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L. I. SMITH

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ARTICLE CARRIER

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Fig. 1

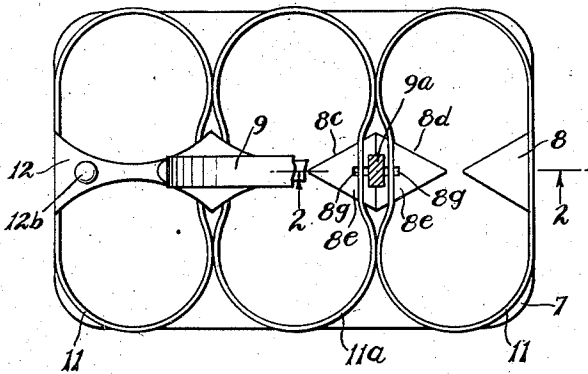


Fig. 4

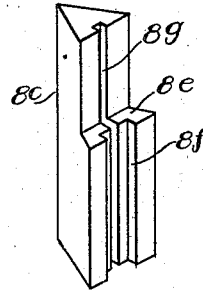


Fig. 2

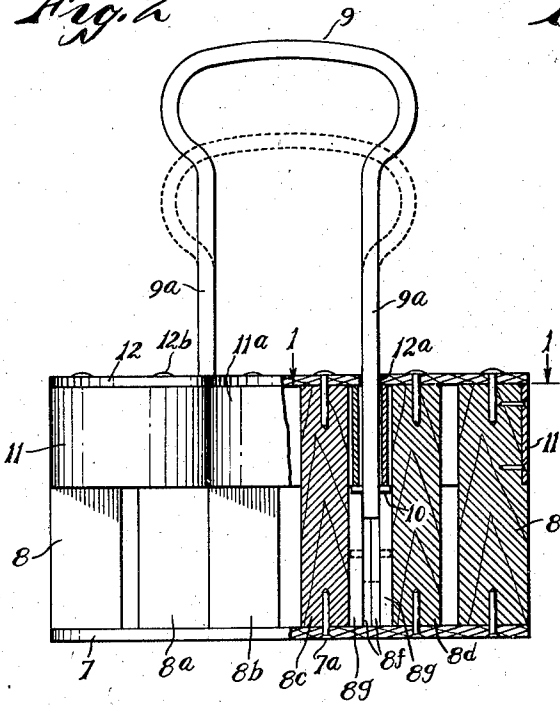
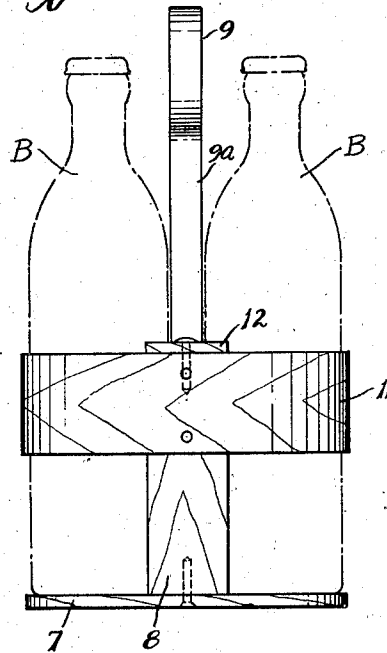


Fig. 3



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ARTICLE CARRIER

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12 Claims. (Cl. 224-48)

1

My invention relates to bottles, glasses, jars or other article carriers, and more particularly to handle one or a plurality of beverage bottles, or the like, or other articles.

One object of this invention is to facilitate the handling and distribution of beverage bottles, glasses, jars or the like and other adaptable articles both in shipment and in carrying and returning such articles to the stores.

Another object of this invention is to enable the ready carrying of one or more beverage bottles, glasses, jars and other objects without breakage by providing a snug fitting receptacle to receive such articles and having bands to support them in position in such a way that one such bottle or object does not come in contact with the other in carrying or handling.

A further object of my invention is to provide an attractive package, pleasing to the eye, and allowing generous space for advertising, both by a display of large sections of the bottles or articles carried, and by providing space on the carrier for attractive advertising of the products carried therein.

A further object of this invention is to provide a convenient, rugged and compact lightweight carrier which may be manufactured in quantity of plentiful material at relatively low cost.

A further object of this invention is to provide a durable, inexpensive carrier of beverage bottles or the like of any suitable material of plywood, metal, wood, alloys, plastics and the like, of compact and attractive design to be used over a long period to package and sell beverages, or other articles by use and return of the carrier.

The invention and the features thereof will be understood more clearly and fully from the following detailed description which shows a carrier for accommodating six beverage bottles, but it is obvious that any number of bottles may be likewise provided for, and this invention is not limited to six or any other number of bottles or articles; and any suitable material may be used in its construction.

Fig. 1 is a plan view of an article carrier embodying the invention, the right hand portion of this view being in section along the line 1-1 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 2 is a side view, the right hand portion of this view being in section along the line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an end view, this view showing bottles in place in the carrier.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the uprights forming a portion of the carrier.

Referring to the drawing, 7 is a flat base formed of a suitable material such as plywood and adapted to support the bottles or other articles to be carried, such bottles or articles being

2

arranged in two parallel rows. As shown, the base is adapted for supporting three bottles or other articles in each row, but the invention is not limited to the particular number of articles in the rows.

Secured to the base along a central line between the two rows of articles is an upright or uprights formed of suitable material such as wood. The upright or uprights may be secured to the base by any suitable means such as nails 7^a. Preferably, there is a plurality of uprights which are triangular in horizontal section and when triangular uprights are provided they are preferably arranged alternately so that each two adjacent uprights form two recesses for receiving portions of two articles in the respective rows. The uprights 8, 8 at the ends are so arranged that the transversely extending faces thereof are in register or substantially in register with the ends of the base 7. The other uprights 8^a, 8^b, 8^c and 8^d are similar to the uprights 8, 8, although differing in details as will be described.

Secured to the upper portions of the uprights are retaining members 11, 11 and 11^a which are provided with transversely extending loops positioned to enclose the upper portions of the respective articles such as bottles B, B in the aforesaid rows on the base 7. The retaining members 11, 11 and 11^a may be varied as to shape but each of them preferably comprises a single continuous band of material which is generally oblong in shape and which forms two loops for enclosing the upper portions of two articles. The retaining members 11, 11 and 11^a may be formed of any suitable material such as laminated wood.

The upper portion of the outer face of each upright 8 is preferably formed with a notch for receiving a portion of the corresponding retaining member 11 and the retaining member is held in place by means of nails or otherwise. Each of the other uprights 8^a, 8^b, 8^c and 8^d is provided at the upper portion thereof with a transverse notch 8^e and the two notches 8^e of the uprights of each pair of adjacent uprights are in register with each other. When the retaining members 11, 11 are continuous bands, as is preferred and as is shown, the said bands extend through the notches 8^e in the uprights 8^a and 8^d. The members 11 are formed with concave portions in the said notches in the uprights 8^a and 8^d and the member 11^a is formed with two concave portions. The central concave portions of the central retaining member 11^a extend through the notches in the uprights 8^b and 8^c but the said member is not directly secured to either of the said uprights, being otherwise held in place as will, presently appear.

There is preferably provided a top plate 12 formed of any suitable material such as ply-

wood, this being secured to the tops of the up-rights by nails 12^b or otherwise. The plate 12 is provided with recesses conforming in position and shape to the recesses formed by the sides of the several uprights.

A handle 9 is provided having a substantially horizontal gripping portion which is above the uprights and above the plate 12. The handle has two bars 9^a, 9^a extending downwardly from the gripping portion and suitably connected with the uprights. The handle may be formed of plywood or any other suitable material. The plate 12 is apertured as shown at 12^a and the bars 9^a, 9^a extend through the respective apertures. Preferably, the handle 9 is vertically movable with respect to the other portions of the carrier. The respective uprights 8^a, 8^b, 8^c and 8^d are provided with vertical grooves 8^f and the grooves in each pair of uprights register with each other to form a vertical slot for receiving the corresponding vertical bar 9^a of the handle 9. The bars 9^a, 9^a of the handle are vertically movable in the slots formed in the uprights of the two pairs. In order to limit relative upward movement of the handle, the bars 9^a, 9^a thereof are provided with lateral projections and the projection on each bar may be conveniently formed by means of a metallic pin 10 extending horizontally through the bar. The uprights 8^a, 8^b, 8^c and 8^d are provided with slots 8^e for receiving the projecting portions of the pins. A suitable means is provided for limiting relative upward movement of the handle 9 and the central portions of the retaining members 11, 11 and 11^a may constitute such means. Inasmuch as the notches 8^e are immediately above the grooves 8^f and inasmuch as the retaining members extend through the said notches, it will be seen that the retaining members are in the path of movement of the ends of the pins 10 as shown in Fig. 2 and serve to obstruct or limit upward movement of the pins, thus limiting upward movement of the handle.

As clearly shown in the drawing, the concave portions of the retaining members 11, 11 and 11^a provide spaces between them for the passage of the bars 9^a, 9^a. The retaining members 11, 11 are firmly secured to the end uprights 8, 8 as already explained, and the central retaining member 11^a is held in place by means of the bars 9^a, 9^a of the handle, it being clear that the shape of the retaining member 11^a is such that it cannot be removed when the handle is in place.

In use bottles B, B or other articles to be carried are put in place in the carrier, being supported by the base 7 and being enclosed and held in place by means of the retaining elements 11, 11 and 11^a. During shipment the handle 9 is in its lower position to conserve space, but when the carrier is to be carried manually, the handle is moved to its upper position as limited by the pins 10, 10 so as to provide ample space for the top portion thereof to be conveniently gripped.

I claim:

1. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, a plurality of similar uprights generally triangular in horizontal section and secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows, alternate uprights being positioned oppositely so as to form rows of recesses for receiving portions of the articles in the said rows, a plurality of sep-

arate retaining members spaced from the base and connected with the upper portions of the triangular uprights and provided with transversely extending loops positioned to enclose the upper portions of the respective articles in the said rows, and a handle engaging some of the uprights and projecting upwardly therefrom.

2. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, a plurality of up-rights secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows, a plurality of separate retaining members spaced from the base, each of the said members being connected with the upper portions of two of the uprights and extending transversely to provide two opposite loops for enclosing the upper portions of two articles in the respective rows, and a handle engaging some of the uprights and projecting upwardly therefrom.

3. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, a plurality of uprights secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows, a plurality of separate retaining members spaced from the base and connected with the upper portions of the uprights and provided with transversely extending loops positioned to enclose the upper portions of the respective articles in the said rows, an apertured top plate secured to the up-rights above the retaining members, and a handle having a gripping portion above the top plate and having two bars extending downwardly through apertures in the top plate and engaging the uprights below the top plate.

4. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, a plurality of uprights secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows, the said uprights being provided with transverse notches near their upper ends, a plurality of separate retaining members spaced from the base and connected with the uprights in the notches therein and provided with transversely extending loops positioned to enclose the upper portions of the articles in the rows, an apertured top plate secured to the uprights above the retaining members and engaging the top of at least one of the retaining members to prevent relative upward movement of the said member out of the corresponding notches, and a handle having a gripping portion above the top plate and having two bars extending downwardly through apertures in the top plate and engaging the uprights below the top plate.

5. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, a plurality of up-rights secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows, the said up-rights being provided with transverse notches near their upper ends, a plurality of separate retaining members spaced from the base and connected with the uprights in the notches therein and each comprising a continuous closed oblong band forming two opposite loops for enclosing the upper portions of two articles in the respective rows, and a handle engaging some of the uprights and projecting upwardly therefrom.

6. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, a plurality of similar uprights generally triangular in hori-

5

zontal section and secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows, alternate uprights being positioned oppositely so as to form rows of recesses for receiving portions of the articles in the said rows and the sides of the uprights which are perpendicular to the rows being provided with notches near their upper ends, a plurality of separate retaining members spaced from the base and connected with the triangular uprights in the notches therein and each comprising a continuous closed oblong band forming two opposite loops for enclosing the upper portions of two articles in the respective rows, and a handle engaging some of the uprights and projecting upwardly therefrom.

7. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, uprights secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows and provided with vertical slots spaced apart longitudinally, a plurality of retaining members connected with the upper portions of the uprights and provided with transversely extending loops positioned to enclose the upper portions of the respective articles in the said rows, a vertically movable handle having a horizontal gripping portion above the uprights and having two bars extending downwardly from the gripping portion into the vertical slots in the uprights, and means associated with the said bars for limiting the vertical movement of the handle.

8. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, uprights secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows, the said uprights being provided with vertical slots spaced apart longitudinally, a plurality of retaining members connected with the upper portions of the uprights and provided with transversely extending loops positioned to enclose the upper portions of the respective articles in the said rows, a vertically movable handle having a horizontal gripping portion above the uprights and having two bars extending downwardly from the gripping portion into the vertical slots in the uprights, and means associated with the said bars for limiting the vertical movement of the handle.

9. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, uprights secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows and provided with vertical slots spaced apart longitudinally, a plurality of retaining members connected with the upper portions of the uprights and provided with transversely extending loops positioned to enclose the upper portions of the respective articles in the said rows, a vertically movable handle having a horizontal gripping portion above the uprights and having two bars extending downwardly from the gripping portion into the vertical slots in the uprights, lateral projections on the bars, and means adjacent the upper ends of the slots for engaging the lateral projections on the bars for limiting the vertical movement of the handle.

10. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, uprights secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows, the said uprights being provided with vertical slots spaced apart longitudinally and being provided above the slots with transverse notches, a plurality of retaining

6

members connected with the upper portions of the uprights in the notches therein and provided with transversely extending loops positioned to enclose the upper portions of the respective articles in the said rows, a vertically movable handle having a horizontal gripping portion above the uprights and having two bars extending downwardly from the gripping portion into the vertical slots in the uprights, and lateral projections on the rods engageable with the retaining members in the notches for limiting the vertical movement of the handle.

11. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, uprights secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows, the said uprights being provided with vertical slots spaced apart longitudinally and being provided above the slots with transverse notches, a plurality of retaining members connected with the upper portions of the uprights in the notches therein and each comprising a continuous closed oblong band forming two opposite loops for enclosing the upper portions of two articles in the respective rows, a vertically movable handle having a horizontal gripping portion above the uprights and having two bars extending downwardly from the gripping portion into the vertical slots in the uprights, and lateral projections on the rods engageable with the retaining members in the notches for limiting the vertical movement of the handle.

12. In a carrier for articles such as bottles and the like, the combination of a base for supporting the articles in two parallel rows, uprights secured at their bottoms to the base along a center line between the two rows, the said uprights being provided with vertical slots spaced apart longitudinally and being provided above the slots with transverse notches, a plurality of retaining members connected with the upper portions of the uprights in the notches therein and each comprising a continuous closed oblong band forming two opposite loops for enclosing the upper portions of two articles in the respective rows and each formed with at least one concave portion at one of the notches in the uprights, a vertically movable handle having a horizontal gripping portion above the uprights and having two bars extending downwardly from the gripping portion into the vertical slots in the uprights, the bars of the handle extending between the concave portions of adjacent retaining members and the said bars serving to hold one of the retaining members in place, and lateral projections on the rods engageable with the retaining members in the notches for limiting the vertical movement of the handle.

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