Feb. 7, 1950 G. W. CONCKLIN 2,496,778

FOLDING BASKET FOR MARKET CARRIERS

Filed Nov. 8, 1946

Fig: 1.

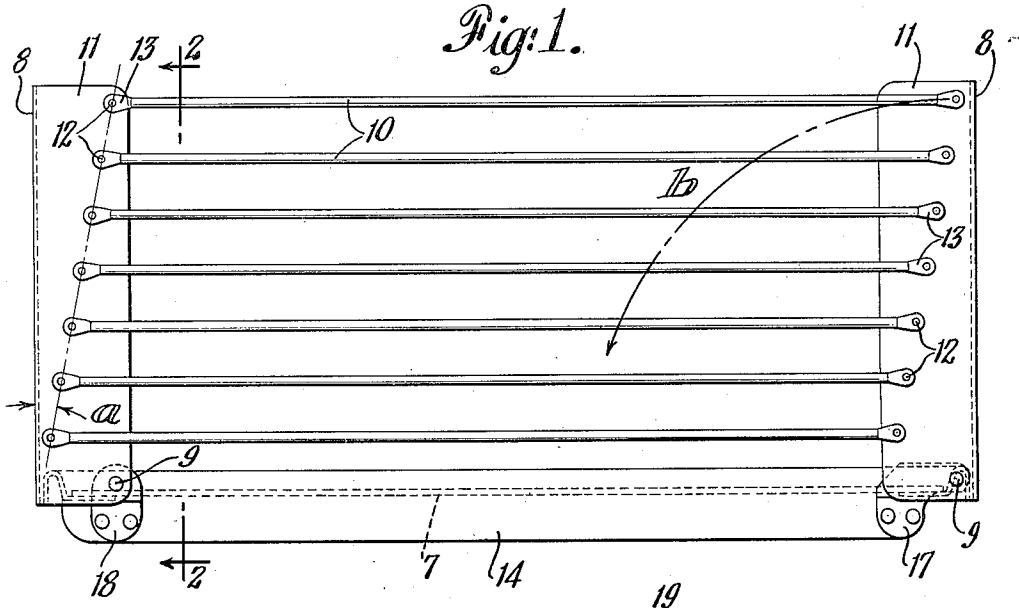


Fig: 2.

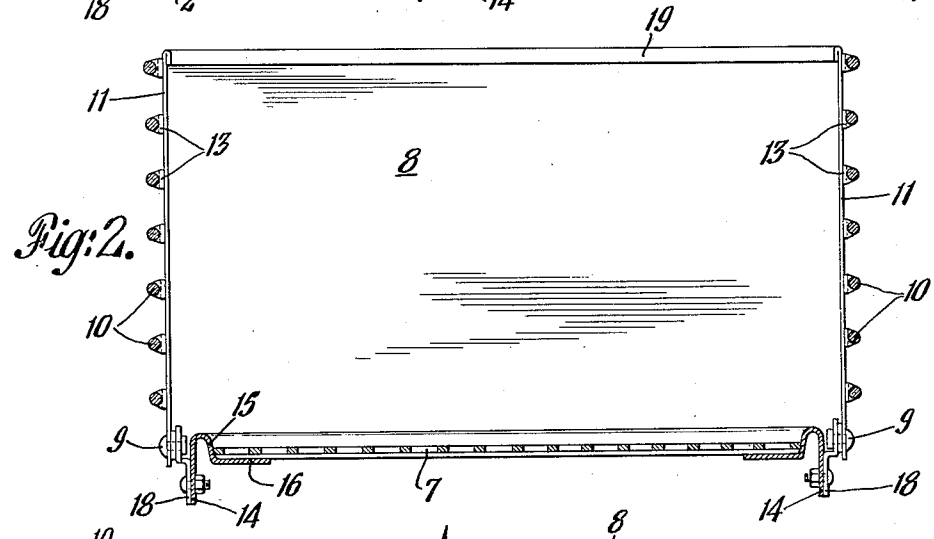
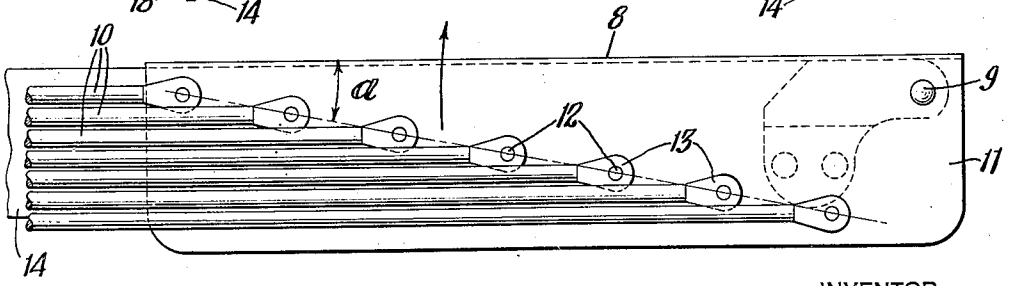


Fig: 3.



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FOLDING BASKET FOR MARKET CARRIERS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 220—6)

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The invention relates to folding baskets for market carriers or wheeled carts such as are commonly employed nowadays in chain grocery stores, so-called super-markets and other self-service stores. It is particularly applicable for use in conjunction with market carriers which can be folded so as to occupy a minimum space when not in use.

In stores which provide carrier carts for the convenience of customers in assembling and carrying their purchases to the wrapping counter or cashier's station, it is customary to keep the carriers with empty baskets near the store entrance where the customer takes one upon arrival and wheels it around like a baby buggy. The empty carriers and baskets take up considerable space, frequently getting in the way of customers as they arrive and hampering trade at nearby counters through obstruction of the aisles. It is an object of the present invention to alleviate this difficulty by providing an improved form of folding basket which is especially adapted for use in conjunction with folding carts and which, in its collapsed condition, will occupy a minimum space.

It is also a particular object of my invention to provide a collapsible basket, the several sections of the sides of which can be brought into partially overlapping relationship when the basket is collapsed so that it will occupy only a small fraction of the space required for the open basket. I am aware that collapsible baskets have been made heretofore, but it has been an object of my invention to provide an improved construction which will fold flatter and which is generally more simple and compact than any basket which has been devised before.

These and other objects and advantages of my invention will appear more fully as the description proceeds.

In the drawings, Figs. 1 to 3 illustrate a preferred embodiment of my invention, Fig. 1 showing the basket in side elevation, Fig. 2 being a transverse sectional view taken as indicated at 2—2 in Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 being a detail cross-sectional view showing to an enlarged scale the right-hand end of Fig. 1 with the basket collapsed.

The basket in its general arrangement comprises a bottom 7, end members 8 hingedly mounted in association with the bottom as at 9 and a series of side members 10 arranged in spaced parallel relationship along the sides of the basket and pivotally secured individually at

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each end, as by the rivets 12, to a longitudinally extending element associated with the end members. In the construction specifically illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive this longitudinally extending element comprises the inwardly extending vertical marginal flanges 11. An important feature of the construction resides in forming each of the side members 10 with inwardly offset flattened ends 13 adjacent its pivots 12 so that when the end members 8 are folded down into the collapsed position, as shown in Fig. 3, the inwardly offset ends can be brought into overlapping relationship with the adjacent side members. Another important feature of this construction resides in arranging the points 12 of pivotal attachment in a line which makes an acute angle with the adjacent end of the basket (angle a—Figs. 1 and 3). When the basket is collapsed by folding its ends down in the direction of the arrow b (Fig. 1), this arrangement of the pivots in combination with the flattened ends 13 of the side rods 10 makes it possible to bring these rods into the closely nested position shown in Fig. 3 in which they occupy no more space than the width of the flanges 11 of the end members or than the thickness of the flanges 14 associated with the bottom of the basket.

If desired, the bottom 7 may be perforate as indicated in the drawings, or it can be made of expanded metal or of a solid metal sheet. In the construction illustrated, the bottom 7 is carried by a frame having the vertical flanges 14 around its periphery with an inwardly and downwardly extending portion 15 terminating in the inwardly projecting flanges 16 on which the bottom 7 rests or is secured. Brackets 17 and 18 fixed to the flanges 14 have offset extensions for the hinged or pivotal attachment of the ends 8 as by means of the rivets or bolts 9. The ends 8 and inwardly extending flanges 11 may, if desired, be formed from a single sheet af metal, the upper edge of which can be flanged or beaded as at 19. Hinge point 9 for the right-hand end preferably is offset as shown in Fig. 1, being located near the base of flanges 11, whereas that for the left-hand end is located near the top of these flanges as also shown in this view.

The terms and expressions which I have employed are used in a descriptive and not a limiting sense, and I have no intention of excluding such equivalents of the invention described, or of portions thereof, as fall within the purview of the claims.

I claim:

1. A folding basket for market carriers comprising a bottom, end forming members hinged to the bottom, each of said end forming members having inwardly extending vertical marginal flanges, and a series of spaced parallel horizontal side forming members on each side of the basket, each of the side forming members having its ends pivotally attached to said flanges, the points of pivotal attachment being arranged in two parallel lines on each side of the basket, each of which lines makes an acute angle with its adjacent end of the basket.

2. A folding basket for market carriers comprising a bottom, end forming members hinged to the bottom, each of said end forming members having inwardly extending vertical marginal flanges, and a series of spaced parallel horizontal side forming members on each side of the basket, each of said side forming members having inwardly offset flattened ends pivotally attached to said flanges, the points of pivotal attachment being arranged in two parallel lines each of which makes an acute angle with its adjacent end of the basket.

GEORGE W. CONCKLIN.

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