Nov. 18, 1969 W. C. WHITAKER ET AL Re. 26,712

CIGARETTE PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION OR THE LIKE

Original Filed March 16, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

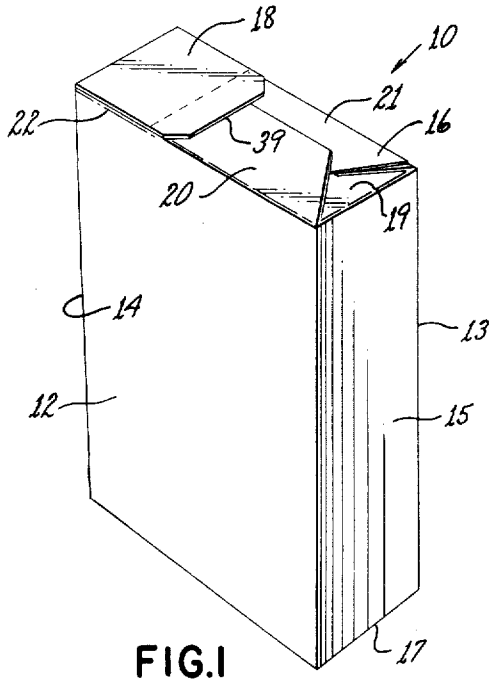


FIG.1

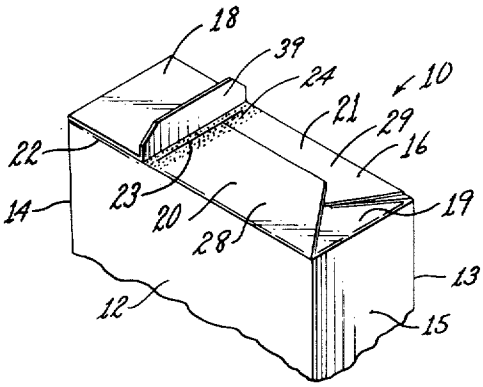


FIG.2

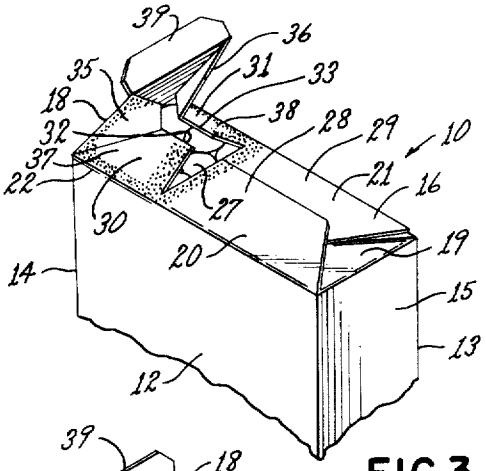


FIG.3

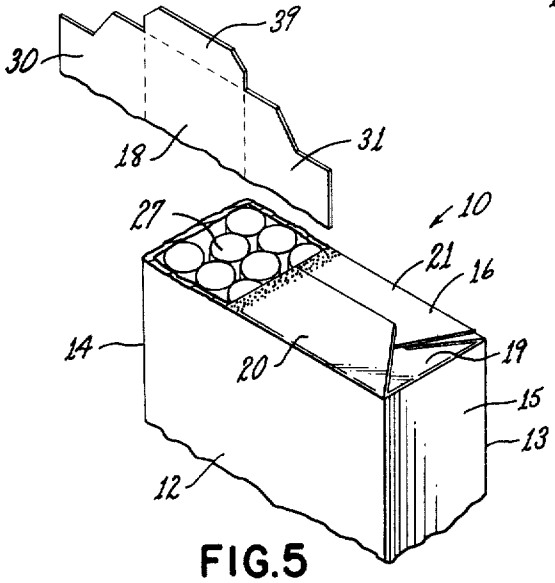


FIG.5

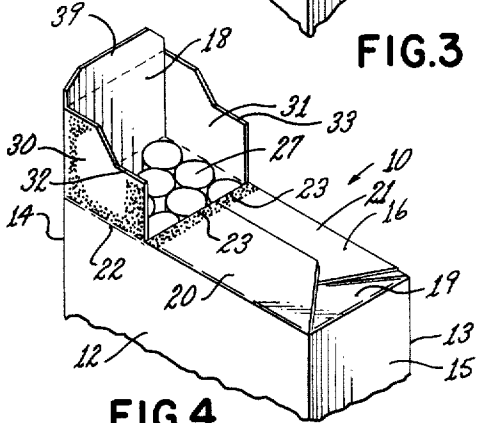


FIG.4

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CIGARETTE PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION OR THE LIKE

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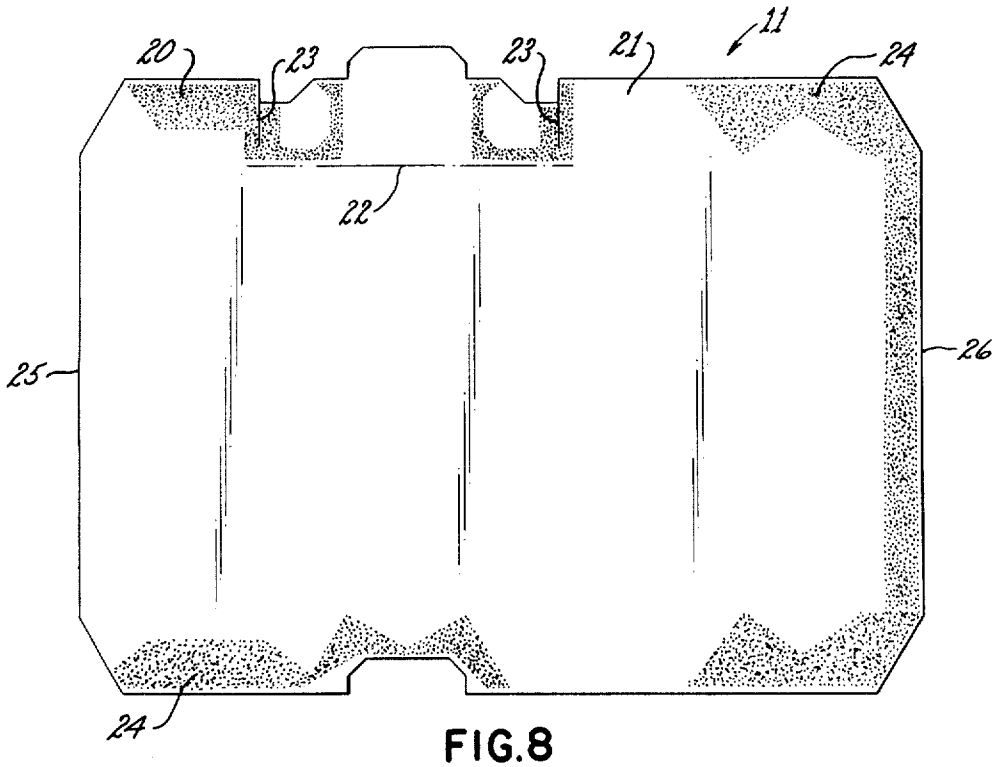


FIG.8

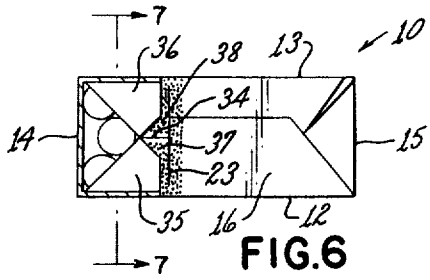


FIG.6

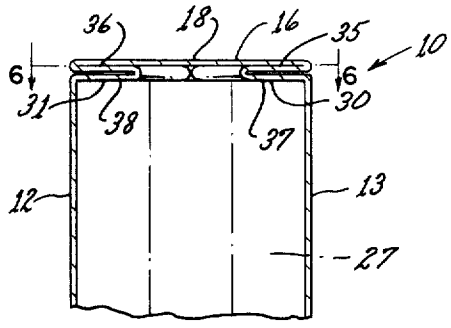


FIG.7

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CIGARETTE PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION OR THE LIKE

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Original No. 3,270,945, dated Sept. 6, 1966, Ser. No. 351,997, Mar. 16, 1964. Application for reissue Aug. 30, 1968, Ser. No. 760,390

Int. Cl. B65d *17/00, 5/54, 5/70*

U.S. Cl. 229—51 25 Claims

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [ ] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This application discloses an improved container having improved opening means and a blank from which the same can be formed. On its open end, the container has side flaps with one end flap extending therefrom so formed that portions of the side flaps are in overlapping relation with each other while other portions are in abutting relation with each other.

This invention relates to an improved container having improved opening means therefor.

It is well known that the conventional cigarette package construction normally comprises a metallic foil liner disposed around the cigarettes and received in a paper cup-like member to hold the package construction together. Thereafter, a cellophane overwrap or the like is disposed around the entire package construction so that a pull string can be provided for opening the cellophane overwrap to provide access means for opening the overlapping portions of the liner adjacent a revenue-like stamp extending across the liner at the open end of the paper cup-like member.

However, according to the teachings of this invention, an improved package construction is provided for cigarettes or the like wherein the conventional paper cup-like member, cellophane overwrap and revenue-like stamp can be completely eliminated as the so-called metallic foil liner forms the entire surrounding structure for the cigarettes or the like and has unique means for sealing the freshness of the cigarettes therein as well as readily permitting the ultimate consumer to open the same in a simple and effective manner.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide an improved container having one or more of the novel features of this invention as set forth above or hereinafter shown or described.

Other objects, uses and advantages of this invention are apparent from a reading of this description which proceeds with reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part thereof and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the improved container of this invention in its closed position.

FIGURES 2–5 are respectively fragmentary perspective views illustrating the various steps in the method of opening the container of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 6 is a top view of the container illustrated in FIGURE 1 with the left end flap thereof cut away, FIGURE 6 being taken on line **6—6** of FIGURE 7.

FIGURE 7 is an enlarged, fragmentary, cross-sectional view taken on line **7—7** of FIGURE 6.

FIGURE 8 is a plan view of the improved blank of this invention for forming the container of FIGURE 1.

While the various features of this invention are hereinafter described and illustrated as being particularly adaptable to provide a single wrap for cigarettes or the like, it is to be understood that the various features of this invention can be utilized singly or in any combination thereof to provide an improved container and opening means for other products as desired.

Therefore, this invention is not to be limited to only the embodiments illustrated in the drawings, because the drawings are merely utilized to illustrate one of the wide variety of uses of this invention.

Referring now to FIGURE 1, the improved container of this invention is generally indicated by the reference numeral **10** and is formed from a single sheet of material shaped in the general configuration illustrated in FIGURE 8 and generally indicated by the reference numeral **11**.

The sheet of material **11** can comprise any desired material. However, the embodiment illustrated in the drawings comprises a sheet of metallic foil, such as aluminimum-containing metallic foil or the like, laminated to a sheet of reinforcing paper material whereby the metallic foil side of the sheet **11** forms the exterior surface of the container **10** and provides a substantial moisture barrier surrounding the contents of the container **10** in a manner hereinafter described.

The sheet of material **11** is folded either manually or automatically in a manner hereinafter described to define the substantially rectangular container **10** in such a manner that the same provides a pair of opposed side walls **12** and **13** and a pair of opposed end walls **14** and **15** respectively interconnected together at the corners of the container **10** and defining a tubular structure having opposed open ends **16** and **17**.

The container **10** has a pair of end flaps **18** and **19** and a pair of side flaps **20** and **21** respectively extending from the open end **16** thereof and being utilized in a manner hereinafter described to close the open end **16** of the container **10**.

In addition, the lower portion of the blank **11** illustrated in FIGURE 8 is adapted to define a pair of end flaps and a pair of side flaps extending from the opened end **17** of the container **10** to close the open end **17** thereof in a conventional manner whereby the flaps of the open end **17** of the container **10** will not be specifically described although the same will be apparent from folding the blank **11** into the configuration illustrated in FIGURE 1.

While the blank **11** is not creased or scored in the flat form illustrated in FIGURE 8, the same is adapted to be folded into the configuration illustrated in FIGURE 1 by suitable folding apparatus or the like.

However, a prescore or crease **22** is formed in the blank **11** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 8 to be disposed at the open end **16** of the container **10** adjacent the end flap **18** for a purpose hereinafter described.

The blank **11** has a pair of slits **23** formed therein and extending inwardly the free edges of the side flaps **20** and **21** toward the crease **22** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 8 for a purpose hereinafter described.

In addition, the blank **11** is adapted to have glue or other suitable, adhesive applied thereto in the pattern illustrated in FIGURE 8 to permit the blank **11** to be folded into the sealed container **10** in a manner hereinafter described, the adhesive being indicated by the reference numeral **24**. If desired, the adhesive **24** can be a heat sealable adhesive which can be activated by suitable heating means during the folding operation of the container **10**.

When it is desired to fold the blank **11** into the container construction **10**, the blank **11** is folded into tubular form by having the end edge **25** of the blank **11** disposed over the end edge **26** thereof and secured together by the

adhesive **24** whereby cigarettes **27** or the like can be inserted into the tubular form and the opposed open ends **16** and **17** thereof can be subsequently closed, the end **17** being closed in a conventional manner while the end **16** is closed in a manner now to be described.

First, the end flap **19** of the container **10** is folded over the opened end **16** thereof whereby parts of the side flaps **20** and **21** are folded inwardly from the end wall **15** in a conventional manner whereby the side flaps **20** and **21** are adapted to be folded over the open end **16** over the folded end flap **19** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 3 whereby the portion **28** of the side flap **20** is adapted to be disposed over the portion **29** of the side flap **21** and be secured thereto by the adhesive **24**, the adhesive **24** also securing the folded under parts of the flaps **20** and **21** to the end of flap **19** in the manner provided by the adhesive pattern **24** in FIGURE 8.

It can be seen that the slits **23** in the side flaps **20** and **21** divide the portions **28** and **29** thereof from portions **30** and **31** of the side flaps **20** and **21** so that the free edges **32** and **33** of the portions **30** and **31** will be disposed in abutting relation adjacent the slits **23** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 6 to define a central seam or slit **34**.

When the side flaps **20** and **21** are folded inwardly over the open end **16** of the container **10**, it can be seen that parts **35** and **36** of the portions **30** and **31** of the side flaps **20** and **21** will be folded downwardly on the remaining parts **37** and **38** thereof in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 6 and be secured thereto by the adhesive pattern **24** on the blank **11**.

The end flap **18** is also folded over the open end **16** over the portions **30** and **31** of the side flaps **20** and **21** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 1 whereby the same will be secured to the portions **30** and **31** of the side flaps **20** and **21** by the adhesive **24** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 6 as well as to the overlapping portions **28** and **29** of the side flaps **20** and **21** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 6 so that the end flap **18** completely seals closed the slits **23** and **34** as well as seals closed the open end **16** of the container **10**.

Therefore, it can be seen that the blank **11** of this invention can be effectively folded around the cigarettes **27** to provide a completely sealed closed construction for packaging the same without requiring the conventional paper cup and cellophane overwrap of a conventional cigarette package construction.

When the ultimate consumer desires to initially open the container **10** of this invention, the ultimate consumer inserts a fingernail under the free edge **39** of the end flap **18**, the free edge **39** extending beyond the adhesive pattern **24** on the overlapping portions **28** and **29** of the side flaps **20** and **21** to permit the ultimate consumer to lift up on the free edge **39** and peel the same backwardly toward the end wall **14** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 2.

Further upward and backward movement of the end flap **18** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 3 causes the end flap **18** to separate from the side flaps **20** and **21** to permit the portions **30** and **31** of the side flaps **20** and **21** to be folded outwardly into position illustrated in FIGURE 4 by tearing through the side flaps **20** and **21** at the slits **23** to the crease **22** previously described.

In this manner, the container **10** can be completely opened so that the ultimate consumer can dispense the cigarettes **27** as desired out through the open end **16** thereof.

Thereafter, the ultimate consumer can fold back the end flap **18** in a reverse sequence in FIGURES 2–4 to close the container **10** and provide a neat package construction.

However, as is the usual case, the ultimate consumer desires to tear off the open portions of the container **10** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 5 whereby the pre-

crease **22** in the blank **11** adjacent the portions **30** and **31** of the side flaps **20** and **21** and end flap **18** readily permits the ultimate consumer to tear off the end flap **18** and portions **30** and **31** of the side flaps **20** and **21** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 5 without requiring the use of the conventional paper cup as a back up means for the tearing operation in a conventional cigarette package construction.

Thus, it can be seen that the blank **11** of this invention is so constructed and arranged that the same readily permits the edges **32** and **33** of the parts **30** and **31** of the side flaps **20** and **21** to be disposed in abutting relation in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 6 so that when the end flap **18** is folded over the same the end flap **18** can completely seal closed all slits **23** and **34** in the side flaps **20** and **21** so that product freshness can be retained.

Accordingly, it can be seen that not only does this invention provide an improved container having many novel features, but also this invention provides an improved opening means for such a container or the like.

While the form of the invention now preferred has been disclosed as required by the statutes, other forms may be used, all coming within the scope of the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. A container having an open end, said open end having a pair of opposed side flaps and an end flap extending therefrom, said side flaps each being formed into two portions by a slit extending inwardly from the free edge thereof toward said open end, said side flaps being folded over said open end with said one portion of one of said side flaps disposed in overlapping relation with said one portion of the other side flap and the other portion of said one side flap disposed in abutting relation with said other portion of said other side flap to close said open end, said end flap being folded over said other portions of said side flaps and extending over part of said one portions of said side flaps to completely cover said slits in said side flaps.

2. A container as set forth in claim **1** wherein said slits are in aligned relation when said side flaps are folded over said open end.

3. A container as set forth in claim **1** wherein said overlapping portions of said side flaps are secured together.

4. A container as set forth in claim **1** wherein said end flap is secured to said overlapping portions of said side flaps.

5. A container having an open end, said open end having a pair of opposed side flaps and a pair of opposed end flaps extending therefrom and being joined together at their junctures with each other, said side flaps each being formed into two portions by a slit extending inwardly from the free edge thereof toward said open end, said side flaps being folded over said open end with said one portion of one of said side flaps disposed in overlapping relation with said one portion of the other side flap and the other portion of said one side flap disposed in abutting relation with said other portion of said other side flap to close said open end, said other portions of said side flaps having parts thereof folded on top of the remaining parts thereof, one of said end flaps being folded over said other portions of said side flaps and extending over part of said one portions of said side flaps to completely cover said slits in said side flaps.

6. A container as set forth in claim **5** wherein said other end flap is folded over said open end beneath said one portions of said side flaps.

7. A container as set forth in claim **5** wherein said slits are in aligned relation when said side flaps are folded over said open end.

8. A container as set forth in claim **5** wherein said overlapping portions of said side flaps are secured together.

9. A container as set forth in claim **5** wherein said

first-named parts of said other portions of said side flaps are secured to said remaining parts thereof.

10. A container as set forth in claim **5** wherein said one end flap is secured to said other portions of said side flaps adjacent said slits.

11. A container as set forth in claim **5** wherein said one end flap is secured to said overlapping portions of said side flaps.

12. A substantially rectangular container formed from a single sheet of material having opposed ends thereof disposed in overlapping relation to define a tubular structure defining opposed side walls and opposed end walls of said container with a pair of opposed side flaps and a pair of opposed end flaps respectively extending from opposed open ends of said container, each set of flaps being joined together at their junctures with each other, one pair of said side flaps each being formed into two portions by a slit extending inwardly from the free edge thereof toward the respective one open end, said one pair of side flaps being folded over said one open end with said one portion of one of said side flaps disposed in overlapping relation with said one portion of the other side flap and the other portions of said one side flap disposed in abutting relation with said other portion of said other side flap to close said one open end, said other portions of said one pair of side flaps having parts thereof folded on top of the remaining parts thereof, one of said end flaps at said one open end being folded over said other portions of said one pair of side flaps and extending over part of said one portions thereof to completely cover said slits in said one pair of side flaps.

13. A container as set forth in claim **12** wherein said sheet of material is creased at said one open end of said container adjacent said one end flap and said other portions of said one pair of side flaps to facilitate removal of the same.

14. A container as set forth in claim **12** wherein the other end flap at said one open end is folded over said one open end beneath said overlapping portions of said one pair of side flaps.

15. A container as set forth in claim **12** wherein said flaps at said other open end of said container close the same.

16. A container having an open end, said open end having a pair of opposed side flaps and end flaps extending therefrom, said side flaps each being formed into two portions by a slit extending inwardly from the free edge thereof towards said open end, said side flaps being folded over said open end with said one portion thereof in overlapping relation and the other portions thereof in abutting relation to close said open end, said end flap being folded over said other portions of said side flaps and extending over part of said one portion of said side flaps to completely cover said slits in said side flaps, said end flap being secured to said overlapping portion of said side flaps, said end flap having a free end grasping portion extending beyond the portion thereof that is secured to said overlapping portions of said side flaps.

17. A container having an open end, said open end having a pair of opposed side flaps and a pair of opposed end flaps extending therefrom and being secured together at their junctures with each other, said side flaps each being formed into two portions by a slit extending inwardly from the free edge thereof towards said open end, said side flaps being folded over said open end with said one portions thereof in overlapping relation

and the other portions thereof in abutting relation to close said open end, said other portions of said side flaps having parts thereof folded on top of the remaining parts thereof, one of said end flaps being folded over said other portions of said side flaps and extending over part of said one portion of said side flaps to completely cover said slits in said side flaps, said one end flap being secured to said overlapping portion of said side flaps, said one end flap having a free end grasping portion extending beyond the portion thereof that is secured to said overlapping portions of said side flaps.

18. A flat blank adapted to be folded and sealed to form a container having an open end, said open end having a pair of opposed side flaps and an end flap extending therefrom, said side flaps each being formed into two portions by a slit extending inwardly from the free edge thereof toward said open end, said side flaps being folded over said open end with said one portion of one of said side flaps disposed in overlapping relation with said one portion of the other side flap and the other portion of said one side flap disposed in abutting relation with said other portion of said other side flap to close said open end, said end flap being folded over said other portions of said side flaps and extending over part of said one portions of said side flaps to completely cover said slits in said side flaps.

19. The blank of claim 18 wherein said slits are precut to define said other portions of said side flaps with said end flap disposed contiguously therebetween.

20. The blank of claim 18 which further comprises an aluminum foil layer laminated to a paper layer.

21. The blank of claim 18 wherein a heat sealable adhesive is disposed on said side flaps immediately adjacent and on both sides of said slits.

22. The blank of claim 18 wherein the inner limits of said end flap and of said other portions of said side flaps are defined by a linear crease.

23. The blank of claim 18 wherein said slits are parallel.

24. The blank of claim 19 wherein said other portions of said side flaps are precut so that at said slits said one portion of said side flaps project beyond the free edge thereof.

25. The blank of claim 20 wherein said end flap is precut so that its free edge projects beyond said precut free edges of said other portions of said side flaps.

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