T. M. HOUSE.

FOLDABLE BASKET AND HANDLE THEREFOR.

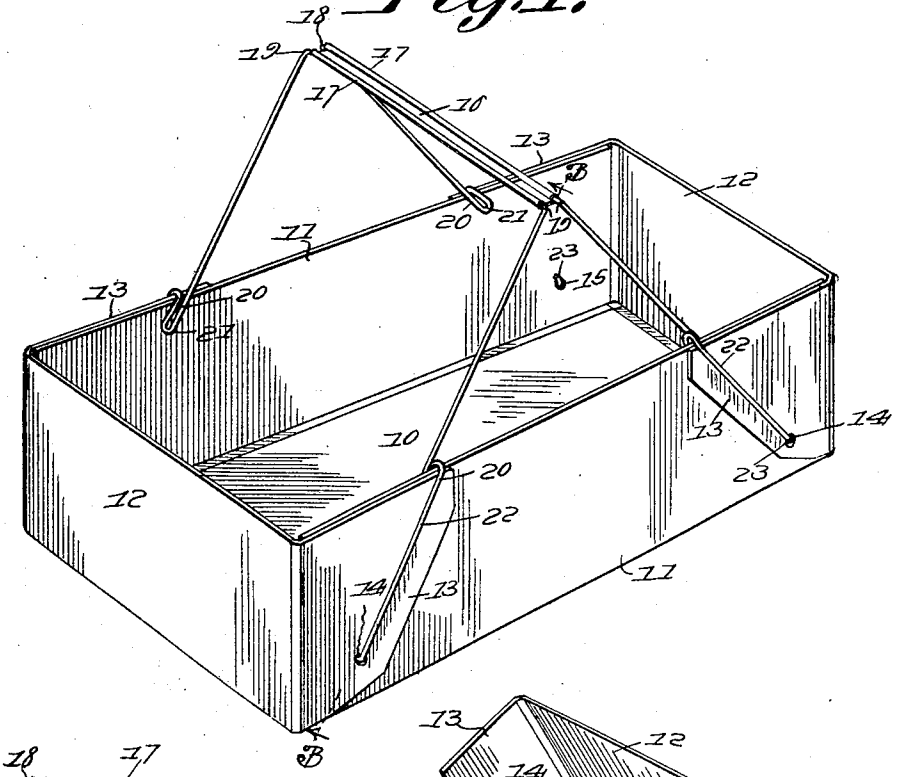
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 21, 1920.

1,354,253.

Patented Sept. 28, 1920.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



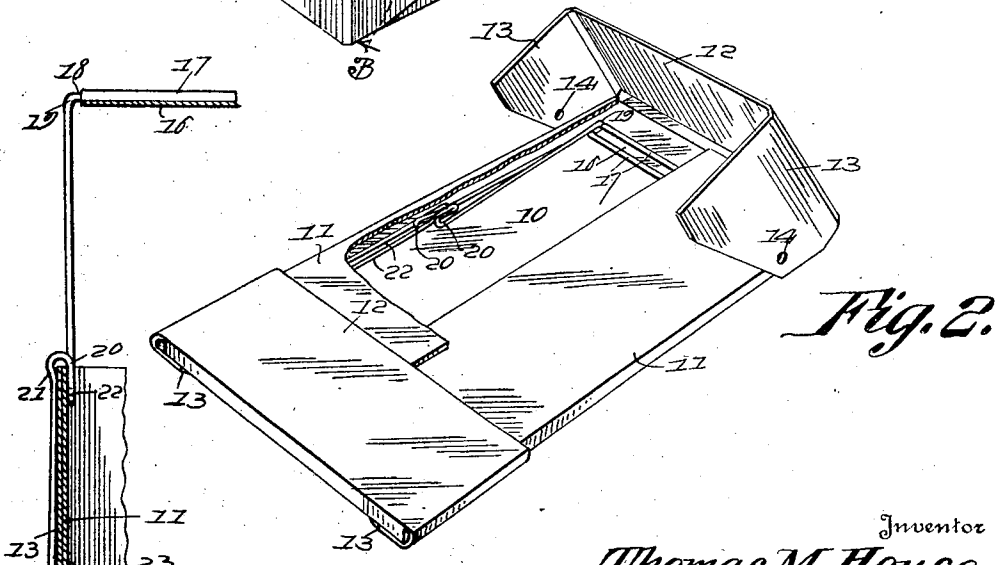


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Inventor

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

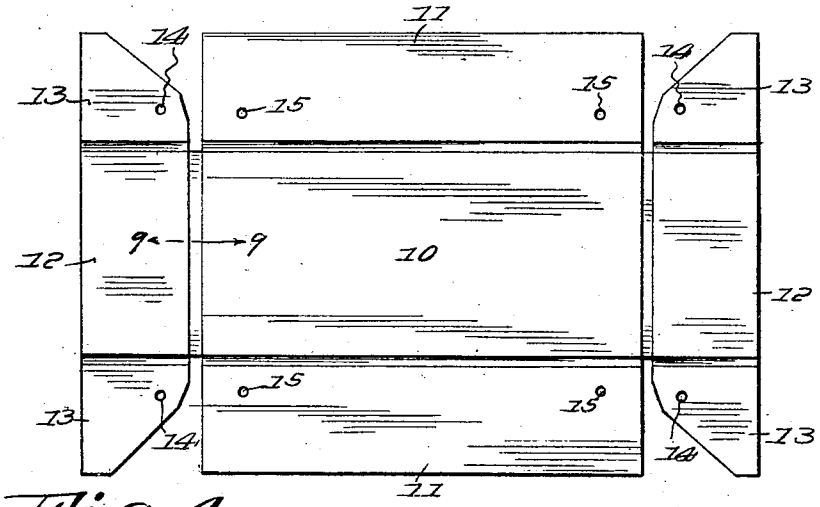


Fig. 4.

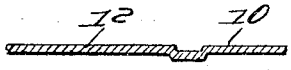
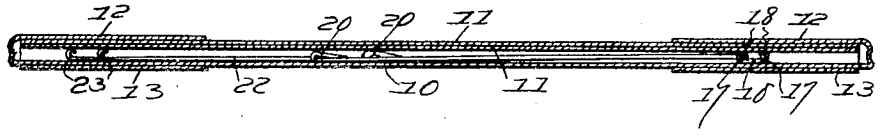


Fig. 9.

Fig. 5.



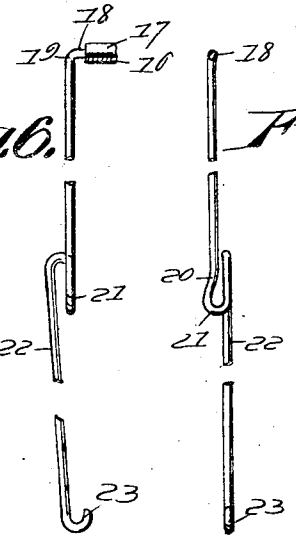


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

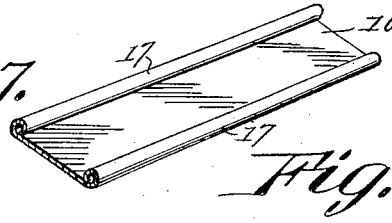


Fig. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS M. HOUSE, OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO ALBERT S. KELLAM, OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

FOLDABLE BASKET AND HANDLE THEREFOR.

1,354,253. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented Sept. 28, 1920.**

Application filed February 21, 1920. Serial No. 360,279.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS M. HOUSE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Richmond, in the county of Henrico and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Foldable Baskets and Handles Therefor, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to baskets or containers of like character, and particularly to knock-down or foldable baskets or containers.

The general object of this invention is to provide a container, which I will hereafter call a basket, which is of such character that the body is formed of one piece of material formed so that the sides and ends of the body may be folded flat upon each other and upon the bottom, or may be folded so that the sides and ends stand at right angles to the bottom, and provide in connection therewith a handle having four points of engagement with the body.

A further object is to provide a structure of this character wherein the handle is capable of being folded and disposed within and against the bottom of the body when the latter is in its folded condition.

And a further object is to provide a construction of this character wherein the handle acts to hold the body in its unfolded and basket-like condition.

And a further object in this connection is to provide a handle having four hangers formed at their ends with hooks to engage through the end flaps and the side walls of the basket body, and these hangers being formed with clips adapted to resiliently embrace the upper edges or margins of the side walls and the end flaps to thereby hold the basket body in its set-up condition.

Other objects will appear in the course of the following description.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a foldable or collapsible basket constructed in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the basket partly folded and the handle stowed within the basket;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view through one of the side walls and the handle;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the blank for the body;

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal sectional view of the body in its folded condition;

Fig. 6 is an elevation of one of the hangers showing the handle partly in section;

Fig. 7 is a front elevation of one of the hangers;

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary perspective view of the body of the handle;

Fig. 9 is a section on the line 9—9 of Fig. 4.

Referring to these drawings, it will be seen that the body of the basket is formed of a single sheet or blank of heavy pasteboard or material of like nature, and that this blank is formed to provide the bottom 10, the side walls 11, the end walls 12, and the end wall flaps 13. When this body is knocked down or folded, the side walls are folded over upon the bottom, the flaps 13 are folded inward upon the end walls, and the end walls folded over upon the top of the upper surface of the side walls so that the basket body is then of very compart form, occupying but little space, and capable of easy and cheap carriage. The end flaps 13 are pierced, as at 14, and the side flaps 11 are pierced as at 15, so that when the blank is unfolded and the walls 11 and 12 raised to provide a basket body, these perforations 14 will register with the perforations 15.

The handle constitutes means for supporting the basket body and also for holding the blank of the basket body in its set-up condition. To this end, the handle comprises a transverse web 16 of thin sheet metal formed with two marginal beads 17. Through each of these beads passes a length of wire 18 whose extremities are bent at right angles, as at 19, to form hangers, these hangers midway of their length being formed to provide clips 20. Each clip is formed by bending the wire of the hanger reversely upon itself, that is upward upon itself, and then bending the wire again downward in spaced relation to the loop 21. The loop 21 is adapted to lie flat against the inside face of the side flap 11, while the portion 22 of the wire extending below the loop bears against the out-

side face of a flap 13. The lower end of each wire is formed to provide a hook 23 which is engageable through the corresponding perforations 14 and 15. The pivotal engagement of the hangers with the strip 16 permits these hangers to be folded flat and into parallel relation. The handle has a width just equal to the inside width of the body so that when folded it may be disposed upon the bottom of the body and then the side flaps folded over upon the handle.

In actual use, of course it will be understood that for transportation, packing, etc., the blank will be folded into its most compact form with the handle folded flat and against the bottom of the folded body. When it is desired to use it, the blank is unfolded, the handle removed, and the end flaps 13 disposed preferably outside of the side walls 11. Then the hook-like ends 23 are engaged through the perforations 14 and 15 in the manner illustrated in Fig. 3, and at the same time the clips 20 are engaged to embrace the upper margins of the flaps 13 and the side walls 11 in the manner shown in Fig. 1, and the basket is ready for use.

It is to be noted that the basket body is supported at four points by the handle, and that the hangers of the handle extend downward in divergent relation so as to engage the basket body adjacent the ends of the same, thus causing the basket body to be more perfectly balanced than it otherwise would be and giving a better support to the basket body than if the handle was engaged with the basket body at the middle of the body. The hook-shaped ends 23 support the ends of the body from outward movement under pressure of material within the body, and the clips 20 engage the side flaps of the body with the sides, while the sides are supported by the relatively long portions 22 of the wire.

While I have illustrated a preferred form of my invention which has been found thoroughly effective for the purpose, yet it is obvious that minor changes might be made in the details of construction without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:—

1. A basket comprising a body having a bottom, side walls and end walls all foldable upon the bottom or movable into planes at right angles thereto, the end walls having flaps overlapping the outer faces of the side walls, and said flaps and side walls being perforated adjacent the bottom, and a handle extending transversely over the body and having at each end downwardly divergent hangers disposed on and bearing against the outer faces of the flaps, the lower extremities of said hangers being hooked to engage through the perforations, and the intermediate portions of the hangers being formed with inwardly and downwardly extending clips adapted to embrace the upper edges of the said flaps and the side walls and extending downward against the inner faces of the side walls, said clips forming the sole means for engaging the upper edges of the side walls with the upper edges of the flaps.

2. A basket comprising a body having a bottom, side walls and end walls all foldable upon the bottom or movable into planes at right angles thereto, the end walls having flaps adapted to fold over upon the side walls, the lower margins of said flaps being downwardly and outwardly inclined toward the end walls of the basket, a hindle extending transversely over the body and having at each end downwardly divergent hangers, said hangers extending downward upon the outer faces of the flaps and detachably engaging with the flaps and side walls at their lower ends and holding the flaps and side walls together and each of said hangers being formed with an inwardly and downwardly extending clip adapted to extend over and embrace the upper edges of the flap and side wall and extend down for a distance upon the inner face of the side wall, that portion of the hanger lying between the clip and its lower end extending parallel adjacent to the inclined edge of the flap, said clips forming the sole means for holding the side walls and flaps together at their upper edges.

3. A foldable basket comprising a body having a bottom, side walls and end walls all foldable over upon the bottom or movable into planes at right angles thereto, the end walls having flaps adapted to be disposed against the outer faces of the side walls when the basket is unfolded, the said flaps and the side walls being perforated adjacent the bottom, a handle comprising a strip of sheet metal extending transversely above the body, and hangers pivotally engaged with said strip and normally extending downward in divergent relations on each side of the basket, each of said downwardly extending portions at its extremity being formed to provide an inwardly extending hook adapted to be normally extended through the perforations in the end wall flaps and the side wall of the basket, the wire intermediate the upper and lower ends of each hanger being upwardly bent in the form of a loop, then outwardly bent and then downwardly extended to thereby form a clip adapted to embrace a side wall of the body and one of said flaps of an end wall, said clip forming the sole means whereby the upper edges of the side wall and corresponding flap are held together.

4. A basket comprising a body having a bottom, side walls and end walls all foldable upon the bottom or movable into planes at right angles thereto, the end walls having flaps adapted to overlap the side walls, a

handle having hangers formed to engage with the body and flaps adjacent the ends of the body near the bottom thereof and on each side of the body and hold the body and flaps in engagement, said hangers each having a portion lying flat against the flap for the greater portion of its length and having at the upper end of said portion a clip extending over the upper edge of the flap and the upper edge of the adjacent side wall, said clip forming the sole means for locking the upper edge of the side wall and the upper edge of the flap together.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

THOMAS M. HOUSE.