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(54) **Dispenser for beverages and the like**

(57) There is described a dispenser (1) for beverages and the like placed in a carafe (20), the carafe (20) including a lower plate (22) and a valve (21) normally closed and openable by means of a simple thrust in the opening direction (21 a), the valve (21) being positioned in proximity to the lower plate (22), the dispenser comprising a supporting base (2), suitable to support a dispenser (1) and including a bearing surface (3) for a container (31), a platform (4) operatively raised from the base (2), suitable to support said carafe (20) in a raised position, an activation mechanism (5) comprising a thrust element (6) suitable to open said valve (21) and a connection structure (7) suitable to mechanically move the thrust element (6) in the opening direction (21a) upon gravitational stressing of a container (31) placed on the bearing surface (3) or through a simple thrust of the activator (11) in the opening direction (21a) with the use of a container (31).

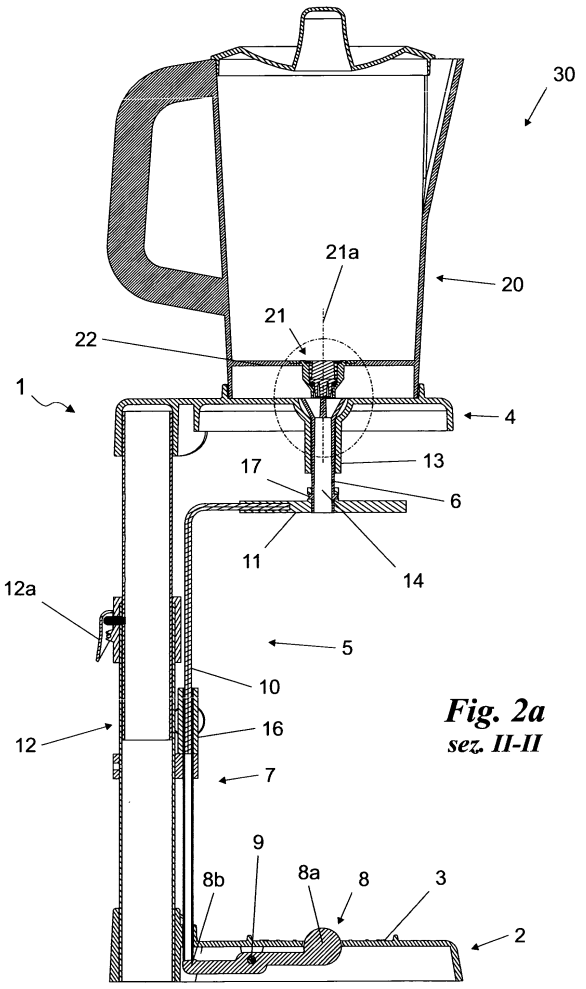


Fig. 2a
sez. II-II

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a dispenser for beverages and the like of the type specified in the preamble of claim 1.

[0002] Various dispensers for beverages and the like are currently known.

[0003] These are generally realized by beverage containers provided with a valve in the lower part and a nozzle, controlled by said valve and suitable to allow the beverage to be poured into a specific glass and the like.

[0004] The valve is can also be manoeuvred by means of a lever or the like.

[0005] These dispensers are generally used in canteens and bars.

[0006] The aforesaid prior art has some important drawbacks.

[0007] In fact, these beverage dispensers are cumbersome, heavy and bulky.

[0008] Therefore, they cannot be placed on the table during daily meals, but must be positioned on special surfaces or tables separate from the table used for meals.

[0009] Moreover, known dispensers generally have an tap for activation which is not immediately usable.

[0010] Another drawback is due to the fact that known dispensers are frequently provided with a power supply. Therefore they are expensive, complex, subject to malfunctions and potentially dangerous, above all as they are in contact with liquids.

[0011] In this situation the technical aim underlying the present invention is to devise a dispenser for beverages and the like capable of substantially overcoming the aforesaid drawbacks.

[0012] Within this technical aim an important object of the invention is to produce a simple and inexpensive dispenser for beverages and the like.

[0013] Another important object of the invention is to obtain a dispenser for beverages and the like which can be used easily and immediately.

[0014] A further object of the invention is to devise a dispenser for beverages and the like which is mechanically activated.

[0015] The technical aim and the objects specified are achieved by a dispenser for beverages and the like according to the appended claim 1.

[0016] Preferred embodiments are highlighted in the dependent claims.

[0017] The characteristics and advantages of the invention are clarified below by the detailed description of a preferred embodiment of the invention with reference to the attached drawings, wherein:

Figure. **1** shows, in scale, a three-dimensional view of an example of the dispenser for beverages and the like according to the invention;

Figure. **2a** shows, in scale, the section II-II, indicated in Fig. 1, in a first configuration;

Figure. **2b** shows, in scale, the section II-II, indicated in Fig. 1 in a second configuration;

Figure. **3** shows, in scale, the section III-III, indicated in Fig. 1;

Figure. **4a** shows the enlargement marked by a dashed oval in Fig. 2a; and

Figure. **4a** shows an enlargement marked by a dashed oval in Fig. 2b.

[0018] With reference to the figures listed above, the beverage dispenser according to the invention is indicated as a whole by **1.**

[0019] It is suitable to support a carafe **20** and to realize therewith a dispensing apparatus **30** for beverages and the like.

[0020] Externally, the carafe 20 is of conventional shape and capacity. It therefore preferably also comprises an upper opening and can have the shape of a decanter for wine or another beverage.

[0021] It comprises a lower plate **22,** suitable to hold the beverage and having a bearing base of the carafe **20.**

[0022] Also positioned in proximity to, or aligned with, the lower plate 22A is a valve **21,** normally closed and openable by means of a simple thrust in the opening direction **21a,** preferably a vertical and upward direction.

[0023] In particular, the valve 21 comprises a movable central portion **23** approximately cylindrical, and a fixed outer portion **24,** constrained to the carafe 20.

[0024] The movable portion 23 is maintained in the closed position (Fig. 4a) by an elastic element **25,** while fluid-tight closure is guaranteed by an O-ring **26.**

[0025] The dispenser 1 comprises a supporting base 2 preferably circular in shape and suitable to support the dispenser 1 on a surface, such as a table or the like. The base 2 comprises a bearing surface 3 suitable to allow placing of a container **31,** such as a glass or the like.

[0026] The dispenser 1 also comprises a platform **4** raised, when the dispenser 1 is in the operating position, from the base 2 and suitable to support the carafe 20 in a raised position.

[0027] The platform 4 is also circular in shape and comprises a central seat **13** aligned with the valve 21. It comprises an upper portion **13a,** appropriately semicircular, and a cylindrical lower portion **13b,** with a smaller diameter than the diameter of the upper portion 13a, as shown in Figs. 4a and 4b.

[0028] The supporting base 2 and the platform 4 are connected by means of an upright **12,** preferably composed of two mutually telescoping portions and constrained by a releasable constraint **12a** so as to allow adjustment of the length of the upright 12.

[0029] The device 1 also comprises an activation mechanism **5** suitable to open and close the valve 21.

[0030] The activation mechanism 5 comprises a thrust element **6,** suitable to open the valve 21, and a connection structure **7** suitable to mechanically move the thrust element 6 in the opening direction **21a** upon gravitational stressing of a said container 31 placed on said bearing surface 3.

[0031] The thrust element 6 is appropriately funnel shaped, suitable to partially house the valve 21 and is in turn housed in the central seat 13.

[0032] It comprises an upper funnel part **6a** and a substantially cylindrical tower part **6b** defining a channel **14** suitable to allow correct channelling of beverages from the carafe 20 to the container 31.

[0033] The upper part 6a also comprises a strut **15,** suitable to press, when activated, the movable central portion 23 of the valve 21 in opposition to the elastic element 25.

[0034] The strut 15 is constrained to the upper part 6a by means of a diametric arm **15b,** suitable not to obstruct the channel 14 entirely, and visible in Fig. 3.

[0035] The thrust element 6, and in particular the lower part 6b, is also appropriately connected, by means of a releasable constraint **17,** to an activation element **11,** which is part of the connection structure 7.

[0036] The activation element 11 is suitable to mechanically move the thrust element 6 in an opening direction 21 a when directly stressed by a user. For this purpose, it comprises two cross arms extending in the horizontal plane and suitable to be pressed directly by means of the container 31, in particular if realized by a glass, and to allow opening of the valve 21.

[0037] The connection structure 7 also preferably comprises a lever **8** positioned on the supporting base 2.

[0038] It comprises a first end **8a** projecting upwards from the bearing surface 3, and in particular from the centre of the bearing surface 3.

[0039] The lever 8 also comprises a second end **8b** and a hinge **9** suitable to connect said lever 8 to the supporting base 2 and defining a horizontal rotation axis. The hinge 9 is also positioned between the ends 8a and 8b, so that the pressure of the first end 8a corresponds to lifting of the second end 8b.

[0040] The activation mechanism 5 also comprises a transmission structure **10,** part of the connection structure 7 and suitable to connect the movement of the second end 8a directly to the movement of the thrust element 6, as shown in Fig. 2b.

[0041] The transmission structure 10 is also appropriately adjustable in length in a vertical direction by means of a closable sleeve **16** suitable to join two portions of the structure 10.

[0042] The transmission structure 10 is also appropriately connected to an arm of the activation element 11.

[0043] Finally, the dispenser 1 is preferably produced entirely in polymer materials, or in various materials such as: wood, plastic, various metals such as aluminium, steel and the like.

[0044] Operation of the beverage dispenser 1, the structure of which is described above, is as follows.

[0045] A carafe 20 is filled and placed on the platform 4, so that the valve 21 is positioned aligned with the thrust element 6.

[0046] In a first situation, shown in Fig. 2a and in the enlargement of Fig. 4a, no containers 31 are present on the bearing surface 3 and the valve 21 remains closed, ensuring fluid-tight seal by means of the elastic element 25 which presses the movable central portion 23 and the O-ring 26 against the fixed outer portion 24.

[0047] In a second situation, shown in Fig. 2b and in the enlargement of Fig. 4b, a container 31 is present on the bearing surface 3.

[0048] This presses the first end 8a of the lever 8, which raises the transmission structure 10 and, in general, the connection structure 7. This latter translates the thrust element 6 in the opening direction 21 a. The strut 15 then raises the movable central portion 23 and the O-ring 26 from the fixed outer position 24, in opposition to the elastic element 25.

[0049] The valve 21 is then open and the beverage flows from the carafe 20, through the channel 14, into the container 31, until the container 31 is raised again by the bearing surface 3.

[0050] The valve can also be opened by means of direct pressure of the container 31, in the opening direction 21 a, on the activation element 11.

[0051] The invention achieves important advantages.

[0052] In fact, the beverage dispenser 1 is simple and inexpensive, light, transportable and can be positioned on the table each day.

[0053] Moreover, the dispenser 1 can be used immediately. In fact, it is sufficient to place a glass or other container 31 on the bearing surface 3 to activate pouring of the beverage.

[0054] Moreover, the dispenser 1 is exclusively mechanically activated and has no electrical, electronic or chemical elements and relative power supply.

[0055] The invention is susceptible to modifications and variants falling within the inventive concept. In particular, the dispenser 1 can be suitable to house a plurality of carafes, for example one for water and one for wine, and have a plurality of bases 2 and the like. It can also have various geometrical shapes, styles or designs.

[0056] All the details can be replaced by equivalent elements and the materials, the shapes and dimensions can be any.

Claims

1. A dispenser (1) for beverages and the like positioned in a carafe (20), said carafe (20) including a lower plate (22) and a valve (21), normally closed and openable by means of a simple thrust in an opening direction (21 a), said valve (21) being positioned in proximity to said lower plate (22), said dispenser (1) comprising: a supporting base (2), suitable to support said dispenser (1) and including a bearing surface (3) for a container (31), a platform (4) operatively raised from said base (2) suitable to support said carafe (20) in a raised position, **characterized in that** it comprises an activation mechanism (5) comprising: a thrust element (6) suitable to open said

valve (21) and a connection structure (7) suitable to mechanically move said thrust element (6) in the opening direction (21a) upon gravitational stressing of a said container (31) placed on said bearing surface (3).

2. The dispenser (1) according to claim 1, wherein said opening direction (21) is a vertical upward direction and wherein said connection structure (7) comprises:

- a lever (8), positioned on said supporting base (2), comprising a first end (8a), projecting from said bearing surface (3), a second end (8b) and a hinge (9) suitable to connect said lever (8) to said supporting base (2),
- said hinge (9) being positioned between said ends (8a, 8b).

3. The dispenser (1) according to claim 2, wherein said connection structure (7) comprises a transmission structure (10) suitable to connect the movement of said second end (8a) directly to the movement of said thrust element (6).

4. The dispenser (1) according to one or more of the preceding claims, wherein said connection structure (7) comprises an activation element (11) suitable to mechanically move said thrust element (6) in the opening direction (21 a) when directly stressed by a user.

5. The dispenser (1) according to one or more of the preceding claims, wherein said thrust element (6) is suitable to allow correct channelling of said beverages from said carafe (20) to said container (31).

6. The dispenser (1) according to one or more of the preceding claims, comprising an upright (12) suitable to connect said supporting base (2) to said platform (4).

7. The dispenser (1) according to claim 6, wherein said upright (12) and said transmission structure (10) are adjustable in length in a vertical direction.

8. Dispenser (1) according to one or more of the preceding claims, suitable to house a plurality of carafes (20).

9. A dispensing apparatus (30) for beverages and the like comprising a carafe (20) and a dispenser (1) according to one or more of the preceding claims, said carafe (20) including a lower plate (22) and a valve (21) normally closed and openable by means of a simple thrust in the opening direction (21 a), said valve (21) being positioned in proximity to said lower plate (22).

10. The dispensing apparatus (30) according to claim 6, wherein said valve (21) is positioned aligned with said lower plate (22).

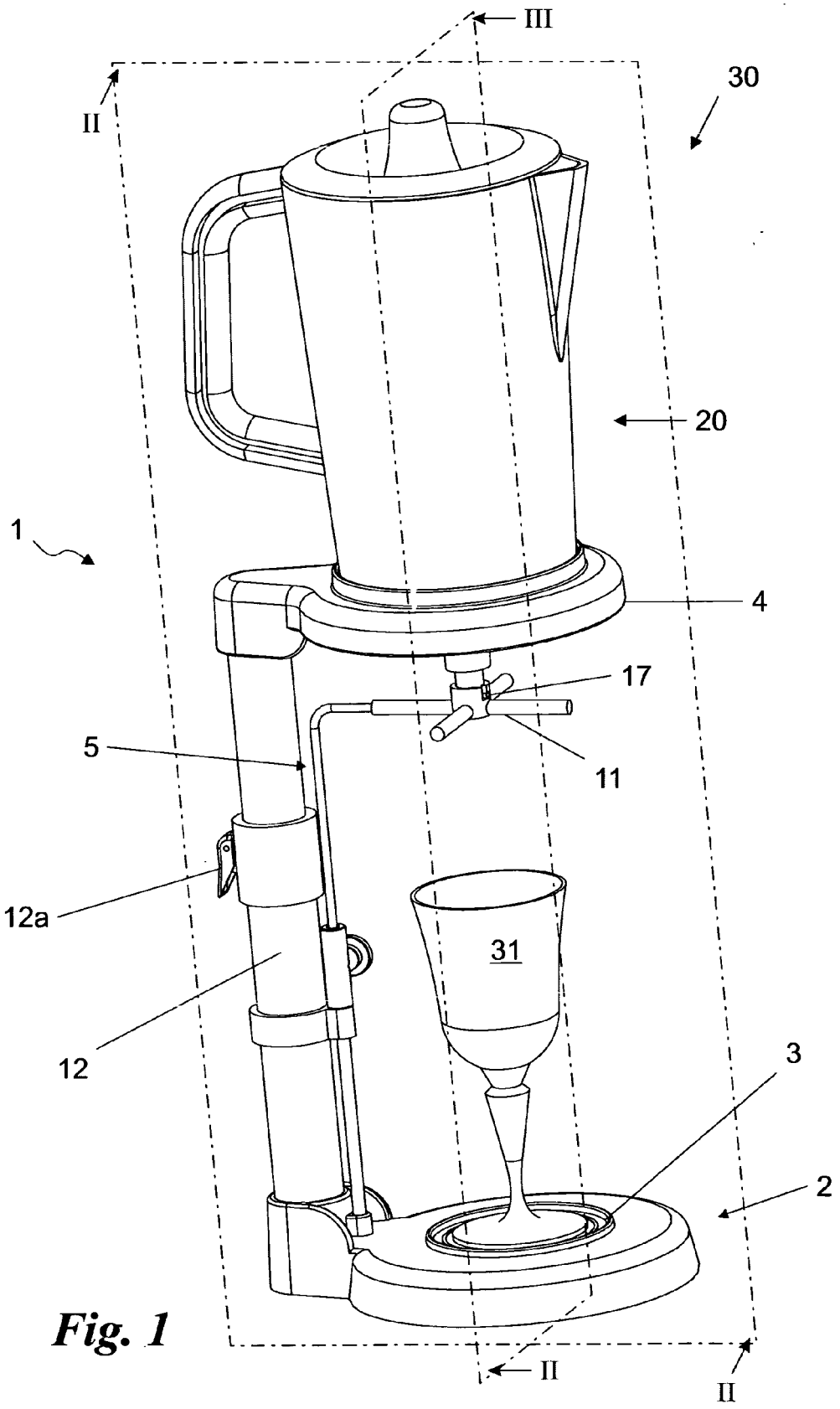


Fig. 1

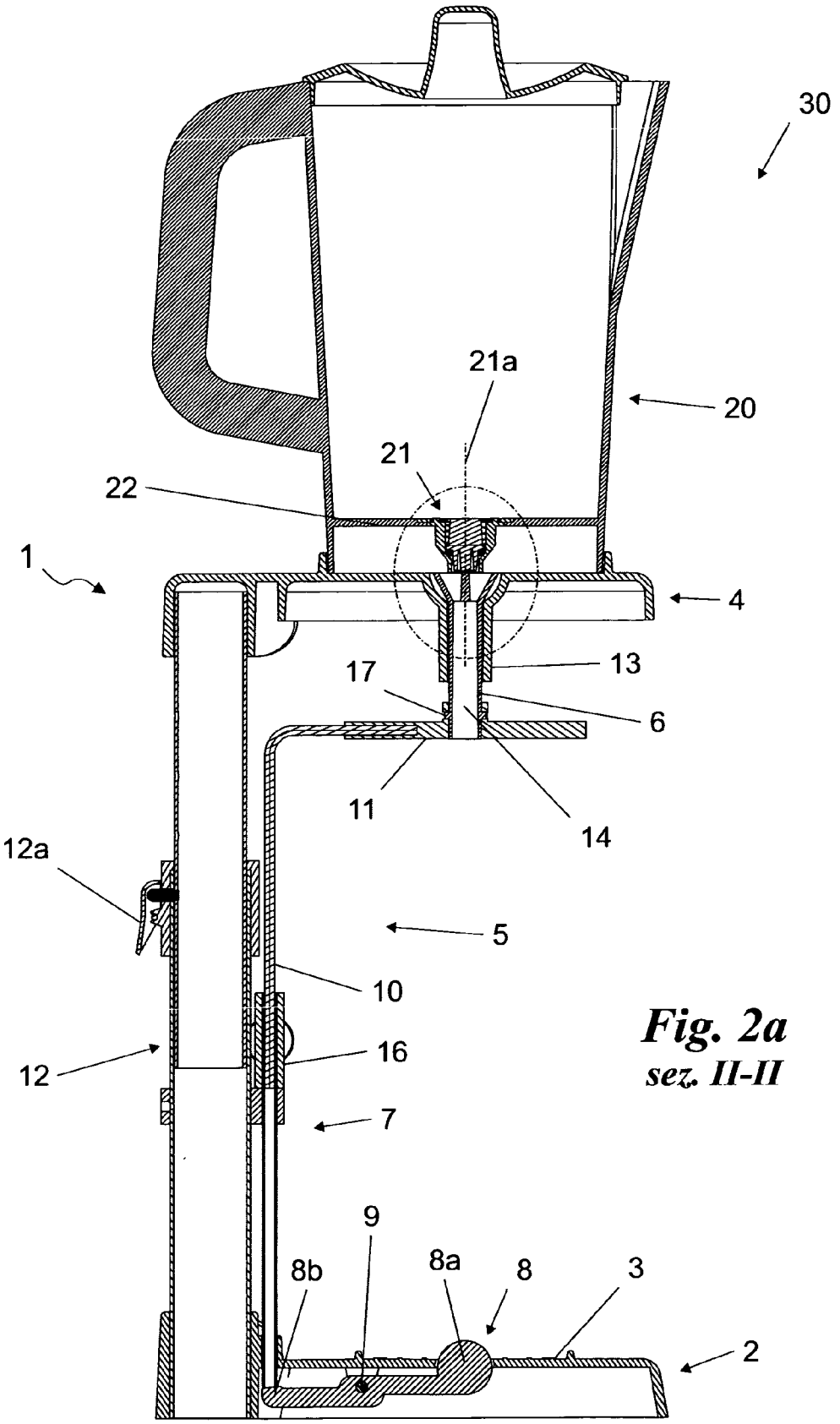


Fig. 2a
sez. II-II

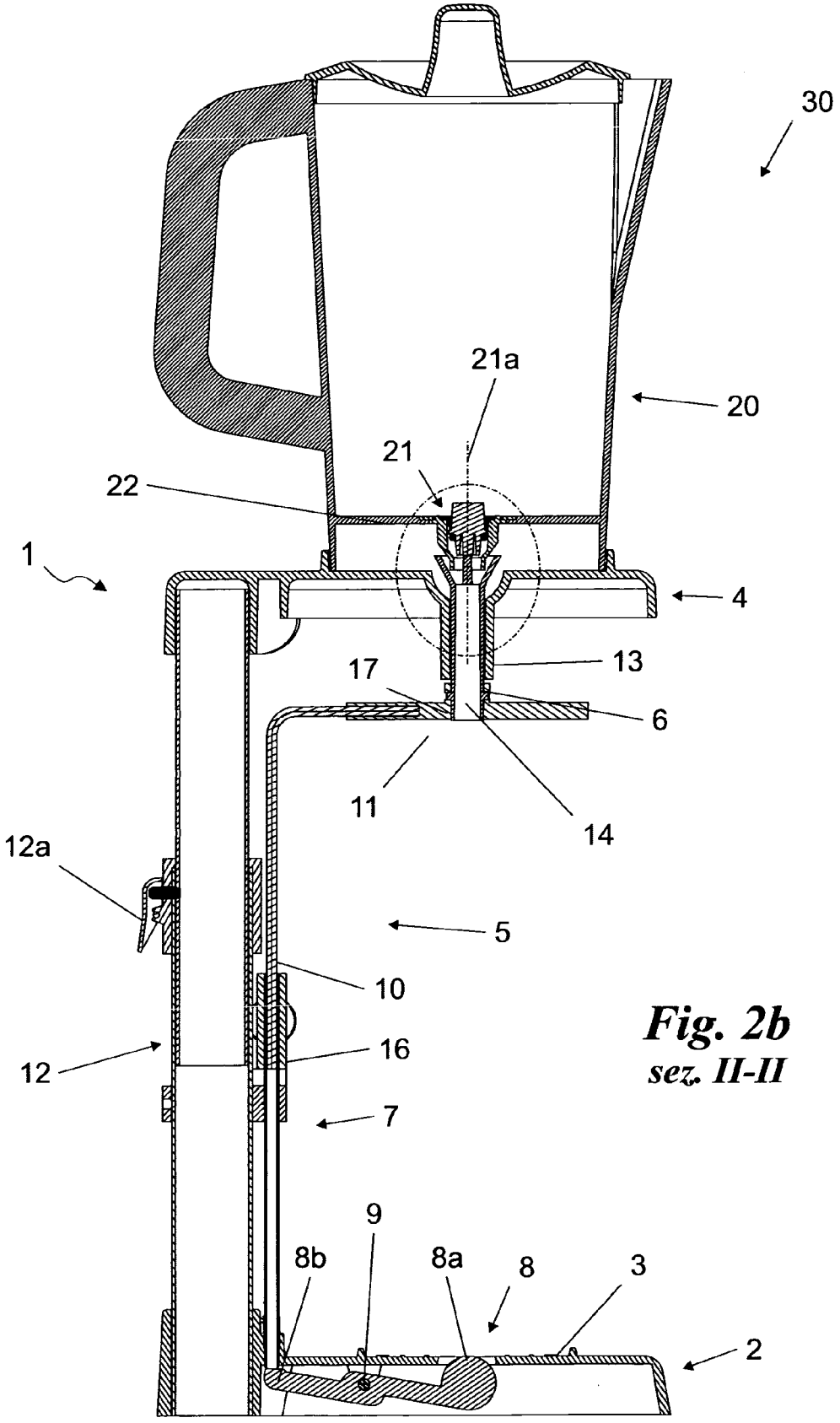


Fig. 2b
sez. II-II

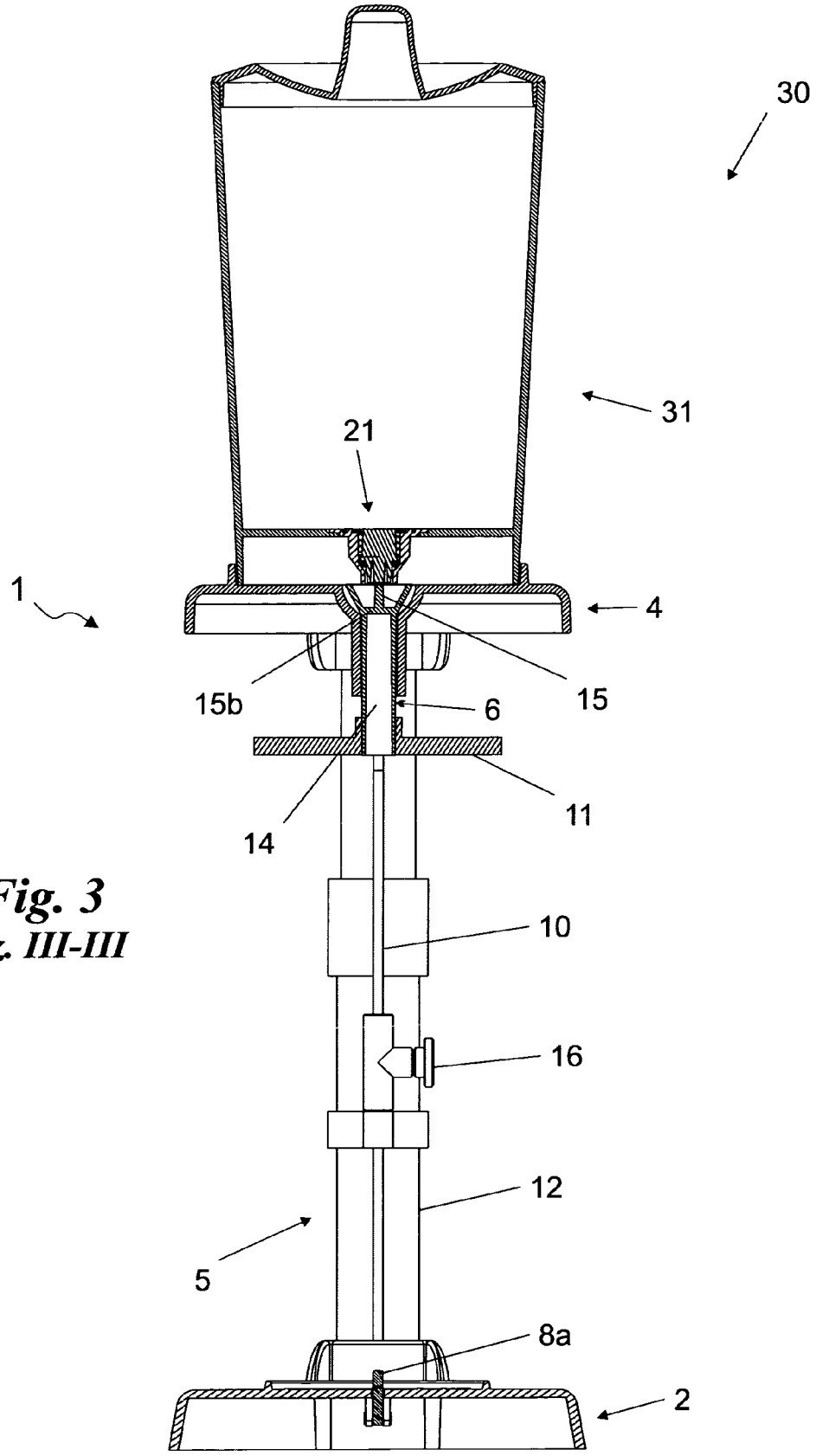


Fig. 3
sez. III-III

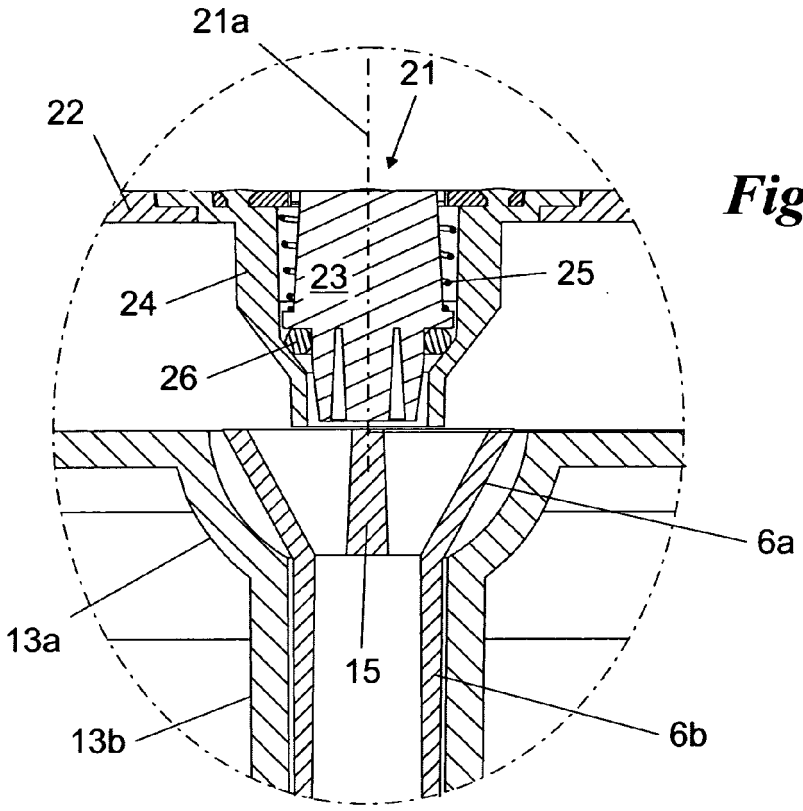

21a
21
22
23
24
25
26
6a
13a
15
13b
6b

Fig. 4a

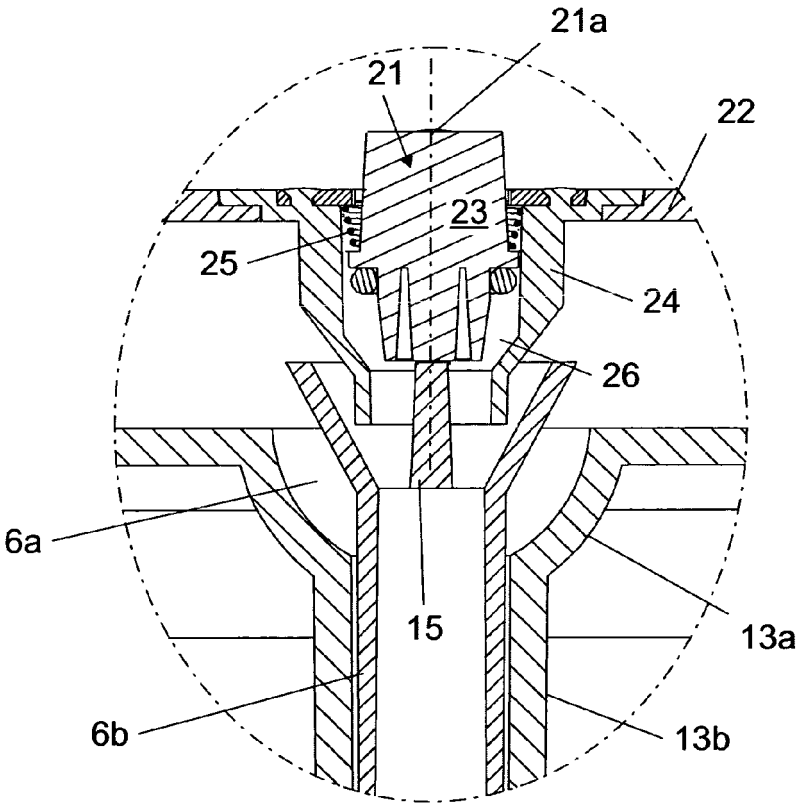

21a
21
22
23
25
24
26
6a
15
13a
6b
13b

Fig. 4b

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 09 42 5241

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	DE 10 2006 042847 A1 (PESCHKE WINFRIED [DE]; SCHWED THOMAS [DE]) 27 March 2008 (2008-03-27)	1,4-10	INV. B67D3/00 B67D3/02
A	* abstract * * figures 1,6 * * paragraph [0037] *	2-3	
A	GB 2 216 099 A (SIMMONS GRAHAM MICHAEL ARTHUR) 4 October 1989 (1989-10-04) * figure 3 * * page 6, line 13 - line 21 *	1	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)

B67D

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague	17 December 2009	Sainz Martínez, M

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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17-12-2009

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GB 2216099 A	04-10-1989	NONE	

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