

A HOLDER FOR LIQUID PACKAGING CONTAINERS

This invention relates to a holder, with handle, for liquid packaging containers, particularly drinks cartons of the kind wherein a closure device of the container comprises folding flaps which are detachably applied to the walls of the container, with a first supporting element designed for application to the rear wall of the container and being provided with the handle, and with a second supporting element designed for application to a further container wall, both the supporting elements being mutually connected and forming the constituent parts of the holder body.

Such a holder will be referred to below as a holder of the kind specified.

Holders for liquid packaging containers of the kind specified are known in various forms. Normally these holders match the shape of the container and are designed to support and hold the containers by means of lateral walls and a base, or bottom wall. In one existing arrangement the holder is further provided with a lid comprising a pouring spout which automatically penetrates into the container when the lid is closed and thus creates a pouring orifice.

This last mentioned arrangement, whilst at first glance appearing to be an ideal solution, has, however, the disadvantage of raising problems with regard to hygiene.

It is the aim of the present invention to provide a holder, with handle, which enables a conventional, rectangular box-like drinks container to be securely retained and the contents to be poured out through the usual container spout opening.

The present invention provides a holder, with handle, of the kind specified in which the first supporting element has an upper end and a lower end, the handle is disposed within a projected area defined between the upper and lower ends of the first supporting element, and the second supporting element extends forwardly from the upper end of the first supporting element for application to the upper container wall, and the holder is provided with retaining means adapted to hold a closure flap, which has been pulled away from a container wall, securely in a position which is substantially parallel to that container wall, the retaining means being designed as a slot having a flap-receiving opening disposed at the junction of the two supporting elements, the slot being provided in one of the elements with the opening being spaced from and facing the other element.

Preferably, the slot is a recess in the rear-wall-supporting element.

In addition to the flap-receiving opening, there is preferably at least one further lateral opening designed to facilitate lateral introduction of the container flap into the slot.

Some embodiments of the invention will be hereinafter more particularly described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a purely schematic illustration of a holder for rectangular box-shaped drinks-packaging containers being an embodiment of this invention; and

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment.

Figure 1 in the drawings shows in a purely diagrammatical manner one example of a holder for rectangular box-shaped drinks-packaging containers, or cartons, comprising closures with the usual closing flaps folded down against the front and rear container walls.

As will be seen from the drawing, the holder comprises a rear-wall-supporting element 1, a handle part 2 rigidly connected or formed integrally with this element 1, and a supporting element 3 for the upper container wall. At the upper end of the rear-wall supporting element 1, and more specifically on the inside thereof, there is formed a slit-or slot-like recess 4 into which the flap 5 (dotted lines) can be inserted when it has been slightly pulled away from the container wall. With this basic construction a secure and firm hold of the container in the holder is guaranteed and the liquid contents can be readily poured out through the opened spout flap 6. The container can be readily tilted right down to a horizontal position without falling out of the holder.

Figure 2 of the drawings shows a holder according to this invention, and from this figure it can be clearly seen that thanks to the particularly thin-walled strip or lug 4', one of the container flaps remains virtually in its original position (it has been only very slightly pulled away from the container wall).

It can also be clearly seen in Figure 2 that the slot 4 is open laterally to facilitate lateral introduction of the container flap into the slot.

If the closure flaps 5 should happen to be folded back on the topside of the container, the flap which must be pushed into the slot 4 would merely have to be turned over about the fold line and inserted into the slot 4 as described in order to fulfill its function in association with the described holder.

Basically it would also be conceivable to arrange the holder slot on the inside of the upper supporting element.



CLAIMS

1. A holder, with handle, of the kind specified in which the first supporting element has an upper end and a lower end, the handle is disposed within a projected area defined between the upper and lower ends of the first supporting element, and the second supporting element extends forwardly from the upper end of the first supporting element for application to the upper container wall, and the holder is provided with retaining means adapted to hold a closure flap, which has been pulled away from a container wall, securely in a position which is substantially parallel to that container wall, the retaining means being designed as a slot having a flap-receiving opening disposed at the junction of the two supporting elements, the slot being provided in one of the elements with the opening being spaced from and facing the other element.

2. A holder according to Claim 1, in which the slot is a recess in the rear-wall-supporting element.

3. A holder according to Claim 1 or 2, in which, in addition to the flap-receiving opening, there is at least one further lateral opening designed to facilitate lateral introduction of the container flap into the slot.

4. A holder, with handle, for liquid packaging containers, substantially as described herein with reference to, and as illustrated in, Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings.

5. A holder, with handle, for liquid packaging containers, substantially as described herein with reference to, and as illustrated in, Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings.