Oct. 24, 1967 C. E. JOHNSON 3,348,759

PAPER BAG

Filed Aug. 26, 1966

Fig. 1.

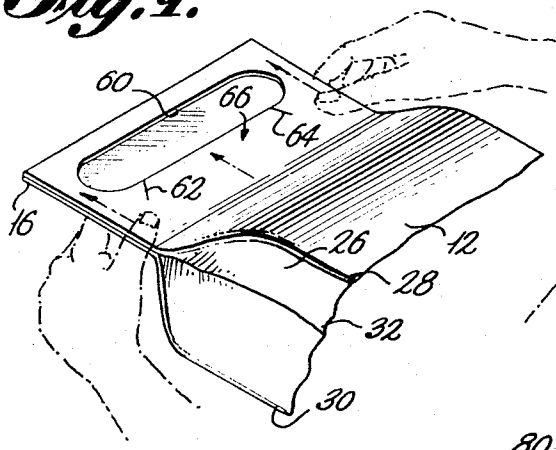



Fig. 2.

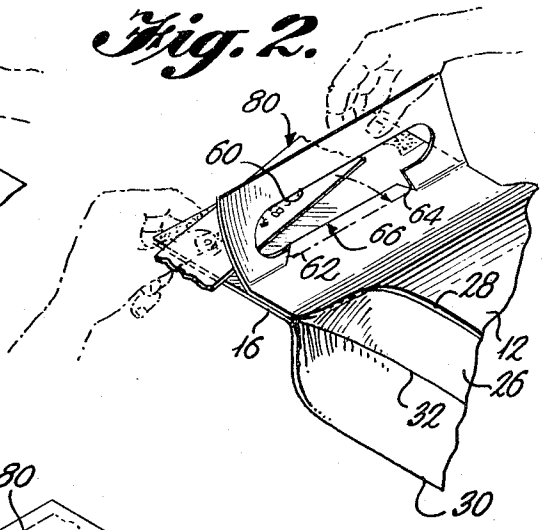



Fig. 3.

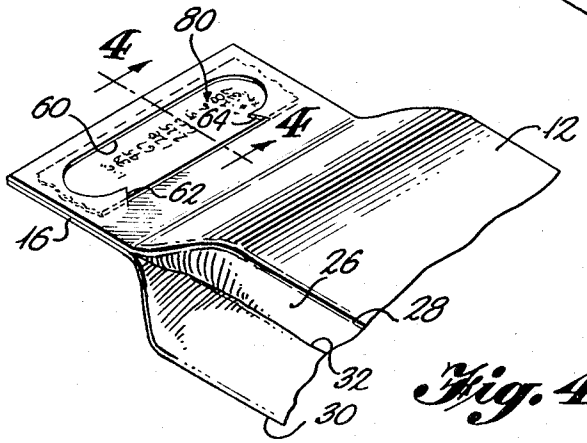



Fig. 4.

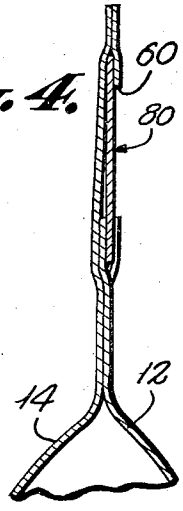
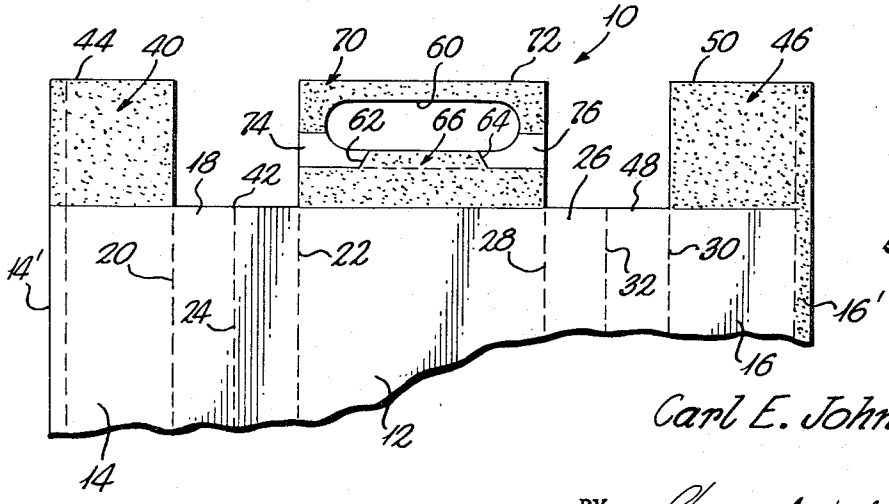



Fig. 5.




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3,348,759

# PAPER BAG

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The bag is provided with a viewing opening in one panel which allows the display of a cash register receipt to indicate to the store personnel that the purchaser has paid for the items in the bag. The bag is provided with self-sealing adhesive on the inner faces of the front and rear panels to allow the fast and secure sealing of the bag after the cash register tape has been inserted in the viewing opening and securely retains the receipt in position as well as keeping the bag closed without use of staples, clips or the like.

The present invention relates to a new and novel paper bag, and more particularly to a paper bag which is self-sealing and which includes means for holding and displaying a cash register tape.

The bag of the present invention is especially adapted for use in large department stores and the like wherein check-out counters are provided whereat a clerk registers on the cash register the amount of the items purchased and the customer pays for the total purchase at such time. In this type of check-out system, clerks are not necessarily provided at the individual counters throughout the store.

In the arrangement presently employed in those situations, the amount of the purchase is usually rung up on the cash register by one clerk, while a second clerk places the items into the bag. This second clerk then usually folds the top of the bag and staples it several times across the top of the bag and the cash register tape is stapled to the top of the bag so that it is visible to employees throughout the store and at the doors of the store.

The purpose of this arrangement is to prevent unscrupulous customers from adding items to the bag after it has been paid for in any particular department within the store or in any particular store within a shopping center. Accordingly, a person cannot go from store to store adding items surreptitiously to bags of items which have already been paid for.

With the arrangement of the present invention, the upper end of the bag can be readily sealed by applying pressure thereto, thereby enabling a single clerk not only to fill the bag, but to readily also seal the bag without the necessity of providing additional means such as a staple gun and staples for sealing the bag.

The bag of the present invention additionally includes means for displaying the cash register tape so that it will be readily visible to personnel throughout the store. This display means is of such a construction that it enables the cash register tape to be readily inserted in operative position with a minimum of effort on the part of the clerk.

With this simplified procedural arrangement, a single clerk can readily fill the bag, attach the cash register tape, and seal the bag with a minimum of effort so that a single clerk can effectively perform the functions which have heretofore required the services of two different clerks, thereby resulting in considerable savings.

A special advantage of the present invention is the fact that the construction of the final bag may be obtained by modifying present bag constructions so that it is not necessary to completely alter the bag arrangements of the prior art. When the bag has been finally sealed, it is necessary to destroy the bag to get at the cash register tape or the contents of the bag, thereby preventing a customer from tampering with the bag after it has been sealed. The invention bag thereby enables a store to be operated with a check-out system which is substantially theft-proof.



An object of the present invention is to provide a new and novel paper bag which is self-sealing and which eliminates the necessity of providing supplementary means such as staple guns and the like for sealing the bag.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a paper bag including means for displaying a cash register tape so that it will be readily visible to all personnel in the store.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bag which permits a cash register tape to be readily inserted and the bag subsequently sealed so that a single clerk may effectively perform the functions heretofore performed by two different clerks.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of a paper bag which can be formed by modification of present bag constructions, and wherein it is necessary to destroy the sealed bag to get at either the cash register tape or the contents thereof to provide a theft-proof arrangement.

Other objects and many attendant advantages of the invention will become more apparent when considered in connection with the specification and accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a top perspective view of the bag of the present invention illustrating a step in the initial sealing of the bag;

FIG. 2 illustrates a further step in utilizing the bag wherein the cash register tape is being inserted in operative position;

FIG. 3 illustrates the finally sealed bag;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken substantially along line 4—4 of FIG. 3 looking in the direction of the arrows; and

FIG. 5 illustrates the bag blank prior to assembling the bag.

Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, the bag blank is indicated generally by reference numeral **10** in FIG. 5 of the drawings, and includes a front panel **12** and a rear panel defined by two portions **14** and **16** adapted to be adhesively secured to one another along the outer edges **14'** and **16'** thereof respectively.

A first side panel **18** is joined with the back panel portion **14** by a fold line **20** and with the front panel **12** by a fold line **22**. A fold line **24** extends longitudinally along the medial portion of side panel **18**. A side panel **26** is connected with the front panel **12** by a fold line **28** and with the back panel portion **16** by a fold line **30**. A longitudinally extending fold line **32** extends along the medial portion of the side panel **26**.

A suitable pressure sensitive adhesive means indicated generally by reference numeral **40** is disposed on the inner surface of the upper part of back panel portion **14**. This adhesive means extends from a point closely adjacent the upper panel edge **42** of side panel **18** to the upper edge **44** of the rear panel portion **14**. A similar body of pressure sensitive adhesive means **46** is disposed at the upper part of the rear panel portion **16**, this adhesive means extending from a point closely adjacent the upper edge **48** of side panel **26** to the upper edge **50** of the rear panel portion **16**.

A generally oblong cutout **60** is formed in the upper part of front panel **12**, and a pair of downwardly and outwardly flaring slits **62** and **64** extend from cutout **60**, these slits defining therebetween a flap indicated generally by reference numeral **66**.

A pressure sensitive adhesive means indicated by reference numeral **70** is disposed on the inner surface of the front panel **12** from a point closely adjacent the upper edges **42** and **48** of the side panels **18** and **26** respectively to the upper edge **72** of the front panel. It will be noted that the inner surface of the flap **66** has the adhesive means disposed thereon, but the portions **74** nad **76** of the inner surface of the front panel which extend laterally from the flap **76** at opposite sides thereof and which are also lateral of the lower portion of the cutout are free of the adhesive means.

When the blank **10** is initially folded to form the bag, it will be understood that the rear panel portions **14** and **16** are adhesively secured to one another along the edge portions **14'** and **16'** respectively, and that the bag is provided with the conventional bottom construction. The side panels **18** and **26** are folded along the fold lines **24** and **32** thereof to enable the bag to be folded flat, and the upper parts of the front and rear panels which have the adhesive substance disposed thereon are folded downwardly inside the bag.

When it is desired to use the bag, the clerk opens the bag and pulls up the upper portions of the front and rear panels and then inserts the desired items into the bag. After this has been done, the clerk then slides his hands up the sides of the upper portions of the front and rear panels as illustrated in FIG. 1 of the drawing so as to adhesively secure the lower parts of these upper portions of the front and rear panels to one another at the inner surfaces thereof. When the clerk gets to the point where the non-adhesive portions **74** and **76** are opposite his fingers, he will stop such upward movement and then fold the upper part of the front panels outwards as indicated in FIG. 2 while the flap portion **66** has been adhesively secured to the rear panel as indicated by the arrows in FIG. 1 which illustrate the direction of movement of the clerk's fingers, this flap being adhesively secured separately from the pressing of the side edges of the front and rear panels together as shown in FIG. 1.

The next step is to insert a piece of cash register tape indicated generally by reference numeral **80** in FIG. 2 into operative position. This is done by sliding the cash register tape between the front and rear panels so that it slides into the slits **62** and **64**. It is apparent that the flap and slits cooperate to guide the tape into operative position and to receive and limit the movement of the tape and will hold the tape in such operative position. After the tape has been slipped into the slits **62** and **64** in overlying relation to flap **66**, the clerk continues to move his fingers upwardly so as to seal the bag by adhesively securing the uppermost portions of the front and rear panels to one another along the inner surfaces thereof.

In the final position as illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4, the upper end of the bag is completely sealed and the cash register tape is sealed into the operative position shown. The cash register tape will be readily visible through the cutout **60** provided in the front panel.

It is apparent from the foregoing that there is provided according to the present invention a new and novel paper bag which is self-sealing and which requires no additional means to seal the bag such as a staple gun or the like. The cutout provided in the front panel provides a means for readily observing the cash register tape disposed therewithin. The construction is such that the cash register tape may be readily inserted into operative position and the upper end of the bag sealed so that a single clerk may perform in a simple and efficacious manner the functions formerly performed by two separate clerks. The bag construction of the present invention may be obtained by modifying present bag constructions, and when the bag is finally sealed, it is necessary to destroy the bag in order to get at either the cash register tape or the contents of the bag, thereby providing a substantially theft-proof arrangement when employed in check-out operations in a large store.



As this invention may be embodied in several forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof, the present embodiment is therefore illustrative and not restrictive, since the scope of the invention is defined by the appended claims, all changes that fall within the metes and bounds of the claims or that form their functional as well as conjointly cooperative equivalents are therefore intended to be embraced by those claims.

I claim:

**1.** A bag formed of flexible material defining a front panel, a rear panel, and a pair of side panels connecting the side edges of said front and rear panels, said front and rear panels including upper edges, said side panels each including an upper edge, the upper edges of said side panels being spaced a substantial distance below the upper edges of said front and rear panels, pressure sensitive adhesive means disposed on the upper portions of the inner surfaces of said front and rear panels and extending from a point closely adjacent the upper edges of said side panels to a point closely adjacent the upper edges of said front and rear panels for securing such upper portions of the front and rear panels to one another, said front panel having a cutout formed therein for displaying a cash register tape, and flap means formed adjacent the lower part of said cutout, said flap being defined by a pair of slits formed in said front panel for receiving such cash register tape to limit the movement thereof and to hold it in position until the front and rear panels are adhesively secured to one another so as to seal the upper end of the bag and the cash register tape.

**2.** Bag as defined in claim **1**, wherein the areas of the inner surface of said front panel disposed laterally of said flap are free of said pressure sensitive adhesive means.

**3.** Bag as defined in claim **1**, wherein said slits are spaced a substantial distance from one another and extend downwardly from and flare outwardly from said cutout.

**4.** Bag as defined in claim **2**, wherein said areas on the inner surface of said front panel free of adhesive means also are disposed laterally of the lower portion of the cutout.

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