Jan. 9, 1951 E. L. ARNESON 2,537,614

BOTTLE CARRIER

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Fig. 1.

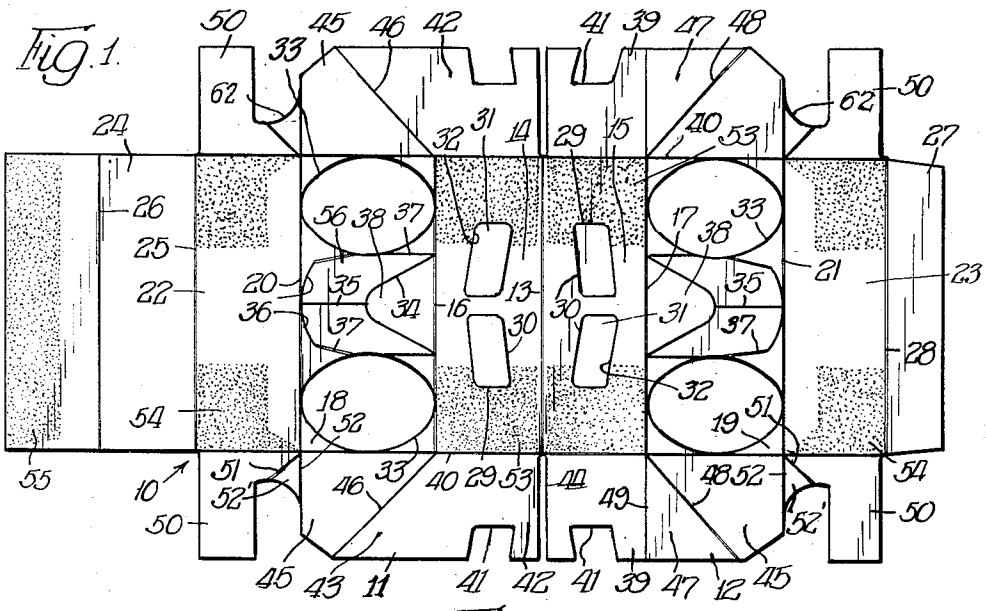
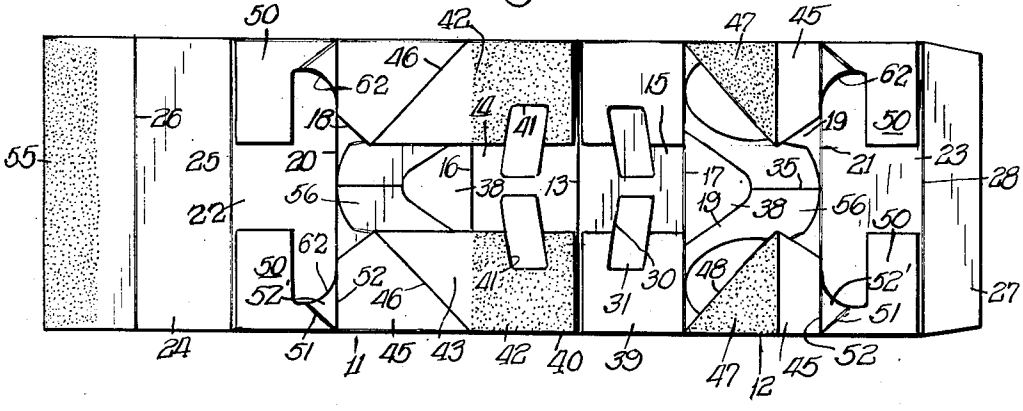


Fig. 2.



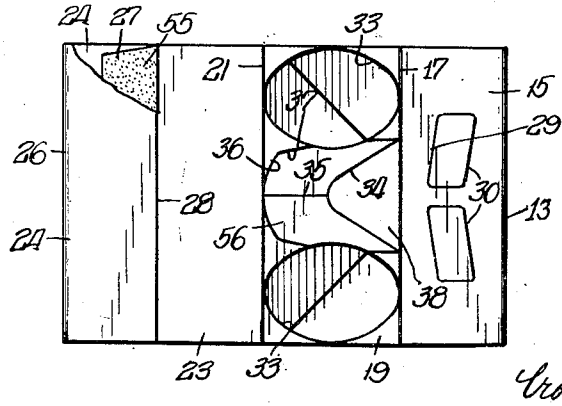


Fig. 3.

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BOTTLE CARRIER

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Fig. 4

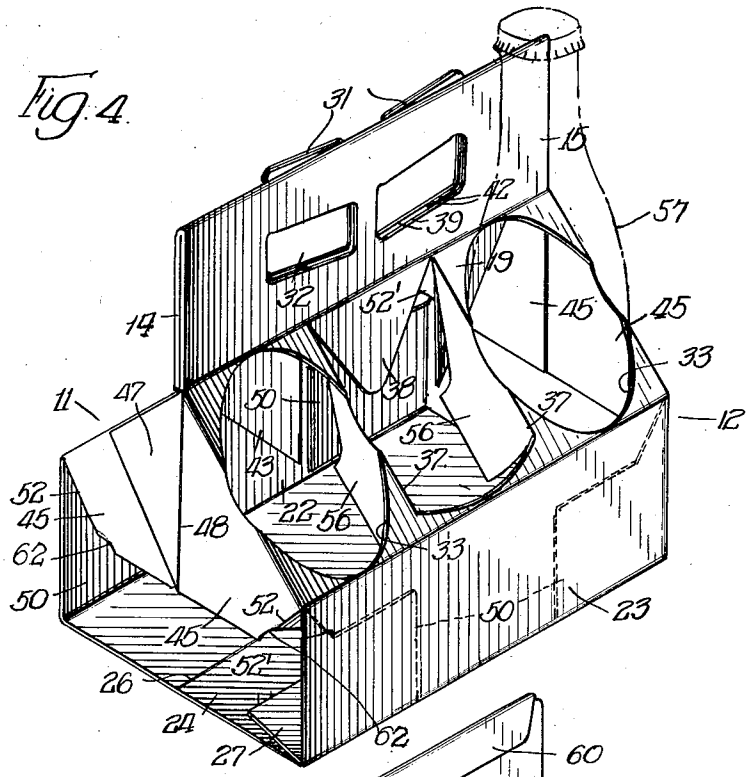
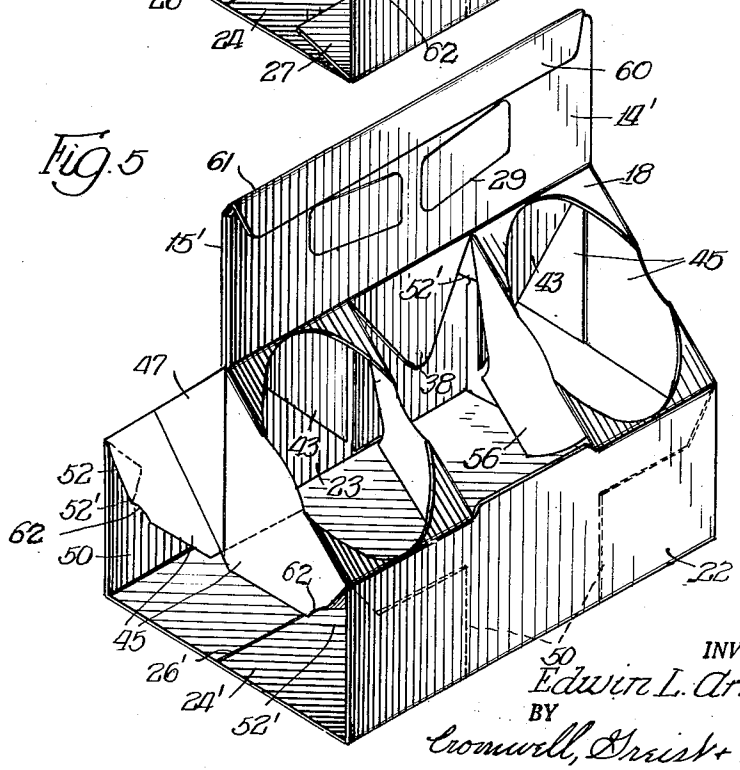


Fig. 5



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Fig. 6.

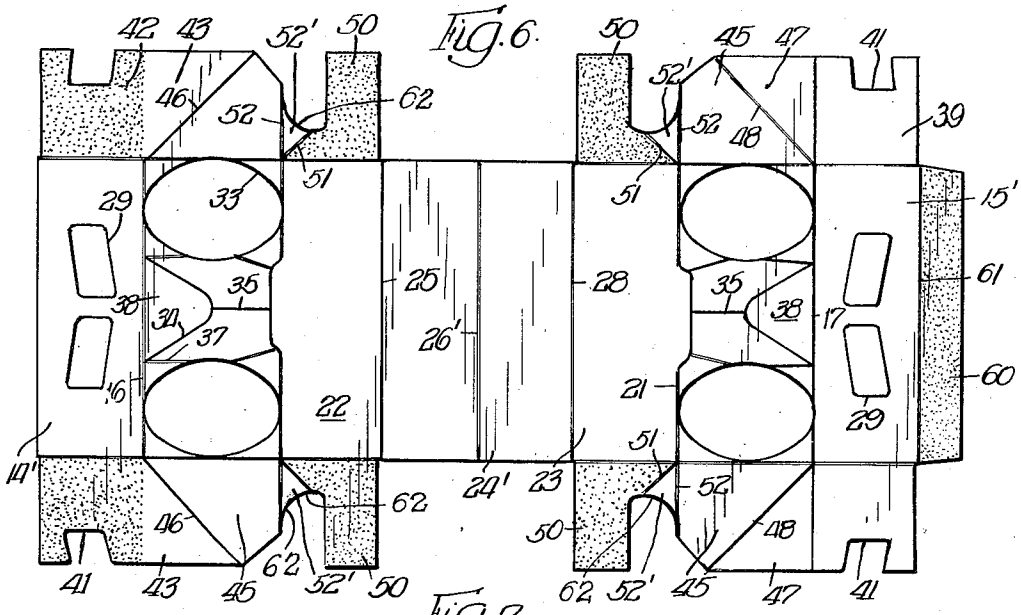
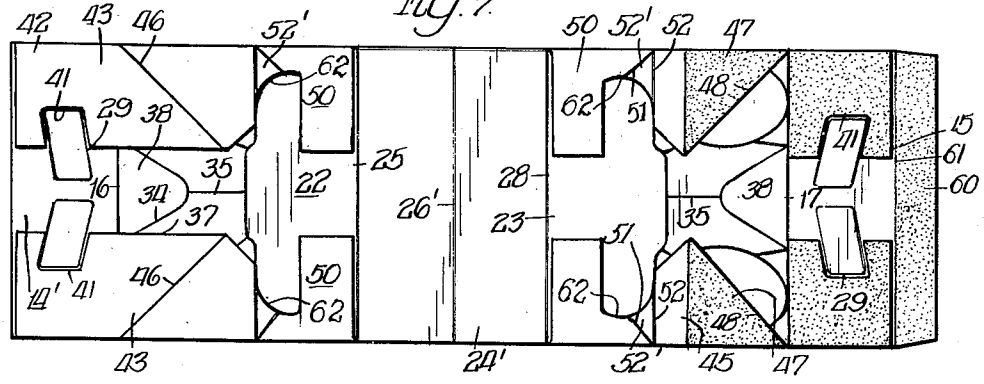


Fig. 7.



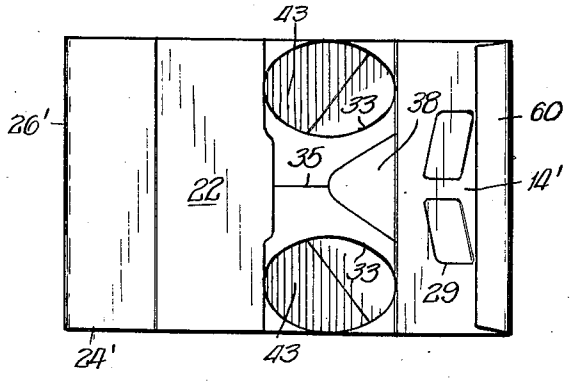


Fig. 8.

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2,537,614

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,537,614

BOTTLE CARRIER

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Application August 30, 1947, Serial No. 771,489

13 Claims. (Cl. 224—45)

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This invention pertains to an improved, flexible paper board carrier or container for bottles or like articles. More particularly, the invention deals with improvements rendering the carrier widely adapted for the accommodation of various types of specially contoured or more conventional shaped types of bottles or articles, and also with the strengthening and reinforcing of the carrier in a manner to resist weakening or rupture after repeated use.

It is a general object of the invention to provide a bottle carrier or the like fabricated of inexpensive paper stock in a relatively light gauge which has provisions for receiving and transporting parallel rows of bottles on either side of a central, vertically extending handle member, said provisions involving the substantial strengthening of the handle member by a multiply construction thereof.

Another object of the invention is the provision of novel depending separator elements on the aforesaid central handle member, whereby said rows of bottles are separated from destructive contact with one another in transport.

Yet another object is to provide a handle member including a central, vertically extending, multi-ply, reinforced handle and opposed, carrier end wall defining portions depending from and integrally connected to the plies of said handle, together with improved provisions for securing said wall defining portions together and bracing the same at the ends of the carrier, thereby to resist lateral separation or spread of said portions under the load of the bottles in the carrier when the latter is suspended by the handle.

It is a more specific object of the invention to provide a carrier having a novel, multiple-ply handle member or panel in which the plies thereof are arranged in side-by-side parallel relation and have integral reinforcing end flaps thereon disposed between and adhesively secured to said plies in a manner to strongly reinforce and stiffen the handle structure.

Still more specifically, it is an object to provide a reinforced carrier handle of the type described in the preceding paragraph, in which the flaps referred to carry integral depending tabs adapted to separate the contents of the carrier in the operative, erected and filled condition of the latter.

A still further object is to provide a flexible paper board bottle carrier including a central, vertically disposed handle member, side walls paralleling and spaced laterally from said member on either side thereof, inclined, apertured bottle receiving sections connecting said respective walls to the handle member, and end walls, in which said side walls are substantially reinforced and stiffened, as well as braced in their operative erected relation to one another by foldable tab means integrally connected to the side walls, and also to the end walls and inclined sections.

The foregoing statements are indicative in a

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general way of the nature of the invention, but other and more specific objects will be apparent to those skilled in the art upon a full understanding of the construction and operation of the device.

Two embodiments of the invention are presented herein for purpose of exemplification, but it will be appreciated that the invention is susceptible of incorporation in other modified forms coming equally within the scope of the appended claims.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a die cut blank employed in fabricating one embodiment of the present bottle carrier, illustrating the manner in which the blank is creased and glued preparatory to folding of the parts thereof;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the blank in partially folded condition;

Fig. 3 is a plan view illustrating the completed carrier in its folded but knocked-down condition, being partially broken away to clarify a detail;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view illustrating a carrier in accordance with the embodiment of Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, in the operative erected condition thereof ready to receive its contents;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the erected container in a somewhat modified embodiment of the invention; and

Figs. 6, 7 and 8 are plan views which are generally similar to Figs. 1, 2 and 3 respectively, and which illustrate a blank and method of preparing and manipulating the same in the formation of the carrier illustrated in Fig. 5.

This invention deals with certain improvements in a flexible paper board bottle carrier of the type illustrated and described in my earlier Patents No. 2,345,565 and 2,345,567, of April 4, 1944. Although not necessarily restricted in this regard, the patented carriers were in fact specially devised for the reception and transportation of the familiar and well known, specially contoured, "Coca-Cola" type of bottle, characterized by a waist portion of a restricted diameter and girth as compared to the portions of the bottle immediately above and below said waist portion. To this end, a triangular outline of the carrier, in which bottle receiving openings were formed in the inclined, upwardly convergent side walls, was found to be highly advantageous, by reason of the snug encirclement and gripping, at vertically spaced, inner and outer zones of the bottles at the respective portions of greater and lesser diameter which was afforded by the upward inclination of the carrier side walls from bottom to top of the carrier. However, it has been found that the aforesaid patented construction is not equally well adapted for the reception of straight sided or cylindrical types of bottles due to a tendency to bind at the opposed inner and outer sides of the bottles, necessarily so because a construction specially devised to accommodate a specially contoured bottle of dif-

ferent diameters will obviously not equally well accommodate a bottle of constant girth. The present improvements remedy this drawback and afford a carrier which is uniformly adaptable to receive all conventional types of bottles, regardless of outline.

The bottle carrier likewise features certain improvements in its handle and end wall structure resulting in improved rigidity and stability of the carrier as a whole. In this respect, the invention has some applicability to a slightly different type of bottle carrier, such as that illustrated and described in the patents to Lebold No. 2 389,318, of November 20, 1945, and No. 2,460,229, of January 25, 1949.

Additionally, the present carrier embodies improvements directed to the maintaining of opposite side portions or sections of the carrier in predetermined fixed relation, in the erected condition of the carrier, preventing a tendency of said portions to separate under load along a longitudinal medial plane normal to the carrier ends, such as has been found to characterize previous carriers. This improvement is made possible by an improved, lapped securement of certain end wall defining panels of the carrier in the plane of the end wall defined thereby. Hence, advertisements or ornamental matter applied to the end walls of the carrier are not distorted by lateral spreading of the walls normal to said plane; and, moreover, the carrier is strengthened materially.

The invention further deals with the provision of an improved central suspending handle of greatly reinforced strength, attributable to a novel, multi-ply construction thereof; as well as to the provision of novel separator tabs integral with the handle reinforcing provisions and depending in the vertical plane of the handle between parallel rows of bottles received in the carrier.

Still other novel and highly valuable improvements from the standpoint of general strengthening and reinforcing of the carrier will appear from the description to follow.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2 and 3 of the drawings, the reference numeral **10** in Fig. 1 generally indicates a die cut blank of a suitable, relatively inexpensive and relatively light weight paper board or cardboard from which the carrier is constructed in accordance with one embodiment thereof, the completed and erected carrier being shown in Fig 4. Blank **10** is generally subdivided into two opposed side portions **11**, **12** by a medial crease or fold line **13**, providing handle panels **14**, **15** on either side of said crease adapted to be folded along the latter into superposed or side-by-side parallel relation. Creases or fold lines **16**, **17** paralleling the crease **13** serve to flexibly cojoin the opposed, inclined bottle receiving panels or sections **18**, **19** to the respective panels **14**, **15**; and the creases **20**, **21** similarly connect the side wall sections **22**, **23**, respectively, to opposed margins of the sections **18**, **19**.

The section **22** has a bottom forming panel **24** flexibly connected thereto along a crease line **25** paralleling the lines **13**, **16**, **20**, and is in turn subdivided into two equal areas by a parallel crease line **26** on which bottom panel **24** is adapted to be folded on itself in the knocked-down condition of the carton. The other side wall **23** has a glue lap **27** foldably connected thereto along the fold line **28**.

Handle panels **14**, **15** are provided with correspondingly located pairs of generally U-shaped slits **29**, the opposite ends of which are connected by inclined creases **30**, enabling the thus outlined material **31** of said handle panels to be displaced laterally therefrom in the completed condition of the carrier, in a known fashion, and thereby afford finger receiving holes **32**. The inclined sections **18**, **19** have identical provisions to enable insertion of bottles therethrough, in the form of bottle receiving apertures **33** adjacent the end margins thereof, which, together with the slits at **34**, **35** and **36** and slit-connecting crease lines **37**, afford a central bottle receiving aperture between the apertures **33**. The several apertures are separated by inwardly swingable divider flaps **56**. The central bottles on either side of the carrier are adapted to be separated from one another by the depending divider tabs **38** in the plane of the handle panels **14**, **15** which are of a generally well known type.

Along the opposed end margins of blank **10**, the latter is provided with the various reinforcing and connecting provisions, in the form of certain members, flaps or tabs with which the present invention to a large extent deals. These consist of the handle reinforcing tabs **39** bendably connected to handle panel **15** along corresponding segments of the parallel fold or crease lines **40** of the blank which flexibly connect the aforesaid provisions along opposed end margins of the blank to the various central sections, panels or areas of the blank which have been described above. Tabs **39** are notched at **41** to register with the finger holes **32** when the tabs are folded along said segments of line **40** onto the panel **15**. Handle panel **14** also has tabs **42** flexibly conjoined to opposed end margins of the same along further segments of fold line **40**, said tabs being similar to tabs **39** with the exception that they additionally include the correspondingly directed, triangular side extension areas **43**. The tabs **39**, **42** on the respective handle panels **14**, **15** are separated substantially from one another with the medial crease **13**, in order to accommodate the thickness thereof between said panels in the folded condition of the blank.

The provisions adjoining the ends of the respective inclined bottle receiving panels **18**, **19** and the side wall panels **22**, **23** are generally similar, so that in the main like reference numerals are employed to designate the same. They consist of the end wall defining flaps **45** flexibly conjoined to the panels **18**, **19** by crease line **40**, it being noted that the flap on the panel **18** corresponding to carrier portion **11** is separated from the adjoining area **43** of tab **42** on panel **14** by a cut or slit **46**, while the flap **45** on the panel **19** of the other carrier portion **12** includes a triangular area **47** flexibly conjoined thereto along a fold line **48**. This area **47** is separated from the adjacent tab **39** of handle panel **15** by a slit or cut **49**.

The side wall panels **22**, **23** have the reinforcing and rigidifying tabs **50** conjoined thereto along crease line **40**, said tabs **50** being in turn flexibly connected to the flaps **45** by the creases **51**, **52** defining gussets **52'**, by which the side walls are hingedly connected to the end walls of the carrier when the latter is erected, in the manner hereinafter described. Crease **51** is slit in part for ease in folding.

In preparing the blank for final folding, adhesive is applied to areas **53** of the handle panels

14, 15 corresponding to the shape of the portions of tabs 39, 42 which contact said panels when folded inwardly thereon along lines 40. The blank is also coated on the side wall sections 22, 23 with an adhesive at areas 54 corresponding in shape to the reinforcing tabs 50; and the outer edge of the foldable bottom section 24 is coated at 55 in correspondence with the outline of the opposed glue lap 27.

With adhesive applied in the manner described, the various tabs and flaps 39, 42, 45 and 50 are folded inwardly onto adjoining sections or panels of the blank, applying sufficient pressure to cause the glued portions to adhere to superposed surfaces. The areas 47 of the flaps 45 are then reversely folded to face upwardly, in the manner illustrated in Fig. 2, and coated with an adhesive. Areas of the inwardly folded tabs 42 or tabs 39 may also be glued for final adherence to one another. The sequence of the gluing and folding operation of course admits of some alteration, as will be recognized by those skilled in the art.

With the parts in the above condition, the carrier side portion 12 is folded as a unit along medial crease line 13 onto the portion 11, causing the glued area 47 to contact and adhere to the similar triangular area 43 of reinforcing tab 42 and bringing the outer margin of glue lap 27 adjacent the central crease 26 of bottom forming section 24 of said portion 11. Said section is then folded along said crease to bring the glued area 55 thereof into adhesively secured engagement with the glue lap, in the manner illustrated in Fig. 3.

The carrier is now in the completed, knockdown condition, ready for manipulation to its operative erected condition illustrated in Fig. 5, and for the reception of bottles. This is accomplished by simply applying compressive pressure to the collapsed carrier on the opposite sides thereof shown in Fig. 3, i. e., at crease lines 13 and 26. The bottom section 24 is thereby caused to assume a flat planar condition extending between the side walls 22, 23, which then lie normal to it. The flaps 45, which are adhesively secured in superposed or overlapped, parallel relation, automatically flex outwardly along the crease line 48, the gussets 52' readily permitting such movement relative to the side walls 22, 23 and inclined bottle receiving sections 18, 19 to which said flaps 45 are connected. The aforesaid overlapped and adhesively secured engagement of the end wall defining flaps 45 prevents any tendency of the portions 11, 12 of the carrier to separate under load in a direction normal to the vertical plane of load support. This enables the end wall thus constituted to be printed or decorated without likelihood of loss of effect attending such separation. Separating stress is borne solely in the plane of the end wall through the overlapped, substantial areas of glued connection, as opposed to a butt jointed relationship wherein tearing and separation of the parts is likely to occur. The infolded tabs 50 are adhesively secured to the side walls 22, 23 in a manner to reinforce and stiffen the same to a material extent, particularly adjacent the end margins of said walls where such support is most needed.

Full erection and maintenance of the end walls in right angle relation to bottom panel 24 and the side walls 22, 23 ordinarily attends insertion of the bottles; and, so inserted, the rows of bottles on opposite sides of the handle panels are separated from one another and prevented from

jostling and rattling by tabs 38 depending from handle panels 14, 15, and also by the depending areas 43 on the in-folded, handle reinforcing tabs 42. Said tabs 42, being adhesively secured to the respective panels 14, 15 of the handle, greatly reinforce and stiffen the latter. When it is desired to lift the filled carrier, the patches 31 are displaced to one side of the handle to expose the finger holes 32.

It will be noted that the parts are so designed that the handle constituted by panels 14, 15 terminates beneath the tops of bottles 57 disposed in the carrier, thereby enabling filled carriers to be stacked vertically without interference with with the handle provisions. This feature also contributes greatly to the stability of the carrier and its resistance to wracking stresses by lowering the hand grip relative to the center of gravity of the loaded carrier.

Bottles of all conventional types are snugly accommodated without destructive binding in the apertures 33 and the central aperture therebetween, exposed when the divider flaps 56 defined by slits 34, 35, 36 are swung inwardly on crease lines 37. These areas serve as transverse partitions for the bottles in the respective rows.

The form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 5 through 9 is very similar to that illustrated in Figs. 1 through 4, the main difference being that the adhesive joint of the portions 11, 12 of the carrier is effected at the top of the handle, rather than on the bottom panel. This is advantageous in the event of the latter type joint becoming weakened or loosened when subjected to moisture conditions. It is not deemed necessary to describe common features of the two embodiments in further detail, because of the extensive similarity of these embodiments, and said common features have accordingly merely been indicated, for the most part, by similar reference numerals.

The relationship of the several reinforcing and securing tabs and flaps conjoined to the body portion of the blank along the fold lines 40 is identical with reference to the respective sections, walls and panels of said body portion, as was described in connection with the first embodiment. The functioning is correspondingly identical. The only difference resides in the fact that a glue lap, here denoted 60, is flexibly conjoined to one of the handle panels, indicated by the reference numeral 15', instead of to a bottom panel, along a crease line 61; and it is adapted to be folded over the opposite margin of the other handle panel 14' along said crease line 61 and adhesively secured to the outside thereof, in the manner illustrated in Fig. 5. In assembling the carrier, the parts, previously glued and folded as shown in Fig. 7 and as described in connection with Fig. 2, are folded upon themselves along the medial crease 26' in bottom panel 24'. Glue lap 60 is then folded around and secured to a side of handle panel.

The only real difference between the forms of Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive on the one hand, and of Figs. 5 to 8 inclusive on the other, is that in the former the handle panels are disposed centrally of the blank, the other panels extending outwardly therefrom, while in the latter the bottom forming section is disposed centrally of the blank, the other panels extending successively outwardly from said section in reversed order as compared with the form of Figs. 1 to 4.

In erected condition, the carrier according to the second modification has the form illustrated

in Fig. 5. Its functioning and advantages are the same as the form shown in Fig. 4, with the further advantage that the glued joint is removed from the bottom panel and disposed along the ridge or upper margin of the handle.

In either form of the invention the tabs 50, which are adhesively connected to the side walls of the carrier, the adjacent flaps 45, which constitute the erected end walls, and the intervening gussets 52' are preferably contoured specially to more readily accommodate the end bottles of the two rows disposed in the carrier. This is accomplished by the provision of the arcuate, quadrant shaped bays 62 extending between tabs 50 and flaps 45 across the intermediate gusset 52'. These bays afford concave pockets in the end wall and gusset, in the erected condition of the carrier, in which said end bottles are snugly nested. Any tendency of the gusset to cut down on the available space in the carrier is eliminated.

What I claim is:

1. A collapsible bottle carrier fabricated of flexible fibrous material, comprising in erected condition thereof a bottom, a pair of opposed side wall panels flexibly conjoined to said bottom, a handle member, a pair of apertured bottle receiving panels integrally connecting said handle member to said respective side wall panels, and end sections flexibly connected to the end margins of said respective side wall and bottle receiving panels, said end sections of said bottle receiving panels having coplanar portions of substantial area in overlapping and secured relation to one another to define a substantially planar, multiple-ply end wall in said erected condition, and said end wall having a crease along which said end sections are collapsible to parallel relation, said end sections of said side wall panels being secured in side-by-side relation to the latter and foldably connected to said end wall-defining sections.

2. A collapsible bottle carrier fabricated of flexible fibrous material, comprising in erected condition thereof a bottom, a pair of opposed side wall panels flexibly conjoined to said bottom and disposed substantially normal thereto, a handle member spaced above said bottom and located in a plane between and substantially paralleling said side wall panels, a pair of apertured bottle receiving panels integrally connecting said handle member to said respective side wall panels, and end sections flexibly connected to the end margins of said respective side wall and bottle receiving panels, said end sections of said bottle receiving panels having coplanar portions of substantial area in overlapping and secured relation to one another to define a substantially planar, multiple-ply end wall in said erected condition, and said end wall having a crease along which said end sections are collapsible to parallel relation, said end sections of said side wall panels being secured in side-by-side relation to the latter and foldably connected to said end wall-defining sections, said handle member being of multi-ply thickness and comprising integral, vertically upward extensions of said bottle receiving panels secured in parallel side-by-side relation.

3. A collapsible bottle carrier fabricated of flexible fibrous material, comprising in erected condition thereof a bottom, a pair of opposed side wall panels flexibly conjoined to said bottom, a handle member, a pair of apertured bottle receiving panels integrally connecting said handle member to said respective side wall panels, and end sections flexibly connected to the end margins of said respective side wall and bottle receiving panels, said end sections of said bottle receiving panels having coplanar portions of substantial area in overlapping and secured relation to one another to define a substantially planar, multiple-ply end wall in said erected condition, and said end wall having a crease along which said end sections are collapsible to parallel relation, said end sections of said side wall panels being secured in side-by-side relation to the latter and foldably connected to said end wall-defining sections, said handle member being of multi-ply thickness and comprising integral, vertically upward extensions of said bottle receiving panels secured in parallel side-by-side relation, said extensions having lateral tabs bendably connected thereto and disposed between said respective sections of the handle member.

4. A collapsible bottle carrier fabricated of flexible fibrous material, comprising in erected condition thereof a bottom, a pair of opposed side wall panels flexibly conjoined to said bottom, a handle member, a pair of apertured bottle receiving panels integrally connecting said handle member to said respective side wall panels, and end sections flexibly connected to the end margins of opposed corresponding panels of at least one of said pairs, said end sections having coplanar portions of substantial area in overlapping and secured relation to one another to define a substantially planar, multiple-ply end wall in said erected condition, and said end wall having a crease along which said end sections are collapsible to parallel relation, said handle member being of multi-ply thickness and comprising integral, vertically upward extensions of said bottle receiving panels secured in parallel side-by-side relation, said extensions having lateral tabs bendably connected thereto and disposed between said respective sections of the handle member, said tabs including integral portions depending vertically beneath said handle member to constitute separator elements internally of the carrier.

5. A collapsible bottle carrier having in the erected condition thereof a bottom, opposed side wall panels integrally and flexibly joined to said bottom and disposed substantially normal thereto, a handle member spaced above said bottom and located in a plane between and substantially paralleling said side wall panels, inclined and apertured bottle receiving panels connected to said handle member and side wall panels and diverging downwardly and outwardly from said handle member to said side wall panels, and end sections flexibly connected respectively to end margins of said inclined panels and to said side wall panels, said respective end sections of said inclined panels being overlapped and secured to one another in the plane of an end wall defined thereby in said operative condition of the carrier, said end wall having a fold line along which the same is collapsible to parallel relation to said respective bottle receiving panels, said end sections of said side wall panels being adhesively connected to said side walls and being foldably connected to said end wall-defining sections.

6. A collapsible bottle carrier having in the erected condition thereof a bottom, opposed side wall panels integrally and flexibly joined to said bottom and disposed substantially normal thereto, a handle member spaced above said bottom and located in a plane between and substan-

tially paralleling said side wall panels, inclined and apertured bottle receiving panels connected to said handle member and side wall panels and diverging downwardly and outwardly from said handle member to said side wall panels, and end sections flexibly connected to end margins of said inclined panels and to said side wall panels, said respective end sections of said inclined panels being overlapped and secured to one another in the plane of an end wall defined thereby in said operative condition of the carrier, said end wall having a fold line along which the same is collapsible inwardly to parallel relation to and between said respective bottle receiving panels and side wall panels.

7. A collapsible bottle carrier having in the erected condition thereof a bottom, opposed side wall panels integrally and flexibly joined to said bottom and disposed substantially normal thereto, a handle member spaced above said bottom and located in a plane between and substantially paralleling said side wall panels, inclined and apertured bottle receiving sections connected to said handle member and side wall panels and diverging downwardly and outwardly from said handle member to said panels, and end wall sections flexibly connected to end margins of said inclined sections, said respective end wall sections being overlapped and secured to one another in the plane of an end wall defined thereby in said operative condition of the carrier, said end wall having a fold line along which the same is collapsible inwardly to parallel relation to and between said respective bottle receiving sections, said side wall panels having inturned end flaps secured thereto and reinforcing the same, to which flaps said respective end wall sections are flexibly articulated.

8. A bottle carrier having in the erected condition thereof a bottom, opposed side panels integrally and flexibly joined to said bottom and disposed substantially normal thereto, a handle member including panels secured to one another and spaced above said bottom in a plane between and substantially paralleling said side wall panels, and inclined and apertured bottle receiving sections integrally connected at the upper and lower margins thereof to said handle member and side wall panels, said handle member panels comprising integral extensions of said bottle receiving sections and having lateral tabs bendably connected to end margins thereof which are infolded and disposed between the respective handle panels in said erected condition of the carrier, said tabs including portions depending vertically in the general plane of said handle member to constitute separator elements internally of the carrier.

9. A collapsible fiber board bottle carrier comprising an article receiving receptacle and a handle member disposed above the receptacle, said handle member comprising a pair of opposed panels disposed in parallel side-by-side relation, each of which is provided with lateral tabs conjoined to opposed margins thereof and folded inwardly therebetween, certain of said tabs having integral portions depending into said receptacle to constitute dividers therefor.

10. A collapsible fiber board bottle carrier comprising an article receiving receptacle and a handle member disposed above the receptacle, said receptacle comprising a bottom, side walls connected to opposite margins of said bottom, and inclined apertured panels extending toward said handle member from upper margins of said side walls, said handle member comprising a pair of opposed panels constituted by integral vertical extensions of said apertured panels disposed in parallel side-by-side relation, each of which is provided with lateral tabs conjoined to opposed margins thereof and folded inwardly therebetween, certain of said tabs having integral portions depending into said receptacle to constitute dividers therefor.

11. A collapsible fiber board bottle carrier comprising an article receiving receptacle and a handle member disposed above the receptacle, said receptacle comprising a bottom and side walls connected to opposite margins of said bottom, said handle member comprising a pair of opposed panels constituted by integral vertical extensions of said side walls disposed in parallel side-by-side relation, each of which is provided with lateral tabs conjoined to opposed margins thereof and folded inwardly therebetween, said tabs having integral portions depending into said receptacle to constitute dividers therefor.

12. A bottle carrier constructed from a blank of flexible, sheet-like material comprising an upright, multi-ply handle panel, side wall structures on either side of said handle panel, and handle reinforcing sections and end wall-defining sections each bendably connected to a corresponding end margin of said handle panel and side wall structures respectively, said end wall-defining sections being integral with the respective wall structures and extending therebetween in planes normal thereto in the erected condition of the carrier, said handle reinforcing sections being integral with said end margin of said handle panel and disposed between the plies of the latter in its completed form, said handle reinforcing sections being separated from said respective end wall sections by non-horizontal cuts and a portion thereof extending vertically downwardly of said handle panel plies.

13. A bottle carrier constructed from a blank of flexible, sheet-like material comprising an upright, multi-ply handle panel, side wall structures on either side of said handle panel, each including an upright side wall panel spaced laterally from and paralleling said handle panel, and handle reinforcing sections and end wall-defining sections each bendably connected to a corresponding end margin of said handle panel and side wall structures respectively, said end wall-defining sections being integral with the respective wall structures and extending therebetween in planes normal thereto in the erected condition of the carrier, said handle reinforcing sections being integral with said end margin of said handle panel and disposed between the plies of the latter in its completed form, said handle reinforcing sections being separated from said respective end wall sections by vertically angled cuts and a portion thereof extending vertically downwardly of said handle panel plies.

EDWIN L. ARNESON.

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