

- [54] **HOLLOW ARTICLE MADE OF CHOCOLATE**
- [75] Inventor: **Everard Joseph Maria Jamin**,  
Rotterdam, Netherlands
- [73] Assignee: **C. Jamin N. V.**, Rotterdam,  
Netherlands
- [22] Filed: **Dec. 28, 1971**
- [21] Appl. No.: **213,042**

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*Primary Examiner*—Tim R. Miles  
*Assistant Examiner*—Steven L. Weinstein  
*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Wilkinson, Mawhinney & Theilbault

- [52] **U.S. Cl.**..... 426/106, 46/156, 206/DIG. 35,  
229/8, 426/104, 426/132, D1/16, D1/18
- [51] **Int. Cl.**..... **A23g 3/00**
- [58] **Field of Search**..... 99/138, 137, 180; 229/8;  
206/DIG. 35, 46 F; D1/15-18, 22; D59/2 A;  
D34/4 R, 4 B, 4 A; 46/156; 161/7, 12, 13,  
19, 20; 426/104, 132, 106

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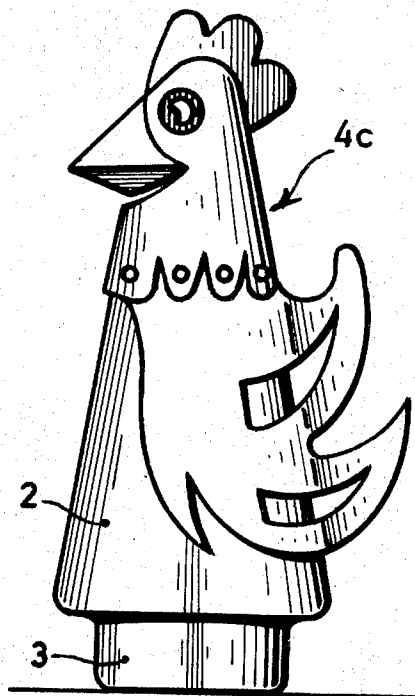
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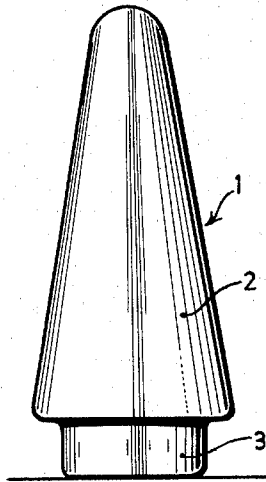
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

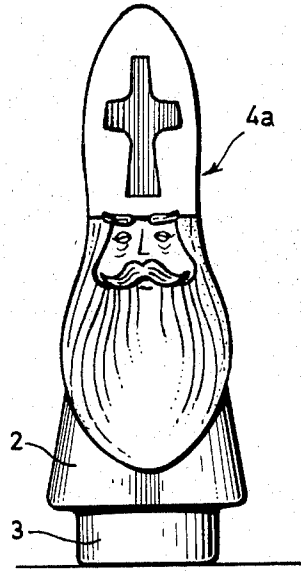
A hollow article of chocolate with a removable figured body made of a blank, said blank being provided with a strip for varying the inner side of the figured body.

**3 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures**

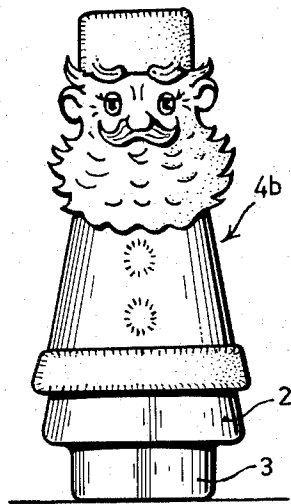




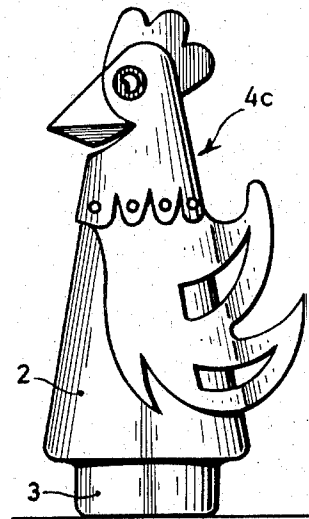
**FIG. 1.**



**FIG. 2a.**



**FIG. 2b.**

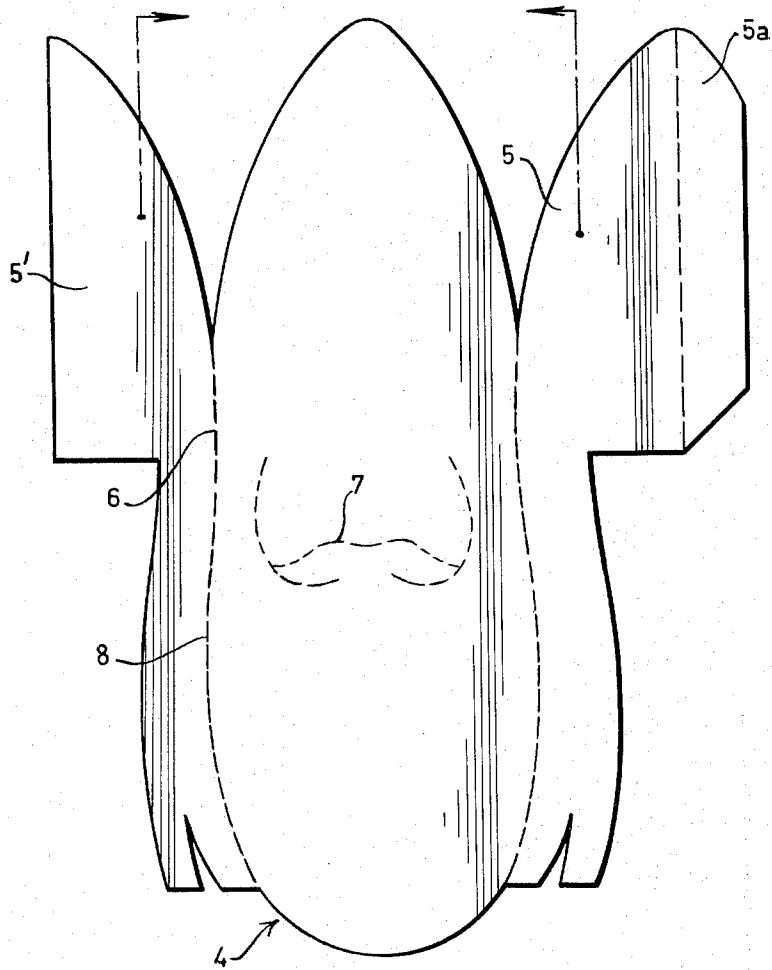


**FIG. 2c.**

INVENTOR

BY

ATTORNEY



**FIG. 3.**

INVENTOR

BY

ATTORNEY

**HOLLOW ARTICLE MADE OF CHOCOLATE**

This invention relates to a hollow article made of chocolate. It is usual, in the confectionary business, to manufacture in certain periods of the year hollow articles of chocolate adapted to the circumstances and practices prevailing in those periods.

The articles adapted to these circumstances and made of chocolate consist of hollow articles already adapted to the final shape in the process of manufacture.

By way of example, the typical Netherlands festivities of Saint Nicolas (each year on the 5th December), chocolate articles e.g., in the shape of Saint Nicolas figures are made, about Christmas, chocolate articles representing Santa Claus, and about Easter the chocolate articles are in the shape of a chicken or the like. All those articles are manufactured by means of hollow mould, shaped in such a way that the chocolate article obtained with such moulds represent already a Saint Nicolas, Santa Claus, or another figure. The articles are then packed by wrapping them in aluminium foil or the like, while it is usual to select a metal foil or paper for wrapping bearing particular decorations on the outer side thereof in order to promote the presentation of the article.

The prior art has many disadvantages, firstly expensive modelled moulds are required for manufacturing the articles and secondly much labour is used for packing, since it cannot be done by means of the usual packing machines. Apart therefrom, the moulds are liable to wear and they continuously require replacement causing high cost, while the great sensitivity to fashion of the shape of the articles urges the manufacturer to continue buying new moulds.

Another disadvantage of the prior art is that during and after manufacturing of the hollow articles, there is much breakage; which together with the fact that the hollow articles are removed from the modelled moulds only with difficulty.

In particular cases breakage also occurs in the finished hollow articles, since often too thick a layer of chocolate settles in pockets in the moulds at the expense of the thickness of wall at other locations where breakage can then easily occur. This trouble may be overcome by using more chocolate which tends to increase the cost price; moreover the manufacturer wishes to give those articles an exactly defined chocolate weight.

Apart from the afore mentioned difficulties, there is also the fact that the chocolate articles e.g., in the shape of a Saint Nicolas or Santa Claus-figure should be melted down, after expiration of the sale-period in question, in order to recover the chocolate and to manufacture again chocolate animals or other figures for the Easter sale. This requires additional cost for melting down the chocolate, while moreover large store rooms should be available for storing the chocolate articles since one should start the production of Saint Nicolas or Santa Claus figures, months in advance, in order to supply the trade timely and sufficiently with articles.

Everywhere, people are interested in articles made of chocolate and being useful for all kind of purposes all the year round which on the other hand can yet easily be adapted to the figurative embodiments wanted in particular circumstances.

The present invention is based on the understanding that the articles in question can be conveniently manufactured while starting from a number of neutral hollow basic figures of chocolate, while for the purpose of representing particular figures, the measure is used to permit placement of a removable figured second body on or around the neutral basic figure. This second body fittingly or clampingly disposed upon the first is figured in such a way that the whole meets the selling requirements imposed by the particular circumstances.

The present invention relates therefore to a hollow article of chocolate comprising a neutral basic article of hollow chocolate which can be easily removed from a hollow mould and which is surrounded by packing material, while on or around the basic article a removable second figured body is disposed, which can be either deformed or not.

Thus, an article related to the requirements, imposed by the sales policy can be provided by sliding on a second body in the shape of a model of a Saint Nicolas or Santa Claus starting from a basic article in the shape of a hollow cone. After the Saint Nicolas period (5th December) is over the basic articles which are in storage can be used for the second bodies adapted to the circumstances prevailing about Easter like bodies in the shape of a chicken figure.

Another possibility is that a figure in the shape of a money box is no longer manufactured in a chocolate mould being adapted to the desired shape of a money box, but that around two cubic articles a second body is slid which gives the whole the appearance of a money box.

The second body comprises advantageously a blank which on either side comprises a strip, while the circumference of the space to be enclosed by the blank and the strips is smaller than or substantially equal to the greatest outer circumference of the basic article, when the strips are interconnected by means of an individual part.

Such a figured second body can be easily removed from the basic article, whereupon a second body which is entirely differently figured can be disposed on the basic article. The second body is preferably constructed as a figure formed from a blank, a plate or foil, the model being derived from the vegetable or animal kingdom or taken from life, or fairy-land.

The desired figured second body can be made in a simple way from a blank by punching or cutting. This is advantageous as the second body can always be modified when this is necessary for particular reasons of selling policy.

The basic articles are of a geometric figure, like e.g., a truncated cone, a cylindrical article, a cubic or block-shaped article. Since the basic articles are not liable to changes in fashion, all desired articles can be manufactured with a rather limited number of moulds.

A special advantage connected with the chocolate article or sugar goods according to the invention is that one can easily conform to circumstances favourable from the point of selling technique. After a football match for instance, an article made of chocolate or sugar goods could be put on the market which has a second figured body representing a successful football player. On the other hand it is possible with a view to particular local events, to put chocolate articles or sugar goods on the market having properties and a

shape which from the point of selling technique are favourable for these events.

Packing material, especially coloured, is preferably wrapped around the basic article. This packing of the basic articles can be performed by means of known packing machines, whereby the packing of the articles is reduced to the normal cost of packing for chocolate and sugar goods.

The invention will be clarified with reference to the drawing representing a number of embodiments.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 represents a hollow basic article made of chocolate and provided with a second body;

FIG. 2a, b and c are hollow articles according to the invention comprising the same hollow basic article with a second differently figured body;

FIG. 3 represents a blank used as a second figured body in FIG. 1.

In FIG. 1 is represented a hollow neutral chocolate basic article 1. This chocolate basic article consists in this case of a hollow rounded cone 2 which at the lower end bears on a cylinder 3 which is integral therewith. As a packing material an aluminium foil, e.g., with a red colour, is wrapped around the whole, but it is obvious that packing material of any desired colour can be selected. Efficiently only particular colours are adequately selected for packing the basic article, however.

At the upper end a conical, removable, second figured article 4 is fittingly and clampingly disposed on the conical basic article. This second figured body 4 is in the shape of a Saint Nicholas picture 4a, which is obtained from a blank by cutting out the finished figure comprising two strips 5, 5' connected with the side edges 6, the circumference of the space to be formed when the strips are interconnected by means of the part 5a being selected in such a way that the second deformable body can be fittingly or clampingly disposed on the basic article. Perforations 7 and 8 contribute to a proper shaping.

Preferably a conical article, a cylindrical article, a cubic article or a block-shaped article is selected for the basic articles. If desired also disc-shaped articles can be applied. One of the ideas underlying the invention is, to manufacture the desired basic articles with the smallest possible number of moulds. Furthermore

the basic articles are selected as to their shape in such a way that they can be easily removed from their moulds. In this connection it is advisable that the angular portions of the cube or block are rounded.

Since the basic articles can be easily packed in the known packing machines not much labour is used in packing them.

At a particular time these basic articles can be provided with the second figured bodies represented in the FIGS. 1a, 1b and 1c in the shape of a Saint Nicholas, a Santa Claus or a Chicken figure.

In this way it is possible to put chocolate articles or sugar goods on the market any time of the year being adapted to the circumstances prevailing at that period.

In order to secure the second figured body fittingly or clampingly on the basic article, it is not necessary to use at least two strips connected with the side edges, although this has the advantage that the second figured body can be easily pushed on the basic article, or that the basic article can be easily accommodated therein. On the other hand, clamping plastic or metal clamps, secured to a flat figured body, can be used for securing the second figured body on the basic article, these clamps being secured to a flat figured body.

It is possible to use an elastical strip, e.g., made of rubber for the securing, or to secure the article in position in a recessed plate. Instead of a Saint Nicholas figure also flower figures can be provided.

I claim:

1. A confection comprising a hollow article of chocolate having a plain regular geometrical external configuration in the form of a rounded cone and forming a basic article, said basic article being readily removable from a hollow mold, wrapping material surrounding said basic article, and a removable figured body clampingly disposed about said wrapped hollow chocolate article.

2. A confection as claimed in claim 1 wherein said figured body comprises a model constructed from a blank which model is derived from the group of vegetable life, animal life, real life and fairy land.

3. A confection as claimed in claim 1 wherein the figured body is a figure formed from a flexible blank.

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