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(19) (CA) **CANADIAN PATENT** (12)

(54) Container for Tobacco Products

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(73) Granted to Conwood Corporation
U.S.A.

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No. OF CLAIMS 5

Canada¹¹⁰¹

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An all-plastic, air-tight container assembly comprising an injection or compression molded body member and lid closure member useful for storing smokeless tobacco products.

5 The body member projects upwardly from a closed end to form a narrowed neck portion around the exterior of which is provided a circumferential locking rib. The interior closed end surface of the lid is provided with a circumferentially extending reinforcing ridge and mini-rib buttresses annularly

10 spaced around and projecting from the periphery of the reinforcing ridge toward a centrally located projecting button portion. At the upward rim edge of the reinforcing ridge a circumferential groove is provided traversing the inner surface of a skirt which projects downwardly from the closed

15 end of the lid member. The lid snaps into tight engagement with the open end neck portion of the body member, the circumferential groove in the lid matingly receiving the circumferential interlocking rib located on the exterior of the narrow neck portion of the body member near the rim

20 edge of the open end of the body member. This provides an improved sturdy securely locked, but easily separable, container functioning as a moisture and flavor barrier to prevent the escape of moisture and aromatic flavor components in the smokeless oral or nasal tobacco products, such as

25 chewing tobacco or snuff, which are stored in the container. The body and lid members are preferably fabricated from polypropylene by injection or compression molding and can

maintain satisfactory moisture and flavor levels in the
stored tobacco products for periods exceeding six months.

CONTAINER FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a molded polypropylene air-tight container for moist, fine or rough cut oral or nasal
5 smokeless tobacco products. The container consists of a friction-fitting interlocked lid and cylindrical container body which conserves the moisture content and aroma of the tobacco product thus maintaining its freshness over relatively long periods of storage and usage.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Containers for storing smokeless tobacco products are known in the prior art, but are mainly fabricated of a cardboard body construction and a metal lid. The cardboard acts as a very inefficient barrier for preventing moisture
15 and flavor loss from the tobacco product.

Chewing tobaccos normally include a flavoring constituent which provides a strong pleasing flavorful taste when the tobacco is chewed. In addition, such products are often provided with aromatic flavoring constituents.
20 Chewing tobacco products stored in containers of the above type suffer in flavor and freshness from the loss, over relatively short periods of time, of the moisture and/or other volatile aromatic flavoring constituents in the tobacco product.

25 Such paper or cardboard container constructions are shown for example, in a U.S. patent to Parker, No. 225,414 and are normally dated so the consumer is aware of the age



of the tobacco product and, therefore, its freshness.

Consumers will not purchase these tobacco products if the stamped date is over 3 or 4 weeks old because after such period, the product has dried out and has lost most of its
5 moisture, ammonia and/or aroma and therefore its flavor.

Moreover, such cardboard containers are easily crushed and will allow external moisture, especially in humid environments, to reach the product.

Moreover, the prior art metal lids are not tight
10 fitting on the container body and will sometimes separate from the body if the container is accidentally dropped. Air-tight metal containers are known to the prior art and such containers are shown in a U.S. patent to Bernhardt et al No. 3,265,238. However, such containers require the use of
15 a prying tool to separate the lid from the container body and therefore present problems to the user of the container contents.

Various containers, which are fabricated from plastic materials and are provided with friction-fitting lids which
20 fit over and mate with an indented neck portion of the container body are known. Specifically, such container constructions are shown in a number of U.S. patents, e.g. Irvan No. 2,606,708, Seidler No. 3,133,662 and Fish No. 3,355,056. However, such plastic container constructions
25 have not been specifically taught for storing smokeless tobacco products particularly to provide the advantages in moisture, flavor and aroma retention to the extent desired for the moist cut oral or nasal tobacco products, described above, which are necessarily stored or used over relatively

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