

A COVER SUITABLE FOR USE WITH A CUP

Field Of Invention

The present disclosure generally relates to a cover (e.g., a disposable dome type lid)
5 suitable for use with a cup (e.g., a disposable type cup).

Background

In the food and beverage (F&B) industry, it is not uncommon for
consumers/customers to make take-away (i.e., to go) type orders.
10 Typically, such orders may include drinks. A drink included in a take-away type
order can be referred to as a take-away drink. A take-away drink is typically packed
so as to be conveniently carried out of the F&B establishment.

15 For example, a drink can be conveniently carried out of the F&B establishment by
use of a disposable cup (e.g., a paper cup) with a lid covering the mouth of the
disposable cup. The lid can, for example, be useful for preventing, to a certain
extent, accidental spillage of content (e.g., liquid) carried within the disposable cup.
The combination of a disposable cup and a lid can be generally referred to as a
20 takeaway cup.

Traditionally, to access content carried within the disposable cup, the lid needs to be
removed.

25 Later lids are designed to allow access of content carried disposable cups. For
example, later lids can include “drink-through” openings which allow consumers to
drink without needing to remove the lids entirely. Specifically a disposable cup which
mouth is covered by a lid with a “drink-through” opening would facilitate drinking, by
a consumer, from the disposable cup with the lid still covering the mouth of the
30 disposable cup.

Appreciably, a “drink-through” opening may cause a lid be less effective in
preventing accidental spillage. Specifically, extent of effectiveness in preventing

accidental spillage of content carried within a disposable cup can be reduced due to a “drink-through” opening.

Thus it is further appreciable that a “drink-through” opening would need to be in some way covered and yet allow access, whenever desired, for a consumer to consume content carried within a disposable cup.

For example, a lid can include a hinged type covering which can be moved by a consumer to be either in an open position or in a closed position. When the hinged type covering is moved to be in the open position, a “drink-through” opening can be defined. Conversely when in the closed position, access through the “drink-through” opening can be substantially impeded.

Appreciably, to move the hinged type covering between the open position and the closed position, dexterity of a consumer’s fingers may be tested/challenged.

In this regard, the present disclosure contemplates that present lid designs do not facilitate consumer access to content carried within a takeaway cup in an effective and/or user friendly manner.

The present disclosure contemplates that there is a need for a solution (i.e., to impede, to a certain extent, accidental spillage of content carried within the cup and yet allow a consumer to conveniently access, whenever desired, content carried within the cup) which can at least partially address the foregoing discussed issue(s).

Summary of the Invention

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, there is provided a cover suitable for use with a cup. The cup can be used by a user. Moreover, the cup can include a lip which can define the cup mouth.

The cover can be mounted over the cup mouth in a manner so as to cover the cup mouth (e.g., in a manner so as to prevent, to a certain extent, accidental spillage of

content carried within the cup). The cover can include a rim portion and a body portion. The body portion can be coupled to the rim portion.

5 The rim portion can be shaped and dimensioned in a manner so as to be capable of mating with lip of the cup.

The body portion can include a pressure application part which can be configured to receive user pressure applied by the user using a digit (e.g., thumb) of one hand (i.e., belonging to the user).

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Moreover, a pocket can be formed on/at the body portion after user pressure has been applied at the pressure application part and a drinking orifice can be defined based on the pocket.

15 The pocket can be shaped and dimensioned in a manner so as to accommodate at least a portion of the digit (e.g., a portion of the thumb) used for applying pressure at the pressure application part.

In one example, the pocket can include an arcuate surface and a curvilinear edge.

20 The arcuate surface can conform to at least a portion of the digit used to apply pressure on the pressure application part and the drinking orifice can be defined between the curvilinear edge and the rim portion. Moreover, the curvilinear edge can, for example, correspond to a breakage of contact between the pressure application part and the rim portion.

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In one embodiment, the body portion can further include a main part. The pressure application part can be coupled to the main part. The main part and a pressure application part can, in combination, define an initial structure. The initial structure can relate to structure (i.e., shape and dimension) of the cover before user pressure is applied (i.e., at the pressure application part).

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The initial structure can, for example, be associated with a uniformly curved structure. The uniformly curved structure can be considered to be disrupted after user pressure

is applied at the pressure application part to form a disrupted structure associable with a disrupted curved structure. In one embodiment, the pressure application part and the rim portion are in contact when the initial structure is defined. When the disrupted structure is defined, contact between the pressure application part and the rim portion is broken.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Embodiments of the disclosure are described hereinafter with reference to the following drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 shows a cover suitable for use with a cup and which can include a pressure application part, according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

Fig. 2 shows a drinking orifice which can be defined after application of user pressure on the pressure application part of Fig. 1, according to an embodiment of the disclosure; and

Fig. 3 shows a manufacturing method in association with the cover of Fig. 1, according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

Detailed Description

The present disclosure contemplates a cover which can be mounted onto the lip of a cup so that the mouth of the cup can be covered. The cover can, for example, correspond to a dome type cover (e.g., a dome lid) which can include a portion which can be pressed (i.e., a pressure application part) by a user so that a drinking orifice can be defined.

In one example, the cup can be shaped and dimensioned so as to be capable of being gripped by a user in a manner such that the thumb (i.e., of the hand gripping the cup) remains substantially free (i.e., the cup can be substantially gripped using the thenar region, the palmer region, the index finger, the middle finger, the ring finger and the little finger) and the user can, when gripping the cup, use the thumb to press the pressure application part so that a drinking orifice can be defined/formed.

Appreciably, the pressure application part, after being pressed (using one digit of a user's hand), can, for example, correspond to a concave region which can, for example, accommodate at least a portion of one digit (e.g., the user's thumb or any one of the user's four fingers).

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Preferably, the concave region can be retained after pressure is released (e.g., by manner of the user lifting his/her thumb) from the pressure application part. Appreciably, the drinking orifice can be associated with a shape and dimension which can be retained after pressure is released from the pressure application part.

10 The drinking orifice can, for example, correspond to a fixed opening.

Given that the cover can keep the mouth of the cup covered until the user is ready to consume content carried within the cup, accidental spillage of content carried within the cup can, to a certain extent, be substantially avoided. Moreover, given that a user can cause a drinking orifice to be defined/formed (e.g., by manner of using the thumb of the gripping hand to press the pressure application part) even while gripping the cup, convenient access to the content carried within the cup can be facilitated.

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20 The foregoing will be discussed in further detail with reference to Fig. 1 to Fig. 3 hereinafter.

Referring to Fig. 1, a cover 100 suitable for use with a cup (not shown), is shown according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

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The cover 100 can include a rim portion 102 and a body portion 104. The body portion 104 can include a pressure application part 106 and a main part 108.

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The rim portion 102 can be coupled to the body portion 104. In one embodiment, the rim portion 102 can substantially surround the body portion 104.

Moreover, the pressure application part 106 can be coupled to the main part 108. Furthermore, as will be discussed in further detail with reference to Fig. 2, user

pressure can be applied (e.g., by manner of pressing using a digit of a user's hand) to/on/at the pressure application part 106 such that a drinking orifice can be defined.

The rim portion 102 can be shaped and dimensioned in a manner so as to be capable of mating with the lip of a cup, so that the cover 100 can be mounted onto the lip of a cup in a manner such that the mouth of the cup can be covered. Preferably, the rim portion 102 can mate with the lip of a cup such that the cover 100 can be mounted securely (e.g., in the manner of snug fit) onto the lip of the cup in a manner so as to cover the mouth of the cup.

The body portion 104 can be associated with an initial structure. The initial structure can be based on the combination of the pressure application part 106 and the main part 108. Moreover, the initial structure can relate to structure of the body portion 104 prior to application of user pressure. Specifically, the initial structure can be based on the combination of the pressure application part 106 and the main part 108 before user pressure is applied at the pressure application part 106.

The initial structure can be associated with a uniform structure. For example, the initial structure can be based on a uniformly curved structure, according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

In one example, the uniformly curved structure can correspond to a convex structure.

In a more specific example, the uniformly curved structure can correspond to a domical structure (e.g., in the form of a dome shaped structure). In this regard, the cover 100, after being mounted onto the lip of a cup, can correspond to a dome shaped roof covering the mouth of the cup, according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

In one embodiment, the pressure application part 106 and the main part 108 can be visually perceived to form, for example, a domical structure. Specifically, prior to application of user pressure to the pressure application part 106, the pressure application part 106 and the main part 108 can, in combination, be visually perceived

to define, for example, a domical structure. More specifically, prior to a drinking orifice being formed/defined, the pressure application part 106 and the main part 108 can, in combination, be visually perceived to define, for example, a domical structure.

- 5 A user can, using a digit (e.g., thumb) of one hand, apply pressure (e.g., by manner of pressing) on the pressure application part 106 such that a drinking orifice can be defined/formed. This will be discussed in further detail with reference to Fig. 2 hereinafter.
- 10 Referring to Fig. 2, a drinking orifice 200 can be defined/can be formed after user pressure is applied on the pressure application part 106, according to an embodiment of the disclosure. Content carried within a cup, which mouth is covered by the cover 100, can be consumed by a user via the drinking orifice 200.
- 15 Specifically, a pocket 202 can be formed/defined on/at the body portion 104 after user pressure is applied on the pressure application part 106. For example, after user pressure is applied on the pressure application part 106, the pressure application part 106 can become indented so as to form the pocket 202. Therefore, it is appreciable that the drinking orifice 200 can be considered to be defined based
- 20 on the pocket 202. Moreover, it can be appreciated that location (i.e., on the body portion 104) of the pocket 202 can coincide with location (i.e., on the body portion 104) of the pressure application part 106.

The pocket 202 can be shaped and dimensioned so as to accommodate at least a

25 portion of the digit (e.g., thumb) used to apply pressure on the pressure application part 106.

In one embodiment, the pocket 202 can include an arcuate surface 202a and a curvilinear edge 202b. The arcuate surface 202a can be considered to conform to at

30 least a portion of the digit used to apply pressure on the pressure application part 106. For example, the digit used for applying pressure can be associated with a shape (e.g., thumb shape) and the arcuate surface 202a can be considered to conform to the shape of the digit used for applying pressure. In this regard, at least

a portion of the digit used for applying pressure can rest on the arcuate surface 202a. In this manner, the pocket 202 can be considered to be capable of accommodating at least a portion of the digit (e.g., thumb) used to apply pressure on the pressure application part 106. Moreover, it is appreciable that the drinking orifice 200 can be defined between the curvilinear edge 202b and the rim portion 102.

Furthermore, in regard to the initial structure, the pressure application part 106 can be considered to be in contact with the rim portion 102. When the pocket 202 is formed/defined, contact between the rim portion 102 and the pressure application part 106 can be considered to be broken. The curvilinear edge 202b can signify/be representative of breakage of contact between the rim portion 102 and the pressure application part 106. When contact between the rim portion 102 and the pressure application part 106 is broken, the drinking orifice 200 can be formed/defined.

Appreciably, when the drinking orifice 200 is formed/defined (i.e., after application of user pressure to the pressure application part 106), the initial structure can be considered to be disrupted. In this regard, the body portion 104 can be associated with a disrupted structure subsequent to user pressure being applied to the pressure application part 106 and the drinking orifice 200 has been formed/defined.

Earlier mentioned, the initial structure can be based on a uniformly curved structure, according to an embodiment of the disclosure. In one example, the uniformly curved structure can correspond to a convex structure. In a more specific example, the uniformly curved structure can correspond to a domical structure (e.g., in the form of a dome shaped structure).

In this regard, after the drinking orifice 200 is formed/defined, the disrupted structure can be based on a disrupted curved structure, according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

In one example, the disrupted curved structure can correspond to, for example, a disrupted domical structure. Specifically, the pocket 202 (i.e., the pressure application part 106, after being pressed using one digit of a user's hand), can

correspond to an inverted region relative to the main part 108. The inverted region can be shaped and dimensioned to accommodate at least a portion of one digit (e.g., the user's thumb or any one of the user's four fingers).

- 5 In a more specific example, where the initial structure is based on a uniformly curved structure which corresponds to a convex structure, the pocket 202 can correspond to an inverted region which can be in the form of a concave region. Specifically, the main part 108 can remain being based on a convex structure whereas the pocket 202 can be based on a concave region. In this regard, the disrupted curved structure can correspond to, for example, a disrupted domical structure.
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- In one embodiment of the disclosure, the pocket 202 can be retained even after user pressure is released (e.g., by manner of the user lifting his/her thumb) from the pressure application part 106. Appreciably, the drinking orifice 200 can be associated with a shape and dimension which can be retained after pressure is released from the pressure application part 106. The drinking orifice 200 can, for example, correspond to a fixed opening.
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- In view of the foregoing, it is appreciable that the present disclosure generally contemplates a cover 100 which can be suitable for use with a cup (not shown). The cup can be used by a user (not shown). Moreover, the cup can include a lip which can define the cup mouth (i.e., mouth of the cup which can correspond to a general opening through which content carried within the cup can be accessed/consumed by a user).
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- The cover 100 can be capable of being mounted over the cup mouth so as to cover the cup mouth (e.g., to impede, at a certain extent, accidental spillage of content carried within the cup).
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- The cover 100 can include a rim portion 102 which can be shaped and dimensioned in a manner so as to be capable of mating with lip of the cup.
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The cover 100 can further include a body portion 104 which can be coupled to the rim portion 102. The body portion 104 can include a pressure application part 106 which can be configured to receive user pressure applied (e.g., by manner of pressing) by the user using a digit (e.g., thumb) of one hand of the user.

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The cover 100 can yet further include a main part 108. Specifically, the body portion 104 can further include a main part 108. The pressure application part 106 can be coupled to the main part 108.

10 In one embodiment, the main part 108 and the pressure application part 106 can, in combination, define an initial structure before user pressure is applied. The initial structure can be associated with, for example, a uniformly curved structure. The uniformly curved structure can be considered to be disrupted after user pressure is applied at the pressure application part 106 to form a disrupted structure. The
15 disrupted structure can, for example, be associated with a disrupted curved structure.

Additionally, when the initial structure is defined, the pressure application part 106 and the rim portion 102 can be in contact. When the disrupted structure is defined, contact between the pressure application part 106 and the rim portion 102 can be
20 broken.

A pocket 202 can be formed on/at the body portion 104 after user pressure has been applied at the pressure application part 106. Moreover, a drinking orifice 200 can be defined based on the pocket 202. Appreciably, after the cup mouth is covered by the
25 cover 100, content carried within the cup can be accessed/consumed by the user via the drinking orifice 200.

Furthermore, the pocket 202 can, for example, be shaped and dimensioned so as to accommodate at least a portion of the digit (e.g., at least a portion of the user's
30 thumb) used for applying pressure at the pressure application part 106.

In one embodiment, the pocket 202 can include an arcuate surface 202a and a curvilinear edge 202b. The arcuate surface 202a can, for example, conform to at

least a portion of the digit (e.g., at least a portion of the user's thumb) used to apply pressure on the pressure application part 106. Additionally, the drinking orifice 200 can be defined between the curvilinear edge 202b and the rim portion 102. Moreover, the curvilinear edge 202b can, for example, correspond to a breakage of contact between the pressure application part 106 and the rim portion 102.

In one exemplary usage scenario, a cup, which mouth is covered by the cover 100, can be shaped and dimensioned so as to be capable of being gripped by a user in a manner such that the thumb of the hand which is used to grip the cup remains substantially free (i.e., the cup can be substantially gripped using the thenar region, the palmer region, the index finger, the middle finger, the ring finger and the little finger) and the user can, while gripping the cup, use the thumb (i.e., of that hand used to grip the cup) to press the pressure application part 106 so that a drinking orifice 200 can be defined. Appreciably, the pressure application part 106, after being pressed (using one digit of a user's hand), can correspond to a concave region (i.e., pocket 202) which can, for example, accommodate at least a portion of one digit (e.g., the user's thumb).

In this regard, it is appreciable that the cover 100 can function to impede, to a certain extent, accidental spillage of content carried within the cup and yet allow a consumer to conveniently access, whenever desired, content carried within the cup. Specifically, the cup can be gripped by a user using one hand and convenient access can be by manner of the above discussed usage of the user's (substantially free) thumb (i.e., a digit of the same hand gripping the cup) to apply pressure at the pressure application part 106 so that the drinking orifice 200 can be formed/defined.

Fig. 3 shows a manufacturing method 300 in association with the cover 100, according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

The manufacturing method 300 can include a rim providing part 302 and a body providing part 304. The manufacturing method 300 can further include a coupling part 306.

The rim providing part 302 can include providing the rim portion 102.

5 The body providing part 304 can include providing the body portion 104. The body providing part 304 can further include defining the pressure application part 106 and the main part 108 of the body portion 104.

The coupling part 306 can relate to coupling the rim portion 102 and the body portion 104.

10 It should be further appreciated by the person skilled in the art that variations and combinations of features described above, not being alternatives or substitutes, may be combined to form yet further embodiments.

15 For example, earlier mentioned, the drinking orifice 200 can be retained after pressure is released from the pressure application part 106 and the drinking orifice 106 can, for example, correspond to a fixed opening.

The present disclosure that the drinking orifice 106 need not necessarily be retained. The drinking orifice 106 can be closed after pressure is released from the pressure application part 106 and/or in a user controlled manner.

20 In the foregoing manner, various embodiments of the disclosure are described for addressing at least one of the foregoing disadvantages. Such embodiments are intended to be encompassed by the following claims, and are not to be limited to specific forms or arrangements of parts so described and it will be apparent to one skilled in the art in view of this disclosure that numerous changes and/or modification can be made, which are also intended to be encompassed by the following claims.

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Claim(s)

1. A cover suitable for use with a cup usable by a user and having a lip defining the cup mouth, the cover capable of being mounted over the cup mouth so as to cover the cup mouth, the cover comprising:

a rim portion shaped and dimensioned in a manner so as to be capable of mating with the lip of the cup; and

a body portion coupled to the rim portion, the body portion comprising:

a pressure application part configured to receive user pressure applied by the user using a digit of one hand,

wherein a pocket is formed at the body portion after user pressure has been applied at the pressure application part and a drinking orifice is defined based on the pocket, and

wherein the pocket is shaped and dimensioned so as to accommodate at least a portion of the digit used for applying pressure at the pressure application part.

2. The cover as in claim 1, the body portion further comprising a main part, the pressure application part being coupled to the main part,

wherein the main part and a pressure application part, in combination, define an initial structure before user pressure is applied, the initial structure being associated with a uniformly curved structure, and

wherein the uniformly curved structure is disrupted after user pressure is applied at the pressure application part to form a disrupted structure associable with a disrupted curved structure.

3. The cover as in claim 2, wherein the pressure application part and the rim portion are in contact when the initial structure is defined, and wherein contact between the pressure application part and the rim portion is broken when the disrupted structure is defined.

4. The cover as in claim 1, the pocket comprises an arcuate surface and a curvilinear edge,

wherein the arcuate surface conforms to at least a portion of the digit used to apply pressure on the pressure application part, and

5 wherein the drinking orifice is defined between the curvilinear edge and the rim portion.

5. The cover as in claim 4, wherein the curvilinear edge corresponds to a breakage of contact between the pressure application part and the rim portion.

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