CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A container, comprising:

a collapsible portion, including:

a first step structure;

a second step structure; and

a hinge assembly coupled between the first step structure and the second step structure; and

a container base, coupled to the collapsible portion, wherein:

each of the first step structure and the second step structure comprises:

an upper sidewall;

a transverse step; and

a lower sidewall, the transverse step coupled between the upper sidewall and the lower sidewall, the transverse step of the second step structure being in contact with the hinge assemblyor the lower sidewall of the first step structure when the container is in a collapsed status; and

the container base is not compressible.

2. The container of claim 1, wherein the hinge assembly comprises an intermediate structure, having a first end and a second end opposite to the first end, the intermediate structure being coupled to the first step structure and defining a first living hinge at the first end, the intermediate structure being coupled to the second step structure and defining a second living hinge at the second end.

3. The container of claim 2, wherein the intermediate structure is thinner than the first step structure and the second step structure.

4. The container of claim 2, wherein the intermediate structure has a largest thickness in the middle of the intermediate structure.

5. The container of claim 2, wherein the intermediate structure is angled relatively to the first step structure and the second step structure when the container is collapsed.

6. The container of claim 2, wherein the first end of the intermediate structure is coupled to an outer periphery of the first step structure and the second end of the intermediate structure is coupled to an inner periphery of the second step structure.

7. The container of claim 1, wherein the lower sidewall of the first step structure touches an upper surface of the transverse step of the second step structure and/or the upper sidewall of the second step structure touches a lower surface of the transverse step of the first step structure when the container is in a collapsed status.

8. The container of claim 1, a vertical projection along a depth axis of the container of the lower sidewall of the first step structure is on the transverse step of the second step structure and/or a vertical projection along the depth axis of the container of the upper sidewall of the second step structure is on the transverse step of the first step structure.

9. The container of claim 1, wherein the lower sidewall of the first step structure and the upper sidewall of the second step structure sandwiches the hinge assembly when the collapsible portion is in a collapsed status.

10. The container of claim 1, wherein the upper sidewall and the lower sidewall are perpendicular to the transverse step.

11. The container of claim 1, wherein a top surface of the container base touches the transverse step of the second step structure when the container is collapsed.

12. A container, comprising:

a container base;

a collapsible portion, coupled to the container base;

a lid base, coupled to the collapsible portion;

a ring, coupled to the lid base and sandwiching a periphery of the collapsible portion with the lid base; and

a lid assembly, coupled to the ring when the container is in a closed status, wherein the lid base has an annular channel contoured with the periphery of the collapsible portion, the channel receiving the periphery of the collapsible portion and the ring is in contact with the periphery on the channel.

13. The container of claim 12, wherein the ring has an annular lip extending downwardly and the annular lip of the ring compresses the periphery of the collapsible portion.

14. The container of claim 13, wherein the collapsible portion has an annular gasket coupled to the periphery of the collapsible portion, the annular lip of the ring surrounding the annular gasket of the collapsible portion.

15. The container of claim 14, wherein the lid assembly has an annular lip extending downwardly and the annular lip of the lid assembly compresses the annular gasket of the collapsible portion when the container is in a closed status.

16. The container of claim 15, wherein the lid base has an inner wall and an outer wall, the inner wall of the lid base sandwiches the gasket of the collapsible portion with the annular lip of the lid assembly, and the inner wall of the lid base sandwiches the periphery of the collapsible portion with the outer wall of the lid base.

17. The container of claim 12, wherein the collapsible portion has an annular gasket coupled to the periphery of the collapsible portion, the lid assembly has an annular lip extending downwardly and compressing the gasket when the container is in a closed status, a first

thickness of the gasket at an outer portion of the gasket is larger than a thickness of the gasket at an inner portion of the gasket.

18. A container, comprising:

a collapsible portion, having a first collapsible unit and a second collapsible unit, each having:

an annular inner wall;

an annular outer wall; and

an annular link, coupled between the inner wall and the outer wall, wherein the inner wall is received by a space enclosed by the outer wall when the collapsible portion is collapsed; and

a container base, coupled to the collapsible portion, wherein:

each of the first collapsible unit and second collapsible unit includes a first living hinge between the inner wall and the link and a second living hinge between the outer wall and the link;

the collapsible portion includes a generally transverse step coupled between the first collapsible unit and the second collapsible unit;

the transverse step of the second collapsible unit supports and/or engages the inner wall or the annular link of the first collapsible unit when the collapsible portion is collapsed; and

the container base is not compressible.

19. The container of claim 18, a vertical projection along a depth axis of the container of the inner wall of the first collapsible unit is on the transverse step.

20. The container of claim 18, wherein the transverse step of the second collapsible unit is perpendicular to the outer wall of the first collapsible unit.