

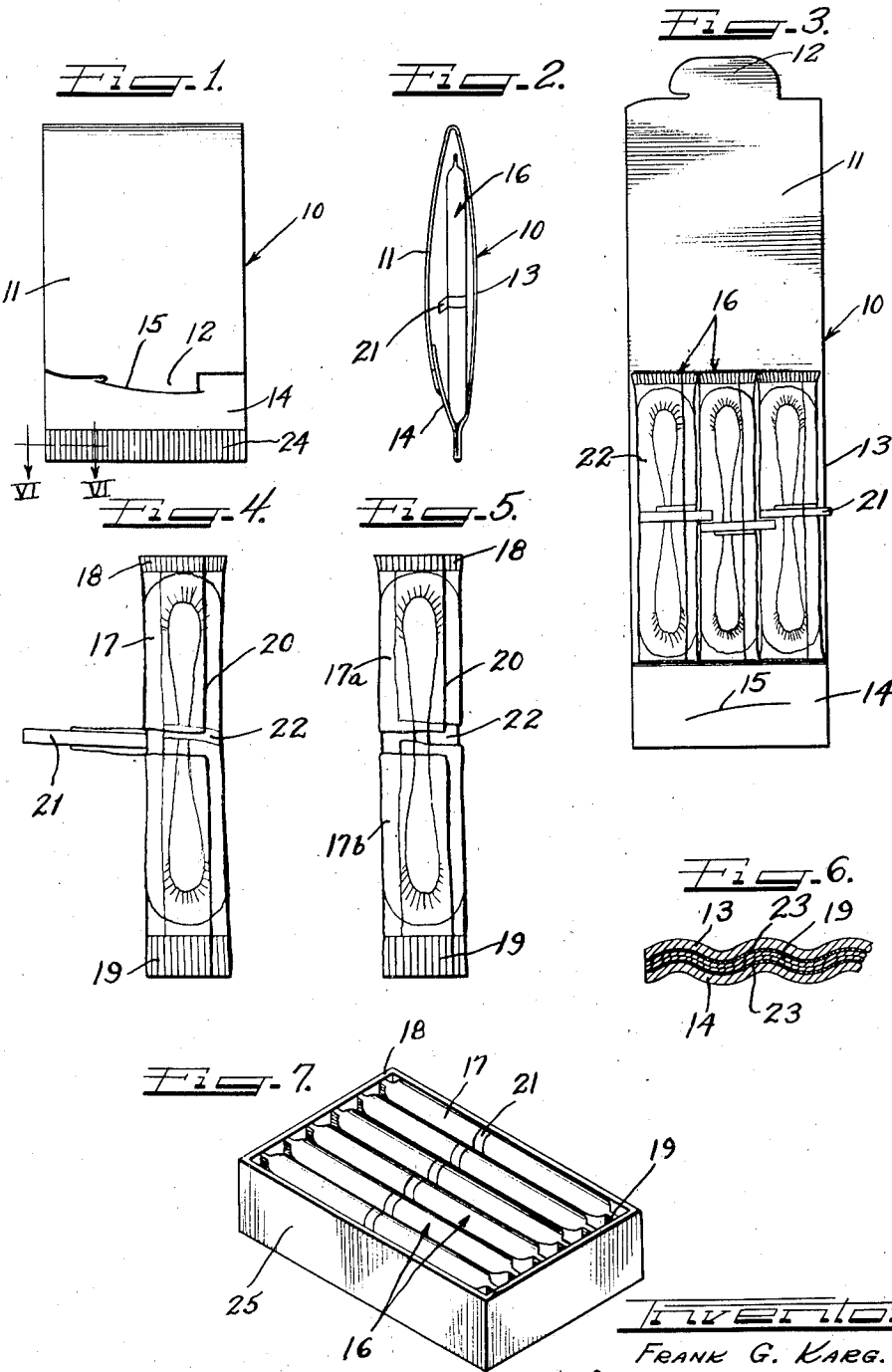
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PROPHYLACTIC SHEATH PACKAGE

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Fig.

Fig.

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PROPHYLACTIC SHEATH PACKAGE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 206—56)

This invention relates to improvements in a prophylactic sheath package, and more particularly to a novel, handy package for the sale or dispensing of prophylactic sheaths, although the invention may have other uses and purposes, as will be apparent to one skilled in the art.

Heretofore, in the packaging of prophylactic sheaths, difficulty has been experienced in providing a simple form of package, easily carried, and in which the sheath is ready for use and kept in a sanitary, hermetically sealed condition, and in which the package is simple in construction, readily opened, and adequately protects the sheath until desired for use.

With the foregoing in mind, it is an important object of the present invention to provide a package in which a rolled prophylactic sheath is contained in a flimsy, substantially transparent wrapper which is hermetically sealed throughout and which is provided with means for readily opening the same to remove the sheath.

Also an object of this invention is the provision of a prophylactic sheath package which is a flimsy, non-rigid packet, hermetically sealed throughout, and which is provided with a simple form of tear-strip by which the same may be easily and quickly opened.

Another object of the invention resides in the provision of a prophylactic sheath package in which an outside folder is incorporated and one or more prophylactic sheaths contained in the simple folder, each sheath being encased in a flimsy, substantially transparent, non-rigid wrapper provided with a tear-tab for opening the same and secured to the folder by a sealed margin of the wrapper.

Still another feature of the invention resides in a simple, non-rigid package of the character described, wherein a flimsy, substantially transparent, non-rigid wrapper is hermetically sealed about a resilient object under compression, so that the object exerts a pressure against the wrapper, the wrapper being equipped with a suitable form of tear-strip for opening the same and removing the object.

While some of the more salient features, characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been above pointed out, others will become apparent from the following disclosures, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a prophylactic sheath package embodying principles of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the structure seen in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an inside view of the package of Figure 1, showing the cover moved to open position;

Figure 4 is an enlarged view of a single sheath package removed from the holder seen in Figures 1, 2 and 3, and showing the same in partially opened position;

Figure 5 is similar to Figure 4 but showing the package in fully opened position without the separated portions of the package being removed from the contents;

Figure 6 is a greatly enlarged plan sectional view taken substantially as indicated by the line VI—VI of Figure 1;

Figure 7 is a view in projection showing the individual sheath packages in a different form of outer covering or closure members.

As shown on the drawing:

With reference to Figures 1, 2 and 3, it will be seen that in the illustrated embodiment of this invention there is shown an outside folder or protective covering generally indicated by numeral 10. This covering 10 may be made of suitable cardboard, pasteboard, or equivalent or suitable substance and which is preferably light in weight, consistent with its performance of protective function. More specifically, the outer cover 10 includes a flap 11 carrying thereon a locking tab 12, which flap overlies the front of the contents of the wrapper. Integral with the front flap 11 is a back member 13, which extends down and is turned upwardly in the nature of a reversely bent flange or margin 14 appearing on the front of the entire package and provided with a suitable slot 15 for reception of the locking tab 12.

Contained within the folder 10 is one or more individual packages or packets each containing a prophylactic sheath. With reference more particularly to Figures 4 and 5, it will be seen that each of these individual packages, generally indicated in Figure 3 by numeral 16, embodies a flimsy, substantially transparent and flexible wrapper or envelope 17. This wrapper may be made of a regenerated cellulose, waterproofed, or equivalent material. The wrapper or envelope is so folded as to be hermetically sealed throughout. In the illustrated instance, the wrapper is made of a substantially rectangular shaped sheet folded so as to provide a pair of opposed sealed and crimped marginal portions 18 and 19 and a side seam 20 extending between the margins 18 and 19. The side seam is made by overlapping

end marginal portions of the sheet and may be secured by heat sealing or by any suitable form of adhesive, in the same manner that the marginal portions 19 and 20 are secured.

In an intermediate location, that is, at any desirable point between the margins 18 and 19, the wrapper 17 carries a suitable tear strip 21 which may be of material similar to the wrapper 17 but which is preferably of somewhat heavier stock. The strip 21 is glued to the inside of the wrapper 17 and is of sufficient length to leave a portion freely projecting after the wrapper has been hermetically sealed therearound, this projecting portion being seen clearly in Figures 2 and 3.

Inside the wrapper 17 is a rolled prophylactic sheath 22 which naturally tends to assume a substantially circular contour, but which has been diametrically pressed into the contour shown in Figures 4 and 5. The inherent tendency of the rolled sheath is to expand to its natural substantially circular contour, owing to the fact that it is preferably made of latex, rubber, or equivalent resilient material. Thus, the packaged sheath does exert some pressure against the side wall of the wrapper 17, so that the sheath itself will tend to aid in initially holding the wrapper therearound, and ultimately, after a portion of the wrapper has been removed, to expand out of the remaining portion of the wrapper to render still easier its removal from the wrapper.

It will be appreciated that the wrapper 17 is of extremely flimsy and flexible material, and that the sheath itself is not by any means rigid, but is also an extremely flexible object, so that the individual package itself is a rather flimsy, non-rigid construction equipped with a tear strip.

In operation, assuming that an individual package has been removed from the outer protective cover 10, it is a simple expedient to pull the intermediately located tear-tab 21 as illustrated in Figure 4, and continuing to thus tear the wrapper 17 or separate it into two portions, as seen on Figure 5, upon completion of the removal of the tear strip. Then, either of the remaining pieces 17a or 17b (Figure 5) may be first removed and the prophylactic sheath will tend to expand out of the remaining piece, thus greatly enhancing the removal of the remaining piece.

It will be further noted that the crimped and sealed marginal portion 19 affords a means for attaching the individual package to the overall protective cover 10, as illustrated more particularly in Figure 6. The margin 19 may be inserted closely into the fold between the reversely turned flange or marginal portion 14 and the back wall 13 of the overall cover 10. If so desired, a line of glue 23 may be provided on either or both sides of the crimped and sealed margin 19, and then a margin of the cover portion itself may be crimped as indicated at 24 in Figure 1, and shown greatly enlarged in Figure 6, over the margin 19 of the wrapper 17. This crimping, plus the addition of one or more stripes of glue effects a sufficient connection between the individual packet and the protective wrapper or cov-

er 10. Of course, the ultimate sealing of the individual package may be effected at the same time the margin 24 of the protective cover and the margin 19 of the packet are crimped together, by heat sealing or otherwise.

In Figure 7 I have illustrated another form of packaging the individual prophylactic sheath packets or packages. In this instance I have taken a number of the individual packages 16 and encased them in a suitable cardboard box or the equivalent 25, to which box, of course, a lid or cover may be applied. The structure of Figure 7 would preferably be used when a larger number of the individual packages 16 are to be retailed at the same time.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that I have provided a novel prophylactic sheath package, which, in the aggregate, is a flimsy, non-rigid construction and yet equipped with a suitable tear-strip for readily opening the package. The package is hermetically sealed throughout, and the manner of sealing the package at one end provides a means by which the individual package may readily be attached to and within an outer protective cover member.

It will, of course, be understood that various details of construction may be varied through a wide range without departing from the principles of this invention, and it is, therefore, not the purpose to limit the patent granted hereon otherwise than necessitated by the scope of the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A sealed prophylactic sheath package, said package including an elongated wrapper of flimsy and substantially transparent non-metallic material, a resilient prophylactic sheath rolled and bent diametrically in said wrapper in a manner to cause said sheath to exert pressure against the wrapper by the inherent tendency of the rolled sheath to assume a circular contour, a tear strip in said wrapper wound transversely about said sheath and having a tab extending externally of said wrapper, said strip having a portion thereof secured to said wrapper and being disposed intermediate the ends of said wrapper, the pressure of said sheath aiding in severance of the wrapper by said tear strip.

2. A prophylactic sheath package, including a wrapper of flimsy substantially transparent and non-metallic material, a resilient prophylactic sheath rolled and bent diametrically in said wrapper in a manner to exert pressure against the wrapper by the tendency of said sheath to expand to circular contour, said wrapper being hermetically sealed at each end and along a side seam, and a tear strip in said wrapper and secured thereto in position to transversely divide said wrapper into two separate parts when pulled and aided by the pressure of said sheath, said tear strip having an end thereof projecting beyond the side seam edge of said wrapper in a position of ready access at all times.

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