

Dec. 28, 1965

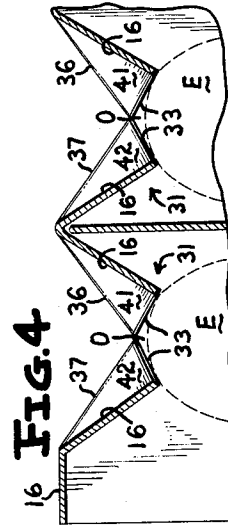
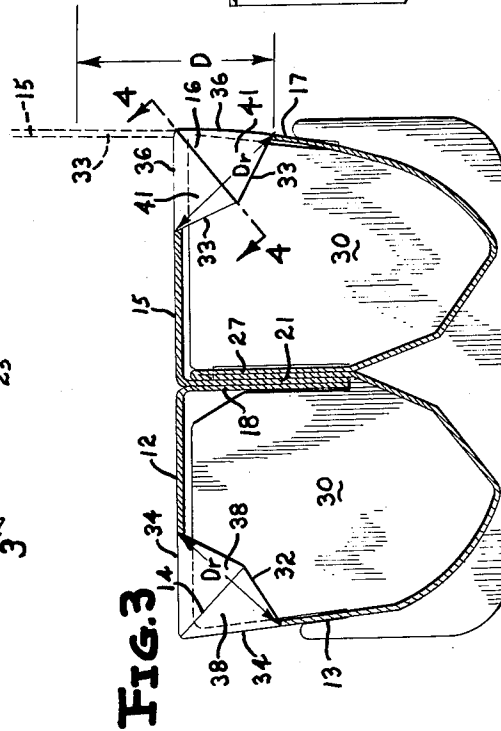
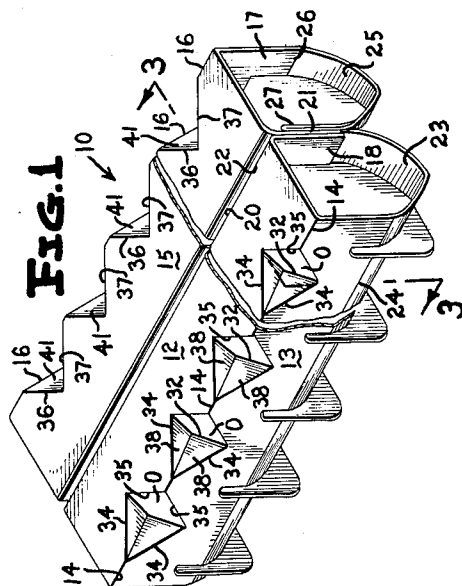
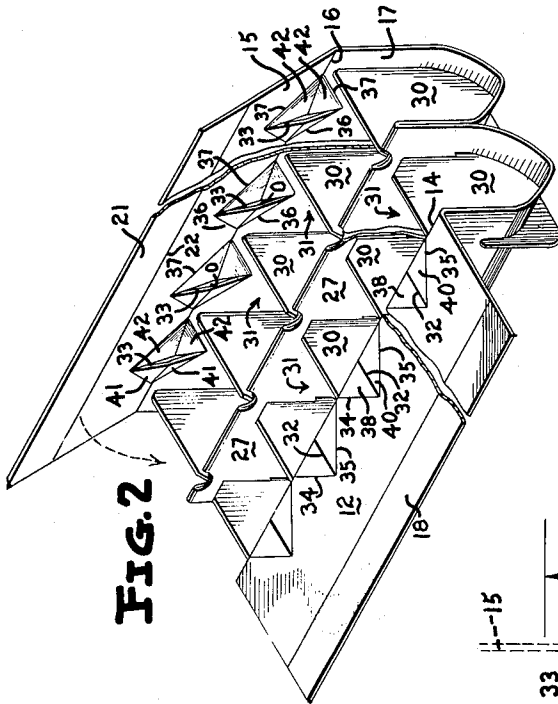
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3,226,004

EGG CARTON

Filed April 8, 1963

4 Sheets-Sheet 1



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FIG. 5

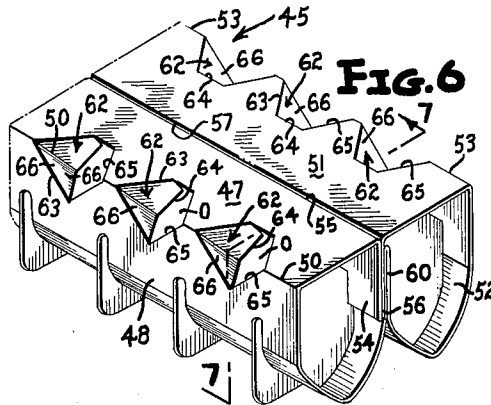
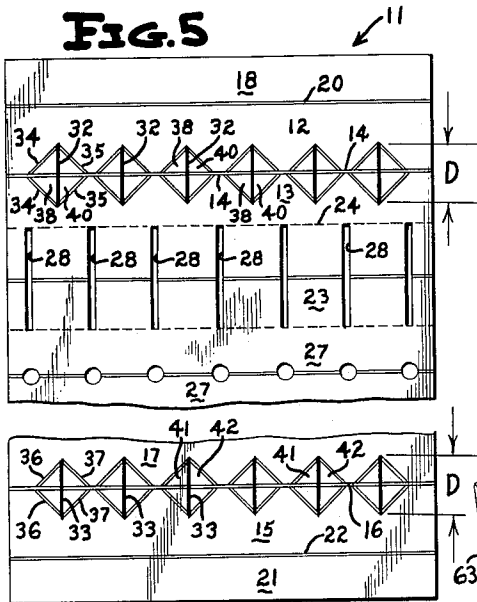


FIG. 7

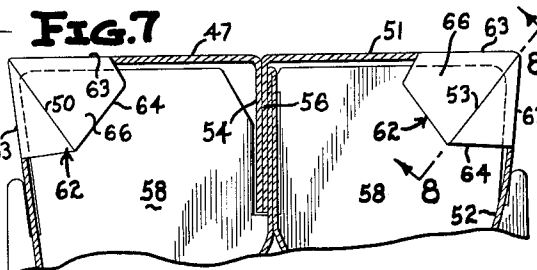
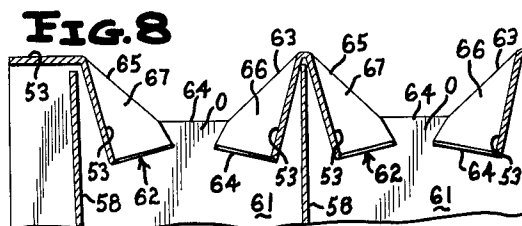


FIG. 8



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FIG. 20

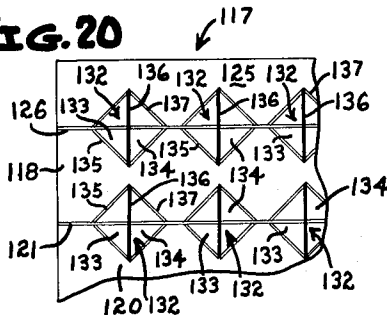


FIG. 21

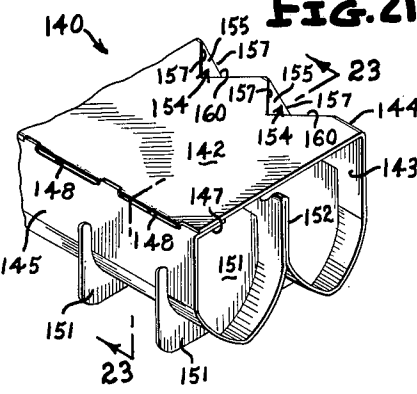


FIG. 22

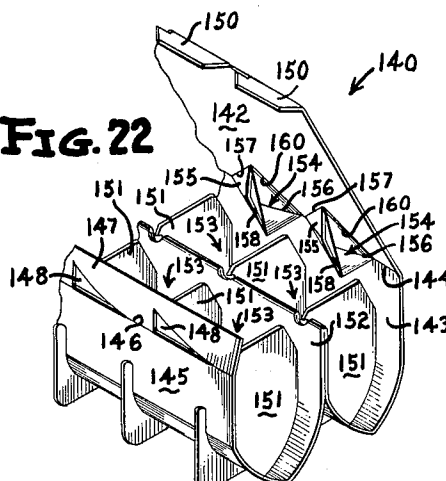


FIG. 23

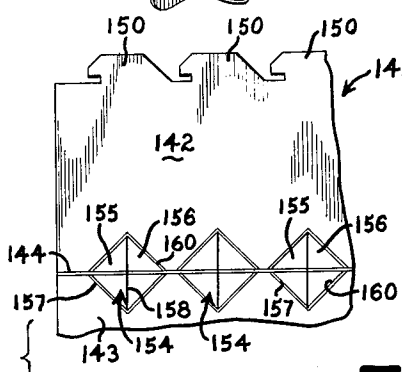
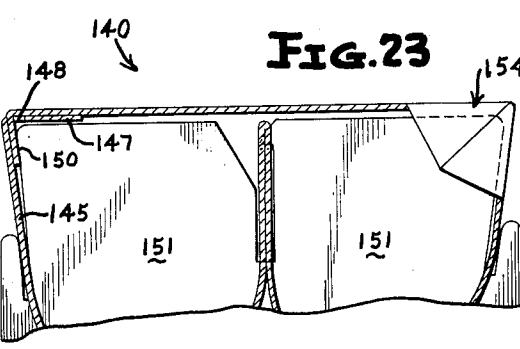


FIG. 24

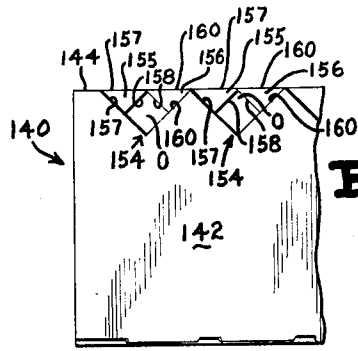
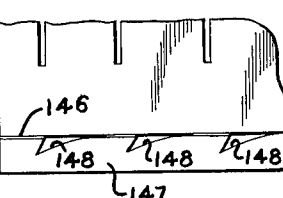


FIG. 25



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EGG CARTON

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Filed Apr. 8, 1963, Ser. No. 271,348

11 Claims. (Cl. 229—28)

This invention relates to a novel egg carton of the type having a plurality of egg receiving cells and a plurality of egg retaining tabs which automatically project into the egg receiving cells when a cover panel of the egg carton is closed to securely retain an egg in each of the egg receiving cells and permit visual inspection of each egg through an opening formed by the automatically opening retaining tabs.

An object of this invention is to provide a novel egg carton including a cover panel secured to an adjacent panel along a longitudinal fold line, a plurality of tabs being disposed along the longitudinal fold line, each of the tabs being defined by a cut line and a weakening line, the cut line being located in the cover panel and extending across the longitudinal fold line and the weakening line terminating at the cut line on opposite sides of the longitudinal fold line whereby movement of the cover panel toward a closing position causes an automatic outward projection of each of the tabs from the plane of the cover panel and the formation of a viewing opening.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a novel egg carton divided into a plurality of egg receiving cells by transverse and longitudinal partition panels, the egg carton including a cover panel joined to a rear panel along a longitudinal fold line, a pair of tabs located along the longitudinal fold line and projecting into each of the egg receiving cells adjacent the longitudinal fold line, each pair of tabs being defined by a cut line normally traversing the longitudinal fold line and a weakening line on opposite sides of the cut line, and each weakening line terminating at the cut line on opposite sides of the longitudinal fold line.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a novel egg carton including front, bottom, rear, and longitudinal partition panels, a cover panel being joined to each of the front and rear panels along a respective longitudinal fold line, a plurality of longitudinally spaced transverse partition panels cooperating with the longitudinal partition panel to form a plurality of egg receiving cells, a pair of tabs projecting into each of the plurality of egg receiving cells along the longitudinal fold lines, each pair of tabs being defined by a cut line normal to and extending across the longitudinal fold lines and a weakening line on opposite sides of the cut line, and each of the weakening lines terminating at the cut line on opposite sides of the longitudinal fold lines.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a novel egg carton of the type immediately above described and in addition, a locking panel being provided and joined to each of the cover panels along respective longitudinal fold lines, a and plurality of pairs of tabs identical to the first mentioned tabs being formed from the material of each of the adjoining cover and locking panels.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel egg carton of the character heretofore described wherein each of the cut lines is substantially T-shaped or substantially I-shaped or includes a substantially Y-shaped cut portion.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a novel egg carton including, front, bottom and rear panels, a cover panel being joined to the rear panel along a first longitudinal fold line, a cover locking panel being joined to the cover panel along a first longitudinal fold line, a cover

locking panel being joined to the cover panel along a second longitudinal fold line, the cover locking panel including a plurality of locking hooks cooperable with a plurality of locking slots in an attaching panel joined to the front panel along a third longitudinal fold line, a pair of tabs being provided along the first longitudinal fold line, each pair of tabs being defined by a cut line normally traversing the first longitudinal fold line and a weakening line on opposite sides of the cut line and spaced therefrom, and each weakening line terminating at an associated cut line on opposite sides of the first longitudinal fold line.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a novel egg carton blank constructed from a substantially rectangular piece of sheet material including a cover panel secured to an adjacent panel along a longitudinal fold line, a plurality of pairs of tabs disposed along the longitudinal fold line, each pair of tabs being defined by a cut line and a line of resilience on opposite sides of the cut line which is greater than the resilience of the sheet material blank, each cut line being located in the cover panel and extending normally across the longitudinal fold line into the adjacent panel, and each of the lines of resilience being spaced from the cut line along portions thereof yet terminating at the cut line in both the cover and adjacent panels.

With the above, and other objects in view that will hereinafter appear, the nature of the invention will be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description, the appended claims and the several views illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a fragmentary top perspective view of an egg carton constructed in accordance with this invention, and illustrates a plurality of inwardly projecting egg retaining tabs disposed along a pair of longitudinal fold lines joining a cover panel to a rear panel and another cover panel to a front panel.

FIGURE 2 is a fragmentary top perspective view of the egg carton of FIGURE 1, and illustrates one of the cover panels in an open position with the egg retaining tabs therein disposed in the plane of the cover panel, and a second cover panel of the egg carton in a partially closed position tending to automatically project the egg retaining tabs thereof inwardly into a respective egg receiving cell of the egg carton.

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along line 3—3 of FIGURE 1, and shows two tabs projecting inwardly into respective egg receiving cells of the egg carton.

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken along line 4—4 of FIGURE 3, and more clearly illustrates the construction of the egg retaining tabs of FIGURES 1 through 3.

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary plan view of an egg carton blank from which the egg carton of FIGURES 1 through 4 is erected, and illustrates a plurality of egg retaining tabs formed along longitudinal fold lines of the blank by a plurality of cut lines extending normally across each of the longitudinal fold lines and a pair of weakening lines associated with each of the cut lines.

FIGURE 6 is a top perspective view of another egg carton constructed in accordance with this invention, and illustrates a plurality of egg retaining tabs projecting into the interior of the egg carton and a viewing opening formed by each of the egg retaining tabs.

FIGURE 7 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken along line 7—7 of FIGURE 6, and illustrates two tabs projecting into associated egg receiving cells of the egg carton.

FIGURE 8 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 8—8 of FIGURE 7, and more clearly illustrates the

construction of the plurality of egg retaining tabs of the egg carton of FIGURE 6.

FIGURE 9 is a fragmentary plan view of an egg carton blank which the egg carton of FIGURES 6 through 8 is erected, and illustrates the particular cutting and weakening of the blank to form the egg retaining tabs.

FIGURE 10 is a fragmentary top perspective view of another egg carton, and illustrates two egg retaining tabs similar to the egg retaining tabs of FIGURES 1 through 9 of the drawings, but differing therefrom in the particular configuration of a cut line forming each of the egg retaining tabs.

FIGURE 11 is a fragmentary enlarged sectional view taken along line 11—11 of FIGURE 10, and more particularly shows the egg retaining tab construction of the egg carton of FIGURE 10.

FIGURE 12 is a fragmentary plan view of a portion of an egg carton blank from which the egg carton of FIGURES 10 and 11 is erected, and illustrates a substantially I-shaped cut line extending across a longitudinal fold line of the carton blank.

FIGURE 13 is a fragmentary top perspective view of another egg carton, and illustrates an egg retaining tab projecting into the interior of the egg carton from each of two longitudinal fold lines and a viewing opening formed by the egg retaining tabs.

FIGURE 14 is a fragmentary enlarged sectional view taken along line 14—14 of FIGURE 13, and illustrates two egg retaining tabs projecting into egg receiving cells of the carton and the particular configuration thereof.

FIGURE 15 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 15—15 of FIGURE 14, and more clearly illustrates the formation of the egg retaining tabs.

FIGURE 16 is a fragmentary plan view of an egg carton blank from which the egg carton of FIGURES 13 through 15 can be erected, and illustrates a pair of cut lines extending across a longitudinal fold line, the configuration of each of the cut lines on opposite sides of the longitudinal fold lines being substantially Y-shaped.

FIGURE 17 is a fragmentary top perspective view of an egg carton, and illustrates a plurality of egg retaining tabs formed at each of four longitudinal fold lines of the egg carton, the egg retaining tabs projecting into the egg carton interior and forming viewing openings.

FIGURE 18 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken along line 18—18 of FIGURE 17 and illustrates a pair of egg retaining tabs projecting into each of two egg receiving cells of the egg carton.

FIGURE 19 is a fragmentary top plan view of the egg carton of FIGURE 17, and more clearly illustrates each of the plurality of egg retaining tabs and the viewing openings formed by each of these egg retaining tabs.

FIGURE 20 is a plan view of an egg carton blank from which the egg carton of FIGURES 17 through 19 is erected, and illustrates a plurality of cut lines extending normally across two longitudinal fold lines and weakening lines associated with each of the cut lines to form the egg retaining tabs of the egg carton of FIGURE 17 through 19.

FIGURE 21 is a fragmentary top perspective view of another carton constructed in accordance with this invention, and illustrates a plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs arranged along a longitudinal fold line between a cover panel and a rear panel of the egg carton, and the cover panel secured to an attaching strip of a front panel.

FIGURE 22 is a fragmentary top perspective view of the egg carton of FIGURE 21, and illustrates the plurality of egg retaining tabs beginning to open as the cover panel is descended toward a closed position.

FIGURE 23 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken along line 23—23 of FIGURE 21, and illustrates one of the plurality of egg retaining tabs projecting into an egg receiving cell of the egg carton.

FIGURE 24 is a fragmentary top view of the egg carton

of FIGURE 21, and illustrates a plurality of openings formed by the plurality of egg retaining tabs.

FIGURE 25 is a fragmentary plan view of an egg carton blank from which the egg carton of FIGURES 21 through 24 is erected, and illustrates a plurality of cut lines and weakening lines forming the egg retaining tabs as well as a plurality of cooperative locking hooks and cooperative locking slots for securing the cover panel in a closed position.

An egg carton constructed in accordance with this invention is illustrated in FIGURES 1 through 4 of the drawings and is generally designated by the reference numeral 10. The egg carton 10 is constructed from a substantially rectangular egg carton blank 11 of FIGURE 5.

The egg carton 10 and the egg carton blank 11 include a first cover panel 12 joined to a front panel 13 by a first longitudinal fold line 14. A second cover panel 15 is joined along a second longitudinal fold line 16 to a rear panel 17. A first locking panel 18 is joined to the first cover panel 12 by a third longitudinal fold line 20 while a second locking panel 21 is joined to the second cover panel 15 along a fourth longitudinal fold line 22. A first bottom panel 23 is joined to the front panel 13 along a longitudinal line 24 while an identical bottom panel 25 is joined to the rear panel 17 along a similar longitudinally extending line 26. A two-ply longitudinally extending partition panel 27 joins the bottom panels 23 and 25.

Each of the bottom panels 23 and 25 is provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced identical slots 28. When the egg carton 10 is erected, as is shown best in FIGURE 2 of the drawings, an identical transverse partition panel 30 is inserted in each of the slots 28. The transverse partition panels 30 cooperate with the longitudinal partition panel 27 to divide the egg carton 10 into a plurality of identical egg receiving cells 31.

As is best illustrated in FIGURE 5 of the drawings, a plurality of identical cut lines 32 are formed normal to the first fold line 14 and extend into portions of the first cover panel 12 and the front panel 13. A similar plurality of identical cut lines 33 extend normal to the second fold line 16 and are disposed in portions of the second cover panel 15 and the rear panel 17. The cut lines 32 and 33 are equally spaced along the respective first and second longitudinal fold lines 14 and 16. Each of the cut lines 32 normal to the first fold line 14 is in alignment with an associated one of the plurality of cut lines 33 traversing the second longitudinal fold line 16. An imaginary line drawn between any two associated cut lines 32 and 33 divides the area of the bottom panels 23 and 25 between the slots 28 into equal parts. This in effect locates the cut lines 32 and 33 centrally of each of the cells 31 of the egg carton 10, as is best illustrated in FIGURE 2 of the drawings.

A pair of angular weakening lines 34 and 35 are each arranged on opposite sides of the cut line 32 while an identical pair of angular weakening lines 36 and 37 are each arranged on opposite sides of the cut lines 33. The angular weakening lines 34 and 35 extend across the first longitudinal fold line 14 and terminate adjacent the ends of the cut lines 32. The angular weakening lines 36 and 37 similarly extend across the second longitudinal fold line 16 and terminate adjacent the ends of the cut lines 33. The angular weakening lines 34—37 can be formed in any one of a plurality of different ways well known in the paper making art as long as the resilience of the material at the weakening lines 34—37 is greater than the resilience of the material of the blank 11 to promote folding along the weakening lines 34—37. The angular weakening lines 34—37 are preferably formed by partially severing the outer surface of the material of the egg carton blank 11 without penetrating through the inner surface of the blank.

Each of the angular weakening lines 34 and 35 form a pair of egg retaining tabs 38 and 40. Each egg retain-

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ing tab 38 is bounded by an angular weakening line 34 and a cut line 32. Each egg retaining tab 40 is bounded by an angular weakening line 35 and an associated cut line 32.

The angular weakening lines 36 and 37 similarly form a pair of egg retaining tabs 41 and 42. Each of the egg retaining tabs 41 is set off by an angular weakening line 36 and a cut line 33, while each of the egg retaining tabs 42 is set off by a cut line 33 and an associated angular weakening line 37.

As is best illustrated in FIGURES 3 and 5 of the drawings, each of the cut lines 32 and 33 has a length D which is approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in an actual egg carton constructed in accordance with this invention. When the cover panels 12 and 15 of the egg carton 10 are folded along the respective longitudinal fold lines 14 and 16 toward the closed position of the egg carton 10 illustrated in FIGURE 1, the ends of the cut lines 32 and 33 tend to approach each other. This is shown in FIGURE 2 of the drawings wherein the second cover panel 15 is being folded about the longitudinal fold line 16 in the direction of the broken arrow. As the second cover panel 15 is folded in the direction of the broken arrow, the distance D (see FIGURE 3) between the ends of each of the cut lines 33 is progressively reduced until a distance D_r is reached when the second cover panel 15 is fully closed. This apparent shortening of the cut lines 33 as the second cover panel 15 approaches the reduced distance D_r causes the plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 41 and 42 along the longitudinal fold line 16 to automatically "pop" or project inwardly into the egg receiving cells 31, as is best illustrated in FIGURES 3 and 4 of the drawings. Each of the inwardly projecting pair of egg retaining tabs 41 and 42 contact and retain an egg E (see FIGURE 4) in each of the egg receiving cells 31 of the egg carton 10. Simultaneously with this inward projecting of the plurality of the pairs of tabs 41 and 42, a viewing opening O is formed between the egg retaining tabs 41 and 42 through which the condition of the eggs E can be readily determined.

It should be particularly noted that the egg retaining tabs 38, 40-42 project inwardly toward the egg receiving cells 31 only when the cover panels 12 and 15 are folded toward the egg receiving cells 31. This is best illustrated in FIGURE 2 of the drawings where the first cover panel 12 is shown in a position folded away from the plurality of egg receiving cells 31. In this position of the first cover panel 12, the plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 38 and 40 have not "popped" but rather, remain in the planes of the first cover panel 12 and the front panel 13 of the egg carton 10. This is because the angular weakening lines 34 and 35 in the outer surfaces of the egg carton 10 prevent outward projection of the egg retaining tabs 38 and 40.

Another egg carton constructed in accordance with this invention is shown in FIGURES 6 through 8 of the drawings and is generally designated by the reference numeral 45. The egg carton 45 is constructed from an egg carton blank 46 of FIGURE 9 which is substantially identical to the egg carton blank of FIGURE 5.

The egg carton 45 includes a first cover panel 47 joined to a front panel 48 along a first longitudinal fold line 50. A second cover panel 51 is joined to a rear panel 52 along a second longitudinal fold line 53. A first locking panel 54 is joined to the first cover panel 47 along a third longitudinal fold line 55 while an identical second locking panel 56 is joined to the second cover panel 51 along a fourth longitudinal fold line 57. A plurality of longitudinally spaced transverse partition panels 58 cooperate with a longitudinally extending partition panel 60 to form a plurality of egg receiving cells 61.

A plurality of pairs of identical egg retaining tabs 62 are formed in the egg carton 45 along the longitudinal fold lines 50 and 53. Each of the pair of egg retaining tabs 62 is identical, and the description of the egg re-

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taining tabs 62 along the first fold line 50 is considered sufficient for a complete understanding of this invention.

Each of the pairs of egg retaining tabs 62 along the first fold line 50 is formed from a first angular weakening line or line of severance 63 on one side of a substantially T-shaped cut line 64 and a second weakening line or line of severance 65 on an opposite side of the T-shaped cut line 64. The weakening lines 63 and 65, as well as the cut line 64 traverse the longitudinal fold line 50 and extend partially into the first cover panel 47 and the front panel 48. A first egg retaining tab 66 of each of the pair of egg retaining tabs 62 is set off by the angular weakening line 63 and the T-shaped cut line 64. A second egg retaining tab 67 of the pair of egg retaining tabs 62 is similarly set off by the T-shaped cut line 64 and an angular weakening line 65.

The plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 62 function in a manner identical to that heretofore described in connection with FIGURES 1 through 4 of the drawings. However, it should be noted that the T-shaped cut lines 64 permit the egg retaining tabs 66 and 67 to project inwardly into the egg receiving cells 61 of the egg carton 45 a greater amount than the inward projection of the egg retaining tabs 38, 40-42 of the egg carton 10.

Another egg carton 68 of FIGURES 10 and 11 is erected from a blank 70 (FIGURE 12) similar to the rectangular sheet material blank 11 of FIGURE 5. The egg carton 68 includes a first cover panel 71 joined to a front panel 72 along a first longitudinal fold line 73. A second cover panel 74 is joined along a second longitudinal fold line 75 to a rear panel 76 of the egg carton 68. A first locking panel 77 is joined to the first cover panel 71 along a third longitudinal fold line 78 while a second locking panel 80 is joined along a fourth longitudinal fold line 81 to the second cover panel 74. A plurality of transverse partition panels 82 (only one of which is illustrated) cooperate with a longitudinally extending partition panel 83 to divide the egg carton 68 into a plurality of egg receiving cells (unnumbered).

A plurality of pairs of identical egg retaining tabs 84 are formed along the first and second longitudinal fold lines 73 and 75 respectively. Since the pairs of egg retaining tabs 84 are identical, the egg retaining tabs 84 along the first longitudinal fold line 73 will be described immediately hereafter.

The plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 84 formed along the first longitudinal fold line 73 each include a first egg retaining tab 85 and a second egg retaining tab 86. The first egg retaining tab 85 is set off by an angular weakening line or line of partial severance 87 and a substantially I-shaped cut line 88. The partial line of severance or weakening line 87 and the I-shaped cut line 88 each traverse the first longitudinal fold line 73 and extend partially into the first cover panel 71 and the front panel 72, as is best illustrated in FIGURE 12 of the drawings. The second egg retaining tab 86 of each pair of egg retaining tabs 84 is set off by a second angular weakening line or partial line of severance 90 and the substantially I-shaped cut line 88.

As shown in FIGURE 10 of the drawings, the plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 84 project inwardly into the egg receiving cells (unnumbered) of the egg carton 68 in a manner identical to that heretofore described in the discussion of FIGURES 1 through 4 of the drawings. The automatic "popping" or inward projecting of the pairs of egg retaining tabs 84 form egg viewing openings O which are slightly larger than the egg viewing openings of the egg cartons 10 and 45 because of the I-shaped configuration of the cut lines 88. Each of the egg retaining tabs 85 and 86 also project into the egg receiving cells (unnumbered) of the egg carton 68 a greater amount than the egg retaining tabs of the egg cartons 10 and 45 because of the I-shaped cut lines 88. Otherwise, the construction and function of the plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 84 of the egg carton 68 are similar to the

operation and function of the egg retaining tabs 38, 40-42, 66 and 67.

An egg carton 91 of FIGURES 1 through 15 is erected from a substantially rectangular egg carton blank 92 (see FIGURE 16) which is substantially identical to the egg carton blanks 11, 46 and 70 of FIGURES 5, 9 and 12 respectively.

The egg carton 91 includes a first cover panel 93 secured to a front panel 94 along a first longitudinal fold line 95. A second cover panel 96 is joined to a rear panel 97 along a second longitudinal fold line 98. A first locking panel 100 is secured to the first cover panel 93 along a third longitudinal fold line 101. The second cover panel 96 is joined to a second locking panel 102 along a fourth longitudinal fold line 104. A plurality of transverse partitions 105 (only one of which is illustrated) cooperate with a longitudinal partition panel 106 to divide the egg carton 91 into a plurality of egg receiving cells 107 (FIGURE 15). A plurality of pairs of identical egg retaining tabs 108 are formed along the first and second longitudinal fold lines 95 and 98 respectively. The pairs of egg retaining tabs 108 are identical and therefore only the pairs of egg retaining tabs 108 formed along the first longitudinal fold line 95 will be described.

Each of the pairs of egg retaining tabs 108 along the longitudinal fold line 95 includes a first egg retaining tab 110 and a second egg retaining tab 111. The first egg retaining tab 110 is set off by a partial line of severance or weakening line 112 and a cut line 113. The angular weakening line 112 and the cut line 113 traverse the first longitudinal fold line 95 and extend partially into the first cover panel 93 and the front panel 94 of the egg carton 91. The cut line 113 includes a substantially Y-shaped cut portion 114 on each side of the longitudinal fold line 95. The second egg retaining tab 111 is set off by the cut line 113 and a second angular partial severance line or weakening line 115.

The plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 108 automatically project inwardly into the egg receiving cells 107 of the egg carton 91, as is best illustrated in FIGURES 14 and 15 of the drawings. These pairs of egg retaining tabs 108 operate in a manner identical to that heretofore described with respect to the egg carton 10 of FIGURES 1 through 4 of the drawings, and a further discussion of the operation of the pairs of egg retaining tabs 108 is deemed unnecessary for a complete understanding of this invention. The Y-shaped cut portions of the cut lines 113 do, however, provide larger viewing openings O than any of the viewing openings heretofore described, and also permit the egg retaining tabs 110 and 111 to project further inwardly into the egg receiving cells 107 of the egg carton 91 (see FIGURES 14 and 15).

An egg carton 116 of FIGURES 17 through 19 of the drawings is erected from a sheet material egg carton blank 117, substantially identical to the egg carton blanks heretofore described.

The egg carton 116 includes a first cover panel 118 joined to a front panel 120 along a first longitudinal fold line 121. A second cover panel 122 is joined to a rear panel 123 of the egg carton 116 along a second longitudinal fold line 124. A first locking panel 125 is integrally joined to the first cover panel 118 along a third longitudinal fold line 126. A second locking panel 127 is joined to the second cover panel 122 along a fourth longitudinal fold line 128. A plurality of longitudinally extending transverse partitions 130 (only one of which is illustrated) cooperate with a longitudinally extending partition panel 131 to divide the egg carton 116 into a plurality of egg-receiving cells (unnumbered).

A plurality of pairs of longitudinally extending egg retaining tabs 132 are formed in the egg carton 116 along each of the first, second, third and fourth longitudinal fold lines 121, 124, 126 and 128 respectively. Since each of the pairs of egg retaining tabs 132 is identical, the pair of egg retaining tabs 132 formed along

the first longitudinal fold line 121 will be described in detail.

The plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 132 along the first longitudinal fold line 121 of the egg carton 116 each includes a first egg retaining tab 133 and a second egg retaining tab 134. Each egg retaining tab 133 of the plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 132 is set off by an angular partial line of severance or weakening line 135 and a cut line 136. The weakening line of severance 135 and the cut line 136 traverse the first longitudinal fold line 121 and extend partially into the first cover panel 118 and the front panel 120 of the egg carton 116. Each of the second egg retaining tabs 134 of the plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 132 is set off by the cut line 136 and a second partial line of severance or weakening line 137 which similarly traverses the first longitudinal fold line 121 and extends into the first cover panel 118 and the front panel 120.

When the first cover panel 118 and the second cover panel 122 are folded to the closed positions thereof, the plurality of pairs of identical egg retaining tabs 132 "pop" or project inwardly (see FIGURE 18) in the manner heretofore described with respect to the egg carton 10 to form a plurality of egg viewing openings O. It will be noted by comparing FIGURES 1 and 3 with FIGURES 17 and 18 of the drawings, that the egg cartons 10 and 116 are substantially identical except for the plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 132 of the egg carton 116 arranged along the third longitudinal fold line 126 and the fourth longitudinal fold line 128 of the egg carton 116. Thus, the egg carton 116 will retain an egg more securely in each of the egg receiving cells thereof because of the additional pairs of egg retaining tabs 132 formed along the longitudinal fold lines 126 and 128. These additional plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 132 along the longitudinal fold lines 126 and 128 additionally allow an egg in each of the egg receiving cells of the egg carton 116 to be viewed from two different angles. Other than these noted differences, the plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 132 along the longitudinal fold lines 121, 124, 126 and 128 of the egg carton 116 function in a manner identical to the manner heretofore described in the consideration of the egg carton 10 of FIGURES 1 through 4 of the drawings, and a further discussion of this operation in deemed unnecessary for an understanding of this invention.

Another egg carton constructed in accordance with this invention is illustrated in FIGURES 21 through 24 of the drawings and is generally designated by the reference numeral 140. The egg carton 140 of FIGURES 21 through 24 is constructed from a substantially rectangular sheet material blank 141 which is similar to the egg carton blank of FIGURES 5, 9, 12, 16 and 20 of the drawings.

The egg carton 140 includes a cover panel 142 secured to a rear panel 143 along a longitudinal fold line 144. A front panel 145 of the egg carton 140 is secured by an interrupted fold line 146 (see FIGURE 25) to an attaching panel 147. A plurality of hook-receiving attaching slots 148 are formed in the attaching panel 147. Each of the hook-receiving attaching slots 148 cooperates with an associated hook 150 of the cover panel 142 for securing the cover panel 142 in the closed position thereof, as is best illustrated in FIGURES 21 and 23 of the drawings.

A plurality of longitudinally spaced transverse partition panels 151 cooperate with a longitudinal partition panel 152 to divide the egg carton 140 into a plurality of egg receiving cells 153.

A plurality of pairs of identical egg retaining tabs 154 are formed along the longitudinal fold line 144 of the egg carton 140. As is best illustrated in FIGURES 22 and 25 of the drawings, each of the pairs of egg retaining tabs 154 includes a first egg retaining tab 155 and a second egg retaining tab 156. The first egg retaining tab 155 is bounded by a partial line of severance or weakening line

157 and a cut line 158. The weakening line 157 and the cut line 158 extend across the longitudinal fold line 144 partially into the cover panel 142 and the rear panel 143. The second egg retaining tab 156 of each of the plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 154 is set off by the cut line 158 and an associated partial severance line or weakening line 160. The weakening line 160 similarly traverses the longitudinal fold line 144 and terminates at the cut line 158 in both the cover panel 142 and the rear panel 143 of the egg carton 140. When the cover panel 142 is folded about the longitudinal fold line 144 toward the closed position thereof (see FIGURE 22) the plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 154 automatically "pop" or project inwardly toward a respective one of the plurality of egg receiving cells 153. The inward projecting pairs of egg retaining tabs 154 retain an egg in each of the egg receiving cells 153 just as the eggs E are retained in the egg receiving cells 31 of the egg carton 10 of FIGURES 1 through 4 of the drawings. The plurality of pairs of egg retaining tabs 154 also form a plurality of egg viewing openings 0 (see FIGURE 24) through which the condition of the eggs in the egg receiving cells 153 adjacent the longitudinal fold line 144 can be readily observed.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that novel and advantageous provision has been made for carrying out the desired end. However, attention is directed to the fact that variations may be made in the plurality of different egg retaining tabs of the example egg cartons disclosed herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In containers of the type including an article compartment and at least first and second panels joined to each other along a fold line, the improvement comprising a tab formed from and normally coplanar with the first and second panels, said tab being defined by a cut line and a line which is weaker than the material of either of the panels, said cut line being located in the first panel and extending at least slightly across the fold line into the second panel, and said weakening line being spaced to one side of said cut line and being located in both of said panels and extending across said fold line, said weakening line terminating at said cut line in both the first and second panels, said weakening line defining means for permitting the automatic projection of said tab from the normal coplanar position thereof into said article compartment upon the folding of said first panel relative to said second panel about said fold line in a first direction, and said weakening line also defining means for preventing the projection of said tab of the coplanar relationship thereof with said first and second panels upon the folding of said first panel relative to said second panel about said fold line in a second direction opposite to said first direction.

2. A carton constructed from resilient sheet material comprising a front panel, a bottom panel, a rear panel, a cover panel joined to the rear panel along a longitudinal fold line, a longitudinal partition panel between the front and rear panels, a plurality of longitudinally spaced transverse partition panels between the front and rear panels cooperating with the longitudinal partition panel to form a plurality of article receiving cells, a pair of tabs adapted to project into at least one of the plurality of article receiving cells, the pair of tabs being normally coplanar with said cover and rear panels, the pair of tabs being defined by a cut line and a line of resilience on opposite sides of the cut line, the line of resilience being greater than the resilience of the sheet material, said cut line being located in the cover panel and extending at least slightly across the longitudinal fold line into the rear panel, each line of resilience being generally spaced from the cut line and terminating at the cut line both in the cover and rear panels of the carton said line of resilience defining means for permitting the automatic projection of said tab from the normal coplanar position thereof into associated ones of said article receiving cells upon the folding of said cover

panel relative to said rear panel about said longitudinal fold line in a first direction, and said line of resilience also defining means for preventing the projection of said tabs out of the coplanar relationship thereof with said rear and cover panels upon the folding of said cover panel relative to said rear panel about said longitudinal fold line in a second direction opposite to said first direction.

3. A carton constructed from resilient sheet material comprising a front panel, a bottom panel, a rear panel, a cover panel joined to the rear panel along a longitudinal fold line, a longitudinal partition panel between the front and rear panels, a plurality of longitudinally spaced transverse partition panels between the front and rear panels cooperating with the longitudinal partition panel to form a plurality of article receiving cells, a tab normally coplanar with said cover and rear panels adapted to automatically project into at least one of the plurality of article receiving cells, the tab being defined by a cut line and a line of resilience which is greater than the resilience of the sheet material, said cut line being located in the cover panel and extending at least slightly across the longitudinal fold line into the rear panel, said line of resilience being generally spaced from the cut line and terminating at the cut line both in the cover and rear panels of the carton said line of resilience defining means for permitting the automatic projection of said tab from the normal coplanar position thereof into said at least one article receiving cell upon the folding of said cover panel relative to said rear panel about said longitudinal fold line in a first direction, and said line of resilience also defining means for preventing the projection of said tab out of the coplanar relationship thereof with said rear and cover panels upon the folding of said cover panel relative to said rear panel about said longitudinal fold line in a second direction opposite to said first direction.

4. In containers of the type including at least an article receiving cell and first and second panels joined to each other along a fold line, the improvement comprising a tab formed from the first and second panels, said tab being normally coplanar with said first and second panels, said tab being defined by a cut line and a line which is weaker than the material of either of the panels, said cut line being located in the first panel and extending at least slightly across the fold line into the second panel, said weaker line being generally spaced from the cut line and terminating at the cut line both in the first panel and in the second panel, said weaker line defining means for permitting the automatic projection of said tab from the normal coplanar position thereof into said article receiving cell upon the folding of said first panel relative to said second panel about said fold line in a first direction, and said weaker line also defining means for preventing the projection of said tab out of the coplanar relationship thereof with said first and second panels upon the folding of said first panel relative to said second panel about said fold line in a second direction opposite to said first direction.

5. The carton as defined in claim 2 wherein said weaker line is a line of partial severance located only in an external surface of the first and second panels.

6. The carton as defined in claim 4 wherein said cut line is normal to said fold line.

7. The carton as defined in claim 4 wherein said cut line is substantially T-shaped.

8. The carton as defined in claim 4 wherein said cut line is substantially I-shaped.

9. The carton as defined in claim 4 wherein said cut line includes a substantially Y-shaped cut portion.

10. A carton comprising a front panel, a bottom panel, a rear panel, a first cover panel joined to the front panel along a first longitudinal fold line, a second cover panel joined to the rear panel along a second longitudinal fold line, a first cover locking panel joined to the first cover panel along a third longitudinal fold line, a second cover locking panel joined to the second cover panel

along a fourth longitudinal fold line, a longitudinal partition panel between the front and rear panels, a plurality of longitudinally spaced transverse partition panels between the front and rear panels cooperating with the longitudinal partition panel to form a plurality of article receiving cells, a pair of tabs projecting into each of the plurality of article receiving cells along each of the longitudinal fold lines, each pair of tabs being defined by a cut line traversing a longitudinal fold line and a weakening line on opposite sides of the cut line, each weakening line terminating at the cut line on opposite sides of the longitudinal fold line, said tabs being normally coplanar with the panels from which they are formed, each of said weakening lines defining means for permitting the automatic projection of said tabs from the normal coplanar position thereof into associated ones of said article receiving cells upon the folding of selected ones of said panels relative to adjacent ones of said panels about associated longitudinal fold lines in a first direction, and each of said weakening lines further defining means for preventing the projection of said tabs out of the coplanar relationship thereof with said panels from which said tabs are formed upon the folding of said selected ones of said panels relative to said adjacent ones of said panels about said associated fold lines in a second direction opposite to said first direction.

11. A carton comprising a front panel, a bottom panel, a rear panel, a cover panel joined to the rear panel along a first longitudinal fold line, a cover locking panel joined to the cover panel along a second longitudinal fold line, the cover locking panel including a plurality of locking hooks, an attaching panel joined to the front panel along a third longitudinal fold line and including a plurality of locking slots adapted to receive the locking hooks of the cover locking panel, a longitudinal partition panel between the front and rear panels, a plurality of longitudinally spaced transverse partition panels between the front and rear panels cooperating with the longitudinal

partition panel to form a plurality of article receiving cells, a pair of tabs projecting into each of the plurality of article receiving cells along the first longitudinal fold line, each pair of tabs being defined by a cut line normally trans-
5 versing the first longitudinal fold line, a weakening line on opposite sides of the cut line, each weakening line terminating at the cut line on opposite sides of the first longitudinal fold line in the cover and rear panels said tabs being normally coplanar with the panels from which they
10 are formed, each of said weakening lines defining means for permitting the automatic projection of said tabs from the normal coplanar position thereof into associated ones of said article receiving cells upon the folding of selected
15 ones of said panels relative to adjacent ones of said panels about associated longitudinal fold lines in a first direction, and each of said weakening lines further defining means for preventing the projection of said tabs out of the coplanar relationship thereof with said panels from which
20 said tabs are formed upon the folding of said selected ones of said panels relative to said adjacent ones of said panels about said associated fold lines in a second direction opposite to said first direction.

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