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R. E. HALL

1,742,073

FELTED FIBROUS CONTAINER

Filed July 8, 1926

Fig. 1.

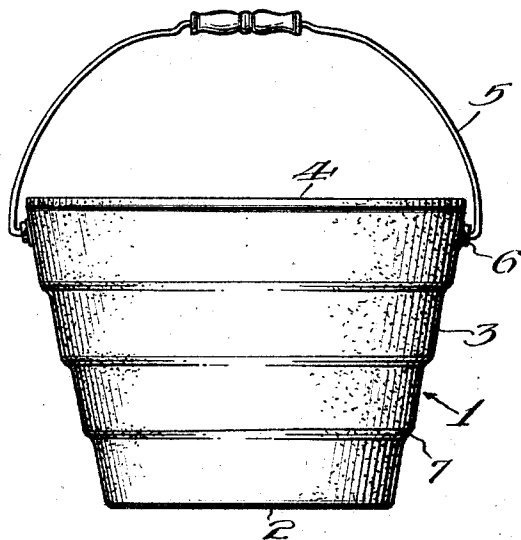


Fig. 2.

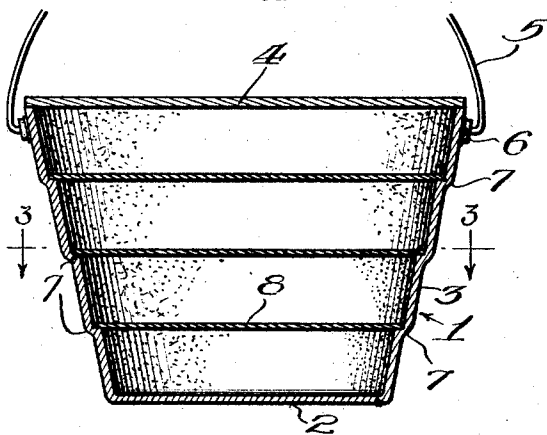
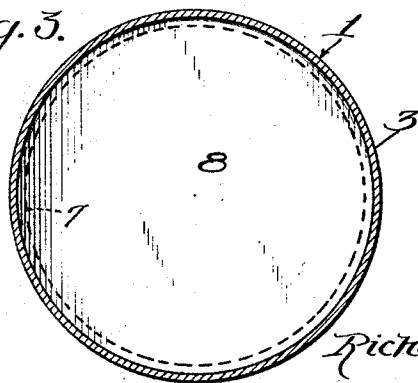


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FELTED FIBROUS CONTAINER

Application filed July 8, 1926. Serial No. 121,075.

This invention relates to improvements in felted fibrous containers, and refers more particularly to a container of fibrous material in which the fibres are caused to interlock or felt with each other under the influence of suction.

The invention relates to that class of felted fibrous containers which have a substantial depth, such as pails, tubs and the like, as distinguished from substantially flat articles.

The specific embodiment of the present invention comprises the idea of forming during the felting operation spaced shoulders intermediate the height of the side walls of the container. Substantially flat partition elements are adapted to be supported on the spaced shoulders, to divide the interior of the container into separated compartments.

One advantage of the present invention is that it permits the use of a container of substantial depth in which can be packed soft candies or other food products of analogous character by separating the mass placed in the containers into layers. One advantage of this is that the articles of soft consistency are prevented from crushing and squeezing, normally due to the weight of the mass at the top.

In the packing and shipping of soft candies, for instance, it is very important that these soft candies reach the consumer in good condition. Heretofore attempts have been made to separate the mass into layers, to prevent crushing of the lower portion of the entire contents, but such attempts have met with indifferent success because no shoulders have been provided whereby each layer is distinctly separated from the other layer by partition elements supported by said shoulders, and themselves acting as supports for a layer placed on their upper surface.

The present invention contemplates containers of any size or shape, including round containers, rectangular containers and any other design or shape.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a felted fibrous container constructed in accordance with the present invention. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of Fig. 1 showing the arrangement of the spaced partitions

being supported in the interior of the container by the shoulders. Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Referring in detail to the drawings, 1 designates, as a whole, a felted fibrous container which may be constructed on the apparatus described and claimed in my co-pending application, Serial No. 744,586, filed October 20, 1924, or it may be constructed on any suitable machine which will produce a container in which the fibres are interlaced and interlocked under the influence of suction. This container is provided with base 2, side walls 3, removable or connected cover 4, and handle 5 anchored in the brackets 6. During the forming operation by which the container 1 is produced, it is provided intermediate the height of the side walls 3 with shoulders 7, of which there may be any number spaced from each other in any desired manner. The operation of forming these shoulders simultaneously with the formation of a fibrous container should be carried out in such a manner as to produce an indentation on the interior of the pail and a corresponding outward projection on the outer wall of the pail, in order that the thickness of the fibre at the point where the shoulder is produced is substantially the same as the general thickness of the wall 3. Thus there will be no weakening of the fibres at the point where the shoulders are made. After the container has been formed it may be waterproofed and coated with a coloring material, sanded and put through any of the usual operations to produce a pail ready for use.

Assume then that it is desired to pack soft candies in this pail. A layer of these soft candies is built up from the base of the container to a point just below the surface of the lowermost shoulder 7. A substantially flat partition element 8, which may take the form of stiff fibre board of sufficient thickness to have rigidity, may be then placed over said layer of candies, being supported on the lowermost shoulder 7. A second layer of candies is then placed on this partition element 8 and the same operations repeated until the container has been filled. It will be obvious that the packed container has layers of soft

candy separated by stiff partition elements, the layers being of such number as to prevent the weight of the candies on top from crushing those on the bottom. When the candies are unpacked, the lowest layer will be intact and not crushed in any way.

I have shown in the drawing a container, which is known as a round container, having the side walls 3 tapering slightly outwardly from the base in an upward direction. It is obvious that the present invention includes containers having straight sides as well as those having tapered sides, and, further, that the invention may be applied to rectangularly shaped containers as well as round containers. In the case of straight-sided containers, the shoulders will be produced in a gradually outwardly progressing vertical plane, as is obvious; in other words, the uppermost shoulder will lie in a vertical plane outside of the shoulders beneath it.

I have referred particularly to a felted fibrous container. The present invention also contemplates that shoulders may be produced in molded fibrous containers, on which shoulders may be placed the partition elements 8.

I claim as my invention:

1. A molded or felted fibrous container having a base and integrally formed side walls of substantial depth, said side walls being provided intermediate their depth with spaced integrally formed shoulders projecting progressively outwardly in an upward direction, and partition elements supported on said shoulders dividing the interior of the container into separated compartments.

2. A molded or felted fibrous container having a base and integrally formed side walls of substantial depth tapering slightly outwardly in an upward direction from the base, said side walls being provided intermediate their depth with spaced integrally formed shoulders projecting progressively outwardly in an upward direction, and partition elements supported on said shoulders dividing the interior of the container into separated compartments, said container being characterized in that said side walls, including said shoulders, are of substantially uniform thickness.

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