

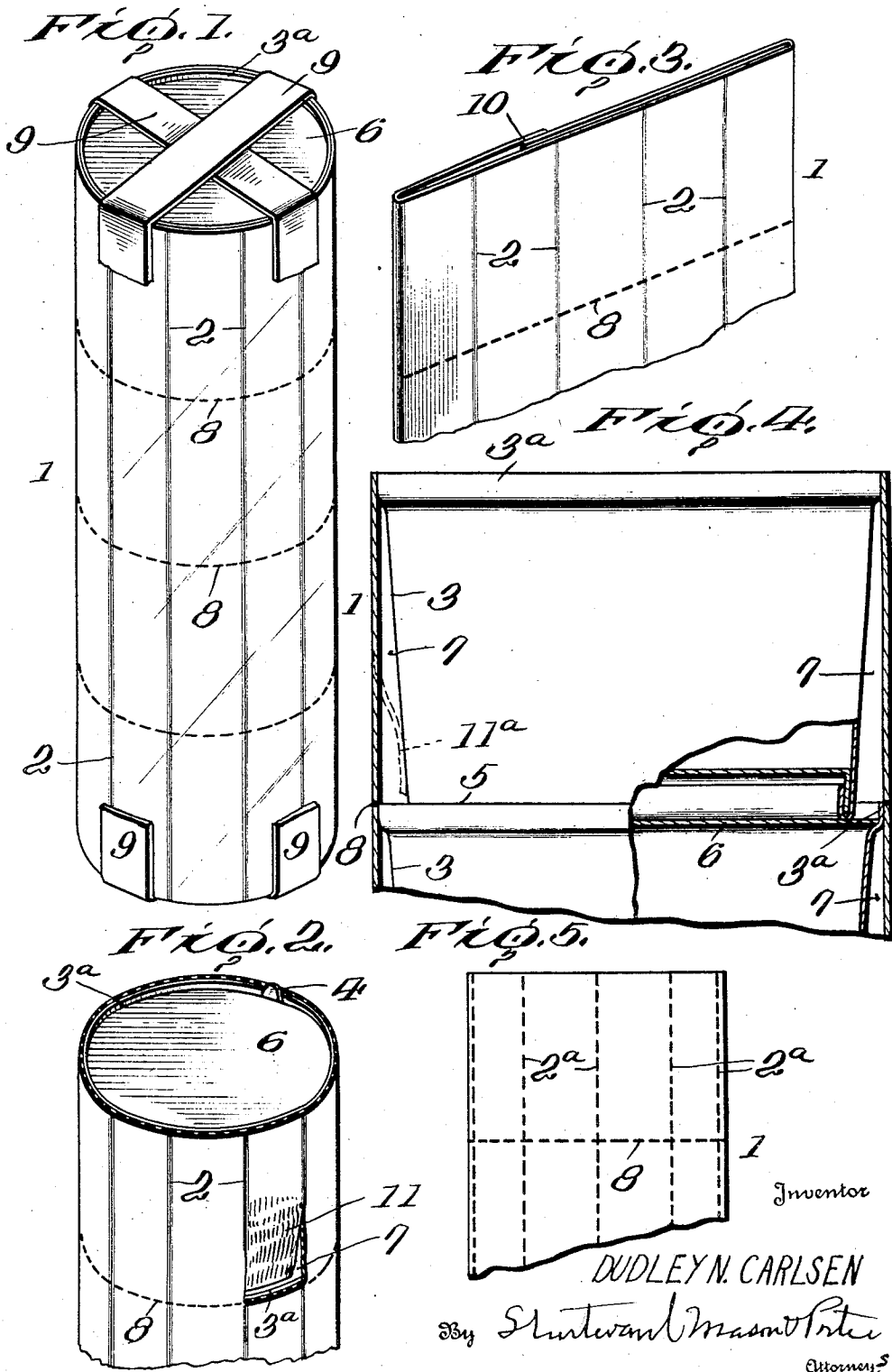
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CONTAINER

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## CONTAINER

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This invention relates to improvements in containers, and more particularly to improvements in containers used for shipping or transferring a plurality of packages of edible products.

It is well known that the sale of certain commodities, such as ice cream, depends somewhat on the appearance of the receptacles in which the commodities are placed. The containers are quickly soiled during shipment and in the constant handling to which they are subjected. Ice cream containers, likewise, are soiled, not only by finger marks, but by ice and salt stains when these containers are in a refrigerator. This unattractive appearance, of course, renders the commodity less merchandisable.

It is the principal object of this invention to provide a container for holding a certain number of packages of ice cream or other commodity whereby the packages to be sold are kept in a sanitary and unsoiled condition.

A further object of the invention is to provide a container for packages of vendible products wherein means are provided for removing one or more of the packages without allowing the fingers to come in contact therewith.

A further object of the invention is to provide a container which may be folded flat without damaging the same so that it may be easily carried about to various points where it is to be used.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a container for a predetermined number of packages wherein an air space is provided between the bottom of each package and the wall of the container whereby the breaking of the container wall may be accomplished by slight pressure of the finger.

In the drawing:—

Figure 1 shows a view of the container with packages secured therein.

Fig. 2 shows a similar view with one section of the container wall severed.

Fig. 3 shows the folded container.

Fig. 4 is a side elevation partly in section showing the packages within the container.

Fig. 5 shows the container with vertical as well as horizontal perforations.

The invention will now be briefly described. A container made of cardboard or the like, which may be rendered waterproof, is adapted to hold a certain number of vendible packages and serves as a casing for the same. The wall of the container is provided with vertical perforations or weakened lines so that it may be folded to fit the shape of the packages contained therein. The packages to be sold are slightly tapering toward their bottoms so that an air space is provided between their edges and the wall of the container. The container is provided with horizontal perforations near the top of each package therein. Suitable strips are pasted over the ends of the container to retain the packages therein. When it is desired to remove a package from the container, the thumb or a finger is pressed against the side of the container at the horizontal perforation. This will sever the upper part of the container at that point. Then, by grasping the container around the package to be removed and pulling, the wall of the container will be severed around the horizontal perforation and the package thus removed without the fingers touching the package at any time.

A container 1 has weakened lines 2 extending vertically of the wall thereof. These weakened lines afford means for folding the container to fit any shape of package to be placed therein and for folding the container for shipment and easy handling. In the drawing, the container is shown to be in cylindrical form and adapted to hold four packages of ice cream or the like, but the number of packages may, of course, be varied. The packages 3 of ice cream or the like are tapered and are preferably in the form of truncated cones which rest one upon the other. Each package is provided with a tab 4 to facilitate the removing of the cover therefrom. The smallest end 5 of each package rests upon the top 6 of the next package. An air space 7 is thus provided between each package and the wall of the container 1. Near the smallest end of each package 3 the

container 1 is provided with horizontal perforations 8 extending completely around the container wall and substantially even with the top rim 3<sup>a</sup> of each package whereby the container wall is divided into sections corresponding with the package therein. After the packages are placed within the container 1, strips 9 of paper or the like are pasted over each end of the container to prevent the packages from falling out.

Figure 3 shows the container in a folded position. The ends of the wall are pasted together in overlapping relationship as at 10. In Figure 2, a section 11 of the container wall has been pressed and severed along a horizontal line of perforations and partly severed up the weakened vertical lines 2. By grasping the container wall and pulling, the container wall will tear along the horizontal line 8 and the package 3 may thus be removed without soiling. In Figure 4 the section 11 is shown at 11<sup>a</sup> in dotted lines after it has been pressed in. It is obvious that the vertical lines 2<sup>a</sup> may be perforated as shown in Figure 5.

Since the horizontal perforations 8 are substantially even with the top rim 3<sup>a</sup> of each package 3, any pressure applied to the container wall along such perforations will easily sever said wall, because of the shearing action of the finger cooperating with the rim 3<sup>a</sup> of the package 3.

It is obvious that minor changes in the de-

tails of construction and arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claim.

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

A shipping unit comprising a container having vertical weakened lines and adapted to enclose a plurality of superimposed packages therein, each of said packages being tapered and having the smaller end thereof resting upon the larger end of each succeeding package, the peripheral edge of the larger end of each package being in contact with the inner surface of the container wall whereby to hold the container in open position and the peripheral edge of the smaller end of each package being spaced from the container wall thereby providing an air space between said container wall and the said smaller end of each package, and horizontal weakened lines of perforations extending peripherally around the container wall adjacent the top of the larger end of each package whereby the container wall may be urged inwardly and broken along said weakened lines where pressure is applied to the outside of the container wall above a horizontal line of perforations in order to remove a package therefrom.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.  
**DUDLEY N. CARLSEN.**

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