

Aug. 25, 1936.

L. G. CROSBY

2,052,015

PACKAGE STIFFENER

Filed Nov. 23, 1934

Fig. 1

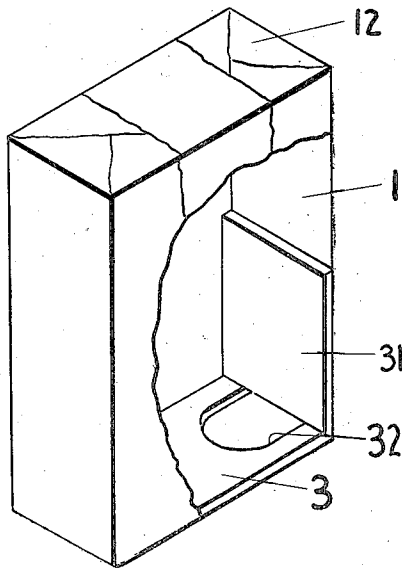


Fig. 2

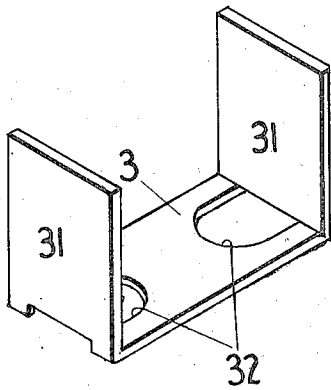
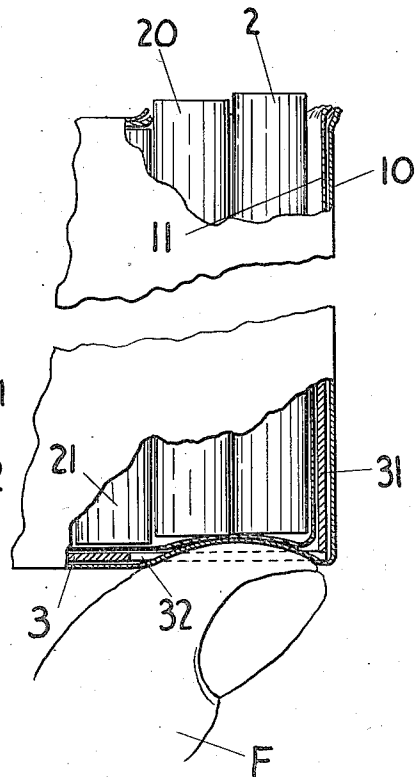
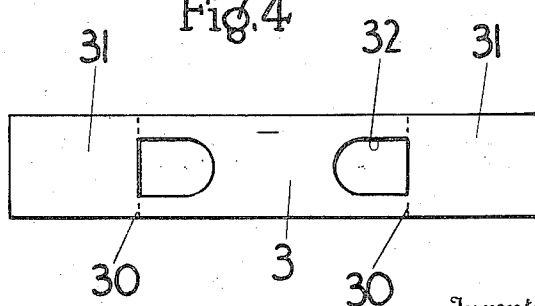


Fig. 3

Fig. 4



Inventor

Loren G. Crosby

By *Charles L. Reynolds*

Attorney

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,052,015

## PACKAGE STIFFENER

Loren G. Crosby, King County, near Kent, Wash.

Application November 23, 1934, Serial No. 754,449

4 Claims. (Cl. 206—56)

My invention relates to packages, and the principles will be best illustrated by reference to a cigarette package of the common type, wherein a plurality of cigarettes are closely embraced by a paper wrapper.

When a corner of the package has been torn off it is difficult to extract the first of the cigarettes from the package, as they are so closely packed that it is not easy to engage any single one to withdraw it from the package. Sometimes the first cigarette is started by inverting the package and tapping the bottom. It may be started in the ordinary package by pushing up the bottom with a finger beneath the opened cover. It is one of the objects of my invention to provide a stiffening means, yet one of such character that either method of starting the first cigarette may still be employed without difficulty.

It is desirable to hold the package in shape, so that the cigarettes will not become bent or broken or crushed too greatly, hence the reason for a stiffener, yet after a number of cigarettes have been withdrawn from the package it is desirable that the portion of the package adjacent to the torn-off corner shall be permitted to collapse to prevent the cigarettes from falling out of the package while it is carried in the pocket, and thus it is a further object of my invention to provide a stiffener, and preferably one which will facilitate the projection of the first cigarette, yet one which will not prevent the corner from folding together or collapsing somewhat to assist in holding the cigarettes in place after a number have been withdrawn.

It is a further object to provide a stiffener of this general character which shall be simple and inexpensive, and which can be readily incorporated in such a package.

My invention comprises the novel package, and the novel stiffener therefor, as will be more particularly pointed out in the accompanying drawing, in this specification, and in the claims terminating the same, wherein my invention will be disclosed and defined in a form which at present is preferred by me.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of such a package, with the front broken away and the cigarettes omitted for clearer illustration. This illustrates the manner in which my stiffener is incorporated in the package.

Figure 2 is an elevation, with parts broken away, showing the manner in which my invention facilitates the removal of the first cigarette.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the stiffener alone, in the position it would occupy within the

package, and Figure 4 is an elevation of the blank comprising such a stiffener, laid flat.

A cigarette package is ordinarily wrapped in paper, and there may be one or several wrappings. This, however, is immaterial, so far as the present invention is concerned, and the numeral 1 in Figure 1 represents the wrapper generally, which as seen in Figure 2 may consist of the outer wrapper 10 and the inner wrapper 11. Within such a wrapper are enclosed the cigarettes 2, 20, 21, etc.

To provide a stiffener which will hold the package in shape, I employ a piece of paper board or like stiff material, indicated by the numeral 3, which is of a width to fill the space within the package between the front and back faces, and which preferably is of a length corresponding to the width of the bottom edge. This is inserted in the bottom of the package, and while it is immaterial whether it be placed immediately beneath the cigarettes or between the inner and outer wrappers 11 and 10, or even outside of the two wrappers, I have shown it as incorporated between the two wrappers.

When an end of the top of the package, for example the portion 12 in Figure 1, is torn off, as is customary in removing the cigarettes from such a package, it is difficult to grasp the first cigarette or to withdraw it from the package. To permit a cigarette to be started by pressing upward on the bottom of the package, as may be done in the conventional package, my stiffener is provided with an aperture 32 adjacent one end, that is, adjacent one of the ends of the bottom of the package. This aperture is of a size to permit insertion of a finger F, as seen in Figure 2, deforming the bottom portion of the wrappers and pressing upward a cigarette 2, or perhaps several cigarettes, as indicated at 2 and 20. These cigarettes are projected above the top edge of the package into a position where they may be grasped to pull them from the package. Two such apertures may be employed, one at each end of the stiffener 3, so that this operation may be performed whichever end of the top edge is torn off.

Preferably the stiffener is of a length in excess of the width of the bottom edge of the package, and yet of a length which is less than the combined length of the bottom and the two side edges. It is scored, as indicated at 30, to leave hingedly connected extensions 31, at least at one end and preferably at each end, which extensions are of a length to extend only part way, preferably not over half way, up the side edge

of the package. These wings or extensions 31 serve to protect and stiffen the package along its side edges, as the main portion 3 stiffens the bottom edge, and thus the package is held substantially in rectangular shape. At the same time, because the extensions 31 do not come close to the top edge of the package, the wrapper may collapse at the corner opening above the top of the extensions 31, so that after a number of cigarettes have been withdrawn this collapsing of the wrapper will tend to hold the remaining cigarettes in place, yet the stiffener still serves to protect the cigarettes, grouped at the side of the package away from the opening, and to prevent their being crushed or broken.

I have shown apertures which lie between the side edges of the stiffener 3, but it will be evident that these apertures, and I use the term "aperture" to indicate generally all equivalent variations of those shown, might be otherwise formed, for example, as notches cut into one edge or the other, or into alternate edges, of the stiffener. The stiffener, particularly if the extensions 31 are provided, would still serve to hold the package in shape, and these notches, if they were of sufficient size for the projection of a finger there-through, would assist in projecting the first cigarette.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A stiffener for cigarette packages which comprise a paper wrapper, which comprises a strip of stiff material of a width corresponding to the thickness of the package, an extension hingedly connected to an end of such strip, of corresponding width but of a length substantially less than the height of the package, said strip having an aperture at its juncture with the extension, of a size to permit entrance of a finger to press upward a cigarette or cigarettes disposed in the package above such aperture.

2. A stiffener for cigarette packages which comprise a paper wrapper, which consists of a strip

of paper board or the like of a width corresponding to the thickness of the package, and of a length in excess of the width of the package, said strip being transversely scored for folding at points spaced by an amount corresponding to the width of the package, and said strip, inside of said scores, having two apertures, one adjacent to each score, and each of a size to permit entrance of a finger to press upward a cigarette or cigarettes disposed in the package above such aperture.

3. A stiffener for cigarette packages which comprise a paper wrapper, which consists of a strip of paper board or the like of a width corresponding to the thickness of the package, and of a length in excess of the width of the package, but of a length substantially less than the combined lengths of the bottom and two sides of the package, said strip being transversely scored for folding at points spaced by an amount corresponding to the width of the package, and said strip, inside of said scores, having two apertures, one adjacent to each score, and each of a size to permit entrance of a finger to press upward a cigarette or cigarettes disposed in the package above such aperture.

4. A cigarette package comprising a plurality of cigarettes, a flexible wrapper closely embracing the cigarettes, a stiff insert of a width corresponding to the thickness of the package and of a length corresponding to the width of the package, disposed beneath the lower ends of the cigarettes, within the wrapper, an extension at each end of said insert extending immediately upward along the sides of the cigarettes, between such cigarettes and the wrapper, and said insert having two apertures, one adjacent each end and disposed wholly within the side edges of the insert, of a size to permit pressure of a cigarette upward by a finger pressing on the wrapper beneath such aperture.

LOREN G. CROSBY.