



- (51) International Patent Classification:  
*B65D 21/00* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2016/012131
- (22) International Filing Date:  
5 January 2016 (05.01.2016)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
62/099,877 5 January 2015 (05.01.2015) US  
14/987,483 4 January 2016 (04.01.2016) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CUSTOMIZABLE CADDY

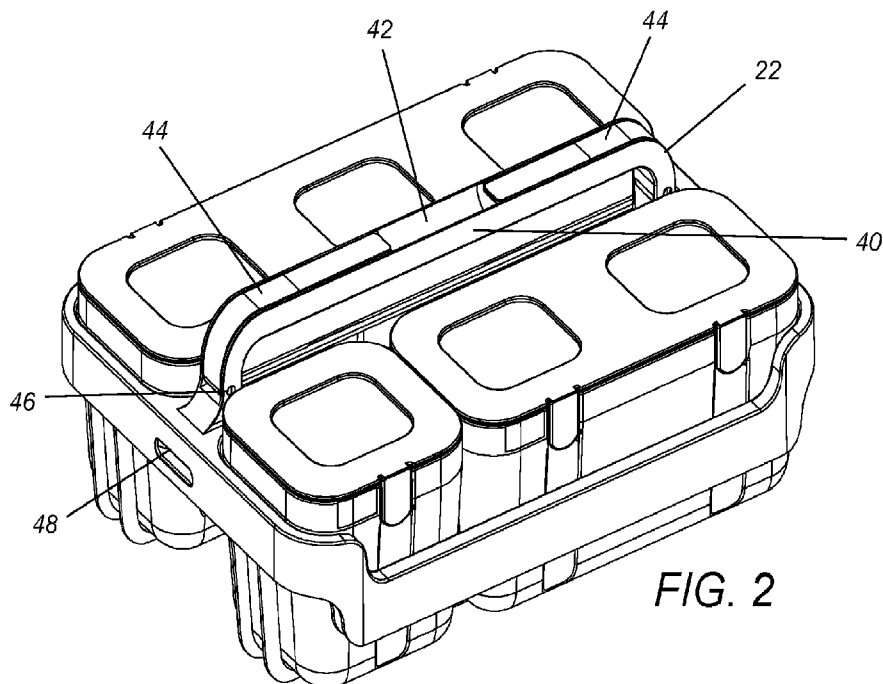


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: A storage system including a storage base that includes a frame, a partition dividing the frame into first and second compartments where each of the first and second compartments includes a cavity formed therein with at least an open top and the partition wall includes an upper portion extending above the level of the frame to form a handle.

**Published:**

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

CUSTOMIZABLE CADDYRELATED APPLICATION DATA

[0000] The present application claims priority to U.S. provisional application 62/099,877 filed in the United States Patent Office on January 5, 2015, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference to the extent permitted by law.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a container system that includes a portable carrying base configured to receive interchangeable storage receptacles. One or more individual container systems can be combined to create a larger organizational unit.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Storing items such as office or craft supply items can be difficult with current storage systems. This is because known storage solutions do not offer the flexibility to interchange storage receptacles or easily stack and carry more than one storage solution.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Disclosed herein are storage systems including a storage base. The storage base includes a frame including (i) a first horizontal side wall facing a second horizontal side wall, (ii) a first horizontal end wall facing a second horizontal end wall, the first and second horizontal end walls extending transversely between the first and second horizontal side walls, a partition extending transversely between the horizontal end walls to divide the frame into first and second compartments. The first and second compartments including (a) a planar bottom, (b) a first vertical side wall extending up from the planar bottom and terminating at a top edge, the top edge coupled to the first horizontal end wall, (c) a second vertical side wall facing the first vertical side wall extending up from the planar bottom and terminating at a top edge, the top edge coupled to the second horizontal end wall and a cavity formed within the planar bottom and vertical side walls of each compartment, each cavity at least having an open top bounded by the top edges of the horizontal end walls, the partition and one of the horizontal side walls. Further,

the partition wall includes an upper portion extending above the level of the frame to form a handle, and the handle further includes (a) first handle portion pivotally attached to a first end of the handle, (b) a second handle portion pivotally attached to a second end of the handle, (c) and a groove configured to receive the handle portions therein.

[0004] In another embodiment of the invention, the horizontal end walls include an opening, and each handle portion has a projecting edge configured to mate with the opening within the horizontal end walls.

[0005] In another embodiment of the invention, the container system includes a first and second storage base, where the handle portions of the first storage base are mated with the corresponding opening within the horizontal end walls of the second storage base so as to removably connect the first storage base to the second storage base and create a storage unit.

[0006] In another embodiment of the invention, the horizontal side walls, horizontal end walls, partition, planar bottom and vertical end walls being integral to form a one piece, rigid base.

[0007] In another embodiment of the invention, the container system includes a removable receptacle configured to be received within at least a portion of the cavities, the receptacle comprising (a) a planar bottom with side walls coupled to the outward peripheral edges of the planar bottom to form a rectangular shape, and (b) a cap in substantially the same shape as the planar bottom configured to be received by the top edges of the side walls to create an enclosed receptacle.

[0008] In another embodiment of the invention, the container system includes a plurality of removable receptacles.

[0009] In another embodiment of the invention, the container system includes differently sized removable receptacles.

[0010] In another embodiment of the invention, planar bottoms include a receptacle connection structure comprising at least one raised portion on the upper surface of the planar bottom configured to mate with a recessed portion on the lower surface of the receptacle planar bottom, such that the receptacle removably connects to the planar bottom. A person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that this arrangement could be inverted to achieve the same result.

[0011] In another embodiment of the invention each planar bottom includes three receptacle connection structures evenly spaced across the planar bottom.

[0012] In another embodiment of the invention the cap includes a planar bottom connection structure comprising at least one recessed portion on the upper surface of the cap configured to

mate with a raised portion on the lower surface of the planar bottom, such that the cap removably connects to the planar bottom. A person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that this arrangement could be inverted to achieve the same result.

[0013] In another embodiment of the invention each cap includes two planar bottom connection structures evenly spaced across the upper surface of the cap.

[0014] In another embodiment of the invention each cap includes three planar bottom connection structures evenly spaced across the upper surface of the cap.

[0015] In another embodiment of the invention the container system includes a first and second storage base, wherein the handle portions of the first storage base are mated with the corresponding opening within the horizontal end walls of the second storage base so as to removably connect the first storage base to the second storage base and the cap of the receptacle within the lower storage base is mated with the lower surface of the planar bottom of the second storage unit, such that first and second storage bases form a storage unit.

[0016] In another embodiment of the invention the first compartment and second compartment are formed so as to receive a handle of a second storage base when the second storage base is mated with the first storage base.

[0017] In another embodiment of the invention there is container system kit including a storage base comprising (a) a frame including (i) a first horizontal side wall facing a second horizontal side wall, (ii) a first horizontal end wall facing a second horizontal end wall, the first and second horizontal end walls extending transversely between the first and second horizontal side walls (b) a partition extending transversely between the horizontal end walls to divide the frame into first and second compartments, (c) each of the first and second compartments including (i) a planar bottom, (ii) a first vertical side wall extending up from the planar bottom and terminating at a top edge, the top edge coupled to the first horizontal end wall, (iii) a second vertical side wall facing the first vertical side wall extending up from the planar bottom and terminating at a top edge, the top edge coupled to the second horizontal end wall, and (d) a cavity formed within the planar bottom and vertical side walls of each compartment, each cavity at least having an open top bounded by the top edges of the horizontal end walls, the partition and one of the horizontal side walls and a removable receptacle configured to be received within at least a portion of the cavities, the receptacle comprising (a) a planar bottom with side walls coupled to the outward peripheral edges of the planar bottom to form a rectangular shape, and (b) a cap in substantially the same shape as the planar bottom configured to be received by the top edges of the side walls

to create an enclosed receptacle. Further, the partition wall of the storage base includes an upper portion extending above the level of the frame to form a handle, and the handle further includes (a) first handle portion pivotally attached to a first end of the handle, (b) a second handle portion pivotally attached to a second end of the handle, (c) and a groove configured to receive the handle portions therein.

[0018] Numerous other aspects, features and benefits of the present disclosure may be made apparent from the following detailed description taken together with the drawing figures.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate an implementation of the present invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the advantages and principles of the invention. In the drawings:

[0020] Fig. 1 depicts an exploded view of a carrying base and storage receptacles according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0021] Fig. 2 depicts a view of a carrying base and storage receptacles according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0022] Fig. 3 depicts an exploded view of the organizational unit according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0023] Fig. 4 depicts the organizational unit according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0024] Fig. 5 depicts an exploded view of the organizational unit according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0025] Figs. 6A-6C depict a view of the storage receptacles and lid according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0026] Fig. 7 depicts a view of the storage receptacle and lid according to an embodiment of the invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0027] As shown in Fig. 1 the container system includes a base portion **10**. The base portion includes a planar bottom **12**. The base portion includes a first end and a second end, each of which are coupled to a vertical side wall **14a** and **14b**. The vertical side wall **14** is coupled to horizontal side walls **16a**, **16b**, **16c** and **16d**, which define the internal space of the base portion

**10.** The base portion can assume various shapes known to persons of ordinary skill in the art by varying the length or other dimensions of the horizontal and vertical side walls, but is preferably square or rectangular in shape.

[0028] Further, as shown in Fig. 1, an interior horizontal sidewall **18** or sidewalls may be used to separate or divide the interior of the base portion into one or more cavities **20**. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, the base portion is divided into two cavities **20a** and **20b**. Each cavity is defined by a planar bottom **12**, vertical side walls **14** and an horizontal interior side wall **16**. The planar bottom **12**, vertical side walls **14** and horizontal side walls **16** and **18** can vary in dimension so as to create a more open base portion as shown or closed cavity. In other embodiments, the cavities can further be defined into smaller cavities by employing additional interior side walls within the cavity.

[0029] A handle **22** extends from a first horizontal side wall to second horizontal side wall opposite to or facing the first horizontal sidewall. The handle is provided to allow the container system to be moved to another location by grasping a portion of the bar **24**. As discussed in more detail later on, the handle portion **44** also serves to connect one container system to another.

[0030] The container system also includes one or more receptacles **26** of the same or varying sizes like those shown in **26a**, **26b** and **26c**. The receptacles can be inserted within the base portion to transport the receptacles or store the receptacles. The receptacles can also be removed to access items within the receptacle or interchange them with a different receptacle. Each receptacle includes a planar bottom **28** with walls coupled to outward peripheral edges of the planar bottom **28**. Specifically, the receptacle may include a first side wall **32a** that is coupled to one side edge of the planar bottom **28** and a second side wall **32b** is coupled to the opposite side edge of the planar bottom. Between the sidewalls is a front wall **30** that is coupled to a front edge of the planar bottom and a back wall **34** coupled to the opposite back edge of the planar bottom. The sidewalls, planar bottom and front and back walls combine to form a receptacle with an internal storage cavity.

[0031] Included with the receptacle **26** is a cap **36** which can be attached to an upper edge of a side wall, front wall or back wall to create an enclosed receptacle. For example, the cap can be provided with one or more hinge supports equally spaced along a peripheral edge of the cap which is joined to either a side wall, front wall or back wall. In the embodiment, the cap can open by pivoting about the hinge and close by pivoting about the hinge in an opposite direction. The cap can also snap into place on top of the receptacle. Other mechanisms of attaching the cap

to the receptacle well known to those of ordinary skill in the art can also be employed. Further, the upper surface of the cap **36** may include one or more recesses **38** which have a peripheral profile that corresponds to all or a portion of the planar bottom **12** of the base portion **10**, the planar bottom **28** of a different receptacle, or both such that when one or more organization units are vertically stacked, the planar bottom **12** of the base portion **10**, the planar bottom **28** of a different receptacle, or both nest within all or a portion of the cap recess.

[0032] Fig. 2 shows a more detailed view of the handle **22**. The handle **22** may include a pair of handle side walls **40** facing each other forming a groove or open cavity **42** which can receive handle portion **44** that pivots about a fixed point **46** to a 90 degree or substantially 90 degree angle with respect to the handle **22**. The handle portion **44** and the groove **42** are configured such that the upper surface of handle portion **44** is flush with the upper edges of the groove **42** when the handle portion is received within the groove. Fig. 2 also shows an opening **48** in horizontal side wall, which is adapted to receive the upper part of the handle portion as shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

[0033] Figs. 3 and 4 show an embodiment of the invention where two or more container systems may be connected to each other to create an organization unit **100**. Specifically, Fig. 3 shows an upper container system **50** disconnected from a lower container system **52** which allows a user to create a smaller organizational unit or to access receptacles within a lower container system **52**.

[0034] In this embodiment, the handle portions **44** are extended outwardly from the handle **22** at about 90 degrees. Each handle portion has a projecting edge **54** which can be mated with the opening **48** within the horizontal side wall of the upper container system **50**. When the projecting edges **54** are mated with a corresponding opening **48** of the upper container system, the container systems are securely connected and transportable using the handle of the upper container system **22** while the planar bottom **56** of the lower container system **52** serves as the base of the entire organizational unit. A person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the organizational unit is not limited to only two container systems mated together and that two or more container systems can be mated together in order to create a large organizational unit. In this case, the handle **22** of the upper most container system permits a user to easily transport or carry the entire organizational unit while the planar bottom of the lower most container system serves as the base for the entire organizational unit.



[0035] As shown in Fig. 5 the container system includes a base portion **10**. The base portion includes a planar bottom **12**. The base portion includes a first end and a second end, each of which are coupled to a vertical side wall **14a** and **14b**. The vertical side wall **14** is coupled to horizontal side walls **16a, 16b, 16c and 16d**, which define the internal space of the base portion **10**. The base portion can assume various shapes known to persons of ordinary skill in the art by varying the length or other dimensions of the horizontal and vertical side walls, but is preferably square or rectangular in shape.

[0036] Further, as shown in Fig. 5, an interior horizontal sidewall **18** or sidewalls may be used to separate or divide the interior of the base portion into one or more cavities **20**. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, the base portion is divided into two cavities **20a** and **20b**. Each cavity is defined by a planar bottom **12**, vertical side walls **14** and an horizontal interior side wall **16**. The planar bottom **12**, vertical side walls **14** and horizontal side walls **16** and **18** can vary in dimension so as to create a more open base portion as shown or closed cavity. In other embodiments, the cavities can further be defined into smaller cavities by employing additional interior side walls within the cavity.

[0037] A handle **22** extends from a first horizontal side wall to second horizontal side wall opposite to or facing the first horizontal sidewall. The handle is provided to allow the container system to be moved to another location by grasping a portion of the bar **24**. As discussed in more detail later on, the handle portion **44** also serves to connect one container system to another.

[0038] The container system also includes one or more receptacles **26** of the same or varying sizes like those shown in **26a, 26b** and **26c**. The receptacles can be inserted within the base portion to transport the receptacles or store the receptacles. The receptacles can also be removed to access items within the receptacle or interchange them with a different receptacle. Each receptacle includes a planar bottom **28** with walls coupled to outward peripheral edges of the planar bottom **28**. Specifically, the receptacle may include a first side wall **32a** that is coupled to one side edge of the planar bottom **28** and a second side wall **32b** is coupled to the opposite side edge of the planar bottom. Between the sidewalls is a front wall **30** that is coupled to a front edge of the planar bottom and a back wall **34** coupled to the opposite back edge of the planar bottom. The sidewalls, planar bottom and front and back walls combine to form a receptacle with an internal storage cavity.

[0039] Included with the receptacle **26** is a cap **36** which can be attached to an upper edge of a side wall, front wall or back wall to create an enclosed receptacle. In an embodiment, the cap **36**

is configured to cover and seal the opening of the receptacle **26**. The cap **36** includes a panel **70** with an upper surface **74** and a lower surface **72**. An edge **76** circumvents the perimeter of the panel. In an embodiment, the edge **76** has an inner wall that extends perpendicularly or substantially perpendicular downward from the plane of the panel. The inner wall is coupled to an upper wall of the edge which extends horizontally and is coupled to an outer wall that extends vertically downward from the upper wall. The outer wall is spaced apart from the inner wall to form a channel (not shown). In an example, the cap fits over the receptacle so that the top edge of the receptacle is received within the channel of the lid. In this example, the cap covers the opening of the receptacle to create a closed cavity. Further to this example, the cap can easily be removed to access the cavity within the receptacle. Other mechanisms of attaching the cap to the receptacle well known to those of ordinary skill in the art can also be employed. Further, the upper surface of the cap **36** may include one or more recesses **38** which have a peripheral profile that corresponds to all or a portion of the planar bottom **12** of the base portion **10**, the planar bottom **28** of a different receptacle, or both such that when one or more organization units are vertically stacked, the planar bottom **12** of the base portion **10**, the planar bottom **28** of a different receptacle, or both nest within all or a portion of the cap recess.

[0040] Further, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a kit could be created using various combinations of the components described above. For example a kit could include a base portion with three different sized receptacles **58**, **60** and **62** that fit within the base unit cavities. Separate base units could be provided such that the combination of receptacles could vary. For example, three smaller receptacles may be placed within one cavity of the base portion, or each base portion could include only one receptacle that extends the entire length and width of the cavity, **62**.

[0041] Another embodiment of the cap **36** is shown in FIGS. 6A-6C. In this embodiment, the cap **36** is removably attached to an upper edge of a side wall, front wall or back wall of the receptacle to create an enclosed receptacle. In this embodiment, the cap can be provided with one or more hinge supports **80** equally spaced along a peripheral edge of the cap. In an example the hinge includes a flap **82** configured to be received by a slot **84** (shown in FIG. 7) on a sidewall **32** of the receptacle. In an embodiment, the flap **82** includes a first tab **86** opposed to a second tab **88** each of which extend outwardly and downwardly from the flap **82**. The position of each tab relative to the slot **84** is configured to provide sufficient clearance to span the width of the slot **86** and in operation allow the tabs **86** and **88** to be squeezed inwards, e.g. towards the center of the

flap **82** to engage the flap **82** with the slot **84**. In operation, the tabs **86** and **88** can be squeezed inwards, e.g. towards the center of the flap **82** to disengage the flap **82** from the slot **84**.

[0042] In an embodiment, the flap **82** and tabs **86** and **88** are integrally formed, e.g. by injection molding. The material composition and dimensions of the tabs **86** and **88** are configured that in operation, a user can laterally displace the tabs with respect to the flap **82** with moderate force and to allow the tabs **86** and **88** to return back to their original position when then force has been released. In an example the flap and tabs are composed of a resilient material such as a plastic or resilient metal.

[0043] In an embodiment, each tab **86** and **88** has an end portion **90** that extends downwardly from each tab. In operation, as shown in FIG. 7, when each tab **86** and **88** is received within the slot **84**, the end portion **90** extends past the lower edge **94** of the slot **84**. In an embodiment, each tab **86** and **88** include a protrusion **92** that extends outwardly and horizontally from a peripheral edge of the tab. The position of each tab **86** and **88** and its respective protrusion **92** relative to the slot **84** are configured to provide sufficient clearance to span the width of the slot **86** and in operation allow the tabs **86** and **88** to be squeezed inwards, e.g. towards the center of the flap **82** to engage the flap **82** with the slot **84**.

[0044] In an example, the material composition and dimensions of the tabs **86** and **88** are configured such that in operation, a user can laterally displace the tabs with respect to the flap **82** with moderate force and to allow the tabs **86** and **88** to return back to their original position when the force has been released. In this embodiment, each protrusion clears the lower edge **94** of the slot **84** when the tabs are squeezed inwards and when the force on the tabs is released, the tabs return to their original position such that the lower edge **94** of the slot rests on an upper edge **98** of the protrusions. In an example, the protrusion provides a locking mechanism that secures the flap and its respective tabs within the slot. In operation, when the flap and tabs are received within the slot **84**, the protrusions prevent upward motion of the flap **82** and tabs **86** and **88**. Further to this example, in operation, the tabs **86** and **88** can be squeezed inwards, e.g. towards the center of the flap **82** such that the tabs and protrusions are laterally displaced a dimension to have sufficient clearance of the slot to disengage the flap **82** from the slot **84**.

[0045] In operation, the tabs **86** and **88** can be squeezed inwards, e.g. towards the center of the flap **82** to disengage the flap **82** from the slot **84**.

[0046] As shown in FIG. 7, the receptacle can include one or more slots evenly spaced across the sidewall **32**. In an embodiment, the slot **84** configured to receive the flap **82**. The slot **84**

includes a first slot end wall **96** extending outwardly and horizontally away from the receptacle sidewall **32** and terminating at an upper edge **98** and a lower edge **94**. An edge of the first slot end wall **96** is coupled to a horizontal side wall **100** which faces the receptacle side wall **32** and extends horizontally across the sidewall **32** and terminates at an upper edge **102** and lower edge **104**. The slot sidewall coupled to a second slot end wall **106** extending outwardly and horizontally away from the receptacle sidewall **32** and terminating at an upper edge **108** and a lower edge **110**. A slot or opening formed within the slot end walls and horizontal side walls has an open top bounded by the top edges of the horizontal side walls and slot end walls and an open bottom bounded by the lower edges of the horizontal side walls and slot end walls is configured with suitable dimensions to receive a tab **86**.

[0047] In an embodiment, the sidewall **32** of the receptacle includes a tab **112** that extends horizontally across a portion of the receptacle sidewall **32**, downwards from the upper edge **114** and outward from the sidewall **32** of the receptacle sidewall **32**. The position of the receptacle tab **112** relative to the slot **19** is configured to provide sufficient clearance to span the width of the slot **19** and in operation allow the tab to be inserted within the slot **19** and removed from the slot **19**.

[0048] In an embodiment, the receptacle tab **112** includes a first receptacle tab portion **128** opposed to a second receptacle tab portion **130** each of which extend outwardly and downwardly from the tab **112**. The position of each tab portion relative to the slot **19** is configured to provide sufficient clearance to span the width of the slot **19** and in operation allow the tab to be removably inserted within the slot **19**.

[0049] In an embodiment, shown in FIG. 5, the partition wall includes one or more partition slots spaced evenly across the partition wall. The partition slot **19** includes a first slot end wall **116** extending outwardly horizontally away from the partition wall **18** and terminating at an upper edge **118** and a lower edge **120**. An edge of the first slot end wall **116** is coupled to a horizontal side wall **122** which faces the partition wall **18** and extends horizontally across the partition wall **18** and terminates at an upper edge **118** and lower edge **120**. The partition slot sidewall coupled to a second slot end wall **124** extending outwardly and horizontally away from the partition wall **18** and terminating at an upper edge **126** and a lower edge **128**. A slot or opening formed within the slot end walls and horizontal side walls having an open top bounded by the top edges of the horizontal side walls and slot end walls and an open bottom bounded by

the lower edges of the horizontal side walls and slot end walls is configured with suitable dimensions to receive a tab **112**.

[0050] In an embodiment, the partition slot **19** has one or more interior walls that extend outward from the partition wall **18**. The interior walls **130** (shown in FIG. 7) extend outward from the partition wall **18** relative to the horizontal side wall **122** to provide sufficient clearance of the tab **112** between the horizontal sidewall **122** and the interior wall. The interior walls **130** provide additional stability for the tab **112** when inserted within the partition slot **19**. In an embodiment the interior walls can be further configured relative to the tab such that the spacing between the interior walls and the sidewalls or adjacent interior walls form a channel (not shown) sufficient to receive the tab **112**, tab portion **128** and **130**, or both.

[0051] While various embodiments of the present invention have been described, it will be apparent to those of skill in the art that many more embodiments and implementations are possible that are within the scope of this invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not to be restricted except in light of the attached claims and their equivalents.

Claims

1. A storage system including a storage base, the storage base comprising:
  - a frame including (i) a first horizontal side wall facing a second horizontal side wall, (ii) a first horizontal end wall facing a second horizontal end wall, the first and second horizontal end walls extending transversely between the first and second horizontal side walls;
  - a partition extending transversely between the horizontal end walls to divide the frame into first and second compartments;
  - each of the first and second compartments including (a) a planar bottom, (b) a first vertical side wall extending up from the planar bottom and terminating at a top edge, the top edge coupled to the first horizontal end wall, (c) a second vertical side wall facing the first vertical side wall extending up from the planar bottom and terminating at a top edge, the top edge coupled to the second horizontal end wall; and
  - a cavity formed within the planar bottom and vertical side walls of each compartment, each cavity at least having an open top bounded by the top edges of the horizontal end walls, the partition and one of the horizontal side walls;wherein,
  - the partition wall includes an upper portion extending above the level of the frame to form a handle, and
  - the handle further includes (a) first handle portion pivotally attached to a first end of the handle, (b) a second handle portion pivotally attached to a second end of the handle, (c) and a groove configured to receive the handle portions therein.
2. The container system according to claim 1 wherein each of the horizontal end walls includes an opening, and each handle portion has a projecting edge configured to mate with the opening within the horizontal end walls.
3. The container system according to claim 2 further comprising a first and second storage base, wherein the handle portions of the first storage base are mated with the corresponding opening within the horizontal end walls of the second storage base so as to removably connect the first storage base to the second storage base and create a storage unit.

4. The container system according to claim 1 wherein the horizontal side walls, horizontal end walls, partition, planar bottom and vertical end walls being integral to form a one piece, rigid base.
5. The container system according to claim 1 further comprising a removable receptacle configured to be received within at least a portion of the cavities, the receptacle comprising (a) a planar bottom with side walls coupled to the outward peripheral edges of the planar bottom to form a rectangular shape, and (b) a cap in substantially the same shape as the planar bottom configured to be received by the top edges of the side walls to create an enclosed receptacle.
6. The container system according to claim 5 further comprising a plurality of removable receptacles.
7. The container system according to claim 6 further comprising differently sized removable receptacles.
8. The container system according to claim 5, wherein the planar bottoms include a receptacle connection structure comprising at least one raised portion on the upper surface of the planar bottom configured to mate with a recessed portion on the lower surface of the receptacle planar bottom, such that the receptacle removably connects to the planar bottom.
9. The container system according to claim 8 wherein each planar bottom include three receptacle connection structures evenly spaced across the planar bottom.
10. The container system according to claim 5 wherein the cap includes a planar bottom connection structure comprising at least one recessed portion on the upper surface of the cap configured to mate with a raised portion on the lower surface of the planar bottom, such that the cap removably connects to the planar bottom.
11. The container system according to claim 10 wherein each cap includes two planar bottom connection structures evenly spaced across the upper surface of the cap.
12. The container system according to claim 10 wherein each cap includes three planar bottom connection structures evenly spaced across the upper surface of the cap.
13. The container system according to claim 10, further comprising a first and second storage base, wherein the handle portions of the first storage base are mated with the corresponding opening within the horizontal end walls of the second storage base so as to removably connect the first storage base to the second storage base and the cap of the receptacle within the lower storage base is mated with the lower surface of the planar bottom of the second storage unit, such that first and second storage bases form a storage unit.

14. The container system according to claim 3 wherein the first compartment and second compartment are formed so as to receive a handle of a second storage base when the second storage base is mated with the first storage base.

15. A container system kit including:

a storage base comprising (a) a frame including (i) a first horizontal side wall facing a second horizontal side wall, (ii) a first horizontal end wall facing a second horizontal end wall, the first and second horizontal end walls extending transversely between the first and second horizontal side walls (b) a partition extending transversely between the horizontal end walls to divide the frame into first and second compartments, (c) each of the first and second compartments including (i) a planar bottom, (ii) a first vertical side wall extending up from the planar bottom and terminating at a top edge, the top edge coupled to the first horizontal end wall, (iii) a second vertical side wall facing the first vertical side wall extending up from the planar bottom and terminating at a top edge, the top edge coupled to the second horizontal end wall, and (d) a cavity formed within the planar bottom and vertical side walls of each compartment, each cavity at least having an open top bounded by the top edges of the horizontal end walls, the partition and one of the horizontal side walls; and

a removable receptacle configured to be received within at least a portion of the cavities, the receptacle comprising (a) a planar bottom with side walls coupled to the outward peripheral edges of the planar bottom to form a rectangular shape, and (b) a cap in substantially the same shape as the planar bottom configured to be received by the top edges of the side walls to create an enclosed receptacle

wherein,

the partition wall of the storage base includes an upper portion extending above the level of the frame to form a handle, and

the handle further includes (a) first handle portion pivotally attached to a first end of the handle, (b) a second handle portion pivotally attached to a second end of the handle, (c) and a groove configured to receive the handle portions therein.



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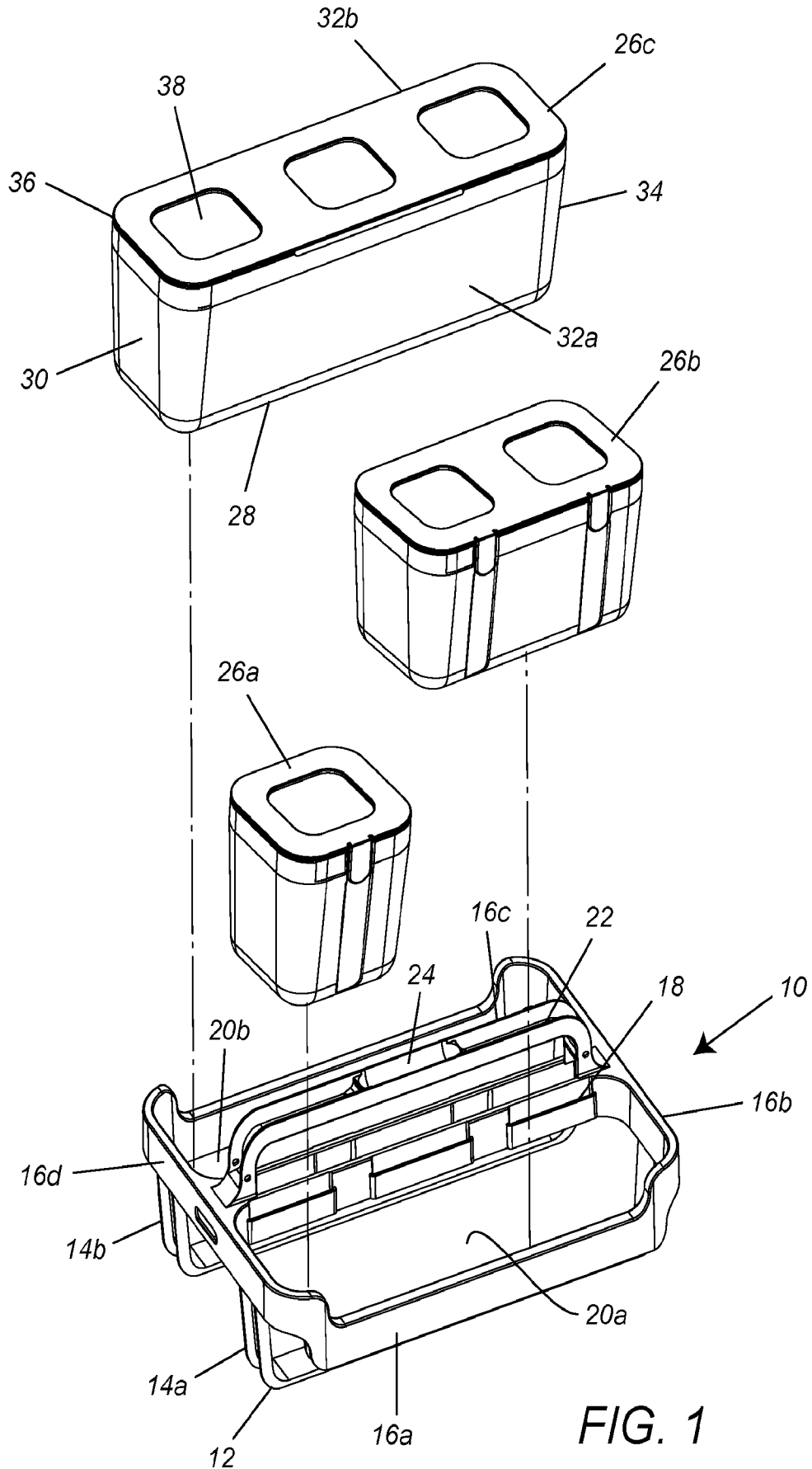


FIG. 1

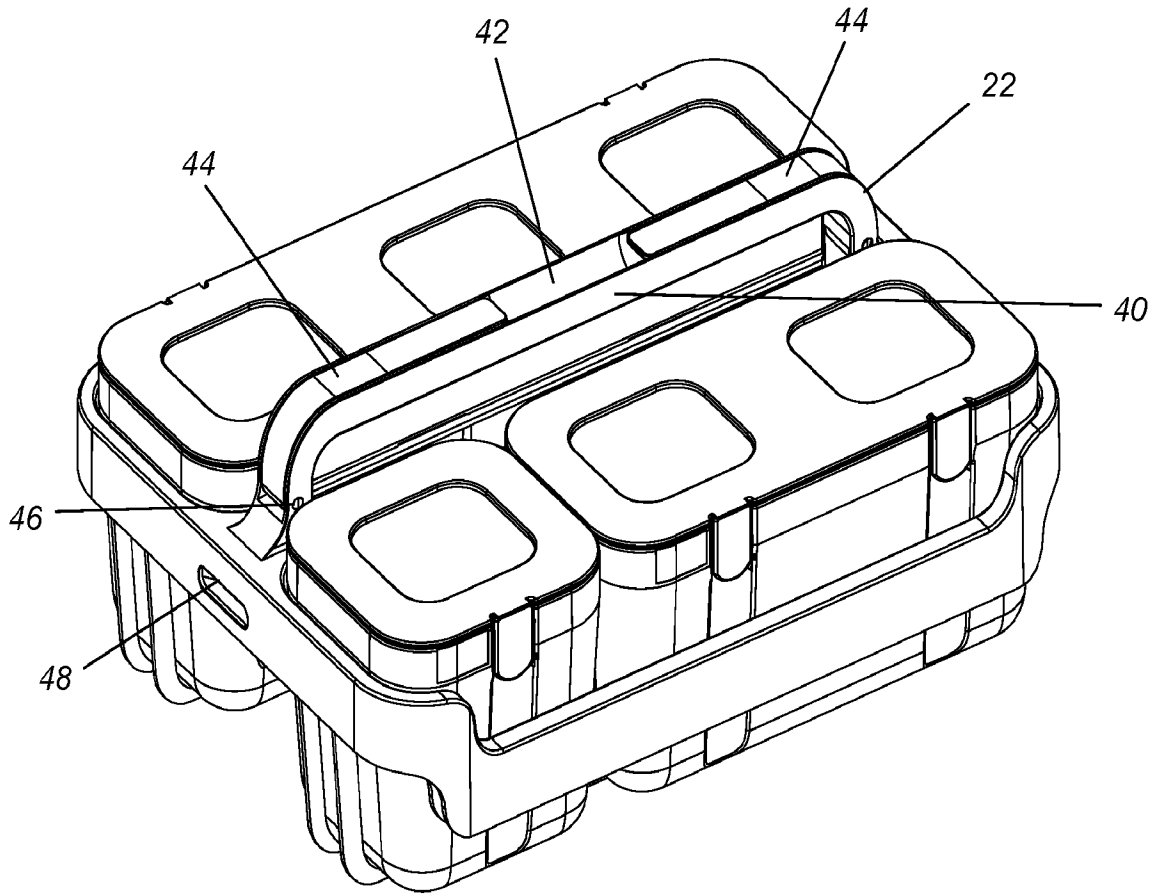


FIG. 2

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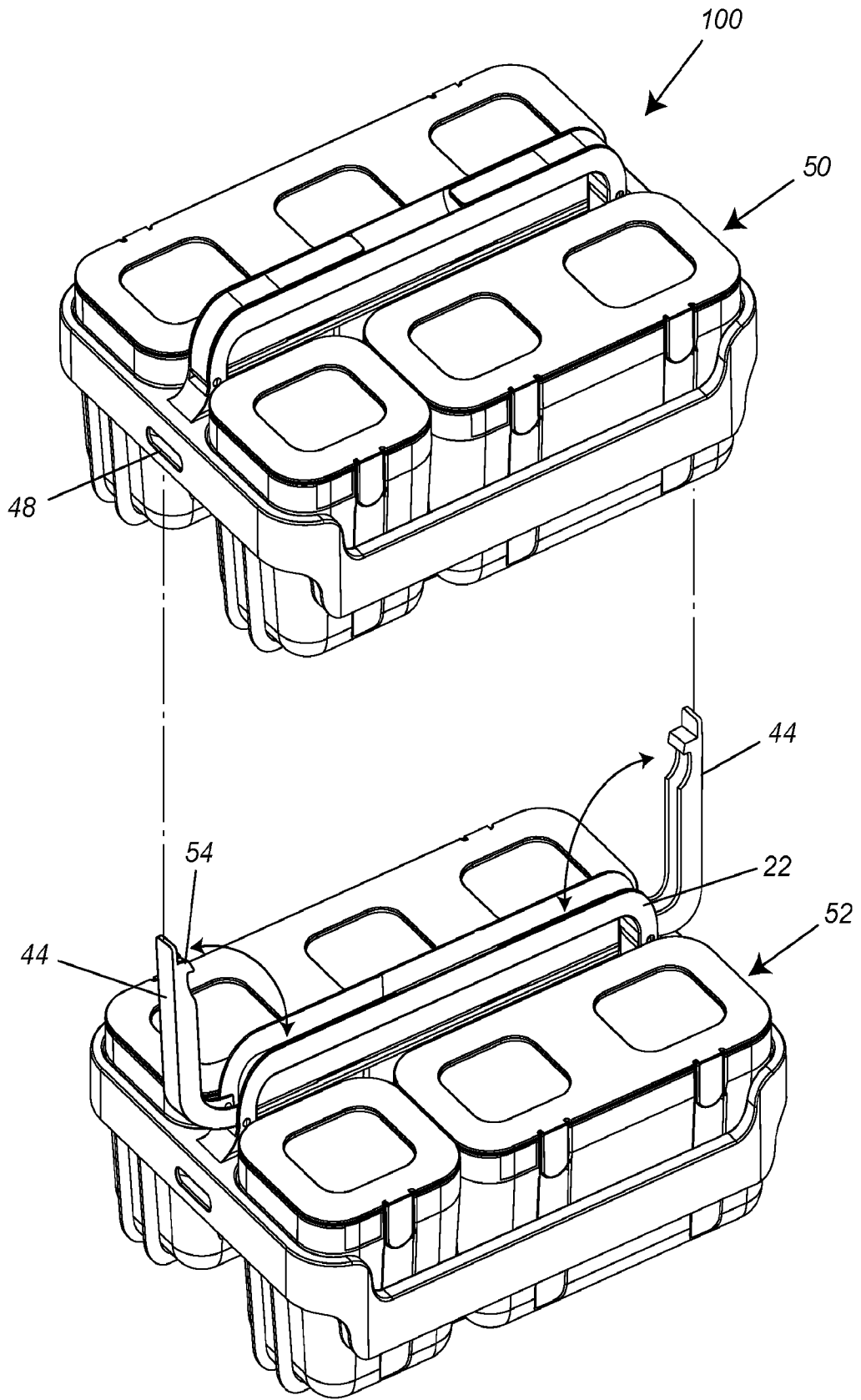


FIG. 3

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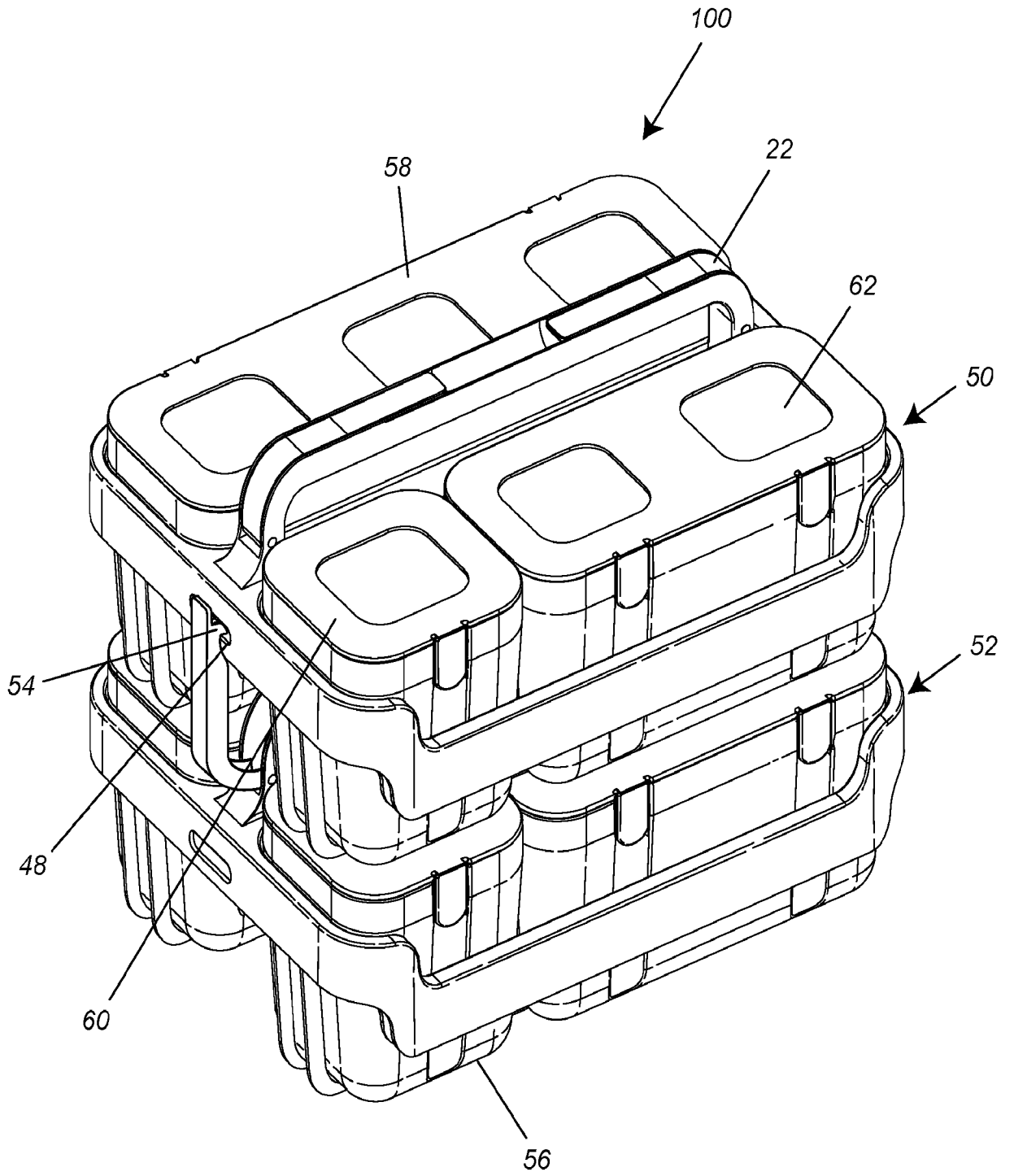
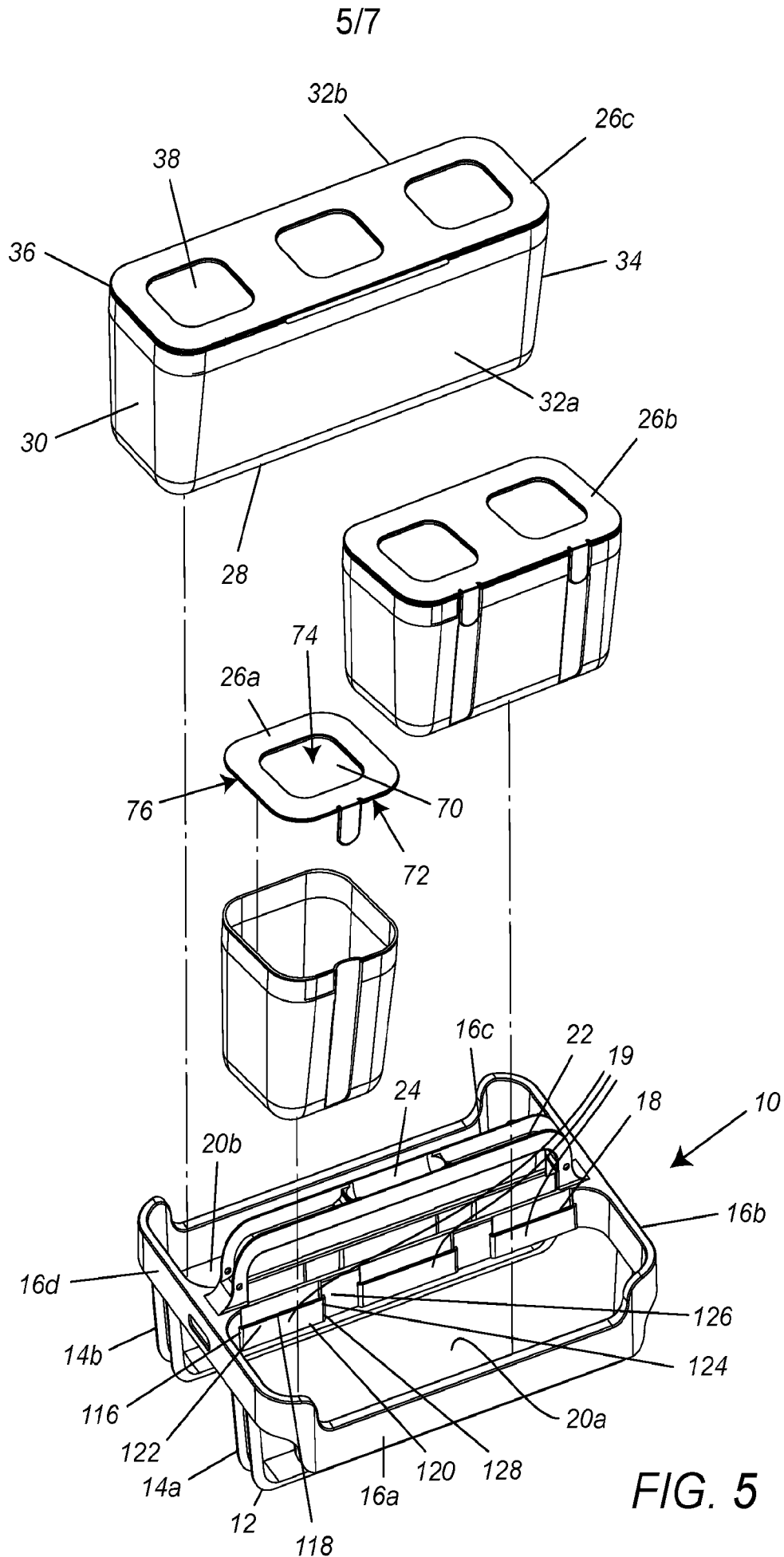
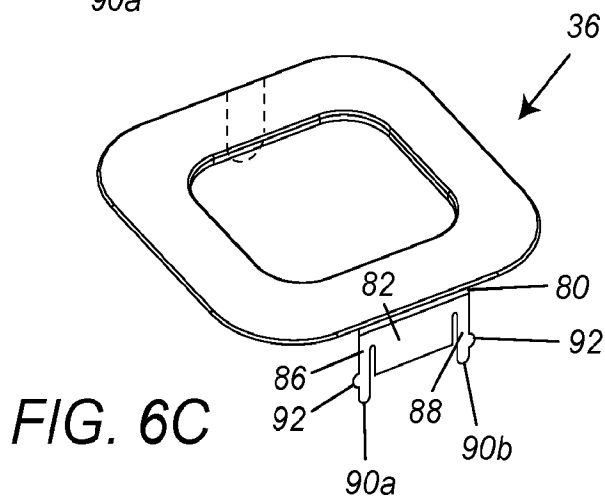
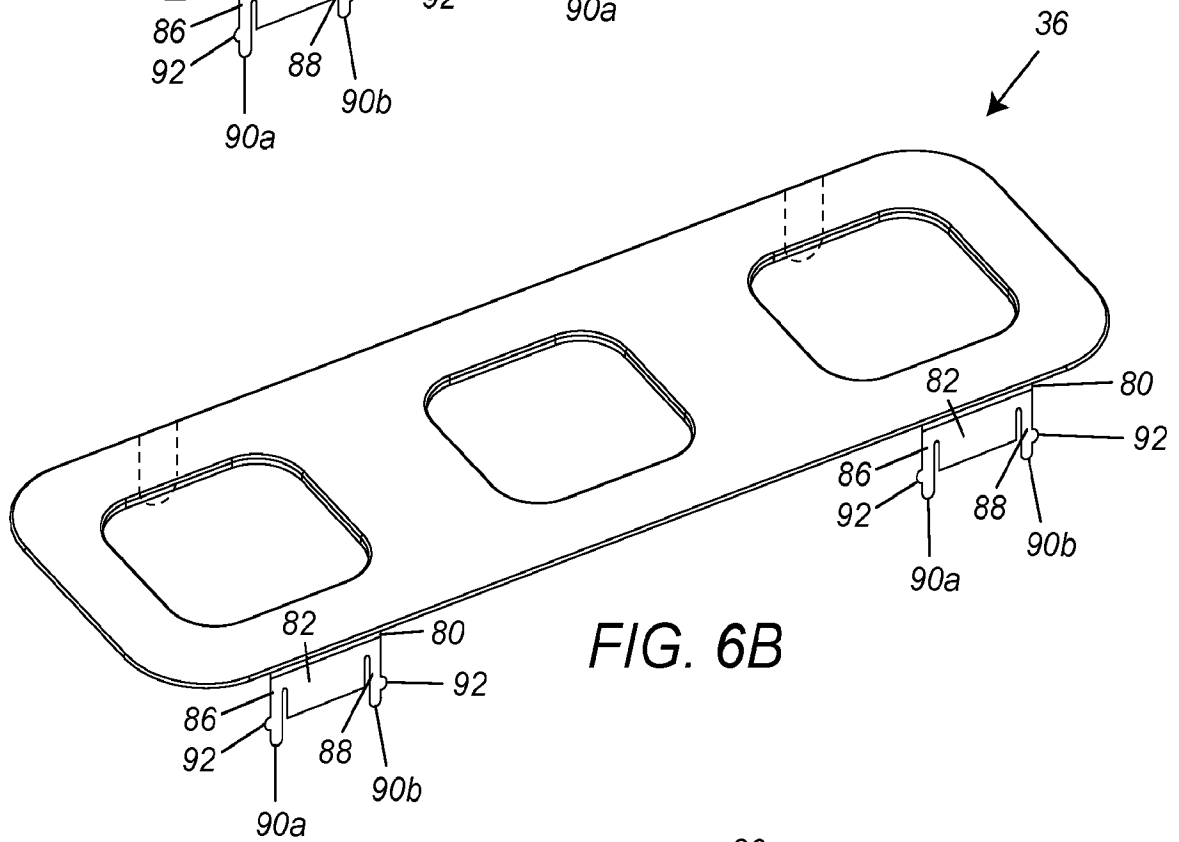
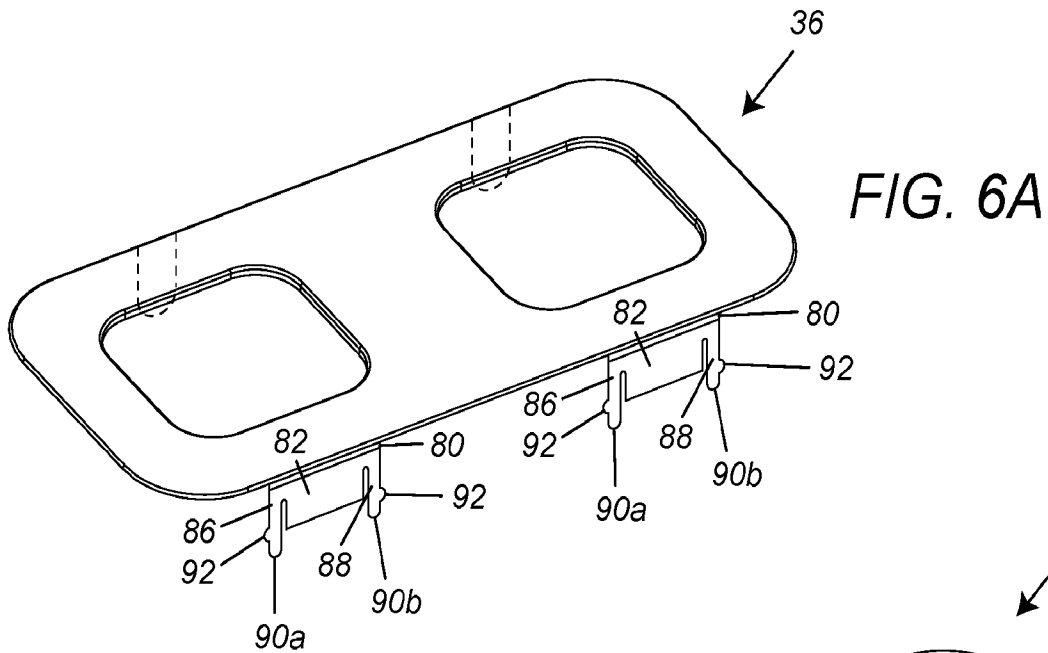


FIG. 4



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 16/12131

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - B65D 21/00 (2016.01)

CPC - B65D 21/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC (8): B65D 21/00 (2016.01)

CPC: B65D 21/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
 IPC (8): B65D 71/52, A45F4/00, A45C 11/24 (2016.01). CPC: B65D 71/52, B65D 71/0003, A45F4/00, A45C 11/24. USPC: 206/510, 294/162, 206/159, 206/145, 211/74, 224/576.

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
 PatBase. Google (Web, Patent, Scholar). Search Terms: Acrylic\*, Basket, Bottle\*, Caddy\*, Carrier, Clasp\*, Compart\*, Contain\*, Crate, Deflecto\*, Handle\*, Hinged, Hobb\*, Jar\*, Latch\*, Nest\*, Organiz\*, Plastic, Recept\*, Removable\*, Rotating, Six Pack, Stack\*, Stacking\*, Tote\*, Tray\*.

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 3702061 A1 (VOLKSWAGEN AG) 06 August 1987 (06.08.1987) Fig. 1; col 2 ln 5-12.	1-15
A	US 2008/0000899 A1 (BAKER) 03 January 2008 (03.01.2008) Fig. 1, para [0043].	1-15
A	US 4,714,158 A (OLTMAN et al.) 22 December 1987 (22.12.1987) Figs. 2-4; col 2 ln 38-40, 62-68, col 3 ln 1.	1-15
A	US 2006/0157373 A1 (GRIFFITH) 20 July 2006 (20.07.2006) Figs. 1-5; paras [0018-21].	1-15
A	US 7,559,514 B1 (WYNTER) 14 July 2009 (14.07.2009) Figs. 1-3; col 3 ln 45-54, col 4 ln 1-29.	1-15

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. 

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 March 2016

Date of mailing of the international search report

18 MAR 2016

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