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(54) **Combination of at least two cans**

(57) The invention relates to a combination of at least two stacked cans (2,3), a foil sleeve (5) arranged around the at least two stacked cans to hold the at least two cans together and a lid (4) detachable arranged on one of the at least two stacked cans (2,3). This provides for a combination of small portions which can be separately opened.

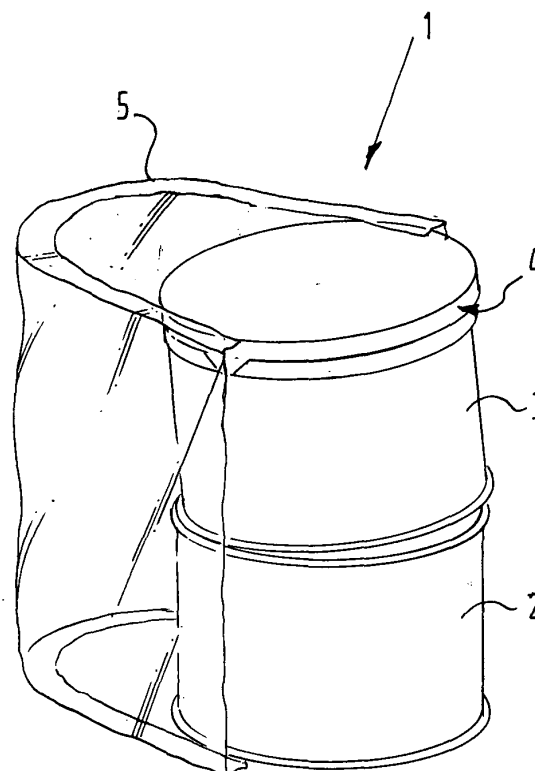


FIG. 1A

## Description

**[0001]** The invention relates to cans, which are particularly suitable for baby food and powdered milk.

**[0002]** When such a can is opened in order to consume the content, the content is generally not consumed at once, but over a period of time. This period of time can extend over a number of days or even a number of weeks. After opening the can, the content, such as the baby food or powdered milk will start to deteriorate and to lose its freshness.

**[0003]** In order to shorten the period of consumption, the volume of the cans can be decreased. However, when buying such small cans, one has to buy a number of such small cans in order to span the period upon the next time one is at the shop for buying food.

**[0004]** In order to provide a prolonged storage life after the can has been opened, it is common to provide a cap with which the can is reclosable.

**[0005]** When the sizes of the cans are reduced one has to provide more cans for the same amount of content. For every can a cap has to be provided, so by decreasing the storage volume of a can the costs for packaging the content are substantially increased.

**[0006]** It is an object to provide a combination, which reduces the above-mentioned disadvantages.

**[0007]** This object is achieved by the invention with a combination of at least two stacked cans, a foil sleeve arranged around the at least two stacked cans to hold the at least two cans together and a lid detachable arranged on one of the at least two stacked cans.

**[0008]** By stacking two cans on top of each other and by wrapping them with a foil sleeve, one only has to purchase one item to have the same amount of products as with cans according to the prior art. Within the combination also a detachable lid is provided, which can be used to reclose an opened can. After the content of one can is consumed, the other can is opened and the lid can be detached from the first can and be arranged onto the second can. So only one lid is necessary with this combination.

**[0009]** The foil sleeve can be printed with information of the product.

**[0010]** In a preferred embodiment of the combination the detachable lid comprises a ring for attachment to a can and a lid part hingedly arranged to the ring for closing the opening of the can on which the lid is arranged. This lid can be arranged once onto an opened can and then a lid part can be opened and closed for opening and closing the can. This provides an increased usability of the combination.

**[0011]** In another embodiment of the combination according to the invention the ring has at least along a portion of the inner edge a straight portion. This straight portion can be used to level off a spoon containing for example powdered milk, which is contained in the can.

**[0012]** Preferably in a combination according to the invention, an operating part is arranged between the lid

part and the ring for operating the lid part to at least an opened position. This operating part can for example be embodied as a push button with which the lid part can be brought to an open position after pushing the push button.

**[0013]** In yet another embodiment of the invention the peripheral wall of at least one of the cans is coated with a writable layer. One can write messages on this writable layer, such as when the can was opened or, in the case of powdered baby milk, when the last bottle of baby milk was made.

**[0014]** In a preferred embodiment of the combination according to the invention the writable layer is writable with chalk. Preferably the lid comprises a recess for storing a piece of chalk. In this way a piece of chalk is always available for writing the messages.

**[0015]** In yet another preferred embodiment of the combination according to the invention, the combination comprises an information sheet arranged in the lid. On this information sheet for example the dosage can be indicated and will always be at hand as the lid will generally be arranged at one of the cans of the combination.

**[0016]** In still another embodiment the combination according to the invention comprises a spoon arranged in the lid. Preferably the spoon comprises a handle and a bowl, wherein the size of the bowl is adjustable. This is preferably obtained by the bowl comprising a first bowl part arranged to the handle and a second bowl part which is telescopic arranged in the first bowl part. In this way the spoon can be arranged in the lid and has a small height.

**[0017]** In yet another embodiment of the combination according to the invention each of the cans comprises a foil lid.

**[0018]** The invention further comprises a can comprising a bottom and a peripheral wall, wherein the peripheral wall is at least partially coated with a writable layer. This writable layer can be used for writing messages on the can, which may be related to the use of the can. Preferably the writable layer is writable with chalk. In this case it is furthermore preferred that the can comprises a lid arranged on the peripheral wall having a recess for storing a piece of chalk.

**[0019]** These and other advantages of the invention will be elucidated in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

**[0020]** Figures 1A, 1B and 1C show a perspective view of parts of a first embodiment of the combination according to the invention.

**[0021]** Figure 2 shows in perspective view a can with an operable lid.

**[0022]** Figure 3A and 3B show cross-sectional views of a spoon according to the invention in two positions.

**[0023]** Figure 4A and figure 4B show in perspective view an embodiment of a can according to the invention.

**[0024]** Figure 1A shows a combination 1 according to the invention. This combination 1 comprises a first can 2 and a second can 3. The second can 3 is provided

with a detachable lid 4. The two cans 2, 3 and the lid 4 are wrapped into a foil 5.

**[0025]** Figure 1B shows a side view of the combination 1 according to the invention. The second can 3 is stacked onto the first can 2. On top of the second can 3 a lid 4 is arranged, which has a ring 6 attached to the mouth opening of the can 3 and a lid part 7. In figure 1C the can 3 is shown with the lid part 7 opened. The ring 6 has a straight edge portion 8 at the inside of the ring 6, which can be used for leveling off a spoon.

**[0026]** From figure 1C it is also clear that a foil lid 9 is arranged at the opening of the can 3 and that the foil lid has a tap 10, which can be used to pull off the foil lid 9.

**[0027]** Figure 2 shows a can 11, which has a lid 12. This lid 12 has a ring 13 and a lid part 14. Between the lid part 14 and the ring 13 an operating part 15 is arranged. By pushing this operating part 15 a lid 14 swings open and access is created to the can 11.

**[0028]** In figure 3A and 3B a cross-sectional view of a spoon 16 is shown. This spoon 16 has a handle 17, a first bowl part 18 and a second bowl part 19. The second bowl part 19 is telescopically arranged in the first bowl part 18. When the second bowl part 19 is extended, a spoon with a bowl is provided, which has a substantial volume (see figure 3B). When the second bowl part 19 is retracted into the first bowl part 18 (see figure 3A) the spoon 16 is in a storage position for example for placement within a lid.

**[0029]** Figures 4A and 4B show an embodiment 20 of a can according to the invention. This can 20 has a bottom 21 and a peripheral wall 22. The peripheral wall 22 is coated with a writable layer. On top of the peripheral wall 22 a lid 23 is arranged in which a recess 24 is provided which contains a piece of chalk 25. The writable layer 22 is enveloped with a label 26, which can be torn off by pulling a strip 27.

## Claims

1. Combination of at least two stacked cans, a foil sleeve arranged around the at least two stacked cans to hold the at least two cans together and a lid detachable arranged on one of the at least two stacked cans.
2. Combination according to claim 1, wherein the detachable lid comprises a ring for attachment to a can and a lid part hingedly arranged to the ring for closing the opening of the can on which the lid is arranged.
3. Combination according to claim 2, wherein the ring has at least along a portion of the inner edge a straight portion.
4. Combination according to claim 2 or 3, further comprising an operating part arranged between the lid

part and the ring for operating the lid part to at least an open position.

5. Combination according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the peripheral wall of at least one of the cans is coated with a writable layer.
6. Combination according to claim 5, wherein the writable layer is writable with chalk
7. Combination according to claim 6, wherein the lid comprises a recess for storing a piece of chalk.
8. Combination according to any of the preceding claims, comprising an information sheet arranged in the lid.
9. Combination according to any of the preceding claims, comprising a spoon arranged in the lid.
10. Combination according to claim 9, wherein the spoon comprises a handle and a bowl, wherein the size of the bowl is adjustable.
11. Combination according to claim 10, wherein the bowl comprises a first bowl part arranged to the handle and a second bowl part, which is telescopic arranged in the first bowl part.
12. Combination according to any of the preceding claims, wherein each of the cans comprises a foil lid.
13. Can comprising a bottom and a peripheral wall, wherein the peripheral wall is at least partially coated with a writable layer.
14. Can according to claim 13, wherein the writable layer is writable with chalk
15. Can according to claim 14, comprising a lid arranged on the peripheral wall having a recess for storing a piece of chalk.

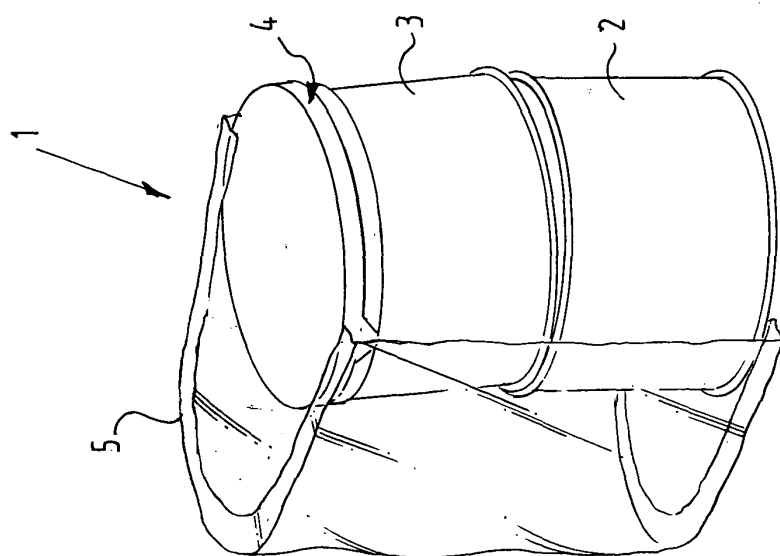


FIG. 1A

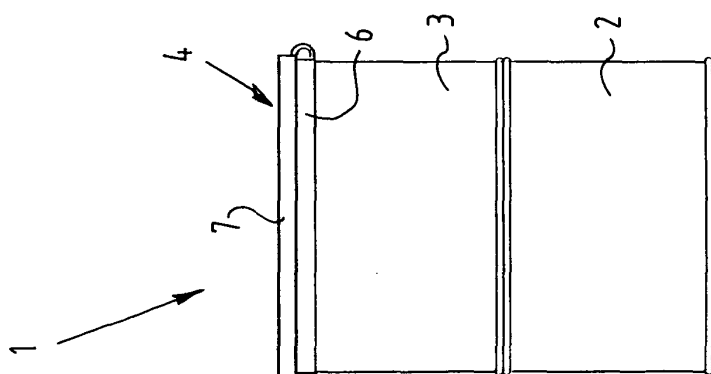


FIG. 1B

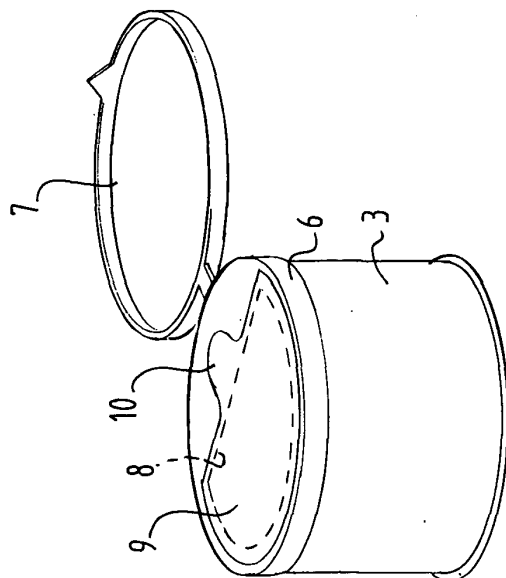


FIG. 1C

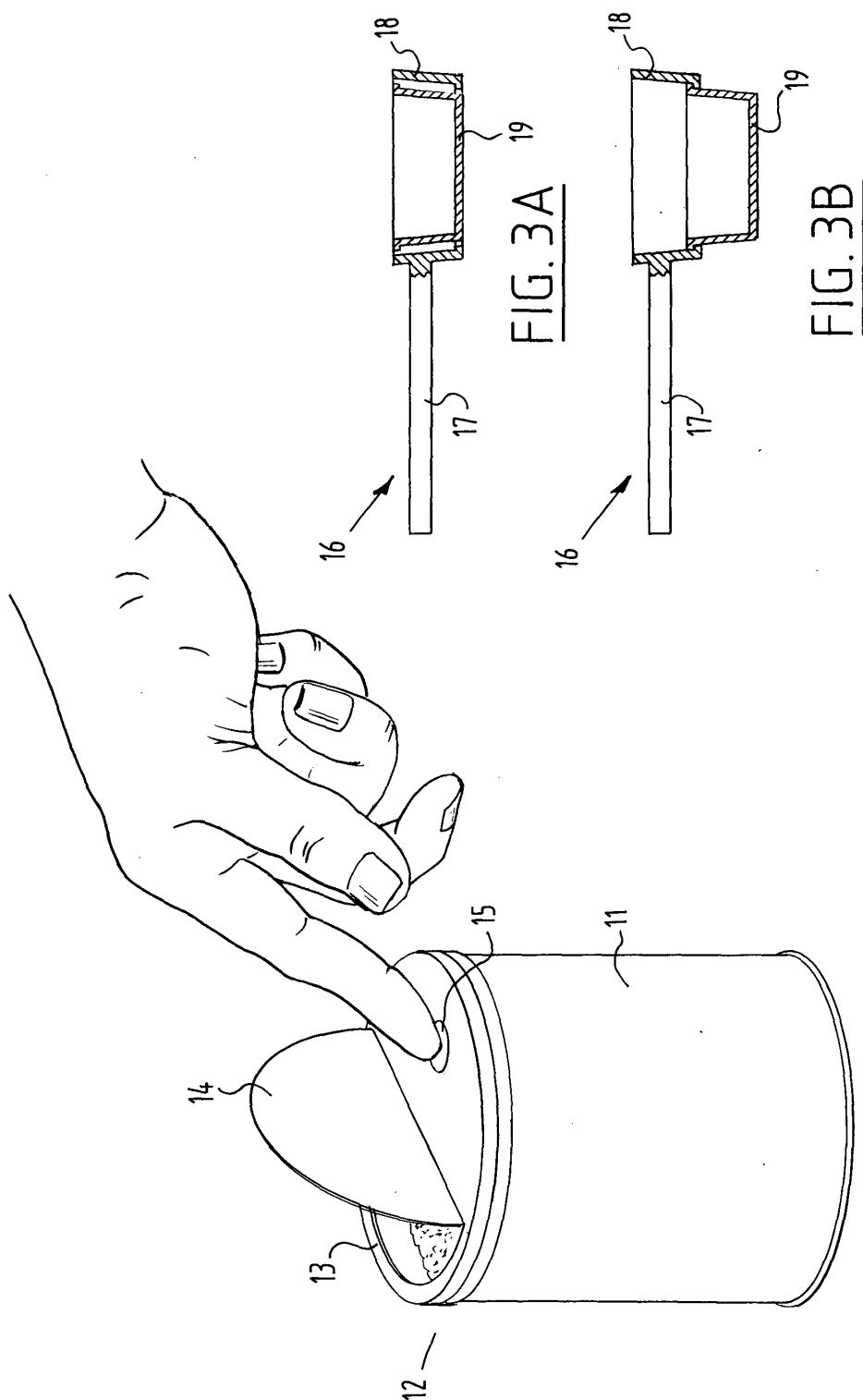


FIG. 2

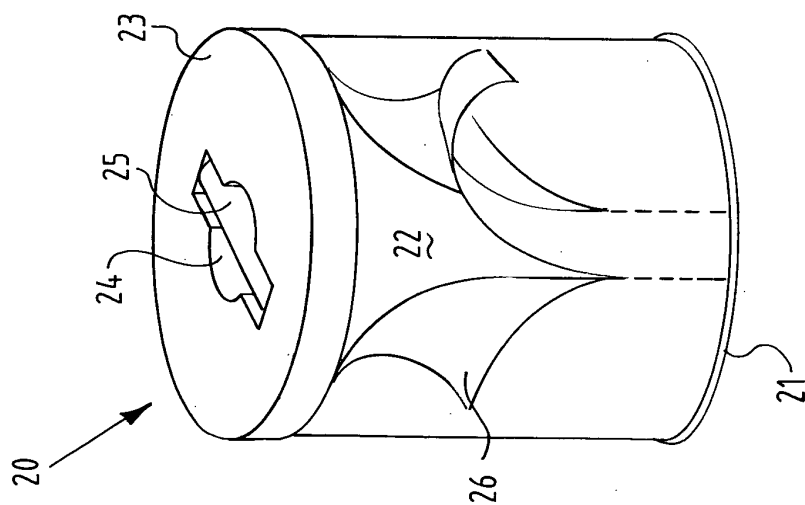


FIG. 4A

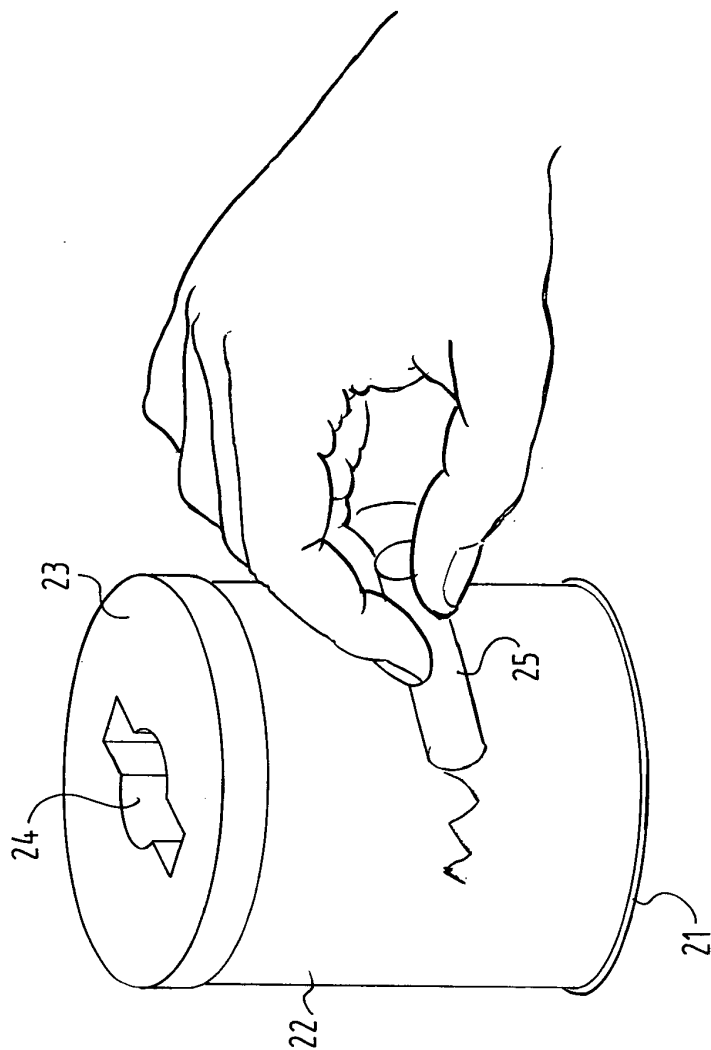


FIG. 4B



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 04 07 6849

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.7)
Y	US 4 930 636 A (MEADOWS MARCIA A) 5 June 1990 (1990-06-05) * abstract; figures 1-5 * * column 4, line 5 - column 4, line 9 * -----	1-4	B65D21/02 B65D51/20
Y	US 3 343 746 A (SHIFFMAN SEYMOUR B) 26 September 1967 (1967-09-26) * figure 1 * -----	1-4	
Y	US 4 940 141 A (PHILPOT TERRY) 10 July 1990 (1990-07-10) * abstract; figures 1,2 * -----	1	
Y	GB 2 303 114 A (ROBINSON JONATHAN D) 12 February 1997 (1997-02-12) * page 4, paragraph 1; figures 4,5 * -----	1	
Y	US 5 273 176 A (DIAZ EUSEBIO M) 28 December 1993 (1993-12-28) * column 3, last paragraph - column 4, paragraph 1; figure 6 * -----	2-4	
Y	US 4 293 079 A (LYTLE THOMAS G) 6 October 1981 (1981-10-06) * abstract; figure 1 * -----	2-4	
A	US 5 273 177 A (CAMPBELL PHILLIP J) 28 December 1993 (1993-12-28) * abstract; figures 5-7 * -----	4	
<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><del>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</del></p> </div>			
Place of search <b>Munich</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>13 August 2004</b>	Examiner <b>Seegerer, H</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p> </div> <div> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> </div> </div>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)



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Application Number

EP 04 07 6849

### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

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

- ☐ Only part of the claims 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 claim(s):
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ 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, 2-4





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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B**

Application Number  
EP 04 07 6849

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: 1,2-4

Cans with lid comprising a ring and a hinged lid part  
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2. claims: 1,5-7,13-15

Can being coated with a writable layer  
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3. claims: 1,8

Stacked cans with lid comprising an information sheet  
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4. claims: 1,9-11

Spoon arranged in the lid of a combination of cans  
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5. claims: 1,12

Can with lid and (additional) foil lid  
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 07 6849

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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13-08-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4930636	A	05-06-1990	NONE	
US 3343746	A	26-09-1967	NONE	
US 4940141	A	10-07-1990	NONE	
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US 4293079	A	06-10-1981	NONE	
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EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82