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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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⑷ Thermal sleeve for containers.

⑷ The present invention refers to a thermal sleeve (1) for containers, which has been conceived to form a portable element that makes it possible to keep the contents of a container (3), such as a can of soft drink, a container containing coffee, etc., at an optimal temperature for consumption thereof when the user so desires.

Therefore, the thermal sleeve (1) of the invention makes it possible to maintain the temperature of any type of product contained in a container that is placed inside the sleeve, resulting to be a portable unit, apt for excursions or the like, since the weight and volume thereof will be minimal.

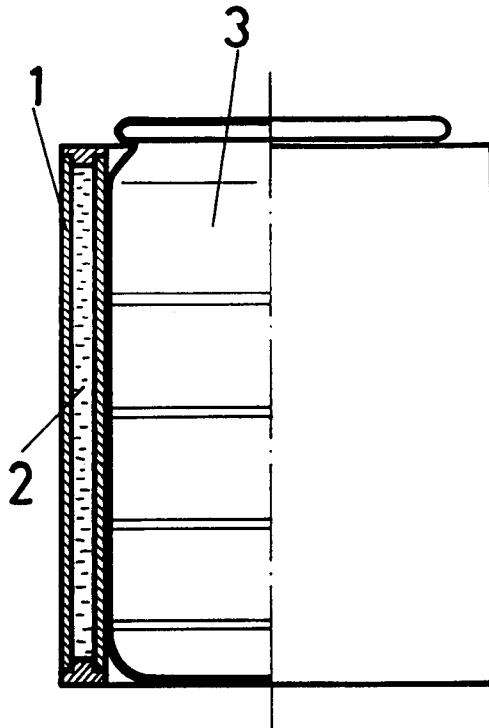


FIG. 1

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

As is expressed in the title of this specification, the present invention refers to a thermal container for containers, which has been conceived to form a portable element that makes it possible to keep the contents of a container, such as a can of soft drink, a container containing coffee, etc., at an optimal temperature for consumption thereof when the user so desires.

Therefore, the thermal container of the invention makes it possible to maintain the temperature of any type of product contained in a container that is placed inside the container, resulting to be a portable unit, apt for excursions or the like, since the weight and volume thereof will be minimal.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The thermal container object of the invention is formed by means of a double wall tubular body, establishing annularly a chamber that contains a freezing material, in such a way that the inner contour of said tubular body or sleeve that it forms, will coincide with the outer contour of the corresponding individual container, thus forming the cooling or heating means of a single container.

By virtue of this special and simple structure, the contents of the container or vessel containing the product to be consumed will be kept at an ideal consumption temperature for a while, since if it is a soft drink it can be kept cold for a time in order to be consumed by the user when so desired, and in the case of coffee, it can be kept hot also for a time to be consumed hot when desired.

Optionally the tubular body can include a fixed or removable bottom to fasten the container containing the beverage.

On the other hand, the tubular body forming the thermal container will be completed with a thermal insulant cover which will be provided with a strap, handle, hook or any other means for holding and transporting same, in such a way that the cover may be individual or multiple. In the event it is individual, it can be coupled to other similar units by means of conventional type hooks.

Another of the optional features that the tubular body forming the thermal sleeve may have is that it be made of a flexible material and optionally open at one side for the purpose of forming a semi-enveloping clamp with regard to the container located inside it.

In this way a thermal container apt to hold inside it a container or vessel containing a product, preferably a beverage that may be a soft drink or coffee, and in accordance with either type of drink, the unit will maintain the temperature of the beverage for a time so that the beverage can be

consumed at a specific moment in optimal conditions.

In order to complete the description that is going to be made hereinafter and for the purpose of providing a better understanding of the features of the invention, a set of drawings on the grounds of whose figures the innovations and advantages of the thermal container object of the invention will be more easily understood, is attached hereto.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1.- It shows a side raised view with a quarter section of the thermal container of the invention containing a can of soft drink.

Figure 2.- It shows a section view of the thermal insulant cover with its corresponding handle for transporting the thermal container with the container located inside it. In this figure one can see a sectioned part of the thermal container and of the container for the purpose of letting one see how said thermal container includes a bottom for fastening the container.

Figure 3.- It shows a sectioned plan view of the thermal container with a container inside it, the former having a side opening, forming a enveloping clamp of the container itself.

Figure 4.- It shows a schematic side raised view of two thermal insulant covers with means for coupling them together.

DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In view of the figures commented on, one can see how the thermal container for containers object of the invention is formed by a double wall tubular sleeve (1), forming an annular chamber (2) that contains a freezing material, in such a way that said tubular sleeve (1) has an inner contour that coincides with the outer contour of the corresponding individual container (3), thus forming the cooling or heating means for a single container (3).

Optionally this chamber (1) can be completed with a fixed or removable bottom (4) in order to longitudinally hold the container (3), with the particularity that the entire unit can be lodged in a thermal insulant type cover (5), which is advantageously provided with a strap (6) forming a handle to hold and transport same, or else a hook (7) or similar element for anchoring and fastening to the user's belt.

On the other hand, it has been foreseen that the tubular sleeve (1) can be comprised of a flexible material and provided with a side opening as is seen in figure 3, forming in this case a semi-enveloping clamp with regard to the container (3) to be cooled or kept warm.

Finally, there is the possibility that the covers (5) can be multiple or individual but provided with hooks (8) or means for coupling them together, as is seen in figure 4.

In this way, the tubular sleeve (1) will be kept with the freezing material inside a home freezer, while it is not in use, and thus the purpose to achieve a low enough temperature to later be the coolant of the container (3). When necessary the container (3) to be transported is inserted in the tubular sleeve (1), in such a way that the unit will be introduced in the corresponding cover (5) so that the user can easily carry the beverage and drink it cold when so desired.

In the same way the unit can be used when one desires to keep a beverage hot, such as coffee or the like, in which case the tubular sleeve (1) must be heated. The temperature thereof will then be conveyed to the container (3) and in the same way, the cover (5) will maintain the heat adequately.

cause the tubular sleeve (1), being flexible, can optionally be open at one side, forming a semi-enveloping clamp with regard to the container (3) to be cooled or heated.

## Claims

1. Thermal container for containers, of the type that comprises an enveloping vessel with regard to the container to be cooled or heated, characterised essentially because it is comprised of a double wall tubular sleeve (1), in whose chamber (2), established between the double wall, a freezing material is contained; the inner contour of the tubular sleeve (1) coinciding with the outer contour of the corresponding individual container (3). 25
2. Thermal container for containers, according to the above claim, characterised essentially because the tubular sleeve (1) optionally includes a fixed or removable bottom (4) for longitudinally holding the container (3) to be cooled or heated. 30 35
3. Thermal container for containers, according to the above claims, characterised essentially because the tubular sleeve (1) can be positioned inside an optional thermal insulant type cover (5), said cover (5) being advantageously provided with a strap (6), a hook (7) or handle for holding and transporting same. 40 45
4. Thermal container for containers, according to the above claims, characterised essentially because the cover (5) of the tubular sleeve (1) is individual or multiple; in the first case it can be coupled to other similar covers, by means of use of conventional type hooks (8). 50 55
5. Thermal container for containers, according to the above claims, characterised essentially be-

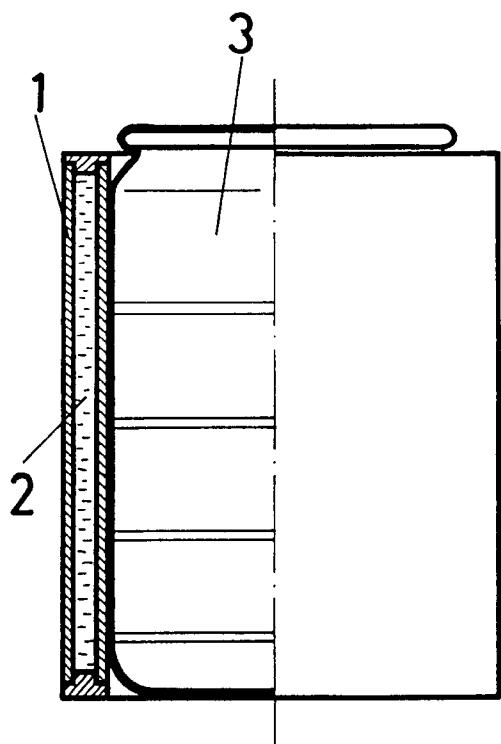
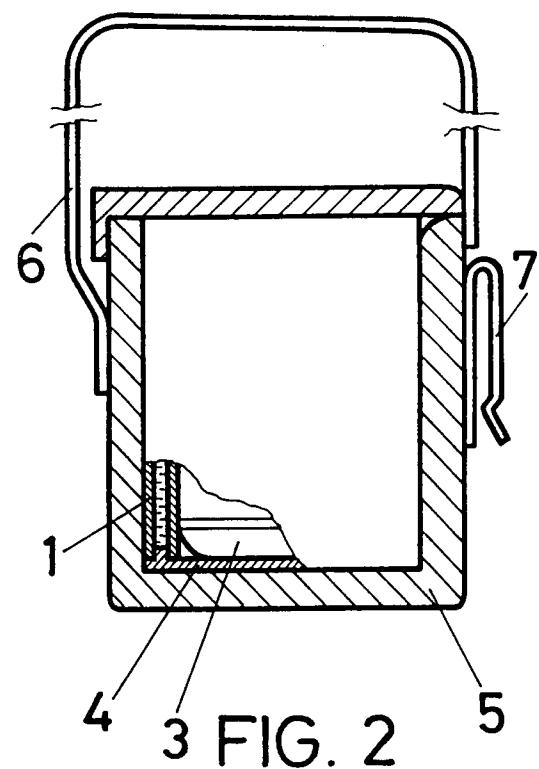


FIG. 1



4 3 FIG. 2 5

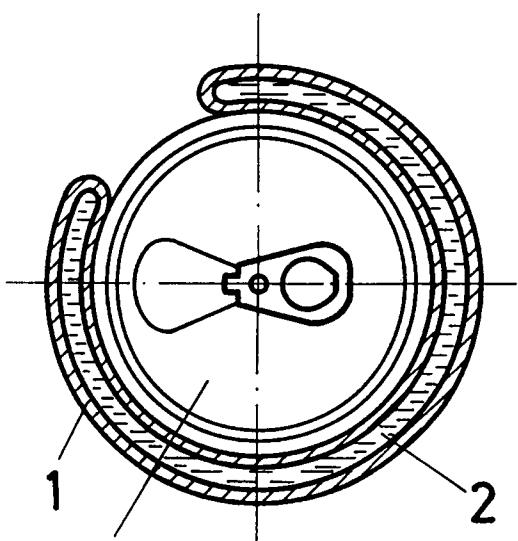


FIG. 3

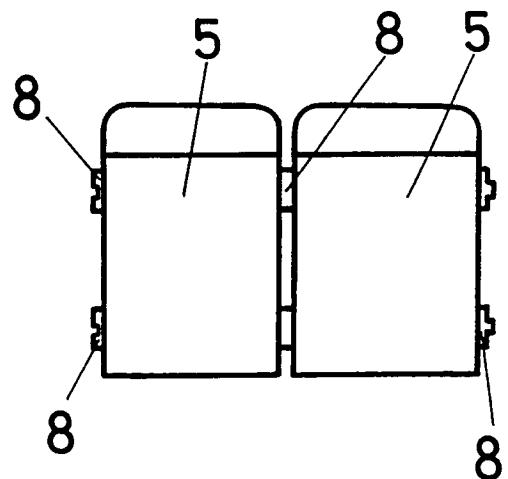


FIG. 4



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 93 20 0763

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	CA-A-1 234 375 (K. BARNWELL)	1,2	B65D81/38
Y	* the whole document *	3-5	
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Y	US-A-3 848 766 (D. GANTT ET AL.)	3	
	* the whole document *		
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Y	US-A-5 038 954 (R. BROMLEY)	4	
	* column 4, line 22 - column 5, line 17; figures 1-4 *		
	* column 6, line 15 - line 38; figure 9 *		
	---		
Y	US-A-5 048 307 (G. BAXTER)	5	B65D
X	* column 2, line 22 - column 3, line 29; figures 1,3,4 *	1	
	---		
X	US-A-5 048 734 (G. LONG)	1,2	
	* column 2, line 41 - column 3, line 48; figures 1,2 *		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	28 JUNE 1993	PERNICE C.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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