

No. 886,308.

PATENTED APR. 28, 1908.

L. E. & L. B. REYNOLDS.

BASKET.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 7, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

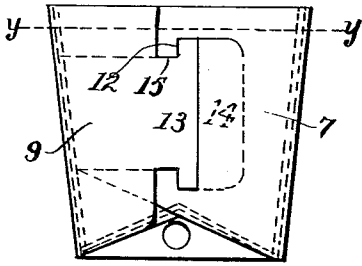


Fig. 3.

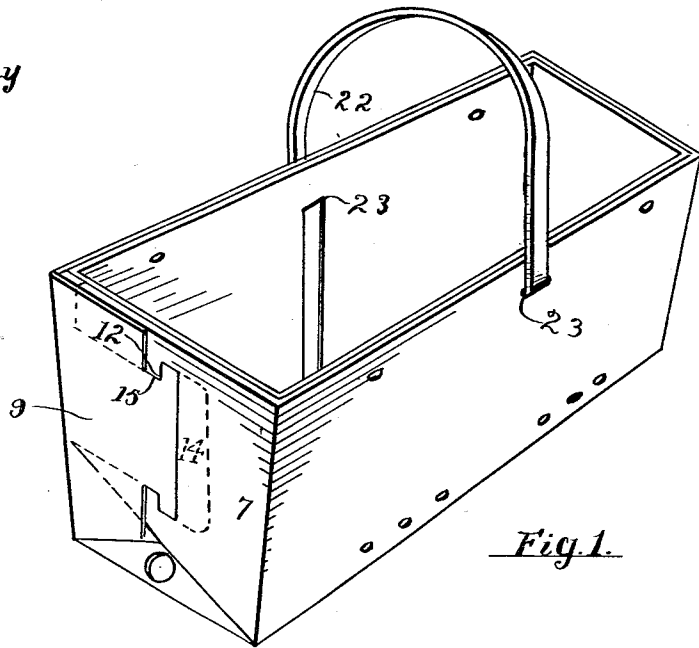


Fig. 1.

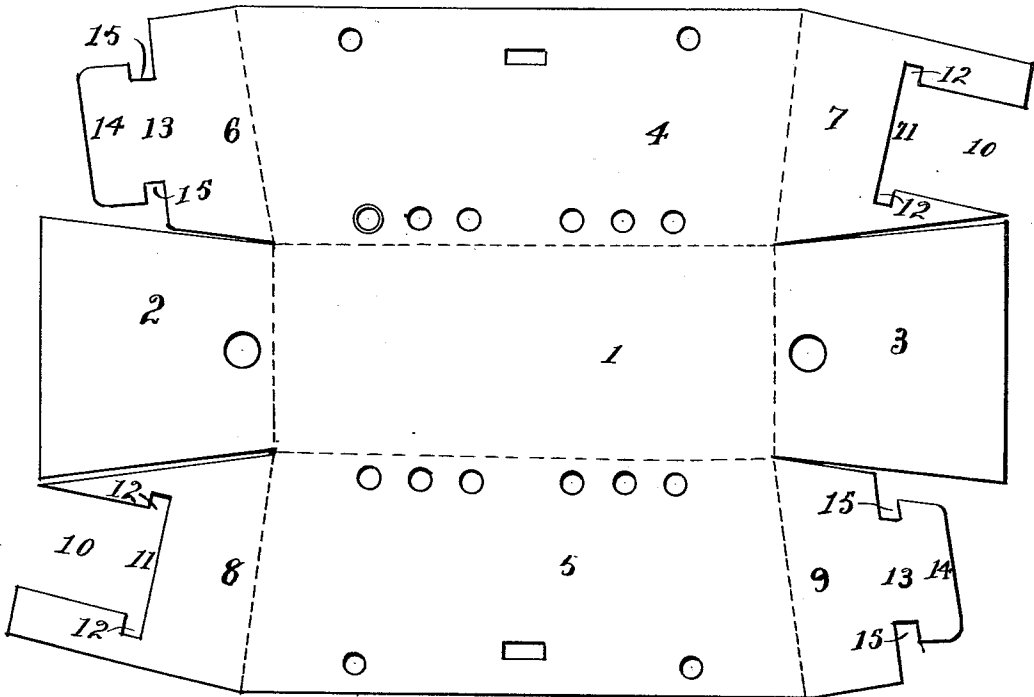


Fig. 2.

Witnesses

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Leander E. Reynolds.

Leander B. Reynolds.

By
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No. 886,308.

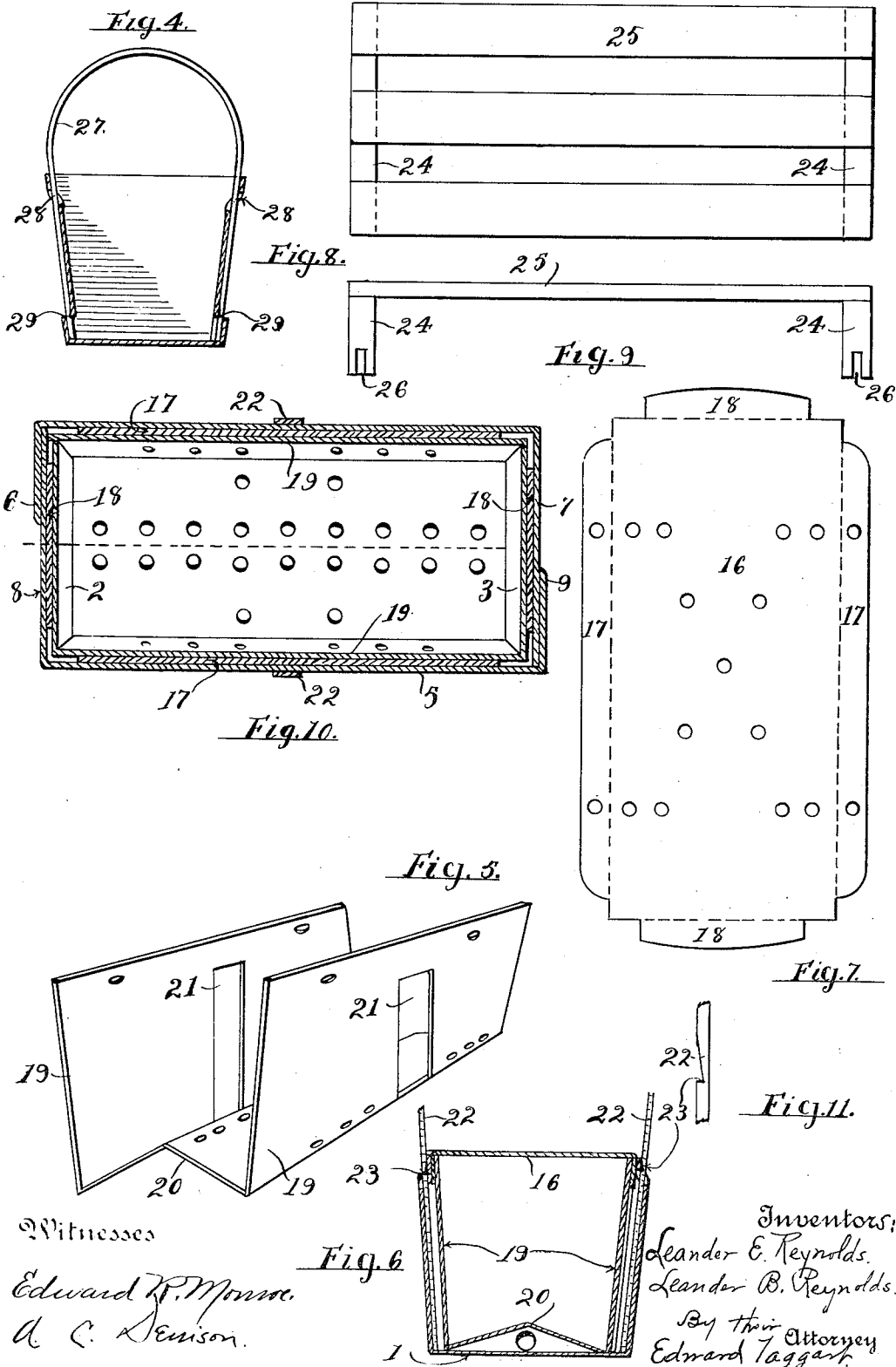
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Fig. 6

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Leander E. Reynolds.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEANDER E. REYNOLDS AND LEANDER B. REYNOLDS, OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN; SAID
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BASKET.

No. 886,308.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 28, 1908.

Application filed August 7, 1905. Serial No. 273,183.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, LEANDER E. REYNOLDS and LEANDER B. REYNOLDS, citizens of the United States, residing at Grand Rapids, in the county of Kent and State of Michigan, have invented new and useful Improvements in Baskets, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in baskets, and is especially adapted to the construction of a basket to be shipped in knock-down and set up when ready for use, manufactured from strawboard or similar material, and to be used for the handling and shipping of fruit; although it might be made of other equivalent material and might be used for different purposes, and although certain features of the invention may be used with a basket which does not fold.

The object of the invention is to construct a basket suitable for a fruit package and in a very efficient, economical and convenient form. This object we accomplish by the form and means of construction shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a basket set up and complete without the cover. Fig. 2 represents the blank from which the main portion of the basket is formed up. Fig. 3 is an end view of the body of the basket, showing the way in which the flaps interlock. Fig. 4 is a cross-section of the basket through the handle, showing a modified form of handle attachment. Fig. 5 shows in perspective the reinforcing side and bottom piece which permits a ventilated bottom. Fig. 6 is a cross-section through the handle, showing the cover and the reinforcing sides and bottom in position. Fig. 7 is a plan of the blank from which the cover is made. Fig. 8 and Fig. 9 show in top plan and in side elevation a modified form of cover designed to be constructed of wood and used in special instances. Fig. 10 is a central horizontal cross-section on line η — η of Fig. 3. Fig. 11 is a detail of part of the handle.

1 is the central portion of the main blank which eventually forms the main bottom piece.

4 and 5 are flaps turned up to form the side pieces, and 2 and 3 are flaps turned up to

form end pieces. We have shown this blank formed and scored so as to construct a slightly flaring basket, but evidently the angles can be changed so as to make the basket of any desired form.

6, 7, 8 and 9 are flaps upon the ends of the side pieces 4 and 5. They are preferably so cut and scored that when the blank is formed up, the sides, or what will then be the tops of these flaps, will be in the same plane as the top-edges of the pieces 2, 3, 4 and 5. Two of these flaps at diagonally opposite corners, as 7 and 8, have cut out from them a recess having a neck 10 10 and head 11 11 with shoulders 12 12. The other two diagonally opposite flaps, as 6 and 9, carry similar but slightly smaller neck and head 13 14, with shoulders 15. Suitable holes for ventilation are provided in the side pieces 4 and 5, and in the central lower portion of the end pieces 2 and 3, as well as in the top piece 16. The blank for the cover shown in Fig. 7 has the central portion 16 and is provided with side flaps 17 17 and with end flaps 18 18 scored so as to turn down at approximately right angles to the main portion. These side and end pieces preferably do not extend completely to the corner.

To give greater strength to the sides, and to provide an elevated and ventilated bottom, we construct the reinforcing piece shown in perspective in Fig. 5. This has sides 19 19 and bottom 20. The sides carry ventilating apertures registering with those of the side pieces 4 and 5. The bottom 20 also has ventilating apertures and is made somewhat wider than the bottom 1 and preferably scored down the center so that when forced down into position it will assume an angular or arched form, as indicated in Fig. 5 and shown especially in Fig. 6. By reason of the peculiar shape of the various parts as shown, the ventilating apertures at the lower portion of end flaps 2 and 3 are not covered and permit the air to have access to the open space above the main bottom 1, and below the arched bottom 20, thus permitting perfect ventilation through the bottom as well as through the sides and top, and providing at the same time an impervious bottom which would prevent the accidental

dripping of fruit juices with the resulting inconvenience or injury.

To carry the basket we have provided a handle of any suitable or customary form or material. We prefer wood on account of its comparative cheapness and strength. This handle, bent up into the ordinary form, is shown by 22 in Figs. 1, 6 and 11, and in a modified form by 27 in Fig. 4. Upon that surface of the handle which when it is thus applied is the inner surface, we cut shoulders tapering from above and with a square shoulder below. This shoulder is shown in detail in Fig. 11 by the numeral 23.

In the sides of the basket we provide slots or holes for the insertion of the handle, these being shown as rectangular holes in the sides 4 and 5 in Fig. 2. When the basket is folded up and complete, we insert the lower ends of the handle from the outside and from above through these openings, and then press the handle down until its ends strike the bottom of the basket upon the inside and are stopped thereby. Evidently these ends spring somewhat outwardly and therefore will lie flat and close against the inside of the basket. To accommodate these handle ends we provide correspondingly shaped and sized slots 21 21 in the sides of the reinforcing piece, as shown in Fig. 5. This reinforcing piece with its sides 19 will when it is first inserted take the position shown in Fig. 6, but as it is pressed down the bottom will expand, the sides 19 will lie immediately against the sides 4 and 5, and the slots 21 will therefore engage the handle ends in the same plane and prevent them from moving in contact with the sides 4 and 5, and prevent any rocking motion of the handle. These slots therefore form in this way a handle lock preventing lateral or rocking motion.

The shoulder 23 is so located that it will barely pass through the openings in 5 and 4 before the ends of the handle reach the bottom of the basket. The construction is then such that the upper edges of the sides will be pressed inwardly by the handle, and those portions of such edges lying above these openings will spring outwardly and interlock with the shoulder 23, thus preventing the handle from being withdrawn upwardly. Whenever it is desired to release the handle, a slight inward pressure upon the upper edges of the sides at these points will release this lock.

In the modified form of construction shown in Fig. 4, designed especially for a lighter basket not so strong, we omit the reinforcing side and bottom piece, and provide the external side pieces each with two openings 28 and 29, adapted to permit the handle to pass therethrough. We then construct the engaging shoulder 23 on the handle at a point or

points where it will engage the sides with a spring lock at either or both of these openings. In the form shown in Fig. 4 we have made the shoulder so as to engage the side of the basket at the opening 29, and this shoulder is therefore constructed upon the inner surface of the handle. We insert the handle ends from above and from the inside through the openings 28, and then from the outside through the openings 29. These openings being as shown of substantially the width of the handle, it is locked against lateral or rocking motion, as well as against upward withdrawal.

When it is desired to form up a basket, the sides 4 and 5 of the main blank are bent up, and also the ends 2 and 3. The ends 6 and 8 are then brought together and locked outside of the end 2, this being accomplished by passing the head 14 from the outside inwardly through the head 11. Thereupon, the tendency of the parts to spring outwardly and the outward tendency of the end 2 causes the shoulders 15 to be and remain in contact and engagement with the shoulders 12, while the neck 13 lies within and in the plane of the neck 10. The tendency of the neck and head 13 14 is to pull away from the neck and head 10 11, but in the same plane, and therefore this tendency is resisted. By turning the end flap 2 inwardly and pressing the flaps 6 and 8 inwardly at their interlocking point so that they no longer occupy the same plane, but lie at an angle to each other, this interlocking engagement between the shoulders 15 and 12 is released, and the head 14 can be withdrawn. The same operation takes place, either in locking or unlocking, in relation to the end flaps 7 and 9 and the interlocking head and neck carried by each.

When the basket is set up and the handle attached, the cover with the edge flaps turned down is placed in position. The side flaps 17 17 may be tucked down between sides 4, 5, and reinforcing sides 19 19. To make a more perfect joint the end flaps 18 18 of the cover are tucked down between the end pieces 2 and 3 and the outside flaps 6 and 8 and 7 and 9. This is particularly shown in Fig. 10.

Instead of using the form of cover shown and so far described, we sometimes find it advisable to use a wooden cover, made with end pieces 24 and top slats 25, as shown in Figs. 8 and 9. In these end pieces are cut grooves 26, and these grooves fit over and down upon the top of the ends of the body of the basket and bind and hold together the several layers or portions of the end, as the pieces 3, 18, 7 and 9 at one end and 2, 18, 8 and 6 at the other end in Fig. 10.

The special form of bottom shown in Figs.

5 and 6 not only provides ventilation, as stated, but also serves as a spring, and measurably obviates the jar otherwise experienced in handling or transportation.

5 We have shown my interlocking means carried by two opposing flaps upon the turned-up sides, but, obviously, these locking means may be carried by any suitable portions of the adjacent sides and ends, 10 which thereby become in substance the flaps we have described.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim to have invented, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

15 1. In a folding basket, the combination of a bottom, turned-up sides carrying terminal locking flaps, and turned-up ends having the flaps bearing thereagainst, one of said flaps having a main opening extending fully 20 through the free end thereof continuous with an inner seat opening having a greater extent across the width of the said flap than the main opening, and the other flap having a terminal head connected thereto by a neck 25 of the same width as the main opening in the first mentioned flap and freely movable through the latter, the head being of greater length than the maximum extent of the said seat-opening, whereby when the basket is 30 set up the heads on the opposing flaps will engage and interlock with corresponding openings of the flaps and the interlocked terminals of the said flaps lie in the same plane.

2. In a folding basket, a main bottom having integral turned-up sides and ends, each of the sides having terminal locking flaps, the flap at one end of each side extending longitudinally through the outer end edge thereof and communicating with an inner opening 40 having an extent transversely of the flap greater than the said longitudinal opening to form inner locking shoulders, the flap at the opposite end of the same side having a locking head connected thereto by a neck, the 45 head of the latter flap having a greater length than the width of the longitudinal opening of the first named flap and of the same length as the transverse extent of the said inner seat opening, the neck being freely 50 movable through the longitudinal opening, the flaps with the openings and heads being in diagonal relation on the opposite sides and bendable inwardly over the ends and interlocking within the same plane.

55 3. In a basket, the combination of the main body having a bottom, sides and ends, the basket sides having openings there-through, one in each, and a separable handle having a shoulder upon the side thereof adjacent to the side of the basket, the extremities of the handle being insertible through the openings in the basket sides and such openings having free spring edges adapted to

make a locking engagement with the shoulders on the handle whereby the upward withdrawal of the handle is prevented, the basket body as an entirety being of the knock-down type. 65

4. In a folding basket, the combination of a main body having a foldable bottom, sides 70 and ends, and a separable handle having the opposite extremities thereof removably engaging intermediate portions of the sides of the basket, the said extremities extending fully down over the sides and the terminals 75 bearing against and braced by the bottom.

5. In a basket, the combination of a main body comprising a folding bottom, sides and ends, the sides having openings therein below the upper edges thereof, and a separable 80 handle removably engaging the opposite sides of the body and inserted from the exterior inwardly through said openings, the ends of the extremities of the handles bearing against the inner side of the bottom and 85 held against longitudinal movement whereby any rocking motion of the handle is prevented.

6. In a basket, the combination of a main body having a folding bottom, sides and 90 ends, an inner reinforcing piece having side members with vertical slots, the sides of the main body also having openings therein below the upper edges thereof, and a separable 95 handle having the extremities inserted from the exterior inwardly through the openings in the sides of the body and also through the vertical slots of the reinforcing piece and extending fully downwardly against the inner side of the body and terminally bearing 100 against the bottom.

7. In a basket, the combination of a main body having a foldable bottom and sides and ends and an inside foldable reinforcing piece having sides parallel to the sides of the main 105 body and also provided with an arched bottom rising centrally free from the bottom of the said main body, the inner reinforcing piece being removed from the main body of the basket. 110

8. In a folding basket, the combination of a bottom, turned-up ends, turned-up sides having terminal locking flaps, one flap having a slot opening out through the free end 115 thereof and the other provided with a shouldered head to interlock over the turned-up end, and an inside reinforcing piece having sides parallel with the sides carrying the flaps and also having an arched bottom rising centrally free from the main bottom of the 120 basket.

9. In a folding basket, the combination of a bottom, turned-up ends, turned-up sides having terminal means to interlock over the turned-up ends, and a slotted cover having 125 supporting cross bars which rest upon the

basket ends and formed with grooves, one in
each extending the full length thereof and of
greater width than the combined thickness
of the folded portions forming the ends of the
5 basket, the said grooved cross bars of the
cover assisting in holding the end portions of
the basket in secured association.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set

our hands in presence of two subscribing
witnesses.

LEANDER E. REYNOLDS.
LEANDER B. REYNOLDS.

Witnesses:

A. C. DENISON,
MARY S. TOOKER.