Feb. 19, 1924. 1,484,581

J. R. STOTHART ET AL

EGG CRATE

Filed Oct. 16, 1922

Fig. 1.

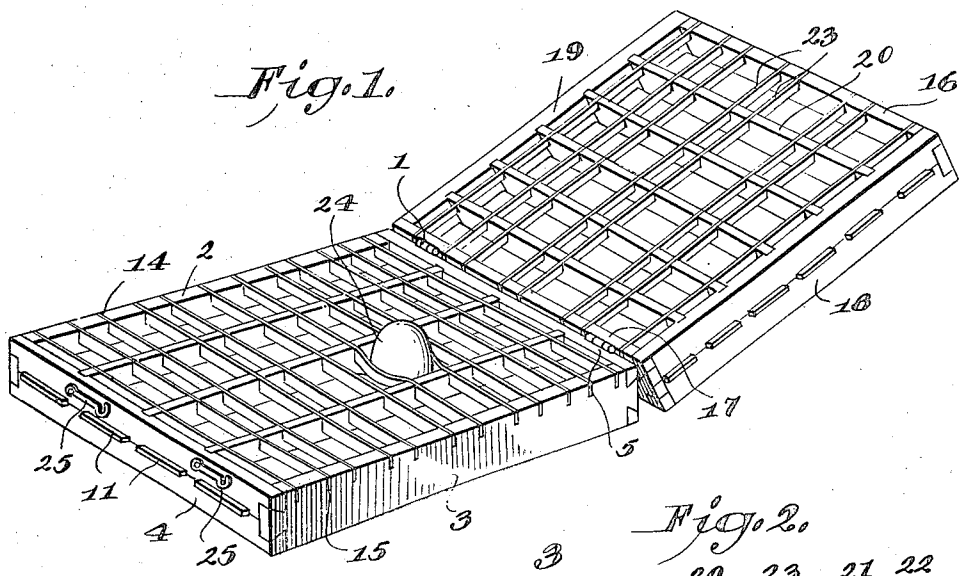


Fig. 2.

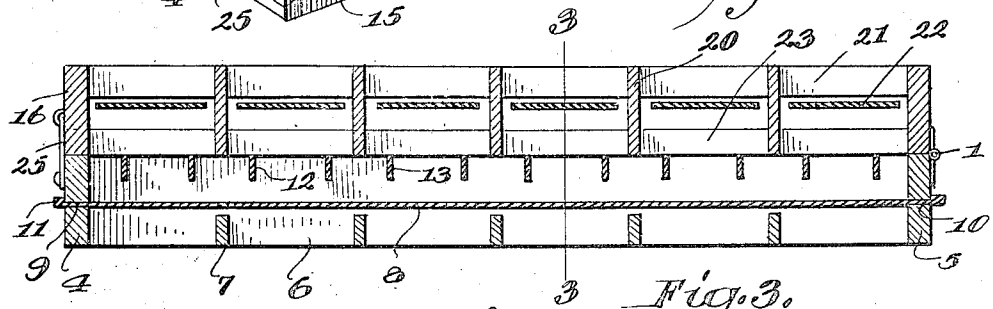


Fig. 3.

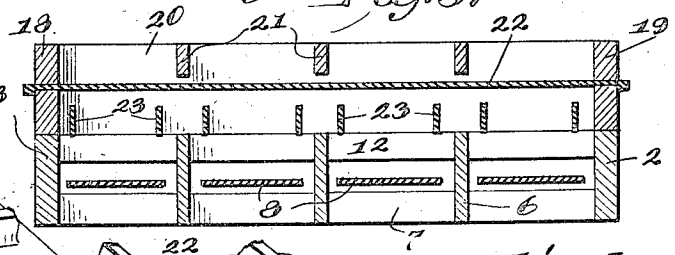


Fig. 4.

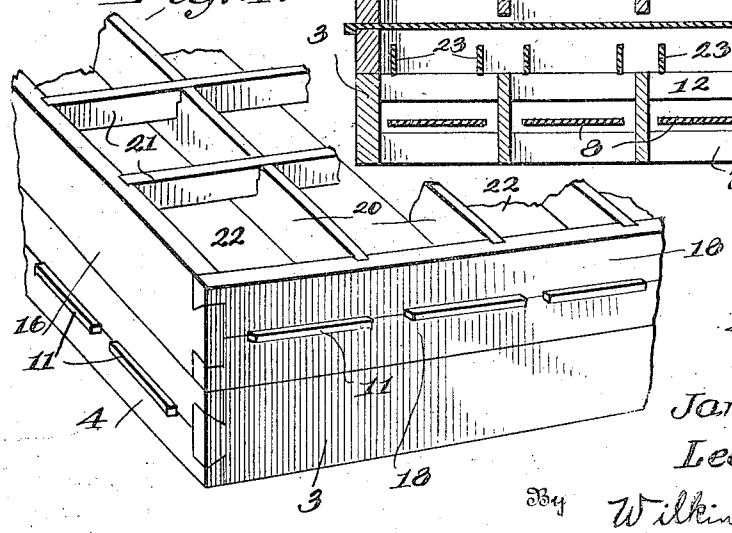
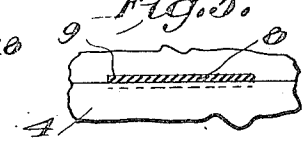


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES R. STOTHART AND LEON BERNSTEIN, OF COUSHATTA, LOUISIANA.

EGG CRATE.

Application filed October 16, 1922. Serial No. 594,903.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JAMES R. STOTHART and LEON BERNSTEIN, citizens of the United States, both residing at Coushatta, in the parish of Red River and State of Louisiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Egg Crates, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to improvements in egg crates in which provision is made for transporting eggs or similar fragile articles without entailing breakage and the invention has for its primary object to secure in an egg crate at relatively low cost and involving but simple manufacture a high degree of safety for the contents.

Other objects of the invention are to provide an egg crate into which the eggs may be readily introduced and from which they may with equal facility be removed, while at the same time to provide elastic devices for tightly embracing the eggs so long as they remain in the carton or cate; to utilize in connection with the construction of such a crate, material that is readily available and can be had at small cost; and to secure a crate which may be transported quickly and readily because of the fact that so much care need not be exercised in handling the same.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention will be more fully described hereinafter, and will be more particularly pointed out in the claims appended hereto.

In the drawings, wherein like symbols refer to like or corresponding parts throughout the several views,

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the crate in the open position,

Figure 2 is a vertical section taken through the crate in its closed position,

Figure 3 is a vertical section taken on the line 3—3 in Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of one corner of the crate closed, and

Figure 5 is a fragmentary end view showing a detail of the end portion.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the crate consists mainly of a body and a cover of two similar and complemental sections which are hinged together as indicated at 1. The body portion consists of an open rectangular frame made up of side rails 2 and 3 and front and rear bars 4 and 5 which are dove tailed or otherwise secured together.

Within the rectangular open frame is a cellular structure composed of partitions 6 extending in spaced relation between the front and rear beams 4 and 5 and bars 7 extending between the side rails 2 and 3 and being mortised into the lower portion of the partitions 6 in order to properly space the partitions and to reinforce them throughout their length and in general to build up a strong and durable cellular structure within the open frame work.

Now the bar 7 also forms a number of supports at fixed intervals for the wide bands of rubber 8 which are stretched between each of the partitions 6 and between the outermost partitions and the rails 2 and 3. Such rubber bands are stretched in suitable tension and have their ends engaged in slots 9 and 10 in the front and rear bars 4 and 5. Strips or enlargements 11 are vulcanized or otherwise secured to the extremities of the rubber bands in order to avoid their pulling through the openings 9 and 10.

The upper edges of the partitions 6 are slotted as indicated at 12 to receive pairs of relatively thin narrow rubber bands 13. These bands intersect the relatively larger bands and they are also fixed in slots 14 and 15 in the side rails 2 and 3, being preferably pinched in these slots so as to hold the bands in place.

The bands are situated apart a suitable distance to receive therebetween an egg in the manner indicated in Figure 1 wherein the egg, which rests at its lower end upon one of the bottom broad bands 8 is supported at its sides by the bands 13 which are put under tension and therefore firmly hold the egg in position.

Now the top section is similarly constructed of a front beam 16 and rear beam 17 and side rails 18 and 19, all united together in an open skeleton structure having similar cells provided by the partitions 20 which in this instance extend between the rails 18 and 19 and in other words intersect the partitions of the body section. The top portions of the partitions receive the bars 21 which are mortised into the partitions and are secured to the front and rear beams 16 and 17. Flat wide rubber bands 22 lie in spaces between the partitions 20 and are secured in a similar manner to the bands in the body

section. Furthermore slender light rubber bands 23 are mounted in pairs in the partitions in the front and rear beams 16 and 17. These rubber bands intersect the bands 13 of the body section and are received over the top portion of the egg indicated at 24 when the cover is closed.

Now the body cover may be secured together as by a pair of hooks or clasps 25 or a single hook might suffice and the section need not be hinged but may be simply laid one upon another and secured together. In any event the opposite end portions of the egg will engage the wide rubber bands 8 and 22 while the lateral portions of the egg will be received between the thin rubber bands 13 and 23 and it will be noted that the pairs of bands will engage at right angles to one another so that these bands will avoid the egg sliding sidewise in the cell which might allow it to come into contact with the wooden partition and be broken.

With a crate of this character the eggs are individually held in cushioned cells and are prevented from coming into contact with rigid parts so that the carton or crate may be subjected to rough handling without the likelihood of causing a breakage or injury to the contents.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made in the details of construction and design of the above specifically described embodiment of this invention without departing from the spirit thereof, such changes and modifications being restricted only by the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An egg crate comprising a body section, a top section partitions disposed in said top and body sections and dividing the crate into a number of cells adapted to receive eggs, broad flat rubber bands stretched across the top and body sections above and below the opposite ends of the eggs, and pairs of relatively thin rubber bands held by said partitions for engaging the lateral portions of the eggs, substantially as described.

2. An egg crate comprising a body, a cover for the body, said body and cover being made up of rectangular open frames, intersecting partitions mounted in said open frames and dividing the crate into a number of cells for receiving the eggs, broad rubber bands stretched across the bottom portion of the body and upper portion of the top and lying beyond the ends of the cells for receiving the opposite end portions of the eggs, said eggs adapted to engage and place the rubber under tension when the cover is closed on the body, and pairs of relatively narrow rubber bands carried by the open frame works and by the partitions and extending through the cells at opposite lateral portions of the eggs near the ends thereof and adapted to space the eggs from the partitions, substantially as described.

3. An egg crate comprising a body composed of a substantially rectangular skeleton frame, a cellular structure mounted fast within said frame, a number of bands stretched from one side to the other of the bottom portion of the body beneath rows of the cells and being unattached to said cellular structure, pairs of relatively narrow rubber bands attached to said frame and to the cellular structure and adapted to engage side portions of the egg, a cover for the body also made up of an open frame, a cellular structure therein, broad rubber bands stretched across from one side to the other of the lower part of said body, and pairs of rubber bands carried by said cover and extending at right angles to the bands of the body for engaging side portions of the egg, the eggs adapted to engage at their ends and to seat in the broad bands carried by both the body and cover, substantially as described.

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