Nov. 3, 1959 S. W. BURTON 2,911,093

HOSIERY PACKAGE

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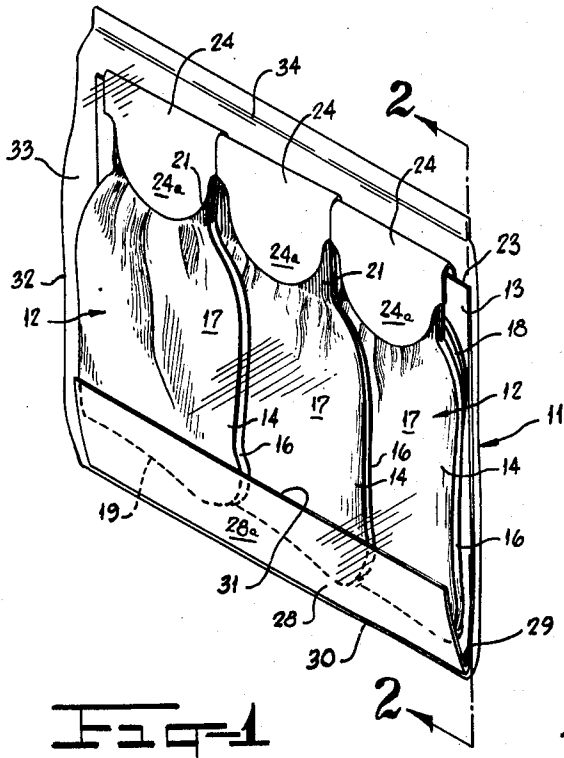


Fig-1

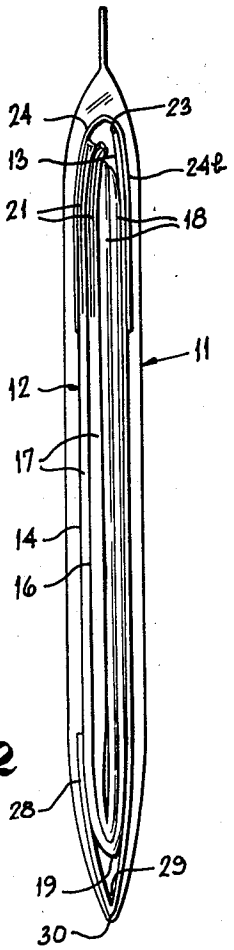


Fig-2

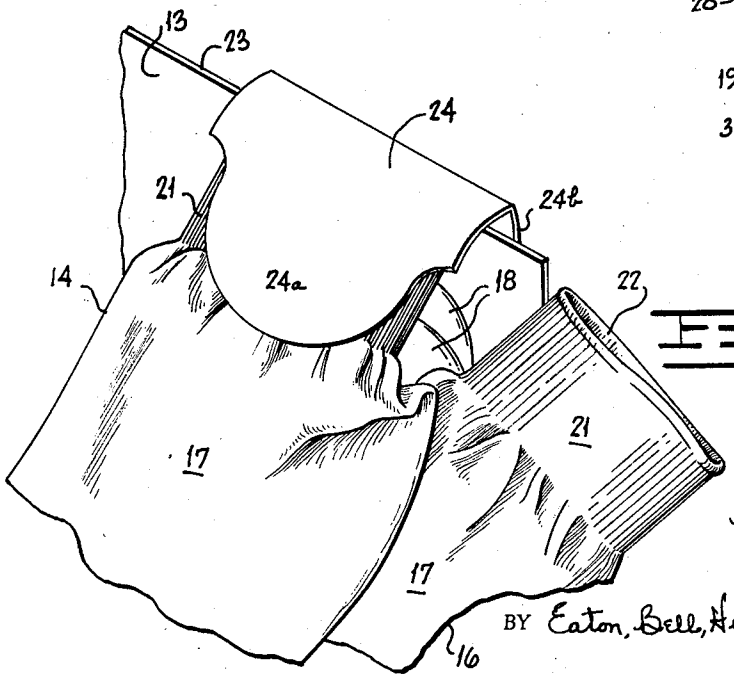


Fig-3

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HOSIERY PACKAGE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 206—45.33)

This invention relates to a package for textile articles and more particularly to a hosiery package for packaging one or more pairs of hose wherein display of the package as well as the packaged goods is commercially desirable.

In the packaging of articles of wearing apparel, particularly articles of hosiery such as men's hose and the like, the package itself assumes considerable commercial significance not only from the standpoint of utility but from the standpoint of convenience, appearance, display and other factors. While the package adds to the cost of the article and this additional cost is not considered negligible in relationship to the relatively low cost of the hose itself, it can be fairly concluded that the type of package employed adds materially to the salability and commercial appeal of the textile articles such as hosiery particularly where sales impetus is derived primarily from what may be termed "impulse buying" and the like.

A completely satisfactory package for hosiery, both men's and women's hose, has been difficult to attain without considerable expense due in part to the relative flexible nature of the hose and the desire to keep the packaging cost as low as possible. As is well known, it is highly desirable that the hose be prominently displayed in a package to permit the customers to satisfy their taste in design, color, texture, and the like. To this end, various packaging arrangements have been employed in prior constructions to support these flexible hose so that their characteristics may be prominently displayed while simultaneously providing a satisfactory package from the standpoint of sturdiness to prevent soiling, the accumulation of dirt, damage to the delicate textile material and other injurious effects during handling by the manufacturer, the distributor, as well as the prospective purchaser. For instance, various devices have been employed for positioning and maintaining the hose in the proper packaged position such as inserts, boxes with transparent windows, and the like all of which add to the packaging cost while not necessarily providng the most advantageous display of the goods to prospective purchasers.

In many cases, it is highly desirable from the profit standpoint to sell more than one pair of hose to a single purchaser and as an added inducement for increasing the quantity purchased by the purchaser, an assortment of hose of various designs, colors, materials, and the like may be provided in a single package so that the assortment may be purchased in a single transaction and possibly at a quantity discount. As in the case of the single pair of hose, it is still highly desirable to display prominently each pair of hose in a particular assortment so as to permit the prospective purchaser to make a selection of a particular assortment. Furthermore, to additionally increase the ease with which the selection can be made, the package should be of a type enabling it to be readily displayed in quantity and readily accessible to the purchaser when the selection has been made.

Accordingly, a primary object of the invention is to provide a new and novel hosiery package for one or more pairs of hose.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and novel hosiery package for hose which completely protects the hose from damage, soiling, and the like while permitting a prominent display of the color, design and material of the hose to a prospective purchaser.

A further object of the invention is to provide a new and novel package for hose which is relatively simple and inexpensive in construction, permits a prominent display of the packaged goods, and which permits rapid packaging of hose in a rugged, protective enclosure.

The invention further contemplates the provision of a new and novel package for hose which permits the packaging of a plurality of pairs of hose in a single package such as might be desirable where an assortment is offered for sale so that each pair of hose in the package is prominently displayed for visual observation by a prospective purchaser.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a new and novel hosiery package which occupies a minimum of space and which permits the hose to be readily removed from the package without damage to the hose.

In general, the objects of the invention and other related objects are accomplished by providing a hosiery package which comprises a supporting sheet on which one or more pairs of hose are positioned in overlying relationship therewith. The pairs of hose are preferably folded at the junction of their ankle portion and the foot portion and means are provided for securing the upper end of the hose to the upper marginal edge portion of the sheet. The lower portion of the sheet is provided with a retaining flap which forms with the sheet a V-shaped trough for accommodating the lower folded edge portion of the hose and retains the lower portion of the hose on the sheet. A portion of the hose on which the usual design or color appears is therefore prominently displayed. Encasing means such as an envelope is preferably provided for the packaged material which is formed at least in part of transparent material. The envelope is positioned around the packaged material so that the envelope does not obscure the visual display of the identifying hose portion. In the preferred embodiment, this envelope cooperates with the retaining flap so as to assist the flap in retaining the lower portion of the hose on the supporting sheet.

Some of the objects of the invention having been stated, other objects will appear as the description proceeds when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an isometric view of a hosiery package constructed in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 2—2 of Figure 1 in the direction of the arrows; and

Figure 3 is an enlarged view of a portion of the package of Figure 1 with the outer envelope removed and the underlying hose in a pair shown displaced from its normal packaged position for clarity.

Referring now to Figure 1, there is shown an embodiment of a hosiery package constructed in accordance with the novel arrangement of the invention which has been designated broadly by the numeral **11**. The hosiery package **11** is arranged to contain one or more pairs of hose broadly indicated by the numeral **12** and in the specific embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, three of such pairs **12** are shown. It should be understood, however, that the package **11** may be readily adapted to package a single pair of hose or any other reasonable number of pairs within the scope contemplated by the invention.

In the preferred arrangement, it is generally desirable commercially to package a plurality of such pairs of hose to consequently provide an assortment of colors, designs, materials, and the like, and therefore increase the in-

ducement to prospective purchasers to buy in quantity. The three pairs of hose 12 in the package of Figure 1 may therefore be offered for sale at a slightly lower price, if desired.

In order to support the pairs of hose 12 within the package 11 and give the package sufficient rigidity for handling, display, and the like, supporting means 13, such as a sheet of paperboard, cardboard, plastic, or the like has been provided which is preferably of rectangular shape and which is of sufficient rigidity to retain the shape in which the package 11 is formed as shown in Figure 1.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, the packaged hosiery is that commonly referred as half-hose or socks suitable for men's or boys' wear. The hose in each pair, referred to hereinafter as the top hose 14 and the bottom hose 16 is therefore arranged in a vertically aligned, stacked relationship with their ankle portions 17 and foot portions 18 placed together. As shown best in Figure 1, each of the pairs of hose 12 is then folded transversely, preferably at the junction of the ankle portions 17 and the foot portions 18, which fold line has been designated generally by the numeral 19. The pairs of hose 12 are then positioned in overlying relationship with the supporting sheet 13 so that the foot portions 18 in each pair are sandwiched in the manner shown in Figure 1 between the ankle portions 17 and the supporting sheet 13 to form a four ply assembly.

Each of the top and bottom hose 14, 16 is provided in the well known manner with welts 21 having an upper edge 22 and the pairs of hose 12 are positioned on the supporting sheet 13 so that welts 21 are positioned adjacent the upper marginal edge portion of the sheet 13. Preferably, the upper edge 22 of the hose welt 21 is aligned with the upper edge 23 of the supporting sheet 13. As shown in Figure 1, each of the pairs of hose 12 is spaced laterally across the sheet 13 in a manner such that their side edge portions overlap to a limited extent without obscuring the pattern or design on the ankle portions 17. In this manner, space is conserved and the package size may be reduced somewhat while the overlapping arrangement of the adjacent pairs of hose 12 aids in retaining the hose against the sheet 13 in the package arrangement of Figure 1.

Means are provided for securing the upper end portion of each pair of hose to the upper marginal edge portion of the supporting sheet 13. More specifically, an elongated strip or rider ticket 24 of the well known type is provided which is composed of any suitable flexible material such as paper or the like. The underside of the ticket 24 is provided with a suitable adhesive and the ticket 24 is positioned, as shown best in Figures 1, 3, over the upper edge 23 of the supporting sheet 13 with one end 24*a* adhesively secured to the upper surface of the welt 21 on the top hose 14 in the well known manner.

The opposite end 24*b* of the rider ticket 24 is also adhesively secured to the rear surface of the supporting sheet 13 so that the top hose 14 in each pair is supported or "hung" on the supporting sheet in a manner such that the welt 21 of the bottom hose 16 together with the two foot portions 18 of the pair of hose is sandwiched therebetween and loosely held in the arrangement of Figure 1.

As shown in Figure 3, the upper portion of the bottom hose 16 has been displaced to show clearly that no permanent attachment is made between the bottom hose 16 and the supporting sheet 13. It should be understood that the rider ticket portion 24*a* may be suitably inscribed with indicia in the well known manner to indicate such descriptive material as hose size, manufacturer's name, type of yarn and the like.

Means are provided for retaining the lower portion of each of the pairs of hose 12 on the supporting sheet 13 so as to visually display the design, color, material, and the like of the hose including, in particular, the ankle portions 17. Referring now specifically to Figures 1, 2, a retaining flap 28 is provided along the lower portion of the supporting sheet 13 which extends upwardly to form with the supporting sheet 13 a substantially V-shaped trough 29 for receiving the lower end of each folded pair of hose 12. Although the flap 28 may be formed separately and secured to the sheet 13 in any suitable manner, it is preferably formed as an integral part of the supporting sheet 13 by folding the sheet along a fold line designated by the numeral 30.

The flap 28 therefore, extends laterally across the sheet 13 and terminates in an upper edge 31 which is suitably spaced from the rider ticket portion 24*a* so as to define an open or unobscured space which visually displays the pairs of hose 12 positioned on the sheet 13. The lower portion of each pair of hose 12 is received within the trough 29 and held against the sheet 13 by the flap 28 so that the hose themselves are readily visible to a prospective purchaser.

It should be understood that the outer surface 28*a* of the retaining flap 28 is therefore arranged for the reception of intelligence or indicia in the manner of the rider ticket end portion 24*a*. The flap 28 may be held in the position of Figures 1 and 2 by any suitable means such as by preforming the supporting sheet 13 together with the flap 28 of relatively rigid material, by the use of staples, tabs, or the like, and the pairs of hose 12 merchandised in this form. However, in the preferred embodiment illustrated, encasing means such as an envelope 32 is employed which receives the parts to be packaged as shown in Figure 1. The envelope 32 is preferably suitably dimensioned so as to receive the parts to be packaged in snug fitting relationship and as a result of this snug fitting relationship between the envelope 32 and the flap 28, the tendency of the flap 28 to move pivotally downward and thereby release the lower portions of the hose is resisted by the forward wall 33 of the envelope. The flap 28 is therefore held in the hose retaining position in the manner shown in Figure 1.

The envelope 32 is preferably composed at least in part of transparent material so as to permit the hose ankle portions 17 to be readily displayed therethrough and in the specific embodiment illustrated, the envelope 32 is composed of a suitable transparent material such as cellophane, polyethylene, or the like. The envelope 32 is preferably provided with a suitable opening which may be sealed by conventional means such as heat sealing or the like to form a seam designated in Figure 1 by the numeral 34. As can be seen by reference to Figure 1, further benefit is derived from the envelope 32 in that the snug fitting relationship of the envelope and the packaged material restrains any lateral movement of the hose at each side of the supporting sheet 13 and the envelope resists any tendency of the end pairs of hose 12 to slide off the sheet.

It can be seen that with the novel arrangement of the invention a hosiery package has been provided which is composed of a minimum number of parts all of which are inexpensive and readily obtainable and which do not add materially to the cost of producing and merchandising the hosiery. The package components may very easily be assembled into package form and at the same time provide an extremely rugged package which maintains hosiery such as men's and boys' half-hose and the like in a most attractive form whereby the color, design, texture, and other physical qualities of the hose are readily visible to a prospective purchaser. With the transparent envelope employed in the novel package illustrated, the packaged material is completely protected from dust, damage and the like while the contents of the package including any advertising material and indicia which may be printed on the rider ticket and the retaining flap is readily visible to a prospective purchaser. The ever increasing trend toward completely packaged merchandise which is arranged to be supported in a very convenient manner for a prospective purchaser both from a standpoint of visibility as well as ready access by a

purchaser, is readily conformed to with the package of the invention. For instance, the form of the invention lends itself readily to the "pegboard" or rack type of display device whereas the package may be hung from a peg in a supporting wall board or wire rack by means of a grommet or the like positioned in the transparent envelope 32 to permit ready access and visual inspection by the purchaser and to promote what is now generally referred to as "impulse" buying. Furthermore, the package itself lends itself readily to the packaging of from one to any reasonable number of pairs of hose.

In the drawings and specification there has been set forth a preferred embodiment of the invention, and although specific terms are employed they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being defined in the claim.

I claim:

A hosiery package comprising, in combination, a support sheet formed from stiff material such as cardboard and terminating at one end in a transversely extending upper edge, a pair of hose each having a foot portion and an ankle portion and being arranged in vertically aligned relationship, said pair of hose being folded substantially along the junction of their foot and ankle portion to provide a folded edge portion, said hose being positioned

in overlying relationship with said support sheet, a rider ticket adhesively secured to said support sheet and extending over the upper edge of said sheet with its other end adhesively secured to the outwardly facing surface of said hose adjacent the end opposite the folded edge portion of the hose, a retaining flap hingedly connected to the lower edge of said support sheet and extending upwardly therefrom and defining a V-shaped trough between itself and said support sheet for accommodating the folded edge portion of said hose, and a sealed bag formed from transparent material encasing the pair of hose and the support sheet, said sealed bag cooperatively maintaining said retaining flap in an upwardly extending position.

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