(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) EP 0 758 985 B1

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION**

(45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent:
26.11.1997 Bulletin 1997/48

(21) Application number: **95918078.7**

(22) Date of filing: **10.05.1995**

(51) Int. Cl.[6]: **B65D 23/12**, B65D 51/28

(86) International application number:
PCT/GB95/01053

(87) International publication number:
WO 95/31380 (23.11.1995 Gazette 1995/50)

(54) **PACKAGE**
VERPACKUNG
EMBALLAGE

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE

(30) Priority: **13.05.1994 GB 9409579**
12.01.1995 GB 9500554

(43) Date of publication of application:
26.02.1997 Bulletin 1997/09

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Description

The present invention relates to a package for placement on a bottle and a method of assembling a package for placement on a bottle. The invention is particularly, although not exclusively applicable to mounting a glass on the neck of a bottle.

It has previously been proposed to mount a glass on top of a bottle of whisky. One of the problems associated with mounting glasses on these bottles is that, once the bottle has been filled with whisky it is not allowed to leave the bonded premises and of course the bottle must first be filled and have the cap put on before the glass can be mounted.

It has been proposed to place a polystyrene disc around the neck of the bottle, and then to mount the glass over the neck of the bottle with the side wall of the glass being held away from contact with the neck by the polystyrene. A sleeve of plastics is then placed over the glass and part of the length of the bottle with the plastics then being shrunk around the glass and bottle to hold the parts in their relative positions. The shrinking of the plastics is a specialist process that the bottling factory have neither the equipment nor the expertise for. Furthermore, the disc is unsightly and the shrunk sleeve can tend to slip off.

Another proposal is to form plastics into a cone shape by vacuum moulding with the top of the cone being open. The bottom wall of the cone has an upwardly extending rim into which an upside down rim of a glass is wedged such that the cone extends up into the glass. The glass is then pushed down over the top of a bottle to cause the opening in the plastics cone to pass around and engage with the underside of the cap of the bottle. Unfortunately the wedging action of the glass must be sufficiently strong to prevent the glass from coming off accidentally and this makes the removal of the glass from the plastics difficult and dangerous as the glass may break because of the significant force which has to be used. Furthermore, the outside of the glass is exposed leaving it vulnerable to scratching or knocks.

FR-A- 2 629 425 discloses a package for placement on a bottle. The package for placement comprises a glass and a strip of folded carton for retaining the glass on the neck of the bottle.

It is an object of the present invention to attempt to overcome at least some of the above described disadvantages.

According to one aspect of the present invention in a package for placement on a bottle the package comprises an article, and separate first and second parts said article having an open end arranged, when mounted on a bottle, to be located around a part of the bottle, the first part extending within the article and cooperating with the article to restrict movement of the first part and the article in at least one relative direction, the second part cooperating with the first part and the article to prevent separation of the first part and the article, the first part being adapted to be mounted on a bottle characterised in that a surface of the first part extends over the open end of the article to restrict movement of the first part further into the article, the second part cooperating with the first part and the article by extending over the first part that extends over the open end of the article to prevent separation of the first part and the article.

The first part may be adapted to be mounted on a bottle by being a push-fit or a snap-fit, for instance.

The article may be arranged to be spaced from a bottle when the package is mounted on a bottle.

The package may be arranged to be spaced from a bottle or, alternatively to abut a bottle when the package is mounted on a bottle.

The first part may be arranged to be a friction fit with the article and may be arranged to be a friction fit within the article.

The first part may extend into the article.

The second part may extend around and over surfaces of both the article and the first part.

The second part may comprise a sleeve or a carton. The carton may include a portion that is arranged to be closed, after the first part and the article have been moved into the desired position in order to prevent separation of the first and second parts.

The present invention also includes a package as herein referred to when mounted on a bottle.

According to a further aspect of the present invention in a method of assembling a package for placement on a bottle the package comprising separate first and second parts and an article the method comprises locating said first part within said article so that said article and said first part cooperate with each other to restrict relative movement in at least one relative direction and then locating said second part to prevent separation of the first part and the article with said first part being adapted to be mounted on a bottle characterised in that a surface of the first part is caused to extend over the open end of the article to restrict movement of the first part further into the article with the second part being caused to cooperate with the first part by extending over the first part that extends over the open end of the article to prevent separation of the first part and the article.

The method may further include subsequently mounting the first part on a bottle.

The second part may comprise a sleeve which is shrunk in order to prevent separation of the first and second parts.

The second part may comprise a carton and the carton may include a portion that is closed in order to prevent separation of the first part and the carton.

The support may comprise the neck of the bottle or the cap of the bottle.

The article may comprise a glass.

The first part may be a plastics part and may, for instance, be vacuum formed.

The second part may comprise plastics and may be

formed by shrink wrapping plastics.

The invention may be carried into practice in various ways but two embodiments will now be described, by way of example only, and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic cross-section through the top of a bottle 10 having a glass 12 mounted thereon, and

Figure 2 is a schematic plan view of a glass insert 14; and

Figure 3 is a schematic cross-section similar to Figure 1 of an alternative embodiment to retain the glass 12.

Before the glass 12 is mounted on the bottle 10, the insert 14 is first connected to the glass 12 and held thereon by the sleeve 16 to form a package.

In order to connect the insert 14 to the glass 12, the insert 14 is supported on a flat surface and the glass 12 is then inverted to the position shown and pushed downwardly on to the insert. The downwardly facing rim of the glass first encounters an upwardly and inwardly extending annular edge 18 of the insert that has the effect of centralising the insert on the glass. Upon further downward movement of the glass, the inner surface of the glass adjacent to the rim passes over a generally upwardly extending surface 20 of the insert. The diameter of the surface 20 is substantially the same as the diameter of the glass adjacent to the rim and accordingly the insert is held in position relative to the glass by a friction or force fit. The lower rim of the glass rests on an outwardly extending lip 22 of the insert.

The insert 14 is then supported from beneath and at a region in from its circumference in order to raise the lip 22 and the rim of the glass off a supporting surface. The sleeve 16 is then passed over the glass with the sleeve being slightly longer than the length of the glass. Heat is then applied to the sleeve 16 to cause it to shrink onto the glass and to cause the lower end of the sleeve 16 to tuck under the lip 22 of the insert to hold the insert 14 firmly onto the glass 12. The package of the insert 14, the glass 12 and the sleeve 16 is assembled at a specialist factory remote from a whisky bottling plant. The package can then be supplied to the plant for attachment to the bottle, as described below.

When the bottle 10 has been filled the cap 24 is screwed onto the neck of the bottle. The cap 24 has a bulbous portion 26. The inverted glass and the insert 14 are then passed over the cap 24 and pushed downwardly in order to cause an opening 28 at the top of the insert to come into engagement with the uppermost part of the bulbous portion 26. Further downwards movement of the glass then causes the opening 28 to be flexed outwardly, or outwardly and upwardly with respect to the remainder of the insert, to snap the insert into position at the lower region of the bulbous portion 26, as shown in Figure 1. Further upwards movement of the insert is prevented or inhibited by the bulbous portion and further downwards movement of the insert relative to the cap is prevented or inhibited by abutment of the walls of the opening with a flange 30 of the cap located immediately beneath the bulbous portion. Although not shown, in an alternative embodiment the cap 24 will be contacted by the downwardly facing surface of the glass when the package is fully mounted on the neck of the bottle. In this instance further downward movement of the package relative to the glass may be resisted, either partially or solely, by abutment of the glass with the top of the cap.

The sleeve 16 can be printed with advertising or other information, if desired. The sleeve 16 may be formed with a weakened line, which may for instance be formed by a series of perforations. Thus the sleeve 16 can easily be ripped off by a user, either before or after the glass has been removed from the top of the bottle. The glass is removed from the top by pulling the glass upwardly to cause the opening 28 of the insert to pass again over the bulbous portion 26 of the cap 24.

The insert 14 is vacuum formed and can be of any shape required in order to hold a particular shaped glass onto a particular neck of a bottle. The glass need not necessarily be circular in cross-section and may indeed have a number of substantially planar walls.

The insert is shown in slightly more detail in Figure 2. Adjacent to the opening 28 a number of flat generally horizontal walls 32 extend. A downwardly and slightly outwardly extending wall 34 extends from the circumferentially outer portion of the walls 32. A generally vertical wall 35 extends down from the space between the generally horizontal walls 34 from the opening 28 at the circumferentially inner portion of the walls 34. In an alternative configuration of the insert (not shown) upwardly extending side walls are generally smooth and conical in shape. The insert so formed is strong in the directions that the most stress is taken and yet flexible enough to be quickly and conveniently mounted on the glass and then on the cap.

The embodiment shown in Figure 3 shows an insert 14A similar to the insert 14 mounted over the bulbous portion 26 of the cap 24. The insert 14A differs in that it is not shown as being a friction or force fit within the glass although, if desired, the insert could be so fitted. The insert 14A also differs from the insert 14 in that the outwardly extending lip 22A is of greater extent than the lip 22 such that the lip 22A extends beneath the lower rim of the glass well beyond the periphery of that rim.

The insert is retained in place relative to the glass 12 by a cardboard carton 36. The carton, which may be circular or square in plan view includes an opening 37 and a closable hinged top 38. The glass and insert are moved down through the carton when the top 38 is open to the position shown. Then the top 38 is closed and it is taped or glue into the position shown. The lower wall 39 of the carton and the top 38 may abut the lip 22A and the top of the glass to hold the carton fast on the glass

and insert, if desired.

Attaching the insert 14A to a bottle top is the same as for the attachment of the insert 14.

It will be appreciated that the insert 14 could be arranged to be connected to the glass of the bottle itself and the insert 14 can be adapted for attachment to other types of cap 24 or bottle 10. Alternatively the insert could be attached to other articles or the packages could contain articles other than glass.

Claims

1. A package for placement on a bottle (12), the package comprising an article (12), and separate first (14, 14A) and second parts (16, 36) said article having an open end arranged, when mounted on a bottle, to be located around a part of the bottle, the first part (14, 14A) extending within the article and cooperating with the article (12) to restrict movement of the first part and the article in at least one relative direction, the second part (16, 36) cooperating with the first part (14, 14A) and the article (12) to prevent separation of the first part and the article, the first part (14, 14A) being adapted to be mounted on a bottle characterised in that a surface (22, 22A) of the first part (14, 14A) extends over the open end of the article (12) to restrict movement of the first part further into the article, the second part (16, 36) cooperating with the first part (14, 14A) and the article by extending over the first part that extends over the open end of the article (12) to prevent separation of the first part (14, 14A) and the article (12).

2. A package according to Claim 1 in which said first part (14,14A) is adapted to be mounted on a bottle by being a push fit.

3. A package according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which said first part (14,14A) is adapted to be mounted on a bottle (12) by being a snap fit.

4. A package according to any preceding claim, in which the article is arranged to be spaced from a bottle when said package is mounted on a bottle.

5. A package according to any of Claims 1 to 3 in which the article is arranged to abut a bottle when the package is mounted on a bottle.

6. A package according to any preceding claim, in which said first part is arranged to be a friction fit with the article.

7. A package according to Claim 6 in which said first part is arranged to be a friction fit within said article.

8. A package according to any preceding claim, in which said first part extends into said bottle.

9. A package according to any preceding claim, in which said second part extends around and over surfaces of both the bottle and said first part.

10. A package according to any preceding claim, in which said second part comprises a sleeve (14).

11. A package according to any preceding claim, in which said second part comprises a carton (14A).

12. A package according to Claim 11 in which said carton includes a portion that is arranged to be closed, after the first part and the article have been moved into the desired position in order to prevent separation of the first and second parts.

13. A package according to any preceding claim, when mounted on a bottle.

14. A method of assembling a package for placement on a bottle (12), the package comprising separate first (14,14A), and second parts (16,36) and an article (12), the method comprising locating said first part (14,14A) within said article (12) so that said article and said first part cooperate with each other to restrict relative movement in at least one relative direction and then locating said second part (16,36) to prevent separation of the first part and the article with said first part being adapted to be mounted on a bottle (26) characterised in that a surface (22, 22A) of the first part is caused to extend over the open end of the article (12) to restrict movement of the first part further into the article (12) with the second part being caused to cooperate with the first part (14, 14A) by extending over the first part (14, 14A) that extends over the open end of the article to prevent separation of the first part (14, 14A) and the article (12).

15. A method according to Claim 14 comprising subsequently mounting said first part on a bottle (26).

16. A method according to Claim 14 or Claim 15 in which said second part comprises a sleeve (14) which is shrunk in order to prevent separation of said first and second parts.

17. A method according to any of Claims 14 to 16 in which said second part comprises a carton (14A) and said carton includes a portion that is closed in order to prevent separation of said first part and said carton.

18. A method according to any of Claims 14 to 17 in which said support comprises the neck of said bottle.

19. A method according to Claim 18 in which said support comprises the cap of said bottle.

Patentansprüche

1. Baueinheit zur Anordnung auf einer Flasche (12), wobei die Baueinheit folgendes aufweist:

   einen Aufsatz (12) und
   ein separates erstes (14, 14A) und zweites Teil (16, 36),
   wobei der Aufsatz ein offenes Ende hat, das so eingerichtet ist, daß es, wenn er auf der Flasche montiert ist, um einen Teil der Flasche herum angeordnet ist,
   wobei sich das erste Teil (14, 14A) innerhalb des Aufsatzes erstreckt und mit dem Aufsatz (12) zusammenwirkt, um die Bewegung des ersten Teiles und des Aufsatzes in zumindest einer Relativrichtung zu begrenzen,
   wobei das zweite Teil (16, 36) mit dem ersten Teil (14, 14A) und dem Aufsatz (12) zusammenwirkt, um eine Trennung des ersten Teiles und des Aufsatzes zu verhindern,
   wobei das erste Teil (14, 14A) daran angepaßt ist, auf einer Flasche montiert zu werden,
   dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß
   sich eine Fläche (22, 22A) des ersten Teiles (14, 14A) über das offene Ende des Aufsatzes (12) erstreckt, um die weiter in den Aufsatz hineingehende Bewegung des ersten Teiles zu begrenzen,
   wobei das zweite Teil (16, 36) mit dem ersten Teil (14, 14A) und dem Aufsatz zusammenwirkt, indem es sich über das erste Teil erstreckt, das sich über das offene Ende des Aufsatzes (12) erstreckt, um eine Trennung des ersten Teiles (14, 14A) und des Aufsatzes (12) zu verhindern.

2. Baueinheit nach Anspruch 1, wobei das erste Teil (14, 14A) daran angepaßt ist, auf einer Flasche montiert zu werden, indem es ein Schiebesitz ist.

3. Baueinheit nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 2, wobei das erste Teil (14, 14A) daran angepaßt ist, auf einer Flasche montiert zu werden, indem es ein Einrastsitz ist.

4. Baueinheit nach einem der vorherigen Ansprüche, wobei der Aufsatz so angeordnet ist, daß er von einer Flasche beabstandet ist, wenn die Baueinheit auf einer Flasche montiert ist.

5. Baueinheit nach einem Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei der Aufsatz so angeordnet ist, daß er an einer Flasche anliegt, wenn die Baueinheit auf einer Flasche montiert ist.

6. Baueinheit nach einem der vorherigen Ansprüche, wobei das erste Teil so angeordnet ist, daß es ein Reibungssitz mit dem Aufsatz ist.

7. Baueinheit nach Anspruch 6, wobei das erste Teil so angeordnet ist, daß es ein Reibungssitz innerhalb des Aufsatzes ist.

8. Baueinheit nach einem der vorherigen Ansprüche, wobei sich das erste Teil in die Flasche erstreckt.

9. Baueinheit nach einem der vorherigen Ansprüche, wobei sich das zweite Teil um und über die Oberflächen sowohl der Flasche als auch des ersten Teiles erstreckt.

10. Baueinheit nach einem der vorherigen Ansprüche, wobei das zweite Teil eine Hülse (14) aufweist.

11. Baueinheit nach einem der vorherigen Ansprüche, wobei das zweite Teil einen Karton (14) aufweist.

12. Baueinheit nach Anspruch 11, wobei der Karton einen Abschnitt umfaßt, der so angeordnet ist, daß er geschlossen wird, nachdem das erste Teil und der Aufsatz in die erwünschte Position bewegt worden sind, um eine Trennung des ersten und des zweites Teiles zu verhindern.

13. Baueinheit nach einem der vorherigen Ansprüche, wenn diese auf einer Flasche montiert ist.

14. Verfahren zum Zusammenbauen einer Baueinheit zur Anordnung auf einer Flasche (12), wobei die Baueinheit folgendes aufweist:

   ein separates erstes (14, 14A) und zweites Teil (16, 36) und
   einen Aufsatz (12),
   wobei das Verfahren folgende Schritte aufweist:
   Anordnen des ersten Teiles (14, 14A) innerhalb des Aufsatzes (12), so daß der Aufsatz (12) und das erste Teil zusammenwirken, um die Relativbewegung in zumindest einer Relativrichtung zu begrenzen, und danach
   Anordnen des zweiten Teiles (16, 36), um eine Trennung des ersten Teiles und des Aufsatzes zu verhindern, wobei das erste Teil daran angepaßt ist, auf einer Flasche (26) montiert zu werden,
   dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß
   bewirkt wird, daß sich eine Fläche (22, 22A) des ersten Teiles über das offene Ende des Aufsatzes (12) erstreckt, um die weiter in den Aufsatz (12) hineingehende Bewegung des ersten Teiles zu begrenzen,
   wobei bewirkt wird, daß das zweite Teil (16, 36) mit dem ersten Teil (14, 14A) zusammenwirkt, indem es sich über das erste Teil (14, 14A) erstreckt, das sich über das offene Ende des Aufsatzes erstreckt, um eine Trennung des ersten Teiles (14, 14A) und des Aufsatzes (12)

zu verhindern.

15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 14, das anschließend ein Montieren des ersten Teiles auf einer Flasche (26) aufweist.

16. Verfahren nach Anspruch 14 oder Anspruch 15, wobei das zweite Teil eine Hülse (14) aufweist, die geschrumpft ist, um eine Trennung des ersten und des zweites Teiles zu verhindern.

17. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 14 bis 16, wobei das zweite Teil einen Karton (14A) aufweist und der Karton einen Abschnitt umfaßt, der geschlossen ist, um eine Trennung des ersten Teiles und des Kartons zu verhindern.

18. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 14 bis 17, wobei die Stütze den Hals der Flasche umfaßt.

19. Verfahren nach Anspruch 18, wobei die Stütze die Abdeckung der Flasche umfaßt.

Revendications

1. Emballage destiné à être mis en place sur une bouteille (12), l'emballage comprenant un article (12), et des première (14, 14A) et deuxième (16, 36) parties séparées, ledit article comportant une extrémité ouverte disposée, lorsqu'elle est montée sur une bouteille, de manière à se trouver autour d'une partie de la bouteille, la première partie (14, 14A) s'étendant à l'intérieur de l'article et coopérant avec l'article (12) pour limiter le déplacement de la première partie et de l'article au moins dans une direction relative, la deuxième partie (16, 36) coopérant avec la première partie (14, 14A) et l'article (12) pour empêcher une séparation de la première partie et de l'article, la première partie (14, 14A) étant adaptée pour être montée sur une bouteille, caractérisé en ce qu'une surface (22, 22A) de la première partie (14, 14A) s'étend sur l'extrémité ouverte de l'article (12) pour limiter la pénétration de la première partie plus loin dans l'article, la deuxième partie (16, 36) coopérant avec la première partie (14, 14A) et l'article en se prolongeant sur la première partie, qui s'étend sur l'extrémité ouverte de l'article (12), afin d'empêcher une séparation de la première partie (14, 14A) et de l'article (12).

2. Emballage selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ladite première partie (14, 14A) est adaptée pour être montée sur une bouteille en étant insérée par poussée.

3. Emballage selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel ladite première partie (14, 14A) est adaptée pour être montée sur une bouteille (12) en étant insérée par enclenchement.

4. Emballage selon n'importe quelle revendication précédente, dans lequel l'article est conçu de manière à être espacé d'une bouteille quand ledit emballage est monté sur une bouteille.

5. Emballage selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel l'article est conçu de manière à porter contre une bouteille quand l'emballage est monté sur une bouteille.

6. Emballage selon n'importe quelle revendication précédente, dans lequel ladite première partie est conçue de manière à se trouver assemblée par frottement avec l'article.

7. Emballage selon la revendication 6, dans lequel ladite première partie est conçue pour se trouver assemblée par frottement dans ledit article.

8. Emballage selon n'importe quelle revendication précédente, dans lequel ladite première partie s'étend jusque dans la bouteille.

9. Emballage selon n'importe quelle revendication précédente, dans lequel ladite deuxième partie s'étend autour de surfaces de la bouteille et de ladite première partie ainsi que sur ces surfaces.

10. Emballage selon n'importe quelle revendication précédente, dans lequel ladite deuxième partie comprend un manchon (14).

11. Emballage selon n'importe quelle revendication précédente, dans lequel ladite deuxième partie comprend un carton (14A).

12. Emballage selon la revendication 11, dans lequel ledit carton comprend une portion qui est conçue pour être fermée après que la première partie et l'article ont été amenés dans la position désirée pour empêcher la séparation des première et deuxième parties.

13. Emballage selon n'importe quelle revendication précédente, quand il est monté sur une bouteille.

14. Procédé pour assembler un emballage destiné à être mis en place sur une bouteille (12), cet emballage comprenant des première (14, 14A) et deuxième (16, 36) parties séparées et un article (12), ce procédé comprenant la mise en place de ladite première partie (14, 14A) dans ledit article (12) de manière que ledit article et ladite première partie coopérent mutuellement de manière à limiter leur déplacement relatif dans au moins une direction relative et la mise en place ensuite de ladite deuxième partie (16, 36) pour empêcher une séparation de la première partie et de l'article, ladite première partie étant adaptée pour être montée sur

une bouteille (26), caractérisé en ce qu'une surface (22, 22A) de la première partie est amenée à s'étendre sur l'extrémité ouverte de l'article (12) pour limiter le déplacement de la première partie plus loin dans l'article (12), la deuxième partie étant amenée à coopérer avec la première partie (14, 14A) en se prolongeant sur la première partie (14, 14A), qui s'étend sur l'extrémité ouverte de l'article, afin d'empêcher la séparation de la première partie (14, 14A) et de l'article (12).

15. Procédé selon la revendication 14, comprenant ensuite le montage de ladite première partie sur une bouteille (26).

16. Procédé selon la revendication 14 ou la revendication 15, dans lequel ladite deuxième partie comprend un manchon (14) que l'on contracte pour empêcher la séparation desdites première et deuxième parties.

17. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 14 à 16, dans lequel ladite deuxième partie comprend un carton (14A) et ledit carton comprend une portion qui est fermée pour empêcher une séparation de ladite première partie et dudit carton.

18. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 14 à 17, dans lequel ledit support comprend le goulot de ladite bouteille.

19. Procédé selon la revendication 18, dans lequel ledit support comprend le bouchon de ladite bouteille

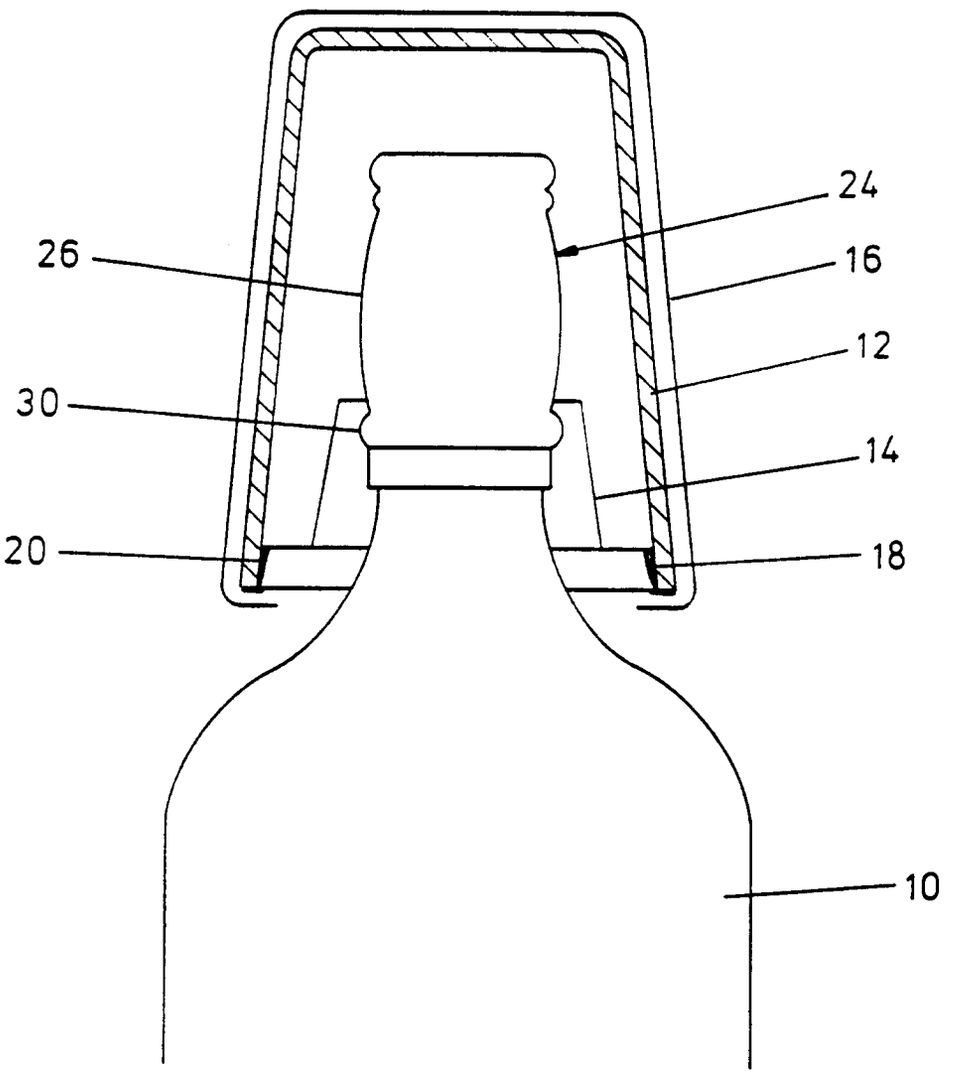

FIG. 1

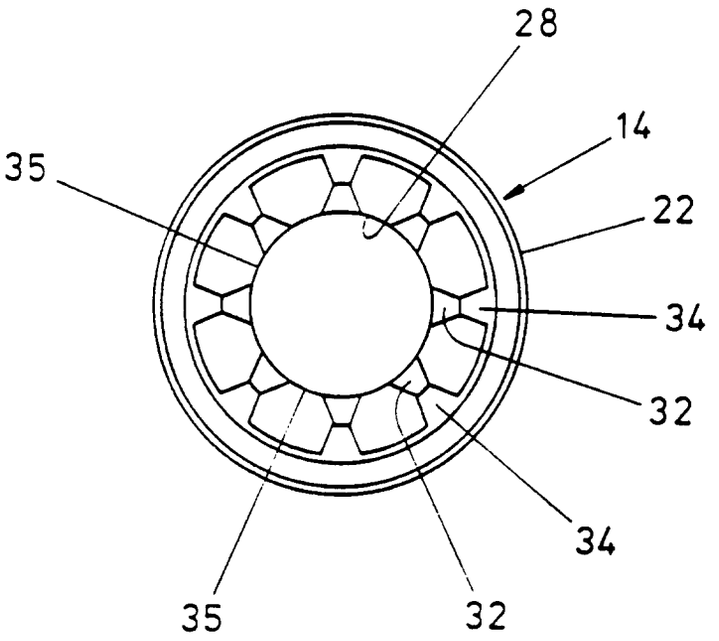

FIG. 2

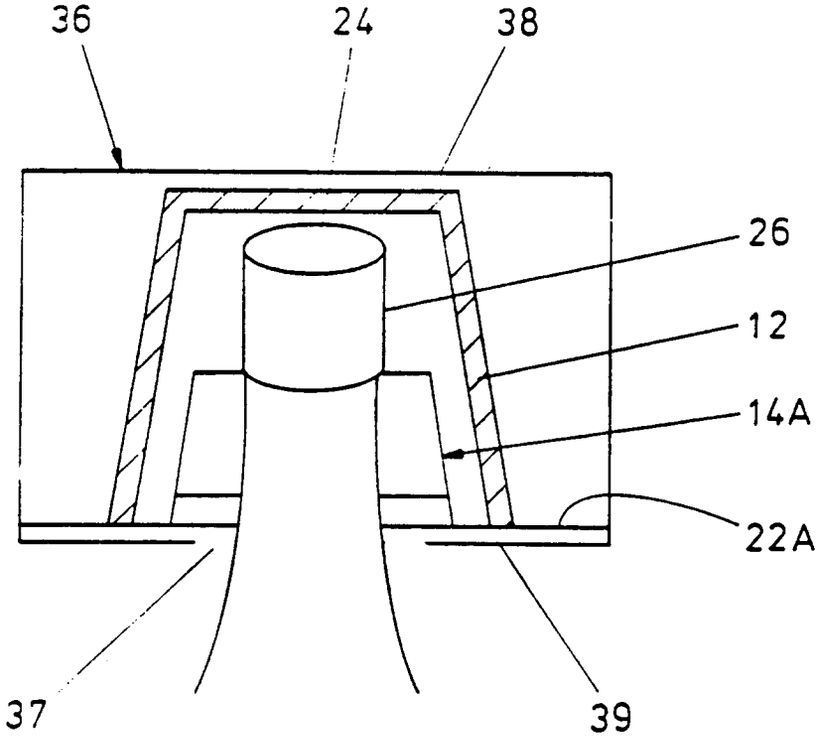

FIG. 3