Oct. 11, 1949. J. G. HUYE 2,484,167

HAT PACKING STAY

Filed Oct. 15, 1945 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

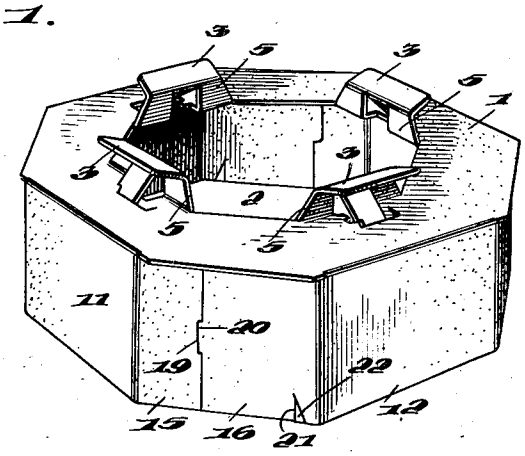



Fig. 2.

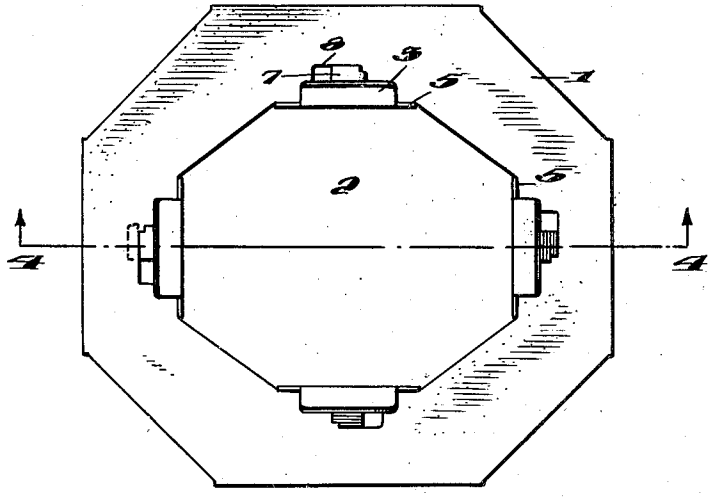
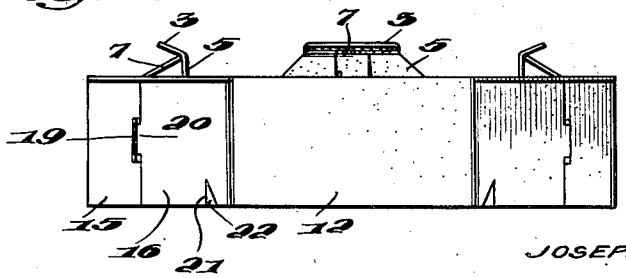



Fig. 3.




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Fig. 4.

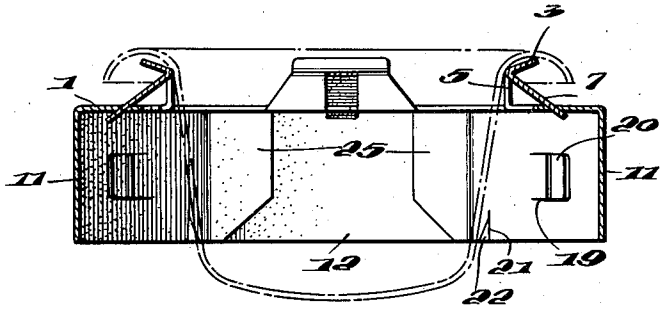
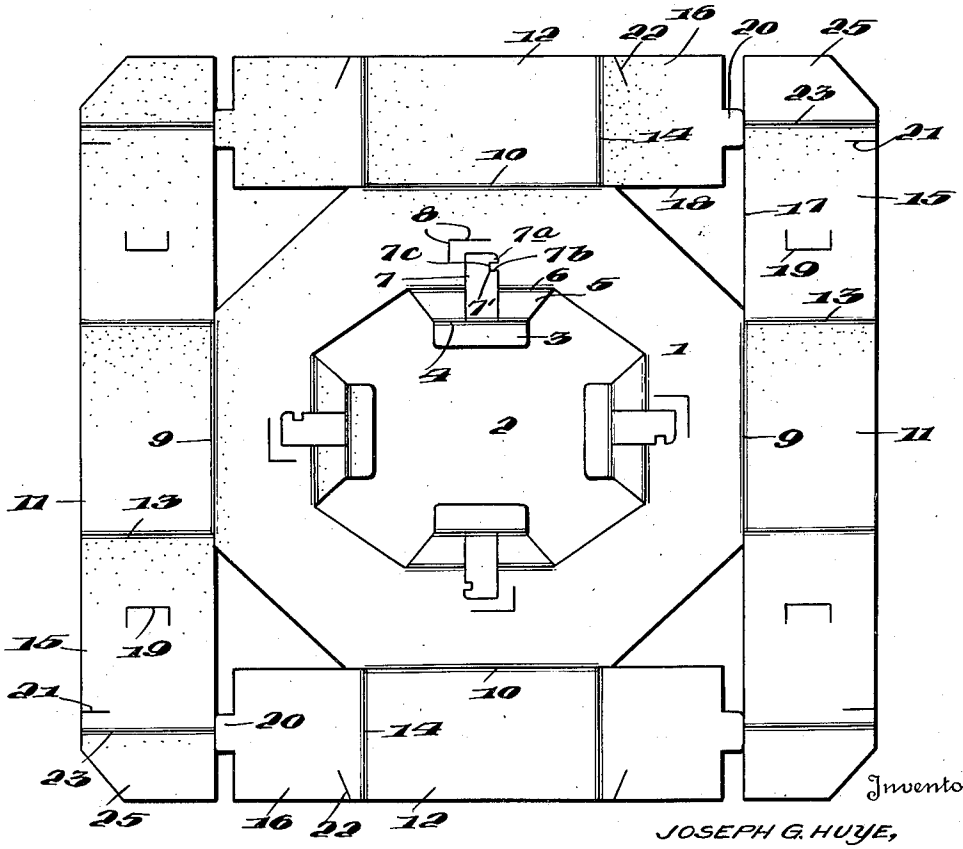



Fig. 5.




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2,484,167

## HAT PACKING STAY

Joseph G. Huye, New Orleans, La.; Charlotte Huye and Merle Huye, legatees by Judgment of Possession of said Joseph G. Huye, deceased, assignors to Huye Space Saving Box System, Inc., New Orleans, La.

Application October 15, 1945, Serial No. 622,441

4 Claims. (Cl. 206—9)

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This invention relates to hat packing stays of the general type and construction and for the same purpose and used in the manner all as shown and described in Letters Patent of the United States No. 2,384,680 granted to me on September 11, 1945, for Hat packing stay and combination package.

The primary purpose of the present invention is to improve the hat packing stay mentioned by providing a bracing or stop element limiting the movement of cradling or swingable members 5 of the stay against or under the down thrust of the supported hat to prevent the crushing of the cradling or swingable members 5 or their depression toward the top or body 1 of the stay to such extent as to permit the hat brim to rest on or be scuffed by contact therewith when the packing or shipping box is accidentally dropped or subjected to an upthrust. A further object is to provide a simplified and positive corner lock construction.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a hat packing stay embodying my invention;

Figure 2, a top plan view thereof;

Figure 3, a side elevation thereof;

Figure 4, a sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2, looking in the direction of the arrows, the outline of a hat being shown in position in the stay in light dot and dash lines; and

Figure 5, a plan view of a blank all stamped, cut and scored in finished condition in flat sheet form in which it is stored and shipped and ready to be erected for use.

The stays of this invention will, of course, be made in various sizes and heights all in accordance with the teaching of said Letters Patent.

Each stay is formed with a flat plane or sheet top or body 1 with a large central hat-crown receiving opening 2.

Integral with said top portion or body 1 and hingedly connected therewith along the fold lines 6 at the sides and ends of said opening 2 or with the edges of the sides and ends defining said opening 2 are the swingable or cradling members 5. Each member 5 has an upwardly presented outwardly inclined, resilient, yieldably upwardly pressed or swingably upwardly pressed hat brim contacting and supporting member 3 integrally connected with the upper portion of said member 5 by an integral hinge connection along fold or scored line 4. The inherent natural resiliency of the card-board or paper-board or paper material from which each said stay is formed is relied upon to resiliently press, urge or swing each

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member 5 downward and inward about its hinge connection 6, and also to resiliently press, urge or swing each supporting member or foot 3 upward and inward of the opening 2 with respect to its corresponding member 5 about the axis of the hinge fold 4.

A strut or brace 7 integrally connected with each corresponding cradling member 5 at the central portion of the corresponding hinge fold 4 and cut along parallel sides from said member 5 to extend outwardly from the foot 3 into the body 1 and cut therefrom along the remainder of its sides and its free outer end is notched out at 7' in one side portion close to its free outer end to leave a locking or retaining tongue 7a between the outer edge of said notch 7' and the extreme outer end edge of the strut or brace 7, the other or outwardly presented end wall 7b of said notch 7' serving as a positive stop preventing further outward movement of the strut or brace 7.

Adjacent each free end of each strut or brace 7 is a cooperating slot 8, which has a portion preferably substantially parallel to the free end of the corresponding brace or strut 7 and offset with relation thereto preferably so that its end adjacent the notch 7 does not extend beyond, or appreciably beyond, the side edge wall 7c of said notch 7', and preferably said slot 8 will be of right angle or angular shape and will have a relatively short leg at the end distant from the notch 7' to facilitate the insertion of the outer end of a given strut or brace 7 in the corresponding slot 8 as the cradling or swingable members 5 are erected, the free ends of said struts 7 being twisted or bent edgewise toward the angle of the slot 8 and inserted therethrough and then being released to spring back to straight form by their inherent resiliency and to receive the material of body 1 at the end of the slot 8 in notch 7' of the brace or strut 7, whereby the outer end edge or wall 7a of said notch 7' will engage the lower face of the body 1 to prevent the cradling member 5 and foot 3 from collapsing inward and the strut or brace 7 from pulling out of the slot 8 and the inner end edge or wall 7b of said notch 7' will engage the upper face of the body 1 to prevent the outward collapsing or flattening of the cradling member 5 and foot 3 under thrust of the supported hat due to the package being subjected to a sudden jar.

Integrally connected by fold lines 9 with the ends respectively of the top portion or body 1 are the end lips or flanges 11 and similarly side lips or flanges 12 are respectively integrally connected

with the sides of said top portion or body 1 by fold lines 10.

Fold lines 13, in the erected condition of the stay extending vertically, integrally connect end panels 15 respectively with the respective side portions of the respective end flanges 11 and similarly fold lines 23, in the erected condition of the stay extending vertically, integrally connect the end tabs 25 respectively with the free ends of the respective end panels 15.

Fold lines 14, in the erected condition of the stay extending vertically, integrally connect side flaps 16 respectively with the respective end portions of the respective side flanges 12.

In the erected condition of the stay the upper edges 17 of the end panels 15 and 18 of the side flaps 16 extend in pairs slantingly across and beneath the respective corners of the body 1 and in engagement with the lower face thereof along a line slightly inward of and parallel or preferably substantially parallel to the slanting edge of said corner portions to support and brace the stay and so that in superposed relation the lower edges of the said end panels 15 and side flaps 16 of an upper stay will rest on and be supported by the upper surface of the body 1 of the immediately next lower stay.

The respective end panels are formed with substantially U-shaped slots 19 and straight vertical slits or cuts 21 to respectively receive the connecting tongues 20 and slanting locking fingers 22 of the respective side flaps 16, the upper and lower edges of the tongues 20 respectively engaging the upper and lower edges or walls of the respective slots 19 of the respective panels 15 to vertically align the panel and the flat of each pair, and the ends of the respective flaps 16 engaging the outer face of the respective panels 15 on either side of the respective slots 19 limit relative endwise movement between the flap 16 and panel 15 of the respective pairs of flaps 16 and panels 15 and the respective locking fingers 22 hooked through the slits or cuts 21 of the respective panels 15 serve to prevent relative endwise movement in the other direction between the flaps 16 and panels 15 of the respective pairs of panels 15 and flaps 16.

It is felt that the manner of erection and use are obvious from the foregoing.

Usually such stays will be shipped and stored in flat blank or sheet form as illustrated in Figure 5 and will only be erected as the need for their use arises, and it is intended that after they have been used to ship one lot of goods they shall be knocked down to flat sheet form and in sheet form returned to the factory, jobber or wholesaler to be used again and again in making further hat shipments.

I claim:

1. A hat packing stay comprising a body formed with a hat-crown receiving opening and hat supporting and cradling members disposed at spaced intervals about the margin of said opening, each said member being integrally connected by a hinge fold to said body and including a base portion normally yieldingly resiliently pressed toward said opening and yieldingly held to spread outwardly and downwardly under the weight of a supported



hat and a hat-brim supporting portion yieldably carried by said base portion, in combination with means respectively connected with portions of the respective cradling members and extending through said body and formed with faces to respectively engage the upper and lower faces of said body to limit the outward and inward swinging movements respectively of said respective cradling members.

2. A paper-board hat packing stay comprising a body formed with a hat-crown receiving opening and hat cradling members disposed at spaced intervals about the margin of said opening, each said member including a base portion integrally connected by a resilient hinge fold to said body and a hat-brim engaging portion integrally connected by a resilient hinge fold to said base portion, in combination with means respectively connected with said hat-brim engaging portions of the respective cradling members and extending through said body and formed with faces to respectively engage the upper and lower faces of said body to limit the outward and inward swinging movements respectively of said respective cradling members.

3. A paper-board hat packing stay comprising a body formed with a hat-crown receiving opening and hat cradling members disposed at intervals about said opening, each said member including a base portion integrally resiliently connected with said body and a hat-brim engaging portion integrally resiliently connected with said base portion, in combination with means respectively integrally connected with portions of the respective cradling members and formed with a portion to engage said body to limit the outward swinging movements respectively of said respective cradling members.

4. A hat packing stay comprising a flat inherently resilient sheet material web formed with a central hat crown receiving opening, means for supporting said web at points about its outer periphery spaced from said opening, and hat cradling members disposed at intervals about said opening, each said member including a base portion integrally resiliently connected with said web and a hat brim engaging portion integrally resiliently connected with said base portion, in combination with a strut connected to said cradling portions and extending into engagement with said web at a location spaced substantially inwardly from the outer periphery thereof and thus resiliently yieldable responsive to forces exerted on said hat cradling member.

JOSEPH G. HUYE.

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