June 22, 1948. J. A. LAMPRECHT 2,443,985

BOTTLE CARRIER

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Fig. 1.

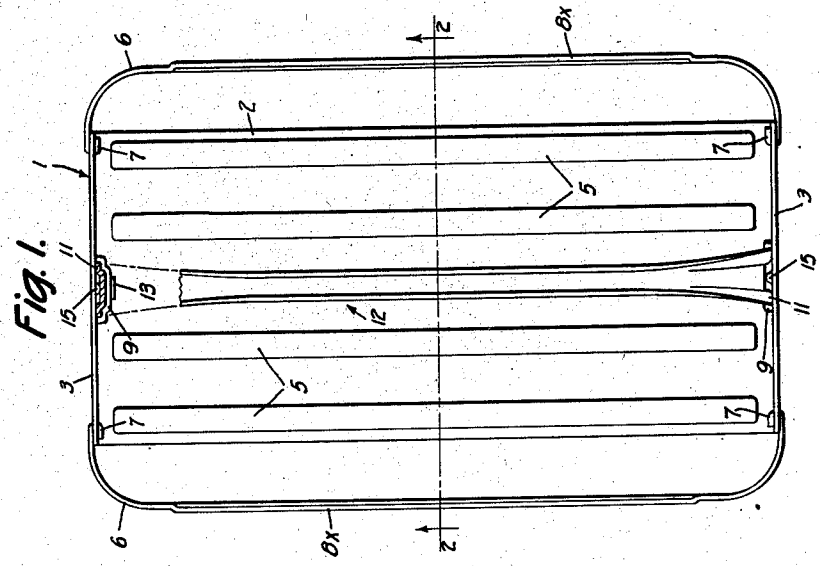
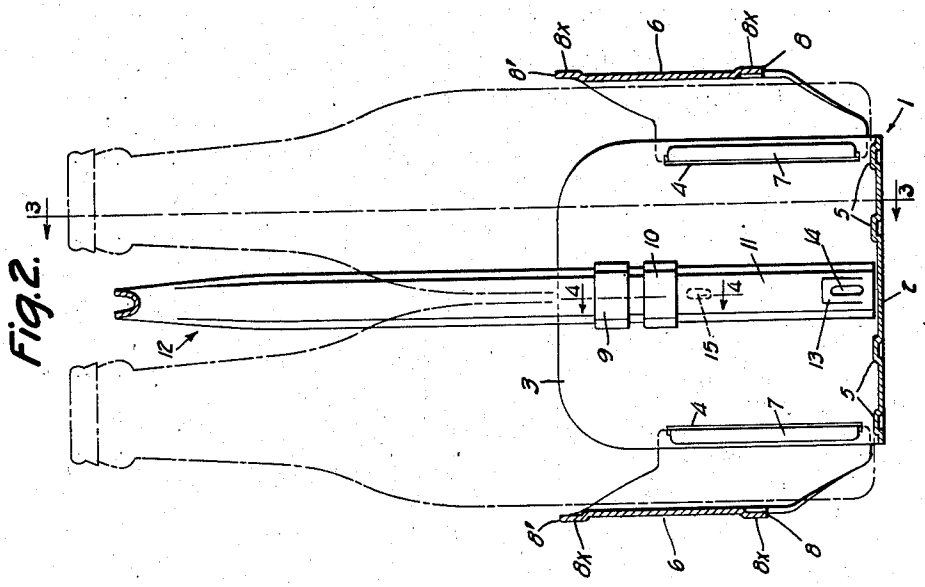


Fig. 2.



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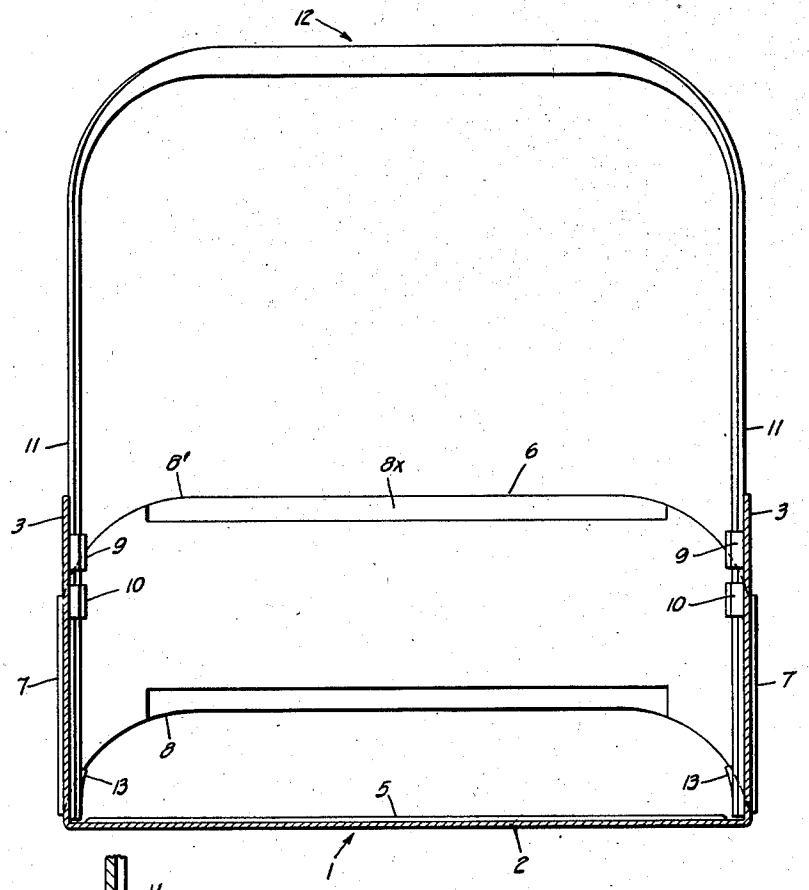
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BOTTLE CARRIER

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Fig. 3.



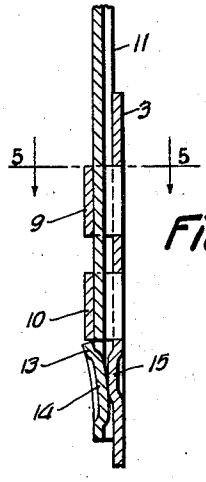


Fig. 4.

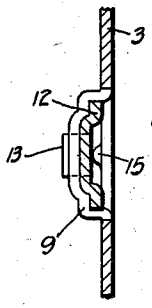


Fig. 5.

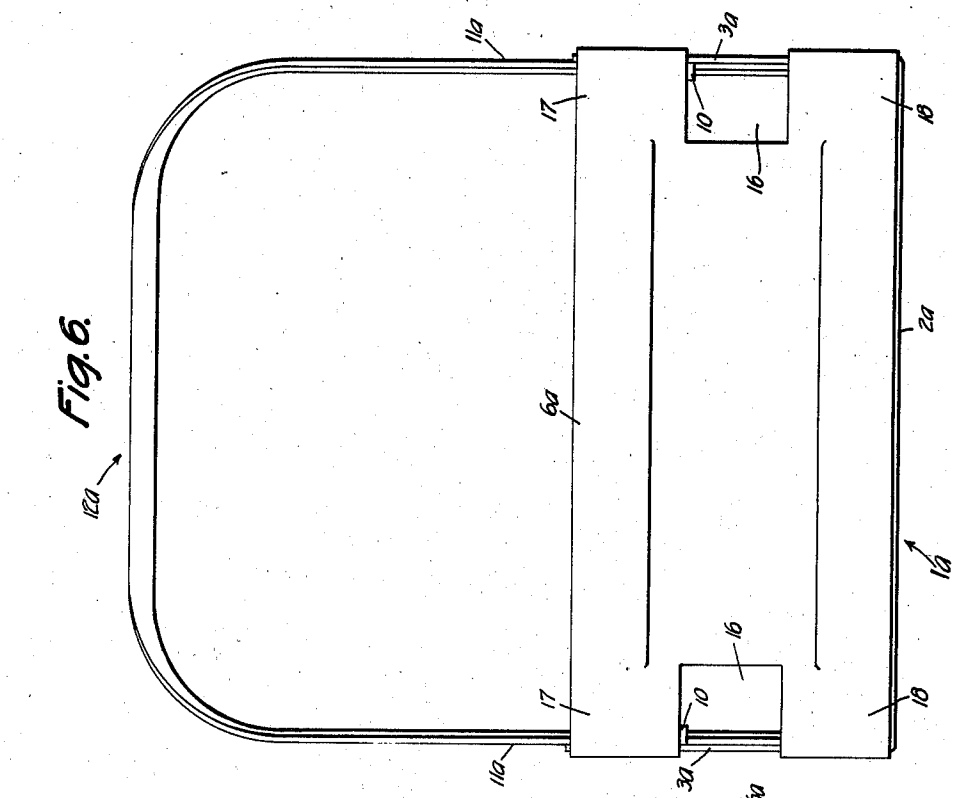
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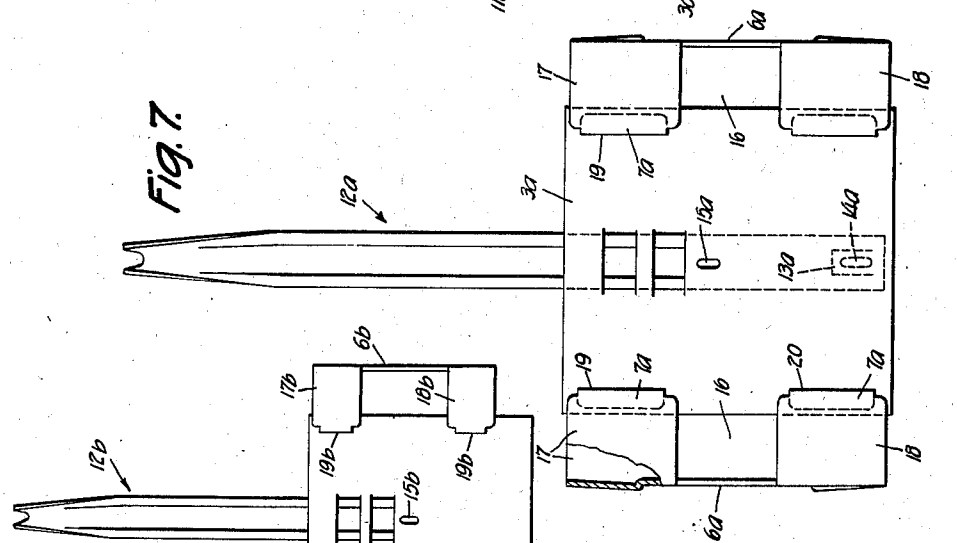
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BOTTLE CARRIER

Filed Sept. 11, 1946 3 Sheets-Sheet 3





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2,443,985

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,443,985

BOTTLE CARRIER

Joseph A. Lamprecht, Cranford, N. J.

Application September 11, 1946, Serial No. 696,262

2 Claims. (Cl. 224—48)

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This invention relates to bottle carriers and has for its primary object to provide a structure which is light to carry, inexpensive to manufacture and sturdy and efficient in use.

Bottle carriers of the kind here involved comprise a stirrup-like body member which is formed to include the bottom portion and upstanding end arms, together with side bands whose end portions are passed through vertical slots of the end arms and clinched, there being no waste of material nor added weight such as would result from unnecessary overlapping of the side band material with the end arm material. This type of construction presents an important feature of economy and lightness.

It is a further feature of the invention that the carrier comprises a basket-like body and a bail which is adapted to be snapped into permanent association with the body, the construction and arrangement being such that the bail and body may be shipped separately for compactness of packing and may be readily associated with one another by the user. To this end, it is an important point that each end arm of the body has a strap displaced from it to form a guideway for the associated bail leg and that the associated bail leg has a tongue struck from it whose upper end is free and is displaced into position to be intercepted by the strap as the bail is slid upward, the arrangement being such that the tongue can be readily inserted downward through the strap, but cannot be accidentally withdrawn from it.

It is a further feature of the invention that a plurality of straps are struck from each end arm to form the guideway for the associated bail leg, this arrangement having the advantage that if a split or tear should start in the lower strap it will not extend into the upper strap.

In accordance with a further feature of the invention, the bail is formed as a channeled member, each leg of which is slidable in the guideway formed on one of the end arms, each end arm is formed with a boss that extends into the channel of the associated bail leg, and the tongue on the bail leg is formed with a boss that extends normally into the channel, the bosses being engageable with one another as the bail is slid upward to force the tongue away from the channel and to insure engagement of the tongue with the lower strap.

Other objects and advantages will hereinafter appear.

In the drawing forming part of this specification.

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Fig. 1 is a plan view of a bottle carrier embodying features of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a view in sectional elevation taken upon the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows, and including the outlines of the bottles in dot and dash lines;

Fig. 3 is a sectional side elevation of the carrier illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view taken upon the line 4—4 of Fig. 2 looking in the direction of the arrows, but with the bail displaced from the position shown in Fig. 2 to its upward limit of movement;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4 looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 6 is a view in side elevation of a modified form of carrier;

Fig. 7 is a view in end elevation of the carrier illustrated in Fig. 6; and

Fig. 8 is a view in end elevation of a further form of carrier embodying features of the invention.

The carrier of Figs. 1 to 5 includes a body member 1 comprising a bottom portion 2 and upstanding end arms 3. Each end arm 3 has vertical slots 4 formed in its side margins. Throughout the bottom area the body member 1 is desirably formed with reinforcing ribs 5.

Side bands 6 have their end portions curved inward. End flanges 7 at the extremities of the side bands are passed inward through the slots 4 and clinched, there being the minimum of overlap between the side bands 6 and the end arms 3. The side bands as illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3 have curved parallel upper and lower edges 8 and 8'. Although the side bands are of substantially less height than the end arms, their lower edges 8 start substantially flush with the lower ends of the end arms, while the upper edges 8a throughout the major portions of their lengths extends substantially level with the top edges of the end arms. By this arrangement, the side band width is limited for the purposes of economy of material and lightness, but at the same time a very advantageous structure is produced. The rounded ends of the side bands extend down and cover the end bottles effectively along the lower outer edges of the bottles, but at the same time the upper edges of the bands engage the bottles high enough up to afford a practical and desirable lateral support and steadying of the bottles.

The side bands are desirably formed with re-

inforcing ribs 8x and may have a name or other advertising matter printed and embossed upon them.

Each end arm 3 has upper and lower straps 9 and 10 struck inward from it to form a guideway for an associated leg 11 of a channeled bail 12. Near the lower end of each channeled bail arm 11, a tongue 13 is struck from the channel base, the upper end of the tongue being free. The tongue is deformed to provide a boss 14 which normally extends into the channel of the leg 11, but the upper end of the tongue is normally displaced away from the channel. At a short distance below the lower strap 10, each end arm 3 is formed with an inwardly displaced boss 15 which extends into the channel of the associated bail leg.

The basket-like bodies and the bails constructed as described, but not operatively associated with one another, are shipped in like numbers and in the same or separate packages to the dealer who uses them. When the user is ready to put the carriers into service or to prepare a stock of carriers for service, it is a very simple matter to insert the bail ends through the straps 9 and 10 and to thrust the bail ends downward until they engage the bottom member 2. During this operation the tongues 13 are readily cammed aside, first by the upper straps 9 and then by the lower straps 10, so that they pass through the straps without substantial difficulty.

When the tongues have passed through the lower straps 10 they spring inward so that the lower straps 10 stand in intercepting relation to them. When a container has been loaded and is picked up by the bail 12, the bail slides upward until such sliding movement is arrested by engagement of the tongues 13 with the lower straps 10.

The bosses 14 and 15 are provided, respectively, upon the tongues 13 and the arms 3 in order to assure the interception of the tongues 13 by the straps 10, even though the tongues may in use have been subjected to deformation from their normal or intended shape. As has been mentioned, the boss 14 normally projects into the channel of the leg 11 upon which it is formed. The boss 15, however, extends into the channel for substantially the full depth thereof and into position to engage the boss 14 and cam it inward.

The parts are all desirably formed of light sheet metal which has considerable resilience so that it is possible to force the boss 14 past the boss 15 when assembling the bail with the basket-like body without permanent deformation of the tongue 13 or the boss 15.

The carrier illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7 is in all respects like the carrier of Figs. 1 to 5, save that the side bands are of modified construction and the slots formed in the end arms are modified to correspond with the altered side bands. In the main, therefore, corresponding reference characters have been applied to corresponding parts with the subscript *a* added in each instance,

and no detailed description will be given except as to the altered parts. The side bands 6*a* are substantially co-extensive in height with the end arms 3*a*. The ends of the side bands are cut away to form openings 16 so that upper and lower arms 17 and 18 are provided on the ends of each side band 6*a*. End flanges 7*a* on the arms 17 and 18 are passed through upper and lower vertical slots 19 and 20 formed in the side margins of the end arms 3*a* and are clinched as before. This construction has the advantage that it affords a more complete protection for the bottles. This additional protection is obtained, however, at cost of utilizing more material and of making the carrier somewhat heavier.

The construction of Fig. 8 is exactly like that of Fig. 7, save that the side bands 6*b* are made narrower than the side bands 6*a* and the arms 17*b* and 18*b* are made narrower than the corresponding arms 17 and 18 of Figs. 6 and 7. As to the parts which are not modified the same reference numerals are employed as in Figs. 6 and 7 with the subscript *b* added, or substituted for the subscript *a* as the case may be.

I have described what I believe to be the best embodiments of my invention. I do not wish, however, to be confined to the embodiments shown, but what I desire to cover by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A basket-like bottle carrier comprising a unitary stirrup-like sheet metal member that includes a bottom portion and straight upstanding end arms, and a channeled sheet metal bail slidably secured to the end arms, each end arm having a pair of spaced straps displaced from it to form with the arm body a guideway for the associated bail leg, and the associated bail leg having a tongue struck from the base of the channel whose upper end is free and is displaced into position to be intercepted by the lower strap as the bail is slid upward.

2. A bottle carrier as set forth in claim 1 in which the end arm is formed with a boss that extends into the channel of the associated bail leg and the tongue is formed with a boss that extends normally into the channel, said bosses being engageable with one another as the bail is slid upward to force the tongue away from the channel and to assure intercepting engagement of the lower strap with the tongue.

JOSEPH A. LAMPRECHT.

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