May 19, 1953 N. A. PETTER 2,639,079

MULTIPLE CELL CARTON

Filed April 28, 1950 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

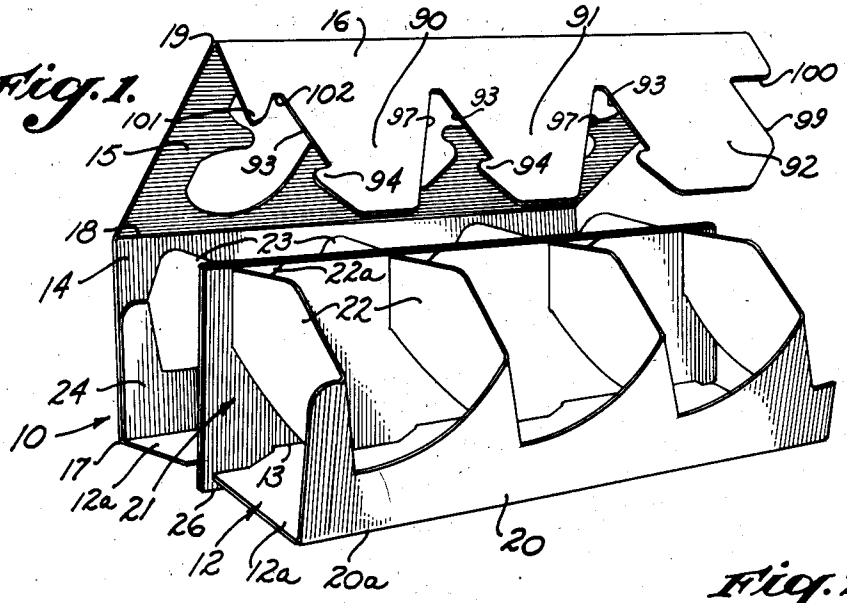


Fig. 2.

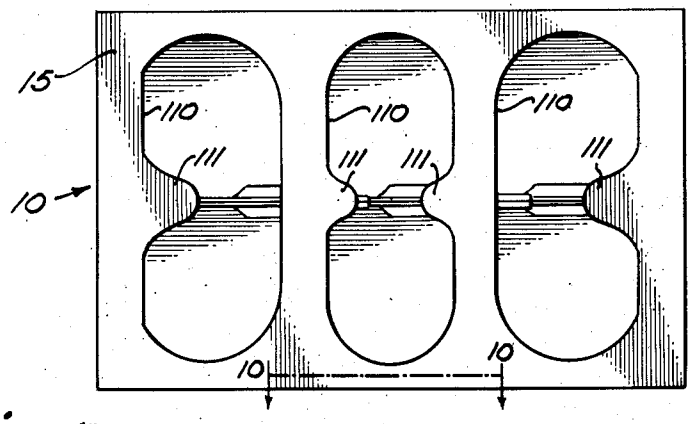
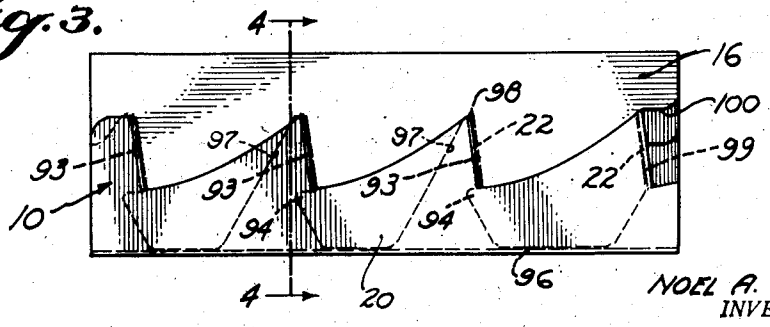


Fig. 3.



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MULTIPLE CELL CARTON

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Fig. 4.

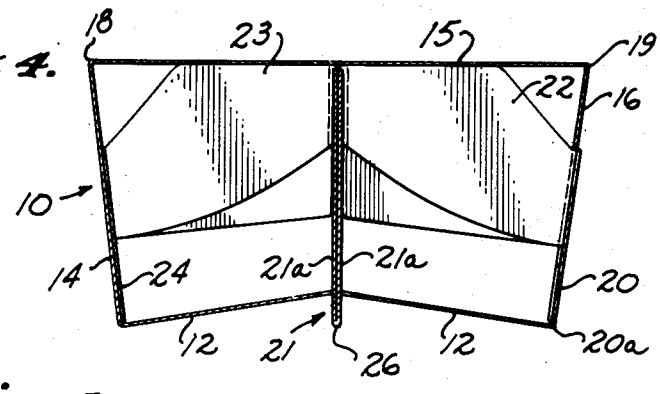


Fig. 5.

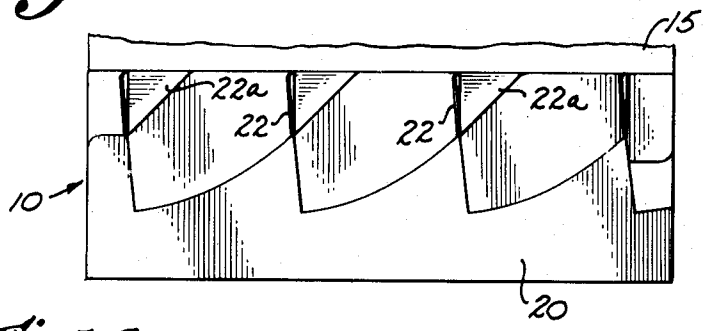
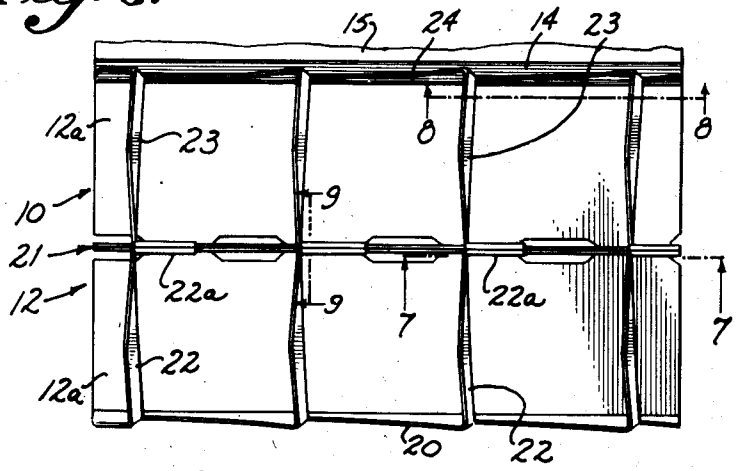


Fig. 6.



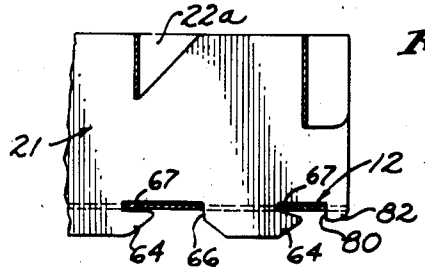


Fig. 7.

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MULTIPLE CELL CARTON

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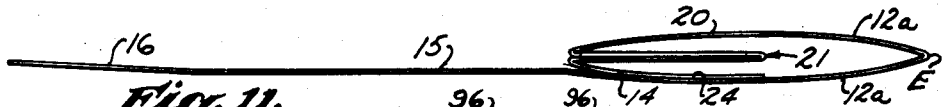


Fig. 11.

Fig. 10.

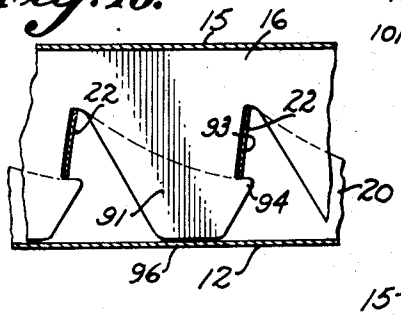


Fig. 8.

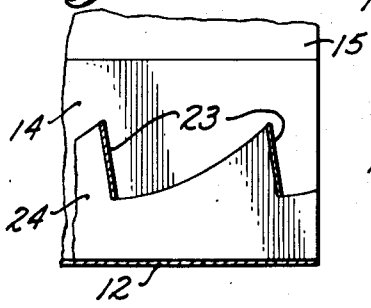


Fig. 9.

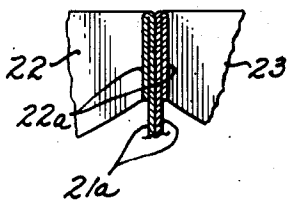
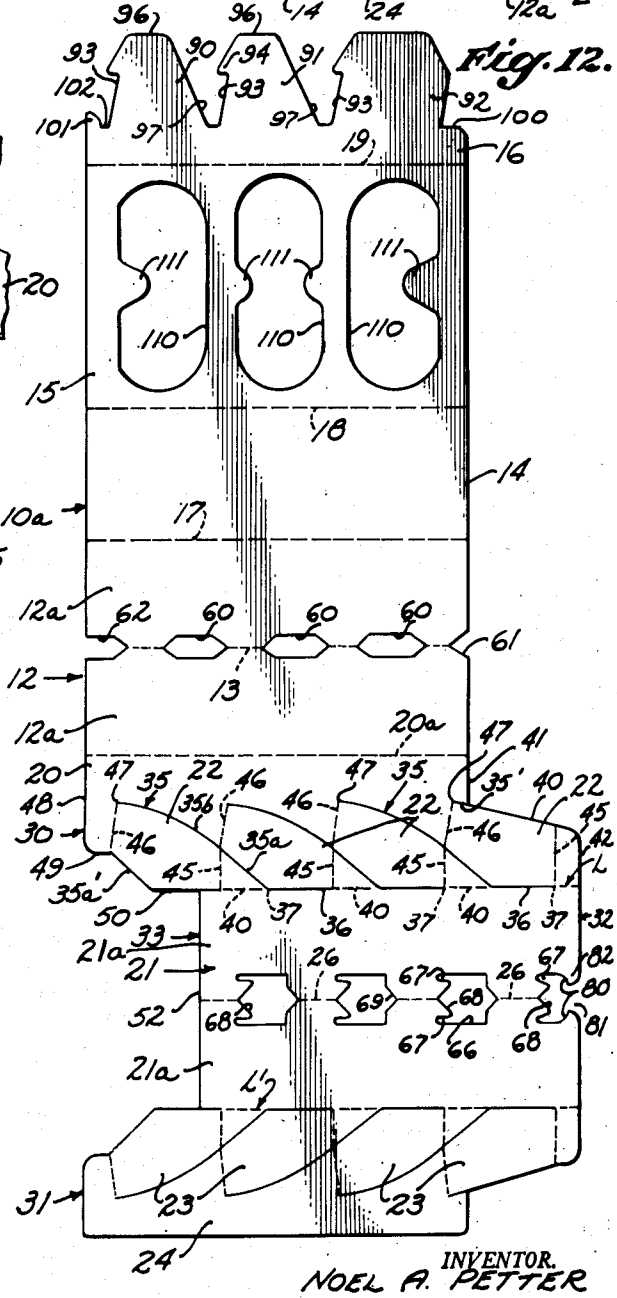


Fig. 12.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,639,079

MULTIPLE CELL CARTON

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Application April 28, 1950, Serial No. 158,723

8 Claims. (Cl. 229—28)

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This invention relates generally to collapsible cellular cartons of the general type commonly employed for packing eggs. Such cartons are now coming into use for the packaging of many additional products such as apples, citrus fruit and the like, and the general purpose of the invention is the provision of an improved collapsible cellular carton adaptable to the packing of eggs, apples, citrus fruit and various such products.

The present invention may be regarded as dealing generally with improvements in the multiple cell collapsible egg carton disclosed in my original Patent Number 2,103,832, issued December 28, 1937. The carton disclosed in said patent has enjoyed considerable commercial success, but has some disadvantages, viz., intricate folding and gluing, and multiple gluing points necessitating complicated machinery for folding and gluing. Another disadvantage is the wastage of a certain percentage of sheet material by use of a double wall thickness at the front of the box.

An object of the present invention is accordingly the provision of an improved carton of the type indicated characterized by simplified folding and gluing procedures, very substantial reduction in the number of areas to which glue must be applied, and reduction in the amount of sheet material employed.

A further object and accomplishment of the invention is the provision of an improved lid locking arrangement, and still another is the provision of a construction resulting in inwardly slanting side walls, providing for a cushioning effect between filled cartons stacked side by side, as well as improving stacking stability when a number of the cartons are stacked one upon another.

A further object is the provision of a carton having substantial cut-out portions in the lid for improvement in display of the contents, without detracting from the strength and stability of the carton, and also cut-away areas in the sides to facilitate display of the contents.

The various features of the invention will be best understood from the following detailed description of one present illustrative embodiment thereof, reference for this purpose being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the carton in its completed form, shown with the cover raised;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the carton, with the cover closed;

Figure 3 is a front elevational view of the carton, with the cover closed;

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Figure 4 is a transverse vertical section on line 3—3 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a front elevational view of the carton, with the cover raised and broken away;

Figure 6 is a plan view of the carton, with the cover raised and broken away;

Figure 7 is a detail section on line 7—7 of Figure 6;

Figure 8 is a detail section taken on line 8—8 of Figure 6;

Figure 9 is a detail section taken on line 9—9 of Figure 6;

Figure 10 is a detail section on line 10—10 of Figure 2;

Figure 11 is an end elevation of the completed carton, in a collapsed or flat folded condition, suitable for packing or shipping to the consumer; and

Figure 12 is a plan of the blank employed in producing the carton.

In the drawings, the numeral 10 designates the completed carton, formed of suitable sheet material, usually cardboard, and the numeral 10*a* the cut and scored blank from which the carton is set up. The carton includes rectangular bottom 12, comprised of inclined bottom panels 12*a* meeting at a ridge defined by medial longitudinal score or fold line 13, rearward rectangular side wall 14, and lid comprising rectangular top 15 and tuck or flap 16. As shown, the rearward edge of bottom 12 joins rearward side wall 14 at fold line 17, and top 15 joins side wall 14 at fold or hinge line 18, while the lid is scored along line 19 to divide the same into the top 15 and the folded down tuck 16.

The front side wall of the carton is designated by numeral 20, being turned upwardly from an edge of bottom 12 along fold or score line 20*a*, and this front side wall is connected to a medial longitudinally extending double-walled partition 21 by integral strap-like transverse partition walls 22, while similar integral strap-like transverse partition walls 23 connect longitudinal partition 21 with a wall member 24 glued flat to the inside surface of rearward side wall 14. The double-walled longitudinal partition 21 is comprised of two adjacent panels 21*a*, integrally joining one another at the bottom along fold line 26, and glued flat together. The gluing of wall member 24 to back wall 14 and the gluing of partition panels 21*a* to one another comprise all of the gluing operations required in the assembly of the box, and it will be appreciated that the reduction of gluing to two points in the box represents a substantial saving. The double-walled longitudinal partition

21 is interlocked with bottom 12 along ridge line 13, as described in more particular hereinafter.

The integral transverse partition walls 22 and 23 are formed as may best be understood by reference to Figure 12. As there shown, the partition panel portions 21*a* of the blank 10*a* are partially scored and partially severed along their outside longitudinal edge lines L, and the front side wall member 20 and transverse partitions 22 are formed from a single panel 30 between the score line 20*a* and the adjacent transverse line L, while the rear wall member 24 and corresponding transverse partitions 23 are formed from a single panel 31 between the outer or upper edge of the member 24 and the adjacent transverse line L'. It will be seen that the blank 10*a* is of a uniform width excepting in the area of the transverse partitions 22 and 23 and the partition wall members 21*a*, where the blank projects laterally at one edge, as at 32, and is correspondingly indented at the other edge, as at 33. The panels 30 and 31 are cut, scored and folded with "mirror symmetry" relative to one another, and a detailed description of the cutting, scoring and folding of the former will suffice for both.

The transverse partitions 22 and front side wall 20 are formed from the panel 30 by making a plurality of parallel, generally diagonal or inclined slits 35 which extend from the line L approximately two-thirds of the distance to the score line 20*a*, and by making slits 36 which intersect the slits 35 at points on the line L and which extend along the line L from the points of intersection in generally the opposite direction from the slits 35. As shown, the slits 36 terminate short of the next intersection between a slit 35 and a slit 36, as at points 37, and in the illustrative embodiment, these points are nearly in vertical alinement with the ends of the inclined slits 35. This however is subject to variation, depending upon the proportions desired in the ultimate cells, as will become apparent hereinafter.

Considering the inclined slits 35 in more particular, it will be seen that these slits consist of a slit portion 35*a* of substantially 45° inclination, and a slit portion 35*b* which in this instance is of somewhat lesser inclination, so as to afford a greater ultimate length for the transverse partitions 22.

The illustrative carton is designed to have two rows of three cells each, and there are accordingly four of the transverse partitions 22, as well as four of the transverse partitions 23 on the other side of the partition 21. Referring still to Figure 12, it will be seen that all of the partition walls 22 excepting the one at the right hand end are formed identically by means of the aforementioned slits, but that the right hand partition 22 is defined by an outside edge 40. This edge 40 joins the adjacent longitudinal edge 41 of the blank with the end edge 42 of the projection 32. The edge 40 is formed on an incline and is continued past the longitudinal edge 41 of the blank as a short slit 35' which is of the same incline as the corresponding end portions of the slits 35.

Vertical score lines 45 are formed across members 22, extending vertically upward from the end points 37 of the slits 36. Score lines 46, inclined from vertical in a general way, but preferably an exact vertical by a few degrees, typically about 8°, are formed from the ends 47 of the slits 35 and 35' to the next adjacent slits 35. In the case of the left hand end score 46, as viewed in Figure 12, the score line simply meets the end of the edge portion 35*a*', there being no slit at that location.

This edge portion 35*a*' is joined to the longitudinal edge 48 of the blank by edge portion 49, and at its other end joins an edge 50 extending along line L to the point 37, the edge 50 being continued as a slit between the bottom edge 52 of the indentation 33, and the point 37. The distance between the transverse score line 45 of the right hand transverse partition 22 and the end 42 of the projection 32, the distance between the score line 45 of the next adjacent partition 22 and a prolongation of the longitudinal edge 41 of the blank, the distance between the edge 52 of indentation 33 and the next adjacent score line 45, and the length of the edge 49 to the line of the longitudinal edge 48, are all made equal to one another.

As here shown the inclined score lines 46 intersect the vertical score lines 45 at the slits 35; this however is not essential, and the proportions of the individual cells may be modified by extending or shortening the slits 35, so that the score lines 46 and 45 will not so intersect, as will be better understood as the description proceeds. In setting up the box, the partition walls 22 and 23 are bent on the score lines 45 and 46 substantially at right angles to the planes of the remaining portions of the panels 30 and 31, thus moving into parallelism with each other. A complete description of the folding of the box will however best be deferred until further structural features of the box have been described.

To provide for interlocking the double-walled longitudinal partition 21 to bottom wall 12 along ridge line 13, the bottom wall is formed along line 13 with a plurality of spaced apertures 60, here three in number, and with two end notches 61 and 62. These apertures are preferably formed as best illustrated in Figure 12, having converging end portions as shown. The double-walled longitudinal partition is formed with a plurality of tongues or hooks 64 (see Figure 7) receivable or engageable in the apertures 60 and in the end notch 62. These hooks 64 are formed by means of slots 66 cut into the lower edge of the partitions 21 (Figure 7). Referring to the blank (Figure 12) the slots or apertures 66 are formed at their outside edges with longitudinal notches 67, and the projecting material between said notches 67 is formed with a V-notch 68, centered on score line 26, so as to form the underside of the toe of the completed hook element 64 with an inclined contour. Opposite the deepest point of the V-notches 68, and also centered on score line 26, the slots 66 are formed with V-notches 69, thus forming the heel of each hook element 64 with an inclined contour, all as clearly shown in Figures 7 and 12. As a result of these formations, converging throats are provided between hook members, leading to the notches 67 which extend back from the toe portions of the hook members.

When the carton has been folded into its finished form, as presently to be described in more detail, the two ends of the longitudinal partition panels 21*a*, folded and glued to one another, present a plurality of the hooks 64 which are properly spaced for reception inside the apertures 60, the length of each hook, from toe to heel, being such as to be just nicely receivable within the length of the corresponding aperture 60. The left hand hook goes into the open ended notch 62.

Preferably, the hook at one end, here the right hand of the box as viewed in the drawings, is provided with an additional interlocking feature. The slot 66*a* which forms this particular hook is made somewhat shorter than the slots 66 for the

other hooks, and its back edge 80 is slotted through at the center to the end edge 42 of the blank, as at 81, leaving stub-like projections or spurs 82 which when the box is set up perform a locking function as shown in Figure 7. The distance from the inner edge 80 of this projection to the point or forward end of the notch 67 is made substantially equal to or just less than the distance from the end of notch 61 to the end of the adjacent notch 80.

In engaging the hook members with the notches in bottom wall 12, the partition 21 is so moved as to aline the several hooks with the notches 60, and the hooks are then inserted therethrough. The projection 82 will at this time engage the box bottom at a point between the notch 61 and the adjacent notch 60, and it is accordingly necessary to bend the box bottom up slightly between this point of engagement and the notch 60, thereby permitting the end hook to be moved entirely inside its notch 60. The partition 21 is then moved bodily toward the right with respect to the box bottom, causing all of the hooks to engage under the box bottom to the right of the several notches 60, and the projection 82 finally drops inside the notch 61, effecting a final lock between the partition 21 and the bottom which cannot become released excepting by bending or tearing the material of the box.

The hinge lines 46 are, as previously mentioned, preferably disposed at small acute angles to an exact vertical, typically at about 8°. This inclination means that progressively more material has been folded from the side wall into the transverse partitions 22 from the bottom to the top edges of said partitions along the said hinge lines 46, with the result that the horizontal dimension of a given transverse partition 22 from the upper end of the hinge line 46 to the longitudinal partition 21 will be greater than the horizontal dimension from the lower end of the hinge line 46 to partition 21. Thus by reason of this inclined fold 46, the side walls of the box are supported in inclined positions by the integral transverse partitions. However, while this inclined side wall is regarded as one of the primary features of the invention, it is to be understood that it may not be essential in all cases, and where not required, it may be disregarded. In any such case, of course, the score lines 46 will still be generally vertical, and may either retain a slight inclination, or else approach or reach a true vertical. Again, it is possible to achieve inclined sidewalls by inclining hinge lines 45, and this may be in addition to the inclined hinge lines 46, or in lieu thereof. In any case the final result will be that the hinge lines 45 and 46 will be non-parallel, and ordinarily converging toward one another in a downward direction.

A further novel feature of the invention is the means for locking the lid flap in closed position. The lid flap is formed with a plurality of hooks 90, 91 and 92 adapted to be received between the partition walls 22, just inside the front wall 20. The hooks have slightly inclined forward edges 93 parallel to and adapted to lie against the slightly inclined partition walls 22 adjacent the front wall 20, and are formed at the bottom of edges 93 with projections 94 adapted to engage under the partitions (see Figure 3). Below the projection 94 the hook slopes backwardly on an incline, as at 95, to a horizontal bottom edge 96. The two hooks 90 and 91 have inclined rearward edges 97 rising to meet the forward edges 93 of the adjacent hooks so to form an acute angle or notch whose apex 98 is immediately over and in engagement with the partition wall 22 when the lid is locked closed. The right hand end hook 92 has a rearward edge 99 parallel to and adapted to engage the right hand partition 22, and joins a short horizontal edge 100 which overlies and engages the top of said partition 22. The forward edge 93 of left hand hook 90 joins at the top a short downward projection 101, so as to form a notch 102 engaging the top edge of the left hand partition 22.

In closing the box, the hook projections 94 ride down the partitions 22, and the latter as well as the hook members bend slightly until the projections 94 ride off and then engage under the partitions 22, whereupon, by reason of resiliency, the parts straighten to effect the lid lock. At the same time, the notches 98 and 102, and the short edge 100, engage the top edges of the partitions 22, the bottom edges 96 of the hooks engage the bottom of the box, and the lid is thus adequately supported and a strong structure provided.

As an optional feature, the lid is shown with a plurality of large apertures 110, one extending across each transverse pair of cells, to enable inspection of the contents without the necessity of lifting the lid. Preferably, these apertures are formed over the central longitudinal partition with tongues or projections 111 which aline with the bottom hooks 64 at the bottoms of the longitudinal partition 21. The flat bottoms of these hooks 64 are level with the bottom of the box and form means by which the box is supported along its longitudinal medial region when rested on a horizontal surface. When a number of the boxes are stacked vertically on one another, the hooks 64 of a box resting on another will engage the lid projections 111 of the box below it, and thus assure transference of weight directly through said projections to the immediately underlying central partition 21. Of course, if the apertures 110 are not used, weight transference will again be from the hook members 64 of a box above through the top wall of the box below and thence to the partition 21 of the latter. Weight transference of course also takes place in either case from the lower outer edges of the box bottom to the surface on which the box rests, and if that surface is the top of another box, this weight is assumed largely by the side walls of the latter.

The box is folded from the blank shown in Figure 12 as follows: Preliminarily, glue is applied to the surface of wall member 24 which is to engage the inside surface of rearward side wall 14 (being the under surface as viewed in Figure 12), and glue is also applied to one of the engaging faces of the two panels of the double walled longitudinal partition 21. The blank is then folded over flat on the score line L, and a flat fold in the reverse direction is then made on score line 26, so as to bring the central partition panels 21*a* back to back, in which position they are glued to one another to form the double wall partition 21. The panel 31 is then folded over on score line L' against the partition 21, and a fold is then made on score line 13, the last fold resulting in rearward side wall 14 being pressed against the glued surface of attachment wall member 24, now face up, and these parts are thus glued together. The box is then in the flat condition shown in Figure 11, in which condition it is packed and shipped to the consumer. The consumer sets up the box by first shoving inward-

ly on the edge E, so as to open out the bottom panels 12a, after which the longitudinal partition 21 is moved in a longitudinal direction, bending the transverse partitions on the vertical and inclined hinge lines 45 and 46 until they are substantially at right angles to the partition 21. It will be evident that this bending leaves triangular connecting portions 22a lying flat against the longitudinal partition, integrally connected along the vertical hinge lines 45 to the transverse partitions, and integrally connected along horizontal lines to the top edges of the two panels of the longitudinal partition. The bottom panels are then pressed upwardly to form the bottom ridge, and the partition hooks engaged with the apertures in the bottom as already described.

It will thus be seen that I have provided an improved multiple cell box, consuming a lesser amount of sheet material, and having substantially fewer gluing points. The box is consequently much easier and cheaper to manufacture. The improved box also has the previously mentioned advantage of naturally inclined side walls, an improved lid locking arrangement, and various other features of advantage as set forth hereinabove. The box assumes a convenient flat folded position for shipping purposes, as shown in Figure 11.

It will be understood that the illustrated box is but one present exemplification of my invention, and that various changes in design, structure and arrangement may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A multiple cell carton comprising: a bottom wall, a rearward side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from one edge of said bottom wall, a single-ply front side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from the other edge of said bottom wall, two parallel sets of transverse partitions overlying said bottom wall, the outer ends of the partitions of one of said sets integrally joined with the upper portion of said single-ply front side wall along generally vertically disposed hinge lines, an attachment panel joined to the inside surface of said rearward side wall, and the outer ends of the partitions of the other of said parallel sets integrally joined with said attachment panel along generally vertically disposed hinge lines, a central longitudinal partition between said parallel sets of transverse partitions comprising two adjacent partition panels joined back to back and formed integrally with one another along their lower edges, and the inner ends of said transverse partitions being integrally joined to the upper edge portions of the adjacent longitudinal partition panels.

2. A multiple cell carton comprising: a bottom wall, a rearward slightly outwardly inclined side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from one edge of said bottom wall, a single-ply slightly outwardly inclined front side wall integrally joined with, and turned upwardly from the other edge of said bottom wall, two parallel sets of transverse partitions overlying said bottom wall, the outer ends of the partitions of one of said sets integrally joined with the upper portion of said single-ply front side wall along hinge lines inclined from exact vertical, an attachment panel joined to the inside surface of said rearward side wall, and the outer ends of the partitions of the other of said parallel sets integrally joined with said attachment panel along hinge lines inclined from exact vertical, a central longitudinal partition between said parallel sets of transverse partitions comprising two adjacent partition panels joined back to back and formed integrally with one another along their lower edges, and the inner ends of said transverse partitions being integrally joined to the upper edge portions of the adjacent longitudinal partition panels.

3. A multiple cell carton comprising: a bottom wall, a rearward side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from one edge of said bottom wall, a single-ply front side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from the other edge of said bottom wall, an attachment panel joined to the inside surface of said rearward side wall, the upper portions of said front side wall and said attachment panel having similar and alined saw-tooth outlines each comprising a series of upper edges at substantial inclination to vertical joined by a series of edges of generally vertical disposition, two parallel sets of transverse partition walls integrally joined at their outer ends to said last mentioned edges, a central longitudinal partition between said parallel sets of transverse partitions comprising two adjacent partition panels joined back to back and formed integral with one another along their lower edges, and connecting members integrally joining the inner ends of said transverse partitions to the upper edges of the adjacent longitudinal partition panels.

4. A multiple cell carton comprising: a bottom wall, a slightly outwardly inclined rearward side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from one edge of said bottom wall, a slightly outwardly inclined single-ply front side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from the other edge of said bottom wall, an attachment panel joined to the inside surface of said rearward side wall, the upper portions of said front side wall and said attachment panel having similar and alined saw-tooth outlines each comprising a series of upper edges at substantial inclination to vertical joined by a series of edges of small inclination to vertical, two parallel sets of transverse partition walls integrally joined at their outer ends to said last mentioned edges, a central longitudinal partition between said parallel sets of transverse partitions comprising two adjacent partition panels joined back to back and formed integrally with one another along their lower edges, and connecting members integrally joining the inner ends of said transverse partitions to the upper edges of the adjacent longitudinal partition panels.

5. A multiple cell carbon comprising: a bottom wall, a rearward side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from one edge of said bottom wall, a single-ply front side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from the other edge of said bottom wall, an attachment panel joined to the inside surface of said rearward side wall, the upper portions of said front side wall and said attachment panel having similar and alined saw-tooth outlines each comprising a series of upper edges at substantial inclination to vertical joined by a series of edges of generally vertical disposition, two parallel sets of transverse partition walls integrally joined at their outer ends to said last mentioned edges, a central longitudinal partition between said parallel sets of transverse partitions comprising two adjacent partition panels joined back to back and formed integrally with one another along their lower edges, connecting members integrally joining the inner ends of said transverse partitions to the

upper edges of the adjacent longitudinal partition panels, a cover integrally joined to the upper edge of said rearward side wall, and a flap at the forward edge of said cover formed with a series of hook members adapted to engage under the transverse partitions adjacent said forward side wall.

6. A multiple cell carton comprising: a bottom wall, a slightly outwardly inclined rearward side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from one edge of said bottom wall, a slightly outwardly inclined single-ply front side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from the other edge of said bottom wall, an attachment panel joined to the inside surface of said rearward side wall, the upper portions of said front side wall and said attachment panel having similar and alined saw-tooth outlines each comprising a series of upper edges at substantial inclination to vertical joined by a series of edges of small inclination to vertical, two parallel sets of transverse partition walls integrally joined at their outer ends to said last mentioned edges, a central longitudinal partition between said parallel sets of transverse partitions comprising two adjacent partition panels joined back to back and formed integrally with one another along their lower edges, connecting members integrally joining the inner ends of said transverse partitions to the upper edges of the adjacent longitudinal partition panels, a cover integrally joined to the upper edge of said rearward side wall, and a flap at the forward edge of said cover formed with a series of hook members adapted to engage under the transverse partitions adjacent said forward side wall.

7. A multiple cell carton comprising: a bottom wall consisting of two inclined panels integrally joined to form a centrally located longitudinal ridge, a rearward side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from one edge of said bottom wall, a single-ply front side wall integrally joined with and turned upwardly from the other edge of said bottom wall, an attachment panel joined to the inside surface of said rearward side wall, the upper portions of said front side wall and said attachment panel having similar and alined saw-tooth outlines each comprising a series of upper edges at substantial inclination to vertical joined by a series of edges of generally vertical disposition, two parallel sets of transverse partition walls integrally joined at their outer ends to said last mentioned edges, a central longitudinal partition between said parallel sets of transverse partitions comprising two adjacent partition panels joined back to back and formed integrally with one another along their lower edges, connecting members integrally joining the inner ends of said transverse partitions to the upper edges of the adjacent longitudinal partition panels, said longitudinal partition being alined with said longitudinal ridge of said bottom wall, said ridge having spaced openings therein and the lower edge of said longitudinal partition having hooks for engaging in said openings to maintain the ridge in its elevated position and hold the transverse partition walls in fixed positions, the bottoms of said hooks being co-planar with the lower edges of the carton formed at the junctures of the inclined bottom panels with the side walls of the carton to form supporting feet for the carton under said longitudinal partition, a cover integrally joined to the upper edge of said rearward side wall, cut-out openings in said cover over the cells formed by said side walls and said longitudinal and transverse partitions, with portions of said cover retained over said longitudinal partition in vertical alinement with the supporting feet formed by said longitudinal partition hooks.

8. A blank for forming a multiple cell carton having a substantially rectangular portion with parallel score lines dividing the same into contiguous panels consisting of a bottom panel, a rearward side panel adjacent one edge of said bottom panel, a top panel adjacent to said side panel, and a side flap panel adjacent to said cover panel, and a blank portion connected to the other edge of said bottom panel at a score line and consisting of four immediately contiguous panels parallel to the first named panels and separated by three parallel score lines, the two inside members of said four contiguous panels and portions of the two outside members of said four panels adjacent to said inside members being laterally offset with reference to the remainder of the blank, the laterally offset portions of said two outside panel members being formed with a plurality of substantially parallel slits therein extending in a general inclined direction, and forming a plurality of strips adapted to provide transverse partitions, score lines on said strips near the end portions thereof extending in directions approximately at right angles to the panels, said two outside panels forming the front side wall of the carton, an attachment strip to be attached to the rearward side of the carton, and two parallel sets of transverse partitions, and said two inside panels forming a double thickness longitudinal partition wall between and integrally connected to the adjacent ends of the transverse partitions.

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