June 28, 1932. H. H. STRAUS 1,864,872

CIGARETTE PACKAGE

Filed Oct. 12, 1929

Fig. 1

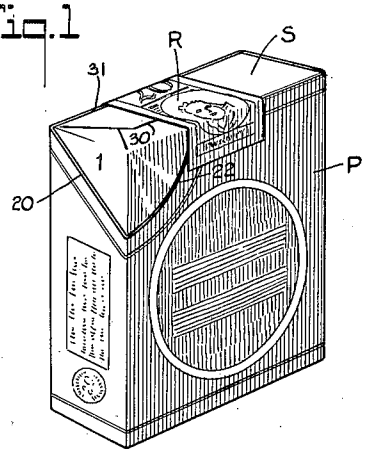


Fig. 2.

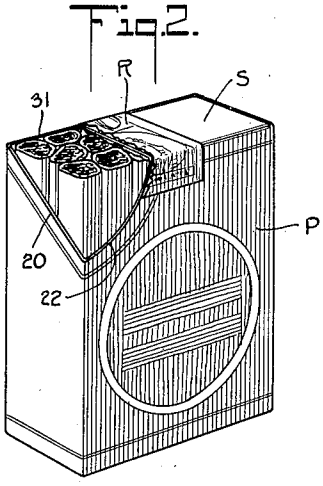
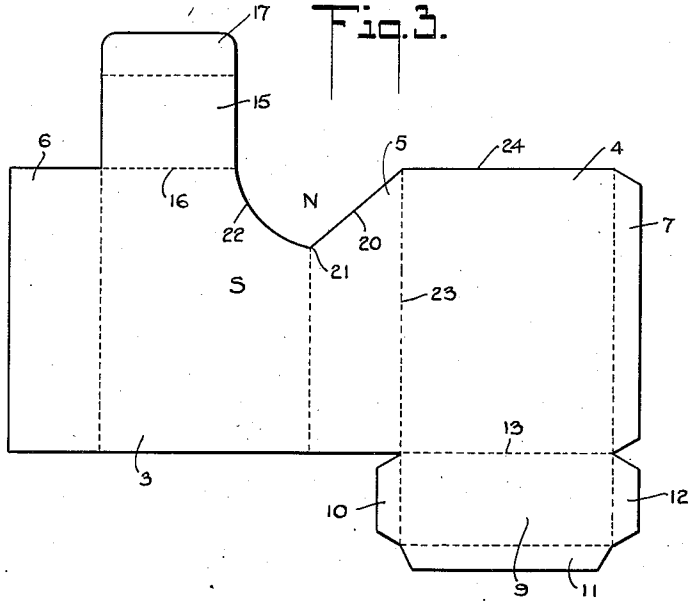


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CIGARETTE PACKAGE

Application filed October 12, 1929. Serial No. 399,203.

This invention relates to an improved package made up of thin fibrous material with no inherent stiffness combined with a layer of stiffer material which will impart rigidity and resistance to distortion to the package for the purpose of protecting the contents and which is so formed and shaped and combined with the layers possessing little inherent stiffness as to furnish a convenient means for tearing away a portion of the package to permit the removal of the contents.

And it is still a further object to produce an opening which will allow the removal of a small number of the units contained in the package but is so small and is placed in such a position that enough of the package remains to offer substantial protection to the remainder of the contents. The opening in the package is so shaped as to give it a pleasing configuration, so that the general impression conveyed to the eye is one of neatness.

Articles which are sold for a nominal price are often placed in paper packages which insufficiently protect the articles themselves against crushing or other forms of distortion. For instance, in packaging the more popular brands of cigarettes, a paper and tinfoil cover is used to protect the contents. When the package is full, and before it is opened, the cigarettes themselves, because they are tightly bundled together offer some resistance to crushing and distortion, but even under these conditions this resistance is not very great and often the contents are crushed or broken before the package is opened. After part of the contents have been removed the resistance of the tightly packed bundle is reduced to the resistance of a few loosely packed cigarettes in a paper cover and the remainder of the cigarettes are often either partly or wholly crushed before they may be entirely consumed by the user.

Because of this undesirable condition, certain manufacturers have been quite successful in marketing stiff leather receptacles for receiving a package of cigarettes and which serve to protect the cigarettes until the last one is consumed, but these receptacles are heavy and inconvenient to carry and use.

Manufacturers of the more expensive brands overcome this difficulty by selling their cigarettes in cardboard boxes, but these boxes are too expensive to be commercially practicable for the more popular brands, and so it is still a further object of this invention to combine with a cheap, light weight paper package a stiffening means which will be inexpensive to produce and apply to the package and which will furnish sufficient resistance to preserve the contents of the package until the contents are entirely consumed.

I have shown my invention as embodied in a package of cigarettes but do not wish to be limited to cigarettes or tobacco products inasmuch as this particular type of package may be utilized for many commodities.

I have also shown the aperture or opening in one corner of the package, as this seems to be a convenient way of extracting cigarettes, but I wish it to be understood that some other part of a package may be removed and furnish an aperture or opening for the removal of the contents if this is found desirable.

Further features and objects of the invention will be more fully understood from the following detail description of the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a package of cigarettes embodying my invention and shown as it would be sold to a retail customer.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view illustrating the tinfoil cover of the cigarettes torn away at the aperture defined by the stiffening member and the outer paper cover.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the stiffening member in the form of a blank before it is applied to the package of cigarettes.

Looking at the drawing, P illustrates a package of cigarettes embodying a stiffening member S. The cigarettes are wrapped in tinfoil cover 1 usually made up of a layer of tinfoil and an inner layer of very thin paper; the means and the method of wrapping form no part of this invention and is well known to the art, and hence is not described herein more particularly.

Upon the exterior of this tinfoil wrapping is placed the stiffener member S which can best be described by reference to the embodi-

ment illustrated in Fig. 3. The illustrated embodiment comprises four side portions 3 and 4 adapted to cover the wide sides of the package of cigarettes, portions 5 and 6 adapted to cover the narrow sides of the package and flap 7 adapted to be pasted to one edge of side 6 to seal the stiffener in place around cigarettes which have been wrapped in the tinfoil cover 1.

The bottom of the package is protected by flap 9 which is hinged to the lower edge of wide side portion 4 and auxiliary flaps 10, 11 and 12, adapted to be folded inside of side portions 5, 4 and 6 respectively, when the flap 9 is folded along line 13 at right angles to wide side portions 4. A similar flap 15, but not as long as flap 9, is hinged to the top of wide side portion 3 and is adapted to be folded down along line 16 to cover part of the top of the package and flap 15 is preferably equipped with an auxiliary flap 17 adapted to fit down between the upper end of wide side portion 4 and the tinfoil inner covering over the cigarettes.

Stiffening member S possesses a substantially V-shaped notch N on the upper side thereof defined by line 22 extending from one of the hinged corners of flap 15 downwardly to a point on one edge of narrow side 5, that is point 21, as seen in Fig. 3 and by a line 20 extending from point 21 upwardly across the upper portion of narrow side 5 to the junction of lines 23 and 24 which form respectively a common edge for sides 4 and 5 and an upper edge for side 4. When stiffening member S is folded around tinfoil cover 1, the outer cover usually made of thin paper and adapted to receive various designs and markings, such as names, trade-marks, and direction, may be applied to stiffening member S in the usual way, except that a notch must be removed therefrom so that the outer cover will coincide with the notch N of the stiffening member S leaving the tinfoil cover exposed as shown in Fig. 1. If desired the outer cover may be omitted and the markings placed upon the outside of stiffening member S.

The usual revenue stamp R may be utilized to seal the tinfoil cover, the stiffening member and the outer paper cover together and may be placed adjacent to notch N so that it must be torn in removing the tinfoil cover which covers the aperture defined by notch N and the upper side of the package when the purchaser of the package of cigarettes desires to open it. A convenient way of doing so is to insert the thumb nail under flap 30 of the tinfoil cover and tear the revenue stamp toward and along the edge of flap 15 of stiffening member S and then backwardly, looking at Fig. 1, along the edge of flap 15 of stiffening member S to the rear edge of package P, that is, edge 31, and then to the left on edge 31 and downwardly along the diagonal line 20 defined by the stiffener S. The remainder of the tinfoil many now be torn forwardly along the edge of the flap 15 to the upper end of line 22 and then downwardly along line 22 to meet line 20 when it can be disengaged.

It will be noted that the opening defined is large enough to remove the cigarettes conveniently and still it does not remove the entire top of the package so that the cigarettes will spill out into the pockets of the user. The stiffener member S will tend to hold the package in its proper shape and form to protect the contents.

The stiffening member is also advantageous in holding in place the cigarettes which are packed between top 15 and bottom 9 after the package has been opened and the cigarettes immediately below the opening removed because the remaining cigarettes stay wedged between the top 15 and bottom 9 and will not slide out under the opening in the package to drop out and be lost or crushed. In fact a sharp tap is generally necessary to loosen the cigarettes sufficiently to allow them to fall out and by proper regulation of the intensity of the tap one or two cigarettes may be disengaged to fall forward under the opening while the remainder stay in place under the top 15 where they are fully protected.

Whereas, I have described my invention by reference to specific forms thereof, it will be understood that many changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:—

1. In combination, a package comprising material possessing little inherent stiffness, said material extending substantially completely about all sides of the package and at the top end, said package further comprising a stiffening member associated with said material at said sides and at said top end to impart strength and rigidity to the package, said stiffening member having contour edges extending at an angle relative to one another, said contour edges being disposed at two adjacent sides of the package, said contour edges being disposed adjacent to one edge of said top end and at two adjacent sides of the package whereby upon grasping and tearing a portion of said material of little inherent stiffness adjacent said top edge said contour edges serve to define the path of tearing, and means for securing said stiffening member to said material.

2. In combination, a package comprising material possessing little inherent stiffness, said material extending substantially completely about all sides of the package and at the top end, said package further comprising a stiffening member associated with said material at said sides and at said top end to impart strength and rigidity to the

package, said stiffening member having contour edges extending at an angle relative to one another, said contour edges being disposed at two adjacent sides of the package, said contour edges being disposed adjacent to and about one edge of said top end and at two adjacent sides of the package whereby upon grasping and tearing a portion of said material of little inherent stiffness adjacent said top edge said contour edges serve to define the path of tearing, and means for securing said stiffening member to said material.

3. In combination, a package comprising material possessing little inherent stiffness, said material extending substantially completely about all sides of the package and at the top end, said package further comprising a stiffening member associated with said material at said side and at said top end to impart strength and rigidity to the package, said stiffening member having contour edges extending at an angle relative to one another, said contour edges being disposed at two adjacent sides of the package, said contour edges being disposed adjacent to one edge of said top end and at two adjacent sides of the package, one of said contour edges being substantially rectilinear, whereby upon grasping and tearing a portion of said material of little inherent stiffness adjacent said top edge said contour edges serve to define the path of tearing, and means for securing said stiffening member to said material.

4. In combination, a package comprising material possessing little inherent stiffness, said material extending substantially completely about all sides of the package and at the top end, said package further comprising a stiffening member associated with said material at said sides and at said top end to impart strength and rigidity to the package, said stiffening member having contour edges extending at an angle relative to one another, said contour edges being disposed at two adjacent sides of the package, said contour edges being disposed adjacent to one edge of said top end and at two adjacent sides of the package, said contour edges intersecting one another substantially coincident with an edge of the package, whereby upon grasping and tearing a portion of said material of little inherent stiffness adjacent said top edge said contour edges serve to define the path of tearing, and means for securing said stiffening member to said material.

5. In combination, a package comprising material possessing little inherent stiffness, said material extending substantially completely about all sides of the package and at the top end, said package further comprising a stiffening member associated with said material at said sides and at said top end to impart strength and rigidity to the package, said stiffening member having contour edges extending at an angle relative to one another, said contour edges being disposed at two adjacent sides of the package, said contour edges being disposed adjacent to one edge of said top end and at two adjacent sides of the package, said stiffening member at said top end of the package being cut away to have its contour edge spaced from said top edge whereby upon grasping and tearing a portion of said material of little inherent stiffness adjacent said top edge said contour edges serve to define the path of tearing, and means for securing said stiffening member to said material.

6. In combination, a package comprising material possessing little inherent stiffness, said material extending substantially completely about all sides of the package and at the top end, said package further comprising a stiffening member associated with said material at said sides and at said top end to impart strength and rigidity to the package, said stiffening member having contour edges extending at an angle relative to one another, said contour edges being disposed at two adjacent sides of the package, said contour edges being disposed adjacent to one edge of said top end and at two adjacent sides of the package, said contour edges intersecting one another substantially coincident with an edge of the package, said stiffening member at said top end of the package being cut away to have its contour edge spaced from said top edge whereby upon grasping and tearing a portion of said material of little inherent stiffness adjacent said top edge said contour edges serve to define the path of tearing, and means for securing said stiffening member to said material.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification this 10th day of October, 1929.

HARRY H. STRAUS.