April 11, 1961 J. H. NORTON ET AL 2,979,227

CONTAINER FOR MAINTAINING TEMPERATURE OF BOTTLED BEVERAGES

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FIG. 1.

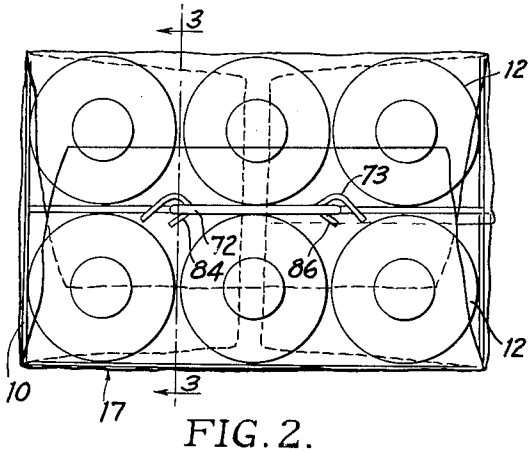


FIG. 4.

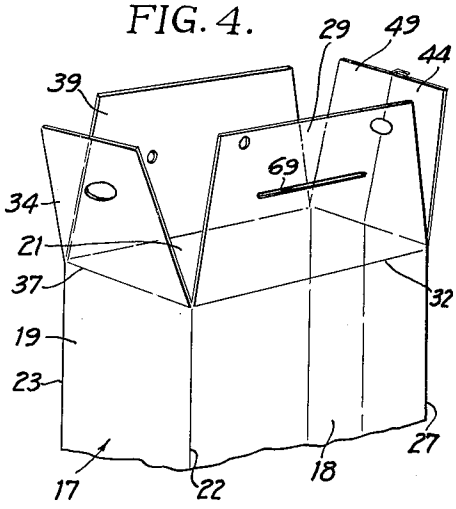


FIG. 2.

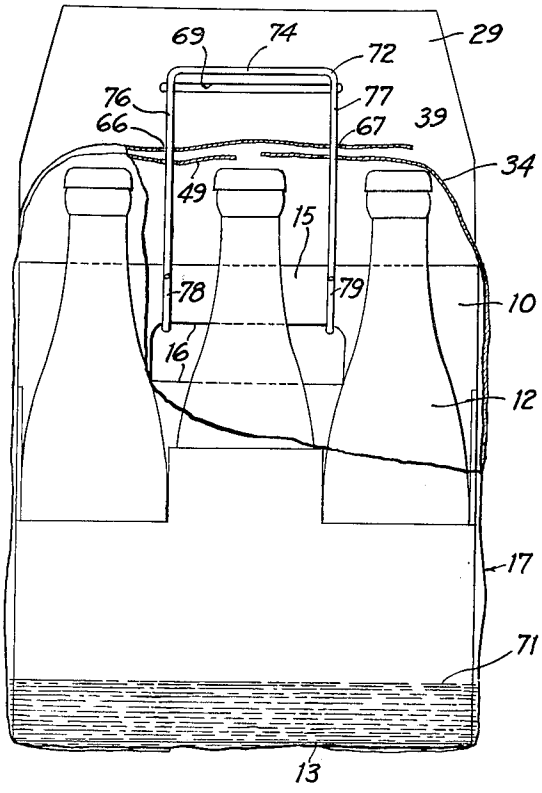
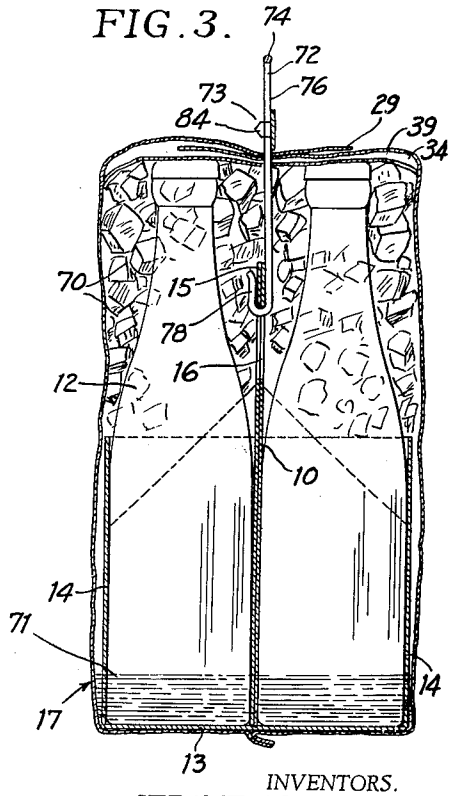


FIG. 3.



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

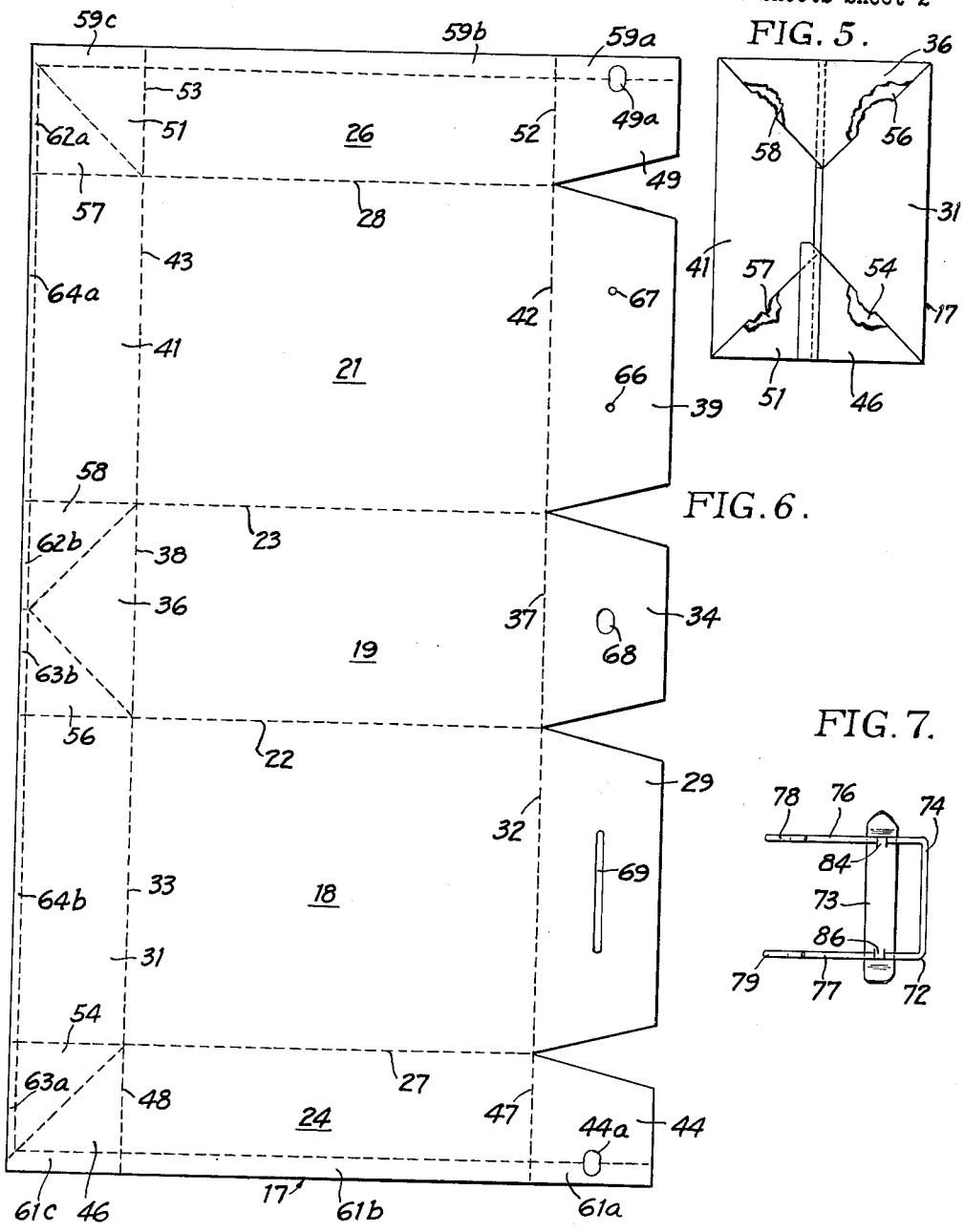


FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

FIG. 7.

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United States Patent Office 2,979,227
Patented Apr. 11, 1961

2,979,227

CONTAINER FOR MAINTAINING TEMPERATURE OF BOTTLED BEVERAGES

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Filed May 15, 1958, Ser. No. 735,416

2 Claims. (Cl. 220—105)

This invention relates to a package of containers for beverages, or the like. More particularly, this invention relates to a refrigerated package which is readily portable.

Bottled beverages commonly are sold in packages or cartons containing a small number of containers, for example, six bottles, which containers can readily be carried. Such containers of beverages may be refrigerated, but, when a carton is removed from refrigeration, the contents of the containers rapidly warm to an unsatisfactory temperature. An object of this invention is to provide a package for a small number of bottles or the like which is adapted to keep the bottles cold for a substantial period.

A further object of this invention is to provide a package which includes a conventional inner carrying case or carton for beverage containers and an outer cover of water-impervious material for holding ice surrounding containers in the carton.

A further object of this invention is to provide a combined carton and outer case of this type having top flaps which close the outer cover and through which a handle extends to engage the inner container at a handle-opening therein for carrying the containers and ice.

The above and other objects and features of this invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art to which this invention pertains from the following detailed description, and the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view showing a beverage package constructed in accordance with an embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 2 is a view in side elevation showing the package illustrated in Fig. 1, one flap of the cover being shown open, other flaps of the cover being broken away to reveal structural details;

Fig. 3 is a view in section taken on the line 3—3 in Fig. 1 showing the outer cover closed with ice surrounding bottles therein;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the upper portion of the outer cover with the carton and bottles removed therefrom;

Fig. 5 is a view in bottom plan of the outer cover, parts being broken away to reveal internal construction;

Fig. 6 is a plan view of a blank from which the outer cover is formed; and

Fig. 7 is a view in side elevation showing a handle and a handle clamp which form a part of the device, removed therefrom.

In the following detailed description, and the drawings, like reference characters indicate like parts.

In Figs. 1, 2, and 3 is shown a conventional carton **10** for carrying six bottles **12** of soft drinks, or the like. The carton has a bottom panel **13** (Fig. 3) on which the bottles **12** rest, side panels **14** which hold the bottles in place, and a central panel **15** extending between rows of bottles in which is formed a handle opening **16**. This type of carton is commonly employed in the sale of bottled beverages in groups of six bottles.

To the conventional carton already described, we add an outer cover **17** which is formed of liquid-impervious sheet material. The outer cover can be formed of the transparent, flexible sheet material commonly known as "Pliofilm," or other suitable flexible sheet material. The sheet material is cut to a blank of the form shown in Fig. 6. In Fig. 6 lines of fold are indicated in dotted lines, but it is to be understood that the flexible sheet material does not ordinarily form sharp folds or creases. The blank includes a front panel **18**, a side panel **19**, and a back panel **21**, which are unitary and hinged together along lines of fold **22** and **23**. Half-size side panels **24** and **26** are hinged to outer edges of the front panel **18** and the back panel **21**, respectively, along lines of fold **27** and **28**. An upper front panel **29** and a lower front panel **31** are hinged to top and bottom edges of the front panel **18** along fold lines **32** and **33**, respectively. An upper side panel **34** and a triangular-shaped lower side panel **36** are hinged to the top and bottom edges of the side panel **19** along lines of fold **37** and **38**, respectively. An upper back panel **39** and a lower back panel **41** are hinged to the upper and lower edges of the back panel **21** along lines of fold **42** and **43**, respectively.

An upper half-size side panel **44** and a triangular lower, half-size panel **46** are hinged to upper and lower edges of the half-size side panel **24** along lines of fold **47** and **48**, respectively. Another upper half-size panel **49** and another triangular lower half-size side panel **51** are hinged to upper and lower edges of the half-size side panel **26** along lines of fold **52** and **53**, respectively. The lower front panel **31** is linked to the lower half-size side panel **46** and the lower side panel **36** by flaps **54** and **56**, respectively. The lower back panel **41** is linked to the lower half-size side panel **51** and to the lower side panel **36** by flaps **57** and **58**, respectively.

Side sealing flaps having sections **59***a*, **59***b*, **59***c*, and sections **61***a*, **61***b*, and **61***c*, are hinged to the outer edges of the panels **49**, **26**, **51**, **44**, **24**, and **46**, respectively.

Lower sealing flaps having sections **62***a*, **62***b*, **63***a*, **63***b*, **64***a* and **64***b* are hinged to lower edges of the flaps **51**, **58**, **56**, and **54**, and panels **41** and **31**, respectively, as shown in Fig. 6.

As shown in Fig. 6, the upper back panel **39** contains a pair of spaced perforations **66** and **67**. The upper side panel **34** contains an enlarged perforation **68**. The upper front panel **29** contains an elongated slot **69**. An enlarged perforation **49***a* extends into both the upper half-size side panel **49** and the sealing flap **59***a* hinged thereto. An enlarged perforation **44***a* extends into both the upper half-size side panel **44** and the sealing flap **61***a* hinged thereto. The function of the perforations and slot will be set forth hereinafter.

In the assembly of the outer cover, the side sealing flap sections **59***a*, **59***b*, and **59***c*, are sealed to the side sealing flap sections **61***a*, **61***b*, and **61***c*, respectively. In addition, the lower sealing flap sections **62***a*, **64***a*, and **62***b* are sealed to the lower sealing flap sections **63***a*, **64***b*, and **63***b*, respectively. The material of which the outer cover is formed can be of a heat-sealing type, and the sealing flap sections can be heat-sealed together or can be sealed with an appropriate water-insensitive adhesive.

The outer cover can then be set up to the form shown in Figs. 4 and 5. As shown in Fig. 5, the lower front panel **31** and the lower back panel **41** form a rectangular bottom for the outer cover with the panels **36**, **46** and **51** and the flaps **54**, **56**, **57**, and **58** folding thereunder. As shown in Fig. 4, when the outer cover is set up, the cover has a hollow lower section of substantially rectangular transverse cross-section. The upper end is open and the upper front panel **29**, the upper side panel **34**, and the upper back panel **39** can extend outwardly from the open end. The upper half-size side panels **44** and **49** are

joined together and also can extend outwardly from the open end.

The carton **10** and bottles **12** therein are then loaded into the outer cover **17**, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3. As shown in Fig. 3, lumps **70** of ice can be placed inside the outer cover **17** surrounding the bottles. As the ice melts, water formed by the melting of the ice collects inside the outer cover and is held thereby as indicated at **71** in Fig. 3.

The upper panels are folded inwardly over the tops of the bottles **12**, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, and are held in place by a handle member **72** and a clamp **73**. As shown in Figs. 3 and 7, the handle member **72** is of generally U-shape and includes an upper hand-grip section **74** and side arms **76** and **77** (Figs. 2 and 7). The side arms **76** and **77** terminate in hooks **78** and **79**, respectively. The upper side panel **34** and the panel formed by the upper half-size side panels **44** and **49** fold inwardly first with the upper back panel **39** thereover. The arms of the handle member extend through the perforations in the aforementioned panels **39**, **34**, **44**, and **49** and the hooks **78** and **79** engage the central panel **15** of the carton at the handle opening **16**. The upper front panel **29** can then be folded downwardly from the position shown in Fig. 2 to that shown in Figs. 1 and 3, and the slot **69** therein receives the handle member **72**. The clamp member **73** can then be mounted on the side arms of the handle member **72** to engage the upper panels of the outer cover to hold the upper panels closed. The clamp member **73**, as shown, is in the form of a conventional bottle and can opener and includes flanges **84** and **86** which engage the side arms **76** and **77** of the handle member. The handle member can be made of resilient material so that the clamp member firmly engages but is releasable from the side arms.

The package consisting of carton, bottles, and outer cover, can readily be carried by means of the handle member **72**. The ice inside the outer cover keeps beverage in the bottles cold for a substantial period. Water formed by melting of the ice is caught and retained inside the outer cover as indicated at **71** in Fig. 3.

When the bottles are to be used, the clamp member **73** (Fig. 3) is removed and the upper panels of the outer cover are opened. The upper front panel **29** is first opened. Then the hooks **78** and **79** are released from the central panel **15** of the carton and are slid through the perforations in the upper side panels to release the upper side panels so that the upper side panels and the upper back panel can be opened. As shown in Figs. 4 and 6, the perforations in the upper back panel are substantially smaller than the perforations in the upper side panels, so that the handle member may be held therein when the outer cover is open.

The package construction illustrated in the drawings and described above is subject to structural modification without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Having described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A package for refrigerated beverages which comprises a carton having a bottom for supporting a plurality of bottles and an upright panel having a handle opening therein, an outer cover of flexible liquid-impervious sheet material comprising an enclosed lower section surrounding the carton, the upper end thereof being open, and upper panels for closing the open upper end, there being perforations in the upper panels, a handle member comprising an upper hand grip section, side arms, and hooks at lower ends of the side arms, the side arms of the handle member extending through the perforations of the upper panels with the hooks engaging the upright panel of the carton at the handle opening for carrying the package to hold the outer cover in a position embracing the carton and bottles therein, the outer cover being adapted to hold water formed by melting of ice surrounding the bottles.

2. A package for refrigerated beverages which comprises a carton having a bottom for supporting a plurality of bottles and an upright panel having a handle opening therein, an outer cover of flexible liquid-impervious sheet material comprising an enclosed lower section surrounding the carton, the upper end thereof being open, an upper front panel, an upper back panel and a pair of upper side panels for closing the open upper end, an inverted U-shaped handle member comprising an upper hand grip section, side arms, and hooks at lower ends of the side arms, there being a pair of spaced perforations in the upper back panel, and perforations in the upper side panels, the side arms of the handle member extending through the perforations of the upper back panel and the upper side panels with the hooks engaging the upright panel of the carton at the handle opening, there being an elongated slot on the upper front panel for receiving the handle, and a clamp member slidably mounted on and spanning the side arms of the handle member, the clamp member releasably engaging the upper panels to hold the upper panels against tops of the bottles in the carton in a closed position, the handle holding the outer cover in a position embracing the carton and the bottles therein, the outer cover being adapted to hold water formed by melting of ice surrounding the bottles.

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