A. R. ZAUTNER.

RETAIL BOX CONTAINER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 19, 1921.

1,414,682.

Patented May 2, 1922.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

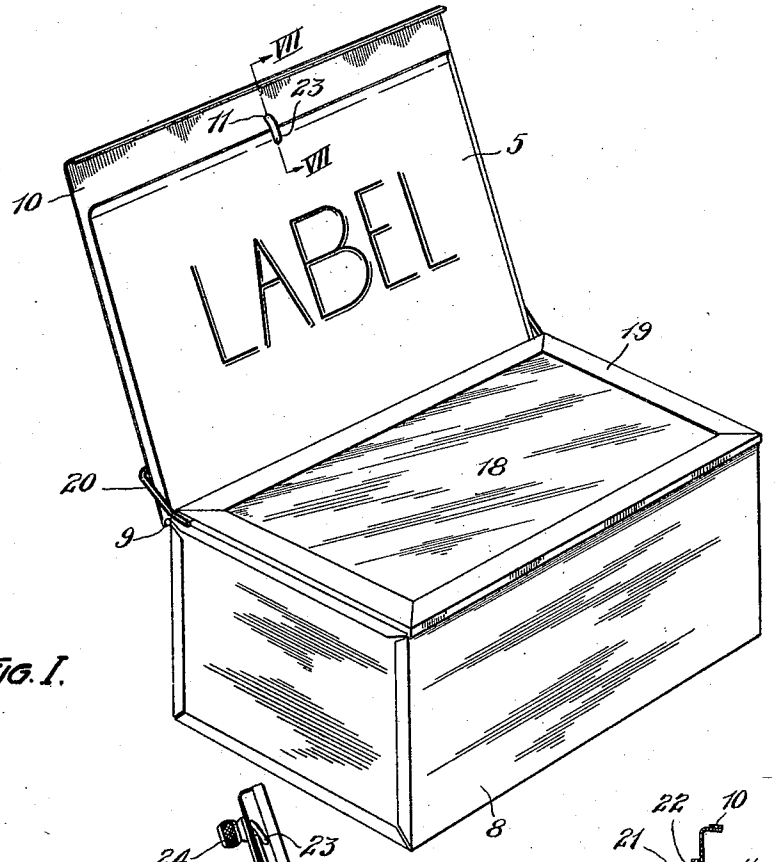


FIG. I.

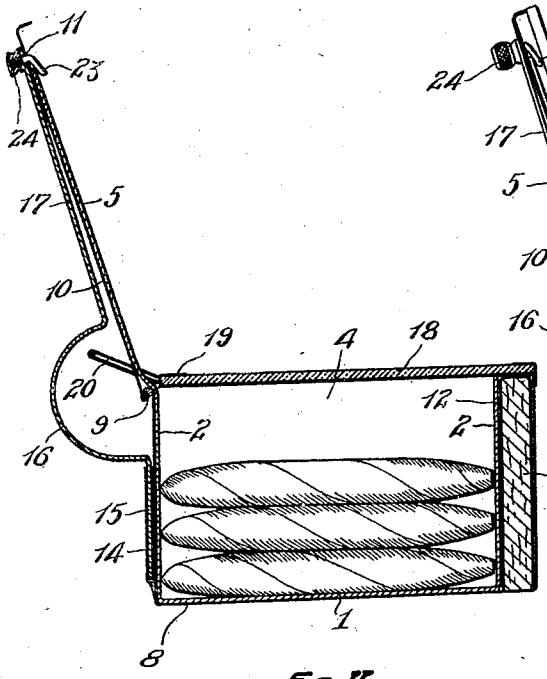


FIG. II.

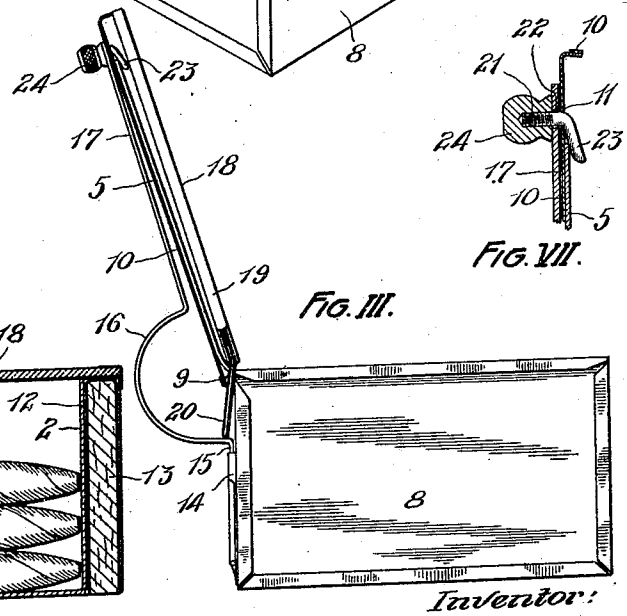


FIG. III.

FIG. VII.

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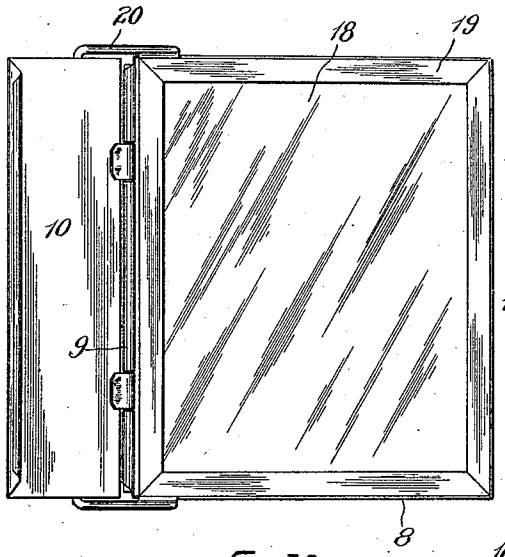


FIG. V.

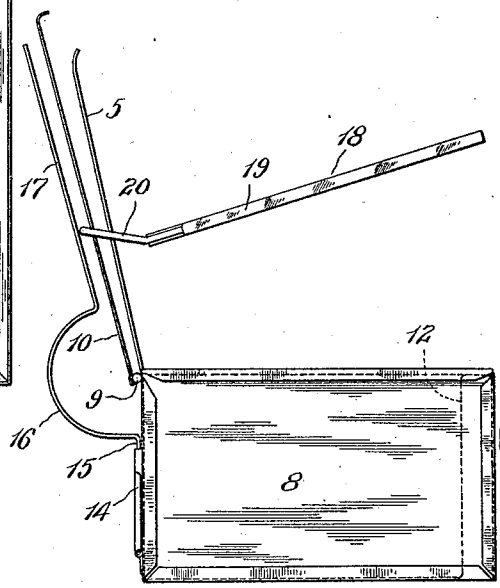


FIG. VI

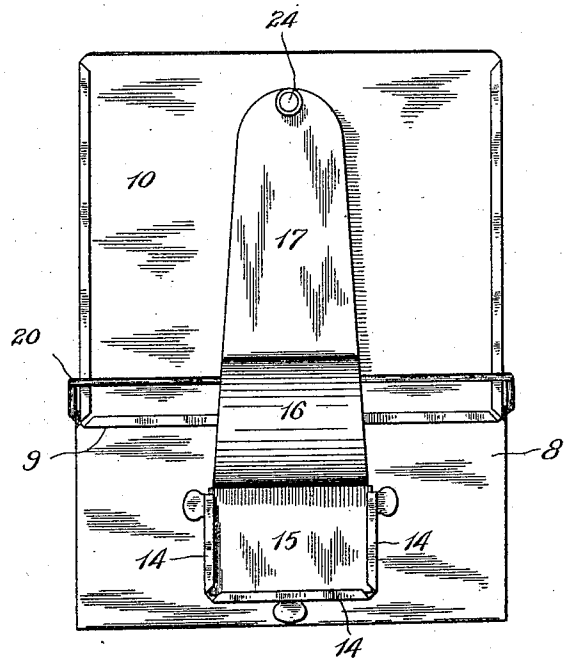


FIG. IV.

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APPLICATION FILED MAR. 19, 1921.

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

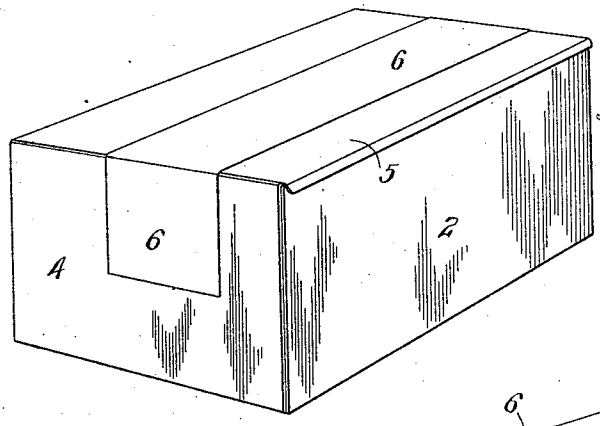


FIG. VIII.

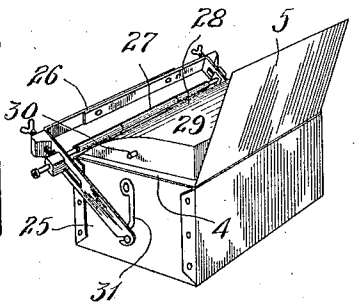


FIG. XI.

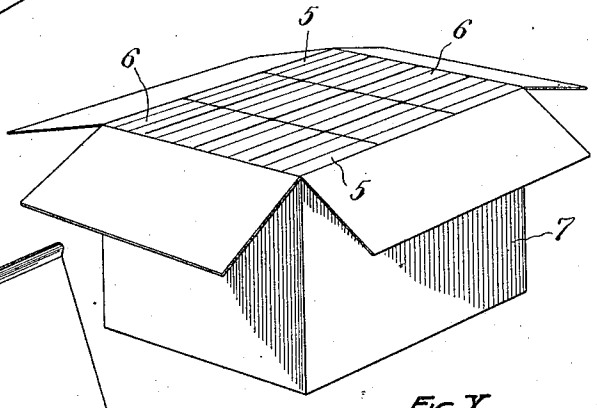


FIG. X.

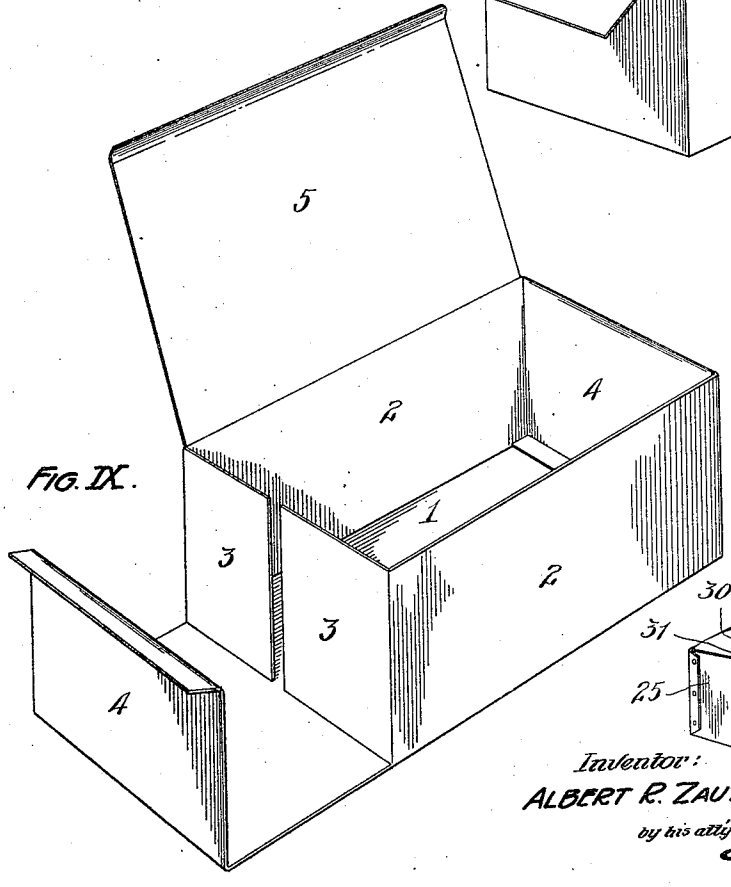


FIG. IX.

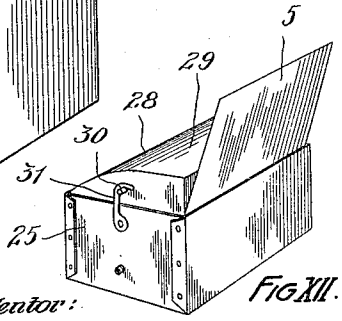


FIG. XII.

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RETAIL BOX CONTAINER.

1,414,682. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 2, 1922.

Application filed March 19, 1921. Serial No. 453,649.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT R. ZAUTNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at 4206 Bridge Ave., Cleveland, in the State of Ohio and Cuyahoga County, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Retail Box Containers, of which the following is a specification, the principle of the invention being herein explained and the best mode in which I have contemplated applying that principle, so as to distinguish it from other inventions.

My invention relates to a retail box container, adapted for example, to enclose cardboard cigar boxes.

The price of wooden cigar boxes has climbed very rapidly reaching the price of twenty-three cents (23¢) for a box to contain fifty cigars. Such expense has been the more deplorable because the re-use of the boxes has been prohibited by the U. S. Revenue Department, consequently, the consumer has had to suffer the additional cost of the box for which he rarely had subsequent use. The cost of boxing fifty cigars in a one man manufacturing shop is seven dollars and a half ($7.50) or in a ten man shop seventy-five dollars ($75.00). The average output per week of a cigar maker is fifteen hundred cigars, requiring three hundred boxes at a cost of about seventy-five dollars ($75.00). In a ten man shop this would amount to close to thirty - nine hundred dollars ($3900.00) a year.

I propose the manufacture of fibre board boxes, three hundred of which can be furnished for about fifteen dollars ($15.00), but realizing that while such boxes are of adequate strength for shipping purposes they are likely to become mis-shapen when subjected to repeated handling in the retail trade and presume that they would be insufficiently attractive in appearance. Accordingly, the object of my invention is to provide a permanent box container, preferably of ornamented metal having the following features some of which I believe to be patentable. My proposed box will carry a closing cover together with detachable means for holding the same in an upstanding position and also a device for holding the cover of the contained paper box lid against the cover of the box so as constantly to display an appropriate label on the inner side thereof. In addition I provide a detachable transparent cover adapted, according to the exemplification shown, to be swung up against the labeled lid of the box. Preferably also, the container is provided with a humidifier.

Containers are to be supplied to the retailer in any desired number, size and shape. Assuming a ten man shop to have fifty customers and each to be furnished two containers at a cost of four dollars ($4.00) each the cost to the manufacturer would be four hundred dollars ($400.00) plus the first week's supply of three hundred boxes costing fifteen dollars ($15.00). Five thousand fibre boxes to meet the manufacturers needs for sixteen weeks could be sold him for one hundred and twenty-five dollars ($125.00). The three items just mentioned would amount to an investment of five hundred and forty dollars ($540.00) for a period of sixteen weeks. Were he using wooden boxes the same sum in money ($540.00) would last him about seven weeks. The required supply of wooden boxes for sixteen weeks would cost him about twelve hundred and thirty-four dollars ($1234.00), so that in sixteen weeks, by the use of my invention he will be the owner of a hundred ornamental containers and besides have saved approximately seven hundred dollars ($700.00). In one year the saving would be well over two thousand dollars ($2000.00).

At present, even after fresh cigars have been pressed into wooden boxes they will swell sufficiently during the course of the day of their manufacture to warp or lift the cover of the box, so that it becomes necessary at the end of the day to put all of the day's output of pressed boxes into a large press where they are left over night. The simple type of press which I have shown may be so cheaply sold that the manufacturer could supply himself with a sufficient number to enable him to leave each packed box in its own press thus avoiding the necessity of re-handling and repressing at the end of each day.

Adverting to the drawings:

Figure I is a perspective view of all the parts of my invention in assembled relation.

Figure II is a vertical cross section showing three cigars of as many layers.

Figure III is a side elevation with a glass cover in its raised position.

Figure IV is a rear elevation of Figure I.

Figure V is a plan view of an empty container for a cigar box.

Figure VI is a side elevation showing the relation of certain parts after the paper or jute cigar box has been fitted into the container preparatory to completing the assembly of certain other parts.

Figure VII is an enlarged section on line VII—VII of Figure I.

Figure VIII is a perspective view of a filled jute cigar box sealed ready for shipment.

Figure IX is a perspective view of the paper box open and partly unfolded.

Figure X is a perspective view on a smaller scale of a shipping carton filled with paper cigar boxes each sealed as shown in Figure VIII.

Figure XI is a perspective view showing means for compressing cigars used in connection with my invention just prior to the pressing operation.

Figure XII is a similar view of same parts after the pressing means is in its final position and locked.

Directing attention first to Figures VIII, IX and X, where a paper or jute box of standard shape and size, suited to contain say fifty cigars, comprises a bottom 1, sides 2, pairs of end sections 3, flaps 4 intended to be folded around the sections 3 so as to bind and stiffen the whole and a cover 5. After the jute box has been filled with cigars and the cover pressed to the position shown in Figure VIII a sealing strip 6 is applied, to which the required revenue stamps and certain prescribed notices are ordinarily caused to adhere. Shipping cartons 7 may be employed for containing a predetermined number of the cigar boxes.

It may not be amiss for me here to state that I am aware that many types of paper boxes have come into common use for many classes of goods, indeed, that boxes of this kind which are subject to a certain amount of distortion may have been fitted into more rigid containers; but I believe that I am the first to conceive the commercial merit of applying such idea for enabling the retail of articles from the original paper box especially in conjunction with the other features which I have shown and described.

I provide a box container 8 preferably of ornamented metal into which the paper or jute box is to be inserted and to which is hinged at 9 a cover 10 provided near its free end with an opening 11. As shown, the container 8 is slightly larger, in respect to one dimension, than the paper box to enable accommodation also of a humidifier 12 including a moisture wick 13. The rear of the box is shown to carry three flanges 14 secured by spot welding in such a way as to form a channel or slide way into which the lower end 15 of a cover support may be inserted. An intermediate portion 16 of a support is bowed whereby a certain measure of yield is permitted to the upper end 17. Another detachable element of my combination is a glass cover 18 mounted in a suitable frame 19 which latter carries a U-shaped extension or partial loop 20 adapted, as clearly shown in Figure VI, to be brought down so as to enclose both the cover 5 and the cover 10 whereby it may occupy either the portion shown in Figure II, the portion shown in Figure III or any intermediate portion in the arcuate path of movement allowed to it by reason of the clearance afforded by the bowed section 16. It is evident that the glass cover 18 is intended either to cover the contents of the box when the covers 5 and 10 are held in a raised position or it may be swung upwardly to the position which it is shown to occupy in Figure III, a customer being thus enabled to withdraw as many cigars as he desires to purchase. A raising of this glass cover will be aural notice to the clerk that some customer is about to possess himself of one or more cigars.

It is ordinarily desirable to hold both the cover 5 and the cover 10 in their elevated positions against the upper end 17 of the support, partly to disclose the contents of the box through the glass cover and partly to reveal the label on the inner side of the cover 5 which designates the brand of the cigar or other commodity. For this purpose I have employed a simple device consisting of a screw-thread stem 21 insertable through a hole 22 at the top of a support 17 and which is adapted to register with the opening 11 in the cover 10. The inner end of the stem 21 is bent aside to form a hook 23 adapted when turned by means of a knob 24 either to engage and hold the cover 5 or to release the same. When the paper box is empty, the knob 24 may be screwed off thus permitting the stem 21 to be withdrawn through the openings 22 and 11 whereupon the covers 5 and 10 spring into the position shown in Figure VI to make possible the removal of the glass cover and withdrawal of the paper box which latter due to its cheapness may then be discarded with less regret than an expensive wooden box such as is now in general use.

The single box cover press 25 shown in Figures XI and XII is purposed to accomplish both the compression of the cigars and the maintenance of the cover 5 of the paper box in its closed position until the day following manufacture of the cigars therein. Each press appliance includes a detachable handle 26 provided with roller elements 27 adapted to be swung over to ride upon the inclined upper surface 28 of a pressing block 29 which after assuming a position in which it has the upper layer of cigars compressed below or at least level with the upper rim of the paper cigar box, may be held in such

position by a suitable fastening contrivance including eyes 30 upon the block and hooks 31 upon the press box. After the block is so held in position the pressure handle may be removed for similar use upon another press box.

I claim:—

1. In combination a fibre box and a metal box enclosing the first, each of said boxes being provided with a cover, and means for attaching one cover to the other.

2. In combination a box composed of flexible material and a rigid box fitted to and enclosing the other, each of said boxes being provided with a cover, and means for holding one cover in an upstanding position.

3. In combination a box composed of flexible material and a rigid box enclosing the other, the inner of said boxes being provided with a cover, and a support carried by the outer box adapted to hold said cover in an erect position.

4. In combination a box composed of flexible material and a rigid box enclosing the other, the inner of said boxes being provided with a cover, a support detachably carried by the outer box and means for holding said cover in an erect position against said support.

5. In combination, a pair of boxes having covers and enclosed one by the other, and a support for holding both covers in an open position.

6. In combination, a pair of boxes having covers and enclosed one by the other, a support detachably carried by the outer box, and a catch on said support for holding both covers in an open position.

7. In combination, a pair of boxes having covers and enclosed one by the other, and a transparent cover movably supported by one of said boxes and adapted to serve its purpose when the other covers are in an open position.

8. In combination, a pair of boxes having covers and enclosed one by the other, and a transparent cover looped around one of said first mentioned covers and adapted to serve its purpose when the other covers are held raised by said support.

9. In combination, a pair of boxes adapted one to enclose the other and provided each with a cover one of which is transparent, a device for holding the cover of said outer box in an open position, and means for holding the cover of said inner box in an open position.

10. In combination, a pair of boxes enclosed one by the other, the inner of said boxes being provided with a cover, a support carried by the outer box and having an intermediate section bowed, and an auxiliary cover provided with a loop encircling said box cover and movable within said bowed section of said support when said auxiliary cover is raised or lowered.

11. The combination of a container adapted to confine a fibre box having a cover, a cover support detachably carried thereby, a removable cover provided along one edge with a looped extension through which said fibre box cover projects, and means for attaching said cover to said support to prevent withdrawal of said removable cover.

12. The combination of a container adapted to confine a fibre box having an integral cover, a cover support detachably carried by said container so as to extend above the rear wall of said container, said support being bent away from the top of said rear wall, a transparent cover provided with a looped extension through which said integral fibre box cover projects, and means for attaching said cover to said support to prevent withdrawal of said transparent cover.

13. In combination, a pair of boxes enclosed one by the other, the inner of said boxes being provided with a cover, a cover support carried by the outer box and having an intermediate section bowed and bent away from the top of said rear wall, a transparent cover provided with a looped extension through which said box cover projects, and a catch for attaching the top of said cover to the top of said support to prevent withdrawal of said transparent cover, said extension encircling said fibre box cover and movable within said bowed section of said support when said auxiliary cover is raised or lowered.

14. In combination, a pair of boxes each provided with a cover and enclosed one by the other, a support carried by the rear of said outer box, and a transparent cover loosely connected with the outer box cover.

15. In combination, a rigid box and a flexible box enclosed thereby and provided with a cover, a support carried by that wall of said rigid box against which the cover carrying wall of said flexible box is disposed, and a transparent cover having one edge looped around said box cover.

16. In combination a rigid box and a flexible box enclosed thereby and provided with a cover, a support carried by said rigid box, a transparent cover having one edge looped around said box cover and means for securing said flexible box cover to said support to prevent detachment of said transparent cover.

Signed by me this 25th day of February, 1921.

ALBERT R. ZAUTNER.