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S. O. DAVIDSON, JR
FOLDING FOOD SERVING BOX
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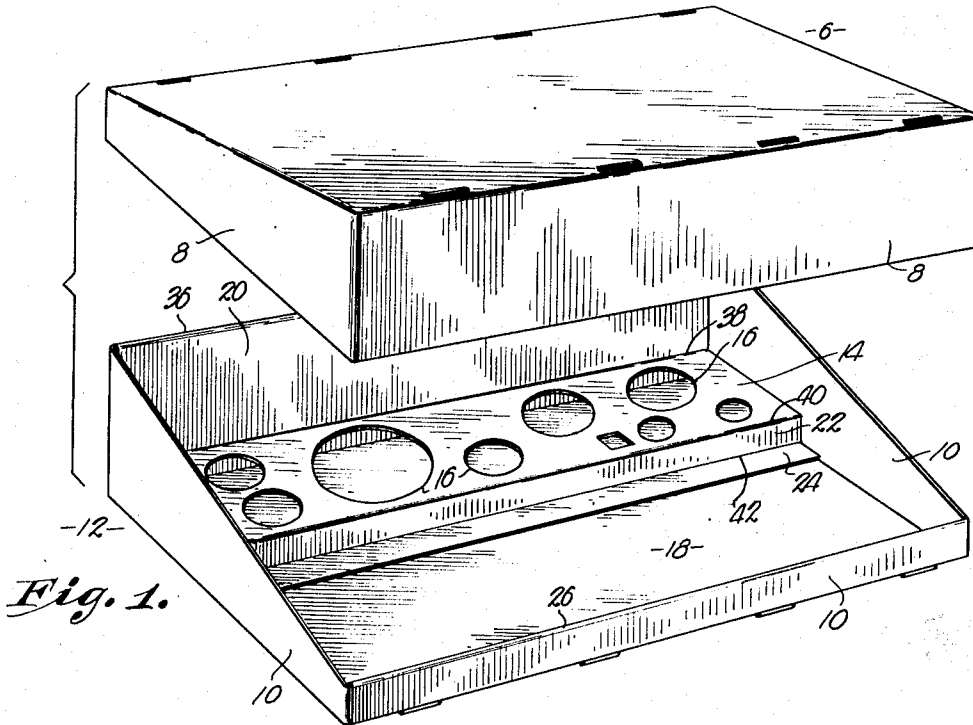


Fig. 1.

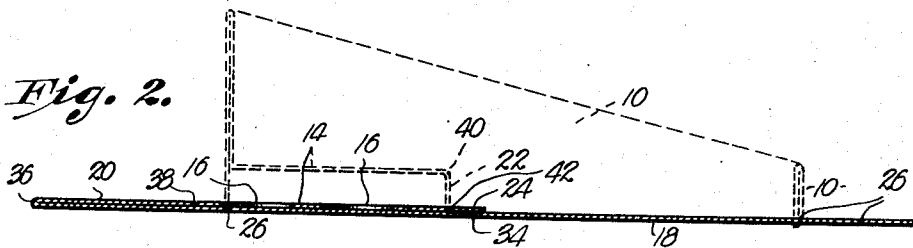


Fig. 2.

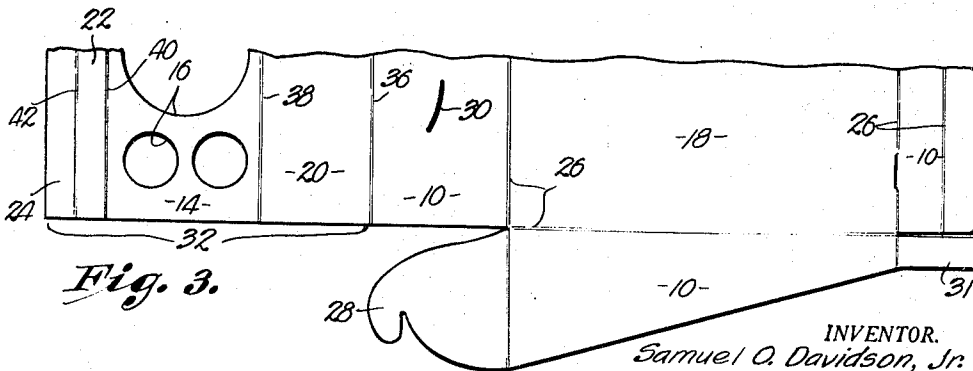


Fig. 3.

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FOLDING FOOD SERVING BOX

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1 Claim. (Cl. 229—34)

This invention relates to collapsible containers in the nature of a folding box and has for its primary object to provide a section for such containers that is specially created to present an elevated shelf, automatically movable to the operative position after the collapsible section has been blanked and assembled at the factory, yet which allows stacking of the collapsed section for shipment and storage.

One of the important aims of this invention is to provide a collapsible box section formed of a single blank and comprising a bottom with perpendicular side walls, one of which is extended to present a panel, an elevated shelf, and an angular flange, the latter being secured to the bottom along a line permitting the said one wall and the bottom to lie in close, superimposed proximity to the panel, shelf and flange, after securement has occurred at the factory to permit easy and quick setting-up of the box section at its point of use.

A yet further object of the instant invention is to provide a section for collapsible boxes, usable for supporting articles on a false bottom or shelf that is elevated above the bottom of the section, which shelf is automatically shiftable to the operative condition as the flat blank of the section is hinged about specially disposed lines of scoring assemble the component parts thereof.

This invention has for an even further aim to provide a folding service box, particularly useful in containing food and food containers when the box is used as a means for delivering meals to passengers on trains, busses, airplanes, or the like.

The particular manner of constructing a collapsible box section in accordance with this invention will appear during the course of the following specification, referring to the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a folding food service box having a collapsible section made in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary cross sectional view through the collapsed box section showing in dotted lines its condition when assembled; and

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan view of a portion of the section illustrating the blank prior to attaching the marginal edge thereof to the inner face of the section bottom.

One of the problems presented to those serving food to airline, train and bus passengers is that of preventing the food containers from sliding along the bottom of the food box. It is desirable to use a box section having a false bottom or

shelf therein, along one side, but the matter of assembly, compact storage and rigidity of structure after setting-up, is of tremendous concern.

A collapsible box section made as illustrated in the accompanying drawing will not accidentally over-turn the food containers, will maintain the containers in place because of the rigidity of a specially held shelf, and may be stored and transported in a flat condition, and thereafter set-up without the employment of fastening means other than those integral with the blank.

The folding food service box in its entirety comprises a cover 6 of conventional design, the side walls 8 whereof fit into telescoping relation with walls 10 of the collapsible section 12. It is this particular section 12 that must be carefully made to present a shelf 14 that is unlikely to shift and allow the food containers disposed in openings 16 thereof to move from desired positions.

Section 12 is formed of a single blank including a bottom 18, walls 10, panel 20, shelf 14, flange 22 and flap 24. Conventional lines of scoring 26 permit folding the blank so that walls 10 extend upwardly from bottom 18 in a fashion now well-known in the art. Interlocking tongue and slit 28 and 30 respectively, in adjacent walls 10, and tongue 31 with the two portions of front wall 10, will serve to maintain the collapsible section in the condition shown in Fig. 1.

One wall 10 along a side of section 12 has an extension 32 that lies in superimposed relation with one wall 10 and bottom 18 when the blank shown in Fig. 3 is finished as illustrated in Fig. 2. When so finished, the blank has a flap 24 secured to the inner face of bottom 18 by glue or other means 34, to preclude accidental displacement and to insure a rigid connection when extension 32 is bent about lines of scoring 36, 38, 40 and 42. Line of scoring 36 establishes a folded edge from which panel 20 extends to a line spaced above the line of connection between said one wall 10 and bottom 18.

Shelf 14 is parallel to bottom 18 when the section is set up for use and angular flange, comprising body portion 22 and flap 24, serves to carry the forward edge of shelf 14.

The relation of the parts above specified are as shown in Fig. 2 particularly, all of which allows the two stretches to lie in superimposed relation. These stretches are flat and allow stacking of the collapsed section, even when flange 24 is secured to bottom 18. One stretch is that portion of the blank between line of scoring 36 and the free edge of flap 24. The other stretch extends from line

of scoring 36 to the opposite edge of the blank along front wall 10.

When the collapsible section is constructed as defined, setting up occurs by merely folding walls 10 upwardly about lines of scoring 26, whereupon shelf 14 will automatically assume the position shown in dotted lines of Fig. 2.

In actual use cover 6 is telescoped onto section 12 to contribute rigidity and when the box is placed on the lap of the user, shelf 14 will remain in place to support food containers.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

In a collapsible food storage and serving box adapted for use as a lap table, a section formed of a single blank comprising a bottom, a rear wall, a front wall of lesser height than the rear wall and two side walls, said walls extending upwardly from the bottom when the box is in operative condition, each side wall being formed trapezoidal in shape and tapering in width from the rear wall to the front wall, an extension from the upper edge of the rear wall scored along lines

parallel thereto to provide a panel, a shelf, a flange and a flap, the flap being secured to the bottom in spaced relation to the rear wall and extending outwardly from the flange in a direction opposite to the shelf, each side wall being provided with an integral tab adjacent the rear wall, interengaging means on each tab and on the rear wall to retain the tabs in secured position along the outer face of the rear wall, the combined width of said panel, the shelf and the flange being equal to the distance between the upper edge of the rear wall and said flap when the box is collapsed with the rear wall in a plane with the bottom, whereby said panel, the shelf and the flange lie in a plane with the flap and in direct superimposed relation upon the inner face of the bottom, said panel being along one edge of the shelf to support said one edge thereof, said flange being along the opposite edge of the shelf to support said opposite edge, and means formed in the shelf for supporting food or food containers.

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