April 11, 1961 W. ANDREN 2,979,194

DISPENSER PACKAGE

Filed May 25, 1959 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

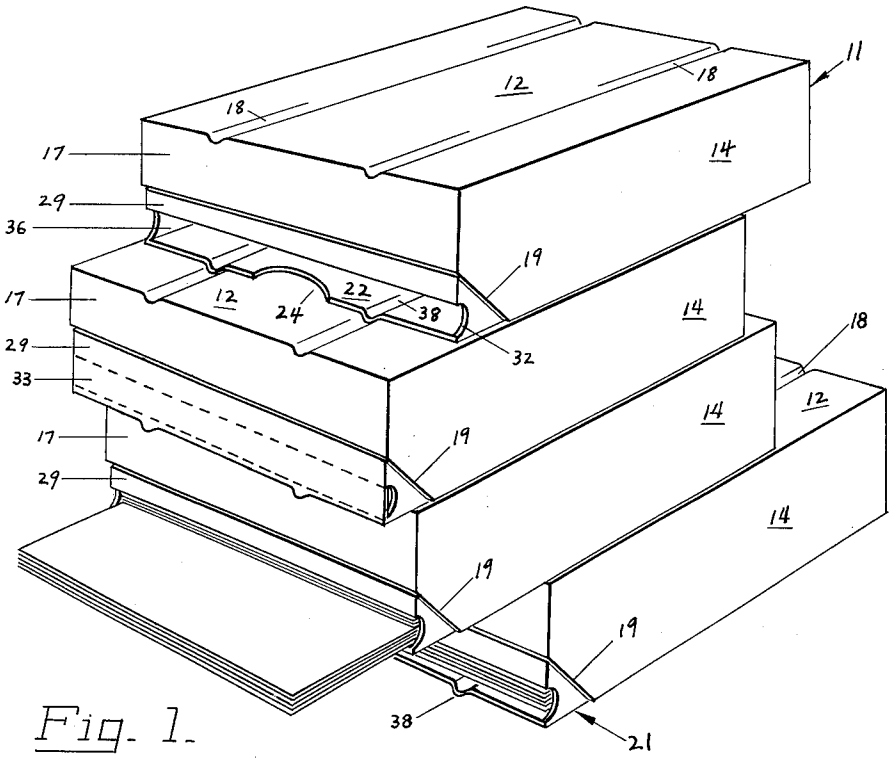


Fig. 1.

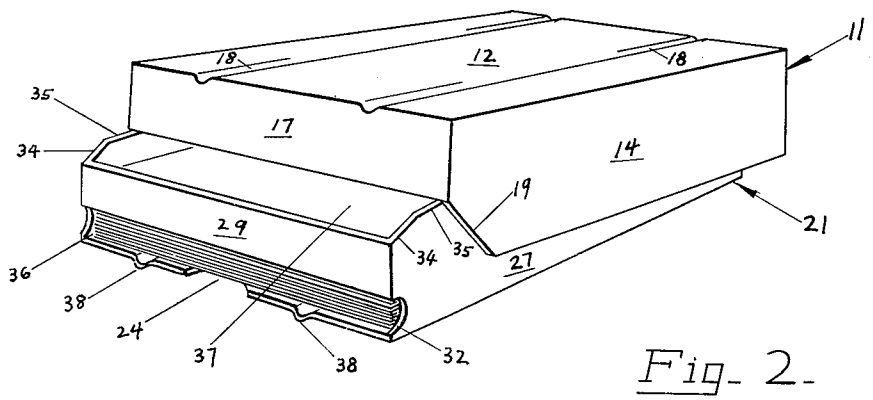


Fig. 2.

April 11, 1961 W. ANDREN 2,979,194

DISPENSER PACKAGE

Filed May 25, 1959 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

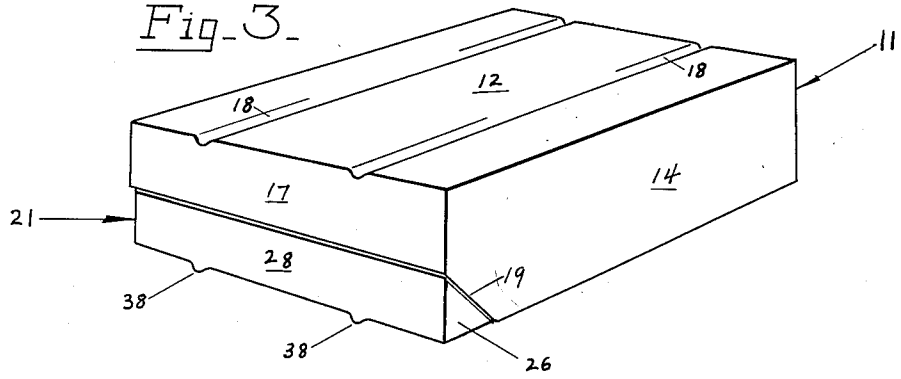


Fig. 4.

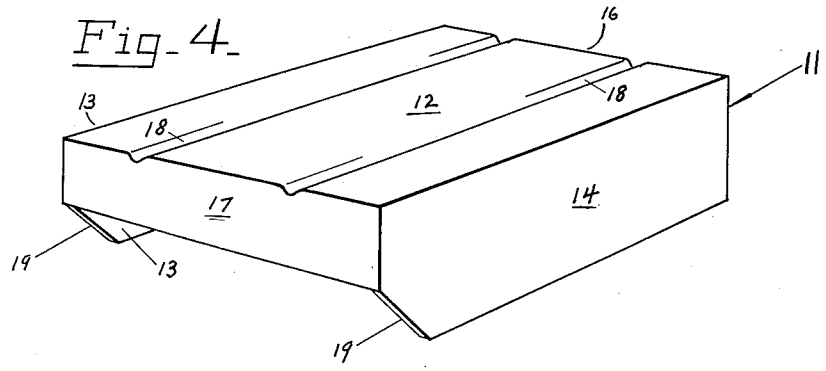
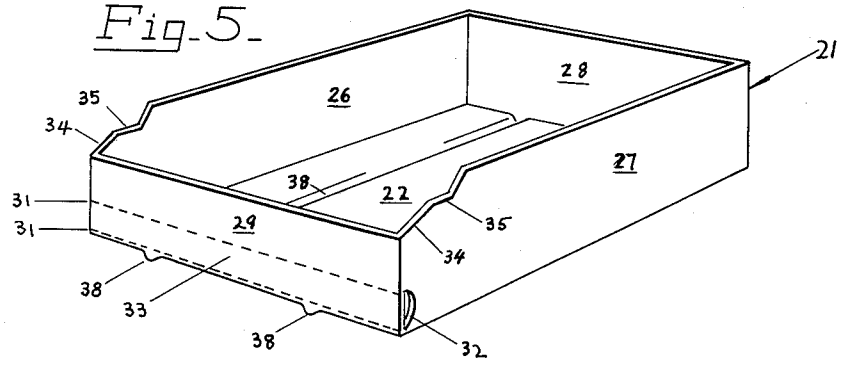


Fig. 5.



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2,979,194

DISPENSER PACKAGE

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19 Claims. (Cl. 206—57)

The invention, in general, relates to an improved dispensing, storage and shipping package, which while located at any tier within a stack of like packages, and without removal of its cover, permits additions of contents into said package as well as withdrawals of contents out of said package either at separate intervals or simultaneously. The package can be locked in an open position while stacked and permits continuous visual disclosure of contents. The package can be completely closed by reversal of its cover front to back.

Printed and lithographed commercial forms as well as blank bond paper, second sheets, and the like, when shipped from the stationer are usually wrapped in kraft wrapping paper, sealed with tape and labelled at one end. Such paper-wrapped packages require the utilization of a great amount of storage space in the buyer's storeroom, as in order to permit partial withdrawals from these packages they are generally stored on shelves without placing other packages of stationery on top of them. The weight of the upper packages would prevent or hinder the easy withdrawal of any portion of the contents from the lower packages. This practice prevents the utilization of the full height of the shelves for stationery storage, limiting the storage of paper-wrapped stationery to the bottom-most area of each shelf, thereby wasting the shelf space above such packages.

Pen-ruled pads, file folders, carbon paper, duplicator masters, and similar stationery are sometimes packaged in conventional set-up or folding type cardboard boxes. Such boxed stationery is usually stacked one box on top of another in the storeroom, satisfactorily utilizing available shelf space, but in order to withdraw the stationery contained in such boxes each box has to be drawn from its position within the shelf space, the cover removed, the contents extracted, the cover replaced and finally the box replaced to its former position on the shelf. It is evident that where a great number of stationery requisitions are filled during the course of a month a considerable number of man hours are spent in withdrawing and returning boxes to the shelves and in removing and replacing box covers.

An important objective of the present invention is to provide a package, which in addition to permitting complete withdrawal of contents through the lower portion of the front panel thereof without removal of package cover, also permits without removal of package cover, the complete refilling thereof or the return of the original contents through an additional opening formed in the upper portion of the front panel of the package.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a package which while located within a stack of like packages is capable of having its contents withdrawn as stated in the preceding objective, without the package having to be removed from the stack.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a package, which while located within a stack of like packages, is capable of being filled with new contents

without the package having to be removed from the stack.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a package, which while stacked as indicated in preceding objectives, allows the cover to be locked in an open position, thereby permitting simultaneous withdrawal and replacement of contents of such package while so stacked.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a package which in addition to being able to function in the manner stated in the preceding objectives, is capable, while included in a stack of like packages, of maintaining vertical alignment of the side panels of the package with the side panels of other like packages within the stack while moving in a reciprocating manner forwards and backwards within the stack.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a package which when stacked within a stack of like packages, and locked in an open position as previously stated, does not impede the withdrawal or insertion of contents of other packages within the stack.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a package, which in addition to being able to function as stated in the preceding objectives also permits continuous visual disclosure of the residual contents of the package while stacked within a stack of like packages.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a package, which in addition to being able to function as stated previously, permits by reversal of its cover front to back, the complete closure of all four sides of the package, and while so closed can remain in a stack of open packages of similar construction without impairing the dispensing and refilling capabilities of the open packages stacked above and below the closed package.

Other objects of the invention, together with some of the advantageous features thereof, will appear from the following description of a preferred embodiment which is illustrated in the accompanying drawings. It is to be understood, however, that I am not to be limited to the precise embodiment shown, nor to the precise arrangement of the various parts thereof, as my invention as defined in the appended claims, can be embodied in a plurality and variety of forms and produced in a plurality and variety of ways.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective drawing of a stack of my packages illustrating (*a*) the semi-circular die-cut opening and the registration of the grooves in the container bottom with the grooves in the cover next below, (*b*) an unopened package, (*c*) how contents of packages are withdrawn and how packages resting on the cover of a package move with that package, and (d) how residual contents of package are continuously visible.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of my package illustrating how the additional opening in the front panel is formed for the insertion of contents, and how the package cover can remain engaged in an open position.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of this invention illustrating how reversal of cover closes all four sides of package yet maintains original alignment of register grooves at top and bottom of package.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of a cover for use in the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the invention with respect to the container member.

The principal improved structures that are combined in the present invention to accomplish the objectives are a registered-grooved top in the package cover, a register-grooved bottom in the package container, a shortened front panel in the cover, a shortened front panel with severable

strip in the container, cover side panels from which the lower front corners have been cut away, and container side panels from which the upper front corners have been cut away.

The principal improved structures enumerated above, in order to accomplish the objectives of the present invention, cooperate in the following manner. The grooves in the cover top and grooves in the container bottom, being in register with one another, provide a tongue and groove arrangement whereby like packages within a stack can be moved in a reciprocating manner forwards and backwards yet maintain vertical alignment with the sides of all like packages in the stack. This reciprocating movement is required to pull the package by the shortened front panel of the cover a suitable distance forward from the front panel of the package immediately below in order that user's fingers may be inserted into the die-cut opening on the underside of the package permitting the grasping of the contents at the lower front portion of the package and the withdrawal of package contents therefrom. As already indicated, the shortened front panel in the cover, in addition to providing access to the package contents at the lower portion of the front panel, also is the grasping panel by which the package is grasped when being pulled forward from the stack. The shortened front panel of the cover also cooperates with the shortened front panel of the container when the cover is pushed or lifted backwards and upwards forming an additional opening in the upper front portion of the package through which contents can be inserted into the package.

The shortened front panel of the container has a severable strip, which after removal permits withdrawal of contents through the lower portion of the front panel of the package. Due to the container front panel being shortened it cooperates with the shortened front panel of the cover as stated above to form an additional opening in the upper portion of the front of the package through which contents can be inserted into the package. The center section of the front panel of the container, after removal of the severable strip, protects the package contents from damage by user's fingers while fingers are being inserted behind the shortened front panel of the cover to grasp said panel and pull the package forward from the stack.

The diagonally cut lower front corners of the cover side panels, in addition to providing access of user's finger to die-cut openings in side panels of container to permit grasping edge of severable strip of the front panel of the container, also provide two grasping or lifting edges for lifting the cover, even with other like packages stacked on top thereof, to effect the opening in the upper portion of the front panel of the package.

The diagonally cut upper front corners of container side panels cooperate with the shortened front panel of the cover, which when the package cover is moved backward and upward the bottom edge of said front panel glides along the diagonally cut upper front corners of container side panels, and with the additional cooperation of the shortened front panel of the container, forms an additional opening in the front of the package for insertion of contents therein.

In fact the diagonally cut lower front corners of the cover side panels, the diagonally cut upper front corners of the container side panels, the shortened front panel of the cover and the shortened front panel of the container all cooperate to provide the additional opening in the upper portion of the front panel for the insertion of contents into the package. The complete cooperation is as follows: the diagonally cut lower front corners in the cover side panels, when pushed with the thumbs or lifted with the fingers tend to move the cover in a backward and upward direction. The movement in that direction is further aided and permitted by the container side panels from which the upper front corners have been cut away. The movement in such direction is further permitted by the shortened front panels of both the cover and the container. In the preferred embodiment described herein I also have included a notch in each of the diagonally cut upper front corners of the container side panels to permit the shortened front panel of the cover to become engaged therein, thereby permitting said additional opening in the front panel of the package to remain open for any desired period of time.

As particularly illustrated in Fig. 4 of the annexed drawings I provide in my improved dispenser package a specially formed container cover, generally designated by the reference numeral **11**, consisting of a top panel **12**, containing register grooves **18**, a pair of side panels **13** and **14**, a back panel **16** and a front panel **17**, all integral with one another and defining a generally rectangular lid or cover, with depending side panels, a depending back panel and a depending front panel. However, as is clearly illustrated in Fig. 4 as well as in the perspective views of Figs. 1, 2 and 3 the front panel **17** of the cover **11** is of less depth than the sides **13**, **14** and the back panel **16**. Or, in other words, the lateral dimension of front panel **17** is less than the lateral dimensions of the side and back panels. Moreover, side panels **13** and **14** are not completely rectangular but are cut away adjacent to the front panel **17**, as indicated at **19**, to provide a lifting edge and in order that the severable portion **33** may be easily stripped from the package.

In accordance with the present invention, I also provide in my improved dispenser package a specially constructed container member, generally designated by the reference numeral **21**, which is of a generally rectangular shape but of slightly less dimensions than the cover **11** in order that the cover may be removably fitted, as by a telescopic fit, upon the container member. As shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings, as well as Figs. 1 and 2, container member includes a bottom **22** having a semi-circular opening **24** therein which conveniently is formed by die-cutting the material, such opening **24** preferably being disposed adjacent the front center of the bottom of container member **21**. The container member **21** also includes a pair of side panels **26** and **27**, a back panel **28** and a front panel **29**, all integral with the bottom **22** and with one another. As illustrated in Fig. 5 as well as Fig. 2 the front panel **29** of the container **21** is of less depth than the side panels **26** and **27** and the back panel **28**. The container member **21** is so constructed that a portion of the front panel **29** thereof may readily be severed therefrom and, to this end, the front panel is provided with a series of perforations **31** extending in a straight line and longitudinally of the front panel or from side to side of the container member. In addition side panels **26** and **27** are formed with openings **32** therein, preferably of semi-circular configuration and preferably formed by die-cutting the material of such side panels, the openings **32** extending from the series of perforations **31** as continuations thereof to terminate at the junctures of the side panels with bottom panel **22**. The upper front corners of side panels **26** and **27** have sloping edges **34** and notches **35** to form ledges on which front panel **17** of cover **11** can rest to provide opening **37** through which sheets can be inserted into the container. The bottom **22** contains register grooves **38** which permit the package to be moved forward and backward in a reciprocating manner while stacked on like packages and prevents the stacked packages from moving sideways while being moved in such reciprocating manner. The provision of the perforations **31** in the front panel **29** of container member **21** defines a severable strip, indicated by the reference numeral **33**, and the provision of the semi-circular openings **32** in the side panels **26** and **27** afford convenient openings whereby the strip **33** may be easily severed from the container member **21** to define an elongated opening **36** extending across the lower portion of the front panel or below the lower limit of such front panel **29**. See, in this connection Figs. 1 and 2 which clearly illustrate the elongated opening **36** and through which the contents of

the container member 21 can be withdrawn in any desired quantity from the bottom of the contents. While I have stated hereinabove that the bottom 22 is formed with a semi-circular opening 24, which is provided to enable convenient grasping of the contents of the container member 21, it is within the scope of the inveniton to form the bottom 22 of container member 21 with a series of perforations arranged in semi-circular configuration to define a severable semi-circular portion of bottom 22 adjacent the front center thereof which portion may be readily severed from the bottom by tearing along the provided perforations.

The dispenser package illustrated and just described can be made to any desired dimensions with the depth of the container member extended to any desired value for accommodating units other than sheets of stationery. Any suitable material can be employed for the package although I preferably use cardboard of suitable thickness and dimensions for exemplification of the invention used for holding sheets of paper, such as letterheads, file folders or the like. The cover 11 and container member 21 of the package preferably are die-cut from suitable cardboard blanks.

It is to be understood that the appended claims are to be accorded a range of equivalents commensurate in scope with the advance made over the prior art.

I claim:

1. A combination shipping, storage and dispenser package comprising a container member, a telescoping cover on said container member, and a plurality of individual sheets of paper disposed within said container member; said container member consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel and register grooves extending from the front panel to the back panel; each of said side panels having the upper front corner cut away and a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; said telescoping cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion; said top containing register grooves extending from the front panel to the back panel; each of said side panels having the lower front corner cut away.

2. A combination shipping, storage and dispenser package comprising a container member, a telescoping cover on said container member, and a plurality of individual sheets of paper disposed within said container member; said container member consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; each of said side panels having the upper front corner cut away and a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; said telescoping cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion; each of said side panels having the lower front corner cut away.

3. A dispenser package comprising a container member, a cover on said container member, and sheets of paper disposed within said container member; said container member consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom having register grooves and containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; each of said side panels having a diagonally cut and notched upper front corner; said cover consisting of a top containing register grooves, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion.

4. A dispenser package comprising a container member, a cover on said container member, and sheets of paper disposed within said container member; said container member consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom containng a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; each of said side panels having a diagonally cut and notched upper front corner; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion.

5. A dispenser package comprising a container, a cover on said container and sheets of paper disposed within said container; said container consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom having register grooves and containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; said cover consisting of a top containing register grooves, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion.

6. A dispenser package comprising a container, a cover on said container and sheets of paper disposed within said container consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion.

7. A refillable dispenser package comprising a container member, a telescoping cover on said container member, and a plurality of individual sheets of paper disposed within said container member; said container member consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof, which when severed forms an opening in the front panel of container; said bottom containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; each of said side panels having the upper corner cut away and a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; said telescoping cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels from which the lower front corners have been cut away, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels permitting a minimum overlap of said shortened front panel of cover over said shortened front panel of container whereby a minimum vertical lift of the front panel of the cover forms an additional opening in the front of the package through which contents can be inserted, said shortened front panel of cover located to expose said severable portion of front panel of container.

8. A refillable dispenser package comprising a container, a cover on said container, and sheets of paper disposed within said container; said container consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof, the removal of which forms an opening therein for dispensing of contents; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion; said shortened front panel of cover permitting a minimum overlap of said shortened front

panel of cover over said shortened front panel of container whereby with a minimum lift of the front panel of the cover an additional opening is formed in the front of the package through which contents can be inserted.

9. A package comprising a container, a cover on said container and sheets of paper disposed within said container; said container consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion; said front panels of cover and container cut short so as to provide a minimum overlap of the cover front panel over the container front panel whereby with a minimum vertical lift of the cover front panel an opening can be formed in the upper part of the front panel of the package.

10. A package comprising a cover, a container, and sheets of paper disposed therein; said container consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof, which when removed provides an opening in the lower part of said front panel; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion; said front panels of cover and container cut short so as to provide a minimum overlap of the cover front panel over the container front panel whereby with a minimum vertical lift of the cover front panel an additional opening is formed in the front panel of the package.

11. A refillable dispenser package comprising a container member, a cover on said container member, and sheets of paper disposed within said container member; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose severable portion of front panel of container member; said container member consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels permitting a minimum overlap of said shortened front panel of cover over said shortened front panel of container whereby with a minimum lift of the front panel of the cover an opening is created in the upper front portion of the package through which contents can be inserted; said front panel of container also having a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof, the removal of which provides an opening for dispensing of contents; said side panels having notched upper front corners upon which the shortened front panel of cover can be engaged and thereby remain in an open position.

12. A refillable dispenser package comprising a container member, a cover on said container member, and sheets of paper disposed within said container member; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose severable portion of front panel of container member; said container member consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels forming a minimum overlap of said shortened front panel of cover over said shortened front panel of container; said front panel of container having a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said container side panels having notched upper front corners upon which the shortened front panel of cover can become engaged thereby forming an opening in the upper front part of the package; said severable portion of the front panel of the container when removed forms an opening in the lower front part of the package, thereby making said package capable of having contents both dispensed from the package through the lower opening in the front of the package and inserted into the package through the upper opening in the front of the package without removal of package cover and with other packages stacked on top thereof.

13. A combination shipping, storage and dispenser package comprising a container member, a telescoping cover on said container member, and a plurality of individual sheets of paper disposed within said container member; said container member consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel and integral register grooves extending from the front panel to the back panel; each of said side panels having the upper front corner cut away and die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; said telescoping cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion, and permitting a minimum overlap of cover front panel over container front panel; said top containing integral register grooves extending from the front panel to the back panel; each of said side panels having the lower front corner cut away.

14. A combination shipping, storage, and refillable dispenser package comprising a container member, a cover on said container member, and sheets of paper disposed within said container member; said container member consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom containing integral register grooves extending from the front panel to the back panel; each of said side panels having the upper front corner cut away; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion, and permitting a minimum overlap of cover front panel over container front panel; said top containing integral register grooves extending from the front panel to the back panel.

15. A dispenser package comprising a container member, a cover on said container member, and sheets of paper disposed within said container member; said container member consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom having register grooves integral therewith and containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; each of said side panels having a notched upper front corner; said cover consisting of a top containing integral register grooves, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable portion, and providing a minimum overlap of the cover front panel over the container front panel.

16. A package comprising a container, a cover on said container, and sheets of paper disposed therein; said container consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom having register grooves integral therewith; said cover consisting of a top containing integral register grooves, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels and located to expose said severable

portion, and providing a minimum overlap of the cover front panel over the container front panel.

17. A box comprising a container and a cover on said container; said container consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel being of shorter width than said side and back panels and containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; said side panels having notched upper front corners; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels; said front panel located to expose said severable portion of container front panel.

18. A box comprising a container and a cover on said container; said container consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel, said front panel constructed so as to permit shortened front panel of cover to pass over said front panel of container and engage in notches in container side panels; said front panel of container having a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; said side panels containing notches in which the front panel of said cover can become engaged; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a

front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels, said front panel located to expose said severable portion of front panel of container.

19. A box comprising a container and a cover on said container; said container consisting of a bottom, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel; said front panel containing a severable portion extending across the lower part thereof; said bottom containing a die-cut opening adjacent said front panel; said side panels containing notches in which the front panel of said cover can become engaged; said cover consisting of a top, a back panel, a pair of side panels, and a front panel of shorter width than said back and side panels, said front panel located to expose said severable portion of front panel of container.

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