

A woman in traditional red dress and headscarf carries a red, dome-shaped solar water pasteurization unit on her head. The unit has a black circular opening and horizontal ridges. In the background, a child in a red dress stands near a thatched hut, and another person is visible in the distance. The scene is set in a rural, arid environment with trees and a dirt path.

Solar water pasteurization unit

KENT LAURSEN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

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Anders Fjendbo Jørgensen

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Advantages and disadvantages

In this age of The Global Village access to clean and healthy drinking water must be looked at as an entitlement. There are none the less more than one billion people who do not possess such an entitlement. This problem was made a top priority at the UN environmental meeting in Johannesburg September 2002 where more than 150 heads of Government from all over the world participated.

Sustainable solutions to the problem were called for, that is, solutions which do not involve the use of chemicals or add to the CO₂ emission.

We have worked on this problem for more than ten years, and through collaboration with a number of foreign and domestic institutions, we have developed a device that heats water until all germs have been killed, - a device that uses solar power.

The device was microbiologically tested by the Danish Food and Environment Agency in Zambia, Denmark and Tanzania from 1995 to 1998. It was tested using water from the Mlalakua River in Dar es Salaam and with water from Lake Tanganyika and it passed all tests in all locations. We found that by heating the water to 65C° or above all pathogenic microorganisms were killed, – even though extra pathogenic bacteria were added to the Mlalakua water as part of the experiment.

Following pilot field tests, eight villages on the shores of Lake Tanganyika had community plants installed. The villages with some 25,000 inhabitants had suffered from repeated cholera epidemics. Together with other hygienic measures the frequency of diarrhoea was reduced by 90% when households consumed the decontaminated water.

During another cholera epidemic in the area the devices proved their worth. None of the people receiving solar pasteurised water

got cholera, but other people living in the area without access to the pasteurised water got cholera (migrant workers and fishermen). This revealed the need for portable water pasteurisers.

A prototype for this purpose was developed. It uses a so-called Trombe-Meinell reflector which concentrates the sunlight onto a centrally placed cylinder. Inside the cylinder one places an ordinary Coca-Colaish bottle. The water it contains is then heated by the Sun's rays to the temperature needed.

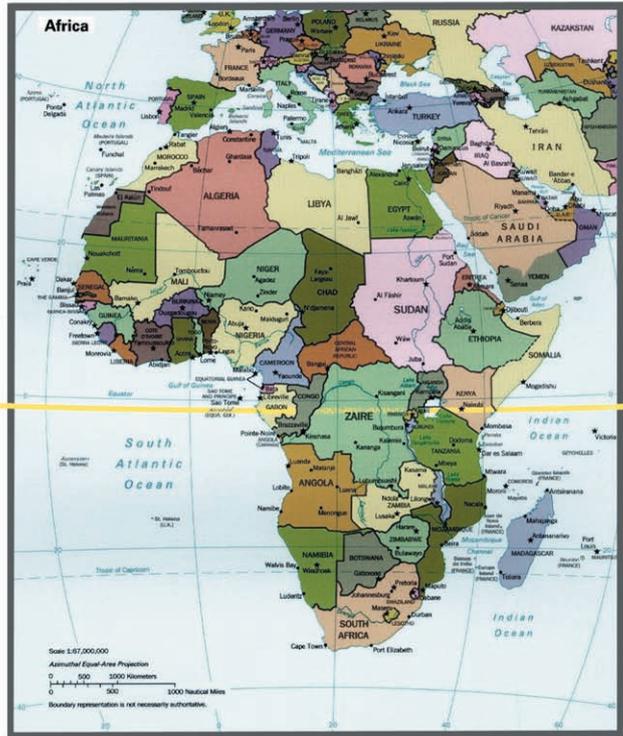
This device was also tested using water from the Mlalakua River and passed the tests so successfully that the water exceeds the WHO standards for 'Excellent' drinking water.

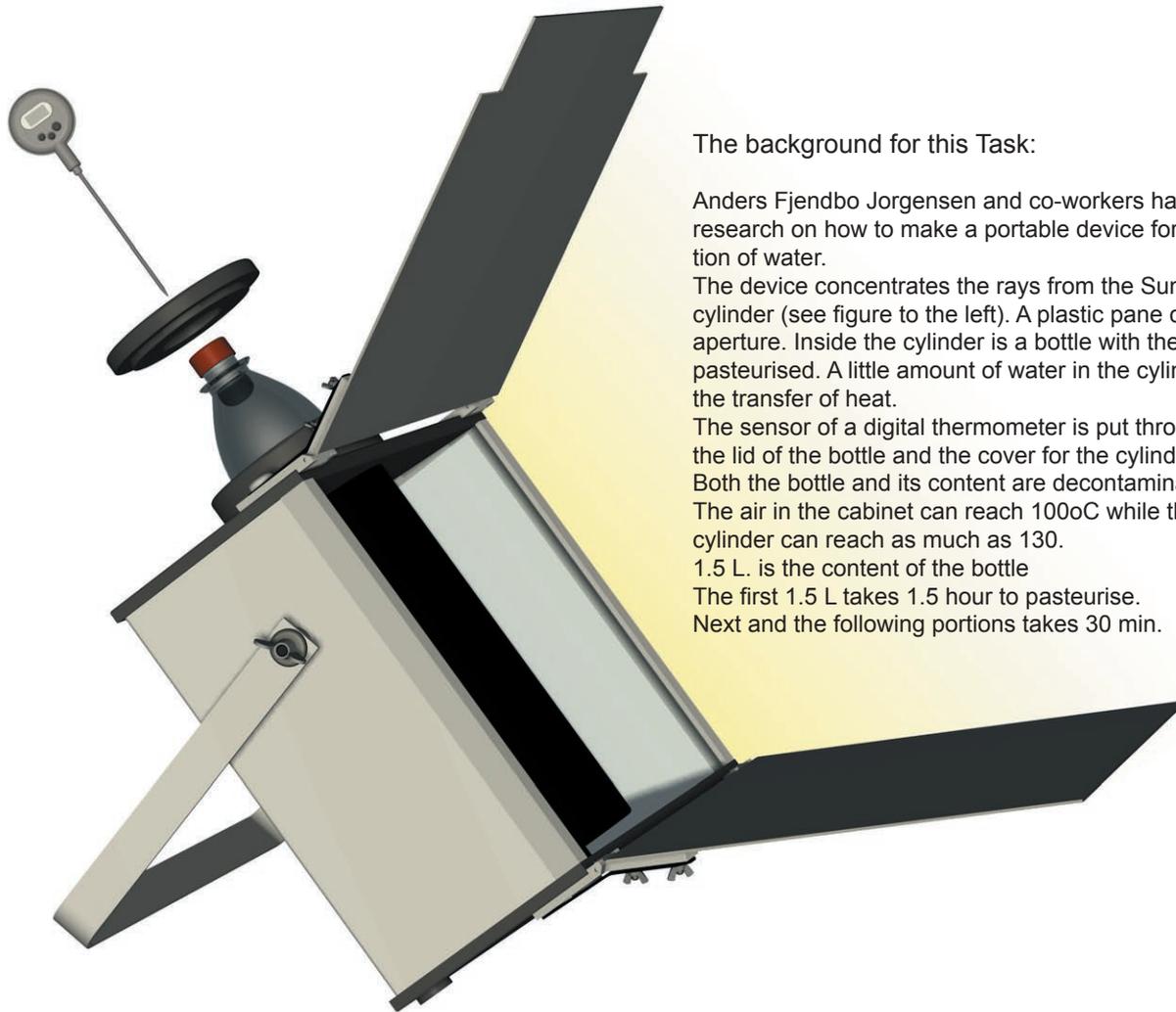
Furthermore, milk can also be pasteurised using the same device and have dangerous bacteria such as Salmonella, Shigella, Streptococcus, Staphylococcus, Brucella and not least Tuberculosis killed. Once again a great number of pathogenic bacteria were added and the tests showed that they were all killed.

Following the tests, a number of prototypes were manufactured. These are now used in Dar es Salaam and in different Masai villages. In these villages they have problems with clean drinking water as well as with Tuberculosis bacteria in the cows' milk. This milk mixed with blood from cattle is the main means of nourishment for many Masai, so pasteurising the mixtures prevent many children from being infected.

Later, the method of pasteurising milk using solar power was also tried on HIV-infected mothers' milk, and both the added and the mothers' HIV were successfully killed.

Anders Fjendbo Jorgensen
Chief Physician
Specialist in Tropical and Infectious Diseases





The background for this Task:

Anders Fjendbo Jorgensen and co-workers have done research on how to make a portable device for decontamination of water.

The device concentrates the rays from the Sun on the black cylinder (see figure to the left). A plastic pane covers the aperture. Inside the cylinder is a bottle with the water to be pasteurised. A little amount of water in the cylinder secures the transfer of heat.

The sensor of a digital thermometer is put through a hole in the lid of the bottle and the cover for the cylinder.

Both the bottle and its content are decontaminated.

The air in the cabinet can reach 100°C while the air in the cylinder can reach as much as 130.

1.5 L. is the content of the bottle

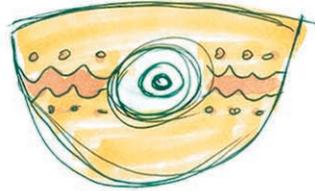
The first 1.5 L takes 1.5 hour to pasteurise.

Next and the following portions takes 30 min.

Human



Machine



Object
Organic shape

Recognize



Human



Happy - safe



Solar water pasteurization unit for cooking and pasteurization of water and AIDS infected mothermilk



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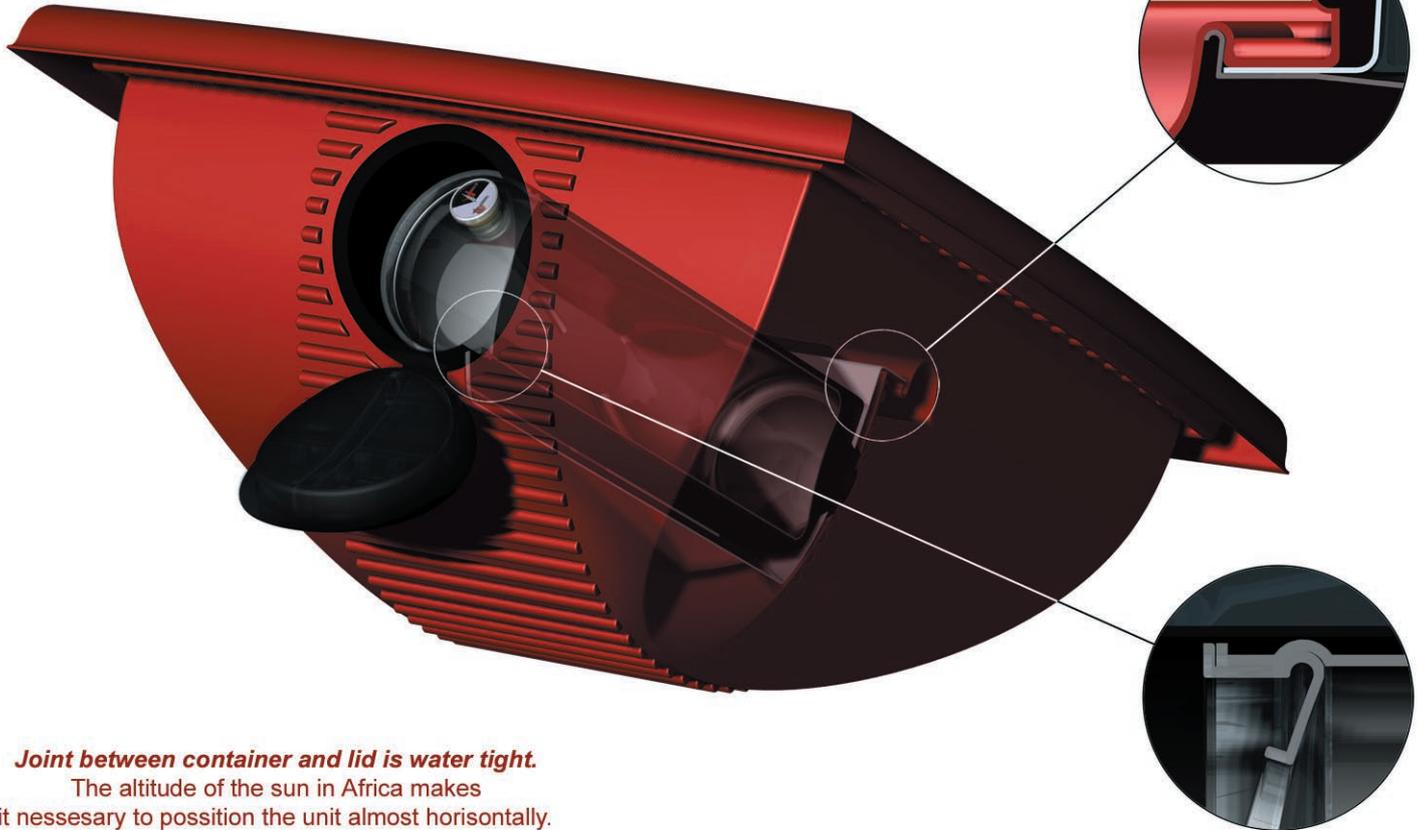
Instruction in and motivation to use of the solar water pasteurisation unit is an important part of the design



Solar pasteurization unit.

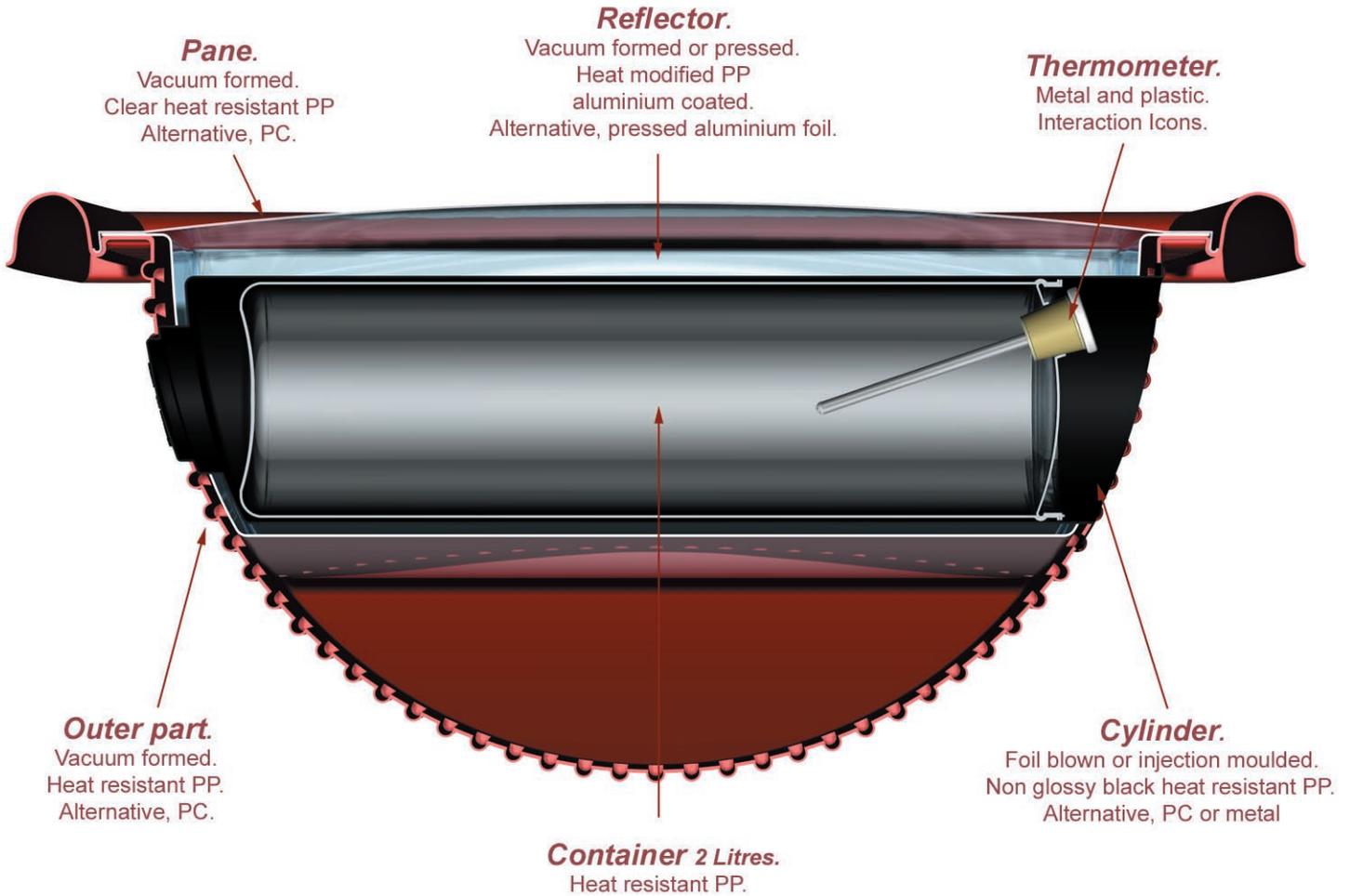
- Made of vacuum formed plast foils.
- For large production, injection moulded.
- Cooks food, pasteurizes water.
- Stackable.
- Minimized weight and volume.
- Minimized transportation costs.

The pane will lock the reflector,
when the unit is assembled.



Joint between container and lid is water tight.

The altitude of the sun in Africa makes
it necessary to position the unit almost horizontally.



Before: Electronic battery thermometer.

Many functions.
Shows Fahrenheit and Celsius digital.
The more possibilities.
the bigger the chance of mistakes.

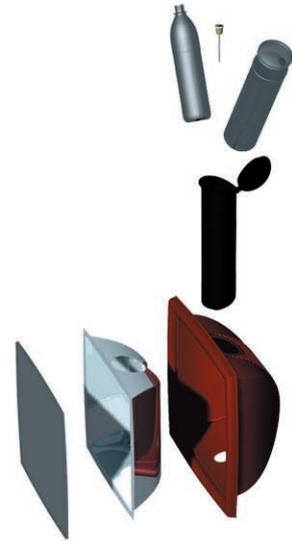


Now: Mechanical thermometer.

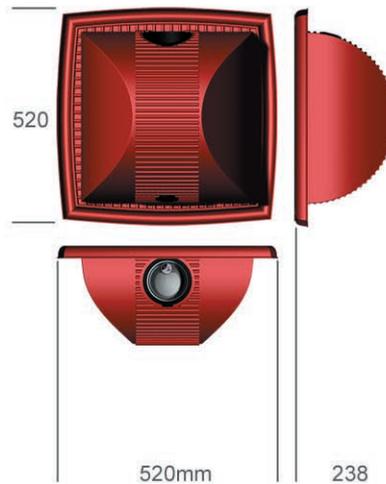
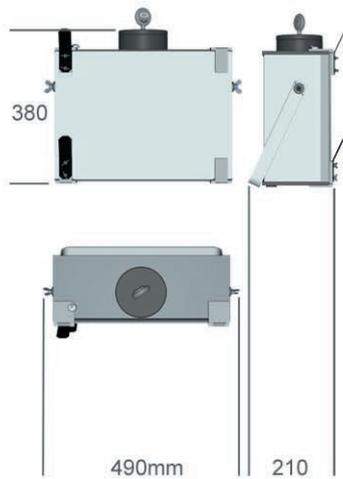
Showing two possibilities.
Ready for consumption
or not ready yet.

The message should be decodable for weak-sighted persons
Mechanism showing max..temperature

Measurements 5 units.
W=540 D=430 H=560 mm



Transport costs
to distant areas in e.g. Africa may *surpass*
the **production costs**.
Stackable units reduce
the transport volume.





490 x 945 x 380 mm

Transport measurements
5 units



540 x 430 x 560 mm

Advantages

High efficiency.
Long lifetime.
Handle can be used for angling unit towards the sun.
Inexpensive production initiation.
Can be produced in Africa.
No filter to be blocked
No Co2 emission

Disadvantages

Production costs pr unit 300 dollars.
Weight.
Volume.
Transportation costs.
Large number of parts.
No instruction.
Lid not hinge mounted.
Battery in thermometer.
Thermometer not protected.
Thermometer has 4 buttons.
User must be able to read numbers.
User must know pasteurisation temperature.
Hole must be drilled in bottlecap.
Doubt about orientation towards the sun.
Sharp edges.
Looking like a machine.
Unit not in ballance when carryed in the handle.
African women carryes objects on their heads.
Due to estimated lifetime of 10 years, the aluminium can be remanufactured to other products, making the unit unusable.



Advantages

Production costs 7-8 dollars per unit.
Variation of outer shape possible.
Low weight.
Easy to handle.
Stackable
Minimal transportvolume.
Transportation costs reduced.
Instructions on the backsite.
No hole in bottle cap..
Thermometer interface with icones.
Thermometer protected.
No battery.
Easy understandable orientation towards the sun.
Few parts.

Outer plastic cover can be printed with patterns or collors giving the user an impression of "something seen before"
Round and kind design.
Low price, maybe more units per family.
Usable for decontaminating water - cooking - sterilizing - etc.
Less deforestation.
Large surface for sponsorlogoes.
Heat resistant PP cylinder and/or bottle included.
No filter to be blocked
No Co2 emission

Disadvantages

Expensive production initiation.
Thermometer is under the lid.
Extra costs for heat resistant inner cylinder.





Kent Laursen Industrial design 2003 - Consultant Morten Dall - Consultant Chris Heape