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CARTON CLOSURE AND CARRYING DEVICE

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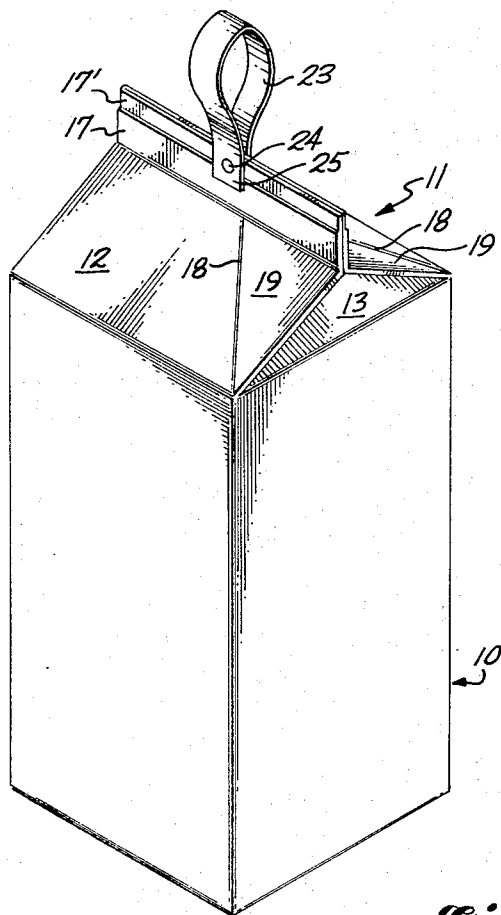


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

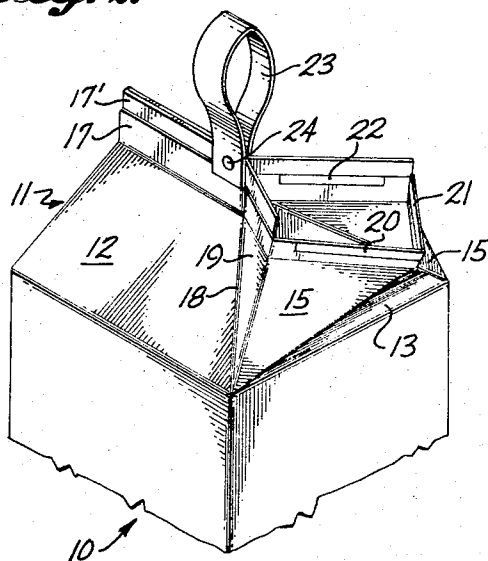
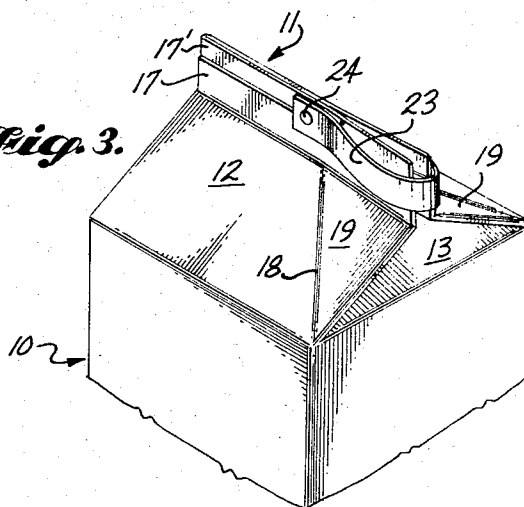


Fig. 3.



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CARTON CLOSURE AND CARRYING DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 229—52)

This relates to a device which may be used with a paperboard container having a pitcher pour spout and which is useful both for carrying the container and for holding the pitcher pour spout closed.

Paperboard milk containers, such as milk cartons, are normally placed in storage trays in supermarkets and must be lifted or otherwise removed from these trays. The shape of the carton allows it to be tightly packed with other cartons, causing it to be removed only with difficulty. These cartons have pitcher pour spouts which tend, after opening, to remain slightly open.

It is an object of this invention to provide a means which will allow the container to be easily removed from the storage trays, to be held while pouring, and to hold the pitcher pour spout closed when the container is not in use.

These and other objects of this invention will become readily apparent upon reading the following specification in conjunction with the attached drawings.

FIG. 1 is a isometric view of the container with the device in the carrying position.

FIG. 2 is an isometric view of the container open for pouring.

FIG. 3 is an isometric view of the container with the device in the closure position.

The container 10 has a gable top closure 11 formed by a pair of roof panels 12, and panels 13 and 14 (not shown), a pair of triangular infolding panels 15 which connect the end panel 13 to the roof panels 12, and a pair of triangular infolding panels which connect the end panel 14 to the roof panels 12. Each of the roof panels 12 has an upwardly extending extension 17. These extensions and the top edges of the other panels are adhered to form a liquid tight seal. The extensions 17 are adhered together along their top edges to form a unitary extension 17'.

The container itself is rendered liquid tight by means of a liquid tight coating on both faces of the paperboard. This coating preferably is polyethylene which is laminated to both faces of the paperboard. The polyethylene coating also acts as a thermoplastic adhesive to adhere the various members of the container, such as the gable top members, together.

Each of the panels 12 has a score line 18 defining a triangular end section 19 which is aligned with the triangular infolding panels 15. The end panel 13, the two infolding panels 15 and the triangular sections 19 form a pitcher pour spout when opened.

To aid in opening the carton to form the pitcher pour spout, an abhesive or release agent is placed on selected portions of the pour spout in order to reduce the area of adherence so that less force will be required in opening the container. These areas are the outer edge 20 and the

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inner edge 21 of the pour spout and the upper edge 22 of each of the inner faces of the roof panels 12 extending between the score line 18 and the outer edge of the roof panel. As may be seen, none of the coated areas extend to the outer edge of the roof panels 12 so that there is an adhered section adjacent the outer edge of each of the panels.

A loop handle 23 is pivotally attached by rivots or grommets 24 to the extension 17'. The attachment preferably is at the center of the container adjacent the inner edge of the pour spout. The opposite ends 25 of the handle 23 are attached to opposing faces of the extension 17' so that the handle is looped over the extension. The total length of the handle 23 between its two points of attachment is slightly greater than twice the distance between the point of attachment of the handle and the outer edge of the pour spout when the container is closed. This allows the handle to be pivoted over the pour spout to hold the pour spout closed when it is not in use.

The device may also be used for holding the upper end of the container when pouring from the container.

Thus a single device is used for carrying the container, for holding the container while pouring, and for holding the container closed when its pitcher pour spout is not in use.

While a single example of the preferred form of the invention has been described, it will be readily apparent that many changes and modifications may be made in the structure without departing from the spirit of the invention. It should therefore be understood that the example is illustrative only and is not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. In a gable top container, a pair of roof panels, a pair of end panels extending inwardly of said roof panels, triangular infolding panels connecting said roof panels and said end panels, said roof panel having upwardly extensions sealed together, one of said end panels, its corresponding fold-in panels, and the adjacent ends of said roof panels forming a pitcher pour spout, a loop handle pivotally attached to said sealed extensions, said outer gable top end being the outer end of said closed pitcher pour spout,

the length of said loop handle between the points of attachment being slightly greater than twice the distance between the point of attachment and the outer end of said gable top.

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