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(54) Crate sleeve.

(57) The invention relates to a sleeve (1) used to display printed matter which is generally used to wrap around the outside of an article container such as a bottle crate (C). According to the invention there is provided a sleeve (1) for circumambient disposition about the outer face of a bottle crate (C) or the like, which sleeve (1) comprises foldable interlocking means (36, 38) for locking cooperation with complementary means (A1, A2) provided by the crate (C) to hold the sleeve (1) in position. The invention therefore enables printed matter to be associated with a crate full of articles, such as beer bottles, which articles may vary and hence the sleeve can be changed accordingly.

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The invention relates to a sleeve for displaying printed matter which is generally used to wrap around the outside of an article container such as a bottle crate. Such article containers may take the form of crates or cartons made from cardboard or plastics material. A sleeve according to the present invention is particularly adapted for use with rigid plastics crates for carrying beer bottles. Typically such a crate contains four parallel rows of six bottles.

The outside of such bottle crates often bear a trade mark advertising the product contained within the articles which themselves are contained within the crates. It is an object of the present invention to provide a crate sleeve which can be used to carry secondary printed matter, possibly of an advertising or trade mark nature, which can cover up the advertising literature printed directly on the crate.

Accordingly there is provided a sleeve for circumambient disposition about the outer face of a bottle crate or the like, which sleeve comprises foldable interlocking means for locking cooperation with complementary means provided by the crate to hold the sleeve in position.

According to a further aspect of this invention there is provided a sleeve wherein said sleeve comprises two or more like parts which are substantially structurally identical and which are secured together to form said sleeve.

A further aspect of the invention provides a sleeve wherein all the parts making up the sleeve are initially cut from a single sheet of material and the parts are frangibly joined to adjacent parts in the sheet of material.

This aspect of the invention allows that the collapsed sleeve be cut from a sheet of material whose width is approximately the length of any one part which makes up the sleeve. Thus the parts can be detached from one another and joined to form an erected crate sleeve without having to provide very large sheets of material and the consequent dimensionally large processing machinery such as sheet cutting apparatus.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a crate sleeve which comprises a plurality of panels which panels can be fitted adjacent a wall of a crate and wherein said crate sleeve comprises one or more crate interlocking means which cooperate with means associated with a crate.

This aspect of the invention enables the crate sleeve to be securely attached to a crate for example by interlocking the sleeve with handle apertures in the crate. Thus the sleeve provides the desired result of presenting secondary printed information over the lowermost information printed on the crate where this secondary information is reasonably securely attached but still allows it to be removed due to the nature of the sleeve.

An embodiment of a crate sleeve according to the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

FIGURE 1 shows a schematic elevation view of an unformed crate sleeve according to the invention;

FIGURE 2 shows a perspective view of a crate sleeve in a formed structure;

FIGURE 3 shows a crate sleeve according to the invention which has been placed on an article carrier, namely a crate; and

FIGURE 4 shows the same perspective elevation drawing of the crate sleeve on a crate as shown in the Figure 3 but where crate sleeve attachment means are inserted into the handle apertures of the crate.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown a crate sleeve 1 made from paperboard or similar foldable sheet material and which comprises two like parts 2 and 3 which comprise two main panels each. The crate sleeve comprises four panels 10, 12, 14 and 16. Part 2 comprises panels 10 and 12 which are foldably hinged along fold region 28 whilst part 3 comprises panels 14 and 16 which are foldably hinged along fold region 24. Both parts 2 and 3 which further comprise a tab each, 30 and 32 respectively, which tabs are used to glue parts 2 and 3 together. In this specific example of the invention the securing means to secure parts 2 and 3 together is glue in combination with tabs, but it is envisaged that any known panel securing device or agents may be employed. Tabs 30 and 32 are foldably hinged along fold regions 26 and 22 to panels 12 and 14 respectively.

The crate sleeve further comprises two crate interlocking means 36 and 38. Interlocking means 36 comprises flaps 40, 42 and 44 whilst means 38 comprises flaps 50, 52 and 54. Flaps 42 and 44 are foldably joined to opposite ends of flap 40 and flap 40 is foldably joined to panel 14 along hinge 46. Flaps 52 and 54 are foldably joined to opposite ends of flap 50 and flap 50 is foldably joined to panel 12 along hinge 56.

In Figure 1 the crate sleeve 1 is shown in a collapsed form where the two parts 2 and 3 are joined together along a longitudinal frangible score line 20, whilst Figure 2 shows the crate sleeve in a completed and erected formation. Crate sleeve 1 can be cut from a single sheet of paperboard material which has a length approximately half the overall length of panels 10, 12, 14 and 16 laid end to end. Frangible score line 20 can be broken, thus separating parts 2 and 3; tabs 30 and 32 can be glued to panels 16 and 10 respectively and hinge regions 22, 24, 26 and 28 also bent to create an erected crate sleeve of rectilinear configuration as shown in Figure 2.

In Figure 3 carton sleeve 1 is positioned around a crate C but where the crate interlocking means 36 and 38 have not been located in a locking position.

Figure 4 shows the crate interlocking means inserted in the handle apertures A1 and A2 of the crate C. The interlocking means thereby provides the means by which the sleeve is supported and secured to the crate. As shown in Figure 4 flaps 52 and 54 are folded into approximately a perpendicular position relative to flap 50. The length of flaps 52 and 54 is greater than the vertical height of aperture A2 and flaps 54 and 52 therefore act to secure the crate sleeve to the crate. Flap 50 as shown in just less than the width of aperture A2 therefore allowing the overall interlocking means 38 to be inserted into aperture A2. Similarly interlocking means 36 can be inserted in aperture A1 and means 36 also acts to lock the crate sleeve 1 to crate C.

Claims

1. A sleeve (1) for circumambient disposition about the outer face of a bottle crate (C) or the like, which sleeve (1) comprises foldable interlocking means (36, 38) for locking cooperation with complementary means (A1, A2) provided by the crate (C) to hold the sleeve (1) in position.

2. A sleeve (1) as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sleeve (1) comprises two or more like parts (2, 3) which are substantially structurally identical and which are secured together to form said sleeve.

3. A sleeve (1) as claimed in claim 2 wherein each of said parts comprises one of said crate interlocking means (36, 38).

4. A sleeve (1) as claimed in claim 3 wherein said crate interlocking means (36, 38) comprises a central foldable flap (40, 50) and two opposed marginal flaps (42, 44, 52, 54) on opposite sides of said central flap (40, 50).

5. A sleeve (1) as claimed in claim 4 wherein said central flaps (40, 50) are sized to pass through a handle aperture (A1, A2) in said crate (C) and said marginal flaps (42, 44, 52, 54) are foldable relative to said central flaps (40, 50) and act to prevent said crate interlocking means disengaging said crate aperture.

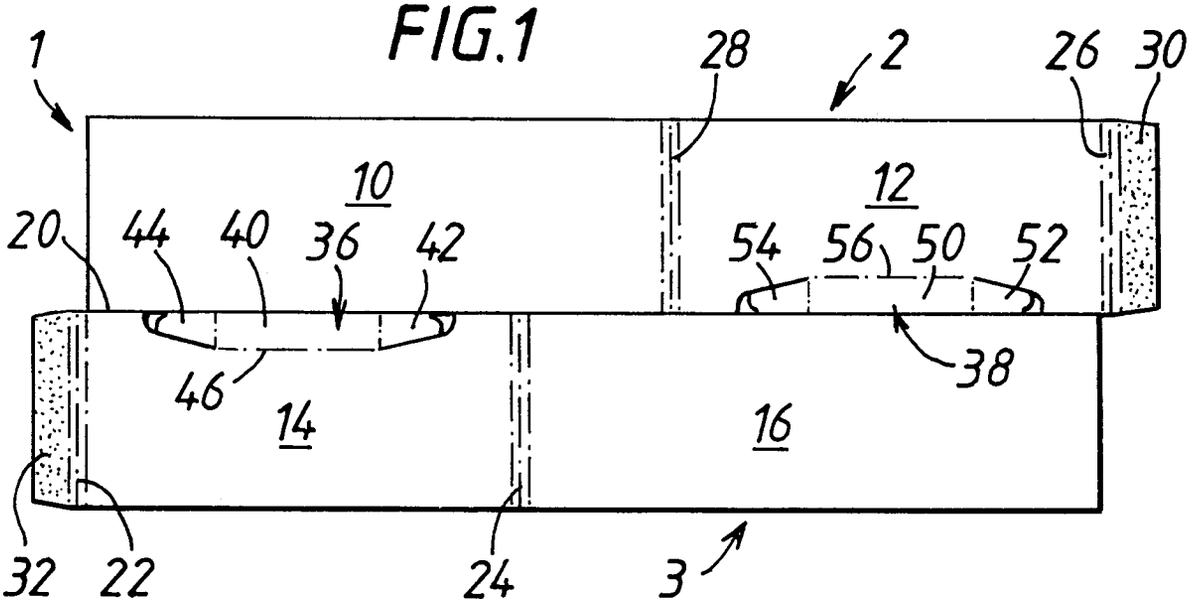
6. A sleeve (1) as claimed in any of the previous claims wherein all said parts (2, 3) making up the sleeve (1) are initially cut from a single sheet of material and the parts are frangibly joined to adjacent parts in the sheet of material.

7. A sleeve as claimed in claim 6 wherein said parts are frangibly joined along their upper edge.

8. A sleeve substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

9. A sleeve (1) which comprises a plurality of panels (10, 12, 14, 16) which panels can be fitted adjacent a wall of a crate (C) and wherein said sleeve (1) comprises one or more crate interlocking means (36, 38) which cooperated with means (A1, A2) associated with a crate.

FIG.1


1
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2
26
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42
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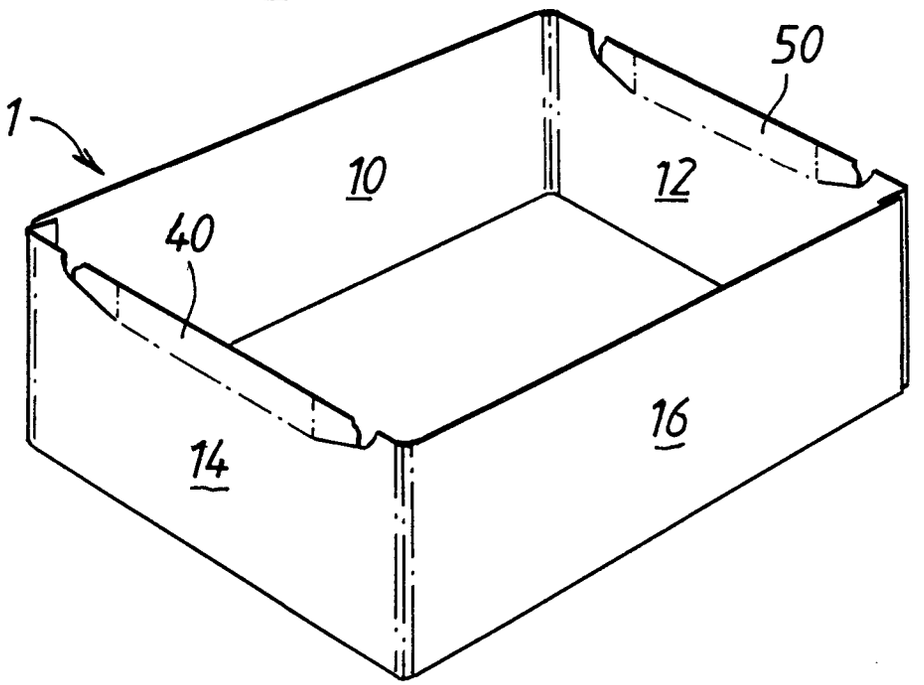
3

FIG. 2


50
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14

FIG.3

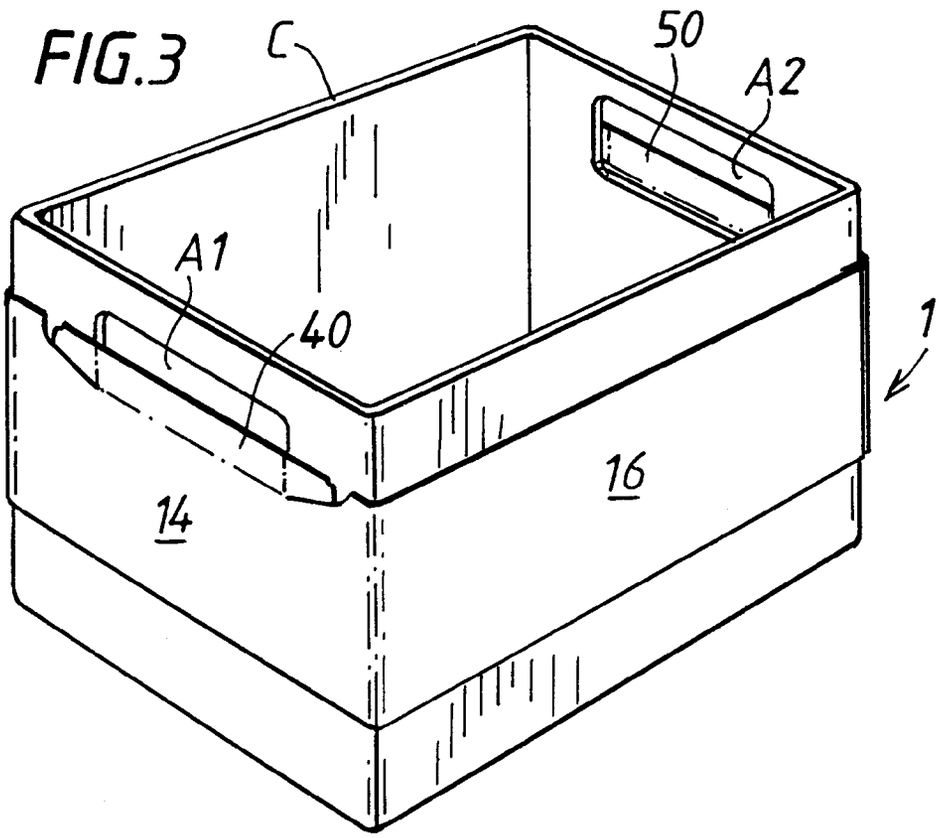

FIG.4