Dec. 26, 1967 R. V. JOHNSON 3,360,112

SHOE BOXES

Filed Feb. 15, 1966 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

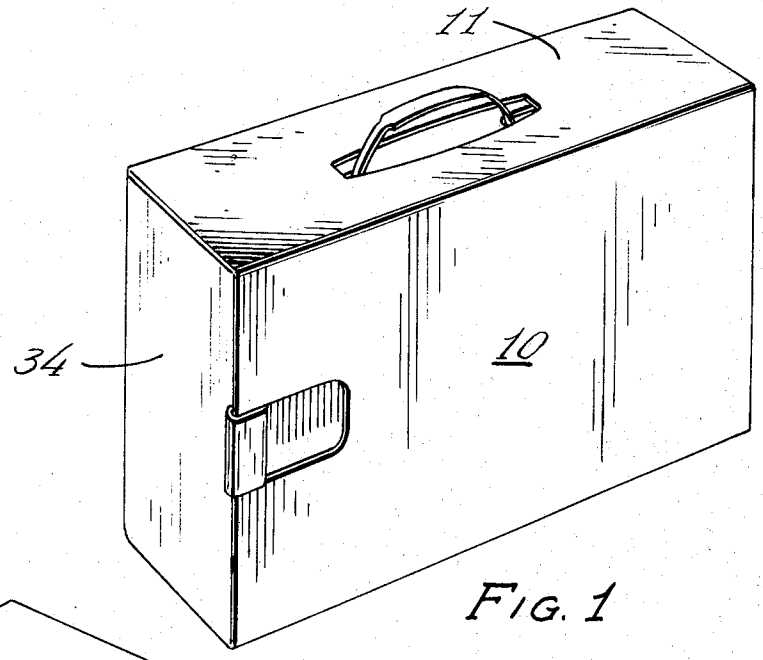


FIG. 1

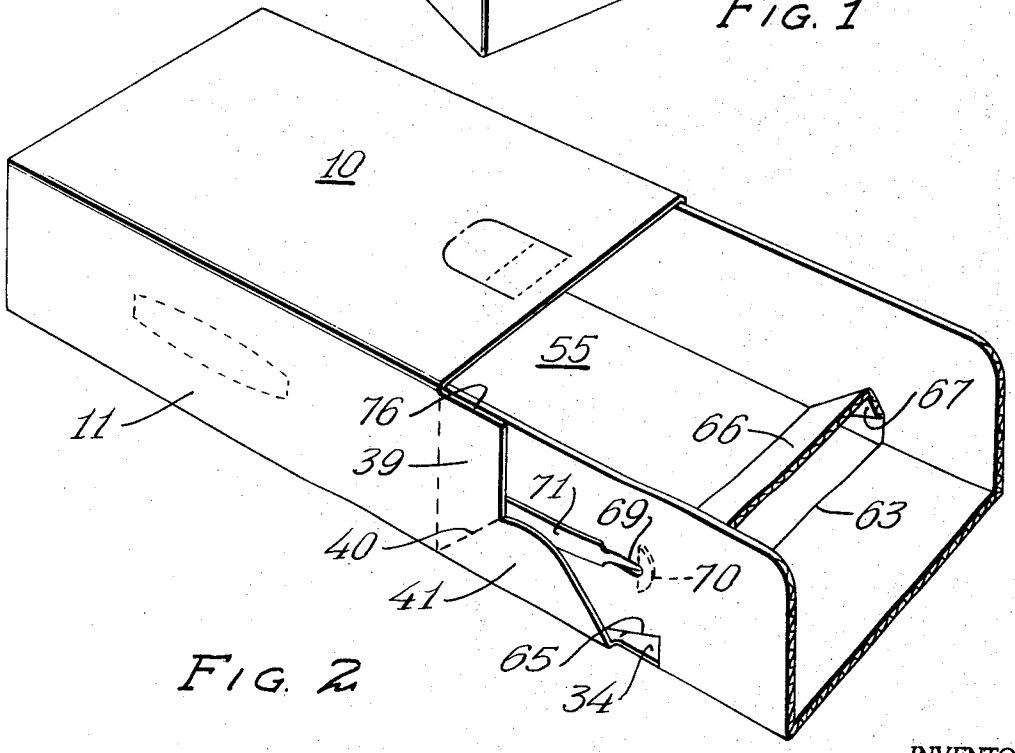


FIG. 2

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Dec. 26, 1967 R. V. JOHNSON 3,360,112

SHOE BOXES

Filed Feb. 15, 1966 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

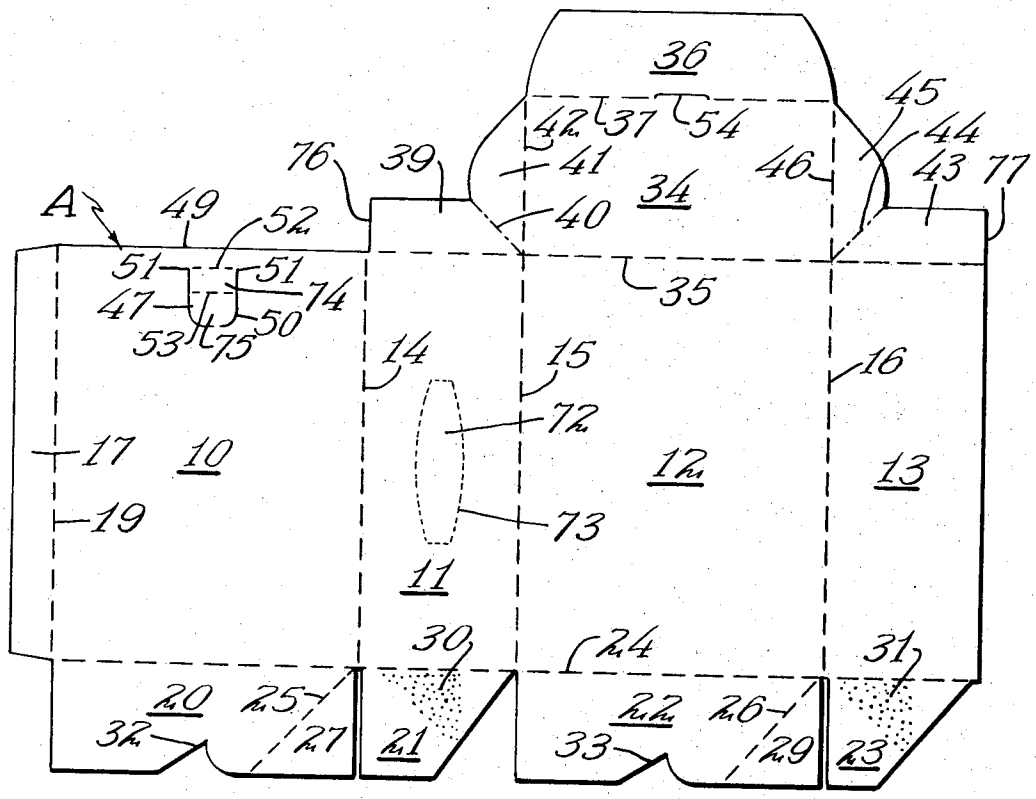


FIG. 3

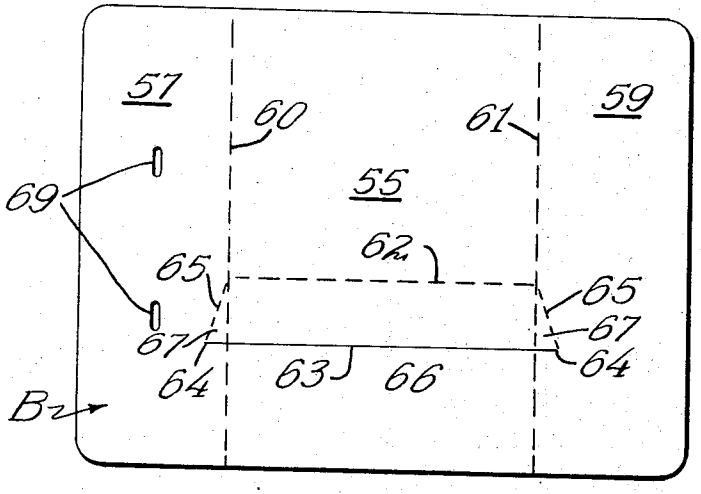


FIG. 4

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SHOE BOXES

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A shoe box comprising a tubular outer carton and a liner in which a panel of the liner extends substantially coextensive with the bottom wall of the top, the liner having cut lines and fold lines defining a portion of the liner which may be hinged out of plane to provide an abutment against which the heels of shoes may engage. A concealed carrying handle secured to a side wall of the liner underlying a detachable area of the outer carton may be provided.

This invention relates to an improvement in shoe boxes and deals particularly with a carton in which a pair of shoes may be stored and which also serves as a carrier carton for the shoes.

Men's shoes are conventionally contained in open-topped cartons having a telescoping cover. These cartons are usually all of the same size so that they can be stacked neatly one upon the other on shelves in the shoe store. The shoe sizes are normally printed on the ends of the boxes. The shoe salesmen normally open the box, remove a shoe, and telescope the cover onto the bottom of the box, leaving the top of the box open until the shoe is replaced. When the shoes are sold, the boxes are usually wrapped or placed in a bag.

Conventional shoe boxes are usually thrown away after the shoes are delivered. However, certain types of shoes are not used in the conventional manner. For example, golf shoes having spiked soles are usually carried to a golf course and are worn only for playing golf. Golf shoes are usually relatively expensive. Accordingly, a manufacturer of golf shoes has requested an unconventional form of box for displaying the shoes and which may be used to carry the shoes from place to place.

An object of the present invention resides in the provision of a shoe box of an end opening type which may be readily opened to slide the shoes into or out of the container. Means are provided for locking the end closure in closed position when the shoes are being stored and carried.

A further feature of the present invention resides in the provision of a container having means engageable with the heels of the shoe to hold the shoes in a predetermined position in the box.

A further feature of the present invention resides in the provision of a shoe box formed of relatively light weight paperboard of a type which may be readily printed with an attractive design. In order to provide the necessary strength for carrying the shoes, a liner of stronger material such as corrugated paperboard is inserted into the box, the liner preferably being generally U-shaped in cross-section. The liner is equipped with abutment means engaging the heels of the shoes to hold the shoes in place. The liner also forms a support for a carrying handle which is normally concealed from view until the shoes are sold but which may be exposed for use when desired.

These and other objects and novel features of the present invention will be more clearly and fully set forth in the following specification and claims.

In the drawings forming a part of the specification,

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the shoe box in position to be carried.

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the shoe box in open position and with the liner partially removed.

FIGURE 3 is a diagrammatic view of the blank from which the shoe box is formed.

FIGURE 4 is a diagrammatic view of the blank from which the liner is formed, the blank being reversed from FIGURE 3.

The outer shell of the shoe box is indicated in general by the letter A and is constructed as is best illustrated in FIGURE 3 of the drawings. As illustrated, the box A includes a top panel **10**, a side wall panel **11**, a bottom panel **12**, and a second side wall panel **13**, the panels being connected along parallel fold lines **14**, **15**, and **16**. A glue flap **17** is hingedly connected to the top wall panel **10** along a fold line **19** which is parallel to the previously described fold lines. In forming the box, the glue flap **17** is adhered in face contact with a portion of the side wall panel **13** to form a tubular closure.

A closure of the "automatic bottom" type is hinged to an end of the wall panels. Closure flaps **20**, **21**, **22** and **23** are hingedly connected to the ends of the panels **10**, **11**, **12** and **13** respectively along a substantially common line of fold **24**. The closure flaps **20** and **22** are provided with diagonal fold lines **25** and **26**. The fold line **25** extends diagonally across the flap **20** from the juncture between lines **14** and **24**, while the fold line **26** extends diagonally across the flap **22** from the juncture between fold lines **16** and **24**. The triangular corner portions **27** and **29** which are outwardly of the diagonal fold lines **25** and **26** are adhered to areas **30** and **31** of the outer surfaces of the closure flaps **21** and **23**. This is done after all of the closure flaps have been folded against the inner surfaces of the wall panels to which they are hinged and the triangular corner portions **27** and **29** have been folded through 180° against portions of the closure flaps **20** and **22** to which they are secured. When the tubular carton is folded from flat form to rectangular form, the closure flaps fold into an end closing position and the flaps **20** and **22** interlock in the notches **32** and **33**. As this type of enclosure is well-known in the art, no further explanation is believed necessary.

A reclosable closure is provided at the other end of the wall structure. A closure panel **34** is hingedly connected to the bottom wall **12** along a fold line **35**. A tuck flap **36** is foldably connected to the closure panel **34** along a fold line **37** which is parallel to the fold line **35**. The tuck flap **36** is designed to tuck inwardly of the top panel **10** when the carton is closed.

A gusset flap **39** is foldably connected to the side wall along an extension of the fold line **35**. The gusset flap **39** is hingedly connected by the diagonal fold line **40** to a second gusset flap **41** hingedly connected to the side edge of the closure panel **34** along a fold line **42** which is substantially an extension of the fold line **15**. When the carton is opened, the gusset flaps **39** and **41** form a generally L-shaped flap structure which limits the opening of the closure flap **34**.

A similar flap structure is connected to the side wall **13**. A gusset flap **43** is hingedly connected to the side wall **13** along an extension of the fold line **35**. The gusset flap **43** is hingedly connected along a diagonal fold line **44** to a second gusset flap **45**. The gusset flap **45** is hinged to the edge of the closure panel **34** along a fold line **46** which is substantially an extension of the fold line **16**. The gusset flaps **43** and **45** also provide a generally L-shaped connection limiting the opening of the closure flap **34** to a position in which the closure flap **34** is in coplanar relation to the bottom panel **12**. The diagonal fold line **40** emanates from the juncture between the fold lines **15** and **35**, while the diagonal fold line **34** emanates from the juncture between the fold lines **35** and **16**.

A locking tab **47** is provided near the end edge **49** of the top panel **10**, which edge is aligned with the fold line **35**. The tab **49** is defined by a generally U-shaped weakened line of separation, this arrangement being employed so that the locking tab **47** will normally remain in the plane of the top panel **10** until the end of the tab has been manually disconnected from the panel **10**. The ends **51** of the U-shaped weakened line of separation **50** are connected by a fold line **52**, this fold line extending parallel to the end edge **49**. A second fold line **53** extends transversely across the locking tab **47** in spaced parallel relation to the fold line **52**. The spacing between the fold lines **52** and **53** is preferably slightly greater than the distance between the fold line **52** and the edge **49** of the blank.

A locking slot is formed in the tuck flap **36** near the fold line **37** by a cut line **54** which is generally U-shaped and which terminates on the fold line **37**. When the tuck flap **36** is folded down at right angles to the closure flap **34**, a locking slot is formed which is properly proportioned and properly positioned to accommodate the locking tab **47**.

The liner B is formed as is best illustrated in FIGURE 4 of the drawings. The liner B includes a bottom panel **55** which is slightly narrower than the bottom panel **12** of the carton A. Side walls **57** and **59** are foldably connected to opposite edges of the bottom panel **55** along parallel fold lines **60** and **61**. The bottom panel **55** is substantially coextensive with the carton bottom panel **12**, and the side wall panels **57** and **59** are substantially coextensive with the carton side walls **11** and **13**. The carton A is normally made of flat paperboard while the liner B is normally made of corrugated paperboard or the like.

A third fold **62** extends across the bottom panel **55** at right angles to the fold lines **60** and **61**. A cut line **63** extends across the bottom panel **55** in spaced parallel relation to the fold line **62**. The cut line **63** intersects the fold lines **60** and **61** and the ends **64** of the cut line are located in the side walls **57** and **59**. Angular fold lines **65** connect the ends of the fold line **62**, which are at the fold lines **60** and **61**, to the ends **64** of the cut line **63**.

When the side walls **57** and **59** of the liner are folded into right angular relation to the bottom panel **55**, the flap **66** between the fold line **62** and the cut line **63** is simultaneously folded into angular relation to the remainder of the bottom panel **55**, the triangular areas **67** between the angularly related fold lines **60** and **65** and **61** and **65**, respectively, folding through 180° and into contact with the inner surfaces of the side walls **57** and **59**. This arrangement forms an inclined abutment which is spaced from the ends of the liner B a distance approximately equal to the length of the heels of the shoes. The abutment is indicated in FIGURE 2 of the drawings. The purpose of this arrangement is to prevent the shoes from sliding longitudinally within the carton. Obviously, the carton is long enough to accommodate shoes of the largest size made, and the abutment serves to prevent shorter shoes from sliding when in place in the carton.

The side wall **57** of the liner B is provided with two longitudinally spaced slots or apertures **69** therein which are substantially midway between the fold line **60** and the opposite edge of the panel **57**. The apertures **69** are adapted to accommodate the crescent shaped end **70** of a flexible plastic handle strip **71**. The handle strip **71** is somewhat longer than the distance between the inner edges of the spaced slots **69** so that the handle may be drawn into upwardly bowed position as indicated in FIGURE 1 of the drawings.

The carton A is provided with a removable area **72** at the center of the side wall **11**, the removable area being of generally oval shape with the ends of the removable area positioned outwardly of the slots **69** when the liner is in position in the carton. The removable area **72** is defined by a weakened line of separation **73**. When

the carton A and its liner B are to be carried, the removable area **72** may be removed, exposing the handle strip **71** which then may be grasped and pulled outwardly into the position shown in FIGURE 1 of the drawings. After the carton has been opened, it may be closed and held in closed position by the locking tab **47**. The area **74** of the locking tab which is between the fold lines **52** and **53** is folded into face contact with the portion of the top panel **10** between the fold line **50** and the edge **49**, and the end portion **75** of the locking tab is inserted through the slot formed by the cut line **54**.

When the carton is in closed position, the edges **76** and **77** of the gusset flaps **39** and **43**, respectively, fold closely adjacent, and parallel to, the closure panel **34**. An edge **76**, **77** of each of the gusset flaps **39** and **43**, respectively, extends into position closely adjacent to the top wall **10** of the carton, it being understood that the gusset flaps **39**, **41** and **43**, **45** fold along the diagonal fold lines **40** and **44** into face contact. As a result, the original container for the shoes may be used as a shoe carrier and shoe storage box when the shoes are not in use.

In accordance with the patent statues, I have described the principles of construction and operation of my improvement in shoes boxes; while I have endeavored to set forth the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that obvious changes may be made within the scope of the following claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A shoe box including:
an outer carton of rectangular form having tubularly connected top, bottom, and side walls,
closure flaps at opposite ends of at least certain of said walls foldable to provide end closures,
a liner in said carton having a base panel inwardly of, and substantially coextensive with, said bottom wall, and side panels hingedly connected to the side edges of said base panel and lying inwardly of said carton side walls,
a cut line extending across said base panel intersecting the lines of hinge connecting said base panel to said side panels and terminating in said side panels,
a fold line extending across said base panel in spaced parallel relation to said cut line and terminating at said lines of hinge,
fold lines connecting the ends of said cut line to the corresponding ends of said fold lines, providing substantially triangular gusset flaps in said side panels, whereby
when said gusset flaps are folded inwardly into face contact with adjoining portions of said side panels, the portion of said base panel between said cut line and said parallel fold line may be hinged out of the plane of said base panel to form a heel engaging abutment.

2. The structure of claim **1** and in which said side panels are substantially coextensive with said side walls.

3. The structure of claim **1** and including a handle member having its ends secured to said liner and extending through a wall of said carton.

4. The structure of claim **1** and including a flexible handle having its ends extending through a side panel of said liner and of sufficient length to be drawn into upwardly bowed relation extending through one wall of said carton.

5. The structure of claim **4** and in which said one wall of said carton includes a detachable area defined by weakened lines of separation, said area overlying said handle.

6. A shoe box including:
an outer carton of rectangular form having tubularly connected top, bottom, and side walls,
closure flaps at opposite ends of at least certain of said walls foldable to provide end closures,
a liner in said carton including a base panel lying

inwardly of and substantially coextensive with one wall of said carton, and at least one side panel hingedly connected to a side edge of said base panel and lying inwardly of a side wall of said carton,

a cut line extending across said base panel intersecting said line of hinge connecting said base panel and side panel and terminating in said side panel,

a fold line extending across said base panel in spaced parallel relation to said cut line and terminating at said line of hinge,

a fold line in said side panel connecting the corresponding ends of said fold line and cut line to provide a substantially triangular gusset flap in said side panel, whereby

when said gusset flap is folded inwardly into face contact with the adjoining side panel, the portion of the base panel between said cut line and said parallel fold line may be hinged out of the plane of said base panel to form a heel engaging abutment,

one said panel having a pair of spaced apertures therethrough,

a flexible handle strap overlying said panel between said apertures and having its ends extending through said apertures,

enlarged ends of greater width than said apertures on said handle strap, said ends being spaced apart a distance greater than the distance between said apertures,

one wall of said carton having an aperture therethrough exposing the portion of said handle strap between said apertures.

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