June 16, 1931. M. L. WILSON 1,810,806

GRADUATED ENVELOPE OR FLEXIBLE CONTAINER

Filed May 24, 1930

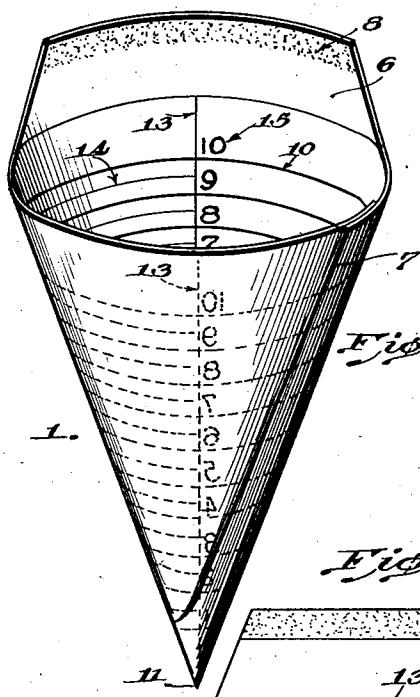


Fig. 1.

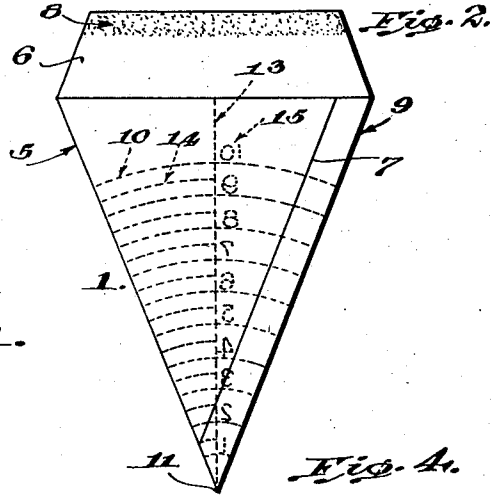


Fig. 2.

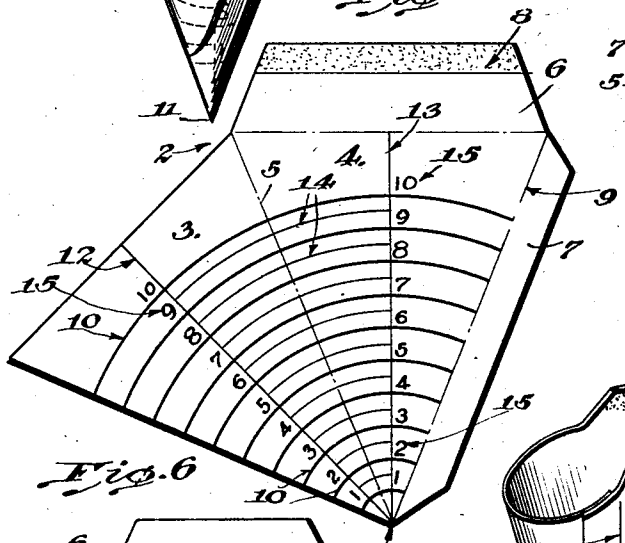


Fig. 3.

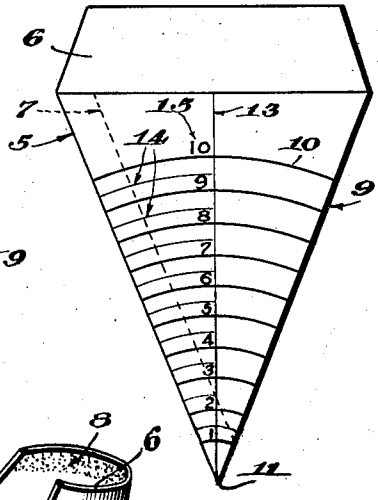


Fig. 4.

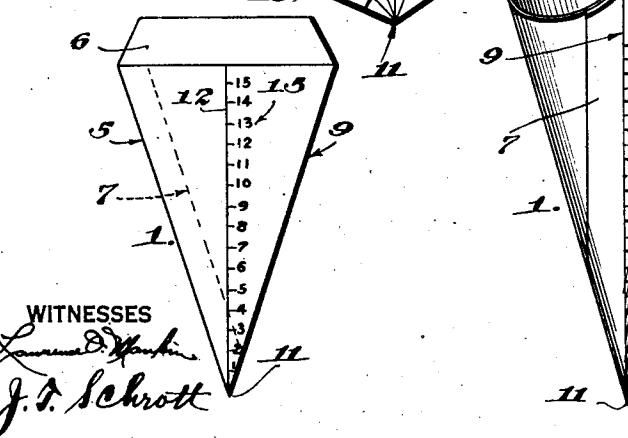


Fig. 6

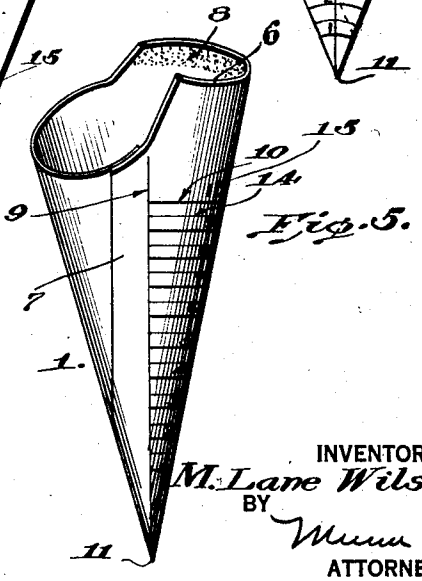


Fig. 5.

WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GRADUATED ENVELOPE OR FLEXIBLE CONTAINER

Application filed May 24, 1930. Serial No. 455,385.

This invention relates to improvements in envelopes, more especially of the type intended to be used for containing seeds and similar commodities, and it consists of the constructions, combinations and arrangements herein described and claimed.

An object of the invention is to provide a flexible and foldable container which, by virtue of certain regularly spaced graduations printed thereon or otherwise applied thereto, serves the concurrent purposes of a measure for the commodity and an envelope to contain it.

Another object of the invention is to provide a container intended to be used by seed dealers, but obviously usable by dealers of other similar commodities, the use of which will tend not only to speed up sales of small quantities but will also increase the profits of the dealer through the avoidance of waste.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an opaque-paper type of the invention, the container being shown as it will appear when held open in readiness to receive seed or a similar commodity.

Figure 2 is an elevation of the envelope, showing how it will appear before being opened.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the paper blank from which the envelope is formed, particularly illustrating the arrangement of graduations on the inside.

Figure 4 is an elevation of a translucent-paper type of the envelope.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the envelope in Fig. 4, showing how the arcuate graduation assume straight or horizontal positions when the envelope is opened.

Figure 6 is an elevation of an envelope showing a slightly different arrangement of graduations.

The herein disclosed envelope is adapted particularly well to the packing of small amounts of seeds, and although this use is herein cited as an illustration it is by no means to be regarded as a limitation because the envelope is capable of being employed as a container for many other commodities. It is even conceivable that when made of water-proof material it can be used in the dispensation of liquid or semi-liquid substances.

One of the outstanding purposes of the container is to relieve dealers, especially small dealers perhaps just setting up a business, from the necessity of purchasing a scales capable of weighing small fractions of a pound of expensive seed. It is further intended to expedite sales by dealers both small and large by virtue of enabling the instant measuring of a desired quantity of seed at the bin and the immediate packing of said quantity in readiness to hand to the purchaser.

All this and other advantageous features will be fully understood after considering the drawings. The envelope 1 is made in triangular form (Figs. 2, 4 and 6) out of opaque or translucent material originally cut like the blank in Fig 3. This blank comprises a main body 2 which is divided into sides 3, 4 by a division or crease line 5.

The sides themselves have the triangular shape mentioned in connection with Figures 2, 4 and 6. The free edges of one of the sides has flaps 6, 7, both of which are gummed as indicated at 8 in the instance of the flap 6. This flap is a closure flap, and its purpose is to seal the envelope when the desired quantity of seed has been packaged. The flap 7 is secured to the corresponding edge portion of the side 3 (Fig. 2) when the blank is creased along the lines 5 and 9 in its final form.

Major, arcuate graduations 10 radiate from the apex 11 of the blank 2. These graduations extend over the sides 3, 4. They are traversed by medial lines 12, 13 which extend along the axis of the triangular sides 3, 4. These lines are the terminals of intermediate graduations 14, and at places immediately beyond the intermediate graduations numbers 15 beginning with "1" and running as high as may be desired are applied.

The major graduations 10 may appear in terms of inches or they may be applied according to the metric system. The intermediate graduations may be any desired fractions of the distance between the major grad-

uations, the sole purpose being to provide lines of demarcation up to where the container is to be filled with the desired volume of seed.

For this purpose the graduations are struck on arcs with a definite end in view. When the envelope 1 is opened by pressing in on the creased sides it assumes a reasonably perfect conical shape. In this respect the envelope or container is to be regarded as flexible. The graduations 10, 14 instead of then being arcuate assume straight or horizontal positions cross-wise of the container as indicated in Figure 5.

By saying that the graduations assume "horizontal" positions it is meant that when the container is held in the vertical position the graduations extend straight across. In other words, the graduations become substantially perpendicular to the axis of the container when the latter is opened in a seed-receiving position.

Down to this point the description embraces all of the elements of the container. Three modifications are involved but in each of these, corresponding parts are identified with similar reference characters to avoid a needless repetition of description. Consider now the three modifications.

In Figure 1 the paper or other material from which the envelope is made is opaque. This being the case the major and intermediate graduations 10, 14 are so applied to the blank 2 (Fig. 3) that they will appear on the inside of the container as is well shown in Fig. 1. The graduations are not visible, excepting very faintly when holding the envelope up to the light, but when the envelope is opened by pressing it on the creased sides and causing it to assume the conical shape all of the graduations are clearly visible so that the clerk can tell just how far to fill the container in selling the desired quantity of seed.

In the instance of Fig. 1 the major graduations 10 extend completely around the inside of the envelope. This makes it easier for the clerk to dispense an accurate measure of seed. The minor graduations 14 extend only part-way around, the proximity of the major graduations assisting him in leveling the commodity.

Figure 4 illustrates a translucent type of envelope. The paper or other material of which it is made is semitransparent. The arcuate major and intermediate graduations 10, 14 are applied externally of the envelope and only on one side, although they might be applied to both sides if desired. Upon opening the envelope in the manner already described the graduations will assume the horizontal position, and by watching the shadow of the seeds as the pouring-in operation proceeds the clerk will be able to make a very accurate measure.

Figure 6 also discloses a translucent type of envelope in which there is only one medial line 12 and in which the arcuate graduations are substituted by smaller numbered graduations which merely serve as guides in the filling of the container. By holding the container in a perfectly upright position and carefully pouring the seeds in until the shadow reaches the desired mark quite an accurate measure can be made. Of course the style of graduations in the other forms has many advantages over the arrangement in Fig. 6, but the illustration in the latter is given merely to show what variations can be utilized within the spirit of the invention.

The operation is readily understood, and in this description it will be pointed out how the envelope is intended to be used in connection with certain placards that will be attached to the seed bins. It is to be emphasized that the envelope is graduated to a standard, that is to say the major and intermediate graduations 10, 14 are equidistant.

First of all it is necessary to prepare a seed chart that will be sent to the dealer. The chart is prepared by weighing on an accurate scales, small amounts of the various seeds intended to be handled, pouring these amounts into one of the envelopes and making a record of the level of the seed.

For example, a given quantity of dwarf nasturtium seed such as would sell for 10¢ would fill the envelope up to graduation "7". That quantity which would sell for 15¢ would fill the envelope up to "8½". All of the seeds are charted in the same way and a portion of the chart would appear thus:

	5¢	10¢	15¢	20¢
Carrot, oxheart	6½	8	9½	------
Radish, red globe	5½	7	9	------
Sweet peas	------	5	6	------
Dwarf nasturtium	------	7	8½	------
Pepper, cayenne	3	4	5½	8

From this chart it is intended to prepare placards to be attached to the various bins of which the following are several examples:

Dwarf nasturtium				*Sweet peas*			
¼ lb.	.50	1 lb.	1.75	¼ lb.	.50	1 lb.	1.75
10¢	7	15¢	8½	10¢	5	15¢	6

These specimens of placards give the prices for the various seeds. The larger amounts are intended to be weighed on the customary scales, but the small amounts are intended to be measured immediately at the bin by means of the envelopes thus obviating the need of weighing. In order to differentiate between the larger and smaller quantities of seeds the scales prices, that is to say the prices of the larger amounts of seeds to be weighed up on the scales, will be printed in black while the measure prices, namely those of the smaller amounts intended to be dispensed solely by means of the envelope will be printed in red.

From this it will be understood that the

specific purpose of the invention is to provide for the rapid measuring and dispensation of garden and flower seed, etc., without the customary laborious method of taking a scoop to the bin, drawer or other container, securing the seed, returning to the counter scales, pouring in the required amount, returning the unwanted amount of seed to the bin, returning to the scales and emptying the measured quantity into the usual envelopes or bags provided for the purpose. In selling a small amount of seed the clerk has only to go to the desired bin, pour seed into the opened envelope until a mark is reached agreeing with that given opposite the price on the chart, seal the flap 6 down and hand the packet to the customer.

Here is an important advantage. The filling of the envelope will be done directly over the bin, and should the clerk spill any of the seed it would not fall to the floor and thus be wasted. By the customary scales method seed are spilled from the scoop when making the transfer from the bin and also when pouring the seed from the scales pan into the bag or envelope.

A further advantage is that small scales, namely those used in weighing very small amounts can be dispensed with entirely. The envelopes will be packed flat like any other envelopes and assume the character of measurers only when opened to the seed-position pictured in Figs. 1 and 5. The combined measuring envelope and seed container takes up very little room even when stocked in rather large quantities and a further advantage is that a measure for small quantities of seed is always available as long as a supply of the envelopes remains on hand.

It is reiterated that the use of the envelope as a meaure and container for seed is merely one illustration. Commodities other than seed, whether dry, semi-liquid or liquid can be measured and contained as well. This leads to a variation in the form of the envelope which is not necessarily confined to the initial triangular shape (Figs. 2, 4 and 6) and later conical, receiving shape (Figs. 1 and 5). It is conceivable that the container might be made to assume a cylindrical shape or perhaps a rectangular shape. In any event, the purpose is to provide an initially collapsed container with measuring marks by which when opened the filling therewith of a commodity will be guided.

While the construction and arrangement of the improved envelope or container is that of a generally preferred form, obvious modifications and changes may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the claims.

What I claim is:—

1. A package comprising a container made of opaque paper, said container being provided with sealing means and with graduations on the interior of the container arranged in such a way as to indicate different specific quantities of the commodity to be packaged therein.

2. A package comprising a container made of opaque paper, said container being provided with sealing means and with graduations on the interior of the container arranged in such a way as to indicate different specific quantities of the commodity to be packaged therein, said graduations being inherently arcuate but assuming substantially perpendicular positions relative to the axis of the container when said container is opened in a commodity-receiving position.

M. LANE WILSON.