July 12, 1966 G. C. SPARKS 3,260,357

DISPLAY-DISPENSER FOR PACKETS

Filed Nov. 18, 1964

Fig. 1

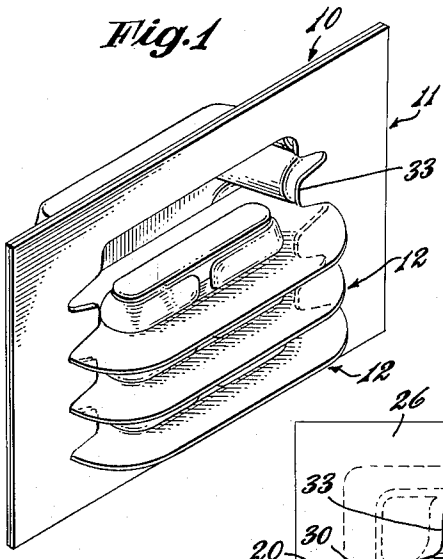


Fig. 2

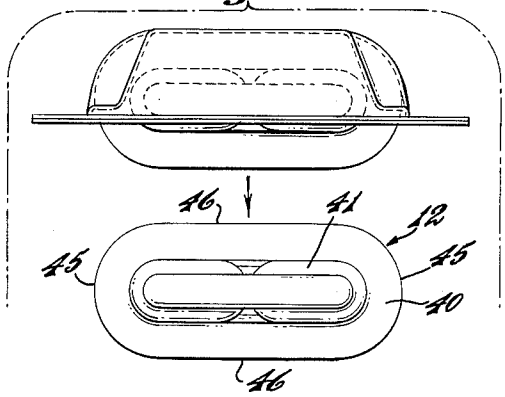


Fig. 3

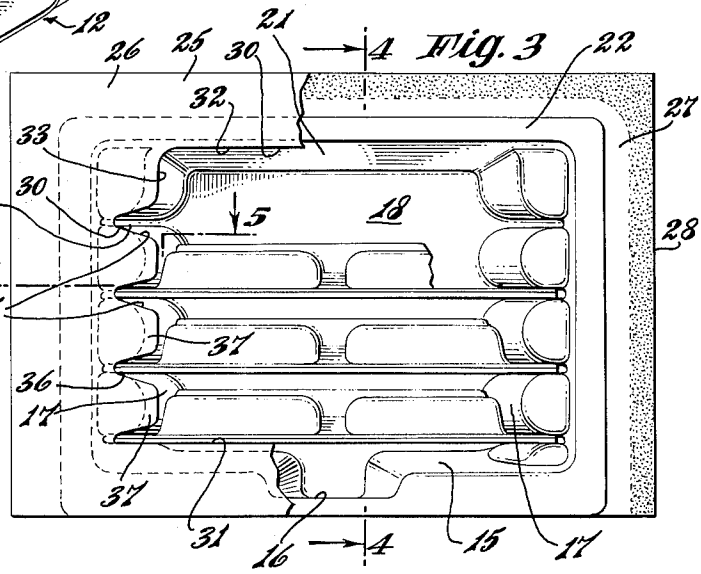


Fig. 4

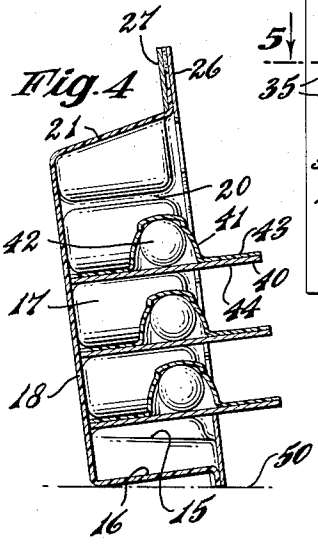


Fig. 5

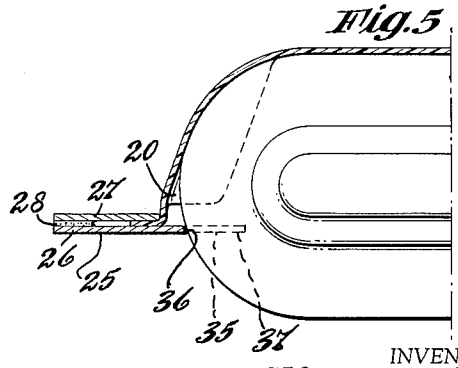
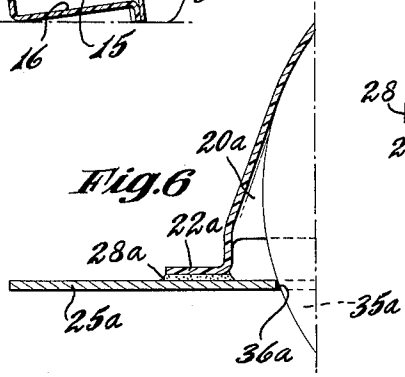


Fig. 6



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DISPLAY-DISPENSER FOR PACKETS

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10 Claims. (Cl. 206—44.12)

This invention constitutes an improvement over that disclosed in my copending patent application Serial No. 384,188 filed July 21, 1964, and this application is a continuation-in-part thereof. This invention relates generally to packaging, and is especially concerned with a unique display-dispenser for packets.

While the device of the present invention has been primarily developed and employed for use in the distribution, dispaly and dispensing of pharmaceuticals, and will be illustrated and described hereinafter with particular reference thereto, it is understood that the advantageous features of the instant invention are capable of many varied applications, all of which are intended to be comprehended herein.

It is an important object of the present invention to provide a display-dispenser for packets, wherein the display-dispenser and packets present an attractive whole, the packets being effectively protected from damage and inadvertent removal, and wherein the packets may be quickly and easily removed for use, as required.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a display-dispenser for packets having the advantageous characteristics mentioned in the preceding paragraph, which is of extremely simple construction, durable and reliable throughout its useful life, and which can be economically manufactured and employed for usage in large quantities.

Other objects of the present invention will become apparent upon reading the following specification and referring to the accompanying drawings, which form a material part of this disclosure.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements, and arrangements of parts, which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter described, and of which the scope will be indicated by the appended claims.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a front perspective view illustrating a package of the present invention, with one packet removed therefrom for clarity of illustration;

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the package of FIGURE 1, illustrating removal of a packet;

FIGURE 3 is a front elevational view showing the packet of FIGURE 1, and partly broken away to illustrate details of construction;

FIGURE 4 is a sectional elevational view taken generally along the line 4—4 of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is a partial sectional view taken generally along the line 5—5 of FIGURE 3; and

FIGURE 6 is a partial sectional view similar to FIGURE 5, illustrating a slightly modified embodiment of the instant invention.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, and specifically to FIGURES 1–5 thereof, the package is there generally designated **10**, and includes a display-dispenser **11** and a plurality of contained packets **12**.

The display-dispenser may be constructed to include a generally flat bottom wall **15** having a depressed laterally medial region **16**. The laterally medial depressed region **16** extends forwardy and rearwardly between the forward and rearward edges of the bottom wall **15**. At opposite lateral extremities of the bottom wall **15**, upstanding therefrom, are a pair of side walls **17**, and a back wall **18** upstands from the rear edge of the bottom wall **15** extending laterally between the rear edges of the side walls **17**. The side walls **17** are each configured to provide a plurality

of internal, inwardly facing grooves **20** superposed in spaced relation with respect to each other and each having its forward end open. The superposed, forwardly opening grooves **20** of one wall **17** are in respective lateral alignment with the corresponding grooves of the other side wall.

Extending across the upper edges of the side walls **17** and back wall **18** is a top wall **21**. The forward or front edges of the bottom wall **15**, side walls **17** and top wall **21** may be generally coplanar and provided with a peripherally extending, outstanding flange **22**. In practice, it has been found advantageous to integrally fabricate the bottom wall **15**, side walls **17**, back wall **18**, top wall **21** and flange **22** of a single sheet of plastic material, such as by suitable thermoforming techniques.

Extending across the front edges of bottom wall **15**, side walls **17** and top wall **21** may be a front wall **25**. The front wall may be formed of a sandwich construction, as of two layers, say of cardboard, or other suitable material. More particularly, the front wall **25** may include a forward layer **26** on the forward side of flange **22**, and a rear layer **27** on the rear side of flange **22**, the front and rear layers effectively sandwiching therebetween the flange. The rear layer **27** may be formed with a central thru opening extending generally conformably about the periphery of bottom wall **15**, side walls **17** and top wall **21**; and, the front wall may be held in position by securement together of the front and back layers **26** and **27**, as by adhesive **28** extending about the peripheral margin of the front-wall layer spaced outward from the flange **22**, as best seen in FIGURES 3 and 4. The adhesive **28** may be of thermoplastic or other suitable adhesive means.

Centrally of the front layer **26** of front wall **25** there is formed therein a thru opening or hole **30** generally conforming to the interior configuration of bottom wall **15**, side walls **17** and top wall **21**. The central thru opening or hole **30** thus communicates inward through the front wall **25** with the interior space within the bottom wall **15**, side walls **17**, back wall **18** and top wall **21**.

More particularly, the thru opening **30** includes a lower bounding edge **31** extending generally along the bottom wall **15**, an upper bounding edge **32** extending generally along the top wall **21**, and bounding side edges **33** extending generally along the side walls **17**. Further, the front layer or sheet **26** of front wall **25** is formed with a plurality of generally V-shaped cutouts or notches **35** along the side edges **33** of opening **30**. The notches **35** are each located in registry with a respective side-wall groove **20**, the root, depth or vertex **36** of each generally V-shaped notch terminating laterally inwardly of the bottom wall of the respective aligned groove **20**. This may be seen in FIGURE 5, the notch end **36** being located laterally inward of the bottom of groove **20**. Further, the vertical spaces between superposed notches **35** serve to define of the front-wall sheet **26** a plurality of vertically spaced laterally inwardly extending tabs **37**. The tabs **37** extend generally conformably in front of the portions of side walls **17** intermediate the grooves **20**.

The packets **12** may each include a generally flat, laterally elongate base **40**, and a raised receptacle portion **41** centrally on the base. Within the receptacle portion **41** may be carried any desired articles of contents, such as pills **42**. The receptacle portion **41** may be formed of plastic, or other suitable material, and be provided with a peripherally outstanding flange **43** having on its underside a backing sheet **44** extending across and in closing relation with the receptacle portion. The flange **43** and backing sheet **44** may combine to define the base **40**. The base **40**, being of generally ovaloid configuration, includes generally rounded marginal end edges **45**, and generally straight, intermediate or marginal side edges **46**.

In the assembled package, each packet **12** is passed rearwardly through the front-wall opening **32** with the marginal end edges **45** engaged in a laterally aligned pair of grooves **20**, while one intermediate side marginal edge **46** extends forwardly through and beyond the front wall **25**. Further, the lateral extent or length of each packet base **40** is such as to slidably engage in an aligned pair of grooves **20** with the rear marginal edge **46** abutting the back wall **18**; but the lateral dimension between aligned notch roots or vertices **36** is less than the length of of a packet base **40**. This is best seen in FIGURE 5. Hence, a packet base **40** may be engaged in receiving grooves **20** only by forcible entry through the respective registering notches **35**. Conversely, a packet **12** may be removed forward through the front-wall opening **30** only by forcible withdrawal therethrough. In practice, the package may be assembled by application of the front wall **25** subsequent to insertion of the packets **12** in grooves **20**, to obviate the requirement of forcible insertion.

In the assembled package, the forwardly extending marginal side edges **46** provide convenient finger pulls for removing a packet **12** through the front-wall opening **30**. It will be apparent that the vertical spacing of grooves **20** and registering notches **35** is sufficient to receive therebetween the raised receptacle portions **41**; further, the front-wall tabs **37**, intermediate the notches **35**, serve to guide movement of the packets, and further combine with the raised receptacle portions **41** to effectively close the interior of the package and conceal the space therein.

As best seen in FIGURE 4, the depressed bottom-wall portion **16** combines with the lower forward edge of front wall **25** to define a plane for stable resting engagement on a supporting surface **50**.

In FIGURE 6 is shown a slightly modified embodiment wherein the front wall **25***a* is formed of a single layer or sheet, which may be adhesively secured, as at **28***a* directly to the forward side of flange **22***a*. In this manner the rear front-wall layer **27** may be eliminated.

From the foregoing, it is seen that the present invention provides a display-dispenser for packets which fully accomplish its intended objects and is well adapted to meet practical conditions of manufacture and use.

Although the present invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it is understood that certain changes and modifications may be made within the spirit of the invention and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A display-dispenser for packets, comprising a bottom wall; side walls upstanding from opposite sides of said bottom wall; a back wall upstanding from the back of said bottom wall extending between said side walls; a top wall extending across the top of said back and side walls; said side walls each having a plurality of inwardly facing forwardly opening superposed grooves in respective alignment with the grooves of the other side wall; a plurality of packets each extending between and having opposite edge margins engaged in a pair of aligned grooves; and a front wall extending across the front of said bottom, side and top walls; said front wall having a thru opening of a lateral dimension slightly less than the lateral extent of said packets, to removably retain the latter in said grooves.

2. A display-dispenser for packets, according to claim **1**, said bottom, side, back and top walls being integrally fabricated of sheet plastic; and a peripheral flange extending about the forward edges of said bottom, top and sidewalls; said front wall being carried by said flange.

3. A display-dispenser for packets, according to claim **2**, said grooves being formed in the sheet plastic of said side walls.

4. A display-dispenser for packets, according to claim **1**, said packets each including a generally flat base and a centrally raised receiver on said base, said base defining said opposite edge margins and an intermediate edge margin extending forwardly through said front-wall opening for manual grasping.

5. A display-dispenser for packets, according to claim **4**, in combination with a plurality of spaced tabs extending inwardly from the side edges of said front-wall opening intermediate said side-wall grooves, to guide said packets and conceal the space within said bottom, side and top walls.

6. A display-dispenser for packets, according to claim **1**, said bottom wall and the lower edge of said front wall defining a plane for stable engagement with a supporting surface.

7. A display-dispenser for packets, comprising bottom, side, back and top walls integrally fabricated of sheet plastic; said side walls each being formed to provide a plurality of inwardly facing forwardly opening superposed grooves in respective alignment with the grooves of the other side wall; a front wall extending across the front edges of said bottom, side and top walls; said front wall having a central opening communicating with the space within said bottom, side, back and top walls; said front wall being formed in opposite bounding margins of said central opening with a plurality of inwardly facing laterally aligned notches in respective registry with the forward openings of said grooves; and a plurality of packets each having its opposite end edges forcibly engaged through a pair of aligned notches for removable reception in a pair of aligned grooves.

8. A display-dispenser for packets, according to claim **7**, said packets each including a generally flat base, and a central raised receptacle portion on said base, said base defining said opposite end edges and an intermediate edge margin extending forwardly through said front-wall opening for manual grasping.

9. A display-dispenser for packets, according to claim **7**, in combination with a peripheral outstanding flange extending about the forward edges of said bottom, side and top walls, and securing means securing said front wall to said flange.

10. A display-dispenser for packets, according to claim **9**, said securing means comprising a pair of front-wall layers secured together in sandwiching relation with respect to said flange.

No references cited.

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