

EUROPEAN QUALIFYING EXAMINATION 2007

PAPER C

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Christopher Pitt
Plastolipp GmbH
Tankstr. 87
D-25894 Ellhard

European Patent Attorney
Mrs Susanne Hoffmann
Via Solferino 134
I-25123 Brescia

05.03.2007

Dear Mrs. Hoffmann,

On behalf of my company I would like you to file an opposition against the European Patent EP 1 666 555 (Annex 1) of Food Containers Inc. I hope the enclosed documents (Annex 2 - Annex 6) will be of use.

We have discovered during a file inspection that the patent is identical to the application as originally filed with the exception of claim 6 which was not present in the application as filed, but has only been added during the examination procedure. Can you use this fact for the opposition?

Further, we have discovered that there was no hint to use rubber (cf. the words "or rubber" in paragraph 0006 and claim 5) for the insulating material in the priority document. What is the significance thereof?

Annex 2, which was filed by "Food Containers Inc." on the 15.11.2000, has been published on 15.05.2002. Is this document of any relevance for the opposition?

Annex 6, a German utility model, has a registration date (Eintragungstag) of 13.03.2003 and a date of announcement in the German patent bulletin (Bekanntmachung im Patentblatt) of 20.03.2003, which is after the filing date of Annex 1. Can you use Annex 6?

At present claims 1 to 6 only are a hindrance for my company. If we now oppose only claims 1 to 6, can we extend the opposition to the subject-matter of claim 7 at a later stage of the proceedings? Alternatively, would the European Patent Office deal with the subject-matter of claim 7 of its own motion?

I am an employee in the patent department of Plastolipp GmbH and I cannot provide you with a written authorization from our director, because he is not available at the moment. Can you file the opposition without such a written authorization on our behalf?

Yours sincerely

C. Pitt

Enclosures:

- Annex 1
- Annex 2
- Annex 3
- Annex 4
- Annex 5
- Annex 6

0007/01/06

(19)



**Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets**

(11) **EP 1 660 000 A1**

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(22) Date of filing: **17.03.2003**

(54) **Thin-walled cup for hot beverages**

Gobelet à paroi mince pour boissons chaudes

Dünnwandiger Becher für heiÙe Getränke

(84) Designated Contracting States:

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(73) Proprietor:

**Food Containers Inc.
Calgary, Alberta
Canada L66H5S2 (CA)**

(30) Priority:

19.03.2002 GB 02235789

(72) Inventor:

**Nolle, Philippe
F-88543 Vincey (FR)**

(43) Date of publication of application:

24.09.2003 Bulletin 2003/39

(74) Representative:

**Malle, John Allen
20 Tree Street
Lincoln LNS7DB (GB)**

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

5 **[0001]** The present invention relates to thin-walled receptacles for hot liquids, in particular cups for coffee or tea. In the modern office environment very often coffee dispenser machines are used and for the convenience of the user we have recently developed a machine, which also provides disposable cups. This has the advantage that the customer always gets a fresh cup and does not need to clean the cup after use.

10 **[0002]** To limit the unit costs of such a cup we use a thin wall for the cup, preferably made from plastics. However, we have found that holding of such thin-walled plastics cups is somewhat uncomfortable, when they are filled with a hot beverage. Hot coffee has a temperature of about 90 °C when it is poured into the cup from the coffee dispenser. This causes the thin-walled cup to have an outside temperature of around 70°C. Furthermore, the upper rim of the cup can have a sharp edge because of the thin wall.

15 **[0003]** We have developed a new cup with a thin wall for hot beverages, i.e. for beverages having a temperature above 50 °C. The outer surface of the wall is at least partly covered with a sleeve element of thermally insulating material to form a grip area of the cup. Thus, when the cup is held with the hand at the grip area the fingers are protected from the hot wall of the cup and the user does not burn his fingers.

20

[0004] Another aspect of the present invention is a sleeve element of thermally insulating material that can be mounted on a thin-walled cup.

25 **[0005]** The invention is defined in independent claims 1 and 7. Preferred embodiments can be found in the dependent claims.

[0006] The thin-walled plastics cup 12 for use with hot beverages is shown in the figure. Such a drinking cup has a circular base 14, a thin wall 18, and a circular rim 15 at the open end of the cup. The cup widens out from its base 14 towards its upper rim 15. Base and wall are preferably made in one piece of thin plastics material. According to
5 the invention the cup further comprises a sleeve element 13 of thermally insulating material that completely surrounds the cup at an area where the cup can be held. Preferably, the sleeve element covers a middle portion of the wall, i.e. not too close to the rim, to avoid any inconvenience during drinking. Any thermally insulating material that can be put around the cup in the form of a sleeve can be used, such as recycled
10 cardboard, polystyrene or rubber.

[0007] Preferably the thermally insulating material is pre-fabricated to form a sleeve element 13 and then applied to the cup 12. This has the advantage that the cups can be stored in a space-saving way without the insulating sleeve element 13, which can be
15 applied shortly before use. After use such a sleeve element 13 can easily be removed again for further use or disposal. The insulating material may be provided with a coloured design, which makes the cup more attractive. Preferably the insulating sleeve element 13 has a wall-thickness of at least 2 mm and a height of at least 3 cm such that the fingers of the user can be placed comfortably on the insulating sleeve element when
20 holding the cup.

[0008] The drinking cup 12 may have an annular portion of increased diameter 10 which prevents the cup slipping through the sleeve element 13 when holding the cup 12 thereat.
25

[0009] Preferably the cup is provided with an upper rim 15 of about 3-5 mm width. The thin wall of the cup may therefore be curled outwardly to form a circular tube of about 4 mm diameter at the rim 15 (not shown in the figure).

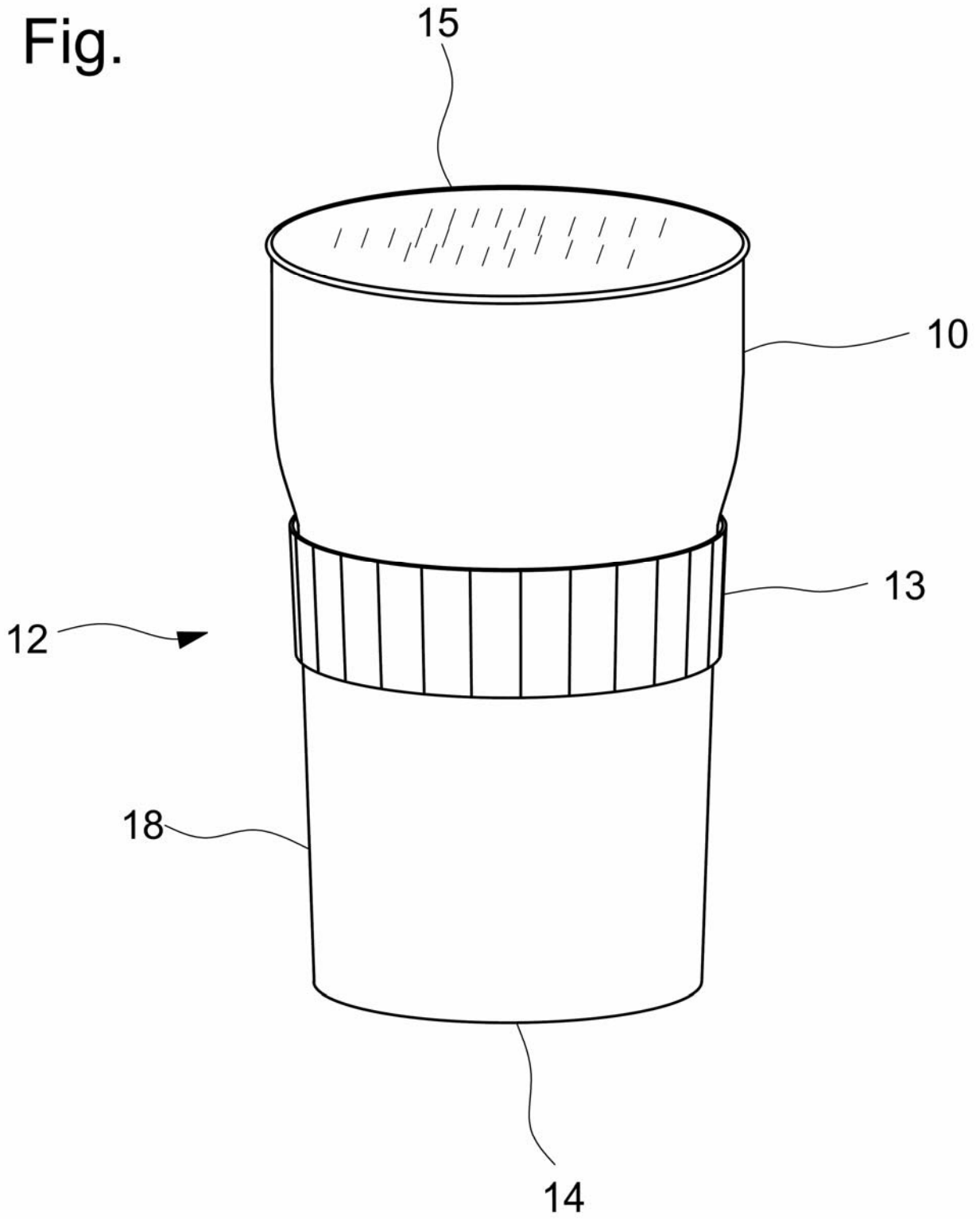
[0010] Further, the base of the cup is provided with a recessed area at a central portion of the circular base. Thus the cup is in contact with a table top on which it stands only at the periphery of the base, whereas the central portion is slightly above the table top. This provides the advantage that the cup rests stably on the table top without the need to have a perfectly flat base, which is difficult to produce.

[0011] The invention has been described as a coffee cup. However the inventive idea can be implemented with any kind of receptacles for hot liquids.

Claims

1. Receptacle (12) for hot liquids, comprising
a circular base (14),
5 a thin wall (18) with a circular rim (15) at an open end of the receptacle, and
a grip area, which is thermally insulated from the wall (18).
2. Receptacle of claim 1, wherein
the grip area is formed by a surface of a sleeve element (13) of a thermally
10 insulating material that is applied around the outer surface of the wall (18).
3. Receptacle of claim 2, wherein
the receptacle is a drinking cup, and
the rim (15) has a width of 3-5 mm.
15
4. Receptacle of claim 1, wherein
base (14) and wall (18) consist of plastics material, and
the outer surface of the base has a recessed area at a central portion thereof.
- 20 5. Receptacle of claim 3, wherein
the thermally insulating material is provided with a coloured design and comprises
cardboard or rubber.
6. Receptacle of claim 2, wherein
25 the receptacle is a drinking cup
having an annular portion of increased diameter (10) for preventing the cup
slipping through the sleeve element (13) when holding the cup thereat.
7. Sleeve element (13) of thermally insulating material for a receptacle for hot
30 liquids, wherein
the sleeve element has a wall-thickness of at least 2 mm and
a height of at least 3 cm.

Fig.



CA2361436 A1

Filing date: **15.11.2000**
Publication date: **15.05.2002**
5 Int. Cl.⁷: **A47J45/00**
Applicant: **Food Containers Inc., Calgary, AI (CA)**
Inventor: **Benoist, Jean-François (CA)**

10 **Cook ware**

[0001] The present invention relates to cooking utensils, e.g. pots and pans, and in particular to the handle of cooking utensils. Cooking utensils get hot during use and therefore it is important that the handle is thermally insulated from the body of the
15 cooking utensil. On the other hand a handle can be inconvenient, when there are many pots on the stove or when the pots are stored in a cupboard. Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to have a cooking utensil that can easily be manipulated during cooking and that has a convenient size. According to the invention there is provided a cooking utensil with a detachable handle portion.

20

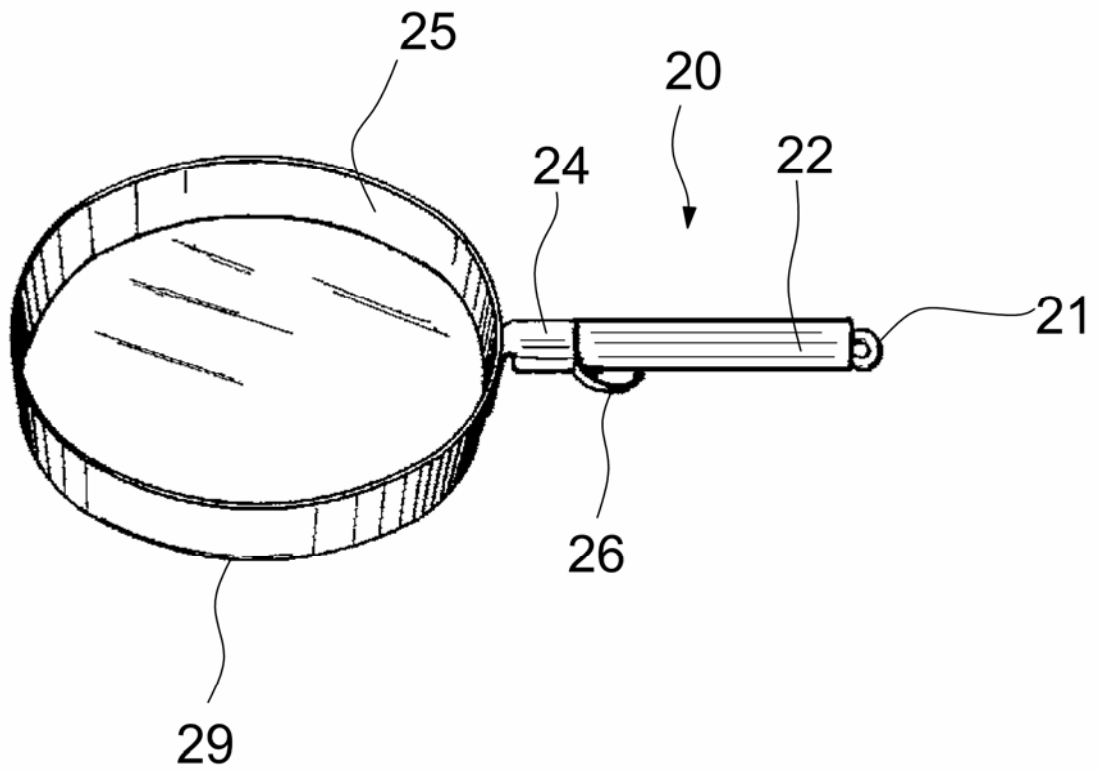
[0002] The figure shows a pot made of stainless steel. The pot has a base 29 and a circular wall 25. On one side of the pot there is a handle 20. The handle has a metal portion 24 with a low thermal conductivity and a portion of insulating material 22 such as wood or plastics. The metal portion has to be sufficiently long to avoid that the heat from
25 the pot and the stove damages the insulating material. Good results have been achieved with a metal portion that extends 5 to 7 cm from the pot's wall. In addition the metal portion may have a shield portion 26, which extends further 5 cm under the insulating handle grip to protect the insulating material from heat of the stove.

[0003] The portion of insulating material 22 is not permanently fixed to the metal portion of the handle. The portion of insulating material has a tubular shape with a hole along the main axis. It has, for example, an outer diameter of 3 cm and the hole therein is of not more than 2 cm in diameter. A long screw is located in this hole having a head 21 at one end and a screw thread at the other end of the portion of insulating material. The thread interconnects with a corresponding thread of a female screw in the metal portion and thus fixes the portion of insulating material to the metal portion.

Claim:

10 Cooking utensil with a handle (20), the handle comprising
a metal portion (24) and
a portion of thermally insulating material (22)
wherein the portion of thermally insulating material is detachably mounted on the metal
15 portion of the handle.

Fig.



WO 02/09797 A1

International Filing date: **25.07.2001**
International Publication date: **07.02.2002**
5 Priority data: **02.08.2000 US60/222,454**
Int. Cl.⁷: **B65D3/06**
Applicant: **Ton Dickson and Company**
Inventor: **Giambattoni, Luciano**

10

Paper drinking container

[0001] The invention relates to a paper drinking container for cold beverages that is made from wax-coated paper. It has a base and a wall of generally conical shape. Such a container is cheap and easily disposable. Containers of this kind can be stored in great numbers in a space saving manner, and they do not break when they fall on the ground. The thin paper is made watertight by a coating of wax, which does not dissipate into the cold liquid below a temperature of about 30 °C. It is therefore harmless to use the container with such cold beverages, because the paper only becomes permeable above
20 this temperature.

[0002] When such containers are used with ice cold beverages there is the disadvantage that the container is not comfortable to hold in the bare hand as the hand quickly becomes very cold and the beverage also becomes warm.

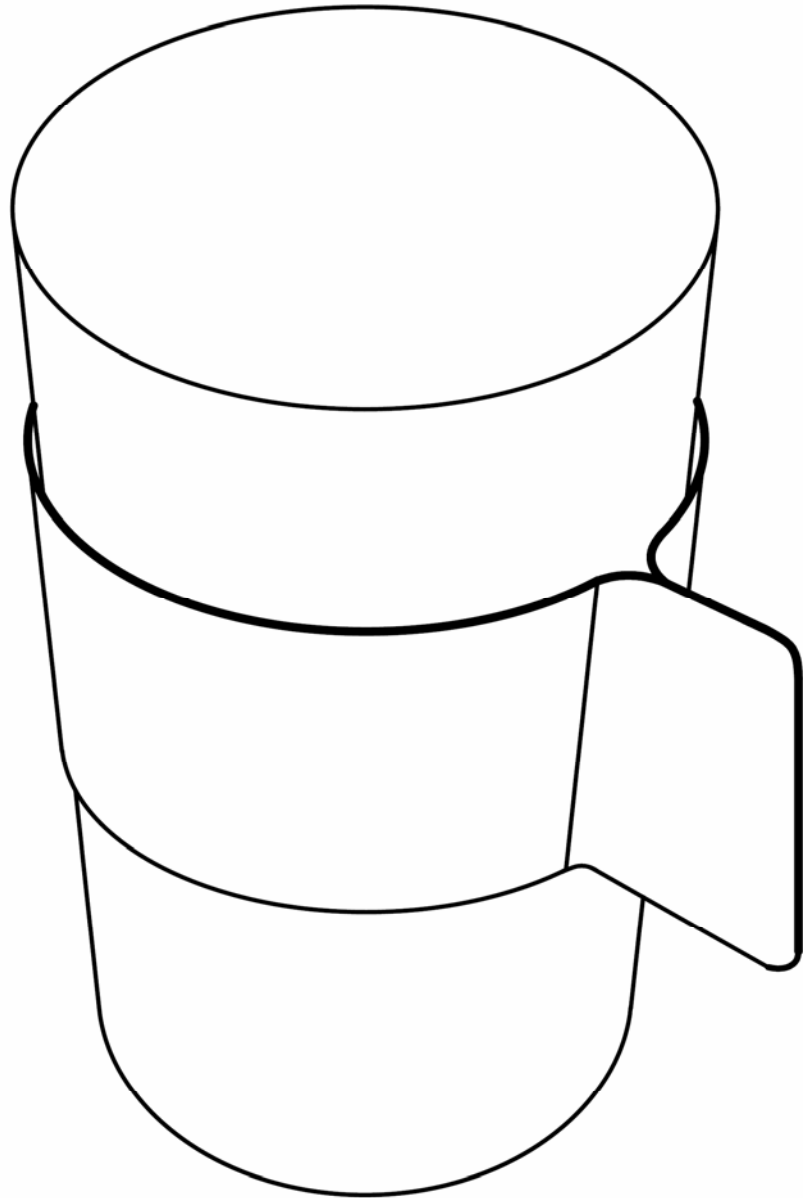
[0003] It has been found that such drinking containers can be held in a more comfortable way if a layer of cardboard is put around the wax-coated paper of the wall. A strip of cardboard of about 2 mm thickness is wrapped around a middle-portion of the drinking container and fixed there by just pressing the end portions of the strip against each other with a layer of adhesive in-between. The diameter of the ring or sleeve can thereby be adjusted such that it does not slip close to the upper rim of the paper container, because it is unpleasant to touch with the lips and hinders drinking.

[0004] In this way the drinking container is sufficiently insulated by the cardboard and can be gripped without getting cold fingers or warming up the beverage.

Claim:

Paper drinking container for cold beverages comprising a circular base and a wall of wax-coated paper and a layer of cardboard fixed around the outer surface of the wall of the container.

Fig.



EP 1 133 910 A1

Date de dépôt : **07.02.2001**
Priorité : **14.03.2000 US 525638**
5 Publication: **19.09.2001**
Int.Cl.⁷ : **A47G19/23**
Demandeur : **Ottowa Inc., Moline, Illinois 61265-8960**
Inventeur : **Mollen, Michael James**

10

Récipient à boire empilable

[0001] La présente invention porte sur un récipient empilable en verre ou en porcelaine destiné à contenir des liquides. Les récipients en verre ont généralement des formes
15 diverses, l'embouchure étant plus large que la base. Lorsque l'on débarrasse les tables dans les bars ou les restaurants, les récipients sont habituellement emboîtés les uns dans les autres. Ces récipients ne sont cependant pas conçus dans ce but et il peut arriver qu'ils restent coincés les uns dans les autres. Désemboîter les récipients pour les
20 laver est donc une opération délicate, et il arrive qu'il soit très difficile de les séparer. Il arrive même que des récipients se cassent lorsqu'ils sont empilés en grand nombre. Des matières plus élastiques ou déformables tels que le plastique ne peuvent toutefois pas être utilisées pour ces récipients à boire de valeur.

[0002] La présente invention a donc pour objet d'obtenir des récipients en verre ou en
25 porcelaine qui peuvent être emboîtés les uns dans les autres et désemboîtés facilement.

[0003] La figure illustre un récipient à boire 41 en verre. Le récipient a une paroi formant une embouchure 40 plus large que la base 47. Un renflement périmétrique ou annulaire 44 est formé approximativement aux trois quarts de la hauteur de la paroi du
30 récipient. Au niveau du renflement 44, la paroi est arrondie vers l'extérieur mais l'épaisseur de la paroi ne change pas. La paroi peut avoir une épaisseur d'environ 4 mm.

[0004] Lorsque deux récipients de ce type sont emboîtés l'un dans l'autre, le renflement 44 du récipient supérieur repose sur le rebord supérieur 46 du récipient inférieur. Ainsi, l'extérieur du récipient supérieur n'entre pas en contact avec l'intérieur du récipient inférieur. Les récipients peuvent donc être facilement désemboîtés.

5

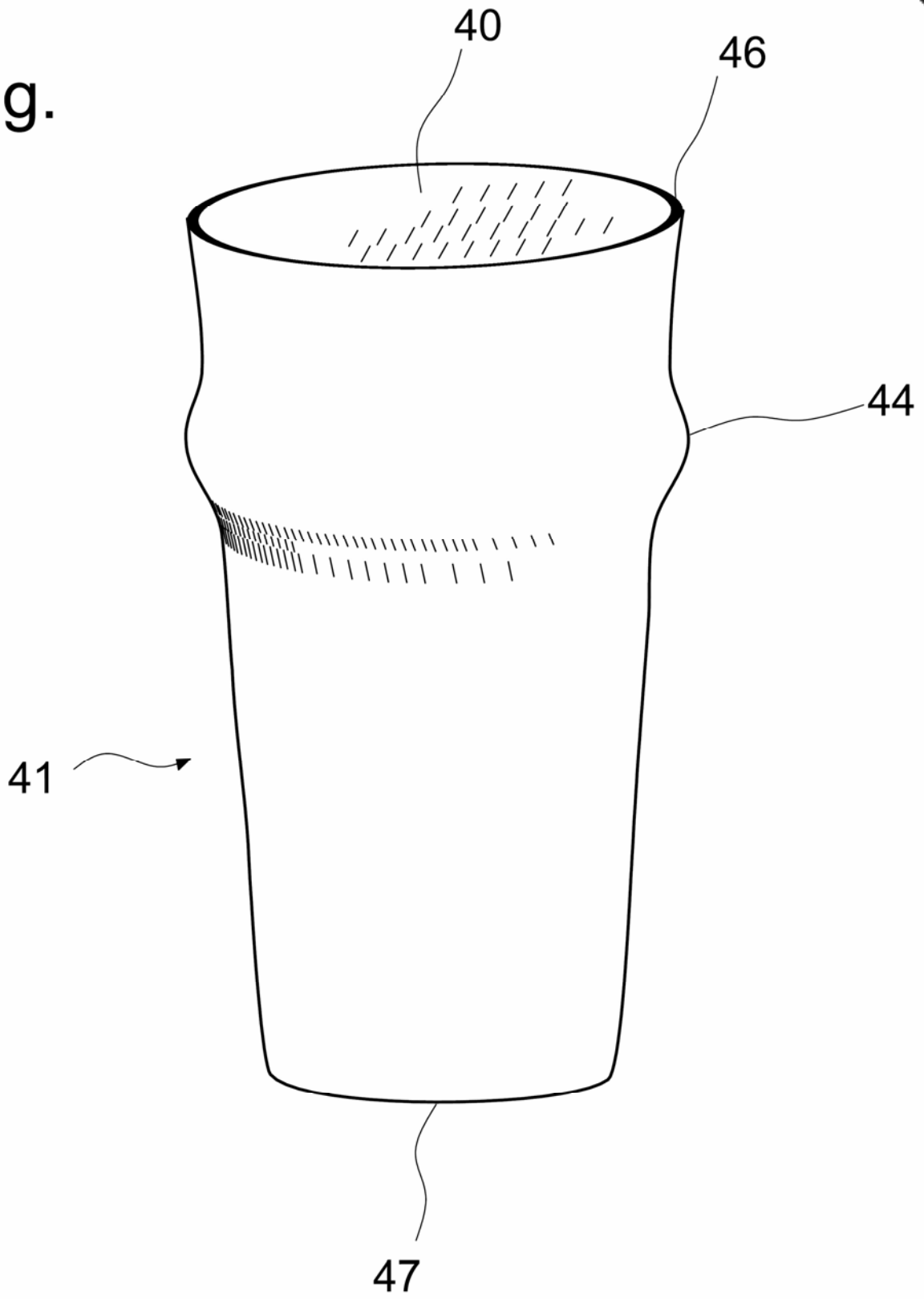
[0005] La surface externe de la base est globalement concave de sorte que le récipient repose de façon très stable sur une surface plane, avec seulement une zone circulaire étroite à la périphérie de la base 47.

10 **[0006]** Le récipient peut aussi être doté d'une poignée intégrée (non visible sur la figure) en saillie sur la paroi du récipient, de préférence dans le quart supérieur, au-dessus du renflement annulaire 44. La poignée ne devient pas aussi chaude que la paroi du récipient lorsque celui-ci est rempli de liquide bouillant, et elle n'entrave pas l'emboîtement. Les récipients dotés d'une poignée en saillie doivent cependant être
15 manipulés avec plus de précaution.

Revendication :

20 Récipient emboîtable en verre dont l'embouchure est plus large que la base circulaire, la partie supérieure de la paroi comprenant un renflement périmétrique orienté vers l'extérieur.

Fig.



WO 02/06675 A2

Date de dépôt : **17.07.2001**
Priorité : **00/09401 18.07.2000 FR**
5 Date de publication internationale : **24.01.2002**
Int.Cl.⁷: **B65D1/26**
Déposant : **Houzem S.P.A.**
Inventeur : **Reval, Jean-Luc**

10

Marmite jetable

[0001] Des potages instantanés peuvent être préparés en quelques minutes à l'aide de mélanges granulaires pour potage très solubles et dispersibles. Il suffit d'ajouter de l'eau
15 chaude au mélange pour que le potage soit prêt.

[0002] Quelqu'un de pressé peut néanmoins trouver trop long de chauffer de l'eau dans une marmite, ajouter le mélange granulaire pour potage, verser le potage dans une assiette à soupe et nettoyer ensuite la marmite et l'assiette.

20

[0003] Nous avons résolu ce problème. Notre marmite jetable peut contenir un mélange granulaire pour potage et être fermée hermétiquement par un couvercle. L'utilisateur n'a ensuite qu'à enlever le couvercle, verser de l'eau bouillante dans la marmite, mélanger à l'aide d'une cuillère fournie et attendre quelques minutes.

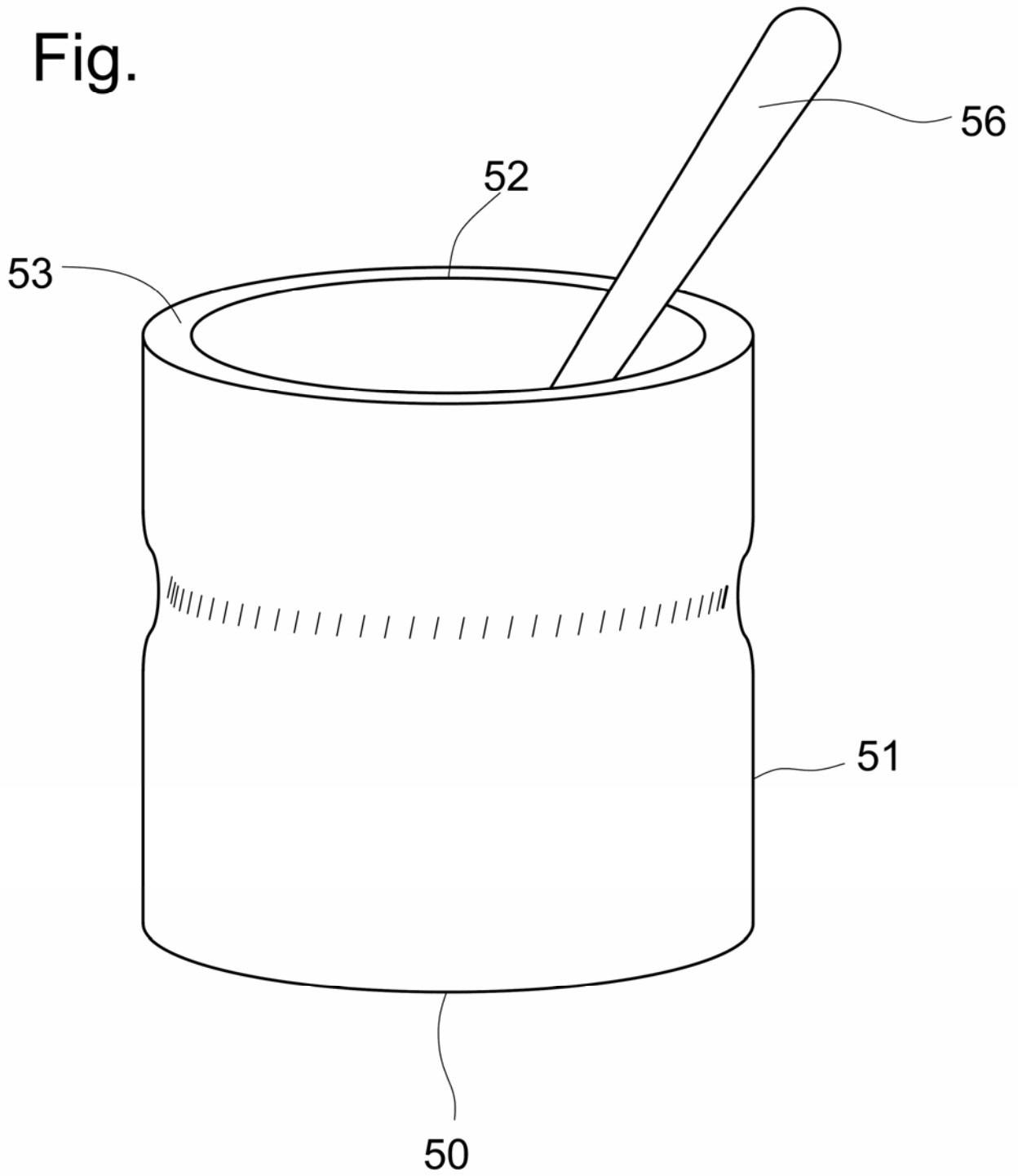
[0004] La figure montre une marmite ayant une base 50, une paroi 51 et un rebord supérieur 52 recourbé vers l'intérieur. La partie aplatie 53 du rebord dépasse d'au moins 2 à 3 cm vers l'intérieur par rapport à la paroi. La base, la paroi et le bord sont obtenus à partir d'une feuille en matériau plastique résistant à des températures pouvant aller jusqu'à 100 °C. La base est suffisamment épaisse pour assurer qu'elle reste toujours parfaitement plane et garantir une bonne stabilité de la marmite reposant sur un support. Grâce au rebord supérieur recourbé vers l'intérieur, le liquide chaud ne déborde pas lorsque l'on mélange le potage, et un couvercle peut être fixé sur la partie supérieure 53 de la marmite. En outre, le potage reste chaud plus longtemps car l'ouverture de la marmite est moins grande.

[0005] Le potage peut être consommé directement dans la marmite chaude à l'aide d'une cuillère 56 quand la marmite repose sur une surface ou est tenue à la main. Une assiette n'est pas nécessaire. Après usage, la marmite et la cuillère peuvent simplement être jetées, aucun lavage n'est nécessaire.

Nous revendiquons :

Une marmite jetable caractérisée par
une base,
une paroi circulaire dotée d'un rebord supérieur recourbé vers l'intérieur, où
la base, la paroi et le rebord sont faits d'une matière plastique mince.

Fig.



Deutsches Patentamt
GEBRAUCHSMUSTER

Int. Cl.⁷: **A47G19/22**
Aktenzeichen: **202 19 345.9**
5 Anmeldetag: **13.12.2002**
Eintragungstag: **13.02.2003**
Bekanntmachung im Patentblatt: **20.03.2003**
Inhaber: **Fasching, Hans, Ottobrunn, DE**

10

Becher

[0001] Die vorliegende Erfindung betrifft eine neue Art von Becher. Der Becher weist eine neue Form auf (siehe Abbildung). Er ist nicht rund wie normale Becher, sondern
15 weist drei gerade Wandabschnitte auf. Der neue Becher ist nur an einer Seite gerundet, was das Trinken erleichtert. Der Becher ist aus Edelstahl.

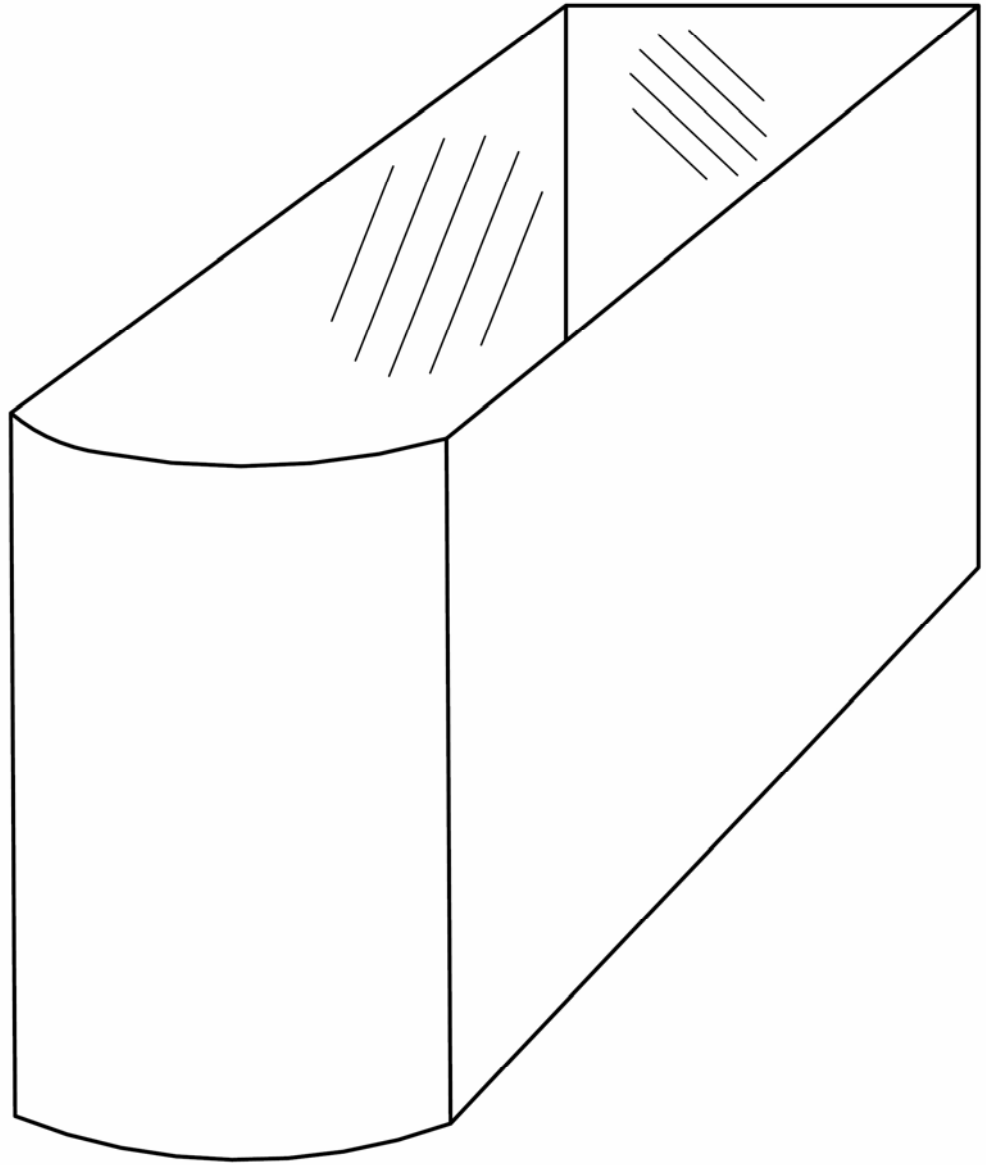
[0002] Dank der rechteckigen Form lässt sich der Becher bequem in der Hand halten. Er ist auch leicht in einem Schrank oder in einer Geschirrspülmaschine unterzubringen, da
20 er Platz sparend eingeräumt werden kann.

[0003] Bei Verwendung mit heißen Getränken wird der Becher auch an der Außenseite ziemlich heiß. Um den Becher kann ein (in den meisten Haushalten und Büros verfügbares) breites Gummiband gelegt werden, so dass man den Becher halten kann,
25 ohne seine Oberfläche zu berühren. Das Gummiband bleibt durch die Elastizität des Gummimaterials ohne Weiteres an dem Becher haften. Alternativ kann auch ein Streifen gefaltetes Papier um die Tassenwand gelegt werden, um die Finger gegen die Hitze zu schützen.

30 **Anspruch:**

Metallbecher, der einen Boden, drei gerade Wandabschnitte und einen gerundeten Wandabschnitt aufweist.

Fig.



ÜBERSETZUNG DER ANLAGEN 2 BIS 6

Anlage 2:	in Deutsch
Anlage 3:	in Französisch
Anlage 4:	in Deutsch
Anlage 5:	in Englisch
Anlage 6:	in Englisch

TRANSLATION OF ANNEXES 2 TO 6

Annex 2:	into German
Annex 3:	into French
Annex 4:	into German
Annex 5:	into English
Annex 6:	into English

TRADUCTION DES ANNEXES 2 À 6

Annexe 2 :	en allemand
Annexe 3 :	en français
Annexe 4 :	en allemand
Annexe 5 :	en anglais
Annexe 6 :	en anglais

CA2361436 A1

Anmeldetag: **15.11.2000**
Veröffentlichungstag: **15.05.2002**
5 Int.Cl.⁷: **A47J45/00**
Anmelder: **Food Containers Inc., Calgary, AI (CA)**
Erfinder: **Benoist, Jean-François (CA)**

10 **Kochgeschirr**

[0001] Die vorliegende Erfindung betrifft Kochgeräte wie z. B. Töpfe oder Pfannen und insbesondere den Griff von Kochgeräten. Kochgeräte werden bei Benutzung heiß, und es ist daher wichtig, dass der Griff gegenüber dem Korpus des Kochgeräts wärmeisoliert
15 ist. Andererseits kann ein Griff unpraktisch sein, wenn mehrere Töpfe auf dem Herd stehen oder die Töpfe in einem Schrank aufbewahrt werden. Das Ziel der vorliegenden Erfindung ist es deshalb, ein Kochgerät bereitzustellen, das beim Kochen leicht zu handhaben ist und eine praktische Größe hat. Erfindungsgemäß wird ein Kochgerät mit einem abnehmbaren Griff bereitgestellt.

20

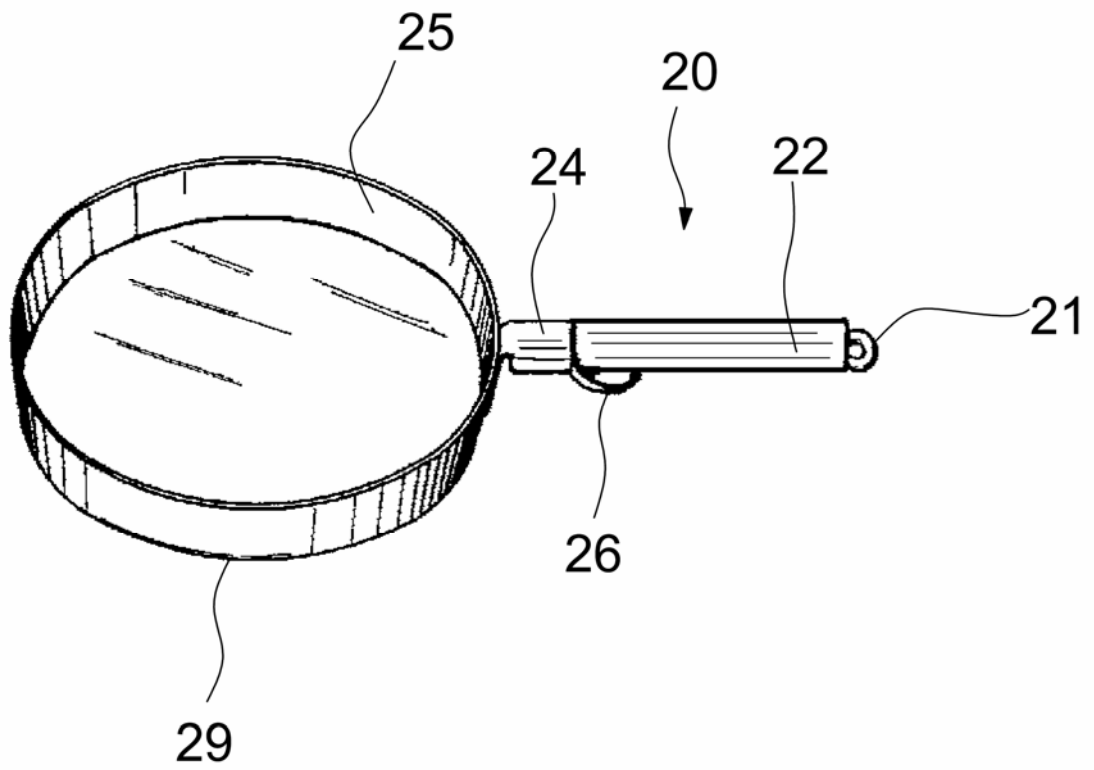
[0002] Die Abbildung zeigt einen Topf aus Edelstahl. Der Topf hat einen Boden 29 und eine kreisförmige Wand 25. An einer Seite des Topfs befindet sich ein Griff 20. Der Griff weist ein Metallbereich 24 mit geringer Wärmeleitfähigkeit und einen Bereich aus Isoliermaterial 22 wie etwa Holz oder Kunststoff auf. Der Metallbereich muss
25 ausreichend lang sein, damit die Hitze des Topfs und des Herds das Isoliermaterial nicht beschädigt. Gute Ergebnisse wurden mit einem Metallbereich erzielt, der 5 bis 7 cm von der Topfwand absteht. Zusätzlich kann der Metallbereich eine Abschirmung 26 aufweisen, die sich um weitere 5 cm unter dem isolierenden Griff erstreckt und das Isoliermaterial vor der Hitze des Herds schützt.

[0003] Der Bereich aus Isoliermaterial 22 ist nicht dauerhaft am Metallbereich des Kochgeräts befestigt. Der Bereich aus Isoliermaterial ist röhrenförmig und weist einen Hohlraum entlang der Hauptachse auf. Er hat beispielsweise einen Aussendurchmesser von 3 cm, und der Hohlraum darin hat einen Durchmesser von nicht mehr als 2 cm. In diesem Hohlraum befindet sich eine lange Schraube mit einem Kopf 21 an einem Ende und einem Gewinde am anderen Ende des Bereichs aus Isoliermaterial. Das Gewinde passt in ein entsprechendes Innengewinde im Metallbereich und befestigt so den Bereich aus Isoliermaterial am Metallbereich.

10 **Anspruch:**

Kochgerät mit Griff, wobei der Griff (20) umfasst:
einen Metallbereich (24) und
einen Bereich aus Wärme isolierendem Material (22),
15 wobei der Bereich aus Wärme isolierendem Material abnehmbar am Metallbereich des Griffs befestigt ist.

Fig.



WO 02/09797 A1

Date de dépôt international : **25.07.2001**
Date de publication internationale : **07.02.2002**
5 Priorité : **02.08.2000 US60/222,454**
Int.Cl.⁷ : **B65D3/06**
Déposant : **Ton Dickson and Company**
Inventeur : **Giambattoni, Luciano**

10

Réceptier à boire en papier

[0001] L'invention porte sur un réceptier à boire en papier destiné aux boissons froides, fait en papier ciré. Le réceptier a une base et une paroi de forme globalement conique.
15 Un tel réceptier est bon marché et il est aisément jetable après emploi. Les réceptiers de ce type peuvent être emmagasinés en grand nombre de façon plus compacte et ils ne se brisent pas en tombant par terre. Le papier mince est rendu étanche par un revêtement en cire qui ne se dégrade pas dans un liquide froid à une température inférieure à environ 30 °C. Le réceptier peut donc être utilisé en toute sécurité avec ces
20 boissons froides, le papier ne devenant perméable qu'au-dessus de ladite température.

[0002] Quand ces réceptiers sont tenus à main nue alors qu'ils contiennent une boisson glacée, l'inconvénient est que la main est refroidie très rapidement, ce qui n'est pas agréable, et de plus la boisson est réchauffée.

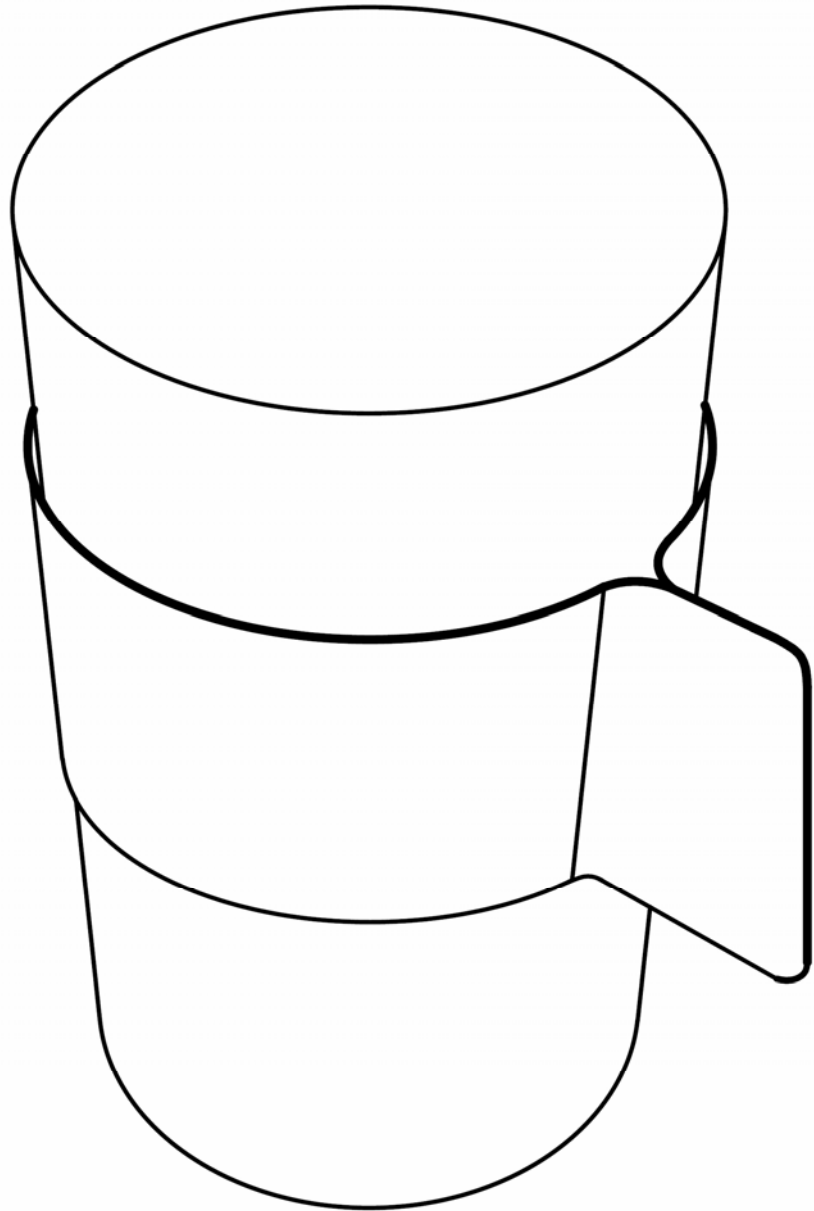
[0003] On s'est rendu compte que ces récipients sont plus agréables à tenir si on dispose une couche en carton autour du papier ciré de la paroi. Une partie médiane du récipient à boire est entourée d'une bande de carton d'environ 2 mm d'épaisseur, qui est fixée juste en pressant l'une contre l'autre les extrémités de la bande avec une couche adhésive entre les deux. Le diamètre de l'anneau ou du manchon peut ainsi être adapté de façon à ce qu'il ne glisse pas trop loin vers le rebord supérieur du récipient en papier, ce qui pourrait produire une sensation désagréable lorsque le manchon est touché des lèvres et gêner la personne qui boit.

10 **[0004]** Ainsi, le récipient à boire est suffisamment isolé grâce au carton et peut être tenu sans se refroidir les doigts ou réchauffer la boisson.

Revendication :

15 Récipient à boire en papier pour boissons froides comprenant une base circulaire, une paroi de papier ciré, et une couche de carton fixée autour de la surface externe de la paroi du récipient.

Fig.



EP 1 133 910 A1

Anmeldetag: **07.02.2001**
Priorität: **14.03.2000 US 525638**
5 Veröffentlichung: **19.09.2001**
Int. Cl.⁷: **A47G19/23**
Anmelder: **Ottowa Inc., Moline, Illinois 61265-8960**
Erfinder: **Mollen, Michael James**

10

Stapelbares Trinkgefäß

[0001] Diese Erfindung betrifft ein stapelbares Glas- oder Porzellangefäß für Flüssigkeiten. Glasgefäße haben generell unterschiedliche Formen, wobei die Öffnung
15 weiter ist als der Boden. Werden solche Gefäße von Tischen in Bars oder Restaurants abgeräumt, so werden sie in der Regel ineinander gestapelt. Diese Gefäße sind jedoch nicht zum Stapeln konzipiert, und es kann vorkommen, dass sie sich dabei verklemmen. Das Trennen der Gefäße zum Abwaschen ist deshalb heikel, und manchmal lassen sich die Gefäße nur sehr schwer voneinander lösen. Es kommt sogar vor, dass Gefäße
20 zerbrechen, wenn sie in großer Zahl gestapelt werden. Elastischere oder verformbare Materialien wie Kunststoff können jedoch für diese hochwertigen Trinkgefäße nicht verwendet werden.

[0002] Das Ziel dieser Erfindung ist deshalb, Glas- oder Porzellangefäße zu schaffen,
25 die sich ineinander stapeln und leicht wieder voneinander lösen lassen.

[0003] Die Abbildung zeigt ein Trinkgefäß 41 aus Glas. Das Gefäß hat eine Wand, die eine Öffnung 40 bildet, welche weiter ist als der Boden 47. Eine umlaufende oder ringförmige Ausbuchtung 44 befindet sich etwa auf Dreiviertelhöhe der Gefäßwand. An
30 der Ausbuchtung 44 biegt sich die Wand nach außen, wobei die Wanddicke gleich bleibt. Die Wand kann eine Dicke von etwa 4 mm aufweisen.

[0004] Werden zwei Gefäße dieses Typs ineinander gestapelt, so ruht die Ausbuchtung 44 des oberen Gefäßes auf dem oberen Rand 46 des unteren Gefäßes. Auf diese Weise besteht kein Kontakt zwischen der Außenseite des oberen Gefäßes und der Innenseite des unteren Gefäßes. Die Gefäße können deshalb leicht wieder
5 voneinander gelöst werden.

[0005] Die Außenfläche des Bodens ist in der Regel konkav, so dass das Gefäß auf ebenem Untergrund nur mit einer schmalen, kreisförmigen Auflagefläche am Rand des Bodens 47 sehr stabil steht.

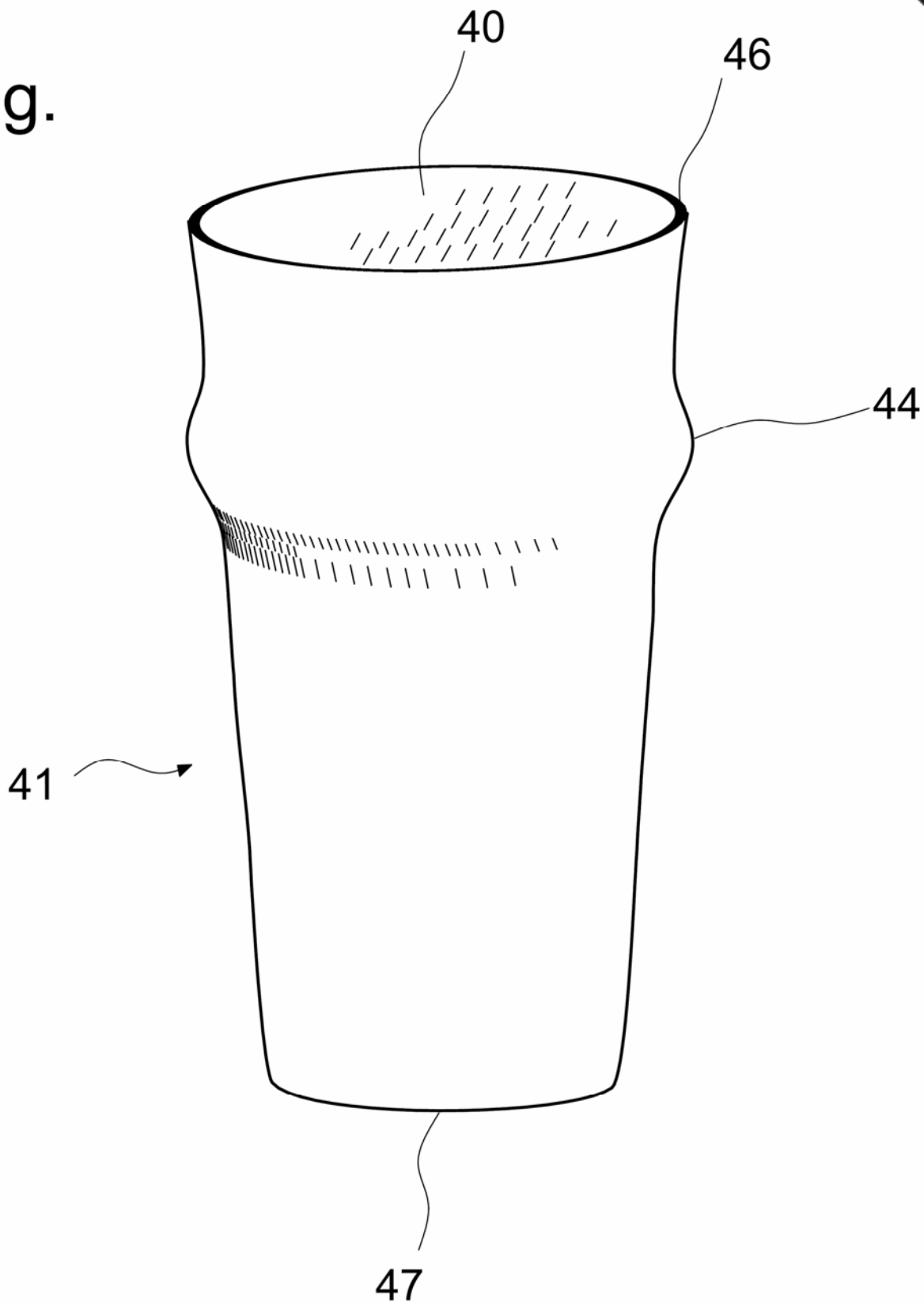
10

[0006] Das Gefäß kann auch einen (nicht abgebildeten) integrierten Griff aufweisen, der bevorzugt im oberen Viertel des Gefäßes oberhalb der ringförmigen Ausbuchtung 44 von der Gefäßwand absteht. Der Griff erhitzt sich nicht so stark wie die Gefäßwand, wenn kochende Flüssigkeit in das Gefäß gefüllt wird, und ist beim Stapeln nicht
15 hinderlich. Gefäße mit vorstehendem Griff müssen jedoch mit größerer Sorgfalt behandelt werden.

Anspruch:

20 Stapelbares Glasgefäß, dessen Öffnung weiter ist als sein kreisförmiger Boden, wobei der obere Abschnitt der Gefäßwand eine nach außen gerichtete, umlaufende Ausbuchtung aufweist.

Fig.



WO 02/06675 A2

Filing date: **17.07.2001**
Priority data: **00/09401 18.07.2000 FR**
5 International Publication date: **24.01.2002**
Int.Cl.⁷: **B65D1/26**
Applicant: **Houzem S.P.A.**
Inventor: **Reval, Jean-Luc**

10

Disposable stock pot

[0001] Instant soups can be prepared in a few minutes using highly soluble and dispersible granular soup mixes. It is sufficient to add hot water to the mix for the soup to
15 be ready.

[0002] However, for someone in a hurry it may be too time-consuming, if he has to heat water in a pot, add granular soup mix, pour the soup into a soup plate and clean the pot and plate afterwards.

20

[0003] We have found a solution to this problem. Our disposable pot can be filled with granular soup mix and sealed with a lid. The user only has to remove the lid, pour boiling water into the pot, stir with a spoon provided and wait a couple of minutes.

5 [0004] The figure shows a pot with a base 50, a wall 51 and an upper rim 52 of the pot which is bent inwardly. The flat portion 53 of the rim extends at least 2-3 cm inwardly from the wall. Base, wall and rim are made of plastics sheet material that can withstand temperatures up to 100 °C. The base is made sufficiently thick to ensure that it keeps

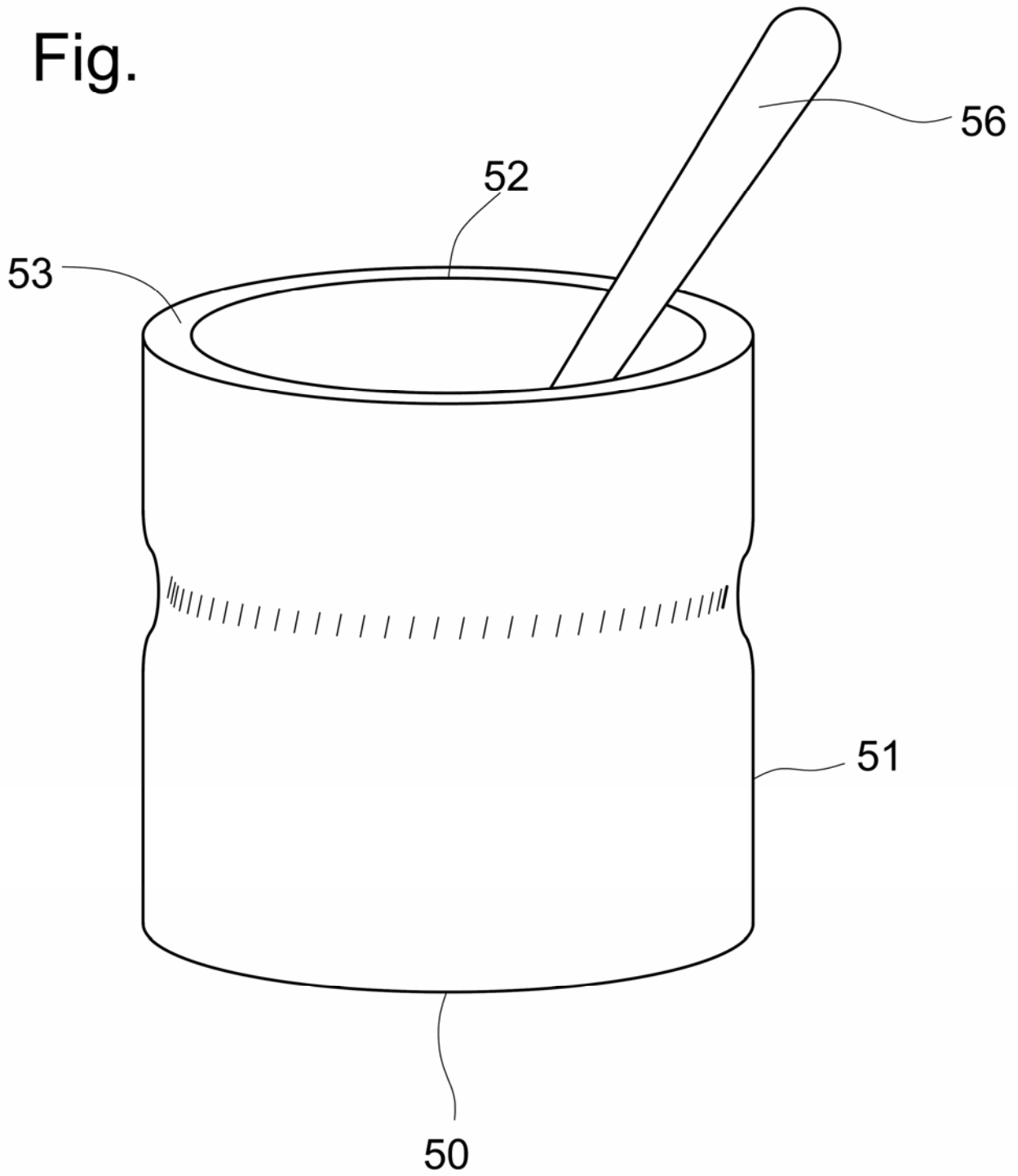
10 [0005] The soup can be consumed directly from the hot pot with a spoon 56 while the pot is positioned on a surface or held in the hand. A plate is not necessary. After use the pot and the spoon can simply be discarded, nothing needs to be cleaned.

We claim:

15

A disposable pot characterized by
a base,
a circular wall with an inwardly bent upper rim, wherein
base, wall and rim are of a thin plastics material.

Fig.



German Patent Office

UTILITY MODEL

	Int.Cl.:	A47G19/22
5	Application number:	202 19 345.9
	Filing date:	13.12.2002
	Registration date („Eintragungstag“):	13.02.2003
	Date of announcement in the Patent Bulletin („Bekanntmachung im Patentblatt“):	20.03.2003
10	Applicant:	Fasching, Hans, Ottobrunn, DE

Cup

15 **[0001]** The present invention relates to a new type of cup. The cup has a novel shape (see figure). It is not round like normal cups, but has three straight wall portions. Only one side of the new cup is curved, which facilitates drinking. The cup is made of stainless steel.

20 **[0002]** Owing to the rectangular shape the cup can comfortably be held in the hand. It is also convenient to store it in a cupboard or dishwasher because it can be stored with fewer gaps.

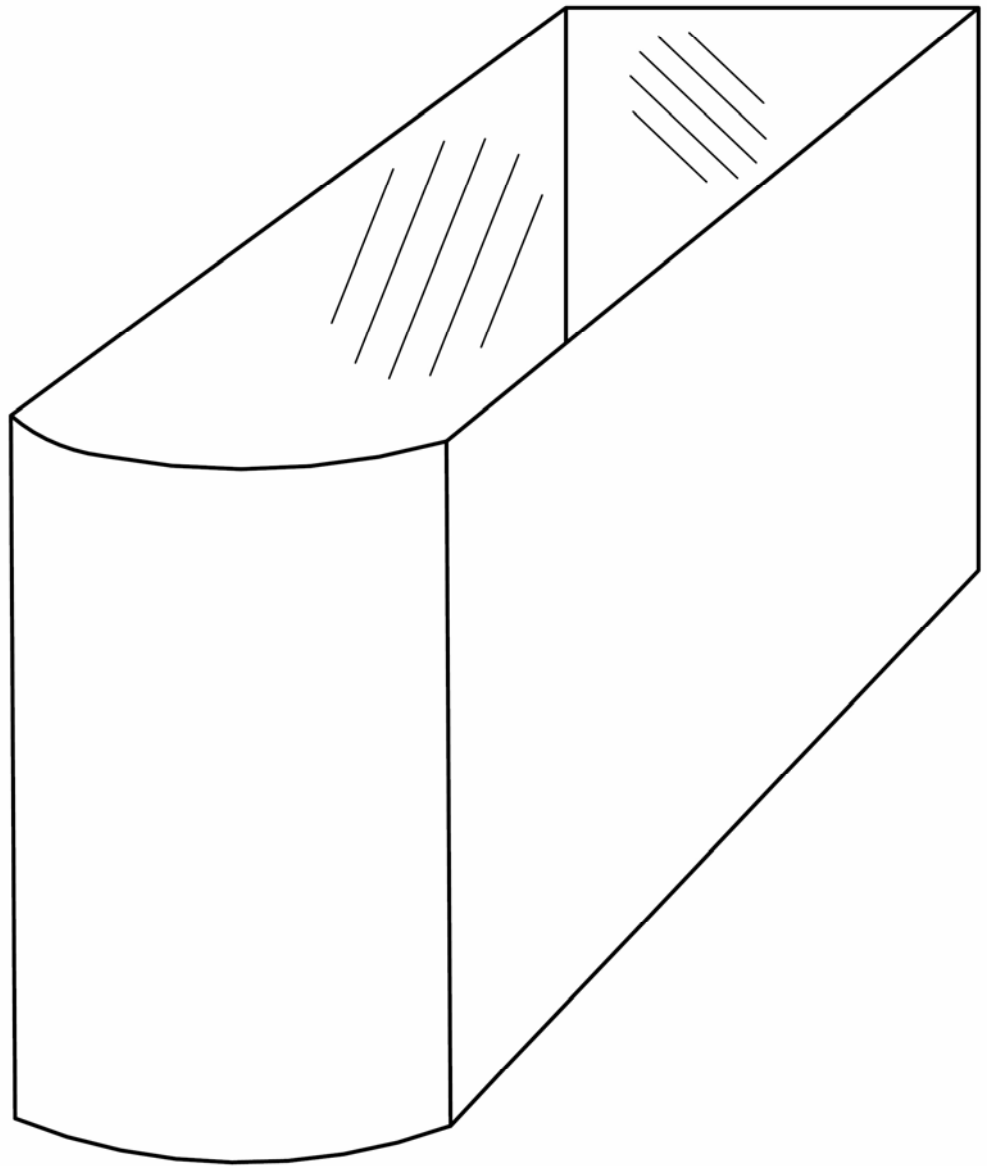
25 **[0003]** If the cup is used for hot drinks it gets rather hot on the outside too. It is possible to put a broad rubber band (available in most households and offices) around the cup so that the cup can be gripped without touching its surface. The rubber band simply remains attached to the cup because of the elasticity of the rubber material. Alternatively a strip of folded paper can be wrapped around the wall of the cup to protect the fingers from the heat.

30

Claim:

Metal cup having a base, three straight wall portions and one curved wall portion.

Fig.



ÜBERSETZUNGSHILFE / GLOSSARY / GLOSSAIRE

EN	DE	FR	IT	SE	ES	NL	DK	FI
Brief des Einsprechenden / Opponent's Letter / Lettre de l'opposant								
rubber	Gummi	caoutchouc	gomma	gummi	goma	rubber	gummi	kumi
insulating material	Isoliermaterial	matériau isolant	materiale isolante	isolermaterial	material aislante	isolerend materiaal	isolering	eristemateriaali
Anlage 1 / Annex 1 / Annexe 1								
hot beverages	Heissgetränke	boissons chaudes	bevande calde	heta drycker	bebidas calientes	warme dranken	varme drikke	kuumat juomat
receptacle	Behälter	réceptient	recipiente	behållare	recipiente	houder	beholder	astia, säiliö
coffee dispenser machine	Kaffeeautomat	distributeur de café	distributore di caffè	kaffeautomat	máquina distribuidora de café	koffie automaat	kaffe automat	kahviautomaatti
disposable cups	Einwegbecher	gobelets jetables	bicchieri usa e getta	engångskoppar	desechables	wegwerp bekers	engangsbeæger	kertakäyttökupit
plastics cups	Plastikbecher	gobelets en plastique	bicchieri di plastica	plastkoppar	tazas de plástico	kunststof bekers	plastikbæger	muovikupit
sleeve	Manschette	manchon	manica	muff, manchett	manga, pieza con forma de manga	omhulling	manchet	mansetti
grip area	Greifbereich	zone de prise	zona di presa	greppyta	zona de agarre	greep gedeelte	gribeblade	otealue
base	Boden	base	base	botten	base	bodem	bund	pohja
rim	Rand	rebord	bordo	kant	borde	rand	rand	reuna
cardboard	Karton	carton	cartone	kartong	cartón	karton	karton	kartonki, pahvi
annular	ringförmig	annulaire	anulare	ringformig	anular	ringvormig	ringformet	rengasmainen
curled	engerollt	recourbé	ricurvo	krökt	enrollado, curvado	omgekruld	krænget	kierretty, koukero
circular tube	kreisförmigen, schlauchartigen Wulst	pourtour tubulaire	tubo a sezione circolare	cirkelförmigt rör	tubo circular	circeelvormige verdikking	cirkulært rør	pyöreä putki
recessed area	Einbuchtung	renforcement	incavo	fördjupning	hueco, hundimiento	terugspringend gedeelte	indsnævring	upotettu alue
periphery of the base	Rand des Bodens	bord de la base	bordo della base	bottens omkrets	borde de la base	omtrek van de bodem	bundens periferi	pohjan reuna-alue

ÜBERSETZUNGSHILFE / GLOSSARY / GLOSSAIRE

EN	DE	FR	IT	SE	ES	NL	DK	FI
Anlage 2 / Annex 2 / Annexe 2								
detachable thermal conductivity screw thread	abnehmbar	démontable	rimovibile	avtagbar	separable, desmontable	verwijderbaar	aftagelig	irrotettava
thermal conductivity	Wärmeleitung	conductibilité thermique	conducibilità termica	värmeledningsförmåga	conductividad térmica	thermische geleidbaarheid	varmelednings-evne	lämmönjohtokyky
screw thread	Gewinde	filet de vis	filettatura	skruvgänga	rosca	schroefdraad	gevind	kierre
stainless steel female screw	Edelstahl Innengewinde	acier raffiné taraudage	acciaio inossidabile madre vite	rostfritt stål innergänga	acero inoxidable tornillo hembra	roestvrij staal moer	rustfast stål møtrik	ruostumaton teräs mutteri
Anlage 3 / Annex 3 / Annexe 3								
wax-coated conical permeable	gewachst konisch durchlässig	ciré conique perméable	incurato conico permeabile	vaxad konisk genomsläpplig	encerado cónico permeable	bekleed met was kegelvormig doorlaatbaar	vokset konisk gennemtrængelig	vahalla päällystetty kartiomainen läpäisevä
Anlage 4 / Annex 4 / Annexe 4								
china nested circumferential or annular bulge concave	Porzellan gestapelt umlaufende oder ringförmige Ausbuchtung konkav	porcelaine emboîté renflement périmétrique ou annulaire concave	porcellana infilati l'uno nell'altro ringonfiamento perimetrale o anulare concavo	porslin staplade omgivande eller ringformig utbuktning konkav	porcelana encajado protuberancia circular o anular concavo	porselein gestapeld ringvormige uitstulping hol	porcelæn stablet omløbende eller ringformet udbulning konkav	posiilini pinottu rengasmainen pullistuma kovera
integral handle boiling	integrierter Griff kochend	poignée intégrée bouillant	maniglia integrale bollente	integrerat handtag kokande	asa integrada hirviendo	geïntegreerd handvat/ geïntegreerd oorkokend	integreret hank kogende	integroitu kahva kiehuva
Anlage 5 / Annex 5 / Annexe 5								
stock pot lid boiling to stir to discard	Suppentopf Deckel kochend rühren wegwerfen	marmite couvercle bouillant mélanger jeter	pentola coperchio bollente mescolare gettare via	soppskål lock kokande röra om kasta bort	sopera tapa hirviendo remover tirar, desechar	soepketel dekkel kokend roeren weggoeien	suppegryde låg kogende omrøre bortkaste	keitokulho kansi kiehuva hämmentää heittää pois
Anlage 6 / Annex 6 / Annexe 6								
straight wall portions stainless steel	gerade Wandabschnitte Edelstahl	portions de paroi droites acier raffiné	porzioni di parete dritte acciaio inossidabile	raka väggavsnitt rostfritt stål	porciones de paredes rectas acero inoxidable	rechte wandgedeeltes roestvrij staal	lige vægfsnit rustfast stål	suorat seinämän osat ruostumaton teräs



NOTES

to the Notice of Opposition (EPO Form 2300)

Although the opposition form is **not** mandatory for the purpose of filing a notice of opposition, it specifies all the information required for such a notice to be admissible and hence facilitates the formulation and processing of the opposition. In the **statement of grounds** itself the opponent is free to comment as he wishes.

Explanatory notes to the various sections:

I. Patent opposed

Under **Patent No.** the number of the European patent against which opposition is filed (Rule 55(b) EPC) must be given.

If known, the **application number** and **the date on which the Patent Bulletin mentions the grant** (Art. 97(4) EPC) should also be given. The latter makes it easier to monitor compliance with the opposition period.

The **title of the invention** must be given (Rule 55(b) EPC); it should be indicated under item 54 **as shown on the cover page of the printed patent specification**.

II. Proprietor of the patent:

Where there are **several** patent proprietors it is sufficient for the proprietor first named in the patent specification (under 74) to be given.

III. Opponent

The **name** and **address** of the opponent and the **State** in which his residence or principal place of business is located must be given, in accordance with Rule 26(2)(c) EPC (Rule 55(a) EPC). If the identity of the opponent has not been established by expiry of the opposition period, such deficiency can no longer be remedied (decision of the Technical Board of Appeal T 25/85, OJ EPO 1986, 81).

IV. Authorisation:

If the opponent has appointed a **representative**, his name and the address of his place of business must be given, in accordance with Rule 26(2)(c) EPC (Rule 55(d) EPC). If **several** professional representatives are appointed, only one representative to whom notification is to be made should be named. Any further representatives must be given in an annex (put a cross in the box).

An opponent who has neither a residence nor his principal place of business within the territory of one of the EPC Contracting States must be represented and act through his representative (Art. 133(2) EPC). Professional representation before the EPO may only be undertaken by professional representatives (Art. 134(1) EPC) or legal practitioners entitled to act as professional representatives (Art. 134(7) EPC).

Natural or legal persons having their residence or principal place of business within the territory of one of the EPC Contracting States may also be represented in opposition proceedings by **an employee**, who must however be authorised (Art. 133(3), first sentence, EPC). In this case notification will be made to the opponent (not the employee) unless a professional representative has also been authorised.

To avoid delaying the proceedings, any authorisation which has to be filed should if possible be enclosed with the opposition. Under Rule 101(1) EPC in conjunction with the decision of the President of the EPO dated 19 July 1991, listed professional representatives identifying themselves as such normally no longer need to file signed authorisations (cf. OJ EPO 1991, 421 and 489). These are however required from legal practitioners and employees who are not professional representatives and are acting for the opponent under Article 134(7) and 133(3), 1st sentence, EPC respectively. If they do not file one, the EPO will ask them to do so within a specified period. Failure to comply will result in any procedural steps performed by the practitioner or employee being deemed not to have been taken (Rule 101(4) EPC) – which means that the notice of opposition will be considered not to have been filed.

V. Statement of the extent to which the patent is opposed

The notice of opposition must contain a statement of the extent to which the European patent is opposed (Rule 55(c) EPC). If the opposition is not filed against the patent as a whole (place a cross in the appropriate box), the number(s) of the claims (as in the patent specification) which the opponent considers to be affected by one more of the grounds for opposition must be given.

VI. Grounds for opposition

The alleged grounds for opposition (Art. 100 EPC) must be indicated by a cross placed in the appropriate box(es).

Under the heading of non-patentability (Art. 100(a) EPC) the most frequently cited grounds for opposition are lack of novelty and lack of inventive step, for which separate boxes are therefore provided. The form otherwise gives the opponent ample scope for indicating other possible grounds for opposition. Under the heading "other grounds" the

A full list of grounds for opposition is given in Article 100 EPC. The following in particular are not admissible grounds: lack of unity of invention (Art. 82 EPC), lack of clarity in the claims (Art. 84 EPC) and prior national rights (Art. 85 EPC).

For general information on grounds for opposition see Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, D-III, 5.

VII. Facts and arguments presented in support of the opposition

The notice of opposition must contain an indication of the facts, evidence and arguments presented in support of the opposition (Rule 55(c) EPC) and, where documents are cited, an indication of the relevant part(s) (Guidelines, D-IV, 1.2.2.1).

The facts, evidence and arguments in support of the opposition **must be presented on a separate sheet** enclosed as an annex to the Form (indicated by a pre-printed cross in the box).

The fact that the **evidence is indicated** separately in Section IX does not anticipate the presentation of facts, evidence and arguments but merely makes for greater clarity and simplifies processing of the dossier. Section IX of the Form (Evidence presented) may of course always be referred to in this presentation.

Where documents are **cited** in shortened form the rules set out in the Guidelines B-X, 9.1 should be followed.

VIII. Other requests

This section may be used for example to request oral proceedings or a file inspection.

IX. Evidence

Published documents cited as evidence (e.g. patent specifications) must be entered under "Publications" in the spaces provided – preferably in order of importance. They should be **cited** in the manner described in Guidelines B-X, 9.1.

Opponents should also indicate the **parts** of the document on which the opposition is based (this information has to be given anyway in the statement of grounds – see notes to Section VII above).

Other **evidence** (e.g. witnesses, affidavits, company brochures, test or expert reports) must be cited under "Other evidence" (for manifest prior use: place, time, nature – see Guidelines D-V, III; for witnesses: first name and surname, full address, relationship to opponent, etc.). If there is not enough room, the evidence can simply be listed, with an indication of where in the statement of grounds the relevant particulars appear (e.g. "Witness ..., page 5").

Documents cited by a party to opposition proceedings must be filed in **duplicate** (including publications already cited in the European patent specification) with the notice of opposition or other written submission. This will avoid an invitation from the EPO for subsequent filing thereof. If they are neither enclosed nor filed in due time on invitation, the EPO may ignore any arguments based on them (Rule 59 EPC).

X. Payment of opposition fee

The opposition fee must be paid within the opposition period. Notice of opposition is not deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid (Art. 99(1) EPC). With regard to what constitutes the date to be considered as the date on which payment is made, see Article 8 of the Rules relating to Fees and the guidance on payment methods in the Official Journal.

XI. List of documents enclosed

All documents, including annexes (but excluding the authorisation or items relating to payment of the opposition fee), must be filed **at least in duplicate**, as specified in the form. If further opponents are known – or likely – it is a good idea to file sufficient extra copies. This will save the EPO having to request them later or prepare them itself (Rule 36(4) EPC), and so minimise delay and costs.

XII. Signature

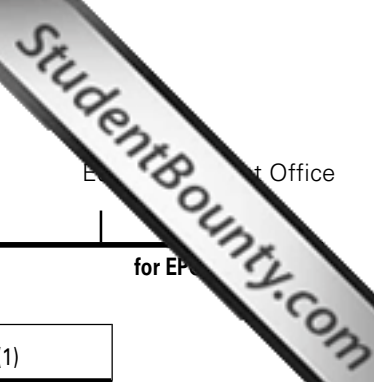
If the opponent is a legal person other than an individual and the notice of opposition is not signed by the representative it must be signed

- (a) either by a person entitled to sign under the law or the opponent's statute, articles of association or the like, with an **indication of the capacity of the person doing so**, e.g. Geschäftsführer, Prokurist, Handlungsbevollmächtigter; chairman, director, company secretary; directeur, fondé de pouvoir (Art. 133(1) EPC), in which case no authorisation need be filed;
- (b) or by another employee of the opponent, provided the latter's principal place of business is in a Contracting State (Art. 133(3), first sentence, Rule 101(1) EPC), in which case an authorisation must be filed.



Notice of Opposition to a European Patent

European Patent Office



Tabulation marks

I. Patent opposed Patent No. Application No. Date of mention of the grant in the European Patent Bulletin (Art. 97(4), 99(1) EPC)	Opp. No. OPPO (1)		for EP
Title of the invention:			
II. Proprietor of the Patent first named in the patent specification			
Opponent's or representative's reference (max. 15 spaces)			OREF
III. Opponent Name Address State of residence or of principal place of business Telephone/Telex/Fax Multiple opponents <input type="checkbox"/> further opponents see additional sheet	OPPO (2)		
IV. Authorisation 1. Representative (Name only one representative to whom notification is to be made) Name Address of place of business Telephone/Telex/Fax Additional representative(s) <input type="checkbox"/> (on additional sheet/see authorisation) OPPO (5) 2. Employee(s) of the opponent authorised for these opposition proceedings under Art. 133(3) EPC Name(s): Authorisation(s) <input type="checkbox"/> not considered necessary	OPPO (9)		

V. Opposition is filed against

— the patent as a whole

— claim(s) No(s).

VI. Grounds for opposition:

Opposition is based on the following grounds:

(a) the subject-matter of the European patent opposed is not patentable (Art. 100(a) EPC) because:

— it is not new (Art. 52(1); 54 EPC)

— it does not involve an inventive step (Art. 52(1); 56 EPC)

— patentability is excluded on other grounds, i. e.

(b) the patent opposed does not disclose the invention in a manner sufficiently clear and complete for it to be carried out by a person skilled in the art (Art. 100(b) EPC; see Art. 83 EPC).

(c) the subject-matter of the patent opposed extends beyond the content of the application/ of the earlier application as filed (Art. 100(c) EPC, see Art. 123(2) EPC).

VII. Facts and arguments

(Rule 55(c) EPC)

presented in support of the opposition are submitted herewith on a separate sheet (annex 1)

VIII. Other requests:

IX. Evidence presented

Enclosed =
will be filed at a later date =

A. Publications:

Publication
date

1

Particular relevance (page, column, line, fig.):

2

Particular relevance (page, column, line, fig.):

3

Particular relevance (page, column, line, fig.):

4

Particular relevance (page, column, line, fig.):

5

Particular relevance (page, column, line, fig.):

6

Particular relevance (page, column, line, fig.):

7

Particular relevance (page, column, line, fig.):

Continued on additional sheet

B. Other evidence

Do not use

X. Payment of the opposition fee is made

as indicated in the enclosed voucher for payment of fees and costs (EPO Form 1010)

XI. List of documents

Enclosure
No.

No. of copies

0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form for notice of opposition	<input type="text"/> (min. 2)	
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facts and arguments (see VII.)	<input type="text"/> (min. 2)	
2	Copies of documents presented as evidence (see IX.)		
2a	<input type="checkbox"/> — Publications	<input type="text"/> (min. 2 of each)	
2b	<input type="checkbox"/> — Other documents	<input type="text"/> (min. 2 of each)	
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Signed authorisation(s) (see IV.)	<input type="text"/>	
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Voucher for payment of fees and costs (see X.)	<input type="text"/>	
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque	<input type="text"/>	
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional sheet(s)	<input type="text"/> (min. 2 of each)	
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify here):	<input type="text"/>	

**XII. Signature
of opponent or representative**

Place

Date