July 30, 1963 J. C. BERRY 3,099,353

STOCKING PACKAGE AND METHOD

Filed Nov. 9, 1956

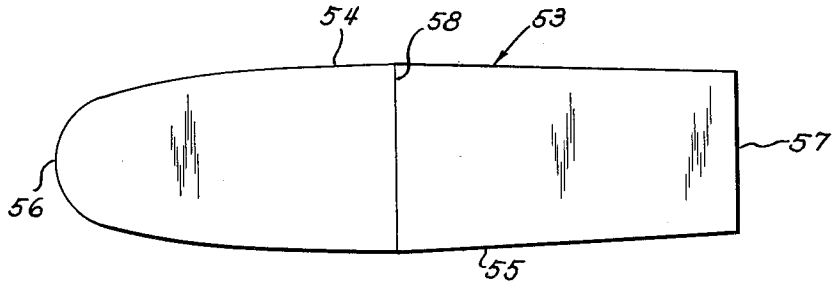


Fig. 1

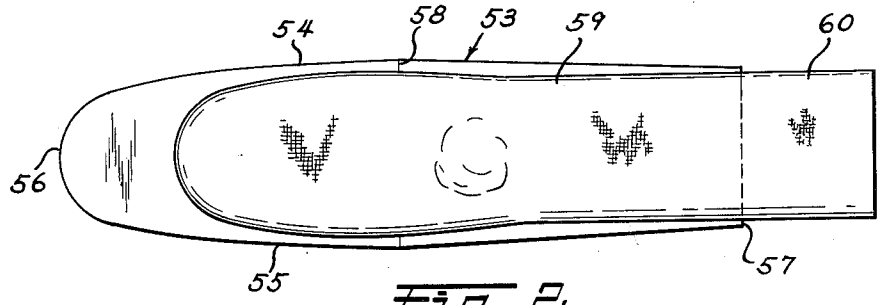


Fig. 2

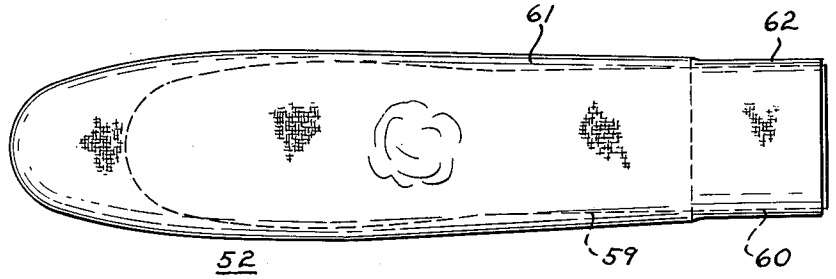


Fig. 3

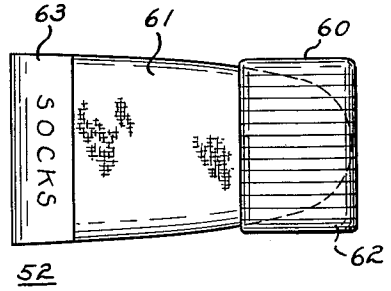


Fig. 4

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AGENTS

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STOCKING PACKAGE AND METHOD

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3 Claims. (Cl. 206—79)

The present invention relates to a stocking package, and more particularly to an improved form of stocking package and method for making same.

In my prior U.S. Patents No. 2,696,295, issued December 7, 1954, and No. 2,742,149, issued April 17, 1956, a wide variety of stocking packages are disclosed and claimed in which two stockings are placed in enveloping relationship over a cardboard or similar insert in a flat, slightly tensioned state to produce a neat, compact, and attractive stocking package. This type of "two on one" package has virtually revolutionized the marketing of stockings and has received widespread commercial acceptance by virtually the entire hosiery industry. The present invention constitutes an improvement over the packages of my prior patents in that it not only possesses all of the advantages of the prior two on one stocking packages, but in addition possesses additional desirable characteristics, particularly when packaging certain types of stockings.

In packaging cotton stockings, and particularly thick cotton stockings, problems of insert distortion, unbalancing of the stocking package with a corresponding detraction from the appearance of the package, and display problems as a result of the increased width of the package are oftentimes encountered when packaging in accordance with my prior patents which are completely eliminated with the present invention. In addition, with the new and improved package of the present invention, it is possible for a purchaser to better examine the stockings, particularly as to quality and feel, thereby tending to prevent inferior goods being passed off as quality merchandise. In addition, the stockings of pastel shade reflect their true color somewhat better when packaged in accordance with the present invention, and consequently will be more attractive to the customer.

It is therefore a principal object of the present invention to provide a new and improved form of stocking package having all of the advantages of my prior patents as well as additional desirable characteristics.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a stocking package that will possess considerable customer appeal.

A further object of the present invention is the provision of a stocking package in which the package will possess no distortion.

Still another object of the present invention is the provision of a stocking package which will be perfectly balanced in appearance.

Yet another object of the present invention is the provision of a stocking package which will be of a width sufficient to display same in existing display equipment.

An additional object of the present invention is the provision of a new and improved stocking package for use with cotton stockings.

Still another object of the present invention is the provision of a stocking package which will permit the customer to actually feel the fabric of the stocking in its wearing state.

Yet another object of the present invention is the provision of a stocking package which will properly present all forms of stockings in all shades and the like in a pleasing and attractive manner.

Still another object of the present invention is the provision of a stocking package utilizing cuffed stockings.

Yet another object of the present invention is the provision of a stocking package utilizing a new and improved insert.

Another object of the present invention is a new and improved method for forming a stocking package.

Other and additional objects will become manifest from the ensuing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Broadly stated, the stocking package of the present invention comprises a flat insert, a first stocking in a flat, slightly tensioned relationship with one face of the insert, and a second mating sock enveloping said first sock and said insert in a flat, slightly tensioned state.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, the present invention then consists of the means hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims, the annexed drawing and the following description setting forth in detail certain means in the carrying out of the invention, such disclosed means illustrating, however, but one of various ways in which the principle of the invention may be employed.

The present invention is illustrated, by way of example, in the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of an insert to be utilized in forming a stocking package made in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the position of a first stocking on the insert shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a top plan view illustrating the enveloping of a second stocking on the insert and first stocking shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of the stocking package shown in FIG. 3 in which the stocking package is folded upon itself and the cuffs thereof are folded upon themselves to retain the stocking package in a folded state.

Reference is now to be had to FIGS. 1–4 wherein a stocking package made in accordance with the present invention and generally designated by reference numeral 52 is illustrated. This form of stocking package is concerned primarily with stockings having a heavy cuff which is, when worn, folded over, down over a portion of the stocking. Such stockings are primarily worn by children and young ladies.

The stocking package 52 includes an insert 53 which may be made from the same material described in my U.S. Patent No. 2,696,295, issued December 7, 1954. Similarly, the dimensions and configuration of the insert 53 may be of any suitable configuration, i.e., with a heel, without a heel, substantially straight or angled, etc. However, the illustrative embodiment of the insert 53 shown in somewhat different, and is particularly adaptable for smaller size children's stockings. The insert 53, as shown, is provided with a slightly outwardly curved forward or leading edge 54 and a slightly outwardly curved trailing edge 55. The respective lower ends of the leading and trailing edges 54 and 55 are united to one another by a curved toe portion 56 and the opposite ends by a top edge portion 57. This construction results in an insert being somewhat elliptical in configuration. The insert 53 is provided with a transversely extending fold or score line 58 to enable the folding of the formed stocking package upon itself.

A first or inner stocking 59 having a cuff portion 60 is positioned in a flat, tensioned state on one face of the insert 53, with the cuff portion 60 of the stocking 59 lying beyond the top edge 57 of the insert 53 and in nonengagement therewith. It is to be noted that the heel portion of the stocking 59 lies on the flat side of the insert 53. The second or outer stocking 61 having a cuff portion 62 envelopes the insert 53 and the first stocking 59 in a flat, tensioned state with the cuff portion 62 thereof extending beyond the top edge 57 of the insert in

enveloping relationship with the cuff portion 60 of the first stocking 59, as shown in FIG. 3. The stocking package 53 is folded upon itself along the fold line 58 of the insert, and the cuff portions 60 and 62 are then folded back as a unit over the folded package as a unit, with the cuff portion 60 of the first stocking 59 lying on the outside. This results in cuff portions 60 and 62 enveloping the toe portion and top portion of the insert as shown in FIG. 4, thereby positively retaining the stocking package 52 in a folded state. If desired, a band 63 may be applied to the bottom of the stocking package 52.

The hereinbefore described forms of stocking packages, each of which is made in accordance with my present invention, may be assembled in any desired manner. The description of each form hereinbefore given has been primarily to associate the respective parts of the package when in a completed state. A new and novel method forming a part of the present invention may be employed in formulating any of the forms of stocking packages hereinbefore described. In the new method the first or inner stocking is placed in a flat, highly tensioned or otherwise stretched state that is greater in width than the width of the insert. The second or outer stocking is placed in a flat, highly tensioned state and in enveloping relationship with respect to the first stocking. The cardboard insert is then inserted between the outer stocking and one side or face of the inner stocking until the top portion of the insert is in substantial registry with the top edge of the stockings. Each of the stockings is then relaxed, resulting in the stockings engaging the insert in a flat, slightly tensioned or stretched state to produce the desired package. The package may then be folded with the face against which the first stocking rests being on the inside, and the band and rider applied thereto, if desired.

In packaging the form of the invention shown in FIGS. 1–4, the insert will be positioned within the stockings such that the top or cuff portion will be well within the cuff portion of the stockings. Thus when the stockings are relaxed, at least half of the cuff portions thereof will not be in engagement with the insert. The stocking package is then folded, bringing the toe portion and the top edge portion in alignment. The cuff portions of the stockings not in engagement with the insert are then reversely turned back over the insert to envelop the toe portion and top portion, thereby positively insuring the retention of the formed package in a folded state.

In a modification of the new method, it will be found advantageous with certain goods to stretch the outer stocking when in enveloping relationship so that its width will be greater than that of the first stocking. The insert may then be positioned between the inner and outer stocking more easily.

As hereinbefore indicated, the stocking packages of the present invention may be formulated in any desired manner, although the preferred is the method hereinbefore described. Similarly, any suitable packaging machine may be employed. A particular and preferred one is that disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 2,971,302, issued February 14, 1961, to John C. Berry and George W. Newton.

By the term "stocking" as used herein and in the appended claims, it is used to define men's, women's, and children's socks and stockings of the type known as ankle socks, as well as part way up on the calf of the wearer, such as Argyles. While the present invention is of particular utility with cotton goods, it is to be clearly understood that stretch yarn stockings and combination cotton and stretch yarn stockings can be packaged equally as well.

While there have been described herein what are at present considered preferred embodiments of the invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art, that modifications and changes may be made therein without departing from the essence of the invention. It is therefore to be understood that the exemplary embodiments are illustrative and not restrictive of the invention, the scope of which is defined in the appended claims, and that all modifications that come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are intended to be included therein.

I claim:

1. A stocking package comprising a flat, substantially stiff insert of sheet material, said insert having a transversely extending fold line therein, a first sock having a cuff portion therewith in engagement with one face of said insert, a second stocking having a cuff portion therewith enveloping said insert and said first stocking in a flat, slightly tensioned state, said package folded upon itself and the cuff portion reversely folded in encircling relationship about said package to retain same in a folded state.

2. A sock display package comprising an insert formed of flat stiff but bendable material and having a configuration resembling that of a foot and ankle in vertically extended position, a pair of socks including an inner sock and an outer sock each having a toe portion and a cuff, the outer sock being drawn on said insert and carried thereby in a flat slightly tensioned state, the toe portion of the outer sock engaging one end edge of the insert and the cuffs of the socks extending beyond the other end edge of the insert, the insert and socks being folded upon themselves to bring the end edges of the insert adjacent each other with the cuffs of the socks extending beyond said end edges of the insert, and said cuffs being folded downwardly upon themselves to envelop the toe of the outer sock and the adjacent portions of the legs of the socks and hold them together in folded condition to form a display package.

3. A sock display package comprising an insert formed of flat stiff but bendable material and having a configuration resembling that of a foot and ankle in vertically extended position, a pair of socks including an inner sock and an outer sock each having a toe portion and a cuff, the outer sock being drawn on said insert and carried thereby in a flat slightly tensioned state, the toe portion of the outer sock being adjacent one end edge of the insert and the cuffs of the socks extending beyond the other end edge of the insert, the insert and socks being folded upon themselves to bring the end edges of the insert adjacent each other with the cuffs of the socks extending beyond said end edges of the insert, and said cuffs being folded downwardly upon themselves to envelop the toe of the outer sock and the adjacent portions of the legs of the socks and hold them together in folded condition to form a display package.

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