Aug. 28, 1951 C. G. MAYER ET AL 2,565,976

SLICED BACON PACKAGE

Filed Jan. 7, 1950

Fig. 1

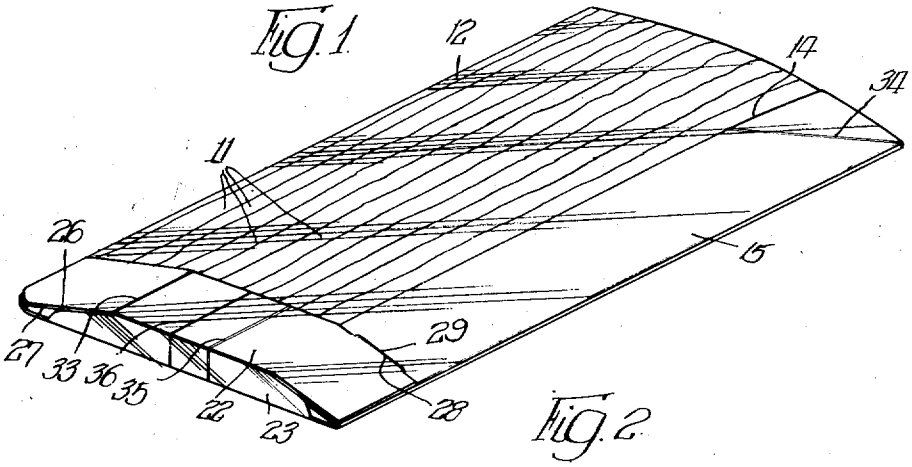


Fig. 2

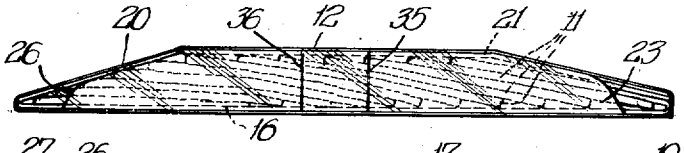


Fig. 3

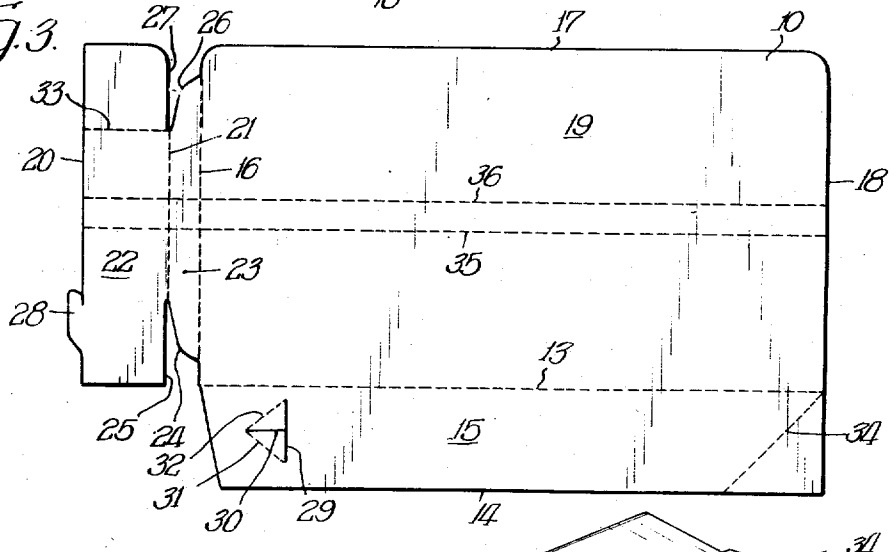
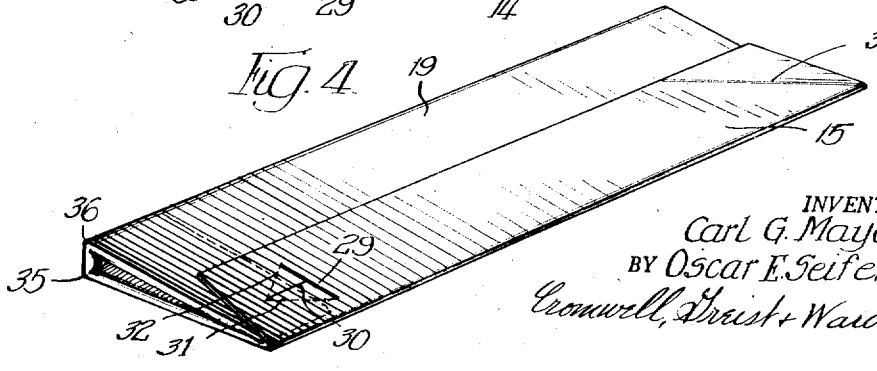


Fig. 4



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SLICED BACON PACKAGE

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11 Claims. (Cl. 99—174)

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This invention relates to packaging and is more particularly concerned with improvements in a package of sliced bacon or similar merchandise.

It is an object of the invention to provide a package of merchandise, such as sliced bacon, which presents a neat and attractive appearance, which facilitates storage and display in the retail store, which adequately protects the merchandise, and which permits it to be readily handled without disturbing the arrangement of the slices or affecting the appearance of the package.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a neat and attractive package of a predetermined quantity of sliced bacon wherein the slices are arranged in overlapped relation on a paperboard backing provided with adjoining side and end flaps which extend over adjacent margins of the package and which are creased and folded to conform to the contour of the edges of the package whereby to facilitate the application of a thin transparent over-wrap in an automatic packaging machine.

It is a more specific object of the invention to provide a package of a product which is characterized by the arrangement of a plurality of relatively thin slices of the product in overlapping relation in such a manner that a generally rectangular mass or unit is formed having relatively thin longitudinal side edges and substantial thickness throughout a central portion thereof intermediate the side edges, which package comprises a predetermined mass of the product supported on one face of a paperboard backing member, said backing member being provided with a longitudinal edge flap folded over a marginal portion of the top of the product and being further provided with an end flap folded in a similar manner over the adjoining end of the product and integrally connected to the backing member by an end wall which is cut away at the ends thereof whereby to free the ends of the end flap and permit the same to conform to the contour of the side margins of the product and a thin transparent over-wrap secured over the product which closely conforms to the top surface of the same.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a package of the character described wherein the side and end flap members are provided with a locking means at their overlapping ends which locking means is so arranged that it tends to pull the end panel inwardly toward the product in the package so that when the flaps are locked the end panel is positioned at an angle relative to the back panel which is slightly less than 90 degrees, which facilitates the use of automatic

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wrapping machinery for the application of the over-wrap and which results in a tighter wrapping of the same.

A further object of the invention is to provide a sliced meat package of the character described wherein spaced parallel score lines are provided on the backing material, the end wall, and the end flap thereof, whereby the package may be folded over upon itself about one or both of the score lines to reduce the width of the package for more convenient storage and handling, particularly after a portion of the contents has been removed.

It is another object of the invention to provide a sliced bacon package wherein strips of bacon are arranged in overlapped relation upon a backing board having integral folded-over side and end flaps which are cut and creased so that they are readily pressed down upon the top of the bacon slices to conform to the shape of the same and to permit the package to be tightly wrapped with a thin transparent over-wrap in automatic packaging machinery.

These and other objects of the invention will be apparent from a consideration of the package and the method of forming the same which is shown by way of illustration in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a package of sliced bacon which incorporates therein the principles of the invention;

Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the package shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of a backing blank cut and scored preparatory to positioning of the sliced bacon thereon; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the package shown in Fig. 1 with the outer wrapper and part of the contents removed, the package being folded upon itself to reduce the width and facilitate storage of the same after it has been opened.

In the marketing of sliced bacon it has been conventional to arrange a plurality of relatively thin slices of the bacon in overlapping relation on a paper backing or in a package for handling and display in the retail store, a sufficient number of the slices being associated in this manner to form a convenient unit package of, for example, a pound or fraction of a pound of the product. Such arrangement of the slices results in a mass of material of a generally flat rectangular shape which has substantial thickness throughout the center portion thereof and which tapers to a thin edge along the longitudinal margins. Such a mass or unit of the material arranged in this

manner presents difficulty in packaging. The shape of the mass makes it difficult to wrap so as to obtain a neat appearing package in which the slices will be snugly held in their overlapped relation and the ends and side edges thereof will not be disarranged or damaged by handling of the package during storage and sale thereof.

In order to provide a neat and attractive package it is desirable to provide a relatively stiff backing member upon which the slices can be assembled in overlapping relation and a transparent over-wrap applied over the same in such a manner that it will closely conform to the contour of the exposed surfaces of the strips and hold the same in position on the backing member, the over-wrap being adapted to be applied by automatic packaging machinery without setting up any stresses or strains in the same.

There is illustrated in Fig. 1 a package which overcomes the difficulties encountered in packaging sliced bacon or other products of a similar character. The illustrated package comprises a packing member 10 on which there is arranged in overlapping relation a plurality of strips of bacon 11 and an over-wrap 12 of thin transparent material secured neatly and tightly around the same.

The package is formed by first providing the backing member of blank 10 which, as more particularly shown in Fig. 3, is generally rectangular in shape and of a size depending upon the number and size of the strips or slices of bacon or other mechandise to be packaged.

The blank 10, which is preferably of paperboard or similar material, is scored along a longitudinal line 13 which is parallel with and spaced inwardly of one longitudinal side edge 14 of the blank, to form a front flap or panel 15 which is adapted to fold about the score line 13. The panel 15 is cut back at one end of the blank and a transverse score line 16 extends from the score line 13 at that end of the flap to the opposite longitudinal side edge 17 of the blank. The score lines 13 and 16 cooperate with the opposite side and end edges 17 and 18, respectively, of the blank to form a bottom panel 19 on which the strips or slices of the bacon 11 are adapted to be arranged. The portion of the blank between the transverse score line 16 and the adjacent end edge 20 of the blank is divided by a transverse score line 21 into an outer end flap 22 and an inner end wall panel 23. The end flap 22 is of a width approximately the same as the front flap 15 while the end wall panel 23 is of a width approximately the same as the maximum depth or thickness of the assembled strips of bacon 11 throughout its center portion. The end wall panel 23 is cut away at its opposite ends, along the lines 24, 25 at the end adjacent the front flap 15 and along the lines 26, 27 at the opposite end adjacent the edge 17 of the blank. The cutting lines form generally V-shaped inwardly extending slots with lines 25 and 27 generally aligned with the transverse crease line 21 and lines 24, 26 extending from crease line 21 in the general direction of the end of crease line 13 and the edge 17 of the blank, respectively.

The end flap 22 is provided at the end adjacent longitudinal flap 15 with a locking tongue 28 and the longitudinal flap 15 is provided with a cooperating locking slit formed by cutting lines 29 and 30 and crease lines 31, 32.

The end flap 22 is also provided with a score line 33 extending longitudinally of the blank at the end of the flap adjacent the V-shaped slot formed by cutting lines 26, 27 and extending from approximately the apex of the slot. The front flap 15 is provided with a diagonal score line 34 at the end opposite the end flap 22. The entire blank 10 is provided with a pair of parallel spaced score lines 35, 36 approximately along the center of the blank.

In packaging the product a predetermined number of strips of the bacon 11, sufficient to provide the desired weight of material, such as a pound, are arranged in longitudinally extending overlapping relation on the bottom forming panel 19 of the blank 10, the edge strips having their outer edges extending along the marginal edge 17 and the crease line 13, respectively, of the blank. The front flap 15 is then folded about the crease line 13 over onto the top strip of bacon. The front flap 15 is preferably of a width sufficient to cover the major portion of the top bacon strip leaving only a narrow margin of the top edge exposed as shown in Fig. 1. The end panel 23 and the end flap 22 are then folded about the crease lines 16 and 21 to bring the end panel 23 into generally upstanding relation to the back panel 19 and the end flap 22 into overlying relation with the adjacent ends of the strips of bacon. Thereafter the locking tongue 28 is pressed downwardly and engaged in the locking slit formed in the adjacent end of the front flap 15. The assembly is then ready to be enclosed in an outer transparent wrapping material 12 which may be readily applied by means of several well known types of automatic packaging machinery. The adjacent ends of the flaps 15 and 22 are held by the locking arrangement in close relationship to the top of the assembled bacon strips. The free ends of the flaps 15 and 22 are pressed down about the fold lines 33 and 34, respectively, to make them conform to the contour of the edges of the bacon assembly and to permit the wrapper 12 to be secured around the package in close fitting relation without any resultant stresses in the wrapping material.

The locking tongue 28 and the cooperating locking elements formed by the slits 29 and 30 are preferably so arranged that when they are interengaged, with the adjacent ends of flaps 15 and 22 in overlapping relation, the inner edges of the flaps 15 and 22 are at an angle slightly less than 90 degrees whereby the opposite end of the flap 15 is drawn in and down and tends to conform or fit more closely to the content of the package.

The outer wrapper 12 is preferably a sheet of thin transparent material and may be folded about the assembled bacon 11 and backing member 10 in any desired manner. The margins of the wrapper 12 may be overlapped and secured to each other on the back of the package or they may be secured to the backing member 10. Advertising matter or decorative labeling may be employed either on the outer wrapper 12 or on the top surfaces of flaps 15 and 22.

In using the package the outer wrapper 12 is removed and the flaps 15 and 22 are disengaged. The desired number of bacon strips may then be removed from the edge of the package and used. Before replacing the remainder of the package in the refrigerator or other storage place the end flap 22 and end wall 23 may first be re-folded over the ends of the remaining strips of bacon and pressed down after which the package may be doubled about the fold lines 35 and 36 to bring the edge 17 adjacent the score line 13 and the flap 15 may be folded over as shown in Fig. 4 to provide a package for storage of reduced width.

While the illustrated form of the invention has been described with reference to specific pack-

aging materials and a particular product, it will be understood that other materials may be resorted to and that other products may be enclosed in the package.

We claim:

1. A paperboard blank for wrapping a material which is characterized by relatively thin generally rectangular slices arranged in edge overlapping relation, said blank being generally rectangular and scored along lines spaced inwardly of a side and end margin to define a body portion and side and end panel portions, the side panel portion being adapted to be folded over the front face of the body portion and the end panel portion being further scored transversely of the blank to divide the same into a relatively narrow end wall forming portion and an end flap forming portion, said end flap forming portion being adapted to be folded over the front face of the body portion, said blank being cut away at the corner adjoining the side and end panel portions and being also provided with inwardly directed slots extending into the ends of the end wall forming portion whereby to free the ends of the end flap forming portion therefrom, and said side panel and end flap forming portions being transversely scored adjacent the ends thereof remote from each other whereby said side panel and end flap forming portions may be folded to conform to the contour of the material enclosed when the blank is assembled with the same.

2. A bacon package comprising a generally rectangular backing member of relatively stiff material, a plurality of bacon slices assembled in edge-overlapped relation lengthwise of one face thereof, a side flap folded over one side margin of the assembled bacon slices, an end flap folded over an end margin of the bacon slices, a relatively low end wall connecting the end flap with the backing member, said end wall having portions cut away inwardly of its opposite ends to release the end portions of said end flap therefrom, said end portions of the end flap being folded down to conform the same to the contour of the side edges of the assembled bacon slices, and a thin sheet of transparent material secured over the bacon slices and the backing member to hold the same in compact assembled relation.

3. A bacon package comprising a generally rectangular paper board backing member cut and scored to provide a flap forming panel along one side edge, an end wall forming panel and an integral end flap forming panel along on end edge, a plurality of bacon slices arranged in lengthwise edge-overlapped relation to said backing member, said side edge flap forming panel being folded into overlapping relation with portions of the uppermost bacon slices, said end wall forming panel being folded into upstanding relation along one end of the bacon slices and said end flap forming panel being folded into overlying relation with said one end of the bacon slices and said end wall forming panel having slots at its ends extending inwardly thereof, whereby the ends of said end flap are free to fold down onto and conform to the contour of the side edges of the bacon.

4. A paperboard blank adapted for wrapping a product consisting of a plurality of bacon slices arranged in edge overlapped relation, said blank being generally rectangular and being longitudinally scored along one side to provide a side flap which when folded is adapted to overlie one side margin of the product, said blank being transversely scored adjacent one end to provide an end flap which when folded is adapted to overlie an end of the product and a relatively low end wall connecting the end flap with the body of the blank, said end wall being provided with V-shaped slots at opposite ends thereof, said slots extending inwardly of the longitudinal side edges of the body of said blank along the transverse score line which separates said end wall and said end flap whereby the ends of said end flap are adapted to be folded down to conform said ends to the contour of the side edges of the product.

5. A paperboard blank for wrapping a material which is characterized by a plurality of relatively thin generally rectangular slices arranged lengthwise of the blank in edge overlapping relation to each other, said blank being generally rectangular and scored along lines spaced inwardly of a side and end margin thereof to define a body panel and side and end panel portions, said end panel portion being further scored transversely of the blank to divide the same into a relatively narrow end wall forming portion and an end flap forming portion, said side panel portion and said end flap forming portion being adapted to be folded over the front face of the body panel, said blank being cut away at the corner adjoining the side and end panel portions and said end wall forming portion being cut away inwardly of the side edges of the body panel to release the ends of the end flap forming portion therefrom whereby to permit said ends to be folded to conform to the contour of the material enclosed when the blank is assembled with the same.

6. A package comprising a body of meat material which meat material is characterized by a plurality of relatively thin generally rectangular meat slices arranged to provide a mass having thin side edges tapering laterally thereof and a somewhat thick portion intermediate the side edges, a paperboard backing material scored and folded to provide a body portion on which the meat material is arranged, a relatively narrow side flap extending over one side margin of the meat material and a relatively narrow end flap extending over an adjoining end margin of the meat material, said end flap being connected to the body portion by a relatively low end wall, said end wall having portions at its ends disconnected from said end flap and reduced in depth to permit the end portions of said end flap to fold flat against the tapering side edges of the meat material, and a thin sheet of transparent wrapping material arranged to be tightly wrapped about the meat material and the backing material.

7. A package as recited in claim 6 and interlocking elements on adjoining portions of said side and end flaps securing said side and end flap portions in engaged and connected relation.

8. A package as recited in claim 6 and interlocking elements on adjoining portions of said side and end flaps, said interlocking elements being constructed and arranged whereby to pull said end wall inwardly toward said meat material so that said end wall is positioned at an angle relative to the body portion of the backing material which is slightly less than 90 degrees.

9. A package as recited in claim 6 and said backing material having longitudinally extending parallel score lines intermediate the longitudinal side edges of the body portion, end wall and end flap whereby the package is adapted to be readily folded upon itself about said score lines.

10. A sliced bacon package, including a flat elongated rectangular cardboard backing panel, a plurality of bacon slices of substantially the same length as the panel arranged lengthwise on the latter with the slices partially overlapping each other in a direction sidewise of the panel to present a mass which is of substantially uniform thickness throughout the greater part of its width but tapers off in thickness toward the sides of the panel, an upstanding transversely extending end wall integrally connected with one end of the panel, which end wall is of substantially uniform height throughout the greater part of its width and, following generally the contour of the end of the bacon mass, tapers off in height toward the sides of the panel, and a transversely extending cover flap integrally connected with the upper edge of said end wall, which cover flap extends flatly over the end of the bacon mass portion of uniform thickness and slopes downwardly with the tapered mass portions toward the sides of the panel at said end, and a covering in overlying relation to said cover flap and the bacon mass exposed beyond the same.

11. A sliced bacon package comprising a generally rectangular backing member of relatively stiff material, a plurality of bacon slices arranged in edge-overlapping relation and extending lengthwise on one face of said backing member, a side flap folded over one side margin of the assembled bacon slices, an end flap folded over an end margin of the bacon slices, a relatively low end wall connecting the end flap with the backing member, said end wall having a portion cut away inwardly of at least one end thereof to release the adjacent end portion of said end flap therefrom, said end portion of the end flap being folded down to conform the same to the contour of the side edge of the assembled bacon slices.

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