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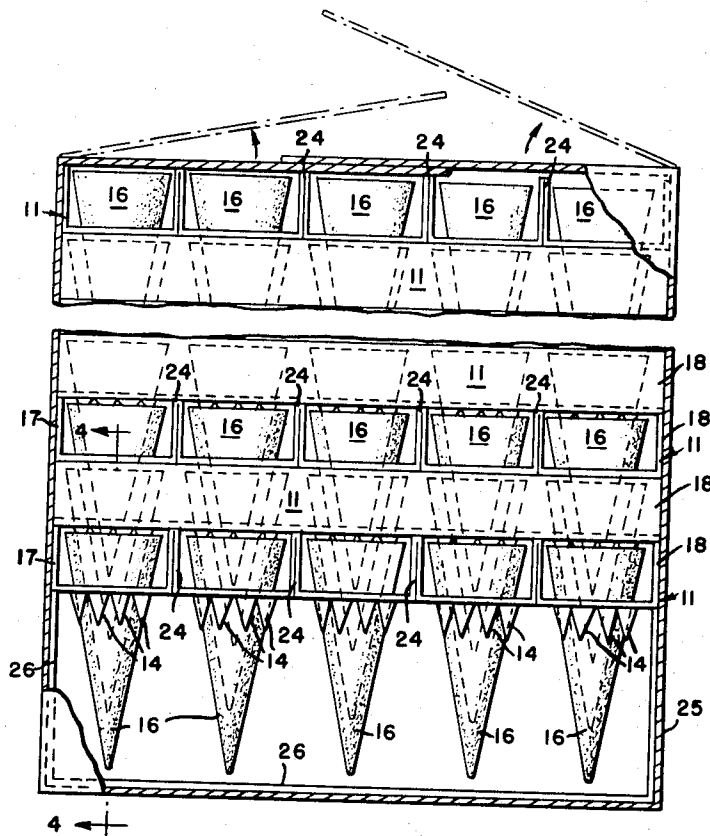
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[54] **ICE CREAM CONE FILLER SHEETS AND PACKAGE**
6 Claims, 4 Drawing Figs.

[52] U.S. Cl. 99/180
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 [50] Field of Search 99/180,
 177, 181

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ABSTRACT: Filler sheets for packaging ice cream cones in cartons are corrugated and folded to provide upstanding panels which support succeeding sheets in alternating relation. Each filler sheet has rows and columns of pockets for holding individual ice cream cones. The sheets are so designed that the upper edges of the upstanding panels lie in a plane above the upper edges of the cones in the pockets.



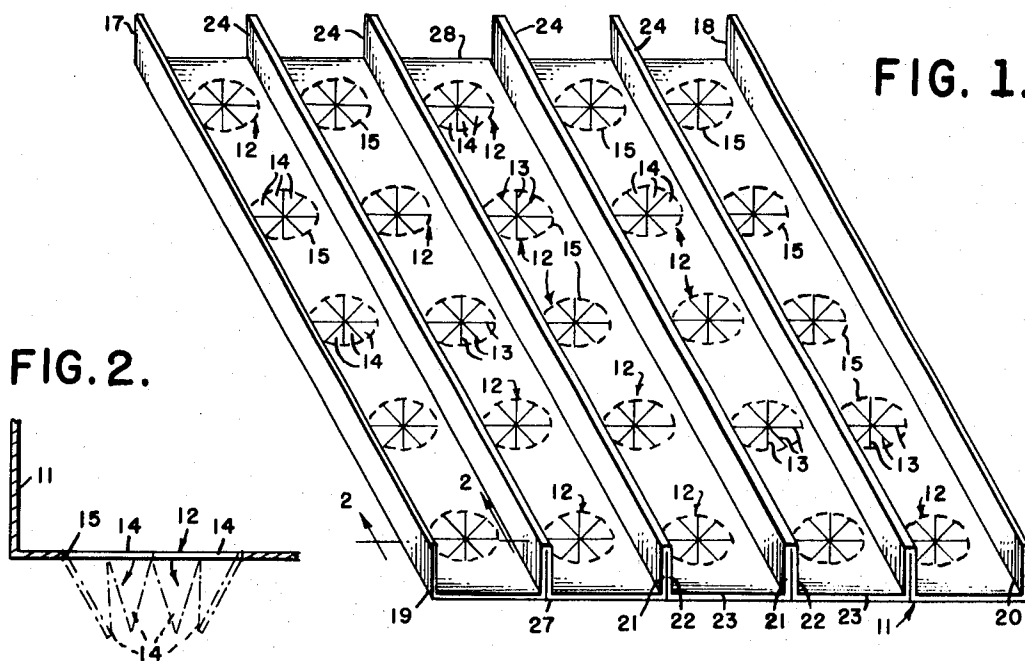


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

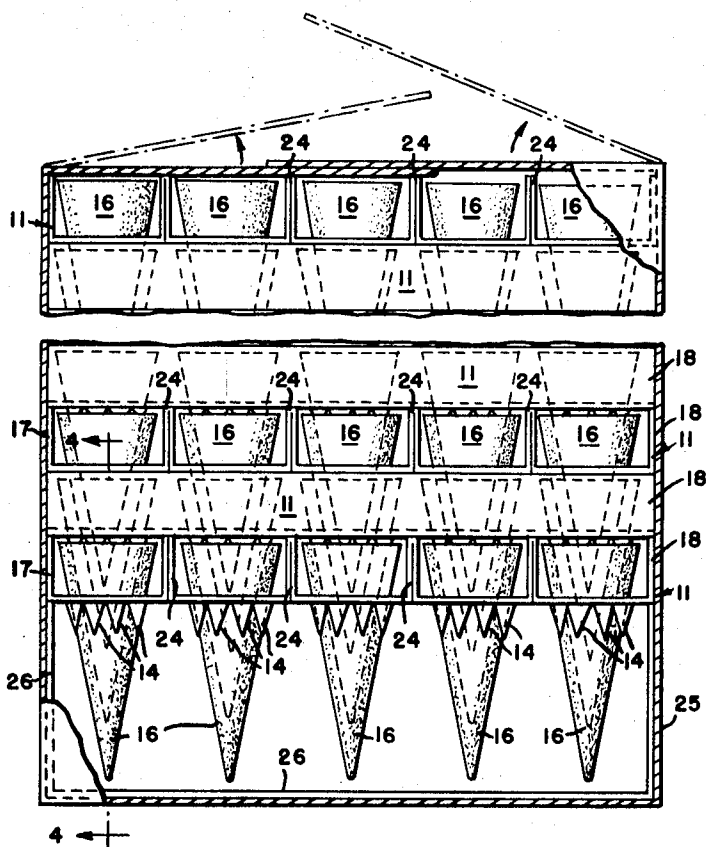


FIG. 4.

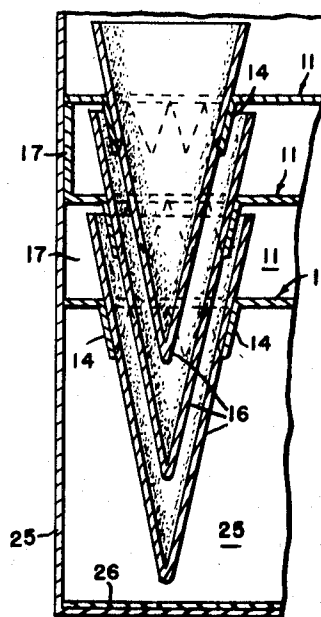


FIG. 3.

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ICE CREAM CONE FILLER SHEETS AND PACKAGE

SPECIFICATION

This invention relates to packaging and it is more particularly concerned with the packaging of ice cream cones and of similar products of tapered form.

Ice cream cones are notoriously frail and fragile. They are subject to extensive breakage during transportation, storage, and handling when placed in conventional packages.

The general object of the present invention is the provision of a container package for ice cream cones which protects them against many of the factors which cause or contribute to their loss in storage, handling and transportation.

A specific object of the invention is the provision of a simplified element of a container package which serves to protectively support ice cream cones against the usual forces that tend to cause breakage.

Another object of the invention is the provision of such an element which does not interfere with the placement and removal of the cones in the container.

An embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one of the filler sheets in its folded position.

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view along the line 2-2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is an elevational view of a carton of ice cream cones, partly broken away, utilizing an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view along the line 4-4 of FIG. 3 on an enlarged scale.

The embodiment illustrated in the drawing comprises a filler element preferably of a sheet of material 11 which may contain conventional longitudinal corrugations (not shown) and having a plurality of pockets 12 arranged in rows and columns. Each pocket 12 is cut by lines 13 as the sections of a pie forming a circumferential group of hinged triangular members 14 extending inwardly from a circular base line 15. Each of these pockets is adapted to receive and support an ice cream cone 16.

Marginal panels 17 and 18 of the sheet 11 are scored with lateral weakened lines 19 and 20 to permit turning the panels 17 and 18 upward in vertical planes.

Intermediate the panels 17 and 18, the sheet 11 is provided with additional sets of fold lines each consisting of three lines 21, 22 and 23, to permit forming vertical double panels 24.

The panels 24 extend upwardly from the general horizontal plane of the sheet 11, a distance equal to or greater than the height of the ice cream cones 16 lying in the pockets 12.

The marginal panels 17 and 18 and the double panels 24 of

each sheet are in parallel vertical planes.

The sheets 11, as thus folded, fit in and are placed in a cardboard carton 25, for example. The lowermost sheet 11 is supported on the upper edges of a cardboard insert member 26. Each succeeding sheet is oriented 90° relative to its preceding sheet so that its sides 27 and 28 abuttingly rest upon the ends of the marginal panels 17 and 18.

The pockets 12 are symmetrically disposed so that corresponding pockets are vertically aligned in the carton thereby making it possible for the cones to be disposed in nested relation.

We claim:

1. A filler sheet for ice cream cones in a carton, said sheet having pockets for supporting individual ice cream cones, said sheet having fold lines delineating upstanding panels for supporting another filler sheet, said fold lines delineating marginal panels and intermediate double panels, and the upper edge of the panels being in a plane above the cones when the cones are placed in the pockets, to thereby maintain the cones in the pockets in aligned spaced apart nested relation to each other.

2. A package of ice cream cones comprising a carton, a stack of horizontal filler sheets disposed in the carton, each sheet having pockets supporting ice cream cones, said sheets having vertical end panels and intermediate vertical panels, the upper ends of said panels lying in a plane above the ice cream cones in the pockets to support the superposed filler sheets of the stack, the sheets being horizontally oriented in 90 degree alternating relation in the stack.

3. A package as defined by claim 2 in which the intermediate vertical panels are of double thickness.

4. A package as defined by claim 2 having an insert member at the bottom of the carton, said insert member having side walls, said side walls having upper edges to abuttingly support the lowermost filler sheet of the stack.

5. A package as defined by claim 2 in which each pocket comprises a circular area having a radial cut lines forming a circumferential group of hingeable triangular sections.

6. A package of ice cream cones comprising a carton, a stack of horizontal filler sheets disposed in the carton, each sheet having pockets supporting ice cream cones in the provision of spaced superimposed pockets, said sheets having vertical end panels and intermediate vertical panels, the upper ends of said panels lying in a plane above the ice cream cones in the pockets to support the superposed filler sheets of the stack and provide for maintaining the cones in aligned spaced relation out of contact with each other.

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