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A BEVERAGE CARRYING DEVICE AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

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ABSTRACT (Figure 1)

The present invention relates to a beverage carrying device for carrying at least two beverage vessels and methods of use thereof. In one form, the beverage carrying device includes an elongate body having an upper end, an opposed lower end and at least one sidewall extending therebetween; a handle portion defined at or near the upper end of the body; and a beverage vessel holding portion defined at or near the lower end of the body, said holding potion including a flange portion extending outwardly from and at least partially about a periphery of the lower end of the body and having at least two shaped apertures defined therein in a spaced arrangement extending about the flange portion, each said shaped aperture adapted to hold a beverage vessel received therein.

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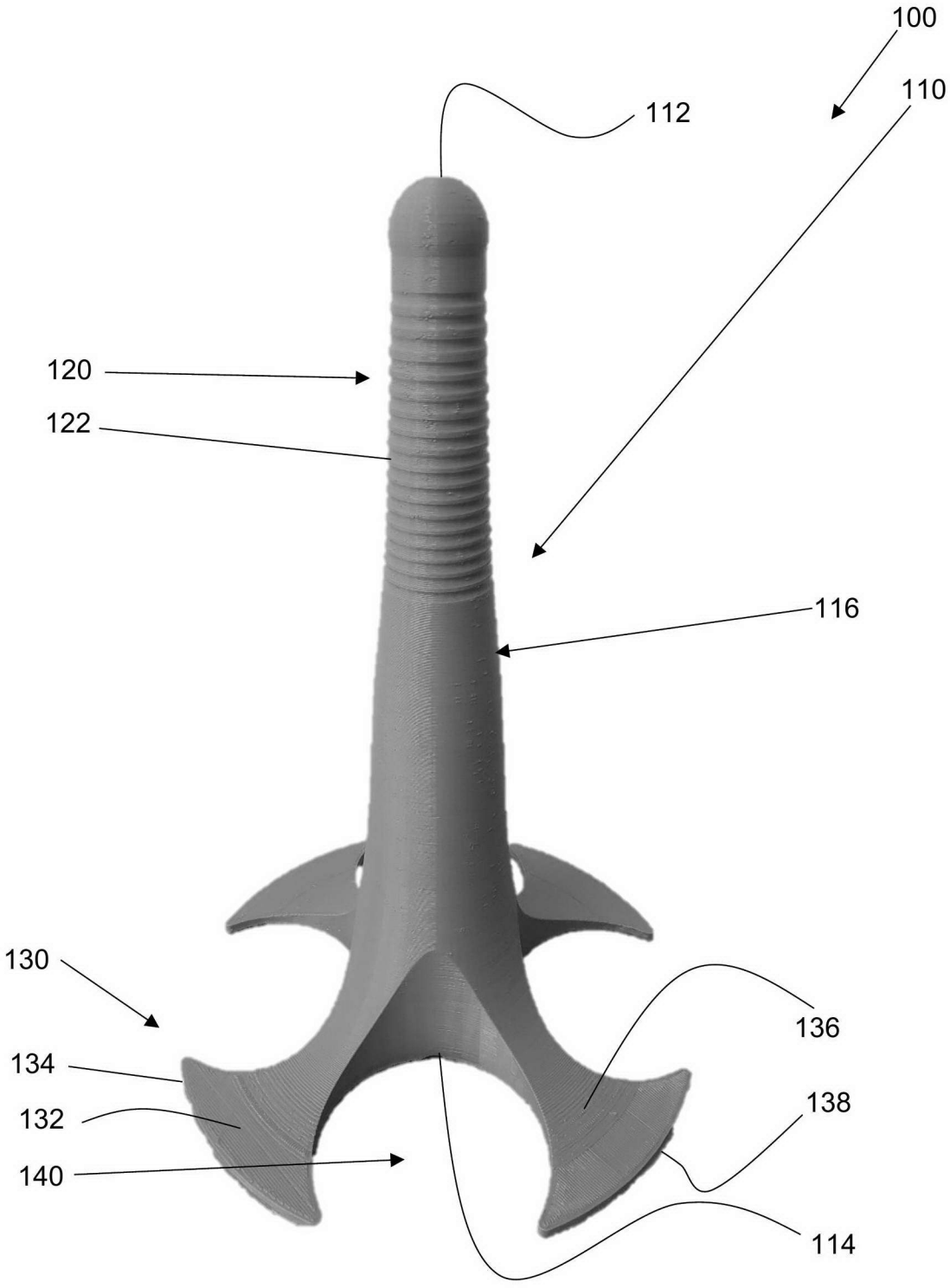

Figure 1

A BEVERAGE CARRYING DEVICE AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a beverage carrying device for carrying at least two beverage vessels and methods of use thereof.

BACKGROUND

[0002] It is convenient when purchasing two or more beverages from a pub, bar, restaurant, canteen or like venue to use a tray or beverage caddy to carry the beverages to a desired seating or standing location.

[0003] However, a problem in general with the use of trays is that it is all too common for one or more beverages to spill or fall over, particularly if the venue is crowded or the person carrying the tray has poor balance.

[0004] Although beverage caddies in general at least partially address the deficiencies of trays by having dedicated beverage holding portions, it is still possible to spill one or more beverages. In most instances, the caddies are of flimsy design and only intended to loosely hold beverages and prevent the beverages from falling over.

[0005] A further problem with most beverage caddies is that they are single use items and therefore both an environmental burden and a cost to the venue. For example, it is a common sight to see such caddies littered across a field or in or outside grand stands after a concert or sporting event.

[0006] Another problem in general with the ordering of beverages at a pub, bar, restaurant, canteen or like venue is the time taken to individually dispense and carry multiple like beverages.

[0007] For example, it is common to order a round of shots of a selected spirit when out and among friends. When ordered, the bartender typically aligns the shot glasses atop the bar and individually pours the selected spirit into each shot glass. The process is slow and stalls the serving of other patrons. Further, once the round of shots are served, the customer usually carries the round back to his or her friends, preferably without spilling any of the beverages. This can be particularly difficult in a crowded venue.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0008] Embodiments of the present invention provides a beverage carrying device and methods of use thereof, which may at least partially address one or more of the problems or

deficiencies mentioned above or which may provide the public with a useful or commercial choice.

[0009] According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a beverage carrying device for carrying at least two beverage vessels, said device including:

an elongate body having an upper end, an opposed lower end and at least one sidewall extending therebetween;

a handle portion defined at or near the upper end of the body;

a beverage vessel holding portion defined at or near the lower end of the body, said holding potion including a flange portion extending outwardly from and at least partially about a periphery of the lower end of the body and having at least two shaped apertures defined therein in a spaced arrangement extending about the flange portion, each said shaped aperture adapted to hold a beverage vessel received therein.

[0010] According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a beverage carrying device for carrying at least two beverage vessels, said device including:

an elongate body having an upper end, an opposed lower end and at least one sidewall extending therebetween;

a handle portion defined at or near the upper end of the body;

a beverage vessel holding portion defined at or near the lower end of the body, said holding potion including a flange portion extending outwardly from and at least partially about a periphery of the lower end of the body and having at least two shaped apertures defined therein in a spaced arrangement extending about the flange portion, each said shaped aperture adapted to hold a beverage vessel received therein,

wherein said elongate body is stackable with a like elongate body of a further like device.

[0011] According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a stacked beverage carrying device arrangement including the beverage carrying device of the first or second aspect stacked atop at least one further like beverage carrying device.

[0012] Advantageously, the present invention provides a beverage carrying device that is sturdily constructed and able to reliably and snugly carry two or more beverage vessels. In some embodiments, the device is reusable thereby obviating any environmental burden or cost to venues.

[0013] Further, embodiments of the device additionally provide a beverage dispenser adapted to receive and dispense a beverage poured therein to beverage vessels supported in the beverage vessel holding portion. Advantageously, such embodiments obviate the need for

a bartender to individually dispense the beverage thereby saving on time. Once poured, the user can then conveniently carry the dispensed beverages back to a desired seating or standing area using the beverage vessel holding portion of the device.

[0014] As indicated, the beverage carrying device of the present invention is for carrying at least two beverage vessels, particularly drinkware, such as, e.g., beer glassware, tumblers, stemware, beakers, cups, mugs, shot glasses and the like. In some embodiments, the beverage carrying device may be configured to carry bottle, such as, e.g., wine bottles, beer bottles, soft drink or soda bottles, water bottles and other beverage containing bottles. A person skilled in the art, however, will appreciate that the carrying device may ultimately be used to carry any article or articles, such as, e.g., cutlery sets, or condiments.

[0015] The beverage carrying device may be of any suitable size, shape and construction may be formed from any suitable material or materials, such as, e.g., paper, cardboard, plastic, wood or metal material or materials.

[0016] The beverage carrying device may be of unitary construction or may be formed from two or more device pieces connected together, such as two or more device pieces with mateable formations that couple or mate together to form the beverage carrying device.

[0017] In some embodiments, the device may be 3D printed.

[0018] In other embodiments, the device may be formed from a mould by an injection or blow moulding process, preferably with a thermoplastic material such as, e.g., polyacrylic acids, poly(methyl methacrylate), acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, polyamides, polylactic acid, polybenzimidazole, polycarbonate, polyether sulfone, polyoxymethylene, polyether ether ketone, polyethylene, polyphenylene oxide, polyphenylene sulphide, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene fluoride and/or polytetrafluoroethylene.

[0019] In some embodiments, the device may be formed from biodegradable thermoplastic material or materials.

[0020] As indicated, the device includes an elongate body having an upper end, an opposed lower end and at least one sidewall extending therebetween.

[0021] The body may be of any suitable length extending between the upper and lower ends. For example, the body may have a length of about 150mm, about 160mm, about 170mm, about 180mm, about 190mm, about 200mm, about 210mm, about 220mm, about 230mm, about 240mm, about 250mm, about 260mm, about 270mm, about 280mm, about 290mm, about 300mm, about 310mm, about 320mm, about 330mm, about 340mm, about 350mm, about

360mm, about 370mm, about 380mm, about 390mm, about 400mm, about 410mm, about 420mm, about 430mm, about 440mm, about 450mm, about 460mm, about 470mm, about 480mm, about 490mm, about 500mm or more.

[0022] Likewise, the body may have any suitable cross-sectional shape. For example, in some embodiments, the body may have a circular or oval-shaped cross section. In other embodiments, the body may have a triangle, square, rectangle, pentagon, hexagon, or octagon-shaped cross section.

[0023] In preferred embodiments, the body may have circular profile shape with a single curved sidewall extending between the opposed ends.

[0024] The single curved sidewall may extend in a linear direction between the opposed ends or may include one or more curves or bends, preferably the former.

[0025] In some embodiments, the body may taper towards the upper end, preferably a gentle taper towards the upper end.

[0026] The body may be of a tubular or solid construction, preferably the former so that the body may stackable atop a like body of a further like device. Preferably, the body may be substantially hollow.

[0027] The upper and lower ends may be open or closed. Typically, at least the lower end may be open so that it may be stacked atop a further like device. The upper end may preferably be closed with a vent opening defined thereon for allowing trapped air to escape when the body is being stacked atop the like body of a further like device.

[0028] As indicated, the device includes a handle portion defined at or near the upper end of the body. The handle portion may be of any suitable size, shape and construction to facilitate a user in gripping the device.

[0029] The handle portion may be of unitary or separate construction with the elongate body.

[0030] In some embodiments, the handle portion may include a plurality of ridges defined in an outer surface of the at least one sidewall at or near the upper end and extending at least partially towards the lower end. The plurality of ridges may be arranged in any suitable pattern on the handle portion. Preferably, the plurality of ridges may include annular ridges extending about a periphery of the elongate body.

[0031] In other embodiments, the handle portion may include knurling defined on at least a portion of the outer surface of the at least one sidewall at or near the upper end and extending at least partially towards the lower end. The outer surface may be knurled with any suitable pattern, such as, e.g., annular rings, linear knurl, diamond knurl and/or straight knurl.

[0032] In yet other embodiments, the handle portion may further include a liner or coating at least on a portion of the handle portion to at least partially assist in gripping and holding the device. The liner or coating may be of any suitable size, shape and construction and may be formed from any suitable material or materials.

[0033] Typically, the liner or coating may be formed from a resiliently deformable material or materials, such as, e.g., rubber or soft plastic material or materials.

[0034] In other embodiments, the handle portion may further include a pad extending at least partially about the handle portion to at least partially assist in gripping and holding the device. The pad may be of any suitable size, shape and construction and may be formed from any suitable material or materials.

[0035] Again, the pad may be formed from a resiliently deformable material or materials, such as, e.g., rubber or soft plastic material or materials.

[0036] In yet other embodiments, the handle portion may include a loop or opening defined in the handle portion and sized and shaped to receive one or more fingers therethrough to assist in gripping and holding the device.

[0037] Advantageously, the arrangement of the handle portion relative to the beverage holding portion work together to minimise spillage by ensuring the surface of any beverage held in a beverage vessel remains substantially planar as the device is moved.

[0038] As indicated, the device includes a beverage vessel holding portion defined at or near the lower end of the body. The beverage vessel holding portion may be of any suitable size, shape and construction and formed from any suitable material or materials for holding at least two beverage vessels.

[0039] Like the handle portion, the beverage holding portion may be of unitary or separate construction with the elongate body.

[0040] For example, in some embodiments, the beverage holding portion may be of separate construction and may be detachably connected to the elongate body. In such embodiments, the beverage holding portion may advantageously be readily substituted with

differing sized beverage holding portions to provide a universal beverage holding device.

[0041] In preferred embodiments, however, the beverage holding portion may be of unitary construction with the elongate body.

[0042] As indicated, the beverage holding portion may include a flange portion extending outwardly from and at least partially about a periphery of the lower end of the body, preferably entirely about the periphery of the lower end.

[0043] The flange portion may extend outwards to an outer rim. The flange portion may include a pair of opposed surfaces. The opposed surfaces may include an upper surface and an opposed lower surface.

[0044] In some embodiments, the opposed surfaces may extend substantially parallel to one another from an inner edge adjoined to the periphery of the lower end of the body to the outer rim.

[0045] In other embodiments, the opposed surfaces may taper or converge towards one another at or near the outer rim.

[0046] In some embodiments, the flange portion may extend outwards in a substantially perpendicular orientation to a longitudinal axis of the elongate body, preferably to provide a substantially planar base together with the lower end of the body for supporting the device atop a support surface.

[0047] In other embodiments, the flange portion may extend outwards and downwards relative to the lower end of the body. In such embodiments, the flange portion may define a skirt, preferably such that the outer rim may function as a base to support the device atop a support surface.

[0048] The flange portion may be of any suitable length as defined between the periphery of the lower end of the body and the outer rim. For example, the flange portion may have a length of about 50mm, about 60mm, about 70mm, about 80m, about 90mm, about 100mm, about 110mm, about 120mm, about 130mm, about 140mm, about 150mm, about 160mm, about 170mm, about 180mm, about 190mm, about 200mm, about 210mm, about 220mm, about 230mm, about 240mm, about 250mm, about 260mm, about 270mm, about 280mm, about 290mm, about 300mm or more.

[0049] As indicated, the beverage holding portion may include at least two shaped apertures defined in a spaced arrangement extending about the flange portion, each said

shaped aperture adapted to hold a beverage vessel therein. The shaped apertures may preferably be equally spaced about the flange portion.

[0050] Each shaped aperture may be of any suitable size and shape for holding a desired beverage vessel.

[0051] Generally, each shaped aperture may have a round shape for snugly fitting around an outer surface of a beverage vessel, such as, e.g., a curved outer surface of beer glassware or stemware.

[0052] In some embodiments, each shaped aperture may be a closed aperture completely defined and extending through both opposed surfaces of the flange portion.

[0053] In other embodiments, each shaped aperture may be an open aperture at least partially defined in an outer rim portion of the flange portion and extending through both opposed surfaces.

[0054] The flange portion of the beverage holding portion may include any suitable number of shaped apertures for supporting a corresponding number of beverage vessels. For example, the flange portion may include three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11 or ever 12 or more shaped apertures for each receiving a beverage vessel.

[0055] Apart from holding two or more beverage vessels, the flange portion of the beverage holding portion may additionally function as stand for supporting the device relative to a support surface. Typically, the lower surface and/or the outer rim of the flange portion may support the device relative to the support surface.

[0056] In some embodiments, the handle portion of the device may further include a beverage dispenser adapted to receive and dispense a beverage poured therein to beverage vessels supported in the beverage vessel holding portion.

[0057] According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a beverage dispenser for use with the beverage carrying device of the first or second aspects, said dispenser including:

a receiving vessel having at least one inner port defined in a bottom wall and at least two outer dispensing ports in fluid communication with the at least one inner port to equally dispense a beverage poured into the receiving vessel to at least two beverage vessels.

[0058] The beverage dispenser may include one or more features or characteristics of the device as hereinbefore described.

[0059] The beverage dispenser may be of any suitable size, shape and construction. The beverage dispenser may be of unitary or separate construction with the handle portion and/or the elongate body, preferably the former.

[0060] Suitably, the beverage dispenser may include receiving vessel for receiving the beverage to be dispensed. The receiving vessel may typically include a bottom wall, a rim and at least one sidewall extending from the bottom wall to the rim, preferably continuously or seamlessly. The at least one sidewall may include an inner surface and an opposed outer surface.

[0061] The receiving vessel may contain any suitable volume of beverage to be dispensed. For example, in some embodiments the receiving vessel may be configured to hold a volume of beverage equating to a precise number of beverages to be dispensed into beverage vessels held by the beverage vessel holding portion.

[0062] For example, a device having six shaped apertures for holding six shot glasses each for holding 30ml of beverage may have a receiving vessel adapted to hold a volume of 180ml.

[0063] In some embodiments, the receiving vessel may include one or more graduations provided on an inner surface of the sidewall for measuring a volume of beverage poured into the receiving vessel. The graduations may be provided in any suitable size, form and location on the receiving vessel.

[0064] The graduations may be applied by etching, scribing, engraving, painting, printing or other means, for example. Preferably, the graduations may be painted or printed on the receiving vessel.

[0065] The graduations may typically extend at least partially about the inner surface of the sidewall of the receiving vessel.

[0066] In preferred embodiments, the graduations may be of a size and shape that can be readily read by a user.

[0067] The receiving vessel may have at least one inner port and at least two outer dispensing ports in fluid communication one another to equally dispense the beverage poured into the receiving vessel to beverage vessels held in the beverage holding portion.

[0068] The inner port and the at least two outer dispensing ports may be of any suitable size, shape and construction. Likewise, the ports may be in any suitable location on the receiving vessel.

[0069] Generally, the inner port and the outer dispensing ports may be connected by two or more passageways or conduits that enable a beverage to drain from the receiving vessel via the inner port and be equally dispensed into corresponding beverage vessels via the two or more outer dispensing ports. Preferably, the outer dispensing ports may be located down gradient from the inner port such that any beverage poured in the receiving vessel may flow along the gradient from the inner port to the outer dispensing ports.

[0070] Typically, the inner port may preferably be centrally located in the bottom wall of the receiving vessel and the outer dispensing ports may be arranged down gradient about the outer surface of the receiving vessel, preferably immediately above the shaped apertures defined in the flange portion of the beverage vessel holding portion such that any beverage dispensed is received in beverage vessels received in the shaped apertures.

[0071] In some embodiments, the outer dispensing ports may protrude outwardly from the outer surface of the receiving vessel to direct a flow of beverage into an open mouth of a beverage vessel position beneath.

[0072] The beverage dispenser may include at least one inner port and any suitable number of outer dispensing ports in fluid communication with the at least one inner port. For example, the beverage dispenser may include two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11 or 12 or more outer dispensing ports arranged around an outer surface of the receiving vessel, preferably evenly spaced. Typically, the number of outer dispensing ports may equal the number of beverage vessels the beverage vessel holding portion is adapted to carry.

[0073] In some embodiments, one or more corrugations or fluting members/formations may be provided along an inner surface of the sidewall of the receiving vessel. The corrugations or fluting members/formations may at least partially extend between the rim and the inner port defined in the bottom wall to direct or funnel beverage to drain from the receiving vessel via the inner port. The corrugations or fluting members may be shaped, located and sized in any suitable way. Preferably, the corrugations or fluting members may be in the form of ridges extending linearly between the rm and the inner port. A person skilled in the art will appreciate, however, that many factors can be customized to provide desired beverage flow properties. These include, by way of example and not by way of limitation, the thickness of the ridges, the sharpness of the angle of the ridges with respect to adjacent sidewall areas, the angularity of the ridges or smoothness in cross-section, the frequency and regularity of the pattern of the ridges, the spacing between the ridges and other factors.

[0074] Advantageously, the one or more corrugations or fluting members/formations may assist in the drainage of move viscous beverages via the inner port.

[0075] In some embodiments, at least one of the inner port and the outer dispensing ports may include a filter for filtering beverage flowing therethrough. The filter may be of any suitable size, shape and construction and may be associated with the inner port and/or the outer dispensing ports in any suitable way. Typically, the filter may include a sieve or screen for filtering impurities such as, e.g., fruit pulp and/or seeds.

[0076] In some embodiments, at least one of the inner port and the outer dispensing ports may include a valve for allowing a flow of beverage flowing therethrough to be selectively controlled. The valve may be of any suitable size, shape and construction and may be associated with the inner port and/or the outer dispensing ports in any suitable way.

[0077] In some such embodiments, the valve may include a stop cock valve.

[0078] In other such embodiments, the valve may include a valve seat and a sealing member moveable relative to the valve seat between a sealing position in which the sealing member is locatable in the valve seat to seal or block a flow of beverage through the valve and a flow position in which sealing member is out of engagement with the valve seat to allow a flow of beverage through the valve.

[0079] In some such embodiments, each outer dispensing port may be operatively associated with a valve to enable a user to selectively control which outer dispensing ports are used to dispense beverage.

[0080] In other such embodiments, the inner port may be operatively associated with a valve to enable a user to control a volume and timing of when a beverage is dispensed.

[0081] According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of carrying at least two beverages with the beverage device of the first or second aspects, said method including:

inserting each beverage vessel in a shaped aperture of the beverage vessel holding portion; and

lifting the beverage device via the handle portion such that each said beverage vessel is suspended in its respective said shaped aperture.

[0082] The method may include one or more features or characteristics of the device as hereinbefore described.

[0083] The method may include an initial step of resting the device atop a support surface and aligning each beverage vessel relative to a shaped aperture of the beverage holding portion.

[0084] The lifting of the beverage device may cause each beverage vessel aligned relative to a shaped aperture to be at least partially received through the shaped aperture and be snugly held.

[0085] According to a sixth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of stacking beverage carrying devices according to the first or second aspects of the present invention, said method including:

stacking a first beverage carrying device atop at least one further like device.

[0086] According to a seventh aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of separating stacked beverage carrying devices, said method including:

providing a stacked beverage carrying device arrangement as defined in the third aspect of the present invention;

separating a first device from the at least one further like device, wherein said separating includes lifting the first device relative to, and off the at least one further like device.

[0087] The methods of the sixth and seventh aspects may include one or more features or characteristics of the device or stacked arrangement as hereinbefore described.

[0088] The stacking of the method of the sixth aspect may include aligning and placing the first beverage carrying device atop the at least one further like device such that the further like device is at least partially received in the first beverage carrying device, typically via an open lower end.

[0089] The separating of the method of the seventh aspect may include gripping a first device and lifting the first device off the at least one further like device to separate them.

[0090] Any of the features described herein can be combined in any combination with any one or more of the other features described herein within the scope of the invention.

[0091] The reference to any prior art in this specification is not and should not be taken as an acknowledgement or any form of suggestion that the prior art forms part of the common general knowledge.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0092] Preferred features, embodiments and variations of the invention may be discerned from the following Detailed Description which provides sufficient information for those skilled in the art to perform the invention. The Detailed Description is not to be regarded as limiting the scope of the preceding Summary of Invention in any way. The Detailed Description will make

reference to a number of drawings as follows:

[0093] Figure 1 is a photograph showing an upper perspective view of a beverage carrying device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0094] Figure 2 is a photograph showing a top view of the beverage carrying device as shown in Figure 1;

[0095] Figure 3 is a photograph showing a bottom view of the beverage carrying as shown in Figures 1 and 2;

[0096] Figure 4 is a photograph showing an upper perspective view of a beverage carrying device according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0097] Figure 5 is a photograph showing a top view of the beverage carrying device as shown in Figure 4; and

[0098] Figure 6 is a photograph showing a bottom view of the beverage carrying device as shown in Figures 4 and 5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0099] Figures 1 to 3 show a beverage carrying device (100) according to a first embodiment of the present invention. Figures 4 to 6 show a beverage carrying device (100) according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

[00100] Referring to Figure 1, the beverage carrying device (100) is configured to hold and carry four beverage vessels, such as, e.g., beer glassware. The device (100) includes an elongate body (110) having an upper end (112), an opposed lower end (114) and a curved sidewall (116) extending therebetween.

[00101] A handle portion (120) is defined at or near the upper end (112) of the body (110) and a beverage holding portion (130) is defined at or near the lower end (114) of the body (110).

[00102] The beverage holding portion (130) includes a flange portion (132) extending outwardly from and about a periphery of the lower end (114) of the body (110). The flange portion (132) has four shaped apertures (140) defined therein and equally spaced about the flange portion (132). Each shaped aperture (140) is adapted to receive and hold a beverage vessel.

[00103] The beverage carrying device (100) is of a unitary construction formed from a mould

with a thermoplastic material.

[00104] The body (110) has a substantially circular cross-sectional shape that gently tapers towards the upper end (112).

[00105] The body (110) is of a tubular construction so that the body (110) is stackable atop a like body of a further like device.

[00106] Referring briefly to Figure 2, the body (110) includes a closed upped end (112) with a vent hole (210) so as to allow trapped air to escape when the device (100) is stacked atop like devices.

[00107] Referring briefly to Figure 3, the body (110) includes an open lower end (114) so that the device (100) can be stacked atop further like devices.

[00108] Referring back to Figure 1, the handle portion (120) includes a plurality of annular ridges (122) extending about a periphery of the body (110) at or near the upper end (112) and extending at least partially towards the lower end (114).

[00109] The handle portion (120) facilitates a user in gripping and holding the device (100).

[00110] As indicated, the device (100) includes a beverage vessel holding portion (130) defined at the lower end (114) of the body (110).

[00111] The beverage vessel holding portion (130) is configured to hold and carry four beverage vessels.

[00112] The flange portion (132) of the beverage vessel holding portion (130) extends outwardly from a periphery of the lower end (114) of the elongate body (110) to an outer rim (134).

[00113] The flange portion (132) includes a pair of opposed surfaces, including an upper surface (136) and an opposed lower surface (138). The opposed surfaces (136, 138) taper or converge in thickness towards one another as the flange portion (132) extends towards the outer rim (134).

[00114] Further, the flange portion (132) extend outwards in a substantially perpendicular orientation to a longitudinal axis of the elongate body (110) and provides a substantially planar base together with the lower end (114) of the body (110) for supporting the device (100) atop a support surface.

[00115] As indicated, the beverage holding portion (130) has four shaped apertures (140) defined therein and equally spaced about the flange portion (132), each adapted to hold and receive a beverage vessel therein.

[00116] Each shaped aperture (140) has a round shape for snugly fitting around an outer surface of a beverage vessel, such as, e.g., a curved outer surface of beer glassware or stemware.

[00117] As shown, each shaped aperture (140) is an open aperture at least partially defined in an outer rim portion of the flange portion (132) and extending through both opposed surfaces (136, 138).

[00118] Figures 4 to 6 show a second embodiment of the beverage carrying device (100). For convenience, features that are similar or correspond to features of the first embodiment will be referenced with the same reference numeral.

[00119] Referring to Figure 4, the beverage carrying device (100) is configured to hold and carry six beverage vessels, such as, e.g., shot glasses. The device (100) includes an elongate body (110) having an upper end (112), an opposed lower end (114) and a curved sidewall (116) extending therebetween.

[00120] A handle portion (120) is again defined at or near the upper end (112) of the body (110) and a beverage holding portion (130) is defined at or near the lower end (114) of the body (110).

[00121] The beverage holding portion (130) includes a flange portion (132) extending outwardly from and about a periphery of the lower end (114) of the body (110). The flange portion (132) has six shaped apertures (140) defined therein and equally spaced about the flange portion (132). Each shaped aperture (140) is adapted to receive and hold a beverage vessel.

[00122] However, and in contrast to the first embodiment, the device (100) of this embodiment further includes a beverage dispenser (410) adapted to receive and dispense a beverage poured therein to beverage vessels supported in the beverage vessel holding portion (130).

[00123] The handle portion (120) defines the beverage dispenser (410) at the upper end (112) of the body (110).

[00124] The beverage dispenser (410) includes receiving vessel (420) for receiving the beverage to be dispensed. The receiving vessel (420) includes a bottom wall (422; not visible),

a rim (424) and a curved sidewall (426) extending continuously or seamlessly from the bottom wall (422) to the rim (424). The curved sidewall (426) includes an inner surface (427; not visible) and an opposed outer surface (428).

[00125] Referring briefly to Figures 5 and 6, the beverage dispenser (410) further includes an inner port (430; visible only in Figure 5) centrally located in the bottom wall (422; visible only in Figure 5) of the receiving vessel (420), as shown in Figure 5, and six outer dispensing ports (440; visible only in Figure 6) in fluid communication with the inner port (430; visible only in Figure 5), as shown in Figure 6, to equally dispense a beverage poured into the receiving vessel (420) to beverage vessels held in the beverage holding portion (130; visible only in Figure 6).

[00126] The inner port (430; visible only in Figure 5) and the outer dispensing ports (440); visible only in Figure 6) are connected by passageways or conduits that enable a beverage to drain from the receiving vessel (420) via the inner port (430; visible only in Figure 5) and be equally dispensed into corresponding beverage vessels via the outer dispensing ports (440; visible only in Figure 6).

[00127] The outer dispensing ports (440; visible only in Figure 6) are located down gradient from the inner port (430; visible only in Figure 5) such that any beverage poured in the receiving vessel (420) flows along the gradient from the inner port (430; visible only in Figure 5) to the outer dispensing ports (440; visible only in Figure 6).

[00128] Referring to Figure 5, corrugations (510) are provided along an inner surface (427) of the sidewall (426) of the receiving vessel (420). The corrugations (510) extend linearly between the rim (424) and the inner port (430) defined in the bottom wall (422) to direct or funnel beverage to drain from the receiving vessel (420) via the inner port (430).

[00129] Referring to Figure 6, the outer dispensing ports (440) protrude outwardly from the outer surface (428) of the receiving vessel (420) to direct a flow of beverage into an open mouth of a beverage vessel position beneath.

[00130] In the present specification and claims (if any), the word *'comprising'* and its derivatives including *'comprises'* and *'comprise'* include each of the stated integers but does not exclude the inclusion of one or more further integers.

[00131] Reference throughout this specification to *'one embodiment'* or *'an embodiment'* means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the present invention. Thus, the appearance of the phrases *'in one embodiment'* or *'in an embodiment'* in various places

throughout this specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment. Furthermore, the particular features, structures, or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more combinations.

[00132] In compliance with the statute, the invention has been described in language more or less specific to structural or methodical features. It is to be understood that the invention is not limited to specific features shown or described since the means herein described comprises preferred forms of putting the invention into effect. The invention is, therefore, claimed in any of its forms or modifications within the proper scope of the appended claims (if any) appropriately interpreted by those skilled in the art.

CLAIMS

1. A beverage carrying device for carrying at least two beverage vessels, said device including:

an elongate body having an upper end, an opposed lower end and at least one sidewall extending therebetween;

a handle portion defined at or near the upper end of the body; and

a beverage vessel holding portion defined at or near the lower end of the body, said holding potion including a flange portion extending outwardly from and at least partially about a periphery of the lower end of the body and having at least two shaped apertures defined therein in a spaced arrangement extending about the flange portion, each said shaped aperture adapted to hold a beverage vessel received therein.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said device is stackable with a further like device.

3. The device of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the device is of unitary construction.

4. The device of claim 1 or claim 3, wherein the handle portion further includes a beverage dispenser adapted to receive and dispense a beverage poured therein to beverage vessels supported in the beverage vessel holding portion.

5. A beverage dispenser for use with the beverage carrying device of any one of claims 1 to 4, said dispenser including:

a receiving vessel having at least one inner port defined in a bottom wall and at least two outer dispensing ports in fluid communication with the at least one inner port to equally dispense a beverage poured into the receiving vessel to at least two beverage vessels.

Date: 22 April 2021

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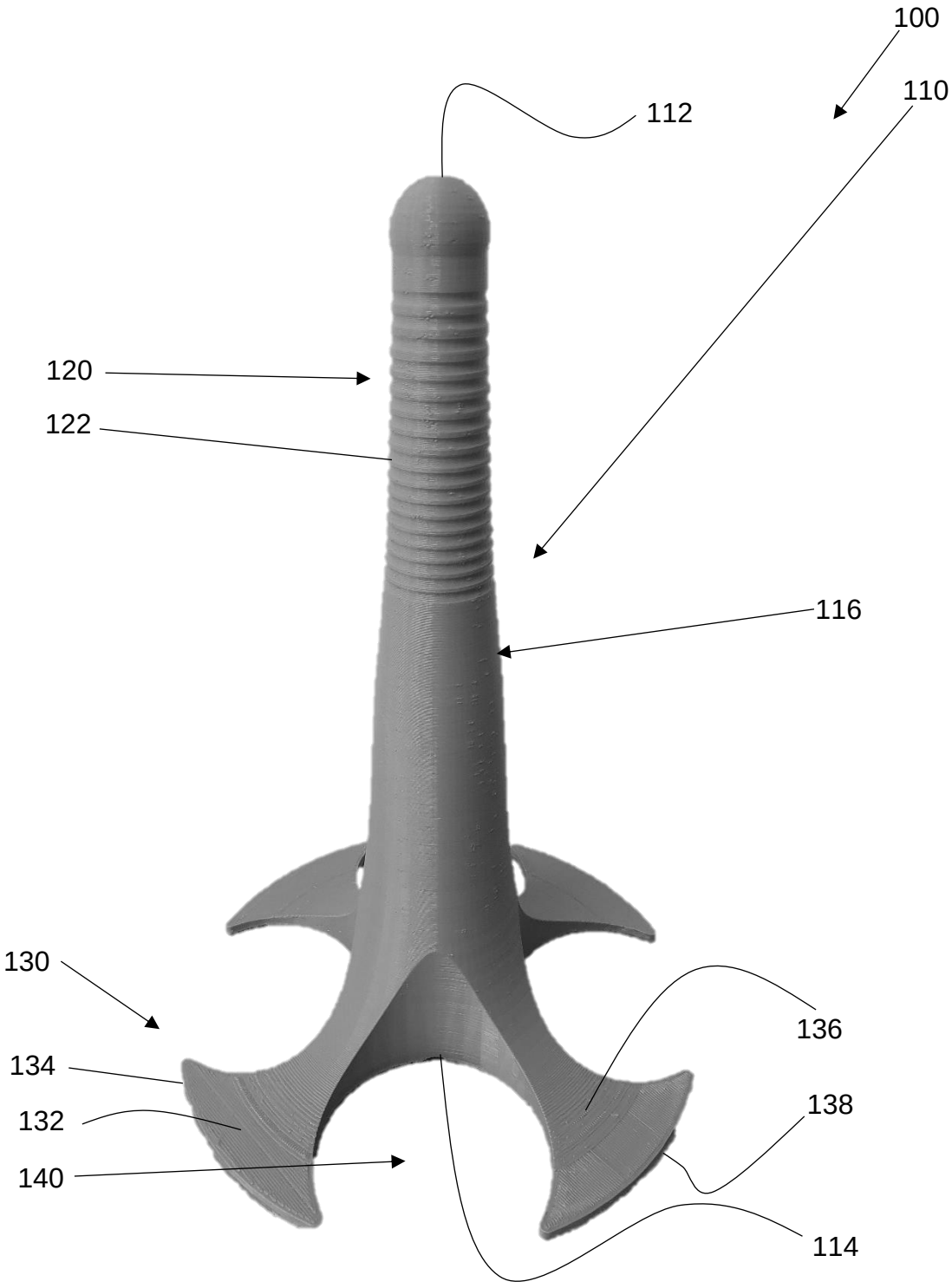

Figure 1

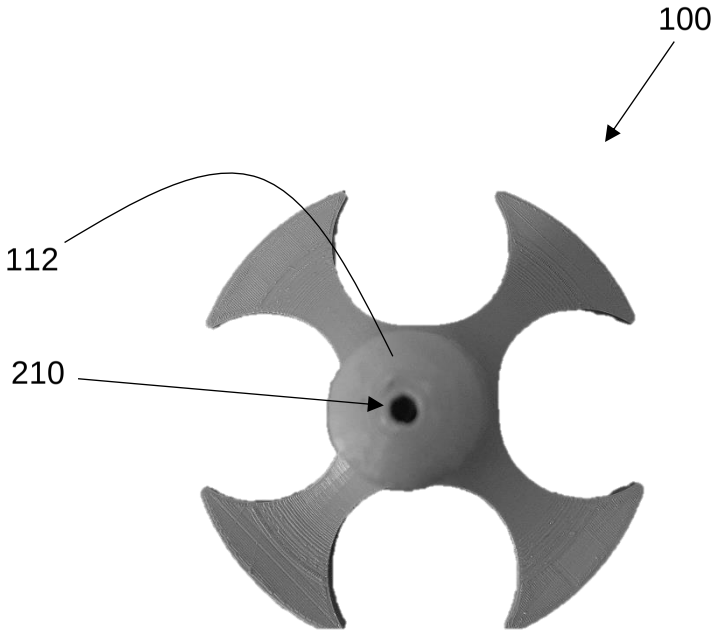

Figure 2

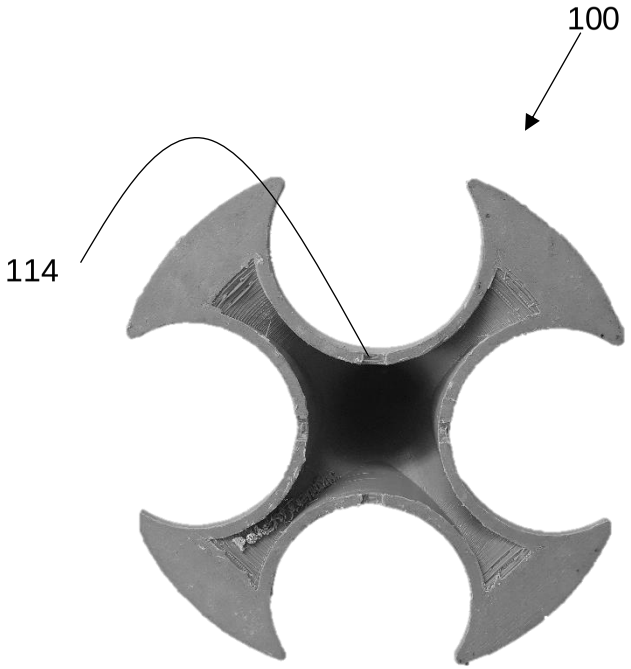

Figure 3

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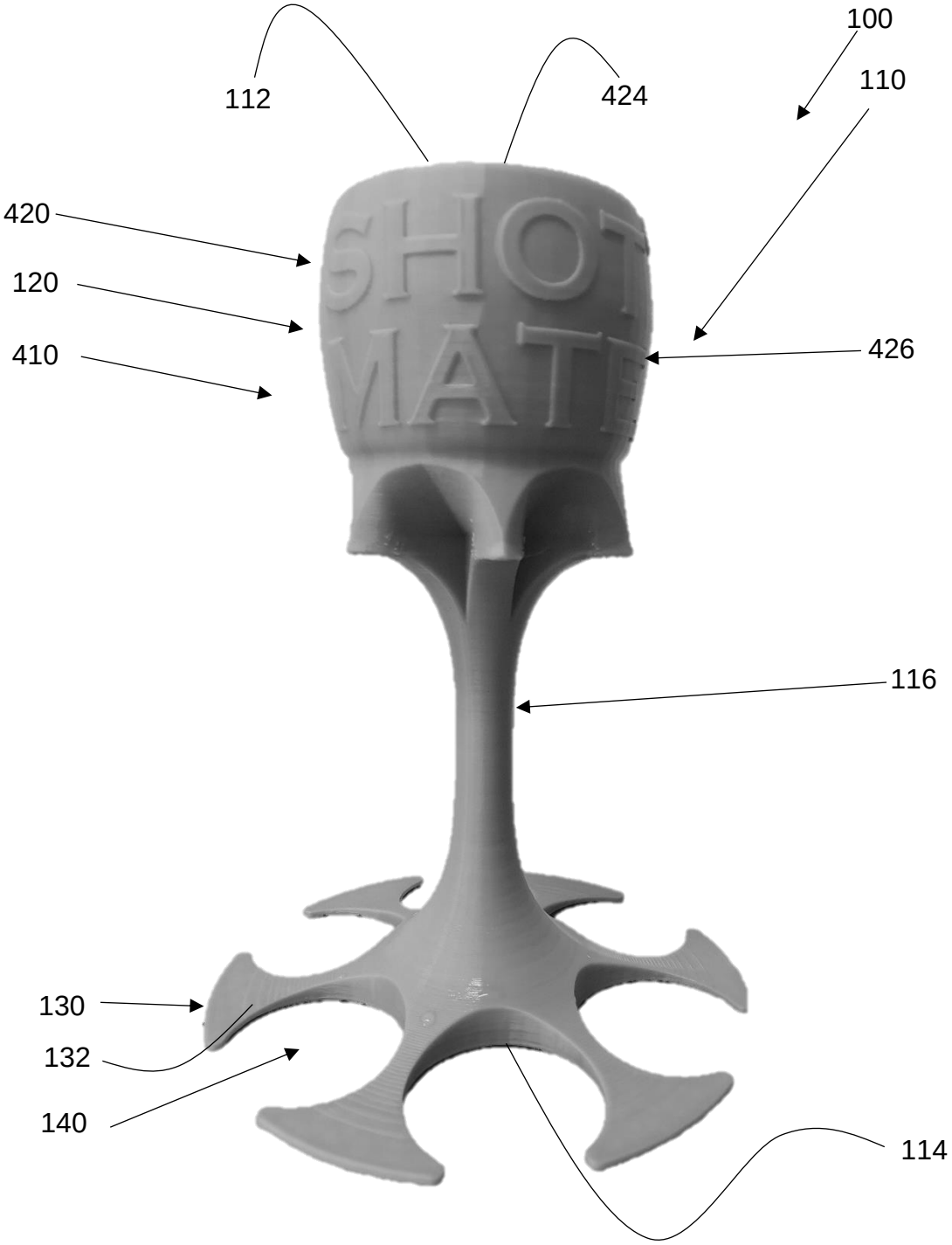

Figure 4

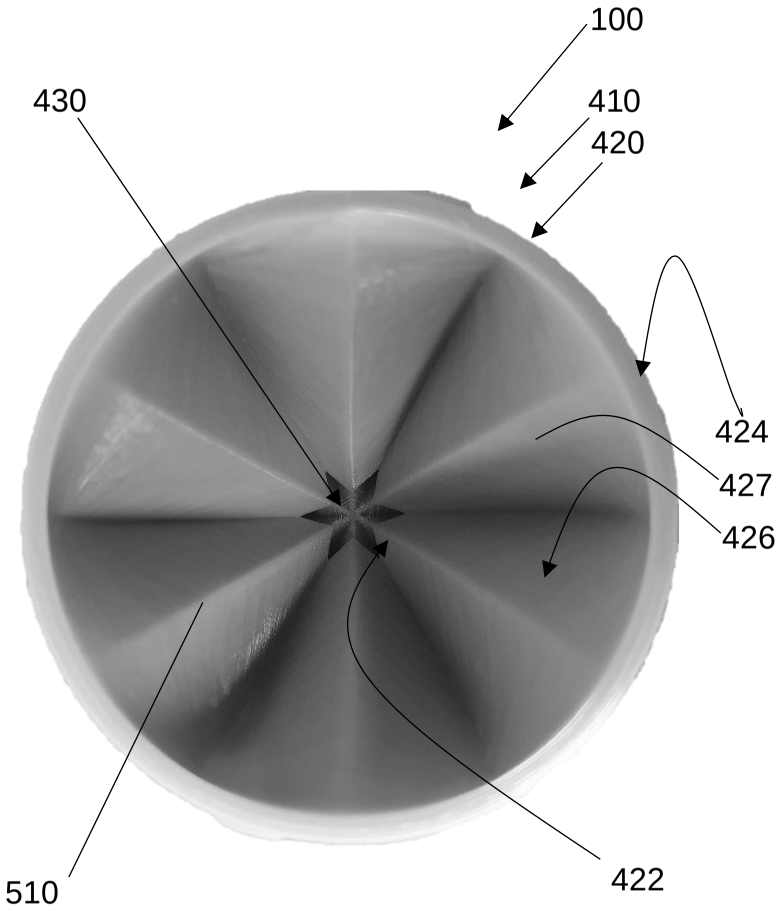

Figure 5

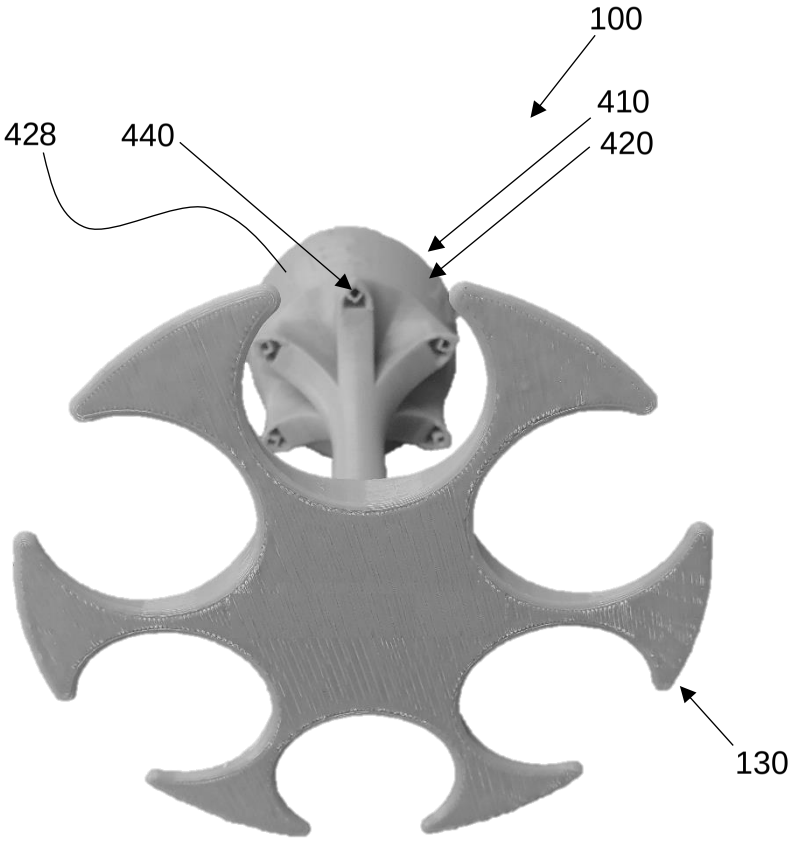

Figure 6