

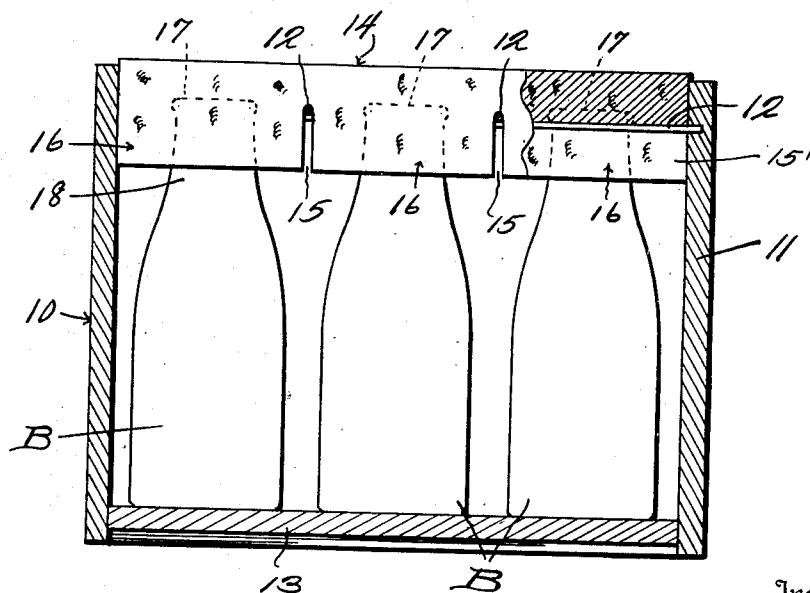
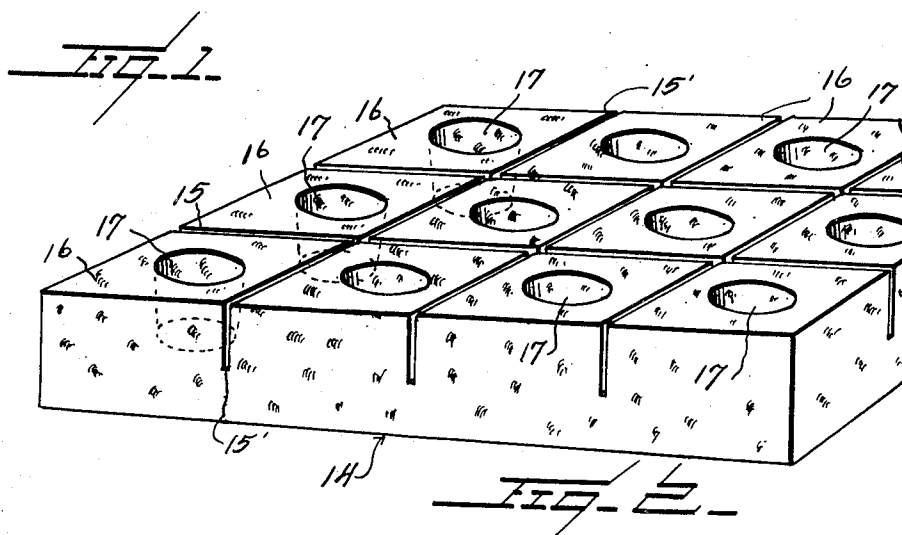
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MILK PAD

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MILK PAD

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2 Claims. (Cl. 217—19)

This invention relates to crates and more particularly to an improved means in combination with a crate adapted to hold bottles, such as milk bottles or the like, so as to keep the bottles in a cooled condition in order to hold back the growth of bacteria in the bottles.

An object of this invention is to provide an improved cooling means in the form of a sponge-like pad which is adapted to be placed over the tops of bottles which are positioned in crates and which is so constructed that the upper ends or necks of the bottles will be enclosed and cooled through the evaporation of the fluid contained in the sponge-like pad.

Another object of this invention is to provide a pad or sponge member which is adapted to be constructed out of cellular material, the material being formed after the manner of a sponge and provided with recesses and slots to receive the upper ends of bottles and engage over the upper ends of partitions or wires forming part of the crate.

A still further object of this invention is to provide an improved method of maintaining milk bottles or the like in a cooled state during the transportation of the bottles so as to prevent the growth of bacteria in the milk contained in the bottles.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention will be more fully described hereinafter, and will be more particularly pointed out in the claims appended thereto.

In the drawing, wherein like symbols refer to like or corresponding parts throughout the several view,

Figure 1 is an inverted perspective view of a cellular pad constructed according to an embodiment of this invention;

Figure 2 is a vertical section of a crate having a pad engaging over the bottles disposed therein.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 10 designates generally a crate body which is formed of upstanding walls 11 and a bottom wall 13. Disposed within the box-like structure formed by the upstanding walls 11 and the bottom wall 13 are a plurality of intersecting wires 12 forming bottle compartments to receive bottles B in an upstanding position. These partitions or wires 12 may be positioned at any suitable point downwardly from the upper edges of the upstanding side walls 11.

In order to provide a means whereby the tops of the bottles B may be maintained in a relatively cooled condition during the time that the bottles leave the creamery and while in transport,

I have provided a sponge-like pad member, generally designated as 14, which is adapted to engage over the necks and upper ends of the bottles B and to be positioned substantially entirely within the crate 10. The sponge member 14 in the present instance is constructed of cellular material and is of a size to substantially fill and thus seal the open upper end of the crate 10. This sponge member 14 is provided intermediate the opposite ends thereof with a plurality of intersecting slots 15 and 15' dividing the body of the sponge member 14 into block members 16. These block members 16 are substantially square in plan and are adapted to engage in the respective compartments formed by the intersecting partition wires 12. Each block 16 is provided in substantially the center thereof with a tapering recess 17 in which the neck 18 of the bottle B is snugly received. There are as many blocks 16 in the sponge member 14 as there are partitions or compartments across the crate 10. It will, therefore, be understood that I do not wish to be limited to the particular number of block members 16 herein disclosed as being connected together.

In the use of this cooling member 14, the member 14 is adapted to be moistened as by relatively cool water or the like, and this member is then placed over the necks 18 of the bottles B disposed in the crate 10. The necks 18 of the bottles B will be snugly engaged in the several recesses 17 of the sponge member 14 and the partition bars 12 will be positioned in the slots 15 and 15' which divide the body of the sponge member 14 into individual bottle cooling members 16.

By reason of the material of which the sponge member 14 is constructed, the evaporation of the water is facilitated so that this evaporated water will maintain the bottles in a cooled condition. It will be understood that after the crate 10 has been delivered to the consignee the pads 14 may be readily removed and the bottles then put in refrigerating or other cooling means. This improved method of maintaining milk bottles in a cooled condition during the transportation thereof will eliminate the necessity of placing ice or the like over the bottles.

It will, of course, be noted that the tapered recesses 17 formed in one face of the pad stop short of the other face thereof as do also the right angularly disposed and intersecting slots 15 and 15' so that when the pad is inserted in the open end of a crate, snugly filling the entrance opening thereof, the cellular or otherwise solid

unbroken outer surface of the pad will effectually seal the end of the crate and effectually and completely cover and enclose the adjoining ends of the milk bottles or the like which the crate contains.

5 It is, of course, understood that various changes and modifications may be made in the details of construction and design of the above specifically described embodiment of this invention without departing from the spirit thereof, 10 such changes and modifications being restricted only by the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A bottle cooling and cushioning means comprising a sponge-like member having a plurality 15 of spaced apart bottle neck receiving openings in one face thereof, said member also having a

transversely disposed slot between each pair of openings to receive a partition means in a bottle crate to support the member within the crate.

2. The combination with a bottle crate having an open end, of a sponge-like pad of a size snugly to fit said open end, said pad being formed in one of its faces with a plurality of bottle receiving openings stopping short of the opposite face of the pad and between said bottle receiving openings and in the same face as said recesses 5 with a plurality of intersecting slots also stopping short of the opposite face of the pad and spaced from the walls of the recesses, the crate being provided with bottle partitions adapted to register and be received in said slots. 10 15

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