

(No Model.)

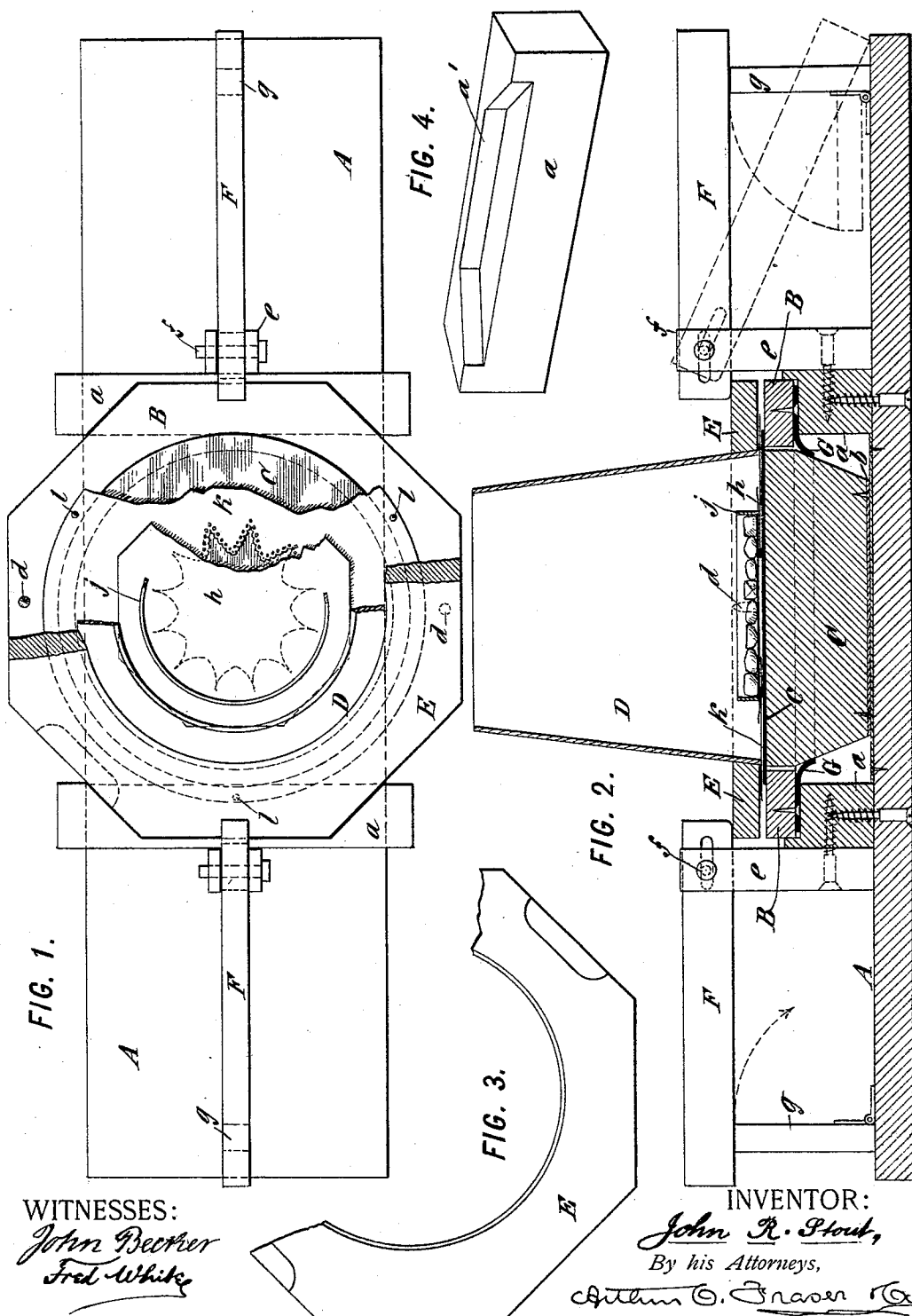
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. R. STOUT.

PROCESS OF AND APPARATUS FOR PACKING CONFECTIONERY, &c.

No. 500,303.

Patented June 27, 1893.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PROCESS OF AND APPARATUS FOR PACKING CONFECTIONERY, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 500,303, dated June 27, 1893.

Application filed April 18, 1892. Serial No. 429,550. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN R. STOUT, a citizen of the United States, residing in Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Processes of and Apparatus for Packing Confectionery, &c., of which the following is a specification.

This invention involves an improved process or method for packing confectionery and analogous substances, and an apparatus for facilitating the execution of the process.

My present invention constitutes a development of the method of packing confectionery claimed in my Patent No. 342,473, dated May 25, 1886. The method therein disclosed consists in inverting the body or neck of the box, then packing it wrong side up preferably with the cover applied to it so that the top layer of candies is arranged against a flat surface, and subsequently applying the box bottom and inverting the box, whereby the top layer is given an attractive appearance by reason of the smooth surface presented by the candies by reason of their having been packed by laying against a plane surface. This method has also the advantage that in case a given weight of confections does not quite fill the package, the remaining space, which is filled with cut paper, excelsior, or such other packing material, is at the bottom of the package so that the filling material is not visible. As illustrated in my said patent the package is constructed of a box having a top and bottom and an interposed body or neck constructed as a frame open at both ends.

My present invention involves the same method of packing, with, however, such modification as is required to adapt it to the specifically different shape and construction of containing receptacle employed.

In practicing my present invention, the preferred form or construction of receptacle is a pail or bucket of wood or other suitable material, and the neck is of pasteboard or other suitable thin material, made in conical form to fit accurately within the coned body of the pail, which constitutes the bottom member of the receptacle. The top member or cover thereof consists of a disk of wood or other

suitable material adapted to be fastened down against the top edge of the pail, and preferably constructed with a slightly projecting boss on its under side to enter within the top edge of the pail. My invention, however is also applicable to the packing of packages of other shapes, either circular, square, or polygonal, and the sides of which are either parallel, coned or pyramidal as may be desired.

My present invention also employs by preference the combined continuous lace and liner claimed in my Patent No. 397,446, dated February 5, 1889. In practicing my present invention, I apply this continuous lace and liner, or any other suitable sheet of fabric, as a covering for the top layer of confections. This lace or covering fabric is made in a sheet larger than the top end of the neck, and its projecting edges are turned against and gummed to the outer side of the neck, so that in the completed package this gummed portion comes between the neck and the body of the pail, where it is concealed from view.

Having thus indicated the general nature of my invention and its relation to my aforesaid patents, I will now proceed to describe my improved process of packing in detail.

The packing is done on any suitable flat surface, which may be either an inverted cover, or preferably a board or small table having the same shape as the upper end of the receptacle. On this board or table is placed a sheet of any suitable top covering fabric, preferably my aforesaid combined continuous lace and liner. Ordinarily this lace and liner or other fabric has a central opening in order that the candies may be seen through it. Over this opening is placed a sheet of waxed paper or other transparent or semi-transparent material. On this waxed paper the top layer of candies is arranged. Preferably the top layer of candies is placed upon the waxed paper in advance, and the paper carrying the top layer is then placed upon the covering fabric. The top layer ordinarily consists of candies arranged with especial care in order to present a neat and attractive appearance, in some instances being arranged to form some geometrical design, as a star for example. To facilitate the arrangement of the top layer, and to

prevent the displacement of the candies thereof during the operation of transferring the waxed paper and top layer into place over the covering fabric, I arrange the top layer within a ring or frame, preferably of metal. In practice the top layers are made up in quantities ready for use in the packing operation, each top layer being arranged on a piece of waxed paper supported on a sheet of tin. In the packing operation, after having arranged the top covering fabric in position, one of the top layers is carried to it on its sheet of tin, and is slid off therefrom into position on the covering fabric preferably by placing it thereover and then holding the wax paper with one hand while sliding out the sheet of tin with the other. The waxed paper with its top layer of candies being brought to the center of the opening in the lace paper or other covering fabric, the neck consisting of a shell of pasteboard fitting the interior of the receptacle to be packed, is inverted and laid upon the covering fabric and properly centered and held down firmly in place. Then one or two scoopfuls of candy are dropped into the neck, sufficient to fill the space around the outside of the top layer and partly cover the latter so as to prevent its displacement. Thereupon the guiding ring inclosing the top layer, being now no longer needed, is lifted out. The remainder of the candy is then filled into the neck and continually shaken down, until the proper weight has been introduced. If the neck be not then entirely filled, the remaining space is filled by inserting a packing of cut paper, excelsior or other suitable filling material. The projecting edges of the lace paper or other covering fabric are then gummed to the exterior of the neck, preferably by applying gum to the neck (or to the covering fabric) and then bending the edge of the covering fabric upward and pressing it against the neck. To facilitate this operation and avoid tearing the lace paper or covering fabric, the packing is done upon a sheet of flexible material, preferably vulcanized india-rubber, and this sheet is bent upward and around the neck thereby carrying up the projecting edge or flange of the covering fabric and pressing it against the neck. The wooden pail or other bottom member of the receptacle is then inverted and applied over the neck, whereupon the board or table on which the packing has been done, and the pail or bottom member of the receptacle are turned over together to bring the package right side up. The packing board is then lifted off, thereby disclosing the package with the symmetrically arranged top layer visible through the opening in the top covering fabric, whereby an attractive appearance is given to the package. The permanent cover is then put in place and nailed or otherwise fastened to the pail or other bottom member. In the case of a pail for transportation of candy in wholesale quantities, this fastening down of the cover is preferable, but in the case of smaller packages

covers may be used having exterior flanges, in which case it will be sufficient to simply apply the cover in place.

My improved method of packing enables the packing operation to be performed very rapidly, while attaining the most attractive appearance of the confections upon opening the completed package, retaining fully the advantage of the invention claimed in my Patent No. 397,446, in that the contents of the package cannot be removed or tampered with without such tampering being at once apparent, and enables the packing operation to be performed so economically as to make it practical for packing candies in wholesale quantities.

For facilitating the practice of my improved process and enabling the packing to be so rapidly performed as to reduce the cost of putting up the packages to within a practicable limit, my invention provides an improved apparatus for use in the packing of confectionery according to my improved process. This apparatus is shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a plan of the apparatus partly broken away. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section thereof showing it in use. Fig. 3 is an inverted plan of the neck holder ring. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the cleats. Figs. 5 and 6 are vertical sections in the same plane as Fig. 2 but showing different stages of the operation. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the completed package, the cover being partly raised. Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing the top layer before it is applied. Fig. 9 is a fragmentary cross-section showing a modification.

The apparatus is a portable one designed to be fixed upon a work bench and to be conveniently lifted therefrom and placed upon scales in order to weigh the package.

In the preferred construction, the apparatus is constructed on a foundation board A which extends longitudinally thereof. Fixed transversely to this board are two cleats *a a*, one of which is shown in perspective in Fig. 4. Each of these cleats has a socket or recess *a'* cut out on its top, and an open ring B of wood or other suitable material is removably placed in the socket *a'*, the socket serving to hold it centrally in position. This ring B has a central opening slightly larger than the top end of the neck or lining of the package. Into this central opening is dropped a block or packing board C, which serves as a temporary cover on which to do the packing, and which should be of such thickness that its top surface is about flush with that of the ring B. Its shape and dimensions conform closely to those of the larger or top end of the neck. The upper side of the base board A, and the under side of the block C are preferably faced with metal plates *b b'* to take the wear. On the top of the block is placed or attached a sheet *c* of some suitable flexible material, preferably vulcanized indiarubber,

the edges of which project some distance beyond the periphery of the block so as to bridge over the gap or space between the block and the ring B, the projecting portion or flange of the flexible sheet *c* resting on the top of this ring.

D designates the neck, otherwise called the packing body or lining of the package. This neck being overturned and placed on the block C, a ring E is passed down over it to hold it centrally in place. The opening in this ring E is made a close fit with the larger end of the neck, being beveled to conform to the taper thereof. In order to center it accurately with the ring B, the latter is provided with projecting dowels *d d* which enter corresponding sockets in the ring E. Thus the accurate centering of the neck D relatively to the block C and ring B is insured. Fig. 3 shows the ring E inverted. To hold the ring E down firmly in place, and thereby to hold the neck D with sufficient firmness to enable the candies to be properly packed within it and shaken down, a fastening device is provided for forcing down the ring E tightly against the block or temporary cover C. This fastening device consists preferably of two levers F F on diametrically opposite sides having slotted ends engaged by pins *ff* fixed in the upper ends of bifurcated posts *ee*, and props *g g* hinged to the base board A, which when turned up throw up the outer or long arms of the levers F F and consequently press down their inner and short arms to bear upon the inner side of the ring E, as shown in full lines in Fig. 2. To release the ring E the props are turned down, whereupon the outer ends of the levers drop, and by pushing them outwardly to the position shown in dotted lines to the right in Fig. 2, they are moved far enough apart to enable the ring to be lifted up freely between them. The posts *ee* are fixed rigidly in position by being secured to the base board A, preferably through the medium of the cleats *a*. Other mechanical devices might readily be substituted as means for pressing down the neck holder ring E.

To the under side of the ring B is fixed a wiper G consisting preferably of a sheet of flexible indiarubber having a central opening considerably smaller than that in the ring B, and smaller than the larger end of the neck D. The block C is preferably beveled on its lower side, and is dropped into place after putting the ring B in place, so that in so doing it presses the inner edge of this wiper G downwardly as shown in Fig. 2. The purpose of the wiper will be hereinafter explained.

I will now describe the operation of packing by the aid of this machine:—Preferably the first operation is that of making the top layers ready for packing. This is most economically done distinct from the operation of packing, and by a separate operative. The operative takes a piece of waxed paper or other suitable material shown at *h* and lays it on a sheet of tin or other suitable material

shown at *i* in Fig. 8. On this then is laid a ring *j* of sufficiently rigid material, and the candies constituting the top layer are then arranged on the waxed paper within this ring. Preferably a number of these top layers, completed as shown in Fig. 8, are supplied to the packers in readiness for their use in the packing operation.

The packing machine is preferably operated by two men. Its base is laid on a table or bench and the ring B is placed in position, after which the block C is dropped down through it into place. A sheet of lace paper, or combined lace and liner or other suitable top covering fabric, shown best at *k* in Fig. 1, is then laid on the table formed by the ring B and block C. Ordinarily this covering fabric has a central opening with an ornamented edge or fringe, somewhat as indicated in Fig. 1, and in order to bring this central opening into concentric position and retain it there accurately, the ring B is provided with three or other suitable number of gage pins *ll*, and the sheets of fabric *k* are punched with coinciding holes, so that by engaging these holes by the pins the sheet is properly centered. One of the operators will then take up a top layer shown in Fig. 8 and place it over the lace paper, slipping the sheet of tin out from under the top layer by holding the edge of the waxed paper *h* with one hand while drawing out the sheet of tin with the other. He may then move the top layer to an exactly central position. The top layer should be of sufficiently large diameter to entirely cover the central opening in the lace paper, but the ring *j* should be sufficiently smaller than the smaller end of the neck D so that it can be easily lifted out through the latter after the neck is put in place. The workman will then place a neck D in position and pass the holding ring E down over it, centering it properly by means of the dowels *d d*, whereby the neck is centered relatively to the lace paper. By then turning up the levers F F the ring E is pressed firmly down so that the neck is held from moving. One or two scoopsfuls of confectionery will then be carefully introduced so as to fill the space around the top layer within the ring *j*, and to sufficiently cover the top layer to prevent the candies being displaced in the subsequent filling of the neck. This being done the ring *j* will be lifted out. The men then rapidly shovel in the candy to fill the neck, shaking down the package meanwhile until they have filled in approximately the correct weight. They then place the apparatus on a scale, and making proper allowance for the tare of the apparatus, they add or abstract sufficient candies to bring the package to the correct weight. Thereupon a sheet of paper or other material is placed over the mass of candy, and any space intervening between this and the bottom or smaller end of the neck, is filled with excelsior or other suitable filling material.

The next operation is that of gumming the

projecting edge of the lace paper or top covering fabric to the exterior of the neck. To do this the levers F F are thrown down and the holder ring E is lifted off. Gum is then applied to the lower part of the neck close to the larger or top end thereof, or if preferred the gum is applied to the projecting portion of the covering fabric *k*. The neck D being then firmly held down, preferably by placing a board or cover H on top of it as shown in Fig. 5, and holding this board with the hands, the ring B is lifted, and passed up over the neck, being thus taken off and laid to one side. The first lifting movement of this ring brings it to approximately the position shown in full lines in Fig. 5. In so doing the block C serves to distend the wiper and guide it properly over the large mouth or lower end of the neck. This movement thus turns up the projecting edges or flanges not only of the covering fabric *k*, but also of the flexible sheet *c*. The flexible sheet consequently by being thus bent upward, serves to turn up the edge of the covering fabric and press it against the gummed surface of the neck. A further upward movement of the ring B brings its wiper G into operation. This wiper, by reason of the relatively small size of its central opening, has a strong contractile tendency, and in the upward movement of the ring the opening in the wiper is dragged up over the upturned flange of the sheet *c*, and subsequently (if as is preferable the edge of the fabric *k* project beyond the periphery of the sheet *c*) over the outer or upper edge of the covering fabric, whereupon the ring B is lifted entirely off. During this upward movement of the wiper it serves first to press the upturned edge of the elastic sheet *c* tightly against the lower end of the neck and hence to squeeze or press the covering fabric into close contact with the gummed surface of the neck, and subsequently after slipping off the edge of the sheet *c*, the wiper exerts a similar action directly against the edge of the fabric *k*, so that by this single operation the edge of this fabric is securely gummed to the neck. The principal purpose of the projecting edge of the sheet *c* is to prevent the tearing of the fabric *k* where it is bent sharply around the end of the neck D. I find that by omitting this sheet *c* and using ordinary lace paper as the fabric *k*, this paper is exceedingly liable to be torn by the dragging friction of the wiper G in moving over it, but by interposing the edge of the elastic fabric *c*, this difficulty is entirely overcome. The sheet *c* also serves to bridge the gap between the block C and ring B, and prevent the edge of the neck from dropping into it. This gumming operation having been thus performed, the holding board H is removed and the pail is inverted and slipped over the neck in the manner shown in Fig. 6, where J designates the pail. The operators then grasp the pail and the block C, and while holding them together, lift them both simultaneously and turn them

the other side up, after which the block C is removed and the top or cover J' of the pail is applied as shown in Fig. 7. This top may be nailed down or fastened by wire fasteners, or in any other suitable manner.

My invention is not limited in its application to the packing of pails. A pail is simply a circular box usually somewhat coned. Instead of being circular the box may be square, polygonal, or of any other desired shape, and instead of being coned, pyramidal or otherwise tapered, it may be made with parallel sides. In case of any variation from the circular shape, the openings in the rings B and E will be correspondingly varied, as will be also the shape of the block C. In case of a packing receptacle which is not tapered, the holder ring E must be correspondingly modified in construction in order to adapt it to engage the shape of the neck that is employed. Such variations as here suggested are within the judgment of any skillful mechanic, and involve no departure from my invention.

The wiper G is preferably constructed of a single ring or sheet of indiarubber as described, but any other suitable elastic material may be substituted, or the wiper may be constructed of a series of fingers or rollers pressed up by springs, as for example according to the construction shown in Fig. 9, where the wiper G' consists of a series of small rollers *m* mounted on spring wires *r*. The construction first described, however, is much simpler and is equally effective.

In practicing my improved process of packing, the use of a sheet of wax paper *h* in addition to the top covering fabric *k* is not essential, but is preferable whenever the top covering fabric has a central opening, as it serves to protect the candies which would otherwise be exposed through the opening, and to prevent the abstraction of candies from the package. The wax paper may, however, be omitted. The separate making of the top layer and subsequently applying it in place is also unessential, as the top layer might be arranged in the course of the packing operation. The use of the ring *j* for forming the top layer is not necessary, but is preferable as it greatly facilitates the operation. In using this ring, it might be removed immediately and before applying the neck or before commencing to fill the neck, but in such case the introduction of the first candies into the neck would be liable to disarrange the top layer unless excessive care were used.

The ring *j* need not necessarily be a circular loop, but may be conformed in shape either to the containing vessel or to the desired outline for the top layer. Thus if the vessel be square or polygonal, the ring may if desired be square or polygonal, or if the top layer of candies is desired to be of some geometrical outline, as a star or crescent, &c., the ring or frame *j* may be varied in shape so as to form the top layer of candies to the desired outline. The part *j* is thus essentially an open

frame and not necessarily a ring. In the case of geometrical designs, two or more frames of suitable shapes may be arranged one within another to form guides for facilitating the placing of different kinds or colors of candies.

It will be understood that the wiper G is not necessarily made continuous either as an uninterrupted elastic band or as a continuous series of small rollers. It might be made of interrupted sections or flaps, each having sufficient stiffness to press firm enough against the receptacle.

My invention is applicable not only to the packing of confectionery, but also to various other substances which are adapted to be packed in the manner provided by my invention. Hence the word "confectionery" as used in this specification and claims, is to be understood as including any such other equivalent substance to which the invention is applicable.

I claim as my invention the following defined novel features of process and apparatus, substantially as hereinbefore specified, namely:

1. The improved method of packing confectionery consisting in laying a covering fabric on a suitable supporting surface, applying a wax paper or other suitable sheet thereover, and arranging the top layer of the confectionery on said wax paper (either before or after applying the latter in place), placing the neck of the package in inverted position upon said fabric, filling said neck with the confectionery, affixing said covering fabric to the exterior of said neck, applying the bottom member of the receptacle in inverted position over said neck, and finally turning the receptacle and contents right side up.

2. The improved method of packing confectionery consisting in laying a covering fabric on a suitable supporting surface, applying a ring centrally thereover, arranging the top layer of the confectionery within said ring (either before or after placing the ring in position), placing the neck of the package in inverted position on said fabric, partially filling in confectionery around said top layer, then lifting out said ring and completing the filling of the neck with confectionery, attaching the top covering fabric to the neck, and finally applying the bottom member of the package in inverted position over the neck and turning it and its contents right side up.

3. The improved method of packing confectionery consisting in laying a covering fabric on a flexible sheet suitably supported, placing the neck of the package in inverted position over said fabric, filling the neck with confectionery, affixing the projecting edge of the covering fabric to the outside of the neck by applying gum to one or the other, and then bending up the projecting edge of said flexible sheet to thereby bend the edge of said covering fabric upward and press it against the neck so that the respective surfaces shall be gummed together, then applying the bot-

tom member of the receptacle in inverted position over said neck, and turning the receptacle and its contents right side up.

4. The improved method of packing confectionery which consists in laying down a lace paper or other suitable top covering fabric upon a supporting surface, separately preparing a top layer by placing a ring over a wax paper on a suitable supporting plate and arranging the top layer in said ring, then placing the wax paper with its top layer in position on said covering fabric, subsequently removing the ring, placing the neck of the package in inverted position over said covering fabric, filling the neck with confectionery, and finally applying the bottom member of the package, and turning the package and its contents right side up.

5. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board constituting a temporary cover, a flexible sheet thereover, a holder for the neck of the package, and means for turning the edge of said flexible sheet upward against the neck, for the purpose specified.

6. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board constituting a temporary cover, a flexible sheet thereover, a holder for the neck of the package, and a ring surrounding said block having its opening larger than the exterior of said neck, and adapted on being lifted to turn up the edge of said sheet against the neck, for the purpose specified.

7. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board constituting a temporary cover, a ring encircling it, so that the two constitute a sectional packing table, and a holder for the neck of the package adapted to center said neck relatively to said block and ring.

8. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing board or block constituting a temporary cover, a ring encircling it, so that the two constitute a sectional packing table, guides for centering a top covering fabric on said table, a holder for the neck of the package, and reciprocal guides on said holder and table for centering the neck relatively to said block and ring.

9. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board, means for holding it in place, a holder for engaging the neck of the package, and means for pressing down said holder to press the neck firmly against said board during the packing operation.

10. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board, means for holding it in place, a holder for engaging the neck of the package, consisting of a ring encircling it, levers arranged to press down said ring, and means for holding said levers in engagement therewith.

11. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board, means for holding it in place, a holder for engaging

the neck of the package, consisting of a ring, D, and means for pressing said ring down consisting of levers F F, pins *f f* on which they are fulcrumed, and props *g g* for holding the levers in engagement.

12. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board, means for holding it in place, a holder for engaging the neck of the package, consisting of a ring D, and means for pressing said ring down consisting of levers F F, having slotted end portions, pins *f f* engaged in said slots, and props *g g*, whereby when released the levers may be thrust outward to clear the ring.

13. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board, on which to place the covering fabric and the neck of the package, and means for affixing the projecting edge of said fabric to the exterior of the neck, (gum having been applied thereto) consisting of a wiper movable upward from beneath said fabric and around said packing block, and constructed to exert an inward pressure, whereby it turns up the edge of said fabric and presses it against the exterior of the neck.

14. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board, and a flexible sheet fastened to the top of the block and projecting beyond the edges thereof on which to place the covering fabric and the neck of the package, and means for affixing the projecting edge of said fabric to the exterior of the neck, (gum having been applied thereto) consisting of an annular wiper movable upward from beneath said fabric and constructed to exert an inward pressure, whereby it turns up the projecting edge of said flexible sheet and with it the edge of the covering fabric and presses the latter against the exterior of the neck, and by intervening between said fabric and the wiper protects the fabric from being abraded thereby.

15. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board on which to place the covering fabric and the neck of the package, the upper side of said block being of a diameter equal to that of the end of said neck which fits against it, and said block being coned or beveled extending from a smaller diameter beneath to said diameter at its upper side, and means for folding up the projecting edge of said fabric against the exterior of the neck consisting of a wiper constructed to exert an inward pressure, and movable upward from beneath said fabric and around said block, and engaging the beveled edge of said block, whereby it is

extended and guided onto the mouth of the neck.

16. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board on which to place the covering fabric and the neck of the package, and means for folding up the projecting edge of said fabric against the exterior of the neck consisting of a loose rigid ring of larger internal diameter than the neck so that it is adapted to be moved up around said block and neck and disconnected so that it may be lifted freely off over the neck, and an annular wiper carried by said ring and constructed to exert an inward pressure against the exterior of said block and neck.

17. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a packing block or board on which to place the covering fabric and the neck of the package, and means for folding up the projecting edge of said fabric against the exterior of the neck consisting of a loose rigid ring adapted to be moved up around said block and neck, and a wiper carried thereby consisting of a sheet of elastic rubber having a reduced and contractile opening adapted to exert an inward pressure against said block and neck, and fastened to said ring so that its contractile tendency is limited thereby and the liability to crush or buckle the neck is avoided.

18. An apparatus for packing confectionery consisting of a base, a removable packing block or board loosely mounted on said base on which to place the covering fabric and the neck of the package, and means for folding the projecting edge of said fabric up against the exterior of the neck consisting of a loose rigid ring encircling said block and large enough to pass around said block and neck and disconnected, so that it may be lifted off the neck, and an annular contractile wiper carried by said ring and constructed to exert an inward pressure against said block and neck, whereby in lifting said ring said wiper turns up the edge of said fabric and presses it against the neck, and whereby preparatory to packing the said loose block may be dropped within said ring to expand said wiper and be thereby adapted to guide the wiper around and onto the neck.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN R. STOUT.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR C. FRASER,
GEORGE H. FRASER.