

Aug. 10, 1948.

H. E. SHIKLES, JR., ET AL

2,446,670

CARRYING DEVICE

Filed July 15, 1944

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

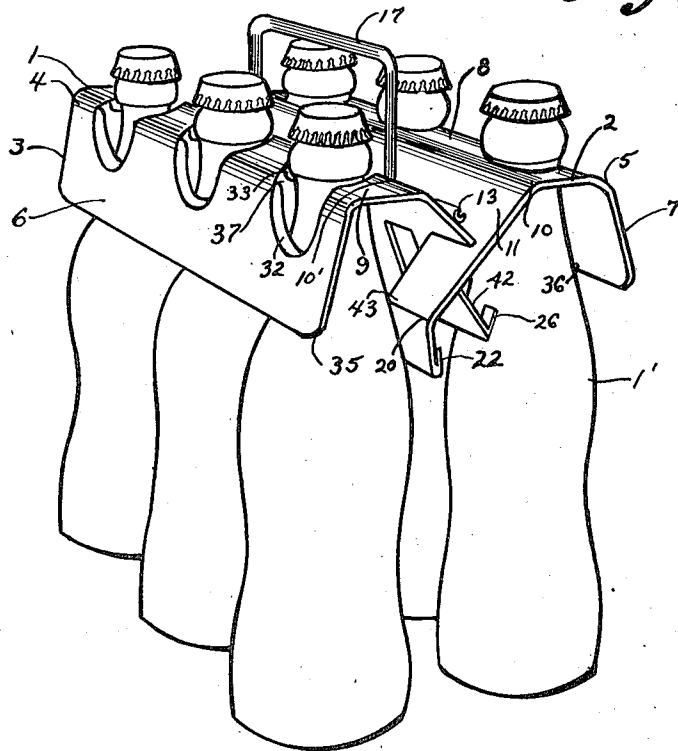
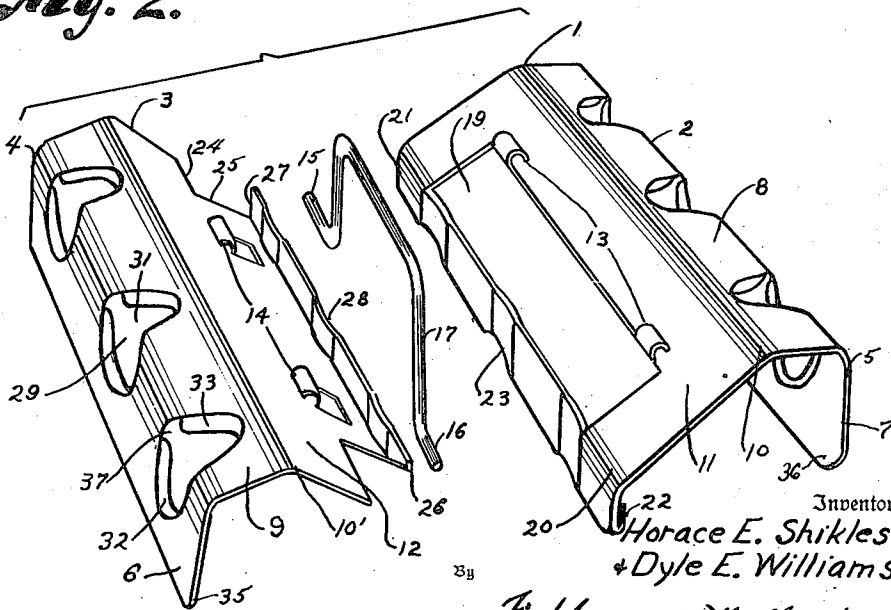


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3

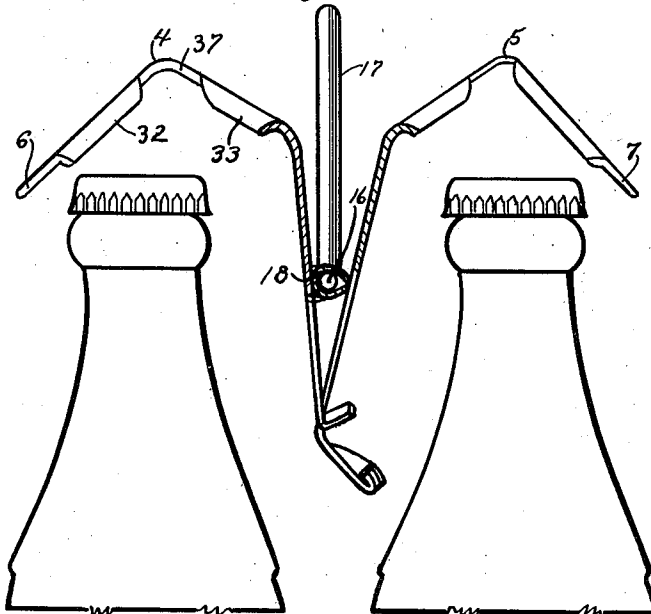


Fig. 6.

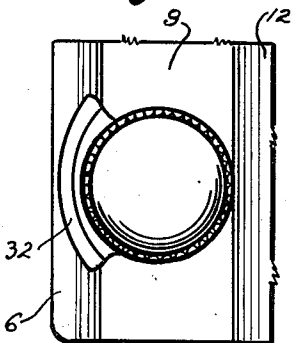


Fig. 5.

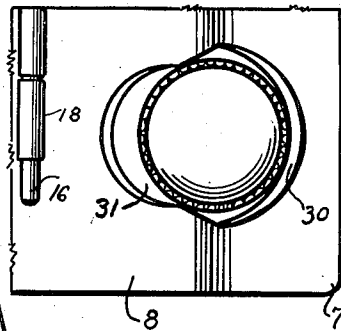
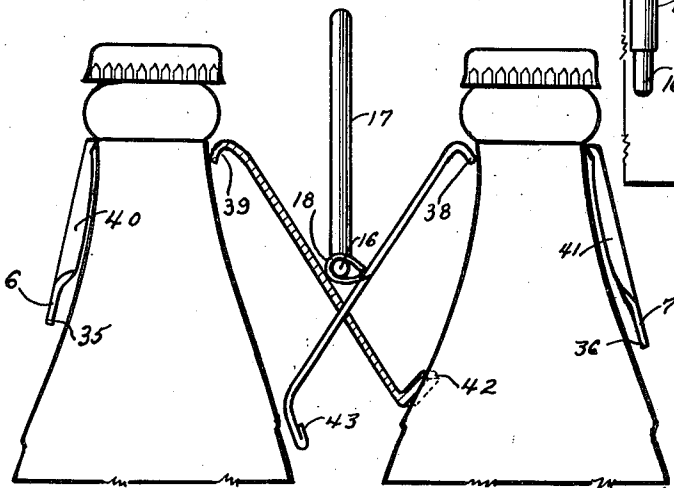


Fig. 4.



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Fig. 7.

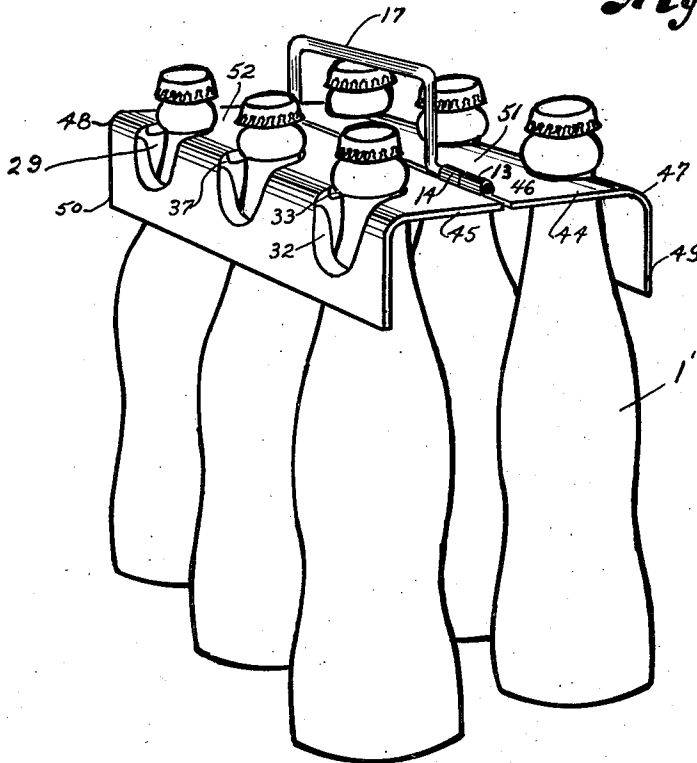
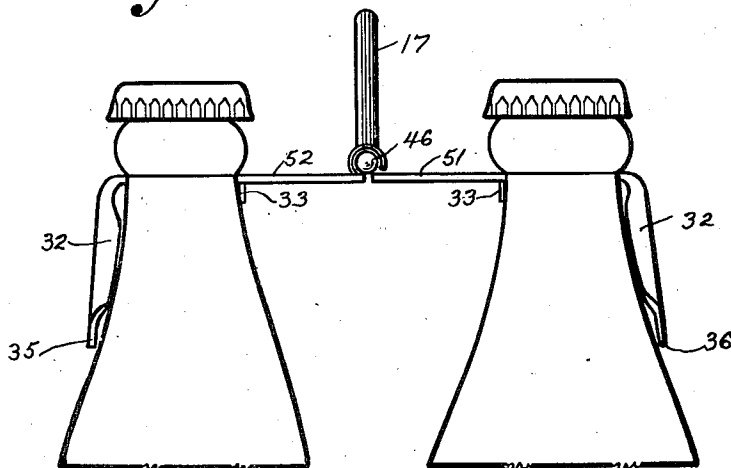


Fig. 8.



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2,446,670

CARRYING DEVICE

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Application July 15, 1944, Serial No. 545,024

4 Claims (Cl. 294—87)

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This invention relates to carrying devices, and more particularly to a device for carrying bottles containing beverages or other products.

Our improved form of carrier is adapted for handling six bottles at a time, as it is the custom at the present time to sell beverages in a unit of six. Our carrier is of such construction that it may be sold at a relatively low price or may be given away to a customer by a storekeeper or dispenser of beverages, or other products, and may be used for carrying filled bottles from a store to the desired place of consumption and returning the empty bottles to the store. The carrier is preferably made of metal, so that it is sanitary, and is not readily destructible as is the case if it were made of cardboard or the like.

The principal object of our invention, therefore, is to provide a carrier which is relatively simple and inexpensive in construction, durable, and adapted to be maintained in a sanitary condition.

Other objects of the present invention are to provide a carrier having a plurality of openings through which the necks of bottles may be extended for carrying the same; to provide a device adapted to engage the necks of a plurality of bottles and to hold the bottles in rigid position while being carried so that the bottles will not come in contact with each other; to provide a device which may be quickly and easily applied to a plurality of bottles while the bottles are contained in the case in which they are usually transported from the wholesale distributor to retail stores; to provide a device which may be easily and quickly disengaged from a plurality of bottles being carried; to provide a device adapted to engage a plurality of bottles in such a manner as to prevent accidental displacement of the bottles therefrom; and to provide a device for carrying bottles which will hold the bottles in rigid position so that they may be set upright on a substantially plane surface without falling over and the carrier will remain loosely applied to the necks of the bottles.

In accomplishing these and other objects of the present invention we have provided improved details of structure, the preferred forms of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of our device positioned on a plurality of bottles.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of our device with the parts shown in disassembled relation.

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view showing the carrier about to be applied to bottles.

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Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view showing the carrier engaged with the neck of the bottles to be carried.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a part of the carrier and particularly illustrating an opening for receiving the neck of a bottle.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of a part of the carrier and particularly illustrating the flange of an opening after the device has been applied to a bottle.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a modified form of the device positioned on a plurality of bottles.

Fig. 8 is a cross sectional view of the modified form of the device positioned on a plurality of bottles.

Referring more in detail to the drawings:

1 designates a carrier embodying the features of the present invention, and adapted for carrying a plurality of bottles or the like, consisting of two body portions or blanks 2 and 3 substantially rectangular in shape and preferably made of metal, although plastic or other suitable material may be used. The blanks are bent downwardly at 4 and 5 forming vertical side flanges 6 and 7 for the blanks.

The body portions 2 and 3 are provided with plane surfaces 8 and 9 turned downwardly at 10 and 10', forming inclined faces 11 and 12, and having ears 13 and 14 adapted to receive the ends 15 and 16 of a handle 17 for hingedly connecting the body portions together as indicated at 18, Fig. 4, and at the same time provide means for carrying the device. The body portion 2 is provided with an elongated aperture 19, turned downwardly at 20 forming a substantially vertical flange 21 conforming to the contour of the bottle at the point of contact, and turned upwardly at 22 to lie flat against the flange 21 to lend rigidity to said flange as it comes in contact with the bottles. The flange 21 is also provided with recesses or indentations 23 adapted to fit against the inside necks of a row of bottles being carried to prevent lateral movement of the bottles.

The downwardly inclined inner face 12 of the blank or body member 3 is offset as indicated at 24 providing an extension 25 adapted to extend through the aperture 19 on the downwardly inclined face 11 of the opposite blank 2 when pressure is applied on the handle to raise the device for contacting the necks of the bottles. The offset portion 25 is turned upwardly at 26 providing an upstanding flange 27 also conforming to the contour of the bottles at the point of contact, having a plurality of recesses or indentations 28 adapted to fit against the inside necks of the

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opposite row of bottles being carried also to prevent lateral displacement of the bottles of that row.

The blanks or body portions 2 and 3 are provided with a plurality of apertures 29 of substantially keyhole shape so arranged that substantially the centers of the apertures appear on the fold lines 4 and 5 of said blanks. That part of the aperture 29 which is indicated at 30 is of larger diameter than that part of the aperture appearing in the substantially plane surfaces 3 and 9 as indicated at 31 for facilitating placement of the device over the crowns of the bottles. The apertures 29 are provided with downturned flanges 32 and 33 to provide for easy placement on and removal of the device from the necks of the bottles and also to provide a smooth surface for contact with the necks of the bottles to prevent marring of the bottles.

Operation of a device constructed and assembled as described is as follows:

When it is desired to attach the device to a group of bottles as shown in Fig. 1, the device may be grasped by the handle 17 and the device placed over the bottles as shown in Fig. 3. As the bottles are generally uniformly placed a certain distance apart in the ordinary cases as they are brought from the distributor to the dealer, the apertures 29 in the blanks 2 and 3 are spaced so that the necks or tops of the bottles will be readily insertable therethrough. The spacing of the bottles in the cases is maintained and the present carrier is so constructed that it adapts itself to such spacing so that the device will readily slip over the top and neck portions of the bottles and thus be extended through the enlarged opening 30 of the apertures 29.

Usually, the device may be inserted over the bottles merely by use of the handle member, as downward pressure on the handle will cause the outside portion of the hinged blanks to raise slightly as indicated in Fig. 3 so that the necks of the bottles will be readily extendable through the apertures 30. However, in order to expedite application of the device to the bottles, the body portion of the device may be grasped to raise the same and adjust them over the necks of the bottles.

Upward lift on the handle by the operator will cause the body portions to work on the hinge 18, the inclined portions 11 and 12 being raised upwardly, thus causing the outside flanges 6 and 7 to move downwardly and inwardly and engage the outside of the bottles as indicated at 35 and 36. Upward lift on the handle and manipulation of the body members as just described causes the necks of the bottles to slide through the neck portion 37 of the keyholed aperture and comes to rest in the opening 31 in the plane surfaces 8 and 9 of the body member. At this position the flanges 33 in the apertures 31 engage the inside of the neck of the bottle underneath the rim around the top thereof as indicated at 38 and 39, and the flange 32 of the opening 30 will rest against the neck of the bottle as indicated at 40 and 41, Fig. 4.

Pressure exerted on the handle member 17 to raise the inclined body portions 11 and 12 upwardly causes the offset portion 25 of the inclined portion 24 to pass through the elongated opening 19 in the inclined portion 11 of the opposite body member and continued upwardly pressure on the handle will cause the flange member 26 to engage the inside faces of the opposite row of bottles at the indentations 28 therein as

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indicated at 42, and at the same time the flange portion 21 on the body member 2 will cross the flange 26 on the body member 3 and the indentations 23 in said flange come to rest against the inside faces of the opposite row of bottles slightly below the flange 25 as indicated at 43, Fig. 4.

It will thus be seen that the two rows of bottles are held in rigid upright support by the body members so that they will not be displaced in either direction or come in contact with each other, thus avoiding marring or breaking of the bottles.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 7 and 8 the device comprises body members 44 and 45 hinged together at 46 by the ears 13 and 14 and handle 17 as shown in Figs. 1 to 6. The body members 44 and 45 are turned down at 47 and 48 forming side flanges 49 and 50 and providing plane surfaces 51 and 52 on said members. The body members are provided with a plurality of apertures having flanges for engaging the necks of bottles the same as the form of the invention shown in Figs. 1 to 6 and are numbered accordingly.

The operation of this form of the invention is substantially the same as the preferred form, i. e., by grasping the handle, the device may be placed over the necks of bottles in a case, the tops entering the apertures 29 in the side flanges 49 and 50 and upward lift on the handle causes the necks of the bottles to slip through the neck 37 of the apertures and the flanged apertures 33 engage underneath the rim on the neck of the bottles. The flanges 32 and 33 and side body flanges 49 and 50 engage the sides of the necks of the bottles and the bottles are thus securely suspended by their necks for carrying.

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A device for carrying a plurality of articles comprising, angle-shaped body portions hingedly connected together substantially midway thereof and provided with a handle and said body portions having apertures therein for engaging the articles, said body portions having flanges adjacent said apertures and the flanges on the outer portions of said body members contacting said articles to hold the same in rigid position.

2. A device for carrying bottles having neck portions and beads on said neck portions comprising, body portions hingedly connected together and provided with a handle, downwardly extending portions on the outer sides of the body portions having inturned flanges and downturned flanges on said body portions, said flanges defining openings in said body portions and said downwardly extending portions, said downturned flanges engaging under the beads of the bottles to prevent displacement thereof and said inturned flanges engaging the necks of said bottles.

3. A device for carrying bottles having neck portions and beads on said neck portions comprising, body portions hingedly connected together and provided with a handle, downwardly extending portions on the outer sides of the body portions, means defining openings in said body portions adapted to engage under the beads of the bottles to prevent displacement thereof, and means on said downwardly extending portions of the body portions for engaging the necks of said bottles.

4. A device for carrying a plurality of bottles comprising, a pair of sheets of relatively stiff material having their inner edges hingedly con-

nected together and provided with a handle, said sheets being folded longitudinally to provide pairs of horizontal and vertical portions, said sheets having a plurality of aligned openings therein, the upper portions of said openings being smaller and lying in the horizontal portions of said sheets, the lower portions of said openings being larger and lying within the vertical portions of said sheets, said vertical portions of said sheets being adapted to engage the necks of said bottles to hold the same in rigid position.

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