

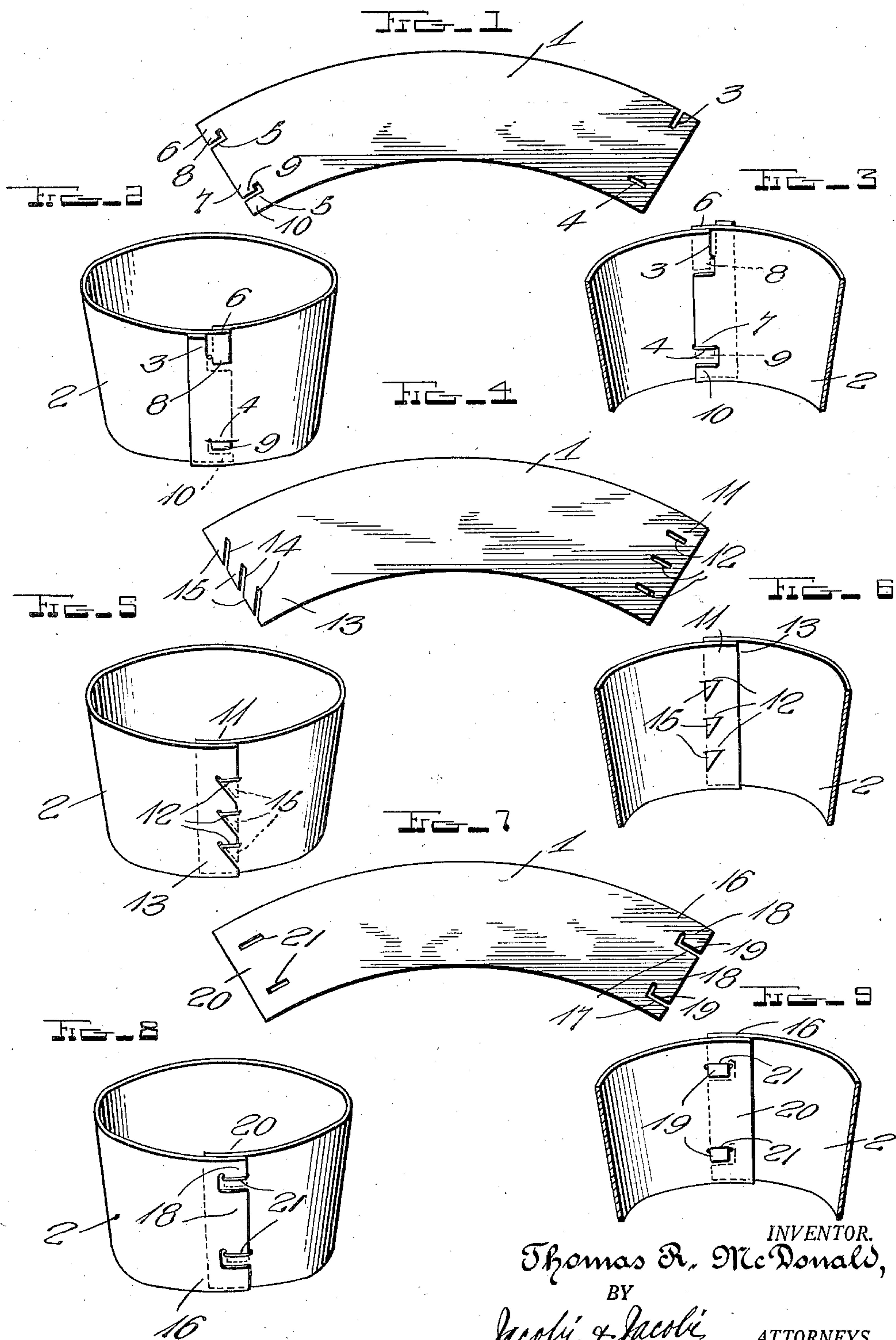
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BASKET LINER

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BASKET LINER

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This invention relates to liners of the type used when packing fruit, vegetables and the like in containers such as a bushel basket in order to prevent the fruit from becoming bruised or otherwise marred by contact with sides of the basket and one object of the invention is to provide a liner formed from a single sheet of tough paper which will conform substantially to the inside diameter of the basket and when in use have its end portions firmly secured in overlapped relation to each other to prevent any danger of the end portions slipping out of their proper positions and permitting contact of the fruit with walls of the basket.

Another object of the invention is to provide end portions of the strip with improved joints of such construction that while the strips will be initially flat, they can be quickly united to form a frusto-conical liner which will not only retain its shape during use but also when a form is removed to permit a basket to be set in place.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which is simple in construction, inexpensive to manufacture and very effective when in use.

With these and numerous other objects in view, my invention consists in the novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter referred to and more particularly pointed out in the specification and claims.

In the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this application:

Figure 1 is a view of a blank or strip from which a liner of the improved construction is formed;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a liner formed from the strip illustrated in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken vertically through Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a view of a modified form of blank or strip;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a liner formed from the strip shown in Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken vertically through Figure 5;

Figure 7 is a view of another modified form of blank or strip;

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a liner formed from the strip illustrated in Figure 7; and

Figure 9 is a sectional view taken vertically through Figure 8.

A liner constructed in accordance with this invention is employed when packing fruit such as peaches and similar fruit which is liable to be easily bruised or have the skin broken. When

this fruit is packed, a shaper in which the liner is placed is set upon a base and after a layer of fruit has been placed upon the base and evenly arranged, other fruit is poured into the lined shaper until it is filled. This form or shaper is then removed and a basket corresponding in dimensions to the shaper is set in place about the filled liner and the basket together with the base turned upright so that the base may be removed and a cover set in place and secured. Since the shaper is removed in order to set the basket in place, it is important that the liner which is formed from an initially flat sheet of tough paper or similar material have its ends firmly secured and thereby prevent the liner from opening and spilling the fruit. It is also important that end portions of the liner remain united after the basket has been turned upright and a cover applied as the fruit must be prevented from contacting with walls of the basket in order to prevent the fruit from becoming bruised or skin of the fruit becoming torn by contact with sharp edges of thin strips of wood from which the baskets are formed.

In the accompanying drawing, several embodiments of the invention have been disclosed. In each embodiment, the liner is formed from an initially flat strip of tough paper and referring to Figures 1, 4 and 7, it will be seen that this sheet or blank 1 is arcuate longitudinally. That is to say, the side edges of the sheet constitute arcs of a circle extending parallel to each other and end edges are cut straight and converge in one direction. When a liner is to be used, end portions of a blank or strip are moved towards each other and united in overlapping relation thereby forming a liner 2 which is open at its ends but completely closed entirely about its circumference. It should also be noted that when the ends of the blank are united, a liner which is frusto-conical in shape will be formed and this liner will fit snugly in a bushel basket with its walls in close contacting engagement with walls of the basket. In view of the fact that end portions of the blank or strip are firmly interlocked, they cannot slide away from each other and permit fruit to contact with the walls of the basket and as the strip is formed from tough paper, it will not be torn by the weight of the fruit in the basket.

Referring particularly to Figures 1, 2 and 3, it will be seen that one end portion of the blank or strip has been cut to form a slit 3 leading from the outer or upper side edge of the blank while in spaced relation to the inner or lower side edge

of the blank, there has been formed a slot 4 extending longitudinally of the blank. Therefore, the slit and slot extend transversely of each other with one extending transversely of the blank and the other longitudinally thereof. The other end portion of the blank is cut as shown at 5 to form longitudinally extending tongues 6 and 7 having depending bills 8 and 9. Referring to Figures 2 and 3, it will be seen that when the end portions of the blank are overlapped, the tongue 6 extends through the slit 3 with its bill engaging the other end portion of the blank below the inner end of the slit and the bill 9 of the wide intermediate tongue or flap 7 projects downwardly through the slot 4. The tongue or corner portion 10 of the blank below the bill 9 bears against the overlapping end portion of the blank beneath the slot 4 and assists in bracing the overlapping end portion of the blank. With the end portion of the blank so connected, they will be firmly held in overlapping relation to each other and prevented from moving longitudinally out of their overlapped position. Therefore, pressure exerted by fruit in a filled basket cannot cause the united end portions of the liner to slip out of their proper position.

In Figures 4, 5 and 6, the blank has one end portion which is indicated by the numeral 11 formed with slots 12 spaced from each other transversely of the blank and extending longitudinally thereof. While three slots have been shown, it will be understood that any number desired may be employed. The other end portion 13 of the strip or blank is cut from its end edge to form slits 14 extending diagonally at an upward incline and defining tongues 15 disposed at a downward incline and having their free ends tapered to sharp points. By this arrangement, the tongues may be inserted through the slots 12 and serve very effectively to retain the end portions 11 and 13 of the blank or strip in overlapped engagement with each other.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figures 7, 8 and 9, the end portion 16 of the blank is cut from its end edge as shown at 17 to form tongues 18 having depending bills 19 similar to those provided at one end of the blank illustrated in Figure 1. The other end portion 20 of this blank is cut to form slots 21 extending longitudinally of the blank in spaced relation to each other transversely thereof and referring to Figures 8 and 9, it will be seen that when the end portions of the blank or strip are overlapped, the bills 19 engage through the slots 21 and firmly hold the end portions in overlapped engagement with each other.

In each embodiment of the invention, the liner is formed from a blank which is initially flat and therefore a number may be cut from a stack of paper by a single stamping operation and also they may be formed into compact packages for shipment and storage. It should also be noted that when the liners are to be used, the end portions of the blanks may be very easily and quickly united and when so united, they will be firmly held in overlapped relation to each other and prevented from slipping. Therefore all danger of fruit being damaged by end portions of the liner

separating will be eliminated and also there will be no danger of the fruit spilling during transfer due to ends of the liner separating when a shaper is removed and a basket set in place.

From the foregoing description of the construction of my improved liner, the method of applying the same to use will be readily understood. It will be seen that I have provided a simple, inexpensive and efficient means for carrying out the objects of the invention and while I have particularly described the elements best adapted to perform the functions set forth, it is obvious that various changes in form, proportion and in the minor details of construction may be resorted to, without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the principles of the invention.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed is:

1. A liner for use in packing fruit and the like comprising a strip of material bent to dispose its end portions in overlapped relation to each other and form an open ended liner of a diameter to fit within a basket in close proximity to walls thereof, one end portion of said strip being formed with a slit leading from a longitudinal edge of the strip and adjacent the other longitudinal edge being formed with a slot extending transversely of the slit, the other end portion of said strip being cut to form tongues extending longitudinally of the strip and having bills facing transversely of the strip, one tongue being passed through the slit with its bill engaging the strip adjoining the inner end of the slit and the other tongue having its bill engaged through the slot.

2. A liner for use in packing fruit and the like comprising a strip of material bent to dispose its end portions in overlapped relation to each other and form an open ended liner of a diameter to fit within a basket in close proximity to walls thereof, one end portion of said strip being formed with a slit leading from the upper longitudinal edge of the strip and a slot being formed longitudinally of the strip adjacent the lower edge of the strip, the other end portion of said strip being cut to form an upper tongue and a lower tongue, the upper tongue being engaged through the slit and provided with a depending bill engaging the strip below the inner end of the slit and the lower tongue having a depending bill engaged through the slot and together with the bill of the upper tongue holding the end portions of the strip against longitudinal movement out of overlapped relation to each other.

3. A liner for use in packing fruit and the like comprising a strip of material bent to dispose its end portions in overlapped relation to each other and form an open ended liner of a diameter to fit within a basket in close proximity to walls thereof, one end portion of said strip being formed with passages extending transversely of each other and the other end portion of the strip being cut to form tongues having bills both extending transversely of the strip in the same direction and passed through the passages and engaging the strip adjacent ends of the passages to retain the end portions of the strip overlapped.

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