United States Patent [19]

Desmond et al.

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[45] **Dec. 9, 1975**

[54] **PILFER RESISTANT PACKAGE**

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[73] Assignee: **Container Corporation of America**, Chicago, Ill.

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[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **229/39 R**; 229/41 R; 229/45; 229/52 B; 292/307

[51] **Int. Cl.²**.....**B65D 5/10**; B65D 45/00; B65D 33/26

[58] **Field of Search**..... 229/45, 41, 54 R, 37, 52 B, 229/74, 29; 292/318, 320, 307; 40/312; 24/16 PB, 5

[56] **References Cited**

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2,310,499	2/1943	Vineberg	206/288 X
2,656,093	10/1953	Smith	229/54
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2,781,161	2/1957	Adams	229/54 R
3,040,951	6/1962	Kuchembecker	229/17 G
3,168,963	2/1965	Wolowicz	206/194 X
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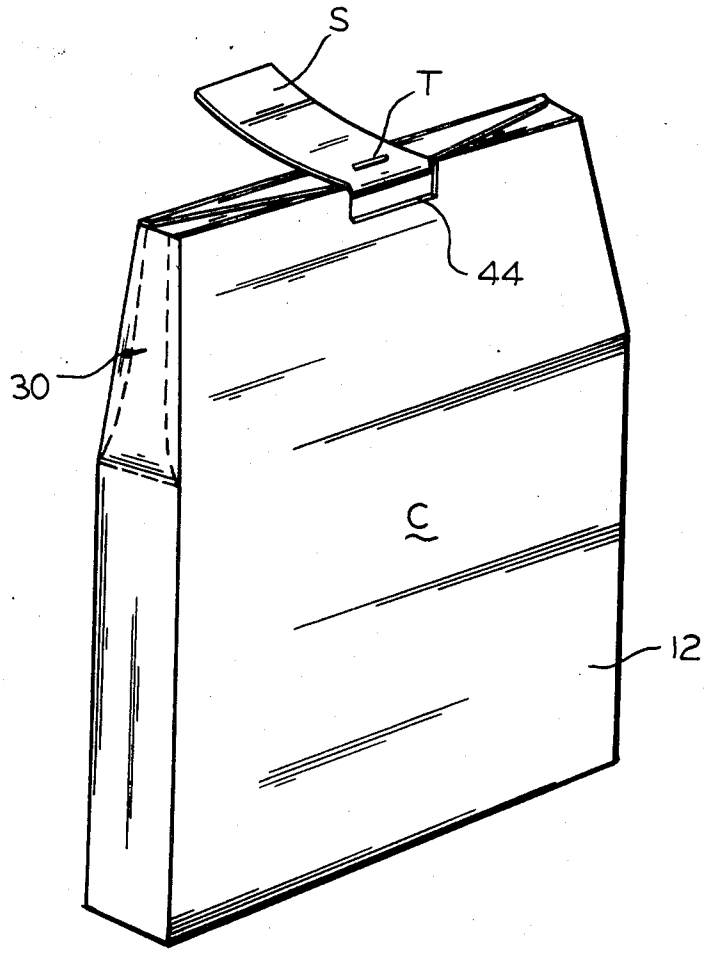
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A retail package formed from a unitary blank of foldable paperboard having a top closure arrangement which includes a handle and means for readily attaching a proof of purchase document to the package in a way to render it tamper resistant.

6 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



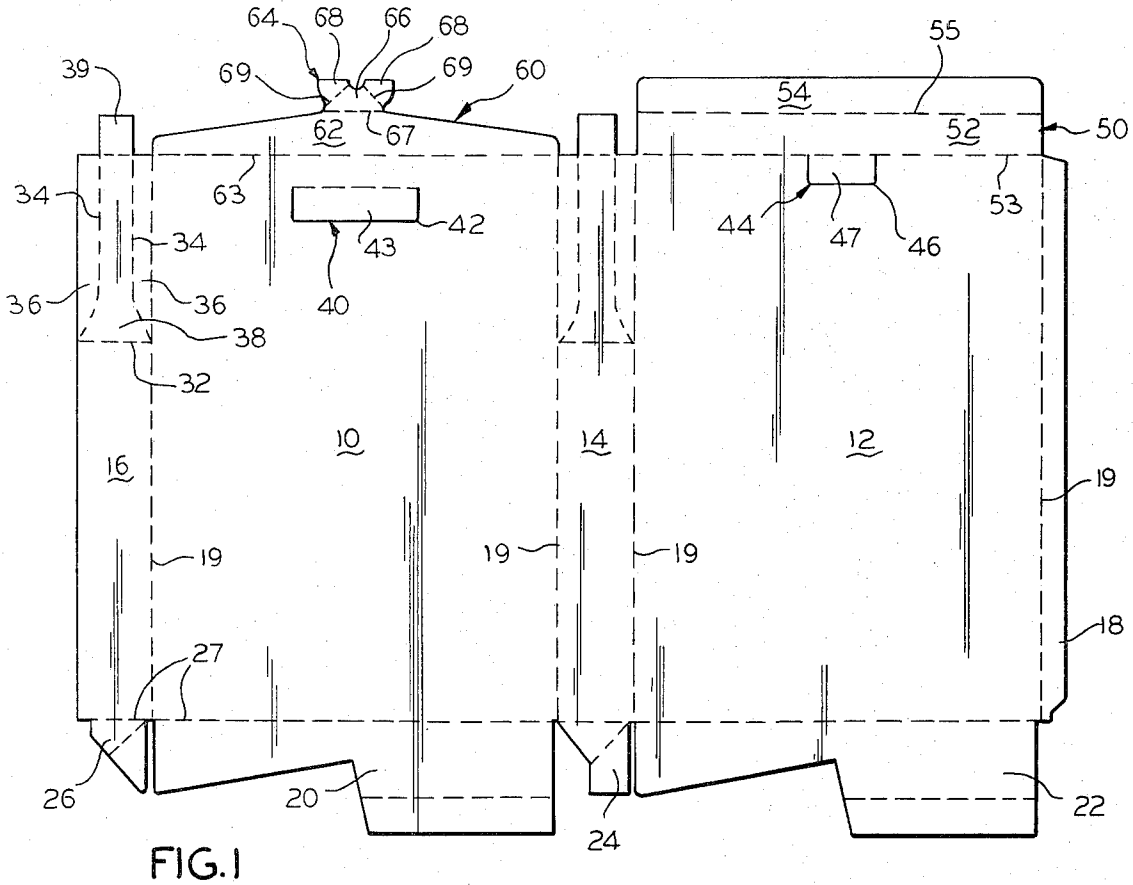


FIG.1

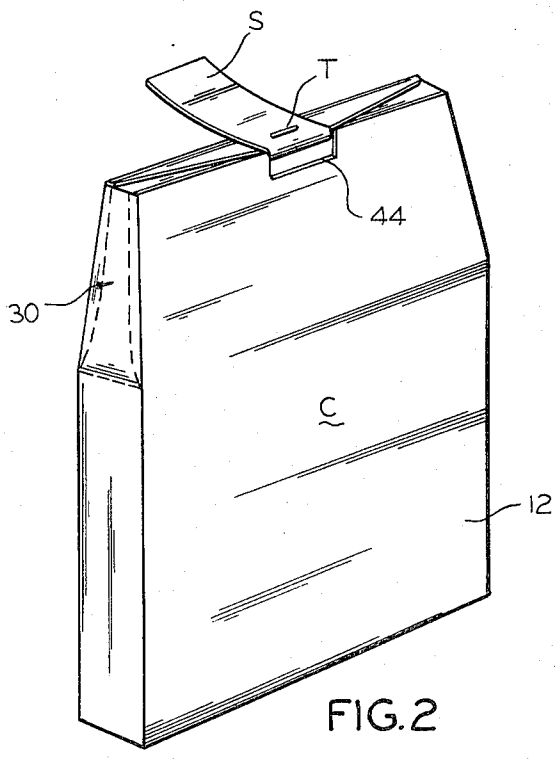


FIG.2

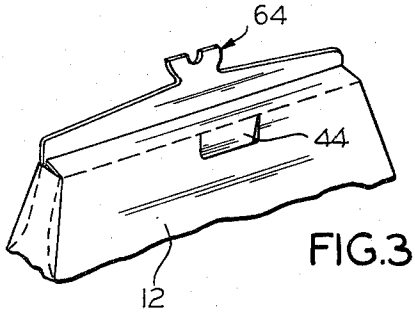


FIG.3

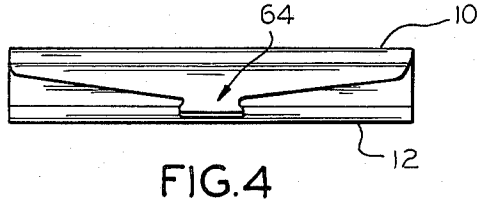


FIG.4

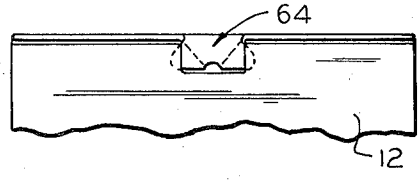


FIG.5

PILFER RESISTANT PACKAGE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to retail packages used for the same purpose as "shopping bags" which are available in retail department stores. The present invention is in the form of a folding carton, as distinguished from a conventional, flexible bag and is designed to be tamper resistant.

2. The Prior Art

The prior art is exemplified in the following U.S. patents which were developed in a search:

Vineberg	2,310,499	February 9, 1943
Kuchenbecker	3,040,951	June 26, 1962
Wolowicz	3,168,963	February 9, 1965
Farquhar	3,198,378	August 3, 1965
Helmes	3,635,452	January 18, 1972
Helmes	3,692,232	September 19, 1972

Although these patents show certain features of the present invention, none discloses an enclosed retail package having a top closure arrangement with proof of purchase and tamper resistant features.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention is directed to a heavy-duty, retail package formed of a one-piece blank of foldable paperboard that has a pair of overlapping top closure flaps which provide a handle and an access opening for a stapling device to accommodate additional locking of the carton by attachment of a proof of purchase document.

THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a blank of foldable paperboard from which the carton illustrated in the other views may be formed;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of an erected carton embodying features of the invention;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary, perspective view of the top of a carton which illustrates the first step in the sequence by which the top of a carton is closed and locked; and

FIGS. 4 and 5 are fragmentary, front elevations which illustrate additional steps in the sequence of closing and locking of the top of a carton.

It will be understood that, for purposes of clarity, certain elements may have been intentionally omitted from certain views where they are believed to be illustrated to better advantage in other views.

Returning now to the drawing for a better understanding of the invention, and particularly to FIG. 1, it will be seen that the carton indicated generally at C is of a generally tubular construction with a top closure arrangement, hereinafter described in greater detail, which permits the top of the carton to be locked and which also permits the insertion of an end of a stapler used to fasten a proof of purchase document, such as a sales slip S, to the top of a carton with staple T.

The carton may be formed from a unitary blank of foldable paperboard as illustrated in FIG. 1 of the drawing. The main portion or body of the carton includes opposed pairs of front and rear side walls **10** and **12**, respectively, opposed first and second end walls, **14** and **16**, respectively, and a glue panel **18**, all of which are hingedly interconnected along parallel, vertical score lines **19** to form a tubular structure open at the top and bottom.

The bottom of a carton may be provided with various types of closure arrangements but preferably with an automatic bottom closure, including bottom closure flaps **20, 22, 24,** and **26,** which are hingedly connected to front and rear side walls and first and second end walls **10, 12, 14,** and **16,** respectively, along horizontal score lines **27.** The specific structure of the bottom closure arrangement is more particularly described in a copending application, Ser. No. 522,020, filed the same date as this application by the same inventors.

The upper portion of each of the end walls may be provided with gusset sections indicated generally at **30,** which are each defined by a transverse score line **32** and a pair of vertical score lines **34** which flair outwardly at their lower ends where they join with the ends of horizontal score line **32** at the point where the latter meets related vertical score lines **19.** The horizontal and vertical score lines form a pair of side portions or gusset panels **36** and a center portion or gusset panel **38** which permit the gusset section **30** to be depressed when the carton is erected and closed, as best seen in FIGS. **2** and **3,** to reduce the cross-sectional area at the upper end of the carton. If desired, center portions **38** may be provided with upwardly extending tabs **39** which assist in forming and closing the top portion of a carton as they are folded inwardly under the top closure panels.

Still referring to FIG. **1,** it will be seen that front side panel **10** is provided below its upper extremity with an opening **40** defined by a generally U-shaped cut **42** which forms a tab **43** that may be folded out of the way as opening **40** is used as a finger-gripping hole.

Rear side wall **12** is also formed with an opening **44** defined by a U-shaped cut **46** which also provides a tab **47** which may be folded into the carton in a manner hereinafter described.

The primary feature of novelty in this invention resides in the top closure arrangement which includes a pair of inner and outer top closure flaps indicated generally at **50** and **60.** The top closure inner flap **50** includes a first section **52** hingedly attached at its lower edge to the upper edge of rear side wall **12** along score line **53** and a second section **54** hingedly attached to the first section along score line **55.**

Top closure outer flap **60** includes a primary section **62** which is hingedly attached to the upper edge of front side wall **12** along score line **63.** Primary section **62** has projecting upwardly therefrom a lock tab **64** which includes a center portion **66** hingedly attached to the primary section **62** along a score line **67** and a pair of side portions **68** which are hingedly attached to center portion **66** along diverging score lines **69.**

When the carton is manufactured, the sides walls, end walls and glue panel are folded into position and glued to form a tubular structure, and also the bottom closure panels are folded and glued into position, so that when the ultimate user of the package receives the carton, it is in a collapsed condition with the top of the carton still open. In order to close the carton, the end wall extension tabs **39** are folded inwardly at right angles to the end walls, and the inner closure flap **50** is folded over the top of the carton at right angles with the section **54** being tucked into the top of the carton behind the front side wall **10** in face-to-face relation therewith. The outer closure flap **60** is then folded over the inner closure flap in face-to-face relation therewith,

and the lock tab is inserted into opening **44** at the rear side wall of the carton. At the same time, tab **47** is folded inwardly so that it becomes interposed between the top closure inner flap and the locking tab.

The package has been designed for use primarily as a retail package to replace the conventional shopping bag in a department store, and it is contemplated that the closure of the top will normally be effected by a person at the check-out counter, who after closing the carton in the manner described, will insert a stapler into opening **44** and staple a proof of purchase document, such as a sales slip, to the top of a carton in the manner shown in FIG. **2.** The staple would actually go through the sales slip, the primary section **62** of the outer closure flap, the first section **52** of the inner closure flap, tab **47** of the rear side wall, and the locking tab **64.** Thus, the top of the carton would be rigidly secured in a closed position and be relatively tamper proof, or at least tamper resistant, to minimize the chance for a customer to open the carton and insert other articles of merchandise into the carton after a sale was completed. Openings **40** in the front wall and **44** in the rear wall serve to receive the fingers and thumb, respectively, of the carton holder so as to form a conventional handle arrangement. It should be noted that one of the openings, preferably opening **44,** is disposed at the extreme upper edge of the side wall, so that when a staple is inserted into the opening, it is easier to staple the sales slip and all of the other portions of the carton together in an efficient manner.

We claim:

1. In a collapsible, retail package formed from a unitary blank of foldable paperboard, the combination of:

a. opposed pairs of front and rear side walls and end walls hingedly interconnected to form a tubular structure open at the top and bottom;

b. at least one bottom closure flap hingedly attached to the lower edge of one of said walls and secured in position to close the bottom of the tubular structure;

c. top closure means for closing the top of the tubular structure after it has been filled, including:

i. a horizontal inner closure flap hinged to an upper edge of one of said side walls and adapted to be folded over the top of said tubular structure;

ii. a horizontal outer closure flap hinged to an upper edge of the other of said side walls and adapted to be folded over said inner closure flap in face to face engagement therewith and including a locking tab extending therefrom;

d. said side walls presenting finger receiving openings adjacent the upper edges thereof;

e. said one side wall opening being aligned with said locking tab for receipt thereof;

f. at least one of said openings being located immediately below the upper edge of its respective side wall for receiving a portion of a stapling device to permit a proof of purchase document to be stapled to the overlapped outer and inner closure flaps and said locking tab and thereby render the package tamper resistant.

2. A package according to claim **1,** wherein said end walls include gusset sections which may be deflected inwardly to reduce the cross-sectional area of the upper portion of the package and thereby facilitate grasping of the package.

3. A package according to claim **1,** wherein the opening in the rear side wall is located immediately adjacent and below the upper edge of said rear side wall.

4. A package according to claim **1,** wherein the opening in the front side wall is spaced a relatively short distance below the upper edge of said front side wall.

5. A package according to claim **1,** wherein said inner top closure flap includes a first section hingedly attached to the upper edge of said one side wall and a second section hingedly attached to said first section and adapted to be tucked into the tubular structure behind said other side wall.

6. In a collapsible, retail package formed from a unitary blank of foldable paperboard, the combination of:

a. opposed pairs of front and rear side walls and end walls hingedly interconnected to form a tubular structure open at the top and bottom;

b. at least one bottom closure flap hingedly attached to the lower edge of certain of said walls and secured in position to close the bottom of the tubular structure;

c. top closure means for closing the top of the tubular structure after it has been filled, including:

i. a horizontal inner closure flap hinged to an upper edge of one of said rear side walls and adapted to be folded over the top of said tubular structure;

ii. a horizontal outer closure flap hinged to an upper edge of the other of said front side wall and adapted to be folded over said inner closure flap in face to face engagement therewith;

d. at least one of said side walls presenting therein an opening located immediately below the upper edge thereof for receiving a portion of a stapling device to permit a proof of purchase document to be stapled to the overlapped outer and inner closure flaps and thereby render the package tamper resistant.

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