Feb. 20, 1951 M. L. SCHUMANN 2,542,365

BAIL HANDLE FOR CARRIER CARTONS

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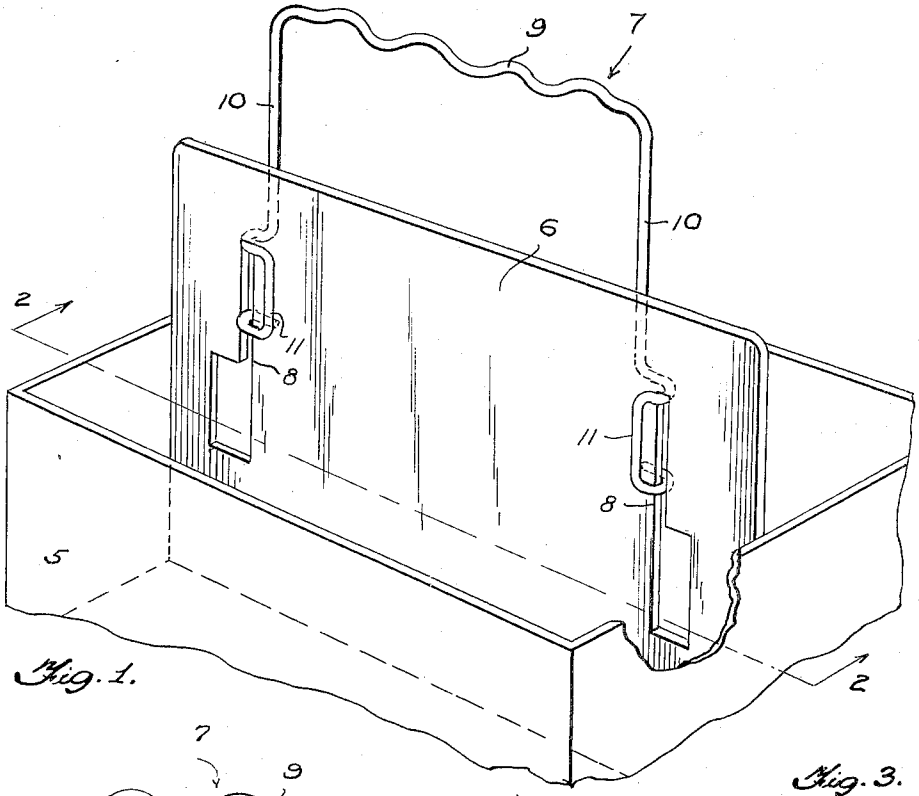


Fig. 1.

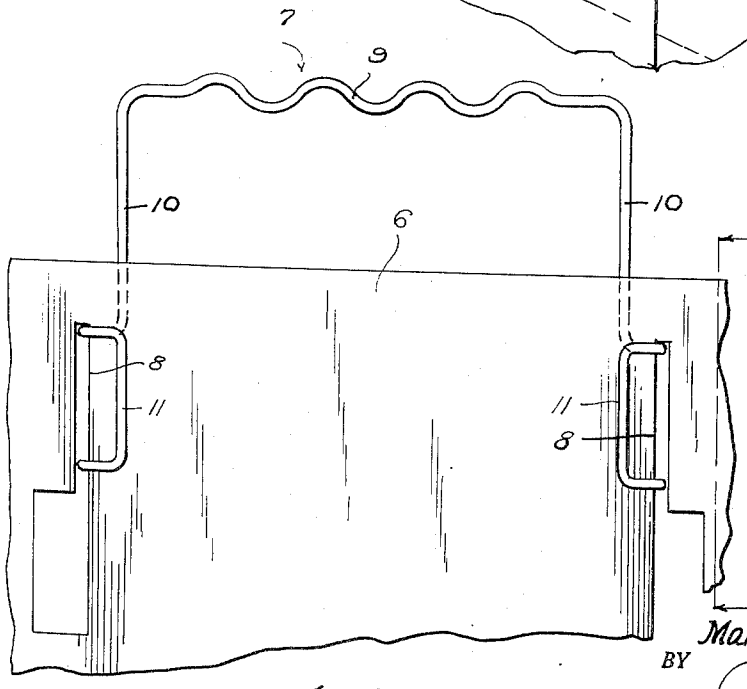


Fig. 2.

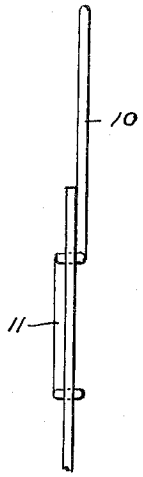


Fig. 3.

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BAIL HANDLE FOR CARRIER CARTONS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 229—52)

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This invention relates to an improvement in handles or supporting bails for carrier cartons and particularly to cartons for conveniently carrying beverage bottles or the like.

It is an important object of the present invention to provide an improved handle for beverage bottle carriers having a novel construction that permits it to be retracted for purposes of storage, is quickly extended to carrying position and will remain in the extended or retracted position without the aid of other securing means.

A further and important object of the invention resides in the novel manner of forming the handle or bail, whereby a hand engaging portion is provided and carton engaging extensions so formed as to slidably and frictionally engage the partition of the carton in a manner to maintain the handle in either the extended or retracted position against tilting or swaying in use, is quickly and easily attached to the carton and will not become disengaged either when in use or retracted.

Other novel features and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent during the course of the following description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a beverage bottle carrier showing the invention in use and in extended position,

Figure 2 is a section on line 2—2 of Figure 1 and,

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the several figures of the drawing.

Referring specifically to the drawing, the numeral 5 designates a conventional beverage bottle carrying carton commonly employed to conveniently carry a group of bottles, usually six in number. The invention has been illustrated as being applied to a bottle carrier, but it will be obvious that other carriers requiring a bail handle may be readily adapted for use with the improved handle. The carton 5 is provided with a central, vertically arranged partition 6, extending above the sides of the carton body and serves as a handle engaging portion for a handle, generally designated at 7. The partition 6 is provided with elongated slots 8, vertically arranged and terminating adjacent the upper edge of the partition. The slots are enlarged in width for substantially half their length, providing a means for readily attaching the bail handle to the partition.

The handle 7 is preferably formed of a hard

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basic wire, calculated to maintain its shape after formation and having sufficient flexibility to permit its attachment to the partition and to frictionally maintain the handle in adjusted position. The handle 7 is formed U-shaped, providing a hand engaging portion 9, corrugated or scalloped, as shown to avoid slipping of the hand to affording a comfortable grip for the fingers. Parallel legs 10, integral with the handle 9, have their lower terminal ends bent to provide inwardly opening U-shaped guides 11 for frictionally and slidably engaging the inner walls of the slots 8.

In the formation of the handle, a strip of hard basic wire is cut to predetermined length, after which the corrugated hand engaging portion 9 is pressed into shape. The oppositely extended ends are then bent to provide the guides 11, having a depth corresponding to the thickness of the partition 6. The depth of the guides 11 is determined by the type of carrier upon which it is to be used. Obviously, for cardboard cartons, the depth will be considerably less than it would be when used in connection with wood or metal carriers. After forming the guides 11, the extended ends are bent inwardly slightly more than 90 degrees, after which, the handle is ready for application to the carrier. To attach the handle to the carrier, the extended ends are sprung outwardly to permit the passage of the guides through the enlarged portions of the slots 8. Release of the extended ends permits them to spring back to a position where they snugly engage the inner walls of the slots and the opposite surfaces of the partition 6, with just enough tension to permit readily slidable engagement therewith. The enlarged portions of the slots 8 is just sufficient to permit the passage of the guides therethrough at assembly.

In use, the handle is movable up or down, according to the particular needs. In stacking or storing position, the handle is retracted to lie in a flush position with the top of the partition 6, presenting no obstacle, as to height. When the carrier is to be used to transport bottles or the like, the handle portion 9 is grasped and drawn upward, the guides 11 sliding in the slots 8 until they contact the upper ends thereof at which time the handle portion 9 is sufficiently extended to permit hand engagement therewith. The tension of the guides 11 within the slots 8 will maintain the handle in the extended position. When the carrier is to be stored, the handle is moved downwardly to lie flush with the top of the partition 6. The handle 7, as a whole, may be sup-

plied as a unit for use upon different carriers and may be readily detached at will by simply springing the guides outwardly and passing them through the enlarged portions of the slots 8, thus providing handles of a nature that might be supplied to a purchaser and used upon carriers of subsequent purchase.

It will be seen from the foregoing that an extremely simple and efficient form of handle or bail has been provided for the convenient handling of beverage bottle carriers. The form of the invention readily adapts it to other types of carriers having a partition for the slots 8. The structure is extremely simple in nature, is easily attached and detached, requiring no separate fastening means, is cheap to manufacture, is strong, durable and desirable in use.

It is to be understood, that the invention is not limited to the precise form shown, but that it includes within its purview, whatever changes fairly come within the terms or the spirit of the appended claim.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

A detachable handle for beverage carriers formed of a single piece of flexible material having a corrugated hand grip portion and a pair of parallel right angular leg extensions, the terminal ends of the leg extensions bent to provide inwardly opening channel-like U-shaped guides, a beverage carrier having a partition wall provided with parallel slots for the slidable and frictional reception of the guides, the slots being enlarged for substantially half their length at the lower ends of a width to permit the lateral passage of the guides therethrough.

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