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HAT PACKAGE

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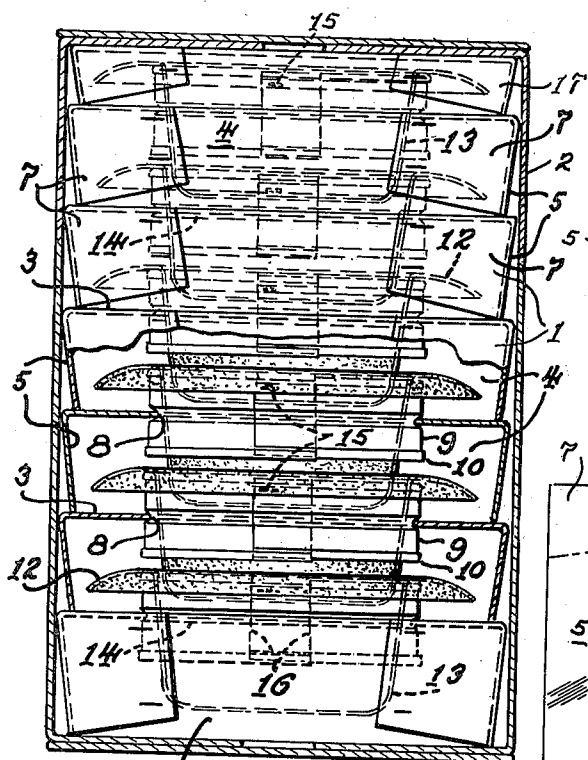


Fig. 1.

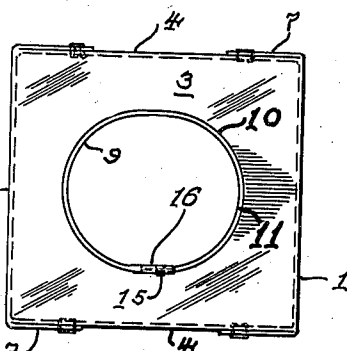


Fig. 3.

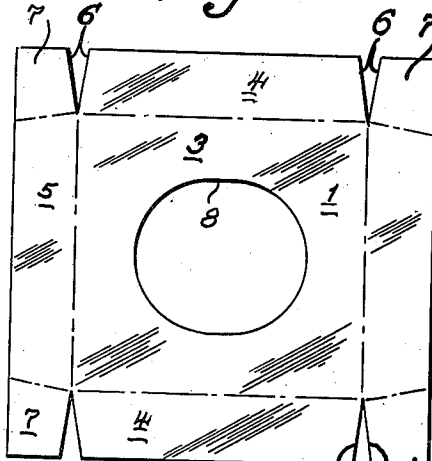


Fig. 4.

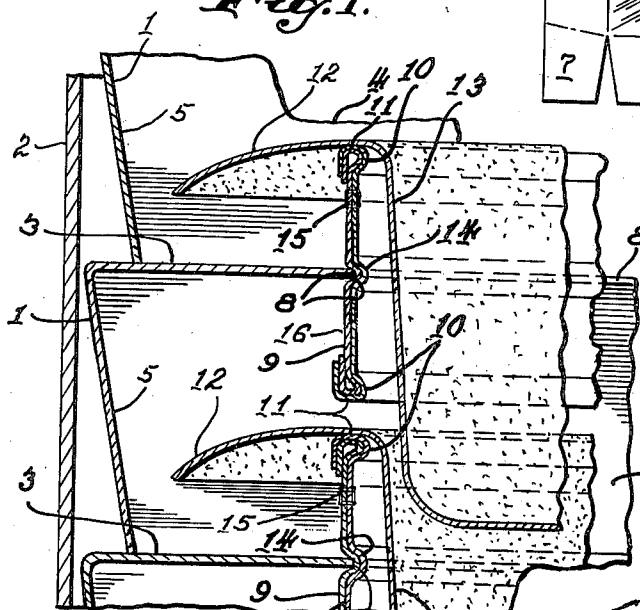


Fig. 2.

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## HAT PACKAGE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 206—8)

This invention relates to a package for packing hats for shipping and storage. The invention primarily relates to the packing of soft hats such for instance as fur, or wool felt hats but it could be used to advantage in packing other soft hats or stiff or derby or straw hats. The objects thereof are to provide a box or package with simple, inexpensive, efficient and compact means for spacing the hats apart and preventing them from bearing one upon the other or from being rubbed by either the individual packing means or the successive packing devices placed in a single package.

In the package of this invention a plurality of hats may be packed in superposed or nested relation so that no hat in the package will be subjected to the weight of any other hat or to the pressure of any other part and separate, individual means are provided for centering and limiting endwise or sidewise movement of each of the superposed hats.

A crown and brim protector of the type shown in Patent No. 2,141,017, December 20, 1938, may be placed about the crown of each hat prior to placing it in the collar of the instant invention. As shown in that patent the crown protector may be co-extensive with the sides of the crown.

Aside from the supporting platforms and collars no separate holder is required to separate the hats one from the other.

These and other objects will become apparent from the following description and accompanying drawing forming a part hereof and in which:

Figure 1 is a partial sectional vertical view through the side of a hat package embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is an enlarged sectional view in the vertical plane showing the detailed structure.

Figure 3 is a plan view of an individual hat holder.

Figure 4 is a plan view of the platform prior to folding.

A plurality of hat holders 1 are placed one upon the other in an outer container 2. This container can hold as many of these individual hat holders as may be desired, either six or twelve hats or a lesser number if desired. It is constructed to hold the desired number closely, to avoid relative movement of contents and container. The lowermost hat holder is made a trifle deeper than the upper ones so that the crown of the hat may not contact the bottom of the package. The upper hats telescope slightly into the next lower hat so that the succeeding platforms need not be so high, although it is most

important that they be high enough to prevent crushing of the successive crowns of the hats by the next lower hat. The individual hat holders 1 are formed with a platform 3 and with sides bent over; at 4 and 5, through slightly more than ninety degrees. The sides are cut out as shown at 6 at a slight angle, so that when side 4 is turned in, side 5 contacts with the end of side 4 and the corner 7 is bent over upon side 4 and stapled, the top of the corner 7 coming flush with the top of the platform 3. This method of construction makes for rigidity and uniformity of taper for each individual hat holder. The tapered construction of the holders prevents them from telescoping one upon the other, thereby forming a rigid support for each individual hat. The platform of each holder has an oval opening 8 therein, and in each opening is placed a collar 9. These collars are formed with rolled or curled top and bottom forming hollow beads 10, these beads presenting a broadened surface 11 for the brim 12 of inverted hats 13. The surface 11 projecting from the lower end of the collar prevents the next lower hat from moving upwardly to contact either the lower side of the platform above or from crushing the crown of the next upper hat. Each hat is by the juxtaposed surfaces 11 held in position by the brim where it has very limited movement and thereby rubbing of the crown or brim and the distortion of them is prevented. Likewise the brim is limited in the amount of movement permitted to it by the proximity of the top of the platform.

The collars 9 have a groove 14 circumferentially thereof projecting inwardly and the collars are placed into the openings 8 and expanded upon themselves so that the platform fits snugly into the groove 14 and in this position the collars are stapled at 15. The extremities of the collars including the beads 10 are telescoped together as shown at 16 in Figures 1, 2 and 3. Over the top hat is placed a more shallow cover 17. This top 17 need not have any oval opening centrally thereof. It holds the stack of holders down in the outer container in case the container should be turned over and prevents the weight of the other holders from falling upon the brim of the top hat.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that there is no weight on any hat, as each holder rests directly upon each next lower holder and the lowermost holder is supported on the bottom of the container. The construction of the holders gives them sufficient rigidity to hold the hats and as they fit tightly

within the container at the sides and top and bottom they add considerable strength to the package. Each hat is supported independently of each other hat so that there is substantially no danger of marring the surface of the hats. The packages will carry a great many more hats in this construction than is possible where round or square or oval boxes are used. If desired the individual parts, the containers, the hat holders and the collars may be stored and shipped flat so that they will occupy very little space until required for use.

I claim:

1. A hat package comprising a container having side walls, a plurality of hat holders adapted to be superposed one upon the other and held in centered vertical alignment by the side walls of said container, each holder comprising a platform having an opening therein and sides projecting downwardly therefrom and resting upon the platform of a next lower holder, the lower horizontal perimeter of said sides being less than that of the platform, a collar circumferentially supported in said opening adapted to receive the crown of an inverted hat therein, the collar projecting substantially above and below the platform and limiting the movement of the hat therein and of the hat in a next lower collar, the platform sides spacing hats between adjacent collars from contact one with the other.

2. A hat package comprising a container having side walls, a plurality of hat holders adapted to be superposed one upon the other and held in centered vertical alignment by the side walls of said container, each holder comprising a platform having an opening therein and sides projecting downwardly therefrom and resting upon the platform of a next lower holder, the lower horizontal perimeter of said sides being less than that of the platform, a collar circumferentially supported in said opening adapted to receive the crown of an inverted hat therein, the collar projecting substantially above and below the platform, the lower edge of one collar being spaced from and lying directly above the upper edge of a next lower collar, the juxtaposed collar edges limiting the movement of a hat brim therebe-

tween, the platform sides spacing hats between adjacent collars from contact one with the other.

3. A hat package comprising a container having side walls, a plurality of hat holders adapted to be superposed one upon the other and held in centered vertical alignment by the side walls of said container, each holder comprising a platform having an opening therein and sides projecting downwardly therefrom and resting upon the platform of a next lower holder, the lower horizontal perimeter of said sides being less than that of the platform, a collar circumferentially supported in said opening adapted to receive the crown of an inverted hat therein, the collar projecting substantially above and below the platform and limiting the movement of the hat therein and of the hat in a next lower collar, the platform sides spacing hats between adjacent collars from contact one with the other, and a top having downwardly directed sides to space it from the top platform and limiting the movement of the top hat and supporting the stack of hats upon the inversion of the container.

4. A hat package comprising a container, a plurality of holders adapted to be superposed one upon the other and held in centered vertical alignment by said container, each holder comprising a platform having an oval opening therein, the platform having edges thereon turned down through slightly more than ninety degrees, the lower horizontal perimeter of the edges being less than that of the platform, and forming a support for the platform upon the platform of a next lower holder, a collar of larger perimeter than the hat crown having means to hold the same circumferentially in said oval opening, the collar being adapted to receive the crown of an inverted hat therein, the collar projecting above the platform to support the brim of the hat, and extending well below the platform into proximity to the collar on a next lower platform to prevent a hat therein from rising above the collar described, the platform sides spacing hats between adjacent collars from contact one with the other.

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