Jan. 2, 1951 J. A. BAKER ET AL 2,536,834

HAM PACKAGING BAG

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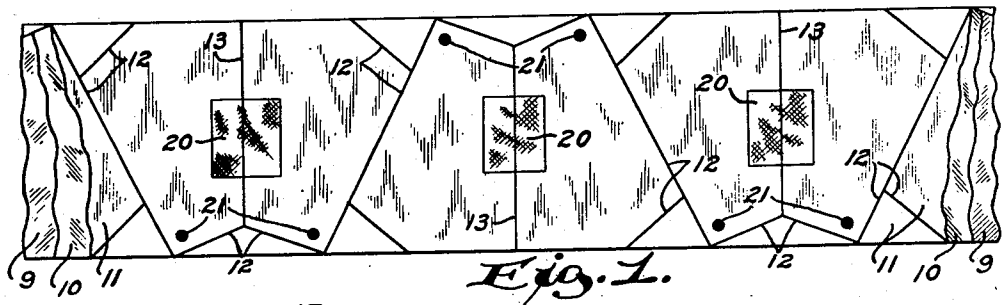


Fig. 1.

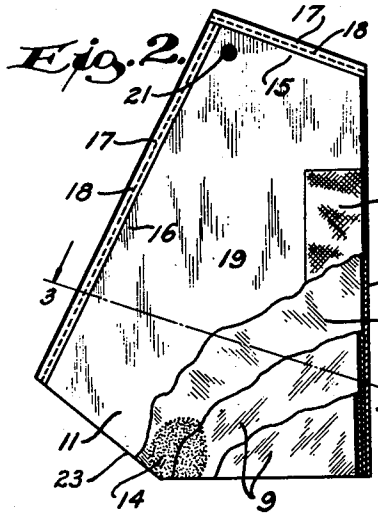


Fig. 2.

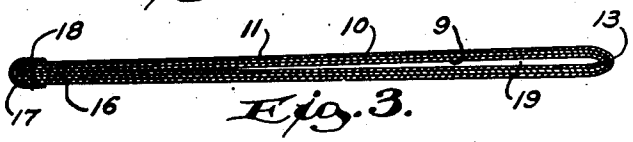


Fig. 3.

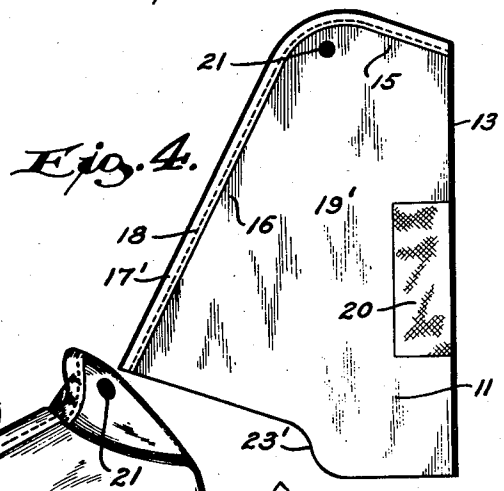


Fig. 4.

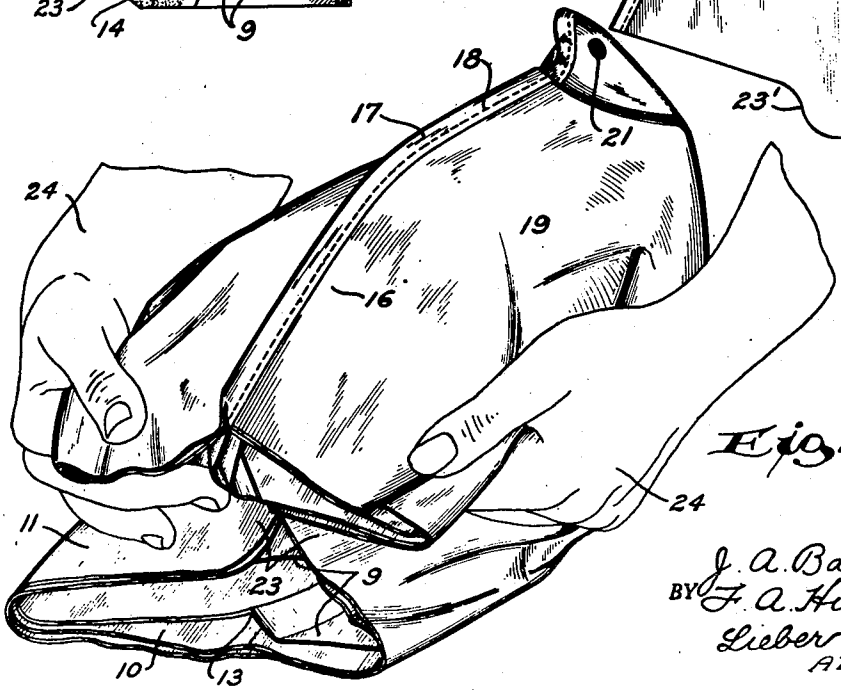


Fig. 5.

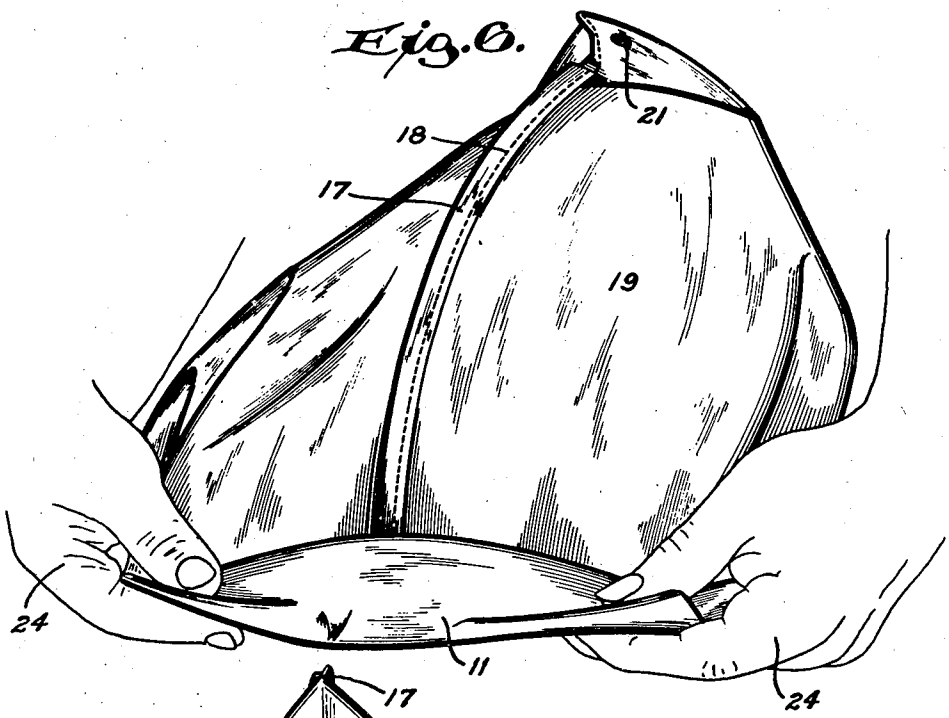
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Fig. 6.



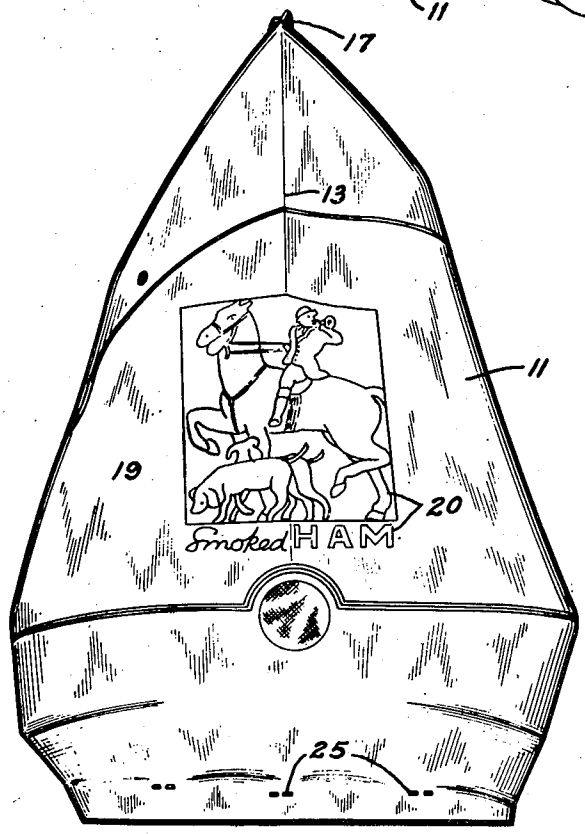


Fig. 7.

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Patented Jan. 2, 1951 2,536,834

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,536,834

HAM PACKAGING BAG

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Application November 3, 1947, Serial No. 783,812

3 Claims. (Cl. 229—55)

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Our invention relates generally to improvements in the art of wrapping or packing relatively irregular shaped articles, and relates more specifically to improvements in packages for hams or the like, and to improved bag-like receptacles specially formed for concealing the hams therein.

Heretofore, it has been customary to pack hams of approximately frustro-conical shape in rectangular wrappers embodying one or more layers of suitable sheet material such as paper, of sufficient size to permit the wrappers to be folded about the articles and to be glued, tied or otherwise fastened so as to maintain the wrapper sheets in place. Because of the relatively irregular shapes and diverse sizes of the hams, this prior mode of packaging was not only tedious and slow but it also resulted in excessive use and waste of wrapper stock and in the final production of enclosures which did not adequately protect the hams. Then too, the packages produced by the prior methods were not attractive since it was impossible to neatly position advertising and identifying indicia applied directly to the outer wrapper sheets, with respect to the enclosed hams, and it was therefore necessary to apply pasters or auxiliary wrappers bearing such indicia in addition to the main wrapper sheets. The previous ham wrapping methods were therefore cumbersome, slow, costly, and inefficient, and the resultant packages did not possess the desirable sales appeal.

It is therefore an important object of our present invention to provide an improved ham package or the like, and an improved bag-like receptacle for hams, wherein and whereby all of the above objections and difficulties are eliminated.

Another important object of this invention is to provide an improved wrapper for hams and similar articles, which may be readily produced at moderate cost, and quickly applied to hams of diverse sizes and shapes, to produce effective enclosures and highly attractive packages.

A further important object of the present invention is to provide an improved mode of facilitating the packaging of hams or the like, in substantially sealed containers and with minimum effort and waste of wrapper stock.

Still another important object of our invention is to provide a ham packaging system the successive steps of which may be carried on in rapid succession by a novice, to produce successive packages in which the articles are not only

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protectively enclosed, but which may be readily hung for display purposes.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a ham wrapper which may be attractively printed or decorated, and applied to hams of diverse sizes and shapes in a manner whereby the decorations will be properly centered or disposed relative to the concealed commodity.

These and other specific objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description.

A clear conception of the construction of a typical ham package embodying our invention, and of the several steps involved in applying the improved wrappers during production of these packages, may be had by referring to the drawings accompanying and forming a part of this specification wherein like reference characters designate the same or similar parts in the various views.

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a fragment of three ply wrapper stock, showing the mode of producing a succession of the improved wrappers from continuous bands or ribbons of stock and with minimum waste;

Fig. 2 is a somewhat enlarged plan view of one of the improved bag-like wrappers, with portions broken away so as to reveal internal structure;

Fig. 3 is a further enlarged transverse section through the assembled wrapper of Fig. 2, taken along the line 3—3;

Fig. 4 is a plan view similar to that of Fig. 2, but showing a slightly modified wrapper embodying features of our invention;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged perspective view depicting the first step involved in sealing one of the wrappers after a ham has been introduced therein;

Fig. 6 is a similarly enlarged perspective view illustrating the second sealing step involved in the application of the improved wrapper to a ham; and

Fig. 7 is a likewise enlarged perspective view of one of the final improved ham packages.

While the invention has been shown and described herein as being advantageously applicable for the specific purpose of packing smoked hams which have not been de-boned, it is not our desire or intention to unnecessarily restrict the scope or the utility of the improved features, by virtue of this limited disclosure.

Referring to the drawings, the improved wrapper blanks employed in our present package, are preferably formed by superimposing three ribbons or continuous bands of suitable

wrapper stock upon each other, and by thereafter severing the composite stock ribbons into successive three-ply wrappers of substantially trapezoidal shape. As shown in Fig. 1, an inner band of grease resistant stock 9; an intermediate band of heavier moisture absorbent stock 10 such as light cardboard; and an outer band of tenacious and durable attractively colored and printed stock 11; may be delivered in superimposed relationship from suitable supply rolls, and the composite ribbon may be severed along lines 12 and lightly scored along central lines 13 so as to produce successive identical wrapper blanks. The superimposed sheets of stock 9, 10, 11 of each of these three-ply blanks may also be spot glued or otherwise united at local areas 14 so as to maintain the blanks initially assembled for handling. After the blanks have been thus initially cut, scored and united, they may be folded along the central score lines, and two edge portions 15, 16 of each blank may be hingedly united as by the application of hinge strips 17 attached thereto by stitching 18 or otherwise, to produce completed substantially triangular or trapezoidal three-ply wrappers 19 such as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3.

The outer stock sheets 11 of the successive wrappers may be provided with printed matter 20 preferably but not necessarily disposed symmetrical with respect to the central fold lines 13 thereof, either before or after the stock ribbon is cut into successive blanks; and each sheet is also preferably provided at the corner thereof near the intersection of its edge portions 15, 16, with hanger spots 21, as depicted in Figs. 1 and 2. The final bag-like wrappers 19 have relatively inclined opposite sides diverging or spreading away from the sealed bottom portions 15 thereof, and the wide mouth or open end of each bag has outwardly projecting angular opposite side flaps 23 formed by the removal of the corners of bases of the trapezoidal blanks and at the apices of which the adhesive retaining areas 14 are ultimately disposed as indicated in Fig. 2. The three-ply bag wrappers 19 thus formed are flexible and freely distendable to provide an extensive mouth or commodity supply and removal opening, and the local attachment areas 14 obviously facilitate spreading of the flaps 23 in order to open the bag.

While the improved wrapper 19 of Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive has its bottom and side edge portions 15, 16 hingedly united by means of two separate hinge strips 17, and is provided with sharp cornered flaps 23, such specific construction is not essential. The bag-like wrapper 19' shown in Fig. 4 is substantially like that of Figs. 2 and 3, except that the bottom and side portions 15, 16 thereof are provided with a single continuous hinge strip 17' secured to these edges by stitching 18 or otherwise to produce a rounded corner portion adjacent to the hanger spots 21. This modification may facilitate formation of the hinge connections at the bottom and one side of the bag, but it is to be understood that these hinges may be otherwise produced. The modified wrapper 19' is also provided with closure flaps 23' for effecting final tight closing and sealing of the bags, and in both cases, the wrappers 19, 19' may be furnished in several sizes each of which is adapted to accommodate a definite range of ham sizes.

After the improved bag-like wrappers have been produced and completed as above described, they may be compactly stacked for shipment or storage, and the successive trapezoidal bags may be quickly and conveniently applied to individual approximately frustro-conical hams in the following manner. Each wrapper 19 may be initially distended to spread the mouth opening thereof into approximately circular form, whereupon the ham may be inserted within the receptacle until the smaller end or shank of the article contacts the bag bottom and the medial portions of the inner wrapper sheet 9 rather snugly embrace the wider upper portions of the ham. The packer should then position the wrapper 19 with the ham initially inserted therein with the bag mouth directed away from his or her body, and should apply both hands 24 as illustrated in Fig. 5, to press the flaps 23 into firm contact with the larger end of the tapered article while the ham shank is still in snug engagement with the bottom of the receptacle. At this stage of the packing procedure, the ham will be snugly embraced on all sides and at both ends, by the grease resistant inner sheet 9, and the hinge strip 17 will extend longitudinally along the top of the partially closed package.

The next step of the packing procedure, is to fold the excess stock at the mouth of the wrapper 19, over upon itself and over the outer extremity of the hinge strip 17 as depicted in Fig. 6, preferably making a double fold in order to insure tight sealing. When the excess end stock of the wrapper has been thus folded, the folds may be permanently united in any suitable manner as by sewing or by applying a row of staples 25 shown in Fig. 7. The final packages thus produced are tightly sealed and snugly confine the hams with minimum play and confined air, and these packages may be readily suspended from hooks by merely causing the hook points to penetrate the corner spots 21 near reenforced corner portions of the envelopes. It is to be noted, that by folding the flaps 23 and the excess stock of each wrapper 19, in the manner described, the external indicia such as printed matter 20 applied directly to the outer sheet 11, will always be accurately centralized and properly disposed with respect to the concealed article, thereby providing a final ham package which is highly attractive and aesthetic in appearance as indicated by Fig. 7.

From the foregoing detailed description it should be apparent that our present invention in fact provides an improved package for articles such as tapered hams, and improved procedure for producing and applying wrappers to such articles, which besides resulting in the production of neat and effectively sealed packages, also facilitates the packing operation and avoids waste of wrapper stock. The successive wrapper blanks may be rapidly produced from constantly advancing stock ribbons or bands in the manner depicted in Fig. 1, and these stock ribbons need only be varied in width in order to effect production of wrappers 19 of diverse sizes. The number of plies and the characteristics of the material utilized in the individual wrappers may be varied to suit diverse requirements, and the coloring and printing of the outer sheets 11 may be likewise varied. By applying such indicia directly to the outer wrapper sheets 11, the use of special tabs or labels is eliminated, and the improved mode of folding and of assembling the wrappers 19 insures proper disposition of the indicia upon the final packages.

It is also noteworthy that the approximately trapezoidal shape of the blanks results in the pro-

duction of a tapered bag which is adapted to snugly confine the frustro-conical objects, and the provision of the flaps 23 adjacent to the mouth or open end of each bag-like wrapper enables the packer to conveniently fold and fasten the excess wrapper stock so as to produce tight seals. This sealing is enhanced by folding the outer end of the hinge strip 17 inwardly in the manner shown and described; and while the use of separate hinge strips 17 somewhat reenforces and strengthens the wrappers, such use is not essential. These hinge strips 17, 17' may either be sectional as in Fig. 2 or continuous as in Fig. 4, and by forming the outer sheet 11 of tenacious material a strong but flexible bag results which is capable of readily conforming itself to irregularities of the hams. The present improvements have gone into highly successful and satisfactory use, and the improved wrappers may be produced in quantity at moderate cost, and may be quickly applied to the successive articles by a novice to provide final packages in which the commodity is well protected and which possess great sales appeal.

It should be understood that it is not desired to limit the present invention to the precise mode of constructing the wrappers and of producing the final packages, herein shown and described, for various modifications within the scope of the appended claims may occur to persons skilled in the art; and it is also contemplated that specific descriptive terms used herein be given the broadest possible interpretation consistent with the disclosure.

We claim:

1. A tapered ham packing bag comprising, a three-ply approximately trapezoidal wrapper blank having the corners of the base of the trapezoid removed and being formed of an inner ply of grease-proof stock and an intermediate ply of moisture absorbent stock and an outer ply of tenacious stock superimposed upon each other and folded medially to produce a smaller approximately trapezoidal assemblage having registering edges remote from the fold line, and a continuous more tenacious hinge strip secured to the shortest and longest of said registering edges to form a flat bag having a narrow closed bottom and opposite closed sides diverging away from said bottom toward a wider access opening remote from said bottom, the walls of the bag at said opening having thereon integral medial closure flaps formed by the removed trapezoid corners and projecting outwardly beyond the adjacent ends of said sides.

2. A tapered ham packing bag comprising, a three-ply approximately trapezoidal wrapper

blank having the opposite ends of the base of the trapezoid removed and being formed of an inner ply of grease-proof stock and an intermediate ply of moisture absorbent stock and an outer ply of relatively tenacious stock superimposed upon each other and folded medially of the base to produce a smaller approximately trapezoidal assemblage having registering edges remote from the fold line and other transverse registering edges connecting said remote edges with the fold line, and a tough hinge strip secured to said remote registering edges and to the shorter of said transverse registering edges to form a flat bag having a narrow closed bottom and opposite closed sides diverging away from said bottom toward a wider access opening remote from the bottom, the walls of the bag at said opening having thereon integral medial closure flaps formed by the removal of said opposite ends of the base of the trapezoidal blank and extending outwardly beyond the adjacent ends of said bag sides.

3. A tapered ham packing bag comprising, a three-play approximately trapezoidal wrapper blank having the acute angled corners of the trapezoid base removed and being formed of an inner ply of grease-proof stock and an intermediate ply of moisture absorbent stock and an outer ply of relatively tenacious stock superimposed upon each other, said blank being folded transversely of said base to produce a smaller approximately trapezoidal assemblage having registering edges remote from the fold line and other short and longer registering edges connecting said remote edges with the fold line, and a hinge strip secured to said remote and short registering edges to form a flat bag having a narrow closed bottom and longer opposite closed sides diverging away from said bottom and terminating at a relatively wide access opening remote from the bottom, the walls of the bag at said opening having thereon medial closure flaps formed by the removal of said corners of the base of the trapezoidal blank and extending outwardly beyond the adjacent ends of said bag sides.

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