

Description

This invention relates to an article carrier of the top-gripping type which is particularly suitable for use with bottles.

Top-gripping carriers which support a number of bottles by their necks in a group are well known (e.g. US-A 3 016 259; US-A 3 387 879). Usually, such carriers are pre-formed and supplied in completed flat-folded condition ready to be erected and applied to a group of bottles. In order to pre-form the carrier it is customary to form the carrier from a wrapper blank in which the base panels are secured, e.g. by gluing.

The present invention offers a top-gripping carrier, which does not require to be glued and may or may not be preformed.

One aspect of the present invention provides an article carrier of the top-gripping type which connects together and supports a plurality of flanged cylindrical articles by their flanged neck portions, the carrier being formed from a single elongate blank of foldable sheet material having a series of panels joined along transverse fold lines, said blank including terminal panels at opposing ends thereof and which, when assembled, provides a top and a base interconnected by spaced side wall panels and together form a tubular structure, said top and base each having a plurality of article receiving apertures with the apertures in the top disposed in registry with the apertures in the base, characterized by at least one retention tab being provided on at least one of said terminal panels, said retention tab being positioned adjacent one of said apertures in the base, said retention tab being hinged adjacent the free marginal edge of the respective terminal panel and being folded over said edge inwardly through said one aperture to extend within said tubular structure so as to maintain said carrier in erected condition when one of said articles has been inserted through the aperture in the base and the flange or cap thereof positioned in said aperture in the top whereby said retention tab is maintained in folded condition by said article.

Another aspect of the invention provides a blank for forming the article carrier defined above, which blank comprises, in series, a first base panel, a first side wall panel, a top panel, a second side wall panel, and a second base panel hinged one to the next, said top panel and each base panel being formed with article receiving apertures arranged such that each of the article receiving apertures in the top panel is disposed in registry with a separate one of the article receiving apertures in the base panel when the blank is erected to form said carrier, characterized in that said second base panel has a plurality of retention tabs hinged adjacent the free marginal edge of that panel each of which tabs is sized and positioned for insertion into respective ones of the article receiving apertures in said first base panel when the base panels are brought into overlapping relationship.

Yet another aspect of the invention provides a blank for forming the article carrier defined above which blank comprises, in series, a first outer side

wall panel, a second outer side wall panel, a base panel, a first inner side wall panel and a second inner side wall panel hinged one to the next, said side wall panels and said base panel being formed with article receiving apertures arranged such that each of the article receiving apertures in the side wall panels are disposed in registry with one of the article receiving apertures in the base panels when the blank is erected to form said carrier, characterised in that said first outer side wall panel has a plurality of retention tabs hinged adjacent a free marginal edge of that panel each of which is sized and positioned for insertion into respective ones of the article receiving apertures in said base panel when said first outer side wall panel is brought into overlapping relationship with said first inner side wall panel.

A further aspect of the invention provides a method of assembling a carrier of the top-gripping type which connects together and supports a plurality of flanged cylindrical articles by their flanged neck portions or caps, said carrier being formed from a single elongate blank of sheet material having a series of panels joined along transverse fold lines, said blank including terminal panels at opposing ends thereof and, when assembled into a tubular structure, provide a top and a base interconnected by spaced side wall panels, said top or upper portions of said side wall panels adjacent said top and base having a plurality of article receiving apertures and at least one retention tab being provided adjacent a free marginal edge of at least one of said terminal panels in general alignment with a respective one of said apertures in the base, the method being characterised by the steps of folding said blank about said fold lines so that the apertures in the top are disposed in registry with the apertures in the base and said retention tab is disposed adjacent said respective aperture in the base, folding said retention tab over said free marginal edge of its associated terminal panel and inwardly through said respective aperture in the base to extend within the tubular structure, and inserting one of said articles with its neck portion through said respective aperture in the base so that the flange or cap thereof is positioned in the aperture in the top whereby said retention tab is maintained in folded condition by said bottle.

Two embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a plan view of one wrapper blank for forming a double-row top-gripping carrier according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a plan view of another wrapper blank for forming a single-row top-gripping carrier according to the invention;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a carrier formed from the blank of Figure 1, being shown in an inverted attitude and loaded with four bottles; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a carrier formed from the blank of Figure 2, being shown in an inverted attitude and loaded with two bottles.

Referring to Figures 1 and 3, Figure 1 shows an elongate blank 10 formed from paperboard or similar foldable sheet material which comprises, in series, a first (female) base panel 12, a first side wall panel 14, a top panel 16, a second side wall panel 18 and a second (male) base panel 20 hinged one to the next along transverse fold lines 22, 24, 26 and 28 respectively.

The top panel 16 is formed with a first row R1 of spaced apertures A1 and A2 disposed adjacent the first side wall panel 14 and a second row R2 of spaced apertures A3 and A4 disposed adjacent the second side wall panel 18. Each of the apertures is adapted to receive the top of a bottle and includes an annular series of tabs 't' hinged to the top panel about short fold lines ta. As is well known when the completed carrier is applied to a group of bottles, a bottle top is inserted through each aperture A whose hinged tabs are upwardly displaced and locate beneath the bottle top to assist in the stabilisation and/or retention of the bottle in the carrier.

The first female base panel 12 is formed with a pair of spaced bottle neck receiving apertures N1 and N2 which are disposed so as to be in register beneath apertures A1 and A2 respectively when the blank is formed into a tubular structure in which the base panels are secured together in overlapping relationship as described below. A pair of similar bottle neck stabilising flaps S1 and S2 are hinged to opposed peripheral edges of the aperture N1 along fold lines f1 and f2 respectively, and interfere with the space defined by aperture N1. A locking projection 'P' is formed at the peripheral edge of aperture N1 remote from the free edges e1 and e2 of the stabilising flaps S1 and S2 respectively. Aperture N2 has stabilising flaps and a locking projection of like arrangement and is not therefore described in further detail.

Similarly the second base panel 20 is formed with a pair of spaced bottle neck receiving apertures N3 and N4 which are disposed so as to be in register beneath apertures A3 and A4 respectively when the blank is formed into a tubular structure. Both apertures N3 and N4 include stabilising flaps of similar arrangement to aperture N1 but neither aperture includes a locking projection.

Base panel 20 includes a pair of retention or locking tabs T1 and T2 each of which is hinged adjacent the free marginal edge of panel 20 along interrupted fold lines e1 and e2 respectively. Fold line e1 is interrupted by a central cut line 'c' which forms an arcuate aperture adjacent the hinged base of the locking tab T1. Locking tab T2 is of like construction.

In use, the blank 10 is formed into a tubular structure (by a suitable folding device) which folds the blank panels about the transverse fold lines thereof so that the top panel 16 is brought into superposed relationship with respect to the base panels which are themselves brought into partial overlapping relationship so that locking tabs T1 and T2 overlie the stabilising flaps of apertures N1 and N2 respectively. The top panel and base panels are spaced apart by the side wall panels 14 and 18 thereby forming a tubular structure.

The tubular structure is then applied to a group of bottles so that a neck portion is introduced through each of the bottom panel apertures N1-N4 and through the registering top panel apertures A1-A4. Referring specifically to locking tab T1 and base panel aperture N1, as a bottle neck is inserted through aperture N1 it strikes against the locking tab T1 overlying stabilising flaps S1 and S2 and displaces the locking tab T1 about its interrupted fold line e1 and simultaneously displaces the stabilising flaps S1 and S2 about fold lines f1 and f2 in a direction towards the superposed top panel 16 and into the spaces between the top and base panels. In so doing, the locking projection 'p' engages into the arcuate recess defined by cut line 'c' of locking tab T1 and thereby locks the locking tab T1 in the aperture N1. Locking tab T1 is similarly engaged in aperture N2 by a bottle introduced into aperture N2 thereby securing together the base panels of the carrier.

When the neck portion of the bottle is fully inserted through aperture N1 and A1 the displaced stabilising flaps S1, S2 and the displaced locking tab engage against the neck portion of the bottle and stabilise the bottle against undue sideways movement in the carrier. The stabilising and locking tabs associated with the other apertures N2, N3 and N4 are similarly displaced and also serve to stabilise bottles present in those apertures.

A modified carrier of similar construction but which includes a lesser or greater number of bottle receiving apertures in each row is envisaged.

Figure 2 shows an elongate blank 30 formed from paperboard or similar foldable sheet material which comprises, in series, a first outer side wall panel 32, a second outer side wall panel 34, a base panel 36, a first inner side wall panel 38 and a second inner side wall panel 40 hinged one to the next along transverse fold lines 42, 44 46 and 48 respectively.

The base panel 36 is formed with a row R5 of spaced apertures A5 and A6 each of which is adapted to receive the top of a bottle and includes a part-annular series of arcuate tabs t1-t3. The tabs are hinged to the base panel about short fold lines 't' which are disposed between cut lines 'ca'. Similarly, the tabs are hinged one to the next about short fold lines 't1' which are disposed between cut lines 'cal'. When the completed carrier is applied to a pair of bottles, a bottle top is inserted through each aperture A5, A6 whose hinged tabs are broken away from one another along out lines 'ca1' and are upwardly displaced and locate against the bottle neck to assist in the stabilisation and/or retention of the bottle in the carrier.

The apertures A5 and A6 are partially clear of arcuate tabs 't' in order to facilitate the application of the carrier onto the bottles. Another pair of bottle top receiving apertures R1 and R2 is struck partially from each of the outer side wall panels 32 and 34 along transverse fold line 42 and a similar pair of bottle top receiving apertures R3 and R4 is struck partially from each of the inner side wall panels 38 and 40 transverse fold line 48.

When the blank is formed into a tubular structure, as described below, apertures R1 and R3 are

brought into close registry with one another above and vertically aligned with base panel aperture A5. Likewise, apertures R2 and R4 are brought into close registry with one another above and vertically aligned with base panel aperture A6.

In order to maintain the carrier in its tubular configuration, a pair of arrow-head shaped retention or locking tabs 'lt1' and 'lt2' extend from the transverse edge 32a of outer side wall panel 32.

The blank 30 is formed into a tubular structure (by a suitable folding device) of triangular cross-section by folding about the transverse fold lines so that first, the transverse edge 40a of the second inner side wall panel 40 is brought into abutment with transverse fold line 44. Thus, the transverse fold line 48 forms the apex of a triangle whose sloping sides are constituted by side wall panels 38 and 40 and in which apertures R3 and R4 are disposed in spaced, vertically aligned relationship with base apertures A5 and A6 respectively. Outer side wall panels 34 and 32 are then brought into superposed relationship with inner side wall panels 40 and 38 respectively, so that apertures R1 and R2 are brought into close registry with apertures R3 and R4 respectively and transverse fold line 42 thereby forms the apex of the tubular structure thus formed and provides the top of the carrier. In this tubular configuration, the locking tabs 'lt1' and 'lt2' project beyond the base panel 36 of the carrier adjacent transverse fold line 46 and are disposed next to respective ones of the apertures A5 and A6 and subsequently are folded into overlapping relationship with the base panel 36.

The tubular structure is then applied to a pair of bottles so that a neck portion of each bottle is introduced through respective ones of the base panel apertures A5 and A6 and through the registering top apertures R1 R3; R2 R4.

Referring specifically to locking tab 'lt1' and base panel aperture A5, as a bottle neck is inserted through aperture A5 it strikes against the locking tab 'lt1' which partially overlies tab t3 and displaces the locking tab 'lt1' together with tabs t1-t3 in a direction inwardly of the tubular structure into the space between the top of the carrier and the base panel. In so doing, locking edges e3 and e4 of the locking tab 'lt1' engage beneath e5 of tab t3 and beneath fixed edge e6 of the aperture and thereby lock the tab 'lt1' in the aperture A5. Locking tab 'lt2' is similarly engaged in aperture A6 by a bottle introduced into aperture A6 thereby securing outer side wall panel 32 to the base panel 36 and maintaining the completed carrier in its erected condition. (Figure 4).

When the neck portion of the bottle is fully inserted through aperture A5 and registering apertures R1 R3 the displaced tabs t1-t3 and the displaced locking tab 'lt1' engage against the neck portion of the bottle and stabilise the bottle against undue sideways movement in the carrier. The bottle top or neck flange is retained by peripheral edge portions of the top apertures R1, R3. The stabilising and locking tabs associated with the other aperture A6 are similarly displaced and also serve to stabilise a bottle present in that aperture.

A modified carrier of similar construction but which includes a greater number of bottle receiving apertures is envisaged.

It is further envisaged that a modified version of the bottle carrier described with reference to Figures 2 and 4 may include retention tabs lt1, lt2, which do not have locking edges e3, e4. In such an arrangement, the tabs lt1, lt2 may have straight parallel edges and the tabs t1-t3 omitted from the base panel article receiving apertures A5, A6. Such a carrier would not be preformed but each retention tab would be folded into an article receiving aperture to extend within the tubular structure so as to maintain the carrier in erected condition at a time when a bottle is inserted through that aperture. Thus, when the bottle top is fully loaded into the carrier, so that its neck flange or cap is located in the aperture in the top of the carrier, the retention tab is maintained in folded condition by the bottle.

Claims

1. An article carrier of the top-gripping type which connects together and supports a plurality of flanged cylindrical articles by their flanged neck portions, the carrier being formed from a single elongate blank (10, 30) of foldable sheet material having a series of panels (12-20; 32-40) joined along transverse fold lines, said blank including terminal panels (12, 20; 32, 40) at opposing ends thereof and which, when assembled, provides a top and a base interconnected by spaced side wall panels and together form a tubular structure, said top (16; 42, 48) and base, (12, 20; 36) each having a plurality of article receiving apertures with the apertures in the top disposed in registry with the apertures in the base, characterised by at least one retention tab (T, lt) being provided on at least one of said terminal panels, said retention tab being positioned adjacent one of said apertures in the base, said retention tab being hinged adjacent the free marginal edge of the respective terminal panel and being folded over said edge inwardly through said one aperture to extend within said tubular structure so as to maintain said carrier in erected condition when one of said article has been inserted through the aperture in the base and the flange or cap thereof positioned in said aperture in the top whereby said retention tab is maintained in folded condition by said article.

2. The article carrier according to claim 1, further characterised in that said retention tab cooperates with portions of the base to maintain the tab within the tubular structure after insertion through said aperture in the base.

3. The article carrier according to claim 2, further characterised in that said retention tab cooperates with at least one flap hinged to a peripheral portion (S1, S2) of said adjacent article receiving aperture and positioned for displacement by said retention tab during insertion of said tab.

4. The article carrier according to any of the preceding claims, further characterised in that said tubular structure is of rectangular cross-section and in that said base comprises a pair of base panels (12, 20) secured in partial overlapping relation-

brought into close registry with one another above and vertically aligned with base panel aperture A5. Likewise, apertures R2 and R4 are brought into close registry with one another above and vertically aligned with base panel aperture A6.

In order to maintain the carrier in its tubular configuration, a pair of arrow-head shaped retention or locking tabs 't1' and 't2' extend from the transverse edge 32a of outer side wall panel 32.

The blank 30 is formed into a tubular structure (by a suitable folding device) of triangular cross-section by folding about the transverse fold lines so that first, the transverse edge 40a of the second inner side wall panel 40 is brought into abutment with transverse fold line 44. Thus, the transverse fold line 48 forms the apex of a triangle whose sloping sides are constituted by side wall panels 38 and 40 and in which apertures R3 and R4 are disposed in spaced, vertically aligned relationship with base apertures A5 and A6 respectively. Outer side wall panels 34 and 32 are then brought into superposed relationship with inner side wall panels 40 and 38 respectively, so that apertures R1 and R2 are brought into close registry with apertures R3 and R4 respectively and transverse fold line 42 thereby forms the apex of the tubular structure thus formed and provides the top of the carrier. In this tubular configuration, the locking tabs 't1' and 't2' project beyond the base panel 36 of the carrier adjacent transverse fold line 46 and are disposed next to respective ones of the apertures A5 and A6 and subsequently are folded into overlapping relationship with the base panel 36.

The tubular structure is then applied to a pair of bottles so that a neck portion of each bottle is introduced through respective ones of the base panel apertures A5 and A6 and through the registering top apertures R1 R3; R2 R4.

Referring specifically to locking tab 't1' and base panel aperture A5, as a bottle neck is inserted through aperture A5 it strikes against the locking tab 't1' which partially overlies tab t3 and displaces the locking tab 't1' together with tabs t1-t3 in a direction inwardly of the tubular structure into the space between the top of the carrier and the base panel. In so doing, locking edges e3 and e4 of the locking tab 't1' engage beneath e5 of tab t3 and beneath fixed edge e6 of the aperture and thereby lock the tab 't1' in the aperture A5. Locking tab 't2' is similarly engaged in aperture A6 by a bottle introduced into aperture A6 thereby securing outer side wall panel 32 to the base panel 36 and maintaining the completed carrier in its erected condition. (Figure 4).

When the neck portion of the bottle is fully inserted through aperture A5 and registering apertures R1 R3 the displaced tabs t1-t3 and the displaced locking tab 't1' engage against the neck portion of the bottle and stabilise the bottle against undue sideways movement in the carrier. The bottle top or neck flange is retained by peripheral edge portions of the top apertures R1, R3. The stabilising and locking tabs associated with the other aperture A6 are similarly displaced and also serve to stabilise a bottle present in that aperture.

A modified carrier of similar construction but which includes a greater number of bottle receiving apertures is envisaged.

It is further envisaged that a modified version of the bottle carrier described with reference to Figures 2 and 4 may include retention tabs t1, t2, which do not have locking edges e3, e4. In such an arrangement, the tabs t1, t2 may have straight parallel edges and the tabs t1-t3 omitted from the base panel article receiving apertures A5, A6. Such a carrier would not be preformed but each retention tab would be folded into an article receiving aperture to extend within the tubular structure so as to maintain the carrier in erected condition at a time when a bottle is inserted through that aperture. Thus, when the bottle top is fully loaded into the carrier, so that its neck flange or cap is located in the aperture in the top of the carrier, the retention tab is maintained in folded condition by the bottle.

Claims

1. An article carrier of the top-gripping type which connects together and supports a plurality of flanged cylindrical articles by their flanged neck portions, the carrier being formed from a single elongate blank (10, 30) of foldable sheet material having a series of panels (12-20; 32-40) joined along transverse fold lines, said blank including terminal panels (12, 20; 32, 40) at opposing ends thereof and which, when assembled, provides a top and a base interconnected by spaced side wall panels and together form a tubular structure, said top (16; 42, 48) and base, (12, 20; 36) each having a plurality of article receiving apertures with the apertures in the top disposed in registry with the apertures in the base, characterised by at least one retention tab (T, t) being provided on at least one of said terminal panels, said retention tab being positioned adjacent one of said apertures in the base, said retention tab being hinged adjacent the free marginal edge of the respective terminal panel and being folded over said edge inwardly through said one aperture to extend within said tubular structure so as to maintain said carrier in erected condition when one of said article has been inserted through the aperture in the base and the flange or cap thereof positioned in said aperture in the top whereby said retention tab is maintained in folded condition by said article.

2. The article carrier according to claim 1, further characterised in that said retention tab cooperates with portions of the base to maintain the tab within the tubular structure after insertion through said aperture in the base.

3. The article carrier according to claim 2, further characterised in that said retention tab cooperates with at least one flap hinged to a peripheral portion (S1, S2) of said adjacent article receiving aperture and positioned for displacement by said retention tab during insertion of said tab.

4. The article carrier according to any of the preceding claims, further characterised in that said tubular structure is of rectangular cross-section and in that said base comprises a pair of base panels (12, 20) secured in partial overlapping relation-



ship, one of said base panels (2) being said terminal which is provided with said retention tab (T).

5. The article carrier according to any of claims 1 to 3, further characterised in that said tubular structure is of triangular cross section, one of said side walls (32) being said terminal panel which is provided with said retention tab (It).

6. A blank for forming the article carrier according to claim 1 which blank comprises, in series, a first base panel (12), a first side wall panel (14), a top panel (16), a second side wall panel (18), and a second base panel (20) hinged one to the next, said top panel and each base panel being formed with article receiving apertures (A, N) arranged such that each of the article receiving apertures in the top panel is disposed in registry with a separate one of the article receiving apertures in the base panel when the blank is erected to form said carrier, characterised in that said second base panel has a plurality of retention tabs (T1, T2) hinged adjacent the marginal edge of that panel each of which tabs is sized and positioned for insertion into respective ones of the article receiving apertures (N1, N2) in said first base panel when the base panels are brought into overlapping relationship.

7. A blank for forming the article carrier according to claim 1, which blank comprises, in series, a first outer side wall panel (32), a second outer side wall panel (34), a base panel (36), a first inner side wall panel (38) and a second inner side wall panel (40) hinged one to the next, said side wall panels and said base panel being formed with article receiving apertures (A, R) arranged such that each of the article receiving apertures in the side wall panels are disposed in registry with one of the article receiving apertures in the base panels when the blank is erected to form said carrier, characterised in that said first outer side wall panel (32) has a plurality of retention tabs (It2) hinged adjacent a free marginal edge of that panel each of which is sized and positioned for insertion into respective ones of the article receiving apertures in said base panel when said first outer side wall panel is brought into overlapping relationship with said first inner side wall panel.

8. A method of assembling a carrier of the top-gripping type which connects together and supports a plurality of flanged cylindrical articles by their flanged neck portions or caps, said carrier being formed from a single elongated blank (10, 30) of sheet material having a series of panels joined along transverse fold lines, said blank including terminal panels (12, 20; 32, 40) at opposing ends thereof and, when assembled into a tubular structure, provide a top and a base interconnected by spaced side wall panels, said top or upper portions of said side wall panels adjacent said top and base having a plurality of article receiving apertures (A, N; A, R) and at least one retention tab (T, It) being provided adjacent a free marginal edge at least one of said terminal panels in general alignment with a respective one of said apertures in the base, the method being characterised by the steps of folding said blank about said fold lines so that the apertures in the top are disposed in registry with the apertures

in the base and said retention tab is disposed adjacent said respective aperture in the base, folding said retention tab over said free marginal edge of its associated terminal panel and inwardly through said respective aperture in the base to extend within the tubular structure, and inserting one of said articles with its neck portion through said respective aperture in the base so that the flange or cap thereof is positioned in the aperture in the top whereby said retention tab is maintained in folded condition by said bottle.

Patentansprüche

1. Gegenstandeträger, der die Gegenstände an deren Oberteil erfaßt und eine Anzahl mit einem vorstehenden Rand versehener zylindrischer Gegenstände an deren mit dem Rand versehenen Halsabschnitte verbindet und trägt, wobei der Träger aus einem einzigen länglichen Zuschnitt (10, 30) aus faltbarem flachen Material gebildet ist, das eine Reihe von Abschnitten (12-20; 32-40) aufweist, die an Querfalllinien miteinander verbunden sind, wobei der Zuschnitt Endabschnitte an gegenüberliegenden Enden aufweist und im zusammengesetzten Zustand ein Oberteil und ein Unterteil aufweist, die über beabstandete Seitenwände miteinander verbunden sind und zusammen eine röhrenförmige Struktur bilden, wobei jeweils das Oberteil (16; 42, 48) und das Unterteil (12, 20; 36) eine Vielzahl von Aufnahmeöffnungen für die Gegenstände aufweist, wobei die Öffnungen im Oberteil den Öffnungen im Unterteil gegenüberliegen, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß zumindest eine Haltelasche (T, It) an zumindest einem der Endabschnitte vorgesehen ist, wobei die Haltelasche benachbart zu einer der Öffnungen im Unterteil angebracht ist, und wobei die Haltelasche benachbart zur freien Kante des entsprechenden Endabschnitts angelenkt ist und über die Kante nach innen durch die eine Öffnung gefaltet ist, um sich innerhalb des röhrenförmigen Gebildes zu erstrecken, um den Träger im aufgerichteten Zustand zu halten, wenn einer der Gegenstände durch die Öffnung im Unterteil eingesetzt und dessen vorstehender Rand oder Verschlusskappe in der Öffnung im Oberteil positioniert ist, wobei die Haltelasche im gefalteten Zustand durch den Gegenstand gehalten wird.

2. Gegenstandeträger nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Haltelasche mit Abschnitten des Unterteils zusammenwirkt, um die Lasche innerhalb des röhrenförmigen Gebildes nach dem Einbringen durch die Öffnung im Unterteil zu halten.

3. Gegenstandeträger nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Haltelasche mit zumindest einer Klappe zusammenwirkt, die an einem Umfangsabschnitt (S1, S2) der benachbarten einen Gegenstand aufnehmenden Öffnung angelenkt und zum Verschieben durch die Haltelasche während des Einbringens der Lasche angebracht ist.

4. Gegenstandeträger nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das röhrenförmige Gebilde einen rechteckigen Querschnitt aufweist und daß das Unterteil ein Paar Bodenabschnitte (12, 20) besitzt, die in teilweiser



Überlappung befestigt sind, wobei einer der Bodenabschnitte (2) das Ende ist, das mit der Haltelasche (T) versehen ist.

5. Gegenstandsträger nach einem der Ansprüche 1-3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das röhrenförmige Gebilde einen dreieckigen Querschnitt aufweist, wobei eine der Seitenwände (32) den Endabschnitt bildet, der mit der Rückhaltelasche (It) versehen ist.

6. Zuschnitt zum Ausbilden des Gegenstandsträgers nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Zuschnitt der Reihe nach, eines am anderen angelenkt, einen ersten Bodenabschnitt (12), einen ersten Seitenwandabschnitt (14), einen Deckabschnitt (16), einen zweiten Seitenwandabschnitt (18) und einen zweiten Bodenabschnitt (20) aufweist, wobei der Deckabschnitt und jeder Bodenabschnitt mit den Gegenständen aufnehmenden Öffnungen (A, N) ausgebildet ist, die derart angeordnet sind, daß jede der Gegenstände aufnehmenden Öffnungen im Deckabschnitt einer einzelnen der Gegenstände aufnehmenden Öffnungen im Bodenabschnitt gegenüberliegt, wenn der Zuschnitt aufgerichtet ist, um den Träger zu bilden, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der zweite Bodenabschnitt eine Anzahl Haltelaschen (T1, T2) aufweist, die benachbart der freien Kante dieses Abschnitts angelenkt sind, wobei jede der Laschen bemessen und angeordnet zum Einbringen in eine der entsprechenden Gegenstände aufnehmenden Öffnungen (N1, N2) im ersten Bodenabschnitt ist, wenn die Bodenabschnitte in Überlappungsbeziehung gebracht sind.

7. Zuschnitt zum Ausbilden des Gegenstandsträgers nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Zuschnitt der Reihe nach, eines am anderen angelenkt, einen ersten Außenseitenwandabschnitt (32), einen zweiten Außenseitenwandabschnitt (34), einen Bodenabschnitt (36), einen ersten Innenseitenwandabschnitt (38) und einen zweiten Innenseitenwandabschnitt (40) aufweist, wobei die Seitenwandabschnitte und der Bodenabschnitt die mit Gegenständen aufnehmenden Öffnungen (A, R) versehen sind, derart ausgebildet sind, daß jede der Gegenstände aufnehmenden Öffnungen in den Seitenwandabschnitten einer der Gegenstände aufnehmenden Öffnung in dem Bodenabschnitt gegenüberliegt, wenn der Zuschnitt aufgerichtet ist, um den Träger zu bilden, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der erste Außenseitenwandabschnitt (32) eine Anzahl Haltelaschen (It2) aufweist, die benachbart der freien Kante dieses Abschnitts angelenkt sind, wobei jede der Laschen bemessen und angeordnet zum Einbringen in eine der entsprechenden, Gegenstände aufnehmenden Öffnungen in dem Bodenabschnitt ist, wenn der erste Außenseitenwandabschnitt in Überlappungsbeziehung mit dem ersten Innenseitenwandabschnitt gebracht ist.

8. Verfahren zum Aufrichten eines Trägers, der Gegenstände an deren Oberteil erfaßt und eine Anzahl mit einem vorstehenden Rand versehener zylindrischer Gegenstände an deren mit dem Rand versehenen Halsabschnitte oder Verschlusskappen verbindet und trägt, wobei der Träger aus einem einzelnen länglichen Zuschnitt (10, 30) eines flachen Materials gebildet ist, das eine Reihe von Abschnit-

ten aufweist, die an Querfaltlinien miteinander verbunden sind, wobei der Zuschnitt Endabschnitte (12, 20; 32, 40) an seinen entgegengesetzten Enden aufweist und im zusammengesetzten Zustand ein röhrenförmiges Gebilde formt, das ein Oberteil (16; 42, 48) und ein Unterteil aufweist, die über beabstandete Seitenwände miteinander verbunden sind, wobei das Oberteil oder die oberen Abschnitte der Seitenwände, die benachbart dem Oberteil und dem Unterteil sind, eine Anzahl von Gegenständen aufnehmenden Öffnungen (A, N; A, R) und zumindest eine Haltelasche (T, It) aufweisen, die sich benachbart einer freien Kante an zumindest einem der Endabschnitte in Grundausrichtung auf eine der entsprechenden Öffnungen im Unterteil befindet, wobei das Verfahren gekennzeichnet ist durch die Schritte:

- Falten des Zuschnittes um die Faltlinien, so daß sich die Öffnungen im Oberteil gegenüber den Öffnungen im Unterteil befinden und die Haltelasche benachbart der entsprechenden Öffnung im Unterteil angeordnet ist,

- Falten der Haltelasche über die freie Kante des zugehörigen Endabschnitts und nach innen durch die entsprechende Öffnung im Unterteil, um sich innerhalb des röhrenförmigen Gebildes zu erstrecken, und

- Einbringen eines der Gegenstände mit dessen Halsabschnitt durch die entsprechende Öffnung im Unterteil, so daß dessen vorstehender Rand oder Verschlusskappe in der Öffnung im Oberteil positioniert ist, wobei die Haltelasche im gefalteten Zustand durch die Flasche gehalten wird.

Revendications

1. Porte-objets ou articles, du type engageant la partie supérieure de ceux-ci, qui relie entre-eux et supporte plusieurs objets ou articles cylindriques à rebord au moyen du rebord de leur partie supérieure ou de celui de leur goulot, ce porte-objets ou articles étant constitué d'un simple flan allongé (10, 30) de matière en feuille pliable et comportant une série de panneaux (12, 20; 32, 40) reliés le long de lignes de pliage transversales, ce flan étant pourvu de panneaux terminaux (12, 20; 32, 40) à ses extrémités opposées qui, lorsqu'ils sont assemblés, fournissent un dessus et une base reliés entre eux par des panneaux de parois latérales de manière que leur ensemble forme une structure tubulaire, ce dessus (16, 42, 48) et cette base (12, 20, 36) comportant chacun plusieurs ouvertures, qui sont situées respectivement en regard les unes des autres, dans ce dessus et cette base pour recevoir plusieurs objets, ou articles, ce porte-objet étant caractérisé par le fait qu'une patte de fixation (T, It) au moins est prévue sur au moins l'un des panneaux terminaux, cette patte de fixation étant située adjacente à une des ouvertures prévues dans la base et étant reliée, par charnière, de manière adjacente au bord libre marginal du panneau terminal correspondant, ainsi qu'elle est pliée vers l'intérieur au-dessus de ce bord libre à travers l'ouverture à laquelle elle est adjacente, afin de s'étendre à l'intérieur de la structure tubulaire et, de cette manière, maintenir ce porte-objets en position dressée lorsque l'un des objets,



ou articles, a été engagé travers l'ouverture dans la base et que le rebord, ou la capsule de cet objet ou article, se trouve situé dans l'ouverture du dessus, la patte de fixation étant maintenue en position pliée par cet objet ou article.

2. Porte-objets ou articles selon la revendication 1, caractérisé par le fait que la patte de fixation (T, It) coopère avec des parties de la base pour se maintenir à l'intérieur de la structure tubulaire après son introduction dans l'ouverture correspondante de la base.

3. Porte-objets ou articles selon la revendication 2, caractérisé par le fait que la patte de fixation (T) coopère avec au moins un volet (S1, S2) relié par charnière à une partie périphérique de l'ouverture correspondante de la base et situé de façon à être déplacé par cette patte (T) lorsque celle-ci s'introduit dans cette ouverture.

4. Porte-objets ou articles selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, caractérisé par le fait que la structure tubulaire constituant ce porte-objets ou articles est de section transversale rectangulaire et que la base comprend deux panneaux de base (12, 20) fixés entre eux et se recouvrant partiellement, l'un (20) de ces panneaux de base étant le panneau terminal pourvu d'au moins une patte de fixation (T).

5. Porte-objets ou articles selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, caractérisé par le fait que la structure tubulaire constituant ce porte-objets ou articles est de section transversale triangulaire, l'une des parois latérales (32) étant constituée par le panneau terminal qui est pourvu d'au moins une patte de fixation (It).

6. Flan adapté pour conformer le porte-objets ou articles selon la revendication 1, comprenant, disposés en série, un premier panneau de base (12), un premier panneau de paroi latérale (14), un panneau de dessus (16), un second panneau de paroi latérale (18) et un second panneau de base (20), tous ces panneaux étant reliés par charnière de l'un à l'autre, le panneau de dessus et chacun des panneaux de base comportant des ouvertures (A, N) de réception d'objet, ou d'articles, agencées de manière que chaque ouverture du panneau de dessus soit située en regard d'une ouverture correspondante située dans le panneau de base lorsque ce flan est monté pour former la structure tubulaire du porte-objets, ou articles, ce flan étant caractérisé par le fait que le second panneau de base (20) comporte plusieurs pattes de fixation (T1, T2) reliées par charnière et de manière adjacente à son bord frontal marginal, chacune de ces pattes de fixation (T1, T2) étant située et dimensionnée pour pouvoir être engagée dans une ouverture (N1, N2) correspondante de réception d'objet ou d'article située dans le premier panneau de base (12), lorsque ces deux panneaux de base (12, 20) sont assemblés en recouvrement l'un par rapport à l'autre.

7. Flan adapté pour conformer le porte-objets ou articles selon la revendication 1, comprenant, disposés en série, un premier panneau extérieur de paroi latérale (32), un second panneau extérieur de paroi latérale (34), un panneau de base (36), un premier panneau intérieur de paroi latérale (38) et un se-

cond panneau intérieur de paroi latérale (40), tous ces panneaux étant reliés, par charnière, de l'un à l'autre, les panneaux de parois latérales et le panneau de base étant pourvus d'ouvertures (A, R) de réception d'objets, ou d'articles, agencées de façon que chacune des ouvertures situées dans les panneaux de parois latérales soit placée en regard d'une ouverture correspondante située dans le panneau de base lorsque ce flan est monté pour former la structure tubulaire du porte-objets ou articles, ce flan étant caractérisé par le fait que le premier panneau extérieur de paroi latérale (32) comporte plusieurs pattes de fixation (It2) reliées par charnière et de manière adjacente à son bord marginal frontal, chacune de ses pattes de fixation (It2) étant située et dimensionnée pour pouvoir être engagée dans une ouverture correspondante de réception d'objet, ou d'article, située dans le panneau de base (36) lorsque ce premier panneau extérieur de paroi latérale (32) est monté pour venir en recouvrement sur le premier panneau intérieur de paroi latérale (38).

8. Procédé d'assemblage d'un porte-objets ou articles, du type engageant la partie supérieure ou le sommet de ceux-ci, qui relie entre-eux et supporte plusieurs objets, ou articles cylindriques à rebord, au moyen du rebord de leur partie supérieure, de leur goulot ou de leur capsule, ce porte-objets étant conformé à partir d'un simple flan allongé (10, 30) de matière en feuille comportant une série de panneaux reliés entre eux le long de lignes de pliage transversales, ce flan comprenant des panneaux terminaux (12, 20; 32, 40) à ses extrémités opposées et se présentant, lorsqu'il est monté, sous forme d'une structure tubulaire comportant un dessus et une base reliés entre-eux par des panneaux de parois latérales écartées l'une de l'autre, le dessus, ou les parties supérieures des panneaux de parois latérales adjacents au dessus et à la base, étant pourvus de plusieurs ouvertures (A, N; A, R) de réception d'objet ou d'article et d'au moins une patte de fixation (T, It) prévue adjacente au bord marginal frontal d'au moins l'un des panneaux terminaux, cette patte étant située en alignement général avec une ouverture correspondante parmi celles pratiquées dans la base, ce procédé étant caractérisé par le fait qu'il consiste à plier le flan autour des lignes de pliage de façon que les ouvertures situées dans le dessus soient placées en regard des ouvertures correspondantes situées dans la base et que la patte de fixation soit placée adjacente à l'ouverture correspondante dans cette base, puis à plier cette patte de fixation sur le bord marginal frontal de son panneau terminal associé et vers l'intérieur à travers ladite ouverture correspondante dans la base afin de s'étendre à l'intérieur de la structure tubulaire et, ensuite, à introduire l'un des objets, ou articles, par sa partie supérieure, ou de goulot, dans une ouverture de la base de façon que le rebord de cette partie supérieure du goulot, ou de la capsule de celui-ci, soit engagée dans l'ouverture correspondante du dessus et de manière que la patte de fixation soit maintenue en position pliée par l'objet ou l'article.

