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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/09126 (22) International Filing Date: 28 April 1999 (28.04.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/071,752 1 May 1998 (01.05.98) US (71) Applicant: CROWN CORK & SEAL TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION [US/US]; 11535 South Central Avenue, Alsip, IL 60803 (US). (72) Inventor: EBERLE, Theodore, F.; Apartment 1702, 800 South Wells Street, Chicago, IL 60607 (US). (74) Agents: HEIST, Dale et al.; Woodcock Washburn Kurtz Mackiewicz & Norris LLP, 46th floor, One Liberty Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: HOT FILL PLASTIC CONTAINER HAVING SPACED APART ARCHED RIBS**(57) Abstract**

The present invention provides an improved blow molded plastic container (10) that is adapted for hot fill applications. The hot fill container (10) of the present invention comprises a plurality of vacuum panels (22), having substantially arched upper (24) and lower ends (28), as opposed to the substantially straight upper and lower ends as described in the related art. The hot fill container (10) of the invention further comprises novel and unique vacuum panel reinforcement means. The vacuum panel reinforcement means are a series of arched ribs (42). One series of ribs is placed in the label mounting area (50) above the vacuum panels (22) and one series of ribs is placed in the label mounting area (52) below the vacuum panels (22). The ribs (42) extend noncontinuously around the circumference of the body (18) of the plastic container and are spaced apart from each other by a land area (58). Each rib (42) is also spaced apart from the vacuum panel (22) and is centered over a land area (58) between vacuum panels. The hot fill bottle of the invention is particularly adapted to minimize the stress placed on the corners of vacuum panels and to resist flexing when the container is filled with a hot liquid.

