Jan. 12, 1932. O. B. ANDREWS 1,840,425

BREAD BAND

Filed May 5, 1931

Fig. 1

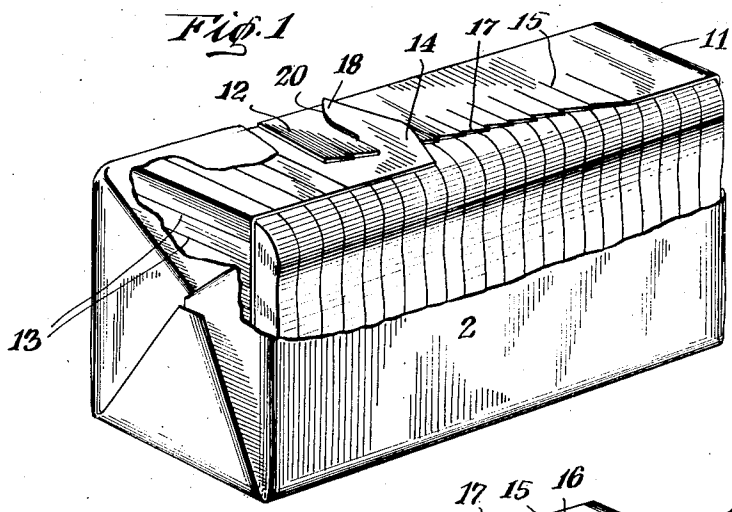


Fig. 2

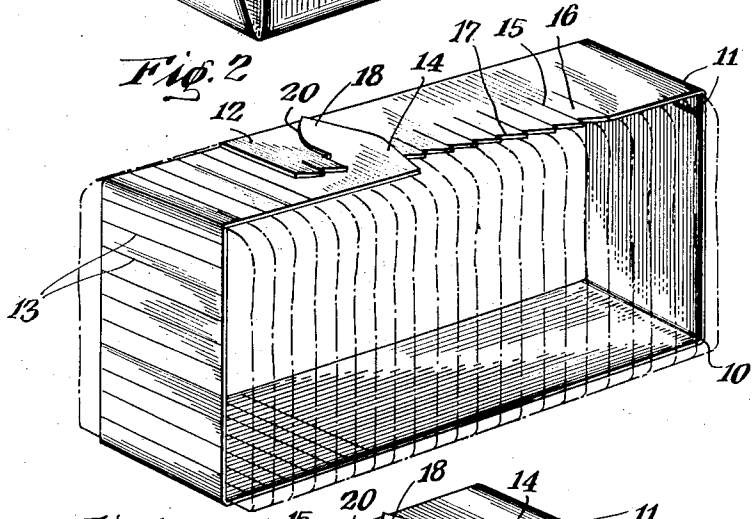


Fig. 3

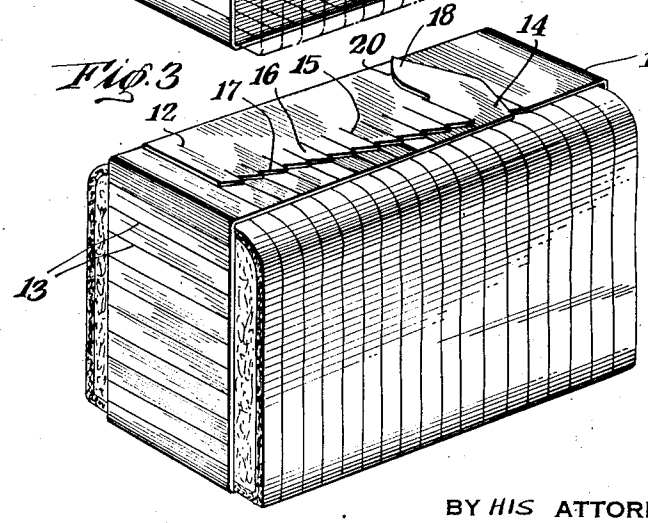
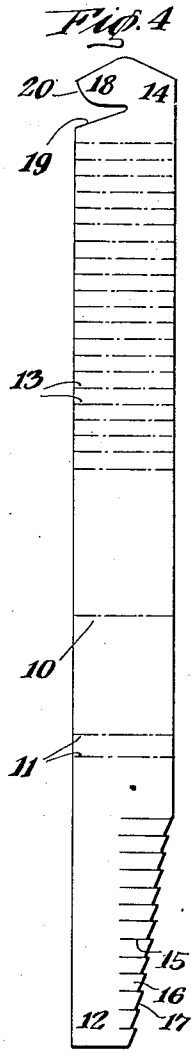


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BREAD BAND

Application filed May 5, 1931. Serial No. 535,109.

This invention relates to a container for sliced bread and similar articles which is adapted to hold the bread from the time it leaves the bake oven until it is used by the consumer.

The invention provides a container of the above type which covers a substantial portion of the surface of the loaf and secures the slices together in a firm manner whereby evaporation therefrom is materially reduced. Means is also provided for adjusting the size of the container to accommodate loaves of various dimensions and also to hold the remaining slices in firm position after a portion of the slices have been removed for use.

The invention also provides a cheap, simple, efficient and compact device of the type above indicated which may be readily applied to a sliced loaf and which may be shipped from the factory in compact folded condition.

The invention also consists in certain new and original features of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter set forth and claimed.

Although the novel features which are believed to be characteristic of this invention will be particularly pointed out in the claims appended hereto, the invention itself, as to its objects and advantages, and the manner in which it may be carried out, may be better understood by referring to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part thereof, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a sliced loaf of bread showing the relative positions of the container and outside wrapper;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the details of the container;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the container in adjusted position after certain of the slices have been removed; and

Fig. 4 is a plan view showing the blank from which the container is made.

Like reference characters denote like parts in the several figures of the drawings.

In the following description and in the claims, various details will be identified by specific names for convenience, but they are intended to be as generic in their application as the art will permit.

The improved container or retaining band of the present invention comprises generally an elongated flat strip usually of rectangular shape, having means incorporated therein or associated therewith for providing a mutually adjustable interlocking of the ends thereof, whereby the band may be contracted or expanded to any desired size. The preferred material for use in the improved bands is a flexible paper board of suitable thickness and finish and having a certain inherent stiffness or toughness.

Referring to the drawings more in detail it will be noted that the band comprises a strip which is adapted to be bent around the bottom, ends and top of a loaf and to hold the slices securely in their original positions. The band is provided with a score 10 which permits the same to be bent upwardly past one end of the loaf and with a double score 11 which permits end 12 to be bent over the top of the loaf and to lie in compact engagement therewith. The band is also provided with a plurality of parallel scores 13 which permit the end 14 to be bent around the other end of the loaf into engagement with the top surface thereof and to accommodate the band to loaves of various sizes. End 12 is formed with a tapered edge from which a plurality of slots 15 extend to substantially the center line of the band. Said slots are of progressively decreasing length and form therebetween tongues 16 which have inclined edges 17 extending at an angle to the angle of taper of the end whereby a serrated effect is produced. End 14 is provided with a tuck 18 which is formed by a slot 19 of substantial width. Said tuck 18 has a rounded edge 20 which permits the same to more readily engage slots 15.

In assembling the band, a sliced loaf is placed thereon with one end adjacent score 10. The end 12 is then bent around the end of the loaf, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, about scores 10 and 11. End 14 is then bent around the opposite end of the loaf about suitable scores 13 and slot 19 is brought into engagement with a complementary slot 15.

The band may be tightened about the loaf by sliding slot 19 along the serrated edges 17 of the various tongues 16, after which the band may be locked by bringing slots 15 and 19 into engagement with tongues 18 and 16 respectively.

After the band is positioned, a suitable outside wrapper 20 may be applied about the loaf which may thereafter be handled in a manner similar to uncut loaves. The loaf is then in condition to be sold or shipped.

During use, after certain of the slices have been removed, the band may be tightened by bending end 14 about suitable scores 13 and bringing the tongue 18 into engagement with a suitable slot 15 as illustrated in Fig. 3. It will be noted that the locking means disclosed is adjustable for various sizes of loaves and may be adjusted to maintain the slices in compact position regardless of the removal of certain of the slices for use. The band covers the top and bottom and two ends of the loaf and thereby protects that portion of the surface of the bread and lessens the amount of evaporation which can take place therefrom. The various creases permit the band to lie snugly around the loaf and thereby firmly hold the slices in compact position whereby evaporation from the cut surface is minimized. The adjustable feature also permits this condition to be maintained regardless of the number of slices which have been removed for use.

It will be noted that the band may be assembled without the use of glue or other foreign substance which might contaminate the bread or affect its flavor and that it can be shipped flat to the manufacturer by whom it is to be assembled, thereby reducing the cost of transportation. Furthermore, the band is of such dimension that it does not interfere with the subsequent wrapping of the loaf or appreciably increase the weight or size thereof.

While certain novel features of the invention have been disclosed and are pointed out in the annexed claims, it will be understood that various omissions, substitutions and changes may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention. For example, the band has been disclosed as passed over the top and bottom of the loaf by way of illustration. It is obvious, however, that it may be passed around the sides of the loaf or may encircle the loaf in any other manner.

What is claimed is:

1. An improved band for sliced bread or the like comprising, a band of relatively stiff yet flexible paper material, said strip being scored intermediate of its end to provide an adjustable loaf supporting portion, an integral tongue member at one end of said strip, a plurality of parallel slots at the opposite end of the strip, said slots defining tongue members, said tongue members having mitered ends to facilitate engagement of said members with the first named tongue on the strip when brought into sliding contact therewith.

2. An improved band for sliced bread or the like comprising, a band of relatively stiff yet flexible paper board, said strip being scored intermediate of its ends to provide an adjustable loaf supporting portion, an integral tongue member at one end of said strip, a plurality of parallel slots at the opposite end of the strip, said slots defining tongue members of progressively decreasing length, the members being adapted to readily engage the first named tongue on the strip, when brought into sliding contact therewith.

3. An improved bread band comprising, a band of flexible paper board scored transversely of its length at one end thereof, one end being provided with a tongue and groove member, the other end being provided with a plurality of parallel slots defining tongue members therebetween, each of said tongues being cut diagonally with respect to the slots to form a tapered end portion adapted to readily engage the first named tongue and groove when brought into sliding contact therewith.

4. An improved bread band comprising, a band of flexible paper board scored transversely of its length at one end thereof, one end being provided with a tongue and groove member and the other end thereof being provided with a plurality of tongues and slots of progressively decreasing length and extending to substantially the center of the band, the said last named tongues and slots being adapted for sliding engagement with the first named tongue and groove.

5. A band as described in claim 4 including a centrally scored portion.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

OLIVER B. ANDREWS.