June 20, 1933. M. BURGER 1,915,151

EGG CARTON

Filed Sept. 15, 1931

Fig. 1.

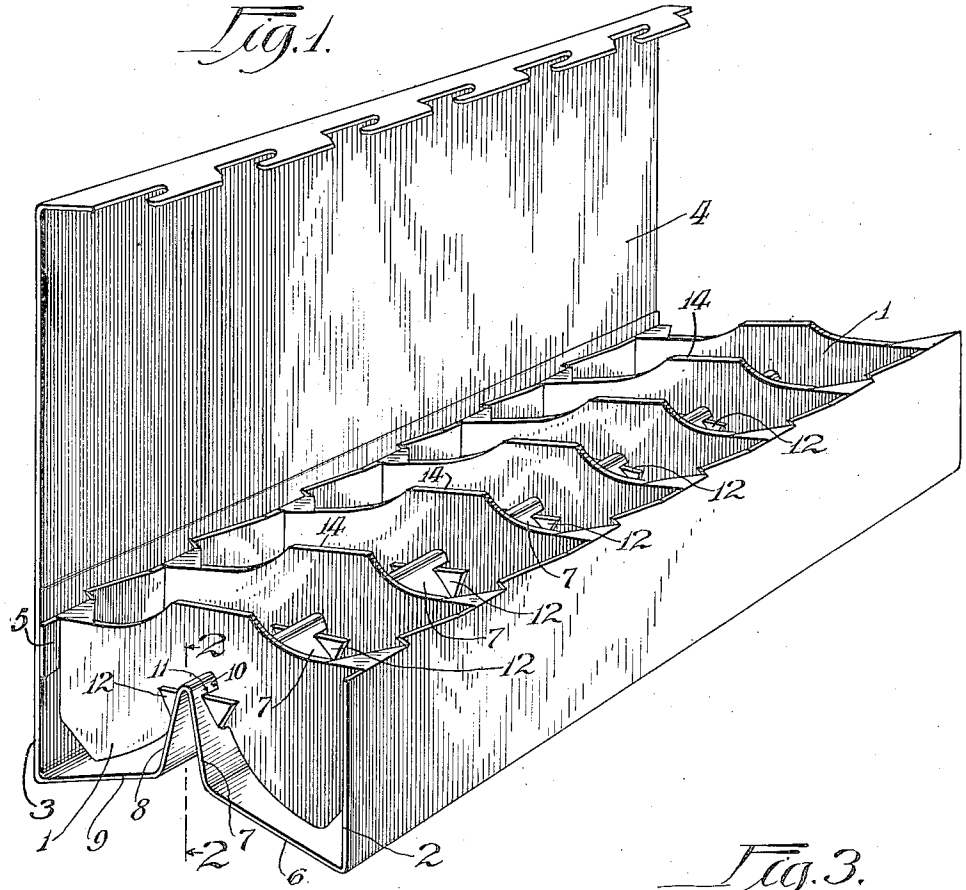


Fig. 2.

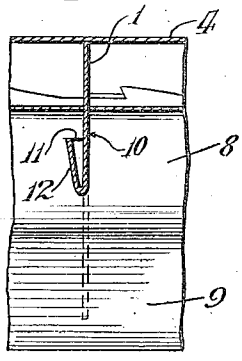
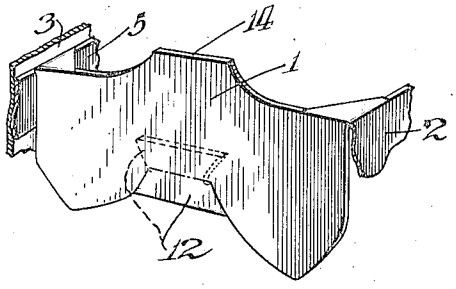


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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EGG CARTON

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The present invention relates to cellular cartons or other structures in which two crossing members of cardboard or the like are adapted to interengage and interlock with each other, and has for its object to produce a simple and novel interlock between two such members.

The invention is particularly applicable to cellular cartons, for the purpose of interlocking cross and longitudinal partitions; and it may therefore be said to have for its object to produce a simple and novel cellular carton.

The various features of novelty whereby my invention is characterized will hereinafter be pointed out with particularity in the claims; but, for a full understanding of my invention and of its objects and advantages, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a carton embodying the present invention, the lid or cover being shown open; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal center section through the closed carton, in a closed condition, only a fragment of the carton being shown; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the fragment of the carton, showing one of the cross partitions in the condition in which it is prior to being interlocked with the longitudinal partition.

In the drawing I have illustrated my invention only as applied to a special type of carton and, for the sake of brevity, shall confine the detailed description to this particular embodiment; although it will of course be understood that my invention is not limited to cartons of this particular type or to cartons, as such.

Referring to the drawing, 1, 1 represent cross partitions forming part of a cellular carton which is very similar in general construction to a type of egg carton now in wide use. In other words, these cross partitions are shown as forming part of the single blank which is cut and folded to produce front and rear walls, 2 and 3, a combined bottom and central longitudinal partition, and a cover 4. The cross partitions are attached at their upper front corners to the front wall, and at their upper rear corners to a long narrow strip 5 which is glued to the rear wall; this being common construction to permit the cross partitions to be swung between positions in which they lie in the plane of the top of the carton, and positions in which they extend downwardly at right angles to such plane. Furthermore, in the arrangement shown, the combined bottom and central longitudinal partition is formed of what may be termed four contiguous sections 6, 7, 8 and 9. The sections 6 and 9 form the actual bottom, being inclined upwardly from the front and rear walls, respectively, toward the longitudinal center. The sections 7 and 8 form the central longitudinal partition which, in cross section, is the shape of a narrow inverted V. The height of the central longitudinal partition, taking into consideration only this particular form of carton, is preferably such that the ridge thereof lies far below the cover when the carton is set up although, if desired, it might extend clear to the cover.

The longitudinal partition has slots cut into the same transversely of and downwardly through the ridge to receive the cross partitions. These slots, preferably slightly wider than the thickness of the cardboard of which the carton is made, extend straight down as indicated at 10 and, a short distance from the ridge, are undercut to produce downwardly facing shoulders. Or, in other words, the carton material bounding one side of each of the slots in the cross partition may be said to constitute a hook.

The cross partitions are formed, at the middle of the lower edges, with short flaps 12 partially severed therefrom, to permit the flaps to be folded up beside the body portion of the partitions. The vertical dimensions of each of these flaps 12 are approximately equal to the distance from the bottom of each slot 10 in the longitudinal partition to the shoulder 11. Therefore, if one of the cross partitions is pushed down into one of the slots in the longitudinal partition, while the flap on the cross partition is turned up, the free upper edge of the flap will be brought just under the shoulder 11 in the longitudinal

partition when the cross partition bottoms in the slot. By leaving the material of the cross partitions in such condition that the flaps will tend to swing outwardly therefrom and back into their original positions, after having been bent up, the flaps will act in the manner of spring tongues which, as soon as their free upper ends pass below the shoulders 11, will snap under these shoulders as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2, and will thereafter act as struts or braces on the upper ends of which the longitudinal partition is supported.

It will be seen that with an interlock of the type just described it becomes unnecessary to cut slots or notches in the upper edges of the cross walls or partitions and, therefore, these partitions may be provided with comparatively long horizontal upper edge portions 14 at the middle; these edge portions engaging with the cover of the carton when the latter is closed, and forming a firm support for the cover along the longitudinal center of the latter.

While I have illustrated and described my invention with particularity only as applied to a type of carton which provides further advantages and may be said to be an elaboration of my invention, considered in its broadest aspects, I do not desire to be limited to the exact structural details thus illustrated and described; but intend to cover all forms and arrangements which come within the definitions of my invention constituting the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A carton comprising front and rear walls, a cover, a bottom member folded to form a shallow central longitudinal partition composed of two thicknesses of material and two inclined bottom wall sections extending downwardly therefrom to the lower edges of the front and rear walls, and cross partitions hung at their upper ends from the front and rear walls; said longitudinal partition having transverse slots cut down through the ridge thereof and undercut on one side to produce downwardly facing shoulders; said cross partitions extending into said slots and having side portions extending down to said inclined bottom wall sections; and said cross partitions having thereon tongues rising therefrom underneath and into contact with the shoulders in the corresponding slots in the longitudinal partition.

2. In an egg carton, front and rear walls, a bottom section folded upwardly along its central portion to form a longitudinal partition, said partition being provided with downwardly extending slots having an undercut portion forming a shoulder, and cross partitions mounted in said slots, said cross partitions having a portion pivoted below said shoulder and folded upwardly and engaged therewith, the width of said slot being less than the width of said folded portion.

3. In an egg carton, an upwardly extending longitudinal partition having downwardly extending slots in its upper edge and hooks projecting into said slots, and hinged cross partitions adapted to be rotated into erect position for engagement in said slots, said cross partitions having portions pivoted below said hooks and folded upwardly and engaged therewith, the width of said slot being less than the width of said folded portion.

In testimony whereof, I sign this specification.

MARTIN BURGER.