Oct. 16, 1923. 1,470,898

A. B. WEBB

FOLDABLE EGG CRATE

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Fig. 1.

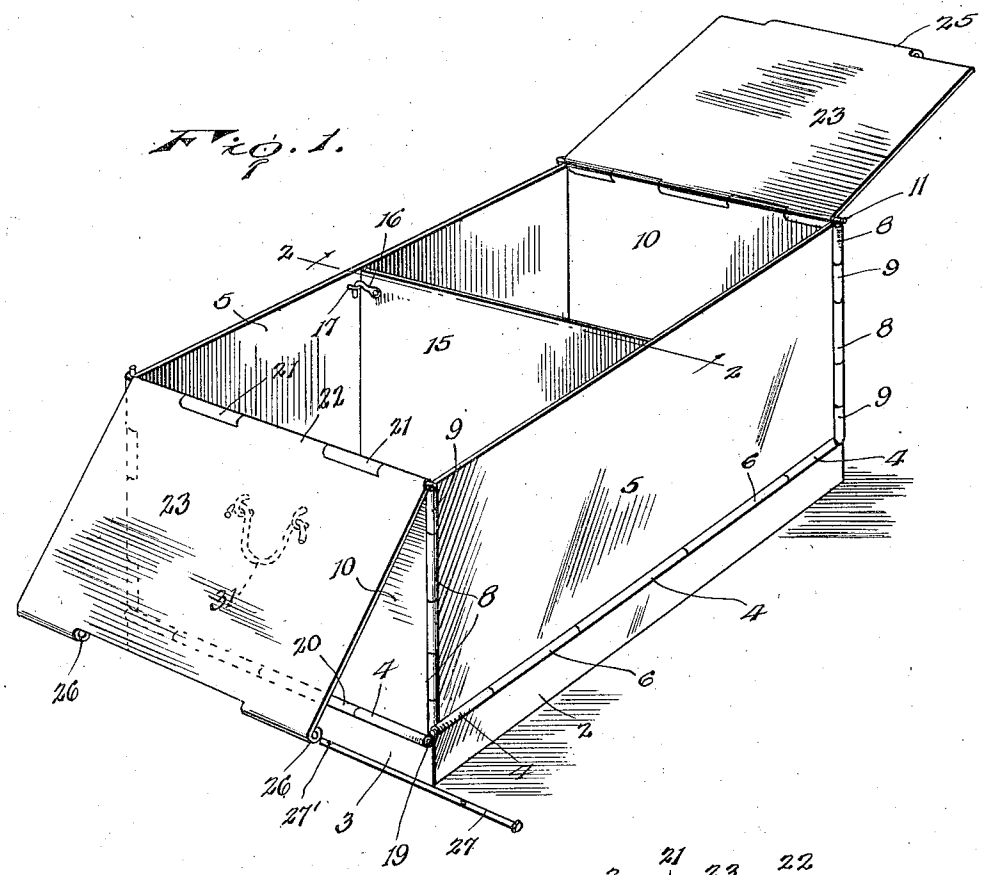
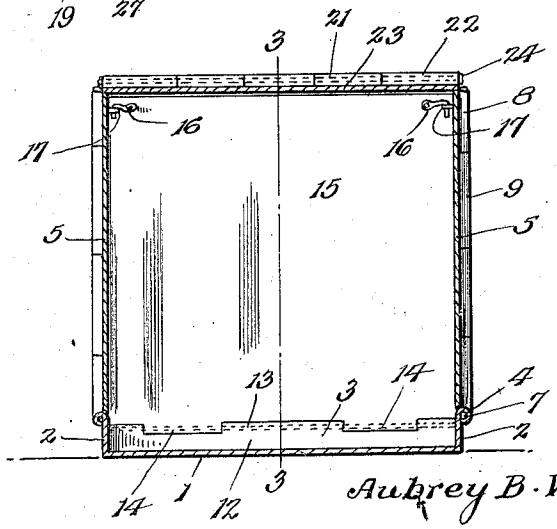


Fig. 2.



Inventor

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By

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Fig. 3.

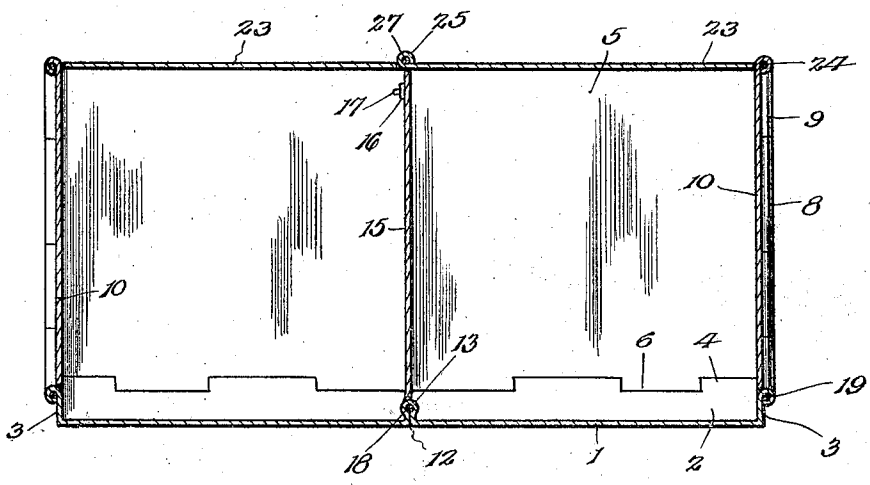


Fig. 4.

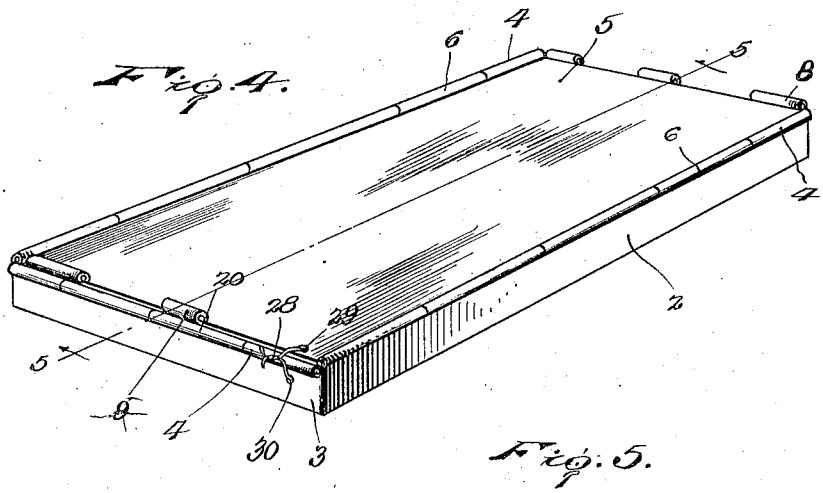
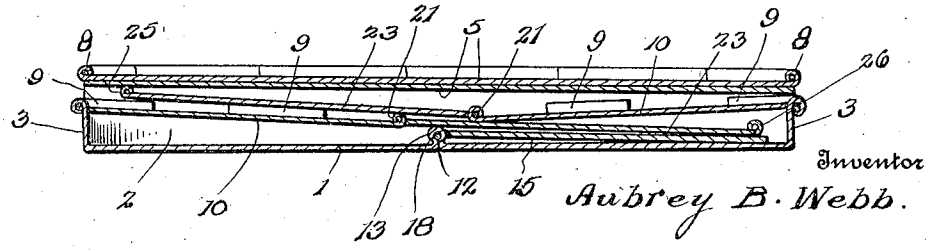


Fig. 5.



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Patented Oct. 16, 1923. 1,470,898

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUBREY B. WEBB, OF CUNNINGHAM, KENTUCKY, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO ROBERT O. WILLINGHAM, JR., OF BARDWELL, KENTUCKY, AND JOHN WESLEY WEBB, OF CUNNINGHAM, KENTUCKY.

FOLDABLE EGG CRATE.

Application filed November 10, 1921. Serial No. 514,273.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUBREY B. WEBB, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cunningham, in the county of Carlisle and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Foldable Egg Crates, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to collapsible containers and has special reference to crates or boxes for shipping eggs, the object of the invention being to provide a container which may be folded into a small compass when empty so that it may be returned to the original shipper and used indefinitely. The invention resides in certain novel features which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings and will be hereinafter first fully described and then particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved container showing the same as it appears when set up for use before being filled;

Fig. 2 is a transverse section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 with the top members in closed position;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2 with the tops in closed position;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the device folded;

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

In carrying out my invention, I employ a bottom 1 which is preferably of sheet metal and is provided with the longitudinal upstanding flanges 2 and the transverse upstanding flanges 3 at its side and end edges respectively. The said flanges are provided at their upper edges with alined elongated eyes or sleeves 4, the purpose of which will presently appear, and the side flanges 2 are slightly higher than the end flanges 3, as clearly shown. The side members 5 are also constructed of sheet metal and are provided at their lower edges with eyes or beads 6 which are adapted to fit between and in alinement with the eyes or sleeves 4 upon the side flanges 2 and receive a pin or rod 7 whereby the sides and the side flanges will be hingedly connected. The side members are further provided at their ends with eyes or beads 8 which are adapted to fit between and in alinement with similar eyes or sleeves 9 upon the end members 10, pins or rods being inserted through the said alined eyes or sleeves so that the ends and sides will be held together when in upright position, as shown in Fig. 1. The ends of the pins engaged in the said eyes 8 and 9 may be turned laterally, as shown at 11, so that they will be prevented from dropping through the eyes or sleeves and releasing the side and end members. The bottom member 1 is doubled upon itself or crimped transversely at its center, as shown at 12, and on the upper edge of the said crimped portion, I form eyes or tubular members 13 between which may fit similar eyes 14 on the partition 15. This partition 15, like all the other members of the crate, is constructed of sheet metal so as to be light but strong, and constitutes a division plate whereby the interior of the crate is formed into two filler receiving compartments when the crate is set up for use. Near its upper edge, the partition is equipped with pivotally mounted hooks 16 which are adapted to engage eyes or similar members 17 on the respectively adjacent side members 5 so that the side members and the partition will be mutually sustained in an upright position. A pin 18 is inserted through the alined eyes or sleeves 13 and 14 so that the partition will be hingedly connected with the bottom 1 and may be readily swung down onto the bottom when the crate is to be collapsed. Pins 19 are inserted through the eyes or sleeves 4 on the end flanges 3 and similar eyes 20 formed at the edges of the end members 10 so that the end members will be hingedly connected to the bottom in the same manner that the side members are connected thereto. The end members and the partition are preferably of such dimensions that their upper edges will be flush with the upper edges of the side members and the end members are further provided with eyes or sleeves 21 at their upper edges which are adapted to aline with eyes or sleeves 22 on the top members 23 and receive pins 24 whereby the said top members are hinged to the end members. The top members are of such dimensions that their free edges will meet over the partition 5 and one of

said members is provided at its free edge with a central eye or sleeve 25, while the other of said members is provided with spaced eyes or sleeves 26 adapted to aline with the sleeve 25 when the top members are brought together, a pin 27 being inserted through the said eyes so as to retain the members in folded position over the crate and said pin being provided with an opening 27′ to receive a cotter pin or sealing wire.

When the crate is set up for use as it appears in Fig. 1, the sides and end members will be disposed in the vertical planes of the side and end flanges on the bottom and will be firmly held in said position by the described connections at their meeting edges which form the corners of the set up crate as well as by the hooks and eyes 16 and 17 upon the partition and the side members. The egg fillers are placed within the crate in the usual manner and after the crate has been filled, the top members 23 are folded over to rest upon the upper edges of the side members and the partition and be fastened by the pin 27 in the described manner. The several parts of the crate will thus reinforce each other so that the crate is not apt to collapse while being transported. After the edges have been removed, the partition 5 is released from the side members by disengaging the hooks 16 in an obvious manner and the partition may then be folded down upon the bottom 1 in the position shown in Fig. 5. The end members are then released from the side members by the withdrawal of the pins fitting within the sleeves 8 and 9, and the end and top members are then swung successively down over the partition and into the space defined by the flanges of the bottom, as shown in Fig. 5, after which the side members are respectively folded over upon the bottom, as shown and as will be readily understood. In order to retain the parts in this collapsed condition, a fastening wire 28 or similar fastening may be inserted through openings 29 and 30 provided in one side member 5 and one end flange 3, as shown clearly in Fig. 4, so that accidental separation of the parts will be prevented and the crate may be returned to the original shipper in a very compact condition.

It will be readily noted from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, that I have provided an exceedingly simple and inexpensive container which may be readily set up for use and as easily folded for return shipment. The upstanding flanges at the sides and ends of the bottom plate provide a definite compartment in which the remaining members of the crate may be received when the crate is collapsed, and also effect a removal of the eyes or sleeves forming part of the connections between the bottom and the side and end members from the bottom plane of the crate so that a flat supporting surface is provided which will avoid unstable conditions during transportation of a filled crate and will at the same time permit the crate to be easily slid over a platform when being transferred from one vehicle to another or from a warehouse. To further facilitate the handling of a filled crate, handles, indicated in dotted lines at 31 in Fig. 1, may be provided upon the end members 10, if so desired.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

A collapsible crate comprising a bottom plate having upstanding side and end flanges, the side flanges being higher than the end flanges, a partition hinged to the bottom plate transversely at the center of the same and adapted to swing down upon the bottom and lie flat thereon, end members hinged to the end flanges of the bottom and adapted to fold over the bottom between the side flanges thereon and overlie the partition, top members hingedly connected to the free edges of the end members and adapted in collapsed condition to lie between the side flanges of the bottom with one top member overlapping an end member and one top member overlapped by an end member, the free edges of the top members meeting over the partition in set up position and provided with alined eyes, a locking pin engageable through said eyes, side members hinged to the respective side flanges of the bottom and adapted to fold over the same with one side member overlying the other side member and both side members above the end members and the top members, sleeves on the meeting ends of the end and side members arranged to aline in set up position, and locking pins removably engageable in said sleeves.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

AUBREY B. WEBB. [L. S.]