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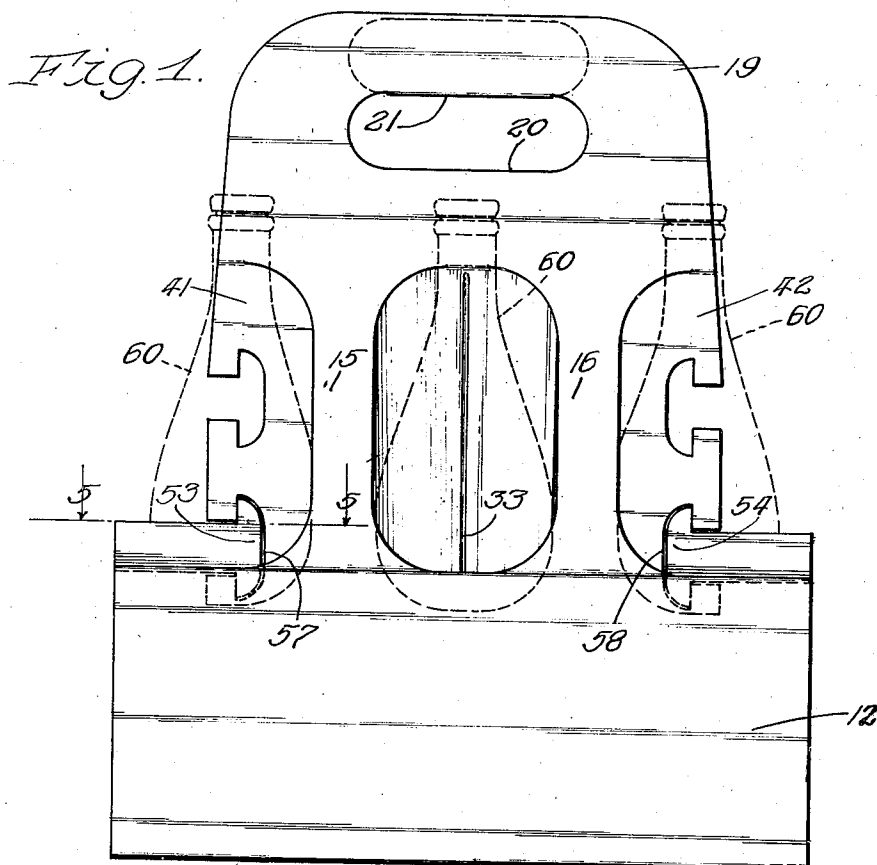
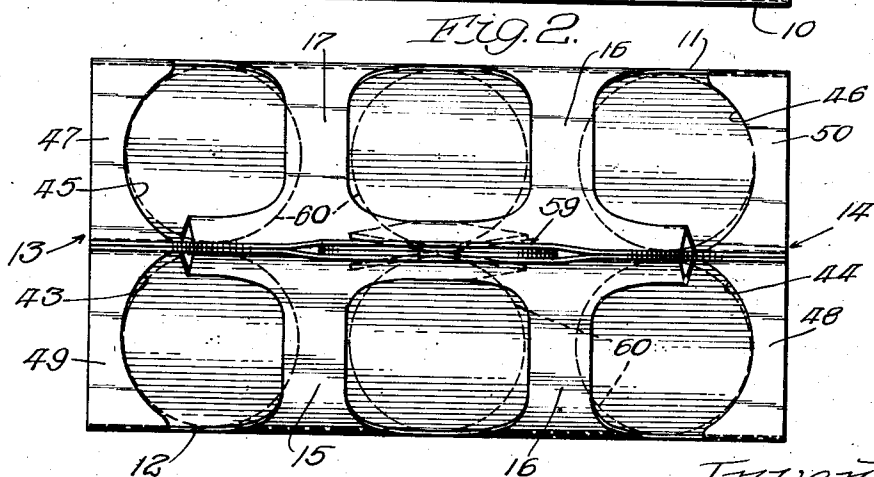
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COLLAPSIBLE CARRIER FOR BOTTLES AND THE LIKE

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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COLLAPSIBLE CARRIER FOR BOTTLES
AND THE LIKE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 224-45)

This invention relates to a collapsible carrier for bottles and the like and more particularly to an improved container of cardboard or similar material equipped with a handle for supporting the same and adapted to receive a plurality of bottles therein, the container being collapsible when empty to form a substantially flat body.

An object of the invention is to provide a collapsible carrier for bottles and the like of increased strength and arranged so as to be folded in a substantially flat body when not in use.

Another object is to provide a strong sturdy collapsible container wherein a maximum number of bottles are received in a minimum of space. At the same time, the construction provides a carrier or container which requires only a minimum of material in proportion to its capacity. Still another object is to provide in a carrier for bottles and the like a new and improved handle which produces greater distribution of the weight of the container. The supporting means for the handle are secured to the central portion of the container in order to provide the greatest possible strength therefor.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide in a collapsible carrier for bottles and the like spacing flaps which extend between the bottles on opposite sides of the container and act to center the bottles in the central portion of the container. Another object is to provide end supports extending across the ends of the carrier and arranged in interlocking relation with the body of the same. A further object of the invention is to provide a blank of flat sheet material such as cardboard which may be formed into a collapsible carrier or container with a minimum waste of material. Other features and advantages of the invention will appear from the following specification and drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the improved carrier; Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same; Fig. 3 is an end elevational view of the carrier; Fig. 4 is a plan view of the blank from which the container is formed; and Fig. 5 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view taken along the lines 5—5 of Fig. 1.

In the embodiment of the invention described herein and referring particularly to Figs. 1 and 2, the carrier includes a base 10, side walls 11 and 12 and end supports 13 and 14 extending across the container at the ends of the side walls.

Each of the side walls is equipped with a pair of spaced upwardly extending straps 15, 16 and 17, 18, which straps are joined at their upper ends and are secured to a handle member 19 which extends across the top of the container. The handle member 19 is provided with a central opening 20 which in turn provides a gripping surface 21.

Referring particularly to Fig. 4, the container may be formed from a flat blank of cardboard or similar material. The blank should be substantially rectangular in shape as shown and may be cut away at each end to form substantially U-shaped projections 21 and 22 which provide the handle member 19. The central portion of the blank is provided with transverse score lines 23 and 25 along which the blank may be folded to form the base 10 and the side walls 11 and 12. The central portion of the blank may also be provided with the score line 24 which permits the container to be folded into a flat unit when not in use.

The handle portion 19 at each end of the blank is cut away to form the central opening 20, the cut away portion being left integral with the handle along the line 26 so that the cut away portion may be folded back to form a part of the handle. The U-shaped projections 21 and 22 are cut along the lines 27 and 28 to form the flaps 29 and 30 which are secured to the portions 21 and 22 at 31 and 32. Preferably the flaps 29 and 30 are provided with longitudinal score lines 33 and 34 respectively. The blank is also cut along the lines 35, 36, 37 and 38 to form flaps 39, 40, 41 and 42 respectively adjacent the flaps 29 and 30.

Semi-circular portions 43, 44, 45 and 46 are cut from the blank to provide the end portions 47, 48, 49 and 50 respectively. Each of the end portions is formed as a T-shaped tab, the tabs being indicated at 51, 52, 53 and 54. The flaps 39, 40, 41 and 42 are then provided with T-shaped openings 55, 56, 57 and 58 at their ends adjacent the central portion of the blank, the T-shaped openings being preferably slightly larger in dimensions than the tabs.

When the carrier is to be used, the blank is folded along the lines 23 and 25 forming the base 10 and the side walls 11 and 12. The substantially U-shaped portions 21 and 22 are joined together by staples or other suitable means to provide the handle member 19. The straps 15, 16, 17 and 18 depend from the handle member to the side walls and serve to support the handle. The end members 47 and 49 are secured to each other as are the end members 48 and 50, staples or other suitable means being used for the attachment.

The flaps 30, 39 and 40 extend downwardly from the handle portion 19 adjacent the flaps 29, 41 and 42. As seen particularly in Figs. 5, 1 and 2, the flaps 29 and 30 are bent along the score lines 33 and 34 to provide a support, V-shaped in cross section and centering the bottle in the central portion of the container.

The cut-away portions of the handle member 19 are turned upwardly and inwardly as seen in Figs. 2 and 3 to form a handle grip 59 which con-

sists of four layers of the cardboard material. It is important that the cut-away portions be turned inwardly and be disposed between the handle portions 21 and 22 in order that the layers bearing the greatest strain shall be at the outside of the grip portion 59.

When the container is assembled the tabs 51, 52, 53 and 54 are inserted in the T-shaped openings 55, 56, 57 and 58 respectively. This construction is shown particularly in Fig. 5 in which the tabs 51 and 53 are shown extending through the openings 55 and 57 respectively. The end portions 47 and 49 are thus locked to the adjacent flaps 39 and 37 and are restrained against outward movement under the pressure of bottles in the container.

When the container is filled, bottles 60 are arranged therein as shown in dotted outline in Figs. 1 and 3. The lower or enlarged portion of each of the bottles adjacent the ends of the container underlies a portion of the adjacent straps 15, 16, 17 and 18. The bottles adjacent the ends of the container should therefore be inserted therein by angularly disposing them in order to pass the enlarged portion of the bottle under the adjacent straps 15, 16, 17 and 18. The center bottle 60 is placed between the straps 15 and 16 or 17 and 18 and is received within the V-shaped groove of the flaps 29 or 30. Each pair of bottles on opposite sides of the container is separated by a pair of flaps.

By reason of the construction of the container wherein the bottles adjacent the end thereof are inserted by angularly disposing them and passing them under the straps 15, 16, 17 and 18, the container not only occupies a minimum of space for its capacity but in addition requires less material in fabrication. This angular insertion of the end bottles reduces the amount of material used in the construction of the article.

The bottles may readily be inserted in or withdrawn from the container without difficulty and, when arranged in position, are securely held within the container. The straps 15, 16, 17 and 18 being connected to the central portion of the side walls of the carrier provide additional strength and effectively support the carrier. The handle grip 59, by furnishing a grip of four layer thickness, distributes the weight of the container over a maximum portion of the hand of the person carrying the same.

When the bottles are removed from the container it may be arranged for collapsing by merely removing the tabs 51, 52, 53 and 54 from the openings 55, 56, 57 and 58 and then folding the container along the line 24. The side walls may then be pressed together until they engage each other and the entire carrier is readily formed into a flat unit.

The arrangement of the parts permits the carrier to be formed from a blank of flat sheet material of substantially rectangular shape with a minimum of waste material. As seen in Fig. 4, the only large portion of material which need be discarded is that which is taken from around the handle portion 19.

Although the invention has been illustrated and described in connection with a container which is arranged to receive six beverage bottles with three of the bottles being arranged on each side of the container, it is obvious that the container may be modified to accommodate more or less bottles and bottles of various sizes and shapes.

While there are shown and described certain embodiments of the invention, it is understood that it is capable of many modifications. Changes, therefore, in the construction and arrangement of the various parts and in the material specified may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as disclosed in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A collapsible carrier for bottles and the like comprising, a base, spaced side walls extending upwardly from the base, and supports extending between the ends of the side walls and equipped with inwardly extending tabs, a pair of spaced straps extending upwardly from the central portion of each of the side walls, said straps being spaced apart a sufficient distance to snugly receive a bottle therebetween, each of the straps being spaced from the adjacent end support by a sufficient distance to accommodate between the strap and the end support the narrow neck of a bottle vertically received within said carrier and to permit the strap to overlie a portion of the enlarged body of a bottle received between the strap and the adjacent end support, the body portion of each of said straps being disposed above the adjacent end support to provide with the end support an opening sufficiently large to receive the enlarged body of the bottle when the bottle is inserted at an angle with respect to the vertical, a handle member extending across the top of the carrier integrally secured to said straps and supported by the same, and a plurality of depending flaps including a central flap and end flaps secured to said handle member and extending downwardly therefrom into the central portion of the carrier, the central flap being provided with a central vertical groove for centering the bottle received between said straps, the end flaps being equipped with recesses for receiving in interlocking relation the tabs carried by the end supports.

2. A collapsible carrier for bottles and the like, comprising a base, spaced side walls extending upwardly from the base, end supports extending between the ends of the side walls, a pair of spaced straps extending upwardly from the central portion of each of the side walls, said straps being spaced apart a sufficient distance to snugly receive a bottle therebetween, each of the straps being spaced from the adjacent end support by a distance sufficient to accommodate between the strap and the end support the narrow neck of a bottle vertically received within the carrier and to permit the strap to overlie a portion of the enlarged body of a bottle received between the strap and the adjacent end support, the body portion of each of said straps being disposed above the adjacent end support to provide with the end support an opening sufficiently large to receive the enlarged body of the bottle when the bottle is inserted at an angle with respect to the vertical, a handle member extending across the top of the carrier secured to said straps, a plurality of depending flaps including a central flap and end flaps secured to said handle member and extending downwardly therefrom into the central portion of the carrier, and means for securing said end flaps in interlocking relation with the end supports of the carrier.

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