Dec. 21, 1943. J. E. PAGE 2,337,125

METHOD OF ASSEMBLING PREFABRICATED CONTAINERS

Filed Jan. 2, 1941 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

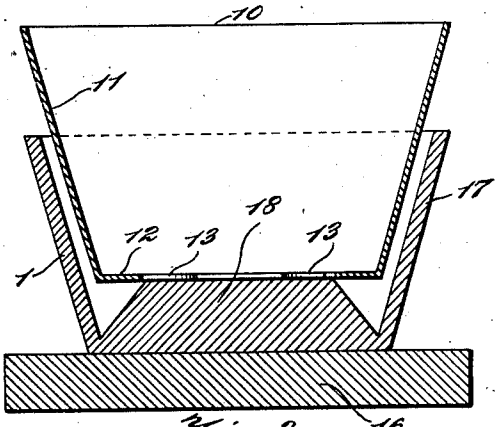


Fig. 3.

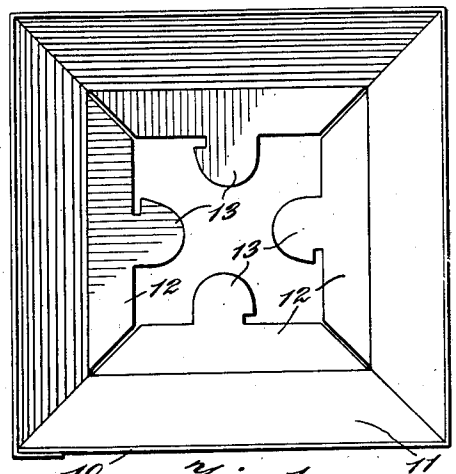


Fig. 1.

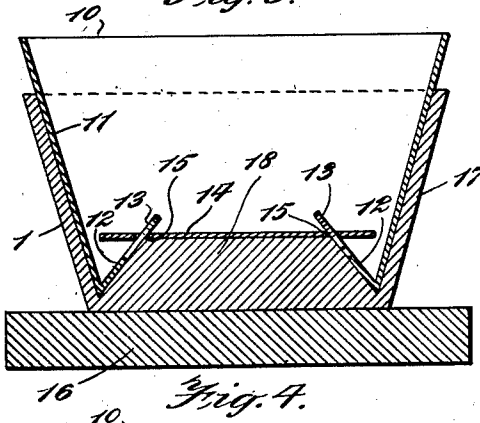


Fig. 4.

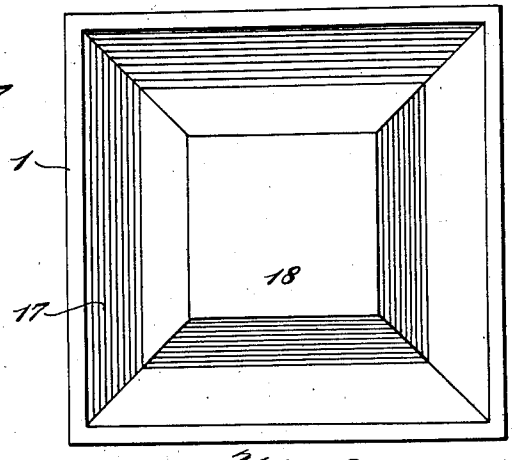


Fig. 2.

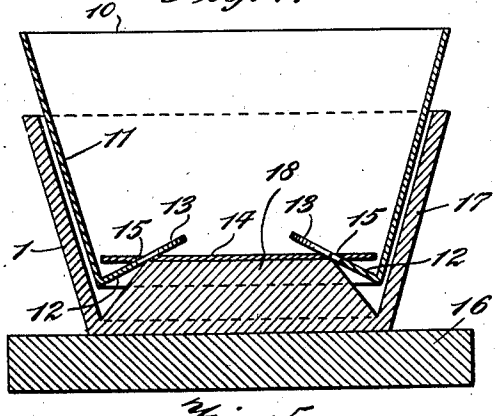


Fig. 5.

INVENTOR.

BY John Ernest Page

Gifford, Scull & Burgess

Dec. 21, 1943. J. E. PAGE 2,337,125

METHOD OF ASSEMBLING PREFABRICATED CONTAINERS

Filed Jan. 2, 1941 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

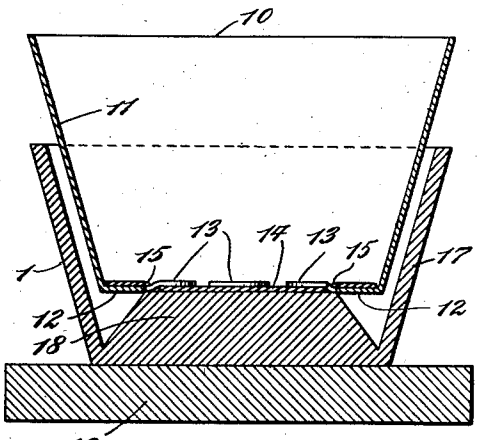


Fig. 6.

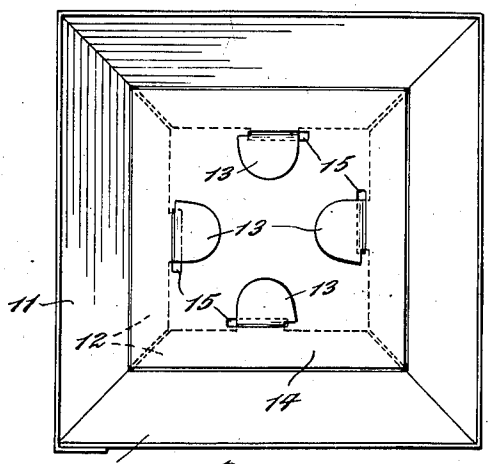


Fig. 7.

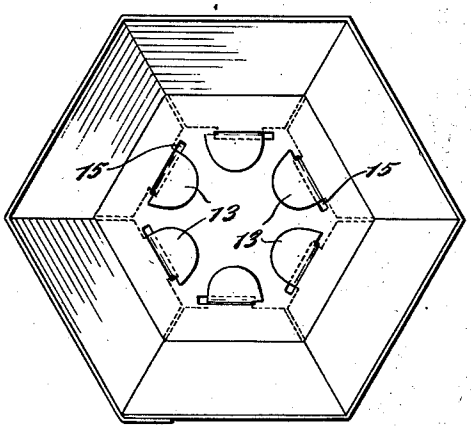


Fig. 8.

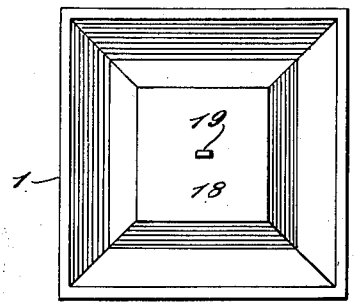


Fig. 11.

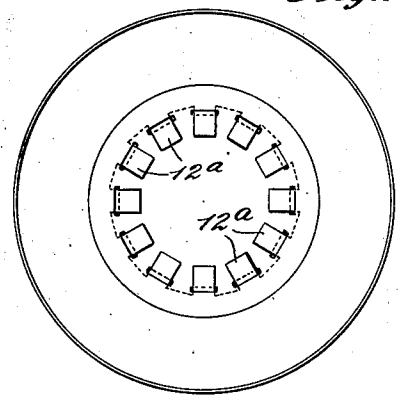


Fig. 9.

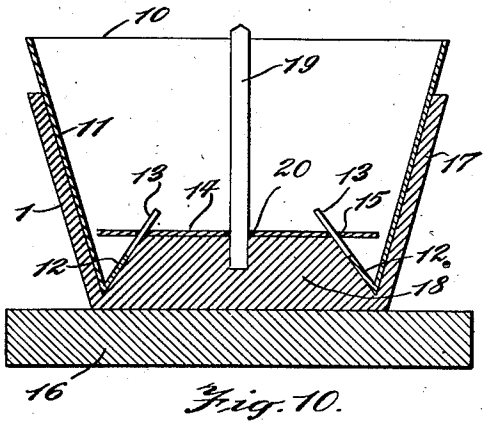


Fig. 10.

INVENTOR

BY John Ernest Page

Gifford, Scull & Burgess

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2,337,125

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,337,125

METHOD OF ASSEMBLING PREFABRICATED CONTAINERS

John Ernest Page, Beaconsfield, Quebec, Canada, assignor to Gibson Patent Containers, Ltd., Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, a corporation of New South Wales, Australia

Application January 2, 1941, Serial No. 372,898

3 Claims. (Cl. 93—55.1)

My invention relates to a prefabricated container, method of assembling the same, and a jig for assembling the prefabricated container.

The novel features of my invention will be best understood by the following description and the annexed drawings, in which I have shown selected embodiments of the invention and in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the body portion of a container embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a jig for assembling the container embodying my invention.

Fig. 3 is a side view in section showing the body portion of the container partially in place in the assembly jig.

Fig. 4 is a side view in section showing the body portion of the container in position for assembly in the assembly jig with the bottom of the container also in position for assembly.

Fig. 5 is a side view in section showing the container partially released from the assembly jig in partial assembly.

Fig. 6 is a side view in section showing the container released from the assembly jig and completely assembled.

Fig. 7 is a plan view of the assembled container.

Fig. 8 is a plan view of another form of container embodying my invention.

Fig. 9 is a plan view of another form of container embodying my invention.

Fig. 10 is a side view in section similar to Fig. 3 showing a modified form of assembly jig, and

Fig. 11 is a plan view of the jig shown in Fig. 10.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the container, preferably made of cardboard or like material, consists of a body portion 10. This body portion 10 has side walls 11 at the lower edges of which there are inwardly extending flanges 12 on which there are formed tongues 13. The flanges 12 are continuations of the side walls 11 of the body portion 10, each flange having been appropriately cut so as not to interfere with adjacent flanges and folded to extend inwardly of the side walls 11 of the body portion.

A bottom 14 is supported on the flanges 12 and has slots 15 through which the tongues 13 extend in interlocking engagement with the bottom. When the bottom 14 is thus secured in place, it holds the then assembled container in its proper shape to be used.

The body portion 10 being made of cardboard or the like may be folded or collapsed so that it forms a flat sheet. The bottom 14 is also a flat sheet. It is desirable to have those parts of the container in the form of flat sheets for shipping and storing until they are to be put in use.

A container embodying my invention may be readily assembled from the prefabricated blanks when it is to be used. For this purpose there is a jig 16 which has side walls 17 defining an opening corresponding in shape and size to the body portion 10.

Inside of the side walls 17 of the jig there is a projection in the form of a raised platform 18, the edges of which are spaced from the side walls 17 of the jig to accommodate the lower part of the container body portion 10.

In assembling the container the collapsed body portion 10 is folded into shape with the flanges 12 folded to extend inwardly of the side walls 11 of the body portion. The body portion 10 thus formed is placed in the jig 16 so that the flanges 12 strike the platform 18 and are brought to a horizontal position as shown in Fig. 3. When the body portion 10 has been fully advanced into the jig 16 the flanges 12 and the tongues 13 are bent upwardly by engagement with the sides of the raised platform 18 so that they are held in substantially a raised position. In this raised position the tongues 12 have an acute angular relation with the vertical.

With the tongues 13 held in this position the bottom 14 with the slots 15 in alignment with the tongues 13 is placed inside the body portion 10 so that the tongues 13 extend at least partially through the slots 15 as shown in Fig. 4.

The thus partially assembled container is then released from the jig 16 permitting the flanges 12 and the tongues 13 to bend downwardly due to the inherent resilience of the material so that the tongues 13 come into full interlocking engagement with the bottom 14 illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 to complete the assembly operation.

In Fig. 8 the container has a hexagonal configuration instead of square and in Fig. 9 the container is circular. In each of these instances the shape of the assembly jig would be changed accordingly and the assembly procedure would be the same.

In Figure 9 there are tongues 12*a* which are straight and are not hooked as illustrated in the other figures, the precise form of tongue utilized in carrying out my invention being immaterial.

Ordinarily the bottom 14 may be guided by hand when it is being inserted inside the body portion 10. But in order to facilitate assembly the bottom 14 may be automatically guided into place. For this purpose a guide rod 19 extends

from the raised platform 18 of the jig and fits a key slot 20 in the bottom 14 to insure the alignment of the slots 15 with the tongues 13 when the bottom is put in place as described.

I claim:

1. A method of assembling a container having a body portion with inturned flanges with tongues thereon at its lower edges and a bottom supported on the flanges and having means for interlocking with the tongues, consisting of placing the body portion on a jig so that the tongues are held in a substantially raised position, inserting the bottom inside of the body from the top of said body portion to a position where the interlocking means are in engagement with the tongues, releasing the partially assembled container from the jig to permit the tongues to move into final position relative to the interlocking means thereby completing the assembly of the container.

2. A method of assembling a container having a body portion with inturned flanges with tongues thereon at its lower edges and a bottom supported on the flanges and having means for interlocking with the tongues, consisting of placing the body portion on a jig so that the tongues are held in a substantially raised position, inserting the bottom inside of the body from the top of said body portion to a position where the interlocking means are in engagement with the tongues, the bottom portion being guided so that the interlocking means are in alignment with the tongues for engagement therewith, releasing the partially assembled container from the jig to permit the tongues to move into final position relative to the interlocking means thereby completing the assembly of the container.

3. A method of assembling a container having separable body and bottom portions consisting of placing the body portion having hinged tongues at its lower edges on a jig so that the hinged tongues are held in a substantially raised position, inserting the bottom in which there are slots for engagement with the tongues, inside of the body from the top of said body portion to a position where the slots are in engagement with the tongues, removing the thus partially assembled container from the jig permitting the tongues to move into interlocking engagement with the bottom to form the assembled container.

JOHN ERNEST PAGE.