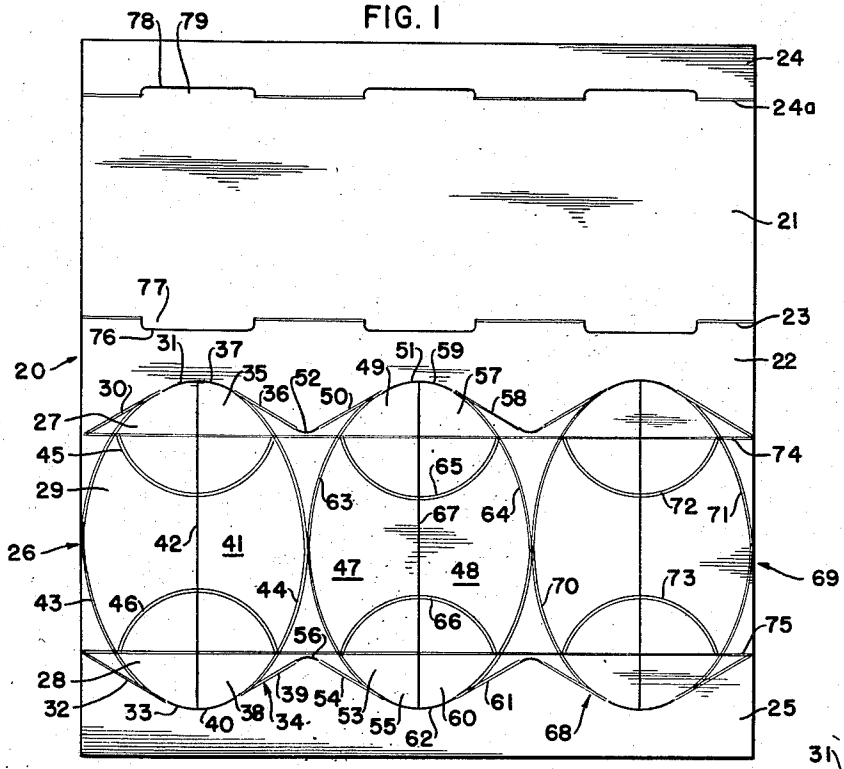
Feb. 11, 1958 P. A. TOENSMEIER 2,823,062

CAN CARRIERS

Filed Oct. 24, 1955 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1



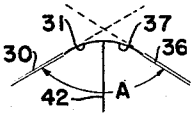


FIG. 1a

FIG. 2

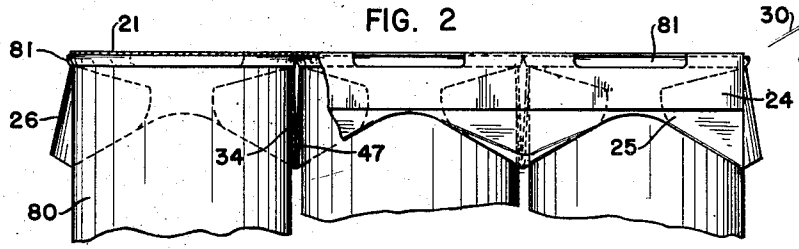


FIG. 4

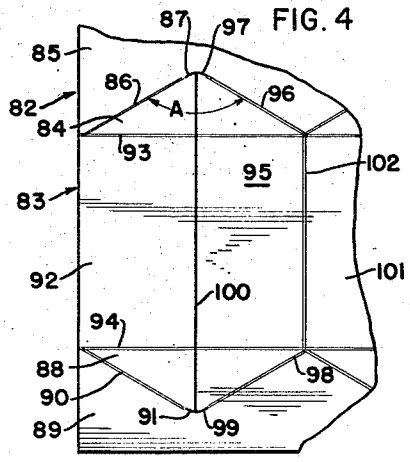
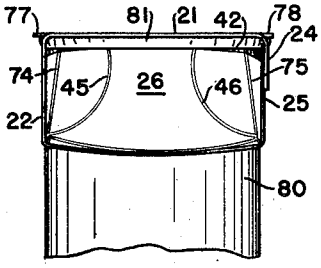


FIG. 3



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Feb. 11, 1958 P. A. TOENSMEIER 2,823,062

CAN CARRIERS

Filed Oct. 24, 1955 4 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 5

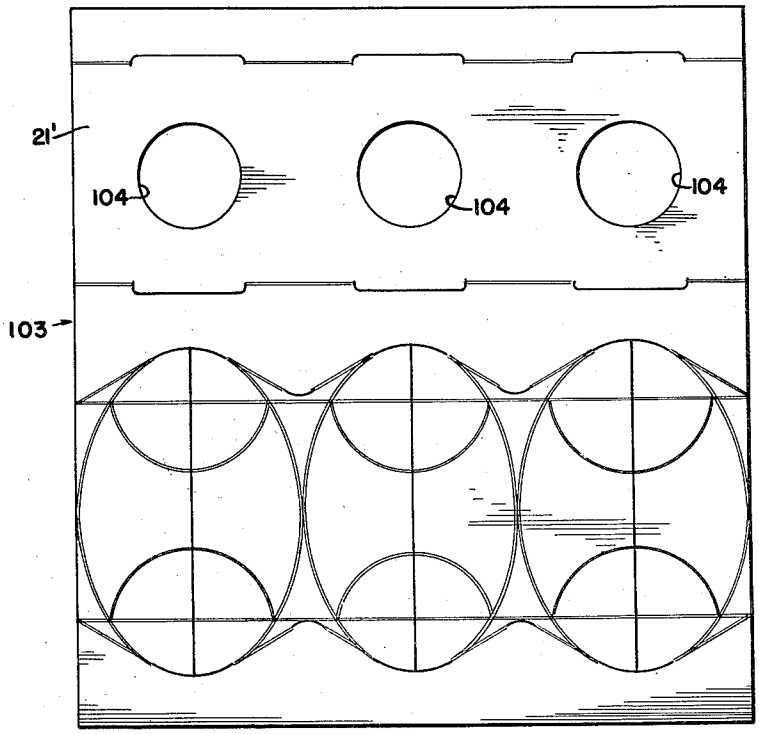
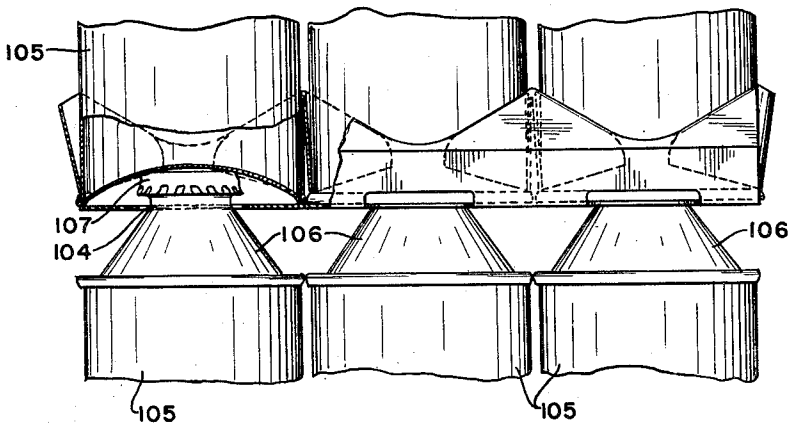


FIG. 6



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CAN CARRIERS

Filed Oct. 24, 1955 4 Sheets-Sheet 3

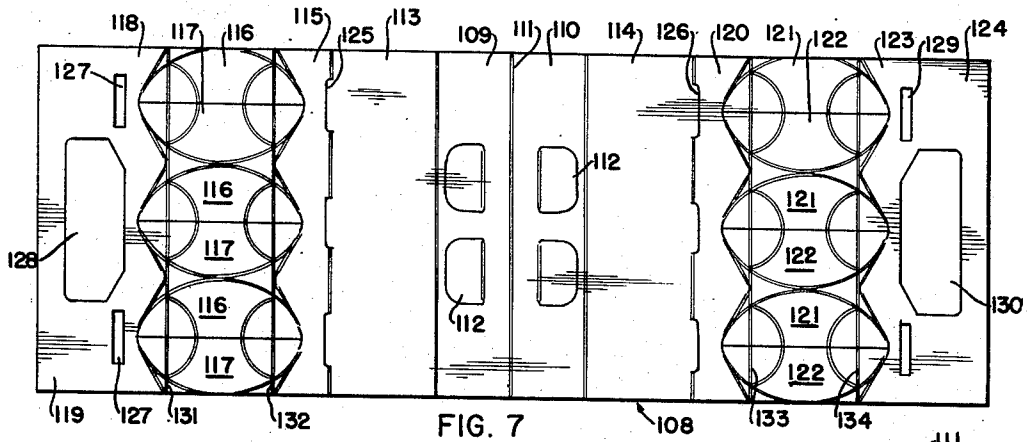


FIG. 7

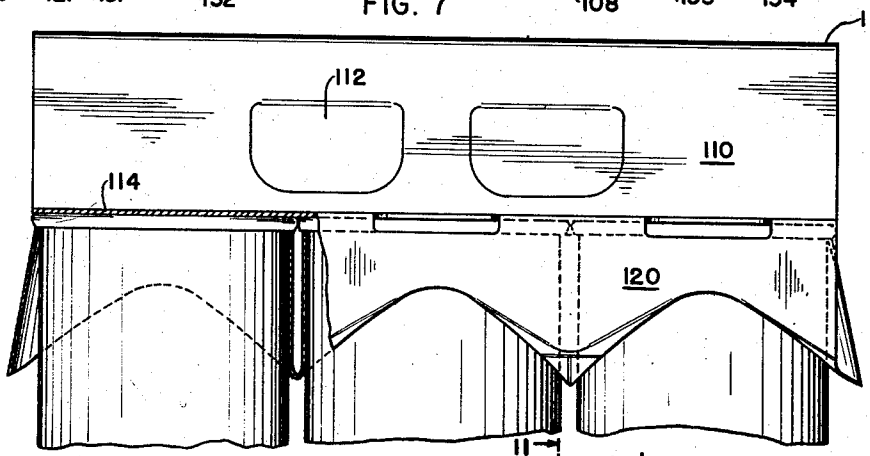


FIG. 8

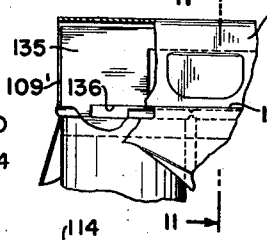


FIG. 10

FIG. 9

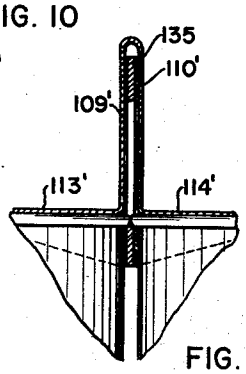


FIG. 11

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Feb. 11, 1958 P. A. TOENSMEIER 2,823,062

CAN CARRIERS

Filed Oct. 24, 1955 4 Sheets-Sheet 4

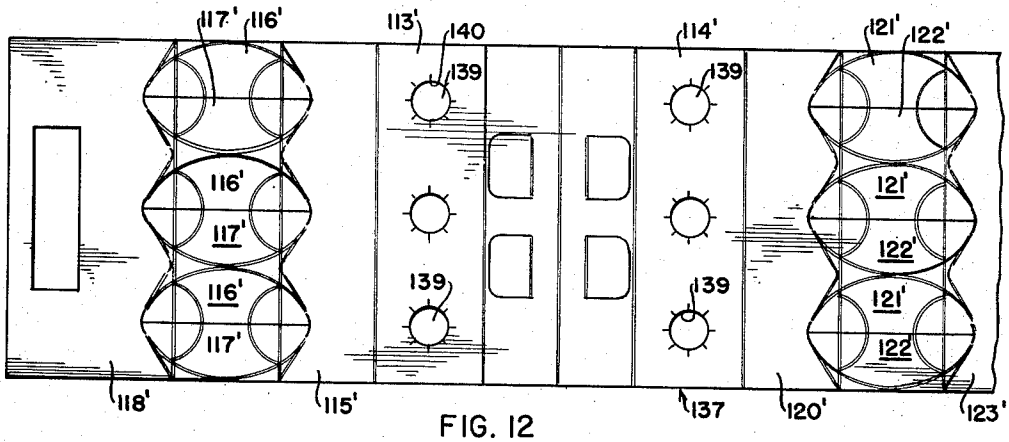


FIG. 12

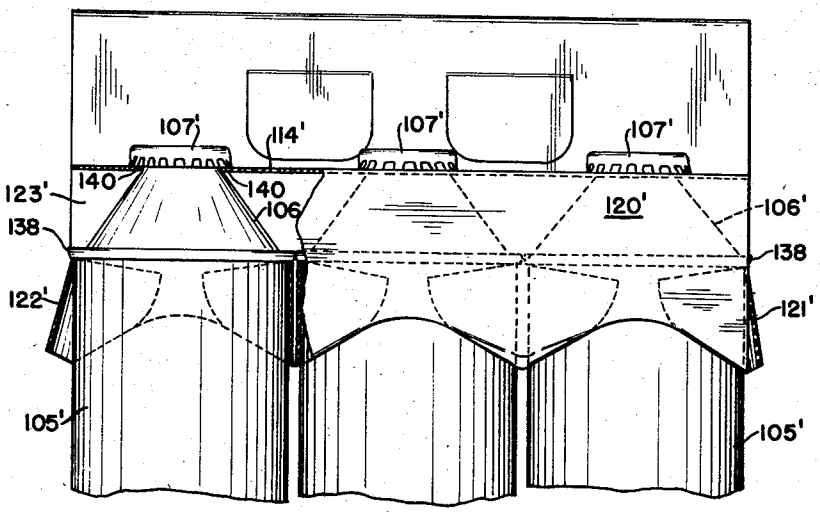


FIG. 13

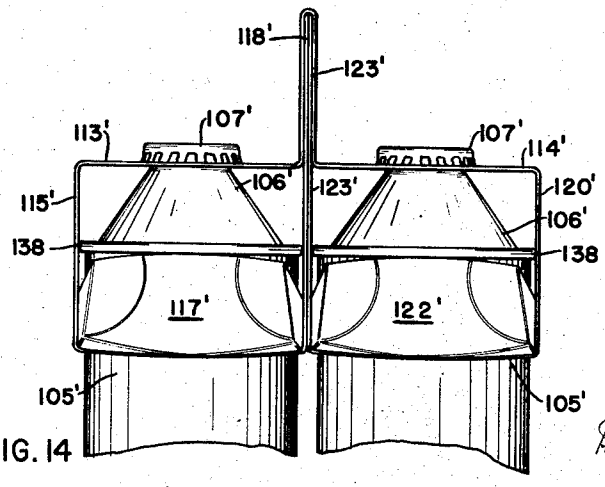


FIG. 14

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United States Patent Office 2,823,062 Patented Feb. 11, 1958

2,823,062

CAN CARRIERS

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Application October 24, 1955, Serial No. 542,258

14 Claims. (Cl. 294—87.2)

This invention relates to cartons for carrying a plurality of like articles and is concerned more particularly with a novel carton for holding and carrying a plurality of cans having chimes and either flat or cone tops. The new carrier is made from a single blank of paperboard and it is superior to prior can carriers, in that it requires substantially less board and is thus less expensive to manufacture. Also, the carrier grips the cans at one end only, so that substantially the entire length of the cans is exposed and the loaded carriers may be placed in displays with the can labels visible. The new carriers may be loaded at any desired place, such as the plant where the cans are filled, and can then be shipped to the retail outlets, where the carriers provide purchasers with an easy means for transporting several cans as a single package.

The carrier of the invention comprises a combination of features, which provides means for gripping a single can by the end, and the combination is used a number of times and in different arrangements in carriers for different purposes. The combination includes an end or top wall to overlie the end of a can, a pair of side walls connected to the edges of the end wall, and a pair of partition strips extending between the free edges of the side walls. Each strip has a mid-section and end sections integral with the mid-section and connected to the side walls along fold lines. The fold lines, by which the end sections of the two strips are connected to each side wall, converge toward the end wall and define angles substantially in excess of 100°. The end sections of the strips are folded back along the fold lines toward the inner faces of the side walls and, because of the size of the angle between the convergent fold lines, the end sections do not lie in contact with the side walls but at an oblique angle thereto. The folding of the end sections of the strips as described causes the mid-sections of the strips to extend convergently toward the end wall at oblique angles thereto and the inner edges of the strips are separated, so that the strips define a compartment for the end of a can. The inner free edges of the strips are spaced a distance less than the can diameter, but, when a can is inserted into the compartment, the strips are distorted and their inner edges separate to permit the end of the can to pass between them, after which they engage the can wall in front of the chime and hold the can against dislodgment from the compartment. The can is further held in the compartment by means of openings in the side walls, into which the chime projects, or, in a carrier for cone top cans with caps, the end wall may have openings, through which the caps may pass to rest upon the exposed face of the wall.

For a better understanding of the invention, reference may be made to the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a blank for one form of the new carrier;

Fig. 1*a* is a diagram illustrating a feature of the blank of Fig. 1;

Fig. 2 is a view in side elevation with parts broken away

of a carrier made from the blank of Fig. 1 and in loaded condition;

Fig. 3 is a view in end elevation of the loaded carrier shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary plan view of a modified form of the blank shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a blank for a modified form of the new carrier;

Fig. 6 is a view in side elevation with parts broken away of a carrier made from the blank of Fig. 5 and in use;

Fig. 7 is a plan view of a blank for another modified form of the carrier, which has a handle;

Fig. 8 is a view in side elevation with parts broken away of the carrier made from the blank of Fig. 7 and in loaded condition;

Fig. 9 is an end view of the carrier shown in Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary side elevational view of a modified form of the carrier;

Fig. 11 is a vertical sectional view on the line 11—11 of Fig. 10;

Fig. 12 is a fragmentary plan view of a form of the new carrier having a handle and for use with cone top cans with caps;

Fig. 13 is a view in side elevation of the carrier made from the blank of Fig. 12 and in loaded condition; and

Fig. 14 is a view in end elevation of the carrier shown in Fig. 13.

The blank **20** of Fig. 1 is for the production of a carrier for a row of three cans having flat ends and the blank includes a wall **21** extending over the ends of the cans. A side wall **22** is connected to one lateral edge of the wall **21** along a fold line **23** and a glue flap **24** is connected to the other lateral edge of the wall along a fold line **24***a*. A plurality of pairs of partition strips connect the free edge of side wall **22** to one edge of a side wall **25**, which can be connected to the other lateral edge of wall **21** by the glue flap **24**.

The partition strip **26** at one end of the blank has end sections **27**, **28** and a mid-section **29** integral with the end sections. The end section **27** is connected to wall **22** along a fold line made up in part of a crease line **30** and a cut **31** extending as a prolongation of the crease line, and end section **28** is similarly connected to side wall **25** along a fold line made up of a crease line **32** and a cut **33**. The strip **34**, which forms a pair with strip **26**, has an end section **35** connected to side wall **22** along a fold line made up of a crease line **36** and a cut **37** and another end section **38** connected to side wall **25** along a fold line made up of a crease line **39** and a cut **40**. The end sections **35**, **38** of strip **34** are integral with a mid-section **41** and the strips **26**, **34** are separated by a cut **42**. The cuts **31**, **37** at the ends of the end sections **27**, **35** form part of a smooth curve, as do also cuts **33** and **40** at the ends of end sections **28**, **38**.

The fold lines, along which the ends of the strips **26**, **34** are connected to each of the side walls **22**, **25**, define an angle A between them, as shown in Fig. 1*a*, and this angle is in excess of 100° and ordinarily ranges from about 110° to about 120°. The provision of fold lines making such an angle substantially in excess of 90° is important in the functioning of the carrier, as will be pointed out hereafter.

In setting up the carrier, the partition strips are folded inwardly toward the wall **21** and, in order to facilitate the folding of the strips, the strips are formed with crease lines. Thus, the strip **26** is provided with a curved crease line **43** connecting the ends of cuts **31**, **33** and a similar crease line **44** in strip **34** connects the ends of cuts **37**, **40**. The crease lines **43**, **44** are smooth continuations of the cuts and lie concave to each other and symmetrical about the cut **42**. Additional curved crease

lines 45, 46 extend across the strips 26, 34 near opposite ends and are convex to each other.

Inward from strips 26, 34, the blank is cut and creased to provide strips 47, 48, which are similar to strips 26 and 34. Strip 47 has an end section 49 connected to side wall 22 along a fold line made up of a crease line 50 and a cut 51 and crease lines 50 and 36 at their inner ends are connected by a curved cut 52. At its other end, strip 47 has an end section 53 connected to side wall 25 along a fold line made up of a crease line 54 and a cut 55, and crease lines 39, 54 are joined by a curved cut 56 similar to cut 52. Crease lines 36, 50 and 39, 54 define angles, which are equal to angle A. The end sections 49, 53 of strip 47 are connected by a mid-section corresponding to section 29 of strip 26.

Strip 48 has an end section 57 connected to side wall 22 along a fold line consisting of a crease line 58 and a cut 59, which merges with cut 51. At its other end, strip 48 has an end section 60 connected to side wall 25 along a fold line consisting of a crease line 61 and a cut 62, which merges with cut 55. The strips 47, 48 are provided with curved crease lines 63, 64, which are similar to crease lines 43, 44, and crease lines 44, 63 are tangent. Strips 47, 48 also have curved crease lines 65, 66, which correspond to crease lines 45, 46, and the strips are separated by a cut 67 corresponding to cut 42.

The blank is cut and creased to provide a third pair of strips 68, 69, which are identical in all respects with strips 26, 34 and need not be described in detail. Strips 68, 69 are connected to side walls 22, 25 along fold lines defining angles A at opposite ends of the strips and the strips have curved crease lines 70, 71 corresponding to lines 63, 64, the line 70 in strip 68 being tangent to line 64 in strip 48. Strips 68, 69 also have curved crease lines 72, 73 corresponding to the crease lines 45, 46.

It will be observed that the pairs of strips are connected to the side walls 22, 25 along sinuous fold lines made up of crease lines lying at an angle to one another and cuts connecting the ends of adjacent fold lines. These fold lines approach each other most closely between adjacent pairs of strips and are farthest apart at the ends of the cuts separating the strips of a pair. A pair of parallel crease lines 74, 75 extend across the strips and lie approximately tangent to the fold lines at the points where these lines are nearest each other. The lines 74, 75 also pass through the points where the curved crease lines, such as 45, 46, intersect their associated curved crease lines 43, 44.

A cut 76 of wide U-shape is formed in side wall 22 at the end of strips 26, 34 with the ends of the legs of the cut terminating in the crease line 23. The cut thus forms a tongue 77 extending outwardly from one lateral edge of wall 21. Similar cuts form like tongues on wall 21 opposite strips 47, 48 and 68, 69. A cut 78 of the same shape as cut 76 is made in glue flap 24 opposite cut 76 and the ends of the legs of cut 78 terminate in the crease line 24*a* separating the glue flap and wall 21. Cut 78 forms a tongue 79 projecting from the edge of wall 21 and similar tongues are formed by like cuts in line with the tongues opposite the ends of strips 47, 48 and 68, 69.

To complete the carton, the glue flap 24 and side wall 22 are turned through 90° to lie parallel to each other and to extend from the same face of wall 21. The blank is then folded on lines 74, 75 to bring side wall 25 against the surface of glue flap 24 and the wall and flap are secured together. The folding of the side wall 22 and the glue flap 24 relative to wall 21 produces openings in the wall and glue flap adjacent the plane of wall 21, where tongues 77 and 79 on wall 21 have been freed from wall 22 and the glue flap. When the blank has been folded as described and wall 24 connected to glue flap 24, a tubular structure is formed with the walls 22, 25 lying at right angles to wall 21 and the mid-sections of strips 26, 34, etc., lying in a plane parallel to the wall 21, while the end sections of the strips lie in the planes of walls 22, 25, respectively.

In loading the carrier, the partition strips are first folded inwardly. When pressure is applied for this purpose to the mid-section of strip 26 adjacent cut 42, the end sections 27, 28 of the strip fold downwardly and inwardly along crease lines 30, 32 toward the inner surfaces of walls 22, 25. Pressure similarly applied to the mid-section of strip 34 causes the end sections 35, 38 of the strip to fold downwardly and inwardly along fold lines 36, 39 toward the inner surfaces of walls 22, 25. If angle A were a right angle, so that the angle between crease line 30 and cut 42, for example, were 45°, the folding in of strip 26 as described would cause its end section 27 to lie flat against the inner surface of wall 22. However, with angle A greater than a right angle, the infolding of strips 26 and 34 causes their end sections to lie at oblique angles to the side walls 22, 25 and their mid-sections to lie at oblique angles to wall 21 with the free edges of strips defined by cut 42 spread apart. The separated strips define a compartment for a can 80, although the free inner edges of the strips lie closer together than the diameter of the can. However, the strips are distortable and the end of the can may be inserted between them with its chime 81 passing by the edges of the strips. When the can has been inserted until its end lies against wall 21, the chime of the can is opposite the openings in wall 22 and glue flap 24 formed by the cutting of the tongues 77, 79. The width of wall 21 is such that, as the end of the can engages wall 21, the can chime enters the openings beneath tongues 77, 79 and, at the same time, the inner edges of strips 26 and 34 bear against the inner side of the chime. As the strips have been distorted to permit the end of the can to pass between them, the resilience of the board causes the strips to press firmly against the side of the can and thus maintain the edges of the strips in contact with the chime of the can.

To complete the loading of the carrier, the pairs of strips 47, 48 and 68, 69 are folded inwardly as described to make can compartments and the ends of the cans are inserted into the compartments. As the end of each can moves inward into contact with wall 21, the chime of the can enters the openings in side wall 22 and glue flap 24 close to the plane of wall 21 and the inner edges of strips 47, 48 and 68, 69 bear against the can wall and also against the inner surfaces of the chimes of the cans. When the carrier has been loaded as described, it may be readily grasped and picked up between the fingers pressing upon the side walls 22, 25 and the cans are so securely held in the carrier that they cannot be accidentally dislodged. The loaded carrier can be set up for display purposes with the carrier at the top or the bottom of the cans. Ordinarily, the carrier will lie at the top of the cans, as shown in Fig. 2, in which event the wall 21 provides a flat top, upon which the bottom ends of the cans in another loaded carrier may be seated. The walls 22, 25 are relatively narrow, so that substantially the entire length of each can in a loaded carrier is exposed and, thus, when loaded carriers are set up in displays, the labels on the cans are almost wholly visible.

In the carrier made of the blank shown in Fig. 1, the partition strips are provided with curved crease lines, such as those designated 43, 44, for facilitating the folding of the strips to make the can compartments. It is not necessary that the strips be formed as described and the blank 82, of which a portion is shown in Fig. 4, has strips of an alternative form. Strip 83 in blank 82 has an end section 84 connected to a side wall 85 along a fold line made up of a crease line 86 and a cut 87. At its other end, the strip has an end section 88 similar to section 84 and connected to a side wall 89 along a fold line made up of a crease line 90 and a cut 91. The end sections 84, 88 are connected to a mid-section 92 along parallel crease lines 93, 94 extending the full width of the blank.

The adjacent strip **95** of the first pair in blank **82** is similar in all respects to strip **83** and it has an end section connected to side wall **85** along a fold line made up of a crease line **96** and a cut **97**. Similarly, strip **95** has an end section at its other end connected to side wall **89** along a fold line made up of a crease line **98** and a cut **99**. The cuts **87, 97** are straight and intersect at one end of a cut **100** defining the inner edges of strips **83, 95** and cuts **91, 99** are straight and intersect at the opposite end of cut **100**. The fold lines at opposite ends of the strips form an angle A, which is substantially greater than 100° and normally ranges from 110° to 120°.

The strips of the other pairs in blank **82** are similar in all respects to strips **83, 95** and adjacent strips of adjacent pairs, such as strips **95** and **101**, are connected along straight fold lines, such as fold line **102**, between their mid-sections.

The blank **82** is folded and glued in the same manner as blank **20** to produce the carrier and the can compartments are formed as above described by applying pressure to the mid-sections of the strips to cause them to fold inwardly along the fold lines, by which their end sections are connected to the side walls. As the angles A are greater than 90°, the folding of the strips inwardly causes their end sections to lie at an oblique angle to the side walls and their mid-sections to lie at oblique angles to the end of the top wall of the carrier and to converge toward that wall. The can compartments between the strips of a pair are a shorter distance across than the diameter of a can and the insertion of a can causes the strips to be forced apart, so that they bear against the side of the can and engage the under side of its chime.

The carriers produced from the blanks **20, 82** are ordinarily used with cans having flat ends, that is, ends which do not protrude outwardly beyond the chimes, although the ends may actually be concave. These carriers, however, can be employed equally well with cone top cans having flat bottoms, in which event the bottom ends of the cans are inserted into the carrier instead of the top ends. When the carriers are so employed, it may be desirable to construct them, so as to permit loaded carriers to be stacked one upon another. When the cone top cans have concave bottoms adapted to receive the caps of other cans, the carrier may be formed of a blank **103**, which is similar in all respects to blank **20**, except that the wall **21'** corresponding to wall **21** is formed with a plurality of openings **104** opposite each of the can compartments. When the carrier made from blank **103** is used for carrying cans **105** having cone tops **106** closed by caps **107**, the bottoms of the cans are inserted in the compartments of the carrier defined by the pairs of partition strips and each can bottom rests on wall **21'** and the openings **104** are centered with the cans. The loaded carrier may then be placed on the tops of a group of cans in another carrier with the caps of the cans in the bottom carrier extending through the openings **104** in the bottom wall of the upper carrier and engaging the concave bottoms of the cans in the upper carrier.

The carriers made from the blanks illustrated in Figs. 1–6, incl., are for a relatively small group of cans and are not provided with handles. When the new carrier is to be employed for carrying as many as six cans, it is desirable to make it in a form holding the cans in two rows of three each and provided with a handle. A blank for this form of the new carrier is illustrated in Fig. 7.

The blank **108** comprises a pair of handle panels **109, 110** connected along a fold line **111** and having tongues **112** partially severed therefrom and foldable out of the plane of the board to provide finger openings. A pair of top walls **113, 114** are connected along crease lines to the outer edges of panels **109, 110** and the top wall **113** is connected along a crease line to an outer side wall **115**. A group of partition strips **116, 117** arranged in pairs connect the outer side wall **115** to an inner side wall **118** and wall **118** has an integral handle extension **119** at its outer end. Top wall **114** is similarly connected along its outer edge to an outer side wall **120**, which is connected by a group of partition strips **121, 122** in pairs to an inner side wall **123** integral with a handle extension **124**. The partition strips in the two groups have end sections connected to the inner and outside walls along fold lines and the fold lines at each end of a pair of strips define an angle equal to angle A and in excess of 100°. Openings are formed in the outer side wall **115** along its junction to top wall **113** by cuts **125** and openings are similarly formed in outer side wall **120** by cuts **126**. The inner side wall **118** is formed with openings **127** aligned with the outer openings in side wall **115** produced by cuts **125** and wall **118** has an opening **128** large enough to receive both flaps **112** on a handle panel and having a portion aligned with the middle opening in wall **115** produced by a cut **125**. The inner side wall **123** is formed with openings **129, 130** corresponding in shape and position to openings **127, 128**, respectively. The blank is also provided with transverse fold lines **131, 132** crossing strips **116, 117** and corresponding to fold lines **74, 75** in the blank **20** and the blank has similar transverse fold lines **133, 134** extending across strips **121, 122**.

In forming the carrier from the blank **108**, the blank is folded along the line **111** to bring the handle panels **109, 110** face to face and the top walls **113, 114** are folded at right angles to the handle panels to extend horizontally. The outer side walls **115, 120** are then folded down to lie at right angles to the top walls and the blank is then folded along the lines **132, 133** to cause the partition strips of the two groups to lie beneath and parallel to the respective top walls **113, 114**. The inner side walls are next folded on lines **131, 134**, so as to extend toward the top walls and to lie face to face, and the handle extensions **119, 124** on the inner side walls are placed between the handle panels **109, 110**. The handle extensions and handle panels are then secured together by gluing or stapling.

When the carrier made from the blank **108** has been completed, it is prepared for loading by forcing the strips **116, 117** and **121, 122** inwardly as described in connection with the carrier made from the blank **20**. The inward folding of the strips of the carrier made from blank **108** provides can compartments in two rows of three each and, when a can is inserted in one of the compartments and moved inwardly until its end strikes one of the top walls **113, 114**, the chime of the can enters an opening in the outer side wall produced as a result of the formation of one of the cuts **125, 126** and also an opening in the inner side walls **118, 123**. The latter opening may be one of those designated **127, 129** or parts of the openings **128, 130**. When a can is in position with its chime in the openings mentioned, the chime is engaged from beneath by the inner edges of the partition strips forming the compartment, in which the can has been inserted. The can is thus tightly gripped at its upper end and cannot be accidentally discharged from the carrier. When the carrier is to be lifted, the flaps **112** on one handle panel are pushed out of the plane of that panel and through the openings formed in the other panel by forcing the corresponding flaps outwardly.

A desirable form of the new carrier is one for use in transporting a pair of large cans, such as those of the 46 oz. size. Such a carrier may be similar in all respects to the carrier produced from the blank **108**, except that the blank is provided with only one pair of partition strips at each side of the plane of the handle and the handle is reinforced. For this purpose, a strip **135** of heavy board is applied to the inner face of one of the panels **109', 110'** of the handle. In the completed carrier, the strip projects downwardly below the level of the top walls **113', 114'** and it has an opening **136** for the inner edges of the chimes of the cans being carried.

The blank **137** shown in Fig. 12 is that employed for producing a carrier for carrying six cans **105'** in two

rows of three each, the cans having cone tops **106'** closed by caps **107'** and also having a chime **138** between the end of the cylindrical section and the adjacent end of the coned section. The blank **137** is similar to blank **108**, except that the top walls **113' 114'** have three openings **139** defined by the free ends of tongues **140** formed by radial cuts. Also, the outer side walls **115'**, **120'** and the inner side walls **118'**, **123'** are wider than the corresponding side walls in blank **108**. Blank **137** has partition strips **116'**, **117'**, **121'**, **122'** similar to those of blank **108**.

Blank **137** is folded and glued to make the carrier in the same manner as blank **108** and, when the carrier is completed, it is loaded by insertion of the coned ends of the cans into the compartments between the partition strips. As each can is inserted, its cap is forced through an opening **139** in one of the top walls, the tongues **140** defining the opening being sufficiently resilient to permit the cap to pass through the opening, after which the tongues spring back and lie beneath the fluted edge of the cap. When a can is in position with its cap passed through the opening in one of the top walls, the chime **138** of the can lies above and against the inner edges of the pair of infolded partition strips defining the compartment, into which the can was inserted. As the chime of such a can is spaced a considerable distance from the underside of its cap, the side walls of the carrier must be of sufficient length to insure that the inner edges of the partition strips will bear against the chime of the can when its cap rests on the top wall.

In all forms of the new carrier, the ends of the cans are inserted into compartments defined by pairs of partition strips and the end sections of the partition strips of each pair are connected to each side wall of the carrier along fold lines, which define an angle A greater than 100° and ordinarily lying between 110° and 120°. As the angle A is increased, the oblique angle between the infolded end sections and the side walls increases and also the angle, at which the mid-sections of the infolded strips converge, increases. With an increase in the angle of convergence of the mid-sections of the strips, the distance between the free edges of the strips is decreased, so that a greater distortion of the strips occurs when the end of a can is inserted between them. Such increased distortion causes the strips to grip the sides of the can more firmly, so that the edges of the strips are more securely held in position to engage the underside of the chime of the can and prevent its removal from between the strips. However, as the angle A is increased, the length of the contact between the free edges of the strips and the chime of the can between them decreases, so that the formation of the strips with too great an angle A between the fold lines at their ends may be undesirable. The size of the angle varies with the diameter of the can and experience has shown that, for best results with a 5½ oz. can having a diameter of 2 1/16", angle A should be about 117°. The corresponding angle for a 12 oz. can having a diameter of 2 19/32" is 120° and, for a 46 oz. can having a diameter of 4 5/32", angle A should be 111°.

I claim:

1. A carrier for a row of cans having chimes at their ends and at least one end flat, which comprises a longitudinal wall, side walls connected to the side edges of the longitudinal wall and extending at an angle thereto, the longitudinal wall being adapted to extend from end to end of the row of cans, and a plurality of partition strips in pairs extending between the side walls and having end sections connected to the side walls along fold lines at the edges of the side walls at the side thereof opposite the longitudinal wall and mid-sections integral with the end sections, the fold lines of the end-sections of each pair of strips extending convergently along the face of said side walls toward the longitudinal wall to define an angle substantially in excess of 100°, the end sections of the strips being folded back along their fold lines toward the inner faces of the respective side walls to lie at an oblique angle thereto and the mid-sections of the strips of each pair extending convergently toward the longitudinal wall and providing a compartment for a can, the distance between the free inner edges of the mid-sections of the strips of a pair being less than the diameter of a can and the strips being distortable to permit insertion of the ends of cans into the compartments with the chimes passing beyond the inner edges of the strips.

2. The carrier of claim 1, in which the side walls having openings at opposite sides of each compartment for receiving the chime of a can in the compartment.

3. The carrier of claim 1, in which the mid-sections of adjacent strips of adjacent pairs are connected along a fold line extending transverse to the longitudinal wall.

4. The carrier of claim 1, in which the fold lines between the side walls and the end sections of the strips of each pair are formed in part of crease lines and in part of cuts at the intersections of the fold lines.

5. The carrier of claim 1, in which the fold lines between the side walls and the end sections of the adjacent strips of adjacent pairs intersect and the fold lines are formed in part of crease lines and in part of cuts at the intersections.

6. The carrier of claim 1, in which the angle defined by the fold lines between the side walls and the end sections of each pair of strips ranges from about 110° to about 120°.

7. The carrier of claim 1, in which the longitudinal wall has a central opening leading into each can compartment.

8. The carrier of claim 4, in which the ends of the cuts at fold line intersections at the ends of the strips of each pair at the edge of one side wall are connected to aligned ends of the cuts at the fold line intersections at the ends of the strips of that pair at the edge of the other side wall by curved crease lines convex to each other.

9. The carrier of claim 8, in which each strip has curved crease lines extending across the strip near each end, the crease lines being convex to each other.

10. The carrier of claim 2, in which the side walls are connected to the side edges of the longitudinal wall along crease lines and the openings for the can chimes lie at such crease lines.

11. The carrier of claim 10, in which the openings are formed in the side walls and the longitudinal wall has a tongue projecting beyond the side wall at each opening.

12. A carrier for a plurality of cans having chimes at their ends and at least one end flat, which comprises a pair of top walls lying in a plane, a two-ply handle panel having the lower edges of its plies connected to the respective adjacent edges of the top walls, outer side walls secured to the edges of the top walls remote from the handle panel and depending therefrom, inner side walls having portions lying between and secured to the plies of the handle panel and other portions extending below the top walls, at least one pair of partition strips extending between each outer side wall and the adjacent inner side wall, each of said strips having end sections connected to the lower edges of the respective outer and inner side walls along fold lines and a mid-section integral with the end sections, the fold lines of the end sections of each pair of strips extending convergently upward along the face of the side walls to define an angle ranging from about 100° to about 120°, the end-sections of the strips being folded back along their fold lines toward the inner faces of the side walls, to which the strips are connected, and the mid-sections of the strips of each pair extending convergently upward and providing a compartment for a can, the distance between

the upper edges of the mid-sections of the strips of a pair being less than the diameter of a can and the strips being distortable to permit insertion of the end of cans into the compartments with the chimes passing beyond the inner edges of the strips.

13. The carrier of claim 12, in which the inner and outer side walls have openings at opposite sides of each compartment for receiving the chime of a can in the compartment.

14. The carrier of claim 12, in which the top walls have central openings leading to the can compartments, the openings being defined by the free ends of resilient tongues.

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