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(54) **CONDIMENT CONTAINER**

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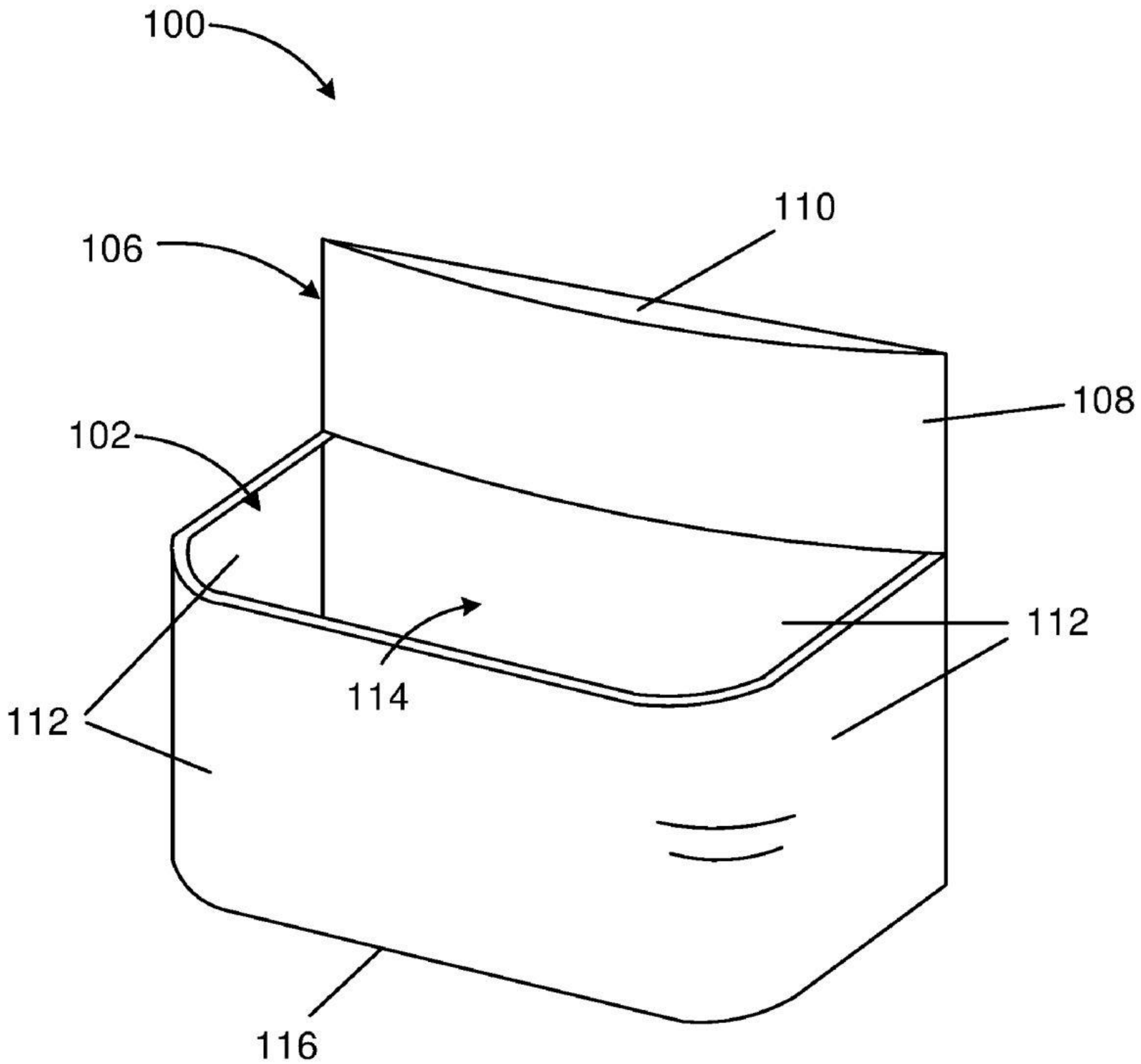
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A condiment container for mounting to a beverage cup is provided. The condiment cup includes a reservoir for storing a condiment and having at least one aperture capable of providing access to the reservoir for dipping a food item in the condiment. The condiment cup can include a mounting hook configured to extend from the reservoir.



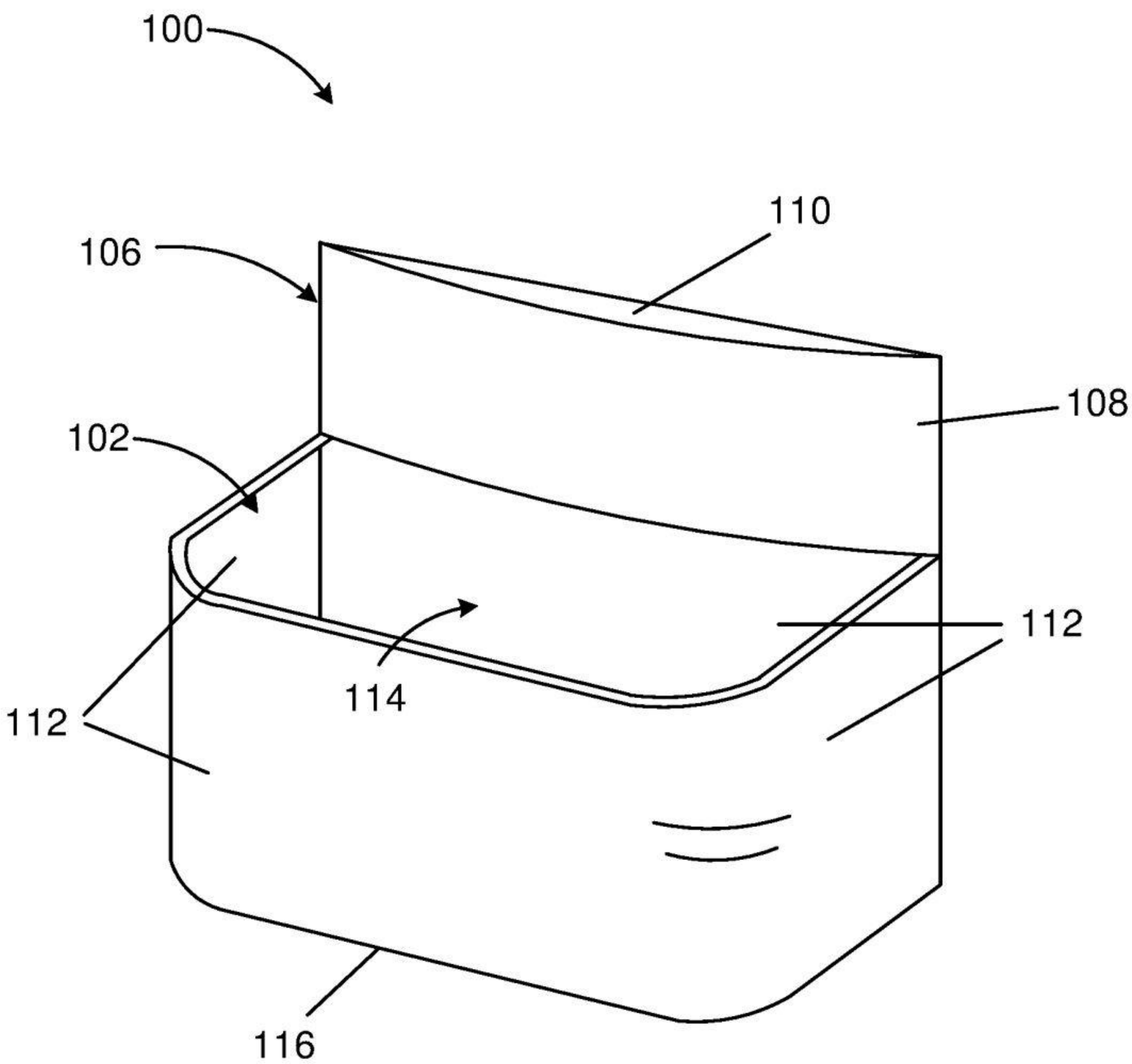


FIG. 1

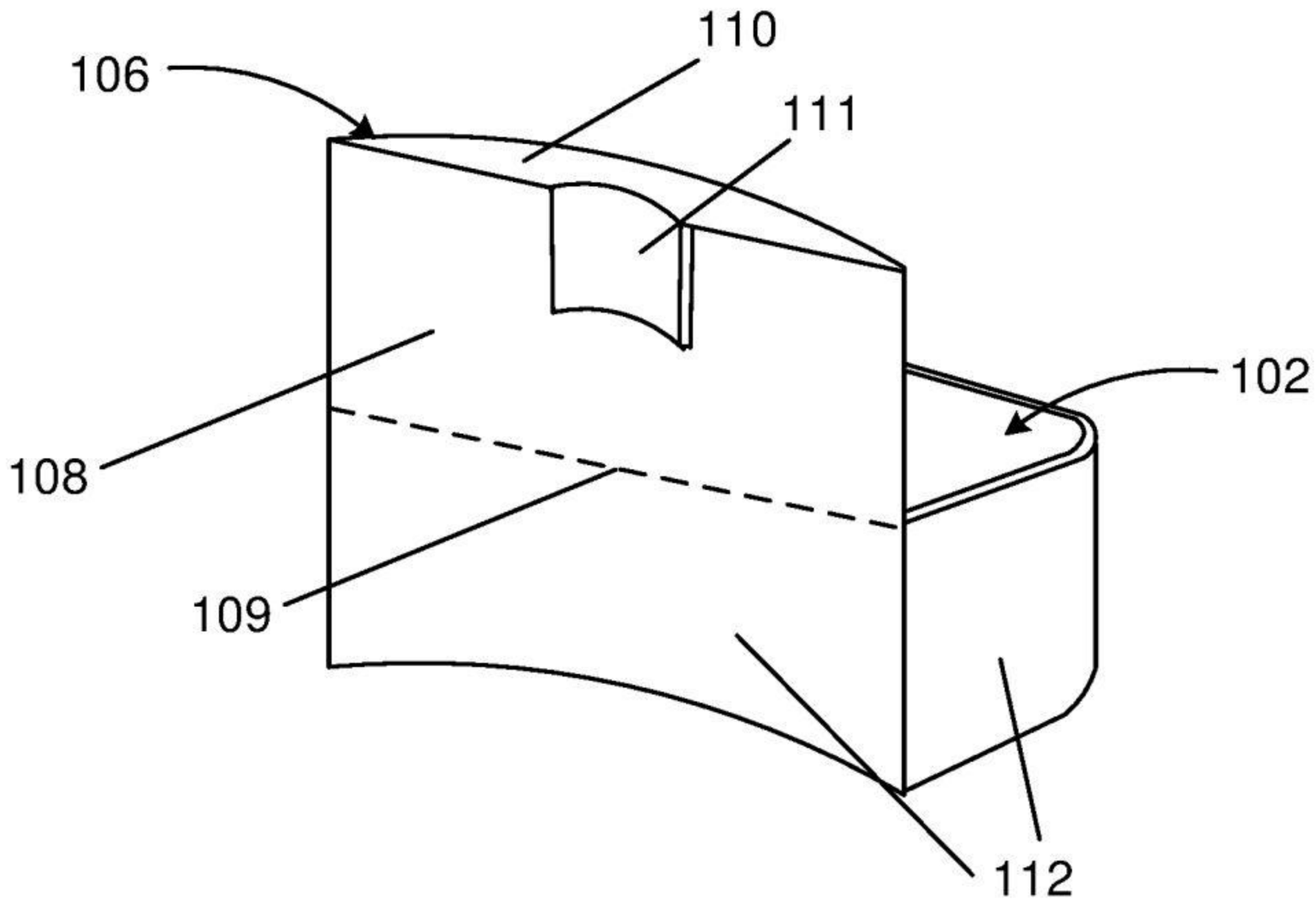


FIG. 2

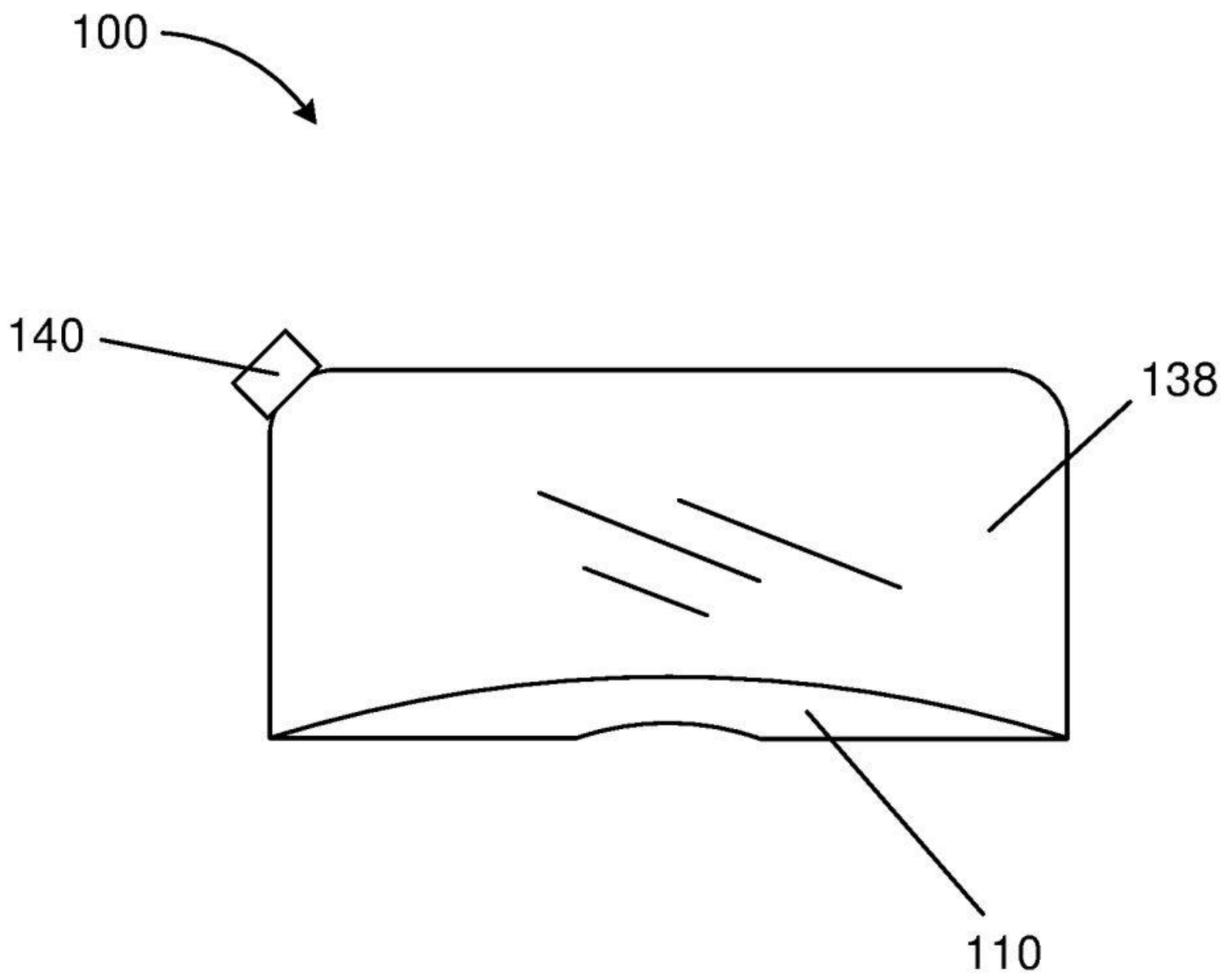


FIG. 3

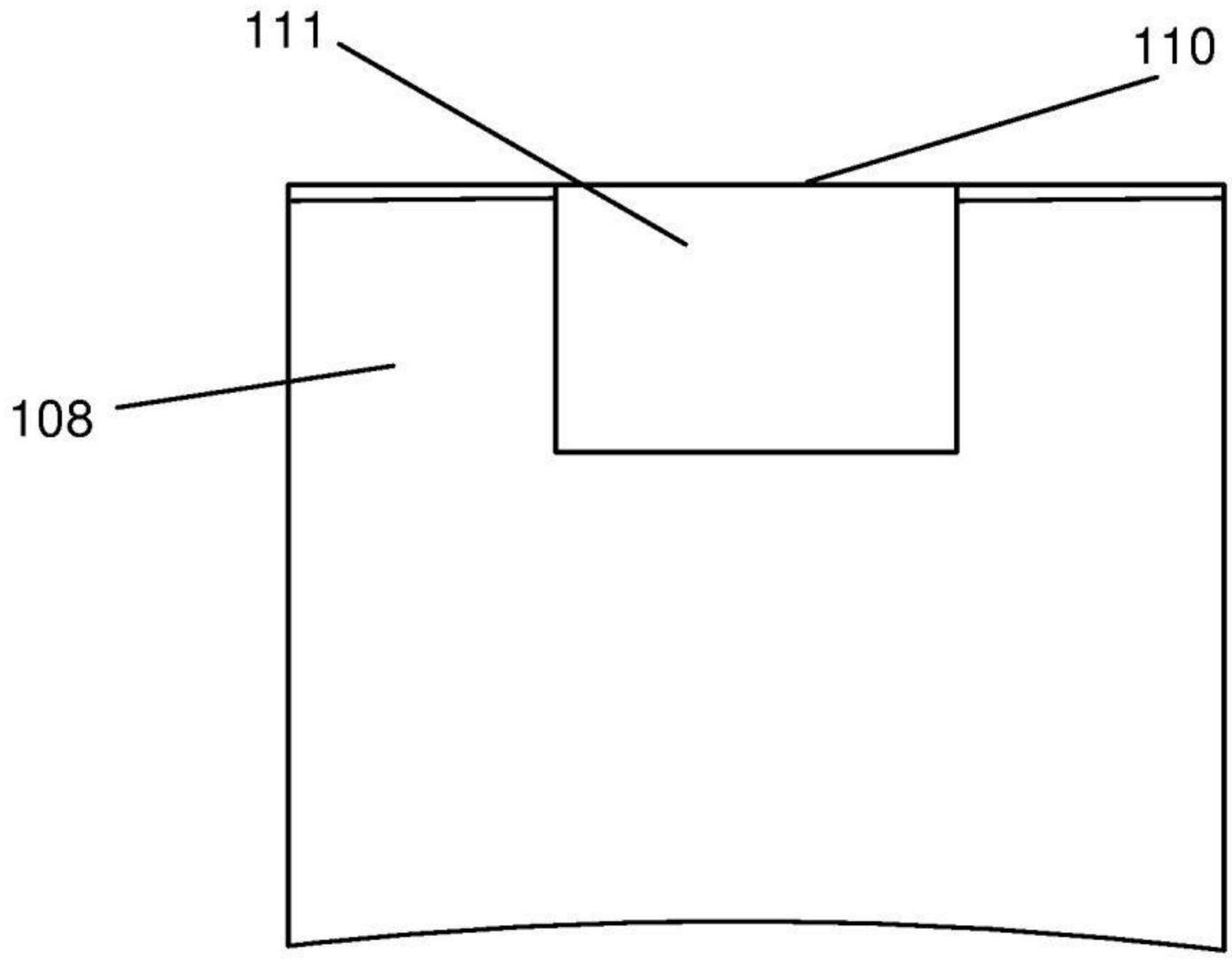


FIG. 4

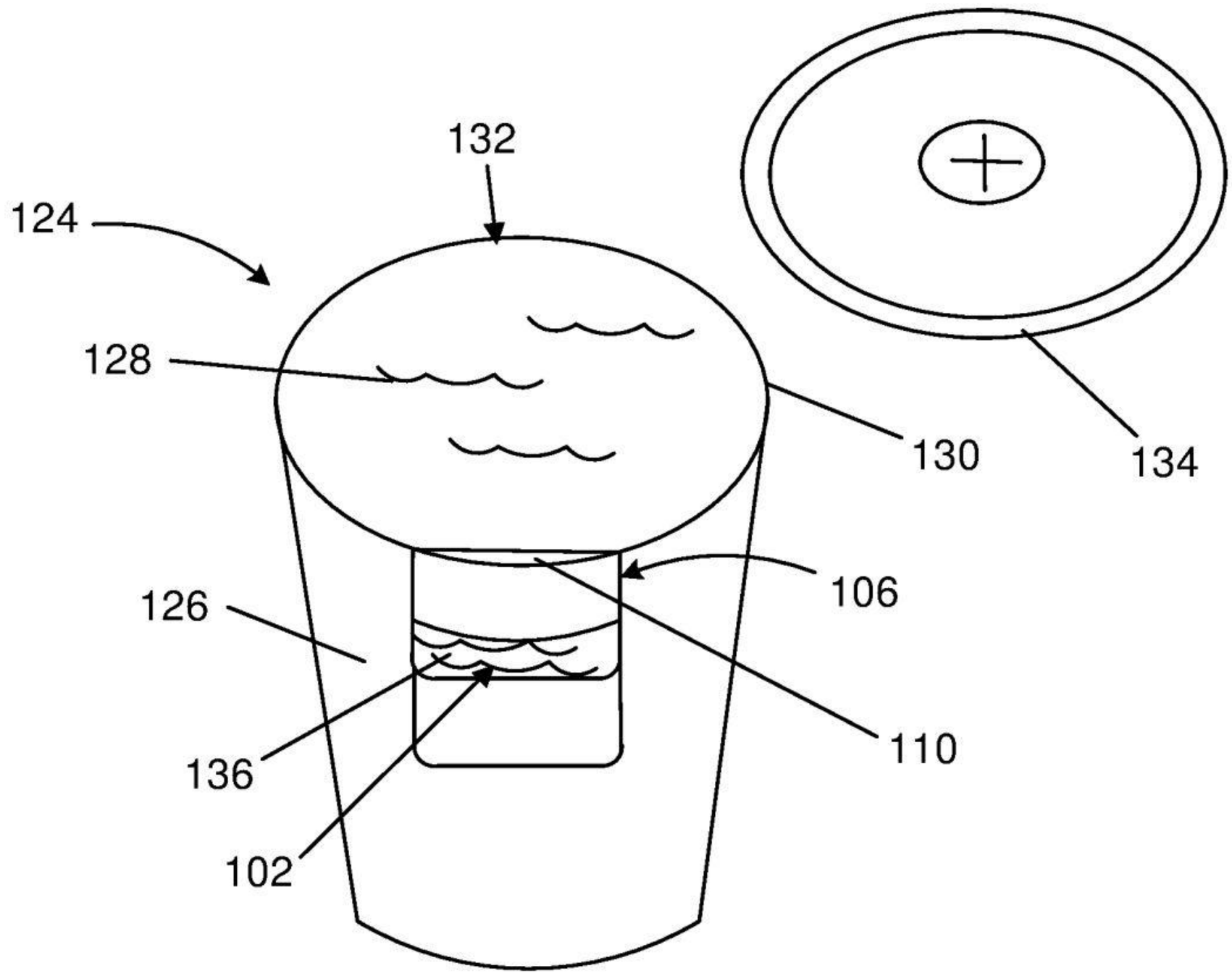


FIG. 5

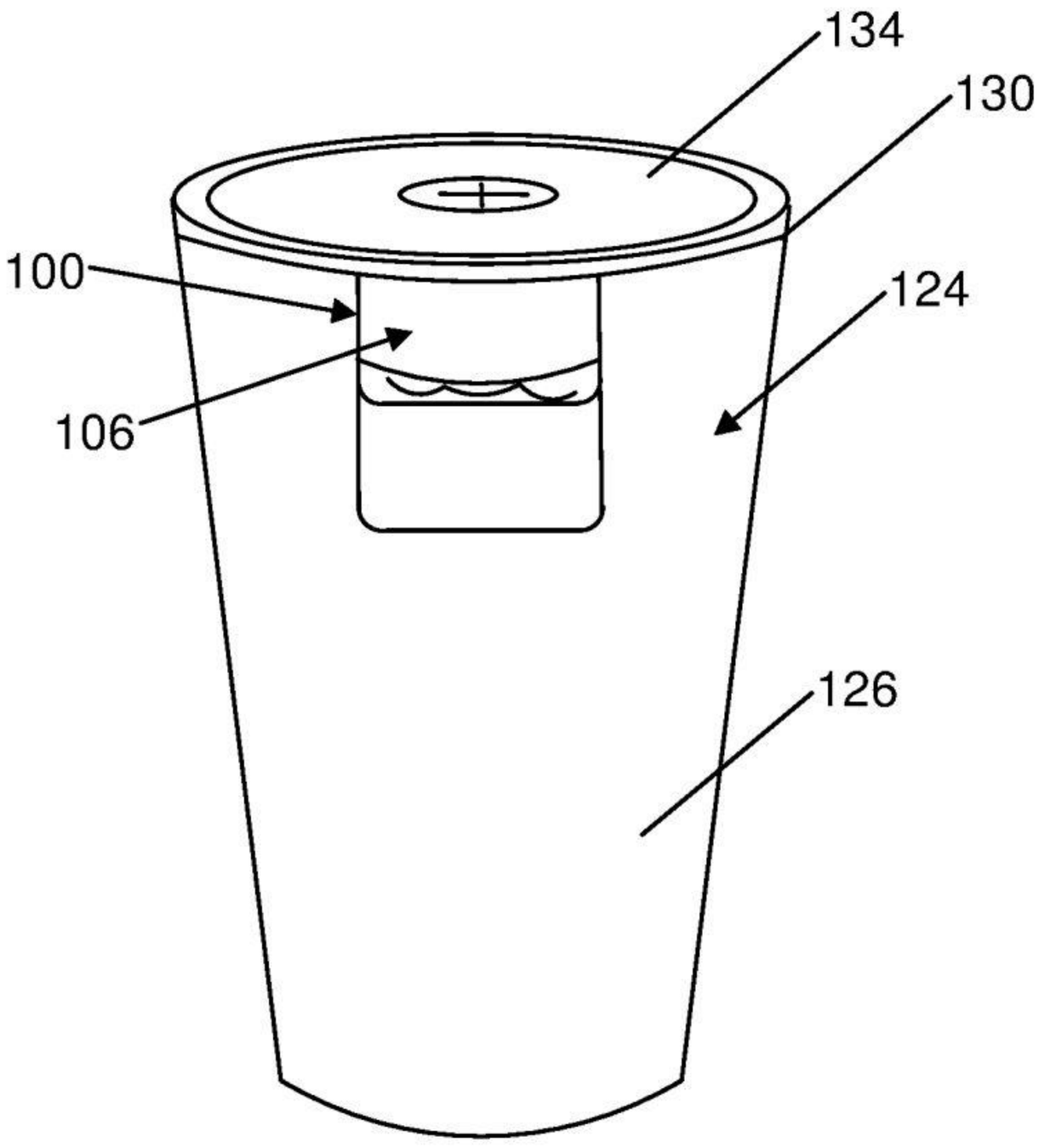


FIG. 6

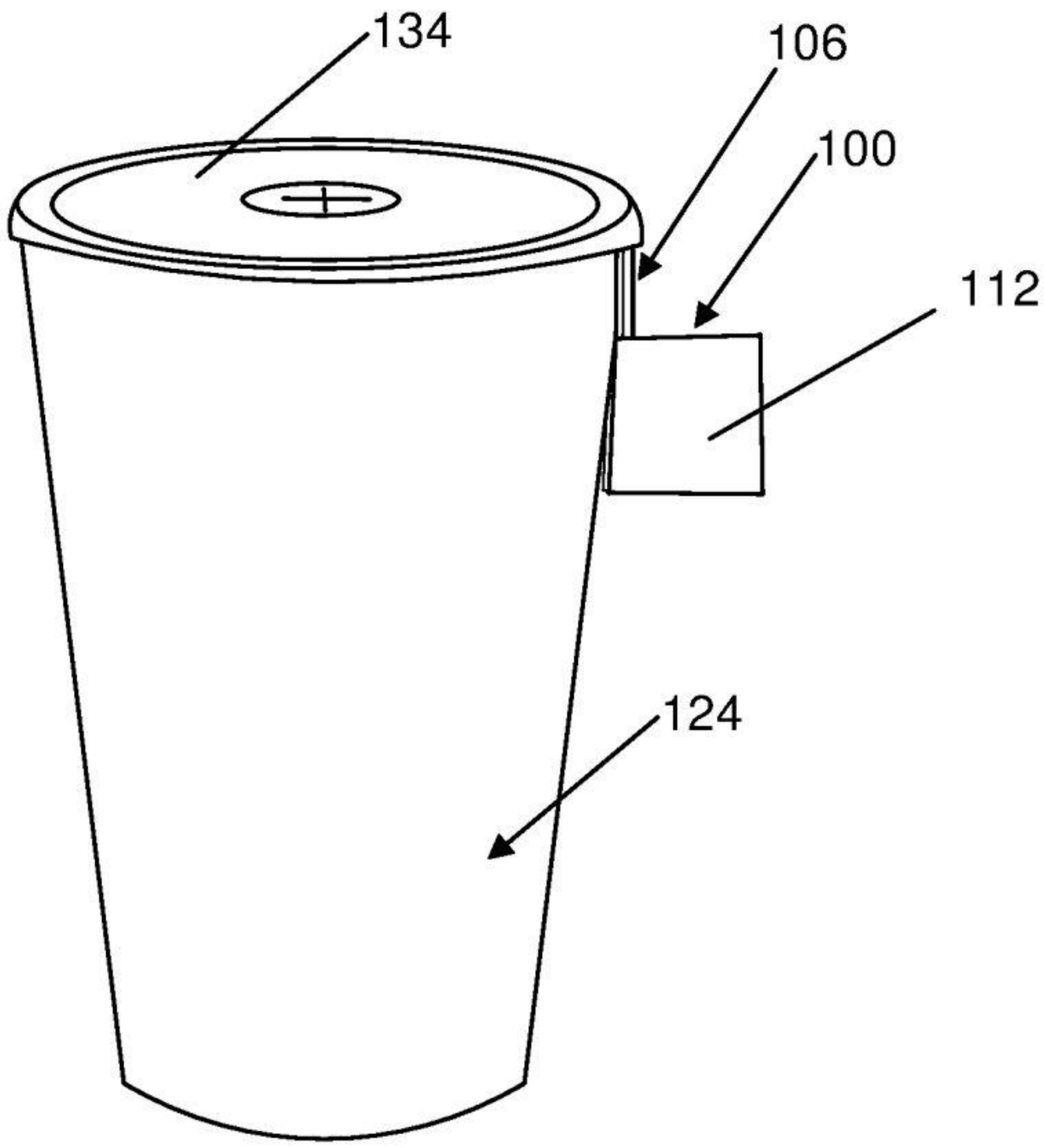


FIG. 7

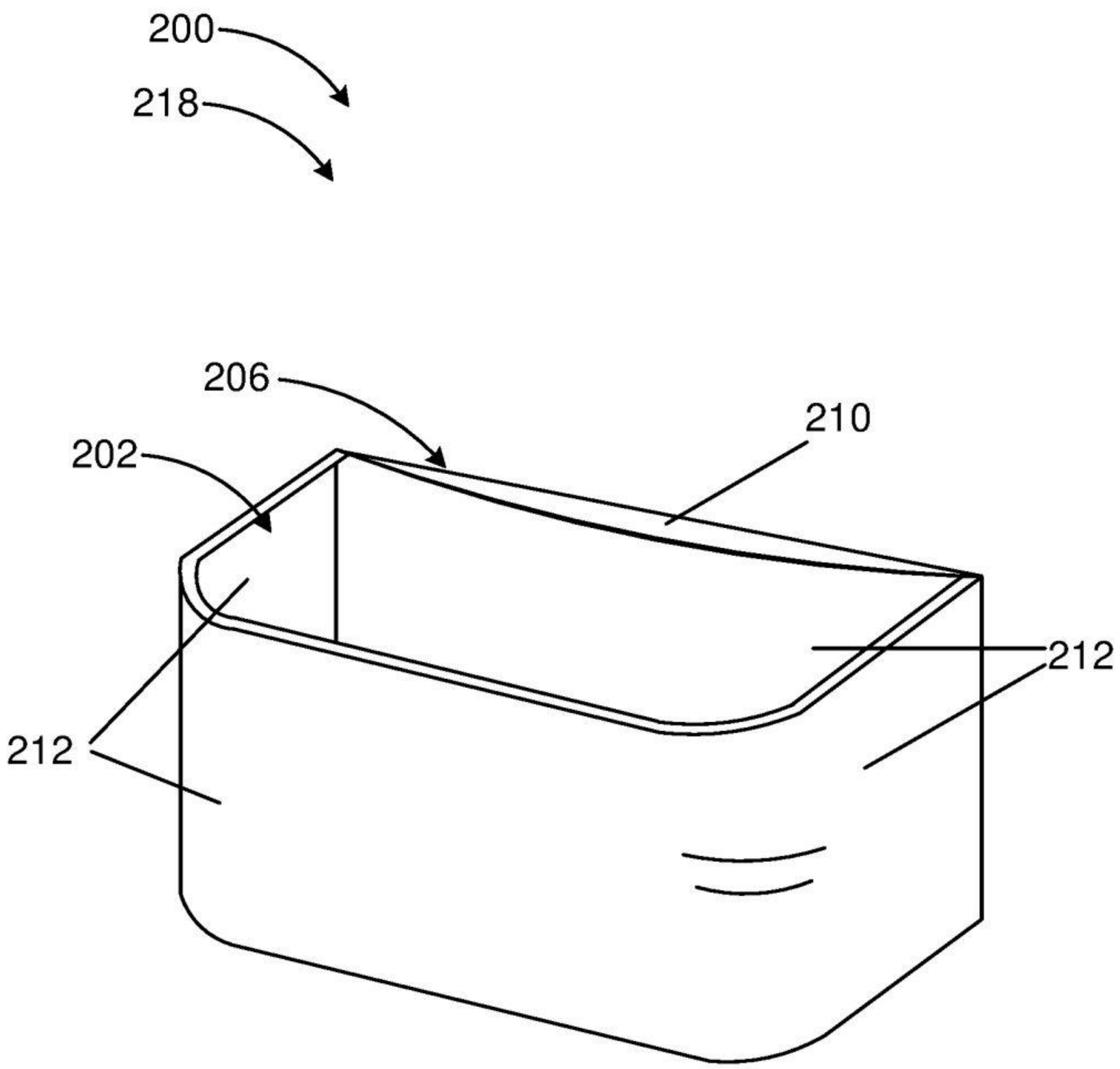


FIG. 8A

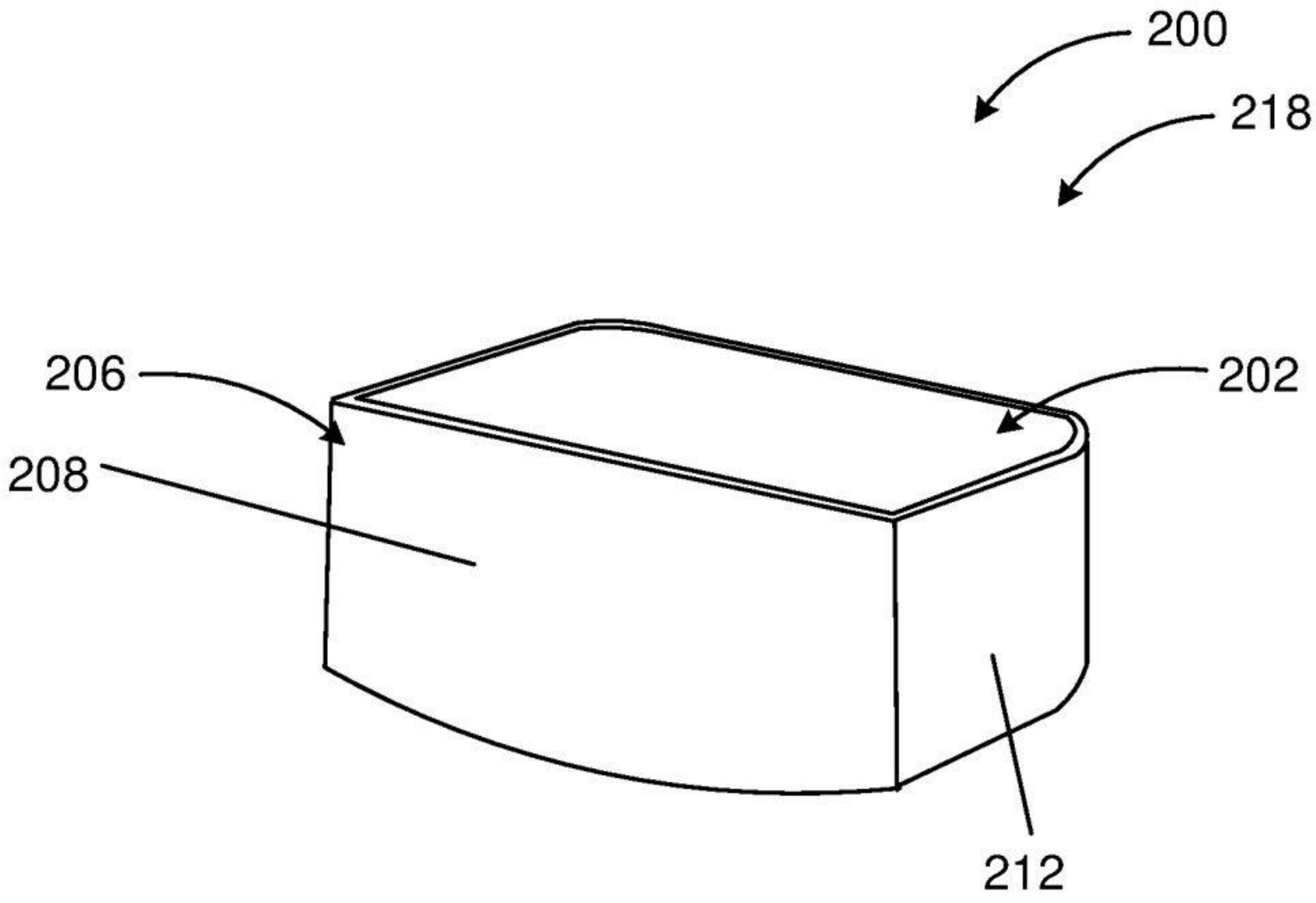


FIG. 8B

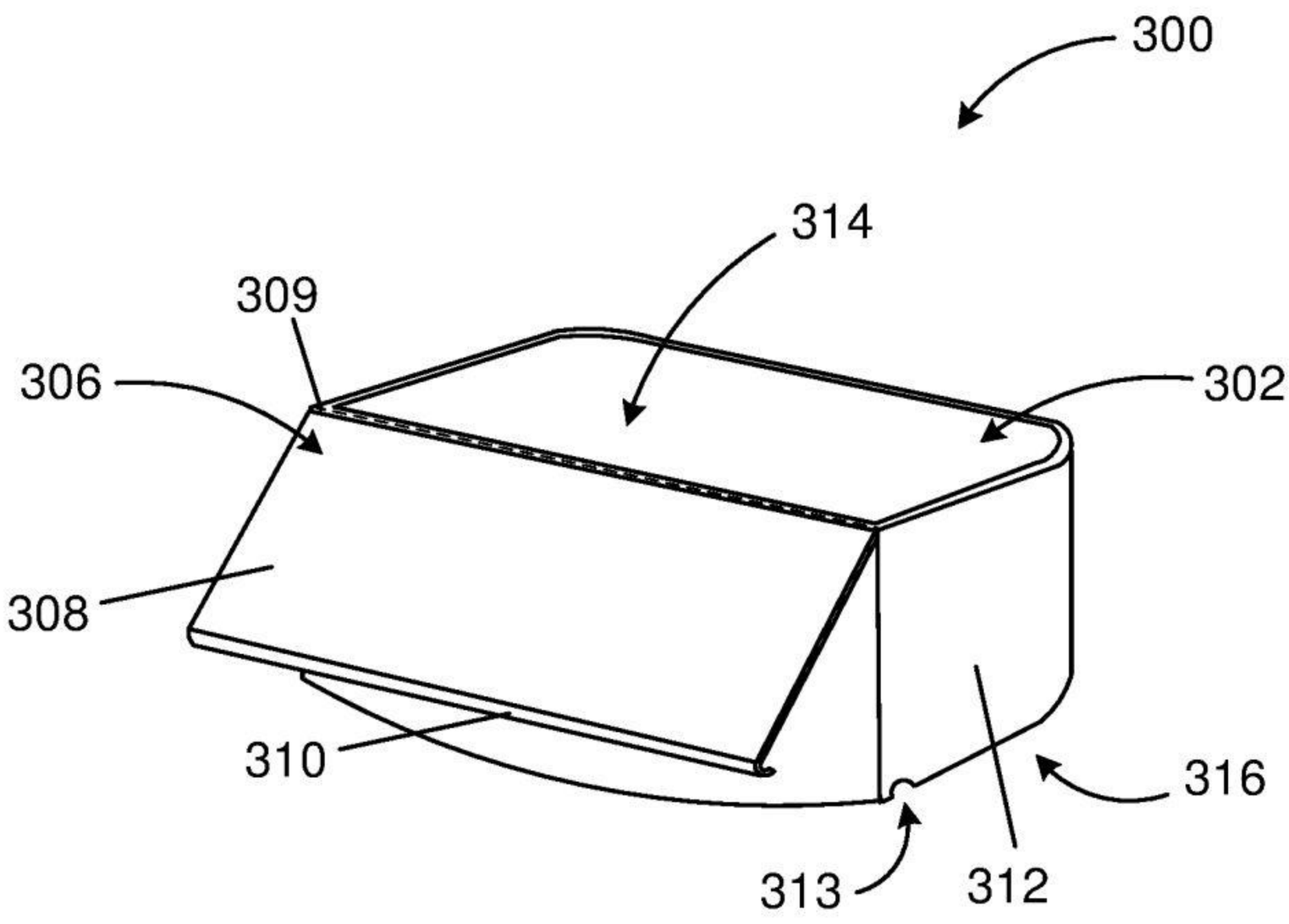


FIG. 9A

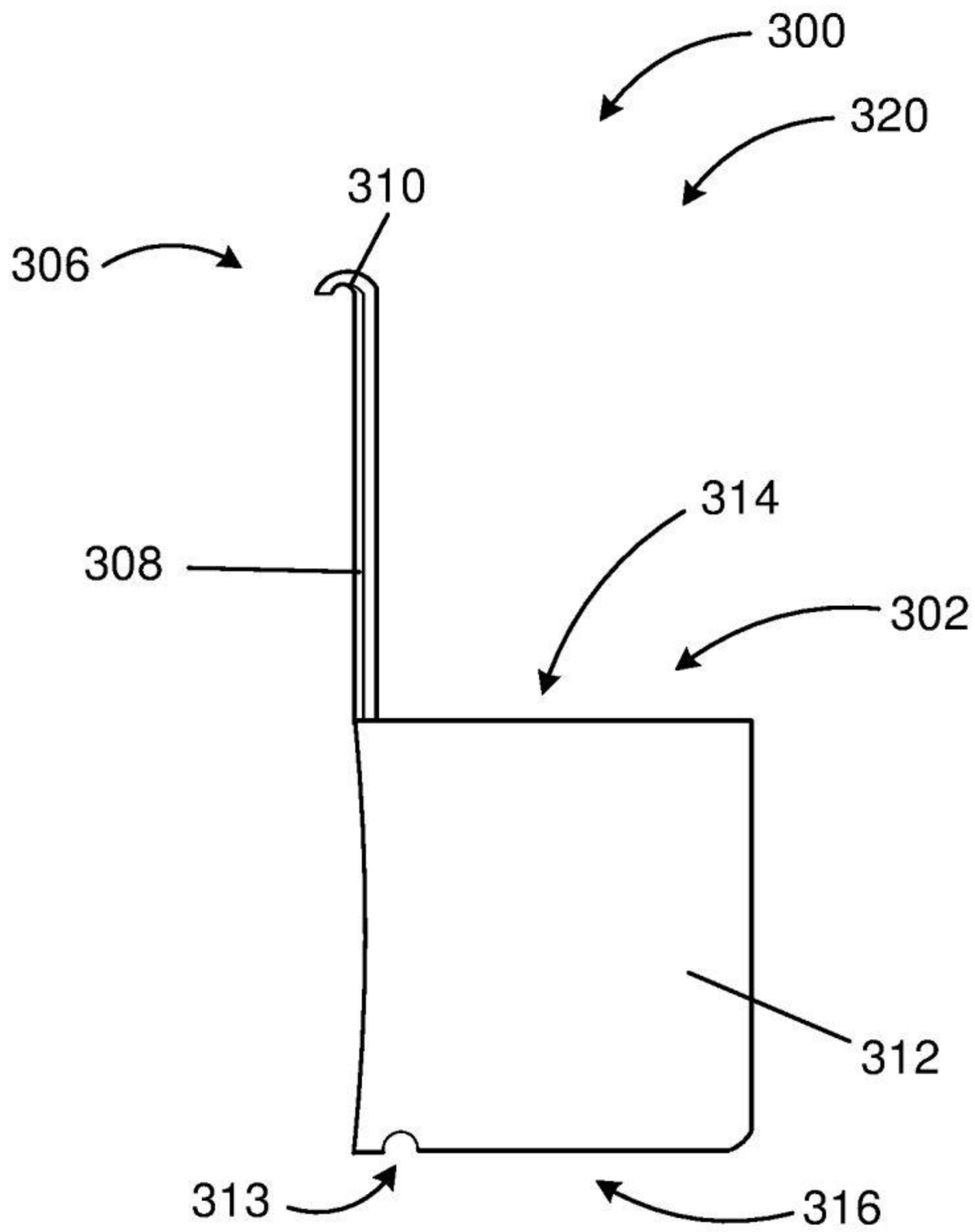


FIG. 9B

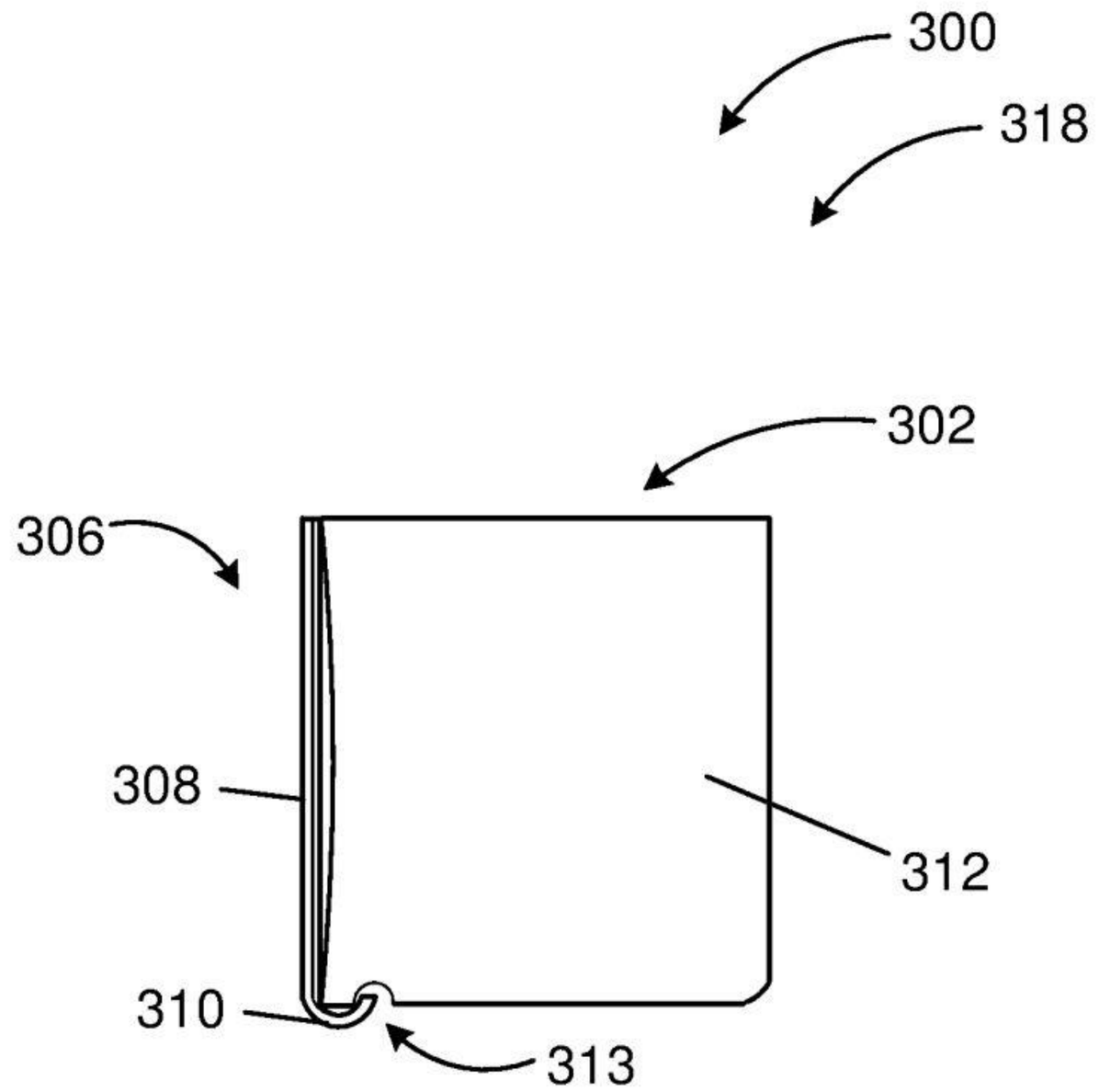


FIG. 9C

CONDIMENT CONTAINER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority and benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/754,083, filed Nov. 1, 2018, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present application relates to condiment packaging that is convenient for traveling. More particularly, the present application is directed to condiment packaging that can hang from a beverage cup rim for on-the-go dipping sauce.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Condiment packaging is widely used for storing various sauces. Condiment packaging makes combining food with sauces easy for those on-the-go. Typically, condiment packaging comes in a flexible pouch configured to tear open from one side. The pouches are commonly used to either spread across the top a food product or pour the condiment onto a surface for dipping food products. For example, the pouch may be opened and the sauce squeezed onto a paper bag. While pouring the sauce onto a flat surface may be adequate for dining in a restaurant, this method is extremely inconvenient for traveling.

[0004] Accordingly, it is desirable to provide a new condiment package that allows for dipping food products on-the-go.

SUMMARY

[0005] Embodiments of the present application address the above-described needs by providing a condiment container for mounting to a beverage cup. The beverage cup includes a cup body for holding a beverage, a beverage cup rim that defines a beverage cup mount, and a removable beverage cup lid. The removable beverage cup lid fits over and seals the beverage cup mouth. The condiment container includes a reservoir for storing a condiment. The reservoir has at least one aperture for providing access to a condiment. The condiment container also includes a mounting hook that extends from the reservoir. The mounting hook has a portion that extends substantially outward and parallel from the aperture. The mounting hook is capable of fitting onto the beverage cup rim and mounting the condiment container to the beverage cup rim so the reservoir is disposed outside and adjacent to the cup body. Additionally, the aperture extends substantially parallel to the beverage cup mouth. The removable beverage cup lid can fit over at least the portion of the mounting hook when the beverage cup lid seals the beverage cup mouth.

[0006] Additional aspects will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the aspects described below. The advantages described below will be realized and attained by means of the elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims. It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. **1** is a perspective front view of an embodiment of a condiment container.

[0008] FIG. **2** is a perspective back view of an embodiment of a condiment container.

[0009] FIG. **3** is a top view of an embodiment of a condiment container.

[0010] FIG. **4** is a back view of an embodiment of a condiment container.

[0011] FIG. **5** is a perspective view of an embodiment of a condiment container attached to a beverage cup.

[0012] FIG. **6** is a front view of an embodiment of a condiment container attached to a beverage cup.

[0013] FIG. **7** is a side view of an embodiment of a condiment container attached to a beverage cup.

[0014] FIG. **8**A is a perspective front view of an embodiment of a condiment container in a storage position.

[0015] FIG. **8**B is a perspective back view of an embodiment of a condiment container in a storage position.

[0016] FIG. **9**A is a perspective back view of an embodiment of a condiment container between a storage position and a dipping position.

[0017] FIG. **9**B is a side view of an embodiment of a condiment container in the dipping position.

[0018] FIG. **9**C is a side view of an embodiment of a condiment container in the storage position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0019] Embodiments of the present application are directed generally to a condiment container. Generally described, a condiment container is provided that forms a reservoir with a hook to grapple onto a beverage cup rim. The containment container is opened in the same direction as the beverage cup rim to limit spilling of the condiment within the reservoir.

[0020] A first embodiment of a condiment container **100** is illustrated in FIG. **1**. The condiment container **100** includes a reservoir **102** and a mounting hook **106** extending away from the reservoir.

[0021] The reservoir includes one or more walls **112**. The one or more walls **112** define an open end **114** (or "aperture") and an opposite closed end **116** (or "base **116**"). From the closed end **116**, at least one sidewall may extend perpendicularly from the closed end **116**. In some embodiments, the one or more walls **112** may define multiple open ends of the reservoir **102**. In some embodiments, the one or more walls **112** may define multiple reservoirs configured to accept and separate different condiments. For example, the one or more walls **112** may include a rounded bowl, or a plurality of substantially straight walls, or five walls, in each example, the one or more walls being configured to hold condiments.

[0022] For example, one or more walls **112** may be substantially liquid impermeable. As used herein, "substantially liquid impermeable" means the reservoir **102** can hold liquids so long as liquids do not approach the open end **114** of the reservoir **102**.

[0023] At least one of the one or more walls **112** may arc inward towards the reservoir **102**. In some instances, the wall that arcs inward may have a similar curvature as a cup to which the condiment container **100** attaches (e.g., as shown in FIG. **5**). In other embodiments, the one or more

walls **112** may have rounded edges, squared edges, or some combination therein at the point where the walls connect to the next wall.

[0024] The one or more walls **112** may be rigid, flexible, or some combination thereof. For example, the one or more walls **112** may include two walls where one wall is rigid and the other wall is flexible. The condiment container **100** may be made of a plastic, rubber, paper composite, or metal alloy. The condiment container **100** plastic may be polycarbonate, acetal copolymer polyoxymethlene, acetal homopolymer polyoxymethylene, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride polyolefin, polyethylene teraphthalate, copolymers of polypropylene, copolymers of polyethylene, EVOH, styrene, ABS, PVC, PVDC, copolymers of styrene, multilayer materials, composite materials, bio-derived materials or some combination therein.

[0025] In some condiment containers **100**, the mounting hook **106** is configured to slidably attach onto a beverage cup **124** (e.g., as shown in FIG. **5**). The mounting hook **106** may have a first portion **108** that extends away from the open end **114** of the reservoir **102**. The mounting hook **106** may be rigid, flexible, or some combination thereof. In some embodiments, the first portion **108** may extend at least partially in a parallel or angled direction away from the one or more walls **112** of the reservoir **102**. The first portion **108** of the mounting hook **106**, as seen in FIG. **1**, is arcuate and bends towards the reservoir **102**. The first portion **108** of the mounting hook **106** has substantially the same arc as one wall in the one or more walls **112** to lay flush against a beverage cup. In some embodiments, the first portion **108** may be flat, curve away from the reservoir, or be shaped to fit with another type of beverage cup. As seen in FIGS. **1-4**, the first portion **108** may attach to a second portion **110** of the mounting hook **106**. The second portion **110** may extend substantially perpendicularly to the first portion **108** of the hook **106** and substantially parallel open end **114** of the condiment container **100**. The second portion **110**, as seen in FIGS. **1-2**, connects to a third portion **111** that extends substantially perpendicularly to the second portion **110** and substantially parallel to the first portion **108** to form the hook **106** for slipping over a beverage cup rim **130** (e.g., as shown in FIG. **5**). In other instances, the second portion and third portion may be combined into one portion of the mounting hook **106**. The mounting hook **106** first portion **108** and third portion **111** may include at least two substantially parallel walls connected by a substantially perpendicular connector (i.e., second portion **110**). For example, the two parallel walls may sandwich a wall of a beverage cup body **126** between the two parallel walls while the perpendicular connector rests on top of the rim **130** of the beverage cup **124** (as shown in FIG. **5**). In some instances, the mounting hook **106** may be configured to fold along the dashed line **109**. That is, the mounting hook **106** can fold and secure over the reservoir **102**. In other examples, the mount hook **106** can fold and secure parallel to the one or more walls **112**. In other instances, the mounting hook **106** may be rigid. In some embodiments, the condiment container **100** may be formed through thermoforming. In other instances, the condiment container **100** may be formed through injection molding. The condiment container **100** may be molded into one unitary piece, or the condiment container **100** may be composed of multiple pieces fastened together through heat, adhesive, fasteners, or other attachment method.

[0026] As seen in FIG. **2**, the first portion **108** of the mounting hook **106** extends substantially parallel from one of the one or more walls **112** of the reservoir **102**. The two parallel walls, here the first portion **108** and the third portion **111**, may have different surface areas, as illustrated, or may have the same surface area. The mounting hook **106** may be adjustable to fit different beverage cups or may be rigid to fit one type of beverage cup. In some instances, the mounting hook **106** and the reservoir **102** may be one piece to form the condiment container **100**. In other instances, the mounting hook **106** and the reservoir **102** may be separate pieces configured to fit together through fasteners, adhesive, joinery, or other attachment method.

[0027] In one aspect, as shown in FIG. **3**, the condiment container **100** includes a condiment container lid **138**. The condiment container lid **138** may be an impermeable surface. The condiment container lid **138** may flexible or rigid. In some embodiments, the condiment container lid **138** is configured to detach and reattach after use. As seen in FIG. **3**, the condiment container lid **138** has a lid tab **140** for removing the condiment container lid **138**. In some embodiments, a condiment is stored within the condiment container **100** and then the condiment container lid **138** is heat sealed to the condiment container **100** for storage. In other embodiments, the condiment container lid **138** may have a weak adhesive or other fastener for securing the condiment container lid **138**. For example, the adhesive may be weak enough that a slight force applied to the condiment container lid **138** in perpendicular direction will remove the lid. The lid tab **140** may be of varying shapes or design including a loop, string, flap, or other surface that a user could grapple an edge of the condiment container lid **138** to remove from the condiment container **100**. The condiment container lid **138** may be hard to restrict penetration. In other embodiments, the condiment container lid **138** may be a thin flexible plastic to allow for easy removal or penetration. The lid tab **140** may be disposed anywhere along the open end **114** of the reservoir **102**.

[0028] FIGS. **5** and **6** depict the condiment container **100** mounted onto a beverage cup **124**. The beverage cup includes a cup body **126**, a beverage cup rim **130**, a beverage cup mouth **132**, and a removable cup lid **134**. The beverage cup rim **130** defines the beverage cup mouth **132**. In FIG. **5**, the beverage cup rim **130** is a circular rim. In some embodiments, the beverage cup rim **130** may be rectangular, oval, square, or some other shape. The removable cup lid **134** may mimic the shape of the beverage cup rim **130**. The beverage cup lid **134** is configured to selectively attach to the beverage cup rim **130** to cover the beverage cup mouth **132**. As seen in FIGS. **5** and **6**, the condiment container **100** may slide onto the beverage cup rim **130**. The second portion **110** of the mounting hook **106** rests flat along the beverage cup rim **130**. The mounting hook **106** may be thin enough to allow the beverage cup lid **134** to fit over the second portion **110** of the mounting hook **106** and still seal the beverage **128** within the beverage cup **124**. The condiment **136** sits idly in the reservoir **102** of the condiment container **100** for dipping food products such as French fries. With some containers, the mounting hook **106** may puncture the beverage cup lid **134** to rest on top of the beverage cup rim **130**. The mounting hook **106** may be configured for various shapes of beverage cup rims. As shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**, the mounting hook **106** and condiment container **100** may have arcuate surfaces to sit flush with the surface of the beverage cup

body **126**. In some embodiments, the condiment container **100** may not match the beverage cup body **126** to sit flush with the surface. The condiment container **100** may sit on the beverage cup rim **130** with the beverage container lid **134** in place over the condiment container **100** mounting hook **106** configured to ensure the beverage **128** cannot spill out of the beverage cup **124**.

[0029] In one aspect, as shown in FIGS. **8**A and **8**B, the condiment container **200** includes a mounting hook **206** configured to be folded in a plurality of directions. In this manner, the mounting hook **206** (e.g., a similar embodiment shown in FIG. **2**) may be in a storage position **218** or in a dipping position (e.g., as shown in FIG. **1**). For example, the mounting hook **206** in the storage position **218** may rest against one or more walls **212** of the condiment container **200**. That is, the first portion **208** of the mounting hook **206** may fold along one or more edges. In some instances, the first portion **208** may fold along predetermined edges configured to be flexible. In other instances, the flexible edges may be lacerations, thinner material, and/or rotation fasteners. In yet other instances, the mounting hook **206** may be rolled, wrapped, or otherwise stored in a non-extended position along the condiment container **200**. The first portion **208** may be configured to fold the mounting hook **206** against the reservoir **202**. A user may unfold the first portion **208** to a dipping position (e.g., as shown in FIG. **1**) and latch the mounting hook **206** on the beverage cup (e.g., as shown in FIG. **5**). In other embodiments, the first portion **208**, the second portion **210**, and/or the third portion **211** (not shown) may be folded in one or more directions.

[0030] Another embodiment of a condiment container **300** is illustrated in FIGS. **9**A-**9**C. The condiment container **300** includes a reservoir **302** and a mounting hook **306** extending away from the reservoir **302**.

[0031] The reservoir includes one or more walls **312**. The one or more walls **312** define an open end **314** (or "aperture") and an opposite closed end **316** (or "base **316**"). The base **316** includes a channel **313** that is a semi-circular cross section that extends across the length of the base **316**. In other instances, the channel **313** may be another geometric cross section and extend in a variety of other directions along one or more of the walls **312**. From the closed end **316**, at least one sidewall may extend perpendicularly from the closed end **316**. In some condiment containers, the one or more walls **312** may define multiple open ends of the reservoir **302**. In other embodiments, the one or more walls **312** may define multiple reservoirs configured to accept and separate different condiments. For example, the one or more walls **312** may include a rounded bowl, or a plurality of substantially straight walls, or five walls, in each example, the one or more walls being configured to hold condiments.

[0032] For example, the one or more walls **312** may be substantially liquid impermeable. As used herein, "substantially liquid impermeable" means the reservoir **302** can hold liquids so long as liquids do not approach the open end **314** of the reservoir **302**.

[0033] At least one of the one or more walls **312** may arc inward towards the reservoir **302**. In some instances, the wall that arcs inward may have a similar curvature as a cup to which the condiment container **300** attaches (e.g., as shown in FIG. **5**). In other embodiments, the one or more walls **312** may have rounded edges, squared edges, or some combination therein at the point where the walls connect to the next wall.

[0034] The one or more walls **312** may be rigid, flexible, or some combination thereof. For example, the one or more walls **312** may include two walls where one wall is rigid and the other wall is flexible. The condiment container **300** may be made of a plastic, rubber, paper composite, or metal alloy. The condiment container **300** plastic may be polycarbonate, acetal copolymer polyoxymethlene, acetal homopolymer polyoxymethylene, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride polyolefin, polyethylene teraphthalate, copolymers of polypropylene, copolymers of polyethylene, EVOH, styrene, ABS, PVC, PVDC, copolymers of styrene, multilayer materials, composite materials, bio-derived materials or some combination therein.

[0035] In some embodiments, the mounting hook **306** is configured to slidably attach onto a beverage cup **324** (e.g., as shown in FIG. **5**). The mounting hook **306** may have a first portion **308** that extends away, in a perpendicular direction, from the open end **314** of the reservoir **302**. The mounting hook **306** may be rigid, flexible, or some combination thereof. In some embodiments, the first portion **308** may extend at least partially in a parallel or angled direction away from the one or more walls **312** of the reservoir **302**. The first portion **308** of the mounting hook **306** may have substantially the same arc as one wall in the one or more walls **312** to lay flush against a beverage cup. In some condiment containers, the first portion **308** may be flat, curve away from the reservoir, or be shaped to fit with another type of beverage cup. As seen in FIGS. **9**A, the first portion **308** may extend to a second portion **310**. The second portion **310** is substantially c-shaped to form a hook with the first portion **308**. The second portion may be another geometric cross-section. The first portion **308** and the second portion **310** form the hook **306** for slipping over a beverage cup rim (e.g., as shown in FIG. **5**). The second portion **310** can operably snap into the channel **313** (e.g., the storage position **318**). In some instances, the mounting hook **306** may be configured to fold along the dashed line **309**. In other instances, the mounting hook **306** may be rigid. In some embodiments, the condiment container **300** may be formed through thermoforming. In other instances, the condiment container **300** may be formed through injection molding. The condiment container **300** may be molded into one unitary piece, or the condiment container **300** may be composed of multiple pieces fastened together through heat, adhesive, fasteners, or other attachment method.

[0036] As seen in FIG. **9**B, the first portion **308** of the mounting hook **306** extends substantially parallel from one of the one or more walls **312** of the reservoir **302**. The mounting hook **306** may be adjustable to fit different beverage cups or may be rigid to fit one type of beverage cup. In some instances, the mounting hook **306** and the reservoir **302** may be one piece to form the condiment container **300**. In other instances, the mounting hook **306** and the reservoir **302** may be separate pieces configured to fit together through fasteners, adhesive, joinery, or other attachment method.

[0037] In one aspect, as shown in FIGS. **9**A-**9**C, the condiment container **300** includes a mounting hook **306** configured to be folded in a plurality of directions. As shown in FIG. **9**B, the mounting hook **306** can be unfolded into a dipping position **320** configured to slide onto a beverage cup rim (e.g., as shown in FIG. **5**). As shown in FIG. **9**C, the mounting hook **306** can fold back against the condiment container reservoir **302** into the storage position **318**. That is,

the mounting hook **306** in the storage position **318** rests against the one or more walls **312** of the condiment container **300**. In this manner, the first portion **308** of the mounting hook **306** folds along one or more edges to rest against the one or more walls **312**. In some instances, the first portion **308** may fold along predetermined edges configured to be flexible. In other instances, the flexible edges may be lacerations, thinner material, and/or rotation fasteners. In yet other instances, the mounting hook **306** may be rolled, wrapped, or otherwise stored in a non-extended position along the condiment container **300**. The first portion **308** may be configured to fold the mounting hook **306** against the reservoir **302**.

[0038] While the disclosure has been described with reference to a number of embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the disclosure is not limited to such disclosed embodiments. Rather, the disclosed embodiments can be modified to incorporate any number of variations, alterations, substitutions, or equivalent arrangements not described herein, but which are commensurate with the scope of the disclosure.

We claim:

1. A condiment container for mounting to a beverage cup comprising a cup body for holding a beverage, a beverage cup rim defining a beverage cup mouth, and a removable beverage cup lid for fitting over the beverage cup rim and sealing the beverage cup mouth, the condiment container comprising:

a reservoir for storing a condiment and having at least one aperture capable of providing access to the reservoir for dipping a food item in the condiment; and

a mounting hook configured to extend from the reservoir, wherein at least a portion of the mounting hook extends substantially outwardly and parallel to the at least one aperture and the mounting hook is capable of fitting over at least a portion of the beverage cup rim and mounting the condiment container to the beverage cup rim such that the reservoir is disposed outside and adjacent to the cup body, the at least one aperture extends substantially parallel to the beverage cup mouth, and the removable beverage cup lid fits over at least the portion of the mounting hook when the removable beverage cup lid seals the beverage cup mouth.

2. The condiment container of claim **1**, the condiment container further comprising a condiment container lid, wherein the condiment container lid seals the at least one aperture and is configured to be removed.

3. The condiment container of claim **1**, wherein the reservoir comprises a plurality of walls defining an open end and a closed end, wherein at least one wall of the plurality of walls arcs inwardly towards an interior of the reservoir.

4. The condiment container of claim **3**, wherein the plurality of walls are rigid.

5. The condiment container of claim **3**, wherein the plurality of walls are flexible.

6. The condiment container of claim **3**, wherein the plurality of walls are substantially liquid impermeable.

7. The condiment container of claim **1**, wherein the mounting hook comprises,

a first wall, wherein the first wall extends substantially perpendicular to the at least one aperture;

a second wall, wherein the second wall couples substantially perpendicular to the first wall; and

a third wall, wherein the third wall couples substantially perpendicular to the second wall.

8. The condiment container of claim **1**, wherein the condiment container comprises a plastic selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, acetal copolymer polyoxymethylene, acetal homopolymer polyoxymethylene, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride polyolefin, polyethylene terephthalate, copolymers of polypropylene, copolymers of polyethylene, EVOH, styrene, ABS, PVC, PVDC, copolymers of styrene, multilayer materials, composite materials, and bioderived materials.

9. The condiment container of claim **3**, wherein the plurality of walls include:

a base;

at least one sidewall extending from the base, wherein the at least one sidewall defines a condiment container rim; and

the mounting hook is coupled to the condiment container rim, the mounting hook comprising at least two substantially parallel walls connected by a substantially perpendicular connector.

10. The condiment container of claim **9**, wherein the at least two parallel walls of the condiment container comprise a first wall and a second wall, the second wall having less surface area than the first wall.

11. The condiment container of claim **9**, wherein the hook is configured to slide onto the beverage cup rim.

12. The condiment container of claim **9**, wherein the at least two parallel walls have the same surface area.

13. The condiment container of claim **9**, wherein the at least two parallel walls arc inwardly towards the at least one sidewall.

14. The condiment container of claim **9**, the cup further comprising a condiment container lid, the condiment container lid configured to affix to the condiment container rim, wherein the condiment container lid is substantially liquid impermeable.

15. The condiment container of claim **2**, wherein the reservoir further comprises a flange surrounding the at least one aperture and the condiment container lid is removably adhered to the flange.

16. The container of claim **15**, wherein the condiment container lid is heat sealed to the flange or adhered to the flange with an adhesive.

17. The condiment container of claim **1**, wherein the mounting hook comprises at least two substantially parallel curved walls and a substantially perpendicular cross-member, one of the at least two substantially parallel curved walls couples to at least one sidewall of the reservoir, and the substantially perpendicular cross-member connects the two substantially parallel curved walls, wherein the mounting hook is configured to fold.

18. The condiment container of claim **17**, wherein the mounting hook is selectively positionable between:

a storage position, wherein the mounting hook is folded against the container; and

a dipping position, wherein the mounting hook is extended away from the aperture to mount onto the beverage cup.

19. A condiment container comprising:

a reservoir for storing a condiment and having at least one aperture capable of providing access to the reservoir for dipping a food item in the condiment; and

a mounting hook configured to extend from the reservoir, wherein the mounting hook is selectively positionable between:

a storage position, wherein the mounting hook is folded against the condiment container; and

a dipping position, wherein the mounting hook is extended away from the aperture to mount onto a beverage cup.

20. A condiment container comprising:

a reservoir for storing a condiment and having at least one aperture capable of providing access to the reservoir for dipping a food item in the condiment; and

a mounting hook attached to the reservoir, the mounting hook comprising:

a first wall, wherein the first wall extends substantially perpendicular to the at least one aperture;

a second wall, wherein the second wall couples substantially perpendicular to the first wall; and

a third wall, wherein the third wall couples substantially perpendicular to the second wall.

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