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CONTAINER FOR CUT FLOWERS

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Fig. 1.

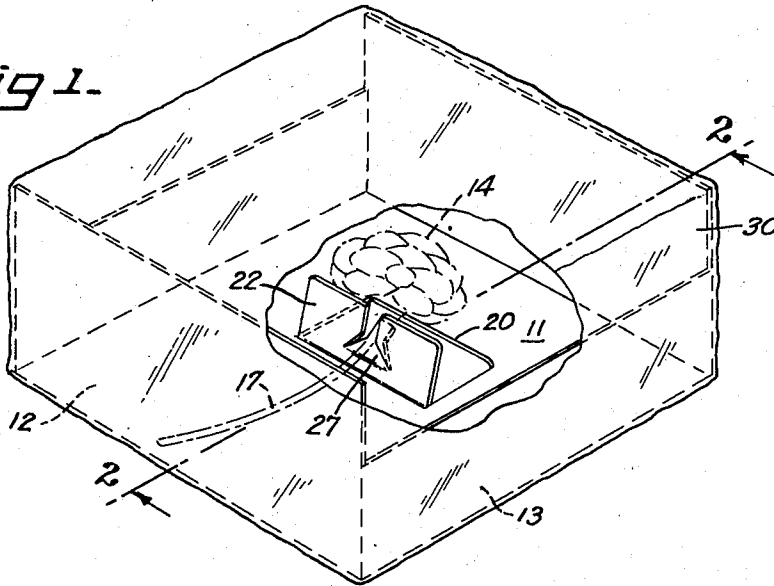


Fig. 2.

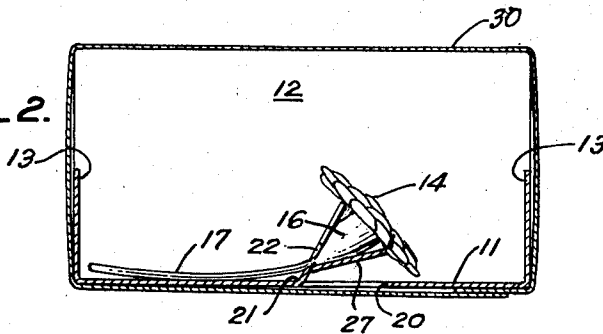
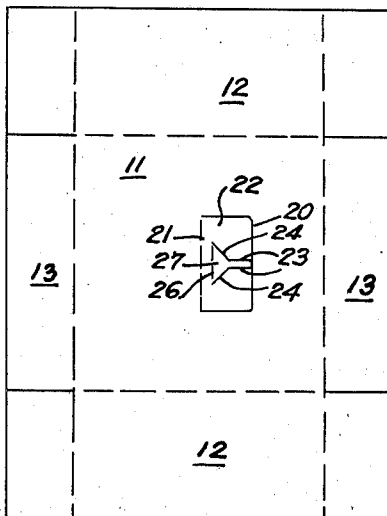


Fig. 3.

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CONTAINER FOR CUT FLOWERS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 206—45.14)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in containers for cut flowers.

One object of this invention is to provide a holder for a flower associated with a box, the holder being arranged to retain the flower in position within the box so that the petals of the flower are not damaged by touching the walls of the box, and the flower cannot shift position within the box.

Another object of the invention is to provide a box which will display a flower advantageously from the standpoint of sales appeal.

A further object of the invention is to provide a box in which a flower may be rapidly and positively inserted to be securely held in position and without danger of damaging the flower either while inserting or removing it from the box.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a means associated with a box for holding a flower therewithin which is integral with the box itself and does not require the use of a separate tray or false bottom as is commonly employed in conventional cut flower boxes.

Further objects of the present invention will become apparent upon reading the following specification and referring to the accompanying drawings in which similar characters of reference represent corresponding parts in each of the several views.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a box partially broken away;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of a blank for a box.

It is common practice to sell gardenias and other fresh cut flowers which are relatively fragile and expensive in individual boxes so that the flowers may be displayed advantageously, and for the further reason that by using such an individual box the possibility of damage to the bloom is reduced. At the present time a tray or false bottom is inserted in the box, and a star-shaped hole punched in the false bottom through which the stem of the flower may be laced. This type of box presents the possibility of damage to the stem or petals during insertion and removal of the stem from the hole and requires time of the florist or nurseryman in performing the necessary manual operations of lacing the stem through the hole. The box is also more costly than that contemplated in the present invention because of the extra material required for the tray.

The present invention employs a tab formed integral with the bottom of the box and posi-

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tioned extending interiorly, the tab having a slit to receive the stem and/or calyx of the blossom to support the bloom.

Although the invention is adapted for use in any type of box suitable for cut flowers, it is particularly useful in connection with folding boxes since the slits and score lines which form the interiorly projecting tab may be formed with the same die which blanks out the box itself; however, a separate die may be used to convert a standard box to the principles of the present invention. The invention is adaptable for use in connection with boxes which are machine assembled, for example, such as those described in U. S. Patent No. 2,366,419.

As shown in the accompanying drawings, a conventional flower box consists of a bottom 11, upstanding sides 12 and ends 13 made of cardboard or other suitable material and dimensioned to receive and enclose a flower 14 having a calyx 16 and stem 17. In the bottom of the box a U-shaped cut line 20 is formed, the die cutting through the thickness of the material of which the box is formed, and a score or fold line 21 is formed joining the ends of the arms of the U-shaped cut, thus forming a tab 22 which may be bent along line 21 so as to project interiorly of the box and disposed at an angle with respect to the bottom. Projecting inwardly from the edge of the tab 22 which is the base of the U is a pair of parallel cut lines 23 spaced apart a distance about equal to that of flower stem 17. The lines 23 extend inwardly for about 1/2 inch and then diverge outwardly as is shown by reference numerals 24. A score or fold line 26 parallel to line 21 and spaced inwardly of the tab joins the extremities of lines 24. The space between the lines 24 receive the calyx 16 of the flower. The portion 27 of the tab 22 defined by the lines 26, 24, 23 and 20 may be discarded or, if desired, form a supporting platform for the flower, as is shown particularly in Fig. 2, to aid in supporting the bloom above the bottom of the box so that the petals do not come in contact with any part of the box and hence are not damaged.

Thus, after the box is formed, the florist pushes the tab 22 into the box, bending the tab back along score line 21. The stem of the flower is then inserted in the slot between parallel cut lines 23 in a single vertical motion, the calyx of the flower resting in the space between the flaring lines 24, the flower being supported by the portion 27 so that the petals do not come in contact with the bottom 11, sides 12 or ends 13.

It will, of course, be understood that, although

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as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, a single tab 22 is formed in the box, a plurality of tabs might similarly be formed so that the box could support a plurality of flowers, each of the flowers preferably being supported so as to be elevated from the bottom of the box and separated one from the other.

It will further be understood that cellophane 30 or similar transparent material may be used to envelop the exterior of the box so that the flower is protected from the elements and handling, and if such a cellophane envelope is employed, it is desirable, normally, that it be brought around the bottom of the box so as to close off the hole left by the bending upward of the tab 22.

Although I have described my invention in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it is understood that certain changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention or scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A cut flower box in which one wall of the box is provided with a tab, said tab being arranged to be bent with respect to said wall to extend interiorly of the box, said tab having a narrow slot extending inwardly from one edge thereof and arranged to receive the stem of a flower, said tab being associated with the bottom wall of the box and a support member provided on said tab and arranged to extend therefrom

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substantially parallel to the bottom of said box and in the plane of said slot when said tab is extended interiorly of said box to support the underside of a flower.

2. A cut flower box in which the bottom forming wall of the box is cut to form a tab, said tab being arranged to be bent with respect to said wall to extend interiorly of the box, said tab having a slot extending inwardly from one edge of said tab and open at said edge, said slot being narrow adjacent said edge and arranged to receive the stem of a flower and having straight side protrusions dividing to a greater width remote from said edge to form a triangular cut-out arranged to receive the calyx of a flower, and a support platform carried by said tab and arranged to extend therefrom at an angle oblique to said tab and in the plane of said slot when said tab is extended interiorly of said box to support the underside of a flower.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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