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CELOPHANE PACKAGE WRAP

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This invention relates to improvements in "Cellophane" wrapped packages, and more particularly to means for facilitating the opening of the package by tearing the wrapper along a predetermined line, thereby removing only so much of the wrapper as to permit ready access to the contents.

The necessity for means for facilitating the opening of packages tightly wrapped and sealed in "Cellophane" has been prompted by the difficulty usually experienced in initially breaking through the wrapper, although when once ruptured the "Cellophane" tears quite easily and in all directions. Consequently when the wrapper has finally yielded, it is usually torn completely from the package, thus depriving the consumer of the protection that might otherwise be available during the period required for their consumption.

With the presence of a strip of "Cellophane" surrounding the package and preferably adjacent one end, with a loose end which may be grasped between the fingers, it is a simple matter to sever the wrapper around the package and on the line defined by the strip, one of the portions thus severed having the form of a cap over one end of the package which can be readily removed, leaving the remaining portion intact on the package.

The preferred form of the present invention is disclosed in the accompanying drawing, in which Figure 1 is a perspective view of the package completely wrapped;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the unwrapped package showing its position relative to the "Cellophane" wrapper with the gummed strip adhering thereto;

Figure 3 is a view showing a wrapper with the strip attached thereto at the end only; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view showing the manner in which the strip is manipulated in opening the package.

For the purpose of this disclosure, the package may be any package consumable product or article to which is to be applied an additional outer wrapper W of "Cellophane", although the familiar package of chewing gum has been illustrated as one to which the improved method and means of opening is particularly adaptable. Like most package consumable products, chewing gum ordinarily lasts for a period of time before the contents of a package are consumed, and hence it is customary to break open one end of the package and remove the contents therewith.

Consequently, on applying an additional wrapper, it is desirable to provide for opening the package in the usual manner, and hence the "Cellophane" wrapper with the auxiliary opening member is applied accordingly. Thus as shown in Figure 2, the "Cellophane" wrapper is a rectangular sheet, enough longer and wider than the package to completely envelop it with the longer edges overlapping each other and the protruding ends tucked in and folded neatly against the ends of the package in a regular square end fold.

It will be understood that in practice the wrapping operation is performed on machines, the "Cellophane" being fed from a roll and thence cut transversely into the individual wrappers, thus accounting for the serrations at the longer edges of the wrapper. There is nothing novel in the wrapping operation, although it is preferably performed with the application of adhesive along the overlapping edges and at the ends so that the package will be tightly sealed and without loose flaps or edges that could be readily grasped or piled up by the finger nail.

The opening member S as previously explained is preferably a narrow ribbon-like strip of "Cellophane" of, say 4 or 3 of an inch in width, and of a color that is readily visible in contrast with that of the package and the "Cellophane" wrapper. Thus for example, if a colorless clear "Cellophane" is used for the wrappers, the strips may be red or some other color.

The strips may be incorporated in the packages during the wrapping operation in several different ways, two of which are herein illustrated. By one method (Figure 2) the strip material has the form of a gummed tape fed from a roll or spool toward the web of "Cellophane" as it travels toward the cutter, the gummed surface of the tape being moistened as it is fed into contact with the "Cellophane" web, and just before the latter passes between the cutters. In short, by the method of using a gummed tape, the wrapper and strip materials are assembled before the individual wrappers are cut. According to another and equally satisfactory method, the strips S' (Figure 3) are not gummed but are segments of a continuous supply fed toward the point of packaging, but in a path apart from the web of "Cellophane." Moreover separate cutting means are provided in the path of the tape feed and operates to cut the same into strip lengths. Thus the wrappers are cut and are about to be applied to the packages when the strips are fed into contact with the wrappers, the
latter previously having had adhesive wiped along the marginal area a (Figure 3), so that the same adhesive that eventually seals the over- lapsing edges of the wrapper serves to adhere one end of the strip S to the outer or overlying edge of the overlapping margins of the wrappers.

By either method, however, the ultimate position of the strip on the wrapper is the same, namely, parallel with and spaced inwardly from one of the end edges as shown in both Figures 2 and 3, and so also, when the wrapper is applied to the package, the strip is folded around the package with it and lies between the package and the wrapper, being either attached to the latter throughout its full length or only at its outermost end.

In applying these strips S or S' to the wrappers, it is essential, if not desirable, to have one end of the strip project from between the overlapping edges of the wrapper and to have this projecting end loose so that it can be readily grasped between the fingers and pulled with a following movement around the package in the act of severing the adjacent end covering portion from the main portion of the wrapper. Thus along one of the longer serrated edges of the wrappers W and the one which lies exterior the package when the wrapper is folded and sealed, is a pointed tab T spaced inwardly from one end thereof a distance corresponding to the predetermined location of the strip. For convenience the tab T is one of the serrations increased to at least three times the width and length of the remaining serrations and formed when the wrappers are cut and by providing the cutting members with a smaller spacing. Consequently as each wrapper is severed from the web of "Cellophane" fed between the cutting members, the leading edge will have the enlarged tab T and the trailing edge will have a corresponding recess or notch N. Thus with the tab T located in line with the strip, the outer end will be extended beyond the edge of the wrapper, either by the simultaneous cutting of the tab and strip as in Figure 2, or the registering of the end of the strip with the tip of the tab, as in Figure 3. Here again the result attained is quite the same, namely, the provision of a loose tab on the exterior edge of the wrapper which is not sealed down, but is free and carries the outer end of the strip so that the two can be grasped between the fingers in the initial act in the opening of the package. As clearly shown in Figure 1, the wrapper is applied and wrapped so that the overlapping serrated edge is spaced just back of one corner edge of the package, with the result that at least the tip portion of the tab T bearing the end of the strip projects outwardly beyond the corner edge, being thus rendered the more accessible.

And finally, to manipulate the package in opening, it is held in one hand while the tab and adhering end of the strip is pulled backwardly from the outer sealed edge, thereby tearing away a narrow strip or band of the wrapper completely around the end of the package. Since the strip or ribbon is adhered to the tab, it follows that the wrapper commences to tear along lines extending inwardly from the base of the tab, but these lines converge before the tearing has proceeded very far to lines paralleling the edges of the strip S, these being followed until the wrapper has been completely severed to form a cap-like portion over the end which is readily removed, leaving the major portion of the wrapper intact on the package until its contents have been consumed.

Manifestly the process of incorporating the ribbon-like opening strip into the package may be varied without departing from the particular process or the type of wrapping machine used. Moreover, the nature of the material used for the wrappers as well as the strips may be varied, depending on the character of the product being packaged. In short, it is not the intention or desire to limit the invention to the special closure except so far as it is defined in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. The combination with a package of an outer wrapper closed at its ends and sealed lengthwise along overlapping marginal portions, said wrapper having an integral marginal tab adapted in the wrapping operation to be disposed at a predetermined point along the sealed overlapping marginal portions thereof and to project loosely therebetween exterior the wrapped package, and a narrow strip of reinforcing material extending transversely around the package with said wrapper at the point defined by said tab and extending throughout the length of the latter.

2. The combination with a package of an outer wrapper closed at its ends and sealed lengthwise along overlapping marginal portions, said wrapper having an integral marginal tab formed at a predetermined point along one edge thereof and adapted in the wrapping operation to be disposed adjacent one end of the package and to extend loosely therebetween exterior the wrapped package, and a narrow strip of reinforcing material extending transversely around the package in line with said tab and having one end extending beyond the sealed overlapping marginal portions of the wrapper and lengthwise of said tab.

3. In combination with a package of a wrapper of readily tearable material tightly wrapped around the same and sealed lengthwise along overlapping marginal portions, said wrapper having a tab projecting from the edge of the outer overlapping marginal portions adapted in the wrapping operation to be disposed loosely exterior the wrapped package and adjacent one of its ends, and a reinforcing strip extending beneath the wrapper and in line with said tab and having an end portion sealed between said overlapping marginal portions and terminating beyond in a tab complementary to the tab on said wrapper.

4. In combination with a package of an outer wrapper of transparent cellulose material tightly wrapped around the same and sealed at its ends and lengthwise along overlapping marginal portions, said wrapper having a tab projecting from a predetermined point at the edge of one of said overlapping marginal portions and adapted in the wrapping operation to be disposed adjacent one end of the package and to project loosely beyond the outer overlapping marginal portion, and a narrow colored strip of the same material extending transversely around the package beneath the wrapper in line with said tab and having a portion of its length sealed between the overlapping marginal portions thereof and a loose end projecting therebeyond in overlapping engagement with said tab.

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