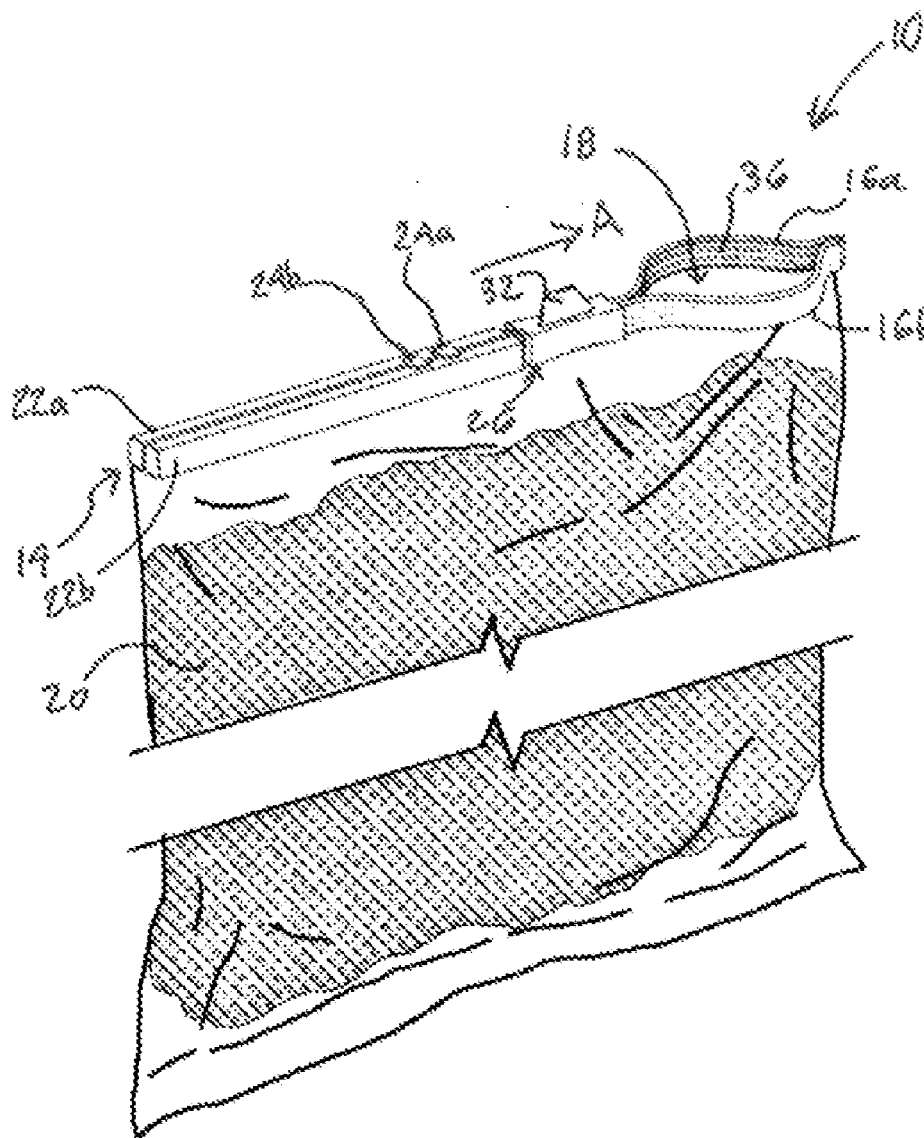




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Vegliante et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2022/0097921 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Mar. 31, 2022**(54) **BAG PACKAGING CLOSURE AND
DISPENSING DEVICE****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.**
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CPC B65D 33/2541 (2013.01)(71) Applicant: **Cutting Edge Packaging Solutions,
LLC, Sarasota, FL (US)**(72) Inventors: **Paul Vegliante, Franklin Lakes, NJ
(US); Michael Tucker, Valatie, NY
(US)**(73) Assignee: **Cutting Edge Packaging Solutions,
LLC, Sarasota, FL (US)**(21) Appl. No.: **17/489,707**(22) Filed: **Sep. 29, 2021****Related U.S. Application Data**(60) Provisional application No. 63/085,118, filed on Sep.
29, 2020.(57) **ABSTRACT**

A bag packaging closure and dispensing device is disclosed. The device has first and second legs secured together about a package. The legs include first and second flexible portions biased apart to provide a space therebetween for dispensing. A slider is moveable along the legs to move the first and second flexible portions together to close the packaging. A method for opening and closing packaging for dispensing contents is also disclosed.



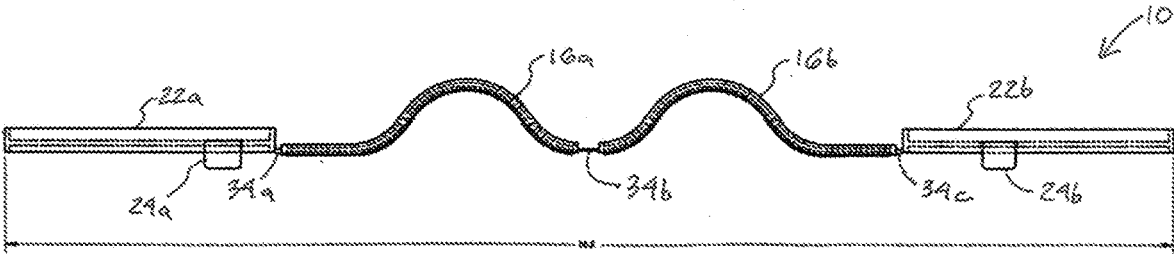


FIG. 1

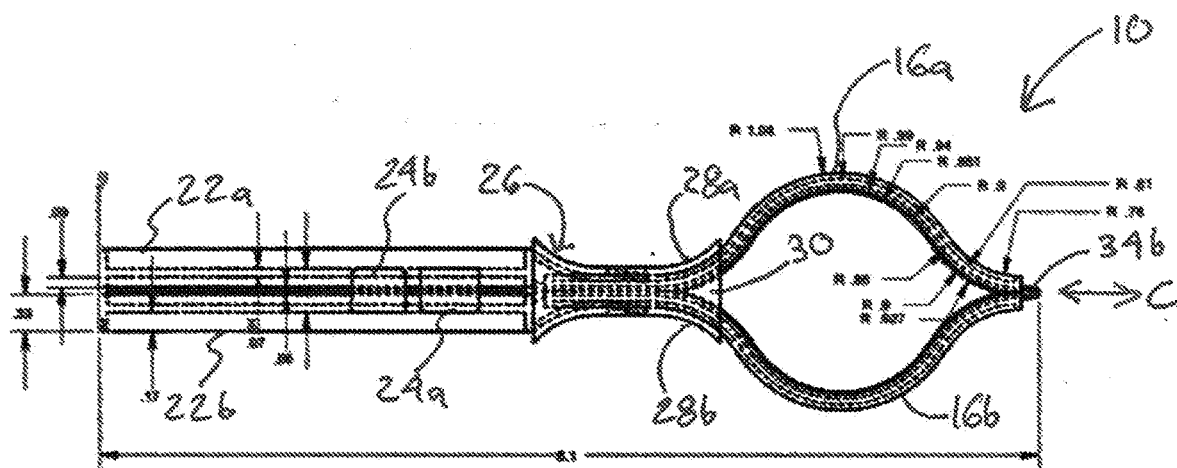


FIG. 2

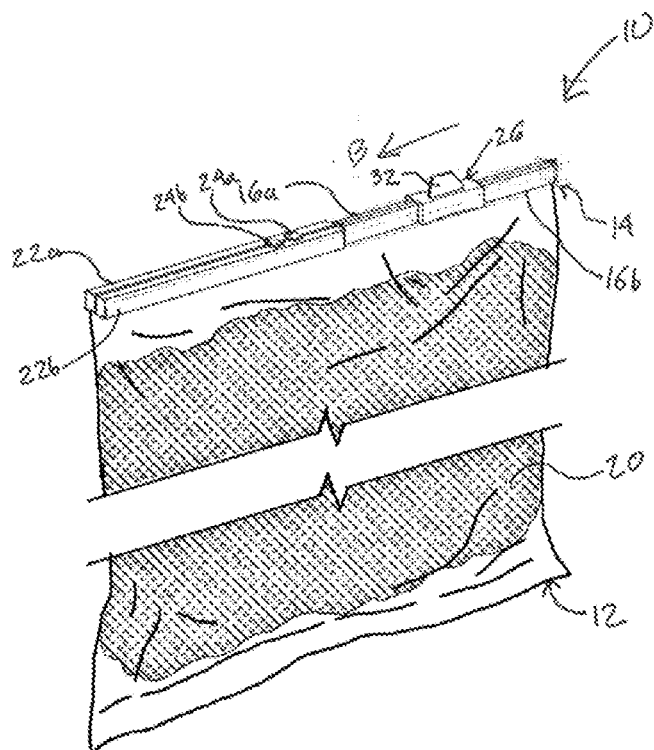


FIG. 3

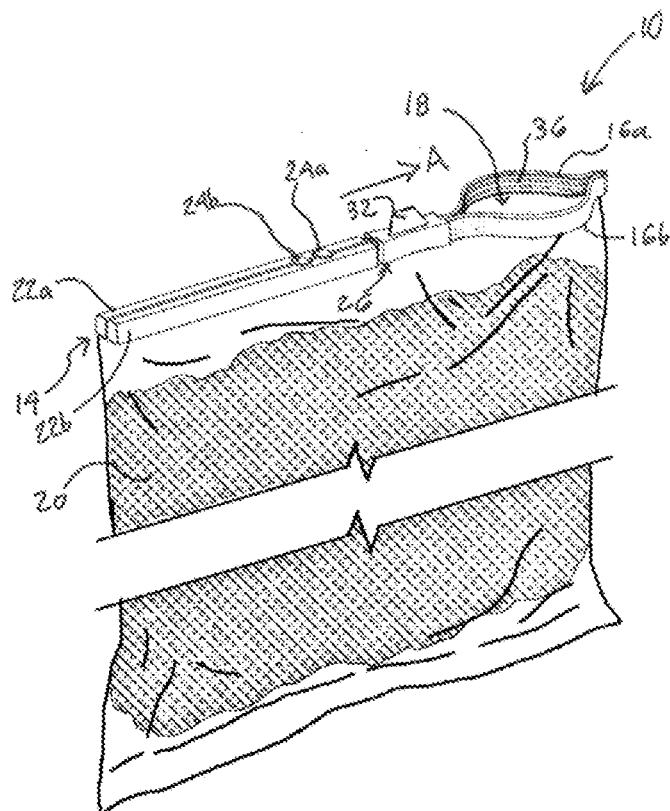


FIG. 4

BAG PACKAGING CLOSURE AND DISPENSING DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/085,118, filed Sep. 29, 2020, the entire disclosure of which is hereby expressly incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

Field of the Disclosure

[0002] The present disclosure relates to a bag packaging closure and dispensing device.

Related Art

[0003] Various foodstuffs, such as potato chips, cereal, popcorn, rice, and the like are commonly packaged in bags, such as plastic bags, which are sealed to protect the contents from moisture, damage and contamination during packaging, transportation, display, and sale, before eventually being opened by a consumer. These packaging bags are sealed using adhesives, bonding, welding, and other sealing mechanisms that, once opened, cannot be resealed. As such, once a packaging bag is opened, the contents are exposed to moisture and various forms of contamination.

[0004] Accordingly, what is needed, but has not been developed, is a device that can be used to dispense a portion of the contents of a packaging bag, can also reseal the packaging bag until its next use, and can be reused on another packaging bag.

SUMMARY

[0005] A bag packaging closure and dispensing device has first and second legs secured together about a package. The first and second legs include flexible portions biased apart to provide a space therebetween for dispensing. A slider is moveable along the legs to move the first and second flexible portions together to close the packaging.

[0006] A method for opening and closing packaging for dispensing contents includes attaching first and second legs about an end of packaging, securing the first and second legs together about packaging and moving a slider along the legs to open and close the packaging.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] The foregoing features of the disclosure will be apparent from the following Detailed Description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0008] FIG. 1 is a top view of the bag packaging closure and dispensing device of the present disclosure, in a disassembled configuration;

[0009] FIG. 2 is a top view of the bag packaging closure and dispensing device of FIG. 1, positioned in an assembled configuration;

[0010] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the bag packaging closure and dispensing device of FIG. 2, positioned in a closed configuration on a packaging bag; and

[0011] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the bag packaging closure and dispensing device of FIG. 3, positioned in an open configuration on a packaging bag.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] FIGS. 1 and 2 show components of an exemplary bag packaging closure and dispensing device 10 of the present disclosure and illustrate assembly thereof. More specifically, FIG. 1 is a top view showing components of the device 10, in a disassembled configuration, and FIG. 2 is a top view of the device 10, fully assembled.

[0013] As shown in FIG. 1, the device 10 can include first and second jaws 22a and 22b, first and second resiliently deformable rails 16a and 16b, and a slider 26 (see FIG. 2). The rails 16a and 16b and the jaws 22a and 22b can be a unitary component formed, for example, from resiliently deformable plastic, using an injection molding process. For example, jaw 22a can be connected to rail 16a via a first living hinge 34a, rail 16a can be connected to rail 16b via a second living hinge 34b, and rail 16b can be connected to jaw 22b via a third living hinge 34c. The rails 16a and 16b and the jaws 22a and 22b can be formed separately and/or of different materials in the form of multiple components. Jaws 22a and 22b can be joined together with rails 16a and 16b in any suitable matter, including rigidly or flexibly, and rails 16a and 16b can be of a unitary construction or joined together in any suitable manner, including with a rigid connection or a flexible connection.

[0014] As shown in FIG. 2, the first jaw 22a and the first rail 16a and the second jaw 22b and the second rail 16b can be rotated about the hinge 34b, or otherwise positioned together, such that the first and second rails 16a and 16b and first and second jaws 22a and 22b are in facing relation, respectively. The slider 26 can be positioned on the rails 16a and 16b and can be moved along the rails 16a and 16b in the direction of arrow C, thereby slidably engaging the slider 26 with the rails 16a and 16b.

[0015] FIGS. 3 and 4 are perspective views of the bag packaging closure and dispensing device 10 of the present disclosure, attached to a packaging bag 12. More specifically, FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the device 10 positioned in a first closed configuration and FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the device 10 positioned in a second open configuration.

[0016] As shown, the device 10 can be attached, or clipped, about an open upper edge 14 of the bag 12. The first and second resiliently deformable rails 16a and 16b can be configured to be outwardly biased, such that they form a tension circle (e.g., an opening) 18, therebetween, or other aperture, for dispensing contents 20 of the bag 12 there-through. For example, the first and second rails 16a and 16b can be formed from a resiliently deformable material, such as plastic, pvc, or the like, including portions thereof that are generally semi-circular in shape when not compressed by the slider 26, but which can be flattened when compressed by the slider 26 (e.g., by moving the slider in the direction of arrow A), and can return to their semi-circular in shape when not under compression (e.g., by moving the slider in the direction of arrow B). The first and second rails 16a and 16b can be moved between open and closed positions repeatedly to open or close/seal the packaging bag 12.

[0017] The first and second jaws 22a and 22b can be secured about a portion of the open upper edge 14 of the bag 12, to secure the device 10 to the bag 12. The first and second rails 16a and 16b are positioned about the remainder of the open upper edge 14 of the bag 12. According to some embodiments of the present disclosure, the first and second jaws 22a and 22b can compress the bag 12 therebetween to

secure the device to the bag. Locking tabs **24a** and **24b**, can secure the jaws **22a** and **22b** against the upper edge **14** of the bag. The locking tabs **24a** and **24b** can be in snap-fit engagement with opposing jaws **22b** and **22a**, respectively. For example, each of the locking tabs **24a** and **24b** can include an arm attached to one of the jaws at a first end of the arm, and has a finger at the other end thereof, to engage a notch, detente, or surface located on the other jaw to secure the jaws **22a** and **22b** against each other. Additionally, or alternatively, the jaws **22a** and **22b** can be removably secured against each other by way of magnets (not shown), or any other mechanism for removably securing the jaws **22a** and **22b** against each other and compressing the upper edge **14** of the bag **12** therebetween. One or more rubber pads, ribs, or the like (not shown) can also be disposed on inner adjacent faces of the jaws **22a** and **22b** to provide an enhanced seal and/or additional grip between the jaws **22a** and **22b** and the upper edge **14** of the bag **12**.

[0018] As shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the slider **26** is slidably positionable along the rails **16a** and **16b** to seal the bag **12** (FIG. 3), or to provide access to the contents **20** of the bag (FIG. 4). For example, when the slider **26** is positioned along the rails **16a** and **16b**, as shown in FIG. 3, the tension circle **18** is closed and the rails **16a** and **16b** are compressed against the upper edge **14** of the bag **12**, thereby sealing the bag **12**. Conversely, when the slider **26** is positioned against the jaws **22a** and **22b**, as shown in FIG. 4, the tension circle **18** expands, due to the construction of the rails **16a** and **16b**, and the contents **20** of the bag **12** can be dispensed. As shown in FIG. 4, one or more ribs **36**, which can be interlocking, can be disposed on inner adjacent faces of the rails **16a** and **16b** to provide an enhanced seal and/or additional grip between the rails **16a** and **16b** and the upper edge **14** of the bag **12**.

[0019] The slider **26** can include first and second concave sidewalls **28a** and **28b** depending from a top wall **30**, as can be seen in FIG. 2. The concave curvature of the sidewalls **28a** and **28b** can be configured to accommodate the curvature of the rails **16a** and **16b** when the tension circle **18** is open, thereby reducing the force needed to move the slider **26** therealong. The concave sidewalls **28a** and **28b** can provide ergonomic surfaces for a user to grip the slider **26**, when moving the slider **26** along the rails **16a** and **16b**, and can also be provided with surface features (not shown) to further enhance grip. The slider **26** can also include a projection **32** extending from the top surface **30** of the slider **26** that can also be grasped by a user to move the slider along the rails **16a** and **16b**.

[0020] In order to secure the device **10** to the bag **12**, a user can position the first jaw **22a** and the first rail **16a** against one side of the open upper edge **14** of the bag **12** and can

position the second jaw **22b** and the second rail **16b** against an opposite side of the open upper edge **14** of the bag **12**, rotating the second jaw **22b** and the second rail **16b** about the hinge **34b**, compressing the upper edge **14** of the bag **12** therebetween, and securing the first and second jaws **22a** and **22b** to each other, for example via locking tabs **24a** and **24b**. The user can then position the slider **26** onto the end of the rails **16a** and **16b** (e.g., at the end having the hinge **34b**), and can move the slider **26** along the rails **16a** and **16b** to engage the slider **26** with the rails **16a** and **16b**. In order to remove the device **10** from the bag **12**, the user can perform the foregoing steps in reverse order.

[0021] The device **10** can be sized to accommodate various sizes of bags and other containers. Those of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the device **10** can be produced in various sizes without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure.

[0022] Having thus described the bag packaging closure and dispensing device in detail, it is to be understood that the foregoing description is not intended to limit the spirit or scope thereof. It will be understood that the present disclosure described herein is merely exemplary and that a person skilled in the art may make any variations and modification without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure. All such variations and modifications, including those discussed above, are intended to be included within the scope of the disclosure.

I claim:

1. A bag packaging closure and dispensing device comprising:
 - first and second legs, including first and second flexible portions, secured together about a package;
 - the first and second flexible portions biased apart to provide a space therebetween for dispensing; and
 - a slider moveable along the legs to move the first and second flexible portions together to close the packaging.
2. A method for opening and closing packaging for dispensing contents comprising:
 - attaching first and second legs about an end of the packaging;
 - securing the first and second legs together about the packaging;
 - moving a slider along the legs to open and close the packaging.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the first and second legs include flexible portions which are biased apart and moving the slider along the legs overcomes the bias to close the packaging.

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