

Feb. 28, 1933.

T. CRAWFORD

1,899,673

CONTAINER AND SHIPPING PACKAGE

Filed April 12, 1932

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

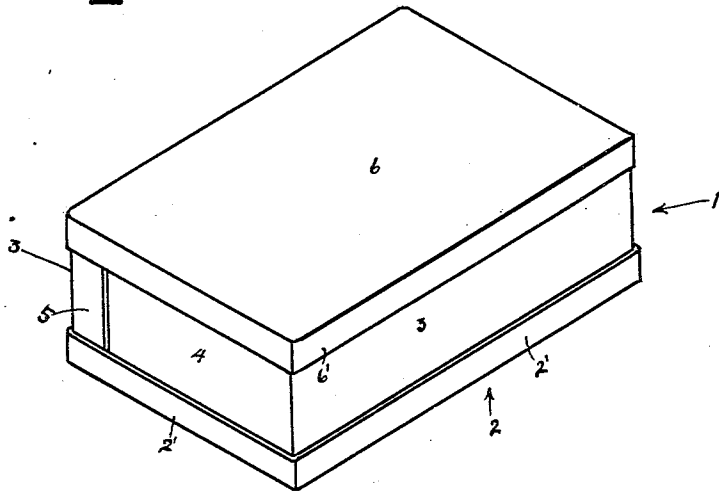


Fig. 2

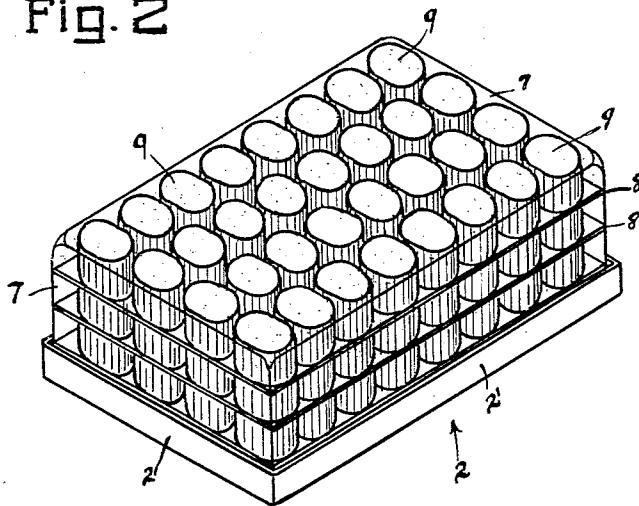
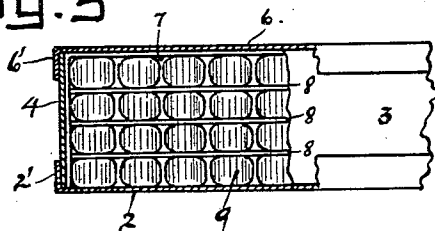


Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

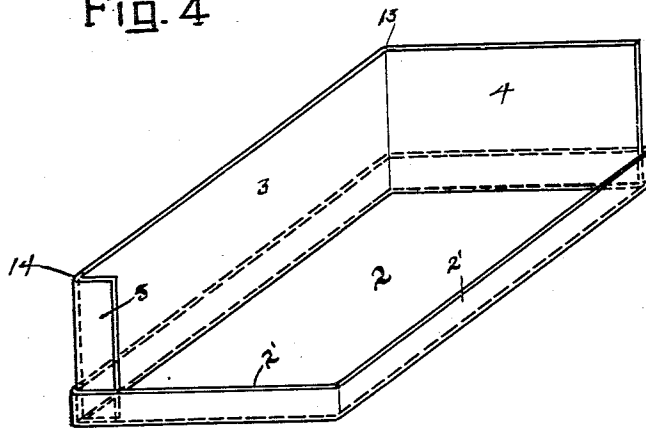
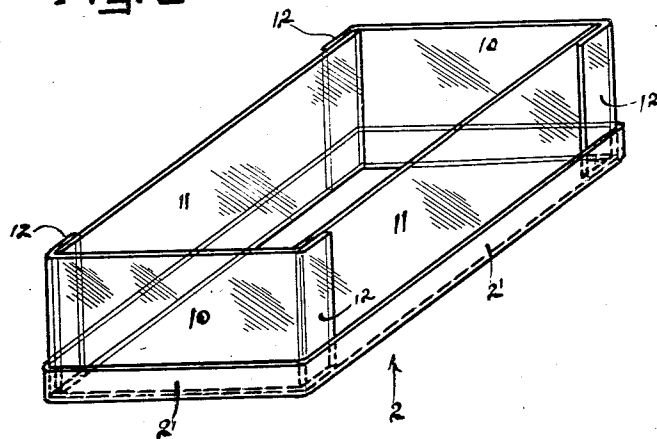


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CONTAINER AND SHIPPING PACKAGE

Application filed April 12, 1932, Serial No. 604,718, and in Great Britain March 26, 1931.

I have filed an application in Great Britain, March 26, 1931.

This invention relates to knock-down boxes for containing or displaying various objects, such as confectionery, etc.

The main object of the invention is to provide a box of the character indicated which will serve to contain and protect the goods for storage and transport and also to display the goods when desired.

It is a further object to provide a box having separable walls, which can easily be removed leaving the contents supported only by the bottom of the box, which then serves as a display tray.

Another object is to provide a box which is built up of separable parts and which may be readily assembled.

A further object is to provide such a box which may contain a transparent inner cover revealing the contents upon removal of the lid and side walls.

It is also an object of my invention to provide a box with interchangeable walls where opaque wall members may be replaced by transparent wall members.

It may be stated, on the other hand, that it is likewise an object of the invention to combine the present box or container with the contents in an efficient arrangement to form a compact and new shipping package.

Further objects and various advantages inherent in my invention will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

In the accompanying drawings forming part hereof:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the box embodying my invention when assembled in condition for storage or transport;

Figure 2 is another view of the same box after the lid and the side walls have been removed in order to display the contents, showing the inner transparent cover;

Figure 3 is a view showing a fragmentary portion of the box and the inner transparent cover in cross section;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the box with the lid and two side walls removed; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view showing the

bottom or tray with supplementary transparent walls fitted thereto.

Throughout the views the same reference numerals indicate the same or corresponding parts.

The present practice of manufacture is to use a more or less rigid box consisting of a bottom and four sides, all united together, and having a lid either loose or hinged thereto. For display purposes shopkeepers frequently remove the confectionery, cake or similar contents from these boxes and build them up on their counters or in their windows in layers with cardboard between, or in trays, or on display stands. This method involves, of course, much handling of the goods besides entailing labor costs. My invention has been designed particularly with a view to remove these disadvantages and to make the box more sanitary.

In the practice of my invention the pieces of chocolate or other confectionery 9, are packed in the box generally indicated at 1, the lid 6 and sides 3 and 4 of which can be removed so that the contents may be disclosed for display purposes, resting on the bottom, generally indicated at 2 of the box. The box bottom then forms a tray supporting a solidly built stack of confectioneries or the like. The prospective purchaser will thus be able to get an immediate view of the contents through the entire depth of the box and also the cross section of some solid contents, such as a cake and the like. If the box is used for chocolates and the like, the same may be packed in layers separated, if desired, by partitions 8 of papier-mâché or the like, and, when the lid and sides are then removed, a solidly built stack of chocolates, neatly arranged in layers will be displayed. A display of the goods is thus effected with but little expenditure of time by the shopkeeper. Supplementary walls 10 and 11 (Figure 5) of transparent material, such as celluloid and the like if desired may be substituted for the usually opaque original walls in order to enclose the contents at the same time rendering them fully visible and also give additional support to the stack of contents at the sides when these opaque walls have been removed. The contents may also

be enveloped by a removable cover 7 of "Cellophane" or other transparent material extending down over the sides of the contents before placing them in the box and will thus be protected from handling and from dust and dirt and be ready for immediate display when the lid and sides of the box are removed.

Except as regards the supplementary transparent walls, which may consist of glass, celluloid or other suitable material, the box may be made of any of the material commonly used, e. g., strawboard, woodpulp or the like. The side walls, constituting a frame, are preferably composed in two pieces, with overlapping flanges 5 at two of the corners, or the frame may be made of separate pieces corresponding to the shape of the box, each piece being of a depth to engage both the bottom and lid of the box.

The transparent supplementary walls in a square box are preferably made in four pieces, the two of which forming opposing walls may be provided with flanges 12 at each corner in order to support the other two side pieces.

The transparent frame may also consist of pieces jointed at several or all corners.

The side walls may engage the periphery of the bottom member or display tray in any suitable manner, by means of flanges, grooves, etc.

To assemble or pack the box the frame is placed in position on the bottom tray. The chocolates or other confectionery are then packed inside the frame, in layers if suitable, in any known manner, and the lid is then placed on the top of the frame similarly to the bottom. The lid thus cooperates with the bottom member in retaining the side walls in assembled relation. The assembly as a whole may be further strengthened by tying a string around the box, or wrapping it in paper, etc. When the chocolates are to be sold, the lid is removed, the frame lifted away, and the contents are displayed resting on the bottom tray. The transparent walls may then be placed in position to prevent accidental displacement of any of the contents without detracting in any way from their general presentation or display.

In the embodiment illustrated herein, the bottom indicated at 2 is preferably provided with flanges 2', which serve to retain the side walls 3 and 4 in position. This bottom serves as a tray when the lid 6 and the side walls 3 and 4 are removed. The two side walls 3 and 4, as shown in Figure 4 consist of a strip bent at 13 to form one corner of the box, and also bent at 14 to form a lug or flange 5 at another corner of the box. The other two side walls consist of a strip bent in precisely the same way. Each strip therefore constitutes an end and either the front or back of the box the strips being interchangeable. The two strips are set up on the bottom or tray, within its flanges 2', with the wall

flanges 5 at diametrically opposite corners, one end of each strip engaging within the angle made by the flange 5 of the other strip. The lid 6 has a construction similar to that of the bottom. The flanges 6' engage the upper edges of the walls 3 and 4 and cooperate with the flanges 2' of the bottom to retain said walls against the contents. A transparent removable cover 7 when such is used extends upon all sides to the bottom of the box as illustrated in Figure 2. Chocolates 9 are packed in layers, separated, if desired, by partitions 8. The supplementary transparent side walls 10 and 11 of celluloid or the like when these are used are set up on the bottom in place of the removed walls 3 and 4. The shorter walls 10 have corner flanges 12, which hold the longer walls 11.

It is manifest that variations in the above features may be resorted to in order to suit the particular shape of the box.

Having now fully described my invention I claim:—

1. A combined display tray and container, including the combination of a display tray comprising a bottom member, means for building up said display tray into a container comprising a plurality of removable wall members each adapted to engage with the periphery of said bottom member and extend upward therefrom and a removable lid adapted to engage with the upper edges of said wall members and thereby cooperate with said bottom member in retaining said wall members in assembled condition, said wall members being self supporting and freely exposed at the vertical corner edges and forming the sole means spacing said lid from said bottom member and being mutually separable and freely removable from the bottom member upon removal of said lid from off the same.

2. A combined display tray and container, including the combination of a display tray comprising a bottom member, means for building up said display tray into a container comprising a plurality of interchangeable wall members each adapted to engage with the periphery of said bottom member and extend upward therefrom and a removable lid adapted to engage with the upper edges of said wall members and thereby cooperate with said bottom member in retaining said wall members in assembled condition, said wall members being self supporting and freely exposed at the vertical corner edges and forming the sole means spacing said lid from said bottom member and being mutually separable and freely removable from the bottom member upon removal of said lid from off the same.

3. A combined display tray and container, including the combination of a display tray and container comprising a flanged bottom member, means for building up said display tray into a container comprising inter-

- changeable wall members adapted to engage with said flanged bottom member and extend upward therefrom, each wall member comprising a strip forming one side and one
 5 end of the box, and a removable flanged lid adapted to engage with the upper edges of said wall members and thereby cooperate with said flanged bottom member in retaining said wall members in assembled condition, said wall members directly and solely
 10 supporting said lid and being mutually separable and freely removable from within the flanged bottom member upon removal of said lid from off the same.
- 15 4. A combined display tray and container as claimed in claim 3 wherein the strips forming the side and end walls have overlapping flanges at their respective junctions.
- 20 5. A shipping package, including the combination with contents, of a display tray comprising a bottom member, a transparent removable display cover enveloping said contents and extending down upon all sides
 25 to said bottom member, and cooperating with said bottom member for display purposes, a plurality of outer removable protecting wall members enveloping the sides of said transparent cover normally engaging within the peripheral edges of said bottom
 30 member and a removable lid overlaying said transparent cover and normally engaging and enveloping the upper edges of said wall members, said wall members forming the sole exterior means for supporting said lid and being freely removable from within the
 35 flanged bottom upon removal of the lid from off the same.
- 40 6. A shipping package, including the combination with contents; of a display tray comprising a peripherally flanged bottom member, a transparent removable display cover enveloping said contents and extending down upon all sides to said bottom member, and cooperating with said bottom member
 45 for display purposes, means for building up said display tray into a container comprising a plurality of removable wall members adapted to envelop said contents and to engage within the periphery of said
 50 flanged bottom member and extend upward therefrom, and a removable peripherally flanged lid adapted to engage with and envelope the upper edges of said wall members and thereby cooperate with said bottom
 55 member in retaining said wall members in assembled condition, said wall members forming the sole exterior means for supporting said lid and being freely removable from within the flanged bottom upon removal of the lid from off the same.
- 60 7. A shipping package comprising the combination with contents of a display tray comprising a peripherally flanged bottom member, a transparent removable display
 65 cover member enveloping said contents and extending downwardly upon all sides of said bottom member, and cooperating with said bottom member for display purposes, means for building up said display tray into a container comprising removable wall members adapted to envelop said contents and to engage within the periphery of said flanged bottom member and extend upwardly therefrom, a removable peripherally flanged lid adapted to engage with and envelope the upper edges of said wall members and thereby cooperate with said bottom member in retaining said wall members in assembled condition, and a plurality of separating partitions extending substantially parallel to the lid and bottom members and adapted for supporting the contents in a plurality of layers, said wall members forming the sole exterior means for supporting said lid and being freely removable from within the flanged bottom upon removal of the lid from off the same.
- THOMAS CRAWFORD.