

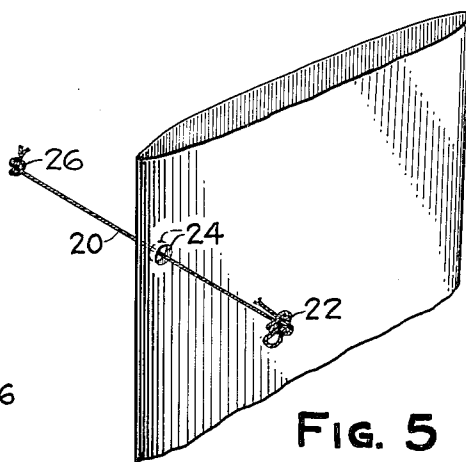
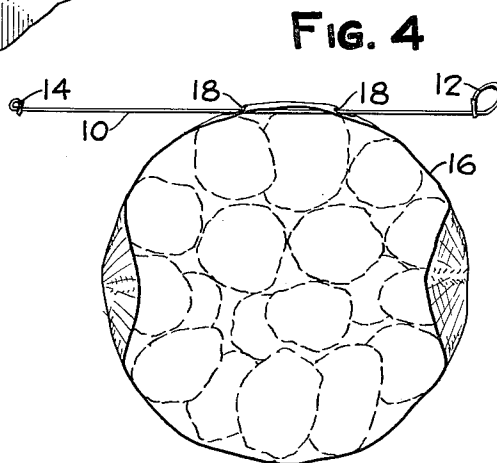
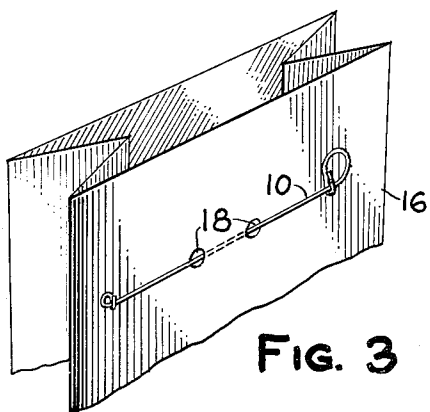
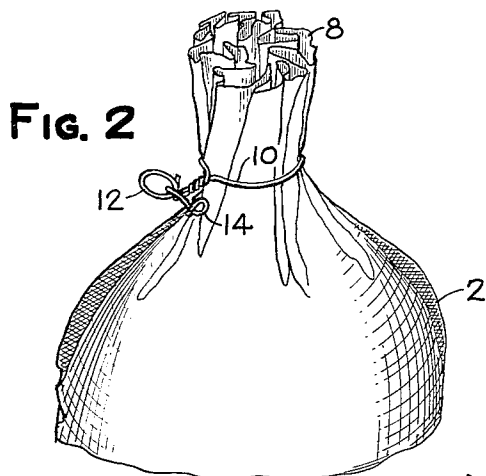
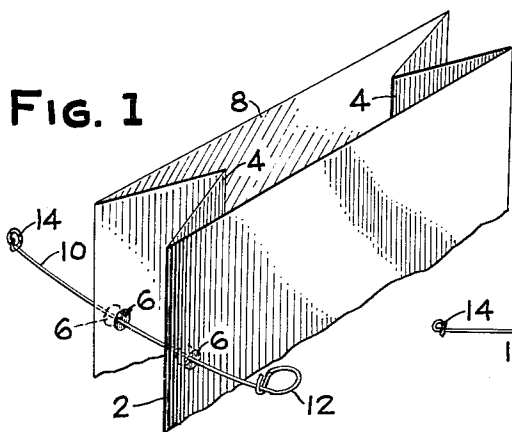
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R. E. ADAMS

2,980,314

BAG

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RICHARD E. ADAMS
INVENTOR.

BY *Albert Sperry*
ATTORNEY

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BAG

Richard E. Adams, 523 S. Main St., Hightstown, N.J.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 229—65)

This invention relates to bags such as those in which potatoes are sold in retail stores and is directed particularly to bags which may be easily closed in packaging potatoes or the like and may be readily opened by users after they have been closed.

Most potato bags are formed of heavy paper which may be of either single or multiple plies and they are ordinarily closed after they are filled by wrapping a wire about the bag and twisting the ends of the wire together.

Such constructions are quite satisfactory insofar as they hold the mouth of the bag securely closed during shipment, storage and handling. However, the closing of the bag often requires two operators, one of whom holds the mouth of the bag closed while the other requires two hands to wrap the wire about the bag and twist the ends together. Furthermore, when the housewife or other purchaser wishes to open the bag, the tightly twisted ends of the wire offer no means permitting the ends to be grasped so that it is frequently necessary to tear the bag or use a wire cutting tool to open it for removing the potatoes. Moreover, after the bag is opened by tearing or cutting the wire, it cannot be fastened closed again without the use of a further wire, string or the like.

In accordance with the present invention, a novel type of bag and fastening means are provided which permit a single operator to close and fasten the bag, whereas the bag may be opened and reclosed by the housewife without the use of special tools or tearing the bag.

These advantages are preferably attained by forming the bag with holes near the top of the bag and relatively close together, and by providing tying means such as a wire, cord or the like which passes through the holes so that it may remain applied to the bag. An operator using such a bag may close the filled bag with one hand while grasping one end of the tying means with the other hand. He can then wrap the free end of the tying means about the closed mouth of the bag and twist or otherwise secure the free end of the tying means in bag closing position.

In the preferred form of the present invention, the tying means is formed of wire and is provided with loops of different size on its opposite ends so that the loop on one end of the wire may be slipped through the holes in the bag in applying the tying means to the bag, whereas the loop on the other end of the wire may be larger than the holes in the bag so that one end of the wire may be pulled to permit the wire to be wrapped about the closed mouth of the bag without pulling the wire off the bag. Moreover, the smaller loop on the wire may be slipped through the larger loop in securing the tying means in place. Such loops further form means which can be readily grasped by the housewife to untwist or unfasten the wire whereby the bag can be readily opened and later reclosed and fastened without destroying the bag or tying means.

Accordingly, the principal object of the present invention is to provide a bag with fastening means which enable a single operator to close and fasten the mouth of the bag so as to hold the bag securely closed.

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Another object of the invention is to provide a bag with holes therein adjacent the mouth of the bag for receiving fastening means.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel type of tying means for holding the mouth of a bag closed during shipping and handling of the bag.

A specific object of the invention is to provide a bag with holes therein near the mouth of the bag together with a wire type tying means which will pass through said holes and present loops of different sizes on the ends thereof permitting the loop on one end to be passed through the loop on the other end in fastening the tying means.

These and other objects and features of the present invention will appear from the following description thereof wherein reference is made to the figures of the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective illustrating the upper portion of one form of bag embodying the present invention with a preferred type of tying means applied thereto;

Fig. 2 is a perspective showing the upper portion of the bag of Fig. 1 when closed;

Fig. 3 is a perspective illustrating an alternative embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the construction shown in Fig. 3 as seen when filling a bag; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective illustrating an alternative form of bag and closing means embodying the present invention.

In that form of the invention chosen for purposes of illustration in Figs. 1 and 2, the bag 2 is formed of flexible material such as the multi-ply paper bags now conventionally employed in forming potato bags sold through retail channels. The bag is formed with gussets 4 and is provided with aligned openings 6 which are located near the mouth 8 of the bag and in position to pass through both the front and rear walls of the bag and through one of the gussets 4.

Tying means are applied to the bag 2 and extend through the holes 6 in the bag. Any suitable type of tying means may be employed, but as shown, a preferred form of tying means consists of a wire 10 having a loop 12 on one end thereof and a smaller loop 14 at the opposite end of the wire 10. The loop 14 is of such size that it will pass readily through the opening 6 in the bag, whereas the loop 12 is of larger size and, therefore, cannot pass through the opening 6. The wire 10 should be of such length that it somewhat exceeds the circumference of the closed mouth of the bag so that it may be wrapped about the mouth of the bag leaving ends which may be twisted in closing the bag.

With this construction, the bags and tying means may be separately manufactured and handled, and the tying means need only be inserted through the holes 6 in the bags when the bags are being prepared for use. The mouth 8 of the bag can be opened readily while the tying means are in the holes 6, so that the bag can be filled with potatoes or other articles without interference due to the presence of the tying means. The operator then can readily grasp the top of the bag, drawing it together as shown in Fig. 2 at which time the looped end 14 of the tying means 10 is grasped and wrapped about the closed neck of the bag a suitable number of times. In fact, the arrangement of the tying means so that it passes through the front and rear walls as well as the gusset 4 of the bag permits the free end of the tying means to be grasped and pulled to effect an initial closing of the bag at one side so that the operation of closing and wrapping the wire about the upper portion of the bag is facilitated. After the bag is closed, the small loop 14 of the tying means can be passed through the larger loop 12 and the two end portions of the tying means can be twisted to-

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gether or otherwise secured to hold the mouth of the bag closed.

These operations can readily be performed by a single operator; and at the same time, the mouth of the bag will be so tied as to permit shipping and handling of the bag or rough usage without danger of the bag opening or tearing.

When a housewife or purchaser of the bag wishes to open the bag, the looped portions 12 and 14 are presented in such a manner that they may be readily grasped so that the ends may be untwisted or unfastened without requiring the use of any special tools. Furthermore, after the bag has been opened, the tying means will be retained by the bag and can be used again for retying the bag after a portion of its contents have been removed.

As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the bag 16 may be formed with openings 18 which are located on one wall of the bag; but should be relatively close together so that the tying means 10 can be slipped readily through the openings 18 and will project outward from the bag when the bag is in the form shown in Fig. 4 which it will assume when being filled with articles. The ends of the tying means then can be wrapped about the mouth of the bag in the same manner as described above in connection with Figs. 1 and 2 for securing the mouth of the bag closed. With this construction, the tying wire 10 can be slid lengthwise with respect to the bag in applying the wire to the bag and to afford greater ease in closing the bag. In fact, the smaller loop 14 can be slipped through the larger loop 12 and the wire can then be pulled to act as a drawstring in closing the bag.

The tying means shown in Fig. 1 can, of course, be used in other types of bags as shown in Fig. 5. The bag may be a flat type bag and need not be formed with any gussets. Further, as shown in Fig. 5 the fastening means may, if desired, be formed of a flexible member such as a cord 20 having a relatively large knot 22 on one end thereof of sufficient size to prevent the knot from slipping through the opening 24 in the bag. In a like manner, the opposite end of the cord 20 may be provided with a knot 26 to prevent unravelling of the cord, but the knot 26 should be small enough to pass readily through the openings 24 in the bag.

The construction of Fig. 5 can be used in filling and closing the bag in the same manner as described above in connection with Figs. 1 and 2. The ends of the cord

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20 may then be tied together or fastened in any suitable or preferred manner to hold the mouth of the bag closed during shipment or handling thereof.

The bags can be manufactured in any conventional way and existing bags may be punched at suitable points to permit the insertion of the tying means. In the same way, the tying means may be manufactured by a wire fabricator so that neither the bag manufacturer nor the wire fabricator is called upon to alter their usual operations materially. Furthermore, there is no danger of loss or removal of the tying means from the bags during shipping or handling thereof. Any tying means can be applied to any bag since they are produced and handled independently and are not assembled until they are required for use.

The bag may be formed of any suitable or preferred flexible material which may be single or multi-ply paper, fabric, plastic, polyethylene or the like. Of course, the size of the bag can be varied and the bags may be used for packaging any types of articles, although they are particularly adapted for use in the packaging, shipping and handling of potatoes. While various forms of the present invention have been shown and described, it will be apparent that the construction is capable of wide variation and, therefore, it should be understood that the particular embodiments of the invention shown in the drawings and described above are intended to be illustrative only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

I claim:

A bag formed of flexible material provided with a pair of holes therein spaced equal distances from the mouth of the bag and in position to be located at the neck of the bag when the mouth of the bag is drawn together to form such a neck above articles enclosed in the bag, and tying means made of flexible wire having loops of different size formed on the opposite ends thereof with the loop on one end small enough to pass through said holes and to pass through the loop on the opposite end of the tying means, the loop on said opposite end of the tying means being larger than said holes.

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