

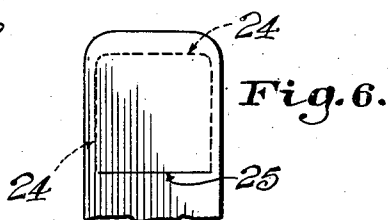
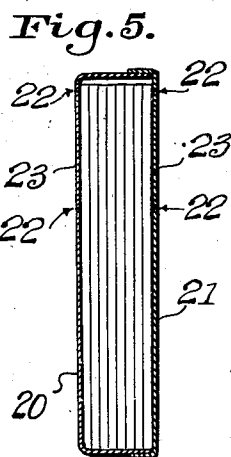
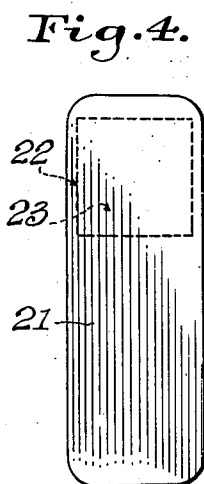
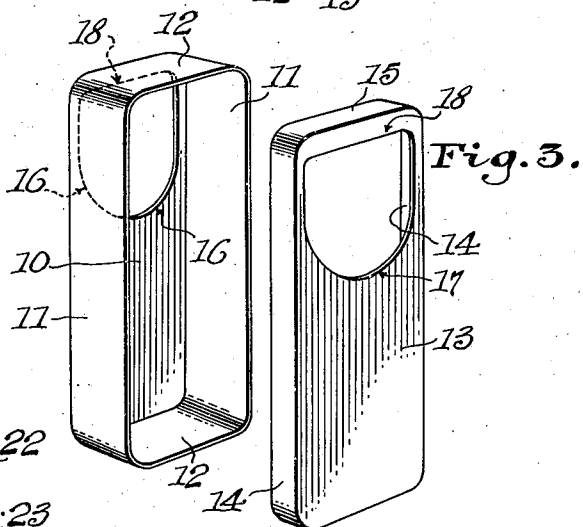
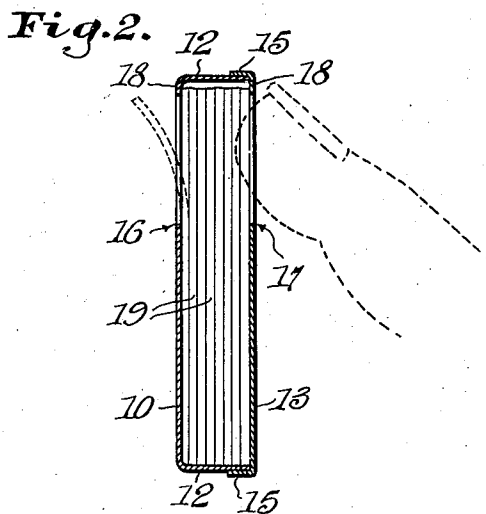
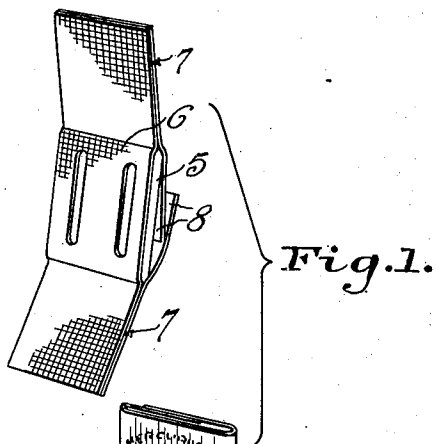
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M. McI. DUKEHART, JR.

2,391,301

DISPENSING CONTAINER FOR STERILE COMPRESSES

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Inventor

MORTON McI. DUKEHART, JR.

By *Mason, Porter & Sieber*

Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DISPENSING CONTAINER FOR STERILE
COMPRESSESMorton McI. Dukehart, Jr., New Rochelle, N. Y.,
assignor to Continental Can Company, Inc.,
New York, N. Y., a corporation of New York

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3 Claims. (Cl. 206—56)

The invention relates generally to container structures and primarily seeks to provide a novel, simple and inexpensively manufactured container in which sterile compresses of the well known "Band-Aid" type can be marketed and from which they can be dispensed with facility.

In its more detailed nature the invention resides in providing a novel container structure for packaging a quantity of sterile compresses of well known, elongated "Band-Aid" type, said structure being elongated and rectangular in shape to snugly receive the quantity of compresses and having registering apertures adjacent one end thereof and through opposing faces so that one seeking to dispense a compress from the container can apply pressure against the contained pack of compresses, by finger or thumb through one face aperture, and thus cause an end of a single compress at the opposite face of the container to be projected through the aperture in that face so that it can be readily gripped between finger and thumb of the other hand and withdrawn for use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a container of the character stated in which the pressure applying and compress dispensing apertures are formed only when it is intended to dispense and use the first compress, removable areas being initially defined at the positions of the intended apertures by perforations, or a combination of perforations and slits which facilitate removal of these areas whenever desired, thereby providing for complete sanitary sealing of the package prior to the initial use of the compress.

With the above and other objects in view that will hereinafter appear, the nature of the invention will be more fully understood by following the detailed description, the appended claims and the several views illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating a standard well known type of sterile compress such as the present invention is adapted for packaging and dispensing, the compress and its removable protecting sheath being shown separated one from the other.

Figure 2 is a central vertical cross section of a metallic container embodying the invention.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the container structure illustrated in Figure 2, the telescopically assembled parts of the container being shown separated one from the other.

Figure 4 is a face view illustrating a modified form of the container structure.

Figure 5 is a central vertical cross section of the container illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary face view showing an additionally modified form of the container.

While the container disclosed and claimed herein is adaptable for the packaging and dispensing of any flexible, elongated element, it is particularly designed for packaging and dispensing sterile compresses of a standard well known type known to the market as "Band-Aid." One of the standard, well known forms of compresses is illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawing and comprises a sterile compress 5 having a gauze strip protective backing 6 and the usual adhesive tape extensions 7 which provide for convenient attachment of the compress at the point at which it is to be applied. The unit also includes removable protective tabs 8 of gauze and is removably inserted in a protective sheath 9 of glassine paper.

The improved container in which the sheath compress units are packaged in the manner illustrated in Figure 2 is in the form of an elongated rectangle, as will be evident by reference to Figures 2 and 3. This container includes a base member having a bottom face 10, sides 11 and ends 12, and may readily be drawn to the shape clearly illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. The container is completed by a shallow slip-over cover which is also drawn from sheet metal to include a top face 13, sides 14, and ends 15, the sides and ends 14 and 15 being dimensioned to snugly receive the sides and ends 11, 12 of the base section. Each of the base and cover sections is provided with a generally rectangular opening in the manner clearly illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. The opening in the bottom face 10 is designated 16 and the opening in the top face 13 is indicated at 17, and these openings register one with the other and are disposed close to one end of the container so as to provide a relatively short length confining shoulder 18 at each face of the container for confining the upper flexible end extremities of the "Band-Aid" units 19 which fill the container in face to face parallel relation between the parallel face walls 10 and 13 in the manner clearly illustrated in Figure 2.

If desired, the metallic container structure illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 may be initially marketed with an overall protective wrapper of paper or any other material which can be readily removed prior to initial use of the "Band-Aids." It will be obvious that by applying pressure by finger or thumb through one of the container face openings 16 or 17, the flexible end portions of the "Band-Aid" units can be pressed toward

the opposing aperture 16 or 17, thereby to cause the upper extremity of the outermost unit to snap over the retaining shoulder 18 and out through the outermost opening in the manner indicated in dotted lines in Figure 2.

In Figures 4 and 5 of the drawing there is illustrated a modified form of the container in which the assembled half sections 20 and 21 are formed of heavy paper or other suitable non-metallic material. In this form of the invention each base and top section 20 and 21 is provided with connected lines of perforations 22 or weakened portions defining a tear-out piece 23 which may be readily removed to provide the desired pressure applying and element dispensing apertures. The advantage of such structures will be obvious. A container so constructed will remain sealed throughout the base and top walls of the sections 20 and 21 until it is intended to make the initial use of the "Band-Aids" at which time the tear-out areas 23 can be removed and apertures provided for the first time in the container sections 20 and 21. It will be obvious that the telescoping portions of the section 20 and 21 in this form of container may be sealed, if desired, so as to additionally assure the provision of a sanitary package.

In Figure 6 of the drawing there is illustrated still another modification of the invention in which the container may be formed, as in Figures 4 and 5, except for the provision of perforation lines 24 around sides and top only of the intended pressure applying or element dispensing aperture, the remaining or base side of the area being defined by a bend or score line 25. Thus, by freeing the resultant flap around the three sides defined by the weakened lines 24, and by bending this freed flap in or out at the bend line 25, the desired pressure applying and element dispensing openings are provided without necessitating complete removal of the base and cover areas through which the apertures are formed. Obviously, retention of the flaps defined by the weakened lines 24 aid greatly in maintaining the sanitary nature of the container.

In the foregoing description there is disclosed a very simple and efficient form of dispensing container which is particularly adaptable for containing and dispensing elongated, flexible elements such as the well known sterile compresses marketed as "Band-Aid," but it is to be understood that the container can be utilized to package and dispense other elements of flexible construction and may be altered as to specific shape and form without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A compress or like flexible element dispensing container comprising an elongated rectangular casing having wall portions defining a compress element pack enclosing chamber, two of said

5 wall portions opposing each other and intervening flat portions of enclosed compress elements in parallel relation, and having registering openings therein through one of which openings pressure can be hand applied against the pack of enclosed compresses to force said pack toward the other opening and one end portion of one compress of the pack out through said other opening to be readily grasped and withdrawn there-
10 through, said openings being disposed adjacent but spaced from one end of the casing thereby to define compress element confining shoulders of short length at the adjacent casing end.

2. A compress or like flexible element dispensing container comprising an elongated rectangular casing having wall portions defining a compress element pack enclosing chamber, two of said portions opposing each other and intervening flat portions of enclosed compress elements in parallel relation, and having surface areas defined by weakened lines to constitute tear out portions removable to provide registering openings through one of which openings pressure can be hand applied against the pack of enclosed compresses to force said pack toward the other opening and one end portion of one compress of the pack out through said other opening to be readily grasped and withdrawn therethrough, said openings being disposed adjacent but spaced from one end of the casing thereby to define compress element confining shoulders of short length at the adjacent casing end.

3. A compress or like flexible element dispensing container comprising a rectangular casing having wall portions defining a compress element pack enclosing chamber, two of said wall portions opposing each other and intervening flat portions of enclosed compress elements in parallel relation, and having surface areas defined at three sides by perforations and at a fourth side by a bend line to constitute displaceable portions swingable out of the planes of said wall portions to provide registering openings through one of which openings pressure can be hand applied against the pack of enclosed compresses to force said pack toward the other opening and one end portion of one compress of the pack out through said other opening to be readily grasped and withdrawn therethrough, one of said three sides of each said surface area being disposed parallel the respective bend line and spaced only a short distance from the adjacent end of the container and relative to the length of the elements of the enclosed pack of compresses so as to form an element confining shoulder effective to cause individual element ends to be flipped out of a given opening upon said application of pressure through the opposite opening.

MORTON McI. DUKEHART, JR.