Aug. 3, 1943. G. E. DAMROW 2,326,013

DISPLAY PACKAGE

Filed May 31, 1939 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

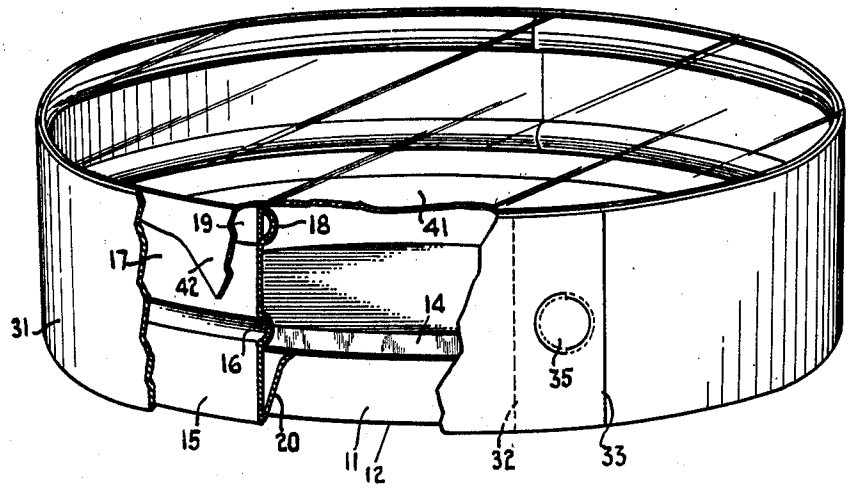


FIG. 3

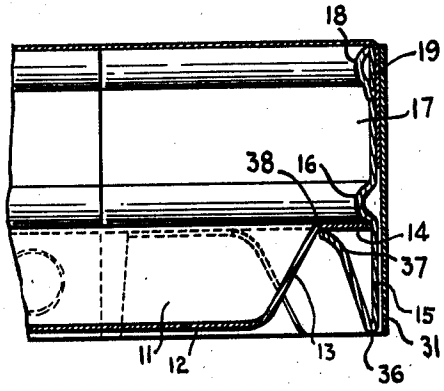
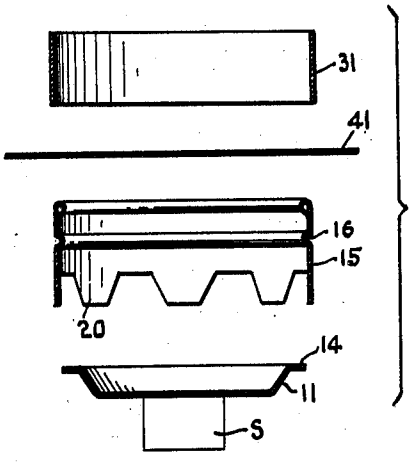


FIG 2



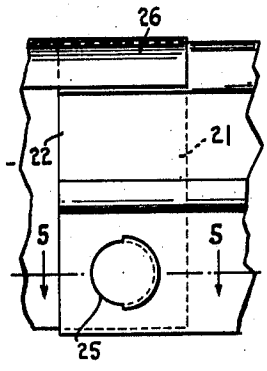
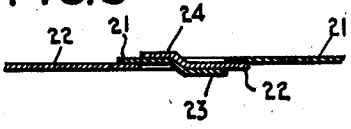


FIG. 4

FIG. 5



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FIG. 6

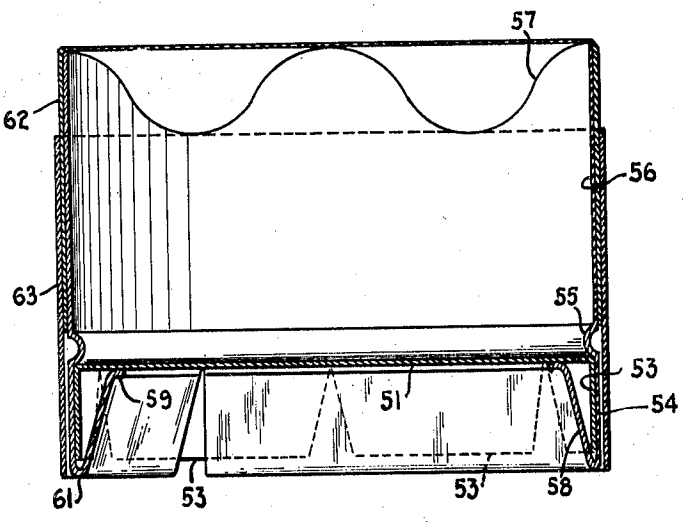


FIG. 7

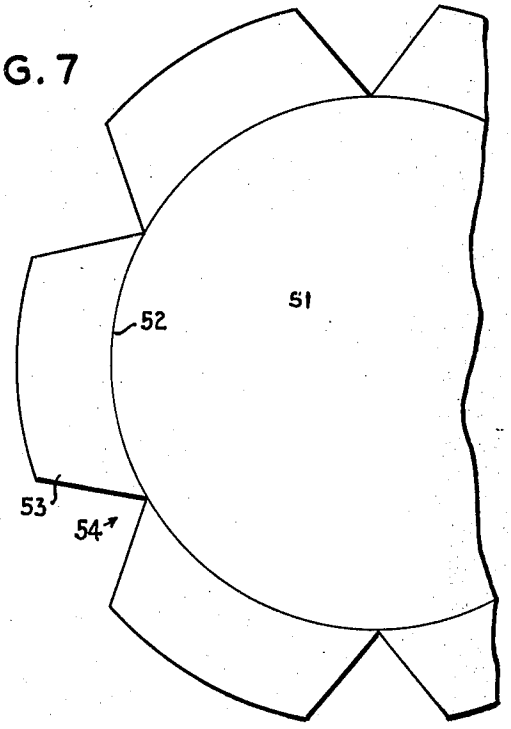


FIG. 8

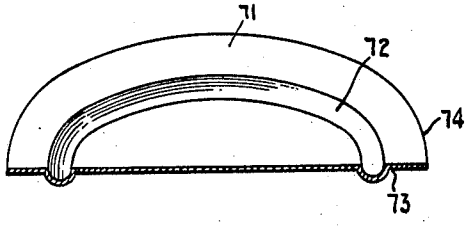
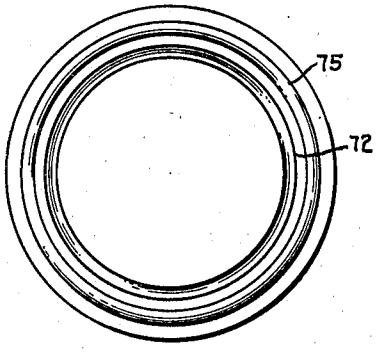


FIG 9



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,326,013

DISPLAY PACKAGE

George E. Damrow, Glen Ridge, N. J., assignor to Pie-Pak Company, Inc., Hoboken, N. J.

Application May 31, 1939, Serial No. 276,505

16 Claims. (Cl. 206—44)

The present invention relates to packaging and more particularly to a package for pies, cakes, and the like, which enables the packaged article to be displayed to advantage in the retail store and also protects the article from damage or contamination in shipment and handling.

The present invention is an improvement upon the packages disclosed in my United States Patent No. 2,116,060, granted May 3, 1938, and in the patent to M. L. Snyder, No. 1,936,312, granted November 21, 1933.

In the packaging of pies having what are termed "meringue" tops, and cakes especially when provided with icing, it is necessary to have the side walls of the package high enough that the top covering of the package does not rest on the pie or cake and rigid enough to amply protect the product from any physical damage which would spoil the appearance of the enclosed article. At the same time, it is desirable to have as much as possible of the product exposed to the full view of the purchaser, and yet the product must be fully enclosed to protect it from contamination by dirt, dust, handling, etc.

Furthermore, the package should be sufficiently sturdy as a whole that the packaged article can be handled without damage both in transit from bakery to store and in the store, as well as from the store to the purchaser's home. Finally, from a practical standpoint, it is important that the packaging operations be as simple as possible, requiring a minimum number of steps, and the package itself must be inexpensive.

All of these objectives have not been accomplished by packages heretofore devised, but each of these objectives are attained by my present invention. In addition, the outside of my improved package has a smooth outer surface available for advertising purposes.

A further object of my invention is to provide a package for pies which is readily adaptable for use with existing types of transfer plates in which the pie is delivered from the bakery, including the simplest form of such plate having a horizontal peripheral flange.

A still further object of my invention is to provide an improved form of cake plate or tray which may be used in connection with my improved package.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a package in which the parts are securely held together so that the same may be handled in the retail stores and by the purchasers without danger of the article dropping from the package.

An even further object of my invention is to provide a package of the above indicated character which may be shipped to the bakery completely disassembled and disconnected but which is readily assembled into a sturdy self-supporting package.

Other and further objects of my invention will be apparent from this specification taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a pie package in accordance with my invention, with parts broken away to facilitate illustration.

Figure 2 is an exploded view of the parts comprising my improved package of Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view in enlarged detail of a portion of my improved package.

Figure 4 is a detailed front view of the interlock for the inner band of my improved package.

Figure 5 is a detailed horizontal section of the principal interlock of the inner band, on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Figure 6 is a vertical section of my improved cake package.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary plan view of one form of my improved cake plate.

Figure 8 is a view partly in perspective and partly in section of a modified form of an improved cake plate.

Figure 9 is a plan view of a further modified form of an improved cake plate.

Certain features of my invention are applicable to packages generally, and the two examples given in this specification are intended to be by way of example only. They are however, the best modes in which I have contemplated applying my invention at the present time.

Referring first to the pie package shown in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, 11 designates the plate into which the pie is transferred after baking. The plate has a flat bottom 12, an upwardly flaring side wall 13, and a horizontally extending peripheral flange 14. Such transfer plates are usually made of pressed or molded paper pulp or the like, and are sufficiently rigid for the purposes.

My improved package is provided with an inner band 15 which has a bead 16 located intermediate its top and bottom edges. In the drawings, this bead is shown as projecting inwardly, but my invention is not necessarily limited to such an arrangement. The collar portion 17 of the band extends above the bead 16 and has at its upper end a second bead 18, this bead desirably being closed as indicated at 19 by having the material of the band bent back upon the band so that the band has a substantially straight or

flat outer surface as indicated in Fig. 3. The opposite or lower end of the band is provided with a plurality of cutout tabs or tongues 20 which extend along the entire lower edge.

The band is manufactured in strip form so that it may be shipped to the bakery in substantially flat condition, and of proper length to encircle the particular size of plate with which it is to be used. When the band is to be used, the ends of the strip are brought together to form a circular band and so as to have overlapping end portions 21 and 22 (Fig. 4). The downturned portion 19 of the upper bead 18 on the end 21 is lifted so that the bead 18 of the end 22 fits thereunder as indicated at 26 in Fig. 4. Also the end portions 21 and 22 are provided with tabs 23 and 24 respectively. These tabs are formed by making semi-circular cuts, one of which is shown at 25, in each end portion 21 and 22, these semi-circular cuts facing oppositely in the respective ends. When the band is formed into a circular shape, the ends are overlapped beyond the semi-circular cuts, and as the band is expanded each tab is caused to enter the opposite semi-circular cut respectively to securely lock the ends together, as indicated in Fig. 5. It will be noted that the interlocking tabs 23 and 24 are located in the portion of the band 15 below the bead 16, and this, together with the interengaging portions of the upper bead 18, indicated at 26 in Fig. 4, cooperate with each other to form and maintain the band as a substantial circle notwithstanding its height.

The package is also provided with an outer band 31 which also is shipped as a strip and has overlapping end portions 32 and 33 when the band is formed into a circle ready for use. The same character of interlock is provided, indicated at 35 in Fig. 1, as the interlock for the inner band shown in Figs. 4 and 5, except that in this instance the interlock is located about midway between the top and bottom of the band. Accordingly, when the strip comprising the band 31 is formed into a circle and the overlapping ends are interlocked, the band is held in a true circle. However, there is a further advantage of the particular semi-circular shape of the interlocks in that while the interlocking parts are engaged, the overlapped ends may be placed at an angle to each other so as to slightly increase the diameter at the bottom of the band, which may be done while the package is being assembled if the operator so desires, but the expansion of the band to its full normal size as the band is placed in position will firmly engage the interlocks and adjust the band to its proper circular condition. It will be understood that any other suitable form of interlock may be used.

When the form of package shown in this application is fully assembled, which operation will be described later, the inner band 15 encircles the perimeter of the flange of the plate 11 and the tabs 20 project inwardly and upwardly so that the entire bottom edge of the band is all in the same plane, as indicated at 36. When the plate is in position in the band, the free ends of the tabs 20 are bent over, as indicated at 37, and engage in the corner 38 between the top edge of the flaring side wall 13 and its junction with the peripheral flange 14 of the plate, and the ends of the tabs 20 may even turn down against the side wall 13 of the plate. With the plate in assembled position in the band, the peripheral flange 14 is brought firmly against the bottom of the bead 16 as indicated in Fig. 3. Thus, the plate is held from vertical movement, and the positions of the ends 37 of the tabs 20 serves to lock the inner band and the plate securely together with no danger that the tabs will not firmly support the plate 36. It will also be noted from Fig. 3 that the supporting portion of the band 15, between the bead 16 and the bottom edge 36, is of greater height than the depth of the plate 11.

The assembly operation will be best understood from Fig. 2. After the inner band 15 and the outer band 31 have been formed into circles and the ends interlocked, as indicated above, and the pie has been transferred to the plate 11, the plate is placed upon a suitable stand, symbolized by the block S. At this time the tongues 20 of the inner band have not been bent to their locking position shown in Fig. 3. The inner band 15 is then brought down around the flange of the plate 11 until the flange rests against the bead 16. Thereupon, the operator turns all the tongues 20 inwardly and upwardly beneath the flange of the plate to the position shown in Fig. 3, and the inner band and plate thus become firmly locked together. The operator next places a sheet of transparent material, indicated at 41, over the top of the inner band 16, and then passes the outer band 31 over the inner band 15 thus engaging and clamping the edges of the sheet 41 between the inner and outer bands, as indicated at 42 in Fig. 1. This same operation draws the sheet of material taut, and the same is firmly held between the two bands because the inner diameter of the outer band and the outer diameter of the inner band are substantially the same. Of course, prior to assembly the inner band has been chosen with the proper height of collar 17 for the particular use for the package.

When the purchaser of the pie wishes to remove the pie from the package, the inner and outer bands, being made of fibre board or the like, can readily tear the same to remove the bands. Or, if desired, the purchaser can slide the outer band off the container, take off the sheet of transparent material, cut and serve a portion of the pie and re-assemble the transparent material and outer band to thus protect the remainder of the pie until wanted.

Referring now to Figs. 6 and 7 of the drawings showing my improved cake package, the cake is supported upon a transfer plate 51 having a flat upper surface. Like the pie transfer plate 11, this cake plate is also desirably made of fibre board or other stiff fibrous material. The plate is shown in plan in Fig. 7. Inwardly of its outer edge the plate is provided with a score line 52, and that portion between the score line and the outer edge is formed into a plurality of tabs 53 by means of V-shaped cuts 54 which extend from the outer edge and terminate adjacent the score line. The plate is shipped in flat condition to the bakery. In the bakery, the operator turns down the tabs 53 along the score line 52, as shown in Fig. 6. The tabs 53 are rather large so that the base thereof extends around a substantial arc along the score line, and the tabs have a pronounced tendency to spring outwardly.

The cake package is provided also with an inner band 54 which has an intermediate bead 55, similar to the bead 16 of the package shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3. The upper collar portion 56 of the band 54 is usually considerably taller than the collar portion 17 of the band in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, and at its upper edge this collar may be scalloped as indicated at 57, in which event there

is no upper bead corresponding to the bead 18 in Fig. 1. Of course, the collar 56 will be of whatever height is desired for the particular size of cake being packaged, and its upper edge may or may not be scalloped. Also, the scalloped edge can of course be used with the pie package of Figs. 1, 2 and 3 if desired, because in either case it enables the consumer to see more of the packaged article.

At the lower edge the inner band 54 is provided with tongues or tabs 58. However, with the type of plate shown in Figs. 6 and 7, I prefer to have the tabs 58 very wide so as to overlie two or more of the tabs 53 as shown in Fig. 6. I have found that a plate with six depending tabs 53 and an inner band with three upstanding tabs 58 cooperate very well together. When the inner band is assembled with the plate 51, as shown in Fig. 6, the ends of the tabs may be bent over slightly as indicated at 59 to engage the under surface of the plate to thus assist in holding the flat top of the plate firmly against the bottom of the bead 55, and also to hold the tabs in place beneath the under surface of the plate 51. The tendency of the tabs 53 of the plate to spring outwardly also serves to give a firm frictional relation between the plate and band and to shape into an arc the large tabs 58 of the inner band, thus facilitating the making of a solid package.

The assembly of the inner band upon the plate 51, after its tabs 53 are bent downwardly, is the same as described in connection with the package shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3. After the inner band is secured in place by turning up the tabs 58, a sheet of transparent material, indicated at 62, is placed over the top of the collar portion 56, and the previously formed outer band 63 is slipped down over the inner band. Thus the ends of the sheet 62 are firmly held between the inner and outer bands, while the sheet is drawn taut across the top of the collar 56 by this operation. It is intended that the inner and outer bands 54 and 63 be provided with suitable interlocks for the overlapping ends respectively, such as those described in connection with Figs. 4 and 5.

In the cake package illustrated in Fig. 6, it will be noted that the outer band 63 is of less height than the inner band 54, so that when the package is completed the bottom edges of the inner and outer bands 54 and 63 are flush with each other, and the top edge of the inner band is no higher than the lowest point of the scallops 57 so that the purchaser may view the sides of the cake through the spaces of the scallops 57. These, however, are covered by the transparent material 62 that is held between the inner and outer bands as described above so that the packaged cake is entirely covered.

Fig. 8 illustrates a modified form of cake plate which may be substituted for the plate 51 in the package of Fig. 6. This plate comprises a flat disc 71 in which is a depressed groove 72 that is spaced inwardly from the outer edge of the disc 71. With this form of plate it is unnecessary to have the down turned tabs 53 described in connection with the plate 51 of Fig. 7. When the plate 71 is assembled in the cake package shown in Fig. 6, it will be held firmly against the bottom of the bead 55 by the upturned tabs 58 of the inner band 54, and the ends of these tabs will engage the continuation 73 between the bead 72 and the outer edge portion 74 of the plate 71. The turned over ends of the tabs may also engage along the surface of the depressed bead 72. These positions of the ends of the tabs 58 are similar to the arrangement described and shown in Fig. 1.

In practice, the cake may be iced after its transfer to the paper plate 51 or the plate 71, and external means may be applied to the top of the plate, if desired, to keep the cake centered upon the plate in handling.

Fig. 9 illustrates a plate, similar to that shown in Fig. 8, in which there is an upstanding bead 75, in addition to the depressed bead 72, this arrangement being shown by way of example only, of a construction to assist in keeping the cake centered upon the plate.

The principles described in this specification and shown in these drawings may be applied in a number of different forms and combinations, and such modifications are intended to be covered by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A package comprising a plate, an inner circular band having an annular inwardly extending bead intermediate its top and bottom edges and inwardly extending means for holding the plate clamped beneath the bead, a sheet of transparent material overlapping the top of said inner band, and a circular outer band fitting around the inner band and clamping the edges of said sheet between the inner and outer bands.

2. A package comprising a plate, an inner band encircling said plate having a collar extending above the plate and a supporting portion therebelow, the collar and supporting portion being joined together by an annular inwardly extending bead, said band also having tabs on its supporting portion arranged to extend inwardly and upwardly to engage the under surface of the plate when in assembled position, a sheet of transparent material overlapping said collar, and an outer band encircling the inner band with the ends of said sheet held between said bands.

3. A package comprising a plate, a band encircling the plate and having a collar extending upwardly from the plate and a supporting portion extending downwardly from the plate, means on said supporting portion extending inwardly beneath the plate, a sheet of transparent material overlying the collar, and an outer band encircling the first mentioned band and holding said sheet in place, the inner and outer bands being of substantially the same height, and the outer band presenting an unbroken outer surface.

4. A package comprising a plate, a band encircling the plate and having a collar extending upwardly from the plate and a supporting portion extending downwardly from the plate, means on said supporting portion extending inwardly beneath the plate, openings in the collar portion, a sheet of transparent material overlying the collar portion and said openings, and an outer band encircling the first mentioned band and holding said sheet in place, the outer band being arranged so as to leave said openings unobstructed.

5. A package for pies or the like comprising a plate having a bottom, a side wall and a peripheral flange, a band encircling the plate and having an annular bead overlying said flange, a collar extending upwardly from the bead and a supporting portion extending downwardly from the bead, tabs on and distributed about said supporting portion, said tabs extending beneath the flange and engaging the junction between the flange and side wall of the plate, a sheet of transparent material overlapping the collar, and an outer band encircling the first mentioned band and holding said sheet in place.

6. A package for pies or the like comprising a plate having a bottom, a side wall and a peripheral flange, a band encircling the plate and having an annular bead overlying said flange, a collar extending upwardly from the bead and a supporting portion extending downwardly from the bead, tabs on and distributed about said supporting portion, said tabs extending beneath the flange and engaging the side wall of the plate, a sheet of transparent material overlapping the collar portion, and an outer band encircling the first mentioned band and holding said sheet in place.

7. A package comprising a plate, a strip arranged to be formed into a band encircling said plate with the ends thereof overlapping, said strip comprising an upper collar portion the top edge of which is bent back upon the collar portion so as to form a bead, and a lower supporting portion having means thereon for engaging said plate when the band is in assembled position, the strip also having at each end of the supporting portion a part of an interlock the parts of which are interengaged when the ends are overlapped and the circular band is formed, the overlapped portions of the bead also being interengaged when the band is formed, a sheet of transparent material overlapping the collar portion, and another strip arranged to be formed into an outer band to encircle the first mentioned band, the ends of the latter strip also being provided with portions of an interlock which are interengaged when the ends are overlapped and the outer band is formed, the edges of the sheet being held between said bands.

8. A package comprising a plate having a supporting surface and a downturned flange comprising a plurality of separated sections, an inner band encircling the plate and provided with an upper collar portion, a lower supporting portion and a plurality of tabs arranged to be bent upwardly and inside the plate flange, a sheet of transparent material overlying the collar portion and an outer band encircling the inner band and the edges of said sheet.

9. A package comprising a plate having a supporting surface and a downturned flange comprising a plurality of separated sections, and a band encircling the plate and provided with a plurality of tabs arranged to extend upwardly and inside the plate flange, the number of tabs being less than the number of plate flange sections.

10. A package comprising a plate having a supporting surface and a downturned flange comprising a plurality of separated sections, and a band encircling the plate and provided with a plurality of tabs arranged to extend upwardly and inside the plate flange, said tabs being larger than and less in number than the sections of said plate flange.

11. A package comprising a plate having a supporting surface, an inner band encircling the plate and provided with an upper collar portion having openings therein, a bead overlying the plate, a lower supporting portion and a plurality of tabs arranged to extend upwardly and inwardly to engage beneath the supporting surface of the plate, a sheet of transparent material overlying the collar portion and an outer band arranged to encircle the inner band and the edges of said sheet to hold the same in place and leave the openings exposed.

12. A package comprising a plate having a supporting surface, an inner band encircling the plate and provided with an upper collar portion the upper edge of which has cutout portions and a lower supporting portion provided with means for engaging beneath said plate, a sheet of transparent material overlying the upper edge of the collar portion, and an outer band encircling said inner band and engaging the edges of said sheet, said outer band being of less height than the inner band.

13. A package comprising a plate closing the bottom of the package, a strip of fibrous material arranged to be formed into a band encircling the plate, the band having a supporting portion and an upstanding collar portion joined by an inwardly extending bead pressed therein and portions on and distributed about said supporting portion and arranged to be turned inwardly to support the plate beneath the bead, a sheet of paper or the like overlapping the top of said collar, and a second strip of fibrous material also arranged to be formed into a band, the second band fitting about the first mentioned band and clamping the edges of the paper or the like between the bands.

14. A package comprising a plate closing the bottom of the package, a strip of fibrous material arranged to be formed into a band encircling the plate, the band having a supporting portion and a collar portion joined by an inwardly extending bead, a portion of said band being of substantially the same height as the supporting portion and being turned inwardly to engage the plate, the plate being clamped between the bead and said inwardly turned portion, a sheet of paper or the like closing the top of the package and overlapping the top of said collar, and a second strip of fibrous material also arranged to be formed into a band, the second band being substantially the same height as the first mentioned band, and encircling the same so as to clamp the free edges of the overlapping covering paper or the like between the bands.

15. A package comprising a plate having a supporting surface provided with a bead therein, a band encircling the plate having an annular inwardly extending bead intermediate its top and bottom edges and also a plurality of tabs arranged to be bent upwardly and inwardly to engage the bead on said plate to support the same beneath the bead of the band, a sheet of transparent material overlying the band, and means for holding said sheet upon said band.

16. A package comprising a plate having a supporting surface provided with a bead spaced inwardly of the perimeter of the plate, a band encircling the plate having an annular inwardly extending bead intermediate its top and bottom edges and also a plurality of tabs arranged to be bent upwardly and inwardly to engage beneath the plate in the area between the bead and its perimeter to support the plate beneath the bead of the band, a sheet of transparent material overlying the band, and means for holding said sheet upon said band.

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