

portion of tube pushes the capsule in such way that the capsule becomes disengaged from the piercing elements when the second holding part moves away from the first holding part.

5 ~~It is an object~~Embodiments of the invention ~~to provide~~ at least an alternative solution according to which a capsule is released from the support surface. More in particular, ~~it is an object~~ embodiments of the invention ~~to provide~~ such an alternative solution which is less complex than the above described known solution, and which alternative solution even works in cases where such piercing elements as described above are not present in a system
10 or in cases where such piercing elements are inactive during the brewing of certain types of capsules.

~~For that purpose, the invention provides a capsule according to claim 1. Also, the invention provides~~According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a system according to claim 30 for preparing a
15 predetermined quantity of beverage suitable for consumption using an extractable product, comprising: an exchangeable capsule; and an apparatus comprising a fluid dispensing device for supplying an amount of a fluid, such as water, under a pressure of at least six bar to the exchangeable capsule, and a receptacle for holding the exchangeable capsule; wherein the exchangeable
20 capsule comprises a circumferential first wall, a second wall closing the circumferential first wall at a first end, and a third wall closing the circumferential first wall at a second, open, end opposite the second wall, wherein the first, second and third wall enclose an inner space comprising the
25 extractable product, wherein, in use, the third wall forms an outermost boundary of the capsule in an axial direction thereof, wherein the fluid dispensing device is arranged for supplying the fluid to the extractable product under the pressure of at least 6 bar through the second wall for forming the beverage; and wherein the receptacle comprises a support surface, and the
30 third wall is arranged to abut against the support surface for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule through the third wall and through the support surface, wherein the support surface comprises channel shaped

grooves in a side facing the third wall, for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule through the grooves and the support surface comprises, between the channel shaped grooves, ridges against which the third wall, in use, abuts, and wherein the third wall is flexible sheet-shaped perforate and/or porous and comprises filtering paper or a nonwoven filtering material, characterized in that the second wall is formed by: a flexible porous sheet, such as a sheet of filtering paper, a flexible foil, such as a polymeric film, provided with a plurality of entrance openings, or wherein the second wall is substantially rigid and comprises a plurality of entrance openings. Furthermore, the invention provides according to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a method according to claim 42 for preparing a predetermined quantity of beverage suitable for consumption using an extractable product, comprising: providing an exchangeable capsule, comprising a circumferential first wall, a second wall closing the circumferential first wall at a first end, and a flexible sheet-shaped perforate and/or porous third wall closing the circumferential first wall at a second, open, end opposite the second wall, wherein the first, second and third wall enclose an inner space comprising the extractable product, wherein the third wall forms an outermost boundary of the capsule in an axial direction thereof, and wherein the third wall comprises filtering paper or a nonwoven filtering material; providing an apparatus comprising a receptacle for holding the exchangeable capsule, a fluid dispensing device for supplying an amount of a fluid, such as water, under a pressure of at least six bar to the exchangeable capsule, and an outlet which, in use, is in fluid communication with the capsule for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule and supplying the beverage to a container such as a cup; arranging the exchangeable capsule with the third wall in abutment with a support surface of the receptacle, wherein the support surface comprises channel shaped grooves in a side facing the third wall, for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule through the grooves and the support surface comprises, between the channel shaped grooves, ridges against which the third wall abuts; and supplying the fluid under the pressure of at least 6

5 bar to the extractable product for preparing the beverage, characterized by
providing an exchangeable capsule of which the second wall is formed by: a
flexible porous sheet, such as a sheet of filtering paper, a flexible foil, such as a
polymeric film, provided with a plurality of entrance openings, or wherein the
second wall is substantially rigid and comprises a plurality of entrance
openings. Specific embodiments of the invention are set forth in the dependent
claims.

10 Since the third wall of the capsule comprises a woven or non-woven
filtering material, such as filtering paper, forms an outermost boundary of the
capsule in an axial direction thereof, and is arranged to abut against the
support surface, the woven or non-woven filtering material in the said
outermost boundary of the capsule abuts the support surface, whereby, after
use of the capsule, sticking of the capsule to the support surface is prevented
and release of the capsule is promoted. Hence, according to the solution of the
15 invention, the releasing of the capsule from the support surface does not
require active piercing means as described for the known device, let alone
additional measures to subsequently release the capsule from such piercing
means. It will be appreciated that the non-woven filtering material may be a
fibrous non-woven material. It will be appreciated that the woven filtering
20 material may be a fibrous woven material. The fibres of the fibrous material
may e.g. include synthetic fibres such as polyethylene (PE) fibres and/or
natural fibres such as cellulose fibres. The nonwoven filtering material may

cross section of the inner space. Hence, the beverage can flow out of the inner space very homogeneously. This may prevent the occurrence of preferential fluid flow paths. Nevertheless, it is also possible that the exit openings are distributed over part of the surface of the third wall, the remainder of the surface of the third wall being free from exit openings. It is for instance possible that a circumferential area of the surface of the third wall is free from exit openings.

~~According to a second aspect~~In some embodiments of the invention, the second wall is perforate and/or porous. Preferably, the second wall has a sufficiently high tear strength and/or forms a sufficiently low flow resistance that the second wall, in use, does not tear and/or rupture and stays intact. This has the advantage that sudden pressure shocks to the third wall, e.g. caused by rupturing of the second wall, are prevented.

Preferably, the second wall is formed by a flexible porous sheet, such as a sheet of filtering paper, a flexible foil, such as a polymeric film, provided with a plurality of entrance openings, or the second wall is substantially rigid and comprises a plurality of entrance openings. Hence, the entrance filter can be provided in a simple manner.

In an embodiment, the plurality of entrance openings is distributed over substantially the entire surface of the foil or the second wall, respectively. This provides the advantage that the fluid can be supplied to substantially the entire cross section of the inner space. Hence, the extractable product is wetted very homogeneously. This further provides the advantage that the risk of preferential fluid flow paths occurring in the extractable product in the capsule is reduced and the reproducibility of the beverage strength is enhanced even more. Nevertheless, it is also possible that the entrance openings are distributed over part of the surface of the foil or the second wall, the remainder of the surface of the foil or the second wall being free from entrance openings. It will be appreciated that the porous second wall provides the same advantage.

In a further embodiment, the capsule is provided with a plurality of side-entrance openings arranged in the circumferential first wall. This provides the advantage that the extractable product is, at least partially, also wetted from the side. This provides the advantage that the fluid can be
5 supplied to the extractable product in a very homogeneous and controlled manner.

~~According to a further aspect~~In some embodiments of the invention, the entire inner space is occupied by the extractable product. Hence, optimum use is made of the gain in internal volume of the capsule. This further provides
10 the advantage that the extractable product cannot be displaced inside the inner space when the fluid flows through the capsule, so that no preferential paths can be formed.

In general, the second wall may be integral with the circumferential first wall. This provides the advantage that the capsule can simply be formed
15 from a generally cup-shaped structure forming the circumferential first wall and the second wall in combination with the flexible sheet-shaped third wall. The third wall may be connected to the circumferential first wall, e.g. by means of gluing, welding, folding or the like.

In an embodiment the capsule comprises an inwardly extending rim,
20 wherein the second wall or the third wall is attached to the inwardly extending rim. Hence it is possible to connect the, e.g. sheet-shaped, second wall or the third wall to the rim. Thus, a simple and sturdy construction of the capsule may be obtained.

In an embodiment the capsule comprises an outwardly extending
25 rim, wherein the second wall or the third wall is attached to the outwardly extending rim. Hence it is possible to connect the, e.g. sheet-shaped, second wall or the third wall to the rim. Thus, a simple and sturdy construction of the capsule may be obtained.

More in general it applies that the third wall may extend to, e.g. a
30 circumferential edge of, the circumferential first wall. Also, more in general it

applies that the second wall may extend to, e.g. a circumferential edge of, the circumferential first wall.

In a special embodiment, the capsule further comprises a bottom seal at least partially removable connected to the second wall for sealing the, e.g. porous or perforate, second wall prior to use. Hence entering of air into the inner space via the, e.g. porous or perforate, second wall prior to use of the capsule may be prevented, improving shelf life of the product inside the capsule.

In a special embodiment, the capsule further comprises a lid seal at least partially removable connected to the third wall for sealing the third wall prior to use. Hence entering of air into the inner space via the third wall prior to use of the capsule may be prevented, improving shelf life of the product inside the capsule.

~~According to a further aspect~~In some embodiments of the invention, the lid seal is arranged to be partially released from the third wall under the effect of fluid pressure in the inner space, while remaining attached to the third wall at at least one position. Hence, the lid seal need not be removed from the capsule by a user of the capsule. When the fluid enters the inner space pressure will build up until the seal partially releases from the third wall and the beverage can flow out through the third wall. The releasable connection may e.g. be formed as a so-called peel-seal. Since the lid seal is permanently attached to the third wall at at least one position, the lid seal will not fully detach from the capsule. This has the advantage, that the lid seal will automatically be discarded from the apparatus when discarding the used capsule.

Preferably, the capsule comprises stiffening ribs integral with the circumferential first wall and/or the second wall to increase the rigidity of the capsule.

In general, the circumferential first wall may have any shape such as cylindrical, hemispherical, frustoconical or polygonal, such as hexagonal or octagonal.

Preferably, the extractable product comprises roasted and ground coffee. Thus, the capsule is suited for preparing a predetermined amount of coffee by supplying a predetermined amount of hot water under high pressure to the capsule.

5 | ~~According to a further aspect~~ In some embodiments of the invention, the extractable product is compacted into a tablet. This provides the advantage that the risk of preferential flow paths occurring in the compacted extractable product tablet is reduced. It will be appreciated that when using the compacted tablet, the second wall may be omitted from the capsule, as the risk
10 of spilling extractable product is greatly reduced.

Preferably, the tablet comprises at least one bore extending from the side of the tablet facing the second wall in the direction of the third wall. The bore thus provides an infusion means for wetting the tablet in a homogeneous manner.

15 It is also possible that the extractable product is compacted into a plurality of tablets, preferably of mutually different packing density. It is for instance possible that the extractable product is provided as a single stack of tablets having mutually different degrees of compacting. It is for instance possible that the degree of compacting increases per tablet in the direction
20 from the second wall to the third wall. In this way the effort required to completely wet a tablet will also increase in the direction from the second wall to the third, ensuring that each upstream tablet has been properly wetted when wetting a more downstream tablet, thus providing very homogeneous wetting of the total volume of extractable product.

25 The invention will now be further elucidated by means of, non-limiting, examples referring to the schematic figures in the enclosed drawing, in which:

Fig. 1a shows an example of a first embodiment of a system for preparing a beverage according to the invention;

capsule 2 comprises an outwardly extending rim 40 at the second end 22 of the circumferential first wall 14. The third wall 20 is attached to the outwardly extending rim 40, e.g. by means of gluing, welding, heat sealing, or the like. Hence, the third wall can be firmly attached to the rim. It will be appreciated
 5 that it is possible that the outwardly extending rim 40 extends between the upper part 8 of the receptacle 6 and the support surface 10 of the receptacle 6, such that the rim 40 is clamped between the upper part 8 and the support surface 10. Hence, the third wall 20 is clamped against the rim 40 in use, i.e. when the fluid pressure is applied, thus reducing the risk of the third wall 20
 10 separating from the rim 40.

In Fig. 3b the third wall 20 is formed by a woven or nonwoven filtering material, such as filtering paper, like in Figs. 1a and 1b. In Fig. 3b the second wall 16 is also formed by a flexible porous sheet, such as filter paper. In this example the second wall 16 is attached to an inwardly extending flange
 15 42. In this example, the second wall 16 is attached to the inner side of the inwardly extending flange 42.

In Fig. 3c the third wall 20 is formed by a woven or nonwoven filtering material, such as filtering paper, like in Figs. 1a, 1b and 3b. In Fig. 3c the second wall 16 is also formed by a porous sheet, such as filter paper. In this
 20 example, the second wall 16 is attached to the outer side of the inwardly extending flange 42. Hence, the risk is reduced that the fluid under pressure tears the second wall 16 from the inwardly extending flange 42. It is possible that the second wall 16 overhangs a circumferential edge of the capsule 2. Hence, a larger surface area is available for attaching the second wall 16 to the
 25 inwardly extending rim 42 and the circumferential first wall 10, resulting in a stronger bond.

In Fig. 3d the third wall 20 is provided with the plurality of exit
 | openings 3038, as in Fig. 3a. In Fig. 3d the second wall 16 is also formed by a
 foil 44, provided with the plurality of entrance openings 26.

Claims

1. Capsule for preparing a predetermined quantity of beverage suitable for consumption using an extractable product, comprising:
a circumferential first wall,
a second wall closing the circumferential first wall at a first end, and
5 a flexible sheet-shaped perforate and/or porous third wall closing the circumferential first wall at a second, open, end opposite the second wall, wherein the first, second and third wall enclose an inner space comprising the extractable product,
wherein the third wall forms an outermost boundary of the capsule
10 in an axial direction thereof, and
wherein the third wall comprises a woven or non-woven filtering material, such as filtering paper.
2. Capsule according to claim 1, wherein the third wall has a
15 sufficiently high tear strength and/or forms a sufficiently low flow resistance that the third wall, in use, does not tear and/or rupture and stays intact.
3. Capsule according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the capsule is free from a support structure for supporting the third wall downstream of the third wall.
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4. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the third wall is provided with a plurality of exit openings.
5. Capsule according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of exit openings
25 is distributed over substantially the entire surface of the third wall.

6. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the second wall is perforate and/or porous.

7. Capsule according to claim 6, wherein the second wall has a
5 sufficiently high tear strength and/or forms a sufficiently low flow resistance that the second wall, in use, does not tear and/or rupture and stays intact.

8. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein the second wall is formed by:
10 a flexible porous sheet, such as a sheet of filtering paper,
a flexible foil, such as a polymeric film, provided with a plurality of entrance openings, or
wherein the second wall is substantially rigid and comprises a plurality of entrance openings.

15 9. Capsule according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of entrance openings is distributed over substantially the entire surface of the foil or the second wall, respectively.

20 10. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein the capsule is provided with a plurality of side-entrance openings arranged in the circumferential first wall.

11. Capsule according to any one of claims 7-10, wherein the entrance
25 openings and/or side-entrance openings have a circular cross section.

12. Capsule according to claim 11, wherein the cross section of the entrance openings and/or side-entrance openings tapers towards the inner space.

13. Capsule according to any one of claims 7-12, wherein the entrance openings and/or side-entrance openings are slits.
14. Capsule according to any one of claims 7-13, wherein the entrance
5 openings and/or side-entrance openings are arranged to open under fluid pressure.
15. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-14, wherein the entire inner space is occupied by the extractable product.
- 10 16. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-15, wherein the second wall is integral with the circumferential first wall.
17. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-16, wherein the capsule
15 comprises an inwardly extending rim, wherein the second wall or the third wall is attached to the inwardly extending rim.
18. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-17, wherein the capsule comprises an outwardly extending rim, wherein the second wall or the third
20 wall is attached to the outwardly extending rim.
19. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-18, wherein the second wall and/ or the third wall extends to the circumferential first wall.
- 25 20. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-19, wherein the capsule further comprises a bottom seal at least partially removable connected to the second wall for sealing the entrance filter prior to use.

21. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-20, wherein the capsule further comprises a lid seal at least partially removable connected to the third wall for sealing the third wall prior to use.

5 22. Capsule according to claim 21, wherein the lid seal is arranged to be partially released from the third wall under the effect of fluid pressure in the inner space, while remaining attached to the third wall at at least one position.

23. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-22, wherein the capsule
10 comprises stiffening ribs integral with the circumferential first wall.

24. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-23, wherein the circumferential first wall is cylindrical, hemispherical, frustoconical or polygonal, such as hexagonal or octagonal.
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25. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-24, wherein the extractable product comprises roasted and ground coffee.

26. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-25, wherein the extractable
20 product is compacted into a tablet.

27. Capsule according to claim 26, wherein the tablet comprises at least one bore extending from the side of the tablet facing the second wall in the direction of the third wall.
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28. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-27, wherein the extractable product is compacted into a plurality of tablets, preferably of mutually different packing density.

29. Capsule according to any one of claims 1-28, wherein the circumferential first wall is substantially rigid.

30. System for preparing a predetermined quantity of beverage suitable
5 for consumption using an extractable product, comprising:

an exchangeable capsule; and

an apparatus comprising a fluid dispensing device for supplying an amount of a fluid, such as water, under a pressure of at least six bar to the exchangeable capsule, and a receptacle for holding the exchangeable capsule;

10 wherein the exchangeable capsule comprises

a circumferential first wall,

a second wall closing the circumferential first wall at a first end, and

a flexible sheet-shaped perforate and/or porous third wall closing the circumferential first wall at a second, open, end opposite the second wall,

15 wherein the first, second and third wall enclose an inner space comprising the extractable product,

wherein the third wall forms an outermost boundary of the capsule in an axial direction thereof, and

20 wherein the third wall comprises filtering paper or a nonwoven filtering material;

wherein the fluid dispensing device is arranged for supplying the fluid to the extractable product through the second wall for forming the beverage; and

25 wherein the receptacle comprises a support surface, and the third wall is arranged to abut against the support surface for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule through the third wall and through the support surface.

31. System according to claim 30, wherein the exchangeable capsule is a
30 capsule according to any one of claims 1-29.

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32. System according to claim 30 or 31, wherein the support surface comprises channel shaped grooves in a side facing the third wall, for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule through the grooves.

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33. System according to at least claim 32, wherein the support surface comprises, between the channel shaped grooves, ridges against which the third wall, in use, abuts.

10 34. System according to claim 33, wherein the ridges and the third wall are adapted to each other such that the third wall, in use, does not tear or rupture against the ridges.

15 35. System according to at least claim 33 or 34, wherein the third wall is adapted to the ridges such that the third wall, in use, does not tear or rupture against the ridges.

20 36. System according to any one of claims 33-35, wherein the ridges form at least 10%, preferably at least 25% of the portion of the support surface which, in use, coincides with the portion of the surface area of the third wall overlying the second, open, end.

25 37. System according to any one of claims 33-36, wherein, in use, the third wall is supported by the ridges over at least 10%, preferably at least 25% of the portion the surface area of the third wall overlying the second, open, end.

38. System according to any one of claims 33-37, wherein the ridges comprise edges, wherein the edges are not sharp.

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39. System according to claim 38, wherein the edges have a radius of curvature of at least 50 μm , preferably at least 100 μm .

40. System according to any one of claims 33-39, wherein the ridges
5 have a convex top.

41. System according to any one of claims 30-40, wherein the support surface comprises an abutting area intended for said abutment with the third wall, which abutting area, apart from local depressions and/or local
10 protrusions therein, has a substantially non-straight form, such as a substantially convex form.

42. Method for preparing a predetermined quantity of beverage suitable for consumption using an extractable product, comprising:
15 providing an exchangeable capsule, comprising a circumferential first wall, a second wall closing the circumferential first wall at a first end, and a flexible sheet-shaped perforate and/or porous third wall closing the circumferential first wall at a second, open, end opposite the second wall, wherein the first, second and third wall enclose an inner space comprising the
20 extractable product, wherein the third wall forms an outermost boundary of the capsule in an axial direction thereof, and wherein the third wall comprises filtering paper or a nonwoven filtering material;

providing an apparatus comprising a receptacle for holding the exchangeable capsule, a fluid dispensing device for supplying an amount of a
25 fluid, such as water, under a pressure of at least six bar to the exchangeable capsule, and an outlet which, in use, is in fluid communication with the capsule for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule and supplying the beverage to a container such as a cup;

arranging the exchangeable capsule with the third wall in abutment
30 with a support surface of the receptacle; and

supplying the fluid under the pressure to the extractable product for preparing the beverage.

43. Method according to claim 42, using a system according to any one of
5 claims 30-41, wherein the exchangeable capsule is a capsule according to any one of claims 1-29, and wherein the apparatus recited in method claim 42 is the apparatus recited in system claim 30.

44. Method according to claim 42 or 43, wherein:
10 the receptacle comprises second wall piercing means intended for piercing the second wall of an alternative capsule for creating at least one entrance opening for supplying the fluid to the extractable product through said at least one entrance opening; and
the second wall of the capsule comprises an entrance filter, for
15 supplying the fluid to the extractable product therethrough, which entrance filter, in use, is positioned at a distance from the bottom piercing means, such that the capsule of the system is not pierced by the second wall piercing means and the second wall stays intact.

Claims

1. System for preparing a predetermined quantity of beverage suitable for consumption using an extractable product, comprising:

an exchangeable capsule; and

5 an apparatus comprising a fluid dispensing device for supplying an amount of a fluid, such as water, under a pressure of at least six bar to the exchangeable capsule, and a receptacle for holding the exchangeable capsule;

wherein the exchangeable capsule comprises

a circumferential first wall,

10 a second wall closing the circumferential first wall at a first end, and a third wall closing the circumferential first wall at a second, open, end opposite the second wall,

wherein the first, second and third wall enclose an inner space comprising the extractable product,

15 wherein, in use, the third wall forms an outermost boundary of the capsule in an axial direction thereof,

wherein the fluid dispensing device is arranged for supplying the fluid to the extractable product under the pressure of at least 6 bar through the second wall for forming the beverage; and

20 wherein the receptacle comprises a support surface, and the third wall is arranged to abut against the support surface for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule through the third wall and through the support surface,

25 wherein the support surface comprises channel shaped grooves in a side facing the third wall, for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule through the grooves and the support surface comprises, between the channel

shaped grooves, ridges against which the third wall, in use, abuts, and wherein the third wall is flexible sheet-shaped perforate and/or porous and comprises filtering paper or a nonwoven filtering material, characterized in that

the second wall is formed by:

- 5 a flexible porous sheet, such as a sheet of filtering paper,
 a flexible foil, such as a polymeric film, provided with a plurality of entrance openings, or

 wherein the second wall is substantially rigid and comprises a plurality of entrance openings.

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2. System according to claim 1, wherein the ridges and the third wall are adapted to each other such that the third wall, in use, does not tear or rupture against the ridges.

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3. System according to at least claim 1 or 2, wherein the third wall is adapted to the ridges such that the third wall, in use, does not tear or rupture against the ridges.

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4. System according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the ridges form at least 10%, preferably at least 25% of the portion of the support surface which, in use, coincides with the portion of the surface area of the third wall overlying the second, open, end.

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5. System according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein, in use, the third wall is supported by the ridges over at least 10%, preferably at least 25% of the portion the surface area of the third wall overlying the second, open, end.

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6. System according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the ridges comprise edges, wherein the edges are not sharp.

7. System according to claim 6, wherein the edges have a radius of curvature of at least 50 μm , preferably at least 100 μm .
8. System according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein the ridges have a convex top.
9. System according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein the support surface comprises an abutting area intended for said abutment with the third wall, which abutting area, apart from local depressions and/or local protrusions therein, has a substantially non-straight form, such as a substantially convex form.
10. System according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein the third wall has a sufficiently high tear strength and/or forms a sufficiently low flow resistance that the third wall, in use, does not tear and/or rupture and stays intact.
11. System according to any one of claims 1-10, wherein the capsule is free from a support structure for supporting the third wall downstream of the third wall.
12. System according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein the third wall is provided with a plurality of exit openings.
13. System according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of exit openings is distributed over substantially the entire surface of the third wall.
14. System according to any one of claims 1-13, wherein the second wall is perforate and/or porous.

15. System according to claim 14, wherein the second wall has a sufficiently high tear strength and/or forms a sufficiently low flow resistance that the second wall, in use, does not tear and/or rupture and stays intact.
- 5 16. System according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of entrance openings is distributed over substantially the entire surface of the foil or the second wall, respectively.
- 10 17. System according to any one of claims 1-16, wherein the capsule is provided with a plurality of side-entrance openings arranged in the circumferential first wall.
- 15 18. System according to any one of claims 1-17, wherein the entrance openings and/or side-entrance openings have a circular cross section.
19. System according to claim 18, wherein the cross section of the entrance openings and/or side-entrance openings tapers towards the inner space.
- 20 20. System according to any one of claims 1-19, wherein the entrance openings and/or side-entrance openings are slits.
- 25 21. System according to any one of claims 1-20, wherein the entrance openings and/or side-entrance openings are arranged to open under fluid pressure.
22. System according to any one of claims 1-21, wherein the entire inner space is occupied by the extractable product.

23. System according to any one of claims 1-22, wherein the second wall is integral with the circumferential first wall.

24. System according to any one of claims 1-23, wherein the capsule
5 comprises an inwardly extending rim, wherein the second wall or the third wall is attached to the inwardly extending rim.

25. System according to any one of claims 1-24, wherein the capsule
10 comprises an outwardly extending rim, wherein the second wall or the third wall is attached to the outwardly extending rim.

26. System according to any one of claims 1-25, wherein the second wall and/ or the third wall extends to the circumferential first wall.

15 27. System according to any one of claims 1-26, wherein the capsule further comprises a bottom seal removable connected to the second wall for sealing the entrance filter prior to use.

28. System according to any one of claims 1-27, wherein the capsule
20 further comprises a lid seal removable connected to the third wall for sealing the third wall prior to use.

29. System according to any one of claims 1-28, wherein the capsule
25 comprises stiffening ribs integral with the circumferential first wall.

30. System according to any one of claims 1-29, wherein the circumferential first wall is cylindrical, hemispherical, frustoconical or polygonal, such as hexagonal or octagonal.

31. System according to any one of claims 1-30, wherein the extractable product comprises roasted and ground coffee.

32. System according to any one of claims 1-31, wherein the extractable
5 product is compacted into a tablet.

33. System according to claim 32, wherein the tablet comprises at least one bore extending from the side of the tablet facing the second wall in the direction of the third wall.

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34. System according to any one of claims 1-33, wherein the extractable product is compacted into a plurality of tablets, preferably of mutually different packing density.

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35. System according to any one of claims 1-34, wherein the circumferential first wall is substantially rigid.

36. Method for preparing a predetermined quantity of beverage suitable for consumption using an extractable product, comprising:

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providing an exchangeable capsule, comprising a circumferential first wall, a second wall closing the circumferential first wall at a first end, and a flexible sheet-shaped perforate and/or porous third wall closing the circumferential first wall at a second, open, end opposite the second wall, wherein the first, second and third wall enclose an inner space comprising the
25 extractable product, wherein the third wall forms an outermost boundary of the capsule in an axial direction thereof, and wherein the third wall comprises filtering paper or a nonwoven filtering material;

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providing an apparatus comprising a receptacle for holding the exchangeable capsule, a fluid dispensing device for supplying an amount of a fluid, such as water, under a pressure of at least six bar to the exchangeable

capsule, and an outlet which, in use, is in fluid communication with the capsule for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule and supplying the beverage to a container such as a cup;

5 arranging the exchangeable capsule with the third wall in abutment with a support surface of the receptacle, wherein the support surface comprises channel shaped grooves in a side facing the third wall, for draining the prepared beverage from the capsule through the grooves and the support surface comprises, between the channel shaped grooves, ridges against which the third wall abuts; and

10 supplying the fluid under the pressure of at least 6 bar to the extractable product for preparing the beverage, characterized by providing an exchangeable capsule of which the second wall is formed by:

 a flexible porous sheet, such as a sheet of filtering paper,
 a flexible foil, such as a polymeric film, provided with a plurality of
15 entrance openings, or
 wherein the second wall is substantially rigid and comprises a plurality of entrance openings.

37. Method according to claim 36, using a system according to any one of
20 claims 1-35.

38. Method according to claim 36 or 37, wherein:
 the receptacle comprises second wall piercing means intended for piercing the second wall of an alternative capsule for creating at least one
25 entrance opening for supplying the fluid to the extractable product through said at least one entrance opening; and

 the second wall of the capsule comprises an entrance filter, for supplying the fluid to the extractable product therethrough, which entrance filter, in use, is positioned at a distance from the bottom piercing means, such

that the capsule of the system is not pierced by the second wall piercing means and the second wall stays intact.