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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

Application number: 83300891.5

Int. Cl.³: B 65 D 85/32

Date of filing: 21.02.83

Priority: 19.02.82 GB 8204903

Date of publication of application:
31.08.83 Bulletin 83/35

Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI NL SE

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54 Packaging boxes or cartons.

57 An egg box or carton comprises a moulded plastics base part (1) formed with egg-receiving pockets (4) and a separate cardboard lid (2) which is fastened over the open top of the base part to close the latter. The lid (2) comprises a flat top (18) having walls or flaps (19, 20) depending from its edges and which, when the lid is closed, project downwardly within the top of the base part juxtaposed the peripheral walls (5, 6) of the latter. In order to support the edges of the lid, the bottom edges of these walls or flaps rest on ledges (15) moulded in the peripheral walls of the base part below its rim (13). The lid is fastened in its closed position by tabs (18) projecting inwardly from opposite end walls of the base part and engaging in slots (21) in the adjacent walls or flaps (19, 20) of the lid.

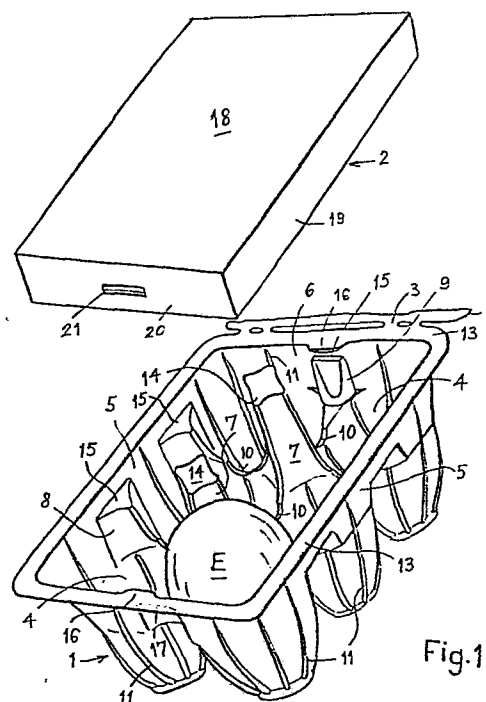


Fig.1

"PACKAGING BOXES OR CARTONS"

1 The present invention relates to the packaging
of eggs, fruit and other articles and, more parti-
cularly, to packaging boxes or cartons of the type
comprising a moulded base part formed with article
5 receiving pockets, and a cover part or lid which is
fastened over the open top of the base part to close
the latter. The base part may be moulded from fibre
pulp or plastics material. For example, it is con-
veniently thermo-formed from sheet plastics material.
10 The lid may be formed from a blank of sheet material,
such as, paperboard or cardboard.

In known egg boxes of the above type, the base
part, which is of rectangular shape in plan, is of
greater height than the eggs to be disposed in its
15 article receiving pockets. It is moulded from trans-
parent plastics sheet material and is closed by a
separate flat rectangular cardboard lid which is
disposed generally flush with the rim of the base
part. Such a combination is a particularly attractive
20 construction for packaging eggs and other similar
food items in that it provides for ready forming
of the intricate base part and visual inspection
of its contents, whilst lending itself to printing
the lid with advertising matter and other information
25 required by suppliers. However, known egg boxes have
suffered from problems with regard to closing and
fastening the separate lids and to providing suffi-
cient structural integrity, particularly, at the
edges of the lid, so as to permit boxes to be stacked
30 one on top of another for the purpose of transport,

1 storage and display, without damage to their contents.

In one form of egg box of the above type, as described in British patent specification No.

2072628A, the cardboard lid is clipped to upstanding

5 posts of the base part in order to hold it in its closed position. The lid has tags of barb-like shape which are stamped from the lid material and these are depressed through holes in the tops of the posts. Such devices are difficult to be fastened. More-

10 over, the edges of the lid only rest on a narrow lip formed about the rim of the base part so that, whilst the lid is adequately supported centrally by the posts, its edges are not and have a tendency to bend downwardly within the base part, thereby risking
15 damage to the contents of the box, particularly, under the weight of a stack of boxes.

British patent specification No. 1008481 describes an egg box having a moulded base part and a flat lid in which the lid overlaps opposite longitudinal edges of the base part and has flaps depending
20 from the longitudinal edges of the lid and extending downwardly against the outsides of the base part.

These flaps may be printed with advertising or other information, so that such information is visible from

25 the side when the boxes are stored or displayed in a stack, and are fastened to the sides of the base part, for example, by adhesive, in order to retain the lid in its closed position. Whilst this construction provides satisfactory support for the
30 lid so that the boxes can be stacked without risk of

1 damage to their contents, the lid may be difficult
to open and, once open, may not be readily refastened.

Other prior art which is of background interest
in relation to this invention is British patent
5 specifications Nos. 234752 and 947431, U.S. patent
specifications Nos. 3193177, 3493164 and 3767109,
and French patent specification No. 2188564.

It is an object of the present invention to
10 alleviate the problems experienced with hitherto
known packaging of the type described and to provide
such a packaging box or carton in which the lid, when
closed, is firmly supported on the base part. Another
object is to provide a packaging box or carton of
15 the type described in which the lid may be readily
fastened in its closed position and is easy to open
and, if required, refasten.

The invention consists in a packaging box or
carton for eggs, fruit or other articles, in which
20 a moulded base part formed with article receiving
pockets is closed by a lid which is fastened over
the opened top of the base part and projects above
the base part, and in which the lid comprises a
flat top portion having wall portions depending from
25 at least two opposite edges thereof and projecting
downwardly within the top of the base part, juxtaposed
upstanding peripheral walls of the latter, and at
least one of said wall portions has its bottom edge
resting on support means projecting inwardly from
30 the juxtaposed peripheral wall of the base part below

1 the rim thereof, whereby to support the adjacent edge
of the lid.

The base part and lid may be of conventional
rectangular shape in plan and the base part may com-
5 prise mutually parallel rows of article receiving
pockets. The lid may be in the form of a hollow lid
in which the flat top portion has wall portions
depending from both its pair of opposite side and end
edges. All four of these wall portions may project
10 downwardly within the top of the base part and at
least one of the pairs of wall portions may have
their bottom edges resting on support means within
the base part. In one arrangement, both pairs of
wall portions have their bottom edges resting on such
15 support means. Alternatively, one of the pairs may
have bottom edge portions resting on the rim of the
base part so as to achieve the necessary support of
the lid top.

Whilst in a preferred embodiment of the invention,
20 the lid is completely separable from the base part
for the purposes of opening the packaging, in an
alternative arrangement, one of a pair of opposite
wall portions projecting downwardly within the top
of the base part may be fixed to the juxtaposed
25 peripheral wall of the base part, for example, by
adhesive, so that the lid is connected to the base
part and can be hinged or folded about the fixed
wall portion to open or close the package. Where a
hollow rectangular lid is utilised the four wall
30 portions depending from the edges of the flat lid top

1 may simply be in the form of flaps or, alternatively,
some or all of the wall portions may be secured
together at adjacent corners, for example, with
adhesive.

5 The lid may be fastened in its closed position
by fastening means including a detent, such as, a
lug or a tab, projecting inwardly from a peripheral
wall of the base part and engaging in an opening or
slot in an adjacent flap or wall portion of the lid.

10 Where the lid is separable from the base part, detents
are conveniently formed on at least one pair of
opposite peripheral walls of the base part for co-
operating with openings or slots in adjacent wall
portions of the lid. In an alternative fastening
15 arrangement, notches are formed in opposite ends of
at least one of the wall portions of the lid and
engage with detents formed at the adjacent corners
of the base part.

Conveniently, the support means for the wall
20 portion(s) of the lid comprises ledges formed at the
upper ends of the post-like protuberances formed in
the peripheral walls of the base part between the
article receiving pockets adjoining the peripheral
walls. The lid top may be centrally supported by
25 posts upstanding from the base part between the rows
of article receiving pockets and projecting above
the rim of the base part.

In one embodiment, the base part is of lesser
height or depth than the articles intended to be
30 disposed in the article receiving pockets, and the

1 lid projects above the base part so as to accommodate
the upper ends of the articles. For example, the
base part of an egg box according to the invention
may be approximately three quarters of the height of
5 the eggs to be packaged therein, and the hollow lid
is constructed so as to accommodate the top quarter
of the eggs. Posts between the rows of article
receiving pockets may terminate level with the rim
of the base part or, alternatively, project there-
10 above to support the central part of the lid top.

In another embodiment in which the base part
is of greater height or depth than the articles to
be disposed in the pockets, the flat top portion of
the lid may be disposed generally flush with the rim
15 of the base part, when the lid is fastened in its
closed position on the base part. With this invention,
the central part of the lid top may be unsupported
and any posts between the rows of article receiving
pockets may be lower than the height of the base part,
20 or even be entirely omitted, thereby facilitating
removal of articles from the base part.

In order that the present invention may be more
readily understood, reference will now be made to the
25 accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment
of an egg box constructed in accordance with the
invention and showing the base part and lid separated,

Figure 2 is a plan view of the box shown in
30 Figure 1,

1 Figure 3 is a section along the line III-III
of Figure 2 showing the lid in its closed position,

 Figure 4 is a perspective view similar to Figure
1 of a second embodiment of egg box according to the
5 invention,

 Figure 5 is a fragmentary sectional view along
the line V-V of Figure 4 illustrating the lid in its
closed position,

 Figure 6 is a perspective view similar to
10 Figure 1 of a third embodiment, and

 Figure 7 is a fragmentary sectional view along
the line VII-VII of Figure 6 illustrating the lid in
its closed position.

15 In the drawings, like reference numerals are
used throughout the views of the different embodi-
ments to indicate similar parts.

 Referring to Figures 1, 2 and 3 of the drawings,
the egg box comprises a moulded plastics base part 1
20 and a separate hollow cardboard lid 2, both of which
are of generally rectangular shape in plan. The
base part 1 may be a one-piece moulding of plastics
sheet material. For example, conveniently, it is
fluid-pressure formed or vacuum-formed from high impact
25 polystyrene sheet material. In the preferred form
of the invention used for packaging eggs, the package
comprises three such base parts 1 formed as an integral
unit and joined end-to-end at mutually adjacent end
edges by small spaced plastic webs 3 which provide
30 a line of weakness along which the package can be

1 readily split into its three component base parts
each containing six eggs. The component base parts
are identical and therefore only one base part is
illustrated in full and will be described in detail.

5 The base part 1 has six egg-receiving pockets
4 disposed in its bottom in two mutually parallel
rows extending longitudinally of the base part and
has side and end walls 5,6 surrounding the rows of
pockets. The height or depth of the base part is
10 somewhat less than that of the eggs E to be packaged
in the base part and the lid 2 projects above the
base part to accommodate the upper ends of the eggs.

The egg-receiving pockets 4 are defined by
the walls 5,6 of the base part and an array of inter-
15 connecting hollow partitions 10 extending between
and joined to the base part walls. Hollow upstanding
posts 7 project upwardly from the partitions bet-
ween the two rows of pockets and at the centre of
each set of four adjacent pockets, and hollow post-
20 like protrusions 8,9 are moulded in the side and end
walls of the base part between the pockets and extend
upwardly from the adjoining partitions. The walls
of the posts, post-like protrusions, partitions and
side and end walls of the base part are so shaped
25 that each pocket 4 is generally part-egg shaped.
Moulded on the outside of each pocket are hollow
upwardly extending ribs 11 which serve to stiffen
the pocket and act as cushions to protect an egg
against side blows or shocks. The closed bottom
30 of each pocket is formed with an internal hollow boss

1 12, which serves as a protective cushion for the
bottom of an egg and to stiffen the closed bottom of
the pocket..

The central posts 7 project above the rim 13
5 of the base part and terminate in flat upper ends 14
for supporting the top of the lid. The post-like
protrusions 8,9 moulded in the side and end walls
of the base part have flat upper ends 15 spaced a
short distance below the rim and these serve as
10 support ledges for the lid, as will be hereinafter
more fully described.

Projecting inwardly from the opposite end walls
6 of the base part, flush with the rim 13 of the
latter, are two fastening detents for the lid which
15 are in the form of hollow lugs or tabs 16.

The ledges 15 of the protrusions 9 moulded in
the end walls of the base part, immediately below
the fastening tabs 16 provide stacking shoulders
17 on the outsides of the end walls of the base part
20 for cooperating with the fastening tabs of an identi-
cal base part in which the first mentioned base part
may be nested. For the purposes of storage, trans-
portation and feeding into automatic egg packaging
machinery, bases 1 are stacked in nested relation.
25 When so stacked the stacking shoulders 17 of an
upper base part rest on the lugs 16 of the base part
within which it is nested in order to prevent the
parts from wedging or jamming together and facilitate
destacking of the bases by mechanical separating
30 devices.

1 The rectangular lid 2 comprises a flat top
portion 18 and side and end wall portions or flaps
19,20 depending from the edges of the top. These
walls are integral with the top 18 and are folded
5 downwardly about creases formed in the cardboard lid
material. Optionally, mutually adjacent walls 19,20
may be secured together at the corners. The lid may
be stacked, and printed with any required advertising
material or other information, in its flat condition
10 and prior to folding down of the side and end wall
flaps into their depending positions. The end walls
20 of the lid are stamped with slots 21 in positions
to cooperate with the fastening tabs 16 on the base
part.

15 When the lid 2 is fitted onto the base part 1
to close the latter, the wall flaps 19,20 fit within
the base part juxtaposed its side and end walls 5,6
and are retained in their folded positions by the
latter. The lower edges of the walls 19,20 rest on
20 the flat support ledges 15 provided by the post-like
protrusions 8, 9 on the side walls of the base part.
These serve to support the edges of the lid whilst
the lid top 18 rests on the tops of the two upstanding
posts 7 (Figure 3). Hence, the lid is firmly supported
25 and a series of such boxes may be stacked one on top
of another without risk of damage to the contents. As
the lid 2 is fitted into position, the end walls 6,
20 of the lid and base part are flexed so that the
fastening tabs 16 engage in the adjacent slots 21 to
30 fasten the lid in its closed position. When the box

1 is to be opened, it is a simple matter for a person
to flex the walls and disengage the fastening tabs
from the cooperating slots. The lid may then be
readily refastened by the reverse procedure.

5

The embodiment illustrated in Figures 4 and 5
is similar to the first embodiment and comprises a
moulded plastics base part 1 having a depth somewhat
less than the height of the eggs E to be packaged
10 in the base part, and a separate hollow cardboard
lid 2 which projects above the base part to accommo-
date the upper ends of the eggs. However, in this
second embodiment, the central posts 7 have been
omitted from the base part to facilitate removal of
15 eggs and fastening detents 23 are disposed at the
corners of the base part and project inwardly from
the rim 13. Below the rim, the base part is moulded
at each corner with outwardly projecting stacking
shoulders 24 for cooperating with the fastening detents
20 23 of an identical base part in which the first-
mentioned base part may be nested. When so nested,
the stacking shoulders 24 of an upper base part rest
on the detents 23 of the lower base part in order to
prevent the parts from wedging or jamming together.

25 The rectangular lid 2 of the embodiment shown
in Figures 4 and 5 comprises a flat top portion
18 and side and end wall portions or flaps 19,20
depending from the edges of the top 18. The wall
portions 19,20 are integral with the top and are
30 folded downwardly about creases formed in the card-

1 board lid material. Notches or slots 25 are stamped
in the end edges of the side walls 19 in positions
to cooperate with the fastening detents 23 of the
base part. These notches are formed at the bottom
5 of outwardly inclined end edges 26 of the side walls.
The end walls 20 of the lid also have end edges 27
inclined slightly outwardly so that, in the folded
position of the lid, opposite ends of the walls 20
project slightly outwardly of the generally vertical
10 side walls 19. Small rebates 28 are stamped in the
bottom edges of the end walls 20, at opposite ends
and adjoining the inclined edges 27.

When the lid 2 is fitted onto the base part 1
to close the latter, the side walls 19 fit within
15 the base part juxtaposed the side walls 5 and are
retained in their folded positions by the latter.
The lower edges of these side walls rest on the flat
support ledges 15 provided by the post-like protrusions
8 along the side walls of the base part. These serve
20 to support the side edges of the lid. The notches
25 flex or snap into engagement with the corner
detents 23 to fasten the lid in its closed position.
To facilitate such engagement, below the notches 25,
the end edges of the side wall 19 are inwardly inclined,
25 at 29, to provide a form of lead-in taper.

When the lid is fitted onto the base part, the end
walls 20 of the lid may require to be separately and
positively urged into a position in which they engage
within the base part juxtaposed its end walls 6.
30 In this engaged position, the end walls 20 are inclined

1 outwardly and bear against the inclined end edges
26 of the side walls 19 so as to restrain longitudinal movement of the lid and disengagement of fastening detents. Also in this position, the bottom
5 edge portions 30 formed by the horizontal edges of the rebates 28 project over and rest on the rim 13 of the base part, at its corners, in order to provide support for the ends of the lid. The result is a lid which is firmly supported and a series of such
10 boxes may be stacked one on top of another without risk of damage to the contents. When the box is to be opened, it is a simple matter for a person to flex the walls of the lid and base part so as to disengage the fastening detents 23 and the lid may
15 be readily fastened by the reverse procedure, with manual inward pressure being applied, if necessary, to the end walls 20 of the lid to engage them within the end walls of the base part.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 6 and
20 7, the base part 1 is of greater height than the eggs E to be disposed in the egg-receiving pockets 4 and, in its closed position on the base part, the flat top portion 18 of the lid 2 is arranged to be generally flush with the rim 13 of the base part. Save for this
25 difference in height or depth and the fact that the post-like protrusions 9 in the end walls 6 of the base part terminate substantially flush with the rim, the base part is of similar configuration to that of the second embodiment. However, the lid 2 of this
30 embodiment merely comprises a pair of side wall

1 portions or flaps 19 depending from the longitudinal
side edges of the flat top 18 of the lid. Notches
or slots 25 are stamped in the end edges of the flaps
19, adjoining the flat top of the lid; and below
5 these notches, the end edges 29 are inclined inwardly
to provide lead-in tapers. At its opposite ends,
the flat top of the lid is extended to provide end
portions 30 which project over the adjacent end
portions of the rim 13 of the base part, when the lid
10 is fastened in its closed position.

When the lid is fitted onto the base part to
close the latter, the flaps 19 fit within the base
part 1 juxtaposed the side walls 5 and are retained
in their folded positions by the latter. The lower
15 edges of the flaps rest on the flat support ledges
15 provided at the tops of the protrusions 8 moulded
along the side walls of the base part. These serve
to support the lid at its sides whilst the projecting
end portions 30 rest on the rim of the base part to
20 support the ends of the lid. As with the preceding
embodiments, the lid is firmly supported and a series
of such boxes may be stacked one on top of another
without risk of damage to the contents. As the lid
is fitted into position, the flaps 19 flex to enable
25 the notches to engage with the corner detents 23 of
the base part to fasten the lid in its closed position.
When the box is to be opened, the lid may be readily
flexed to disengage these fastening notches and
detents and it is also a simple matter to reengage
30 them should it be desired to refasten the lid to the

1 base part.

Whilst particular embodiments have been described,
it will be understood that modifications can be made
without departing from the scope of the invention,
5 as defined by the appended claims. For example, the
embodiments hereinbefore described may be constructed
to contain different quantities of eggs. Hence,
both the number of pockets 4 and their arrangement
can be altered. For example, a base part 1 may be
10 constructed to have ten pockets divided into two
parallel rows of five pockets each or, alternatively,
twelve pockets arranged in three rows of four pockets
each. In larger boxes of the construction illustrated
in Figures 1 to 3, two or more fastening tabs 16 and
15 cooperating slots 21 may be utilised at each end of
the box for fastening the lid in its closed position.
Moreover, the embodiments shown in Figures 4 to 7,
particularly when constructed in larger sizes, may,
similarly to the first embodiment, be moulded with
20 posts 7 upstanding from the base part between the egg-
receiving pockets for supporting the central area or
part of the flat lid top 18.

In the embodiments shown in Figures 1 to 5,
the depending wall portions 19,20 of the hollow lids
25 2 may be secured together at the corners of the lids,
for example, with adhesive.

In a modification, one of the wall portions
or flaps 19,20 of a lid 2 may be fixed, for example,
by adhesive, to the juxtaposed side or end wall 5,6
30 of the base part so that the lid is permanently

- 1 connected to the base part. It is opened or closed
by flexing it about the fixed flap 19,20 or by hinging
it about the crease between the fixed flap and the
lid top 18 or another suitable crease formed in the
- 5 fixed flaps parallel to the plane of the lid top.

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A packaging box or carton for eggs, fruit of
other articles, in which a moulded base part (1)
formed with article receiving pockets (4) is closed
by a lid (2) which is fastened over the open top of
5 the base part and projects above the base part,
characterised in that the lid (2) comprises a substan-
tially flat top portion (18) having wall portions
(19,20) depending from at least two opposite edges
thereof and projecting downwardly within the top
10 of the base part (1), juxtaposed upstanding peripheral
walls (5,6) of the latter, and in that at least one
of said wall portions (19,20) has its bottom edge
resting on support means (15) projecting inwardly
from the juxtaposed peripheral wall (5,6) of the
15 base part below the rim (13) thereof, whereby to
support the adjacent edge of the lid.
2. A packaging box or carton according to claim 1,
characterised in that the base part (1) and lid (2)
are of generally rectangular shape in plan and the
20 lid has wall portions (19,20) depending from both
pairs of opposite side and end edges of the lid top (18).
3. A packaging box or carton according to claim 2,
characterised in that both pairs of said opposite side
and end wall portions (19,20) of the lid project
25 downwardly within the top of the base part, and at
least one of said pairs of wall portions has bottom
edges resting on the support means (15) projecting
inwardly from the juxtaposed peripheral walls (5,6)
of the base part.
- 30 4. A packaging box or carton according to claim

1 2 or 3, in which the wall portions of one of said
pairs (19,20) have bottom edge portions (30) resting
on the rim (13) of the base part.

5. A packaging box or carton according to any
5 preceding claim, characterised in that the flat top
portion (18) of the lid is centrally supported by
posts (7) upstanding from the base part (1) between
rows of article receiving pockets (4) and projecting
above the rim (13) of the base part.

10 6. A packaging box or carton according to any
preceding claim, characterised in that the base part
(1) is of lesser height than articles (E) to be
disposed in the article receiving pockets (4), and
the lid (2) is adapted to accommodate the upper ends
15 of such articles.

7. A packaging box or carton for eggs, fruit or
other articles, in which a moulded base part (1)
formed with article receiving pockets (4) is closed
by a lid (2) which is fastened over the open top of
20 the base part, said base part having peripheral
walls (5,6) of greater height than the articles (E)
to be disposed in the article receiving pockets (4),
and said lid having a substantially flat top portion
(18) and flap or wall portions (19,20) depending
25 from at least two opposite edges thereof, characterised
in that the article receiving pockets (4) are formed
in the bottom of the base part (1) by the peripheral
walls (5,6) thereof and an array of interconnecting
partitions (10) extending between the peripheral
30 walls, said array of partitions (10) being spaced

1 below the rim (13) of the base part and the flat top
portion (18) of the lid, and said flap or wall portions
(19,20) of the lid projecting downwardly within the
base part, juxtaposed peripheral walls (5,6) thereof,
5 and at least one of said flap or wall portions (19,20)
having its bottom edge resting on support means (15)
projecting inwardly from the juxtaposed peripheral
wall of the base part below the rim thereof, whereby
to support the adjacent edge of the lid (2).

10 8. A packaging box or carton according to claim
7, characterised in that the base (1) and lid (2)
are of generally rectangular shape in plan and the lid
has said flap or wall portions (19) depending from
one pair of opposite edges of the flat lid top (18)
15 and, at the other pair of opposite edges (30), the lid
top projects over the rim of the base part and is
supported thereby.

9. A packaging box or carton according to any
preceding claim, characterised in that one of the
20 depending wall portions (19,20) of the lid (2) is
fixed to the juxtaposed peripheral wall (5,6) of the
base part so that the lid is connected to the base
and is movable between its open and closed positions
about the fixed wall portion.

25 10. A packaging box or carton according to any
preceding claim, characterised in that the means for
fastening the lid in its closed position comprises
an opening (21,25) in at least one of the wall portions
(19,20) of the lid engaged by a detent (16,23) projecting
30 inwardly from the base part.

- 1 11. A packaging box or carton according to claim 10,
characterised in that the fastening means comprises
openings (21) formed in at least one pair (20) of
opposite wall portions of the lid and engaging
5 detents (16) formed on the base part.
12. A packaging box or carton according to claim
10, characterised in that the fastening means comprises
notches (25) formed in opposite ends of at least
one of the wall portions (19,20) of the lid and
10 engaging with detents (23) formed at the adjacent
corners of the base part.
13. A packaging box or carton according to any
preceding claim, characterised in that the support
means for the wall portion(s) of the lid comprises
15 ledges (15) formed at the upper ends of post-like
protrusions (8,9) formed in the peripheral walls
(5,6) of the base part between the article receiving
pockets (4) adjoining the peripheral walls.
14. A packaging box or carton according to any
20 preceding claim, characterised by external stacking
shoulder means (15,24) formed on the outsides of the
peripheral walls (5,6) of the base part for engagement
with cooperating inwardly projecting means (16,23)
of another similar base part when the former is stacked
25 in nested relation with the latter to prevent the
nested base parts from wedging or jamming together.
15. A packaging box or carton according to any
preceding claim, in combination with at least one
similar box or carton, characterised in that the
30 base parts (1) of the boxes or cartons are joined
together (3) along mutually adjacent edged in such
a manner that the base parts can be readily separated.

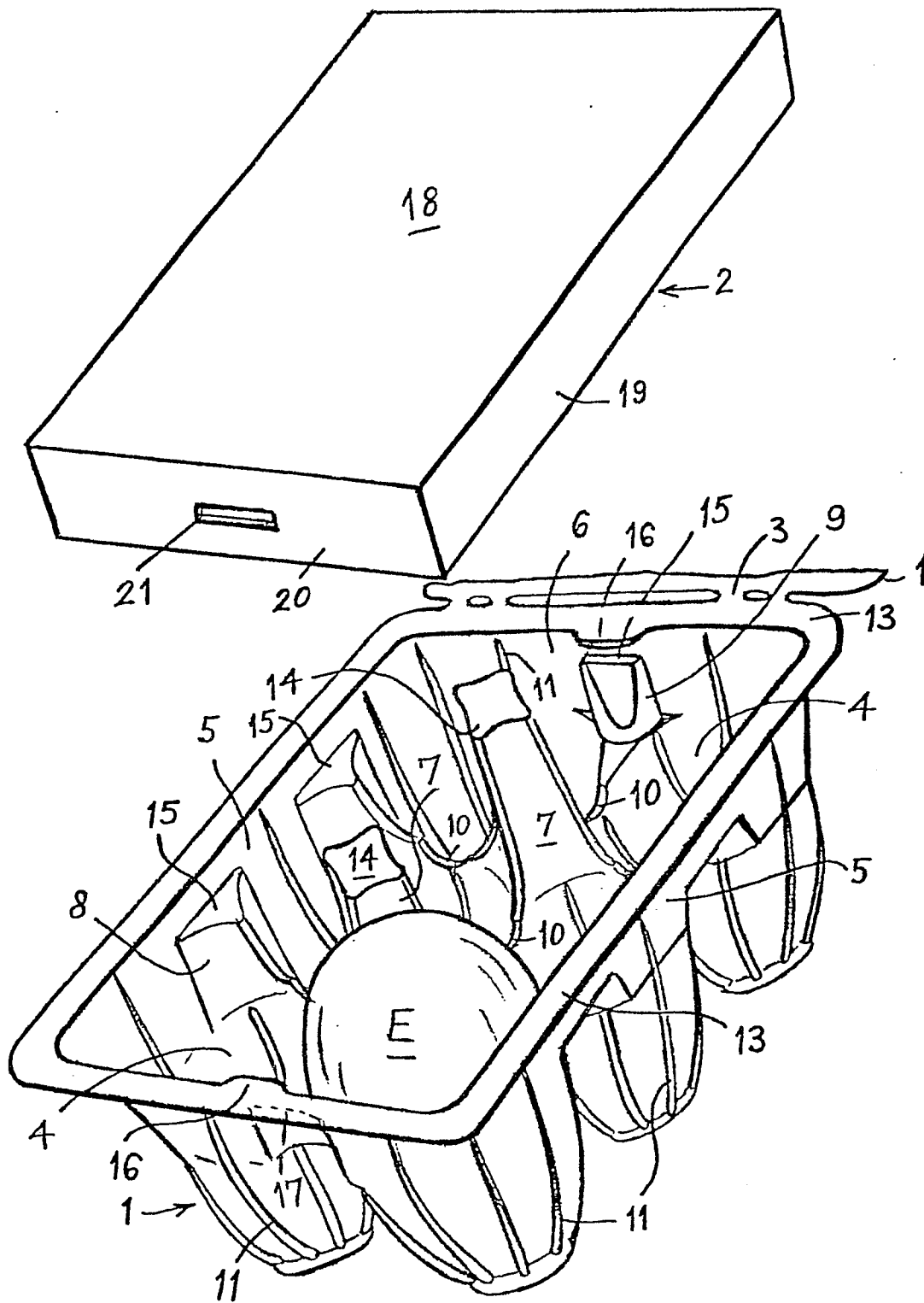


Fig.1

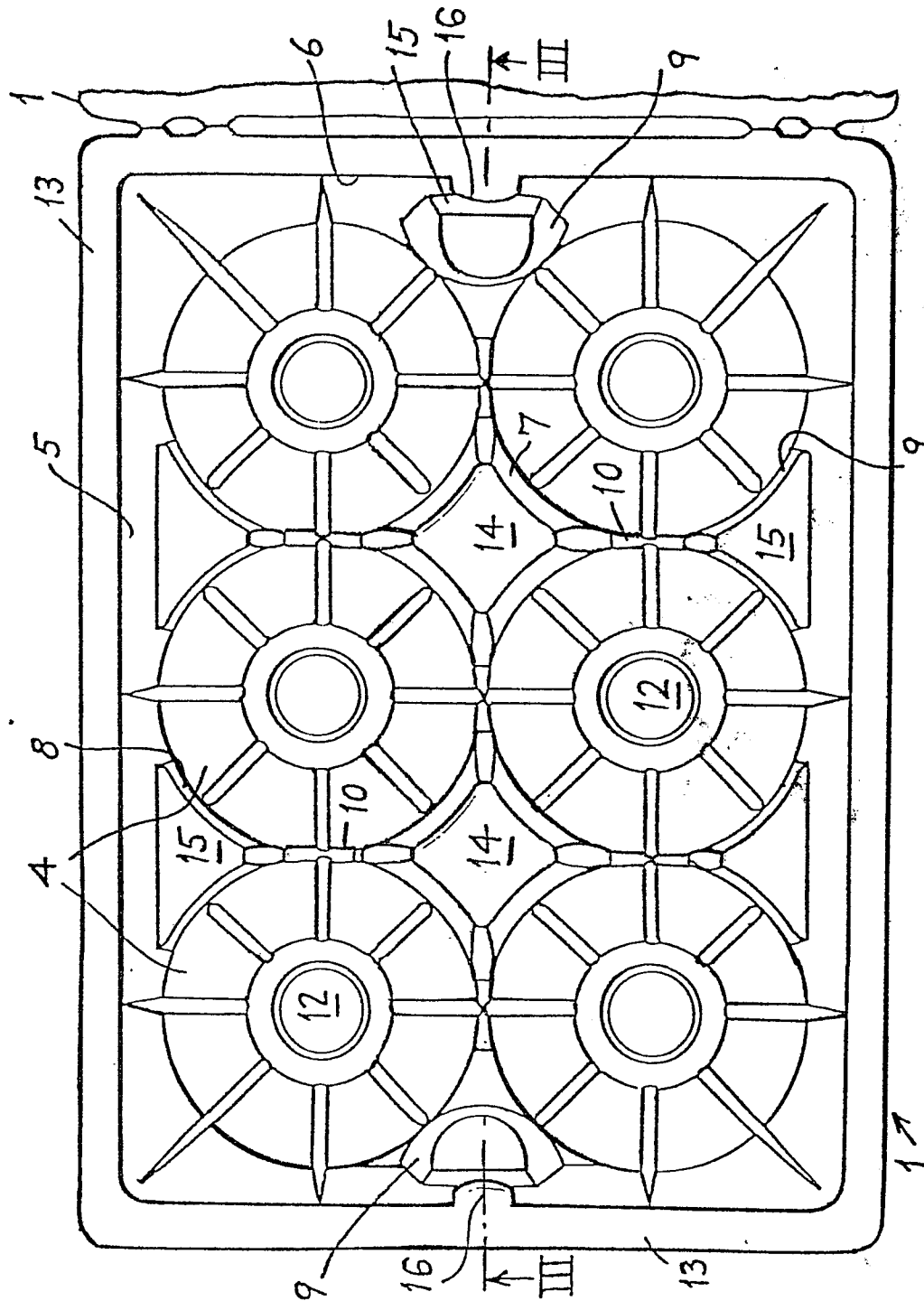
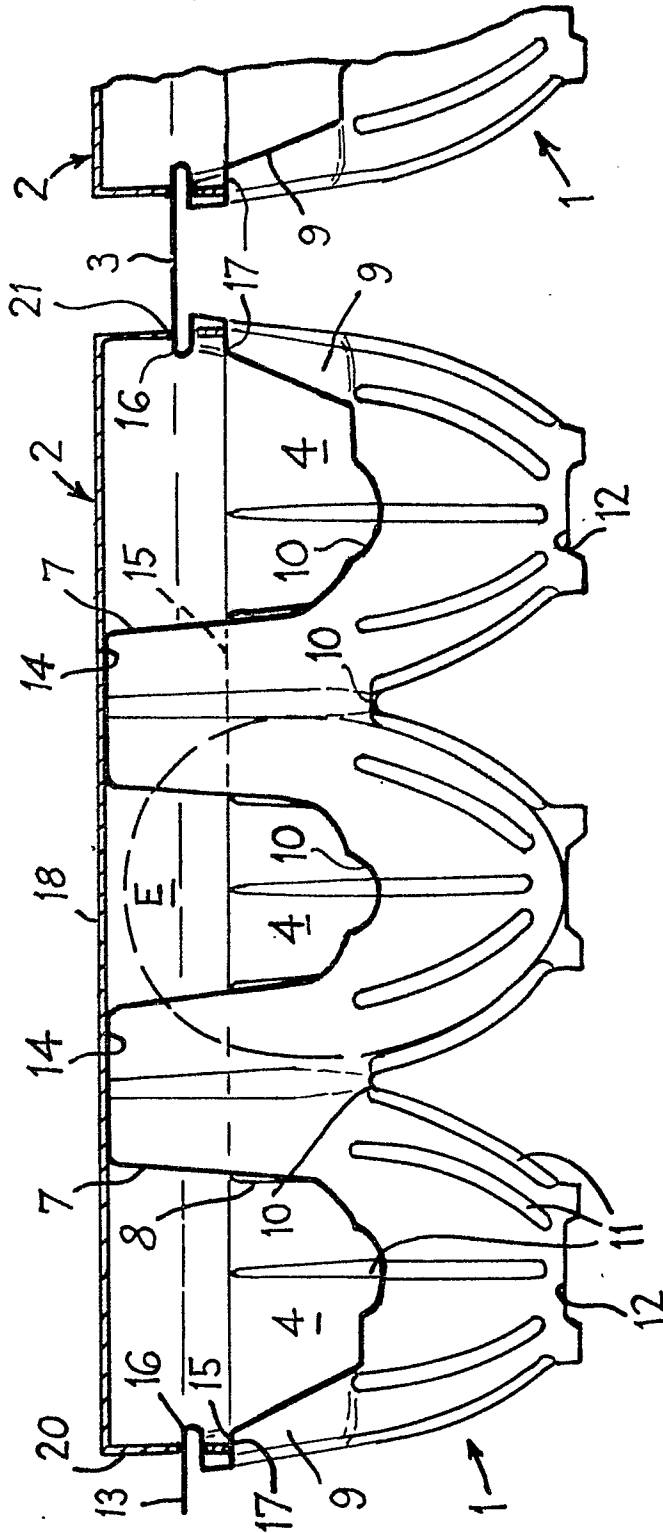


Fig.2

Fig. 3



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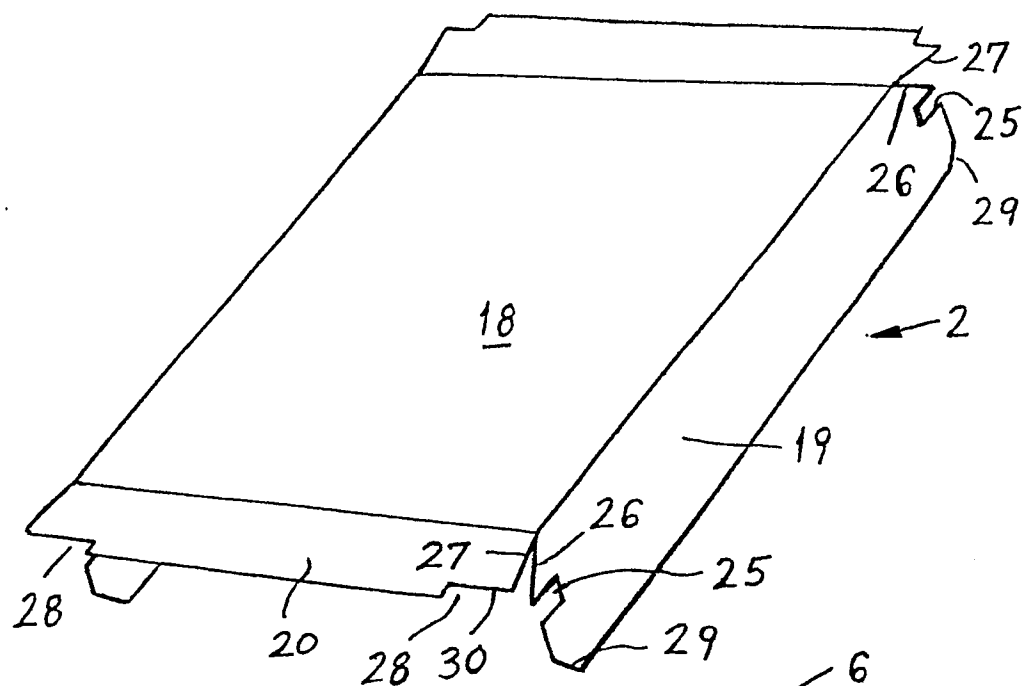


Fig. 4

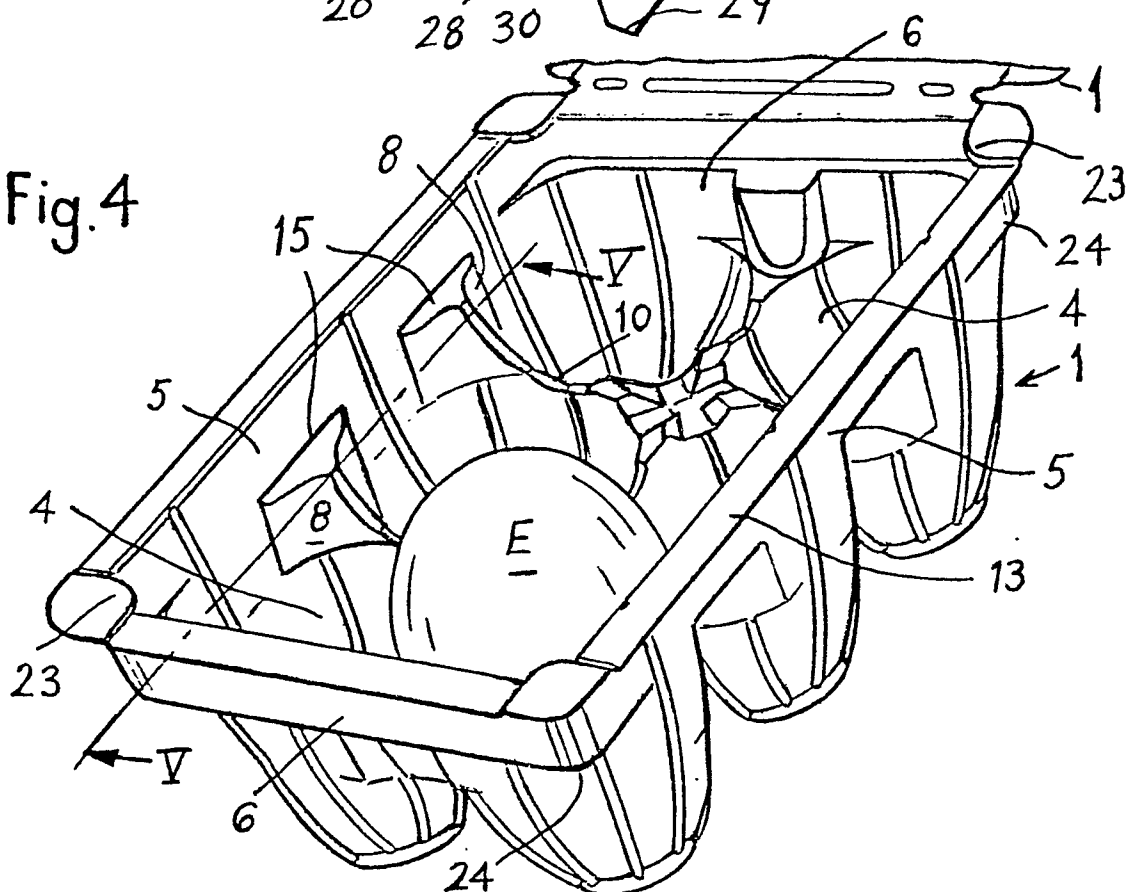
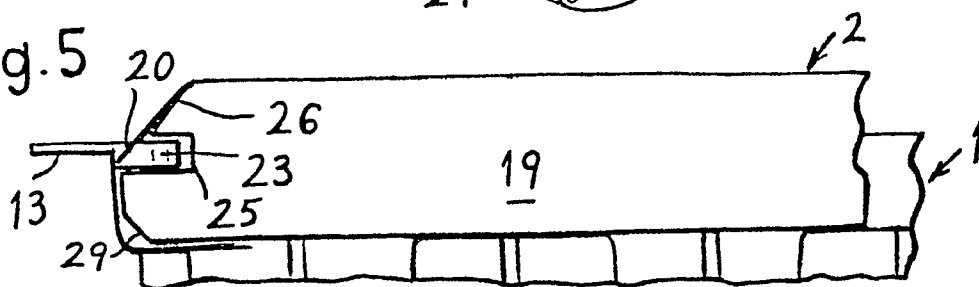


Fig. 5



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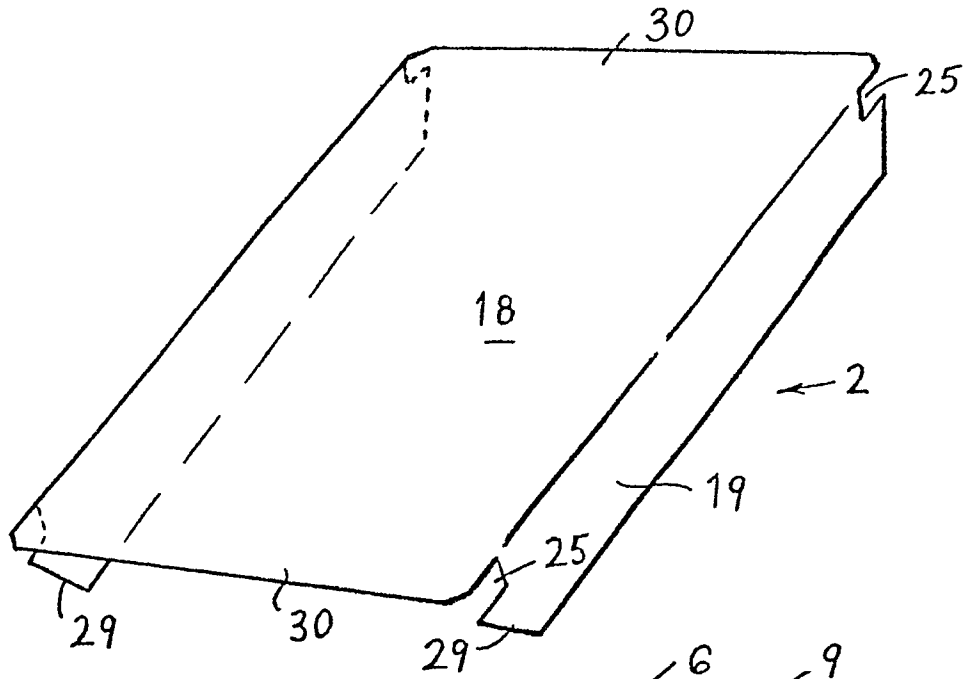


Fig. 6

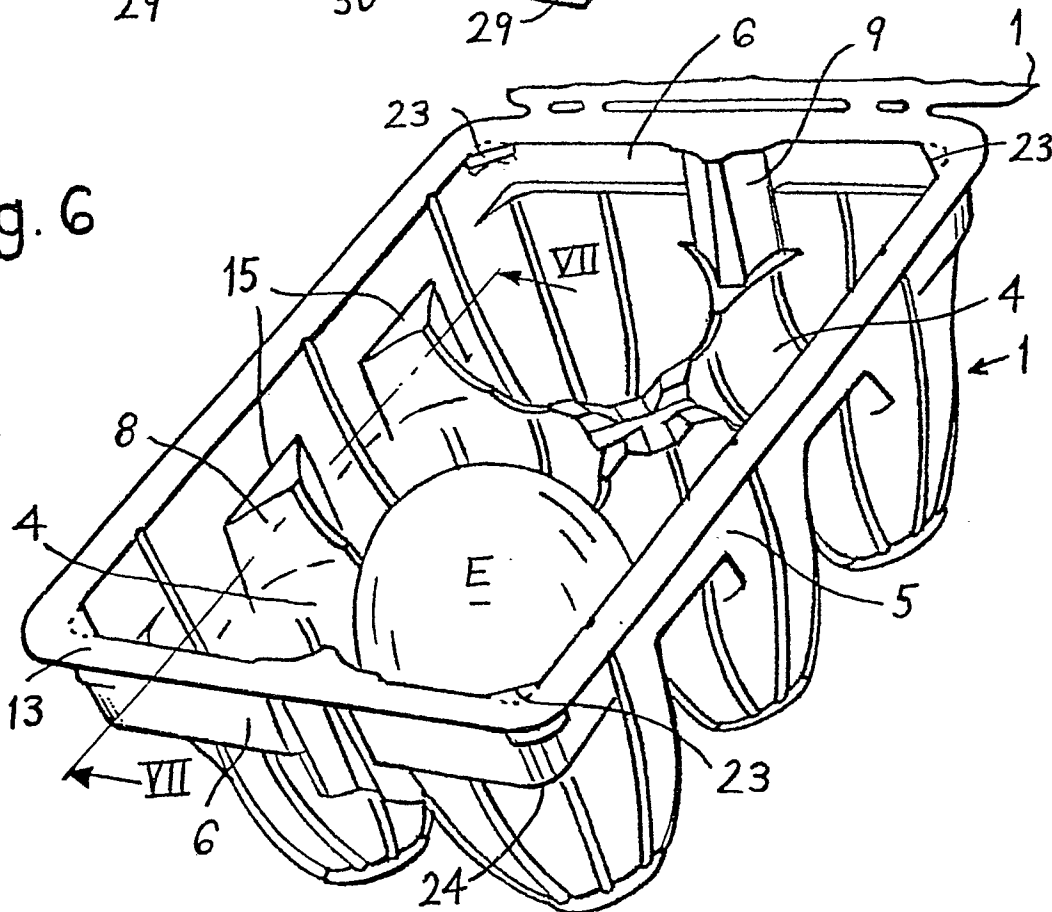


Fig. 7

