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(54) **DRINK CARRIER AND FOOD CONTAINER**

(57) Drink holder and food container (1) comprising an upper portion (2) formed by a set of side walls (8) and a bearing surface (9) joined and connected in an articulated manner to a lower portion (3), formed by a set of side walls (8) and a bearing surface (9), wherein at least one of the bearing surfaces (9) comprises a hole (6), which forms part of the container in which a cup (5) is

inserted, such that when a single container (1) contains both a cup (5) and food, the consumer can carry everything with just one hand or arm. The container (1) can be held by holding the cup (5). The hole (6) may be circular, polygonal or of different geometric shapes and is always complementary to the shape of the cup (5).

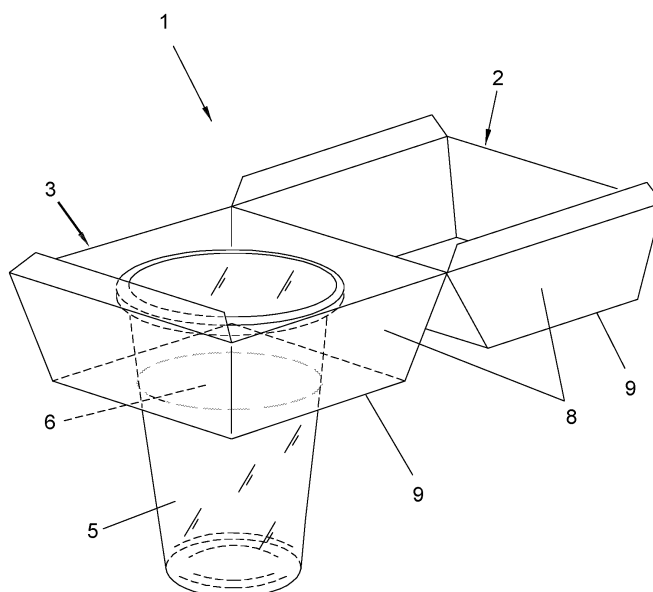


FIG. 2

Description**OBJECT OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] The object of the present invention is related to a container for food comprising a hole which forms part of the container, adapted to hold a cup. In this manner, when a single container contains both a cup and food, the consumer can carry everything with just one hand or arm.

[0002] It is of particular application in the field of food industry, specifically in catering, hotel industry and home use.

TECHNICAL PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED AND BACKGROUND OF THE**INVENTION**

[0003] Today it is increasingly common to see people with an eating lifestyle wherein food is prepared and served to be consumed quickly in specialized stores, either in fast food restaurants, cinemas, theaters, concerts, etc.

[0004] It often happens that when an individual goes to one of these establishments, buys one or more combinations of food and beverage, having the disadvantage of not being able to carry everything with both hands, running the risk of dropping everything, due to the difficulty of carrying it all together, so that the customer has to find a way to transport all at once using the set of arms and body.

[0005] The object of the present invention overcomes these problems by providing a container for food comprising a hole, which forms part of the container, adapted to hold a cup.

[0006] Therefore, the present invention solves the aforementioned problems having the advantage of providing a container for food with which food and drink can be transported together in one single hand or arm, providing greater comfort to the user.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The present invention is related to a drink holder and food container comprising:

- an upper portion and a lower portion, each formed by a set of side walls and a bearing surface, both portions joined and connected to each other in an articulated manner,

where at least one of the bearing surfaces comprises a hole, which forms part of the container in which a cup can be inserted, such that when a single container contains both a cup and food, the consumer can carry everything with just one hand or arm.

[0008] In a preferred embodiment the hole is centered

in the bearing surface, and said hole may be circular or polygonal, complementary to the shape of the cup.

[0009] There are three different modes of embodiment:

- The hole is defined by a closed punching line,
- the hole is covered by a sheet of transparent paper,
- the hole is opened during the manufacturing process at the factory.

[0010] The container can be held by holding the cup.

[0011] In other embodiments the hole may be positioned at any offset position with respect to the bearing surfaces and may have different geometrical shapes to fit the shape of the cup.

[0012] The container may have any geometrical shape and be made of any material, the preferred embodiment being cardboard.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0013] In order to complete the description and with the object of helping to a better understanding of the features of the invention, a set of drawings is attached to the specification as an integral part of the same, wherein by way of illustration and without limitation, the following has been represented:

Figure 1, corresponding to the first embodiment, where the food container of the invention can be seen provided with a cup inserted into the hole in the lower portion of the container, where said hole is defined by breaking the closed punching line and where a spare sheet attached at one end can be seen.

Figure 2, corresponding to the second embodiment shows the food container of the previous figure, but in this case the hole is covered by a sheet of transparent paper which has been removed to insert the cup and therefore not shown in the figure.

Figure 3, corresponds to the third embodiment wherein the hole has been opened during the manufacturing process at the factory. An image of an application of the invention wherein a hand holding the cup without having to hold the upper portion also with the other hand is shown.

[0014] A list of the various elements shown in the figures of the invention is provided below:

1. Container.
2. Upper portion of the container.
3. Lower portion of the container.
4. Closed punching line.
5. Cup.
6. Hole.
7. Spare sheet.
8. Side walls.
9. Bearing surface.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] The object of the present invention is related to a container (1) for food comprising a hole (6) which forms part of the container (1), adapted to hold a cup (5). In this manner, when a single container (1) contains both a cup (5) and food, the consumer can carry everything with just one hand or arm.

[0016] The drink holder and food container (1) comprises an upper portion (2) and a lower portion (3), wherein each portion (2, 3) is formed by a set of side walls (8) and a bearing surface (9) and wherein any of the two portions (2, 3) comprise a hole (6) in which a cup (5) can be inserted.

[0017] The container (1) for food may contain chips, burgers and other fast foods to eat in the restaurant or to take away.

[0018] The hole (6) in a preferred embodiment is centered with respect to any of the bearing surfaces (9) of the two portions, upper or lower (2, 3), such that the cup (5) does not cause the assembly to lose stability.

[0019] In other embodiments the hole (6) may be positioned at any offset position with respect to the bearing surfaces (9).

[0020] Said hole (6) may have different geometrical shapes to fit the shape of the cup (5), the preferred embodiment being circular.

[0021] In a first embodiment, as can be seen in figure 1, the hole (6) is defined by a closed punching line (4). The small portion of the container (1) that is delimited within the closed punching line (4) is called spare sheet (7). The option of leaving the spare sheet (7) hanging or removing it entirely is up to the preferences of the consumer. Figure 1 shows the spare sheet (7) hanging at one end.

[0022] The breakage of the closed punching line (4) is carried out by finger pressure in an easy and simple manner. The remaining hole (6) has sufficient capacity to safely hold the weight of a cup (5) with ice or other article, such as the case of bottles, etc.

[0023] In the case that a drink is not acquired with the purchase of food, the spare sheet (7) can be left without breaking in its initial configuration, that is, forming part of the container (1).

[0024] In a second embodiment, the hole (6) is covered by a sheet of transparent paper, which may be affixed to the container (1) or it may be simply broken such that both configurations allow said sheet of transparent paper to be easily removed. Obviously the hole (6) may be covered by a sheet of any other material.

[0025] In a third embodiment, the hole (6) is opened during the manufacturing process at the factory.

[0026] Figure 3, corresponding to the third embodiment wherein the hole (6) is opened during the manufacturing process at the factory, shows how the user holds the plastic cup (5) with the hand, which is usually the heaviest portion, without having to also hold the upper portion (2) of the container.

[0027] In a preferred embodiment the container (1) is made of cardboard and is folded at the corners, thereby having the typical construction of this type of containers (1). Obviously the container (1) may have any geometrical shape and may be made of any material.

[0028] In different embodiments, the bearing surface (9) may have different geometric shapes, the preferred embodiment being flat.

[0029] The drinks that are purchased for consumption together with the food are usually sold in cups (5) of frustoconical shape. Moreover, since the cups (5) for this kind of fast food are often provided with a straw, this would allow drinking without tipping the contents out.

[0030] The present invention should not be limited to the embodiment described herein. Other configurations may be carried out by those skilled in the art in light of the present disclosure. Accordingly, the scope of the invention is defined by the following claims.

Claims

1. A drink holder and food container (1) comprising:
 - an upper portion (2) formed by a set of side walls (8) and a bearing surface (9), joined and connected in an articulated manner to,
 - a lower portion (3), formed by a set of side walls (8) and a bearing surface (9),
 - characterized in that** said container (1) comprises:
 - in at least one of the bearing surfaces (9) a hole (6) which forms part of the container (1) in which a cup (5) is inserted, such that when a single container contains both a cup and food (1), the consumer can carry everything with just one hand or arm,
 - wherein the container (1) can be held by holding the cup (5).
2. The drink holder and food container (1) according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the hole (6) is centered in the at least one bearing surface (9).
3. The drink holder and food container (1) according to any one of the claims 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the hole (6) is circular and complementary to the shape of the cup (5).
4. The drink holder and food container (1) according to any one of the claims 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the hole (6) is polygonal and complementary to the shape of the cup (5).
5. The drink holder and food container (1) according to any one of the claims 3 or 4, **characterized in that** the hole (6) is defined by a closed punching line (4).

6. The drink holder and food container (1) according to any one of the claims 3 or 4, **characterized in that** the hole (6) is covered by a sheet of transparent paper.

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7. The drink holder and food container (1) according to any one of the claims 3 or 4, **characterized in that** the hole (6) is opened during the manufacturing process at the factory.

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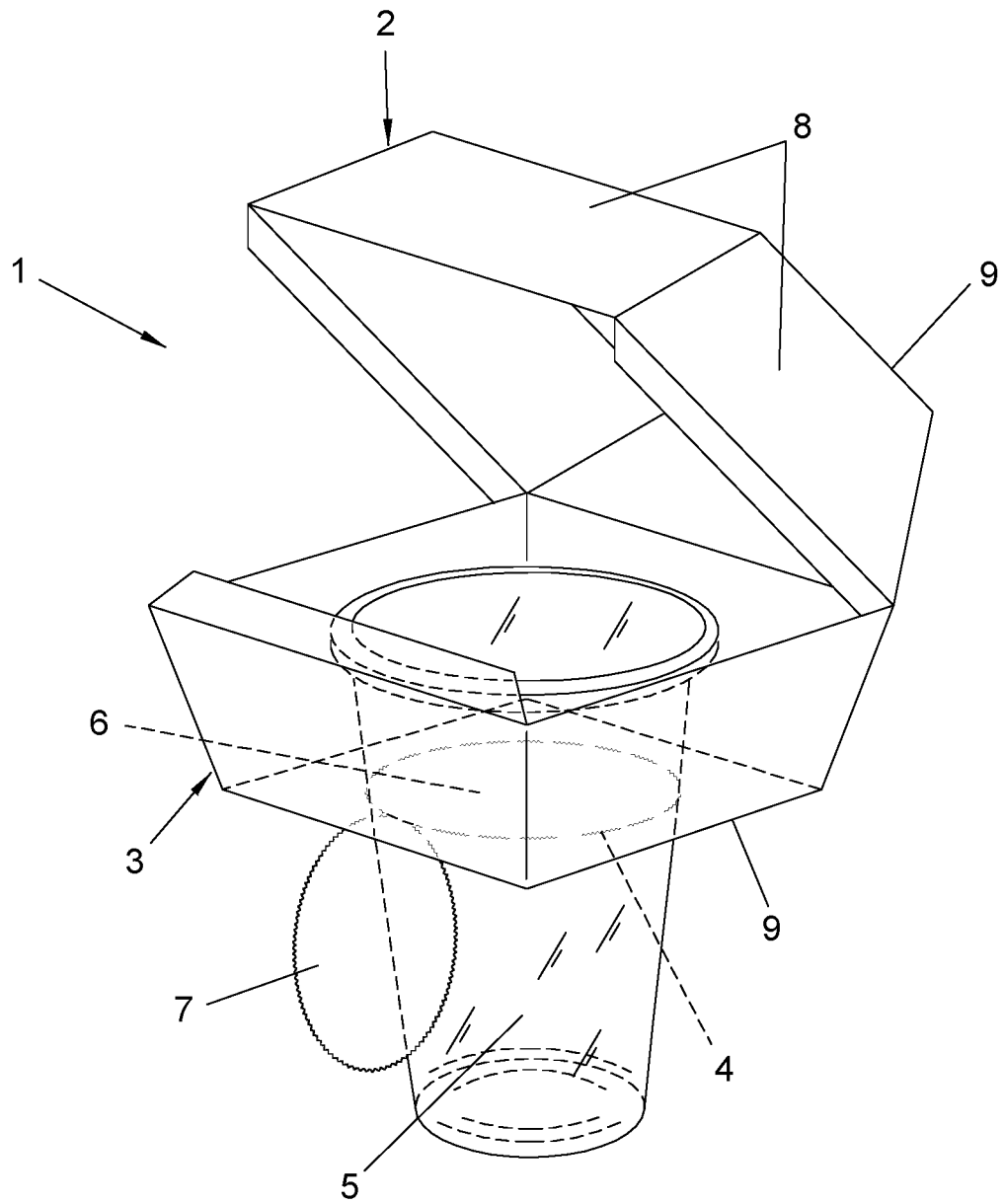


FIG. 1

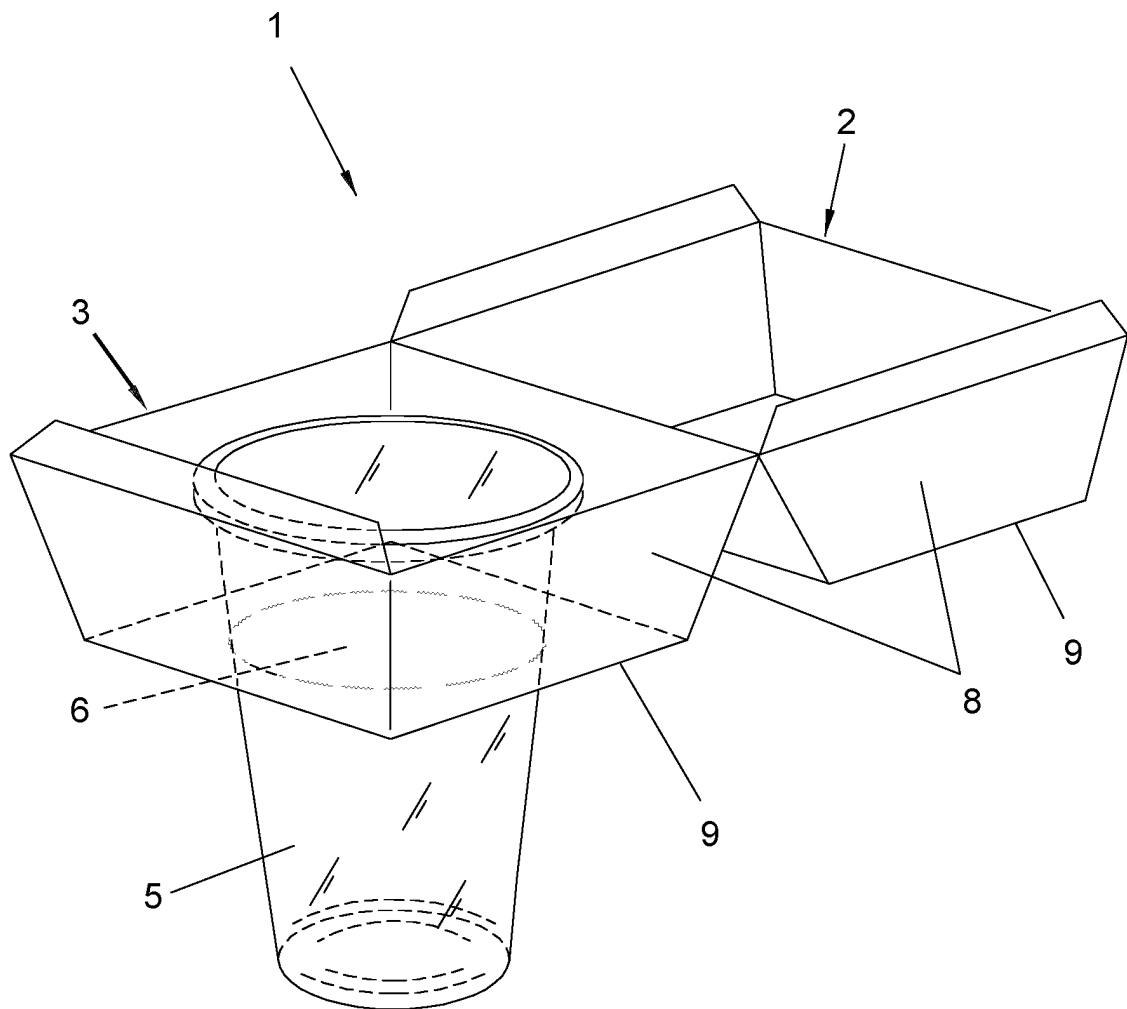


FIG. 2

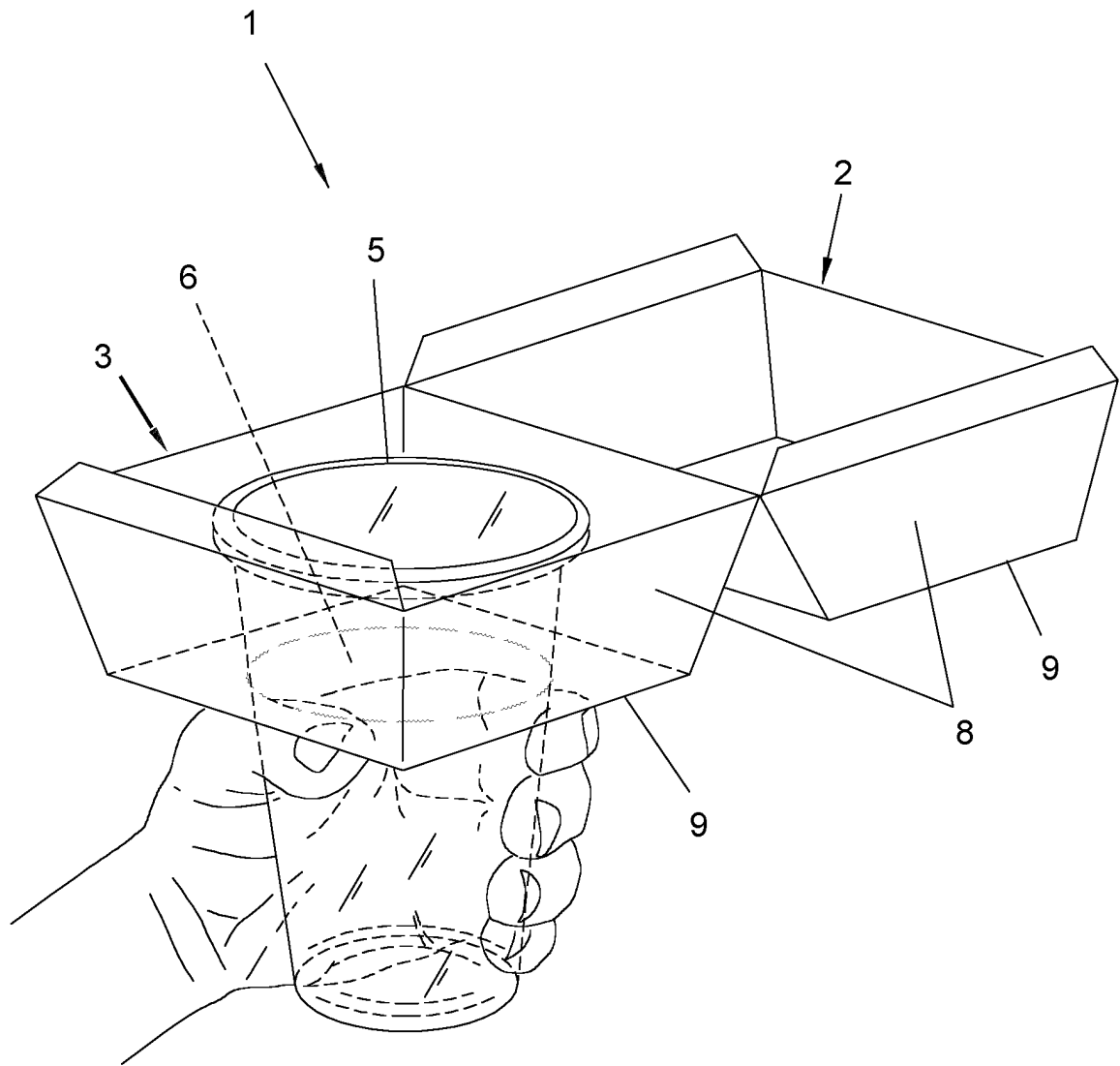


FIG. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/ES2014/070037

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

A47G23/02 (2006.01)

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)

A47G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPODOC, INVENES, DWPI

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2011114643 A1 (BOGDZIEWICZ WILLIAM J) 19/05/2011, the whole document	1-7
Y	WO 0168458 A1 (HEMINGWAY GEORGE F ET AL.) 20/09/2001, figures 1-12	1-5,7
Y	DE 20313018U U1 (SUTTER GMBH) 16/10/2003, figura4; reivindicaciones 4-5	6
A	US 7115294 B1 (LOH BILL ET AL.) 03/10/2006, the whole document	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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"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 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

24/02/2014

Date of mailing of the international search report

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 2009)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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Information on patent family members

Patent document cited in the search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US2011114643 A1	19.05.2011	NONE	
WO0168458 A1	20.09.2001	NONE	
DE20313018U U1	16.10.2003	NONE	
US7115294 B1	03.10.2006	NONE	

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 2009)