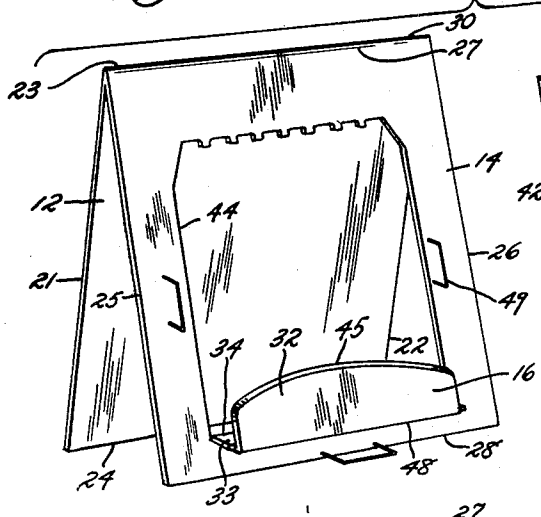
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RECLOSABLE PLASTIC BUBBLE PACKAGE

Filed Sept. 8, 1958

Fig. 2



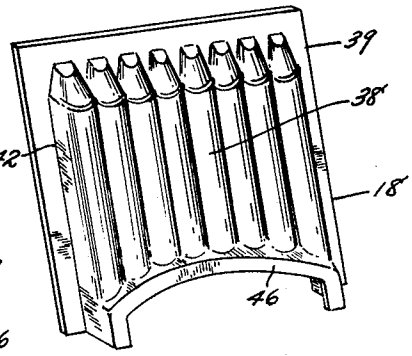




Fig. 3

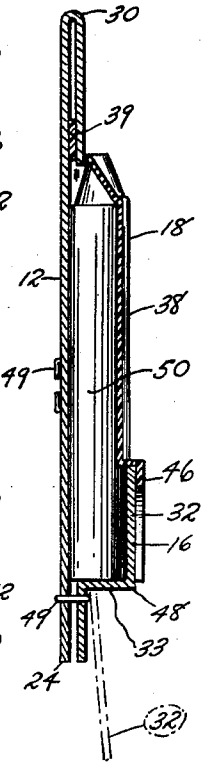
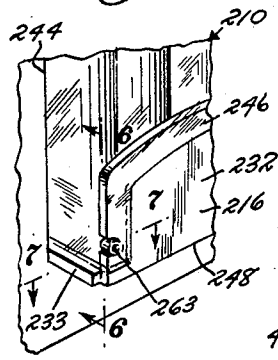



Fig. 5



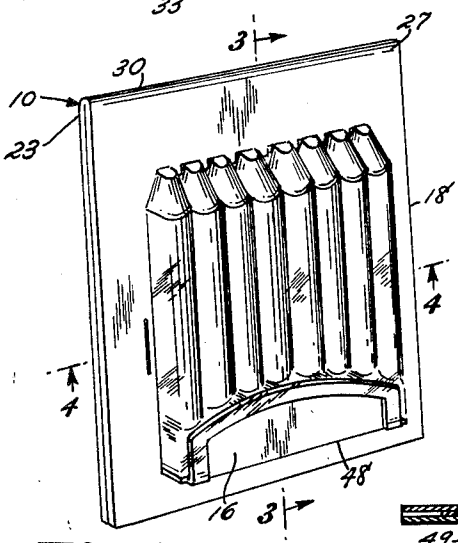
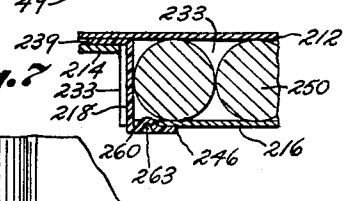




Fig. 1

Fig. 4




Fig. 7



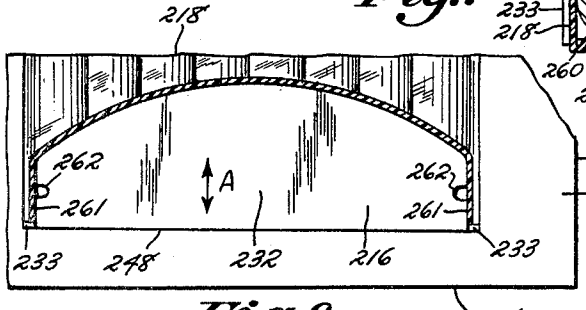




Fig. 6

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# RECLOSABLE PLASTIC BUBBLE PACKAGE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 206—78)

This invention relates generally to packaging and more particularly to reclosable plastic bubble or blister packages.

Packages of a composite type combining a base and an expanded transparent plastic bubble are widely used. they not only enable examination of the contents by the purchaser, but they enhance the attractiveness of the package by the display of the merchandise contained therein. Such packages are, however, open to the objection that removing the contents frequently results in the destruction of the package so that it is not capable of reuse.

It is therefore among the objects of the present invention to provide an improved structure of the class described wherein not only are the contents of the container fully visible at the time of purchase, but they remain visible during ensuing reuse of the container.

A feature of the invention resides in the fact that the present package is especially useful in connection with contents such as marking or drawing crayons so that the various colors of the crayons are visible through the transparent portion of the package and are removable and replaceable by a simple manipulation of a part of the package.

Another object herein lies in the provision of a reuseable visible type container employing a minimum of parts so that the same may be manufactured in large scale at low cost, having a consequent wide sale, distribution and use.

Another object herein is to provide a reusable blister or bubble type package which is easily and quickly packed in its original state without any substantial departure from the normal steps for filling such packages.

Another object herein lies in the provision of a reclosable plastic bubble package having a closure element and latching means therewith to substantially prevent accidental opening of the package.

These objects and other incidental ends and advantages will more fully appear in the progress of this disclosure and be pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, in which similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective showing a first embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is an exploded view in perspective of the embodiment shown on Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view as seen from the plane 3—3 on Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view as seen from the plane 4—4 on Figure 1.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view showing a second embodiment of the invention.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary sectional view as might be seen from the plane 6—6 on Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken from the plane 7—7 on Figure 5.

In accordance with the invention, and particularly the



first embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 to 4 inclusive, the package generally indicated by reference character 10 comprises broadly: a base element 12, a frame element 14, a closure element 16, and a body element 18.

The base element 12 is preferably composed of a thin, flexible but stiff material, such as heavy paper or cardboard. The base element 12 may have side edges 21 and 22, a top edge 23 and a bottom edge 24. The frame element 14 may have side edges 25 and 26, a top edge 27 and a bottom edge 28. Element 14 may be composed of material similar to that in the base element and, as shown in the drawings, be integral with the base element 12 being joined thereto by the fold 30.

The closure element 16 preferably has a tongue portion 32 and a wall portion 33. The closure element 16 is preferably integral with the frame element 14 and joined thereto along the closure fold 34.

The body element 18 affords great utility when the same is formed from suitable plastic material, as for example, synthetic resin, and may include a front wall 38 which is disposed out of the plane of the flange portion 39, forming the juncture 42. The juncture 42 preferably extends around approximately 270° and is of such size and shape that it may substantially abut against the inner edge 44 of the frame element 14. The lower portion of the front wall 38 is provided with a raised lip 46 whose general shape is complementary to the free edge 45 of the tongue portion 32. The inner surface of the lip 46 is spaced from the plane of the inner surface of the front wall 38 adjacent thereto and spaced from the contents 50 so as to provide a pocket between the inner surface of the raised lip 46 and the contents 50 for the disengageable reception of the tongue portion 32 of the closure element 16. By the predetermination of this distance or spacing between the outer surface of the contents 50 and the inner surface of the lip 46, in correlation to the effective thickness of the tongue portion 32, a predetermined amount of friction may be obtained thereat which is sufficient to hold the closure element in its closed position as desired, and yet which will permit the user to withdraw the tongue portion 32 thereby opening the same to permit removal of one or more of the contents 50 (see dot-dash lines on Figure 3). In opening the closure element 16, the same may unfold about the bend 48, the wall portion 33 also shifting about the fold 34 from its closed position, where it obstructs downward movement of the contents 50 as viewed in Figure 3, to afford access to the interior of the body element 18.

Original assembly is a quick and simple manner. The body element 18 is placed within the edge 44 so as to project through the frame element 14. The tongue member 32 is placed with its outer surface engaging the inner surface of the raised lip 46. Then with the body element 18 preferably in a flat, downward position, the contents 50 are placed therewithin. Following this the base element 12 and the frame element 14 are juxtaposed and suitable retaining means 49, such as staples are put in place to hold the parts together. Thus, the package 10 may be loaded initially either through the opening formed when the closure element 16 is opened, or in the manner described. While the contents, by way of example, have been shown to be a plurality of crayons and the body element has been shaped to conform therewith, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which the present invention relates that other contents may be used and the body element complementarily shaped provided that a sufficient portion of the contents extends into the area of the opening outwardly of the lip so that support is rendered to the tongue portion when in the closed position thereof.

Turning now to the second embodiment of the inven-

tion illustrated in Figures 5 to 7, inclusive, for the purpose of avoiding needless repetition certain of the parts corresponding to the first embodiment are given the same reference characters with the addition of the prefix "2."

The second embodiment differs from the first embodiment essentially in the provision of latching means **260** which serves to provide substantially greater resistance to opening than does the first embodiment. As best seen in Figure 6, the tongue portion **232** of the closure element **216** at the edges **261** is provided with cut-out portions **262** and these coact with inwardly directed projections **263**, on the body element **218**.

The projections **263** may be small dome-like protuberances, the convex surfaces of which extend inwardly to become disposed within the indentations **262**, and are preferably formed by a distortion or extrusion of the wall of body element **218**.

When the tongue portion **232** is moved in the direction of the double-pointed arrow A on Figure 6 the resiliency of the raised lip **246** is utilized and/or the resiliency of the tongue portion **232** is utilized to permit deflection of the parts to an unlatched position thereof.

It may thus be seen that I have provided a novel and useful reclosable plastic bubble package construction in which a minimum of parts are required to produce a structure having the advantages of known "blister" packaging and yet which allows convenient reuse.

I wish it to be understood that I do not desire to be limited to the exact details of structure shown and described in this specification, for obvious modifications will occur to a person skilled in the art to which the present invention relates.

I claim:

1. Reclosable plastic bubble package construction comprising: a frame element having an opening, a body element receivable in said opening, said body element having front and side walls and terminating at one end in an opening forming an entrance to said body element; a base element associated with said frame element; a movable closure element on said frame element adjacent said opening and having at least two positions, one in which said closure element is engaged with the inner surface of said front wall to close said entrance and another position in which the closure element is spaced from said front wall to afford a passage through said entrance to the area between the body element and said base element.



2. Reclosable plastic bubble package construction comprising: a frame element having an opening, a body element receivable in said opening, said body element having a free edge with a raised lip spaced from said frame element forming an entrance to said body element; a base element associated with said frame element; a movable closure element on said frame element having at least two positions, one in which said closure element engages the inner surface of said raised lip, and another position in which the closure element is spaced from said lip to afford a passage through said entrance to the area between the body element and said base element.

3. Reclosable plastic bubble package construction comprising: a frame element having an opening, a body element receivable in said opening, said body element having front and side walls and terminating at one end in an opening forming an entrance to said body element; a base element associated with said frame element; a movable closure element on said frame element adjacent said opening and having at least two positions, one in which said closure element is engaged with the inner surface of said front wall to close said entrance and another position in which the closure element is spaced from said front wall to afford a passage through said entrance to the area between the body element and said base element, and latch means associated with said closure element and said front wall.

4. Reclosable plastic bubble package construction comprising: a frame element having an opening, a body element receivable in said opening, said body opening having a free edge with a raised lip spaced from said frame element forming an entrance to said body element; a base element associated with said frame element; a movable closure element on said frame element having at least two positions, one in which said closure element engages the inner surface of said raised lip, and another position in which said closure element is spaced from said edge to afford a passage through said entrance to the area between the body element and said base element, and latch means associated with said closure element and said raised lip.

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