Jan. 30, 1923. 1,443,836

E. B. DIGBY.
EGG CRATE.
FILED DEC. 21, 1921.

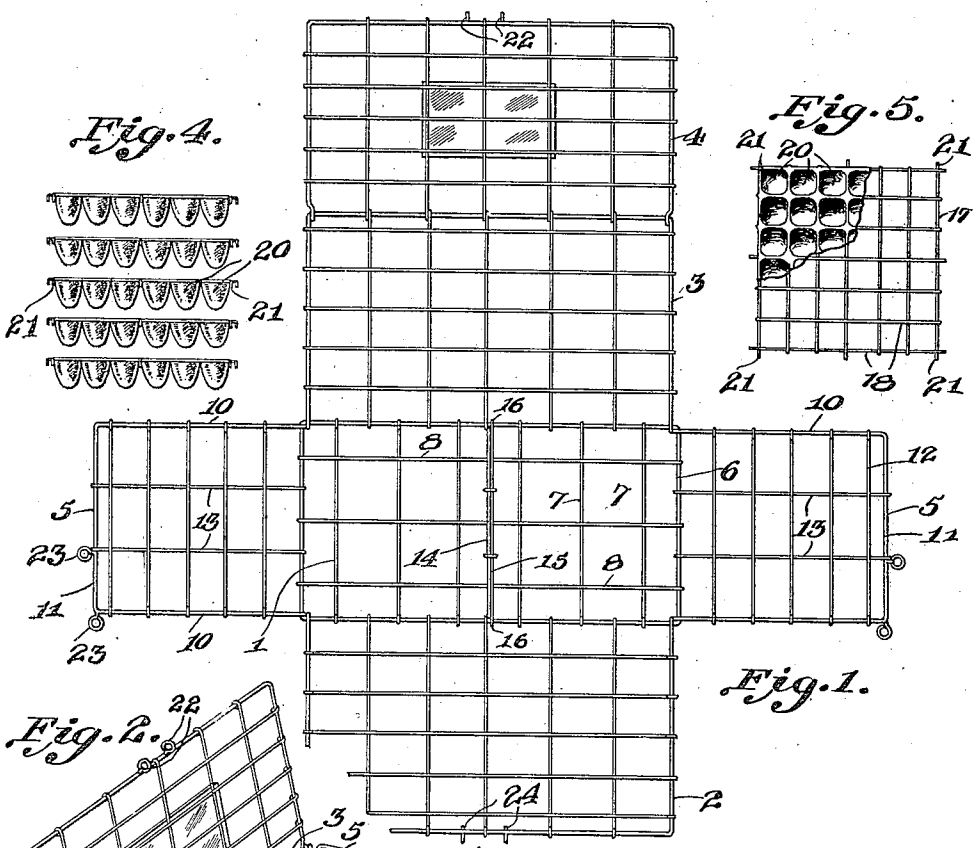


Fig. 1.

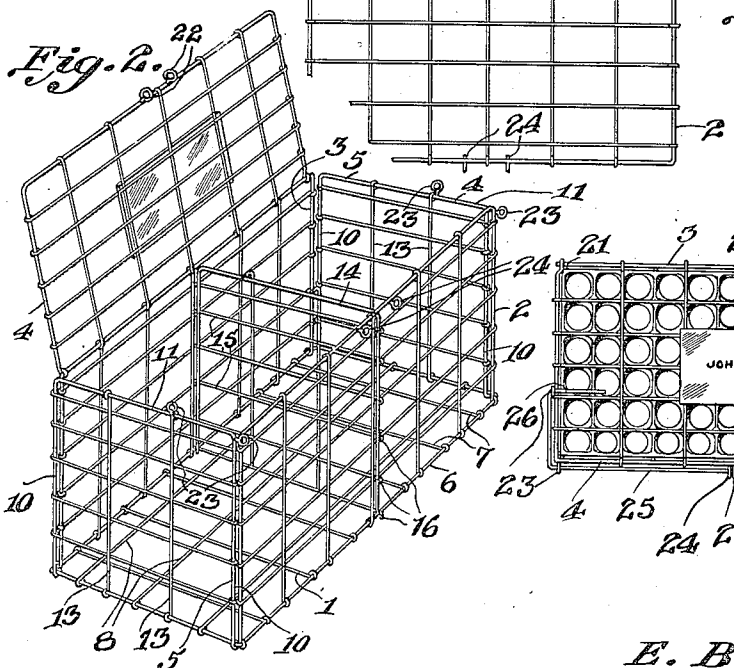


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

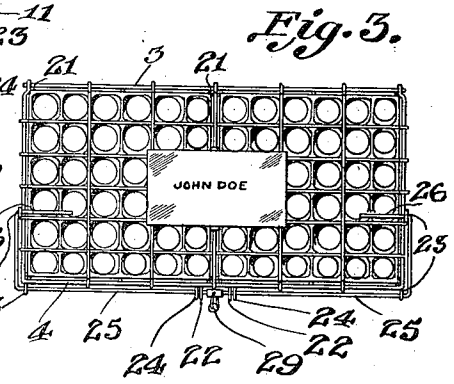


Fig. 3.

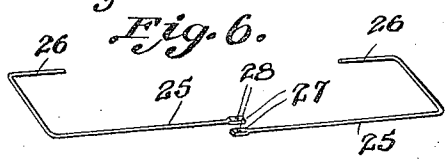


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMMET B. DIGBY, OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

EGG CRATE.

Application filed December 21, 1921. Serial No. 523,878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that EMMET B. DIGBY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Atlanta, in the county of Fulton and State of Georgia, has invented certain new and useful Improvements in Egg Crates, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to new and useful improvements in crates and especially to collapsible crates to be used for the shipment of eggs.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a collapsible crate that may be formed of wire, that may be readily collapsed, or on the other hand, readily assembled, and when locked all of the parts will be compressed to form a rigid crate.

The crates that are in general use today for the shipment of eggs are formed of wood and provided with cardboard divisional strips which crates, after being used for one shipment are generally discarded or broken up.

With the present crate the same may be used any number of times and although the initial cost will be more than a wooden one, still the economy of a long life crate will be readily seen.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a wire collapsible crate having a central partition that may be readily inserted which is designed to strengthen the entire crate and also to provide means for supporting the adjacent ends of a plurality of wire trays which trays are also provided with a fabric or canvas sheet which is made up into a plurality of pockets for the reception of the individual eggs.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a collapsible crate formed of wire that may be readily and cheaply manufactured, quickly and readily assembled and strong and durable in service.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists of certain new and novel arrangements and combination of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claims.

Referring now to the drawings, showing a preferred form of the invention—

Fig. 1 is a top plan of the crate, the same being shown in an open or unfolded position.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the top swung back, the center partition in place, the racks or trays however, not in position.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the crate showing the same in its closed and locked position, the racks and eggs being in place.

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the racks or trays showing the canvas pockets.

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of a rack showing a few of the egg pockets, and

Fig. 6 is a detailed view of the locking rods.

Referring now to Figs. 1 and 2, it will be seen that the entire crate is formed of wire of any desirable size and thickness and consists of a bottom 1, a front 2, a rear 3, top 4, and the two ends 5. The bottom 1 consists of a rectangular frame 6 with the cross pieces 7 and the longitudinal strips 8, any desirable number being used to provide sufficient strength to the crate.

These cross pieces 7 and the longitudinal strips 8 are bent or curled at their ends around the frame 6 and are so curled or crimped that they will remain in their placed position.

Each of the sides 5 comprises a frame having the two side pieces 10 and the outer bar 11, to which are fastened the cross bars 12 and the longitudinal bars 13, while the inner ends of the pieces 10 and the longitudinal bars 13 are provided at their ends with a small open loop to freely encircle the end piece of the rectangular frame 6 of the bottom. By providing these small loops the end piece can freely swing upwardly into position or be quickly folded when desired. This form of construction applies also to the sides 2 and 3 and the top 4 so that the sides, top and ends may be readily folded or opened when desired.

Referring now to Fig. 2 there is shown a certain partition 14 which is proyided with the cross bars 15, the ends of these bars forming little hooks or arms 16 which are designed to rest on the longitudinal wires or bars of the sides, on the main frame of the bottom and along the top.

Referring now to Figs. 4 and 5 it will be noticed that ten racks are provided, five to a side, each rack comprising a rectangular frame having a plurality of cross bars 18 to form spaces over which is placed a small rectangular piece of canvas or other desir-

able fabric to form individual pockets 20 which are of sufficient depth to support the eggs, seen from Fig. 4.

Along the outer edge of the rack 17 are provided the little hooks or arms 21 which are clearly shown in Fig. 4 which are designed to be supported on the cross wires of the central partition and longitudinal wires of the end and sides of the crate, when assembled. It will be noticed from Fig. 2 that there are 5 longitudinal bars or wires in each of the ends and side pieces so that one rack will be supported above the other, five being used on each side of the central partition.

To tightly draw the crate together when in its set up position I provide the eyelets 22 on the outer edge of the cover 4, the two eyelets 23 on each of the ends and two eyelets 24 on the outer edge of the front 2. Passing through these eyelets are the rods 25 which have the bent ends 26 and the enlarged portions 27 on their other ends in which are provided the holes 28, through which is passed the wire with the ordinary lead seal 29.

By using this form of locking means it will be seen that the top is held tightly to the body of the crate while the side and ends are pulled towards the center thus making a very strong, tight and rigid crate.

The setting up of the crate is extremely simple as will be readily understood and when placed in the position as shown in Fig. 2, the racks will be placed in from the bottom and after the crate is full, it will be pulled together by the use of the locking rods 25.

When the crate is returned the racks and center partition may be removed and the entire crate folded up and tied, thus occupying but little space.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have produced a relatively cheap and economical egg crate that may be quickly and readily set up and wherein the eggs being supported in individual canvas pockets are less apt to be broken than when simply spaced off by cardboard and rest on wooden partitions.

A small wooden cover or cloth, not shown, may be placed over the top layer of eggs so that they will be held in position even though the crate be inverted in shipping.

Furthermore, the locking means shown is easily constructed, the eyelets being simply continuations of the wires used in the frame while the wire rods passing through these eyelets are easily formed and tend to steady and strengthen the frame when loaded.

I am aware that it is not new to form collapsible crates of wire and I do not claim the above broadly as such, but what I do claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A collapsible crate having swinging sides, ends and top portions, a central vertical wire partition having hooks formed on its edges and said hooks adapted to be supported by the wires in the front and rear portions of the crate, a wire rack provided with supporting means around its four sides, adapted to be supported on the wires of the central vertical partition, the wires in one side portion, and the front and rear portions, said rack having a fabric secured thereto and extending below the wires of the rack to form a plurality of pockets, means for tightly drawing the several parts of the crate together and hold said crate in a locked position.

2. A collapsible crate having all of its parts formed of wire and said parts being hingedly connected, a central vertical partition also formed of wire and having supporting hooks formed about its edges to cooperate with the wires in the bottom and forward and rearward portions of the crate to hold the same in position, a plurality of wire racks provided with hooks around their sides for supporting the racks in said crate, said racks having a plurality of canvas pockets, eyelets formed on the top, end and front portions and rods extending through said eyelets for tightly holding the crate in its set up position.

3. A collapsible crate having all of its members hingedly connected, a removable central vertical partition also formed of wire, and provided with hooks around its edges adapted to be supported by the wires of said crate, a plurality of removable racks also provided with hooks around its edges and adapted to be supported in said crate, a plurality of canvas pockets formed in said racks, and two eyelets formed on each of the side portions, front edge of the cover, and on the top of the front portion, and bent rods adapted to be passed through said eyelets to pull all of the parts towards each other to thereby form a rigid crate.

4. A collapsible egg crate having all of its parts formed of wire, a removable central vertical partition formed of wire, and a plurality of racks also formed of wire, said racks having pockets formed therein, some of the cross wires of the sides, end and central portions adapted to support said racks, and some of the vertical wires of the end portion being formed into eyelets, rods having bent ends passing through said eyelets to draw all of the parts of the crate toward each other to thereby form a rigid structure.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

EMMET B. DIGBY.