

Aug. 5, 1952

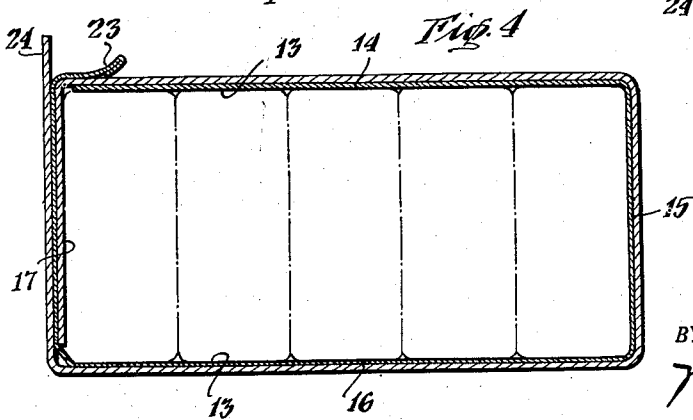
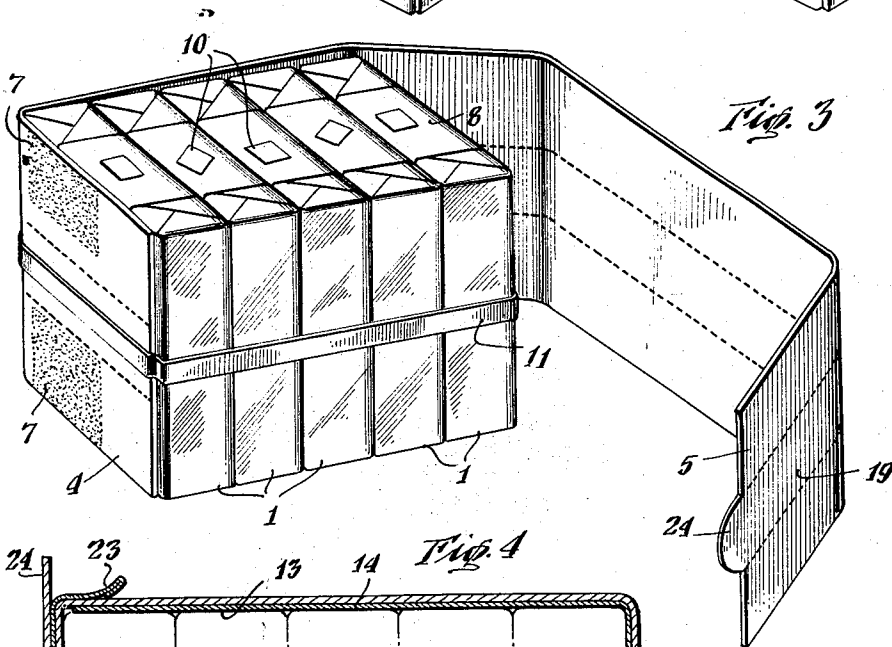
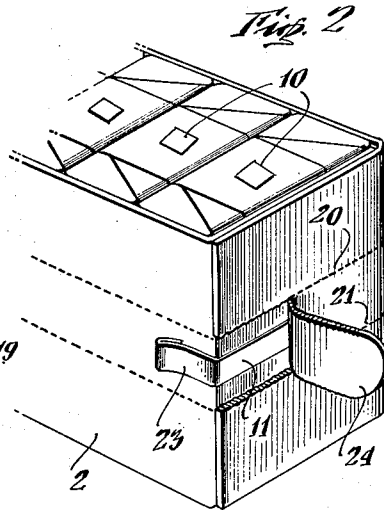
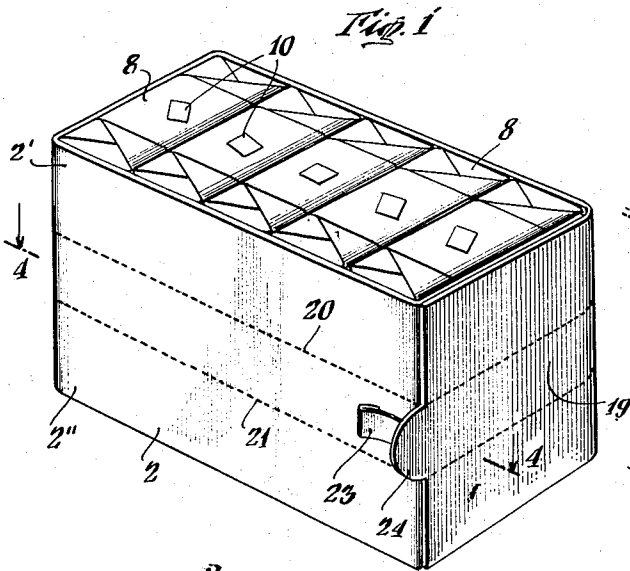
J. B. RUNDLE

2,605,897

PACKAGE

Filed Oct. 21, 1949

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1



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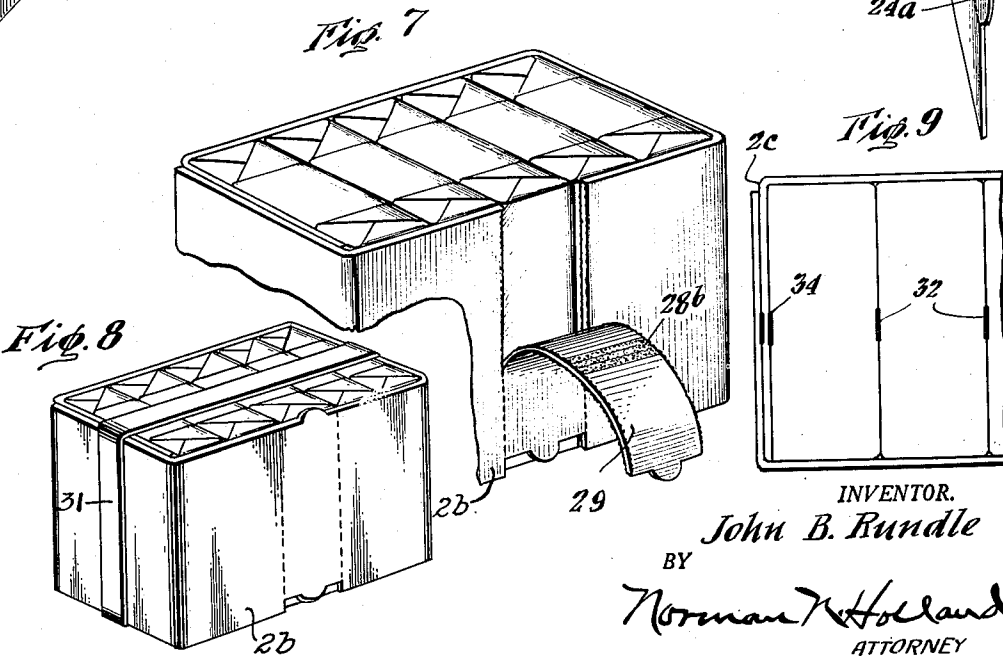
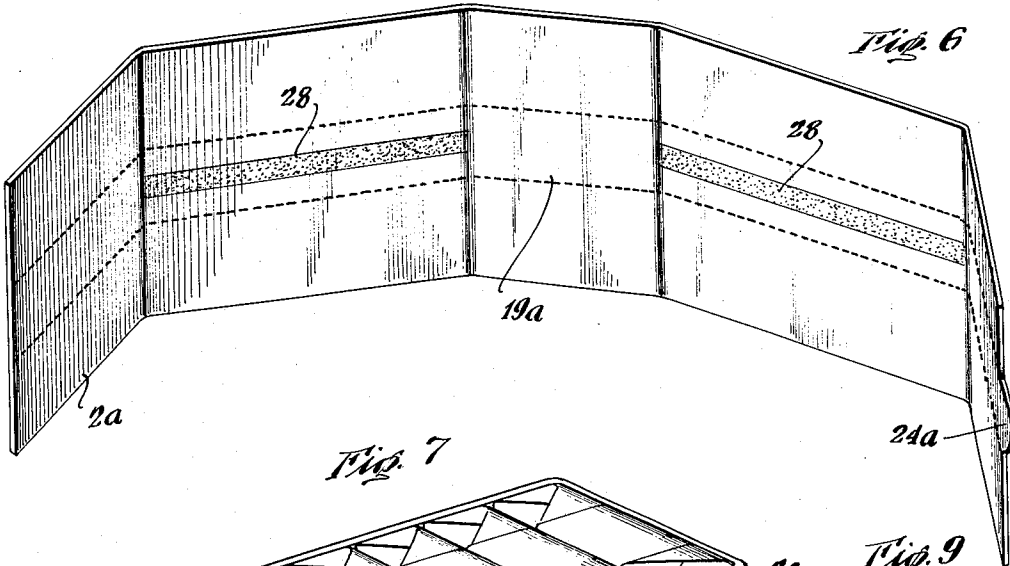
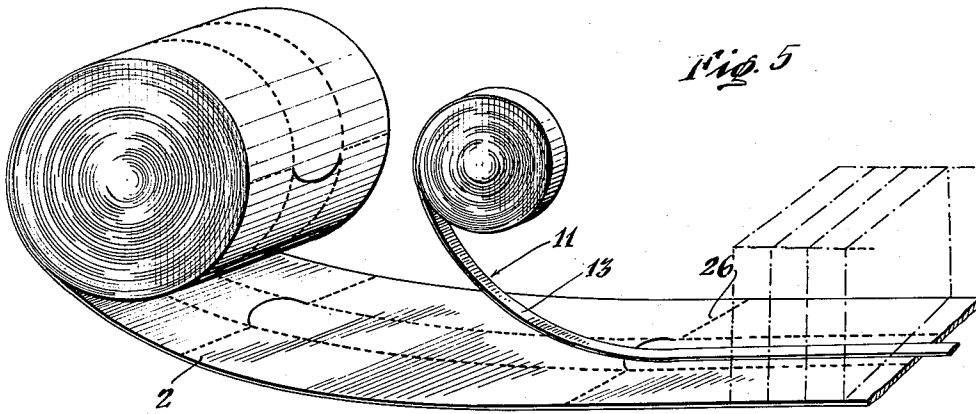
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J. B. RUNDLE
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2



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PACKAGE

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Application October 21, 1949, Serial No. 122,659

3 Claims. (Cl. 206-65)

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The present invention relates generally to packaging and more particularly to a new means and method for packaging together a plurality of individual units or packages, for example, packs of cigarettes.

For purposes of convenience of illustration and description the present invention will be referred to chiefly in connection with its use for retaining together several packs of cigarettes. It is equally useful with numerous other articles or objects, as will be clear from the following disclosures.

At present cigarettes are generally sold at retail as individual packs or packages or enclosed in cartons containing ten packages. The cartons are large and bulky and do not fit conveniently into a purchaser's pocket. They are also objectionable to most wholesalers or retailers in connection with the use of state tax stamps that must be affixed, as required by law, individually to each and every package of cigarettes. In order to affix the stamps a wholesaler or retailer must open the carton, remove all the packages from it, affix the stamps, replace the packages with the stamps thereon, and finally fit the tongue of the carton cover into its opening in order to close the package. The cartons are frequently mutilated and their sales value in forming attractive displays is practically worthless. In addition, the tax affixing procedure is an extremely tedious and time consuming task. If it is attempted to remedy the tax affixing problem by providing windows in the cartons there generally results an even more unsightly carton, as well as requiring additional machinery to form the window opening.

While it is possible to sell the packages of cigarettes individually, instead of in cartons, for sales purposes it is preferred to group several individual packages together and sell them as a unit. This is convenient and beneficial to the purchaser and also is desired by the sellers of the cigarettes as it increases their sales volume. While the wrapper or packaging means of the present invention may be utilized to enclose any desired number of units or packages the grouping of five packs, where utilized with cigarettes, is very desirable from a merchandising viewpoint; a group of five packs makes a convenient package to handle and also is an excellent merchandising unit for bulk sales.

The present invention aims to overcome the above and other difficulties or disadvantages by providing new and improved means and method for retaining several articles, units, or packages of cigarettes together. The invention further

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contemplates the provision of such a retaining or packaging means which, while retaining the several packs together as a unit, facilitates application of tax stamps to each individual package of cigarettes. The present packaging means and method may be formed by relatively simple methods and machinery and may be more conveniently displayed on a counter than single packages of cigarettes or previous cartons of cigarettes.

An object of the present invention is to provide new and improved means for holding several individual articles or packages of cigarettes together as a unit.

Another object of the invention is to provide new and improved holding means for cigarette packages or other objects which may be readily separated from the objects or the individual cigarette packages.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved holder for cigarette packages or the like which facilitates the affixing of stamps to the individual cigarette packages or the like.

A further object of the invention is to provide an article or cigarette package holding means which securely retains the articles or packages against unintentional removal.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved method of applying the present holding means to cigarette packages or the like.

A still further object of the invention is to provide an improved and more convenient merchandising unit for a number of articles, for example five packs of cigarettes.

Other and further objects of the invention will be obvious upon an understanding of the illustrative embodiment about to be described, or will be indicated in the appended claims, and various advantages not referred to herein will occur to one skilled in the art upon employment of the invention in practice.

A preferred embodiment of the invention has been chosen for purposes of illustration and description and is shown in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the specification, wherein.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a preferred embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating more particularly a means for releasing articles or packages of cigarettes from the present holding means;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view illustrating the ap-

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plication of the present invention to a plurality of packages of cigarettes or other articles;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing a method of applying the present invention to articles or packages of cigarettes;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing a form of the invention generally similar to that of Figs. 1 through 4;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing modified forms of the invention;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of a further form of the invention; and

Fig. 9 is a sectional view illustrating another form of the invention.

Referring more particularly to the embodiment of Figs. 1 through 4, there is shown a plurality of packages 1 of cigarettes, five to be exact, encircled by a band or length of material 2. The length of material 2 extends entirely around the group of individual cigarette packages and has overlapping ends 4 and 5, preferably secured together by adhesive 7. The side edges of the band or length of material 2 are shown terminating adjacent side or end walls 8 of the cigarette packages, thus leaving these package walls 8 entirely exposed for the affixing of tax stamps 10 to any portion thereof. This is a decided advantage as the retailer or wholesaler is not limited to affixing the tax stamp in some relatively small area, with which the stamp must be accurately aligned.

The individual packages of cigarettes shown in Figs. 1 through 4 are held together and retained with the length of material 2 by a strip 11 having an adhesive surface 13, shown in Fig. 4 extending around three sides 14, 15 and 16 of the cigarette package group. The strip 11 may extend along the side or wall 17 of the cigarette package group, or it may extend only along sides 15 and 16, the desirable feature being that the adhesive surface 13 of the strip lies in contact with some part of each of the individual packages of cigarettes. The adhesive surface is preferably at only one side of the strip 11 but it may be at both sides so that the strip, in addition to adhering at its inner surface, will also adhere to the overlying length of material or band 2.

As shown, the strip 11 extends across the overlapping portion 4 of the length of material 2 and adheres thereto. The overlying flap 5 covers the majority of this overlapping portion of the strip 11 and is retained in position against it by the adhesive 7 intermediate the two overlapping portions 4 and 5.

While any suitable material may be utilized for the strip 11, as well as any suitable adhesive for its surface 13, excellent results have been obtained by utilizing a cellulose tape having a sticky, gummy, or tacky adhesive surface. Such materials are widely known and used. One example is that sold under the name "Scotch" tape. This cellulose tape material has its adhesive surface integral with it at all times and is amply strong for all conditional or normal usage; as will be hereinafter brought out in greater detail, such an adhesive surface may be readily pulled away from the cellophane or other relatively glossy material which encloses the individual packages of cigarettes 1.

When encircled by both the strip 11 and the length of material or band 2, each individual package of cigarettes is held firmly in position. The adhesive surfaces 13 of the band 11 contact in at least one location with each package

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of cigarettes so that they are "tied together" as a unit. The unit is in turn tied together or retained with the band 2 by the portion of the strip 11 which extends across and adheres to the overlapping band portions 4 and 5. Thus the packages of Fig. 1 are firmly held against unintentional removal out through the open top or bottom ends of the band 2.

Removal of the strip 11, to free the cigarette packages is facilitated by the provision of a "tearing strip" or removable portion 19 shown in Figs. 1 and 4 extending longitudinally of the band or length of material 2. This tear strip 19 may be provided by spaced weakened zones, perforations, or score lines 20 and 21. In order to release the cigarette packages one may grasp both the end 23 of the adhered strip 11 and the tab 24 of the tear strip 19 and simultaneously pull them outwardly away from the encircling band 2. The end 23 of the strip 11 may be folded upon itself as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 or it may be somewhat shorter and adhered along its length to the underlying portion of the band 2. As the strip 11 and tear strip 19 are thus simultaneously pulled in an outward manner away from the band 2 the adhesive 13 at the inner surface of the strip 11 releases or is pulled away from the underlying packages of cigarettes and the tear strip separates from the other portion of the band 2 along the weakened zones or lines 20 and 21. If desired the tab 24 and tear strip 19 may be first pulled away from the completed package and thereafter the tear strip 11 separately pulled away, but for convenience it is preferred that they both be pulled loose simultaneously.

After removal of the adhesive strip 11 the remaining upper and lower portions 2' and 2'' tend to hold the packages 1 together. These upper and lower portions may be readily slipped off the ends of the cigarette packages or other articles.

If desired the tear strip 19 may be located adjacent an upper or lower edge of the band 2, rather than intermediate its width. When so located adjacent one edge of the band 2, it is necessary to provide only a single weakened zone or score line, such as 20 or 21 depending upon whether the tear strip 19 is located adjacent the upper or lower portion of the band 2.

In order to form the complete group or package shown in Fig. 1, the method illustrated in Fig. 5 may be employed. As there shown a group of cigarette packages or other articles is brought together with the adhesively surfaced strip 11 and length of material or band 2 as they unwind from respective rolls, the adhesive surface 13 of the strip of material 11 being disposed toward the package of cigarettes 1. When thus brought together the strip 11 and band 2 may be simultaneously wrapped around the group of cigarette packages. Upon completion of this encirclement the band 2 and strip 11 may be severed or cut off along a transversely extending line 26. Another method of packaging the individual cigarette packages is to first apply the strip 11 around the group of cigarette packages and to thereafter apply the outer length of material or band 2. Either method places the strip 11 around the group of articles or cigarette packages 1 so as to hold them firmly together. The first of the aforementioned methods of applying the strip 11 and band 2 is preferred.

In Fig. 6 there is shown a form of the invention generally similar to that of Figs. 1 through 4 but which has an adhesive strip or area 28 carried by the band 2a itself, rather than on a

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separate strip such as that designated by the reference character 11 in Figs. 1 through 4. This adhesive is shown extending generally lengthwise of the band 2a so that a portion of it will contact with each article or package of cigarettes encircled or enclosed by the band.

While the adhesive strip 28 may extend along the entire length of the band 2a it is preferably interrupted so that the adhesive portions contact only the narrow side portions of each of the individual articles, rather than the large end walls in addition. This construction is effective to hold the cigarette packages or other articles under all normal conditions of usage. The length of material or strip 2a may be supplied in rolls such as that shown in Fig. 5 and may be applied in a generally similar manner to groups of articles or cigarette packages.

The length of material or band 2a may be removed from its group of cigarette packages in a manner similar to that described in connection with Figs. 1 through 4, namely by gripping the tab 24a and pulling it away from the encircled cigarette packages. As the tear strip 19a is pulled away the adhesive areas 28 separate from the cellophane or other wrapper of the cigarette packages and upon completion of removal of the tearing strip 19a the cigarette packages may be readily removed.

The modified form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 7 has a removable portion or tear strip 29 which extends transversely of the encircling band, rather than longitudinally of it. After this tear strip is removed the resulting structure may be opened somewhat similarly to the leaves of a book and individual packages of cigarettes removed as desired. This construction embodies the advantage of leaving adhesive portions connected with areas of the cigarette packages 1b subsequent to removal of the tearing strip 29. It thus retains them together as a unit until individually removed. The adhesive strip 28b of Fig. 7 is of the type illustrated in Fig. 6, which extends longitudinally around the band 2b. It is to be understood, however, that there may be utilized a separate strip such as that designated by the reference character 11 in Figs. 1 through 4.

Another means of retaining the packages of cigarettes within a surrounding or encircling band is indicated by the lines 31 of Fig. 8. The separate strip 31 is similar to the strip 11 of Figs. 1-4 but extends around the exposed end portions of the cigarette packages rather than around them within the confines of the enclosing length of material or band.

In Fig. 9 there is shown a modified form of the invention which utilized a spot or small area of adhesive 32 for retaining together adjacent portions of adjoining packages of cigarettes. An additional spot or area of adhesive 34 on an outwardly disposed portion of an outermost cigarette package serves to retain the group of cigarette packages together with the enclosing band 2c. The band 2c may have a transversely extending tear strip similar to that of Fig. 7.

The encircling lengths of material or bands may be printed or lithographed with suitable advertising material prior to application to the cigarette packages. The bands may be printed or lithographed so as to simulate the exteriors of the packages of cigarettes which are to be encircled by the bands, so that the completed unit or package has the appearance of a group of cigarette packages standing next to each other. This appearance is greatly enhanced by the open end portions of the wrapper or band, which

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serve to expose the cellophane end wrappings of the individual cigarette packages.

It will be seen that the present invention provides new and improved means and method of wrapping or grouping together a plurality of individual packages of cigarettes or other articles. The resulting construction is much more convenient than existing ones for the wholesalers or retailers in connection with affixing tax stamps to each of the individual packages of cigarettes; this alone results in saving of considerable amounts of money expended to perform this task. The shape and stability of the resulting completed unit render it more adaptable to counter displays for increasing bulk or multiple package sales of cigarettes or other articles. The length of material or band, with either a separate adhesive strip or an integral one, may be applied with relatively simple machinery by utilizing the preferred relatively simple method disclosed herein. The individual package of cigarettes are firmly retained together as a unit until such time as a purchaser desires to remove them, at which time they may be readily released from the enclosing band by merely pulling a tear strip.

As various changes may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the parts herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention and without sacrificing any of its advantages, it is to be understood that all matter herein is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A package of the class described comprising the combination of a plurality of packs of cigarettes disposed each in abutting relationship with another, a wrapper comprising a band encircling said packs and leaving at least one surface portion of each pack exposed, said wrapper being provided with at least a single zone of separation for guiding severing of a strip from said wrapper, said strip encircling the packs, and adhesive means intermediate said packs and said strip securing the packs together as a unit, said means and said strip being simultaneously removable from said wrapper, said band being otherwise unattached to said packs, whereby upon removal of said strip and adhesive means the packs are free for removal from the remainder of said band.
2. A package of the class described comprising the combination of a plurality of packs of cigarettes disposed each in abutting relationship with another, a wrapper comprising a band encircling said packs and leaving at least one surface portion of each pack exposed, said wrapper being provided with at least a single zone of separation for guiding severing of a strip from said wrapper, said strip encircling the packs, and adhesive means carried by said strip and disposed intermediate said packs and said strip securing the packs together as a unit, said means and said strip being simultaneously removable from said wrapper, said band being otherwise unattached to said packs, whereby upon removal of said strip and adhesive means the packs are free for removal from the remainder of said band.
3. A package of the class described comprising the combination of a plurality of packs of cigarettes disposed each in abutting relationship with another, a wrapper comprising a band encircling said packs and leaving at least one surface portion of each pack exposed, said wrapper being provided with at least a single zone of separation for guiding severing of a strip from said wrapper,

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said strip encircling the packs, and adhesive means comprising a length of material having an adhesive coating at one side thereof disposed intermediate said packs and said strip securing the packs together as a unit, said means and said strip being simultaneously removable from said wrapper, said band being otherwise unattached to said packs, whereby upon removal of said strip and adhesive means the packs are free for removal from the remainder of said band.

JOHN B. RUNDLE.

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