

Specification

The invention relates to a container, particularly for a conveyor system, according to the preamble of claim 1.

Containers, particularly for a conveyor system of the kind described above, are known for example from CH-A-496603. Owing to the fact that the lid of such a container can only be opened at one side, access from the other side is extremely difficult. Furthermore, the containers can then virtually only be used in one specific arrangement.

The aim of the invention is to construct a container of the kind described hereinbefore so that it is readily accessible from opposite sides.

This aim is achieved with the characterising features of claim 1. Owing to the fact that the closure is constructed as a combination snap closure which both acts as a hinge and also can be used to open the container, unimpeded access to the container from opposite sides is ensured. The automatic snap fitting of the combination snap closure moreover ensures that the container is always safely closed. In addition, there is no longer any need to take care with the position in which the container is used in a conveyor system.

Advantageous embodiments of the container are described in claims 2 to 5.

The bolt of the combination snap closure can be mounted on the lid, as recited in claim 2. However, it is more advantageous to mount it on the receiving section of the container as recited in claim 3.

There are a range of possibilities for the construction of the combination snap closure. One particularly simple embodiment is recited in claim 4. A particularly

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space-saving and inconspicuous construction of the combination snap closure is recited in claim 5.

Some embodiments by way of example of the object of the invention are hereinafter described with reference to the drawings, wherein:

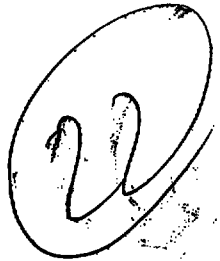
Figure 1 shows a container with combination snap closures mounted on opposite sides, in vertical section and cut away;

Figure 2 diagrammatically shows a combination snap closure on one side of the container;

Figure 3 shows another combination snap closure, partly in vertical section, along the articulation axis.

Figure 1 shows a container such as might be suitable, for example, for a conveyor system according to CH-A-496603. This container comprises a receiving section 2 which is closed off by means of a lid 4. Mounted on both longitudinal sides 6 of the container are combination snap closures 8 which are used selectively to open the container or to act as a hinge.

Each combination snap closure 8 has two block-shaped mounting portions 10 fixed to a side wall 12 of the receiving section 2. A bolt 14 constructed as a plate-shaped rocker bar 16 is pivotally mounted on these mounting portions 10. An upper part 18 of the rocker bar contains lugs 20 which overlap the fixed mounting portion 10 in the closed position shown. Each mounting portion 10 contains, on the side 22 overlapped by the lug 20 of the bolt 14, a mounting recess 24 for receiving a hinge bolt 26 which is connected to the lid 4 via a strip portion 28. The hinge bolt 26 is held in the bearing recess 24 by means of the lug 20 overlapping the side 22 of the mounting portion 10. A spring 30 serves to bias the bolt 14 into the closed position shown. The bolt 14 has on its upper side an abutting surface 32 which enables it to actuate the



combination snap closure 8 automatically when the lid is closed. As a result of the hinge bolt 26 making contact with the abutting surface 32, the bolt 14 is displaced from its closed position counter to the force of the spring 30 until the hinge bolt 26 snaps into place behind the lug 20 of the bolt 14.

Figure 3 shows another combination snap closure 34. In this case, a guide sleeve 36 is secured to the lid 4, with two hinge bolts 40 in the form of bolts 38 being arranged to be axially movable relative to each other in said sleeve 36. A spring 42 clamped between the hinge bolts 40 biases the hinge bolts outwards. Grip portions 44 are secured, e.g. by screws, to the opposing inner ends of the hinge bolts 40 and are guided radially outwardly through a common longitudinal slot 46 in the guide sleeve 36. The grip portions 44 simultaneously serve to limit the axial movement of the hinge bolts in the outward direction. These hinge bolts 40 interact with mounting portions 48 which are secured axially on both sides of the guide sleeve 36 on the receiving section 2 of the container. The mounting portions 48 contain bores 50 for receiving the hinge bolts 40. On the hinge bolts 40 and mounting portions 48 there are abutting surfaces 52, 54 which enable the combination snap closure 34 to snap into position even without actuation of the grip portions 44. In order to open the closure, the grip portions 44 merely have to be moved towards each other by compressing the spring 42.



Claims

1. A container, particularly for a conveyor system, which has a receiving section (2) which can be closed off by a lid (4), the lid being connected to the receiving section on one side of the container by means of at least one hinge and on the other side of the container by means of at least one snap closure (8), characterised in that the container has, on both sides (6), at least one snap closure (8, 34) and hinge combination, which comprises on one part of the container (2, 4), a bolt (14, 38) constructed as part of a hinge and biased to the closed position by a spring (30, 42), this bolt (14, 38) co-operating releasably with the other part of the hinge (26, 48) on the other part of the container (4, 2), and the bolt (14, 38) and/or the other hinge part (48) having an abutting surface (32, 52, 54) for automatically snapping shut the combination snap closure.
2. A container as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the bolts (38) are mounted on the lid (4).
3. A container as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the bolts (14) are mounted on the receiving section (2).
4. A container as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that each bolt (14) is constructed as a rocker bar (16) which has, on one part (18) of the rocker bar, a lug (20) which, in the closed position, overlaps a fixed mounting portion (10) for a hinge bolt (26) mounted on the other part of the container.
5. A container as claimed in claim 1, characterised in





that each bolt (28) is constructed as a hinge bolt (40) which is axially movable in a guide (36) and which engages in the bore (50) of a mounting portion (48) in the closed position.

