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L. TRECEK

2,477,274

ARTICLE HOLDER AND CONTAINER

Filed March 29, 1944

Fig. 1

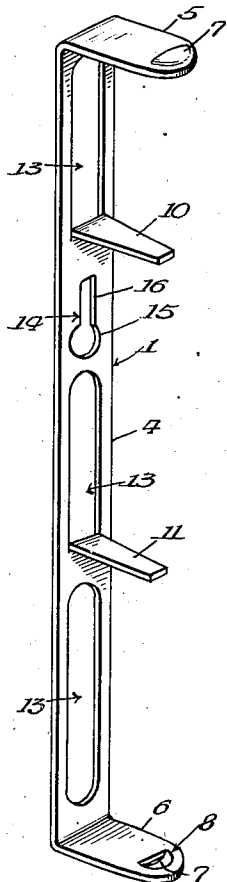


Fig. 3

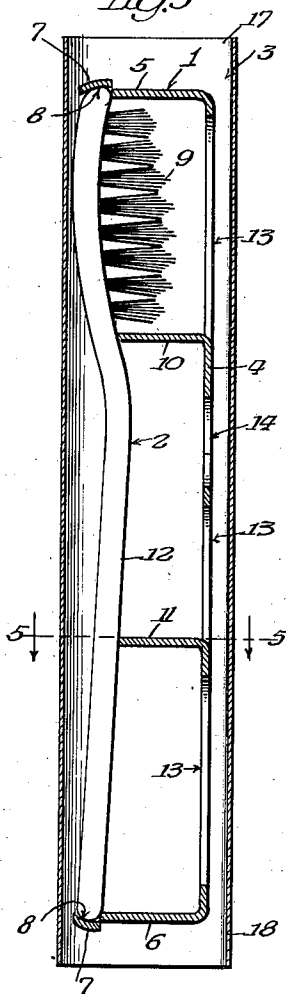


Fig. 6

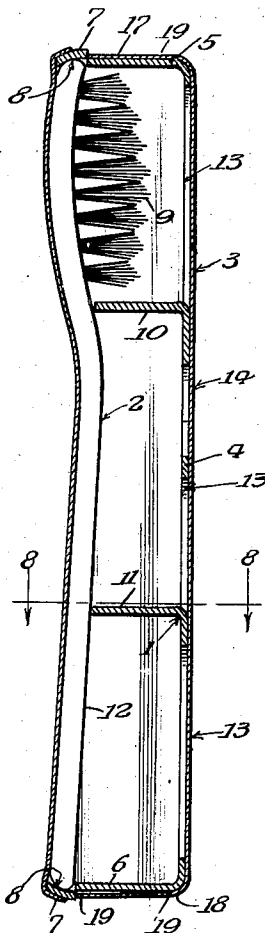


Fig. 2

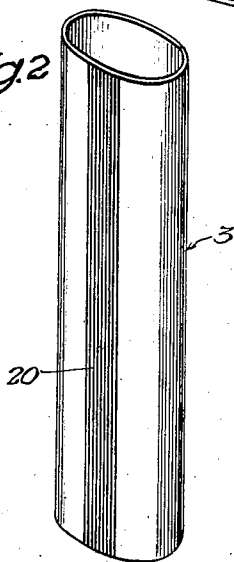


Fig. 4

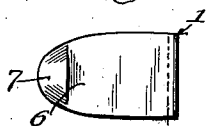


Fig. 7

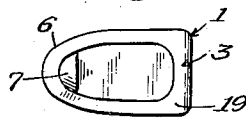


Fig. 5

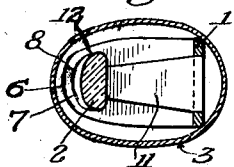
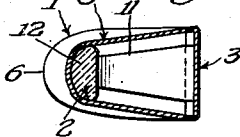


Fig. 8



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ARTICLE HOLDER AND CONTAINER

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

7 Claims. (Cl. 206—45.14)

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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 2,419,745, 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 wrapper, 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 encasing 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

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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 9 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-

dows to permit full view of the article through the package. Some of these openings may be partially the result of a striking-up operation, and they may be enlarged, and may assume any geometrical formation desired.

The body 1 also may be provided with slotted opening 14 which has a circular part 15 terminating into an elongated slot part 16, Fig. 1, so as to permit the body to be hung up whereby the holder when removed from the enclosing casing, is adaptable for use as a permanent holder for the toothbrush. The circular opening 15 permits the body to be slipped over the head of a hanger element, such as a nail or screw, and then slid downwardly until the body of the hanger will be in the slotted part 16, whereupon the body will be supported between the head of the hanger and a backing element, such as a wall.

The casing or enclosing envelope 3 comprises, preferably, a tube of thin transparent material which has shrinkable characteristics such as regenerated cellulose which has been found to be particularly adaptable for the purpose. A tube of hydrated regenerated cellulose in the form of a tube, Fig. 2, is slipped over the holder and article as shown in Fig. 3, the tube being longer than the holder to provide extending ends 17 and 18, which will seal down over the ends of 5 and 6 of the holder. The tube, when dehydrated, will shrink tightly about the holder and article as shown in Fig. 6 and hold the article in locked position against the holder. The shrinking also causes the projecting ends 17 and 18 to seal over the ends 5 and 6 as indicated at 19, Figs. 6 and 7.

It is desirable that the tube of film material 3 be clear and transparent to permit inspection of the article when packaged, however, it is also desirable that the package contain printed matter such as the manufacturer's name, a trademark, or other matter or indicia. While the printing matter may be done on clear cellulose, it has been found desirable to form the tube with an opaque part in the form of a stripe 20 to receive the printed matter or indicia. The opaque part 20 may be on one side only, or it may be on more than one side, also the stripes may be any color desired, or the entire tube 3 may be opaque and of stripes of contrasting colors.

In assembling the package, the toothbrush 2 is inserted in the holder 1 by inserting the toothbrush ends under the extensions 5 and 6 with the handle 12 lying on the supports 10 and 11. The tube 3 is then placed over the holder with the ends 17 and 18 of the tube extending beyond the ends of the holder as shown in Fig. 3. The package is then permitted to dry whereupon the tube will shrink and tighten the parts into an airtight germ-proof package as shown in Fig. 6.

The invention provides an airtight germ-proof package having an extremely ornamental and attractive appearance. The package is neat and compact, and permits the contained article to be readily viewed from the outside. The package, too, may be handled without in any way contaminating the article. The holder prevents the brush bristles from becoming crushed by the enclosing tube when shrunk, as well as providing a permanent hanger or support for the brush during daily use.

Changes may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit of the invention, or sacrificing any of its advantages, and the right is hereby reserved to make all such changes as fairly fall within the scope of the following claims.

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 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.

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 regenerated 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 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 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

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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

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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.

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