Aug. 26, 1969 J. V. CLINE 3,463,305

FOOD DISPLAY PACKAGE

Filed Dec. 11, 1967 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

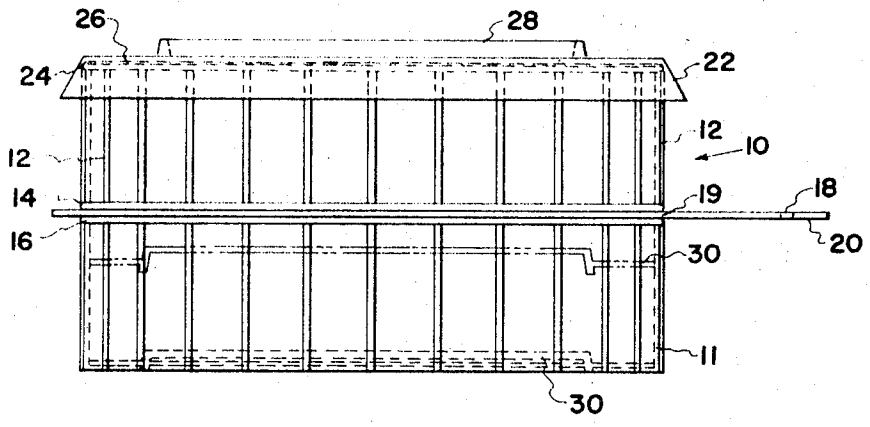


FIG. 1

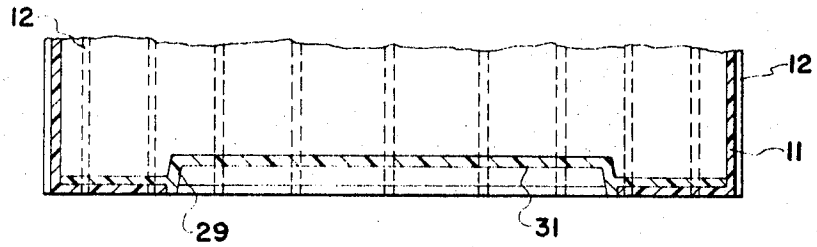


FIG. 2

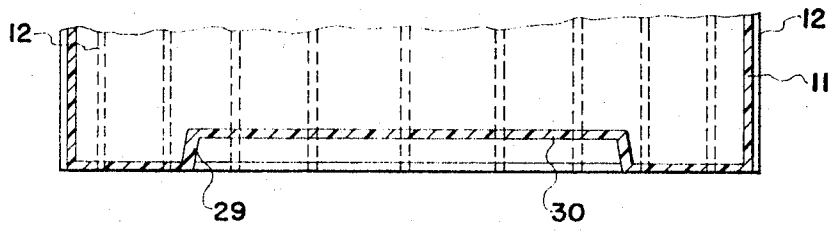


FIG. 3

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FOOD DISPLAY PACKAGE

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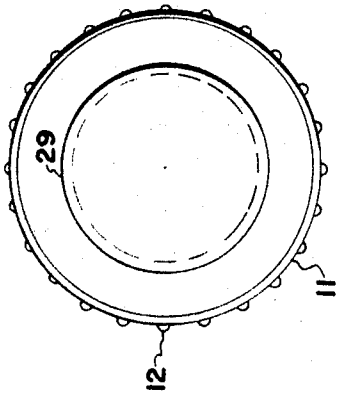


FIG. 5

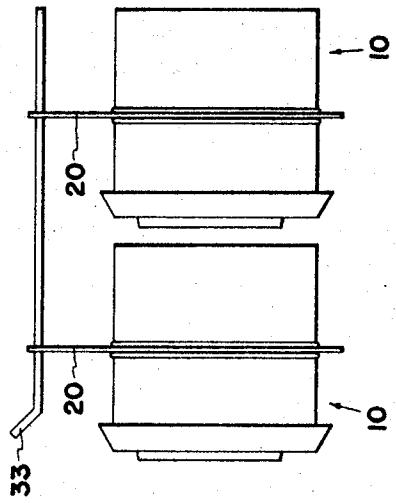


FIG. 6

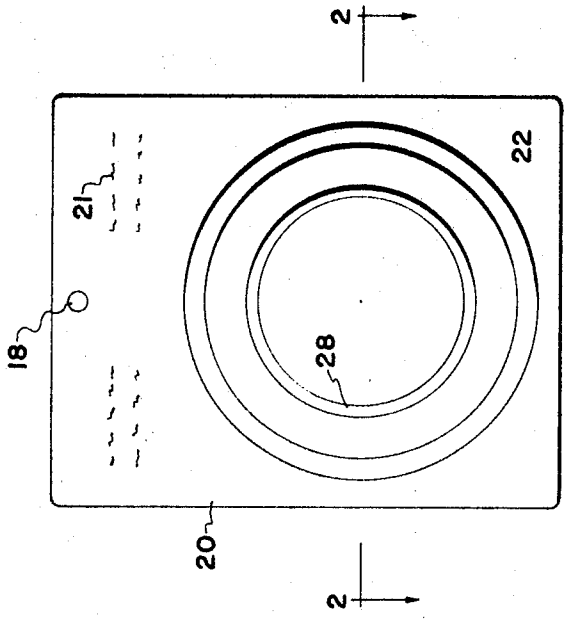


FIG. 4

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3,463,305

FOOD DISPLAY PACKAGE

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Int. Cl. B65d 77/00
U.S. Cl. 206—56 4 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A food package is provided with features allowing for easy stacking and hanging under display conditions and providing additional surfaces for advertising indicia. The construction of the display package comprises a generally cylindrical longitudinally ribbed semi-rigid plastic film having a snap-on cover, a thin sealing film beneath the cover and an adjustable bottom plate for aiding in the removal of food product from the package. The package includes a removable apertured back board secured in spaced peripheral ribs on the package and adapted to support the package above its center of gravity. The package is provided with a recessed bottom adapted to fit over the cover of an adjacent package for improved stacking.

Background of the invention

This invention relates to a new and improved food display package. Although the package is capable of containing any desired product, it is especially useful for packaging pre-sliced meat products, such as bologna, sausages, sliced boiled ham, and the like. While the invention is applicable to a wide variety of products it is described hereinafter specifically in relation to the packaging of pre-sliced meat products and the like.

In modern packaging practices, it is common to package food products such as sliced meats in transparent containers made of flexible packaging films. When sliced meats are packaged for sale in small individual packages of flexible packaging films, it is important from the standpoint of display and salability that the package be designed for display in a substantially horizontal plane so as to provide an attractive, orderly display, permitting ready inspection of the package contents and also making it possible for a prospective purchaser to read the descriptive matter imprinted or secured thereon. The containers which have been previously made of highly flexible packaging films have been generally prepared by a process of evacuation or gas flushing followed by heat sealing. Containers of this type have been distorted by the packaging technique with the result that the identifying or advertising material printed on the package is often somewhat distorted.

Recently, packages of semi-rigid plastic film materials have been developed and used extensively in the packaging of pre-sliced meat products. A number of such packages are in commercial use and well known in the prior art. Packages prepared of semi-rigid plastic films require special techniques to manufacture and have generally not been designed with emphasis upon the characteristics required for ease of horizontal stacking or for hanging in vertical displays.

Statement of objects and features

It is, therefore, one object of this invention to provide a food package which affords maximum protection to the contents on displaying the same in an attractive and appealing manner, which will preserve the food against spoilage for a substantial period, which is readily opened to provide access to the contents, and which is easy to produce.

Another object of this invention is to provide a new

and improved package of transparent plastic which is constructed for ease in stacking and is provided with means for hanging vertically in merchandising displays.

A feature of this invention is to provide a new and improved display package characterized by a well designed, rigid, one-piece container, a transparent plastic top, a hermetic seal interposed between the container and top and the container having sufficient strength to withstand the usual handling and shipping operations.

Another feature of this invention is the provision of a display package having a recessed bottom adapted to fit over the top of an adjacent package thus providing improved stacking characteristics.

Another feature of this invention is to provide an improved display package having a container portion provided with a pair of peripheral beads positioned medially of the package and securing in place an apertured display board adapted to support the package in a vertical position in the plane of the center of gravity of the package.

Still another feature of this invention is the provision of a new and improved display package including an adjustable bottom for assisting in the removal of the product from the package.

Other objects and features of this invention will become apparent from time to time throughout the specification and claims as hereinafter related.

Brief description of the drawing

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a view in side elevation of a display package for food products embodying a preferred form of this invention,

FIG. 2 is a view in cross section taken on the line 2—2 of FIG. 4 showing only the bottom portion of the container,

FIG. 3 is a view in cross section of the bottom portion of the container, similar to the view shown in FIG. 2 but illustrating an alternate construction of the bottom wall,

FIG. 4 is a plan view of the display package shown in FIG. 1,

FIG. 5 is a plan view of the container portion of the package shown in FIG. 1 with the display card and cover removed, and

FIG. 6 is a view in side elevation illustrating the use of the display card for hanging the display package vertically.

Summary of the invention

A novel food display package comprises a generally cylindrical, longitudinally ribbed transparent plastic container having a pair of beads extending peripherally of the container. A removable apertured display board is attached medially of the container by being secured between said peripheral ribs. The display board is positioned to provide a support for hanging the container vertically with the board extending through the center of gravity of the package. The package is provided with a thin sealing film and a snap-on cover. A preferred embodiment of the invention utilizes an adjustable bottom in the container for facilitating removal of meat slices or other food products therefrom. The configuration of the bottom of the container is such that each package may be stacked on and fit over the cover of an adjacent container.

Description of the preferred embodiments

Referring to the drawings by numerals of reference, and more particularly to FIGS. 1, 2, 4, and 5 there is shown a food package generally designated **10** comprising a container portion which is generally cylindrical in

shape and provided with longitudinally extending external ribs **12** generally formed integrally therewith in the molding of the container. Container **11** is provided with a pair of peripherally extending beads **14** and **16** on the exterior surface thereof. Beads **14** and **16** are positioned medially of the surface of container **11** and provide a groove for locating and securing a supporting display board **20**. Display board **20** is provided with a central aperture **19** which is slightly smaller than the outside diameter of beads **14** and **16**. The display board **20** is, therefore, snapped onto the container and fits into the groove between beads **14** and **16**. The outer end of display board **20** is provided with an aperture **18** for hanging the package **10** in a vertical position, as will be subsequently described.

The open end of cylindrical container **11** is closed by a snap-on lid or cover **22** which is snapped into position over a peripheral bead **24** at the open end of the container. The container is provided with a hermetic seal in the form of a plastic sealing film **26** which is hermetically sealed around the opening. The sealing film **26** is preferably a material having low gas transmission such as Mylar polyester film, saran film, Pliofilm, or a plastic coated aluminum foil. The film which is used is not an essential feature of the invention but is preferably a material which may be heat sealed or adhesively sealed to close the package hermetically.

Snap-on cover **22** is provided with a rib **28** which encloses a clear viewing portion permitting one to view the required identifying data imprinted on the sealing film. Rib **28** on snap-on cover **22** also functions to provide improved stacking characteristics of the package as will be subsequently described.

The bottom of container **11** may be a single fixed bottom **30**, as shown in FIG. 3, or may be a movable bottom wall member **31**, as shown in FIG. 2. The embodiments shown in FIGS. 2 and 3 are identical except for the movable bottom wall member **31** in the embodiment of FIG. **2**. The movable bottom wall member **31** may be pushed upward for ease of removal of the slices of meat or other food products packaged in container **11**. Bottom wall member **30**, or movable wall member **31** each have an inwardly dished portion **29** providing a cup-shaped recess in the bottom of the package. The recess formed by dished portion **29** in the bottom of the package is of a size and shape which may be fitted over rib **28** on the snap-on cover **22**. As a result, the assembled packages may be readily stacked with dished portion **29** fitting over rib **28** on each successive cover. When the packages are stacked in this manner for merchandising, the display card **20** would normally be removed from each of the containers.

The display card **20** which is held in position by peripheral beads **14** and **16** on container **11** may contain advertising indicia or identifying legends **21**. Display card **20** is secured on container **11** for the purposes of hanging the package on a supporting hook **33** as shown in FIG. 6. The display card **20** may be supported on hook **33** by means of aperture **18** and supports package **10** along a plane extending through the center of gravity of the film package. As a result, the package will hang in a vertical position below the point of support. If the display card **20** were positioned to either side of the center of gravity of the package, the package would tend to hang at an angle which would make the display and hanging of the package more difficult.

The manufacture of this display package may be carried out by conventional plastic molding techniques. The container **11** and snap-on cover **22** may be formed of any suitable plastic, either thermoplastic or thermosetting, which has the characteristics desired for food packaging. The container and lid may be formed by thermoforming of plastic sheet or by any conventional molding process, such as compression molding, transfer molding, injection molding, etc. It is also possible to form the container portion by extrusion and cementing a bottom into position. The preferred technique for preparation of the container would be by thermoforming of sheet material although any of the several plastic molding techniques known in the art may be employed. The plastic material used in the container and lid is not critical and may be any suitable material such as polyethylene, polypropylene, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate-butyrate, polyvinyl chloride, polystyrene, polymethyl methacrylate, etc.

I claim:

1. A package for food products comprising a cylindrical container having a closed bottom and open top, said container having a peripheral bead around said open top, a snap-on cover fitting over said peripheral bead to close said top, said container and cover being formed of molded or thermo-formed plastic, said container having a plurality of longitudinally extending reinforced beads formed integrally thereon, said container having at least a pair of spaced beads extending peripherally of and defining a groove in the central portion of the outer surface thereof, said container having a bottom portion including a movable wall adjustable from outside to move the contents for ease of removal from said container, and a snap-on display board member fitted around the outer surface of said container in the groove defined by said perihpherally extending beads.

2. A package as defined in claim **1** in which said display board member has an aperture for hanging said package from a hook or rod and is positioned in a plane extending substantially through the center of gravity of the package when filled and hung vertically.

3. A package for food products comprising a cylindrical container having a closed bottom and open top, said container having a peripheral bead around said open top, a snap-on cover fitting over said peripheral bead to close said top, said container and cover being formed of molded or thermo-formed plastic, said container having a plurality of longitudinally extending reinforcing beads formed integrally thereon, said container having at least a pair of spaced beads extending peripherally of and defining a groove in the central portion of the outer surface thereof, and a snap-on display board member fitted around the outer surface of said container in the groove defined by said peripherally extending beads.

4. A package as defined in claim **3** in which said display board member has an aperture for hanging said package from a hook or rod and is positioned in a plane extending substantially through the center of gravity of the package when filled and hung vertically.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

206—79; 220—72