Nov. 22, 1966 L. A. BATKE ETAL 3,287,075

PACKAGE AND CABINET UNIT

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Fig. 1.

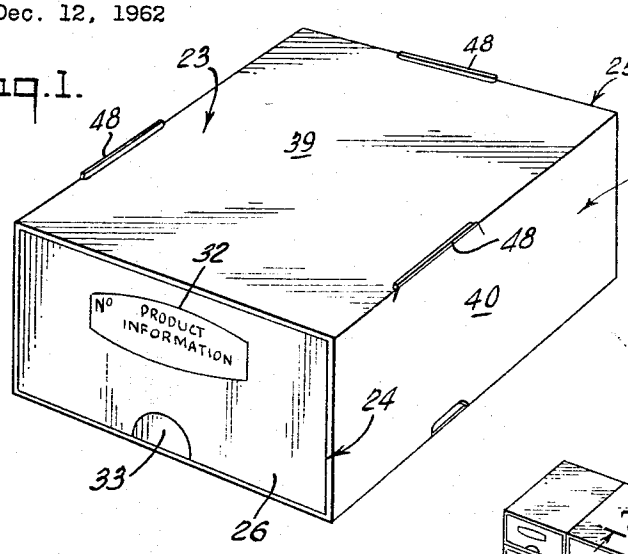


Fig. 2.

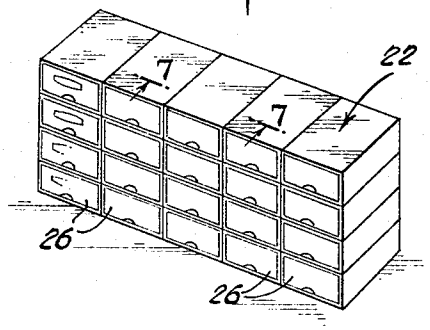
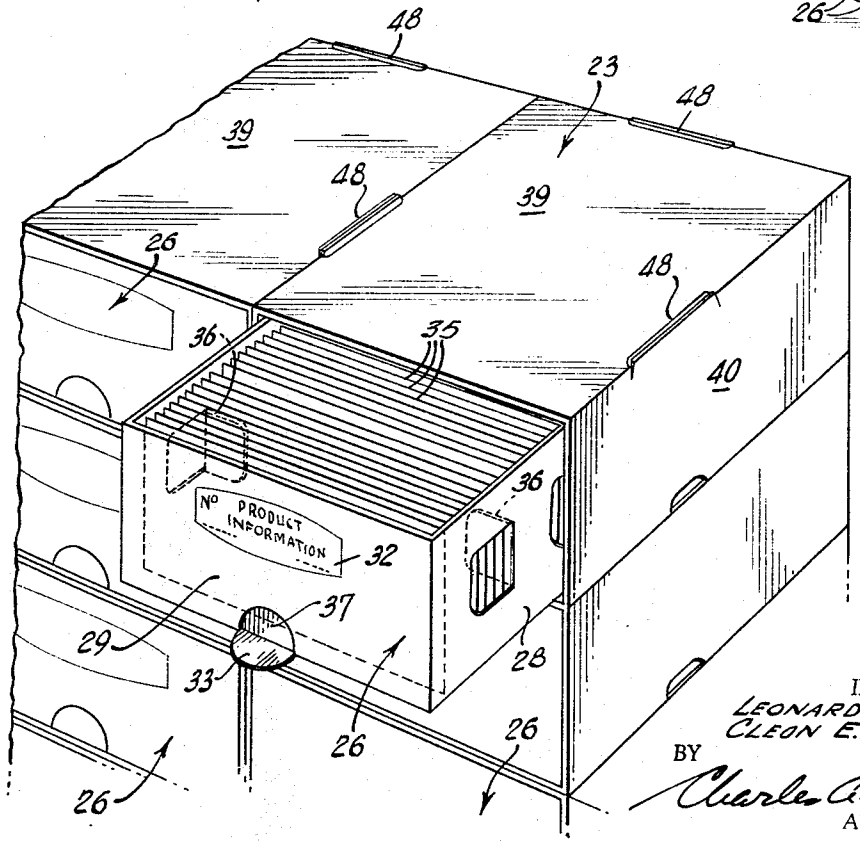


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

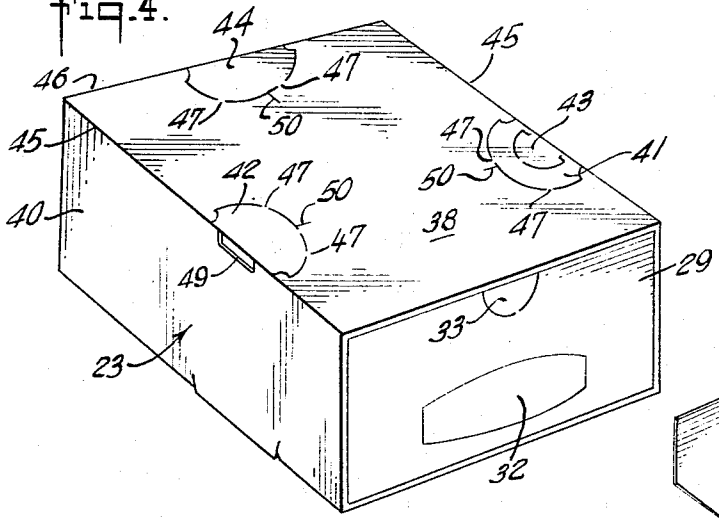


Fig. 5.

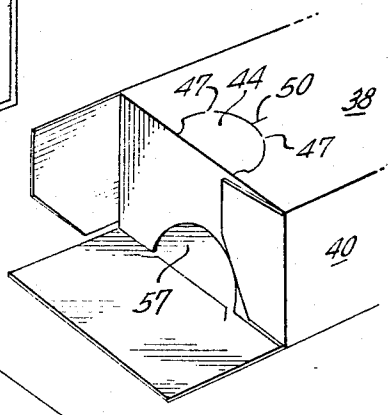
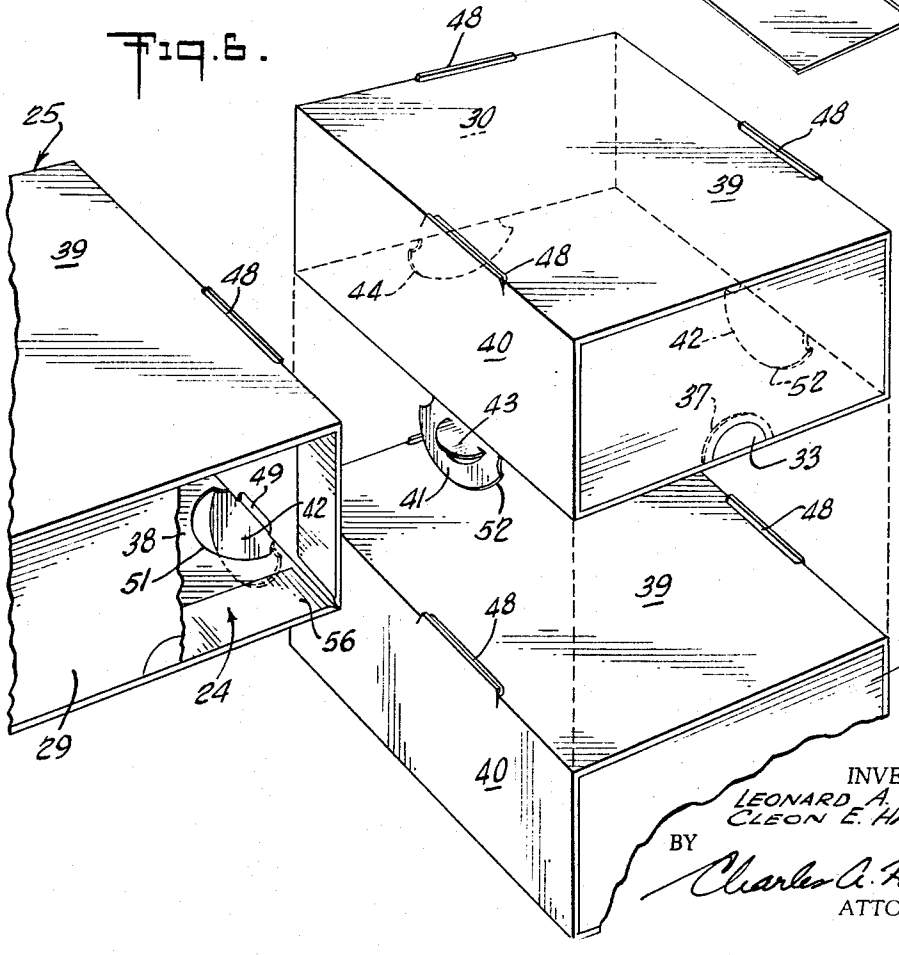


Fig. 6.



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FIG. 7.

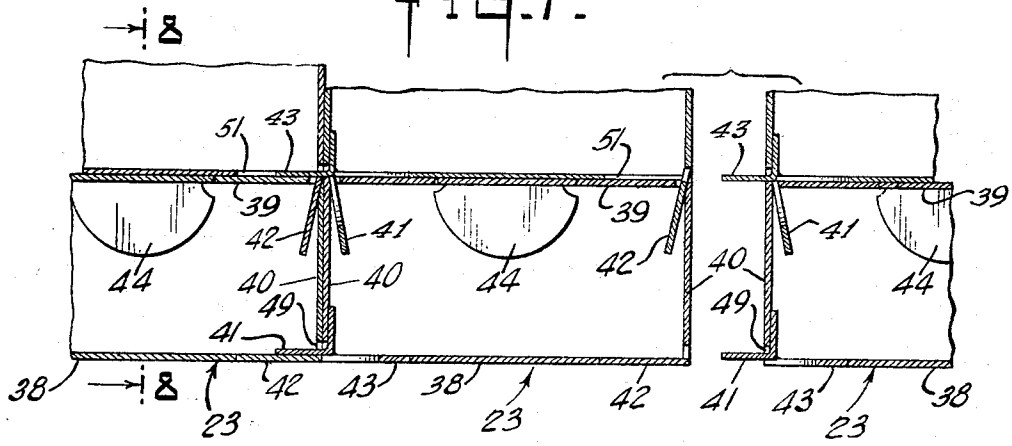


FIG. 8.

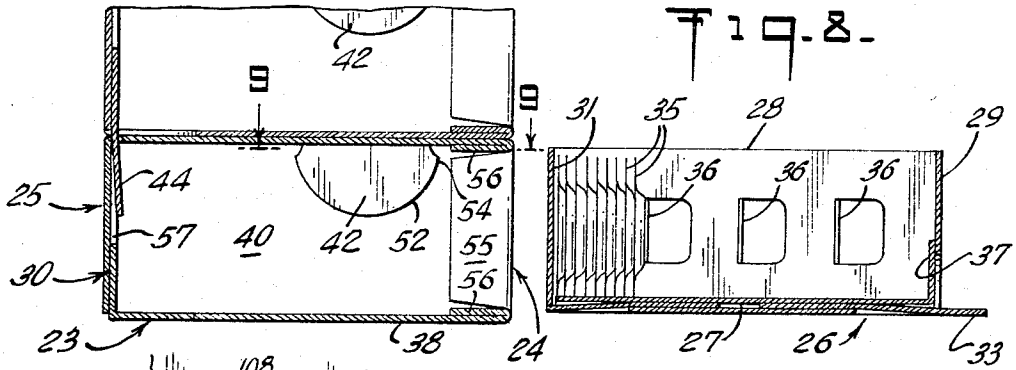


FIG. 10.

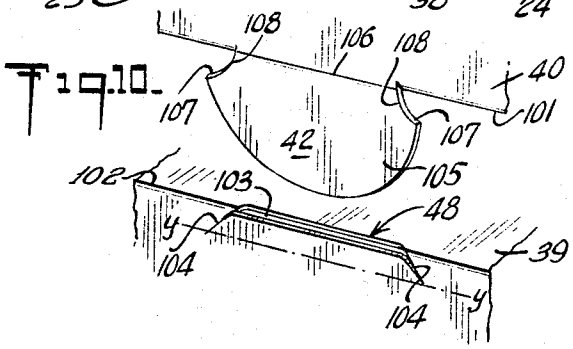


FIG. 9.

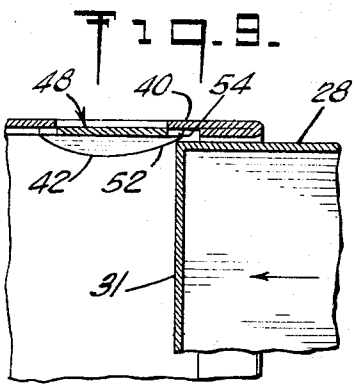
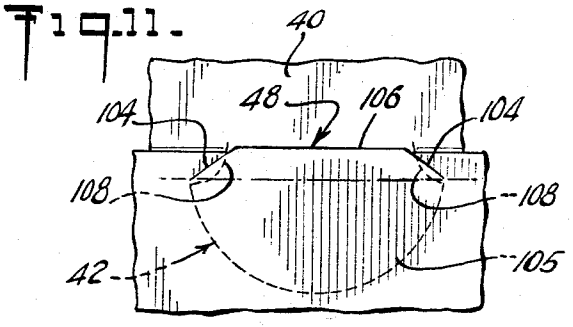


FIG. 11.



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3,287,075

PACKAGE AND CABINET UNIT

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Filed Dec. 12, 1962, Ser. No. 244,112
7 Claims. (Cl. 312—108)

The present invention contemplates a package and cabinet unit which is adapted to be used both as a package and as a part, or unit, of a cabinet formed by assembling several of these units for storing and dispensing their contents. The package and cabinet unit of this invention is particularly adapted for use with products which it is desirable to store and dispense in a number of types or sizes in or from a cabinet formed from the original packages in which the products were shipped without the need for first removing the products from the packages. Thus, this unit is particularly adapted for packaging, storing and dispensing suture items. However, as described hereinafter, a variety of other products may be packaged and dispensed in and from this unit.

The package and cabinet unit of this invention comprises a rectangular dispensing drawer normally open at the top for dispensing the items it contains, and a rectangular sleeve for receiving the drawer. The sleeve has a rectangular cross section approximately the same as that of the drawer, although slightly larger in dimension so that the drawer fits in the sleeve and may be moved back and forth slideably therein. The sleeve comprises a plurality of fold-out tabs and a corresponding plurality of positioning slots, and the tabs and slots are located with respect to one another so that adjacent sleeves may be connected to one another to form a cabinet by inserting the tabs of one sleeve into the slots of another. Normally the front end of the sleeve is open to permit the drawer to be inserted therein and removed therefrom and the back end of the sleeve is closed to help protect the contents of the drawer and to provide a back surface for the cabinet. The outside of the front end of the dispensing drawer is marked with appropriate indicia to indicate the contents of each unit. Thus, when adjacent units are connected to form a cabinet the contents of each drawer in the cabinet may be determined from a quick inspection of the front of the cabinet.

The fold-out tabs are detachably held flat in or against the sides of the sleeve during shipping and prior to assembly of the units to form the cabinet. For instance, each tab may be stamped out of packaging board forming one of the sides of the sleeve except for a permanent connection defining a fold-line with the side of the sleeve and may be retained flat, in the side of the sleeve from which it is stamped, by thin strips or nibs which are not cut during the stamping operation. When it is desired to use the tabs for assembling the unit, it is only necessary to break the nibs and fold the tabs down or out away from the sides of the sleeve about the fold-lines so that they may be inserted in corresponding slots in an adjacent unit. It is preferred that at least one of the fold-out tabs protruding from each sleeve extends vertically when folded out in operative position to engage a corresponding slot in a like unit above or below the sleeve, and at least one of the fold-out tabs extends horizontally when in operative position to engage a like unit alongside said sleeve. The tabs and slots are positioned at the corners of the sleeve so that the drawers of individual cabinet units may be inserted and withdrawn either partially or completely in and from the unit any number of times without being blocked by the tabs. When the phrase "corner of the sleeve" is used herein, it shall mean approximately along the line of juncture between a horizontal and vertical side wall of the sleeve at a corresponding longitudinal corner edge of the sleeve.

It also is preferred that all tabs, other than those located at the rear of the sleeve, be located at the front of the sleeve so as to minimize the likelihood of the tabs protruding inside the sleeve in such a way as to interfere with movement of the drawer therein. It is another preferred feature of this invention that the edges of the tabs be curved or inclined in such a way that when the drawer is inserted in the sleeve, a cam action occurs between the rear of the drawer and the edges of the tabs which presses the tabs against the side of the sleeve and thereby obviates any possibility of interference between the tabs and the drawer. As a further feature, fold-in tabs are provided opposite one another in the sides of the drawer to provide dividers which help maintain envelopes contained therein upright and in position in the drawers. A pull-out tab integral with the drawer also may be provided to facilitate withdrawal of the drawer from the sleeve.

It is an important advantage of this invention that both the sleeve and the drawer of the package and cabinet unit may be stamped from a single sheet of inexpensive, relatively stiff and foldable packaging board and then appropriately folded and marked to form the sleeve or drawer as the case may be. The folded parts of the sleeve or drawer may be held in position by an adhesive of the type normally used for this purpose appropriately placed in a conventional manner. Indicia and other markings may be stamped directly on the packaging board. However, if desired, suitable marking paper or labels may be applied thereto for this purpose.

It is highly advantageous that each of the package and cabinet units be interchangeable in construction so that they may be arranged with respect to one another as desired in assembling the cabinet. Since different customers will order different types and sizes of products and will want them arranged differently in the cabinet, it is almost impossible for the manufacturer to predict in advance how the cabinet units will be assembled with respect to one another and normally necessitates interchangeability of the units for forming the cabinet.

Other advantages of this invention will be apparent from the following description and claims taken together with the drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective of a package and cabinet unit according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a reduced view in perspective of a cabinet formed by assembling a number of package and cabinet units according to the embodiment of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is another view in perspective of a portion of the cabinet of FIG. 2, at the enlargement of FIG. 1, showing one of the drawers partially withdrawn for access to its contents;

FIG. 4 is a view in perspective of the package and cabinet unit of FIG. 1 inverted to show the connecting tabs before they are folded out into operative position;

FIG. 5 is a view in perspective of the rear end of the package and cabinet unit of FIG. 4 on a somewhat reduced scale, but still inverted, showing certain details of the construction of the sleeve;

FIG. 6 is a view in perspective illustrating the assembly of three sleeves of the embodiment of the preceding figures;

FIG. 7 is a front sectional view at the enlargement of FIG. 1, as it might be taken along the line 7—7 of FIG. 2 as one vertical row of sleeves is being assembled with the others;

FIG. 8 is a side sectional view taken along the line 8—8 of FIG. 7 and showing the insertion of a drawer into one of the sleeves;

FIG. 9 is a top sectional view taken along the line 9—9 of FIG. 8 showing the cam action between the rear end of the drawer and one of the side tabs as the drawer is being inserted in the sleeve;

FIG. 10 is a view in perspective of one of the fold-out tabs of one sleeve just before it is inserted in the cooperating slot of another sleeve;

FIG. 11 is a view in elevation showing the same tab after it is inserted in the said cooperating slot.

Referring to FIGS. 1–9 of the drawings, there is shown a package and cabinet unit **21** and a corresponding self-supporting cabinet **22** according to a preferred embodiment of this invention wherein the unit is especially adapted to contain interiorly sterilized envelopes containing sterile surgical sutures. This suture package and cabinet unit **21** comprises a sleeve **23** of rectangular cross-section having an open front end **24** and a closed rear end **25**, and a rectangular dispensing drawer **26** adapted to be inserted in and withdrawn from the open front end of the sleeve. The sleeve **23** comprises a plurality of fold-out tabs and a corresponding plurality of positioning slots located in the sleeve in such a way that a plurality of units comprising these sleeves may be joined with one another to arrange their drawers **26** in vertical and horizontal rows and form the suture cabinet **22** by inserting the tabs of one sleeve into the slots of another.

It is an important feature of this invention that both the sleeve **23** and the dispensing drawer **26** of the unit may be formed from conventional paper packaging board. This inexpensive, relatively stiff and foldable paper board, normally called boxboard, may be cut and folded with ease to form the necessary parts. In fact, both the sleeve and the drawer, individually, may be cut and folded from a single sheet of packaging board in accordance with this embodiment.

The dispensing drawer **26** normally is open at the top, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 8, to allow the insertion and removal of suture items therefrom and is closed at the top by insertion of the drawer in the sleeve **23**, as shown in FIG. 1. The drawer comprises a horizontal bottom wall **27** formed by folding and overlapping several parts, and opposite vertical side walls **28** connected by a front end wall **29** and a rear end wall **31**. The parts making up the bottom wall **27** of the drawer are integral with respective portions of some or all of the side and end walls thereof. The front wall **29** of the drawer presents indicia **32** on its front surface which describe fully the contents of the drawer, and a pull-out tab **33** to facilitate withdrawal of the drawer from the cabinet. The manufacturer assembles the drawer **26**, marks the front of it with appropriate indicia **32**, as described above, packs the drawer with the proper suture items, and then inserts the drawer **26** into a sleeve **23** to form the suture package and cabinet unit. This unit may be shipped as is or overwrapped with cellophane or the like to hold the parts together and provide a dust cover. Normally several units are packed together in a carton for shipment and they may be retained in the carton until they are needed for assembly of the suture cabinet.

The dispensing drawer **26** is particularly adapted for storing and dispensing suture items contained in hermetically sealed, interiorly sterilized envelopes **35**. Typically, approximately three dozen envelopes **35**, standing upright and extending transversely between the side walls **28**, may be packed in the drawer **26**. The envelopes **35** are arranged to stand up and extend transversely in the drawer **26** so that they may be withdrawn easily from the front of the drawer when the drawer is only partially withdrawn from the sleeve **23**, as shown in FIG. 3. A set of three pairs of dividers **36** extending inwardly from the side walls of the drawer are provided to assure that the envelopes **35** remain standing after a few or several of them have been removed from the drawer. Each of the dividers **36** is folded inwardly from one of the side walls **28** and is formed by partially cutting the side walls to define three of its edges. The divider **36** remains foldably connected to the side wall along one edge and the uncut portions along the other edges are adapted to be broken by finger pressure as the drawer is being packed to allow the dividers to be folded toward one another. Since the dividers **36** are arranged in three pairs, spaced longitudinally along the side walls of the drawer, the envelopes **35** containing the suture items will be retained in the drawer in four groups located in the four spaces defined by the three pairs of dividers and the front and rear walls **29** and **31** of the drawer. Thus, the envelopes will remain substantially upright until the last is removed from the drawer, thereby facilitating the grasping of the envelopes and their rapid removal from the cabinet when needed during an operating room emergency.

The pull-out tab **33** at the front of the drawer also is only partially cut from the front wall of the drawer by the manufacturer so that it does not protrude from the unit during shipment and handling prior to use. Again, when it is desired to withdraw the drawer from the sleeve, the tab **33** is fully broken from the front wall of the drawer along its curved top edge and folded out for gripping as shown in FIGS. 3 and 8. Also, as shown in these figures, a vertical tab or cover **37** is provided in the folded structure of the drawer behind the withdrawal tab so that when the withdrawal tab is folded out for use, the hole formed by its removal is blocked by the cover. This fully closes the front of the drawer to avoid contamination through the opening that would otherwise be formed and improves the appearance of the front of the drawer.

The sleeve **23** of the suture package and cabinet unit of this invention has a rectangular transverse cross section slightly larger than that of the drawer **26** and is adapted to receive the drawer slidably therein in such a way that the drawer may be inserted in the sleeve to fully enclose its contents and withdrawn at least partially therefrom to provide access to its contents. As mentioned above, the sleeve **23** possesses a plurality of fold-out tabs and a corresponding plurality of positioning slots for connecting it with like sleeves of like units to form the suture cabinet **22**. The sleeve **23** comprises a bottom wall **38**, a top wall **39**, side walls **40**, and a rear wall **30**, which closes the rear end **25** of the sleeve. The tabs are connected to the bottom wall **38** of the sleeve and the slots are presented at the top wall **39** thereof. Each sleeve presents two vertical side tabs **41** and **42** and one horizontal side tab **43**, as well as one vertical rear tab **44**. The words "vertical" and "horizontal," as used to describe the tabs, refer to their folded out, or operative, positions. The fold-out tabs are formed by partially stamping, or cutting out, the out-lines of the tabs from the bottom wall **38** of the sleeve and leaving the tabs uncut and attached to the bottom of the sleeve along folding edges which correspond with the side edges **45** and rear edges **46** of the bottom of the sleeve. The tabs **41**, **42** and **44** are partially cut from the bottom **38** of the sleeve only in that they are still retained in position in the bottom of the sleeve by thin strips, or nibs, **47**, which are not severed during the stamping operation. These nibs **47** hold the tabs flat and in position in the bottom of the sleeve during shipping and prior to assembly of the units to form the cabinet. However, when it is desired to assemble these sleeves, the tabs may be folded out easily into operative position merely by pulling or pushing the tabs with respect to the bottom of the sleeve to break the nibs. Radial cuts **50**, such as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, may be provided to facilitate displacing the bottom **38** of the sleeve from the outside of the unit to grip the tabs and fold them into operative position. Corresponding slots **48** for cooperating with the vertical tabs **41**, **42** and **44** are cut along the side edges of the top wall **39** of the sleeve

where it joins the side walls **40** thereof, and along the rear edge of the sleeve where it joins the rear wall **30** thereof. Thus, when the three vertical tabs **41**, **42** and **44** are folded downwardly into operative position, the sleeve may be assembled with a like sleeve positioned below merely by inserting the tabs into the corresponding three slots **48** in the lower sleeve as illustrated in FIG. 6.

The horizontal side tab **43** is partially cut out of the vertical side tab **41** and has a common folding edge therewith by which it remains connected to the bottom **38** and the adjacent side walls **40** of the sleeve. The horizontal tab **43** is considerably smaller than the vertical tab **41** from which it is cut and a correspondingly smaller, or shorter, slot **49** is provided along the opposite bottom side edge of the sleeve **23** for cooperating with the horizontal tab **43** of an adjacent unit.

As shown most clearly in FIGS. 6 and 7, the side tab **43**, after insertion in the side slot **49** in an adjacent unit, falls within the space **51** formerly occupied by the vertical side tab **42** at this edge of the adjacent unit. Since the tab **43** is folded outwardly from the bottom wall **38** of the sleeve in which it was originally located by approximately 180°, it has a tendency to return toward its original position and therefore to move downwardly into and through the space, or hole **51**, left by the above mentioned vertical side tab. Thus, the side tab **43** presses downwardly upon the top wall **39** of the sleeve below the opening **51** as shown most clearly in FIG. 7. Also as shown in FIG. 7, if the sleeves to be joined are in the bottom horizontal row of units, the side tab **43** presses downwardly upon the top of the vertical side tab which has not been removed from its original position in the adjacent unit.

As shown most clearly in FIGS. 7–9, the vertical side tabs **41** and **42** extend downwardly into the sleeves assembled below them in the suture cabinet and tend to remain extending downwardly and inwardly at a slight angle due to the location of the side walls **40** below the side slots **48**. The vertical side tabs **41** and **42** present inclined curved bottom edges **52** which are adapted to provide a cam action with the rear **31** of the drawer **26** as it is inserted in the sleeve **23** so that movement of the drawer into contact with the inclined curved edges **52** presses the side tabs **41** and **42** against the inside surfaces of the side walls **40** of the sleeve and out of the way of the drawer. Referring in particular to FIGS. 7, 8, and 9, it will be seen that the rear corner **53** of the drawer at one side of the unit first contacts the inclined curved edge **52** of the side tab **42** adjacent the top of the tab **42** and just below the slot **48** in the top corner of the sleeve. At the slot **48** the tab **42** is positioned partially in line with the side wall **40** of the sleeve defining this slot and the above-referred-to rear corner **53** of the drawer first strikes the inclined edge **52** of the tab at a point where the tab **42** is virtually in contact with the adjacent side wall **40** of the sleeve defining the slot, as shown in FIG. 9. Thus, there is room for the above-referred-to corner **53** of the drawer to pass behind, or over, the leading end **54** of the tab. As the drawer **26** moves further into the sleeve **23** it will continue to travel over the remainder of the inclined cam edge **52** of the tab and press, or swing, the whole tab **42** into a substantially vertical position along the side wall **40** of the sleeve.

The above described cam action is facilitated by shoulders **55** provided on the inside surfaces of the opposite side walls **40** of the sleeve at the front end **24** of the sleeve. These shoulders **55** are formed by folding the sheet material, from which the sheet is made, back upon itself to form a rim **56** of double thickness. As shown most clearly in FIG. 8, this rim **56** extends all around the front end, or mouth **24**, of the sleeve, not only along the side surfaces of its side walls. Thus, the shoulders **55** provided by the rim **56** are of double thickness and are located just ahead, or in front, of the leading end **54** of the adjacent vertical side tabs **42** extending into the sleeve from the unit above. The transverse distance between these shoulders **55** is slightly greater than the transverse width of the dispensing drawer **26** in order to allow the drawer to be inserted into the sleeve **23** between the shoulders. Thus, the shoulders **55** act to space the sides of the drawer **26** from the sides of the sleeve **23** by an amount approximately equal to the thickness of the tabs **41** and **42**, which in turn are as thick as the sheet material from which the sleeve is made. As shown most clearly in FIG. 9, this relationship between the side **28** of the drawer **26**, the shoulder **55**, and the vertical side tab **42**, in effect, recesses the front end **54** of the side tab behind the shoulder **55** and assures that the adjacent rear corner **53** of the dispensing drawer first will contact the inclined edge **52** of the tab **42** beyond the front end **54** of the tab to facilitate swinging the tab against the side wall as described hereinbefore.

As mentioned hereinbefore, the vertical rear tab **44** fits into a corresponding slot **48** located in the top rear edge of the sleeve below. The rear wall **30** of the sleeve is formed by folding various parts together, as shown most clearly in FIG. 5. These parts are in the form of flaps which, prior to folding, extend rearwardly from the respective top, bottom, and side walls of the sleeve. These flaps are so shaped that when folded together they provide a recess **57** in the rear wall **30** of the sleeve for receiving the vertical end tab **44** from the unit above, after it is inserted through the end slot in the sleeve. This facilitates insertion of the rear tab **44** through the rear slot and prevents the rear tab from passing inwardly over the rear wall **30** of the sleeve and then climbing over the rear wall **31** of the dispensing drawer **26** located in the sleeve to protrude downwardly into the rear of the drawer. Of course, if, in assembling the units, the rear tab **44** were to pass into the drawer of one of the units, it would tend to prevent that drawer from being withdrawn from the sleeve, especially if the drawer were tightly packed with suture envelopes.

FIGS. 10 and 11 illustrate the way in which the fold-out tabs of one sleeve fit into and cooperate with the cooperating slots of another sleeve for holding the sleeves firmly together. One sleeve is positioned above the other with one of the vertical side tabs **42** folded out so as to extend approximately parallel to the side wall **40** of the sleeve to which it is attached and the tab is located directly above the corresponding cooperating slot **48** in the sleeve below. For purposes of illustration, the tab **42**, shown, may be described as a first fold-out tab, foldably connected to a first corner **101** of the top sleeve, and the cooperating slot **48** may be referred to as located in a second corner **102** of the sleeve below. When the sleeves are formed from foldable sheet material, such as conventional paperboard, the first and second corners of the said sleeves normally would be formed by folds in the sheet material extending longitudinally of the sleeve. In assembling the sleeves to form a cabinet according to this invention, the fold-out tab **42** is adapted to be inserted in the cooperating slot **48** in such a way that the sleeves are held firmly together by the fit of the tab in the slot.

The cooperating slot **48** comprises an opening, or slit, **103** in the second corner **102** of the bottom sleeve. The opening **103** extends longitudinally of the corner and, when the corner **102** is formed by folding sheet material as referred to above, the opening **103** is located in, and extends longitudinally along, the fold forming the corner. The cooperating slot **48** also comprises a pair of cuts **104**; one of which is connected to each end of the opening **103**. Each of the cuts **104** extends away from the corner and outwardly away from the end of the opening to which it is connected. The cuts **104** are located in the side wall **40** of the lower sleeve and extend downwardly and outwardly in said wall away from the ends of the opening **103**. Thus, the over all width of the cooperating slot **48** is defined by the distance between the outermost ends of the cuts **104** and therefore is substantially greater than the width of the opening **103**.

The first fold-out tab **42** comprises a detent portion **105** and a narrower neck portion **106**. The neck portion **106** connects the detent portion to the first corner **101** of the top sleeve. The detent portion **105** is wider than the opening **103** but narrower than the over all width of the cooperating slot **48** measured across the lower ends of the cuts **104**. The detent portion **105** presents a pair of shoulders **107** adjacent to the neck portion **106**. The maximum width of the detent portion is measured across the tips of the shoulders **107**. The side edges **108** of the detent portion **105** above the shoulders **107** are inclined inwardly toward the neck portion **106** of the tab. More specifically, the side edges of the tab above the shoulders **107** are curved inwardly and upwardly toward the first corner **101** to provide the said inclination of the edges of the tab and define the neck portion **106** thereof.

In assembling the sleeves, the lower curved end of the tab **42** is inserted in the opening **103** of the cooperating slot **48** and, since the detent portion **105** of the tab is wider than the opening **103**, continued pressure downwardly upon the tab causes the side wall **40** directly below the opening to flex outwardly slightly about an approximate line Y—Y connecting the lower ends of the inclined cuts **104** to allow the detent portion of the tab to enter the slot **48**. The shoulders **107** of the tab are so located with respect to the first corner **101** of the top sleeve that when the top sleeve is in position on the bottom sleeve, the shoulders are below the lower ends of the slot **104**. Thus, after the detent portion **105** of the tab **42** (including the shoulders **107**) passes the lower ends of the cuts **104**, the tab snaps into the slot and the side wall tends to flex back about the line Y—Y into its normal position. Any forces subsequently tending to separate the sleeves, and thereby to withdraw the first tab **42** from the cooperating slot **48**, serve only to pull the inclined side edges **108** of the detent portion of the tab into engagement with end portions of the slot **48** which block further withdrawal of the tab from the slot. As shown in FIG. 11, if an attempt is made to withdraw the tab **42**, the inclined side edges **108** will quickly engage the inclined cuts **104** at the ends of the slot **48** and thereby block further movement of the tab in this direction. The only way in which the tab can be removed from the slot without breaking or tearing any part of the sleeve is by, somehow, first pressing the tab outwardly sideways against the side wall **40** of the bottom sleeve in such a way as to again flex the wall outwardly about the line Y—Y to allow the shoulders **107** to pass through the ends of the slot **48**. However, this cannot be done merely by pulling one sleeve away from the other and is almost impossible to do accidentally.

Although the package and cabinet unit of this invention has been shown and described in detail in connection with its use for containing sutures, it may also be used for packaging and dispensing from a cabinet a variety of other items; such as other surgical products, nuts, bolts, screws and related hardware items; dried food packaged in envelopes; and any other product which it might be desirable to store or dispense in a number of types or sizes in or from a cabinet formed from the original packages in which the products were shipped without the need for first removing the products from the packages.

Having now described the invention in specific detail and exemplified the manner in which it may be carried into practice, it will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art that innumerable variations, applications, modifications, and extensions of the basic principles involved may be made without departing from its spirit or scope.

The invention claimed is:

1. A package and cabinet unit which comprises a sleeve of rectangular cross section having an open front end, and a rectangular drawer adapted to be inserted in and withdrawn from the open front end of said sleeve, said sleeve comprising a pair of opposed horizontal side walls and a pair of opposed vertical side walls and said horizontal and vertical side walls being joined at the corners of the sleeve to provide a rectangular slide for said drawer, the side walls of said sleeve having a plurality of side fold-out tabs and a corresponding plurality of side positioning slots, said side tabs being foldable sideways outwardly from said side walls and being so located with respect to said side slots that the tabs of one sleeve may be inserted in the slots of another to firmly join a plurality of said sleeves and form a self-supporting cabinet with all units facing in the same direction, the side tabs of the sleeves forming the cabinet protruding through the side walls of adjacent sleeves with which they are assembled and said side tabs presenting inclined edges which are adapted to provide a cam action with the rear of one of said drawers as the drawer is inserted in one of the sleeves so that movement of the rear of the drawer into contact with one of the inclined tabs presses the side tab against an inside surface of the sleeve and out of the way of the drawer, said fold-out tabs in each sleeve being detachably held flat and aligned with a side of said sleeve prior to assembly of the sleeve in the cabinet and being detachable from this position and foldable outwardly from the sleeve while remaining attached thereto for assembly in the cabinet.

2. A package and cabinet unit according to claim **1**, which further comprises shoulders on the inside surfaces of opposite sides of the sleeve at the front of the sleeve for spacing the sides of the drawer from the sides of the sleeve by an amount approximately equal to the thickness of the side tabs.

3. A package and cabinet unit which comprises a sleeve of rectangular cross section having an open front end, and a rectangular drawer adapted to be inserted in and withdrawn from the open front end of said sleeve, said sleeve comprising a pair of opposed horizontal side walls and a pair of opposed vertical side walls and said horizontal and vertical side walls being joined at the corners of the sleeve to provide a rectangular slide for said drawer, the side walls of said sleeve having a plurality of side fold-out tabs and a corresponding plurality of side positioning slots, said side tabs being foldable sideways outwardly from said side walls and being so located with respect to said side side slots that the tabs of one sleeve may be inserted in the slots of another to firmly join a plurality of said sleeves and form a self-supporting cabinet with all units facing in the same direction, said fold-out tabs in each sleeve being detachably held flat and aligned with a side of said sleeve prior to assembly of the sleeve in the cabinet and being detachable from this position and foldable outwardly from the sleeve while remaining attached thereto for assembly in the cabinet, a first side fold-out tab being foldably connected to a first corner of the sleeve and a cooperating side slot being provided in a second corner of the sleeve, the said first side tab of one sleeve being adapted to be inserted in the cooperating slot of another sleeve in forming the cabinet, said cooperating slot comprising an opening in said second corner and extending longitudinally thereof and a pair of cuts, one connected to each end of the opening, extending away from the corner and outwardly away from the ends of the opening in one side of the sleeve, whereby the overall width of the cooperating slot is defined by the distance between the outermost ends of said cuts, said first side tab comprising a detent portion and a narrower neck portion connecting the detent portion to the first corner of the sleeve, said detent portion being wider than said opening but narrower than the overall width of said cooperaing slot.

4. A package and cabinet unit according to claim **3**, wherein the side edges of the detent portion of said first side tab are inclined inwardly toward the neck portion of said tab and the said inclined side edges of said tab

are adapted to contact end portions of the cooperating slot when an attempt is made to withdraw said first side tab from said slot thereby blocking further withdrawal of the tab and assuring that the sleeves are held together firmly in the cabinet.

5. A package and cabinet unit formed from inexpensive, relatively stiff and foldable packaging board which comprises a sleeve of rectangular cross section having an open front end and a closed rear end, and a rectangular drawer adapted to be inserted in and withdrawn from the open front end of said sleeve, said sleeve comprising a pair of opposed horizontal side walls and a pair of opposed vertical side walls and said horizontal and vertical side walls being joined at the corners of the sleeve to provide a rectangular slide for said drawer, the side walls of said sleeve having a plurality of side fold-out tabs and a corresponding plurality of side positioning slots, said side tabs being integral with the side walls of the sleeve and being formed by partially cutting them from a side wall of the sleeve, the side tabs remaining foldably connected to the sleeve along a folding edge of each tab and being partially cut from the side walls of said sleeve forming cut and uncut portions along the remaining edges of each tab, the uncut portions along said remaining edges being adapted to be broken to allow said tabs to be folded sideways outwardly from said walls into operative position for assembling said units in the cabinet, at least one side fold-out tab extending vertically and at least one side fold-out tab extending horizontally when the side tabs are folded out into operative positions for assembly of the unit into the cabinet, and said slots are located for receiving corresponding side tabs extending vertically and horizontally from adjacent sleeves having corresponding side tabs and slots, whereby adjacent units may be connected vertically and horizontally with one another to form a stable cabinet comprising a number of units all facing in the same direction, said side tabs and slots being positioned at the corners of the sleeves in such a way as to allow the drawers to be inserted and withdrawn in and from the unit without being blocked by said tabs, one of the vertically extending side fold-out tabs located along the sides of the unit having a common folding edge with one of the horizontally extending side fold-out tabs and said common folding edge extending along one corner of the sleeve.

6. A package and cabinet unit formed from inexpensive, relatively stiff and foldable packing board which comprises a sleeve of rectangular cross section having an open front end and a closed rear end, and a rectangular drawer adapted to be inserted in and withdrawn from the open front end of said sleeve, said sleeve comprising a pair of opposed horizontal side walls and a pair of opposed vertical side wall and said horizontal and vertical side walls being joined at the corners of the sleeve to provide a rectangular slide for said drawer, the side walls of said sleeve having a plurality of side fold-out tabs and a corresponding plurality of side positioning slots, said side tabs being foldable sideways outwardly from said side walls and being so located with respect to said side slots that the tabs of one sleeve may be inserted in the slots of another to firmly join a plurality of said sleeves and form a self-supporting cabinet with all units facing in the same direction, said side tabs being integral with the side walls of the sleeve and being formed by partially cutting them from a side wall of the sleeve, the side tabs remaining foldably connected to the sleeve along a folding edge of each tab and being partially cut from the side walls of said sleeve forming cut and uncut portions along the remaining edges of each tab, the uncut portions along said remaining edges being adapted to be broken to allow said tabs to be folded out into operative position for assembling said units in the cabinet, said side tabs and slots being positioned at the corners of the sleeve and the side tabs of the sleeves forming the cabinet protruding through the side walls of adjacent sleeves with which they are assembled and said side tabs presenting inclined edges which are adapted to provide a cam action with the rear of one of said drawers as the drawer is inserted in one of the sleeves to press one of the inclined tabs against an inside surface of the sleeve and out of the way of the drawer, said sleeve presenting shoulders on the inside surfaces of opposite sides of the sleeve at the front of the sleeve for spacing the sides of the drawer from the sides of the sleeve by an amount approximately equal to the thickness of the inclined tabs, whereby the rear of the drawer more easily displaces the inclined tabs into contact with a side surface of the sleeve.

7. A package and cabinet unit according to claim 6, wherein said shoulders are formed by folding the packaging board back upon itself to form a rim of double thickness at the front of the sleeve.

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