

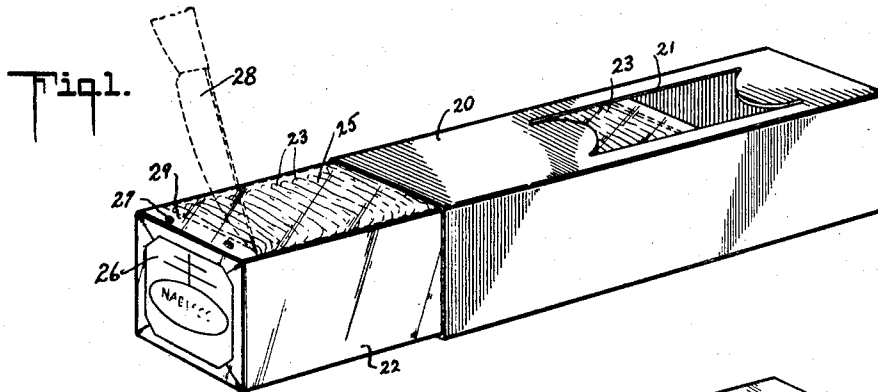
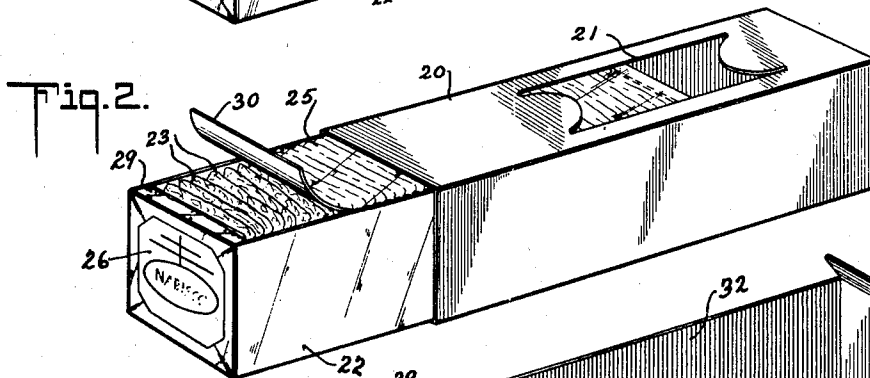
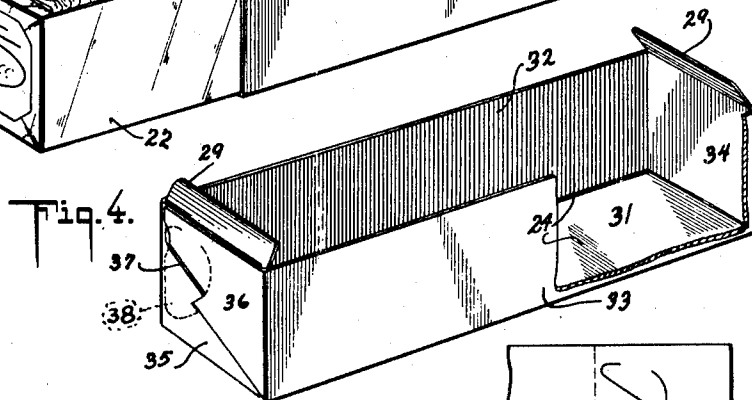
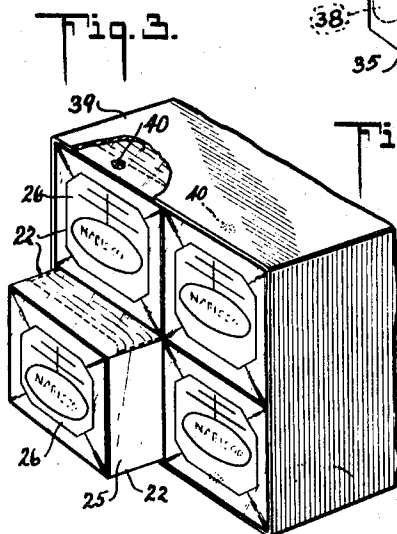
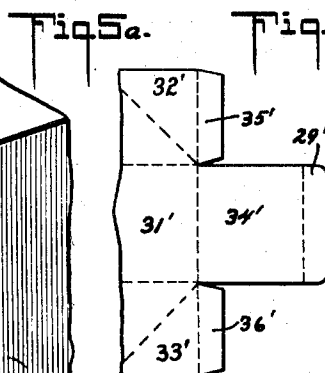
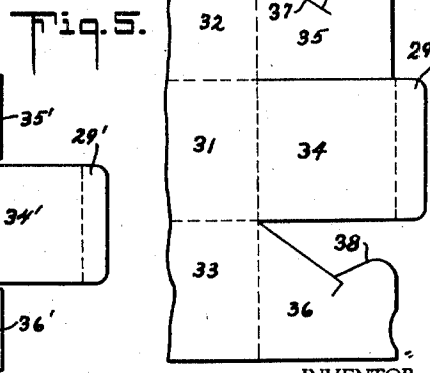
Feb. 13, 1951

G. A. MOORE
PACKAGE

2,541,173

Filed Nov. 2, 1943

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR.
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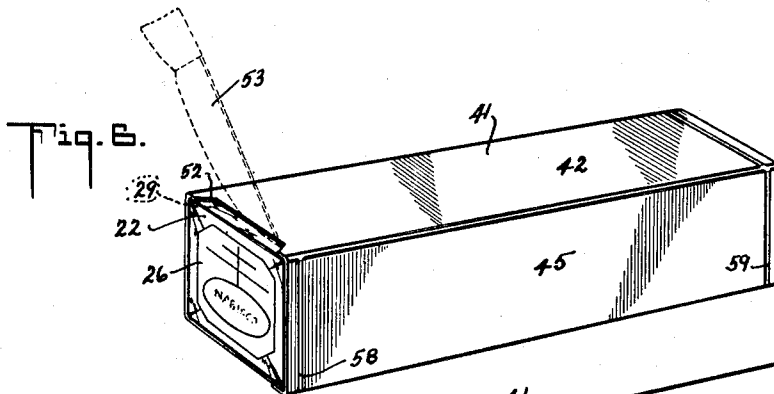
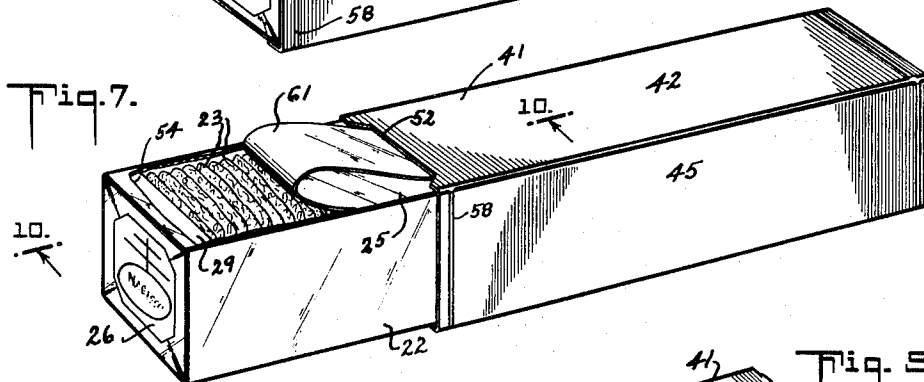
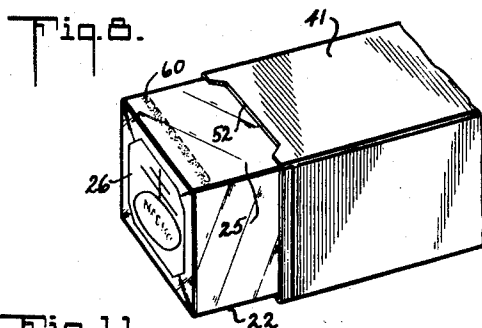
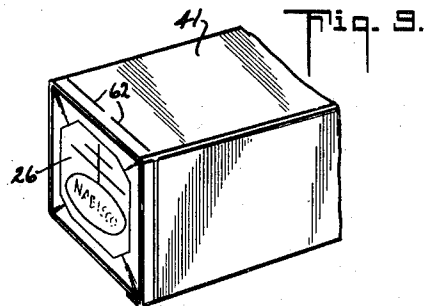
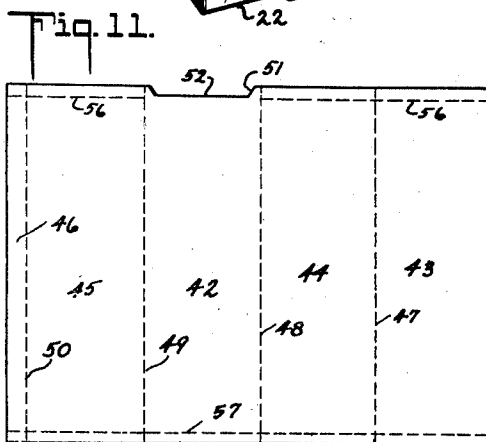
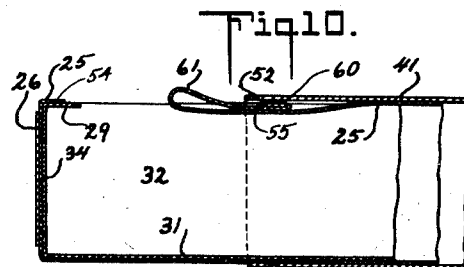
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3 Sheets-Sheet 2



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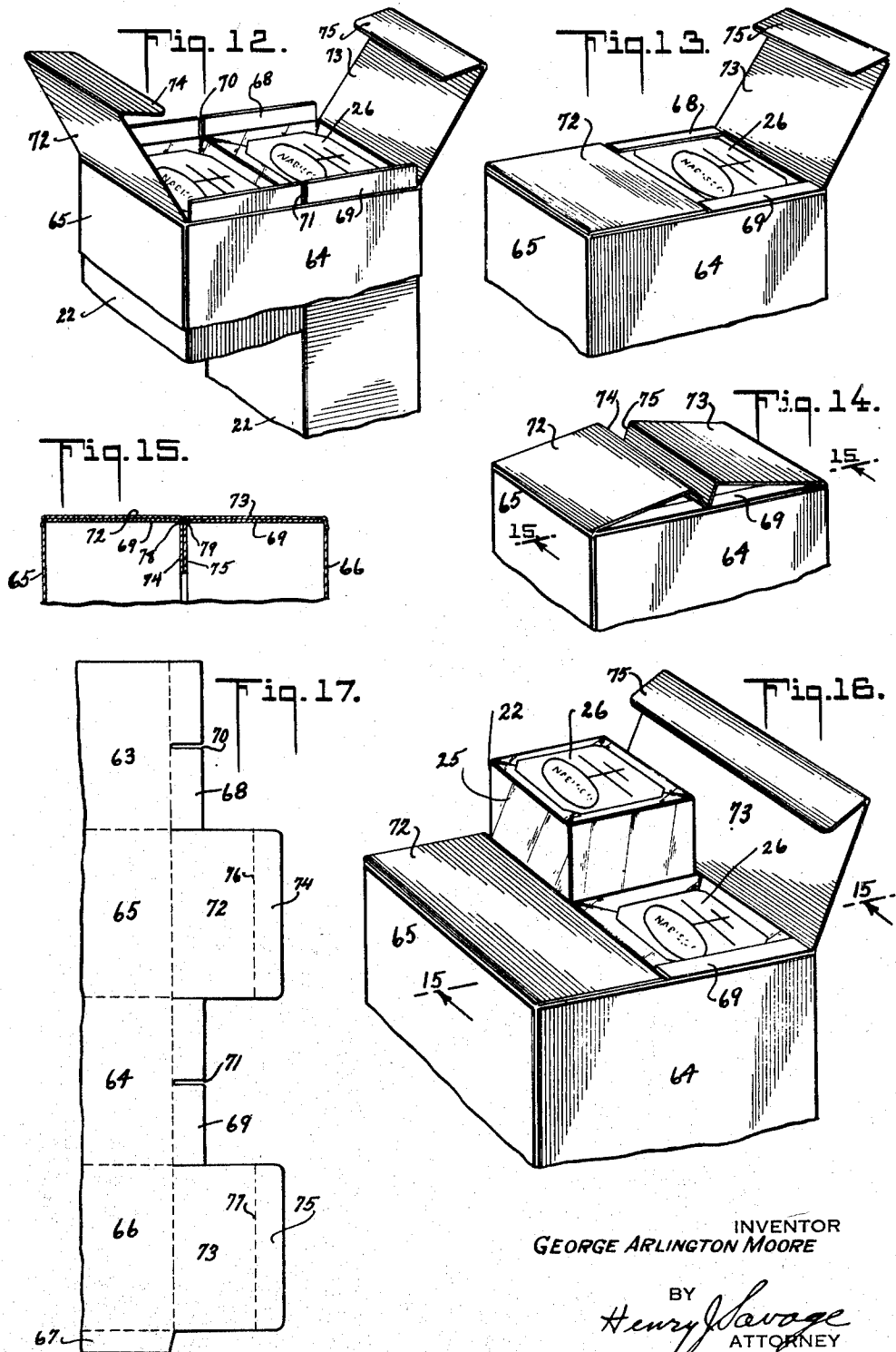
Feb. 13, 1951

G. A. MOORE
PACKAGE

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Filed Nov. 2, 1943

3 Sheets-Sheet 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,541,173

PACKAGE

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Application November 2, 1943, Serial No. 508,706

14 Claims. (Cl. 229—23)

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My invention relates to packages and particularly to a package for bakery products, cereals, and other foods. Bakery products such as crackers, biscuit, cookies, wafers, and the like, are subject to early deterioration unless protected against absorption of moisture vapor and the development of rancidity. Heretofore, it has been customary to package such products in cardboard boxes or cartons, either with or without a waxed paper liner, and with or without a wax wrapper sealed on the outside. In one form of package, the liner is folded and inter-locked with the carton as in the well-known Peters package. In another type of package, the articles are wrapped in the liner to form a cartridge which then is inserted as a unit in the preformed carton. Although used extensively because of their low cost, neither of these packages gives the desired protection because it is impracticable to seal the liner effectively. When the package is reclosed after part of its contents have been consumed, the liner gives very little protection to the remainder. The same is true where the products are packed in a carton with a wax wrapper. The wrapper can be sealed tightly against the carton, but when reclosed after part of the contents has been used, gives practically no protection. Some wax wrapped packages have this further disadvantage, that the products are in contact with the material of the carton which absorbs grease and tends to the early development of rancidity. Also, the products may absorb obnoxious odors and flavors from the cardboard of the cartons. Another objection to the cartons and packages used prior to my invention is that they are not adapted to automatic filling, closing and sealing, except in the case of "dump" filled packages.

Among the objects and advantages, therefore, of my invention are to provide a tray made from cardboard coated or otherwise treated on the inside with a moisture and grease resistant coating and open on one side so that it is adapted for automatic filling with biscuit, crackers and the like, stacked on edge.

Another object is to provide a four-sided tube or sleeve within which the tray has a sliding fit, which tube or sleeve may or may not be coated interiorly with a moisture and grease resistant coating.

Another object is to provide a moisture resistant wrapped package, suitable for packaging soda crackers and other food products that readily absorb moisture and foreign odors, which can be made from cheap material such as silicated soda

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ash news, and yet will give adequate protection to the contents.

Another object is to provide an open-sided tray in which there are no edges of the material exposed to or in contact with the contents, and all exposed surfaces are coated with moisture and grease resistant coating.

Another object is to provide an open-sided tray adapted to be filled, wrapped and sealed automatically and then inserted by automatic means within a protecting tube or sleeve.

Another object is to provide a protecting tube or sleeve with an opening through which the contents of the tray may be inspected when the tray wrapper is transparent.

Another object is to provide an interfitting tube and wrapped tray wherein the wrapper may be removed to expose the contents of the tray only to the extent that the tray is withdrawn from the tube, and thereafter the tray may be reclosed substantially tight by returning it fully within the tube.

Another object is to provide a tube or sleeve adapted to receive one or more wrapped trays, which trays are "tacked" or lightly secured within the tube and may be removed one at a time.

Another object is to provide a sleeve or tube adapted to hold one or more trays and having automatically locking flaps at each end, which hold the trays securely within the sleeve, but permit their removal selectively.

The above and other advantages and objects are attained by my invention, certain illustrative embodiments of which I have shown in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a sleeve with a window opening from which a wrapped tray has been partly withdrawn.

Fig. 2 shows the wrapper cut or torn so as to give access to the biscuit in one end of the tray.

Fig. 3 shows a sleeve or tube adapted to receive four trays.

Fig. 4 shows a tray that may be used in any of the sleeves or tubes of my invention.

Fig. 5 shows one of two identical ends of the blank for forming the tray of Fig. 4.

Fig. 5A is a similar view of another form of tray blank.

Fig. 6 shows another form of sleeve wherein a narrow strip of the tray wrapper is secured to its inside surface.

Fig. 7 shows the tray partly withdrawn.

Fig. 8 shows the wrapped tray being inserted within the sleeve.

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Fig. 9 shows another form of sleeve.

Fig. 10 is a section taken substantially on line 10—10 of Fig. 7.

Fig. 11 illustrates a blank for forming the sleeve of Figs. 6, 7, and 8.

Fig. 12 shows a sleeve adapted to receive two trays and having self-locking end closures.

Fig. 13 shows Fig. 12 with the closure shut over one tray and open over the other.

Fig. 14 shows both end flaps nearly closed.

Fig. 15 is a section on line 15—15 of Fig. 14, with both end flaps fully closed and locked.

Fig. 16 shows a similar sleeve adapted to hold four trays.

Fig. 17 shows one of identical ends of a blank for forming the sleeve of Fig. 16, drawn to a reduced scale.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 5, 20 indicates an open-ended sleeve which may be provided with a window opening 21. The tray 22 has an open top or side through which it is filled (preferably by automatic filling machinery) with a definite volume or weight of crackers 23 that are stacked on edge. All inside surfaces of the tray (Fig. 4) are coated with a moisture vapor and grease resistant coating 24, such as nitro-cellulose lacquer, ethyl-cellulose lacquer, or other suitable coating material. These lacquers are highly desirable in the case of food packages because they are formulated to be not only impervious but also non-toxic and odorless. After being filled, the tray is wrapped in a transparent or semi-transparent wrapper 25, such as treated glassine, cellophane, Pliofilm or other protective material, which preferably is heat-sealed where it overlaps on the smooth bottom of the tray, and at the ends is folded down and also heat-sealed to provide a tight closure. Each end of the wrapper may be reinforced and finished by a seal 26 which may also serve as an identification of the contents or bear the manufacturer's trade mark.

When the tray 22 has been filled, wrapped and sealed, as shown in Fig. 1, it is slid into the sleeve 20 with which it has a relatively snug fit. Spots of adhesive 27 are applied to the wrapper near one end and adhere to the inner surface of the sleeve to prevent the tray from being displaced during shipment and handling. The bond of the adhesive may be broken by the purchaser by pressure on either end of the tray when it is desired to remove it, wholly or partly, from the sleeve.

To open the package, the purchaser will press on one end of the tray to break the adhesive 27 and push the tray 22 partly out of the sleeve 20. Then, with a knife 28, the finger nail, or other means, will cut or break the wrapper 25 along the edge of the lip 29. An upward pull then causes the wrapper to tear more or less closely along the fold lines at the top edges of the tray so that it raises up as a tongue or flap 30. The wrapper is torn back far enough to give easy access to the crackers 23. When sufficient of the crackers have been removed, the tongue 30 will close down over the tray and remaining crackers when the tray is pushed back into the sleeve, thus making a reasonably tight closure again.

The tray 22 may be formed, as shown in Fig. 4, from the blank of Fig. 5. This blank is coated on the side that forms the inside of the tray with a lacquer that is highly moisture and grease resistant and will not impart odors to the contents. It is cut and scored to provide a bottom panel 31 and two side panels 32, 33. The two ends of the blank are identical and each has an end panel 34

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secured to the bottom along a score line and two locking flaps 35, 36 secured to the side panels 32, 33. A short lip 29 is connected along a score line to the top edge of the end panel 34. The flaps 35, 36 are provided with a suitable slit 37 and tongue 38 for locking them together. When a tray is formed as shown in Fig. 4 from the blank of Fig. 5, all inside surfaces are coated and the edges of the end panels 34 abut the inside coated walls of the sides 32, 33 so that when the tray is filled there are no uncoated edges or surfaces exposed to or in contact with the contents.

In Fig. 5A, I show a blank for making the tray where the end closing flaps are narrow and are secured to the end panels by adhesive. This blank has a bottom panel 31', side panels 32', 33', and end panel 34', and a lip 29', the same as in Fig. 5. The end closing flaps 35', 36' are relatively narrow and do not interlock. The surface of this blank that is to form the inside of the tray will be coated with a suitable lacquer or other moisture and grease resistant coating. The surfaces of the flaps 35', 36' that are folded against the outer face of the end panel 34' will be covered with this coating. The flaps are sealed against the end panel by pressure and heat which activates the lacquer to form a tight bond, or they may be sealed by other adhesive. This tray may be formed and folded flat by the carton manufacturer similar to the Brightwood type of cartons, but I secure the flaps 35', 36' on the outside of the end panel, while the usual Brightwood practice is to seal the flaps on the inside.

The trays, whether made from the blank of Fig. 5 or 5A, may be made from very cheap material such as silicated soda ash news, so that the cost of the package is low. The fibres of such material are somewhat brittle and not very strong so that the material is difficult to fold accurately on the score lines, but the lacquer coating reinforces the fibres, prevents fractures and provides for more accurate scoring and bending.

Silicated soda ash news, cracker shell board and the like retain considerable moisture after manufacture and also are very absorbent of atmospheric moisture. This fact greatly shortens the shelf-life or keeping qualities of foods packaged therein. However, I have found that if uncoated trays made therefrom are thoroughly dried just prior to being filled, as with soda crackers, and then wrapped and sealed with a moisture resistant wrapper, as in Fig. 1, that atmospheric moisture is excluded, the crackers do not take up odors from the board of the tray for long periods of time, and their shelf-life is greatly increased over current commercial packages.

In Fig. 3, I illustrate how four trays 22 may be enclosed in a single tube or sleeve 39. The four trays fit snugly within the sleeve, and each is secured by a spot 40 of adhesive. The strength of the adhesive is sufficient to hold the trays securely in the sleeve during handling and shipping, but can be readily broken by end pressure on a tray, when the consumer wants to remove a tray to gain access to its contents. Each tray is individually wrapped and sealed as in Figs. 1 and 2. The spots 40 may be on one side only of each tray, preferably over one of the lips 29, but I may use one or more such spots on the side of each tray. Whether one or more spots is used to each tray, they not only anchor the trays in the sleeve but also reinforce the tube

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against distortion, thereby giving greater protection to the contents.

This package of Fig. 3 is of particular advantage for one-pound or family size packages of crackers. Each of the trays will hold $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., and when one tray is opened, the others will remain sealed until the contents of the first tray are consumed. Only one tray will be opened at a time. If only a part of one trayful is used, the tray will be slid back in the sleeve 39 to closed position, the same as in Figs. 1 and 2.

In Figs. 6 to 11, I show two modified forms of sleeve, either of which may be used with the wrapped tray of Figs. 1 to 5A. The sleeve 41 is made from the blank of Fig. 11, which is cut and scored to form top and bottom panels 42, 43, two side panels 44, 45, and a glue flap 46. The blank is scored on longitudinal fold lines 47, 48, 49 and 50 along which the material is folded to form the rectangular sleeve 41. The flap 46 is glued or secured by other adhesive to the free edge of bottom panel 43. At one end, the top panel 42 is cut away at 51 so as to provide an edge or guide 52 that is spaced inward from the end and overlies one of the lips 29 of the tray. This edge 52 forms a guide along which the wrapper 25 may be cut with a knife 53 or other instrument. The two severed edges 54, 55 of the wrapper are shown in Fig. 10 and one edge 54 is shown in Fig. 7.

The blank of Fig. 11 may also be scored along lines 56, 57 near its two edges to form small beads or ridges 58, 59 in the finished sleeve. These beads add to the rigidity of the sleeve and impart a finished appearance.

When the wrapped tray 22 is to be inserted in the sleeve 41, a narrow stripe of adhesive 60 is applied near one end, Fig. 8. When the tray is fully inserted, this stripe is just inside the edge 52, so that the wrapper 25 is secured to the inside of the sleeve at this point. When the wrapper is severed along the edge 52, the top of the wrapper over the open side of the tray is left adhering to the sleeve. When the tray is pushed from the sleeve, as in Fig. 7, the wrapper will tear approximately along the edges of the tray so as to form a tongue 61, one end of which is secured to the sleeve. The tearing back of the tongue exposes the crackers 23 or other contents, so that the desired quantity can be removed. To re-close, the tray is pressed back into the sleeve, the tongue 61 forming a loop as it straightens out to cover the top of the tray within the sleeve. The tray can be slid in and out of the sleeve a number of times, the tongue tearing farther each time, until all of the contents have been consumed.

In Fig. 9, I show a modified form of sleeve, wherein the recess 51 is replaced by a slit or slits 62, through which the point of the knife 53 may be inserted to cut the wrapper. The slits 62 are the same distance in from the end as the edge 52, and form a guide for the cutting tool in the same manner.

The lips 29 or 29' on the trays perform an important function. The material from which the trays are made has considerable resilience so that the lips tend to spring back or out under the wrappers thus keeping the latter smooth and taut over the open side. This assures close contact of the ends of the wrapper with the inside of the sleeve and a good bond of the glue spots 27, 40 and 60 with the wrapper and sleeve. The free edge of the lip also provides a guide or cutting edge for the wrapper.

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In Figs. 12 to 17, I illustrate another embodiment of my invention wherein the sleeve is provided with self-locking end closures and may hold either one, two, four or more trays. Referring first to Figs. 16 and 17, the sleeve of Fig. 16 adapted to hold 4 trays is formed from the blank of Fig. 17 which shows one of the two identical ends of the blank. This blank is cut and scored to provide two side walls or panels 63, 64 and front and rear walls 65, 66. A glue flap 67 is provided for securing the walls 63, 66 together at their edges. At each end, the walls 63, 64 have lips 68, 69, each of which is divided by a slot 70, 71, the width of which is substantially twice the thickness of the material from which the sleeve is made. Each end of the front and rear walls has a cover or lid 72, 73 with a tuck or tongue 74, 75 at its free edge. The score lines 76, 77 along which the tucks are joined to the covers 72, 73 are relatively wide so that when the tucks are bent at right angles to the covers, there will be shallow recesses or indentations 78, 79, within which the edges of the lips 68, 69 on opposite sides of the slots 70, 71 will snap to hold the covers 72, 73 closed, as best shown in Fig. 15.

In many cases, it is not necessary to rely on the lips 68, 69 for a secure closure of the ends of the sleeve but the frictional clamp of the filled trays against the tucks 74, 75 is sufficient to insure a firm closure. The filled trays have a reasonably close fit within the sleeve, and when the two tucks 74, 75 are inserted between them, the frictional grip is sufficient to hold the covers 72, 73 closed. Even though the weight of the filled trays be considerable, the covers will not be opened by this weight alone because inside pressure tends to bow the covers outward which shortens the distance from the edge of the sleeve to the tucks and increases the frictional grip between the tucks and trays. The slots 70, 71 may be wide enough so that the tucks have a loose fit therein.

The sleeves of Figs. 12 to 14 for holding two trays are identical with the sleeve of Fig. 16 and the blank of Fig. 17, except that in Figs. 12 to 14, the width of the front and rear walls 65, 66 is substantially equal to the width of one filled tray, while in Figs. 16 and 17, the width of the walls 65, 66 is substantially equal to the width of two filled trays. The width of the side walls 64, 63 is the same in both cases, that is, substantially equal to the width of two trays. For clarity and brevity, the same reference numbers are used to designate the corresponding parts in all of Figs. 12 to 17. The section of Fig. 15 may be taken on the line 15-15 of either Fig. 14 or 16.

To use the package of Figs. 12 to 16, the blank of Fig. 17 is folded on the score lines between the four sides or panels and the flap 67 secured to the free edge of side panel 63 so as to form a rectangular tube or sleeve, open at both ends. Filled and wrapped trays 22, like the trays of Figs. 1 to 5A, are then inserted to fill the sleeve. The slots 70, 71, are in alignment with the abutting faces of the trays which fit relatively closely in the sleeve. When the sleeve is filled, with either two or four trays, the ends are closed by the covers 72, 73. In closing, the lips 68, 69 are first turned down against the ends of the trays. The covers 72, 73 are turned in and down so that the tucks 74, 75 enter between the trays and into the slots 70, 71 with which they may have a snug fit. When the covers are fully closed, as in Fig. 15, the edges of the lips on opposite sides of the slots extend into the depressions 78, 79 and pro-

vide a lock, which together with the friction on the tucks between the trays holds the sleeve firmly closed. When the consumer wishes to open the package, he will lift one of the covers 72, 73 which will give access to one or two of the trays. A tray may then be withdrawn and opened as in Figs. 1 and 2. If the entire contents of one tray are consumed, then the sleeve is reclosed on the remaining trays by returning the cover to closed position. If only part of the contents of a tray are used, the partly filled tray is re-inserted in the sleeve, which is then reclosed.

The packages of Figs. 12 to 17 are of particular advantage for one-half and one-pound sizes of crackers, snaps, cookies and other bakery products, where the amount consumed at one time usually is but a fraction of a pound. This package gives the consumer the economical advantage of purchasing a family size package combined with the convenience and continued freshness of two or four small packages, each containing one-fourth of a pound. This package may also be used for a single tray, in which case there is but a single cover (as 72) and the lips 68, 69 will not have slots at their centers, but the slots will be narrow cut-off portions at the ends of the lips remote from the cover.

While I have shown the window 21 only in Figs. 1 and 2, a similar opening may be used in any of the sleeves. Also the opening means of Figs. 8 and 9 may be used on the sleeve of Fig. 3 and that of Fig. 9 may be embodied in the sleeves of Figs. 12 to 17.

The wrappers 25 usually will be made from cellophane, waxed paper or other material that can be heat-sealed against the bottom and ends of the trays. When a viscose wrapper, such as cellophane, is used, a solvent adhesive will be used at 27, 40 and 60, and for securing the seals 26 to the ends. A suitable adhesive for this purpose is Williamson's adhesive, No. 102. When a waxed wrapper is used, an adhesive, such as Arbol water soluble adhesive OLC-28, may be used.

In comparative tests under controlled conditions of moisture and temperature, packages made according to the present invention and filled with bakery products showed marked superiority over standard commercial packages of the same products. In a typical comparative test, several packages prepared according to the present invention filled with soda crackers, short bread, and butter cookies were placed in a test cabinet with present commercial Peter's type packages of the same size and filled with the same products. The temperature in the cabinet was controlled between 70° and 90° F., with relatively high humidity, for a period of twenty days. The packages were then removed from the cabinet and opened for inspection and comparison. In each instance, the products (soda crackers, short bread, and butter cookies) in the packages of my invention were crisp, of good flavor, and had not absorbed any foreign odors, nor did the trays or liners show any absorption of grease. In each of the commercial Peter's type packages, the absorption of moisture and foreign odors by the products was so great that they were not edible. Other comparative tests show that bakery products, packaged according to my invention, remain crisp and do not absorb foreign odors in grocery and delicatessen stores over long periods of time and that their shelf-life is more than doubled.

In another test, packages of soda crackers

packaged according to my invention were placed with standard Peter's type packages of the same crackers in a closed vessel containing decomposing onions, bananas, oranges and potatoes. After four days, the crackers in my packages were crisp, of good flavor and had not absorbed either moisture or odors. The crackers in the Peter's packages not only had a strong odor and flavor of the decaying fruits and vegetables, but also had absorbed considerable moisture.

In still another test, an uncoated tray made from silicated soda ash news was thoroughly dried, then filled with soda crackers, promptly wrapped and sealed, then placed in an open-ended sleeve. This package and a like package, in which the tray was neither coated nor dried, were then placed in a control cabinet where the humidity was maintained relatively high for twenty days. The crackers in the untreated tray had absorbed odors and some moisture from the tray, but those in the pre-dried tray were crisp and entirely free from foreign odors.

My improved package not only prolongs the saleable life of the products by protecting them against absorption of moisture and foreign odors, but also protects fragile products, such as crackers and the like, against breakage during transit and handling. The crackers, when stacked in the tray, fill it closely and the tray has a reasonably close fit within the sleeve. This makes the package strong and rigid enough to afford protection to the contents that could not be attained in the usual commercial packages.

Another advantage of my invention is that it is adapted for complete automatic packaging. The trays having an open side, with the lips 28 or 29 standing upright in the plane of the ends, can be easily filled with a stack or stick of crackers, or other products, just sufficient to fill it. Then the filled tray can be wrapped, sealed and inserted in the sleeve by progressive operations in the same or cooperating machines. In packages as previously used where the liner is inside the carton, automatic filling has not been practicable. Still another advantage of my invention is that the open tray permits the package to be much closer fitted to and filled with the products than is practicable with inner lined packages.

It will be apparent to those skilled in this art that my invention provides an improved package for bakery goods and other products that is of less cost, more durable, stronger and gives greater protection to the contents than packages heretofore used for packaging similar products, and that it is adapted for full automatic filling, wrapping, sealing and insertion in the sleeve. It is to be understood that the foregoing description and drawings are but illustrative of my invention and not limitations thereon. The terms used include all equivalents thereof and are to be interpreted broadly except as the context may require a limited or specific construction.

Having thus described my invention and illustrated various specific means for carrying it out, what I claim is:

1. A package comprising a rectangular tray closed at its two ends and having one side open for filling, the inside of the tray being coated with a moisture vapor and grease resistant coating, a moisture vapor and grease resistant wrapper enclosing said tray and sealed about the same, a sleeve having four fixed sides within which said wrapped tray has a sliding fit, and means for releasably securing the tray within the sleeve.

2. A package as in claim 1 wherein the secur-

ing means includes a narrow strip of the wrapper adjacent one end of the open side of the tray where said strip is fixedly secured to the inside of the sleeve, said sleeve being constructed to permit the wrapper to be severed adjacent said secured strip, whereby the wrapper over the open side of the tray will adhere to the sleeve and will be torn progressively along the edges of the open side as the tray is slid from the sleeve.

3. A package as in claim 1, wherein the securing means consists of breakable bonds of adhesive between said wrapper and sleeve adjacent one end thereof.

4. A package as in claim 1, wherein the sleeve is adapted to receive a plurality of trays and the securing means comprises lips on two opposite sides of the sleeve turned in over the trays, said lips having slots intermediate their ends, and covers hinged to the other two opposite sides of the sleeve and having tucks fitting within said slots.

5. A package as in claim 1 wherein the inside coating of the tray is a plastic lacquer.

6. A package comprising a plurality of rectangular trays closed at both ends and having one side open for filling, the inside surfaces of the trays being coated with a moisture vapor and grease resistant coating, a moisture vapor and grease resistant wrapper enclosing and sealed about each tray, a sleeve within which the plurality of wrapped trays has a sliding fit, and means for removably securing the trays in the sleeve whereby each tray may be removed individually from the sleeve.

7. A package comprising a rectangular tray closed at its two ends and having an open side for filling, a resilient lip at each end of the tray extending inwardly over the open side and tending to raise outwardly therefrom, the inside of said tray and lips being coated with a moisture vapor and grease resistant coating, a moisture vapor and grease resistant wrapper enclosing said tray and sealed against the ends and one side thereof, a sleeve within which said wrapped tray has a sliding fit, the resilience of the lips tending to a close contact of the wrapper with the sleeve at each end, and means for releasably securing the tray within the sleeve.

8. A package as in claim 7, wherein the securing means consists of a breakable bond of adhesive between said wrapper and sleeve and over one of said resilient lips.

9. A package as in claim 7, wherein the sleeve is adapted to receive a plurality of trays and the securing means comprises lips on two opposite sides of the sleeve turned in over the ends of the trays, said lips on the sleeve having slots intermediate their ends, and covers hinged to the other two opposite sides of the sleeve and having tucks fitting within said slots and between adjacent trays.

10. A container comprising an open ended sleeve, a tray having closed ends and an open side, the tray ends having resilient lips extending over said open side, a wrapper enclosing said tray and sealed against the ends and one side thereof, said wrapped tray having a sliding fit within said sleeve, the lips tending to press said wrapper outward and into contact with the sleeve over the open side of the tray, said wrapped tray being secured within the sleeve by an adhesive bond between the sleeve and wrapper adjacent one of said lips.

11. A package comprising a plurality of rectangular trays closed at both ends and having one side open for filling, a moisture and grease resistant wrapper enclosing and sealed about each tray, a sleeve within which the plurality of wrapped trays has a sliding fit, and means for removably securing the trays in the sleeve whereby each tray may be removed individually from the sleeve.

12. A package comprising a plurality of rectangular trays closed at both ends and having one side open for filling, a moisture and grease resistant wrapper enclosing and sealed about each tray, a sleeve within which the plurality of wrapped trays has a sliding fit, covers hinged to opposite sides of one end of said sleeve and extending inward toward each other, the inner end of each cover having a depending tongue, the width of each cover being substantially equal to the width of a tray whereby said tongues will enter between adjacent trays and provide therewith a frictional lock to hold the covers closed.

13. A package comprising a rectangular tray closed at its two ends and having one side open for filling, a wrapper enclosing and sealed about said tray, a sleeve having four fixed sides within which the wrapped tray has a sliding fit, and means fixedly securing a narrow strip of the wrapper adjacent one end of the open side of the tray to the inside of the sleeve, said sleeve being constructed to permit the wrapper to be severed adjacent said secured strip, whereby the wrapper over the open side of the tray will adhere to the sleeve and will be torn along the edges of the open side when the tray is slid from the sleeve.

14. A package comprising a rectangular tray closed at its ends and having one side open for filling, a wrapper enclosing and sealed about said tray, a sleeve having four fixed sides within which the wrapped tray has a sliding fit, and means for releasably securing the tray within the sleeve, the sleeve being adapted to receive a plurality of trays and the securing means comprising lips on two opposite sides of the sleeve turned in over the trays, said lips having slots intermediate their ends, and covers hinged to the other two opposite sides of the sleeve and having tucks fitting within said slots.

GEORGE ARLINGTON MOORE.

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