CLAIMS:

1. A carrier for holding a plurality of containers, the carrier comprising:

a top panel comprising a plurality of container retention openings for at least partially receiving a respective container of the plurality of containers;

at least one container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel at a fold line; and

at least one reinforcement panel interrupting the fold line and positioned between the top panel and the at least one container retention flap, the at least one reinforcement panel formed by a line of weakening that includes a plurality of oblique line segments, each oblique line segment of the plurality of oblique line segments intersecting at least one other line segment of the plurality of oblique line segments, the at least one reinforcement panel is generally upright relative to the top panel.

2. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the at least one reinforcement panel has a generally diamond-shaped configuration.

3. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the plurality of container retention openings in the top panel is a first plurality of container retention openings, the at least one container retention flap comprises a second plurality of container openings, the container openings of the first plurality of container retention openings being aligned with respective container retention openings of the second plurality of container retention openings.

4. The carrier of claim 3, wherein at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective fold line, the at least one container retention tab being positioned to extend into a respective container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings.

5. The carrier of claim 3, wherein the at least one container retention flap is a first container retention flap, the fold line is a first fold line, the at least one reinforcement panel is a first reinforcement panel interrupting the first fold line, and the carrier further comprises a second container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel at a second fold line, the carrier further comprising a second reinforcement panel interrupting the second fold line.

6. The carrier of claim 1, further comprising at least one reinforcement flap foldably connected to the at least one container retention flap.

7. The carrier of claim 6, wherein the at least one reinforcement flap extends downwardly from the top panel and the at least one container retention flap.

8. The carrier of claim 7, wherein the at least one container retention flap is a first container retention flap, the carrier further comprises a second container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel, the at least one reinforcement flap is a first reinforcement flap foldably connected to the first container retention flap, and the carrier further comprises a second reinforcement flap foldably connected to the second container retention flap, the first reinforcement flap is in at least partial face-to-face contact with the second reinforcement flap.

9. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the top panel, the at least one container retention flap, and the at least one reinforcement panel form a lower construct of the carrier, and the carrier further comprises an upper construct at least partially overlapping the lower construct.

10. The carrier of claim 9, wherein the upper construct comprises at least one attachment panel, the at least one container retention panel comprises a container retention portion and at least one marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion, the upper construct comprising a plurality of cuts for at least partially receiving a respective container of the plurality of containers.

11. The carrier of claim 10, wherein the at least one attachment panel is a front attachment panel, the at least one marginal portion is an interior marginal portion foldably attached to the container retention portion of the front attachment panel, and the upper construct further comprises an exterior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the front attachment panel, the upper construct further comprises a back attachment panel comprising a container retention portion, an interior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the back attachment panel, and an exterior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the back attachment panel.

12. A blank for forming a carrier for holding a plurality of containers, the blank comprising:

a top panel comprising a plurality of container retention openings for at least partially receiving a respective container of the plurality of containers when the carrier is formed from the blank;

at least one container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel at a fold line; and

at least one reinforcement panel interrupting the fold line and positioned between the top panel and the at least one container retention flap, the at least one reinforcement panel is formed by a line of weakening,

the line of weakening includes a plurality of oblique line segments, each oblique line segment of the plurality of oblique line segments intersecting at least one other line segment of the plurality of oblique line segments.

13. The blank of claim 12, wherein the at least one reinforcement panel has a generally diamond-shaped configuration.

14. The blank of claim 12, wherein the plurality of container retention openings in the top panel is a first plurality of container retention openings, the at least one container retention flap comprises a second plurality of container openings, the container openings of the first plurality of container retention openings are for being aligned with respective container retention openings of the second plurality of container retention openings when the carrier is formed from the blank.

15. The blank of claim 14, wherein at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective fold line, the at least one container retention tab being positioned to extend into a respective container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings.

16. The blank of claim 14, wherein the at least one container retention flap is a first container retention flap, the fold line is a first fold line, the at least one reinforcement panel is a first reinforcement panel interrupting the first fold line, and the carrier further comprises a second container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel at a second fold line, the carrier further comprising a second reinforcement panel interrupting the second fold line.

17. The blank of claim 12, further comprising at least one reinforcement flap foldably connected to the at least one container retention flap.

18. The blank of claim 17, wherein the at least one container retention flap is a first container retention flap, the blank further comprises a second container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel, the at least one reinforcement flap is a first reinforcement flap foldably connected to the first container retention flap, and the blank further comprises a second reinforcement flap foldably connected to the second container retention flap.

19. The blank of claim 12, wherein the top panel, the at least one container retention flap, and the at least one reinforcement panel are part of a lower blank for forming a lower construct of the carrier formed from the blank, further in combination with an upper blank for forming an upper construct at least partially overlapping the lower construct when the carrier is formed from the upper blank and the lower blank.

20. The combination of claim 19, wherein the upper blank further comprises at least one attachment panel, the at least one container retention panel comprises a container retention portion and at least one marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion, the upper blank

comprising a plurality of cuts for at least partially receiving a respective container of the plurality of containers when the carrier is formed from the upper blank and the lower blank.

21. The combination of claim 20, wherein the at least one attachment panel is a front attachment panel, the at least one marginal portion is an interior marginal portion foldably attached to the container retention portion of the front attachment panel, and the upper blank further comprises an exterior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the front attachment panel, the upper blank further comprises a back attachment panel comprising a container retention portion, an interior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the back attachment panel, and an exterior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the back attachment panel.

22. A method of forming a carrier for holding a plurality of containers, the method comprising:

obtaining a blank comprising a top panel comprising a plurality of container retention openings, at least one container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel at a fold line, and at least one reinforcement panel interrupting the fold line and positioned between the top panel and the at least one container retention flap, the at least one reinforcement panel formed by a line of weakening that includes a plurality of oblique line segments, each oblique line segment of the plurality of oblique line segments intersecting at least one other line segment of the plurality of oblique line segments; and

positioning the blank such that the plurality of container retention openings is positioned for at least partially receiving a respective container of the plurality of containers and such that the at least one reinforcement panel is generally upright relative to the top panel.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the at least one reinforcement panel has a generally diamond-shaped configuration.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the plurality of container retention openings in the top panel is a first plurality of container retention openings, the at least one container retention flap comprises a second plurality of container openings, the method further comprises folding the at least one container retention flap such that the container openings of the first plurality of container retention openings are aligned with respective container retention openings of the second plurality of container retention openings.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective fold line, the at least one container retention tab being positioned to extend into a respective container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the at least one container retention flap is a first container retention flap, the fold line is a first fold line, the at least one reinforcement panel is a first reinforcement panel interrupting the first fold line, and the carrier further comprises a second container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel at a second fold line, the carrier further comprising a second reinforcement panel interrupting the second fold line.

27. The method of claim 22, further comprising at least one reinforcement flap foldably connected to the at least one container retention flap.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one reinforcement flap extends downwardly from the top panel and the at least one container retention flap.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the at least one container retention flap is a first container retention flap, the carrier further comprises a second container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel, the at least one reinforcement flap is a first reinforcement flap foldably connected to the first container retention flap, and the carrier further comprises a second reinforcement flap foldably connected to the second container retention flap, the first reinforcement flap is in at least partial face-to-face contact with the second reinforcement flap.

30. The method of claim 22, wherein the top panel, the at least one container retention flap, and the at least one reinforcement panel form a lower construct of the carrier, and the method further comprises positioning an upper construct at least partially overlapping the lower construct.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the upper construct comprises at least one attachment panel, the at least one container retention panel comprises a container retention portion and at least one marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion, the upper construct comprising a plurality of cuts for at least partially receiving a respective container of the plurality of containers.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one attachment panel is a front attachment panel, the at least one marginal portion is an interior marginal portion foldably attached to the container retention portion of the front attachment panel, and the upper construct further comprises an exterior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the front attachment panel, the upper construct further comprises a back attachment panel comprising a container retention portion, an interior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the back attachment panel, and an exterior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the back attachment panel.

33. A package, the package comprising:

a plurality of containers; and

a carrier holding the plurality of containers, the carrier comprising:

a top panel comprising a plurality of container retention openings at least partially receiving a respective container of the plurality of containers;

at least one container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel at a fold line; and

at least one reinforcement panel interrupting the fold line and positioned between the top panel and the at least one container retention flap, the at least one reinforcement panel formed by a line of weakening that includes a plurality of oblique line segments, each oblique line segment of the plurality of oblique line segments intersecting at least one other line segment of the plurality of oblique line segments, the at least one reinforcement panel is generally upright relative to the top panel.

34. The package of claim 33, wherein the at least one reinforcement panel has a generally diamond-shaped configuration.

35. The package of claim 33, wherein the plurality of container retention openings in the top panel is a first plurality of container retention openings, the at least one container retention flap comprises a second plurality of container openings, the container openings of the first plurality of container retention openings being aligned with respective container retention openings of the second plurality of container retention openings.

36. The package of claim 35, wherein at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective fold line, the at least one container retention tab being positioned to extend into a respective container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings.

37. The package of claim 35, wherein the at least one container retention flap is a first container retention flap, the fold line is a first fold line, the at least one reinforcement panel is a first reinforcement panel interrupting the first fold line, and the carrier further comprises a second container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel at a second fold line, the carrier further comprising a second reinforcement panel interrupting the second fold line.

38. The package of claim 33, further comprising at least one reinforcement flap foldably connected to the at least one container retention flap.

39. The package of claim 38, wherein the at least one reinforcement flap extends downwardly from the top panel and the at least one container retention flap.

40. The package of claim 39, wherein the at least one container retention flap is a first container retention flap, the carrier further comprises a second container retention flap foldably connected to the top panel, the at least one reinforcement flap is a first reinforcement flap foldably connected to the first container retention flap, and the carrier further comprises a second reinforcement flap foldably connected to the second container retention flap, the first reinforcement flap is in at least partial face-to-face contact with the second reinforcement flap.

41. The package of claim 33, wherein the top panel, the at least one container retention flap, and the at least one reinforcement panel form a lower construct of the carrier, and the carrier further comprises an upper construct at least partially overlapping the lower construct.

42. The package of claim 41, wherein the upper construct comprises at least one attachment panel, the at least one container retention panel comprises a container retention portion and at least one marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion, the upper construct comprising a plurality of cuts for at least partially receiving a respective container of the plurality of containers.

43. The package of claim 42, wherein the at least one attachment panel is a front attachment panel, the at least one marginal portion is an interior marginal portion foldably attached to the container retention portion of the front attachment panel, and the upper construct further comprises an exterior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the front attachment panel, the upper construct further comprises a back attachment panel comprising a container retention portion, an interior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the back attachment panel, and an exterior marginal portion foldably connected to the container retention portion of the back attachment panel.