Jan. 2, 1968 A. J. WEISS 3,361,331

ADJUSTABLE LOCK FOR CARTON

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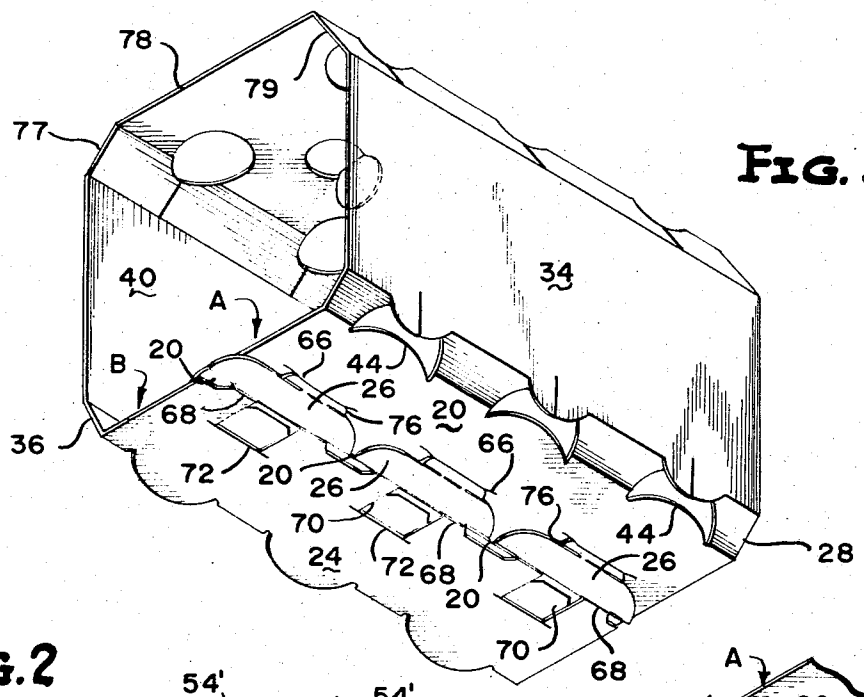
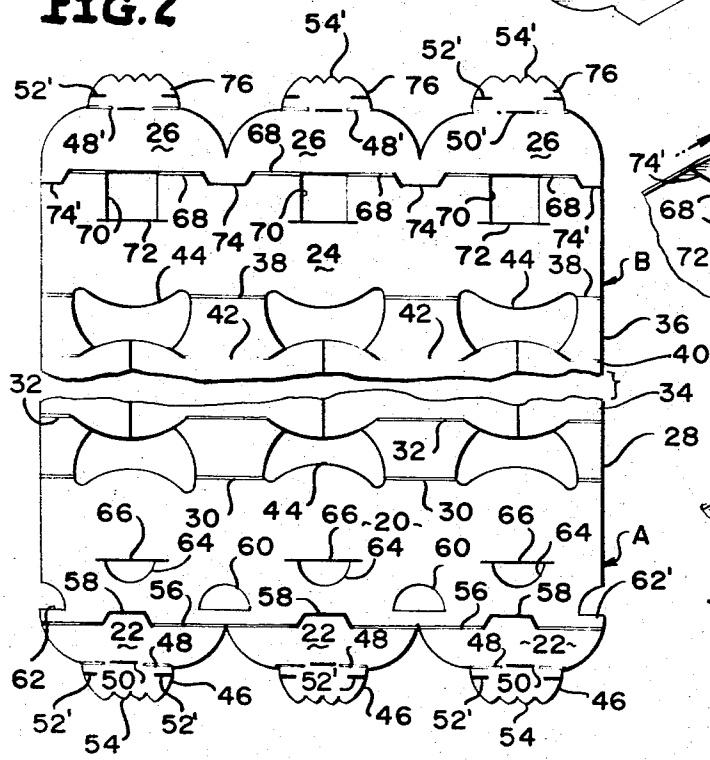


FIG. 1

FIG. 2



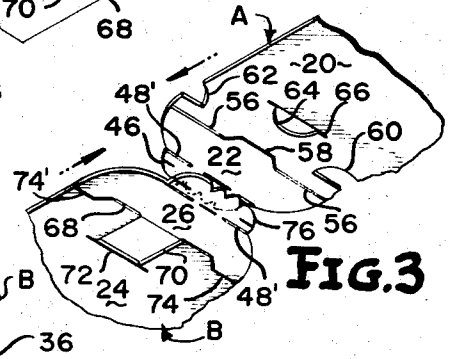


FIG. 3

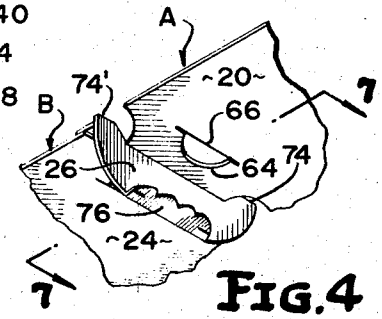


FIG. 4

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ADJUSTABLE LOCK FOR CARTON

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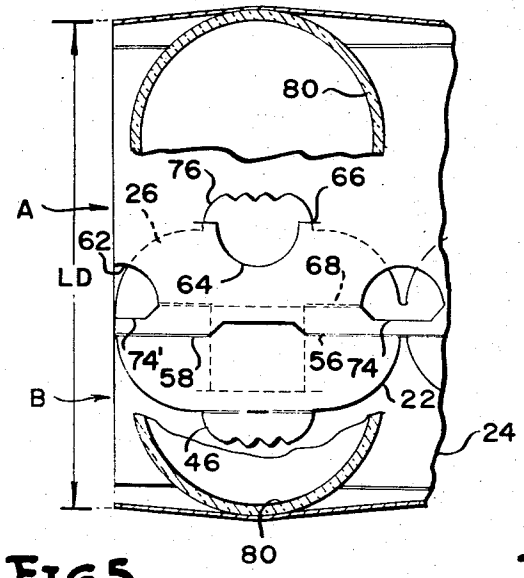


FIG. 5

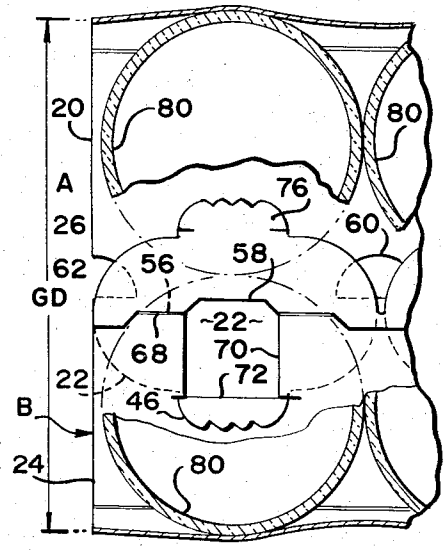


FIG. 8

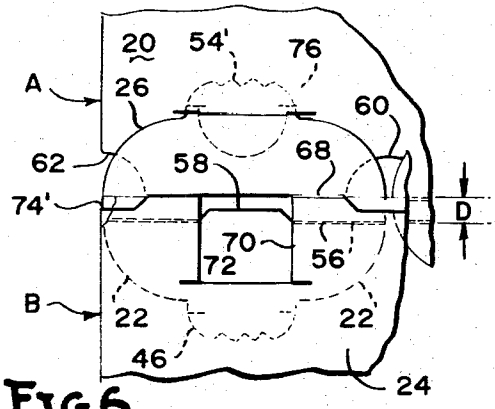


FIG. 6

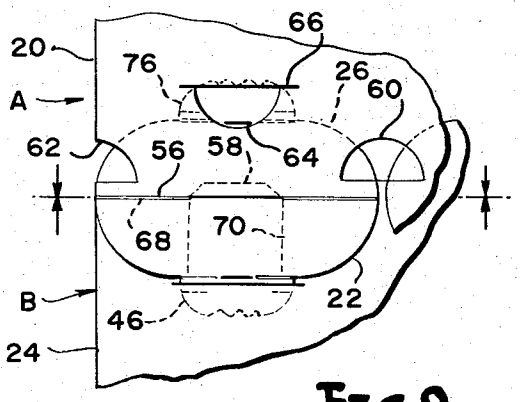


FIG. 9

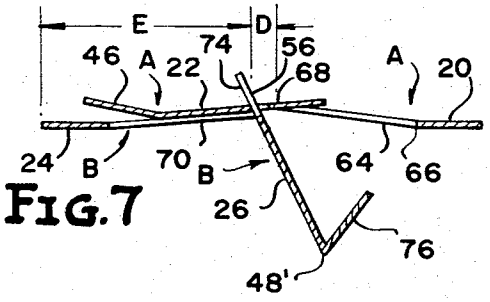


FIG. 7

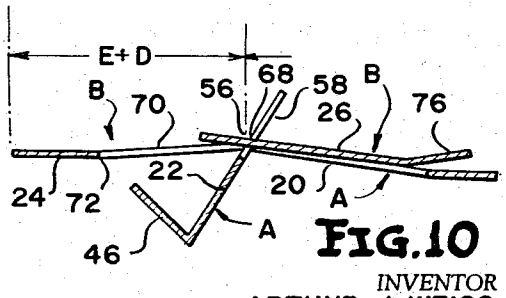


FIG. 10

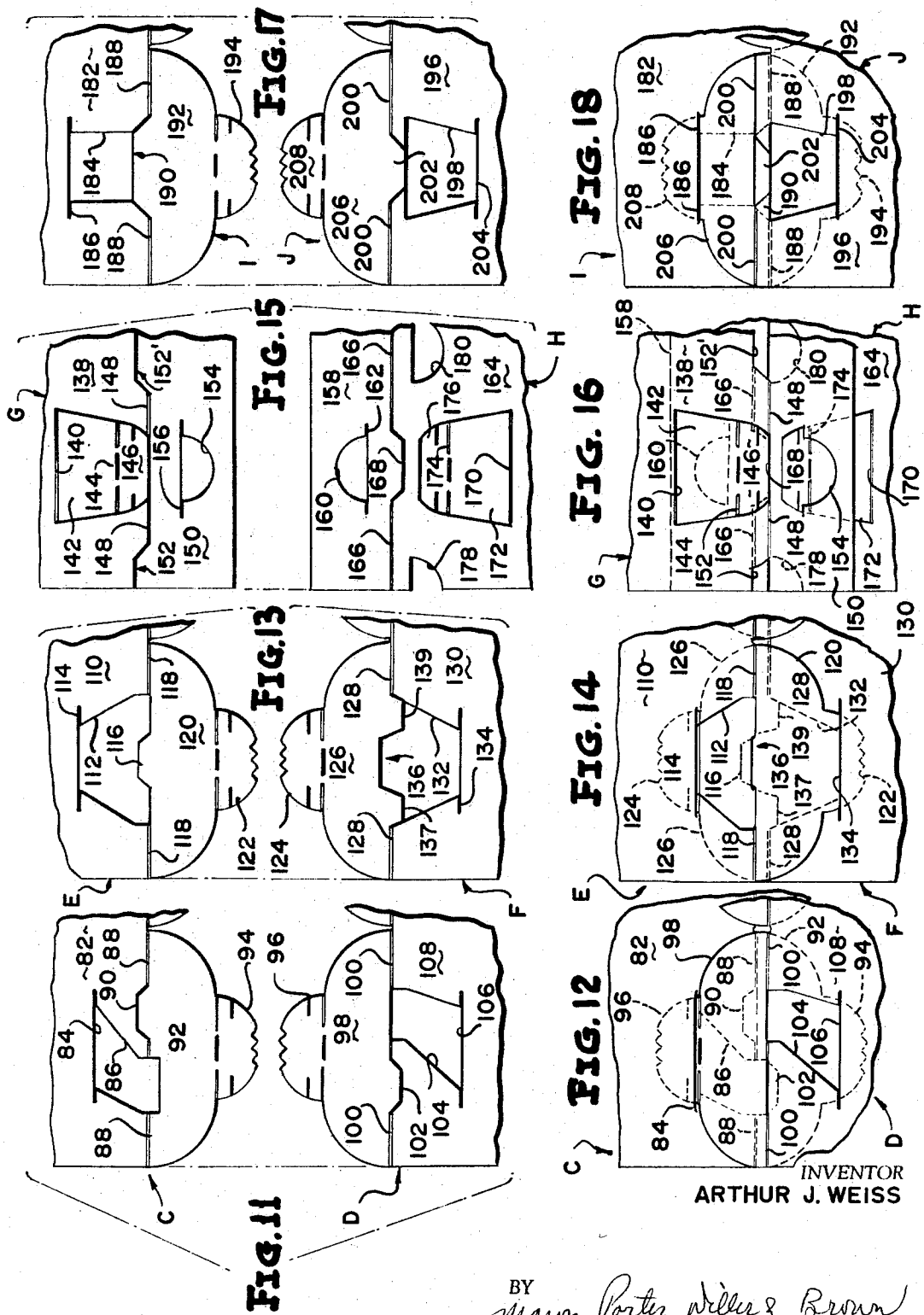
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ADJUSTABLE LOCK FOR CARTON

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3,361,331

ADJUSTABLE LOCK FOR CARTON

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Filed Aug. 24, 1965, Ser. No. 482,219
28 Claims. (Cl. 229—40)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This subject has to do with locks for cartons of the wrap-around type. Normally closure panels are provided with interlocking elements to tightly secure the carton in a wrapped around condition relative to containers. The carton of this disclosure has two sets of altenative locks carried by the two closure portions whereby the same carton may accommodate containers having different wrap-around dimensions.

The present invention relates to a carton blank and a carton or carrier for retaining a group of containers disposed in parallel rows and more specifically to a locking means for the blank and carton, which locking means provides a means for accommodating groups of containers having different wrap-around dimensions. The foregoing is achieved by providing a carton blank with a plurality of carton locking positions.

This invention finds utility in the container field wherein a group of containers, such as the familiar six-pack carton, are retained within a carton or carrier in two substantially parallel rows, the containers being retained in a side-by-side relationship. The carrier is formed from a blank and wrapped about the group of containers during a packaging operation. In this manner, the group of containers is retained snugly in place, the possibility of breakage and inadvertent removal of the container from the carton being eliminated or at least substantially reduced.

Although the invention may be described as having applicability to retaining or forming a six-pack carton, it will readily be understood that the invention has utility in retaining any number of containers and in any configuration, the requirement being that the carton be capable of being placed about the group of containers and being locked in position about the containers.

Before the actual packaging of the groups of containers, the carton forming equipment is adjusted to form the carton about the group according to the dimension and configuration of the containers. If all of the containers to be packaged and the groups are substantially identical in geometric configuration, then it is a relatively simple matter to so adjust the packaging machinery as to provide a carrier or carton when the containers within the carton are snugly housed, i.e., the wrap-around dimension of the carrier being substantially equal to the wrap-around dimension of the containers. However, a problem arises wherein all of the containers are not of a substantially uniform size. If one manufacturer of containers supplies the containers having one wrap-around dimension, and a second supplier supplies containers having a second wrap-around dimension, then two different carton blanks must be kept available for packaging the groups of containers. Furthermore, the packaging may become further complicated if the two sizes of containers are mixed so that the containers are now not substantially uniform in size. If one or more containers of the group of containers is slightly smaller than the other containers, then the cartons will not fit snugly about the group but fit only loosely, thus allowing for inadvertent removal of the container from the carton. Intuitively, the loose fitting carton is not desirable. Therefore, the need arises for a

wrap-around carton, such as disclosed by the present invention, which has a plurality of locking positions so as to provide for different wrap-around dimensions of the cartons. This need for a multi-positionable carton arises due to the inability of each container manufacturer to produce containers substantially identical to all containers of other manufacturers. In the glass bottle art, it is known that variations in the sizes of the glass bottle containers do occur.

Accordingly, it is the principal object of the present invention to improve wrap-around blanks and cartons having a plurality of positions in its assembled configuration.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a wrap-around carton and blank for accommodating groups of containers having different dimensions.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a wrap-around carton for housing a group of containers and having locking means which are disposable in a plurality of positions according to the wrap-around dimension of the group.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a locking means for a carton which comprises overlapping closure means, the closure means including a plurality of first and second closure panels and first and second projecting panels which are adapted for engagement to provide a first locking position and a second locking position, the first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and the second locking position providing for a different wrap-around dimension, according to the wrap-around dimension of the container or containers to be enclosed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide one embodiment of a variable locking means for a carton wherein tabs projecting from a second projecting panel mate with and lock within notches formed in a first closure panel and a tab supported from a second projecting panel is inserted within an aperture formed in a first closure panel so as to provide a first locking position and wherein a wedge-shaped projection on a first projecting panel is locked within an aperture and about a seond projecting panel and a tab projecting from a first projecting panel is inserted into a slit within a second closure panel so as to form a second locking position, the first and second locking positions providing different wrap-around dimensions of a carton assembled from a blank.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide another embodiment of a variable locking means for a carton wherein an offset tab projecting from a second projecting panel is inserted into an offset aperture in a first projecting panel and a tab extending from the second projecting panel is inserted into a slit in a first closure panel so as to form the first locking position and a substantially reverse procedure in assembling the panels will provide the second locking position, the first and second locking positions providing for different wrap-around dimensions of a carton assembled from a blank bearing the foregoing panels, projections and apertures.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide another embodiment of a variable locking means for a carton wherein a pair of teeth projecting from a second projecting panel are locked about a first projecting panel with a tab extending from the second projecting panel being inserted into a slit in a first closure panel so as to provide a first locking position and wherein a tooth extending from the first projecting panel is inserted about and locked within a slot formed in the second projecting panel with the tab extending from the first projecting panel being locked within the second closure panel, so as to provide a second locking position, the first and second

locking positions providing for different wrap-around dimensions of a carton assembled from a blank bearing the foregoing features.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide another embodiment of a variable locking means for a carton wherein projecting tabs or ears from a first projecting panel are locked within notches formed in a second closure panel and a flap within the second closure panel being inserted into and locking within a first closure panel so as to provide a first locking position and wherein a projection from a second porjecting panel is inserted into an aperture in the first closure panel and locked about the first projecting panel with a flap from the first closure panel being inserted into a slit formed in the second projectiing panel so as to provide a second locking position, the first and second locking positions providing for different wrap-around dimensions.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide another embodiment of a variable locking means for a carton wherein a projection from a second projecting panel is inserted into an aperture in a first closure panel and locked about a first projecting panel with a tab extending from the second projecting panel being locked into a slit in a first closure panel so as to provide a first locking position and wherein a projection from the first projecting panel is locked within an aperture formed on a second closure panel and a tab projecting from a first projecting panel is inserted into a slit formed in the second closure panel so as to provide a second locking position, the first and second locking positions providing for different wrap-around dimensions of a carton assembled from a blank bearing the foregoing propections, apertures, and panels.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide a wrap-around carton and blank, which carton and blank includes the novel closure means including the first and second locking positions as well as side panels and intermediate panels for forming the complete blank and the subsequently encircling carrier about a group of containers.

These and other objects of the present invention are accomplished by providing a blank which yields a wrap-around carton having parallel side walls joined by an intermediate top and bottom wall, with a unique carton locking means. Since the wrap-around dimension of a group of containers assembled for positioning within a wrap-around carton may vary, the locking means of the present invention exhibits a plurality of locking positions so that the locking position which retains the containers most snugly within the carton, may be selected. In the particular embodiments which are shown and described two such locking positions are provided.

In general, the locking means provided by the different embodiments shown and illustrated in the present invention includes overlapping closure means which closure means inculdes first and second clouser panels and one or more first and second projecting panels, respectively, which are joined thereto. In addition, tabs may project from the projecting panel and in one embodiment, the equivalent of the tabs is a flap formed in the first and second closure panels. The general feature of the different embodiments is that a locking position is accomplished between a tab projecting from a projecting panel and a larger tab projecting from the same panel which is then locked within a corresponding closure panel. In each of the embodiments, each of the elements of the closure means are somewhat similar except that means are provided for offsetting the closure means so as to provide the plurality of locking positions, the offsetting usually being accomplished by apertures of lesser or greater dimensions according to the panels in which they are formed.

The invention both as to its organization and method of operation together with further objects and advantages thereof will best be understood by reference to the following specification taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a carton and illustrating the locking means in one of its embodiments and when employed as a lower carton closing means;

FIGURE 2 is a plan view of a blank from which the carton of the FIGURE 1 was formed;

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of one of the embodiments of the invention and illustrating a step in the forming of the lock of the carton of the FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating a subsequent step after the step shown in the FIGURE 3 in the forming of the lock of the carton of the FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view through the package with portions of the containers being broken away to more clearly illustrate the details of the interlocking panels;

FIGURE 6 is a framentary bottom view of the lock of the carton of the FIGURE 5;

FIGURE 7 is a sectional view taken along the line 7—7 of the FIGURE 4 and illustrating the formation of the carton of the FIGURES 1 and 3 through 6 which carton has the lesser wrap-around dimension;

FIGURE 8 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view through the package and similar to the view illustrated in the FIGURE 5 except that the lock is shown in its greater wrap-around dimension, the FIGURE 8 showing portions of the containers broken away to more clearly illustrate the details of the interlock in this configuration;

FIGURE 9 is a fragmentary bottom view of the lock of the carton of the FIGURE 8;

FIGURE 10 is a sectional view illustrating the formation of the lock of the carton of the FIGURES 8 and 9, which carton has the greater wrap-around dimension;

FIGURE 11 is a plan view of another embodiment of the closure means which would be sustituted for the closure means of the blank of the FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 12 is a plan view illustrating the closure means of the FIGURE 11 in providing the greater wrap-around dimension;

FIGURE 13 is a further embodiment of the carton closure and locking means which would be substituted for the locking means of the blank of the FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 14 is a plan view illustrating the positioning of the closure means of the FIGURE 13 so as to provide the greater wrap-around dimension;

FIGURE 15 is a still further embodiment of the carton closure means and shown in plan view and which would be substituted for the carton closure means in the blank of the FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 16 is a plan view illustrating how the closure means of the FIGURE 15 are engaged so as to provide the lesser wrap-around dimension;

FIGURE 17 is a still further embodiment of the carton closure means shown in plan view and which would be substituted for the carton closure means of the blank of the FIGURE 2; and

FIGURE 18 is a plan view showing the carton closure elements of the FIGURE 17 in their engaged positions so as to provide the greater wrap-around dimension of a carton when so assembled.

With reference to the FIGURE 1, a carton has been formed about a plurality of hypothetical containers which in the embodiment of the FIGURE 1, would enclose six containers disposed in two parallel side-by-side rows. Before elaborating upon the carton of the FIGURE 1, it is believed advantageous to consider the blank of the FIGURE 2.

The blank of the FIGURE 2 may be folded in one embodiment to form a carton or carrier, such as that shown in the FIGURE 1, which provides one wrap-around dimension and, in addition, may be folded in a second embodiment to provide a carton having a different wrap-

around dimension. The manner in which the two different wrap-around dimensions may be accomplished through the predetermined formation of the carton, will now be set forth.

In the blank of the FIGURE 2, only the closure means A and the closure means B have been shown in detail since the side panels, intermediate panels, etc. may be of any desired configuration. The closure means A includes a first closure panel **20** to which are joined one or more projecting panels **22**. Similarly, the closure means B includes a second closure panel **24** to which are joined one or more projecting panels **26**. A small panel **28** is joined by way of a fold line **30** to the first closure panel **20** and by a fold line **32** to a side panel **34**, which side panel **34** is shown in broken outline. A panel **36**, similar to the panel **28**, is joined by a fold line **38** to the second closure panel and to a side panel **40** by a fold line **42**. The side panel **40** is also shown in broken and partial outline. The side panels **34** and **40** may take any configuration as found expedient, such as that shown in the FIGURE 1, and it will be understood that the side panels **34** and **40** would be joined by one or more panels to complete the blank of the FIGURE 2 so as to provide a complete wrap-around carton, such as that shown in the FIGURE 1. The panels **28** and **36** are provided with a plurality of moon-shaped apertures **44** which are substantially in-line with the projecting panels **26** and equal in number to the containers to be positioned within a completed carton or carrier. The apertures **44** serve to receive the edge or chime of a container and thereby assist in the positioning and retention of the containers within the carton.

With continued reference to the FIGURE 2, a tab **46** projects from each of the projecting panels **22** and is joined to the projecting panel **22** via fold line **48**. The fold line **48** may or may not be interrupted at intervals by a severed line **50**. In addition, severed lines **52** and **52'** are formed in each of the tabs **46** for a short distance and are substantially parallel to the fold line **48**, as shown. The projecting ends of the tabs **46** may take any convenient configuration or they may be scalloped such as that shown at **54**.

The projecting panels **22** are joined to the first closure panel **20** via a fold line **56** which is interrupted at regular intervals by wedge-shaped severed lines so as to permit a portion or projection **58** of each of the projecting panels **22** to extend into the first closure panel **20**. The projections **58** are severed up to the fold line **56** and when the projecting panels **22** are rotated about their fold line **56**, then the projections **58** also rotate and remain in the same plane as that occupied by its corresponding projecting panel **22**.

A plurality of apertures are formed in the first closure panel **20**, the apertures being in two substantially parallel rows. The first row comprises the semi-circular apertures **60** which are positioned slightly away from the fold line **56** and between each of the projecting panels **22**. Since the apertures **60** are formed in such a manner with one-half of the apertures **60** being positioned above one projecting panel **22** and the other half of the aperture **60** being positioned above an adjacent projecting panel **22**, the apertures at the edges of the closure panel **20** are notches **62** and **62'** since the blank of the FIGURE 2 would normally be severed so that each projecting panel **22** would be in its entirety and not partially present.

The second row of apertures are slightly above the apertures **60** and are formed substantially in-line with the tabs **46** and the projection **58**, these apertures being identified as **64**. A severed line **66** is positioned along one edge of each of the semi-circular apertures **64** and forms one side of the apertures **64**; however, the severed lines **66** are somewhat longer than the diameter of the apertures **64** so that the severed lines **66** extend into and beyond the outline of the apertures **64**. The apertures **64** and severed lines **66** are adapted to receive tabs, to be hereinafter described, which project from the projecting panels **26**.

As shown in the FIGURE 2, the projecting panels **26** are joined to the second closure panel **24** by an interrupted fold line **68**. The fold line **68** is interrupted midway of each projecting panel **26** to permit the formation of a square aperture **70** which is positioned so that one of its sides is substantially in line with the fold line **68**. The opposite side of the aperture **70** is in the form of a severed line **72** which, of course, is somewhat greater in length than the side of the aperture or opening **70** so that the severed line **72** extends beyond the perpendicular sides of the aperture. As will hereinafter be described, the tabs **46** project into the aperture **70** and lock within the severed lines **72**.

The fold line **68** is also interrupted in the area where adjoining projecting panels **26** meet so that a projection **74** is formed at the junction, which projections **74** extends into the second closure panel **24** and rotates with the projecting panels **26** when the projecting panels **26** are rotated about their fold line **68**. At the ends of the two outermost projecting panels **26**, the projections **74'** are only one-half the length of the projection **74** since the other half of the projection would be on the adjoining projecting panel. Projecting from each of the projecting panels **26** is a tab **76** which is substantially identical to the tabs **46**. In addition, the tabs **76** are joined by similar fold lines **48** and identified as **48'**, similar severed lines **50'** and **52'**, and similar scalloped edges **54'**.

In the FIGURE 1, the blank of the FIGURE 2 has been formed into a carton or carrier which is shown in perspective view. It will be noted that the side panels **34** and **40** are joined by a plurality of intermediate panels **77**, **78** and **79** so as to complete the closure. It will be noted that the closure means A and the closure means B have been joined so that the carton is now closed and ready for shipment. It will be understood that a group of containers, six containers in the embodiment shown in the FIGURE 1, would be positioned within the panels of the FIGURE 1 and the closure means engaged.

In order to better understand how the closure means A and closure means B are joined so as to form the configuration shown in the FIGURE 1, reference will be had to the FIGURES 3 and 4 wherein the manner of joining is set forth in two steps. After the side panels **34** and **40** and the intermediate panels **77**, **78** and **79** have been positioned about a group of containers, then the closure means A and closure means B would be brought together as shown in the FIGURE 3 with the closure means A against the containers while the closure means B would be positioned slightly away from the containers. After that, the projecting panel **26** would be rotated about its fold line **68** so that the projections **74** and **74'** point toward the direction shown in the FIGURE 4. The projections **74** and **74'** are then inserted into the aperture **60** and the notch **62**, respectively, so that a locking engagement is effected through the cooperation of these elements. Thereafter, the tab **76** is brought downwardly, which carries the projecting panel **26** with it and into further locking engagement with the first closure panel **20**, and the tab **76** is inserted in the aperture **64** at the severed line **66**. The closing is now accomplished and would be as shown in the FIGURE 1. In the embodiment shown in the FIGURES 1, 3 and 4, the lesser wrap-around dimension is accomplished. This dimension and procedure is further described with reference to the FIGURES 5, 6 and 7. Thereafter, in order to accomplish the greater wrap-around dimension, the procedure will be discussed with reference to the FIGURES 8, 9 and 10.

The FIGURE 5 is a view which one would see if viewing inside the carton with portions of the containers removed in order to illustrate the adjustable lock. As set forth with reference to the FIGURES 1, 3 and 4, the projections **74** and **74'** have been inserted into the

aperture **60** and the notch **62**, respective ly, and the tab **76** of the projecting panel **26** has been inserted through the aperture **64** and rests in the severed line **66**. The containers in cross-section are identified as **80**. The projecting panel **22** with its associated tab **46** lays flat and against the second closure panel **24** as shown.

A salient feature of the invention and an understanding of which is necessary in order to envision the two different positions or locking engagement positions of the closure means, is to observe the relative positions of the fold lines **56** and **68**. In the FIGURE 5, the fold lines **56** and **68** are shown as being separated by a short distance so as to yield the dimension LD (for lesser dimension) which is measured from the outside of adjacent containers. In its other locking position, to be hereinafter described, the fold lines **56** and **68** will be superimposed so as to yield a dimension GD (for greater dimension) which is shown in the FIGURE 8.

The FIGURE 6 is a plan view of the closure means A and closure means B and similar to the showing of the perspective view of the FIGURE 1. The projections and panels are so interlocked that the fold lines **56** and **68** are separated by a distance D, as shown. As previously set forth in its other configuration, the fold lines **56** and **68** would be on top of each other so that a greater wrap-around dimension is provided.

The FIGURE 7, which is a sectional view taken along the line **7—7** of the FIGURE 4, illustrates the manner in which the closure means A and the closure means B are engaged so as to provide the lesser dimension for the assembled carton of the FIGURE 1. As previously set forth, the projection **74** is inserted within the notch **60** after the projecting panel **26** has been rotated about its fold line **56**. The tab **76** is bent upwardly and with an upward motion, is then directed toward the aperture **64**. The projection **74** then rotates in a counter-clockwise direction and the tab **76** is positioned within the aperture **64** at the severed line **66**. It will be noted that the fold lines **56** and **68** are separated by a distance D and that the distance from the fold line **56** to the end of the closure panel **24**, is the distance E. In its other configuration, the fold line **56** will be positioned upon the fold line **68** by a movement of the closure means B leftwardly, as viewed in the FIGURE 7, so that the distance from the fold lines **56** and **68** to the end of the closure panel **24** then becomes $E+D$. This is illustrated in the FIGURE 10 and will be discussed hereinafter.

In the FIGURES 8 and 9, the closure means A and the closure means B have been assembled so as to provide the greater wrap-around dimension to the carton, such as that assembled in the FIGURE 1. Portions of the containers **80** have been removed so as to more thoroughly display the locking means. In this embodiment, the positions of the closure means A and the closure means B are interchanged and the projecting panel **22** is rotated about its fold line **56**. As a result, the projection **58** also rotates outwardly and is now inserted in the aperture **70** and under the second projecting panel **26**. The first projecting panel **22** is now returned to its original position and, at the same time, the tab **46** is inserted in the aperture **70** and rests within the second closure panel **24** at the severed line **72**. The foregoing is well demonstrated in the FIGURE 10 and it will be observed that the fold lines **56** and **68** are now superimposed so that the distance now becomes $E+D$, as shown.

In the FIGURE 9, the projection **58** has been inserted into the aperture **70** and upon rotation of the projecting panel **22** about its fold line **56**, the projection **58** will rotate clockwise and lock itself about the projecting panel **26**. Thereafter, the tab **46** is also inserted in the aperture **70** and rests within the closure panel **24** at the severed line **72**. As assembled, the fold lines **56** and **68** are now superimposed so as to give the greater wrap-around dimension as best shown in the FIGURE 8.

In the FIGURE 8, the projection **58** is clearly shown locked about the projecting panel **26** and with the tab **46** tucked into the severed line **72** and resting against the closure panel **24**. It will be noted that the projections **74** and **74'** and the aperture **60** and notch **62** are not directly employed in this configuration whereas in the configuration shown in the earlier figures, it was those elements that were instrumental in forming the lesser wrap-around dimension.

In the FIGURE 9, which is a view similar to the FIGURE 8, except that one is looking upwardly at the carton locking means, such as what one would see in the perspective view of the FIGURE 1, the projection **58**, in dotted outline, is locked about the projecting panel **26** so that, unlike the FIGURE 5, the fold lines **56** and **68** have been moved over one another so that the distance D is now added to the wrap-around dimension of the carton. It will be readily understood that the distance D can be varied according to the particular construction that is desired. In order to increase the distance D, it will be intuitively clear that the aperture **60** and notch **62** would be moved further away from the fold line **56** so as to provide the greater distance. Similarly, if D is to be decreased, then the similar elements would be moved closer to the fold line **56**. It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that the distance D may be varied according to what may be found expedient or desired according to one's requirements.

In the FIGURES 11, 13, 15 and 17 four additional embodiments are illustrated with one of their locking engagement positions illustrated in corresponding FIGURES 12, 14, 16 and 18. In the FIGURES 12, 14 and 18 the greater dimension is illustrated while in the FIGURE 16, the lesser dimension is illustrated. In each of the FIGURES 12, 14, 16 and 18, the embodiment shown for illustration is that embodiment wherein the fold lines would be separated rather than the embodiment wherein the fold lines would be superimposed.

The embodiment shown in the FIGURE 11 includes a first closure panel **82** upon which is formed an aperture **86** which extends from a transverse severed line **84** through a fold line **88** and terminates in a first projecting panel **92**. The aperture is offset to the left-center of the panels **82** and **92** while a small wedge-shaped projection **90** is offset to the right and is formed by interrupting the fold line **88** so as to permit a portion of the first projecting panel **92** to terminate within the first closure panel **82**. A tab **94** extends from the closure panel **92** and is joined thereto by a fold line. A salient feature of the embodiment of the FIGURE 11 is the termination of the aperture **86** beyond the fold line **88** and in the projecting panel **92**. This permits a wrap-around dimension differential equal to the distance that the aperture **86** extends beyond the fold line **88**.

In the discussion concerning the FIGURE 11 and subsequent figures, the numbers and identification of the elements has been minimized so as to provide better clarity. This approach is believed sufficient in that many of the severed lines, fold lines, panels, etc. are similar to those set forth in detail with reference to FIGURES 1 through 10.

While the portion of the lock shown in the upper part of the FIGURE 11 could be identified as the closure means C, the lower portion is identified as the closure means D. The closure means D includes a tab **96** extending from a second projecting panel **98** which is joined to a second closure panel **108** by an interrupted fold line **100**. At one of the interruptions, a small wedge-shaped projection **102** extends from the second projecting panel **98** into and terminates within the second closure panel **108**. An offset aperture **104** extends from a transverse severed line **106** in the panel **108** to and terminates at the fold line **100**. Whereas the aperture **86** extends into the projecting panel **92**, the aperture **104** terminates at the fold line **100** and it is this feature which permits two different wrap-around dimensions of an assembled carton.

In the FIGURE 12, the assembly of the closure means C and the closure means D is illustrated which provides the greater wrap-around dimension. It will be noted that the second projecting panel **98** would be rotated upwardly into a vertical plane so that the projection **102** wou'd extend downwardly. The projection **102** is now inserted into the aperture **96** and as the projecting panel **98** is rotated downwardly, the projection **102** would lock about the panel **92**. Thereafter, the tab **96** is inserted into the aperture **86** at the severed line **84** in the first closure panel **82**. In this embodiment, it will be noted that the fold lines **88** and **100** are separated by a distance equal to the differential distance of the two different embodiments.

To provide the lesser wrap-around dimension, which is not shown by way of drawings but will be illustrated by way of explanation, the projecting panel **92** would be rotated about its fold line **88** so that it is perpendicular to the first closure panel **82**. As a result, the projection **90** would now extend downwardly and the projection **90** would then be inserted into the aperture **104** at the fold line **100**. As the projecting panel **92** is now rotated back to its original position, the projection **90** would lock about the second projecting panel **98** and the tab **94** would be inserted in the aperture **104** at the severed line **106**. In this embodiment, the fold lines **88** and **100** would be superimposed so that the lesser wrap-around dimension of a carton is achieved.

With reference to the FIGURE 13, an embodiment is illustrated wherein a first closure panel **110** has formed therein a generally trapezoidal shaped aperture **112** and a severed line **114** forms one side of the aperture **112** and is generally transverse of the closure panel **110**. A first projecting panel **120** is secured to the closure panel **110** by a fold line **118** generally about its outer extremities. The aperture **112** extends up to the fold line **118** except for a small projection **116** that is part of the projecting panel **120** and projects into the aperture area **112**. A tab **122** is joined to the first projecting panel **120** by a fold line, in a conventional manner.

The closure means E, just described, cooperates with a closure means F which includes a closure panel **130** having formed therein an aperture **132**, of a generally trapezoidal configuration. A severed line **134** is formed along one edge of the aperture **132** and extends slightly into the closure panel **130**. A projecting panel **126** is affixed to the closure panel **130** by a fold line **128**, the fold line **128** being interrupted in its central portion so as to permit a projection **137** and a projection **139** to extend from the projecting panel **126** into the aperture **132**. The projections **137** and **139** form an indentation or valley **136** in the central portion of the projecting panel **126**. A tab **124** is joined by a fold line to the projecting panel **126**.

The manner in which the closure panel E and the closure panel F engage to form a locking means is illustrated in the FIGURE 14. In the embodiment shown, the greater wrap-around dimension is provided. In this configuration, the projecting panel **120** of the FIGURE 13 is rotated about its fold line **118** so that the projection **116** is pointed downwardly. The projection **116** is then positioned within the valley **136** on the projecting panel **126**. Then, the projecting panel **120** is rotated back to its original position so that the projection **116** securely locks behind a portion of the projecting panel **126**. Thereafter, the tab **122** is inserted in the aperture **132** at the severed line **134** and securely locks below the panel **130** as shown in the FIGURE 14. A salient feature of this configuration, is that the fold lines **118** and **128** are separated by a distance equal to the differential distance between the lesser and greater dimension.

To obtain the lesser or smaller wrap-around dimension, the fold lines **118** and **128** of the FIGURE 14 would be superimposed in the manner to be hereinafter described, but not shown by way of drawings. The projecting panel **126** is pivoted about its fold line **128** so that the teeth **137** and **139** project downwardly. The teeth **137** and **139** are then positioned within the aperture **112** so that the projection **116** is locked behind the projecting panel **126** in the area of the valley **136** and the projections **137** and **139** are locked behind portions of the projecting panel **120**. Thereafter, the projecting panel **126** is rotated toward its original position and the tab **124** is inserted into the aperture **112** at the severed line **114**. In this manner, the lesser wrap-around dimension is provided.

Another embodiment which provides two different wrap-around dimensions is shown in the FIGURE 15 and the manner in which the elements are assembled is shown in the FIGURE 16. A closure panel **138** of the FIGURE 15 has formed therein a flap **142** which is derived as a result of severing about the outer configuration of the flap except for the fold line **140**. There is joined to the flap **142** by a fold line **144** a second flap **146**. The closure panel **138** is joined to a projecting panel **150** by an interrupted fold line **148**. Offset portions **152** and **152'** extend from the projecting panel **150** into the closure panel **138** which results in the fold line **148** being discontinuous so that the projections **152** and **152'** are formed by severing between the panels **138** and **150**. Substantially in line with the flaps **142** and **146** is a moon-shaped aperture **154** wherein a severed line **156** forms one side of the aperture **154** and is substantially parallel to the fold line **148**.

The closure means H includes a closure panel **164** which is joined to a projecting panel **158** by an interrupted fold line **166**. The fold line **166** is interrupted so that a small wedge-shaped projection **168** can project from the projecting panel **158** into the closure panel **164**. The projection **168** is severed from the closure panel **164** so that it will move with the projecting panel **158**. A moon-shaped aperture **160** is formed within the projecting panel **158** and a diameter of the aperture **160** is in the form of a transverse severed line **162** which extends slightly beyond the outer extremities of the moon-shaped aperture **160**. The closure panel **164** has formed therein a flap portion which includes the flaps **172** and **176** which are joined to the fold lines **170** and **174**, respectively. The flap **172** is joined to the closure panel **164** only by the fold line **170**.

The manner in which the closure means G and the closure means H are assembled so as to provide the lesser wrap-around dimension is set forth in the FIGURE 16. The projecting panel **150** is rotated about its fold line **148** so that the projections **152** and **152'** extend downwardly. The projections **152** and **152'** are then lodged within the notches or apertures **178** and **180**, respectively, so that as the projection **150** is returned to its original position, the projections **152** and **152'** effect a lock behind the engaging portions of the closure panel **164**. As the projecting panel **150** is returned to its original position, the flap **176** is turned upwardly into a vertical plane and is received in the aperture **154** at the severed line **156**. Thus, the lesser wrap-around dimension is provided by the foregoing arrangement.

If the greater wrap-around dimension is desired, then the projecting panel **158** would be rotataed about its fold line **166** so that the projection **168** extends downwardly. The projection **168** would then be inserted into the aperture in the area of the flap **146** so that as the projecting panel **158** is returned to its original position, the projection **168** would lock behind a portion of the projecting panel **150**. At the same time, the flap **146** would be bent upwardly so as to be received in the aperture **160** at the severed line **162**. Thus, the greater wrap-around dimension of a carton has been provided by this embodiment.

It will be noted in the FIGURE 16 that the shorter wrap-around dimension is accomplished by positioning the fold lines **148** and **166** away from each other a differential distance equal to the difference in the two wrap-around dimensions. In the embodiment to provide the greater wrap-around dimension, the fold lines **148** and **166** are superimposed.

A still further embodiment is shown in the FIGURE 17 wherein the closure means I and the closure means J include panels and apertures which may be engaged to pro-

vide a lesser and a greater wrap-around dimension of an assembled carton. The closure means I includes a closure panel 182 having a substantially rectangular aperture 184 formed centrally therein. A severed line 186 extends along one side of the aperture 184 and slightly into the closure panel 182. A projecting panel 192 is joined to the closure panel 182 by an interrupted fold line 188, the fold line 188 being interrupted so as to permit a wedge-shaped projection 190 to extend from the projecting panel 192 and inwardly toward the aperture 184. A tab 194 is joined by a fold line to the projecting panel 192.

With continued reference to the FIGURE 17, the closure means J includes a closure panel 196 having a generally trapezoidal aperture 198 formed therein. The trapezoidal aperture 198 has a severed line 204 extending transversely along one side and slightly into each of the sides to the closure panel 196. The aperture 198 is removed from a fold line 200 which joins a projecting panel 206 to the closure panel 196 so as to permit a wedge-shaped projection 202 to extend from the projecting panel 206 and up to the aperture 198, as shown. A tab 208 is joined by a fold line to the projecting panel 206.

In the FIGURE 18, the assembly of the closure means I and the closure means J is set forth so as to illustrate the position of the elements to achieve the lesser wrap-around dimension. The projecting panel 206 is rotated about its fold line 200 so that the projection 202 extends downwardly. The projection 202 is then inserted in the aperture 184 about the projection 190 and as the projecting panel 206 is returned to its original position, the projection 202 locks about the projection 190. The tab 208 is then inserted in the aperture 184 at the severed line 186 so as to complete the lock. In this configuration, it will be noted that the fold lines 188 and 200 are separated by the differential distance provided by the two configurations of an assembled carton.

To provide the greater wrap-around dimension, the fold lines 188 and 200 would be superimposed. This is accomplished in the following manner. The projecting panel 192 is rotated about its fold line 188 so that the projection 190 extends downwardly. The projection 190 is then lodged in the aperture 198 about the area of the projection 202. The projection 192 is then returned toward its original position so that the projection 190 locks behind the projection 202 and the area of the closure panel 196 adjacent the fold line 200. The tab 194 is then tucked into the aperture 198 at the severed line 204. Thus, the other wrap-around dimension has been provided.

The foregoing invention has set forth a means for providing at least two different wrap-around dimensions of an assembled carton which alleviates the necessity of providing two different blanks to accommodate different sizes of assembled cartons. It will be intuitively clear to those skilled in the art that the present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit and the essential characteristics of the invention. The present embodiment is, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range of the equivalency of the claims are, therefore, intended to be embraced therein.

What is claimed is:

1. Locking means for a carton comprising overlapping closure means, said closure means including first and second closure panels and at least one first and second projecting panels, respectively, joined thereto and adapted for selective engagement with said closure panels to provide a first locking position between said first projecting panel and said second closure panel and a second locking position between said second projecting panel and said first closure panel, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for a different wrap-around dimension of a carton.

2. Locking means for a carton comprising overlapping closure means, said closure means including first and second closure panels and at least one first and second projecting panels, respectively, joined thereto and adapted for selective engagement with said closure panels to provide a first locking position between said first projecting panel and said second closure panel and a second locking position, between said second projecting panel and said first closure panel, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for a different wrap-around dimension of a carton, said first and second projecting panels supporting tabs while said first and second closure panels bear apertures, said tabs and apertures being engageable in either of said first and said second locking positions so as to form said locking means.

3. Locking means for a carton comprising overlapping closure means, said closure means including first and second closure panels and at least one first and second projecting panels, respectively, joined thereto and adapted for engagement to provide a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for a different wrap-around dimension, each first projecting panel being joined to said first closure panel along a fold line interrupted by a first projection on said first projecting panel which projects into said first closure panel, a tab joined to said first projecting panel along a fold line and opposite to said first projection, first apertures in said first closure panel aligned with each tab, second apertures positioned in said first closure panel generally between said first apertures and said interrupted fold line, said second projecting panel being joined along a central fold line to said second closure panel, a severed line at each end of said central fold line defining second projections aligned with said second apertures and projecting into said second closure panel, a second tab projecting from said second panel along a fold line, a severed line in said second closure panel substantially parallel to said central fold line, a third aperture in said second closure panel extending from said central fold line to said severed line and in line with said second tab, said tabs, projecting panels, apertures and projections being interengageable in selected ones of said positions.

4. A carton blank comprising a pair of substantially identical side panels joined by intermediate panel means, and closure means having closure panels joined along the unjoined edges of said side panels, a closure panel per side panel, said closure panels having, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, said first and second projecting panels supporting projections and said first and second closure panels having cooperative respective apertures, said projections and apertures being selectively engageable in either said first and said second locking position so as to selectively form said blank as a carton of a selective ultimate final dimension.

5. A carton blank comprising a pair of substantially identical side panels joined by intermediate panel means and closure means having closure panels joined along the unjoined edges of said side panels, there being a closure panel per side panel, said closure panels having, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panel adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, said first projecting panel being joined to said

first closure panel along an interrupted fold line, a first projection on said first projecting panel extending across said interrupted fold line and projecting into said first closure panel, a tab joined to said first projecting panel along a fold line and opposite to said first projection, a first aperture in said first closure panel in alignment with each tab, second apertures in said first closure panel generally between said first aperture and said interrupted fold line, and said second projecting panel being joined along a central fold line to said second closure panel, a severed line at each end of said central fold line defining second projections aligned with said second apertures and projecting into said second closure panel, a second tab projecting from said second projecting panel along a fold line, and a third aperture in said second closure panel along said fold line in line with said second tab, said panels and tabs being selectively engageable in said first and second locking positions to form a carton of a selected dimension.

6. A carton for retaining a group of containers in parallel side-by-side rows, the wrap-around dimension of which may vary comprising a pair of substantially vertical side panels, intermediate panel means joining said side panels, and carton closure means joined along the unjoined edges of said side panels, said carton closure means including first and second closure panels, said closure panels having, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position between said first projecting panel and said second closure panel and a second locking position between said second projecting panel and said first closure panel, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension.

7. A carton for retaining a group of containers in parallel side-by-side rows, the wrap-around dimension of which may vary comprising a pair of substantially vertical side panels, intermediate panel means joining said side panels, and carton locking means joined along the unjoined edges of said side panels, said carton locking means including first and second closure panels, said closure panels having, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, said first and second projecting panels supporting projections and said first and second closure panels bear apertures, said first projecting panel projection and said second closure panel aperture being engageable in said first locking position and said second projecting panel projection and said first closure panel aperture being engageable in said second locking position so as to selectively effect the closure of the carton.

8. A carton for retaining a group of containers in parallel side-by-side rows, the wrap-around dimension of which containers may vary, said carton comprising a pair of substantially vertical side panels, intermediate panel means joining said side panels, and carton locking means joined along the unjoined edges of said side panels, said carton locking means including first and second closure panels, said closure panels having, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panel adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, said first projecting panel being joined to said first closure panel along an interrupted fold line, a projection on said first projecting panel projecting through said interrupted fold line and into said first closure panel, a tab joined to said first projecting panel along a fold line opposite to said projection, a first aperture in said first closure panel generally in alignment with said tab, second apertures in said first closure panel generally between said first aperture and said interrupted fold line, said second projecting panel being joined along a central fold line to said second closure panel, a severed line at each end of said central fold line defining second projections aligned with said second apertures and projecting into said second closure panel, a second tab projecting from said second projecting panel along a fold line, a severed line in said second closure panel and substantially parallel to said central fold line, and a third aperture in said second closure panel extending from said central fold line to said severed line and in line with said second tab, said closure means being positionable so that said projections, tabs and apertures are selectively engageable in said first and second locking positions so as to retain containers of a selected dimension within said carton.

9. Locking means for a carton comprising overlapping closure means, said closure means including first and second closure panels and at least one first and second projecting panels, respectively, joined thereto and adapted for engagement to provide a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for a different wrap-around dimension, each first projecting panel being joined to said first closure panel along an interrupted fold line, a portion of said first projecting panel being off-centered and extending across said fold line into said first closure panel and being differentiated in said first closure panel by a severed line, a tab extending from said first projecting panel, a transverse severed line in said first closure panel and substantially equal in length to the longitudinal dimension of said tab and in alignment therewith, an aperture extending from said severed line to a position oppositely off-centered to said portion of said first projecting panel, across said fold line and terminating within said first projecting panel, and said second closure panel and each second projecting panel being formed substantially identical to said first closure panel and said first projecting panel with the corresponding aperture of said second closure panel terminating at said fold line, said closure means being interlockable in either one of said locking positions.

10. The combination as defined in claim 9 wherein said first locking position is selected so that said off-centered portion of said second projecting panel is positioned within said aperture in said first closure panel and said tab extending from said second projecting panel is inserted in said first closure panel at said severed line.

11. The combination as defined in claim 9 wherein said second locking position is selected so that said off-centered portion of said first projecting panel is positioned within said aperture in said second closure panel and said tab extending from said first projecting panel is inserted in said second closure panel at said severed line.

12. A carton blank comprising a pair of substantially identical side panels joined by intermediate panel means, closure means joined to the unjoined ends of said side panels, each of said closure means including, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, each first projecting panel being joined to said first closure panel along an interrupted fold line, a portion of said first projecting panel being off-centered and extending across said fold line into said first closure panel and being differentiated in said first closure panel by a severed line, a tab extending from said first projecting panel, a transverse severed line in said first closure panel and substantially equal in length to the longitudinal dimension of said tab and in alignment therewith, an aperture extending from said severed line to a position

oppositely off-centered to said portion of said first projecting panel, and said second closure panel and each projecting panel being formed substantially identical to said first closure panel and said first projecting panel with the corresponding aperture of said second closure panel terminating at said fold line.

13. A carton for retaining a group of containers in parallel side-by-side rows, the wrap-around dimension of which container may vary, said carton comprising a pair of substantially vertical side panels, intermediate panel means joining said side panels, and carton closure means joined along the unjoined edges of said side panels, said carton closure means including a first and second closure panels, said closure panels, having, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, each first projecting panel being joined to said first closure panel along an interrupted fold line, a portion of said first projecting panel being off-centered and extending across said fold line into said first closure panel and being differentiated in said first closure panel by a severed line, a tab extending from said first projecting panel, a transverse severed line in said first closure panel and substantially equal in length to the longitudinal dimension of said tab and in alignment therewith, an aperture extending from said severed line to a position oppositely off-centered to said portion of said first projecting panel, across said fold line and terminating within said first projecting panel, and said second closure panel and each projecting panel being formed substantially identical to said first closure panel and said first projecting panel with the corresponding aperture of said second closure panel terminating at said fold line, said carton closure means being interlockable in either one of said locking positions so as to retain containers of different dimensions.

14. Locking means for a carton comprising overlapping closure means, said closure means including first and second closure panels and at least one first and second projecting panels, respectively, joined thereto and adapted for engagement to provide a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for a different wrap-around dimension, each of said first and second projecting panels being joined at their outer extremities by a fold line to said first and second closure panels, respectively, a tab extending from and joined by a fold line to each of said first and second projecting panels, a transverse severed line in each of said first and second closure panels and aligned with their respective tabs, an aperture extending from said severed line of said first closure panel to the general line of said fold line, a portion joined to said first projecting panel and extending into said aperture of said first closure panel, an aperture extending from said severed line of said second closure panel toward said second projecting panel but terminating short thereof, the outline of the aperture extending to said fold line in the form of a severed line, a central portion of the aperture extending into said second projecting panel in the shape of a wedge, and said closure means being interlockable in either one of said locking positions.

15. The combination as defined in claim 14, wherein in said first locking position, portions of said second projecting panel are inserted in said aperture of said first closure panel and in locking engagement about said first projecting panel and said tab of said second projecting panel is inserted into said first closure panel at said severed line.

16. The combination as defined in claim 14, wherein in said second locking position said portion joined to said first projecting panel is inserted into said aperture of said second closure panel and in locking engagement about said second projecting panel and said tab of said first projecting panel is inserted in said second closure panel at said severed line.

17. A carton blank comprising a pair of substantially identical side panels joined by intermediate panel means, closure means joined to the unjoined ends of said side panels, said closure means including first and second closure panels having, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, each of said first and second projecting panels being joined at their outer extremities by a fold line to said first and second closure panels, respectively, a tab extending from and joined by a fold line to each of said first and second projecting panels, a transverse severed line in each of said first and second closure panels and aligned with their respective tabs, an aperture extending from said severed line of said first closure panel to the general line of said fold line, a portion joined to said first projecting panel and extending into said aperture of said first closure panel, an aperture extending from said severed line of said second closure panel toward said second projecting panel but terminating short thereof, the outline of the aperture extending to said fold line in the form of a severed line, a central portion of the aperture extending into said second projecting panel in the shape of a wedge, and said closure means being interlockable in an ultimately assembled carton to provide either one of said locking positions.

18. A carton for retaining a group of containers in parallel side-by-side rows, the wrap-around dimension of which containers may vary, said carton comprising a pair of substantially vertical side panels, intermediate panel means joining said side panels, and carton closure means joined along the unjoined edges of said side panels, said carton closure means including first and second closure panels, said closure panels having, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, each of said first and second projecting panels being joined at their outer extremities by a fold line to said first and second closure panels, respectively, a tab extending from and joined by a fold line to each of said first and second projecting panels, a transverse severed line in each of said first and second closure panels and aligned with their respective tabs, an aperture extending from said severed line of said first closure panel to the general line of said fold line, a portion joined to said first projecting panel and extending into said aperture of said first closure panel, an aperture extending from said severed line of said second closure toward said second projecting panel but terminating short thereof, the outline of the aperture extending to said fold line in the form of a severed line, a central portion of the aperture extending into said second projecting panel in the shape of a wedge, said carton closure means being interlockable in either one of said locking positions so as to retain containers of different dimensions.

19. Locking means for a carton comprising overlapping closure means, said closure means including first and second closure panels and at least one first and second projecting panels, respectively, joined thereto and adapted for engagement to provide a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension, and said second locking position providing for a different wrap-around dimension, said first projecting panel being joined to said first closure panel along a fold line with its outer extremities being offset and severed from said first closure panel so as to present a pair of tabs

which project outwardly when said first projecting panel is rotated about its fold line, an aperture formed centrally in said first projecting panel, an aperture formed in said first closure panel and terminating at said fold line, the material within said aperture forming a flap secured to said first closure panel along a fold line substantially parallel to said fold line joining said first closure panel and said first projecting panel, said flap further being divided into a first section and a second section separated by a fold line, said second projecting panel being joined at its outer edges to said second closure panel by an interrupted fold line, a tab extending from said second projecting panel across said interrupted fold line and terminating in said second closure panel, apertures and a flap in said second projecting panel and second closure panel substantially identical to said apertures and flap in said first projecting panel and said first closure panel, except that said second closure panel aperture terminates short of said fold line, and notches formed in said second closure panel and aligned to receive said tabs of said first projecting panel.

20. The combination as defined in claim **19**, wherein in said first locking position said pair of tabs of said first projecting panel are locked within said notches of said second closure panel and said flap of said second closure panel extends through said aperture of said first projecting panel.

21. The combination as defined in claim **19**, wherein in said second locking position said tab of said second projecting panel is locked within said aperture of said first closure panel and said flap of said first closure panel is positioned within said aperture of said second projecting panel.

22. A carton blank comprising a pair of substantially identical side panels joined by intermediate panel means, closure means joined to the unjoined ends of said side panels, said closure means including first and second closure panels having, respectively, one or more first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, said first projecting panel being joined to said first closure panel along a fold line with its outer extremities being offset and severed from said first closure panel so as to present a pair of tabs which project outwardly when said first projecting panel is rotated about its fold line, an aperture formed centrally in said first projecting panel, an aperture formed in said first closure panel and terminating at said fold line, the material within said aperture forming a flap secured to said first closure panel along a fold line substantially parallel to said fold line joining said first closure panel and said first projecting panel, said flap further being divided into a first section and a second section separated by a fold line, said second projecting panel being joined at its outer edges to said second closure panel by an interrupted fold line, a tab extending from said second projecting panel and across said interrupted fold line and terminating in said second closure panel, apertures and a flap formed in said second projecting panel and said second closure panel substantially identical to said apertures and flap in said first projecting panel and said first closure panel except that said second closure panel aperture terminates short of said fold line, and notches formed in said second closure panel and aligned to receive said tabs of said first projecting panel.

23. A carton for retaining a group of containers in parallel side-by-side rows, the wrap-around dimension of which containers may vary said carton comprising a pair of substantially vertical side panels, intermediate panel means joining said side panels, and carton closure means joined along the unjoined edges of said side panels, said carton closure means including first and second closure panels, said closure panels having, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, each first projecting panel being joined to said first closure panel along a fold line with its outer extremities being offset and severed from said first closure panel and presenting a pair of tabs which project outwardly when said first projecting panel is rotated about its fold line, an aperture formed centrally in said first projecting panel, an aperture formed in said first closure panel and terminating at said fold line, the material in said aperture forming a flap secured to said first closure panel along a fold line substantially parallel to said fold line joining said first closure panel and said first projecting panel, said flap further being divided into a first section and a second section separated by a fold line, said second projecting panel being joined at its outer edges to said second closure panel by an interrupted fold line, a tab extending from said second projecting panel across said interrupted fold line and terminating in said second closure panel, apertures and a flap formed in said second projecting panel and said second closure panel and substantially identical to said apertures and flap in said first projecting panel and said first closure panel except that said second closure panel aperture terminates short of said fold line, and notches formed in said second closure panel and aligned to receive said tabs of said first projecting panel, said carton closure means being interlockable in either one of said locking positions so as to retain containers of different sizes.

24. Locking means for a carton comprising overlapping closure means, said closure means including first and second closure panels and at least one first and second projecting panels, respectively, joined thereto and adapted for engagement to provide a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for a different wrap-around dimension, each of said first and second projecting panels being joined at their outer extremities by an interrupted fold line to said first and second closure panels, respectively, a first wedge-shaped portion on said first projecting panel formed in a portion of said first closure panel and extending across said fold line, a transverse severed line in said first closure panel positioned away from and substantially parallel to said fold line, a first aperture formed in said first closure panel between said wedge-shaped portion and said severed line, a second wedge-shaped portion on said second projecting panel, lesser in longitudinal dimension than said first wedge-shaped portion, formed in a portion of said second closure panel and extending across said fold line, a transverse severed line in said second closure panel positioned away from and substantially parallel to said fold line, a second aperture formed in said second closure panel between said second wedge-shaped portion and said severed line, the dimension of said second aperture being greater than the longitudinal dimension of said first aperture, said closure means being interlockable in either one of said locking positions.

25. The combination as defined in claim **24** wherein in said first locking position said second wedge-shaped portion is inserted into the aperture of said first closure panel and in locking engagement about said first wedge-shaped portion, and said tab extending from said second projecting panel is inserted in said first closure panel at said severed line.

26. The combination as defined in claim **24** wherein in said second locking position said first wedge-shaped portion is inserted in said aperture in said second closure panel and in locking position about portions of said second closure panel and said second wedge-shaped portion,

and said tab extending from said first projecting panel is inserted into said second closure panel at said severed line.

27. A carton blank comprising a pair of substantially identical side panels joined by intermediate panel means, closure means joined to the unjoined ends of said side panels, each of said closure means including first and second closure panels having respectively, at least one first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, first and second projecting panels being joined at their outer extremities by an interrupted fold line to said first and second closure panels, respectively, a tab extending from and joined by a fold line to each of said first and second projecting panels, a first wedge-shaped portion on said first projecting panel formed in a portion of said first closure panel and extending across said fold line, a transverse severed line in said first closure panel positioned away from and substantially parallel to said fold line; a first aperture formed in said first closure panel between said wedge-shaped portion and said severed line, a second wedge-shaped portion on said second projecting panel, lesser in longitudinal dimension than said first wedge-shaped portion, formed in a portion of said second closure panel and extending across said fold line, a transverse severed line in said second closure panel positioned away and substantially parallel to said fold line, a second aperture formed in said second closure panel between said second wedge-shaped portions in said severed line, the dimension of said second aperture being greater than the longitudinal dimension of said first aperture, and said closure means being interlockable in either one of said locking positions.

28. A carton for retaining a group of containers in parallel side-by-side rows, the wrap-around dimension of which containers may vary, said carton comprising a pair of substantially vertical side panels, intermediate panel means joining said side panels, and carton closure means joined along the unjoined edges of said side panels, said carton closure means including first and second closure panels, said closure panels having, respectively, at least one first and second projecting panels adapted to be positioned in a first locking position and a second locking position, said first locking position providing for one wrap-around dimension and said second locking position providing for another wrap-around dimension, each of said first and second projecting panels being joined at their outer extremities by an interrupted fold line to said first and second closure panels, respectively, a tab extending from and joined by a fold line to each of said first and second projecting panels, a first wedge-shaped portion on said first projecting panel formed in a portion of said first closure panel and extending across said fold line, a transverse severed line in said first closure panel positioned away from and substantially parallel to said fold line, a first aperture formed in said first closure panel between said wedge-shaped portion and severed line, a second wedge-shaped portion on said second projecting panel, lesser in longitudinal dimension than said first wedge-shaped portion, formed in a portion of said second closure panel and extending across said fold line, a transverse severed line in said second closure panel positioned away from and substantially parallel to said fold line, a second aperture formed in said second closure panel between said second wedge-shaped portion and said severed line, the longitudinal dimension of said second aperture being greater than the longitudinal dimension of said first aperture, and said carton closure means being interlockable in either one of said locking positions for retaining containers of different dimensions.

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