Oct. 29, 1940. L. B. MAURIN 2,219,560

CARTON

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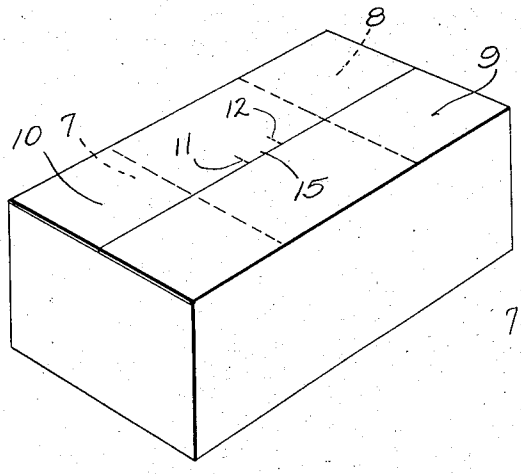


Fig. 1.

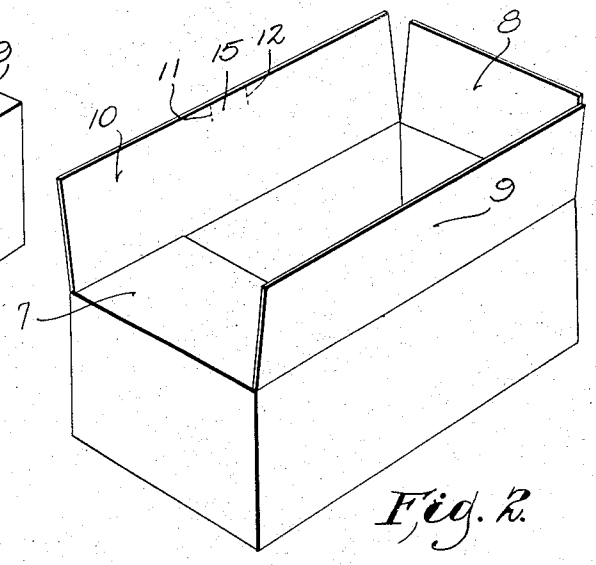


Fig. 2.

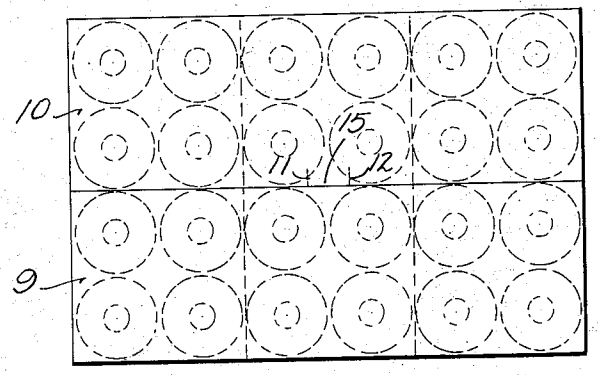


Fig. 3.

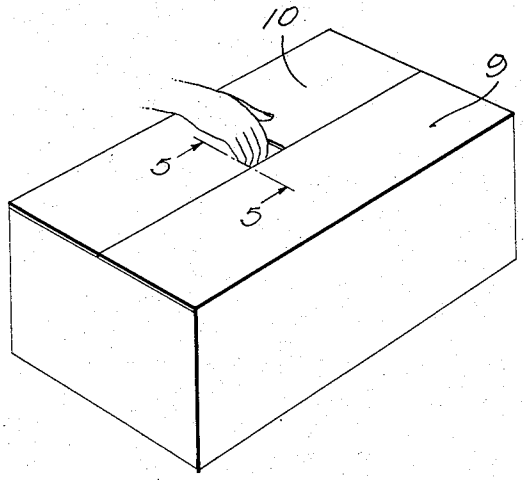


Fig. 4.

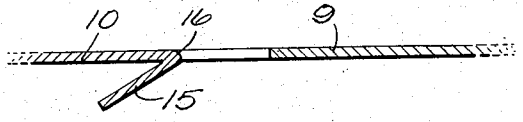


Fig. 5

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CARTON

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3 Claims. (Cl. 229—51)

This invention relates to an improvement in cartons, with particular reference to the type of carton in which side flaps have proximate edges which do not overlap. The type of carton in question is frequently used for goods in bottles and cans, a field in which the invention has peculiar application.

It is the object of the invention to provide a means by which such a carton may be opened manually without the use of tools. It is a further object of the invention to provide such means in a form which is particularly adapted for use where the contents of the carton do not completely fill the space therewithin. This situation obtains where the carton contains bottles or the like.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of a carton embodying my invention as it appears when closed.

Fig. 2 is a view in perspective of an unclosed carton comprising my invention.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the carton, showing in dotted lines the position of the contents, in this case bottles.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the closed carton as it appears when prepared for opening in accordance with this invention.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail view taken in section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Like parts are identified by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

The carton may be made of any type of pasteboard, corrugated board, or the like. The conventional size in which such cartons are commonly marketed will contain two dozen bottles as shown in Fig. 3. When the contents are closed within the carton the end flaps 7 and 8 are folded over the contents and the side flaps 9 and 10 are then folded down over the end flaps and adhesively secured thereto with the margins of the side flaps substantially in abutment.

The space between the closed side flaps 9 and 10 is not sufficiently wide to permit access of the fingers, and the end margins of the side flaps 9 and 10 are firmly held by adhesive. Consequently it is ordinarily necessary for the person desiring to open such a carton to use a tool in the opening thereof.

In accordance with the present invention, at least one of the side flaps 9 or 10 is provided with lines of weakening such as score lines or perforations at 11 and 12. These may conveniently be made parallel or approximately parallel to each other and so located as to fall between the end flaps 7 and 8 and preferably between two bottles constituting the contents of the carton. The lines of weakening at 11 and 12 can readily be made in the scoring of the blank from which the carton is made. They do not add to the expense of manufacture of the carton.

A person desiring to open a carton equipped with the weakened lines at 11 and 12 will merely press downwardly upon that portion of flap 10 which is designated by reference character 15 and which lies between the weakened lines 11 and 12. The material of the carton will readily tear along lines 11 and 12, allowing the tab 15 to fold at 16 (Fig. 5) and thereby to give the operator's fingers access to the under surface of the carton flap 10.

When the operator's fingers are engaged with the under surface of flap 10 it is easily possible to exert sufficient pull on the flap to break its adhesive connection with the end flaps 7 and 8, thereby allowing flap 10 to be raised to full open position. This in turn gives access to the marginal flap 9 which can be pulled open in like manner. With the flaps 9 and 10 open, there is nothing remaining to hold flaps 7 and 8, and these may be swung upwardly without resistance. Thus the tab 15 defined by the weakened lines at 11 and 12, is necessary in only one of the closure flaps of the carton, although it may be provided in either or both of the exposed flaps if desired.

I claim:

1. A carton comprising a box of fibrous board material having wall portions, end flaps spaced from each other over the contents of the carton, and side flaps overlying the end flaps and having substantially abutting margins in substantially the same plane spanning said space, said end flaps having their upper surfaces adhesively joined to said side flaps, at least one of said side flaps having a centrally disposed marginal portion provided with spaced lines of weakening extending inwardly a short distance from its margin, said portion being secured to the side flap for support along a line connecting the rear portions of the lines of weakening and readily foldable downwardly along such line and also being located entirely in the space between said end flaps, whereby to define a tab readily foldable downwardly under pressure to afford access to one of said side flaps between said end flaps to facilitate the stripping of the side flap from its adhesive connection with the end flaps.

2. A carton comprising a blank of fibrous board material having wall portions, end flaps spaced from each other over the contents of the carton, and side flaps overlying the end flaps and having substantially abutting margins in substantially the same plane spanning said space, said end

flaps having their upper surfaces adhesively joined at their respective ends to said side flaps, at least one of said side flaps having a centrally disposed marginal portion provided with spaced lines of weakening extending inwardly a short distance from its margin, said portion being secured to the side flap for support along a line connecting the rear portions of the lines of weakening and readily foldable downwardly along such line and located entirely in the space between said end flaps, whereby to define a tab readily foldable downwardly under pressure to afford a hand-hold with a folded margin giving access to the side flap between the end flaps to facilitate the stripping of the side flap from its adhesive connection with the end flaps, said tab being so disposed with reference to bottle contents of the carton that when forced open it will fold between contiguous bottles within the carton.

3. A carton comprising bottom, side and end walls and end flaps spaced from each other over the contents of the carton and connected with the end walls, in combination with side flaps connected with the respective side walls of the carton and overlying said end flaps and having margins substantially abutting in substantially the same plane and spanning the space between the end flaps, said end flaps having their upper surfaces adhesively joined to the overlying surfaces of the side flaps, at least one of the side flaps having a centrally disposed tab portion located wholly between the end flaps and bounded by means comprising at least one line of weakness extending in a direction away from the margin of said side flap and secured to said side flap for support along a line of fold leading to said bounding means, said tab being readily foldable downwardly under pressure, whereby to afford a hand-hold with a folded margin to facilitate the stripping of said side flap from its adhesive connection with said end flaps.

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