

No. 702,776.

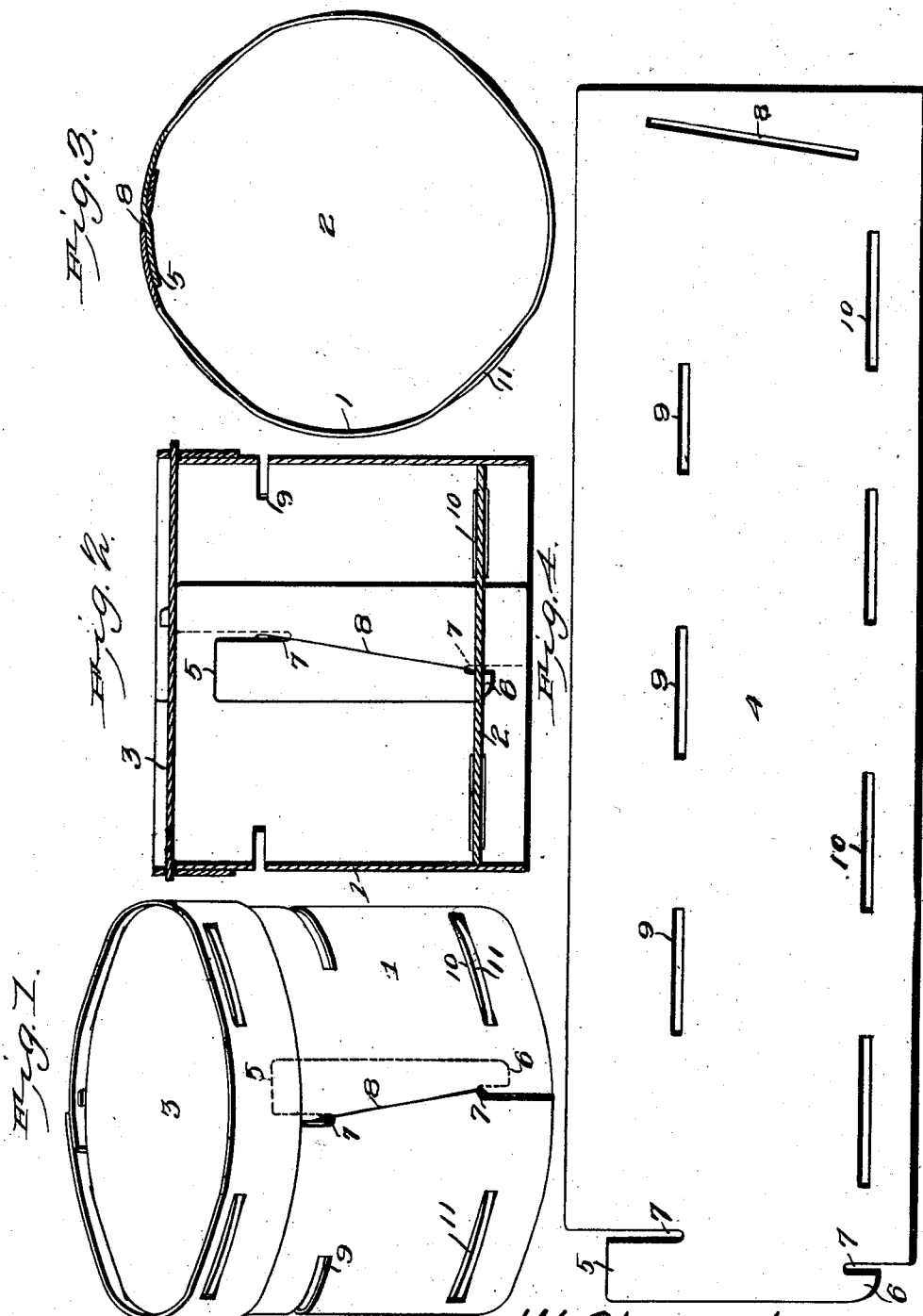
Patented June 17, 1902.

W. CLEMENT.  
FRUIT BOX.

(Application filed Mar. 12, 1902.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



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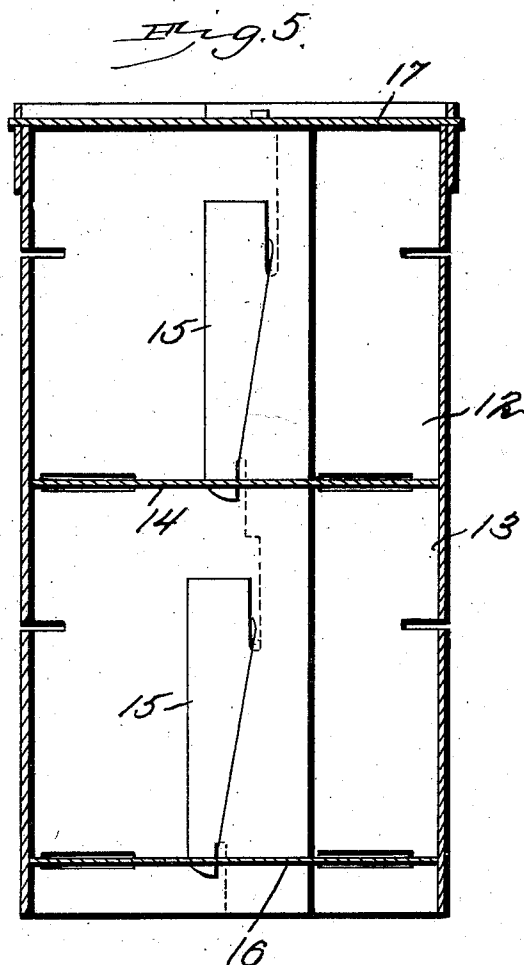
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM CLEMENT, OF TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN.

## FRUIT-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 702,776, dated June 17, 1902.

Application filed March 12, 1902. Serial No. 97,938. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM CLEMENT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Traverse City, in the county of Grand Traverse and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful Fruit-Box, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates generally to fruit-boxes, and particularly to that class made of pasteboard or wood veneer.

The object of the invention is in a ready, simple, feasible, and thoroughly-efficient manner to effect assemblage of the parts of the box without the employment of an adhesive or of fastening devices; furthermore, to provide a box in which the parts may be readily assembled or set up for use.

With these and other objects in view, as will appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction and combination of parts of a fruit-box, as will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and in which like numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts, there are illustrated four forms of embodiment of the invention, each capable of carrying the same into practical operation, it being understood that the elements therein exhibited may be varied or changed as to shape, proportion, and exact manner of assemblage without departing from the spirit thereof, and in these drawings—

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a fruit-box constructed in accordance with the present invention and showing the same provided with a lid or cover adapted for use as a candy-box. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a view in plan, partly broken away. Fig. 4 is a view in plan of the box-blank. Fig. 5 is a vertical longitudinal section through a modified form of box.

The means for assembling the ends of the box-blank to present it in box form consists in providing one terminal with a locking-tongue to engage a slot disposed near the other terminal. The underlying and generic feature common to each form of embodiment of the invention herein illustrated is the dis-

posing of the bottom of the box in such relation to the lower terminal of the locking-tongue as positively to hold it against accidental separation from the slot with which it coacts. In other words, the edge of the bottom is caused to bear directly against the said terminal of the locking-tongue. This feature is also common to the lid, where one is employed, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 9. It is to be noted at this point that the invention is not to be limited to the employment of a lid, as this will, as a rule, only be employed when the box is used for holding candy or the like, and will be dispensed with when the box contains fruit, it being a desideratum that air should freely contact therewith and circulate therethrough. It is further to be noted that each form of box herein illustrated is shown as provided with ventilating-openings; but it is obvious that these will not be required under all conditions, as where the box is employed for holding candy, as above set forth, and as this will be readily understood, detailed illustration of such an arrangement is deemed unnecessary. It is still further to be noted that while the box herein illustrated is described as a fruit or candy box the invention is not to be limited to these particular kinds of receptacles, as it will be obvious that the invention may be carried into effect in the construction of hat-boxes or boxes for holding different kinds of merchandise, such construction merely requiring a larger size of blank.

Referring to the drawings and to Figs. 1 to 4 thereof, 1 designates the body of the box, 2 the bottom, and 3 the lid or cover. The body of the box is made from a blank 4, (shown in Fig. 4,) which may be of pasteboard, heavy paper, or wood veneer, as may be preferred. One terminal of the blank is provided with a locking-tongue comprising two members 5 and 6, the former of which by preference is disposed toward the top of the box, both tongues being separated from the blank by a slot or incision 7, the ends of the tongues being cut off to cause them to lie within the plane of the edges of the blank. The tongue 5 is longer and broader than the tongue 6, this arrangement being necessary in order that when inserted through the slot 8, near the end

of the opposite terminal, (which slot, as clearly shown in Fig. 4, is disposed at an angle to the end of the blank,) the edges of the blank will be in parallelism and not twisted out of line.

5 The angular disposition of the slot 8 assists materially in holding the tongues in engagement therewith; but it will be obvious that if preferred the tongues may both be made of the same width, in which case the slot would  
10 extend parallel with the end of the blank. In associating the tongues with the locking-slot 8 the tongue 5 is first passed into the slot from the outer side of the box and the tongue 6 is then inserted and the tongue-bearing end  
15 of the blank is moved down to interlock the tongue 6 with the blank below the lower terminal of the slot, both of the tongues being then disposed on the inner side of the body thus formed, as clearly shown in Fig. 2. The  
20 blank is also provided with a plurality of slots 9, which constitute ventilating-openings, and with other slots 10—in this instance four—that are disposed parallel with the lower edge of the blank and are designed to be engaged  
25 by the periphery of the bottom 2. This bottom, as shown in Fig. 3, is by preference made of a circular piece of material, the same as that from which the body is constructed, and after the body has been set up in the  
30 manner described the bottom is forced into position and its periphery will project through the openings 10 at four points, as shown at 11, thereby causing the body to assume an approximately rectangular contour, as shown in  
35 Fig. 3. When the bottom is thus positioned in place, it bears against the tongue 6, approximately about midway of its length, as shown in Fig. 2, thereby in an obvious manner firmly locking this tongue against separation from the slot 8. The lid 3, to which  
40 reference has been made, is constructed in precisely the same manner as the body, except that it is of less height and is not provided with ventilating-openings. When a  
45 lid is employed with the box, the openings 9 may be omitted, as before pointed out. Generally it will be preferred to make the bottom and top of the lid circular, as shown; but it will be obvious that they may be otherwise  
50 contoured and still be within the scope of the invention.

In the form of embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 5 there is exhibited a double box—that is, one formed into two compartments 12 and 13 by a centrally-arranged partition 14. In this form of box two locking-tongues 15 will be employed, and the bottom 16 and partition 14 coact with the locking-tongues in the manner described to prevent  
60 separation in use. The box is also shown as provided with a cover 17; but this may be omitted, if preferred. This form of box, which is designed to hold, say, two quarts, will be found highly desirable in shipping berries,  
65 inasmuch as the weight will be divided by the partition, so that those in the lower compart-

ments will not be subjected to any more crushing action than those in the upper.

In shipping these boxes it is intended that the blanks shall be left unassembled, thereby  
70 saving room and cost in shipping, the purchaser to assemble the boxes as needed.

It will be seen from the foregoing description that by the peculiar manner of interlocking the terminals of the blank to present the  
75 body and by the practical manner of assembling the bottom with the body that the box is as securely connected in all of its parts as if adhesives or metallic fastening means were employed; but by eliminating the necessity  
80 of their employment the cost of production of the box is reduced to a minimum. In use a box constructed in the manner described will be thoroughly effective for the purposes designed and may be manufactured and sold  
85 at a price that will recommend it to users.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A multiple-blank box comprising in its  
90 construction a strip adapted to be bent upon itself and connected at its ends, and a bottom substantially circular in form and adapted to protrude through apertures in the strip, whereby when the free ends of the strip are  
95 connected, the box will be substantially polygonal in plan.

2. A multiple-blank box comprising in its construction a strip adapted to be bent upon  
100 itself and connected at its ends by a locking-tongue, and a bottom substantially circular in form and adapted to protrude through apertures in the strip and to bear against the tongue.

3. A multiple-blank box comprising in its  
105 construction a strip adapted to be bent upon itself and connected at its ends by a two-membered locking-tongue, and a bottom substantially circular in form and adapted to protrude through apertures in the strip and to  
110 bear against the lower member of the tongue.

4. A multiple-blank box comprising in its construction a strip provided with two series of apertures, one series of which constitutes ventilating-openings, said strip being adapted to be bent upon itself and connected at its  
115 end by a locking-tongue, and a bottom substantially circular in form and adapted to protrude through the other series and to bear against the tongue.

5. A multiple-blank box comprising in its  
120 construction a strip adapted to be bent upon itself and connected at its ends by two two-membered locking-tongues, the lower terminals of which are disposed respectively near  
125 the center and the lower portion of the strip, and a bottom and a partition substantially circular in form and adapted to protrude through apertures in the strip and to bear against the lower terminals of the locking-  
130 tongues.

6. A fruit-box comprising a body and a lid,

one of which is constructed of a strip bent upon itself and connected at its ends by a locking-tongue, and an end substantially circular in form and adapted to protrude through  
5 apertures in the strip and to bear against the tongue.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as

my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM CLEMENT.

Witnesses:

C. O. CARVER,  
ERNEST H. ALLYN.