

ABSTRACT

Packaging for Beverage Containing Gas in Solution

A beverage package has a bottle 10 with a tapered neck 15 and an openable top 16 sealed by a cap 42. Beverage 17 containing gas in solution in the bottle forms a pressurised head space 18. Floating in the beverage 17 is a hollow insert 1 containing gas under pressure which upon opening of the bottle to prevent the head space 18 to atmosphere creates a pressure differential causing gas to be ejected through a restricted aperture a restricted aperture 4 to release gas from solution in the beverage and create froth. The floating insert 1 has a length greater than the internal diameter of the bottle 10 which prevents it from being rotated longitudinally to ensure that the aperture 4 of the insert will be submerged when the bottle is opened. The insert has laterally extending fins 5 which engage the tapered neck 15 of the bottle to prevent the insert from falling through the open top 16.

The invention includes a packaging method in which the insert is held by the fins 5 in the open top 16 during a gas exchange process and is forced through the open top 16 to float on the beverage during fitting of the cap 42. Beverage packaging apparatus is also provided for displacing the flexible fins 5 to a contracted condition for insertion of the insert 1 into the open top of the bottle.

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