

[54] **PACKAGING GRAMOPHONE RECORDS**

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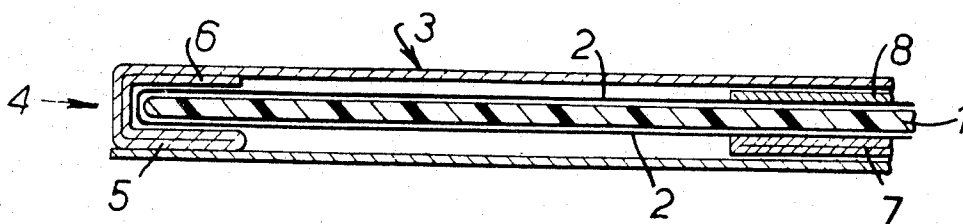
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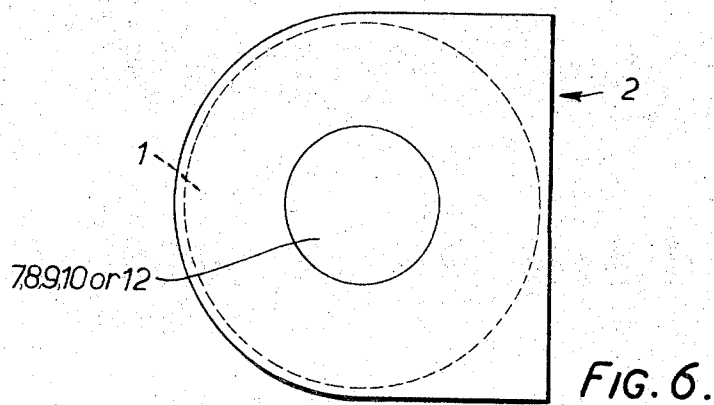
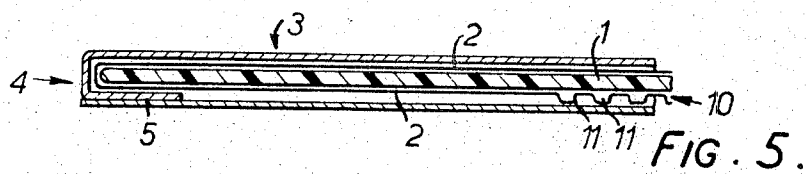
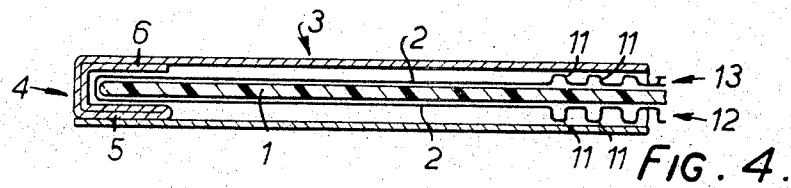
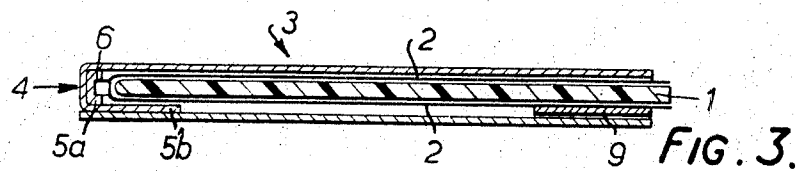
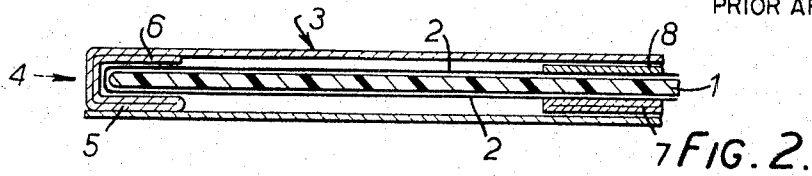
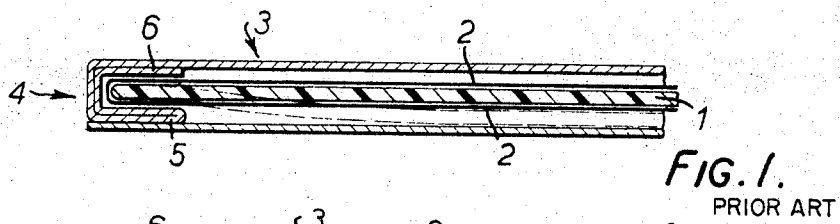
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A package for a gramophone record includes an outer sleeve comprising a pair of side members connected on three edges by flaps integral with one side member and each folded to provide a spine and a marginal flap adhered to the other side member, and an inner sleeve for receiving a record and provided with a spacer on one side member thereof which faces the other outer sleeve side member, the spacer having a thickness equal to the thickness of that part of each marginal flap overlapped by a record when received in the package. The spacer may be adhered to or integral with the inner sleeve.

13 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures





PACKAGING GRAMOPHONE RECORDS

The present invention relates to the packaging of gramophone records.

With the introduction of record sleeves provided with spines on at least two opposite sleeve edges, it was thought that it would be practical to store filled record sleeves horizontally in stacks of about five to six feet in height. However it has been found that as a result of stacking filled sleeves in which the spines are each formed by folding up a flap on the margin of one sleeve member and adhering a portion of it to a marginal portion of the other sleeve member, the enclosed records become dished. This deformation of the record occurs because edge portions of an enclosed record are supported on the adhered flap portions of the sleeve while the center of the record is unsupported. In a stack of filled sleeves the unsupported weight of the individual record is transmitted downwards with increasing dishing of the records.

To counteract this effect it has been proposed, for example in British Patent specification No. 1,225,408, to make arcuate cut-outs in the adhered flap portions. The record is received within and positionally located by the arcuate cut-outs and is supported over its entire surface by the side member to which the flap portions are adhered. However if these cut-outs are made in flap portions which are adhered directly to the side member and form the basic connection between the two side members, the strength of this connection and therefore of the sleeve as a whole is considerably reduced.

As an alternative it has also been proposed in British Patent specification No. 1,220,632 to adhere an extra panel to the inner surface of the side member in question to make up the difference in thickness at the center of sleeve, so that an enclosed record is supported at the edges by the flap portions and at the center by the extra panel. This has a number of disadvantages among which are that the extra panel has to be adhered to the side member when the sleeve is being made up necessitating modification of the sleeve makeup machinery and that an image of the panel appears on the outer surface of the side member thereby spoiling the sleeve appearance.

According to the present invention it is proposed to obviate the above disadvantages by providing a spacer member, of a thickness equal to the thickness of the marginal flap portions of the outer sleeve which are overlapped by an enclosed record, on the inner sleeve substantially centrally thereof.

Accordingly there is provided a package for a gramophone record comprising an outer sleeve and an inner sleeve received by the outer sleeve and in which a record is received, the outer sleeve comprising a pair of side members connected on at least two edges by flaps integral with one side member and folded to provide a spine and a marginal flap adhered to the inner surface of the other side member, the inner sleeve comprising a pair of side members and wherein that inner sleeve side member facing the other outer sleeve side member is provided centrally thereof with a spacer member having an overall thickness which is equal to the thickness of that part of each marginal flap which is overlapped by a record when received in the package.

Further features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following

description of embodiments thereof, given by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is part of a central section through a filled outer sleeve as described in any of British Patent specifications Nos. 1,231,771 and 1,119,823 or in the complete specification of British Patent application No. 34209/69 showing how distortions can occur;

FIGS. 2 to 5 are parts of central sections through embodiments of a record package with an inner sleeve according to the invention; and

FIG. 6 is a plan view of an inner sleeve.

As shown in FIG. 1, a record 1, enclosed in an inner sleeve 2 of, for example paper, plastics sheet or plastics foil lined paper, is positioned within an outer board sleeve 3 as described in any of the above referred to patent specifications in which each spine 4 is formed from double folded marginal flaps integral with one sleeve side member and folded to provide the double thickness spine 4, a double thickness marginal flap portion 5 adhered to the other side member and an inner flap portion 6 overlying the inner surface of the one side member. With the filled sleeve 3 stacked horizontally as shown, the record margins overlap and are supported by the double flap portions 5 while the center of the record is unsupported. The record will therefore tend to be distorted to the shape shown in broken lines. A similar distortion will occur if the filled sleeve is stacked the other way up, with the record margins overlapping and being supported on flap portions 6.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, the board sleeve 3 has double folded marginal flaps 4 on the three closed edges and may have a correspondingly folded closure on the open edge. Two spacer members 7, 8 are adhered to the inner sleeve 2 at the center thereof. The spacer members are made of the same board as the outer sleeve 3, the member 7 being made of two thicknesses of the board to correspond to the double thickness flap portion 5 and the member 8 being made of a single thickness of board corresponding to the single thickness inner flap portion 6.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 3, the outer sleeve 3 has been modified by the provision of arcuate cut-outs in flap portions 6 and in the inner layer 5a, of double thickness flap portions 5 on the three closed edges and on the open edge of the sleeve. These cutouts can be made without impairing the strength of the sleeve to too great an extent. No cut-out is made in the outer layer 5b of flap portions 5 so that the sleeve is not weakened. The thickness of that part of each flap portion 5 overlapped by the record is therefore compensated for by the provision of a single thickness board spacer member 9 on the inner sleeve 2. In this embodiment the total width of the spines 4 is less by double the thickness of the board than that of the spines of the sleeves of FIGS. 1 and 2.

It is of course not necessary to make the spacers of the same board as that from which the outer sleeve is made. This is merely convenient as it automatically provides a spacer of the required thickness. Furthermore the or each spacer need not have a continuous thickness of the required amount. The or each spacer may be formed with projections such that the overall thickness of the spacer is equal to the thickness of the flap portions for which compensation is required. Such

a spacer may, for example, be formed of corrugated sheet material, e.g. paper or board, of the required thickness or of vacuum formed plastics sheeting provided with bosses, parallel or intersecting ribs or some other upstanding design, for example of a portrait of the artist recorded on the enclosed record.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 4, the outer sleeve 3 has the construction shown in FIG. 2. The inner sleeve 2 is made of plastics material and is formed with spacer members 12, 13 in either side member of the sleeve to compensate for the thickness of flap portions 5 and 6. Each spacer member 12, 13 is formed with parallel ribs 11, the ribs of the member 12 being twice as deep as those of member 12.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 5, the record 1 is enclosed in a plastics inner sleeve 2 which is located in an outer board sleeve 3 provided with spines 4 on its three closed edges each of which is formed by a flap integral with one sleeve side member which is folded to provide the spine 4 and a marginal flap portion 5 adhered to the other sleeve side member to complete the sleeve edge. The sleeve 3 may also be provided with a correspondingly folded closure on its open edge.

Diametrically opposite marginal portions of the record 1 are supported on the flap portions 5 and the center of the record is supported by a spacer member 10 integral with the inner sleeve 2. The spacer member 10 is vacuum formed with intersecting ribs 11 as in the embodiment of FIG. 4.

The members 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 may be circular in plan as shown in FIG. 6 or polygonal as desired and may have a greater or lesser extent than that shown in FIG. 6. They may be printed if required.

The invention is applicable to any outer sleeve construction in which there are flap portions on the inner surface of one side member which are overlapped by an enclosed record and on which marginal portions of the record may be supported when the filled sleeve is horizontal.

There is thus provided a package for a record in which the record is supported at its margin and at its center so that substantially no distortion of the record will occur when the filled package is stacked. Furthermore because the spacer member is provided on the inner sleeve, its position will not affect manufacture of the outer sleeve or the appearance of the outer sleeve.

I claim:

1. A package for a gramophone record comprising an outer sleeve and an inner sleeve received by the outer sleeve and in which a record is received, said outer sleeve comprising a pair of side members connected on at least two edges by flaps integral with one of said side members and folded to provide a spine and a marginal flap adhered to the inner surface of the other of said side members, said inner sleeve comprising a pair of side members with that one of said inner sleeve side members facing the other of said outer sleeve side members being provided centrally thereof with a spacer member having an overall thickness which is equal to the thickness of that part of each said marginal flap which is overlapped by said record in the package.

2. A package according to claim 1 wherein said outer sleeve side members are connected on three edges by said flaps.

3. A package according to claim 2 wherein the open edge of said outer sleeve is provided with a closure formed by a flap integral with said one side member and foldable to provide in closed condition of the sleeve a spine and a marginal flap portion positionable to overlie said inner surface of said other side member.

4. A package according to claim 1 wherein each of said flaps is folded to provide a double thickness marginal flap portion and said spacer member has an overall thickness equal to the thickness of the double thickness of said marginal flap portions.

5. A package according to claim 1 wherein each of said flaps is folded to provide a double thickness marginal flap portion, the inner layer of each of which is cut away centrally thereof so that said record received in the package overlaps only the outer layers of said marginal flap portions and said spacer member has an overall thickness equal to the thickness of said outer layers of said marginal flap portions.

6. A package according to claim 4 wherein each of said flaps is folded to provide a double thickness spine and an inner flap portion which overlies the inner surface of said one member and is overlapped by said record in the package, and a second spacer is provided on the other of said inner sleeve side members centrally thereof and having an overall thickness equal to the thickness of said inner flap portions.

7. A package according to claim 5 wherein each of said flaps is folded to provide a double thickness spine and an inner flap portion which overlies the inner surface of said one member and is overlapped by said record in the package, and a second spacer is provided on the other of said inner sleeve side members centrally thereof and having an overall thickness equal to the thickness of said inner flap portions.

8. A package according to claim 1 wherein said spacer is made of that material from which said outer sleeve is made and is adhered to said inner sleeve.

9. A package according to claim 1 wherein said spacer is formed of sheet material provided with projections whose depth constitutes said overall thickness thereof.

10. A package according to claim 9 wherein the inner sleeve is made of plastics material and the spacer is formed integrally therewith.

11. A package according to claim 10 wherein each said inner sleeve side member is vacuum formed with projections constituting the said spacer member.

12. A package for a gramophone record comprising an outer sleeve and an inner sleeve received by the outer sleeve and in which a record is received, said outer sleeve comprising a pair of side members connected on three edges by flaps integral with one of said side members and each folded to provide a double thickness spine and marginal flap portion which is adhered to the inner surface of the other of said side members and an inner flap portion which overlies the inner surface of said one side member, said inner sleeve comprising a pair of side members, and wherein said inner sleeve side members each being provided centrally thereof with a spacer member having an overall thickness which is equal to the thickness of that part of said flap portions overlying the surface of that one of said outer sleeve side members which it faces, and which are overlapped by said record in the package.

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13. A package according to claim 12 wherein the inner layer of each of said double thickness marginal flap portions is cut away centrally thereof such that said record in the package only overlaps the outer layer of each said double thickness marginal flap portions.

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