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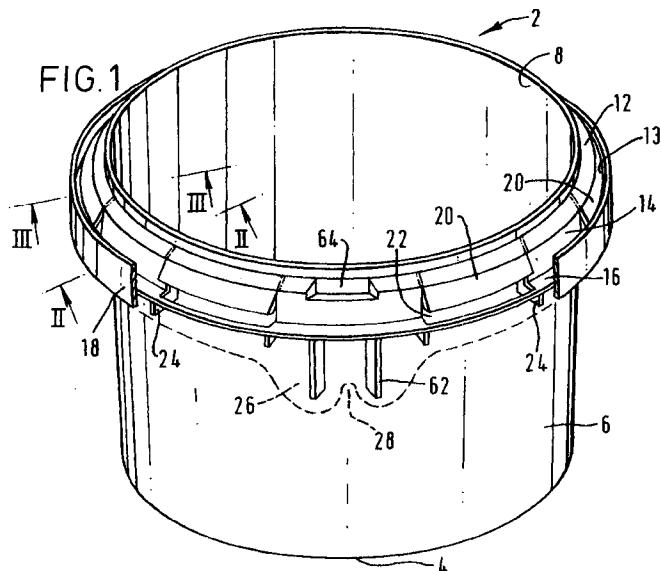
(54) Moulded container with peripheral channel for receiving a lid

(57) A container (2) has an upwardly open peripheral channel (13) formed around its rim for receiving a depending skirt (32) of a lid (10), and the channel has a plurality of clips (20) extending outwardly from its inner wall (14). The channel (13) is formed with apertures (22) arranged below each of the clips (20). The channel can have a tamper-evident portion which must be removed or deformed to allow the container to be opened. The apertures (22) are formed in the inner wall (14) of the

channel, and can also extend into the bottom wall (16). Projections can be provided between the outer (18) and bottom (16) walls of the channel, to hinder unauthorized removal of the lid.

The container can also have a handle (48), pivotable between a vertical carrying position and a horizontal stowed position, with means (54, 18; 56, 60) to prevent the handle (48) dropping below its horizontal position.

The invention also extends to a method of moulding the container.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 9782

| 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 | US 5 170 905 A (LUCH DANIEL) * column 2, line 55 - column 3, line 33 * * figures 1-14 * --- | 1 | B65D43/08 B65D43/06 |
| A | US 5 249 694 A (NELSON JAMES L) * column 3, line 1 - line 48 * * figures 1-8 * --- | 1 | |
| A | US 4 112 042 A (BROCKLEHURST JACK) * column 1, line 20 - line 60 * * figures 1-11 * --- | 22 | |
| A | WO 88 00559 A (SUN COAST PLASTICS INC) * page 3, line 25 - page 4, line 18; figures 1-9 * ----- | 22 | |
| TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) | | | |
| B65D | | | |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search | Date of completion of the search | | Examiner |
| THE HAGUE | 18 March 1998 | | Wennborg, J |
| 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 | | | |
| <small>EPO FORM 1503.03.02 (P04C01)</small> | | | |



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims

- All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claims:
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

See sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims: 1- 19,22- 28



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-19, 22-28

A container and a method of moulding, said container comprises an upwardly open peripheral channel with clips extending outwardly from the inner wall of the channel, characterized by apertures arranged in the channel below the clips.

2. Claim : 20

A container comprising a body, characterized by a pivotable handle and by means for keeping the handle in its horizontal position.

3. Claim : 21

A container comprising an upwardly open peripheral channel with clip means on the inner wall of the channel, characterized by projections for preventing the skirt of a lid received in the channel from being deflected outwardly.

Subject matter 1 as defined above addresses the problem of manufacturing a container with protruding clips in a two part mould.

Subject matter 2 addresses the problem of preventing the handle to move below its horizontal stowed position.

Subject matter 3 addresses the problem of making unauthorized removal of the lid more difficult.

Further, a container having a body and an upwardly open peripheral channel with clip means on the inner wall of the channel is known from US 5 170 905.

Thus, subject matter 1, 2 and 3 as defined above addresses different technical problems to be solved. Further, the respective groups of claims (1-19 and 22-28, 20 and 21 respectively) do not contain any corresponding technical features in the meaning of Rule 30(1) EPC. Therefore, the three groups of claims as specified above are lacking unity.

The subject matter first mentioned in the claims, i.e. claims 1-19 and 22-28 have been searched. Claims 20 and 21 have not been searched.