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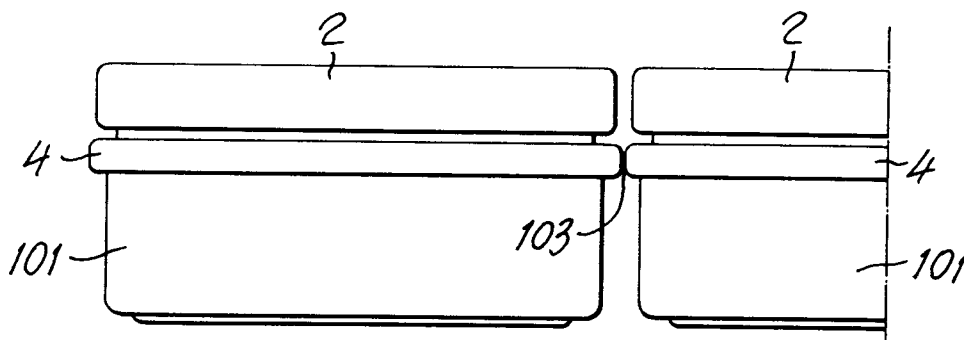
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I-16124 Genova (IT)(54) **Glass container for foodstuffs.**

(57) Glass container (101) for foodstuffs, provided with hermetically-closing cover (2). Said container is of cylindrical shape and is formed with an annular

glass bulge (4) projecting from its outer mantle by an extent which is larger than the prominence of the peripheral rim of the hermetically-closing cover (2).

*Fig. 2***EP 0 554 545 A1**

The present invention relates to glass containers for foodstuffs. More particularly, it relates to small glass jars provided with a hermetically-closing cover and intended to contain tuna-fish, and generally sliced fish.

Various producers of foodstuffs, especially of sliced preserved fish and more particularly tuna-fish, such as the present Applicant, have been marketing their products several years within glass containers provided with a hermetically-closing cover, either of the folded-edge type or the threaded type. There are various reasons accounting for said marketing choice, and they are both of hygienic and aesthetic nature. However, this type of containing jar with sealing cover involves some problems related particularly to the transportation and storage thereof. In fact, when a plurality of these jars are in a compact package, the mutual impacts of said containers or still more of their covers can cause, in the long run, the destruction of the vacuum in some jars, with resulting considerable loss of safety from the standpoint of preservation of foodstuffs therein. In effect, the contact of foodstuffs with air can cause the partial or total decay thereof, with considerable damage to the consumer's health and, as a consequence, to the producer.

To overcome this drawback, containers of slightly flaring or frusto-conical shape, rather than of cylindrical shape, have been proposed, so as to avoid any contact between their covers when they are packaged and transported, said covers being located at the end of smaller diameter of this type of containers. However, also this type of containers has some disadvantages in connection with the use by a customer.

In fact, said containers, especially in case of sliced fish or tuna, do not permit the content therein to be withdrawn as a unitary block because their mouth is narrower than their bottom. Therefore, the product can be withdrawn only by crumbling it, which is a disadvantage.

The present invention aims to overcome said disadvantages and drawbacks of the known art by providing a glass container of cylindrical shape provided with hermetically-closing cover and formed with an annular enlargement protruding from the surface of said container by an extent larger than the prominence of the rim of the hermetically-closing cover on said container. By this provision, in the packaging, storing and transporting steps, the contact between the various containers occurs at said annular enlargements, thus avoiding any mutual impact of the covers. Furthermore, thanks to the cylindrical shape of the container according to the invention, the preserved product can be withdrawn as a unitary block.

Advantageously, said annular enlargement is formed on the jar at the region immediately below the cover.

Further advantages and characteristics will become more apparent from the following description of a preferred embodiment of the present invention, made with reference to the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a side view of two glass containers according to the known art, arranged in contact with each other; and

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of two glass containers according to the present invention.

With reference to the drawing, and with particular reference to Fig. 1, the numeral 1 indicates a glass jar according to the known art, provided with hermetically-closing cover 2. Said glass jar is of frusto-conical shape whereby when in a condition such as shown in the Figure, it is in contact with another jar 1, this contact occurring only at the base of the jars at 3 and not at the rim of the cover 2. However, since each container 1 is narrower at its mouth, some of the problems set forth above are still unsolved, i.e. the content therein must be crumbled to be withdrawn, since it cannot be removed as a compact unitary block.

Figure 2 shows a container made according to the present invention. As shown, said container comprises a cylindrical body 101 whose mouth is closed by a hermetically-closing cover 2. The body 101 of the jar is formed, on the outer surface thereof, with an annular enlargement 4 protruding beyond the outline of the jar 101 by an extent larger than the prominence of the peripheral rim of the cover 2. This enlargement 4 is designed to contact, at the point 103, as shown in Figure 2, the corresponding enlargement of a jar packed adjacent thereto.

Thanks to the fact that the jar 101 is of cylindrical configuration, the product therein can be removed therefrom as a compact unitary block.

Claims

1. A glass container (101) for foodstuffs, provided with hermetically-closing cover, characterized in that said container (101) is of cylindrical shape and is formed with an annular enlargement (4) protruding from its outer surface by an extent larger than the prominence of the peripheral rim of the hermetically-closing cover (2).
2. A glass container according to claim 1, characterized in that said annular enlargement (4) is formed at the region immediately below the cover (2) of said container (101).

3. A glass container according to the preceding claims, wherein said cover (2) is secured to the container (101) by edge-folding, edge-beading or by threading.

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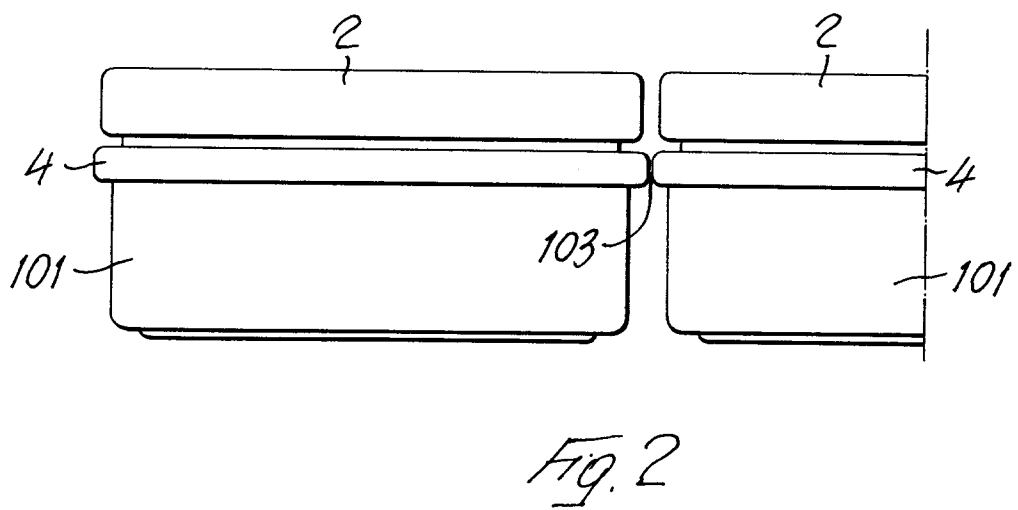
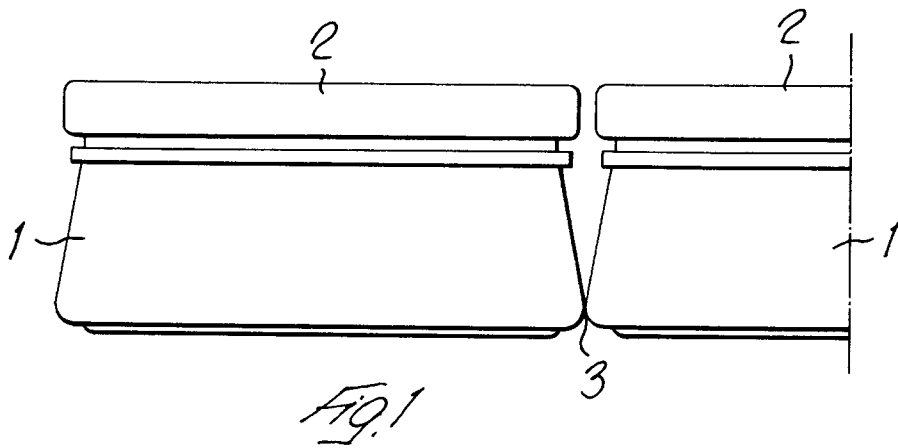
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 12 1133

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	DE-U-9 002 211 (VEITSHOCHHEIMER FLEICHVERTRIEBS) * claims; figure * -----	1-3	B65D1/10
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B65D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 21 APRIL 1993	Examiner NEWELL P.G.
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	