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(54) **Fragrance specimen carrier for a shelf product**

(57) An fragrance specimen carrier for a shelf product and fixed to a shelf system. The carrier comprises a vessel (1), an air-penetrating lid (2) and a rewinding string holder (3). The vessel (1) is equipped with a tube (4) passing through the vessel bottom and extending substantially to the bottom level of the lid. The lid (2) is respectively equipped with a sleeve (5) extending from the lower surface of the lid. The outer diameter of the sleeve (5) corresponds to the inner diameter of the tube (4) with a fitting clearance. The sleeve (5) is locked to the tube (4) with the string holder (3).

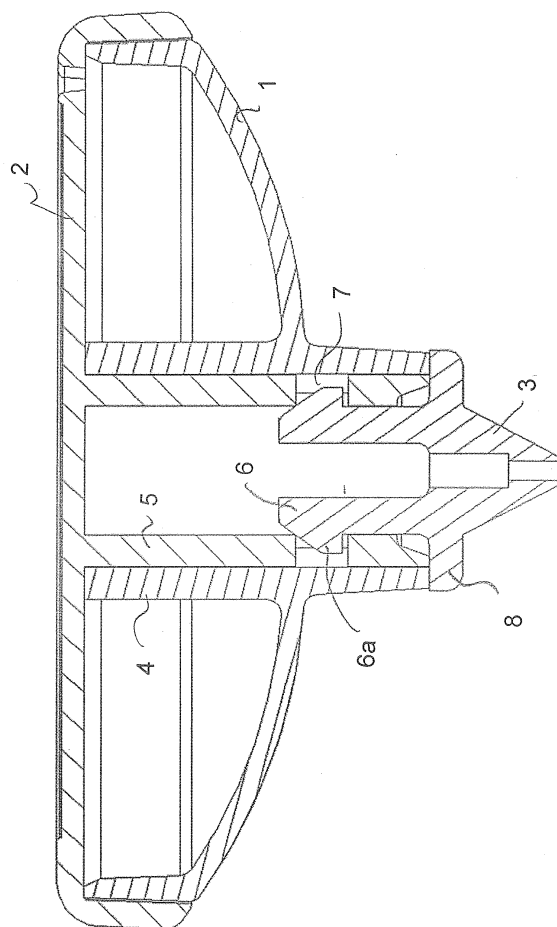


Figure 1

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Description

[0001] The present invention concerns an fragrance specimen carrier to be used for example for presenting products in a retail store based on self-service. For many cosmetic and techno-chemical products, the fragrance is a significant factor from the consumer's point of view.

[0002] There are often several different products presented side by side. For preventing disturbances by the environment, the intensity of the fragrance must be kept limited for each product. The fragrance sample must be brought to a suitable distance from the customer so that he/she can catch the fragrance. The samples must also be connectable to the product in question. For this purpose, the presenting of the products is being developed by introducing means, by which the customer can get a reliable thought of the fragrance of the specific product in question.

[0003] This means is based on a "sample knob" connected with the presenting means of the products, said sample knob being attached to a string or the like having a suitable length, to be pulled out. The string is a part of a winding device that is tensioned when distancing the knob from the winding device and pulls the knob back to the winding device when the person examining the sample releases the knob. The sample knob is a bowl-like vessel covered by a lid. The lid has a construction such that it penetrates air suitably so as to convey the fragrance. Depending on the construction of the fragrance sample, the lid can be provided with openings, it can be made of porous material or both. The fragrance sample is traditionally included in a suitable carrier, for example gelled. Projecting from the bottom of the bowl there is a suitable fastener for fixing the string of the winding device. The fastener is also suitably shaped so as to set appropriately to its seat in the winding device for the next testing of the sample.

[0004] To ensure that the winding string pulls the knob reliably back to its seat, the winding device must have some tension potential, whereby an impact stress is exerted to the knob, in case it is let to return substantially non-retarded. In these situations, early fatigue has been detected in the constructions of the knobs. Above all, the lids tend to loosen before a reasonable service life has been reached. A knob vessel hitting against the seat causes a substantial recoil effect on the contents of the knob, and thereby an internal pressure shock on the lid.

[0005] The existing problems can be substantially decreased by means of an fragrance specimen carrier, in other words a sample knob in accordance with the present invention, the substantial characteristics thereof becoming evident from the enclosed Claim 1. Advantageous embodiments of the invention are disclosed in the dependent claims.

[0006] The invention will be described in more detail based on the enclosed drawing, the figure showing the fragrance specimen carrier of the invention as a cross-sectional view.

[0007] The fragrance specimen carrier shown in the figure comprises, as known in the art, a bowl-like vessel body 1 covered by a lid 2. In the construction in accordance with the invention there is a centrally located tube 4 passing through the vessel, said tube 4 being a fixed part of the body of the vessel 1 and defining for its part the bowl space. The tube 4 is open extending through the bottom of the vessel 1 and extending to a substantial distance from the bottom inside the vessel, preferably to the level of the lower surface of the lid 2. The lid 2 comprises a sleeve 5 projecting from the lower surface of the lid 2. The sleeve 5 is dimensioned according to the inner diameter of the tube 4 so that the sleeve can be pushed with a fitting clearance to the tube 4 when putting the lid 2 in place. The sleeve 4 will be locked in its inwardly pushed position by means of a string holder 3.

[0008] For locking the sleeve 5, the string holder 3 is dimensioned to be partly inserted to the sleeve 5 as far as the reach of the hooks 6 that belong to the string holder. The insertion length is delimited by a circumference flange 8, by which the string holder 3 sets against the edges of the mouth opening of the bottom side of the tube 4. The hooks 6 are equipped with grip cams 6a dimensioned to attach to the notches 7 formed to the inner surface of the sleeve 5.

[0009] When closing the lid 2, the sleeve of the lid is inserted in the tube preferably to a depth, where the lid sets against the end of the tube 4. The sleeve 5 is locked to this position by means of a string holder 3 that is pushed from the opposite end of the tube 4, respectively from the open end of the sleeve 5 so that the hooks 6 set to the notches 7 of the sleeve. In this position, the string holder 3 is also with its flange 8 against the end of the tube 4. The sleeve 5 and the lid fixed thereto are locked against the forces attempting to open the lid 2.

[0010] The locking between the sleeve 5 and the string holder 3 is preferably provided to be opened, whereby a new fragrance specimen carrier can be changed for replacing a stale product or for providing a new fragrance sample. The opening of the locking of the string holder 3 can be provided for example by forming the axial walls of the notches chamfered or by forming the walls in either of the rotating directions chamfered, whereby the hooks can be forced out of the notches 7 by turning the string holder about the axial direction with respect to the sleeve. Correspondingly, the cams 6a of the hooks can have chamfered side surfaces, or they can have chamfered side surfaces only at one rotating side.

Claims

1. An fragrance specimen carrier fixed to a rewinding string included in a shelf system, said carrier comprising a vessel (1), an air-penetrating lid (2) and a string holder (3) **characterized in that** the vessel (1) is equipped with a tube (4) open at both ends, passing through the bottom, substantially extending

to the level of the lid, that the lid (2) is equipped with a sleeve (5) extending from the lower surface thereof and having the extending end open, the outer diameter of the sleeve corresponding to the inner diameter of the tube (4) with a fitting clearance, and that the sleeve (5) is retained in the tube (4) with the string holder (3). 5

2. The fragrance specimen carrier in accordance with Claim 1, **characterized in that** the string holder (3) attaches with flexible hooks (6) to the notches (7) of the inner surface of the sleeve (5) 10
3. The fragrance specimen carrier in accordance with Claim 2, **characterized in that** the axial boundary surfaces of each notch (7) are chamfered at least in one circumferential direction 15
4. The fragrance specimen carrier in accordance with Claim 2, **characterized in that** of the cam cheek surfaces of each hook (6) in the direction of the sleeve axis, at least the cheek surface of one circumferential direction is chamfered. 20

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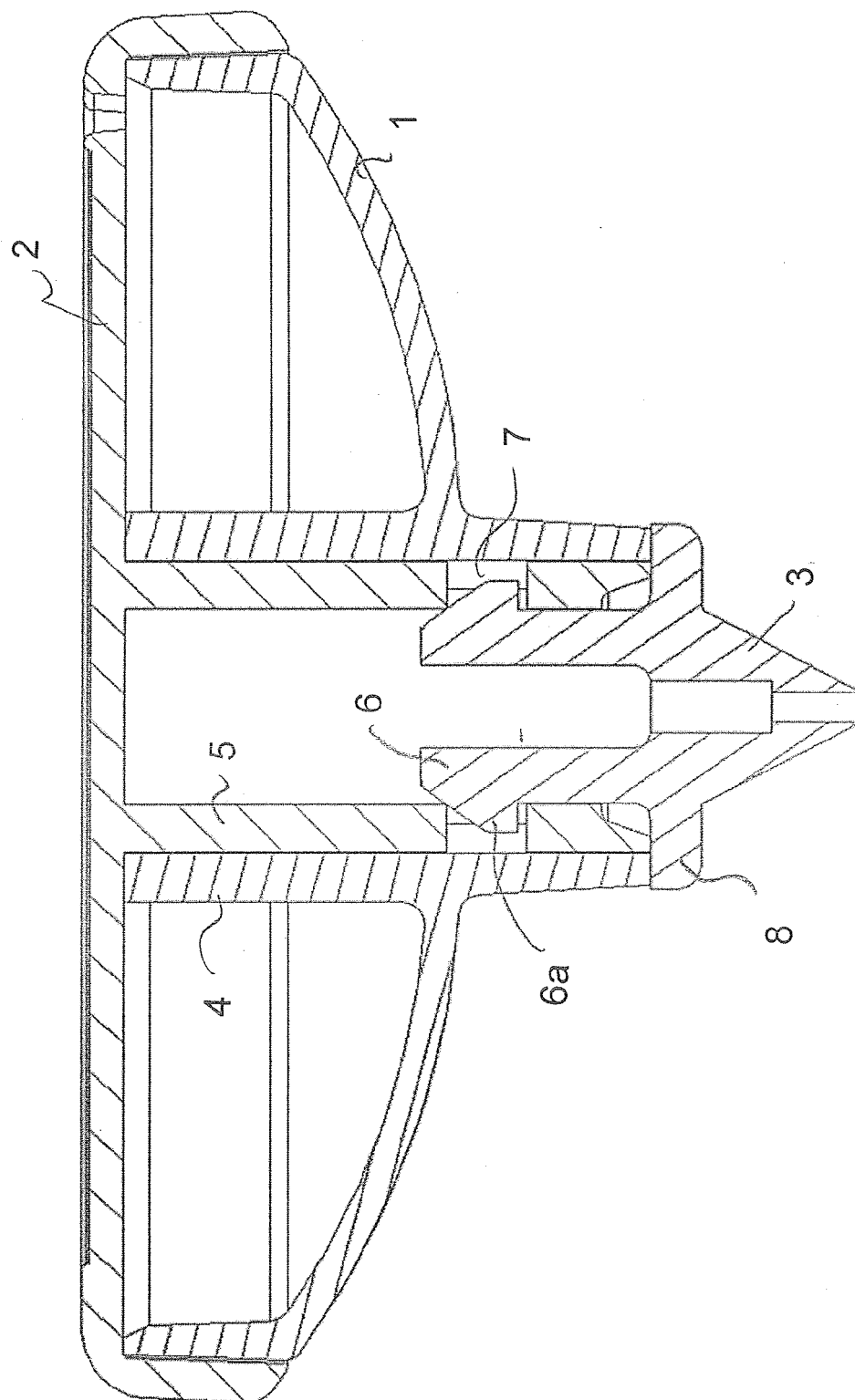


Figure 1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	FR 2 768 906 A (LUNDI MARDI MERCREDI [FR]) 2 April 1999 (1999-04-02) * page 3, line 21 - page 6, line 14; figures 2-5 *	1-4	INV. A45D40/00 G09F5/00
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			G09F A47F A45D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 18 February 2008	Examiner Pavlov, Valeri
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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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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