

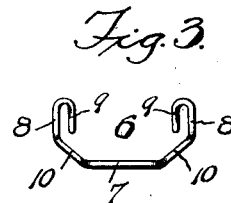
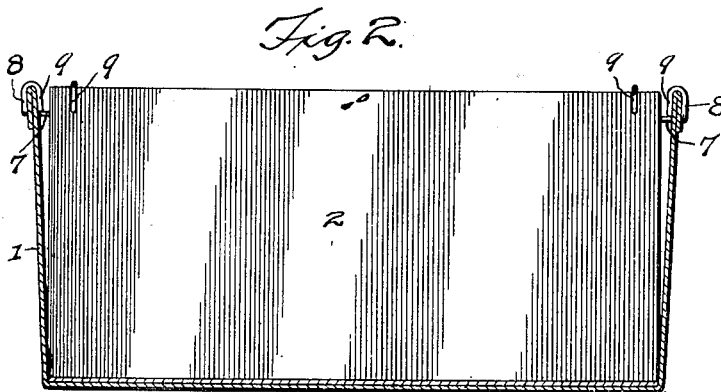
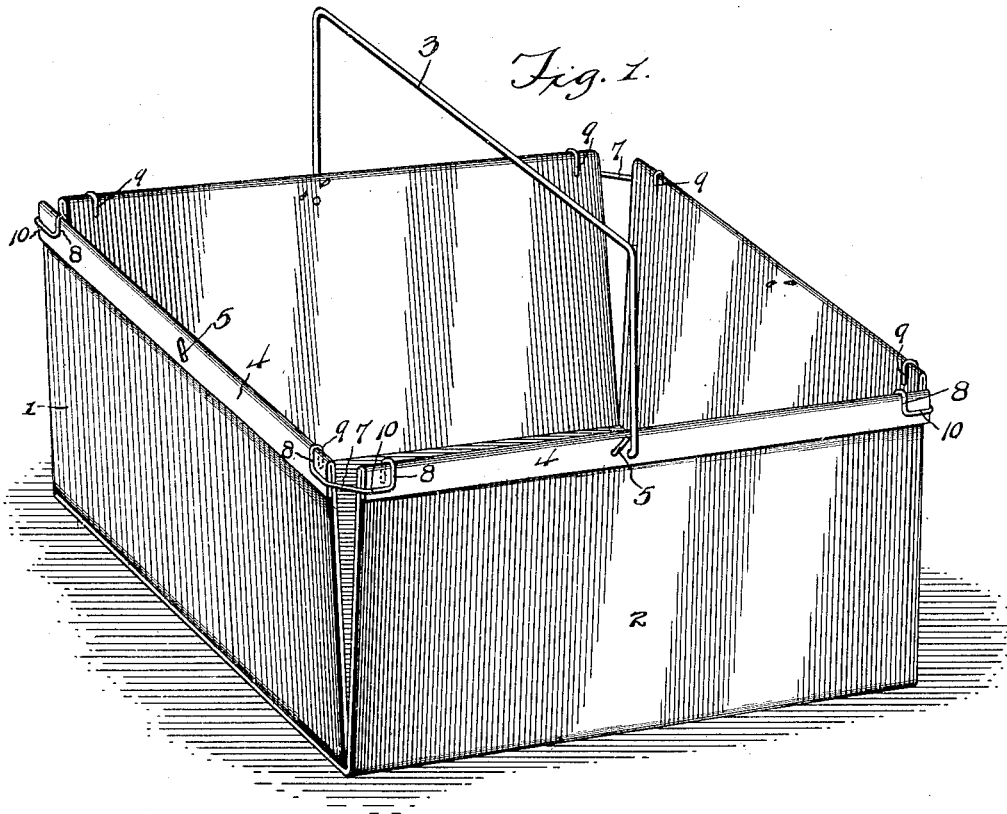
No. 649,467.

Patented May 15, 1900.

G. MILLER.  
FRUIT BASKET.

(Application filed July 27, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE MILLER, OF HOLSTEIN, MICHIGAN.

## FRUIT-BASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 649,467, dated May 15, 1900.

Application filed July 27, 1899. Serial No. 725,269. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE MILLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Holstein, in the county of Oceana and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful Fruit-Basket, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in fruit or berry boxes or baskets which are composed of thin wood veneers crossing each other at right angles on the bottom and having their turned-up sides united at the top. The upper edges of these boxes or baskets have been united in various ways to insure strength and sufficient rigidity, but all have been more or less expensive, inconvenient in application, and oftentimes ineffective for the purpose.

One object of the present invention is to produce a knockdown veneer box or basket adapted to be reduced to compact form for storage or reshipment and afterward held or arranged in containing condition in a positive manner by the use of removable fastenings of a simple and inexpensive character, and, further, to apply a handle for convenience in carrying the same.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the following description and be pointed out in the claims; and the preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein corresponding reference characters are used to indicate similar parts in the several views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a box or basket embodying the features of the invention and shown arranged for use. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the device as shown by Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the corner-securing clip or fastening.

The numerals 1 and 2 designate strips of suitable lengths of wood veneer, which at suitable distances from opposite ends are scored to provide for turned-up sides. When the strips are arranged to form the basket, one is placed across the other at right angles and the sides then regularly turned up and connected at their upper edges. The bottom portions of the strips closely bear against each other, and the uppermost one is held in place by the weight of the contents thereon,

and in the present instance the upper edge of each side, extending from the under bottom portion, has a handle 3 removably connected thereto, which is preferably formed of wire and stiff enough to resist considerable weight, and thereby preserve its shape. As shown, the edge of each side is reinforced by being doubled over, as at 4, and secured by a staple or double-pointed tack 5, one of the latter being sufficient. This reinforce construction of the sides affords a firmer bearing for the ends of the handle 3, and, if desired, the said ends of the handle may be connected up to the opposite edges directly below the single securing-staple, which would produce a still stronger attachment and as clearly shown by Fig. 1.

The upper contiguous corners of the sides are connected by removable clips 6, which comprise retaining members 7 and upstanding arms 8, having inturned terminal hooks 9. The retaining members 7 of the clips are straight and have opposite inward deflections running to the points of conjunction with the arms 8, and the terminal hooks 9 are thus disposed at an angle corresponding to the edges of the sides over which they are fitted, and likewise the deflections also bear flatly against the outer surfaces of the doubled-over portions 4. When the sides are connected by the clips, they are slightly slanted outwardly, thereby leaving open corners, and the retaining members 7 stand across the open spaces. The terminal hooks 9, together with the arms 8, frictionally bear against the upper edges of the sides on which they are fitted, and the deflections 10 bind against the said edges and prevent shifting or movement of the clips and loosening of the sides.

In knocked-down condition the parts of the basket lie flat, and being of equal length one is placed upon the other, and by this means a great number of baskets or lengths for making the same can be stored or packed within a small compass for shipment and when so arranged will be accompanied by the necessary number of clips and handles and may be quickly set up in operative or containing condition. The clips are inexpensive, as they are preferably made of wire, and may be given the required shape by any suitable mechan-

ism. The doubled-over edges 4 will also be secured at the time of manufacture of the lengths of which each basket is composed, and when the handles are applied they will  
5 be prevented from becoming disconnected when the baskets are filled by the expansion of the sides by the contents.

Instead of wood-veneer lengths paper, paper composition, or other suitable material  
10 may be employed and the size and proportions of the basket and its parts may be varied at will, and changes in the minor details of construction can also be resorted to without departing from the scope or sacrificing any  
15 of the advantages of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. In a fruit-basket of the character set forth, the combination of straight lengths of  
20 material adapted to have their extremities turned up to form surrounding sides, the opposite end edges of the said lengths being doubled over equally from one side to the other and in an outward direction, staples in-  
25 serted through the central portion of the said doubled-over edges and arranged at an angle thereto, and a wire bail having its extremities removably fitted in the doubled-over edges of two of the sides at points immediately below  
30 the location of the staples, the angular position of the staples preventing breaking away

of the doubled-over portions of the two sides to which the bail extremities are connected.

2. As an improved article of manufacture, a clip for a fruit-basket or analogous device, 35 having a retaining member merging into opposite, inwardly-extending deflections continuous with vertical arms provided with in- standing terminal hooks which have a down- ward direction. 40

3. In a fruit-basket of the character set forth, the combination of straight lengths of material adapted to have their extremities turned up to form surrounding sides with in- 45 tervening open corner-spaces, and clips removably fitted over the upper or edge portions of the said sides across the corners, and each consisting of a retaining member merg- ing into opposite inwardly-extending deflec- 50 tions continuous with vertical arms provided with instanding terminal hooks which have a downward direction to embrace the upper edges of the sides, the retaining member ex- 55 tending across the corner below the said up- per edges.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE MILLER.

Witnesses:

C. L. CHURCHILL,  
A. Z. MOORE.