April 18, 1967 J. RODISH 3,314,588

EGG CARTON

Filed Oct. 21, 1965 5 Sheets-Sheet 1

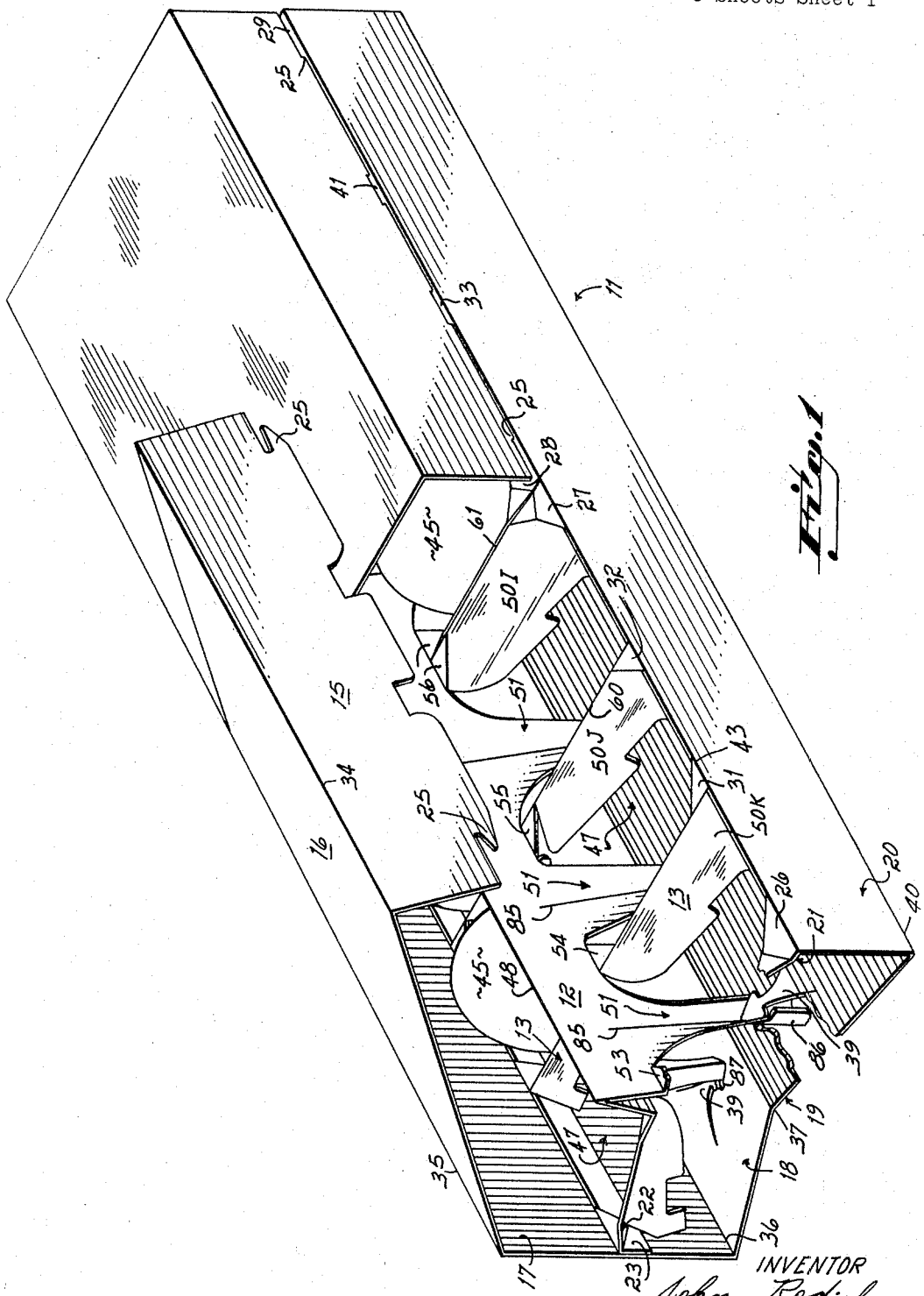


Fig. 1

INVENTOR
John Rodish
BY
Wood, Herron and Evans
ATTORNEYS

April 18, 1967 J. RODISH 3,314,588

EGG CARTON

Filed Oct. 21, 1965

5 Sheets-Sheet 2

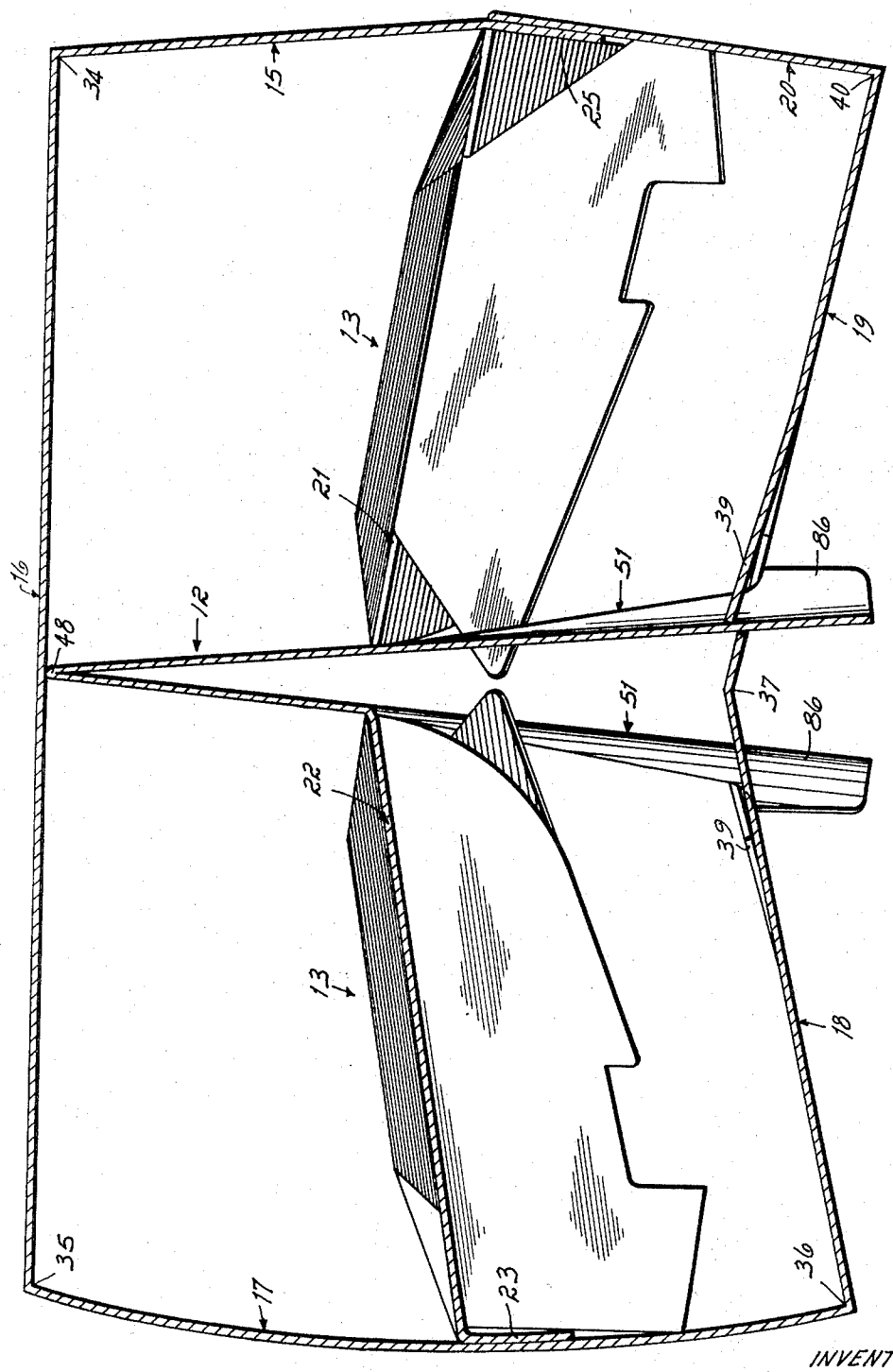


Fig. 2

INVENTOR
John Rodish
BY
Wood, Herron & Evans
ATTORNEYS

April 18, 1967 J. RODISH 3,314,588

EGG CARTON

Filed Oct. 21, 1965 5 Sheets-Sheet 3

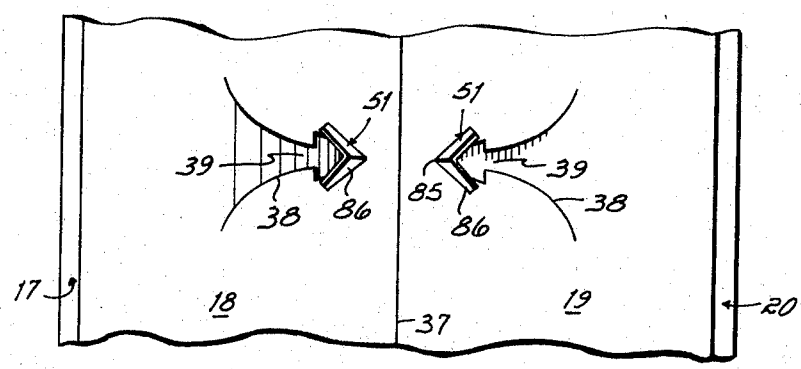


Fig. 5

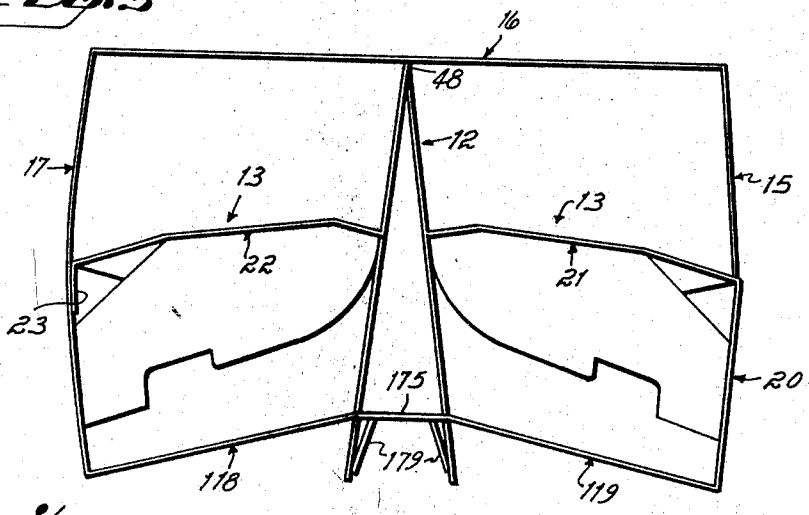


Fig. 6

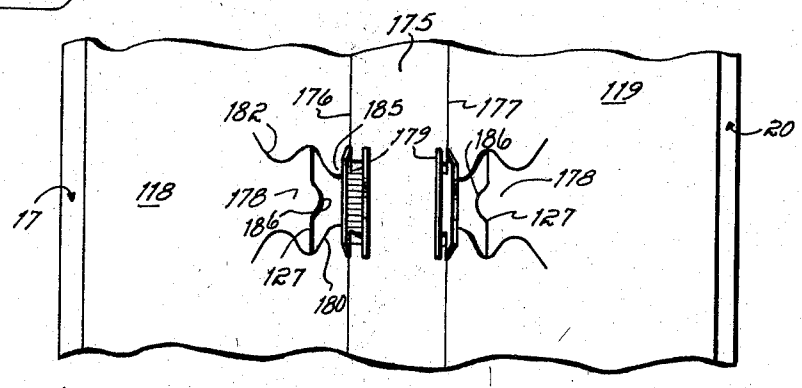


Fig. 7

INVENTOR
John Rodish
BY
Wood, Herron and Evans
ATTORNEYS

April 18, 1967 J. RODISH 3,314,588

EGG CARTON

Filed Oct. 21, 1965 5 Sheets-Sheet 4

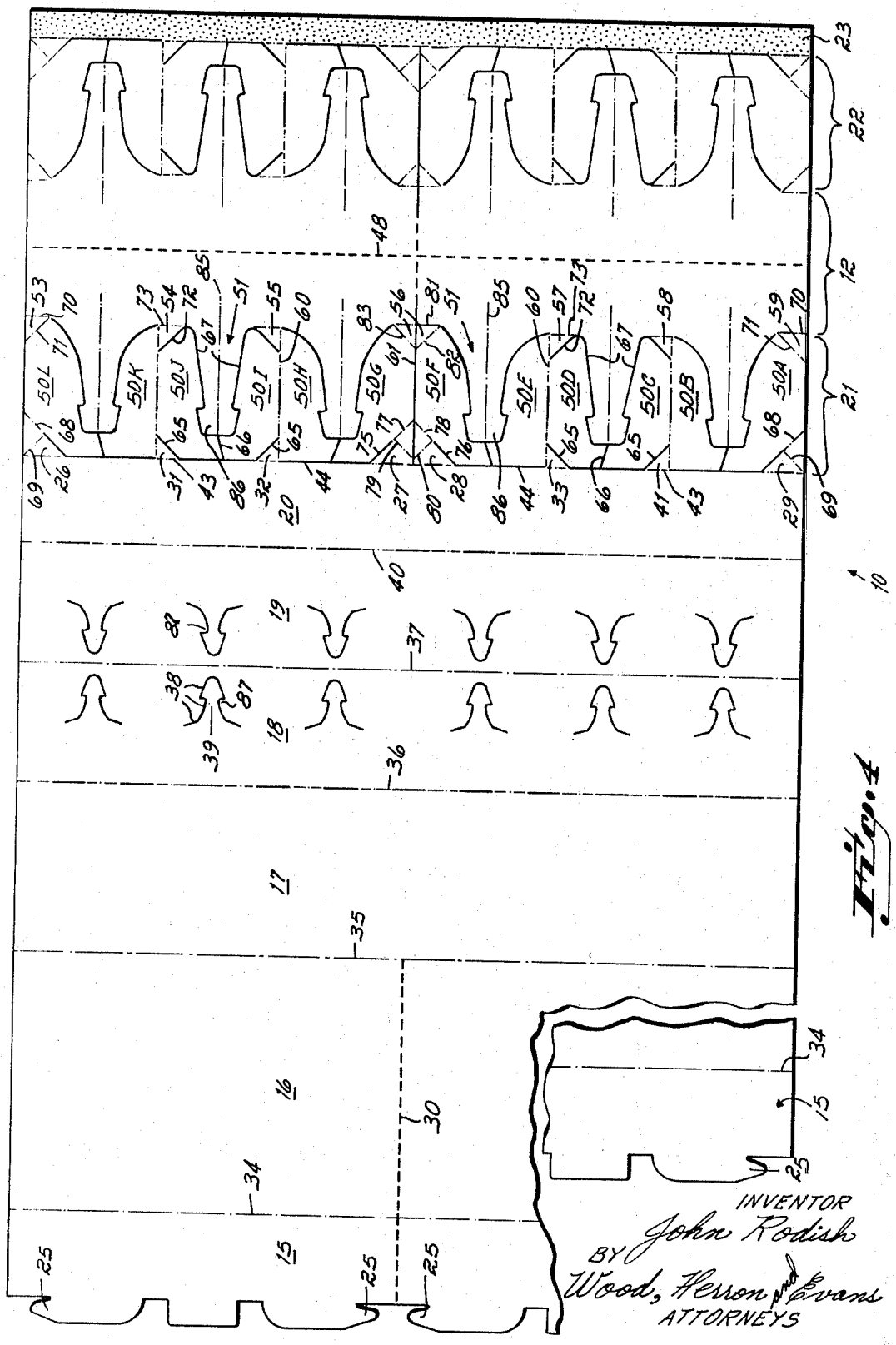


Fig. 4

INVENTOR
John Rodish
BY
Wood, Herron & Evans
ATTORNEYS

April 18, 1967 J. RODISH 3,314,588

EGG CARTON

Filed Oct. 21, 1965 5 Sheets-Sheet 5

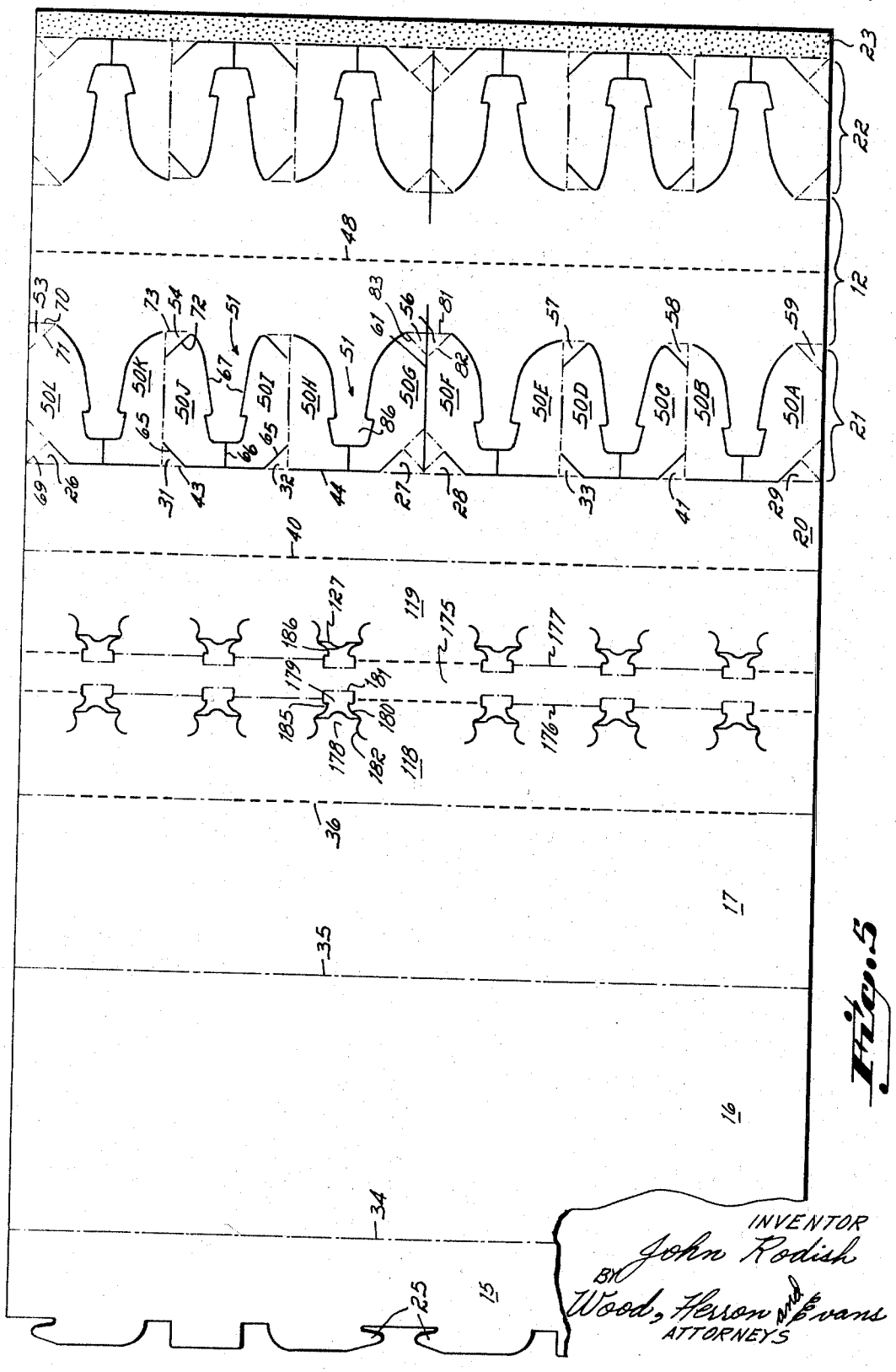


Fig. 5

INVENTOR
John Rodish
BY
Wood, Herron and Evans
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,314,588 Patented Apr. 18, 1967

3,314,588

EGG CARTON

John Rodish, 1720 Highland Pike, Covington, Ky. 41011

Filed Oct. 21, 1965, Ser. No. 499,755
15 Claims. (Cl. 229—29)

This invention relates to paperboard egg cartons.

It has been an objective of this invention to provide an improved unitary, paperboard egg carton for packaging eggs for retail sale.

Egg cartons are "throw-away" items which are seldom, if ever, reused and therefore must be inexpensive if they are not to unreasonably increase the price of eggs to the consumer. The cartons should ideally be made from a minimum amount of inexpensive material, such as paperboard, and should have high strength or rigidity characteristics as well as some resiliency so that the cartons protect the eggs against crushing and breaking forces. As a practical commercial matter, the cartons must be capable of erection upon an automatic or at least semi-automatic machine and must have a maximum amount of printing space available for retailer or wholesaler advertising. Additionally, the cartons should have a maximum amount of ventilation so that the individual eggs are not insulated by the carton from cooling refrigerator air but, while maximizing ventilation, the cartons should not have any cutouts or holes which weaken the carton and waste carton material.

It has, therefore, been an objective of this invention to provide a paperboard egg carton which satisfies all of these criteria; which incorporates a minimum amount of paperboard to form the carton; which is so configurated that it affords a very high degree of protection for eggs contained therein, which is capable of erection or "set-up" upon a fully automatic machine; which has a higher percentage of space available for printing or advertising than most commercially available cartons; and which provides excellent ventilation of eggs contained therein without having any holes or cut-outs cut from the paperboard carton.

Another objective of this invention has been to provide a commercially acceptable carton in which the smooth coated surface of the carton blank, the surface which is exposed on the exterior of the erected carton, is also exposed for printing on the interior of the erected carton. Most egg cartons are made from relatively inexpensive paperboard which has only one surface suitable for printing. Therefore, if the interior of the egg carton is to contain advertising or printing, this surface must be exposed on the interior of the carton as well as the exterior.

Briefly, the carton which accomplishes these objectives is of an integral, one piece construction without any cutouts or holes to weaken it or waste paperboard sheet from which it is cut. It consists of front and rear panels interconnected by a bottom panel which is inclined upwardly from the lower edges of the front and rear panels toward the longitudinal center line of the carton. The carton further includes a longitudinal vertical partition panel folded upon itself and extending longitudinally of the carton. This vertical partition is joined to egg cell or pocket defining transverse partition panels which extend from the vertical partition to the front and rear panels. The eggs are held stationary in the cells or pockets by downwardly bent flaps cut from the transverse partition panels and the assembled carton is held in erected or assembled condition by center posts cut from the transverse partition panel and extending downwardly from the vertical partition through slots in the bottom panel.

The primary advantage of this carton is that it utilizes a minimum amount of paperboard to form a relatively

rigid and yet resilient egg carton. It has also the advantage of providing additional printing or advertising space on the inside of the carton on the front side of the vertical partition panel.

Another advantage of the egg carton of this invention is that it provides ease of access to eggs contained therein. In fact, nearly the complete upper half of all eggs contained in the carton of this invention are exposed for easy gripping and removal.

Another advantage of this egg carton is that the individual eggs are restrained against movement in self adjusting cells or pockets so that a single size carton can easily accommodate small, large, or extra-large eggs.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention of this application will become more readily apparent from the following description of the drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of an egg carton, partially broken away, incorporating the invention of this application,

FIGURE 2 is a cross-sectional view of the egg carton of FIGURE 1 taken through a pair of opposed egg receiving pockets or cells,

FIGURE 3 is a bottom plan view of a portion of the egg carton of FIGURE 1,

FIGURE 4 is a top plan layout, partially broken away, of the cut and scored sheet or blank used to form the carton of FIGURE 1,

FIGURE 5 is a top plan layout, partially broken away, of another cut and scored blank used to form a second embodiment of the inventive egg carton of this application,

FIGURE 6 is an end elevational view of the assembled carton made from the blank of FIGURE 5,

FIGURE 7 is a bottom plan view of a portion of the assembled egg carton made from the blank of FIGURE 5.

Referring first to FIGURE 4, there is illustrated a cut and scored blank **10** from which the egg carton or closed box **11** of FIGURE 1 is assembled. It will be seen that this blank **10** is generally rectangular in configuration and has no cutouts or holes in it. Since cutouts only serve to weaken the carton which is ultimately formed from the blank and create an undesirable scrap problem during manufacture, a carton of this type is preferable to one with the conventional multiplicity of cutouts.

Generally, the blank **10** consists of a plurality of cut and scored panels interconnected by fold lines to form a flat integral unit. When properly folded along the fold lines, the carton forms into the closed box **11** having a pair of rows of egg receiving cells or pockets separated longitudinally by a longitudinal partition **12**, the individual cells of each row being separated by a plurality of spaced transverse partitions **13**.

The panels which make up the finished carton consist of, in sequential order, a front closure flap **15**, a cover **16**, a rear panel **17**, a rear bottom panel **18**, a front bottom panel **19**, a front panel **20**, a front transverse partition panel **21**, the vertical partition panel **12**, a rear transverse panel **22**, and a glue flap **23**.

The front closure flap **15** is located at one end of the rectangular blank **10** and has a plurality of conventional locking hooks **25** formed along one edge and adapted to be received over gussets **26**, **27**, **28** and **29** formed between the transverse partitions **21** and the front panel **20** to lock the cover of the carton in closed position. A longitudinal fold line **34** connects the front closure flap **15** to the cover panel **16**. The cover **16** and closure flap **15** have a transverse score line **30** which divides the cover so that it may be separated into two halves, either one of which may be indvidually opened as illustrated in

FIGURE 1. A fold line 35 connects the cover 16 to the rear panel 17. Connecting the rear panel 17 to the rear bottom panel 18 is a longitudinal fold line 36.

The front and rear bottom panels 19, 18 are identical and are joined together by a fold line 37. Each bottom panel 18, 19 includes six longitudinally spaced slots 38 for receiving center posts during the erection of the carton as is explained more fully hereinafter. Each slot 38 is generally arrow shaped and points toward the fold line 37 so as to define an arrow shaped flap 39 in the bottom panel.

The front panel 20 is connected to the front bottom panel 19 by a fold line 40, and to the front transverse partition panel 21 by a plurality of spaced gusset forming fold lines 43 and co-linear cut lines 44. Together, the co-linear fold lines 43 and cut lines 44 define a fold line or line of articulation between the transverse partition panel 21 and the front panel 20.

It will be noted that the front panel 20 is approximately half the height of the rear panel 17 and that likewise, the front closure flap 15 is approximately half the height of the rear panel 17. Together, the front panel 20 and the closure flap 15 define the front side of the egg carton when the lid or cover 16 is closed. When the carton is opened, the top half of the front side of the carton, the closure flap 15, opens with the cover 16 and thus exposes approximately the upper half of the eggs 45 contained within the rows of cells or pockets 47 for ease of extraction.

Each transverse partition panel 21, 22 is the mirror image of the other and, therefore, only the front transverse partition panel 21 has been described in detail. Identical numerals have been used to designate similar portions of the front transverse partition panel 21 and the rear transverse partition panel 22. The rear transverse partition panel 22 is joined to the glue flap 23 by co-linear fold lines 43 and cut lines 44 rather than to the front panel 20. Separating the two is the vertical parition panel 12 which, when the carton is assembled, is reversely foldable upon itself about a longitudinal fold line 48. When the transverse partition panels 21, 22 are folded away from the reversely folded vertical partition panel 12, they are located in the same or a common horizontal plane as may be seen most clearly in FIGURES 1 and 2.

As may be seen most clearly in FIGURE 4, the transverse partition panel 21 is divided into the plurality of egg receiving cells or pockets 47 by flaps 50A–50L which, in the assembled carton, are folded downwardly so that two opposed flaps engage each egg in the assembled carton and restrain it against movement. Between each pair of flaps 50A–50L is defined a center post 51 which is integral with the vertical partition panel 12 and forms a continuation of it in the assembled carton.

Since the preferred embodiment of the carton is designed to hold a dozen eggs, each transverse partition panel 21, 22 defines six egg receiving cells or pockets 47. Thus, there are twelve flaps 50A–50L, two for each egg, and six center posts 51 in each transverse partition panel.

Each of the flaps 50A–50L is defined by a pair of cut lines 65, 66 which intersect cut line 44 as well as a cut line 67 which defines the generally T-shaped center post 51.

The flaps 50A–50L are connected to and supported from the front panel 20 and the vertical partition panel 12 by a pair of transversely opposed gussets. Each pair of gussets 31–54, 32–55, 33–57, 41–58, other than those 26–53, 29–59 at the ends of the carton and those 27–56, 28–56 at the center of the carton, support a pair of flaps which are foldable about a fold line 60. Those gussets 26–53, 29–59 located at the longitudinal ends of the carton support only the single flaps 50A and 50L respectively while the gussets 27–56, 28–56 at the center of the carton support the pair of flaps 50F, 50G for folding about a cut line 61.

As may be seen most clearly in FIGURE 4, the front gussets 26, 29 which support the end flaps 50L and 50A respectively, are defined by the fold line 43, a fold line 68 which is co-linear with the cut line 65 and a fold line 69 normal to the fold line 68. The rear gussets 53, 59 for supporting the end flaps are defined by a fold line 70 between the transverse partition panel 21 and the vertical partition panel 12 and a diagonal fold line 71 which extends between the end of the cut line 67 and the edge of the carton blank.

The front gussets 41, 33, 32, 31 which support the flaps 50B–E and 50H–K, are defined by the front fold lines 43, a portion of the fold lines 60, and the diagonal cut line 65. The rear gussets 58, 57, 55, 54 between the flaps 50B–E and 50H–K and the vertical panel 12 are generally the same configuration as the front gussets and are defined by the fold lines 73 between the transverse partition panel 21 and the vertical partition panel 12, the fold lines 60 between adjacent flaps, and the diagonal cut lines 72 which extend between the fold lines 60 and the end of the cut lines 67 which define the center posts 51 of the carton.

The front gussets 27, 28 which support the two centermost flaps 50F and 50G of the front transverse partition panel 21 are defined by the front fold line 43 and a pair of diagonal cut lines 75, 76 which intersect the fold line 43. Extending beyond the ends of the cut lines 75, 76 are a pair of fold lines 77, 78 which are co-linear with the cut lines 75, 76 and intersect at the cut line 61. Normal to and intersecting the cut lines 75, 76 are a second pair of fold lines 79, 80 which also intersect at the cut line 61.

The rear gussets 56 which support the rear side of the centermost flaps 50F and 50G are defined by a rear fold line 81 between the gussets 56 and the vertical partition panel 12, and a pair of fold lines 82, 83 which intersect at the cut line 61. The fold lines 82, 83 extend between the ends of the flap defining cut lines 67 and the cut line 61.

As may be seen most clearly in FIGURE 4, the gusset defining fold lines 70 and 81 at the ends and center of the carton, are co-linear and closer to the vertical partition fold line 48 than the parallel gusset forming fold lines 73 of the other flaps. Thus, when the carton is assembled, the end flaps 50A and 50L as well as the center flaps 50F and 50G are higher or closer to the top of the carton than the other flaps. Thus, these end flaps 50A and 50L prevent small eggs from inadvertently falling from the carton. If the carton is torn in half, so as to hold a half dozen eggs, the high center flaps 50F and 50G then serve the same purpose.

The center posts 51 form integral extensions of the vertical partition panel 12. When this panel is reversely folded upon itself about the longitudinal fold line 48, the posts 51 lie in the same plane as that half of the vertical partition panel 12 to which the posts are joined.

The rear transverse partition panel 22 is joined by the cut lines 44 and fold lines 43 to the generally rectangular glue flap 23. This flap is coated with a layer of adhesive so that when the carton blank is folded about the cut lines 44 and fold lines 43 between the front transverse partition panel 21 and the front panel 20, the glue flap 23 may be secured to the underside or what will become the inside surface of the rear panel 17 of the blank. As may be seen most clearly in FIGURE 1, the glue strip 23 is adhered to the lower half of the rear panel 17 at a point approximately medially of the rear panel.

The flat, partially assembled carton is usually transported from the carton fabricator to the egg packer in the flat condition with the glue flap 23 adhered to the inside surface of the rear panel 17. The packer then simply stacks the cartons into machines which effect the erection and prepare the carton for either manual or automatic insertion of eggs into the egg cells.

To complete the erection of the flat pre-glued carton, the front center posts 51 are creased about their center lines 85 so as to define a generally V-shaped cross-sectional configuration (see FIGURE 1). After having

thus been forced into a V-shaped configuration, the enlarged endmost portion or head **86** of the front center posts **51** are inserted through the arrow-shaped slots **38** in the front bottom panel **19** and through the narrow neck portion **87** of the slots so that the center posts **51** are locked within the slots. In the assembled carton, the neck portion **87** of each slot **38** catches and restrains the generally enlarged head portion **86** of a T-shaped center post so as to prevent it from being inadvertently withdrawn through the slot **38**. The arrow-shaped tab **39** defined by the slot **38** then fits within the V-shaped crease of the center post and holds it against accidental or inadvertent unlocking.

Similarly, the center posts **51** of the rear transverse partition panel **22** are inserted through the slots **38** of the rear bottom panel **18** so as to complete the erection of the carton. In actuality, the center posts **51** in both the front transverse partition panel and the rear transverse partition panel are simultaneously inserted by the erection machine through the slots **38** in the front and rear bottom panels **18** and **19** respectively.

After the carton has thus been erected, eggs may be forced into the cells by forcing the flaps **50A–50L** downwardly so as to define egg receiving pockets **47**. The inherent resiliency of the flaps **50A–50L** tends to force them back into the horizontal plane after the eggs have been forced into the cells with the result that the flaps tend to hold the eggs immobile within the cells.

As may be seen most clearly in FIGURE 2, the front edges **44** of the flaps **50A–50L** cut from the front transverse partition panel **21** and the rear edges **44** of those flaps **50A–50L** cut from the rear transverse partition panel **22** engage the front panel **20** and the rear panel **17** respectively in the assembled carton. By engaging these panels, the deflected flaps **50A–50L** impart transverse rigidity to the cartons.

After the eggs have been inserted into the cells **47**, the cover **16** may be articulated about the fold line **35** so as to cover the eggs and the front closure flap may be folded downwardly about the fold line **34** and the lock hooks **25** hooked beneath the gussets **26, 27, 28, 29** so as to secure the cover or lid over the filled carton. To open the carton, the front closure flap need only be pushed rearwardly so as to disengage the hooks **25** from the gussets and the cover lifted into the open position.

If desired, the egg carton may be scored for the complete length of the blank along a line co-linear with the cut lines **61** of the transverse partition panels. This is a conventional practice to enable an egg carton which holds a dozen eggs to be torn in half for sale of a half dozen eggs. Alternatively, the front closure flap **15** and the cover panel **16** may be scored by the score line **30**, so as to enable only a single half of the carton cover to be opened independently of the other half as is illustrated in FIGURE 1.

Referring now to FIGURES 5–7, there is illustrated a second embodiment of the invention of this application. This embodiment is identical to that illustrated in FIGURES 1–4 except that the center posts **51** are not provided with the longitudinal crease or fold line **85** and the bottom panels **118, 119** are cut differently so as to accommodate and lock the flat posts **51**. In all other respects the cartons are identical and therefore identical sections of the carton have been given identical numerals.

In this carton, the front bottom panel **119** is separated from the rear bottom **118** by a spacer strip **175**. These bottom panels **118, 119** are joined to the spacer strip **175** by a pair of fold lines **176** and **177** respectively.

To accommodate the flat center posts **51**, the slots **127** in the bottom panels are defined by a pair of opposed flaps **178, 179**. The flap **179** is defined by a configurated cut line **180** in the rear bottom panel **118** and the spacer strip **175**. This flap is foldable about a fold line **181** in the spacer strip **175**. The flap **178** is defined by a cut line **182**. To insert the generally T-shaped center post

51 into the slots **127**, the flaps **178** are deflected downwardly as are the flaps **179**. When forced downwardly, the flaps **178** permit the enlarged head portion **86** of the center posts **51** to slip within the narrow portion or neck **185** of the slot defined by the downwardly deflected tab or bottom flap **179**. The flap **178** then springs upwardly as shown in FIGURE 7 to preclude the lower enlarged portion **86** of the center post from slipping out of the slot **127**. To further preclude the ends **86** of the center post from inadvertently slipping from the slots **127**, each flap **178** is provided with a rounded tip or end **186** defined by the cut line on slot **127**.

After the center posts are inserted through the slots **127**, the downwardly deflected flaps **179** remain extended downwardly and in engagement with the lower portions of the center posts so as to bias the center posts outwardly against the necked-in portion **185** of the bottom panels **118, 119**. In this position, they preclude the center post from being folded beneath the carton into a position in which the center posts no longer support the bottom panels **118** and **119** in the inclined position. This inclined position of the bottom panels is desirable in order to cushion the bottoms of the eggs. Additionally, the angulated lower portions **86** of the center posts cooperate with the downwardly deflected flaps **179** to provide additional vertical resiliency and thus cushioning in the assembled carton.

The egg carton of FIGURES 5–7 is assembled in the same fashion as the egg carton of FIGURES 1–4. Specifically, the glue flap **23** is first secured to the inside surface of the rear panel **17** and the center posts **51** are inserted through the bottom panel slots **127** to complete the erection of this carton.

As will be particularly clear from viewing FIGURE 1, the front surface of the vertical partition panel of both embodiments of the egg carton provides an ideal surface for printing of advertising material which is viewable when the carton is open. An additional advantage of this carton is that it exposes the whole upper half of the eggs contained therein to cool air circulation as well as facilitating easy removal of eggs. As may be seen more clearly in FIGURES 2 and 6, the spacing of the exposed slots in the front and rear bottom panels separate the transversely opposed center posts with the result that the carton has transverse resiliency so that squeezing the carton transversely does not result in broken eggs until the gap between the opposed center posts is closed.

While only two embodiments of the invention of this application have been illustrated and described herein, those skilled in the art of manufacturing egg cartons will readily appreciate that numerous changes and alterations may be made in these illustrated embodiments without departing from the spirit of my invention. Therefore, I do not intend to be limited except by the scope of the appended claims.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A one piece egg carton including connected bottom, front and rear side panels, the bottom panel being inclined upwardly from the lower edges of the front and rear walls toward its longitudinal center line, said bottom having a plurality of spaced slots therein, a cover panel connected to the rear panel by a fold line, a vertically disposed longitudinal partition panel folded upon itself and extending longitudinally medially of the carton between the front and rear walls, a pair of spaced transverse partition panels connected to the vertical partition panel by fold lines, said transverse partition panels extending on opposite sides of the vertical partition panel to the front and rear panels to provide spaced rows of egg receiving pockets, the front one of said transverse panels being connected to the front panel by a fold line and the rear one of said transverse partition panels being secured to the rear panel, and a plurality of vertical center posts integral with said vertical partition panel and cut from said transverse partition panels, the lower por-

tions of said center posts extending through said bottom panel slots to secure said carton in erected condition and to provide vertical partitions between the lower portions of eggs placed in transversely opposed pockets.

2. A one piece egg carton including connected bottom, front and rear side panels, the bottom panel being inclined upwardly from the lower edges of the front and rear walls toward its longitudinal center line, said bottom having a plurality of spaced slots therein, a cover panel connected to the rear panel by a fold line, a vertically disposed longitudinal partition panel folded upon itself and extending longitudinally medially of the carton between the front and rear walls, a pair of spaced transverse partition panels connected to the vertical partition panel by fold lines, said transverse partition panels extending on opposite sides of the vertical partition panel to the front and rear panels to provide spaced rows of egg receiving pockets, the front one of said transverse panels being connected to the front panel by a fold line and the rear one of said transverse partition panels being secured to the rear panel, and a plurality of vertical center posts integral with said vertical partition panel and cut from said transverse partition panels, one center post being cut from each of the egg pocket defining portions of each of said transverse partition panels, the lower portions of said center posts extending through said bottom panel slots to secure said carton in erected condition and to provide vertical partitions between the lower portions of eggs placed in transversely opposed pockets.

3. A one piece egg carton including connected bottom, front and rear side panels, the bottom panel being inclined upwardly from the lower edges of the front and rear walls toward its longitudinal center line, said bottom having a plurality of spaced slots therein, a cover panel connected to the rear panel by a fold line, a vertically disposed longitudinal partition panel folded upon itself and extending longitudinally medially of the carton between the front and rear walls, a pair of spaced transverse partition panels connected to the vertical partition panel by fold lines, said transverse partition panels extending on opposite sides of the vertical partition panel to the front and rear panels to provide spaced rows of egg receiving pockets, the front one of said transverse panels being connected to the front panel by a fold line and the rear one of said transverse partition panels being secured to the rear panel, and a plurality of vertical center posts integral with said vertical partition panel and cut from said transverse partition panels, the lower portions of said center posts extending through said bottom panel slots to secure said carton in erected condition and to provide vertical partitions between the lower portions of eggs placed in transversely opposed pockets, the lower portions of transversely opposed vertical posts being spaced apart so as to provide transverse resiliency in the assembled carton.

4. A one piece egg carton including connected bottom, front and rear side panels, the bottom panel being inclined upwardly from the lower edges of the front and rear walls toward its longitudinal center line, said bottom having a plurality of spaced slots therein, a cover panel connected to the rear panel by a fold line, a vertically disposed longitudinal partition panel folded upon itself and extending longitudinally medially of the carton between the front and rear walls, a pair of spaced transverse partition panels connected to the vertical partition panel by fold lines, said tranverse partition panels extending on opposite sides of the vertical partition panel to the front and rear panels to provide spaced rows of egg receiving pockets, the front one of said transverse panels being connected to the front panel by a fold line and the rear one of said transverse partition panels being secured to the rear panel, and a plurality of vertical center posts integral with said vertical partition panel and cut from said transverse partition panels, the lower portions of said center posts extending through said bottom panel slots to secure said carton in erected condition and to provide vertical partitions between the lower portions of eggs placed in transversely opposed pockets, said slots being generally V-shaped and said center posts being creased into generally V-shaped cross-sectional configuration to fit said slots and thereby increase the vertical rigidity of said posts and the vertical rigidity of the assembled carton.

5. A one piece egg carton including connected bottom, front and rear side panels, the bottom panel being inclined upwardly from the lower edges of the front and rear walls toward its longitudinal center line, said bottom having a plurality of spaced slots therein, a cover panel connected to the rear panel by a fold line, a vertically disposed longitudinal partition panel folded upon itself and extending longitudinally medially of the carton between the front and rear walls, a pair of spaced transverse partition panels connected to the vertical partition panel by fold lines, said tranverse partition panels extending on opposite sides of the vertical partition panel to the front and rear panels to provide spaced rows of egg receiving pockets, the front one of said transverse panels being connected to the front panel by a fold line and the rear one of said transverse partition panels being secured to the rear panel, and a plurality of vertical center posts integral with said vertical partition panel and cut from said transverse partition panels, the lower portions of said center posts extending through said bottom panel slots to secure said carton in erected condition and to provide vertical partitions between the lower portions of eggs placed in transversely opposed pockets, each of said slots being defined by a pair of opposed bottom flaps, one of each of said pair of flaps being folded downwardly upon insertion of said center post through said slot and retained in said downwardly folded position by said center post.

6. The egg carton of claim 5 wherein the lower portion of each of said center posts defines a generally inverted T-shape.

7. A one piece egg carton including connected bottom, front and rear side panels, the bottom panel being inclined upwardly from the lower edges of the front and rear walls toward its longitudinal center line, said bottom having a plurality of spaced slots therein, a cover panel connected to the rear panel by a fold line, a vertically disposed longitudinal partition panel folded upon itself and extending longitudinally medially of the carton between the front and rear walls, a pair of spaced transverse partition panels connected to the vertical partition panel by fold lines, said transverse partition panels extending on opposite sides of the vertical partition panel to the front and rear panels to provide spaced rows of egg receiving pockets, the front one of said transverse panels being connected to the front panel by a fold line and the rear one of said transverse partition panels being secured to the rear panel, a plurality of vertical center posts integral with said vertical partition panel and cut from said transverse partition panels, the lower portions of said center posts extending through said bottom panel slots to secure said carton in erected condition and to provide vertical partitions between the lower portions of eggs placed in transversely opposed pockets, and a row of downwardly folded flaps cut from each of said transverse partition panels, each of said egg receiving pockets being at least partially defined by a pair of said downwardly folded flaps.

8. The egg carton of claim 1 wherein each of said egg receiving pockets is partially defined by a pair of opposed downwardly folded flaps cut from said transverse partition panels, the flaps cut from said transverse partition panel being joined to said front panel and said vertical partition panel by gussets, and the flaps cut from said rear transverse partition panel being joined to said vertical partition panel and a glue strip by gussets, said glue strip being secured by adhesive to said rear panel.

9. The egg carton of claim 7 wherein the lowermost portions of said downwardly folded flaps engage said front and rear walls to assist in rigidifying said assembled carton.

10. The egg carton of claim 7 wherein the downwardly folded flaps located at the longitudinal ends of the carton are joined to the vertical partition panel at a point above the point at which at least some of the other flaps are joined to said vertical partition panel so as to minimize the chance of small eggs inadvertently falling from the assembled and filled cartons.

11. A one piece egg carton comprising, in sequential order, a front closure flap, a cover, a rear panel, a pair of bottom panels, a front panel, a front transverse partition panel, a vertical partition panel, a rear transverse partition panel, and a glue flap, said bottom panels being adapted when assembled to be inclined upwardly and inwardly toward the carton longitudinal center line, said bottom panels having a plurality of spaced slots therein, said vertical partition panel being adapted to be reversely folded upon itself, said glue flap being adapted to be secured to the inside of said rear panel, a row of egg cell defining flaps cut in each of said transverse partition panels, and a plurality of center posts cut from between adjacent egg cell defining flaps, said center posts being integral with said vertical partition and adapted to form vertical extensions thereof when inserted through said slots in said bottom panels.

12. The egg carton of claim 11 wherein transversely opposed slots in said pair of bottom panels are spaced apart so as to provide transverse carton resiliency when the center posts are inserted through the slots in the assembled carton.

13. A one piece egg carton comprising, in sequential order, a front closure flap, a cover, a rear panel, a pair of bottom panels, a front panel, a front transverse partition panel, a vertical partition panel, a rear transverse partition panel, and a glue flap, said bottom panels being adapted when assembled to be inclined upwardly and inwardly toward the carton longitudinal center line, each of said bottom panels having a plurality of spaced slots therein, said vertical partition panel being adapted to be reversely folded upon itself, said glue flap being adapted to be secured to the inside of said rear panel, a row of egg cell defining flaps cut in each of said transverse partition panels, and a plurality of center posts cut from between adjacent egg cell defining flaps, said center posts being integral with said vertical partition and adapted to form vertical extensions thereof when inserted through said slots in said bottom panels, said slots being generally V-shaped such that said center posts must be creased into a generally V-shaped cross-sectional configuration in order to be received into said slots.

14. A one piece egg carton comprising, in sequential order, a front closure flap, a cover, a rear panel, a pair of bottom panels, a front panel, a front transverse partition panel, a vertical partition panel, a rear transverse partition panel, and a glue flap, said bottom panels being adapted when assembled to be inclined upwardly and inwardly toward the carton longitudinal center line, said bottom panels having a plurality of spaced slots therein, each of said slots being defined by a pair of opposed bottom flaps, said vertical partition panel being adapted to be reversely folded upon itself, said glue flap being adapted to be secured to the inside of said rear panel, a row of egg cell defining flaps cut in each of said transverse partition panels, and a plurality of center posts cut from between adjacent egg cell defining flaps, said center posts being integral with said vertical partition and adapted to form vertical extensions thereof when inserted through said slots in said bottom panels, one of each of said pair of bottom flaps being adapted to be folded downwardly upon insertion of said center post through said slot and retained in said downwardly folded position by said center post.

15. A one piece egg carton comprising, in sequential order, a front closure flap, a cover, a rear panel, a pair of bottom panels, a front panel, a front transverse partition panel, a vertical partition panel, a rear transverse partition panel, and a glue flap, said bottom panels being adapted when assembled to be inclined upwardly and inwardly toward the carton longitudinal center line, said bottom panels having a plurality of spaced slots therein, each of said slots being defined by a pair of opposed bottom flaps, said vertical partition panel being adapted to be reversely folded upon itself, said glue flap being adapted to be secured to the inside of said rear panel, a row of egg cell defining flaps cut in each of said transverse partition panels, and a plurality of center posts cut from between adjacent egg cell defining flaps, said center posts being integral with said vertical partition and adapted to form vertical extensions thereof when inserted through said slots in said bottom panels, that portion of each of said center posts remote from the vertical partition being generally of T-shaped configuration, one of each of said pair of bottom flaps being adapted to be folded downwardly upon insertion of said center post through said slot and retained in said downwardly folded position by said center post.

No references cited.

JOSEPH R. LECLAIR, *Primary Examiner.*
D. T. MOORHEAD, *Assistant Examiner.*