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PACKAGING MEANS FOR SMALL ARTICLES

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FIG. 1

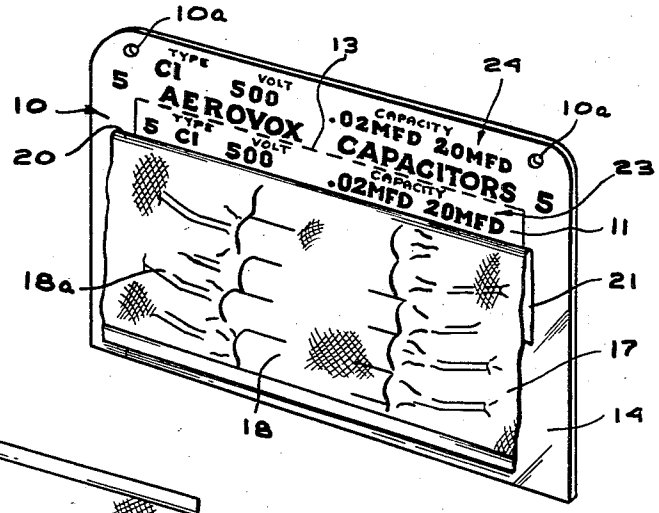


FIG. 2

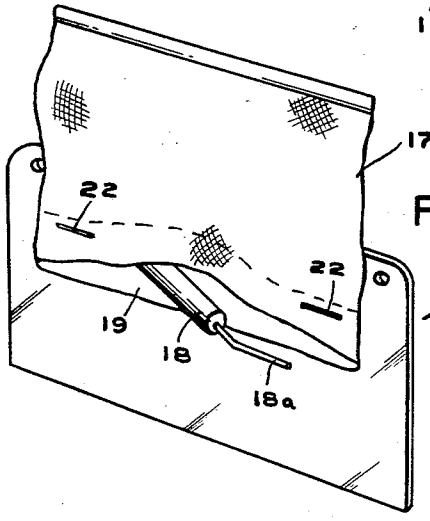
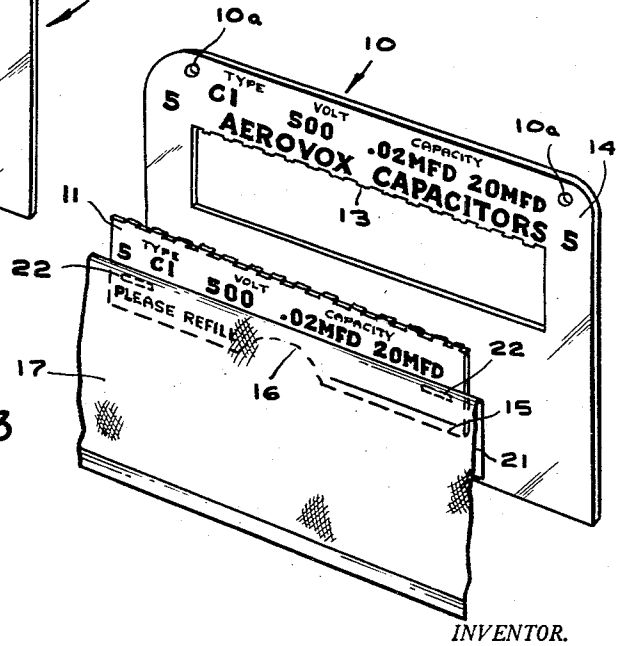


FIG. 3



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PACKAGING MEANS FOR SMALL ARTICLES

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This invention relates to packaging means for small articles with facilities for ready dispensing of individual articles therefrom.

In the distribution to jobbers of small electrical and electronic components, such as capacitors, resistors, inductances and the like, it has been the practice for the manufacturer to package small numbers of components of the same characteristic in a box from which the components are removed as sold. Since these jobbers ordinarily sell to such customers as radio and television service men, radio amateurs and the like, they need a large number of components having different electrical values. Ordinarily, the volume sales of a component of a particular value by individual jobbers is rather small so that they will often order lots of only a dozen or even less of a particular component at a time. However, because of the large number of components of different electrical values which they must stock to meet the ordinary demands of their customers, the jobber will find it difficult to maintain an adequate supply of all the components he needs at a particular time. This is particularly true if he stores the components in the original boxes in which they are shipped. Often, when the last component in a box has been sold, the jobber may forget to re-order that particular component and will not be reminded to do so because it is not evident from the outside of a box whether or not it is empty. Also, the usual container has no facilities for apprising the jobber when his stock is running low.

Another disadvantage of conventional packaging is that, since small boxes are generally used, manual removal of components one at a time may be difficult as only one finger will fit through the open end.

It is among the objects of the present invention to provide an inexpensive display package particularly adapted for use in connection with electrical and electronic components in which the components left in the container will be easily visible; which is adapted to facilitate the re-ordering of particular components as they become exhausted; which provides a convenient record of the components which have been re-ordered or which require re-ordering; which facilitates the removal of small articles one at a time; and, at the same time, provides an attractive display showing customers the particular varieties of components that the jobber has available in a particular line, and at all times affords adequate and secure protection for the articles remaining in the package.

These and other objects of the present invention, which will be in part particularly pointed out and in part apparent from the ensuing description, are attained by providing a display means comprising a card, including a tab portion detachable therefrom and a transparent container secured to the tab portion, which is adapted to hold a plurality of like articles and which is disposed to permit easy removal of the articles therefrom while the container is still secured to the tab portion. Both the tab portion and the remainder of the card bear indicia descriptive of the article packaged so that when

re-ordering becomes necessary, the tab may be removed and sent back to the manufacturer as a re-order slip and the remainder of the card conveniently filed to indicate that a particular type of component has been re-ordered.

The invention is particularly illustrated by the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the display means comprising the present invention showing an embodiment of the display means including a container holding a number of tubular capacitors;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the disposition of the container portion to facilitate removal of one of the capacitors therefrom; and

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the display means illustrated in Fig. 1 showing the tab portion detached.

Turning now specifically to the drawings, there is shown a flat, substantially rectangular card **10** which is preferably made of cardboard or similar heavy paper material, having a substantially rectangular tab portion **11** blanked out of the card **10** located more or less centrally thereon and preferably extending longitudinally thereof for the major part of its width. The tab portion **11** is integral with the card **10** but is easily detachable therefrom because of the line of perforations or similar weakening means **13** along one edge thereof. The tab **11** is preferably joined to the other portion **14** of the card **10** only along the line of perforations **13**, being separate therefrom along its other three sides. The edge **15** of the tab **11** which is opposite the perforations **13** may be provided with a notch **16** which accommodates a thumb or finger, thus facilitating the bending of the tab **11** away from the other portion **14** of the card **10** and its detachment therefrom. Since the tab **11** is joined to the other portion **14** of the card **10** only along the line of perforations **13**, it may be bent out of the plane of the card **10** without detachment where it is desired to remove objects from the package.

Secured to the tab portion **11** is a transparent container, such as the envelope **17**. This envelope may be of any convenient transparent flexible material, such as polyethylene, cellophane, polyvinyl chloride or other inexpensive material of suitable properties and in Fig. 1 is shown filled with a plurality of tubular capacitors **18**. The leads **18***a* are preferably bent as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 so that their ends will not tear the envelope **17**. The envelope **17** has an open top or mouth indicated generally at **19** and is secured to the tab **11** by inverting it to the position shown in Fig. 2 and applying staples **22** other securing means. In normal position, the envelope **17** is folded along the line **20** to the position shown in Fig. 1 wherein it has the mouth **19** closed by turned-down flap **21**. The envelope **17** depends from the flap **21** under its own weight and that of the packaged objects, such as capacitors **18**.

Fig. 2 illustrates the removal of one of the capacitors **18** from the bag **17**. This may be done simply by lifting the envelope to the position shown and manually removing the capacitor **18** through the open end **19**. Since the envelope **17** is normally made of pliant material, such as plastic film, the open end **19** can provide a larger opening than that at the end of a conventional box so that manual removal of individual capacitors is facilitated. The staples **22**, or other closure means, are at the sides of the envelope **17** so as not to interfere with its opening.

As illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, the tab portion **11** has printed thereon indicia, generally indicated as **23**, descriptive of the quantity and the electrical characteristics of the capacitors **18** contained in the envelope **17**. These indicia may be printed on the envelope **17** in addition to on the tab **11**. Corresponding indicia, generally indicated at **24**, are printed on the other portion **14** of the

card **10**, preferably adjacent the line of perforations **13**. Other indicia, such as a direction to refill the order, space for the re-ordering customer to write his name or the like, may also appear on the tab **11**.

When on display by a jobber, the display means of the present invention may be placed on a suitable rack or counter, generally in the position shown in Fig. 1. Thus, the customer is able to see at a glance the size and appearance of the capacitors **18** having the particular electrical characteristics denoted by the indicia **23** and **24**. A jobber may display a number of different types of capacitors, each in its characteristic display means, on a rack or the card **10** may be provided with one or more holes **10***a* permitting hanging from hooks. When one of the capacitors **18** is to be removed for sale, the envelope **17** is simply lifted, as illustrated in Fig. 2, so that the capacitor **18** may easily be extracted through the thus opened end **19**.

Because the envelope **17** is of transparent material, the jobber can tell at a glance how many units of a particular type he has on hand and when they are exhausted he may re-order simply by detaching the tab **11** along the line of perforations **13** as shown in Fig. 3. The tab **11** may be sent back to the manufacturer and because the indicia **23** printed thereon completely identifies the order, both as to quantity and type of unit, no additional instructions are necessary. The remaining portion **14** of the card **10** is of such shape and size that it may conveniently be filed in a card-index drawer by the jobber who will then have a record of what units he has re-ordered, thus saving himself time and bookkeeping expense.

Even if the jobber chooses not to use the detachable tab **11** as a re-order slip, the present invention still offers him substantial convenience in use of the portion **14** of the card **10** as a reminder or as a tally of the number and type of components sold. When a customer buys all the components in a package, he will find it convenient to retain the tab **11** along with the envelope **17** and its contents in order to identify the components purchased.

While the present invention has been described with particular reference to the packaging of electrical components, it will be understood that it is also applicable to the packaging of other articles having characteristics that can be represented by printed indicia and which are customarily sold singly or in small lots. The present

invention is, therefore, not to be limited to the embodiments specifically described and illustrated but includes those equivalents which will occur to those skilled in the art and is limited, therefore, only by the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. Packaging means comprising a card including a tab portion adjacent the upper edge thereof extending longitudinally of said card for the major part of its width and detachable from said card, an envelope of flexible transparent material adapted to hold a plurality of like articles, indicia on said tab portion descriptive of said articles and corresponding indicia on a portion of said card from which said tab portion is adapted to be detached, means adjacent the lateral edges of said envelope to secure the latter to said tab portion, with the mouth of the envelope directed downwardly toward the lower edge of the card, said securing means being spaced from said mouth, whereby when said envelope is folded downwardly along a line extending between said securing means to depend from the card, the mouth of the envelope will be closed and in use the envelope when turned upward will afford ready access for removal of one or more of the articles therefrom from its now open mouth and whereby the detachable tab portion will serve for convenience in re-ordering and the remaining card portion will serve as a record of what has been re-ordered.

2. The packaging means as claimed in claim 1, in which the tab portion is integral with the card and blanked therefrom along its perimeter other than its upper edge, and in which said upper edge is weakened for facility in detachment of the tab.

3. The packaging means as claimed in claim 1, in which said envelope is secured to said tab by staples at the opposite ends thereof.

4. The packaging means as claimed in claim 1, in which said card is of heavy paper.

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