Dec. 8, 1942. F. D. PALMER 2,304,373

PACKAGE

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Fig. 2.

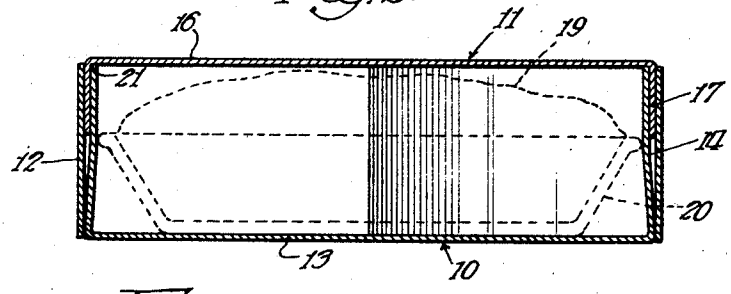


Fig. 1.

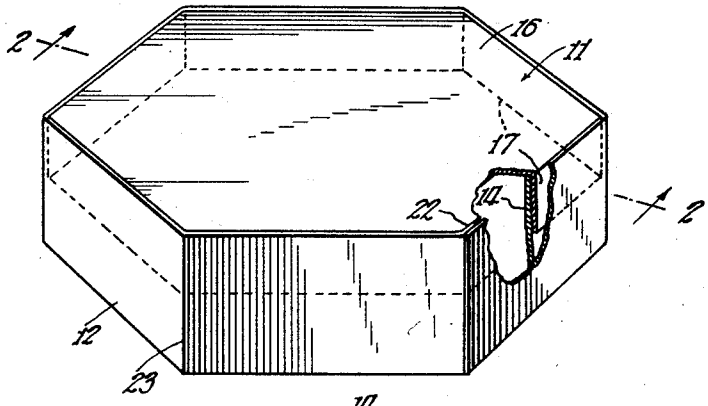


Fig. 3.

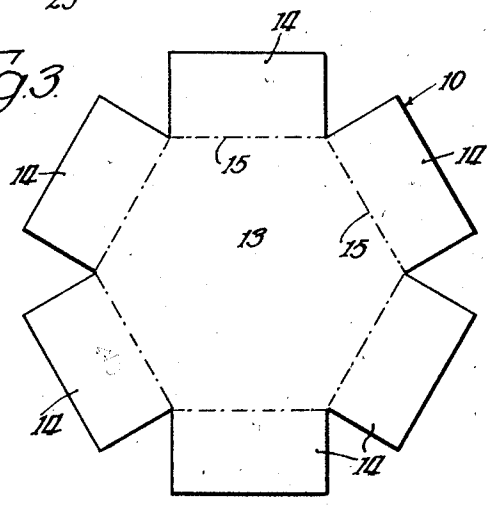
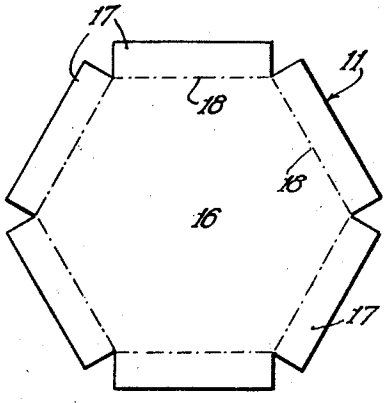


Fig. 4.



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xr canceled - 206-46

xr added - 99-171

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Fig. 5.

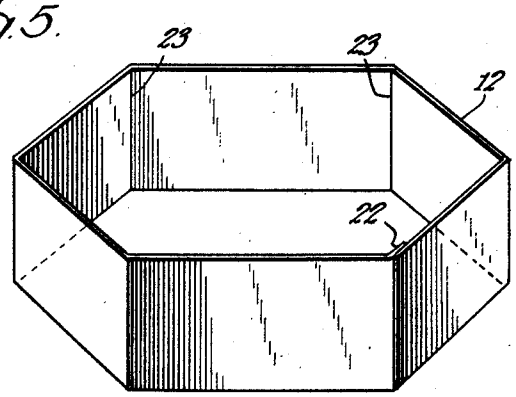


Fig. 6.

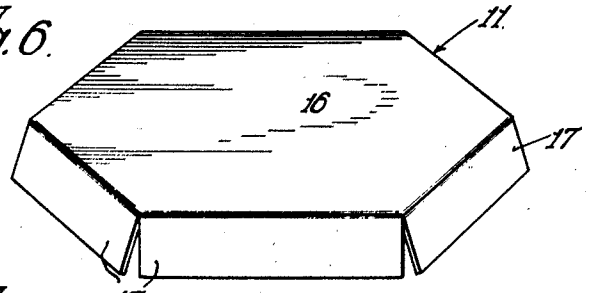
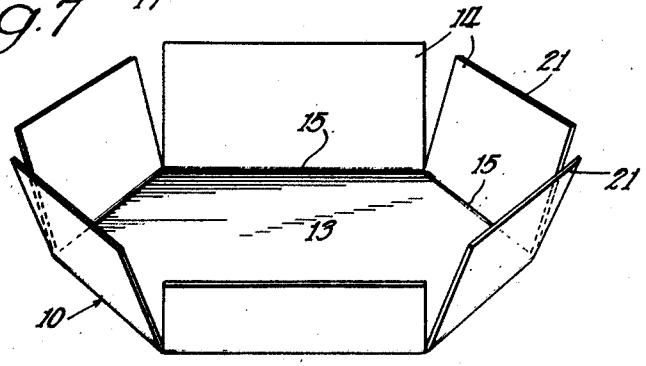


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,304,373

PACKAGE

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Application July 1, 1940, Serial No. 343,382

1 Claim. (Cl. 229—23)

This invention relates to an improved package construction particularly adapted to the packaging of a food product which is prepared and sold in a dish, for example, a bakery product such as a cake or pie, or an ice cream pie. The package structure, although particularly adapted to packaging of products such as mentioned, may of course be used for packaging other products and the foregoing reference to the packaging of food products is intended merely to serve in an explanatory capacity without limiting the invention to the packaging of the products specifically mentioned.

The main objects of the invention are to provide a package of the character indicated which may be produced at a very low cost so as to avoid the addition of excessive charges to the cost of the product packaged; to provide such a package structure which may be produced in flat or collapsed form and which may be quickly and easily set up in association with the packaged goods; to provide an arrangement which involves no interlocking tongues or the like but which will nevertheless be effectively held in assembled and closed condition; and in general it is the object of the invention to provide an improved package structure of the character indicated.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be understood by reference to the following specification and accompanying drawings (2 sheets) wherein there is disclosed a package structure embodying a selected form of the invention.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective illustrating the completed package;

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Figs. 3 and 4 are plan views of the bottom and top forming members, respectively, of the improved package structure; and

Figs. 5, 6 and 7 are perspectives, respectively, of the parts of the package structure.

Referring now to the drawings, the improved package structure comprises a bottom member 10, a top member 11 and an annular band 12. The bottom member 10 is preferably formed from a paper board member or blank of the character shown in Figure 3. In the illustrated structure the package is shown as being of hexagonal form. Hence, the blank for the bottom member 10 as shown in Figure 3 comprises a bottom wall panel 13 of hexagonal form. From each of the six edges of the bottom wall 13 there extend side wall forming flaps 14, the same being integrally formed with the bottom wall 13 and being foldable relative thereto at the edges of the bottom member as indicated by fold lines 15, which coincide with the periphery of the hexagonal bottom wall 13.

The top member 11 is also preferably formed of paper board of a suitable thickness, said member being in general of the same form as the bottom member and comprising a top wall part 16 and side wall forming flaps 17, which are foldable relative to the top wall 16 along fold lines such as indicated at 18.

The bottom member 13 is adapted to receive a product such as a pie or ice cream pie as indicated in dotted lines at 19 in Figure 2, such product being prepared and packaged in a glass or other plates 20, as also indicated in dotted lines in Figure 2. The product to be packaged is placed centrally on the bottom wall 13 whereupon the side wall forming flaps 14 are bent upwardly into receptacle forming position as shown in Figures 2 and 7. Incident to the upward bending of the side wall flaps 14, the product to be packaged will be more or less automatically adjusted to its proper central position on the bottom wall 13 and it is preferable that the size of the bottom member be such that its side wall flaps 14 will be supported against inward collapsing by engagement with the periphery of the pie plate 20 or other receptacle of the packaged product.

The top member 16 is next assembled with the bottom member, the side wall forming flaps 17 thereof being bent downwardly substantially as shown in Figure 6 and caused to telescopically fit over the side walls of the bottom member. The top wall 16 of the top member will rest on the upper edges 21 of the side walls 14 of the lower member and the depending side wall 17 of said upper member will be operative to hold the upwardly extending walls of the bottom member in their folded, receptacle forming position as shown in Figure 2. The side wall flaps of the bottom member will be held in receptacle forming position even though the side walls of the upper member spring outwardly slightly as indicated in Figure 6, since the upper edges of the side walls of the bottom member engage the side walls of the top member in the plane of the inside surface of the top wall 11 and are therefore not permitted to spring outwardly to any substantial extent.

In any event, if the inherent resiliency of the paper board from which the parts are formed should be sufficient to cause the wall members 14 of the lower member to spring outwardly with sufficient force to raise the upper member, the side walls of the latter will nevertheless continue

to extend over the outside of the lower member, so that it is a simple operation to press the upper member downwardly while holding its side wall flaps in depending position to restore the top and bottom members to properly assembled relation as shown in Figure 2.

The top and bottom members are effectively held in assembled relation by means of the band-like member 12 which may be formed from a strip of paper board of a width corresponding to the vertical dimension of the package, i. e., the vertical dimension of the side walls 14 of the bottom member. Such strip has its ends united, as indicated at 22, by means of adhesive, stapling or otherwise, and it is suitably scored or creased transversely along lines indicated at 23 which will permit the annular band thus formed to be distended into a hexagonal form corresponding to the hexagonal shape of the top and bottom members of the package. Said annular band is slipped downwardly over the top member 11 until it encircles the side walls of both the top and bottom members substantially as shown in Figure 2.

As indicated in Figure 2, the size of the hexagonal top and bottom walls 16 and 13, respectively, is preferably substantially the same, so that the walls of the bottom member are offset inwardly slightly beyond a normal perpendicular angle by the overlapping side wall portions of the top member. The annular band 12 is thus adapted to fit snugly around the sides of the package structure at both the top and bottom surfaces thereof, and it serves to maintain the side walls 17 of the top member substantially in face to face contact with the underlying wall portions of the bottom member. In any event, sufficient frictional contact is produced between the side walls of the top and bottom members to cause the same to be effectively held in assembled relationship when the encircling band 12 is applied.

It will be observed that the described structure embodies no interlocking hooks or similar fastening devices which must be engaged in the setting up of the package structure. The operations required are all of such nature that they may be very easily and quickly performed by hand and the elements of the package structure are of very simple character involving no difficult production operations. The cost of producing and employing the package structure is thus maintained very low, so that only a minimum charge need be added to the package produced to cover the cost of the packaging. The package structure results in a clean-cut and neat-appearing package which effectively protects the package content. The package may also be opened without difficulty and this is, of course, a desirable attribute in packages of this character.

Changes in the construction may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, the scope of which should be determined by reference to the following claims, the same being construed as broadly as possible consistent with the state of the art.

I claim:

A package comprising top and bottom members of substantially like size, side wall forming flaps foldably connected to the edges of said top and bottom members, the flaps of each of said members being folded toward the other of said members, the length of the flaps of one of said members substantially corresponding to the depth of the package and the flaps of the other of said members being of shorter length and overlapping the free end portions of the longer of said flaps on the outside thereof, said shorter flaps being folded to substantially perpendicular relation to said top and bottom members and said longer flaps being thereby offset inwardly from the normal planes of the edge portions of the member from which said longer flaps extend, a packaged member of such size and form as to have peripheral engagement with said inwardly offset flap portions adjacent but beyond the free ends of the shorter outer flaps, and an endless band having between its opposite edges, substantially uniform internal length substantially equal to the peripheral length of said top and bottom members, said band encircling and clamping said side walls against the periphery of said packaged member.

FRANK D. PALMER.