

April 24, 1951

S. R. HOWARD
PACKAGE

2,549,970

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

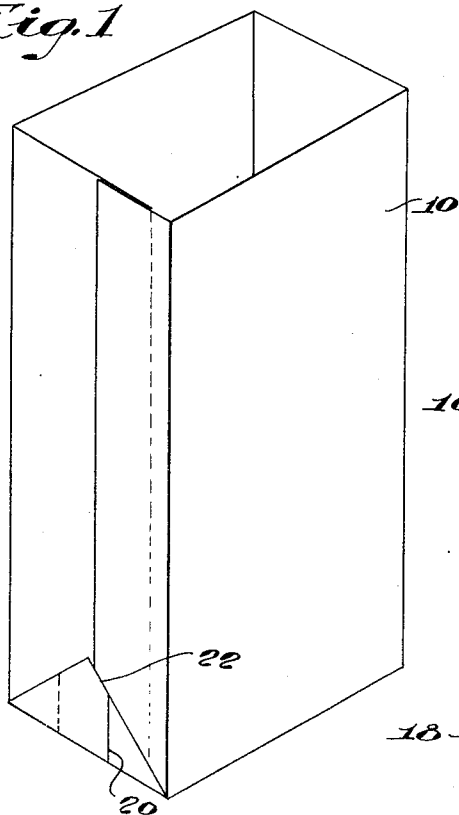


Fig. 2

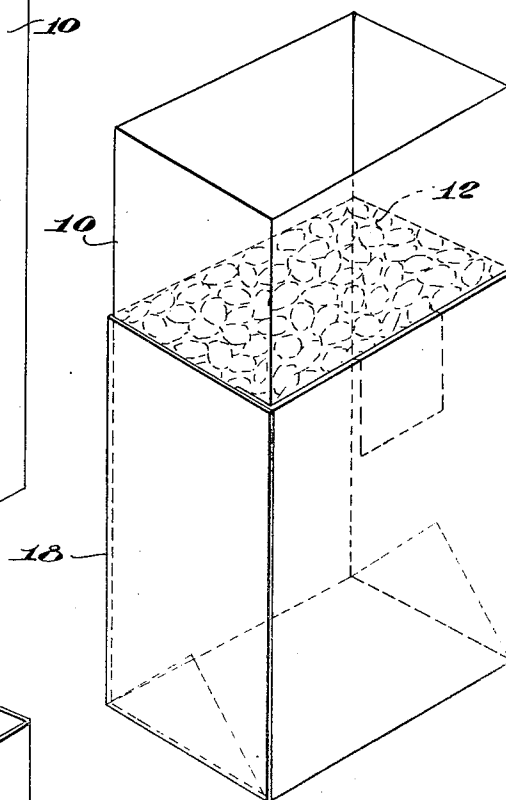
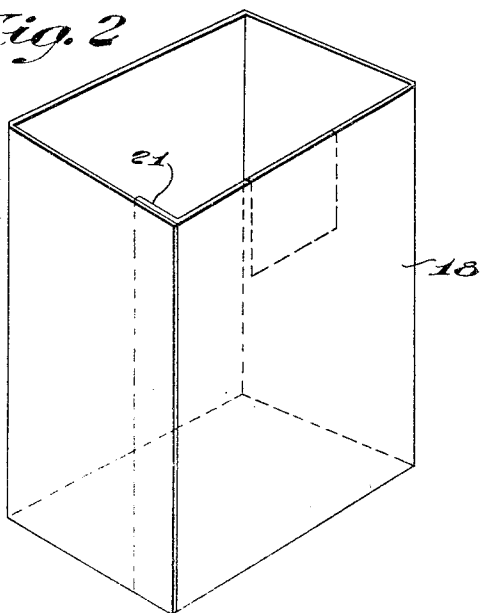


Fig. 3

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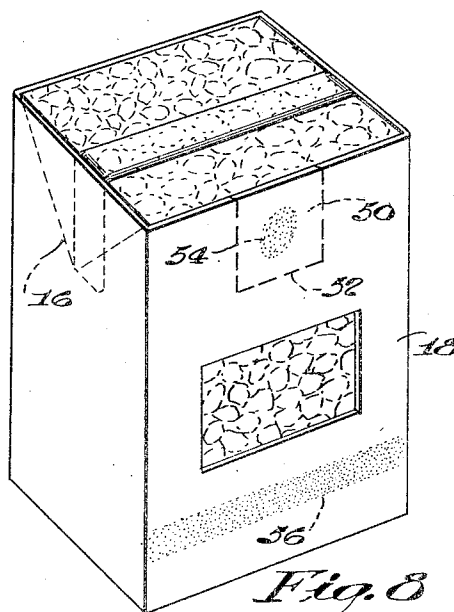
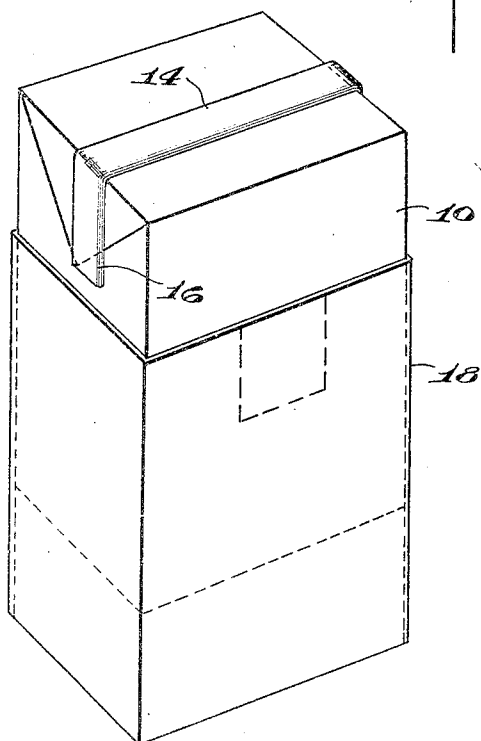
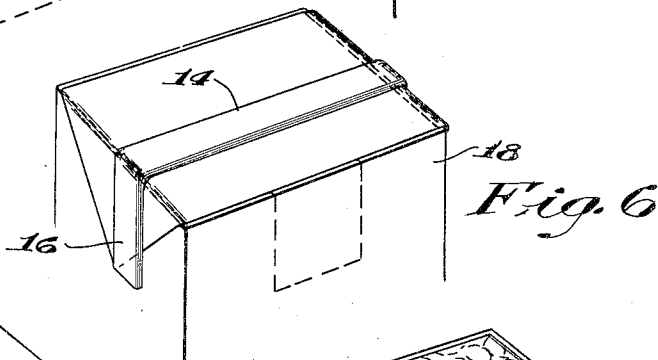
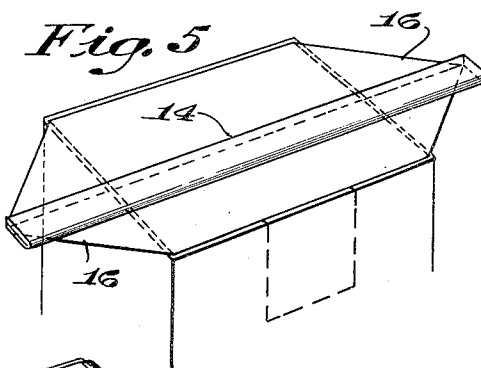
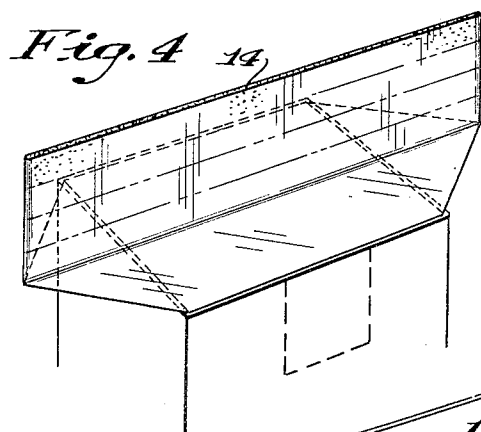
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PACKAGE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 229-14)

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This invention relates to a novel package and more particularly to a novel package for containing commodities such as breakfast cereals.

In general, the invention has for an object to provide a novel construction of package which may be economically manufactured and in which the cost of the container itself is reduced to a minimum while at the same time providing a stable and rigid enclosure for the commodity being packaged and one wherein the top and bottom closures are protected against being torn open during shipment to thereby enable the package to successfully withstand commercial shipment and handling.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a novel package of the character specified having the advantageous features above mentioned and which in addition lends itself most advantageously to the display of the commodity being packaged.

With these general objects in view, and such others as may hereinafter appear, the invention consists in the novel package and in the various structures, arrangements and combinations of parts hereinafter described and particularly defined in the claim at the end of this specification.

In the drawings illustrating different embodiments of the invention, Fig. 1 is a perspective of the liner component of the present package prior to being folded and sealed; Fig. 2 is a perspective of the outer carton board sleeve which is used in producing the present package; Fig. 3 is a perspective illustrating the assembled liner and outer sleeve of the completed package, showing the liner in its filled condition; Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are details in perspective illustrating successive positions into which the top of the liner is folded in top closing the same; Fig. 7 is a perspective of the package with the filled and closed liner moved into the position which it assumes prior to the tucking in of the end flaps of the top closure between the body of the outer sleeve and the liner; and Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the complete package.

The present invention seeks to provide a novel package which is particularly useful as an individual cereal package adapted to be used in hotels, restaurants, dining cars, and other places, to be opened at the time that the cereal is served and eaten. Such individual packages of cereal are usually shipped in a shipping container in lots of 6, 12, or multiples thereof. It is also desirable that the individual cereal or other package be substantially moisture-proof to the end that the cereal or other commodity may retain its crisp-

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ness and freshness, and as heretofore constructed the containers for individual cereal packages have been lined with waxed or moisture-resisting paper and the outer carton provided with top and bottom flaps which were sealed in overlapping relation in the usual manner.

The amount of cereal or other commodity constituting an individual serving is so small that experience has shown that the cost of the material constituting the carton and the liner comprises the major portion of the total cost of the individual cereal package. In addition, the usual type of lined carton heretofore used with its tightly glued overlapping flaps forming the top and bottom closures of the carton has been found to be difficult to open when the cereal is being served, and as a result the usual practice has been to use a knife to cut transversely through the body of the carton, then spreading the same to open it permitting the cereal to spill into the bowl in which it is to be served. A type of carton that enabled the relative cost of the carton and liner as compared with the total cost of the package to be materially reduced, and in which the top of the carton could be readily opened and the cereal or other material poured therefrom are some of the advantageous objects which the present invention seeks to attain.

Referring now to the drawings, the present complete package embodies an inner bag of relatively thin bag-forming material such as waterproof paper, cellophane and the like, as distinguished from the heavier and more costly carton board forming materials and also an outer sleeve surrounding said bag and imparting to the combined structure sufficient stability and strength to enable it to be handled, shipped and packaged according to the practices now employed with existing types of individual cereal packages. Provision is preferably made for forming both the top and bottom closures of the inner bag with an elongated pull out type of closure, which lends itself to most efficient sealing and the triangular ends of the closures are extended between the inner bag and the outer sleeve, to provide a substantially smooth top and bottom surface for the package, thereby enhancing the appearance, visibility of the commodity through the same and offering minimum liability of the top and bottom closures being torn open during shipment and handling.

In its preferred forms, the package comprises a bag 10 rectangular in section and containing a commodity 12 and having its top closed by an elongated closure 14 extending transversely across

the top of the bag and the triangular ends 16 of which are folded down in contact with the two opposed surfaces and the body of the bag. An outer sleeve 18 of carton board material embraces the body portion of the bag and serves to conceal and hold the downwardly folded triangular end portion 16 of the top closure thereof. In accordance with the preferred method of manufacture, the inner bag 10 may be formed upon a mandrel, and the bottom thereof closed and sealed to constitute a closed bottom of the bag in any usual or preferred manner. Preferably the bottom of the bag may be closed by a transversely extended folded portion 20 terminating in triangular tabs 22 which are preferably folded flat against the opposite sides of the body of the bag as it is thus being formed on the mandrel, and in this condition the bag is then provided with its outer sleeve 18 of board forming material embracing and concealing the folded triangular tabs 22 of the bottom closure. In practice the sleeve 18 may also be wrapped around the bag and mandrel and sealed at the side seam 21, and the disposition of the sleeve with respect to the bag may preferably be as illustrated in Fig. 3, wherein the upper portion of the bag which ultimately is to form the top closure for the bag projects above the upper edges of the sleeve, the bottom edges of the sleeve, and the bottom of the bag are preferably arranged to terminate in the same plane, and in this condition the assembly is removed from the mandrel and the combined sleeve and bag is ready for the filling operation which may be carried out in any suitable manner and with any suitable mechanism, preferably any of the weighing or filling machines now upon the market.

In this respect the bag and sleeve may be handled exactly as the ordinary lined carton is handled in any of the automatic packaging machines now upon the market. After the bag has been filled in the manner described, the top of the bag may be closed, preferably by the elongated closure 14 forming the triangular flaps 16 connecting the bottom of the closure and the top of the bag, after which the upstanding closure is folded over upon itself and down into the position shown in Fig. 5. In the completed package it is desirable that the triangular end tabs 16, and the portions of the folded top closure which project beyond the sides of the bag, be folded downwardly and into contact with the opposite sides of the outer sleeve as shown in Fig. 6. This folding operation may be effected by any usual or preferred folding instrumentalities embodied in the top closure machines now upon the market, and after the triangular tabs 16, have been thus folded down upon the outer sides of the sleeve, provision is then made for elevating the bag with relation to the sleeve into the position shown in Fig. 7 whereupon the projecting triangular tabs and folded ends of the closure may be pressed against the side of the bag so that upon subsequent depression of the bag these tabs and ends are introduced between the sleeve and the side of the bag to thus effectively conceal the same and to hold the ends of the closure in a protected position.

In order to facilitate the opening of the package, the outer sleeve is preferably provided with a tearing tab indicated generally at 50, formed by weakened lines 52 in the sleeve 18 at the upper end of one of the panels thereof. The tearing tab may be detached from the body of the panel by outboard pressure exerted thereon thus break-

ing the adhesive bond which may be provided as shown at 54 in Fig. 8 to hold the inner bag within the outer sleeve until such times as it is desired to open the same. After the bond has been broken the inner bag may be conveniently lifted into a position to expose the top closure and the latter broken to permit the contents thereof to be conveniently poured therefrom.

Instead of the adhesive bond 54, the inner bag may be detachably secured to the outer sleeve by the provision of a narrow band of adhesive 56, as shown in Fig. 8, arranged to be disposed near the bottom portion of the bag and between one wall thereof and its adjacent panel of the outer sleeve. This bond may be conveniently broken when it is desired to open the bag by upward pressure exerted upon the bottom of the bag.

From the description thus far, it will be observed that the present construction of package, particularly in its preferred form provides protection for the triangular end tabs 16, 22 of the top and bottom closures respectively which are tucked in between the body of the bag and the outer sleeve, thus protecting these triangular end tabs from being torn during handling and shipping of the package and imparting to the top and bottom of the bag a substantially smooth appearance, the major portion of the top and bottom comprising a single layer of the bag-forming material. With this construction, when the bag is formed of transparent sheet material, such as cellophane, or the like, the contents of the package are clearly visible for display purposes through the top and bottom of the bag, while the more rigid structure of the outer sleeve serves to afford ample protection for the package during handling and shipment.

While it is preferred to form the top closure of the inner bag as an elongated pulled out closure, other forms of top closures may be employed which provide portions thereof of sufficient length to be capable of being tucked down between the outer sleeve and the inner bag.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been herein illustrated and described, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied in other forms within the scope of the following claim.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

A package comprising a sleeve rectangular in shape and of a stiff material forming a flapless jacket open at its top and its bottom, a container of transparent flexible material of a height substantially equal to the length of said jacket, said container being sealed at one end to provide a bottom closure located at the open bottom end of the jacket and lying entirely within the bounds of the jacket, said container having a folded top closure located at the open top end of the jacket and lying entirely within the bounds of the same, said last-named closure comprising a transverse fold terminating in tabs extending laterally of and for a substantial distance beyond two opposite sides of the container, said tabs being folded down against said opposite sides of the container so that each tab lies between one of two opposed walls of the jacket and one of said sides of the container, said container being loosely fitted within said jacket and free from attachment to the walls thereof with the exception of a small bonding area of adhesive between the jacket and the container, said adhesive providing a temporary frangible anchorage to hold the container and its tabs within the jacket with the tabs in

folded down closure-forming relation to the container and to prevent accidental shifting of the container in either direction longitudinally of the open-ended jacket during handling or shipment, said adhesive anchorage being readily breakable by manual pressure applied to the bottom of the container through the open bottom end of the jacket, so that the container can be slid upwardly in the jacket to a position to expose the tabs above the upper open end of the jacket to thus permit the top closure to be readily opened.

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