United States Patent

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[54] **DISPLAY PACKAGE**
2 Claims, 6 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **206/56,** 229/51, 229/66
[51] **Int. Cl.** **B65d 5/54,** B65d 5/70, B65d 83/00
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 206/80, 80A, 79, 78, 78B, 46(Food), 56A2, 57; 229/51(RC), 62, 66; 222/107

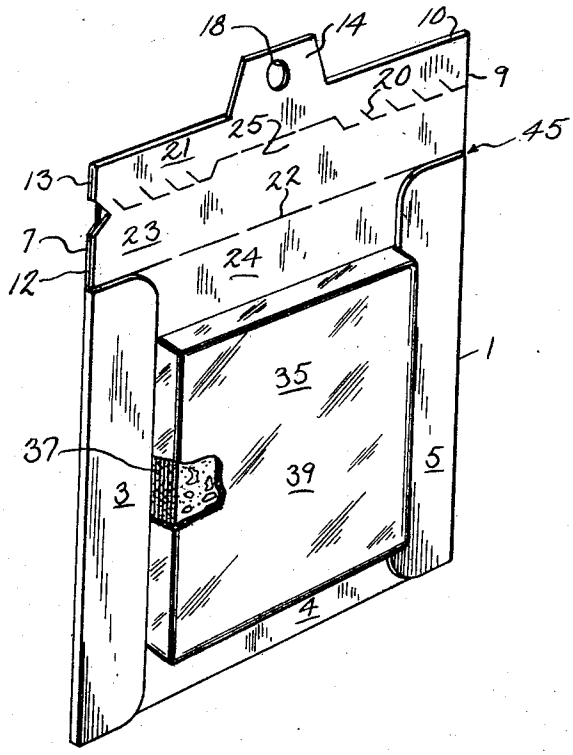
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ABSTRACT: A carton for holding a filled pouch having overlying panels alorig one side of a base panel with part of the pouch positioned therebetween so that the pouch can be opened upon tearing away of portions of the overlying panels; other portions of the overlying panels remain attached to the carton to provide for effective reclosure of the pouch after part of its contents have been withdrawn.



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SHEET 1 OF 2

Fig. 1

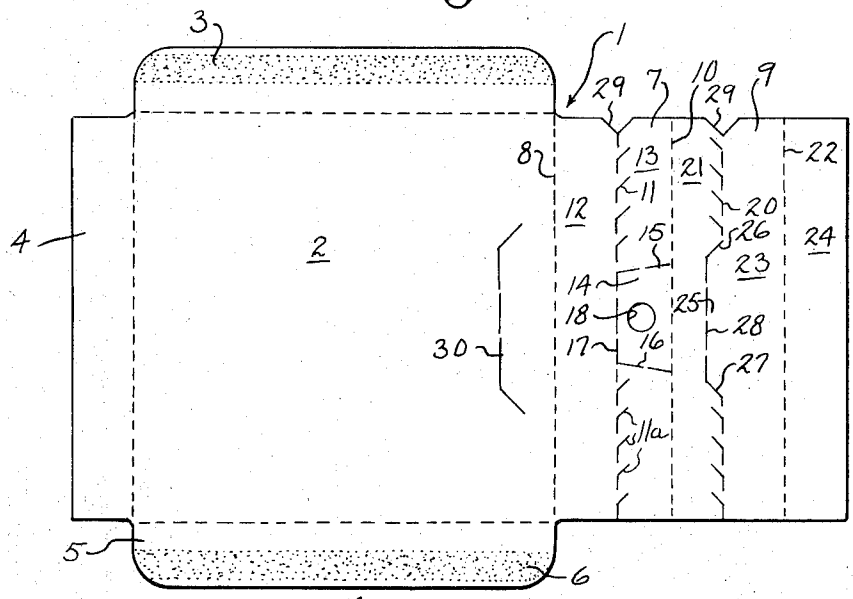


Fig. 3

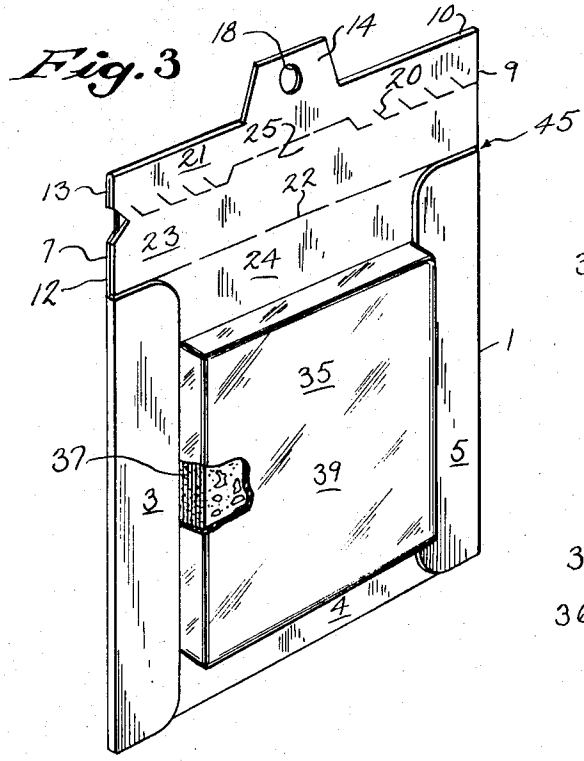
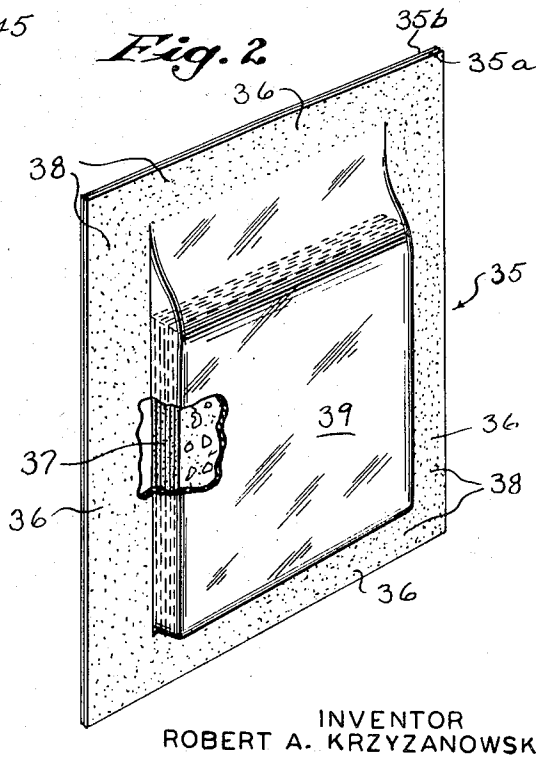


Fig. 2



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Fig. 4

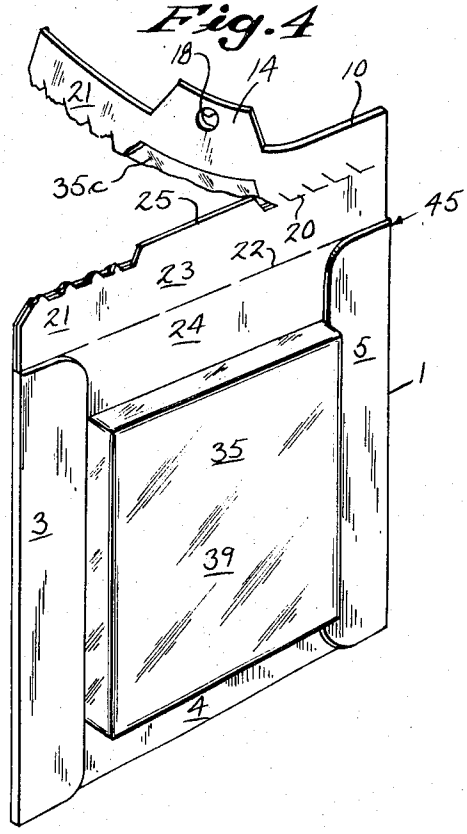
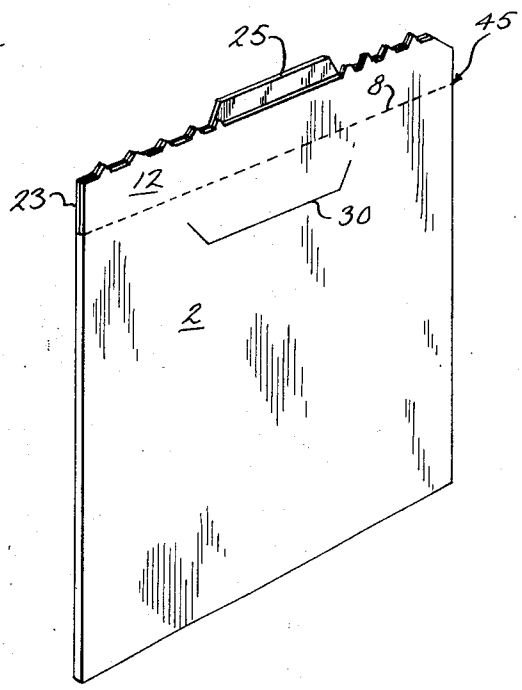


Fig. 5



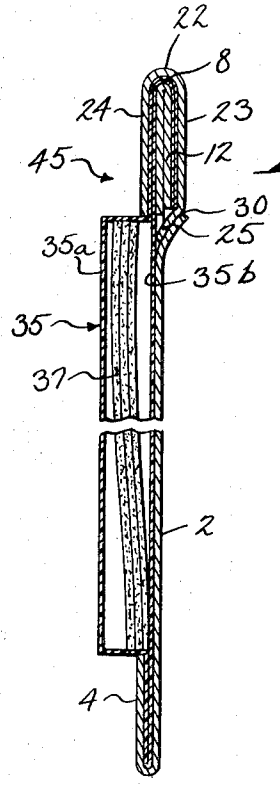


Fig. 6

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DISPLAY PACKAGE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field

This invention relates generally to cartons for the display and packaging of filled pouches made of flexible packaging film, more specifically to unique cartons for holding pouches which provides an easy-opening and an efficient reclosure panel construction.

2. Prior Art

Many versions of cartons for holding an inner package comprising a pouch of flexible packaging film are known. These packages range from simple boxes in which the filled inner pouch is placed to more complicated versions in which the pouch is in some fashion attached or otherwise joined to the outer carton or, in some instances, a board member. Such combination packages are often used for the packaging of meat, particularly slices of cold meat. Most combination packages of this type have a common defect in that they lack effective means for providing a satisfactory reclosure of the inner pouch after a portion of its contents have been removed and it is desired to retain the pouch in the carton in order to preserve the remaining packaged material. With the prior art packages, it has either been impossible to reclose the inner pouch after it has been initially opened or extremely cumbersome to effect any type of such reclosure.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

My present invention provides a carton for the display and packaging of a filled pouch of flexible film material in which the carton includes panels constructed along one side of a base panel on which a filled pouch is to be carried. The overlying panels include means for opening the pouch portion which is positioned therebetween and, further, in accordance with the present invention, include means of a suitable configuration to enable reclosure of the inner pouch after removal of part of its contents. This reclosure is provided for in an effective manner in which there is a 180° fold placed in the opened pouch to give maximum protection for the remaining contents thereof. My present carton has a further advantage in that the easy opening and facile reclosure features are obtained through the use of a minimum amount of carton material. Still further, the display package of my present invention has an important merchandising advantage in that it creates the appearance of a blister or shrink package but has reclosure features not obtainable with such packages or only obtainable at a substantially higher cost factor. The carton of the present invention is useful for the packaging of food items such as cold meat, bacon, etc. and nonfood items such as hardware, toys, etc. and may be utilized for the packaging of any desired type of commodity or goods.

A principle object of the present invention is to provide a carton for the packaging of a pouch of flexible film material which has the dual features of attractive display of the pouch and reclosability of the pouch after it has been opened. Another is to provide a carton of the foregoing construction utilizing a minimum amount of carton material. A related object, also important, is to provide a recloseable package which has the appearance of a blister or shrink package to enhance the visual display of the material packed in the inner pouch. A more specific object is to provide the particular improved carton constructions as hereinafter specifically claimed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A presently preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown in the drawings which are meant to illustrate, not limit, the present invention, inasmuch as it is anticipated that changes can be made in the illustrated embodiment which will remain within the true spirit and scope of the present invention. In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a carton blank in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 illustrates a filled pouch to be used in conjunction with a carton according to FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view showing a completed composite package utilizing a carton erected from the blank of FIG. 1 and the filled pouch of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the composite carton of FIG. 3 in an intermediate stage of being opened, and FIG. 5 is a rear perspective view showing the carton in its open condition; and

FIG. 6 is a sectional view illustrating the composite package of the preceding drawings after it has been reclosed, subsequent to opening and withdrawal of part of the contents of the inner pouch.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The blank 1 shown in FIG. 1 includes a base panel 2 having side flaps 3, 4 and 5 joined to three of its sides along fold lines as illustrated in the drawings. Side flaps 3 and 5 include a strip 6 of adhesive for the purpose hereinafter discussed. A first side panel 7 is connected to the fourth side of the base panel along a fold line 8 and a second side panel 9 is connected to the first side panel 7 along a fold line 10, the fold lines 8 and 10 being parallel with one another. The blank 1 is made of any suitable carton material such as cardboard, paperboard, plastic, etc., it may be uncoated or coated with functional coatings such as a heat seal coating, barrier coating, etc.

A tear line 11, which is shown as comprising a set of spaced generally L-shaped slits 11*a*, divides the first side panel 7 into panel 12 and panel 13. The tear line 11 may be of any suitable construction, such as hook-shaped slits, straight slits, etc. which will enable tearing of the first side panel along the tear line. A hanger tab 14 is defined in the panel 13 by means of spaced side slits 15 and 16 which extend from the fold line 10 and terminate along the region of the tear line 11 where they are connected together along an end slit 17. A hole 18 is formed centrally of the tab 14.

A tear line 20, which may be of the same configuration as the tear line 11, extends across the second side panel 9 and is spaced from the fold line 10 to define panel 21 which is of the same width as panel 13 of the first side panel. On the opposite side of the tear line 20, a fold line 22 is spaced from the tear line and runs parallel thereto to form panel 23 and extension flap 24. A locking tab 25 is defined within the region of the tear line 20 by means of spaced side slits 26 and 27 connected by end slit 28, said slits extending through the thickness of the material from which the blank 1 is made. The end portion of the locking tab 25, i.e. that part along the end slit 28, extends towards the base panel 2. The tear lines 11 and 20 may include a notch 29 along one of their ends to facilitate initiation of tearing of the carton therealong.

To complete the blank as shown in FIG. 1, a slit 30 is defined in the base panel 2 alongside but spaced from the fold line 8 and may be of any suitable configuration such as the generally U-shaped shown in the drawing.

The various fold lines, slits and perforated lines can be formed in the blank by any suitable creasing, scoring, cutting or perforating mechanisms conventionally used in the converting art. The blanks can be stacked and stored in a flat condition until such time as they are to be erected into carton form, which can be done either manually or mechanically.

FIG. 2 illustrates an inner package of a type suitable for use with the carton blank shown in FIG. 1. A pouch 35 formed of two sheets 35*a* and 35*b* of film joined together along marginal seams 36 encloses a stack 37 of sliced meat. Any food or nonfood commodity may be packaged in pouches of the general type exemplified by the pouch 35. The pouch 35 may be formed of two sheets marginally heat sealed together or from a single sheet folded upon itself and then heat sealed to form the inner package, or two films adhesively joined together, and it may have a configuration other than that illustrated in FIG. 2. Regardless of its specific construction, the pouch includes a marginal or peripheral flange 38 which surrounds a commodity compartment 39. The pouch, preferably, is formed of any suitable flexible packaging film which either is inherently heat sealable or has a heat seal coating on at least one of its surfaces, and it may be made from a single layer monofilm or a

laminated film having two or more similar or dissimilar layers of film either adhesively or heat laminated together. Suitable films would include polyethylene, polypropylene, saran, cellophane, glassine, paper, metal foil and other plastic or non-plastic films. In general, where the usual flexible packaging film is employed, it will be from one-half to 10 mils thick depending upon the nature of the commodity packaged.

A composite package **45** formed by combining a carton erected from the blank **1** and the pouch **35** is shown in FIG. **3**. To form the package **45**, the pouch **35** is placed on the base panel **2** of the blank **1**, and the side flap **4** is folded over a portion of the peripheral flange **38** of the pouch. At the opposite side of the carton, the second side panel **9** is folded along fold line **10** to overly the first side panel **7** with the tear lines **11** and **20** in registry with one another, in this condition, panel **21** of the second side panel **9** overlies panel **13** of the first side panel **7**, and panel **23** of the second side panel overlies panel **12** of the first side panel. The extension flap **24** extends over the base panel **2** of the carton and above a portion of the peripheral flange of the pouch **35** placed thereon. Another portion of the peripheral flange **38** extends underneath and between the overlying tear lines **11** and **20**, which tear lines should extend across the commodity compartment **39** of the pouch for the purpose discussed below.

To complete the composite package **45**, the side flaps **3** and **5** are folded over portions of the peripheral flange of the inner pouch **35** and also extend over the ends of the side flap **4** and extension flap **24**. When placed in such condition, the strips **6** of adhesive are activated so as to adhere the flaps **3** and **5** to flange portions of the inner pouch **35** and end portions of the flaps **4** and **24**. For this purpose the strip **6** of adhesive is preferably a heat sealable adhesive, i.e. one which is activated by the application of heat and pressure, although other types of adhesive also can be used. In this fashion the pouch is firmly retained in the carton. As noted in FIG. **3** the packaged product **37** in the pouch **35** projects from the base panel of the carton blank and is given a "framed" appearance by reason of the several side flaps extending around its peripheral flange so that the package looks like a so-called "blister" package but is made at a much lower cost. For further enhancement of the display of the carton, the hanger tab **14** can be separated from its panel **13** along the slit lines **15**, **16** and **17** to the upright position illustrated in FIG. **3** so that the package can be hung from a hanger to display the unit.

An intermediate step in the opening of the composite package **45** is illustrated in FIG. **4**. The user grasps the overlying panels **13** and **21** and simultaneously tears the first side panel **7** and second side panel **9** along the registered tear lines **11** and **20** to separate the panels **13** and **21** from the remainder of the carton structure. The tear lines **11** and **20** extend across the commodity compartment **39** of the pouch **35** so that when the pouch wall material is torn along with tearing of the carton panels the pouch is opened and the user can withdraw all or part of the material or commodity packaged in the pouch. A section **35***c* of the pouch is shown in FIG. **4** as being carried away with the separation of the carton along the tear lines. A rear view of the opened carton package is illustrated in FIG. **5**.

FIG. **6** shows reclosure of the package after part of the contents have been removed from the inner pouch **35**. Briefly, the locking tab **25** is swung into position so as to engage the slit **30** formed in the base panel **2** of the carton. To accomplish this, the panels **12** and **23** are folded rearwardly about fold lines **8** and **22**, respectively, so that the locking tab **25** will be in a proper position to engage the slit **30**. As will be noted in FIG. **6**, this rearward folding action of the panels **12** and **23** causes a 180° fold to be formed in the walls **35***a* and **35***b* of the pouch **35**; further, these walls are bent about the edge formed by the panel **12** and an edge portion of the base panel **2**. This complete folding, or 180° bend, placed in the pouch will material forms an efficient and effective reclosure of the pouch, thereby giving protection to the remaining contents; this provides the maximum possible protection of the contents in the absence of actually joining together the walls of the pouch **35**, which would be impractical in most instances. As an alternate feature, when the carton is opened in the manner shown in FIGS. **4** and **5** above, the panel **12** of the first side panel **7** can be detached from the base panel along the fold line **8**, for which purpose the fold line **8** is shown as including a line of perforations. In some instances, removal of this panel will facilitate reclosure of the carton.

There has thus been provided a display package for a pouch made of flexible film which provides (*a*) attractive display of the packaged merchandise, (*b*) easy-opening of the filled pouch, and (*c*) effective reclosure of the pouch after part of its contents have been withdrawn. These advantages are obtained with a carton construction that uses a minimum of carton material through the provision of panels along a side of a carton base panel which are adapted to be folded over each other with part of the pouch between them, the panels being of a shape that will require as little material as possible.

I claim:

1. A carton blank for erection into a carton for the display of a pouch of the type having a peripheral flange surrounding a commodity compartment, said carton blank comprising in combination:

1. a base panel on which the pouch is to be placed;
2. a first side panel connected along a first fold line to one side of the base panel; and
   a. a first tear line extending across the first side panel;
3. a second side panel connected along a second fold line to the first side panel;
   a. a second tear line extending across the second side panel and arranged parallel to the first tear line; and
   b. a third fold line extending across the second side panel parallel to the first and second fold lines and spaced from the second tear line to define an extension flap;
4. the second side panel being adapted to be folded about the second fold line to overlie the first side panel, with the second tear line in registry with the first tear line and with the extension flap overlying the base panel;
5. a slit formed in the base panel and a locking tab formed in the second side panel, the locking tab being adapted for engagement with said slit.

2. A composite package comprising, in combination:

1. a pouch having a peripheral flange surrounding a compartment containing packaged commodity;
2. a carton having a base panel on which the pouch is placed, the carton including:
   a. a first side panel connected along a first fold line to one side of the base panel, and a first tear line extending across the first side panel;
   b. a second side panel connected along a second fold line to the first side panel, a second tear line extending across the second side panel, and arranged parallel to the first tear line, and a third fold line extending across the second side panel parallel to the first and second fold lines and spaced from the second tear line to define an extension flap;
3. the second side panel being folded over the first side panel with part of the peripheral flange of the pouch therebetween and with the first and second tear lines in registry with each other and extending across the compartment of the pouch, so that the compartment of the pouch is opened upon separation of the said side panels along the said tear lines;
4. a slit formed in the base panel and a locking tab formed in the second side panel, the locking tab being adapted for engagement with said slit.