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PHARMA & MEDICAL DEVICE

INNOVATIVE CONTAINERS

An especially clever tablet and capsule container in the plastic category was shown by a company called **R&D Leverage**, which is primarily a tool maker for injection molding, blow molding, and injection stretch blow molding machinery. But it has now come up with a patent pending concept for an injection stretch blow molded bottle called DispenseEZ (pictured) with a sort of a ramp on one inner sidewall where the shoulder meets the neck. So when you reach inside to pull out a tablet or capsule, it slides right out on the ramp rather than getting hung up on the inner shoulder. This is clearly aimed at the elderly and others whose dexterity makes pill and tablet dispensing challenging at best.

Senior Molding Expert Kent Bersuch at R&D Leverage is the one who came up with the idea after finding himself frustrated by vitamins and medications getting bunched up in the shoulder of the bottle. "I'd wind up dumping many more pills than I wanted, or the pills would bounce out of my hand and go down the drain," says Bersuch. "Eventually I heated a bottle with a heat gun and molded the shoulder of a bottle to create a ramp." And thus was born DispenseEZ.

R&D Leverage, remember, is a maker of tooling, so management has no plans for making bottles on a commercial basis. Instead, says CEO Mike Stiles, the firm is looking for a brand that would either purchase or license the Intellectual Property behind the concept. "We have multiple inquiries from prospects who are currently evaluating our patent documentation and considering options," says Stiles.

Stiles adds that while development work on the DispenseEZ packer bottle relied on using the two-stage reheat-and-stretch-blow process, the convenient dispensing feature can also be incorporated in any of the following methods:

- Single-stage ISBM in PET, PP, and (perhaps) HDPE
- Injection blow in PP or HDPE
- Extrusion-blow using a variety of resins.

The feature is functional over a wide variety of finish sizes (33 mm and larger) and can be incorporated into containers with existing tamper-evident or child-resistant requirements.

 **WATCH** a descriptive video of this innovation at pwgo.to/7414.

