

SPECIFICATION

Storage and serving container

- 5 This invention relates to a storage and serving container and more particularly to a container for the storage and easy removal of relatively small diameter food articles, such as onions, cherries, pickles and the like from the brine or juice in which they are maintained on the insert shelf.

- 10 According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a storage and serving container comprising a receptacle, closure means and an insertable member, the receptacle comprising a base and one or more upstanding wall elements, the insertable member comprising a handle means and a support means, the or at least one of the wall members having a guide means adapted to cooperate with the insertable member so that the insertable member may, when the support means is in the receptacle, be guidedly moved towards and away from the base, and the closure means being adapted to close the receptacle.

- 25 Preferably, the guide means, which may be integral with the or each wall member, is adapted to cooperate with the handle means of the insertable member. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the guide means are provided on opposed wall elements. The support means is conveniently a tray being of the approximate size and shape of the inwardly presented portion of the base.

- 30 In one preferred embodiment, the handle means of the insertable member protrudes from the receptacle when the base of the receptacle and the support means of the insertable member are in contact. It is also preferred that the support means and the base are substantially planar and, when the insertable member is guidedly moved towards or away from the base, parallel to each other.

- 45 According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a storage and serving container comprising a receptacle having a plurality of generally vertically extending side wall members, an integral bottom wall portion, and a top end opening, at least one of said side wall members incorporating integral guide means, an insert positioned within said receptacle and including a tray and projecting handle affixed thereto, said tray being of the approximate size and shape of said bottom wall, said handle being such as to protrude from said top end opening when said bottom wall and tray are in juxtaposition and being shaped to cooperate with said guide means to enable the user readily, to move the insert with respect to the receptacle while maintaining a relatively uniform parallel relationship between said tray and bottom wall, and a seal by closing said top end opening.

- 65 The guide means advantageously comprises

- a substantially vertical channel formed in the or at least one of the wall members and inwardly projecting into the interior of the receptacle; this channel may extend along substantially the entirety of the wall member. It is preferred that the handle means comprises a channel which is the same general shape as the wall member channel but is of a slightly larger size than the wall member channel.

- 75 The closure means of the container may comprise a domed central portion adapted to accommodate a protruding portion of the handle means. The domed central portion may usefully comprise a plurality of integral interconnected sidewalls and a generally planar central wall member, which sidewalls extend to such a height as to accommodate the handle means.

- 80 The present invention has enabled the provision of an efficient, simple, inexpensive, and adequately rugged device of the character indicated, which embodied structural provisions for (a) positively guiding the slidable article-supporting and removing insert when the device is elevated in a container to provide access to the contents thereof; (b) adequate drainage of fluid present in the container as the device is elevated; and (c) prevention of retained articles falling back into the container as the device is elevated.

- 90 The present invention also enabled the provision of a sanitary and non-corrosive device of the character indicated above, which is adapted to be economically and efficiently made in one piece from easily worked suitable materials, such as solid plastics or plastics coated materials.

- 100 For a better understanding of the present invention, and to show how the same may be put into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

- 105 Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a closed container of this invention;

Figure 2 shows a vertical transverse section, taken through the container and its insert along line 2-2 of Fig. 1;

- 110 Figure 3 shows an exploded perspective view, showing the container, its closure and the insert for the container;

Figure 4 shows a top plan view of the container with the insert removed therefrom;

- 115 Figure 5 shows a cross-section view of the container and insert taken along line 5-5 of Fig. 1;

Figure 6 shows a partial enlargement of a portion of the container and insert illustrating the insert guiding arrangement; and

- 125 Figure 7 shows a partial enlargement of the insert tray.

- Referring in detail to the drawings, there is shown a receptacle 10 having a substantially planar base 12, and wall members 14 provided, around their upper ends, with a

flanged rim 16, onto which a closure member 18 is adapted to be pressed. The receptacle 10 has a substantially straight wall structure 14 with an open upper end 20 which is of the approximate size of the base 12. The receptacle 10 need not be rectangular as shown, but can be of any suitable cross section.

An insertable member 22 is shown installed in the receptacle 10, and in cases of receptacles of other cross sections, conforms closely to the inner surfaces of the walls 14 of the receptacle. The illustrated insertable member 22 comprises a generally flat bottom wall or tray 24, of such size and shape to fit closely and slidably within the inner surface of the receptacle walls 14. A channelled and projecting handle 26 rises from and is preferably integral with certain perimeter areas of the tray 24; and a plurality of perforations 25 are provided in the tray 24.

As is most readily apparent from Figs. 2, 4 and 6, two opposed wall members 14 of receptacle 10 are provided with substantially vertically extending channels 28. These channels, which constitute integral guide means, are apparent as channels in the exterior surfaces of the wall members 14 and accordingly appear as inwardly projecting indentations in the receptacle interior. Further, such channels 28 in the preferred embodiment take a generally rectangular form and extend from the bottom wall portion 12 along substantially the entirety of the side walls 14, ending adjacent the top end opening 20 of the receptacle 10 at the flanged rim 16.

In like manner, the channelled handle member 26 takes a generally U-shaped configuration, the span and depth of which is slightly larger than the channel indentation 28. Accordingly, the handle member 26 cooperates with the receptacle guide means, the channels 28, during virtually the full extent of movement of insert 22 so as to restrain the insert 22 positively in those movements within the receptacle 10. This guiding means also, therefore, retains the generally flat bottom wall 24 of insertable member 22 substantially parallel to the receptacle base 12 during movements of the insertable member 22 within the receptacle 10. This, in turn, assures that product supported upon the tray surface will be retained there during such movements and that the tray and insert cannot become otherwise misaligned so as to prevent free and easy vertical travel therein.

Even though the preferred embodiment envisages the opposed guiding system shown and described, a single such guide, or three or more guides would be equally effective. Likewise, the location thereof might vary without affecting the intended performance thereof.

As is apparent from Fig. 1, the projecting handle 26 is of greater vertical extent than

receptacle wall members 14 and, accordingly, protrudes from top end opening 20. This enables the user of the device to grasp the insertable member 22 readily without interference from the container contents. Furthermore, in order to provide for and assure drainage back into the receptacle 10 of contained liquid in which the articles are stored as the insertable member 22 is elevated, the tray 24 is formed with a plurality of spaced perforations 25.

The combined structure hereinabove discussed is completed by the seal or closure member 18 which is adapted to seal the top end opening 20 of the receptacle 10. The closure member 18 is shaped to accommodate the handle 26, which protrudes. To achieve this, the closure member 18 is provided with a domed central portion which is formed by integral, interconnected sidewalls 34 and a substantially planar centre wall 36. Of course, it should be understood and appreciated that the closure member might take any one of a number of specific forms to achieve the desired effect. Likewise, as is typical of many such containers, the lower extremities of the sidewalls 34 have a U-shaped sealing member 30 which mates with the container flanged rim 16 to provide a liquid-tight seal.

CLAIMS

1. A storage and serving container comprising a receptacle, closure means and an insertable member, the receptacle comprising a base and one or more upstanding wall elements, the insertable member comprising a handle means and a support means, the or at least one of the wall members having a guide means adapted to cooperate with the insertable member so that the insertable member may, when the support means is in the receptacle, be guidedly moved towards and away from the base, and the closure means being adapted to close the receptacle.

2. A container according to Claim 1, wherein the guide means is adapted to cooperate with the handle means of the insertable member.

3. A container according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the guide means is integral with the or one of the wall members.

4. A container according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the support means is a tray of the approximate size and shape of the inwardly presented portion of the base.

5. A container according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the handle means of the insertable member protrudes from the receptacle when the base of the receptacle and the support means of the insertable member are in contact.

6. A container according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the support means and the base are substantially planar and,

flanged rim 16, onto which a closure member 18 is adapted to be pressed. The receptacle 10 has a substantially straight wall structure 14 with an open upper end 20 which is of the approximate size of the base 12. The receptacle 10 need not be rectangular as shown, but can be of any suitable cross section.

An insertable member 22 is shown installed in the receptacle 10, and in cases of receptacles of other cross sections, conforms closely to the inner surfaces of the walls 14 of the receptacle. The illustrated insertable member 22 comprises a generally flat bottom wall or tray 24, of such size and shape to fit closely and slidably within the inner surface of the receptacle walls 14. A channelled and projecting handle 26 rises from and is preferably integral with certain perimeter areas of the tray 24; and a plurality of perforations 25 are provided in the tray 24.

As is most readily apparent from Figs. 2, 4 and 6, two opposed wall members 14 of receptacle 10 are provided with substantially vertically extending channels 28. These channels, which constitute integral guide means, are apparent as channels in the exterior surfaces of the wall members 14 and accordingly appear as inwardly projecting indentations in the receptacle interior. Further, such channels 28 in the preferred embodiment take a generally rectangular form and extend from the bottom wall portion 12 along substantially the entirety of the side walls 14, ending adjacent the top end opening 20 of the receptacle 10 at the flanged rim 16.

In like manner, the channelled handle member 26 takes a generally U-shaped configuration, the span and depth of which is slightly larger than the channel indentation 28. Accordingly, the handle member 26 cooperates with the receptacle guide means, the channels 28, during virtually the full extent of movement of insert 22 so as to restrain the insert 22 positively in those movements within the receptacle 10. This guiding means also, therefore, retains the generally flat bottom wall 24 of insertable member 22 substantially parallel to the receptacle base 12 during movements of the insertable member 22 within the receptacle 10. This, in turn, assures that product supported upon the tray surface will be retained there during such movements and that the tray and insert cannot become otherwise misaligned so as to prevent free and easy vertical travel therein.

Even though the preferred embodiment envisages the opposed guiding system shown and described, a single such guide, or three or more guides would be equally effective. Likewise, the location thereof might vary without affecting the intended performance thereof.

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receptacle wall members 14 and, accordingly, protrudes from top end opening 20. This enables the user of the device to grasp the insertable member 22 readily without interference from the container contents. Furthermore, in order to provide for and assure drainage back into the receptacle 10 of contained liquid in which the articles are stored as the insertable member 22 is elevated, the tray 24 is formed with a plurality of spaced perforations 25.

The combined structure hereinabove discussed is completed by the seal or closure member 18 which is adapted to seal the top end opening 20 of the receptacle 10. The closure member 18 is shaped to accommodate the handle 26, which protrudes. To achieve this, the closure member 18 is provided with a domed central portion which is formed by integral, interconnected sidewalls 34 and a substantially planar centre wall 36. Of course, it should be understood and appreciated that the closure member might take any one of a number of specific forms to achieve the desired effect. Likewise, as is typical of many such containers, the lower extremities of the sidewalls 34 have a U-shaped sealing member 30 which mates with the container flanged rim 16 to provide a liquid-tight seal.

CLAIMS

1. A storage and serving container comprising a receptacle, closure means and an insertable member, the receptacle comprising a base and one or more upstanding wall elements, the insertable member comprising a handle means and a support means, the or at least one of the wall members having a guide means adapted to cooperate with the insertable member so that the insertable member may, when the support means is in the receptacle, be guidedly moved towards and away from the base, and the closure means being adapted to close the receptacle.

2. A container according to Claim 1, wherein the guide means is adapted to cooperate with the handle means of the insertable member.

3. A container according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the guide means is integral with the or one of the wall members.

4. A container according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the support means is a tray of the approximate size and shape of the inwardly presented portion of the base.

5. A container according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the handle means of the insertable member protrudes from the receptacle when the base of the receptacle and the support means of the insertable member are in contact.

6. A container according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the support means and the base are substantially planar and,





when the insertable member is guidedly moved towards or away from the base, parallel to each other.

7. A container according to any one of
5 Claims 1 to 6, wherein the base of the receptacle and the or each wall member are integral.
8. A container according to any one of
10 Claims 1 to 7, wherein the guide means comprises a substantially vertical channel formed in the or at least one of the wall members and inwardly projecting into the interior of the receptacle.
9. A container according to Claim 8
15 wherein said channel extends along substantially the entirety of the wall member.
10. A container according to Claim 8 or 9, wherein the handle means comprises a channel which is of the same general shape
20 as the wall member channel, but is of slightly larger size than the wall member channel.
11. A container according to any one of
25 Claims 1 to 10 wherein the closure means comprises a domed central portion adapted to accommodate a portion of the the handle means remote from the support means.
12. A container according to Claim 11, wherein the central portion comprises a plurality of integral interconnected sidewalls and a
30 generally planar centre wall member, which sidewalls extend to such a height as to accommodate the said portions of the handle means.
13. A container according to any one of
35 Claims 1 to 12, wherein the guide means are provided on opposed wall members.
14. A storage and serving container comprising a receptacle having a plurality of generally vertically extending side wall members, an integral bottom wall portion, and a
40 top end opening, at least one of said side wall members incorporating integral guide means, an insert positioned within said receptacle and including a tray and projecting handle affixed thereto, said tray being of the approximate
45 size and shape of said bottom wall, said handle being such as to protrude from said top end opening when said bottom wall and tray are in juxtaposition and being shaped to cooperate with said guide means to enable
50 the user readily to move the insert with respect to the receptacle while maintaining a relatively uniform parallel relationship between said tray and bottom wall, and a seal for closing said top end opening.
- 55 15. A container substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.