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(71) We, COLGATE-PALMOLIVE COMPANY, a Corporation organised under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America, of 300 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to packages, more particularly to packages of items that are to be maintained separately until the time of use by a consumer.

A package according to the invention comprises: a hollow body having a removable bottom wall and a top wall having an opening; a container-dispenser having its lower end seated within said body and extending upwardly through the top wall opening, the container-dispenser and the opening being of such dimensions that the container-dispenser cannot be removed from the body through the opening, the container-dispenser being removable only when the bottom wall has been removed; a capsule intended for incorporation into the container-dispenser during use by a consumer, seated on the said top wall and projecting upwardly therefrom alongside the container-dispenser; and an inverted cup-shaped retainer cap enclosing the capsule and secured to the said top wall.

The container-dispenser is thus separately maintained in display association with the capsule, which may contain a concentrate or other substance to be introduced into the container-dispenser by the consumer, who must remove the capsule from the top wall of the package body in order to combine the items for use.

The invention may be performed in various ways, and an embodiment will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in

which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the package;

Figure 2 is a side elevation, mainly in section showing the package components;

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the package body, with the packaged items removed; and

Figure 4 is a bottom plan view of the package.

The illustrated package embodying the invention comprises a hollow body 11 having a stiff side wall 12, a removable bottom wall 13, and a top wall 14 having therein a circular opening 15 and a shallow upwardly open well 16 in side by side relation. The top wall is thus closed except for the opening 15. A stiff walled hollow cap 17 has a rim 18 around its open end secured adhesively to the top wall 14 around the upper edge of the well 16. The lower edge of the side wall 12 is formed with an external flange 19, and the bottom wall 13 is adhesively secured to the flange 19. For ease in removing the bottom wall a finger-receiving notch 21 (Figure 4) is provided therein.

The packaged items are a container and pump unit assembly 22 consisting of container 23 with a tapered side wall and a removable screw threaded cover 24 incorporating the pump unit, and a capsule 25 of a concentrate or other substance intended to be incorporated into the assembly 22 at the time of use. In the assembly the tapered wall container 23 is seated on the flat inner surface of the bottom wall 13 and projects upwardly through the opening 15 which is of such diameter as snugly to surround the container where the container passes through the top wall. Since the larger tapered end of the container assembly is within the package body, the hole and tapered wall relationship described prevents accidental or any other removal of the assembly 22 from the package through the opening 15.

The lower end of the capsule 25 is seated in

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the well 16, and the capsule is maintained in the package by the cap 17, the lower annular rim 18 of which is adhesively secured to the top surface of the wall 14 around the edge of well 16. Preferably the cap 17 is a single piece of stiff, shape-retaining transparent plastics material.

The body 11 preferably comprises a one-piece preformed inverted cup-shaped element of light weight plastics material and, as the bottom wall 13, a sheet of the same material. The walls of the body 11 including the bottom wall 13, are stiff and shape-retaining. The package is of such dimensions and balance that it will stand upright on the bottom wall 13 without tipping.

The assembly is sold to a customer in the form shown in the drawings, with the container empty and the filled capsule visible through the retainer cap 17. When the customer wishes to put the assembly in condition for use, he inserts a finger in the notch 21 and strips the bottom wall 13 from the body 11. This enables the container and pump assembly to be extracted through the now open bottom of the package, the assembly being tilted to enable the pump to be manoeuvred through the opening 15. Then the cap 17 is pulled off the top wall to enable the capsule 25 to be removed. The package body 11, the wall 13 and the cap 17 are discarded. The user then removes the screw threaded cover 24 and pump from the assembly 22, fills the container to a desired level with the liquid to be mixed with the concentrate, inserts the capsule 25 into the container mouth and reassembles by screwing the cover and pump back onto the container, this operation automatically opening the capsule to discharge its contents into the container.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A package comprising: a hollow body having a removable bottom wall and a top wall having an opening: a container-dispenser having its lower end seated within said body and extending upwardly through the top wall opening, the container-dispenser and the opening being of such dimensions that the container-dispenser cannot be removed from the body through the opening, the container-dispenser being removable only when the bottom wall has been removed; a capsule intended for incorporation into the container-dispenser during use by a consumer, seated on the said top wall and projecting upwardly therefrom alongside the container-dispenser; and an inverted cup-shaped retainer cap enclosing the capsule and secured to the said top wall.

2. A package as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the body has side walls integral with the top wall, the top wall being closed except for the opening therein.

3. A package as claimed in Claim 1 or

Claim 2 wherein the top wall is formed with an upwardly open well for seating the capsule, and the cap is formed with a rim secured upon the top wall around the edge of the well.

4. A package as claimed in any of the preceding Claims wherein the cap is transparent.

5. A package as claimed in any of the preceding Claims wherein the container-dispenser consists of a container having a tapered side wall, and a closure for the container removably mounted on the container and carrying dispensing means, and the opening has a diameter only slightly larger than the diameter of the container at the point the container passes through the opening.

6. A package as claimed in any of the preceding Claims wherein the body is an integral stiff-walled inverted cup-shaped structure and the bottom wall is a stiff sheet extending across the open bottom of the said structure.

7. A package substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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FIG.1

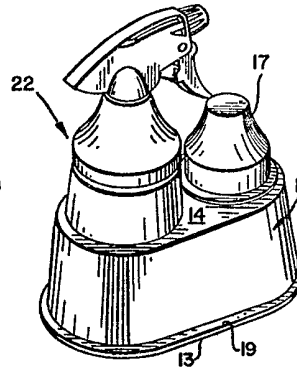


FIG. 2

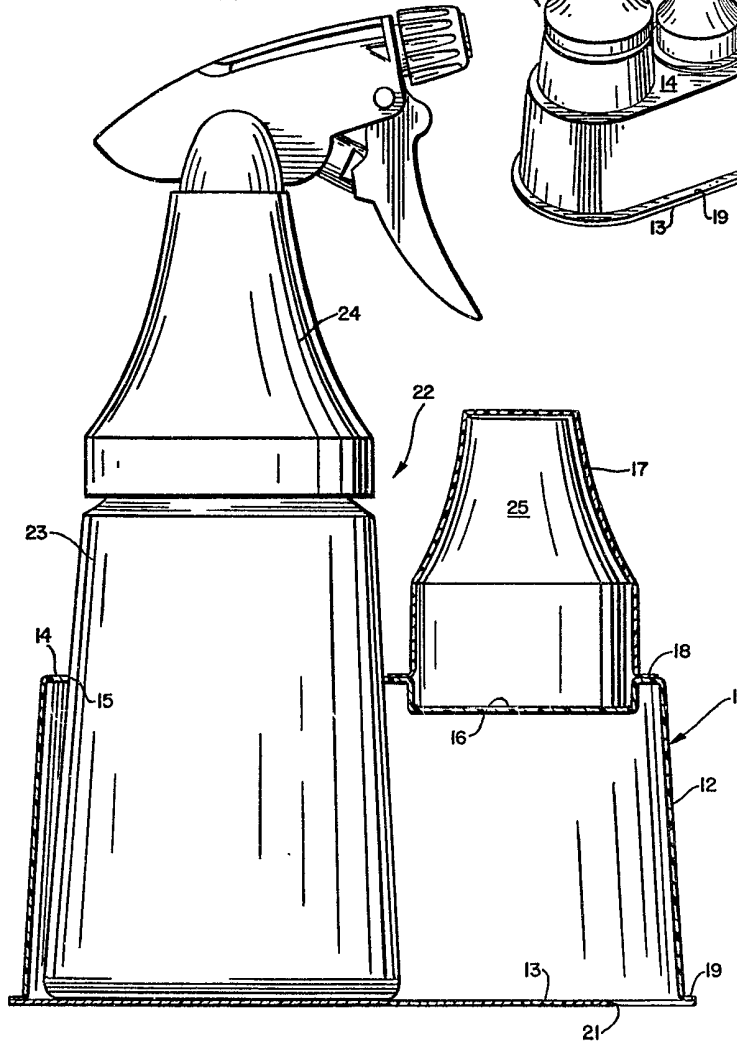


FIG. 3

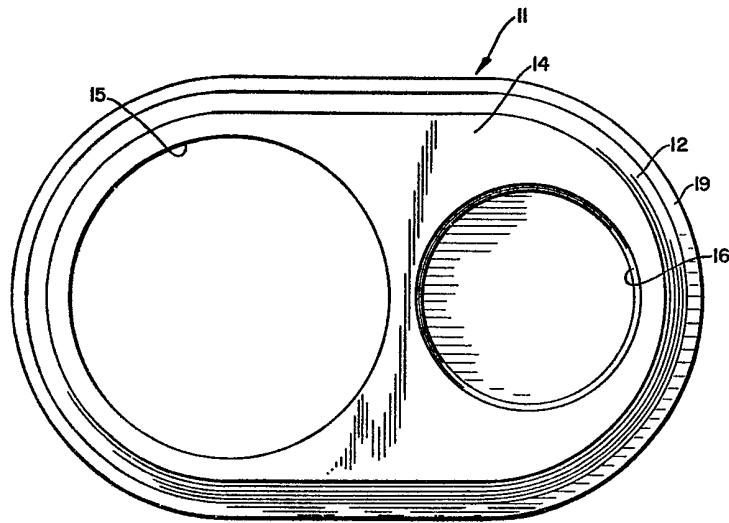


FIG. 4

