

rest position within well 26. Vent opening 38 is provided with a conventional cap 39, the top of which is substantially level with top wall member 14. When it is desired to remove the contents of container 10, flow of liquid through opening 20 is facilitated by removal of cap 39 from vent opening 38.

Handle 34 is pivotable through substantially a 180° angle between a rest position in which it is disposed within well 26 (see FIGURES 1, 3, and 4) and a carrying position wherein it extends perpendicularly away from the side wall structure 12 of container 10 (see FIGURES 5 and 6). Handle 34 has an open center portion 36 through which a human hand, a mechanical hook, or the like may be passed in order to grasp the handle 34.

A corresponding well 40 is formed in bottom member 16 in a position substantially aligned with well 26 in top 14 (see FIGURE 1). A stud 42 is molded in well 40 and a handle 44, provided with a yoke portion 46 designed to fit about stud 42, is pivotally mounted in well 40 by means of a pivot pin 48, which passes through yoke 46 and stud 42. Handle 44 is pivotable through a substantially 180° angle from a rest position (see FIGURE 2), wherein it is disposed within well 40, to a carrying position, wherein it extends away from bottom member 16 in a direction substantially perpendicular to side wall structure 12 (see FIGURE 6). The design and attachment of handle 44 to bottom member 16 is in all respects comparable to the arrangement of handle 34 and top member 14. When handle 44 is disposed within well 40, the bottom surface of handle 44 lies substantially in line with the remainder of bottom member 16, whereby the stackability of the container 10 is facilitated.

In use, containers 10 may be stacked in vertical columns merely by placing them one above the other, the bottom 16 of each upper container resting directly upon the top 14 of each lower container. Since, with the handles 34 and 44 of each container disposed in their respective wells 26, 40, flat surfaces are presented by both top member 14 and member 16, a useful, readily stackable container is obtained.

When it is desired to move the container, it is merely necessary to pivot each of the handles 34, 44 through substantially a 180° angle from its respective rest position (see FIGURES 1 and 2) to its respective carrying position (see FIGURE 6). With handles 34, 44 disposed in the FIGURE 6 carrying position, one man can carry the container conveniently, or a different man (i.e., one at each end of the container) can grasp each handle so that a particularly heavy container can be transported. As a further alternative, a conventional hook and cradle arrangement can be used, a hook passing through each of the handles 34, 44, so as to permit mechanical hoisting and transporting equipment to be used with the container.

While the container of the present invention has been described with reference to a side wall structure 12 of generally circular cross section, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that side wall structures having other cross sectional configurations can be satisfactorily employed. Thus, a container having a triangular or a rectangular, especially a square cross sectional configuration, could also be employed. So long as a generally flat top and bottom is provided in combination with such a side wall structure and so long as the novel handle arrangement is provided on the top member and bottom member thereof such a container would conform to the teachings hereof.

While the present invention has been described with

reference to certain preferred embodiments, it should be understood that various changes, variations, and modifications in the structure and function thereof may be effected without departing from the spirit and the scope of the present invention, as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A stackable molded plastic shipping and storage container comprising:

a side wall structure;

a top wall member and a bottom wall member formed integrally therewith so as to form a unitary container body;

a first recessed well formed in the top wall member;

a second recessed well formed in the bottom wall member in alignment with the first recessed well;

first handle means movably mounted in the first recessed well and movable between a rest position and a carrying position; and,

second handle means movably mounted in the second recessed well and movable between a rest position and a carrying position,

the first handle means and second handle means being generally aligned when disposed in their respective carrying positions,

whereby the container may be grasped by the first and second handle means when the first and second handle means are moved into their respective carrying positions,

the first handle means and second handle means being respectively disposed in the first and second recessed wells when they are disposed in their respective rest positions,

whereby generally flat stacking surfaces are presented by each of the top and bottom wall members.

2. A container, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the side wall structure is of a generally circular cross section and wherein, when disposed in their respective carrying positions, the first handle means and second handle means project outwardly substantially in the planes of the top wall member and bottom wall member respectively and substantially perpendicularly to the side wall structure.

3. A container, as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first handle means and second handle means are pivotally mounted adjacent the periphery of the top and bottom wall members respectively and are pivotable through angles of substantially 180° from their respective rest to carrying positions.

4. A container, as claimed in claim 3, wherein a recessed opening is provided in the top wall member and wherein closure means are provided for the opening, the top of the closure means lying generally in the plane of the top wall member.

5. A container, as claimed in claim 4, wherein the container is molded from linear, high density polyethylene.

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