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Lambertson, Jr. et al.

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(54) **COATING MATERIAL CONTAINER**

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B44D 3/12 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***B44D 3/127*** (2013.01); ***B44D 3/121*** (2013.01); ***B44D 3/128*** (2013.01)

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USPC 220/659, 696, 755
See application file for complete search history.

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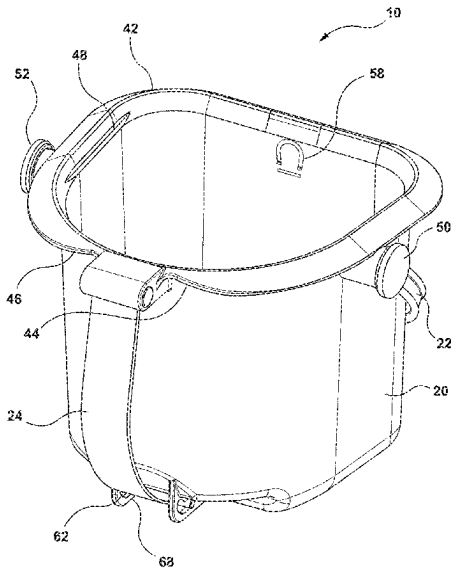
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided is a container including a container body, a bail removably attached to the container body, a lid removably attached to a top of the container body, and a flexible band attached to the container body. The flexible band is movable between a first position spaced a first distance from the rear, a second position spaced a second distance from the rear less than the first distance to allow the container body and the bail to be grasped at the rear without interference by the flexible band, and a third position spaced a third distance from the rear greater than the first distance to provide space for a user's hand between the rear of the container body and the flexible band.

20 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets



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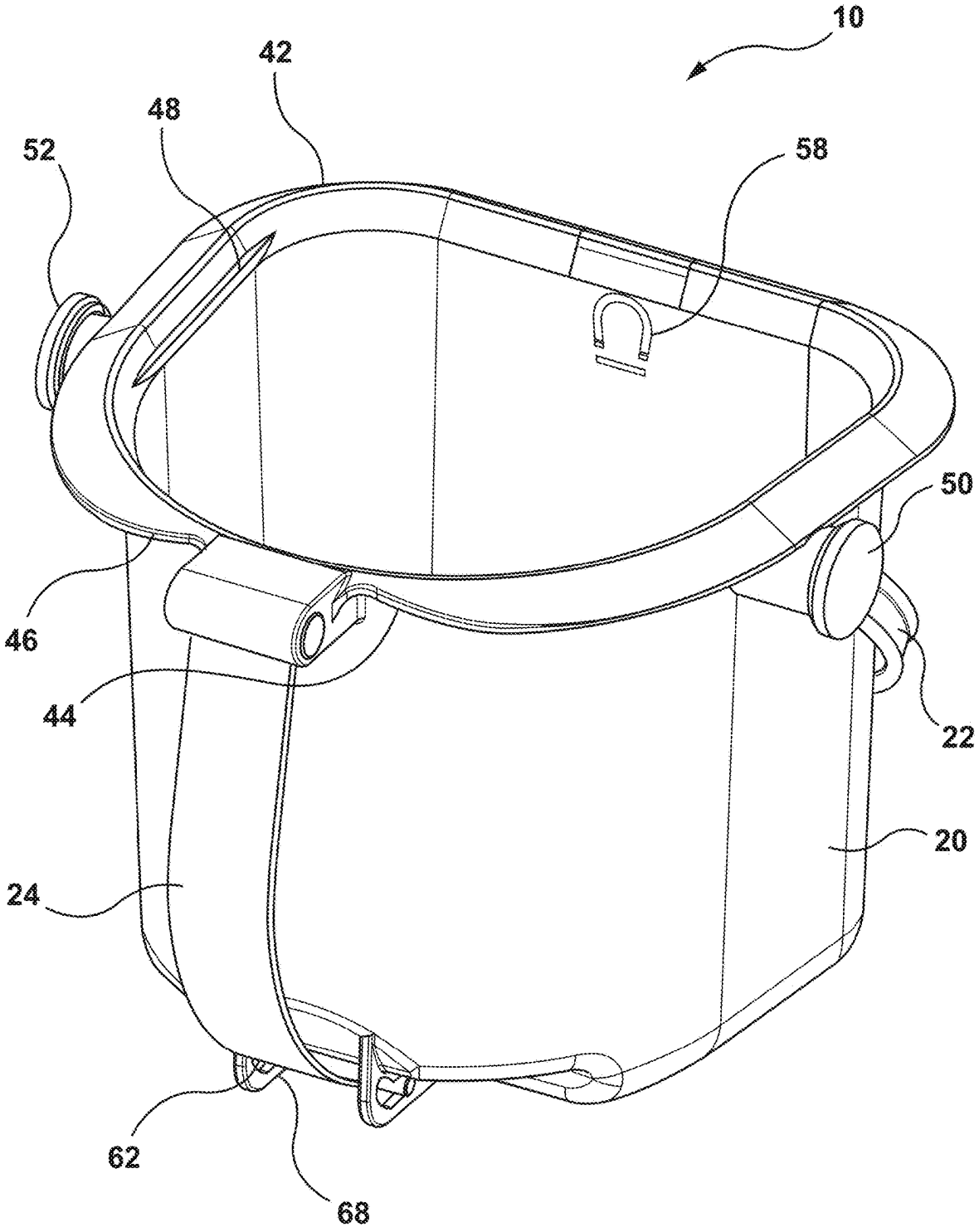

FIG. 1

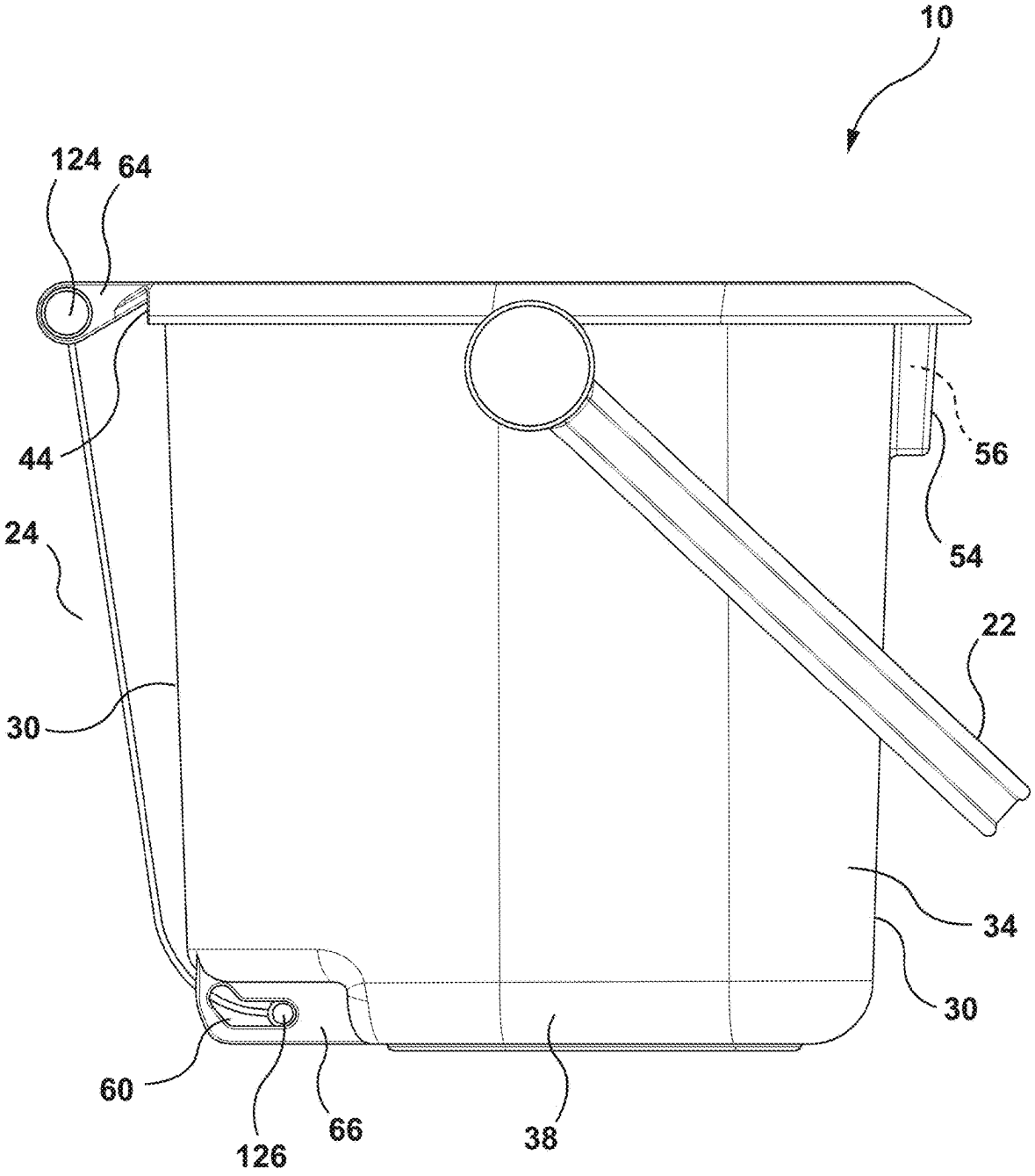

FIG. 2

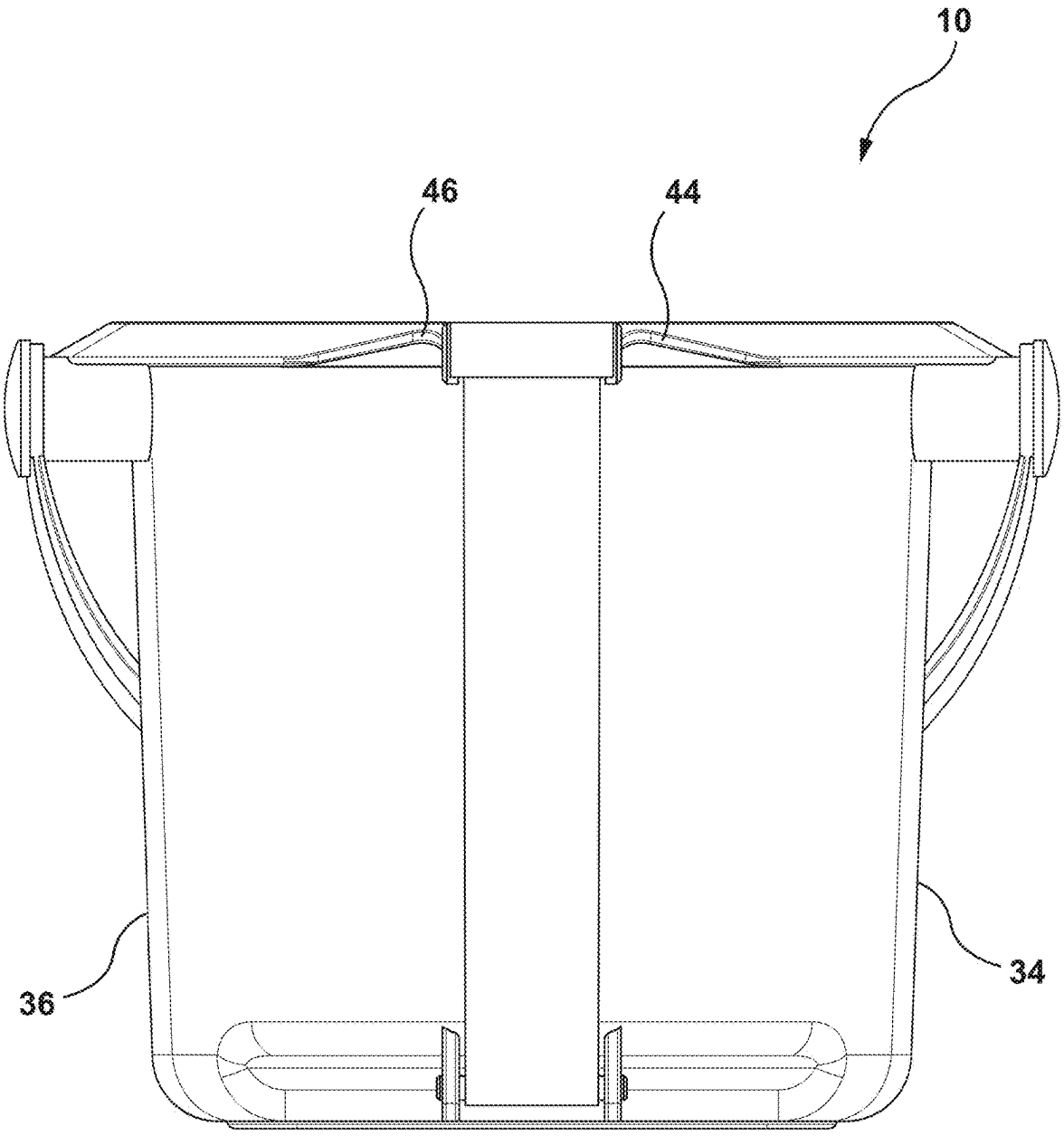

FIG. 3

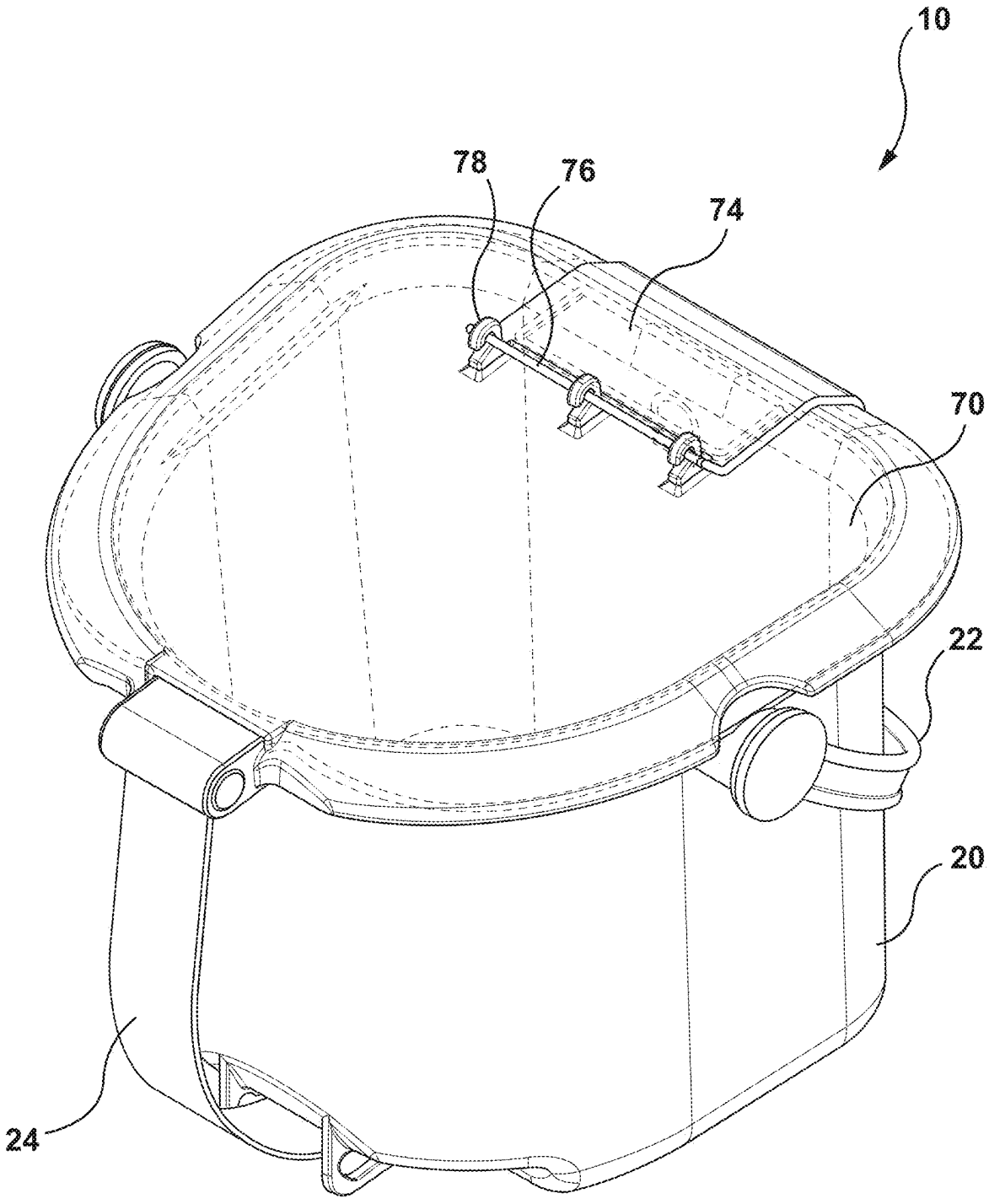

FIG. 4

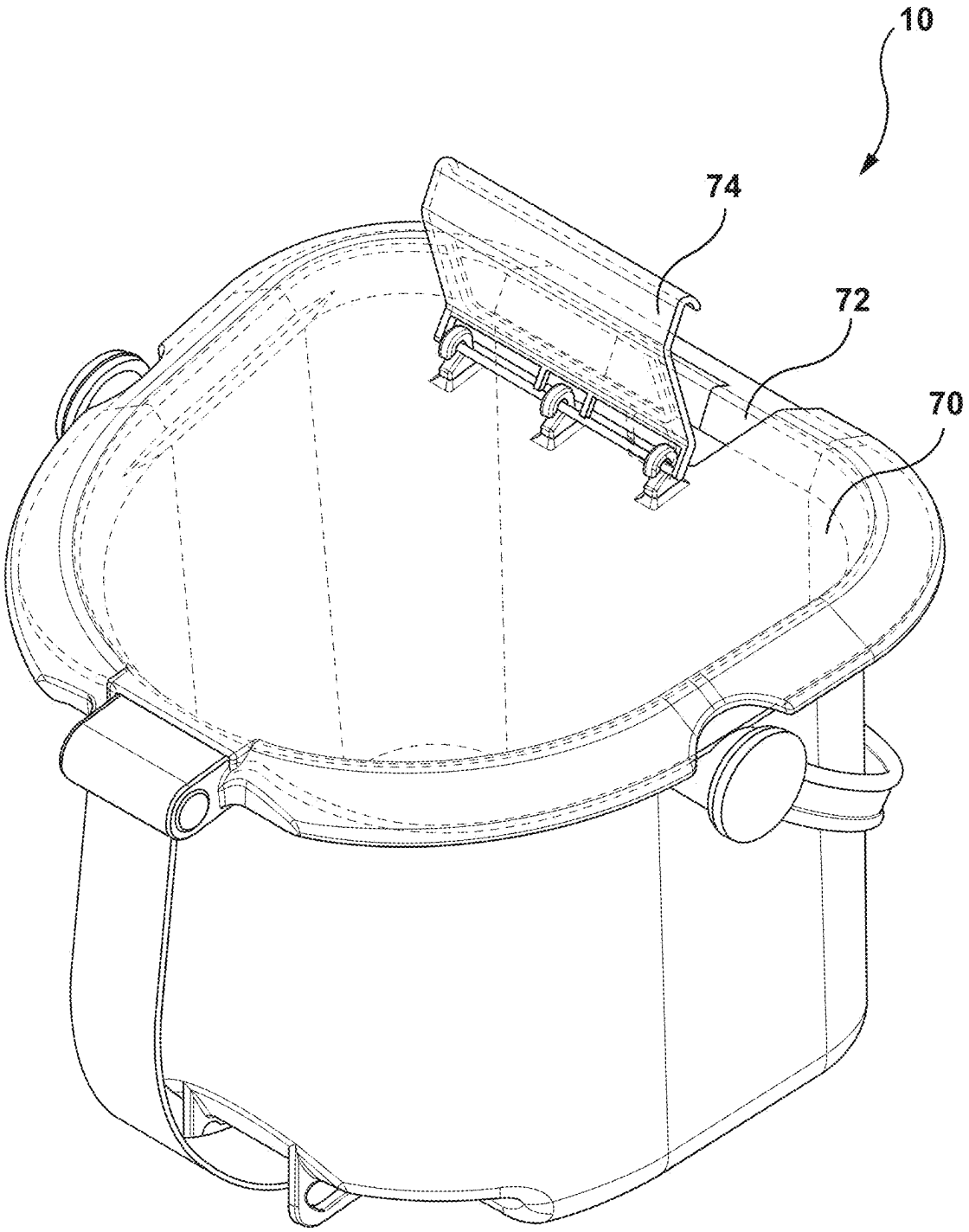

FIG. 5

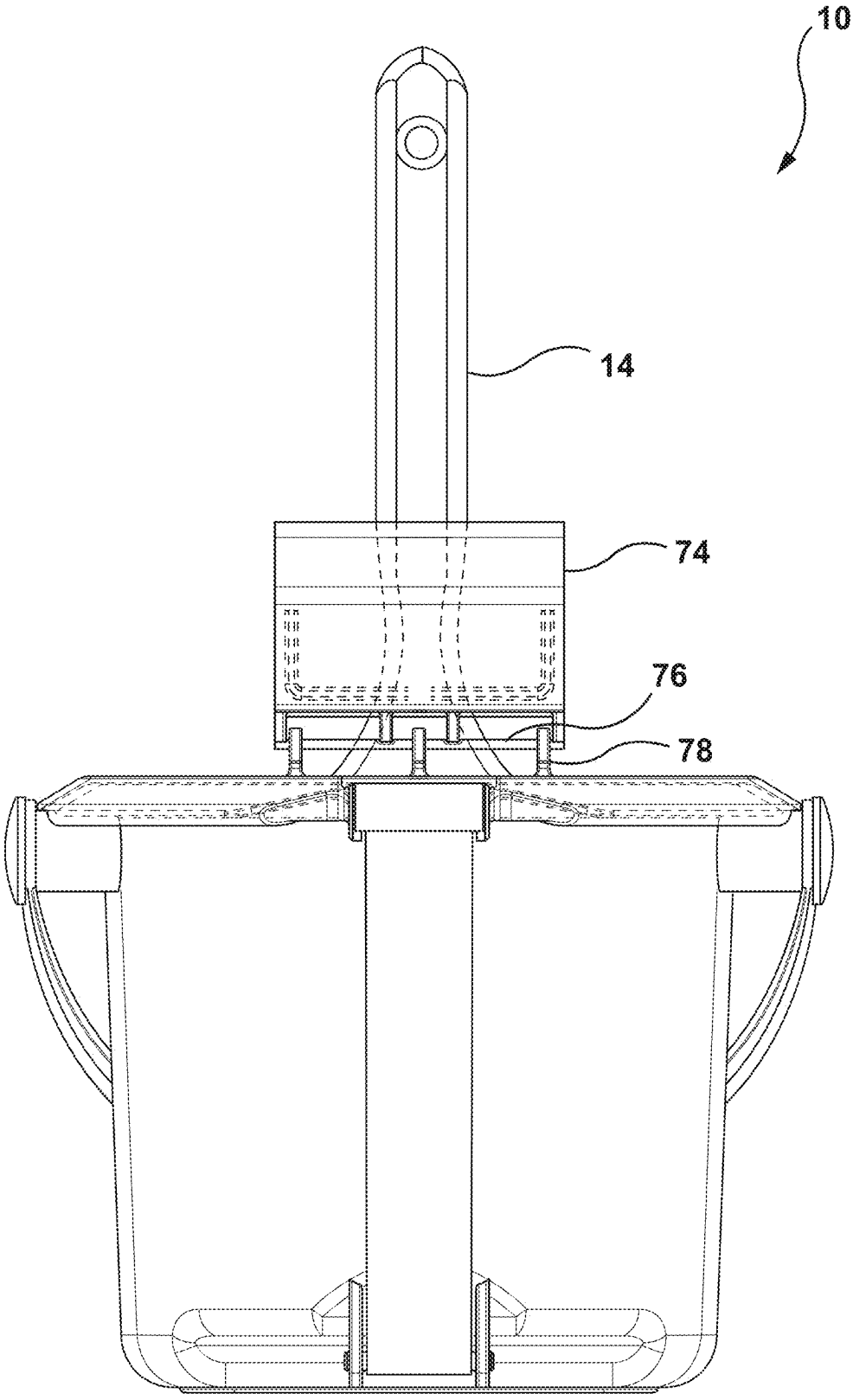

FIG. 6

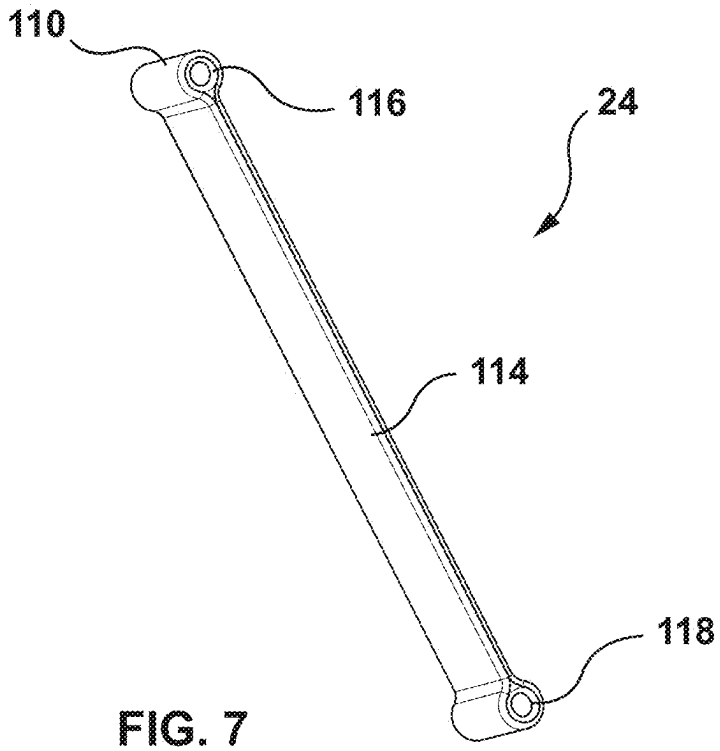

FIG. 7

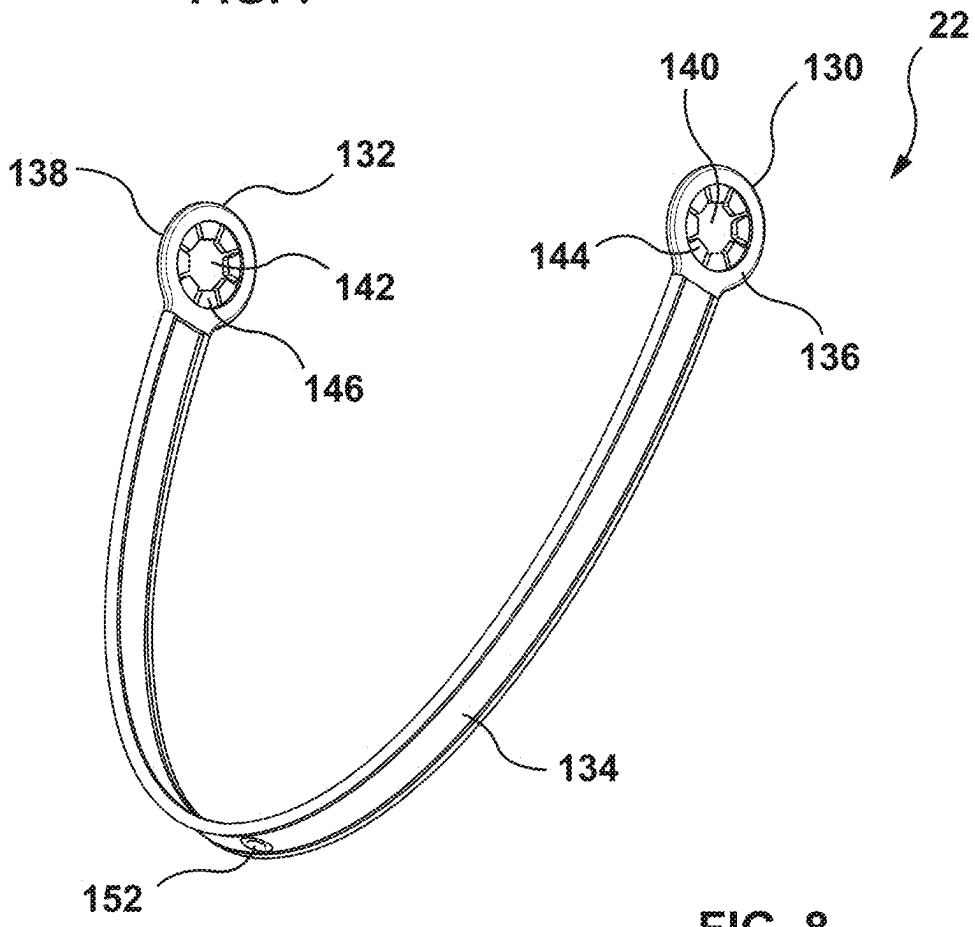

FIG. 8

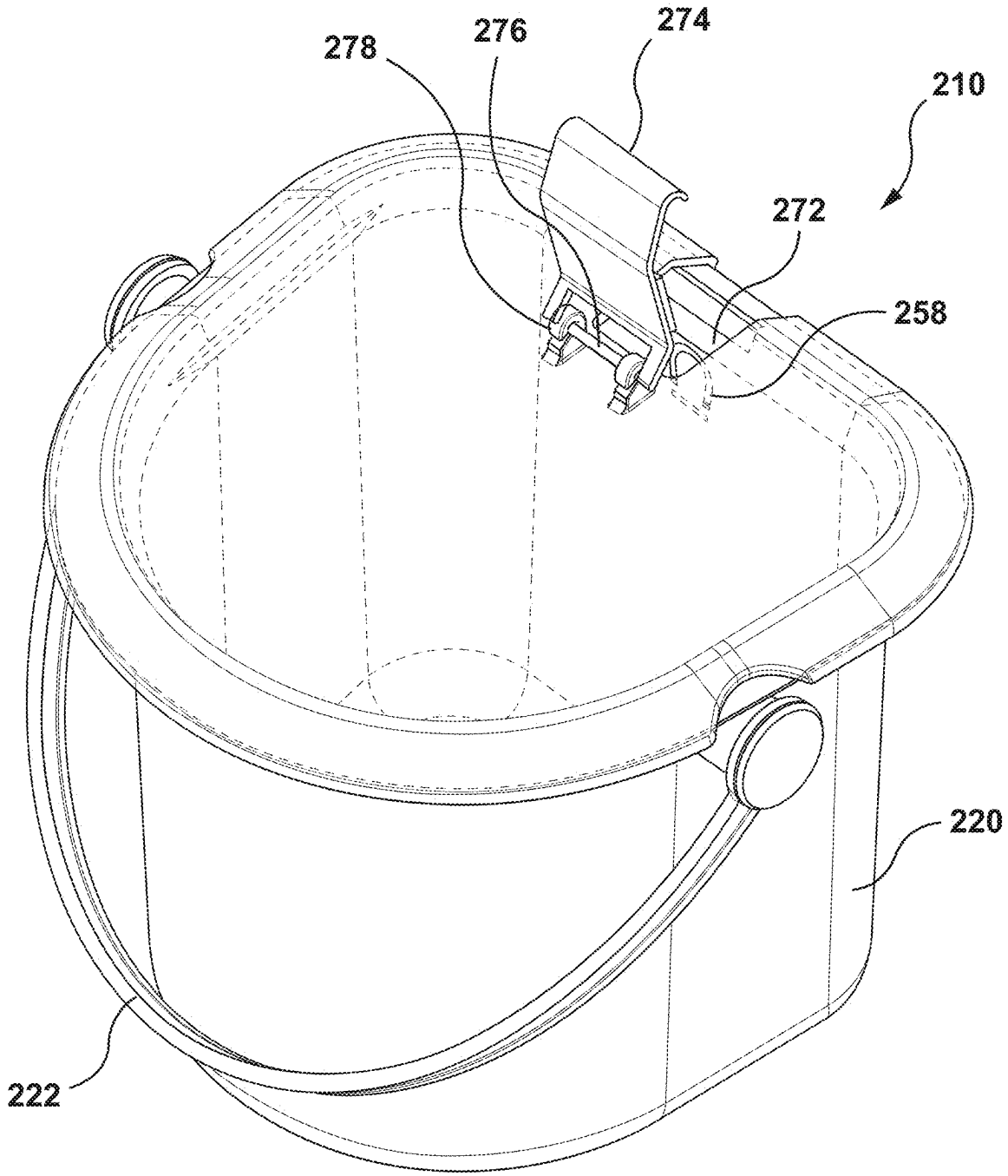

FIG. 9

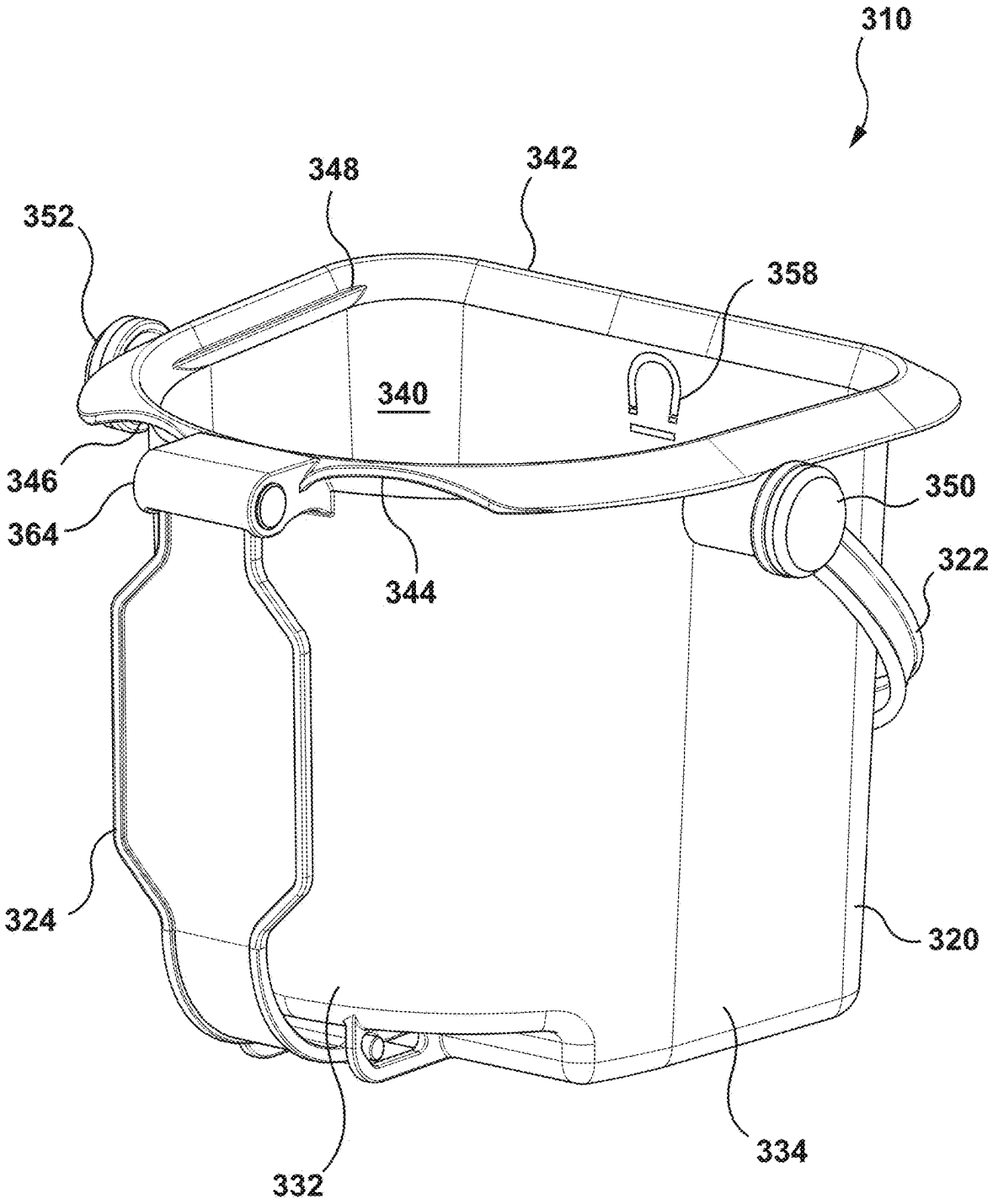

FIG. 10

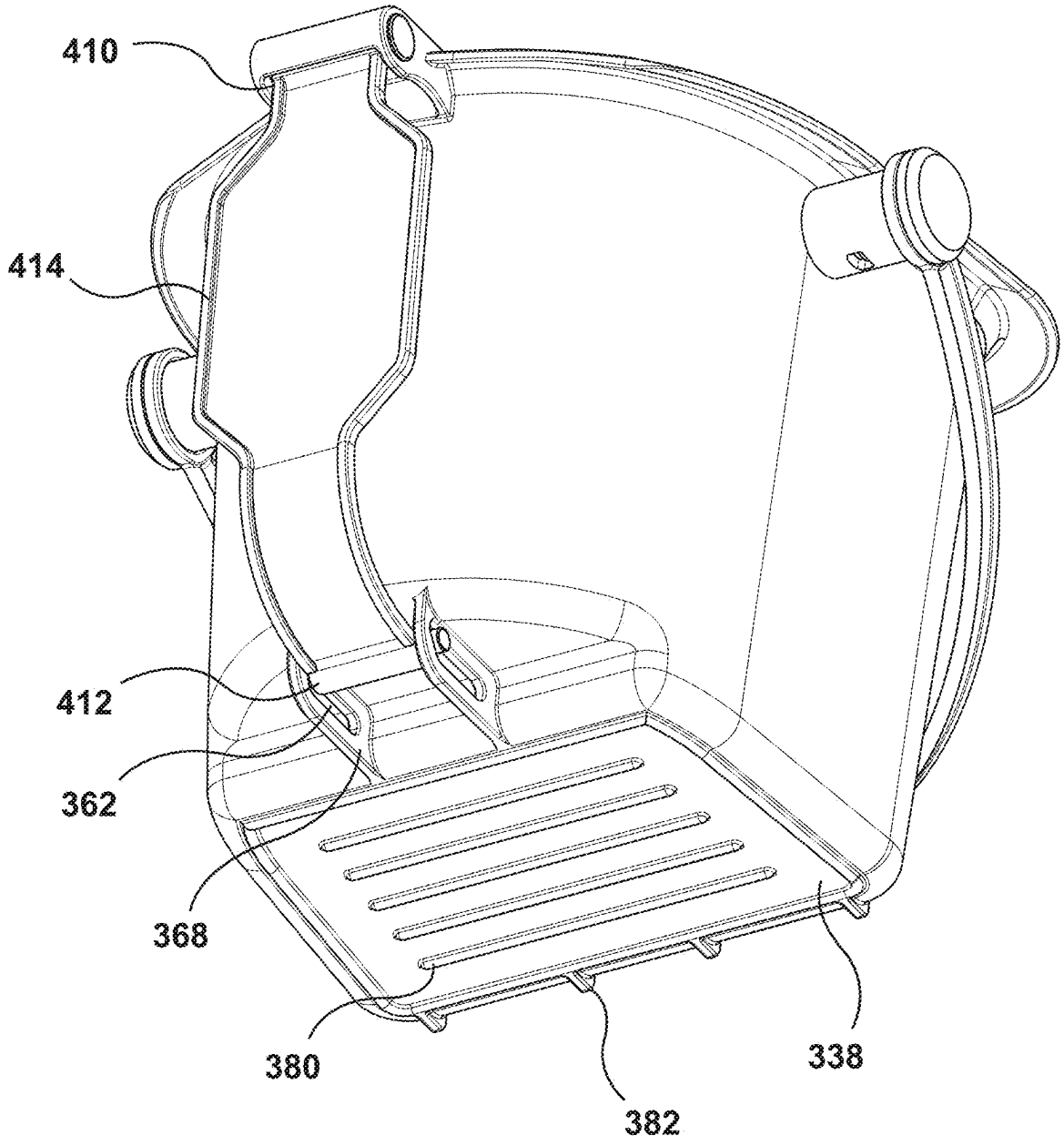

FIG. 11

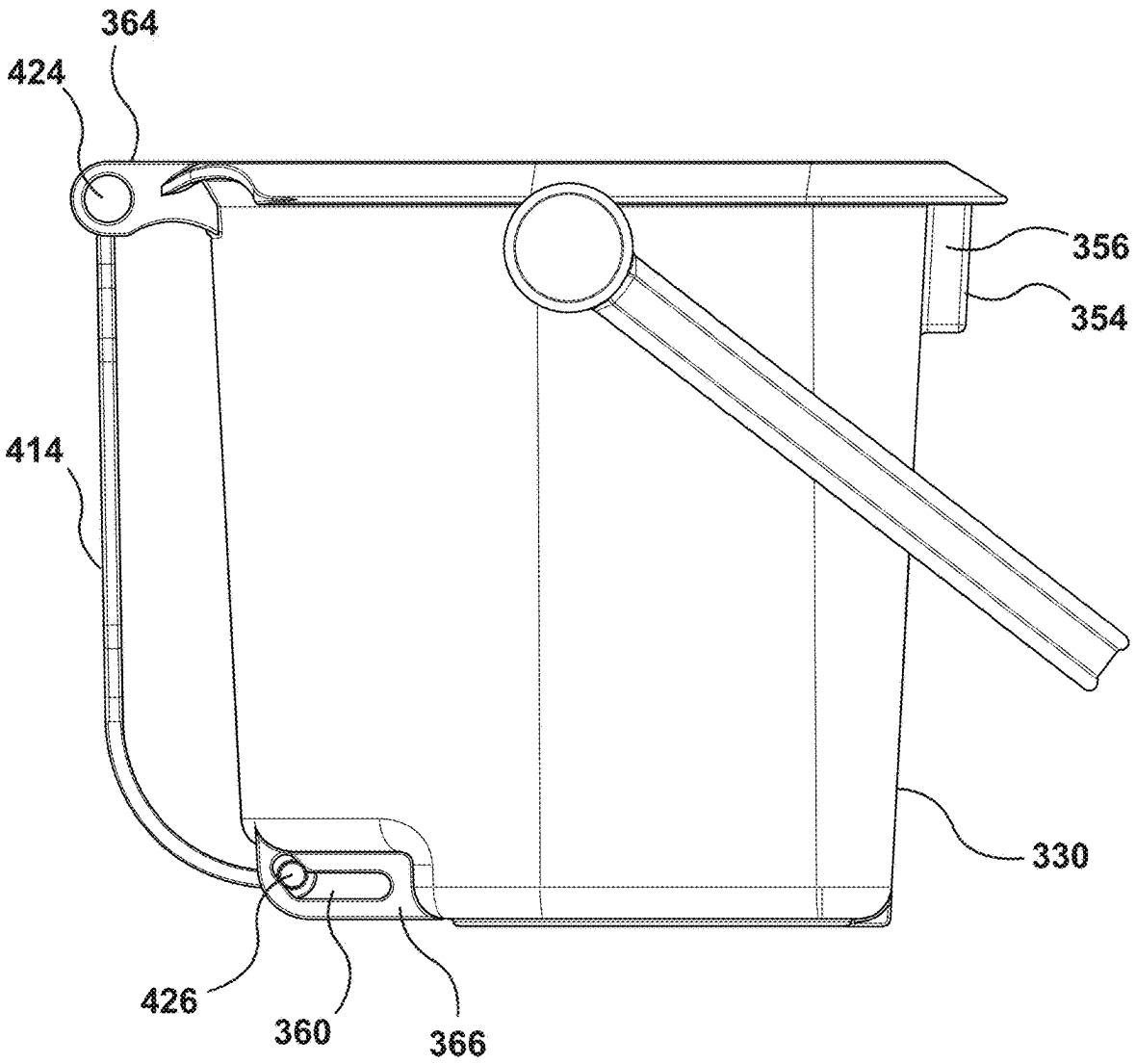

FIG. 12

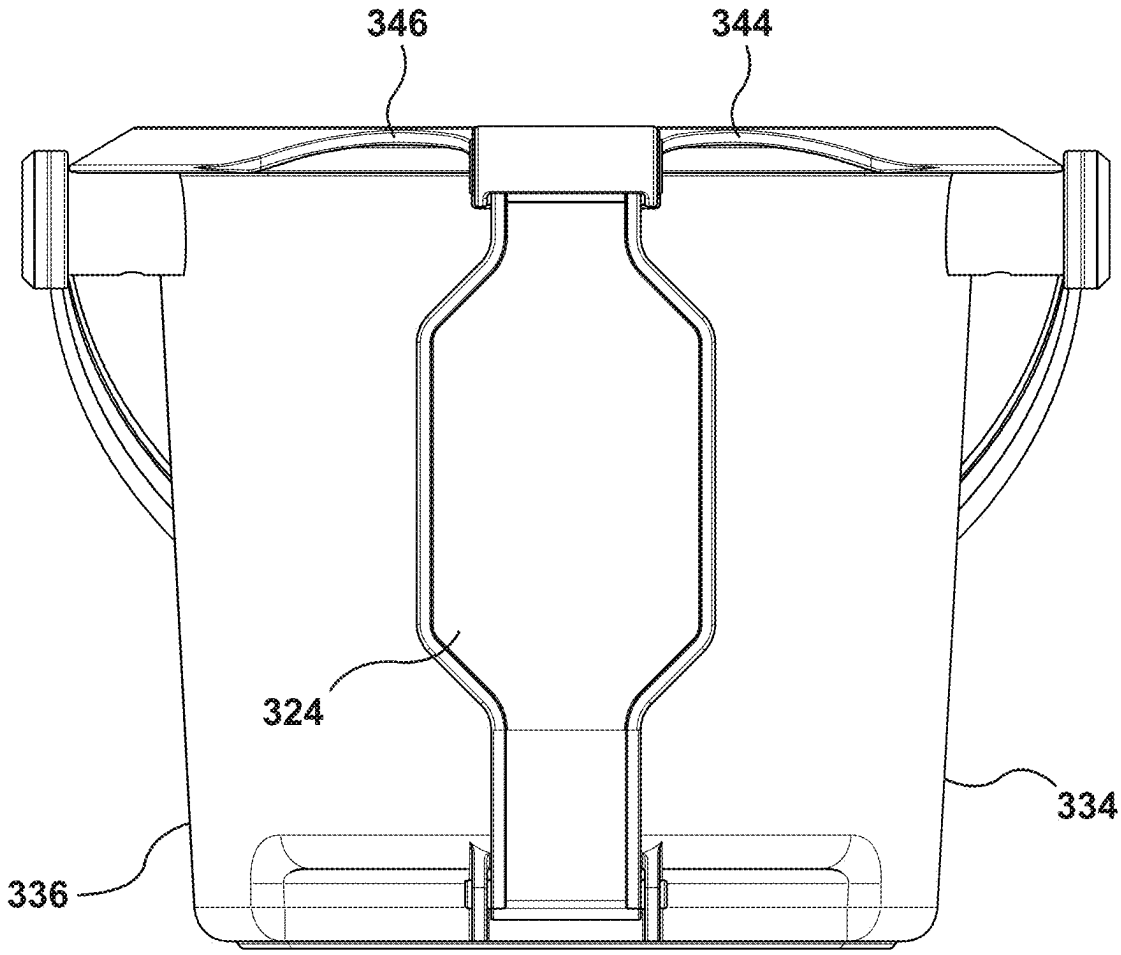

FIG. 13

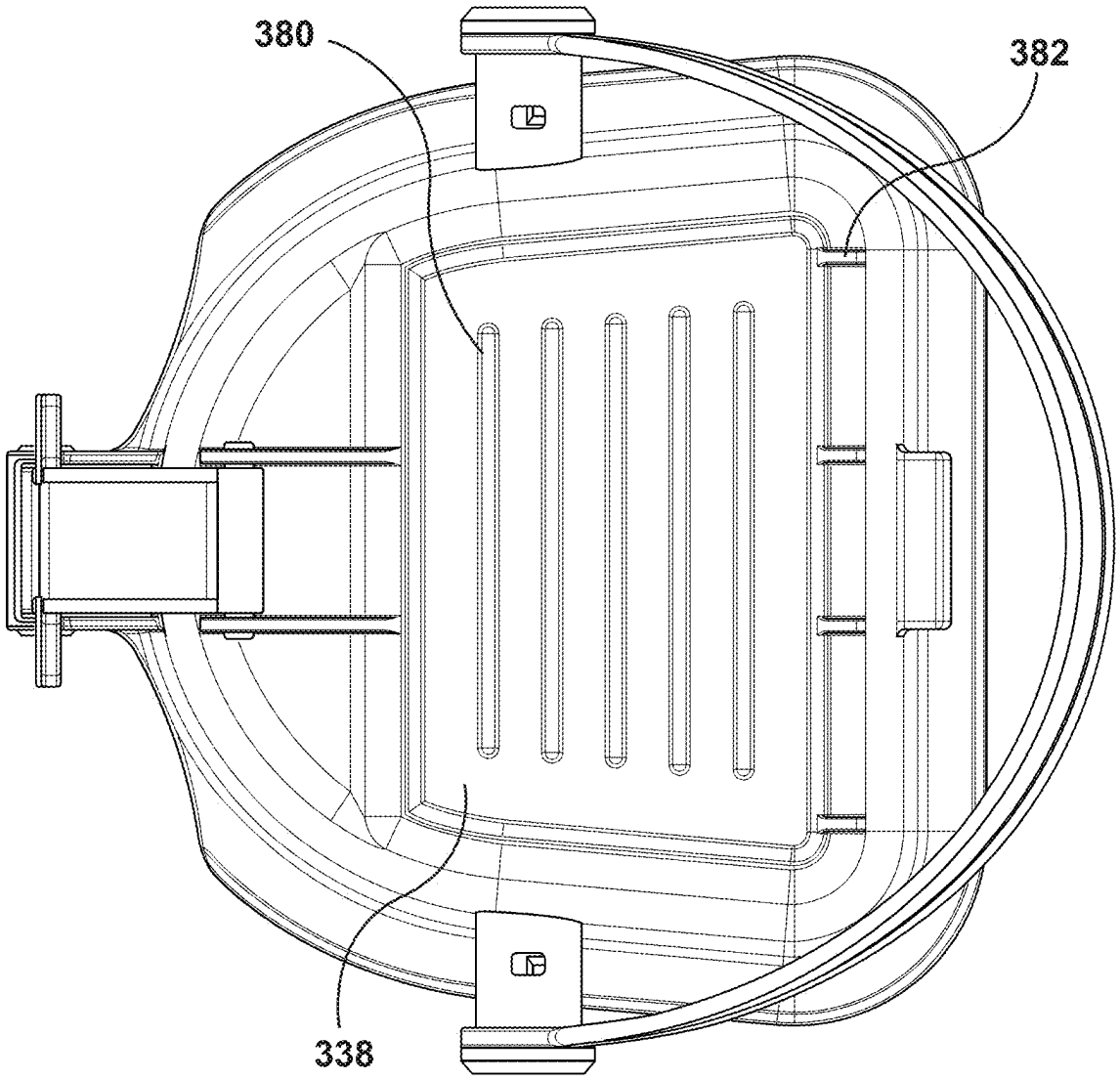

FIG. 14

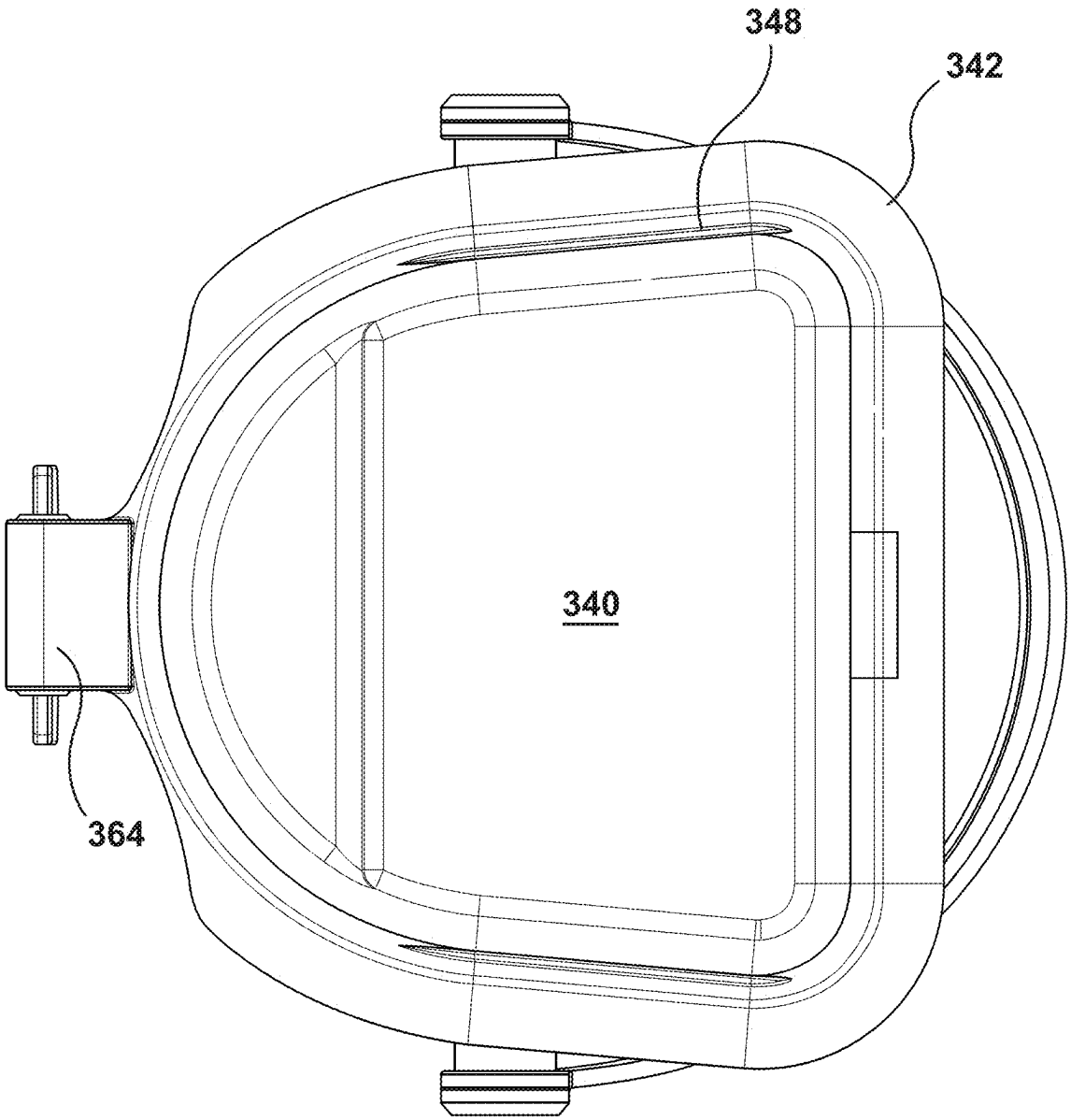

FIG. 15

COATING MATERIAL CONTAINER

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/389,619 filed Jul. 15, 2022, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

Embodiments of the subject matter disclosed herein relate to a container, and more particularly to a container for a coating material.

BACKGROUND

Containers can be provided for holding a coating material, such as paint. The containers can include a handle for a painter to hold. The container can be smaller than a traditional paint container, such as a paint can, to provide a lighter weight and easier to hold container for the painter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

According to an aspect, a container is provided that includes a container body having a front, a rear, a right side, a left side, and a bottom that define a cavity for receiving a coating material, a bail removably attached to the container body, a lid removably attached to a top of the container body, and a flexible band attached to the rear of the container body, wherein the flexible band is movable between a first position spaced a first distance from the rear, a second position spaced a second distance from the rear less than the first distance to allow the container body and the bail to be grasped at the rear without interference by the flexible band, and a third position spaced a third distance from the rear greater than the first distance to provide space for a user's hand between the rear of the container body and the flexible band.

According to another aspect, a container is provided that includes a container body having a front, a rear, a right side, a left side, and a bottom that define a cavity for receiving a coating material, a bail removably attached to the container body, a flexible band attached to the rear of the container body, and a lid removably attached to a top of the container body, the lid including includes a cutout that defines with the front of the container body an opening for receiving an attachment, and a flap moveable between an open position allowing access to the cavity and a closed position closing the opening.

According to still another aspect, a container is provided that includes a container body having a front, a rear, a right side, a left side, and a bottom that define a cavity for receiving a coating material, the front, rear, right side, and left side each include a rim portion extending around tops thereof that form an upper rim, a projection projecting rearwardly from the rear, a bail removably attached to the container body, a flexible band attached to the rear of the container body, and a lid removably attached to a top of the container body at the upper rim, the lid including includes a cutout that defines with the front of the container body an opening for receiving an attachment, and a flap moveable between an open position allowing access to the cavity and a closed position closing the opening, wherein the flexible band is movable between a first position spaced a first distance from the rear, a second position spaced a second distance from the rear less than the first distance to allow the container body and the bail to be grasped at the rear without interference by the flexible band, and a third position spaced a third distance from the rear greater than the first distance to provide space for a user's hand between the rear of the container body and the flexible band.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Reference is made to the accompanying drawings in which particular embodiments and further benefits of the provided subject matter are illustrated as described in more detail in the description below.

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an exemplary container.

FIG. **2** is a side view of the container.

FIG. **3** is a rear view of the container.

FIG. **4** is a perspective view of the container with a lid.

FIG. **5** is another perspective view of the container with lid.

FIG. **6** is a rear view of the container with lid.

FIG. **7** is a perspective view of an exemplary flexible band.

FIG. **8** is a perspective view of an exemplary bail.

FIG. **9** is a perspective view of another container with lid without a flexible band.

FIG. **10** is a top perspective view of still another container.

FIG. **11** is a bottom perspective view of the container.

FIG. **12** is a side view of the container.

FIG. **13** is a rear view of the container.

FIG. **14** is a bottom view of the container.

FIG. **15** is a top view of the container.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments of the provided subject matter relate to a container and methods of holding the container.

With reference to the drawings, like reference numerals designate identical or corresponding parts throughout the several views. However, the inclusion of like elements in different views does not mean a given embodiment necessarily includes such elements or that all embodiments of the invention include such elements.

Referring initially to FIGS. **1-3**, an exemplary container is shown at reference numeral **10**. The container **10** is provided for holding a coating material, such as paint, and can receive/secure suitable painting implements, such as a brush **14** (FIG. **6**), for example a four inch or smaller brush, a roller, etc. The container **10** includes a container body **20**, a bail **22** attached to the container body **20**, and a flexible band **24** attached to the container body **20**. The container body **20** includes a front **30**, a rear **32**, a right side **34**, a left side **36**, and a bottom **38** that define a cavity **40** for receiving the coating material. The front **30**, rear **32**, right side **34**, and left side **36** each include a rim portion extending around tops thereof that is collectively referred to herein as an upper rim **42**. The upper rim **42** includes one or more cutouts, and as shown a pair of cutouts **44** and **46** in the upper rim at the rear **32** of the container for user's thumbs providing thumb relief areas whether held in a user's left hand or a user's right hand. The left and right sides **36** and **34** each have a substantially parallel planar portion to one another and curved portions that curve toward the curved rear, and the front **30** may be substantially planar. The right side **34** and left side **36** also include ears **50** and **52** projecting outward therefrom to which the bail **22** is attached, and one or more bars **48**, such as a brush wipe bar, projecting inward from inner surfaces thereof near tops of the sides.

The front **30** of the container **10** defines an area **54** for housing a magnet **56** for supporting the brush **14**. The magnet may be molded into the front or otherwise incorporated into the front such that it extends outward from the front **30** and the inner surface of the front **30** is substantially planar. Indicia **58**, such as an image of a magnet, may be provided on the inner surface of the front **30** to indicate the location of the magnet.

Turning now to the rear **32** of the container **10**, the rear **32** of includes a pair of opposed slots **60** and **62** proximate the bottom **38** and a projection **64** projecting rearwardly from the rear **32** that provides a surface for a user's thumb to rest, for example when the container **10** is being held with the user's hand between the container body **20** and the flexible band **24**. The cutouts **44** and **46** may be provided on opposite sides of the projection **64**. The projection **64** may define a cavity for receiving an end of the flexible band **24**, and include openings at opposite ends thereof for attachment of the flexible band **24** to the projection **64**. As shown, the slots **60** and **62** are in respective projections **66** and **68** that project from the rear **32** and the projection **64** projects from the rim portion of the rear **32**. The slots **60** and **62** may each have a first portion, which is substantially horizontal, and a second portion, which is at an obtuse angle from the horizontal portion.

Referring additionally to FIG. **7** and the flexible band **24** in detail, the flexible band **24** includes a first end **110** configured to be rotatably attached to the rear **32** proximate a top of the rear **32**, for example at the projection **64**, and a second end **112** configured to be rotatably attached to the rear **32** proximate a bottom of the rear **32**, for example at the opposed slots **60** and **62**. The flexible band **24** also includes a substantially planar portion **114** disposed between first and second tubular portions **116** and **118** at the first and second ends **110** and **112** respectively. The tubular portions **116** and **118** each include a through passage for receiving a suitable fastener. For example, the first tubular portion **116** may be positioned in the cavity in the projection **64** and aligned with the openings in the projection. A pin **124** or other suitable fastener is then inserted through the through passage to attach the first end **110** of the flexible band **24** to the projection **64**. Similarly, the second tubular portion **118** may be positioned between the slots **60** and **62** in the projections **66** and **68** proximate the bottom **38** and a pin **126** or other suitable fastener is inserted through the through passage to attach the second end **112** of the flexible band **24** to the projections **66** and **68**. The first end **110** of the flexible band **24** will thereby be rotatably attached to the projection **64**, while the second end **112** of the flexible band will be rotatably attached to the projections **66** and **68** and movable within the slots **60** and **62**.

The flexible band **24** is movable between a first position spaced a first distance from the rear **32** as shown in FIG. **1**, a second position spaced a second distance from the rear **32** less than the first distance to allow the rear **32** of the container body and the bail **22** to be grasped without interference by the flexible band **24**, and a third position spaced a third distance from the rear **32** greater than the first distance to provide space for a user's hand between the rear **32** of the container body **20** and the flexible band **24** (see for example FIG. **11**). As shown in FIG. **1**, when the flexible band **24** is in the first position, the second end **112** of the flexible band **24** and the pin **126** are at a front of the slots **60** and **62**. When the flexible band **24** is in the second position and the third position respectively, the second end **112** of the flexible band **24** and the pin **126** are at a top rear of the slots **60** and **62**. It will be appreciated that although described as being at the top rear of the slots **60** and **62**, the second end **112** of the flexible band **24** may be at another position, such as at a middle of the slots, for example to adjust for the size of the user's hand. When the flexible band **24** is in third position, the user can place the user's fingers between the flexible band **24** and the rear **32** of the container body **20**, with the user's palm adjacent the rear, and rest the user's thumb on a top of the projection **64**.

Referring now to FIG. **8** and the bail **22** in detail, the bail **22** includes a first end **130** configured to be rotatably attached to the ear **50**, a second end **132** configured to be rotatably attached to the ear **52**, and a body **134** disposed between the first and second ends **130** and **132**. The bail also includes attachment portions **136** and **138** at the first and second ends **130** and **132** respectively. The attachment portions **136** and **138** are substantially circular having respective openings **140** and **142** through which the ears **50** and **52** extend. Each attachment portion **136**, **138** includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced tabs **144** and **146** surrounding the openings **140** and **142** respectively that are configured to flex to allow the bail **22** to pass over flanges of the ears **50** and **52** for attachment/removal of the bail **22** to/from the ears **50** and **52**. The bail **22** can additionally include an opening **152** in the body **134**, as shown proximate a center of the bail **22**, which is configured to receive a ladder hook to allow for hanging from a ladder.

The bail **22** is movable between a first position extending above the cavity **40** to allow the container **10** to be held by the bail **22**, a second position behind the rear **32** of the container **10** to allow the container to be held by the bottom **38** and rear **32** and be supported by the bail **22**, and a third position in front of the front **30** of the container **10** as shown in FIG. **1** to allow the flexible band **24** to be utilized without interference by the bail **22** or to allow the container to be held by the bottom **38** and front **30** and be supported by the bail **22**.

Turning now to FIGS. **4-6**, the container **10** may include a lid **70** that removably attaches to the top of the container body **20**, for example via a snap fit connection to the upper rim **42**. The lid may be sized to correspond to a shape of the upper rim **42** to create an airtight attachment to the container body **20** to prevent coating material in the cavity **40** from hardening. The lid may be made of a suitable material, such as plastic, and may be transparent to allow a user to view the contents of the container.

The lid **70** may include an opening **72** or cutout at a front of the lid **70** adjacent the front **30** of the container body **20**, for example to allow the brush **14** access to the coating material in the container **10** while the lid **70** is attached to the container body **20**. The opening may be closed by a flap **74**, which is movable between one or more open positions shown in FIGS. **5** and **6** and a closed position shown in FIG. **3** attached to the front of the container body **20**, for example by a snap fit. The flap **74** may be removably attached to the lid **70** in a suitable manner. For example, the flap **74** may include a bar **76** that removably attaches to one or more clips **78** projecting upward from and opening to a rear of the lid **70** to allow for insertion/removal of the flap **74** to the lid **70**. Alternatively, the flap may be attached by a hinge, such as a living hinge.

The lid **70** may include a suitable number of clips **78**, and as shown three laterally spaced clips. The clips **78** allow the bar **76** to pivot relative to the clips **78** for opening and closing the flap **74**. In an embodiment, the lid **70** and/or flap **74** may include a suitable seal for sealing to the container body **20**. In an embodiment, the opening **72** has a width that is wide enough to allow a handle of the brush **14** to extend

through the opening **72**. In another embodiment, the opening **72** has a width that is wide enough to allow the entire brush **14** access to the container.

Turning now to FIG. **9**, an exemplary embodiment of the container is shown at **210**. The container **210** is substantially the same as the above-referenced container and consequently the same reference numerals but indexed by 200 are used to denote structures corresponding to similar structures in the containers. In addition, the foregoing description of the container **10** is equally applicable to the container **210** except as noted below.

The container **210** includes a container body **220** and a bail **222** attached to the container body **220**. It will be appreciated that a flexible band may be attached to the container body **220** as discussed above. The front of the container **210** defines an area for housing a magnet for supporting the brush. Indicia **258**, such as an image of a magnet, may be provided on the inner surface of the front to indicate the location of the magnet.

The container **210** may also include a lid **270** that removably attaches to the top of the container body **220**, for example via a snap fit. The lid **270** may include an opening **272** at a front of the lid **270** adjacent the front of the container body **220**. The opening may be closed by a flap **274**, which is movable between one or more open positions shown in FIG. **9** and a closed position attached to the front of the container body **220**, for example by a snap fit. The flap **274** may be removably attached to the lid **270** in a suitable manner. For example, the flap **274** may include a bar **276** that removably attaches to clips **278** projecting upward from and opening to a rear of the lid **270**. The clips **278** also allow the bar **276** to pivot relative to the clips **278** for opening and closing the flap **274**. In an embodiment, the lid **270** and/or flap **274** may include a suitable seal for sealing to the container body **220**.

Turning now to FIGS. **10-15**, another exemplary embodiment of the container is shown at **310**. The container **310** is substantially the same as the above-referenced container **10**, and consequently the same reference numerals but indexed by 300 are used to denote structures corresponding to similar structures in the containers. In addition, the foregoing description of the container **10** is equally applicable to the container **310** except as noted below.

The container **310** includes a container body **320**, a bail **322** attached to the container body **320**, and a flexible band **324** attached to the container body **320**. The container body **320** includes a front **330**, a rear **332**, a right side **334**, a left side **336**, and a bottom **338** that define a cavity **340** for receiving the coating material. The front **330**, rear **332**, right side **334**, and left side **336** each include a rim portion extending around tops thereof that is collectively referred to herein as an upper rim **342**. The upper rim **342** includes one or more cutouts, and as shown a pair of cutouts **344** and **346** for user's thumbs providing thumb relief areas whether held in a user's left hand or a user's right hand. The left and right sides **336** and **334** each have a substantially parallel planar portion to one another and curved portions that curve toward the curved rear, and the front **330** may be substantially planar. The right side **334** and left side **336** also include ears **350** and **352** projecting outward therefrom to which the bail **322** is attached, and one or more bars **348**, such as a brush wipe bar, on inner surfaces thereof near tops of the sides.

The front **330** of the container **310** defines an area **354** for housing a magnet **356** for supporting the brush. The magnet **356** may be molded into the front **330** or otherwise incorporated into the front such that it extends outward from the front **330** and the inner surface of the front **330** is substantially planar. Indicia **358**, such as an image of a magnet, may be provided on the inner surface of the front **330** to indicate the location of the magnet **356**.

Turning now to the rear **332** of the container **310**, the rear **332** of includes a pair of opposed slots **360** and **362** proximate the bottom **338** and a projection **364** projecting rearwardly from the rear **332** that provides a surface for a user's thumb to rest, for example when the container **310** is being held with the user's hand between the container body **320** and the flexible band **324**. The projection **364** may define a cavity for receiving an end of the flexible band **324**, and include openings at opposite ends thereof for attachment of the flexible band **324** to the projection **364**. As shown, the slots **360** and **362** are in respective projections **366** and **368** that project from the rear **332** and the projection **364** projects from the rim portion of the rear **332**. The slots **360** and **362** may each have a first portion, which is substantially horizontal, and a second portion, which is at an obtuse angle from the horizontal portion.

Turning now to the bottom **338** of the container **310**, projecting downward from the bottom **338** may be one or more projecting ribs **380** that provide a fingertip grip area, for example when the container **310** is being held with a user's thumb looped around the bail. Also projecting downward from the bottom **338** are one or more stabilizer ribs **382** at a front of the bottom **338** for stabilizing the container. As shown, a plurality of laterally spaced stabilizer ribs are provided.

Referring to the flexible band **324** in detail, the flexible band **324** includes a first end **410** configured to be rotatably attached to the rear **332** proximate a top of the rear **332**, for example at the projection **364**, and a second end **412** configured to be rotatably attached to the rear **332** proximate a bottom of the rear **332**, for example at the opposed slots **360** and **362**. The flexible band **324** also includes a substantially planar portion **414** disposed between first and second tubular portions at the first and second ends **410** and **412** respectively. The substantially planar portion **414** may be wider along its length at an area spaced from the first and second ends providing for a secure contact to a user's hand. A pin **424** or other suitable fastener is inserted through the first tubular portion at the first end **410** to attach the first end **410** of the flexible band **324** to the projection **464**. Similarly, the second tubular portion may be positioned between the slots **360** and **362** in the projections **366** and **368** proximate the bottom **338** and a pin **426** or other suitable fastener is inserted through the tubular portion to attach the second end **412** of the flexible band **324** to the projections **366** and **368**. The first end **410** of the flexible band **324** will thereby be rotatably attached to the projection **364**, while the second end **412** of the flexible band will be rotatably attached to the projections **366** and **368** and movable within the slots **360** and **362**.

A lid may be removably attached to the top of the container body **320** as described above, for example via a snap fit.

The aforementioned elements (e.g., container, bail, flexible band, among others), and the like have been described with respect to interaction between several components and/or elements. It should be appreciated that such elements can include those elements or sub-elements specified therein, some of the specified elements or sub-elements, and/or additional elements. Further yet, one or more elements and/or sub-elements may be combined into a single component to provide aggregate functionality. The elements may also interact with one or more other elements not specifically described herein.

In the specification and claims, reference will be made to a number of terms that have the following meanings. The singular forms "a", "an" and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Approximating language, as used herein throughout the specification and claims, may be applied to modify a quantitative representation that could permissibly vary without resulting in a change in the basic function to which it is related. Accordingly, a value modified by a term such as "about" is not to be limited to the precise value specified. In some instances, the approximating language may correspond to the precision of an instrument for measuring the value. Moreover, unless specifically stated otherwise, a use of the terms "first," "second," etc., do not denote an order or importance, but rather the terms "first," "second," etc., are used to distinguish one element from another.

As used herein, the terms "may" and "may be" indicate a possibility of an occurrence within a set of circumstances; a possession of a specified property, characteristic or function; and/or qualify another verb by expressing one or more of an ability, capability, or possibility associated with the qualified verb. Accordingly, usage of "may" and "may be" indicates that a modified term is apparently appropriate, capable, or suitable for an indicated capacity, function, or usage, while taking into account that in some circumstances the modified term may sometimes not be appropriate, capable, or suitable. For example, in some circumstances an event or capacity can be expected, while in other circumstances the event or capacity cannot occur—this distinction is captured by the terms "may" and "may be."

This written description uses examples to disclose the subject matter, including the best mode, and also to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the invention, including making and using a devices or systems and performing incorporated methods. The patentable scope of the invention is defined by the claims, and may include other examples that occur to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such other examples are intended to be within the scope of the claims if they have structural elements that do not differentiate from the literal language of the claims, or if they include equivalent structural elements with insubstantial differences from the literal language of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A container comprising:

a container body having a front, a rear, a right side, a left side, and a bottom that define a cavity for receiving a coating material, the front, rear, right side, and left side each include a rim portion extending around tops thereof that form an upper rim, wherein a projection projects rearwardly from the rear, and a recessed continuous curved cutout is formed in the upper rim on each side of the projection extending into the rim defining respective thumb relief areas;

a bail removably attached to the container body; and

a flexible band attached to the rear of the container body, wherein the flexible band is movable between a first position spaced a first distance from the rear, a second position spaced a second distance from the rear less than the first distance to allow the container body and the bail to be grasped at the rear without interference by the flexible band, and a third position spaced a third distance from the rear greater than the first distance to provide space for a user's hand between the rear of the container body and the flexible band.

2. The container according to claim **1**, further comprising a lid removably attached to a top of the container body, wherein the lid includes a cutout that defines with the front of the container body an opening for receiving an attachment.

3. The container according to claim **2**, further including a flap removably attached to the lid and moveable between an open position allowing access to the cavity and a closed position closing the opening.

4. The container according to claim **3**, wherein the lid includes one or more clips and the flap includes a bar pivotally attached to the one or more clips.

5. The container according to claim **4**, wherein the one or more clips includes a plurality of clips projecting upward from and opening to a rear of the lid.

6. The container according to claim **3**, wherein the lid includes a plurality of clips projecting upward from and opening to a rear of the lid to allow for receipt and removal of the flap.

7. The container according claim **1**, further comprising a magnet, wherein the container body includes an area projecting outward from the front of the container body in which the magnet is disposed.

8. The container according to claim **7**, further comprising indicia on an inner surface of the front of the container body for identifying a location of the magnet.

9. The container according claim **1**, further comprising a brush wipe bar projecting inward from an inner surface of at least one of the left side or right side.

10. The container according to claim **1**, further comprising one or more grip ribs projecting downward from the bottom of the container body to provide a fingertip grip area.

11. The container according to claim **1**, further comprising one or more stabilizer ribs projecting downward from a front portion of the bottom of the container body.

12. The container according to claim **11**, wherein the one or more stabilizer ribs includes a plurality of laterally spaced stabilizer ribs.

13. The container according to claim **1**, wherein the lid is removably attached to the top of the container body at the upper rim.

14. The container according to claim **1**, wherein the rear includes a pair of opposed slots proximate the bottom, each slot having a first substantially horizontal portion and a second portion at an obtuse angle from the horizontal portion, and wherein the flexible band is movably attached to the rear of the container body by a fattener in the slots.

15. A container comprising:

a container body having a front, a rear, a right side, a left side, and a bottom that define a cavity for receiving a coating material, the front, rear, right side, and left side each include a rim portion extending around tops thereof that form an upper rim, wherein a projection projects rearwardly from the rear, and a recessed continuous curved cutout is formed in the upper rim on each side of the projection extending into the rim defining respective thumb relief areas;

a bail removably attached to the container body;

a flexible band attached to the rear of the container body; and

a lid assembly removably attached to a top of the container body, the lid assembly including a lid with a cutout that defines with the front of the container body an opening for receiving an attachment, and a flap removably attached to the lid and moveable between an open position allowing access to the cavity and a closed position closing the opening,

wherein the flap includes a bar and the lid includes one or more clips defining an open space to receive the bar to pivotally attach the bar to the one or more clips.

16. The container according to claim **15**, wherein the one or more clips includes a plurality of clips projecting upward from and opening to a rear of the lid.

17. The container according to claim **15**, further comprising a magnet, wherein the container body includes an area projecting outward from the front of the container body in which the magnet is disposed.

18. The container according to claim **15**, wherein the one or more clips includes a plurality of clips projecting upward from and the open space of each clip opens to a rear of the lid to allow for receipt and removal of the flap.

19. A container comprising:

a container body having a front, a rear, a right side, a left side, and a bottom that define a cavity for receiving a coating material, the front, rear, right side, and left side each include a rim portion extending around tops thereof that form an upper rim, wherein a projection projects rearwardly from the rear, and a recessed continuous curved cutout is formed in the upper rim on each side of the projection extending into the rim defining respective thumb relief areas;

a flexible band attached to the rear of the container body; and

a lid assembly removably attached to a top of the container body at the upper rim, the lid assembly including a lid with a cutout that defines with the front of the container body an opening for receiving an attachment, and a flap removably attached to the lid and moveable between an open position allowing access to the cavity and a closed position closing the opening.

20. The container according to claim **19**, wherein the lid includes a plurality of clips projecting upward from and opening to a rear of the lid to allow for receipt and removal of the flap.

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