ENVELOPE FOR PACKAGING LADIES' STOCKINGS

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

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FIG. 16.

FIG. 17.
The following description is directed to the specific embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings and is not addressed to the scope of the invention, which may be practiced in a variety of forms.

The packages are displayed in a wire rack, generally designated 10. The rack is provided with opposite side members 12, each of which has a fore leg 14 terminating in a turned up foot 16 and a hind leg 18 terminating in a turned up foot 20. Extending transversely of the rack are a crossbar 22 opposite end portions of which are affixed respectively to the feet 16 and a crossbar 26 opposite end portions of which are affixed respectively to the feet 20. Also extending transversely of the rack are a pair of crossbars 24 each of which has opposite end portions affixed respectively to the legs 18.

The rack is provided with a series of members 28, 34a-d, and 38, each of which is of inverted U-shape. The member 28 has lateral extensions 30 which terminate in turned up portions 32 affixed to the bar 22. The members 28, 34a-d and 38 are affixed to each other serially by means of lateral extensions, designated 36a-d and 40. The member 38 is affixed to the crossbars 24. The member 34c is seated upon and affixed to the crossbar 26. The members 28, 34a-d, and 38 are disposed respectively in rearwardly inclined parallel planes. Affixed to each of the side members 12 is a decorative piece 42. Extending upwardly from the crossbars 24 is a standard 44 which carries a plate 46. The members 28 and 34a-d form a series of four compartments stacked with packages containing stockings. Two of the stockings, designated A and B, contain packages constructed in accordance with the prior art, and two of the stockings, designated C and D, contain packages constructed in accordance with the invention.

Referring particularly to FIGURES 4 through 10, the envelope of a prior art package, designated 48, is formed of a heavy flexible paper blank, generally designated 50. The blank is provided with a rectangular front panel 52 having a diamond shaped cut out 54. On each side of the panel 52 is a side flap 56 folded under the panel 52. FIGURE 1 at the bottom of the panel 52 is a lower flap 58, and at the top of the panel 52 is an upper flap 56. The flaps 56 and 58 are folded over the side flaps 56. The interior of the envelope is lined with a transparent cellophane sheet 62 containing a pair of stockings 64. The cutout 54 defines a front transparent panel 65, and the inner edges of the flaps 56, 58 and 60 define a large rear transparent panel 68. The lower edge 74 of the cellophane envelope is straight and is provided with a recess affording a finger hold 72. It will be noted that the straight edge 70 bulges outwardly, as at 74, and that the upper edge 76 of the lower flap 58 is straight and bulges outwardly, as at 78. It will also be noted that the mutually overlying end portions of the flaps 56, 58 and 60 are adhesively secured together and that the transparent flaps 62 are adhesively secured in position within the blank 52. However, no adhesive is applied in the area of the finger hold 72, and no adhesive is applied to the flap 58 between the flaps 56.

Referring particularly to FIGURES 6 to 10, normally no difficulty is experienced in removing a package 48a from a stack A or B of packages. However, difficulty may be experienced when replacing the package 48a. When a package 48a is removed, the lower edge 76 of its upper flap 60 and the upper edge 76 of its lower flap 58 bulge or bow outwardly due to the presence of the enclosed pair of stockings. Normally, no difficulty is experienced in reinserting the package 48a until it is almost fully reinserted between the adjacent packages 48b and 48c. At this point, the packages 48b and 48c are separated somewhat by the package 48a and the edge 76 of the package 48b bulges or bows outwardly and thereby
forms an obstruction, as shown in FIGURE 8, which must be cleared by the bottom of the package 48a. In addition, the outwardly bulging or bowed edge 70 of the package 48a forms an obstruction, as shown in FIGURE 7, which must clear the top of the package 48c. Thus the customer may experience difficulty in returning the package 48a neatly to its stack.

In anticipation that the rearmost package 48d is removed from the stack, difficulty may be experienced by reason of the edge 76 of the package bulging or bowing outwardly sufficiently to catch under the horizontally extending portion of the member 34c.

Normally, the packages all face forwardly, but occasionally one is replaced facing in the wrong direction. In this event, when the package adjacent to and in front of the one facing in the wrong direction is removed from the stack, the package facing in the wrong direction tends to be removed also by reason of its edge 70 bulging or bowing outwardly sufficiently to catch over the edge 76 of the package which is being removed from the stack.

All of these difficulties constitute nuisances which it is desirable to avoid for the sake of all concerned.

Now referring to FIGURES 1, 2 and 11 to 15, the envelope of a package constructed in accordance with this invention, generally designated 50, is formed of a heavy flexible paper blank, generally designated 82. The blank 82 is provided with a rectangular front panel 84 having an oval shaped cutout 86. On each side of the panel 84 is a flap 88 folded under the panel. At the lower end of the panel is a flap 90, and at the upper end is a flap 92. The flaps 90 and 92 are folded over the side flaps 88. Within the blank is a transparent cellophane lining 94 containing a pair of stockings 96. The cutout 86 defines a transparent panel 98, and the side flaps 88 and lower and upper flaps 90 and 92 define a large transparent panel 100. It will be noted that the lower edge 102 of the upper flap is curved and that it bulges outwardly, as at 106, and that the upper edge 108 of the lower flap is curved and bulges outwardly, as at 110. The mutually overlying portions of the flaps 88, 90 and 92 are adhesively secured together and the transparent lining is adhesively secured in position within the blank 82, all in substantially the same manner as in the prior art package, and it will be particularly noted that no adhesive is applied under the marginal portion of the flap 92, between the side flaps 88, and that no adhesive is applied to the flap 90, between the side flaps 88.

Referring particularly to FIGURES 11 to 15, the difficulties which may be experienced with the prior art packages are eliminated by the packages constructed in accordance with the invention.

When a package 80a is removed, the lower edge 102 of the upper flap 92, and the upper edge 108 of the lower flap 90 bulge or bow outwardly due to the presence of the enclosed pair of stockings. When the package 80a is almost fully reinserted between the packages 80c and 80c, the packages 80b and 80c are separated somewhat by the package 80a and the edge 108 of the package 80b bulges or bows outwardly and thereby forms an obstruction, as shown in FIGURE 13, which must clear by the bottom of the package 80a. In addition, the outwardly bulging or bowed edge 102 of the package 80a forms an obstruction, as shown in FIGURE 12, which must clear the top of the package 80c.

With regard to the former obstruction, the bottom of the package 80a easily clears the opposite end portions of the flap 90 but these are adhesively secured to the flaps 88. Once the upper edges of these portions, designated 106c, are cleared, the bottom of the package 80a is cammed over the flap 90 by the curved edge 108.

With regard to the latter obstruction, the top of the package 80c is easily cleared by the opposite end portions of the flap 92 because these are adhesively secured to the flaps 88. Once the lower edges of these portions, designated 102a, clear, the flap 92 is cammed past the top of the package 80c by the curved edge 102.

The same camming action avoids any difficulty in removing the rearmost package 80d from the stack, and in removing a package when the adjacent package to the rear thereof has been placed in the stack with wrong face forward.

Although the lower edge 102 of the upper flap and the upper edge 108 of the lower flap are shown and described as being curved, it will be understood that these edges may be V-shaped, as at 116 in FIGURE 16, or straight, as at 114 in FIGURE 17.

What is claimed is:

1. In an envelope for packaging shallow-depth articles such as ladies' stockings, the combination comprising a heavy flexible paper blank having a substantially rectangular front panel, a pair of flaps extending from said panel and folded back respectively under opposite sides of said panel, a pair of flaps extending from said panel and folded back respectively under the top and bottom of said panel and over said side flaps, the mutually overlying portions of said flaps being adhesively secured together, the portions of said top and bottom flaps extending between said side flaps being smoothly, graduallly varied in width, and being of maximum width at the inner edge of at least one of said side flaps and of less than maximum width at all points between said side flaps, a shallow-depth article within said folded blank, and a sheet of transparent material within said folded blank extending across a large opening defined by said flaps and intersected between said flaps and shallow-depth article, the inner marginal portion of at least one of said top and bottom flaps being free of attachment to said marginal sheet material to facilitate opening said envelope.

2. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the portions of said top and bottom flaps extending between said side flaps are of maximum width at the inner edges of both side flaps.

3. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the portions of the inner edges of the top and bottom flaps extending between the side flaps are coincident with large radius curved lines.

4. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the portions of the inner edges of the top and bottom flaps extending between the side flaps are straight.

5. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the portions of the inner edges of the top and bottom flaps extending between the side flaps are non-parallel and the outer edge of the bottom flap and the portion of the inner edge of the top flap extending between the side flaps are non-parallel and the outer edge of the bottom flap and the portion of the inner edge of the top flap extending between the side flaps are non-parallel.

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