April 25, 1967 M. DOLL ETAL 3,316,102

FOOD TRAY BLANK, CONTAINER, AND PACKAGE

Filed June 28, 1965 5 Sheets-Sheet 1

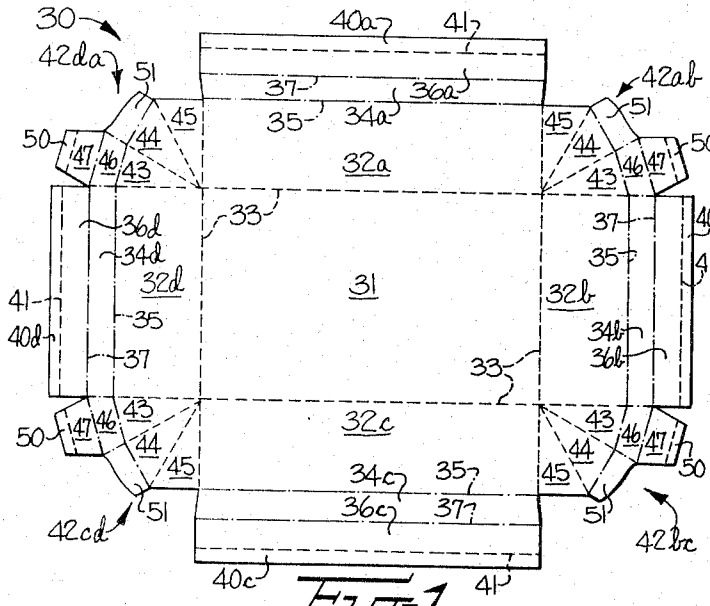


Fig-1

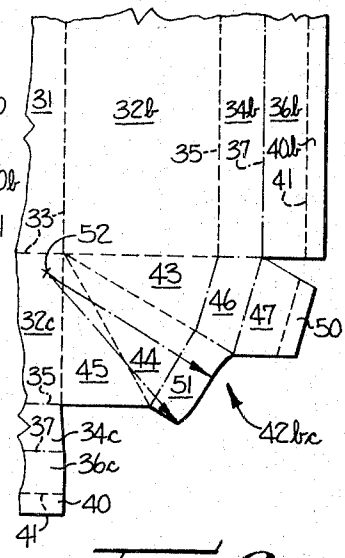


Fig-2

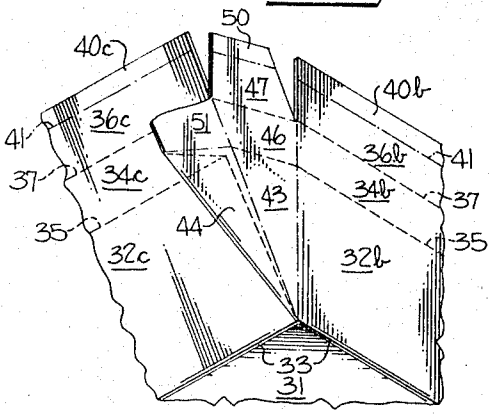


Fig-3

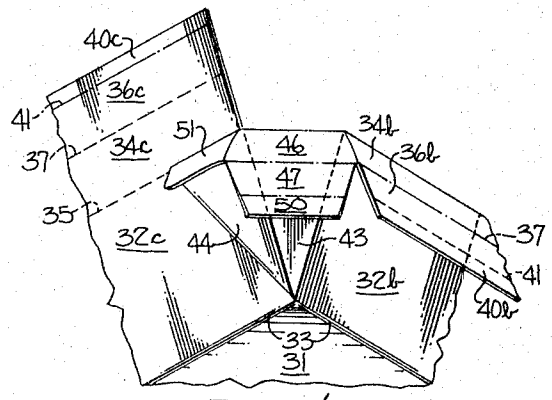


Fig-4

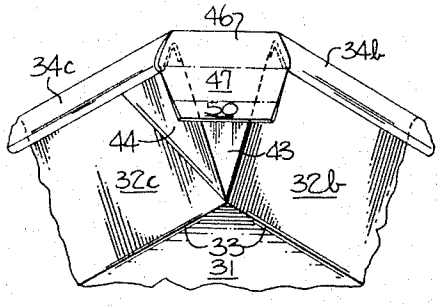


Fig-5

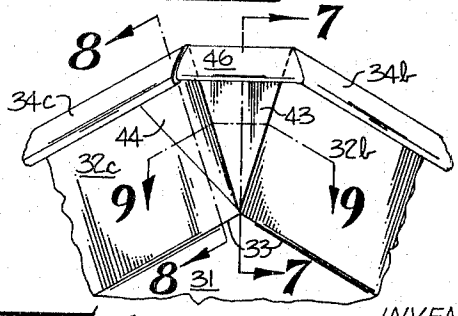


Fig-6

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April 25, 1967 M. DOLL ETAL 3,316,102

FOOD TRAY BLANK, CONTAINER, AND PACKAGE

Filed June 28, 1965 5 Sheets-Sheet 2

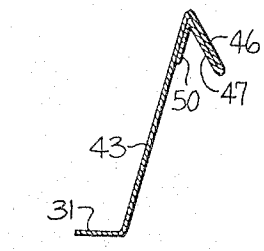


Fig-7

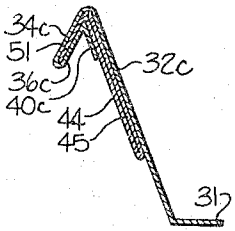


Fig-8

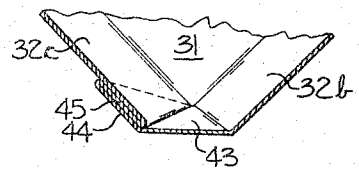


Fig-9

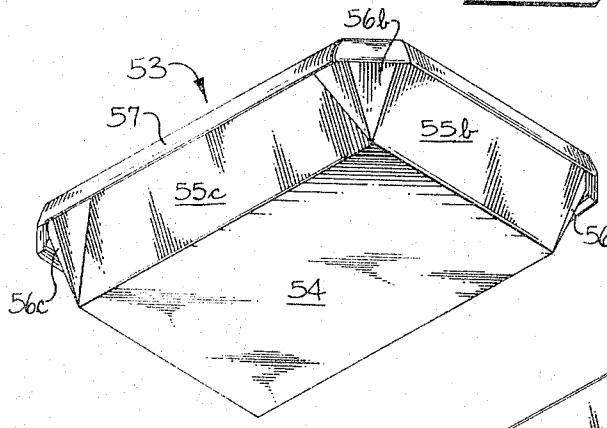


Fig-10

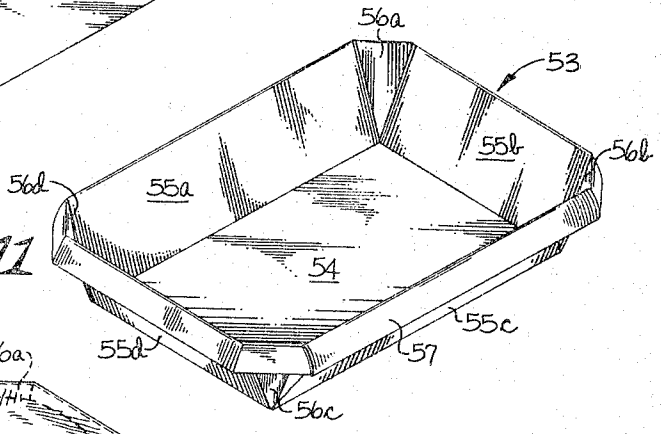


Fig-11

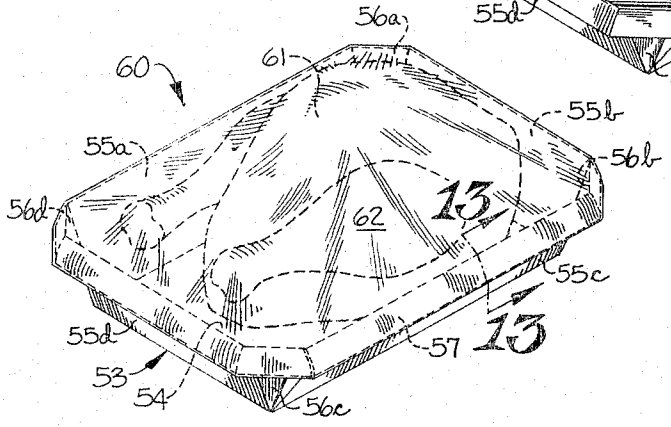


Fig-12

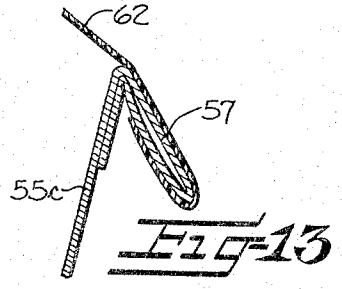


Fig-13

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April 25, 1967 M. DOLL ETAL 3,316,102

FOOD TRAY BLANK, CONTAINER, AND PACKAGE

Filed June 28, 1965 5 Sheets-Sheet 3

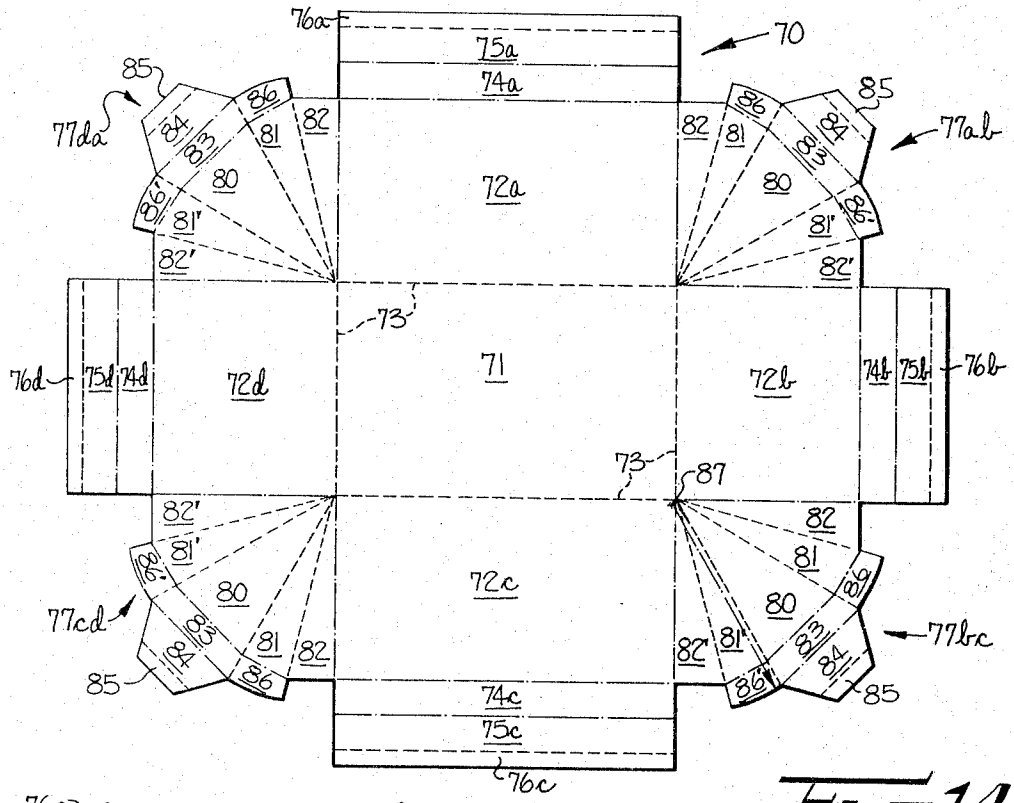


Fig-14

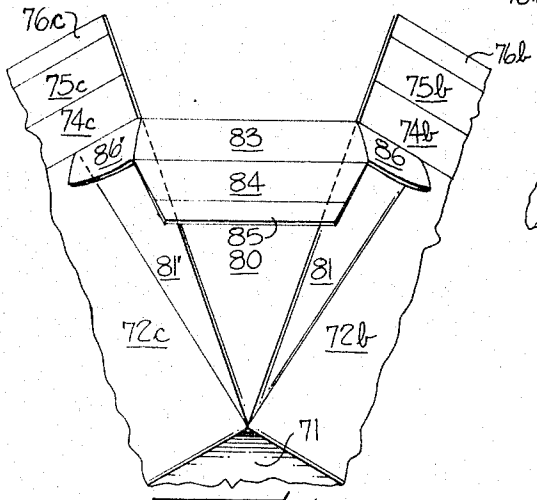


Fig-15

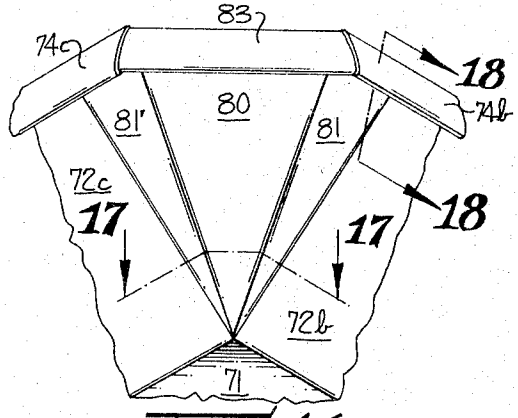


Fig-16

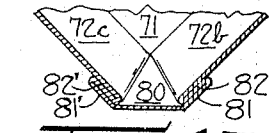


Fig-17

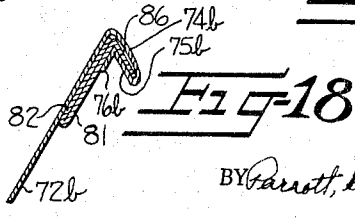


Fig-18

INVENTORS:
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April 25, 1967 M. DOLL ETAL 3,316,102

FOOD TRAY BLANK, CONTAINER, AND PACKAGE

Filed June 28, 1965 5 Sheets-Sheet 4

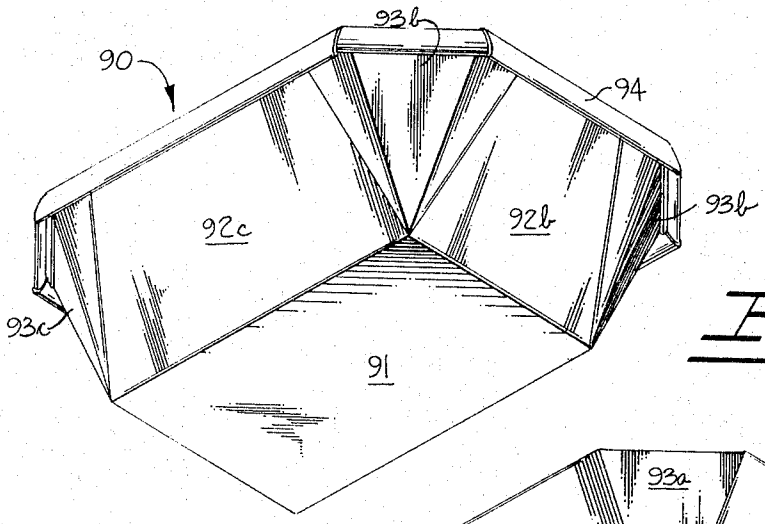


FIG-19

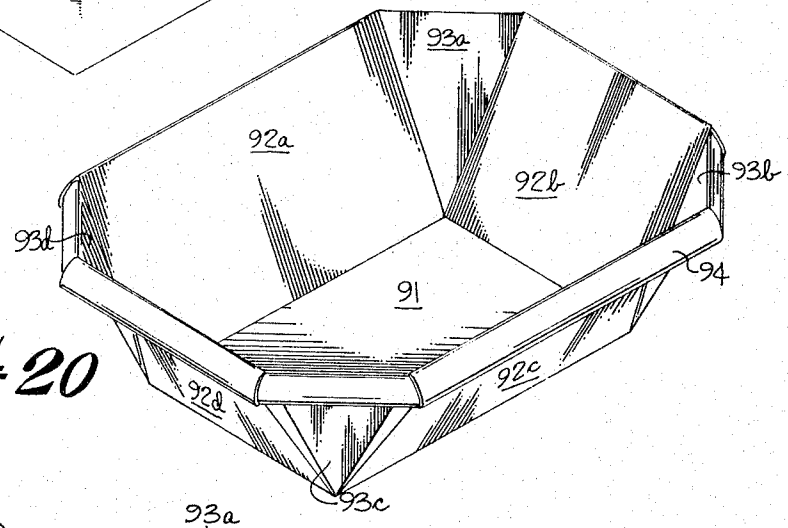


FIG-20

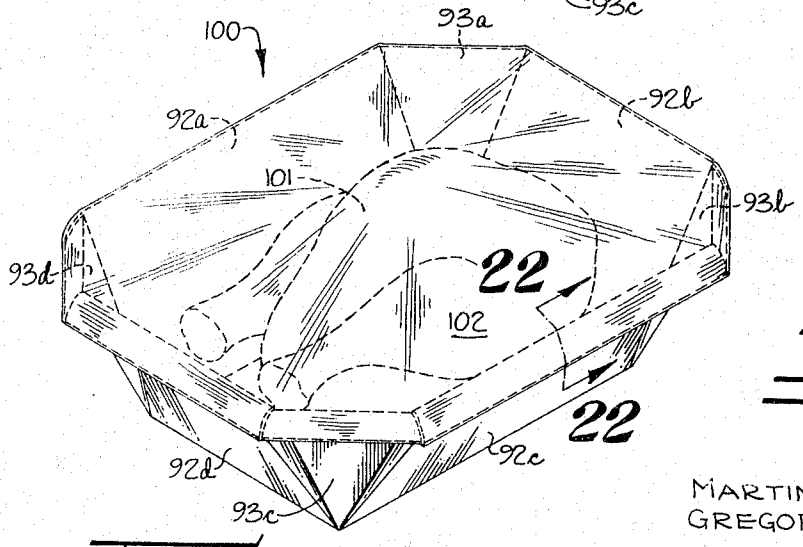


FIG-21

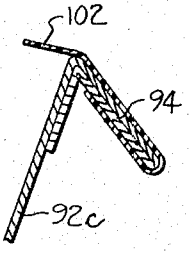


FIG-22

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April 25, 1967 M. DOLL ETAL 3,316,102

FOOD TRAY BLANK, CONTAINER, AND PACKAGE

Filed June 28, 1965 5 Sheets-Sheet 5

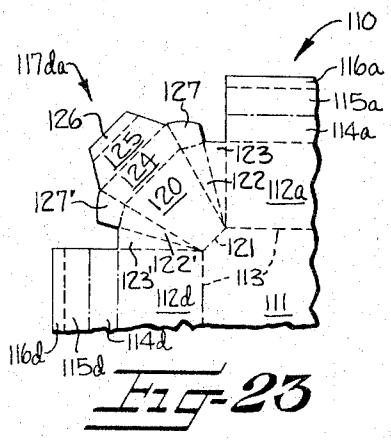


Fig-23

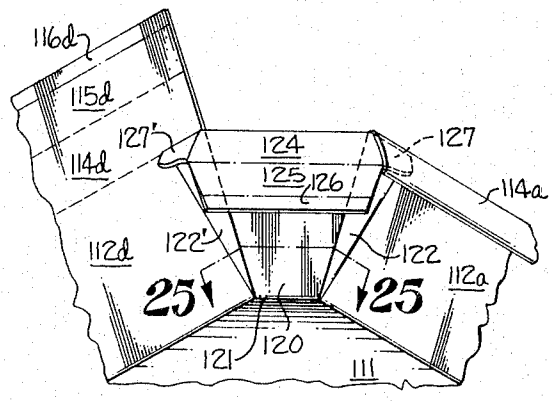


Fig-24

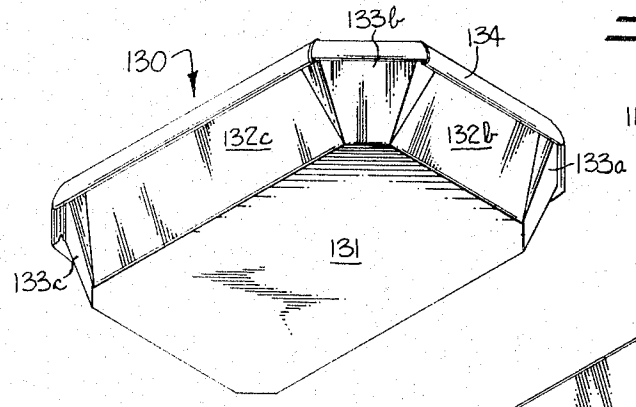


Fig-26

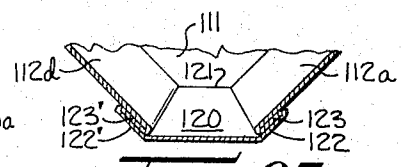


Fig-25

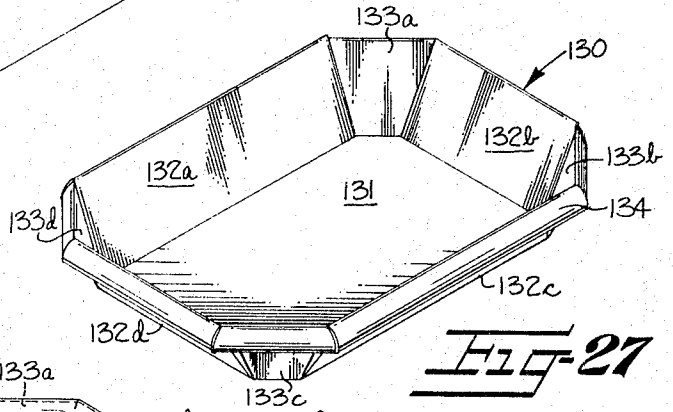


Fig-27

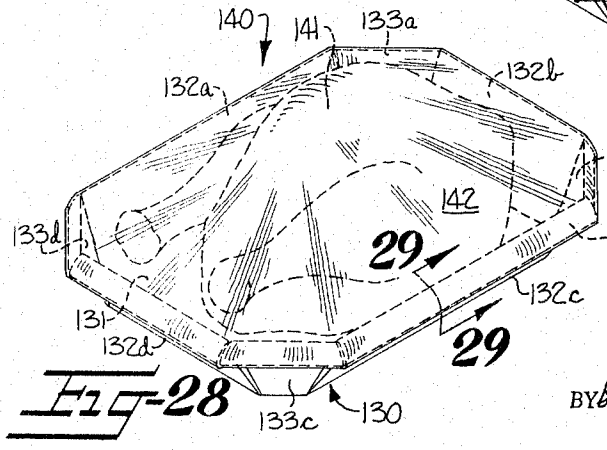


Fig-28

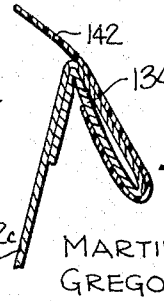


Fig-29

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ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,316,102 Patented Apr. 25, 1967

3,316,102

FOOD TRAY BLANK, CONTAINER, AND PACKAGE

Martin Doll and Gregory W. Doll, both of Patterson, N.C. 28661

Filed June 28, 1965, Ser. No. 467,309
18 Claims. (Cl. 99—171)

This invention pertains to an improved food tray blank, container, and package, and more particularly, to such a blank, of sheet material such as paperboard, which may be erected into a tray container by hand or machine without the use of interlocking tabs and slots, metallic fasteners, or adhesives, which container is well adapted for use in a leakproof or watertight package for food items.

Delicatessens, meat markets and super markets must frequently package food items such as cuts of meat or pieces of chicken for display in a self-service case and subsequent purchase and removal by a customer. In packaging such food items, the merchant must exercise care in selecting a leakproof or watertight package, in order to avoid consumer dissatisfaction due to leakage from the food package either in the display case or after purchase.

Conventionally, merchants place food items in tray-like containers, and use an overwrap to complete the package. In order to avoid the problem of leakage, merchants have turned to molded pulp trays which are given a watertight surface coat to obtain the desired result. Such conventional molded tray containers require a relatively large space for storage, and on becoming damp, through failure of the waterproofing or for any other reason, readily disintegrate. For these reasons, a suitable tray or container which may be stored as a flat blank and erected immediately prior to use has been sought by merchants, in order to alleviate these deficiencies and difficulties.

Conventional attempts to provide blanks adapted for erection into food tray containers have in turn suffered from deficiencies. Any corner construction of such a blank and container relying on interlocking tabs and slots for locking, fails to provide the required leakproof or watertight construction. Those proposed blanks not relying on interlocking tabs and slots have relied on metallic fasteners, such as staples, or adhesives positioned in the corner areas of the erected blank to secure the blank in an erected position. Reliance on such fasteners or adhesives complicates the process of erection of the blanks and introduces the possibility of contamination of the packaged food item from contact with the securing means.

This invention avoids the difficulties and deficiencies of conventional food tray constructions, as outlined above, by providing a blank which may be readily stored in a flat or planar condition and quickly erected to form a food tray container which is leakproof or watertight, and which does not rely on conventional fasteners or adhesives positioned in the corner areas of the erected blank to hold the container in an erected position. This food tray container is well adapted for use with an overwrap to form a package for food items.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide an improved cut and scored blank adapted to be erected into a leakproof and watertight tray container.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved food tray container erected from a suitably cut and scored blank which is leakproof or watertight and substantially self-sustaining in an erected position.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved food item package including a container erected from a suitably cut and scored blank, which container is formed and assembled without dependence upon conventional fasteners or adhesives positioned to possibly contact the contained food item.

Some of the objects of the invention having been stated, other objects will appear as the description proceeds when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of a blank cut and scored in accordance with this invention;

FIGURE 2 is a detail of the corner construction of the blank of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of one corner portion as seen from the exterior of a food tray container, showing one step in the erection of the blank of FIGURE 1 into a container;

FIGURE 4 is a view similar to FIGURE 3, showing a subsequent step in the erection of the blank of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 5 is a view similar to FIGURE 3, showing a subsequent step in the erection of the blank of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 6 is a view similar to FIGURE 3, showing the container as completely erected;

FIGURE 7 is a sectional view through a corner of an erected container, taken along the line 7—7 of FIGURE 6;

FIGURE 8 is a sectional view through the corner of an erected container taken along the line 8—8 in FIGURE 6;

FIGURE 9 is a sectional view through the corner of an erected container taken along the line 9—9 in FIGURE 6;

FIGURE 10 is a perspective view from below of the food tray container of this invention as erected from the blank of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 11 is a perspective view from above similar to FIGURE 10;

FIGURE 12 is a perspective view, from above, of a food package including the tray container of FIGURES 10 and 11;

FIGURE 13 is a sectional view through a portion of the package of FIGURE 12; taken as indicated by the line 13—13 in FIGURE 12;

FIGURE 14 is a plan view of a second form of blank cut and scored in accordance with this invention;

FIGURE 15 is a perspective view of one corner portion as seen from the exterior of a food tray container, showing one step in the erection of the blank of FIGURE 14, in similarity to FIGURE 4;

FIGURE 16 is a view similar to FIGURE 15, showing the container as completely erected;

FIGURE 17 is a sectional view through a corner of a container erected from the blank of FIGURE 14, taken as indicated by the line 17—17 in FIGURE 16;

FIGURE 18 is a sectional view through a portion of the rim of the container of FIGURE 16, taken as indicated by the line 18—18 in FIGURE 16;

FIGURE 19 is a perspective view, from below, of a container erected from the blank of FIGURE 14;

FIGURE 20 is a perspective view, from above, of a container as shown in FIGURE 19;

FIGURE 21 is a perspective view similar to FIGURE 20 of a food package including the container tray of FIGURE 20;

FIGURE 22 is a sectional view of a portion of the container rim and overwrap of the package of FIGURE 21, taken along the line 22—22;

FIGURE 23 is a detailed view of the corner of a blank illustrating a modified form of blanks similar to the blank of FIGURE 14, cut and scored for erection into a food tray container;

FIGURE 24 is a view similar to FIGURE 15, illustrating the erection of the blank of FIGURE 23;

FIGURE 25 is a sectional view taken as indicated by the line 25—25 in FIGURE 24, of the container erected from the blank of FIGURE 23;

FIGURE 26 is a view similar to FIGURE 19 of a container erected from the blank of FIGURE 23;

FIGURE 27 is a view similar to FIGURE 20, of a container erected from the blank of FIGURE 23;

FIGURE 28 is a view similar to FIGURE 21 of the container erected from the blank of FIGURE 23;

FIGURE 29 is a sectional view of a portion of the container rim and overwrap of the package as illustrated in FIGURE 28, taken as indicated by the line 29—29 in that figure.

Broadly, this invention comprehends a cut and scored blank, formed from a suitable sheet of material such as paperboard, which is adapted to be erected into a food tray container which in turn is adapted for use in a food item package. The blank may be a selected one of several forms, three of which are illustrated, any of which provide, on erection, a leakproof or watertight tray which is substantially self-sustaining in the erected position. The blank is so cut and scored as to provide, on erection, a container having a polygonal bottom panel which may have side edges which vary in number from at least three sides up to a number sufficiently large that the bottom panel closely approaches a round or circular configuration, a side wall coextensive with and hingedly connected to each side edge of the bottom panel, and corner walls disposed between adjacent pairs of side walls and giving a somewhat rounded appearance to the corners of the erected container. Further, the blank is formed so as to provide the erected container with a reinforcing rim extending entirely around the upper extremity of the container, and the rim defining portions of the container are so formed as to permit the maintenance of the container in an erected position without requiring the use of conventional fasteners or adhesives positioned to possibly contact a contained food product.

More specifically, FIGURES 1–12 of the drawings illustrate one form of blank in accordance with this invention, the container erected from the blank, and a package including the container. The blank, indicated generally at 30, is best shown in FIGURES 1 and 2. From those figures, the blank 30 is seen to have a polygonal central panel 31 and a plurality of elongate side panels 32*a*, 32*b*, 32*c*, and 32*d*, coextensive with and hingedly connected to corresponding side edges of the bottom panel 31 along scored fold lines 33 which together define the polygonal boundary of the central panel 31. Preferably, as shown in FIGURE 1, the central panel 31 is rectangular in configuration.

In order to form a reinforcing rim around portions of the erected container, as will be described more fully hereinafter, elongate first side flaps 34*a*, 34*b*, 34*c*, and 34*d*, are coextensive with and hingedly connected to corresponding side panels 32*a*, 32*b*, 32*c*, and 32*d* along side edges thereof remote from the connection of those side panels and the central panel. The respective first side flaps and side panels are preferably hingedly connected along fold lines 35 parallel to the respective fold lines 33 at which the side panels and the central panel are connected. Outwardly of the first side flaps 34*a*, 34*b*, 34*c*, and 34*d*, are provided elongate second side flaps

36*a*, 36*b*, 36*c*, and 36*d*, coextensive with and hingedly connected to corresponding first side flaps 34*a*, 34*b*, 34*c*, and 34*d*, along scored fold lines 37 parallel to the fold lines 35 connecting the first side flaps and the side panels. In order to enhance the self-sustaining capability of the erected container, as will hereinafter be made more clear, this invention preferably provides elongate third side flaps 40*a*, 40*b*, 40*c*, and 40*d*, coextensive with and hingedly connected to corresponding second side flaps along scored fold lines 41 parallel to the fold lines 37 connecting the second and first side flaps.

In order to render the erected container leakproof or watertight, this invention provides a plurality of groups of serially arranged and hingedly interconnected generally triangular panels, herein referred to as gusset panels, with each group being generally designated at 42. Each group of hingedly connected gusset panels 42 is disposed between a pair of adjacent side panels, as illustrated in FIGURE 1, and the enlarged scale view of FIGURE 2 makes the particular arrangement within an individual group more clear. From the enlarged scale view in FIGURE 2, it is seen that a representative group, indicated generally at 42*bc* as indicative of the disposition of the group between the side panels 32*b* and 32*c*, includes one gusset panel 43 which is adapted to form, on erection, a corner wall for the container as will be made more clear hereinafter. In the form illustrated in FIGURES 1–12 each group 42 of gusset panels has the distal ends thereof hingedly connected to the adjacent side panels 32. In the specific group 42*bc* shown in FIGURE 2, the distal ends of the group are hingedly connected to the side panels 32*b* and 32*c*. The group 42*bc* comprises three gusset panels, including the corner wall panel 43. The other two gusset panels 44, 45 are provided to form sealing and locking panels in order to obtain the desired leakproof and watertight construction of an erected tray container, which is assured by having no break in the continuity of the blank material inwardly of the corners of the blank or within the confines of the upper edges of the erected walls. The serially arranged gusset panels 43, 44, and 45 are hingedly connected together as well as hingedly connected, at the distal ends of the group, to adjacent side panels. The hinged connection of the panels is such that the two gusset panels 44, 45, not forming a corner wall portion of the erected tray, will fold outwardly behind an adjacent side panel 32*c* on erection of the blank, as will be made more clear hereinafter.

In order to complete the reinforcing rim portion extending entirely around an erected tray container, and to enhance the self-sustaining characteristics of the container in the erected position, an elongate first corner flap 46 is hingedly connected to and coextensive with each corner wall gusset panel 43 and hingedly connected to an immediately adjacent first side flap 34*b*. Further, an elongate second corner flap 47 is coextensive with and hingedly connected to a corresponding first corner flap 46 along a side thereof remote from the interconnection of the first corner flap 46 and the corresponding corner wall gusset panel 43. An elongate third corner flap 50 is coextensive with and hingedly connected to a corresponding second corner flap 47, along the side thereof remote from the interconnection of corresponding second and first corner flaps. The purpose and function of all these corner flaps will be made more clear hereinafter when the erection of a container from the blank of FIGURES 1 and 2 is described in detail.

In order to further enhance the self-sustaining characteristics of a container erected from the blank of FIGURES 1 and 2, a locking tab 51 is hingedly connected to a corresponding gusset panel 44, immediately adjacent the corner wall gusset panel 43, and is hingedly connected to a corresponding adjacent first corner flap 46. The locking tab 51 is provided with an outer terminal extremity having a particular configuration which has been found to facilitate the erection of the blank into a container. This

is most clearly shown in FIGURE 2, where it may be seen that the outer extremity of the locking tab **51** describes an arc of a circle about a central point **52** displaced from the point of conjunction of the fold lines at which the gusset panels **43**, **44** and **45** are hingedly connected.

The steps of erecting a food tray container from the blank **30** of FIGURES 1 and 2, and certain details of the container construction, are shown in FIGURES 3–9. More specifically, FIGURES 3–6 illustrate, by showing a single corner, the steps in the erection of the blank **30** into a food tray container. As shown in FIGURE 3, the first step is to fold the side panels **32***a*, **32***b*, **32***c*, and **32***d*, upwardly from the central panel **31** along the fold lines **33**, while simultaneously folding the gusset panels **44**, **45**, which are to provide sealing and locking panels, into juxtaposed relation adjacent a side panel **32***c* and along their common fold line and along the fold line common to a distal gusset panel **45** and the adjacent side panel **32***c*. In this partly erected condition, as shown in FIGURE 3, the flaps remain substantially planar with their corresponding panels and the corner wall **43** remains substantially planar with the adjacent gusset panel **44**.

A subsequent step in the erection of a food tray container from the blank of FIGURES 1 and 2, is illustrated in FIGURE 4. There, the flaps corresponding to the side panel **32***b* and immediately adjacent corner wall panel **43** have been folded outwardly and downwardly along the fold line **35**. Due to the hinged connection of the first flap **34***b*, the adjacent first corner flap **46**, and the locking tab **51**, and the particular angular relationships for those elements established by the direction of the fold lines joining them, the gusset panels **44**, **45** are turned inwardly to be in juxtaposed relation with and lie along the outer surface of the adjacent side panel **32***c*, as will be made more clear hereinafter. At this stage in the erection of a food tray container, the first, second, and third flaps remain substantially in a single plane.

A subsequent step in the erection of a food tray container from the blank of FIGURES 1 and 2 is shown in FIGURE 5. There, the second and third side flaps **36***b* and **40***b* of the side wall **32***b* immediately adjacent the corner wall **43** have been folded along fold lines **37** and **41** so that the second side flap immediately underlies the first side flap **34***b*, to support the rim portion defined thereby, and the third side flap **40***b* extends downwardly along and engages the outer surface of the side wall **32***b*. Similarly, the first side flap **34***c* of the adjacent side wall **32***c* has been folded outwardly and downwardly to define a rim portion, and the second side flap **32***c* and the third side flap **40***c* of that corresponding side wall have been respectively folded upwardly to underlie the first side flap and downwardly to engage the corresponding side wall **32***c*. The locking tab **51** is thus disposed between and gripped by the first side flap **34***c* and the second side flap **36***c* of the side wall **32***c*, to which the sealing and locking panels **44**, **45** are juxtaposed.

This folding step is facilitated by the arcuate outer surface of the locking tab **51**, and the sandwiching of the locking tab in this manner so restrains the corner fold construction that it may not be easily unfolded or disassembled.

The final step in erecting a food tray container from the blank of FIGURES 1 and 2 as shown by FIGURE 6. There, the second and third corner flaps **47**, **50** have been respectively folded upwardly so as to underlie the rim portion defined by the first corner flap **46** to support that rim portion and downwardly so as to place the third corner flap **50** in engagement with the outer surface of the corner wall **43**. The relationships of the various panels in this completed construction is made more clear in FIGURES 7, 8, and 9 which are sectional views of the completed corner as shown in FIGURE 6. In those views, the relative relationships of the first, second and third side and corner flaps are made most clear. The first side flaps and first corner flaps are seen to define rim portions which are reinforced by the second side flaps and second corner flaps underlying the first side flaps and first corner flaps. The third side and corner flaps which engage the outer surfaces of the side walls and corner walls provide a frictional engagement which, in conjunction with the restraint against unfolding provided by the locking tab **51**, maintains the container in an erected position, and renders the container entirely self-sustaining once erected. This operation of the third side and corner flaps is enhanced by sizing those flaps so that adjacent ends abut at the corners, providing an additional frictional locking engagement to prevent spontaneous unfolding of the folded construction.

While this self-sustaining construction is preferred, more conventional means of securing the container in an assembled relation may be used if considered desirable. More specifically, the third side and corner flaps may be secured to the outer surfaces of the corresponding side and corner walls by any suitable means such as an adhesive. Further, where such conventional fastening means are to be used, it is not necessary to employ the third side and corner flaps, as the self-sustaining feature is not to be relied on. In such an instance, the second side and corner flaps are adhesively or mechanically secured to the corresponding first side and corner flaps, and a satisfactory container is produced. In neither instance is the adhesive or mechanical fastening means so disposed as to present a danger of contamination of the contained food item.

On completion of the erection steps detailed above, a completed food tray container, indicated generally at **53**, as shown in the perspective views of FIGURES 10 and 11, has been produced from the suitably cut and scored blank of FIGURES 1 and 2. The food tray container is characterized by having a polygonal bottom panel or wall **54**, formed by the central panel **31** of the blank; a plurality of side walls **55***a*, **55***b*, **55***c*, **55***d*, extending upwardly from the bottom panel, formed by the side panels **32***a*, **32***b*, **32***c*, and **32***d*, of the blank; a plurality of corner walls **56***a*, **56***b*, **56***c*, **56***d*, extending upwardly from the bottom panel between adjacent pairs of side walls, formed by the corner wall gusset panels **43** of the blank; and a reinforcing rim **57** extending around the upper extremity of the container and formed by the downwardly and outwardly extending flaps and corner flaps. Due to the flap configuration discussed in detail above, the container rim is reinforced and constructed so as to render the container self-sustaining in the erected condition.

The container of FIGURES 10 and 11 is useful in a food product package, indicated generally at **60** and illustrated in FIGURES 12 and 13. There, the tray container **53** is shown to contain a food product **61**, which may, for example, be a chicken or turkey. The food product package **60**, including the food product, is completed by applying an overwrap **62** of a relatively thin transparent sheet material, of any suitable known type. The sheet material preferably extends over the container rim **57**, and is sealed to the lower surface of the rim, as shown by the sectional view of FIGURE 13. This seal may be a heat seal or an adhesive seal, depending upon the particular transparent wrap chosen. When so sealed, the food product packaged is effectively protected from contamination while preventing any escape of fluid from the package. As an alternative to sealing the overwrap, it may be secured by other suitable means known to persons assembling such packages, such as a rubber band.

When it is desired that a food tray container and food product package be used which is of a somewhat larger or deeper size than that shown in FIGURES 1–13, a second form of blank, food tray, and food product package as shown in FIGURES 14–22 may be selected. The blank, container and package there illustrated and now to be described differs from the previously described form in a certain particular detail and provides the same advan-

tage of storage in a planar state and subsequent erection into a leakproof or watertight tray container adapted to be used in the assembly of a completed package including a food product and overwrap.

The second form of blank in accordance with this invention is shown in the plan view of FIGURE 14 similar to the previously described FIGURE 1. There, the blank, generally indicated at **70**, is shown to have a polygonal central panel **71** and a plurality of side panels **72***a*, **72***b*, **72***c*, and **72***d*, hingedly connected to corresponding sides of the central panel **71** along scored fold lines **73** which together define the polygonal boundary of the central panel **71**. Preferably, the central panel **71** is rectangular in configuration.

In order to form a rim around portions of the erected container, first side flaps **74***a*, **74***b*, **74***c*, and **74***d*, are hingedly connected to corresponding side panels **72***a*, **72***b*, **72***c* and **72***d*, along a side thereof remote from the connection of those side panels and the central panel **71**. Outwardly of the first side flaps **74***a*, **74***b*, **74***c*, and **74***d*, are provided second side flaps **75***a*, **75***b*, **75***c*, and **75***d*, hingedly connected to corresponding first side flaps. Outwardly of the second side flaps are provided third side flaps **76***a*, **76***b*, **76***c*, and **76***d*, hingedly connected to corresponding second side flaps. The successive and corresponding side flaps are hingedly connected together, and to the corresponding side panels **72***a*, **72***b*, **72***c*, and **72***d*, along fold lines which are parallel to the fold lines **73** defining the polygonal boundary of the central panel **71**, in substantial similarity to the corresponding structure shown in FIGURE 1 described above.

In order to render the container leakproof and watertight, the second form in accordance with this invention provides a plurality of groups of serially arranged hingedly connected gusset panels, each group being generally designated at **77**. Each group of hingedly connected gusset panels is disposed between a pair of adjacent side panels, as illustrated in FIGURE 14, and the particular arrangement within a representative group will be discussed with reference to the group designated as **77***bc*, as indicative of the position of the group disposed between the side panels **72***b* and **72***c*.

In similarity to the representative group of hingedly connected gusset panels **42***bc* discussed above with reference to the first form of blank in accordance with this invention, the representative group **77***bc* has the distal ends of the group hingedly connected to the adjacent side panels **72***b* and **72***c*. The group **77***bc* includes five gusset panels, one of which is a corner wall gusset panel **80** adapted to form a corner wall of the container on erection. Disposed between the corner wall gusset panel **80** and each distal end are two gusset panels **81**, **82**, and **81'**, **82'**, hingedly connected to fold outwardly and into juxtaposed relation outside of adjacent side panels **72***b* and **72***c* on erection of the blank, as will be made more clear hereinafter. The serially arranged group **77***bc* of hingedly interconnected gusset panels provides a leakproof or watertight construction in the erected tray container which is assured by having no break in the continuity of the blank material at the corners of the blank or of the erected walls.

In order to complete the reinforcing rim portion extending entirely around the tray container, and to enhance the self-sustaining characteristics of the container in the erected position, a first corner flap **83** is hingedly connected to each corner wall gusset panel **80**. Further, a second corner flap **84** is hingedly connected to a corresponding first corner flap **83** along the side thereof remote from the interconnection of the first corner flap **83** and the corresponding corner wall gusset panel **80** and a third corner flap **85** is hingedly connected to a corresponding second corner flap **84**, along the side thereof remote from the corresponding second and first corner flaps. The purpose and function of these corner flaps will be made more clear hereinafter when the erection of a container from the blank in FIGURE 14 is described in detail.

In order to further enhance the self-sustaining characteristics of a container erected from the blank of FIGURE 14, a locking tab **86**, **86'**, is hingedly connected to a corresponding gusset panel **81**, **81'**, immediately adjacent the corner wall gusset panel **80**, and is hingedly connected to a corresponding adjacent first corner flap **83**. The outer extremity of the locking tab **86**, **86'**, describes an arc of a circle about a central point **87** displaced from the point of conjunction of the fold lines at which the gusset panels **80**, **81** and **82** are hingedly connected.

The steps of erecting a food tray container from the blank **70** of FIGURE 14, and certain details of the container construction, are shown in FIGURES 15–18. More specifically, FIGURES 15 and 16 illustrate, by showing a single corner, the steps in the erection of the blank **70** into a food tray container.

This erection process is basically similar to the erection process for the blank **30** of FIGURES 1 and 2, and has been previously described, and the showing here has been somewhat attenuated as it was not felt necessary to show each individual step, in view of the earlier discussion. The step illustrated in FIGURE 15 shows the side panels **72***b* and **72***c* folded upwardly with respect to the central panel **71**, with the corresponding first, second, and third side flaps remaining planar with the corresponding side panels. Due to the hinged interconnection of the group **77***bc* of serially arranged gusset panels, the corner wall gusset panel **80** is folded upwardly to define a corner wall while the gusset panels **81**, **82**, and **81'**, **82'**, intermediate the corner wall gusset panel **80** and the adjacent side panels **72***b*, and **72***c* are folded to overlie each other and lie along the outer sides of the adjacent side wall panels. The first, second and third corner flaps **83**, **84**, and folded downwardly and outwardly but remain in a substantial planar relation, and the locking tabs **86**, **86'**, due to the their hinged connection to the gusset panels **81**, **81'**, immediately adjacent the gusset panel **80** and to the first corner flap **83**, are positioned downwardly and outwardly and cause the gusset panels to be juxtaposed along the outside surface of the adjacent walls.

The finished container corner wall construction, following the final step of erection, is shown in FIGURE 16. There, the first side flaps **74***b* and **74***c* have been folded outwardly and downwardly to define a reinforcing rim portion around the upper extremity of the container. The second side flaps **75***b* and **75***c* have then been folded upwardly to reinforce the rim portion and to sandwich the grip the locking tabs **86**, **86'** to secure the corner construction against easy unfolding or disassembly. This folding stop is facilitated by the arcuate outer surface of the locking tabs **86**, **86'**, in a manner similar to that discussed previously. The third side flaps **76***b* and **76***c* have simultaneously been folded downwardly to engage the outer surfaces of the side wall panels **72***b* and **72***c* in order to provide a self-sustaining container structure. Then the second corner flap **84** has been folded upwardly and inwardly to support the rim portions refined by the first corner flap **83**, and the third corner flap **85** has been folded downwardly to engage the surface of the corner wall **80** and provide a self-sustaining construction. In similarity to the form discussed previously, with regard to FIGURES 1–12, the third corner flaps **85** and third side flaps **76***b* and **76***c* are preferably sized to meet in edge abutting relation, to provide a frictional engagement in addition to the frictional engagement of those members against the respective wall portions, to further enhance the self-sustaining effect.

The relationship of various panels and gussets in the completed construction of FIGURE 16 are made more clear in FIGURES 17 and 18, which are sectional views of the completed corner. In those views, the relative relationships of the gusset panels and side panels are made clear, and especially from FIGURE 17 which is

taken similarly to previously mentioned FIGURE 9. FIGURE 18, taken similarly to previously mentioned FIGURE 8, illustrates the entrapment of the locking tabs **86**, **86'** which prevents easily unfolding or disassembling the corner construction and the frictional engagement of the third flaps which provides a self-sustaining construction. While this self-sustaining construction is preferred, more conventional means of securing the container in an assembled relation may be considered desirable. More specifically, the third side and corner flaps may be secured to the outer surfaces of the corresponding wall panels by any suitable adhesive or mechanical means. Further, where such conventional fastening means are to be relied on, it is not necessary to employ the third side and corner flaps, and the second side and corner flaps may be adhesively or mechanically secured to the corresponding first side and corner flaps.

On completion of the erection steps outlined above, a completed food tray container, indicated generally at **90**, as shown in the perspective views of FIGURES 19 and 20, has been produced from the suitably cut and scored blank of FIGURE 14. The food tray container **90** is characterized by having a polygonal bottom panel **91** formed by the central panel **71** of the cut and scored blank **70**; a plurality of side walls **92***a*, **92***b*, **92***c*, and **92***d* extending upwardly from the bottom panel **91** and formed by the side panels **72***a*, **72***b*, **72***c*, and **72***d*, of the blank **70**; a plurality of corner walls **93***a*, **93***b*, **93***c*, and **93***d* extending upwardly from the bottom panel **91** between adjacent pairs of side walls, and formed by the corner wall gusset panels **80** of the blank **70**; and a reinforcing rim **94** extending around the upper extremity of the container and formed by the downwardly and outwardly extending side and corner flaps.

The container of FIGURES 19 and 20 is useful in a food product package, indicated generally **100**, and illustrated in FIGURES 21 and 22. In similarity to the package illustrated in FIGURES 12 and 13, the tray container **90** is shown to contain a food product **101**, which may, for example, be a chicken or turkey. The food product package **100** including the food item is completed by applying an overwrap **102** of a relatively thin transparent sheet material, of any generally known type. The sheet material preferably extends over the container rim **94** and is sealed to the lower surface of the rim as shown by the sectional view of FIGURE 22. This seal may be a heat seal or an adhesive seal, depending upon the particular type of transparent wrap chosen. When so sealed, the food product packaged is effectively protected from contamination while preventing any escape of fluid from the package. As an alternative to sealing the overwrap, it may be secured by other suitable means known to persons assembling such packages, such as a rubber band.

The third form of blank, container, and package in accordance with this invention is illustrated in FIGURES 23–29. Due to the similarity of this third form to the previously described second form, the illustration there given is less complete, but considered adequate to make clear the distinction between the forms. The third form provides a leakproof or watertight container and package, similar to the previously discussed forms, but modifies the corner construction to provide a more rounded appearance which is more pleasing and less subject to damage by handling when used with a larger size container and package.

A blank **110** embodying the third form of this invention is partially shown in FIGURE 23, which is similar to the illustration in FIGURE 2 of a portion of the first form of blank **30**. The view of FIGURE 23 shows a corner portion of the blank **110**, and it is to be understood that the remaining three corners, not here shown, are similarly constructed. In similarity to the blank of FIGURE 14, the blank **110** includes a polygonal central panel **111** and a plurality of side wall panels, including panels **112***a* and **112***d* connected to the bottom panel **111** along fold lines **113**. Corresponding side panels **112***a* and **112***d* are provided with corresponding first side flaps **114***a* and **114***d*; second side flaps **115***a* and **115***d*; and third side flaps **116***a* and **116***d*. The blank **110** is further provided with a plurality of groups of serially arranged hingedly connected gusset panels, indicated generally at **117**, with a representative group **117***da* being shown in FIGURE 23. In similarity to the group of serially arranged and hingedly interconnected gusset panels **77** provided as a portion of the blank **70** shown in FIGURE 14, the representative group **117***da* includes five gusset panels. One of the group is a corner wall gusset panel **120** adapted to form a corner wall portion on erection of the blank **110**, in similarity to the corner wall gusset panel **80** of the blank **70** shown in FIGURE 14.

In order to provide a more rounded corner construction which is more pleasing in appearance with a larger size container and less subject to damage by handling, the corner wall gusset panel **120** is hingedly connected to the bottom panel **111** in a manner distinctive from that used with two previously discussed forms. As indicated in FIGURE 23, the corner wall gusset panel **120** is of inverted trapezoidal configuration and hingedly connected to the central panel **111** along a fold line **121**, which is disposed with a predetermined angular relationship to the scored fold lines **113**, preferably 45° as shown. This is in distinction to the two previously discussed forms in which the corner wall gusset panels **43**, **80** has a triangular configuration. In similarity to the previously discussed forms, the group **117***da* of serially arranged gusset panels has additional gusset panels **122**, **123** and **122'**, **123'**, disposed between the corner wall gusset panel **120** and the adjacent side panels **112***a* and **112***d*. Further, the corner wall gusset panel is hingedly connected, at its outer extremity, to a first corner flap **124**, which in turn is hingedly connected to a second corner wall flap **125**, which in turn is hingedly connected to a third corner flap **126**. In similarity to the configuration of the blank **70** illustrated in FIGURE 14, locking tabs **127**, having arcuate outer extremities, are hingedly connected to the gusset panels **122**, **122'**, immediately adjacent to the corner wall gusset panel **120** and to the adjacent first corner flap **124**.

The erection of a container from the blank **110** of FIGURE 27 proceeds substantially as described above with reference to the blank **70** of FIGURE 14, and it is not considered necessary to here repeat the erection process in detail. One step in the erection process is illustrated in FIGURE 24, which represents an intermediate step between those erection steps represented in FIGURES 15 and 16, and described more fully above. As will be understood, the function of the various flaps and locking tabs of the blank **110** is substantially the same as corresponding flaps and tabs in the previously discussed forms, and the gusset panels **122**, **123**, and **122'**, **123'**, operate in substantial similarity to the gusset panels **81**, **82**, and **81'**, and **82'**, of the blank **70** shown in FIGURE 14.

At the conclusion of the erection process, for the blank **110** shown in FIGURE 23 a tray container **130**, as shown in FIGURES 26 and 27, has been produced. This tray container has a bottom panel **131**; side walls **132***a*, **132***b*, **132***c* and **132***d*; corner walls **133***a*, **133***b*, **133***c* and **133***d*; and a reinforcing rim **134** corresponding to the similar elements illustrated in FIGURES 10 and 11, and 19 and 20. The distinction in form between the two previously discussed forms and the third form is readily apparent from FIGURES 26 and 27, where the more rounded corner appearance is shown. This corner appearance may be considered more pleasing, and offers some protection against damage in handling which otherwise might result in breaking the material of the container so as to cause leakage of liquids from a completed package.

The food tray container **130** of FIGURES 26 and 27 is used in assembling the food product package **140** illustrated in FIGURES 28 and 29. There, a tray **130**, is

shown to contain a food product 141 may be a chicken or a turkey, which is covered by an overwrap 142 similar to the overwraps 62 and 102 discussed above. As shown by the sectional view of FIGURE 29, the overwrap 142 is similarly sealed to the underside of the rim portion of the tray container 130.

It is, therefore, considered that various forms of an improved food tray blank, container, and package have been illustrated and described which avoid the deficiencies of conventional packages, containers, and blanks by providing a leakproof or watertight package including a container which is self-sustaining in the erected position and is erected from a planar blank suitablly cut and scored from a paperboard material. This improved construction need not rely on conventional adhesive or mechanical fasteners, in order to obtain the desired results.

In the drawings and specification there have been set forth preferred embodiments of the invention and, although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being defined in the claims.

We claim:

1. A suitably cut and scored blank adapted to be folded and erected into a food product container comprising:

(a) a polygonal central panel adapted to form the bottom of the container when the blank is erected;

(b) an elongate side panel coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to each side edge of said central panel and adapted to form a side wall of the container upon erection;

(c) an elongate first side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each side panel and adapted to define a portion of a container rim upon erection;

(d) an elongate second side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each first side flap and adapted to reinforce a portion of said container rim upon erection;

(a) a group of serially arranged, hingedly interconnected gusset panels disposed between each pair of adjacent side panels and hingedly connected to at least one adjacent side panel, and one gusset panel of each group being adapted to form a corner wall upon erection;

(f) an elongate first corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of said one gusset panel of each group and adapted to define a portion of a container rim upon erection;

(g) an elongate second corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner edge to the outer side edge of each first corner flap and adapted to reinforce a portion of said container rim upon erection; and

(h) a locking tab hingedly connected to the outer side edge of a gusset panel immediately adjacent said one gusset panel of each group of panels and adapted to be sandwiched between adjacent first and second flaps upon erection.

2. A blank as claimed in claim 1 in which the distal ends of each group of gusset panels are hingedly connected to adjacent side panels.

3. A blank as claimed in claim 1 in which a gusset panel of each group immediately adjacent said one gusset panel of each group is hingedly connected to the latter panel so as to be foldable outside of an adjacent side panel upon erection.

4. A suitably cut and scored blank adapted to be folded and erected into a food product container comprising:

(a) a polygonal central panel adapted to form the bottom of the container when the blank is erected;

(b) an elongate side panel coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to each side edge of said central panel and adapted to form a side wall of the container upon erection;

(c) an elongate first side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each side panel and adapted to define a portion of a container rim upon erection;

(d) an elongate second side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each first side flap and apted to reinforce portions of said container rim on erection;

(e) a group of serially arranged hingedly interconnected gusset panels disposed between each pair of adjacent side panels with distal ends of said group hingedly connected to adjacent side panels, one gusset panel of each group being adapted to form a corner wall upon erection, and an immediately adjacent gusset panel being hingedly connected to said one so as to be foldable outside of an adjacent side panel upon erection;

(f) an elongate first corner flap coextensive with and being hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of said one gusset panel and adapted to define a portion of a container rim upon erection;

(g) an elongate second corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each first corner flap and adapted to reinforce a portion of said container rim upon erection; and

(h) a locking tab hingedly connected to the outer side edge of said gusset panel immediately adjacent said one gusset panel of each group of gusset panels and to an adjacent first corner flap and adapted to be sandwiched between adjacent first and second side flaps upon erection.

5. A blank as claimed in claim 4 further comprising:

third side flaps hingedly connected to corresponding second side flaps along a side edge thereof remote from the connection of said first and second side flaps and adapted to support the latter flaps in position on erection, and

third corner flaps hingedly connected to corresponding second corner flaps along a side edge thereof remote from the connection of said first corner flaps and said second corner flaps and adapted to support the latter corner flaps in position on erection.

6. A blank as claimed in claim 4 in which the outer extremity of each of said locking tabs describes an arc of a circle.

7. A suitably cut and scored blank adapted to be folded and erected into a food product container comprising:

(a) a polygonal central panel adapted to form the bottom of the container when the blank is erected;

(b) an elongate side panel coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to each side edge of said central panel and adapted to form a side wall of the container upon erection;

(c) an elongate first side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each side panel and adapted to define a portion of a container rim upon erection;

(d) an elongate second side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each first flap and adapted to reinforce a portion of said container rim upon erection;

(e) an elongate third side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each second side flap and adapted to support said first and second side flaps in position upon erection;

(f) a group of serially arranged hingedly interconnected gusset panels disposed between each pair of

adjacent side panels with distal ends of said group hingedly connected to adjacent side panels, one gusset panel of each group being adapted to form a corner wall upon erection, and an immediately adjacent gusset panel being hingedly connected to said one so as to be foldable outside of an adjacent side panel upon erection;

(g) an elongate first corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of said one gusset panel and adapted to define a portion of a container rim upon erection;

(h) an elongate second corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each first corner flap and adapted to reinforce a portion of said container rim upon erection;

(i) an elongate third corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each second corner flap and adapted to support said first and second corner flaps in position upon erection; and

(j) a locking tab hingedly connected to the outer side edge of said gusset panel immediately adjacent said one gusset panel of each group of panels and to an adjacent first corner flap and having an outer extremity which describes an arc of a circle and adapted to be sandwiched between adjacent first and second flaps on erection.

8. A blank as claimed in claim **7** in which each serially arranged group of gusset panels comprises three panels.

9. A blank as claimed in claim **7** in which each serially arranged group of gusset panels comprises five panels.

10. A blank as claimed in claim **9** in which each of said one gusset panels is of trapezoidal configuration and has the shorter one of the two parallel side edges hingedly connected to said central panel.

11. A substantially leakproof container for food products erected from a suitably cut and scored unitary blank comprising:

(a) a polygonal bottom panel,

(b) an elongate side wall coextensive with and hingedly connected to each side edge of said bottom panel and extending generally upwardly therefrom,

(c) an elongate first side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the upper side edge of each side wall and extending outwardly therefrom,

(d) an elongate second side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the outer side edge of each of said first side flaps and being folded along said hinged connection into underlying relation to said first side flap and cooperating therewith to define a side portion of a reinforcing rim for the container,

(e) a corner wall extending upwardly between each pair of adjacent side walls and being hingedly connected along one lateral edge to the end of one adjacent side wall, said side and corner walls cooperating to define a container wall extending entirely around said bottom panel,

(f) a first corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the upper edge of each corner wall and extending outwardly therefrom,

(g) a second corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the outer edge of each first corner flap and being folded along said hinged connection into underlying relation to said first corner flap and cooperating therewith to define a corner portion of the reinforcing rim for said container,

(h) at least one sealing and locking panel hingedly connected to each corner wall along its lateral edge remote from said one lateral edge thereof connected to said one adjacent side wall and extending laterally therefrom and being folded along said hinge connection to lie along and in substantially sealing relation to the other adjacent side wall, and

(i) a locking tab hingedly connected to the upper edge of each of said at least one sealing and locking panels and being disposed between and gripped by said first and second flaps connected to said other adjacent side wall to maintain said locking tabs between said flaps and thus hold the container in erected position.

12. A container as claimed in claim **11** wherein a pair of hingedly connected sealing and locking panels are provided at each corner of the container and wherein one of said pair is hingedly connected to the lateral edge of said corner wall and the other of said pair is hingedly connected to the end of said other adjacent side wall, said pair of sealing and locking panels being folded along their hinged connection to each other into juxtaposed relation and along their hinged connections to said corner wall and said other adjacent side wall into juxtaposed relation to said other adjacent side wall.

13. A container as claimed in claim **11** further comprising:

an elongate third side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each of said second side flaps and being folded along said hinged connection to extend downwardly and engage the outer wall surface of an adjacent side wall to aid in supporting the container in an erected position, and

a third corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each of said second corner flaps and being folded along said hinged connection to extend downwardly and engage the outer wall surface of an adjacent corner wall to aid in supporting the container in an erected position.

14. A substantially leakproof container for food products erected from a suitably cut and scored blank comprising:

(a) a polygonal bottom panel,

(b) an elongate side wall coextensive with and hingedly connected to each side edge of said bottom panel and extending generally upwardly therefrom,

(c) an elongate first side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the upper side edge of each side wall and extending outwardly therefrom,

(d) an elongate second side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the outer side edge of each of said first side flaps and being folded along said hinged connection into underlying relation to said first side flap and cooperating therewith to define a side portion of a reinforcing rim for the container,

(e) an elongate third side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each of said second side flaps and being folded along said hinged connection to extend downwardly and engage the outer wall surface of an adjacent side wall to aid in supporting the container in an erected position,

(f) a corner wall extending upwardly between each pair of adjacent side walls and being hingedly connected along one lateral edge to the end of one adjacent side wall, said side and corner walls cooperating to define a container wall extending entirely around said bottom panel,

(g) a first corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the upper edge of each corner wall and extending outwardly therefrom,

(h) a second corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the outer edge of each first corner flap and being folded along said hinged connection into underlying relation to said first corner flap and cooperating therewith to define a corner portion of the reinforcing rim for the container,

(i) a third corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner edge to the outer side edge of each second corner flap and being folded along

said hinged connection to extend downwardly and engage the outer wall surface of an adjacent corner wall to aid in supporting the container in an erected position,

(j) a pair of hingedly connected sealing and locking panels disposed at each corner of the container and having one of said pair hingedly connected to the lateral edge of said corner wall and the other of said pair hingedly connected to the end of said other adjacent side wall, said pair of sealing and locking panels being folded along their hinged connection to each other into juxtaposed relation and along their hinged connections to said corner wall and said other adjacent side wall into juxtaposed relation to said other adjacent side wall, and

(k) a locking tab hingedly connected to the upper edge of said other of said pair of sealing and locking panels and hingedly connected to a lateral edge of said first corner flap, said locking tab being disposed between and gripped by said first and second side flaps connected to said other adjacent side wall to maintain said locking tabs between said flaps and thus hold the container in erected position.

15. A container as claimed in claim **14** wherein two pairs of sealing and locking panels are disposed in each corner of the container, each pair connecting one lateral edge of said corner wall and an adjacent side wall and being folded into juxtaposed relation with the corresponding adjacent side wall.

16. A container as claimed in claim **15** in which said corner wall has an inverted trapezoidal configuration and is hingedly connected along the lower parallel side edge thereof to said bottom panel.

17. A substantially leakproof food product package including a container erected from a suitably cut and scored unitary blank, the package comprising:

(a) a polygonal bottom panel adapted to receive and support a food product,

(b) an elongate side wall coextensive with and hingedly connected to each side edge of said bottom panel and extending generally upwardly therefrom,

(c) an elongate first side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the upper side edge of each side wall and extending outwardly therefrom,

(d) an elongate second side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the outer side edge of each of said first side flaps and being folded along said hinged connection into underlying relation to said first side flap and cooperating therewith to define a side portion of a reinforcing rim for the container,

(e) a corner wall extending upwardly between each pair of adjacent side walls and being hingedly connected along one lateral edge to the end of one adjacent side wall, said side and corner walls cooperating to define a container wall extending entirely around said bottom panel,

(f) a first corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the upper edge of each corner wall and extending outwardly therefrom,

(g) a second corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the outer edge of each first corner flap and being folded along said hinged connection into underlying relation to said first corner flap and cooperating therewith to define a corner portion of the reinforcing rim for said container,

(h) at least one sealing and locking panel hingedly connected to each corner wall along its lateral edge remote from said one lateral edge thereof connected to said one adjacent side wall and extending laterally therefrom and being folded along said hinge connection to lie along and in substantially sealing relation to the other adjacent side wall,

(i) a locking tab hingedly connected to the upper edge of each of said at least one sealing and locking panels and being disposed between and gripped by said first and second side flaps connected to said other adjacent side wall to maintain said locking tabs between said flaps and thus hold the container in erected position, and

(j) a food product disposed within said container and resting on said bottom panel and being held thereon by said side and corner walls, and

(k) an overwrap extending over the top of said container and said food product therein and being secured in encircling relation to said container wall to protect said food product from contamination and preclude leakage from the package.

18. A substantially leakproof food product package including a container erected from a suitably cut and scored blank, the package comprising:

(a) a polygonal bottom panel adapted to receive and support a food product,

(b) an elongate side wall coextensive with and hingedly connected to each side edge of said bottom panel and extending generally upwardly therefrom,

(c) an elongate first side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the upper side edge of each side wall and extending outwardly therefrom,

(d) an elongate second side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the outer side edge of each of said first side flaps and being folded along said hinged connection into underlying relation to said first side flap and cooperating therewith to define a side portion of a reinforcing rim for the container,

(e) an elongate third side flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner side edge to the outer side edge of each of said second side flaps and being folded along said hinged connection to extend downwardly and engage the outer wall surface of an adjacent side wall to aid in supporting the container in an erected position,

(f) a corner wall extending upwardly between each pair of adjacent side walls and being hingedly connected along one lateral edge to the end of one adjacent side wall, said side and corner walls cooperating to define a container wall extending entirely around said bottom panel,

(g) a first corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the upper edge of each corner wall and extending outwardly therefrom,

(h) a second corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected to the outer edge of each first corner flap and being folded along said hinged connection into underlying relation to said first corner flap and cooperating therewith to define a corner portion of the reinforcing rim for the container,

(i) a third corner flap coextensive with and hingedly connected along its inner edge to the outer side edge of each second corner flap and being folded along said hinged connection to extend downwardly and engage the outer wall surface of an adjacent corner wall to aid in supporting the container in an erected position,

(j) a pair of hingedly connected sealing and locking panels disposed at each corner of the container and having one of said pair hingedly connected to the lateral edge of said corner wall and the other of said pair hingedly connected to the end of said other adjacent side wall, said pair of sealing and locking panels being folded along their hinged connection to each other into juxtaposed relation and along their hinged connections to said corner wall and said other adjacent side wall into juxtaposed relation to said other adjacent side wall,

(k) a locking tab hingedly connected to the upper edge of said other of said pair of sealing and locking panels and hingedly connected to a lateral edge of said first corner flap and said locking tab being disposed between and gripped by said first and second side flaps connected to said other adjacent side wall

to maintain said locking tabs between said flaps and thus hold the container in erected position,

(l) a food product disposed within said container and resting on said bottom panel and being held thereon by side and corner walls, and

(m) an overwrap extending over the top of said container and said food product therein and being secured in encircling relation to said container wall to protect said food product from contamination and preclude leakage from the package.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 3,316,102 April 25, 1967

Martin Doll et al.

It is hereby certified that error appears in the above numbered patent requiring correction and that the said Letters Patent should read as corrected below.

Column 8, line 36, after "and", first occurrence, insert 85 are --; line 49, for "the", second occurrence, read -- and --; line 59, for "refined" read -- defined --; column 11, line 1, after "141" insert -- which --; line 41, for "a" read -- e --; column 12, line 10, for "apted" read -- adapted --.

Signed and sealed this 28th day of November 1967.

(SEAL)
Attest:

Edward M. Fletcher, Jr.
Attesting Officer

EDWARD J. BRENNER
Commissioner of Patents