Apr. 17, 1923. 1,451,989

W. E. LA BELLE

FOLDING VENEER CONTAINER

Filed July 3, 1920

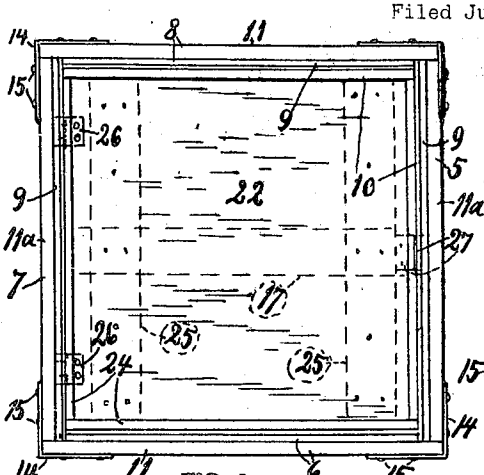


FIG. 1.

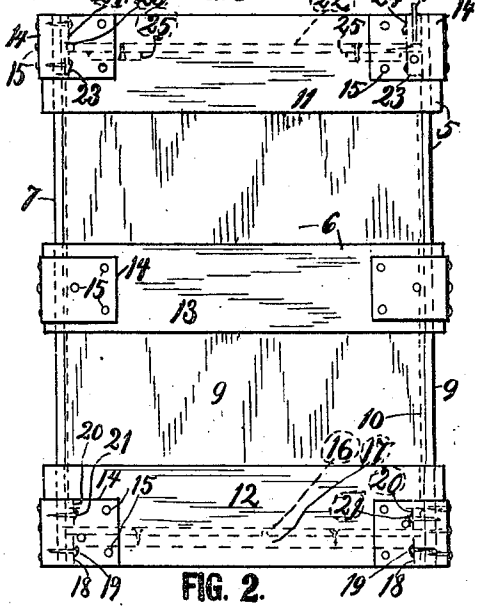


FIG. 2.

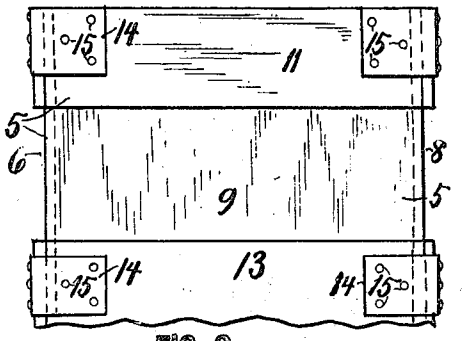


FIG. 3.

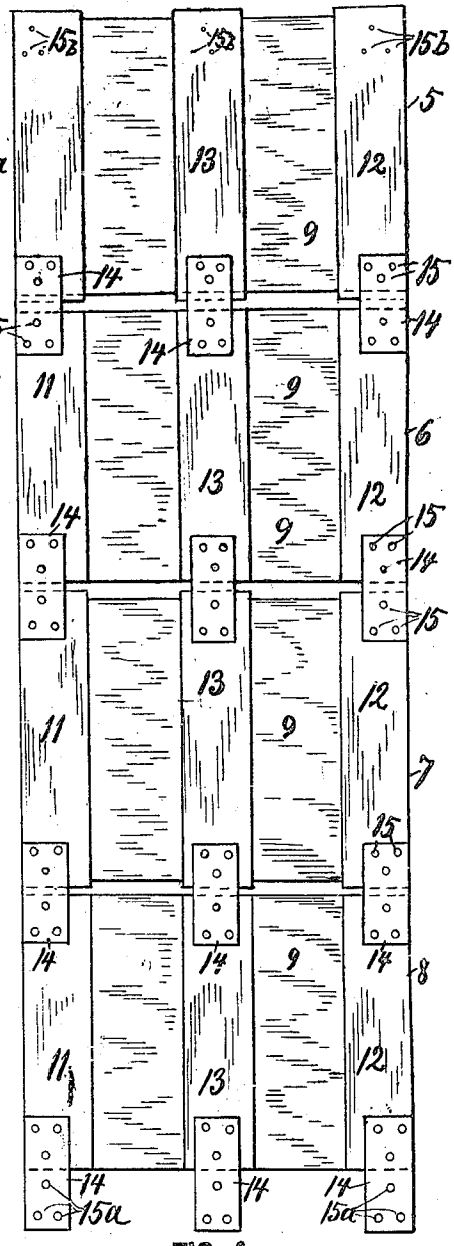


FIG. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM E. LA BELLE, OF ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO THEOPHILUS SCHADEGG, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

FOLDING VENEER CONTAINER.

Application filed July 3, 1920. Serial No. 393,928.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. LA BELLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Paul, in the county of Ramsey and State of Minnesota, have invented a new and useful Folding Veneer Container, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to foldable containers for coffee, tea and other merchandise either in bulk or in packages, and the objects are, to provide a container having special advantageous features for folding it, and to so construct the container that its manufacture will take a minimum of material and still produce a strong container. Further objects will appear from the appended claims, and from the accompanying drawing in which:—

Fig. 1 is a top view of the improved container closed. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a left hand side elevation of the upper half of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a plan view showing the outside of the body of the container in knocked down position ready to be stored or shipped in the smallest possible space.

Referring to the drawing by reference numerals, 5, 6, 7, 8 designate the four walls of the container, they are all made of veneer or similar thin material 9, having the inner side covered with thick paper 10, to protect the goods from moisture and from undesirable taste from the veneer.

Each wall is reinforced by a horizontal top strip 11, bottom strip 12, and for large containers one or more intermediate strips 13; all secured upon the outer sides of the walls.

In Fig. 1 it will be seen that the veneer 9 of the walls 5 and 7 overlap the edges of the veneer 9 of the walls 6 and 8, and the strips 11 overlap the ends of the strips 11^a, so as to resist inward pressure upon the body of the container. Such pressure is further resisted by the top and bottom and the ends of the strips fixed to the walls close below and above the top and the bottom, as will presently be fully described.

Outward pressure on the walls is resisted by metal strips 14, bent at right angles over the corners of the container and secured by either screws or nails 15. These strips are so thin that when the container is laid out flat as in Fig. 4 they straighten out and hold the ends of the walls slightly separated.

The bottom 16 of the container is likewise of veneer or wood pulp and reinforced by one or more strips 17 secured across its underside. The bottom is held in place by strips 18 secured by nails 19 to the four walls below the bottom and strips 20 secured by nails 21 above the bottom.

In similar manner the cover 22 is held between strips 23 secured below it and strips 24 above it. Said cover is also made of veneer or similar thin material secured upon two cleats 25. The cover may also have hinges 26 holding its rear edge and a strap 27 by which to lift its front edge.

When the containers leave the factory, their bodies are laid out straight as in Fig. 4 and a pile of them bundled or boxed or crated together with the tops and bottoms belonging thereto. When the container is to be set up for use, the bottom is put in place between the walls while the latter are brought together to form the body, and a few nails are driven through the holes 15 into the places marked 15^b in Fig. 4. This completes the body ready to be filled with goods; and after it is filled the cover 17 is put upon the strips 23, is attached to the hinges 26 and the strips 24 nailed into their places. If the goods are of the kind that are removed at once from the container when reaching the place of sale, the hinges are omitted, but otherwise they are applied, and the merchant selling the goods simply removes the upper strips 24, and takes hold of the strap 27 to raise the cover on its hinges every time he desires to remove some of the goods from the container. In this way the container serves both as a shipping container and as a store cabinet, and may also readily be knocked down and returned to the wholesale house or the manufacturer of goods which they may wish to further ship in such container.

What I claim is:—

1. An article of manufacture comprising four flat rectangular members, reinforcing means at the top and bottom thereof, said members arranged side by side in substantially the same plane, flexible straps connecting the said means and members in spaced relation and extending across the intervening spaces therebetween, flexible straps attached to the outside edge of one end member and adapted to be secured to the outside edge of the other end member when said

sides are folded to produce a square enclosure, and means on said members forming a groove and adapted to receive an end inclosing member when said members are folded to produce a square container.

2. A renewable container comprising four similar side members of rectangular shape top and bottom members, reinforcing strips at the top and bottom thereof, and flexible strap members connecting the reinforcing strips and forming corner reinforcing members for said container, means on the inside of the side members for holding the top and bottom members therein so that the same will be removable when one set of strap members is broken and the sides of the box unfolded.

3. A container having its body composed of four walls, transverse reinforcing strips across the ends and intermediate the ends of said walls, said walls being connected together by sheet metal strips secured to the ends of said reinforcing members, said strips being flexible and the strips on one side of one wall being detachable, so as to allow all of the walls to be disposed in one vertical plane when said set of strips are detached.

4. The structure set forth in claim 1, said walls having means on their inner side adjacent one end to hold an end piece whereby, when the walls are folded about the same and the detachable strips attached, a rigid open-ended box is formed.

5. A container having its body composed of four walls connected together by sheet metal strips at the corners of the container, some of said metal strips being detachable from one of the walls and all of the strips being so thin as to allow all of the walls to fold into one single plane when one corner of the panel is open, said walls having each at its inner side two horizontal strips spaced so as to form a groove between them, a bottom detachably placed with its edges in the said grooves, said walls having also horizontal strips at the inner side of their upper portions, a cover plate upon said strips, means for holding the cover down upon the strips, said holding means consisting of removable strips secured to the walls above the cover, and hinges holding one edge of the cover detachably to one of the walls, and means at the opposite edge of the cover for taking hold of and raising the cover.

6. A container having its body composed of four walls connected together by sheet metal strips at the corners of the container, some of said metal strips being detachable from one of the walls and all of the strips being so thin as to allow all of the walls to fold into one single plane when one corner of the container is open, said walls all being made of veneer or thin wood and reinforced by horizontal strips secured upon their outer sides to the metal strips.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM E. LA BELLE.