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S. E. HAYS ET AL

2,206,635

TENSIONING SUPPORT FOR VISIBLE PACKAGES

Filed July 26, 1937

FIG. 1

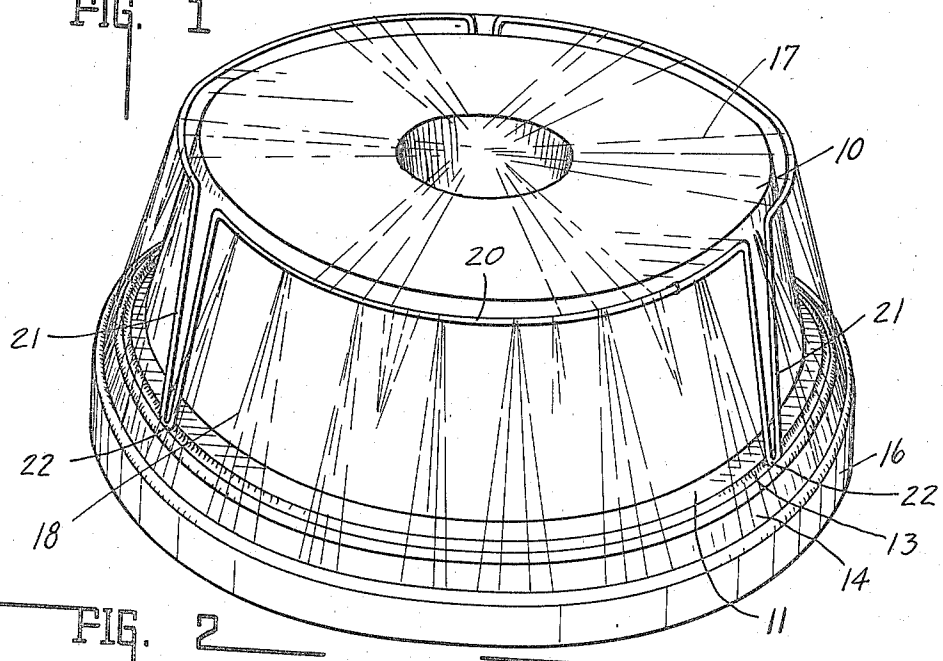


FIG. 2

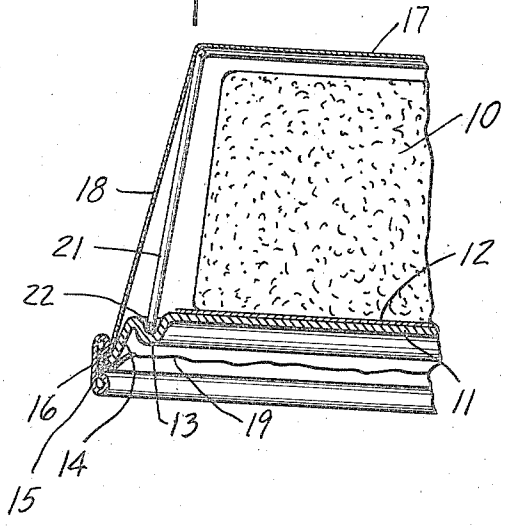
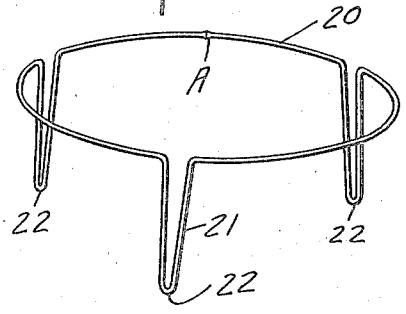


FIG. 3



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TENSIONING SUPPORT FOR VISIBLE PACKAGES

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5 Claims. (Cl. 206—44)

This invention relates to the sanitary packaging of food products and the like and is particularly adapted to desserts, more especially cakes and the like.

One chief object of the invention is to sanitarily display an edible article such as a cake so that substantially all of its top and side surfaces will be exposed to view.

Another chief object of the invention is to provide in such a display arrangement an automatic tensioning assemblage whereby the transparent covering is maintained in tautened relation at all times, when such covering is of a character as "Cellophane" which expands and contracts in accordance with climatic changes.

The chief feature of the invention consists in the support for the transparent covering whereby either or both of the aforesaid objects may be accomplished.

Other features of the invention will be apparent from the following description and claims and the accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a sanitary package arrangement including the invention in its preferred form.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged radial sectional view of a portion of the package arrangement.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the preferred form of the invention shown separately from other parts comprising the package.

In the drawing there is illustrated one embodiment of a sanitary display package in which the article to be sanitarily packaged is represented is a cake 10 supported by a plate 11, there being interposed therebetween a sheet of oil paper or the like 12 whenever desired or necessary.

The plate 11 is provided with a peripheral groove 13 encircling in this instance a round or circular cake. Extending downwardly and outwardly from the grooved portion is a flange 14 having the lower and outer edge 15. Associated therewith is a locking ring 16, G shaped in cross section and somewhat flexible for mounting and demounting purposes. This ring may be made of paper stock. If of rigid stock, the plate flange should have slight flexibility to permit mounting and demounting of the ring thereon and therefrom, respectively.

The transparent, relatively flexible, covering has a top portion 17, a pleated side portion 18 and an upturned edge portion 19 nested within the flange 14 in the form of the package illustrated herein. The C-shaped locking ring secures the covering to the plate in article enveloping relation.

Since the covering may be of "Cellophane" or similar material, it is relatively non-self sustaining. Hence a support therefore is provided which essentially supports the midportion of the covering in spaced relation to the top of the article and the plate. This top defining portion of the support is substantially similar in outline to the outline of the article and of greater length so as to substantially envelop the same. In Fig. 3, 20 indicates the several peripheral portions of the support, 21 the spacing leg portions and 22 the connections between the lower ends of the legs. As illustrated the arrangement includes three U-shaped structures depending from the peripheral portions in outwardly directed relation, the portions 22 being seated in groove 13. Additional U-shaped structures may be included if desired but three has been found sufficient when the peripheral portion 20 is of interrupted character. The arrangement is such that maximum side wall exposure of the article is provided for and due to the peculiar construction of the wire support, the same maintains the top of the covering taut in spite of climatic changes because the covering is initially mounted in tautened relation and as it expands the gap between the adjacent portions 21 tends to enlarge.

As indicated at A in Fig. 3, there is but one weld in the entire support structure which consists of a single length of metal wire of the desired material, size and stiffness, and which may be plated if desired, or formed of stainless steel. It is not intended, however, by pointing out that the entire support structure is formed from a single piece of wire to indicate that the invention resides in this fact because the same tautening effect can be procured just as readily with a support formed from a number of pieces and comprising as many welds as required to join them together. It is equally obvious that the exact shape of support as herein illustrated is not essenial to achieve the objects accomplished. All modifications consistent with the appended claims are intended to be covered thereby.

While the invention has been illustrated and described as embodied in a cake display arrangement and of circular form, the same may be of any other form and may be applied to other articles as desired. The specific character of the drawing and description, therefore, is to be considered as illustrative only and not in any sense restrictive.

The invention claimed is:

1. A resilient support device adapted for inclusion in a display package and constituting an operative element thereof including a substantially closed but interrupted upper perimeter of the desired outline and a plurality of leg structures depending therefrom in spaced relation, each of said leg structures being formed of two portions each connected to an adjacent portion of said upper perimeter at an interruption thereof and to each other at their depended ends.

2. A resilient frame for wrapper mounting having an interrupted upper perimeter of the desired outline and a plurality of legs depending therefrom and adapted through coaction therewith to automatically maintain the wrapper in an optimum tautened condition regardless of climatic changes, each of said legs being formed of two laterally expansible and contractible portions connected to adjacent portions of said upper perimeter at an interruption thereof and to each other at their depended ends.

3. In a display package, means for automatically tensioning the wrapper thereof, said means comprising a resilient member having an interrupted perimeter of the desired outline and a plurality of members angularly disposed with reference to said first mentioned member each formed of two laterally expansible and contractible portions joined to adjacent portions of said first mentioned member at an interruption thereof and to each other at their extended ends.

4. In a display package having a wrapper, a unitary frame structure for automatically tensioning the wrapper comprising a top portion having an interrupted perimeter and U-shaped side portions connected at their open ends to said top portion at the interruptions thereof, said frame being of resilient character.

5. A wrapper frame including a resilient member having an interrupted perimeter of the desired outline and a plurality of laterally expansible and contractible members each joined to said first mentioned member at a point of interruption thereof and to each other at their opposite ends.

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