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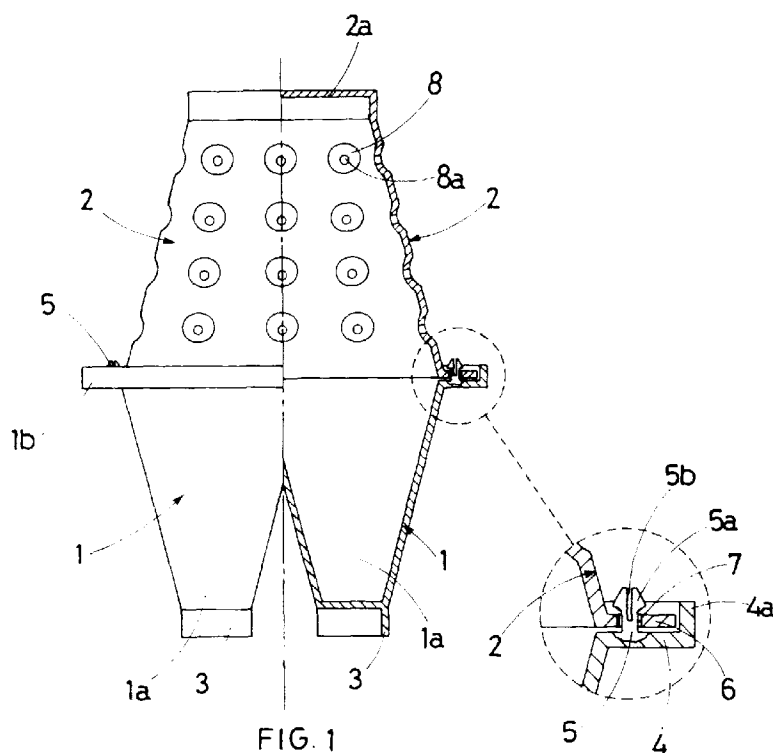
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(54) **Vase for the correct preservation of flowers during the picking, storing, transport and sales phases**

(57) This invention concerns a plastic moulded vase for proper preservation of flowers after picking through to storage, delivery and sale. The vase consists of a bottom hollow casing which contains water and acts as a support and stabiliser as well as an upper truncated pyr-

amid shaped lid (2) having circular cavities (8) on its walls with centre holes (8a) in which the flower corollas are housed after passing the stalks through the holes (8a) at the center of said cavity so as to soak in the water in the underlying tank casing.



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Description

This patent application concerns a vase for the preservation of flowers after picking and during storage, delivery and sale.

The item in question, which has no precedent state of the art in any way similar, was designed for the precise purpose of resolving a very difficult problem for flower farmers, namely that of preserving flowers for the time after picking to their arrival at the florists.

To date the cut flowers have always been packaged horizontally in large cardboard boxes in which they are transported.

Regardless of how short the transport may be, it is quite obvious that flowers packaged in this way will remain for at least some time without water, whereas it is just as evident that in order to preserve cut flowers their stalks must be kept in water.

Consequently flowers which are stored and transported in this way often reach destination in a precarious state of preservation, and are no longer very fresh.

As mentioned above, the purpose of the invention in question is to find a serious solution to this problem; more precisely, the invention is the first item known that allows keeping flower stalks immersed in water from the time it is picked to the time the florist delivers it to the end purchaser.

The all plastic moulded vase according to the invention consists of two different components which are assembled securely together: a container for the water in which the flower stalks are immersed and an upper lid having external circular cavities whose purpose is not only to support the flower corollas but to protect them from jolting.

In particular, the above bottom container has a substantially upside down truncated pyramid shape even if in fact the bottom area has a deep upside down "V" shaped centre groove running upwards from the bottom which permits forming two separate legs on said container, which also have an upside down truncated pyramid shape.

This feature is designed to reduce the internal volume of the container in question and consequently limit its weight once it is filled with water.

During use, said container is filled only in part, in other words only up to the above two legs so as to improve its self stabilising capacity in view of the fact that in this way most of the weight is concentrated towards the supporting base.

The fact that the items is designed so that the water occupies only the volume inside the two legs of the container in question ensures less splashing and reduces accidental loss of water - during handling and delivery of the item according to the invention.

The reduced weight of the container as well as its excellent self-stabilising capacity are particularly appreciable features, especially during transport.

The lid of the vase in question features a truncated

pyramid structure on whose walls the above circular cavities are realised at different height which ensures that the item in question can contain a large number of flowers.

In particular, each of said cavities has a hole on the bottom in which the cut flower stalk is pushed until the corolla of the flower is completely housed in its respective cavity.

During this operation the flower stalk slides gradually into the lid until it is completely immersed in the water in the container below with which the lid in question is joined securely.

It is obvious that once the flower has been housed in the vase in question, the same may be stored before shipment, delivered or even displayed for retail sale purposes, without the need for any further precautions in that the vase according to the invention not only ensures that the stalk has water at all times but also that the flower as a whole is correctly supported in an almost vertical position while its corolla is protected entirely.

In addition, to facilitate transport, the vase in question is designed to abut securely next to other vases of the same type in order to optimise storage, thereby saving space and ensuring that the vases support each other against jolting that inevitably occurs during transport.

In order to further optimise storage of the new item according to the invention, the same is designed so that each vase may be stacked very securely on another identical vase thanks to a vertical edge projecting downwards around the bottom wall of the two legs of the container, said edge being capable of clasping the top of the truncated pyramid shaped lid beneath the item.

In this regard, it should be mentioned that if it is not necessary to stack the vases, the above edge acts as the actual supporting base of the vase according to the invention.

For major clarity the description according to the invention continues with reference to the enclosed drawings which are intended for purposes of illustration and not in a limiting sense, whereby:

- figure 1 is a half view and half cross-section of an example of the item in question;
- figure 2 is a cross-section - with partial illustration - of two examples of the vase according to the invention in stacked position.

With reference to the enclosed figures, the new vase in question which is moulded in plastic consists of a container (1) and an upper lid (2) which can be assembled together securely. In particular, container (1) consists of a hollow upside down truncated pyramid shaped body having a deep upside down "V" shaped groove at the centre which gives rise to two identical legs (1a) also having an upside truncated pyramid shape, featuring respective vertical edges (3) projecting downwards along the perimeter of the bottom wall.

The mouth of said container (1) features an "L"

shaped perimeter edge (4) whose vertical wing (4a) is turned upwards; on this same edge (4) but more internally with respect to the above vertical wing (4a) there are various elastic pins (5) with widened head (5a) having a centre diametric notch (5b).

The lid (2) consists of a hollow truncated pyramid shaped body; the upper horizontal wall (2a) of said lid having a surface which is identical to that of the bottom area of the container (1), while its wide bottom aperture has a surface area almost identical to that of the mouth of the container below (1).

Around said aperture, a horizontal projecting edge (6) is provided, which, during assembly of the two components of the vase in question - positions itself exactly above the horizontal wing of the above "L" shaped edge (4) around the mouth of container (1) and fits precisely in the vertical wing (4a) of the same (4).

In addition, said perimeter edge (6) of lid (2) features a series of through holes (7) in which the pins (5) projecting vertically from the perimeter edge (4) of container (1) snap fit into place.

The coupling between the pins (5) and the holes (7) make the coupling between the container (1) and the lid (2) particularly stable; said coupling is however easily released when separating the two components of the vase according to the invention, simply by pulling the lid (2) upwards firmly.

An alternative closing system between the lid and the container to that described above could also consist of a series of press studs positioned appropriately between the two components.

With regard to said lid (2), the same features a series of cavities (8) on its two side walls for housing the corollas, featuring holes (8a) on the bottom into which the flower stalks are pushed.

Figure 2 shows how two vases according to the invention are stacked; the vertical edge (3) realised along the perimeter of the bottom of the container (1) of the vase above, holds the upper area of the lid (2) of the underlying vase.

Claims

1. A vase for preserving flower after picking and during storage, delivery and sales characterised in that the same consists of:

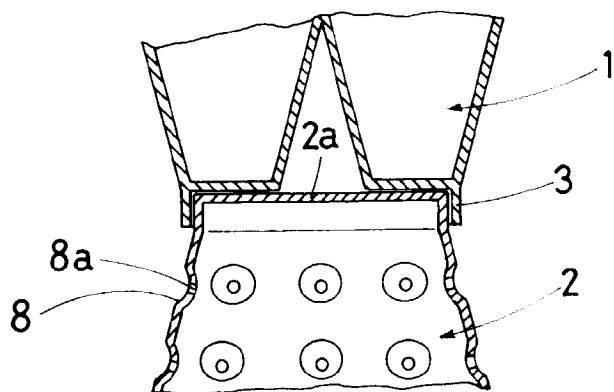
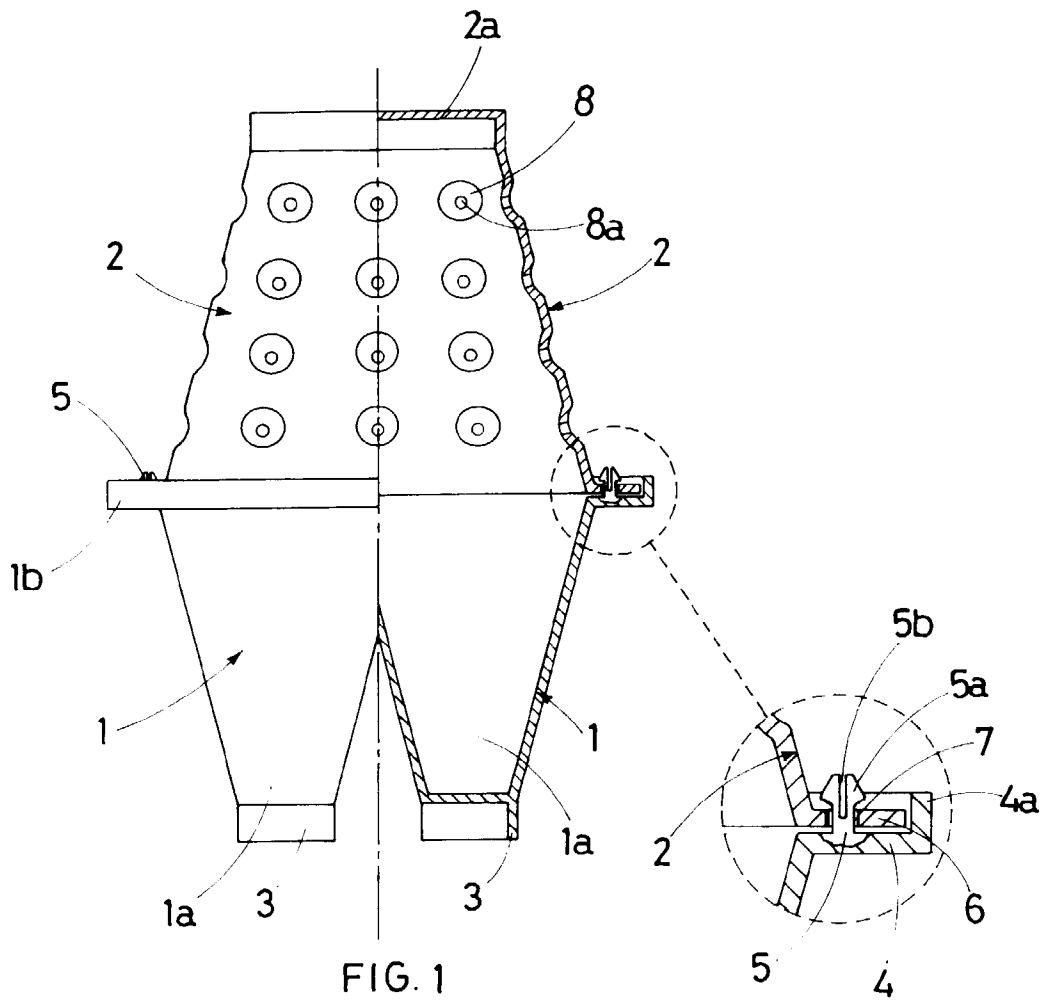
- a container (1) moulded in plastic consisting of a hollow upside down truncated pyramid shaped casing, having at the centre a deep upside down "V" running upwards which gives rise to two identical legs (1a) also featuring an upside down truncated pyramid shape, having respective vertical edges (3) projecting downwards along the perimeter edge of the bottom wall; moreover said container (1) also features at its mouth an "L" shaped perimeter edge (4)

with vertical wing (4a) turned upwards;

- a lid (2) moulded in plastic consisting of a hollow truncated pyramid shape having a series of almost circular cavities (8) on its two side walls, featuring respective holes (8a); said lid (2) being fitted with an upper horizontal wall (2a) whose surface area is identical to that of the bottom area of the container (1) and a bottom aperture whose surface area is almost identical to that of the mouth of the underlying container (1), which has a horizontal edge (6) along the perimeter whose width is almost identical to that of the horizontal wing of the edge (4) around the mouth of the container (1); said horizontal edge (6) running along the mouth of lid (2) and on the horizontal wing of edge (4) along the mouth of container (1) feature means which ensure a secure coupling between the lid (2) and the container (1) of the item according to the invention.

2. A vase for preserving flowers after picking and during storage, delivery and sale according to claim 1, characterised in that the means for the stable coupling of the lid (2) on the underlying container (1) consist of a series of elastic pins (5) having widened head (5a) and diametric notch (5b) realised during the same moulding phase and with the same material on the horizontal wing of the edge (4) running around the mouth of the container (1), which are capable of snap fitting into a corresponding series of through holes (7) realised on the horizontal edge (6) around the mouth of lid (2).

3. A vase for preserving flowers after picking and during storage, delivery and sale according to claim 1 characterised in a preferred embodiment of the invention in that the means for the secure coupling of the lid (2) on the underlying container (1) consist of a series of press studs whose components are realised in part on the horizontal wing of the edge (4) around the mouth of the container (1) and in part on the horizontal edge (6) around the mouth of the lid (2).





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 83 0287

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.6)
A	GB 848 940 A (CRAXFORDS LTD) 21 September 1960 * page 21-1, line 39 - page 2, line 23; figures *	1	A47G7/07
A	WO 87 07823 A (FOSTER DAVID JOSEPH) 30 December 1987		
A	US 3 651 601 A (MONTAGNE RICHARD L LA) 28 March 1972		
A	US 4 044 502 A (HILLENBRAND GEORGE C) 30 August 1977		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A01G A47G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 17 April 1997	Examiner Vistisen, L
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