June 13, 1961 J. N. CALLINICOS 2,988,259

ADJUSTABLE FLORAL PACKAGE

Filed July 28, 1959 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

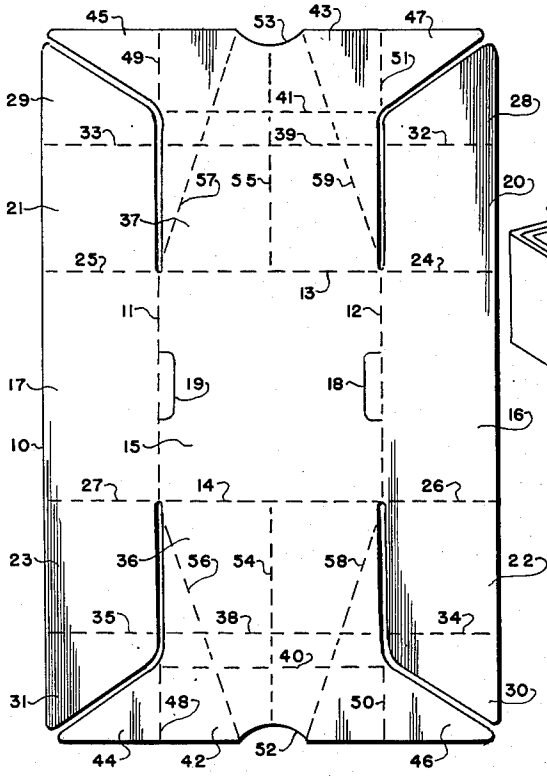


FIG. 1

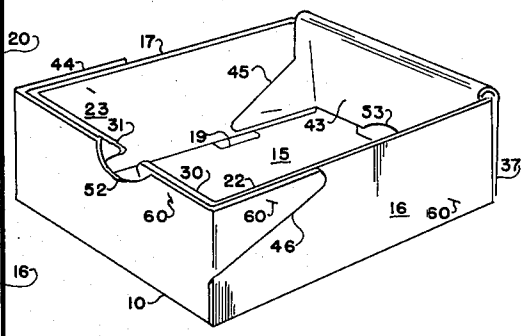


FIG. 3

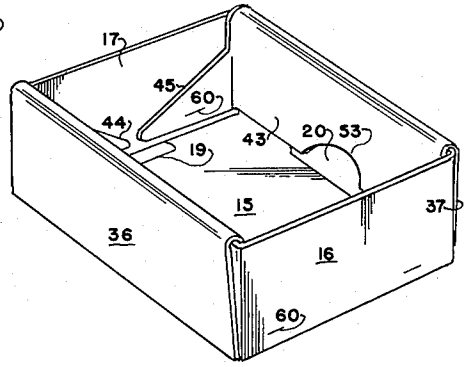


FIG. 4

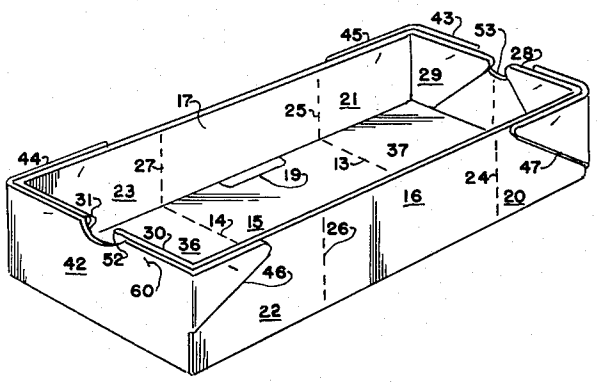


FIG. 2

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ADJUSTABLE FLORAL PACKAGE

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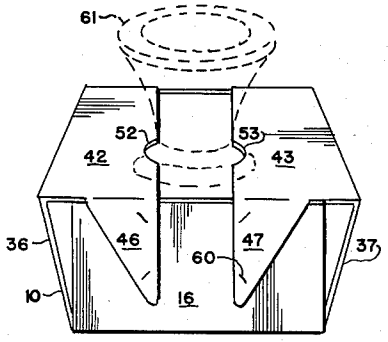


FIG. 5

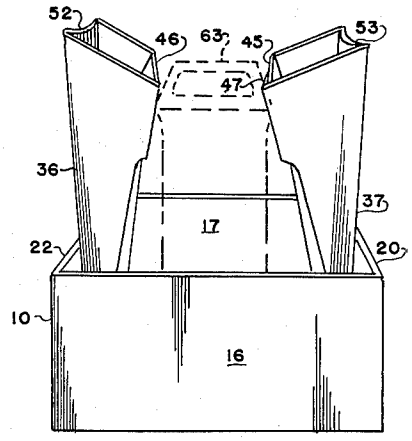


FIG. 8

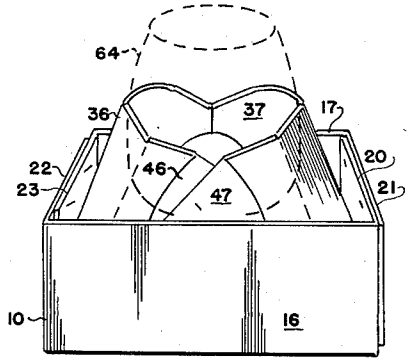


FIG. 6

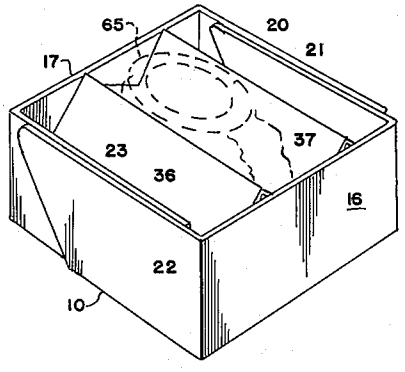


FIG. 9

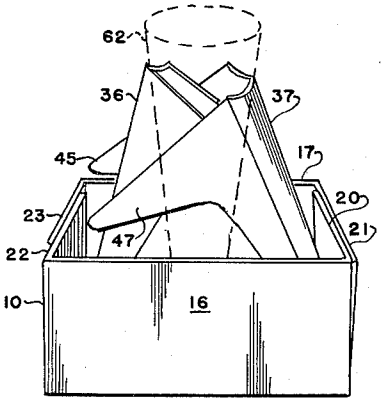


FIG. 7

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United States Patent Office 2,988,259
Patented June 13, 1961

2,988,259

ADJUSTABLE FLORAL PACKAGE

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Filed July 28, 1959, Ser. No. 830,115
6 Claims. (Cl. 229—34)

This invention relates in general to folding cartons and, more particularly, it relates to adjustable folding cartons intended primarily for use by florists in putting up a wide variety of potted plants, plants in various containers, and other floral displays. Specifically, this invention involves a further improvement on my earlier invention which was awarded U.S. Patent No. 2,821,297 on Jan. 28, 1958.

An object of this invention is to provide a paperboard, corrugated cardboard, or the like blank which is cut from one piece so that it may be folded and secured to form a packer for a wide variety of objects of different shapes and sizes.

Another object of this invention is to provide a single box which is made in one piece and which may be assembled into several basic shapes to package floral arrangements.

A further object of this invention is to provide a single blank which a florist may stock with a great saving of space and money as the florist may assemble the blank into many different shapes to satisfy a large part of his box need.

Many additional objects, advantages and features of invention reside in the particular arrangement and the proportions of the parts involved in this invention and its practice otherwise as will become apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of a blank with creases shown in dotted lines from which this improved adjustable floral package is fabricated;

FIGS. 2 through 4 are perspective views of three floral packages or boxes which may be folded from the blank shown in FIG. 1; and

FIGS. 5 through 9 are perspective views of five additional floral packages which may be folded from the blank shown in FIG. 1 with five irregular objects to be packaged or secured shown in dotted lines.

Referring to the drawings in detail, FIG. 1 shows the blank **10** which is formed from paper-board, corrugated cardboard, or any such suitable material. This blank **10** is die cut into a generally rectangular external outline and is internally cut and creased to provide flexibly connected panels and sections which may be optionally folded and secured to form the floral packaging units shown in FIGS. 2 through 9. Pairs of centrally disposed straight parallel creases, **11** and **12** and **13** and **14** define a square base panel **15**. This base **15** may be rectangular, however it is preferable to form it as a square as a square base is more suitable to accommodate the great variety of generally cylindrical or round objects which florists must package. The side panels **16** and **17** are integrally connected to the base **15** by the creases **12** and **11** respectively. In the center of the creases **11** and **12** there are formed the cutout tabs **18** and **19** which are used in a manner that will be described. End flaps **20**, **21**, **22** and **23** are connected to the side panels **16** and **17** by the creases **24**, **25**, **26** and **27** and the end flap tips **28**, **29**, **30** and **31** are connected to the end flaps by the creases **32**, **33**, **34** and **35**. Extending outwards from the ends of the base **15** and connected to it with the creases **13** and **14** are the inner portions of the end panels **36** and **37** which are cut across by the creases **38**, **39**, **40** and **41** to define the outer portions **42** and **43** of the end panels **36** and **37**. These outer portions **42** and **43** have the lateral tabs **44**, **45**, **46** and **47** attached to them by the creases **48**, **49**, **50** and **51**. Conforming notches **52** and **53** are formed in the center of the ends of the end panels **36** and **37**. The creases **54** and **55** extend from the center of these conforming notches to the center of the creases **13** and **14** while pairs of diverging creases **56** and **58** and **57** and **59** extend from the conforming notches to the ends of the creases **13** and **14**. Although the overall appearance of the blank **10** is very similar to that shown in my forementioned patent, certain proportions have been altered and have been found to be critical as they allow the resulting greater number of forms which may be assembled from this blank. This added versatility results in greatly enhanced sales appeal because a florist need only stock a single blank to satisfy much of his packaging needs.

FIG. 4 shows a first basic package which may be formed from the blank **10** in the following manner. The side panels **16** and **17**, as shown in FIG. 1, are folded upward from the base **15**. The end flaps **20** and **21** are folded inwards along the creases **25** and **24** and stapled or otherwise secured as are the end flaps **22** and **23** which are folded inwards along the creases **26** and **27**. The end panels **36** and **37** are then folded upwards along the creases **13** and **14** outside the secured pairs of end flaps and then they are bent along their creases **38** and **39** so that their outer end portions **42** and **43** extend into the box so formed and lie along the insides of the secured pairs of end flaps. The lateral tabs **44**, **45**, **46** and **47** then fold along the creases **48**, **49**, **50** and **51** to lie along the inside of the side panels **16** and **17** where they may be secured with the staples **60**. To make this basic form, which is an exceptionally strong square box, the inner portions of the end panels **36** and **37** must be slightly longer than the width of the side panels **16** and **17** and their end flaps **20**, **21**, **22** and **23** so that the outer portions **42** and **43** of the end panels may be folded on the creases **38** and **39** over the secured pairs of end flaps. Also, the outer portions **42** and **43** should be slightly shorter than the inner portions of the end panels **36** and **37** so that the outer portions may be folded over the secured pairs of end flaps to almost reach the base **15**. This results in at least three thicknesses of the material of the blank **10** at each end of the resulting box which adds to its strength. For some uses, the box need not be stapled as the natural friction of the box parts will prevent the unfolding of the end panels. Also, the total length of each of the end flaps with its end flap tip should be less than the width of the base **15** so that they may be folded in the manner described.

FIG. 2 shows an assembled elongated box such as may be used to support a table center piece floral arrangement. To form this elongated box from the blank **10**, the side panels **16** and **17** are again folded upward from the base **15** along the creases **11** and **12**, but only the end flap tips **28**, **29**, **30** and **31** are folded inward along the creases **32**, **33**, **34** and **35**. The outer portions of the end panels **42** and **43** are then folded upwards on the creases **38** and **39** after which the lateral tabs **44**, **45**, **46** and **47** are folded along the end flaps **23**, **21**, **22** and **20**, respectively, and stapled in place with the staples **60**. To form this box from the blank **10**, the outer portions of the end panels **42** and **43** should be about as long as the width of the side panels **16** and **17** and their end flaps **20**, **21**, **22** and **23**. In addition, the inner portions of the end panels **36** and **37** should be the same length as the end flaps **20**, **21**, **22** and **23**. FIG. 3 shows a partially elongated box which is formed by having one end assembled in the manner described for the form shown in FIG. 2 and the other end assembled in the manner described for FIG. 4.

FIG. 5 shows a further box which may be assembled from the same blank **10**. The side panels **16** and **17** are folded upward from the base **15** and the end flaps

are folded inward and stapled together. Then the end panels **36** and **37** are folded upwards outside the end flaps and the outer portions of the end panels **42** and **43** are folded downward along the creases **38** and **39** to cover the top of the box so formed as the lateral tabs **44**, **45**, **46** and **47** are folded down and fixed with the staples **60** to the outside of the side panels **16** and **17**. To assist in fixing these staples **60** when this form is assembled from the blank **10**, the tabs **18** and **19** are provided so that they may be opened and the anvil of a staple gun inserted into the covered box. As may be seen in FIG. 5, a vase **61** may be secured by clamping its neck between the conforming notches **52** and **53** before inserting the staples **60**. This forms an excellent package for a large based, narrow necked vase **61** as shown, however it is also suitable for a wide variety of objects and will hold them securely because the outer portions of the end panels **42** and **43** may be moved inward or outward and then fixed to clamp them. The conforming notches **52** and **53** ensures that the object clamped is centrally supported as they prevent its slipping sideways. When a vase **61** is securely packaged in this form, the wide square base **15** acts as a more substantial support to prevent any accidental tipping of the vase and the flower arrangement it may contain. The end panels **42** and **43** are one-half the length of the base **15** so that they may be brought together when this box is assembled to completely cover the box. Thus the blank **10** allows a box to be formed which has its own cover.

FIG. 7 shows a container formed from the same blank **10** to package a tall thin vase **62** or the like. The end panels **36** and **37** are first folded upward along creases **13** and **14** and the end panel **36** is flexed about the creases **48**, **56**, **54**, **58** and **50** to wrap about the vase **62**. The other end panel **37** is then similarly wrapped about the upper part of the vase **62** from the other side and stapled to the end panel **36**. After this, the side panels **16** and **17** are folded upwards and the pairs of end flaps **20** and **21** and **22** and **23** are folded inwards and secured to complete the package. This form gives the highest possible support for tall, slender objects.

FIG. 8 shows a package assembled to pack a glass brick or a similar rectangular vase **63**. In this application, the end panels **36** and **37** are folded upward from the base **15** after which the side panels **16** and **17** are folded upward and the pairs of end flaps **20** and **21** and **22** and **23** are folded inward outside the end panels and secured to each other. The end panel **36** is then folded inward along the creases **56** and **58** and the end panel **37** is folded inward along the creases **57** and **59**. After this, the pairs of lateral tabs **44** and **46** and **45** and **47** are folded inward and stapled together to form two upstanding tower-like structures within the box. When an appropriate object is forced between these towers into the box, it is securely held and packaged.

FIG. 6 shows a further modification in which the box is assembled by folding the end panels **36** and **37** upwards from the base **15** and then back downwards on the creases **40** and **41**. Then the pairs of lateral tabs **44** and **45** and **46** and **47** are brought together on either side of an object, such as a goblet **64**. After these lateral tabs are stapled together projecting straight out from the goblet **64**, they are folded parallel to the side panels **16** and **17** which are raised upwards to hold the stapled and folded pairs of lateral tabs behind them. The side panels are then secured by stapling the pairs of end flaps **20** and **21** and **22** and **23**.

The package shown in FIG. 9 is formed by folding the end panels **36** and **37** upward from the base **15** and then back downward on the creases **38** and **39**. The lateral tabs **44** and **45** and **46** and **47** are then stapled on either side of a low irregular object, such as a ceramic baby shoe **65**. The assembly is then completed as the stapled pairs of lateral tabs are folded behind the raised side panels **16** and **17** and the pairs of end flaps are fixed together.

An unusual number of packages may be formed from this particularly versatile blank because its parts are formed in the particular proportions to each other that are shown and described. If a florist stocks one or two sizes of the blank **10**, he can assemble boxes to package most of his sales in a superior manner. Naturally, this invention is not restricted to the use of florists as it may be used to package a wide variety of products.

While I have disclosed my invention in the best form known to me, it will nevertheless be understood that this is purely exemplary in that modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention except as it may be more particularly limited in the appended claims wherein I claim:

1. A blank for selective assembly into one of several packaging forms comprising, in combination, a substantially square base, two rectangular side panels foldably connected to each side of said base, rectangular end flaps foldably connected to the ends of said side panels, end flap tips foldably connected to the ends of said end flaps, said end flaps and said end flap tips together being shorter than the width of said base, end panels foldably connected to the ends of said base each having a rectangular inner portion of the same length as said end flaps and an outer portion foldably connected to said inner portion and being of substantially the same length as the width of said side panels and said end flaps, said end panels containing diverging creases extending from their outer edges towards said base, and lateral tabs foldably connected to and extending sideways from the outer portions of said end panels, the inner portions of said end panels and said end flaps being slightly longer than the width of said side panels and said end flaps.

2. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the outer edges of said end panels contain centrally located conforming notches.

3. The combination according to claim 2 wherein the outer portions of said end panels are each at least one-half as long as said base.

4. The combination according to claim 3 with the addition of tabs cut in said base adjacent to said side panels.

5. The combination according to claim 4 wherein said end panels each contain a crosswise crease in their outer portions below the extension of said lateral tabs.

6. A blank for selective assembly into one of several packaging forms comprising, in combination, a substantially square base, two rectangular side panels foldably connected to each side of said base, end flaps foldably connected to the ends of said side panels, two end panels foldably connected to the ends of said base each having a rectangular inner portion of the same length as said end flaps and an outer portion foldably connected to said inner portion and being of substantially the same length as the width of said side panels, said end panels having outer edges containing central conforming notches and lateral tabs foldably connected to and extending sideways from the outer portions of said end panels, said end panels containing diverging creases extending from the center of the outer edges of said end panels towards the sides of said base, the outer portions of each of said end panels being one half the length of said base and containing a crosswise crease below the extension of said lateral tabs from said end panels.

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