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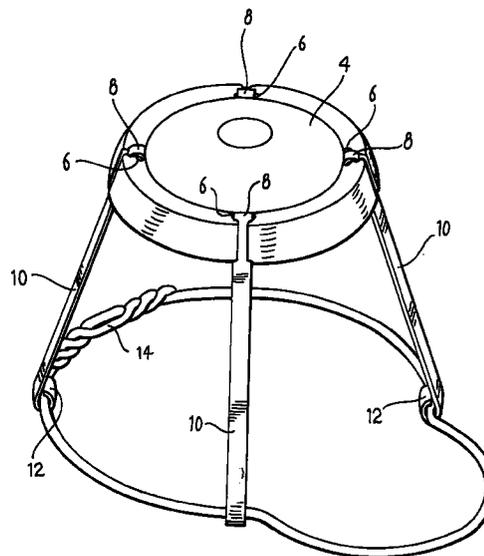
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(54) **Device for restraining corks of sparkling-wine bottles**

(57) A device (2) for restraining corks of sparkling-wine bottles is described and comprises a plate (4) having a plurality of peripheral slots (6); each of a number of metal legs (10) equal to the number of slots (6) has an end (8) which engages in a respective slot and another, ring-shaped end (12) for housing a piece of wire for closing the device onto the neck of the bottle.



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## Description

The present invention relates to a device for restraining corks of bottles for sparkling wines, champagne and the like.

In the prior art, once the conventional mushroom-shaped cork has been fitted in the neck of the bottle, a metal cap or plate is placed on the cork and is restrained by a cage made of twisted wire formed, at the opposite end to the cap, with loops through which two pieces of wire can extend to form the normal closure of the device on the neck of the bottle.

Although cages such as that just described are functionally satisfactory, they have some disadvantages.

The formation of the cage with twisted wire presents considerable problems with regard to production and precision of fitting as well as problems of hygiene since dust may be introduced between the twists of the wire during storage.

The amount of twisted wire used is quite large and, moreover, since conventional cages are standardized and easily available commercially, the caps which normally bear the trade mark or name of the producing company can be re-used for the bottling of unauthentic sparkling wine (naturally, this applies to very well-known companies) thus promoting unauthentic products with the use of a well-known image.

The object of the present invention is to provide a device for restraining corks of sparkling-wine bottles which prevents the aforementioned problems and which is easy to produce and inexpensive.

The present invention achieves the aforementioned objects by means of a device for restraining corks of bottles for sparkling wines and champagne having the specific characteristics recited in the following claims.

The present invention will now be described with reference to the appended drawing, provided purely by way of non-limiting example, in which the device for restraining corks for sparkling-wine bottles according to the invention is generally indicated 2; the device 2 comprises a cap or plate 4 having slots or perforated seats 6 in its peripheral portion. Each perforated seat 6 houses a hooked end 8 of a leg 10 made of substantially rectangular-sectioned metal tube. The opposite ends of the legs 10 to the hooked ends 8 terminate in rings or partial rings 12 which, in use, can house an open piece of wire which is twisted to form a joint 14 of known type at one end and, at the opposite end, is available for forming the normal twisted loop for opening the retaining device.

After the hooked ends 8 have been positioned in the slots 6, the portions of the plate adjacent the slots 6, and hence adjacent the legs 10, are squeezed (compressed) so as to squash the legs 10 on the sides adjacent the plate 4, enclosing them, so to speak, in the plate almost irremovably.

The advantages of a restraining device according to

the invention are clear.

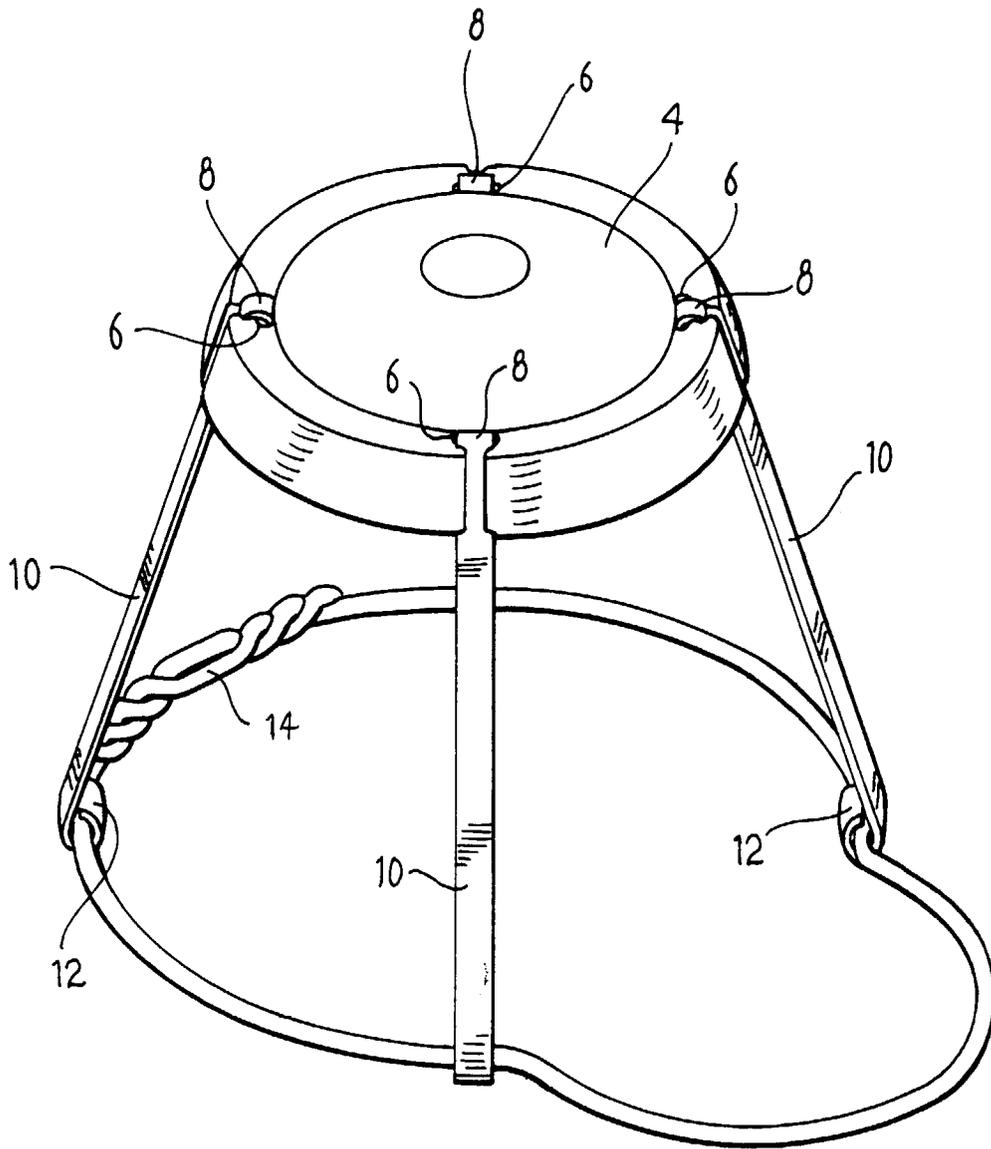
The amount of wire required in comparison with known restraining devices is drastically reduced.

The length of the legs is practically always constant and, moreover, the plate cannot be re-used without quite expensive tooling which in any case is not available on the market.

Naturally, the principle of the invention remaining the same, the forms of embodiment and details of construction may be varied widely without thereby departing from the scope of the present invention, for example, the legs may be made of metal strap or band.

## Claims

1. A device (2) for restraining corks of bottles for sparkling wines and champagne, characterized in that it comprises a plate (4) having a plurality of peripheral slots (6), and a number of legs (10) equal to the number of slots (6), each leg (10) having a first hooked end (8) for engaging in one of the slots (6) and a second end (12) shaped like a ring or a partial ring for housing at least one piece of wire, the plate (4) having squashed portions in the regions of the slots (6), and the legs (10) being enclosed and squashed in the squashed portions of the plate (4).
2. A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the legs (10) are made of metal tube.
3. A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the legs are formed by means of a metal strap.
4. A device according to Claim 2, characterized in that the legs are made of substantially rectangular-sectioned metal tube.





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	FR 1 470 413 A (MADY) * the whole document * -----	1, 2, 4	B65D1/00 B65D55/06
			<b>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)</b>
			B65D B21F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	11 May 1998	Gino, C	
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> 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	

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