June 17, 1952 R. O. WESLEY 2,601,192

PACKAGING MEANS FOR TOY PISTOLS

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FIG. 1

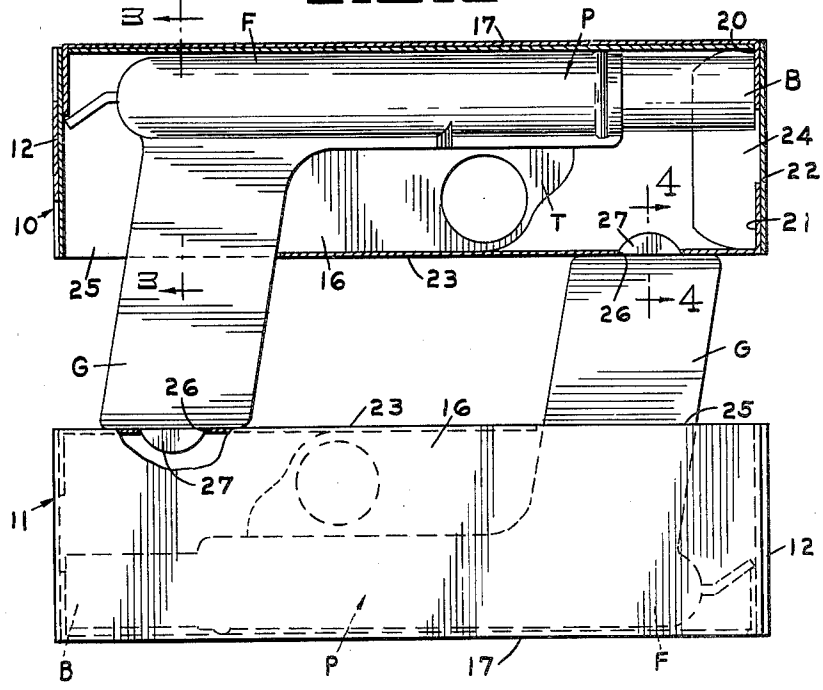


FIG. 2

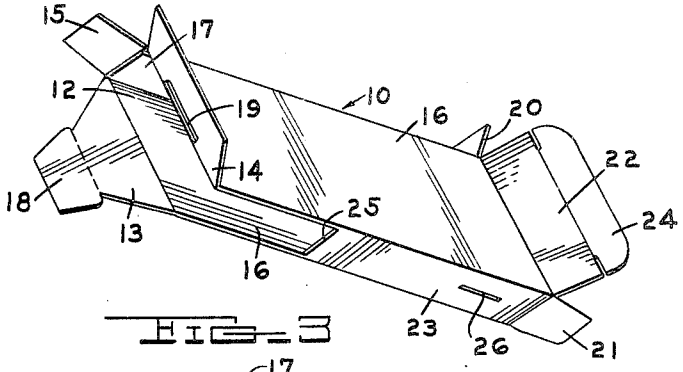


FIG. 4

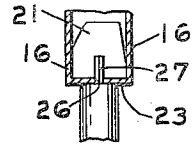
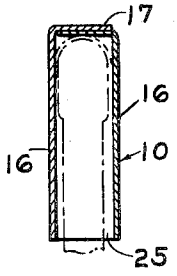


FIG. 3



INVENTOR.
ROBERT O. WESLEY
BY
Whittemore, Hulbert & Belknap
ATTORNEYS

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PACKAGING MEANS FOR TOY PISTOLS

Robert O. Wesley, Plymouth, Mich., assignor to Daisy Manufacturing Company, Plymouth, Mich., a corporation of Michigan

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3 Claims. (Cl. 206—65)

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One of the objects of this invention is to substantially reduce the cost of packaging pistols in individual cartons by eliminating the fillers or spacers heretofore employed to prevent displacement of the pistols in their respective cartons, and thereby not only conserving on the material used in forming the package, but in addition, greatly reducing the time required in packaging.

Another object of this invention is to provide a carton having a width approximating the width of the pistol structure in advance of the grip and having the rear end open enabling the pistol to be slipped into the carton. The opening is adapted to be closed by flaps and clearance for the pistol grip is provided for by an opening extending along the bottom wall of the carton from the opening at the rear end of the carton. Thus cartons having pistols therein may be nested together in a manner enabling packaging a substantial number of cartons in a shipping container of relatively small size. Moreover a carton constructed in accordance with the above enables displaying a part of the merchandise so that the shop keeper is not inconvenienced by prospective purchasers opening the cartons. In fact a facsimile of the portion of the pistol concealed may be printed or otherwise applied to the carton, if desired.

A further feature of this invention is to provide a carton of the type set forth having a slot in the bottom wall adjacent the front end of the carton. This arrangement enables positioning two cartons with their bottom walls adjacent one another in a manner such that the usual ear or projection depending from the bottom of the grip on the pistol in one carton may be engaged in the slot formed in the other carton, and the ear depending from the bottom of the grip on the pistol in the other carton may be engaged in the slot formed in the first named carton. Thus adjacent cartons are held against relative movement in a shipping container, and may be readily separated when desired without interfering with the individual cartons.

The foregoing as well as other objects will be made more apparent as this description proceeds, especially when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the two cartons having pistols therein and showing one of the cartons in section;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of one of the cartons showing the end flaps in their open positions;

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Figures 3 and 4 are respectively sectional views taken on the lines 3—3 and 4—4 of Figure 1.

The pistol packaging means forming the subject matter of this invention comprises two cartons 10 and 11 formed of heavy paper, cardboard or some equivalent inexpensive material capable of being folded. The two cartons are interchangeable and although this invention is not concerned with the particular method of forming the cartons, nevertheless, each carton is preferably formed from a single sheet of stock scored at the proper points to enable readily folding the same into box form.

The rear end 12 of each carton is open and is closed by foldable flaps 13, 14 and 15 respectively formed on opposite side walls 16 and on the top wall 17 at the rear end of the latter. The flap 13 is formed with a foldable tongue 18 and the flap 14 is formed with a slot 19 for receiving the tongue in the folded position of the latter to hold the flaps in their respective closed positions.

The front end of each carton may also be open in which event flaps 20, 21 and 22 are respectively formed on the front ends of the top wall 17, bottom wall 23 and side wall 16. The flap 22 is formed with a tongue 24 adapted to be folded to a closed position in the front end of the carton adjacent the inner surface of the side wall 16 opposite the side wall to which the flap 22 is attached.

The bottom wall 23 of each carton is formed with an opening 25 extending forwardly from the rear open end of the carton in the manner clearly shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawing. It will further be noted from the above figures of the drawing that a narrow slot 26 is formed in the bottom wall 23 of each carton adjacent the front end of the latter, and is elongated in the direction of length of the bottom wall 23.

The length of each carton approximates the overall length of a toy pistol P having the usual barrel B, barrel supporting frame F, trigger slide T and grip G depending from the rear end of the barrel supporting frame. The width of each carton approximates the combined width of the barrel supporting frame and trigger slide, and the slot 25 in the bottom wall 23 receives the pistol grip G enabling the portion of the latter extending below the trigger slide to project out of the carton.

Assuming that the front end of the carton 10, for example, is closed by the flaps 20—22 and that the flaps 13—15 at the rear end of the carton are in their open positions shown in Figure 2 of the drawing, a pistol P may be slipped muzzle first

into the carton through the rear opening. Inasmuch as the opening **25** in the bottom wall **23** of the carton is connected at its rear end to the open rear of the carton, the pistol grip G merely slides forwardly in the opening **25** and the latter is of sufficient length to enable sliding the pistol to its forwardmost position wherein the front end of the barrel abuts the front end of the carton. The flaps **13—15** may then be folded to their closed positions shown in Figure 1 of the drawing, and the entire pistol with the exception of the lower end portion of the grip G is enclosed. Since the carton is about the same length as the pistol and is about the same width as the enclosed portion of the pistol, it follows that shifting movement of the pistol in the carton is prevented without the use of spacers or fillers. Moreover, the size of the carton for a given size pistol is reduced to a minimum, and as a result, a considerable saving in material is effected. If desired, a picture of the portion of the pistol concealed by the carton may be applied to one or both sides of the carton enabling the contents of the carton to be determined without the necessity of opening the carton.

The pistols may be packaged in pairs by positioning a pair of cartons in the manner shown in Figure 1 of the drawings with one carton inverted and reversed with respect to the other. The pistols P in the respective cartons assume the same relative positions, so that the grip G of the pistol in the carton **10** projects toward the front end of the carton **11** and the grip G of the pistol in the carton **11** extends toward the front end of the carton **10**. In this connection it is pointed out that in many pistols of the type illustrated, ears or projections **27** are formed on the bottom walls of the grips G and extend downwardly from the latter walls. Advantage is taken of these ears during packaging by so arranging the slots **26** in adjacent bottom walls of the cartons that the slot in the carton **10** receives the ear **27** on the pistol in the carton **11** and the slot **26** in the carton **11** receives the ear on the grip of the pistol in the carton **10**. Thus the two cartons are held against relative displacement and may be readily separated when desired without opening either carton. It will also be noted that the foregoing renders it possible to nest the cartons in a manner enabling packaging a substantial number of cartons with pistols therein in a relatively small container which, of course, is advantageous from the standpoint of reducing shipping costs.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. In combination, a pair of pistols, means for packaging said pistols, with one in an inverted and reverse position with respect to the other, each of said pistols including a grip portion and a projection extending from the bottom of the grip portion, said packaging means comprising a pair of cartons for the respective pistols, having openings in the bottom walls, through which the grip portions of the pistols project, and having slots in said walls for respectively receiving said pistol grip portion projections so as to releasably retain said pair of cartons against relative movement.

2. In combination, a pair of pistols and means for packaging the same, with one of said pistols inverted and reversed with respect to the other, each of said pistols including a grip portion and a projection extending from the bottom of the grip portion, said packaging means comprising a pair of like, interchangeable cartons for the respective pistols, having openings in the bottom walls through which the grip portions of the pistols project, and having slots in said walls longitudinally spaced from the openings, the slot in one carton being located in such a position as to receive the projection projecting from the bottom of the pistol in the other carton, and the slot in the latter carton being located in such a position as to receive the projection extending from the bottom of the pistol grip in said one carton, so as to releasably retain the said cartons against relative movement.

3. In combination, a pair of pistols and means for packaging the same, with one pistol inverted and reversed relative to the other, each of said pistols including a grip portion and a projection extending from the bottom of the grip portion, said packaging means comprising a pair of interchangeable cartons having one end open for respectively receiving the pistols, and having flaps foldable to close said open end, each of said cartons having a width less than the overall width of the pistol disposed therein and having an opening in the bottom wall extending to the open end for receiving the grip portion of the pistol, each of said cartons also having a slot in said bottom wall longitudinally spaced from said opening and receiving the projection extending from the bottom of the grip of the pistol in the other carton, while the slot in the latter carton receives the projection on the pistol in the said one carton, whereby to releasably retain said cartons against relative movement.

ROBERT O. WESLEY.

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