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FOLDABLE ANIMAL SHIPPING CONTAINER

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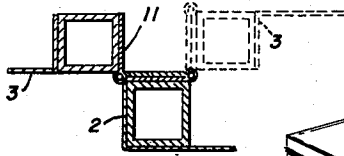


FIG. 5.

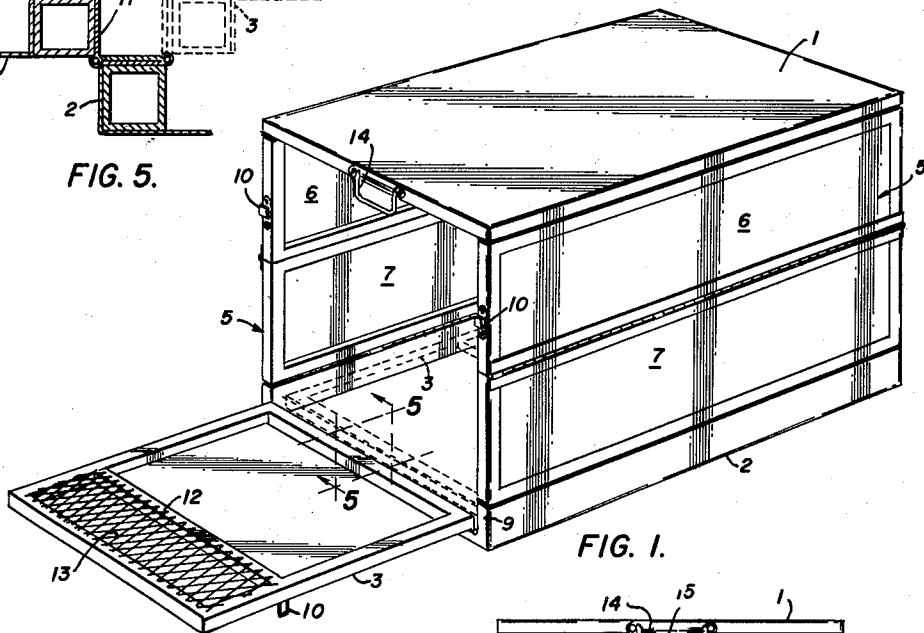


FIG. 1.

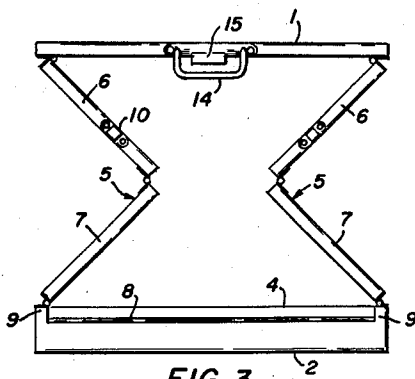


FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.

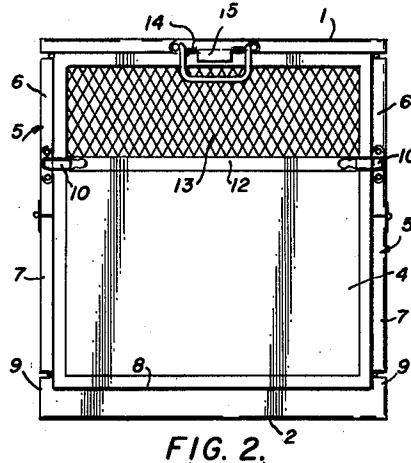


FIG. 2.

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FOLDABLE ANIMAL SHIPPING CONTAINER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 119-19)

This invention relates to a foldable shipping container, and it concerns more particularly a foldable box for use in transporting small animals, such as monkeys, by air, which container is formed primarily of light weight sheet metal and is foldable to relatively small dimension and is characterized by its light weight and its compactness, requiring little cargo space, when empty.

The invention contemplates a foldable shipping container as described which in its folded position has its opposite ends folded inwardly on the bottom thereof, one above another, and has its opposite sides formed in substantially equal upper and lower sections which are hinged together and to the top and bottom of the container, and in their folded positions are folded inwardly on themselves with the sections on one side in parallel, side by side relation to the corresponding sections of the opposite side above the folded ends and immediately below the top of the container.

The invention further contemplates a foldable shipping container as described in which the sections of said opposite sides, respectively, are secured in their erect positions by abutment against the adjacent side edges of said opposite ends, or either of them, to which one of the sections of each side is removably connected whereby said opposite ends are supported in their vertical, closed positions.

An object of the invention is to provide a foldable shipping container as described which is characterized by its height, which advantageously may be relatively greater than its width and which height may approach the length thereof.

Another object of the invention is to provide a foldable shipping container as described having one of its opposite ends connected to the bottom of the container by a double hinge whereby it is movable substantially 180 degrees about its hinge from a first position, in which it is folded inwardly on the bottom of the container, to a second position in which it extends longitudinally outwardly from the container for use as a combined door and loading opening for admitting animals to the container and releasing them therefrom.

Another object of the invention is to provide foldable shipping containers as described which afford substantial protection against the weather for animals received therein while at the same time having window openings in its opposite ends to admit light and air.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a foldable shipping container as described which is characterized by its simplicity as well as its attractive appearance, one which may be produced inexpensively, and is efficient in operation and durable in use.

The invention will be readily understood by referring to the following description and the accompanying drawing, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a foldable shipping container embodying the invention as seen from the front, top, and one side thereof, showing the front end of the container in its extended position for use as a combined door and loading ramp for admitting animals to the container and releasing them therefrom.

FIGURE 2 is a back view thereof showing the back end of the container in its vertical closed position and showing the sections of two opposite sides of the container secured in their erect positions by abutment against the adjacent side edges of said back end.

FIGURE 3 is a back view showing the back end of

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the container in its horizontal folded position in which it overlies the front end of the container, not shown in FIGURE 3, in its folded position, and showing the opposite sides of the container in their partially folded positions.

FIGURE 4 is a front view showing the container in its completely folded position; and

FIGURE 5 is a sectional elevational view on an enlarged scale, taken on the line 5-5 of FIGURE 1, showing the double hinge whereby the front end of the container is connected to the bottom thereof.

Referring to the drawing, the foldable shipping container of the invention comprises a rectangular box having a top 1, a bottom 2, a front end 3, a back end 4, and two opposite sides 5 each having an upper section 6 and a lower section 7 as hereinafter described.

The top 1, the bottom 2, the front and back ends 3, 4, and the upper and lower sections 6, 7 of the two opposite sides 5 are of light weight construction and each consists of a rectangular panel of light weight sheet metal which is supported on a rigid tubular frame.

The front and back ends 3, 4 are connected by hinges to the bottom 2, which has an upstanding marginal portion 8 coextensive with its rearward edge whereby the front and back ends 3, 4 are adapted to be folded inwardly on the bottom 2, in the folded positions thereof, with the back end 4, which is hinged to the upstanding marginal portion 8, overlying the front end 3.

The upper and lower sections 6, 7, of the two opposite sides 5, which are substantially equal, are hinged together and to the top 1 and the bottom 2, respectively. The bottom 2 has upstanding marginal portions 9 coextensive with its opposite side edges which extend upwardly above the marginal portions 8, and in their folded positions the upper and lower sections 6, 7 are folded inwardly on themselves, with the sections 6, 7 of one of the sides 5 in parallel, side by side relation to the corresponding sections 6, 7 of the opposite side 5 and with the lower sections 7, which are hinged to the upstanding marginal portions 9, positioned above the folded ends 3, 4 and immediately below the top 1.

The upper and lower sections 6, 7 of the two opposite sides 5, respectively, are secured in their erect positions, in alignment with each other, by abutment against the adjacent side edges of the front and back ends 3, 4, or either of them, to which the upper section 6 of each of the sides 5 is removably connected, at 10, whereby the front and back ends 3, 4 are supported in their vertical, closed positions also.

The front end 3 is connected to the bottom 2 of the container by a double hinge 11 whereby it is movable substantially 180 degrees about its hinge from a first position, in which it is folded inwardly on the bottom 2 of the container, to a second position in which it extends longitudinally outwardly from the container for use as a combined door and loading ramp for admitting animals to the container and releasing them therefrom.

The front and back ends 3, 4 have window openings 12, which may be covered with suitable screens 13, to admit light and air. A pair of bails 14 are connected to the top 1 adjacent opposite ends for use as handles, and a stop 15 projects downwardly from one end of the top 1 to engage the upper outer surface of the back end 4.

The invention is not limited to the exemplary construction herein shown and described, but may be made in various ways within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A foldable shipping container for use in transporting small animals comprising a foldable box which in its folded position has its opposite ends folded inwardly on the bottom thereof, one above another, and has its opposite sides formed in substantially equal upper and lower sections which are hinged together and to the top and

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bottom of the container, respectfully, and in their folded positions are folded inwardly on themselves, with the sections of one side in parallel, side by side relation to the corresponding sections of the opposite side, above said folded ends and immediately below the top of the container, the bottom of the container having upstanding marginal portions coextensive with its rearward edge and its opposite side edges, respectively, said last mentioned marginal portions extending upwardly above said first mentioned marginal portion, one of said opposite ends being hinged to said first mentioned marginal portion whereby it overlies the other of said opposite ends in their folded positions and the lower sections of said opposite sides being hinged to said last mentioned marginal portions, respectively, whereby they overlie said folded ends in the folded positions thereof, the sections of said opposite sides, respectively, being secured in their erect positions, in alignment with each other, by abutment against the adjacent side edges of said opposite ends, or either of them, to which one of the sections of each side is removably connected whereby said opposite ends are supported in their vertical, closed positions also, one of said opposite ends being connected to the bottom of the container by a double hinge whereby it is movable substantially 180 degrees about its hinge from a first position, in which it

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is folded inwardly on the bottom of the container, to a second position in which it extends longitudinally outwardly from the container for use as a combined door and loading ramp for admitting animals to the container and releasing them therefrom.

2. The structure of claim 1, the top, the bottom, said opposite ends, and said upper and lower sections of said opposite sides being of light weight construction and each consisting of a rectangular panel of light weight sheet metal supported on a rigid tubular frame, and said opposite ends having window openings therein to admit light and air.

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