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, the top panel comprises at least one container retention tab positioned adjacent a respective container retention opening and foldably connected to the top panel at a respective fold line;

at least one side reinforcement panel positioned between the top panel and the at least one container retention flap, the at least one side 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 side reinforcement panel is generally upright relative to the top panel; and

the top panel comprises at least one reinforcement portion extending from the respective fold line.

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

3. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the fold line is a curved fold line and the at least one container retention tab is positioned to extend into a respective container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings.

4. The carrier of claim 3, wherein a respective at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective curved fold line and positioned to extend into a first container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings, wherein a respective at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective curved fold line and positioned to extend into a second container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings positioned adjacent the first container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings, and the at least one reinforcement portion extends from the respective curved fold line at the first container retention opening to the respective curved fold line at the second container retention opening.

5. The carrier of claim 4, wherein the second container retention opening is laterally adjacent the first container retention opening.

6. The carrier of claim 4, wherein the second container retention opening is longitudinally adjacent the first container retention opening.

7. The carrier of claim 4, wherein the at least one reinforcement portion is a first reinforcement portion and the carrier further comprises a second reinforcement portion formed between a container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings and the at least one side reinforcement panel.

8. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the at least one reinforcement portion is formed between a container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings and the at least one side reinforcement panel.

9. The carrier of claim 4, wherein the at least one side reinforcement panel is formed by a line of weakening having a plurality of intersecting oblique segments, wherein the at least one container retention tab is an at least one first container retention tab and the respective curved fold line is a respective first curved fold line, wherein the carrier further comprises at least one second container retention tab foldably connected to the top panel at a respective second curved fold line and positioned to extend into a respective opening of the plurality of container retention openings, and wherein an at least one outer reinforcement portion extends from a respective second curved fold line to an oblique segment of the line of weakening.

10. The carrier of claim 9, wherein the at least one first container retention tab is aligned with one of a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis defined by the top panel, and the at least one second container retention tab is positioned adjacent the at least one first container retention tab.

11. The carrier of claim 10, wherein the at least one second container retention tab is obliquely positioned relative to the longitudinal axis and the lateral axis.

12. 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 retention openings, the container retention openings of the first plurality of container retention openings being aligned with respective container retention openings of the second plurality of container retention openings.

13. The carrier of claim 1, further comprising at least one reinforcement flap foldably connected to the at least one container retention flap and extending downwardly from the top panel and the at least one container retention flap.

14. 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, the top panel comprises at least one container retention tab positioned adjacent a respective container retention opening and foldably connected to the top panel at a respective fold line;

at least one side reinforcement panel positioned between the top panel and the at least one container retention flap, the at least one side 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; and

the top panel comprises at least one reinforcement portion extending from the respective fold line.

15. The blank of claim 14, wherein the at least one reinforcement panel has a generally diamond-shaped configuration.

16. The blank of claim 14, wherein the fold line is a curved fold line and the at least one container retention tab is positioned to extend into a respective container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings.

17. The blank of claim 16, wherein a respective at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective curved fold line and positioned to extend into a first container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings, wherein a respective at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective curved fold line and positioned to extend into a second container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings positioned adjacent the first container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings, and the at least one reinforcement portion extends from the respective curved fold line at the first container retention opening to the respective curved fold line at the second container retention opening.

18. The blank of claim 17, wherein the second container retention opening is laterally adjacent the first container retention opening.

19. The blank of claim 17, wherein the second container retention opening is longitudinally adjacent the first container retention opening.

20. The blank of claim 17, wherein the at least one reinforcement portion is a first reinforcement portion and the carrier further comprises a second reinforcement portion formed between a container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings and the at least one side reinforcement panel.

21. The blank of claim 14, wherein the at least one reinforcement portion is formed between a container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings and the at least one side reinforcement panel.

22. The blank of claim 17, wherein the at least one side reinforcement panel is formed by a line of weakening having a plurality of intersecting oblique segments, wherein the at least one container retention tab is an at least one first container retention tab and the respective curved fold line is a respective first curved fold line, wherein the carrier further comprises at least one second container retention tab foldably connected to the top panel at a respective second curved fold line and positioned to extend into a respective opening of the plurality of container retention openings, and wherein an at least one outer reinforcement portion extends from a respective second curved fold line to an oblique segment of the line of weakening.

23. The blank of claim 22, wherein the at least one first container retention tab is aligned with one of a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis defined by the top panel, and the at least one second container retention tab is positioned adjacent the at least one first container retention tab.

24. The blank of claim 23, wherein the at least one second container retention tab is obliquely positioned relative to the longitudinal axis and the lateral axis.

25. The blank of claim 14, 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 retention openings, the container retention openings of the first plurality of container retention openings being aligned with respective container retention openings of the second plurality of container retention openings.

26. 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, the top panel comprises at least one container retention tab positioned adjacent a respective container retention opening and foldably connected to the top panel at a respective fold line, at least one side reinforcement panel positioned

between the top panel and the at least one container retention flap, the top panel comprises at least one reinforcement portion extending from the respective fold line, the at least one side 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 side reinforcement panel is generally upright relative to the top panel.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the at least one reinforcement panel has a generally diamond-shaped configuration.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the fold line is a curved fold line and the at least one container retention tab is positioned to extend into a respective container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein a respective at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective curved fold line and positioned to extend into a first container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings, wherein a respective at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective curved fold line and positioned to extend into a second container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings positioned adjacent the first container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings, and the at least one reinforcement portion extends from the respective curved fold line at the first container retention opening to the respective curved fold line at the second container retention opening.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the second container retention opening is laterally adjacent the first container retention opening.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the second container retention opening is longitudinally adjacent the first container retention opening.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one reinforcement portion is a first reinforcement portion and the carrier further comprises a second reinforcement portion formed between a container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings and the at least one side reinforcement panel.

33. The method of claim 26, wherein the at least one reinforcement portion is formed between a container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings and the at least one side reinforcement panel.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one side reinforcement panel is formed by a line of weakening having a plurality of intersecting oblique segments, wherein the at least one container retention tab is an at least one first container retention tab and the respective curved fold line is a respective first curved fold line, wherein the carrier further comprises at least one second container retention tab foldably connected to the top panel at a respective second curved fold line and positioned to extend into a respective opening of the plurality of container retention openings, and wherein an at least one outer reinforcement portion extends from a respective second curved fold line to an oblique segment of the line of weakening.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the at least one first container retention tab is aligned with one of a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis defined by the top panel, and the at least one second container retention tab is positioned adjacent the at least one first container retention tab.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the at least one second container retention tab is obliquely positioned relative to the longitudinal axis and the lateral axis.

37. The method of claim 26, 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 retention openings, and the method further comprises aligning the container retention openings of the first plurality of container retention openings with respective container retention openings of the second plurality of container retention openings.

38. The method of claim 26, further comprising at least one reinforcement flap foldably connected to the at least one container retention flap, and the method further comprises positioning the at least one container retention flap extending downwardly from the top panel and the at least one container retention flap.

39. 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, the top panel comprises at least one container retention tab positioned adjacent a respective container retention opening and foldably connected to the top panel at a respective fold line;

at least one side reinforcement panel positioned between the top panel and the at least one container retention flap, the at least one side 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 side reinforcement panel is generally upright relative to the top panel; and

the top panel comprises at least one reinforcement portion extending from the respective fold line.

40. The package of claim 39, wherein the at least one reinforcement panel has a generally diamond-shaped configuration.

41. The package of claim 39, wherein the fold line is a curved fold line and the at least one container retention tab is positioned to extend into a respective container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings.

42. The package of claim 41, wherein a respective at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective curved fold line and positioned to extend into a first container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings, wherein a respective at least one container retention tab is foldably connected to the top panel at a respective curved fold line and positioned to extend into a second container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings positioned adjacent the first container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings, and the at least one reinforcement portion extends from the respective curved fold line at the first container retention opening to the respective curved fold line at the second container retention opening.

43. The package of claim 42, wherein the second container retention opening is laterally adjacent the first container retention opening.

44. The package of claim 42, wherein the second container retention opening is longitudinally adjacent the first container retention opening.

45. The package of claim 42, wherein the at least one reinforcement portion is a first reinforcement portion and the carrier further comprises a second reinforcement portion formed between

a container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings and the at least one side reinforcement panel.

46. The package of claim 39, wherein the at least one reinforcement portion is formed between a container retention opening of the plurality of container retention openings and the at least one side reinforcement panel.

47. The package of claim 42, wherein the at least one side reinforcement panel is formed by a line of weakening having a plurality of intersecting oblique segments, wherein the at least one container retention tab is an at least one first container retention tab and the respective curved fold line is a respective first curved fold line, wherein the carrier further comprises at least one second container retention tab foldably connected to the top panel at a respective second curved fold line and positioned to extend into a respective opening of the plurality of container retention openings, and wherein an at least one outer reinforcement portion extends from a respective second curved fold line to an oblique segment of the line of weakening.

48. The package of claim 47, wherein the at least one first container retention tab is aligned with one of a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis defined by the top panel, and the at least one second container retention tab is positioned adjacent the at least one first container retention tab.

49. The package of claim 48, wherein the at least one second container retention tab is obliquely positioned relative to the longitudinal axis and the lateral axis.

50. The package of claim 39, 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 retention openings, the container retention openings of the first plurality of container retention openings being aligned with respective container retention openings of the second plurality of container retention openings.

51. The package of claim 39, further comprising at least one reinforcement flap foldably connected to the at least one container retention flap and extending downwardly from the top panel and the at least one container retention flap.