Dec. 27, 1966 M. F. NOTKO ETAL 3,294,221

MOVING AND STORAGE WARDROBE CONTAINER

Filed Nov. 13, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

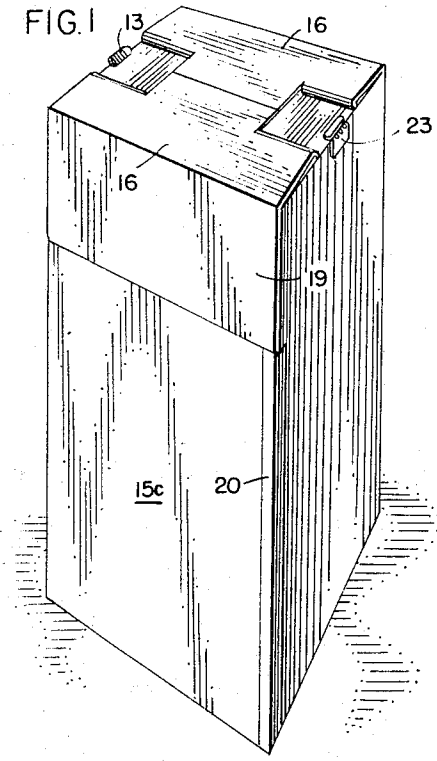


FIG. 3

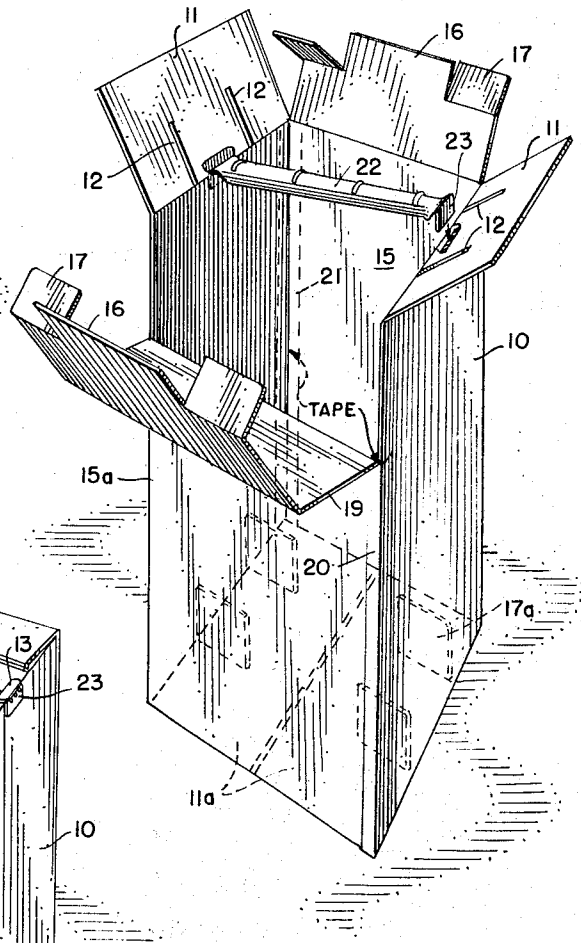
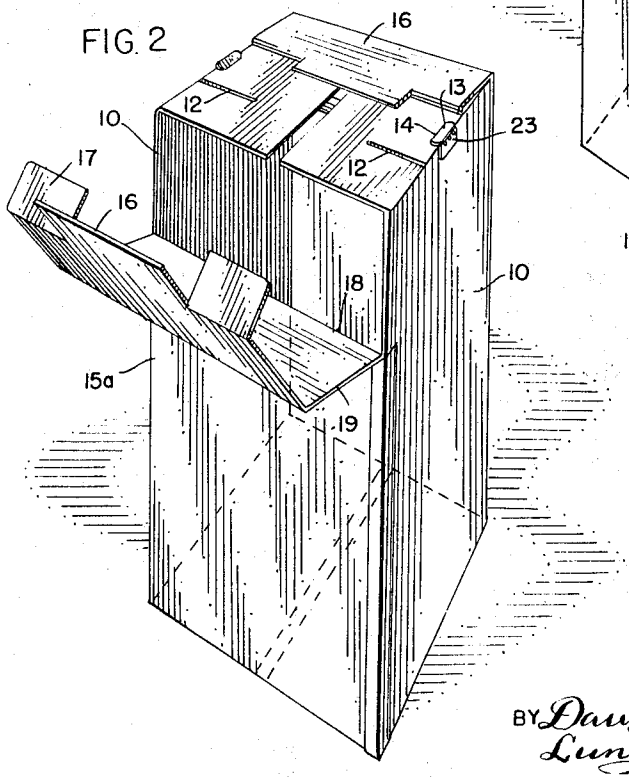


FIG. 2



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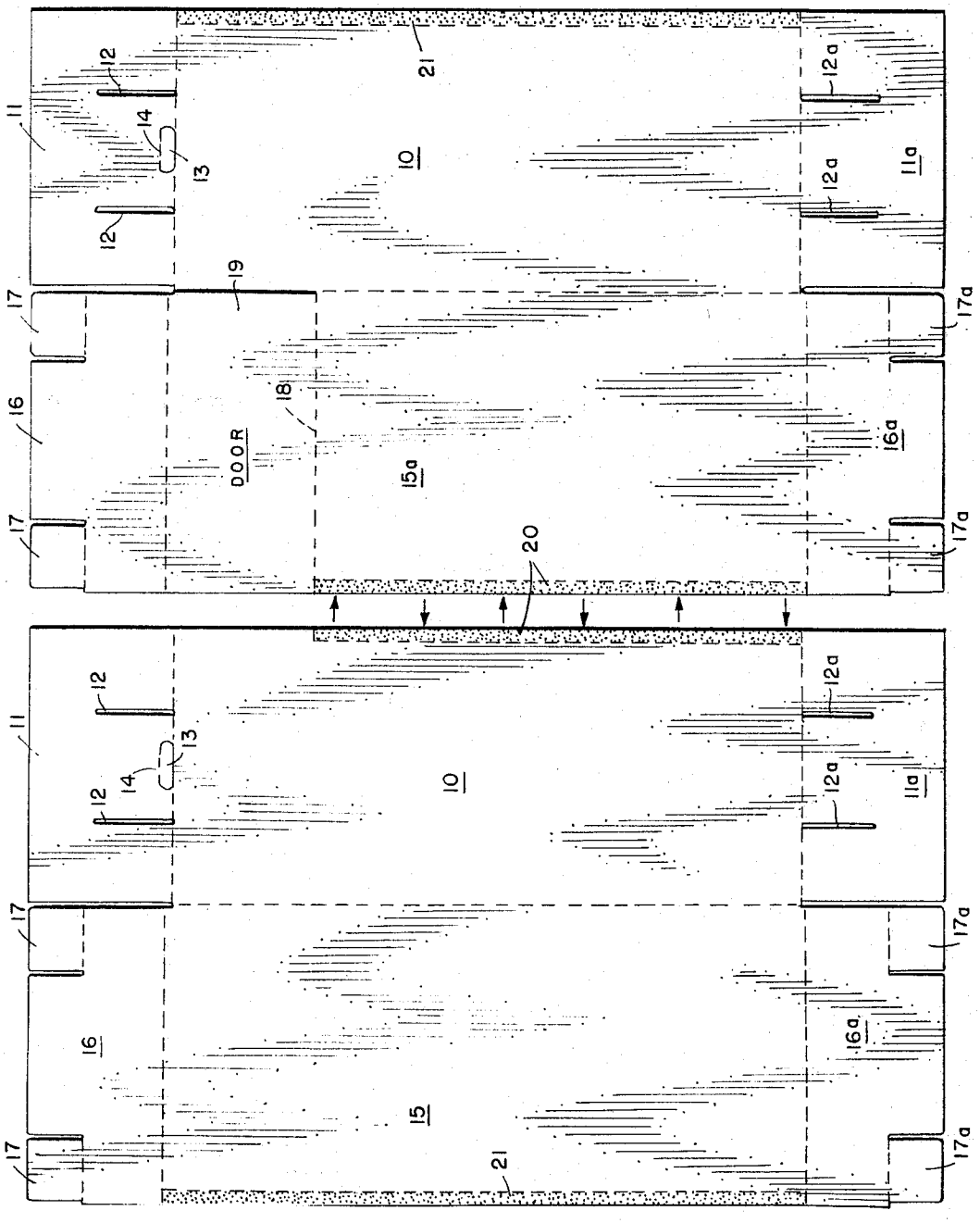


FIG. 4

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MOVING AND STORAGE WARDROBE CONTAINER

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6 Claims. (Cl. 206—7)

This invention relates to a moving and storage wardrobe container, and is particularly useful for the moving and storage of garments in the garment moving and storage field.

Corrugated board containers having hanger bars at their top have been employed for the storage and moving of garments, and in such structures it is common to use a container having end flaps brought together and sealed with tape. Unfortunately, the tape has to be severed at the time of discharge of the garments and the container is rendered unsightly by the remaining portions of tape, and such container is plainly marked as a used container. Since it is desirable to reuse such containers, the valve of the container after the severing of the tape is greatly reduced. Further, in the use of such containers, the access door, which is formed in one side wall of the container, is usually not drawn tightly enough to exclude dust, and in the taping of the container the access door may be left with a substantial gap.

Because of the above difficulties, a shipping container for garments is often equipped with a telescoping top portion which fits down over the access door, but here the expense of the structure is substantially increased, and here again tape is required for securing the two box portions together.

If it were possible to provide a single unitary wardrobe container which could be shipped in knocked-down condition and quickly assembled, and which could be sealed without the use of tape and in such a manner as to insure that the access door is drawn tightly to a dust-resistant closure, a substantial advance in the art can be achieved.

An object of the present invention is to overcome the disadvantages described above and to produce a wardrobe container achieving the above-mentioned new results. A further object is to provide a container and method of closing the same whereby the access door is drawn to a taut and tight sealing position automatically when the top of the container is closed. A further object is to provide an improved flap or tongue structure in the flaps of the container for sealing the areas around the hanger bar for the exclusion of dust, moisture, etc. Other specific objects and advantages will appear as the specification proceeds.

The invention is shown, in an illustrative embodiment, by the accompanying drawings, in which—

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a container wardrobe embodying our invention; FIG. 2, a view similar to FIG. 1 but showing the structure in position for the final latching and closing of the access door; FIG. 3, a view similar to FIG. 1 but showing the details of structure in the access door and top flaps; and FIG. 4, a plan view of the corrugated board pieces after scoring and cutting and prior to assembly into the fabricated container.

In the illustration given, **10** designates end panels which are provided at their tops with end flaps **11**, each of the flaps being provided with latching slots **12** and with sealing tongues **13**. The sealing tongues **13** are cut away on three sides but crimped at an inner side **14** to provide a hinge.

The side panels **15** are preferably wider than the end panels **10**, and each of the panels is provided with a side

flap **16** having the corners cut away to provide inwardly-turned latching flaps **17**. One of the side panels designated by the numeral **15***a* is scored or crimped at an intermediate point **18** to provide a hinged access door **19**.

The bottom of the container may be sealed in any desired way. We prefer, however, to form the bottom of the container in the same manner as described above for the top of the container except that no access door is provided. In other words, the panels **10** are provided with bottom flaps **11***a* similar to flaps **11** which are provided with slots **12***a*, and the side panels **15** are likewise provided with side flaps **16***a* having latching tabs **17***a*.

The front side panel **15***a* is shown connected to an end panel **10** by tape **20**, and the rear side panel **15** is shown connected to an end panel **10** by a tape **21**.

In the fabrication of the container, two die-cut flats of corrugated board are employed, as shown best in FIG. 4. The various flaps and slots and tabs which have been heretofore described are formed in the two-flat strips and the same are brought together and united by tapes **20** and **21** or by any other suitable means. If desired, the entire structure can be formed from a single die-cut board which is then crimped to form the four sides, two of the sides being finally joined by tape or other means.

The latching bar **22** is preferably formed of metal and is provided at its ends with downwardly-turned flanges or hooks **23**.

Operation

In the operation of the structure, the container may be shipped in collapsed condition to the place of use, the hanger bar being removed. When the container is to be expanded and set up for use, it may be moved to the box position shown in FIGS. 1–3, and the bottom first set up by moving the flaps **11***a* inwardly and then folding the side flaps **16***a* over the end flaps and pressing the latching tabs **17***a* into the slots. The hanger bar **22** may then be placed in position, as shown best in FIG. 3, and it will be noted that the tongue **13** enables the flange **23** at each end of the bar to be slipped into the opening provided by the tongue. When the end flaps are then folded inwardly, the tongues **13** rotate around the bar and onto the top thereof to form a snug seal about the top of the bar, thus excluding dust, etc. from the container. In the preferred operation, we next draw the rear side flap **16** forwardly, as shown in FIG. 2, and latch the corner tabs **17** within the adjacent slots **12** in both end flaps **11**. This procedure stabilizes the end flaps, and in the operation the hanger bar **22** serves as a rigid anvil to support the united end flaps **11**. The access door **19** may then be drawn upwardly, and the end flap thereof pressed over the stabilized end flaps **11**. As the latching tabs **17** are then pressed into the remaining slots **12** of the end flaps **11**, the access door **19** is drawn snugly and tightly against the sides of the end panels to form a closure effective in excluding dust, moisture, etc. With this structure, there is an insurance against negligence of workmen in the sealing operation because the access door is automatically sealed when the latching tabs **17** are pressed within the slots **12** of the end flaps **11**. With the tongues **13** of the end flaps **11** effectively closing the area about the hanger bar **22** and with the access door **19** drawn tautly to a closed position, the interior of the container is effectively sealed against the entrance of dust, moisture, etc.

While in the foregoing specification we have set forth a specific structure in considerable detail for the purpose of illustrating the invention, it will be understood that such detail or details may be varied widely by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of our invention.

We claim:

1. A moving and storage wardrobe container, com-

prising an elongated container having a closed bottom and having side and end panels provided at their tops with side and end sealing flaps, one of said sides being transversely crimped at an intermediate point to provide an access door adjacent the flap thereof, a hanger bar extending through said end flaps and resting on said end panels, each of said top end flaps having latching slots on either side of said bar and parallel with said side panels, and each of said side flaps having inwardly-turned tabs for latching engagement with the slots of said end flaps.

2. The structure of claim 1 in which said container is collapsible and has also at its bottom slotted end flaps and tab-equipped side flaps for interlocking engagement.

3. The structure of claim 1 in which the latching tabs of said side flaps are corner tabs.

4. The structure of claim 1 in which the top end flaps are partially cut away adjacent their junction with the end panels to provide openings for receiving the hanger bar and to provide also integral tongues overlying and sealing about the ends of the hanger bar.

5. A corrugated board wardrobe container, comprising an elongated container having a closed bottom and having side and end panels provided at their tops with sealing flaps, one of said sides being transversely scored at an intermediate point to provide an access door adjacent the flap thereof, said end sealing flaps also being partially cut away to provide integral tongues having an opening adjacent the junction with the end panels, a hanger bar extending through said tongue openings and having flaps extending along the sides of said end panels, each of said top end flaps having latching slots on each side thereof and parallel with said side panels, and each of said side flaps having inwardly-turned corner tabs for latching engagement with the slots of said end flaps.

6. In a process for closing a moving and storage corrugated board container equipped at its top with a hanger bar and having side and end panels equipped at their top with side and end flaps, the end panels being slotted near each side and the side panels being provided with latching tabs, one side panel being transversely scored at an intermediate point to provide an access door, the steps of first latching the side flap opposite the access door over the inwardly-folded end flaps to stabilize the end flaps, and then drawing the access door over the stabilized end flaps and pressing the latching tabs thereof into the remaining slots of the end flaps to draw the access door taut.

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