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BOX AND PACKAGE HANDLE

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

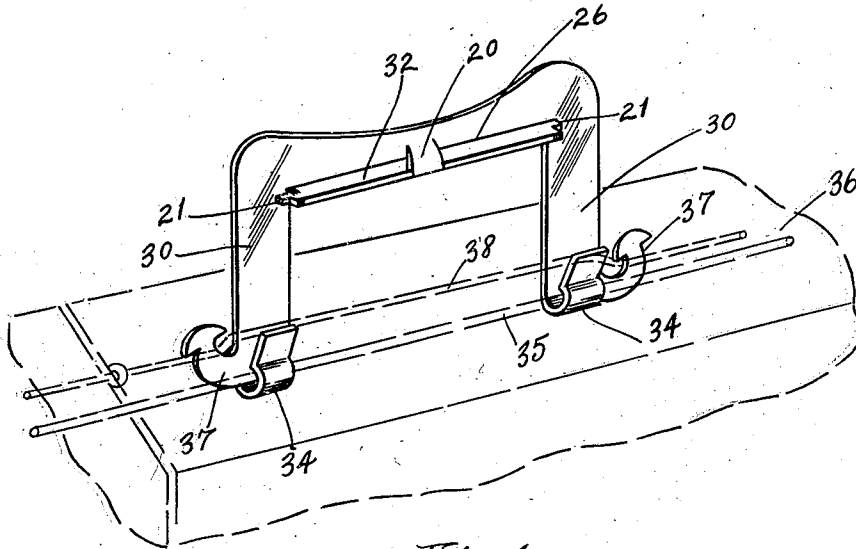


Fig. 4.

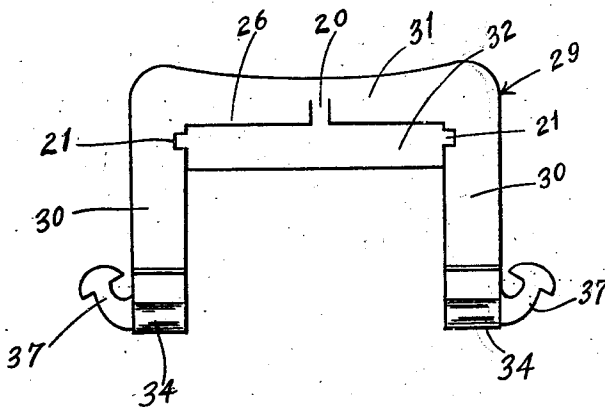


Fig. 5.

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## BOX AND PACKAGE HANDLE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 16—125)

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This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in box and package handles and has for its principal object the provision of an improved construction of this character which will be highly efficient in use and economical in manufacture.

An important object of my invention is the provision of a one-piece handle having a finger guard which serves to provide a substantial bearing face engageable with the fingers of the hand with the result that the handle is prevented from injuring the hand as would otherwise result by use of a handle in which the narrow edge bears against the fingers during the carrying of the box or package.

Another equally important object of the invention is the provision of a simple and convenient arrangement for detachably connecting the handle to the box or package.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a handle which is constructed from a single sheet of material.

Yet another object of this invention is the provision of a combined handle and box latch, a handle and box latch especially designed for use in connection with foldable boxes such as is shown and described in my application Serial No. 446,066, filed June 6, 1942, now matured into Patent No. 2,344,009.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in the novel combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings showing the preferred form of construction, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a box showing my combined handle and latch associated therewith;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the handle and latch embodied in my invention;

Fig. 3 is a sectional detail view of the same taken substantially on line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a handle showing a modified form of construction; and

Fig. 5 is a side view of the same.

The drawings illustrate the preferred form of construction by which the several objects of my invention are accomplished. In the connection, reference being had particularly to Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, the handle comprises an elongated bar 10 formed of such material as will best serve the purpose. At opposite end portions of this bar are tabs 11. Each of these tabs are split as at 12 to provide tab portions 13 and 14 which are

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to be bent in opposite direction when associated with a box in the manner hereinafter set forth. As shown the tab portion 13 is of a greater area than that of the portion 14 and the score 15 thereof is preferably heavier than that of the score of the tab 14. The arrangement being such that as it is desirable to bend the tab portion 13 toward the edge defining the open side of the box cover it is well to provide ample bearing surface between the tab portion 13 and the box to prevent rupturing of the box material. The heavy score is desirable so as to prevent a sharp bend as distinguished from a round one.

The ends 16' of the bar project slightly beyond the tab portion 11. This provides bearing surfaces at the opposite ends of the bar 10 and the box.

Formed integrally with the bar 10, intermediate the opposite ends thereof, is a neck 16. Extending upwardly from this neck 16 is a handle portion 17. This handle portion may be of any desirable shape and formed of such material as will best serve the purpose. It is provided with a cut-out 18 through which the fingers of the hand are projected when grasping the handle 17.

A finger guard 19 is provided. The guard 19 is connected to the intermediate or bight portion of the handle portion 17 by means of a tongue 20. At opposite ends of the guard there are provided extensions or fingers 21 which limit the movement of the guard with respect to the handle portion 17.

The combined handle and latch is associated with a box 20' of the type shown in my Patent No. 2,102,497, dated December 14, 1937. This association is brought about by passing the handle portion 17 through the slot 22 formed in a wall of the bottom of the box and through a cut-out 23 formed in the wall 24 of the cover 25 of the box. In the wall of the bottom of the box, adjacent the wall 24 of the cover 25, and in the wall 24 are provided aligned slots 26' through which the tabs 11 are projected with the bar 10 positioned beneath the wall of the bottom of the box. The tab portions are then bent to flatly engage the wall 24 with the tab portion 13 bent opposite to the tab portion 14 and in a direction toward the edge of the cover defining the opening of the box.

With the handle then in place the user now positions the finger guard in place. This is accomplished by first bending the guard 19 from its position flush with the handle portion 17. The guard is then turned to a horizontal position as shown in Fig. 3, into engagement with the edge 26 of the handle portion 17, and with the finger

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21 in limiting engagement with the adjacent side of the handle portion 17. In this position of the guard, the tongue 23 will be slightly buckled to permit the guard to flatly engage the edge 26. In its horizontal position the guard serves to protect the handle and to make the carrying of the box more comfortable to the carrier.

To complete this handle and latch I provide intermediate score lines 27 which permit the upper portion of the handle to be bent at right angle with respect to the lower portion thereof to facilitate storage of the handle and the box. To facilitate shipping the box with the handle attached the handle may be bent on a score line 28 upon the top wall 24.

In Figs. 4 and 5 I have illustrated a modified form of construction which will now be described.

The handle 29, as illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 is formed from a single sheet of material and comprises opposite limb portions 30 and an intermediate portion 31. As in the case of the handle illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive the handle 29 comprises a finger guard 32 of a construction similar to the finger guard 19; similar parts thereof being designated by similar reference characters.

The limb portions 30 are bent back upon themselves to provide aligned hooks 34 which are adapted to receive a cord or string 35 of a box 36.

The limb portions 30 are also each provided with hooks 37 at its side likewise to receive a cord or string 38 when it is more convenient to do so than to hook the cord or string 35 through the hooks 34. These hooks may be in the form shown in the drawings or such other forms as will best serve the purpose.

Either pair of hooks 34 or 37 may be utilized to receive the cord or string of the box. The pair of hooks not so hooked to the cord or string may be used for the purpose of having small packages or the like suspended therefrom.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect, this is capable of variation

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and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail myself of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

- 10 A handle for a box or like article comprising a body having an intermediate portion; a finger guard of elongated formation, a hinge connection between the guard and the intermediate portion and adapted to be flexed in a direction relative
- 15 to the intermediate portion to permit the guard to be moved to a position beneath the intermediate portion with the intermediate portion disposed centrally with respect to the opposite long edges of the guard, said guard having at opposite
- 20 ends thereof laterally extending fingers, said body having oppositely disposed notches formed therein for the reception of said fingers when said guard is disposed flush with respect to the intermediate portion, and said fingers adapted to
- 25 move from engagement in said notches when said guard is moved into a horizontal position beneath the intermediate portion and to engage adjacent portions of said body to limit movement of the guard into said horizontal position beneath said intermediate portion.

WILLIAM TROGMAN.

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