Sept. 26, 1950 O. J. BLUHM 2,523,272

CRATE FOR BOTTLES

Filed June 2, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

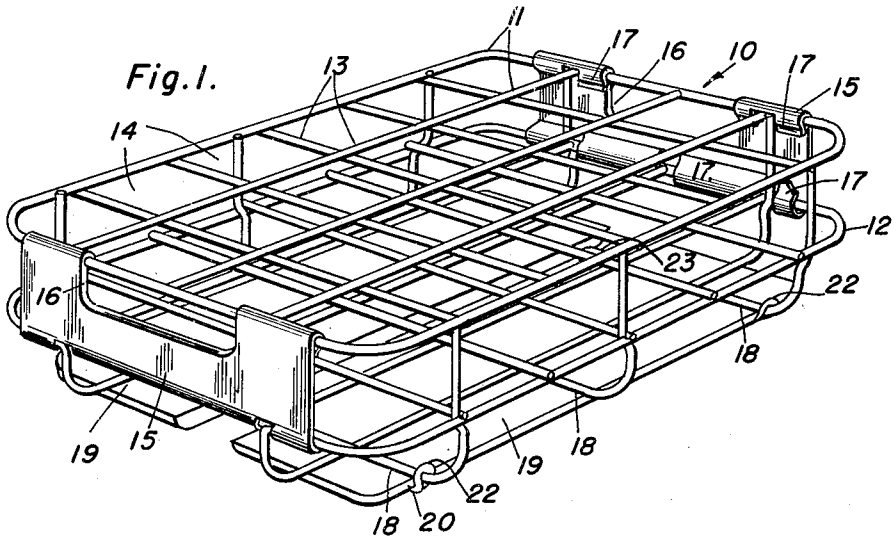


Fig. 2.

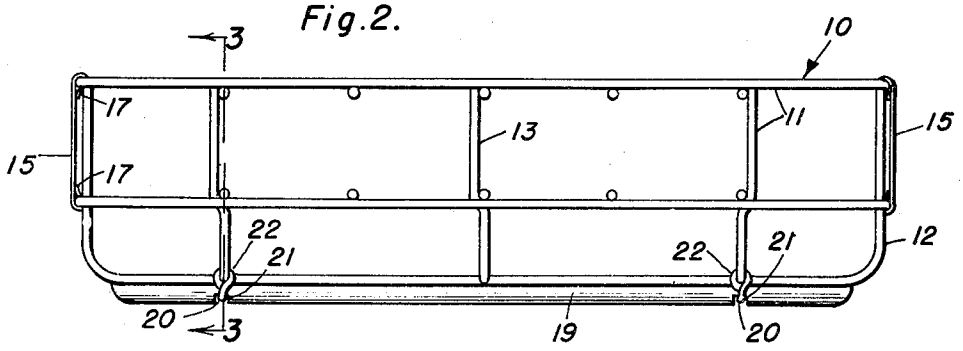
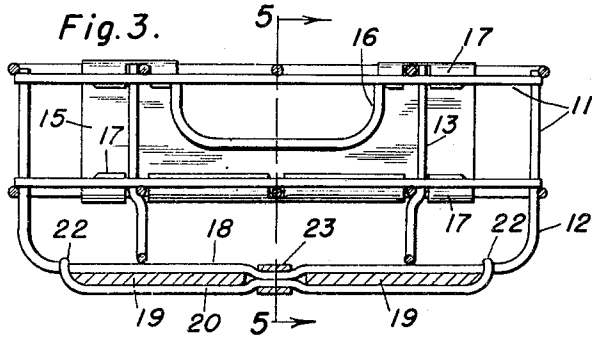


Fig. 3.



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Filed June 2, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

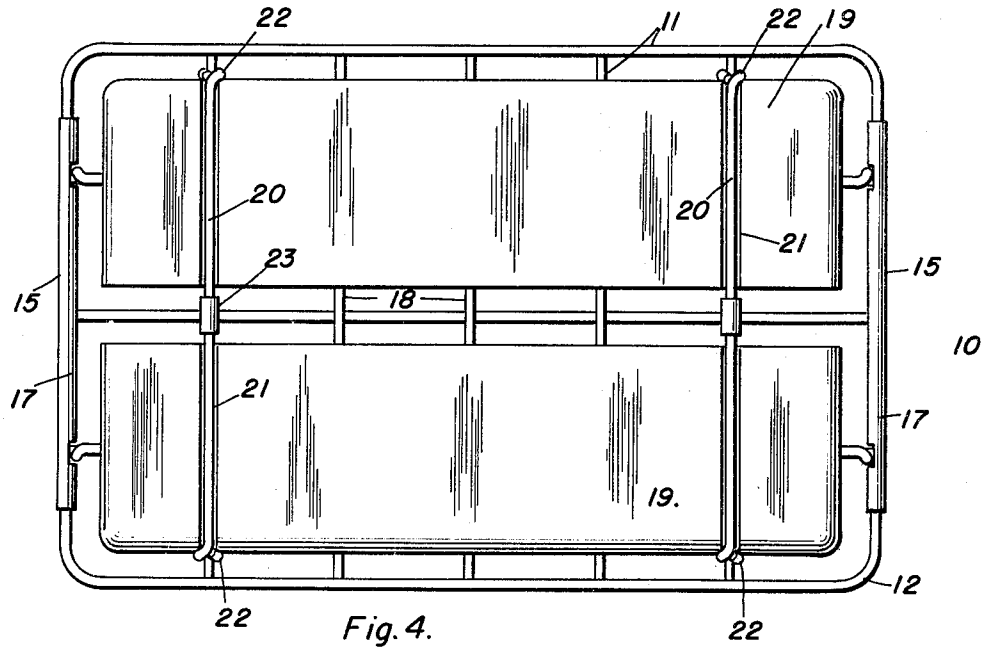


Fig. 4.

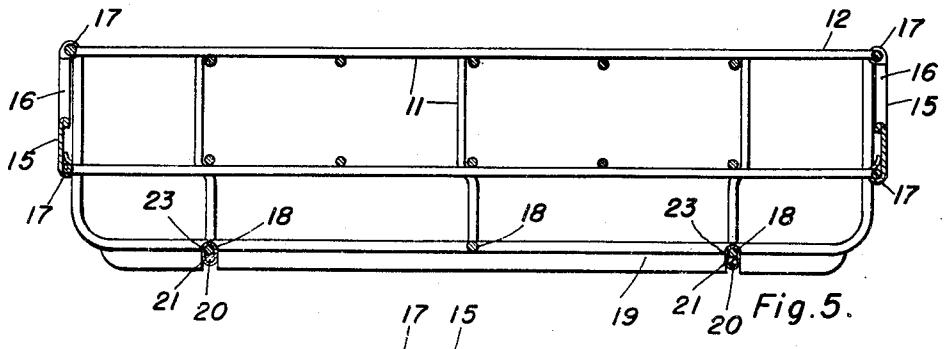


Fig. 5.

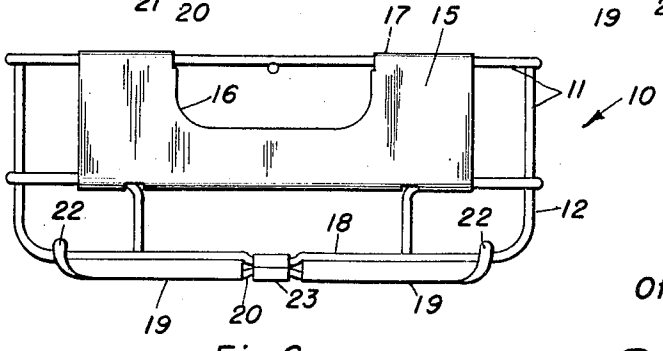


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,523,272

CRATE FOR BOTTLES

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Application June 2, 1947, Serial No. 751,873

1 Claim. (Cl. 220—19)

1

This invention relates to new and useful improvements and structural refinements in crates for bottles, more specifically, milk bottles, soft drink bottles, or the like, and the principal object of the invention is to provide a device of the character herein described which includes in its construction a case formed from wire rods and a plurality of panels constituting what might be called the bottom of said case, the panels being so arranged and secured to the case in such manner that they may be quickly and easily replaced when worn, and that the crate, as a whole, may be easily and conveniently slid along flat surfaces, conveyors, or inclines, during transportation.

A further object of the invention is to provide a crate for bottles which is simple in construction, which will readily lend itself to economical manufacture, and which will not easily become damaged.

Another object of the invention is to provide a crate in which the bottles may be easily applied or removed and which is otherwise well adapted for the purpose for which it is intended.

With the above more important objects in view and such other objects as may become apparent as this specification proceeds, the invention consists essentially of the construction and arrangement of parts as shown in the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof;

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view, taken substantially in a plane of the line 3—3 in Figure 2;

Fig. 4 is an underside view of the invention;

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view, taken substantially in a plane of the line 5—5 in Figure 3; and

Fig. 6 is an end view of the invention.

Like characters of reference are used to designate like parts in the specification throughout the several views.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings, the invention consists of the crate for bottles designated generally by the reference character 10, the same embodying in its construction a series of crossed wire rods 11 which are rigidly secured together at their points of crossing by welding, or the like, and form a case 12 including partitions 13 which separate the case into a plurality of bottle receiving compartments.

The particular structural arrangement of the various rods is of no importance and needless to say, any number of compartments may be provided, in accordance with the quantity and size of the bottles to be positioned therein.

If desired, the case 12 may have a somewhat

2

elongated configuration, and a pair of plates 15 may be provided at the ends of the case, said plates being formed with suitable openings or recesses 16 which, coacting with the rods of the case, will constitute what may be referred to as "handles" whereby the entire assembly may be easily and conveniently carried from one location to another.

The edge portions of the plates 15 may be arcuated around the rods 11 of the case as indicated at 17, whereby the plates will be rigidly secured in position, as will be clearly apparent.

It will be noted that certain of the rods which have been specifically designated by the reference character 18 constitute what may be called a base of the case, and the essence of the invention resides in the provision of bottom panels 19 which underlie the rods 18, as is best shown in Figures 2, 3, 4, and 6.

The panels 19 extend longitudinally of the case 12 in spaced parallel relation with respect to each other, and means, presently to be described, are employed for releasably securing the panels in position.

Said means consist of a plurality of bars or rods 20 which extend transversely of and underlie the panels 19, the under surface of the panels preferably being formed with a series of transversely extending grooves 21 in which the bars 20 may be accommodated, so that they do not project below the under surface of the panels and thereby interfere with the sliding of the case during transportation.

The end portions of the bars 20 are arcuated to provide suitable loops or eyes 22 which encircle the aforementioned rods 18, as will be clearly understood. The mid portions of the bars 20 and of the rods 18 are laterally offset so that they are disposed in mutually contacting relation, and means are employed for releasably attaching these mid portions together, said means comprising suitable straps of flexible material 23.

These straps are disposed in the space existing between the panels 19, and it will be noted that each strap encircles one of the rods 18 and one of the bars 20, as is best shown in Figures 3, 5 and 6.

It will be found that in this manner, the panels 19 will be firmly and rigidly retained in position, yet after the panels have been subjected to a certain amount of wear, they may be quickly and easily replaced by simply removing the straps 23 and forcing the mid portions of the rods 18, 20 apart, so that sufficient clearance is obtained to facilitate unobstructed removal of the panels.

After the panels have been replaced, the clamps or straps **23** are simply reinstalled in position.

At the same time, it should be noted that by virtue of the grooves **21**, the bars **20** are disposed above the lower surface of the panels **19** so that the entire crate may be easily and conveniently slid along conveyors, inclines, or the like.

It is believed that the advantages of the invention will be clearly apparent from the foregoing disclosure and accordingly, further description thereof at this point is deemed unnecessary.

While in the foregoing there has been shown and described the preferred embodiment of this invention it is to be understood that minor changes in the details of construction, combination and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

In a wire crate, a bottom comprising a set of spaced rods, a set of bendable bars provided at

opposite ends thereof with loops slidable on the respective rods, a plurality of spaced panels removably positioned and frictionally retained between said rods and said bars, intermediate portions of the bars and rods being offset to contact each other in the space between said panels, and means for separably securing the offset portions of the respective bars and rods together.

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