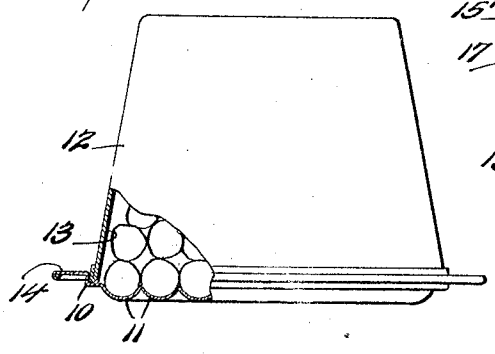
March 2, 1926. 1,574,927

J. H. OTTO

PACKER'S MITT

Filed July 14, 1925

FIG. 1.



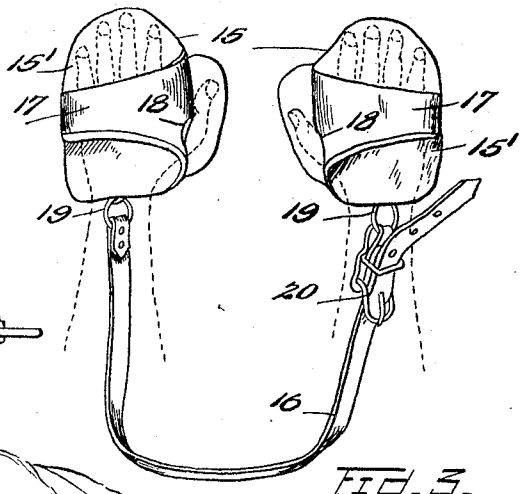
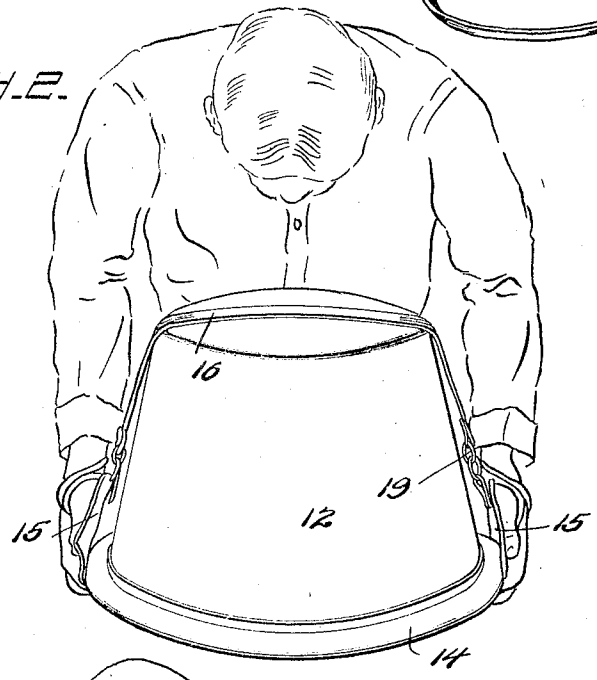


FIG. 3.

FIG. 2.



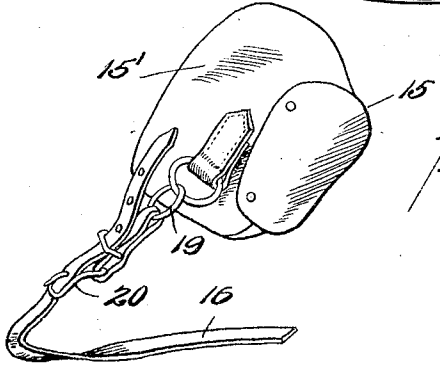


FIG. 4.

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Patented Mar. 2, 1926. 1,574,927.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JULIUS H. OTTO, OF MACON, GEORGIA.

PACKER'S MITT.

Application filed July 14, 1925. Serial No. 43,651.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I. JULIUS H. OTTO, a citizen of the United States, and residing at Macon, Bibb County, State of Georgia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Packers' Mitts, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to implements adapted to be used by packers and particularly to such implements designed to aid in the manual packing of fruit, vegetables or miscellaneous small articles in shipping containers.

The invention, while it has many uses, is particularly adapted to assist in packing peaches in containers, such as bushel baskets. Heretofore peaches have been largely shipped to the market in crates containing smaller baskets but the rising cost of such shipping crates has necessitated the adoption of containers of cheaper character. For instance, peaches are now to a large extent, shipped in bushel baskets, the use of the relatively expensive crates being thereby avoided and also the use of the smaller boxes or containers within the crates. Inasmuch as it is desired to have the uppermost layer of peaches arranged symmetrically, a method of basket packing has been devised in which this result has been brought about without necessitating the careful arrangement of the peaches underlying the top layer. Briefly stated this method is as follows: A circular plate having depressions therein, for instance, concentric circular grooves, is laid on a floor or platform and the depressions or grooves are filled with peaches, the depressions or grooves being so disposed that the peaches when in position lie exactly as they are intended to lie in the top layer of the fruit basket when it is ready for shipment. Upon this plate, after the layer of peaches is in place, is positioned a paper or cardboard frustro-conical container, both ends of this container being open, the small end being uppermost, and the axis of the container being coincident with the axis of the circular plate. Into this container, which corresponds in shape and volume very closely to a bushel basket, are poured the bulk of the peaches which are intended to lie beneath the upper layer of the filled basket. A bushel basket is then inverted over the paper container, the circular rim of the basket resting upon the plate. All that remains to be done is to then invert the basket and plate, holding them together, of course, to prevent spilling of the peaches. Upon removal of the plate, which after inversion of the basket will be uppermost, the basket will be seen to be filled and the upper layer of peaches will be seen to be arranged in the exact manner in which they were grouped together upon the plate before the inversion was effected.

My present invention relates to means for effecting the inversion of the basket and plate quickly and easily and without danger of their becoming separated during the lifting and inverting movement, the implement not only preventing displacement of the plate relatively to the basket in such manner that the arrangement of peaches is destroyed or peaches actually spilled out, but also enables an operator utilizing the same to accomplish the inversion of the basket and plate much more easily and much more quickly than would otherwise be possible.

Various forms of implements embodying the invention may be devised, and it will be understood that that form which I describe and illustrate is set forth by way of example only.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 illustrates in side elevation a peach basket resting upon the plate upon which the upper layer of peaches is first arranged, and ready for inversion, the basket being partly broken away;

Fig. 2 illustrates the implement in the hands of the user and so positioned relatively to the peach basket and plate that the packer may readily invert the same;

Fig. 3 is a view of the implement showing in dotted lines the position of the hands of the user; and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged perspective view of one portion of the implement.

The plate upon which a layer of peaches is symmetrically arranged is indicated at 10. This plate is of a character well known in the peach packing industry and is therefore not illustrated or described in detail. It may be said however that it is preferably formed of metal and that the grooves or depressions 11 in which the peaches are placed are concentric circular grooves. The peach basket is indicated at 12 and the frustro-conical open ended cardboard container at 13. The container 13 has its lower edge resting upon the plate and, prior to the po-

sitioning of the bushel basket 12 thereover, the peaches are poured into the container 13 through its open upper end. Preferably a frustro-conical metallic reinforcing member is placed around the paper container 13 while the peaches are being poured into the same, for the purpose of firmly supporting the container against the pressure of the peaches. The member is however not illustrated, its exact construction being immaterial to the invention. The annular lower edges of both basket and paper container rest upon the rim of the plate 10 and the plate also has a projecting flange 14 by means of which it may be grasped.

After container 13 is filled and the basket in position, as shown in Figure 1, it only remains to effect the necessary inversion of the basket and to then cover the same with a suitable lid or other cover. It is in effecting this inversion that difficulty has been experienced, due to the fact that the rim of the basket and the plate tend to move relatively and sometimes becomes separated by the weight and action of the peaches in the basket so that some of the fruit will make its escape or at all events, will become displaced.

To aid the packer whose duty it is to make the inversion, I have provided a special implement, which is shown in detail in Figure 3. This implement comprises essentially two glove-like members 15, preferably of exactly similar construction, which members are connected by a flexible element 16, in this instance a leather strap. The specific construction of members 15 is not controlling. The glove-like members illustrated are quite satisfactory, but on the other hand, the design of these members may be greatly varied without departing from the spirit of the invention. As shown, the members 15 are formed of flat sole leather pieces 15′ which extend from the wrist of the wearer to and beyond the finger tips. Bands 17 have their ends secured to the flat portion 15′, these bands forming loops through which the operator's hands extend and constitute means for securing the glove-like members to the operator's hands. Each member 17 is provided with an opening 18 through which the thumbs of the packer may extend. The flat members 15′ are flexible so that the packer may bend them around the rim of the plate 10, as shown in Figure 2. The flexible element 16, which may be a leather strap, connects the wrist portions of the glove-like members and, in the present instance, they are shown to be secured to these members by means of iron rings 19 although any suitable connecting device may be substituted for such rings. The strap is made adjustable by means of a buckle 20 in order that its length may be adjusted to suit baskets or crates of different sizes and also to compensate for any stretching of the flexible connecting element.

As before pointed out, it is not essential to my invention that the hand members 15 be of any particular material or shape, or that the flexible member 16 be of any particular material. The members 15 must be so designed as not to hinder the operator when he grasps the edges of the plate 10 and the flexible member 16 must be of such character that it will conform readily to the shape of the basket. Its length of course should be such that when the packer grasps the edge of the plate 10, it will be tightly stretched across the bottom of the basket, as shown in Figure 2, so that when the packer effects the inversion, it will hold the basket tightly against the plate. After the inversion has been acomplished of course, the plate and the implement just described, are removed and the basket suitably covered. By means of the described implement, the inversion may be accomplished quickly and easily and without danger of relative displacement of the plate and basket. It constitutes a means therefore whereby the peaches are saved from injury and also the production of individual packers greatly increased.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A packer's implement comprising two members adapted to be secured to or carried by the hands of the operator, and a connecting element, for the purpose set forth.

2. A packer's implement comprising two members adapted to be secured to or carried by the hands of the operator, and a flexible connecting element for the purpose set forth.

3. In a packer's implement, in combination, two members adapted to be secured to or carried by the hands of the operator and a connecting element comprising an adjustable flexible strap, for the purpose set forth.

4. A packer's implement comprising two glove-like members having package engaging portions and wrist portions, and a flexible element connecting said portions, for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

JULIUS H. OTTO.