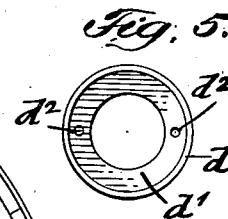
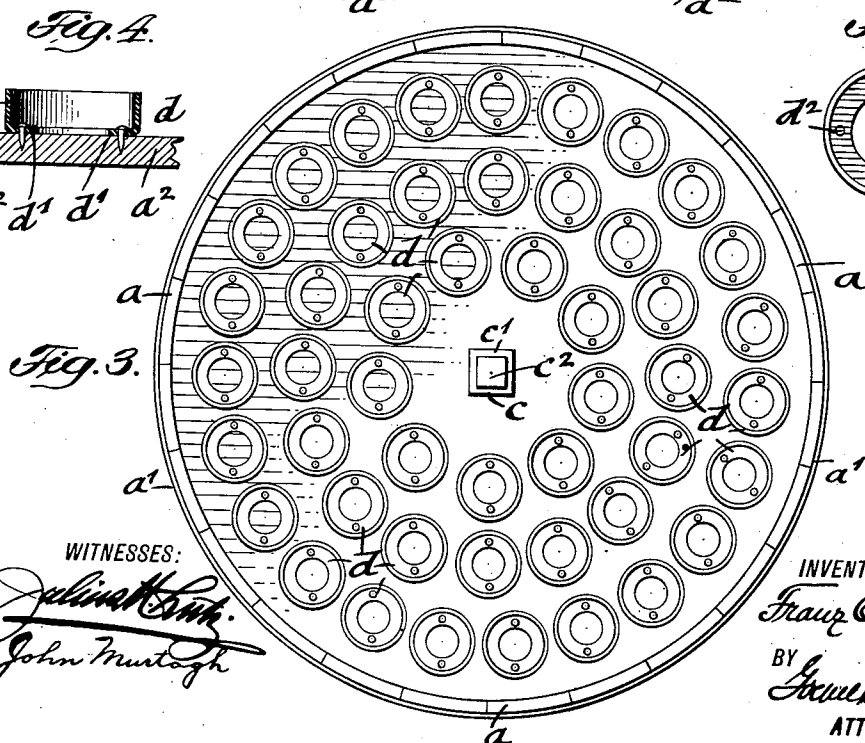
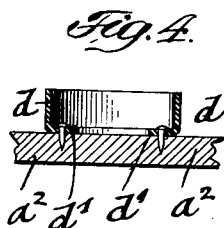
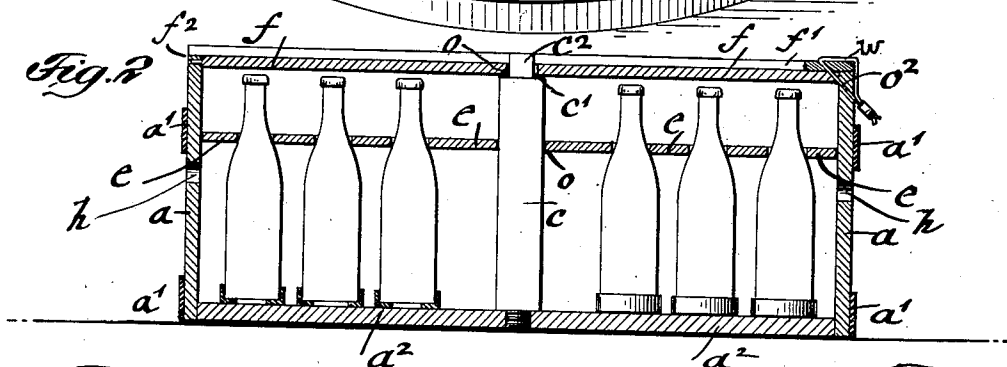
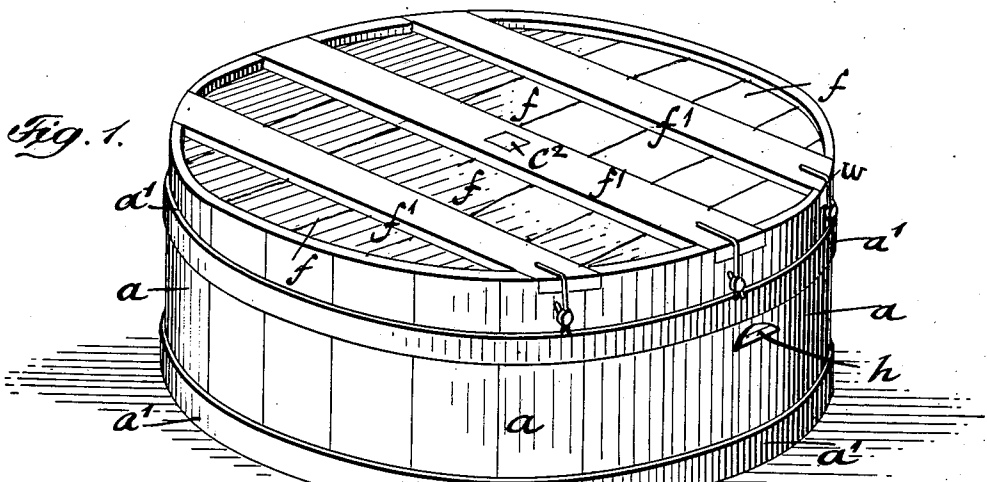


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CRATE FOR BOTTLES.
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CRATE FOR BOTTLES.

1,052,140.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 4, 1913.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANZ ESCHENBACH, a citizen of the United States of America, residing in St. James, in the county of Nassau and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Crates for Bottles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved shipping crate for bottles containing beer, ale, porter and other fermented liquids, so that four dozen of pint-bottles, or a corresponding number of quart-bottles can be conveniently shipped, the crates permitting of being rolled, instead of being carried by means of handles and the bottles removed conveniently from the crate after the cover is detached from the body of the same.

The shipping crates for beer and other fermented liquors were heretofore made of square or oblong shape and provided with intersecting partitions for the bottles, and a cover which is hinged to one side of the body of the crate and provided with a lock at the opposite side for being locked when shipping the crate. Hand-holes were provided in the side-walls of the crate for carrying the same. Owing to the weight of the bottles and the crate, the crates were handled with considerable inconvenience not only by the shipper and the receiver, but also by the employees of the railroads, boat lines, etc.

The object of this invention is to furnish an improved shipping crate for beer and other fermented liquids which is constructed in the form of a short cylindrical barrel, and provided with means for holding each bottle individually, so that the crate, instead of being lifted by means of the hand-holes, can be readily rolled to the place of storage, shipment, or use and conveniently closed or opened for removing the full and replacing the empty bottles; and for this purpose the invention consists of a shipping crate for bottles which comprises a cylindrical body having a solid bottom and exterior hoops a plurality of independent bottle-holding cups arranged in concentric circles on the bottom of the crate, a perforated neck-holding partition provided with as many holes as there are bottles to be supported, said perforated

partition being provided with a square center-opening which is fitted over a square upright center-post of the crate, and a cover provided with a central opening for the square upper end of the post and with means for attaching and locking it to the body of the crate.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my improved shipping crate for bottles, Fig. 2 is a vertical central section of the same, Fig. 3 is a plan-view of the crate with the cover and horizontal partition removed, Fig. 4 is a detail vertical central section through one of the bottle-holding cups attached to the bottom of the crate, and Fig. 5 is a detail top view of the cup.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures.

Referring to the drawings, *a* represents the body of my improved shipping crate for bottles. The body of the crate is made of wood or sheet metal of cylindrical shape in the nature of the body of a short barrel, and held together by means of exterior hoops *a*¹, one near the upper and one near the lower part of the body when the body is made of wood. The body *a* is provided with a solid wooden bottom *a*², which is attached to the cylindrical body *a* in the usual manner. To the center of the bottom *a*² is attached a square upright center-post *c*, which is preferably screwed at its lower end into a central opening of the bottom, and which is provided at its upper end with a shoulder *c*¹ and a square end *c*² of a smaller size than the body of the center-post *c*. To the bottom of the crate are attached forty-eight sheet-metal bottle-holding cups *d*, which cups are stamped of sheet-metal with an inwardly-extending bottom-flange *d*¹, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, said flange being preferably provided with two or more holes *d*² for permitting the nailing or screwing of the cups to the bottom of the crate. The bottle-holding cups *d* are arranged in three concentric rows, the inner row containing nine cups, the intermediate row sixteen, and the outer row twenty-three cups, as shown clearly in Fig. 3. The proper position of the cups in the crate is obtained by means

of a marking-board, which is provided with as many marking-points, arranged in concentric rows, as there are bottles to be shipped in the crate, which board is provided with a square central opening and guided downward on the center-post until the projecting points arrive at the bottom of the crate. The marking-board is then pressed downward on the bottom, so that the projecting pins of the same prick the bottom and indicate thereby the exact position of the cups, which are then nailed in position on the bottom, by following the pricks or marks produced on the same.

When the case is to contain more or less than four dozen of bottles, the numeric arrangement of concentric rows of cups has to be correspondingly altered and adapted to the number of bottles to be shipped in the crate. When all the bottles have been placed in the cups, they are held in position by means of a neck-holding plate or partition *e*, which is provided with a center-opening *o* so as to be placed over the center-post *c*, and with as many holes corresponding to the size of the necks of the bottles, as there are bottles, so that when the disk-shaped plate or partition is pressed downwardly as far as permitted by the necks of the bottles, the same will be held firmly in position against changing their position during transit. The horizontal disk-shaped partition *e* may be made of wood, heavy paste-board, thick layer of felt or other material which exerts a certain friction on the necks of the bottles as well as on the inner circumference of the body of the crate.

The crate is closed by a cover *f*, which is made of wood and fitted snugly into the upper end of the body *a* of the crate. It is provided with a central square opening *o*¹ by which it fits on the square end *c*² of the center-post *c*. The cover *f* is provided with parallel reinforcing slats *f*¹ which extend over the upper edge of the body *a* and which are screwed, nailed or otherwise attached to the cross-boards of the cover. The cover is provided at one side with projecting dowels *f*² that enter into mortises of the body, preferably one at each side of the center-slat *f*¹, and at the opposite side with inclined holes *o*² which are drilled through the ends of the slat *f*¹, cover *f* and the upper end of the body *a* of the crate, so that a soft wire *w* can be passed through the holes and over the upper edge of the slats and body, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the wires being then twisted and provided with a lead-seal for shipping the crate in closed and locked position. When the crate is to be opened, the seals are broken and the wires removed upon which the cover and partition can be lifted off and the bottles removed as required for use. When the empty

bottles are to be reshipped, the bottles are placed in position in the cups, the partition placed on the necks of the bottles and the cover replaced on the body of the crate and locked thereto by means of fastening wires, or in any other manner, so that the cover is held in position during the return shipment of the bottles to the bottlers or breweries supplying the beer.

The body of the crate may be provided with hand-openings *h*, preferably located at diametrically opposite points, below the transverse center-slat *f*¹, for permitting the lifting of the crate after the same has been rolled to the place of use. When larger quantities of fermented liquors have to be shipped, the crate can be made up as a double crate that is to say, for ninety-six bottles, in which case the bottom forms a stationary partition for each crate, the bottle-supporting device being attached to both sides of the same, and provided with a cover or head at each end. As the crate can be rolled, the shipping of eight dozen pint-bottles would not be too large a quantity for handling.

The advantages of my improved shipping crate are, first, that four or more dozen of bottles can be shipped in a comparatively small and compact crate, which can be conveniently handled by rolling owing to its cylindrical or barrel-shape; secondly, that the crate can be conveniently shipped by rail or vessel, as it takes up a considerably smaller space than the square or oblong crates heretofore in use; thirdly, that the bottles being supported at three points, namely the bottoms, necks and heads, are not liable to breakage and loss of bottles in handling and shipping the crates; and, lastly, that the objectionable hinge and locking devices heretofore used for shipping crates of this kind are dispensed with and replaced by cheaper and more conveniently-handled locking devices.

I claim:

1. A shipping-crate for bottles, comprising a cylindrical body provided with a bottom, a fixed center-post attached to the bottom, bottle-holding means attached to the bottom and arranged in concentric rows or groups around the center-post, a perforated partition placed over the necks of the bottles, a cover supported on the center-post, and means for attaching the cover to the body of the crate.

2. A shipping-crate for bottles, comprising a cylindrical body having a closed bottom, a square center-post attached to the center of the bottom, bottle-holding cups attached to said bottom and arranged in concentric rows or groups around the center-post, a disk-shaped partition having a square center-opening placed over the post and as many openings arranged concentric

cally around the center-opening as there are
bottles placed in the cups, and a cover for
the crate provided with a square opening
for fitting over the square upper end of the
5 center-post, and means for attaching the
cover to the body of the crate.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing

as my invention, I have signed my name in
presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRANZ ESCHENBACH.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPFEL,

JOHN MURTAGH.
