

May 12, 1931.

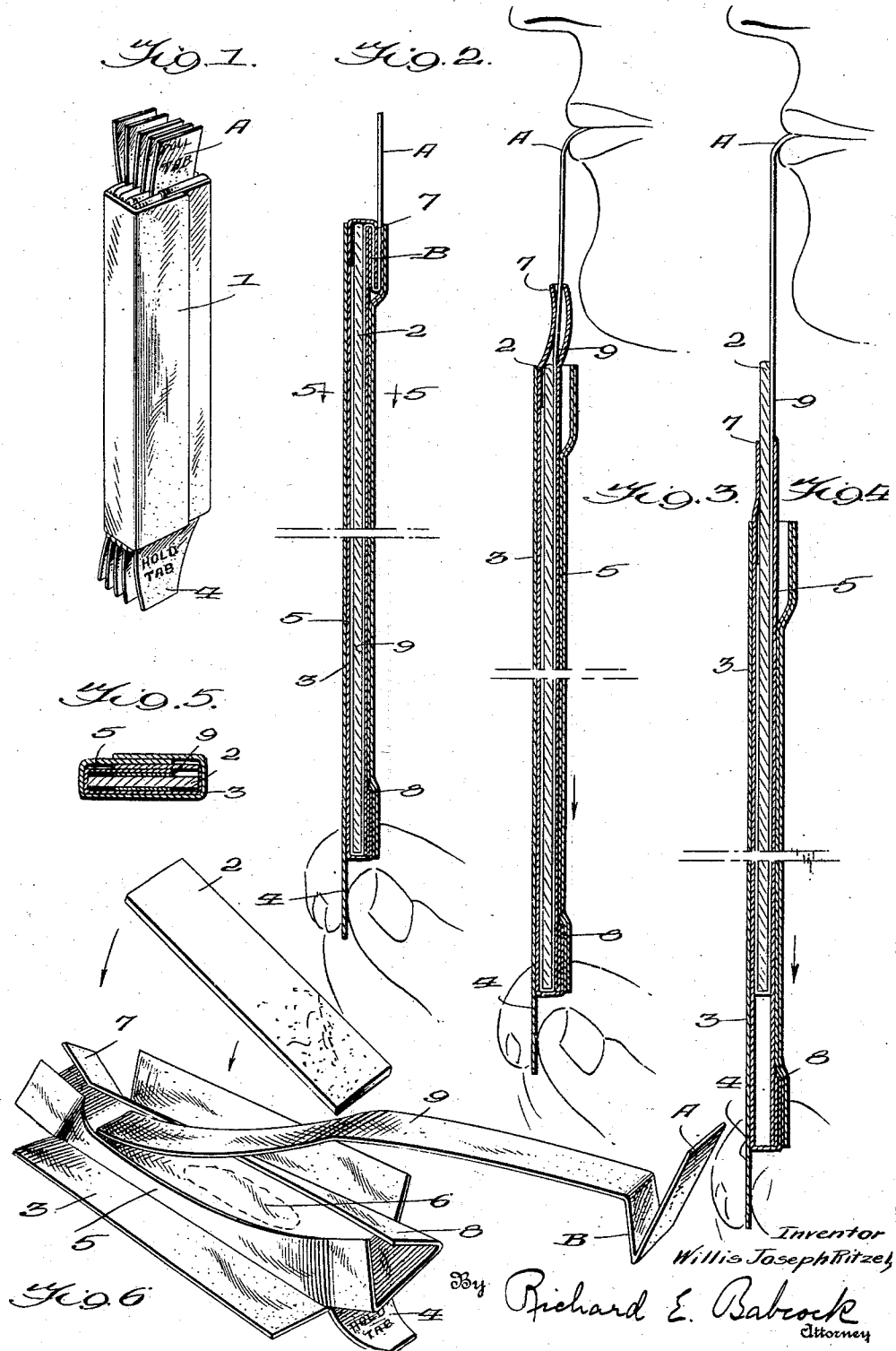
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ELONGATED TABLET PACKAGE AND WRAPPING

Filed March 12, 1929

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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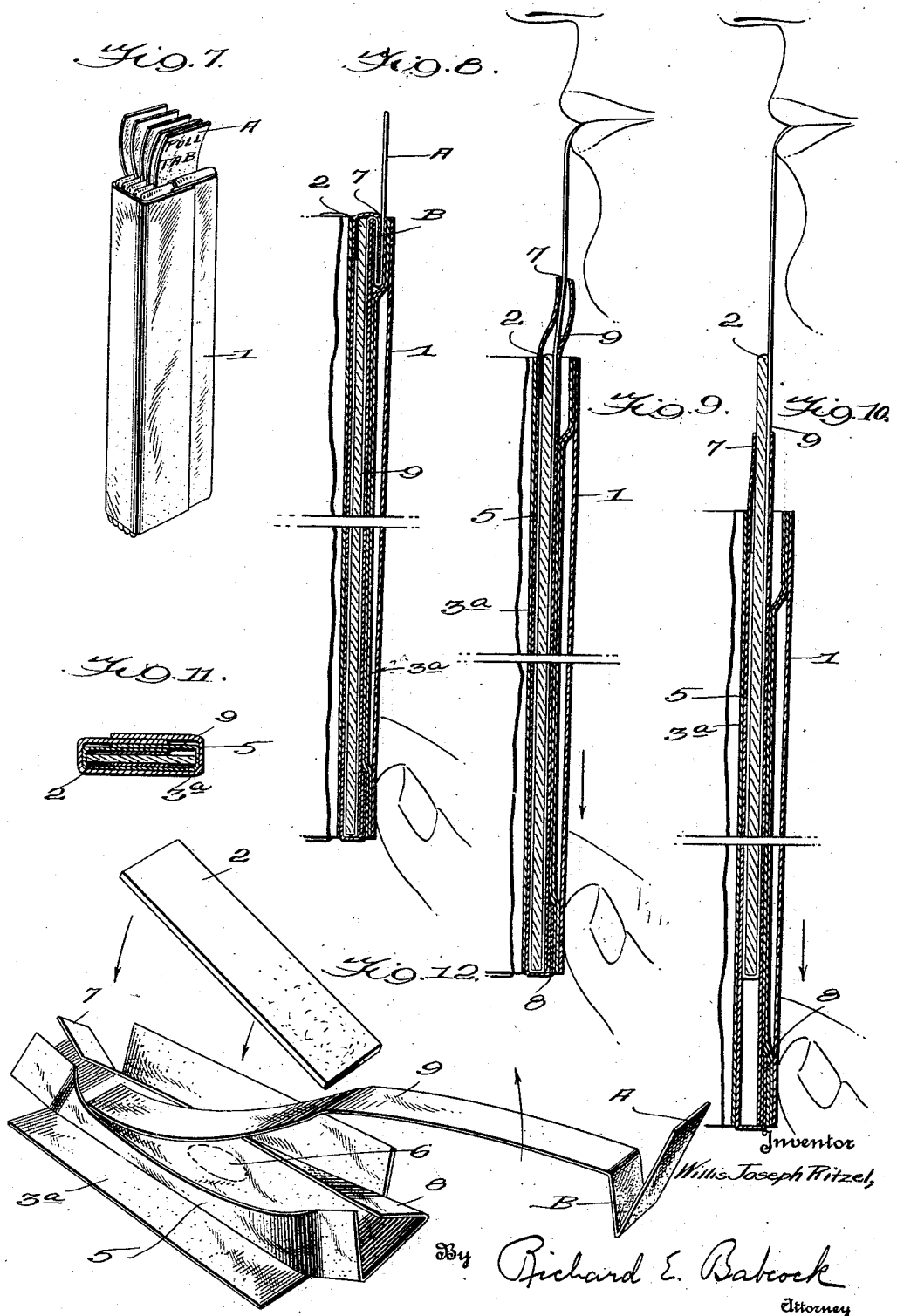
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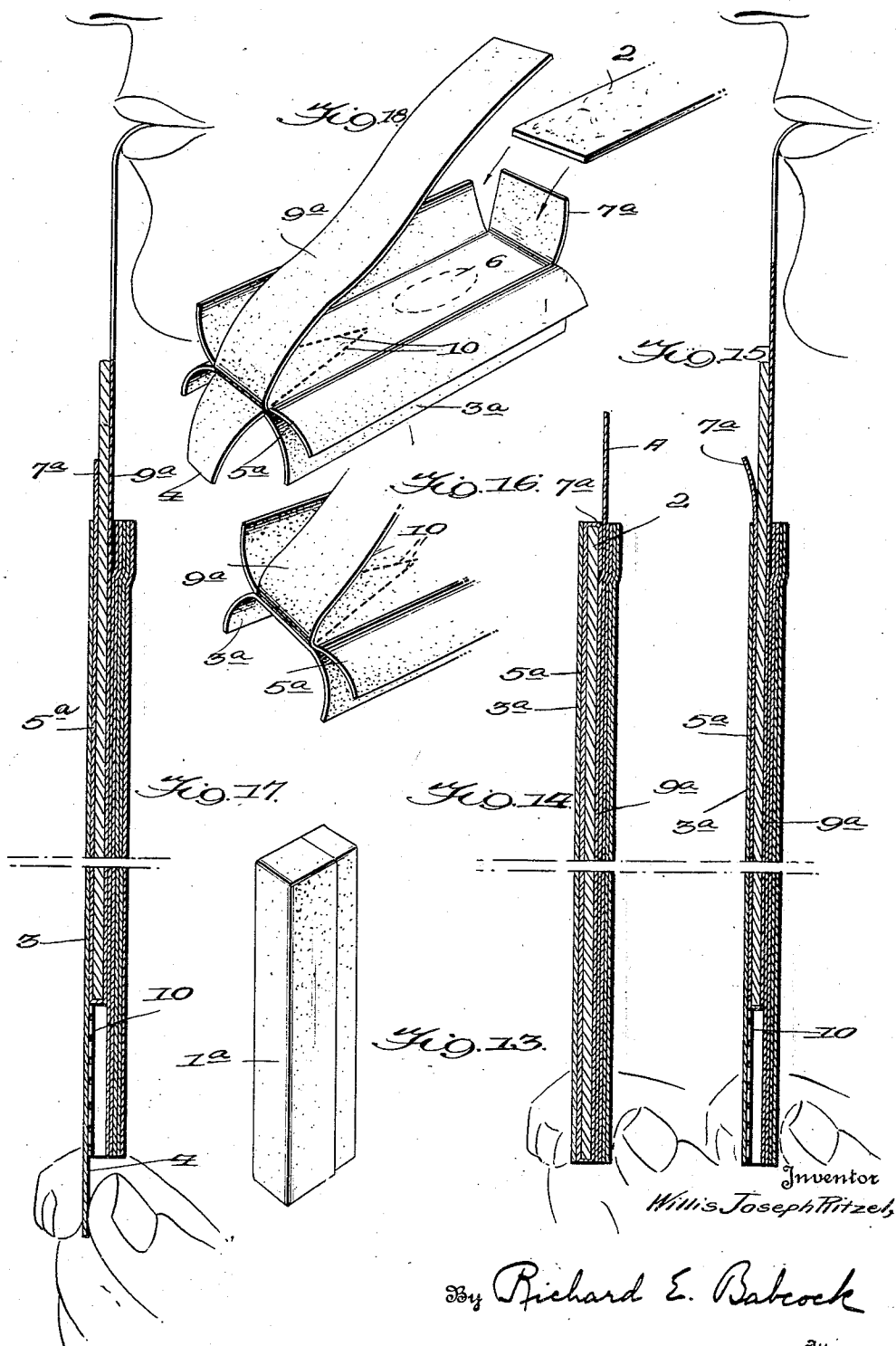
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ELONGATED TABLET PACKAGE AND WRAPPING

Application filed March 12, 1929. Serial No. 346,363.

This invention relates to packages or special wrapping means for chewing gum and like relatively thin, long sheet articles which are practically universally now sold commercially in packages of a number of individually wrapped units held together by a common wrapper or sealed wrapping.

My invention is particularly intended for use by persons when driving automobiles, boats, airplanes or otherwise engaged in some activity requiring the use of at least one hand in operating or steering some mechanism.

Due to the fact that chewing gum especially is very carefully wrapped to seal the individual units to protect them against normal atmospheric conditions until such time as they may be consumed or used up, it is quite difficult for any one to strip off such wrappings and place the gum in his mouth without using both hands; so much so that, where there is no one to do it for them, most motorists either do without the satisfaction of their desire for a chew of gum while driving or else bring their cars to a stop so that they can safely have the free use of both hands in stripping the wrappings from the desired gum.

The primary objects of my invention are: to provide a special wrapping means or package whereby the wrappings may be stripped from the individual units of gum and the latter partially ejected from its wrappings so as to be easily gripped by the teeth and this simply with the use of one hand and the teeth and without involving the annoyance of having to stop or the risk of even momentarily leaving the car to steer itself while using both hands to strip the gum; to provide a perfectly sanitary package such that the contained chewing gum may be introduced directly into the consumer's mouth without any need for, or risk of, the actual gum, as distinguished from its covering, being touched by the consumer's hands, or clothing, or any foreign object, whereby said gum is completely protected against contamination with or exposure to germs or serving as a germ carrier; to provide such a wrapping or individual unit

package wherein each unit will be sealed against action by the atmosphere until used; to provide a special individual unit package of which a plurality may be held together in a single large commercial package, or which may be sold independently, as may be desired; to provide a package comprising an all-paper wrapping; to provide a wrapping particularly lending itself to manufacture and application to the goods by automatic cutting, wrapping and gluing machinery of the type such as is now in extensive use for wrapping and packaging goods of this general character.

While the field of use particularly in view is in connection with relatively long, narrow, thin sheets or sticks of chewing gum such as now extensively sold in this country, the invention is not limited to use with chewing gum, but may be applied to any similarly shaped articles where desired.

In this application I show and describe only several embodiments of my invention, including the present preferred embodiment of the same, simply by way of illustration of the practice of my invention, as by law required. However, I realize that my invention is capable of a number of different embodiments additional to those illustrated and that the various details of my invention may be modified in a variety of ways, all without departing from my said invention. Therefore, the drawings and description herein are to be considered as merely illustrative and not as exclusive.

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a commercial package of a number of units embodying the preferred form of my invention held together by a common band or tubular outer wrapper;

Figure 2, a central longitudinal section through one of said units on a greatly enlarged scale and with the "hold tab" grasped between the user's thumb and forefinger preliminary to grasping the "pull tab" between the teeth or lips;

Figure 3, a view similar to Fig. 2 with the "pull tab" grasped between the user's lips or teeth and pulled so as to unfold the top end of the inner or sealing wrapper;

Figure 4, a view similar to Fig. 3 after the "pull tab" has been pulled so as to partially eject the stick of gum so that it may be gripped by the lips or teeth of the user, the "pull tab" having first been released, when a pull on the "hold tab" will suffice to finish stripping the stick of gum which may thus be introduced into the user's mouth without being directly touched by his hands or clothing or any foreign object;

Figure 5 represents a cross sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2;

Figure 6, an "exploded" view of the preferred form of my invention, illustrating the manner of application of the wrapping to a stick of gum;

Figure 7, a view similar to Fig. 1 of a modified form wherein the "hold tab" is omitted;

Figure 8, a view similar to Fig. 2 of such modified form;

Figure 9, a view similar to Fig. 3 of such modified form;

Figure 10, a view similar to Fig. 4 of such modified form;

Figure 11, a view similar to Fig. 5 of such modified form;

Figure 12, a view similar to Fig. 6 of such modified form;

Figure 13, a view similar to Fig. 7 of a further modification;

Figure 14, a view similar to Fig. 8 of such further modified form;

Figure 15, a view similar to Fig. 9 of such further modified form;

Figure 16, a fragmentary perspective "exploded" view of the wrapping of such further modified form;

Figure 17, a view similar to Fig. 12 of a still further modified form; and

Figure 18, a view similar to Fig. 15 of the last above modified form.

Referring now in detail to the drawings and particularly to the preferred form of my invention as illustrated in Figs. 1 to 6, the commercial package as sold over the counter comprises a plurality of individual units, five being illustrated in Fig. 1, held together by a common outer wrapper or binder 1 having its longitudinal edge portions overlapping and pasted together after said wrapper 1 has been drawn tightly about the superposed plurality of individual units.

Each individual unit consists of a stick of gum 2, an individual outer wrapper 3 having a "hold tab" 4 extending from, and preferably integral with, the medial part of one of its end portions; an individual inner sealing wrapper 5 having the medial portion of its outer face secured to the opposing portion of the inner face of individual outer wrapper 3 by a suitable adhesive, as indicated by dotted lines at 6, and having infolding end portions 7 and 8 extending well beyond the respective ends of said individual

outer wrapper 3; and an ejecting pull strip or tongue 9, one end of which is secured by a suitable adhesive to the inner face of the upper portion of said inner sealing wrapper 5 distant from hold tab 4 and adjacent the infolding end portion 7 of said inner sealing wrapper 5.

With the outer individual wrapper 3 and inner individual sealing wrapper 5 secured together by adhesive, as at 6, and the ejecting strip or tongue 9 pasted to the inner face of the inner sealing wrapper 5, all as illustrated in Fig. 6, the stick of gum 2 will be centrally positioned on the inner sealing wrapper 5, the latter being in a perfectly flat state, and on top of the ejecting tongue or strip 9, which is then folded back over the upper face of the stick of gum 2, see Figs. 2, 3, 4 and 5. The two longitudinal edge portions of the inner sealing wrapper 5 are then folded lengthwise into overlapping relation, as indicated in Fig. 6 and clearly shown in Fig. 5. Next the lower end portion 8 of the inner sealing wrapper 2 is folded over flat, as illustrated in Figs. 2, 3 and 4. Thereafter the upper end portion 7 of the inner sealing wrapper 5, together with the portion B extending therethrough of the ejecting tongue or strip 9, is folded over flat on the same side of the unit as, and extending toward, end portion 8. Next the portion A of said ejecting tongue or pull strip 9 which extends beyond the extreme end of said end portion 7 as thus folded is folded in the reverse direction so as to lie flat against said folded end portion 7 and project well above the extreme upper portion of the upper end portion 7 as thus arranged; and, finally, the side portions of the outer wrapper 3 are drawn tightly about the inner sealing wrapper 5 so that their longitudinal edge portions are in overlapping relation wherein they are secured by a suitable adhesive applied to the opposing faces of said overlapping edge portions.

It will be seen that as thus arranged the ejecting tongue or strip 9 will extend in a loop from near the upper end of the stick of gum under the lower end thereof and up along the stick of gum with its free end portion A, constituting a "pull tab," protruding from the upper end of the unit so as to be easily gripped by the user's teeth or lips, while the "hold tab" 5 extends in the reverse direction from the lower end of the unit so as to be easily grasped between the user's thumb and forefinger.

It is contemplated that a person buying a commercial package of a plurality of individual units such as illustrated in Fig. 1 will tear off the common outer wrapper 1 and put the loose units in his pocket. Thereafter, if he desires a chew of gum while driving, he will keep one hand on the wheel to control the vehicle and with the other hand will remove an individual unit, such as

above described, from his pocket, grasp the "hold tab" 4 thereof between the thumb and forefinger of his free hand, and grasp the "pull tab" A of said unit between his lips or teeth, as illustrated in Fig. 2, thereafter pulling in opposite directions with said hand and his lips or teeth, as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4, until the stick of gum has been partially ejected, as illustrated in Fig. 4, so as to protrude sufficiently to be easily grasped by his lips or teeth, when he will release the "pull tab" A and grasp the stick of gum 2 between his lips or teeth and pull on "hold tab" 4 to complete the stripping of the wrappings from the gum; thereafter, of course, discarding said wrappings and manipulating his lips and teeth to draw said gum into his mouth.

In the modification illustrated in Figs. 7 to 12, inclusive, the construction and operation are the same except that the "hold tab" 4 is omitted from the outer individual wrapper 3^a, and the common outer wrapper 1 may or may not, according as may be preferred, be removed prior to use. In Figs. 8, 9 and 10 I have illustrated the use of the invention with the common outer wrapper 1 retained, the whole package being grasped in the user's free hand.

In the modification illustrated in Figs. 13 to 16 the construction and operation are the same as in the form illustrated in Figs. 7 to 12, except that, instead of the separate inner wrapper 5 and tongue 9, I have substituted an inner wrapper 5^a and ejecting tongue or strip 9^a integral therewith, perforating the paper of the inner wrapper 5^a along two converging lines 10 in extension of the said ejecting tongue or strip 9^a so that on the latter being pulled the extension thereof in the inner wrapper 5^a will tear along said perforated lines 10 and so eject the gum. Also, in this form, the end portion 8 is omitted, the tongue or strip 9^a partially serving its function, and the end portion 7^a is a mere end flap, so that the end corners of the individual sticks of gum 2 are not protected against moisture by their individual wrappings, so that a common outer sealing wrapping 1^a of suitable paraffin-coated or other suitably treated paper extending about all portions of the commercial package will be employed.

In the modification illustrated in Figs. 17 and 18 the construction and operation are the same as in the form illustrated in Figs. 13 to 16, except that in place of the outer individual wrapper 3^a I use the individual outer wrapper 3 such as used in the form illustrated in Figs. 1 to 6, with the "hold tab" 4.

In both forms illustrated in Figs. 13 to 18, inclusive, the common outer sealing wrapper 1^a of the commercial package consisting of a number of individual units will be stripped off prior to use and the plurality

of individual units will be put loose in the user's pocket prior to starting on a trip.

In all forms, all wrappings, "hold tabs," "pull tabs" and ejecting tongues or strips will be of paper, and will be of such thickness, tensile strength, moisture-proof and atmospheric-resisting qualities and other characteristics as are suitable to their functions all as now well known and understood by those skilled in the art.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A package consisting of a tablet of long, narrow, thin contour, an inner sealing wrapper, and a tablet engaging and ejecting strip having a portion fast to said inner wrapper and extending down about the bottom of said tablet and then up along the side face thereof and protruding out of the upper end of said unit in alignment therewith, said inner wrapper having its side portions folded toward each other into longitudinally overlapping relation and having its lower end portion and its upper end portion with said strip extending therethrough folded toward each other flat against the same side of the unit, and the portion of said strip extending beyond the extreme end of the upper end portion of said inner wrapper being thereafter folded in the reverse direction flat against the outer face of said upper end portion of said inner wrapper and extending appreciably above the extreme upper portion of the rest of the unit, in combination with an individual outer wrapper permanently relatively immovably secured to said inner wrapper and operatively constituting an endless band extending in tight contact at substantially all points about said inner wrapper and the folded ends thereof and between the extreme end portions of said inner wrapper to seal the same against the atmosphere, the said outer wrapper extending across a portion of the reverse fold of the ejector strip to maintain the projecting end portion thereof in proper position extending upward beyond all other portions of the upper end of said unit so as to be easily gripped between the user's teeth or lips, and said outer wrapper being provided with a "hold tab" projecting downward from the lower end of said unit beyond all other portions thereof so as to be easily and certainly grasped between the thumb and forefinger of the user's free hand.

2. A package comprising a tablet of long, narrow, thin contour, an inner sealing wrapper, and a tablet engaging and ejecting strip having a portion fast to said inner wrapper and engaging the bottom of said tablet and thence extending up along the side face thereof and protruding out of the upper end of said unit in alignment therewith, said inner wrapper having its side portions folded toward each other into longitudinally overlapping re-

lation and having its upper end portion folded over said tablet, said ejecting strip extending appreciably above the extreme upper portion of the rest of the unit so as to be easily grasped between the user's lips or teeth, in combination with an individual outer wrapper permanently relatively immovably secured to said inner wrapper and operatively constituting an endless band extending in tight contact at substantially all points about said inner wrapper.

3. A package comprising a table of long, narrow, thin contour, an inner sealing wrapper, and a tablet engaging and ejecting strip having a portion fast to said inner wrapper and extending down about the bottom of said tablet and then up along the side face thereof and protruding out of the upper end of said unit in alignment therewith, said inner wrapper having its side portions folded toward each other into longitudinally overlapping relation and having its lower end portion and its upper end portion with said strip extending therethrough folded toward each other flat against the same side of the unit, and the portion of said strip extending beyond the extreme end of the upper end portion of said inner wrapper being thereafter folded in the reverse direction flat against the outer face of said upper end portion of said inner wrapper and extending appreciably above the extreme upper portion of the rest of the unit, in combination with an individual outer wrapper permanently relatively immovably secured to said inner wrapper and operatively constituting an endless band extending transversely in tight contact at substantially all points about said inner wrapper and across the folded ends thereof to seal the same against the atmosphere while leaving the extreme end portions of said inner wrapper exposed, the said outer wrapper extending across a portion of the reverse fold of the ejector strip to maintain the projecting end portion thereof in proper position extending upward beyond all other portions of the upper end of said unit.

4. A sanitary package comprising a tablet of long, narrow, thin contour, an inner sealing wrapper, and a tablet engaging and ejecting strip having a portion fast to said inner wrapper and engaging the bottom of said tablet and thence extending up along the side face thereof and folded in the folded upper end of said inner wrapper and protruding out of the upper end of said package and in alignment with said package, in combination with an outer wrapper operatively constituting an open-end endless band extending transversely in tight contact at substantially all points about said inner wrapper and across said upper folded end thereof while leaving the extreme end portions of said inner wrapper exposed, whereby said package may be grasped in one hand and the protruding end

of said ejector strip gripped and pulled on by the teeth or lips to unfold the upper end of said inner wrapper and eject the gum toward the consumer's mouth so that it may be easily gripped by his teeth or lips and thereby introduced into his mouth directly from the package without other contact with his person or any foreign object.

5. A package comprising a tablet of long, narrow, thin contour, an inner wrapper disposed about said tablet and having its upper end portion folded back parallel to the side of said tablet and extending lengthwise thereof toward the bottom thereof, and a tablet engaging and ejecting strip having a portion fast to said inner wrapper and engaging the bottom of said tablet and thence extending up along the side face thereof and protruding out of the upper end of said package in alignment therewith, in combination with an individual outer wrapper extending transversely about the portion of said inner wrapper between the end portions thereof and in tight contact therewith and across said folded back upper end portion to seal the same.

6. A package comprising a tablet of long, narrow, thin contour, an inner sealing wrapper disposed about said tablet and having its end portions folded back parallel to the side of said tablet and extending lengthwise thereof, and a tablet ejecting strip having a portion fast to said inner wrapper and engaging the bottom of said tablet, thence extending up along the side face thereof and folded with the upper end portion of said sealing wrapper and between the sides thereof toward the bottom of said tablet and being folded in the reverse direction and extending appreciably above the extreme upper end of the rest of the package, in combination with an individual outer wrapper extending transversely about the portion of said inner wrapper between the extreme end portions thereof and in tight contact therewith and with the folded back end portions to seal the same and across said reversely folded portion of the ejecting strip to hold it up in the proper isolated position above all other parts of the package.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification at Pasadena, California, this 7th day of March 1929.

WILLIS JOSEPH RITZEL.