

The shaft of the bolt 66 is split so that the end of the flat strap or band 68 extends through the slit and is folded over so that the strap 68 may be wound about the bolt 66 as shown in FIG. 5. The lower end of the strap 66 is folded over and fastened to itself so that a loop is formed to receive the clevis pin 58 therethrough. The loop is maintained by a band seal 59 which is crimped on the strap 68. The two components of the container 50 are fastened together by tightening the bolt 66 so that the strap 68 is wound thereabout. The bolt 66 is locked in position by forcing the square head thereof into one of the legs 64 of the bracket 62. The holes in the legs 64 are square-shaped to receive the square-shaped portion 70 of the split bolt 66. A nut 72 is threaded on the threaded end of the split bolt 66 thereby preventing the bolt 66 from slipping out of the square hole. A cotter pin 74 extending through the end of the split bolt 66 prevents the nut 72 from being completely unthreaded from the split bolt 66.

Drill bits are available in different sizes and lengths. To enable the use of the container 50 for shipment of various drill bits, a removable clamp ring 80 is provided. The clamp ring 80 may be bolted to the ring plate 14 as best shown in FIG. 5. The clamp ring 80 is a substantially flat circular ring profiled to fit within the body 12 of the outer component. A plurality of holes are formed in the ring plate 14 for alignment with corresponding holes formed in the ring clamp 80. Bolts 82 and nuts 84 are employed to mount the clamp ring 80 to the ring plate 14.

The center portion of the clamp ring 80 includes a circular opening which is substantially smaller than the opening 22 defined by the ring plate 14. The clamp ring 80 permits the container 15 to securely hold a drill bit which is much smaller than the drill bit shown in FIG. 2 and thus enables the container of the invention to be used as a shipping container for a wide range of drill bit sizes.

The shipping container of the present disclosure provides an extremely durable container for use in the oil well drilling industry. The components of the containers 10 and 50 may be fabricated of any material having durability sufficient to withstand the abuse encountered in the transportation of drill bits to the well site which may be located in extremely remote locations. Since the shank of the drill bit extends out of the container of the invention, the breaker wrench when required with each drill bit can easily be attached and shipped with the drill bit, as shown in phantom in FIG. 2.

The invention of the present disclosure is particularly suitable for shipping drill bits of various sizes. It is understood, however, that the shipping container of this invention is equally suitable as a shipping container for other tools or apparatus. The adjustable locking arrangement of the invention permits the shipping container to accommodate items of various shapes and sizes.

While the foregoing is directed to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, other and further embodiments of the invention may be devised without departing from the basic scope thereof, and the scope thereof is determined by the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. A shipping container, comprising:

- (a) an inner component defining a first tubular body closed at one end by a base plate;
- (b) an outer component defining a second tubular body adapted for receiving said first tubular body

of said inner component therein, said second tubular body being open at one end and partially closed at the other end by a ring plate mounted on said other end of said second tubular body;

- (c) said ring plate extending inwardly to partially close said other end of said second tubular body and terminating at a central opening circumscribed by said ring plate;
- (d) take up bolt means mounted on said ring plate for locking said inner component within said outer component; and
- (e) angle bracket means mounted on said base plate, said angle bracket means including at least one aperture extending through one side of said angle bracket means for engagement by said take up bolt means for effecting locking engagement of said inner component and said outer component.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base plate is substantially flat and square-shaped having no sharp corners.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said outer component includes handle means projecting outwardly from said second tubular body providing a gripping surface for lifting the shipping container.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 including a removable ring clamp mounted to said ring plate for reducing the size of said central opening.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said take up bolt means comprises a downwardly extending hook connected to a take up tube, said take up tube defining a cavity closed by said hook at the lower end thereof, the upper end of said take up tube being internally threaded for threadably engaging a threaded shaft extending into said take up tube, said threaded shaft including a wing nut mounted to an end thereof extending out of said take up tube.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said ring plate includes handle means extending outwardly therefrom and tab means extending outwardly from said ring plate adjacent to said handle means, said tab means including a hole for receiving said threaded shaft of said take up bolt means therethrough.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said threaded shaft includes a blank about the end of said threaded shaft extending into said take up tube, said blank preventing separation of said threaded shaft from said take up tube.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said outer component includes handle means projecting outwardly from said second tubular body providing a gripping surface for lifting the shipping container.

9. A shipping container, comprising:

- (a) an inner component defining a first tubular body closed at one end by a base plate;
- (b) an outer component defining a second tubular body adapted for receiving said first tubular body of said inner component therein, said second tubular body being open at one end and partially closed at the other end by a ring plate mounted on said other end of said second tubular body;
- (c) said ring plate extending inwardly to partially close said other end of said second tubular body and terminating at a central opening circumscribed by said ring plate; and
- (d) locking means for effecting locking engagement of said inner component and said outer component, said locking means comprising first bracket means mounted to said base plate and second bracket

means mounted to said second tubular body, said first bracket means including a hole for receiving said threaded shaft of said take up bolt means therethrough.