Oct. 10, 1933.

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1,929,599

SHEET WRAPPED PACKAGE AND OPENER

Filed July 7, 1931

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

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This invention relates particularly to the packaging of rolled articles such as rugs, in which a sealed wrapping sheet is employed requiring lengthwise cutting to enable access to the enclosed article; and it consists primarily in advantageously embodying in such sealed packaging an opening device adapted to conveniently and safely effect such required cutting of the wrapper, and secondarily in the novel construction of the cutting device provided therefor, as fully set forth in connection with the accompanying drawing and clearly defined in the subjoined claims.

Fig. 1 illustrates my invention in connection with a rolled rug packaging, the cutting device in preferred form being shown as engaged in the slitted wrapping, and being exposed for operation by removal of the indicated covering label shown partially in dotted lines.

Fig. 2 comprises separate plan and edge views of the flat-formed cutter device shown in Fig. 1; the stop offsets being indicated as formed by bent-up stampings from the sheet-metal material employed, and the upward-bending of a handle portion for operative use being indicated by dotted lines.

Fig. 3 indicates a simple modification of the cutter device construction in which the essential features are provided by required bendings of a wire instead of by sheet-metal stampings as particularly indicated in Figs. 1 and 2.

In the particular packaging indicated in Fig. 1, a indicates a rug or like article as ordinarily rolled-up for shipment or handling, with a more or less substantial wrapper sheet b folded around it and having its outer edge portion b' secured to the underlying convolution of the wrapper; the sealing strip c indicated being commonly employed to effectively seal and cover said edge portion of the wrapper.

It is well known that in order to open such packaging it is required that the wrapping be cut lengthwise so as to release the sheet b for unfolding of it from the packaged article; and that lack of care and reasonable skill in doing this, incurs danger of injuring the latter, as well as of lack of neatness and loss of time.

To provide for avoiding such danger of injury to the packaged article, and such objectionable untidiness and waste, my invention provides primarily for fixedly embodying in the packaging, inconspicuously but obviously, a wrapping-cutter device whereby the required releasing of the wrapper may be safely effected neatly and quickly.

To this end I employ a simple integrally formed opening device, having a normally flat body portion 10 adapted to closely contact with and readily slide upon the surface of the wrapping but which is fixedly engaged with the latter in determined position upon the package, by means of a cutting-arm 11 forming a lateral extension from the edge of said body portion 10; said arm being engaged in a slit 12 in the package wrapping so as to normally hold the device in determined position on the sealed package both laterally and longitudinally of the latter. As shown, this engaging slot 12 is most satisfactorily made in the sealing strip C which provides a covering for the edge portion b' of the main wrapping sheet b, so that the cutting arm 11 may be inserted under said edge portion with the body 10 of the device extending along one side of the latter and lying close to the surface of the package; whereby longitudinal sliding movement of the device on the latter, will cause the cutting arm 11 to release the wrapping by severing said strip C. To facilitate the effecting of such cutting movement, the end portion or portions of body 10 of the device, is adapted to be readily bent-up so as to form a convenient handle; and for most satisfactorily securing and covering the device I paste thereover a label overlay which may bear printed instructions such as: “to open, bend up handle and pull”.

The cutting arm 11 is shown as reversely hooked-shaped, so as to provide for cutting movement in either longitudinal direction as well as for more secure engagement in the limited slit 12; the body portion 10 being likewise provided with reversely-extending handle ends 10'; so that the device may be embodied in the packaging at any desired point in its length, and be cutingly slid in opposite directions thereon.

In order to guide the device in its cutting movements, I provide a stop offset or offsets 15 adjacent the junction of the cutting-arm 11 with the body 10 of the device, which offsets are adapted to contact with the wrapping edge b' so as to maintain the cutting arm in determined underlying relation to said edge portion.

Such guiding offsets are readily provided by desirably bending or forming of the cutter-device material. As particularly illustrated, the device is integrally made from sheet metal, in the form of a simple flat stamping excepting as to the provision of the stop-offsets 15 referred to, which latter may be most conveniently provided by upwardly-pressed points as indicated in Fig. 2. It will be readily seen that essentially the same de-
vice may be very readily formed from a single length of wire as indicated in the modified showing of Fig. 3, in which the laterally projecting cutter edges are indicated as similarly shaped and with the cutting edges sharpened by effecting a slight change in the cross-section of the wire. Other modifications in the specific construction of the cutting device, and its application to particular packagings, may be made without departing from the invention as defined in the claims.

What I claim is:

1. In combination with a wrapped package; an opening device secured to said package by the exterior surface of the wrapper and an edgewise extending cutter engaged in a slit in the wrapper.

2. An opening device for package wrappings comprising a handle having a cutter extending laterally from a longitudinal edge thereof and provided with a cutting edge inclined forwardly with respect to said handle edge.

3. An opening device for package wrappings comprising a handle having a cutter extending from an edge thereof for engagement in a slit in a wrapping and provided with cutting-edges divergently inclined beyond said handle edge.

4. In combination with a package comprising an article enclosed within a wrapper having a slit therein; an opening device therefor comprising a handle slidable exteriorly of said wrapper in alignment with said slit, and a cutter extending edgewise from said handle and engaged in said slit and provided with a cutting edge disposed beneath said wrapper and inclined in the direction of movement of said handle.

5. In combination with a package comprising an article enclosed within a wrapper having a slit intermediate certain edges thereof; an opening device therefor comprising a handle slidable in opposite directions in a line coinciding with said slit and extending beyond the ends thereof; and a cutter extending from an edge of said handle and engaged in said slit and provided with cutting edges divergently inclined beyond said handle edge with the ends thereof which are remote from said edge disposed beneath said wrapper, whereby sliding of said handle in either direction effects cutting of said wrapper along said line.

6. An opening device for sheet-wrapped packagings, having a body portion formed with an edgewise cutter-extension laterally engageable in a slit of the wrapping and having an offset for limiting such lateral engaging movement of said cutter extension.

7. An integrally formed sheet-metal opening device for sheet-wrapped packages having a normally flat handle portion with an edgewise cutting extension and a short offset for engaging the junction of said extension and handle portion.

8. An opening device for sheet-wrapped packages formed from a single length of wire bent to provide a flat handle portion and a laterally extending cutter operatively engageable in a slit of the packaging.

9. A sealed package consisting of a rolled article enclosed by a wrapper having an overlapping longitudinal edge-portion extending in a substantially flat plane; and an opening device comprising a handle with a cutter extending therefrom and engaged in a slit in said wrapper and movable longitudinally of said package to cut the wrapper along a longitudinal line in said plane.

10. In combination with a package consisting of an article enclosed by a wrapper having an end portion overlapping the body thereof and secured thereto by a sealing strip; an opening device comprising a handle slidable upon the wrapper; and an edgewise-extending cutter on said handle engaged in a slit in said sealing strip and lying between the body of said wrapper and the said cutter extending edgewise from said handle for limiting Such lateral engaging movement of said cutter extension.

11. In combination with a sheet-wrapped package; an opening device having a normally flat, bendable handle portion and an edgewise cutter-extension engageable in a slit in the wrapper and operative by longitudinal sliding movement of the device along the wrapper; and a sealing label covering said slit and device and holding said bendable handle portion flat against the wrapper.

12. In combination with a package comprising an article enclosed within a wrapper having an end-edge secured to the body thereof; an opening device comprising a handle slidable upon said wrapper; a cutter extending from said handle and laterally engaged in a slit in said wrapper; and an offset on said cutter engaging said end-edge of said wrapper for limiting the lateral engagement of said cutter and for guiding the sliding movement of said handle along said wrapper.

13. An opening device for sheet-wrapped packages comprising a member having a body-portion slideable in contact with the exterior surface of the wrapper and end-portions bent at an angle to said body-portion for providing grasps to slide said device upon the wrapper; and a cutter extending from said body-portion substantially in the plane thereof and engageable in a slit in the wrapper, said cutter being operable to cut the wrapper by movement substantially in the plane thereof.

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