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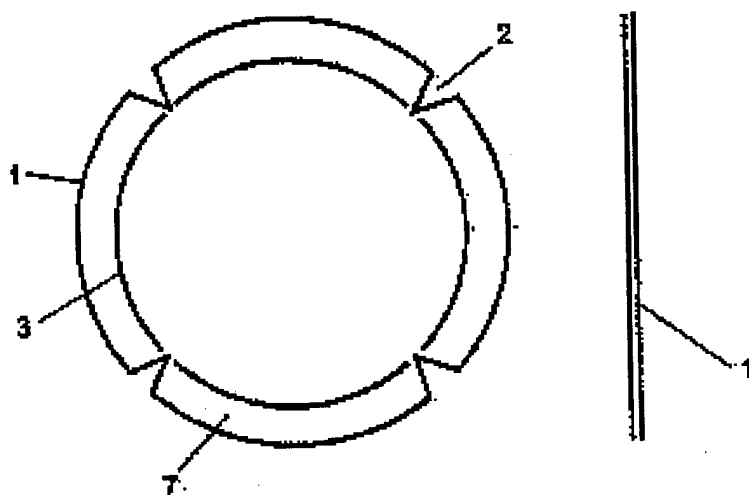
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(54) **PROTECTIVE DEVICE FOR DRINKS CANS**

(57) The invention relates to a protective device for drinks cans. The inventive device consists of a thin, deformable discoid body comprising numerous radial notches along the periphery thereof. Internally, the de-

vice comprises a series of curvilinear cuts which are concentric with the edge of disk, thereby defining peripheral areas which are intended to be positioned below the upper rim at the top of the cylindrical body of the can.

FIG. 1



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Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a protective device for drink cans.

[0002] As stated in the title, there is provided an element applicable to a can of the type used for containing soft drinks and the like, for protecting it against external agents.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] As is known, cans of the above type are exposed, while stored, to various agents such as dust, dirt, and other materials, which may contaminate the outer surface of those cans, just at the region that remains in contact with a person's lips when the liquid contained is consumed, as is common practice, by sucking directly from the can.

[0004] Until recently, apart from a simple lid in the form of a cylindrical disk of a very short height relative to its diameter, and Spanish Utility Model U9991209, no practical and cost effective device was known that prevents dirt from being formed on a drink can.

[0005] A cylindrical lid of the above type has many disadvantages: it must be applied to the outside of the can top rim, so that it may be easily released, and therefore its protective feature may get lost, and in addition it has to be made from a material such as plastic whereby its cost has to be taken into consideration.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The device which will be now described allows overcoming the above mentioned disadvantages. It consists of a discoidal member which is applied to the top of a can for soft drinks or the like, and is temporarily retained thereto, covering said portion and thus preventing dust and other materials from being formed thereon.

[0007] When the user is going to drink from the can the protective member is first detached, this operation being carried out with hardly any effort, leaving the can top and the closure member thereof accessible; these will be clean precisely due to the insulating function of the protective device.

[0008] For ease of disclosure, the present description is accompanied by drawings in which one case of embodiment of a protective device for drink cans is shown by way of an illustrative and non-limitative example according to the principles of the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009]

Fig. 1 is a top plan and side elevational view of the new protective device for drink cans.

Fig.2 shows, in an enlarged, fragmentary view, the position of the protective device on a can of the above mentioned type.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0010] The elements indicated by the reference numerals in the drawings correspond to the parts referenced hereinbelow.

10 [0011] The protective device of this patent consists of a thin body 1 which is preferably circular in shape (even though it could also take other forms), made from an easily deformable material, such as, for example, cardboard, plastic or metal.

15 [0012] The body 1 has, on its periphery, a number of radial notches 2 which are advantageously angular in shape, with their vertexes facing the center of the piece.

[0013] Likewise, the body 1 has curvilinear cuts 3, concentric with the edges of the body itself and at a distance from them similar to the length of the radial notches 2.

20 [0014] The can 4 is of the known type having at the top of its cylindrical body a frustoconical portion 5 and a concentric rim 6.

POSITIONING AND USE OF THE DEVICE

[0015] The described protective device is positioned on a drink can as follows:

30 [0016] The disk 1 is positioned overlapping and centred on the rim 6 (whereby it will protect the central portion of the upper base of the body 4), and thus the peripheral areas 7 defined by the cuts 3 project from the rim itself. Subsequently, a slight force is applied to said areas 7 resulting in their downward flexion which is facilitated by the radial notches 2. The cuts 3 are positioned with their lower sides located below the rim 6, resulting in that the disk 1 remains attached to the body 4 of the can.

40 [0017] The frustoconical portion 5, which will also be in contact with the user's lips, is protected by the protruding areas 7 and it is sheltered from dust and other materials.

[0018] When the contents of the can is going to be consumed, the described device is easily detached by applying a slight force in the direction of lifting the flanges formed by the peripheral areas 7.

45 [0019] Furthermore, the device itself may form an excellent advertising carrier, since logos and inscriptions regarding the product contained therein or other products and services may be included on one or both of its two faces.

50 [0020] The number of notches 2 and cuts 3 may be varied in accordance with the size of the disk 1 and the can 4.

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Claims

1. Protective device for drink cans, of the type intended to be placed on the upper base of a can, **characterised in that** it consists in a thin body (1) having advantageously a discoidal shape and made from an easily deformable material, provided on its periphery with a number of radial notches (2) which are substantially angular in shape and a number of curvilinear cuts (3), concentric with the edges of the disk (1) and arranged between the notches (2), defining peripheral areas (7) which can be arranged by flexion below the upper rim (6) formed on the upper portion (5) of the cylindrical body (4) of a can.

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FIG.1

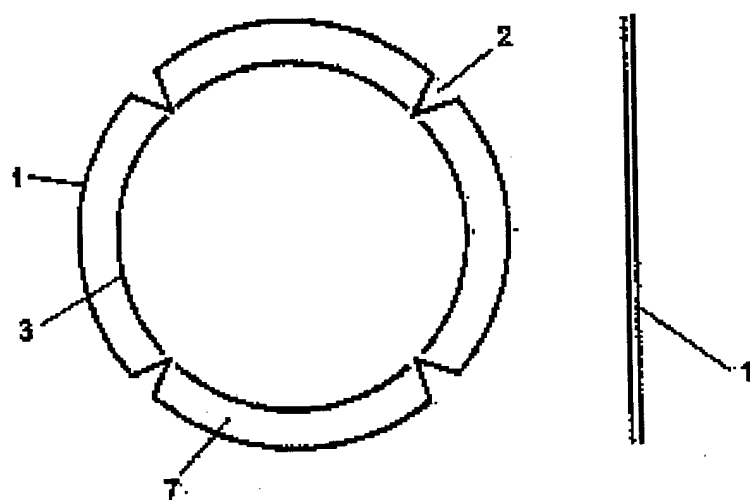
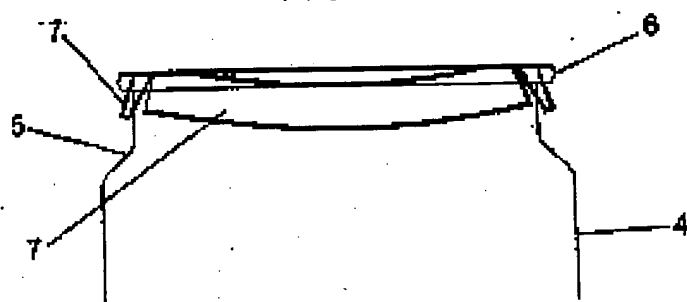


FIG.2



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/ ES03/00481

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC ⁷ B65D 41/62, 51/20 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
IPC ⁷ B65D		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
ES		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
CIBEPAT, EPODOC, WPI, PAJ		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9528328 A1 (JUNG) 26.10.1995, page 2, line 19 - page 5, line 4; figures	1
A	US 4708257 A (DELINE) 24.11.1987, the whole document	1
A	ES 1044980 U (DE BALLE) 01.07.2000, the whole document	1
A	WO 0168461 A1 (BRAZZALE) 20.09.2001, column 2, line 24 - column 5, line 20; figures	1
A	ES 1032734 U (FERNÁNDEZ CASTIÑEIRAS) 16.06.1996, the whole document	1
A	ES 1036784 U (HERNÁNDEZ GALINDO) 01.11.1997, the whole document	1
A	US 4927048 A (HOWARD) 22.05.1990, the whole document	1
☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report
08 January 2004 (08.01.2004)		16 January 2004 (16.01.2004)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ SPTO		Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
 Information on patent family members

International Application No

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ES 1036784 U	01.11.1997	ES 1036784 Y	16.12.1998
US 4927048 A	22.05.1990	NONE	

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