UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,477,274

ARTICLE HOLDER AND CONTAINER

Louis Trecek, Madison, Wis., assignor to The Celon Company, Madison, Wis., a corporation of Wisconsin

Application March 29, 1944, Serial No. 528,557

7 Claims. (Cl. 206—45.14)

1. This invention relates to an article holder and container of the type disclosed and claimed in applicant's co-pending application Serial Number 477,545, filed March 1, 1943, now known as Patent 2,415,745, patented April 29, 1947 and assigned to the present assignee.

An important object of the present invention is to provide an attractive merchandising package comprising a container for an article, such as a toothbrush, and the like, wherein a holder for securing the article in the container may be used for holding and supporting the article after it has been removed from the container for daily use; the package for merchandising purposes comprising the holder for supporting the article, and a thin tubular film of regenerated cellulose encasing the article and holder, and maintaining the article in fixed relation with respect to the holder by the shrinkable characteristics of the material from which the tubular encasing member is made.

Another important object of the invention is to provide an attractive package comprising an article and article support encased in a transparent or partially transparent wrappet, the article support being adapted as a holder for the article after the article and holder are removed from the enclosing wrapper, the wrapper being shrunk over the article and holder to hold the article in juxtaposition with respect to the holder by the shrinkable characteristics of the material from which the enclosing wrapper is made.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a new and improved package comprising an article holder having relatively resilient ends, for holding clampingly the article.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a package including a new and novel article holder which is constructed from a single piece of material, such as metal or plastic, certain parts of the piece being bent or struck up so as to provide a support for the article while in package form to prevent damage to the article by the shrinkable wrapper as well as providing a support or holder for the article when in daily use after removal from the package.

Numerous other objects and advantages will be apparent throughout the progress of the following specifications.

The accompanying drawings illustrate a certain selected embodiment of the invention, and the views therein are as follows:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the article holder,

Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of a tube of shrinkable material which comprises the encasing member,

Fig. 3 is a detail longitudinal sectional view of the article holder securing the article, with a tube of cellulosic material encasing the holder and article,

Fig. 4 is an end view of the holder,

Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3,

Fig. 6 is a detail sectional view of the improved package, the encasing tube being in its dehydrated, shrunk form and providing an airtight and germ-proof package, the encasing wrapper also holding the article tightly against the holder,

Fig. 7 is a view of an end of the package shown in Fig. 6 and showing the encasing tubular member shrunk over an end of the holder, and

Fig. 8 is a detail sectional view on the line 8—8 of Fig. 6.

The particular package herein shown for the purpose of illustrating the invention comprises a holder 1 for supporting an article 2, such as a toothbrush, and a tubular encasing member 3 which is made from a thin film of shrinkable material such as regenerated cellulose.

The holder 1, Fig. 1, is preferably made from a single piece of material which can be struck or molded, and which has resilient characteristics such as aluminum or other metal or plastic. The holder has an elongated body portion 4, Fig. 1, with preferably integral upturned ends 5 and 6. The ends 5 and 6 are preferably resilient so that they will "give" or spring out a sufficient distance to permit the article 2 to be inserted therebetween and then spring back to yieldingly clamp the article as shown in Figs. 3 and 6. These end pieces 5 and 6 are provided with protuberances 7 having recesses 8 to receive the ends of the toothbrush 2 and keep the bristles 8 on the brush 2 from contacting the body of the holder to prevent the bristles from being crushed when the casing 3 shrinks.

Parts 10 and 11, integral with the body 1, provide supports for the toothbrush handle 12 intermediate the ends of the article. The supports 10 and 11 are struck out from the body 1 when the body is made of metal, or they may be formed as a part of a molding operation should the body be made of some moldable material, such as plastic. The invention contemplates rigid supports 10 and 11 regardless of how they are formed and whether they are integral or formed as separate parts. The body 1 is also provided with spaced openings 13 to lighten the body and to form win-
The invention is hereby claimed as follows:

1. A new article of manufacture comprising an article holder having an elongated body, resilient end extensions on the body to hold clampingly an article having a crushable material receiving said holder and article and squeezing the article against the supports when the tube has shrunk, and means on the body and spacing the fragile part of the article from a part of the body to prevent damage of the fragile part during squeezing of the tube, and a tube of shrinkable material receiving said holder and article and squeezing the article against the supports when the tube has shrunk without contacting the fragile part and thereby prevent damage to the fragile part by the shrinking of the tube.

2. A new article of manufacture comprising an article holder having an elongated body, resilient end extensions on the body to hold clampingly an article having a fragile part, supports formed integral with the body intermediate the ends thereof to support the article between its ends and to space the fragile part from the body, and a tube of shrinkable material receiving said holder and article and squeezing the article against the supports when the tube has shrunk without contacting the fragile part and thereby prevent damage to the fragile part by the shrinking of the tube.

3. A new article of manufacture comprising an article holder having an elongated body, resilient end extensions on the body to hold clampingly an article having a crushable part, supports formed integral with the body intermediate the ends thereof to support the article between its ends and to space the fragile part from the body, and a tube of shrinkable material receiving said holder and a part of the article excluding the crushable part and squeezing the article against the supports when the tube has shrunk without contacting the crushable part so as to prevent damage to the crushable part by the shrinking of the tube, said tube being longer than the holder to provide extending ends thereon, said extending ends extending over the said end extensions and completely sealing the article when said tube has shrunk.

4. An airtight, germ-proof package for a toothbrush or other like article comprising a toothbrush holder having an elongated body portion, integral upstanding relatively resilient ends at the ends of the body, a toothbrush received removably and clampingly between said resilient ends, integral upstanding supports on the body between the ends and supporting the brush intermediate its ends, and a tube of regenerable cellulose over the holder and brush and sealed over the exterior edges of the ends and extending over the outer surfaces of the ends.

5. An airtight, germ-proof package for a toothbrush or other like article comprising a toothbrush holder having an elongated body portion, integral upstanding relatively resilient ends at the ends of the body, a toothbrush received removably and clampingly between said resilient ends, integral upstanding supports struck up from the body to support the toothbrush intermediate its ends, said struck up portions providing openings in the body to permit the toothbrush to be seen therefrom, said body also being provided with an opening to permit the tube to be hung up as a permanent support when the holder and brush are removed from the package, and a thin film of transparent regenerable cellulose shrunk over the body and brush and extending over the outersurfaces of said end pieces.

6. An airtight, germ-proof package for a toothbrush or other like article comprising a toothbrush holder having an elongated body portion, integral upstanding relatively resilient ends at
the ends of the body, a toothbrush received removably and clampingly between said resilient ends, integral upstanding supports struck up from the body to support the toothbrush intermediate its ends, said struck up portions providing openings in the body to permit the toothbrush to be seen therethrough, said body also being provided with an opening to permit the holder to be hung up as a permanent support when the holder and brush are removed from the package, and a thin film of transparent regenerated cellulose shrunk over the body and brush and extending over the outer surfaces of said end pieces, said film having an opaque portion to receive printing matter thereon.

7. A new article of manufacture comprising an article holder having an elongated body, resilient end extensions on the body to hold clampingly an article having a fragile part, a tube of shrinkable material receiving said holder and article and squeezing the article against the supports when the tube has shrunk, and means on the body and spacing the fragile part of the article from a part of the body to prevent damage of the fragile part during shrinking of the tube, and whereby after the tube of material is removed from the body, the body provides a holder to support a toothbrush.

LOUIS TRECEK.

REFERENCES CITED
The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,107,820</td>
<td>Poyer</td>
<td>Aug. 18, 1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,212,945</td>
<td>Kane et al.</td>
<td>Jan. 16, 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,743,133</td>
<td>Grills et al.</td>
<td>Jan. 14, 1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,908,739</td>
<td>Neuwirth</td>
<td>May 16, 1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,967,112</td>
<td>Bradley</td>
<td>July 17, 1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,038,279</td>
<td>Gierzen</td>
<td>Apr. 21, 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,060,558</td>
<td>Tursky</td>
<td>Nov. 10, 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,174,924</td>
<td>McCleary</td>
<td>Oct. 3, 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,179,880</td>
<td>Dodge</td>
<td>Nov. 14, 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,325,712</td>
<td>Shurmur</td>
<td>Aug. 3, 1943</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>