Aug. 1, 1939. H. J. HAYES 2,167,947

CONTAINER

Filed Sept. 23, 1938

Fig. 1

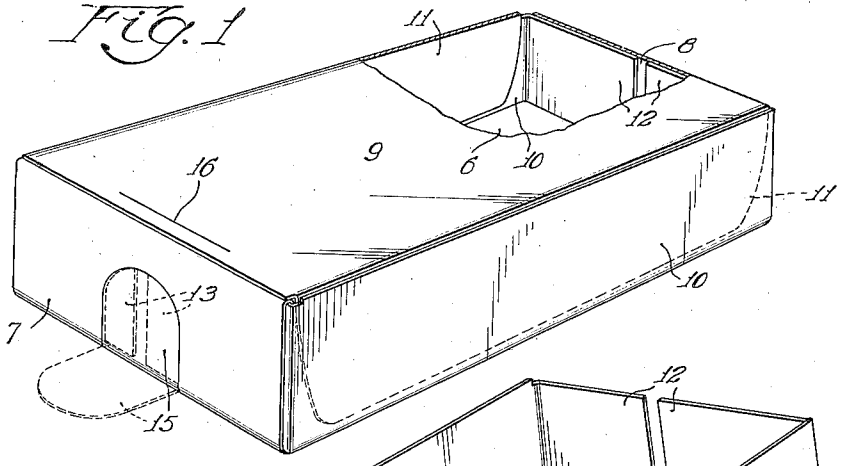


Fig. 2

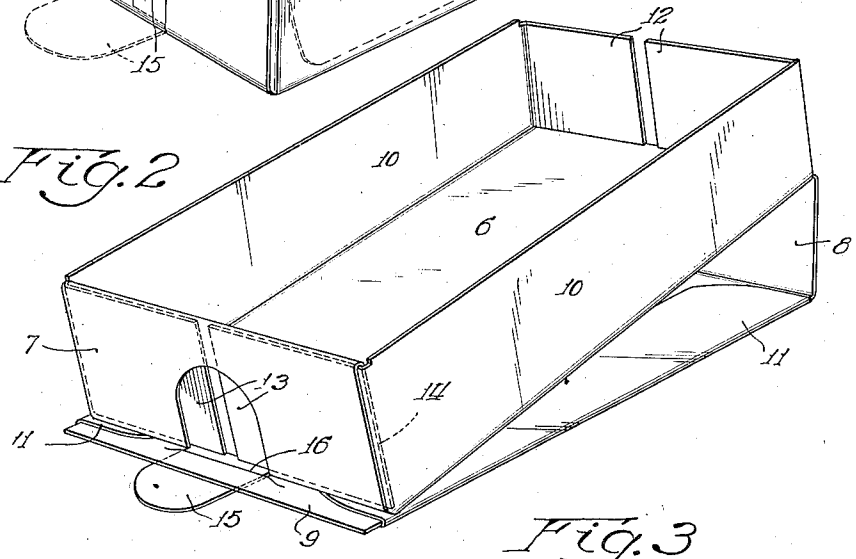


Fig. 3

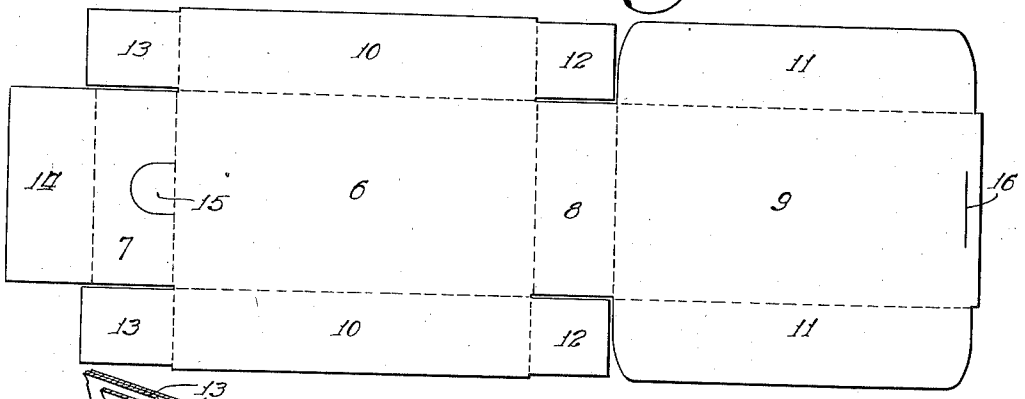
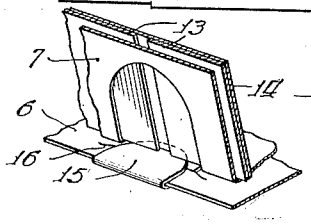


Fig. 4



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2,167,947

CONTAINER

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Application September 23, 1938, Serial No. 231,315

5 Claims. (Cl. 206—44)

The present invention relates to containers and more particularly to containers of paper or fibre board adapted for retention of small articles such as, for example, so-called electric bookkeeping or tabulating cards.

One object of the invention is to provide a container of the kind described which will afford maximum protection for tabulating cards or other small articles during transportation and which, at the same time, will permit ready reference to the contents of the container.

Another object of the invention is to so construct a container as to particularly adapt it for shipment of tabulating or filing cards and which, after the cards have been delivered to the user, will serve effectively as a storage or filing unit to afford ready access to the cards disposed in such container.

A further object is to provide a card container adapted to retain cards in edgewise position and being formed with a protecting cover which is capable of being folded below and secured in place beneath the container so as to form an easel to support the container in an inclined position in which the cards are readily accessible to the user.

A still further object is to accomplish the foregoing results with a container of simple form and with a minimum amount of material.

To these and other ends the present invention resides in certain arrangements and cooperative relationships of parts all as will be pointed out hereinafter and particularly defined in the claims appended hereto.

In the drawing, illustrating a preferred embodiment of the invention:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, illustrating the container in closed condition;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the manner of arranging the container in an inclined, open condition for ready accessibility to the contents;

Fig. 3 is a view of the container blank; and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view, illustrating the manner of retaining or locking the container in open, inclined position.

According to the present invention, as disclosed herein, there is provided a container adapted for safe shipment and storage of articles such as tabulating cards adapted for use with electric bookkeeping machines wherein the cards, after being punched with properly arranged openings, may be received by such machines for the purpose of tabulating the information which is recorded on the cards by means of the openings punched therein. The container of the present invention supplies the requirement for an efficient and sturdy but inexpensive means for retaining cards in a compact, flat condition when not in use and at the same time providing means whereby the cards are made immediately accessible to the operator of the bookkeeping machine.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the container, indicated as a whole at 5, is preferably formed from a single blank of paperboard, such as corrugated board or fibreboard, capable of being readily scored and folded into container form. The blank 5 is suitably cut and scored to provide a bottom panel 6, front panel 7, rear panel 8, and top or cover panel 9, adjacent panels being separated from each other by score lines as indicated on the drawing.

Side wall flaps, or panels, 10, 10 extend from the sides of the bottom panel 6. The top panel 9 also preferably has side flap extensions 11, 11 arranged to extend along the side wall panels 10, 10 when the container is closed and thus provide side walls of double thickness.

The rear wall is also preferably formed so as to be of double thickness and for this purpose there are provided extension flaps 12, 12, one at each end of the rear wall 8. These flaps also serve to provide a supplemental rear wall, as will later be more fully explained.

In order to secure the front wall 7 and side walls 10, 10 in vertical relation to the bottom panel 6, the side walls are preferably provided at their ends with flaps 13, 13, respectively, adapted to be folded inwardly to lie against the inner face of the front wall panel 7, and retained in place by means of a front wall flap 14 arranged to be folded inwardly and over the flaps 13, 13. This flap 14 is preferably of such a length as to engage against the bottom with a wedging action which will cause it to be firmly held in place.

By this construction there is provided a relatively rigid front wall of three thicknesses of material, affording ample protection to the contents at this point.

The container is preferably provided with means whereby it may readily be withdrawn from a stack of similar containers. For this purpose the container is provided with a pull tab 15, preferably formed by die-cutting a flap or tab from the material of the front wall so that the tab is hinged on the same line as that which joins the front wall to the bottom. A pull on this tab will be transmitted directly to the bottom panel without likelihood of the tab or any part of the container becoming torn when so moving it.

Provision is made for supporting the container in an inclined position when it has been opened and ready access to the contents is desired. For this purpose the cover is arranged to be brought from a position over the top of the container to a position beneath the bottom thereof. The rear wall panel 8 is preferably left unsecured to the supplemental rear wall constituted by the flaps 12, 12 so that this panel may swing down from an upright position to a downwardly extending position in which it will be disposed substantially edgewise to a supporting surface such as a counter or desk upon which the container is to be placed.

When the cover and rear wall panel are swung down and under the container, as just described, these parts will be in the form of an easel whereby they will be arranged to support the container in an inclined position in which the user, as for example, a bookkeeping machine operator, may freely remove and reinsert groups of cards as desired.

Means are provided for retaining or locking the container in an inclined open position. For this purpose the front of the container and the front edge of the cover are arranged so as to be engageable one with the other. In the present instance, this engagement is conveniently effected by forming a slit 16 near the front extremity of the cover 9 so that it will receive the pull tab 15, as illustrated in Fig. 2, and retain the front portion of the box from forward movement with respect to the cover panel 9.

In order to provide compactness of the container when in open, inclined position, the flaps 11, 11 are preferably bent inward so as to lie on the upper surface of the cover panel 11 and between this panel and the bottom panel 6 of the container.

If desired, the pull tab may be more securely engaged with the extremity of the cover panel by bringing its free end back and snapping it in beneath the edges of flaps 13, 13. See Fig. 4.

In utilizing the container of the present invention, the blanks will be shipped flat to the point at which it is desired to pack tabulating cards. The container will then be set up by securing the front wall in place, as previously described. The side walls will then be disposed in vertical position and the container may then be filled.

After filling the container it may be closed by folding the tabs 12, 12 inwardly and bringing the flaps 11, 11 into position at right angles to the cover panel 9. The rear wall 8 is then brought into upright position and the cover panel is brought down over the contents so that the flaps 11, 11 are tucked in at the sides of the container when the cover panel 9 is brought to final position over the top of the container.

When the container is used for cards, they will be placed in edgewise position parallel to the front wall. By proportioning the container so that the distance between the side walls is somewhat greater than the length of the cards contained therein, the flaps 11, 11 may be arranged to be frictionally held in their tucked-in position. Due to this provision it is not necessary to provide additional securing means for the cover 9, although such additional means may be provided if desired.

The pull tab 15 will be permitted to remain in its original position within the plane of the front wall 7 during ordinary handling of the container.

When the filled container has been received by the user and it is desired to set it up in its inclined position it is only necessary to swing the cover panel 9 upward and backward, at the same time lifting the rear end of the box and bringing the rear wall 8 down to an edgewise position with respect to the supporting surface. The flaps 11, 11 may then be brought in between the bottom panel and the cover panel 9 in which position the weight of the contents will usually suffice to hold these flaps in closely folded position.

Engagement between the pull tab 15 and the front portion of the cover is effected by swinging this tab down and first sliding the front of the box slightly rearward so that the front edge of the pull tab will be in a position to enter the slot 16. When the front of the pull tab has been caused to enter the slot the container is then pulled forward until the pull tab has entered the slot as far as it will go. The tab may then be folded over the front edge of the cover, then downward until the front edge of the tab snaps into place below the edges of flaps 13, 13. The container will thus be securely held in an inclined position until it is desired to reclose same, whereupon inward pressure against the flaps 13, 13 will allow the front edge of the pull tab to be released after which the tab can be straightened out and removed through the slit 16. The cover can then be replaced upon the container in a manner substantially as above described.

From the foregoing description it is apparent that the present invention provides a container for tabulating cards, and like articles, which is so constructed as to afford adequate protection for edges of cards when same are to be transported from one place to another, and, after the cartons reach their destination, the container may be quickly converted into the form of a filing drawer in which the pull tab 15 serves the purpose of a handle for withdrawing a filled container from a stack of similar containers. The container may then be converted without any alteration except folding into an inclined tray in which position cards may be removed or replaced with maximum efficiency. Due to the inclination of the cards toward the front of the container, there will be no appreciable tendency for the cards to slip out of the rear of the container since the flaps 12, 12 will substantially close the rear end. It is unnecessary to secure the flaps 12, 12 in ordinary usage of the container for cards for the reason that there will be no weight of cards imposed upon these flaps when the container is open by reason of the fact that the tendency will be for the cards to move toward the front wall rather than to the rear.

While the present description sets forth a preferred embodiment of the invention, numerous changes may be made in the construction without departing from the spirit of the invention, and it is therefore desired that the present embodiment be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, reference being had to the appended claims rather than to the foregoing description to indicate the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A container comprising a bottom panel having front, rear, and two side walls hinged thereto, a cover for the container hinged to the upper edge of the rear wall, means for retaining the front wall in upright position relative to the bottom panel, a pull-tab on the container adapted to extend beyond its front wall, the cover and rear wall being foldable to a position beneath the container so as to form a supporting easel to support the rear end of the container in an

elevated position with the front of the cover disposed beneath and adjacent the front of the container, the cover being provided with means engageable with the pull-tab whereby the container may be retained in an open, inclined position.

2. A container comprising a bottom panel having front, rear, and two side walls hinged thereto, a cover for the container hinged to the upper edge of the rear wall, means for retaining the front wall in upright position relative to the bottom panel, a pull-tab on the container adapted to extend beyond its front wall, the cover and rear wall being foldable beneath the container so as to form a supporting easel to support the rear end of the container in an elevated position with the front of the cover disposed beneath and adjacent the front of the container, the cover being formed with a slit adjacent its front edge arranged to receive the pull-tab whereby the container may be retained in an open, inclined position.

3. A container comprising a bottom panel having front, rear and two side walls hinged thereto, a cover for the container hinged to the upper edge of the rear wall, said front wall being formed with a cut providing a pull-tab hinged along the line of juncture of the front wall with the bottom panel, an inturned flap on at least one of the front ends of the side walls adapted to be folded inwardly to lie against the inner face of the front wall and extending therealong a sufficient distance to overlap the pull-tab opening, the lower edge of such flap lying adjacent the upper surface of the bottom panel, the cover and rear wall being foldable beneath the container so as to form a supporting easel to support the rear end of the container in an elevated position with the front of the cover disposed beneath and adjacent the front of the container, the cover being formed with a slit adjacent its front edge adapted to receive the pull-tab, said pull-tab being of sufficient length with respect to the distance of the slit from the edges of the cover so that the extremity of the pull-tab may be folded over the edge of the cover and inserted beneath the inturned flap on the front end of the side wall overlapping the pull-tab opening.

4. A container comprising a bottom panel having front, rear and two side walls hinged thereto, a cover for the container hinged to the upper edge of the rear wall, said front wall being formed with a cut providing a pull-tab hinged along the line of juncture of the front wall with the bottom panel, the cover and rear wall being foldable beneath the container so as to form a supporting easel to support the rear end of the container in an elevated position with the front portion of the cover disposed beneath and adjacent the front of the container, the cover being formed with a slit adjacent its front edge adapted to receive the pull-tab, said pull-tab being of sufficient length with respect to the distance of the slit from the edge of the cover so that the extremity of the pull-tab may be folded around the edge of the cover with its extremity in proximity to the front wall of the container, and means associated with the front wall of the container for retaining the extremity of the pull-tab in folded-over condition.

5. A container comprising a bottom panel having front, rear and two side walls hinged thereto, a cover for the container hinged to the upper edge of the rear wall, said front wall being formed with a cut providing a pull-tab hinged along the line of juncture of the front wall with the bottom panel, inturned flaps on the front ends of the side walls adapted to be folded inwardly to lie against the inner face of the front wall and extending toward each other a sufficient distance to overlap the pull-tab opening, the lower edges of such flaps lying adjacent the upper surface of the bottom panel, a flap extension on the front wall adapted to be folded inwardly against the side wall flaps, means for yieldably retaining the front wall flap in position against the adjacent side wall flaps, the cover and rear wall being foldable beneath the container so as to form a supporting easel to support the rear end of the container in an elevated position with the front of the cover disposed beneath and adjacent the front of the container, the cover being formed with a slit adjacent its front edge adapted to receive the pull-tab, said pull-tab being of sufficient length with respect to the distance of the slit from the edge of the cover so that the extremity of the pull-tab may be folded over the edge of the cover and snapped into place beneath the edges of the inturned side wall flaps overlapping the pull-tab opening.

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