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(54) **BOTTLE CARRIER**

FLASCHENTRAEGER

CASIER A BOUTEILLES

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Description

[0001] This invention relates to an article carrier of the basket type adapted to accommodate a plurality of articles, such as bottles and to a blank for forming the carrier. Normally a basket carrier for bottles includes a central (medial) partition structure which incorporates a handle structure by which the carrier can be lifted and carried and the bottles are arranged in rows on either side of the partition structure. More often than not, bottles are separated from one another by transverse partition panels extending from each side of the medial partition structure to the adjacent side wall of the carrier. Hence, in this type of arrangement the bottles are accommodated in individual cells of the carrier although such cells are not essential.

[0002] Known basket carriers require a series of complex folds to form partition structures, which may require the blank to be rotated or inverted during construction, thus slowing the process down. The present invention overcomes this problem by constructing a carton which adopts a different approach to supporting and separating articles in a carton.

[0003] A problem with the prior art is the amount of board used to achieve a basket type carrier with individual dividing cells. A further problem is associated with the unwanted removal of individual bottles from a multipack carrier.

[0004] In the present invention, in order to prevent individual bottles from being removed from the carrier, bottles are restrained by cover (or article retention) panels which can be detached after the formed carrier has been purchased. The cover panels also help to keep the bottles dust free.

[0005] A further problem associated with introducing such article retention panels is that upon detachment the strength of the carrier is lost, so that it is not possible to carry the carton with articles stored within it. Further, the prior art does not address the problem of retaining the handle on a basket style carton in the event that the cover panel is torn during bottle removal. Also, tears can be created in the carton surrounding a receiving aperture due sometimes to an "over-tight" package and in part at least, to any movement of a bottle acting directly against the edge of the receiving aperture.

[0006] The present invention has sought to solve or at least mitigate the problems associated with the prior art.

[0007] One aspect of the invention provides an article carrier of the basket type adapted to accommodate a plurality of articles, for example, bottles, having a base, opposed side and end walls, an internal partition structure, handle panel and hand aperture. There is provided an article support and separating means having an article retention panel formed with an article receiving aperture which is adapted to receive a portion of an article disposed in the carrier, a handle reinforcing panel adapted to cover said handle panel and means to connect the

article support and separating means to the opposed side walls of the carrier. Preferably, the handle reinforcing panel may be connected to the handle means.

[0008] According to an optional feature of this aspect of the invention, the means for connecting the article support and separating means to the opposed side walls may comprise a pair of glue panels separated by the retention panel and the handle reinforcing panel. Preferably, the article retention panel and the glue panel are frangibly connected.

[0009] According to another optional feature of this aspect of the invention, the handle support panel may include a hand aperture adapted to be aligned with the hand aperture of the handle panel.

[0010] A second aspect of the invention provides a blank for forming an article support and separating means for use with an article carrier of the basket type, which blank comprises in series a glue flap, article retention panel, a reinforcing panel, a second article retention panel and second glue panel hinged one to the next, wherein the article support and separating means comprising an aperture adapted to receive a portion of an article in use. Preferably, the handle reinforcing panel may be connected to the handle means.

[0011] According to an optional feature of the second aspect of the invention the means for connecting the article support and separating means to the opposed side walls comprises a pair of glue panels separated by the retention panel and the handle reinforcing panel.

[0012] According to another optional feature of the second aspect of the invention the retention panel and the glue flap may be frangibly connected.

[0013] According to another optional feature of the second aspect of the invention the handle support panel may include a hand aperture adapted to be aligned with the hand aperture of the handle panel.

[0014] A third aspect of the invention provides a method of forming an article carrier from a two part blank, the first blank being adapted to form a basket carrier having a base, opposed side and end walls, an internal partition structure and handle means and wherein, the second blank being adapted to form article support and separating means having first and second glue flaps comprising an article retention panel with a plurality of apertures for receiving articles and a handle cover, which method comprises the steps of (i) setting up the basket carrier; (ii) introducing articles to the carrier from above; (iii) introducing article support and separating means to the carton; (iv) placing the handle cover over the handle means; (v) introducing the article to the article receiving aperture; and (vi) inter-engaging each glue flap with respective ones of the side walls. Preferably, there further comprises the step, after step (v), of securing the handle cover panel to the handle means.

[0015] An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of a blank for forming article support and separating means according to the invention;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of a typical basket type carrier used in or with the invention; and

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the article support and separating means applied to the basket carrier illustrated in Figure 2.

[0016] Referring to the drawings and in particular Figure 1 thereof, there is shown a carton blank 10 for forming an article support and separating means for use in or for an article carrier made from paper board or similar foldable sheet material.

[0017] The blank 10 comprises glue flap 12, first retention panel 14, a pair of handle reinforcing panels 16, 18 a second retention panel 20 and a second glue flap 22 hingeably connected one to the next along fold lines 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 respectively.

[0018] As shown in Figure 1, first retention panel 14 is formed with at least one aperture. In the preferred embodiment illustrated, three apertures 32, 34, 36 are provided. The apertures 32, 34, 36 are ellipsoidal in shape and laterally spaced intermediate the side edges of retention panel 14. In a set up condition, apertures 32, 34 and 36 are each adapted to receive an upper portion of an article. Likewise a second retention panel 20 is formed with at least one aperture. In the preferred embodiment illustrated, three ellipsoidal apertures 38, 40 and 42 are provided. The three apertures 32, 34, 36 are laterally spaced intermediate the side edges of retention panel 20. It is envisaged that the shape of the aperture can be altered in other embodiments according to the profile of article disposed in the carrier.

[0019] In this embodiment, glue flap 12 and retention panel 14 are frangibly interconnected by a tear strip 44 of the type generally known in the art. Tear strip 44 is juxtaposed with fold line 24. It is preferred that a second tear strip 46 is provided intermediate the second glue flap 22 and second retention panel 20 to frangibly interconnect these panels. Tear strip 46 is juxtaposed with fold line 33.

[0020] Preferably, handle reinforcing panels 16, 18 are each formed with rectangular hand apertures 48, 50 that are positioned in a central portion of each respective panel. The shape of the hand apertures is often dictated by the shape of the hand apertures of the basket carrier described below. In this embodiment, the upper portion of each handle reinforcing panel 16 and 18 is formed with indentation along the common side edges to better conform with the shape of the handle means of the basket carrier.

[0021] The blank illustrated in Figure 1 may be adapted to be used with an open ended basket style carrier 52, an example of which is illustrated in Figure 2. In this embodiment, the basket carrier 52 is adapted to accom-

modate six articles, for example bottles arranged in two rows of three articles. The carrier 52 has a base (not shown), opposed side 56, 58 and end walls 60, 62, an internal partition structure 64 and a handle panel (or means) 66 extending upwards from a central portion of the internal partition structure 64. In this embodiment, the handle panel 66 includes a rectangular aperture 68 adapted to receive a user's hand. It is envisaged that the shape of the aperture is not restricted to that described above.

[0022] The construction of a completed carrier, shown in Figure 3, from a flat collapsed condition requires a series of sequential folding and glueing operations which can be performed in a straight line glueing machine so that the carton is not required to be rotated or inverted to complete its construction. The folding process is not limited to that described below and can be altered to particular manufacturing requirements.

[0023] Often a basket carrier 52 is supplied in a partly-formed flat, collapsed condition. The collapsed carrier 52 is erected by moving the outer edges thereof inwardly towards each other which causes end panels 60, 62 and side panels 56, 58 to be placed in a substantially rectangular configuration to facilitate the construction of individual cells. Thus, transverse partition panels 70, 72, shown in Figure 2 are moved out of alignment with first side panel 56 and handle panel 66 and are folded about fold lines such that transverse partition panels 70, 72 are in a substantially perpendicular relationship with side panel 56 and handle panel 66. As illustrated in Figure 2, three cells C1, C2 and C3 are formed. Similarly transverse partition panels in the opposing side portion of the carrier are constructed in like manner so that three further cells (not shown) are formed. In use, the transverse partition panels 70, 72 may separate and support portions of the articles in adjacent cells.

[0024] The carrier is then ready to receive articles that are loaded by relative vertical movement between the bottles and the carrier preferably during forward feed movement, well known in the art. In this embodiment, the bottles enter their respective cells through the top of the carrier. Optionally, the bottles can enter their respective cells through the base of the carrier if the base panels are adapted to inter-engage after the bottles have been loaded.

[0025] The carton is then at an intermediate stage: the articles loaded in an erected basket type carrier.

[0026] Thereafter, the article support and separating means, in its blank form 10, is introduced from above to the carrier 52 and articles. Preferably, glue is applied beforehand to a portion of handle reinforcing panels 16 and 18 and glue strips 12 and 22.

[0027] The blank 10 undergoes a series of folding operations to form the completed carton, shown in Figure 3. In this embodiment, central fold line 28 is brought into contact with the upper edge of handle panel 66, then handle reinforcing panels 16 and 18 are folded towards each other about fold line 28 and into a face to face re-

relationship with handle panel 66 and are secured together by glue or other means known in the art. One benefit of this type of arrangement is that a multi-ply handle is formed which provides a handle structure with improved strength characteristics.

[0028] Retention panel 14 is folded about fold line 26 into an angular relationship with handle reinforcing panel 16 and articles contained in cells C1, C2 and C3 are introduced through apertures 32, 34, 36 respectively. Likewise, retention panel 20 is folded about fold line 30 into an angular relationship with handle reinforcing panel 18 and articles contained in each cell are introduced to apertures 38, 40 and 42 respectively.

[0029] In one class of embodiments, the edges of each article aperture 32 to 42 come into contact with an upper portion of their respective articles to provide improved positional support for the article.

[0030] Thereafter, glue flaps 12 and 22 are folded out of alignment with respective first and second retention panels 14 and 20 along fold lines 24 and 32. Glue flap 12 is secured to side wall 56 of basket carrier 52 and glue flap 22 is secured to opposing side wall 58 by glue or means known in the art.

[0031] Thus, the carton is in a set up condition, as illustrated in Figure 3 and individual bottles (not shown) are separated and supported laterally by retention panels 14, 20. To remove individual bottles from the carrier after purchase, a user can detach the retention panels by means of the tear strips 44, 46. The retention panels 14, 20 also help to keep bottles dust free.

[0032] In the event that the retention panels are torn either intentionally or accidentally during bottle removal, then the handle of the carrier can continue to be used.

[0033] A two part blank is what enables an efficient use of board to be achieved. Thus, the need for complex partition structures is reduced, with the consequent savings in paperboard. Further, carton construction can take place during bottle loading which speeds up the loading process, whereas traditional basket style cartons require a set up condition to be achieved prior to the introduction of articles. A carton of the present invention can be formed in a straight line gluing machine.

[0034] The present invention and its preferred embodiment relate to an article carrier that is shaped to provide satisfactory strength to hold the bottles securely but with a degree of flexibility so that the load transferred to the handle is absorbed by the carrier. The shape of the blank and the use of a two part blank minimises the amount of paper board required. The carrier can be applied to an array of bottles by hand or automatic machinery. It is anticipated that the invention can be applied to a variety of carriers and not limited to those of the basket carrier type.

Claims

1. An article carrier of the basket type adapted to ac-

commodate a plurality of articles, for example, bottles, having a base, opposed side (56, 58) and end walls (60, 62), an internal partition structure (64), handle panel (66) and hand aperture (68), characterized in that there is provided an article support and separating means having an article retention panel (14, 20) formed with an article receiving aperture (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42) which is adapted to receive a portion of an article disposed in the carrier, a handle reinforcing panel (16, 18) to cover said handle panel and means (12, 22) to connect said article support and separating means to said opposed side walls of the carrier.

2. An article carrier according to claim 1 wherein said handle reinforcing panel is connected to said handle means.
3. An article carrier according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said means for connecting said article support and separating means to said opposed side walls (56, 58) comprises a pair of glue panels (12, 22) separated by said retention panel (14, 20) and said handle reinforcing panel (16, 18).
4. An article carrier as claimed in claim 3 wherein said article retention panel and said glue panels are frangibly connected.
5. An article carrier as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 wherein said handle support panel includes a hand aperture adapted to be aligned with the hand aperture of said handle panel.
6. A blank (10) for forming an article support and separating means for use with an article carrier of the basket type, which blank comprises in series a glue flap (12), article retention panel (14), a reinforcing panel (16, 18), a second article retention panel (20) and second glue panel (22) hinged one to the next, wherein said article support and separating means comprising an aperture (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42) adapted to receive a portion of an article in use.
7. A blank according to claim 6 wherein said handle reinforcing panel is connected to said handle means.
8. A blank according to claim 6 or claim 7 wherein said means for connecting said article support and separating means (70, 72) to said opposed side walls (56, 58) comprises a pair of glue panels (12, 22) separated by said retention panel (14, 20) and said handle reinforcing panel (16, 18).
9. A blank according to claim 8 wherein said retention panel and said glue panels are frangibly connected.

10. A blank as claimed in any of claims 6 to 9 wherein said handle support panel includes a hand aperture adapted to be aligned with the hand aperture of said handle panel.
11. A blank for forming an article carrier as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.
12. A method of forming an article carrier from a two part blank, said first blank being adapted to form a basket carrier (52) having a base, opposed side (56, 58) and end walls (60, 62), an internal partition structure (64) and handle means (66) and wherein, said second blank being adapted to form article support and separating means having first and second glue flaps (12, 22) comprising an article retention panel (14, 20) with a plurality of apertures (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42) for receiving articles and a handle cover, which method comprises the steps:
- (i) setting up the basket carrier;
 - (ii) introducing articles to the carrier from above;
 - (iii) introducing article support and separating means to the carton;
 - (iv) placing the handle cover over the handle means;
 - (v) introducing said article to said article receiving aperture; and
 - (vi) inter-engaging each said glue flap with respective ones of said side walls.
13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step, after step (v), of securing the handle cover panel to the handle means.

Patentansprüche

1. Ein Gegenstandsträger des Korbtyps, der angepasst ist, um eine Vielzahl von Gegenständen, wie z.B. Flaschen aufzunehmen, und der eine Basis, gegenüberliegende Seiten- (56, 58) und Endwände (60, 62), eine innere Trennstruktur (64), eine Griffwandfläche (66) und eine Handöffnung (68) aufweist, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** eine Gegenstandsstütz- und -trenneinrichtung, die eine Gegenstandsrückhaltewandfläche (14, 20) aufweist, die mit einer Gegenstands-aufnehmenden Öffnung (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42) ausgebildet ist und die angepasst ist, um einen Abschnitt eines in dem Träger angeordneten Gegenstands aufzunehmen, eine Griffverstärkungswandfläche (16, 18), um die Griffwandfläche abzudecken und eine Einrichtung (12, 22) bereitgestellt ist, um die Gegenstandsstütz- und -trenneinrichtung mit den gegenüberliegenden Seitenwänden des Trägers zu verbinden.

2. Gegenstandsträger nach Anspruch 1, bei dem die Griffverstärkungswandfläche mit der Griffvorrichtung verbunden ist.
3. Gegenstandsträger nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, bei dem die Einrichtung zur Verbindung der Gegenstandsstütz- und -trenneinrichtung mit den gegenüberliegenden Seitenwänden (56, 58) ein Paar von Klebewandflächen (12, 22) umfasst, die durch die Rückhaltewandfläche (14, 20) und die Griffverstärkungswandfläche (16, 18) getrennt sind.
4. Gegenstandsträger nach Anspruch 3, bei dem die Gegenstandsrückhaltewandfläche und die Klebewandflächen zerbrechbar miteinander verbunden sind.
5. Gegenstandsträger nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, bei dem die Griffstützwandfläche eine Handöffnung umfasst, die angepasst ist, um mit der Handöffnung der Griffwandfläche ausgerichtet zu werden.
6. Ein Zuschnitt (10) zur Ausbildung einer Gegenstandsstütz- und -trenneinrichtung zur Verwendung mit einem Gegenstandsträger des Korbtyps, wobei der Zuschnitt nacheinander eine Klebeklappe (12), eine Gegenstandsrückhaltewandfläche (14), eine Verstärkungswandfläche (16, 18), eine zweite Gegenstandsrückhaltewandfläche (20) und eine zweite Klebewandfläche (22) umfasst, die aufeinanderfolgend gelenkig miteinander verbunden sind, wobei die Gegenstandsstütz- und -trenneinrichtung eine Öffnung (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42) umfasst, die angepasst ist, um im Gebrauch einen Abschnitt eines Gegenstands aufzunehmen.
7. Zuschnitt nach Anspruch 6, bei dem die Griffverstärkungswandfläche mit der Griffvorrichtung verbunden ist.
8. Zuschnitt nach Anspruch 6 oder 7, bei dem die Einrichtung zur Verbindung der Gegenstandsstütz- und -trenneinrichtung (70, 72) mit den gegenüberliegenden Seitenwänden (56, 58) ein Paar von Klebewandflächen (12, 22) umfasst, die durch die Rückhaltewandfläche (14, 20) und die Griffverstärkungswandfläche (16, 18) getrennt sind.
9. Zuschnitt nach Anspruch 8, bei dem die Rückhaltewandfläche und die Klebewandflächen zerbrechbar miteinander verbunden sind.
10. Zuschnitt nach einem der Ansprüche 6 bis 9, bei dem die Griffstützwandfläche eine Handöffnung umfasst, die angepasst ist, um mit der Handöffnung der Griffwandfläche ausgerichtet zu werden.

11. Ein Zuschnitt zur Ausbildung eines Gegenstands-trägers nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5.
12. Ein Verfahren zur Ausbildung eines Gegenstands-trägers aus einem zweiteiligen Zuschnitt, wobei der erste Zuschnitt angepasst ist, um einen Korbträger (52) mit einer Basis, gegenüberliegenden Seiten- (56, 58) und Endwänden (60, 62), einer inneren Trennstruktur (64) und einer Griffeinrichtung (66) auszubilden, und wobei der zweite Zuschnitt ange- 5 passt ist, um eine Gegenstandsstütz- und trenneinrichtung mit einer ersten und einer zweiten Klebe- 10 klappe (12, 22) auszubilden, die eine Gegenstands- rückhaltewandfläche (14, 20) mit einer Vielzahl von Öffnungen (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42) zur Aufnahme 15 von Gegenständen und eine Griffabdeckung um- fasst, wobei das Verfahren die Schritte umfasst:
- (i) Aufrichten des Korbträgers;
 - (ii) Einbringen von Gegenständen in den Trä- 20 ger von oben;
 - (iii) Einbringen einer Gegenstandsstütz- und -trenneinrichtung in die Schachtel;
 - (iv) Plazieren der Griffabdeckung über der Griff- 25 einrichtung;
 - (v) Einbringen des Gegenstands in die Gegen- stands-aufnehmende Öffnung und
 - (vi) In-Eingriff-Bringen jeder der Klebeklappen mit den jeweiligen Seitenwänden.
13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 12, das ferner nach dem Schritt (v) den Schritt des Befestigens der Griffab- deckungswandfläche an der Griffeinrichtung um- 30 fasst.

Revendications

1. Casier pour articles du type panier adapté pour re- 40 cevoir une pluralité d'articles, par exemple des bou- teilles, ayant une base, des parois latérales (56, 58) et d'extrémité (60, 62) opposées, une structure in- térieure de séparation (64), un panneau (66) for- mant poignée et une ouverture (68) de préhension, **caractérisé en ce qu'il** est proposé un moyen de 45 support d'articles et de séparation ayant un pan- neau (14, 20) de rétention d'article formé avec une ouverture (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42) de réception d'ar- ticle qui est apte à recevoir une partie d'un article 50 disposé dans le casier, un panneau (16, 18) de ren- forcement de poignée pour recouvrir ledit panneau formant poignée, et des moyens (12, 22) pour relier ledit moyen de support d'articles et de séparation auxdites parois latérales opposées du casier.
2. Casier pour articles selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit panneau de renforcement de poignée est relié audit moyen formant poignée.
3. Casier pour articles selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2 dans lequel ledit moyen pour relier ledit moyen de support d'articles et de séparation auxdites parois latérales opposées (56, 58) com- prend une paire de panneaux (12, 22) à coller sé- parés par ledit panneau (14, 20) de rétention et ledit panneau (16, 18) de renforcement de poignée.
4. Casier pour articles selon la revendication 3, dans lequel ledit panneau de rétention d'articles et lesdits panneaux collés sont reliés de manière frangible.
5. Casier pour articles selon une quelconque des re- vendications 1 à 4 dans lequel ledit panneau renfort de poignée comporte une ouverture de préhension adaptée pour être alignée avec l'ouverture de pré- hension dudit panneau formant poignée.
6. Feuille découpée (10) pour former un moyen de support d'articles et de séparation destiné à être utili- sé avec un casier pour articles du type panier, la- dite feuille découpée comprenant successivement un volet (12) à coller, un panneau (14) de rétention d'articles, un panneau (16, 18) de renforcement, un deuxième panneau (20) de rétention d'articles et un deuxième panneau (22) à coller, chacun étant relié au suivant, ledit moyen de support d'articles et de séparation comportant une ouverture (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42) adaptée pour recevoir une partie d'un article utilisé.
7. Feuille découpée selon la revendication 6, dans la- quelle ledit panneau de renforcement de poignée est relié auxdits moyens formant poignée.
8. Feuille découpée selon la revendication 6 ou la re- vendication 7, dans laquelle ledit moyen pour relier ledit moyen (70, 72) de support d'articles et de sé- paration auxdites parois latérales opposées (56, 58) comprend une paire de panneaux (12, 22) à col- 55 ler séparés par ledit panneau (14, 20) de rétention et ledit panneau (16, 18) de renforcement de poi- gnée.
9. Feuille découpée selon la revendication 8, dans la- quelle ledit panneau de rétention et lesdits pan- neaux à coller sont reliés de manière frangible.
10. Feuille découpée selon une quelconque des reven- dications 6 à 9 dans laquelle ledit panneau renfort de poignée comporte une ouverture de préhension adaptée pour être alignée avec l'ouverture de pré- hension dudit panneau formant poignée.
11. Feuille découpée pour former un casier pour arti- cles selon une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5.

12. Procédé pour former un casier pour articles à partir d'une feuille découpée constituée de deux parties, ladite première feuille découpée étant adaptée pour former un casier (52) du type panier ayant une base, des parois latérales (56, 58) et d'extrémité (60, 62) opposées, une structure intérieure de séparation (64) et un moyen (66) formant poignée, et dans lequel ladite seconde feuille prédécoupée est adaptée pour former un moyen de support d'articles et de séparation ayant des premier et deuxième volets à coller (12, 22) et comprenant un panneau (14, 20) de rétention d'articles avec une pluralité d'ouvertures (32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42) pour recevoir des articles ainsi qu'une couverture de poignée, ledit procédé comprenant les étapes consistant à :

- (i) installer le casier de type panier ;
- (ii) introduire les articles dans le casier depuis le dessus ;
- (iii) introduire dans le carton le moyen de support et de séparation ;
- (iv) placer la couverture de poignée sur le moyen formant poignée ;
- (v) introduire lesdits articles dans lesdites ouvertures de réception d'articles ; et
- (vi) fixer chacun desdits volets à coller sur ladite paroi latérale correspondante.

13. Procédé selon la revendication 12 comprenant en outre, après l'étape (v), l'étape consistant à fixer le panneau de couverture de poignée sur le moyen formant poignée.

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FIG. 2

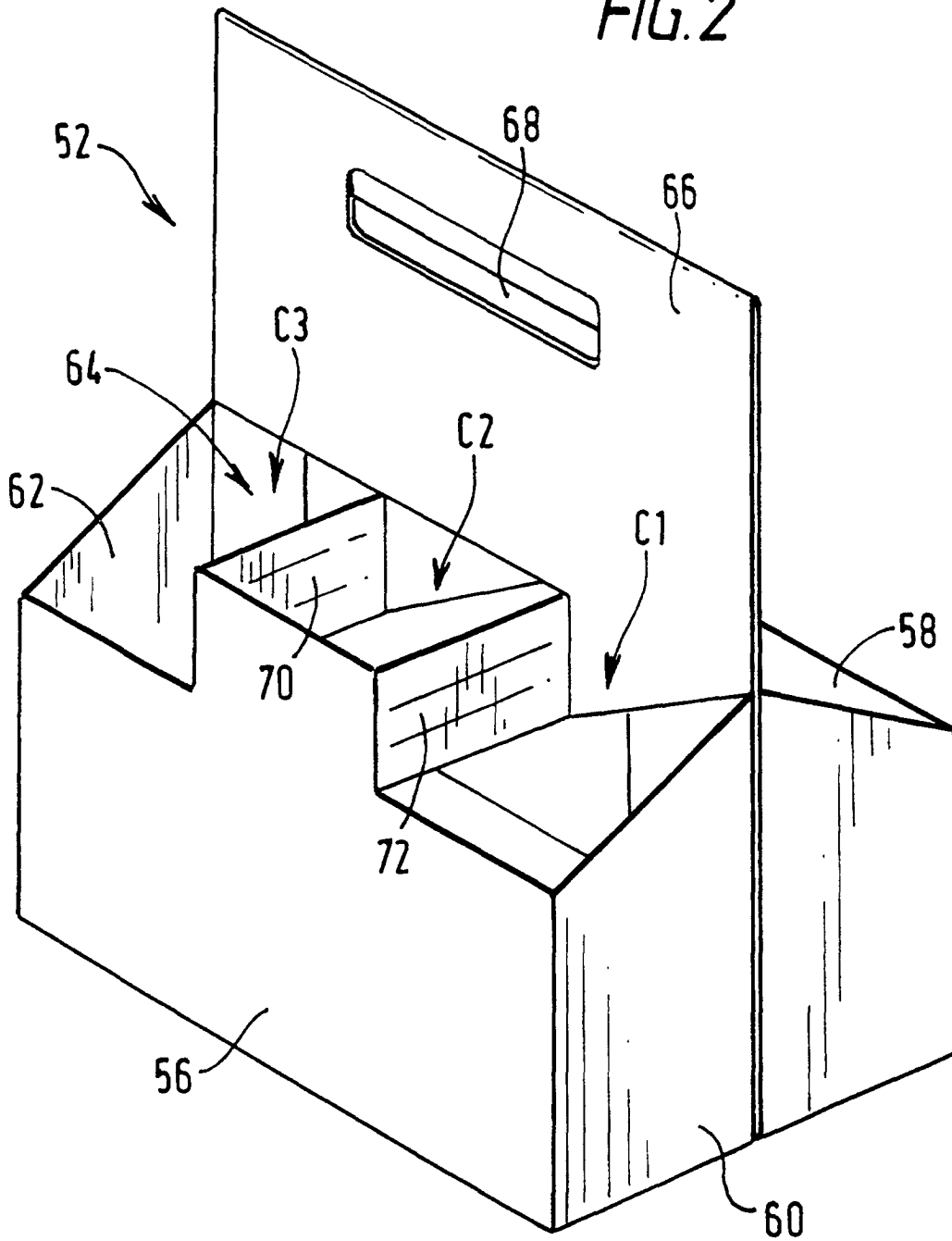


FIG. 3

