March 26, 1963 R. M. WATTS ETAL 3,082,930

PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION

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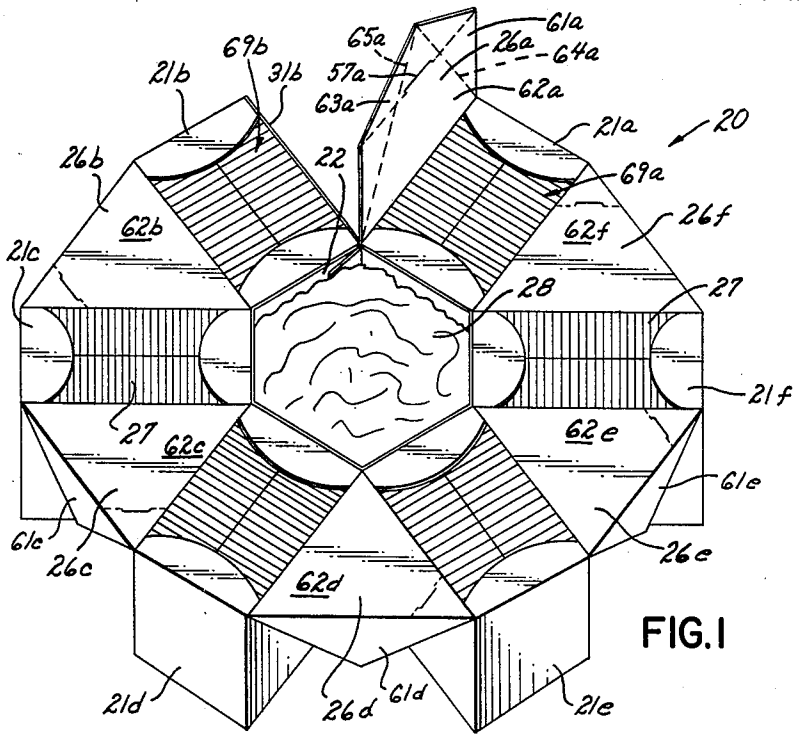


FIG.1

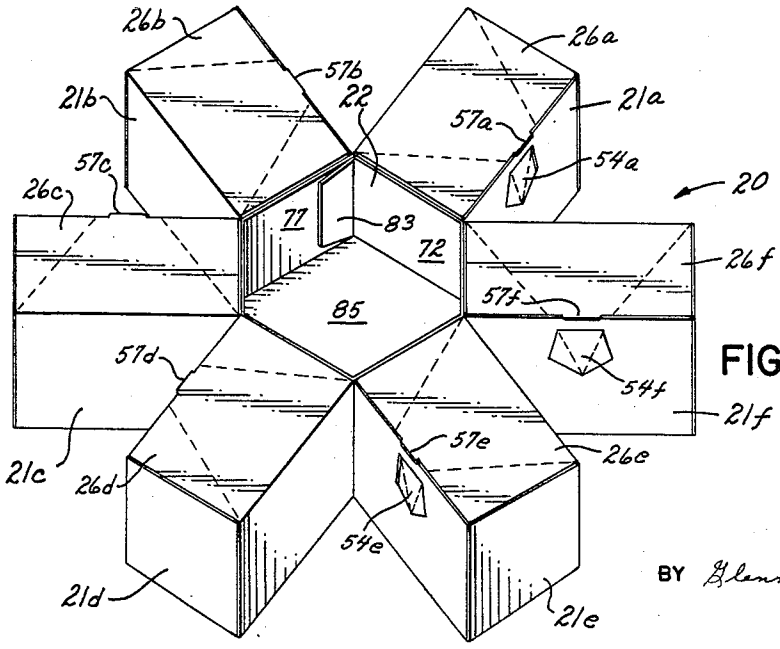


FIG.2

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PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION

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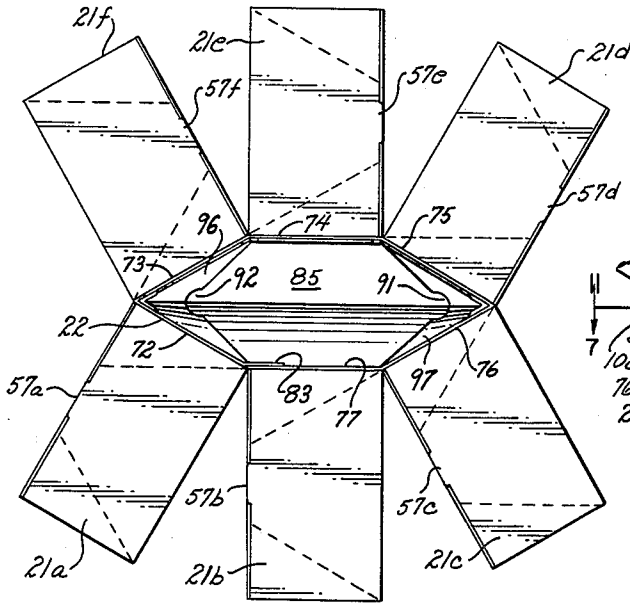


FIG. 3

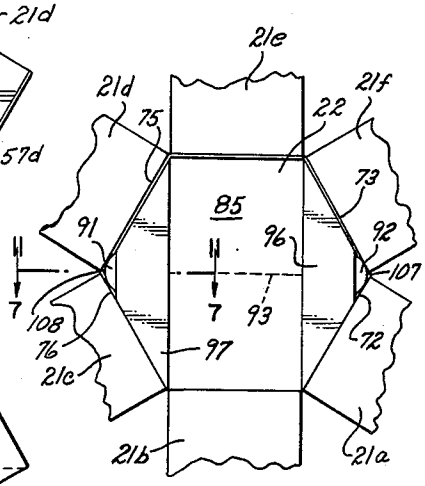


FIG. 6

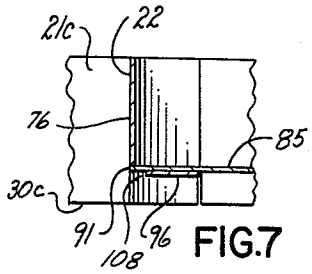


FIG. 7

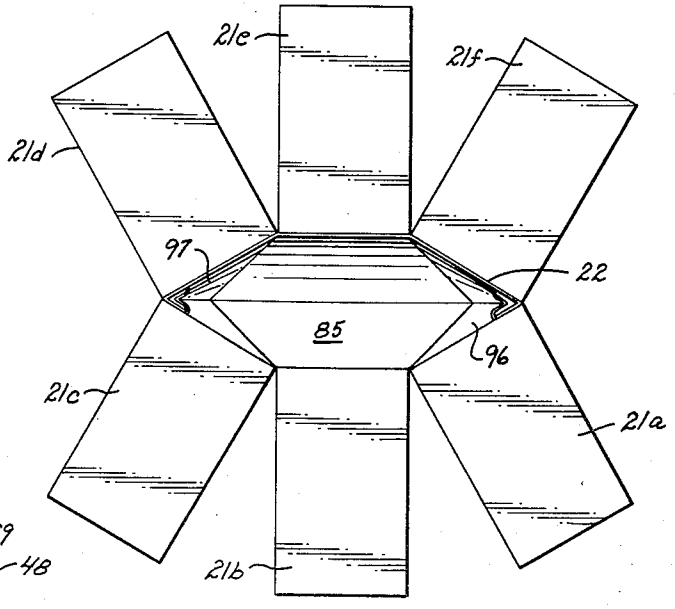


FIG. 4

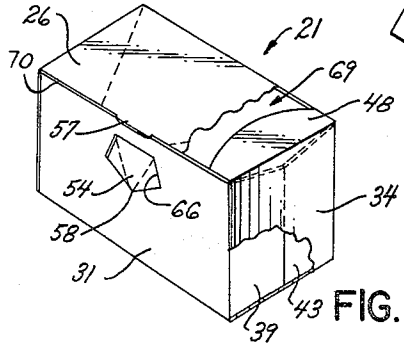


FIG. 8

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PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION

Filed Nov. 1, 1960 7 Sheets-Sheet 3

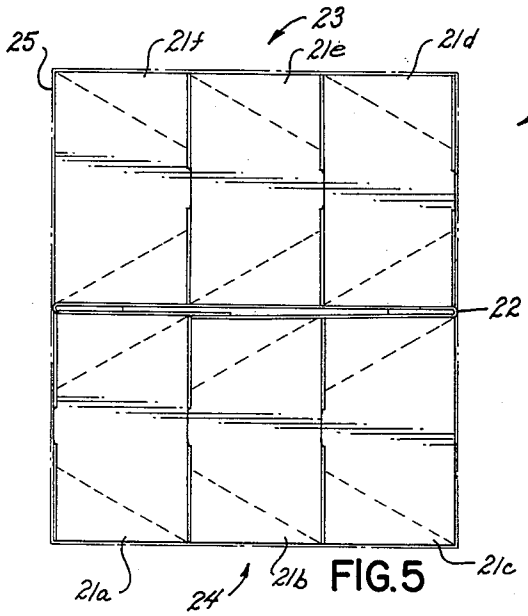


FIG.5

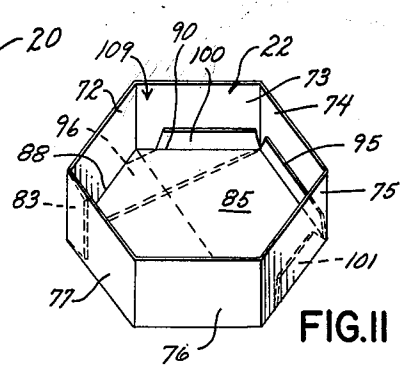


FIG.11

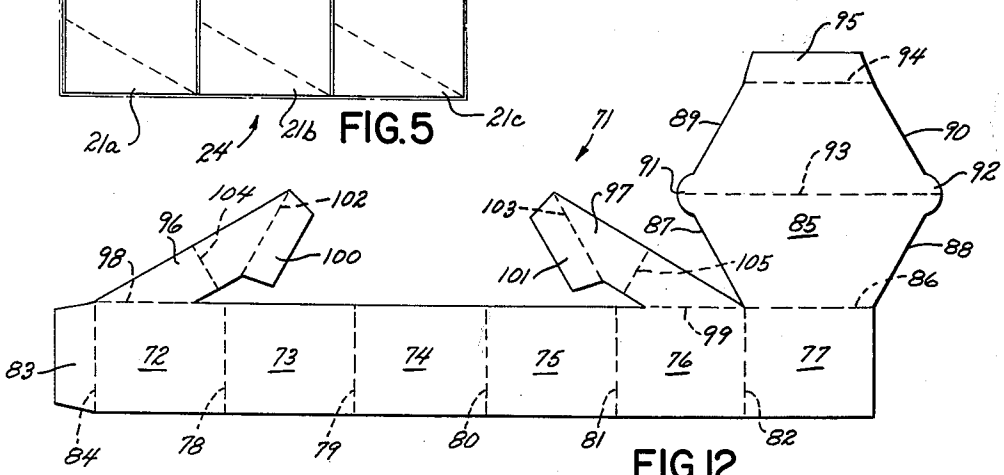


FIG.12

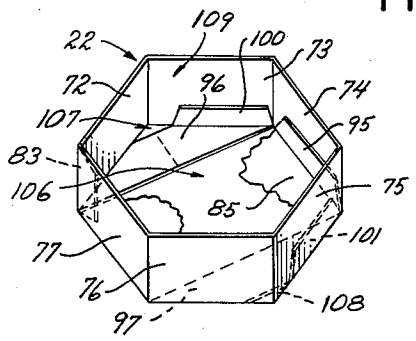


FIG.13

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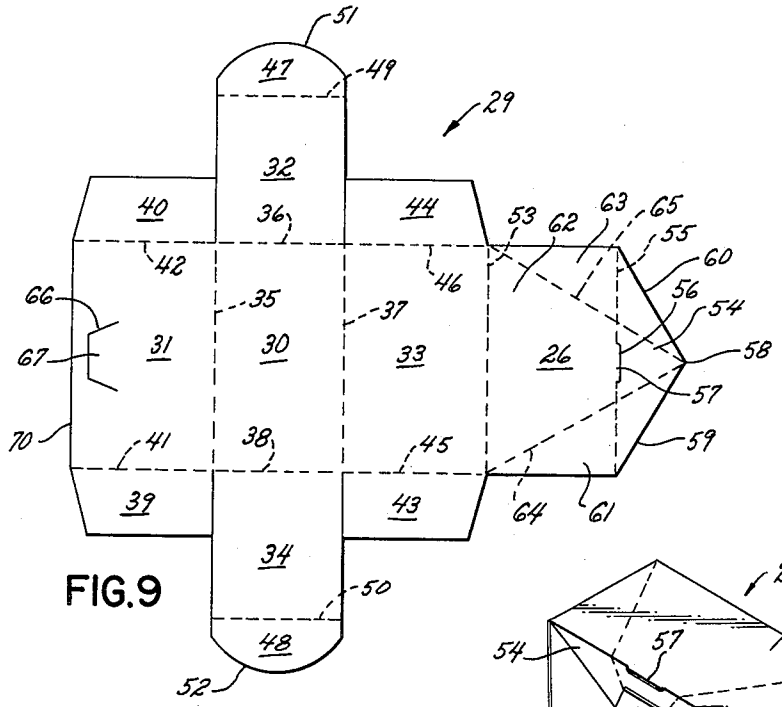


FIG.9

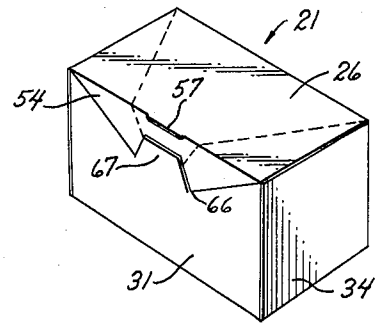


FIG.10

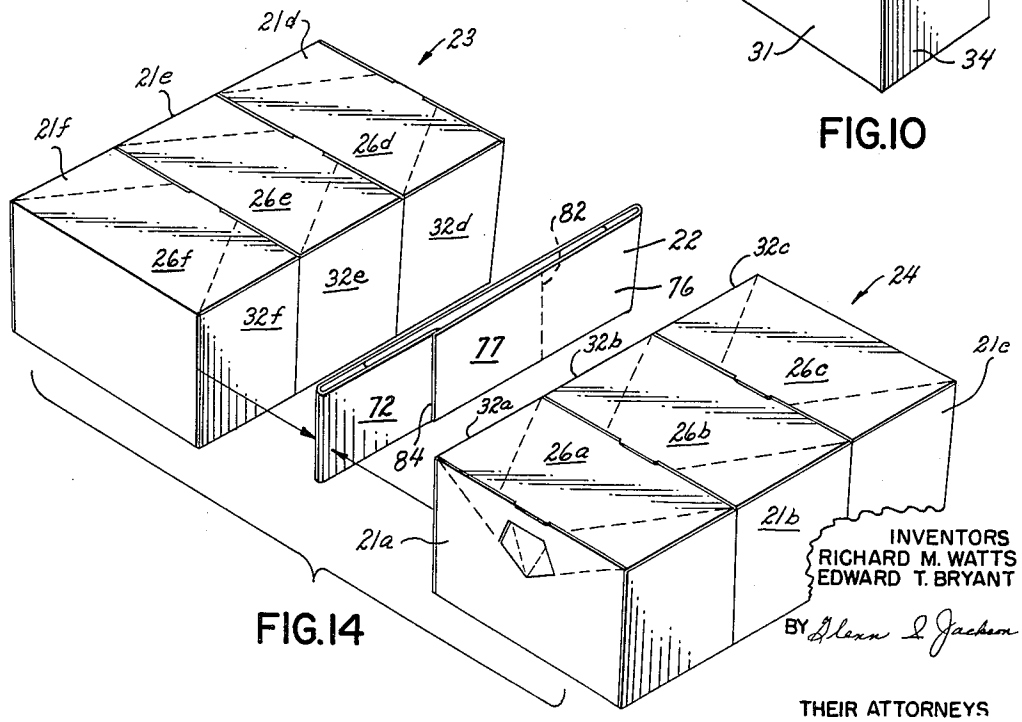


FIG.14

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PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION

Filed Nov. 1, 1960 7 Sheets-Sheet 5

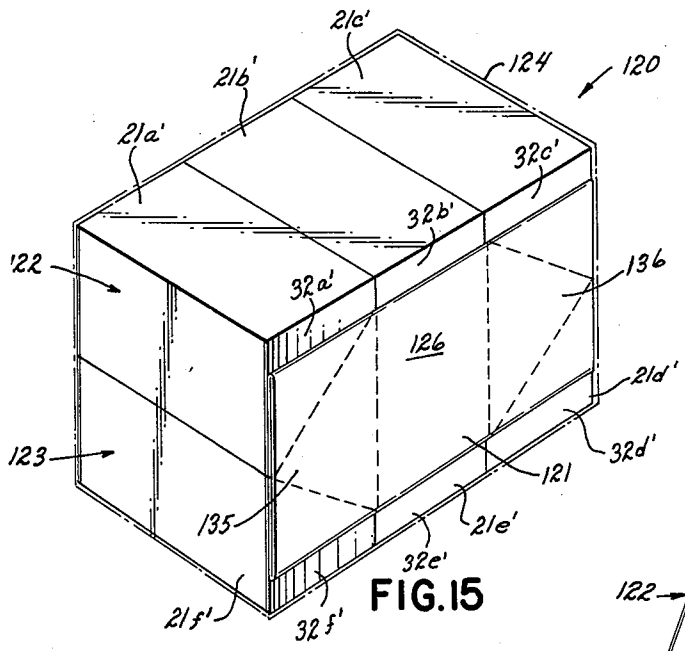


FIG.15

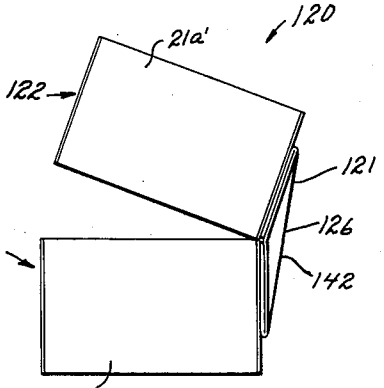


FIG.16

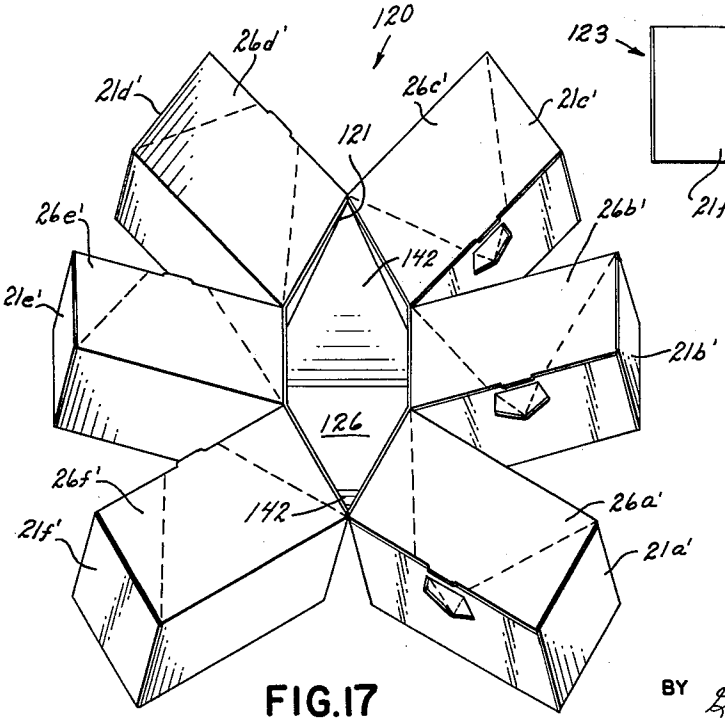


FIG.17

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PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION

Filed Nov. 1, 1960 7 Sheets-Sheet 6

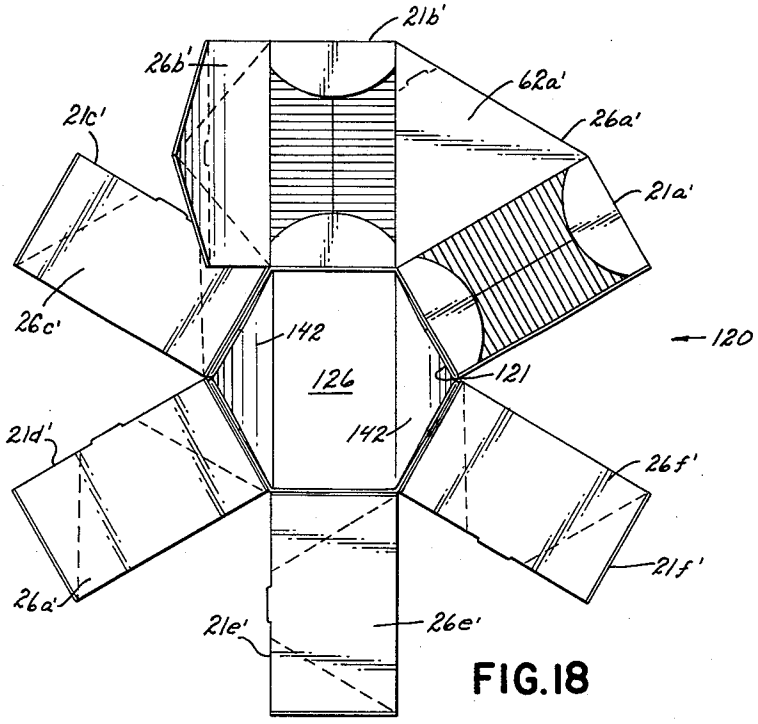


FIG.18

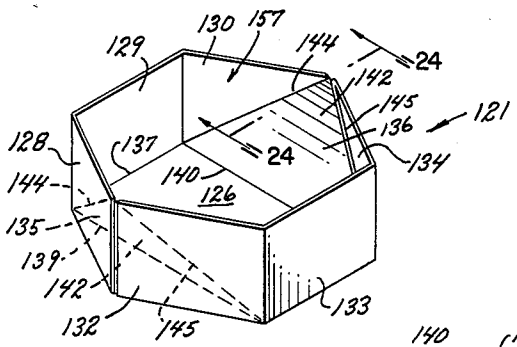


FIG.23

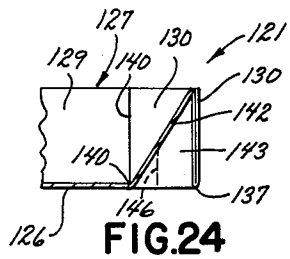


FIG.24

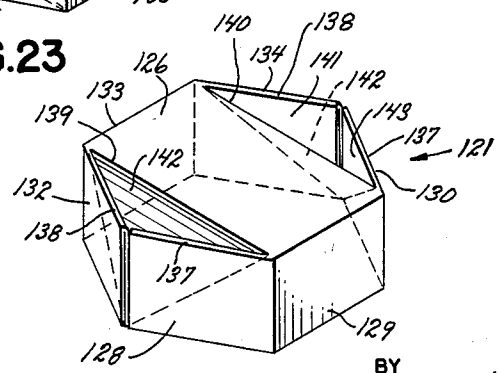


FIG.25

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PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION

Filed Nov. 1, 1960 7 Sheets-Sheet 7

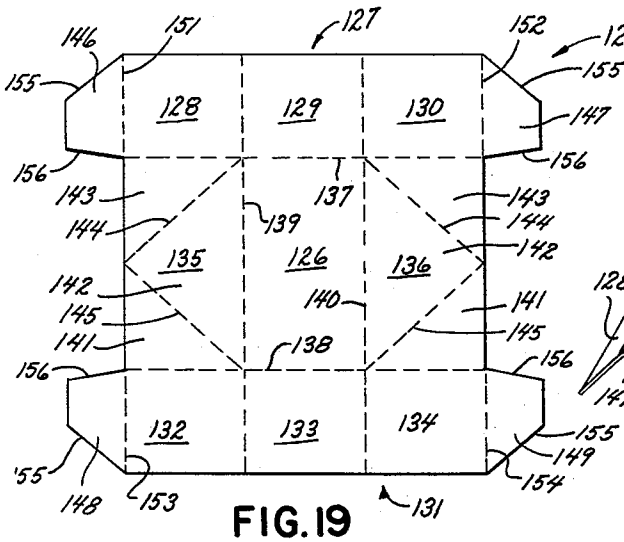


FIG.19

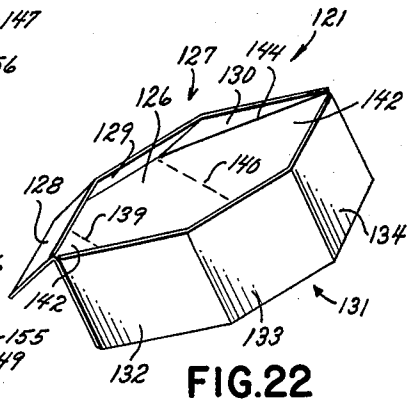


FIG.22

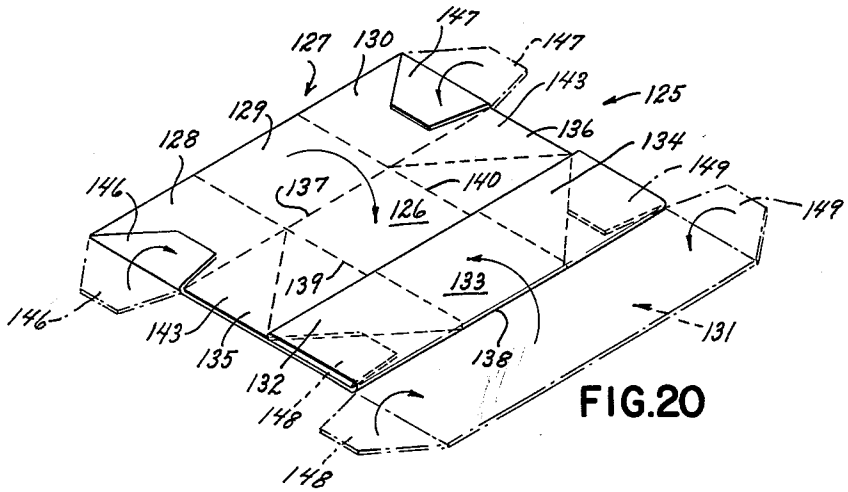


FIG.20

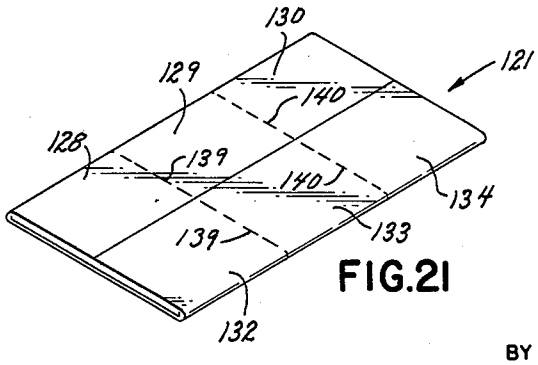


FIG.21

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United States Patent Office 3,082,930 Patented Mar. 26, 1963

3,082,930

PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION

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Filed Nov. 1, 1960, Ser. No. 66,621
18 Claims. (Cl. 229—33)

This invention relates to package constructions expandable to Lazy Susan arrangements, each package construction including a central, collapsible receptacle having a plurality of containers secured to the outer surfaces of the sidewalls of the receptacle to form an integral unit.

This invention also relates to the particular containers and receptacles for such package constructions and the like, as well as to the blanks for forming such containers and receptacles.

Each package construction of this invention generally comprises a collapsible receptacle having sidewall means that define an open end of the receptacle when the receptacle is expanded to its article-receiving position, the receptacle forming a flat compact structure when collapsed. An endwall means is carried by the receptacle and effectively forms the bottom thereof when the receptacle is expanded, whereby the expanded or erected receptacle is adapted to receive and support articles therein.

A plurality of containers are secured in aligned relation to the outer surface of the sidewall means of the reecptacle, each container having an open end extending in the same direction as the open end of the expanded receptacle and having a closure means for selectively closing the respective open end of the container.

When the receptacle is collapsed into a compact, substantially flat arrangement, the interconnected containers are disposed into two component rows in such a manner that the collapsed package construction has a substantially rectangular cross-sectional configuration. A suitable overwrap, such as cellophane and the like, may be provided around the package construction to maintain the same in its compact, collapsed condition.

When it is desired to expand the particular package construction into a Lazy Susan type of arrangement, the overwrap is removed and the receptacle is expanded or erected to its article-receiving position, whereby the interconnected containers are respectively disposed substantially radially about the expanded receptacle.

Thereafter, each closure means of the containers is opened and interconnected to an adjacent container in such a manner that the closure means provide flat, tray-like surfaces between the adjacent containers, the tray-like surfaces being disposed in a common plane passing over the open ends of the containers, whereby the expanded package construction simulates a Lazy Susan arrangement.

Such package constructions have a wide variety of uses. For example, crackers and the like can be packaged in the containers. Thereafter, the filled containers are asesmbled to the collapsed receptacles to form completed package constructions, the completed package constructions being subsequently sold in their collapsed, compact conditions to the ultimate consumers.

Subsequently, the consumers open and expand the package constructions in the above manner and fill the erected receptacles with cheese dip or the like, whereby the expanded constructions provide attractive serving units for the crackers and dip. Such package constructions can be utilized over and over again by the consumers, if desired, and can be readily stored in their collapsed conditions.

Accordingly, the package constructions of this invention not only provide means for packaging the desired

articles but also provide means for attractively serving the same with a minimum of effort and preparation, thereby increasing the merchantability of the articles originally packaged therein.

Therefore, it is an object of this invention to provide a package construction having one or more of the novel features set forth above and/or hereinafter shown or described.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved container for such a packaging construction or the like.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved receptacle for such a packaging construction or the like.

Further objects of this invention are to respectively provide blanks for forming such containers and receptacles.

Other objects, uses and advantages of this invention are apparent from a reading of this description, which proceeds with reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part thereof and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the package construction of this invention and illustrates the same in its expanded and opened condtiion.

FIGURE 2 is a view similar to FIGURE 1 and illustrates the package construction in its expanded and unopened condition.

FIGURE 3 is a top view of the package construction and illustrates the same in its partially expanded condition.

FIGURE 4 is a bottom view of the partially expanded package construction illustrated in FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 5 is a top view of the package construction in its collapsed condition.

FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary, bottom view of the expanded package construction of FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 7 is a fragmentary, cross-sectional view of the locking means of the package construction and is taken on line 7—7 of FIGURE 6.

FIGURE 8 is a perspective, partially broken away view of one of the containers of this invention.

FIGURE 9 is a plan view of a container blank of this invention.

FIGURE 10 is a view similar to FIGURE 8 and illustrates another method of closing the container.

FIGURE 11 is a perspective view of the receptacle of this invention, the receptacle being in its expanded condition.

FIGURE 12 is a plan view of a receptacle blank of this invention.

FIGURE 13 is a view similar to FIGURE 11 and illustrates the expanded receptacle with the endwall thereof partially broken away.

FIGURE 14 is a perspective view illustrating one method of making the package construction of this invention.

FIGURE 15 is a perspective view illustrating another package construction of this invention in its collapsed condition.

FIGURE 16 is a side view illustrating the method of initially expanding the package construction of FIGURE 15.

FIGURE 17 is a perspective view of the package construction of FIGURE 15 in its partially expanded condition.

FIGURE 18 is a top view of the package construction in its fully expanded condition.

FIGURE 19 is a plan view of another receptacle blank of this invention.

FIGURE 20 is a perspective view illustrating one of the steps in the method of forming a receptacle from the blank of FIGURE 19.

FIGURE 21 is a view similar to FIGURE 20, illus-

trating the completed receptacle in its collapsed condition.

FIGURE 22 is a perspective view illustrating the receptacle of FIGURE 21 in its partially expanded condition.

FIGURE 23 is a view similar ot FIGURE 22 and illustrates the receptacle in its fully expanded condition.

FIGURE 24 is a fragmentary, cross-sectional view of the receptacle illustrated in FIGURE 23 and is taken on line 24—24 thereof.

FIGURE 25 is a bottom, perspective view of the expanded receptacle illustrated in FIGURE 23.

Referring to FIGURES 1, 2 and 5, one embodiment of the package construction of this invention is generally indicated by the reference numeral **20** and comprises a plurality of containers **21***a*, **21***b*, **21***c*, **21***d*, **21***e*, and **21***f*, secured to a collapsible receptacle **22**.

When the package construction **20** is collapsed, by collapsing the receptacle **22**, the containers **21***a*—**21***f* are arranged in two opposed compact rows **23** and **24** on each side of the flattened receptacle **22**, FIGURE 5, whereby the collapsed package construction **20** has a substantially rectangular cross-sectional configuration.

If desired, the package construction **20** can be initially maintained in its collapsed condition in any suitable manner, and in the embodiment illustrated in FIGURE 5, an overwrap **25**, such as cellophane or the like, is provided to maintain the package construction **20** in its collapsed condition.

When it is desired to expand the package construction **20**, the overwrap **25** is removed and the receptacle **22** is expanded to its article-receiving position, FIGURE 2, with the containers **21***a*—**21***f* being disposed substantially radially about the receptacle **22**.

Thereafter, the respective closure means **26***a*—**26***f* of the containers **21***a*—**21***f* are opened and interconnected to adjacent containers **21***a*—**21***f* in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 1, whereby an attractive Lazy Susan tray-like arrangement is provided.

Such a package construction has a wide variety of uses, and one such use is illustrated in FIGURE 1, wherein the containers **21***a*—**21***f* contain crackers **27** and the receptacle **22** contains a cheese dip **28** or the like.

Thus, the containers **21***a*—**21***f* can be originally filled with the crackers **27**, and the filled package construction **20** can be displayed and sold to the ultimate consumer in its collapsed condition, as illustrated in FIGURE 5.

When the consumer desires to serve the crackers **27**, the consumer merely removes the overwrap **25** and expands the construction **20** to the Lazy Susan arrangement of FIGURE 1. After disposing the desired product, such as the cheese dip **28**, into the receptacle **22**, the expanded package construction **20** can be served in any desired manner, such as by placing the same on a table or the like or passing the same around by hand, as the expanded package construction **20** is locked in its expanded condition in a manner hereinafter described to form a relatively rigid serving unit.

The package construction **20** can be utilized over and over again by merely removing the product **28** from the receptacle **22** and collapsing the construction **20** to its compact storing condition of FIGURE 5. Even after the original products disposed in the containers **21***a*—**21***f* have been consumed, additional and other types of products can be used to refill the containers **21***a*—**21***f*.

Accordingly, not only does the package construction **20** provide means for packaging the desired articles, but the same also has the additional feature of providing an attractive serving arrangement for the consumer.

While the package construction **20** has been described as being particularly adaptable for serving crackers and a cheese dip therefor, it is to be understood that the package construction can be utilized for serving other food products, such as candy and the like. Further, such a package unit can be utilized to originally package articles unrelated to the Lazy Susan arrangement of the construction, whereby the salability of the articles is enhanced as the package construction can later be utilized by the consumer as a serving unit in the above manner when the original product is removed from the containers.

The more specific details of the package construction **20** will now be described.

The containers **21***a*—**21***f* may each comprise a container **21**, FIGURE 8, formed from a container blank **29**, FIGURE 9, the container blank **29** being formed of any suitable material, such as cardboard or the like.

The blank **29** is suitably cut and score to define a rectangular endwall **30** respectively foldably connected at the side edges thereof to sidewalls **31**, **32**, **33**, and **34**, the side edges of the endwall **30** being defined by the score or fold lines **35**—**38**.

A pair of interconnecting flaps **39** and **40** are respectively foldably connected to the opposed ends of the sidewall **31** at the score or fold lines **41** and **42**. Similarly, a pair interconnecting flaps **43** and **44** are respectively foldably connected to the opposed ends of the sidewall **33** at the score or fold lines **45** and **46**.

A pair of endwall flaps **47** and **48** are respectively foldably connected to the free ends of the sidewalls **32** and **34** at the respective score or fold lines **49** and **50**, the endwall flaps **47** and **48** respectively having arcuate ends **51** and **52**.

The closure flap or endwall **26** is foldably connected to the end edge of the sidewall **33** at the score or fold line **53**.

An interlocking tongue portion **54** is formed by scoring the closure flap **26** at **55** along a line substantially parallel to the score line **53**. However, the score **55** terminates short of the central portion of the closure flap **26** and interconnects with a die cut **56**, carving a grasping tab **57** out of the tongue portion **54**, the grasping tab **57** starting from the score **55** and extending toward the tip **58** of the tongue portion **54**.

The tongue portion **54** is substantially triangular and has angularly disposed edges **59** and **60** respectively extending from the ends of the score **55** to the tip **58**.

The closure flap **26** is foldable into three sections or portions **61**, **62**, and **63**, by being scored along lines **64** and **65**, the score lines **64** and **65** respectively extending from the opposed ends of the score or fold line **53** and intersecting each other at the tip **58** of the tongue portion **54** for a purpose heerianfter described. The score lines **64** and **65** are formed in the closure flap **26**, in a direction opposite to the direction of the other scores in the blank **29** and divide the closure flap **26** into the three sections **61**–**63** that are adapted to cooperate with the other containers **21** in the package construction **20** as will be apparent hereinafter.

In particular, the embodiment of the blank **29** illustrated in FIGURE 9 has the scores **64** and **65** indented into the unexposed side of the blank **29**, whereas the scores **35**—**38**, **40**, **41**, **45**, **46** and **55** are indented into the exposed side of the blank **29**.

The length of the score line **65** is substantially the same as the width of the sidewall **31**, whereby the closure flap **26** is adapted to be interconnected with an adjacent, similar container **21** in the package construction **20** to form the tray-like surface therebetween in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 1.

A die cut **66** is formed in the sidewall **31** and defines a flap **67** therein which has a substantially trapezoidal configuration, the flap **67** and the slot means or die cut **66** providing locking means for the closure flap **26** in a manner hereinafter described.

After the blank **29** has been cut and scored in the above manner, the same is formed into the container **21** by bringing the sidewalls **31** and **33** substantially perpendicular to the endwall **30**. The respective pairs of interconnecting flaps **39**, **40** and **43**, **44**, of the sidewalls **31**

and 33 are folded perpendicular thereto and extend toward each other in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 8.

Thereafter, the sidewalls 32 and 34 are bent substantially perpendicular to the sidewall 30 and are respectively brought into contact with the outer surfaces of the respective pairs of adjacent interconnecting flaps 40, 44 and 39, 43. The sidewalls 32 and 34 are respectively secured to the pairs of interconnecting flaps 40, 44 and 39, 43 by a suitable adhesive or the like.

After the container 21 is filled with the desired product, the end flaps 47 and 48 of the sidewalls 32 and 34 are brought over the open end 69 of the container 21 to the position illustrated in FIGURE 8.

The endwall or closure flap 26 is folded at the score of fold line 53 and brought over the open end 69 of the container 21 to completely close the open end 69, and the tongue portion 54 is bent perpendicularly thereto and inserted between the edges of the endwall flaps 47 and 48 and the inside surface of the sidewall 31. The tip 58 of the tongue portion 54 is inserted through the slot means 66 of the sidewall 31 to lock the closure flap 26 in its closed position.

The slot means 66 is so constructed and arranged that the edges 59 and 60 of the tongue portion 54 make contact with the respective terminal ends of the slot means 66 when the closure flap 26 is disposed flush with the open end 69 of the container 21, whereby further movement of the closure flap 26 toward the container 21 is prevented. Thus, the slot means 66 not only provides means for selectively locking the closure flap 26 in its closed position, but also prevents the closure flap 26 from being pushed downwardly into the container 21 beyond the open end 64 thereof and damaging the product disposed therein.

When the tongue portion 54 has been inserted in the slot means 66 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 8, the flap 67 defined thereby is pushed slightly inwardly by the tongue portion 54 and tends to spring back into the natural plane of the sidewall 31 because of the resiliency of the material of the blank 29. Accordingly, the flap 67 pushes outwardly against the adjacent area of the tongue portion 54 and compresses the tongue portion 54 between the flap 67 and the inside surface of the sidewall 31 to frictionally hold the closure flap 26 in the closed position.

When the closure flap 26 is disposed in the closed position, FIGURE 8, the grasping tab 57 rests against the free edge 70 of the sidewall 31 and projects slightly beyond the outer surface of the sidewall 31. In this manner, the grasping tab 57 also cooperates with the slot means 66 to prevent movement of the closure flap 26 into the container 21 beyond the plane of the open end 69 thereof.

When it is desired to open the container 21, it is merely necessary to grasp the tab 57 and lift outwardly, whereby the tongue portion 54 can be withdrawn from the slot means 66. Also, a fingernail or the like can be inserted under the tab 57 through the die cut 56, and, thereafter, raised outwardly to release the tongue portion 54 from the slot means 66.

If desired, the closure flap or endwall 26 can close the open end 69 of the container 21 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 10.

In particular, the tongue portion 54 of the closure flap 26 is brought over the outer surface of the sidewall 31 and inserted behind the flap 67 and into the slot means 66. Thus, not only does the slot means 66 prevent further movement of the closure flap 26 into the container 26 in the manner previously set forth, but also the closure flap 26 is brought against the free edge 70 of the sidewall 31, whereby further inward movement of the closure flap 26 is prevented by the free edge 70 of the sidewall 31.

While it is not illustrated, it is to be understood that suitable liners and the like may be provided for the container 21, if desired.

The collapsible receptacle 22 of the package construction 20 can be formed from a blank 71, FIGURE 12, formed of any suitable material, such as cardboard or the like.

The blank 71 is suitably cut and scored to define an aligned series of foldably connected sidewalls 72, 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77, respectively connected together at the score or fold lines 78—82.

An interconnecting flap 83 is foldably connected to the free edge of the sidewall 72 at the score or fold line 84.

An endwall or bottom 85 is foldably connected to the end edge of the sidewall 77 at the score or fold line 86. The endwall 85 has a substantially hexagonal configuration because there are six sidewalls 72—77. However, since the receptacle 22 may be formed with any desired number of sidewalls, the end wall 85 would be formed with a complementary number of side edges, as will be apparent hereinafter.

The endwall 85 has opposed pairs of side edges 87, 88 and 89, 90, respectively terminating at outwardly projecting locking tabs 91 and 92, the tabs 91 and 92 being located at the opposed ends of a medial score or fold line 93.

The other side edge of the endwall 85 is defined by a score or fold line 94 foldably connecting an interconnecting flap 95 to the endwall 85.

A pair of endwall supporting flaps 96 and 97 are respectively foldably connected to the end edges of the sidewalls 72 and 76 at the respective score or fold lines 98 and 99. The support flaps 96 and 97 have substantially trapezoidal configurations and respectively have interconnecting flaps 100 and 101 foldably connected to the outer edges thereof at the score or fold lines 102 and 103. The support flaps 96 and 97 respectively extend from one edge of the sidewalls 72 and 76 to points short of the other end edges thereof and are medially scored at 104 and 105 for purposes hereinafter described.

The medial score or fold lines 93, 104, and 105 in the endwall 85 and support flaps 96 and 97 are formed in the blank 71 in an opposite direction from the other score or fold lines to permit the endwall 85 and support flaps 96 and 97 to be folded in a particular direction, as will be hereinafter apparent.

In particular, the embodiment of the blank 71 illustrated in FIGURE 12 has the scores 93, 104 and 105 indented into the exposed side of the blank 71, whereas the scores 78—82, 84, 86, 94, 98, 99, 102 and 103 are indented into the unexposed side of the blank 71.

After the blank 71 has been cut and scored in the above manner, the same is assembled in any desired manner to form the receptacle 22 illustrated in FIGURE 11.

One such method of assembling the blank 71 is to interconnect the sidewalls 72—77 into a continuous sidewall means by securing the interconnecting flap 83 to the inside surface of the sidewall 77 by a suitable adhesive or the like.

Thereafter, the interconnecting flaps 100 and 101 of the support flaps 96 and 97 are respectively secured to the inside surfaces of the sidewalls 73 and 75 by a suitable adhesive or the like, as best illustrated in FIGURE 13. In this manner, when the receptacle 22 is expanded or erected to its article-receiving position, the support flaps 96 and 97 extend across the open end 106 thereof in the same plane as the open end 106. However, the support flaps 96 and 97 are so constructed and arranged that the same respectively define slots 107 and 108 at the juncture of the respective pairs of adjacent sidewalls 72, 73 and 75, 76.

The interconnecting flap 95 of the endwall 85 is then secured to the inside surface of the sidewall 74 by a suitable adhesive or the like. The endwall 85 is interconnected to the sidewall 74 in such a manner that the

support flaps **96** and **97** are disposed across the outer surface of the endwall **85** (see FIGURE 6), when the receptacle is expanded to article-receiving position, whereby the endwall **85** is supported across the open end **106** of the receptacle **22** by the support flaps **96** and **97** and is adapted to support a load disposed therein.

When the receptacle **22** is expanded to article-receiving position, the endwall **85** is adapted to lock the receptacle **22** in its article-receiving position by respectively inserting the locking tabs **91** and **92** of the endwall **85** into the slots **108** and **107** defined respectively by the support flaps **97** and **96**. For example, as shown in FIGURES 6 and 7, when the locking tab **91** is inserted in the slot **108**, the locking tab **91** has the outer portion thereof disposed beneath the end edges of the sidewalls **75** and **76**. Similarly, the locking tab **92** has the outer portion thereof disposed beneath the end edges of the sidewalls **72** and **73**, whereby the endwall **85** is maintained in its flattened condition and holds the sidewalls **72–77** of the receptacle **22** in its expanded condition.

In practice, when the receptacle **22** is expanded to its article-receiving position, it is merely necessary to push the tabs **91** and **92** toward the open end **106** of the receptacle **22** until the same snap into the respective slots **108** and **107** and lock the receptacle **22** in its opened position. Thus, the sidewalls **72–77** can not be collapsed toward each other as the endwall **85** is held in its flattened position across the open end **106** of the receptacle by the locking tabs **91** and **92** and has the side edges **87, 88, 89** and **90** thereof respectively disposed in abutting engagement with the inside surfaces of the sidewalls **76** and **72** and the interconnecting flaps **101** and **100**. Therefore, the locked endwall **85** causes the sidewalls **72–77** to remain in their expanded hexagonal configuration as illustrated in FIGURES 11 and 13 until it is desired to collapse the receptacle **22**.

When it is desired to collapse the receptacle **22**, the locking tabs **91** and **92** of the endwall **85** are withdrawn from beneath the end edges of the respective pairs of sidewalls **75, 76** and **72, 73**, and the series of sidewalls **76, 77** and **72** is brought toward the series of sidewalls **75, 74** and **73** by folding the endwall **85** along its medial score or fold line **93** in the manner illustrated in FIGURES 3 and 4.

In practice, the endwall **85** can have the tabs **91** and **92** thereof unlocked from the slots **108** and **107** by merely pushing inwardly on the outside central portion of the endwall **85** until the tabs **91** and **92** have been forced inwardly from beneath the end edges of the respective pairs of sidewalls **75, 76** and **72, 73**.

Thus, as the endwall **85** is progressively folded along the medial score line **93** thereof and has the central portion thereof progressively moved from the open end **106** toward the open end **109** of the receptacle **22**, the series of sidewalls **76, 77** and **72** and **75, 74** and **73** begin to flatten out and progressively move toward each other, as illustrated in FIGURES 3 and 4, with the endwall **85** being folded therebetween.

Similarly, the end wall supporting flaps **96** and **97** are also progressively folded on the respective medial fold lines **104** and **105** thereof and have the central portions thereof progressively moved from the open end **106** toward the open end **109** of the receptacle **22**, whereby the support flaps **96** and **97** are respectively folded between the pairs of sidewalls **72, 73** and **75, 76**.

Since the medial scores **93, 104** and **105** of the endwall **95** and support flaps **96** and **97** are scored in an opposite direction from the direction of the other scores in the blank **71** of the receptacle **22**, the same will tend to fold between the collapsing sidewalls **72–77** of the receptacle **22** rather than outwardly therefrom, whereby the endwall **85** and support flaps **96** and **97** are folded between the sidewalls **72–77** in a compact manner.

The receptacle **22** is collapsed in the above manner until the endwall **85** and the support flaps **96** and **97** are completely folded into adjacent halves and the series of sidewalls **76, 77** and **72** are disposed parallel to the series of sidewalls **75, 74** and **73** in the flat, compact condition illustrated in FIGURE 14.

The package construction **20** can be assembled from the thus-formed containers **26** and receptacles **22** in any suitable manner, and, in the embodiment illustrated in FIGURE 14, the containers **21*a*—21*f*** are arranged into two compact rows **23** and **24**. The row **24** consists of the containers **21*a*—21*c*** arranged with the closure flaps **26*a*—26*c*** thereof extending in the same direction to the left. Similarly, the row **23** consists of the containers **21*d*—21*f*** arranged with the closure flaps **26*d*—26*f*** extending in the same direction to the right.

Thereafter, the row **24** of the containers **21*a*—21*c*** is secured to the outer surfaces of the series of sidewalls **72, 77** and **76** of the flattened receptacle **22** by having the respective sidewalls **32*a*—32*c*** of the containers **21*a*—21*c*** secured by a suitable adhesive or the like to the respective sidewalls **72, 77** and **76** of the receptacle **22**, each sidewall **32*a*—32*c*** of the containers **21*a*—21*c*** having the same width as the width of the respective sidewalls **72, 77** and **76** of the receptacle **22**. Similarly, the sidewalls **32*d*—32*f*** of the containers **21*d*—21*f*** are secured by a suitable adhesive or the like to the outer surfaces of the respective sidewalls **75, 74** and **73** of the receptacle **22**.

The containers **21*a*—21*f*** can be filled with the desired product before or after the same have been secured to the receptacle **22** to form the package construction **20**. Further, the containers **21*a*—21*f*** and receptacles **22** can be manufactured and assembled by automatic machinery or the like, whereby a plurality of package constructions **20** can be continuously produced.

While the height of the receptacle **22** as illustrated in the drawings is substantially smaller than the height of the containers **21**, it is to be understood that the height of the receptacle **22** can be the same as or greater than the height of the containers **21**, as desired. However, in the embodiment illustrated, the containers **21*a*—21*f*** are assembled to the receptacle **22** in such a manner that the open end **109** of the receptacle **22** is disposed in the same plane as the open ends **69*a*—69*f*** of the containers **21*a*—21*f***, whereby the package construction **20** rests solely on the endwalls **30*a*—30*f*** of the containers **21*a*—21*f*** and the endwall **85** of the receptacle is spaced inwardly from the endwalls **30*a*—30*f*** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 7.

In this manner, when the expanded package construction **20** is disposed in the position illustrated in FIGURES 1 and 2 on a suitable supporting surface (not shown), any articles disposed in the receptacle **22** on the endwall means **85** thereof, such as the cheese dip **28** and the like, tend to force the endwall means **85** downwardly toward the supporting surface whereby the thus flattened endwall means **85** tends to hold the sidewalls of the receptacle **22** in their article-receiving positions in the manner previously described. Therefore, the article or articles received in the receptacle **22** assist in maintaining the receptacle in its article-receiving position.

After the package construction **20** has been assembled in the manner set forth above, the same may be provided with the overwrap **25**, FIGURE 5, to maintain the same in its collapsed condition.

When it is desired to form the expanded Lazy Susan arrangement illustrated in FIGURE 1, the overwrap **25** is removed and the receptacle **22** is expanded and locked into its hexagonal configuration in the manner previously described, whereby the containers **21*a*—21*f*** are disposed in the radial positions illustrated in FIGURE 2.

Thereafter, each container **21*a*—21*f*** is opened by unlocking the respective closure flap **26*a*—26*f*** thereof in the manner previously described. Each closure flap **26*a*—26*f*** is then interconnected to an adjacent container in the following manner.

For example, the closure flap 26*a* of the container 21*a* is opened and has the section 63*a* thereof folded substantially perpendicular to the central section 62*a* along the fold line 65*a*. The bent portion or section 63*a* is then adapted to be inserted between the product 27 and the inside surface of the sidewall 31*b* of the container 21*b*, whereby the central portion 62*a* of the closure flap 26*a* completely fills the space between the adjacent containers 21*a* and 21*b* and provides a triangular tray-like surface therebetween in the same plane as the open ends 69*a* and 69*b* of the containers 21*a* and 21*b*. The other section 61*a* of the closure flap 26*a* is bent substantially perpendicular to the central portion 62*a* thereof along the fold line 64*a*, whereby the portion 61*a* provides an attractive triangular edging between the adjacent containers 21*a* and 21*b*.

Since the score or fold lines 64*a* and 65*a* are formed in the closure flap 26*a* in a reverse direction, the sections 61*a* and 63*a* of the closure flap 26*a* can be readily bent in the desired direction to form the respective edging and interlocking means.

Each closure flap 26*a*—26*f* is folded in the above manner and interconnected to the respective adjacent container to provide the tray-like Lazy Susan arrangement illustrated in FIGURE 1.

The size of the containers 21*a*—21*f* is such that the central sections 62*a*—62*f* of the respective closure flaps 26*a*—26*f* completely fill the spaces between the adjacent containers 21*a*—21*f* when the closure flaps 26*a*—26*f* are interconnected therebetween.

The thus interlocked closure flaps 26*a*—26*f* assist the endwall 85 in maintaining the package construction 20 in its expanded, rigid, serving condition.

When it is desired to collapse the package construction 20 illustrated in FIGURE 1, after the contents 28 of the receptacle 22 are removed, the closure flaps 26*a*—26*f* are disconnected from the adjacent containers and are utilized to reclose the respective containers 21*a*—21*f* in either of the two manners previously set forth.

Thereafter, the central receptacle 22 is collapsed to compact the package construction into its collapsed form illustrated in FIGURE 5. Thus, the package construction 20 can be stored in its compact, collapsed condition and utilized over and over again.

Another package construction of this invention is illustrated in its compact, collapsed condition in FIGURE 15 and is generally indicated by the reference numeral 120, the package construction 120 comprising a plurality of containers similar to the containers 21 previously described, and a collapsible, central receptacle 121. Since the containers of the package construction 120 can be substantially identical to the containers 21*a*—21*f* of the package construction 20, if desired, the containers of the package construction 120 are indicated by like reference numerals and letters followed by a prime mark.

As illustrated in FIGURE 15, when the package construction 120 is disposed in its collapsed position, the containers 21*a*'—21*c*' thereof are arranged in a compact row 122 that is substantially superimposed upon another compact row 123 formed by the containers 21*d*'—21*f*'. The receptacle 121 is disposed in a substantially flat condition against one side of the opposed rows 122 and 123, whereby the resulting collapsed package construction 120 has a substantially rectangular cross-sectional configuration.

The package construction 120 may be originally maintained in its compact, collapsed condition by a suitable overwrap 124 in substantially the same manner as the overwrap 25 of FIGURE 5, or by other suitable means, as desired.

Since the closure flaps 26*a*', 26*b*' and 26*c*' of the containers 21*a*', 21*b*' and 21*c*' are respectively disposed against the closure flaps 26*f*', 26*e*' and 26*d*' of the containers 21*f*', 21*e*' and 21*d*' when the package construction 120 is in its collapsed position, such an arrangement provides a tamper-proof relation of the containers 21*a*'—21*f*' and also permits the individual closure flap locking means of the containers 21*a*' and 21*f*' to be eliminated, if desired.

When it is desired to expand the package construction 120 to its Lazy Susan arrangement, the overwrap 124 is removed and the containers 21*a*'—21*c*' are moved relative to the containers 21*d*'—21*f*' in substantially the manner illustrated in FIGURE 16. As the two sets of containers 21*a*'—21*c*' and 21*d*'—21*f*' are moved relative to each other, the receptacle 121 begins to expand in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 17 and causes the containers 21*a*'—21*f*' to spread relative to each other, until the same are disposed in substantially radial positions about the receptacle 121 when the receptacle 121 has been fully erected to its article-receiving position as illustrated in FIGURE 18.

Thereafter, the closure flaps 26*a*'—26*f*' are utilized to form the completed Lazy Susan, tray-like arrangement by interconnecting the same with adjacent containers in the manner previously described and as partially illustrated in FIGURE 18.

Subsequently, any desired article or articles can be disposed in the receptacle 121 in the manner previously described.

The collapsible receptacle 121 may be formed from the receptacle blank of this invention illustrated in FIGURE 19 and generally indicated by the reference numeral 125.

The receptacle blank 125 is formed from any suitable material, and, in the embodiment illustrated in the drawings, the container blank 125 is formed from cardboard and the like, which may have the interior or exterior surface or both thereof covered with an attractive lining material, such as aluminum foil and the like.

The receptacle blank 125 is suitably cut and scored to define a substantially rectangular endwall means 126; a first series 127 of foldably connected outer sidewalls 128, 129, and 130; a second series 131 of foldably connected outer sidewalls 132, 133, and 134, and a pair of inner sidewalls 135 and 136. The various walls of the receptacle blank 125 are defined by a pair of parallel score or fold lines 137 and 138 and a pair of transversely disposed, parallel score or fold lines 139 and 140. In this manner, the middle sidewalls 129 and 133 of the series 127 and 131 of sidewalls are respectively foldably connected to opposed side edges of the endwall means 126 at the score or fold lines 137 and 138. Similarly, the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 are respectively foldably connected to the other opposed side edges of the endwall means 126 at the score or fold lines 139 and 140. The inner sidewalls 135 and 136 are respectively foldably connected to the terminal sidewalls 128, 132 and 130, 134 of the series 127 and 131 of sidewalls at the respective score or fold lines 137 and 138.

Each inner sidewall 135 and 136 is divided into three triangular sections 141, 142, and 143 by a pair of fold or score lines 144 and 145, the fold lines 144 and 145 each being disposed at angles of approximately 45° with the respective score or fold lines 139 and 140 and intersecting each other at the outer edge of the respective inner sidewall 135 and 136, at points equidistant from the score lines 137 and 138. If desired, the score or fold lines 144 and 145 can comprise a series of die cuts or slits to facilitate the folding of the sidewalls 135 and 136 in a manner hereinafter described, or can comprise a series of slits that pass only partially through the sidewalls 135 and 136.

A plurality of interconnecting flaps 146, 147, 148, and 149 are respectively foldably connected to the outer edges of the sidewalls 128, 130, 132, and 134 at the respective score or fold lines 151, 152, 153, and 154, each interconnecting flap 146–149 having one edge 155 thereof disposed at an angle of approximately 45° with the respective score or fold line 151–154 and the other edge

thereof, 156 converging toward the edge 155, as illustrated in FIGURE 19.

While the receptacle 121 can be formed from the receptacle blank 125 in any folding sequence thereof and by any suitable apparatus; one method of forming the receptacle 121 from the receptacle blank 125 is illustrated in FIGURES 20 and 21.

After the blank 125 has been suitably cut and scored in the above manner, the interconnecting flaps 146—149 are respectively folded on the respective score or fold lines 151—154 so as to be superimposed on the interior surfaces of the respective sidewalls 128, 130, 132, and 134 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 20. Thereafter, suitable adhesive is placed on the exposed surfaces of the superimposed interconnecting flaps 146—149. Alternately, the adhesive can be placed on the appropriate portions of the triangular sections 141 and 143 of the sidewalls 135 and 136 in addition to the adhesive placed on the exposed surfaces of the interconnecting flaps 146—149 or in lieu thereof.

Subsequently, each series 127 and 131 of the sidewalls is folded on the respective score or fold lines 137 or 138, in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 20, whereby the series 127 of the sidewalls 128—130 are superimposed on their adjacent halves of the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 and the endwall means 126, while the series 131 of sidewalls 132—134 are folded on their adjacent halves of the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 and the endwall means 126, as illustrated in FIGURE 21. When the series 127 and 131 of sidewalls are so folded, the interconnecting flaps 146—149 are respectively secured to the triangular sections 141 and 143 of the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 by the interposed layers of adhesive, whereby the receptacle 121 is formed and disposed in its collapsed position.

After the receptacle 121 has been so formed, the collapsed, flattened receptacle 121, as illustrated in FIGURE 21, is adapted to be assembled to the containers 21*a'*—21*f'* while arranged in the position illustrated in FIGURE 15, by respectively securing the interior surfaces of the sidewalls 132, 133, 134, 130, 129, and 128 to the respective endwalls 32*a'*—32*f'* of the containers 21*a'*—21*f'* by a suitable adhesive or the like, in substantially, the same manner as the containers 21*a*—21*f* are assembled to the collapsed receptacle 22.

Therefore, the receptacle 121 can be formed in a relatively simple manner from the blank 125 and, while in its finished, collapsed condition, effectively secured to the containers 21*a'*—21*f'* to form the completed package construction 120. Because the receptacle 121 is formed by a simple folding and gluing operation, conventional folding and gluing machinery can be utilized for forming a plurality of receptacles 121, whereby the completed receptacles 121 can be subsequently secured to the containers 21 without changing the conditions of the receptacles 121 as they leave the forming apparatus. Further, a simple straight line gluing operation can be utilized to secure the receptacles 121 to the containers 21.

The receptacle 121 is adapted to be erected or expanded to article-receiving position in the manner illustrated in FIGURES 22–25. When it is desired to erect the receptacle 121 from its collapsed condition illustrated in FIGURE 21, it is merely necessary to grasp the inner, abutting free edges of the outer sidewalls 129 and 133 and pull outwardly on the same, as illustrated in FIGURE 22, whereby each series 127 and 131 of the sidewalls is brought at substantially right angles to the endwall means 126. As the sidewalls 129 and 133 are progressively moved away from the endwall means 126, the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 are respectively bent on the score or fold lines 144 and 145 by the movement of the sidewalls 128 and 130, 132, and 134 interconnected to the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 at the score or fold lines 137 and 138. When the sidewalls 129 and 133 are brought at right angles to the endwall means 126, the terminal sidewalls 128, 130 and 132, 134 of the respective series 127 and 131 of sidewalls are disposed with their free side edges adjacent each other to provide a hexagonal configuration with the sections 142 of the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 extending from the side edges 139 and 140 of the endwall means 126 to the adjacent portions of the sidewalls 128, 132 and 130, 134 at the open end 157 of the erected or expanded receptacle 121, as illustrated in FIGURES 23 and 24.

The expanded receptacle 121 is substantially leakproof, because the sections 142 of the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 are integrally connected to the endwall means 126 at the score or fold lines 139 and 140 and have their converging side edges defined by the score or fold lines 144 and 145 respectively disposed in line contact with the interior surfaces of the outer sidewalls 128, 132 and 130, 134. If any material disposed in the expanded receptacle should leak past the triangular sections 142 of the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 at the side edges 144 and 145 thereof, the same is prevented from leaking out of the receptacle 121 because the outer sidewalls 128, 132 and 130, 134 are integrally connected to the triangular sections 143 and 141 of the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 at the bottom edges 137 and 138 thereof and at the side edges thereof by the interconnecting flaps 146—149. Thus a relatively liquid or powdered material can be disposed in the expanded receptacle 121 without leakage thereof.

Thus, when the package construction 120 is expanded from the position illustrated in FIGURE 15 to the position illustrated in FIGURE 18, the receptacle 121 is expanded in the same manner as illustrated in FIGURE 21–25, whereby the containers 21*a'*—21*f'* are disposed substantially radially with respect to the expanded receptacle 121 to form the desired Lazy Susan arrangement. As illustrated in FIGURES 1 and 18, the closure flaps 26*a'*—26*f'* can be opened and interconnected in the manner previously described to provide the tray-like structure and to hold the package construction 120 in its expanded, serving condition.

While the sidewalls 128—130 and 132—134 of the receptacle 121 are so constructed and arranged that the endwall means 126 of the receptacle 121 is suspended above a supporting surface when the package construction 120 is expanded and placed thereon, it is to be understood that the receptacle 121 could be so arranged that the endwall means 126 also rests on such supporting structure together with the containers 21*a'*—21*f'* or that endwall means 126 rests on the supporting structure, with the containers 21*a'*—21*f'* suspended above such supporting structure.

However, as illustrated in the embodiment in the drawings, when the sidewalls 128—130 and 132—134 of the receptacle 121 are utilized to suspend the endwall means 126 above the supporting surface, any article or articles placed in the receptacle 121 on the endwall means 126 thereof tends to assist in holding the receptacle 121 in its article-receiving position, because such downward force on the endwall means 126 tends to bring the sections 142 of the inner sidewalls 135 and 136 at right angles thereto in directions opposite to their receptacle-collapsing directions.

When it is desired to collapse the expanded package construction 120, the closure flaps 26*a'*—26*f'* are disconnected from the adjacent containers 21*a'*—21*f'* and the article or articles are removed from the receptacle 121. Thereafter, the package construction is collapsed in a simple and effective manner to the position illustrated in FIGURE 15, whereby the package construction 120 can be stored in its compact condition.

Thus it can be seen that the package construction 120 can be utilized for the same purposes and in the same manner as the package construction 20 previously described.

While the containers **21** have been illustrated as being utilized with the receptacles **22** and **121** to form the package constructions **20** and **120**, it is to be understood that any suitable container structure or combinations of container structures can be combined with the receptacles **22** and **120** to form the package constructions of this invention.

As an alternate construction, it is possible to eliminate the end wall **85** of the center collapsible receptacle shown in FIGS. 11–13 and the end wall means **126** shown in FIGS. 15–20 so that the remaining side walls in each embodiment become simply a band. This permits the Lazy Susan type of container to be arranged in the same manner as previously described but now the bottomless center receptacle allows the inserting of prepared cheeses or the like which are frequently sold in small cups or jars. The use of this arrangement has the advantage of reducing cost and further of making the composite structure suitable for re-use since the Lazy Susan will not come in direct contact with the cheese dip.

Accordingly, it can be seen that this invention provides package constructions that can be shipped and stored in compact collapsed arrangements and subsequently expanded to attractive Lazy Susan serving units when desired. The package constructions can be sold to the ultimate consumers either with a desired product or products packaged in the containers thereof or with the containers empty, as the package constructions themselves can be utilized as serving units and, thus, are desirable even by themselves, without the added feature of products initially sold therewith.

Also this invention provides improved containers and receptacles for forming such package constructions and the like, as well as provides improved blanks for forming such containers and receptacles. While the receptacles and containers of this invention have been described as being particularly adaptable for forming the package constructions of this invention, it is to be understood that the receptacles and containers can be utilized individually for other purposes, as desired.

While the form of the invention now preferred has been disclosed as required by the statutes, other forms may be used, all coming within the scope of the claims which follow:

What is claimed is:

1. In combination, a receptacle having sidewall means and a plurality of containers secured in aligned relation to the outer surface of said sidewall means, each of said containers having an open end and having a closure means for closing the respective open end, said closure means of each container having a portion thereof receivable in said open end of an adjacent container.

2. In combination, a collapsible receptacle having sidewall means defining an open end thereof when said receptacle is erected to article-receiving position, and a plurality of containers secured in aligned relation to the outer surface of said sidewall means, said containers being substantially radially disposed relative to said receptacle when said receptacle is erected to article-receiving position and being arranged into two rows when said receptacle is collapsed, each of said containers having an open end extending in the same direction as said open end of said receptacle and having closure means for closing said open end of the respective container, each closure means having a portion receivable in the open end of an adjacent container when said receptacle is erected to article-receiving position and having another portion thereof extending between said adjacent containers in the same plane as said open ends thereof.

3. A combination as set forth in claim 2, wherein each of said closure means has a third portion foldable to a position substantially perpendicular to the portion thereof extending between said adjacent containers, whereby said third portions of said closure means provide an edging between said containers.

4. A collapsible receptacle comprising a plurality of outer sidewalls defining opposed ends of said receptacle when said receptacle is erected to article-receiving position, an endwall foldably connected to certain of said outer sidewalls and extending across one of said ends when said receptacle is erected to article-receiving position, said end wall tending to maintain said receptacle in article-receiving position when an article is supported on said endwall and said receptacle is suspended by said outer sidewalls, and a plurality of inner sidewalls each being foldably connected to said endwall and to a plurality of said outer sidewalls.

5. A receptacle blank comprising a series of foldably connected sidewalls having opposed end edges, an endwall foldably connected to one of said sidewalls at one of said end edges thereof, and a pair of endwall supporting flaps respectively foldably connected to said one end edge of a pair of said sidewalls, said series of sidewalls being adapted to be disposed around the entire perimeter of said endwall.

6. A receptacle blank as set forth in claim 5 wherein said endwall and said supporting flaps respectively have free edges and a plurality of interlocking flaps are respectively foldably connected to said free edges of said endwall and said supporting flaps.

7. A receptacle blank as set forth in claim 5 wherein said endwall is medially scored along a line disposed substantially parallel to said one end edge of said series of sidewalls.

8. A receptacle blank as set forth in claim 7 wherein said endwall has interlocking tabs at each end of said medial score line.

9. A receptacle blank comprising an endwall, a first series of foldably connected outer sidewalls foldably connected to said endwall, a second series of foldably connected outer sidewalls foldably connected to said endwall, and a pair of inner sidewalls respectively foldably connected to said endwall and to said first and second series of outer sidewalls.

10. A receptacle blank as set forth in claim 9 wherein each of said inner sidewalls is foldable into three sections.

11. A receptacle blank as set forth in claim 9 wherein each series of outer sidewalls comprises three sidewalls, the middle sidewall of each series being foldably connected to said endwall, and the terminal sidewalls of each series being respectively foldably connected to said inner sidewalls.

12. A receptacle blank as set forth in claim 9 wherein a plurality of interconnecting flaps are respectively foldably connected to the terminal ends of said first and second series of outer sidewalls.

13. A package construction expandable to a Lazy Susan arrangement and comprising a collapsible receptacle having a plurality of sidewalls defining an open end of said receptacle when said receptacle is expanded to article-receiving position, said receptacle having endwall means providing a surface for supporting an article disposed in said receptacle when said receptacle is expanded to article-receiving position, and a plurality of containers respectively secured in aligned relation to the outer surfaces of said sidewalls of said receptacle, each of said containers having an open end and a closure flap for closing the respective open end of the container, each closure flap having a portion thereof receivable in the open end of an adjacent container when said receptacle is expanded to article-receiving position and having another portion thereof extending between said adjacent containers and disposed in the same plane as said open ends thereof whereby said expanded construction simulates a Lazy Susan arrangement.

14. A package construction expandable for a Lazy Susan arrangement and comprising a collapsible receptacle having a plurality of sidewalls defining an open end of said receptacle when said receptacle is expanded to article-receiving position, said receptacle having end wall means

providing a surface for supporting an article disposed in said receptacle when said receptacle is expanded to article-receiving position, and a plurality of containers respectively secured in aligned relation to the outer surfaces of the sidewalls of said receptacle, each of said containers having an open end and a closure flap for closing the respective open end of the container, each of said containers having means for locking the respective closure flap in the closed position.

15. In combination, a collapsible receptacle having sidewall means and a plurality of containers secured in aligned relation to the outer surface of said sidewall means, said containers being substantially radially disposed relative to said receptacle when said receptacle is erected to article-receiving position and being arranged into two rows when said receptacle is collapsed, said two rows of said containers being disposed in superimposed relation with said receptacle disposed at one side of said superimposed rows when said receptacle is collapsed.

16. A container having a plurality of sidewalls defining a pair of opposed open ends thereof and having endwall means for respectively closing said open ends, one of said sidewalls having a slot means therein, one of said endwall means being foldably connected to a sidewall opposite to said one sidewall and having a foldable tongue portion receivable in said slot means to close the respective open end of said contianer, said one endwall means being foldable along two score lines extending respectively from the opposite ends of said opposite sidewall to the tip of said tongue portion.

17. A container having a plurality of sidewalls defining a pair of opposed open ends thereof and having endwall means for respectively closing said open ends, one of said sidewalls having a slot means therein, said slot means defining a flap in said sidewall, said flap having a substantially trapezoidal configuration, one of said endwall means being foldably connected to a sidewall opposite to said one sidewall and having a foldable tongue portion receivable in said slot means to close the respective open end of said container.

18. A container blank comprising a first endwall, a plurality of sidewalls respectively foldably connected to the side edges of said first endwall along end edges thereof, and a second endwall foldably connected to one of said sidewalls along an opposite end edge thereof, said endwall having a tongue portion foldable along a score means disposed substantially parallel to said opposite end edge of said one sidewall, said second endwall being foldable along two score lines extending respectively from the opposed ends of said opposite end edge of said one sidewall to the tip of said tongue portion.

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