Nov. 11, 1930. L. S. BARNES 1,781,624

BOX OR CONTAINER

Filed July 14, 1926

Fig. 2.

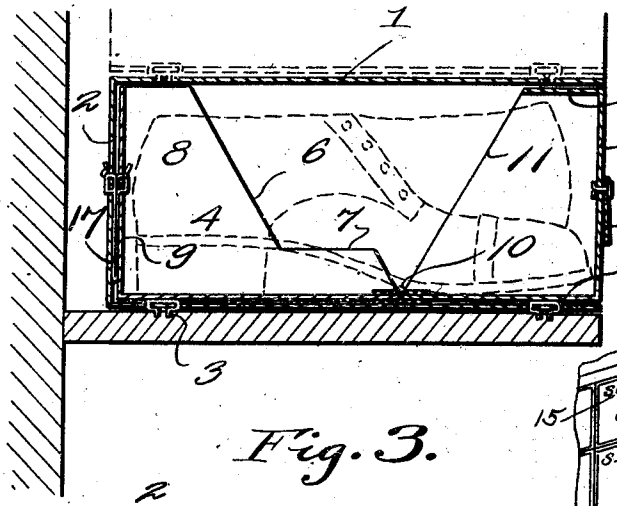


Fig. 1.

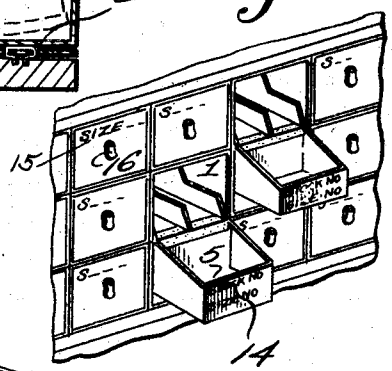


Fig. 3.

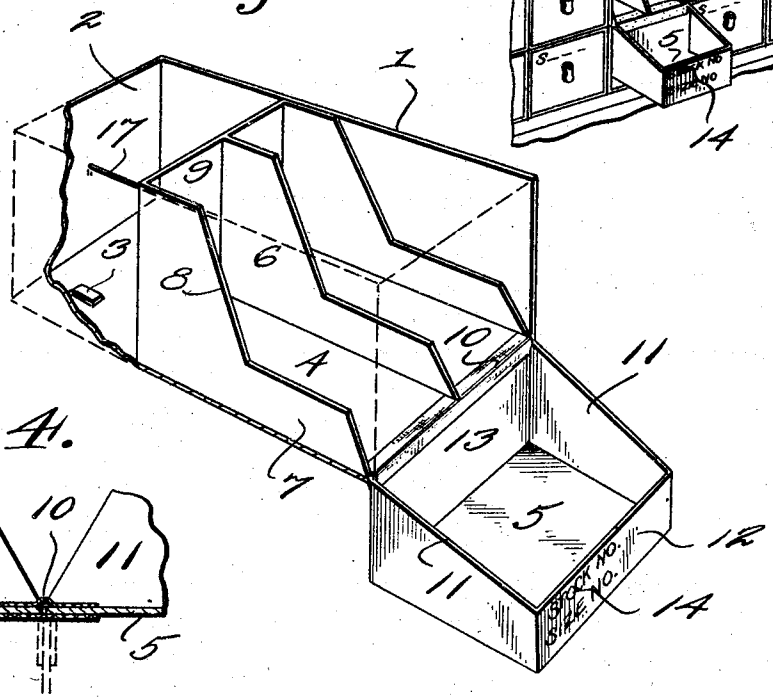
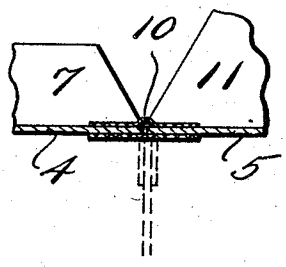


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LELAND S. BARNES, OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

BOX OR CONTAINER

Application filed July 14, 1926. Serial No. 122,433.

Broadly my improvement has reference to boxes or containers for shoes or like articles designed to be arranged on shelves in stores, but especially the improvement aims to provide a system whereby stacked boxes containing shoes or like articles may be permanently retained on shelves and the articles removed from any of the boxes for display and sale without interfering with the remaining boxes or the articles therein.

A further object is the provision of boxes or the like designed as containers for shoes or other articles of merchandise which are designed to be stacked on shelves in a store, each of which comprises an outer case having frictional or impinging means for contacting with the shelf or case on which it rests so that the said cases will be held immovably positioned, each of said cases having slidable therein a tray divided by partitions into two compartments and having an outer hinged end provided with a tab or like element designed to be grasped for sliding the tray outwardly of the case whereby the articles may be removed from or replaced in the tray, there being means for limiting the outward sliding movement of the tray.

A further object is the provision of the arrangement of boxes or containers on shelves in a manner whereby any of such articles may be conveniently removed or replaced without removing the container therefor, or interfering with the containers for the remaining articles.

To the attainment of the above broadly stated objects and others which will present themselves as the nature of the invention is better understood, the improvement resides in the novel features of construction, combination and operative association of parts, a satisfactory embodiment of which is illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the arrangement of my containers on a shelf.

Figure 2 is a substantially central vertical longitudinal sectional view through one of the containers and the supporting shelf therefor.

Figure 3 is a perspective view, with parts broken away and parts in section, illustrating the inner container or tray moved outwardly through the outer container or case therefor, as when articles are to be removed or replaced in the tray.

Figure 4 is a detail sectional view to illustrate the hinged connection between the sections constituting the inner container or tray.

In the following specification I shall refer to my improvement as a shoe box or container and a system for nesting such shoe boxes or containers, but obviously the improvement may be employed for containing articles other than shoes. In shoe dispensing emporiums the boxes are stacked on shelves. These boxes, as are the boxes that constitute my improvement, are of standard size to meet the regulations of the shoe manufacturers and the requirements of the retailers in so far as the shelves in the retailer's store are proportioned to hold a determined number of such boxes. The boxes are arranged on the shelves, one resting on the other and the stock is usually carried in whole and half numbers, such as, say a number 6 shoe of one particular style would be in the bottom row of boxes while a number 6½ size would be in the row resting on those just mentioned and so on. The stock number, style, size and other necessary information is stamped on the outer end of the flanged lid or cover of the box. When a customer requires a shoe of a certain size, say a No. 6 shoe, the clerk removes the box containing this shoe from the shelf and the boxes containing other shoes above the removed box will drop into the space previously occupied thereby, thus mixing the stock and causing inconvenience in placing the stock back into position after the customer has been waited on. In addition to this the constant removal and falling of boxes results in the breakage thereof, the tearing of the lids and other inconveniences. With my system and box or container construction, the nested boxes or containers may remain indefinitely when stacked on the shelves and the articles may be removed therefrom and replaced therein in an easy and expeditious manner and without injury to either the boxes or to the ar-

ticles. Also with my improvement it will be noted that the labor of the clerk in waiting upon customers who demand the showing of a large number of shoes will be greatly reduced. The boxes or containers may be made of any desired material, but are preferably cheaply constructed and are, therefore, of paste board. The boxes, especially the outer and exposed ends thereof, are preferably grained in imitation of the woodwork of the shelves or may be otherwise ornamented to add to the attractiveness thereof.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, it will be noted that each of my improved boxes or containers includes an outer member in the nature of a case 1. Each case 1 has its rear end closed, as at 2, and has its bottom provided with depending frictional or impinging elements 3. The elements 3 are a desired feature of the improvement, for the reason that those on the boxes that rest directly on the shelves have impinging engagement with said shelves so that this series of boxes is held properly positioned and immovable on the shelves, while the superimposed boxes have a like impinging engagement between each other. The elements 3 are of substantially U-shaped formation and afford rests as well as tracks for the trays hereinafter to be described which are arranged within the boxes.

In each case 1 there is slidably received a container. The container is made up of two sections, the inner section constituting a tray which is indicated by the numeral 4, and the outer section, indicated by the numeral 5, is in the nature of a hollow member that has its inner face open. The tray 4 is divided by a central partition 6 into two compartments, and the side walls of each compartment has its outer edge reduced, as at 7, but widened, as at 8, to the juncture of the said side walls with the back 9 of the tray. There is a hinged connection 10 between the sections 4 and 5 of the container. Preferably the hinge is provided by gluing strips of fabric onto the confronting ends of the base portions of the sections 4 and 5. The outer edges of the side walls providing the compartments are beveled and the inner side walls of the hollow end 5 are also beveled, as at 11, so that what is normally the top wall 12 of the end 5, is of a materially less width than the bottom wall 13 thereof. The wall 12 of the hollow end 5 has inscribed thereon suitable indicia 14 relative to the contents of the box, and the outer face of the said end 5 is likewise inscribed as indicated by the numeral 15 in Figure 1 of the drawings. On the outer face of the hollow end of each container there is fixed a pull tab 16. As disclosed by the drawings, the pair of shoes received in the compartments in the tray of the slidable container are reversely arranged. This is for the convenience of both the salesman and the purchaser. The salesman can readily grasp the heel end of one of the shoes and withdraw the same from its compartment, while the purchaser can observe both the heel and toe portions of the shoes before their removal from the compartments. Should the purchaser decide that the shoes are not desired the clerk can readily rearrange the same in the compartments and close the end 5 and slide the container in the case 1. The container cannot be wholly withdrawn from the case, as there is a flexible element 17 secured to the back 9 of the tray part of the container and the back 2 of the case 1. This element 17 is of a length that will permit the hollow end 5 dropping to the position illustrated in Figures 1 and 3 when the container is drawn outwardly through the case. By constructing the end 5 in the nature of the hollow member the same not only has the data 14 and 15 imprinted on the opposite faces thereof but the said end provides a compartment that may contain information for the salesman or a packing which will prevent injury to the outer ends of the shoes. As stated, the boxes are designed to remain a fixture on the shelf, and when a purchase is made the shoes are removed therefrom and wrapped and the hollow end of the container or cover is swung to closed position and moved back into the case and suitable data may be arranged between the tab 16 and the front of the end 5 to inform the clerk that the box is empty. The box, of course, may be refilled with other shoes after the original contents have been removed, and even were no data attached to the box it is only a comparatively slight task for the salesman to exert a pull upon the tab 16 to swing the end 5 to ascertain that the box is empty, in instances where the prompt refilling thereof is not made.

Having described the invention, I claim:—

A drop end shoe box constructed to display the shoes without removing the same from the box, said box comprising an outer case open at one end, a slidable container wholly arranged within the case and including a bottom, rear end walls, opposed side walls and a centrally located partition parallel with the side walls, said side walls and partition being materially reduced in length for the major portion of their length adjacent the open end of the case, whereby the major portion of the shoes received by the latter will be presented to view when the box is open, a tray having its inner end hingedly secured to the outer end of the slidable container, and normally arranged vertically within the case, and adapted to be swung outwardly therefrom to a horizontal position, when the container is slid outwardly with relation to the case, and a flexible element terminally connected with the adjacent rear walls of the case and container to limit the movement

of the container, and maintain the latter wholly within the case when the tray is swung to its horizontal position, whereupon a portion of the shoes will be projected from the case for display.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

LELAND S. BARNES.