July 28, 1964 J. M. HEIGL 3,142,436

BAG HANGER

Filed Sept. 12, 1962

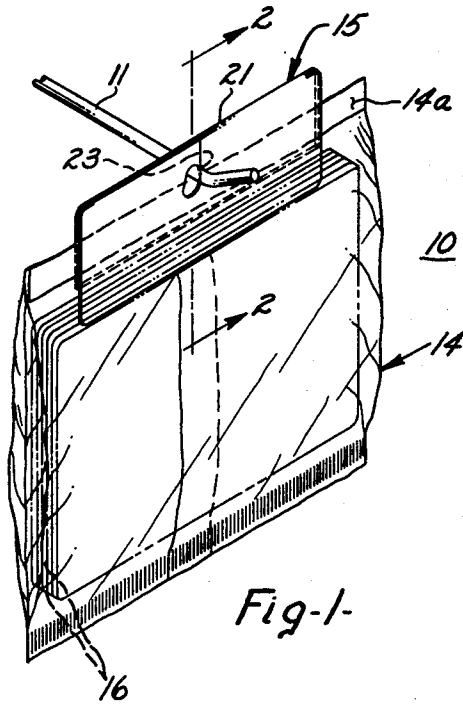


Fig-1-

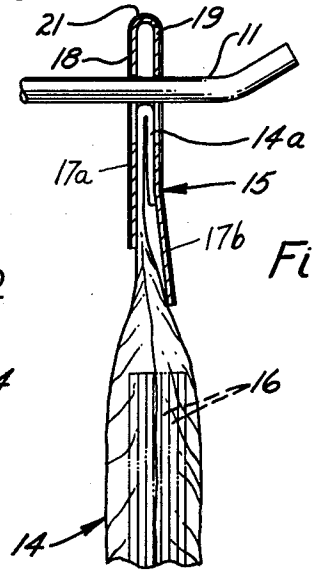


Fig-2-

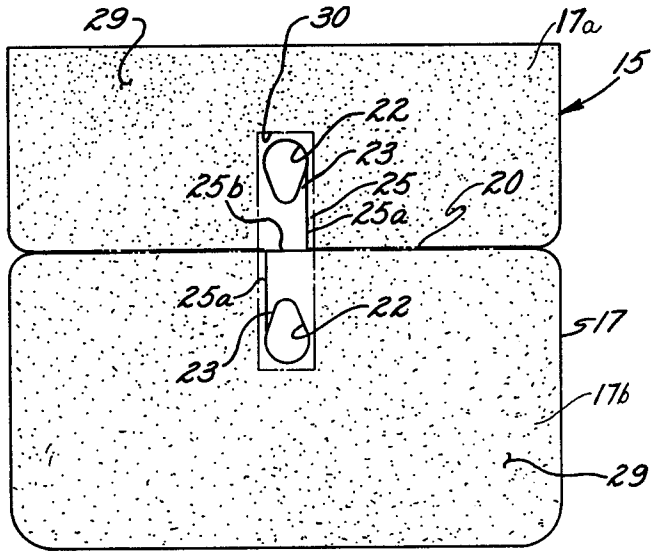


Fig-3-

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United States Patent Office 3,142,436 Patented July 28, 1964

3,142,436
BAG HANGER

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Filed Sept. 12, 1962, Ser. No. 223,025
10 Claims. (Cl. 229—62)

The present invention relates to a bag and to a bag hanger, and more particularly to a bag and bag hanger for a bag of the type generally used for prepackaged merchandise, such as luncheon meats and the like.

It has been demonstrated that luncheon meats, which are normally prepackaged in saran, polyethylene, and similar transparent packaging material, are sold much better if vertically displayed in a refrigerating unit rather than if set on a refrigerated shelf in the unit. Such a vertical display device generally includes rods or supports projecting from a vertical wall. The prepackaged meat is hung from the rods in order to support the meats. Heretofore, hooks have sometimes been employed to hook the meat to such rods. However, this was found unsatisfactory because the packages wilted. Attempts have also been made to provide a hole through the package but such a hole through the package has been unsatisfactory in that it required front loading of the packages on the rods and as the loading of prepackaged meats is frequently done by the butchers, it has been found unsatisfactory to have the butchers load the racks from the front since their aprons and other garments are frequently stained with blood and the like. Moreover, in order to load the rods from the front, it was necessary either to remove all of the packages on the rods to place the new packages at the rear of the rods, or, alternately, to place the new packages in front of the older packages on the rod. This latter is, of course, undesirable since it is preferable to sell the oldest packaged merchandise first. Accordingly, it is desirable that prepackaged merchandise, such as luncheon meat, be loadable on display rods from the rear of the rods.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved bag and bag hanger which overcomes the aforementioned difficulties.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved bag and bag holder which provides for the bag to be loaded onto a display rod other than from the front of the rod.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved bag and an improved bag holder of the type suitable for supporting prepackaged merchandise.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent as the following description proceeds and the features of novelty which characterize the invention will be pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this specification.

In accordance with these and other objects, there is provided an improved bag hanger for packages of prepackaged merchandise and the like formed of a sheet of foldable material, such as paperboard. The foldable material is provided with a score line extending thereacross intermediate its ends to form a junction or fold line for the sheet providing a pair of panels hinged together at the junction line and foldable to position an article therebetween. The sheet of foldable material is provided with a pair of openings aligned on a perpendicular with the score line and equidistant therefrom so that when the sheet is folded along the score line the openings are axially aligned to form a single opening in the folded sheet. Moreover, a zig-zag or Z-shaped slit interconnects the openings and includes interconnected sections which eccentrically intersect respective ones of the cut-out portions of the sheet to define oppositely directed hook-shaped portions adapted

to engage a supporting rod receivable in the openings through the slit. Adhesive coating is provided on the inside of the sheet with an area generally circumscribing the openings and the slit being free of adhesive coating so as not to interfere with the movement of a supporting rod through the slit.

In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention, it also includes a package of prepackaged merchandise including a sealed plastic bag containing the merchandise and having its open end folded over itself. The improved bag hanger is folded over the open end of the bag and is adhesively connected thereto.

It will be appreciated that, in accordance with the present invention, a bag provided with the improved bag hanger according to the present invention may readily be inserted on the rear of a display rod by passing the rod through the slit in the sheet of foldable material so that the rod projects through the opening in the hanger. The resiliency of the sheet is sufficient to permit the passage of the rod through the slit and the sheet will thereafter snap back to its original position hooking the hanger over the rod. The spaced eccentric intersection of the slit with the openings of the hanger provides positive overlapping hooks engageable with the rod securely to support the bag from the rod. Moreover, by providing the means for fastening the bag to the rear of the rod, the oldest merchandise is always presented at the front of the rod where it may conveniently be picked up by the purchaser. Moreover, the rods may be loaded from the rear as, for example, by a butcher in the meat department of a supermarket without requiring the removal of the existing supply of packaged merchandise from the rod.

For a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a bag of prepackaged merchandise including the improved bag hanger according to the present invention and illustrated on a display rack;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken on line 2—2 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is an unfolded plan view of the improved bag hanger according to the present invention.

Referring now to the drawing, there is illustrated in FIG. 1 a package **10** hanging vertically from a display rod **11** of a display rack (not shown). The package **10** is of the type enclosing prepackaged merchandise such as luncheon meat in the meat department of a supermarket and to this end includes a sealed foldable bag **14**, illustrated as transparent, hanging from a bag hanger **15**. The packaged merchandise **16**, here shown as sliced luncheon meat, is preferably visible through the transparent bag **14**. As is well known in the packaging of such merchandise, the bag **14** may be made of any suitable material such as saran, polyethylene, and the like. Moreover, it is common practice to vacuum-pack certain merchandise, such as luncheon meat, to remove substantially all of the oxygen and thereafter to include a concentration of nitrogen within the bag **14** to aid in preventing deterioration of the prepackaged merchandise. Accordingly, the upper open end is folded over itself, as indicated at **14***a*. The folded over portion **14***a* of the bag is preferably sealed to the atmosphere by heat-sealing or some other suitable method.

In order to support the bag **14** from the rod **11**, the bag hanger **15**, best illustrated in FIG. 3, is connected to the bag. This bag holder or hanger **15** may be of small or large area. Preferably it is of large area so suitable advertising material and other information may be applied thereto. The bag holder is formed of a generally rectangular sheet **17** (FIG. 3) of foldable material which in the illustrated embodiment includes a lamination of aluminum foil **18** secured to a laminated sheet of paperboard **19**. To provide for folding, the sheet **15** is scored with a

score line 20 (FIG. 3) on the paperboard side of the sheet 17 intermediate its ends to form a juncture or fold line 21 of the sheet as illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, and forming a pair of panels 17*a* and 17*b* hinged along the fold line 21.

In order to provide means for fastening the hanger 15 onto the rod 11, the sheet 17 is provided with a pair of spaced openings or cut-out portions 22, here illustrated as pear-shaped and aligned on a perpendicular with the score line 20 and equidistant therefrom, with the narrow ends of the cut-out portions 22 extending toward the score line 20 so that when the sheet is folded along the score line 20, the openings or cut-out portions 22 are axially aligned to form a single pear-shaped opening, best illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, extending through the folded material.

To provide for hanging the package 10 on the rod 11 from the rear of the rod, the sheet 17 is additionally provided with a zig-zag or Z-shaped slit 25 extending therethrough and interconnecting the cut-out portions 22. The Z-shaped slit 25 includes spaced parallel portions 25*a* (FIG. 3) perpendicular to the score line 20. Each of these portions 25*a* terminates at the outside of the associated cut-out 22 and is substantially tangential thereto thereby to form overlapping hook portions in the sheet 17 when the hanger is folded as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. Additionally, a portion 25*b* of the slit 25 interconnects the spaced portions 25*a* thereof and extends along the score line 20 to provide for the insertion of the rod 11 between the folded layers of the bag hanger 15 and into the openings 22 wherein the edges of the openings 22 form hook-shaped members 23 engaging over the upper surface of the rod 11 to secure the hanger 17 and associated package 14 to the rod 11.

In order to attach the hanger 15 to the bag 14, the paperboard side of the sheet is coated with a suitable adhesive coating 29, which may be of the well-known heat-sensitive or other suitable type. The bag hanger 15 can then be inserted in folded relation overlapping a portion of the folded-over part 14*a* of the bag 14 and adhesively secured thereto. To provide for the insertion of the rod 11 into the openings 22 through the Z-shaped slit 25, an area indicated in phantom as 30 in FIG. 3 and generally circumscribing the openings 22 and the Z-shaped slit 25, is kept free of the adhesive coating.

It will be seen that a bag hanger as described above is advantageous in permitting packages of prepackaged merchandise and the like to be hung vertically from the back end of a generally horizontally extending rod in a display case without the necessity of removing the packages already hanging on the rod, and, additionally, without requiring the person hanging the bag to be exposed to the viewing customers.

It should also be understood that instead of the zig-zag or Z-shaped slit 25, a straight line slit connecting the same sides of the openings 22, as viewed in FIG. 3, may be employed which slit would be perpendicular to the score or fold line 20. Also, a straight line slit interconnecting opposite sides of openings 22, as viewed in FIG. 3, might be employed.

It should be understood that the hangers 15 may be stamped from large sheets simultaneously providing the slit 25 and openings 22. Moreover, the adhesive coating may be applied to large sheets with a suitable pattern so the areas 30 remain uncoated. When the hanger 15 is adhesively secured to the package 14, it provides a very secure hanger.

Although the present invention has been described by reference to only a single embodiment thereof, it will be apparent that numerous other modifications and embodiments may be devised by those skilled in the art, and it is intended in the appended claims to cover all such modifications and embodiments which will fall within the true spirit and scope of the present invention.

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A hanger for supporting an article comprising, a pair of panels hinged together along a juncture line and foldable to a holding position wherein adjacent sides of said panels are in substantially parallel relationship to receive an article therebetween, said adjacent sides of said panels being provided with an adhesive coating whereby said panels may be adhesively secured to the article disposed therebetween, means defining an opening in each of said panels, said openings being aligned when said panels are in said holding position, a zig-zag slit interconnecting the opposite sides of said openings with the intermediate portion of said slit coincident with the fold between said panels, said slit and openings defining oppositely directed hook-shaped portions, said hook-shaped portions being adapted to engage a supporting rod receivable in said openings by insertion through said slit.

2. The hanger of claim 1 wherein said panels comprise laminated material.

3. A hanger for supporting an article comprising, a pair of panels hinged together along a juncture line and foldable to position an article therebetween, means defining an opening in each of said panels, said openings being aligned when an article is secured between said panels, a zig-zag slit interconnecting the opposite sides of said openings with the intermediate portion of said slit falling on the fold between said panels, said slit and openings defining oppositely directed hook-shaped portions, said hook-shaped portions being adapted to engage a supporting rod receivable in said openings by insertion through said slit, and an adhesive coating on the adjacent sides of said panels whereby said panels may be adhesively secured to said article, a small area on said adjacent sides surrounding said slit and openings being free of adhesive so as not to interfere with the movement of a supporting rod through said slit.

4. A hanger adapted to be secured to an article for supporting the latter from a rodlike support comprising, a sheet of foldable material, said sheet being provided with a pair of spaced openings, a somewhat Z-shaped slit interconnecting said openings with the intermediate leg of said Z being disposed so that when said sheet is folded to cause the openings to be axially aligned said intermediate leg is coincident with the fold line, the end legs of said Z each being substantially perpendicular to said intermediate leg and substantially tangential with the adjacent one of said openings thereby to define hook-shaped portions terminating at the ends of said slit remote from said intermediate leg, and securing means associated with said hanger whereby said hanger may be used to support an article from a rodlike support.

5. The hanger of claim 4 wherein said openings are pear shaped and the narrow ends thereof are adjacent when the sheet is unfolded.

6. A hanger for packages of prepackaged merchandise and the like comprising a sheet of foldable material having a fold extending thereacross intermediate its ends, said sheet being provided with a pair of complementary pear-shaped openings aligned on a perpendicular with said fold and equidistant therefrom with the narrow end of said openings extending toward said fold so that when said sheet is folded along said fold said openings are axially aligned to form a single pear-shaped opening through said folded material, said sheet being provided with a slit interconnecting said openings and including spaced parallel sections perpendicular to said fold intersecting respective ones of said openings at opposite side edges thereof to form overlapping hook-shaped portions in said sheet, said slit including an additional section interconnecting said spaced sections along said fold, and an adhesive coating provided over the entire area of one side of said sheet except for a small area generally circumscribing said openings and said slit.

7. The hanger of claim 6 wherein a score line is provided in said sheet and said fold is along said score line.

8. A hanger for supporting an article comprising a pair of panels hinged together along a score line and

foldable to position an article therebetween, a portion of the adjacent sides of said panels being provided with an adhesive coating whereby said panels may be adhesively secured to said article, means defining an opening in each of said panels, said openings being aligned when an article is secured between said panels, a three-section slit interconnecting the opposite sides of said openings, one section of said slit being coincident with said score line, the other two sections comprising spaced parallel slit portions perpendicular with said one section and each interconnecting said one section with a different one of said openings, said slit and said openings defining oppositely directed hook-shaped portions.

9. A package of prepackaged merchandise including a transparent bag for holding merchandise in a sealed manner and having its open end folded over itself, a hanger for said bag formed of a sheet of foldable material folded along a line intermediate its ends to define a pair of hinged panels receiving a portion of the folded-over open end of said bag therebetween, each of said panels being provided with an opening aligned on a perpendicular with said line and equidistant therefrom to provide axially aligned openings forming a single passageway through said panels, a slit interconnecting said openings and including parallel spaced sections perpendicular to said line intersecting respective ones of said openings at opposite edges thereof to form hook-shaped portions in said sheet, said slit including an additional section interconnecting said spaced sections along said line, and an adhesive coating on the adjacent sides of said panels adhesively securing said hanger to said bag, an area on each of said adjacent sides of said panels generally circumscribing said openings and said slit being free of said coating.

10. A hanger for supporting an article comprising, a pair of panels hinged together along a juncture line and foldable to a holding position wherein adjacent sides of said panels are in substantially parallel relationship to receive an article therebetween, said adjacent sides of said panels being provided with an adhesive coating whereby said panels may be adhesively secured to said article, means defining an opening in each of said panels, said openings being aligned when said panels are in said holding position and an article is secured between said panels, a slit interconnecting the sides of said openings, said slit and openings defining hook-shaped portions, said hook-shaped portions being adapted to engage a supporting rod receivable in said openings by insertion through said slit.

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