(No Model.)

G. H. GILLETTE.

FRUIT BASKET.

No. 382,761. Patented May 15, 1888.

Fig. 1.

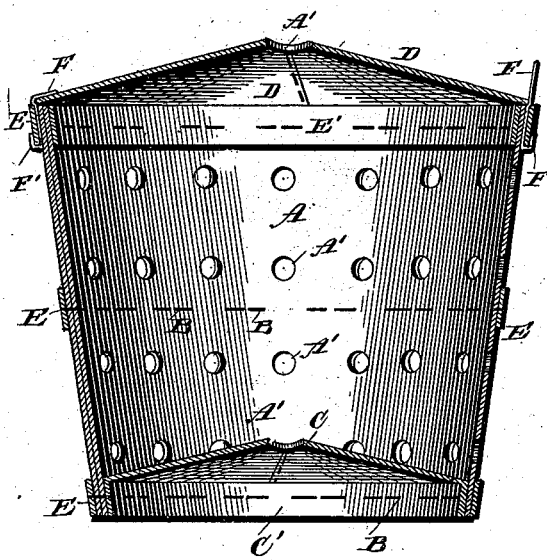


Fig. 2.

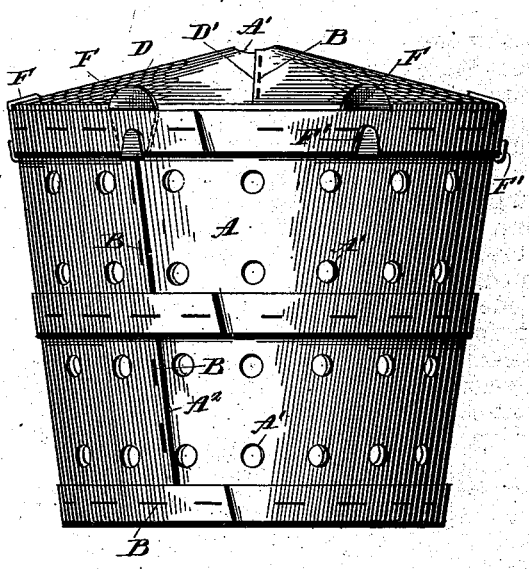


Fig. 3.

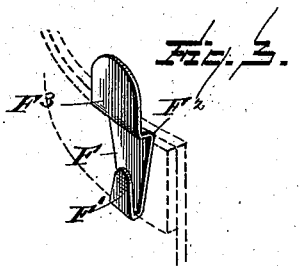
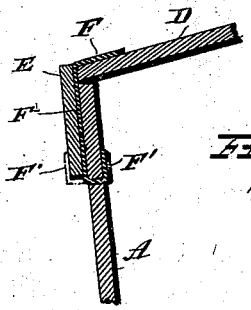


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE H. GILLETTE, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

FRUIT-BASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 382,761, dated May 15, 1888.

Application filed February 11, 1888. Serial No. 263,690. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE H. GILLETTE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex, State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fruit-Baskets, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to fruit-baskets, and particularly to that class of baskets which are intended for the packing, storing, and transportation of fruits.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a central vertical section; Fig. 2, a side elevation of a fruit-basket constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 3 is a detail in perspective of one of the cover-securing devices. Fig. 4 is a sectional detail of a modification.

Like letters refer to like parts in all the figures of the drawings.

My basket may be made of any suitable material, preferably of straw-board, either plain or tanned, toughened, waterproofed, or otherwise treated. In this instance the body A is tapered, although it may be cylindrical, and is apertured, as at A′, for ventilative purposes.

At the overlapping joint or seam A^2 of the body suitable fastening devices, as staples B, are passed through and clinched. The bottom C and cover D are formed by first cutting a disk of the material used radially and lapping the cut edges to form the joint or seam D′, which is secured by suitable devices, as staples B, in such manner as to retain the cover or bottom in conical form. An aperture, A′, may be made at the apex of the cover and bottom, if desired. Without an aperture there would be a useless surplus of material at the apex, which is removed in forming the aperture.

The bottom C differs from the cover in that there is formed a depending flange, C′, integral with the bottom C, which conforms to the body of the basket, and in conical bodies serves in a wedge-like manner to support the load placed thereon, while in cylindrical bodies and in conical bodies the said flange not only serves to strengthen the bottom, but, it being flush with the lower edge of the body, also relieves excessive strain upon the staples B, which serve to secure the bottom within the body.

The formation of the top and bottom by removing a section of a disk and overlapping the radial edges to form a seam produces a conical form without striking up the material, as in molded or die-shaped articles. While this feature is not claimed, broadly, as of my invention, still it aids in reducing the cost to a material extent, while when the integral flange is formed on the disk the surplus of material always existing in such operation is materially reduced in the previous step of removing a section of the disk out of which a bottom is to be made, and while molded and die-shaped or struck-up bottoms are well known, they are without seam on a radial line, which serves to strengthen the structure, and are more costly to produce. I therefore deem the conical, integrally-flanged, and radially-seamed bottom as one of the valuable features of my basket.

At the top and bottom, and, if desired, at the middle also, of the basket are exterior hoops, E, secured by staples or other suitable well-known fastening devices. At the top of the basket there is an interior hoop, E′, so that at the top and bottom of the basket there are three plies of material to withstand the wear of these portions. Between the exterior hoop, E, and the outer surface of the body, and at the top of the basket, I insert cover-retaining clamps F. These are preferably of any suitable sheet-metal which will withstand one or more bendings transversely without breaking. A low grade of thin sheet-steel is one kind of material which may be used. The clamp is practically wedge shape in plan and of uniform thickness, and after insertion the point F′ is turned either upwardly against the outer surface of the hoop, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, or it may be passed through the body and turned against the inner surface of the same, as shown in Fig. 4 in section—that is, the end F′ is a clinching end. It is also illustrated in this figure by dotted lines as turned upwardly against the hoop.

If desired, an offset, shoulder, or bend, F^2, may be formed in the clamp to prevent its being pushed downwardly between the hoop and body while bending its upper end, F^3, over upon the cover to retain the same upon the basket, or otherwise. In circular baskets three or more clamps are preferably used; but the number may be varied at will.

In the modification illustrated in Fig. 4 the upper hoop, E, is extended above the upper

edge of the body A to a distance substantially agreeing with the thickness of the cover, which is re-enforced and protected completely around the top of the basket.

It is intended that these baskets may be used for transportation and piled one upon the other when filled, as the conical top or cover of one basket will fit within the concavity of the bottom of the superimposed basket, and when so arranged the broad ends of the clamp may, by being lengthened, present a metallic supporting-surface for the superimposed basket, and in this respect they serve the double function of securing the cover in place and protecting it from injury.

What I claim is—

1. A basket of the character described, having the conical integrally-flanged radially-seamed bottom formed of a single piece of material, substantially as specified.

2. A basket of the class described, having the conical integrally-flanged radially-seamed bottom, the conical radially-seamed cover, and flat metal cover-retaining clamps, substantially as specified.

3. A basket of the class described, having the conical, tapered, and integrally-flanged bottom, a tapered body, and a hoop, the flange, body, and hoop being secured together by staples passing therethrough, substantially as specified.

4. A bottom for a basket of the character described, consisting of a disk having a portion removed and overlapped on radial lines to form a seam and having an integral flange, substantially as specified.

5. In a basket of the class described, the body A, the conical cover D, resting upon the upper edge of the body, an exterior hoop, E, projecting above the body, and the cover-retaining clamp F, secured between the hoop and body and adapted to be bent down upon the cover, substantially as specified.

6. In a basket of the class described, the body A, cover D, the exterior hoop, E, and a malleable cover-retaining device arranged between the hoop and body, with its lower end passing through and clinched to the latter and its upper end adapted to be bent down upon the cover, substantially as specified.

7. The clamp F, having the clinching end F', the bend or shoulder F^2, and the cover-retaining end F^3, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE H. GILLETTE.

Witnesses:
KING C. GILLETTE,
LEACH KING.