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MARGARINE PACKAGE

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Fig. 1

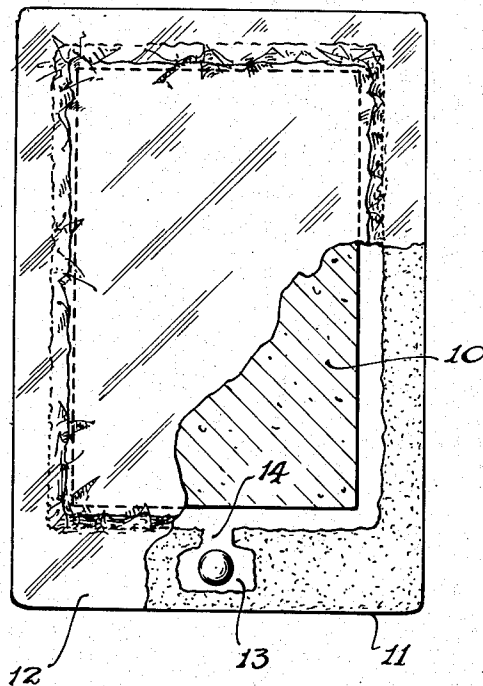
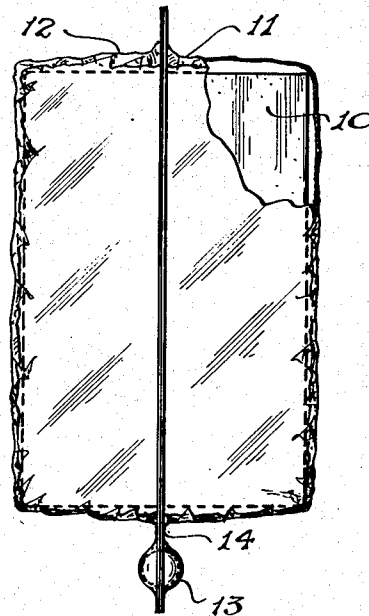


Fig. 2



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MARGARINE PACKAGE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 99—179)

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This invention relates to a package for margarine and more particularly to an improved package for distributing margarine together with a coloring ingredient therefor, and in which package the margarine may subsequently be mixed with the coloring by kneading action.

It is an object of this invention to provide an improved package for margarine.

It is another object of this invention to provide an improved package useful for distributing and then coloring margarine.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved package for holding a coloring ingredient spaced from margarine during shipment of the margarine to the consumer.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved package for holding margarine and a coloring ingredient separated during normal distribution and in which the margarine and coloring ingredient may subsequently be mixed by the housewife.

Another object of this invention is to provide a new method for forming a margarine package.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved method for forming a margarine coloring package.

Other objects will appear more fully from the specification below.

In the drawings,

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a completed package partly broken away; and

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the package shown in Figure 1.

Various expedients have been proposed for facilitating the coloring of margarine by the consumer, and one such means takes the form of a flexible, sealed bag for containing the margarine and coloring matter. The package is sealed substantially airtight at the manufacturing plant, and the structure is such that the coloring material is held spaced from the margarine in the package during normal distribution. When the consumer ultimately acquires the margarine and wishes to color it, the coloring material is freed within the package to place it in contact with the margarine, and the coloring and margarine are mixed by kneading the two together through the wall of the flexible bag.

The present invention provides an improvement on this type of margarine coloring means, and in its preferred form it is made as shown in the drawings. As will be seen by referring to Figure 1, a print 10 of margarine is placed between two sheets 11 and 12 of a material which may be sealed together at their overlaid edge

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portions to provide an enclosure for the margarine. The two sheets are preferably made of a flexible material that may be readily heat-sealed, and the material should have properties which make it relatively impervious to air so that when the edges are sealed together around the perimeter of the sheets, a substantially airtight package can be formed.

As shown, at the end of the relatively elongated package a wider sealed portion is provided in which a small area of the overlaid sheets is left unsealed to provide a pocket 13, which is entirely closed except for its communication with the enclosure containing the margarine. The pocket 13 communicates with the margarine enclosure through a restricted passageway 14.

The pocket 13 is designed to hold a small batch of a dye or coloring ingredient in such a manner that the coloring material is held spaced from the margarine during shipment. This prevents the margarine from becoming colored before the consumer receives the package. Preferably the coloring material is disposed in the pocket in a liquid form wherein the liquid is confined within a gelatin bean. Thus, when the consumer desires to color the margarine, the bean may be squeezed to burst it and the coloring matter issued through the passage 14 into the enclosure. When other forms of coloring material are disposed in the pocket 13, the passage 14 must be of such size that the coloring can be easily worked from the pocket into the enclosure.

When the consumer wishes to use the package to color margarine, the coloring material is worked through the passage 14 to be brought in contact with the margarine, and the margarine and the coloring dye are then squished around inside of the package until the margarine acquires a uniform color. The sealed walls of the package serve to confine the margarine, and since the margarine is quite plastic, it may be kneaded and worked through the flexible wall quite easily to mix the coloring quickly and evenly throughout the mass of margarine. After the coloring operation has been completed, the bag may be placed in a suitable mold to shape the margarine until it becomes firm as when it is placed under refrigeration.

The above-described package may be formed by first placing a print of margarine on a relatively wide sheet of the flexible material. The margarine should be approximately centered in the sheet and then a second sheet of the same type of material is brought into overlaying relationship. As the sheets are selected to be some-

what wider than the print of margarine, the edges of the sheet can be brought into contact in overlapping relationship and sealed together while they are held spaced from the block of margarine. The sealing is completed throughout most of the periphery of the sheets, with the exception of only a small space which is left free so that air can be expressed from within the confines of the package. After the sheets have been sealed together, they are then folded against the body of margarine disposed within the enclosure, and the air trapped between the sheets and the margarine is squeezed out. Thereafter the peripheral sealing operation is completed to close the remaining unsealed space whereby an airtight enclosure is provided for the margarine product.

The color ingredient is placed between the sheets of flexible material adjacent the periphery, and thus, simultaneously with completion of the sealing operation, the pocket 13 can be formed around the coloring material. In this manner the pocket can be made of restricted size, and where a gelatin bean for containing a liquid coloring ingredient is used, the pocket can be made almost form-fitting.

While the preparation of the package has been described above as applied to the formation of a package adapted to contain coloring material in addition to the margarine, it is also within the contemplation of the present invention to form the package in the manner aforesaid, omitting the step of placing a color capsule or the like within the open area left in the peripheral seal. In other words, the sealing operation following the expression of air from the package by pressing the sheets against the surface of the margarine print would in such instance completely close the remaining unsealed space.

In the preferred form of this invention, the liquid form of coloring ingredient is used because it tends to mix more readily with the margarine. The frangible or gelatin bean containing the coloring is neatly fitted into the pocket as above described, and thereafter, when the bean is broken to release the color, the bean is retained in the pocket after it is broken by means of the restricted passageway 14 which will only let the coloring material flow into the margarine enclosure.

When an elongated print of margarine is to be packaged, it may be desirable to form the pocket along a side seam instead of at the end as is shown in the drawings. When an elongated margarine print is being colored, the introduction of the dye into the mass of margarine at a point centrally of the longest dimension facilitates the distribution of the coloring through the margarine. It has been found, however, that when one becomes experienced in squishing the margarine around in such a flexible bag, the coloring can be introduced into the package at any point, and quite rapid coloring can be accomplished.

While the above-described invention covers the preferred form of this invention, it is to be understood that many modifications thereof may occur to those skilled in the art which will fall within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. An elongated and generally rectangularly shaped package comprising a flexible walled enclosure for margarine in which the margarine may be mixed with a coloring ingredient by manipulating the package; the package being formed by sealing together two overlayed sheets of flexible air-impermeable material with the margarine disposed between the sheets by pressing the sheets against the margarine to express the air from within the package and fixedly adhering the edge portions of the sheets together in overlaying relationship and in an airtight manner to form a peripheral seal with a small area of said edge portions in overlaying relationship left unsealed to form a pocket and a restricted passage; said pocket having communication with the interior of said package on one side through said restricted passage and surrounded by said peripheral seal on the other sides; and a frangible capsule for confining the coloring ingredient in said pocket so that the coloring may be held out of contact with the margarine in the enclosure until it is desired to color it, whereupon, the coloring ingredient may be freed from said capsule and issued from the pocket through said passage and into the interior of the package to be mixed with the margarine while retaining the capsule in said pocket.

2. A method for forming a color-containing package in which to color margarine, comprising: depositing a print of margarine on a relatively wide sheet of flexible material; bringing a second sheet of a similar material into overlaying relationship with said first sheet; forming a peripheral seal around the edges of said sheets by pressing the sheets against the print of margarine to express air trapped within said sheets and sealing said sheets except for a small area which forms a pocket and a restricted passage; said pocket being in communication with the interior of the package on one side through said restricted passage and surrounded by said peripheral seal on the other sides; and confining a coloring-containing capsule in said pocket whereby the coloring is held spaced from the margarine until the margarine is to be colored, whereupon, the coloring ingredient may be freed from said capsule and issued from the pocket through said passage into the interior of said package wherein it may be mixed with the margarine by manipulation of said package without opening said package and while retaining the capsule in the pocket.

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