Claims

1. A system for dispensing a beverage into a container, the system comprising:
at least one dispenser unit, the at least one dispenser unit comprising
a dispenser body; and
a dispenser head, wherein the dispenser head comprises:
at least one fluid port;
a moveable seal member which is configured to form a seal~~ing barrier~~ between at least a portion of the container and the dispenser head wherein the at least one dispenser unit comprises at least one support member mounted on the dispenser body configured to align a lip and/or rim of the container with the moveable seal member and support the container at the lip and/or rim of the container.

2. The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one fluid port is a beverage outlet and/or a pressure port.

~~3. The system as claimed in claim 1 or 2 comprising at least one support member configured to contact, hold, position and/or support the container.~~

~~4. The system as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein at least one support member is configured to contact, hold, position and/or support the container at the mouth, lip and/or rim of the container.~~

~~5. The system as claimed in claim 2 wherein at least one support member is configured to contact, hold, position and/or support the container at the base or side of the container.~~

~~6. The system as claimed in any of claims 3 to 5 wherein the at least one support is configured to position and/or align the container with the moveable seal member to ensure an effective seal.~~

~~7.~~1. ~~The system as claimed in any of claims 3 to 6 wherein the at least one support member is shaped and/or dimensioned to allow an inner, outer and/or upper surface of the mouth, lip and/or rim of the container to rest on the support member when the container is loaded or positioned in the dispenser unit.~~

8. The system as claimed in any preceding claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the moveable seal member is configured to be movable between a first condition in which the seal member is spaced from the container and a second condition in the sealing member is in contact with at least a portion of the container to form a sealing barrier.

3.

9. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the at least a portion of the container is the mouth, lip and/or rim of the container.

4. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the sealing member is configured to contact, grip and/or clamp an inner, outer or upper surface of the mouth, lip and/or rim of the container.

5. The system as claimed in any of claims 3 to 6preceding claim wherein the at least one support member is shaped and/or dimensioned to allow an inner, outer and/or upper surface of the mouth, lip and/or rim of the container to rest on the support member when the container is loaded or positioned in the dispenser unit.

10.

11. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the seal member comprises a sealing element made from a material selected from the group comprising silicone, rubber, plastic or resin.

12.6. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the seal member is configured to move in a substantially vertical direction.

13. The system as claimed in any preceding claim comprising a screen, door and/or splashguard configured to isolate the container from the user during dispensing of the beverage.

7. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the container is selected from the group comprising a drinking vessel selected from s, bottles, mugs, cups, jugs, glasses, beakers, tumblers and/or tankards wherein. the material of the drinking vessels is selected from the group comprising hard or soft plastic, glass, ceramic, cardboard, paper, waxed paper and/or foam.

14.

~~15. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the container is made from a range of materials including hard or soft plastic, glass, ceramic, cardboard, paper, waxed paper and/or foam.~~

~~16.~~8. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the beverage is dispensed into the container in less than 5 seconds.

~~17.~~9. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the beverage is an alcoholic or non-alcoholic ~~-~~carbonated and/or fizzy beverage.

~~18. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein beverage is an alcoholic or non-alcoholic.~~

~~19.~~ The system as claimed in any preceding claim ~~wherein the~~comprising at least one pressure port ~~is~~ connected to at least one pressure source~~.~~

~~—~~

~~20.~~10. ~~The system as claimed in claim 19~~ wherein the at least one pressure source is a gas supply is selected from the group comprising: an inert gas, air, carbon dioxide and/or a mixture of gases.

~~21. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the pressure port is configured to create a pressure differential between the interior and exterior of the container.~~

~~22.~~11. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the seal member is configured to maintain a pressure differential between the interior and exterior of the container during the dispensing of the beverage to prevent oxidation or contamination of the beverage.

~~23.~~12. The system as claimed in any preceding claim ~~wherein the~~comprising a beverage outlet ~~is~~ connected to a dip tube and/or a nozzle.

~~24. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the beverage outlet is connected to a nozzle.~~

~~25.~~13. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the seal member and/or dispenser head is movable relative to the at least one support member.

~~26. The system as claimed in any preceding claim comprising a plurality of support members.~~

~~27. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the first support member is configured to contact and/or hold the container at the mouth, lip and/or rim of the container and a second support member is configured to contact and/or hold a side and/or base of the container.~~

~~28. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein a valve is connected to the at least one fluid port and is configure to operation between a first valve condition where the fluid port is a pressure port and a second valve condition where the fluid port is a beverage outlet.~~

~~29. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the base support member is removably mountable on the dispenser.~~

~~30. The system as claimed in any preceding claim comprising a plurality of base support members of differing dimensions and/or shapes are provided to adjust the height and/or position of a container in the dispenser.~~

~~31. The system as claimed in claim 29 or claim 30 wherein the base support member is made of a transparent, translucent or semi-opaque material.~~

~~32. The system as claimed in any preceding claim comprising a control unit configured to control the pressurising of the container through the at least one pressure port and the dispensing of beverage under counterpressure.~~

~~33. The system as claimed in any preceding claim comprising sensors to monitor beverage dispenser performance to allow 'real-time' adjustment of dispensing parameters selected from the group including flow rates, pumping rates, flow/pumping times, container threshold counter-pressures and cooler parameters such as temperature.~~

~~34. The system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the control unit is programmed to actuate safety locks to prevent access and/or release of the container during dispensing.~~

~~35. A system for dispensing a beverage into a container, the system comprising:~~
~~a support frame comprising a plurality of dispenser units;~~
~~wherein each dispenser unit comprises~~
~~a dispenser head comprising a beverage outlet and at least one pressure port; and~~
~~a moveable seal member which is configured to form a sealing barrier between at least a portion of the container and the dispenser head.~~

~~36.~~14. A method of dispensing a beverage into a container~~, the method comprising:~~
~~providing~~ using a beverage dispenser system comprising
at least one dispenser unit, the at least one dispenser unit comprising
a dispenser body;
a dispenser head, wherein the dispenser head comprises:
at least one fluid port; ~~and~~
a seal member;
wherein the at least one dispenser unit comprises at least one support member mounted on the dispenser body configured to align a lip and/or rim of the container with the moveable seal member and support the container at the lip and/or rim of the container; the method comprising
moving the seal member to contact ~~at least a portion~~a lip and/or rim of the container to form a seal~~ing barrier~~ between the dispenser head and the container;
pressurising an interior volume of the container with a pressurised fluid and pumping the beverage into the interior volume of the container through the at least one fluid port.

~~37.~~15. The method as claimed in claim 14~~36~~ comprising forming a differential pressure between an internal and external volume of the container when a seal~~ing barrier~~ between the dispenser head and the container is formed.

~~38. The method as claimed in claim 36 or claim 37 comprising increasing the pressure in the container above atmospheric pressure prior to pumping the beverage into the container.~~

~~39.~~16. The method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claim~~s 36 to 38~~14 or 15 comprising dispensing the beverage under counterpressure.

~~40.~~17. The method as claimed in any of claim~~ss~~ 14~~36~~ to 16~~39~~ comprising venting or removing pressurised fluid from the interior volume of the container while the beverage is pumped into the container or after the beverage has been pumped into the container.

~~41. The method as claimed in any of claims 36 to 40 wherein the at least a portion of the container is the mouth, lip and/or rim of the container.~~

~~42.~~18. The method as claimed in any of claim~~ss 36~~ 14 to 17~~41~~ wherein the seal member is lowered onto at least a portion of the container.

~~43.~~19. The method as claimed in any of claim~~ss~~ 14~~36~~ to 18~~42~~ wherein the sealing member contacts, grips and/or clamps an inner, outer or upper surface of the mouth, lip and/or rim of the container.

~~44.~~20. The method as claimed in any of claims 14~~36~~ to 19~~43~~ comprising holding the container stationary throughout the formation of the seal, pressurising of the container and/or pumping of the beverage.

~~45. The method as claimed in any of claims 36 to 44 comprising reducing an internal pressure of the container to atmospheric pressure during or after pumping the beverage into the container.~~

~~46.~~21. The method as claimed in any of claims 14~~36~~ to 20 ~~45~~ comprising moving the seal member away from the rim, upper edge or inner edge of the container to break the sealing barrier between the dispenser head and the container after the beverage is pumped into the container.

~~47.~~ The method as claimed in any of claims 14~~36~~ to 21~~46~~ comprising dispensing the beverage into the container in less than 5 seconds.

22.

~~48.~~23. The method as claimed in any of claims 14~~36~~ to 22~~47~~ comprising supporting the container at the mouth, lip, rim, side and/or base of the container.

~~49.~~24. The method as claimed in any of claims 15~~36~~ to 23~~48~~ comprising moving the dispenser head to contact the seal member with a rim, upper edge or inner edge of the container to form a sealing barrier between the dispenser head and the container.

~~50.~~25. A method of dispensing a carbonated or fizzy beverage into a plurality of containers~~, the method comprising:~~

~~providing~~ using a beverage dispenser system comprising

plurality of dispenser units, wherein each dispenser unit comprises

at least one support member; and

a dispenser head, wherein the dispenser head comprises:

at least one fluid port; and

a seal member;

wherein the at least one support member is mounted on the dispenser body and is configured to align a lip and/or rim of the container with the moveable seal member and support the container at the lip and/or rim of the container; the method comprising:

mounting a first container on a first dispenser unit;

moving the seal member to contact at least a portion of the first container to form a seal~~ing barrier~~ between the dispenser head and the first container;

pressuring an interior volume of the first container with a gas; and

pumping the beverage into the interior volume of the first container through the at least one fluid port.