No. 668,048. Patented Feb. 12, 1901.

L. McCARTHY.

PACKING TRAYS.

(Application filed Dec. 27, 1899.)

(No Model.)

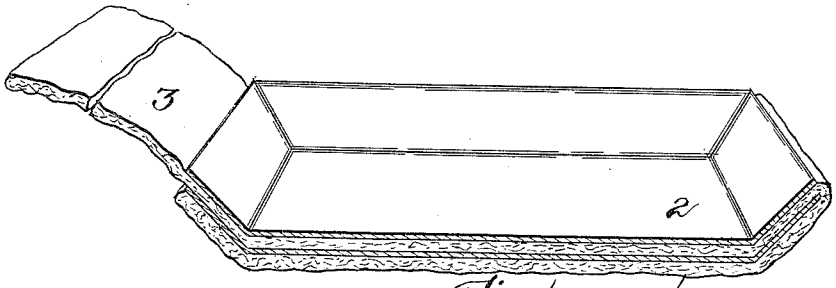

Fig. 1.

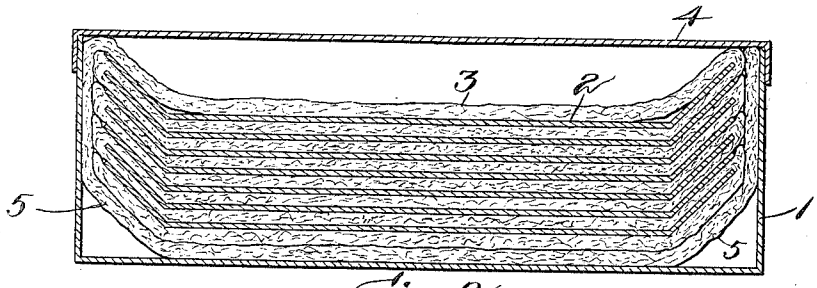

Fig. 2.

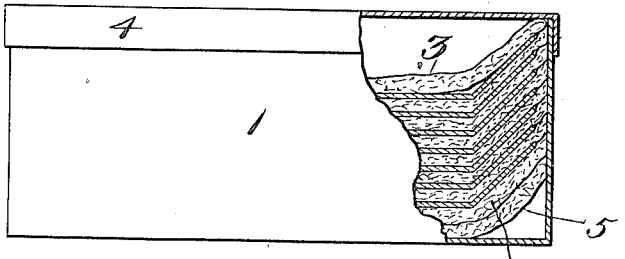

Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS McCARTHY, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

PACKING TRAYS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 668,048, dated February 12, 1901.

Application filed December 27, 1899. Serial No. 741,711. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS McCARTHY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Packing Trays, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

"Developer-trays," so called, which are used by photographers to hold the photographic plates and the developing fluid during the process of developing, are usually made of acid-resisting-composition material which is somewhat brittle. In packing them for shipment, therefore, great care must be exercised to prevent breakage. They are usually of flaring sides, so that they can be nested together; but it is important that there be a soft packing between and around the trays, not only between the inside bottom of each one and the under side of the bottom of the one which sets into it and between the inside walls of each one and the outside walls of the one which sets into it, but also between the outside projecting rims of the trays and the box in which the trays are packed. Heretofore corrugated paper has usually been employed for the packing, a sheet being placed in the bottom of each tray. This makes a bulky package and also fails to properly protect the trays at the ends and sides.

The object of my invention is a method by which the trays can be compactly and easily packed so as to wholly protect them by the use of one continuous wrapper of soft material for a whole nest of trays.

My invention will now be fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claims at the close of the specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view in section, showing two trays with a portion of the strip of packing material sinuously wound around them. Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-section of a box filled with trays which have been wrapped. Fig. 3 is an elevation, partly in section, at right angles with Fig. 2.

The box 1 should be of such size and shape that the trays 2 will snugly fit in the box when wrapped. The packing material 3 consists of a long strip or web of soft material, such as cotton-batting, cut to a width a little greater than the length or breadth of the trays, depending on whether the strip is wound widthwise or lengthwise of the trays. Preferably it is wound widthwise, and therefore the width of the strip will be a little in excess of the length of the tray, so that it may cover the inside bottom and walls and preferably lap over the rim. The first or bottom tray is placed on the strip 3 near one end thereof, leaving a short portion, which is turned up along the end of the tray. The long portion of the strip is turned up over the opposite end and folded back across the inside of the tray and a second tray inserted. The strip of batting again is brought across, a third tray is inserted, and so on, the sinuous winding being continued until the box is full, and then the strip is folded back over the top tray, thence down the sides and underneath the bottom tray, and back up the opposite side to the top, making a band 5 entirely around the bundle of trays and making a double thickness at the ends. It will be seen that the soft packing not only protects each tray from contact with those above and under it, but it also forms a pad at the sides and protects the outer walls and rims from contact with the sides of the box. Even the side of each tray opposite the fold will be protected not only by the band, which is formed of the last outside winding mentioned above, but also the soft and fluffy character of the packing will cause the folds to spread so as to partially or wholly cover the unwound rim below or above. The width of the strip being sufficient to extend slightly beyond the rims of the trays at the ends will be turned over, so as to protect the outside of the said rims. Thus the trays are securely and neatly packed and the work can be accomplished much more quickly and with less material than is required when each tray is wrapped separately. A considerable saving is effected by the fact that the packing-box 1 is materially less in size than is required by any method of packing heretofore known to me.

The sinuous winding of the strip around each tray, followed by the winding of the strip entirely around the bundle, binds the trays firmly together, as well as forms a soft pad for all parts of the trays. This binding feature I consider very important, as it effectually prevents shifting of the trays with rela-

tion to each other. Preferably before the cover 4 is put on the box the hollow space above the top tray should be filled with some soft packing.

What I claim is—

1. A package comprising a box or casing, a series of trays within the same nested into one another, and a continuous loose strip of soft fibrous cushioning material in successive folds intervening between the successive trays separating each of the latter from the others, and also intervening between the trays and the inner surfaces of the box or casing at the edges of the trays, substantially as described.

2. A package comprising a box or casing, a series of trays within the same nested into one another, and a continuous loose strip of soft fibrous cushioning material in successive folds intervening between the successive trays separating each of the latter from the others and from the box or casing at the edges of the trays, the end of the strip being carried entirely around the series of nested trays between the series of trays and the box or casing, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

LOUIS McCARTHY.

Witnesses:

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