Jan. 6, 1970 D. D. OVERTON III, ETAL 3,487,990

CONTAINER

Filed Jan. 16, 1968 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

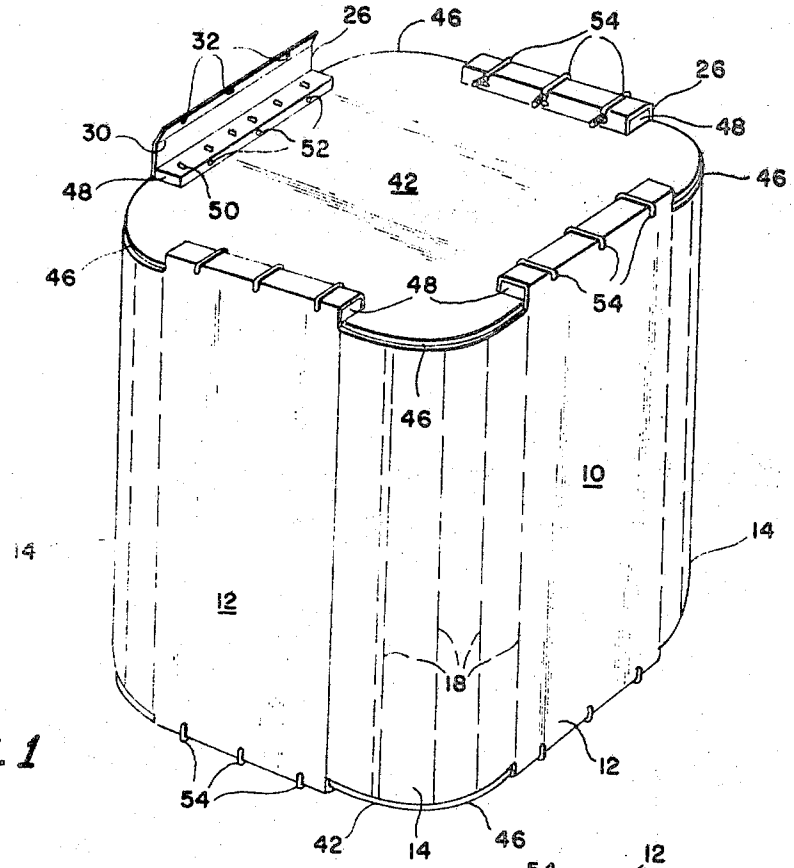


FIG. 1

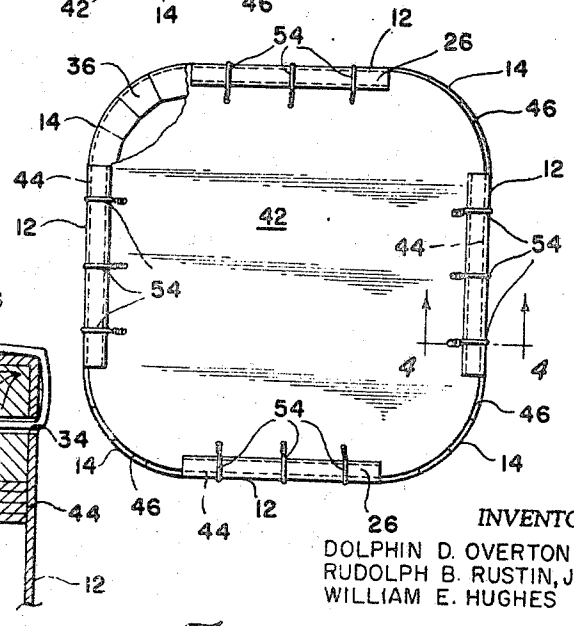
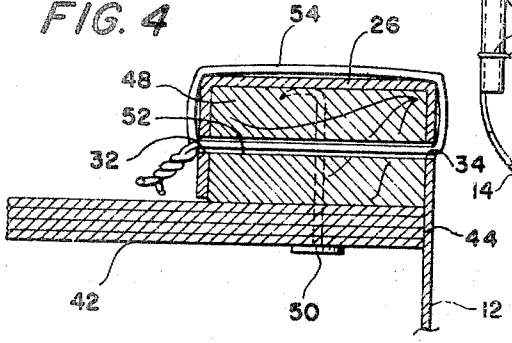


FIG. 3

FIG. 4



INVENTORS
DOLPHIN D. OVERTON, III
RUDOLPH B. RUSTIN, JR.
WILLIAM E. HUGHES

BY Finnegan & Henderson
ATTORNEYS

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CONTAINER

Filed Jan. 16, 1968 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

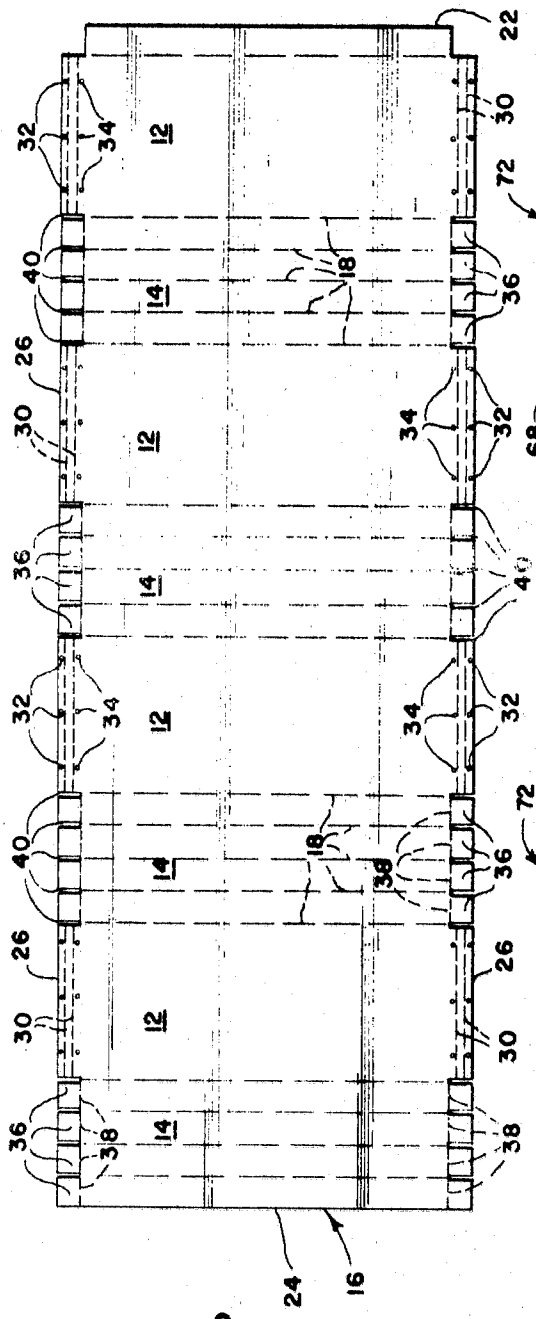


FIG. 2

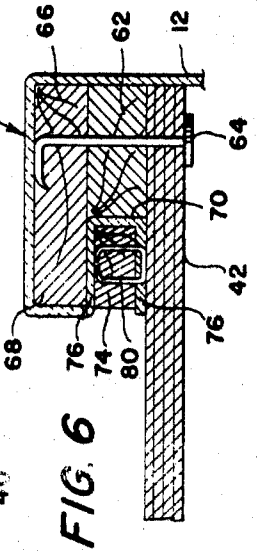


FIG. 6

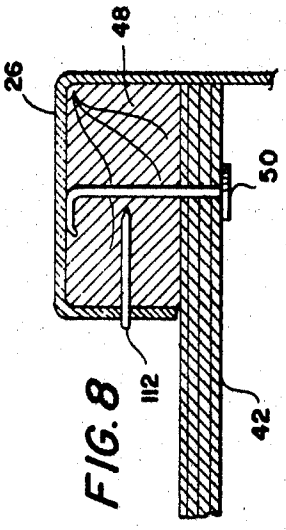


FIG. 8

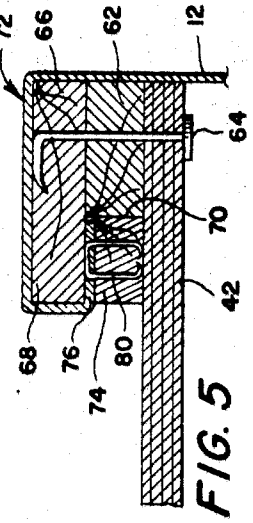


FIG. 5

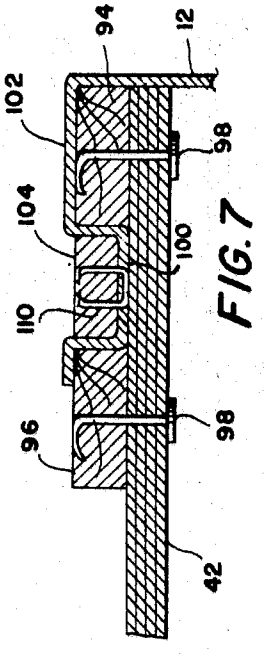


FIG. 7

INVENTORS
DOLPHIN D. OVERTON, III
RUDOLPH B. RUSTIN, JR
WILLIAM E. HUGHES

BY Finnegan & Henderson

ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office

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CONTAINER

Dolphin D. Overton III and Rudolph B. Rustin, Jr., Mullins, and William E. Hughes, Marion, S.C., assignors to Overton Container Corporation, Mullins, S.C., a corporation of North Carolina

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Int. Cl. B65d *13/04, 15/04, 55/06*

U.S. Cl. 229—23 18 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A container is provided which may be used as a hogshead for tobacco and which has flat sides so the containers may be stacked on top of each other and rounded corners so that the containers may be rolled. The container includes a sleeve which forms the body of the container, and at least one removable end closure. The sleeve is scored to provide four (4) side walls joined by four (4) curved surfaces. Cleats are provided on the outer surface of the removable end closure and flaps are provided across the top of each side wall. The flaps are folded over the cleats and held in position by securing means which may be wire fasteners, staples, or a retaining strip and groove combination.

This invention relates to containers. More particularly, this invention relates to containers which are convenient to store and handle when they are filled.

The containers of the invention are particularly well suited to be used as hogsheads for shipping tobacco. Throughout the specification, references will be made to the use of the containers as hogsheads, and certain prior art hodgsheads will be discussed. However, it should be understood that the invention may be utilized in the packaging of other materials as well as tobacco.

It is common practice in the tobacco industry to "prize" tobacco in large casks or hogsheads for shipment domestically and abroad. Prizing involves compacting a predetermined amount of tobacco into a hogshead, for example, by applying hydraulic pressure to compress the tobacco. After the tobacco has been packed under pressure in the hogshead, a lid is secured over the open end of the hogshead prior to shipment.

Frequently, hogsheads hold from 1200 to 1300 pounds of tobacco. The cylindrical shape of prior art hogsheads has enabled relatively easy handling of the heavy hogsheads by rolling the hogshead about its axis. However, the cylindrical hogsheads cannot be easily stacked on their sides and thus, problems are encountered in transporting and storing the cylindrical hogsheads.

It is desirable for economy of space to assemble hogsheads at the place where the tobacco is prized. Assembly at the prizing location avoids shipment and storage of the bulky empty hogsheads. While the prior art describes attempts to provide hogsheads which may be easily assembled at the prizing location, there has been a continuing search for strong lightweight hogsheads that are easy to assemble at the place where tobacco is prized.

Another criterion which is important in hogshead construction is the ease of removal of an end closure (head) for inspection purposes. It is frequently necessary to inspect the tobacco within a hogshead to see if it conforms to the accompanying description as to grade and type of tobacco. Present hogsheads when assembled do not all permit a ready inspection of the tobacco, and frequently are difficult to reassemble after inspection.

Accordingly, it is a primary object of this invention to provide a new and improved container that is easy to assemble, and is convenient to store and handle when it is filled.

Another object of this invention is to provide a container that is easy to open for inspection of the contents, and also easy to close after inspection.

Another object of an embodiment of this invention is to provide a new and improved container which may be stacked on its sides for shipment and storage and yet may be rolled about it longitudinal axis for ease of handling.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a strong, inexpensive, durable container for packaging heavy loads.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide new and improved lightweight containers having sufficient strength to be capable of being stacked on top of each other even though they are packed with a heavy load.

A further object of an embodiment of this invention is to provide a container having a new and improved arrangement for fastening the container closure to the container.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

To achieve the foregoing objects and in accordance with its purposes as embodied and broadly described, the invention may be described as a container comprising a sleeve having at least two flat side walls to permit the container to be stacked on its sides, at least two curved walls with one of the curved walls extending between each pair of adjacent flat walls to permit the container to be easily rolled when placed on its side, and a plurality of flaps connected to the top of the sleeve; a bottom closure for closing the bottom of the container; securing means connected to the bottom closure to secure the bottom closure to the bottom of the sleeve; a top closure including a plurality of cleats mounted on the top surface of the top closure, with the cleats being positioned adjacent to the outer edges of the top closure and adjacent one of the flaps of the sleeve; and engaging means for securing the top closure to the sleeve when the container has been filled.

The top closure desirably conforms to the shape of and is slightly smaller than the cross-section of the sleeve.

Preferably, the sleeve has four flat side walls and four curved walls, and is formed from a foldable blank having groups of vertical score lines and a plane section separating each group of vertical score lines, with each of the groups of vertical score lines cooperating in the assembled sleeve to form a curved wall surface and each of said plane sections forming a flat side wall.

It is also preferred that the sleeve have flaps on its bottom edge, that the bottom end closure be substantially the same size and shape as the top end closure, that the bottom end closure have cleats mounted on its bottom surface, and that engaging means secure the flaps on the bottom of the sleeve to the cleats on the bottom closure.

It is further preferred that the flaps and cleats be secured together by a wire fastener and that the flaps have holes and the cleats have slots aligned with the holes to permit one end of the wire fastener to be inserted through the holes with the other end of the fastener extending over the top of the flap, so that the two ends may be twisted together to secure the flaps to the cleats.

The invention may also be described as a container comprising a sleeve including flat side walls and foldable flaps at the top of the side walls, a bottom closure for closing the bottom of the container, means to secure the bottom closure to the sleeve, a removable top closure having straight side edges adjacent the foldable flaps;

a plurality of cleats attached to the top surface of the top closure and positioned parallel with and adjacent to the straight side edges of the top closure and releasable engaging means for securing the flaps in flush contact with the cleats to permit the top closure to be secured to the sleeve when the container has been filled and also to permit the top closure to be removed for checking the contents of the container after it has been filled.

Preferably, the releasable engaging means includes tie wires, holes in the foldable flaps, and slots in the cleats aligned with the holes to permit one end of a tie wire to be inserted first through one of the holes, then through the slot and finally through another of the holes. The other end of the tie wire desirably extends over the flap so that the two ends of the tie wire may be twisted together to secure the flaps to the top closure.

The releasable engaging means may also be formed by a second cleat mounted on the top closure parallel to the first cleat and cooperating therewith to form a groove, and a retaining strip, mounted on the flap, which together with a portion of the flap may be forced into the groove to secure the flap to the end closure.

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory but are not restrictive of the invention.

The invention consists in the novel parts, constructions, arrangements, combinations and improvements shown and described. The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention, and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

Of the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a container constructed in accordance with the invention;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation of a paperboard blank used to form the sleeve portion of the container of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a top plan view of the container of FIG. 1 with a portion of the end closure cut away;

FIG. 4 is a partial sectional view taken along line 4—4 of FIG. 3 illustrating the details of the engaging means;

FIG. 5 is a partial sectional view of another embodiment of the engaging means of the invention;

FIG. 6 is a partial sectional view of another embodiment of the engaging means of the invention;

FIG. 7 is a partial sectional view of another embodiment of the engaging means of the invention; and

FIG. 8 is a partial sectional view of another embodiment of the engaging means of the invention.

Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Referring now to FIGS. 1 and 3, it may be seen that the container is a hogshead used for shipping tobacco. The container includes a sleeve **10** having four flat side walls **12**, and four curved walls **14**. Throughout the specification the terms "curve" and "curved" will be used to include both smooth line curves and curves made by a group of straight lines joined by obtuse angles. The flat side walls permit stacking of the container on top of each other and the curved walls permit the containers to be rolled when the containers are placed on their sides.

Sleeve **10** is formed from a blank, generaly **16**, illustrated in FIG. 2. Blank **16** includes four spaced groups of vertical score lines **18**. The spaces between the groups of score lines define four flat panels that form the four flat side walls **12** of the container. Each group of score lines **18** forms a curved wall **14** (see FIG. 1) joining two adjacent flat side walls **12**. Preferably, the spaces between groups of score lines **18** are of equal length so that the flat side walls **12** will have equal dimensions.

A seam panel **22** is provided at one end of blank **16**.

Seam panel **22** overlaps the other end **24** of blank **16** when the blank is folded to form sleeve **10**. Seam panel **22** may be joined to end **24** by any conventional means such as by staples and glue.

In accordance with the invention, the sleeve includes flaps **26** for securing one or both of the closure members to the sleeve. As here embodied, eight flaps **26** are provided, one on the top and one on the bottom of each side wall **12**. Two score lines **30** are provided on each flap **26** parallel to the edges of the flap. Score lines **30** facilitate the folding of the flaps as will be discussed in detail hereinafter.

Flaps **26** include a series of spaced, aligned openings **32** and **34**. Each opening **32** on the outer edge portion of the flap is aligned with an opening **34** spaced inwardly therefrom. Blank **16** may be formed from a variety of suitable materials such as fiberboard and corrugated paperboard which possess suitable puncture, compression, and bursting strength.

In accordance with the invention, means may be provided at the top, bottom, or both edges of each of the curved walls **14** for sealing the closed container against the entrance of moisture or foreign matter. As here embodied and as best shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, these means comprise flaps **36** formed by score lines **38** disposed parallel to and adjacent the top and bottom edges of blank **16** at each of the four groups of vertical score lines **18**. Each vertical score line **18** of each of the groups terminates at a cutout **40** which extends from the score lines **38** to the outer edge of the flaps **38**.

As may be seen in FIG. 1, removable end closures **42** are provided at the top and bottom of the container. These removable end closures facilitate opening of the assembled container for inspection and permit the container to be easily closed after the contents have been inspected.

As illustrated in FIGS. 1–4, end closures **42** conform to the shape of and are slightly smaller than the cross-section of sleeve **10**. End closures **42** have four straight edges **44** and four curved edges **46**. Adjacent pairs of straight edges **44** are each connected by a curved edge **46**. The end closures **42** are sized to fit within the end of sleeve **10** with the straight edges of the end closures in snug contact with flat side walls **12** of sleeve **10**.

End closures **42** include a plurality of cleats **48** attached on the top surface of the top end closure and on the bottom surface of the bottom end closure. Cleats **48** are positioned adjacent and parallel to each straight edge **44** so that one cleat **48** will be adjacent and parallel to one of the flaps **26** of sleeve **10** when the container is assembled. Cleats **48** may be attached to end closure **42** by any conventional fastening means such as by clinched nails **50** as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4. End closures **42** may be made of any suitable material. Preferably, the main portion is plywood, and the cleats are of hardwood.

FIG. 3 illustrates the relative positions of end closure **42** and flaps **36** in the assembled container. As may be seen, flaps **36** are folded inwardly and form an abutment for the inner surface of the end closures **42**. This abutting relationship provides a seal against moisture and contamination for the container when the end closures are secured to the sleeve.

In accordance with the invention, engaging means are provided to secure flaps **26** of sleeve **10** to adjacent portions of end closures **42**. Preferably, the engaging means are releasable, are easy to disengage for inspection of the contents of the container after it is filled, and are easy to re-engage after an inspection.

While the releasable engaging means are advantageously used with a container having the shape illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 3, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that these releasable engaging means may be used with containers of other shapes as well.

A preferred embodiment of the releasable engaging

means is illustrated in FIGS. 1–4. Here the releasable engaging means comprises a plurality of tie wire fasteners **54**, and the flaps **26** and cleats **48** have aligned holes for receiving the wire fasteners. The flaps are folded along their score lines **30** so that one portion of the flap extends over the outside edge of the cleat, another portion extends across the top of the cleat, and a third portion extends over the inside edge of the cleats. The longitudinal score lines **30** of blank **20** are spaced apart a distance sufficient to ensure that flaps **26** may be folded to follow the contour of cleats **48**. Cleats **48** each have three horizontal slots **52** extending through the cleat with the slots being positioned so that their ends will be in alignment with openings **32** and **34** in flaps **26**. One end of a tie wire **54** extends through opening **34** of flap **26**, through slot **52** of cleat **48** and out opening **32** of flap **26**. The other end of the tie wire extends up the outside edge of the folded flap **26** across its top and down its inside edge where the two ends of the tie wire are twisted together. The insertion of the tie wires **54** through the cleats **48** and the flaps **26** at points spaced above the lower surface of end closures **42** advantageously precludes entry of moisture and foreign matter into the container, since the straight edges **44** of end closures **42** will be in snug contact with the inside of the flat surfaces **12** of sleeve **10** below these openings.

FIGS. 5–7 illustrate three additional embodiments of releasable engaging means constructed in accordance with this invention. In each of these embodiments additional cleats are mounted on the end closure to cooperate with the existing cleats to form grooves, and retaining strips are attached to the flaps. The retaining strips are pressed into the grooves to secure the flaps to the end closure.

Referring to the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5, the releasable engaging means includes a cleat **62** which is similar to the cleat **48** of the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 1–4 except that it does not have the horizontal slots. Cleat **62** is rigidly attached to the end closure **42** by fastening means such as clinched nails **64**. A second cleat **66** is mounted on top of cleat **62** with a portion of cleat **66** extending inwardly beyond cleat **62** to provide an overhang **68** which forms a groove **70** between the top of closure **42**, cleat **62**, and cleat **66**. Groove **70** preferably extends the length of cleat **62** and is disposed parallel to one of the straight edge portions **44** of end closure **42**.

The container has a flap **72** at the top of its side wall **12**. Flap **72** is similar to one of the flaps **26** of the embodiment in FIGS. 1–4, except that it is longer and does not include openings. A retaining strip **74**, which is preferably the same length as groove **70**, is attached across the outside of an edge portion **76** of flap **72**. The thickness of the retaining strip **74** is slightly less than the height of groove **70**. Consequently, flap **72** with retaining strip **74** attached thereto can be pressed into groove **70** after folding flap **72** about cleats **62** and **66**. In the assembled container, flap **72** is held in flush contact with the surfaces of cleat **66** by retaining strip **74**.

Preferably retaining strip **74** has a rectangular cross-section and is made of an essentially non-compressible material such as wood. Flap **72** is preferably made of a foldable and compressible material such as corrugated paperboard or fiberboard. The insertion of flap **72** and retaining strip **74** into groove **70** results in some compression of the flap and in the firm seating of the flap and the retaining strip in the groove. Attachment of retaining strip **74** to the flap **72** is by conventional fasteners such as wire staples **80**.

The releasable engaging means illustrated in FIG. 6 is similar to that illustrated in FIG. 5. The difference in the embodiment of FIG. 6 involves the use of a larger flap **72** and folding the edge portion **76** of flap **72** into contact with three surfaces of retaining strip **74**. When retaining strip **74** is pressed into groove **70**, portions of flap **72** are positioned between the retaining strip and the groove on all three sides thus providing a greater amount of compressible material in the groove.

FIG. 7 illustrates another embodiment of the releasable engaging means of this invention. The releasable engaging means is comprised of a cleat **94** which is similar to the cleat **48** of the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 1–4 except that it does not have the horizontal slots. A second cleat **96** is also mounted on end closure **42**. Both cleat **94** and cleat **96** may be secured to end closure **42** by conventional fastening means such as clinched nails **98**. Cleat **96** is positioned parallel to and a spaced distance inwardly of cleat **94** to provide a groove **100** formed by the two cleats and the top of the end closure **42**. Preferably cleat **96** is of the same height and length as cleat **94**.

A flap **102** is connected to the top of each of side walls **12** of the sleeve **10** but is longer than flap **26** of the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 4. Flap **102** has a retaining strip **104** secured a short distance from its end by conventional means such as wire staples **110**.

Retaining strip **104** is approximately the same length as groove **100** but is slightly smaller in width than the groove. The positioning of retaining strip **104** on flap **102** permits the strip to be pressed into groove **100** with portions of flap **102** extending between the strip and the groove. Insertion of flap **102** and retaining strip **104** into groove **100** results in some compression of the flap, and the firm seating of the retaining strip **104** in groove **100**.

Retaining strip **104** preferably has a rectangular cross-section and is made of an essentially non-compressible material such as wood. Flap **102** is preferably made of a foldable and compressible material such as corrugated paperboard or fiberboard.

FIG. 8 illustrates a modification of the engaging means illustrated in FIG. 4. In the embodiment of FIG. 8, flap **26** and cleat **48** do not have holes or slots. Fastening means such as wire staples **112**, are driven through flap **26** and into cleat **48** to secure the flap to the cleat. This embodiment is easier and less expensive to make than the embodiment of FIG. 4; however, it is less convenient to open. Thus, this embodiment may be used for the bottom of a container such as that illustrated in FIGS. 1–4 or for both the top and bottom of containers where it is not necessary that the container be opened for inspection purposes prior to the final unloading of the container.

The assembly of the container will be described with reference to FIGS. 1–4. The blank **16** which has previously been cut and scored may be stored flat prior to assembly. To assemble the container, blank **16** is first folded into a sleeve **10** with seam panel **22** overlapping a portion of end **24** of blank **16**. Seam panel **22** and end **24** are then glued and stitched together.

Next, flaps **36** on the bottom of sleeve **10** are folded inwardly along score lines **38** into an overlapping but substantially horizontal position as illustrated in the cut-away portion of FIG. 3. The bottom end closure **42** is then placed in position with its inside surface abutting flaps **36** and with its sides inside of flaps **26**. In this position, cleats **48** are adjacent to and parallel wth flaps **26**. Next, flaps **26** are folded along score lines **30** so that the flaps extend up the outside of cleats **48** across their tops and down their insides.

One end of a tie wire **54** is then inserted through an opening **34** in one of flaps **26**, on through slot **52** in cleat **48**, and out opening **32** of the flap. The other end of the tie wire **54** is bent to follow the contour of the upper surface of the folded flap **26**. The two ends of the tie wire are then twisted together and pressed toward the surface of bottom closure **42** and the end of folded flap **26**, as best illustrated in FIG. 4. This procedure is repeated until each of flaps **26** has been secured by three tie wires.

When the container is to be filled with tobacco, a corset or other outside bracing is placed around the sleeve to

insure that the shape of the container is preserved when the container is filled. After the container is charged with tobacco, the tobacco is compressed by application of a hydraulic press. With the container thus filled, the corset is removed and the top closure **42** is assembled in a manner similar to that described above with regard to the bottom closure.

Each curved wall **14** of the sleeve **10** has the configuration of a group of chords of a circle prior to the charging and compressing operations. These wall surfaces thereafter assume a smooth, curved configuration which smoothly connect adjacent flat side wall surfaces **12**. The filled container is thus easy to roll when it is placed on its side.

If it is desired to inspect the tobacco after the container has been closed, the inspector simply removes tie wires **54**, folds back flaps **26** and removes top closure **42**. After the inspection, the closing and securing of the container can be quickly accomplished.

With reference to the embodiments of the releasable engaging means in FIGS. 5–7, the operations involved in forming the sleeve and positioning of the end closures are the same as those described above and will not be repeated here.

To secure the end closure member **42** to the sleeve in the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5, flap **72** is folded along its score lines and retaining strip **74** is pressed into groove **70**. It may be necessary, in order to achieve a snug fit, that retaining strip **74** be driven into position using a mallet or hammer.

In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 6 the closing of the releasable engaging means is similar to that of the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5 except that the retaining strip **74** is folded back on flap **72** as it is being inserted into groove **70**. Flap **72** then surrounds three sides of the retaining strip when the strip is in the groove.

In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 7, flap **102** is folded along its score lines and then retaining strip **104** is pressed downwardly into groove **100** with flap **102** surrounding the three surfaces of retaining strip **104**, which are in groove **100**.

To remove the end closure **42** in each of the embodiments illustrated in FIGS. 5–7, the retaining strip is pulled out of the groove. In each case this can be done by gripping the exposed ends of the retaining strip with a sharp instrument or the like.

In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 8, the assembly of the container is identical to that described in relation to the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 1–4 with the exception that when flap **26** has been folded along its score lines and pressed against cleat **48**, a plurality of staples **112** are driven through flap **26** and into cleat **48**. If it is desired to open the container for inspection, the staples are removed and new staples are driven through the flap and into the cleat after the inspection has been completed.

While it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that the relationship between the curved and straight sides of the container can vary and still achieve the objects of the invention, it is preferred that the flat sides of the container be no more than 50% of the overall length of the side of the container on which they are formed. Thus, the flat side walls extend less than one-half the distance separating the adjacent opposing flat side walls whereby the length of the curved wall surfaces permits easy rolling of the container about its longitudinal axis. A particularly successful container has been one in which both the overall length and the overall width of the container are 44 inches. In this container the straight sections of the sides are 21 inches long, leaving 12 inches on each side of the straight sections for the curved portions. The curved portions are thus formed having a 12 inch radius.

In accordance with the invention, new and improved containers have been provided which are capable of being rolled on their sides for ease of handling and may also be stacked on their sides for shipment and storage. In another aspect of the invention, containers are provided that are easy to assemble, easy to open for inspection of the contents, and easy to reassemble after inspection of the contents. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations could be made in the containers of the invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention.

The invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details shown and described, but departures may be made from such details without departing from the principles of the invention and without sacrificing its chief advantages.

What is claimed is:

1. A container comprising: a sleeve having at least four (4) flat side walls to permit the container to be stacked on its sides, at least four (4) curved walls with one of said curved walls extending between each pair of adjacent flat walls to permit the container to be easily rolled when placed on its side, and a plurality of flaps connected to the top of said sleeve; a bottom closure for closing the bottom of the container; securing means connected to said bottom closure to secure said bottom closure to the bottom of said sleeve; a top closure having four (4) flat edges and four (4) curved edges and including a plurality of cleats mounted on the top surface of said top closure with said cleats being positioned adjacent to the outer edges of said flat edges of said top closure and adjacent one of said flaps of said sleeve, with said cleats being separated from each other by the curved edges of said top closure; and engaging means for securing said flaps to said cleats when the container has been filled.

2. The container of claim **1** wherein said engaging means is releasable and includes a slot extending across the width of said cleats and wherein said flaps are folded into flush contact with the side and top surfaces of said cleats; and wherein said engaging means includes wire fasteners for passing through said flaps and said slots to hold each flap in flush contact with its corresponding cleat.

3. The container of claim **2** wherein said flaps have holes aligned with each of the ends of each of said slots to permit one end of the wire fasteners to be inserted first through one of said holes, then through said slot and finally through another of said holes.

4. The container of claim **1** wherein said engaging means is releasable and includes a plurality of cleats, with one of said cleats mounted on the top surface of said top closure parallel to each of said cleats of said top closure and cooperating therewith to form a groove; and a plurality of retaining strips with a retaining strip mounted on each of said flaps for insertion into said groove.

5. A container comprising:

(A) a sleeve having four (4) curved walls and four (4) flat side walls formed from a foldable blank having groups of vertical score lines and a plane section separating each group of vertical scole lines, each of said groups of vertical scole lines cooperating in the assembled sleeve to form a curved wall surface and each of said plane sections forming a flat side wall, said sleeve including flaps adjacent the top and bottom edge of each of said flat side walls, and a plurality of flaps at both the top and bottom of each of said curved wall surfaces;

(B) a top end closure and a bottom end closure, each having four (4) straight edges and four (4) curved edges with each pair of adjacent straight edges being joined by a curved edge and said end closures being sized to fit within said sleeve with said straight edges of said end closures in contact with said flat side walls of said sleeve, said flaps at said curved wall surfaces positioned in abutting contact with the inner

surface of each of said end closures in the assembled container; and

(C) engaging means for securing said flaps adjacent the top and bottom edges of said flat side walls of said sleeve to said end closures.

6. The container of claim **5** wherein said end closures have a plurality of cleats mounted on their outer surfaces with a cleat positioned parallel with and adjacent each straight edge of said end closure, each of said flaps is folded into flush contact with an adjacent cleat, and said engaging means secure said flaps in flush contact with said cleats.

7. The container of claim **6** wherein said engaging means includes a slot extending across the width of each of said cleats, and a plurality of tie wires for passing through said flaps and said slots to hold each flap in flush contact with its corresponding cleat.

8. The container of claim **6** wherein said flaps have holes aligned with the ends of each of said slots to permit one end of said tie wires to be inserted through said holes and said slot.

9. The container of claim **6** wherein said engaging means includes a plurality of cleats mounted on said end closure with one of the cleats of said engaging means being parallel to each of said cleats of said top closure and cooperating therewith to form a groove, and a plurality of retaining strips mounted on said flaps for insertion into said grooves.

10. The container of claim **9** wherein one of said flaps is folded about three surfaces of each of said retaining strips and a portion of said flap is positioned between said retaining strip and said groove when said retaining strip is inserted into said groove.

11. The container of claim **9** wherein each of said cleats of said engaging means is mounted on top of a cleat of said end closure with a portion of said cleat of said engaging means extending inwardly of said cleat of said end closure to form a groove on the inside of said cleat of said end closure.

12. A container comprising: a sleeve including flat side walls and foldable flaps at the top of said side walls; a bottom closure for closing the bottom of the container; means to secure said bottom closure to said sleeve; a removable top closure having straight side edges adjacent the foldable flaps; a plurality of cleats attached on the top surface of said top closure and positioned parallel with and adjacent said straight side edges of said top closure, and releasable engaging means for securing said flaps in flush contact with the cleats to permit the top closure to be secured to the sleeve when the container has been filled and also to permit the top closure to be removed for checking the contents of the container after it has been filled, said releasable engaging means including a slot extending across the width of each of said cleats and a plurality of tie wires for passing through said flaps and said slots to hold each flap in flush contact with its corresponding cleat, with one end of each of said tie wires passing through said flap at a point adjacent the outer side wall surface of said cleat, through said slot and then through said flap at a point adjacent the inner wall surface of said cleat and with the other end of said tie wire extending over the top of the flaps, so that the two ends of each tie wire may be secured together.

13. The container of claim **12** wherein said flaps have holes aligned with the ends of each of said slots to permit one end of the tire wire to be inserted through said holes and said slot.

14. The container of claim **13** wherein each of said cleats includes three (3) slots extending across the width of said cleats and wherein said releasable engaging means includes a tie wire extending through each of said slots.

15. A container comprising: a sleeve including flat side walls and foldable flaps at the top of said side walls; a bottom closure for closing the bottom of the container; means to secure said bottom closure to said sleeve; a removable top closure having straight side edges adjacent the foldable flaps; a plurality of cleats attached to the top surface of said top closure and positioned parallel with and adjacent said straight side edges of said top closure, and releasable engaging means for securing said flaps in flush contact with the cleats to permit the top closure to be secured to the sleeve when the container has been filled and also to permit the top closure to be removed for checking the contents of the container after it has been filled, said releasable engaging means including a plurality of cleats, with each of said cleats of said releasable engaging means mounted on the top surface of said top closure parallel to one of said cleats of said top closure and cooperating therewith to form a plurality of grooves; and a plurality of retaining strips mounted on said flaps for insertion into said grooves.

16. The container of claim **15** wherein said cleats of said releasable engaging means are each attached on said top closure parallel to a cleat of said top closure to form said grooves and wherein a portion of each of said flaps is folded about three (3) surfaces of one of said retaining strips and the portion is positioned between said retaining strip and said groove when said retaining strip is inserted into said groove.

17. The container of claim **15** wherein each of said cleats of said releasable engaging means is mounted on top of one of said cleats of said top closure with a portion of said cleat of said releasable engaging means extending inwardly of said cleat of said top closure to form said groove on the inside of said cleat of said top closure.

18. A container comprising:

(A) a sleeve having four (4) curved walls and four (4) flat side walls formed from a foldable blank having groups of vertical score lines and a plane section separating each group of vertical score lines, each of said groups of vertical score lines cooperating in the assembled sleeve to form a curved wall surface and each of said plane sections forming a flat side wall, said sleeve including flaps adjacent the top and bottom edge of each of said flat side walls, said plane sections that form said flat side walls extending less than one-half the distance separating the adjacent opposing flat side walls whereby the length of the curved wall surfaces permits easy rolling of the container about its longitudinal axis;

(B) a top and bottom end closure, each having four (4) straight edges and four (4) curved edges with each pair of adjacent straight edges being joined by a curved edge and said end closures being sized to fit within said sleeve with said straight edges of said end closures in contact with said flat side walls of said sleeve; and

(C) engaging means for securing said flaps of said sleeve to said end closures.

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