

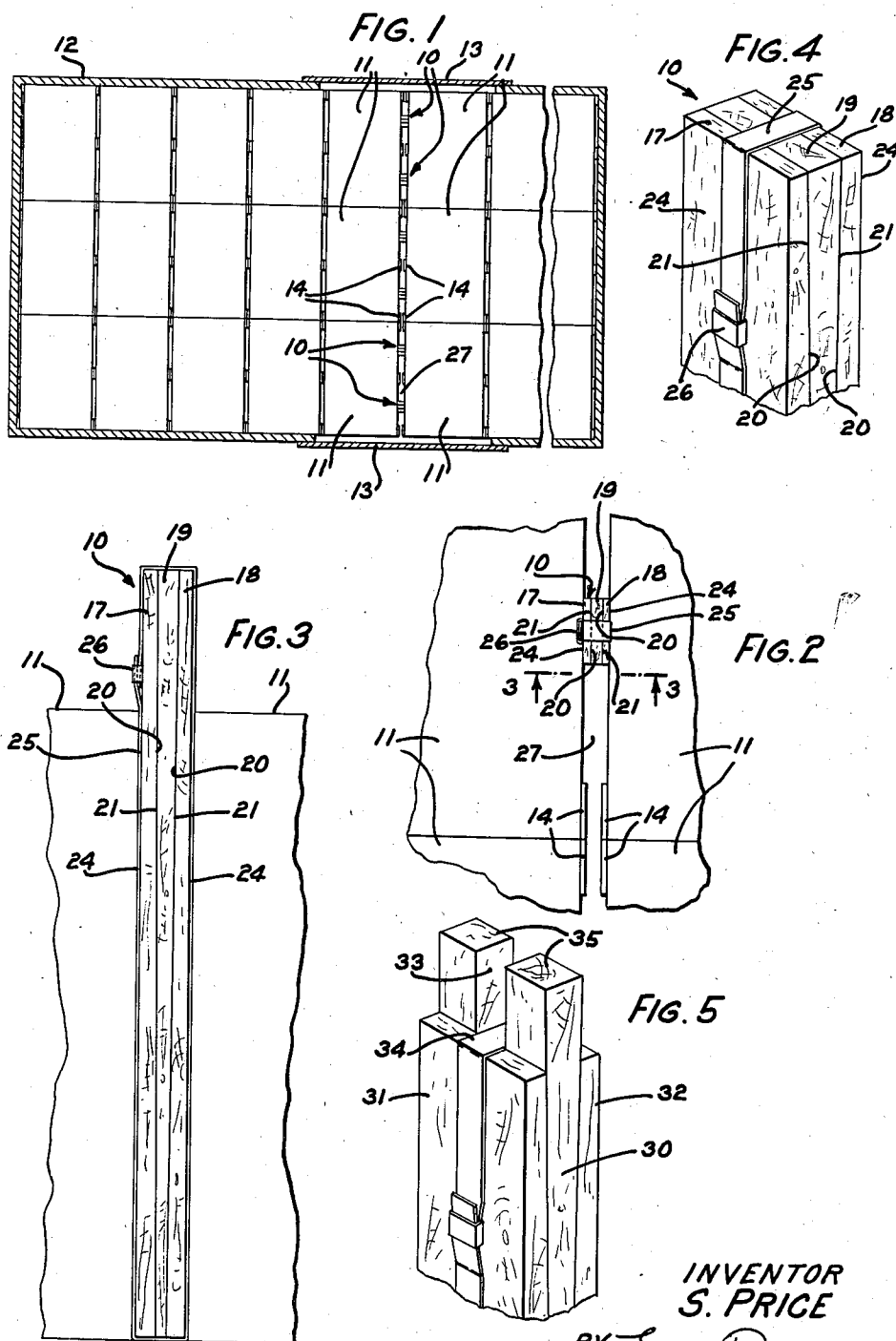
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PACKAGE OR CONTAINER SPACER BLOCK

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PACKAGE OR CONTAINER SPACER BLOCK

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This invention relates to package or container spacer blocks and more particularly to demountable spacing blocks for insertion between containers in a carrier to permit removal of tightened containers resulting from shifting during transit.

An object of this invention is the provision of a practical and inexpensive demountable spacing block which may be readily inserted between containers in a carrier and removed with great ease to facilitate the removal of the containers from the carrier after the containers have shifted and tightened up during transit.

In attaining this object, in one embodiment of the invention, designed for use between rows of containers loaded into freight cars, there is provided a demountable spacing block comprising an assemblage of abutting wedge-like members having their abutting faces so inclined that the members, when assembled, form a block having parallel faces opposite the inclined faces and a tensioned band extending around the assemblage of members longitudinally thereof. In use, the banded blocks are freely inserted in a suitable space at the car door areas provided between rows of containers extending from opposite ends of the car. To release the blocks at the end of the car trip, the band is severed, whereupon the intermediate wedge-like member may be readily removed, and this permits the free removal of the other wedge-like members and thus sufficient space is provided to manipulate the containers for their removal from the car.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be understood by referring to the following specification and accompanying drawing, in which—

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic fragmentary plan sectional view of a freight car loaded with containers showing the demountable spacing blocks embodying the features of this invention applied between the ends of rows of containers extending from opposite ends of the car;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary enlarged plan view of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a vertical view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of the demountable spacing block of this invention, and

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of a modified form of the invention.

Referring to the drawing, and particularly to Fig. 3, one embodiment of the invention, indi-

cated in general at 10, is shown applied to the spacing of rows of containers 11 loaded into a freight car 12 through opposite side doors 13. The particular type of container 11 illustrated is constructed with a series of cleats 14 fixed to opposite sides and, in placing the containers in the car, they are preferably arranged so that the cleats are disposed vertically and extend transversely of the car.

The demountable spacing block 10 is constructed as simply and inexpensively as possible, consistent with the particular use to which it is to be applied, and, in the use above described, it may be constructed from a good quality of pine wood. Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, the block 10 comprises three tapered or wedge-like strip members 17, 18 and 19 of greater length than width and of substantially the same area upon their longitudinal faces. The two outer members 17 and 18 are identical in shape and each is tapered from one end to the other to provide an inclined longitudinal face 20 at one side only. The intermediate member 19 is also tapered from one end to the other to provide opposite similarly inclined longitudinal side faces 21. The inclination of the faces 20 of the outer members 17 and 18 is similar to the inclination of the opposite faces of the intermediate member 19, so that when the three members are correctly assembled with their inclined faces abutted (Fig. 3), they form a rectangularly shaped block having parallel outer longitudinal faces 24. In order to hold the wedge-like members 17, 18 and 19 together as a unit, a metal strap or band 25 is extended longitudinally around the assembled members, the band being applied under tension and retained in a well-known manner by a crimped sleeve 26, which is located adjacent the upper end of the block 10, which is that end thereof where the wide end of the member 19 is located, and the block, when in use as a spacer, is always placed with this end of the member 19 upwards.

In using the demountable banded spacing blocks 10 in one application thereof, the freight car 12, referring to Fig. 1, is loaded with containers 11 extending from each end of the car in rows toward the doors 13 thereof with the container cleats 14 in the particular container illustrated disposed vertically and extending transversely of the car. This loading arrangement will leave a space 27 (Fig. 2) across the car at the doors 13, which should be great enough to, at least, receive the spacing blocks 10. If the space 27 between the opposed rows

of containers 11 is too great, it may be closed up sufficiently by suitable wooden strips (not shown) to provide a space that will permit the spacing blocks 10 to be freely inserted between the opposed containers. As shown, two spacing blocks 10 are inserted between the opposed spaced containers 11, one in each of the spaces between the vertical cleats 14, and the blocks 10 are of such length that they extend above the tops of the containers to facilitate their removal. By inserting the spacing blocks 10 in the spaces between the cleats 14, the blocks are effectively prevented from falling or dropping toward the car floor to a position where it would be difficult to reach them for removal.

During transit, due to starting and stopping of the freight car 12, the rows of containers 11 are constantly shifting longitudinally of the car one way or the other and at the end of the trip, all space between the containers themselves, as well as between the containers and the demountable spacing blocks 10, may be closed up tight. To unload the tightened containers 11, each of the bands 25 of the blocks 10 is cut, and thereafter wedge-like member 19 may be readily dislodged from its wedging relation between the wedge-like members 17 and 18 by tapping it with a hammer, for instance, or in any suitable manner. After the removal of the members 19, the members 17 and 18 are easily removed from between the containers 11 and thus sufficient space is left in order to manipulate the released containers toward the car doors.

A modified form of the spacing block of this invention is shown in Fig. 5, which is similar in all respects to that shown in Fig. 4 except that the upper end of an intermediate wedge-like member 30 extend for a suitable distance above the corresponding ends of the outer wedge-like members 31 and 32. Formed in the upper end of the member 30 is a notch 33, which extends to the plane of the upper ends of the members 31 and 32 for receiving a retaining band 34, the notch thus providing two spaced extensions 35 above the members 31 and 32. In the removal of the member 30 after the cutting of the band 34, the extensions 35 on the member 30 provide handles for manually dislodging the member from its wedging relation between the wedge-like members 31 and 32, thus not requiring the use of a hammer or other means to remove the same.

Although the above described and illustrated embodiments of the demountable spacing blocks comprise three cooperating wedge-like members, it is to be understood that less and/or more than three members may be used and that the inclinations of the abutting faces of the members may vary widely from that shown as long as the outer longitudinal faces of the demountable block are substantially parallel.

While the demountable spacing blocks of this invention have been disclosed as applied to a specific arrangement of spacing a particular type of container in a freight car, it is, of course, understood that it may have other applications and that modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A demountable spacing block for spacing articles or containers in a carrier comprising an assemblage of tapered members having inclined inner abutting faces and parallel outer faces opposite the inclined faces for engaging opposed sides of the containers, and a retaining band for preventing longitudinal displacement between the members when in use.

2. A demountable spacing block for spacing articles or containers in a carrier comprising an assemblage of abutting tapered strip members, one of said members having opposite inclined longitudinal faces, a member at each side thereof, each of said latter members having an inclined longitudinal face abutting an inclined face of said first member, said latter members having parallel outer faces opposite the inclined faces for engaging opposed sides of the containers, and means for retaining the members together.

3. A demountable spacing block for spacing articles or containers in a carrier comprising an assemblage of wedge-like members having inclined inner abutting faces and parallel outer faces opposite the inclined faces for engaging opposed sides of the containers, an intermediate member of the assemblage having its widest end uppermost when the assemblage is inserted between the containers, and a retaining band extending around the assemblage of members longitudinally thereof.

4. A demountable spacing block for spacing articles or containers in a carrier comprising three cooperating wedge-like members, one of the members having opposed inclined faces arranged between the other two members, each of said latter members having an inclined face abutting an inclined face of said first member, said two latter members having parallel outer faces opposite their inclined faces for engaging opposed sides of the containers, and means for retaining the members together.

5. A demountable spacing block for spacing articles or containers in a carrier comprising an assemblage of abutting tapered strip members arranged vertically between and extending above the containers, said members having inclined inner abutting faces and parallel outer faces opposite the inclined faces for engaging opposed sides of the containers, an intermediate member of the assemblage having its widest end uppermost when the assemblage is in position between the containers, and a retaining band extending around the assemblage of members longitudinally thereof.

6. A demountable spacing block for spacing articles or containers in a carrier comprising an assemblage of tapered members having inclined abutting faces and parallel outer faces opposite the inclined faces for engaging opposed sides of the containers, an intermediate member of the assemblage having its widest end uppermost and extending above the other members and the containers, said intermediate member having a notch extending from its upper end towards the upper ends of said other members, and a retaining band entered in said notch and extending around the assemblage of members longitudinally thereof.