

PATENT SPECIFICATION

(11)

1 323 615

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

(19)

- (21) Application No. 12434/71 (22) Filed 30 April 1971
(31) Convention Application No. 33731 (32) Filed 1 May 1970 in
(33) United States of America (US)
(44) Complete Specification published 18 July 1973
(51) International Classification A47G 19/28
(52) Index at acceptance A4A C6



(54) EGG CONTAINER

(71) We, DART INDUSTRIES INC., a Corporation organised and existing under the Laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America, of 8480, Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, State of California, 90054, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention concerns an improved egg container. Known egg cups are inconvenient for several reasons. After a hot egg is placed into a known egg cup, it is necessary to hold the egg with the fingers in order to crack the shell. It is uncomfortable to hold the hot egg and fingers might occasionally become burned. If the egg is cooled for the purpose of holding the egg so that the shell could be easily cracked, the contents of the shell would also become cooled and therefore unappetizing. It is not easy to keep an egg hot for a prolonged period of time using a known egg cup since heat simply radiates from the egg into the surrounding space.

The problems inherent in known egg cups have been reduced by the improved egg container herein disclosed.

The invention provides an egg container having a cap and a cup characterised in that said cap has a depression which may be used to hold the egg when the cap is inverted.

Preferably said cap and said cup mutually engage and enclose said egg to protect the egg from rapid loss of heat.

More specifically said cup comprises a first upstanding sidewall and an upper surface, said surface having a depression which is shaped as a partial ellipsoid and an upstanding peripheral flange, said cap having a second upstanding sidewall and a top surface having a concavity which is shaped as a partial ellipsoid, said second upstanding sidewall terminating at their lower end in a bottom edge which defines a space having a dimension permitting engagement of the inside of said second sidewall with the outer surface of said upstanding peripheral flange.

In this form it is preferred that said bottom edge rests upon said upper surface when said cap is fully engaged with said upstanding peripheral flange.

Preferably the interior surface of said second upstanding sidewall has ribs which engage the outer surface of said upstanding peripheral flange, so to permit air to pass between the ribs into and out of the interior of said cap.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a top perspective exploded view showing an egg cup;

Figure 2 is a top perspective view of the egg cup showing the cap engaged with the base;

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view of the cap;

Figure 4 is a bottom plan view of the base;

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 5-5 of Figure 2; and

Figure 6 is a top perspective view of the egg cup showing the use of the cap for holding the egg while the shell of the egg is being broken.

As shown in Figures 1, 2, 5 and 6 the invention comprises an egg container having a cap 10 and a base 11 wherein the cap 10 has a cavity 18 which is shaped as a partial ellipsoid for holding the egg while the shell of the egg is being broken.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention as best seen in Figures 2 and 5, the cap 10 engages in an upright position with base 11. As best seen in Figure 6 the cap 10 can be inverted and used as a holder for the egg while the shell of the egg is being broken.

In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention, the egg container comprises a base 11 and cap 10 wherein the base 11 comprises first upstanding sidewalls 12 and an upper surface 13. The upper surface 13 has a depression 14 which is shaped as a partial ellipsoid for holding the egg while the egg is being eaten. Upper surface 13 has an upstanding peripheral flange

15. The flange assists in engaging cap 10 when the cap 10 is placed in an upright position upon the base. The cap 10 has second upstanding sidewalls 16 and a top surface 17. The top surface has a concavity 18 which is shaped as a partial ellipsoid. The concavity 18 in cap 10 is used to assist in holding the egg, as shown in Figure 6, while the shell is being broken. The second upstanding sidewalls 16 have longitudinally extending ribs 21, said sidewalls terminating at their lower end in a bottom edge 19 which defines a space 20 having a dimension permitting said second upstanding sidewall 16 to slip over said upstanding peripheral flange 15, so that said ribs engage said flange. The depression 14 in base 11 holds the egg and cap 10 covers the top of the egg when cap 10 is engaged with base 11 as best seen in Figure 5. In the preferred embodiment of the invention bottom edge 19 rests upon upper surface 13 when cap 11 is fully engaged with the upstanding peripheral flange 15.

Existing problems are solved by the foregoing described structure for the egg container in that cap 10 and base 11 co-operate to prevent heat loss from the egg when cap 10 is engaged in an upright position with base 11 as shown in Figures 2 and 5. Ribs 20 tightly engage upstanding flange 15, while permitting slight ingress and egress of air and vapour from the space enclosed by said cap and said base. Air and vapour are permitted to pass between the ribs so that a vacuum will not form due to cooling which would make the cap difficult to remove and so that the cap will not be blown off due to increased pressure formed because of heated air resulting from a hot egg being placed within the enclosed space. The ribs also result in the formation of a strong engagement between the cap and base. If the ribs were not provided, the inside diameter of the cap would have to be almost exactly equal to the outside diameter of the upstanding flange. The ribs permit a strong engagement while permitting a greater tolerance in the difference between the inside diameter of the cap and the outside diameter of the upstanding flange.

As best seen in Figure 6 the foregoing inventive structure is also used to permit breaking the shell of the egg without requiring engagement of the fingers with the hot egg.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An egg container having a cap and a cup characterised in that said cap has a depression which may be used to hold the egg when the cap is inverted.

2. The egg container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said cap and said cup mutually engage and enclose said egg to protect the egg from rapid loss of heat.

3. The egg container as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said cup comprises a first upstanding sidewall and an upper surface, said surface having a depression which is shaped as a partial ellipsoid and an upstanding peripheral flange, said cap having a second upstanding sidewall and a top surface having a concavity which is shaped as a partial ellipsoid, said second upstanding sidewall terminating at its lower end in a bottom edge which defines a space having a dimension permitting engagement of the inside of said second sidewall with the outer surface of said upstanding peripheral flange.

4. The egg container as claimed in claim 3 wherein said bottom edge rests upon said upper surface when said cap is fully engaged with said upstanding peripheral flange.

5. The egg container as claimed in claim 3 or claim 4 in which the interior surface of said second upstanding sidewall has ribs which engage the outer surface of said upstanding peripheral flange, so to permit air to pass between the ribs into and out of the interior of said cap.

6. An egg container substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

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