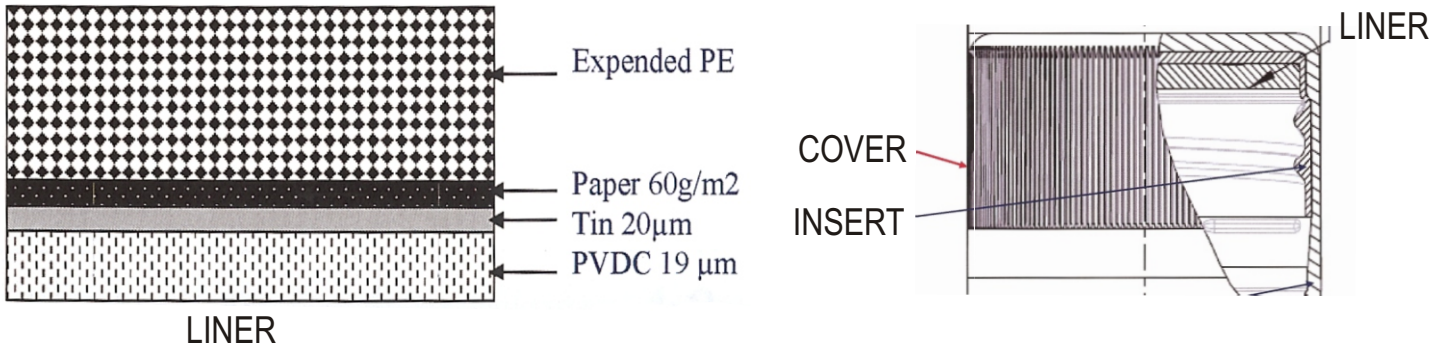


Novatwist screwcaps .

David Lewis BWBC

The club and members have bottled about 18000 bottles, with another 3600 at the next club bottling using Novatwist screw caps with reasonable success, but there have been a few quality control issues which I hope to resolve here.

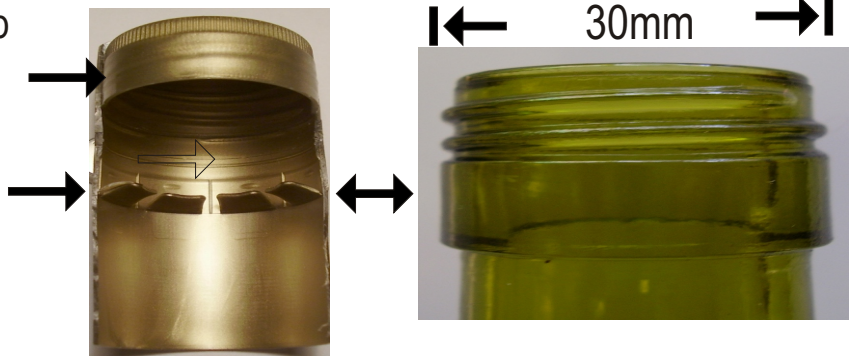
NOVATWIST SPECIFICATIONS:-



The screw cap is designed for a BVS 30H60 neck finish (30mm D. 60mm H)
(Some imported bottles have a different diameter and thread height)

This cutaway exposes the threaded cap

The plastic lugs that lock under the rim.



Applying the screwcaps

The caps can be applied by hand or using a portable drill with a torque clutch and a custom built capper. (Fig. 6)

1. Push the cap onto the bottle, you will feel the internal lugs slide over the thread and stop on the rim. An obvious bulge appears on the side of the cap.



Hold the bottle firmly and screw down until tight.

Tightening torque: 30 to 35 inch/lbs.

Opening torque: 15 to 20 inch/lbs.

If using a drill, tighten until a slight bulge appears (fig.4), then back off the clutch a notch until the edge is straight.

Hand tighten until firm. If the cap is too tight, the edge is forced over the glass rim and will jump the threads and leak. It is worth unscrewing a cap and checking the liner for a firm indent (fig.5).



Fig.5 shows the internal liner with the compressed part giving a perfect seal. If the cap is too tight and /or the bottle top is not smooth and clean then the liner will tear away from the edge breaking the seal.

Drills.

A battery drill with lithium- ion batteries is the preferred choice as they maintain constant torque with each charge. Cost is around \$100.00 + +

There is available a 240 volt drill with an adjustable clutch.

(Ozito, available at Bunnings about \$35.00)

Note: If they have electronic speed control on the trigger switch, it needs to be set at the higher speed and taped over to maintain adequate air flow through the drill otherwise overheating will result.

To apply the caps you can use a 30mm auto socket and adaptors but it tends to bruise the cap edges. A better option is the capper made by Manfred Kurmis (Fig.6) B.W.B.C. @ \$40.00ea

Do not hold the bottle at the neck as there is a tendency to hold the screwcap skirt preventing the cap from tightening .

As a final check and if the bottles are all the same size, place a straight edge across the tops .Any faulty ones will stand out.

Wine bottling can be a great social event and a lot of fun but we have to slow down our enthusiasm for bit more Quality control.

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Fig.5



Fig.6