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EASY-OPENING CONTAINER

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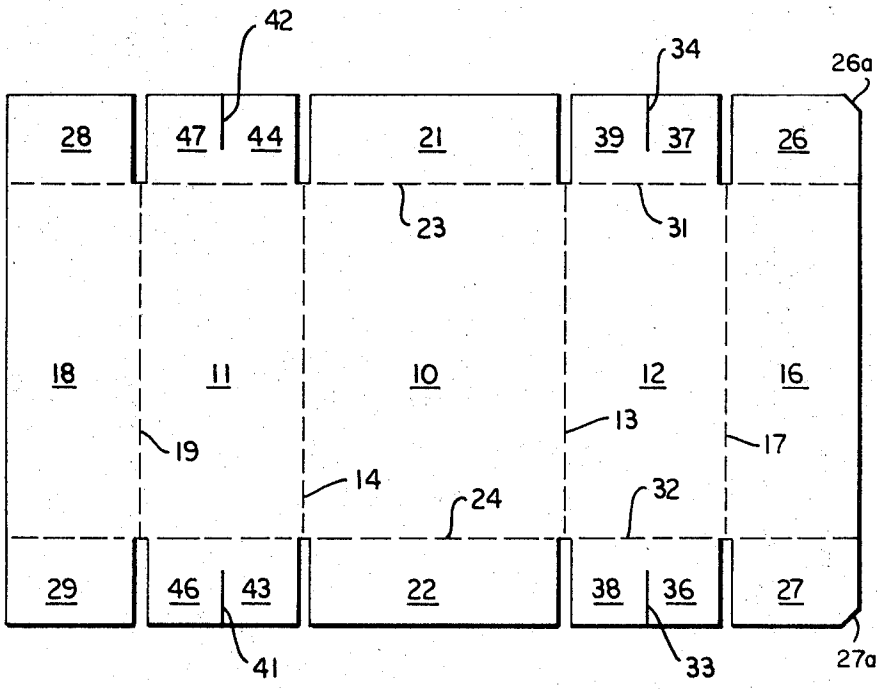


Fig. 1.

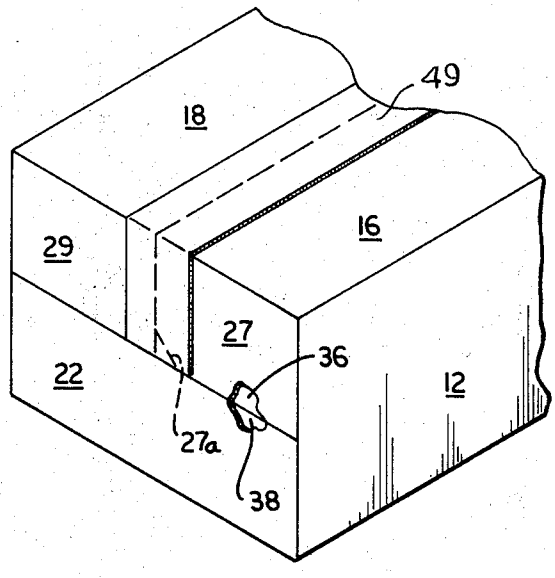


Fig. 2.

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EASY-OPENING CONTAINER

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U.S. Cl. 229—51 1 Claim

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a corrugated board container of a type adapted for display of its contents with a flap portion, underlying the closing and sealing tape, cut away to facilitate initial grasping of the tape prior to peeling it from the container.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Containers of the type permitting sector removal or opening for display, or convenient access to, the container contents are well known in the prior art. Typical of these are the containers disclosed in Ridgeway Pat. 3,237,841. While non-peelable sealing tape at the closing panel and flap junctions can be used on these containers, removal of the tape then requires cutting or slitting of the tape at the panel or flap junctions. Use of peelable or "pull-clean" tape is preferred, however, since this avoids the danger to the container contents posed by the use of slitting knives and provides a neater appearing separation of the container sectors. Use of this peelable tape, requiring no slitting knife to open the container, does increase the importance of providing a means for easily obtaining a secure finger hold on the tape end preparatory to stripping it from the container.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The concept of the present invention, by so forming at least one corner of a flap edge area receiving the peelable tape, creates a void or gap beneath a small end area of the tape into which a finger may be thrust to thereby conveniently obtain the finger grip on the tape required for starting the tape removal operation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of a blank from which a container embodying the present invention may be formed.

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary, perspective view of a container erected from the blank of FIG. 1 and embodying the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings, the blank from which the container FIG. 2 is formed includes a bottom panel **10** and side panels **11** and **12** which extend from each side margin of the bottom panel **10** as defined by the score lines **13** and **14**. A top panel **16** extends from the margin of the side panel **12** as defined by the score line **17**, and, similarly, a top panel **18** extends from the side margin opposite the score line **14** of the side panel **11**, the junction between the panels **11** and **18** being defined by the score line **19**. The sum of the widths of the top panels **16** and **18** is equal to the width of the bottom panel **10** so that when the container is set up the top panels will

meet in edge-to-edge abutting relation over the bottom panel **10**.

The bottom panel **10** has end flaps **21** and **22** extending from its end margins defined by the score lines **23** and **24**. Top panel **16** has end flaps **26** and **27** extending from its end margins, as does the top panel **18**, these being identified at **28** and **29**.

The side panel **12** has end flaps extending from its end margins, defined by score lines **31** and **32** and these end flaps are provided with a longitudinal division by means of cuts **33** and **34**, the cuts dividing the end flaps into side panel end flap section **36** and **37** adjacent the top panel end flaps **27** and **26** respectively. The slots **33** and **34** further establish additional side panel end flap sections **38** and **39** adjacent the bottom panel end flaps **22** and **21** respectively. The end flaps for the side panel **11** are similarly divided by cuts **41** and **42** into side panel end flap sections **43, 44, 46** and **47**.

The corner area of the top panel end flaps **26** and **27** is diagonally cut away as indicated at **26***a* and **27***a*. As will subsequently be mentioned with respect to FIG. 2, the free marginal edge area of the top panel **16** and the aligned marginal edge area of the end flaps **26** and **27**, including the cut away corner area **26***a* and **27***a* are covered by peelable tape sealing and closing the container.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the container is set up by folding the blank so that the marginal edges of the top panels **16** and **18** abut each other as do the aligned marginal edges of their end flaps **27–29** and **26–28**. Bottom panel end flaps **21** and **22** may be glued or otherwise secured to the underlying side panel end flap sections **38, 39, 43** and **44**. Tape, indicated at **49** in FIG. 2, covers the free marginal edge of the top panels and the aligned marginal edges of their end flaps. As will be evident from FIG. 2, the tape **49** further covers the cut away corner area **27***a* of the top panel end flap **27**, and similarly covers the corner area **26***a* of the top panel end flap **26** (not shown in FIG, 2). Because of the gap or void beneath the tape at the cut away corner **27***a*, the tape may be easily grasped for peeling it from the container when the container is to be opened. While corner cut away areas, underlying the tape, are here described as occurring at the end flaps at both ends of the top panel **16**, it will be understood that the cut away area might be provided only at one top panel end flap, the advantage of providing the cut away area at both end flaps being that the tape removing operation can be started from either end of the end panel.

While reference has been made herein to top, side, bottom and end panels and flaps, it will be understood that this reference is merely for clarity and the orientation of the container is not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

We claim:

1. In an easy-opening container having a bottom panel, a side panel extending perpendicularly upwardly from each side margin of said bottom panel, a top panel extending perpendicularly inwardly from the top margin of each of said side panels to close the top of said container, end flaps extending perpendicularly downwardly from the ends of said top panels, and tape covering the free marginal edges of said top panels and the aligned adjacent marginal edges of their end flaps, wherein the improvement comprises forming at least one of said top panel end flaps with a cut away corner area underlying

but extending short of the adjacent outer side margin of the covering tape, to thereby maintain the covering tape securely at the adjacent ends of said end flaps but to facilitate finger gripping of the tape for peeling it away.

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