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3,193,137

HOSIERY PACKAGE AND METHOD AND MEANS FOR FORMING SAME

Filed July 3, 1962

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

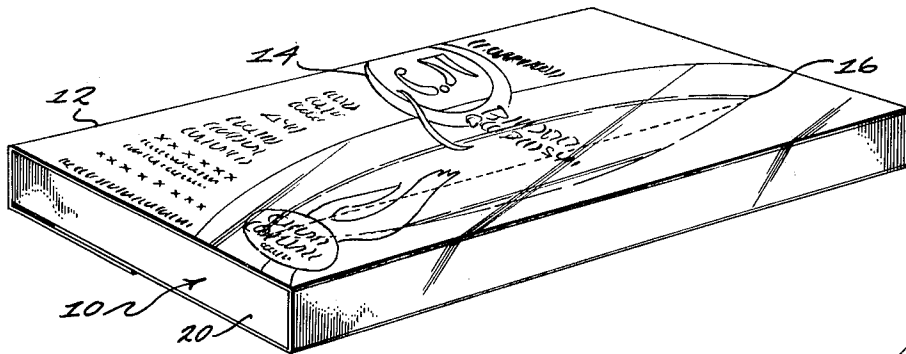


Fig. 1

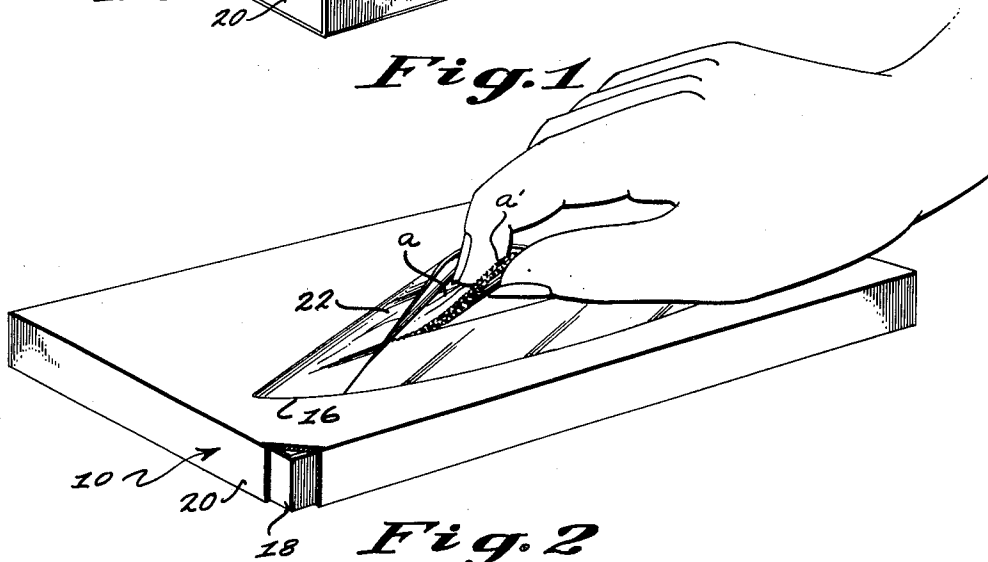
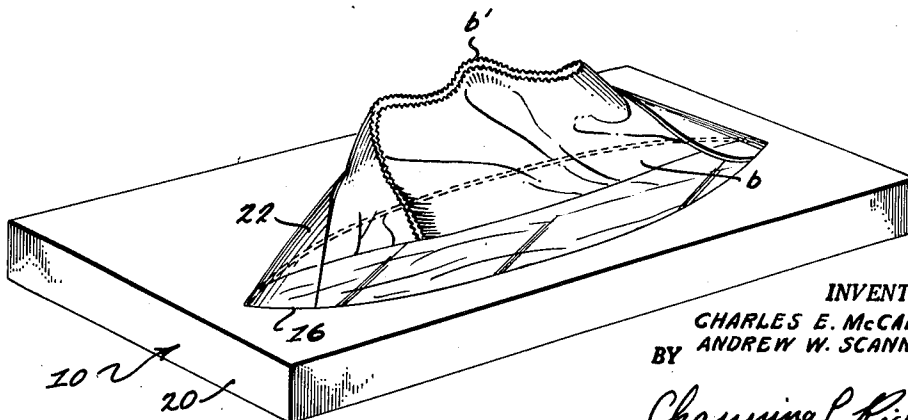


Fig. 2

Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

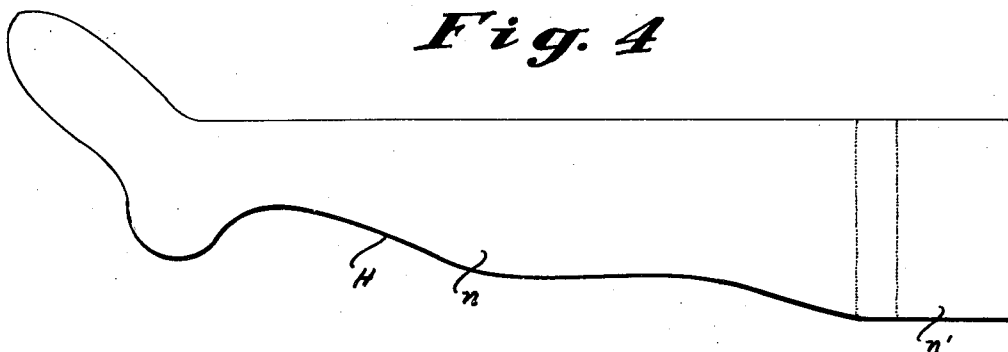


Fig. 5

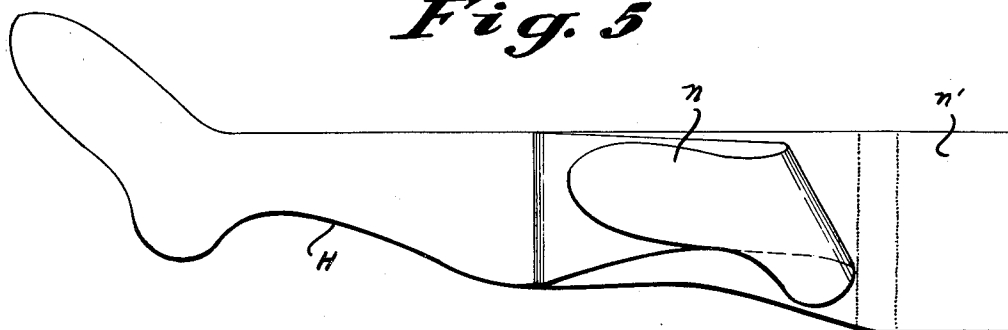
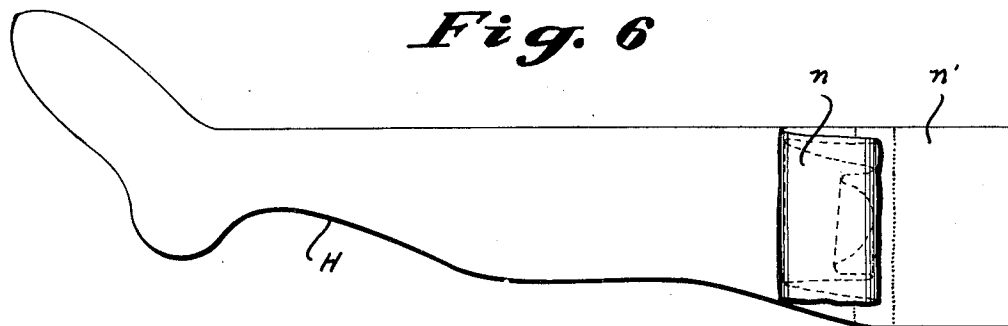


Fig. 6



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Fig. 7

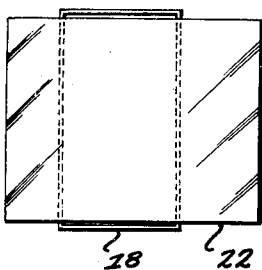


Fig. 8

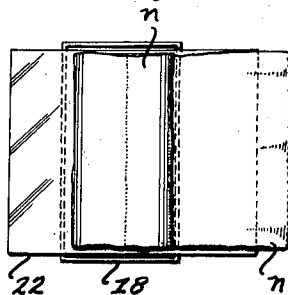


Fig. 9

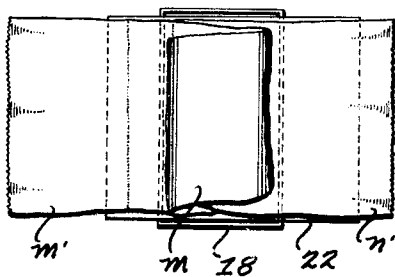


Fig. 10

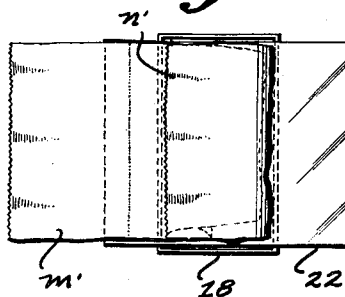


Fig. 11

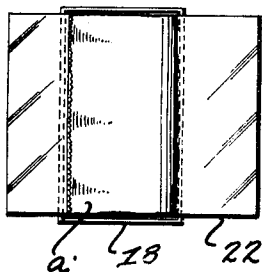
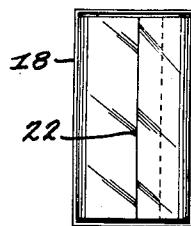


Fig. 12



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HOSIERY PACKAGE AND METHOD AND MEANS FOR FORMING SAME

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10 Claims. (Cl. 221-48)

This invention relates generally to the packaging of hosiery, and more particularly to a uniquely arranged package containing a group of hose from which the individual hose may be withdrawn serially or successively and when they are needed.

By this arrangement of the present invention it is possible to supply a packaged group of hose as a unit in which the hose have been carefully matched as to size and color and the like, and which accordingly are properly mated throughout the package, so that any hose withdrawn from the package will be exactly suitable for replacing any previously withdrawn hose. Also, a hosiery package of this sort may be provided according to the present invention that is shaped and proportioned conveniently for carrying in a ladies' handbag or traveling case, or for storing in a bureau drawer, so that the supply of hose may be kept readily available while remaining protected and neatly arranged in the package until needed.

Thus, for example, a group of five hose might be packaged as disclosed by the present invention for purchase as a unit. Upon wishing to use a pair of hose from this packaged unit, a purchaser would withdraw the first two hose serially from the package, and leave the remaining three hose therein for subsequent use. As and when either of the initially withdrawn hose developed a run or other defect that made it no longer usable, a third hose could then be taken from the remaining supply in the package to serve as a replacement that had originally been carefully selected to match the other hose of the initially withdrawn pair; and the situation would be the same as the need arose in time and in turn for using the fourth and fifth hose of the supply that had been provided originally as a unit. In this way, a substantially longer wear or service life can be made available with five hose, as an example, than could be obtained from three pair of hose that were purchased for separate use; plus the fact that hose purchased by the pair are subject to tolerance ranges as to size and the like and cannot be depended upon to be exactly matching between pairs.

The foregoing advantages are obtained according to the present invention by arranging the hosiery package provided so that the packaged group of hose is enclosed by a packaging container that is formed with a withdrawal aperture, and so that each hose of the group is folded and interfolded successively or serially with the other hose of the group for withdrawal in turn through the container aperture as it is needed; all as described in further detail below in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a hosiery package embodying the present invention, as such a package would appear when ready for purchase;

FIG. 2 is a further perspective view of the package shown in FIG. 1 as it would appear with the outer covering sleeve removed therefrom, and with the first of the packaged hose being removed therefrom;

FIG. 3 is still another perspective view showing the appearance of the FIG. 2 package after the first hose has been removed therefrom;

FIG. 4 is a plan view of a stacked group of hose ready

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for folding in preparation for packaging according to the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a related plan view showing the first hose of the FIG. 4 group in the course of folding;

FIG. 6 is a further related plan view showing completion of the preliminary folding of the first hose that is shown started in FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is a plan view of the receiving portion of the packaging container structure, together with a liner sheet provided therefor;

FIG. 8 is a plan view showing the folded hose of FIG. 6 placed in relation to the container structure of FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a plan view showing a second folded hose of group to be packaged superimposed on the first hose placed as seen in FIG. 8;

FIG. 10 is a plan view showing the interfolding of the welt portion of the first hose over the folded body portion of the second hose;

FIG. 11 is a plan view showing the welt portion of the last hose of the packaged group as it would be overfolded and doubled back upon itself; and

FIG. 12 shows the liner sheet overlapped across the full group of hose ready to have the covering portion of the container structure placed thereon in preparation for adding a covering sleeve to complete a package as seen in FIG. 1.

As seen in FIG. 1, the illustrated embodiment of the invention comprises a container structure, as indicated generally by the reference numeral 10, that is fitted with a suitable covering sleeve 12 on which appropriate indicia may be arranged, as at 14, in preparing a hosiery package unit according to the present invention for sales display. The covering sleeve 12 preferably has a transparent portion extending over the previously mentioned withdrawal aperture of the container structure 10 (which is indicated at 16 in FIG. 1) so that packaged hosiery may be seen without disturbing the packaged arrangement. A sleeve 12 of this sort, however, offers the particular advantage of being readily removable by a purchaser to expose the container structure 10 alone for subsequent use in an attractively decorated form that need have no part of the display indicia remaining thereon.

FIG. 2 shows the container structure 10 after the covering sleeve 12 has been removed and the first hose *a* of the packaged group is about to be removed therefrom, while FIG. 3 shows the disposition of the second hose *b* of the group after the FIG. 2 removal has been completed. The container structure 10 may have any of a variety of forms desired, but it is conveniently provided (as indicated at the sectioned corner in FIG. 2) with a bottom tray or receiving section 18 over which a top cover section 20, having the withdrawal aperture 16 formed therein, is telescoped. Interiorly, the container structure 10 is fitted with a liner sheet 22 proportioned for disposition therein about the packaged hose and for overlapping at the withdrawal aperture 16 so as to allow access therethrough to the hose as illustrated in FIG. 2. This liner sheet 22 is preferably formed of a flexible plastic, such as nylon or polyethylene, so that it is readily manipulated in gaining access to the hose, and so that the hose are advantageously protected against snagging or damage as they are withdrawn through the aperture 16.

The manner in which a group of hose is handled for packaging according to the present invention in the form indicated above is illustrated in FIGS. 4 through 12 of the drawings. FIG. 4 indicates a stacked set of hose *H* laid out in the number to be packaged as a group, which may advantageously be an odd number as previously noted; and ready for folding to form a package. This folding is begun, as illustrated in FIG. 5, by doubling back the foot portion of the top hose *n* of the stack *H*

(which will be the bottom or last hose of the packaged group) and then redoubling at the leg portion inwardly so that the heel is disposed substantially at the beginning of the welt. Then, as seen in FIG. 6, the doubled portion of the hose *n* is additionally folded inwardly upon itself a sufficient number of times to obtain a folded width corresponding to the width of the container structure 10 in which it is to be packaged, while leaving a top welt portion *n'* of the hose *n* temporarily unfolded that is of substantially the same rectangular size as the folded portion.

The bottom tray section 18 of the container structure 10 is then prepared to receive the hose by having the liner sheet 22 associated therewith as indicated in FIG. 7, and the folded hose *n* is placed therein with the top welt portion *n'* still unfolded and extending to the right as seen in FIG. 8. Thereupon, the next hose *m* of the stack H is similarly folded, but this time a top welt portion *m'* is left temporarily unfolded that is approximately twice the size of the folded portion, and the folded portion of this next hose *m* is superimposed on that of the first folded hose *n* with the unfolded welt portion *m'* thereof extending oppositely with respect to the still unfolded welt portion *n'* of the first folded hose *n*, as illustrated in FIG. 9.

When this next hose *m* has thus been put in place, the welt portion *n'* of the hose *n* is then folded inwardly over the folded body portion of the hose *m*, as indicated in FIG. 10, and the larger unfolded welt portion *m'* is next folded thereover to assume an extending disposition to the right comparable to that of the welt *n'* in FIG. 8, so that the folding association can be repeated with the next hose, and so on until all of the hose of the stack H have been added to the package group. After the last hose *a* from the stack H (i.e., the hose that will be positioned for withdrawal first from the package group) has been folded and associated with the other hose in the manner described above, its welt portion *a'* is doubled back upon itself as illustrated in FIG. 11, and the liner sheet 22 is overlapped thereover as shown in FIG. 12, in preparation for putting the top cover section 20 of the container structure 10 in place and installing the covering sleeve 12 to form a package such as FIG. 1 illustrates.

With the package group of hose thus arranged in the container structure 10, the withdrawal of the first hose *a*, that is packaged adjacent the withdrawal aperture 16, is readily accomplished as indicated in FIG. 2 by simply reaching between the overlapped edges of the liner sheet 22 at the container structure aperture 16 and grasping the welt portion *a'* that is disposed thereat. When this grasped welt portion *a'* is pulled to withdraw it through the aperture 16, the remaining body of the hose *a* follows at once because it has been folded upon itself and the folded body portion accordingly tends to come out readily without requiring an extended withdrawal. Also, as this withdrawal takes place, the interfolded welt portion *b'* of the next adjacent hose *b* is dislodged and carried to a position at the withdrawal aperture 16 such as is illustrated in FIG. 3, so that it is immediately available for a following removal, as would be desired when a pair of hose were initially being removed from the package. If the next hose so positioned is not immediately needed it may be left as it is, or the dislodged welt portion *b'* may be tucked back sufficiently to close the overlapping edges of the liner sheet 22 over it for protection, while being disposed for ready access when it is needed.

The present invention has been described in detail above for purposes of illustration only and is not intended to be limited by this description or otherwise except as defined in the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A hosiery package comprising a container proportioned for enclosing a group of folded hose, said con-

tainer having a withdrawal aperture formed in one side wall thereof, and a group of folded hose disposed in said container with the welt portion of the hose of said group adjacent said withdrawal aperture positioned accessibly thereat, with a significant portion of the body of said adjacent hose interfolded beneath a top welt portion of the next adjacent hose of said group, and with every other hose of said group successively interfolded in the same manner.

2. A hosiery package comprising a container having opposed side walls, and a group of folded hose enclosed between said side walls, one side wall of said container having a withdrawal aperture formed therein, and the top welt portion of the hose of said group adjacent said withdrawal aperture being positioned accessibly thereat, with a significant portion of the body of said adjacent hose interfolded beneath a top welt portion of the next adjacent hose of said group, and with every other hose of said group successively interfolded in the same manner.

3. A hosiery package as defined in claim 2 and further characterized in that said withdrawal aperture is generally oval in shape, has the major axis of said oval shape extending widthwise with respect to the welt portion of said adjacent hose positioned thereat, and has an extent along said major axis that reaches predominantly across the container side wall in which it is formed.

4. A hosiery package as defined in claim 2 and further characterized in that a liner sheet is disposed within said container about said group of folded hose with edges of said liner sheet overlapped at said withdrawal aperture in widthwise relation with respect to the welt portion of said adjacent hose.

5. A hosiery package as defined in claim 4 and further characterized in that said liner sheet is formed of a flexible plastic.

6. A hosiery package comprising a container having opposed side walls, and a group of folded hose enclosed between said side walls, one side wall of said container having a withdrawal aperture formed therein and the top welt portion of the hose of said group adjacent said withdrawal aperture being positioned accessibly thereat, said adjacent hose having the entire body thereof folded inwardly beneath said top welt portion, said folded body portion of said adjacent hose being additionally disposed in interfolded relation beneath a top welt portion of the next adjacent hose of said group, and said next adjacent hose and every other hose of said group being serially folded and interfolded in the same manner.

7. A hosiery package as defined in claim 6 and further characterized in that said group of folded hose is constituted by an odd number of hose.

8. A hosiery package as defined in claim 6 and further characterized in that said container is fitted with a removable covering sleeve extending coextensively over said side walls having a transparent portion at said withdrawal aperture.

9. The method of packaging hosiery in a group for serial withdrawal from said group which comprises folding the body of each hose of said group upon itself to a folded width corresponding to a desired package size, superimposing said folded hose bodies while disposing a significant portion of the folded body of each superimposed hose beneath a top welt portion of the hose on which it is superimposed, and then enclosing said group of hose in a container with the top welt portion of the last superimposed hose accessible for withdrawal from said container.

10. The method of packaging hosiery which comprises folding a hose body upon itself a plurality of times to a folded width corresponding to a desired package size while leaving a top welt portion, thereof having substantially the same size temporarily unfolded, similarly folding a second hose body while leaving a top welt portion thereof tempo-

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rarily unfolded that is approximately double said package size, superimposing the folded body of said second hose on that of said first hose with the unfolded welt portion of said second hose extending oppositely with respect to that of said first hose, folding the welt portion of said first hose over the folded body of said second hose, folding the welt portion of said second hose over said first hose welt portion and leaving it temporarily unfolded therebeyond, repeating such body folding, superimposing and welt portion folding with additional hose until a desired package group has been formed, then finally doubling the welt portion of the last hose of said group upon itself and enclosing said group of hose in a container with the double welt portion of said last hose body accessible for withdrawal therefrom.

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