CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A device constructed and arranged for selectively storing and mixing a first liquid and a second liquid, the device comprising:

a housing comprising a wall defining an interior volume;

a valve, comprising:

a valve body comprising a circumferential valve outer edge extending between a valve first side and a valve second side, the valve outer edge defining a valve outer edge circumference;

a first valve positioning member protruding from the first side, the first valve positioning member having a first valve positioning member first position when no external forces are acting upon the first valve positioning member, wherein at least a portion of the first valve positioning member extends outside of the valve outer edge circumference when the first valve positioning member is in the first valve positioning member first position; and

a second valve positioning member protruding from the second side, the second valve positioning member having a second valve positioning member first position when no external forces are acting upon the second valve positioning member, wherein at least a portion of the second valve positioning member extends outside of the valve outer edge circumference when the second valve positioning member is in the second valve positioning member first position;

wherein the valve is positioned within the interior volume inside of the housing and is constructed and arranged to rotate from a closed position in which the valve outer edge seats against the wall along the entire valve outer edge circumference, and an open position in which at least a portion of the valve outer edge is not in contact with the wall;

wherein in the closed position the valve defines a first interior portion within the interior volume adjacent the first side of the valve, and a second interior portion within the interior volume adjacent the second side of the valve;

wherein in the closed position, interaction between the wall and the first valve positioning member causes the first valve positioning member to move to a first valve positioning member second position, wherein when in the first valve positioning member second position, the first valve positioning member exerts a first force upon the wall while trying to return to the first valve positioning member first position;

wherein in the closed position, interaction between the wall and the second valve positioning member causes the second valve positioning member to move to a second valve positioning member second position, wherein when in the second valve positioning member second position, the second valve positioning member exerts a second force upon the wall while trying to return to the second valve positioning member first position;

wherein while in the closed position, the valve is constructed and arranged such that external manipulation of the housing in a region of the valve causes rotation of the valve from the closed position to the open position, and the first valve positioning member moves to the first valve positioning member first position, and the second valve positioning member moves to the second valve positioning member first position.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the first liquid is disposed in the first interior portion and the second liquid is disposed in the second interior portion when the valve is in the closed position, thereby preventing mixing of the first and second liquids.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the first and second liquids comprise hair coloring chemicals.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the first and second valve positioning members comprise springs.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the first and second valve positioning members urge the valve away from returning to the closed position after being moved to the open positon.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the valve, the first valve positioning member and the second valve positioning member are formed from a polypropylene and thermoplastic elastomer blend.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the valve in the closed position prevents the first liquid inside the first interior portion from mixing with the second liquid inside the second interior portion, and wherein the valve in the open position allows the first liquid in the first interior portion to mix with the second liquid in the second interior portion.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein the valve in the closed positon forms a seal between the valve outer edge circumference of the valve body and the wall defining the interior portions of the housing, thus preventing mixing of the first and second liquids.

9. The device of claim 3, wherein the first hair coloring chemical is a developer or oxidizing agent and the second hair coloring chemical is a color.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the device further comprises an applicator removably attached to the housing.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein the valve comprises a cylindrical segment of a cylinder, the cylindrical segment bounded by two parallel planes angled a number of degrees from the axis of the cylinder.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein the number of degrees comprises 45 degrees.

13. The device of claim 1, wherein said external manipulation comprises squeezing the housing.

14. The device of claim 1, further comprising a valve stand disposed adjacent the valve body and constructed and arranged to allow rotation of the valve body with respect to the valve stand.

15. An apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

a valve, comprising:

a valve body comprising a circumferential valve outer edge extending between a valve first side and a valve second side, the valve outer edge defining a valve outer edge circumference;

a first valve positioning member protruding from the first side, the first valve positioning member having a first valve positioning member first position when no external forces are acting upon the first valve positioning member, wherein at least a portion of the first valve positioning member extends outside of the valve outer edge circumference when the first valve positioning member is in the first valve positioning member first position; and

a second valve positioning member protruding from the second side, the second valve positioning member having a second valve positioning member first position when no external forces are acting upon the second valve positioning member, wherein at least a portion of the second valve positioning member extends outside of the valve outer edge circumference when the second valve positioning member is in the second valve positioning member first position,

wherein the first and second valve positioning members comprise springs.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

a housing comprising a wall defining an interior volume;

wherein the valve is positioned within the interior volume inside of the housing and is constructed and arranged to rotate from a closed position in which the valve outer edge seats against the wall along the entire valve outer edge circumference, and an open position in which at least a portion of the valve outer edge is not in contact with the wall;

wherein in the closed position the valve defines a first interior portion within the interior volume adjacent the first side of the valve, and a second interior portion within the interior volume adjacent the second side of the valve;

wherein in the closed position, interaction between the wall and the first valve positioning member causes the first valve positioning member to move to a first valve positioning member second position, wherein when in the first valve positioning member second position, the first valve positioning member exerts a first force upon the wall while trying to return to the first valve positioning member first position;

wherein in the closed position, interaction between the wall and the second valve positioning member causes the second valve positioning member to move to a second valve positioning member second position, wherein when in the second valve positioning member second position, the second valve positioning member exerts a second force upon the wall while trying to return to the second valve positioning member first position;

wherein while in the closed position, the valve is constructed and arranged such that external manipulation of the housing in a region of the valve causes rotation of the valve from the closed position to the open position, and the first valve positioning member moves to the first valve positioning member first position, and the second valve positioning member moves to the second valve positioning member first position.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein a first liquid is disposed in the first interior portion and a second liquid is disposed in the second interior portion when the valve is in the closed position, thereby preventing mixing of the first and second liquids.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first and second liquids comprise hair coloring chemicals.

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19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first and second valve positioning members urge the valve away from returning to the closed position after being moved to the open position.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the valve, the first valve positioning member and the second valve positioning member are formed from a polypropylene and thermoplastic elastomer blend.

21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the valve in the closed position prevents the first liquid inside the first interior portion from mixing with the second liquid inside the second interior portion, and wherein the valve in the open position allows the first liquid in the first interior portion to mix with the second liquid in the second interior portion.

22. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the valve in the closed position forms a seal between the valve outer edge circumference of the valve body and the wall defining the interior portions of the housing, thus preventing mixing of a first liquid and a second liquid.

23. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the first hair coloring chemical is a developer or oxidizing agent and the second hair coloring chemical is a color.

24. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising an applicator removably attached to the housing.

25. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the valve comprises a cylindrical segment of a cylinder, the cylindrical segment bounded by two parallel planes angled a number of degrees from the axis of the cylinder.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the number of degrees comprises 45 degrees.

27. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said external manipulation comprises squeezing the housing.

28. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a valve stand disposed adjacent the valve body and constructed and arranged to allow rotation of the valve body with respect to the valve stand.