

Stik-to-it ! Healthy Snack on the Go

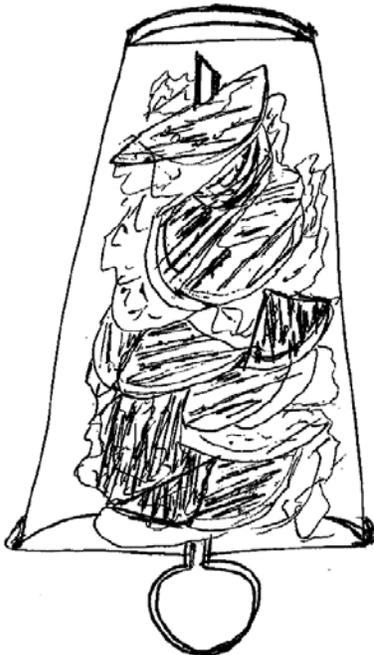
The invention is a new food treat, a container for a fresh snack with a sphere for dressing or condiments to be added.

I assembled something like this, Fig. 1, from Thanksgiving leftovers last year for a snack at work and everyone thought it was great. The turkey was in pieces on the stick, like shish-kabob, and there was cranberry sauce in the sphere. I used a disposable cup and plastic wrap as the cover. Without any metal in the structure, it could even go in the microwave.

This past summer I came up with a refreshing summertime version using fruits or vegetables that I think is marketable because everyone is looking for a healthy, quick lunch or snack these days. With that in mind, for easy transport, stacking & sales presentation I made the main container rectangular.

To assure freshness, a timing/expiration sticker or strip may be on one side or may be a band encircling four sides of the container. It can even be used as part of the ornamentation and packaging design. It is initially set to show or flash green, or some other color to attract attention in a display. Upon expiration of a set time period, it changes chemically or electrically to another color, preferably red or orange. A similar addition can be added to indicate that the container has been exposed to sub-optimum temperature conditions.

Figure 1



The cover, which folds outward in use to protect the user's hand, has an extended skirt for added protection. The skirt fits in a notched-out part of the main container to retain the flat outer lines of the packaging. This enables stacking on the sides (Fig. 4) or vertical placement on shelves for retail display.

A fluid filled squeeze ball and distribution system (tube) holds condiments, such as salad dressing or any sauce. The tube and ball can be made of Teflon so the contents don't stick to it and all of the dressing easily transfers from the sphere to the top so it can easily be dispersed on the main contents. For even better even distribution, holes can be placed at intermediate points along the tube. To retain the dressing, a pressure release, breakable membrane or simple valve can be placed at either end of the tube (Fig. 5). The ball can be any shape, including one that relates to the contents. Possibilities include an apple for fruit, a turkey for meats, a squash for vegetables or even a star for a patriotic holiday.

Figure 2

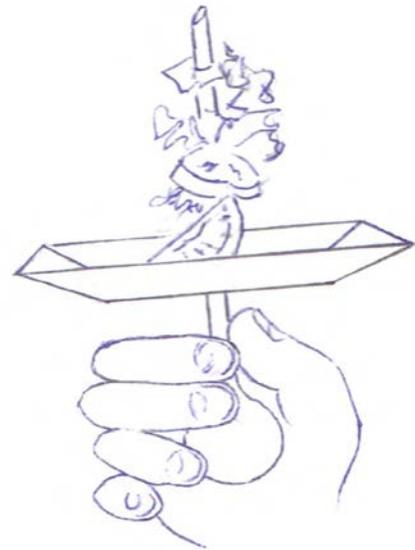
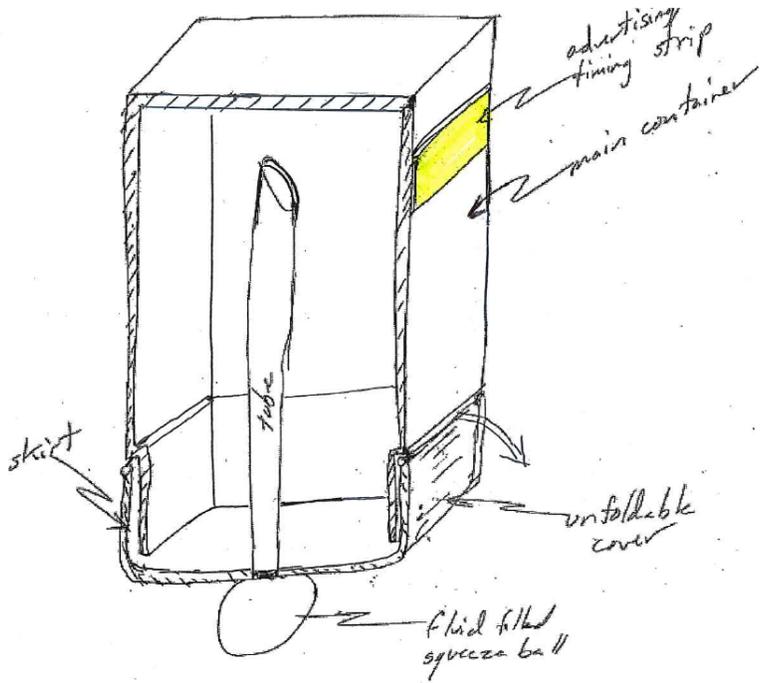


Figure 3

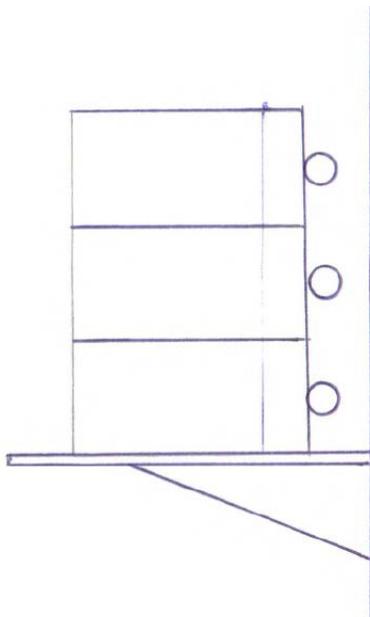


Figure 4

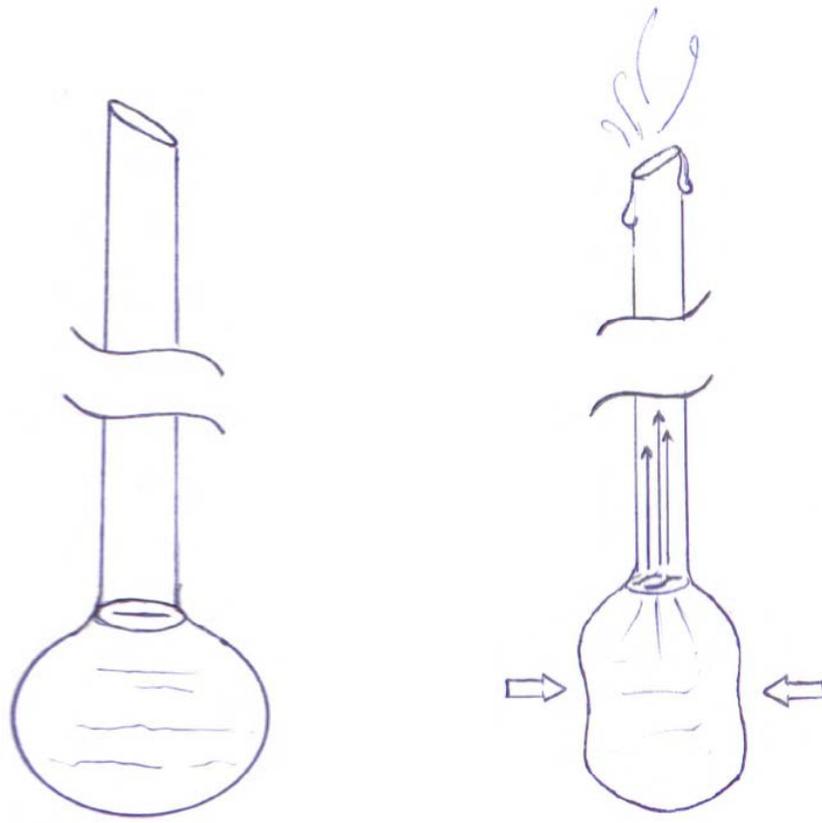


Figure 5