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L. R. SMITH ET AL

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RECEPTACLE

Filed Oct. 28, 1931

Fig. 1.

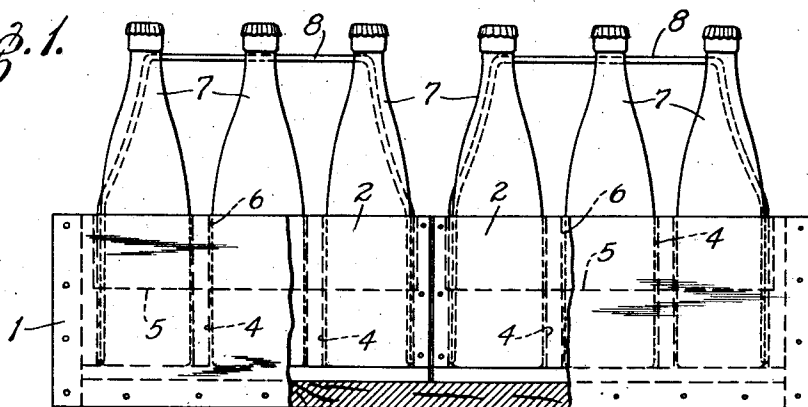
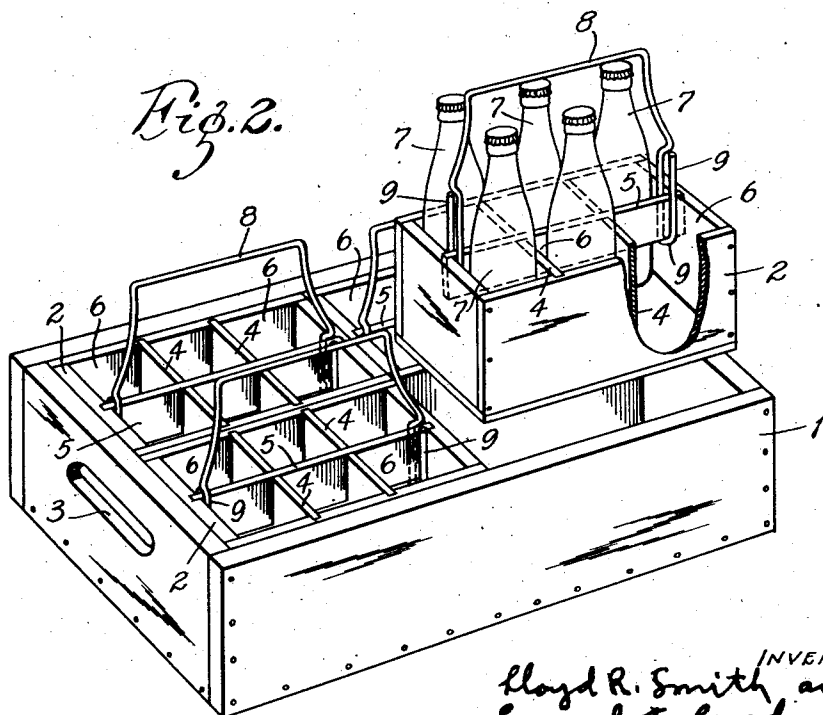


Fig. 2.



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RECEPTACLE

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This invention relates to receptacles, particularly to receptacles of the type commonly used for receiving and carrying bottles; and the principal object of this invention is to devise an article receptacle in which a part of the articles therein can be removed and conveniently handled without disturbing the others.

Our invention consists principally in a main receptacle having smaller cases therein for bottles and the like, the smaller cases having individual handles of novel construction which are extensible so that they normally lie below the tops of the bottles in the smaller case but may be raised to permit a smaller case to be removed from the main case and to afford means for carrying the smaller case thereafter. Our invention also consists in the receptacle, and in the parts and combinations, and arrangements of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing, which forms part of this specification, and wherein like reference numerals refer to like parts wherever they occur,

Fig. 1 is a side elevation, with parts broken away, of a bottle case embodying our invention and showing the individual handles of the smaller cases below the tops of the bottles therein; and

Fig. 2 is an oblique view of the bottle case showing one of the individual smaller cases (with parts broken away) withdrawn from the main one.

In the construction illustrated, a rectangular open-topped boxlike receptacle or bottle case 1 of substantially standard dimensions is adapted to receive four open-topped rectangular smaller boxlike cases 2 of substantially the same height as the main case 1; and the main bottle case is provided with the usual hand-holes 3 in its smaller ends for carrying it. Each of the smaller cases is preferably of substantially one-half the width and length, respectively, of the larger case so that the four smaller cases substantially fill the space within the main case but are independently removable therefrom.

Each case has two spaced transverse partitions 4, and a single middle longitudinal

partition 5 to form six individual pockets or cells 6, each pocket 6 being adapted to receive and hold the lower half portion of a single bottle 7 of the customary shape; and obviously, with the smaller cases fitted in the main case it will hold the usual number of twenty-four bottles.

The longitudinal partition 5 of each smaller case 2 does not extend the full height thereof but only in the upper part of the box; and each of said smaller cases is provided with a bail-like handle 8 whose ends are looped as at 9 around the end portions of said longitudinal partition 5, the loops being long enough so that the handle 8 may be raised above the top of the bottles for carrying purposes as is the case of the handle of the withdrawn case in Fig. 2; and when the smaller cases are put in the main case the handle 8 may be depressed so that its top is disposed below the level of the tops of the bottles as is the case of the handles in Fig. 1. Preferably, the ends of the bail are sprung inwardly when assembled in the case so that the ends of the bail tend to press outwardly to frictionally engage the inside walls of the box so that the handle will remain in any position that it is placed and the loops are made narrow enough so that the handle cannot be tilted appreciably from an upright position.

The sides of the handle 8 from the top of the loop to the top of the handle are inclined inwardly as at 10 so that the handle in its normal or depressed position lies substantially within the space defined by the outer edges of the bottles.

Our invention has many advantages over the usual bottle case. It is customary for wholesalers to sell soft drinks in cases of twenty-four bottles. Obviously, such cases cannot be conveniently handled by the retailers as individual customers usually buy fewer than twenty-four bottles; and our bottle case solves this problem by making it possible to conveniently remove a small number of bottles from the large case and also provide a convenient container for an individual customer to carry.

Furthermore, the common practice of car-

rying soda bottles on trucks is to set one case of bottles on top of another case; and if the handles of the smaller cases projected straight out they might be damaged by the edge of a large case dropping on it and obviously, with our depressible and inclined side handle construction the handle is at all times protected against injury and also does not interfere with the stacking of cases.

- 10 Obviously, the construction hereinabove described admits of considerable variations without departing from the spirit of our invention. For instance, while we have shown a receptacle for receiving four smaller or sub-cases, it may be feasible to use a different number of smaller cases; and instead of providing six individual bottle cells in each smaller case, a different number therein may be desirable. Also, while we have shown a case particularly adapted for receiving bottles, it is obvious that our invention is applicable to receptacles for receiving other kinds of articles; and since many other variations may be desirable, we do not wish to limit our invention to the precise construction shown and described.

What we claim is:

1. An article receptacle having a partition therein, a bail having its ends looped around said partition with sufficient clearance to move inwardly of said receptacle to bring its outermost portion below the plane of the projecting ends of articles in said receptacle.

2. A bottle case comprising an open box, partitions therein forming cells, one of said partitions extending across the upper part of said box only and a bail having loops in its ends around the ends of said partition, said loops being long enough to enable the top of said bail to go down below the tops of bottles in the box and said bail having its sides inclined inwardly from the loop to the top of the bail so that the bail in its depressed position lies substantially within the space defined by the outer edges of the bottles in the box.

3. A receptacle having a partition in the upper part thereof and a bail extending from said receptacle and having loops in its ends around said partition, said loops being longer than the height of said partition and said bail having its ends frictionally engaging the inside walls of the receptacle.

4. A bottle case comprising an open top box, smaller boxes therein and independently removable therefrom, each of said smaller boxes having a partition in the upper part thereof and a bail having loops in its ends around the end portions of said partition, said loops being long enough to enable the top of said bail to go down below the tops of the bottles in said box and said bail having its ends pressing against the walls of the box.

Signed at Alton, Illinois, this 26th day of October 1931.

LLOYD R. SMITH.

Signed at St. Louis, Missouri, this 26th day of October 1931.

SAMUEL F. GORDON.

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