Nov. 1, 1960 E. F. COLLINS 2,958,453

BOXES

Filed June 20, 1958

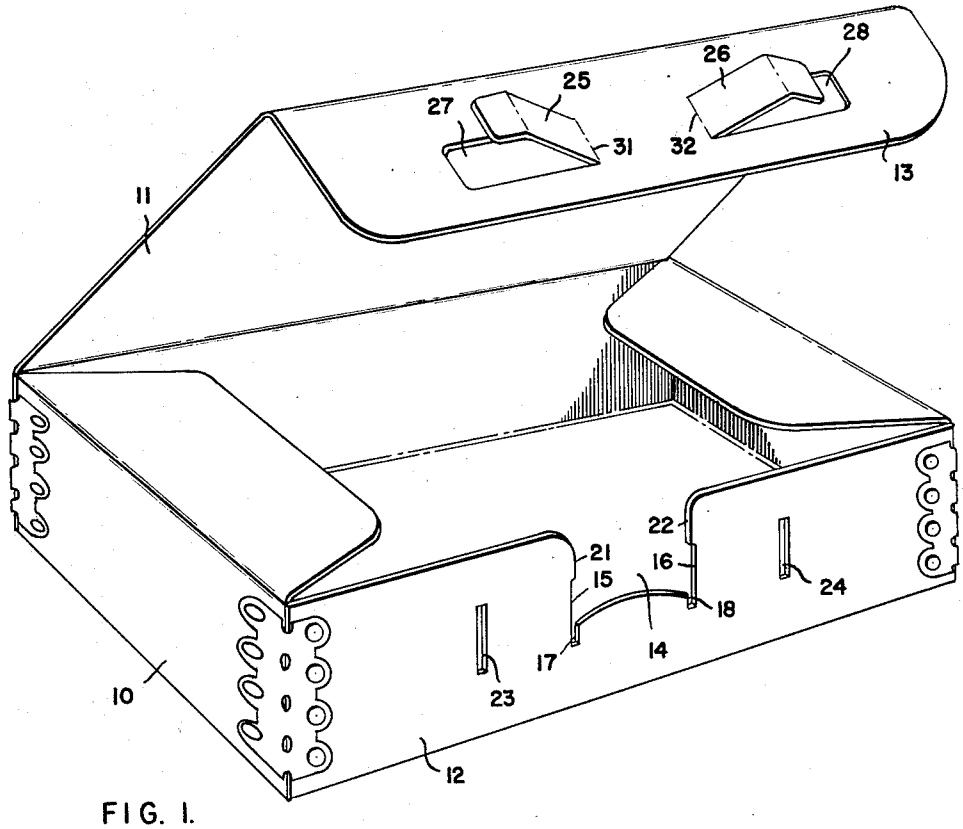


FIG. 1.

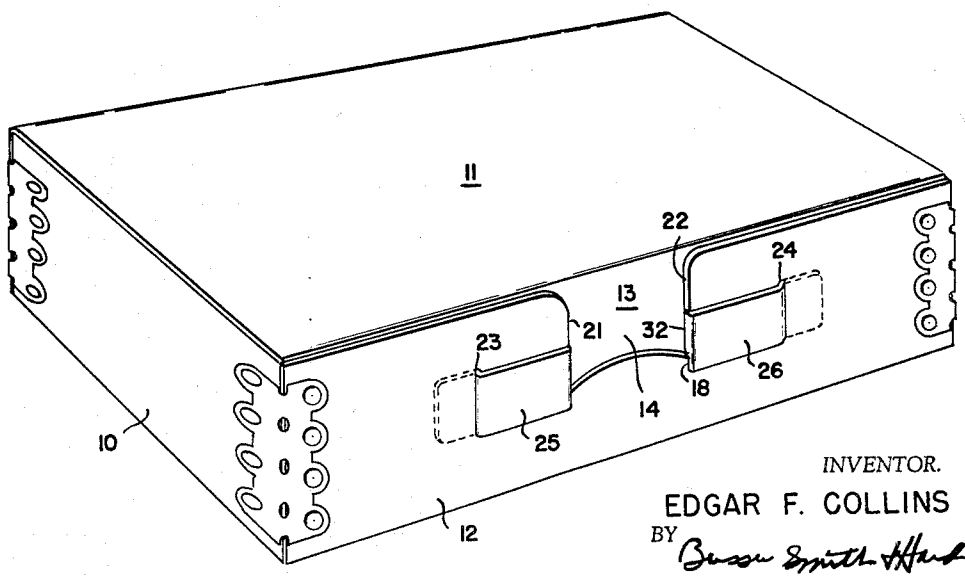


FIG. 2.

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BOXES

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4 Claims. (Cl. 229—45)

This invention pertains generally to packages, and more particularly to a package having a lock as a part of its structure.

The package in accordance with this invention is simple and economical to construct, and at the same time, by virtue of its construction, is durable in use. It affords locking features of excellent holding power, with a type of lock permitting the package to be easily opened and closed as many times as desired, without any tearing or other destruction of the package, or of its lock. Thus the package may be reused as many times as desired.

Generally speaking the package according to this invention may be constructed of any suitable material, for example, heavy paperstock, cardboard, fibreboard, or the like. It is particularly adapted for mailing in that it can be easily opened for postal inspection of its contents, and easily closed and securely relocked.

Another outstanding feature of the invention resides in the design and operation of the locking mechanism, and the protection afforded against accidental opening of the package during handling, such as in the mail.

Further features of the invention will become apparent to persons skilled in the art from the following detailed description made in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the package in open position; and

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the package in closed and locked position.

In the drawings the package is illustrated as comprised of a body section **10** having a cover **11** shown integral therewith. Except for its front wall **12**, the body section **10** may be of any desired design and construction, and the same applies to the cover **11**, except for the downwardly extending flange **13** shown integral therewith.

Front wall **12** is provided with a cut-out portion or recess **14** at its center, and extending downwardly from its top edge, on opposite sides of which recess are located slots **15** and **16**. Slots **15** and **16** are open to, that is extend outwardly from, recess **14**, and preferably extend downwardly below recess **14**, as shown at **17** and **18** respectively. Slots **15** and **16** are bounded at their tops by overhanging projections **21** and **22**, respectively.

Front wall **12** is also provided with vertical slits **23** and **24** on opposite sides of, and spaced from, recess **14**.

Flange **13** is provided with spaced, elongated, horizontal tabs **25** and **26** which extend outwardly, one tab on each side of the center of said flange. Tabs **25** and **26** preferably are formed from flange **13** itself by punching, cutting or the like, thus leaving openings **27** and **28**, respectively, in flange **13**. The uncut portion at the base of each tab is represented by lines **31** and **32**, respectively, and such portions are preferably the same distance apart, within reasonable approximation, as the slots **15** and **16**.

Upon closing the package, e.g. from its position as illustrated in Figure 1, the cover is brought down, and

flange **13** is slipped behind front wall **12**. Tabs **25** and **26** pass between overhanging projections **21** and **22**, and enter slots **15** and **16**. The ends of tabs **25** and **26** are then passed through slits **23** and **24**, respectively, and, when formed from flange **13**, pass through openings **27** and **28**, respectively, in flange **13**, thus affording an additional locking feature. The flexible and resilient characteristics of the stock from which the package is made permit the foregoing manipulations to be carried out with ease, including the passing of tabs **25** and **26** past projections **21** and **22**.

The dimensions of slots **15** and **16** and of slits **23** and **24** are preferably such as to fit more or less closely about tabs **25** and **26**.

Overhanging projections **21** and **22** which preferably extend inwardly of recess **14** a distance equal to from 1 to 3 times the thickness of the tabs, such as 1 times such thickness, hold tabs **25** and **26** down in their respective slots **15** and **16**, and when slots **15** and **16** extend downwardly below recess **14**, the tabs are locked in place. Moreover, by virtue of the ends of tabs **25** and **26** projecting into openings **27** and **28**, an additional locking feature is provided.

The package of this invention may partake of any desired dimensions in height, length and width to meet the preferences of the user and/or the demands of the goods to be packaged, particularly in the fields in which packages of the type under discussion are employed, and while particular reference has been made to heavy paperstock, cardboard, and fibreboard (referred to for convenience as "cardboard") it is to be understood that any other material possessing similar characteristics of flexibility and resiliency may be substituted. The lock when the package is closed is outstanding in strength, and in its ability to remain in locked position despite the amount of handling. On the other hand it may be easily opened and closed, and is of unusual durability.

It will be understood that, although the invention has been described more particularly in connection with a package having a cover attached to one edge of its body section, this is not an indispensable feature, for it is obvious that the construction at the front of the package may be duplicated at the rear of the package, and/or on each side of the package, to provide a removable cover, without departing from the invention.

Having particularly described the invention, it is to be understood that this is by way of illustration, and that changes, omissions, additions, substitutions and/or modifications may be made without departing from the spirit thereof. Accordingly it is intended that the patent shall cover, by suitable expression in the claims, the various features of patentable novelty that reside in the invention.

I claim:

1. A receptacle comprising a body section including an upright front wall having formed therein a recess opening on the top edge thereof, a pair of slots extending downwardly from the bottom of said recess respectively on opposite sides thereof, and a pair of vertically extending slits disposed respectively upon opposite sides of said recess, and a pair of projections extending inwardly toward one another respectively from opposite sides of said recess and overhanging said slots, and a cover attached to said body section at the rear of the latter including a flange extending downwardly on the inner side of said upright front wall, and a pair of tabs carried by said flange and extending horizontally outwardly from one another in opposite directions, said tabs being spaced from one another a distance substantially corresponding to the distance between said slots, each of said tabs being of a width to fit snugly between the lower terminal edge of the associated slot and the overlying one of said projections, and of a length to extend horizontally from said recess for pro-

jection through the associated one of said slits, being snugly received by the latter.

2. A receptacle comprising a body section including an upright front wall having formed therein a recess opening on the top edge thereof, a pair of slots extending downwardly from the bottom of said recess respectively on opposite sides thereof, and a pair of vertically extending slits disposed respectively upon opposite sides of said recess, and a pair of projections extending inwardly toward one another respectively from opposite sides of said recess and overhanging said slots, and a cover attached to said body section at the rear of the latter including a flange extending downwardly on the inner side of said upright front wall, and a pair of tabs struck from said flange and extending horizontally outwardly from one another in opposite directions, said tabs being spaced from one another a distance substantially corresponding to the distance between said slots, each of said tabs being of a width to fit snugly between the lower terminal edge of the associated slot and the overlying one of said projections, and of a length to extend horizontally from said recess for projection through the associated one of said slits, being snugly received by the latter.

3. A receptacle comprising a body section including an upright front wall having formed therein a recess opening on the top edge thereof, a pair of slots extending downwardly from the bottom of said recess respectively on opposite sides thereof, and a pair of vertically extending slits disposed respectively upon opposite sides of said recess, and a pair of projections extending inwardly toward one another respectively from opposite sides of said recess and overhanging said slots, and a cover attached to said body section at the rear of the latter including a flange extending downwardly on the inner side of said upright front wall, and a pair of tabs struck from said flange and thereby leaving therein corresponding tab openings, said tabs extending horizontally outwardly from one another in opposite directions, and being spaced from one another a distance substantially corresponding to the distance between said slots, each of said tabs being of a width corresponding substantially to the distance between the lower terminal edge of the associated slot and the overlying one of said projections, and to the length of the corresponding slit, and of a length to extend horizontally from said recess for projection through the associated one of said slits and tab openings.

4. A receptacle comprising a body section including an upright front wall having formed therein a recess opening on the top edge thereof, and a pair of vertically extending slits spaced from said top edge and disposed respectively upon opposite sides of said recess, and a pair of projections extending inwardly toward one another respectively from opposite sides, and disposed above the bottom, of said recess, and a cover attached to said body section at the rear of the latter including a flange extending downwardly on the inner side of said upright front wall, and a pair of tabs carried by said flange and extending horizontally outwardly from one another in opposite directions, said tabs being spaced from one another a distance substantially corresponding to the width of said recess under said projections, each of said tabs being of a width to fit snugly between the bottom of said recess and the overlying one of said projections, and of a length to extend horizontally from said recess for projection through the associated one of said slits, being snugly received by the latter.

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