Oct. 22, 1963 A. FINK 3,107,841

CONTAINER

Filed Oct. 31, 1962

Fig. 1.

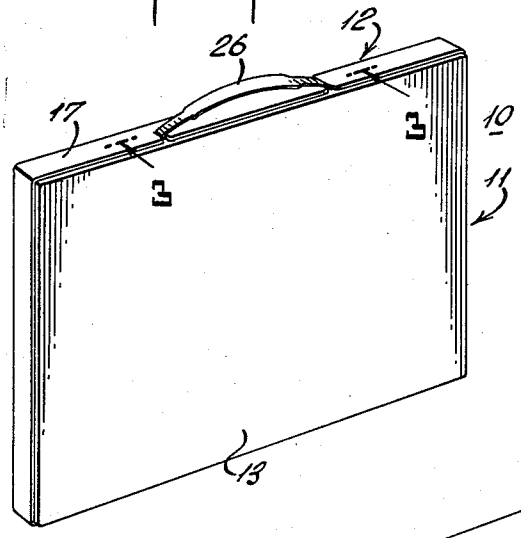


Fig. 4.

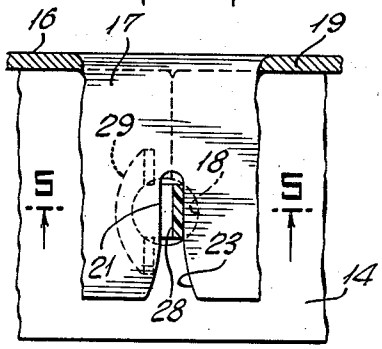


Fig. 2.

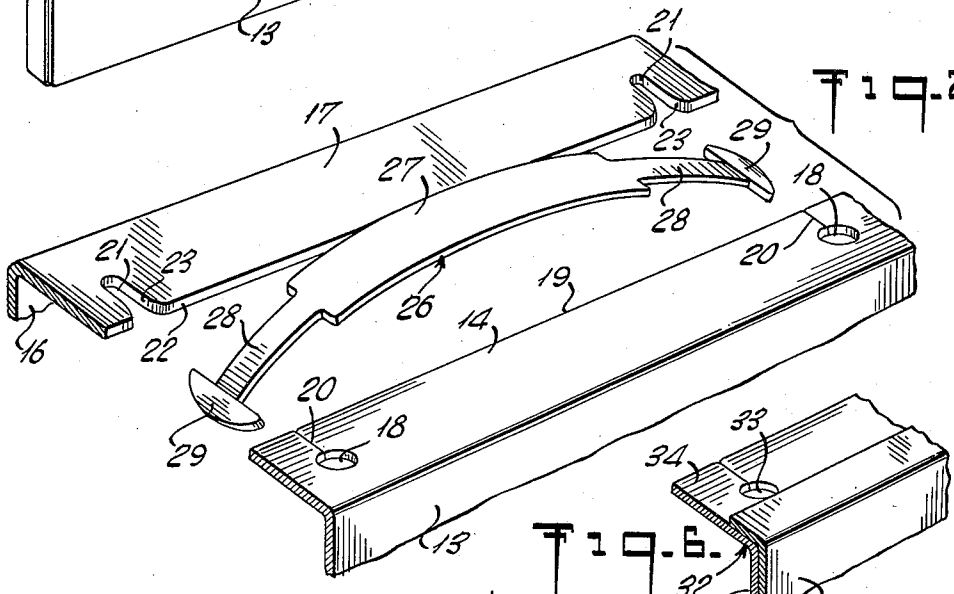


Fig. 6.

Fig. 3.

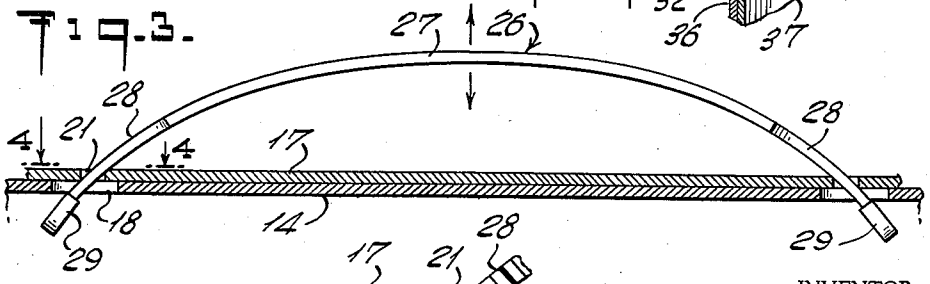
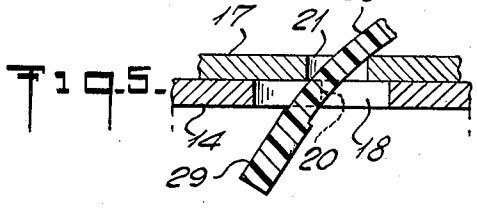


Fig. 5.



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3,107,841

CONTAINER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 229—52)

The present invention relates generally to improvements in receptacles and it relates more particularly to a container, box, carton or the like provided with an improved handle and releasable locking arrangement.

In boxes, cartons and like receptacles which are formed of cardboard or similar material it is a common expedient to provide a handle which is either permanently or releasably attached to the receptacle which may likewise have affixed thereto a locking device. The receptacles provided with permanently attached handles and locking devices, while desirable in that they are convenient to use, possess many drawbacks and disadvantages. They are relatively expensive so that they are not generally expendable and are thus not normally employed for the packaging and dispensing of retail merchandise. Furthermore, these receptacles are unattractive and unreliable and otherwise leave much to be desired. Detachable and temporary handles of many types have been heretofore employed and proposed but these likewise leave much to be desired. The locking of the receptacle is time consuming and inconvenient as is the attachment of the handle and the assembly is of a temporary nature and unattractive and generally requires the use of auxiliary equipment.

It is therefore a principal object of the present invention to provide an improved receptacle.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved handle bearing receptacle.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide an improved handle bearing receptacle having a cover and means for releasably locking the cover in its closed position.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a cover carrying cardboard box having a handle which functions to releasably lock the cover in a closed position and which may be easily and rapidly attached to and detached from the box.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide a receptacle of the above nature characterized by its simplicity, convenience, reliability, attractiveness and low cost.

The above and other objects of the present invention will become apparent from a reading of the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a front perspective view of a receptacle embodying the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is an exploded fragmentary perspective view thereof;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 3—3 in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view taken along line 4—4 in FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is a sectional view taken along line 5—5 in FIGURE 4; and

FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of a base member according to another embodiment of the present invention.

In a sense, the present invention contemplates the provision of a receptacle comprising a base member having a first top wall, a longitudinally extending resilient flexible handle member having end sections engaging longitudinally spaced points on said first top wall and a cover member movable between an open and closed

position relative to said base member and having a second top wall superimposed upon said first top wall when said cover is in closed position, said second top wall having transverse slots formed therein extending to the edge thereof and registering with said handle end sections, said slots having side edges normally longitudinally offset relative to and engaging said handle end sections when said cover is in closed position to releasably lock said cover in said locked position.

According to a preferred form of the present invention, the base member has a pair of longitudinally spaced openings formed in its top wall which communicate with the edge of the top wall by way of transverse slits. The handle member is provided with end shanks registering with the top wall openings and terminating in enlarged sections underlying the top wall. The cover member is hinged along its bottom edge to the bottom of the base member and the transverse slots formed in its top wall flare outwardly toward the free edge of the top wall and have shoulders offset relative to the first wall openings.

Referring now to the drawings, and more particularly to FIGURES 1 to 5 thereof which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the reference numeral **10** generally designates the improved receptacle in the form of a box including hinged base and cover sections **11** and **12** respectively. The cover and base sections **11** and **12** may be formed of cardboard or other suitable material and constructed in any well known manner and decorated as desired. The base member **11** consists of a front wall **13**, preferably of flat rectangular configuration although front walls or other outlines and configurations may be employed and a rearwardly directed peripheral flange including a top wall **14**.

The cover member **12** is of similar shape to the base member **11** and of slightly greater height and width and preferably of slightly greater depth than the base member **11** so that the base member **11** may nest in the cover member **12** to effect the closing of the box. Like the base member **11**, the cover member **12** consists of a rectangular rear wall **16** provided with a forwardly directed peripheral flange including a top wall **17** which is superimposed on the base top wall **14** when the box **10** is closed. The lower edge of the base front wall **13** is advantageously hinged in any suitable fashion to the juxtapositioned front bottom edge of the cover member flange to form a unitary box structure and facilitate the opening and closing of the box **10**.

Formed in the base member top wall **14** between the front and rear edge thereof are a pair of laterally spaced openings **18** which are symmetrically located on opposite sides of the transverse medial axis of the wall **14**. Each of the openings **14** communicates with the rear free edge **19** of the top wall **14** by way of transversely extending slits or narrow slots **20**. Formed in the cover top wall **17** are a pair of laterally spaced slots **21** which are symmetrically spaced relative to the medial transverse axis of the wall **17** and communicate with the front edge **22** of the cover top wall **17**. The side edges or shoulders **23** of the slots **21** diverge approaching the top wall front edge **22** to provide forwardly outwardly flaring slots **21**. It should be noted that the slots **21** are slightly laterally inwardly offset relative to the openings **18** for the purpose which will hereinafter become apparent.

Associated with the box **10** is a handle member **26** formed of a resilient flexible material, advantageously a synthetic organic plastic resin such as polyethylene, polypropylene or polyvinyl chloride and produced in any suitable manner such as by injection molding. The handle member **26** is in the shape of a substantially flat band including a relatively wide midsection **27** and laterally oppositely directed relative narrow shank sections **28**.

Each of the shank sections **28** terminates in an enlarged ear **29** of greater width than the opening **18**. The handle shanks **28** register with the corresponding openings **18**, the ears **29** underlying the base top wall **14** and the remainder of the handle overlying the wall **14**. The distance between the ears **29** are sufficiently greater than the distance between the openings **14** to bow the handle **27** upwardly to afford finger clearance between the handle **26** and the top of the closed box. The handle **26** may be applied to the top wall **14** merely by spreading the slits **20**, sliding the shanks through the spread slits until they register with the openings **18** and then releasing the slits **20** so that they return to their closed positions and the handle **26** may be detached in the opposite sequence.

In use, when the box **10** is in open position the base and cover top walls **14** and **17** are separate and the handle **26** assumes a substantially unpinched bowed configuration along the length thereof. Upon the closing of the cover **12** the top wall **17** slides transversely over the top wall **14** and the flared openings of the slots **21** are brought into registry with the handle shanks **28**. Upon movement of the cover member **12** to its fully closed position the outer rearwardly laterally converging edge of each slot **21** engages the confronting outer face of a corresponding handle shank **28** which is tightly embraced by the opposing edges of the slot **21** and the opening **18**. When the box **10** is supported by the handle **26**, the weight of the box tends to increase the angle of the shanks **28** to the horizontal thereby increasing the pressure of the edge of the slots **21** on the handle shanks **28** and further assuring the maintenance of the box **10** in a locked position. The box **10** may be readily unlocked to permit the opening thereof by merely releasing the pressure on the handle **26**.

The embodiment of the present invention illustrated in FIGURE 6 of the drawing differs from that first described only in the provision of a facing shell on the base member. Specifically, the base member **32** is similar to the base member **11**, having openings **33** formed in the top wall **34** thereof communicating with the rear free edge of the top wall **34** by way of transverse slits. The front wall **36** and the front border of the base member

peripheral flange are covered by a shell **37** which includes a peripheral flange abutting the outer face of the base member peripheral flange to a point short of the openings **33**. The shell **37** is suitably cemented to the base member **32** and is of a perimeter substantially that of the associated cover member so that when the box is closed, the confronting free edges of the cover peripheral flange and the shell peripheral flange substantially abut. In all other respects, the embodiment of the invention last described is similar to that first set forth.

While there have been described and illustrated preferred embodiments of the present invention, it is apparent that numerous alterations, omissions and additions may be made without departing from the spirit thereof.

What is claimed is.

A receptacle comprising a base member provided with a first top wall having a pair of longitudinally spaced openings formed therein and slits extending transversely from said openings to a free edge of said first top wall, a resilient flexible handle member having end shank sections registering with said openings and terminating in enlarged ends disposed below and of greater width than said openings, and a cover member hinged to said base member along an edge opposite said top wall and swingable between an open and closed position relative to said base member and including a second top wall superimposed on said first top wall when said cover member is in said closed position, said second top wall having transverse slots formed therein extending to the outer edge thereof and registering with said openings and provided with side edges inwardly longitudinally offset relative to said openings and releasably engaging said handle shanks to releasably lock said cover in closed position.

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