

July 28, 1942.

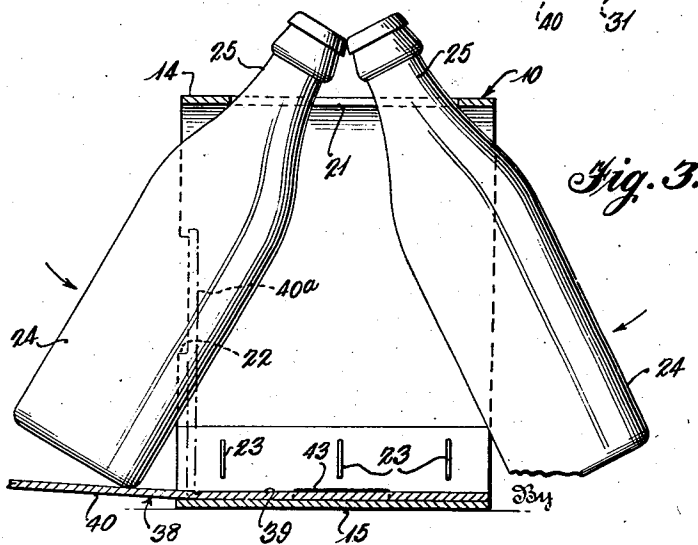
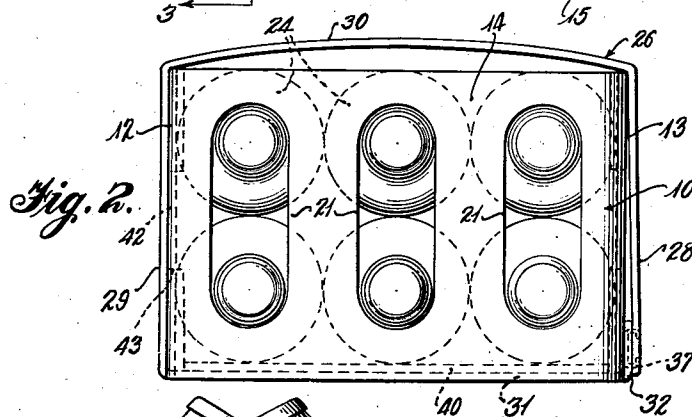
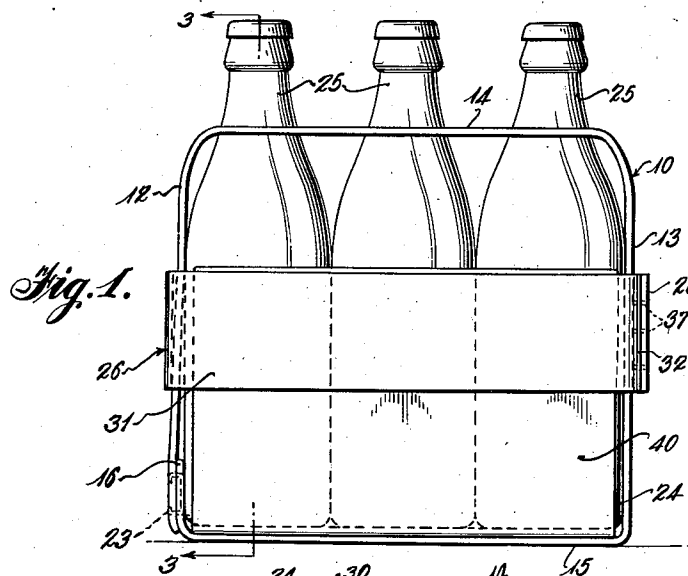
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2,290,970

ARTICLE CONTAINER

Filed May 18, 1940

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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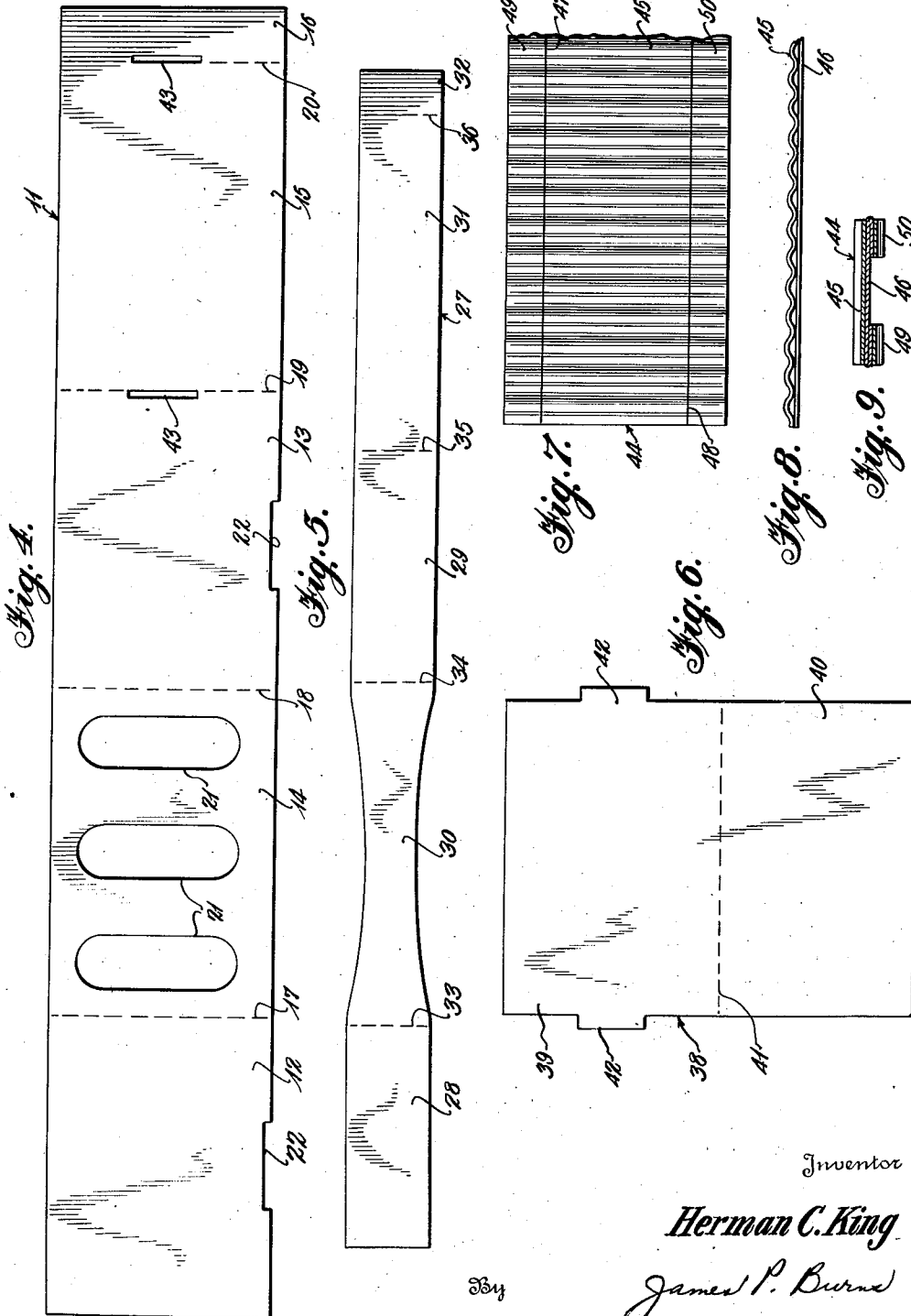
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ARTICLE CONTAINER

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Application May 18, 1940, Serial No. 336,029

2 Claims. (Cl. 229—52)

This invention relates to article containers, and, more particularly, to containers for bottles and necked cans having a generally bottle-like configuration.

It has long been conventional to distribute to consumers liquid such as soft drinks and malt beverages in bottles of convenient size and capacity for an individual serving. Such bottles are customarily distributed to the retailer in shipping cases containing two dozen or more bottles. However, most retail sales to consumers are made in less than case lots resulting in the necessity for providing some means for the purchaser to safely and conveniently carry or otherwise handle a group of bottles.

Much ingenious work has been done looking toward the development of a satisfactory container which would permit a retailer to distribute to his customers groups of, for example, a half dozen bottles in a compact and portable container. Several such containers have been patented and, of these, a few have been adopted by distributors and have received a limited commercial acceptance.

However, it appears that several factors have contributed to prevent wide-spread acceptance and use of such containers. Chief among these factors have been the expense of the containers and the difficult and time-consuming operation of packing the bottles therein.

It is one of the primary objects of the present invention to overcome the foregoing and other objections to prior containers of this type by providing a simple container for bottles and necked cans having a generally bottle-like configuration, which can be manufactured and sold at a very low cost.

Another important object of my invention is to provide a container in which bottles or similarly shaped articles may be packed with facility and rapidity to thereby substantially reduce the expense of the packaging operation.

Other objects will be, in part, apparent and, in part, pointed out hereinafter.

In the drawings which form a part of this specification:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a container constructed according to the teachings of the present invention, and showing bottles assembled therein.

Figure 2 is a side elevation view of the container shown in Figure 1. In this view the container is shown in the normal carrying position.

Figure 3 is a view partly in section taken in the direction of the arrows along the line 3—3

in Figure 1 but showing the bottles in full lines and the manner of inserting the bottles in the container before the carrying band is placed thereon.

Figure 4 is a plan view of a blank from which the main band of the container is formed.

Figure 5 is a plan view of the carrying band blank.

Figure 6 is a plan view of a blank used in forming a bottom flap which may be used in the container.

Figure 7 is a plan view of a portion of a web suitable for forming the carrying band.

Figure 8 is a side elevation view of the web 15 shown in Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a transverse sectional view of the carrying band after longitudinal folding of the web shown in Figure 7.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, wherein like reference characters are used to designate like parts in each of the several views, the reference numeral 10 designates a broad band which is intended to restrain bottles or similar articles positioned therein against relative endwise movement. This band 10 may conveniently be formed from a blank of the form shown in Figure 4 and designated by the reference numeral 11. The blank 11 embraces complementary portions 12 and 13 for forming the end portions of the band 10, a portion 14 for forming one side of the band, and a portion 15 for forming the opposite side of the band. The blank 11 also includes a short portion 16 at one end thereof for the purpose of securing the two ends of the blank together to form the closed band 10 in the manner hereinafter described. The blank 11 is preferably creased between each of the above-mentioned portions as indicated by the reference numeral 17, 18, 19 and 20.

The portion 14 of the blank 11 is provided with a plurality of elongated apertures 21, three of such apertures being shown in Figure 4. The portions 12 and 13 of the blank 11 are preferably provided with shallow lateral recesses 22 for receiving and retaining a carrying band in position as is more particularly described below.

In order to form the closed band 10 of the substantially rectangular form best shown in Figure 1, the blank 11 is folded at the creases 17, 18, 19 and 20 and the portion 16 is secured to the end of the portion 12 by any suitable means such as staples 23 in the manner shown in Figure 1.

When the band 10 has been thus set up, the rigidity of the material from which the blank is formed will be sufficient to hold the band in

substantially rectangular shape and the band is then ready to receive suitable necked articles, such as bottles 24. A convenient manner of placing the bottles or other articles 24 within the band 10 is shown in Figure 3. A bottle 24 can be grasped in each hand of the operator and brought upwardly and inwardly through the opposite open ends of the band 10 so that the necks 25 of the bottles extend through one of the elongated apertures 21 and the bases of the bottles are then moved inwardly as indicated by the arrows in Figure 3, until the bottles are in parallel relationship. This procedure is continued until the necks 25 of two bottles have been inserted through each elongated aperture 21 and properly positioned within the band 10, which will then be filled to capacity.

After the appropriate number of bottles have been thus properly positioned within the band 10, the package is in readiness to receive a carrying band. The carrying band is designated generally by the reference numeral 26 and is in the form of a closed loop which may be conveniently formed from a blank having the general configuration shown in Figure 5. This blank is designated generally by the reference numeral 27 and embraces complementary portions 28 and 29 for forming the ends of the carrying band, a portion 30 for forming the top of the carrying bands which is adapted to be gripped during carrying, a portion 31 for forming the bottom of the carrying band, and a portion 32 adapted to permit the securing together of the two ends of the blank 27. The blank 27 is creased between the above-mentioned portions as indicated by the reference numerals 33, 34, 35 and 36, in order to permit the blank 27 to be folded into the substantially rectangular carrying band 26. The short portion 32 of the blank may be secured to the end of the portion 28 in any suitable manner and in Figure 2 I have shown it fastened by means of staples 37.

The top portions 30 of the carrying band 26 is preferably slightly longer than the bottom portion 31 in order to provide space for the fingers of the person carrying the package in the normal carrying position shown in Figure 2.

After the carrying band 26 has had its opposite ends secured together, this carrying band is slipped into position so that it surrounds the broad band 10 and extends around the bottles in a direction transverse to that of the broad band 10. The relationship between the broad band 10 and the carrying band 26 is best shown in Figure 1. In this position, the carrying band 26 will be received by the shallow lateral recesses 22 at the bottom of the broad band 10 and the carrying band 26 will thus be prevented from displacement from its proper balanced carrying position.

A container is thus provided which consists essentially of only two bands, one of which is provided with apertures for receiving the necks of the packaged articles. This arrangement results in a highly satisfactory carrying container for necked articles. The simplicity with which the articles can be packed in the container is readily apparent and it is also obvious that the container can be manufactured at very low cost.

Although its use may be dispensed with, I prefer to provide a flap which extends from the side 15 of the broad band 10 along the body of the lower bottles to the portion 31 of the carrying band 26. In Figure 6 I have shown a member suitable for this purpose which is designated

generally by the reference numeral 38. As shown, the member 38 comprises a portion 39 of the same size and configuration as the portion 15 of the broad band 10. The member 38 also includes a flap 40 which is integral with the portion 39. The member 39 is creased as indicated at 41 to facilitate folding. The portion 39 is provided with opposed tabs 42 which are adapted to engage openings 43 in the broad band 10. These openings 43 are best shown in Figure 4.

The portion 39 of the member 38 may be superimposed upon the portion 15 of the broad band 10 and held in position by engagement of the tabs 42 with the openings 43. This relationship is clearly shown in Figure 3. After the bottles have been properly positioned within the broad band 10, the flap 40 may be folded upwardly to the dotted line position indicated by the reference numeral 40a in Figure 3. The carrying band 26 may then be placed in position and it will readily be understood that the flap 40 securely retains the bases of the bottles in proper position, while the necks of the bottles are securely held by engagement with the edges of the elongated apertures 21. In this manner, a considerably more sturdy package is produced by the use of the member 38. However, as above indicated, the member 38 may be dispensed with in the event that cost of the containers is considered the primary consideration. It will be apparent to those skilled in this art that the flap 40 could be made integral with the blank 11 to thus dispense with the portion 39 of the member 38, as well as the tabs 42 and the openings 43.

In Figures 7, 8 and 9, I have illustrated a material and arrangement which I have found to be highly satisfactory for the construction of the carrying band 26. The material, which is termed single face fiber board, is designated by the reference numeral 44 and comprises a corrugated sheet 45 having one face only covered by a flat sheet 46. The sheets 45 and 46 are suitably bonded together and the corrugated sheet is preferably severed along longitudinal lines 47 and 48 extending the entire length of the carrying band. It will be understood, however, that the severed lines 47 and 48 do not extend through the flat sheet 46. There is thus provided marginal edges 49 and 50 which may be readily folded over in the manner shown in Figure 9.

A carrying band of this material, arranged in the described manner, has high strength and a pleasing appearance. The natural resiliency of the corrugated sheet which comes in contact with the hand of the individual carrying the package, substantially eliminates any pain or discomfort in carrying the package.

It is to be expressly understood that the accompanying drawings and the foregoing description are for illustrative purposes only and that various obvious modifications are regarded as being within the scope of my invention which is defined by the following claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A package of bottles or similarly shaped necked articles comprising a broad continuous band forming side and end walls extending around a plurality of necked articles to restrain the same against relative endwise movement, one of said walls being provided with a plurality of elongated apertures therein, each of said apertures receiving the necks of a pair of the necked articles for restraining the same against lateral movement, a flap secured to the wall opposite

said apertured wall and extending from one edge thereof toward said apertured wall, and a second continuous band extending around the articles and said flap in a direction transverse to that of said first mentioned band to cooperate with said flap to restrain vertical movement of the body portions of the articles and to provide a handle for the package.

2. A container for necked articles such as bottles comprising a broad continuous band forming side and end walls of the container, one of said walls being provided with a plurality of spaced elongated apertures therein, each adapt-

ed to receive the necks of a pair of the articles to restrain the same against relative lateral movement, a flap secured to the wall opposite said apertured wall and extending from one edge thereof toward said apertured wall, and a second continuous band surrounding said first mentioned band and said flap and extending in a direction transverse thereto, said second band functioning to cooperate with said flap to restrain the bodies of the articles against vertical movement and to provide a carrying handle for the container.

HERMAN C. KING.