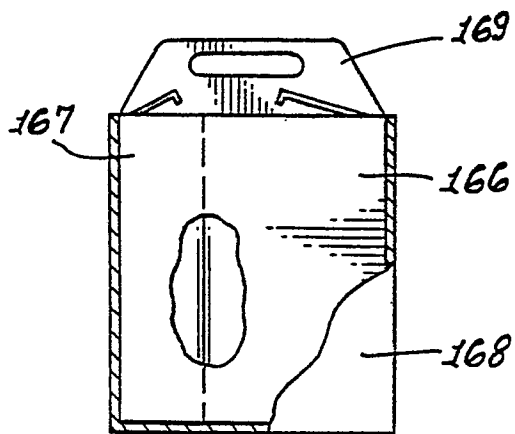


FIG. 19d.

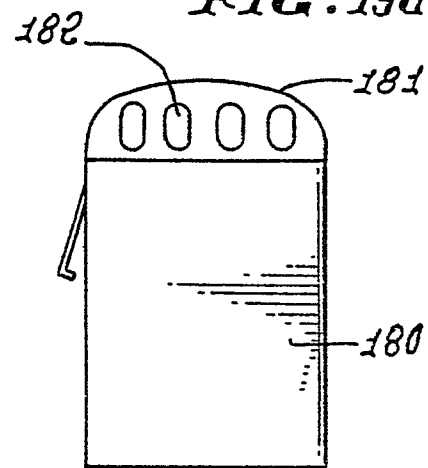


FIG. 20a.

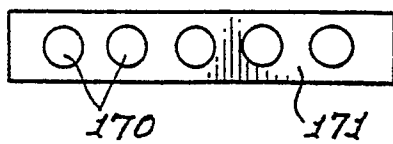


FIG. 20

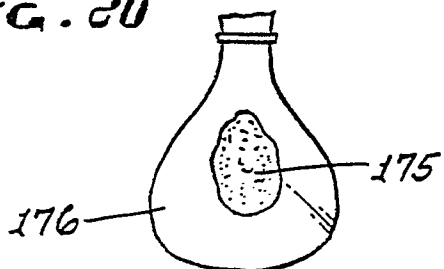


FIG. 20

