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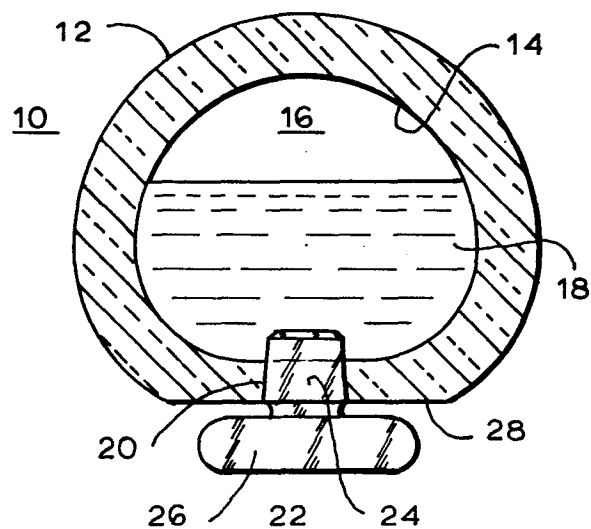
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Container with stopper.

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Container (12), which may be used as a perfume bottle and is preferably spheroidal in shape, opens from the bottom and stopper (22) forms the base of the assembly. To apply perfume (18) a user can pick up the bottle and invert it, then remove the stopper (22) and apply perfume therefrom. In a normal, resting orientation, the spheroid bottle (12) rests on the stopper (22) and the weight of the bottle serves to ensure that it is securely closed.



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TITLE MODIFIED
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CONTAINER ASSEMBLY

This invention relates to a container, in particular a bottle or the like suitable for holding perfume, facial lotion, cosmetic lotion, or other similar fluid. The invention is more specifically directed to a novel
5 combination of a container of globular or generally spherical shape, and a stopper therefor which also serves as the base on which the container rests.

Heretofore, a bottle for dispensing perfume has usually comprised a bottle and a stopper therefor, the
10 stopper fitting a neck at the top of the bottle. Although such a bottle can have a decorative appearance, it necessarily and unescapably has the appearance of a bottle. Thus, known bottle must rely on their ornateness of design to decorate a surface on which they rest.

For example, a cosmetic bottle for a ladies' dressing table is often given a fancy stopper or an elaborate bottle design in an attempt to lend attractiveness to the dressing table's appearance.

5 It is an object of this invention to provide a container suitable for use as a perfume bottle which provides a novel and surprising decorative appearance without detracting from its basic function of containing perfume or other fluid, and which also permits simple
10 dispensing of the perfume or other fluid.

It is another object of this invention to provide a bottle which is elegantly simple in its structure and appearance..

Accordingly, many desirable embodiments of this
15 invention are constituted by the combination of a spheroid container and a mating stopper. The preferred spheroid container, which can be a sphere, an ovoid or egg shaped container, an elongated ellipsoidal container or a "squashed" spheroidal container, is formed of
20 blown glass and has a spheroid outer wall and a spheroid inner wall of similar shape. The container has a round opening therein at the position forming the bottom of

the container in its normal or resting orientation.

The mating stopper has a stem fitting the opening and a flat surface forming a base on which the container assembly rests after the stopper is placed in the

5 opening. In several preferred embodiments, the stopper includes a disc member integrally or unitarily formed with the stem, with the stem extending axially from the disc member.

When the container of this invention is used as
10 a bottle for perfume, a cosmetic liquid, or another similar fluid, the invention can comprise, in combination, the container formed as a spheroid of transparent material, the stopper/base member, and a fill of the perfume or other fluid, preferably a substantially
15 ially transparent fluid. If the stem and the opening in the container have mating ground-glass surfaces, a good, reliable seal will be formed, and the perfume can be reliably stored without leakage with the container in its normal, stopper-downward resting orientation.
20 In that orientation, the bottle, filled with perfume or similar liquid, gives a unique, attractive appearance, and adds beauty to a ladies' dressing table or other place where it might be situated.

When it is desired to use the perfume or other fluid stored in the bottle, the bottle can be simply lifted and inverted, and the stopper removed. Then, the stopper, which will be wet from having been immersed
5 in the fluid, can be used to dab the perfume or other fluid directly onto the face or neck, or onto the finger to apply the perfume or other fluid. Thereafter, the stopper can be returned to the bottle and the bottle inverted and replaced on the dressing table. The weight
10 of the bottle is sufficient to ensure that there is a good seal, and that there is no leakage past the ground-glass surfaces of the stopper and opening.

Of course, the invention is not limited to spheroidal bottles and containers. It is within the scope
15 of this invention for the container to be of any arbitrary shape, so long as the stopper serves as a base or pedestal therefor and the container normally reposes with the stopper downwards. Also, the container need not be strictly transparent.

20 The above and many other objects, features, and advantages of this invention will be more fully

understood from the ensuing description, which should be considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a sectional elevational view of a
5 perfume bottle according to a preferred embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 2 is an exploded view showing the bottle (inverted) and the stopper therefor;

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of this embodiment;
and

10 Fig. 4 is a top plan view thereof.

With reference to the drawings, including all of Figs. 1-4, a perfume bottle assembly according to this invention includes a bottle 10 of generally spherical shape having a spherical outer surface 12
15 and a generally spherical inner surface 14, the latter defining an inner spherical chamber 16, here shown about three-quarters filled with a liquid, such as perfume 18. A round opening 20 is disposed at the bottom of the bottle 10, if the latter is considered
20 in its normal, resting orientation as shown in Fig. 1.

As shown in the exploded view in Fig. 2, this opening 20 has a frusto-conical surface. Preferably, the bottle 10 is blown glass, and the frusto-conical surface of the opening 20 is ground so that it forms
5 a good seal with a stopper 22 now to be described.

The stopper 22, as shown in Fig. 1, forms a base for the perfume bottle assembly, on which the spheroid bottle 10 rests. The stopper 22 is preferably formed of glass, of the same type as used in the perfume
10 bottle 10. The stopper 22 has a frusto-conical stem 24 with a ground-glass surface, as shown in Fig. 2, which mates with the corresponding surface of the opening 20. The stopper also includes a glass disc 26 formed integrally or unitarily with the stem 24 and
15 orientated such that the stem 24 extends axially from one side of the disc 26. A flat surface of the disc 26 opposite the stem 24 forms the base on which the assembly rests. The spheroid bottle 10 thus has this position as its unique, stable position.

20 As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, a section of the perfume bottle 10 surrounding the opening 20 is formed as a flat or planar surface 28. However, this surface 28 is an optional feature.

Normally, the bottle 10, filled with the perfume or other fluid 18, rests in the stopper-downward position as shown in Fig. 1. To apply the perfume, the bottle is picked up and inverted to the orientation shown in Fig. 2. Thereafter, the stopper 22 is
5 twisted slightly and is removed from the opening 20. The perfume or other fluid can then be applied directly from the end of the stem 24 of the stopper 22, and the stopper 22 replaced in the opening 20.

10 The sealing of the bottle is obtained with glass-to-glass mating of bottle with stoppers which can be interchangeable with one another. For opening and closing the bottle, all that is needed is a slight twist of the stopper without pressing or knocking.

15 Although a specific embodiment is offered as an example, it will be understood that the bottle assembly of this invention can be any container which is transparent and generally spherical, possibly of an ovoid or flattened shape, or even of an onion shape, and which
20 opens from the bottom. In other words, with this invention, the closure forms the base of the round bottle. If the bottle is used as a perfume bottle, the closure can be a ground-glass stopper and to apply the

perfume, a user would merely pick up the bottle and invert it (so that the stopper is up) and remove the stopper. The stopper will have a drop or two of the perfume on it and the user can touch this and apply
5 the perfume with her (or his) finger to the body where desired.

The design of this invention eliminates the need to shake the bottle to wet the stopper. Also, since the bottle rests on the stopper, it is impossible to
10 leave the closure slightly ajar, as the bottle weight itself closes it. Thus, any problem about evaporation of the perfume or other fluid is minimized. Moreover, the ground glass seal is kept wet because it is at the bottom, and there is a better seal than would
15 otherwise be provided.

Although the invention has been described hereinabove with reference to a single preferred embodiment, it should be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that many modifications and variations
20 thereof could manifest themselves without departure from the scope of this invention as defined in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A container assembly comprising a hollow container (12) having an opening (20) therein and a stopper (22) having a stem (24) fitting the opening (20) and a flat outer surface, characterised in that the flat surface
5 forms a base (26) on which the container assembly (10) rests when the stopper (22) is in place in the opening (20), the stopper (22) thus forming a pedestal support for the container (12) in a normal, stopper-down position.
- 10 2. A container assembly as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the container (12) is a spheroidal, transparent container.
3. A container assembly as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the spheroid container (12) has a
15 flattened surface (28) surrounding the opening (20) but a round surface extending elsewhere around the container (12).
4. A container assembly as claimed in any preceding claim, characterised in that the stopper (22) has a
20 ground-glass stem (24) which mates with a ground-glass surface of the opening (20).

5. A container assembly as claimed in any preceding claim, characterised in that the normal, stopper-down position is a unique stable position of the container assembly (10).
- 5 6. A container assembly as defined in any preceding claim, characterised by a fill of a generally transparent liquid (18) within an inner chamber (14) of the container (12).

FIG. 1

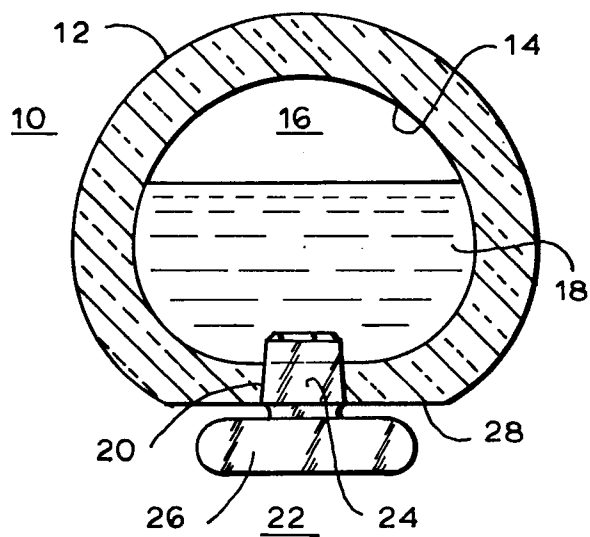


FIG. 3

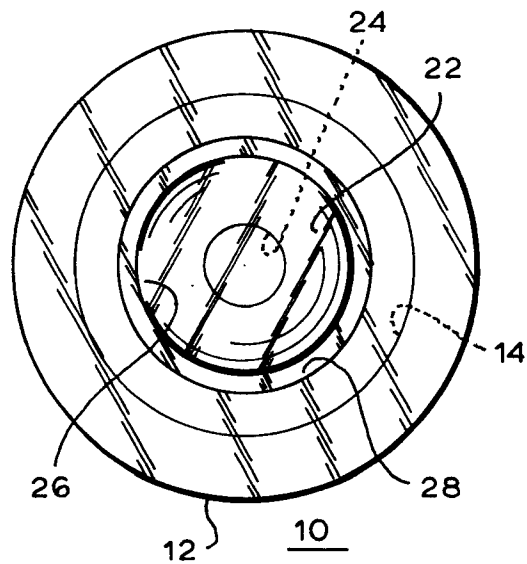


FIG. 2

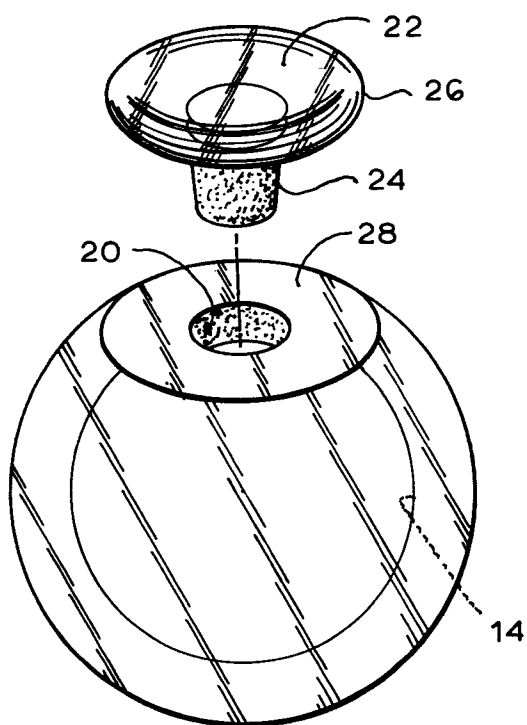
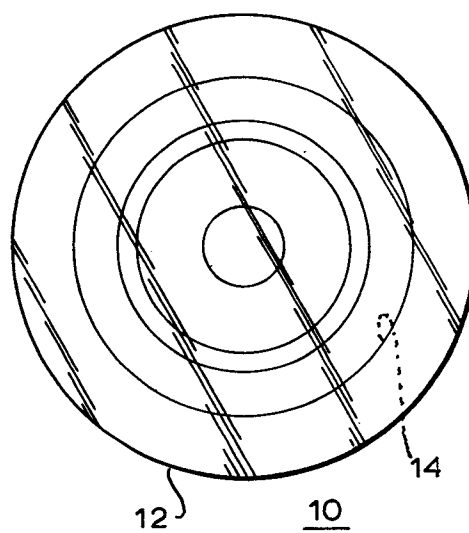


FIG. 4





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0180286

Application number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 85302421.4
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	GB - A - 260 261 (RAESFELD JEANNE DE GERSON) * Totality, especially fig. 2 *	1,4,5,6	B 65 D 23/00 B 65 D 1/02 B 65 D 39/00
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A	AT - B - 358 982 (SCHÖLLER LEBENS-MITTEL KG, ALPLA-WERKE) * Totality, especially fig. 6 *	1,2,3	
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A	FR - A - 790 156 (WEINBRENNEREI HCH. RAETSCH A.G.) * Totality *	2	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			B 65 D 1/00 B 65 D 23/00 B 65 D 25/00 B 65 D 39/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 09-12-1985	Examiner CZUBA
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	