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R. H. KLEIN ET AL

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CONTAINER COVER AND CONTAINER

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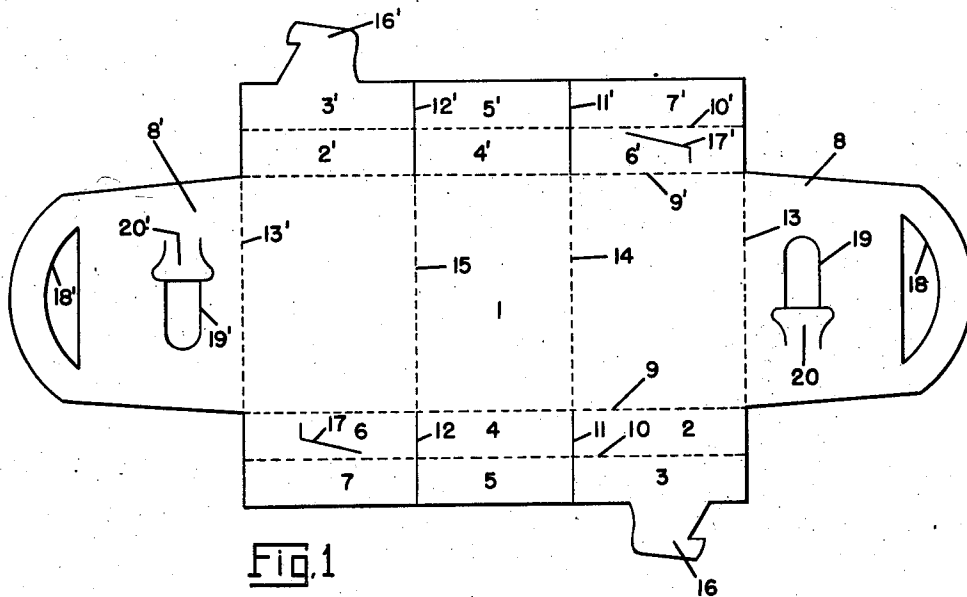


Fig. 1

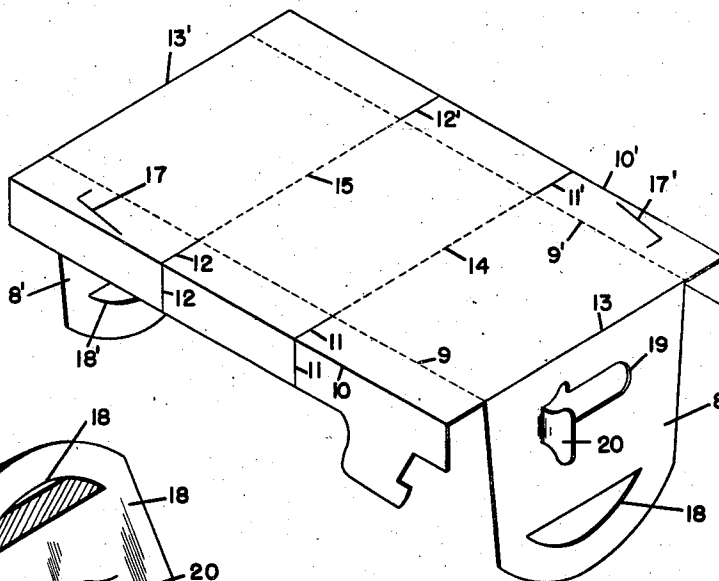


Fig. 2

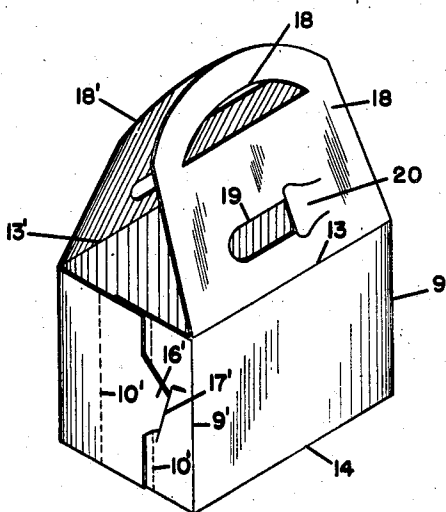


Fig. 3

INVENTORS.
RICHARD H. KLEIN and
NELSON R. LOZIER

BY

Oberlin, Limbach & Day
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CONTAINER COVER AND CONTAINER

Richard H. Klein, Shaker Heights, and Nelson R.
Lozier, Ravenna, Ohio

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4 Claims. (Cl. 229—35)

This invention relates as indicated to container covers and containers, and pertains more specifically to a structure which may be employed either as a cover or a conventional container such as a box in which bottled beverages are carried, and which may be folded to provide a carrying carton for a plurality of bottles such as were contained in the container to which the cover was applied.

As is well known, beverages such as soft drinks, beer, etc., are generally when in bottled form, packaged in open top boxes generally of such size as to accommodate two dozen bottles and of substantially the same height as the bottles themselves. These cases are provided with hand holds in their ends by which they may be grasped and handled.

It is a principal object of the present invention to provide a cover for such bottle cases which will close the normally open top of the case to prevent infiltration of dirt and the like, and exclude light, and which cover by its novel construction, will interlock with the hand holds in the ends of the case so that it will not be accidentally dislodged which would occur if merely a flat cover were loosely placed on the bottles in the case.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a cover of the character described which is provided with scoring lines or fold lines so arranged that after the cover has served its purpose as a cover, it may be folded and a carrying carton fashioned therefrom by which a plurality of the bottles in the case formally protected by the cover may be carried.

Other objects of this invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, the invention, then, comprises the features hereinafter fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claims, the following description and the annexed drawing setting forth in detail certain illustrative embodiments of the invention, these being indicative however, of but a few of the various ways in which the principle of the invention may be employed.

In said annexed drawing:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a blank from which the combination cover and carrying carton comprising this invention may be formed by folding; Fig. 2 shows such blank folded into the form of a cover for a bottle case; and Fig. 3 shows such blank folded into a carrying carton.

Referring now more specifically to the drawing and more especially to Fig. 1, the blank here

illustrated in plan view, comprises a body portion 1 which has for convenience in description thereof, marginal portions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 2', 3', 4', 5', 6' and 7', along its opposite longitudinal edges. These marginal portions it will be observed, are complementary on opposite sides of body 1 as indicated by the ordinal designations applied thereto. At the ends of the blank the same is provided with projections 8 and 8'.

The boundary between the marginal portions 2, 4, 6, and 2', 4', 6', and the main body 1, is denoted by scoring or fold lines 9 and 9' which extend throughout the length of the blank. The boundaries between the marginal portions 3, 5, 7, and 3', 5', 7', and the inner marginal portions 2, 4, 6, and 2', 4', 6', are denoted by fold or scoring lines 10 and 10' which likewise extend for the full length of the main body of the blank. Boundaries between the center marginal portions and the terminal marginal portions is denoted by the scoring lines 11 and 12. Fold lines 13 and 13' separate the extensions 8 and 8' from the main body portion 1. Fold lines 14 and 15 extend transversely of the main body portion 1 in line with the scoring lines 11, 12 and 11', 12'.

Complementary tongues 16 and 16' are formed on opposite sides of the main body and in such body at opposite sides are slots 17 and 17'.

The extensions 8 and 8' are provided with hand holds 18 and 18' respectively. The extensions 8 and 8' also are provided with cut-out openings 19 and 19' with cut lines at the ends of such openings respectively defining tabs 20 and 20' integral at one end with such extensions.

The blank as illustrated in Fig. 1 may be converted into a cover for a bottle case by bending the same along the lines 10, 10' and 13, 13'. When thus bent, a substantially rectangular cover with dependent marginal portions is provided. The dependent longitudinal marginal portions form flanges which are inserted along the sides of the bottles in the case and the extensions 8 and 8' form portions which extend down into the ends of the case. The openings 19 and 19' are so positioned in the blank that they will align with the hand holds in the ends of the case. After the cover when formed as illustrated in Fig. 2 is inserted into the top of the bottle case, the tabs 20 are bent outwardly into such hand holds of the end walls of the bottle case serving as an anchor securing the cover within the case.

It will be observed that when the cover as illustrated in Fig. 2 is inserted into the top of the

bottle case, the depending longitudinally extending marginal flanges serve as reinforcements for the flat portion of the cover preventing the same from bulging upwardly intermediate of its ends, and the tabs 20 secure the cover against accidental dislodgement. With the tabs 20 folded outwardly into the hand holds in the ends of the bottle case, such hand holds are substantially unobstructed and the bottle case may be handled just as though no cover were present.

Now when the case of bottles with its secured cover is received by the consumer or as is more frequently the case, by a retailer, he may remove the cover, and by cutting it along the fold lines 11, 12, and 11', 12', and by folding it along the lines 9, 9', and 14 and 15, and by inserting the tongues 16 and 16' into their complementary slots 17 and 17', a carton such as is illustrated in Fig. 3 may be fashioned. When folded into the form illustrated in Fig. 3, the extensions 8 project upwardly from the main body of the carton to serve as carrying handles for the carton and its contents.

The blank may be suitably embossed or decorated so as to carry out a logical scheme of appearance when in either of the positions illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3.

The blank from which the cover or carton is formed may be made of any suitable material such as card board, chip board or light metal depending upon the character of use and the desires of the user. If desired, reinforcing ribs may be provided in such areas where most of the bending stresses occur, although for ordinary usage this will not be found necessary.

From the foregoing description it will be observed that we have provided not only an improved cover for bottle cases and the like, but also one which after it has served its purpose as a cover may be converted to a further desirable use as a carrying carton for at least a portion of the contents of the original case for which the blank initially served as a cover.

Other modes of applying the principle of the invention may be employed, change being made as regards the details described, provided the features stated in any of the following claims, or the equivalent of such, be employed.

We therefore particularly point out and distinctly claim as our invention:

1. As an article of manufacture, a flat blank selectively foldable either into a bottle carrying carton or a flat rectangular box cover provided with marginal flanges, comprising an elongated body portion provided with a plurality of transversely extending fold lines so arranged that the areas between said fold lines individually comprise the bottom and sides of said carton, and collectively comprise only a part of the flat rectangular portion of said box cover, projections extending from each side of said body portion, one opposite pair of such projections comprising the handles of said carton and also marginal flanges of said box cover, and the other pair of projections comprising end portions of said carton, said other pair of projections having longitudinally extending fold lines defining marginal flanges of the box cover, and the remainder of the rectangular flat portion of said cover.

2. As an article of manufacture, a flat blank selectively foldable either into a bottle carrying carton or a flat rectangular box provided with

marginal flanges, comprising an elongated body portion provided with a plurality of transversely extending fold lines so arranged that the areas between said fold lines individually comprise the bottom and sides of said carton, and collectively comprise only a part of the flat rectangular portion of said box cover, projections extending from each side of said body portion, one opposite pair of such projections comprising the handles of said carton and also marginal flanges of said box cover, and the other pair of projections comprising end portions of said carton, said other pair of projections having longitudinally extending fold lines defining marginal flanges of the box cover, and the remainder of the rectangular flat portion of said cover, the extent of each such projection, in the direction of its line of attachment to the body, being no greater than the length of the side of the body to which such projection is attached.

3. As an article of manufacture, a flat blank selectively foldable either into a bottle carrying carton or a flat rectangular box cover provided with marginal flanges, comprising an elongated body portion provided with a plurality of transversely extending fold lines so arranged that the areas between said fold lines individually comprise the bottom and sides of said carton, and collectively comprise only a part of the flat rectangular portion of said box cover, projections extending from each side of said body portion, one opposite pair of such projections comprising the handles of said carton and also marginal flanges of said box cover, and the other pair of projections comprising end portions of said carton, said other pair of projections having longitudinally extending fold lines defining marginal flanges of the box cover, and the remainder of the rectangular flat portion of said cover, said other pair of projections having extensions thereon, and there being complementary interlocking means in said extensions and said other pair of projections whereby the ends of said carton may be interlocked.

4. As an article of manufacture, a flat blank selectively foldable either into a bottle carrying carton or a flat rectangular box cover provided with marginal flanges, comprising an elongated body portion provided with a plurality of transversely extending fold lines so arranged that the areas between said fold lines individually comprise the bottom and sides of said carton, and collectively comprise only a part of the flat rectangular portion of said box cover, projections extending from each side of said body portion, one opposite pair of such projections comprising the handles of said carton and also marginal flanges of said box cover, and the other pair of projections comprising end portions of said carton, said other pair of projections having longitudinally extending fold lines defining marginal flanges of the box cover, and the remainder of the rectangular flat portion of said cover, said opposite projections that comprise handles for said carton having means foldable outwardly therefrom, adapted to lie adjacent the hand hold opening in a beer case and extend there-through, whereby said flat rectangular box cover may be interlocked with a beer case.

RICHARD H. KLEIN.
NELSON R. LOZIER.