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H. LEGGETT ET AL

2,385,997

BOTTLE CARRIER

Filed March 27, 1944

FIG. 1.

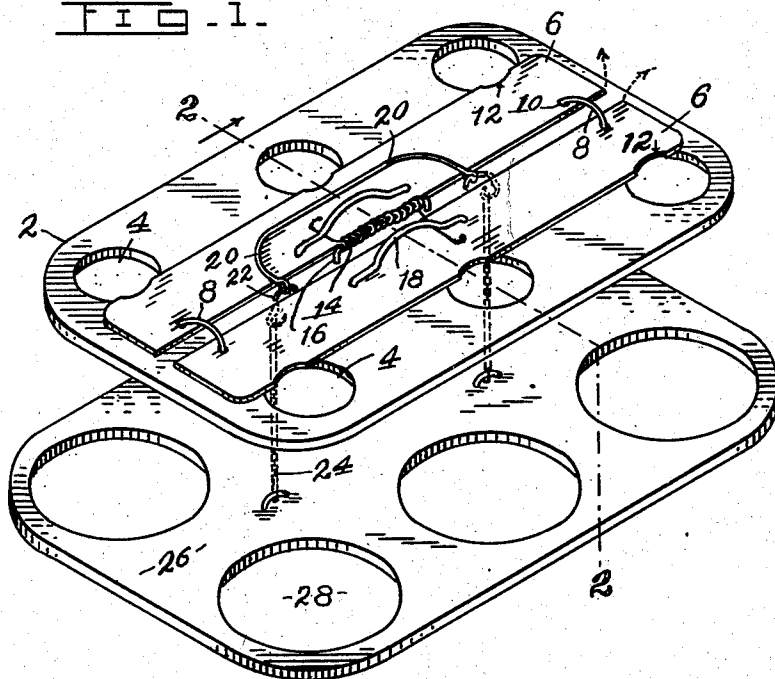
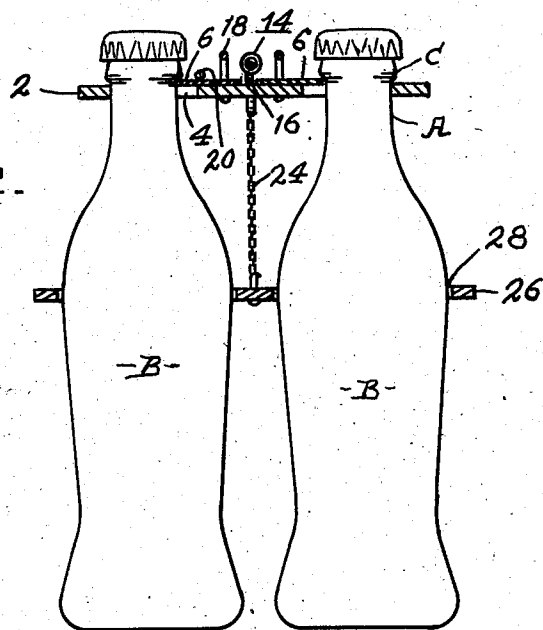


FIG. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BOTTLE CARRIER

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Application March 27, 1944, Serial No. 528,295

1 Claim. (Cl. 294—87)

Our invention relates to a device whereby a plurality of bottles may be safely and conveniently carried without danger of breakage. It is not meant to replace the usual crate, but to supplement and extend the usefulness of the packing cases in common use.

One object of our invention is to utilize that space in crates above the partitions to accommodate our bottle grouping devices, and facilitate the removal of bottles from the crate in convenient numbers, ready and securely assembled for manual transport.

Another object of our invention is to provide means for clamping the bottles in position in the devices and holding them until manually released.

A further object of the invention is to provide a quick-acting device that will snap into active position as the device is pushed down upon the necks of bottles in crates.

Other objects will hereinafter appear, and in order that the invention may be fully understood, reference will now be had to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device, showing two of the clamping devices arranged back-to-back in order to permit simultaneous release of the bottles by a single movement.

Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view of the device on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, with the addition of two bottles.

Referring in detail to the different parts of the device, 2 designates means comprising a supporting element preferably, although not necessarily, of rectangular form and provided with rows of apertures 4 spaced equally from opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of the element.

Clamping means comprising a pair of members 6 are hingedly mounted upon the element 2 between the longitudinal axis thereof and the apertures 4, as disclosed by the drawing. The hinges 8 may be of any appropriate type. In the present instance a pair of staples are employed which extend through openings 10 in the ends of the respective members 6 and are secured to the supporting element 2. The outer margins of the clamping members 6 overlap adjacent portions of the apertures 4 and have marginal recesses 12 registering with the apertures and conforming to the circular necks A of the bottles B for engagement with portions of the necks, as disclosed by Fig. 2. Spring means preferably in the form of a coil spring 14 yieldably holds the clamping members 6 down upon the supporting element 2. The coil spring 14 is mounted upon

a U-member 16 secured to the supporting element 2 and arranged between the clamping members 6. The ends of said spring 14 extend in opposite directions to each other to press downward upon the respective clamping members 6, as shown by Fig. 1.

A manually controlled member 18 is fixed to each clamping member 6 whereby the latter may be swung upward on the hinges 8, as indicated by the arrows, Fig. 1, to release their grip on the bottles.

In order that the device, when loaded with bottles, may be readily carried by one hand, we have provided an appropriate handle 20 swiveled at its ends upon elements 22 secured to the supporting element 2 at a point between the adjacent sides of the clamping members 6.

Suspended from the supporting element 2 by appropriate means, such as two chains 24, is a spacing member 26 for cooperating with the supporting element 2 and the clamping members 6 in holding the bottles suspended in spaced relation to each other. Said spacing member 26 may be of any appropriate form. Its function is to control the swing of the bottles below their point of support. It is obvious that the spacing member 26 cannot function until the group of bottles is removed from the crate and the chains 24 drop down into active position.

This device is best loaded simply by pushing it down over and around the necks of standing bottles past the bulge C which is located just below the crown. After the bottle head rings have been passed through the apertures 4 as stated, they are firmly held in position by the clamping members 6, which snap into place in ratchet fashion, permitting the bottles to swing downward from the supporting element 2 and the clamping members 6, in two-point semi-circular support for the head rings which gives adequate suspension for the entire bottle mass.

When it is desired to release the bottles from the carrier, this may be accomplished by resting the bottles upon a level support and pressing the members 18 toward each other to swing the clamping members 6 upwardly out of engagement with the bottle necks. The disengaged device may now be lifted from its burden, and used repeatedly.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the drawing, it is apparent that we have provided a new bottle carrier possessing the advantages above pointed out, and while we have shown and described a preferred embodiment of our invention we reserve all rights to

such changes and modifications thereof as properly fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

A bottle carrier comprising a supporting element having a plurality of apertures for passage of the heads of an equal number of bottles, means for locking the bottles in position in the supporting element, a rectangular spacing member 10 arranged below the supporting element and pro-

vided with openings equal in number to the apertures in the supporting element, said openings being in axial alinement with the afore-mentioned apertures to receive and retain the bodies of the bottles in spaced relation to each other, and flexible means connecting the spacing member to the supporting element so that the former may be placed against the underside of the latter when not in use.

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