

The History of the Benzeni™

Brent A. Ford - May 2023

It was March 2020 and the world was closed by Covid. The stresses of life were elevated. My time to relax typically involved the hot tub – often with a beverage. Where else could I go after work? One afternoon I took an inflatable beverage holder with me for that daily soak. Just another distraction to a long day.



We all know what happened.....**drink down!**



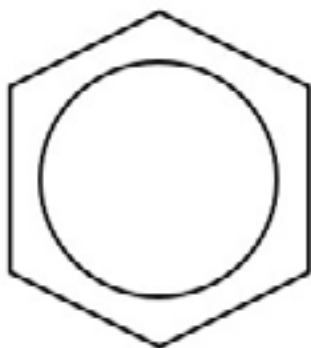
While tossing ice cubes from the hot tub, I recognized the problem – for just about every kind of beverage one might put into an inflatable holder, the center of gravity of the beverage AND the holder will be too high and will tip over. I needed to be able to lower the center of gravity of the whole drink system.

I went back inside, fixed a new drink, got another inflatable beverage holder, and returned to the hot tub. This time, I also brought a pair of scissors.

Once again neck deep in the hot water, I took the scissors and cut the floor out of the inflatable drink holder. I left the inflated ring intact – just cut the floor out. I then proceeded to forcefully push my

drink as far as I could down through the inflatable drink holder. What do you know – it worked – sort of. I had lowered the center of gravity of my drink system, but it was still top heavy. I also realized that as a beverage is consumed its center of gravity changes. A fixed, inflated ring was not appropriate for the task at hand. What I needed was a floatation device that was easily adjustable for holding different-sized objects with different, and possibly changing, centers of gravity.

During one of my afternoon soaks, I remembered from organic chemistry class the benzene ring – a very stable molecule comprised of a central ring of six carbon atoms. That molecule is often represented this way.



My first prototype was made from women's knee-high stockings I stole from my wife's dresser and six ping-pong balls. The Benzeni™ was born! I suppose that was my Eureka moment, although that very crude prototype left a lot to be desired. Although it did begin a multi-year journey of steady progress to refine ways to create a highly-stable, adjustable float for holding just about anything in water – a beverage, a plant, a candle, pool games, even a person.

A provisional patent application was filed; the prototypes evolved; we worked to develop a way to manufacture the elastic tube engineered to keep the ping-pong balls evenly spaced around the tube; the utility patent application was filed. The logo was designed – recognize the shape?



Now, three years later, the patent application has been approved on the first try. The patent attorney said it was only the third time in his career he had seen a patent granted without revisions or amendments to the original application. I guess it was a good idea.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure I introduce the first generation Benzeni™.



Beyond developing the Benzeni™ itself, I also worked to find ways to increase its stability. Take a look at this video. In slow motion, can you see a difference between the two drinks? Is one more stable than the other? Does one tip, dip, and spin more than the other? Watch the reflection of light on the surface of the water in each cup. Does the water in one seem to slosh around more than the water in the other? Watch the video a couple of times if need be. Spoiler alert: the answer is below, so answer the question for yourself before scrolling beyond the video.



https://thebenzeni.com/assets/benzeni_1-and-2.mp4

Yes, there is a difference. The Benzeni™ with the white cup is more stable than the one with the green cup. If you need to, go back & watch the video again.

What's going on? What could be done to the elastic tubing and/or the ping-pong balls to make one more stable than the other? Click the link to watch this video for an explanation.



https://www.thebenzeni.com/assets/Benzeni_stability_part2.mp4

Please note, stabilizers are not included in the first generation Benzeni™. However, they are included in the patent and may appear in future versions.

Benzeni™ is an adjustable, highly-stable floatation device for use with beverages, plants, candles, games, people, and anything else that requires floatation in water. This device is covered by a utility patent as follows:

US Patent. No. #11,639,213
Application #17/335742
Issue Date: 5/2/2023