

O. O. EATON.
BERRY TRAY.
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1,409,335.

Patented Mar. 14, 1922.

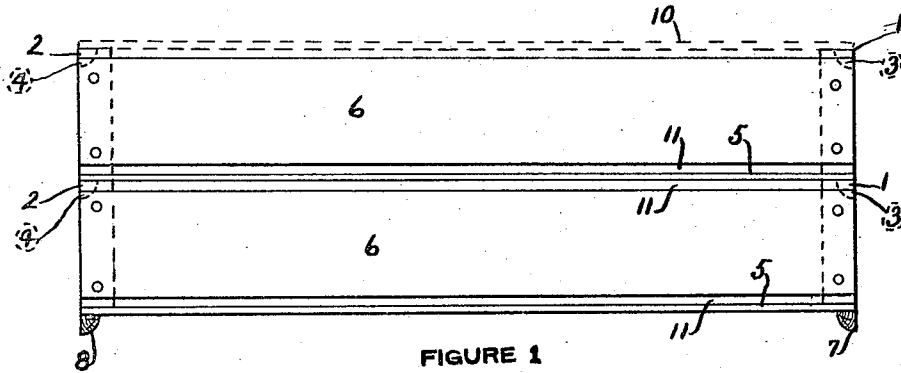


FIGURE 1

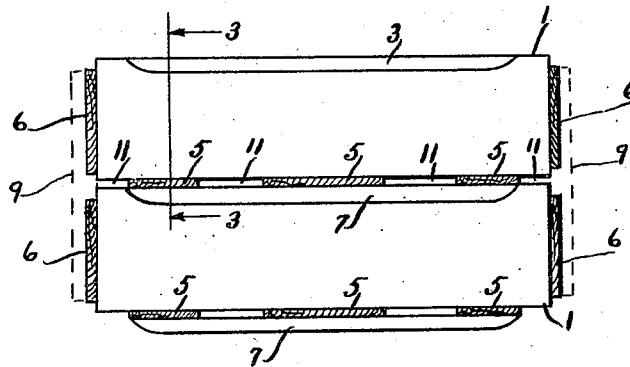


FIGURE 2

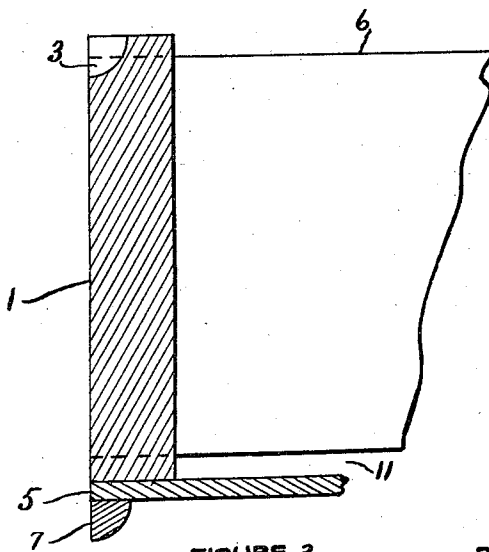


FIGURE 3

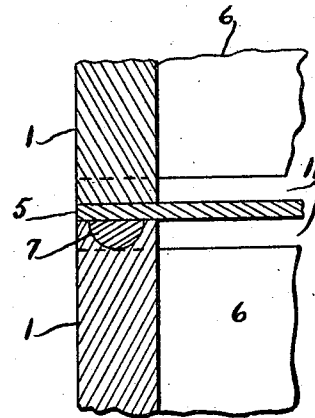


FIGURE 4

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BERRY TRAY.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ORRIN O. EATON; a citizen of the United States, and resident of Watsonville, in the county of Santa Cruz and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Berry Trays, of which the following is a specification.

In the marketing of berries it is customary to put them up in small boxes arranged in trays, and the trays in turn arranged in chests such as disclosed in my Patent No. 1,353,155, dated September 21, 1920. In distributing the berries from the chest in the type of trays now commonly used, it is a difficult matter to prevent the berries in one tray from becoming crushed by the tray placed thereon since a slight movement of the upper tray in either direction longitudinally, will cause one end thereof to slip down upon the berries in the lower tray. When several trays from a chest are to be delivered from a distributing point considerable time and labor are required to properly build up the several trays so as to prevent injury to the contents thereof. Also, when the berries are placed on sale it has heretofore been necessary to display them in the chest, a method highly objectionable because of the room occupied by the chest and the difficulty of properly displaying the individual trays therein.

It is the object of my invention therefore, to provide a form of berry tray that will be free from the objections above set forth; that can be quickly and easily nested in any desired number for reshipment; that will at all times and under all conditions prevent one tray from slipping down upon the contents of the next lower tray; that will permit proper display of the berries independently of the chest; and that will at the same time provide for the proper circulation of air around the contents of the tray.

In the drawing:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of two nested trays embodying my improvements.

Figure 2 is an end view of the same.

Figure 3 is an enlarged section on 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is an enlarged detail section of another embodiment of my invention.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, 1—2 indicates the two end pieces of a

tray, each end piece having its outer and upper edge chamfered throughout a portion of its length as shown at 3 and 4 respectively, so that they face in opposite directions as shown. At 5—5—5 are bottom members nailed to the bottom edges of end pieces 1 and 2 and spaced apart as shown. Two members 6—6 are secured to the end edges of end pieces 1 and 2 to form sides for the tray.

Arranged transversely across the bottom of the tray and at the two ends thereof are cleats 7 and 8, the said cleats being of the proper cross sectional size and conformation to engage the corresponding chamfer in the upper edge of the end piece of the tray below without permitting the bottom members to engage said end piece.

It is clear from the above disclosure that a tray can be quickly and strongly made and several trays easily stacked in perfect alignment by this method of assembly. Upon the delivery of a chest to a retail point the trays may be quickly removed therefrom and stacked up by themselves thereby making a better display and occupying less space than when they are retained in the chest. This method of display is rendered possible by the engaging cleat and chamfer construction which effectually eliminates the liability of damage to the berries by slipping of the trays. By means of this construction two or more trays may be temporarily fastened together by end cleats as 9 and fitted with a top as 10 thereby forming a solid shipping package capable of being transported without danger of injury to the contents.

The particular method of attaching the bottom members and cleats to the end pieces is desirable because it permits ventilation through spaces 11, utilizes the full width of end pieces 1—2 for supporting bottom elements 5—5—5, and permits the attaching of cleats 7—8 with the grain of the wood running in the direction of the movement of the cleats in the chamfer as one tray is slipped into position on another. The formation of the chamfers on the bottom edges of end pieces 1—2 would necessitate a careful fitting of bottom elements 5—5—5, and the shoulders would be so high that they would easily split under rough usage and would be difficult and expensive to repair. In Figure 4 another embodiment of my in-

vention is shown wherein the engaging cleat and socket are semi-circular in cross-section.

It is to be understood, of course, that while I have herein shown and described one particular embodiment of my invention, that disclosure is to be considered as illustrative only and in no way to limit the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claim, since changes in form and construction may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:—

A berry tray comprising end pieces having recesses formed therein and in their upper edges and extending from a point adjacent one end to a point adjacent the other end thereof, side and bottom slats arranged on said end pieces to space the same, and means arranged at each end of and upon said bottom slats to engage corresponding recesses in a tray placed therebelow.

ORRIN O. EATON.