

May 25, 1948.

R. M. DUNNING

2,442,079

CARTON

Filed July 14, 1943

4 Sheets-Sheet 1

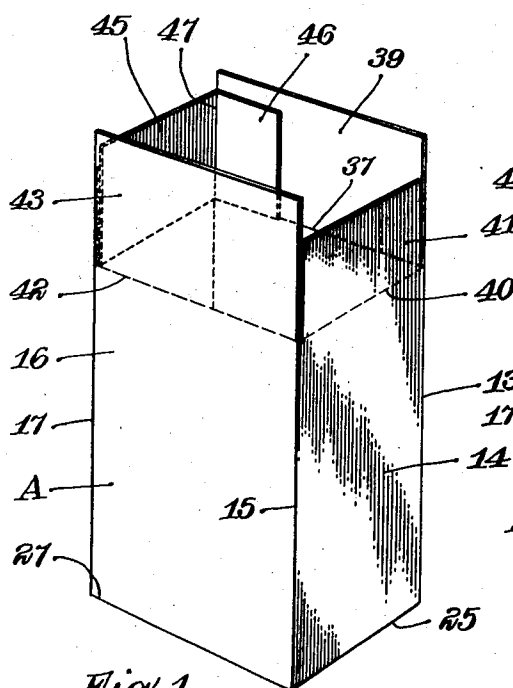


Fig. 1

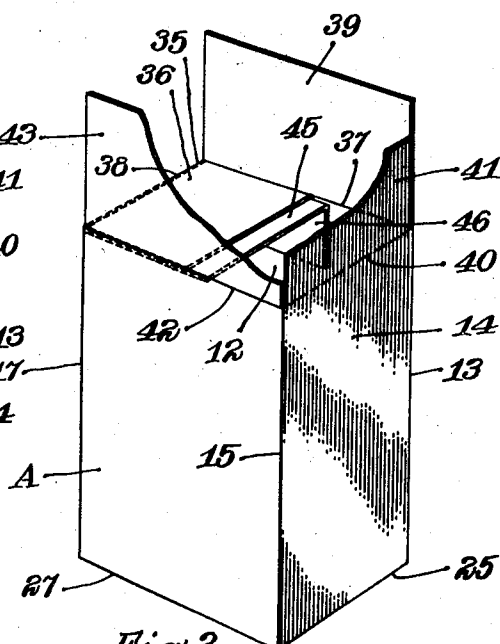


Fig. 2

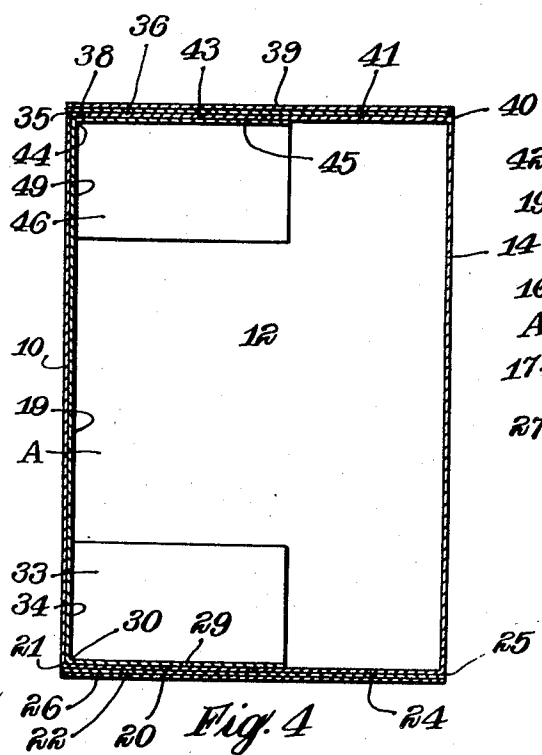


Fig. 4

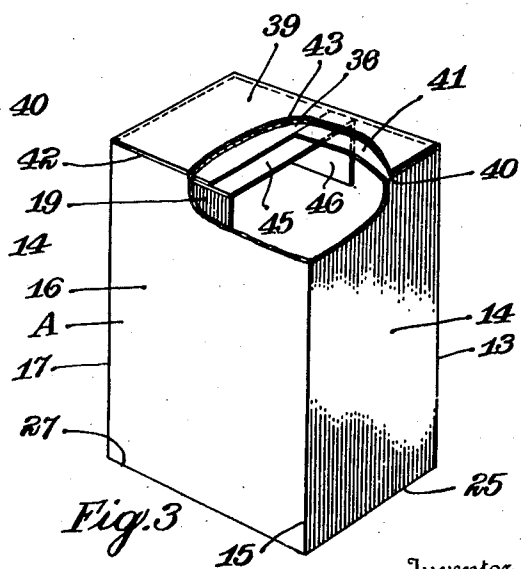


Fig. 3

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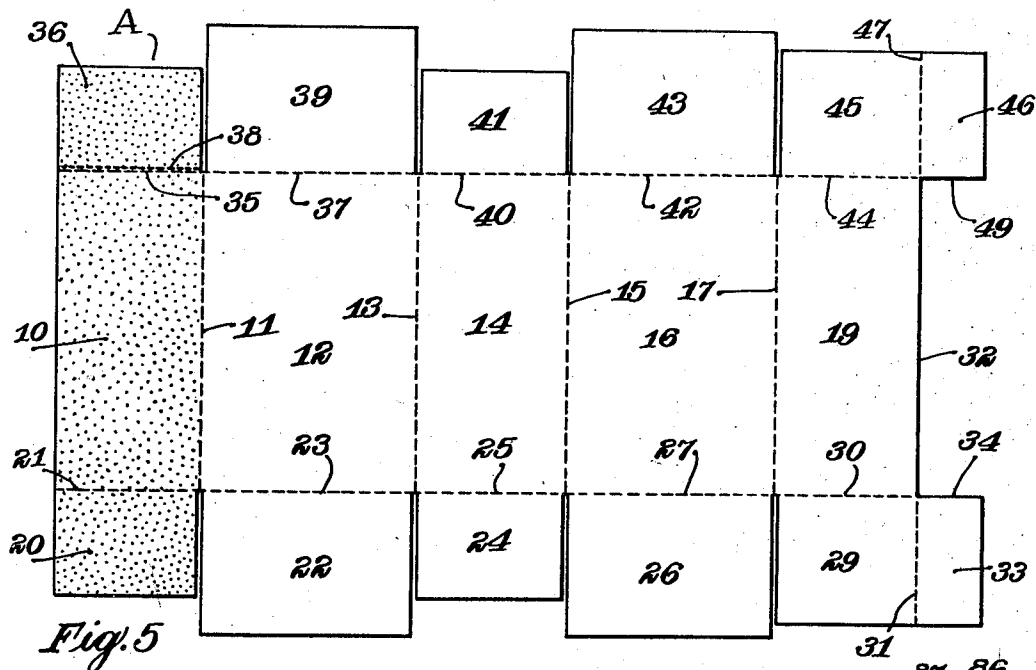
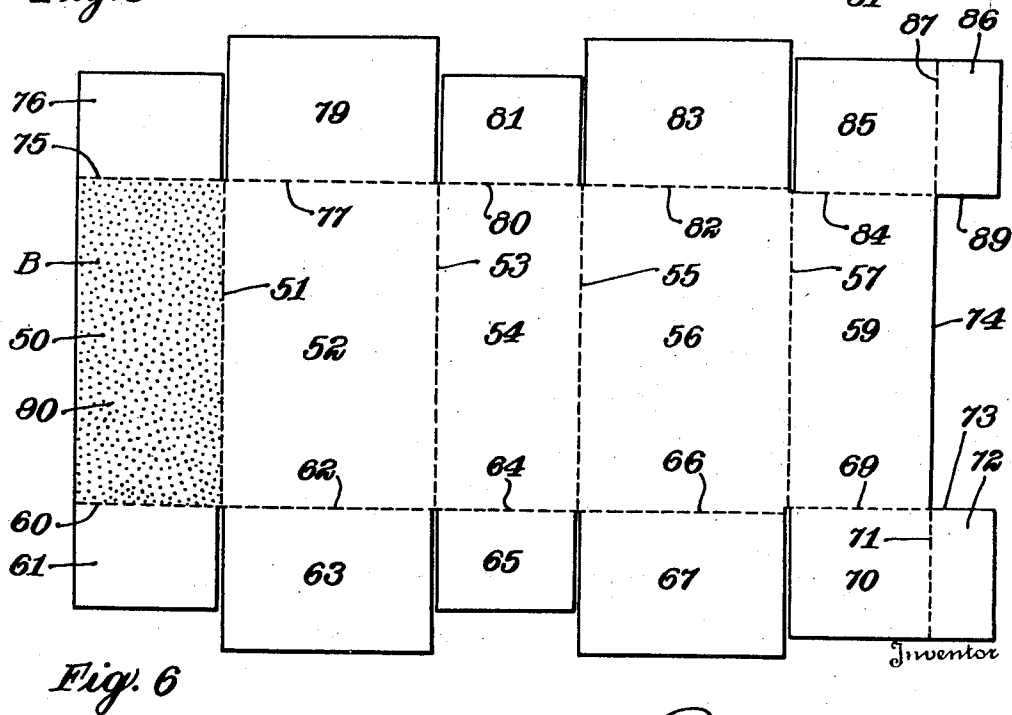
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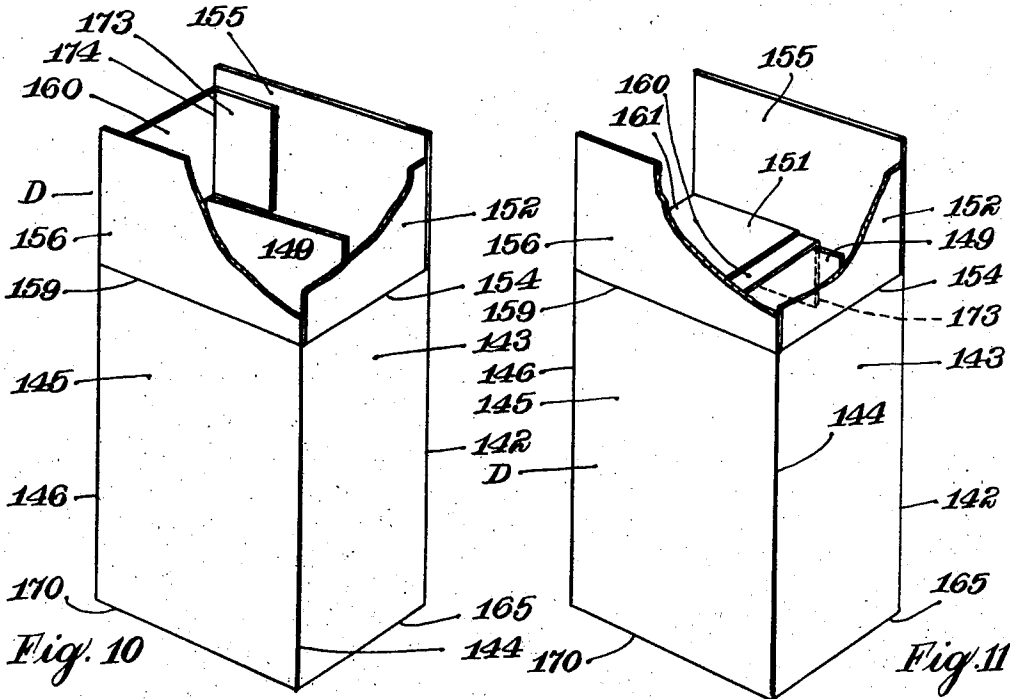
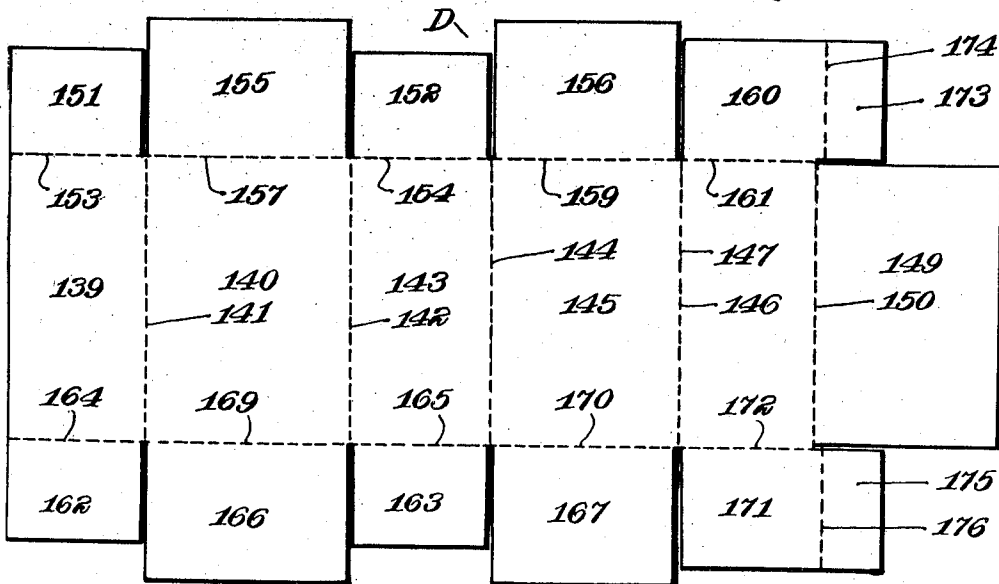


Fig. 12

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,442,079

CARTON

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3 Claims. (Cl. 229—37)

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My invention relates to an improvement in cartons, wherein it is desired to provide an efficient end closure seal to protect the contents of the carton.

In cartons having the ends thereof sealed by means of overlapping glue flaps, difficulty has been experienced in providing a tight seal between the flaps due to the lack of a firm support within the carton. It is usual practice to fold a pair of opposed end flaps into a common plane and to subsequently fold the remaining flaps upon the opposed flaps, adhesive being applied to hold the flaps in this relation. It has been found, however, that when the opposed inner flaps are moistened with adhesive they have a tendency to curve or curl inwardly, thereby preventing the remaining flaps from sealing against a large area thereof. Furthermore, as no means is provided to support these opposed flaps in a common plane, external pressure has a tendency to bend the opposed flaps inwardly, thus preventing an effective seal with the remaining flaps of the closure.

It is the object of the present invention to provide a means of holding the opposed flaps in substantially a common plane and to so support these flaps that they will not fold or bend inwardly when moistened with adhesive or when external pressure is applied thereto. As a result these opposed flaps are normally adhered to the remaining flaps of the closure over the entire area thereof, thus providing a more effective seal.

When the inner opposed closure flaps of a container curve inwardly, thereby adhering to the remaining flaps over a relatively small area, the closure seal is somewhat ineffective, allowing sifting of the contents through the closure. Thus when the inner opposed flaps are supported on a substantially common plane, so that the remaining closure flaps can be adhered to the entire area thereof, this tendency for the carton to sift is to a large extent eliminated.

A feature of the present invention lies in the provision of a support within the carton upon which the opposed end flaps of the carton may rest when in folded position. The opposed flaps are accordingly held in sealing position by the internal support.

A further feature of the present invention resides in the fact that the support, upon which the opposed inner end flaps of a carton are supported, may be constructed so that no special or unusual machinery is necessary in order to seal the carton. My flap support is designed to fold with the opposed inner end flaps of the carton,

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and accordingly the mechanism usually employed to fold the opposed end flaps can be utilized for positioning the inner support in operative position.

5 An additional feature of the present invention lies in the provision of a carton which employs an inner support for the closure flaps of the carton and in the construction of this inner support so that the cartons may be shipped in flat formation subsequent to the filling and sealing operations. This feature is of extreme importance as no extra cost is therefore involved in the gluing of the cartons or in shipping the same.

10 An additional feature of the present invention lies in the fact that little extra stock is required in the formation of the flap support. The cost of forming cartons including the inner support is therefore but slightly greater than the cost of making a carton of similar size of any conventional form.

15 A further feature of the present invention lies in the provision of an inner support for the end closure flaps of a carton which is designed to engage both of the inner end flaps of the closure. The same supporting means is engageable with any or all of the flaps to properly support the same.

20 These and other objects and novel features of my invention will be more clearly and fully set forth in the following specification and claims.

25 In the drawings forming a part of my specification:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a carton having one end thereof open to show the construction thereof.

35 Figure 2 is a perspective view similar to Figure 1 showing the inner support folded into operative position.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the sealed box, portions thereof being broken away to disclose the inner supporting construction.

40 Figure 4 is a vertical section through the box, showing the means for the upper and lower ends of the carton.

45 Figure 5 is a died-out diagram of the blank of which the carton is formed.

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 5 showing a slightly different form of construction.

Figure 7 is a perspective view of a modified form of construction of carton.

50 Figure 8 is a perspective view similar to Figure 7, portions thereof having been broken away with the inner support folded into operable position.

55 Figure 9 is a plan view of the blank of which

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the carton illustrated in Figures 7 and 8 is formed. Figure 10 is a perspective view of a modified form of carton construction.

Figure 11 illustrates the carton of Figure 10 in partially closed condition.

Figure 12 is a plan view of the blank of which the carton illustrated in Figures 10 and 11 is formed.

The carton A, illustrated in Figures 1 through 5, is preferably constructed from a blank such as that illustrated in Figure 5. The side panel 10 of the carton is connected along a fold line 11 to a rear panel 12. The rear panel 12 is connected along the fold line 13 to the side panel 14. The side panel 14 is connected by a fold line 15 to a front panel 16. This front panel 16 is connected along the fold line 17 to an overlapping panel 19 designed to overlap the panel 10. While the panels 12 and 16 have been designated rear and front panels, obviously this terminology is merely illustrative, for all of the various wall panels form a substantially tubular carton body.

An end closing flap 20 is connected to the lower edge of the panel 10 along a fold line 21. A closing flap 22 is connected along the lower edge of the panel 12 by a fold line 23. An end flap or closing panel 24 is connected along the lower edge of the panel 14 by a fold line 25. Similarly a closing panel 26 is connected along the lower edge of the wall 16 along a fold line 27. A supporting panel 29 is connected to the lower edge of the flap 19 along a fold line 30. The various flaps 22, 24, 26, and 29 are disconnected except through their fold lines in the died-out formation of the carton.

The supporting panel 29 is connected along a fold line 31 which forms substantially a continuation of the edge 32 of the overlapping flap or panel 19, as illustrated, to a flap 33. The edge 34 of the flap 33 is at substantially a right angle with respect to the edge 32, or this angle may be slightly less than ninety degrees under certain conditions. The angle illustrated, however, is a ninety degree angle.

The side wall 10 is connected along a fold line 35 to a top closing flap or panel 36. The rear wall 12 is connected along its upper edge by a fold line 37 to a closure panel 39. The side wall 14 is connected along its upper edge by a fold line 40 to a top closing panel 41. The front panel 16 is connected along its upper edge by a fold line 42 to a top closing panel 43. Similarly the overlapping wall or panel 19 is connected along its upper edge by a fold line 44 to a supporting flap 45. The various panels or flaps 36, 39, 41, 43, and 45 are disconnected except through the fold lines mentioned.

The flap 45 is provided with a tongue or flap 46 connected along an edge thereof by means of the fold line 47. The fold line 47 extends in alignment with the edge 32 of the carton blank, while the angle between the edge 32 and the edge 49 of the flap 46 is substantially a right angle, or may be slightly less than ninety degrees.

In the formation of the carton A, the carton is first formed in tubular shape so that it may be shipped flat to its destination where the carton is to be filled and sealed. In the construction illustrated adhesive is applied to the inner surface of the panel 10 and its foldably connected end closing panels 20 and 36. The carton is then folded so that the inner surface of the panel 10 engages the outer surface of the panel 19. When thus folded the panel 36 will overlie the major portion of the flap or panel

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45, while the flap or panel 20 will overlie the major portion of the panel 29. This result may be accomplished by folding the carton along the fold line 17 so that the panel 19 is folded flat upon the panel 16 and subsequently folding the carton along fold line 13 so as to fold the panel 10 onto the panel 19 as has been described.

The next step in completing the carton is to close one end thereof. One end of the carton may be folded over an internal mandrel so that one end of the carton may, if desired, be formed in the conventional manner. For example, if the carton is to be sealed over a sealing mandrel the flaps or panels 29 and 33 could be omitted, thus forming a carton which at one end is virtually identical to the construction ordinarily employed in simple cartons of this type.

When the glued carton is folded into rectangular or tube-shape form, it will be noted that the panel 33 lies interiorly of the panel 22, while the flap or panel 46 lies interiorly of the rear end panel or flap 39. In sealing the lower end of the carton the flaps or panels 20 and 24 are first folded inwardly into a common plane, this action folding the panel 29 beneath the panel 20. The inward folding of the panel 20 is restricted by the flap 33 and in folding the panel 20 downwardly the edge 34 of the flap 33 engages the inner surface of the end wall, comprising panels 10 and 19. As the angle between the edge 32 and the flap edge 34 is substantially a right angle, it is possible for the flap 29 to fold inwardly at right angles to the side wall of the carton. Similarly the inward pivoting of the flap 24 is limited by engagement with the extremity of the flap 29, as this flap 29 projects beyond the end of the flap 20 so as to overlie the marginal edge of the flap 24.

Figures 1, 2, and 3 show subsequent steps in the folding of an end of the carton. If both ends of the carton are constructed similarly, as illustrated in the drawings, both ends of the carton are similarly sealed. Figures 1, 2, and 3 show the closing of the upper end of the carton, as this is the end which is normally unsupported from the interior of the carton during the sealing of the same. Figure 1 illustrates the manner in which the flap 46 lies interiorly of the panel 39 for the folding operation, but after the carton has been folded into substantially rectangular form. The next step in sealing the carton comprises folding the flap 36 and the attached flap 45 downwardly into the position illustrated in Figure 2 of the drawings. It will be noted that the flap 45 projects beyond the end of the flap 36 to engage the undersurface of the flap 41. It will be noted from Figure 4 of the drawings that as the flaps 36 and 45 are pivoted downwardly toward the position illustrated in Figure 2 of the drawings, the edge 49 of the flap 46 will be brought against the inner surface of the panel 19, thus restricting the pivotal movement of these flaps. As a result the flap 36 can not pivot into the carton as it has a tendency to do when moistened and when subjected to pressure from an external source.

After the flaps 36 and 45 have been pivoted into the position illustrated in Figure 2 of the drawings the flap 41 is pivoted into coplanar relation with the flap 36, the end of the flap 41 resting upon the end of the flap 45 which projects beyond the end of the flap 36. The sealing flaps 43 and 39 are then folded to overlie the flaps 36 and 41 and are adhered thereto in the usual manner as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings.

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In actual practice the flaps 36 and 41 may be pivoted inwardly simultaneously, it being necessary, however, that the flap 36 be folded slightly in advance of the flap 41 so that the flap 45 will engage beneath the edge of the flap 41.

If it is desired a weakened line of separation 38 may be provided at, or adjacent, the fold line 35. Because of the double thickness of stock at the fold line 35, the fold along this line has a tendency to draw the outer lamination, or to buckle the inner lamination. While some carton stock is capable of withstanding this tendency, the weakening line of separation may be provided if necessary to permit separation of the outer lamination at or adjacent the fold line.

In the foregoing description the carton A has been described as having the panels 20 and 36 adhered to the exterior surface of flaps or panels 29 and 45. While this construction is permissible with certain types of carton stock, with other types of stock it is impractical to draw the stock sufficiently to fold flaps 20 and 36 in unison with flaps 29 and 45. Therefore, in some instances, it is desirable to leave the supporting panels disconnected from the flaps which they support, thereby permitting individual folding of the supporting flaps and the end closure flaps which they support.

The carton B, illustrated in Figure 6 of the drawings, is virtually identical with the carton A, with the exceptions that the supporting flaps are not connected to the end closure flaps by glue or other means and that the supporting flaps are connected by a fold line slightly off-set from the fold lines connecting the closure flaps to the various walls so that the supporting flaps may lie interiorly of the closure flaps without stretching the stock of which the carton is constructed.

The carton B is provided with a side wall 50 foldably connected at 51 to a rear panel 52. The rear panel 52 is connected by a fold line 53 to a side panel 54, which in turn is connected along a fold line 55 to the front panel 56. The front panel 56 is connected along a fold line 52 to the overlapping wall or panel 59. The construction from the fold line 56 to the left end of the blank, as illustrated in Figure 6, is identical to the corresponding portions of the construction shown in Figure 5.

The panel 50 is connected along a fold line 60 to an end closure flap 61. The rear panel 52 is connected along its lower edge by a fold line 62 to a closure panel 63. The side panel 54 is connected at its lower edge along a fold line 64 to an end closing panel 65. The front panel 56 is connected along the fold line 66 to a closure panel or flap 67. The panel 59 is connected along a fold line 69 to a supporting flap or panel 70. The fold line 69 is located slightly off-set inwardly of the blank from the aligned fold lines 60, 62, 64, and 66, so that the supporting panel 70 will fold interiorly of the end closure flaps.

The panel or flap 70 is connected along a fold line 71 to a flap 72. The edge 73 of the flap 72 extends at substantially a right angle with respect to the end 74 of the carton blank.

Similar closing flaps are provided at the upper edge of the carton blank. The panel 50 is connected along a fold line 75 to an end closing panel 76. The panel 52 is connected along a fold line 77 to an end closing panel 79. Side panel 54 is connected along fold line 80 to an end closing panel 81. Front panel 56 is connected along fold line 82 to the top closing panel 83. Overlapping panel 59 is connected along fold line 84 to the

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supporting panel 85. The fold line 84 is slightly off-set from the aligned fold lines 75, 77, 80, and 82, so that the supporting panel 85 will lie interiorly of the remaining end closure flaps. A flap 86 is connected along fold line 87 to an edge of the supporting panel 85, the fold line 87 being substantially aligned with the end 74 of the carton blank. The edge 89 of the flap 86 extends at substantially a right angle with respect to the carton end 74.

The adhesive, indicated by the numeral 88, is applied only to the inner surface of the panel 50 between the fold lines 60 and 75. Thus the carton may be folded in flat formation such as by folding the blank along fold lines 87 and 83 and adhering the inner surface of the panel 50 to the exterior surface of the panel 59. The cartons are usually shipped when in this flat formation.

The operation of sealing the carton B is identical to that described in connection with the carton A, it being noted that the panels 70 and 85 lie interiorly of the opposed panels 61 and 65, and the opposed panels 76 and 81 respectively. The supporting panels 70 and 85 are prevented from folding into the carton by engagement of the edges 73 and 89 of the flaps 72 and 86, respectively, with the adjacent inner surface of the side wall of the carton. The remaining flaps which are adhered together merely overlie the supporting flaps and are held in position thereby.

In Figures 7 through 9 of the drawings, I disclose a slightly different form of carton construction. In this carton, which is indicated in general by the letter C, the supporting flaps which lie interiorly of the end sealing flaps are provided along opposite edges of the flaps, thereby more firmly securing the supporting flaps or panels.

The carton C is formed of a blank of the type illustrated in Figure 9 of the drawings. This blank is disclosed as having a side wall panel 91 connected along a fold line 92 to the rear wall panel 93. The rear wall panel 93 is connected along a fold line 94 to a side wall 95, which in turn is connected by fold line 96 to the front panel 97. The front panel 97 is connected along fold line 99 to the overlapping flap or panel 100 which is designed to lie exteriorly of the panel 91 and to be adhered thereto.

The side panel 92 is connected along its lower edge by a fold line 101 to an end closing flap 102. This end closing flap is connected along a fold line 103 to an additional supporting flap 104. The edge 105 of the flap 104 extends at substantially right angles with respect to the edge 106 of the side panel 91.

The rear panel 93 is connected along the fold line 107 to the closing panel 109, and the side panel 95 is connected along the fold line 110 to the end closing panel 111. The front panel 97 is connected along its lower edge by a fold line 112 to a closing flap 113 and the overlapping flap 100 is connected along the fold line 114 to the closing flap 115. The closing flap 115 is connected along a fold line 116 to the supporting flap 117.

The upper edge of the carton C may be similarly provided with closing flaps. The upper edge of the panel 91 is connected along a fold line 119 to the closing flap 120, which in turn is connected along a fold line 121 to the supporting flap 122. The panel 93 is connected along the fold line 123 to the closing flap 124 and the side wall 95 is connected along the fold line 125 to the flap or panel

126. The front wall 97 is connected along the fold line 127 to the closure panel 129 and the wall 100 is connected along the fold line 130 to the closing panel 131. The panel or flap 131 is connected by a fold line 132 to the supporting flap 133.

In the formation of the carton C the blank is first folded and glued in tubular formation, such as by folding the carton along the fold lines 94 and 99 and adhering the outer surface of the panel 91 to the inner surface of the panel 100. The adhesive is preferably provided on the inner surface of the panel 100 as indicated by the number 134. If desired the panels 115 and 131 may be adhered to the outer surface of the panels 102 and 120, respectively.

The manner in which the upper extremity of the carton is sealed is illustrated in Figures 7 and 8 of the drawings. The flap 131, together with the flap 120 to which it is adhered or against which it engages, is pivoted into the position illustrated in Figure 8 of the drawings, and the flap 126 is folded along its fold line 125 so as to marginally engage the projecting edge of the flap 120. The edges 135 and 136 of the flaps 122 and 133 are at substantially right angles to the ends 106 and 137 of the blank and therefore act to support the sealing flaps from pivoting into the interior of the carton by limiting the pivotal movement to ninety degrees. The flap 126 is marginally supported by the flap 120 and the sealing flaps 124 and 129 fold over the closing flaps and are adhered thereto.

It will be noted that the end flaps of the container are definitely prevented from folding inwardly and therefore present a flat surface to permit ready gluing of the sealing flaps in superimposed relation. The various flaps are thus securely adhered together providing a more efficient closure and thereby reducing the tendency of the carton to sift at the corners thereof.

In Figures 10, 11 and 12 of the drawings, I disclose a modified form of carton construction illustrated in general by the letter D. In this form of construction the carton is formed as best illustrated in Figure 12 of the drawings, showing a panel 139 which is foldably secured to the rear panel 140 along a fold line 141. The rear panel 140 is connected by a fold line 142 to the side panel 143. This panel 143 is in turn connected along the fold line 144 to the front wall panel 145. This panel in turn is connected along the fold line 146 to the side wall overlapping panel 147. The panel 147 is somewhat narrower than the panel 139 which it overlaps and a locking panel 149 is connected thereto along the fold line 150. Thus the panel 150 folds inwardly from a point spaced from the inner surface of the rear wall 140 so as to provide a space or opening between the locking panel 149 and the rear wall 140.

Top closure flaps 151 and 152 are connected to the upper edges of the panels 139 and 143, respectively, along fold lines 153 and 154. Closure flaps 155 and 156 are connected to the upper edges of the panels 140 and 145 along fold lines 157 and 159. A top panel 160 is connected along a fold line 161 to the upper edge of the overlapping panel 147. The panel 160 is of the same width as the panels 151 and 152 and is therefore somewhat wider than the overlapping panel 147.

Closure flaps 162 and 163 are connected to the panels 139 and 143 along fold lines 164 and 165. Closure panels 166 and 167 are likewise connected to the panels 140 and 145 along the fold lines 169 and 170. A panel 171 is connected to the lower

edge of the overlapping panel 147 along a fold line 172. The flap or panel 171 is of the same width as the panels 162 and 163 and is therefore somewhat wider than the overlapping panel 147.

A locking flange 173 is connected along a fold line 174 to an edge of the flap 160. A similar flange 175 is connected to the flap 171 along the fold line 176. These flanges 173 and 175 operate in the manner described in connection with the previous constructions by engaging against the inner surface of the side wall panel 139 so as to limit inward pivoting of the flaps 171 and 160. These last mentioned flaps are somewhat longer than the flaps 151, 152, 161, and 163, which are preferably arranged to fold into abutting relationship. Thus the locking flaps 160 and 171 underlie portions of both the abutting flaps 151, 152, and 162, 163.

In operation the overlapping panel 147 is adhered to the surface of the side wall 139 and the lower end of the container is sealed. In sealing the lower end of the container the flap 171 is folded inwardly by the flap 162 so that the panel 171 limits inward folding of the panels 162 and 163, the flange 175 folds between the locking panel 149 and the rear wall 140, the flap 171 thus being locked positively from folding inwardly more than a predetermined amount.

The manner in which the top of the container is sealed is identical to that described. The flap 160 is folded downwardly beneath the flap 151, the flaps 151 and 152 folding into substantially coplanar relation. The closure flaps 155 and 156 are then folded over the previously folded flaps 151 and 152 and are adhered thereto.

In folding from the position illustrated in Figure 10 to the position shown in Figure 11, it is understood that the flange 173 will extend between the locking panel 149 and the rear wall 140 of the container due to the fact that a space is provided between these two elements because of the position of the fold line 150. As best illustrated in Figure 11, the flap 160 is positively locked from folding to a greater extent than that illustrated, thus positively locking the flaps from folding inwardly.

In accordance with the patent statutes, I have described the principles of construction and operation of my carton, and while I have endeavored to set forth the best embodiments thereof, I desire to have it understood that obvious changes may be made within the scope of the following claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A carton comprising four rectangularly arranged side walls, a panel on one side wall overlapping an adjacent side wall and being adhered thereto to lie inwardly thereof, a pair of opposed closure flaps on two opposed side walls folded into coplanar relationship, closure panels on the remaining side walls folded to overlie said coplanar flaps and adhered thereto in superimposed relation, a supporting flap hingedly connected to said panel along a fold line parallel to and adjacent the fold line of the side wall panel overlapped, said supporting flap being folded to lie inwardly of the closure formed by said closure flap and in surface contact with both of said coplanar flaps, and a flap means foldably connected to an edge of said supporting flap along a line of fold at substantially right angles to the line of fold connecting said supporting flap to said panel, said flap means having an edge engaging the inner surface of said supporting panel to limit inward

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folding of said supporting flap relative to said panel.

2. A carton comprising four rectangularly arranged side walls, a panel secured to one of said side walls and adhesively secured in overlapping relation to an adjacent side wall to secure said side walls in tubular form, said panel lying inwardly of the side wall which it overlaps, a pair of closure flaps secured to said overlapped wall and the opposite wall and folded into coplanar relationship, a closure panel on a remaining side wall overlying said coplanar flaps and adhered thereto, a closure flap on the remaining side wall folded to overlie said last named closure flap and adhered thereto, a supporting flap foldably connected to the said panel along a line of fold parallel to and adjacent the fold line connecting the overlapping side wall to its closure flap, said supporting flap being folded inwardly of said opposed flaps and extending beyond the end of the closure flap issuing from the overlapping panel and into engagement with the closure flap on the opposite side wall so as to lie inwardly of portions of both of said opposed closure flaps, flap means on an edge of said supporting flap extending inwardly of a portion of the side wall next adjacent the overlapped side wall, said flap means being connected to said supporting flap along a line of fold at substantially right angles to the line of fold connecting said supporting flap to said panel, and an edge on said flap means engageable against the inner surface of the overlapped side wall to limit inward folding of said supporting flap relative to said panel.

3. A carton comprising four rectangularly arranged side walls, a panel secured to one of said side walls and adhesively secured in overlapping relation to an adjacent side wall to secure said side walls in tubular form, said panel lying inwardly of the side wall which it overlaps, a pair of closure flaps secured to said overlapped wall and the opposite wall and folded into coplanar relationship, a closure panel on a remaining side

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wall overlying said coplanar flaps and adhered thereto, a closure flap on the remaining side wall folded to overlie said last named closure flap and adhered thereto, a supporting flap foldably connected to the said panel along a line of fold parallel to and adjacent the fold line connecting the overlapping side wall to its closure flap, said supporting flap being folded inwardly of said opposed flaps and extending beyond the end of the closure flap issuing from the overlapping panel and into engagement with the closure flap on the opposite side wall so as to lie inwardly of portions of both of said opposed closure flaps, flap means on an edge of said supporting flap extending inwardly of a portion of the side wall next adjacent the overlapped side wall, said flap means being connected to said supporting flap along a line of fold at substantially right angles to the line of fold connecting said supporting flap to said panel, and an added panel foldably connected to said first named panel at a point spaced from the side edges of said overlapped side wall, and lying spaced from but adjacent an adjacent side wall, said flap means lying between said added panel and said adjacent side wall.

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