

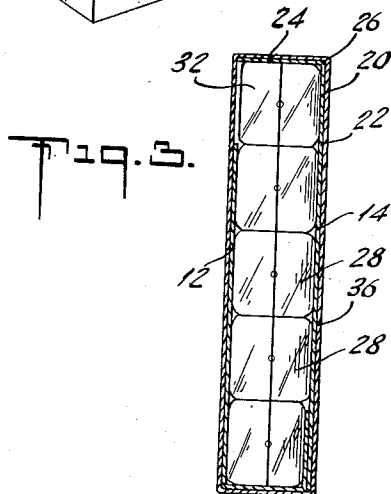
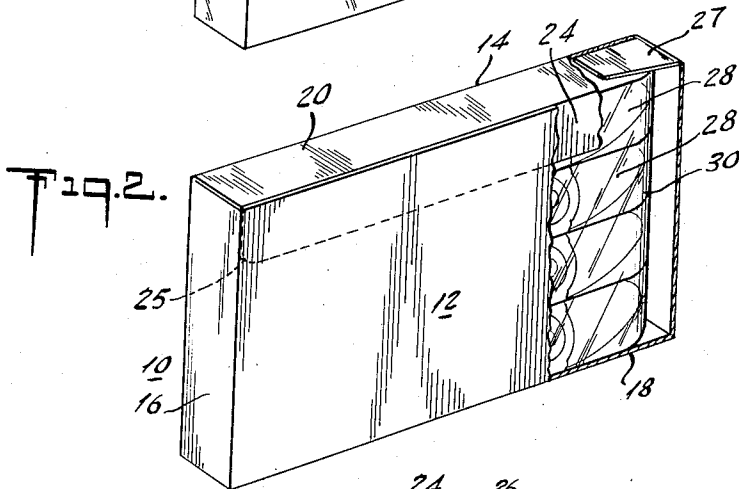
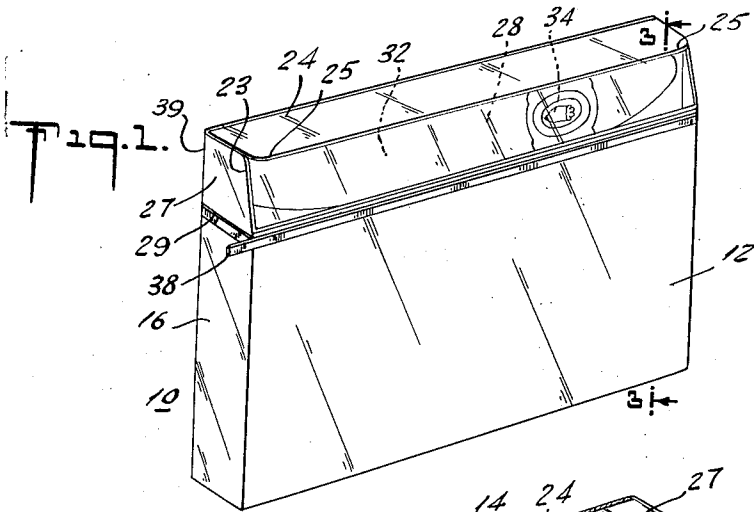
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DISPLAY AND DISPENSING PACKAGE

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1

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DISPLAY AND DISPENSING PACKAGE

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The present invention relates generally to an improved package, and it relates more particularly to an improved package for the display and dispensing of cigars and similar articles.

It is a common practice to package cigars in small groups such as four or five to a package which may easily and comfortably be placed in a coat or shirt pocket to facilitate and expedite the sale and dispensing thereof. The cigars are generally individually wrapped in cellophane or like material and are disposed in side by side relationship in a paper or cardboard carton having an end closure flap. The closed carton is in turn usually wrapped in cellophane or other transparent sheet material to prevent or retard the entrance of air which would dry the tobacco or prevent the evaporation of the moisture content of the tobacco to the same effect. While such cigar packages are very handy and possess numerous advantages, the maximum number of cigars they may hold is limited.

It is thus a principal object of the present invention to provide an improved package.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved package for the display and dispensing of cigars and similar articles.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved cigar containing and displaying package characterized by an increase in capacity without a corresponding decrease in pocketability.

The above and other objects of the present invention will become apparent from a reading of the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an improved wrapped cigar package embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 but partially in section illustrating the closed package with the contents thereof partly depleted; and

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 in Figure 1.

The present invention, in a broad sense, contemplates the provision of an improved article package comprising a carton having a front wall, a rear wall, side walls and a bottom wall, a panel member extending from said rear wall and substantially coplanar therewith, a flap member extending from and projecting forwardly of the free edge of said panel member, a plurality of said articles disposed in side-by-side relationship within said carton, another of said articles disposed exterior to said carton and resting in the space defined by the inner faces of said panel member and said flap member, and an outer wrapper enclosing said carton and said articles.

Reference is now made to the drawing which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the present invention, wherein the numeral 10 generally designates a carton of substantially conventional configuration except as will be hereinafter set forth, the carton 10 being formed of cardboard or other suitable material. The carton 10 includes a front wall 12 and a rear wall 14 connected by side

2

walls 16, and provided with a bottom wall 18, each of the walls being of rectangular configuration. It should be noted that the bottom wall 18 may be formed of a closure panel and flap extending from the front wall and closure tabs extending from the side walls, as is common practice.

Projecting upwardly from the upper edge of the rear wall 14 is a closure panel 20 separated from the rear wall 14 by a closure line 22 defining a hinge. The width or height of the closure panel 20 is approximately equal to the width of the side walls 16. Projecting forwardly of the upper edge of the closure panel 20 is a closure flap 24 separated from the closure panel 20 by a fold line 26 likewise defining a hinge. The width or depth of the closure flap 24 is also preferably equal to, or not substantially in excess of, the width of the side walls 16.

A pair of tabs 27 project upwardly from the side walls 16 and are of a height and of a width substantially equal to the width of said side walls 16. Furthermore, the tabs 27 are separated from the side walls 16 by fold lines 29 defining hinges. It should be noted that the free edges of the closure flap 24 are rounded as at 25, and that the front edges of the tabs 27 are slightly rearwardly inclined as at 23, in accordance with conventional practice. The rear edges of tabs 27 are integral with the upper side edges of closure panel 20, and demarked therefrom by a score line, as at 39, or may be united to the upper side edges of the closure panel 20 by uncut fibers.

In assembled condition, a plurality of elongated articles, such as cigars 28 are disposed within the carton 10 proper and stacked vertically in side-by-side abutting relationship. While there are shown, in Figure 1 of the drawing, five (5) cigars 28, it should be understood that the present invention is not limited to any particular number of packaged articles.

The cigars 28 are individually enclosed by moisture-proof cellophane wrappers 30. The uppermost cigar 28 extends substantially to the upper edge of the front wall 12 and an additional cigar 32 is stacked on the topmost cigar 30 and is nested in the space defined by the closure panel 20, closure flap 24 and tabs 27. It should be noted that the rear and top edge of the tabs 27 register with the inner peripheral edge of the closure panel 20 and closure flap 24 so as to provide support for the panel 30 and flap 24. The upper cigar 32 is entirely exposed and is provided with a cigar band 34 directed outwardly to provide an attractive display.

The filled carton, as illustrated in Figure 1, is enclosed in a waterproof transparent cellophane wrapper, the edges of which are heat-sealed to effect a moisture-proof enclosure for the cigars. In order to facilitate the removal of the cellophane wrapper 36, a tear-strip 38 of conventional structure may be provided directly below the upper edge of the front wall 12.

In employing the improved package of the present invention, the upper portion of the cellophane wrapper 36 is removed from the carton by means of the tear-strip 38, thus permitting access to the upper cigar 32. Upon removal of the upper cigar 32, flaps 27 may be separated from closure panel 20 by severing the score lines or the joining fibers, as at 39 where such are provided, whereafter the tabs 27 and the closure panel 20 and closure flap 24 are employed for closing the carton 10 in the well known manner, as illustrated in Figure 2 of the drawing. It is thus apparent that there has been provided by the present invention an improved package in which a greater number of articles may be disposed in a substantially conventional carton than the carton is normally designed for or capable of carrying. Furthermore, the package is highly attractive, providing as it does a window extending the full length of the container, and displays a part of the contents of

3

the package. Conventional equipment may be used in the packaging and wrapping of the improved article.

While there has been described and illustrated a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it is apparent that numerous alterations and omissions may be made without departing from the spirit thereof.

Having now described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. An improved package of elongated articles comprising a carton having a front wall, a rear wall, side walls and a bottom wall, a panel member extending from said rear wall and substantially coplanar therewith, a flap member extending from and projecting forwardly of the free edge of said panel member, a plurality of said articles disposed in side-by-side relationship within said carton, another of said articles disposed exterior to said carton and resting in the space defined by the inner faces of said panel member and said flap member, and an outer wrapper enclosing said carton and said articles.

2. An improved package of elongated articles comprising a carton having a front wall, a rear wall, side walls and a bottom wall, a panel member extending from said rear wall and substantially coplanar therewith and separated from said rear wall by a fold line defining a hinge, a flap member extending from and projecting forwardly of the free edge of said panel member, a plurality of said articles disposed in side-by-side relationship within said carton, another of said articles disposed exterior to said carton and resting in the space defined by the inner faces of said panel member and said flap member, and an outer wrapper enclosing said carton and said articles.

3. An improved package of elongated articles comprising a carton having a front wall, a rear wall, side walls and a bottom wall, a panel member extending from said rear wall and substantially coplanar therewith, a flap member extending from and projecting forwardly of the free edge of said panel member and separated therefrom by a fold line defining a hinge, a plurality of said articles disposed in side-by-side relationship within said carton, another of said articles disposed exterior to said carton and resting in the space defined by the inner faces of said panel member and said flap member, and an outer wrapper enclosing said carton and said articles.

4. An improved package of elongated articles comprising a carton having a front wall, a rear wall, side walls and a bottom wall, a panel member extending from said rear wall and substantially coplanar therewith, a flap member extending from and projecting forwardly of the free edge of said panel member, the width of said

4

panel member being substantially equal to the width of said side walls, a plurality of said articles disposed in side-by-side relationship within said carton, another of said articles disposed exterior to said carton and resting in the space defined by the inner faces of said panel member and said flap member, and an outer wrapper enclosing said carton and said articles.

5. An improved package in accordance with claim 4, wherein the width of said flap is substantially equal to the width of said side walls.

6. An improved package in accordance with claim 4, including tab members hinged to the upper edges of said side walls and projecting upwardly therefrom, the height of said tab members being substantially equal to the width of said side walls.

7. An improved package in accordance with claim 4, including tab members hinged to the upper edges of said side walls and projecting upwardly therefrom, said tab members having rear edges joined to the side edges of said panel member.

8. An improved package in accordance with claim 7, wherein said tab members are joined to said panel member along lines of weakness.

9. An improved package in accordance with claim 7, wherein said tab members are joined to said panel member along scored lines.

10. An improved package in accordance with claim 1, including an outer transparent wrapper substantially enclosing said carton to provide a window extending the full length of said carton.

11. An improved article-containing package comprising a carton having a front wall, a rear wall, side walls and a bottom wall, a panel member extending from said rear wall a distance substantially equal to the width of an article and substantially coplanar with the rear wall, a flap member extending from and projecting forwardly of the free edge of said panel member, a plurality of articles within said carton, at least one other of said articles disposed exteriorly to said carton and resting in the space defined by the inner faces of said panel member and said flap member, and an outer wrapper enclosing said carton and said articles.

12. An improved package in accordance with claim 11, wherein said outer wrapper is transparent to provide a window extending the full length of said carton whereby the articles disposed exteriorly to said carton may be viewed.

No references cited.