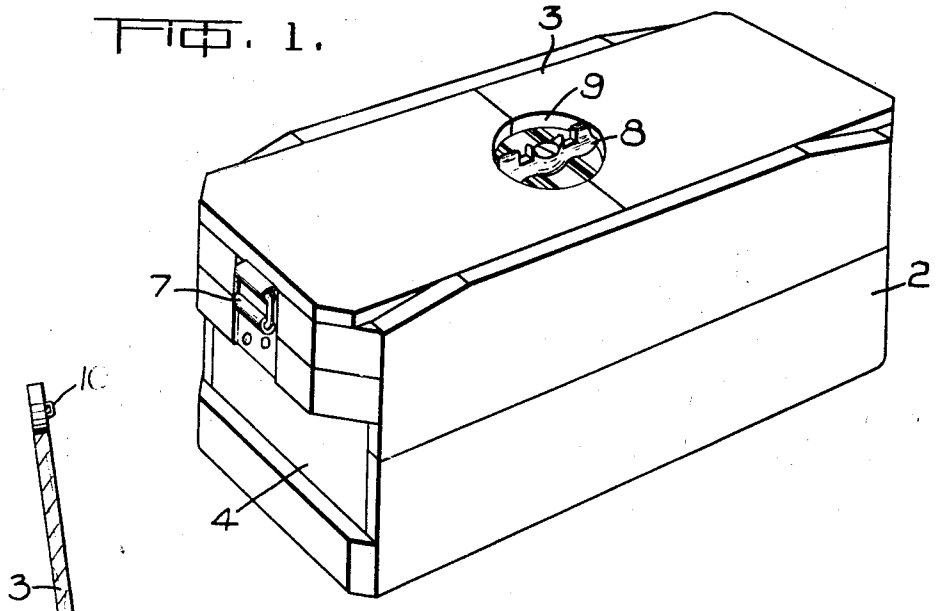
July 4, 1933. W. SHELBY 1,916,642

EGG CRATE

Filed April 18, 1932

FIG. 1.



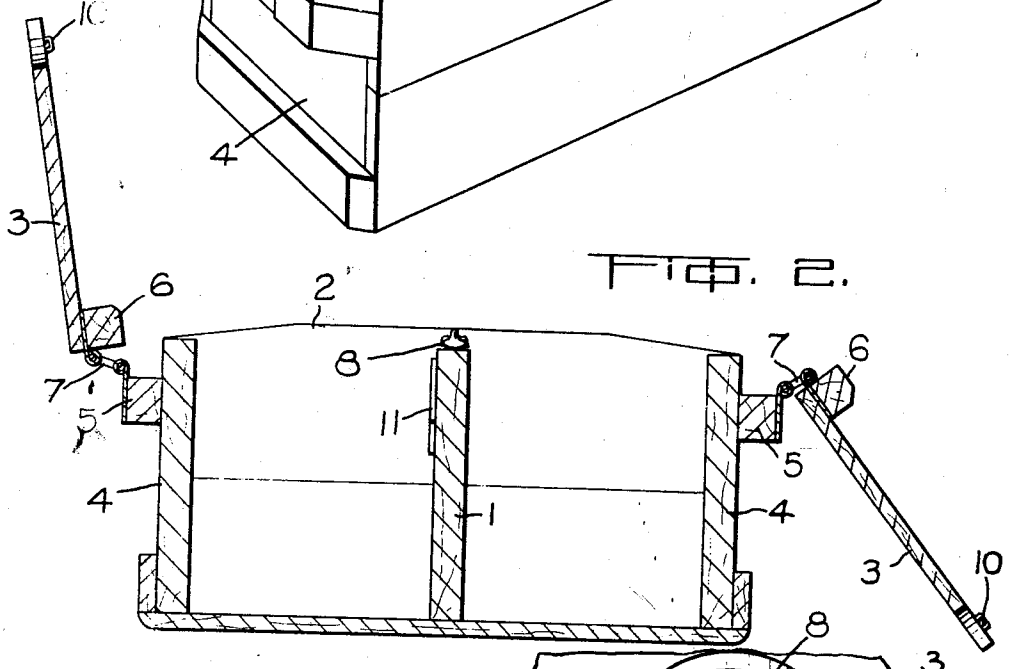


FIG. 2.

FIG. 4.

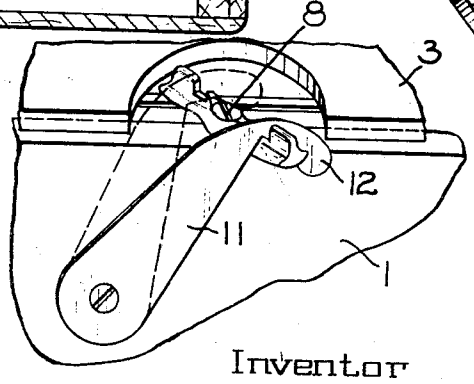
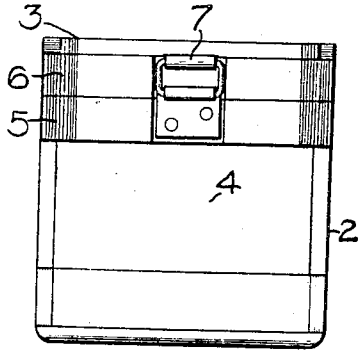


FIG. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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EGG CRATE

Application filed April 18, 1932. Serial No. 606,019.

My invention relates to improvements in egg crates, and the object of the invention is to produce a crate comprising a pair of egg trays receiving compartments formed by a transverse partition extending across the centre of the crate and to utilize the top of such partition as a support for a pair of lid members which are hinged to the ends of the crate.

A further object of my invention is to furnish the top of the partition with a lock member which is contained within cut away portions in the edges of the lid members and is positioned below the level of the upper faces of such lid members when they are closed.

Another object of my invention is to secure the lid portions to the crate by means of link hinges which are secured to and extend from projecting shoulder portions which extend along the upper edges of the outer faces of the ends of the crate, and a still further object of my invention is to furnish a means for retaining the lock against accidental displacement.

My invention consists of an egg crate all as hereinafter more particularly described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my crate.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical cross sectional view through my crate, the lids being shown open.

Fig. 3 is an end view of my crate, and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of enlarged fragmentary portions of the partition and one lid member, the lock between the partition and lid member being shown.

Like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in each figure in the drawing.

My crate, as illustrated in the drawing, is of rectangular form and furnished with a central transverse partition 1, the sides 2 of the crate being of greater height than the top of the partition 1 so that when the lid members 3 are closed to rest upon the top of the partition, they are positioned between the top portions of the sides 2. The distance between the top of the partition 1 and the top of the sides 2 is substantially equal to the thickness of the lid members 3 so that they lie flush with the side tops.

In the vicinity of the upper edges of the outer faces of the crate ends 4, I furnish a pair of horizontally projecting shoulders 5 which extend across such faces to provide a hand grip means by which the crate can be readily lifted.

The outer ends of the lower faces of the lid members which project beyond the ends of the crate are furnished with downwardly projecting shoulders 6 which are positioned above the shoulders 5 when the lid members are closed. The shoulders 5 and 6 are connected by link hinges 7 which permit the lid members to swing away from the crate ends when they are opened, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

For retaining the lid members 3 in their closed position, I provide a swingable latch 8 pivotally secured to the top of the partition 1 in the vicinity of the centre thereof. The latch is contained within cut away portions 9 in the abutting edges of the lid members 3, such cut away portions forming a circular orifice in which the latch can be rotated. To form a locking engagement between the latch and the lid, bars 10 are secured to the under-faces of the lid members and extend across the cut away portions 9 and lie in substantially parallel relation to the partition 1. When the latch is rotated to a position lying along the top of the partition, as illustrated in Fig. 2, the lid members can be opened by the insertion of a finger into the cut away portions, and the lid members are locked in position when the latch is turned to a position extending crosswise of the partition wherein it extends over the bars 10 as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 4.

In cases where it is desirable to retain the latch 8 against accidental rotation whereby it might permit the lid members 3 to become accidentally opened, I furnish a hook 11 which is pivotally secured to one side of the transverse partition 1 and have its hooked upper end 12 detachably engage the latch when such lath is in the locked position. When the upper end 12 of the hook is in engagement with the latch, the latch is held

against rotation. When the hook is, however, manually swung into the position illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 4, it is clear of the latch thus permitting the latch to move into the position illustrated in Fig. 2.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that I have constructed a sturdy and yet simple type of egg crate which can be cheaply manufactured and which will withstand abusive use. Furthermore, by my construction, I have eliminated all projecting parts upon the crate so that crates can be readily positioned side by side within a minimum space and readily slid one on top of the other. Also by the provision of the link hinges 7 secured to the shoulders 5, I have provided a construction in which the lid members 3, when opened, swing entirely away from the open top of the crate to permit the ready removal of the egg trays, and although I have shown and described a particular embodiment of my invention it is to be understood that I can, from time to time, make such changes and alterations as I may deem desirable without departing from the spirit of my invention as set forth in the appended claims.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. In an egg crate, a transverse partition contained within the crate and having its upper edge at a lower level than the upper edges of the sides of the crate, a pair of lid members hinged to the ends of the crate and adapted to lie between the inner faces of the sides of the crate and supported by the partition, and a lock for the lid members carried by the partition and positioned below the level of the upper faces of the closed lid members.

2. In an egg crate, a transverse partition contained within the crate and having its upper edge at a lower level than the upper edges of the sides of the crate, a pair of lid members hinged to the ends of the crate and adapted to lie between the inner faces of the sides of the crate and having their edges opposite to the hinged edges supported by the top of the partition, a swingable lock member supported by the partition and contained within cut away portions in the free ends of the lid members, and means on the lid members extending across the cut away portions and with which the lock member engages.

3. In an egg crate, a transverse partition contained within the crate and having its upper edge at a lower level than the upper edges of the sides of the crate, a pair of lid members hinged to the ends of the crate and adapted to lie between the inner faces of the sides of the crate and having their edges opposite to the hinged edges supported by the top of the partition, a swingable lock member supported by the partition and contained within cut away portions in the free ends of the lid members, and bars secured underneath the lid members to extend across the cut away portions and with which the lock member engages.

4. In an egg crate, a transverse partition contained within the crate and having its upper edge at a lower level than the upper edges of the sides of the crate, a pair of lid members hinged to the ends of the crate and adapted to lie between the inner faces of the sides of the crate and having their edges opposite to the hinged edges supported by the top of the partition, a horizontally projecting shoulder portion extending across the outer face of each end of the crate in the vicinity of its upper edge, downwardly projecting shoulders formed upon the outer ends of the lower faces of the lid members and positioned above the crate end shoulder portions, and hinges extending between the crate end shoulder and the lid shoulders.

5. In an egg crate, a transverse partition contained within the crate and having its upper edge at a lower level than the upper edges of the sides of the crate, a pair of lid members hinged to the ends of the crate and adapted to lie between the inner faces of the sides of the crate and having their edges opposite to the hinged edges supported by the top of the partition, a horizontally projecting shoulder portion extending across the outer face of each end of the crate in the vicinity of its upper edge, downwardly projecting shoulders formed upon the outer ends of the lower faces of the lid members and positioned above the crate end shoulder portions, a horizontally rotatable lock member supported by the partition and contained within cut away portions in the free ends of the lid members, and means on the lid members extending across the cut away portions and with which the lock member engages.

6. In an egg crate, a transverse partition contained within the crate and having its upper edge at a lower level than the upper edges of the sides of the crate, a pair of lid members hinged to the ends of the crate and having their edges opposite to the hinged edges supported by the partition, a rotatable latch pivoted upon the top of the partition and contained within cut away portions in the free ends of the lid members, means on the lid members extending across the cut away portions and over which the latch can extend, and a hook member pivotally mounted upon the side of the partition and adapted to detachably hook over the latch to retain it against rotation.

WILLIAM SHELBY