



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
27.04.2011 Bulletin 2011/17

(51) Int Cl.:
F25D 25/00 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **10188074.8**

(22) Date of filing: **19.10.2010**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR
Designated Extension States:
BA ME

(30) Priority: **23.10.2009 TR 200908058**

(71) Applicant: **Vestel Beyaz Esya Sanayi Ve Ticaret A.S.**
45030 Manisa (TR)

(72) Inventors:
• **Ipek, Tugay**
45030 Manisa (TR)
• **Sogut, Murat**
45030, Manisa (TR)
• **Pala, Dogan**
45030 Manisa (TR)

(74) Representative: **Cayli, Hülya**
Paragon Consultancy Inc.
Koza Sokak No: 63/2
GOP
06540 Ankara (TR)

(54) **Water tank for coolers**

(57) The water tank (A) according to the present invention for coolers aims to make usable the place available at the top of itself (A). For this purpose, the upper part (1) of the tank (A) is formed as special space into

which foodstuffs (6) or kitchen containers (7) can be placed. Accordingly, at least one container or can aperture (2) and at least one foodstuff aperture (3) are provided on the upper part (1) of the tank..

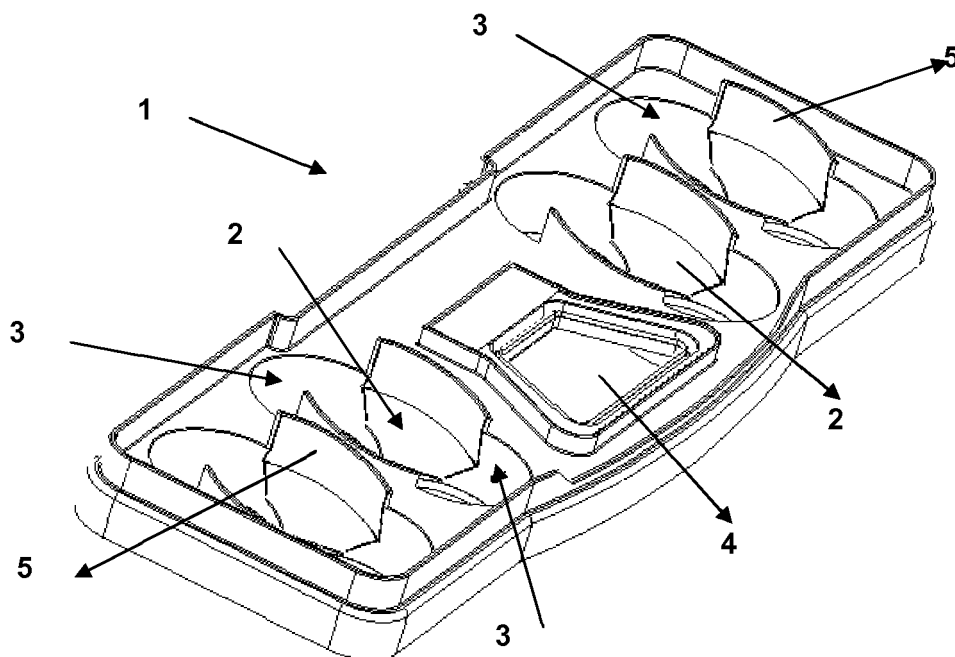


Figure – 1

Description

Technical Field of Invention

[0001] This invention relates to water tanks provided in the inner volume of white goods such as coolers.

Prior Art

[0002] It is preferred in white goods like refrigerators, freezers with cooling capability to keep their usable inner volume as high as possible. For this reason, it becomes significant to create new usable space in the inner volume, without enlarging the external size of coolers. It is further expected that users easily access any foodstuffs previously put in coolers, or even that such foodstuffs stored are situated without affecting each other. Special shelves and spaces are reserved in coolers particularly for fragile foods like eggs. Examples of such shelves are disclosed in published patent applications JP6147742, JP6185852, and JP2001116439 in the prior art. Egg placement shelves shown in these applications, however, occupy substantial space in the inner volume of coolers. For this purpose, a versatile place is formed according to the present invention in a cooler, with the details given below.

Brief Description of Invention

[0003] By the water tank according to the present invention it is aimed to make space in the upper part of the tank provided in coolers usable. Accordingly, the upper part of the water tank according to the present invention is formed as special spaces into which egg-like foods or kitchen containers such as cans, jars, etc. can be placed. Thus, at least one container aperture and at least one foodstuff aperture is provided in the upper part. The upper part of the tank can be structured either to be single-piece with or removable from the tank for cleaning reasons. A collapsible lid is provided in the upper part of the tank for filling water into the tank. Filling water into the tank is performed through a hole below this lid.

Objective of Invention

[0004] The aim of this invention is to make use of the upper part of a water tank of water dispensers of coolers provided in the inner volume thereof as a versatile shelf.

[0005] Another aim of this invention is to provide apertures in the upper part of suchlike water tanks into which food products and/or kitchen containers can be put.

[0006] A further aim of this invention is to generate usable space in the inner volume of coolers by the water tank according to the present invention and to provide an easy to produce and cheap water tank.

Description of Figures

[0007] An exemplary water tank according to the present invention is illustrated in annexed figures wherein,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the upper part of a water tank.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of built-in-state of the water tank in a cooler.

Figure 3 is another perspective view of built-in-state of the water tank in the cooler.

Figure 4 is a top perspective view of the water tank.

Figure 5 is another perspective view of built-in-state of the water tank in the cooler.

[0008] All the parts illustrated in figures are individually assigned a reference numeral and the corresponding terms of these numbers are listed below.

Water tank (A)
Upper part (1)
Container aperture (2)
Foodstuff aperture (3)
Water filling lid (4)
Support member (5)
Foodstuff (6)
Kitchen container (7)
Hole (8)

Description of Invention

[0009] The water tank (A) according to the present invention, illustrated in figures 1 to 5, is a unit employed in the inner volume of the cooler. Water tanks are reservoirs in coolers developed for dispensing water outside without opening the cooler door.

[0010] In general, the water tank placed at cooler doors is utilized for supplying water to water dispensers (fountains). Thus, it is facilitated to take water from a cooler without opening its door. It further allows maintaining the temperature balance in the inner volume since the door is kept closed and to avoid any unnecessary energy consumption due to opening and closing of the door.

[0011] Water tanks, generally provided at the cooler door, may alternatively be situated in other parts, provided that they are kept within the inner volume of cooler. As for the cooler tank (A) according to the present invention, it is hereby aimed to make spaced in the upper side of the water tank (A) usable. For this purpose, the upper part (1) of the water tank (A) is formed as special space into which egg-like foods (6) or kitchen containers (7) such as cans, jars, etc. can be placed. The upper part (1) of the tank (A) can be structured either to be single-piece with, or removable from the tank (A), e.g. for cleaning purposes.

[0012] A collapsible lid (4) is provided in the upper part of (1) tank (A) for filling water into the tank (A). Water

supply for the tank (A) is performed through a hole (8) below this lid (4) (see Figure 5). Alternatively, the lid (4) and the respective hole (8) can be provided on any lateral surface of the tank (A). In this manner, a more usable place is provided for the upper part (1).

[0013] In Figures 2 and 3, the occasion in which egg-like foods (6) or kitchen containers (7) such as cans, jars, etc. are situated in the upper part (1) of the water tank (A) according to the present invention is illustrated. Accordingly, at least one can or container aperture (2) and at least one foodstuff aperture (3) are provided in the upper part (1). At the edge of at least one of these apertures (2, 3) (see figures 1 and 4) is provided a support member (5) (see figures 1 and 4).

[0014] Each support member (5) is formed in the form of an upward-extending protrusion and serves to prevent any food product (6) or container (7) put in the apertures (2, 3) from falling to the sides. The apertures (2, 3) may either be formed separate from each other, or in a nested way as illustrated in the figures 1 and 4.

[0015] Thus, a usable space is obtained for foodstuffs (6) and kitchen containers (7), thanks to the water tank (A) according to the present invention. This, consequently, allows making more efficient the use of the inner volume of coolers.

8. A water tank (A) according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** in the upper part (1) there is provided a lid (4) via which water is filled into the tank (A)

Claims

1. A water tank (A) used in the inner volume of cooler-type white goods, **characterized in that** it comprises at least one foodstuff aperture (3) and at least one container aperture (2) in the upper part (1) of the tank (A), having a hollow form into which foodstuff(s) (6) or kitchen container(s) (7) is/are put.
2. A water tank (A) according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** at least one support member (5) is provided at the edge of at least one of said apertures (2, 3).
3. A water tank (A) according to Claim 2, **characterized in that** each support member (5) is formed in the form of an upward-extending protrusion.
4. A water tank (A) according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the apertures (2, 3) are separate from each other.
5. A water tank (A) according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the apertures (2, 3) are in a nested structure.
6. A water tank (A) according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the upper part (1) of the tank (A) is single-piece with the latter (A).
7. A water tank (A) according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the upper part (1) of the tank (A) is removable from the latter (A).

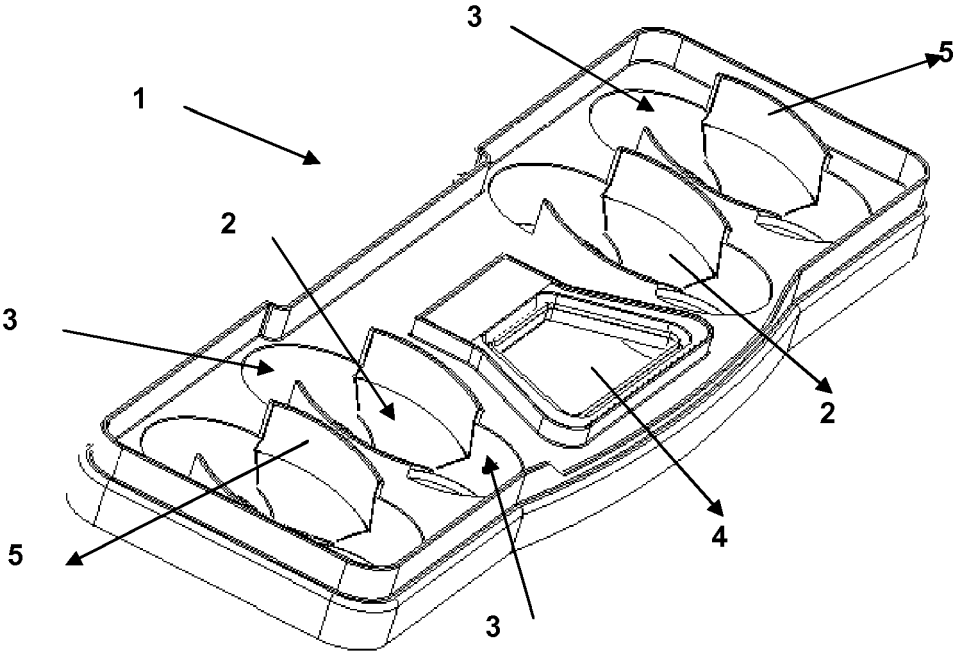


Figure – 1

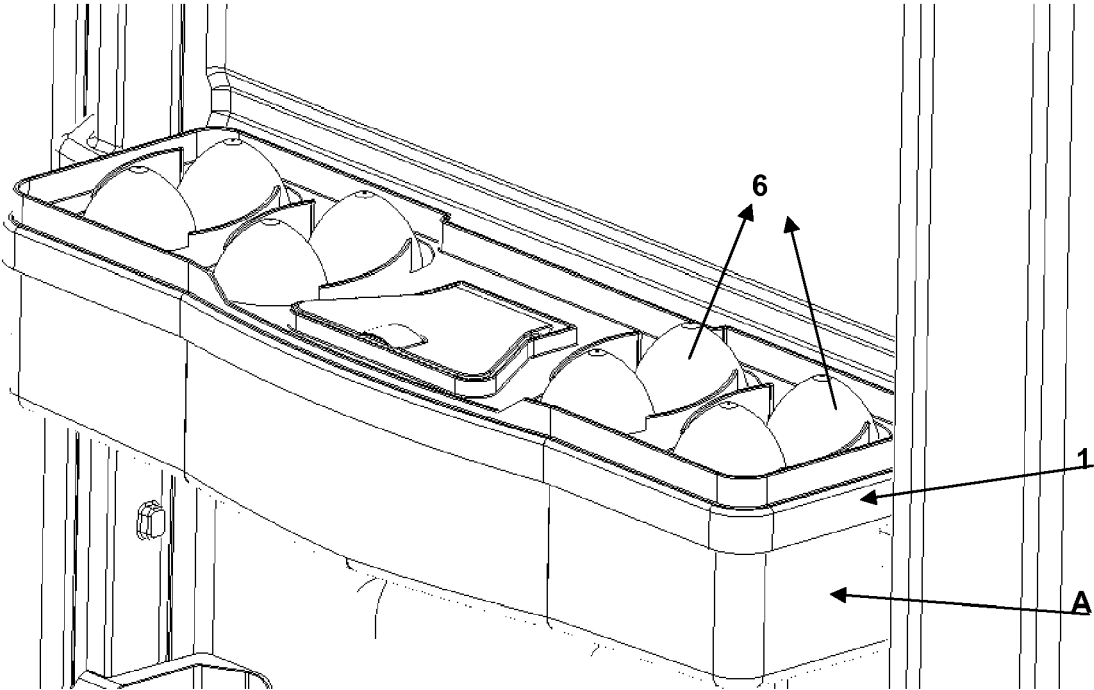


Figure – 2

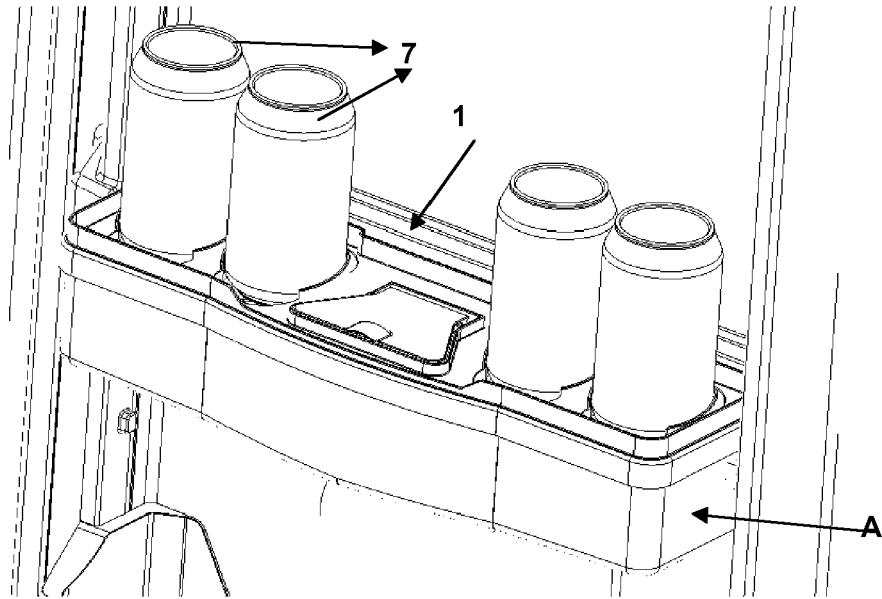


Figure - 3

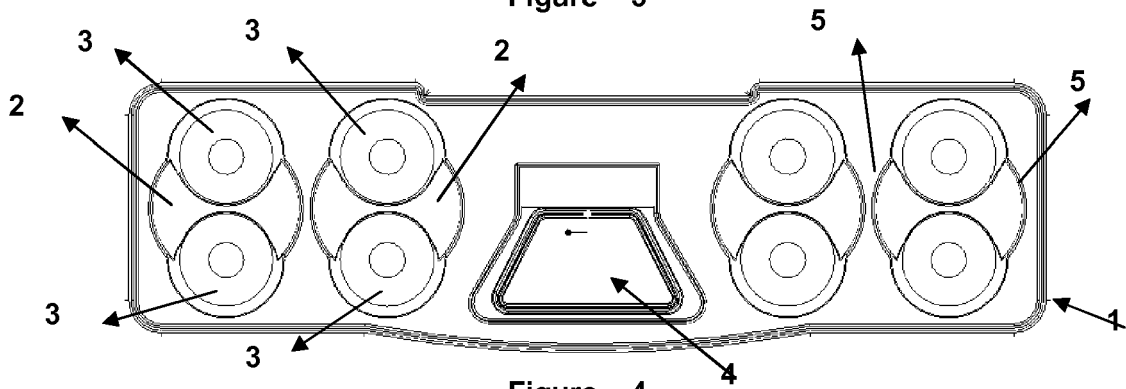


Figure - 4

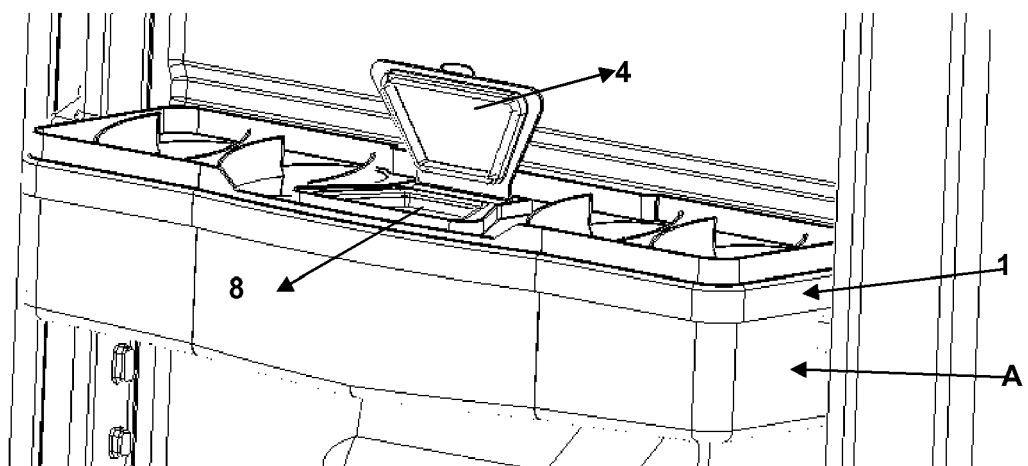


Figure - 5



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

 Application Number
EP 10 18 8074

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	JP 48 073858 U (NOT TRANSLATED) 13 September 1973 (1973-09-13) * claims 1-5; figures 1,2 *	1-8	INV. F25D25/00
X	JP 49 059151 U (NOT TRANSLATED) 24 May 1974 (1974-05-24) * the whole document *	1-8	
A	US 2007/295023 A1 (YOON JONG S [KR] ET AL YOON JONG SEOK [KR] ET AL) 27 December 2007 (2007-12-27) * paragraph [0013]; figure 9 *	1-8	
A	JP H04 29792 U (NOT TRANSLATED) 10 March 1992 (1992-03-10) * figure 1 *	1-8	
A	JP 56 096287 U (NOT TRANSLATED) 30 July 1981 (1981-07-30) * figure 4 *	1-8	
A	JP H04 113885 U (NOT TRANSLATED) 6 October 1992 (1992-10-06) * figures 1,3,5,8 *	1-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
A	JP 7 019722 A (SHARP KK) 20 January 1995 (1995-01-20) * figures 7,13 *	1-8	F25D
A	US 2008/237229 A1 (FRIED BRIAN A [US]) 2 October 2008 (2008-10-02) * paragraph [0043] - paragraph [0062]; figures 1-5 *	1-8	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 18 February 2011	Examiner Amous, Moez
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			

 1
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 10 18 8074

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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

18-02-2011

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 48073858	U	13-09-1973	JP 50037264 Y2	29-10-1975
JP 49059151	U	24-05-1974	NONE	
US 2007295023	A1	27-12-2007	NONE	
JP H0429792	U	10-03-1992	JP 2554673 Y2	17-11-1997
JP 56096287	U	30-07-1981	JP 59034866 Y2	27-09-1984
JP H04113885	U	06-10-1992	NONE	
JP 7019722	A	20-01-1995	NONE	
US 2008237229	A1	02-10-2008	NONE	

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- JP 6147742 B [0002]
- JP 6185852 B [0002]
- JP 2001116439 B [0002]