CLAIMS:

1. A product tray formed from a blank, the tray comprising a product pusher, wherein the product pusher is formed from just a single fabric or material, and is arranged to apply a resilient bias force to the rear surface of products contained within the tray, wherein the single fabric or material comprises a length of resilient tape, the single fabric or material being attached to the blank at or towards its ends to two opposing sides of the product tray at two surfaces of the blank that formed the tray that lied in a common plane at the time of said attachment, the two surfaces, in the tray, facing outwards, wherein the two parts of the product tray to which the single fabric or material is attached are sites of attachment and they are concealed by concealing flaps extending over those sides, the concealing flaps being also a part of the blank from which the tray is formed.

2. The tray of claim 1, wherein the single fabric or material comprises a plurality of lengths of a single type of the resilient tape.

3. The tray of claims 1 or 2 wherein the resilient tape is a rubber, silicon or elastic strip, or shirring elastic, or clear elastic.

4. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the single fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to folded flaps formed near the front of the tray.

5. The tray of any one of the preceding claims wherein the single fabric or material is attached to the product tray at more than two sites of attachment along its length.

6. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, comprising a restraining member, wherein the single fabric or material is restrained by said restraining member.

7. The tray of claim 6, wherein the restraining member is a clamp.

8. The tray of claim 7, wherein the clamp is a tab folded over the pusher tape and wherein the uppermost portion of the tab is glued to a zone in the wall of the tray.

9. The tray of claim 8, wherein the zone is bordered by a line of perforation.

10. The tray of claims 6 to 9, wherein the restraining force exerted by the restraining member can be optionally relieved by user interference.

11. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the single fabric or material is arranged to wrap behind and to the sides of products contained within the tray, when loaded into the tray, to apply the resilient bias force to the rear surface of those products.

12. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, mounted on a shelf within a shop with a raised back, such that gravity can assist with a front-stacking effect provided by the product pusher onto the products.

13. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tray is formed from one or more corrugated sheet of material.

14. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tray additionally comprise a lid or top.

15. The tray of claim 14, wherein the lid or top is a separate component to the tray.

16. The tray of claim 15, wherein the lid can be refitted onto the tray.

17. The tray of claim 14, wherein the lid or top is integral to the tray but perforated relative thereto for simple removal, or partial removal, therefrom.

18. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein a divider is provided to divide the product receiving area of the tray into more than one chamber.

19. The tray of claim 18, wherein the product pusher bridges two or more chambers, thereby providing a pusher for both or each chamber.

20. A product tray formed from a blank, the tray comprising a product pusher, wherein the product pusher is formed from a length of elastically stretchable fabric or material arranged to wrap behind and to the sides of products contained within the tray

to apply a resilient bias force to the rear surface of those products contained within the tray, wherein the length of fabric or material comprises a length of resilient tape, the length of fabric or material being attached to the blank at or towards its ends to two opposing sides of the product tray at two surfaces of the blank that formed the tray that lied in a common plane at the time of said attachment, the two surfaces, in the tray, facing outwards, wherein the two parts of the product tray to which the single fabric or material is attached are sites of attachment and they are concealed by concealing flaps extending over those sides, the concealing flaps being also a part of the blank from which the tray is formed.

21. The tray of claim 20, wherein the single fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to folded flaps formed near the front of the tray.

22. The tray of claim 20 or 21, wherein the tray additionally comprise a lid or top.

23. A method of assembling a tray having a product pusher, comprising:
folding a blank to form at least part of a tray,
feeding a resilient tape across a face thereof, and
inserting products into the tray such that the resilient tape wraps partially around the products in a stretched state, wherein the tray is in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 22.

24. A method of assembling a tray having a product pusher, comprising:
providing a blank for forming at least part of a tray,
feeding a resilient tape across a face thereof,
folding the blank to form at least part of the tray; and
inserting products into the tray such that the resilient tape wraps partially around the products in a stretched state, wherein the tray is in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 22.

25. The method of claim 23 or claim 24, wherein the length of resilient tape is fed across the tray front by a transfer device.

26. The method of any one of claims 23 to 25, comprising an additional step, prior to inserting the products, of pushing the length of resilient tape towards the back and around the side walls of the tray.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the length of resilient tape is pushed back by a tension guide.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the tension guide is withdrawn from the tray after insertion of the products.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein prior to the withdrawal of the tension guide, one or more rods are inserted through one or more slots in the back wall of the tray and corresponding channels in back wall of the tension guide in order to maintain the resilient tape in position upon withdrawal of the tension guide.

30. The method of any of claims 23 to 29 wherein the products are side-loaded into the tray.

31. The method of any of claims 23 to 29 wherein the products are top-loaded into the tray

32. The method of any one of claims 23 to 31 wherein a lid or top is added to the tray.

33. The method of any one of claims 23 to 32, wherein the length of resilient tape is drawn from a roll.

34. A blank for forming a tray according to any one of claims 1 to 22, the blank having the resilient tape applied thereto.

35. A stack of blanks according to claim 34.

CLAIMS:

1. A product tray comprising a product pusher, wherein the product pusher is formed from just a single fabric or material, and is arranged to apply a resilient bias force to the rear surface of products contained within the tray.

2. The tray of claim 1, wherein the single fabric or material is a length of resilient tape, such as a rubber, silicon or elastic strip, or shirring elastic, knitted or otherwise.

3. The tray of claim 1, wherein the single fabric or material is a plurality of lengths of a single type of resilient tape, such as a rubber, silicon or elastic strip.

4. The tray of claims 2 or 3 wherein the resilient tape is a length of shirring elastic or clear elastic.

5. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the single fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to the product tray.

6. The tray of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the single fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to a board or boards disposed at least partially alongside the sides of the tray.

7. The tray of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the single fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to the sides of the tray.

8. The tray of any one of claims 1 to 5 or 7, wherein the single fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to folded flaps formed near the front of the tray.

9. The tray of claim 8 when dependent on any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the folded flaps are integral to the front of the tray.

10. The tray of claim 7, wherein the sides of the tray comprise folded flaps, and the single fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to the outsides of the folded flaps.

11. The tray of claim 10, wherein the single fabric or material passes around the front ends of the flaps.

12. The tray of claims 10 or 11, wherein the folded flaps are inner boards.

13. The tray of claim 7, wherein the sides of the tray comprise inner and outer boards, and the single fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to the insides of the outer boards.

14. The tray of claim 13, wherein the single fabric or material passes around the front ends of the inner boards.

15. The tray of claim 13 or 14, wherein the outer boards are flaps integral to the front flap of the tray.

16. The tray of claim 7, wherein the sides of the tray comprise inner and outer boards, and the single fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to the insides of the inner boards.

17. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the single fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to two surfaces lying in a common plane at the time of attachment.

18. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein parts of the product tray to which the single fabric or material is attached are concealed by concealing flaps.

19. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the single fabric or material is supplied from a roll.

20. The tray of any one of the preceding claims wherein the single fabric or material is attached to the product tray at two or more sites of attachments along its length.

21. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, comprising a restraining member, wherein the single fabric or material is restrained by said restraining member.

22. The tray of claim 21, wherein the restraining member is a clamp.

23. The tray of claim 22, wherein the clamp is a tab folded over the pusher tape and wherein the uppermost portion of the tab is glued to a zone in the wall of the tray.

24. The tray of claim 23, wherein the zone is bordered by a line of perforation.

25. The tray of claims 21 to 24, wherein the restraining force exerted by the restraining member can be optionally relieved by user interference.

26. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the single fabric or material is one or more length of elastically stretchable fabric or material, arranged to wrap behind and to the sides of products contained within the tray to apply the resilient bias force to the rear surface of those products.

27. The tray of claim 1, wherein the pusher comprises two inter-engaged webs, each web comprising two hinge lines and three inter-engagement slots, the two hinge lines being oppositely bent and the three inter-engagement slots interlinking with the opposing inter-engagement slots on the other web.

28. The tray of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the pusher is not attached to the tray, but instead simply sits within the tray.

29. The tray of claim 28, wherein the elasticity of the material or structure of the webs provide at least part of the resilient bias of the pusher.

30. The tray of claim 27, wherein the inter-engagement of the slots is provided with an interference fit upon compression of the pusher in a concertina fashion, whereupon the fit and material structure provides at least a part of the resilient bias of the pusher.

31. The tray of claim 27, wherein the hinge lines provide at least a part of the resilient bias of the pusher.

32. The tray of any one of claims 27 to 31, wherein the webs include folded sides so as to double the thickness of parts of the webs.

33. The tray of any one of claims 27 to 32, wherein the pusher is formed from just two blanks, cut from a single sheet.

34. The tray of any one of claims 27 to 33, wherein the pusher is formed just from cardboard and optionally glue.

35. The tray of any one of claims 27 to 34, wherein the pusher is formed just from a corrugated material and optionally glue.

36. The tray of claim 35, wherein the corrugations are oriented such that they run with their parallel axes extending perpendicular to the hinge lines.

37. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tray, in use, is mounted on a shelf within a shop with a raised back, such that gravity can assist with the front-stacking effect.

38. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tray is formed from one or more corrugated sheet of material.

39. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tray additionally comprises a lid or top.

40. The tray of claim 39, wherein the lid or top may be a separate component to the tray.

41. The tray of claim 40, wherein the lid can be refitted onto the tray.

42. The tray of claim 39, wherein the lid or top is integral to the tray but perforated relative thereto for simple removal, or partial removal, therefrom.

43. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein a divider is provided to divide the product receiving area of the tray into more than one chamber.

44. The tray of claim 43, wherein a separate pusher is provided for each chamber.

45. The tray of claim 43, wherein a single resilient strip bridges two or more chambers, thereby providing a pusher for both or each chamber.

46. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein slots are formed in the base of the tray.

47. The tray of claim 46, wherein the slots extend in the forwards/backwards direction of the tray.

48. The tray of claim 46 or claim 47, wherein the slots are formed by folding inwardly or outwardly two or more flaps that were formed integrally to the base of the tray.

49. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the inside surface of the base of the tray is covered with a friction-reducing coating.

50. The tray of claim 49, wherein the coating is a food-safe coating.

51. The tray of claim 50, wherein the coating is a PTFE coating.

52. A product tray comprising a product pusher, wherein the product pusher is formed from a length of elastically stretchable fabric or material arranged to wrap behind and to the sides of products contained within the tray to apply a resilient bias force to the rear surface of those products contained within the tray.

53. The tray of claim 52, comprising the features of any one or more of claims 1 to 51.

54. A tray according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a pusher board to be provided behind the products contained within the tray.

55. The tray of claim 54, wherein the pusher board is attached to the product pusher, in front of the product pusher.

56. The tray of claim 54 or claim 55, wherein the pusher board has a recess in its bottom edge.

57. The tray of claim 54, claim 55 or claim 56, wherein the pusher board has recesses in its sides.

58. A product tray comprising a product pusher, wherein the product pusher comprises a) an element that is formed from a fabric or material that is arranged to apply a resilient bias force to products contained within the tray, and b) a pusher board to be provided behind the products contained within the tray.

59. The tray of claim 58, further comprising the features of any one or more of claims 1 to 57.

60. The tray of any one of the preceding claims, further having a recessed portion along a front edge of its base.

61. A method of assembling a tray having a product pusher, comprising:
folding a blank to form at least part of a tray,
feeding a resilient web across a face thereof, and
inserting products into the tray such that the web wraps partially around the products in a stretched state.

62. A method of assembling a tray having a product pusher, comprising:
providing a blank for forming at least part of a tray,
feeding a resilient web across a face thereof,
folding the blank to form at least part of the tray; and
inserting products into the tray such that the web wraps partially around the products in a stretched state.

63. A method of assembling a tray having a product pusher, comprising:
providing a blank for forming at least part of a tray,
folding the blank to form at least part of the tray;
wrapping a resilient web in a stretched state around the back and at least partially around the sides of products to be inserted into the tray, and
inserting the products into the tray such that the web remains partially wrapped around the products in a stretched state to bias the products towards a face of the tray.

64. The method of claim 61, claim 62 or claim 63, wherein the length of resilient web is fed by a transfer device.

65. The method of any one of claims 61 to 64, comprising an additional step, prior to inserting the products, of pushing the length of resilient web towards the back and around the side walls of the tray.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein the length of resilient web is pushed back by a tension guide.

67. The method of claim 66, wherein the tension guide is withdrawn from the tray after insertion of the products.

68. The method of claim 67, wherein prior to the withdrawal of the tension guide, one or more rods are inserted through one or more slots in the back wall of the tray and corresponding channels in a back wall of the tension guide in order to maintain the web in position upon withdrawal of the tension guide.

69. The method of any of claims 61 to 68 wherein the products are side-loaded into the tray.

70. The method of any of claims 61 to 68 wherein the products are top-loaded into the tray.

71. The method of any of claims 61 to 68 wherein the products are front-loaded into the tray.

72. The method of any one of claims 61 to 71 wherein a lid or top is added to the tray.

73. The method of any one of claims 61 to 72, wherein the length of resilient web is drawn from a roll.

74. A blank for a product tray, the blank comprising a product pusher, wherein the product pusher is formed from a length of elastically stretchable fabric or material to

wrap behind and to the sides of products contained within the tray to apply a resilient bias force to the rear surface of those products contained within the tray.

75. A blank according to claim 74, wherein the length of elastically stretchable fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to the blank.

76. A blank according to claim 74 or 75, wherein the length of elastically stretchable fabric or material is attached at or towards its ends to flaps.

77. A blank according to claim 74, wherein the length of elastically stretchable fabric or material is attached to the blank at two or more sites of attachments along its length.

78. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 77, wherein the blank is formed from one or more corrugated sheet of material.

79. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 78, wherein the blank is for forming a product tray.

80. A blank according to claim 79, wherein the blank comprises at least one flap or tab for forming the product tray.

81. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 80, wherein the blank comprises at least one pair or set of parallel fold lines.

82. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 80, wherein the blank comprises two or more pairs or sets of parallel fold lines.

83. A blank according to claim 81 or claim 82, wherein at least one pair of parallel fold lines is a symmetrical pair of parallel fold lines.

84. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 83, wherein one fold line in a pair of fold lines is spaced at an opposing end of a panel, or of a line of panels, of the blank, from the other fold line of the pair of fold lines.

85. A blank according to any one of claims 81 to 84 comprises a panel bordered by a first pair of fold lines, the panel defining a base, and the first pair of fold lines defining two sides of a container to be formed by the blank, the panel being further bordered by a further pair of fold lines for defining a front and back of the container.

86. A blank according to any one of claims 81 to 85, wherein there are at least two pairs of fold lines, these two pairs being perpendicular to one another such that a base or panel defined therebetween is generally rectangular or square.

87. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 86, comprising a pairs of fold lines at ends of at least two panels thereon.

88. A blank according to claim 87, wherein the panels define two sides of a tray and the pair of fold lines define tabs for securing the blank in an assembled form.

89. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 88, wherein the pusher is attached to the blank using glue

90. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 88, wherein the pusher is attached to the blank using at least one staple.

91. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 88, wherein the pusher is attached to the blank using at least two staples.

92. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 91, wherein the pusher is attached to at least two panels, tabs, flaps or sides of the final container to be formed using blank.

93. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 92, wherein the blank defines one or more panel or side of a container that is provided with a cut-out portion for defining a partially open side or panel of the container.

94. The blank of claim 93, wherein the pusher is arranged to extend across that cut-out portion.

95. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 94, wherein the blank comprises a pusher board.

96. A blank according to 95, wherein the length of elastically stretchable fabric or material is attached to the pusher board.

97. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 96, wherein the blank defines both a tray and a lid.

98. A blank according to claim 97, wherein the lid is an integral part of the blank.

99. A blank according to claim 97 or claim 98, wherein the blank comprises perforations or slot-cuts to allow the lid to be a tear-off lid.

100. A blank according to any one of claims 97 to 99, wherein the blank comprises fold lines for defining both the tray and the lid.

101. A blank according to any one of claims 97 to 100, wherein the blank comprises perforations within the lid to define a tear off strip or flap within the lid.

102. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 96, wherein the length of elastically stretchable fabric or material is in a tensioned state.

103. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 102, wherein the blank is in a completely unfolded state.

104. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 102, wherein the blank is at least partially folded.

105. A blank according to any one of claims 74 to 102, wherein the blank is at least partially folded, yet still substantially flat.

106. A stack of blanks comprising at least one blank according to any one of claims 74 to 105.

107. A method of forming a blank for product tray, comprising:

providing a blank for forming at least part of the tray,

providing a product pusher,

wherein the product pusher is formed from a length of elastically stretchable fabric or material to wrap behind and to the sides of products contained within the tray to apply a resilient bias force to the rear surface of those products contained within the tray.

108. The method of claim 107, wherein the blank is in accordance with any one or more of claims 74 to 106.