

April 9, 1940.

O. WILLIAMS ET AL

2,196,512

COMBINED CONTAINER AND CRADLE

Filed Jan. 28, 1939

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 2

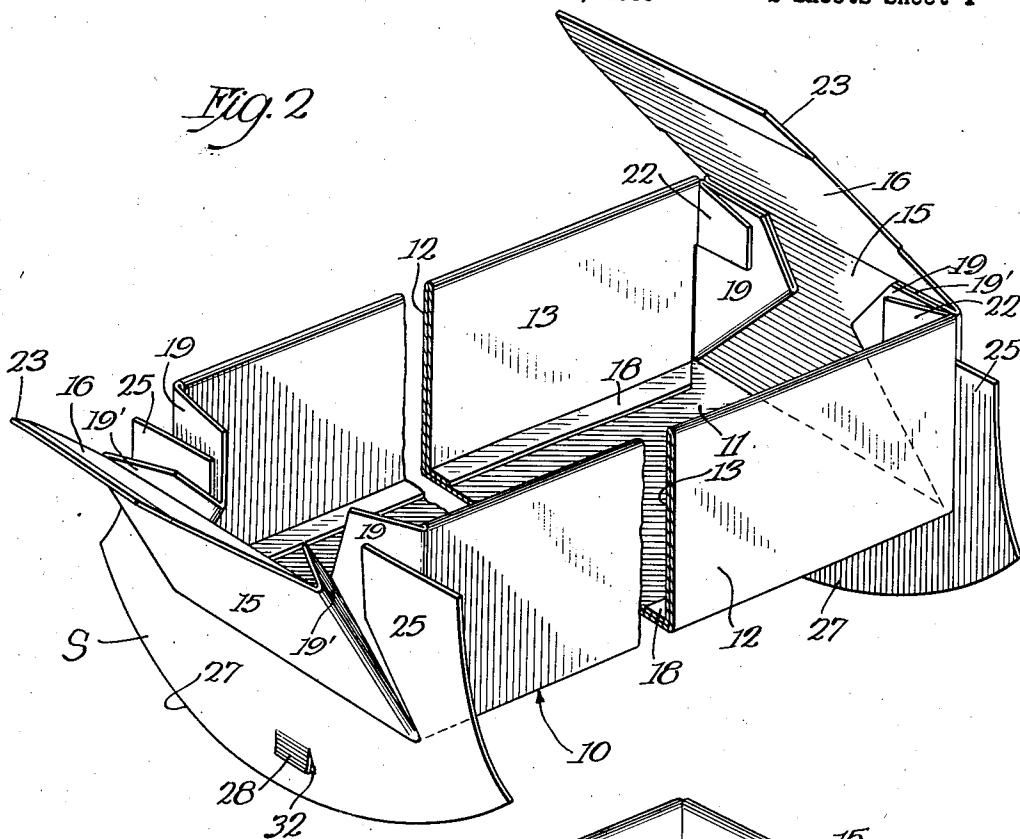
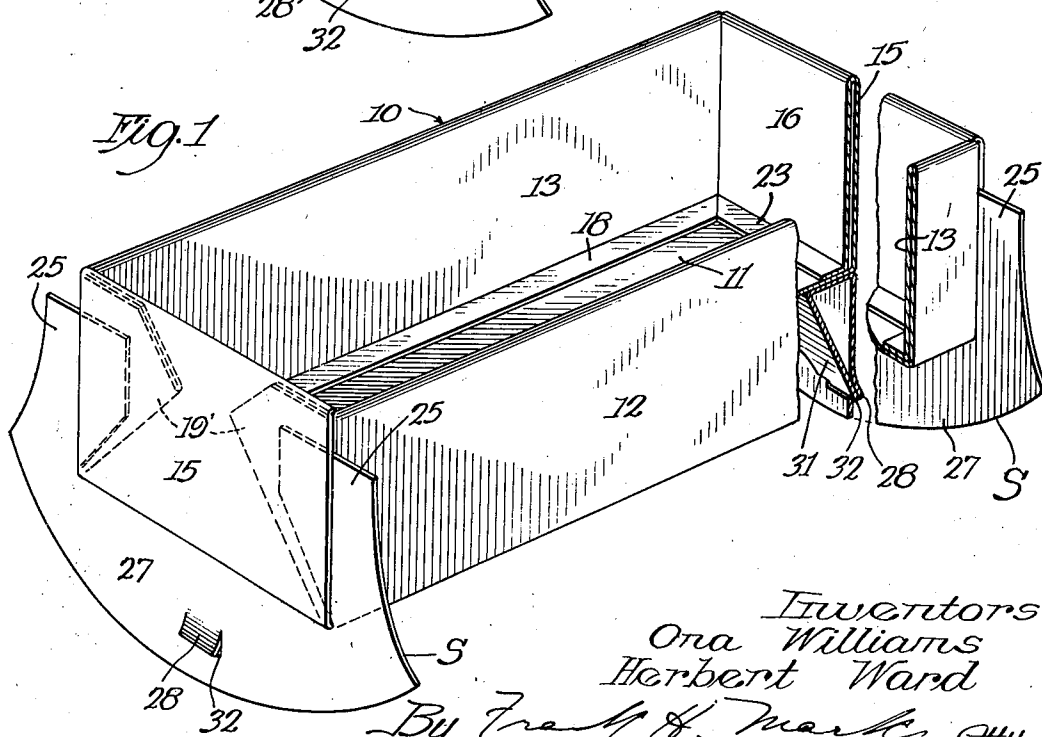


FIG. 1



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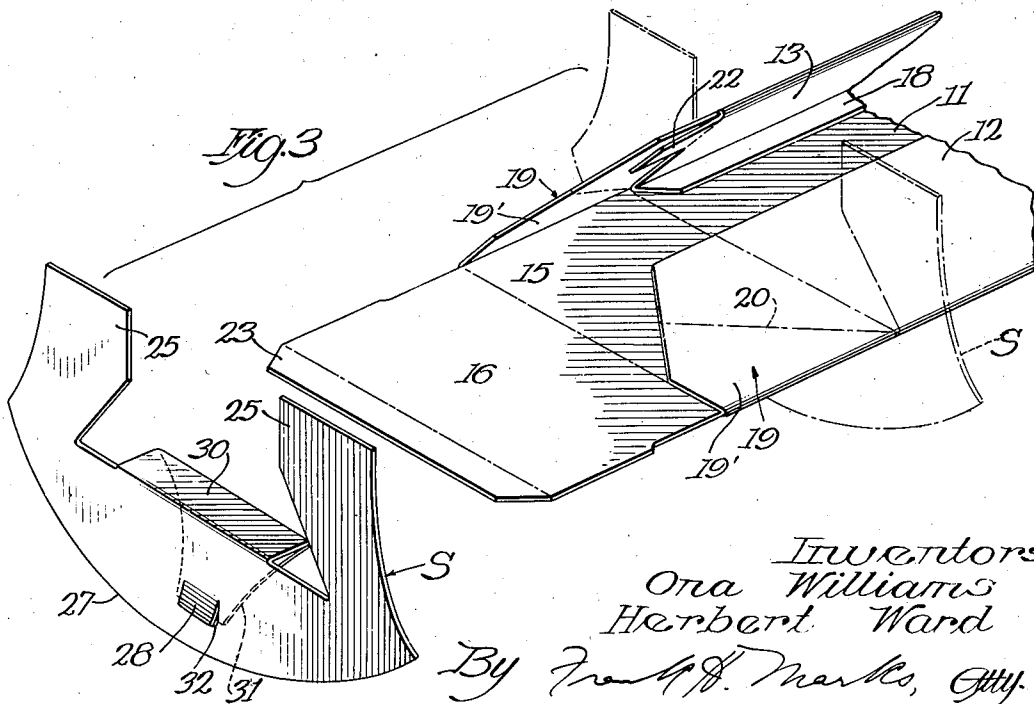
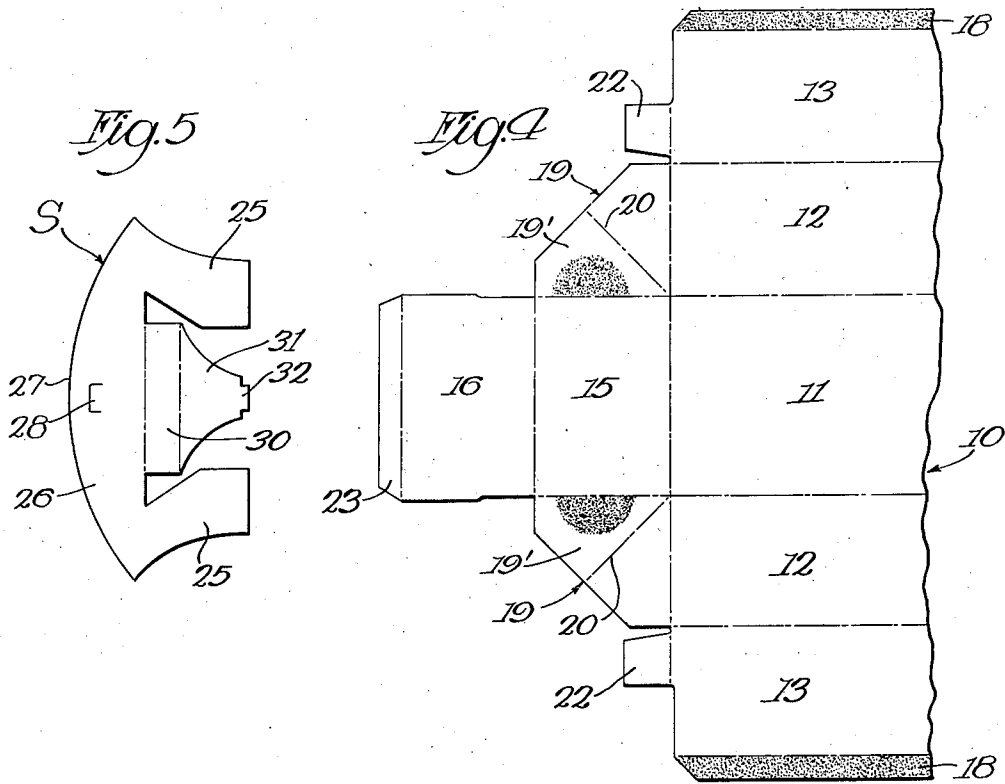
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COMBINED CONTAINER AND CRADLE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 46—11)

Our invention relates to articles which may be used alternatively as a container and toy and has a special application to a device which may be made out of inexpensive sheet material, such as cardboard.

A particular object of our invention is to provide an article comprising a box like container which may be formed by folding a blank of cardboard or the like, in combination with elements which may be formed likewise out of sheet material, such as cardboard, and which may be detachably connected to the box like member in order to support it in elevated position in the nature of a bed, cradle or the like.

A further object is to provide a device of the type referred to which is simple in construction, wherein all elements of the combination may be shipped in flat, knocked down condition, the box being capable of quick and easy folding when knocked down.

Still another object is to provide, in an article of the type referred to, supporting elements which may be quickly and detachably assembled with the box and which may be distorted from a uniplanar condition to form supporting struts or the like, whereby the box and its contents, even though the latter be heavy, may be rigidly supported.

Various other objects and advantages will suggest themselves as the description proceeds.

Referring now to the drawings forming a part of this specification and illustrating a preferred embodiment of our invention:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of an article embodying our invention in its final assembled condition, parts being cut away in order to show the construction more clearly.

Fig. 2 is a similar view of the same at an intermediate stage in the assembly operation.

Fig. 3 is an exploded fragmentary perspective view of an end portion of the box like member in relation to a supporting member with which it is to be assembled.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary plan view of an end portion of the box blank, and

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the supporting member blank.

In the embodiment illustrated, numeral 10 indicates generally the box like member which may be formed from a blank as shown in Fig. 4, comprising a bottom panel 11, outer side panels 12, 12, inner side panels 13, 13, outer end panels 15 and inner end panels 16. It will be understood, of course, throughout the drawings that the dot and dash lines represent scoring to facilitate folding

of the blanks, and that the end of the blank not shown in Fig. 4 is similar to that which is shown, only one end of the blank being illustrated for economy of space.

The panels 13, 13, are provided with relatively narrow marginal flaps 18, 18, these flaps being provided with adhesive on one side whereby they may be permanently secured to the bottom panel 11 as indicated in Figs. 1-3. Substantially triangular connecting webs 19, 19 are provided between each of the side panels 12 and the end panel 15, scoring 20 extending substantially as a median across said webs 19. Adhesive is provided on that portion 19' of the webs 19 between the median scoring 20 and the panel 15. Ears 22, 22 are also provided at each end of the panels 13. A marginal flap 23 is provided at the free end of each of the end panels 16.

The folding of the box 10 will be obvious. As shown in Fig. 3, the glued flaps 18 are permanently secured to the bottom panel 11 adjacent the juncture of that panel with the corresponding side panel 12. The glued portion 19' of the web 19 is permanently secured to the end panel 15. For shipping purposes, the article may be packed flat with the side panels 12-13 overlying each other, and the end panels 16 folded over so as to overlie the side panels and the end panels 15.

When it is desired to form the box into a container, the side panels 12-13, being, of course, coextensive because the flaps 18 are secured to the bottom panel 11, are erected into vertical position, thus bringing up into vertical position the end panels 15, the web 19 folding inwardly along the scoring 20 so as to take a position as shown in Fig. 2 between end panel 15 and the end panel 16, the latter being brought up and around into the inside of the box and frictionally secured in parallel relation to the panel 15 by means of the flap 23 which is arranged contiguously and parallel to the bottom panel 11. The box is now securely erected.

The supporting elements S as shown in Fig. 5 which may likewise conveniently be blanked out of inexpensive sheet material, such as cardboard or the like, comprise a pair of vertically extending legs 25, 25 and a member 26 connecting said legs. The member 26 is shown with an arcuate bottom edge 27 whereby said supporting members may serve as rockers. It will be understood, of course, that the connecting member may be otherwise formed and otherwise disposed, so that the box may serve as a crib or other piece of toy furniture. The connecting member 26 is provided adjacent the center thereof with scoring

whereby a rectangle lip 28 may be pressed out to form a slot.

Extending upwardly from the connecting member 26 is a reinforcing member comprising a substantially rectangular panel 30 and a tapered panel 31, the latter having a terminal ear 32. Scoring is provided between the portions 26 and 30 and between 30 and 31.

The supporting elements are readily assembled with the box in the following manner: A convenient method is to assemble the parts when the box is being erected as shown in Fig. 2. In this case the legs 25 of the supporting member are drawn in straddling relation along the end panels 16-15 until the supporting member has taken the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 with the legs 25 partially extending into the fold of the web 19, and the top edge of the connecting member 26 engaging the bottom of the box adjacent the end edge thereof. However, it is possible to assemble the supporting member with the box after the latter has been erected, inasmuch as the legs 25 are quite flexible and may readily be inserted within the fold of the web 19.

In any event, after the supporting member has been brought into the position shown, the panel 30 is bent along the scoring separating it from the connecting member 26 to a substantially horizontal position underlying and engaging the bottom panel 11 of the box, and the panel 31 is then bent downwardly along the scoring separating it from the panel 30, and the ear 32 is inserted in the slot formed by pressing out the ear 28. Thus, the panel 31 serves as a diagonal strut which firmly braces the box in relation to the supporting element.

One use of the device is as follows: The box may be shipped in erected condition with a doll disposed therein, while the supporting elements S may be packed in flat relation to the box and arranged therein. After receipt by the purchaser, the supporting elements may be arranged in cooperative relation with the box to form a cradle or the like, as shown in Fig. 1.

Various changes coming within the spirit of our invention may suggest themselves to those skilled in the art and, hence, we do not wish to be restricted to the specific form shown or uses mentioned except to the extent indicated in the appended claims, which should be interpreted as broadly as the state of the art will permit.

We claim:

1. In combination with a box folded to provide end spaces with lateral entrances, end supports formed of sheet material, each support having a pair of members engaged in said spaces and having a portion folded to provide an element engag-

ing the box bottom and a reversely folded diagonal strut engaging said support.

2. A cradle comprising a box-like container having at each end an uninterrupted exposed end face and having portions inwardly of said face in the form of pockets opening outwardly, and a supporting member having a substantially planar U-shaped portion, the arms of said U-shaped portion projecting inwardly into said pockets, the bight of said U-shaped portion providing a seat on which said end of said container rests, the outer edge of said bight being convex for rocking on a floor.

3. In combination, a folded container having opposite side walls, each side wall having two layers of material affording opposed and normally adjacent corner portions, and detachable means interfitted and engaged with said portions for supporting said container in elevated position.

4. In combination, a paper box comprising a blank folded so as to provide corner spaces between opposed and normally adjacent corner portions of said blank, and sheet material means having elements interlocked with said box and entered in said spaces and engaged with said portions to form a support for said box.

5. In combination, a paper box comprising a blank folded so as to provide corner spaces between opposed and normally adjacent corner portions of said blank, sheet material supporting means having elements interlocked with said box and entered in said spaces and engaged with said portions, and means integral with and folded away from and back upon said supporting means to brace said supporting means, said supporting means serving to support said box in elevated position.

6. In combination with a box, a pair of supporting members formed of sheet material and each having a pair of arms, portions of said box engaging substantial areas on opposite sides of each arm, each member being folded to form a brace engaged with the bottom portion of said box.

7. In combination with a box member folded to provide connector portions at opposite ends thereof, end support members formed of sheet material, each support member having connector portions engaged with the adjacent connector portions at an end of said box member, each interengaging pair of connector portions comprising a pair of opposed plate-like parts on one of said members and an intermediate plate-like part on the other member.

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