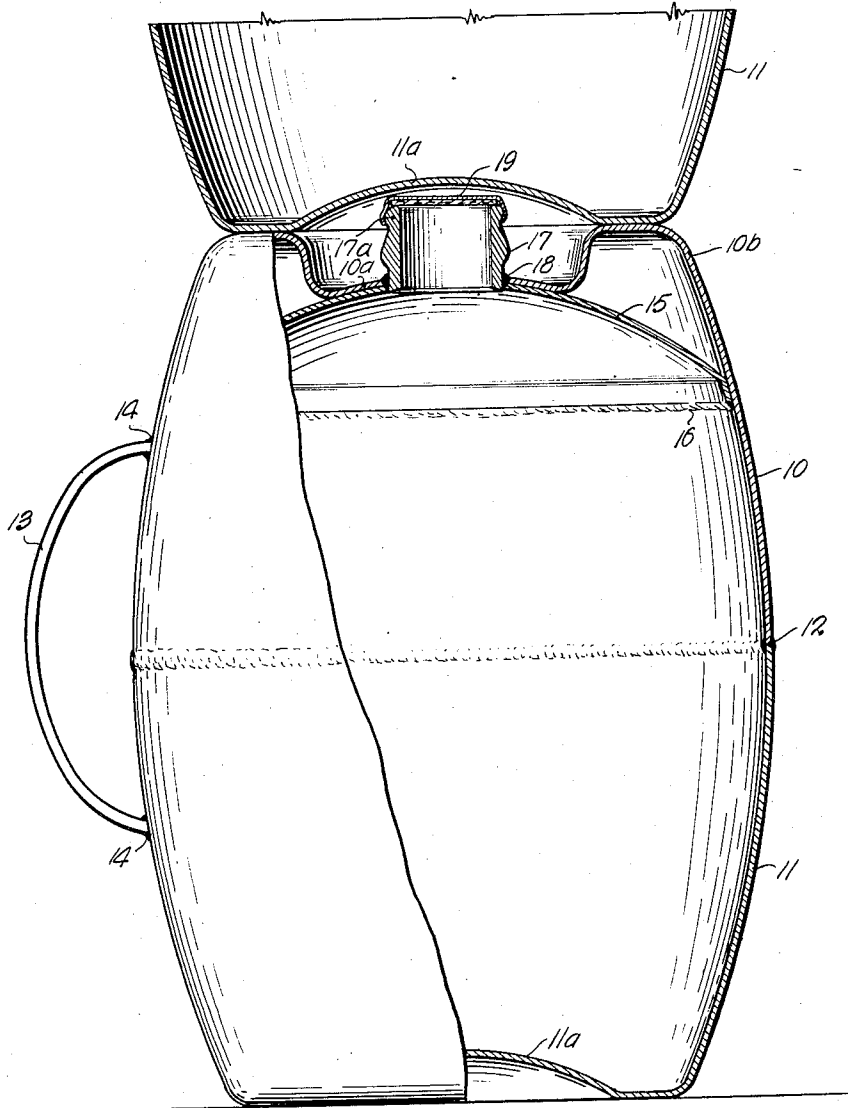


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CONTAINER FOR BEVERAGES
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CONTAINER FOR BEVERAGES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 220-71)

This invention relates to containers for the shipping and storage of beverages, and refers more particularly to a novel container of this character which is highly suitable for home refrigerator use.

As is well appreciated by those engaged in the marketing of beer and other beverages of like popularity, there has existed for some time a demand for a container which is much larger than the normal 12-oz. can and yet which is small enough to be accommodated in the average home refrigerator.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a container particularly suited for home use and capable of being manufactured in sizes consistent with modest family requirements, for example one gallon or less. The container embodying my invention is preferably formed aluminum, and fabricated in such a fashion that its material and assembly costs are extremely low while still providing a container of high strength capable of withstanding severe abuse. A particularly advantageous feature of my invention is that it provides a container which can be reused for various purposes once emptied of its original contents, due to its durable construction.

Another object of my invention is to provide a container of the character described which is so constructed as to make filling and sealing a matter of ease and simplicity. In this connection, a feature of my invention resides in the provision of a dispensing neck for the container so supported and disposed as to be capable of receiving a crown-type cap for conventional capping machinery.

A further object of the invention is to provide a container in which the neck is surrounded by a barrier formed in the end wall of the container to protect the neck against lateral impacts and blows and also to form a well for the collection of any overflowing of foam or liquid from the neck. The barrier preferably takes the form of a hollow annular ring portion circumscribing and spaced from the neck.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a construction in which the neck end of the container is reinforced and supported in a novel manner, the support means also serving to close off the interior of the annular ring portion beyond the innermost point on the neck to prevent the collection of liquid in the ring portion during pouring.

Another object is to provide a container having a construction in which the neck extends past the endmost point on the container, and yet in which the containers can be stacked one on top of another without interference therefrom.

A further object is to provide a container in accordance with the foregoing objects having an attractive appearance, sturdy construction, of light weight, and highly resistant to corrosion, particularly rust.

Other objects and advantages of the invention, together with the features of novelty appurtenant thereto, will appear in the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of

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the instant specification and is to be read in conjunction therewith, the single figure is a side elevation of a container embodying my invention, part being shown in section, and includes the lower portion of a second container resting upon the top of the lower container.

Referring to the drawing, reference numerals 10 and 11 indicate respectively the upper and lower halves of the container. Each is formed generally as a relatively deep, cup-like shell by deep drawing of aluminum, and they are positioned open end to open end and joined together by a circumferential weld seam 12 which extends completely around the periphery of the container. A carrying and dispensing handle 13, preferably formed of a bar of aluminum stock bent to a generally U-shape, is secured to the side of the container by welds 14 at the ends of the handle.

As is evident from the drawing, the upper end of the shell 10 is inset centrally to provide a depressed area 10a which is surrounded by an annular hollow ring portion 10b. The interior of this ring portion is sealed off from the remainder of the container by a concavo-convex plate 15 which is of equal diameter with the inside of the container, and is secured to the inside wall of shell 10 by a circumferential weld seam 16. The curved top of the plate 15 abuts against the underside of the outwardly dished depressed area 10a, and both the area 10a and the plate 15 are provided centrally with registering circular apertures in which is received the lower end of a projecting annular neck element 17. A single weld 18 laid around the base of the neck element 17 serves to join the neck to the container and also to seal the upper portion of the plate 15 to the adjacent area of the shell 10.

The neck element 17 is provided at its upper end with a lip 17a to receive the crimped flange of a conventional crown-type cap 19, and it will be evident that it is necessary only to remove the cap 19 with the conventional opener and tilt the container by the means of the handle 13 to dispense the contents. The plate 15 serves to insure that none of the liquid will enter the annular hollows of the ring portion 10b, and that the container will be completely emptied upon inversion.

The plate 15 serves also to reinforce the top of the container to provide a sturdy base for the neck element 17, the plate tending to absorb in the form of compressive stresses the vertical impacts on the neck which occur during capping or during subsequent handling. Moreover, the combined thicknesses of the plate 15 and surface 10a at the vicinity of the welded connection 18 provide a more adequate foundation for the weld seam than would a single wall thickness.

The ring portion 10b provides a protective barrier completely encircling the neck 17 and guarding the neck against lateral bumps and impacts which might otherwise damage the welded connection with the container.

In addition it serves also to define a well in which any foam escaping from the neck 17 of the container is caught and held, thus preventing leakage down the sides and the possibility of puddling or pooling of the beverage on table tops and the like.

The bottom of the container is provided with an inwardly dished, concave center portion 11a which makes it possible to nest the container one on top of the other. As illustrated, the concavity forms a recess in which that portion of the neck 17 extending above the level of the ring 10b is received. It will be understood that the slight projection of the neck 17 beyond the end of the container is desirable for ease in carrying out the capping operation and also to make quick removal of the cap with a conventional cap remover possible.

In the assembly of the container from the various prefabricated sections, before joining the halves 10 and

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11 the plate 15 is positioned within the shell 10 and the weld 17 applied. The neck 17 is then positioned within the apertures at the top of the shell, and the weld 18 is applied from the outside. Following this the half sections 10 and 11 are welded together by the weld 12, and the handle 13 is secured in position by its welds, as previously described.

From the foregoing it will be seen that this invention is one well adapted to attain all of the ends and objects hereinabove set forth together with other advantages which are obvious and which are inherent to the structure.

It will be understood that certain features and sub-combinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and subcombinations. This is contemplated by and is within the scope of the claim.

As many possible embodiments may be made of the invention without departing from the scope thereof, it is to be understood that all matter herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawing is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

A metal container of the type having a neck adapted to receive a pressure-applied cap, said container comprising a substantially cylindrical hollow body having closed ends, one of said ends having a central inwardly recessed portion defining a depressed area circumscribed by an annular hollow ring portion, said depressed area being outwardly dished to form it as generally semi-

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spheroidal, a circular smoothly curved concavo-convex support member disposed within said container adjacent said one end, the central portion of the convex side of said support member abutting the inside surface of said outwardly dished area and the dimensions of the support member being such that the rim of the support member abuts at all points around its periphery with the inside wall of said container, the radius of curvature of said support member being such that all portions of said depressed area are supported by the adjacent portions of said concavo-convex support member, a continuous weld seam joining said rim to said inside wall to rigidly connect said support member with said container, an annular neck element extending outwardly from the center of said depressed area, the base of said element being received within registering apertures formed in said depressed area and said support member, the neck element being secured to the container by a single weld seam circumscribing said base and joining said neck to both the depressed area and the concavo-convex support member.

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