Nov. 14, 1933. W. D. LANE 1,934,983

SHIPPING BASKET

Filed Aug. 11, 1932

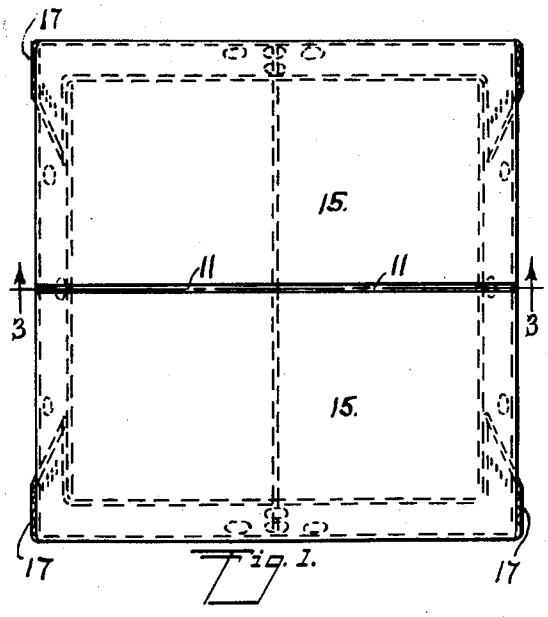


Fig. 1.

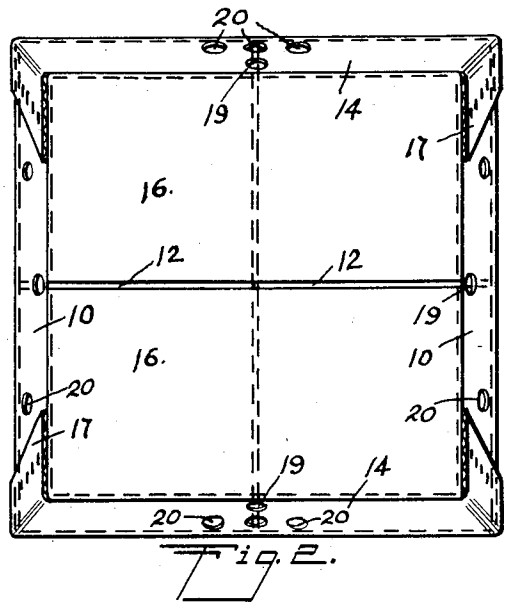


Fig. 2.

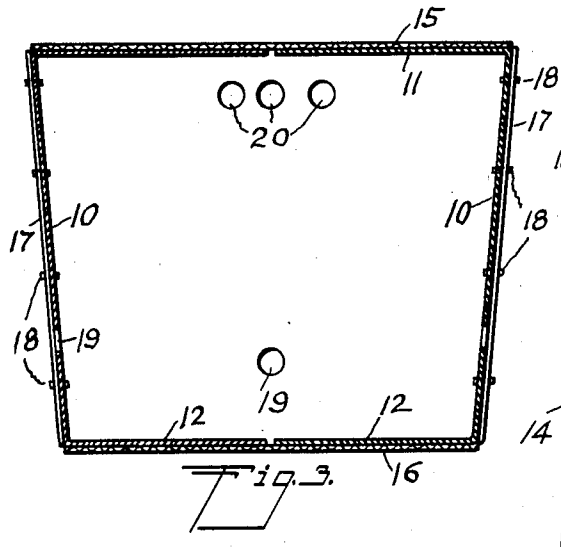


Fig. 3.

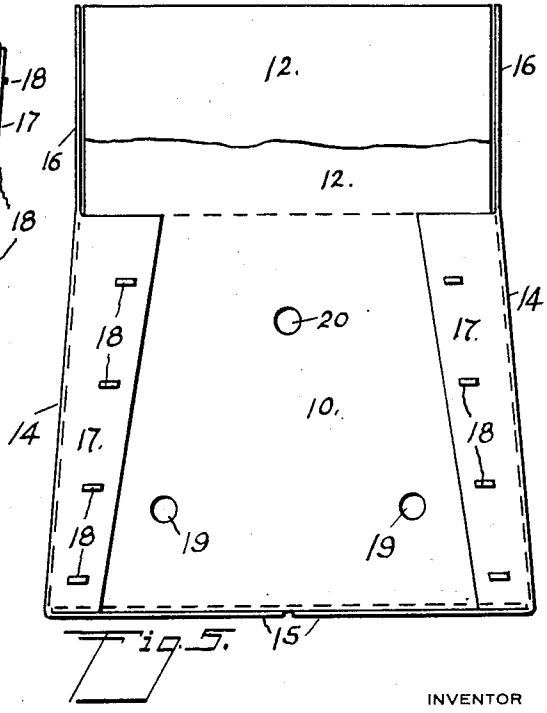


Fig. 5.

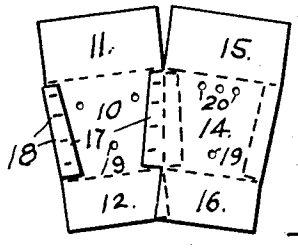


Fig. 4.

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SHIPPING BASKET

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2 Claims. (Cl. 225—23)

My invention relates to shipping baskets or containers for fruits and vegetables. It is the object of my invention to provide an efficient and economical shipping container, especially adapted for use with products, such as fruits, which are subject to bruising, and which require a certain amount of ventilation to prevent spoilage during storage and transportation thereof. A further object of my invention is to provide a basket-like container of fabricated sheet material, such as corrugated strawboard, which is flexible and slightly compressible to afford a cushioning effect upon objects lying in contact therewith. A further object of my invention is to provide a container of the above character having a formation such that a plurality of the containers may occupy a minimum space, while affording suitable ventilating passages between the several units of the assemblage. A further object is to provide a container of the class above mentioned having non-protruding means serving as handles for lifting the same. A further object is to provide a container having bottom and cover portions formed integrally therewith and separately openable, whereby the container may be filled from the bottom when desired, to facilitate face-and-fill packing thereof. A further object of my invention is to provide a container of the class described which may be packed or stored in a folded formation, whereby to occupy a minimum storage space until the same is required for use.

In the accompanying drawing Fig. 1 is a plan view of a container embodying my invention, Fig. 2 is a bottom view of the same, Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section thereof on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, Fig. 4 is a plan view of the container in its folded or storage formation, and Fig. 5 is a side view thereof in filling formation and position.

In carrying out my invention according to the preferred and illustrated embodiment thereof, the container is of frusto-pyramidal form, each of its four sides being trapezoidal, and the top and bottom being square. The container is made from flat sheets of suitable material, such as double-faced corrugated strawboard, there being a pair of sheets of which the body-portions 10 have rectangular flaps 11 and 12 at their upper and lower edges only, and a pair of sheets 14 having rectangular flaps 15 and 16 at their upper and lower edges, respectively, and short flaps 17 at their oppositely inclined or oblique edges. The blanks or sheets are bent along the lines between the body-portions and the several flaps, and are assembled by placing the oblique edges of the body-portions 10 and 14 in apposition alternately, disposing the short flaps 17 to overlap the adjoining parts of the body-portions 10, and securing the overlapped parts together by suitable means, such as the staples 18. The container may then be folded at the diagonally opposite corners, to the flat storage formation shown in Fig. 4, in which it may remain until required for use.

When the container is to be used, it is first expanded until the upper and lower edges of the body-portions 10 and 14 are at right angles to each other, after which the flaps 11 are turned in to bring their edges together, then the flaps 15 are similarly turned in to overlap the flaps 11, and said flaps are then secured together to close the large end or top of the container. The container is then placed in the inverted position, with the flaps 12 and 16 extending upwardly as shown in Fig. 5, for convenience in filling. When apples, or other fruit with which face-and-fill packing is customarily employed, is to be packed, the facing layer of the fruit is first arranged upon the large, or temporary bottom, end of the container, after which the filling is completed at random to the level of the attached edges of the flaps 12 and 16, then the flaps 12 are turned in over the filling, the flaps 16 turned in to overlap the flaps 12, and said flaps permanently secured or sealed together. After the filling of the container the same is placed in its normal position, with the smaller end downward as shown in Fig. 3.

Ventilation of the container is afforded by a plurality of holes 19 formed in the body-members 10 and 14 near the lower edges thereof, and holes 20 in the upper portions of said body-members. In the members 14 the holes 20 are preferably arranged in a horizontal row near the center and adjacent to the upper edges of the sides formed by said members, the holes being so proportioned and spaced as to permit the fingers of a person's hand to be inserted therein, so that the portions of the body-members above said rows of holes comprise non-protruding handles for convenience in lifting the container.

When a plurality of the filled and closed containers are assembled for storage or transportation, the same may be placed in parallel rows, and may also be stacked or piled to any desired height. In such an assemblage, if the containers are all similarly disposed, either in normal or inverted position, their sides will be in contact only adjoining the larger ends, and sufficient space afforded between the rows for the circulation of air, while the shipping or storage space is utilized as fully as possible without retricting the air cir-

culation. For products which do not require ventilation, the alternate containers may be inverted, so that the storage space will be fully utilized.

By the use of corrugated strawboard for the sheets from which the containers are formed, all sides of the containers are effective as cushions which are locally yieldable to avoid crushing or bruising, when the contents are articles, such as fruits, subject to injuries of this character. The flat sides of the containers may also bulge slightly from outward pressure of the contents, to afford an additional cushioning effect or accommodation of the container to form of the contents.

Now, having described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A shipping basket for fruits and the like, comprising oppositely disposed pairs of trapezoidal body-members of flat sheet material having parallel upper and lower edges and oblique lateral edges, said oblique edges arranged in apposition whereby to form the sides of a frusto-pyramidal body, one pair of the body-members having integral flaps at their oblique edges overlapping and secured to adjoining portions of the other pair of body-members, and rectangular flaps integral with the body-members at the upper and lower parallel edges thereof and foldable in overlapping relation to form a cover and a bottom for the frusto-pyramidal body.

2. A collapsible shipping basket for fruits and the like, comprising oppositely disposed pairs of trapezoidal body-members of corrugated strawboard having parallel upper and lower edges and oblique lateral edges, said oblique edges arranged in apposition whereby said members form the sides of a frusto-pyramidal body, one body-member at each corner of said body having an integral flap overlapping and secured to the adjoining body-member, rectangular flaps integral with the body-members at the upper and lower parallel edges thereof and foldable in overlapping relation to form a cover and bottom for the frusto-pyramidal body, and said body being foldable at the diagonally opposite corners to a flat storage formation with the top and bottom flaps extended in the planes of the respective body-members on which the same are carried.

WILLIAM D. LANE.