March 5, 1929. F. H. COOMBS 1,704,531

CONTAINER FOR MERCHANDISE

Filed Nov. 3, 1925

Fig. 1.

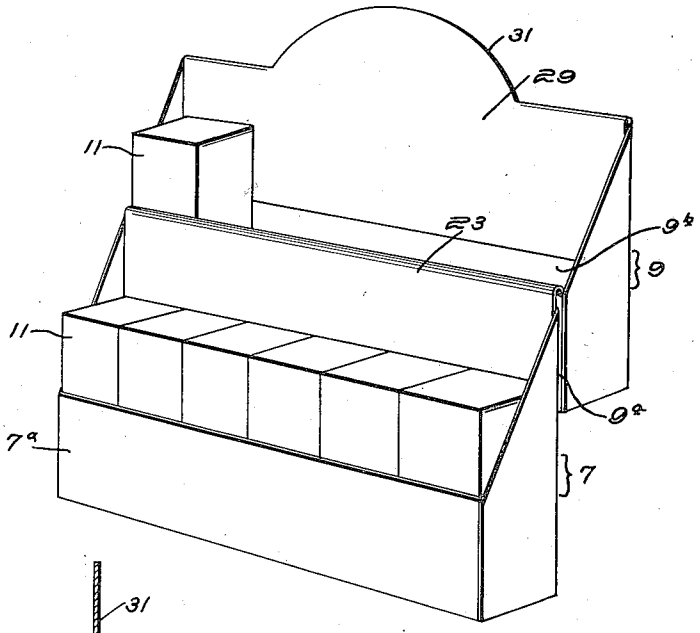


Fig. 2.

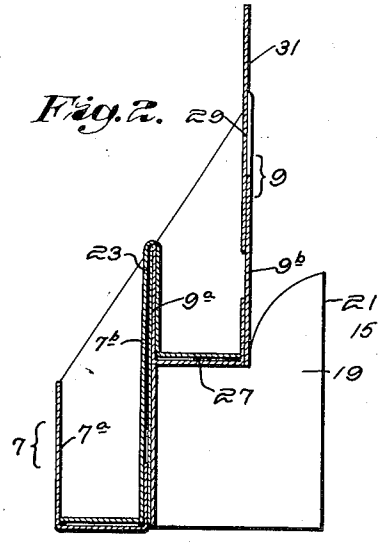


Fig. 3.

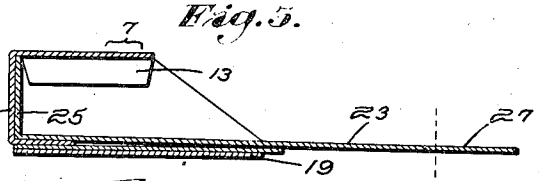


Fig. 4.

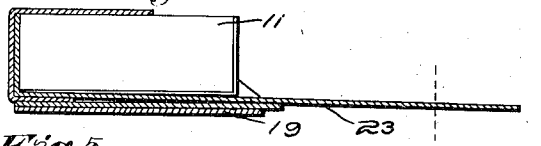
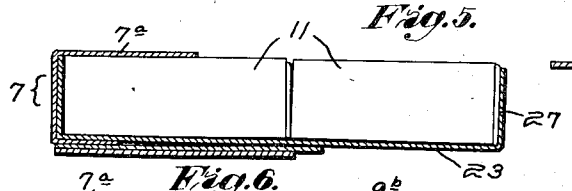


Fig. 5.



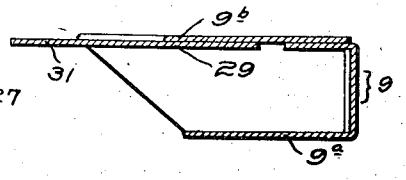
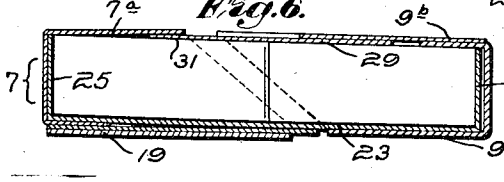


Fig. 6.



Inventor:
Fred H. Coombs,
By Emery, Booth, Janney & Varney
Attys.

Patented Mar. 5, 1929. 1,704,531

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED H. COOMBS, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO FORBES LITHOGRAPH MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, A CORPORATION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

CONTAINER FOR MERCHANDISE.

Application filed November 3, 1925. Serial No. 66,512.

This invention relates to containers or cartons of that type which may be erected from a position wherein they serve as containers for the shipment or storage of goods to a position wherein they serve to display and dispense the same as, for example, on a dealer's counter. The container of the present invention offers particular facilities in being packed for shipment and has varied application for use for display purposes.

My invention will be readily understood by reference to the following description of a single illustrative embodiment thereof shown by way of example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the container in display position;

Fig. 2 is a vertical central section through the same; and

Figs. 3 to 6, inclusive, are central transverse sections illustrating successive steps of one method whereby the container may conveniently be packed, Fig. 6 illustrating the container in its closed or shipping position.

Referring now in detail to the illustrative embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings, the container there illustrated comprises as a whole two separable boxes which, merely for the purpose of providing a convenient designation therefor readily apprehended in connection with the illustrated form of the invention, may be called a lower box 7 and an upper box 9. These boxes are packed with goods, herein illustrated as small cartons 11. In Fig. 1 the upper box 9 is shown partially empty. In referring to the boxes 7 and 9 as separable I mean that they are in such manner independent that they may be separated one from the other without any cutting or breaking of the material.

The boxes, which may be as herein shown substantial counterparts, may be constructed in any convenient manner but herein I have shown them each as folded from cardboard comprising a single piece forming a circuit of the sides and joined at one corner as by the adhesively secured flap 13 (Fig. 3) and having a bottom 15 folded over and secured by the tucked in flap 17. In the form of the invention shown each of the boxes has a low front side, 7^a and 9^a respectively, and a high rear side, 7^b and 9^b respectively, and the other sides are mitred at their upper edges to correspond as is clearly shown in the drawings. The two boxes may be placed top to top with the mitred edges of the sides in opposition in the position shown in Fig. 6 to provide a shipping package or they may be disposed side by side in the position shown in Fig. 1 with the tops upward to display the cartons 11 therein, the fronts of these cartons being exposed because of the low height of the forward walls 7^a and 9^a.

Herein the low side 9^a of the upper box lies adjacent the high side 7^b of the lower box and to support the box 9 with the upper edge of the low side 9^a substantially at the level of the upper edge of the high side 7^b of the lower box a suitable prop or easel 19 may be hingedly attached to the back of the lower box and may be folded out to the position shown in Fig. 2 to provide a support upon which the bottom of the box 9 rests in the position there shown. The easel 19 may have the upwardly extending flange 21 which rests against the back of the upper box 9 to hold it in position and the inner edge of this flange may be bevelled or curved as shown to permit the upper box to be folded into the position of Fig. 1 from the position of Fig. 6 or thereabouts by a pivotal movement substantially about the upper edges of the walls 7^b and 9^a as an axis.

The two boxes may be pivotally connected at the upper edges of walls 7^b and 9^a as just referred to by the use of a connecting sheet 23, preferably an additional piece of material, which is separable from at least one of the boxes and preferably from both as herein shown. This sheet may be of the same width as the boxes and may be folded over the adjacent sides 7^b and 9^a in the manner shown in Fig. 2, extending over the inner faces of these sides and lying between such faces and the goods stored in the boxes, such as the cartons 11, the goods aiding in maintaining the sheet in its folded position. I have herein shown the sheet 23 as provided with terminal flanges 25 and 27 (see Fig. 2) which are adapted to overlie the bottoms of the two boxes and rest between the same and the goods therein.

I have herein shown the rear wall 9^b of the upper box 9 as provided with an upward extension 29 which may be folded over forwardly on the inner face of the rear wall 9^b to present a portion thereof outwardly to serve as a display card, exposing a surface

which in the original material is the same side as the exterior of the box. If desired, this folded over portion may be secured in that position in any suitable manner. A form of display card in itself well known is herein shown, formed of a portion cut from the back 9^b of the box which is carried to a raised position above the line of fold when the part 31 beyond the line of fold is turned down. The total height of the back wall 9^b with the display extension 31 is preferably greater than the height of the wall 7^b of the lower box 7 and thus when the two boxes are presented top to top in the shipping position of Fig. 6 the extension 31 may be slipped beneath the front wall 7^a of the box 7, this telescoping connection together with the connection at the other side by means of the sheet 23 in its unfolded position providing for the closure of the box in this shipping position.

One important advantage of the construction shown is the ease with which the container may be packed. I have herein illustrated one suitable method whereby the cartons 11 may be packed. The sheet 23 may be assembled with one of the boxes, herein the lower box 7, if not already in position, in the manner shown in Fig. 3. Through the open top of the box a row of cartons 11 may be placed in the manner shown in Fig. 4. A second row of cartons may then be added on top of the sheet 23 as illustrated at the left in Fig. 5 and the flange 27, if present and if not already turned up, may then be turned up against the end of the second row of cartons as there shown. The other box, herein the upper box 9, may then be slid with a telescoping movement over the outer row of cartons supported on the sheet 23 and over said sheet and in this movement bodily of the two parts together the extension 31 may be guided under the wall 7^a to the position shown in Fig. 6 without the necessity of opening any of the parts. If flange 27 is absent the box 9 may be separately packed and the two boxes assembled by a similar telescoping movement, the sheet 23 sliding under wall 9^a and the extension 31 under wall 7^a. To erect the container this movement bodily of one of the boxes may, if desired, be reversed, preferably, however, without disengaging the boxes completely, and the two boxes unfolded one relatively to the other or the two boxes may be merely unfolded, the extension 31 being permitted to snap out from beneath the front wall 7^a.

Since the two boxes 7 and 9 are freely separable, if a part of the goods has been sold, emptying one of the boxes, they may be separated one from another and the empty one thrown away, the other remaining as a display container. If desired also, the two boxes may be separated in the first instance to provide two separate display containers.

The separate boxes may be economically cut from sheet stock without waste. The construction shown adapts itself to use with stock finished and printed on but one side. The sheet 23, besides performing the useful function of connecting the two parts while permitting the blanks therefor to be separately and economically cut from sheet stock, presents a finished surface covering in the manner shown in Fig. 1 the back of the wall 7^b above the cartons therein and it may have display matter printed thereon. Likewise in the embodiment of the invention shown the portion of this sheet which folds downwardly into the upper box 9 may be printed as a display card so that it may be erected to serve as such in case the lower box is separated from the upper. The construction of the display car 31 by folding over the extension 29 likewise exposes the finished surface of the sheet at the back and provides for covering the inside of the rear wall 9^b of the upper box 9 where it projects above the cartons 11.

I have described in detail the particular embodiment of my invention shown by way of example in the accompanying drawings. It will be understood that the construction, proportion and relation of the parts may be widely varied from the particular form illustrated without departing from the spirit of the invention. The detailed character of the description should not, therefore, be understood as in any way limiting the scope of the invention which is defined in the following claims.

Claims:

1. A container comprising a pair of separable boxes adapted to be disposed top to top as a shipping package or side by side as a dispensing package and means providing for a hinging connection of said sides when the container is packed comprising an additional sheet folded over the edges thereof to lie between said sides and the contents of the boxes, said means permitting the separation of the boxes.

2. A container comprising a pair of separable boxes adapted to be disposed top to top as a shipping package or side by side as a dispensing package and means providing for a hinging connection of said sides when the container is packed comprising an additional sheet folded over the edges thereof to lie between said sides and the contents of the boxes and having at one end a flange to lie between the bottom of the box and its contents, said means permitting the separation of the boxes.

3. A container comprising a pair of separable boxes adapted to be disposed top to top as a shipping package or side by side as a dispensing package and means providing for a hinging connection of said sides when the container is packed comprising a separate and separable sheet folded over the edges of said sides to lie along the inner surfaces of the

same and having flanges to overlie the bottoms of the boxes, said means permitting the separation of the boxes.

4. A container comprising a pair of separable boxes adapted to be disposed top to top as a shipping package or side by side as a dispensing package and means providing for a hinging connection of said sides when the container is packed comprising an additional sheet folded over the edges thereof to lie between said sides and the contents of the boxes, another side of one of the boxes having an extension adapted to be slid into engagement with the corresponding side of the other box by a bodily movement of approach between them to the top to top position, said means permitting the separation of the boxes.

5. A container comprising a pair of separable boxes adapted to be disposed top to top as a shipping package or side by side as a dispensing package, a sheet extending from the edge of such side of one box and folding over the edge of such side of the other box to provide a hinging connection between the boxes when packed, said other box being freely separable from said sheet.

6. A container comprising a pair of separable boxes adapted to be disposed top to top as a shipping package or side by side as a dispensing package, a sheet extending from the edge of such side of one box and folding over the edge of such side of the other box to provide a hinging connection between the boxes when packed and having a flange to overlie the bottom of said other box, said other box being freely separable from said sheet.

7. A container comprising a pair of separable boxes adapted to be disposed top to top as a shipping package or side by side as a dispensing package, a sheet extending from the edge of such side of one box and folding over the edge of such side of the other box to provide a hinging connection between the boxes when packed, said other box being freely separable from said sheet, another side of one of the boxes having an extension adapted to be slid into engagement with the corresponding side of the other box by a bodily movement of approach between them to the top to top position.

8. A container comprising a pair of separable boxes, one having a relatively tall side and the other a relatively low side, means on the tall side for supporting the said other box with said sides in contact and their upper edges substantially coincident and means providing for a hinging connection of said sides when the container is packed comprising a sheet projecting past the edge of one such side and folded over the inner face of the other such side, one of the boxes being freely separable from said sheet.

9. A container comprising a pair of separable boxes adapted to lie side by side as a dispensing package and means providing for a hinging connection of said sides when the container is packed comprising a sheet projecting from the margin of one such side and folding over the inner face of the corresponding side of the other box, said other box being freely separable from said sheet, said boxes also having parts adapted to be telescoped by bodily movement of a box relatively to said sheet with said sheet unfolded and said sides in alignment.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

FRED H. COOMBS.