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water passageway 22 has a larger diameter than the additive passageway 24. In the embodiment of FIG. 3, however, the relative sizes of the diameters of the water passageway 22 and additive passageway 24 are not critical because flow regulator 38, 40 controls the flow rate in passageways 22, 24 respectively and thereby create the desired proportions of water 30 and additive 32. The first tube 14 connects the first container 12 to the water passageway 22 of the manifold and the second tube 18 connects the second container 16 to the additive passageway 24. The combination of the first tube 14 and water passageway 22 define a water channel and the combination of the second tube 18 and the additive passageway 24 define an additive channel. An outlet tube 42 has one end connected to the mixing passageway 46 of the manifold. The other end of outlet tube 42 may optionally be connected to a bite valve 44.

A check valve 26 is disposed in the water channel, preferably adjacent the manifold 20. Check valve 26 prevents reflux of water and/or water and additive mixture into the first tube 14 and the water 30 in container 12. Similarly, a check valve 28 is disposed in the additive channel, preferably adjacent the manifold 20, to prevent reflux into the additive container 16.

An adjustable flow regulator 38, 40 controls flow in the water passageway 22 and the additive passageway 24. In the embodiment of FIG. 3, adjustable flow regulator 38, 40 comprises a pair of independently operated threaded valves that can be rotated to fully open (full flow) or completely block (no flow) the water and additive passageways 22, 24. In addition, the adjustable flow regulator 38, 40 is infinitely adjustable between full flow and no flow. Another embodiment of a flow regulator (not shown) comprises a single spool valve or similar type valve to control flow through the two passageways 22, 24. In this embodiment, pushing in the valve would open the water passageway only, a further push would open both the water and additive passageways.

Additive 32 in container 16 may be a liquid, solid or gel. An exemplary, but not exhaustive, list of additives includes a beverage, a beverage concentrate, electrolytes, flavorings, carbohydrates, vitamins, aspirates, medications and dietary supplements. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, the additive container 16 is attached to the first tube 14 by a hook connector 48 extending from the base of container 16. Additive container 16 may be located further from manifold 20 by extending the tube 18.

It is contemplated that additive container 16 will not be reused. That is, a plurality of additive containers 16 containing different additives are available and can be connected to and disconnected from the apparatus 10, depending on the additive that is needed. When the additive 32 is depleted, or it is desired to use another additive, the additive container 16 is detached and another additive container is attached. In one embodiment, the tube 18 is removably connected to the additive container 16. Such removable connections are known in the art and include, for example, barb connections, screw on connections (e.g., Luer lock, threaded) or connectors that use push-on type connections. In another embodiment, the tube 18 is permanently connected to additive container 16 and removably connected to manifold 20. With the exception of water 30 and additive 32, all the components of apparatus 10 may be made of known plastic materials.

To use apparatus 10, an individual sucks on the optional bite valve 44 to draw water 30 and additive 32 into mixing passageway 46 and outlet tube 42. In the embodiment of FIGS. 1-3, flow through either the water passageway 22 or additive passageway 24 is controlled by adjustable flow regulator 38, 40. When both passageways 22, 24 are open, the act of sucking on the bite valve 44 simultaneously draws fluid

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from both containers 12, 16. Assuming additive 32 is a flavoring, then a flavored drink is automatically produced when the additive 32 and water 30 mix in the mixing passageway 46 of the manifold 20. The resulting drink mix travels through the outlet tube 42 and the bite valve 44. The concentration of additive 32 in the drink mix may be altered by adjusting flow regulator 38, 40.

The connectors used to fix tubes 14, 18 to manifold 20 are shown in the Figs. as barb connectors, however, other connectors may be used, such as connectors that screw on (e.g., Luer lock, threaded) or connectors that use push-on type connections.

FIGS. 4-6 are sectional views of second, third and fourth embodiments of a manifold. FIG. 4 shows a manifold 50 that is different from manifold 20 in two ways. First, flow regulator 40 has been deleted and second, a restrictive orifice 52 has been added in the additive channel, preferably adjacent the manifold 50. Orifice 52 functions as a nonadjustable flow regulator for the additive channel. Different sized orifices 52 may be used, depending on the viscosity and the amount of additive desired to be mixed with water 30.

FIG. 5 shows a manifold 60 that is identical to manifold 20 except that flow regulator 38 has been deleted. The proportion of additive 32 to water 30 is controlled by flow regulator 40 in the additive passageway 24. FIG. 6 shows a manifold 70 that is similar to manifold 50 of FIG. 4 except that flow regulator 38 has been deleted. Flow regulation in manifold 70 is accomplished by a restrictive orifice 52 in the additive channel, the orifice 52 preferably being located adjacent the manifold 70.

In the embodiment of FIG. 6, the ratio of additive 32 to water 30 is dictated by the volumetric flow rate through each passageway 22, 24. The flow rates are dependent upon the fluid viscosity of the water 30 and additive 32 and the fluidic resistance of passageways 22, 24; tubes 14, 18; check valves 26, 28; and restrictive orifice 52. Because the flow rates in manifold 70 are fixed for a given additive 32, manifold 70 has the advantage of maintaining a fixed concentration of additive to water for a given assembly. On the other hand, it is contemplated that the user may desire to change from a low viscosity additive (such as an electrolyte) to a higher viscosity additive (such as a carbohydrate) and mix the new additive with water at a different ratio. In such a case, a different size restrictive orifice may be used in combination with the new additive to create the fluidic resistance necessary to obtain the desired concentration of the new additive to water.

While the invention has been described with reference to certain preferred embodiments, numerous changes, alterations and modifications to the described embodiments are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, as defined in the appended claims and equivalents thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A personal water and additive apparatus, comprising:
 - a non-pressurized first container capable of holding liquid;
 - a manifold having a water passageway and an additive passageway, the water passageway and additive passageway intersecting to form a single mixing passageway;
 - a first tube connecting the first container to the water passageway of the manifold, the combination of the first tube and the water passageway defining a water channel;
 - a non-pressurized second container capable of holding liquid, the second container having a volume less than half a volume of the first container;