This invention relates to package constructions and particularly to a package for an article such as a game board in which the article is presented to the viewer as an integral part of the package and is in full view.

This application is a continuation-in-part of my co-pending application Serial No. 7,716, filed February 9, 1960, now Patent No. 3,036,705.

In packaging an article that is colorful and interesting in shape it is desirable to present the article to best advantage by displaying its attractive and distinctive features. An example of such an article is a dart board game, in which the dart board itself is a large disc with colorful rings and other shapes on its face. The darts are also colorful and have distinctive shapes that are associated with the game by all who know it.

A package for such an article should desirably display the article itself to the view of a purchaser thereof and, at the same time, be serviceable for protecting the article and for handling it conveniently.

Another desirable feature of such a package is that it be self-contained and complete so that it may be carried by a purchaser without wrapping or tying. The surfaces of the package may lend themselves to colorful printing for identification of the article and of its manufacturer, and for instructions or the like. Also, the packaging should be sturdy and yet economical in manufacture, and be convenient to handle in assembling the package and article.

In my prior application Serial No. 7,716 I disclosed and claimed a display package comprising in combination a paper board member having a front section and a rear section, said front section being provided with a plurality of openings therethrough corresponding in size and shape to a dart board and darts, a preformed transparent member placed between the front and rear sections and having projections thereon which extend through said openings, and a dart board and darts placed within said transparent member and in between said member and said rear section of the paper board member.

It is thus seen that in my prior package the dart board and darts were always in view and were protected by the transparent member having the preformed receptacles therein.

The game board package of the instant invention provides a distinct improvement over my previous game board package.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide an improved package for the dart game.

It is another object of this invention to provide an improved package construction for displaying the features of an article attractively.

It is a further object of this invention to provide an improved package construction wherein the displayed articles are completely protected from dust and dirt.

It is a further object of this invention to provide an improved package construction for displaying articles of different shapes that is a complete package in itself, and does not require further wrapping or tying.

These and other objects are accomplished by providing a package comprising a paper board member having a front section and a rear section, said front section having a plurality of openings therethrough corresponding in size and shape to a dart board and a plurality of darts, a dart board and a plurality of darts being positioned within the respective openings, said darts having a transparent covering thereover which conforms in size and shape to said darts, said transparent covering holding said darts within said package, said dart board being completely enveloped by a taut, transparent shrink film, and means for securing said dart board to said package.

Other objects and many of the attendant advantages of this invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a package embodying this invention;

FIG. 2 is a rear perspective view of the package of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a rear elevational view of the cardboard member forming the foundation of the package of this invention;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is an exploded perspective view of the elements of the package of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line 6—6 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 7 is a front elevational view of a modification of the dart receptacle of this invention; and

FIG. 8 is a sectional view taken along the line 8—8 of FIG. 7.

Referring now in greater detail to the various figures of the drawings wherein similar reference characters refer to similar parts, an improved game board package embodying the present invention is generally shown at 10 in FIG. 1.

As seen in FIG. 5, package 10 basically comprises a stiff cardboard member 12, an article to be packaged, such as dart board 14, a flexible transparent sheet 16, and a plurality of darts 18.

Member 12 may be formed of corrugated cardboard, and it includes two leaf sections 20 and a center section 22. The leaf sections 20 are half the width of center section 22 and are foldable along scored lines 24 to meet in back of the center section (FIG. 2).

The center section has a central opening 26 which is the same shape as, and slightly larger than, the dart board 14. A plurality of small elongated openings 28 having bulbous ends corresponding generally to the outline shape of the darts 18 is also provided in center section 22.

A C-shaped cut 30 (FIG. 1) forms a D-shaped flap 32 near the top central portion of section 22. D-shaped flap 32 is free to pivot around score line 34. Notches 35, cut in the side edges of leaf sections 20 near the top thereof, meet when the leaf sections are folded back to form a D-shaped opening that corresponds in shape and location to the flap 32.

It is thus seen that the cardboard member of this invention can be identical to that used in my previous invention embodied in application Serial No. 7,716. Therefore, this member is interchangeable with either complete package.

Dart board 14 is completely enveloped in a sealed transparent plastic film 36. It should be noted that the film also envelopes V-shaped suspension bail 38 hinged at the top of board 16. This film is of the type generally known in the art as a shrink film. This shrink film
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The package of claim 1 wherein the transparent covering over said darts is interposed between the front and rear sections, with the portions covering said darts protruding through said front section openings.

3. The package of claim 2 wherein said transparent covering comprises a resilient plastic film.

4. The package of claim 2 wherein said transparent covering comprises a pre-molded plastic receptacle.

5. The package of claim 4 wherein said receptacle has bulbous portions with M-shaped cross-sections for holding the feathered portions of said darts, thereby preventing rotation of said darts.

6. The package of claim 1 wherein the means for securing said dart board to said package comprises an adhesive.
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7. The package of claim 6 wherein a plurality of staples passing through said rear section and into said dart board additionally secured said dart board to said package.

8. The package of claim 1 wherein said front section has a flap centrally cut therein near the upper edge thereof, and said rear section has an opening therein to receive said flap when said rear section is folded in covering position.

9. The package of claim 8 wherein said rear section includes a plurality of leaves, said leaves having notches in the edges thereof forming said opening to receive said flap.

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