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(54) **AEROSOL CONTAINER, AND DETAILS THEREOF**

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<b>B65D 83/38</b>	(2006.01)

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See application file for complete search history.

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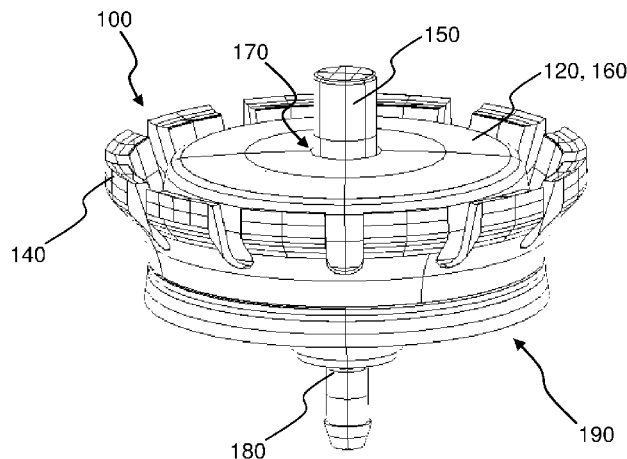
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A stabilizing member (120) forming an upper valve housing for an aerosol valve (100) having a valve stem (150) for operating the valve (100), the stabilizing member (120) comprises a body (160) having a resilient portion (140) arranged at the periphery of the stabilizing member (120) for snap fitting in a groove (18) of an associated hollow body (12), and a radial projection (145) arranged at the periphery of the stabilizing member (120) and axially displaced relative the resilient portion (140), wherein the radial projection (145) is configured to seal against the associated hollow body (12). The invention further discloses an aerosol valve with such a stabilizing member, as well as a container with such a stabilizing member and a method for providing the container.

**19 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**



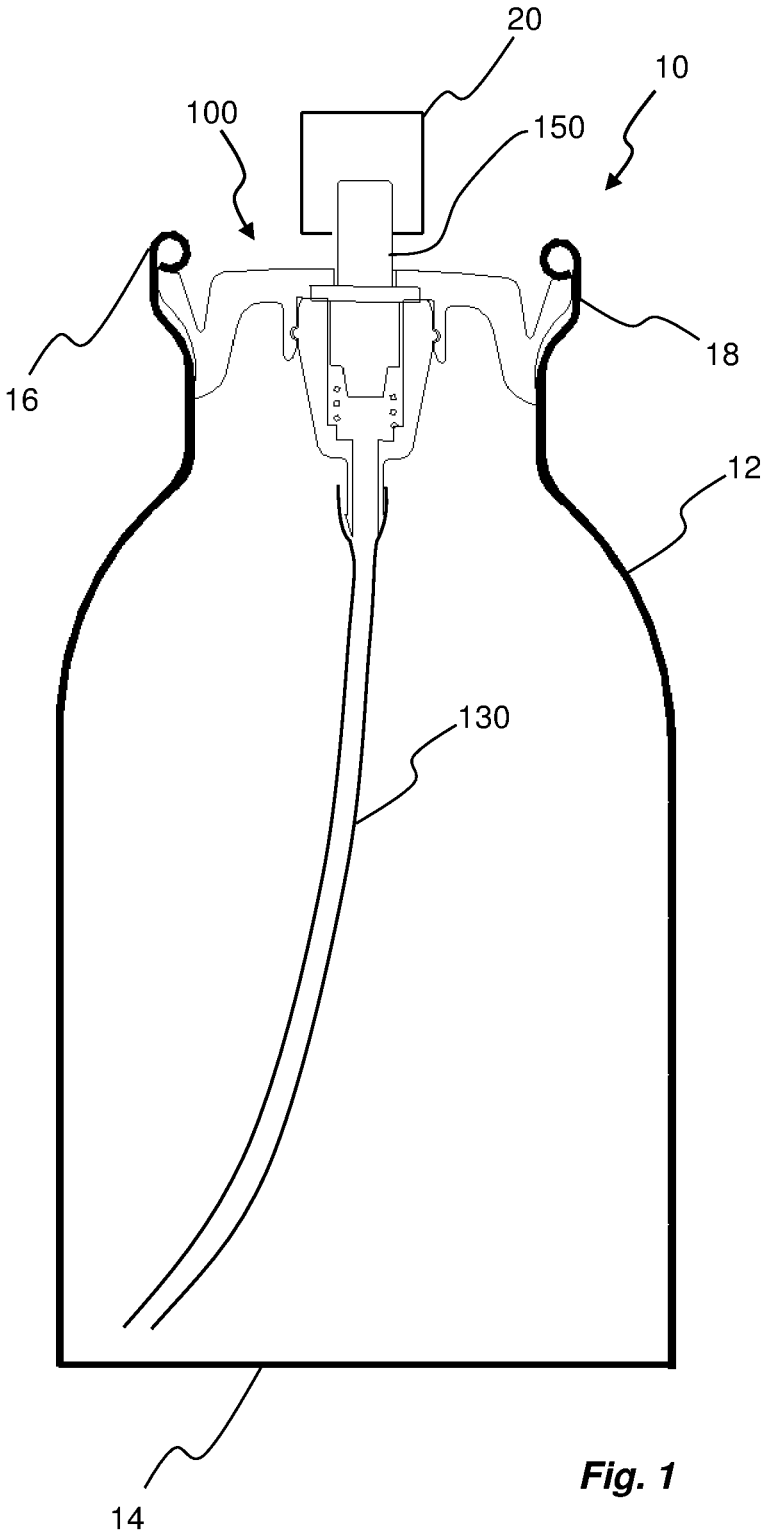
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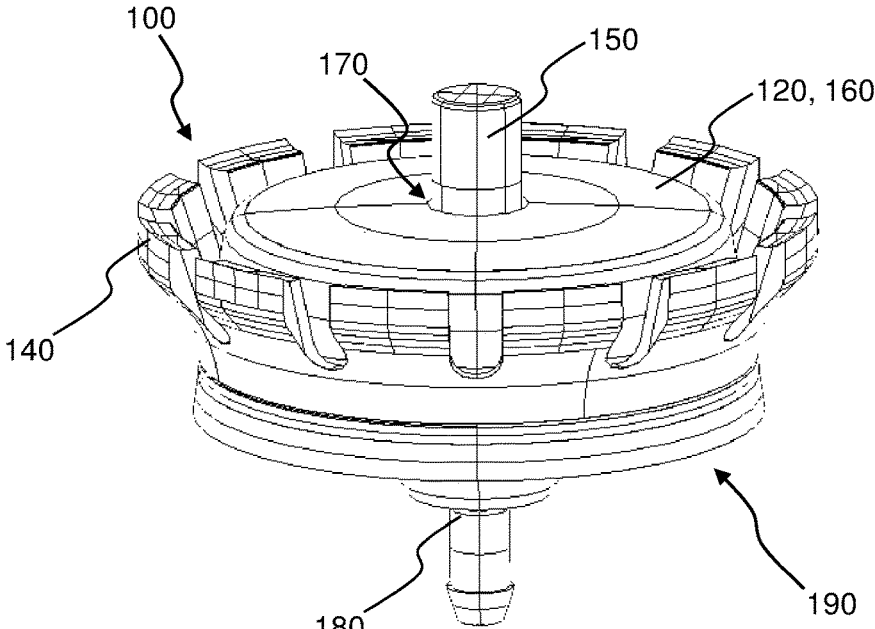


Fig. 2

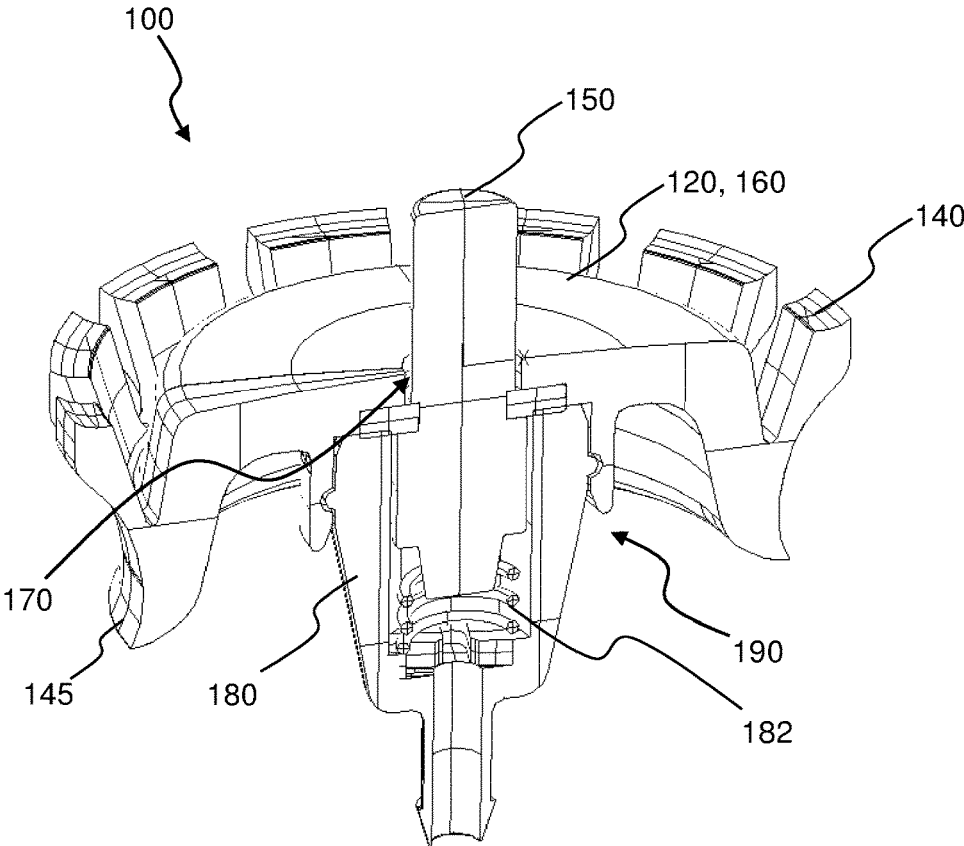


Fig. 3

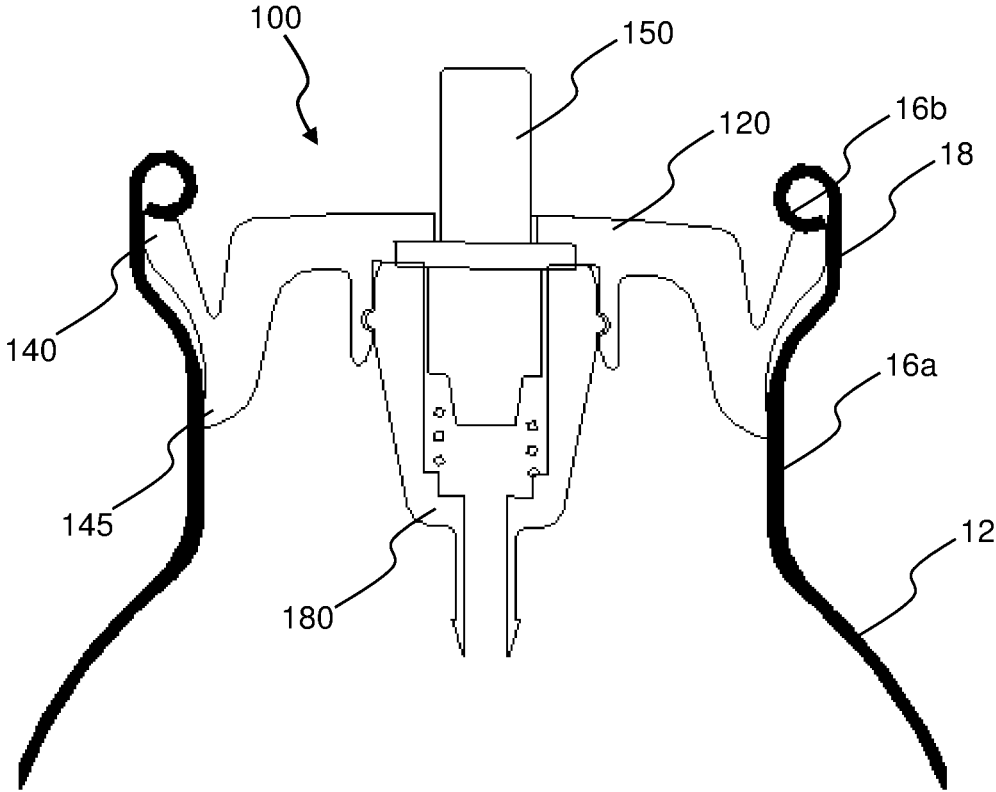
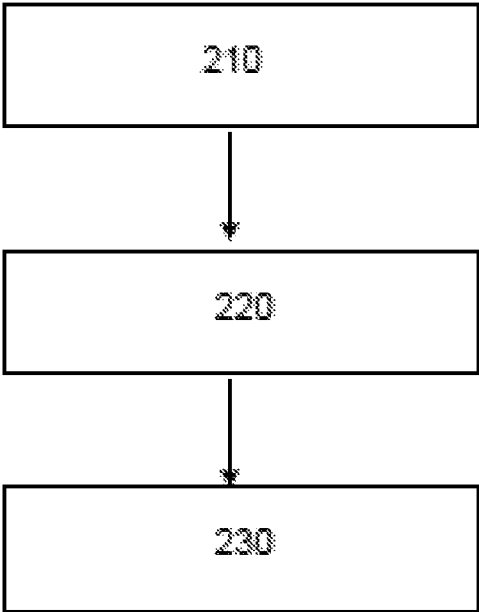
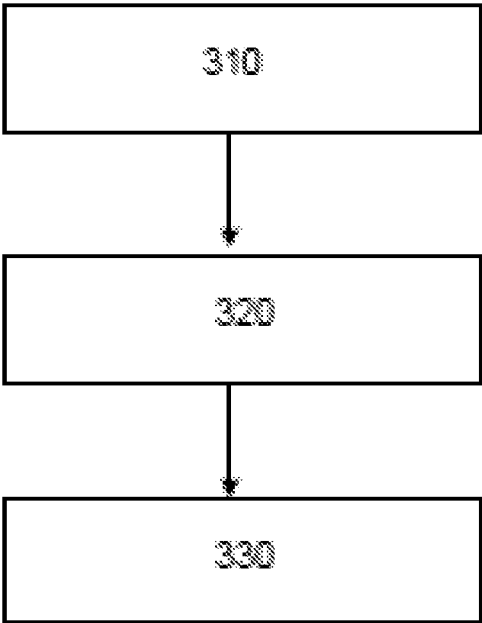


Fig. 4



*Fig. 5*



*Fig. 6*

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## AEROSOL CONTAINER, AND DETAILS THEREOF

### TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to an aerosol container and details thereof. More particularly, the present invention relates to a stabilizing member forming an upper valve housing for an aerosol valve, an aerosol valve as well as an aerosol container, and a method for providing such aerosol container.

### BACKGROUND

Prior art aerosol containers comprise a valve cup sealing the open end of the aerosol can. An aerosol valve is arranged inside the valve cup, and a valve stem of the valve extends up through the valve cup. The entire periphery of the valve cup needs to be sealed against the can in order to provide a safe and secure aerosol container. The valve cup is crimped to the edge of the open end of the container, a process that is highly complex and time-consuming. There is thus a need for an aerosol container having a simple and cost effective construction.

### SUMMARY

Accordingly, the present invention preferably seeks to mitigate or eliminate one or more of the above-identified deficiencies in the art singly or in any combination and solves at least the above mentioned problems by providing a stabilizing member, an aerosol valve, an aerosol container, and a method according to the appended patent claims.

An idea of the invention is to provide an aerosol container, and allow for the production of an aerosol container, that may be manufactured in a simple and cost-effective way.

Another idea of the invention is to provide an aerosol container that excludes the need of a valve cup. This is beneficial in many ways; shorter product chains, added design values as the container can be altered in different shapes and forms, as well as lower emission.

According to a first aspect, a stabilizing member forming an upper valve housing for an aerosol valve having a valve stem for operating said valve is provided. The stabilizing member comprises a body having a resilient portion arranged at the periphery of said stabilizing member for snap fitting in a groove of an associated hollow body, and a radial projection arranged at the periphery of the stabilizing member and axially displaced relative the resilient portion, wherein the radial projection is configured to seal against the associated hollow body.

The radial projection may be formed by a resilient material, and it may extend continuously along the periphery of the body of the stabilizing member.

The radial projection may form a radially projecting lip. Optionally, an O-ring may be arranged at the radial projection for further improving the sealing properties of the radial projection. In such embodiment, the actual projection in radial direction may be achieved solely by the radial extension of the O-ring.

The body may have a centrally aligned through hole through which the valve stem of the valve is insertable.

According to a second aspect, an aerosol valve for sealing an open end of a main body of an aerosol container is provided. The aerosol valve comprises a valve stem being movable inside a valve housing between an upper position, in which the valve is closed, and a depressed position in

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which the valve is open, wherein the valve housing comprises a stabilizing member according to the first aspect.

The valve housing may further comprise a lower valve housing which is connected to the stabilizing member thus forming an upper valve housing.

The lower valve housing may be connected to a dip tube.

According to a third aspect, an aerosol container is provided. The aerosol container comprises a main body having a closed end and an upper end, wherein the upper end is sealed by means of an aerosol valve according to the second aspect.

The upper end may have a narrow portion, an axial end, and a circumferential groove positioned between the narrow portion and the axial end. The resilient portion of the stabilizing member is snap fitted into said groove.

The maximum diameter of the groove may be slightly less than the maximum diameter of the resilient portion.

The radial projection of the stabilizing member may be press fitted against the narrow portion of the main body.

The maximum diameter of the narrow portion may be slightly less than the maximum diameter of the radial projection.

According to a fourth aspect, a method for providing an aerosol container is provided. The method comprises the steps of providing a hollow main body, wherein the main body has a closed bottom end and an open upper end, providing an aerosol valve according to the second aspect, and sealing the open upper end by snap fitting the valve in the main body of the container.

According to an aspect of the invention, a stabilizer for an aerosol valve having a valve housing and a valve stem for operating said valve, said stabilizer comprising a body, and wherein the periphery of said stabilizer is provided with at least one resilient member that extends in a radial direction.

According to a further aspect of the invention, an aerosol valve is provided. The aerosol valve comprises a stabilizer according to the first aspect.

According to a yet further aspect of the invention, an aerosol container is provided. The aerosol container has a closed bottom end and an open upper end, wherein the inside wall of said upper end is provided with a circumferential groove, and wherein said container further comprises an aerosol valve according to the second aspect.

According to another aspect of the invention, a method for providing an aerosol container is provided. The method comprises a first step of extruding a metal blank into a hollow body, wherein the hollow body has a main body, a closed bottom end and an open upper end and wherein the upper end is provided with a circumferential groove. The second step of the method comprises arranging a valve within the walls of the upper end of the container, wherein the valve is an aerosol valve according to the second aspect. The third step of the method comprises sealing the open upper end against the valve body by snapping the at least one resilient members of the stabilizer with the circumferential groove of the hollow body of the container.

According to a yet further aspect of the invention, a method for filling an aerosol container is provided. The method comprises the step of adding the substance, with the exception of the propellant, to the hollow body of the container, and sealing the open upper end against the valve body by snapping the at least one resilient members of the stabilizer with the circumferential groove of the hollow body of the container and injecting the propellant through the aerosol valve.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further objects, features and advantages will appear from the following detailed description, with reference being made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of an aerosol container according to an embodiment;

FIG. 2 is an isometric view of an aerosol valve according to an embodiment;

FIG. 3 is an isometric cross-sectional view of an aerosol valve according to an embodiment;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of parts of an aerosol valve according to an embodiment;

FIG. 5 is a schematic view of a method according to an embodiment; and

FIG. 6 is a schematic view of a method according to another embodiment.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following description focuses on embodiments of the present invention applicable to aerosol containers.

In FIG. 1 a schematic view of an aerosol container 10 according to an embodiment is shown. The aerosol container 10 has a main body 12, a closed bottom end 14 and a closed upper end 16. While the bottom end 14 is preferably formed integrally with the main body 12, the upper end 16 is closed by means of an aerosol valve 100. The container may be of cylindrical shape, or other suitable shapes for aerosol applications. For example, one portion of the main body 12 may have a first shape, such as cylindrical, while another portion of the main body 12 may have another shape, e.g. a rectangular cross-section.

The upper end 16 is provided with a circumferential groove 18, extending in a radial direction outwards as will be described further in accordance with FIG. 4. The valve 100 is arranged inside the container 10, and the valve 100 has an actuator 20 that is provided outside the container 10, connecting to a valve stem 150 extending through the open upper end 16. The valve 100 is opened by applying a downward force on the actuator 20. When the actuator 20 is pressed downwards towards the container 10 the valve 100 is opened and aerosols are allowed to escape from the container 10 through a dip tube 130 arranged inside the container 10. The dip tube 130 has an open end being in contact with the content of the aerosol container 10, and an opposite end being connected to the aerosol valve 100.

The aerosol valve 100 is thus sealing the upper end 16 of the aerosol container 10, such that the content of the aerosol container 10 is prevented from escaping unless a user operates the valve 100.

The valve 100 will be described in more details from here on. The valve 100 comprises a stabilizing member 120 as is shown with reference to FIGS. 2 and 3. The stabilizing member 120 is formed as a body 160, preferably being made of a plastic material such as a thermoplastic polymer, and is equipped with a through hole 170 for allowing the valve stem 150 to extend through the stabilizing member 120. The body 160 of the stabilizing member 120 forms an upper valve housing of the valve 100 that acts as a cover for the aerosol valve 100 in the same sense as prior art valve cups.

Hence, the valve stem 150 extends through the upper valve housing 120, i.e. the stabilizing member, via the through hole 170. The valve stem 150, normally being provided with an actuator (see FIG. 1) is extending inwards and into the valve 100.

When the valve stem 150 is subject to a pressing force in a direction downwards, i.e. towards the stabilizing member 120 of the valve housing, an interior channel inside the valve 100 is fluidly connected with the interior of the aerosol container 10 such that the content of the aerosol container 10 is allowed to be discharged through the interior channel of the valve stem 150.

Besides the stabilizing member 120 and the valve stem 150 the aerosol valve 100 normally also comprises a lower valve housing 180. The lower valve housing 180 forms a fluid conduit, and has a lower end to which the dip tube 130 is connected. The lower valve housing 180 is housing a spring 182, as well as a lower portion of the valve stem 150. The spring urges the valve stem 150 upwards, however allows the valve stem 150 to be slidably moveable inside the lower valve housing 180. The valve stem 150 has an interior fluid channel which is formed between one aerosol inlet, arranged at the side surface of the valve stem 150, and an aerosol outlet arranged at the upper portion of the valve stem 150, i.e. at the portion which projects outside the aerosol container 10.

The position of the aerosol inlet is set such that it is sealed, and closed, when the valve stem 150 is in its idle position. When the valve stem 150 is depressed, the aerosol inlet will move downwards whereby it will open and allow the content to enter the fluid channel of the valve stem 150. As soon as the pressing force is removed from the valve stem 150 the spring 182 will urge the valve stem 150 upwards such that the aerosol inlet is closed.

The stabilizing member 120 and the lower valve housing 180 together forms a common valve housing 190; for this, the lower valve housing 180 is connectable to the upper valve housing, i.e. the stabilizing member 120 e.g. by means of a snap fit, a threaded engagement, or similar. A sealing 192 may be provided where the upper valve housing 120 and the lower valve housing 180 lies in contact with each other for preventing leakage. Preferably, the sealing may also form the sealing for closing the aerosol inlet of the valve stem 150.

The outer periphery of the stabilizing member 120 is provided with a resilient portion 140, in the shown example the resilient portion is formed by a plurality of resilient members 140 that extends outwards in a radial direction. The resilient portion 140 thus has a radial extension, as well as an upper surface for engagement with the aerosol container 100 as will be described further below.

In one embodiment the periphery of the stabilizing member 120 is provided with 12 members 140. It should be understood by a person skilled in the art that the number of members 140 could vary depending on design parameters.

Each resilient member 140 forms a spring, such that it will always strive to return to its idle shape and form. If the resilient members 140 are urged radially inwards, i.e. when the stabilizing member 120 is mounted in an aerosol container 10 as will be described below, they will press outwards to seal against the inner surface of the container 100.

The springs 140 may be provided as plastic flanges, extending outwards. The interface where the flanges 140 are connected to the body 160 thus forms a hinge.

In the shown embodiment the stabilizing member is circular. In other embodiments, the stabilizing member 120 may be of triangular shape, in the shape of a square or in any other suitable form.

As described above, the stabilizing member 120 has a resilient portion 140 arranged at its periphery. The stabilizing member 120 has an axial extension, wherein the resilient portion 140 is provided at an upper axial end. The lower



axial end of the stabilizing member **120** comprises a radial projection **145**. The radial projection **145** may preferably consist of the same material as the rest of the stabilizing member **120**. However, the radial projection **145** is continuous along its periphery and forms a radially projecting lip. The outer radius of the radial projection **145** is preferably less than the outer radius of the resilient portion **140**. Optionally, an O-ring may be arranged at the radial projection for further improving the sealing properties of the radial projection. In such embodiment, the actual projection in radial direction may be achieved solely by the radial extension of the O-ring.

Parts of the aerosol container **10** are shown in FIG. 5, illustrating the connection between the aerosol container **10** and the aerosol valve **100**.

The upper end **16** of the aerosol container's **10** main body **12** has a narrow portion **16a**, which narrow portion **16a** may be a cylindrical portion having a slightly less radius than the lower parts of the main body **12**. A circumferential groove **18** is provided axially between the narrow portion **16a** and the axial end **16b** of the main body **12**. The groove **18** is formed radially outwards, such that the groove **18** actually forms a portion having a slightly larger radius than the narrow portion **16a**, as well as than the axial end **16b**.

Hence the inside wall of the upper end **16** of the main body **12** is provided with the circumferential groove **18**. The radius of the circumferential groove **18** is slightly less than the radius of the resilient portion **140** of the stabilizing member **120**. Additionally, the radius of the narrow portion **16a** is slightly less than the radius of the radial projection **145** of the stabilizing member **120**.

Before assembly of the aerosol container **10** the aerosol valve **100** is provided by securely attaching the lower valve housing **180**, including the spring **182** and the valve stem **150**, to the stabilizing member **120**.

When mounting the aerosol valve **100** to the main body **12** in order to form the aerosol container **100** the aerosol valve **100** is positioned adjacent to the upper end **16** of the main body **10**. As the radius of the resilient portion **140** is slightly larger than the radius of the groove **18** (as well as than the radius of the axial end **16b** of the main body **12**), the valve **100** can not be put in correct position without a pressing force. The valve **100** is therefore pressed against the main body **12** whereby the resilient portion **140** will deflect slightly inwards allowing the valve **100** to move into the main body **12** to some extent. However, as the radius of the radial projection **145** is slightly larger than the radius of the narrow portion **16a** also the radial projection needs to deform. When a certain pressure is applied to the valve **100** the resilient portion **140** will snap into the groove **18**, preventing the valve **100** from moving upwards. At the same time the radial projection **145** will seal against the narrow portion **18** of the main body **12**. A secure and rigid attachment of the valve **100** is thus achieved.

A method **200** for providing an aerosol container will now be described with reference to FIG. 5. In a first step **210**, a hollow body is provided e.g. by extruding a metal blank. In a particular embodiment, the hollow body has a main body **12**, a closed bottom end **14** and an open upper end **16**. The upper end is provided with a circumferential groove **18**.

In a subsequent step **220**, a valve **100** is arranged within the walls of the upper end **16**. The valve has a valve stem **150** that opens the valve **100** when it is depressed. The valve **100** is arranged such that the upper end of the valve stem **150** is facing away from the opening of the upper end **16**. The valve further comprises a stabilizing member **120**, where the periphery of the stabilizer **120** is provided with a resilient

portion extending in a radial direction, as well as a radial projection **145** as described above.

In a next step **230**, the open upper end **16** is closed by the valve **100** such that the upper end **16** is closed. The resilient portion **140** of the stabilizer **120** will snap into the circumferential groove **18** of the hollow body **12** of the container, thus creating a secure and robust positioning of the valve **100**. The circumferential groove **18** and the resilient portion **140** keeps the stabilizing member **120** in a perfect position relative to the main body **12**, and the radial projection **145** of the stabilizing member **120** will seal against the inner wall of the container **10**. Tests have been performed indicating that a suitable down force required to fit the valve **100** may be in the range of 500-1000 N, depending on the dimensions of the stabilizing member **120** and the main body **12**. The distance, from the resting position of the valve **100** prior to the press-fit to the mounted position, may e.g. be in the range of 10-15 mm. Thus, when using the stabilizing member **120** for an aerosol valve **100** the need of a mounting cup, valve cup or sealing gaskets is no longer present.

A method **300** for filling an aerosol container will now be described with reference to FIG. 6.

In a first step **310**, all the substance except the propellant is added to the hollow body **12** of the container **10**. The substance is usually in the form of a liquid or foam, such as insecticides, deodorants, hair spray and paints.

In a subsequent step **320**, the open upper **16** end is closed by the valve **100** such that the upper end **16** is closed as described in the method according to FIG. 5.

In a next step **330**, the propellant is injected under pressure through the valve **100**. The propellant may be in the form of a liquified gas, or a compressed gas. The propellant may for example be mixtures of volatile hydrocarbons, typically propane and n-butane.

The use of the above-described stabilizing member **120** for aerosol valve applications has been proven to be very efficient for various types of containers as well as for various applications. For example, the main body **12** of the container may be a plastic bottle (preferably for use with non-pressurized content as well as pressurized content), a so called tin-can made of a suitable metal, and steel bottles manufactured e.g. by impact extrusion, etc., as long as the main body **12** has a means for receiving and holding the stabilizing member **120** of a valve. Hence, the only adaptation necessary for existing bottles and containers is to form the upper end such that it exhibits a groove arranged adjacent to a narrow portion.

Hence the aspects of the above description may be implemented for deodorants, perfumes, hair spray, body spray, creams and lotions, sun care products, shaving gel and foam products, hair color, air fresheners, cleaning products, food such as oil, cream, etc, paint, chemicals, glues and adhesives, pesticides, inhalers, etc. Although such products may vary greatly in terms of viscosity, all these products may be handled using different dimensions of the valve and main body.

Although the present invention has been described above with reference to specific embodiments, it is not intended to be limited to the specific form set forth herein. Rather, the invention is limited only by the accompanying claims and, other embodiments than the specific above are equally possible within the scope of these appended claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A stabilizing member forming an upper valve housing for an aerosol valve having a valve stem for operating said valve, said stabilizing member comprising a body having a resilient portion arranged at a periphery of said stabilizing

member for snap fitting in a groove formed on an inside of an associated hollow body, and a radial projection arranged at the periphery of the stabilizing member and axially displaced relative the resilient portion, wherein the radial projection is configured to seal against an inner wall of the associated hollow body, and wherein the radial projection is formed by a resilient material.

2. The stabilizing member according to claim 1, wherein the radial projection extends continuously along the periphery of the body of the stabilizing member.

3. The stabilizing member according to claim 2, wherein the radial projection forms a radially projecting lip.

4. The stabilizing member according to claim 1, wherein the body has a centrally aligned through hole through which the valve stem of the valve is insertable.

5. The aerosol valve for sealing an open end of a main body of an aerosol container, comprising the valve stem being movable inside a valve housing between an upper position, in which the valve is closed, and a depressed position in which the valve is open, wherein the valve housing comprises a stabilizing member according to claim 1.

6. The aerosol valve according to claim 5, wherein the valve housing further comprises a lower valve housing which is connected to the stabilizing member thus forming the upper valve housing.

7. The aerosol valve according to claim 6, wherein the lower valve housing is connected to a dip tube.

8. The aerosol container, comprising a main body having a closed end and an upper end, wherein the upper end is sealed by means of the aerosol valve according to claim 5.

9. The stabilizing member according to claim 1, wherein the resilient portion is arranged at an upper axial end of the stabilizing member, and wherein the radial projection is arranged at a lower axial end of the stabilizing member.

10. The stabilizing member according to claim 1, wherein the resilient portion comprises a plurality of resilient members that extend outwards in a radial direction of the stabilizing member.

11. The aerosol container according to claim 8, wherein the upper end has a narrow portion, an axial end, and a circumferential groove positioned between the narrow portion and the axial end, wherein the resilient portion of the stabilizing member is snap fitted into said groove.

12. The aerosol container according to claim 11, wherein a maximum diameter of the groove is slightly less than a maximum diameter of the resilient portion.

13. The aerosol container according to claim 11, wherein the radial projection of the stabilizing member is press fitted against the narrow portion of the main body.

14. The aerosol container according to claim 13, wherein a maximum diameter of the narrow portion is slightly less than a maximum diameter of the radial projection.

15. An aerosol container, comprising a main body having a closed end and an upper end, wherein the upper end is sealed by means of an aerosol valve comprising a valve stem being movable inside a valve housing between an upper position, in which the valve is closed, and a depressed position in which the valve is open, wherein the valve housing comprises a stabilizing member having a valve stem for operating said valve, said stabilizing member comprising a body having a resilient portion arranged at the periphery of said stabilizing member for snap fitting in a groove of an associated hollow body, and a radial projection arranged at the periphery of the stabilizing member and axially displaced relative the resilient portion, wherein the radial projection is configured to seal against the associated hollow body, wherein the upper end has a narrow portion, an axial end, and a circumferential groove positioned between the narrow portion and the axial end, wherein the resilient portion of the stabilizing member is snap fitted into said groove.

16. The aerosol container according to claim 15, wherein a maximum diameter of the groove is slightly less than a maximum diameter of the resilient portion.

17. The aerosol container according to claim 15, wherein the radial projection of the stabilizing member is press fitted against the narrow portion of the main body.

18. The aerosol container according to claim 17, wherein a maximum diameter of the narrow portion is slightly less than a maximum diameter of the radial projection.

19. A method for providing an aerosol container, comprising the steps of:

providing a hollow main body, wherein the main body has a closed bottom end and an open upper end;

providing an aerosol valve having:

a valve stem being movable inside a valve housing between an upper position, in which the valve is closed, and a depressed position in which the valve is open, wherein the valve housing comprises a stabilizing member, the stabilizing member having a body having a resilient portion arranged at the periphery of said stabilizing member for snap fitting in a groove formed on an inside of the hollow main body, and a radial projection arranged at the periphery of the stabilizing member and axially displaced relative the resilient portion, wherein the radial projection is configured to seal against an inner wall of the hollow main body, and

wherein the radial projection is formed by a resilient material, and

sealing the open upper end by snap fitting the valve in the main body of the container.

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