Aug. 29, 1961 E. S. TUPPER 2,998,158

SEVERABLE SEALING MEANS FOR REUSABLE PACKAGES

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Fig. 1

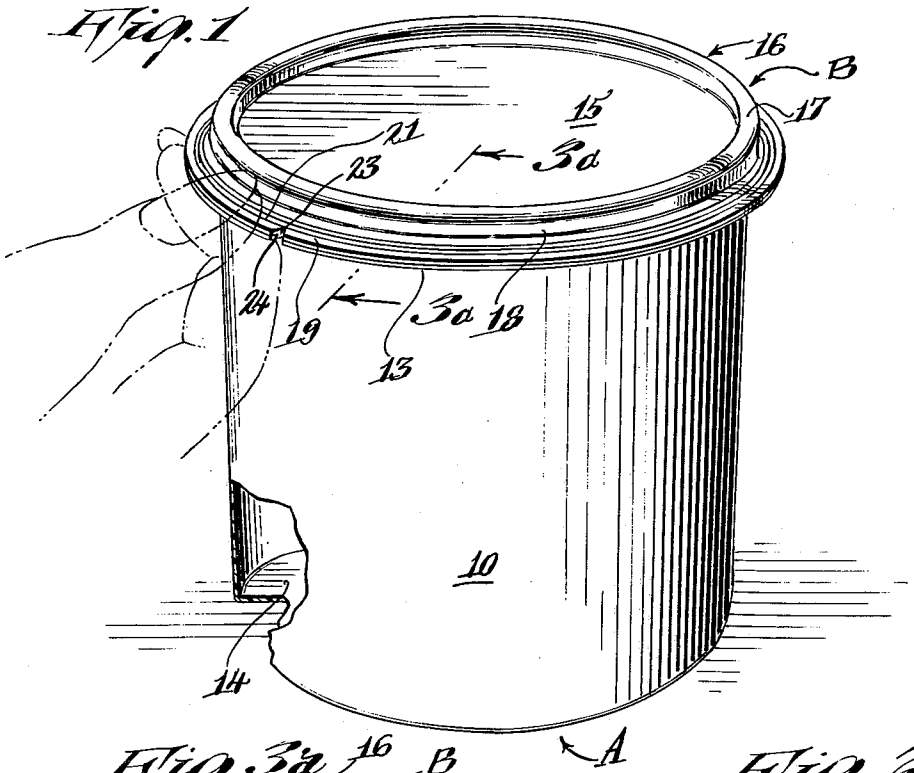


Fig. 3a

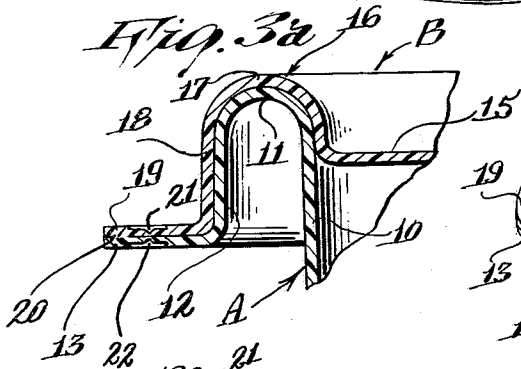


Fig. 2

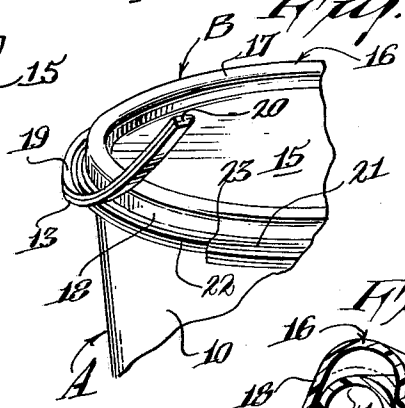


Fig. 3b

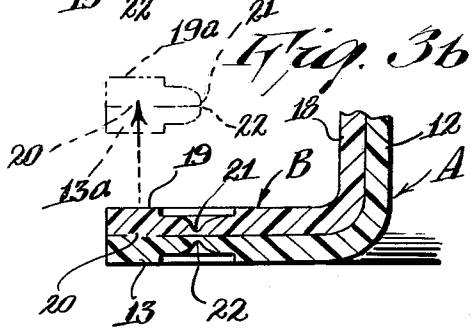
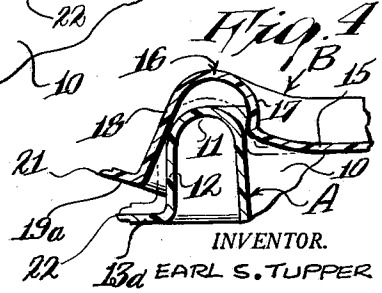


Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

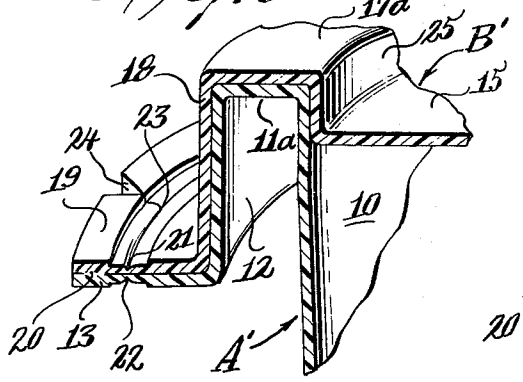


Fig. 6

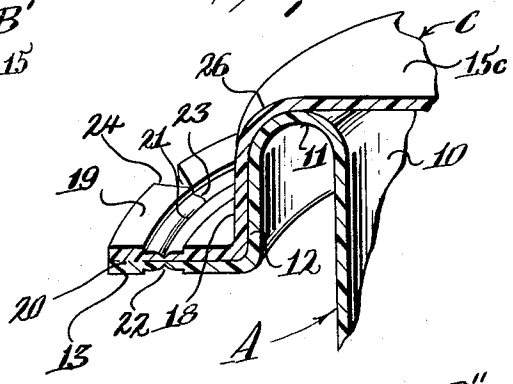


Fig. 7

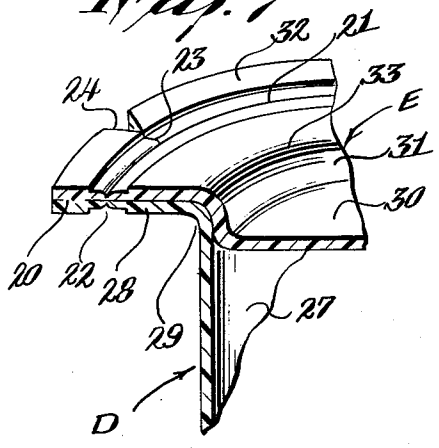


Fig. 8

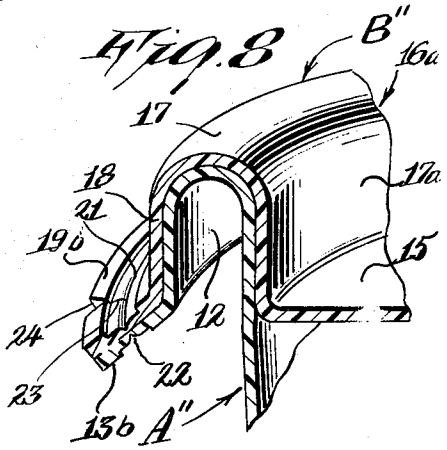


Fig. 9

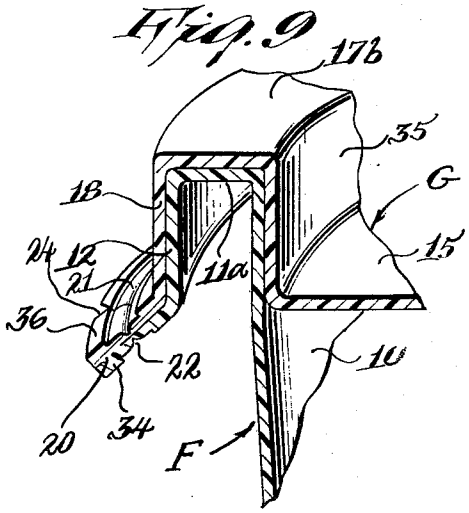
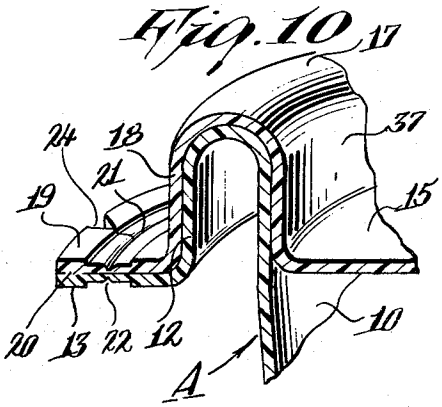


Fig. 10



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Fig. 11

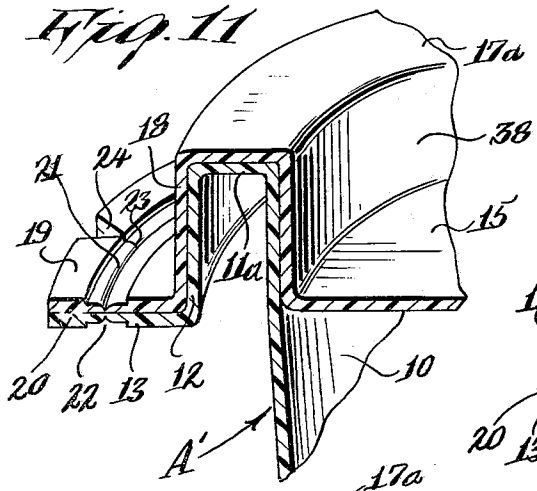


Fig. 12

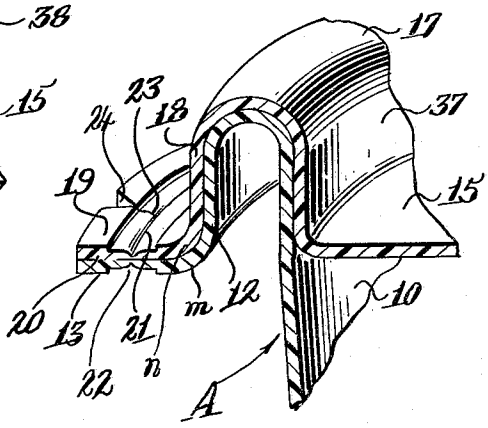


Fig. 13

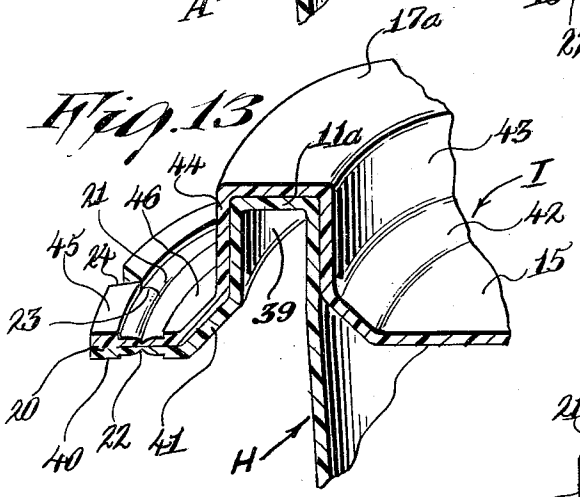


Fig. 14

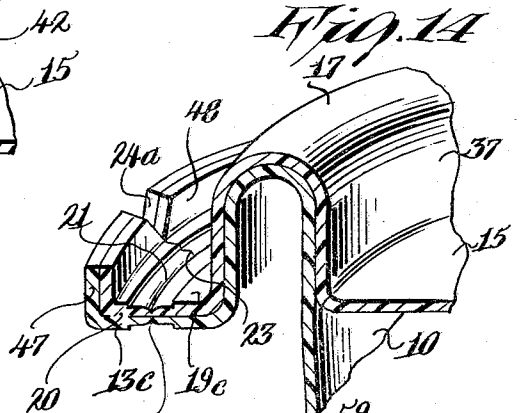


Fig. 15

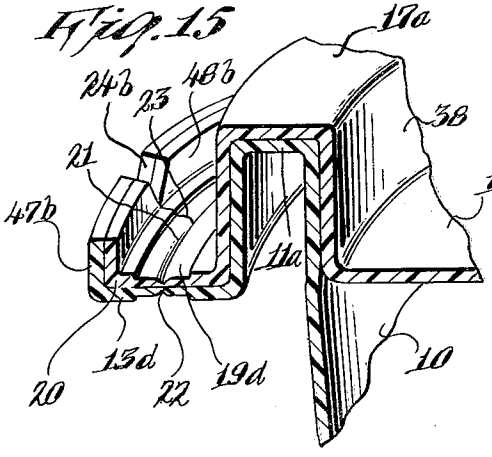
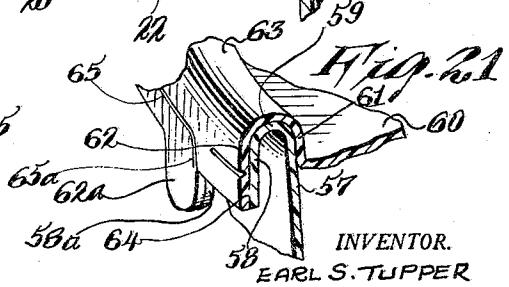


Fig. 21



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SEVERABLE SEALING MEANS FOR REUSABLE PACKAGES

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Fig. 16

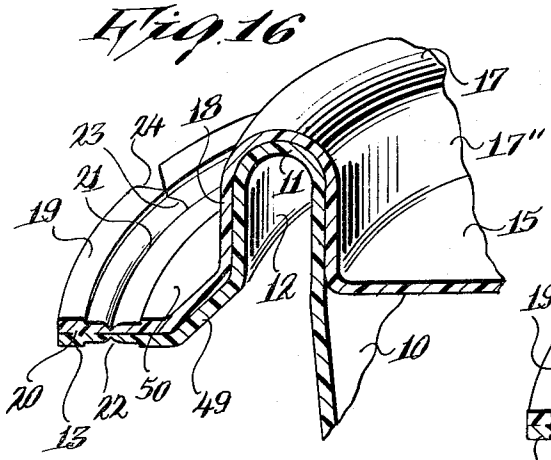


Fig. 17

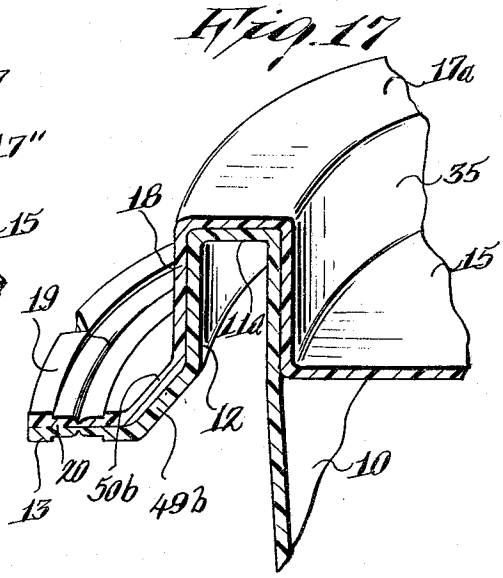


Fig. 18

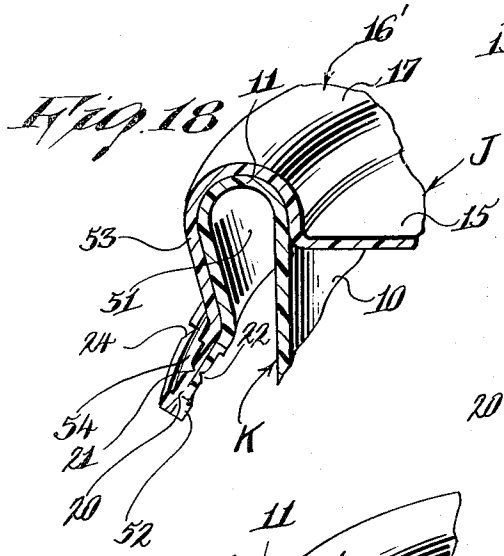


Fig. 19

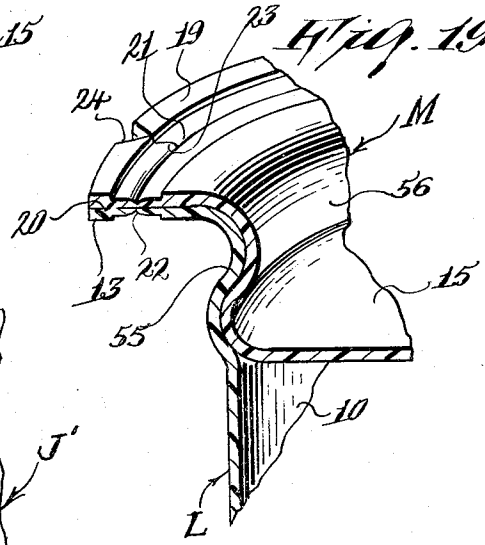
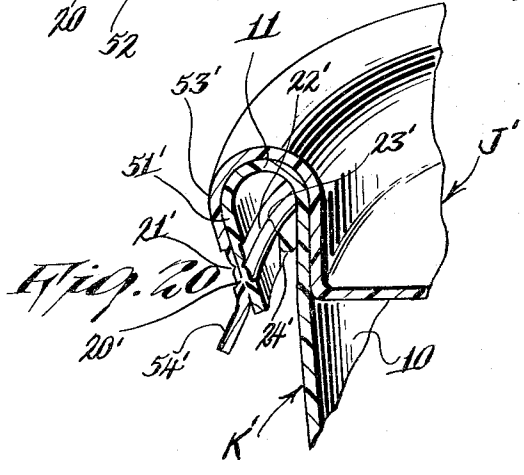


Fig. 20



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United States Patent Office 2,998,158 Patented Aug. 29, 1961

2,998,158

SEVERABLE SEALING MEANS FOR REUSABLE PACKAGES

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Filed Dec. 31, 1954, Ser. No. 479,044
4 Claims. (Cl. 220—54)

This invention relates generally to a plastic container for packaging varieties of merchandise and of the type adapted to be prefilled and sealed airtight and in tamper-proof manner at the filling plant, but more specifically to a package of a selective gauge sufficient to be self-shape retaining and yet subject to local deformation at areas of pressure and further being capable of being reused as a container and cover after seal severance or discarded as the ordinary cardboard, glass or metallic package. Where the gauge is thicker, economy naturally would dictate retention of the package after severance.

The invention proposes certain improvements over the inventions set forth in applicant's prior United States Patent 2,487,400, issued November 8, 1949, and United States applications Serial No. 394,604, filed November 27, 1953 now Patent No. 2,941,660 and Serial No. 467,992, filed November 10, 1954 now Patent No. 2,901,098.

The primary object of the invention herein resides in improved and specific sealing structures not claimed in the above prior inventions in connection with a substitute type of merchandise package relative to metallic, glass, cardboard and composition types now on the market and being on approximately the same price levels of cost of manufacture and wherein said package may serve as a durable package for the vessel contents for storage and transportation by carriers and wherein the package is capable of reuse after severance at the normally permanent seal by the consumer.

Another feature of the invention resides in a package of the above nature which is provided with improved structure at the joint area to increase the area of permanent and frictional contact between the cover and the container; to provide a more readily accessible, severable portion and to facilitate opening of the packaged parts after severance by bearing pressure on the cover.

A further feature of the invention resides in the provision of a plastic package of the above characteristics wherein the said improved joint structure as a whole serves as a convenient handle for holding the combination when in permanently sealed condition and as a part serves as a handle when the parts are in reusable and frictionally operative engagement with each other.

A still further feature of the invention resides in the provision of a plastic package of the above characteristics wherein the said improved joint structure serves to facilitate the sealing and scoring operations between the cover and container parts.

A still further feature of the invention resides in the provision of a plastic package of the above characteristics which is molded of thermoplastic material including the vinyls, treated styrenes or other substances having similar physical characteristics such as local distortability, capacity of withstanding and yielding to shock without breakage or fracture and sufficient flexibility and softness for cutting, tearing or severance for opening the package. In addition, the material used is non-absorptive to and not readily wetted by water, is odorless, and is resistant to acids, alkalis, solvents and other chemicals at ordinary temperatures. Moreover, the material does not soften far below the boiling point of water, is resistent to mildews, micro-organisms, and insects. Furthermore, the package is capable of a degree of distortion while under permanent seal to enable easy storage either for

transportation or refrigeration when quarters are cramped and further is capable of easy expansion and contraction in capacity for variations in temperature and pressure.

Although polyethylene has been found to be the most suitable plastic polymer which has all the above characteristics, it is understood that other plastic materials reduced to similar physical properties are applicable.

Another feature of the invention resides in the provision of a form of packaging for commercial, industrial and consumer products which is strong, durable, resistant to wear, tear, shocks of handling, storage and impact, is electrically non-conductive and is further capable of reusability. The package, depending upon gauge of material selected may economically well be discarded after the heat sealing or non-frictionally joined areas have been separated.

A further selective object of the invention resides in the utilization of easily yieldable thin-walled material in the formation of a package, prefilled and sealed at a filling plant and which is suitable for storage, refrigeration and transportation, and which is strengthened in an improved manner despite the thin gauge by virtue of a complete permanent closure structure at the sealing edges.

These objects and other incidental ends and advantages of the invention will hereinafter appear in the progress of the disclosure and as pointed out in the appended claims.

Accompanying this specification are drawings showing preferred forms of the invention wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a view in perspective partially in section showing a package partly in section and before severance of the permanent seal and showing cooperating score lines and sealing areas between the cover and container members for severance of the permanent sealing means.

FIGURE 2 is a fragmentary view in perspective of the package shown in FIGURE 1 and showing the sealing areas of the package parts partially severed.

FIGURE 3*a* is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view taken along the line 3*a*—3*a* of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3*b* is an enlarged detail of FIGURE 3*a* and showing in phantom the severed portion.

FIGURE 4 is a view similar to FIGURE 3*a* after severance of the permanent seal and showing the cover in the process of being removed from the container.

FIGURE 5 is a view shown partly in section and partly in perspective of a modified form of the present invention.

FIGURE 6 is a view similar to FIGURE 5 of a still further modified form of the present invention.

FIGURE 7 is a view similar to FIGURE 5 of a still further modified form of the present invention.

FIGURE 8 is a view similar to FIGURE 5 of a still further modified form of the present invention.

FIGURES 9–21 are views similar to FIGURE 5 of still further modified forms of the present invention.

In accordance with the invention and the forms shown, FIGURES 1–4 show a type of storage container and cover suitable for reusability after a permanent seal has been impressed at a filling plant. This type of container or canister has a friction-engaging type of cover and may also be discarded, if made of thin gauge, as any other mechandise container, since little material is required for molding and forming the same.

Thus, letter A represents the container member of FIGURES 1–4 and letter B the cover therefor. Container A has a side wall **10** provided with a top having an outwardly and downwardly extending peripheral flange consisting of a curved top wall portion **11** and a downwardly extending skirt **12** integrally formed along its lower edge with a laterally and outwardly extending flange **13**. Container A further has a bottom wall **14**.

As shown, side wall 10 is substantially cylindrical and slightly outwardly tapered from bottom wall 14, but it is understood that the necessity of the taper and the size and perimetric shape are selective only. Furthermore, the peripheral lip portions 11, 12 and 13 of the container are of any predetermined and selective sizes for purposes hereinafter described.

Container A is of any required capacity and together with cover B is furnished by the package manufacturer to the filling plant or filling operator and the latter determines requirements as to size, capacity and shape. The filling operator at the filling plant first employs the usual facilities for filling vessel A with contents such as food, chemicals, industrial, pharmaceutical, commercial and other types of products capable of being packaged for consumption or distribution by other manufacturers, dealers, distributors, consumers and the like. Thereafter, the parts are permanently sealed as will hereinafter appear.

Container A if made of thin gauge for discarding purposes, is locally deformable to slight pressure but at the same time is sufficiently rigid, whether the cover is applied or not, to be self shape-retaining. On the other hand, if container A is formed of thicker gauge material and therefore not intended to be discarded for economic reasons, the container is more resistant in deformability to slight pressure. When the container is made of thin gauge using a thermoplastic such as polyethylene or other substance having similar physical characteristics, the rigidity thereof is enhanced by reason of the cooperating closure structure as will appear.

Cover member B, made of the same material and of comparable gauge as container A, cooperates with the peripheral portions 11, 12 and lateral flange 13 of the lip area of the container to add in the shape-retaining characteristic thereof. Thus, peripheral portions 11, 12 and lateral flange 13 by virtue of specific structure serves as a reinforcing rim for container A arresting the tendency of easy collapsing and deformability of the container member thereat. Moreover, the flange 13 serves as a handle element when container A is used by itself as a canister, storage container and the like.

Container peripheral portions 11, 12 and flange 13 are further utilized for cooperation with similar and overlapping and engageable peripheral portions and flange on cover B. Thus, cover B is provided with a central wall 15 and terminates edgewise in an inverted, raised and peripheral groove generally indicated by numeral 16 which comprises a curved top wall 17, a downwardly extending skirt 18 and an outwardly extending lateral flange 19. Cover member B, being made as heretofore stated of the same material and with comparable gauge as container A, is likewise capable of easy deformability and the distortion thereof also being controlled and arrested by the reinforcing effect of the groove and flange structure as described.

The peripheral portions 11, 12, and flange 13 of container A and the peripheral groove walls 17, 18 and flange 19 of cover B are suitably dimensioned for sealing at the filling plant so that following removal in the method hereinafter described of the permanent sealed portions, sufficient flange and peripheral areas will remain for proper functioning of the packages as containers and frictionally removable and frictionally sealable covers therefor as shown in FIGURES 2 and 4. Thus, in FIGURE 4 cover B has at least the groove walls 17, 18 and a portion of the flange 19 engageable with container A at the peripheral portions 11, 12 and the remaining portion of flange 13 respectively for removable and sealable purposes after permanent sealing has been severed as shown in FIGURES 1, 2, 3*a* and 3*b*.

It will be noted that the cooperating flanges 13, 19 are of broad dimensions and are spaced from container wall 10 and cover wall 15 to project beyond said elements for efficient sealing and scoring purposes effected

at the filling plant with conventional equipment. These flange features not only increase the sealing contact between cover B and container A but increase the rigidity thereof as well as provide convenient handles for handling. In addition, as shown in FIGURE 4, such structure enables easy separation after severance between the cover and container as will appear and further leave wide flange portions 13*a* and 19*a* as combined and individual handles.

Several means of permanent sealing in conjunction with specific joint structures between cover B and container A are possible, one of which is shown in FIGURES 1–3*b*. Thus, sealing 20 is efficiently effected between flanges 19 and 13 at or adjacent the outer edges thereof without danger of complete fusion and is in the form of a narrow and peripheral or ring area of fusion accomplished by either heat sealing, adhesive, solvent or other known means, the said sealing being air and fluidproof. The sealing area 20 is easily confined to and disposed outwardly of a peripheral scoring line 21 penetrating the flange 19 and of a peripheral scoring line 22 penetrating the flange 13, the scoring lines 21 and 22 being aligned vertically. The scoring lines 21, 22 are broken at a small area 23 (FIGURE 1) outwardly of which a notch 24 running from the outer edges of the flanges 13, 19 and disposed outwardly of area 23 is formed, said notch 24 terminating inwardly of the fusion ring 20. Scoring lines 21 and 22 may be impressed by conventional equipment on projecting flanges 13 and 19 either as a simultaneous operation with sealing or otherwise.

Removal of overlapping portions of flanges 19, 13 outwardly of the scoring rings 21, 22 at notch 24 may be initiated by a pulling operation as shown in FIGURE 2 for removing the outer portions of the flanges 13, 19 outwardly of scoring rings 21, 22.

Of course, any type of cover and container member are feasible to practice the invention herein, but the invention herein is especially directed to telescopic type of engagement between the cover and the container members wherein the superposing flanges such as 13 and 19 are broad, are fused at or adjacent the free edges for furnishing a wide tolerance against fusion creeping inside the scoring lines such as 21 and 22 and wherein said flanges are easily yieldable about the horizontal plane by reason of connection with spaced elements from the main walls 10 and 15 of the container and cover, said yieldability preventing tearing or breaking off of said flange elements when sealed and during transportation or storage or when severed and roughly handled during use. It is understood that a tear string may be welded or fused between flanges 13 and 19 at the fusion area for severance, although this type is not shown herein. Permanent sealing may be continuous or spotted, it being noted that where sealing is not continuous, full hermetical sealing protection of the contents is furnished to the extent afforded by the frictional and live engagement between the cover and the container.

Although it is preferable to utilize the same material as well as gauge in the formation of both cover and container, it is understood that slight variations to suit requirements and economy may also be used. Both the container and cover may be formed by any of the known methods in use and the manner of production thereof in no way affects the invention herein. Included in such methods are injection, compression, blow molding and vacuum forming.

The rigidity afforded by the container and cover rim elements when connected or in separated condition causes a self shape-retaining structure, even though the portions beyond said rim elements are very easily deformable when thin gauge material is used, this rigidity being increased by the lateral flange 13, 19.

Thus, flanges 13, 19 extending outwardly from their respective peripheral portions increase the area of fric-

tional contact between the cover and container, while at the same time increasing the rigidity of the respective members. By providing the sealed portion **20** along or adjacent the free edges of the aforesaid flanges, the necessary portions may be severed without in any way diminishing the area of contact between the top walls **11**, **17** and skirt portions **12**, **18**. Flanges **13** and **19** are, however, somewhat reduced to areas **13***a* and **19***a* (FIGURE 4).

Flanges **13**, **19** provide convenient, yieldable and non-breakable handles for the cover and container when in sealed engagement; flanges **13***a* and **19***a* after seal severance may be used as handles when in frictional engagement and also facilitate the separation of the cover from the container as shown in FIGURE 4 as will hereinafter appear. Finally, it will be apparent that these flanges **13***a* and **19***a* increase the ease with which the cover may be frictionally secured to the container by grasping them between the fingers during the frictional sealing operation.

As shown in FIGURE 4 the removal of the cover from the container is effected by pressing the top wall **15** of the cover member with one finger and simultaneously lifting by means of the thumb the lower edge of the flange portion **19***a*. The depression of the top wall **15** of the cover B by one of the fingers causes a displacing action between the cover skirt **18**, the container skirt **12** and flanges **13***a*, **19***a* whereupon the cover may be removed in a peeling-off type of operation.

Another method of removing the cover B from container A is to indent the container side wall **10** with one finger such as the thumb and simultaneously grasp the cover flange **19***a* at a diametrically opposite area. There is caused a distinct deformation of the container portion at the thumb-press area causing a disengagement and lowering of the peripheral portion of the container lip portions **11**, **12** and flange **13***a* from the groove and flange of the cover as shown in FIGURE 4 to initiate a peeling-off type of removal of the cover.

In applying cover B on container A for frictional engagement, it is merely necessary to align the cover groove walls **17**, **18** and flange **19***a* with the container peripheral portions **11**, **12** and flange **13***a* and then by a progressive sliding movement around the grooved top wall **17** of the finger, frictional seal-tight engagement takes place, this operation being facilitated by the drawing together of flanges **13***a* and **19***a* between the fingers of the other hand.

By reason of economy where thin gauged material is used and by virtue of modern molding methods, the container and cover may be made at costs comparable with the conventional glass, paper and composition containers and covers and hence may be discarded with the same amount of freedom by the consumer.

FIGURE 5 shows a second form of severable and permanent connecting structure between container A′ and cover B′. In this form, the upper edge of the side wall **10** of the container A′ is connected to the skirt **12** by means of a flat, horizontal top wall **11***a* formed at substantially right angles to the skirt **12** and the side **10**. The cover B′ is now provided with a flat, horizontal top wall **17***a* adapted to overlie the top wall **11***a* and which connects with a central portion **15** by means of an inner vertical wall **25**.

FIGURE 6 shows a third form of affixation between container A and cover C wherein the cover is modified in that the central portion **15***c* connects directly with the outer skirt portion **18** along a curved peripheral edge **26**.

Referring now to FIGURE 7, there is shown a fourth form of affixation between container D and cover E. Container D has a side wall **27** provided with a horizontal type of peripheral flange **28** extending off side wall **27** at a curved edge portion **29**. The cover member E is provided with a central wall **30** and terminates edgewise in a raised peripheral inner wall **31** adapted to abut the inner face of side **27** and connects with a horizontal laterally extending flange **32** along a curved portion **33** which overlies the curved edge portion **29**.

FIGURE 8 shows a fifth form of affixation of the cover to the container wherein the container A″ is integrally formed along the lower edge of its skirt portion **12** with an outwardly and downwardly extending flange **13***b*, while the correspondingly shaped cover B″ includes a central wall **15** which terminates edgewise in an elongated, raised and peripheral groove generally indicated by numeral **16***a* and having an inner wall **17***a* which connects the peripheral portion of the central wall **15** with the rounded top wall **17**. The skirt portion **18** of the cover B″ around its lower edge is integrally formed with the outwardly and downwardly extending flange **19***b* adapted to overlie flange **13***b*.

Referring now particularly to FIGURE 9, there is shown a sixth form of affixation wherein the container F is provided with a flat outwardly extending horizontal flange or wall **11***a* connecting the spaced skirt portion **12** with the upper edge of the side wall **10** of the container and wherein the lower edge of the skirt portion **12** is integrally formed with the downwardly and outwardly extending flange **34**. Cover member G is now provided with a central wall **15** which terminates edgewise in an inverted, elongated raised and peripheral groove having a flat horizontal top wall **17***b* overlying the top wall **11***a* of the container and which connects with the central wall **15** along an inner wall **35** of increased height relative to wall **25** of FIGURE 5. The outer edge of top wall **17***b* is integrally formed with the depending skirt **18** integrally formed along its lower edge with an outwardly and downwardly extending flange **36** adapted to overlie flange **34**.

FIGURE 10 shows a seventh form of affixation of the cover to the container A similar to the first form of the invention but wherein the top wall **17** of the cover connects with the central wall **15** thereof along an inner wall **37** of increased height.

FIGURE 11 shows an eighth form of affixation of the cover to the container A′ similar to the second form of the invention (FIGURE 5) wherein the cover top wall **17***a* is connected to the central wall **15** along an inner wall **38** of increased height.

FIGURE 12 is a ninth form of affixation of the cover and container and is identical to the seventh form shown in FIGURE 10 except that wall **12** and flange **13** of the container and wall **18** and flange **19** of the cover are joined by a broader curve as indicated respectively by letters *m* and *n*.

FIGURE 13 is a tenth form of affixation of the cover to the container wherein the container H is provided with a flat top outwardly extending flange **11***a* integrally formed with a depending skirt portion **39** of relatively reduced height as compared with skirt **12** of FIGURE 11 and which connects with an outwardly extending flange **40** of reduced width along an outwardly and downwardly inclined portion **41**. The cover I includes a central wall **15** which terminates edgewise in an outwardly and upwardly extending straight portion **42** connecting with an inner vertical wall **43** of the cover groove. The cover I also includes a flat horizontal groove top wall **17***a* which connects the inner wall **43** with an outer skirt portion **44** of reduced height relative to wall **18** of FIGURE 11, the latter connecting with an outwardly extending flange **45** of reduced width relative to flange **19** of FIGURE 11, by a downwardly and outwardly inclined portion **46**.

FIGURE 14 discloses an eleventh form of affixation similar to the seventh form shown in FIGURE 10 and wherein the outwardly extending flange **13***c* of the container is integrally formed with a vertical wall **47** while the outwardly extending flange **19***c* of the cover is integrally formed with a cooperating wall **48**. In this form the slot **24***a* is formed in the vertical walls **47**, **48**.

FIGURE 15 discloses a twelfth form of affixation and

is a variation of the eighth form of the invention shown in FIGURE 11 wherein the outwardly extending flange **13***d* of the container is integrally formed with an upwardly extending vertical wall **47***b* while the outwardly extending flange **19***d* of the cover is integrally formed with an upwardly extending vertical wall **48***b* which engages with the wall **47***b*. In this form the slot **24***b* is provided in the walls **47***b*, **48***b*.

FIGURE 16 discloses a thirteenth form of affixation of the cover to the container similar to the seventh form in FIGURE 10 but wherein the lower part of the container skirt portion **12** is integrally formed with an outwardly and downwardly extending portion **49** which connects with the outer laterally extending flange **13** while the skirt portion **18** of the cover is integrally formed with a downwardly and outwardly extending portion **50** which connects with the lateral cover flange **19**.

FIGURE 17 discloses a fourteenth form which is similar to the sixth form shown in FIGURE 9 but wherein the lower part of the skirt portion **12** of the container integrally connects with the outwardly extending flange **13** along a downwardly and outwardly extending portion **49***b* while the skirt portion **18** of the cover connects with the flange **19** thereof along a downwardly and outwardly extending portion **50***b*.

FIGURE 18 discloses a fifteenth form of affixation of the cover J to the container K. Container K has a side wall **10** provided with a top having a curved peripheral flange **11** with a downwardly and inwardly extending skirt **51** integrally formed along its lower edge with a downwardly and outwardly extending flange **52**. Cover member J is provided with a central wall **15** which terminates edgewise in an inverted, raised and peripheral groove generally indicated by numeral **16'** and having a curved top wall **17** which connects with an inwardly and downwardly extending outer wall **53**, the outer wall **53** along its lower edge being integrally formed with a downwardly and outwardly extending flange **54** which overlies the flange **52**.

FIGURE 19 discloses a sixteenth form of affixation wherein the container L has a side wall **10** provided with a top having a peripheral upwardly extending flange **55** of a substantially reversed S-shaped cross section formed along its upper edge with a top outwardly extending horizontal flange **13**. Cover member M is provided with a central wall **15** which terminates edgewise in an upwardly extending peripheral groove **56** of corresponding and reversed substantially S-shaped cross section, the upper edge of the groove **56** being integrally formed with the outwardly extending horizontal flange **19**.

FIGURE 20 shows a seventeenth form of affixation of the cover J' to the container K' similar to the fifteenth form in FIGURE 18 but wherein the curved portion **11** of the container is integrally formed with a downwardly and inwardly extending skirt **51'** devoid of the downwardly and outwardly extending flange **52** in FIGURE 18, while the skirt portion **53'** of the cover J' is integrally formed with a downwardly and outwardly extending flange **54'**. Sealing **20'** is now provided between skirt portions **51'** and **53'** in the form of a peripheral and narrow fused ring area, the fusion as in the several forms of the invention herein described being accomplished either by heat sealing, adhesive, solvent or other known means, the said sealing being air and fluid-proof. The sealing **20'** above the lower edge of the skirt portion **51'** is disposed below a peripheral scoring line **21'** provided in skirt portion **53'** and below a peripheral scoring line **22'** provided in the skirt portion **51'**. The scoring lines **21'**, **22'** are broken at a small area **23'** below which a notch **24'** running from the lower edges of the skirt portion **51'** and flange **54'** and disposed below area **24'** is formed, said notch terminating below fusion ring **20'**.

FIGURE 21 is an eighteenth form of affixation wherein the side wall **57** of the container terminates on top by a spaced skirt **58** connected by a rounded edge portion **59**. The cover has a central wall **60**, has a peripheral and raised inverted and rounded groove with inner wall **61**, outer wall **62** and connecting top wall **63**. Corresponding walls engage one another while the sealing ring **64** is at or adjacent the lower free edges of walls **58** and **62**. A peripheral scoring ring **65** is disposed on the outer face of wall **62** above the fusion area **64**, said scoring ring **65**, terminating adjacent and spaced from the beginning by wall depending ears **62***a* and **58***a* to serve to initiate tearing of the seal. A score ring portion **65***a* on the outer face of ear **62***a* connects with the remaining ring portion **65** to facilitate and initiate tearing of the seal commencing with the ear portions **62***a* and **52***a*.

In other respects, the forms of the invention shown in FIGURES 5–21 are the same as that shown in FIGURES 1–4, and like reference numerals identify like parts throughout the several views.

It is understood that the above forms of affixation apply to differently shaped containers and covers, including household items such as plates, cereal dishes, creamers, sugar bowls and tumblers as well as other industrial commercial and other types of containers and covers.

Forms of the invention shown in FIGURES 14 and 15 add greater rigidity to the packages before seal severance by the addition of vertical flange portions **47**, **48** and **47***b*, **48***b* respectively.

The form of the invention shown in FIGURE 20 shows an outer flange **54'** on the cover member J' before seal severance for purposes heretofore discussed; but no flange remains after seal severance. This type of package has, as a consequence, smaller over-all dimensions for reusability and may be used accordingly.

It is distinctly understood that minor changes and variations in the material, integration, location and arrangement, size and connection and separation of parts may all be resorted to for practicing the invention without departing from the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims. It is furthermore understood that whenever heat sealing is mentioned in the specification, this type of fusion is not restrictive as appears in other parts of the specification.

I claim:

1. In a heat sealable package of resilient locally deformable thermoplastic material including polyethylene, styrenes and vinyls and consisting of a container and an engaging cover therefor, an outwardly and downwardly folded container edge terminating in an outwardly extending flange and an engaging outwardly and downwardly folded cover edge also terminating in an outwardly extending flange adapted to superpose and engage the first mentioned flange, said flanges on the engaging faces and adjacent the free edges having a peripheral and permanently fused area, said flanges on the non-engaging faces and inwardly of the fused area being provided with aligned and peripheral scoring lines, means on the flanges to initiate severance of the fused and outer portions of the flanges along said scoring lines for removal of the said portions of the flanges whereby the cover and container may be reused as a frictionally engageable, sealtight and removable cover for the container.

2. In a heat sealable and resilient package of locally deformable thermoplastic material including polyethylene, styrenes and vinyls and consisting of a container and telescopically engaging cover therefor, an outwardly and downwardly folded container edge terminating in an outwardly extending flange and an engaging outwardly and downwardly folded cover edge also terminating in an outwardly extending flange adapted to superpose and engage the first mentioned flange, said flanges being substantially horizontal and of a relatively large width, said flanges on the engaging faces and adjacent the free edges having a peripheral and permanently fused area, said flanges on the non-engaging faces and inwardly of the fused area being provided with aligned and peripheral scoring lines, means on the flanges to initiate severance

of the fused and outer portions of the flanges along said scoring lines for removal of the said portions of the flanges whereby the cover and container may be reused as a frictionally engageable, seal-tight and removable cover for the container.

3. In a heat sealable and resilient package of locally deformable thermoplastic material including polyethylene, styrenes and vinyls and consisting of a container and a telescopically engaging cover therefor, an outwardly and downwardly folded container edge terminating in an outwardly extending flange and an engaging outwardly and downwardly folded cover edge also terminating in an outwardly extending flange adapted to superpose and engage the first mentioned flange, said flanges being also downwardly inclined and having on the engaging faces and adjacent the free edges a peripheral and permanently fused area, said flanges on the non-engaging faces and inwardly of the fused area being provided with aligned and peripheral scoring lines, means on the flanges to initiate severance of the fused and outer portions of the flanges along said scoring lines for removal of the said portions of the flanges whereby the cover and container may be reused as a frictionally engageable seal tight and removable cover for the container.

4. In a heat sealable and resilient package of locally deformable thermoplastic material including polyethylene, styrenes and vinyls and consisting of a container and a telescopically engaging cover therefor, an outwardly and downwardly folded container edge terminating in an outwardly extending angle flange, and an engaging outwardly and downwardly folded cover edge also terminating in an outwardly extending angle flange adapted to superpose and engage the first mentioned flange, said flanges on the horizontal and engaging faces and adjacent the free edges having a peripheral and permanently fused area, said flanges on the non-engaging faces and inwardly of the fused area being provided with aligned and peripheral scoring lines, means on the flanges to initiate severance of the fused and outer portions of the flanges along said scoring lines for removal of the said portions of the flanges whereby the cover and container may be reused as a frictionally engageable seal-tight and removable cover for the container.

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