

US Patent & Trademark Office

Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent	12383084
Kind Code	B2
Date of Patent	August 12, 2025
Inventor(s)	Samuels; Louis et al.

Container

Abstract

A cup with an internal sleeve, and an external decorative sleeve made of connector bricks and a base. The internal sleeve has a hollow interior to form a cup to contain liquids if desired. The internal sleeve has a first end and a second end, and a first connector at the second end. The base has a second connector for connecting the base to the first connector of the sleeve. The external decorative sleeve is defined by a plurality of clamp bricks having a first bed with studs, and a second bed with recesses, the studs being capable of receipt into the recesses to interconnect the bricks to form an external decorative sleeve. The invention also includes the method of assembling and disassembling the cup into the internal sleeve, the base and the bricks.

Inventors:	Samuels; Louis (Zionsville, IN), Pinker; Craig (Auckland, NZ)
Applicant:	NOVELLI INC. (Chicago, IL)
Family ID:	1000008749072
Assignee:	Novelli Inc. (Chicago, IL)
Appl. No.:	18/215169
Filed:	June 27, 2023

Prior Publication Data

Document Identifier	Publication Date
US 20250000285 A1	Jan. 02, 2025

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: A47G19/22 (20060101); A63H33/10 (20060101); B65D25/28 (20060101); B65D81/36 (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC **A47G19/2205** (20130101); **A63H33/101** (20130101); **B65D25/2888** (20130101);
 B65D81/361 (20130101); B65D2203/00 (20130101)

Field of Classification Search

CPC: A47G (19/2205); B65D (81/361); B65D (25/2888); B65D (2203/00); A63H (33/101)

USPC: 206/217; 206/579

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Patent No.	Issued Date	Patentee Name	U.S. Cl.	CPC
3704892	12/1971	Moravick	273/157R	A63F 9/12
6382411	12/2001	Wentling	206/217	A47J 41/0083
7252204	12/2006	Small	215/208	E05B 37/02
2002/0185388	12/2001	Su	206/217	A47G 19/2227
2003/0173738	12/2002	Simmons	273/153S	A63F 9/001
2005/0194738	12/2004	Simmons	273/153S	A63F 9/001
2007/0029213	12/2006	Hall	206/217	B65D 83/0454
2012/0018949	12/2011	Fletcher	273/157R	A63F 9/1044
2015/0310785	12/2014	Shadduck	220/592.24	G09F 23/02
2016/0023796	12/2015	Mangum	220/669	B65D 1/165
2017/0305100	12/2016	Tan	N/A	B32B 7/12

Primary Examiner: Ortiz; Rafael A

Attorney, Agent or Firm: Dickinson Wright PLLC

Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) This invention relates generally to cups or containers and more specifically to a novelty cup that can be assembled by the user.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(2) It is desirable to provide a cup that is not only capable for holding something, like objects, such as pens and pencils or liquids but also to provide entertainment for the user by allowing the user to assemble and disassemble the cup.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(3) In general terms, this invention provides a cup that is functional and entertaining. The cup has a sleeve with a hollow interior, a first end and a second end, and a first connector at the second end. A base has a second connector for connecting the base to the first connector of the sleeve. An external decorative sleeve is positioned over the sleeve. The external decorative sleeve is created from a plurality of clamp bricks having a first bed with studs, and a second bed with recesses, the studs are inserted into the recesses to interconnect the bricks to form the external decorative sleeve.

(4) The cup in the disclosed embodiment has a sleeve with a rim at the first end. The rim as disclosed includes a recess for accepting the top row of clamp bricks. As disclosed, the first and

second connectors are threaded and mate together to connect the sleeve to the base. The sleeve can also include a handle.

(5) The clamp bricks as shown in the drawings have internal and external stretcher faces with the internal and external stretcher faces being curved. The stretcher faces can also include an image on at least one of said clamp bricks.

(6) A method of assembling a cup is disclosed that includes providing a plurality of clamp bricks having a first bed with studs, and a second bed with recesses, the studs being capable of receipt into the recesses to interconnect the bricks to form an external decorative sleeve. Assembling the bricks to form the outer sleeve includes the steps of creating a starter course of clamp bricks on the base by selecting clamp bricks from the plurality of clamp bricks, positioning a brick over the studs, and inserting the studs into the recesses and repeating until the starter course is complete. Then creating a course of bricks over the starter course by selecting clamp bricks from the plurality of clamp bricks, positioning a brick over the studs of the bricks in the starter course and inserting the studs into the recesses and repeating until that course is complete. This process is repeated to create courses of bricks until the decorative external sleeve is assembled. The internal sleeve is inserted in the decorative external sleeve and connected to the base.

(7) In the disclosed embodiment, the first and second connectors are threaded and the step of connecting the base to the sleeve includes the step of threading the first and second connectors together.

(8) In the disclosed embodiment, the sleeve has a rim, and the rim has a recess. The step of inserting the sleeve into the external sleeve includes the step of inserting the uppermost bricks of the external sleeve into the recess.

(9) The external sleeve can also include images and the step of assembling the bricks includes selecting and positioning bricks with partial images to correctly form the full image.

(10) The bricks can be assembled in a running bond style wherein the bricks are staggered by $\frac{1}{2}$ brick from the course above and below, in an one-over-two pattern. They can also have other arrangements, such as for example the stack bond where the stretcher bricks are laid in a grid of identical courses. In the stack bond, the joints are not staggered between courses.

(11) To disassemble the cup, the sleeve is disconnected from the base. As disclosed, the sleeve is twisted to unthread the internal threads from the external threads. The sleeve is then removed from the decorative external sleeve. The bricks can be disassembled by removing the studs from the recesses.

(12) These and other features and advantages of this invention will become more apparent to those skilled in the art from the detailed description of a preferred embodiment. The drawings that accompany the detailed description are described below.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the cup.

(2) FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the cup.

(3) FIG. 3 is a cross section taken along 3-3 of FIG. 1.

(4) FIG. 4 is a cross section taken along 4-4 of FIG. 2.

(5) FIG. 5 is an exploded view of the first embodiment.

(6) FIG. 6 is an exploded view of the second embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

(7) The novelty container or cup of the present invention is shown generally at **10**. The cup has an internal sleeve **12** which is shown as a tube, a base **14** and clamp bricks **16** which can be interconnected to form a decorative external sleeve **15** shown as a tube that fits over the internal

sleeve **12**.

(8) Clamp bricks **16** are assembled to create the decorative external sleeve **15**. The bricks **16** as disclosed are made of molded plastic and have top and bottom beds **18**, ends or header faces **20** and sides or stretcher faces **22**. As illustrated the stretcher faces **22** are radial stretcher faces wherein the stretcher faces are curved in a mirror like fashion. It should be understood that the outer stretcher face **22** could be flat i.e., not radiused to provide a different appearance. For example, the outside stretcher face could be flat to create a box like structure or have other shapes to create, for example, raised surfaces or triangular surfaces, etc. The outer stretcher faces could also have images **17** on them that require the pieces to be correctly positioned to create the image, like a puzzle. The image could be any type of image including a corporate logo for example.

(9) The beds **18** of the clamp bricks **16** have studs **24** protruding from one bed **18** and mating recesses **26** in the opposite bed **18** so that the clamp bricks **16** can be interconnected to form a unitary decorative external sleeve **15**.

(10) The sleeve **12** includes a rim **28** and body **30**. As shown in FIGS. **2,4**, and **6**, the rim can also include a handle **29**. The end **31** of the body **30** has a first connector **32** which connects with a second connector **34** to join the sleeve **12** with the base **14**. As illustrated, the sleeve **12** has a bottom **37** spaced from the end **31**. In the disclosed embodiment, the first connector **32** has internal threads **33** for threading onto the second connector **34** on base **14**. The connector **34** on base **14** has external threads **35** on second connector **34** which mates with the internal threads of connector **32**.

(11) Other types of connectors can be used, for example, a snap fit or friction fit connection could be used to connect the sleeve **12** to the base **14**. In addition, the connectors **32** and **34** could have the threads **33** and **35** reversed. The threads **33** could be on the outside of the sleeve **12** and the second connector **34** could have internal threads **35**.

(12) As disclosed, the rim **28** on the sleeve **12** has a recessed portion **36** which receives the studs **24** of the clamp bricks **16** adjacent the rim **28** when the cup or container **10** is assembled. The width of the recess **36** is slightly larger than studs **24** so that the clamp bricks **16** can be inserted into the recessed portion **36** of rim **28** for a clean or more finished look.

(13) The base **14** has a series of studs **24** positioned in a circular pattern to receive the recesses **26** in the adjacent beds **18** of the clamp bricks **16**.

(14) To assemble the cup or container **10**, the user selects clamp bricks **10** and clamps them to the base **14**. As illustrated, the starter course of the bricks **10** would be positioned over the studs **24** and the studs **24** inserted into the corresponding recesses **26**. The second layer of bricks **10** would be assembled over the starter course and the process repeated until the decorative external sleeve **15** is completed. It should be appreciated that with images on the decorative external sleeve **15**, the correct bricks would need to be selected and positioned correctly for the logo to correctly appear. It should also be appreciated that the bricks **16** as shown are in the running bond style where the bricks are staggered by $\frac{1}{2}$ brick from the course above and below, in a classic one-over-two pattern. They can also have other arrangements, such as for example the stack bond where the stretcher bricks are laid in a grid of identical courses. In the stack bond, the joints are not staggered between courses.

(15) Once the bricks are laid, the sleeve **12** is inserted into the external sleeve **15** and connected to the base **14**. As disclosed, the sleeve **12** is inserted and twisted to thread the internal threads **33** onto the external threads **35**. As disclosed, the studs **24** of the top bricks are received into the recessed portion **36** of the rim **28**.

(16) To disassemble, the sleeve **12** is disconnected from the base **14**. As disclosed, the sleeve is twisted to unthread the internal threads **33** from the external threads **35**. The sleeve **12** is removed from the decorative external sleeve **15**. The bricks **16** can then be disassembled by removing the studs **24** from the recesses **26**.

(17) It should be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in this art that the overall shape of the cup or container **10** could be different than the tubular shape shown. The shape could for example be

square, rectangular, triangular, oblong, etc.

(18) The foregoing invention has been described in accordance with the relevant legal standards, thus the description is exemplary rather than limiting in nature. Variations and modifications to the disclosed embodiment may become apparent to those skilled in the art and do come within the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the scope of legal protection afforded this invention can only be determined by studying the following claims.

Claims

1. A cup comprising: a sleeve having a hollow interior, a first end and a second end, and a first connector at said second end; a base having a second connector for connecting said base to said first connector of said sleeve; an external decorative sleeve defined by a plurality of clamp bricks having a first bed defined by four sides with studs protruding from said first bed, said studs each having an exterior surface that is spaced from and doesn't extend to any of said four sides, and a second bed with recesses, said studs being capable of receipt into said recesses to interconnect said bricks to form said external decorative sleeve with said unitary external decorative sleeve being free standing and interconnected to form a unitary external decorative sleeve; wherein said sleeve has a rim at said first end; and wherein said rim has a recess capable of accepting said studs of said clamp bricks.
 2. The cup of claim 1, wherein said first and second connectors are threaded and mate together to connect said sleeve to said base.
 3. The cup of claim 1, wherein said clamp bricks have internal and external stretcher faces.
 4. The cup of claim 3, wherein said internal and external stretcher faces are curved.
 5. The cup of claim 1, wherein said sleeve includes a handle.
 6. The cup of claim 1, further including an image on at least one of said clamp bricks.
 7. The cup of claim 3, further including an image on said external stretcher face of at least one of said clamp bricks.
 8. The cup of claim 1, wherein said sleeve and said decorative external sleeve are tubes.
 9. A cup comprising: a sleeve having a hollow closed interior, a first end and a second end, and a first connector at said second end; a base having a second connector for connecting said base to said first connector of said sleeve; said first and second connectors have mating threads configured to be threaded and mate together to connect said sleeve to said base; an external decorative sleeve defined by a plurality of clamp bricks having a first bed with studs, and a second bed with recesses, said studs being capable of receipt into said recesses to interconnect said bricks to form said external decorative sleeve; wherein said sleeve has a rim at said first end; and wherein said rim has a recess capable of accepting said studs of said clamp bricks.
 10. The cup of claim 9, wherein said clamp bricks have internal and external stretcher faces, said internal and external stretcher faces are curved.
 11. The cup of claim 10, further including an image on said external stretcher face of at least one of said clamp bricks.
-