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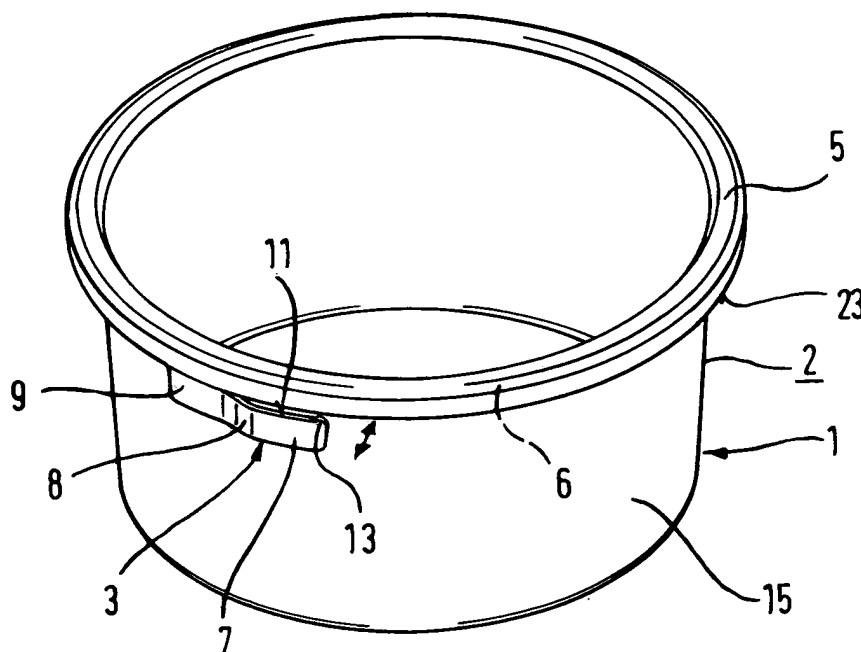
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(54) **System for releasably locking, holding or fixing flexible and/or flat items**

(57) The present invention relates to a system for releasably locking, holding and/or fixing flexible and/or sheet-like and/or flat parts, materials or items which comprises a strip the surface of which is located spaced apart from a base plate, and which has at least one hollow portion or indentation at least at one of its edges; and also a flexible resilient clip for releasably gripping or clamping, wherein said clip comprises a segment which is, at least in part, essentially aligned, to an edge of the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like por-

tion, said segment comprises at least one tip or flexible rim adapted to be snapped behind the spaced apart portion. The present invention further relates to a container, in particular a waste bin container (1) or a bag holder device, adapted to be lined with at least one flexible bag, comprising a peripheral portion which comprises a rim (5) having at least partially a U-shaped form, which is accessible from beneath, in particular by at least one tip or flexible rim (13) or edge of the clip, thereby adapted to be snapped behind the U-shaped rim, thereby fixating said flexible bag.

Fig. 1



Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a system for releasably locking, holding or fixing flexible and/or sheet-like and/or flat parts, materials or items, and in particular to a container comprising said system.

[0002] In order to temporarily fix flexible or flat items to, for example, machines, e.g. as a cover sheet, quite a few methods and devices exist. However, these devices frequently require a lot assembly effort, consist of many individual components, and their use often is not self-explanatory, even if these devices are employed with articles which are in wide-spread use. For example, waste bin containers are common articles which are widely used not only in residential households but also in the non-residential sector. In order to allow refuse to be recycled the sorting and storing of refuse of various types becomes more and more important. In residential households, for example, plastic, metal, glass, paper and organic refuse are separated for recycling purposes. To facilitate the handling of various types of refuse in households, special refuse bins have been designed comprising for example multiple bins in one container or area thereby trying to minimize the space occupied by a multitude of waste bins or containers. Most often, irrespective of the type of container or waste bin used, flexible bags are applied to form an inner liner for the container. With the use of refuse bags the replacement of refuse is alleviated. For example, in case of organic refuse the container usually has to be cleaned each time it is emptied. Also, it is much easier to collect waste like for example metal or plastic for recycling purposes when using a bag with the container. For most purposes there are now available bags which correspond in size to a respective container size. However, in daily use it still happens quite frequently that the size of the bag at hand is not well suited for the size of the container. But even if the size of the bag corresponds well to the size of the container, the edges of the bag although being placed over the rim of the container in the beginning are frequently pulled down during use, i.e. when refuse is placed within the container. This can be due to the weight of the refuse which pulls the walls of the bag downwards. Also, even if the upper open edge of a bag is draped properly around the rim of a container the bag can become replaced during use. As a consequence, refuse can slide between the inner wall of the container and the outer wall of the flexible bag, thereby narrowing the opening of the bag and spoiling the waste bin.

[0003] According to U.S. 5,765,613 the above problems are overcome by using a bag engagement system which includes a circular base member formed of two base half members which are coincident with the size and shape of the circular peripheral portion of the bin. In addition, a releasable clamp is located at the midpoint of the base half member for releasable attachment to the peripheral portion of the bin. The base half members comprise at their opposite end rod-like U-shaped

backholding elements. Although the clamp device according to U.S. 5,765,613 may affix a flexible bag in a container rather reliably it consists of a multitude of individual elements and is rather tedious to apply. Also, due to its many components it is rather expensive and not well suited to be applied to containers used for household purposes.

[0004] As described in U.S. 5,704,496 a flexible plastic bag can be secured in place inside a container by use of individual, substantially U-shaped clips. These clips are designed to slip over the edge of the container and to adhere to said edge. As the clip is of a predetermined shape and size it only guarantees the fixture of flexible bags to such containers the edges of which correspond in size to the size of the clips. In case the clip is too big for the container it cannot be used to engage the bag properly. If the size of the clip is too small it may break when being placed on the edge of the container. Another disadvantage which comes along with the use of individual clips is that once being replaced they might very easily get lost.

[0005] Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a fixation means which is easy and reliable to apply in a multitude of different fixing situations, and which can in particular be used, for example, with every existing container shape and size, and which is nevertheless easy to manufacture and also inexpensive. In general, it is an object of the present invention to provide a container which is adapted to take up a flexible bag whereby the bag can be easily and reliably fastened to the container so that its opening will retain its shape during use, and without any of the drawbacks from the above mentioned embodiments.

[0006] This object is achieved by a system, in particular a bag clip device, for releasably locking, holding and/or fixing flexible and/or sheet-like and/or flat parts, materials or items comprising a strip or a strip-like portion the surface of which is located spaced apart from a base plate or a base plate portion, and which has at least one hollow portion or indentation at least at one of its edges; and also a flexible resilient clip for releasably gripping or clamping, in particular an edge portion of, a flexible and/or sheet-like and/or flat part, material or item by interacting with the hollow portion or indentation of said strip, wherein the clip is located adjacent to or at the strip, and is in particular fixedly secured to the strip and/or to the outer surface of the base, said clip comprising a segment which is, at least in part, essentially aligned, in particular in parallel, to an edge of the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like portion, in particular when not engaged, said segment comprises at least one tip or flexible rim adapted to be snapped behind the edge of the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like portion which comprises the hollow portion or indentation. Thereby the system according to the invention is adapted to fixate, lock and/or hold, in particular an edge portion of, a flexible and/or sheet-like and/or flat part, material or item.

[0007] The strip or strip-like portion is usually at least in one of its parts secured or fastened to or integrated into the underlying base plate. Preferably, the strip is connected to the base plate at two opposite sides leaving in between a portion which is spaced apart from the base plate and which comprises the hollow portion or indentation. In a preferred embodiment at least one part of the clip is fastened to the base plate or to the strip. Another part of the clip is then aligned to the spaced apart portion of the strip so that a tip which is located in particular on the edge of the clip portion adjacent to the spaced apart portion of the strip can be snapped under the strip where it has its hollow portion or indentation, when the clip is pushed towards the base plate. There is therefore usually an overlap between the tip or edge of the clip and the strip or rim, so that external force is needed to push the tip or edge of the clip into the hollow portion or indentation of the strip or rim or behind the rim. As the clip or edge of the clip and the strip or rim are usually of a more or less resilient nature the tip or edge will keep the clip in the snapped in mode as long as no external force is applied. Accordingly, by adjusting the rigidity of the tip or edge of the clip and/or of the strip or rim a reversibly lockable fixation means can be obtained.

[0008] In another preferred embodiment, between the surface of the strip or strip-like portion and the base plate there are at least two consecutive hollow portions or indentations between the surface of the strip or strip-like portion and the base plate which are both adapted to interact with the tip or flexible rim of the clip thereby allowing to fixate the clip with varying degrees of tightness. For example, two, three or more essentially parallel plates can be placed adjacent to each other between the base plate and the surface of the strip or strip-like portion leaving sufficient space between each plate or wall for the tip or flexible rim or edge of the clip to be snapped in.

[0009] In general, systems for releasably locking, holding or fixing flexible and/or sheet-like and/or flat parts, materials or items can be used, for example, as a fixture or fixing means in or with containers, in particular waste bin containers or bag holder devices, as a locking means on casings, as a label holder, as a paperclip, as a shutoff device for tubes, as a, in particular integrated, closure for boxes with lids, as an attachment device for labels or ring ropes, as a plant clip, as an automotive clip for the fixation of interior parts like clothing, cable or harnesses and the like, or as a clip for fixing nets, in particular sport nets.

[0010] Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment a container, in particular a waste bin container or bag holder devices, has been found which comprises at least one system as described above. The shape and the size of the container is generally not critical as long as at least one bag or flexible item can be placed inside such a container.

[0011] In one embodiment according to the invention

a container, in particular waste bin container or bag holder devices, adapted to be lined with at least one flexible bag, comprising a peripheral portion; at least one strip or strip-like portion the surface of which or which is at least in one part spaced apart from the, in particular outer, wall of said container and at least another part of which is fixedly fastened to said container, the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like portion being aligned at least in part, in particular essentially parallel, to the surface of the container, and being located in particular at or adjacent to the peripheral portion; and a flexible resilient clip for releasably gripping an edge portion of a flexible bag by interacting with the strip, wherein the clip is located essentially adjacent to the strip, and is in particular, at least in one portion, fixedly secured to the strip and/or to the outer wall of the container, said clip comprising a segment which is essentially aligned, at least in part, in particular in parallel, to one edge of the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like portion, in particular when not engaged, which segment comprises at least one tip or flexible rim adapted to be snapped behind the spaced apart portion of the strip thereby adapted to releasably fixate the clip in a locked position.

[0012] The strip or strip-like portion can have different sizes and shapes. In one embodiment the strip is of rectangular shape. At least one edge of the strip is spaced apart from the underlying surface of the container so that the tip or rim of the clip can snap under the strip to fixate a flat and/or flexible item. The clip is located essentially adjacent to the strip so that at least the edge of a part of the clip can be brought in close contact with an edge of the spaced apart portion of the strip allowing the tip or flexible rim or edge to lie above the surface the strip when not snapped in and to lie below said surface when in the snapped in mode.

[0013] The resilient flexible clip preferably is made from a material which can be subjected to a multitude of in particular back and forth movements relative to a position when no external force is applied without breaking or becoming brittle. The tip, preferably located at the edge of the clip which is adjacent to the strip, usually is of the same material as the clip. The tip usually is that resilient that if in the snapped in position inside the strip, it can only be released with the aid of external force. The flexible rim or edge of the clip is in general less resilient than the tip in order to be snapped behind the strip. But as the flexible edge or rim is longer in dimension than the tip it is still able to keep the clip in the snapped in position. The rim or the strip or strip-like portion can also be flexible and resilient, but can also be rigid as long as it allows for the tip or edge of a clip to be temporarily placed in a snapped in position. Accordingly, also the tip or edge of the clip can also be rather rigid as long as the rim or strip allow for a temporary fixation. The strip and the clip can be placed inside as well as, preferably, outside the container.

[0014] The peripheral portion of a container comprises, for example, the opening of the container, its rim and

also a portion adjacent to the circumference of the opening. The strip is preferably located in the area of the peripheral portion and can form the rim or a part of the rim of a container.

[0015] Therefore, the present invention also provides a container, in particular waste bin container or bag holder devices, adapted to be lined with at least one flexible bag, comprising a peripheral portion which comprises a rim at least one part of which has at least one hollow part or indentation, in particular on the outer wall, which in particular is accessible from beneath; a flexible resilient clip for releasably gripping an edge portion of a flexible bag by interacting with the hollow part or indentation, wherein the clip is located, and in particular, at least with one portion, fixedly secured essentially adjacent to that part of the rim having a hollow part or indentation, in particular to the rim itself or to the outer wall of the container, said clip comprising a segment which is essentially aligned, at least in part, in particular in parallel, to said part of the rim having a hollow portion or indentation, in particular when not engaged, which segment of the clip comprises at least one tip or flexible rim adapted to be snapped behind the hollow portion or indentation of the rim of the container for releasably fixating the clip in a locked position.

[0016] In one preferred embodiment the rim of the container comprises at least partially a U-shaped form, which is accessible from beneath, in particular by at least one tip or flexible rim or edge of the clip adapted to be snapped behind the U-shaped rim thereby fixating, for example, the edge portion of a flexible bag. In general, containers made by injection molding are usually well suited to be provided with a U-shaped rim. For the purpose of the present invention also only a portion of the rim can be U-shaped. A suitable U-shaped rim or rim portion also comprises those embodiments in which the rim is filled with material as long as there is a hollow portion or an indentation which can interact with the tip or flexible edge of the clip. Accordingly, the term U-shaped not only comprises rims which exhibit the form of a "U", but also all deviations which come close to or are similar to this form. For example, the upper part of the U-shaped rim can be curved, but as well comprise flat portions and also edges, as long as it comprises a hollow portion or indentation which can interact with the tip or flexible edge or rim of the clip.

[0017] It is especially preferred when the strip and/or the clip is an integral part of the container. The manufacture as well as the handling of the container can be facilitated when the strip and the clip are part of the container. Especially, when applying molding techniques for the manufacture of the container according to the invention only a single manufacturing step is required.

[0018] Thus, in another embodiment of the present invention the container and/or the clip are made from plastic. Preferably, thermoplastic polymers, in particular impact modified thermoplastic polymers are employed. The flexible edge of the clip can be made, for example,

from a more elastomeric plastic.

[0019] The present invention further provides a container wherein the tip is located at or close to the terminal part of that segment of the clip which is essentially aligned, at least in part, in particular in parallel, to the rim, in particular when not engaged, thereby being furthest apart from that portion of the clip which is fixedly secured to the wall of said container.

[0020] Containers according to the present invention can be used as, for example, a pedal bin, a duo pedal bin, a tri pedal bin, or a freestanding bag holder device.

[0021] Preferably, said container is essentially made from at least one polymeric material, in particular from polyethylene or polypropylene.

[0022] Provisions may be made that said container is adapted to be produced by a moulding technique, in particular by injection moulding.

[0023] In one especially preferred embodiment the clip and/or the strip is or are, respectively, fastened to or integrated into the container, in particular at an edge of or adjacent to an edge of said container or container wall.

[0024] In another preferred embodiment, the clip and/or strips is or are, respectively, fastened to or integrated into the container at, in particular essentially perpendicular to, a parting line.

[0025] Further a container is preferred which comprises at least one grip or a, in particular flat, edge which is mounted, in particular essentially perpendicular, to the outer surface of the segment of the clip and/or the strip, which is essentially aligned, at least in part, in particular in parallel, to the rim or to the edge of the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like portion, in particular when not engaged; or to that portion of the clip which joins said segment with that portion of the clip which is fixedly secured to the wall of said container. With a grip element, edge or handle which is projecting from the surface of the clip, i.e. from those portions of the clip which are not fastened to or part of the container and are therefore moveable, the handling of the clip can be facilitated, making the clip accessible without any problems.

[0026] The container according to the present invention provides an inexpensive, reliable, tight-fit solution for holding a bag in a container, especially a waste bin container. With the containers and holding or fixing systems according to the present invention there is no need for employing additional components like complete inner rings or latch-link type fixtures. The fixture used according to the present invention can rather be an integral part of, for example, a container. As a further advantage of the present invention it has to be noted that the manufacture of the containers or clip solution according to the invention is rather simple and inexpensive, especially if the container and the clip are made from plastic. In this case, the entire system can be made in one step, e.g. by injection moulding. Further, the fixing system according to the present invention can be used with any size and shape, does not afford any assembling labor

and is very easy to handle.

[0027] The invention, together with further objects and advantages, may be best understood with reference to the following description taking together with the accompanying drawings, in which

- Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a section of a waste bin container comprising a bag clip according to the invention;
- Fig. 2 is a schematic bottom view of a section of a rim section of a waste bin container according to Fig. 1;
- Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a section of a waste bin container as in Fig. 1 with the bag clip in the engaged position;
- Fig. 4 is a schematic bottom view of a section of a rim section of a waste bin container as in Fig. 3;
- Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a section of a waste bin container with a bag inserted behind the bag clip, not being in the engaged position;
- Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a section of a waste bin container with a bag inserted behind the bag clip, being in the engaged position;
- Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a section of another embodiment of a waste bin container comprising a bag clip according to the invention.

[0028] In Fig. 1 a section of a waste bin container 1 according to a first embodiment of the present invention is illustrated which comprises a bag clip 3 positioned just beneath a U-shaped rim 5 of the container 1. The U-shaped rim is part of the peripheral portion 2 of the container. The clip 3 comprises a segment or wall portion 7 which is aligned essentially parallel to the surface of the underlying waste bin container 1. Another portion 9 of the clip 3 is fastened to the rim 5 of the container 1. At least that part of the clip 3 which is not part of the portion 9 of the clip, especially that segment 8 which joins segments 7 and 9 and/or segment 7 of clip 3 is or are of flexible resilient nature. At the upper rim or edge 11 of the clip 3 a tip 13 is placed which can take up at least two distinct positions, one is inside the U-shaped rim 5, as depicted in Fig. 1, another outside said rim 5 as indicated by the arrows in Fig. 1. The rim 5 thus comprises, at least where tip 13 can be snapped under the lower edge 23 of rim 5, a hollow part or indentation 6. The upper edge 11 is essentially aligned in parallel to the lower edge 23 of the U-shaped rim 5 so that it can be moved to and fro the container wall 15 without obstructing the lower edge 23 of the U-shaped rim 5. As shown in the embodiment of Fig. 1 clip 3 can be an integral part of the rim of the waste bin container 1.

[0029] Fig. 1 shows a waste bin container 1 with a clip 3 the tip 13 of the clip 3 being placed outside the lower edge 23 of the U-shaped rim 5. In this position a flexible bag can be inserted behind the clip 3 as also shown in Fig. 5. In an alternative embodiment (not shown) the segment of the clip which secures the clip to the con-

tainer can also be attached to the container wall 15, e.g. by use of fixation means like screws, rivets or the like, or it can be an integral part of the waste bin container 1.

[0030] Fig. 2 depicts a section of the rim 5 of container 1 of Fig. 1 when viewed from beneath. Clip 3 is fixed via segment 9 to rim 5. Segment 7 is aligned essentially in parallel to the rim 5 and the wall 15 of the container 1, when not engaged. The space between segment 7 and the lower edge 23 of the rim 5 can be used to insert a portion of a bag, thereby fixating the bag.

[0031] Fig. 3 illustrates a clip 3 as in Fig. 1, the tip 13 of which is snapped behind the lower edge 23 of the U-shaped rim 5. Accordingly, the clip portion 7 has been slightly moved towards the container wall 15. In this manner a flexible bag is then reliably fixed to the rim of the container 1. As can be seen in Fig. 6, the actuated situation as shown in Fig. 3 is well suited to fixate a flexible bag behind the engaged clip. Especially segment 7 of clip 3 is bent towards the container wall 15 when in an engaged position.

[0032] Fig. 4 depicts a section of the rim 5 of container 1 according to Fig. 3 when viewed from beneath. As can be seen from Fig. 4 segment 9 of clip 3 is an integral part of the rim 5.

[0033] From Fig. 5 a bag being incorporated into container 1 can be derived with an edge portion of the bag behind segment 7 of clip 3 when not engaged. In Fig. 6 the bag as in Fig. 5 is fixed by having locked tip 13 behind the lower edge 23 of rim 5. The container 1 of Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 comprises a clip 3' the portion 9' of which is not attached to the rim 5 as for example in Fig. 1, but is fastened to or is an integral part of the container wall 15.

[0034] As can also be derived from Fig. 7, in one preferred embodiment, the wall portion 9' of the clip 3' is fastened to or an integral part of the lower edge 19 of the U-shaped rim 5 and is preferably oriented essentially perpendicular to the parting line 17.

[0035] A parting line (or parting plane) generally occurs if the container is made via a moulding technique, e.g. by injection moulding. Usually, a parting line designates the area where both mould halves adjoin each other. By arranging clip 3' at and especially perpendicular to a parting line 17 the open/close moulding technique can be applied which furnishes an economic and time saving access to the containers 1 of the present invention. Also, no separate or moving parts are necessary, neither with the container nor with the mould, for which reason the cycle time can be reduced and the maintenance of the moulds greatly improved.

[0036] Although modifications and changes may be suggested by those skilled in the art, it is the intention of the applicant to embody within the patent warranted hereon all changes and modifications as reasonably and probably come within the scope of this contribution to the art. The features of the present invention which are believed to be novel are set forth in detail in the appended claims. The features disclosed in the descrip-

tion, the Figures as well as the claims could be essential alone or in every combination for the realization of the invention in its different embodiments.

REFERENCE LIST

[0037]

- 1 waste bin container
- 2 peripheral portion of container
- 3, 3' clip
- 5 U-shaped rim
- 6 hollow part or indentation in rim 5
- 7 segment of clip
- 8 segment joining segments 7 and 9, 9'
- 9, 9' segment of clip
- 11 upper edge of clip
- 13 tip
- 15 container wall
- 17 parting line
- 19 lower edge of U-shaped rim 5

Claims

1. System, in particular a bag clip device, for releasably locking, holding and/or fixing flexible and/or sheet-like and/or flat parts, materials or items comprising a strip or a strip-like portion the surface of which is located spaced apart from a base plate or a base plate portion, and which has at least one hollow portion or indentation at least at one of its edges; and also a flexible resilient clip for releasably gripping or clamping, in particular an edge portion of, a flexible and/or sheet-like and/or flat part, material or item by interacting with the hollow portion or indentation of said strip, wherein the clip is located adjacent to or at the strip, and is in particular fixedly secured to the strip and/or to the outer surface of the base, said clip comprising a segment which is, at least in part, essentially aligned, in particular in parallel, to an edge of the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like portion, in particular when not engaged, said segment comprises at least one tip or flexible rim adapted to be snapped behind the edge

of the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like portion which comprises the hollow portion or indentation.

2. System according to claim 1, **characterized in that** there are at least two consecutive hollow portions or indentations between the surface of the strip or strip-like portion and the base plate which are adapted to interact with the tip or flexible rim of the clip thereby fixating the clip with varying degrees of tightness.
3. Container, in particular waste bin container or a bag holder device, comprising at least one system according to claim 1 or 2.
4. Container, in particular waste bin container or a bag holder device, in particular according to claim 3, adapted to be lined with at least one flexible bag, comprising a peripheral portion; at least one strip or strip-like portion the surface of which or which is at least in one part spaced apart from the, in particular outer, wall of said container and at least another part of which is fixedly fastened to said container, the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like portion being aligned at least in part, in particular essentially parallel, to the surface of the container, and being located in particular at or adjacent to the peripheral portion; and a flexible resilient clip for releasably gripping an edge portion of a flexible bag by interacting with the strip, wherein the clip is located essentially adjacent to the strip, and is in particular, at least in one portion, fixedly secured to the strip and/or to the outer wall of the container, said clip comprising a segment which is essentially aligned, at least in part, in particular in parallel, to one edge of the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like portion, in particular when not engaged, which segment comprises at least one tip or flexible rim adapted to be snapped behind the spaced apart portion of the strip thereby adapted to releasably fixate the clip in a locked position.
5. Container, in particular waste bin container or a bag holder device, in particular according to claim 4, adapted to be lined with at least one flexible bag, comprising a peripheral portion (2) which comprises a rim (5) at least one part of which has at least one hollow part or indentation (6), in particular on the outer wall (15), which in particular is accessible from beneath; a flexible resilient clip (3, 3') for releasably gripping an edge portion of a flexible bag by interacting with the hollow part or indentation (6), wherein the clip (3, 3') is located, and in particular, at least with one portion, fixedly secured essentially adjacent to that part of the rim (5) having a hollow part or indentation (6), in particular to the rim or the outer wall (15) of the container (1), said clip (3, 3') com-

prising a segment (7) which is essentially aligned, at least in part, in particular in parallel, to said part of the rim (5) having a hollow portion or indentation (6), in particular when not engaged, which segment (7) of the clip (3, 3') comprises at least one tip (13) or flexible rim adapted to be snapped behind the hollow portion or indentation (6) of the rim (5) of the container (1) for releasably fixating the clip (3, 3') in a locked position.

6. Container according to claim 5, wherein the rim (5) of the container (1) comprises at least partially a U-shaped form, which is accessible from beneath, in particular by at least one tip (13) or flexible rim or edge of the clip (3, 3') adapted to be snapped behind the U-shaped rim or rim portion (5).
7. Container according to one of claims 3 to 6, wherein the clip (3) is an integral part of the container (1).
8. Container according to one of claims 3 to 7, wherein the container (1) and/or the clip (3, 3') are made from plastic.
9. Container according to one of claims 3 to 8, wherein the tip (13) is located at or close to the terminal part of the segment (7) of the clip (3, 3') which is essentially aligned, at least in part, in particular in parallel, to the rim (5), in particular when not engaged, thereby being furthest apart from that portion (9, 9') of the clip (3, 3') which is fixedly secured to the wall (15) of said container (1).
10. Container according to one of claims 3 to 9, wherein the container (1) is a pedal bin, a duo pedal bin, a tri pedal bin, or a freestanding bag holder device.
11. Container according to one of claims 3 to 10, wherein said container is essentially made from at least one polymeric material, in particular from polyethylene or polypropylene.
12. Container according to claim 11, wherein said container is adapted to be produced by a moulding technique, in particular by injection moulding.
13. Container according to one of claims the preceding, wherein the clip (3, 3') and/or the strip is or are, respectively, fastened to or integrated into the container (1), in particular at an edge of or adjacent to an edge of said container or container wall.
14. Container according to claim 13, wherein the clip (3, 3') and/or strips is or are, respectively, fastened to or integrated into the container (1) at, in

particular essentially perpendicular to, a parting line (17).

15. Container according to one of the claims 1 to 14, wherein a grip or a, in particular flat, edge is mounted, in particular essentially perpendicular, to the outer surface of the segment (7) of the clip (3, 3') and/or the strip which is essentially aligned, at least in part, in particular in parallel, to the rim (5) or to the edge of the spaced apart portion of the strip or strip-like portion, in particular when not engaged; or to that portion (8) of the clip (3, 3') which joins said segment (7) with that portion (9, 9') of the clip (3, 3') which is fixedly secured to the wall (15) of said container (1).
16. Use of a system according to claim 1 or 2 as a fixture in containers, in particular waste bin container or bag holder devices, as a locking means on casings, as a label holder, as a paperclip, as a shutoff device for tubes, as a, in particular integrated, closure for boxes with lids, as an attachment device for labels or ring ropes, as a plant clip, as an automotive clip for the fixation of interior parts like clothing, cable or harnesses and the like, or as a clip for fixing nets, in particular sport nets.

Fig. 1

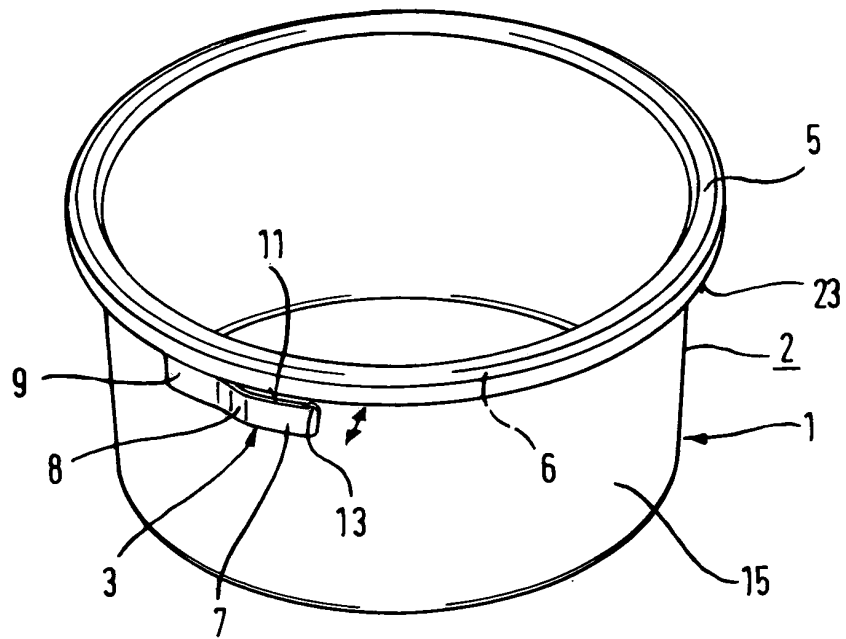


Fig. 2

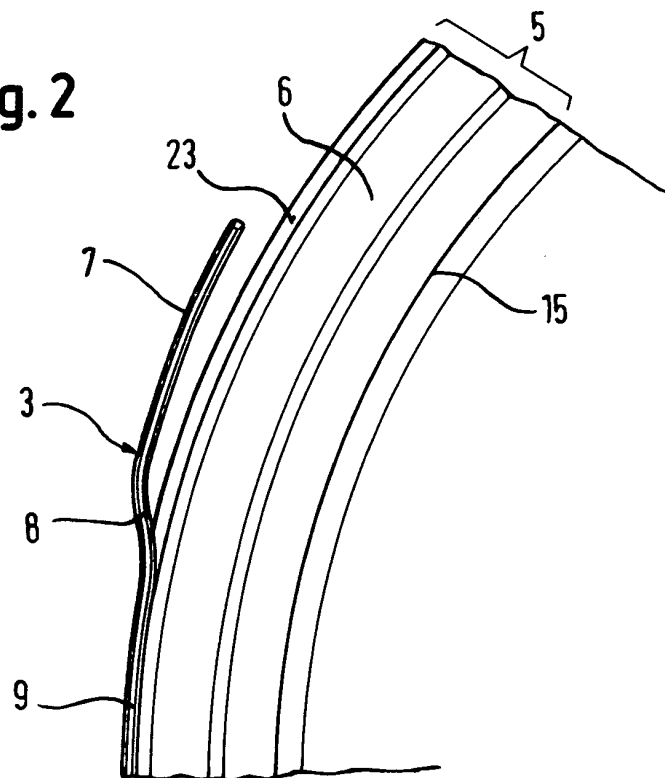


Fig. 3

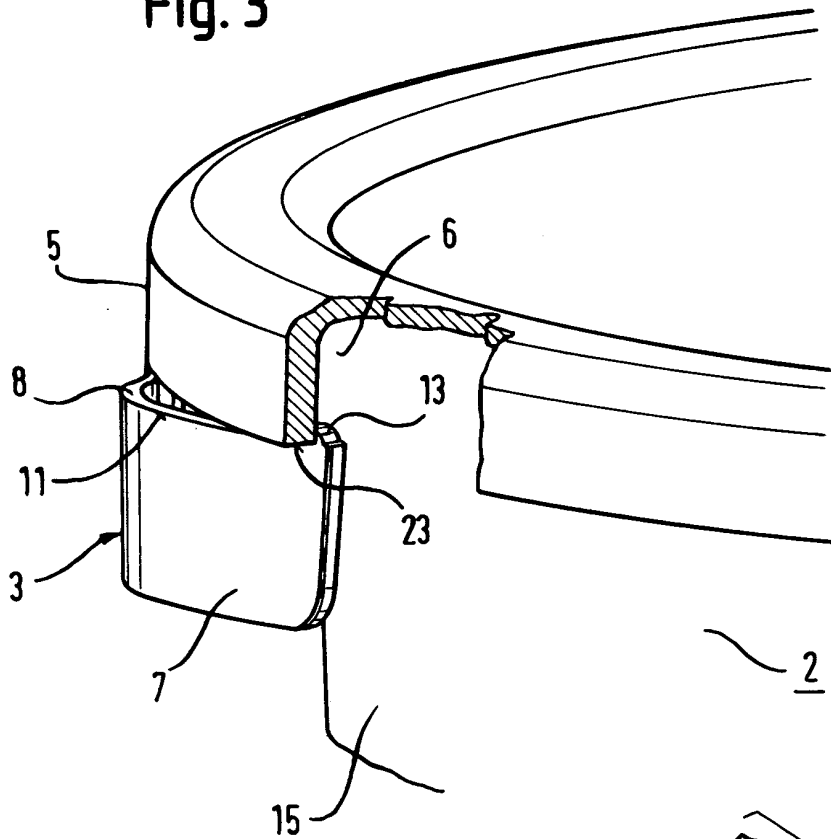


Fig. 4

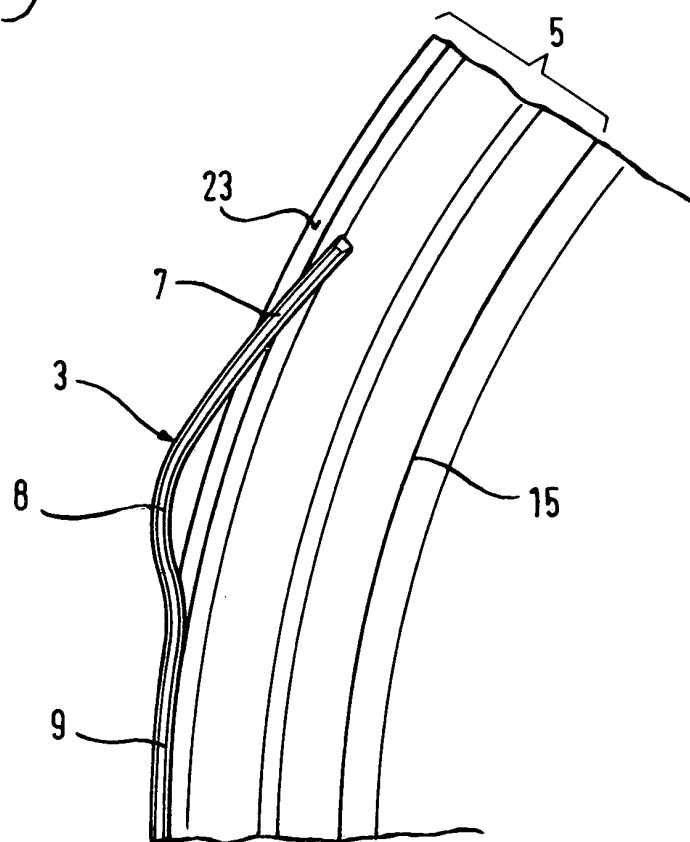


Fig. 5

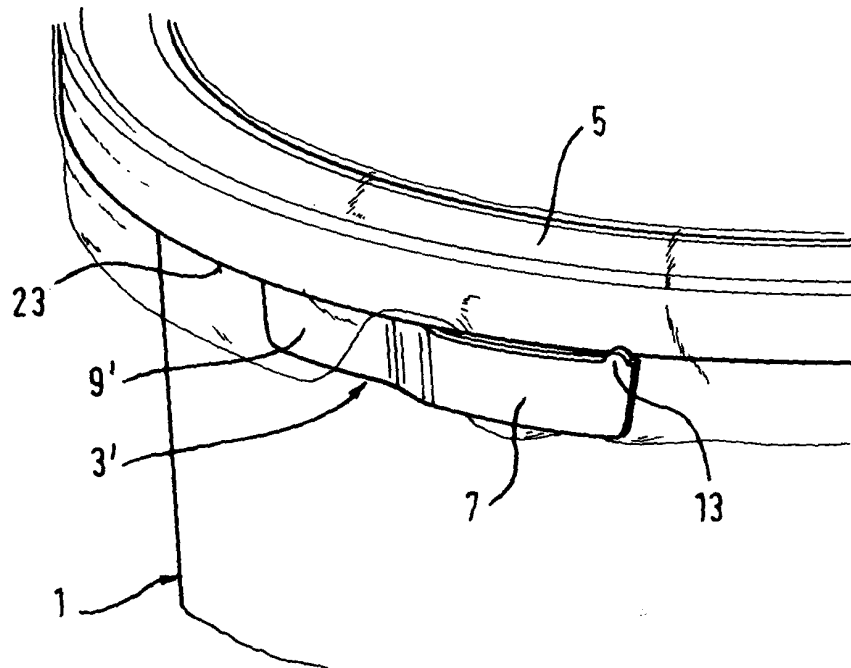


Fig. 6

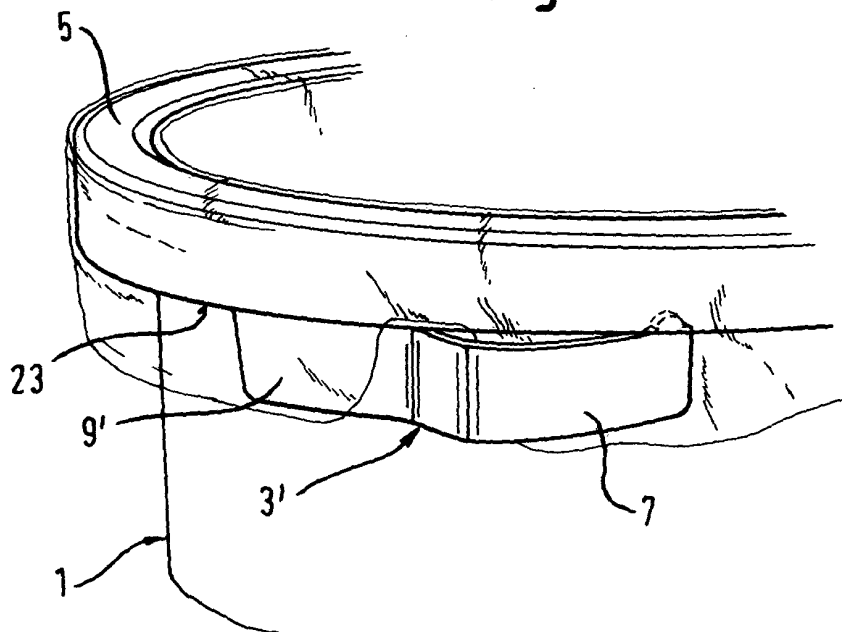
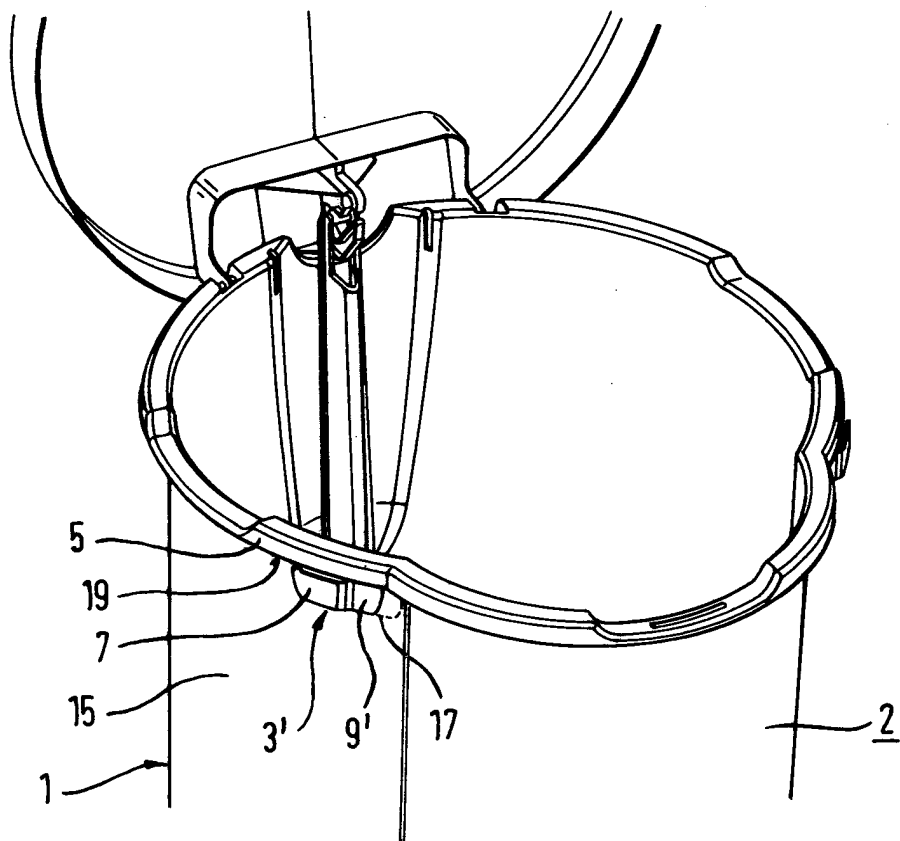


Fig. 7





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 01 9715

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			B65F
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 31 January 2003	Examiner Balz, O
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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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