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CARRYING DEVICE FOR CONTAINERS

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Fig. 1

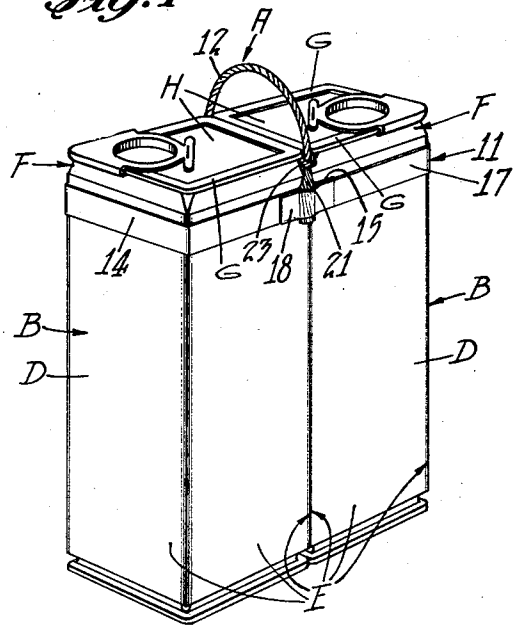


Fig. 2

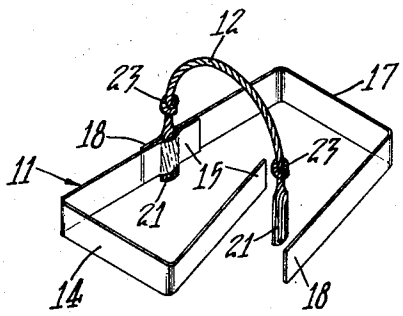


Fig. 3

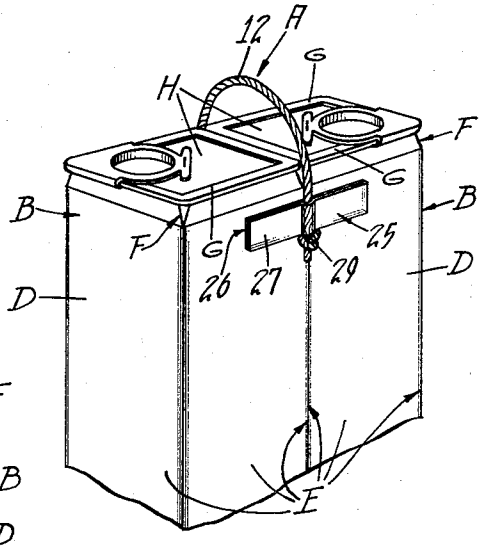
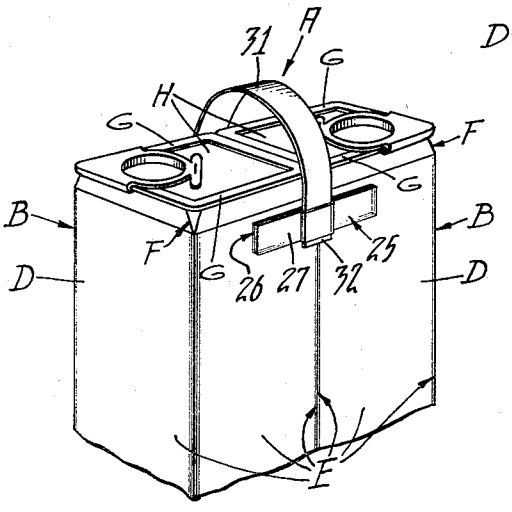


Fig. 4



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CARRYING DEVICE FOR CONTAINERS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 206—65)

The present invention relates generally to devices for carrying a plurality of containers and the like in juxtaposed relation as a unitary package and has particular reference to a tie member which may be adhesively secured to the containers and which provides an anchor for a handle.

An object of the instant invention is the provision of a carrying device which comprises simple, inexpensive elements which may be readily attached to a plurality of containers arranged in juxtaposed relation for tieing them together in a unitary package and for providing a handle by which the package may be carried.

Another object is the provision of such a carrying device wherein a precoated adhesive tape may be utilized for tieing the containers together so that portions of the tape may be cutoff and pressure applied to the containers with a minimum of effort and a maximum of speed to produce an economical carrying device.

Another object is the provision of such a carrying device wherein the handle may be made of inexpensive twine or other material and securely anchored in and by the tie member for supporting the weight of the containers during carrying.

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 pair of juxtaposed containers secured together for carrying as a unitary package by a carrying device embodying the instant invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the carrying device alone, with parts on one side of the device shown in exploded relation to illustrate how the parts are fitted together; and

Figs. 3 and 4 are fragmentary perspective views of modified forms of the invention.

As a preferred or exemplary embodiment of the instant invention the drawings illustrate a carrying device A for carrying a pair of fibre milk containers B (Fig. 1) disposed in juxtaposed relation. The containers B preferably are of the character disclosed in United States Patent 2,085,979, issued July 6, 1937, to John M. Hothersall on Container.

Such a container comprises a rectangular body D having flat side walls E which at their upper ends are formed with necked-in portions F and an immediately adjacent outwardly or laterally projecting end seam or ledge G which surrounds the periphery of and secures in place a flat top member H. In the juxtaposed relation of the containers B, two side walls E are directly opposite each other in substantially contiguous relation as best shown in Fig. 1, with the ledges G adjacent these side walls in substantially coincident relation.

In the preferred form of the invention as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, the carrying device A comprises a flat

tape tie member **11** and a flexible cord or twine handle **12** secured thereto. The tie member **11** preferably comprises a flat strip of flexible fibre tape having one face thereof coated with a pressure sensitive or other suitable adhesive to provide for adhesion of the tape to the containers. However this tape may be made from other materials such as cellulose, cloth, metal or plastics.

The tape **11** completely encircles the juxtaposed containers B and is secured to the sides of the containers as shown in Fig. 1 to tie them together in a unitary package. The tape **11** may be a single continuous member but a two piece tape is preferred.

In this preferred form one piece of tape **14** is cut long enough to surround and be secured to three sides of one container (at the left as viewed in Fig. 1) and to have free terminal ends **15** overlapping and secured to the juxtaposed container (at the right) to tie the containers together. In a similar manner another piece of tape **17** preferably of the same length, surrounds and is secured to the juxtaposed container (at the right as viewed in Fig. 1), with terminal ends **18** overlapping the first mentioned container (at the left) and overlapping the terminal ends **15** of the first tape **14** and secured to the outer face of the tape **14**. Thus the two pieces of tape **14, 17** completely surround the two containers and their terminal ends overlap each other and also overlap the containers so as to firmly secure the containers together against displacement.

The handle **12** preferably is a short length of flexible cord or twine which is arched over the tops of the containers, preferably as shown in Fig. 1, with terminal ends **21** of the twine confined between the overlapped terminal ends **15, 18** of the tape members **14, 17**. The adhesive on the inner face of the terminal ends **18** of the tape member **17** securely holds the ends **21** of the twine in place. In order to provide for a strong bond between the twine and the adhesive coated tape ends **18**, the strands of the terminal ends **21** of the handle **12** preferably are frayed-out or untwisted or separated and spread out flat to cover a more extensive area of the adhesive coated face of the tape.

The handle **12** thus securely held in place at its ends may be readily gripped to carry the unitary package and when desired may be flattened out against the tops of the containers to provide for stacking of the unitary packages on top of each other. Where weight of the containers is a factor to be considered, the handle **12** preferably is provided with suitable knots **23** which are located in the handle for disposition under the outer ends of the laterally projecting substantially coincident ledges G (Fig. 1) of the containers. In this location the weight of the containers is supported supplementally by the knots **23** when the handle **12** is drawn taut by the lifting of the containers.

In a modified form of the invention as shown in Fig. 3, a pair of short double layer tie members **25** are utilized to tie the containers together instead of the two piece completely encircling tie member **11**. In this modified form a short piece of adhesively coated tape **26** is first secured to opposed sides of the two juxtaposed containers so that the tape extends across and overlaps the containers adjacent their substantially contiguous sides E. A second short piece of adhesively coated tape **27** is then secured to the first piece **26** in overlapping relation therewith. These two pieces of overlapped tape **26, 27** securely tie the containers together. The free ends of the twine handle **12** are interposed between the two layers of tape **26, 27** the ends extending below the tape and formed with knots **29** which engage under the lower edge of the tape to supplement the support of the containers during carrying.

In a similar modified form of the invention as shown

in Fig. 4 a flat band handle **31** is substituted for the twine handle **12**. This flat band handle **31** may be made from fibre, metal, plastic or other suitable material. The terminal ends **32** of the handle are interposed between the layers **26**, **27** of the tie members **25**, with the adhesive coating on the outer layer **27** holding the handle in place.

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 unitary carrying package, comprising a pair of juxtaposed rectangular containers having opposed substantially flat sides disposed in contiguous relation and having laterally projecting peripheral ledges at their upper ends, a pair of confronting substantially U-shaped strips of flexible tape respectively adhesively secured to the three exposed sides of said juxtaposed containers, the opposite end portions of said U-shaped strips respectively bridging the contiguous sides of said containers on opposed sides of said package and adhesively secured together in overlapping relation, for holding said juxtaposed containers together, and a separate upstanding flexible handle having its opposite depending end portions overhanging said opposed sides of said package and also bridging said contiguous container sides adjacent said overlapped end portions of said tape strips, the opposite ends of said flexible handle being confined between and adhesively secured to said overlapping end portions of said tape strips for carrying said package.

2. A unitary carrying package as defined in claim 1 wherein two tape strips each surrounds three sides of one of said containers and overlaps at its free ends opposite sides of the other contiguous container, with said free ends of said tape strips disposed in overlapping relation to produce at the overlapped portions of said strips a double layer strip portion confining and holding together said juxtaposed containers, and wherein said flexible handle comprises a twine member provided with spaced knots disposed in engaging relation beneath said laterally projecting peripheral container ledges, said knots bridging said contiguous container sides to supplement the depending support of said package by said handle.

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