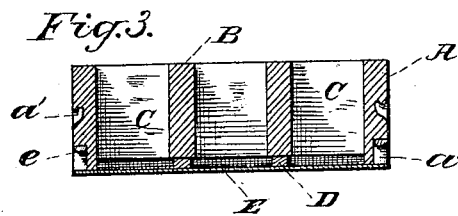
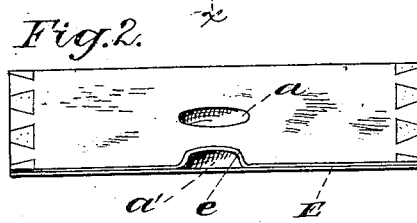
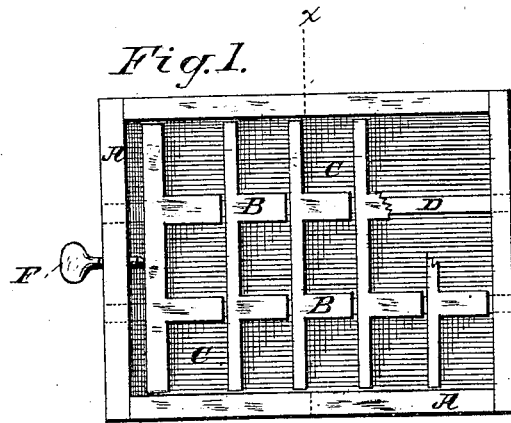


(No Model.)

J. McCRODDEN.  
PACKAGE TRAY.

No. 263,556.

Patented Aug. 29, 1882.



Witnesses:

R. F. Gaylord  
Robt H. Simcox

Inventor:

James McCrodden  
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Att'y

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES McCRODDEN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## PACKAGE-TRAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 263,556, dated August 29, 1882.

Application filed July 10, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES McCRODDEN, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Package-Trays, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the same.

My invention relates to receptacles which are used for carrying and handling boxes or packages, and it especially relates to those receptacles (generally called "trays") which are used for handling a number of small packages while being filled and sealed, particularly when such trays are used in connection with a machine adapted to automatically fill the packages; and my invention consists in a tray provided with suitable means for supporting the empty boxes or packages and retaining them in proper position while being filled and sealed, and having a removable bottom or base upon which the packages rest and upon which they are removed from the tray.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a top or plan view of my improved tray, Fig. 2 being a side or elevation view; and Fig. 3, a sectional view on plane *xx* of Fig. 1, looking toward the left.

The letter A represents the tray, which contains the packages to be charged.

BB are division-bars, which are notched and arranged relatively to each other so as to form the separate package-compartments C. These bars B rest upon the supporting-strips D, which are fastened to the under side of the ends of the tray A. This tray rests upon the bed or bottom E, which preferably is made of sheet metal, and is provided with two handles, *ee*, on both sides thereof. These handles fit in the recesses *a' a'* in the sides of the tray, so as to be flush with such sides, and are just below the grip-holes *aa* of the tray.

The empty boxes or packages, entirely closed except as to their upper ends, are placed in the compartments C and rest upon the bottom E of the tray, and the bars B, which support and keep the packages separated, are locked in position by the thumb-screw F. The packages are then charged with any desired substance, either by hand or automatically, and the open ends thereof closed and sealed.

Whenever it is necessary to transfer the trays containing the packages from place to place, or, during the process of automatic filling, to and from the filling-machine, they are grasped by the handles *ee* on the removable bottom E, and thus the whole tray and its contents are readily handled. When, however, it is desired to empty the tray, it is grasped by the grip-holes *aa* in its sides, the thumb-screw F having been loosened to relax the clamping action of the bars B upon the packages, and lifted from off its removable bottom, leaving the filled packages still resting on such bottom, from which they are readily removed to the packing-boxes.

With the exception of the removable bottom, trays of substantially the same construction and for the same purpose as set forth in the foregoing description have hitherto been used; but their use was attended with no little inconvenience, because if the tray, when filled, were lifted some of the packages would fall out, thus spilling and wasting their contents. This necessitated the use of a track or bed leading from the filling-machine, upon which the filled trays could move, and required the provision of some support to take the place of the bed of the filling-machine, upon which they could rest till emptied. Trays having removable bottoms can, however, be handled and removed from the filling-machine or from place to place, if desired, in less time and more easily than by the means heretofore employed.

What is claimed as new is—

1. A tray arranged to contain and support packages while being filled, and provided with a removable bottom, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. In combination with a tray for containing and supporting packages while being filled and sealed, and provided with a removable bottom, cross-bars arranged to keep the packages separated, substantially as and for the purpose described.

JAMES McCRODDEN.

Witnesses:

R. F. GAYLORD,  
ROB. H. DUNCAN.