

May 30, 1950

B. A. RAFOTH ET AL
CARTON

2,509,616

Filed Nov. 14, 1947

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

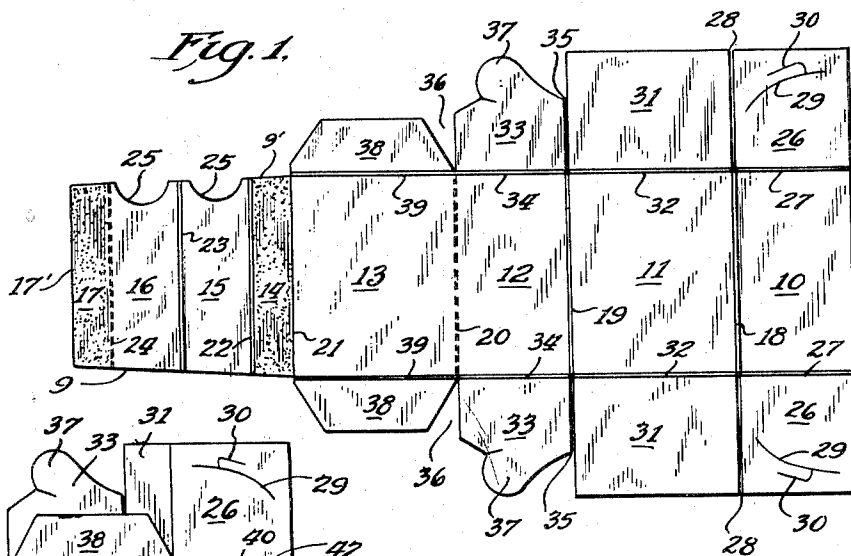


Fig. 3.

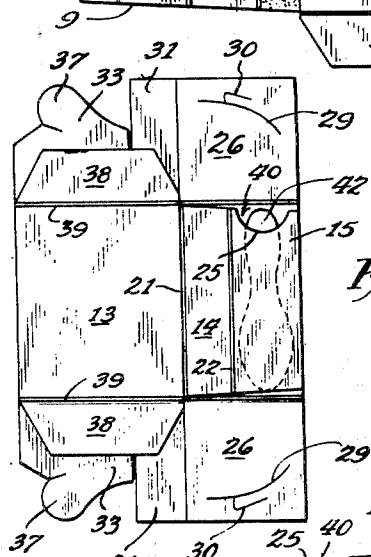


Fig. 2.

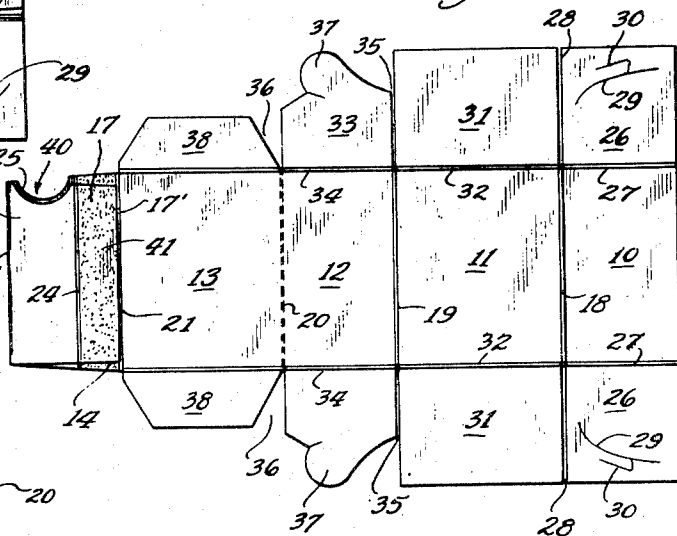
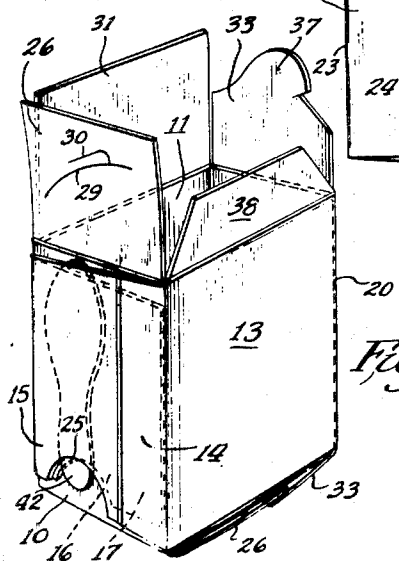


Fig. 4.



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Fig. 5.

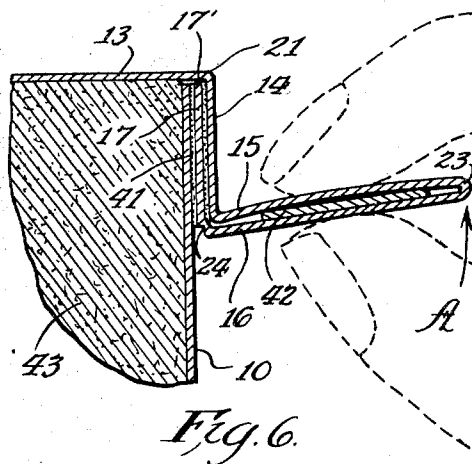
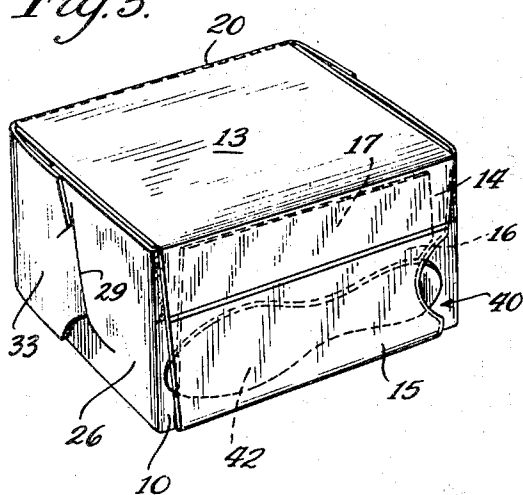


Fig. 6.

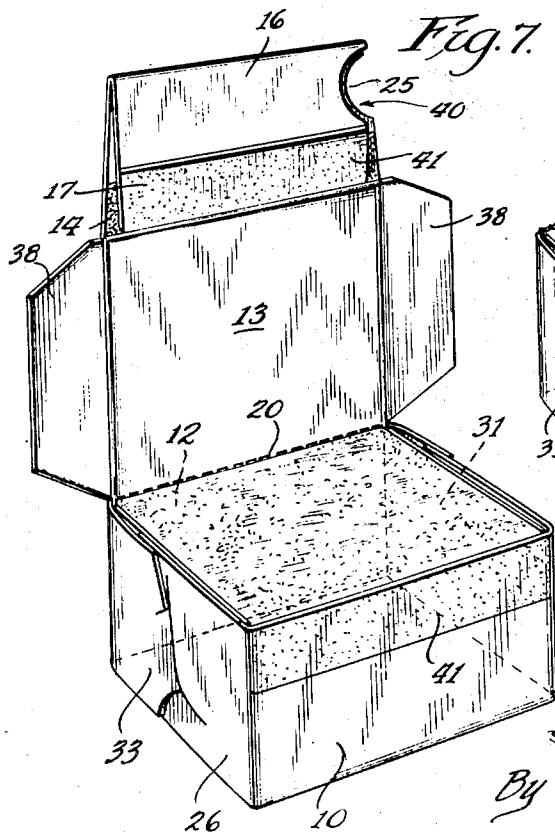
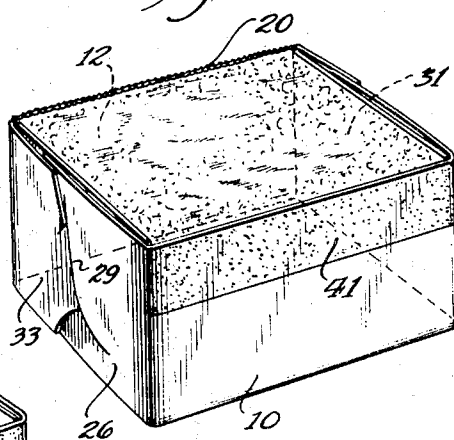


Fig. 8.



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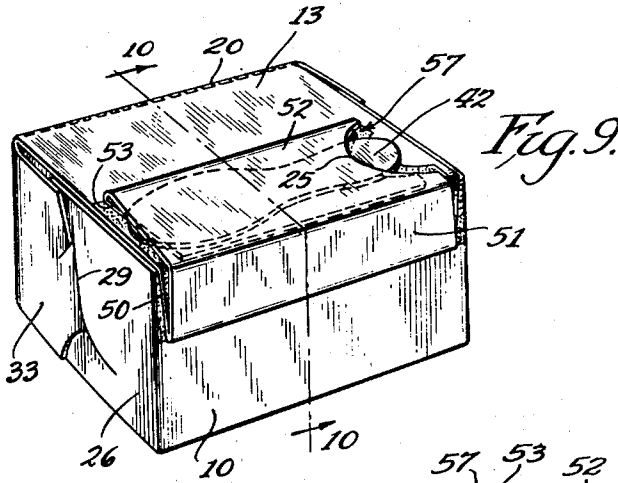


Fig. 9.

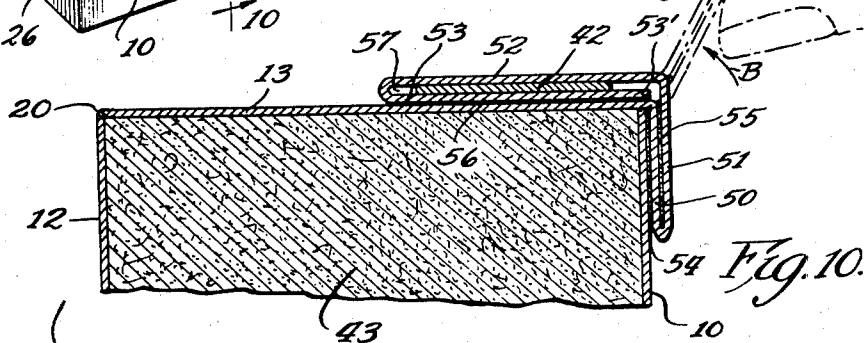


Fig. 10.

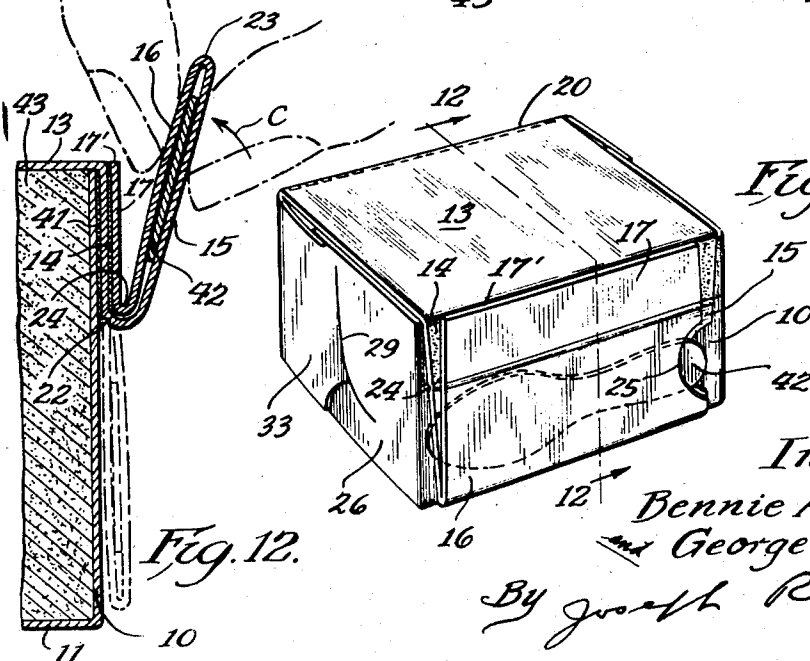


Fig. 11.

Fig. 12.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,509,616

CARTON

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Application November 14, 1947, Serial No. 786,029

1 Claim. (Cl. 229—36)

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This invention relates to a package or carton provided with means for retaining a spoon as a functional part of the package.

Large quantities of single slices or helpings of ice cream, sherbet, frozen ices and desserts and the like are being sold in paper cartons or packages which are usually provided with a hinged cover that is opened so that the consumer may eat the food directly from the container by means of a wooden spoon or other implement that may be provided. Such packages are sold on trains, amusement places, parks, refreshment places and in outdoor stands. It has been customary to give the consumer a spoon with each purchase or to place a spoon loosely inside the package which the consumer can use for eating the food products. When spoons are inserted within the package they are often lost or misplaced.

According to the present invention, means are provided as an integral part of the carton so as to form a pocket portion within which a wooden spoon or other implement may be inserted and in which it will be securely retained while being shipped or stored until it is used by the consumer. The pocket portion occupies relatively little space and is constructed in such manner that it is a functional part of the package and does not unduly bulk or bulge the package or deform it in any way. Before or after opening the cover of the carton or container it is possible to readily remove the spoon or other implement by merely slipping it out of the pocket portion for convenient use.

Other advantages and objects of this invention will be apparent from the following specification and drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the inside face of the single, integral blank from which the carton is formed;

Figure 2 is a plan view similar to Figure 1, illustrating one manner of forming the spoon holding portion of the blank;

Figure 3 is a plan view of the blank in tubular form and collapsed in flat condition ready for shipment to the packager of a commodity;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the carton in set-up condition ready for filling with a commodity;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a completed package;

Figure 6 is a fragmental, vertical section of a completed package, illustrating in detail the manner in which the sealed package is opened;

Figure 7 is a perspective view, illustrating the

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completed package after opening to expose the contents;

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a tray which may be formed by removing the cover and the spoon holding portion from the opened package;

Figure 9 is a perspective view of a completed package, illustrating a modified form of our invention;

Figure 10 is a fragmental, vertical sectional view taken along the line 10—10 of Figure 9, illustrating the manner in which the sealed package may be opened;

Figure 11 is a perspective view of a completed package illustrating another embodiment of our invention; and

Figure 12 is a fragmental, vertical, sectional view taken along the line 12—12 of Figure 11, illustrating the manner of opening the package.

Referring to the drawings, wherein like numerals indicate like elements, an illustrative embodiment of our invention is shown in Figures 1 to 8, wherein a single integral blank of paper cardboard or other suitable material is suitably cut and scored to provide a front wall 10, a bottom wall 11, a rear wall 12, a cover 13, a glue panel 14, a pocket panel 15, a pocket panel 16 and a second glue panel 17 having a free edge 17' hingedly connected to each other by parallel score lines 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, respectively. The panels 14, 15, 16 and 17 constitute an integrally formed extension of the cover 13. Preferably, the score line 20 is perforated. The score line 24 preferably is partially cut through the blank as shown in Figure 6. The pocket panels 15 and 16 are each provided with cut-out portions 25 at their lateral edges for reasons which will subsequently appear. Preferably, the cut-out portions are semicircular in configuration.

The front wall 10 is provided with free end flaps 26 integrally hinged thereto by score lines 27. The end flaps 26 are separated from adjacent flaps by slits 28. The flaps 26 are provided with slits 29 and 30. The bottom wall 11 is provided with inner end walls 31 integrally hinged thereto by score lines 32. The rear wall 12 is provided with end flaps 33 integrally hinged thereto by score lines 34 and are separated from adjacent flaps by slits 35 and cut-outs 36. The flaps 33 are provided with tongues 37. The cover 13 is provided with inner end flaps 38 integrally hinged thereto by score lines 39.

To form a carton from the blank shown in Figure 1, the pocket panel 16 and the glue flap

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17 are folded inwardly along score line 23 and superimposed onto the pocket panel 15 and the glue flap 14, respectively. The faces of glue flaps 17 and 14 are secured together by adhesive to form a pocket portion 40, as illustrated in Figure 2. The front wall 10, with its end flaps 26 is folded over onto the inner surface of the bottom wall 11 along the score line 18. The cover 13 and the attached glue flaps and pocket portion 40 are folded over onto the front wall 10 along the score line 30. The outer face of the glue flap 17, which is coated with adhesive 41, as shown in Figure 2, is adhered to the upper marginal portion of the outside surface of the front wall 10 leaving the pocket portion 40 closely overlying the front wall 10 and free to serve as a grasping tab. Instead of applying the adhesive to the flap 17, the adhesive may be applied to the outside segment of the front wall 10 which will be contacted by the glue panel 17. Also, the carton stock may be suitably treated, coated or laminated with thermoplastic material, whereby adherence is obtained by the application of heat and pressure to the contacting areas of glue flap 17 and the underlying portion of the front wall 10. It is desirable at this point to insert a spoon or other implement 42 in the pocket 40. The spoon 42 can be readily slipped within the pocket portion 40 and engaged therein merely by frictional engagement of the faces thereof. If desired the spoon 42 may be inserted in the pocket 40 when the carton blank is in the condition shown in Figure 2. The resulting tubular structure in flat, collapsed condition and containing a spoon, as illustrated in Figure 3, is now ready for shipment with a minimum use of storage space by the carton manufacturer to the carton user. The cut-out portions 25 facilitate grasping the spoon or other implement 42 which can thus be removed from the pocket 40.

The sides of panels 14, 15, 16 and 17 constituting the extension on cover 13 are preferably sloped toward each other, as shown in Figure 1, so that the ends of the pocket portion 40, or grasping tab, are spaced away slightly from the ends of the carton, as shown in Figures 4 and 5.

It will be observed that the spoon pocket 40, is in flat condition overlying the outside surface of the front wall 10 where the volume defined by the carton's front, bottom, rear, and end walls and cover is in no way diminished. The spoon is thus maintained adjacent the carton without undue bulging or distortion of the contour of the carton. As shown in Figure 4, the packaging of the commodity simply requires squaring up the tubular carton shown in Figure 3, folding inwardly to a horizontal plane the end flaps 31 and 38, the end flap 26 and then the end flap 32, the tongue 37 being inserted in the slit 29. After inserting a commodity 43 (see Figure 6), the end flaps on the other side are closed in the same manner, resulting in the finished package shown in Figure 5.

To open the package and expose the contents, it is simply necessary to grasp the spoon pocket portion 40, which also serves as a grasping tab, and pull in the direction of the arrow A, as shown in Figure 6. The partially cut score line 24 facilitates bending up of the pocket portion. The tension thus applied will cause the adhesive 41 between the front wall 10 and the glue panel 17 to rupture, thereby causing the cover 13, its end panels 38 and the spoon holding pocket 40 to be lifted to the position shown in Figure 7, thereby exposing the contents of the package. To form

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a neat, compact tray, the portion of the carton above the perforated score line 20 is torn along said score line and discarded to give the filled tray shown in Figure 8. The spoon 42, may be removed from the pocket portion 40 either before or after opening the carton.

The construction of the glue panels 14 and 17 and the pocket panels 15 and 16 and the intervening score lines as previously described facilitate the ready grasping of the pocket panels and tearing open of the carton without peeling the fibrous stock material. The partially cut score line 24 facilitates bending up of the pocket portion 40. There will be no peeling of the carton stock on the inside of the carton because the fibers cannot peel beyond the upper outer edge of the front wall 10 when the carton is opened as the fibers on the inner face of the glue flap 17 are discontinuous with the fibers of the overlapped portion of the front wall. The carton construction thus provides a carton made from a single blank of carton stock having a cover provided with a single integral means for sealing the carton, for containing a spoon or other implement, and providing a convenient grasping tab for opening the carton in a simple and neat manner.

Figures 9 and 10 illustrate a modified form of our invention wherein the spoon pocket portion is disposed to overlay the cover 13, instead of the front wall as previously described. The spoon pocket portion is glued to the cover 13 by one of the pocket panels to form a compact package. In forming this modified construction, the blank illustrated in Figure 1 is used, except that the glue panel 17 is formed intermediate the glue panel 14 and the pocket panel 15 thereby causing the pocket panel 16 instead of glue panel 17, to be located at the end of the blank. For the purpose of clarity, the panels hinged to the cover 13 and constituting the extension are designated glue panel 50, glue panel 51, pocket panel 52, and pocket panel 53 in that order, the latter having the free edge 53'. In this form of the invention, the glue panel 50 is folded onto the outside surface of the front wall 10 and glued to the upper margin thereof by a suitable adhesive 54. The adjacent glue panel 51 is folded back onto the glue panel 50 and adhered thereto by an adhesive 55. The pocket panel 53 is folded into a plane parallel with respect to the cover 13 and adjacent thereto and adhered to the cover 13 by an adhesive 56. The adjacent, unadhered surfaces of pocket panels 52 and 53 provide a pocket 57 for receiving the spoon or similar element 42.

To open a filled package of this modified construction, the user grasps the doubled glue flaps on the front of the package and pulls in the direction of the arrow B, as shown in Figure 10. Such action will result in cleavage of the bond or adhesive 54 uniting the glue panel 50 to the front wall 10. The cover 13 is then free for removal along the perforated score line 20 if such removal is desired. The spoon 42 may be removed from the pocket 57 either before or after opening the package.

Another modified form of the invention is illustrated in Figures 11 and 12. For this construction, the same blank shown in Figure 1 is utilized except that it is preferred to partially cut score line 22 instead of score line 24. However, instead of folding the pocket panel 16 and glue panel 17 inwardly along score line 23 onto the pocket panel 15 and glue panel 14, as shown in Figure 2, the pocket panel 16 and the glue panel

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17 are folded outwardly, or in the opposite direction, thereby bringing the reverse sides of the pocket and glue panels in overlapping relation. This folding operation will cause the free edge 17' of the glue panel 17 to be on the outside of the finished package instead of adhered directly to the front wall 10 as shown in Figures 4, 5 and 6. To open the package, the free and unadhered pocket portion 40 formed by the pocket panels 15 and 16 is grasped and pulled in the direction of the arrow C, as shown in Figure 12. The tension will cause the bond or adhesive 41 between the glue panel 14 and the front wall 10 to be broken thereby enabling the cover 13 to be lifted to expose the contents 43 of the package.

If desired, adhesive may be applied at the marginal portion of either the pocket panel 15 or the pocket panel 16 or both, or their equivalent panels 50 and 51, at the end or ends opposite the cutaway portions 25 so that when one pocket panel is folded over onto the other, a closed end will be provided for the pocket so that the spoon could not possibly slip out at this closed end.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the essential attributes thereof. For example, it is within the purview of the invention to provide the front, bottom and rear walls and the cover with end walls or end flap closures of other suitable constructions well known in the art rather than of the type described in the specific embodiments shown. It is desired that the present specific embodiments be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, reference being had to the appended claim rather than to the foregoing description to indicate the scope of the invention.

We claim:

A collapsible carton formed from a single integral blank of paper, cardboard or the like comprising front, rear, bottom and end walls said

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end walls being formed with interlocking flaps, a cover hinged to said rear wall, an extension on the free edge of said cover integrally extending therefrom, said extension comprising a glue panel hinged to said cover, a pocket panel hinged to said glue panel, a second pocket panel hinged to said pocket panel, said pocket panels being of substantially the same width, and a second glue panel having a free edge hinged to said second pocket panel, said glue panels being of substantially the same width, said extension being folded upon itself so that said second glue panel is adhered in face-to-face relation to said first-named glue panel and the pocket panels form a pocket portion for receiving a spoon or the like, said folded extension being overlapped on said front wall and adhered thereto by the exposed face of one of said glue panels with said pocket portion parallel to and closely adjacent said front wall, said pocket portion being free and providing a grasping portion for tearing said folded extension free from said front wall to permit lifting said cover and exposing the contents of the carton.

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