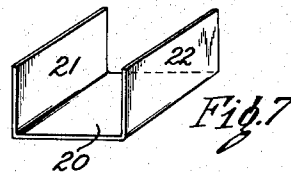
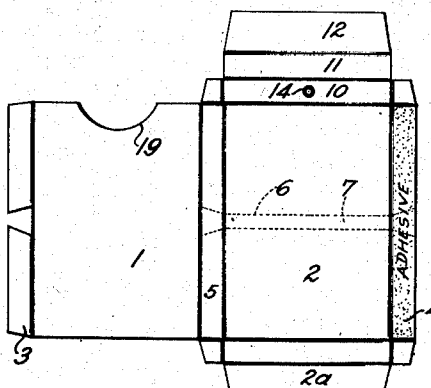
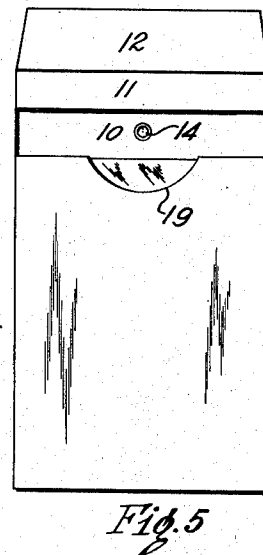
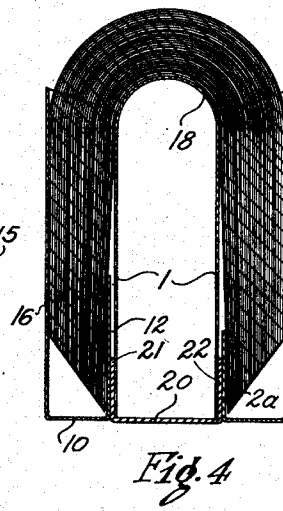
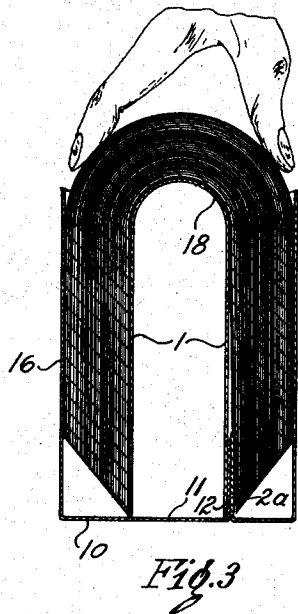
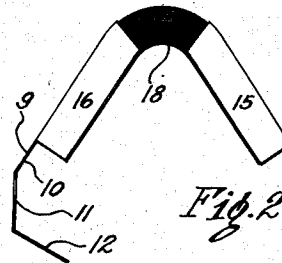
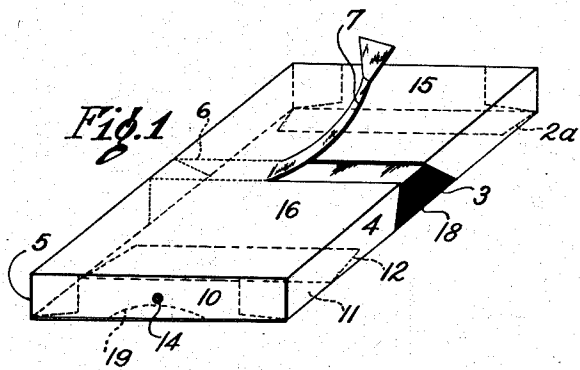


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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

DISPENSING PACKAGE

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6 Claims. (Cl. 206—57)

This invention relates to packages for sheet material and more particularly to a package constructed to facilitate the dispensing of the sheets contained therein.

Considerable difficulty and annoyance has heretofore been experienced by butchers, delicatessen operators and the like in handling the waxed paper or parchment employed to wrap their products. Usually the paper is sold in wrapped bundles or packages, and the dealer merely unwraps the bundle and arranges the stack of flat sheets on the counter or shelf in position for use. This disposition of the paper in addition to being unsanitary and subject to disarrangement by wind or inadvertent movement of the user renders it very difficult to pick up a single sheet. Most of the various dispensing devices supplied to overcome the troubles pointed out above have been relatively expensive or entail considerable manipulation of the bundle of sheets to arrange the same in the dispensing cabinet.

It is among the objects of my invention to provide an inexpensive package for flat sheets of waxed paper or the like which may conveniently be opened and arranged so that the package itself may function as a dispensing cabinet. It is a further object to provide a package according to the preceding object in which the sheets are kept in a sanitary manner and yet are disposed to facilitate the withdrawal of a single sheet from the package. A further object of the invention is to provide a package for flat sheets wherein a flap is provided which is adapted to function as an end closure of the package during shipment, a connector to hold the package in a dispensing position when open or a support to suspend the package.

Further objects and advantages relating to economy and use will appear more fully from the description and drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a partially opened package constructed according to my invention;

Figure 2 illustrates the opened package prior to arrangement for use;

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view of the package arranged for use;

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view illustrating an alternative form of package;

Figure 5 illustrates an alternative method of supporting the package of sheets for use;

Figure 6 is a plan view of a development of the sheet employed to form the carton or cabinet.

Figure 7 is a perspective view of a metal con-

necter or base member employed in the modification of Figure 4.

A blank of sheet material such as cardboard, sheet metal or the like is preferably stamped or cut to the form shown in Figure 6 and folded upon score lines to provide a rectangular container for the sheets as illustrated in Figure 1. The flat sides of the container are formed by panels 1 and 2 each provided with narrow side forming edge panels or flaps such as 3 and 4 respectively. The flap 3 is preferably notched as illustrated during the blank forming operation and is adapted to be secured to the flap 4 when the blank is folded to box form by adhesive or other suitable means. A narrow side forming panel 5 joins the main panels 1 and 2 to each other and the end flap 2a is turned up within the rectangular compartment formed by the side walls (see Fig. 3) and frictionally retained therein. The lines 6 of the container are suitably perforated during the scoring or cutting operation and define a strip 7 which may be easily removed by tearing to provide a transverse opening 8 disposed about halfway between the ends of the package.

Preferably the tear strip is shaped to provide diverging or "dove-tail" ends as shown. This shape renders the sheets accessible when the package is arranged in its curved or bent dispensing form, and yet involves the removal of but a fraction of the area of the side 2. The major portion of the side wall 2 remains available to cover and protect the sheets from dust when the package is arranged on the flat side 1 as in Figure 1.

An end flap integral with the side panel 2 and indicated generally at 9 comprises sections 10, 11 and 12. When the package is closed as for shipment the portions 11 and 12 are frictionally retained within the package to close the end thereof. Alternatively the flap may be arranged to hold the container sections 15—16 in the position shown in Figure 3, wherein flap 12 is forced into the end of the package section 15 and frictionally held therein between the flap 2a and adjacent wall 1. The central area of panel 1 which is the transverse strip 18 remaining between the sections 15 and 16 subsequent to the removal of the tear flap 7 serves to give the sheets of parchment or the like an arcuate contour at the junction between the sections. This curvature may vary somewhat from that shown by variations in the length of the flap portion 11 and/or variations in the length of portion 18. In any event the parts may be proportioned to effect a curvature that will render the sheets

easily removable one at a time. The sheets are readily available and may be conveniently removed by the thumb and fingers of one hand as indicated in Figure 3. The shelf or counter space
5 required for the package as arranged in Figure 3 is considerably less than that required for the sheets in a flat pile.

An alternative use of the package is effected by hanging the package against a wall or other vertical support through the medium of the eyelet 14
10 provided in the flap portion 10. A portion of the container wall is cut away as at 19 to facilitate withdrawal of single sheets when the package is suspended as in Figure 5 or laid on a horizontal
15 surface.

Although I have found the integral flap arrangement of Figure 3 satisfactory for most purposes, the package is well suited to the use of a separate metal base 20 such as shown in Figure 4.
20

This base or connector member 20 is preferably U-shaped and the sides 21-22 of the U are forced into the ends of the package adjacent the upright walls 1 on sections 15 and 16.
25 The flaps which form the end closures serve to frictionally retain the sides 21 and 22 in position within the package. The connector or base 20 may have any desired length not exceeding the width of the package, and I have found a
30 connector about one third of the width of the package satisfactory. In the event that a metal base retainer such as 20 is employed the flap 9 may be reduced somewhat in length if desired and thus function only to close the end of the pack-
35 age or to suspend the package.

From the foregoing it will be observed that I have provided a sturdy compact container well suited to dispense the sheets therein. It will also be noted that the sheets are kept in an orderly
40 sanitary manner, and are retained in a curved formation that greatly simplifies the withdrawal of a single sheet. Economies of manufacture resulting from the double function of shipping container and dispensing package are among the
45 advantages to be obtained from the use of the container embodying my invention. From the foregoing description it will be seen that the container not only protects the contents during shipment and handling, but that it may be used
50 either as a flat dispensing carton which will lay horizontally on the counter or suspended in a vertical position as above described, or it may be formed into a dispensing cabinet as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 with the advantages attendant
55 upon that arrangement. Particularly when the carton is disposed and arranged to form a dispenser cabinet as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, I find it at least sometimes desirable with various kinds of sheet material to form the container a little
60 wider than the width of the sheet material to facilitate a slight transverse movement of the sheet to be withdrawn relative to the container prior to the actual withdrawal thereof in the manner illustrated in Fig. 3.

Although the foregoing has dealt with a preferred form of my invention, and has referred to only certain advantages incident to the use thereof, modifications in structure and other changes will occur to those skilled in the art
70 without departing from the teaching of this specification or the spirit of my invention, and I therefore desire not to be limited in the scope and effect of my patent to the preferred form herein disclosed other than by the claims ap-
75

ended hereto when construed with the range of equivalents to which they are entitled.

I claim:—

1. In a dispensing package for flat sheet material having four side walls and opposed end walls, three adjoining side walls provided with spaced perforations defining a tear strip arranged centrally of said package whereby removal of said
5 tear strip leaves a single side wall connecting portion joining the end sections of said package, one of said end walls provided with an integral flap having an intermediate portion disposed opposite
10 said side wall connecting portion and secured to said package adjacent the opposite end wall to hold said end sections substantially parallel to each other and expose the intermediate portion of the sheet contents through the aperture provided by said tear flap.
15

2. In a dispensing package for flat sheet material having four side walls and opposed end walls, said package comprising two end sections joined to each other by an integral imperforate side wall portion and perforated side walls defining a tear strip, one of said end sections provided with a flap integral with the side wall opposite
25 said imperforate wall to serve as a closure for said last named end section and as a connector base to hold said end sections substantially parallel and curve said imperforate wall in a manner to give the sheets exposed thereat a curved contour to facilitate their removal.
30

3. In a dispensing package for flat sheet material having four side walls and opposed end walls, said package comprising two end sections joined to each other by an integral imperforate side wall portion and perforated side walls defining a tear strip, one of said end sections provided with a flap integral with the side wall opposite
35 said imperforate wall to serve as a closure for said last named end section and as a connector base to hold said end sections substantially parallel and curve said imperforate wall in a manner to give the sheets exposed thereat a curved contour to facilitate their removal, said last named flap provided with a centrally arranged aperture to suspend said package in a vertical position.
40

4. In a dispensing package for flat sheet material having four side walls and opposed end walls, three adjoining side walls provided with spaced perforations defining a tear strip arranged centrally of said package whereby removal of said tear strip leaves a single side wall connecting portion joining the end sections of said package, and a U-shaped sheet metal base member arranged opposite said connecting portion to hold the sheet package in a substantially inverted U-shape, to expose the sheet material through said tear flap, the side portions of said base member disposed within the package.
55

5. In a dispensing package for flat sheet material having four side walls and opposed end walls, three adjoining side walls provided with spaced perforations defining a tear strip arranged centrally of said package whereby removal of said tear strip leaves a single side wall connecting portion joining the end sections of said package, said tear strip provided with diverging ends on opposed side walls and a narrow portion intermediate said ends on the wall joining said opposed walls to form a narrow aperture on one side wall.
60

6. In a dispensing package for flat sheet material having four side walls and opposed end walls, two of said side walls opposed to each other and
75

5 abutting the edges of said flat sheet material, said last named walls provided centrally thereof with transverse cut-outs having diverging edges, a side wall joining said opposed side walls and provided centrally thereof with a transverse cut-out leading to the opposed side wall cut-outs, whereby the package is cut away on three sides and bend-

ing the package end sections toward each other about its uncut side exposes the flat sheets therein through an opening governed by the extent to which the end sections are brought toward each other.

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