Jan. 27, 1959 J. C. BERRY 2,870,589

PACKAGE FORMING MACHINE

Original Filed Dec. 6, 1954 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

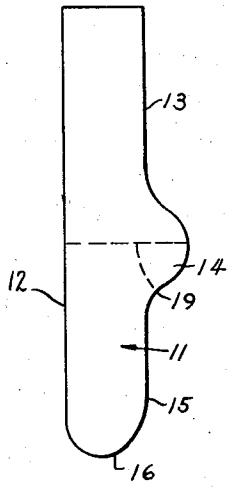


Fig. 2

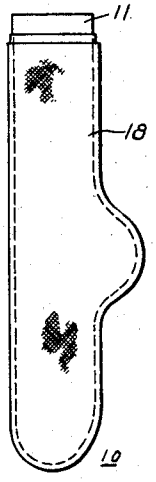


Fig. 3

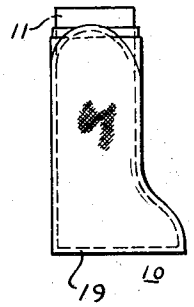


Fig. 4

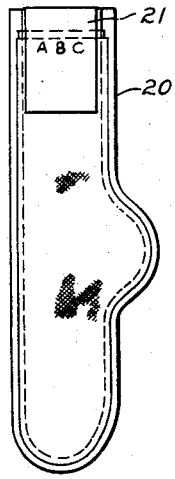


Fig. 5

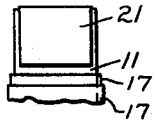


Fig. 6

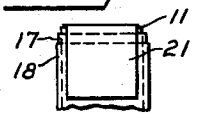


Fig. 7

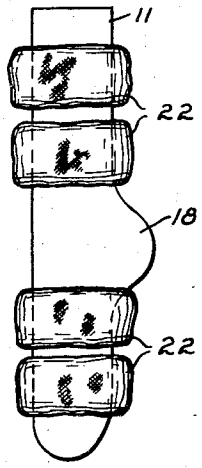


Fig. 8

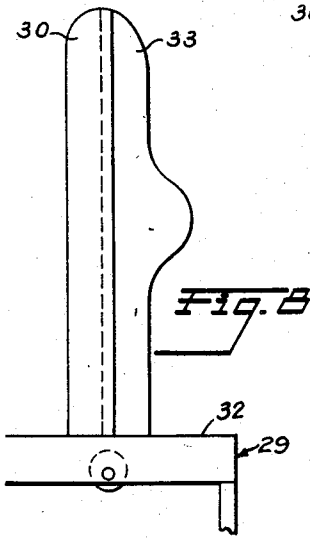


Fig. 9



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PACKAGE FORMING MACHINE

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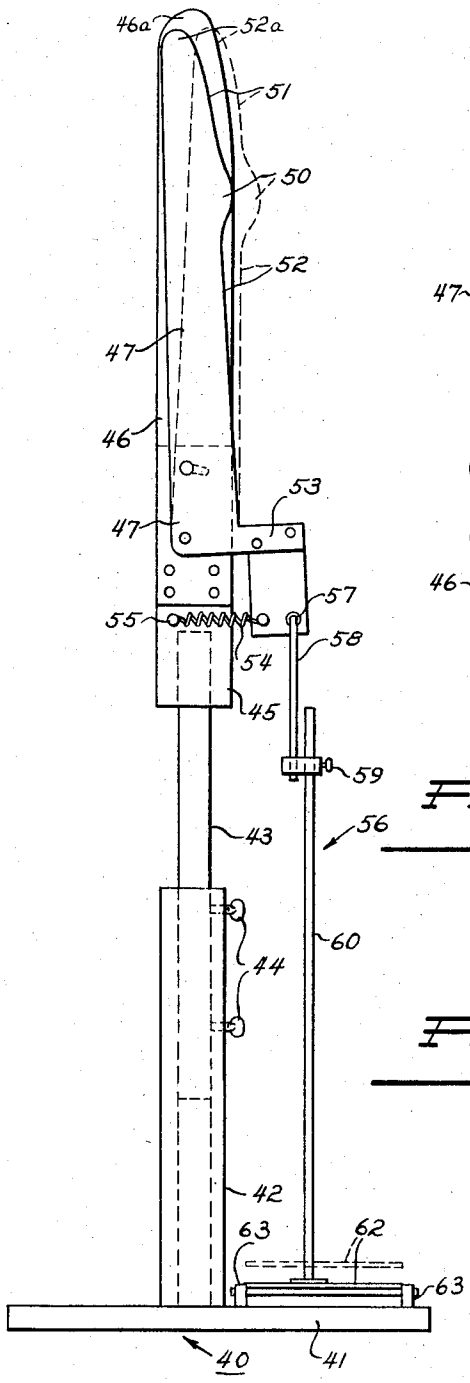


Fig. 10

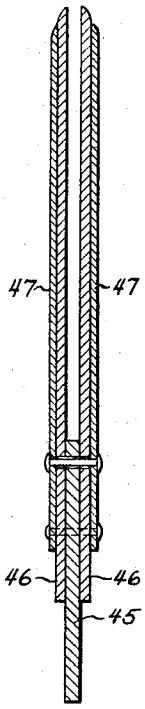


Fig. 11

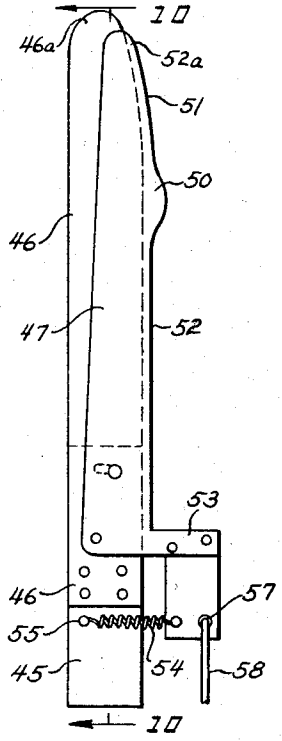


Fig. 12

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PACKAGE FORMING MACHINE

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Fig. 13

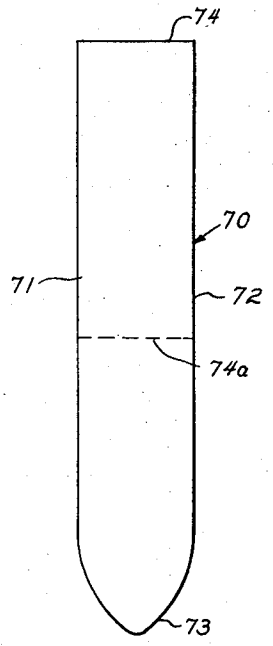


Fig. 14

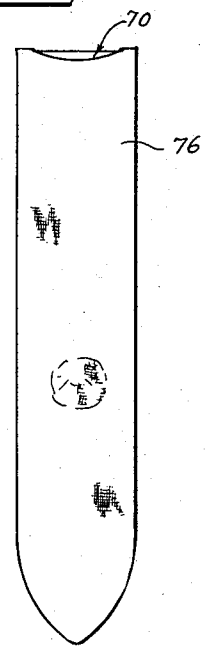


Fig. 15

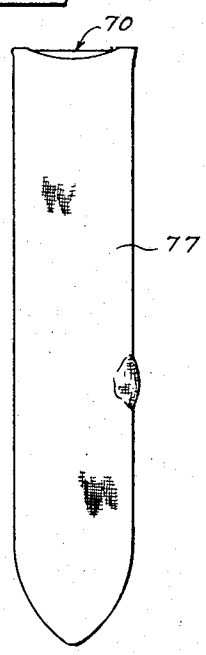


Fig. 18

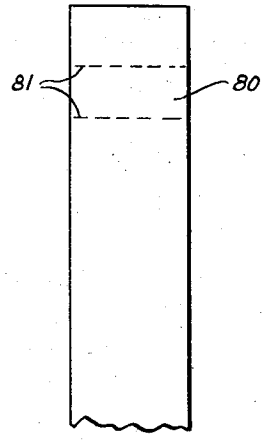


Fig. 16

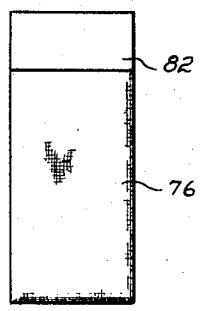
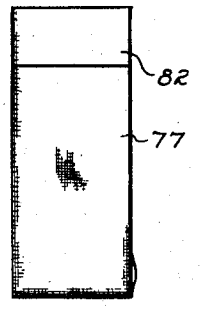


Fig. 17



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United States Patent Office 2,870,589 Patented Jan. 27, 1959

2,870,589

PACKAGE FORMING MACHINE

John C. Berry, Durham, N. C.

Original application December 6, 1954, Serial No. 473,293, now Patent No. 2,742,149, dated April 17, 1956. Divided and this application February 9, 1956, Serial No. 564,400

10 Claims. (Cl. 53—197)

The present application is a division of my application Serial No. 473,293, filed December 6, 1954, now Patent No. 2,742,149, which was, in turn, a continuation-in-part of my application Serial No. 445,041, filed July 22, 1954, now Patent No. 2,696,295. The present invention relates to a machine for forming the stocking packages disclosed and claimed in my aforementioned applications.

The method of marketing stockings heretofore employed has usually been for the manufacturer to secure the two stockings forming a pair to one another by means of paper tape or the like. The stockings are then packaged several to a box and shipped in this manner to the retailer. The retail dealer then mechandises the stockings by selecting several representative colors and placing them on a display table for examination by customers. Alternatively, he may place his entire stock on a compartmented display table.

This form of marketing possesses several disadvantages, a principal one being the inability of the customer to visualize how a particular stocking will appear or fit when in stretched, wearing condition. This is particularly undesirable with the advent of the so-called "stretch stockings." Another disadvantage is that the form of display now employed requires considerable space to properly present the stockings. Moreover, such a display procedure results oftentimes in a mixing of sizes and colors due to continuous customer handling, which requires continuous re-sorting of the stockings to restore them to their proper place. Further, stockings are quite often separated from their mates which oftentimes requires considerable effort to re-mate them, or results in the loss of a complete pair of stockings.

It has been found that these foregoing and related disadvantages can be eliminated by the provision of a stocking package in which two stockings are applied over a single flat insert by which a complete pair of stockings will be retained thereon in a fairly rigid state with no possibility of the stockings becoming separated, and will similarly give to the wearer a visual presentation of how the stocking will appear in worn condition prior to purchasing the same.

It is therefore a principal object of the present invention to provide a new and novel machine for forming stocking packages as disclosed and claimed in my parent application Serial No. 445,041, now Patent No. 2,696,295, as well as improved forms of a stocking package as disclosed in my copending application Serial No. 473,293, filed December 6, 1954.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a stocking package that will present a pleasing appearance to a customer, and will permit him to visualize prior to purchase how the stocking will appear in wearing condition.

Yet another object of the present invention is the provision of a stocking package that will visually present "stretch socks" in a wearing condition.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a stocking package that will permit of full display of various sizes and colors in a very small area.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a stocking package that permits a retailer to maintain a full complement of stockings in a neat manner for examination by customers without a corresponding disarrangement of the stockings.

Still another object of the present invention is the provision of a machine for forming the new and novel stocking package.

Other and additional objects will become manifest from the ensuing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Broadly stated, the stocking package of the present invention comprises a flat insert, a first stocking carried by said insert, and a second mating stocking carried by said first stocking and said insert.

The package forming machine comprises a pair of front support means mounted on frame means, a pair of rear support means mounted on said frame means, said front and rear support means associated to receive a stocking insert therebetween, said front support means and said rear support means slightly overlapping one another, and means to actuate said support means toward one another.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, the present invention then consists of the means hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims, the annexed drawings and the following description setting forth in detail certain means in the carrying out of the invention, such disclosed means illustrating, however, but one of the various ways in which the principle of the invention may be employed.

The present invention is illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a side elevation of an insert for use in forming a stocking package in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of a form of stocking package made in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of another form of stocking package made in accordance with the present invention showing the same in folded position.

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of another form of a stocking package made in accordance with the present invention.

Figs. 5 and 6 are fragmentary side elevations of stocking packages made in accordance with the present invention illustrating separate ways for providing information riders to the package.

Fig. 7 is a side elevation of still another form of a stocking package made in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 8 is a side elevation of an illustrative form of a machine in accordance with the present invention for forming a stocking package.

Fig. 9 is a front elevation of the machine shown in Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a side elevation of another form of a stocking package made in accordance with the present invention illustrating the actuation of the machine.

Fig. 11 is a sectional view taken on lines 11—11 of Fig. 12.

Fig. 12 is a side elevation of the form portion of the machine shown in Fig. 10.

Fig. 13 is a front elevation of an improved form of an insert for use in forming a stocking package made in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 14 is a front elevation of a stocking package using the insert shown in Fig. 13.

Fig. 15 is a front elevation of still another form of a

stocking package using the insert shown in Fig. 13 to form the package of the present invention.

Fig. 16 is the stocking package of Fig. 14 in folded position.

Fig. 17 is the stocking package of Fig. 15 in folded position.

Fig. 18 is a fragmentary front elevation of still another form of insert that may be employed to form the package of the present invention.

Referring now to the drawings, and with particular reference to Figs. 1 and 2, an illustrative embodiment of a stocking package made in accordance with the present invention, and generally designated by reference numeral **10**, is shown.

The stocking package **10** comprises a flat, oblong strip insert or board **11** of sheet material made preferably from cardboard, chipboard, or related paper-type material. The insert **11** is of a weight and strength sufficient to support the stockings in a flat position, and yet retain its rigidity and original configuration when the stockings are placed thereon and still possess a certain degree of flexibility.

The insert **11** possesses a configuration generally resembling that of a foot and ankle in a flat, vertically straight relation. The insert **11** has a straight, leading or forward edge **12** and an upper trailing edge **13** spaced from and generaliy parallel to edge **12** which defines the ankle portion of the insert **11**. The trailing edge **13** terminates in a heel portion **14** corresponding and adapted to receive the heel portion of a stocking. The lower trailing edge **15** of the insert **11** extends downwardly from the heel portion **14** in general conformity with the configuration of the outline of the foot and terminating in a rounded toe portion **16** at the bottom end of the insert **11**. The length of the insert **11** must be of a length at least sufficient to fully support the stockings in a slightly tensioned, flat, laid out state, and, in certain instances, it will be found advantageous to have the insert **11** somewhat longer than the sockings carried thereby. Similarly, the width of the insert **11** must be sufficient to place the stocking in a flat, slightly tensioned state when placed thereon to facilitate the forming of the package **10** as well as insuring the positive retention of the stockings thereon in their desired state. While the insert **11** has been described as preferably being in an elongated vertical state, it is to be understood that it is within the spirit and the scope of this invention that an angle type insert can be employed.

The insert **11** is positioned within a first stocking **17** with the foot portion and the ankle portion of the insert **11** supporting and engaging the corresponding parts of the stocking **17**. This construction will result in the first stocking **11** being held in a flat, extended, and slightly tensioned state. The insert **11** carrying the first stocking **17** is positioned within a second or mating stocking **18** in the same manner as the insert **11** was positioned within the first stocking **17**. This construction results in a flat stocking package **10** providing a pair of stockings in a flat, supported, laid out and slightly tensioned state, and which will present the stocking in a state similar to that when worn and provides for their shipping, stocking and merchandising without the disadvantages heretofore encountered.

It will be found advantageous, particularly when the stocking package **10** contains large size stockings, to provide means for reducing the size of the package to facilitate packing, shipping and storing. While, as hereinbefore stated, the insert **11** must be of a strength sufficient to support the stocking in a substantially rigid or partially erect state, the insert **11** may be provided with a score or folding line **19** positioned transverse to the long axis of the insert **11** which will permit the stocking package **10** to be folded upon itself to reduce the size of the package, as shown in Fig. 3. While the

folding line **19** may be positioned at any suitable point on the insert **11**, it is preferred that it be so located that the stocking package **10** may be folded in half with the leading edge **12** of the insert **11** when in the folded state being in alignment. Therefore, it will be found most advantageous to provide a scoring line **19** for the insert **11** which extends across the heel portion **13**.

It will be found desirable in instances where high quality stockings are made and it is undesirable to have them excessively handled, with corresponding soilage and the like, to provide protective means. Referring now to Fig. 4, a form of the invention to accomplish this is shown in which the package **10** is inserted within a transparent flexible wrapper **20** made from cellophane or similar material. It is preferred that the wrapper **20** be of the same general configuration of the insert **11**, but slightly oversized. The wrapper **20** may be secured at its top by any suitable means such as gluing, heat sealing, or the like, depending upon the material used. Similarly, an identifying rider **21** which would carry the brand name, size, and other pertinent information could be secured to the open end of the wrapper **20** to secure same, or alternatively, the rider **21** could be attached to the previously closed end of the wrapper **21** by adhesive, stapling, or the like.

Referring now to Figs. 5 and 6, alternative forms of rider securing means are shown for attaching same to stocking package **10** having no wrapper. In the form shown in Fig. 5, the insert **11** containing the stockings **17** and **18** is somewhat longer than the stockings. A rider **21** is then secured to the free end of the insert **11** by any suitable means, thus providing all necessary identification and advertising for the stocking package **10**. Another means of accomplishing this is shown in Fig. 6. In this form of the invention, the insert **11** is of substantially the same length as the stockings **17** and **18**. The rider **21** is then placed over the top end of the package **10** and adhesively secured to each side of the outer stocking **18**, or alternatively, to the stocking **18** and the insert **11**.

Reference is now to be had to Fig. 7, wherein a form of the invention is shown which has particular utility with so-called teen-age anklet stockings in which detachable woven large ankle cuffs are worn in conjunction with the stockings. In this form of the invention, the stocking package **10** has a plurality of ankle cuffs **22** placed thereon in embracing or encircling tensioned relationship and carried thereby. The suffs **22** may be any even number, i. e., two, four, six, and may be, if four cuffs are carried as shown, of different or contrasting colors. Thus, it will be possible to provide a single package containing a plurality of separate cuffs thereon and shipped and sold as a single unit.

By the term "stocking" used herein and in the appended claims, it is used to define men's women's and children's socks and stockings of the type known as ankle socks, as well as socks extending as far as part way up on the calf of the wearer, such as argyles. The term "stockings" is not to include ladies' full fashioned sheer hosiery normally sold in full leg length as so-called "nylons." It has been found that the sheerness of such hosiery is likely to result in possible damage to the yarn by snagging or the like when a full leg length insert is positioned therein and placing the stocking in a slightly tensioned state. Moreover, a leg length insert which would properly support full length nylon hosiery in a flat, laid out state would be economically unfeasible from a shipping and marketing standpoint due to its weight and general bulkiness. However, in view of very recent developments toward the development of stretch ladies' nylon hosiery which corresponds to the men's one size stretch socks, it is possible to form a ladies' nylon hosiery package of the stretchy nylon type, since the nylon hosiery in an unstretched state will be comparatively short in length and will not

be likely to be snagged. However, with hosiery of this type, a transparent covered package such as shown in Fig. 4 should be used. The package-forming machine generally designated by reference numeral **29** comprises a pair of thin, oblong, mating front board members **30** and **31** secured at one end to a supporting frame member **32** in upright relationship, with the opposite free end of each being partially rounded. A second pair of mating rear board members **33** and **34** is similarly secured to the frame member **32** in upright relationship therewith, and in slightly spaced relationship. The rear or trailing edge of each rear board member **33** and **34** has a configuration generally similar to that of the trailing edge of insert **11**, while each front edge is straight. The upper free end of each rear board member **33** and **34** is partially rounded.

The front board members **30** and **31** are spaced just slightly apart from and in parallel relationship with one another with their rear vertical portions overlapping the forward vertical portions of each of the rear board members **33** and **34**. This construction results in an arrangement in which the two pair of board members **30**, **31**, **33**, and **34** are so associated to correspond to the overall general configuration of the insert **11**, but being slightly oversized with respect thereto and with the partially rounded free end of the respective pairs of board members defining a rounded toe portion. This association defines a pocket into which the insert **11** will be positioned to receive the stockings. Similarly, the respective pairs of board members are mechanically controlled, preferably by cam means or the like, to provide a two step operation for positioning the stockings on the insert **11**. This cycle of operation will be explained more fully hereinafter. It should be noted that the spacing between the respective pairs of front and rear members should be such that the insert **11** will be positively retained therein.

To operate the machine **29** to form the package **10**, the insert **11** is placed within the pocket formed by the respective pairs of front and rear board members and held in positive position therein. The first stocking **17** is then pulled over the associated pairs of front and rear board members in the position that it will appear on the insert **11**. The insert **11** is now ready to be removed. By means of a cam actuation the two pairs of board members are moved slightly laterally away from one another, releasing the pressure of the board members on the insert **11**. Continuing the cam cycle, each pair of board members **30** and **31**, and **33** and **34** are moved slightly toward one another transversely with respect to their long axis to reduce the perimetral dimension of the pocket formed by the board members. This action results in freeing the edges of the insert **11** and at the same time bringing the perimetral edge of the insert **11** into engagement with the stocking **17** without any friction being created therebetween. The insert **11** now in engagement with the stocking **17** is grasped between the thumb and index finger and vertically withdrawn from the pocket, bringing the stocking **17** therewith in a properly positioned state thereon. The insert **11**, now carrying the stocking **17**, is placed in the machine **29** and the operation just described is repeated to place the second stocking **18** thereon. While the operation just described is preferred, it should be noted that both stockings could be placed on the insert at the same time, but it has been found, in order to insure a proper positioning of the stocking on the insert in both instances, as well as eliminating the possibility of stretching one stocking more than another, that the two stage operation be employed.

The advantage of the machine just described is that there is no likelihood of damage to the stocking occurring by pulling the stocking over the insert. Similarly, a proper positioning of both stockings on the insert is always attained. That is to say, the pulling of the insert from between the first board members **30** and **31** will cause the stockings to engage the sides and surface of the insert without any friction being created therebetween.

Referring now to Figs. 10, 11, and 12, a modified form of a stocking package machine generally designed by by reference numeral **40** is illustrated. The package machine **40** comprises a support or bottom plate **41**, and is provided with an elongated vertical mounting post **42** centrally positioned thereon at right angles therewith in fixed rigid relationship thereto. The upper free end of the mounting post **42** is provided with a central axial bore to receive a mounting rod **43** therein. The mounting rod **43** is vertically adjustable within the bore of the post **42** and may be locked in place at any desired point by means of set or lock screws **44** carried by the post **42**. A base plate **45** is secured to the upper free end of the mounting rod **43** in fixed vertical relationship therewith by any suitable means, such as, for example, by riveting, welding, bolting, or the like.

A pair of spaced inner or front thin, oblong, mating board members **46** are each secured at one end to said base plate **45** in fixed vertical relationship therewith and extending upwardly on either side of the base for a short distance therewith. The front board members **46** have their front and rear edges substantially parallel with respect to one another, and are united to one another at the top free ends of the board members **46** by a rounded top portion **46***a*. The board members **46**, as indicated, are in complementary relationship with and spaced from one another. The board members **46** are spaced apart a distance sufficient to permit a cardboard insert to be placed therebetween. As illustrated, the board members **46** are secured one on each side of the base plate **45** with the base plate **45** extending up and between the board members **46** for a short distance. The spaced distance between the inner surface of each of the board members **46**, therefore, in the illustrated embodiment equals the thickness of the base plate **45** with the upper free end of the base plate **45** functioning to support one end of the insert when vertically positioned between the front board members **46**.

A pair of outer or rear board members **47** are pivotally secured adjacent their lower ends to the front board members **46** and base plate **45** by means of a bolt **48**. Each of the rear board members **47** will partially overlap and be in sliding engagement with the outer surface of each of the front board members **46**. The outer or rear board members **47** have a configuration generally resembling that of a foot and ankle in vertically extended position, to wit, each front or leading edge **49** of the board members **47** is substantially straight. The trailing edges of the board members **47** are provided with an outwardly extending heel portion positioned between the upper trailing edge **51** and the lower trailing edge **52** of each of the board members **47**. The upper trailing edge **51** is united to the leading edge **49** by a rounded toe portion **52***a*.

The board members **46** and **47** may be formed of any thin material having the necessary strength and which can be finished as to present a smooth surface over which the stockings may be slid without any danger of damage. A preferred material that has been found to meet all of these requirements is polished aluminum.

The lower or bottom end of each of the board members **47** has a foot portion **53** disposed at substantially right angles with respect to the long axis of each of the board members **47**. Spring means **54** are connected at one end to each of the lower edges of the foot portions **53** with an opposite end of the spring means **54** being connected to a mounting stud **55** carried by the base plate **45**. The spring means **54** function to maintain the support member **47** under tension such that the board members **47** will remain in a normally expanded position with respect to the front fixed board members **46**.

A link mechanism, generally designated by reference numeral **56**, which will function to actuate the movable board members **47**, is secured at one end to the outer free end of the foot portion **53** of the support members **47** by means of bolt **57**. The link mechanism **56** comprises a vertical first rod member **58** secured to each foot portion **53** at one end thereof with the opposite free end of each being secured to a connecting plate **59**. A single elongated second rod is connected to the connecting plate **59** and is vertically adjustable with respect thereto by means of a set screw **61** carried by the connecting plate **59**. This construction permits the link mechanism **57** to be adjusted to correspond with any vertical adjustment of the mounting rod **43**. The opposite free end of the elongated second rod **60** is secured to the front end of a foot treadle member **62** in pivotal relationship therewith. The foot treadle member **62** is mounted on a fulcrum rod **63** carried by said base to permit a pivoting of the foot treadle member **62** upon an application of pressure by the foot to either raise or lower the elongated second rod **60** with a corresponding actuation ultimately to the link mechanism of the board members **47**. In normal operation the free end of the foot treadle **62** will be up with the forward or front end connected to the second rod **60** being down.

To limit the travel of the movable rear board members **47** along the surface of the fixed front board members **46**, it will be found advantageous to provide a stop bolt **64** for each of the outer faces of the inner board members **46** to be complementary and fixed within guide slots **65** formed in each of the outer board members **47**.

In the operation of the package machine **40**, the outer board members **47** are in normally expanded position and only partially overlap the fixed inner board members **46**. A cardboard insert is then positioned within the spacing between the inner board members **46** and being enveloped or confined therein by the inner and outer board members **46** and **47**. The first stocking is then pulled down over the board members **46** and **47** and fitted thereon in a slightly stretched and tensioned state. The foot treadle **62** is depressed resulting in the movable rear or outer board members **47** to pivot and move forward along the outer surface of each board member **47**. This action results in the outer board members **47** coming substantially completely within the general configuration of the front board members **46** and causing the heel portion of the stocking to engage and fit the heel portion of the insert. The insert and stocking are then grasped along the side edges and pulled vertically upwardly causing the stocking to slide off and engage the insert in a fitted and slightly stretched and tensioned condition. The insert carrying the stocking in the tensioned state is then re-positioned within the board members **46**, and the operation just described is repeated to produce the desired sock package. It is possible to place both stockings on the insert in a single operation. However, the method just described is preferred since it results in a more accurate positioning of the stockings on the insert.

Reference is now to be had to Fig. 13 wherein a different form of an insert generally designated by reference numeral **70** is shown. The insert **70** differs over the insert **11** of Fig. 1 in that it eliminates the heel portion **14**. With particular stockings, or particular positioning of stockings on an insert, such omission is possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. The insert **70** may be made of any material of which the insert **11** shown in Fig. 1 is made. The insert **11** is provided with a forward or leading edge **71** and a trailing or rear edge **72**, each of which are generally straight and substantially parallel with respect to one another. The lower end of the leading edge **71** and the trailing edge **72** are united to one another by means of a rounded toe portion **73**. The upper end of the leading edge **71** and the trailing edge **72** are connected by a substantially straight edge portion **74**. A folding line **74***a*

may be provided on the insert **70**, if desired. This construction is somewhat similar to the insert **11** of Fig. 1 with the exception of the elimination of the heel portion.

Reference is now to be had to Figs. 14 and 16 wherein one form of a stocking package utilizing the form of insert of Fig. 13 is shown. In this form of the stocking package, the stockings **76** are placed on the insert **70** with the heel portion of the stocking **76** resting against and engaging the flat face of the insert **70**. The insert carrying the tensioned or slightly stretched stockings in this condition may then be folded along its folding line **74***a* upon itself with the heel portion being contained within or between the folded portions of the insert **11**. Thus it is possible to eliminate a positive heel portion configuration from the insert without departing from the spirit and scope of the broad invention.

Reference is now to be had to Figs. 15 and 17 wherein another form of a stocking package employing so-called stretchable socks with the insert **70** is illustrated. The stretchable socks **77** are positioned on the insert **70** with the heel portion of the stocking resting against the trailing edge **72** of the insert **70**. Thus, it is possible, particularly when using stretchable stockings, such as men's stretch nylon socks, to employ the insert **70** without leaving too large a heel bulge along the trailing edge **72**. This is due to the fact that stretchable hose **77** will be placed on the insert in an expanded, tensioned state. Thus, with no heel portion with the insert, the heel portion will not be highly stretched in comparison with the remainder of the stocking, resulting in the formation of only a small loose heel portion against the trailing edge of the insert **70**.

The package machine that may be employed in packaging stockings with the insert **70** may contain a slight modification, since no heel portion will be present. This modification relates to the rear board members **47**, each of which contains a heel portion **50**. In packaging stockings with insert **70**, the heel portion **50** may be eliminated, resulting in the trailing edge of each of the board members **47** being substantially straight.

Referring now to Fig. 18, a fragmentary upper portion **80** of an insert is shown which will be found to be of general utility, either with the insert **11** of Fig. 1 or the insert **70** of Fig. 12. In this form of the insert, the insert will be of a normal length equal to the length of the stocking to be used. The upper portion **80** of the insert is then provided with a plurality of transverse scored or breaking lines **81**. By providing the upper portion of an insert with a plurality of spaced scored lines running transverse to the long axis of the insert, it is possible to use only a single one size insert in the machine to form a stocking package. The remaining portion of the insert that is not utilized in the event a size or range of size stocking less than the largest size is used may be broken along one of the score lines and discarded. Such construction makes it possible to use only a one size machine for all sizes of stockings.

It is to be noted that an identification bearing rider or saddle **82** is applied to the upper portion of the stocking package. It should be noted to further insure the proper retention of the stocking on the insert that the upper free ends of the stocking may be hooked on the upper corners of the stocking and the rider placed thereover. Further, in the formation of the folded stocking package, the insert may be folded and a rider employed to engage the outer surface of the upper end of the insert **11** with the opposite end engaging the outer surface of the toe portion of the sock.

I claim:

1. A package forming machine comprising a pair of spaced front support members mounted on frame means, a pair of spaced rear support members secured to said frame means, said front and rear support members being in slightly overlapping relationship with respect to one another and adapted to receive a stocking insert therebe-

tween, and means to actuate one of said pairs of support members toward the other pair.

2. A package forming machine comprising a pair of upright spaced front board members secured to frame means, said front board members adapted to receive a stocking insert therebetween, a pair of upright spaced rear board members associated with said front board members in pivotal relationship therewith, and means to actuate said rear board members to move one each across the outer surface of each of said front board members.

3. A package forming machine comprising frame means, a pair of upright spaced front board members fixedly secured to said frame means, said front board members adapted to receive a stocking insert therebetween, a pair of upright spaced rear board members associated with said front board members in pivotal relationship therewith, and means to actuate said rear board members to pivot one each across the outer surface of each of said front board members.

4. A package forming machine in accordance with claim 3 in which the front board members have their respective leading and trailing edges straight.

5. A package forming machine in accordance with claim 4 in which the rear board members are provided with an outwardly extending heel portion on each trailing edge thereof.

6. A package forming machine comprising a base, frame means secured to said base, a pair of elongated, thin, upright spaced front board members secured to said frame means, said front board members adapted to receive a stocking insert therebetween, a pair of upright spaced rear board members associated with said front

board members in pivotal relationship therewith, spring means to hold said rear board members in expanded position, and means to actuate said rear board members to move one each across the outer surface of each of said front board members.

7. A package forming machine comprising a base, frame means secured to said base, a pair of upright spaced front board members, each of which are fixedly secured to opposite sides of said frame means, said front board members adapted to receive a stocking insert therebetween, a pair of elongated, upright, spaced rear board members pivotally mounted to said frame means, and means to actuate said rear board members to move one each across the outer surface of each of said front board members.

8. A package forming machine in accordance with claim 7 in which stop means are provided to limit the degree of movement of said rear board members.

9. A package forming machine in accordance with claim 8 in which the actuating means comprise foot actuated means associated with said base, rod means secured at one end to said foot actuated means, and at the opposite end connected to said rear board members.

10. A package forming machine in accordance with claim 6 in which the frame means and actuating means are vertically adjustable.

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