Dec. 21, 1965 J. C. SPERY 3,224,630

WRAPPER TYPE CAN CARRIER

Original Filed Nov. 25, 1960 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 2

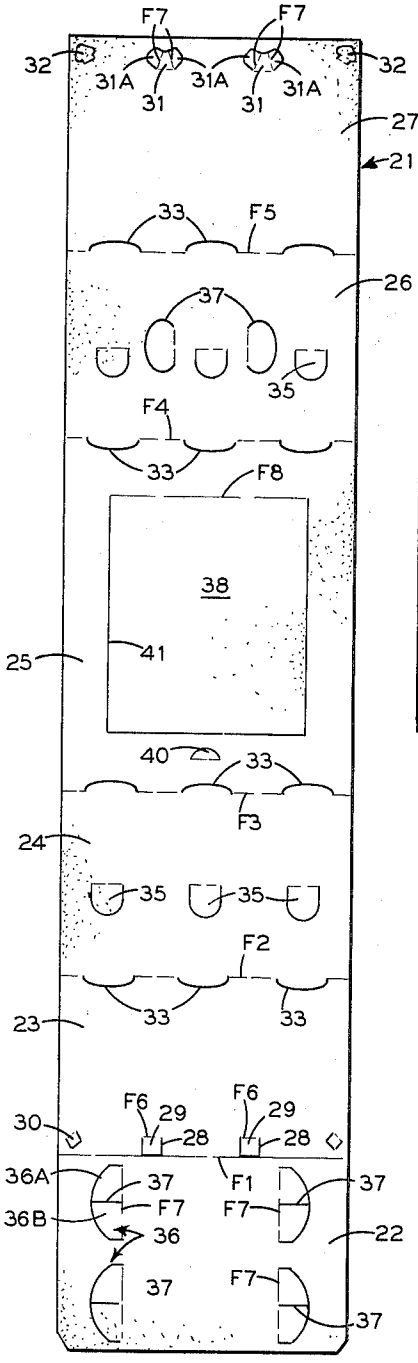
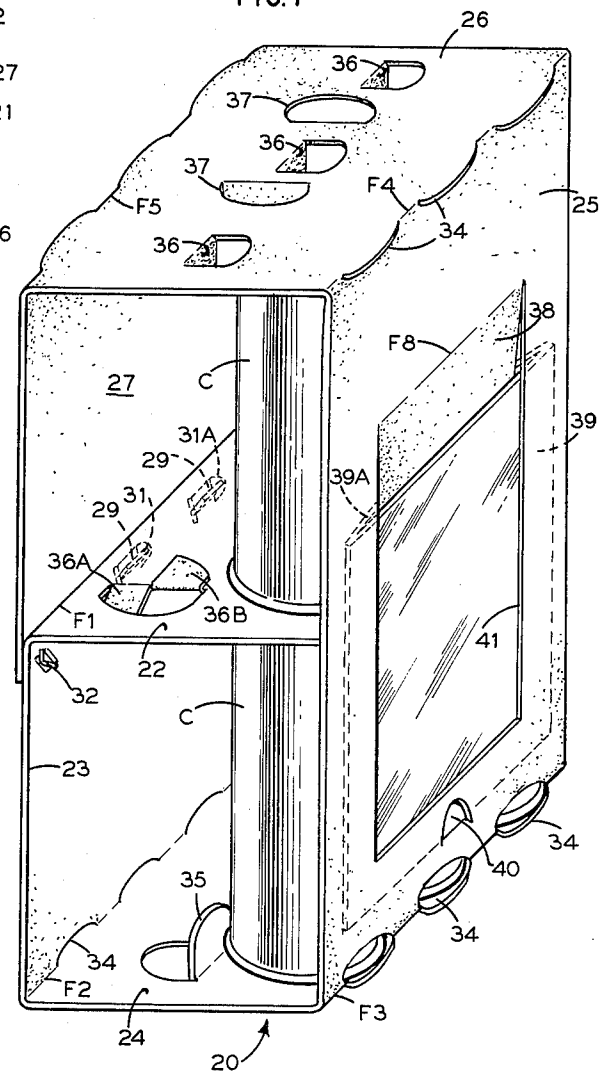


FIG. 1



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WRAPPER TYPE CAN CARRIER

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FIG. 4

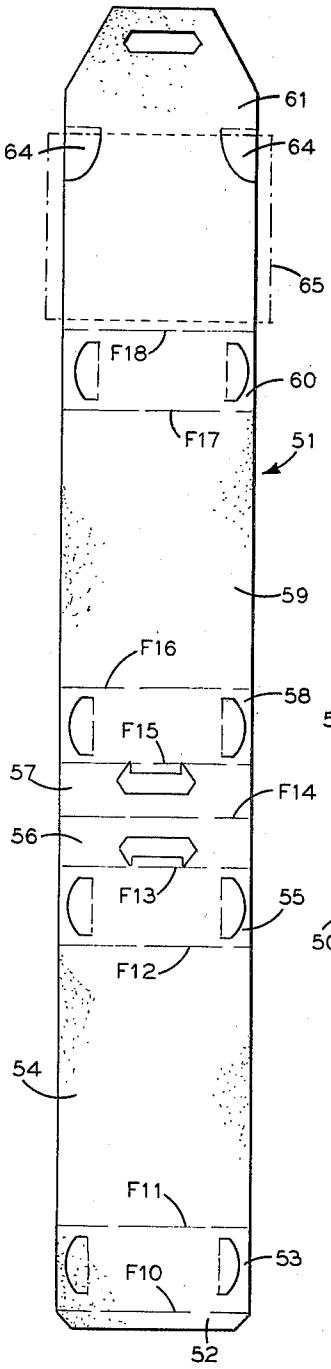


FIG. 5

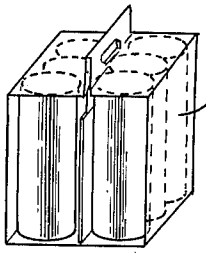


FIG. 3

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WRAPPER TYPE CAN CARRIER

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FIG. 6

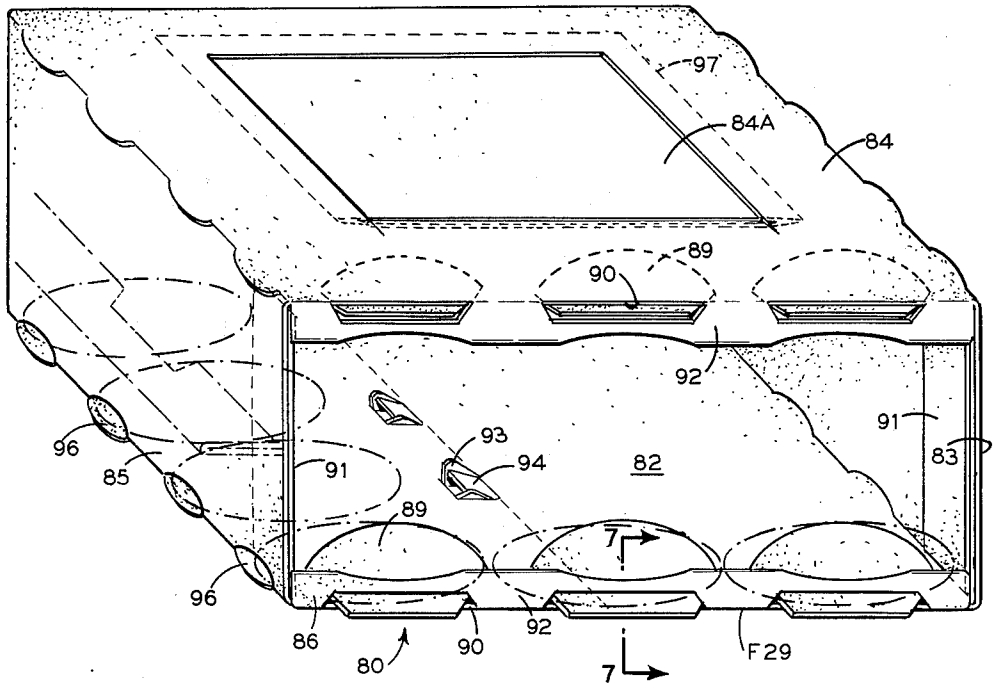
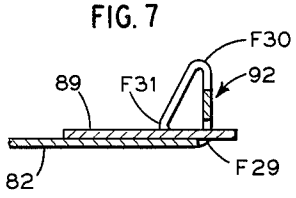


FIG. 7



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Dec. 21, 1965 J. C. SPERY 3,224,630

WRAPPER TYPE CAN CARRIER

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FIG. 9

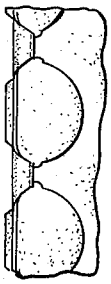
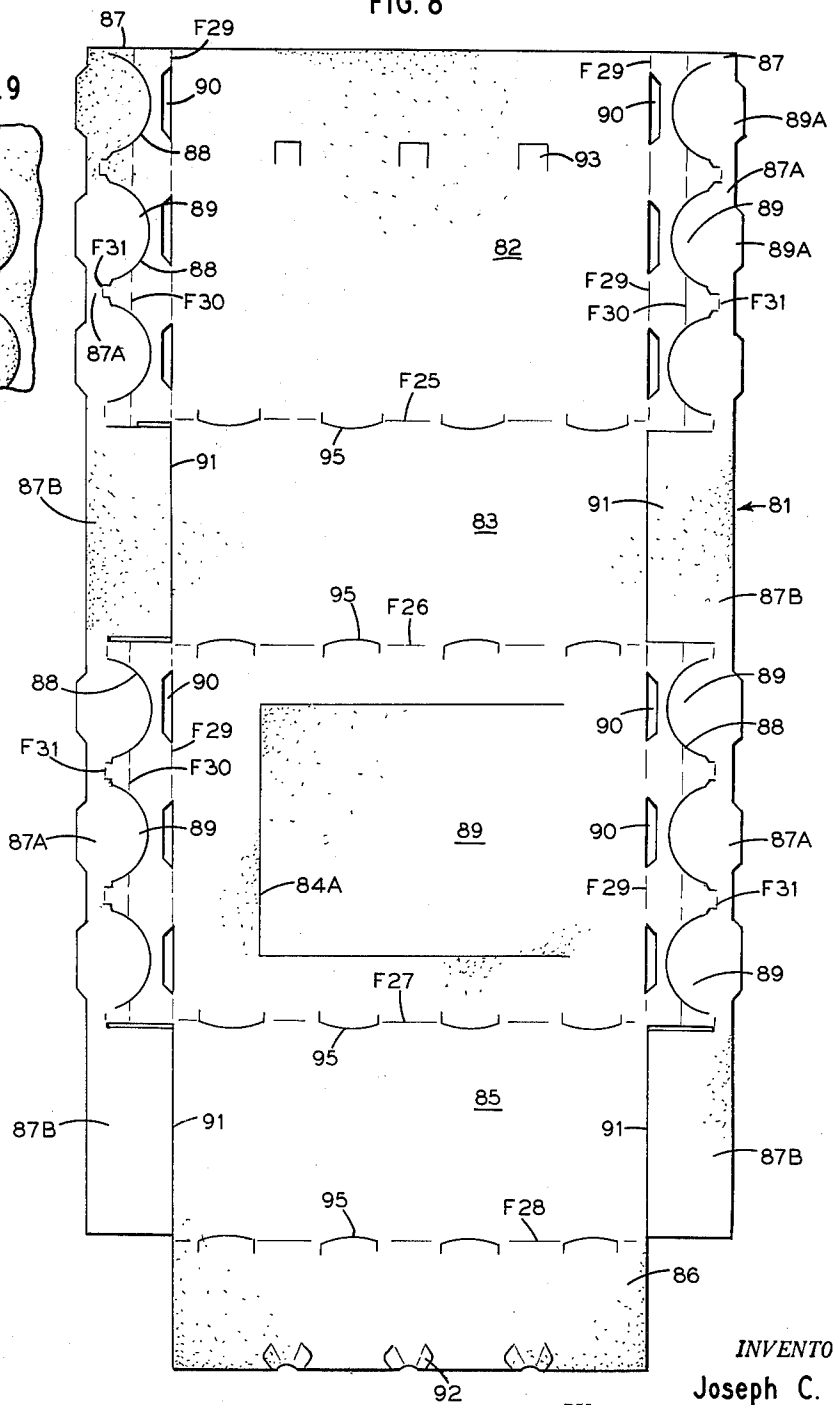


FIG. 8



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United States Patent Office 3,224,630 Patented Dec. 21, 1965

3,224,630

WRAPPER TYPE CAN CARRIER

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Continuation of abandoned application Ser. No. 71,769, Nov. 25, 1960. This application Apr. 22, 1963, Ser. No. 275,791

9 Claims. (Cl. 220—103)

This invention relates to a wrapper type can carrier. More particularly, this invention is directed to an improved wrapper type can carrier arranged to carry a plurality of cans and to which provision is made for attaching thereto a free premium or bonus article. This application constitutes a continuation of an application S.N. 71,769, filed November 25, 1960, now abandoned.

Today many different kinds of wrapper type carriers are employed for packaging and distributing a variety of products sold in cans or other like containers, e.g., beer, soda and the like. To enhance the sale of these products over that of a competing brand, resort is often made to the practice of giving away with each carton or carrier of can goods a free bonus or premium of some desirable article. However, it has been heretofore a difficult and concerning problem as to how such free gifts or bonus prizes could be associated with such carrier as to not have the gift or bonus become detached, pilfered or lost therefrom, since none of the known wrapper type constructions provided facilities for attaching thereto a free gift or bonus.

Therefore an object of this invention is to provide an improved wrapper type carrier constructed to contain several cans, e.g., six or more, with provisions for fixedly attaching to each carton or wrapper a free gift or bonus in a manner so as to insure against lost or unintentional separation of the bonus or gift from the wrapper.

Another object is to provide an improved premium containing can wrapper constructed and arranged so as to prevent removal of the premium without first damaging or destroying the wrapper.

Another object is to provide in an improved premium containing can wrapper a display window whereby a prospective purchaser may view the premium or free gift.

Other features and advantages will become readily apparent from the detail description of the invention.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an improved can wrapper in accordance with this invention.

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the blank from which the carrier of FIG. 1 is formed.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a modified form of the invention.

FIG. 4 is a plan view of a blank from which the carrier of FIG. 3 is formed.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a slightly modified carrier of the type shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of another modified embodiment.

FIG. 7 is a section view taken along line 7—7 on FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a plan view of the blank from which the carrier of FIG. 6 is formed.

FIG. 9 is a fragmentary detail of the marginal piece shown in folded position.

The improved can carrier or wrapper **20** of FIG. 1 is formed from a single blank **21** and from a stock of suitable sheet material, such as paperboard, cardboard or the like. As shown in FIG. 3, the rectangular blank **21** is formed with a plurality of transversely extending fold lines **F1**, **F2**, **F3**, **F4** and **F5** to divide the blank **21** into several panels **22–27** integrally connected in edge to edge relationship. The several panels **22–27** comprise a bottom panel **24**, a full side panel **25** hingedly connected to the bottom panel **24** along fold line **F3**, a top panel **26** hingedly connected about fold line **F4** at the upper end of the side panel **25**, a lower half panel **23** upwardly folded about fold line **F2** which extends along the other edge of the bottom panel **24**, an intermediate horizontally disposed panel **22** hingedly foldable about fold line **F1**, and a downwardly folded upper half side wall panel **27** integrally connected about fold line **F5** extending along the edge portion of the top panel **26**. In accordance with this invention the lower edge of upper side wall panel **27** is arranged to overlap the upper portion of the lower side wall panel **23** in the folded position, as viewed in FIG. 2. The overlapping portion of the respective side wall panels **23**, **27** have cooperating interlocking and retaining means to firmly secure the panels **22–27** in folded position, as shown in FIG. 1. For example, the lower side wall panel **23** along its upper edge is provided with a plurality of intermediate U-shaped cuts **28** to define a tab **29** foldable about a fold line **F6** and somewhat similar end tabs **30**, the latter being disposed at a slight angle as shown in FIG. 2. Spaced along the overlapping edge of the upper side wall panel **27** are the interlocking tabs **31**, **32** adapted to be received in the openings defined by tabs **29** and **30**. The intermediate tabs **31** are formed with wing **31A** foldable about fold line **F7**, and the end interlocking tabs **32** have an arrow head shape. In the folded position of the blank **21**, the interlocking tabs **31**, **32** are projected into the opening defined by the tabs **29**, **30** respectively to lock the panels **23** and **27** together.

Each side wall panel **25**, **23** and **27** adjacent the top and bottom panel **24**, **26** is suitably notched as indicated at **33** along the respective fold lines **F2–F5** to provide positioning slots **34** for engaging or receiving the beaded or chime portions of the cans C. As shown the wrapper is sized so that six cans arranged in two rows of threes are positioned in side by side relationship on the bottom panel **24**. Separating the adjacent can in each of the rows is an upwardly bent tab **35** cut in the bottom panel.

In accordance with this invention the intermediate panel **22** is simply folded about foldline **F1** and brought to rest on top of the cans seated on bottom panel **24**. As shown in FIG. 1, a second series of six cans are stacked on the intermediate panel supported on the lower cans C. In order to insure against displacement of the stacked cans, the intermediate panel is provided with semi-circular or arcuate retaining tabs **36** cut therefrom and foldable along its connecting edge **F7** to restrain the end cans from accidental displacement. In accordance with this invention the retaining tabs **36** are split by a radial cut **37** to define quarter tabs **36A**, **36B** that are reversely bent about their respective foldlines **F7**. Thus the reversely bent quarter tabs **36A**, **36B**, respectively engage the chimes of the end cans of both lower and upper stacks so as to prevent displacement thereof. The upper panel **26**, like that of the bottom panel **24** is provided with downwardly folded tabs **35** to separate the cans in each of the rows in the top stack. Also the top panel **26** is provided with a pair of finger holes **37** to facilitate carrying the carton **20**. If desired a suitable handle (not shown) may be formed integral with the top panel in any well-known manner, in line of the finger holes **37**.

The feature of this invention resides in the manner in which a premium or bonus gift is secured to the wrapper for added sales appeal. As shown the full side panel **25** is slit to define a rectangular flap **38** which is hingedly connected about a foldline **F8**. In the illustrated embodiment the gift or bonus consists of a phonograph record distributed in an open end envelope **39**. According to this invention the flap **38** is displaced inwardly and inserted into the open end **39A** of the record envelope. In this

manner the envelope is fixedly connected to the wrapper so as to be positioned in abutting relationship with the inside surface of the side panel **25**. If desired an upwardly extending thumb nail tab **40** foldable inwardly of the wrapper may be provided to support the lower edge of the envelope in position. With the construction described it will be readily apparent that with the record envelope affixed to the wrapper, and the cans C stacked therein, it becomes impossible to remove the record without first destroying or damaging the wrapper. Thus unauthorized removal or accidental separation of the record from the wrapper is rendered virtually impossible. Further, the flap **38** is sufficiently large so as to form a window **41** for giving full view to the record envelope so that a purchaser may select the wrapper containing the particular record he most desires.

FIGS. 3 and 4 illustrate a modified form of the invention. In this form wrapper **50** is likewise formed from a single blank **51** cut from a stock of suitable material. The blank **51**, as shown in FIG. 4, is substantially rectangular in shape and is formed with a plurality of transversely extending foldlines **F10–F18** defining panels **52–61**. The several panels include a bottom half section **53** having a marginal portion **52** hinged thereto about foldline **F10**. Foldably hinged about foldline **F11** is an outer side panel **54**. A top panel **55** is foldably hinged about foldline **F12** at the upper edge of panel **54**. As shown the top panel is formed of top segments **55, 58** having integrally formed therewith upright reverse folds **56, 57** to define a handle **62** that extends along the top of the wrapper. Integrally connected to panel **58** is the other side panel **59** foldable along foldline **F16**, and the other bottom segment **60** is foldable about foldline **F17** at the bottom of panel **59**. Foldable about foldline **F18** along the inner edge of bottom panel **60** is an upwardly extending intermediate panel **61**. As shown the upper end of panel **61** projects upwardly between folds **56, 57** which define the handle **62**. Accordingly the handle **62** is provided with a handle opening **62A** to facilitate grasping of the same. In order to secure the wrapper **50** in folded position the marginal panel **52** is glued to the lower edge of the intermediate panel **61**. As shown the height of the side wall panels **54, 59** are proportioned to receive the two rows of cans C, one stacked on the other, on either side of the intermediate panel **61**. As hereinbefore described the top and bottom panel sections **55, 58** and **53, 60** respectively are provided with can retaining tabs **63** which are cut out and reversely bent inwardly of the wrapper to lie flush against the inner surface of their respective panels, and serve to engage the chimes of the outermost cans to prevent accidental displacement of the end cans.

In this form of the invention the intermediate panel **61** has cut therein a pair of ears or flaps **64** adjacent the outer edges thereof which are adapted to be insertable in the open end of envelope **65** containing a record which is intended to form a free gift or premium with each purchase. As shown the envelope **65** is fixed to the wrapper end so that it abuts the surface of intermediate panel **61** when the cans C are stacked within the wrapper. Thus, as hereinbefore described, the gift record cannot be readily lost or separated without first destroying the wrapper.

FIG. 5 illustrates a slightly modified embodiment of the wrapper as described and shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. The wrapper **70** of FIG. 5 is identical in construction as wrapper **50** with the exception that the side panels of wrapper **70** are proportioned to carry only one row of cans on either side of the divider or six cans instead of the twelve as shown in wrapper **50** of FIG. 3.

FIGS. 6 to 9 illustrate another embodiment of the invention. As shown, the wrapper **80** in this form of the invention is constructed and arranged to carry twelve (12) cans in a 3 x 4 arrangement. If desired the size of the wrapper, utilizing the construction herein described can

be varied to carry any other convenient number of cans.

Accordingly, the wrapper **80** of FIG. 6 is formed from a single blank of sheet material, such as paperboard or the like. FIG. 8 illustrates the plan view of the blank prior to folding to form the wrapper of FIG. 6. The blank **81** for the most part is substantially rectangular. It is provided with a plurality of transversely spaced foldlines **F25–F28** for defining the bottom panel **82**, one side panel **83**, a top panel **84** and the other side panel **85**. Each panel **82–85** is integrally connected in edge to edge relationship and foldable about the foldlines **F25** to **F28** to define an open end, four sided wrapper when folded. Connected to the edge of side panel **85** and foldable about foldline **F28** is an overlapping or securing panel **86**. As will be herein described the panel **86** in folded position overlies the bottom panel **82** for securing the wrapper in folded position.

In this form of the invention a marginal strip or piece **87** is integrally connected to the end portions of the bottom, sides, and top panels **82, 83–84**, and **85** respectively along longitudinally extending foldines **F29**; the marginal pieces **87** terminating at foldline **F28**. As shown the portions **87A** of the marginal pieces **87** opposite the ends of the bottom and top panels **82, 84** respectively are provided with a plurality of arcuate slits **88**, inwardly bowed to define can retaining or positioning flaps **89**, the function of which will be hereinafter described. Spaced along foldlines **F29** in portion **87A** of marginal pieces **87** are a plurality of slots **90** spaced opposite each of slits **88**, and cooperate with flaps **89** to position the cans in the wrapper when folded, as will be described. Portion **87B** of marginal piece **87** opposite the ends of the side panels **83, 85** is split to define a flap **91** which is adapted, in folded position of the blank, to overlie the inside end portions of the side panels **83, 85** as shown in FIG. 6.

In folding the blank **81** to form the wrapper, the marginal pieces **87** are first longitudinally folded 90° about foldline **F29**. As shown in FIG. 7, the marginal piece **87** is again folded about a second longitudinal foldline **F30** approximately 150–170° to define a reinforcing bead **92**, adapted to extend along the open ends of the wrapper at the top and bottom panels thereof. Each marginal piece **87** is again longitudinally folded about foldlines **F31** so that the can retaining flaps **89** are disposed in overlying position along the inside surface of the top and bottom panels **82, 84** (see FIG. 9). In this position the projection portions **89A** of flaps **89** extend through slots **90**, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7. In this position the flaps **91** are also disposed in overlying position with the inside end portions of the side walls as shown in FIG. 6.

With the marginal portions **87** inwardly and reversely folded, as described, the wrapper is then readied to be folded about its transverse foldlines **F25, F26, F27** and **F28** to define a four-sided wrapper open at either end. In the transversely folded position of the blank **81** panel **86** is then folded to overlie a portion of the bottom panel **82**.

In accordance with this invention the bottom panel **82** and overlap panel **86** have cooperating interlocking and retaining tabs **93, 94** cut therein. As shown the interlocking tabs **93** are cut in the edge of panel **86**. Retaining tabs complementary with tabs **93** are cut in the bottom panel. Thus, as shown in FIG. 6, the interlocking tabs **93** project through the opening defined by retaining tabs **94** to retain the wrapper in folded position.

To facilitate the positioning of the cans along the side panels **83, 85**, a plurality of slits **95** are spaced along folding lines **F25–F28**. Consequently when the panels are folded about their respective transverse foldlines **F25–F28**, openings **96** are formed which are adapted to receive the chime portion of the cans, and serve to maintain the cans in position. The cans extending along the open ends of the wrappers are prevented from being displaced by the beads **92**, formed along the upper and lower panels as the beads **92** project inwardly therefrom to reduce the open

area of the open ends. Thus with the cans positioned in the wrapper, the beads **92** extending along the open end of the wrapper, and openings **96** extending along the sides of the wrapper, retain the marginal cans in position within the carton or wrapper, the beads also having can positioning spaces formed therein a result of slits **88**.

According to this invention the upper or top panel **84** is provided with a flap **84A** which is foldable inwardly. As hereinbefore described a premium or gift in the form of a record distributed in an open end envelope **97** is fixedly attached to the wrapper by inserting the flap **84A** into the open end of the envelope. The envelope is disposed within the wrapper in abutting position against the inside surface of the top panel **84**. Thus when the cans are in position the record is wedged between the top of the cans and the top panel. The arrangement thus described prohibits unintentional removal of the record without first damaging the carton or wrapper.

If desired the wrapper **80** may be provided with a handle, which may be attached or formed integral therewith in any well-known manner.

For the foregoing, it will be noted that each of the wrappers described are sturdy and secured in folded position without glue, except for the form described with reference to FIGS. 3 to 5. Also each of the wrappers is provided with means for affixing thereto a free premium or gift in the form of a record, book, picture or the like, which is rendered tamperproof. Also the arrangement is such that the free gift or premium is freely visible.

While specific embodiments of the invention have been shown and described in detail to illustrate the application of the invention principles, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied otherwise without departing from such principles.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable can carrier formed from a one piece blank of sheet material comprising a bottom panel defined by spaced transversely extending foldlines, a full side wall foldably hinged to said bottom panel about one fold line, a lower half sidewall foldably hinged to the bottom wall about said other fold line, a top panel foldably hinged about a foldline at the upper end of said full side wall, and an upper half side wall panel foldably hinged about another foldline defining said top panel, said upper half side wall having a portion thereof overlapping the upper end of said lower half side wall, the overlaping portions of said half side walls having interlocking and retaining tabs cut therein for engagement with one another to firmly secure said panels in folded position, and an intermediate panel horizontally disposed between said top and bottom panels to provide for tier storage of cans within said carrier, said intermediate panel being hingedly foldable about a foldline extending along the upper edge of said lower half side wall, and said intermediate panel being adapted to rest in position on top of cans making up the lower tier, a plurality of semi-circular can retaining flaps disposed in said intermediate panel, said semi-circular flaps being split into quarter sections that are reversely bent so as to retain cans disposed above and below said intermediate panel, and said full side wall having a U-shape cut therein to define a flap hingedly connected at one end to said full side wall about a foldline disposed to to one side of said intermediate panel, an envelope for containing a premium, said envelope having an open end, said said side wall flap being foldable inwardly of said side wall and insertable into the open end of said envelope whereby said envelope is affixed within said carrier in abutting relationship against the inside surface of said full side wall so that said envelope straddles the intermediate panel.

2. The invention as defined in claim **1** wherein said full side wall includes a thumb-nail tab disposed to the other side of said intermediate panel adjacent the lower edge of said full side wall, said thumb-nail tab having its lower edge foldably attached to said side wall and adapted to be foldable inwardly to support and retain the bottom of said envelope in position against the flapped panel.

3. A portable can carrier formed from a one piece blank of sheet material comprising a bottom panel defined by spaced transversely extending fold lines, a full side wall foldably hinged to said bottom panel about one fold line, a lower half side wall foldably hinged to the bottom wall about said other fold line, a top panel foldably hinged about a fold line at the upper end of said full side wall, and an upper half side wall panel foldably hinged about another fold line defining said top panel, said half side walls having overlapping portions, means to firmly secure said half side walls in folded position, and an intermediate panel horizontally disposed between said top and bottom panels to provide for tier storage of cans within said carrier, said intermediate panel being hingedly foldable about a fold line extending along the upper edge of said lower half side wall and said intermediate panel being adapted to rest in position on top of cans making up the lower tier, a plurality of can retaining flaps disposed in said intermediate panel, said flaps being split into sections that are reversely bent so as to retain cans disposed above and below said intermediate panel, and said full side wall having cut therein a flap which is hingedly connected at one end to said full side wall about a fold line disposed to one side of said intermediate panel, a premium means, and said side wall flap being foldable inwardly of said side wall for securing said premium means within said carrier in abutting relationship against the inside surface of said full side wall whereby said premium means straddles said interemdiate panel.

4. A portable can carrier formed from a one piece blank of sheet material comprising a bottom panel defined by spaced transversely extending foldlines, a full side wall foldably hinged to said bottom panel about one fold line, a lower half side wall foldably hinged to the bottom wall about said other fold line, a top panel foldably hinged about a fold line at the upper end of said full side wall, and an upper half side wall panel foldably hinged about another foldline defining said top panel, said half side walls having overlapping portions, means to firmly secure said half side walls in folded position, and an intermediate panel horizontally disposed between said top and bottom panels to provide for tier storage of cans within said carrier, said intermediate panel being hingedly foldable about a fold line extending along one of said half side wills, and said intermediate panel being adapted to rest in position on top of cans making up the lower tier, a plurality of can retaining flaps disposed in said intermediate panel, said flaps being split into sections that are reversely bent so as to retain cans disposed above and below said intermediate panel, and said full side wall having cut therein a flap which is hingedly connected at one end to said full side wall about a fold line disposed above said intermediate panel, an envelope for containing a premium, said envelope having an open end, and said side wall flap being foldable inwardly of said side wall and insertable into the open end of said envelope whereby said envelope is affixed within said carrier in abutting relationship against the inside surface of said full side wall so as to straddle said intermediate panel.

5. A portable can carrier formed from a one piece blank of sheet material comprising a bottom panel defined by spaced transversely extending fold lines, a full side wall foldably hinged to said bottom panel about one fold line, a lower half side wall foldably hinged to the bottom wall about said other fold line, a top panel foldably hinged about a fold line at the upper end of said full side wall, and an upper half side wall foldably hinged about another fold line defining said top panel, said half side walls having overlapping portions, means to firmly secure said half side walls in folded position, and an intermediate panel horizontally disposed between said top and bottom panels to provide for tier storage of cans within said carrier, said intermediate panel being hingedly foldable about a fold

line extending along one of said half side walls, and said intermediate panel being adapted to rest in position on top of cans making up the lower tier, a plurality of can retaining flaps disposed in said intermediate panel, said flaps being split into sections that are reversely bent so as to retain cans disposed above and below said intermediate panel, and said full side wall having cut therein a flap which is hingedly connected at one end to said full side wall about a fold line disposed above said intermediate panel, a premium means, and said side wall flap being foldable inwardly of said side wall for securing said premium means within said carrier in abutting relationship against the inside surface of said full side wall whereby said premium means straddles said intermediate panel.

6. A foldable can carrier comprising a single blank of sheet material having transverse fold lines partitioning said blank in several panels and said panels when folded about said fold lines defining the bottom, top, connecting side walls, and an intermediate panel of the carrier, said intermediate panel being horizontally disposed between said top and bottom panels to provide for tier storage of cans within said carrier, and said intermediate panel being adapted to rest in position on top of the cans making up the lower tier, a plurality of can retaining flaps disposed in said intermediate panel, said flaps being split into sections that are reversely bent so as to retain cans disposed above and below said intermediate panel, one of said side walls being cut to define a flap foldable about a fold line along its connected edge, said fold line being disposed above said intermediate panel, a premium means, said side wall flap being folded inwardly of its associated side wall for securing said premium means within said carrier in abutting relationship against the inside surface of said associated side wall whereby said premium means straddles said intermediate panel.

7. A foldable can carrier comprising:

(a) a single blank of sheet material having a series of spaced transversely extending fold lines defining said blank into several panels including opposed top and bottom panels and opposed side panels connected therebetween to define a closed quadrilateral figure having open ends,

(b) said quadrilateral figure being adapted to confine therein a plurality of cans,

(c) can retaining flaps blanked out of said top and bottom panels for retaining a can therein,

(d) one of said panels defining said closed figure having a U-shaped die cut formed therein to define a flap hingedly connected to said one panel along a fold line disposed between the ends of said die cut, said fold line being disposed adjacent the upper end of said one panel,

(e) a substantially flat envelope for containing a premium,

(f) said envelope having an open end,

(g) and said one panel flap being inserted into the open end of said flat envelope whereby said envelope is adapted to be fixedly secured within said carrier in abutting relationship between and against the inside surface of said one panel and cans carried in said carrier,

(h) and a tab disposed adjacent the lower end of said one panel to support and retain the bottom of said envelope in position against said one panel.

8. A can carrier formed from a blank of sheet material comprising:

(a) a closed rectangular figure in the operative position thereof,

(b) said figure being defined by opposed top and bottom walls,

(c) and opposed side walls interconnected between the opposed marginal edges of said top and bottom walls,

(d) means formed in said top and bottom walls for retaining therebetween a plurality of cans within said figure,

(e) one of said walls being die cut to define a flap foldable about a fold line along its connected edge, said fold line being disposed adjacent to and parallel to said top wall,

(f) said flap being co-planar through its entire area,

(g) a premium means,

(h) said flap being folded inwardly of its associated wall for securing said premium means within said carrier in wedged relationship against its inside surface of said associated wall and the cans contained within the carrier

and a thumb nail tab blanked out of said one wall, said thumb nail tab being disposed adjacent the bottom wall whereby said tab is folded inwardly to support and retain the bottom of said premium means in position against the said one wall.

9. A can carrier formed from a blank of sheet material comprising:

(a) a closed rectangular figure in the operative position thereof,

(b) said figure being defined by opposed top and bottom walls,

(c) and opposed side walls fixedly connected to and between the opposed marginal edges of said top and bottom walls,

(d) can retaining flaps blanked out of said top and bottom walls, said can retaining flaps being folded inwardly of said rectangular figure so as to abut flush against the inside surface of the respective wall from whence blanked,

(e) one of said walls being die cut to define a flap foldable about a fold line along its connected edge, said fold line being disposed adjacent to and parallel to said top wall,

(f) said flap being co-planar through its entire area,

(g) a premium means including a flat envelope open along one end thereof, and

(h) said flap being folded inwardly of its associated wall and insertable into the open end of said envelope whereby said envelope is affixed within said carrier in wedged relationship against its inside surface of said associated wall and the cans contained within the carrier,

and a thumb nail tab blanked out of said one wall, said thumb nail tab being disposed adjacent the bottom wall whereby said tab is folded inwardly to maintain and retain the bottom of the premium means in position against the said one wall.

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