

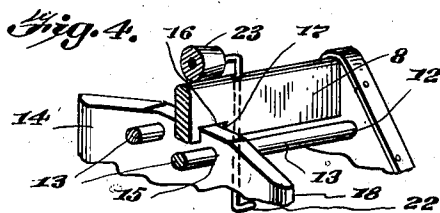
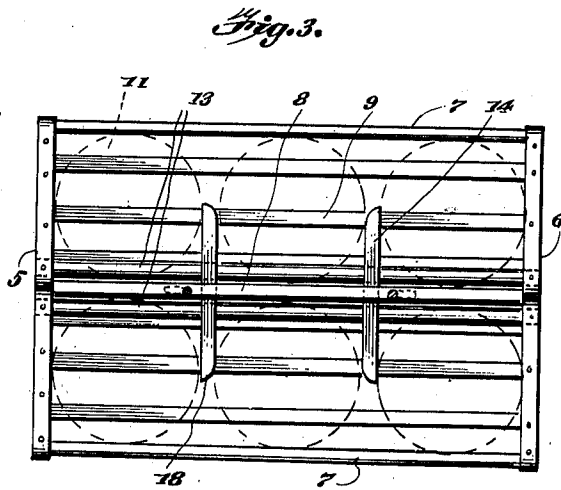
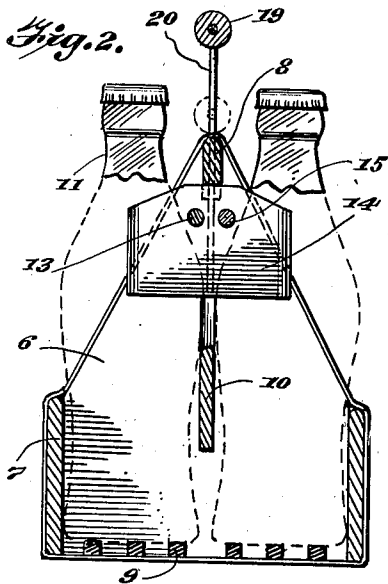
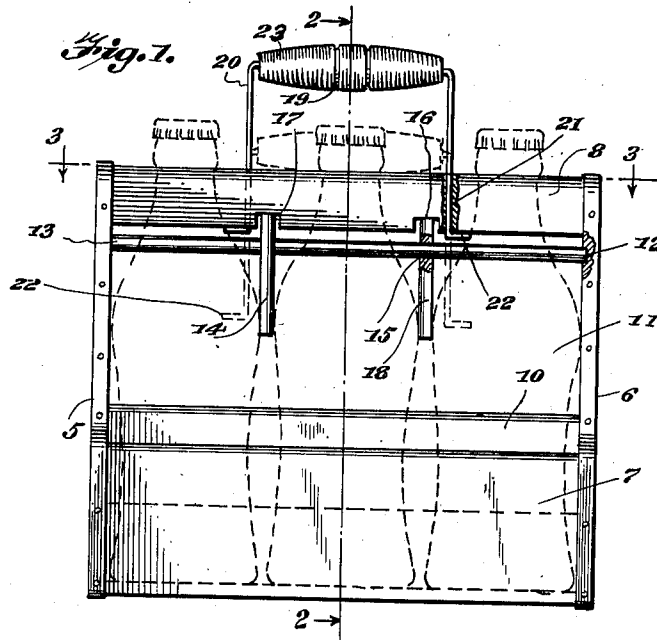
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E. W. HUTCHINGS

2,334,197

BOTTLE CARRIER AND SEPARATOR THEREFOR

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Inventor
EDWARD W. HUTCHINGS

By *Lacey & Lacey*
Attorneys

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2,334,197

BOTTLE CARRIER AND SEPARATOR
THEREFOR

Edward W. Hutchings, Perry, Fla.

Application December 9, 1941, Serial No. 422,285

4 Claims. (Cl. 224-48)

This invention relates to bottle carriers of that general class shown and described in my pending application filed in the United States Patent Office on the 31st day of October, 1941, under Serial No. 417,408, the present invention being an improvement thereon.

The object of the invention is generally to improve the construction of the carrier and to increase its usefulness and efficiency by providing improved means for separating the bottles and preventing scuffing or breakage thereof either when carrying filled bottles or when returning empties.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bottle carrier which will permit loading of the bottles while in a perpendicular position instead of when tilted or canted, thereby to facilitate and expedite the loading operation.

A further object is to provide the carrier with spaced depending separator plates or fillers adjustable laterally with respect to the stationary supporting handle to accommodate different size bottles and also to permit said plates to firmly contact the walls of adjacent bottles so as to prevent scuffing or rattling thereof during transportation.

A further object is to mount the separator plates on spaced horizontal rods with the upper ends of the plates fitted in recesses in the stationary supporting handle, the opposite side walls of said recesses forming stops for limiting the lateral movement of the separator plates.

Further objects and advantages will appear in the following specification.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a bottle carrier constructed in accordance with the present invention,

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 2-2 of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 3-3 of Figure 1, and

Figure 4 is a detail perspective view, partly in section, showing the manner of mounting the separator plates or fillers in position on the carrier.

The improved bottle carrier is preferably substantially triangular in shape and constructed of wood or other suitable material, said carrier comprising oppositely disposed end walls 5 and 6 connected at their lower ends by side walls 7 and at their upper ends by a horizontal bar 8 constituting a stationary carrying handle.

The carrier is provided with a bottom formed of spaced strips 9 and disposed within the body

of the carrier centrally thereof is a longitudinal partition 10 defining independent compartments each adapted to receive a row of bottles, indicated at 11. The carrier may be constructed to hold any desired number of bottles and for purpose of illustration is shown supporting six of said bottles.

Disposed beneath the stationary carrying handle 8 and fitted in sockets 12 in the adjacent end walls of the carrier are spaced longitudinally disposed rods 13 preferably circular in cross section and formed of wood, metal or other suitable material.

Associated with the carrier are a plurality of separator plates or fillers 14 having spaced openings 15 formed therein and through which the rods 13 extend for the purpose of supporting the separator plates in vertical position and preventing tilting or rotating movement thereof. Formed in the lower longitudinal edge of the stationary handle 8 are spaced recesses 16 adapted to receive the upper edges of the separator plates 14. The width of the recesses 16 is preferably slightly greater than the thickness of the separator plates so as to permit slight lateral movement of said plates on the rods 13 to accommodate bottles of different sizes, the opposite end walls of the recesses 16 constituting stops 17 which serve to limit the lateral movement of the separator plates. It will thus be seen that the rods 13 prevent tilting or rotative movement of the separator plates with respect to the stationary handle while the stops 17 serve to limit sliding movement of the separator plates on said rods. The inner faces of adjacent separator plates 14 are preferably inclined or beveled at 18 to facilitate insertion and removal of the center bottle in each row.

Slidably mounted for vertical movement on the stationary handle or bar 8 is an auxiliary or movable handle 19 comprising an inverted substantially U-shaped member, the opposite legs 20 of which extend through vertical openings 21 in the bar 8 and between the rods 13 and are provided with terminal stop fingers 22 which by engagement with the lower edge of the bar 8 serve to limit the upward movement of the auxiliary handle.

The hand grip 23 of the auxiliary handle normally rests on the upper edge of the stationary handle or bar 8, as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 1 of the drawing, and when it is desired to transport a case filled with bottles, the handle is moved upwardly to the elevated position shown in full lines in Figure 1 of the drawing so as to

permit the handle 23 to be conveniently grasped for carrying purposes.

In loading the carrier, the bottles are held in a perpendicular or upright position and inserted within the carrier. As the end bottles come in contact with the adjacent separator plates, they will shift said plates laterally to a slight degree so as to accommodate said bottles. By then inserting the central bottle of each row within the carrier, the exterior walls of said central bottles will engage the separator plates and force said plates laterally in a reverse direction thereby causing the opposite faces of the separator plates to firmly grip the bottles and not only hold said bottles in spaced separated relation to each other but also prevent scuffing and rattling of the bottles either when transporting filled bottles or returning empty bottles to the vendor. The inclined or beveled edges 18 of the separator plates serve to guide the central bottles in position within the carrier, as will be readily understood. After the contents of the bottles have been consumed, the purchaser may reload the carrier with empty bottles in the manner before described and conveniently carry the empty bottles back to the vendor without danger of scuffing or breaking the same.

It will thus be seen that there is provided a wooden carton which can be used over and over again for an indefinite period and which can be loaded more quickly and easily than a paper or fiber carton.

Inasmuch as the depending separator plates or fillers are independent of the auxiliary carrying handle and practically stationary, with the exception of a limited lateral movement, said separator plates or fillers are always in proper position to receive the bottles between them and, therefore, do not depend upon movement of the auxiliary handle to actuate the fillers to separate and cushion the bottles.

By having the separator plates at the upper portion of the carrier, the use of dowels or partitions in the lower portion thereof for forming independent bottle receiving compartments is dispensed with thereby reducing the size of the carrier and making it much more compact and easier to carry than heretofore.

Furthermore, inasmuch as the separator plates are always in proper place to engage the bottles, regardless of the position of the auxiliary carrying handle, said plates will function as separating members when the auxiliary carrying handle is in either lowered or elevated position.

While the separator plates are shown in connection with a wooden carrier, it will, of course, be understood that said separator plates can be used with equally good results on paper or pasteboard cartons, metal carriers or any other type of carrier.

It will also be understood that the carriers may be made in different sizes and shapes so as to

accommodate any desired number of bottles and that the side and end walls of the carrier may be used for displaying any suitable advertising matter.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A bottle carrier comprising a body for receiving bottles in rows and including a stationary carrying handle having spaced recesses formed in the lower edge thereof, spaced supporting members disposed beneath the carrying handle, and separator members loosely mounted on the supporting members and having openings therein through which said supporting members extend, the upper ends of the separator members being loosely fitted within the recesses in the carrying handle for limited free lateral movement on the supporting members and the lower ends thereof adapted to extend between adjacent bottles, said separator members being movable on the supporting members to operative position by engagement with the walls of the bottles as they are placed within the carrier.

2. A bottle carrier comprising a body for receiving bottles in rows and including a stationary carrying handle having spaced recesses formed in the lower edge thereof, the end walls of which recesses constitute stops, spaced supporting rods disposed beneath the stationary handle, and separator plates loosely mounted for lateral sliding movement on said rods and adapted to extend between adjacent bottles, said separator plates by engagement with the stops serving to limit the lateral movement of said plates.

3. A bottle carrier comprising a body for receiving bottles in rows and including a carrying handle having spaced recesses formed therein, horizontal supporting members disposed beneath the carrying handle, transversely disposed separator plates slidably mounted on said supporting members and having their upper ends loosely fitted in said recesses and their lower ends adapted to extend between adjacent bottles, said separator plates being movable laterally on the supporting members to operative position by engagement with the walls of the bottles as they are placed within the carrier.

4. A bottle carrier comprising a body for receiving bottles in rows and including a stationary handle having a recess formed therein, a supporting member disposed beneath said handle, and a separator member loosely mounted on said supporting member for limited sliding movement and having its upper end loosely fitted within the recess and its lower end adapted to extend between adjacent bottles, said separator member being movable laterally on the supporting member to operative position by engagement with the walls of the bottles as they are placed within the carrier.

EDWARD W. HUTCHINGS.