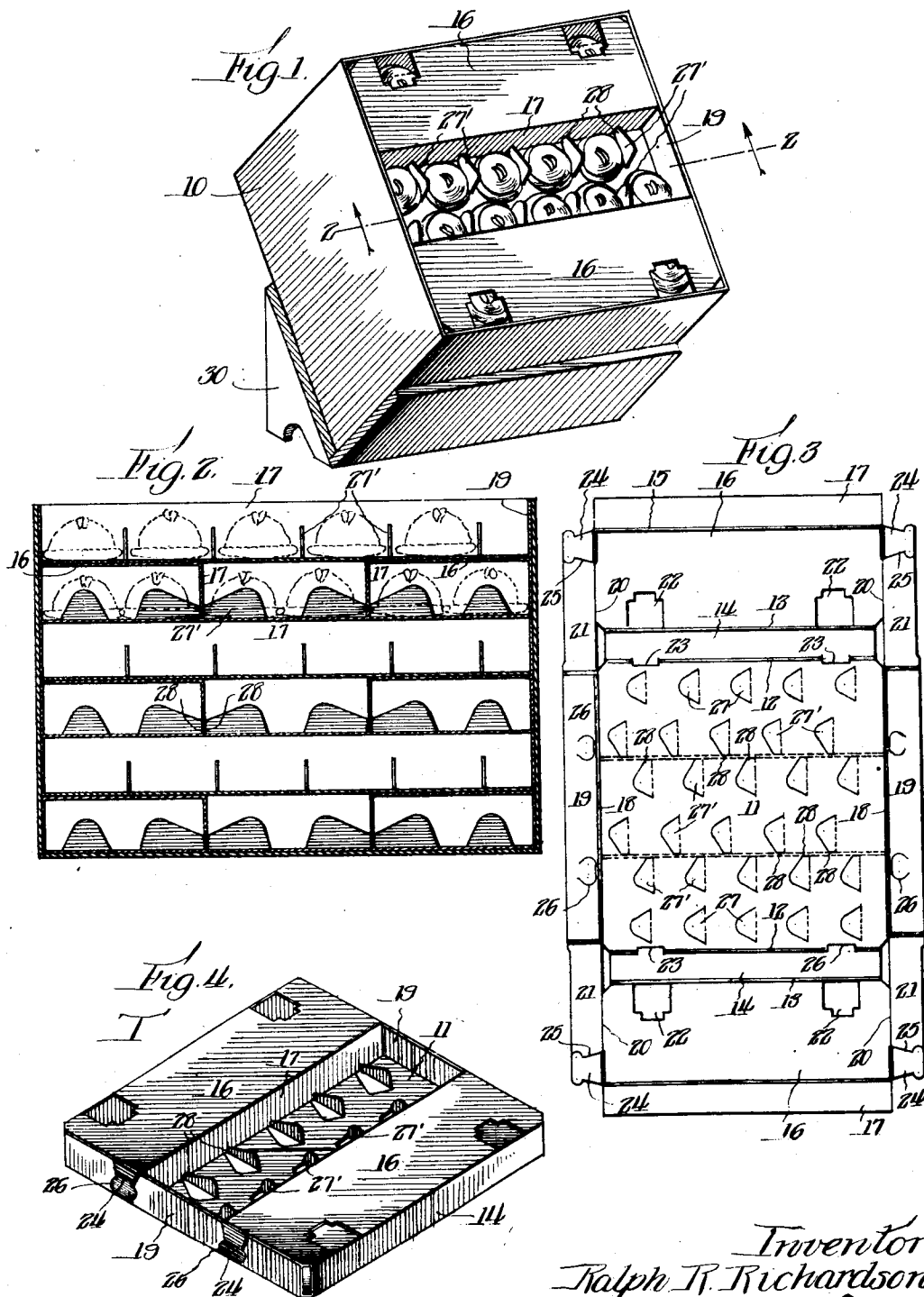


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PACKING AND DISPLAY CARTON

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PACKING AND DISPLAY CARTON.

Application filed September 20, 1926. Serial No. 136,433.

This invention relates to improvements in cartons, having reference more particularly to heavy pasteboard cartons of the kind commonly employed by baking establishments for the packing of cookies, fancy cakes and similar bakery goods.

Heretofore, so far as I am aware, in the packing of bakery goods of the character above mentioned, superposed spacers consisting of rectangularly intersecting flat vertical strips, similar to those commonly used in egg cartons, have been employed to provide individual cells for the cakes; loose flat cardboard sheets being interposed between the superposed layers to separate the cakes in a vertical direction. One object of my present invention is to provide improved means for holding the cakes in spaced and separated condition, which will permit the withdrawal of the cakes from the carton without handling of the cakes, thus contributing to the sanitary character of the package. This means comprises a plurality of superposed trays each of a size corresponding to the internal horizontal section of the carton so as to fit within and completely occupy a cross-section of the latter, each of these trays having novel structural features hereinafter particularly described whereby most of the cakes within the tray are completely housed and protected and also spaced from each other to prevent their sticking together, while one or more rows of the cakes, preferably at the center of the tray are left exposed to view to indicate the character of the contents.

In a co-pending application filed concurrently herewith, Serial No. 136,432, I have disclosed and claimed a storage and display package consisting of a box or carton, and a plurality of relatively long narrow rectangular trays, each adapted to contain one row of cakes, arranged in superposed layers with the trays forming one layer placed crosswise of the trays forming the next underlying layer. In the package of my present invention, the superposed layers consist respectively of a single tray occupying the full cross-section of the carton, and each tray is adapted to carry a plurality of rows of cakes.

One object of the present invention is to provide an improved tray which may be made from a single cardboard blank with parts thereof so folded and interlocked as to form one or more substantially closed com-

partments for housing the cakes and an open compartment wherein the cakes may be displayed to view as a sample of the contents of the carton. Another object of the invention is to provide, in a tray of the character above specified, cake spacing devices, preferably integral with the bottom wall of the tray, and so disposed as to stiffen and reinforce the inner wall of the closed compartment or compartments.

Still other objects and attendant advantages of the invention will be apparent to persons skilled in the art as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein I have illustrated a practical and approved embodiment of the invention, and in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective elevation of my improved carton shown as loaded and in display position;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan of the blank from which the tray is made; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the trays.

Referring to the drawings, 10 designates as an entirety the rectangular box or carton, herein shown as square, which forms the container and carrier for the individual trays in which the goods are packaged.

In Fig. 4 is shown in isolated detail one of the individual trays designed to hold a plurality of cakes or other bakery goods, and designated as an entirety by T. This tray is made from a single rectangular cardboard blank cut and scored as shown in Fig. 3. The central portion of the blank designated by 11 forms the square bottom of the tray, of a size to just fit and fill the horizontal cross-sectional area of the carton 10. On opposite sides of the bottom 11 the blank is scored by parallel lines 12 and 13 to form between them narrow strips 14 which form two opposite side walls of the tray. Beyond the lines 13 and parallel with the latter are scored lines 15, between which and the lines 13 are portions 16 which form the top walls or covers of two closed compartments of the tray, and beyond the scored lines 15 are narrow end strips 17 which, as shown in Fig. 4, are folded downwardly from the top walls 16 to form the inner side walls of said compartments.

Parallel with and a short distance inward-

ly of the longitudinal edges of the blank are scored lines 18 on which are folded upwardly the other two side walls 19 of the tray. Beyond and in line with the scored lines 18 are
 5 slits 20 forming straps 21 that, when the walls 19 are folded upwardly, are bent inwardly to lie against the inner sides of the side walls 14. These straps are locked in place against the side walls 14 by means of locking tabs 22
 10 cut and bent downwardly out of the top walls 16, the lower ends of said tabs entering slits 23 in the opposite edge portions of the bottom wall 11. The top walls 16 are removably locked down in place by means of
 15 barbed tabs 24 formed on the end edges of the top walls 16, said tabs 24 in the blank lying just beyond the outer ends of the straps 21 and being disconnected from the latter by a cut 25. The heads or barbs of the tabs 24
 20 interlock with slots 26 cut at suitable points in the side walls 19.

From the bottom wall 11 of the tray are cut and bent upwardly parallel rows of uniformly spaced tongues, which serve to space
 25 and separate the individual cakes, and prevent them from sticking together through direct contact,—a condition very likely to arise when the cakes are packed fresh and while they are still moist. The tray herein illustrated has a capacity of six rows of cakes. The cake separating tongues 27 of the two
 30 outer or end rows may be of a simple rounded triangular or semi-elliptical form, as shown, while the tongues 27' of the remaining intermediate rows have the same general form but are characterized by the provision of straight
 35 edge portions 28 on one side thereof. These straight edge portions 28 are formed on adjacent sides of adjacent rows of tongues 27', and when said tongues are bent upwardly and
 40 the inner vertical walls 17 of the two closed compartments are bent downwardly, said inner walls fit between and are braced by the straight edges 28 of the two rows of tongues, whereby said inner side walls 17 are locked
 45 against spreading substantially as rigidly as the outer side walls 14.

When the tray is to be loaded, by releasing the tabs 24 from the slots 26 the top walls
 50 16 with their flaps 17 forming the inner side walls can be swung backwardly and outwardly on the scored lines 13 as hinges, and the several rows of cakes are then placed between the spacers 27 and 27' on the bottom of the tray.
 55 The top walls 16 are then folded down, the lower edges of the walls 17 are fitted between the straight edge portions 28 of adjacent rows of tongues 27', the tabs 24 are interlocked with the slots 26, and the tray is fully loaded
 60 and ready for packing in the carton 10. Said carton is adapted to contain a plurality of superposed trays (half a dozen in the instance shown), and these trays, being square, are preferably packed alternately crosswise of
 65 each other. This method of packing affords

uniform distribution of transverse strength and rigidity of the filled carton for the reason that the individual trays are somewhat stronger to resist lateral compression in longitudinal direction of the closed compartments. Another advantage of the described
 70 tray is that it in itself forms a substantial package or holder which, for purposes of retail sale, may serve as a delivery container, requiring only to be protected by an ordinary
 75 sheet of wrapping paper secured by a string or tape, such outer wrapper being ample to prevent loss of the cakes in the intermediate open compartment of the tray. This avoids the unsanitary feature of the handling of the
 80 individual cakes by the dealer when packaging them for a customer.

At 30 is shown in Fig. 1 a common form of carton support adapted to hold the carton in
 85 tilted position most convenient for inspection and removal of its contents on the counter; but this device, of course, forms no feature of the present invention. I may also add that cartons of this character are commonly
 90 provided with a pasteboard top wall or cover to protect the goods in shipment from the bakery to the retail store; and for display
 95 purposes at the store this cover is removed and replaced by a display cover including a hinged glass panel so as to enable the character of the goods to be exhibited on the
 100 counter or in the window, without exposing the goods. As such a display cover forms no part of my present invention, however, I have not herein illustrated the same.

The feature of the upstanding tongues on the bottom of the tray to serve as spacers for the individual cakes I do not herein claim
 105 broadly, since these devices are disclosed and broadly claimed in my concurrent pending application hereinabove identified.

I have herein shown and illustrated one simple and practical embodiment of the principle of the invention which in service
 110 has been found to satisfactorily effectuate the stated purposes and objects thereof. I do not wish to be limited, however, to the specific details of structure herein shown and described, except to the extent clearly indicated in specific claims.

I claim—

1. A packing tray for cakes and the like, comprising a rectangular cardboard box formed with a pair of covered compartments and with an intermediate open top display
 120 compartment, the top walls of said covered compartments having downwardly bent flaps extending to the bottom wall of the box and forming partitions between said covered compartments and said display compartment,
 125 and the bottom wall carrying rows of upstanding members abutting against both sides of said flaps to laterally stiffen the latter throughout the full length thereof.
2. A packing tray for cakes and the like, 130

comprising a rectangular cardboard box
formed with a pair of covered compartments
and with an intermediate open top display
compartment, the top walls of said covered
5 compartments having downwardly bent flaps
extending to the bottom wall of the box and
forming partitions between said covered com-
partments and said display compartment,
and said bottom wall being formed with up-
10 wardly struck tongues for separating the
edges of adjacent cakes in the tray, and said
tongues being formed with straight edge por-
tions adapted to abut against opposite sides
of said flaps to laterally stiffen the latter.

3. A cardboard tray formed from a single 15
flat rectangular blank having its longitudi-
nal edge portions scored and folded up-
wardly to form two opposed side walls and
having its end portions scored and folded to
form the other opposed side walls, top walls 20
of a pair of covered compartments on op-
posite sides of said tray, and inner side walls
of said compartments, and having tabs pro-
jecting from the ends of said compartment
top walls folded down against and inter- 25
locked with slots in said first-named side
walls.

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