Feb. 14, 1928.

1,659,333

L. A. ROBERTS

FOOD PRESERVER

Filed Nov. 27 1925

Fig. 1.

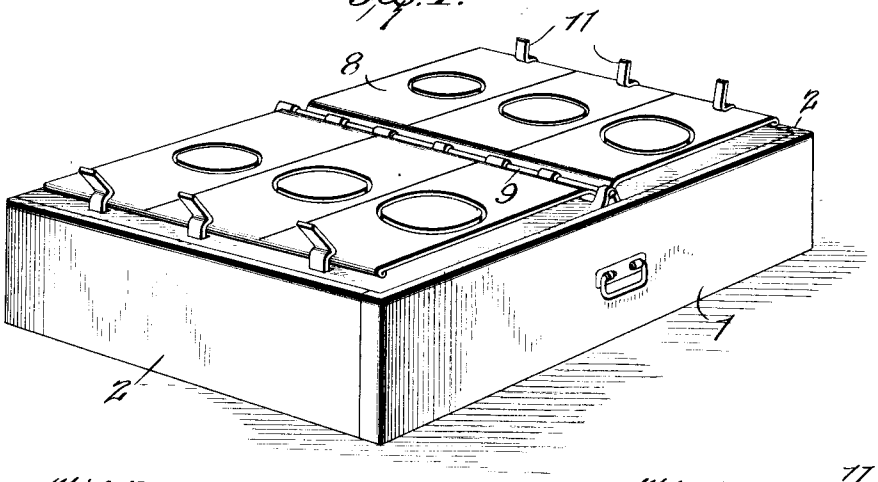


Fig. 2.

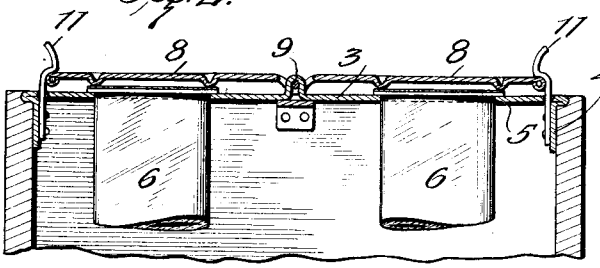


Fig. 3.

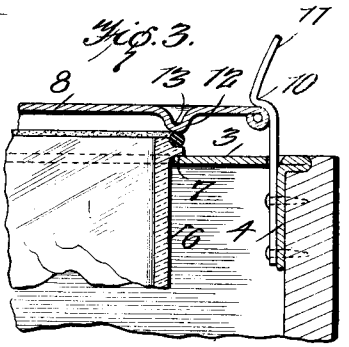


Fig. 4.

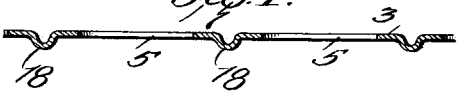
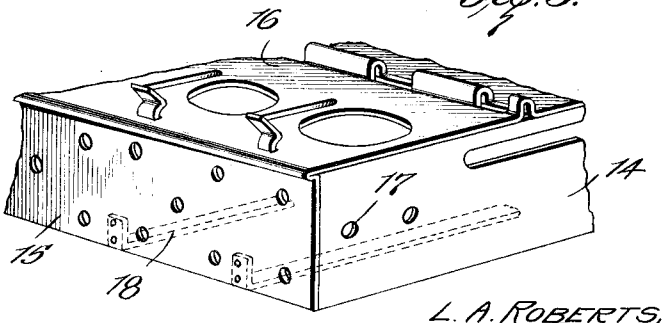


Fig. 5.



Inventor

L. A. ROBERTS,

By

Attorney

Patented Feb. 14, 1928. 1,659,333

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIE AUGUSTA ROBERTS, OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD TO HUGH J. McINNIS, OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

FOOD PRESERVER.

Application filed November 27, 1925. Serial No. 71,791.

This invention relates to a food preserver wherein receptacles are provided to receive and store food under substantially sealed conditions, with the receptacles supported in a carrier which may be conveniently placed in an ordinary ice box or refrigerator, or otherwise stored as a unit until the contents of a particular receptacle is desired for use.

The invention is particularly designed for providing a carrier unit in which an appropriate number of containers are removably held, the carrier being provided with individual covers for the respective receptacles with means for holding each cover in closed position to thereby fix the receptacle in the carrier and at the same time seal the open mouth of the receptacle.

The carrier, as a whole, is open at the bottom so that when the carrier is placed in a refrigerator or light compartment, the independent receptacles are open to direct contact with the cooled air, thereby maintaining the contents of the receptacles at the desired temperature for their preservation.

The invention is directly concerned with the storage and preservation of food stuffs of this character which may be thus separately confined, for example in a refrigerator, in order to prevent the odor of one affecting the others and to maintain each food stuff wholly independent both as to its storage and withdrawal for use.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the preferred form of the carrier.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view, showing particularly the means for sealing the containers.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view through the top plate showing particularly the corrugations therein between the container openings.

Fig. 5 is a broken perspective view of a modified form.

The improved carrier is of a box-like form having a front and a rear wall 1 and side walls 2, the carrier being fully open at the bottom. A plate 3 forms the permanent upper surface of the carrier and its edges are shaped to provide depending flanges 4 to be secured to the side walls and front and rear walls and thereby maintain the carrier as a unit. The top plate 3 is formed with a series of openings 5, each of which is adapted to receive a container or jar 6 of wide open mouth and having a length somewhat less than the height of the carrier. The containers 5 have annular flanges 7 near the upper edges, and these flanges rest upon the top plate 3 to support the jars removably in place from said top plate. A cover 8 is provided for each jar, these covers being hinged at 9, preferably on the transverse median line of the top plate, as shown. The covers are designed to be secured in closed position by spring catches 10, one for each cover plate secured to the depending flange 4 of the top plate and cooperating with the free edge of the particular cover to hold the same in lowered or closed position. The catches 10 have finger extensions 11 whereby they may be conveniently operated to release the cover plates. Each cover plate has an annular projection 12 on the lower surface, designed when the cover plate is closed to cooperate with a sealing ring or gasket 13 resting upon the container flange 7, with the result that said cover plate will seal the particular container when the cover plate is closed as well as hold said container against independent movement in the top plate 3. It is to be understood that the walls of the carrier shown in the preferred form are of hard wood, and that the carrier as a whole is constructed in the form of a drawer.

In Fig. 5, I have shown a slightly modified form in which the carrier as a whole is constructed of metal, that is to say, the front and rear walls 14 and side walls 15 are of metal plate integral with or directly secured to the top plate 16. In this form, the walls are formed with openings 17 for the admission of cooled air to the containers, and the side walls 15 are connected by brace strips 18 to provide more rigid construction and to in a measure protect the lower ends of the containers. Aside from the details noted, the construction of the form shown in Fig. 5 is similar to that of the preferred form.

It is of course to be understood that the carrier may be formed for the reception of any desired number of containers 6, there being of course an individual cover plate for each container. The carrier, as a whole, may be readily inserted into, or withdrawn from, an appropriate compartment in a refrigerator or ice box and when so arranged the con-

tents of the respective containers are directly subjected to the temperature of such refrigerator, while at the same time the contents of the respective containers are maintained entirely separated from each other and from the other contents of the refrigerator and are sealed against the admission of air or escape of odors. Thus a large variety of food stuffs may be kept in a refrigerator without the liability of contamination of such food stuffs by the odors of other food stuffs, by exposure to the air, or insects.

The containers 6 are preferably in the form of open mouth glass jars, though it is to be understood that any form or shape of container may be used so long as more or less solid food stuffs may be readily introduced into or withdrawn from the mouth thereof, and also that the material from which the containers are made is unimportant so long as it may be readily maintained in a clean condition.

In the use of the carrier in a refrigerator, it is of course apparent that the entire length of containers below the top plate is freely exposed to the circulating refrigerant, so that the contents of these containers is readily subjected to the full cooling influence of the refrigerant. When the contents of any container is desired for use, the carrier, as a whole, may be withdrawn from the refrigerator, the cover plate of the particular container opened, and the desired quantity of the food stuff withdrawn, this operation in no wise affecting any of the other containers or the food stuffs therein.

It is of course to be understood that the carrier in either form may be constructed in any size and may be of greater length than width or of greater width than length, and that it is preferred that the top plate be suitably corrugated at various points, as indicated at 18, in order to strengthen the plate, particularly between the openings 5.

While particularly useful in storing various kinds of food stuffs in a refrigerator, it is of course apparent that the food preserver is not limited to this use but is well adapted for the storage of foods, or the like, which do not necessarily require a low temperature, but which it is highly important to maintain free of possible contamination or deterioration from exposure to the air or insects.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, is:—

1. A food preserver comprising a carrier of box-like form open at the bottom and including a top plate formed with a series of container receiving openings, a cover plate for each opening, said cover plates being hinged to the top plate, a spring catch to engage with the free edge of each cover plate to hold the same in closed position, and a sealing rib on each cover plate.

2. A carrier of box like form including side walls and a top plate, the carrier being wholly open at the bottom and the top plate formed with openings to receive and support a plurality of containers, and a cover for each container hinged to the top plate and designed to close the container and clamp the same relative to the top plate.

3. A carrier of box like form including a top plate formed with container receiving openings, the carrier being fully open at the bottom, a cover hinged to the top plate to cooperate with each opening and means carried by the top plate for securing the cover in operative position.

4. A carrier of box like form including a top plate formed with container receiving openings, the carrier being fully open at the bottom, a series of covers hingedly mounted on a line transverse the top plate and movable to cooperate with the container or containers in said openings, and a catch for each cover operating to secure the cover in position to close the container in a particular opening and prevent said container from being separated from the carrier.

5. A carrier of box like form including a top plate formed with container receiving openings, the carrier being fully open at the bottom, a series of covers hingedly mounted on a line transverse the top plate and movable to cooperate with the container or containers of said openings, and a catch for each cover operating to secure the cover in position to close the container in a particular opening and prevent said container from being separated from the carrier, the height of the carrier being slightly greater than the length of the container below the top plate when said container is in a top plate opening.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

LOUIE AUGUSTA ROBERTS. [L. S.]