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STEEL WOOL PACKAGE

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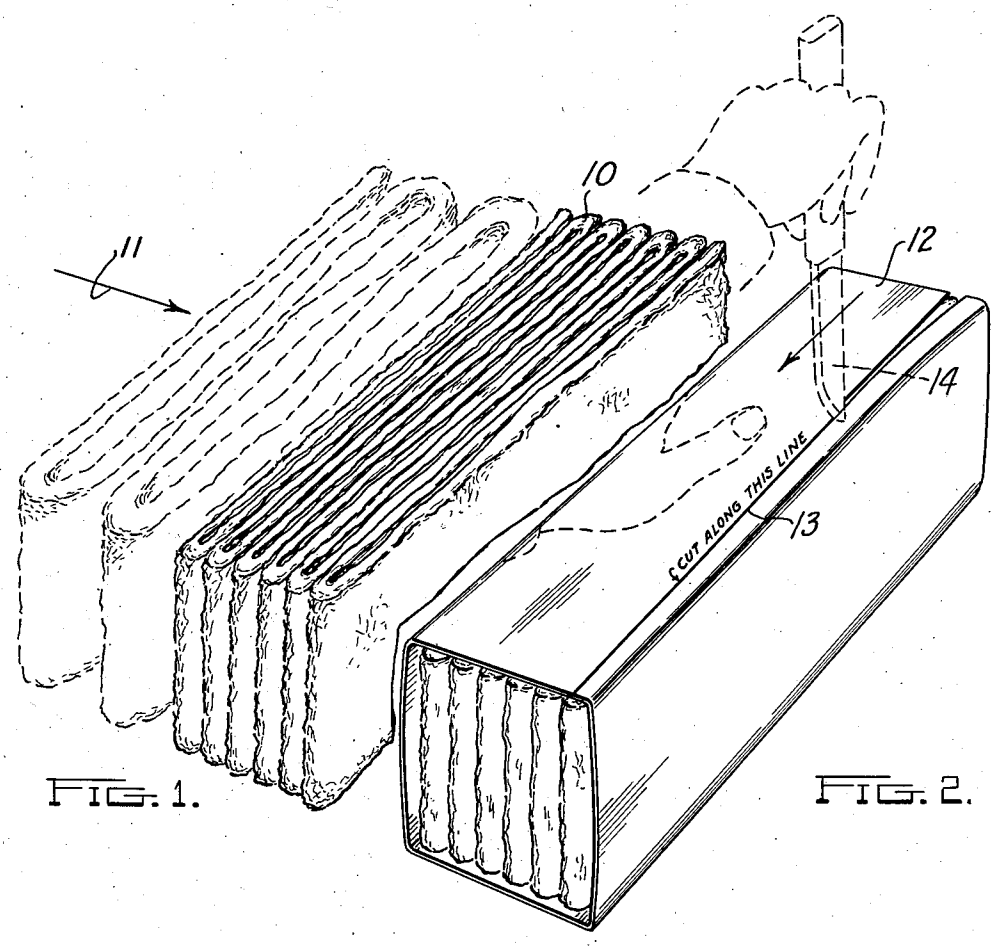


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

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STEEL WOOL PACKAGE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 206—46)

This invention relates to steel wool, but more particularly to packages of steel wool, and an object is to produce a new and improved package of steel wool, which, from the standpoint of the manufacturer, is less costly and simpler to make, and from the standpoint of the user, is such that the steel wool is readily available, in good condition, free from tangles and matting, with the strands in the desired ribbon form so that most efficient and satisfactory use can be made of the entire steel wool surface, and so packaged that access to the steel wool can be gained without liability of injury to the person opening it.

A further object is to provide a steel wool package having the novel features of construction and arrangement hereinafter described, and, for purposes of illustration but not of limitation, an embodiment of the invention is shown on the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bundle formed from a length of steel wool ribbon, diagrammatically illustrating by dotted lines the bundle prior to being compressed; and

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the bundle packaged in a carton and indicating the manner in which the carton is opened to release the steel wool.

The illustrated embodiment of the invention comprises a length of steel wool ribbon 10, which is relatively flat, and may be of any suitable width. The ribbon is folded in serpentine or accordian fashion in such manner that the ends and side edge portions are approximately even. After the ribbon is folded in this manner, it is pressed into a relatively flat bundle, compression being exerted in the direction of the arrow 11, and the dotted portion of Figure 1 showing a portion of the ribbon in its uncompressed state. In practice, a predetermined length or weight of ribbon is folded in this form, as for example, a length weighing approximately one pound, and the folds may be of substantial length so that a substantial length of relatively flat steel wool can be separated from the remainder without unwinding, this being without tangles, and in the desired condition for use in polishing, cleaning, or other uses for which an abrasive of this character is desired. The bundle should not be compressed to the point that the folds cannot be separated from each other, but should be sufficient so that the individual folds do not automatically separate from each other.

Heretofore, steel wool ribbon has been bundled in a relatively flat, spiral fashion, but this is objectionable for several reasons. In the first place, the bundle must be unwound and the desired length severed off, and thereafter rewound, but the serpentine fold enables the desired length to be removed without disturbing the remainder. With the spiral fold, the strands at the folded ends become matted or felted to the adjacent ones, thereby militating against ready separation of the folds and rendering the steel wool at those places inferior for abrasive purposes. The serpentine folded bundle obviates these disadvantages, inasmuch as the steel wool at the folds is not felted or tangled with adjacent layers and is entirely as efficient and satisfactory for abrasive purposes as other portions of the ribbon.

The steel wool bundle in its relatively flat, compressed condition may be forced into a carton 12, which, in this instance, is of tubular form with the ends open. For that purpose, the bundle should not be compressed sufficiently to prevent ready separation of adjacent layers of the ribbon, but sufficiently to result in normal expansion of the steel wool into frictional engagement with the walls of the carton. Although the carton in this instance is shown of elongate rectangular form, it may be of annular form if desired. In the form shown, a portion of the steel wool may be pulled out without disturbing the remainder. This can be accomplished by grasping the free end of the ribbon and pulling it from the carton. This does not destroy the ribbon form and renders unnecessary the removal of the entire bundle.

Not infrequently it becomes desirable to remove the entire bundle of steel wool from the carton 12. Removal of steel wool in bulk from a carton in which it is packed under pressure has heretofore been accomplished by rupturing the carton by means of a knife or similar instrument and slitting it longitudinally. This has been found to be objectionable because the steel wool upon being released, springs outwardly toward the hands of the person opening the package and oftentimes causes injury to the hands from abrasions or cuts. In accordance with this invention, indication is made on the carton, as by means of a line 13 adjacent one side edge and extending longitudinally of the package. The line 13 is on the side which should be uppermost at the time the carton is ruptured and which is free from the lateral or expanding force exerted by the steel wool. In Figure 2, the knife 14 is shown in the operation of slitting the carton, and it will be noted that the steel wool springs away from the hand instead of toward it, the hand holding the carton being protected and the hand holding the knife being above and away from the steel wool.

It is to be understood that numerous changes

in details of construction and arrangement may be effected without departing from the spirit of the invention, especially as defined in the appended claim.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A package consisting of a steel wool ribbon folded in accordian or serpentine formation to provide a longitudinally elongate pack, the layers of the ribbon running lengthwise of the pack and having the side and end edges thereof substantially even with each other, and a carton of readily rupturable material in the form of an open ended sleeve embracing the four elongate sides of the pack and compressing the steel wool pack sufficiently to hold it in frictional engagement with the sides of the carton but insufficiently to prevent separation of the folds, the arrangement being such that a side of the carton free from expanding force of the steel wool can be severed without injury to the person to remove the pack or a free end of the steel wool ribbon can be pulled through an end of the carton in a direction parallel with the layers thereby to remove a portion of the steel wool without disturbing the remainder.

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