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Gaspar

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(54) **BEVERAGE ACCESSORY AND METHOD OF USING SAME**

(71) Applicant: **Paul Gaspar**, Point Pleasant, NJ (US)

(72) Inventor: **Paul Gaspar**, Point Pleasant, NJ (US)

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B65D 23/10 (2006.01)
A47G 23/02 (2006.01)
B65D 23/06 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***B65D 23/104*** (2013.01); ***A47G 23/0241*** (2013.01); ***B65D 23/065*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC . B65D 23/104; B65D 23/065; A47G 23/0241
See application file for complete search history.

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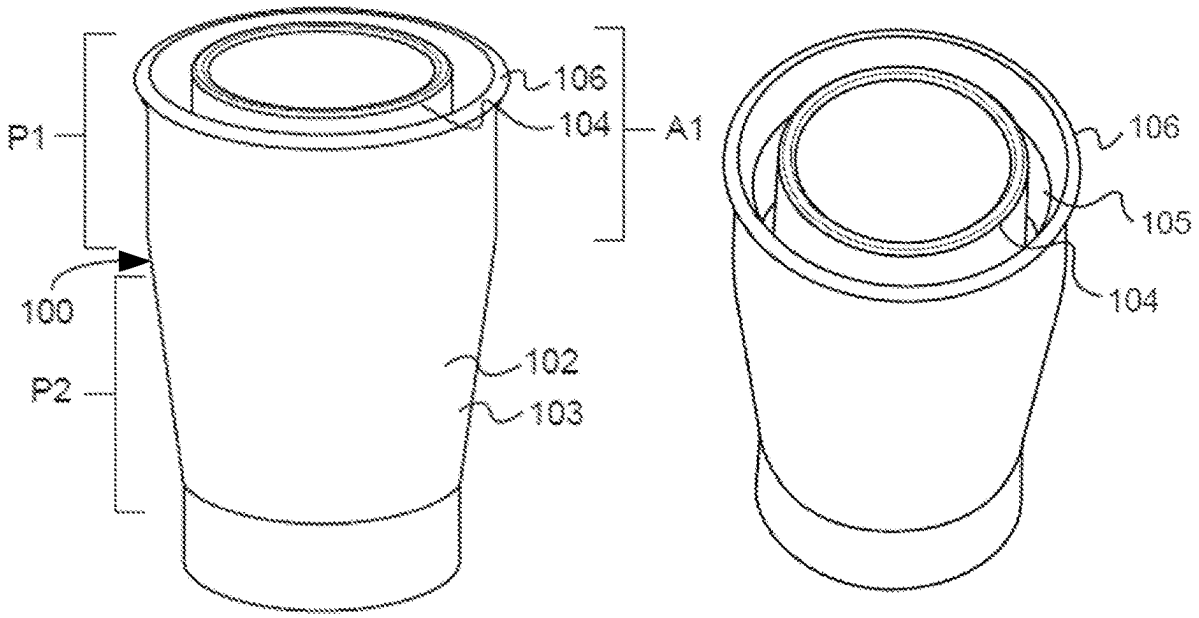
Primary Examiner — Shawn M Braden
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — SLEMAN & LUND LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A bottle accessory includes a thermoplastic or thermoset body including a circumferentially continuous collar configured and arranged to sit about a neck of a bottle, and a flared end configured and arranged to extend down one side of the bottle, the flared end including at least one feature forming a grip portion.

16 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



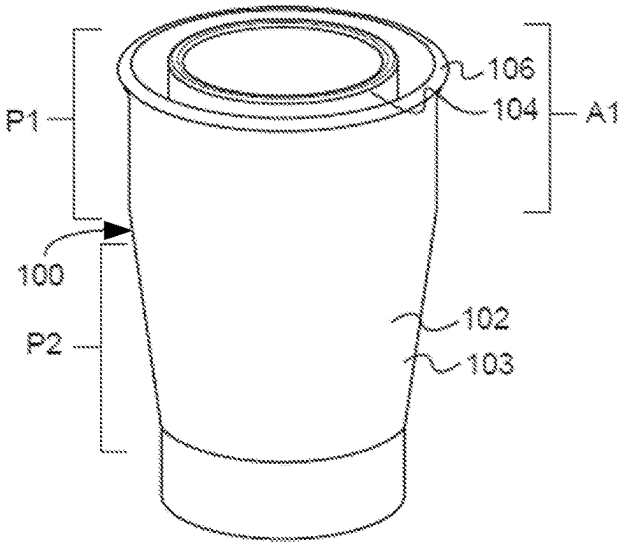


FIG. 1A

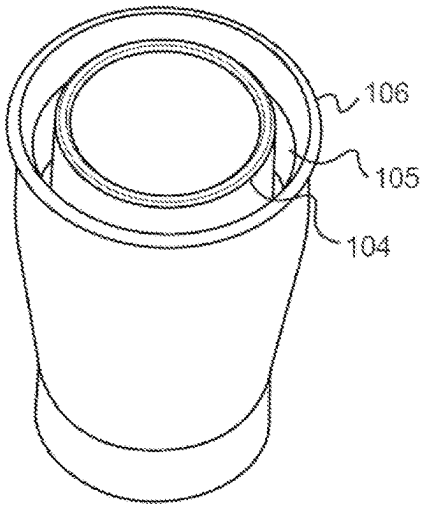


FIG. 1B

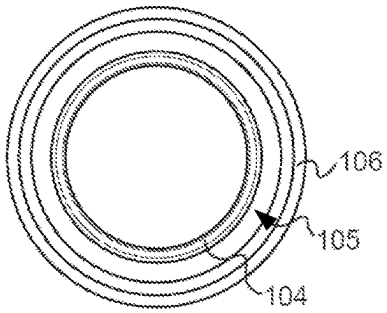


FIG. 1C

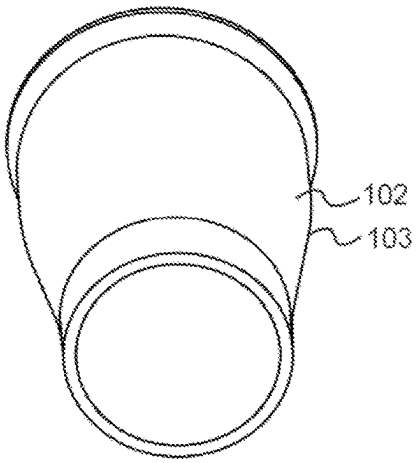


FIG. 1D

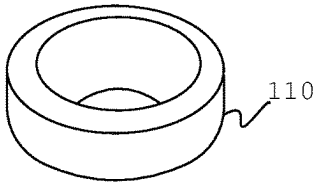


FIG. 1E

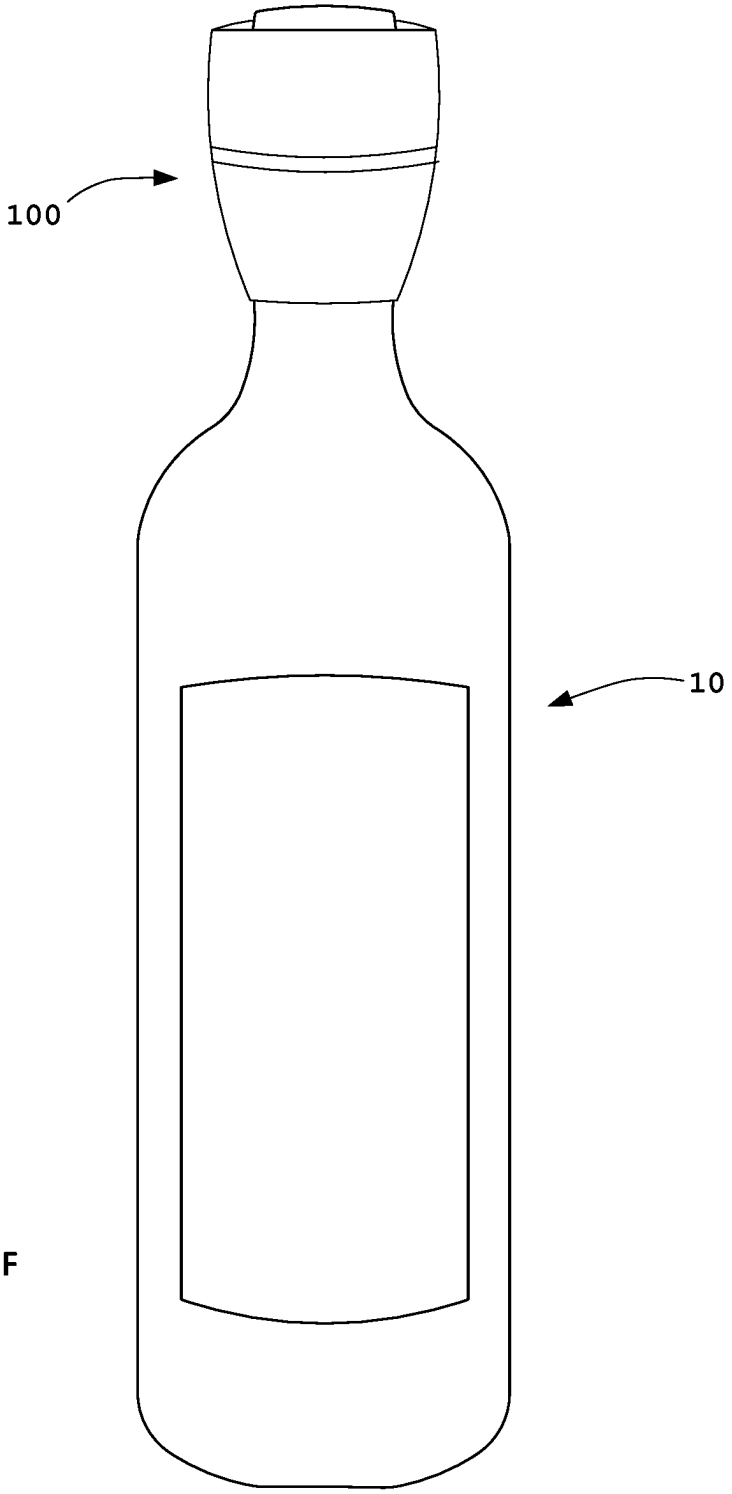


FIG. 1F

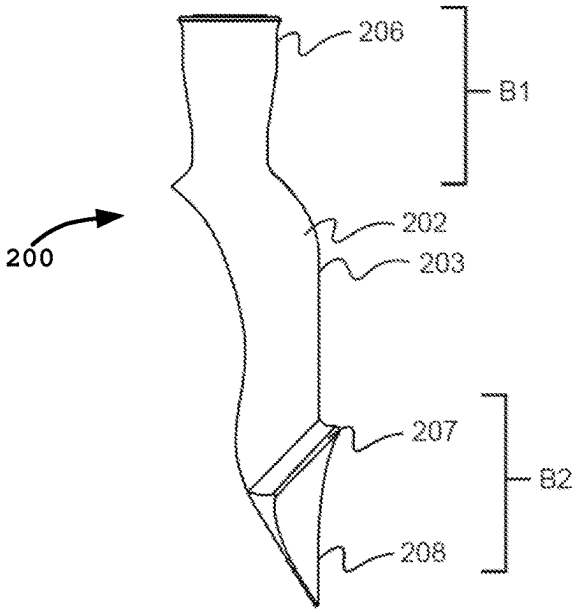


FIG. 2A

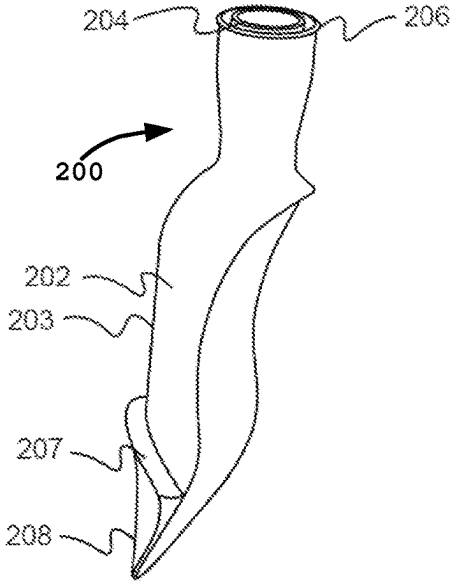


FIG. 2B

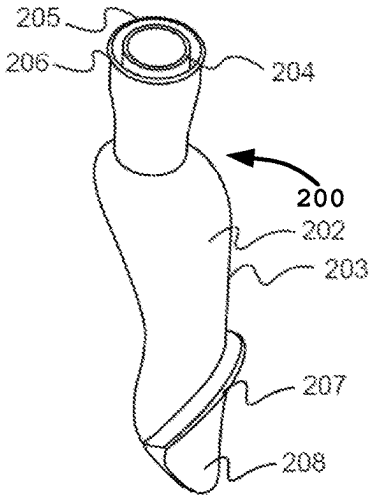


FIG. 2C

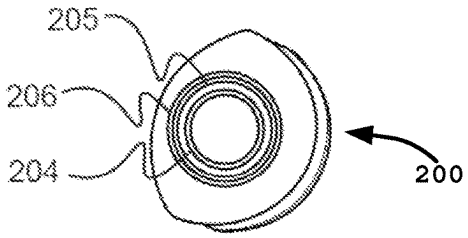
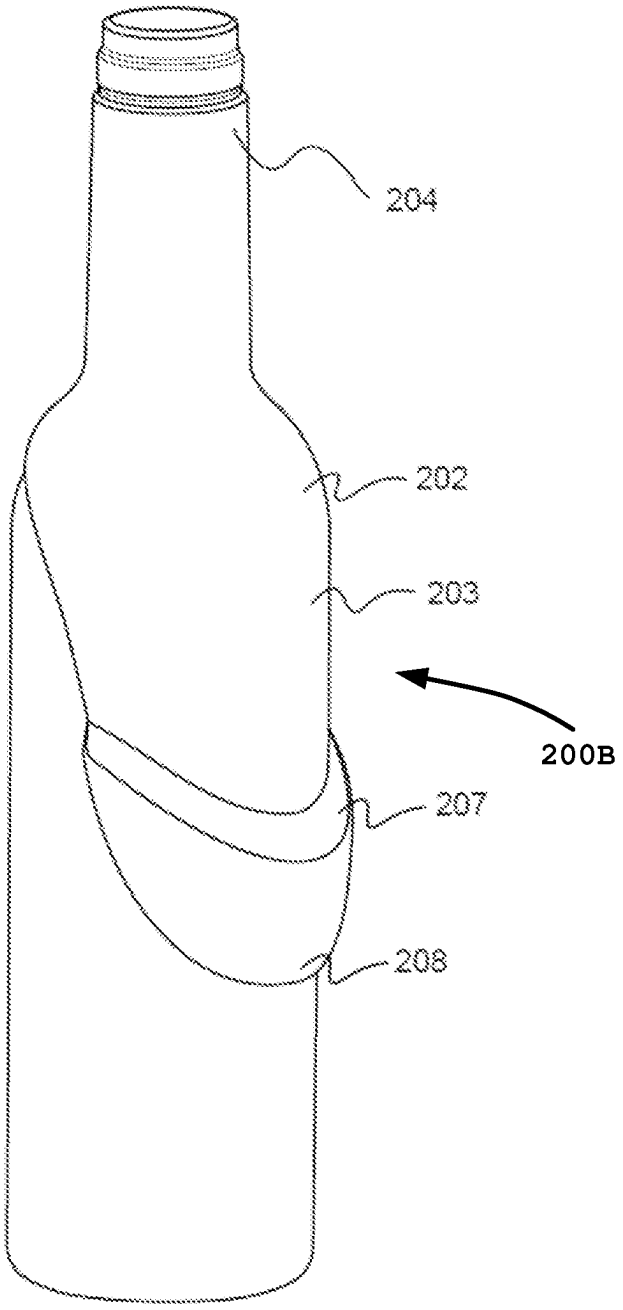


FIG. 2D



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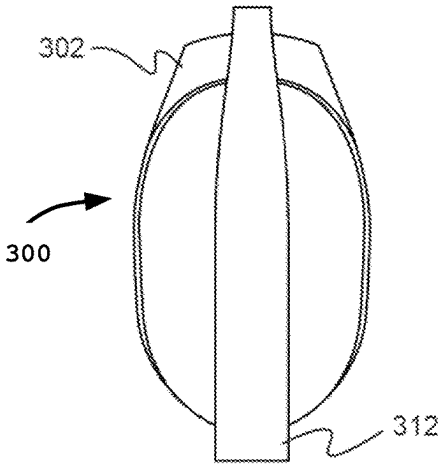


FIG. 3A

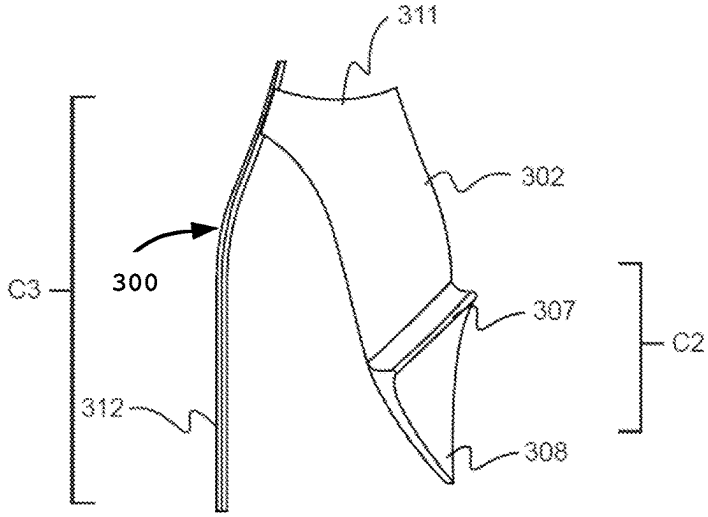


FIG. 3B

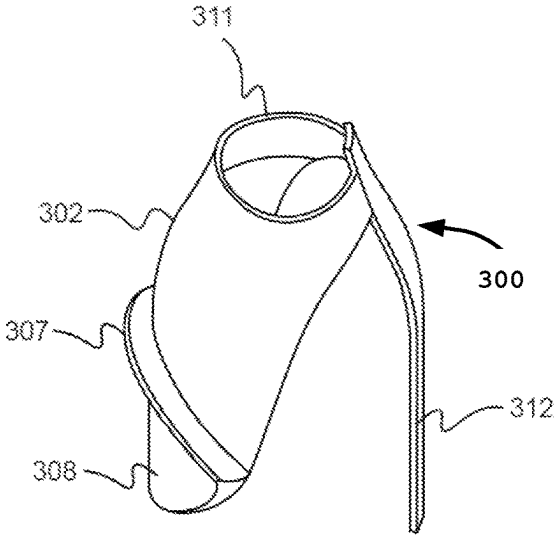


FIG. 3C

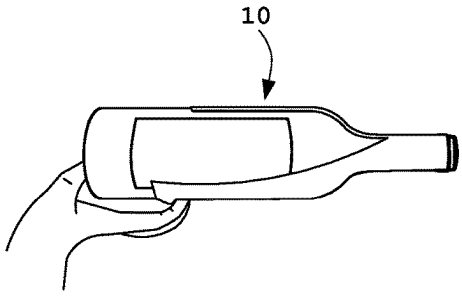


FIG. 3D

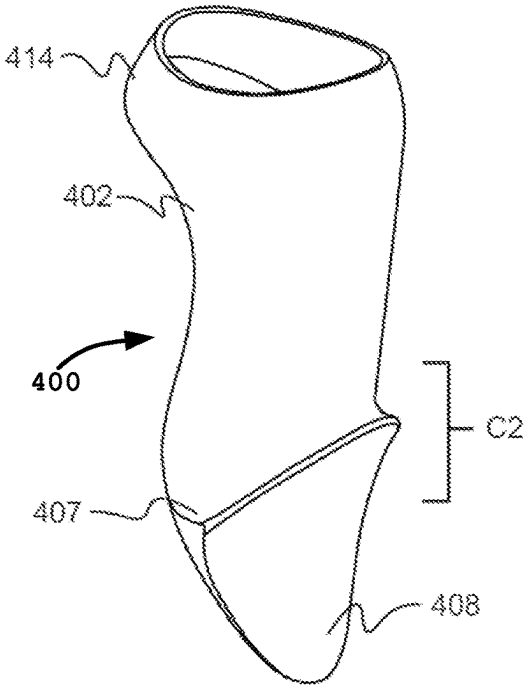


FIG. 4A

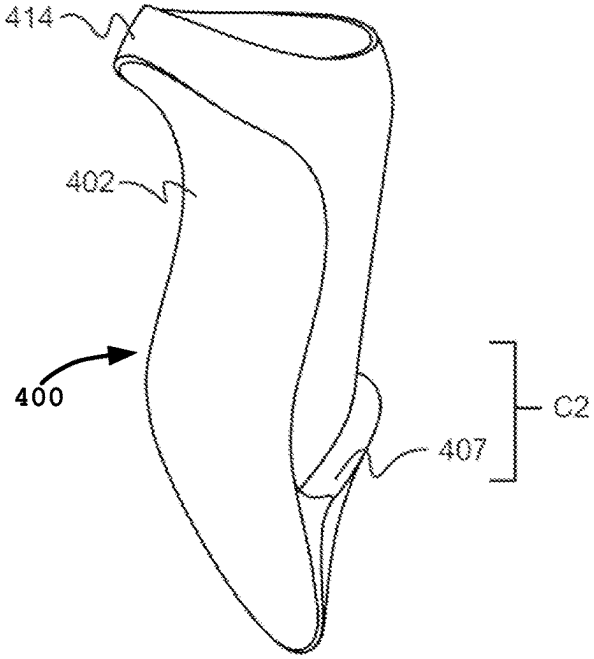
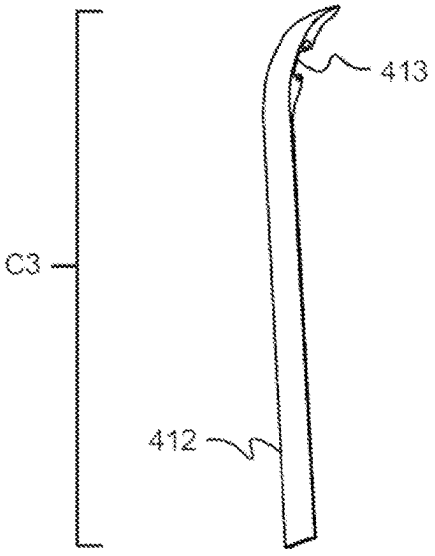


FIG. 4B



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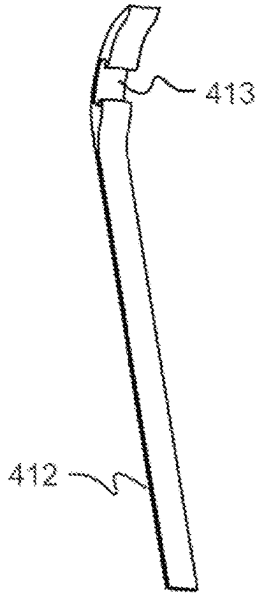

FIG. 4D

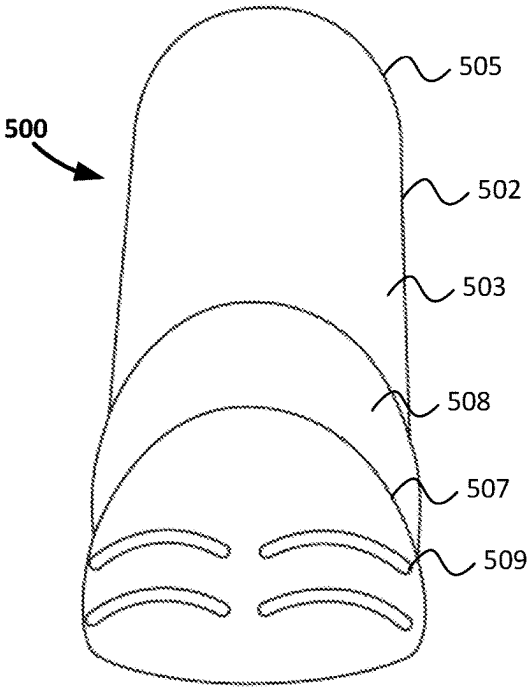

FIG. 5A

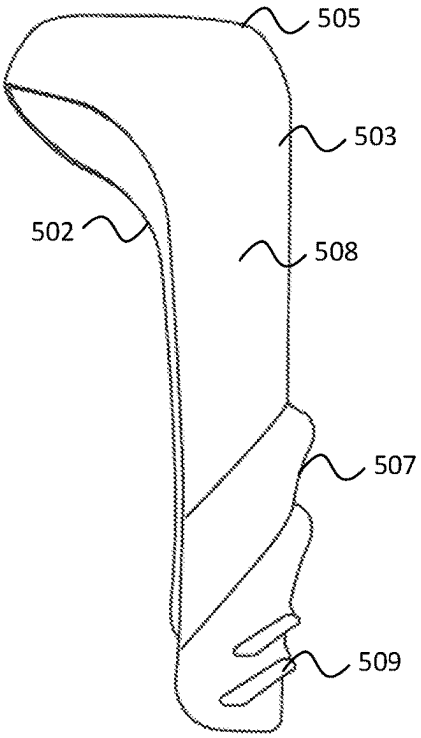

FIG. 5B

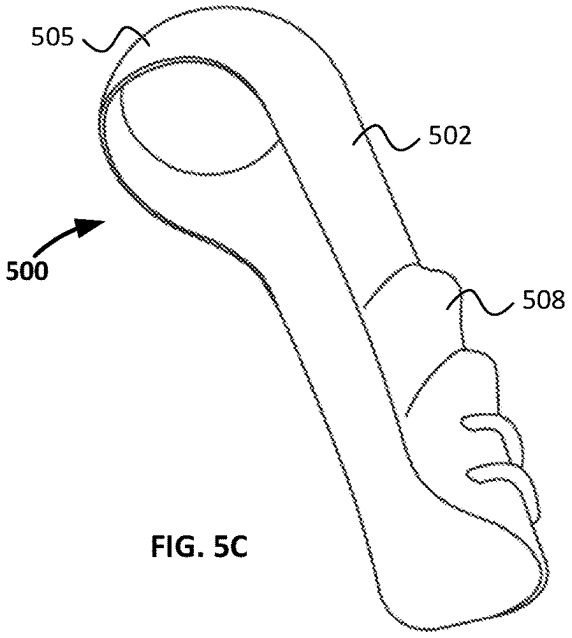

FIG. 5C

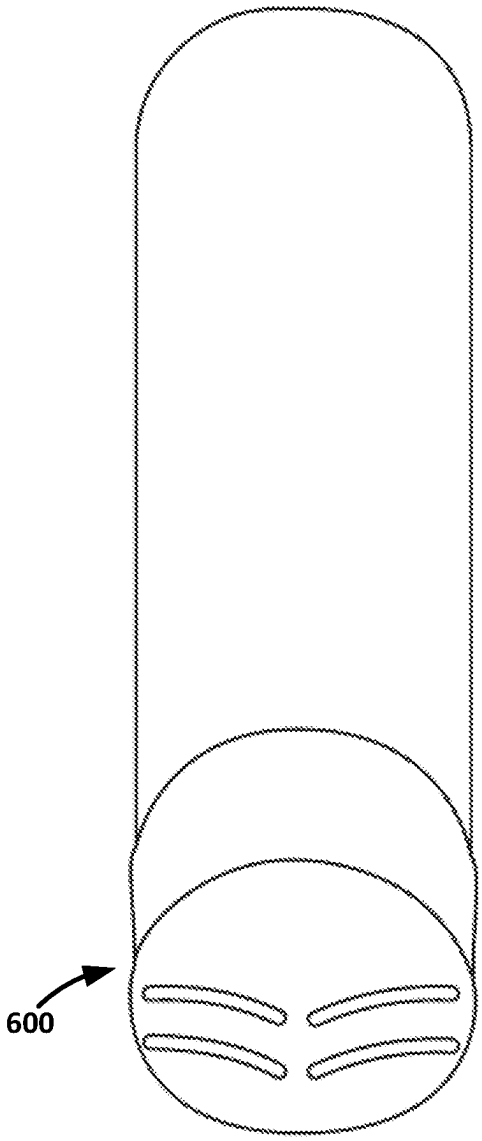

FIG. 6A

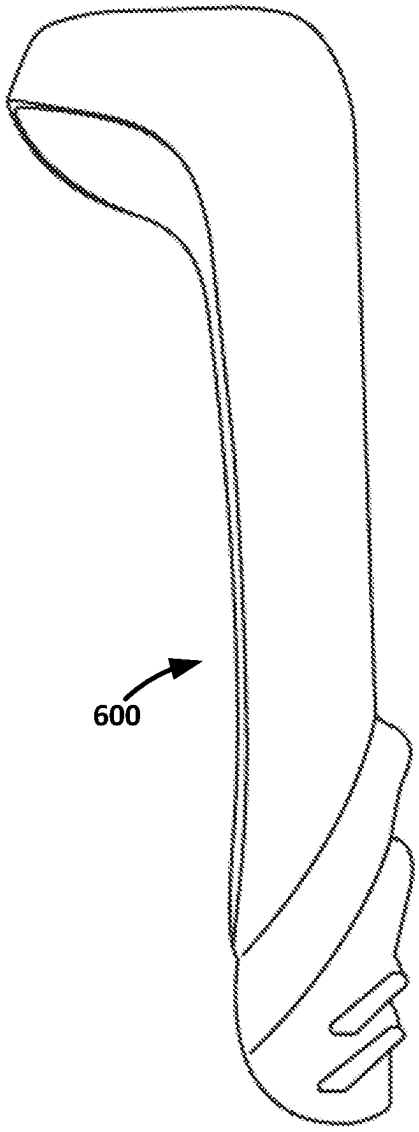

FIG. 6B

BEVERAGE ACCESSORY AND METHOD OF USING SAME

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of International Application Serial No. PCT/US21/60705, filed Nov. 24, 2021, and claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 63/118,154, filed Nov. 25, 2020, entitled "BEVERAGE ACCESSORY AND METHOD OF USING SAME," the contents of both of which are fully incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure relates to devices and methods for serving beverages. More particularly the present disclosure relates to devices that couple to a bottle to aid in opening, holding, serving, containing and/or branding a beverage.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

Beverages are often served in bottles, such as glass bottles. These bottles may come in various shapes and/or sizes, and in some cases, the shape of the bottle signals its contents. There are several common variations. For example, Bordeaux bottles are some of the most popular and have distinctively high shoulders and straight sides. Burgundy bottles have sloping shoulders and are generally used for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Alsace bottles are tall and slender. Sparkling wine bottles, such as those used for Champagne, have a rounded shoulder and a deep dimple at the bottom known as a "punt". Port bottles are similar to Bordeaux bottles with high shoulders. Dessert bottles are often tall and thin. In addition to these traditional shapes, other shapes are also possible, including shapes for other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

Many of these bottles are difficult to hold or manipulate while serving. Additionally, the beverage may often drip down the side of the bottle while or after serving. Thus, it would be desirable to create accessories to aid in serving beverages from bottles.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

In some examples, a bottle accessory includes a thermoplastic or thermoset body comprising a cylindrical portion and a cone-shaped portion, the cylindrical portion having an inner wall, an outer wall, and a well defined by the inner wall and the outer wall, and an absorbent ring disposed within the well.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DISCLOSURE

Various embodiments of the presently disclosed bottle accessories are disclosed herein with reference to the drawings, wherein:

FIGS. **1**A-F illustrate an example of a bottle accessory according to one embodiment of the disclosure;

FIGS. **2**A-E illustrate an example of a bottle accessory according to a second embodiment of the disclosure;

FIGS. **3**A-D illustrate an example of a bottle accessory according to a third embodiment of the disclosure;

FIGS. **4**A-D illustrate an example of a bottle accessory according to a fourth embodiment of the disclosure;

FIGS. **5**A-C illustrate another example of a bottle accessory according to a fifth embodiment of the disclosure; and

FIG. **6**A-B illustrate another example of a bottle accessory according to a sixth embodiment of the disclosure.

Various embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the appended drawings. It is to be appreciated that these drawings depict only some embodiments of the invention and are therefore not to be considered limiting of its scope.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Despite the various improvements that have been made in the beverage industry, conventional devices and methods suffer from certain shortcomings such as those discussed above.

There therefore is a need for further improvements to the devices and methods used to serve beverages. Among other advantages, the present disclosure may address one or more of these needs.

FIGS. **1**A-F illustrate a first embodiment of the disclosure wherein a bottle accessory **100** includes a drip catcher A**1**. Bottle accessory **100** generally includes an elongated body **102**. Body **102** may be formed of a thermoplastic or thermoset material such as silicone, TPE, various plastics, elastomers and/or metals, and may be formed by injection molding or any other suitable manufacturing technique. In some examples, body **102** is formed of an elastomeric material. In some examples, the elongated body **102** includes a generally cylindrical portion P**1** and a tapered portion P**2**, the tapered portion P**2** having a sidewall **103** with a gradually narrowing diameter. The wider end of the body **102** may be disposed adjacent the open end of a bottle, while the narrower end of the body **102** may be disposed closer to the bottom of a bottle. As shown, the cylindrical portion P**1** includes a dual-wall configuration in which the body forms an inner wall **104**, an outer wall **106**, and a well **105** defined between the inner wall and the outer wall. In at least some examples, well **105** has a width defined as the distance between the inner and outer walls, and a height that is suitable to accept another element.

Well **105** may be a void configured and sized to accept an absorbent ring **110** that fits snugly within the cylindrical well (FIG. **1**E). Absorbent ring **110** may be formed of a liquid-absorbent material such as a sponge, foam, felt, cotton, etc. In at least some examples, absorbent ring **110** is disposable, reusable and/or washable. Alternatively, absorbent ring **110** may be cleaned and reused. As shown, absorbent ring **110** is generally cylindrical and complements the shape of the well. It will be understood that the well **105** itself may have different shapes (e.g., the well may be cone-shaped and have a narrowing diameter instead of a cylinder), and that the absorbent ring **110** may be modified to have a complementary shape to fit within the various well voids (e.g., cone-shaped, cylindrical, absorbent material, etc.).

FIG. **1**F illustrates bottle accessory **100** as it fits onto a bottle **10**. As shown, the accessory **100** fits adjacent the opening of the bottle around the bottle's neck region. Body **102** of accessory **100** may be elastomeric so that it provides a tight, fluid seal around the bottle and prevent liquid from passing between the accessory **100** and the bottle. The bottle may be tilted to serve the beverage and the bottle accessory **100** may catch dripping liquid that runs down the side of the bottle. Specifically, liquid that drips down the side of the bottle will be led into well **105** where it will be absorbed by absorbent ring **110**. After the bottle is empty, the bottle accessory **100** may be removed from the bottle and reused.

FIGS. **2**A-D illustrate another embodiment of a bottle accessory **200**. In this example, accessory **200** includes a body **202** having a sidewall **203**, an inner wall **204**, an outer wall **206** and a well **205** to serve as a drip catcher B**1** similar to that described with reference to FIGS. **1**A-F. Body **202** may be formed of any of the materials discussed above. In this embodiment, body **202** is extended down the side of the bottle along one side to include a flared end **208**, the body **202** forming a hollow shell that complements the shape of a bottle. Flared end **208** may extend down the side of the body close to the bottom of a bottle. In this example, body **202** may incorporate a semi-annular, rim **207** forming a grip portion B**2** adjacent the flared end **208** and projecting out from the body so that a user's fingers can manipulate the bottle. Grip portion B**2** may allow for the fore, middle, ring, and/or pinky fingers to pull on opposing direction to the thumb which sits in the punt of the bottle to hold the bottle in tension therebetween. Though accessory **200** has been shown with both the drip catcher B**1** and the grip portion B**2**, it will be understood that embodiments are possible that only incorporate one of these features. For example, FIG. **2**E illustrates an accessory **200**B that incorporates the grip portion only, but not the drip catcher.

A third example shown in FIGS. **3**A-C illustrates an accessory **300** that incorporates a grip portion C**2** and a saber guide C**3**. Accessory **300** includes a body **302** of the same material and in the shape of a hollow shell similar to that of accessory **200** with some exceptions. Notably, body **302** does not include a drip catcher feature, and terminates on the neck or shoulders of the bottle away from the finish of the bottle. A flared end **308** is configured to extend along a first side of a bottle, the flared end **308** including a projecting rim **307** of grip portion C**2** for the user's fingers. On an opposing side of the body **302** is an elongated saber guide C**3**. Saber guide C**3** may be formed of a rigid material, such as thermoplastics, metal, wood and the like, and configured as a generally planar or curved arm **312** that lays flat on a side of the bottle. Arm **312** may be formed of a same or different material than the rest of the body. Saber guide C**3** may be used to assist in a sabrage, a technique for opening a champagne bottle with a saber, sword, blade, knife, bottom of wine glass, metal credit card, any other suitable thin and hard material, etc. In at least some examples, the grip portion C**2** is spaced and sized so that the user places their index, middle, and and/or ring fingers on the grip portion, and their thumb at the bottom of the bottle at the punt of the bottle (see FIG. **3**D). With the bottle in hand and retained with the grip portion C**2**, the user's second hand may glide a blade along the rigid saber guide to break the bottle at a seam between the neck and the lip of the bottle and serve the beverage.

A fourth example shown in FIGS. **4**A-D illustrates an accessory **400** that incorporates a coupleable and removable grip portion C**2'** and a saber guide C**3'**. Accessory **400** includes a body **402** of the same material and in the shape of a hollow shell similar to those previously discussed. A flared end **408** is configured to extend along a first side of a bottle, the flared end **408** including a projecting rim **407** of grip portion C**2'** for the user's fingers. A separable, elongated saber guide C**3'** is provided that may be coupleable to body **402**. Saber guide C**3'** may be formed of a rigid material, such as thermoplastics, metal, wood and the like, and configured as a generally planar or curved arm **412** that lays flat on a side of the bottle. Arm **412** may be formed of a same or different material than the rest of the body. Saber guide C**3'** may include a transverse channel **413** for coupling to body **402**, the transverse channel **413** being sized to receive a fixation portion **414** of body **402** and be made friction frit therewith. Saber guide C**3'** may be used to assist in a sabrage.

FIGS. **5**A-C illustrate another embodiment of a bottle accessory **500**. In this example, accessory **500** includes a body **502** having a sidewall **503**. Body **502** may be formed of any of the materials discussed above. In this embodiment, body **502** includes a continuous circular collar **505**, and the body is extended down a side of the bottle along only one side to include a flared end **508**, the body **502** forming a hollow shell or sleeve that complements the shape of a bottle. Flared end **508** may extend down the side of the body close to the bottom of a bottle. In some examples, flared end **508** may circumferentially cover approximately ¼, ⅓, or ½ of a bottle while leaving the rest of the bottle exposed.

In this example, body **502** may incorporate one or more of a plurality of semi-annular rims **507** forming a grip portion D**2** adjacent the flared end **508** and projecting out from the body so that a user's fingers can manipulate the bottle. In some examples, rims **507** may project from the body by 1/16, ⅛, ¼, ½, ¾ or 1 inch. In some examples, the rims **507** are curved so that their distal ends closer to the bottom of the bottle, while the midpoint between the distal ends is disposed closer to the collar. Additionally, below annular rims **507**, a plurality of arched ribs **509** are shown. In some embodiments, the ribs **509** are arranged in two rows, each row having two ribs **509**. It will be understood that rims **507** and/or ribs **509** are optional and that variations are possible that include zero, one or a plurality of each of these elements. Grip portion D**2** may allow for the fore, middle, ring, and/or pinky fingers to pull on opposing direction to the thumb which sits in the punt of the bottle to hold the bottle in tension therebetween.

In FIGS. **6**A-B, another embodiment of a bottle accessory is shown. Accessory **600** is similar to accessory **500** but is slightly taller to accommodate longer bottles. It will be understood that the length of the accessory, the length of the flared end, the diameter of the collar and other dimensions may be slightly adjusted to accommodate different bottles. Additionally, the body of accessories **500**,**600** may be formed of a stretchable material to accommodate multiple sizes of bottles.

Although the invention herein has been described with reference to particular embodiments, it is to be understood that these embodiments are merely illustrative of the principles and applications of the present invention. For example, any of the features described above may be used in any combination as desired. It is therefore to be understood that numerous modifications may be made to the illustrative embodiments and that other arrangements may be devised without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

It will be appreciated that the various dependent claims and the features set forth therein can be combined in different ways than presented in the initial claims. It will also be appreciated that the features described in connection with individual embodiments may be shared with others of the described embodiments.

What is claimed is:

1. A bottle accessory, comprising:

a body including a collar configured and arranged to sit at least partially about a neck of a bottle, and

a flared end extending down at least one side of the bottle, the body including a grip portion comprising a plurality of arched ribs disposed on the flared end.

2. The bottle accessory of claim **1**, wherein the body comprises a thermoplastic or thermoset material.

3. The bottle accessory of claim 1, wherein the body comprises silicone.

4. The bottle accessory of claim 1, wherein the collar includes a continuous cylindrical portion.

5. The bottle accessory of claim 1, wherein the grip portion is disposed at a distal end of the flared end.

6. The bottle accessory of claim 1, wherein the grip portion comprises at least one rim projecting out from the body so that a user's fingers can manipulate the bottle.

7. The bottle accessory of claim 6, wherein the at least one rim comprises two rims.

8. The bottle accessory of claim 6, wherein the at least one rim comprises at least one rim angled toward the collar and having a midpoint closer to the collar than distal ends thereof.

9. The bottle accessory of claim 1, wherein the at least one rib comprises a plurality of arched ribs disposed in two rows and two columns.

10. A bottle accessory, comprising:

a thermoplastic or thermoset body including:

a circumferentially continuous collar configured and arranged to sit about a neck of a bottle; and

a flared end configured and arranged to extend down one side of the bottle, the flared end including at least one feature forming a grip portion having a plurality of arched ribs.

11. The bottle accessory of claim 10, wherein the grip portion is disposed at a distal end of the flared end.

12. The bottle accessory of claim 10, wherein the grip portion comprises at least one rim projecting out from the body so that a user's fingers can manipulate the bottle.

13. The bottle accessory of claim 12, wherein the at least one rim comprises two rims.

14. The bottle accessory of claim 10, wherein the at least one rib comprises a plurality of arched ribs disposed in two rows and two columns.

15. A bottle accessory, comprising:

a thermoplastic or thermoset body including:

a circumferentially continuous collar configured and arranged to sit about a neck of a bottle; and

a flared end configured and arranged to extend down one side of the bottle and to be in direct contact with the bottle all along the flared end, the flared end including at least one feature forming a textured surface having a plurality of gripping elements.

16. The bottle accessory of claim 15, wherein textured surface includes a plurality of raised elements.

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