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PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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Inventor: CHRISTIAN RAGETTLI

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Sheet Metal Container

We, METAL CONTAINERS LIMITED, a British Company, of Seymour House, 17 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, 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 an improvement in or modification of the invention described and claimed in the specification of our co-pending application No. 973373.

The invention according to the co-pending application consists of a sheet metal shipping container comprising a generally cylindrical side wall and two ends each of which is permanently secured to one extremity of said side wall, wherein the content of said shipping container is in the order of from 200 to 230 litres and the wall thickness of said side wall is from 0.60 to 0.65 millimetres, and wherein said side wall over substantially its entire axial length is formed with a plurality of radially outwardly extending peripheral beads alternating with a plurality of radially inwardly extending furrows, the outermost portion of each of said beads and the innermost portion of each of said furrows having a smoothly curved profile and the flanks of each of said beads smoothly blending or merging into the flanks of the adjacent furrows, the diameter of each of said beads being substantially equal to the diameter of each of all other beads and the diameter of each of said furrows being substantially the same as the diameter of each of all other furrows, and the connection between said side wall and each of said ends, such as a chime, being offset radially inward with respect to the outermost portion of each of said beads.

It has been found that the object of the invention forming the subject matter of the co-pending patent application, namely providing a light weight sheet metal drum which gives optimum performances under various

[Price 4s. 6d.]

unfavourable conditions during transportation and handling of drums in practice and which yields satisfactory results under widely varying conditions of usage can also be achieved by means of a slightly modified embodiment of the shipping container according to the main invention. The present invention is concerned with this modified embodiment.

In accordance with the present invention the beads hereinbefore referred to, and consequently also the furrows, are inclined in relation to a radial plane perpendicular to the axis of the side wall of the container.

Each of the beads and each of the furrows may define an ellipse disposed in a plane which is inclined in relation to the axis of the side wall.

Alternatively, the beads and the furrows may extend helically.

The present invention will now be described more in detail, reference being made to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of one embodiment of shipping container according to the invention, and

Figure 2 is a side elevation of another embodiment of shipping container according to the invention.

The container or drum shown in Figure 1 of the drawings comprises a generally cylindrical side wall 11 and two ends 12, each of said ends being secured to one extremity of the side wall by means of a chime 13.

The side wall 11 over substantially its entire length is formed with a plurality of radially outwardly extending peripheral beads 15 alternating with a plurality of radially inwardly extending furrows 16. The outermost portion of each of the beads 15 and the innermost portion of each of the furrows 16 have a smoothly curved profile and the flanks of each bead blend or merge smoothly into the flanks of the adjacent furrows.

The chimes 13 constituting the connections between the side wall 11 and each of the end

walls 12 are offset radially inward with respect to the outermost portion of the beads 15. Thus, when the drum is rolled the chimes 13 which have proved to be vulnerable spots remain clear of the ground over which the drum is rolled.

The beads 15 and consequently also the furrows 16 are inclined in relation to a radial plane perpendicular to the axis X—X of the side wall 11. In the embodiment shown in Figure 1 each of the beads and each of the furrows is disposed in a plane which is inclined in relation to the axis X—X and thus defines an ellipse located in said plane.

The alternative construction shown in Figure 2 of the drawings is substantially identical to the embodiment shown in Figure 1 and described above. Here too, the beads and the furrows are inclined in relation to a radial plane perpendicular to the axis X—X. The difference with the embodiment of Figure 1 consists in that in Figure 2 the beads and the furrows extend helically. They may form one single helix and thus in fact may together constitute one uninterrupted bead and one furrow winding helically around the side wall circumference; however, they may also form

a double, a triple, quadruple or multiple helix.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An improvement in or modification of the sheet metal shipping container according to claim 1 and any one of claims 2 to 7 of the parent patent No. 973373, wherein the beads, and consequently also the furrows, are inclined in relation to a radial plane perpendicular to the axis of the side wall of the container.

2. A sheet metal container as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said beads and each of said furrows defines an ellipse disposed in a plane which is inclined in relation to the axis of said side wall.

3. A sheet metal container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said beads and said furrows extend helically.

4. A sheet metal shipping container substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

A. A. THORNTON & CO.,

Chartered Patent Agents,
Northumberland House,

303—306 High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

For the Applicants.



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WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An improvement in or modification of the sheet metal shipping container according to claim 1 and any one of claims 2 to 7 of the parent patent No. 973373, wherein the beads, and consequently also the furrows, are inclined in relation to a radial plane perpendicular to the axis of the side wall of the container.

2. A sheet metal container as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said beads and each of said furrows defines an ellipse disposed in a plane which is inclined in relation to the axis of said side wall.

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