Oct. 21, 1930. R. CHOATE 1,779,060

CARRIER FOR CONTAINERS

Filed Dec. 2, 1929

Fig. 1.

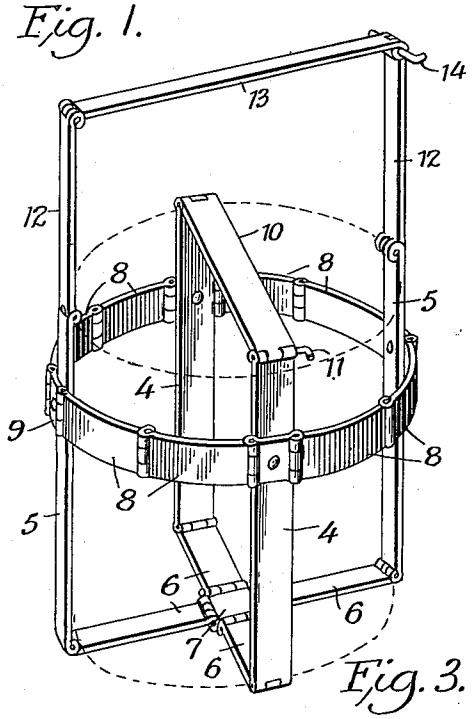


Fig. 2.

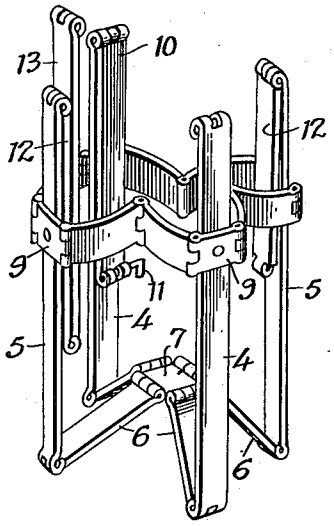
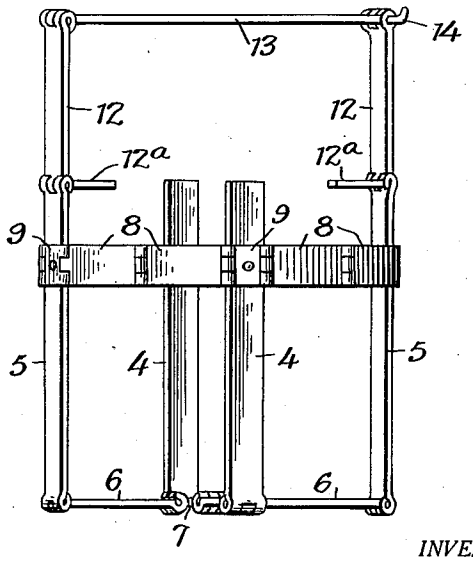


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR.

Rufus Choate,

BY Dowell and Dowell

ATTORNEY.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

RUFUS CHOATE, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CARRIER FOR CONTAINERS

Application filed December 2, 1929. Serial No. 411,162.

This invention relates to container carrier-devices and aims to provide a novel carrier designed especially for the conventional paper containers used so generally in transporting liquid food-stuffs from lunch counters and beverage fountains.

The invention will be best understood by description with reference to the accompanying drawings illustrating one practicable embodiment thereof.

In said drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device opened out for carriage of a container indicated in dotted lines;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device as partially collapsed to fit the pocket; and

Fig. 3 illustrates a modification of the device.

The illustrative device comprises a number of flat metal strips hinged together in a particular relation providing a skeleton-like structure into which a container may slidably fit and be held firmly with lid or cover pressed down tightly in place. The main structure pieces are represented by oppositely paired vertical side strips 4 and 5 in this instance spaced equally apart on the four points of a circle.

These strips have hinge connections at their lower ends with the ends of horizontal bottom strips 6, which latter have like connection at opposite ends respectively with a center base-plate 7 wherefrom they extend radially.

Girding said vertical side strips together intermediate their ends are segmental or arcuate strips 8 shown hinged horizontally to the strip sides by plates 9 riveted to the latter. These girding strips are formed in two pieces hinged together at the center so as to flex or fold inward for collapsing the device as will be described presently.

Hinged to the upper end of one of the pair of side strips 4 is a cross-strip 10 adapted to engage the other of said pair by a releasable fastening in this instance provided by a pin 11 connecting them in hinge fashion. This cross-piece serves to prevent withdrawal or slipping out of a container placed in the carrier, even if the latter should be turned upside down and advantageously presses upon the container top for holding it secure against leakage.

Hinged to the upper ends of each of the pair of strips 5 are extension strips 12 to one of which is hinged a cross-strip 13 adapted to engage the other by a releasable fastening shown provided by a pin 14 connecting them similarly to the aforesaid pin 11 and thereby providing a handle for the carrier device.

This device shown opened out in Fig. 1 to receive a container may be collapsed to compact size when not in use by flexing the girder strips and pressing the bottom piece inward as represented in Fig. 2 so that the vertical side strips will be drawn close together toward a center axis. Before so doing however, the two cross-strip fastenings should be released by partially withdrawing the pins 11 and 14 and folding the hinged parts against their respective side strips as shown in said Fig. 2.

In the modification of Fig. 3, the cross-piece 10 is omitted and its purpose served by lugs or angular projections 12^a on the extension strips 12. These lugs or projections are adapted to rest or press on the top of the container when said extensions are connected by the cross-strip or handle 13 as will be obvious.

A novel and convenient carrier is thus provided according to the size of containers to be accommodated. While designed especially for paper or fibre-board containers so universally used in dispensing food-stuffs to be carried away by purchasers, it may of course be adapted to other containers or articles as well. When made from thin strips of metal, it will be very light and its simplicity of construction enables it to be made at very little cost, especially in large quantities.

As various modifications with changes in form and connection of parts may be made without departing from the scope of the invention, it is not intended to limit the same by the appended claims to the specific construction shown in the drawings.

Having thus described my invention, what

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A container carrying device comprising oppositely paired vertical side strips of metal spaced equally apart on four points of a circle; bottom strips hinged to the lower ends of said side strips and having hinge connection with a central base-plate from which they radially extend; arcuate strips hinged to said side strips in girding horizontal extension therearound and embodying two parts each hinged together between the side strips they respectively connect; a cross-piece hinged to one of the side strips and releasably engageable with another apart therefrom; extension strips hinged to other diametrically opposed side strips; and another cross-strip hinged to one of said extension strips and releasably engageable with the other to provide a handle.

2. A carrier device comprising a base-plate having hinge connection with a plurality of bottom strips extending radially therefrom; side strips hinged to and extending vertically upward from said bottom strips; arcuate strips hinged to the side strips in girding horizontal extension therearound and respectively embodying two parts hinged together between said side strips; a cross-strip hinged to one of the side strips and releasably engageable with another diametrically opposite; extension strips hinged to other diametrically opposite side strips; and another cross-strip hinged to one of said extension strips and releasably engageable with the other to provide a handle.

3. A collapsible container carrier comprising side-member strips of metal; bottom-member strips hinged thereto and to a base-plate from which they extend radially to allow inward movement of the latter; a girding member extending circumferentially around the side members and embodying a plurality of arcuate pieces hinged together at opposite edges of and intermediately between said side members so as to flex inward; and a handle-member folding against one of the side-members.

4. In a collapsible container carrier according to the preceding claim; means for holding a container firmly therein when opened up to receive it.

5. In a collapsible container carrier according to claim 3; means pressing upon the top of a container placed therein for holding the latter firmly against slide movement and leakage if overturned or even inverted.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

RUFUS CHOATE.