No. 894,130. PATENTED JULY 21, 1908.

C. J. FRANKS.

BOTTLE CARRIER.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 7, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

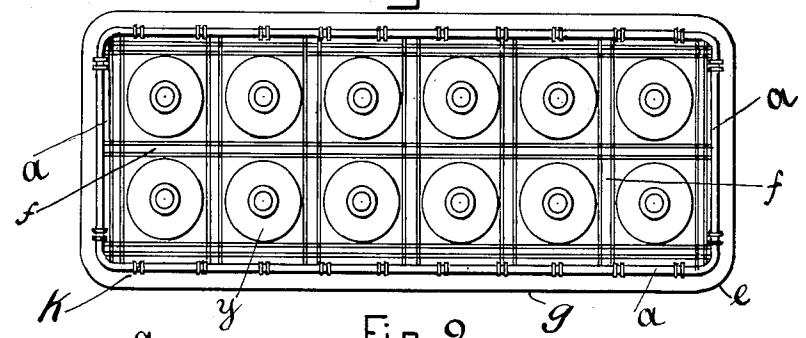


Fig. 2.

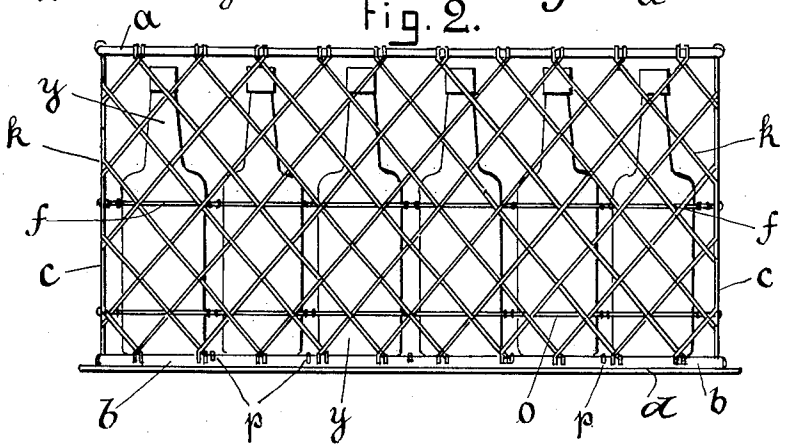
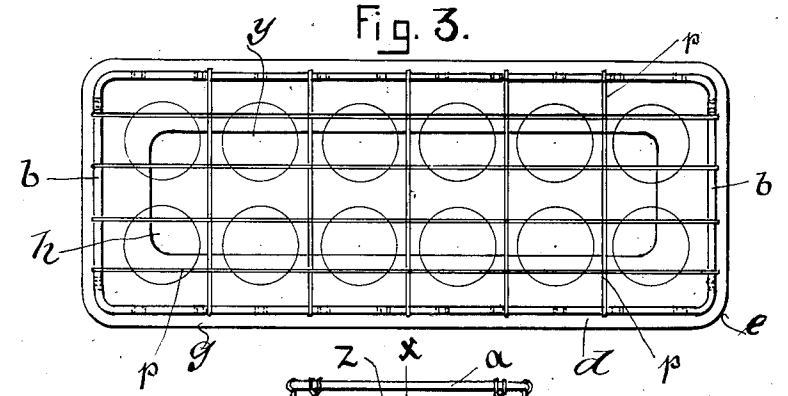


Fig. 3.



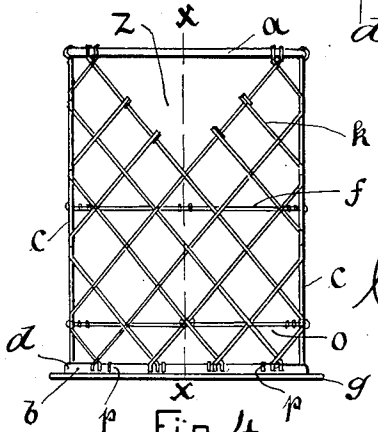


Fig. 4.

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No. 894,130. PATENTED JULY 21, 1908.

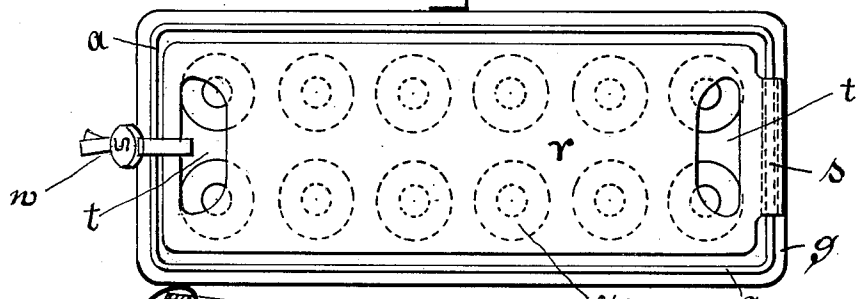
C. J. FRANKS.

BOTTLE CARRIER.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 7, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.



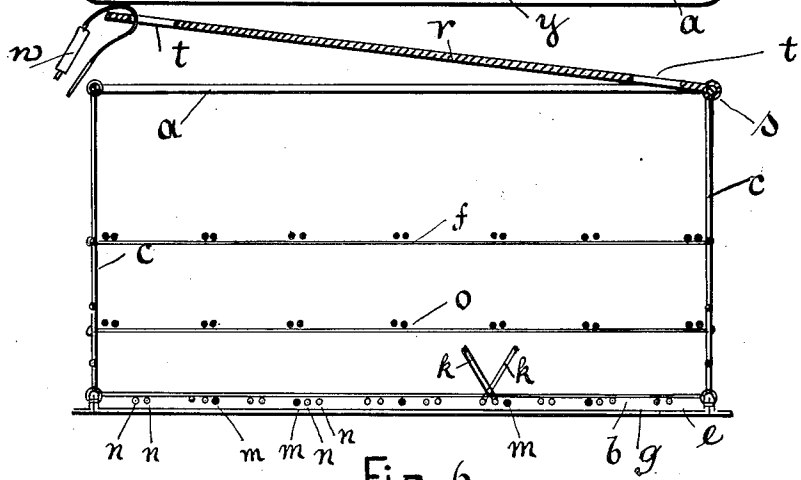


Fig. 6.

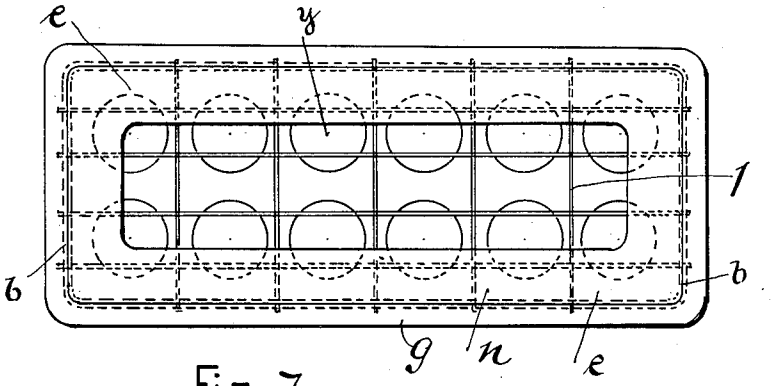


Fig. 7.

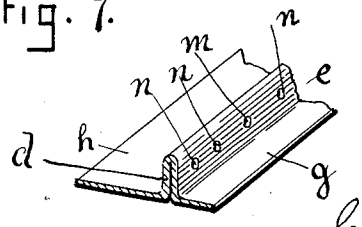


Fig. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES J. FRANKS, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

BOTTLE-CARRIER.

No. 894,130. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 21, 1908.

Application filed July 7, 1906. Serial No. 325,079.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES J. FRANKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bottle-Carriers, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to produce a cheap, simple and efficient bottle carrier, made of wire and metal. In the drawing I show the bottle carrier as a beer box. It may of course be used for carrying any other kind or shape of bottles.

The present wooden or metal box is inefficient, it gathers dirt, the bottles must all be taken out of the box to be cooled, rain and snow fall into it while being delivered, and the wooden box is often used for kindling, entailing loss; and the life of the box is short.

My improved box being made of wire and metal net work is light, no dirt can gather in it, air can pass around the bottles, the whole box with the bottles in it can be quickly cooled and can be set into an ice chest as a whole, it is lasting, can be shipped with the beer and not be subject to breakage or loss by stealing. The box being metal cannot of course be used for other purposes as a wooden box and will therefore always be returned to the brewery. It is arranged so that the bottles are cushioned and therefore preventing individual breakage of bottles and is neat in appearance.

Another salient feature of my invention consists in providing a shoe, runner or guide frame at the bottom edges of the box preventing the wires or net work or edges of the box from interfering with its adjacent box or with the box above or below it, allowing the operator to handle each box separately without jarring, marring, breaking or pulling the boxes near it.

In the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification Figure 1 is a top view of my improved bottle carrier, filled with bottles. Fig. 2 is a side view of the bottle carrier shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a bottom view thereof, the runner, shoe or guide frame removed. Fig. 4 an end view thereof. Fig. 5 a top view of the bottle carrier shown in Fig. 1, a lid however appearing in this figure, used preferably when the box is shipped. Fig. 6 is a central longitudinal section taken at line X, X, of Fig. 4. Fig. 7 is a bottom view of the box. Fig. 8 is a perspective view of part of the lower frame showing construction.

The box is made up of rectangular upper frame *a* and lower frame *b* of same shape, rounded at the corners. These frames are connected at the corners by rods *c*. The upper frame *a* is of plain heavy wire and shaped plain, as shown in Fig. 8, but the frame *b* at the bottom is of a T-shape as shown, the inner part extending inward about an inch and a half and the outer part extending outward about half an inch. This frame forms a shoe, slide, runner or guide for the boxes in pulling them off one another or moving them over the floor or sliding them and being regular and smooth will protect the boxes and the floor or other resting place of the box. This T shaped frame *b* is composed of the flat bar or strip *e* of metal rounded at the corners, rectangular in shape, having a flange *d* extending up from its face, the flat strip on the outside of this flange *d* extending outward one half an inch and on the inside of the flange extending inward about one and a half inches.

The outer extension of strip *e* is marked *g* and the inner extension *h*. A wire screen, mesh or net work *k* extends all around the box, passing from the top frame *a* to the bottom frame *b*, at the bottom passing through holes *m* in flange *d* of strip *e*. The lower net work or bottom *p* is connected to the flange *d* by wires passing through holes *n*. Of course the wire net work may be connected to the frame in any desired workmanlike manner, cheapness and strength being the object. It will be seen that in this manner a strong bottom is made for the box, the sides, ends and bottom wires all passing through flange on bottom frame and the side and end wires passing around the top frame, a strong, rigid, substantial box is the result.

At the top of the box I hinge at one end by hinge *s* a lid *r*, made of metal, provided at each end with a hand hole *t*. This lid is so shaped that it fits snugly into the box preferably resting on the top of the bottles *y*.

On each end of the top, I provide a V shaped opening or space Z in the wire mesh so that the hand can be slipped into this space and through the hand hole *t* in the lid to properly handle the box. Near the middle and below the middle of the box, I provide two wire bottle supporters or holders *f* and *o* which are made up of wire mesh formed of

wire running at practically right angles forming spaces so that the bottles *y* may fit into said spaces. These bottle supports *f* and *o* may be permanently placed in the box or may be made removable, just as desired. These bottle holders or supporters keep the bottles in an upright position and free from contact with one another and support them at all points in connection with the bottom mesh *p*. In local or for delivery purposes, is usually used without the lid or top piece, but in shipping I use the lid and seal it, so that the package will remain intact, stealing from the package being thus prevented and insuring the purchaser absolutely genuine goods. When shipped the lid also holds the bottles firmly in position. It will be noticed that the bottles are cushioned, preventing breakage.

It will be readily apparent that this box will not gather or hold dirt or waste, is clean and unique, gives a free circulation around the bottles, can be handled quickly and easily, is light and cheap and absolutely safe for shipping purposes, is economical in use as not subject to a varied improper use by others, as in the case with the wooden or metal box. The whole box can be placed in the ice box or in cold water without removing the bottles; this cannot be done with the wooden box. My box needs no constant repairs as does the wooden box, caused by leakage, shrinkage and warping. The name of the owner can be stamped upon the lid or bottom supporting strip and thus be permanent, preventing use by other breweries or shippers, whereas the wooden box can be changed and adapted for another's use.

My box can with equal efficiency and slight changes, be used for mineral water bottles, seltzer water bottles, wine bottles, champagne bottles and other bottles. The strip at the bottom extending beyond the edge of the box itself, the box can be pulled over the wire mesh of an adjoining box with impunity as it being smooth will pass over said mesh or wire uninterrupted.

What I claim as new and of my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In a bottle crate, the combination of a top frame, a bottom frame, corner pieces connecting said frames and a wire mesh covering the sides, ends and bottom of said crate, said bottom frame having an upwardly extending rib, lateral flanges on each side of said rib, perforations in said rib and the wires of the wire mesh of both the body portion and bottom secured in such perforations for the purposes described.

2. In a crate the combination of a plurality of horizontal frames, vertical supports attached to said frames, wire mesh side walls, and an open wire bottom, the bottom horizontal frame having a flat lower face and a projection on its upper face to which is secured the lower edge of the wire mesh and the wires of the bottom, as set forth.

CHAS. J. FRANKS.

Witnesses:
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KATIE STREHLI.