United States Patent [19]

Brackmann et al.

[11] **3,905,646**

[45] **Sept. 16, 1975**

[54] **PACKAGING STRUCTURE AND BLANK FOR CONTAINER COVER**

[75] Inventors: **Warren A. Brackmann,** Cooksville; **Arthur K. Bunnell; Karel Hrboticky,** both of Etobicoke, all of Canada

[73] Assignee: **Carling O'Keefe Limited,** Toronto, Canada

[22] Filed: **Mar. 12, 1974**

[21] Appl. No.: **450,339**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 330,197, Feb. 7, 1973.

[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **229/51 TC;** 229/51 TS; 229/15; 229/23 R

[51] **Int. Cl.**[2]..... **B65D 5/54;** B65D 5/48

[58] **Field of Search**..... 229/51 TC, 51 TS, 51 D, 229/52 B, 15, 23 R

[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

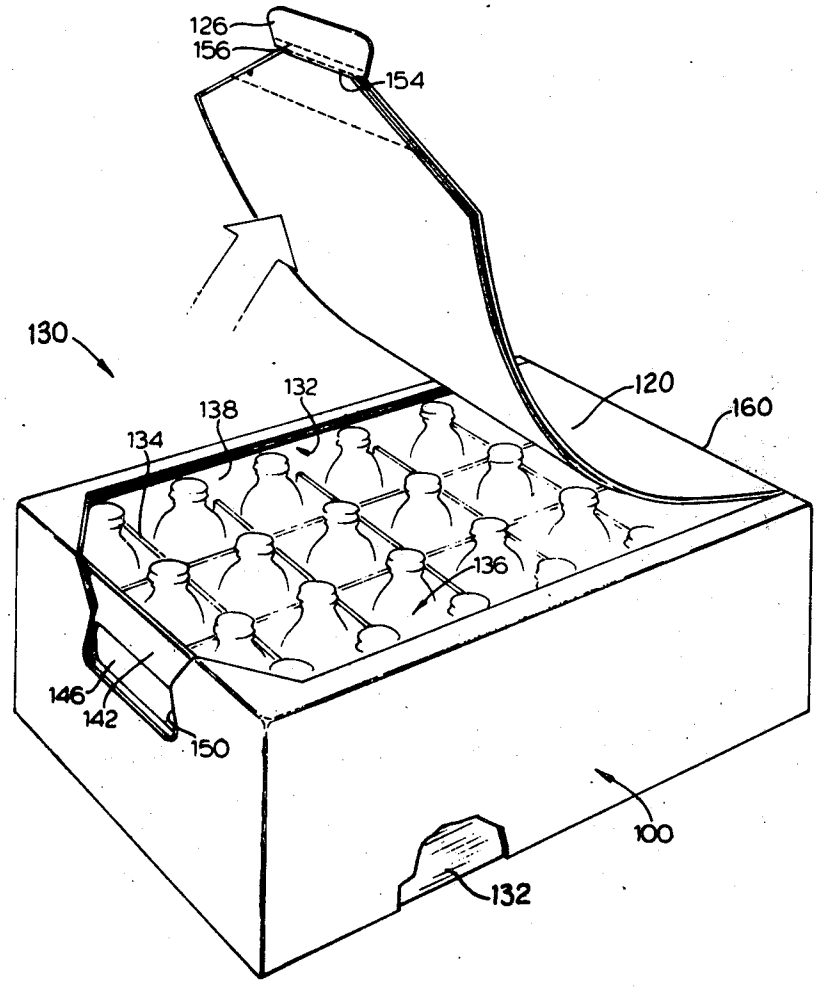
1,102,877	7/1914	Clark	229/52 B X
2,276,577	3/1942	Hahn	229/51 D X
2,343,222	2/1944	Nelson	229/51 TS
2,470,388	5/1949	Ball	229/51 D UX
2,907,509	10/1959	Chamberlin	229/23 R X
3,167,238	1/1965	Smith	229/51 TC
3,185,578	5/1965	Scharre	229/51 D UX
3,301,391	1/1967	Guyer	229/51 TC X

Primary Examiner—Davis T. Moorhead
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Sim & McBurney

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A packaging structure, more particularly a beer case packaging structure having a reusable tray and a disposable sleeve, includes scoring outlining an openable closure flap for the packaging structure in the top panel of the structure. A blank for forming a disposable sleeve and having suitable crease and score lines is provided. The scoring outlining the flap may be provided by two closely spaced score lines, one formed through part of the thickness of the blank from one side and the other formed through the remainder of the thickness from the other side. The openable closure flap is hinged about one lateral side edge of the top panel and includes a tab at its free end positioned to coincide with a handhole in the structure so that the packaging structure may be temporarily reclosed.

12 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



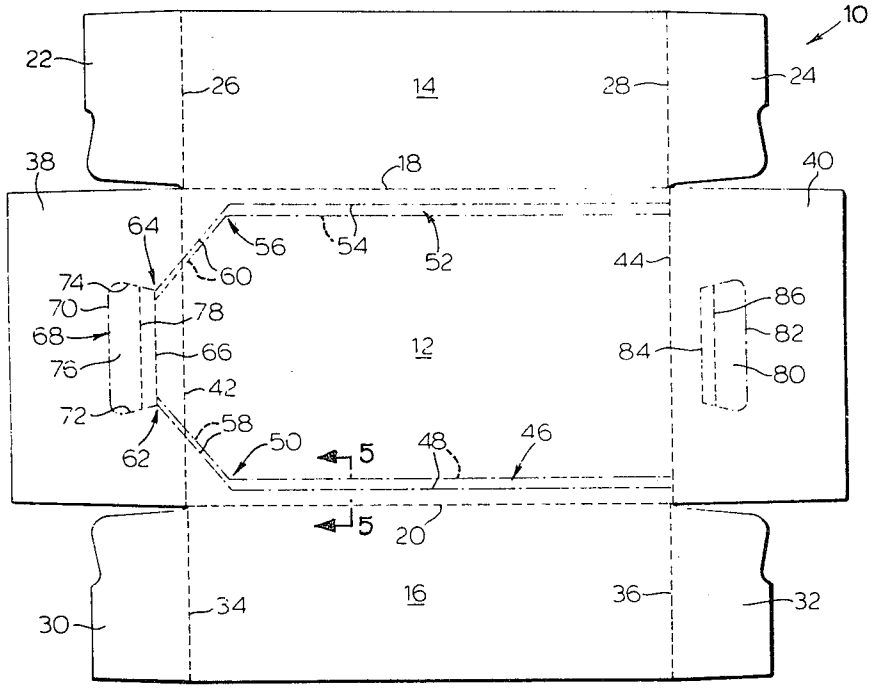


FIG. 1

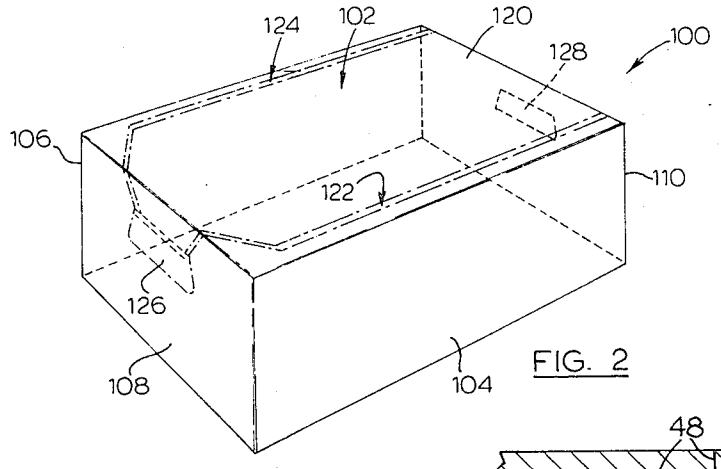


FIG. 2

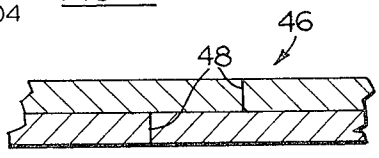


FIG. 5

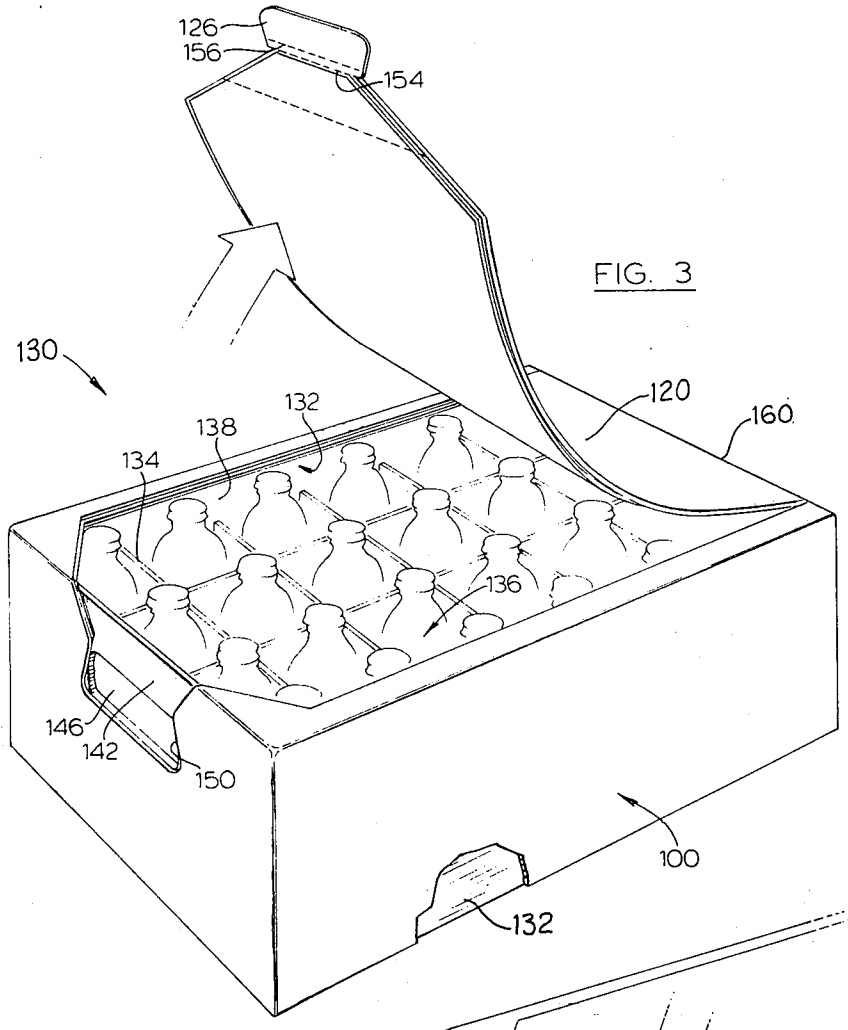

126
156
154
130
132
138
134
120
160
136
146
142
150
100
132

FIG. 3

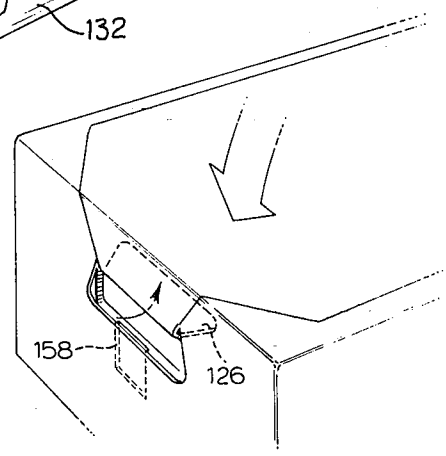

158
126

FIG. 4

PACKAGING STRUCTURE AND BLANK FOR CONTAINER COVER

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Ser. No. 330,197 filed Feb. 7, 1973.

FIELD OF INTENTION

This invention relates to packaging structures and blanks utilizable in such packaging structure.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

In U.S. copending application Ser. No. 261,075 filed June 8, 1972, there is described a packaging structure for beer bottles including a substantially rigid, reusable tray and a disposable sleeve constructed of light cardboard, closing the open top of the tray. The sleeve includes panels depending from a top panel which is coextensive with the open top of the tray, the depending panels extending a distance sudstantially equal to the height of the upstanding walls of the tray and being in gripping frictional engagement with the outer surface of the upstanding walls of the tray. Access to the beer bottles packaged in the structure is gained through the top panel of the sleeve. Once the top panel is opened, the sleeve remains in association with the tray through the gripping frictional engagement between the abutting walls of the tray and the panels of the sleeve.

The consumer may return the empty beer bottles to the retail outlet in the tray with the open cover still attached thereto. In the factory to which the used structure is returned, the sleeve is removed from the tray, and full beer bottles are placed in the tray, followed by the application of a fresh disposable sleeve to provide a new sealed packaging structure. In this way, the tray may be utilized a number of times, with a fresh sleeve closure which normally will bear brand identification markings and the like, being utilized each time.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention is directed, in one preferred aspect, to a packaging structure of the above type, especially for bottled beer, which has a particular opening means for the sleeve. In another preferred aspect of the invention, there is provided a blank for use in forming disposable sleeves utilizable in the one preferred aspect of the invention.

In a broad aspect of the present invention, there is provided a packaging structure which includes the one preferred aspect of the invention and which consists of a box-like enclosed container which has a particular opening means for gaining access to items packaged in the structure.

The packaging structure of the invention consists of a cuboid container having a rectangular top panel closing the container, and an openable and temporarily reclosable element constituting a substantial proportion of the top panel. The element extends the whole longitudinal dimension of the top panel and a substantial proportion of the lateral dimension of the top and is hingable about one lateral edge of the top panel.

The openable element is defined by score lines formed in the top panel and, after tearing along the score lines, the resultant flap may be used as a temporary reclosure for the container.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a blank for forming a sleeve, in accordance with one embodiment of one preferred aspect of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a sleeve formed from the blank of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a packaging structure utilizing the sleeve of FIG. 2, with the top opened;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the packaging structure of FIG. 3, with the top in temporarily reclosed and locked position; and

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of certain score lines, taken on line 5—5 of FIG. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring first to FIG. 1, an integral blank 10 includes a rectangular center panel 12. Two rectangular side panels 14 and 16 are joined to the longitudinal side edges of the center panel 12 at crease lines 18 and 20 respectively.

To the lateral side edges of the side panel 14 are joined flaps 22 and 24 at crease lines 26 and 28 respectively. Similarly flaps 30 and 32 are joined to the lateral side edges of the side panel 16 at crease lines 34 and 36 respectively.

Two substantially rectangular end panels 38 and 40 are joined to the lateral side edges of the center panel 12 at crease lines 42 and 44 respectively.

The flaps 22, 24, 30 and 32 may be rectangular or have a shaped periphery and generally extend away from the lateral edges of the appropriate side panel a distance up to about half the lateral width of the end panels 38 and 40, that is, up to about half the lateral width of the center panel 12. The periphery of the flap may be shaped to correspond to any scored outline on the end panels 38 and 40.

A first pair of closely spaced-apart score lines 46 is provided in the center panel 12. The score lines 46 include a first part 48 in which they extend from one lateral side edge of the center panel 12, that is, from the crease line 44, parallel and adjacent to one longitudinal side edge of the center panel 12, that is, parallel and adjacent to the crease line 20, towards the other lateral side edge of the center panel 12, that is towards the crease line 42, substantially the longitudinal dimension of the center panel 12. The first part 48 of the score lines 46 terminates at a position 50 longitudinally spaced from but adjacent to the crease line 44.

A similar second pair of closely spaced-apart score lines 52 is provided in the center panel 12. The score lines 52 include a first part 54 in which they extend from the same lateral side edge of the center panel 12 as the score lines 46, that is, from the crease line 44, parallel and adjacent to the other longitudinal side edge of the center panel 12, that is, parallel and adjacent to the crease line 18, towards the other lateral side edge of the center panel 12, that is, towards the crease line 42, substantially the longitudinal dimension of the center panel 12. The first part 54 terminates at a position 56 longitudinally spaced from but adjacent to the crease line 44. The terminal positions 50 and 56 of the score line parts 48 and 54 are longitudinally spaced from the crease line 44 substantially the same distance.

Each of the score lines 46 and 52 includes a second part 58 and 60, respectively. The pair of score lines 46 in its second part 58 extend with the pair of score lines

in substantially parallel relation, from the terminal position 50 angularly away from the crease line 18 across the crease line 42 and terminates at a position 62 located in the end panel 38.

Similarly, the pair of score lines 52 in its second part 60 extend, with the pair of score lines in substantially parallel relation, from the terminal position 56 angularly away from the crease line 20 across the crease line 42 and terminates at a position 64 located in the end panel 38.

The terminal positions 62 and 64 are longitudinally spaced from the crease line 42 substantially the same distance and are located on the opposite side of the crease line 42 from the terminal positions 50 and 56.

In each pair of score lines 46 and 52, one member of the pair is scored from one side of the panels 12 and 38, with a substantially continuous cut being formed through approximately half the thickness of the material forming the blank 10. The other member of the pair is scored from the other side of the panels 12 and 38, with a substantially continuous cut being from through approximately half the thickness of the material forming the blank 10. It is not essential, however, to form the score lines through half the thickness of the blank 10 and the score lines may be formed in any convenient manner commensurate with the ability of the material of construction of the blank 10 readily to tear along those lines.

In some instances, the score lines 46 and 52 in the region of the terminal positions 62 and 64 are cut completely through the blank 10 to assist in commencing the tear along the score lines 46 and 52 during opening of a sleeve formed from the blank.

It is immaterial which member of the pair of score lines is formed from above and which is formed from below the blank 10. Typically, the member of the pair 46 or 52 nearer the adjacent longitudinal side edge of the center panel 12 is formed from above the blank 10 while the member remoter from the adjacent longitudinal side edge is formed from below the blank 10, as viewed in FIG. 1, to provide an aesthetic appearance on later opening and temporary closure.

The pairs of score lines 46 and 52 preferably are provided in this manner to ease and assist in tearing therealong during opening of a sleeve formed from the blank. In some instances it may be unnecessary to use a pair of score lines, a single score line, of any convenient construction, being utilized instead.

The material of construction of the blank 10 generally is then flexible cardboard. Preferably, the cardboard is formed of two or more layers joined together to form a laminate structure, and the pairs of score lines 46 and 52 are cut through, from opposite sides, to the approximate join of two adjacent layers, as may be seen more clearly in FIG. 5. This construction provides excellent tearing characteristics along the score lines.

The spacing apart of the members in the pairs of score lines 46 and 52 may vary widely. The particular values chosen depend on the thickness and nature of the material of construction of the blank and the depth of the score lines. In determining the spacing apart of the score lines 46 and 52, the primary desire is to ensure that the material of the blank 10 tears only along the score lines 46 and 52 during opening of a sleeve formed from the blank 10. Typically, a lateral spacing of about ⅛ to ⅝ inch (about 0.25 to about 1.5 cms) may be used, with a spacing of about ⅜ inch (about 1 cm) being found to be satisfactory for No. 25 paperboard consisting of two layers of material.

The spacing apart of the members of each pair of score lines in their second parts 58 and 60 generally is less than their spacing apart in the first parts 48 and 54, in order to urge precise tearing only along the divergent pairs of score lines in the second parts. Typically, the spacing apart of the members of each pair of score lines in the second parts 58 and 60 is approximately one-half of their spacing in the first part 48 and 54. Thus, for a spacing of about ⅜ inch (about 1 cm) in the first parts 48 and 54, the members of each pair of score lines in the second parts may be spaced about 3/16 inch (about 0.5 cm).

The terminal positions 62 and 64 correspond to the ends of a straight crease line 66 extending parallel to the crease line 42. The terminal positions 62 and 64 also correspond to the ends of a score line 68. The score line 68 includes a straight line portion 70 which extends parallel to the crease line 66 and is positioned on the end panel 38 spaced from the crease line 42 a further distance than crease line 66. The distance between the score line portion 70 and the crease line 66 depends on the dimension of the handhole of the tray with which the sleeve formed from the blank 10 is associated.

Further score line portions 72 and 74 complete the score line 68. The later score line portions join the ends of the straight-line portion 70 and the ends of the crease line 66. In the illustrated embodiment, the score line portions 72 and 74 diverge from each other from the crease line 66 to the straight line portion 70, this construction being preferred as will become more apparent hereinafter. It is possible, however, to utilize other conconfigurations of the score line 68.

The score line 68 and the crease line 66 thus define an enclosed area 76 of the end panel 38 of substantially trapezoid form. A further crease line 78, spaced apart from and parallel to the crease line 66 is provided in the enclosed area 76. The spacing apart of the crease lines 76 and 78 depends on the thickness of the material of the tray in the region of its handhole, as will become more apparent below.

A similar enclosed area 80 is provided on the other end panel 40, being defined by a score line 82, of the same form and shape as the score line 68, and a crease line 84, parallel to the crease line 44. Within the enclosed area 80 is a further crease line 86, in the same manner as crease line 78.

The score lines 68 and 82 may be of any desired form. Typically, they comprise relatively long cuts formed through the thickness of the board and relatively short uncut areas between the cuts. The relative dimensions of the cut and uncut areas depend on the strength of the material from which the blank 10 is formed. Typically, cut areas may range from about ⅜ to 1½ inches, (about 1 to 4 cms), with 3/32 inch (about 0.25 cm) uncut areas, for No. 25 paperboard.

The end panels 38 and 40 generally are substantially rectangular, as mentioned above. The end panels 38 and 40 may have a very slight taper from the crease lines 42 and 44 to the free longitudinal edge of the end panel. Similarly, the longitudinal edge of each of the flaps 22, 24, 30 and 32 remote from the longitudinal side edges of the center panel may be provided with a slight taper towards its free lateral side edge. These tapers assist in ensuring that the sleeve formed from the

blank **10** has a snug and gripping fit with the tray in the packaging structure.

Turning now to consideration of FIGS. **2** to **4**, there is shown in FIG. **2** a sleeve **100** formed from the blank **10** and suitable for use in a packaging structure. The sleeve **100** includes a top panel **102**, constituted by the center panel **12** of the blank **10** downwardly depending side panels **104** and **106**, constituted by the side panels **14** and **16** of the blank **10**, and downwardly depending end panels **108** and **110**, constituted by the end panels **38** and **40** of the blank **10**.

The side panels **104** and **106** are joined to the end panels **108** and **110** by flaps (not shown) which are adhesively affixed to the inner faces of the end panels **108** and **110**, the flaps corresponding to the flaps **22, 24, 30** and **32** of the blank **10**. In instances where the flaps **22**, 24, 30 and **32** may be omitted from the blank **10**, the side panels **104** and **106** may be joined to the end panels **108** and **110** in any convenient manner.

An openable and temporarily reclosable member **120** is provided in the top panel **102** whereby access may be gained to items packaged in a packaging structure utilizing a tray and the sleeve **100**. The packaging structure aspect of the present invention is described in more detail below with reference to FIGS. **3** and **4**.

Score lines **122** and **124** define the lateral extension of the member **120**, equivalent to the pairs of score lines **46** and **52** of the blank **10**. The score lines **122** and **124** terminate in a handhole outline **126** in the end panel **108**, equivalent to the enclosed area **76** of the blank **10**. A similar handhole outline **128**, equivalent to the enclosed area **80** of the blank **10**, is provided in the end panel **110**.

It will be seen that the member **120** occupies a substantial proportion of the area of the top panel **102**. The member **120** extends the whole longitudinal dimension of the top panel **102** and occupies much of the lateral dimension of the top panel **102**.

The flaps adhesively connected to the inside of the end panels **108, 110** may be dimensioned and the periphery thereof may be shaped so that no part thereof overlaps the handhole outlines **126** and **128**.

The sleeve **100** therefore constitutes a disposable sleeve for a packaging structure including a substantially rigid reusable tray and a disposable cover, especially for use in packaging beer bottles, as disclosed in copending Canadian patent application Ser. No. **143,948** mentioned above. Such a structure is shown particularly in FIGS. **3** and **4**.

A packaging structure **130** (see FIGS. **3** and **4**), includes the sleeve **100** and a substantially rigid reusable tray **132**. The tray **132** may be constructed of any convenient durable material, for example, heavy-duty cardboard, wood, metal or synthetic polymeric materials.

Since synthetic polymeric materials have an excellent combination of useful properties, such as, strength and wear resistance and hence have long life, washability and lightness, it is preferred to employ such materials in the construction of the trays **132**.

As used herein, the term "synthetic polymeric material" is utilized to refer to those synthetic polymeric materials which are capable of extrusion or molding to a formed article and does not include those polymeric substances which are incapable or otherwise unsuitable for the production of formed articles, such as cellulose nitrate. Synthetic polymeric materials are commonly referred to as "plastics" and the latter term will be used in this specification in that sense.

The tray **132** has a plurality of partitions **134** dividing up the interior area of the tray into a plurality of individual compartments **136**. Typically for packaging beer, the tray may have compartments for **24, 12** or six bottles. In each case, the member **120** extends longitudinally of the top panel **102**.

Generally the tray **132** and sleeve **100** are dimensioned so that the top panel **102** is the same dimension as the exterior of the open top of the tray **132**. Further, the tray **132** has unstanding side walls, only one of which, **138**, is illustrated and upstanding end walls, only one of which, **142**, is illustrated, upstanding from a base. The side panels **104** and **106** and the end panels **108** and **110** of the sleeve **100** are coextensive with and in frictional gripping engagement with the outermost portions of the side walls and the end walls respectively, of the tray **132**. In this way, the cover **100** is not readily removed from the structural association with the tray **132**.

In each of the end walls of the tray **132** is situated a handhole for lifting of the packaging structure **130**. The handhole **146** formed in the end wall **142** is repeated at the opposite end of the tray **132**. The handholes correspond generally in dimension to the handhole outlines **126** and **128** of the sleeve **100**.

When the packaging structure **130** is desired to be carried, the handhole area outlines **126** and **128** are pushed inwardly, the area becoming detached on three sides from the appropriate end panel along score lines **150** and **152** equivalent to score lines **68** and **82** of the blank **10** and are folded back around the upper portion of the adjacent handholes in the end panels of the tray. This procedure is facilitated by the provision of a crease line **154** equivalent to crease line **66** of the blank **10**, thereby allowing the handhole area or tab **126** to bend readily inwardly of the appropriate end panel **108**. A further crease line **156**, equivalent to crease line **78** of the blank **10** is provided to allow the tab **126** to fold back inside the tray **132**. An equivalent construction for tab **128** is provided in the end panel **110** with crease lines corresponding to crease lines **84** and **86** of the blank **10**, so that the tab **128** may be folded inwardly of the handhole (not shown) in the other end wall of the tray **132**. It will be apparent, therefore, that the preferred lateral spacing of the crease lines **154** and **156** depends on the thickness of the end walls of the tray **132** in the region of the handholes.

The positioning of the tabs **126** and **128** and of the corresponding handholes in the tray **132** is chosen so that the depth of the tabs **126** and **128** does not exceed the distance from the top of the handhole to the top panel **102**. In this way, when the tabls **126** and **128** are pushed inside the respective handholes and bent back, the tabs **126** and **128** do not foul the inner surface of the top panel **102**. Further, the depth of the tabs chosen so that they may engage bottles in the case **132** when positioned as illustrated in FIG. **4** and hence assist in providing a temporary locking of the member **120** and a permanent opening in the other end panel.

When the tab **126** has been released from the end panel **108**, drawing of the tab **126** upwardly and rearwardly of the structure **100** causes the member **120** to detach from the remainder of the end panel **108** and the top panel **102** along the score lines **122** and **124**,

thereby allowing access to the beer bottles **136** in the case **132**, as may be seen in FIG. **3**.

The now-detached member **120**, in the form of a flap, is hinged about the crease line **160** at the opposite end of the structure and access to all the products in the tray **132** may readily be had. The hinging of the member **120** at one lateral edge of the sleeve **100** rather than at the longitudinal edge results in a member **120** which has sufficient weight to reclose the top when released, the member **120** being relockable by use of the tab **126** as may be seen from FIG. **4**. The outwardly divergent nature of the lateral edges of the tab **126** provides a positive lock with the handhole of the tray **132**.

Further, once the member **120** is hinged past the vertical position, it may fall under its own weight to a completely open position. If desired, the member **120** may be curled underneath the structure.

Since the side and end panels **104, 106, 108** and **110** are in gripping frictional engagement with the respective walls of the tray **132**, the sleeve **110** remains in association with the tray **132** and is not detached therefrom. It is only upon return of the empty bottles and used structure to the factory that the used sleeve is removed and a fresh sleeve **100** is applied to the tray **132**, after the positioning of full beer bottles therein, to provide a new sealed package.

As may be seen in FIG. **4**, the end wall **142** may be provided with a shallow depression **158** extending downwardly from the handhole **146**. A similiar depression (not shown) is provided in the other end wall of the tray **132**. The presence of these depressions results in the end panels **108** and **110** of the sleeve **100** being spaced from the end walls in this region. In this way, the insertion of fingers of stripping devices unde the surface of the material of the sleeve is facilitated and hence the later operation of stripping the sleeve **100** from the tray when the structure **130** is returned is improved.

The provision of a flap member **120** scored from a sleeve **100** to give an originally-sealed structure which is readily openable by tearing along the score lines to gain access to the contents of the structure and which is also temporarily reclosable has been described above with specific reference to a packaging structure **130** including a disposable sleeve **100** and a reusable tray **132**. However, the present invention is not restricted to such a packaging structure and, as indicated above, in one broad aspect of the invention, the flap member **120** may be provided with any other convenient packaging structure.

Modifications are possible within the scope of the invention.

What we claim is:

1. A packaging structure comprising a substantially rigid tray including a bottom wall, side walls and end walls extending upwardly from siad bottom wall and terminating in an open top, a disposable sleeve constructed of light cardboard closing said open top, said sleeve including a top panel extending coextensively with the open top of said tray and having first and second longitudinal side edges and first and second lateral side edges, side panels extending downwardly from said top panel in engagement with the outer surface of the side walls of said tray a distance substantially equal to the height of said side walls, end panels extending downwardly from said top panel in engagement with the outer surface of the end walls of said tray a distance substantially equal to the height of said end walls, said side and end panels being joined together, each of said end walls of said tray having a slot formed therein of longer dimension extending transverse of said end wall,

said tray including a divider means dividing the space therein into a plurality of beverage bottle containing compartments, and said side walls and end walls extending upwardly a distance substantially equal to the height of said bottles, said top panel of said sleeve engaging the tops of said bottles,

said sleeve including first and second tab outlines in said end panels corresponding substantially to the shape of said slots, the portion of one of said tab outlines corresponding to the longitudinal periphery of the slot closest to the join of said top panel and the appropriate side panel being in the form of a first crease line and the remainder of said one tab outline being constituted by a first score line, the portion of the other of said tab outlines corresponding to the longitudinal periphery of the slot closest to the join of the top panel and the appropriate side panel being in the form of a second crease line and the remainder of said other tab outline being constituted by a second score line,

an openable closure element formed integral with said sleeve and being defined by first and second laterally spaced-apart scorings formed in said sleeve, each of said scorings extending from the one of said lateral side edges joining the end panel containing said one tab outline across said top panel towards the other of said lateral side edges, at least a substantial length of one of said scorings extending adjacent and substantially parallel to one of said longitudinal side edges and at least a substantial length of the other of said scorings extending adjacent and substantially parallel to the other of said longitudinal side edges, said scorings terminating one at each end of said second score line in the one of said end panels containing said other tab outline and attached to said top panel at said other lateral side edge, whereby, upon severing said second score line and pulling on said other tab the openable closure element is detached from the remainder of said sleeve along said first and second scorings, said openable closure element thereby being hinged about said one lateral side edge of said top panel.

2. The packaging structure of claim **1** wherein said first scoring is constituted by a first pair of score lines in said top panel extending in closely spaced-apart relation from said one lateral side edge of said top panel substantially parallel to but spaced from said one of said longitudinal side edges of said top panel to a first position spaced longitudinally inwardly from said other lateral side edge of said top panel, and

said second scoring is constituted by a second pair of score lines in said top panel extending in closely spaced-apart relation from said one lateral side edge of said top panel substantially parallel and adjacent to but spaced from the other of said longitudinal side edges of said top panels to a second position spaced longitudinally inwardly from said other lateral side edge of said top panel, said first and second longitudinally inwardly spaced positions being substantially the same longitudinal distance from said other lateral side edge,

each of said first and second pairs of score lines being provided with one score line of the pair being formed from above said top panel and the other score line of the pair being formed from below said top panel,

said first pair of score lines continuing from said first position in parallel spaced-apart relation angularly away from said one longitudinal side edge of said center panel to the other lateral side edge and continuing from the join of said top panel and the other end panel across said end panel to one end of said second score line,

said second pair of score lines continuing from said second position in spaced-apart parallel relation angularly away from said other longitudinal side edge of said top panel to the other lateral side edge and continuing from said join across said end panel to the other end 0f said second score line.

3. The packaging structure of claim 2 wherein the portions of said first and second pairs of score lines adjacent said ends of said second score line are provided completely through said end panel.

4. The packaging structure of claim 2 wherein each of said one tab outline includes a third crease line extending substantially parallel to said first crease line and said other tab outline includes a fourth crease line extending parallel to said second crease line, said first and third crease lines and said second and fourth crease lines being spaced-apart therefrom a distance substantially equivalent to the thickness of said end walls of said tray at the upper periphery of said slot.

5. The packaging structure of claim 1 wherein said other tab outline is substantially trapezoid with said second crease line corresponding in length to that of the upper periphery of the adjacent slot and the second score line includes a straight line portion substantially parallel to said second crease line and having a length greater than the length of the lower periphery of said adjacent slot, and portions joining the ends of the straight line portion and said second crease line, whereby when said openable closure element has been opened said tab may be inserted in temporary locking engagement with said adjacent slot thereby achieving reclosure of said structure.

6. The packaging structure of claim 5 wherein said one tab outline is the same as said other tab outline.

7. The packaging structure of claim 2 wherein said sleeve is formed of a laminate of at least two layers of thin cardboard and each of said first and second pairs of score lines is provided with one score line of the pair being formed from above said top panel through the thickness of at least one but not all of said layers and the other score line of the pair is formed from below said center panel through the thickness of the remainder of said layers, whereby the score lines terminate at the interface of two adjacent layers.

8. The structure of claim 1 wherein said tray is constructed of synthetic polymeric material.

9. The structure of claim 1 wherein each of said side and end walls has a substantially smooth outer face and said side and end panels grip said side walls and end walls.

10. The structure of claim 9 wherein the end walls adjacent said handholes have a downwardly extending depression, whereby said end panels are spaced from said end walls in this region.

11. The structure of claim 1 wherein said side and end panels of said sleeve are integral with said top panel.

12. A substantially rigid tray including a bottom wall, side walls and end walls extending upwardly from said bottom wall, each of said end walls of said tray having an elongate slot formed therein, said slot having its larger dimension transverse of said end wall, and a depression formed in the outer suface of each of said end walls and extending downwardly from each of said slots towards said bottom wall.

* * * * *