F. W. RICE.

CEREAL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 23, 1916. RENEWED MAR. 21, 1918.

1,266,992. Patented May 21, 1918.

Fig. 1.

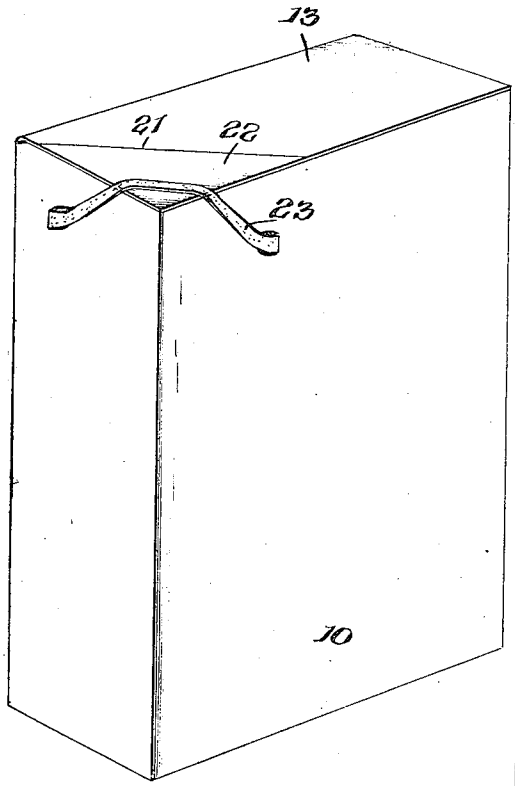


Fig. 2.

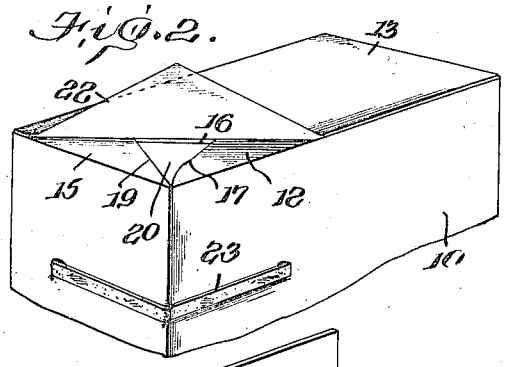


Fig. 3.

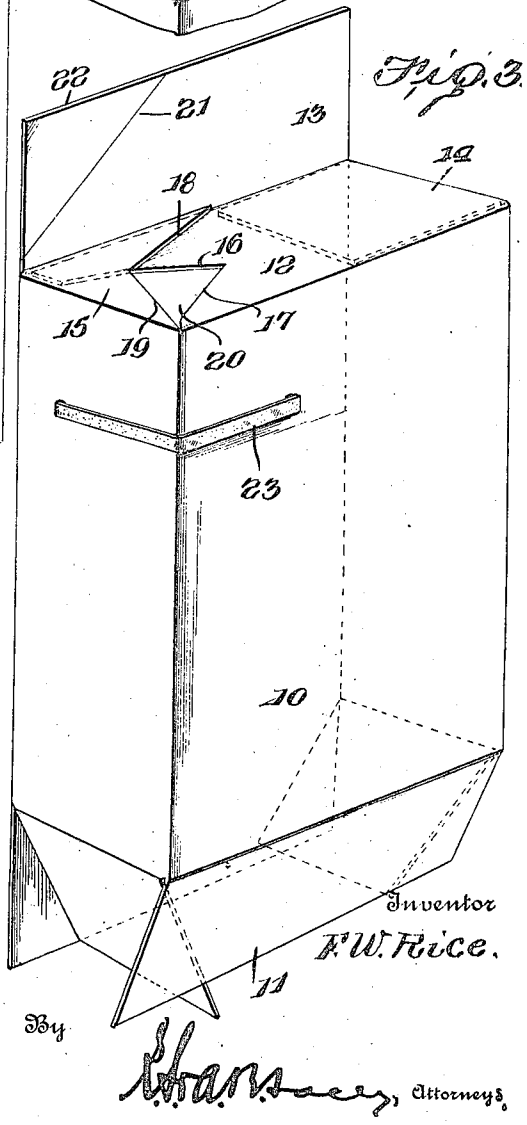
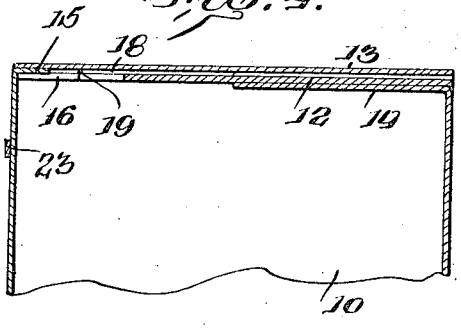


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CEREAL-BOX.

1,266,992. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 21, 1918.

Application filed October 23, 1916, Serial No. 127,187. Renewed March 21, 1918. Serial No. 223,870.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK W. RICE, a citizen of the United States, residing at East Seattle, in the county of King and State of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cereal-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved cereal box and has as its primary object to provide a construction wherein the contents of the box may, without mutilation of the box, be emptied therefrom as desired, so that the unused portion of the contents of the box may be kept in a fresh condition.

The invention has as a further object to provide an arrangement wherein the box will be formed with a discharge opening normally closed by a sealing flap therefor and wherein the contents of the box may be emptied without removing the sealing wrapper for the box, by simply displacing the said flap.

And the invention has as a still further object to provide a yieldable retaining element for normally maintaining the sealing flap closed.

Other and incidental objects will appear as the description proceeds and in the drawings wherein I have illustrated the preferred embodiment of the invention and wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved box showing the active position of the retaining element for the sealing flap,

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the sealing flap open,

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the manner in which the flaps at one end of the box are formed to provide the discharge opening therefor, and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the sealing flap closed.

Referring to the drawings, I have illustrated a cereal box at 10. This box may be of any approved general design, the present invention being adapted for use, as will hereinafter appear, in connection with various different types of box constructions. The box 10 is provided with side and end walls and is closed at one extremity thereof by a plurality of coacting flaps 11. Formed on the opposite extremity of the box are side flaps 12 and 13 and end flaps 14 and 15 respectively. The flap 12 is arranged to overlie the flap 14, as particularly shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3 and, at one extremity thereof, is provided with an inwardly directed substantially V-shaped notch 16 opening through the adjacent end edge of the said flap with one edge 17 of the said notch terminating at the adjacent outer corner of the flap. The flap 15 is arranged to overlie the notched extremity of the flap 12 and the outer margin of this flap 15 is cut away to provide a notch 18 one wall 19 of which slopes from the inner edge of the notch 16 outwardly to the adjacent outer corner of the said flap to define a substantially triangular shaped discharge opening 20 at the adjacent end of the box. The flap 13 is arranged to overlie the flaps 12 and 15 and for the greater portion of its area, is secured thereto, as by adhesion, or in any other suitable manner. At one extremity, the flap 13 is formed with a diagonally extending crease, fold line or mark 21 to define a sealing or closing flap 22 for the discharge opening 20. The fold line 21 is arranged immediately over the inner end edge of the opening 20 and extends in a general direction therewith with the flap 13 secured, as previously mentioned, to the flaps 12 and 15 up to the said fold line. The flap 22 will, therefore, hinge at the fold line 21 to close the opening 20.

Mounted to coöperate with the sealing flap 22 is a retaining member 23 therefor. This member is preferably formed of elastic or may, if desired, be formed from a strip of rubber and is secured, at its extremities, by box makers' glue or in any other suitable manner to the adjacent front and side faces of the box at points upon opposite sides of the discharge opening 20. The retaining member 23 is thus arranged to normally extend around the adjacent corner of the box and by grasping the said member and moving the intermediate portion thereof upwardly, the said member may, as illustrated in Fig. 1, be easily engaged over the outer end of the flap 22 for normally urging the said flap to closed position sealing the discharge opening 20 of the box.

As will now be seen, the box 10 may be filled in the usual manner, but preferably at the extremity thereof opposite to that provided with the discharge opening 20 and inclosed in the usual sealing wrapper. Then,

when it is desired to use the contents of the box, the said wrapper may be torn away at the flap 22 and the retaining element 23 for the said flap moved to inactive position, as illustrated in Fig. 2, so that the flap 22 may be swung upwardly and the contents of the box poured out through the discharge opening. The flap 22 may then again be closed to be yieldably urged to active position by the retaining element therefor with the said flap tightly sealing the box to maintain the unused portion of its contents in a fresh condition. Consequently, I thus provide an arrangement wherein the contents of the box may be emptied therefrom as desired, without displacing the sealing wrapper for the box while the unused portion of the contents of the box may be kept fresh therein.

It will therefore be seen that the present invention constitutes a highly desirable article for the purpose set forth and while I have indicated that the box is particularly adapted for use as a cereal carton still, it will be seen that a box constructed in accordance with the invention may be used for various other purposes and I do not, therefore, wish to limit myself in this regard.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A box of the character described provided with overlapping closure flaps at one end thereof, one of said flaps being formed with a notch opening through one end edge of the said flap and the other of said flaps overlying the said extremity of said first mentioned flap and having the outer side portion thereof cut away to extend between the sides of the said notch and provide a discharge opening for the box, a third closure flap carried by the box and arranged to overlie said first mentioned flaps with a portion of the said last mentioned flap free to provide a sealing flap for the said opening, and an elastic retaining element connected at its extremities to adjacent side walls of the box and arranged with its intermediate portion disposed for engagement over the said sealing flap for holding the said flap closed.

2. A box of the character described provided at one end thereof with overlying closure flaps, one of said flaps having a substantially V-shaped notch formed in one extremity thereof and the other of said flaps being arranged to overlie said first mentioned flap and having the outer side portion thereof cut away along angularly disposed lines at the said notch to extend between the sides thereof and provide a substantially triangular shaped discharge opening for the box having one corner thereof arranged at one corner of the box, a third closure flap carried by the box and arranged to overlie said first mentioned flaps to be secured thereto throughout the major portion of its area, the said last mentioned flap being provided with a diagonal fold line coinciding with the inner edge of said opening and defining a sealing flap movable to close said opening, and a retaining element connected to the box and arranged for engagement over the said sealing flap for holding the sealing flap closed.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

FREDERICK W. RICE. [L. S.]