

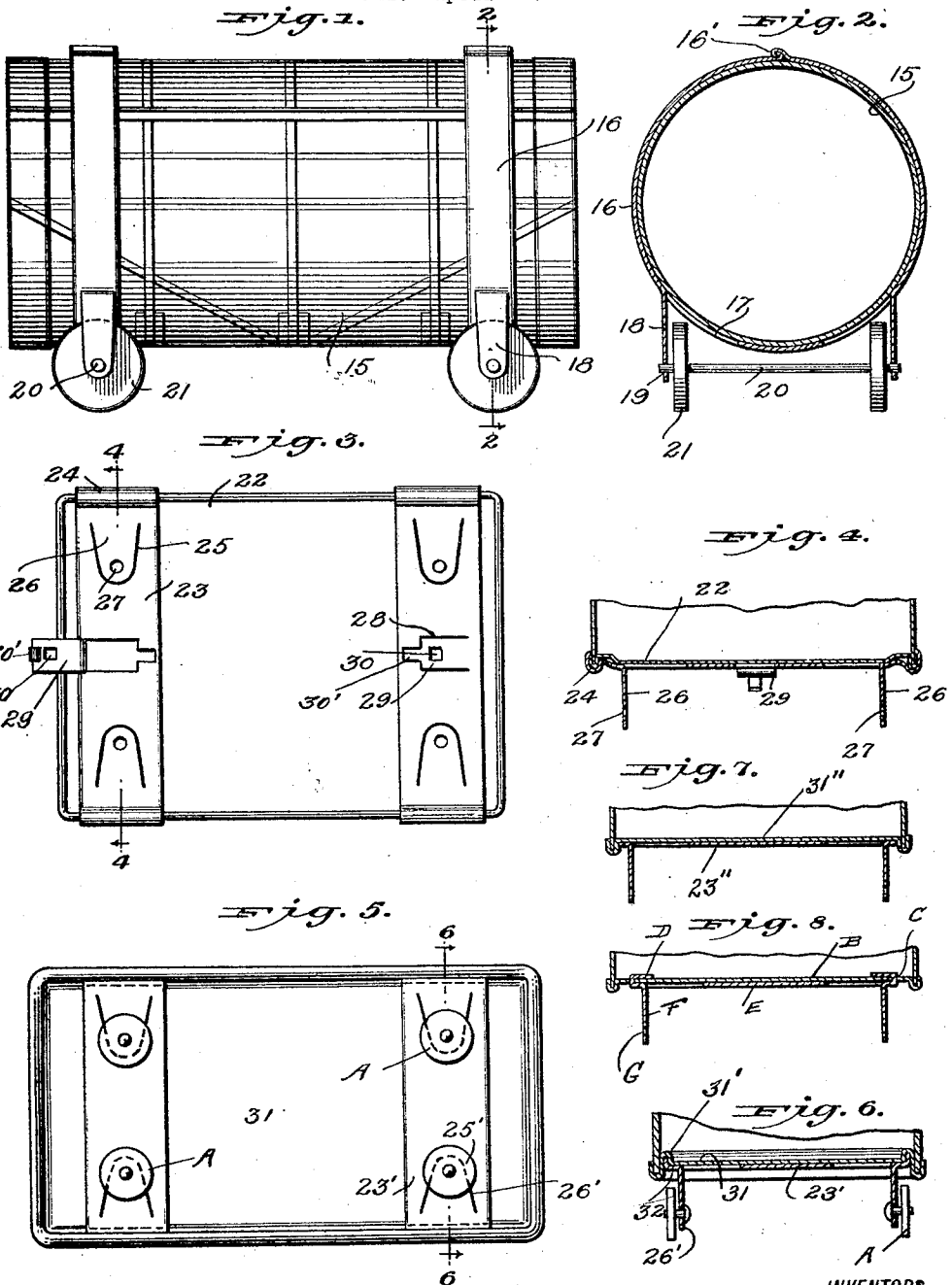
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COMBINED PACKAGE AND TOY

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COMBINED PACKAGE AND TOY.

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Our invention relates to a combined package and toy and has for its object to provide an article in the form of a container which may be readily and easily converted into a toy and thus convert to a useful purpose various types of packages or containers which after having completed their service as such are ordinarily thrown away.

The object of the present invention is to provide a combined package and toy wherein the container before its conversion into a toy vehicle will approximate in shape and outline the ordinary and useful type of container and with those parts which are ultimately to serve to convert the container into a toy vehicle so secured and mounted upon the container as to be partially hidden and completely protected so as not to in any way interfere with nor detract from the efficient service of the container as such.

A further object is to provide a container for the housing of either a liquid or solid material or substance and which is provided with strips of metal, and each strip in turn provided with U-shaped slots defining axle-supporting members, but which supporting members originally lie in the plane of the strip, the strip being either connected to or formed as a part of one of the walls of the container, so that the containers may be packed one upon the other or nested together, in a manner exactly similar to the way in which the ordinary containers are now packed or nested.

A further object is to provide a container which in addition to being able to serve the usual functions as such may with very slight additional cost be adapted to be converted into a toy vehicle, and to this end we preferably decorate or lithograph the container so as to enhance the attractiveness of the toy vehicle and increase its simulation of the vehicles of commerce.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, our invention consists in the improved combined package and toy illustrated in the accompanying drawings and hereinafter described and claimed, and in such variations and modifications thereof as will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which our invention relates, it being understood that changes may be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit thereof.

The preferred embodiment of our inven-

tion is disclosed in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a container such as ordinarily used for the housing of cereals and having formed as a part thereof or attached thereto suitable means whereby the container may be converted into a toy vehicle;

Figure 2 is a view in vertical section taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view of a somewhat different form of container, the metal strip for carrying and supporting the wheels extending around and being clinched to the seam of the body of the container;

Figure 4 is a vertical section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a bottom plan view of a container particularly adapted for the storage and transportation of liquids and arranged for conversion into a toy vehicle;

Figure 6 is a fragmental view in vertical section taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 5;

Figure 7 is a view in vertical section of a container having the axle-supporting strip soldered to the bottom wall of the container;

Figure 8 is a similar view of a container wherein the metal strip from which the wheel and axle supports are made is secured to the bottom wall of the container by providing the latter with slots into which extend suitable tongues;

Referring specifically to the several views, wherein similar reference numerals designate corresponding parts throughout, the container 15 is of the type such as cereals are usually shipped in and has been lithographed so as to simulate the appearance of an oil or tank car, and extending around the body of the container are the resilient strips 16, preferably formed of metal, such as tin, and having their ends secured together as at 16'. The metal strips 16 which are located at both ends of the container are provided with the U-shape slots 17 which form spaced tongues which normally lie in the plane of the strips when the container is functioning as such, and which tongues may be readily bent out of the plane of the strip and project below the container so as to act as axle-supporting members 18, these axle-supporting members being provided with openings or recesses 19 adapted to rotatably receive the ends of the wheel-supporting axles 20 therein.

The strips 16 may be either housed within the container during the merchandising of the foodstuffs or other material and then placed around the empty container, or the container may be originally formed with the strips extending therearound and with the axle-supporting members 18 lying in the same plane as the strips, and in which instance only the axles and wheels 21 will be housed or packed within the container. Preferably the strips will be housed within the container and after the foodstuff or other material has been emptied or removed therefrom, the strips will be attached in place and their ends interlocked as at 16'. The wheels 21 and wheel-bearing axles 20 will then be placed between the downwardly bent axle-supporting members 18 and the container or package will then form a pleasing and efficient toy vehicle.

The somewhat modified form of our invention disclosed in Figure 3 comprises the container 22, to which are permanently attached the metal strips 23 by bending the ends 24 around the side edges of the container and clinching the same thereagainst. The metal strips are provided with the confronting U-shape slots 25, which define or form the tongues 26 which normally lie in the plane of the metal strips and therefore do not in any way interfere with the handling or packing of the container. These tongues 26 are provided with suitable openings or recesses 27, in order that the container may be readily converted into a toy vehicle by bending the tongues downwardly as illustrated in Figure 4, so as to form axle-supporting members, and between which are adapted to extend suitable wheels and axles, similar to those shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. The wheels and axles are initially housed within the container and are of such character and so packed as not to interfere nor contaminate the foodstuffs or other material which the package contains.

The strips 23 are further provided with the slots 28 located approximately midway between the sides of the container so as to form suitable tongues 29 which are adapted to be bent and extend outwardly so as to form coupling members, each coupling member being provided with an opening 30 and with an outwardly extending tongue 30', thereby defining a hook and eye so that either end of one toy vehicle may be joined and coupled to either end of a second toy vehicle.

In those instances where the container is to house and pack a liquid or semi-liquid and the presence of wheels and axles within the container would be objectionable, we have provided the form of package and toy as illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, wherein the bottom wall of the container 31 is pro-

vided with an upwardly extending seam 31' and into which extends the ends of the metal strips 23'. The metal strips 23' are provided with the usual form of U-shape slots 25' and the resulting tongues 26' have permanently attached thereto the wheels A; the tongues 26' normally lying in the plane of the strips 23' and against the bottom wall 31 of the container. The container is provided with a downwardly extending flanged edge similar to the type of container known as a sanitary container, so that with the tongues 26' lying against the bottom wall 31 of the container the wheels A will be housed and protected by the downwardly extending flanged edge of the container and thus not in any way interfere with the handling, packing or shipping of the container when acting as such. The metal strips 23' are held in position by being clinched within the same as at 31' and thus do not in any way interfere with the use of the container as a package for the shipment of liquids.

The form of container illustrated in Figure 7 is provided with the metal strip 23'' which is soldered directly to the bottom wall 31'' of the container, thus making unnecessary the forming of a seam 31' in the bottom wall of the container as described in connection with the container illustrated in Figures 5 and 6.

In Figure 8 we have illustrated a container having a bottom wall B in which are provided slots or openings C and which are adapted to receive the tongues D of the metal strip E. The metal strip E is provided with the usual form of axle supports F, in which are provided the axle-receiving openings or recesses G. In this particular type of construction it will be apparent that the metal strip E together with the wheels and the axles may be housed within the container during its shipment and then attached to the container body after it has completed its service as such; or the container body may have the metal strip E originally attached thereto, depending upon the goods being shipped within the container and the particular shape and type of the container itself; and in this connection it is to be noted that we do not limit ourselves to a container having a flat bottom wall, as it will be readily apparent that these various types of construction may be used on containers which are of cylindrical form such as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, or of other various shapes such as used for various types of containers.

Having thus described and explained our invention, we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A toy vehicle comprising a container body, separate metallic strips secured thereto and conforming to the contour of the container, tongue-like elements formed by

cuts in the strips, the tongues being normally disposed in the plane of the strips and adapted to be bent outwardly to form axle supporting members, wheel and axle elements, and openings near the outer ends of the tongues to support the said wheel and axle elements.

2. An article of the character described comprising a container, separate metallic strips carried thereby which are shaped to closely conform to the contour of the outer wall of the container, cut portions in the strips forming tongues which normally lie in the plane of the strips, openings adjacent the ends of the tongues, and wheels and axles adapted to be supported and maintained in assembled relation by said tongues, when the latter are bent outwardly from said strips to thereby convert the container into a toy vehicle.

3. An article of the character described comprising a container, separate metallic strips carried thereby which are shaped to closely conform to the outer wall of the container, cut portions in the strips forming sets of tongues which normally lie in the plane of the strip and which are arranged to be bent out of this plane so that one set will form axle supporting projections, while the other set will form coupling elements, openings near the outer end of each tongue, and wheels and axles adapted to be supported and retained in one set of the tongue elements when the latter are bent outwardly to thereby convert the container into a toy vehicle.

4. An article for converting a container into a toy vehicle comprising flexible metallic strips to form trucks which may be secured to and in close conformity with the outer wall of the container, cut portions in the strips defining tongue-like areas with openings near their outer ends which tongues lie normally within the plane of the strips, and wheels and axles adapted to be supported in the openings in said tongues when the latter are bent outwardly from said strips.

5. An article for converting a container into a toy vehicle comprising flexible metallic strips to form trucks which may be secured to and in close conformity with the contour of the outer wall of the container, cut portions in the strips defining sets of tongue-like areas which when bent out of the plane of the strip are so arranged to form respectively vehicle axle supporting projections and coupler elements, openings near the outer ends of the tongues, and wheels and axles adapted to be supported and retained in the openings in one set of the tongues when the latter are bent out of the plane of the strip.

Signed at Waterbury, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, this 21st day of April, A. D. 1922.

LEONARD R. CARLEY.

Signed at Waterbury, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, this 21st day of April, A. D. 1922.

GEORGE H. KAY.