

DRINK CONTAINER WITH UNFOLDING SPOUT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in general to containers for a beverage or other liquid and in particular to a spout for containers such as cans and packing-cases provided with a separable closure strip.

To date, in order for a consumer to drink straight out of a can or a packing-case after having removed the closure strip, he has to push his lips against the outer surface of the container. Now, said external surface of the container is usually unsanitary as it is currently being contaminated with dirt, germs and pollutions of all kinds while the container is stored and manipulated during the conditioning process, the transport and the keeping in stock thereof. In the stores, too, the containers are frequently manipulated by different persons. In the refrigerators of stores, for instance, the containers are manipulated by a great number of buyers who, among others, wish to appreciate the degree of being fresh of the containers.

Furthermore, containers are often laid down on the floor and are thus within reach of animals or allowed to come into contact with chemical products, refuses, grease, oil and the like.

The result is thus that the beverage containers currently on the market very often do not remain sanitary for use.

Moreover, it is not uncommon that a consumer drinking straight out of a container, in particular a child, cuts his lips or tongue. Further, beverage often spills over the top of the container or along the peripheral edge which the container lid is usually provided with

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One object of the present invention is to eliminate the above-mentioned drawbacks of the present drink containers and, for that purpose, there is provided a container including a separable closure strip as defined in the claims.

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More particularly, a container according to the invention comprises an unfolding flexible spout member which is folded over beneath the closure strip of the container. When the consumer removes the closure strip, the spout which is folded beneath the closure strip springs upwardly and extends outwardly in the form of a tube permitting drinking out.

By virtue of the invention, the spout is secured from any external contamination while it is folded over beneath the closure strip and the consumer can thus push his lips into contact with the unfolded spout which is intact and sanitary for use. Further, the invention has the advantage that it does not need any change in the outer dimensions of the containers, whereby the containers can still be placed in the automatic distributors and the refrigerators.

The features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an elevational view in section of a container according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is an upper view of the container of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 represents the container of FIG. 1 with the closure strip removed;

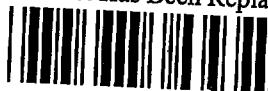
FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the container as shown in FIG. 3.

DESCRIPTION OF AN EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, there is illustrated, by way of example, a container 10 with its lateral wall 11, its bottom 12 and its top surface 13 including a separable closure strip 14. To the closure strip is secured, as it is customary, a pull ring to enable the consumer to remove the closure strip.

Disposed beneath the top surface 13 of the container 10 is a base member 15 which is secured at its periphery to the lateral wall 11 and extends in a substantially parallel direction with the closure strip 14 so as to define a free space 16 beneath the strip 14. The base member 15 has an opening 17 punched in its portion which extends beneath the strip. To the periphery of opening 17 is secured an end of a flexible tubular spout 18 which is folded over within the free space 16.

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The assembly including the portions 15 and 18 is secured to the container 10 after same has been filled in and the container is then sealed using any known process.

When the consumer removes the closure strip 14 which protects the folded tubular spout 18, same is permitted to freely spring upwardly as depicted in FIGS. 3 and 4 so as to form a spout which can be used for drinking out. While separating the closure strip 14 from the remainder of the lid, the consumer may hold the folded spout with the finger until the separable strip 14 is completely separated from the container. A small embossing 19 can be provided as shown in FIG. 4 to improve the tightness of the flexible spout in a folded condition. It will be clear that the spout which is arranged beneath the strip 14 is sanitary and may safely and sanitarily come into contact with the lips of the consumer. Further, the spout portion is allowed to extend outwardly free from liquid, and thus without the risk of liquid spilling all about.

While an exemplary embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described in the drawings and the foregoing description, it will be understood that the invention may be applicable to a variety of containers such as cans, packing-cases, "tetrabrik" containers, bottles for various liquids and products (pharmaceutical, chemical, etc) and that many changes and modifications can be made by one skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the claims.

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CLAIMS

1. Container for a beverage or other liquid, comprising a surface (13) including a separable closure strip (14), characterized in that beneath the separable closure strip (14), the container (10) comprises a spout (18) which unfolds outwardly when the closure strip is being separated from the container.
2. Container according to claim 1, characterized in that the unfolding spout (18) consists in a flexible tubular member which folds over beneath the closure strip (14).
3. Container according to claim 2, characterized in that said flexible tubular member (18) is secured at one end to the outer periphery of an opening (17) formed through a base member (15) secured to the lateral wall of the container.
4. Container according to claim 3, characterized in that said flexible tubular member (18) folds over within a free space (16) defined between the separable closure strip (14) and said base member (15).
5. Folding and unfolding flexible spout for a beverage or other liquid container, as defined in either of the preceding claims.
6. Base member for being inserted into a container for beverage or other liquid, comprising a folding and unfolding flexible spout, as defined in either one of claims 3 and 4.



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