June 10, 1930. H. C. JOHNSON 1,763,588

EGG CONTAINER

Filed March 3, 1928

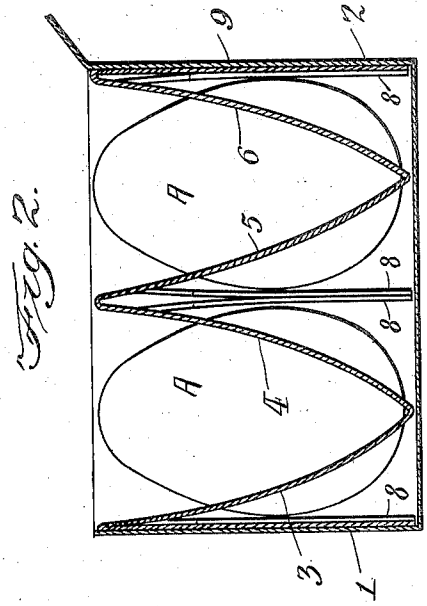


Fig. 2.

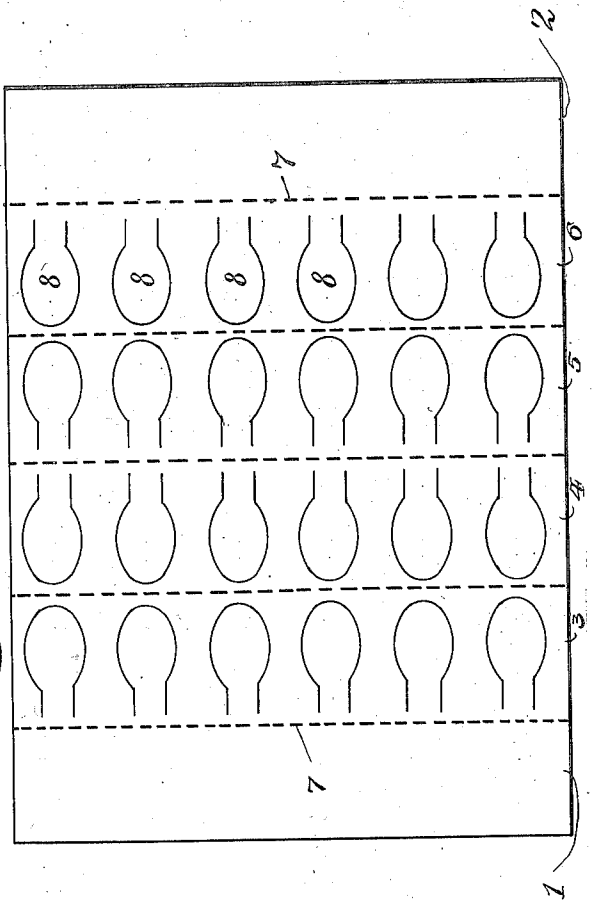


Fig. 3.

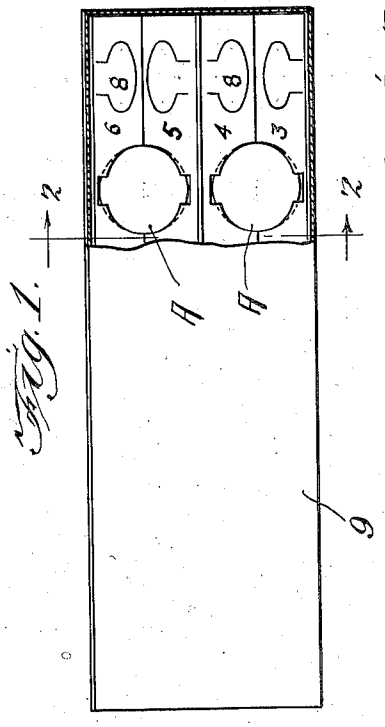


Fig. 1.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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EGG CONTAINER

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The present invention has for its object to produce a simple and novel device adapted to be placed in an egg carton in lieu of the commonly used cellular filler; which device shall serve effectively to cushion eggs arranged in the carton.

The various features of novelty whereby my invention is characterized will hereinafter be pointed out with particularity in the claim; but, for a full understanding of my invention and of its objects and advantages, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a carton containing a device embodying the present invention, a portion of the cover of the carton being broken away and the carton being partially filled with eggs; Fig. 2 is a section on a larger scale taken approximately on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a plan view of the egg supporting device in a flattened condition.

In carrying out my invention, I cut a heavy flexible sheet of cardboard or other suitable material to a width equal to the length of the carton, scoring the sheet along transverse parallel lines to divide it into contiguous sections of a width slightly greater than the depth of the carton and two end sections each preferably as wide as the depth of the carton. There are twice as many intermediate sections as there are rows of eggs in the carton. In other words, if the eggs are to be packaged in two rows, the blank will contain two end sections and four intermediate sections. This is the arrangement illustrated in the drawings and to which the detailed description will be confined.

Referring to Fig. 3 of the drawing, which shows the developed blank, 1 and 2 represent the end sections and 3, 4, 5 and 6 the intermediate sections. The several sections are separated from each other by scored lines as indicated at 7. Each intermediate section has therein a row of openings spaced apart from each other, the openings in the sections 3 and 4 being opposite each other as are the openings in the sections 5 and 6. Consequently when the sheet is folded to bring the scored line between the sections 3 and 4 and the scored line between the sections 5 and 6 at the bottom and the other scored lines at the top, two egg receiving troughs will be formed. When eggs are set into these troughs, each will extend partially through the holes on opposite sides thereof in the inclined walls of the trough.

It is not sufficient simply to provide holes, since the eggs in one row might strike against those in the other. Furthermore, while the end sections 1 and 2, if disposed vertically, constitute supporting legs from which the trough elements are suspended, there is nothing to support the central ridge in the folded blank and therefore the central portion made up of the sections 4 and 5 would sag under the weight of the eggs. I therefore do not remove the material that must be cut out to form the holes in the blank, but leave this material in place in the shape of tongues 8 that are severed from the blank except at the ends that are the upper ends when the blank is folded for use.

In use, the blank, in a folded condition, is set into any usual or suitable carton 9, with the sections 1 and 2 lying against the front and rear walls as shown in Fig. 2. The intermediate sections of the blank are wider than the end sections, and therefore the intermediate sections are permitted to extend diagonally without having their lower edges raised materially above the bottom of the carton. When eggs, such as indicated at A, are set in the carton, each egg pushes the two tongues on opposite sides thereof laterally, the tongues in the sections 3 and 6 being pressed toward the vertical end sections 1 and 2, and the tongues in the sections 4 and 5 being pressed toward the longitudinal center of the carton. By properly proportioning the parts, the tongues in the sections 4 and 5, if pressed laterally far enough to be approximately vertical, will come in contact with the bottom of the carton and serve as supports for the central ridge in the blank. By this means, each of the two troughs may be said to be suspended from the top independently of the other trough.

It will be seen that when the eggs are in place, each is hung in a swing that cannot sag down. Furthermore, there is a double thickness of material between each egg and the corresponding egg in the adjacent row, so that the eggs in the two rows cannot strike against each other. All of the eggs in one row are, of course, positively spaced apart and held apart by reason of seating in the holes in the supporting device. The eggs are therefore positively held against contact with each other, are supported in swings clear of the bottom of the carton, and are protected at the front and at the back of the carton by the thickness of the walls of the latter, the thickness of the material of the end sections of the blank, and the thickness of the tongue elements. Consequently the eggs are effectively cushioned against breakage from contact with each other or because of blows on the exterior of the carton, and they are prevented from being crushed by an undue weight upon the carton because of the stiffening effect, in the vertical direction, of the end sections and the tongues.

While I have illustrated and described with particularity only a single preferred form of my invention, I do not desire to be limited to the exact structural details thus illustrated and described; but intend to cover all forms and arrangements which come within the definitions of my invention constituting the appended claim.

I claim:

An element for supporting eggs in a carton, comprising a blank folded along parallel lines to produce a plurality of troughs and supports at opposite sides, each trough having tongues hung at their upper ends cut from the sides of the same, each tongue being opposite a corresponding tongue in the other side of the same trough, and the tongues being of such lengths and being so disposed that they will engage the bottom of the carton when pressed laterally into vertical positions while the element is in a carton.

In testimony whereof, I sign this specification.

HARRY C. JOHNSON.