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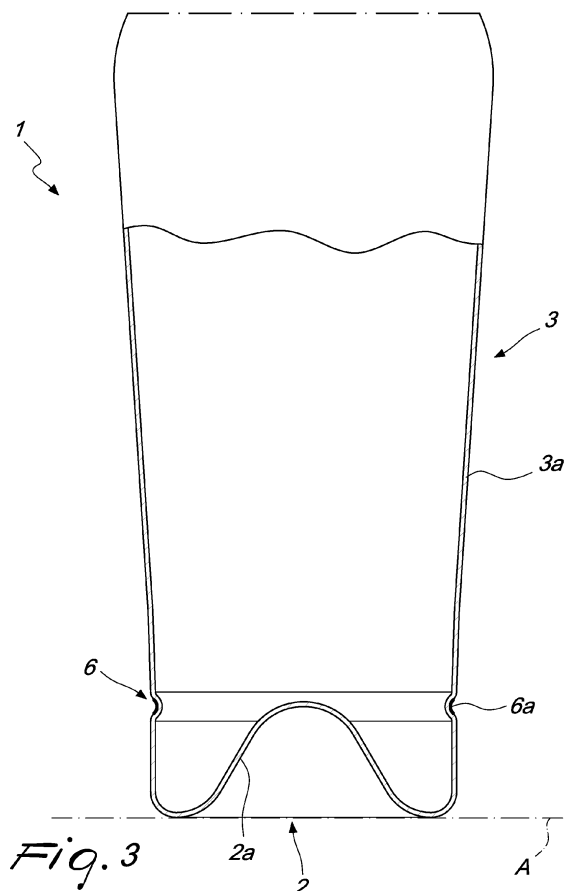
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(54) **GLASS CONTAINER FOR FOOD LIQUIDS**

(57) A glass container for food liquids, comprising a vessel provided at least with:

- a base (2) which forms an ideal resting surface (A),
- a main body (3) configured to contain food liquids,
- a terminal neck (4) which is arranged opposite to the base (2) and is open at an outlet (5).

The container (1) comprises an annular groove (6), provided along the outer lateral surface (3a) of the body (3) with an extension that is parallel to the ideal plane (A).



Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a glass container, of the type of bottles, vases and the like, for food liquids, particularly wine, sparkling wine, oil and vinegar.

[0002] As is known, alcoholic beverages such as wine, sparkling wine, beer and liquors are marketed in glass bottles that have a substantially well-established shape, which comprises a substantially axially symmetrical main vessel having an elongated shape, in which the body, the largest part having the largest transverse cross-section, normally intended to contain the beverage, is extended above the lower end, known as bottom or base. The body is then blended at the shoulder to the upper end, known as neck, and is closed by the closure.

[0003] The general configuration outlined above is shared by a wide range of solutions, which differ from each other in small details, chosen sometimes for functional reasons and more often useful to give a more pleasant and characterizing appearance to the bottle, in order to catch the attention of the consumer and/or convey, for example, an idea of originality, refinement or luxury.

[0004] In this context, therefore, there is a constant search for new aesthetic details, particularly to allow to stand out from the multitude of known solutions, which at the same time can be reproduced on bottles of different shapes and dimensions in order to ensure an easily recognizable imprint which is common indeed to various products marketed by the same company.

[0005] From another point of view, it is easy to notice that companies in the field are increasingly often faced with the requests of competent and demanding customers, who seek customized or customizable solutions, and who until now have been answered by modifying the graphics of the labels normally applied to bottles. However, this is a solution that by now is so widespread that it is perceived often as unsatisfactory.

[0006] It should be noted, moreover, that the problems and requirements described above in relation to glass bottles designed to accommodate wine and alcoholic beverages in general can often be observed also in different sectors, in which in any case glass vessels are used to contain other food liquids (for example for oil or vinegar).

[0007] The aim of the present invention is to solve the problems described above, providing a glass container that can arouse the interest and attention of the consumer.

[0008] Within this aim, an object of the invention is to provide a glass container that can be customized easily in different manners according to the requirements of the reference customer.

[0009] Another object of the invention is to provide a glass container that has a captivating and original design which is in any case suitable to accommodate food liquids of various kinds.

[0010] Another object of the invention is to provide a particular constructive detail which can be adopted easily

on bottles having even different shapes and dimensions, so as to give them a common imprint.

[0011] Another object of the invention is to provide a glass container that ensures high reliability in operation.

[0012] Another object of the invention is to provide a glass container that adopts a technical and structural architecture that is alternative to those of glass containers of the known type.

[0013] Not least object of the invention is to provide a glass container that can be obtained easily starting from commonly commercially available elements and materials.

[0014] Another object of the invention is to provide a glass container that has modest costs and is of assured application.

[0015] This aim and these and other objects which will become better apparent hereinafter are achieved by a glass container for food liquids, comprising a vessel provided at least with: a base which forms an ideal resting surface, a main body configured to contain food liquids, a terminal neck which is arranged opposite to said base and is open at an outlet, characterized in that it comprises an annular groove, provided along the outer lateral surface of said body with an extension that is parallel to said ideal plane.

[0016] Further characteristics and advantages of the invention will become better apparent from the description of two preferred but not exclusive embodiments of the glass container according to the invention, illustrated by way of non-limiting example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the container according to the invention, in a first embodiment thereof;

Figure 2 is a front elevation view of the container of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view of a detail of the container of a Figure 2, taken along a plane that is perpendicular to the resting surface, in order to better illustrate the shape of the groove;

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of the container according to the invention, in a second embodiment thereof;

Figure 5 is a front elevation view of the container in the second embodiment;

Figure 6 is a sectional view of a detail of the container of Figure 5, taken along a plane that is perpendicular to the resting surface, in order to better illustrate the shape of the groove, as in Figure 3.

[0017] With particular reference to the figures, the reference numeral 1 generally designates a glass container for food liquids.

[0018] In this regard, it is useful to point out right now that the container 1 can be intended to accommodate any liquid used for food purposes without thereby abandoning the protective scope claimed herein.

[0019] Likewise, in the preferred application the container 1 contains wine, sparkling wine, oil or vinegar (it can be marketed already filled with such liquids or sold empty, leaving the task of filling it to the consumer), and can thus be offered on the market in a field that is particularly attentive and receptive to innovations, so that the particularities of the invention that will be described hereinafter will be brought out.

[0020] The container 1 comprises first of all a vessel, which preferably has a shape which is elongated along a main longitudinal axis (of symmetry): i.e., in practice, preferably the vessel is of the type of a bottle (indeed made of glass). It might in any case have a different shape, such as that of a fiasco, a vase, etc., if it complies with the specifications listed below.

[0021] The vessel is provided with a base 2, which forms an ideal resting surface A. It should be noted that the shape of the base 2 allows the resting of the container 1 (on a table, on a ledge, on a shelf, on a desk, etc.) according to a single possible configuration: once it has been rested, therefore, the ideal plane A is determined uniquely coincides with the plane on which said base 2 is placed stably. In an equivalent manner, in any case, it is possible to consider that the ideal plane A is the horizontal plane (and that said longitudinal axis of the vessel is a vertical axis).

[0022] The vessel is furthermore provided with a main body 3, which is indeed configured to contain food liquids), and with a terminal neck 4, which is arranged opposite to the base 2 and is open at an outlet 5. The protective scope claimed herein obviously includes the possibility that the neck 4 also is partially or completely filled with liquids.

[0023] In general, in any case, so far the vessel is of a known type and is of the type of a bottle (indeed made of glass): it should be stressed that for all the aspects that are not specifically described in the present description, any constructive detail related to said bottle may be of a known type.

[0024] Furthermore, it is specified that besides what will be described hereinafter, the shape and dimensions of the base 2, of the body 3 and of the neck 4 (and of the container 1 in general) may be any without thereby abandoning the protective scope claimed herein.

[0025] According to the invention, the container 1 comprises an annular groove 6, which is provided along the outer lateral surface 3a of the body 3 with an extension that is parallel to the ideal plane A (i.e., it can be imagined as being obtained by hollowing out a groove along the lateral surface 3a, moving parallel to the ideal plane A).

[0026] The groove 6 can surround the vessel entirely (therefore have a closed annular shape) or only partially (therefore have an open annular or horseshoe-like shape).

[0027] Although it is stressed that any configuration of the body 3 (and of the container 1 in general) is to be considered comprised within the protective scope claimed herein, preferably the portion of the body 3 that

is comprised between the groove 6 and the base 2 (the lower portion of the body 3) is substantially cylindrical (as in the accompanying figures).

[0028] Usefully, in one embodiment of considerable practical interest, which in any case does not limit the application of the invention, the groove 6 can be covered with a decorative surface layer 6a (as shown in the container 1 of Figures 1-3).

[0029] In another possible embodiment of the invention (and of the container 1 of Figures 4-6), the groove 6 can accommodate an elongated annular element 7, such as a cord, a string, an elastically deformable ring, a rigid ring, and the like. The groove 6 may have just one between the layer 6a and the annular element 7 or both, as a function of the specific requirements.

[0030] It is stressed that in Figure 4 the container 1 is shown in an exploded view in order to better appreciate the shape of the groove 6.

[0031] Advantageously, the base 2 can comprise a concave central part 2a (Figures 3-6), which is directed toward the inside of the vessel: this is per se a solution that is well known in the art and is known as punt (especially in winemaking) and is frequently used to get to give greater stability to the vessel and to collect any dregs. In this configuration, the groove 6 is (preferably) substantially aligned with the top of said central part 2a (as indeed in Figures 3-6). The expression "top of the central part 2a" obviously refers to the part that is retracted inward furthest and is therefore at a greater height with respect to the ideal plane A. Such height is indeed the same at which the groove 6 is (preferably) located.

[0032] Preferably (and independently of the presence or not of the punt), the groove 6 is arranged at a height, measured with respect to the ideal plane A (from the lower end of said container 1 and from its base 2), which is comprised between 2 cm and 8 cm. In particular, preferably the height of the groove 6 is chosen so as to arrange said groove 6 in the lower portion of the vessel (of the body 3), regardless of the dimensions and capacity of the latter. Therefore, for example, values which are equal or proximate to 2 cm may be preferred for 75-cl bottles, whereas values equal to or proximate to 8 cm might be chosen for 500-cl bottles.

[0033] Usefully, the groove 6 can accommodate an absorbent element, such as a sponge or the like, which is configured to absorb any drops of liquid that drip along the lateral surface 3a of the body 3.

[0034] The absorbing element can be accommodated in the groove 6 in a manner which is analogous (and/or alternative) to the annular element 7 or the absorbing element can even coincide with the annular element 7 if the latter is made of an adequate material (sponge or the like).

[0035] The use of the container according to the invention for the accommodation, transport and consumption of food products (wines, sparkling wines, oil and vinegar in particular) is per se of the traditional type and therefore this topic will not be dwelt upon, since it can be intuited

easily by the person skilled in the art.

[0036] In summary, the presence of the groove 6, which is provided transversely (and externally) along the lateral surface 3a of the body 3, preferably proximate to the base 2, allows to give a pleasant appearance to the container 1 and indeed by virtue of the originality of this choice the container 1 attracts and arouses the interest and attention of the consumer, thus achieving the intended aim.

[0037] The groove 6 can be provided on containers 1 having different shapes and dimensions (the accompanying figures show in this regard two different containers 1 on which the groove 6 is present) and this allows, for example, a company to provide and market whole ranges of containers 1 made of glass (more or less different), which in any case have the common imprint constituted by said groove 6 (which thus becomes a distinctive factor of the company itself).

[0038] Obviously, the groove 6 can be provided on vessels designed to accommodate liquids of any type and is thus found to be an assuredly versatile choice.

[0039] The choice to give a cylindrical shape to the portion of the body 3 comprised between the groove 6 and the base 2 transmits to the observer (to the consumer) a sense of stability of the vessel and is thus further appreciable.

[0040] Furthermore, the groove 6 offers different and interesting customization possibilities (without altering the vessel), for example to comply with the requirements of different customers (different wineries or oil mills, for example).

[0041] As shown, indeed, it is possible to apply a decorative layer 6a, choosing carefully colors, images or lettering to be reproduced, as a function of the message that one wishes to convey and indeed as a function of the requirements of each customer, without having to intervene on the vessel and therefore in a practical and easy manner.

[0042] As an alternative (or additionally), it is possible to accommodate an annular element 7 in the groove 6 with the same purposes.

[0043] Moreover, the groove 6 can accommodate an absorbent element, which in practice performs a useful "drip catcher" function, absorbing the droplets of liquid that sometimes drip along the lateral surface 3a, preventing them from reaching the table on which the container 1 is placed, dirtying the tablecloth.

[0044] However, a similar result can be achieved by providing a more remarkable (deeper) groove 6.

[0045] Furthermore, it should be noted that the groove 6 has a useful ergonomic effect, thus facilitating a firm grip of the container 1 even when, for example, one wishes to pour the wine or in any case the content of the vessel.

[0046] The groove 6 furthermore constitutes a discontinuity along the lateral surface 3a and this allows (and pleasantly, to the eye of the consumer) to customize more easily and decorate in a different manner the lower por-

tion of the body 3 with respect to the upper one.

[0047] Especially when the vessel is transparent, and therefore it is possible to glimpse the concave central part 2a (or punt), even by viewing the container 1 laterally, the choice to arrange the groove 6 at the same height as the top of said central part 2a gives further attractiveness to said container 1, since it generates a pleasant lens-like effect.

[0048] In practice it has been found that the glass container according to the invention fully achieves the intended aim and objects, since the presence of an annular groove 6, provided along the outer lateral surface 3a of the body 3, with an extension that is parallel to the ideal plane A, can certainly raise the interest and attention of the consumer.

[0049] The invention thus conceived is susceptible of numerous modifications and variations, all of which are within the scope of the accompanying claims; all the details may furthermore be replaced with other technically equivalent elements.

[0050] In the examples of embodiment shown, individual characteristics, given in relation to specific examples, may actually be interchanged with other different characteristics that exist in other examples of embodiment.

[0051] In practice, the materials used, as well as the dimensions, may be any according to the requirements and the state of the art.

[0052] Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the interpretation of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.

Claims

1. A glass container for food liquids, comprising a vessel provided at least with:

- a base (2) which forms an ideal resting surface (A),
- a main body (3) configured to contain food liquids,
- a terminal neck (4) which is arranged opposite to said base (2) and is open at an outlet (5),

characterized in that it comprises an annular groove (6), provided along the outer lateral surface (3a) of said body (3) with an extension that is parallel to said ideal plane (A).

2. The container according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the portion of said body (3) that is comprised between said groove (6) and said base (2) is substantially cylindrical.

3. The container according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** said groove (6) is covered by a decorative surface layer (6a).
4. The container according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said groove (6) accommodates an elongated annular element (7), such as a cord, a string, an elastically deformable ring, a rigid ring, and the like. 5
5. The container according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said base (2) comprises a concave central part (2a), which is directed toward the inside of said vessel, said groove (6) being substantially aligned with the top of said central upset concave central part (2a). 10 15
6. The container according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said groove (6) is arranged at a height, measured with respect to said ideal plane (A), comprised between 2 cm and 8 cm. 20
7. The container according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said groove (6) accommodates an absorbent element, such as a sponge or the like, configured to absorb any drops of liquid that drip along said lateral surface (3a) of said body (3). 25

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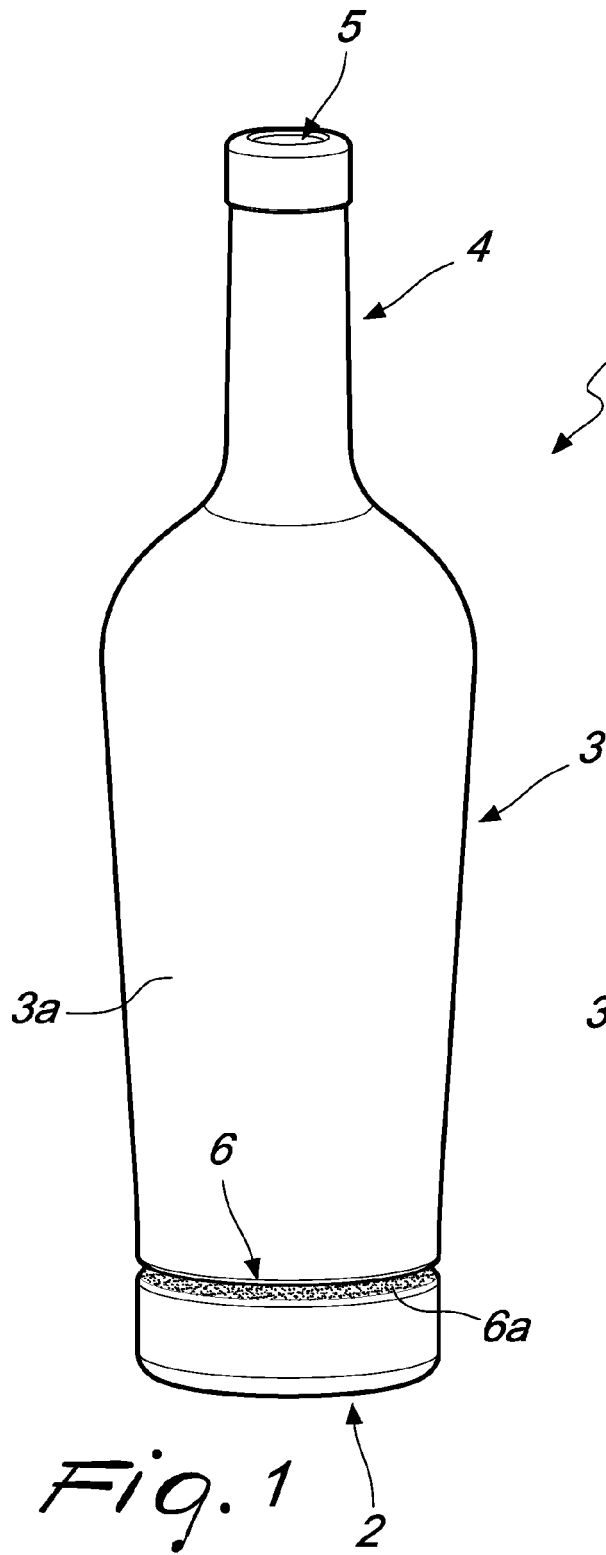
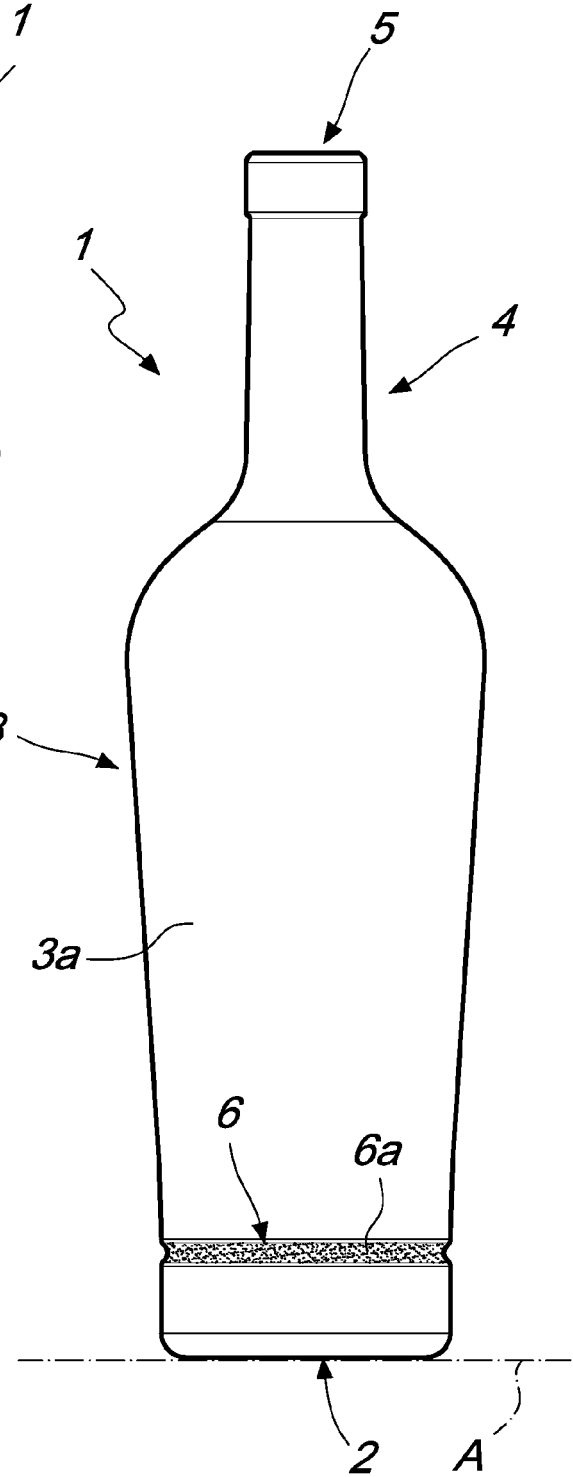
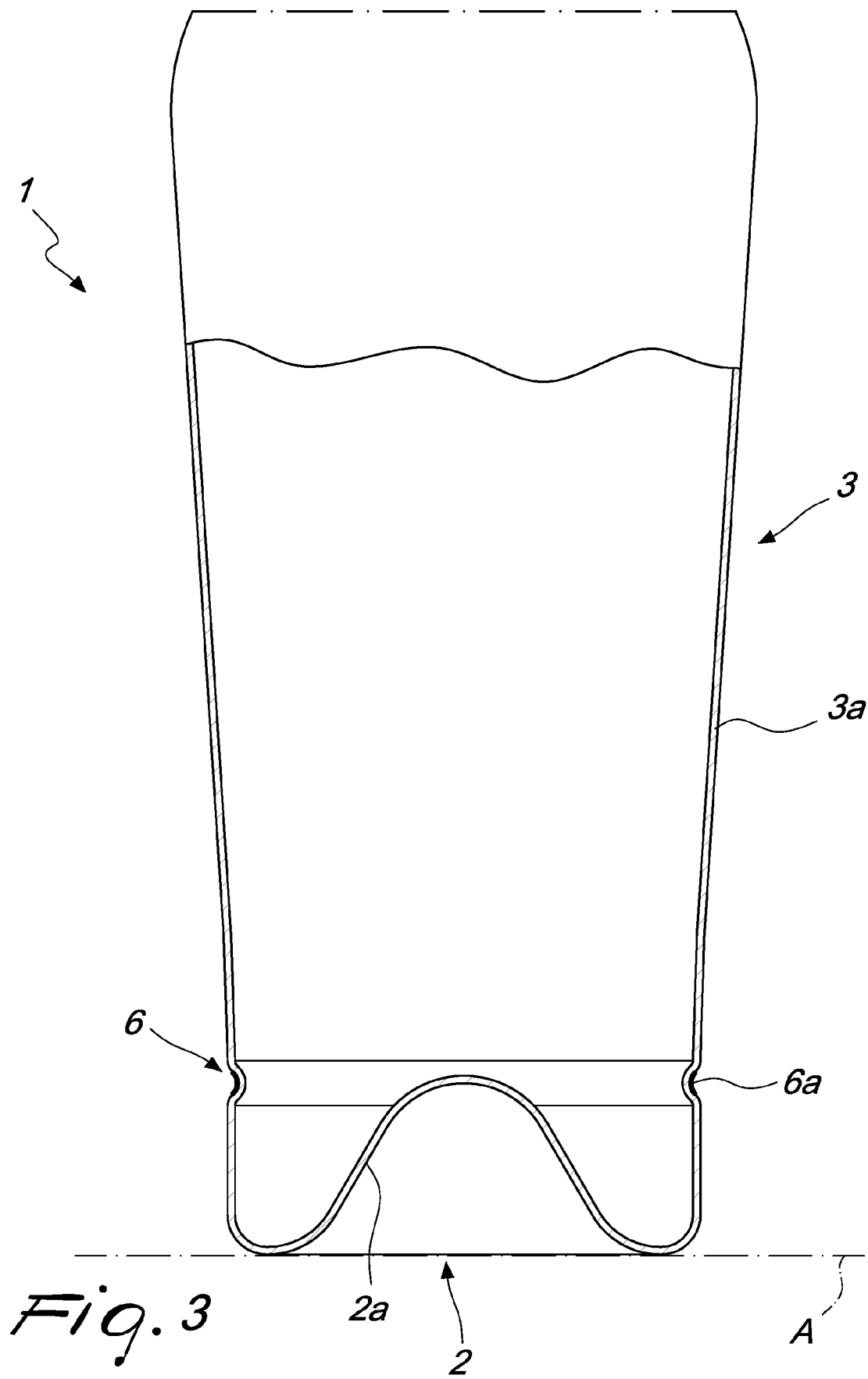
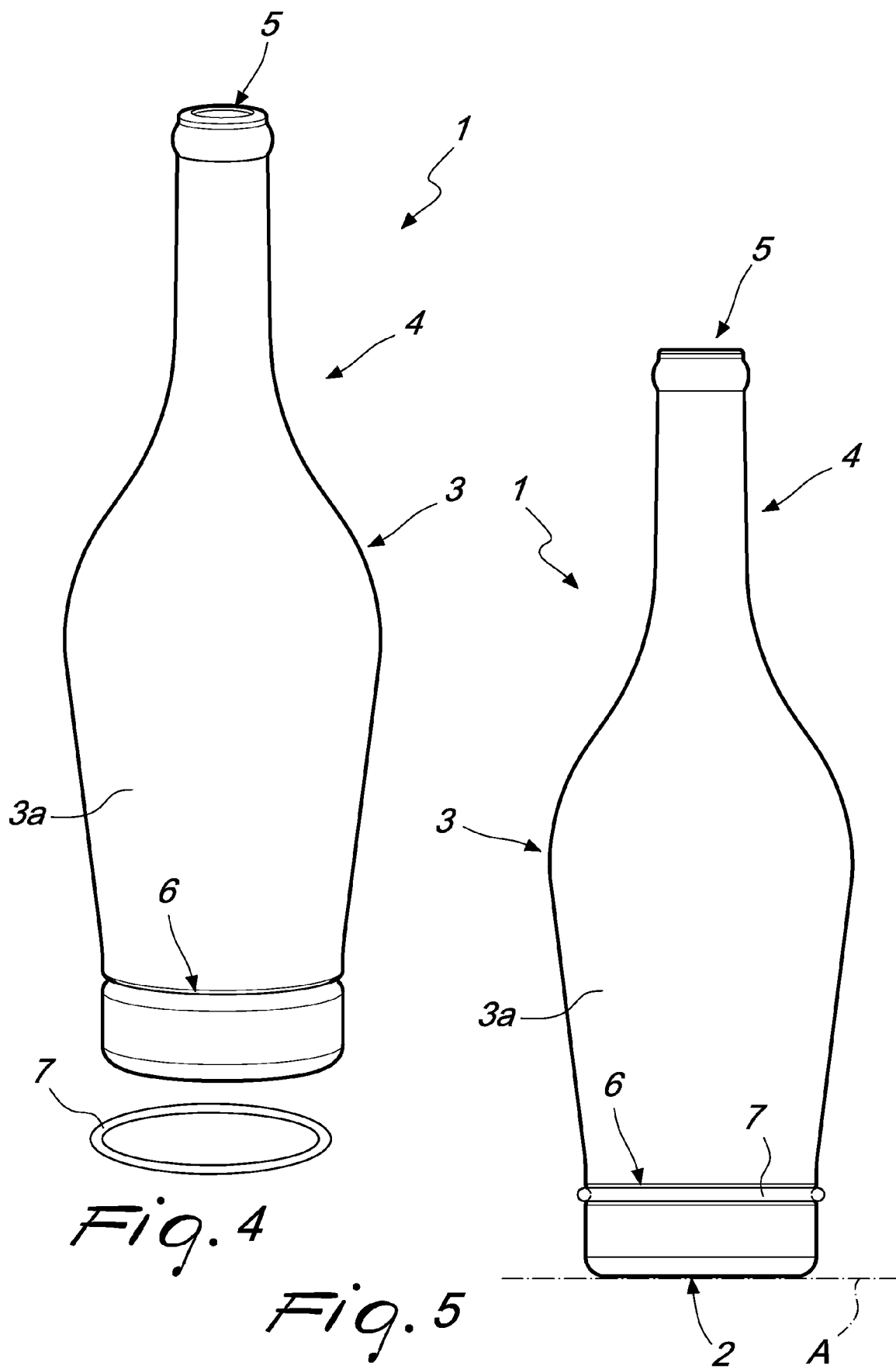
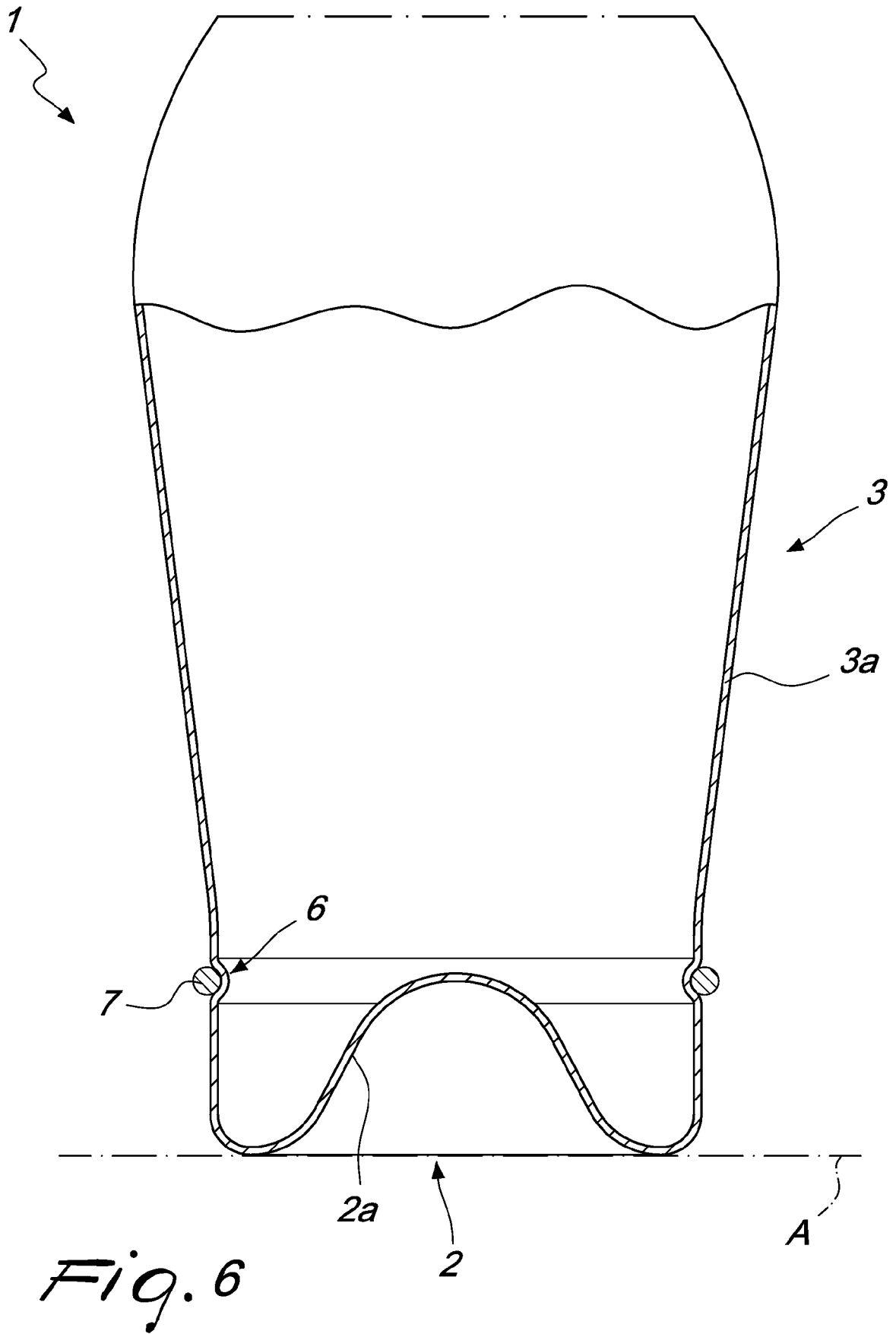


Fig. 2











EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 22 17 2001

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Y	* page 3, paragraph 2-4; figures 3-6 * -----	7	
X	FR 984 159 A (CHERICI, DINO ET VINCEDEAU, RENÉ) 3 July 1951 (1951-07-03)	1-4, 6	
Y	* page 1, right-hand column, paragraph 2; figures 2, 4 * -----	7	
X	DE 89 11 584 U1 (TRENZ, JOSEF) 16 November 1989 (1989-11-16) * figures 1, 3 * -----	1, 2, 4, 6	
X	DE 94 18 918 U1 (SEIFERT PETER [DE]) 23 March 1995 (1995-03-23) * figure 1 * -----	1-4, 6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B65D
Y	FR 332 763 A (WILHELM FOERTSCH [DE]) 6 November 1903 (1903-11-06) * figure 3 * -----	7	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			

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EPO FORM 1503 03:82 (P04C01)

Place of search

Munich

Date of completion of the search

24 October 2022

Examiner

Balz, Oliver

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 22 17 2001

5 This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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