

PATENT SPECIFICATION

(11) 1253 195

1253 195

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

- (21) Application No. 13944/70 (22) Filed 23 March 1970
 (31) Convention Application No. 815935 (32) Filed 14 April 1969 in
 (33) United States of America (US)
 (45) Complete Specification published 10 Nov. 1971
 (51) International Classification B 65 d 77/24 77/32//77/38 25/00
 (52) Index at acceptance

B8D 12 1A4A 1B1 6 7PY
 B8C 15A 15D 15E1 19F 19G 19H2 19J 25D 29C
 B8P 1K 1X



(54) COMBINATION FOOD CONTAINER AND IMPLEMENT FOR EXTRACTING THE CONTENTS

(71) We, FIRST DYNAMICS, INC., a Corporation organised and existing under the laws of the State of New York, United States of America, of 1133 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10010, 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 relates to a sealed container for food, the container including an implement, such as a straw, spoon or fork for use in transferring the contents into the mouth. According to the present invention, there is provided a sealed container for food, which container comprises two opposed walls lying in mutually parallel planes, one wall of said two walls having a groove therein extending along a maximum dimension thereof and terminating in end walls spaced from the extremities of said dimension, said groove having a configuration for receiving therein an implement for extracting the contents of the container, said implement nesting wholly within said groove, said one wall having a recess extending transversely on either side and of the same depth as the groove, communicating with the groove, said recess having a length along said dimension substantially less than the length of said groove and being positioned substantially intermediate the length of said groove, said recess enabling insertion of a finger to dislodge said implement, the opposed longitudinal side walls of said groove including parallel portions; and a tearable sealing strip covering said groove and said recess and having at one end thereof a graspable tip extending beyond the perimeter of said one wall, and the other end of said strip terminating at said one wall perimeter; and a portion of said container adapted to be torn outwardly from the container to provide an entrance for insertion of said implement into the container.

The invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view, with parts broken away and partly in section, of one form of container embodying features of the invention, wherein the implement is a straw carried by the container cover;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2 of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a bottom plan view of a container otherwise similar to that of Figure 1 but having the straw carried by the bottom wall.

Figure 5 is a side elevational view of a similar container but which has the straw carried in a side wall.

Figure 6 represents a plan view of either the top or bottom of an elliptical container provided with the straw carrying structure.

Figure 7 is a top plan view of a container having a spoon carried by the cover.

Figure 8 is a sectional view taken on the line 8—8 of Figure 7.

Referring in detail to the drawings and firstly to Figures 1, 2 and 3, a container 10 is shown, by way of example, having the shape of a six-sided right polyhedron which includes four side walls 11, the bottom wall 12 and the top wall 13. The upper edges of the side walls 11 are flared, preferably outward, to provide an endless flange 14, and the cover formed by the top wall 13 is so dimensioned as to seat on and be adhered to the flange by means of heat sealing, for example, where the container is made of a suitable plastics material.

Along a diagonal of the cover 13, a substantially semi-cylindrical deformation 15 is pressed into or otherwise formed in the cover thus providing a groove 26 exposed through the top of the cover. The deformation, and hence the groove formed thereby, has a

[Price 25p]

length slightly less than that of the diagonal and it terminates in end walls 16 which are hence positioned close to the corners of the cover. The opposed walls of the deformation 15 are shown, at a position preferably spaced from the end walls 16, widened by being further deformed outwardly to provide recesses 27 which communicate with the groove.

A drinking straw 17 is dimensioned to register entirely within the groove 26. An example of a tearable sealing member is shown in the form of a tear strip 18 adhered to the cover 13 and dimensioned to at least cover the length and width of the groove and recesses 27. Thus the straw is sealed within the groove in the outer surface of the container, and is separate from the container contents. The member 18 may have the shape shown in Figure 1, or it may have a constant width or even may have or approach the same dimensions, not shown, as the cover. In order that the member 18 may be readily grasped for severance, one end thereof has an unadhered tip 18a extending beyond the perimeter of the container. The adherence of the strip 18 to the top wall stops at the line 18b, as seen in Figure 1.

After tearing the strip 18 back or off to expose the recesses 27, one's fingers may be inserted into opposite recesses to grasp the straw and lift it out of the groove. Then access to the contents is had by tearing back one corner 19 of the cover, preferably one of the two corners remote from the groove 26, Figure 1. For this purpose the extremity of the corner 19 may also be left unadhered to the flange 14 for a distance extending part-way back of the flange.

Figure 4 shows a container 20 similar in form to that shown in Figure 1, but instead of having the groove in the top 13, it is provided in the bottom wall 12a.

Figure 5 shows a container 21 similar in form to that of Figure 1, but instead of having the groove in the top 13a it is provided in one of the side walls, i.e., that shown at 11a.

Figures 7 and 8 show a container 24 also of the same form as that of Figure 1, but herein the groove 26a which is also shown provided in the cover or top 13b, is dimensioned to accommodate a spoon 25, which is shown, or a fork or other implement, not shown.

A drinking straw, is, like a spoon, fork or other utensil or implement, an accessory for extracting the contents of the container and transferring it to the mouth. For liquids, a straw is used; while for more solid foods like, for example, baked beans, a fork is used.

The present invention is also applicable to containers of whatever cross-sectional conformation having an endless curved upright wall; for example, such as are circular or

elliptical whence the top and bottom walls normally have the same outline. In geometry, a cylindrical surface is defined as one generated by a straight line remaining parallel with itself; when such surface is stated to be endless, as an endless upright cylindrical wall, both circular and elliptical cross-sections of the wall are embodied. Wherever the term "cylindrical" is used hereinafter it is to be understood that the term is consistent with such geometric definition thereof.

An example of a container falling within the scope of the said definition as shown in Figure 6 as an elliptical container wherein a groove 26 is provided in the top or bottom wall 23 along a major axis thereof. In the case of a container of circular cross-section, not shown, the groove would be positioned along a diameter of the top or bottom wall, not shown. No means is shown for providing an opening for insertion of the implement in Figure 6, but the equivalent to the unadhered tip 19 of Figure 1, in the case of a plastics container, is provided at one of the extremities of the major axis.

In each instance the implement receiving groove is confined wholly within one flat wall or plane surface of the container and along a diagonal or other maximum dimension of the plane surface. Positioning the groove along a maximum dimension of the plane surface permits of having an implement of maximum length while yet confining it wholly within the boundaries of the plane surface.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A sealed container for food, which container comprises two opposed walls lying in mutually parallel planes, one wall of said two walls having a groove therein extending along a maximum dimension thereof and terminating in end walls spaced from the extremities of said dimension, said groove having a configuration for receiving therein an implement for extracting the contents of the container, said implement nesting wholly within said groove, said one wall having a recess extending transversely on either side and of the same depth as the groove, communicating with the groove, said recess having a length along said dimension substantially less than the length of said groove and being positioned substantially intermediate the length of said groove, said recess enabling insertion of a finger to dislodge said implement, the opposed longitudinal side-walls of said groove including parallel portions; and a tearable sealing strip covering said groove and said recess and having at one end thereof of a graspable tip extending beyond the perimeter of said one wall, and the other end of said strip terminating at said one wall perimeter; and a portion of said container adapted to be torn outwardly from the container to provide

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After tearing the strip 18 back or off to expose the recesses 27, one's fingers may be inserted into opposite recesses to grasp the straw and lift it out of the groove. Then access to the contents is had by tearing back one corner 19 of the cover, preferably one of the two corners remote from the groove 26, Figure 1. For this purpose the extremity of the corner 19 may also be left unadhered to the flange 14 for a distance extending part-way back of the flange.

Figure 4 shows a container 20 similar in form to that shown in Figure 1, but instead of having the groove in the top 13, it is provided in the bottom wall 12a.

Figure 5 shows a container 21 similar in form to that of Figure 1, but instead of having the groove in the top 13a it is provided in one of the side walls, i.e., that shown at 11a.

Figures 7 and 8 show a container 24 also of the same form as that of Figure 1, but herein the groove 26a which is also shown provided in the cover or top 13b, is dimensioned to accommodate a spoon 25, which is shown, or a fork or other implement, not shown.

A drinking straw, is, like a spoon, fork or other utensil or implement, an accessory for extracting the contents of the container and transferring it to the mouth. For liquids, a straw is used; while for more solid foods like, for example, baked beans, a fork is used.

The present invention is also applicable to containers of whatever cross-sectional conformation having an endless curved upright wall; for example, such as are circular or

elliptical whence the top and bottom walls normally have the same outline. In geometry, a cylindrical surface is defined as one generated by a straight line remaining parallel with itself; when such surface is stated to be endless, as an endless upright cylindrical wall, both circular and elliptical cross-sections of the wall are embodied. Wherever the term "cylindrical" is used hereinafter it is to be understood that the term is consistent with such geometric definition thereof.

An example of a container falling within the scope of the said definition as shown in Figure 6 as an elliptical container wherein a groove 26 is provided in the top or bottom wall 23 along a major axis thereof. In the case of a container of circular cross-section, not shown, the groove would be positioned along a diameter of the top or bottom wall, not shown. No means is shown for providing an opening for insertion of the implement in Figure 6, but the equivalent to the inadhered tip 19 of Figure 1, in the case of a plastics container, is provided at one of the extremities of the major axis.

In each instance the implement receiving groove is confined wholly within one flat wall or plane surface of the container and along a diagonal or other maximum dimension of the plane surface. Positioning the groove along a maximum dimension of the plane surface permits of having an implement of maximum length while yet confining it wholly within the boundaries of the plane surface.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A sealed container for food, which container comprises two opposed walls lying in mutually parallel planes, one wall of said two walls having a groove therein extending along a maximum dimension thereof and terminating in end walls spaced from the extremities of said dimension, said groove having a configuration for receiving therein an implement for extracting the contents of the container, said implement nesting wholly within said groove, said one wall having a recess extending transversely on either side and of the same depth as the groove, communicating with the groove, said recess having a length along said dimension substantially less than the length of said groove and being positioned substantially intermediate the length of said groove, said recess enabling insertion of a finger to dislodge said implement, the opposed longitudinal side walls of said groove including parallel portions; and a tearable sealing strip covering said groove and said recess and having at one end thereof of a graspable tip extending beyond the perimeter of said one wall, and the other end of said strip terminating at said one wall perimeter; and a portion of said container adapted to be torn outwardly from the container to provide



an entrance for insertion of said implement into the container.

2. A sealed container as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said implement is a spoon.

5 3. A sealed container as claimed in claim 1 wherein said implement is a drinking straw.

4. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, wherein said container has the conformation of a six-sided right polyhedron and said two walls comprise the top and bottom walls thereof, said groove extending along a diagonal of said one wall, opposite edges of said one wall constituting opposite corners thereof.

10 5. A container as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said one wall comprises the top wall of the container, and the tip of a corner of said wall, said corner being remote from said groove, is unadhered to adjacent walls for allowing said corner to be torn back to provide an entrance for insertion of said implement into the container.

15 6. A container as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said one wall comprises the bottom wall of the container and the other of said two walls comprises the top wall, the top of a corner of said top wall is unadhered to

adjacent walls for allowing said corner to be torn back to provide an entrance for insertion of said implement into the container.

7. A container as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said two walls comprise the top and bottom walls of the container and the container includes an endless upright cylindrical wall extending between said top and bottom walls.

8. A container as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said cylindrical wall is elliptical in cross-section and said groove extends along a major axis of the ellipse.

9. A container as claimed in claim 7, wherein said cylindrical wall is circular in cross-section and said groove extends along a diameter thereof.

10. A sealed container for food substantially as described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

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Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by the Courier Press, Leamington Spa, 1971.
Published by The Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2A 1AY, from
which copies may be obtained.

