May 26, 1942. S. J. SILBERMAN 2,284,171

PACKAGE

Filed June 1, 1939

Fig. 1.

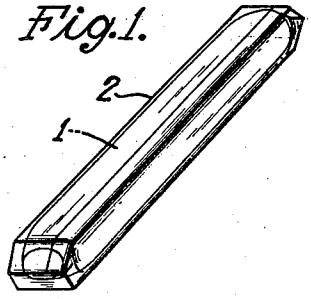


Fig. 2.

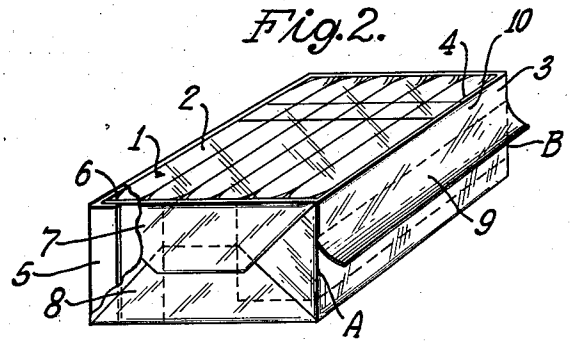


Fig. 3.

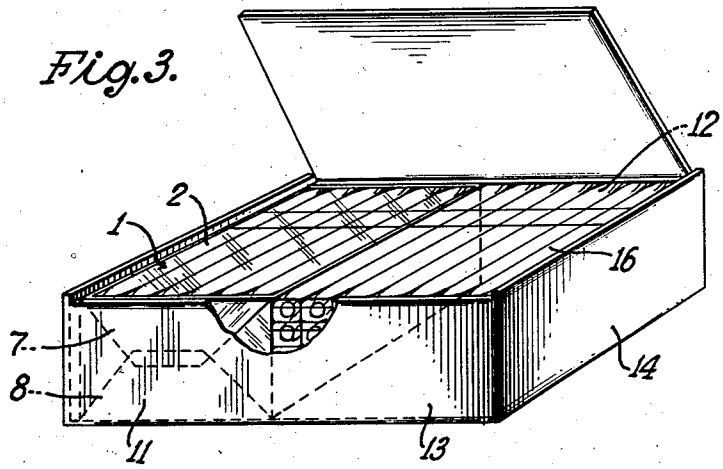
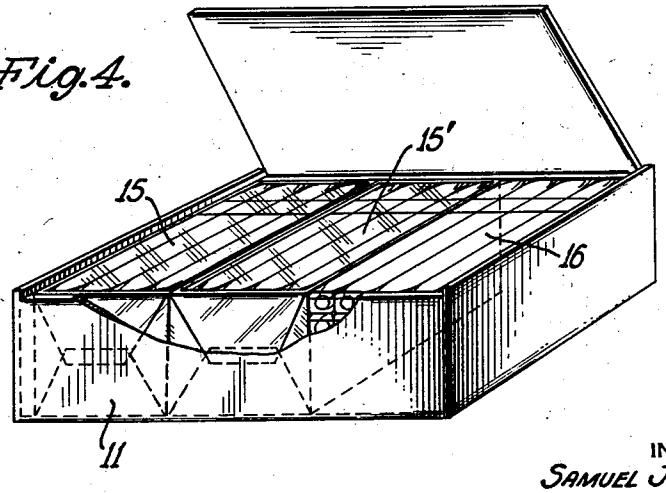


Fig. 4.



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PACKAGE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 206—48.5)

The invention relates in general to tobacco products and in particular to a method for preserving tobacco and to correlated improvements designed to enhance the characteristics, features and utility of the preserved products.

It has been the practice heretofore in the preservation of tobacco products, in particular cigars, to package the cigars in individual moistureproof pouches or wrappers and thereafter to assemble a large number, such as fifty, of the individually wrapped cigars, in a single container in which the cigars remain during display and sale to the public. It is customary, however, in the sale of such packaged cigars that the cigars are sold in small numbers, from one to three at a time, so that the cigars remaining in the container are exposed to atmospheric conditions for a varying period of time. It is obvious that the last of the cigars in the box cannot be expected to retain all of the desirable characteristics to the extent that they would if the main container had not been opened.

Accordingly it is a general object of the present invention to preserve a plurality of tobacco units in a uniform manner so that they may be retailed over a period of time without adversely affecting the original characteristics of the units which remain in the main container.

It is a further object of the invention to preserve a plurality of cigars in a main container in such a manner that the individual cigars can be used gradually without subjecting the unused cigars to varying atmospheric conditions and while preserving substantially the original characteristics of the cigars.

It is a further specific object of the invention to provide an improved method of packaging cigars to facilitate their preservation over long periods of time in a substantially uniform manner.

Other objects of the invention will in part be obvious and will in part appear hereinafter.

According to the present invention, a plurality of individual units of tobacco, such as cigars, are preserved in a substantially uniform manner for long periods of time by enclosing the individual units of tobacco in preserving wrappers and thereafter enclosing some of the individually wrapped units collectively in another preserving wrapper to form a group package and thereafter enclosing the group package and the remainder or other individually wrapped units in a common container. The present invention thus provides a preserved tobacco product comprising a multiplicity of individual units of tobacco, such as cigars, all of the units being individually enclosed in a preserving wrapper, some of the individually wrapped units being collectively enclosed as a group in another preserving wrapper and all of the units being packed in a common container.

It is a general principle of the present invention that in the preserving of a multiplicity of tobacco units in accordance with the present invention some of the units are enclosed in "*n*" number of wrappers, and other units are enclosed in "*n* plus 1" number of wrappers. In the dispensing, as by retail sale, of the tobacco units preserved in accordance with the present invention, the individually wrapped units are first dispensed and thereafter the group wrapper is broken and the remaining individually wrapped units are then dispensed, the group wrapper serving to preserve the unused portion of the tobacco units from adverse changes due to fluctuating atmospheric conditions.

The invention accordingly comprises the several steps and relation of one or more of such steps with respect to each of the others, and the article possessing the features, properties, and the relation of elements, which are exemplified in the following detailed disclosure, and the scope of the invention will be indicated in the claims.

For a more complete understanding of the nature and objects of the present invention, reference should be had to the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 represents one embodiment of a single unit of tobacco enclosed in a preserving wrapper.

Fig. 2 represents one embodiment of a group of individually wrapped tobacco units of the type shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 represents one embodiment of the preserved tobacco product of the invention; and

Fig. 4 represents another embodiment of the finished preserving article of the invention.

By way of illustrating, but not by way of limiting the invention the method of preserving will be illustrated in connection with the preserving of cigars, but it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to preserving cigars, but is applicable for preserving cigarettes, chewing tobacco and other tobacco products which are merchandised in small units.

The individual units are each enclosed either in a pre-formed pouch or bag or in a wrapper in a conventional manner. The bags or wrappers employed for preserving the individual units may be formed of any suitable flexible sheet material such for example as metal foil, wood, paper

or non-fibrous organic plastic material such for example as regenerated cellulose, cellulose esters, cellulose ethers, gelatin, casein, chlorinated rubber and synthetic resins of all kinds. It is to be understood that if the sheet material is not inherently moistureproof, it may be rendered moistureproof in a suitable manner known to the art as by impregnating or coating the wrapper or bag with a moistureproof composition such for example as a composition such as that disclosed in U. S. Patent No. 1,737,187. For collectively wrapping the individually wrapped units of tobacco to form a group package as shown in Fig. 2, there may be used any suitable preserving wrapper or bag. The group wrapper or bag may be formed of any of the materials described above as suitable for the individual wrapper or bag.

The container employed for holding the individually wrapped units and the group package may be a carton, box, can or other suitable container.

Referring to Fig. 1 of the drawing, a single unit of tobacco such as a cigar 1 is enclosed in a preserving wrapper 2, such for example as a wrapper of moistureproof Cellophane, in a known manner. Assuming that the main retail container is to hold fifty-two individual cigars, a substantial proportion of this number, such for example, as twenty-four cigars which have been individually wrapped, as shown in Fig. 1, are now collectively wrapped to form a group as shown in Fig. 2 by means of a sheet of moistureproof Cellophane. To facilitate the group wrapping of the twenty-four cigars there is conveniently employed a packaging form 4 as illustrated in Fig. 2. This form may be produced by folding a strip of stiff cardboard into a rectangle and sealing the overlapping edges 5 and 6 with a suitable adhesive. This packaging form may be provided with a bottom and/or with a top of the same material, but for economy need only comprise side walls. Into this form is placed four layers each comprising six cigars which have been individually wrapped. The package thus produced is then wrapped in a collective wrapper 3, for example, a sheet of moistureproof Cellophane, and the ends of the wrapper folded to form overlapping flaps 7 and 8 which are sealed against the end of the form 4. The outermost edge of the wrapper may be positioned to extend downward on one side of the package as shown in Fig. 2 and the edge is cut along the lines A and B at each end of the package to form a free flap 9, the flap being sealed in the area 10 to the underlying sheet of Cellophane.

The group package shown in Fig. 2 is then positioned in a retail container 11 consisting of a wooden box as shown in Fig. 3. It will be noted that the group package is of such width that it does not occupy the entire area of the box 11. Therefore the group package coacts with the side walls 12 and 13 and the end wall 14 of the container 11 to form a space into which is packed the individually wrapped cigars. In the box shown in Fig. 3 this space is sufficiently large to accommodate twenty-eight cigars.

It is to be understood that instead of having a single preserving group package as shown in the article illustrated in Fig. 3, a plurality of group packages may be formed and packed together with a plurality of individually wrapped cigars to form an article as shown in Fig. 4. In this figure the container 11 holds two group packages 15 and 15', the space defined by the wall of the group package 15' and the walls and end of the container 11 being occupied by the individually wrapped cigars 16.

The invention also contemplates that in addition to providing a portion of the tobacco units with a greater number of wrappers than another portion thereof, the preserving characteristics of the collective or group wrappers may be varied by (*a*) forming these wrappers of thicker material, or (*b*) forming these wrappers of more moistureproof material.

In that embodiment in which the retail container comprises more than one group package, the group wrappers may vary in preserving characteristics with respect to each other. For example the wrapper on the group 15 may be thicker or more moistureproof than the group wrapper on the group 15'. Alternatively the group 15 may be enclosed in a greater number of group wrappers than the group 15'. By utilizing one or more of these embodiments, it is possible to vary the preservation time of the units so that the individually wrapped cigars will be preserved in a salable condition for X period of time, while the cigars in the group 15' will be preserved for 2X periods of time, and the cigars in the group 15 will be preserved for 3X periods of time.

When the individually wrapped cigars 16 have been exhausted from the container, the flap 9 on the group package as illustrated in Fig. 2 will be exposed in the space formerly occupied by the cigars 16 and upon pulling upwardly on this flap, the wrapper on the group package may be readily torn off. The individually wrapped cigars in the group package then may be dispensed in the usual manner.

By the present invention there has been provided a novel method of preserving individual units of tobacco so as to retain certain desired characteristics in some of the units for one period of time and in the remainder of units for a longer period of time whereby the units may be gradually removed from the package without adversely affecting the desired characteristics in the remaining units. By this invention there is provided a means for improving and prolonging the salability of individual tobacco units over longer periods of time than is possible when such units are preserved by the methods heretofore employed in the art.

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

1. A retail package of preserved tobacco comprising a container enclosing a plurality of loose cigars individually enclosed in separate preserving wrappers of moistureproof Cellophane and enclosing at least two groups of such individually wrapped cigars and each of said groups being enclosed in another and separate preserving wrapper, each of said groups and each of said first-mentioned cigars being independently removable from said container.

2. A retail package of preserved tobacco comprising a container enclosing a plurality of loose cigars individually enclosed in separate preserving wrappers of moistureproof Cellophane and enclosing at least two groups of such individually wrapped cigars and each of said groups being enclosed in another and separate preserving wrapper, the group wrappers differing from each other in their relative thickness, each of said groups and each of said first-mentioned cigars being independently removable from said container.

3. A retail package of preserved tobacco com-

prising a container enclosing a plurality of loose cigars individually enclosed in separate preserving wrappers of moistureproof Cellophane and enclosing at least two groups of such individually wrapped cigars and each of said groups being surrounded by a stiffening member and enclosed in another and separate preserving wrapper, each of said groups and each of said first-mentioned cigars being independently removable from said container.

4. A retail package of preserved tobacco comprising a container enclosing a plurality of loose cigars individually enclosed in separate preserving wrappers of moistureproof Cellophane and enclosing at least two groups of such individually wrapped cigars and each of said groups being enclosed in another and separate preserving wrapper, the group wrappers varying in their degree of relative moistureproofness, each of said groups and each of said first-mentioned cigars being independently removable from said container.

SAMUEL J. SILBERMAN.