

To facilitate the manipulation of the lid 16 onto and off of the closure 2, the lid 16 is provided with corrugated surfaces as at 26 and 27 to thereby provide gripping surfaces.

A drain hole 28, FIG. 5, is provided at the base of the outer annular wall 5 and communicates with the atmosphere through a space 29 provided between the lower edge of the outermost skirt portion of the lid 16 and the top surface of the closure 2. If rain water or the like accumulates in the space 20 between the channels 17 and 18 around the locking member 19, it drains out through locking member aperture 22; and the aperture adjacent thumb engaging portion 25, into the space between spaced annular walls 4 and 5, through drain holes 28 in outer annular wall 5 and through the space 29 beneath the lower edge of the skirt portion of lid 16. This prevents any liquid from getting to the contents of the container when it is used.

As will be seen in FIGS. 1, 2, 7 and 8, the side walls of the containers are tapered to facilitate nesting empty containers for shipment, or the like. Two opposite side walls of containers 1 are provided with integral handles 30 aligned with a longitudinally extending recess 31. When stacked, the bottom edge of the handle 30 of the top container contacts the upper edge 9 of the next adjacent lower container. By providing the recesses 31 in the container side walls, the contact surface area is reduced between nesting containers, as shown in FIG. 7, and an air passage is provided to thereby facilitate removing the containers from the nested position.

To complete the structural description of the container and lid assembly of the present invention, as will be seen in FIGS. 3 and 6, snort diagonal side webs 32 provided along the peripheral edge portion of the container 1 and integral with the bottom 33 of the container for centering the container on top of the lid 16 of the next adjacent lower container when stacking. When assembled containers are stacked on top of one another, the bottom edge 34 of the top container 1 rests on the flat reinforced ribs 35 of the top of closure 2 of the bottom container, as shown in FIG. 3.

From the above description it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, that the construction and arrangement of the container 1 and lid assembly 16 of the present invention provide a container configured to maximize use of pallet space, and having a lid assembly positioned inwardly of the side walls of the container so that when placing a plurality of containers in side-by-side relationship, or when stacking the containers, the lid assembly 16 on each container is spaced inwardly from the side wall of the adjacent container, to thereby prevent damage to the lid assembly by the adjacent container during shipment and storage. A relatively large central circular opening for the container can be provided with this construction, which is protected by a child resistant lid assembly. Furthermore, the taper of the side walls of the containers facilitate nesting empty containers, and the longitudinal recesses 31 formed in the walls of each container 1 beneath integral handles facilitate sliding the empty inner container outwardly from the empty outer container because the contact wall surface area between adjacent containers is reduced, thereby reducing the functional resistance to sliding movement between the containers. When full or when the closure 2 and lid assembly 16 are placed on the containers 1, the container can be stacked and the diagonal webs 32 center the container on top to straddle the lid on the next adjacent lower container, and the

bottom edge 34 of the container on top rests on a reinforced area 35 on the closure 2 of the next adjacent lower container.

The terms and expression which have been employed herein are used as terms of description and not of limitation, and there is no intention, in the use of such terms and expressions, of excluding any equivalents of the features shown and described or portions thereof, but it is recognized that various modifications are possible within the scope of the invention claimed.

I claim:

1. A space saving rectangular container having a child resistant lid assembly comprising, a rectangular container having a rectangular open end, a rectangular closure removably connected to the open end of said container, a central opening provided in said closure, a lid removably mounted on said closure for closing said opening, said closure provided with a pair of radially spaced annular walls surrounding said opening, threads provided on at least the outer annular wall of said pair of annular walls cooperating with threads provided on said lid, whereby the lid is threadably connected to said closure, and a resiliently biased locking member movably connected on said lid and engageable with a portion of the closure to secure the lid to the opening in the closure, whereby, when a plurality of the containers are selectively stacked or placed in side-by-side relationship, the lid and associate locking member on each container are positioned inwardly from the side wall of an adjacent container, thereby preventing damage to the lid and associated locking member by the adjacent container during shipment and storage.

2. A container and lid assembly according to claim 1, wherein the upper edge portion of the container is provided with a downwardly directed groove, the closure having a skirt portion, a plurality of peripherally spaced resilient fingers provided in said skirt portion engageable with said downwardly directed groove, whereby the closure is releasably snapped onto the container.

3. A container and lid assembly according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of teeth are provided on the inner surface of the outer annular wall of said pair of spaced annular walls, said resiliently biased locking member engaging said teeth to secure the lid to the closure.

4. A container and lid assembly according to claim 3, wherein the locking member comprises a lever arm pivotally connected to the lid, a spring member biasing a free end of said lever arm into engagement with said teeth, a thumb engaging portion on the opposite end of said lever arm for moving said free end of the lever arm in a direction away from engagement with the teeth, whereby the lid can be manually unscrewed from the closure.

5. A container and lid assembly according to claim 1, wherein the side walls of the container are tapered to facilitate nesting empty containers, a longitudinally extending recess provided in at least one side wall of the containers, whereby the contact surface area between the side wall of nested containers is reduced, to thereby facilitate the sliding movement of the inner container relative to the outer containers when removing the inner container from the nested position.

6. A container and lid assembly according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of diagonal side webs are provided on the bottom of each container for centering the container on top of the lid on the next adjacent lower container when stacked.