METHOD OF WRAPPING OR PACKAGING CONFECTIONS

Jack Burstiner, New York, N. Y.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 99–190)

1. This invention relates to improvements in a method of and means for wrapping or packaging confections.

More particularly, this invention relates to a method of producing a confection package of the character described and claimed in my co-pending application Ser. No. 575,524, filed January 31, 1945, now Patent Number 2,451,318.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a novel, practical, efficient, and economical method of packaging or wrapping confections, such as, candies or bonbons.

According to the conventional method of handling and packing candies and other bonbons in boxes, the candies are first hand dipped, placed on trays, and the trays carrying the candies run through a cooling tunnel; the candies being then manually removed from the trays and bulk packaged. These packages are then reopened, the candies removed and then repacked into the desired consumer or selling boxes, each candy being usually placed in a paper cup, and the individually cupped candies arranged in layers in the box, with one or more cardboard partitions between the layers. Furthermore, waxed paper and cushions or padding are usually employed to keep the candies dry and to prevent their rattling or leaving the paper cups.

It is an object of the present invention to eliminate these paper cups, partitions, cushions and even the box, and to provide a simple method and means of packing candies and other bonbons in a sanitary, practical and efficient manner.

Herein, in packing candies or bonbons in a box, one of the difficulties resulted in that when the box has once been opened and some of the confections removed, the remaining pieces of confection would haphazardly shift about thus giving the inside of the box a disorderly appearance.

It had also been found necessary to place such edibles in individual paper cups in order to prevent them from contacting and scraping against each other. These cups not only added to the cost of packaging, but were usually left empty in the box amongst filled ones, thereby adding to the unsightly appearance of the inside of the box and thus causing difficulty in locating the filled cups.

A further disadvantage of the previously styled packaging resided in the fact that each time it was desired to remove a piece of candy or bonbon, the entire layer of candies in the box had to be exposed.

It is, therefore, another object of the present invention to arrange the candies or bonbons in spaced relations and, also in spaced rows on a flexible base or sheet of suitable material, fold the ends of said sheet over the intermediate portion of the sheet, and then in this folded condition, roll the sheet with the candies encased therein into a package in such manner that the individual rows of candies are separated, respectively, by folds in or folded portions of the sheet, whereby the candies in each row are maintained individually separated and the rows of candies are separately covered or encased with portions of the sheet.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide a method for the sanitary packaging of candies and bonbons by arranging the same in covered rows and in such a manner that only the row of candies to be presently consumed are exposed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide means for packing or wrapping edibles, such as, candies and other bonbons, whereby the candies will adhere to or frictionally engage a properly surfaced paper base or other suitable sheet of material, when they are applied to such paper immediately after being dipped in coating solution.

Another object of the present invention is to provide such base with spaced indentations upon which the candies are placed and with indicia or marks for readily identifying the type or kind of candy.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide the base or sheet upon which the candies are arranged with embossed cup-like indentations for retaining the candies in spaced relation and with printed identification marks, such as, colored spots.

The above and further objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following disclosure thereof together with the attached drawings which illustrate certain forms of embodiment thereof. These forms are shown for the purpose of illustrating the invention and I desire in no way to be limited to the details of such disclosure, for in the further practical application of my invention many changes in the forms and proportions may be made as circumstances require or experience suggests without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the placing of freshly dipped candy on a flexible base or sheet;

Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic view showing cooling
means for the freshly dipped candies which have been arranged on the sheet as seen in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view showing a portion of such sheet with the dipped candy spacedly arranged thereon;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3, one end of the sheet being folded over a portion of the remaining part of the sheet and over some of the candies.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, showing a further stage in the formation of the package;

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5, showing a still further stage in the formation of the package;

Fig. 7 illustrates a portion of a flexible base or sheet having imprints thereon for identifying the different types of candy being packed;

Fig. 8 is a portion of a sheet having impressed or embossed areas for receiving the candies;

Fig. 9 is a sectional view taken on line 9-9 of Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a view somewhat similar to Fig. 8, parallel space lines being added;

Fig. 11 is a sectional view taken on line 11-11 of Fig. 10;

Fig. 11a is a sectional view of a modified form of base or sheet; and

Fig. 11b is a sectional view taken through a rolled package containing candy and made in accordance with the invention.

In carrying out a form of the invention a sheet of cellophane or other transparent or translucent sheet is employed as a flexible base. Candies or other candies are dipped in or coated by an edible substance usually by hand and while the coatings are still wet are placed upon the sheet of cellophane in spaced parallel rows and in spaced relation with respect to each other, sufficient margins being left at opposite sides.

The candies being wet as a result of the dipping operation will at least temporarily adhere to the cellophane sheet. The candy carrying sheet is then passed through a cooling tunnel, whereby the candies are dried and rendered substantially non-sticky. Two opposite sides of the sheet are folded over the intermediate portion thereof and the now folded sheet is rolled from one unfolded end to the other in such a manner that each individual row is substantially embraced or encased by portions of the sheet.

It is evident that besides candies sticky fruits may likewise be packed; or where the base or sheet is provided with rows of depressions dried candies, bonbons, fruits or other suitable edibles may be likewise packaged.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings which disclose some examples of carrying out the invention, the numeral 29 (Fig. 1) indicates a hand in the act of placing a hand-dipped candy 21a on the marking 22 of a transparent or translucent sheet 25, such as cellophane. The other candies 21 have already been arranged in spaced relation on sheet 23. The sheet 23 carrying the dipped candy is placed from table 24 onto an endless conveyor belt 25 trained over pulleys 26, the belt 25 moving in the direction of the arrow (Fig. 2), carrying the dipped candy containing sheet 23 through a conventional cooler tunnel 27 having an inlet and outlet pipes 28, 29, the tunnel 27 being secured to a support 30. From conveyor belt 25, the sheet 23 passes onto a receiving table 21 on which the package may be formed.

Fig. 3 shows how the candies 21 are arranged on sheet 23 in spaced relation in each row, the rows being also separated by suitable spaces A, B, C. Margins 32, 33, are provided on opposite sides of the sheet 23 which are folded over the intermediate portion of the sheet 23 as seen in Figs. 4 and 5.

The candy containing sheet 23 is now convoluted, rolled or wound together, one part upon another commencing from one of the unfolded sides which is at a right angle to the fold lines 34, 35.

Fig. 6 shows diagrammatically this sheet in the process of being rolled to form the package, and Fig. 12 shows in cross section, the completed package P.

It is understood that after the candy has been placed on the sheet, the latter is left at least one of its sides to fold back and margins 32, 33, are provided on opposite sides of the sheet to provide a complete overlapping and coverage at the end of the roll, thus completely sealing the package. This margin is indicated in Fig. 12 by the numeral 36.

Referring to Fig. 7, the flexible base or sheet 23a may be provided with different markings, symbols, indicia in each row indicated by the numerals 40, 41, 42, 43. These markings, symbols, indicia or other characters may serve a two-fold purpose, namely, to indicate to a factory employee what type, style or kind of candy is to be placed on the respective markings or characters; and to make easy for the consumer to identify the particular pieces of candy in the assortment. For the latter purpose, the package may be imprinted with, or carry a label on which is printed, the style, type or kind of candy corresponding to the marking or character over which it is placed in the package. Although in Fig. 7, the characters are shown as being identical, it is evident that the same may thus have different characters or symbols, and thus an assortment of candies.

Furthermore, different colored markings may be used for different types of candies. The flexible base or sheet may be made sufficiently thick and yieldable so that the candy will make its own bed when the package is made up; or as seen in Figs. 8 and 9, depressions or recesses 44 may be embossed in the sheet 23b, the candies being seated in said depressions.

According to Figs. 10 and 11, the wrapper may have an outer flexible sheet or layer 55, for example, of cellophane or other moisture-resistant material, and an inner layer of paper or thin cardboard 51 having the depressions 52 for receiving the bottoms of the candies and the panel score lines 53; and according to Fig. 11a, the transparent moisture-resistant sheet 54 may be provided with ridges 55 formed out of the material.

From the foregoing it is evident that there has herein been provided a new, novel and economical method of packing candies, other bonbons and edibles which is speedy and labor saving and by which the candies are protected against scratching and the weathering elements, and by which only the row containing the edibles to be immediately consumed is exposed; and resulting in the production of an aesthetic appearing package.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. The method of producing a confection package which consists in coating a plurality of confections with an edible substance, arranging on the intermediate portion of a flexible sheet of material in spaced rows said confections while the coating is still moist, whereby said confections will adhere to said intermediate portion, said flexible sheet comprising an outer layer and an inner layer of flexible material, said inner
layer having a plurality of spaced rows of recesses, cooling said confections to render them substantially non-sticky, folding opposite sides of said sheet over said intermediate portion thereof, and then rolling together said folded sheet, one part upon another.

2. A method of packaging pieces of confection which consists in applying a warm, moist edible coating to each of the pieces, arranging said pieces while in a moist condition on an intermediate portion of a flexible sheet of material and in parallel rows, said flexible sheet of material comprising an outer layer and an inner layer of flexible material, said inner layer having a plurality of spaced rows of recesses, whereby said pieces will adhere to said intermediate portion, cooling said pieces to render them substantially non-sticky, folding opposite sides of said sheet over said intermediate portion, and then rolling together said folded sheet, one part upon another.

JACK BURSTINER.

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