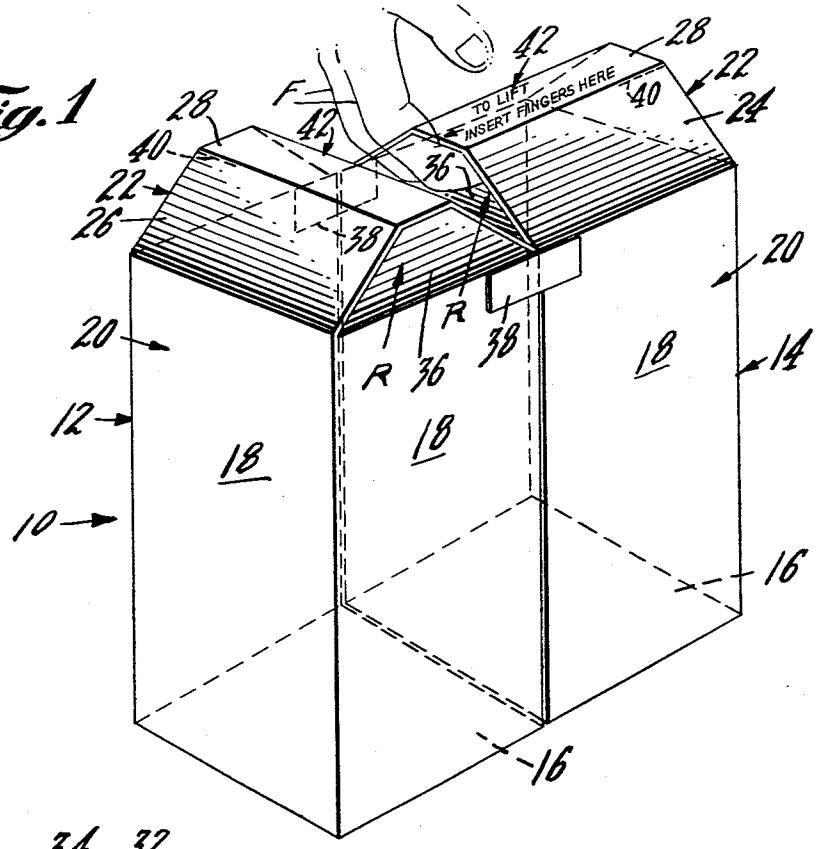
Dec. 8, 1964 J. A. CHERNEY 3,160,341

PACKAGE

Filed Dec. 16, 1963

Fig. 1



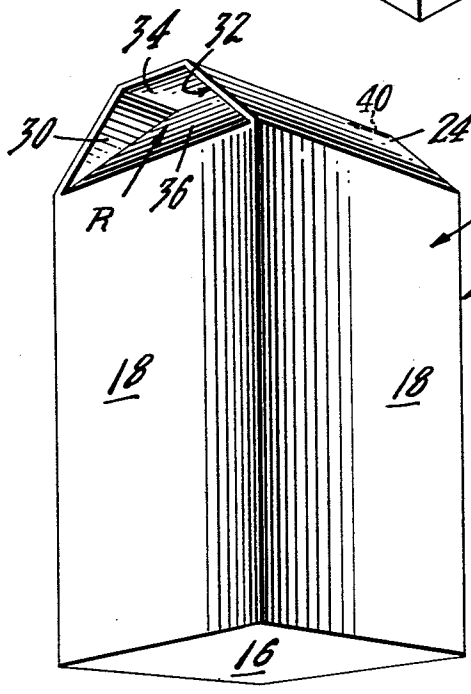


Fig. 2

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PACKAGE

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The present invention relates to multiple container packages, and has particular reference to a twin-pack which is formed from two gable-top cartons which are secured together in such manner that one of the gable tops provides a carrying handle for the package.

At the present time, milk is sold in fibreboard cartons which are made in a variety of sizes, the most common of which are pint, quart and half-gallon sizes. Such cartons constitute very practical and desirable containers, since they are relatively inexpensive, attractive in appearance, shatterproof, and sanitary.

There is a definite need, however, for a full gallon milk package which is particularly desirable for large families whose milk consumption is greater than average. While it is possible to manufacture a gallon carton, such a carton is not completely satisfactory, since it is quite bulky and is somewhat difficult to handle.

One solution to this problem has been the so-called "twin-pack," which comprises two individual half-gallon cartons which are secured together so that they can be sold as a unitary gallon package. Such a package is advantageous in that once it is taken into the home, the half-gallon cartons can be separated from each other and thereafter handled individually and conveniently.

However, in forming such a twin-pack, it has been found desirable to provide the package with some type of carrying handle in order to enable the purchaser to lift it from the dairy case and to thereafter carry it about. The handles heretofore provided have usually been separate handles which have been attached to the containers in some manner, and have not been completely satisfactory, either because they had added considerably to the expense of the package, or have been somewhat insecure or unattractive in appearance.

The present invention contemplates a twin-pack which is an improvement over the previous twin-packs in that it does not require a separate carrying handle, but instead utilizes the recessed gable top of one of the cartons to provide the carrying handle. This is done by securing the two individual cartons together at right angles to each other so that one end of the gable top of one of the cartons is disposed at the center of the upper end of the resultant package, in substantial vertical alignment with its center of gravity. In this position, the adjacent wall of the gable top of the other carton slopes away from the recess which is provided by the centrally located gable top end of the first carton, thereby enabling the consumer to insert one or more fingers into the thus exposed, centrally located recess and to thus utilize it as a carrying handle.

An object of the invention, therefore, is the provision of a consumer package which is formed of two gable top cartons which are so positioned relative to each other that the gable top of one carton is utilizable as a carrying handle for the twin-pack.

Another object of the invention is the provision of such a package which is inexpensive and attractive in appearance.

Numerous other objects, and advantages of the invention will be apparent as it is better understood from the following description, which, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, discloses a preferred embodiment thereof.

Referring to the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a twin-pack embodying the principles of the instant invention; and

FIG. 2 is a perspective view, taken from another angle, showing the recessed end of the gable top of one of the cartons in the twin-pack which functions as a carrying handle.

As a preferred and exemplary embodiment of the instant invention, FIG. 1 illustrates a twin-pack **10** which comprises two half-gallon fibre milk cartons **12, 14** which are identical in construction and preferably of the type disclosed in United States Letters Patent 2,022,930, issued on February 27, 1962, to Morris W. Kuchenbecker and entitled "Container."

Each carton **12, 14** is made from a single paperboard blank and has its entire external surface covered with a thin film of a resinous plastic such as polyethylene or the like which provides a moisture and liquid-proof surface and imparts an attractive finish to the carton. The interior of the carton is covered with a liquid and moisture-proof liner film of a suitable material, the internal and external films preferably being applied to the paper board blank prior to the time it is set up to form the carton.

Each carton is formed with a sealed bottom end **16**; four rectangular side walls **18** which combine with the bottom end **16** to form a body **20** which is square in horizontal cross-section; and a gable shaped top end **22**.

The top end **22** of each carton comprises a symmetrical, folded structure which includes a pair of oppositely inclined outer closure walls **24, 26** which are connected by a narrow horizontal central wall **28**. Both end portions of the walls **24, 26** and **28** are of multiple thickness and include a pair of small triangular side panels **30, 32**, and a small rectangular panel **34**, the panels **30, 32**, and **34** at each end of the top end **22** being connected by a trapezoidal, upwardly inclined wall **36** to define an inwardly extending, open-ended recess R which extends inwardly into the gable top end **22** of the carton.

As seen in FIG. 1, the cartons **12, 14** are arranged in juxtaposition to each other with two of their side walls **18** in mutual contact and with their gable shaped top ends **22** disposed at right angles to each other. In this position, they are firmly secured to each other by a pair of small pieces of tape **38** which bridge and are secured to the upper ends of the aligned side walls **18** of the cartons **12, 14** on each side of the twin-pack **10** in any suitable manner. The tape pieces **38** may be made of any suitable material which is sufficiently strong to hold the filled cartons **12, 14** together when one of the cartons is grasped and lifted. Examples of suitable materials are strong kraft paper and plastics such as polyethylene, mylar, nylon, and the like.

The tape pieces **38** may be secured to the cartons in any suitable manner. For this purpose, they may be secured by any suitable adhesive, including thermoplastic adhesives, which may if desired be preapplied to the tapes, and activated by heat, moisture, etc. at the time the twin pack is formed. If desired, pressure sensitive adhesives which require no activation may be preapplied into the tape pieces **38**.

With the cartons arranged and secured together as seen in FIG. 1, one of the gable top recesses R of the carton **14** disposed substantially in the interior of the upper end of the twin-pack **10** in such manner that its open end is substantially unobstructed because of the fact that the inclined wall **24** of the gable top end **22** of the carton **12** slopes away from it.

As a result, one or more fingers F of the consumer may readily be inserted into this interior recess R, as seen in FIG. 1, and the surrounding end portion of the gable top end **22** of the container **14** utilized as a carrying handle

to lift the twin-pack **10** from the display case and to carry it to any suitable place of deposit, such as a shopping cart, etc.

After the twin-pack **10** has been taken home, the individual cartons **12, 14** can be readily separated from each other by pulling their bottom end portions apart to break loose the tape pieces **38** from the upper ends of the cartons.

The gable shaped top ends **22** of the cartons **12, 14** usually are provided with score lines **40** which facilitate opening of the cartons. While even the scored end portions of the top ends **22** are usually adequate in strength to support the weight of the twin-pack when utilized as a carrying handle, it may be desirable to position the carton **14** so that its score lines **40** are disposed away from the interior of the twin-pack (as seen in FIG. 1) in order to completely avoid the possibility of having them rupture in the event the twin-pack should be subjected to an unusually abrupt upward jerking action when the consumer inserts his finger in the interior recess R and lifts the twin-pack from the dairy case.

If desired, suitable instructions **42** for insertion of the fingers into the recess R may be provided somewhere on the twin-pack, preferably on the horizontal wall **28** of the carton **14**. These instructions may be printed directly on the wall **28**, or may be contained on a separate length of tape which is secured to the wall **28** in any suitable manner.

It will be understood that the cartons **12, 14** may be held together by any suitable means, and that this invention is not limited to the use of the short pieces of tape **38** for such purpose. As one suggested alternative, the mutually facing side walls **18** in the interior of the twin-pack may be stuck together by a suitable adhesive. Regardless of how the cartons are tied together, however, the gable tops of the cartons must be disposed at right angles to each other, as shown in FIG. 1.

It is thought that the invention and many of its attendant advantages will be understood from the foregoing description and it will be apparent that various changes may be made in the form, construction, and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention or sacrificing all of its material advantages, the form hereinbefore described being merely a preferred embodiment thereof.

I claim:

1. A twin-pack comprising a pair of fibreboard cartons each of which is formed with a gable top extending across its upper end and having at least one open-ended recess formed in said gable top, said cartons being secured together in juxtaposition with their gable tops disposed at right angles to each other and with the recess of one of the said cartons being disposed in the interior of the upper end of the twin-pack to function as a carrying handle.

2. A twin-pack comprising a pair of fibreboard cartons each of which is formed with a gable top extending across its upper end, said gable top comprising a pair of oppositely inclined walls and having at least one open-ended recess formed at an end thereof, said cartons being secured together with their gable tops disposed at right angles to each other and with the recess of one of said cartons facing one of the inclined gable top walls of the other carton to function as a carrying handle for said twin-pack.

3. A twin-pack comprising a pair of fibreboard cartons each of which is formed with a gable top which extends completely across its upper end, said gable top comprising a pair of oppositely inclined walls and a horizontal connecting wall, said walls overlying an open-ended recess which is formed at each end of said gable top, said cartons being secured together in juxtaposition with their gable tops disposed at right angles to each other and with one of the recesses of the gable top of one of the cartons facing one of the inclined gable top walls of the other carton to provide a carrying handle for the twin-pack.

4. The twin-pack of claim 3 wherein the cartons are square in cross-section and are secured together by pieces of tape which bridge and are adhesively secured to the upper ends of each of the juxtaposed cartons.

5. The twin-pack of claim 4 wherein a separate piece of tape containing printed carrying instructions is secured to the gable top of one of the cartons.

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