

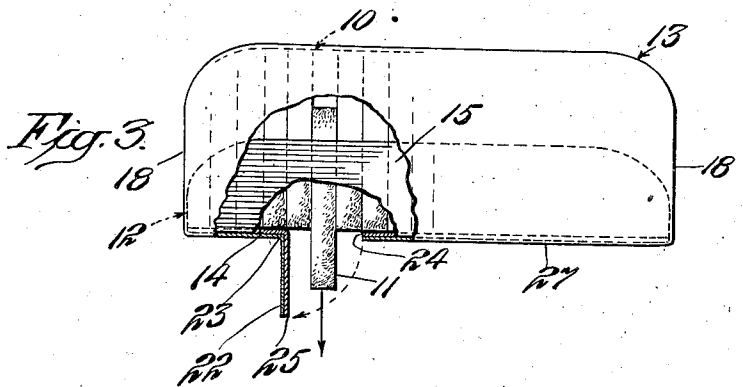
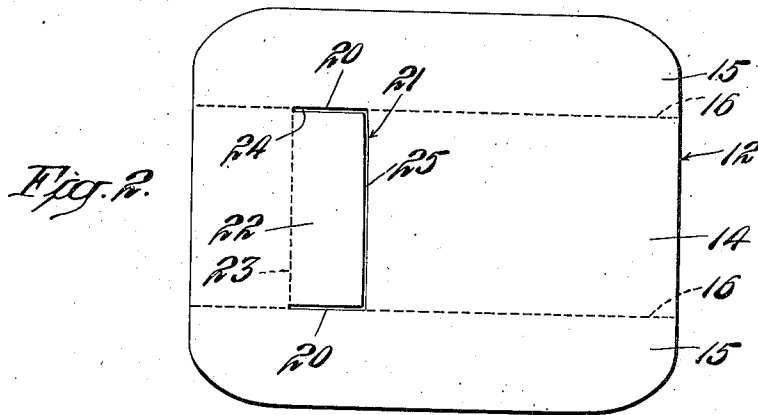
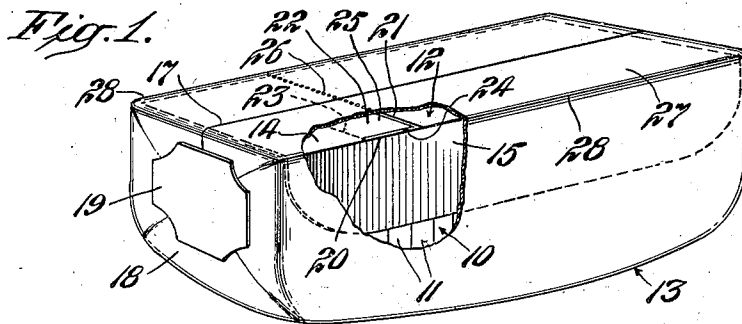
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PACKAGE

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PACKAGE

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9 Claims. (Cl. 206—56)

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The present invention relates to packages, more particularly to packages of stacks of slabs of bakery products, such as sliced bread loaves, or other products as may be desired, and has for a general object the provision of such package characterized by a tray of relatively stiff sheet material wrapped with the stack of slabs or sliced loaf within a flexible wrapper, with the tray effectively provided in a simple and economical manner with a slab-discharge slot closed by a flap covered and at least partly held in efficient package-closing position by an overlying wrapper portion which in turn is provided with effective indicia in the vicinity of the flap to guide tearing of the wrapper to permit outward, slot-producing swinging of the flap.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a package wherein the wrapper is weakened adjacent the lip of a slot-closing flap in an underlying tray of relatively stiff paperboard, or the like, which does not deleteriously affect effective protective covering of the contained sliced product or stack of slabs during distribution, while assuring ready formation of a slab-discharge slot by the consumer permitting easy withdrawal of slices or slabs and effective reclosure of the package between slab-removing operations.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a simple and economical structural embodiment of the device which is readily constructed and allows efficient use and operation thereof.

Other objects of the invention will in part be obvious and will in part appear hereinafter.

The invention accordingly comprises the features of construction, combination of elements and arrangement of parts, which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter set forth and the scope of the invention will be indicated in the claims.

For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of the invention, reference should be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, with parts broken away, of an embodiment of the invention consisting of, by way of example, an inverted package of sliced bread;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a tray, in flattened condition, forming a part of the package shown in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of the package shown in Fig. 1, with parts broken away, and other parts manipulated to slice-discharging positions.

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In the drawing like numerals identify like parts throughout. As shown in Fig. 1 in inverted position, an embodiment of the package of the present invention may comprise a sliced loaf of bread 10 made up of a plurality of slices 11—11 seated within a tray 12 of relatively stiff material, such as paperboard, and a flexible wrapper 13 which, as is usual, may be formed of waxed bread wrapping paper.

As shown in Fig. 2, the tray 12 may be made from flat paperboard substantially in the shape shown, to comprise a bottom panel 14 and two side panels 15, 15, respectively defined from the bottom panel 14 by crimp or fold lines 16, 16. The side panels 15, 15 may be bent upwardly along fold lines 16, 16 to position them substantially at right angles to the bottom panel 14, as indicated in Fig. 1. The sliced loaf of bread 10 will then be placed upon the bottom panel 14 between the side panels 15, 15 and this assembly will then be wrapped in the usual manner in waxed paper wrapper 13 with the longitudinal edges of the wrapper overlapped along the bottom of the package, such as at 17 in Fig. 1, and each end 18 tucked in in overlapping relation. As is usual, the overlapping portions of the wrapper 13 may be heat sealed together with the wax or paraffin coating of the wrapper providing the desired adherence. If desired, end seals or stickers 19 may be employed to effect a more secure closure of the ends of the wrapper.

In accordance with the present invention which dictates the employment of the tray 12, the latter may be severed at 20, 20 along fold lines 16, 16, either all the way through to form slits, or partially to permit easy break away along such lines. The bottom panel 14 may also be completely severed transversely at 21, or partially along such line, with the resulting break line or slit communicating with break lines or slits at 20, 20 to form a flap 22 which may be hinged along a transverse fold line 23. As a result, a discharge slot 24 extending transversely of the bottom panel 14 of the tray 12 may be or is formed, with that slot being closed by the hinged flap 22. Such tray 12, with a sliced loaf of bread 10 placed thereon, will then be enclosed in an outer flexible wrapper 13, as indicated above, with at least one of the slices 11 located opposite to or above the discharge slot 24. The cut or break line 21 provides the hinged flap 22 with a lip 25. Obviously the position of the flap 22 may be reversed so that its lip 25 is nearer the left end of tray 12, as viewed in the drawing, than is the fold line

23, or location of the flap in the tray may be changed as desired.

The wrapper 13 is provided with a tearing guide mark or indicia 26 in the vicinity of the lip 25 of the hinged flap 22. Such indicia or mark 26 may be provided on or in those portions of the wrapper 13 which are to overlap at 17 to form the bottom 27 of the package, but preferably are provided across the bottom of the package after the wrapper 13 has been sealed in position about the loaf 10 and its receiving tray 12. In the preferred embodiment such indicia or mark 26 is formed by a weakened line such as may be produced by a series of perforations, as shown in Fig. 1. Preferably that portion of wrapper 13 which overlies flap 22 is secured or adhesively affixed thereto. This may be accomplished by heat-anchorage of the bottom 27 of the wrapper 13 to panel 14 of tray 12 at the time heat-sealed seam 17 is formed. The wax on the wrapper 13, and, if desired, additional wax on tray 12 may be used for that purpose. Such feature assures more accurate and efficient association of parts, particularly after flap 22 has been swung outwardly in providing the slice-discharge slot 24.

After a sliced loaf of bread, or similar product, has been packaged in accordance with the present invention as described above and distributed to a consumer, the latter may, in order successively to remove slices 11 from the package, break the wrapper 13 along the scored or weakened line 26, and, if necessary, break tray panel 14 along break lines 20, 20 and 21, in any simple manner such as by application of slight pressure. Breaking of the wrapper 13 at one or more places along the score line 26 will permit access to the underlying lip 25 of the hinged flap 22. Insertion of a finger nail or suitable instrument beneath the flap lip 25 will then permit the flap 22 to be swung outwardly to the position indicated in Fig. 3, thereby forming or opening the slice-discharge slot 24, and such outward prying may break away flap 22 along lines 20, 20 and 21 when the latter are lines of weakening rather than slits. During this procedure of outward swinging of flap 22 the wrapper 13 will tear along its fold edges 28, 28 in the vicinity of the side slits 20, 20 forming the ends of the hinged flap, although, if desired, additional lines of weakening may there be provided in the wrapper.

After the package is opened in the manner described above, as by swinging outwardly the flap 22 to provide the slice-discharge slot 24, one or more of the slices 11 may be removed through the latter as desired. After removal of one or more of the slices the flap 22 and the portion of the wrapper 13 covering or secured to the same may then be swung back into slot-closing position effectively to close the package. Maintenance of such closure may be assured by resting the bottom 27 of the package upon any supporting surface, such as the bottom of a bread drawer.

It will be understood that the package of the present invention may be employed to advantage in the packaging and distribution of many bakery products in addition to sliced loaves of bread, such as a variety of types of crackers, cookies, cakes, etc., when separate units thereof are in the form of slabs which may be stacked and then packaged in the above manner.

It will thus be seen that the objects set forth above and those made apparent from the preceding description are efficiently attained, and since

certain changes may be made in the above construction and different embodiments of the invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A package of slabs comprising, in combination, a flat-bottomed tray of relatively stiff paperboard having side wall flanges, said tray being at least partially severed across the bottom and along portions of the sides thereof in the vicinity of juncture with the flanges to define an elongated transversely extending hinged flap having a lip and adapted when swung outwardly to provide a discharge slot of dimensions sufficient to accommodate a slab, and a flexible waxed wrapper covering said tray and a stack of slabs resting on edge thereon between the side flanges, said wrapper having a score line extending across the bottom thereof adjacent the lip of said flap to promote ready tearing of a flap in the wrapper above the tray flap so that both flaps may be swung outwardly together to provide the discharge slot while permitting closure of the latter by said flaps.

2. A package of slabs comprising, in combination, a flat-bottomed tray of relatively stiff paperboard having side wall flanges, said tray being at least partially severed across the bottom and along portions of the sides thereof in the vicinity of juncture with the flanges to define an elongated transversely extending hinged flap having a lip and adapted when swung outwardly to provide a discharge slot of dimensions sufficient to accommodate a slab, and a flexible waxed wrapper covering said tray and a stack of slabs resting on edge thereon between the side flanges, said wrapper having its portion overlying said flap secured to the latter and provided with a score line extending thereacross adjacent the lip of said flap to promote ready tearing of a flap in the wrapper above the tray flap so that both flaps may be swung outwardly together to provide the discharge slot while permitting closure of the latter by said flaps.

3. A package of slabs comprising, in combination, a flat-bottomed tray of relatively stiff paperboard having side wall flanges, said tray being at least partially severed across the bottom and along portions of the sides thereof in the vicinity of juncture with the flanges to define an elongated transversely extending hinged flap having a lip and adapted when swung outwardly to provide a discharge slot of dimensions sufficient to accommodate a slab, and a flexible waxed wrapper covering said tray and a stack of slabs resting on edge thereon between the side flanges, said wrapper having its portion overlying said flap secured by wrapper wax to the latter and provided with a score line extending thereacross adjacent the lip of said flap to promote ready tearing of a flap in the wrapper above the tray flap so that both flaps may be swung outwardly together to provide the discharge slot while permitting closure of the latter by said flaps.

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4. A sliced loaf package comprising, in combination, a flat-bottomed tray of relatively stiff paperboard having side wall flanges, said tray being at least partially severed across the bottom and along portions of the sides thereof in the vicinity of juncture with the flanges to define an elongated transversely extending hinged flap having a lip and adapted when swung outwardly to provide a discharge slot of dimensions sufficient to accommodate a slice, and a flexible waxed wrapper covering said tray and a sliced loaf resting thereon between the side flanges, said wrapper having a score line extending across the bottom thereof adjacent the lip of said flap to promote ready tearing of a flap in the wrapper above the tray flap so that both flaps may be swung outwardly together to provide the discharge slot while permitting closure of the latter by said flaps.

5. A package of slabs comprising, in combination, a tray of relatively stiff material having a hinged flap at a certain position in the bottom thereof extending transversely thereacross substantially the full width thereof, a stack of slabs of certain thickness resting on edge in said tray with said slabs arranged transversely of said tray and substantially parallel to said flap and with at least one of said slabs resting on edge on said flap, said flap being of a dimension longitudinally of said tray at least greater than the thickness of each of said slabs and adapted when swung outwardly to provide a discharge slot of dimensions sufficient to accommodate edge-wise discharge of at least one of said slabs at a time when aligned therewith, and a flexible wrapper covering said tray and said stack of slabs therein, said wrapper having indicia in the vicinity of the lip of the flap to guide tearing of the wrapper for outward swinging of said flap.

6. A package of slabs comprising, in combination, a tray of relatively stiff material having a hinged flap at a certain position in the bottom thereof extending transversely thereacross substantially the full width thereof, a stack of slabs of certain thickness resting on edge in said tray with said slabs arranged transversely of said tray and substantially parallel to said flap and with at least one of said slabs resting on edge on said flap, said flap being of a dimension longitudinally of said tray at least greater than the thickness of each of said slabs and adapted when swung outwardly to provide a discharge slot of dimensions sufficient to accommodate edge-wise discharge of at least one of said slabs at a time when aligned therewith, and a flexible wrapper covering said tray and said stack of slabs therein, said wrapper having across the bottom thereof a tear line in the vicinity of the lip of the flap to guide tearing of the wrapper for outward swinging of said flap.

7. A package of slabs comprising, in combination, a tray of relatively stiff material having a hinged flap at a certain position in the bottom thereof extending transversely thereacross substantially the full width thereof, a stack of slabs of certain thickness resting on edge in said tray with said slabs arranged transversely of said tray and substantially parallel to said flap and with at least one of said slabs resting on edge on said flap, said flap being of a dimension longitudinally of said tray at least greater than the thickness

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of each of said slabs, and adapted when swung outwardly to provide a discharge slot of dimensions sufficient to accommodate edgewise discharge of at least one of said slabs at a time when aligned therewith, and a flexible wrapper covering said tray and said stack of slabs therein, said wrapper having across the bottom thereof a score line in the vicinity of the lip of the flap to promote ready tearing of the wrapper for outward swinging of said flap.

8. A package of slabs comprising, in combination, a tray of relatively stiff material having a hinged flap at a certain position in the bottom thereof extending transversely thereacross substantially the full width thereof, a stack of slabs of certain thickness resting on edge in said tray with said slabs arranged transversely of said tray and substantially parallel to said flap and with at least one of said slabs resting on edge on said flap, said flap being of a dimension longitudinally of said tray at least greater than the thickness of each of said slabs and adapted when swung outwardly to provide a discharge slot of dimensions sufficient to accommodate edge-wise discharge of at least one of said slabs at a time when aligned therewith, and a flexible wrapper covering said tray and said stack of slabs therein, said wrapper having its portion overlying said flap adhesively secured to the latter and provided with indicia in the vicinity of the lip of the flap to guide tearing of the wrapper for outward swinging of said flap.

9. A package of slabs comprising, in combination, a tray of relatively stiff material having a hinged flap at a certain position in the bottom thereof extending transversely thereacross substantially the full width thereof, a stack of slabs of certain thickness resting on edge in said tray with said slabs arranged transversely of said tray and substantially parallel to said flap and with at least one of said slabs resting on edge on said flap, said flap being of a dimension longitudinally of said tray at least greater than the thickness of each of said slabs and adapted when swung outwardly to provide a discharge slot of dimensions sufficient to accommodate edge-wise discharge of at least one of said slabs at a time when aligned therewith, and a flexible waxed wrapper covering said tray and said stack of slabs therein, said wrapper having its portion overlying said flap secured by wrapper wax to said flap and provided across the bottom with a score line in the vicinity of the lip of the flap to promote ready tearing of the wrapper for outward swinging of said flap.

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