CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A portable carbonating dispenser comprising:

a base liquid container for containing a base liquid supply;

a container closure including a dispensing passage for dispensing base liquid from the base liquid container;

a carbonation gas container for containing a supply of carbonation gas;

a carbonation flow control assembly for conveying the carbonation gas from the carbonation gas container to pressurize the base liquid supply, the carbonation flow control assembly including a user-actuated flow control component for controlling a flow of the carbonation gas to the base liquid supply; and

an isolation component for permitting a user to selectively isolate the dispensing passage and thereby prevent pressurization of the dispensing passage when the base liquid supply is pressurized by the carbonation gas,

wherein the container closure includes an additive cartridge receiving space, and wherein the isolation component is adapted to isolate the additive cartridge receiving space from the base liquid container.

2. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 1, wherein the isolation component includes a mode selector lever on the container closure.

3. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 1, wherein the carbonation flow control assembly includes a gas container refilling connection for conveying a refill supply of gas to the gas container from an external refill station.

4. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 1, further comprising a carbonation level indicator for indicating a carbonation level of the base liquid supply.

5. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 1, further comprising a vent for venting pressure from the base liquid container.

6. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 1, further comprising a relief valve adapted to relieve carbonation pressure in the base liquid container when the carbonation pressure is above a predetermined threshold.

7. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 6, wherein the relief valve is set to relieve carbonation pressure above 60 psi.

8. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 1, wherein the base liquid container includes an extended portion for containing the base liquid at a first depth, the carbonation flow control assembly including a nozzle arranged to supply the carbonation gas to the base liquid in the extended portion of the base liquid container.

9. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 1, wherein the base liquid container includes a carbonation viewing window arranged to permit viewing of the base liquid supply by the user.

10. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 1, wherein the isolation component arranged to be actuated by a mode selector lever which permits the user to switch the portable carbonating dispenser to a dispensing mode or a carbonation mode.

11. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 10, wherein the mode selector lever is arranged to actuate a vent to release pressure in the base liquid container when the mode selector lever is switched to a dispensing mode.

12. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 10, further comprising a carbonation level indicator arranged to prevent movement of the mode selector lever to the dispensing mode when the base liquid container is pressurized.

13. The portable carbonating dispenser of claim 10, further comprising an alignment projection on the container closure, the alignment projection being arranged to align with the mode selector lever when the mode selector lever is in a carbonation mode position.

14. A method of preparing a carbonated beverage in a portable carbonation system comprising an onboard base liquid container for containing a base liquid supply; a container closure including a dispensing passage; a gas container for containing a supply of carbonation gas; a carbonation flow control assembly, the carbonation flow control assembly including a user-actuated flow control component for controlling flow of the carbonation gas to the base liquid supply; and an isolation component for permitting a user to selectively isolate the dispensing passage and thereby prevent pressurization of the dispensing passage when the base liquid supply is pressurized by the carbonation gas, the method comprising:

filling the onboard base liquid container on the portable carbonation system with a base liquid supply;

operating the isolation component to isolate the dispensing passage from the base liquid container;

carbonating the base liquid supply with gas from an onboard gas container; and

securing an additive cartridge to the container closure and isolating the additive cartridge from the base liquid container when carbonating the base liquid supply.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising operating the isolation component to configure the portable carbonation system to a dispensing mode after carbonating the base liquid supply.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising operating a vent on the container closure to vent pressure from the base liquid supply after carbonating the base liquid supply.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising operating a mode selector lever on the container closure to operate the isolation component.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising operating a vent by moving the mode selector lever.

19. A portable carbonating dispenser comprising:

a base liquid container for containing a base liquid supply;

a container closure including a dispensing passage for dispensing base liquid from the base liquid container;

a carbonation gas container for containing a supply of carbonation gas;

a carbonation flow control assembly for conveying the carbonation gas from the carbonation gas container to pressurize the base liquid supply, the carbonation flow control assembly including a user-actuated flow control component for controlling a flow of the carbonation gas to the base liquid supply; and

an isolation component for permitting a user to selectively isolate the dispensing passage and thereby prevent pressurization of the dispensing passage when the base liquid supply is pressurized by the carbonation gas,

wherein the carbonation flow control assembly includes a gas container refilling connection for conveying a refill supply of gas to the gas container from an external refill station.

20. A method of preparing a carbonated beverage in a portable carbonation system comprising an onboard base liquid container for containing a base liquid supply; a container closure including a dispensing passage; a gas container for containing a supply of carbonation gas; a carbonation flow control assembly, the carbonation flow control assembly including a user-actuated flow control component for controlling flow of the carbonation gas to the base liquid supply; and an isolation component for permitting a user to selectively isolate the dispensing passage and thereby prevent pressurization of the dispensing passage when the base liquid supply is pressurized by the carbonation gas, the method comprising:

filling the onboard base liquid container on the portable carbonation system with a base liquid supply;

operating the isolation component to isolate the dispensing passage from the base liquid container;

carbonating the base liquid supply with gas from an onboard gas container; and

conveying a refill supply of gas from an external refill station through a gas container refilling connection on the carbonation flow control assembly.