Jan. 20, 1970 M. T. FARQUHAR 3,490,582

PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION FOR A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES

Filed Dec. 23, 1966 6 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG 1

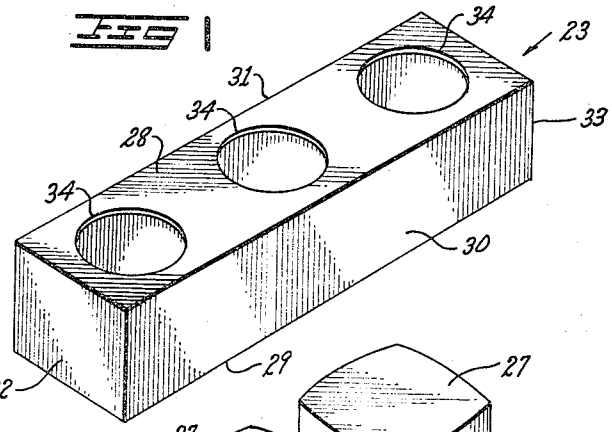


FIG 2

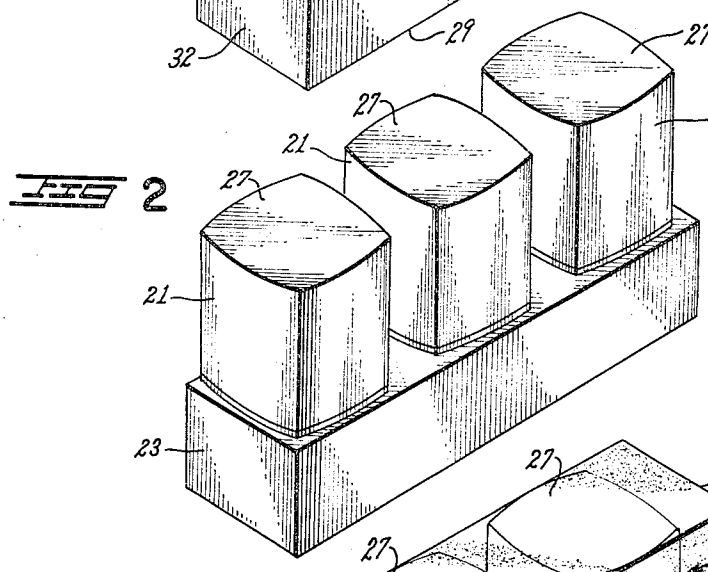
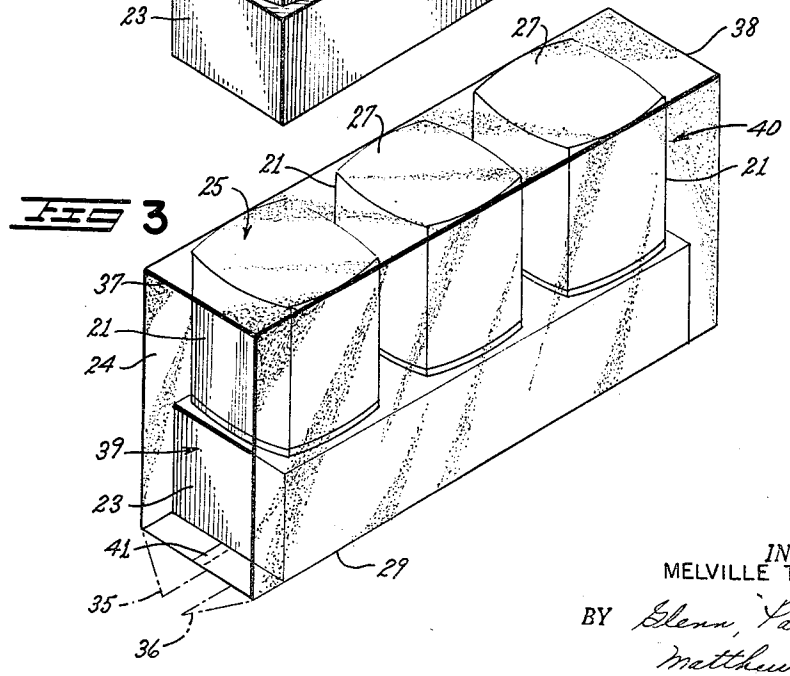


FIG 3



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PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION FOR A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES

Filed Dec. 23, 1966

6 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG 4

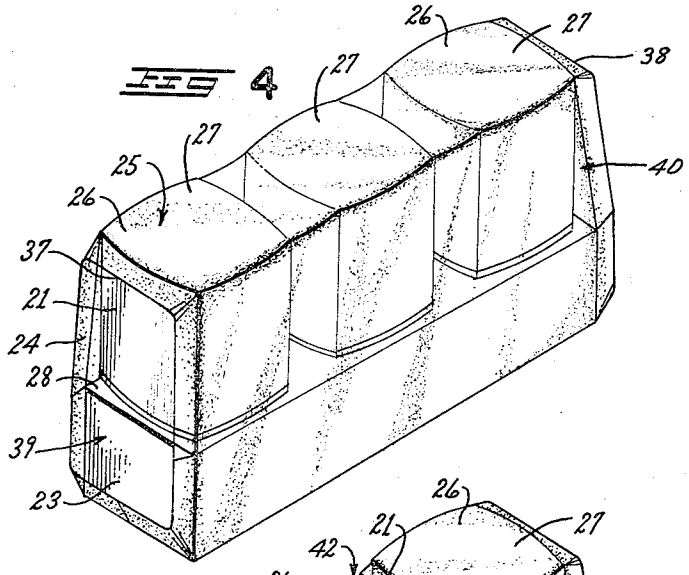


FIG 5

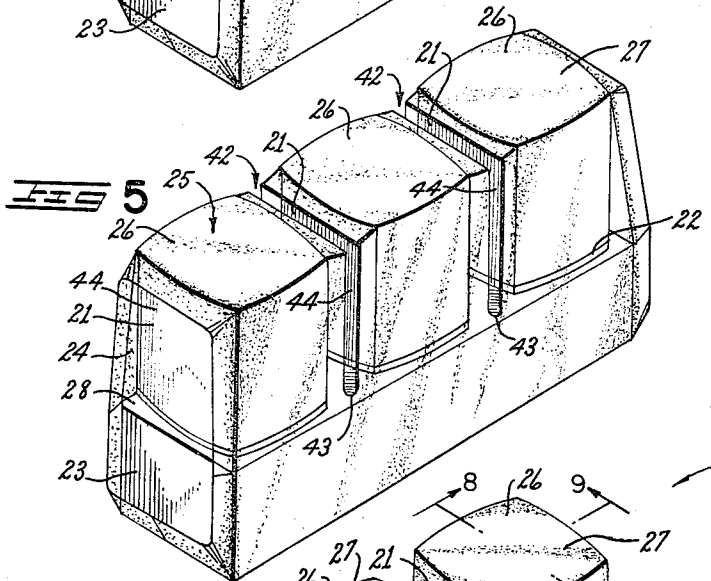
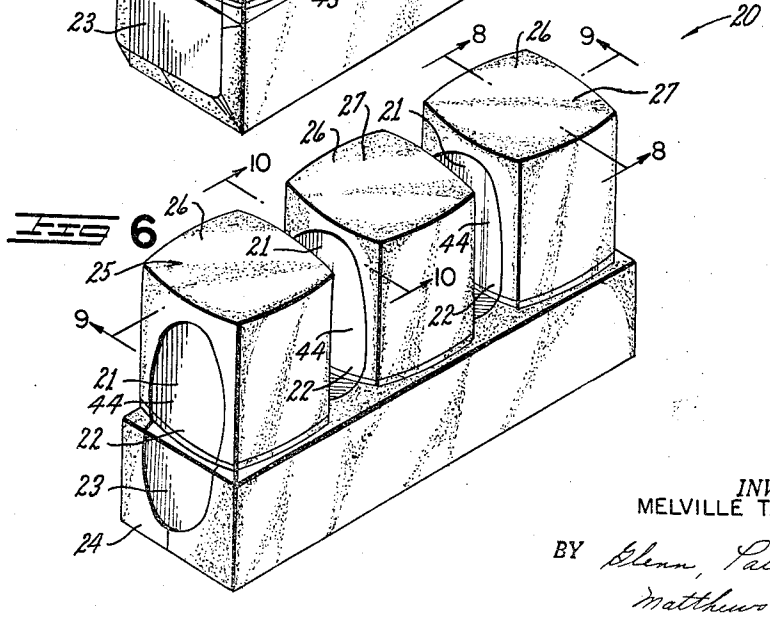


FIG 6



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PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION FOR A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES

Filed Dec. 23, 1966 6 Sheets-Sheet 3

FIG 7

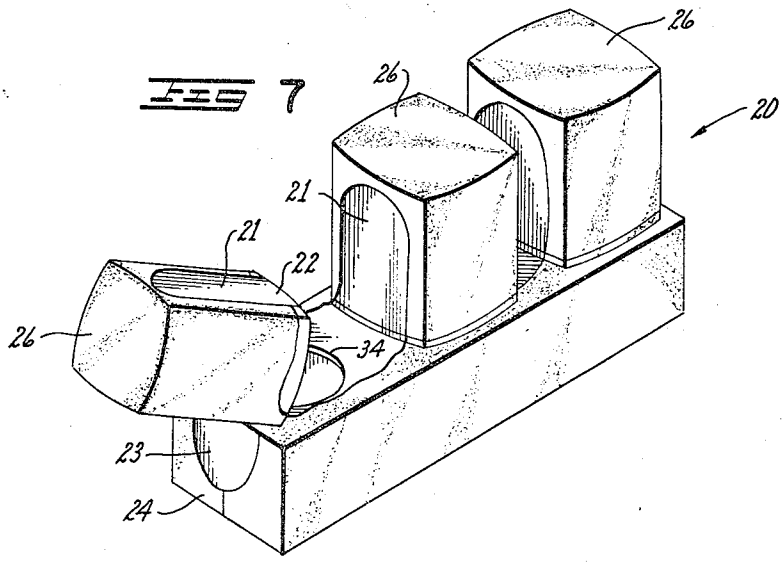


FIG 8

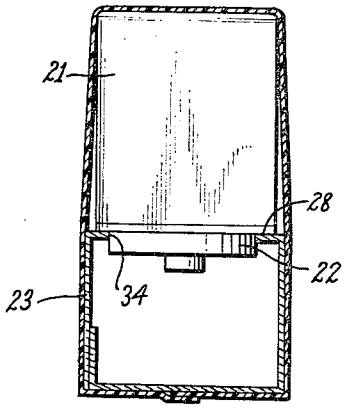
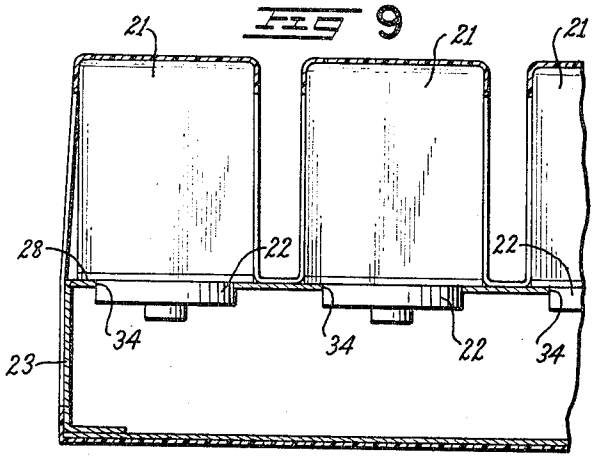


FIG 9



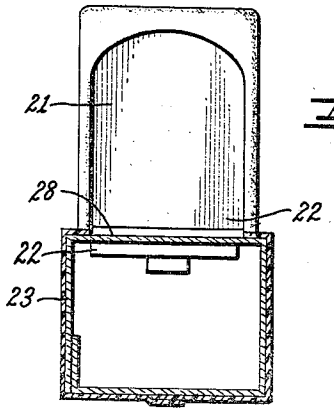


FIG 10

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PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION FOR A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES

Filed Dec. 23, 1966 6 Sheets-Sheet 4

FIG 11

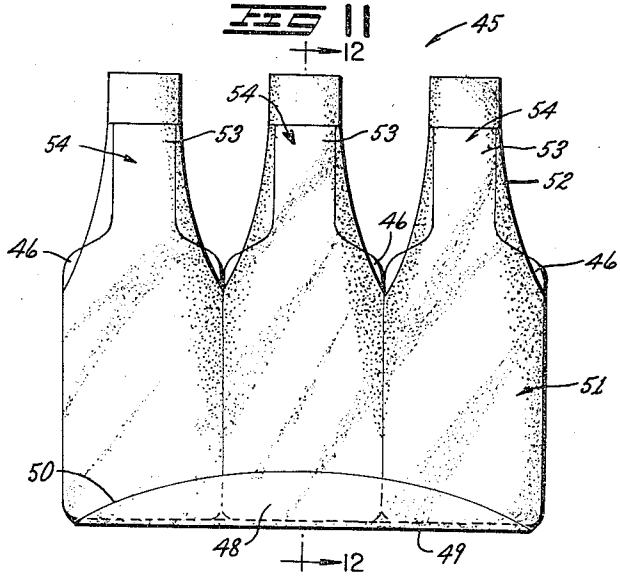


FIG 12

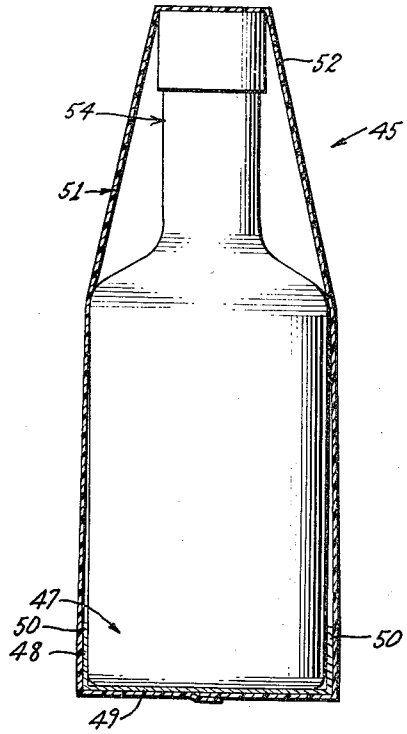
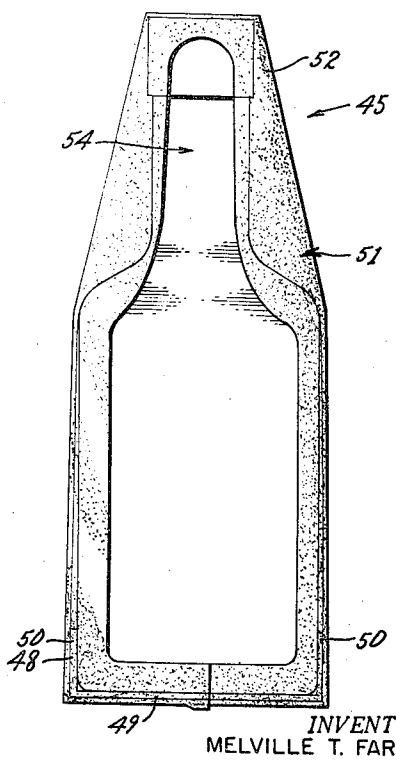


FIG 13



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PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION FOR A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES

Filed Dec. 23, 1966 6 Sheets-Sheet 5

FIG 14

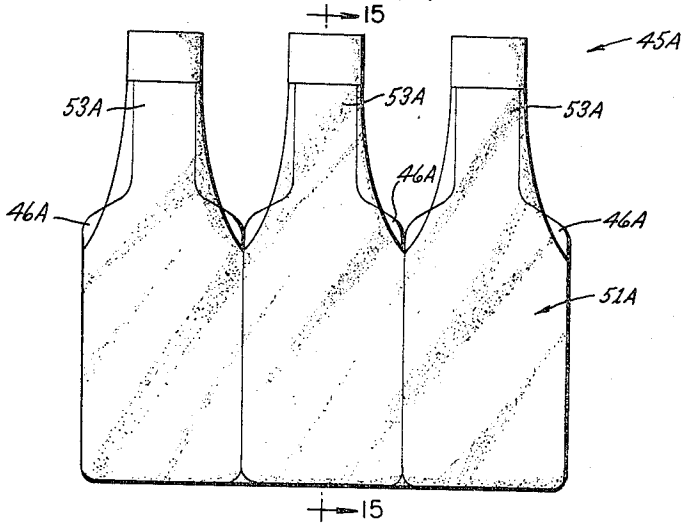


FIG 15

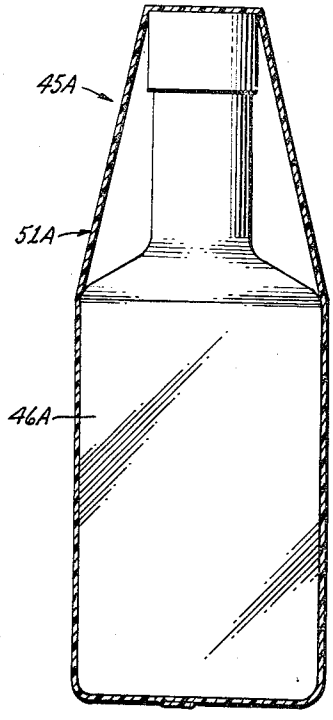
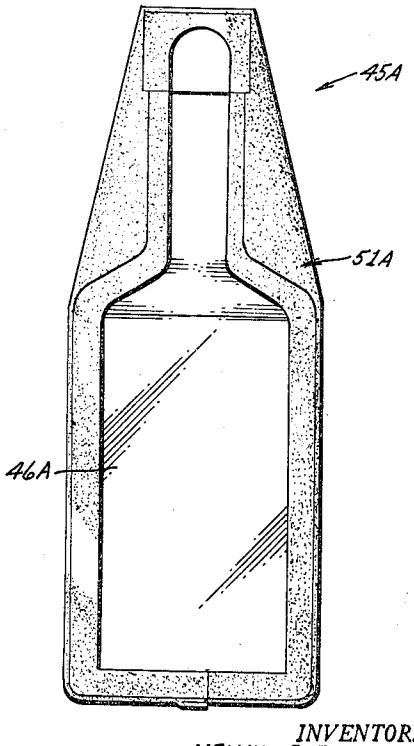


FIG 16



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PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION FOR A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES

Filed Dec. 23, 1966 6 Sheets-Sheet 6

Fig 17

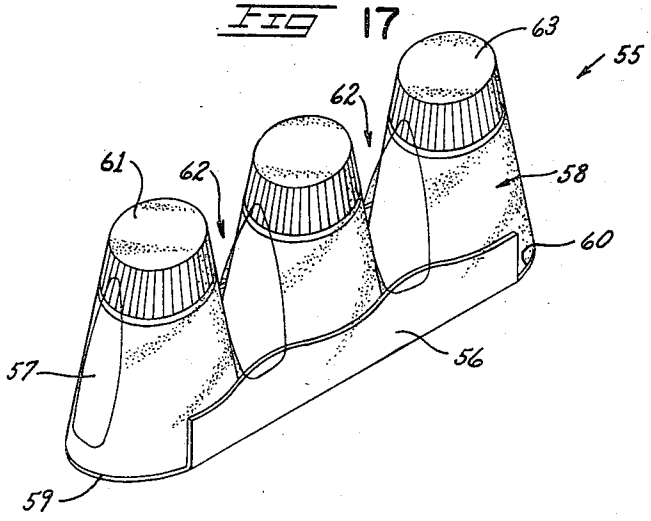
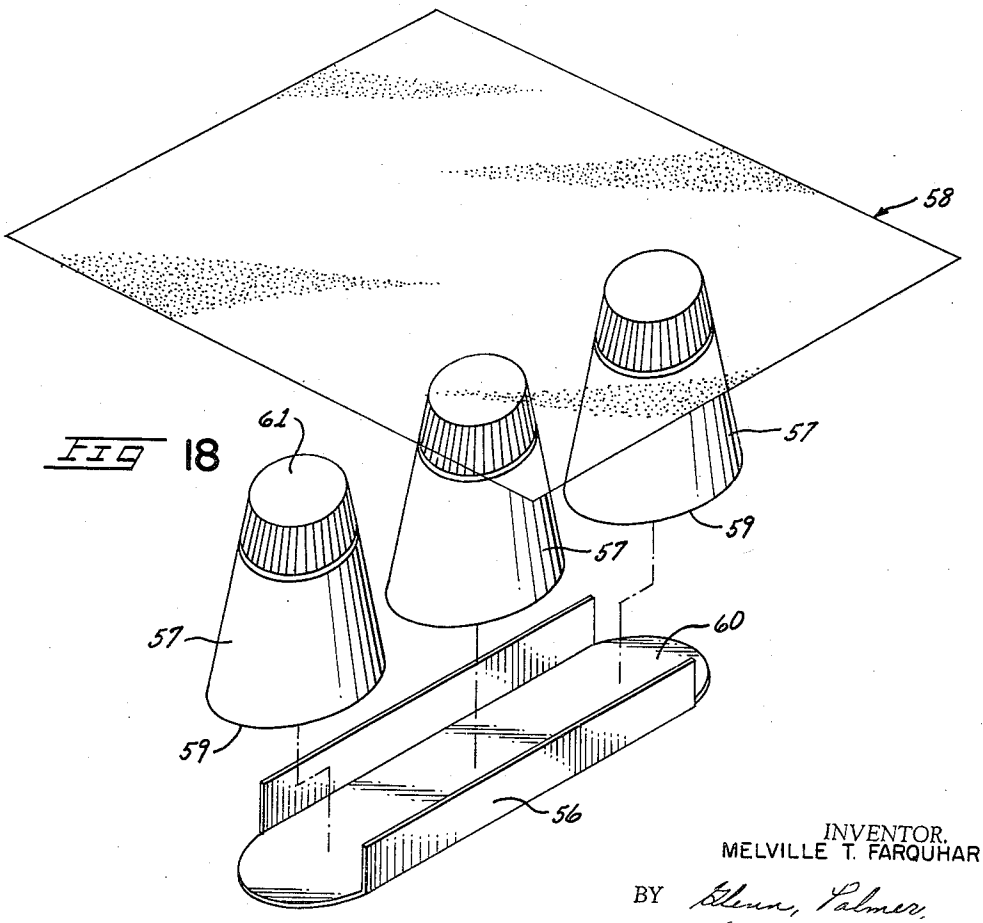


Fig 18



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United States Patent Office 3,490,582 Patented Jan. 20, 1970

3,490,582

PACKAGE CONSTRUCTION FOR A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES

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Filed Dec. 23, 1966, Ser. No. 604,383
Int. Cl. B65d 71/00, 65/16, 85/00
U.S. Cl. 206—65 18 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This disclosure relates to a package constuction wherein a plurality of articles are held in a predetermined arrangement by a film-like member having a portion thereof engaging against the upper ends of the articles with that portion being separated into a plurality of parts respectively engaging the upper ends of the articles so that the articles can be held in such predetermined arrangement without having the upper ends drawn toward each other and can be serially removed from the package construction by causing relative movement between the respective engaging part of the portion of the film-like member and the package construction while the remaining articles are being maintained in the predetermined arrangement by the remaining parts of the film-like member, the film-like member being heat shrunk to hold and compact the articles in their predetermined arrangement together with or without a support member supporting the other ends of the articles, depending on the shape of the articles, and being compacted against the other ends of the articles by the heat shrunk film-like member.

This invention relates to an improved package construction utilizing film-like means as well as to an improved method for making such a package construction or the like.

It is well known that a plurality of articles can be held together in a predetermined arrangement by telescopically disposing the articles within a tubular film-like member, with or without a tray-like supporting member supporting the lower ends of the articles, and thereafter, heat shrinking the tubular film-like member to tightly compact the articles together in the predetermined arrangement so that the resulting package construction can be utilized for shipping, storing, merchandising or other purposes as desired.

However, it has been found, according to the teachings of this invention, that when the articles are disposed in aligned arrangement and have tapering configurations, the heat shrinking of the tubular film-like material caused the outboard articles to pivot or tip toward the middle article whereby an unattractive package construction is provided.

Also, when such prior known package construction is initially opened to permit removal of certain of the articles, the initial opening of the tubular film-like member completely destroys the integrity of the package construction so that if only part of the articles are to be initially utilized, some additional means must be provided for maintaining the other articles in a desired arrangement for the subsequent storing thereof until the remaining articles are to be utilized.

Accordingly, one of the features of this invention is to provide a package construction of the above type wherein the articles can have tapering configurations and the like and not be compacted together at their upper tapering ends. Another feature of this invention is to provide a package construction wherein the articles can be serially removed from the package construction while

the remaining articles will be held in their predetermined arrangement without requiring auxiliary means to maintain such remaining articles in a proper condition for storage purposes and the like.

For example, one embodiment of the package construction of this invention has a portion of the film-like member that engages the upper ends of the prearranged articles separated into a plurality of parts respectively engaging the upper ends of the prearranged articles and positively holding the same so that the articles will be disposed substantially perpendicular to the bottom of the package construction without tipping or cocking thereof and can be serially removed from the package construction by causing relative movement between their respective engaging parts of the portion of the film-like member and the package construction, while the remaining articles are being retained in the predetermined arrangement by the remaining parts of the film-like member.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide an improved package construction having one or more of the novel features set forth above or hereinafter shown or described.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved method for making such a package construction or the like, the method of this invention having one or more of the novel features set forth above or hereinafter shown or described.

Other objects, uses and advantages of this invention are apparent from a reading of this description, which proceeds with reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part thereof and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of an article support member for forming a package construction of this invention.

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view illustrating the support member of FIGURE 1 supporting a plurality of articles.

FIGURE 3 is a view similar to FIGURE 2 and illustrates the assembled support member and articles of FIGURE 2 telescopically disposed within a heat shrinkable, tubular film-like member.

FIGURE 4 is a view similar to FIGURE 3 and illustrates the tubular film-like member in a partially heat shrunk condition.

FIGURE 5 is a view similar to FIGURE 4 and illustrates the partially heat shrunk tubular member of FIGURE 4 having the upper portion thereof separated into a plurality of parts respectively engaging the upper end of the articles.

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view illustrating the completed package construction of this invention formed by the further heat shrinking of the film-like member of FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 7 is a view similar to FIGURE 6 and illustrates one step in the method for serially removing the articles from the package construction of FIGURE 6.

FIGURE 8 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 8—8 of FIGURE 6.

FIGURE 9 is a fragmentary, cross-sectional view taken substantially on line 9—9 of FIGURE 6.

FIGURE 10 is a cross-sectional view taken substantially on line 10—10 of FIGURE 6.

FIGURE 11 is a side view of another package construction of this invention.

FIGURE 12 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken on line 12—12 of FIGURE 11.

FIGURE 13 is an enlarged end view of the package construction of FIGURE 11.

FIGURE 14 is a side view of another package construction of this invention.

FIGURE 15 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken on line 15—15 of FIGURE 14.

FIGURE 16 is an enlarged end view of the package construction of FIGURE 14.

FIGURE 17 is a perspective view illustrating another package construction of this invention.

FIGURE 18 is an exploded perspective view of the various parts for forming the package construction of FIGURE 17.

While the various features of this invention are hereinafter described and illustrated as being particularly adapted for providing package constructions for a relatively small number of relatively small articles, it is to be understood that the various features of this invention can be utilized singly or in any combination thereof to provide like package constructions for a larger number of larger articles having different configurations and sizes as described.

Therefore, this invention is not to be limited to only the embodiments illustrated in the drawings, because the drawings are merely utilized to illustrate some of the wide variety of uses of this invention.

Referring now to FIGURE 6, an improved package construction of this invention is generally indicated by the reference numeral **20** and comprises a plurality of articles **21** having the lower end means **22** thereof supported in spaced relation by a support member or means **23** while being held to and compacted against the support member **23** by a heat shrunk tubular film-like member **24** having an upper portion **25** thereof separated into a plurality of parts **26** respectively engaging and compacting against the upper end means **27** of the articles **21** whereby the tubular film-like member **24** completes the package construction **20** so that the articles **21** can be readily shipped, stored, merchandised or the like while the ultimate consumer can utilize the package construction **20** in a manner to serially remove the articles **21** in a manner hereinafter set forth while the remaining articles **21** are firmly held in the package construction **20** for subsequent storing and use thereof, as desired.

In particular, the heat shinkable film-like member **24** can comprise a transparent sheet of polyvinyl chloride which readily permits the ultimate consumer to remove a particular article **21** by the ultimate consumer merely grasping the outer surface of the engaging part **26** of the film-like member **24** and its respective articles **21** and pivoting the same outwardly relative to the package construction **20** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 7 whereby the engaging part **26** of the film-like member **24** will tear across and separate from the remaining portion of the film-like member **24** so that the pivoted articles **21** can be readily removed from the package construction **20** while the remaining articles **21** are positively held in a compact manner by the remaining parts **26** of the film-like member **24** until it desired to remove one or more of the remaining articles **21**.

Thus, it can be seen that the package construction **20** of this invention not only provides an attractive display means for a plurality of articles **21** to be sold in a set of the desired number, but also the package construction **20** permits the ultimate consumer to serially remove the articles **21** from the package construction **20** as needed while providing suitable storage means for the remaining articles until the same are required as the integrity of the package construction **20** is not destroyed by the removal of the articles **21** until the last article **21** is removed.

Further, by forming the film-like member **24** of transparent material, it can be seen that the ultimate consumer can readily view the packaged product means **21** on display shelves and the like and all advertising media and the like can be disposed on the articles **21** and/or support member **23** to be readily viewed through the transparent film-like member **24**, the transparent film-like member **24** not only adding luster and sales appeal to the articles **21**, but also enhancing the sales appeal of the informational media or other media on the articles **21** and/or support member **23**.

One method of this invention for making the package construction **20** illustrated in FIGURE 6 will now be described with the understanding that the particular support means **23** and the particular articles **21** can be of any suitable shape and configuration and need not be of the type hereinafter described.

For example, it can be sen in FIGURE 1 that the support member **23** is a substantially rectangular box-like means formed of cardboard or the like having top wall means **28** and bottom wall means **29** held in spaced relation by opposed side wall means **30** and **31** and opposed end wall means **32** and **33**. The upper wall **28** of the support member **23** is interrupted by a plurality of openings **34** to receive and hold the bottom end means **22** of the article **21** in the manner illustrated in FIGURES 8–10 whereby the articles **21** will be disposed in a predetermined arrangement and spaced from each other by the spacing means **34** of the support member **23**.

For example, the articles **21** can comprise substantially rectangular flash cubes for cameras wherein the lower end means **22** thereof are of a shape to be substantially press fitted in the openings **34** and form the means for being telescoped into a particular socket of a flash gun or the like. Since each side face of the flash cube **21** includes an indicator that changes color if that particular part of the cube **21** has become defective, it can be seen that by having each cube **21** spaced from the adjacent cubes **21**, the ultimate consumer can inspect all faces of the packaged cubes to determine whether any sides are bad without opening the package construction.

After the articles **21** have been assembled to the support member **23** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 2, a sheet of heat shrinkable material, such as the aforementioned polyvinylchloride formed in any suitable manner, is disposed about the assembled support member **23** and articles **21** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 3 whereby the opposed ends or edges **35** and **36** of the sheet **24** are adapted to be disposed in overlapping relation along the bottom wall **29** of the support member **23** and be heat sealed together to form the tubular member **24** illustrated in FIGURE 3 telescopically receiving the assembled support member **23** and articles **21**, the resulting tubular member **24** having the opposed open ends **37** and **38** thereof extending beyond the opposed end means **39** and **40** of the assembled support member **23** and articles **21** for a purpose hereinafter described. Of course, it is to be understood that the film-like member **24** can initially be formed integrally in the tubular configuration illustrated in FIGURE 3 by extrusion or the like without having the bottom longitudinal seam means **41** previously described. Also the seam **41** could be located anywhere along the tubular member **24** other than at the bottom thereof and can be formed by solvent sealing rather than by heat sealing. For example, such solvent sealing or securing means for the aforementioned polyvinyl chloride can comprise cyclohexanone.

In any event, the telescoping tubular film-like member **24** is initially and partially heat shrunk into the configuration illustrated in FIGURE 4 to cause the upper portion **25** of the film-like member **24** to tightly compact against the upper end means **27** of the articles **21** and substantially draw inwardly toward the support member **23** between adjacent articles **21** as illustrated in FIGURE 4, the opposed extending ends **37** and **38** of the film-like tubular member **24** also partially overlapping the opposed end means **39** and **40** of the assembled support member **23** and articles **21** during this initial and partial heat shrinking operation.

Thereafter, the upper portion **26** of the partially heat shrunk tubular film-like member **24** is formed with slit means **42** between adjacent articles **21** with the slit means **42** dividing the upper portion **25** of the tubular film-like member **24** into the plurality of parts **26** previously described and separating the same from each other not only at the top of the film-like member **24** but also down the

opposed sides of the film-like member **24** to points **43** intermediate the top means **27** and bottom means or base **22** of the articles **21**, the slit means **42** in the embodiment illustrated in FIGURE 5 extending substantially to the top edge means **28** of the support member **23**.

The slit means **42** in the upper portion **25** of the film-like member **24** can be formed in any suitable manner, such as by cutting the top portion **25** with rotary knives, razor blades or other cutting device or may be formed therein by heated wire means, which, in effect, burns through the film-like member **24** to form the slit means **42**.

In any event, the combination illustrated in FIGURE 5 is subsequently subjected to further heating to cause the final heat shrinking of the film-like member **24** into the configuration illustrated in FIGURE 6 wherein the separated parts **26** of the upper portion **25** of the film-like member **24** not only tightly compacts against the respective top end means **27** of the articles **21** to compact the articles **21** and support member **23** togther, but also overlap and compact against the side wall means **44** of the respective articles **21** so that each heat shrunk part **26** of the film-like member **24** holds its respective articles **21** to the support member **23** independently of the holding relation of the other parts **26** whereby the articles **21** will not be pulled toward each other by the shrinking operation of the film-like member **24** as would be the case if the slit means **42** were not provided. Also, the causing of subsequent movement of one of the parts **26** and its respective article **21** relative to the package construction **20** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 7 to remove that particular article **21** from the package construction **20** does not affect the remaining parts **26** in their function of tightly compacting and holding their respective articles **21** to the support member **23**.

Therefore, it can be seen that the method of this invention as illustrated in sequence in FIGURE 1 through 6 can simply and economically form the package construction **20** for the purpose previously described.

However, it is to be understood that the step of forming the slit means **42** in the film-like member **24** can take place while the package construction is being passed through a heating tunnel or the like whereby the partial heat shrinking operation of FIGURE 4 and final heat shrinking operation of FIGURE 6 can both take place within such heating tunnel means so that a substantially continuous heat shrinking operation can be provided for the tubular film-like member **24**.

Further, it may be found that when the sheet means **24** is initially disposed around the assembled support member **23** and articles **21** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 3 and have the overlapping edges **35** and **36** thereof heat sealed together to form the longitudinal seam **41**, the upper portion **25** of the film-like member **24** may be disposed against the upper end means **27** of the articles **21** in a tight enough relationship so that the partial heat shrinking operation illustrated in FIGURE 4 need not be required before the slit means **42** are formed in the upper portion **25** of the film-like member **24** whereby the partial heat shrinking step of FIGURE 4 can be eliminated.

While the aforementioned polyvinyl chloride tubular member **24** of this invention has a relatively high impact and tear resistance so that the resulting package construction **20** can withstand normal shipping, storing and merchandising abuse or the like, the slit means **42** previously described readily permits a tear propagation across a particular part **26** of the film-like member **24** when it is desired to remove its respective article **21** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 7 because the pivoting of such article **21** provides a relatively large moment arm to effect such tearing operation.

If desired, the material forming the heat shrunk tubular member **24** of this invention can comprise one or more sheets of polyvinyl chloride laminated to each other to produce the desired thickness and minimize gauge deviations in a particular layer and can have the heat shrinking properties thereof substantially controlled or oriented whereby the degree of heat shrinking between the opposed ends **37** and **38** of the tubular member **24** of FIGURE 3 will be different than the degree of transverse or girth shrinking thereof so that the ends **37** and **38** of the tubular member **27** will not pull back over the opposed end means **39** and **40** of the assembled support member **23** and articles **21** and the overlapping portions of the parts **26** will not pull over the top end means **27** of the respective articles **21** during the final heat shrinking operation so that the side wall means **44** of the articles **21** will be properly engaged by the member **24** for the previously described compacting and holding function.

Another package construction of this invention is generally indicated by the reference numeral **45** in FIGURES 11–13 and is formed in substantially the same manner as the package construction **20** previously described except that the articles **46** of the package construction **45** comprise product-containing bottles or the like disposed in abutting relationship and are supported in an open top **47** of a tray-like support member **48**, the support member **48** having a bottom wall **49** and opposed side wall means **50** to substantially stabilize the article **46** in the encompassing heat shrunk tubular film-like member **51** having the upper portion **52** thereof separated into a plurality of parts **53** respectively engaging and compacting against the upper neck portions **54** of the bottle-like articles **46**.

However, it has been found that the package constructions of this invention can be formed in the manner previously described without requiring a support member for supporting the lower ends of the articles if the lower ends of the articles are so shaped that the same will not tend to pivot toward each other during the subsequent heat shrinking operation on the encompassing tubular film-like member.

For example, reference is now made to FIGURES 14–16 wherein another package construction of this invention is generally indicated by the reference numeral **45A** with parts thereof similar to the package construction **45** are indicated by like reference numerals followed by the reference letter A.

As illustrated in FIGURES 14–16, it can be seen that the heat shrunk tubular film-like member **51A** holds the articles **46A** in a compact predetermined arrangement for the aforementioned purposes while permitting each article **46A** to be serially removed from the package construction **45A** without destroying the holding properties of the remaining upper parts **53A** of the heat shrunk tubular film-like member **51A** for the purposes previously described in connection with the package construction **20**. However, because the lower portions of the bottles or articles **46A** have substantially rectangular cross-sectional configurations as shown, there is no tendency for the outboard articles **46A** to have the upper ends **53A** pivot toward the inboard articles **46A** during the heat shrinking of the tubular film-like member **51A** whereby the stabilizing support **48** of FIGURE 11 need not be utilized with the package construction **45A** of FIGURE 14.

While the package construction **20** of FIGURE 6 and the package construction **45** of FIGURE 11 are illustrated with articles **21** and **51** having the lower portion thereof of substantially conventional rectangular or cylindrical configurations, it is to be understood that the various features of this invention are particularly adaptable for forming like package constructions for articles having other configurations that greatly increases the tendency for the abutting articles to tip and ride up relative to each other during the heat shrinking of the encompassing film-like tubular member.

For example, reference is now made to FIGURES 17 and 18 wherein another embodiment of package construction of this invention is generally indicated by the reference numeral **55** and comprises an open top tray-

like means **56** carrying a plurality of tapering containers or articles **57** in aligned relation and being encased in a heat shrunk tubular film-like member **58** formed in the manner previously described.

However, it can be seen from FIGURES 17 and 18 that each article **57** has a relatively wide base or bottom portion **59** adapted to be disposed on the flat bottom wall means **60** of the tray-like means **56** and progressively tapers from such bottom portion **59** to the top cap end **61** thereof whereby if the film-like member **58** is not provided with the slit means **62** in the upper portion **63** thereof in the manner previously described, the subsequent heat shrinking of the tubular film-like member **58** would readily cause the outboard articles **57** to tip or pivot toward the inboard article **57** in a manner more visually apparent than the articles **52** of FIGURE 11.

Compound words containing the suffix "like" are used herein to mean that which is described by the word without the suffixed and that which otherwise has its essential characteristics.

In view of the above, it can be seen that this invention not only provides an improved package construction for readily permitting serial removal of the package articles without affecting the packaged condition of the remaining articles, but also this invention provides improved methods for making such a package construction or the like.

What is claimed is:

1. A package construction comprising a plurality of articles disposed in a predetermined arrangement and having opposed ends and side wall means between said opposed ends thereof, a film-like member initially holding said articles in said predetermined arrangement with substantial parts of adjacent side wall means of adjacent articles being directly exposed to each other, said film-like member having a portion thereof engaging one set of said ends of said articles, said portion of said film-like member being separated into parts between adjacent engaged ends of said articles by continuous slit-like openings in said portion so that said separate parts of said portion respectively engage said one ends of said articles whereby said articles are each individually held substantially perpendicular to the bottom of said package construction without tending to tip toward an adjacent article and can be serially removed from said package construction by causing relative movement between the respective engaging part of said portion of said film-like member and said package construction while the remaining articles are being retained in said arrangement by the remaining parts of said film-like member, and a support member supporting the other ends of said articles, said film-like member holding said articles and said support member together.

2. A package construction as set forth in claim **1** wherein said support member comprises an open top tray-like means receiving said other ends of said articles.

3. A package construction comprising a plurality of articles disposed in a predetermined arrangement and having opposed ends and side wall means between said opposed ends thereof, a film-like member initially holding said articles in said predetermined arrangement with substantial parts of adjacent side wall means of adjacent articles being directly exposed to each other, said film-like member having a portion thereof engaging one set of said ends of said articles, said portion of said film-like member being separated into parts between adjacent engaged ends of said articles by continuous slit-like openings in said portion so that said separate parts of said portion respectively engage said one ends of said articles whereby said articles are each individually held substantially perpendicular to the bottom of said package construction without tending to tip toward an adjacent article and can be serially removed from said package construction by causing relative movement between the respective engaging part of said portion of said film-like member and said package construction while the remaining articles are being retained in said arrangement by the remaining parts of said film-like member, and a support member supporting the other ends of said articles, said support member having means for spacing said articles relative to each other to provide said predetermined arrangement.

4. A package construction comprising a plurality of articles disposed in a predetermined arrangement and having opposed ends, a film-like member initially holding said articles in said predetermined arrangement and having a portion thereof engaging one set of said ends of said articles, and a support member supporting the other ends of said articles, said film-like member holding said articles and said support member together, said portion of said film-like member being separated into parts between adjacent engaged ends of said articles so that said separate parts of said portion respectively engaged said one ends of said articles whereby said articles are each individually held substantially perpendicular to the bottom of said package construction without tending to tip toward an adjacent article and can be serially removed from said package construction by causing relative movement between the respective engaging part of said portion of said film-like member and said package construction while the remaining articles are being retained in said arrangement by the remaining parts of said film-like member, said film-like member being tubular and telescopially receiving said support member and said articles.

5. A package construction as set forth in claim **4** wherein said tubular film-like member has opposed opened ends overlapping opposed ends of the assembled support member and articles.

6. A package construction as set forth in claim **5** wherein each article has side wall means, wherein said support member has upper edge means and wherein each part of said tubular film-like member overlaps part of said side wall means of its respective article, said parts of said film-like member each being separated also along the opposed sides of said tubular film-like member to points intermediate the opposed ends of its respective article.

7. A package construction comprising a plurality of articles disposed in a predetermined arrangement and having opposed ends and side walls means between said opposed ends thereof, and a heat shrunk film-like member initially holding said articles in said predetermined arrangement with substantial parts of adjacent side wall means of adjacent articles being directly exposed to each other, said film-like member having a portion thereof engaging and compacting against one set of said ends of said articles, said portion of said heat shrunk film-like member being separated into parts between adjacent engaged ends of said articles by continuous slit-like openings in said portion so that said separate parts of said portion respectively engage and compact against said one ends of said articles whereby said articles are each individually held substantially perpendicular to the bottom of said package construction without tending to tip toward an adjacent article and can be serially removed from said package construction by causing relative movement between the respective engaging and compacting part of said portion of said film-like member and said package construction while the remaining articles are being retained and compacted in said arrangement by the remaining parts of said film-like member, and a support member supporting the other ends of said article, said film-like member holding and compacting said articles and said support member together.

8. A package construction as set forth in claim **7** wherein said support member comprises an open top tray-like means receiving said other ends of said articles.

9. A package construction comprising a plurality of articles disposed in a predetermined arrangement and having opposed ends, and a heat shrunk film-like member initially holding said articles in said predetermined arrange-

ment and having a portion thereof engaging and compacting against one set of said ends of said articles, and a support member supporting the other ends of said articles, said film-like member holding said articles and said support member together, said portion of said heat shrunk film-like member being separated into parts between adjacent engaged ends of said articles so that said separate parts of said portion respectively engage and compact against said one ends of said articles whereby said articles are each individually held substantially perpendicular to the bottom of said package construction without tending to tip toward an adjacent article and can be serially removed from said package construction by causing relative movement between the respective engaging and compacting part of said portion of said film-like member and said package construction while the remaining articles are being retained and compacted in said arrangement by the remaining parts of said film-like member, said support member having means for spacing said articles relative to each other to provide said predetermined arrangement.

10. A package construction comprising a plurality of articles disposed in a predetermined arrangement and having opposed ends, and a heat shrunk film-like member initially holding said articles in said predetermined arrangement and having a portion thereof engaging and compacting against one set of said ends of said articles, and a support member supporting the other ends of said articles, said film-like member holding said articles and said support member together, said portion of said heat shrunk film-like member being separated into parts between adjacent engaged ends of said articles so that said separate parts of said portion respectively engage and compact against said one ends of said articles whereby said articles are each individually held substantially perpendicular to the bottom of said package construction without tending to tip toward an adjacent article and can be serially removed from said package construction by causing relative movement between the respective engaging and compacting part of said portion of said film-like member and said package construction while the remaining articles are being retained and compacted in said arrangement by the remaining parts of said film-like member, said film-like member being tubular and telescopically receiving said support member and said articles to compact said articles and said support member together.

11. A package construction as set forth in claim **10** wherein said tubular film-like member has opposed open ends overlapping and compacting against opposed ends of the assembled support member and articles.

12. A package construction as set forth in claim **11** wherein each article has side wall means, wherein said support member has upper edge means and wherein, each part of said tubular film-like member overlaps and compacts against part of said side wall means of its respective article, said parts of said film-like member each being separated also along the opposed sides of said tubular film-like member to points intermeidate the opposed ends of its respective article.

13. A package construction comprising a plurality of flash cubes each having a substantially cubical portion with four side walls and a cylindrical base, a substantially rectangular box-like support member having a surface provided with a plurality of openings therein respectively receiving said bases of said flash cubes to support said flash cubes in a predetermined arrangement, and a heat shrunk tubular film-like member telescopically receiving the assembled flash cubes and support member therein to hold said flash cubes and said support member together with substantially the major parts of adjacent sides of adjacent flash cubes being directly exposed to each other, said film-like member having a portion thereof engaging and compacting against the tops of said flash cubes, said portion of said film-like member being separated into parts between adjacent engaged tops of said flash cubes by continuous slit-like openings in said portion so that said separate parts of said portion respectively engage and compact against said tops of said flash cubes whereby said flash cubes are each individually held substantially perpendicular to the bottom of said package construction without tending to tip toward an adjacent flash cube and can be serially removed from said package construction by causing relative movement between the respective engaging and compacting part of said portion of said film-like member and said package construction while the remaining flash cubes are being retained and compacted in said arrangement by the remaining parts of said film-like member.

14. A package construction as set forth in claim **13** wherein each part of said film-like member overlaps and compacts against parts of the side walls of its respective flash cube.

15. A package construction as set forth in claim **13** wherein said tubular film-like member has opposed open ends overlapping and compacting against opposed ends of said support member and the respective outboard flash cubes.

16. A package construction as set forth in claim **13** wherein said openings in said surface of said support member are so arranged that the adjacent sides of adjacent flash cubes assembled thereto are spaced from each other.

17. A package construction as set forth in claim **16** wherein said openings in said surface of said support member are arranged in a single row.

18. A package construction as set forth in claim **17** wherein said support member has opposed side walls separated by said surface having said openings therein, said flash cubes each having opposed sides thereof disposed substantially coplanar with said opposed side walls of said support member.

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