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COMBINATION THREE-DIMENSIONAL ARTICLE AND DISPLAY
PACKAGE THEREFOR, AND METHOD OF
PACKAGING SAID ARTICLE

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

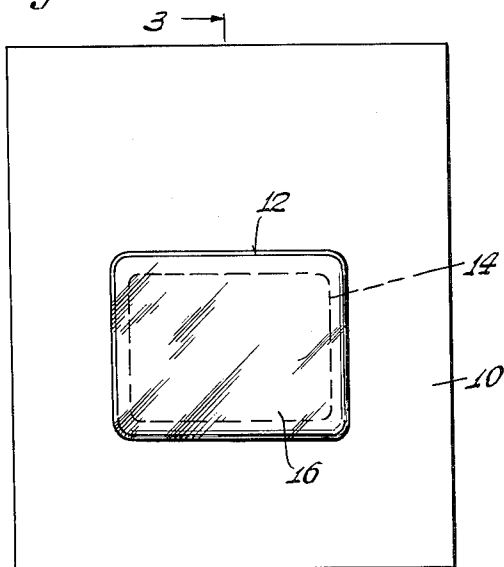


Fig. 2

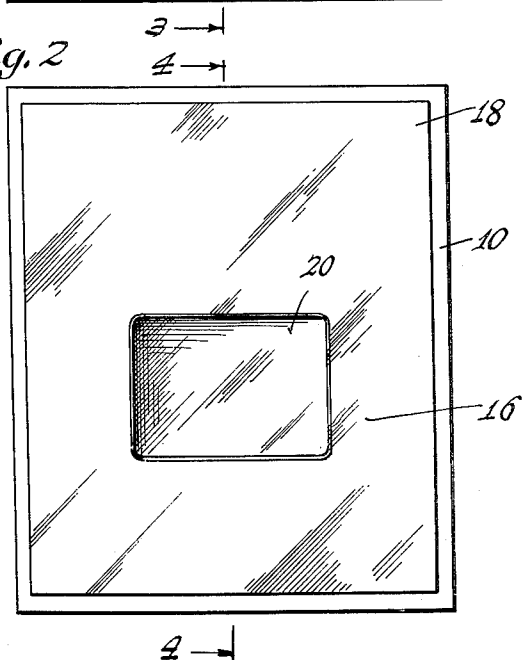


Fig. 3

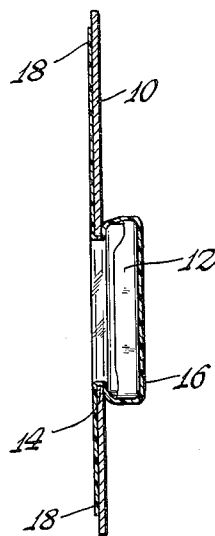
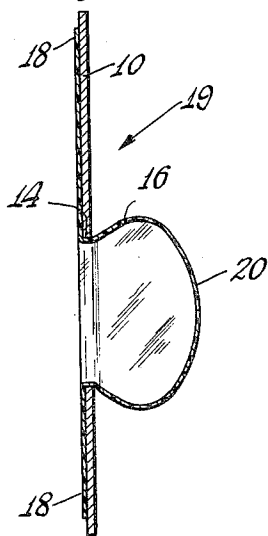


Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

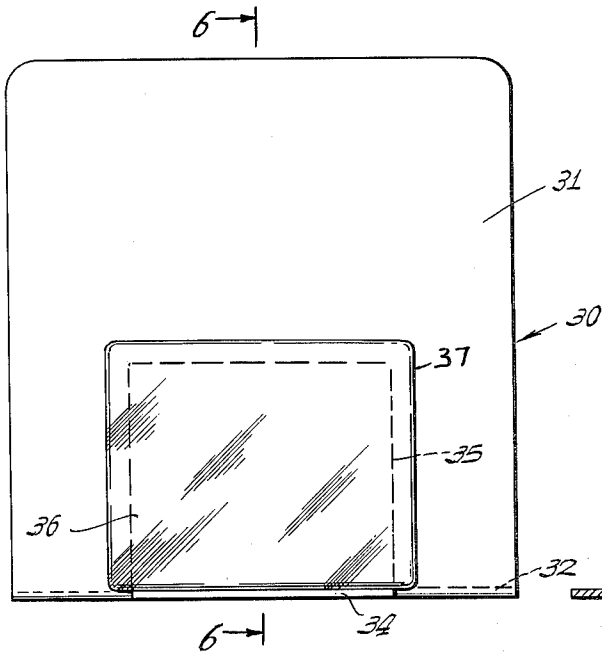


Fig. 6

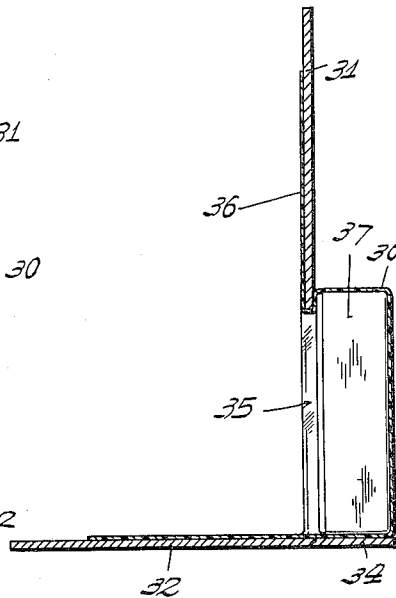
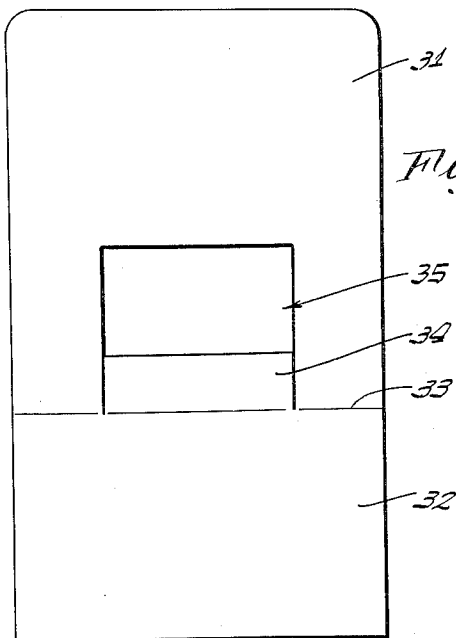


Fig. 7



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COMBINATION THREE-DIMENSIONAL ARTICLE AND DISPLAY PACKAGE THEREFOR, AND METHOD OF PACKAGING SAID ARTICLE

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8 Claims. (Cl. 206—45.31)

This invention relates to the packaging of three-dimensional articles, and more particularly to packaging of the type which enables the packaged articles to be displayed or viewed.

An object of the invention is to provide a combination article and display package therefor, wherein the article is attractively presented and the appearance thereof appreciably enhanced by the packaging.

Another object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved combination three-dimensional article and display package containing the same, wherein the said display package is extremely simple in its construction and economical to manufacture.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel and advantageous method of packaging a three-dimensional article for display purposes, which method is simple and easy to practice, and results in a desirable economy in the packaging process.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an improved combination three-dimensional article and display package, wherein the fabrication of the package and the packaging operation readily lends itself to machine production, and wherein the article or articles may be easily and quickly placed in the package.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide an improved combination article and display package therefor, wherein the cost of the package and the article-inserting operations involved are held to a very low figure, thereby to effect a desirable economy of manufacture.

Other objects and advantages will hereinafter appear. In the drawings accompanying this specification, similar characters of reference are used to designate like components throughout the several views, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevational view of a combination article and display package as provided by the invention;

FIG. 2 is a rear elevational view of the package of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a vertical section taken on the line 3—3 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken on line 4—4 of FIG. 2, showing the package prior to insertion of the article, and prior to heat shrinking of the plastic sheet which encloses the article;

FIG. 5 is a front elevational view of a modified form of a combination article and display package of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a vertical section taken along the line 6—6 of FIG. 5; and

FIG. 7 is a front elevational view of the package of FIG. 1.

Referring now to the drawings, the present combination article and display package containing the same is seen to be of extremely simple construction, involving relatively few components, the package comprising essentially a stiff supporting sheet 10 extending alongside or adjacent the rear of one article or a plurality of articles designated by the numeral 12, said supporting sheet having a cutout portion forming an opening 14 which extends entirely through the sheet at a location behind the article or articles 12. The article 12 may be a flat container such as is commonly used to hold aspirin or other tablets, or

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several such containers may be stacked one in front of another; or the article 12 may be a product which is unboxed, as may be readily understood. The opening 14 in the sheet 10 has a size, indicated by the broken lines in FIG. 1, which is less than the corresponding size of the article or articles 12, but greater in its larger dimension than the smaller dimension of the article, so that the latter may be in some manner passed through the opening.

The improved display package of the invention further comprises a thin transparent plastic membranous sheet 16 which is folded around the article 12 and which closely conforms at least in large part to the contour of the said article. The plastic sheet 16 passes through the opening 14 in the stiff supporting sheet 10, and has edge portions 18 which are secured to the back of the supporting sheet in any suitable manner, as by means of an adhesive. As seen in FIGS. 1 and 3, the article 12 and the enclosing portion of the plastic sheet 16 are disposed at the front of the stiff supporting sheet 10, in front of the opening 14 therein.

In accordance with the invention, the package as thus set forth is formed from a composite blank 19 which is shown in FIG. 4. This blank comprises the stiff sheet 10 and also the plastic sheet 16 but the central portion of the latter is laterally displaced so as to form a pocket 20. The peripheral or edge portions 18 of the plastic sheet 16 are secured to the stiff support 10, with the pocket 20 extending through the opening 14, as shown. Upon the blank 19 being thus formed, the article 12 is passed into the pocket 20 by bringing it edgewise and suitably positioned through the opening 14, as permitted by the smaller dimension of the article and the larger dimension of the opening. The article is then positioned broadside to and in front of the opening 14, as indicated in FIG. 1, with the pocket or pouch 20 loosely containing the article.

For the purpose of causing the plastic sheet to enclose the article and conform closely to the contours thereof, as seen in FIG. 3, the pocket formed in the plastic sheet may be of dimensions similar to that of the article to be carried thereby. This will be accomplished by stretching the plastic sheet. If desired, the sheet may be constituted of a plastic substance, such as polyvinyl chloride, or the like, which when prestretched will thereafter be shrinkable. With this construction a heat shrinking operation for the stretched plastic may be employed. In carrying this out the sheet may, for example, be subjected to a stream of hot air, which I have found to be effective in rapidly causing a heat-shrinking of the sheet, so that after the sheet has cooled, it closely conforms to the contour of the article 12.

In following the method of the invention, the plastic sheets 16 having the laterally offset portions or pockets 20 are secured at their edge portions to the stiff supporting sheets 10, as by cementing the same together. The offset portions 20 are, of course, passed through the openings 14 of the supporting sheets, as seen in FIG. 4. Thereafter, the articles 12 are passed through the openings 14 in the stiff supporting sheets 10 and disposed within the pockets provided by the offset portions 20 of the plastic sheet. A number of articles 12 may be stacked in each pouch 20, in accordance with the invention, even though only one such article is illustrated in FIG. 3. After positioning of the article or articles 12 within the pocket of the plastic sheet 16, the said sheet is heat shrunk as above described, whereupon it will close about the article 12 and conform closely to most of the surface of the article.

Another form of the novel combination three-dimensional article and display package therefor is shown in FIGS. 5-7. The package 30 comprises a stiff supporting sheet 31 provided with a base portion 32 adapted to be folded under along the line 33. To facilitate this folding

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the sheet may be scored or otherwise weakened along the line 33.

A flap 34 is provided as shown intermediate the side edges of the plastic sheet and above the line 33. A central portion of the blank above the flap 34 is displaced so as to form a pocket 35. A plastic membranous sheet 36 is disposed through the aperture 35 in the supporting sheet 31 having its perimeter portions secured to the back of the said supporting sheet at the upper portion and at the rear of the flap 34 and base 32. An article 37 larger in dimensions than the opening 35 is supported by the thin membranous sheet and portions of the stiff supporting sheet adjacent the aperture 35.

To provide the display package the base 32 of the stiff supporting sheet is folded rearwardly along the line 33. The flap 34 projects forwardly to form a stand. The article 37 is then passed through the opening 35 resting on the base 34, as shown in FIG. 6, and in the pocket formed by the plastic sheet. As aforesaid, the sheet may then be subjected to a heating operation to effectively and rapidly cause it to be shrunk to closely conform to the contour of the article 12. In this modification it will be noted a self-supporting display package containing an article of merchandise has been provided in a simple and efficient manner.

The improved combination article and display package as above described may, where considered desirable or necessary, be contained in a further wrapper or box, as will be readily understood.

It will now be seen that, in accordance with the present invention, there has been provided a novel and improved combination article and display package therefor, wherein the package is constituted in an extremely simple manner, comprising essentially but two separate components, the stiff supporting sheet and a plastic enclosing sheet.

The fabrication of the package, and the assembly of the articles into the package may be readily carried out by automatic machinery, although it will be understood that the method of forming the package may be carried out at least in part by hand. The articles, when carried by the package, are attractively displayed, and the smooth and glossy surface of the transparent sheet enhances the appearance of the articles and provides a lustrous appearance which the articles would otherwise not have.

Variations and modifications may be made within the scope of the claims, and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

I claim:

1. In combination, a three-dimensional article which is to be displayed; and a display package containing said article, comprising a stiff supporting sheet extending adjacent the rear of the article and having a cut-out portion forming an opening extending through the sheet at a location wholly behind the article, said opening having a width which is less than the maximum of at least one dimension of the said article, said package further comprising a thin transparent plastic membranous heat shrinkable sheet folded around the front and sides of said article and conforming at least in part to the contour thereof, said plastic sheet passing through the opening of the stiff supporting sheet and having anchored edge portions adhered to the back of said supporting sheet, and said article and enclosing portion of the plastic sheet being disposed against the front of the supporting sheet, in front of the said opening therein, the enclosed article being disposed wholly in front of the said stiff supporting sheet and the enclosing portion of the plastic sheet being taut around the article and taut and under continuous tension between portions of the article and the anchored edge portions of the plastic sheet.

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2. The invention as defined in claim 1, in which the opening which extends through the stiff supporting sheet is elongate, and in which the three-dimensional article contained in the folded portion of the plastic sheet is rectangular and has a minor dimension which is less than the major dimension of the opening.

3. The invention as defined in claim 2, in which the folded portions of the transparent plastic sheet cover have dimensions greater than the corresponding dimensions of the said elongate opening, said folded portions overlying areas of the front of the stiff sheet which border the said elongate opening.

4. The invention as defined in claim 1, in which the plastic sheet is tight and under continual tension at locations adjoining the major protuberant portions of the surface of the said article.

5. The invention as defined in claim 4, in which the plastic sheet is of heat-shrinkable vinyl composition.

6. In combination a three-dimensional article which is to be displayed; a stiff supporting sheet extending adjacent the rear of the article and having a cut-out portion forming an opening extending through the sheet at a location wholly behind the article, said opening having a width which is less than a maximum of one dimension of the said article; a base on said stiff supporting sheet, and a flap adjacent and aligned with said base, said package further comprising a thin transparent plastic membranous heat shrinkable sheet folded around the front and sides of said article and conforming at least in part to the contour thereof, said plastic sheet passing through the opening of the stiff supporting sheet and having anchored edge portions adhered to the back of said supporting sheet, to one side of the said flap and to the base of said supporting sheet, and said article and enclosing portion of the plastic sheet being disposed in front of the supporting sheet, in front of the said opening therein, and above said flap, the enclosed article being disposed wholly in front of the said stiff supporting sheet and the enclosing portion of the plastic sheet being taut around the article and taut and under continuous tension between portions of the article and the anchored edge portions of the plastic sheet.

7. The method of packaging an article for display, which includes the steps of adhering a membranous plastic sheet provided with a pocket, to a stiff supporting sheet having an opening, said pocket extending through the said opening, passing an article to be packaged through the said opening of the supporting sheet and into the said pocket, and thereafter shrinking the plastic sheet to cause it to at least partially conform to the contour of the said article.

8. The method of packaging an article for display, which includes the steps of adhering a membranous plastic sheet provided with a pocket, to a stiff supporting sheet having an opening, said pocket extending through the said opening, passing an article which is to be packaged through the opening of the supporting sheet and into the said pocket, and thereafter applying heat to the plastic sheet to shrink it so that it at least partially conforms to the contour of the said article.

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