Aug. 5, 1941. H. FORST ET AL 2,251,670

WRAPPING DEVICE

Filed April 8, 1940

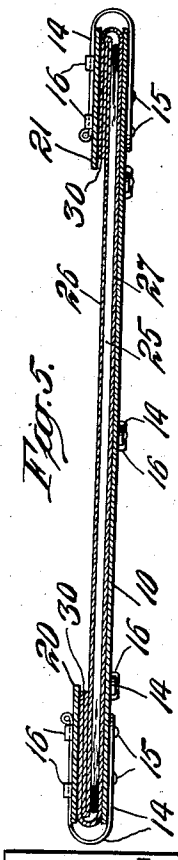


Fig. 5.

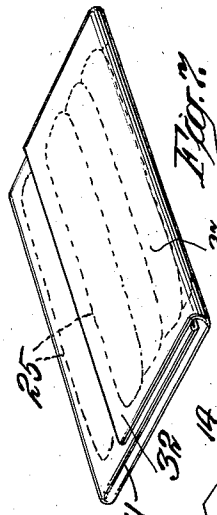


Fig. 2.

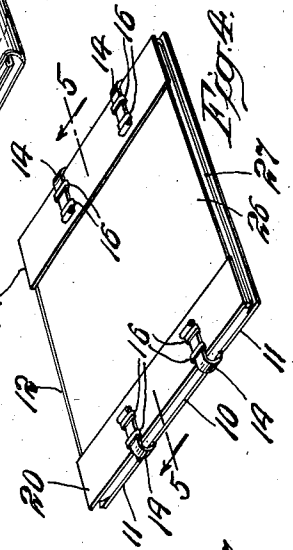


Fig. 4.

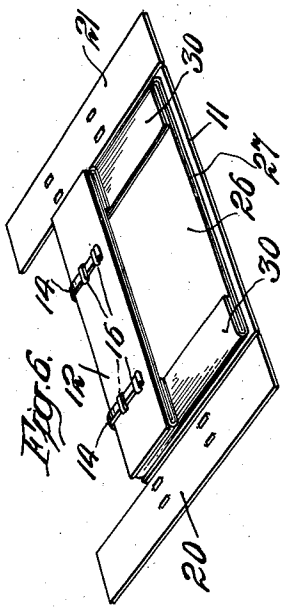


Fig. 6.

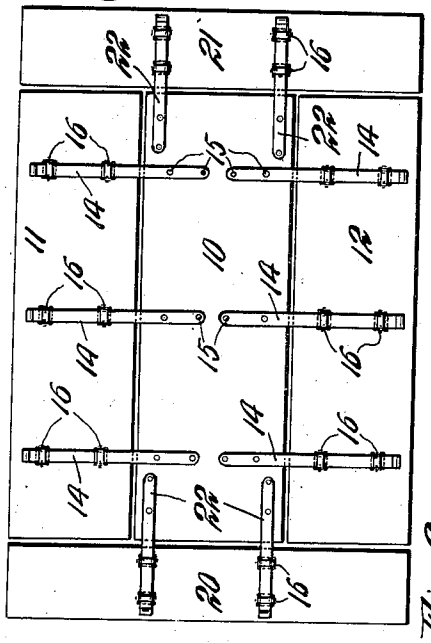


Fig. 8.

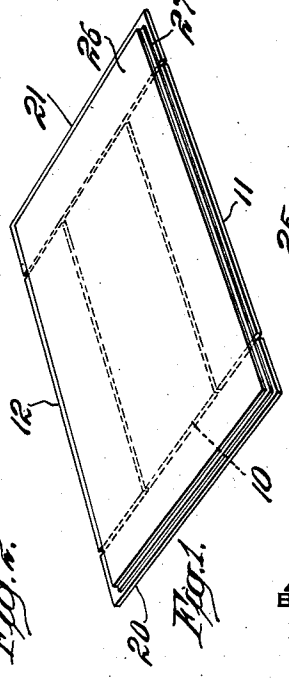


Fig. 1.

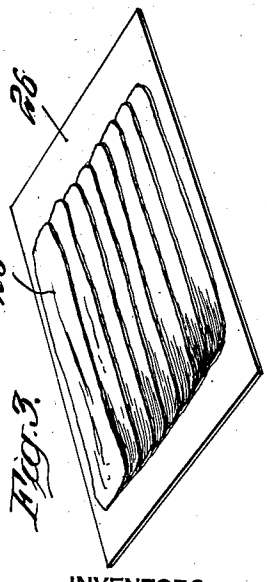


Fig. 3.

INVENTORS
HENRY FORST
EDWARD M. NORTON
BY Hauff & Harland
ATTORNEYS.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,251,670

## WRAPPING DEVICE

Henry Forst and Edward M. Norton, Kingston, N. Y., assignors to Forst Packing Company, Inc., Kingston, N. Y., a corporation of New York

Application April 8, 1940, Serial No. 328,472

1 Claim. (Cl. 93—2)

This invention relates to a wrapping device and more particularly to a device for packaging commodities such as bacon or the like.

An object of the invention is to provide a simple, convenient and commercially practical device of the type above indicated.

Another object is to provide a device of the type above indicated which may be operated manually or automatically for folding and packaging commodities.

Another object is to provide a device of the above type which is simple in construction and which may be rapidly and conveniently operated.

Various other objects and advantages will be apparent as the nature of the invention is more fully disclosed.

Although the novel features which are believed to be characteristic of this invention are more particularly pointed out in the claim appended hereto, the invention itself may be better understood by referring to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which a specific embodiment thereof has been set forth for purposes of illustration.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a top perspective view showing the folding device at the beginning of the folding operation.

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the bacon as it is supplied to the wrapping device.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the wrapping device showing one of the wrapping operations.

Fig. 5 is a section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view similar to Fig. 4 showing another step in the wrapping operation, and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the completed package.

In the following description and in the claim certain specific terms are used for convenience in referring to various details of the invention. These terms, however, are to be given as broad an interpretation as the state of the art will permit.

Referring to the drawing more in detail, the folding and packaging device comprises a base 10, Fig. 2, which may be made of wood, metal or other rigid material. A pair of side wings 11 and 12 are loosely hinged to this base 10 by suitable means such as by flexible straps 14 which may be made of spring steel or the like so as to firmly hold the wings in extended condition, as shown in Fig. 2. The straps 14 may be loosely secured to the base 10 and to the wings 11 and 12 so as to provide a sufficient amount of play for the purpose to be described. In the embodiment shown, these straps are secured to the base 10 by screws 15 and are loosely held to the wings 11 and 12 by loops or straps 16.

A pair of end wings 20 and 21 are also provided which are constructed in a manner similar to the side wings 11 and 12 and are also held by suitable hinge means such as flexible straps 22. It will be understood that Fig. 2 shows the bottom or back of the device and that the arrangement is such that the wings 11, 12, 20 and 21 may be folded over the base 10 as indicated, for example, in Figs. 4, 5 and 6. The straps 14 and 22 are adapted to provide sufficient clearance to accommodate the particular package which is being wrapped or folded by the device.

The present invention is particularly applicable to the packaging of bacon and for convenience, will be described in connection therewith. In packing plants, strips of bacon 25 are automatically laid out by a cutting machine upon the backing material 26, usually paper. In this form they are weighed and packaged.

In order to suitably fold and wrap the bacon a sheet of flexible paper 27, such as Cellophane or the like, which is to appear on the outside of the package is first laid upon the front face of the wrapping device. For this purpose the wings 11, 12, 20 and 21 are extended in the plane of the base 10, as shown in Fig. 1. The paper 26 with the bacon 25 thereon is now turned bottom up and laid upon the Cellophane 27. The bacon is sufficiently adherent to remain upon the paper 26 when it is thus inverted. The material is now in the position shown in Fig. 1, with the bacon held between the paper 26 and the Cellophane 27.

As the first step in the folding operation the end wings 20 and 21 are manually folded over as shown in Fig. 4. This folds over the ends of the paper 26 and of the Cellophane 27 which extend beyond the ends of the strips of bacon 25 to form end flanges 30 as shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

The end wings 20 and 21 are now released and are caused by the resilience of the strips 22 to retain to their extended position. One of the side wings, for example, the side wing 12 is now folded over, as shown in Fig. 6, thereby folding over a portion of the bacon and the associated paper 26 and Cellophane 27.

For the next step of the folding operation the side wing 12 is released and is permitted to return to upstanding position thereby forming a

stop for the package. With the wing 12 in this position, the weight of the bacon holds the material in its folded position. The side wing 11 is now folded over for completing the packaging operation. The folding of the side wings 12 and 11 as above indicated, folds the bacon package so as to form a pair of overlapping top folds 31 and 32. The folding is now completed and the package is passed to a suitable wrapping or stamping station or is placed in a box for sale or shipment.

The above described folding mechanism enables the operator to rapidly fold the bacon packages in a uniform manner so that the product is neat and pleasing in appearance and the various packaged contents are identical in size and shape. Furthermore the packages are readily formed without the necessity for giving special attention thereto.

It is to be understood, of course, that the above described device may be automatically operated by means of a suitable belt conveyor having provisions for progressively folding the various wings as above mentioned. If desired, a fabric or the like may be disposed over the base of the device or in certain instances the fabric may provide the hinge means for securing the wings 11, 12, 20 and 21, in which event the strips 14 and 22 may be omitted, or suitable spring means may be provided for returning the wings to extended position.

Although a specific embodiment of the invention has been shown for purposes of illustration, the invention is capable of various uses and it will be understood that changes and modifications may be made therein as will be readily apparent to a person skilled in the art. The invention is only to be limited in accordance with the following claim.

What is claimed is:

A packaging device comprising a base, a pair of side wings, a pair of end wings, and hinge means comprising flat flexible spring members securing said side and end wings to said base and normally holding the same in extended position wherein the upper surfaces thereof form a continuation of the upper surface of said base, said spring members being adapted to permit said wings to independently fold over said base for packaging purposes and being secured so as to provide clearance for a package when the wings are folded over the base.

HENRY FORST.
EDWARD M. NORTON.