

The invention relates to a container for coffee beans that may be fixed directly onto the coffee mill and has a connecting ferrule dispenser.

5 There are numerous containers that have specific types of stoppers with a pourer, dispenser, etc. These stoppers do not allow direct connection to a household appliance.

The state of the art may be defined by the following patents:-

10 - FR-A.2.609.453

A device with a double safety closure and dispenser.

15 The invention relates to a closing and dispensing device that enables the continuous flow, without risk, of a powdered or granular product (liquid in the case of a sealed dispenser).

20 The device comprises a stopper with a pouring lip on its upper surface and is undulating in shape. Its lateral surface is partially pierced to allow the slide track of the dispenser to rotate as a unit to a limited extent. In the embodiment shown in figure II, the inner part of the stopper has a lip and a groove. The dispensing unit is inserted in the stopper.

25 The middle of the stopper has an orifice, two rods and a slide track on its upper and lower surfaces. There is a support which also has two orifices. If the container does not have a concave surface, the slide track is replaced by the support. The support has two orifices and a lip.

30 The device in accordance with the invention is specifically designed for conservation purposes.

- FR-A.2.466.756

A device for dispensing a powdered material or liquid and its application to a coffee grinder.

35 The dispensing device for powdered material comprises a dispensing recipient designed to be supplied with a predetermined quantity of this material.

40 The device also has two members that are able to move relatively and are held in contact with each other by a magnet, wherein the member is subjected to a force that is resistant to the magnetic attraction exerted by the magnet, the value of this force being dependent on the weight of the material contained in the dispensing recipient. The resistant force releases this member from the other member when it is equal to the force of attraction mentioned above.

45 This device is applied to electric coffee grinders in particular.

The following patents may also be mentioned: EP-A-0 221 419; US-A-4 568 006; EP-A-0 024 310; US-A-4 765 499. These patents describe protective caps with a snap fastener with or without a valve but with no connecting ferrule dispenser.

The invention relates to a container for coffee beans that may be directly applied to a coffee grinder, wherein the connecting ferrule has a dispenser.

There are many technical advantages.

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There is no need for handling.

The container may be fastened directly on to the coffee grinder.

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The product as a whole may be conserved for longer.

Stock may be controlled more tightly.

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The coffee equipment (container-coffee grinder) has an added aesthetic aspect that is advantageous when used on a counter.

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To this end, the container, especially when used for coffee beans, is of the box type with an extractable neck in flexible plastic fixed by a ring set on the orifice of the box which is in the shape of a cone at this level. It has a protective cap with snap fastening which engages with the metal part of the positioning ring and protects the neck, which is itself closed by means of a screw cap. A disc transpierced by a valve serving as a vent valve is arranged between the neck and the screw cap. The threading on the extractable neck is characterised by the fact that it can house a means that serves as a connecting ferrule dispenser.

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At a first end, the connecting ferrule dispenser forms an adaptor cone, followed by a threaded cylindrical section that allows connection to be made to the threaded end of the neck. The adaptor cone of the connecting ferrule is sufficiently wide for the container to be stable when fastened to the connecting ferrule. The threaded section of the connecting ferrule extends into a means that serves as a dispenser, such as a distribution drawer provided with a pull handle. The second end of the connecting ferrule is connected to the inlet orifice for ground coffee in the coffee grinder.

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The attached drawings are provided by way of example and do not restrict the scope of the invention. They illustrate a preferred embodiment in accordance with the invention. They will provide a clearer understanding of the invention.

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Figure 1 is a view of a container of the metal box type with a partial section at the level of the stopper.

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Figure 2 is a sectional view at the level of the stopper, showing the unit in the closed position and the neck in the retracted position.

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Figure 3 shows the removal of the protective snap-on cap.

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Figure 4 shows the neck being extracted.

Figure 5 shows the screw cap removed from the neck and the disc with its vent valve.

Figure 6 shows the connecting ferrule dispenser being positioned in the neck by means of the thread.

5 Figures 7 and 8 show the action of the pull handle of the distribution drawer when the metal box is upturned and placed on a recipient or directly on a coffee grinder.

10 The container is of the metal box type 1, with an extractable neck 2 made from flexible plastic, fixed by a ring 3 set on the orifice 4 of the box 1. At this level, the box 1 is of a cone shape 5 which facilitates the flow of coffee beans 6 through the orifice 4 when the box 1 is upturned on its cone 5.

15 The box 1 has a protective cap 7 which engages by means of snap fastening with the metal part of the ring 3 set on the edges of the orifice 4 of the box 1. This protective cap 7 protects the neck 2 which is itself formed of a screw cap 8.

20 A pierced disc 9 which houses a valve 10 serving as a vent valve (for example when CO_2 is produced) is arranged between the screw cap 8 and the neck 2.

25 The end 11 of the extractable neck 2 is threaded and can connect with a connecting ferrule dispenser 12.

30 At a first end, the connecting ferrule dispenser 12 forms an adaptor cone 13 extending into a threaded cylindrical section 14 which enables the threaded end 11 of the neck 2 to be connected. The adaptor cone 13 of the connecting ferrule 12 is sufficiently wide for the container 1 to be stable when fixed by its cone 5 to the connecting ferrule 12.

35 The threaded part 14 of the connecting ferrule 12 extends into a means serving as a dispenser, such as a distribution drawer 15 provided with a pull handle 16.

40 The second end 17 of the connecting ferrule 12 is connected to the inlet orifice of the coffee grinder (not shown).

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CLAIMS

1. Container for grains, in particular coffee beans, of the metal box type (1) with an extractable neck (2) in flexible plastic fastened by a ring (3) set on the orifice (4) of the box (1), which has the shape of a cone (5) at this level, a protective cap (7) with snap fastening that engages with the metal part of the positioning ring (3) protecting the extractable neck (2), which is threaded and closed by means of a screw cap (8) characterised in that a disc (9) housing a valve serving as a vent valve is arranged between the neck (2) and the screw cap (8) and in that the end of the extractable neck (2) may accommodate a means constituting an integral part of the container and serving as a connecting ferrule dispenser (12), wherein the connecting ferrule dispenser (12) forms at a first end an adaptor cone (13) followed by a threaded cylindrical section (14) which allows a connection to be made with the threaded end (11) of the neck (2) and wherein the adaptor cone (13) of the connecting ferrule (12) is sufficiently wide for the box (1) to be stable when fixed by its cone (5) to the connecting ferrule (12).
2. Container for grains, in accordance with claim 1, characterised in that the threaded section (14) of the connecting ferrule (12) extends into a means that serves as a dispenser such as a distribution drawer (15) fitted with a pull handle (16).
3. Container for grains in accordance with claim 2, characterised in that the second end (17) of the connecting ferrule (12) is connected to the inlet orifice of a coffee grinder.