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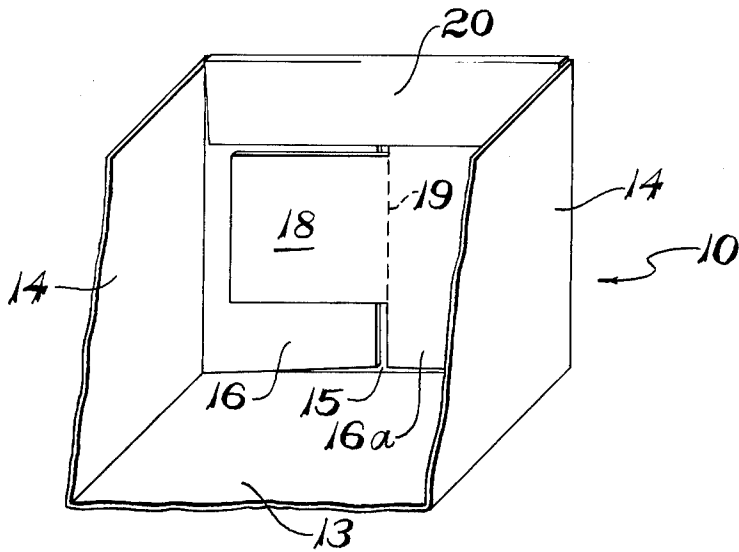


FIG. 2

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CONTAINER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 229—32)

This invention relates to packaging and pertains more particularly to a container such as a shoe box which is provided with a tab integrally attached thereto that can be detached from the container without adversely affecting the capacity of the container to serve its function as a container.

Many items of merchandise are packaged in individual boxes for convenience in stacking the items for the purpose of storage or in displays or under counters where they are readily accessible. The customary manner of boxing footwear is a typical illustration of this method of packaging, pairs of boots or shoes being packaged in shoe boxes which then are stacked according to style and size along the walls of the shoe department or shoe store. Maintaining a necessary inventory of items packaged in this manner frequently presents a problem, however, particularly when a large number of styles and sizes are involved and when it is desirable to maintain a sizable inventory of commonly requested styles and sizes and when the volume of sales is substantial since it is difficult to keep accurate up-to-the-minute records of the numbers of particular styles or sizes of the item which have been sold unless periodically a complete inventory of stock on hand is made. However, by the time the inventory is completed the supply of the item in commonly requested styles and sizes may have been expended and sales of this style and size may be lost to a competitor until a new supply of the expended styles and sizes is obtained. It will be understood then that any means which tends to aid in maintaining a proper level of inventory of a product would be extremely beneficial.

The present invention permits a more accurate up-to-the-minute evaluation of the inventory on hand without an actual inventory of stock having been taken by providing the container with a tag or tab on which may be printed the pertinent information needed for recording the type of item, its style and size (if there be such) and any other information deemed necessary and which tab or tag can be detached from the container at the time that the item is sold without adversely affecting in any way the capacity of the container to function as such. It will be appreciated that the tab or tag which is detached from the container at the time of sale not only serves as a means for indicating the number, style, size, etc., of items sold but also actually can be returned to the manufacturer as an indication that one desires replacement items to be shipped in accordance with the styles, colors, sizes, etc. represented by the detached tabs or tags so that the inventory depleted by sales can be replenished conveniently.

While suggestions have been made for accomplishing this result, the suggestions which have been made have not been entirely satisfactory. The inclusion of a reorder slip packaged in the container with the item did not meet with complete success since the reorder slip often was not observed or being separate from the container became lost and thereby could not serve the intended function. Use of a part of the actual wall of the container as a reorder slip is not entirely a satisfactory solution since the container itself is destroyed when the reorder section is torn from the box wall or its capacity to function as a container seriously is impaired. In accordance with the present invention, however, the detachment of the

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reorder tab or tag in no way impairs the capacity of the container to function as a container.

The invention will be more clearly understood by referring to the following description of one embodiment of this invention and by referring to the drawing in which:

FIG. 1 is a shoe box blank for the bottom section of a shoe box which blank embodies the present invention; and

FIG. 2 is a perspective view partially broken away and in section of the shoe box bottom section formed from the shoe box blank shown in FIG. 1.

As indicated by the description of the figures of the drawing, a shoe box has been chosen to illustrate the present invention. As is commonly known, a shoe box customarily is comprised basically of an open-top receptacle into which the pair of footwear is deposited (which receptacle shall be referred to hereinafter as the bottom section of the box) and a top or lid section which fits over and closes the open-top of the bottom section of the shoe box. The top or lid section of the box is formed from a blank cut from a flat piece of cardboard which blank when folded in the proper manner and retained in the folded condition forms the top face of the box with a downwardly depending lip around the entire periphery of the top face which fits over the open top of the bottom section of the box. The lid section of the shoe box here illustrated is of conventional construction and, therefore, is not shown in the drawing and is not described in further detail hereinafter since the construction of this section of the shoe box, being of conventional construction, will be apparent to those familiar with box manufacture.

The bottom section 10 of the shoe box is formed from the box blank 11 shown in FIG. 1. The box blank 11 is cut from a flat sheet of cardboard of rectangular shape and is grooved or otherwise processed to form creases 12, 12 that define, when the blank properly is folded thereon, the bottom panel 13 of the box, the two side panels 14, 14 of the box and the two end panels 15, 15 of the box. In forming the box blank 11, material is removed from the corners of the flat rectangular-shaped sheet of cardboard from which the blank 11 is formed. As is indicated in FIG. 1, a generally rectangular piece is cut from three of the corners of the rectangular sheet of cardboard leaving, however, a section 16, 16 in each of the three corners that is attached along one edge to a side panel 15 of the box, attachment of sections 16, 16 to the end panel 15 of the box being precluded by a slit 17, 17 that separates the sections 16, 16 from the end panel 15 adjacent thereto. The length of sections or flaps 16, 16 preferably is such that when the box is properly folded with the flaps 16, 16 against the inside face of an end panel 15, the adjacent edges of the flaps 16, 16 do not quite meet although they are spaced only a slight distance apart. The fourth corner of the shoe blank 11 also is provided with a flap 16a attached along one edge to the side panel 14 that is adjacent thereto and separated from the end panel 15 adjacent thereto by slit 17a. Flap 16a is similar in shape to the flaps 16, 16 positioned in the other three corners of the blank 11 except that flap 16a in addition is provided with a tab 18 that extends from the distal end of the flap 16a and can be conveniently detached from flap 16a along a line of detachment 19, the detachment of tab 18 from the main body of flap 16a preferably being aided by providing perforations along the line of detachment 19 (as represented in the drawing) or by partially cutting through the thickness of the cardboard of the blank 11 along the line of detachment 19. The distal ends of end panels 15, 15 are shown to be provided with flaps 20, 20 whose purpose will be explained hereinafter. As is shown in FIG. 1, the side edges of each flap 16, 16 and 16a converge toward each other slightly as they ex-

tend from the line of attachment of the flat with the side panel toward the distal end of the flap.

When properly folding the box blank 11, the side panels 14, 14 are turned up to a vertical position by folding the panels 14, 14 along the creases 12, 12 that separate the bottom panel 13 of the box from the side panels 14, 14 and the flaps 16, 16, 16 and flap 16a are folded inwardly along the creases 12, 12 that separate the respective flaps 16, 16, 16 and 16a from the respective side panel 14 to which they are attached to form right angle corners. The end panels 15, 15 then are turned up along the creases 12, 12 that separate the bottom panel 13 from the end panels 15, 15 until panels 15, 15 assume a vertical position adjacent the flaps 16, 16, 16 and 16a with each of the flaps 16, 16, 16 and 16a bearing against the inner face of the end panel 15 to which it is adjacent. Flap 16a is positioned with respect to the flap 16 that is abutted thereto when the blank 11 is folded as above described so that tab 18 of flap 16a extends inwardly of flap 16 and into the interior of the box instead of being interposed between flap 16 and the end panel 15. The flaps 16, 16, 16 are adhered with an adhesive to the respective end panel 15 with which they are in juxtaposition, and that portion of the face of flap 16a which is in juxtaposition with an end panel 15 and which extends from the juncture of flap 16a with the side panel 14 to which it is secured to the line of detachment 19 also is adhered with an adhesive to the end panel 15 with which it is in juxtaposition leaving tab 18, however, unadhered to other members of the bottom section 10 of the box so that the tab 18 can be detached without difficulty when detachment is desired merely by tearing the tab 18 from the flap 16a along the line of detachment 19. The flap 20 provided along the distal end of each end panel 15, 15 then is folded over the upper edges of the flaps 16, 16 or flaps 16 and 16a as the case may be and are adhered with an adhesive to the inner faces of flaps 16, 16 in the one case and flaps 16, 16a in the other case. The folding of flaps 20, 20 over the upper edges of flaps 16, 16, 16 and 16a and the adherence of one flap 20 to the inner faces of flaps 16, 16 and the adherence of the other flap 20 to the inner faces of flaps 16 and 16a not only imparts a more pleasing appearance to the box bottom but also provides reinforcement to the upper edges of the end panels of the box.

It will be appreciated that any printed matter desired to be placed on the bottom section 10 of the box should be printed on the box blank 11 before it is folded as described above. At the same time, any printed matter desired to be placed on the detachable tab 18 also can be applied.

It will be appreciated that various modifications of the above described construction can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. Thus, it will be realized that flaps 16, 16, 16 and 16a can be attached to end panels 15, 15 and adhered to the inner faces of side panels 14, 14 instead of as described. Indeed, detachable tab 18 can be attached directly to the edge of a side panel or end panel of the box, the side panels being attached to the end panels along their adjacent edges with tape applied over the exterior surfaces of the panels and binding the adjacent edges of the side and end panels together.

I claim:

1. A container that includes an open-top rectangular-shaped bottom section, said bottom section of said container comprising a rectangular-shaped bottom panel, two opposed vertical end panels disposed at opposite ends of the rectangular-shaped bottom panel and attached along their bottom edges to the end edges of the rectangular-shaped bottom panel, and two opposed vertical side panels disposed at opposite sides of the rectangular-shaped

bottom panel and attached along their bottom edges to the respective side edges of the rectangular-shaped bottom panel, each said side panel having a flap attached along each of its vertical side edges, each said flap being folded inwardly along the line of demarcation between the flap and the side panel to which it is attached and being in juxtaposition with an end panel of said bottom section, the face of each said flap in juxtaposition with an end panel being adhered to the inner face of the end panel with which the respective flap is in juxtaposition, one of said flaps having a tab attached to the distal end thereof, said tab extending inwardly into the interior of said bottom section and being unattached to the components of the said bottom section of the box except along the said line of attachment of the tab to the said flap with which it is joined, said tab being readily detachable from the said flap with which it is associated, said tab in the detached form serving as a means for determining sales of the item packaged in the container and as a reorder tab that indicates when transmitted to the manufacturer of the item packaged in the container a desire that the manufacturer furnish a replacement item for the one which has been sold.

2. A container that includes an open-top rectangular-shaped bottom section, said bottom section of said container comprising a rectangular-shaped bottom panel, two opposed vertical end panels disposed at opposite ends of the rectangular-shaped bottom panel and attached along their bottom edges to the end edges of the rectangular-shaped bottom panel, and two opposed vertical side panels disposed at opposite sides of the rectangular-shaped bottom panel and attached along their bottom edges to the respective side edges of the rectangular-shaped bottom panel, each said side panel having a flap attached along each of its vertical side edges, each said flap being folded inwardly along the line of demarcation between the flap and the side panel to which it is attached and being in juxtaposition with an end panel of said bottom section, the face of each said flap in juxtaposition with an end panel being adhered to the inner face of the end panel with which the respective flap is in juxtaposition, one of said flaps having a tab attached to the distal end thereof, the line of junction of said tab to said flap being perforated so that said tab can be detached readily from the flap, said tab extending inwardly into the interior of said bottom section and being unattached to the components of the said bottom section of the box except along the said line of attachment of the tab to the said flap with which it is joined, said tab when detached from the bottom section of the box serving as a means for determining sales of the item packaged in the container and as a reorder tab that indicates when transmitted to the manufacturer of the item packaged in the container a desire that the manufacturer furnish a replacement item for the one which has been sold.

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