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BEVERAGE CONTAINER

Abstract

The beverage container includes a bottom holder comprising a bottom end, an open top end, and a surrounding wall that defines an internal volume configured to hold ice with or without a liquid. A thermal seal covers the bottom holder and prevents contamination of the ice. A lid is configured to cover the open top end and fit over the thermal seal of the bottom holder. The lid is removably attached to the bottom holder, and optionally, may include a connecting member for tethering the lid to the bottom holder.

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Background/Summary

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation in part to MX/f/2024/000480, filed Feb. 16, 2024. The entire contents of the above application are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates in general to the field of recyclable and reusable beverage containers prepackaged with ice.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Customers prefer to have many of their beverages served over ice to keep the beverage cold. However, dispensers for ice may not be readily available, and if they are available, customers may have concerns about the purity of the ice and/or the associated cost. Often, customers desiring a beverage over ice may have to purchase the beverage, a separate container, and ice, and then combine the ice and beverage into the container. Accordingly, there is a need for a cost-effective container that is capable of storing ice for extended periods of time while simultaneously preventing the ice from becoming contaminated.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] It is an object of this invention to address the needs of the art by providing a beverage container configured to store and keep prepackaged ice clean and preserved until delivered to the end consumer.

[0005] The beverage container includes a bottom holder comprising a bottom end, an open top end, and a surrounding wall that define an internal volume configured to hold ice with or without a liquid. A thermal seal covers the bottom holder and prevents contamination of the ice. A lid is configured to cover the open top end and fit over the thermal seal of the bottom holder. The lid is removably attached to the bottom holder, and optionally, may include a connecting member for tethering the lid to the bottom holder.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] FIG. **1** is a side view of the beverage container in accordance with the embodiments of the invention and showing the lid attached.

[0007] FIG. **2** is a side view of the beverage container in accordance with the embodiments of the invention and showing the lid removed.

[0008] FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view of the beverage container in accordance with the embodiments of the invention and showing the lid attached.

[0009] FIG. **4** is a partially exploded view of the beverage container in accordance with the embodiments of the invention.

[0010] FIG. **5** is a top view of the beverage container in accordance with the embodiments of the invention

[0011] FIG. **6** is a side view of the beverage container in accordance with the embodiments of the invention showing the thermal seal beneath a transparent lid.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] Turning to FIGS. **1**-**4**, a beverage container **10** in accordance with embodiments of the invention is shown. The beverage container **10** includes a bottom holder **20** having a bottom end **30**, an open top **40** (as seen in FIG. **4**), and a surrounding wall **50** that collectively define an internal volume space configured to hold ice **60** (with or without a liquid). The bottom holder **20** is preferably conically shaped such that the circumference of the bottom end **30** is smaller than the circumference of the open top **40**, and the circumference of the surrounding wall **50** gradually increases as it approaches the open top **40**. Preferably, the bottom holder **20** is made from a

recyclable plastic, including for example, polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

[0013] As shown in FIGS. **2**-**4**, The ice **60** is contained and insulated in the bottom holder **20** by a thermal seal **70** that is heat sealed to the top edge **80** of the holder **20**. To aid in the removal of the thermal seal from the bottom holder, a tab **90** integral to the thermal seal **20** but not attached to the bottom holder **20** may be used. In operation, the consumer would utilize the tab **90** to provide a force sufficient to break the heat seal and remove the thermal seal **20** from the top edge **80** of the holder **20**. Preferably, the thermal seal **20** and tab **90** is made from a recyclable plastic, including for example, polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET). The thermal seal **70** also serves to protect the stored ice **60** from bacteria and contamination.

[0014] Turning to FIGS. **4**-**5**, the preferred embodiment of the beverage container **20** further includes a lid **100** that is removably attached to the bottom holder **20**. The lid **100** has an internal edge (not shown) that is operable to engage a corresponding rim (not shown) disposed around the top edge **80** of the bottom holder. In operation, the lid **100** can be attached to the top edge **80** of the bottom holder **20** by applying light downward pressure on the lid **100** such that the internal edge engages and is secured around the corresponding rim of the bottom holder **20**. As shown in FIG. **5**, the lid **100** may include a top sloping surface that forms an ergonomic spout **101** operable to aid in the consumption of the beverage. The spout **101** contains a drinking port **120** that may be configured to receive a straw (not shown) for purposes of consumption. The drinking port **120** may contain a valve (not shown) configured to provide a substantial liquid seal around the straw when in use. For example, this can include a plastic film layer with a small aperture, or a plurality of flaps, that are resiliently biased in a closed position. When the straw penetrates the plastic film layer (or flaps), the plastic film (or flaps) will flex open and conform to the perimeter of the straw to provide a seal. Alternatively, the drinking port **120** can be an aperture without any type of seal configured to allow the flow of liquid from the container to the spout **101**.

[0015] Optionally, as shown in FIG. **1**, the lid **100** may be tethered to the bottom holder **20** via a connecting member **130**. For the preferred embodiment, the connecting member is a pliable plastic film that is attached to the lid **100** on one end and the bottom holder **20** on the other end. However, alternative configurations and embodiments may be used so long as the connecting member **130** is operable to tether the lid **20** to the bottom holder **20**. For example, prefabricated mounts (not shown) could be attached to the lid **100** and bottom holder **20** which are operable to be attach to any form of connecting member **130** known in the art, including a hinged connection, or a hydraulic or spring activated connection.

[0016] For the purposes of promoting an understanding of the principles of the invention, reference has been made to the preferred embodiments illustrated in the drawings, and specific language has been used to describe these embodiments. However, this specific language intends no limitation of the scope of the invention, and the invention should be construed to encompass all embodiments that would normally occur to one of ordinary skill in the art. The particular implementations shown and described herein are illustrative examples of the invention and are not intended to otherwise limit the scope of the invention in any way. For the sake of brevity, conventional aspects of the system (and components of the individual operating components of the system) may not be described in detail. Furthermore, the connecting lines, or connectors shown in the various figures presented are intended to represent exemplary functional relationships and/or physical or logical couplings between the various elements. It should be noted that many alternative or additional functional relationships, physical connections or logical connections may be present in a practical device. Moreover, no item or component is essential to the practice of the invention unless the element is specifically described as “essential” or “critical”. Numerous modifications and adaptations will be readily apparent to those skilled in this art without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Claims

1. A beverage container comprising: a bottom holder comprising a bottom end, an open top end, and a surrounding wall that define an internal volume configured to hold ice with or without a liquid; a thermal seal, and a lid configured to cover the open top end of the bottom holder.
2. The beverage container of claim 1, wherein the thermal seal comprises a tab.
3. The beverage container of claim 1, wherein the lid is removably attached to the bottom holder.
4. The beverage container of claim 3 comprising a connecting member operable to attach the lid to the beverage container.
5. The beverage container of claim 4, wherein the connecting member is a strap having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end is attached to the lid and the second end is attached to the bottom holder.
6. The beverage container of claim 1, wherein the bottom holder is manufactured from a recyclable plastic.
7. The beverage container of claim 6, wherein the recyclable plastic of the bottom holder is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET).
8. The beverage container of claim 1, wherein the thermal seal is manufactured from a recyclable plastic.
9. The beverage container of claim 8, wherein the recyclable plastic of the thermal seal is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET).