

June 21, 1966

M. M. WRIGHT

3,257,068

PREWRAPPED CARTON

Filed July 16, 1964

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

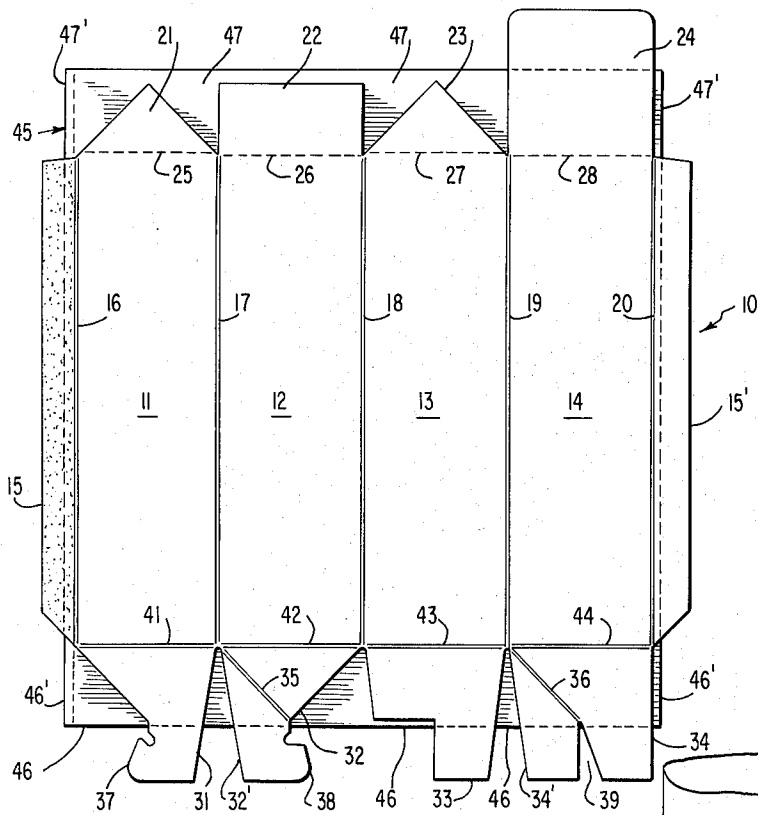


FIG. 1

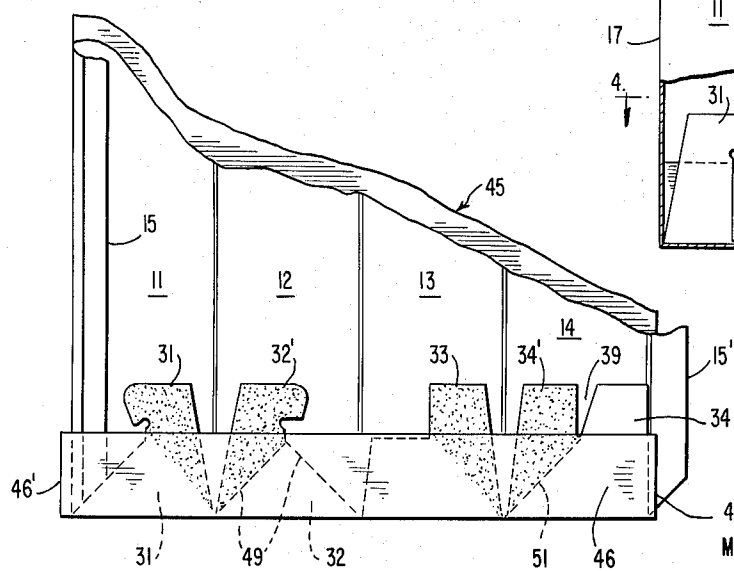


FIG. 2

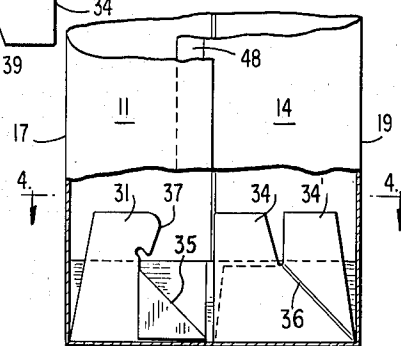


FIG. 3

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FIG. 4B

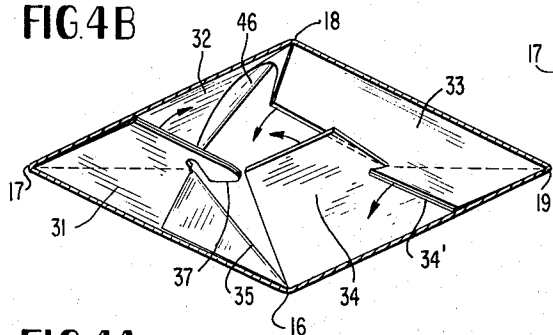


FIG. 4A

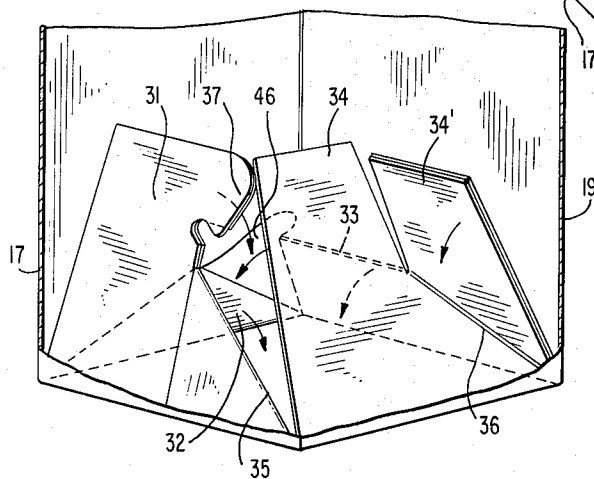
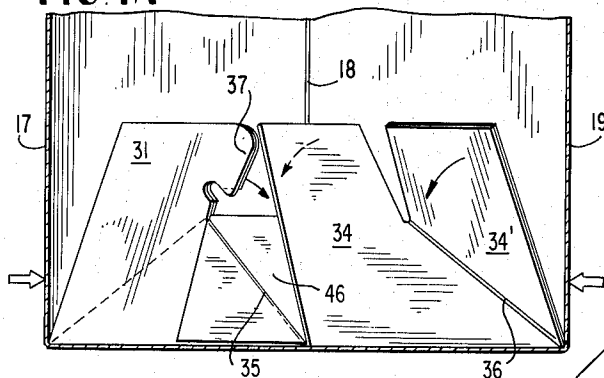


FIG. 4C

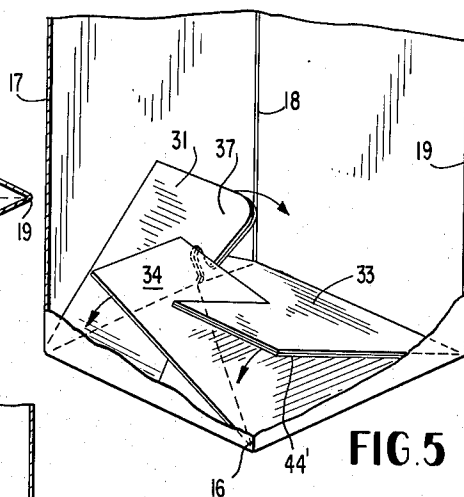


FIG. 5

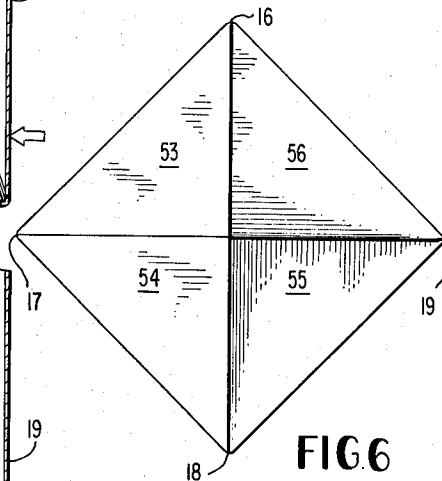


FIG. 6

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FIG 7

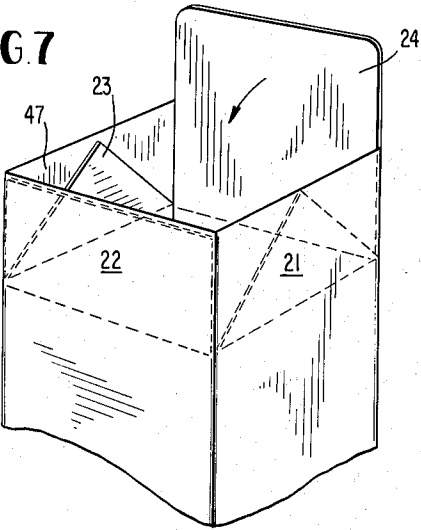


FIG 8

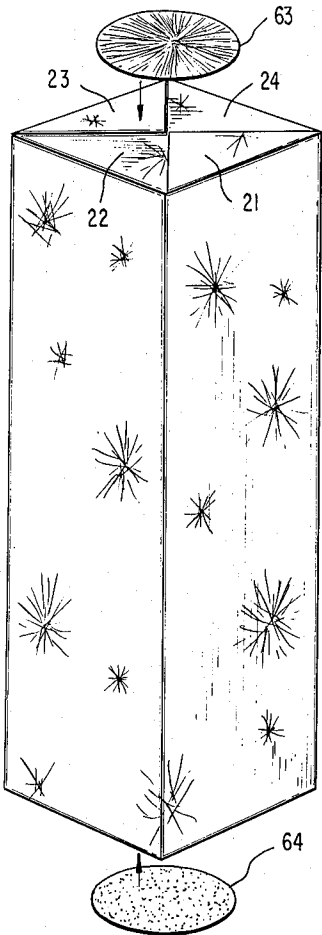
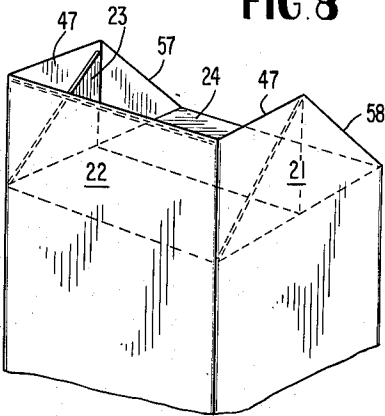


FIG 9

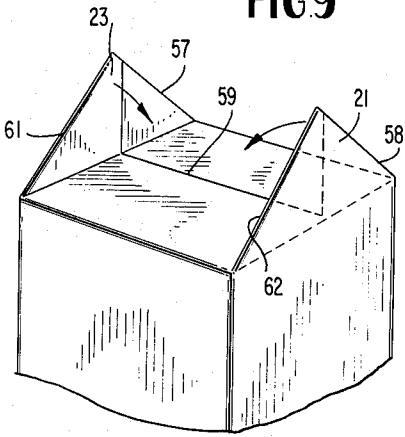


FIG 10

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3,257,068

PREWRAPPED CARTON

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Filed July 16, 1964, Ser. No. 383,162
8 Claims. (Cl. 229-87)

This invention relates generally to a flat-foldable carton and more particularly to a carton which has a shaped decorative wrapping permanently secured to the outer surfaces of the carton for folding into place as the carton is erected to present the appearance of a gift wrapping.

It has previously been known to form from cardboard blanks, suitably dimensioned, creased and secured together at opposite sides, cartons which are stored in a flat condition but which may be erected into a finished carton shape by pressure along opposite edges of the folded blank to form an upright rectangular container, a bottom being formed in erecting the flat-folded carton. It is also known to provide printing or other decorative surfaces on the outside of the carton surfaces, as finally assembled, which decoration is applied during the forming process prior to joining the ends and folding into the flat-folded condition. It is also known to provide decorative bands as separate pieces attached to the outside surfaces to give the appearance of a band later secured to the carton, as after it is filled. Known prior art structures have not provided for complete envelopment of a carton by a decorative wrap integral with the carton material which also gives the appearance of a gift wrapping as the carton is erected and closed at the top, particularly in respect to providing neatly folded wrappings covering joints of the carton at its ends. The economy of simultaneous packaging and wrapping has not been available.

It is accordingly an object of this invention to provide a carton blank with a decorative wrapping secured to the outer side thereof and forming a completely gift-wrapped package when erected and closed.

Another object of the invention is to provide a structure of wrapping material glued to outer faces of an erectable carton forming a complete cover for the carton flap members at the ends thereof.

A further object of the invention is to provide a shape wrapping material laminated to an erectable carton blank such that fold lines at the ends thereof, when closed, are like fold lines produced in hand wrapping of a carton of the same shape.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a rapid method of simultaneously closing and wrapping end openings in a carton.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide more economical means and method for gift wrapping counterdispensed articles.

These and other objects of the invention will be more evident upon consideration of the drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a top view of a formed carton blank having secured thereto a covering material to form gift wrapping according to this invention;

FIG. 2 is a partial view of the blank of FIG. 1 showing bottom flaps and one edge folded prior to gluing;

FIG. 3 illustrates a second step in the form of a flat-folded package wherein the bottom is assembled in the folded condition, two panels being partly broken away;

FIG. 4A is an enlarged section along lines 4-4 of FIG. 3 showing bottom flaps unfolding as the package is erected;

FIG. 4B is a plan view of the bottom shown in FIG. 4A, partially open;

FIG. 4C is a perspective view showing the unfolding operation of the bottom elements of the carton during erection as in FIG. 4A;

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FIG. 5 is a perspective view, partly broken away, of a further step in the formation of the carton bottom as the bottom flaps fold into place;

FIG. 6 is a bottom view of the folded wrapping material on the bottom of the fully erected carton;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the top portion of the carton while still open showing wrapping material detail;

FIG. 8 illustrates a step in the closing of the top portion of the carton;

FIG. 9 illustrates a further step in the closing of the carton; and

FIG. 10 illustrates the completed carton fully gifted wrapped with gummed seals positioned for application to finish the gift wrapping.

Briefly, the invention consists of a flat-foldable carton, i.e., a carton normally purchased and stored in a flat-folded condition, having modified bottom and top closure sections suitable for accommodating a continuous sheet of wrapping material dimensioned to completely enclose the carton as the ends are formed upon opening the carton. While a particular form of flat-foldable carton is illustrated and described herein, it will be appreciated that other forms of bottom and top closures may have gift wrapping material similarly applied on the exterior surface if arranged and dimensioned as here described so that it may be folded into shape to form the characteristic folds found in hand-wrapped packages, presenting a pleasing appearance. This invention is illustrated using one form of locking base and a foldable top which operates successfully with the wrapping material secured thereto, as will presently be described in greater detail.

In FIG. 1 is illustrated a blank dimensioned and pre-creased for the formation of a carton of right-angular shape, illustratively of square section, as generally indicated at 10. It comprises side panels 11, 12, 13 and 14 formed of a single sheet of cardboard, or the like, and having at the outer ends thereof seam-forming portions 15, 15' suitable for gluing together to convert the flat sheet into an upright box form. Preformed crease lines 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 divide the panels from each other and from the seam portions 15 and 15'. At the upper ends of panels 11-14 are top closing flaps 21, 22, 23 and 24 hinged to the side panels at 25, 26, 27, 28. Two opposite end flaps as at 21 and 23 are made triangular in shape having isosceles sides opposite the crease lines 25 and 27, the apex angle of triangular flaps 21 and 23 being made 90° when the carton shape is square, thereby to cause the apexes to barely meet as flaps 21 and 23 are folded together. The altitude of each of these triangles when the carton is square is half the base length along crease lines 25 and 27. A different angle would be chosen when a non-square carton shape is desired, but in each case the altitude of the triangle is preferably half the width of the side panels, in this case 26 and 28, so that the wrapping material may be neatly folded as illustrated in FIG. 9. Flap 22 is preferably rectangular and extends to half the width of panels 11 and 13, while flap 24 is preferably rectangular and extends to the full width of panels 11 and 13, being of length equal to the carton length as along lines 26 and 28. Such preferred dimensions permit folding of flap 24 to form a virtually complete cover for the parcel, the closure being completed by infolding flap 22 and flaps 21 and 23.

The bottom of the carton is formed, according to this illustration, of four flaps each differing somewhat from the other in which flaps 31 and 32 are generally alike and flaps 33 and 34 are also generally similar. However, flap 32 has a portion 32' creased for folding along line 35 when flap 32' is cemented to flap 31 substantially throughout the common extent thereof. Flap 34 has a

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portion 34' joined thereto along crease line 36 for cementing to flap 33 throughout their common extent when folded along line 19. Flap 33 has a relieved portion at the outer extremity thereof to permit folding as will later be apparent. Flaps 31 and 32 terminate in hooked portions 37 and 38 which are dimensioned to form a reinforced hook member as portions 31, 32' are glued together and panels 11 and 12 are folded along line 17. A relieved portion 39 in flaps 34 receives the hook comprising elements 37 and 38. Flaps 31, 32, 33 and 34 are joined to panels 11, 12, 13 and 14 along hinge lines 41, 42, 43 and 44.

A sheet of decorative wrapping material generally shown at 45 extends across the outside of the entire carton blank 10 and therebeyond at the ends of the panels sufficiently to complete a strip of at least one-half carton width above and below the ends of panels 11, 12, 13 and 14. The portion of sheet 45 extending below the hinge line is illustrated at 46 and at the ends thereof portions 46' extend beyond crease lines 16 and 20 for the purpose of folding around adjacent flap edges or for joining together as the blank is formed into a closed cylinder. The portion extending above lines 25, 26, 27 and 28, shown at 47, similarly has glue portions 47' at the opposite edges thereof. It may be noted that wrapping material 45 is extended slightly beyond the apex positions of triangular flaps 21 and 23 in order that a complete covering be provided as the box is closed.

In FIG. 2 seam portion 15 is shown doubled back on panel 11 to which it is cemented and that end portion 15' is adapted to be joined thereto by glue applied either to 15 or 15'. Wrapping material portion 46 is shown folded along the interior surface of the blank as flaps 31, 32, 33 and 34 are folded inward against the side panel. FIG. 3 shows flap 31 folded against 32, 32' to form hook member 37 while flap 34, 34' is folded against flap 33 and seam portions 15 and 15' are joined together as at 48.

The carton formed as in FIG. 3 in its flat-folded position may be unfolded as illustrated in FIG. 4 by pressing along fold lines 17 and 19 as illustrated in the arrows of FIG. 4A. As the distance between lines 17 and 19 is shortened, fold line 18 separates from fold line 16 (superimposed on fold line 20). FIG. 4 also illustrates by means of curved arrows the motion of flaps 31, 32, 33 and 34 as panels 11 and 13 are separated from panels 12 and 14 thereby to unfold each of seams 41-44 and to sharply fold flaps 32 and 34 along lines 35 and 36. FIG. 4C shows a further step in the unfolding process commenced in FIG. 4A and FIG. 4B shows in a top view the mode of cooperation of the bottom flaps, as well as the folding of the wrapping material 46 in the space between flaps 32-33 and 34-31. FIG. 5 shows the carton bottom nearly completed as hook 37 of flaps 31 and 32 engages flap 34 which in turn is engaged by flap 33 folded into the relieved portion 39 of flap 34.

FIG. 6 shows in a bottom view the wrapping feature accomplished as the carton is erected through steps shown in FIGS. 4A, 4C and 5. It may be noted that flap 32 has a pair of fold lines 49 over which the wrapping material is passed to complete the hand wrapped appearance along the fold lines shown at 49. Flap 31, being cemented to flap 32' and flap 32' being joined to the remainder of flap 32 along a fold line causes flap 31 to overlie flap 32 in the erected position. The wrapping material shown in FIG. 2 between hook portions 31 and 31' is concealed within the glued joint, so that an isosceles triangular portion of wrapping material 46, shown at the bottom of flaps 31 and 32, will be visible when the carton is erected. It will also be noted that wrapping material between portions of flaps 33 and 34' is also concealed in a glued joint and that flap 33 is exposed only between fold line 51 of flap 34 and the line 49 of flap 32 when the bottom is completed. Similarly, flap 34 is exposed only between the fold line 51 and the edge of flap 31 forming one side of the exposed triangle, thereby to

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present at the bottom of the completed carton four diagonal fold lines from the corners of the carton to the center. The completed folds as seen from the bottom are illustrated at panels 53-56 in FIG. 6.

As the top of the carton is closed after it has been filled, it will be noted that flap 24 may first be folded down into position between flaps 21, 22 and 23. As will be seen from FIG. 8, the wrapping material extending upwardly from panel 14 is folded down into horizontal position covering one-half of the carton cover, diagonal fold lines 57 and 58 being thereby formed. Flap 22 may then be folded over flap 24 thereby completing a wrapping cover over flaps 22 and 24 since the material 47 overlaps slightly at line 59 as flap 22 is pressed against closed flaps 24, thereby forming diagonal lines 61 and 62 along the edges of flaps 21 and 23. As shown in FIG. 9, flaps 21 and 23 may then be folded into position such that the triangular points thereon meet at the center of the carton to complete a gift wrap for the carton as further shown in FIG. 10. In order to complete the appearance of a gift wrapping, gummed seals, 63, 64 may then be placed over the fold lines meeting at the center of the carton at the top and bottom, respectively.

A carton formed in this manner has a number of advantages and is particularly economical for use in a store or other dispensary where a large number of items are being packaged, particularly during a holiday season when gift wrappings are particularly appropriate and it is not practicable to provide sufficient help or to use the time of clerks for hand-wrapping of packages. The wrapping further provides opportunity for advertising messages, etc. A further advantage to the customer is obtained in that he receives his wrapped package immediately after purchase thereof, without a waiting period, this package being to outward appearances the same as an individually wrapped carton of the same dimensions.

Whenever it is desired to provide a similar gift wrapping for a shape other than square, the means of erecting the carton from the flat-folded condition may vary and the dimensions and angles of the intersecting flaps is accordingly varied, as will be evident to those skilled in the carton art. The objects of the present invention are achieved in part through a cementing together of end flaps for the bottom section which are to fold together in the flat-folded condition and in the provision of diagonally cut lateral edges of those flaps which are to be exposed to view and meet at the center of the carton. Other flap portions which are covered by adjacent flaps need not be removed, while at the same time providing reinforcement for the bottom section. It is also noted that the top closure makes similar use of diagonal lines and apexed triangles meeting at the center, the last two flaps folded into position being above the first two flaps forming the closure, thereby to present the desired hand-wrapped appearance.

While the invention has been described with reference to an exemplary embodiment, it will be understood that other equivalent structures are intended to be included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a flat-foldable carton having four lateral walls mutually joined in pairs to form upright corners each wall having at one end thereof flap members cut away and creased to fold into the form of a bottom for the container when the carton is erected from the flat position, said walls having at the other ends thereof, respectively, foldable flap members cut away to foldably form the top of the carton, the improvement comprising

a decorative rectangular wrapping secured to the outer surfaces of said walls and flaps, respectively, being of continuous sheet form to cover cut away portions of said flap members, said wrapping being secured to said flap members at two opposite sides at each end of the carton and extending continuously therebetween, thereby to be foldable into wrapping posi-

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tion therewith and being supported free from said flap members over at least part of the area of two other said flap members the free portions being foldable diagonally over the end of the carton to exhibit fold lines intersecting centrally of the carton.

2. In a flat-foldable carton having four joined upright walls each including foldably attached bottom-forming flaps arranged to unfold when the carton erects from a flat position to form an open rectangularly cylindrical carton,

a top flap extending upward from each said wall and creased for folding inwardly at an intersection with said wall,

first and second said top flaps extending at least sufficiently to meet at the center of the carton throughout substantially the width of the carton,

third and fourth said top flaps each extending substantially in the form of an isosceles triangle based along a junction with the walls where attached and of altitude to substantially meet at apexes as said third and fourth walls are folded inwardly,

a continuous decorative covering on each said wall and bottom-forming flap to simulate gift wrapping when said carton is erected,

a portion of said covering being formed to extend uniformly above each wall a distance approximating said carton width,

said portion being laminated to said top flaps substantially throughout the common extent thereof and being unsupported at the corners of the carton and laterally from said corners to edges of said third and fourth flaps,

said portion being joined in square cylinder form, whereby enfolding of said first and second top flaps and then of said third and fourth top flaps completes a stimulated wrapping with folded points of the covering meeting at the carton top center.

3. In a carton according to claim 2, said first flap being of rectangular form to substantially close the top of the carton.

4. In a carton according to claim 2, said decorative wrapping being prelaminated to said walls and bottom-forming flaps.

5. In a carton according to claim 2, said bottom-forming flaps being shaped to interlock in a reinforced bottom structure as the carton is erected from the flap-folded condition, and said covering extending beyond the lower edge of each wall by substantially half of the carton width, being laminated to said flaps and shaped to fold and unfold therewith to form a folded cover over the bottom-forming flaps when the carton is erected.

6. In a carton according to claim 2, said bottom-forming flaps including at least three flaps cut away along one side toward the cylindrical axis when the bottom unfolds and to form a fold line for said covering as the carton is erected.

7. In a flat-foldable carton having four lateral walls mutually hinged together at upright corners when erected and each having at a corresponding end thereof flap members cut away and creased to fold into a reinforced bot-

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tom for the container, a plurality of said walls having at the other ends thereof members to foldingly close the top of the carton, the improvement comprising

a flap member hinged to the upper edge of one side wall having length and width substantially equal to the length and width of said carton when erected,

a second flap member hinged to the upper edge of a second wall being of substantially rectangular form having a width approximating the width of last said flap member and of length substantially half the length thereof for folding into place above said first flap member,

a decorative wrapping secured to the outer surfaces of said walls and flaps, respectively, being of continuous sheet form extending throughout the extent of said walls and of width to cover said flap members each to the extent of substantially one-half the width of the carton,

said wrapping being secured to said flap members at two opposite sides of each end of the carton thereby to be foldable into wrapping position therewith and being supported free from flap members over at least part of the area between said first and second flap members,

said wrapping supported free from flap members being caused to fold over said flaps at alternate sides of the carton to form a triangular fold thereon.

8. In a carton formed of four lateral walls joined to form an upright box foldable for flat storage, having a pair of preceased end flaps at one top of each of a pair of opposed walls, being dimensioned to fold into a carton closure, the carton having interlocking bottom flaps folded within said walls and being mutually interconnected to fold outward into a carton bottom as the walls are separated after flat storage, the improvement, comprising

continuous sheet means forming a decorative paper wrapping attached throughout the length of each side wall, and top flap,

said means forming a decorative paper wrapping exteriorly of each said flap and extending uniformly between said flaps to form a non-separated wall covering extension of substantially like extent beyond each of said walls to approximately one-half the carton width, and

means forming a decorative paper wrapping exteriorly attached to each said flap, of the carton bottom and extending beyond said walls substantially one-half carton width being continuous between said flaps to form a folded wrapping edge as the bottom is formed by folding said flaps to overlapping closed position.

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