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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a resealable cover for metal cans used for storage of beverages such as soft drinks, beer, juices, etc.

The invention provides a cover with a novel snug seal over the beverage can's opening, forming a plug, preventing contamination, spillage and preventing the loss of pressure in opened carbonated drink cans during both storage and use. This ensures that any partially consumed carbonated drink stays "fizzy" for a longer time once opened.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Many types of closures have been proposed to preserve the contents of an open can of beverage. Many are able to seal using complicated designs but do not keep the gas in. Some are able to pressurize the can but are more expensive to manufacture than the invention. As such, prior art has never been commercialized or widely used.

Hence, a need exists for a simple, inexpensive and easily manufactured, resealable beverage can cover which is able to prevent contamination, spillage and maintain pressure in the opened can.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This need is met by the invention which comprises a single-pieced, rigid plastic cover which is snapped on to the top of an opened beverage can, holding it in place while its depressed seal fits snugly in the opening of the can preventing contamination, spillage of its contents and escape of gas. It is removed by snapping off the cover with the aid of a tab.

The preferred embodiment of the invention is constructed from food grade PET (polyethylene terephthalate) by a plastic-moulding process that employs vacuum forming using opened can tops as moulds. Alternatively, the invention can be made by injection moulding process. After cooling, the cover is released from the mould and cut into shape. Other suitable thermoplastics can also be used.

Despite there being various oval-shaped drinking holes, this method allows for the appropriately-shaped snug seal to be created. It also allows the manufacture of covers of varying diameters to fit cans of different sizes, different seal shapes and made from different materials.

This invention would be attractive to companies who want to use it as a promotional product, placing their brand or trademark on the surface of the cover, to be sold or given away with their beverages.

It is designed to be reusable and can be carried around. However, due to its low manufacturing cost, and ease of mass production, may also lend itself to one time use only. It is also recyclable.



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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG 1 Top view of invention

FIG 2 Side view of invention

FIG 3 Cross-sectional view of invention in use on an opened beverage can

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention is a single-pieced, rigid plastic construct which when attached on top of an opened standard beverage can, fits a snug, depressed seal over the opening of the can. This prevents contamination, spillage and slows down the loss of pressure in carbonated drinks when the beverage is partially consumed.

Drawing reference numbers

1 imprint of beverage can tab	6 standard metal beverage can
2 snug seal depression	7 rim of can
3 annular collar	8 can tab
4 cover tab	9 can opening
5 circumferential skirt	(6 to 9 refer to an opened beverage can)

Standard beverage cans have a rim on top of the container **7**. To use the invention, align the annular collar **3** and the snug seal **2** over the container rim **7** and can opening **9** respectively and apply downward pressure (arrow) **FIG 3**. The invention will snap on with the annular collar **3** gripping tightly the can rim **7**, holding the cover firmly in place. The rigid nature of the material used then holds the snug seal **2** in place, forming a tight plug in the can opening **9** effecting closure and preventing contamination, spillage and escape of gas.

To remove the invention, lift the tab **4** which extends from the skirt **5** upwards and over the rim of the can **7**.

Having described the invention in detail and by reference to the preferred embodiments thereof, it will be apparent that modifications and variations are possible without departing from the basic scope of the invention which is defined in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

A reusable one-piece, moulded plastic cover for use to stop leakage of liquid and gas from an opened beverage container comprising:

- 1) an annular collar which attaches to the rim of the can, holding it in place.
- 2) a depressed, snug seal to fit the opening of the can.
- 3) a tab which extends from the circumferential skirt.