

**CLAIMS**

1. A carton accommodating a plurality of articles of the type having an internal keel structure which protrudes inwardly of the carton to form a separator to space apart adjacent articles on either side of the keel structure, said keel structure comprising two portions arranged in spaced relationship with respect to each other, each of which portions is provided by at least one side panel, said carton being characterised in that said keel portions comprise complementary securing portions which cooperate to form a bridge element and thereby set up the said keel structure.

2. A carton as claimed in claim 1 wherein each keel portion comprises said side panel which is hingably attached to a panel of said carton and a top panel which is hingably attached to the keel side panel and which provides one of said securing portions.

3. A carton as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein at least one of said keel securing portions comprises a tab which abuts the other keel securing portion in face contacting relationship.

4. A carton as claimed in claim 3 wherein said keel securing portions comprise complementary tabs which are permanently secured together to hold the keel in an operative set-up position.

5. A carton as claimed in claims 1 or 3 wherein one of the keel securing portions comprises an aperture and the other of the keel securing portions comprises a tab which tab passes through the aperture when the keel is in a set-up operative position.

6. A carton as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said keel portions are struck from a single panel of the carton.

7. A carton as claimed in claim 6 wherein said single panel is a base panel of the carton.

8. A carton as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 which comprises a plurality of keels in one or more rows wherein each keel acts to separate two adjacent articles.