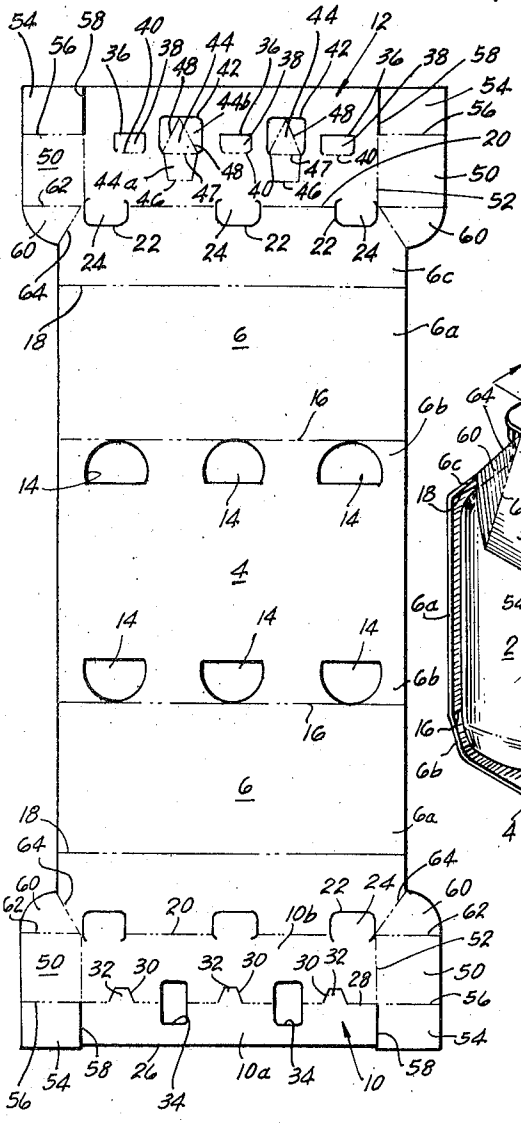
June 21, 1966 N. F. WILLIAMS 3,257,066

CARTON FOR CONTAINERS OR THE LIKE

Filed July 17, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1



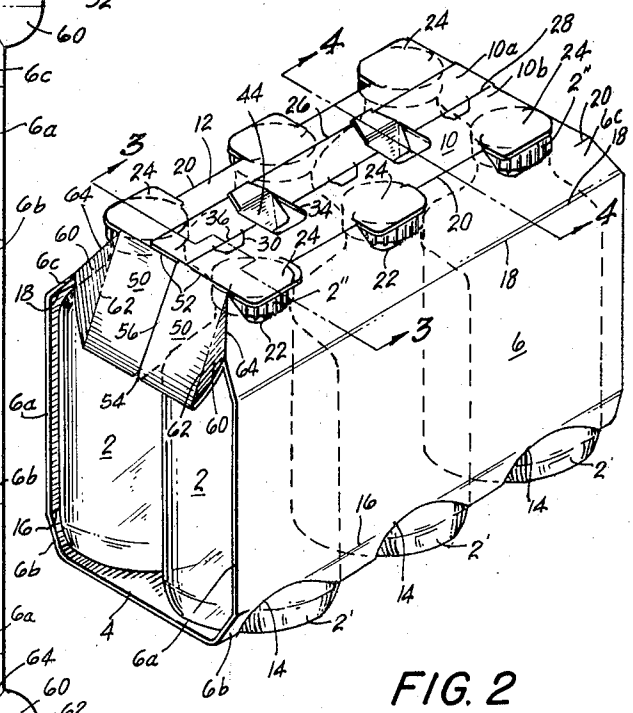


FIG. 2

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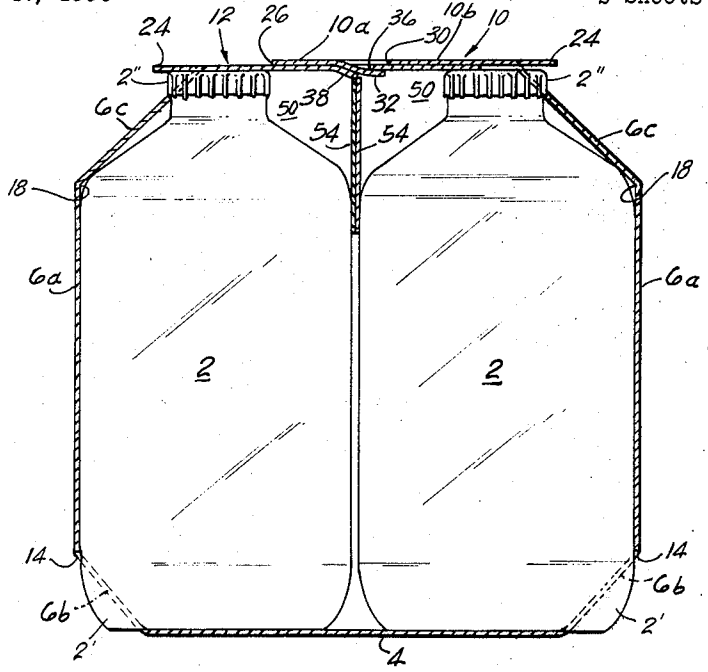

FIG. 3

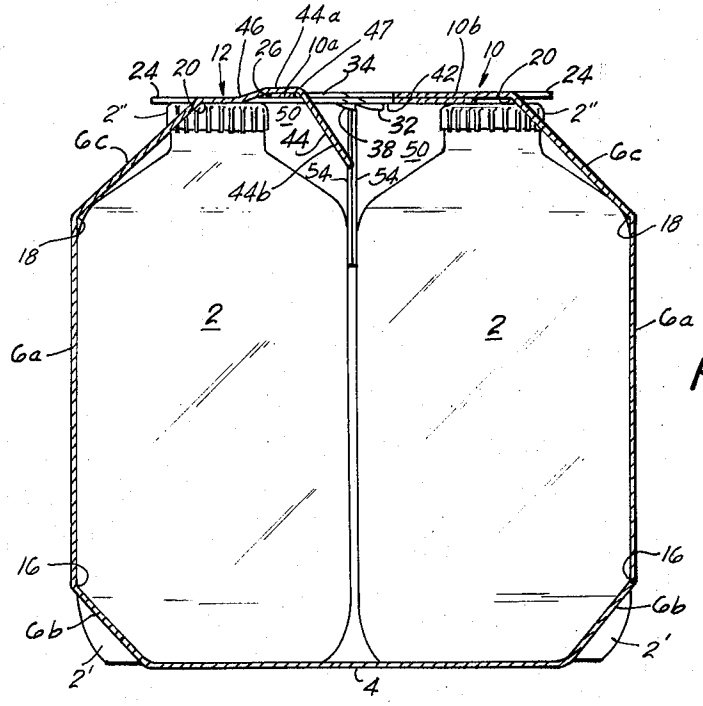

FIG. 4

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United States Patent Office 3,257,066 Patented June 21, 1966

3,257,066

CARTON FOR CONTAINERS OR THE LIKE

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Filed July 17, 1964, Ser. No. 383,371
12 Claims. (Cl. 229—40)

The present invention relates to a carton adapted to receive and hold a plurality of objects such as cans or bottles, and in particular to such a carton in which a predetermined number of such objects are packaged to define a unit which may readily be carried by hand, and in which the individual objects are securely held in protected condition.

It has become commonplace to pre-package a plurality of individual objects so that said plurality of objects can be manipulated as a unit, thereby facilitating removing them from a shelf in a supermarket or the like and transporting them to the home, the beach, the picnic area or wherever such objects are to be used or stored. This type of packaging and merchandising is employed for many kinds of objects, but is particularly widely used in connection with bottles or cans of beverages such as beer, soft drinks and the like. This invention is specifically illustrated and described in conjunction with the multi-packaging of bottles, but this is by way of exemplification only.

One of the most common types of multi-packaging involves the use of a carton formed from a blank of inexpensive material such as paperboard, which blank is subdivided into panels and is adapted to be wrapped around a plurality of objects and then secured in place. (Solely for explanatory purposes, such objects, whatever their true nature, will hereinafter be termed "containers.") Such a carton must perform several functions. It must, of course, retain the containers in proper position so that they may safely be manipulated as a unit, yet at the same time must permit ready removal of the individual containers. The containers should, to as large degree as is feasible, be physically insulated or separated from one another; this is particularly important when the containers are in the form of glass bottles or other fragile or breakable objects, but such insulation or separation is also desirable with such non-delicate objects as metal cans in order to minimize noise which might be produced by one can hitting against another. The provision of physical insulating means between the containers also helps to hold them in position. It is also important that the cartons can be readily grasped and carried, so that they can be removed from supermarket shelves and transported to places of storage and to places of ultimate use.

Of particular importance from a merchandising point of view is the capability of the carton to exhibit identification names or symbols, such as trademarks, in order that a desired brand of product may readily be found and selected when it is displayed on a supermarket shelf along with competing brands. Marketing research has disclosed that the prominence and ready visibility of brand identification is a very significant factor in fostering sales under self-service supermarket conditions. It is highly desirable that such indicia should be visible on all sides of the carton, so that no matter how the cartons are shelved or stacked prospective purchasers can pick out what they want.

In addition to these functional requirements, there are economic factors involved which are of equal importance. The cost of manufacturing and setting up the cartons must be kept as low as possible, consistent with proper functioning of the cartons. Consequently as little paperboard as possible should be used, and the construction should be such as to be capable of being set up and secured in place through the use of simple machinery.

The prime object of the present invention is to devise a carton for a plurality of containers which will attain the above-mentioned functional characteristics and which at the same time will involve minimal cost, with regard both to expense of carton material and expense of assembly with the containers packaged within the carton.

More specifically, it is an object of the present invention to devise a carton adapted to be wrapped around a plurality of containers which will retain those containers securely in place, which will at least partially close the ends of the carton in an extremely economical manner, and which will provide surfaces on the ends of the carton for display and identification purposes, which will ensure that the carton is wrapped tightly around the containers and is held securely in that condition but is readily openable so as to permit containers to be removed therefrom, which utilizes overlapped panel portions for securing the carton in wrapped condition which overlapped panel portions are reliably held closely against one another so as to prevent accidental opening of or damage to the carton, which is so constructed as to provide convenient means by which the filled cartons may be grasped and carried, and which accomplishes all of the above objectives through the use of a minimal amount of paperboard, with certain of the parts of the carton performing multiple functions. In short, the carton construction of the present invention is designed to make highly efficient use of a minimal amount of paperboard which may economically be cut and scored to proper configuration in order to produce a carton which is in many respects functionally superior to prior art cartons.

In accordance with the above, the carton of the present invention is designed to be formed from a blank comprising a bottom wall, side walls, and first and second top wall panels foldably connected to the side walls respectively and adapted to overlap one another. Interengaging means are provided on the overlapping top wall panels to pull the carton tightly about the containers disposed therewithin. Flaps, independent of said interengaging means, are provided on the lowermost of the top wall panels which are adapted to be bent up therefrom, extend around the free edge of and over the body of the uppermost top wall panel, and to be punched down through appropriately positioned apertures in the uppermost top wall panel, thereby to retain the top wall panels in overlapping position and to hold the uppermost top wall panel snugly down flat against the lowermost top wall panel. These flaps and the apertures through which the flaps are punched down are so located on the carton as to register with spaces between containers within the carton, the spacing between adjacent sets of flaps and apertures being such that a person's thumb and forefinger can readily be inserted into those apertures, thereby defining means by which the filled carton can be grasped and lifted without having to provide a separate handle structure. The punched down portions of the flaps are interposed between containers, and thus serve to prevent those containers from bumping against one another within the carton.

The top wall panels are provided at their ends with end panels foldably connected thereto, which end panels are adapted to be bent down therefrom so as to partially close the otherwise open ends of the carton, thereby serving to prevent containers from escaping through the carton ends and at the same time providing surfaces at the ends of the carton on which trademarks or other identifying or advertising matter may be displayed. Partition panels are foldably secured to facing edges of the end panels and are adapted to be bent inwardly so as to lie alongside one another and extend axially of the carton, the two-ply partitions defined by such partition panels being

interposed between containers within a carton, thereby positively physically separating those containers and insulating them from contact with one another. When the containers are bottle-shaped, the top wall panels preferably have a length less than that of the side wall panels, so that the end panels can be formed without having to use any appreciable extra amount of paperboard. The partition panels are so located on the blank that they do not require the use of any extra paperboard whatsoever.

To the accomplishment of the above, and to such other objects as may hereinafter appear, the present invention relates to the design and construction of a carton designed for prepackaging a plurality of containers or other objects, as defined in the appended claims and as described in this specification, taken together with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of a blank from which a typical carton of the present invention is adapted to be formed;

FIG. 2 is a three-quarter perspective view of the carton formed from the blank of FIG. 1 wrapped around a plurality of containers and secured in wrapped-around condition; and

FIGS. 3 and 4 are cross sectional views taken along the lines 3—3 and 4—4 of FIG. 2 respectively.

The invention is here specifically disclosed in the form of a carton adapted to pre-package a plurality of containers in the form of bottles **2**, those bottles being arranged in two parallel rows of three bottles each, thereby to produce a conventional "six-pack," but it will be appreciated that this is by way of exemplification only, and that the carton is also adaptable for use with containers **2** of other types, arranged within the cartons in different quantities and fashions, and that objects other than containers could be substituted for the bottles **2**.

The carton, which may be formed of appropriate structural material such as paperboard, cut or stamped from a large sheet of such material, as is conventional, comprises a bottom wall **4**, side walls **6** adapted to be bent up therefrom, and first and second top wall panels **10** and **12** respectively, each of the top wall panels **10** and **12** being connected to a corresponding side wall **6** so as to be bendable relative thereto. The top wall panels **10** and **12** are adapted to overlap one another, with the panel **10** overlying the panel **12**. The side walls **6**, immediately adjacent the bottom wall **4**, are provided with a series of cutouts **14** having upwardly tapering or curved edges, those cutouts **14** being longitudinally spaced corresponding to the desired locations of the bottles **2**. The bottom corners **2'** of the bottles **2** extend out through those cutouts **14**, thereby to fix the positions of the bottles **2** within the carton. A foldline **16** is disposed across the side wall **6** immediately above the cutouts **14** in order to facilitate the bending of the vertical portion **6***a* of the side wall **6** relative to the generally inclined portion **6***b* thereof in which the cutouts **14** are formed. When the containers **2** are in the form of bottles, the upper portion **6***c* of the side wall **6** may be separated from the vertical portion **6***a* thereof by fold line **18**, so that the portion **6***c* may be inclined inwardly, as is clearly evident in FIGS. 2–4.

Foldlines **20** separate the top wall panels **10** and **12** from their respective side walls **6**, those foldlines **20** being interrupted, in the bottle-packaging form here specifically disclosed, by cuts **22** extending into the side wall portion **6***c* and partially into the top wall panels **10** and **12**, thereby to define tabs **24** which, when the top wall panels **10** and **12** are bent down horizontally from the side wall sections **6***c*, are adapted to extend out coplanarly from the top wall panels **10** and **12**, the cuts **22** defining openings through which the bottle caps **2''** are adapted to extend, the tabs **24** extending over and covering the upper surfaces of those bottle caps **2''**.

The uppermost top wall panel **10** has a free edge **26** and is provided with a longitudinally extending foldline **28** located between the edge **26** and the foldline **20**. The foldline **28** is interrupted by a plurality of cuts **30** longitudinally spaced from one another and extending toward the foldline **20**, thereby to define a plurality of tabs **32**. The foldline **28** separates the top wall panel **10** into sections **10***a* and **10***b*, and the tabs **32** extend into the section **10***b* and are integral with the section **10***a*. A pair of apertures **34** also interrupt the foldline **28**, each of the apertures **34** being longitudinally spaced from the adjacent tabs **32**.

The lowermost top wall panel **12** is provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced cuts **36** which define tabs **38** connected to the end wall panel **12** by means of foldlines **40**, the tabs **38** being adapted to register with the tabs **32** on the end wall panel **10** when those panels are overlapped. The panel **12** is also provided with cuts **42** longitudinally interposed between and spaced from the cuts **36** so as to define flaps **44** which are foldably connected to the panel **12** by means of foldlines **46**. The foldlines **46** are so located on the panel **12** as to be beyond the free edge **26** of the panel **10** when the panels **10** and **12** are overlapped, and the flaps **44** are so located as to register with the apertures **34** in the panel **10**. The flaps **44** are preferably formed so as to have a relatively narrow first section **44***a* and a wider second section **44***b*, separated by foldline **47**, the sections **44***b* being wider than the apertures **34** and preferably being provided with converging foldlines **48**.

End wall panels **50** are foldably connected to the ends of section **10***b* of the end wall panel **10** by means of foldlines **52**, and similar end wall panels **50** are similarly foldably connected to corresponding portions of the ends of the top wall panel **12**. Partition panels **54** are foldably connected to the end wall panels **50** by foldlines **56**. The partition panels **54** connected to the top wall panel **10** extend along the ends of panel section **10***a* and are separated therefrom by cuts **58**. The partition panels **54** connected to the top wall panel **12** extend along the ends of a corresponding section of the panel **12** and are similarly separated therefrom by cuts **58**. Substantially triangular-shaped panels **60** are connected between the end wall panels **50** and the upper portions of the side walls **6**, being connected to the former by foldline **62** and to the latter by foldline **64**. In the form here specifically disclosed, where the containers **2** are in the form of bottles having tapering neck portions, the length of the top wall panels **10** and **12** is less than the length of the side walls **6**, thus permitting the end panels **50** and partition **54** to be formed at least in large part from paperboard coming within a lateral projection (vertically as viewed in FIG. 1) of the side wall **6** and bottom wall **4**, thus making for extreme economy in the use of paperboard.

When the carton is to be used the proper number of bottles **2** are appropriately positioned on the bottom wall **4** and inside the bent-up side wall **6**. The lowermost top wall panel **12** is then bent down to a horizontal position so as to overlie the tops of the bottle caps **2''** in the corresponding row of bottles **2**, and the flaps **44** are bent up therefrom to a substantially vertical position and are maintained in that position. The section **10***a* of the top wall panel **10** is bent about the foldline **28** relative to the top wall panel section **10***b* so that the tabs **32** extend coplanarly with the section **10***a* and depend below the section **10***b*, and the section **10***b* is bent around the foldline **20** so as to overlie the top wall panel **10**, the tabs **32** pressing down the flaps **38** and entering the apertures in the top wall panel **12** defined by the cuts **36**, the tabs **32** coming up against the edges of the cuts **36** opposite the tab foldlines **40**. The top wall panel section **10***a* is then rotated to a horizontal position substantially coplanar with the section **10***b* and closely overlying the top wall panel **12**. This causes the tabs **32** to pivot against the edges of the apertures in which they are received, thereby drawing the carton blank tightly around the bottles **2**. The free edge **26** of the top wall panel section **10***a* is located to the right (as viewed in FIG. 2) of the flaps **44**

extending upwardly from the top wall panel **12**. The flaps **44** are then bent down horizontally over the top wall panel section **10***a*, and the wider flap sections **44***b* register with the apertures **34** in the top wall panel **10**. The flap sections **44***b* are then bent about the foldlines **47** and pushed down through the apertures **34**, the flap sections **44***b* themselves bending about the foldlines **48** as to move through the narrower apertures **34** and then spring back substantially to their initial wide condition, thereby locking themselves in engagement with the top wall panel **12** and effectively preventing their accidental disengagement from the apertures **34**. The flaps **44** thus function to maintain the top wall panels **10** and **12** in overlapped relationship and thus to maintain the carton in tightly wrapped condition around the containers **2**. In addition the flaps **44** hold the exposed top wall panel section **10***a* down flat against panel **12** and prevent it from bending up about the foldline **28**.

The apertures **34** through which the flaps **44** are pushed are exposed, and function as finger-receiving orifices through which a person can pass his thumb and forefinger respectively, thereby to grasp and lift the carton and its contents. This lifting is accomplished at a two-ply portion of the carton, which provides adequate strength thereto. Since the apertures **34** and flaps **44** are so positioned as to register with spaces between adjacent bottles **2**, the necessary finger-receiving spaces are provided on the inside of the carton. In addition, the sections **44***b* of the flaps **44** extend down into those spaces and thereby serve to restrict movement of the containers **2** within the carton. This latter factor is of particular significance when the containers **2** are in the form of cans or the like the upper peripheries of which are approximately as closely spaced relative to one another as their lower peripheries, or when the carton is only incompletely filled with containers.

At the same time that the top wall panels **10** and **12** are being bent down over the top of the carton, or prior thereto, the partition panels **54** are bent around the foldlines **56** so as to extend substantially at right angles to the end panels **50** to which they are connected, and the end panels **50** are bent about the foldlines **52** so as to extend from their respective top wall panels **10** and **12**, the foldlines **56** on the end wall panels **50** at a given end of the carton facing and substantially abutting one another and the partition panels **54** connected thereto lying alongside one another and projecting axially into the interior of the carton, thereby defining a two-ply partition which is interposed between the end bottles **2** at that end of the carton and which prevents those bottles from engaging one another, at least at their upper ends, and cushions them against shock. The end panels **50** partially close the ends of the carton, thereby assisting in securing the bottles **2** therein and protecting them against impact from external agents. In addition, the exposed surfaces of the end panels **50** are readily visible, and may be used to carry trademarks or advertising or identifying indicia or messages which will be readily visible from the ends of the carton.

The filled cartons may readily be stacked one upon the other, a factor which is of considerable importance in connection with point of sale displays. The flat upper and lower surfaces of the carton, as well as the tabs **24** which extend out over the bottle caps **2''**, facilitate such stacking and protect the containers against damage. The flaps **44** which extend around the free edge **26** of the top wall panel section **10***a* prevent that section from being accidentally bent upwardly when superposed cartons are shifted in position or are dragged thereover.

Thus a high degree of security is imparted by the carton of the present invention, both with regard to the carton contents and with regard to the reliability with which the carton remains in secured position around those contents. The carton may, however, be readily opened to permit unimpeded removal of the bottles **2** therefrom. This is done simply by inserting a finger into the apertures **34** and pulling the flaps **44** up therefrom and then by lifting the top wall panel section **10***a* so as to disengage the tabs **30** from the apertures defined by the cuts **36**, after which the top wall panels **10** and **12** may be disengaged and the carton spread open to expose the bottles **2**.

The flaps **44** not only serve as punch locks for maintaining the top wall panels **10** and **12** in position against one another, but also serve to positively prevent upward movement of the top wall panel section **10***a*. In addition they cooperate with the apertures **34** to define lifting and carrying means for the carton, as well as assisting in retaining the bottles **2** in proper position within the carton. All of this, it will be noted, is accomplished without in any way detracting from the efficiency and effectiveness of the tabs **32** in drawing the carton tightly around its contents, and without weakening the carton in connection with the action of those tabs **32**. The end wall panels **50** serve to partially close the ends of the carton, protect the carton contents, and provide surfaces for display purposes. In addition they carry the panels **54** which define the partitions which extend between the end containers.

Manipulation of the various blank parts, particularly when the carton is being closed around the containers **2**, is simple and is readily accomplished in a continuous manner by means of simple packaging machinery. The blank construction, as exemplified in FIG. 1, is exceedingly compact, and the design is such as to involve only a negligible wastage of material, particularly when blanks are cut or stamped from large sheets of appropriate material. The panels **50**, **54** and **60** cause only a minimal departure from exact rectangularity in the blank, thus producing only a minimal amount of waste, constituted by the spaces at each end of the blank between the sets of panels in question. Even that small amount of waste can be further minimized if the individual blanks are so arranged on the overall sheet that the protruding portions of the panels **50**, **54** and **60** of a given blank are caused to nest inside the spaces at the ends of adjacent blanks defined between the protruding panel portions of that adjacent blank.

Thus, by means of a simple and economical structure well adapted to automatic machine erection, a container carton is produced which is characterized by superior functional attributes.

While but a single embodiment of the present invention has been here specifically disclosed, it will be apparent that many variations may be made therein, all within the scope of the instant invention, as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A container carton comprising a bottom wall on which containers are adapted to rest, side walls extending up from said bottom wall, and first and second top wall panels foldably connected to said side walls and having free edges located remote from their associated side walls, said first top wall panel overlapping said second top wall panel, said second panel having a plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures formed therein and, longitudinally spaced from said apertures, a plurality of flaps formed therefrom, said flaps extending laterally from foldlines located laterally outside said free edge of said first panel to points laterally on the other side of said free edge, said first panel having a plurality of tabs spaced laterally from said free edge of said first panel, said tabs registering with and entering the apertures in said second panel, said first panel having a plurality of apertures registering with portions of said flaps so as to define aperture-flap sets, said flaps extending from said second panel across said free edge of said first panel and over said first panel and being inserted into said apertures in said first panel, said aperture-flap sets being longitudinally spaced from one another by a distance corre-

sponding to the spaces between adjacent containers resting on said bottom wall, said flap portions being adapted to enter said spaces and to be interposed between said adjacent containers.

2. A container carton comprising a bottom wall on which a plurality of rows of containers are adapted to rest, side walls extending up from said bottom wall, and first and second top wall panels foldably connected to said side walls and having free edges located remote from their associated side walls, said first top wall panel overlapping said second top wall panel, said second panel having a plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures formed therein and, longitudinally spaced from said apertures, a plurality of flaps formed therefrom, said flaps extending laterally from foldlines located laterally outside said free edge of said first panel to points laterally on the other side of said free edge, said first panel having a plurality of tabs spaced laterally from said free edge of said first panel, said tabs registering with and entering the apertures in said second panel, said first panel having a plurality of apertures registering with and narrower than portions of said flaps so as to define aperture-flap sets, said flaps extending from said second panel across said free edge of said first panel and over said first panel and being inserted into said apertures in said first panel, said aperture-flap sets being longitudinally spaced from one another by a distance corresponding to the spaces between adjacent containers resting on said bottom wall, said flap portions being adapted to enter said spaces and to be interposed between said adjacent containers, end panels foldably connected to a longitudinal end of said first and second top wall panels respectively, bent down therefrom to partially close the end of said carton and having facing edges which substantially abut one another, and partition panels foldably secured to said facing edges and bent inwardly therefrom so as to extend alongside one another longitudinally of said carton, thereby to define a partition between the end containers in different rows.

3. A container carton comprising a bottom wall on which a plurality of rows of containers are adapted to rest, side walls extending up from said bottom wall, and first and second top wall panels foldably connected to said side walls and having free edges located remote from ther associated side walls, said first top wall panel overlapping said second top wall panel, said second panel having a plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures formed therein and, longitudinally spaced from said apertures, a plurality of flaps formed therefrom, said flaps extending laterally from foldlines located laterally outside said free edge of said first panel to points laterally on the other side of said free edge, said first panel having a plurality of tabs spaced laterally from said free edge of said first panel, said tabs registering with and entering the apertures in said second panel, said first panel having a plurality of apertures registering with portions of said flaps so as to define aperture-flap sets, said flaps extending from said second panel across said free edge of said first panel and over said first panel and being inserted into said apertures in said first panel, said aperture-flap sets being longitudinally spaced from one another by a distance corresponding to the spaces between adjacent containers resting on said bottom wall, said flap portions being adapted to enter said spaces and to be interposed between said adjacent containers, end panels foldably connected to a longitudinal end of said first and second top wall panels respectively, bent down therefrom to partially close the end of said carton and having facing edges which substantially abut one another, and partition panels foldably secured to said facing edges and bent inwardly therefrom so as to extend alongside one another longitudinally of said carton, thereby to define a partition between the end containers in different rows, and substantially triangular panels between and foldably connected to said end panels and said side walls.

4. A container carton comprising a bottom wall on which containers are adapted to rest, side walls extending up from said bottom wall, and first and second top wall panels foldably connected to said side walls and having free edges located remote from their associated side walls, said side walls including substantially vertical sections and inclined sections connected between said vertical sections and said top wall panels, said first top wall panel overlapping said second top wall panel, said second panel having a plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures formed therein and, longitudinally spaced from said apertures, a plurality of flaps formed therefrom, said flaps extending laterally from foldlines located laterally outside said free edge of said first panel to points laterally on the other side of said free edge, said first panel having a plurality of tabs spaced laterally from said free edge of said first panel, said tabs registering with and entering the apertures in said second panel, said first panel having a plurality of apertures registering with and narrower than portions of said flaps so as to define aperture-flap sets, said flaps extending from said second panel across said free edge of said first panel and over said first panel and being inserted into said apertures in said first panel, said aperture-flap sets being longitudinally spaced from one another by a distance corresponding to the spaces between adjacent containers resting on said bottom wall, said flap portions being adapted to enter said spaces and to be interposed between said adjacent containers.

5. A container carton comprising a bottom wall on which a plurality of rows of containers are adapted to rest, side walls extending up from said bottom wall, and first and second top wall panels foldably connected to said side walls and having free edges located remote from their associated side walls, said side walls including substantially vertical sections and inclined sections connected between said vertical sections and said top wall panels, said first top wall panel overlapping said second top wall panel, said second panel having a plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures formed therein and, longitudinally spaced from said apertures, a plurality of flaps formed therefrom, said flaps extending laterally from foldlines located laterally outside said free edge of said first panel to points laterally on the other side of said free edge, said first panel having a plurality of tabs spaced laterally from said free edge of said first panel, said tabs registering with and entering the apertures in said second panel, said first panel having a plurality of apertures registering with and narrower than portions of said flaps so as to define aperture-flap sets, said flaps extending from said second panel across said free edge of said first panel and over said first panel and being inserted into said apertures in said first panel, said aperture-flap sets being longitudinally spaced from one another by a distance corresponding to the spaces between adjacent containers resting on said bottom wall, said flap portions being adapted to enter said spaces and to be interposed between said adjacent containers, end panels foldably connected to a longitudinal end of said first and second top wall panels respectively, bent down therefrom to partially close the end of said carton and having facing edges which substantially abut one another, and partition panels foldably secured to said facing edges and bent inwardly therefrom so as to extend along side one another longitudinally of said carton, thereby to define a partition between the end containers in different rows.

6. A container carton comprising a bottom wall on which a plurality of rows of containers are adapted to rest, side walls extending up from said bottom wall, and first and second top wall panels foldably connected to said side walls and having free edges located remote from their associated side walls, said side walls including substantially vertical sections and inclined sections connected between said vertical sections and said top wall panels, said first top wall panel overlapping said second top wall panel, said second panel having a plurality of longi-

tudinally spaced apertures formed therein and, longitudinally spaced from said apertures, a plurality of flaps formed therefrom, said flaps extending laterally from fold-lines located laterally outside said free edge of said first panel to points laterally on the other side of said free edge, said first panel having a plurality of tabs spaced laterally from said free edge of said first panel, said tabs registering with and entering the apertures in said second panel, said first panel having a plurality of apertures registering with portions of said flaps so as to define aperture-flap sets, said flaps extending from said second panel across said free edge of said first panel and over said first panel and being inserted into said apertures in said first panel, said aperture-flap sets being longitudinally spaced from one another by a distance corresponding to the spaces between adjacent containers resting on said bottom wall, said flap portions being adapted to enter said spaces and to be interposed between said adjacent containers, end panels foldably connected to a longitudinal end of said first and second top wall panels respectively, bent down therefrom to partially close the end of said carton and having facing edges which substantially abut one another, and partition panels foldably secured to said facing edges and bent inwardly therefrom so as to extend alongside one another longitudinally of said carton, thereby to define a partition between the end containers in different rows, and substantially triangular panels between and foldably connected to said end panels and said inclined panel sections.

7. The carton of claim **6**, in which the length of said top wall panels is less than the length of said vertical sections of said side walls and the combined length of said top wall panels and the end panels connected thereto is greater than the length of said vertical sections of said side walls, said triangular panels having free edges tapering outwardly from the end edges of the corresponding side wall sections to the end edges of said end panels.

8. A container carton comprising a bottom wall on which a plurality of rows of containers are adapted to rest, side walls extending up from said bottom wall, and overlapping top wall panels foldably connected to said side walls respectively, end panels foldably connected to a longitudinal end of said top wall panels respectively, bent down therefrom to partially close the end of said carton and having facing edges which substantially abut one another, and partition panels foldably secured to said facing edges and bent inwardly therefrom so as to extend alongside one another substantially longitudinally of said enclosure, thereby to define a partition between end containers in said rows.

9. A container carton comprising a bottom wall on which a plurality of rows of containers are adapted to rest, side walls extending up from said bottom wall, and overlapping top wall panels foldably connected to said side walls respectively, end panels foldably connected to a longitudinal end of said top wall panels respectively, bent down therefrom to partially close the end of said carton and having facing edges which substantially abut one another, and partition panels foldably secured to said facing edges and bent inwardly therefrom so as to extend alongside one another substantially longitudinally of said enclosure, thereby to define a partition between end containers in said rows, and substantially triangular panels between and foldably connected to said end panels and said side walls.

10. A container carton comprising a bottom wall on which a plurality of rows of containers are adapted to rest, side walls extending up from said bottom wall, and overlapping top wall panels foldably connected to said side walls respectively, said side walls including substantially vertical sections and inclined sections connected between said vertical sections and said top wall panels, end panels foldably connected to a longitudinal end of said top wall panels respectively, bent down therefrom to partially close the end of said carton and having facing edges which substantially abut one another, and partition panels foldably secured to said facing edges and bent inwardly therefrom so as to extend alongside one another substantially longitudinally of said enclosure, thereby to define a partition between end containers in said rows.

11. A container carton comprising a bottom wall on which a plurality of rows of containers are adapted to rest, side walls extending up from said bottom wall, and overlapping top wall panels foldably connected to said side walls respectively, said side walls including substantially vertical sections and inclined sections connected between said vertical sections and said top wall panels, end panels foldably connected to a longitudinal end of said top wall panels respectively, bent down therefrom to partially close the end of said carton and having facing edges which substantially abut one another, and partition panels foldably secured to said facing edges and bent inwardly therefrom so as to extend alongside one another substantially longitudinally of said enclosure, thereby to define a partition between end containers in said rows, and substantially triangular panels between and foldably connected to said end panels and said inclined side wall sections.

12. The carton of claim **11**, in which the length of said top wall panels is less than the length of said vertical sections of said side walls and the combined length of said top wall panels and the end panels connected thereto is greater than the length of said vertical sections of said side walls, said triangular panels having free edges tapering outwardly from the end edges of the corresponding side wall sections to the end edges of said end panels.

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