Jan. 16, 1968 H. C. SMITH 3,363,750

COMBINED PACKAGE AND DRINKING CONTAINER

Filed June 16, 1966

FIG. 1

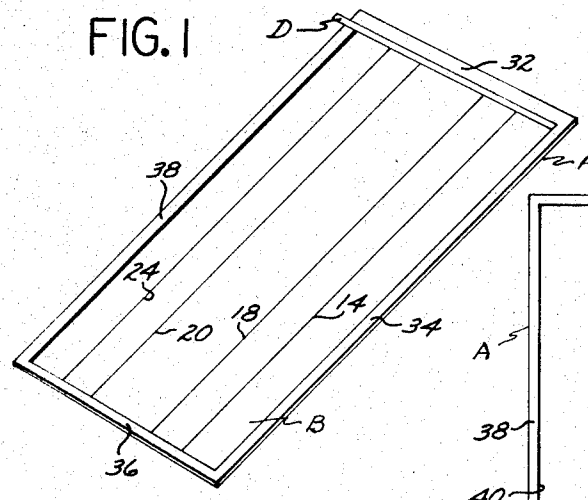


FIG. 2

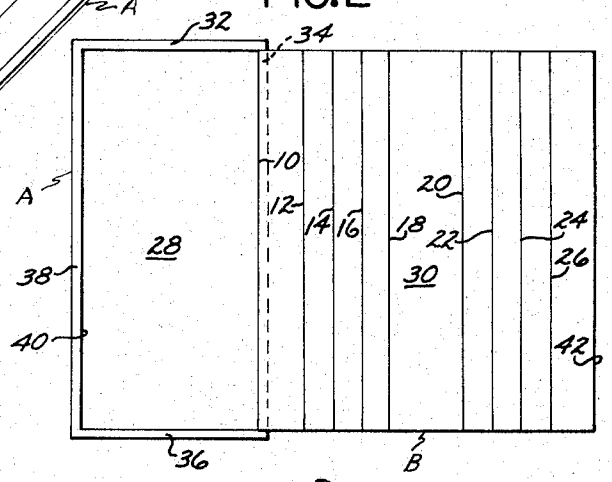


FIG. 3

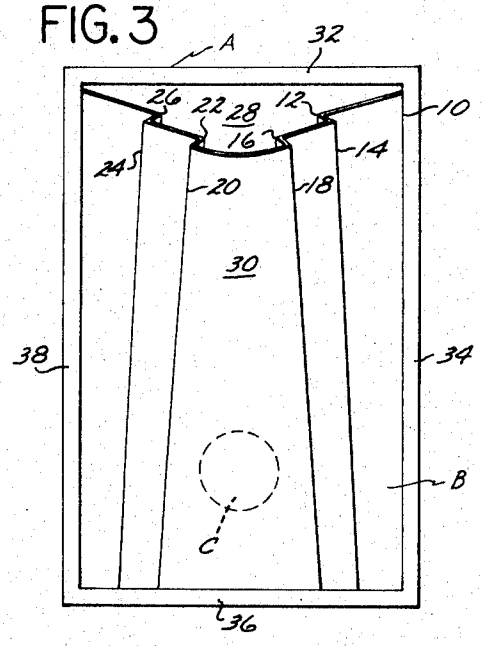


FIG. 4

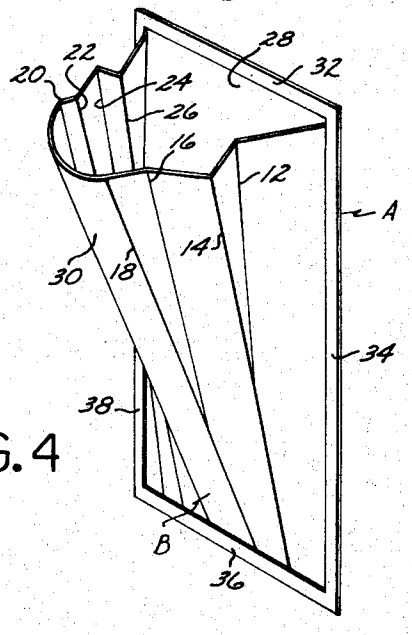
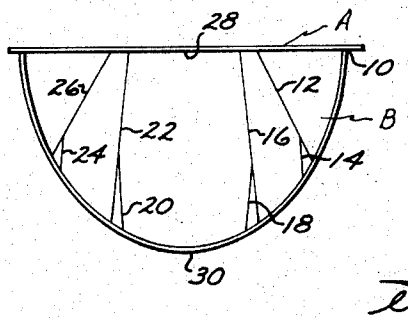


FIG. 5



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COMBINED PACKAGE AND DRINKING CONTAINER

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A two-piece device, which in a first form thereof, provides a confined space in which a material can be stored, out of contact with the ambient atmosphere, awaiting retail thereof, and in a second form, a cup into which a liquid may be poured to dissolve the material contained therein and the mixture thereafter consumed.

Field of the invention

The present invention relates generally to the field of packaging, and more particularly to a device, which when in a first form serves as a package to retain a water-soluble material out of contact with the ambient atmosphere, and when in a second form, provides a cup to which water or other liquid can be added to the material contained in the device to permit the contents thereof to be consumed.

There are many water-soluble materials on the present day market for the temporary relief of pain, as well as concentrates which may be added to such beverages as tea, coffee, chocolate, and the like. These materials are normally sold in bottles or individual packets. However, irrespective of the form of the container in which the material is retailed, it is necessary that a glass, cup or the like, be available in which it may be mixed with a liquid before being consumed.

A major object of the present invention is to provide a combined package and drinking container for soluble materials that will eliminate the necessity of arranging for the availability of a glass or some other container in order to be able to consume the material.

Another object of the invention is to supply a combined package and drinking container of simple structure that is compact and can be fabricated from inexpensive, commercially available materials.

A still further object of the invention is to furnish a combined package and drinking container that may be easily carried in a purse or pocket, and which is particularly adapted for use on trips or in out-of-the way locations where glasses or containers may not always be available.

Brief description of the drawing

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the device in a sealed condition;

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the combination package prior to being formed into a container;

FIGURE 3 is a front elevational view of the device then in a second form wherein it provides a drinking container;

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of the invention when in the second form; and

FIGURE 5 is a top plan view of the device when in a second form.

Description of the preferred embodiments

With continuing reference to the drawing, and FIGURES 1 and 2 thereof in particular for the general arrangement of the present invention, it will be seen to include a generally rectangular backing member A that is formed from a relatively stiff paper, light cardboard, or the like.

A sheet B is provided that does not readily disintegrate when subjected to water. Sheet B is substantially narrower in width than that of the backing member A. Sheet B is preferably formed of a lightweight metal foil, for this material is impervious to atmospheric conditions and moisture whereby any effervescent materials contained in the package would be maintained in a dry, fresh condition when enveloped therein.

As may best be seen in FIGURE 2, a number of longitudinally spaced sets of transverse fold lines **10**, **12**, **14**, **16**, **18** and **20**, **22**, **24** and **26** are formed in sheet B. The fold lines **10–26** are so disposed that a first rectangular panel **28** is defined to the left of fold line **10**, as illustrated in FIGURE 2, and a second rectangular panel **30** is located between the fold lines **16** and **18**.

When the first panel **28** is overlaid on backing member A (FIGURE 2) it cooperates therewith to define marginal areas **32**, **34**, **36** and **38** on the backing member. A left-hand transverse edge **40** and a right-hand transverse edge **42** is provided on sheet B.

First panel **28** is overlaid on backing member A, as shown in FIGURE 2, and adhered thereto by conventional means. That portion of the sheet B to the right of fold line **10** (FIGURE 2) is then laid over the panel **28**, with the edges **40** and **42** being in alignment. Prior to that portion of the sheet B to the right of fold line **10** as may be seen in FIGURE 2, is so affixed, the fold lines **10–26** are utilized to place this portion of the sheet in the configuration shown in FIGURE 1.

Marginal areas **34**, **36**, and **38** are thereafter folded inwardly and adhered to the exterior surface of the sheet B which overlies the panel **28**. The material C to be contained in the invention (shown in phantom line in FIGURE 3) may then be introduced through the open top thereof. After the introduction of the material C into the package, the marginal area **32** is sealed to the exterior surface of the sheet B in the same manner as the marginal areas **34**, **36** and **38**.

A transverse tear strip D is thereafter adhered to the exterior surface of sheet B adjacent the folded-over marginal area **32**. The package is then in condition to store the material C indefinitely in a hermetically sealed condition, out of contact with the ambient atmosphere. The exposed surfaces of the backing member A and sheet B will normally be colored and decorated, as well as carry a trademark thereon identifying the source of the material C.

Operation of the invention is extremely simple. When it is desired to make use of the material C, the tear strip D is drawn transversely across the backing member A to form a slit (not shown) in sheet B, parallel to and adjacent the marginal area **32**. A finger may then be inserted through the slit (not shown) to sufficiently expand the package that it will assume the second form shown in FIGURES 3–5 inclusive where the backing member A and sheet B cooperatively provide a cup. A liquid which will normally be water is then added through the upper open end of the cup to dissolve the material C, with the upper edge portion of the panel **30** thereafter being brought into contact with the user's lips so he can drink the dissolved material. The stiff backing member A permits easy handling of the second form of the invention.

Although the present invention is fully capable of achieving the objects and providing the advantages hereinbefore mentioned, it is to be understood that it is merely illustrative of the presently preferred embodiments thereof and I do not mean to be limited to the details of construction herein shown and described, other than as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A device, which when in a first form, contains and seals a soluble material out of contact with the ambient

atmosphere, and when in a second form, provides a cup in which a liquid may be added to said material contained therein to dissolve the same, which device comprises:

(a) a single, stiff, generally rectangular backing member; and

(b) a rectangular sheet substantially shorter in length but substantially wider than said backing member, in which sheet a plurality of transversely spaced, longitudinally extending fold lines are formed that subdivide said sheet into a first rectangular panel shorter and wider than said backing member, a second panel narrower than said first panel, and a plurality of rectangular, longitudinally extending areas on each side of said first panel, with said first panel being adhered to said backing member to cooperate therewith and define four marginal areas, and with the balance of said second sheet being folded over said first panel to dispose said second panel in substantially the center thereof, which rectangular areas provide pleats on each longitudinal side of said second panel that overlie said first panel, with said marginal areas of said backing member being folded inwardly upon said second sheet to cooperate therewith in defining a confined space in which said material is contained, said second sheet when all but the first panel thereof is slit transversely adjacent the upper folded-over marginal area of said backing member being formable into a cup into which liquid may be added to dissolve said material, and due to the stiffness thereof said backing member imparts dimensional stability longitudinally to said cup so formed.

2. A device as defined in claim 1 wherein said second sheet is formed from a metal foil.

3. A device as defined in claim 1 wherein said second sheet is insoluble in said liquid that is to be added to said material.

4. A device as defined in claim 1 wherein said backing member is sufficiently stiff as to act as a handle when said device is in said second form and said backing member is gripped on opposite sides thereof.

5. A device as defined in claim 1 which further includes:

(c) exteriorly disposed means for forming said slit in said sheet.

6. A device as defined in claim 5 wherein said means comprises a tear strip.

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