This invention relates to improvements in paper board containers principally for the shipment of chicks and particularly to means for spacing the containers for stacking one upon the other and in tiers side by side for shipment of the chicks to allow a free circulation about each container and through ventilating openings in the sides and top of the container.

An object of the invention is to provide a paper board container for the shipment of chicks, with spacers each formed of a strip of paper material folded and easily applicable crosswise to the top of the container as a cleat of rigid structure sustaining considerable weight without collapse or displacement for spacing the containers when stacked one upon another and reinforcing the top of the container.

Another object of the invention is to provide spacers applied to the sides of the container to either the cover or box body thereof, for side spacing of the containers when stacked along side of one another.

Various other features and advantages of the invention will be more fully described in the description of the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved chick container illustrating a second container in dot and dash lines thereon.

Figure 2 is an enlarged section on line 2—2, Figure 1, through one of the spacers or cleats across the top of the cover.

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3, Figure 1, illustrating in section a spacer applied to the side wall of the cover.

Figure 4 is a section on line 4—4, Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a plan view of the blank of the spacer.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a portion of a modified form of spacer as applied to the top of a container.

Figure 7 is a plan view of the modified form of spacer illustrated in Figure 6.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of the container without cover and illustrating a modified form of side wall spacer.

Figure 9 is a perspective view of a corner portion of the cover illustrating a spacer for the top similar to that shown in Figure 1, with the top provided with means for preventing lateral displacement of the spacer, and a modified form of side wall spacer.

Figure 10 is a section on line 10—10, Figure 9.

Figure 11 is a plan view of a cover blank with the form of side wall spacer illustrated in Figure 9 applied thereon.

Figure 12 is a perspective view of a portion of a container with another modified form of side spacer.

Figure 13 is a section on line 13—13, Figure 12. Referring to the drawings, the box is composed of a box body and lid, the box body in the form of a rectangular casing preferably formed of a single sheet of corrugated or other paper board material, the blank thereof cut, scored and folded to constitute a bottom 1, a pair of relatively opposite side walls 2, and relatively opposite end walls 3. The end and side walls are connected at their corners preferably by an extension from one wall bent at right angles thereto and overlapping the end of an adjoining wall and stapled or otherwise secured thereto. The forming of a box body from a single sheet may follow numerous methods. The form herein illustrated is a simple and convenient form for corrugated paper board.

The side, end wall and cover of the box are provided with ventilation openings or perforations and generally are made by only partially cutting the material, forming what is commonly termed "knock-outs" which can readily be pushed out to provide for the amount of ventilation desired.

The interior of the box body is subdivided into compartments by cross partition walls 4 comprising paper board strips intersectingly joined and at each of its opposite ends has a lateral extension to lap against a wall to which it is stapled or otherwise secured.

A removable cover 5 is provided for the top of the box body which is of a body structure similar to that of the box body as formed from a single sheet of corrugated or other paper board material and cut to a blank pattern scored and folded to constitute a top 6, opposite side walls 7, and end walls 8 joined at their corners.

To enable the boxes to be stacked one upon the other in shipment and spaced sufficiently for ventilation, spacers 9, 9 extending crosswise and located toward opposite ends of the cover are clipped to the cover. These spacers are formed of corrugated board material and in the form shown in Figures 1, 2 and 5, constitute an elongated section or strip 9, longitudinally scored for folding the strip into channel or U-shape in cross section. The opposite longitudinal edges of the spacer or side walls thereof each are provided with tab extensions 10 respectively for engagement through slots cut through the top of
the cover. The number of tabs is governed according to the length of the spacer and in the drawings, a pair is shown for each side.

The tabs when engaged through the cover, anchor the side walls preventing collapse of the spacer when a load is imposed thereon as occasioned in stacking the boxes packed with chicks in shipment. The opposite ends of the spacer, as extensions to the central portion of the strip, constitute tabs 11 each widened at its extremity, the tab foldable at right angles to the central or top wall of the spacer and engaged through a slot 12 cut through the top of the cover for lapping against the inside of a side wall of the cover to which it is secured by staples or otherwise.

The end tabs 11 close the opposite ends of the channel and engaging through a slot in the cover and secured to the side wall of the cover, hold the cover against longitudinal and lateral displacement as well as permanently securing the spacer to the cover.

The spacers are usually supplied by the box manufacturer in loose, knock-down or flat condition to be set up and attached to the cover by the user who is generally equipped with a stapling machine. This permits the spacers to be omitted in making individual shipments for local merchandising when there is no occasion to stack the boxes when packed.

The channel shaped spacer, interlocked and secured at its sides and ends upon the top of the cover, is capable of sustaining considerable more load before collapsing than many types now commercially employed having inclined walls either in the form of separate pieces applied to the cover or integral therewith and should an excessive weight be applied causing collapse of the spacer, it will result in plural layer folds preventing an absolute closing of the ventilating openings in the cover by the bottom of the box stacked thereon so that the ventilation is not absolutely cut off, materially reducing chick loss through suffocation.

In the modified form shown in Figures 6 and 7, the tabs or tongues 10 of the spacers extending from the edges of the side walls thereof, are longitudinally slotted as at 13 for interlockingly connecting with the top of the cover by moving the spacer longitudinally in an appropriate direction after the tongues have been engaged through the spacers, are shown as applied to extend from the side walls of the cover. This provides means for securing the spacer intermediately to the top against vertical displacement.

As shown in Figure 9, the end tabs for anchoring the spacer to the opposite side walls of the cover, are engaged over the exterior side of the walls and secured thereeto by staples, avoiding the necessity of slotting the top of the cover.

In said figure, the top of the cover is cut to provide upstanding lips 14 lapping a side wall of the spacer to hold the wall against lateral displacement and the spacer against collapse and serve correspondingly to the tabs or tongues extending from the lower edges of the walls of the spacer.

In the drawings only one lip is shown, it being understood, however, that a plural number are provided for the length of the spacer and for each side thereof.

It is desirable to provide spacers for the sides of the box to prevent side contact of the boxes when stacked side by side, and in the drawings several forms are disclosed. In Figures 1, 3, 4, 9 and 10 the side walls are shown as applied to extend from the side walls of the cover and consist each of a section or rectangular piece 15 of paper board material transversely scored, adapting the same to be intermediately bent or corrugated to provide a V-type 16 and plane end portions 17 for attachment to a wall of the cover by staples or other fastening means.

In the form shown in Figures 1, 3 and 4, the side spacers have the ridge portions 16 extending through a slot 18 cut in the wall of the cover to position the tab or plane end portions on the inner side of the cover wall. In Figures 9, 10 and 11 the side spacer is shown as applied to the exterior side of the cover wall and one end portion stapled to the cover and the opposite end portion shaped to form a tongue 19 for engagement through a slot in the cover wall. This form permits the side spacer to be knocked down for shipping or storage packing of the boxes or containers.

In Figure 8 a side spacer 20 as a section or piece of cardboard material, scored and bent into U-form, is shown as removably interlocked with a side wall of the box body by means of tongues 21 engaged through slots in the side wall and interlocked therewith.

The modified form of side spacer shown in Figures 12 and 13 comprises a tongue 22 cut from the body of a side wall of the receptacle and folded outwardly and rearwardly with its free end bearing against the wall to which it is stapled, the area normally occupied by the tongue and a part of the wall furnishing a ventilating opening so that a two-fold function is obtained.

Side spacers for each side wall are relatively located so as not to come into registry with the spacers of an adjoining container, allowing the containers to be more compactly arranged. It is obvious that a tongue form of spacer shown in Figures 12 and 13 could also be formed from the side walls of the cover.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A paper board chick shipping container of the character disclosed, comprising, a receptacle and cover therefor, the cover constituting a top and side walls, a spacer providing a cleat for the top of the cover formed of a single strip of paper board material folded longitudinally into channel form in cross section with the edges of the side walls thereof engaging said top of the cover, and tabs at the extremity of said cleat extending at an angle thereto to each overlying and secured to a corresponding side of the cover.

2. A paper board chick shipping container of the character disclosed, comprising, a receptacle and cover therefor, the cover constituting a top and side walls, a spacer providing a cleat for the top of the cover formed of a single strip of paper board material folded longitudinally into channel form in cross section with the edges of the side walls thereof engaging said top of the cover, and interlocked therewith, and tabs at the extremity of said cleat extending at an angle thereto to each overlying and secured to a corresponding side of the cover.

3. A paper board chick shipping container of the character disclosed, comprising, a receptacle and cover therefor, the cover constituting a top and side walls, a spacer providing a cleat for the top of the cover formed of a single strip of paper board material folded longitudinally into channel form in cross section, tabs extending from the edge of the side walls engaging through slots in the top of the cover sustaining the walls against lateral displacement, and tabs at the extremity of said cleat extending at an angle thereto to
overly and be secured to a corresponding side of the cover.

4. A paper board chick shipping container of the character disclosed, comprising, a receptacle
and cover therefor, the cover constituting a top and side walls, a spacer providing a cleat for the
top of the cover formed of a single strip of paper board material folded longitudinally into channel
form in cross section, the side walls thereof interlocked with the top of the cover, and tabs
at the extremity of said cleat extending at an angle thereto respectively engaging the slots in the
tops of the cover and secured to the inner side of a corresponding side of the cover.

5. A cleat for a container cover, the cover constituting a paper board top and side walls, com-
prising, a single strip of paper board material folded along longitudinal lines into channel form
in cross section, the cleat extending across the top of the cover and the longitudinal edges of the side walls thereof engaging thereupon and interlocking therewith for sustaining the side walls against lateral displacement and the cleat against collapse when weight is imposed thereon, and tabs extending from the opposite extremities of said cleat for connection with the corresponding side walls of the cover securing the cleat to the cover.

6. A paper board chick shipping container, comprising, a receptacle and cover, spacer means for separating the containers placed alongside one another, comprising a tongue cut from the body of a wall of the container, the tongue folded outwardly and rearwardly with the free end thereof bearing upon and secured to the wall.

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