Nov. 22, 1966 M. K. FARUKHI 3,286,905

MAILER OVERWRAP WITH TEAR STRIP

Filed Nov. 18, 1965

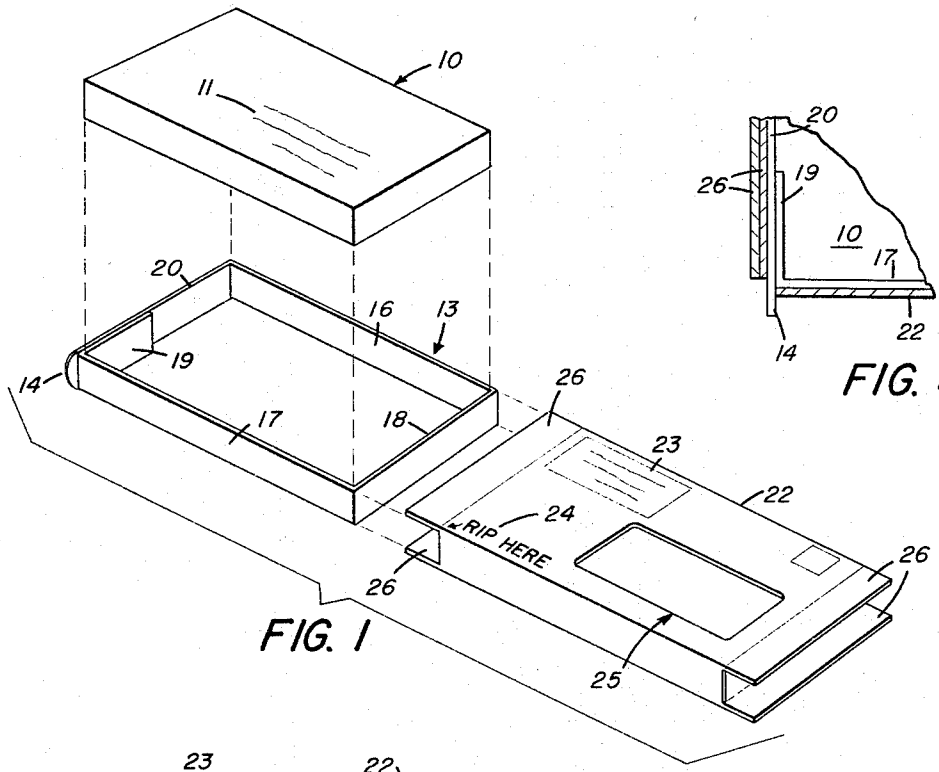


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

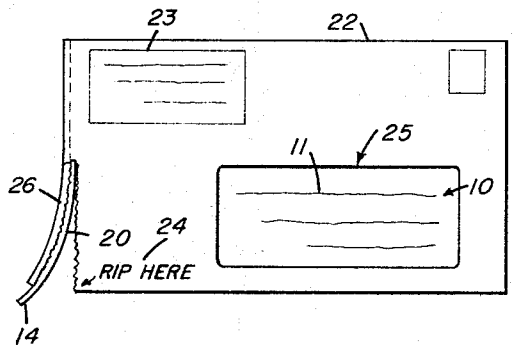


FIG. 3

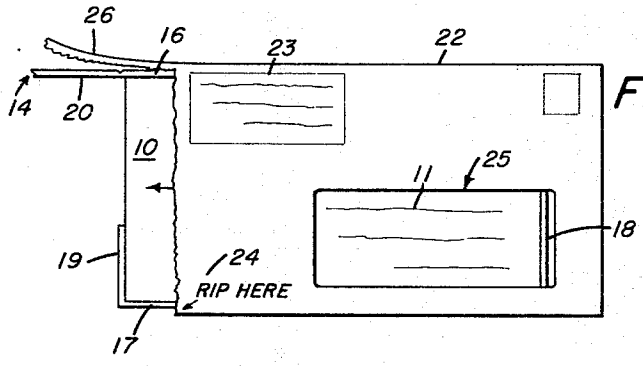


FIG. 4

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United States Patent Office 3,286,905 Patented Nov. 22, 1966

3,286,905

MAILER OVERWRAP WITH TEAR STRIP

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Filed Nov. 18, 1965, Ser. No. 508,492
4 Claims. (Cl. 229—9)

This invention relates to a mailer overwrap with a tear strip, and more particularly to a box-containing mailing package which is especially adapted for rapidly dispensing the box from the overwrap.

As is well known, articles placed in overwrap mailers or boxes are sometimes damaged by sharp instruments used to open the overwraps. Also, if sharp instruments are not used, an overwrap paper often tends to cut the skin of the person attempting to retrieve the wrapped article. This problem has been solved to some extent by packages, such as cigarette packages and the like, provided with tear strips. However, the tear strip in such instances usually does not assist in dispensing the entire contents of the package at the instant of opening.

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide an improved mailer overwrap having a tear strip and dispensing feature.

In one embodiment of my invention, a light-weight outer wrap encloses a stiff inner liner and a box. To dispense the box a pull tab extension of the heavier inner wrap liner is pulled to open one end of the outer wrap and positively to withdraw the contents.

The subject matter which is regarded as my invention is particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed in the concluding portion of this specification. The invention, however, as to its organization and operation, together with further objects and advantages, will best be understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

FIG. 1 is an exploded view of the several major components of my invention;

FIG. 2 is a detail view, partially in section, of the pull tab within the assembled package;

FIG. 3 illustrates assembled package being opened; and

FIG. 4 illustrates the manner in which the wrapped article is dispensed from the package.

Referring now to the drawing, wherein like numbers indicate similar parts, I have shown in FIG. 1 a box **10** of the type which may be used to ship developed color slides and the like to an addressee indicated at **11**. As indicated by the phantom lines, the box **10** is to be lowered into an encompassing stiff inner liner or frame **13** which is formed of stiff paper or light-weight cardboard, and has a tab **14** that extends outwardly therefrom. There is no glue or the like securing the box **10** within the liner **13**.

The inner liner is formed from a blank cut and scored to form two side panels **16** and **17** with an end panel section **18** interposed, an end panel locking flap **19** at one end of the blank, and another end panel **20** at the other end. The locking flap **19** is only about one-half as long as the end panel. Thus, as parts **19** and **20** are pulled apart, the separation thereof will be complete so that the box **10** will be free thereof when dispensed. The end panel **20** is a full end length and even extends beyond the side panel to form the pull tab extension **14** at the extremity thereof. In order that the pull tab **14** may be

ripped loose, it is only superficially glued or secured to the locking flap end panel **19**.

The outer wrap or mailer **22** is of a somewhat thinner paper and is usually provided with both advertising and return address information as indicated at **23**, "rip here" opening instructions as indicated at **24** and an address window corresponding in position to the address information **11** appearing on the box **10**. After the box **10** is placed in the inner liner **13**, the box and inner liner are inserted within the outer wrap **22**, whereupon the end flaps **26** are closed and sealed together. However, there is no glue or the like securing the outer wrap to either the box **10** or the inner liner **13**. Also the pull tab **14** extends outward from the corner of the outer wrap (see FIG. 2).

At this time the completed package is ready to be placed in the mail. It should be noted that the window **25** simplifies the packaging operation in that only the box **10** need be addressed. Once the box **10** is addressed, the inner liner **13** and the outer wrap **22** may be placed thereon without any addressing coordination problem to assure shipping the package to the proper addressee.

As received, the addressee simply pulls the pull tab **14** to tear the adjacent end flaps **26** from the rest of the outer wrap **22** (see FIG. 3). As the tab **14** is pulled, it separates the end panel **20** from the end panel locking flap **19** at the superficial seal of the inner liner **13**. However, the inner liner **13** is not separated from the box **10** because the stiff sides **16**, **18**, **17** and **19** still substantially surround it (see FIG. 4). Thus, the liner blank may be removed and the box **10** dispensed from the outer wrap **22** simply by continuing to pull the tab **14**.

While I have shown a particular embodiment of this invention, modifications thereof will occur to those skilled in this art. I intend therefore to have the appended claims cover such embodiments as properly fall within the scope of the present invention.

I claim:

1. A box wrap for an easily openable package, comprising:

a relatively stiff inner liner blank cut and scored to form two side panels with a first end panel interposed and having a second end panel at one end and a locking flap at the other end of said blank,

said second end panel and said locking flap being superficially sealed together to form a relatively stiff frame-like inner liner encompassing the box;

a pull tab forming an extension of said second end panel and extending outwardly beyond said superficial sealing region; and

an outer wrap formed with a top and bottom panel with side panels interposed and integral end panels,

said outer wrap being folded around the inner liner frame to cover the box and the inner liner frame and providing an opening exposing said pull tab, and

said inner blank being of a construction such that pulling said pull tab to release the superficial seal will rupture said outer wrap whereby the continued pulling of said pull tab will remove said inner blank and dispense the box from said outer wrap.

2. A box wrap as in claim **1** wherein said outer wrap is provided with an address window through which an address-bearing portion of the box is visible whereby no

coordinating coding of either said inner liner blank or said outer liner wrap is required for delivery of the box to its proper destination.

3. A box wrap as in claim 1 wherein said inner liner blank is free of attachment to said outer wrap.

4. A box wrap as in claim 1 wherein said locking flap is of the order of one half as long as said second end panel and the mating surfaces thereof are glued together to form said superficial seal.

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