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A. R. KASPARI ET AL
PHONOGRAPH NEEDLE PACKAGE

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Fig. 1

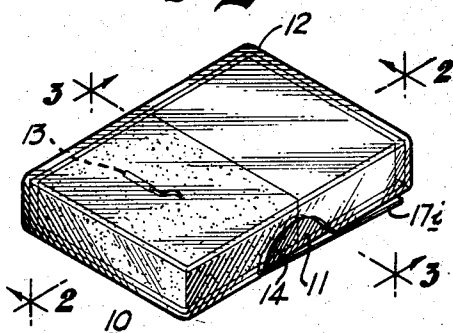


Fig. 2

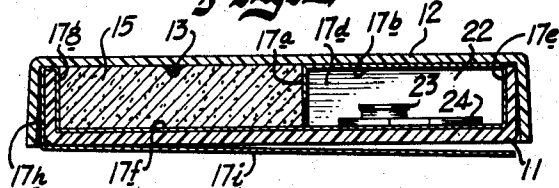


Fig. 3

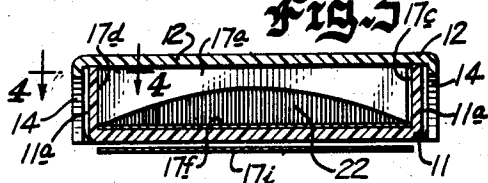


Fig. 4

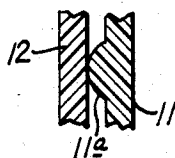


Fig. 5

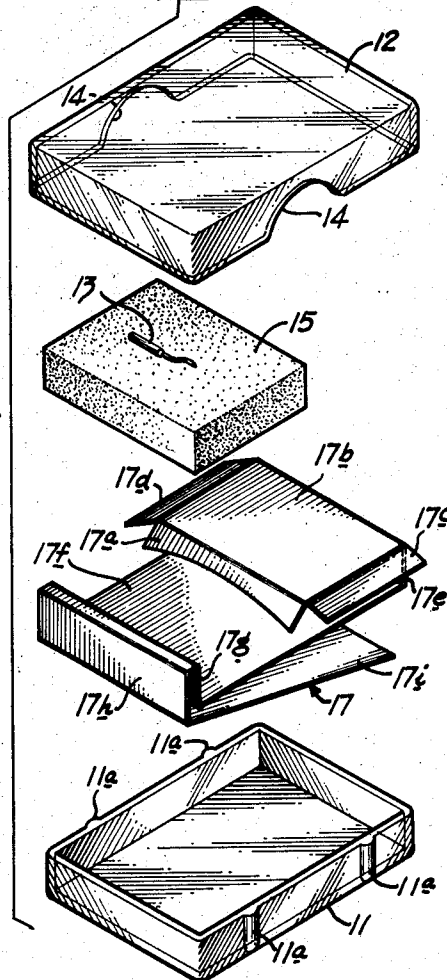
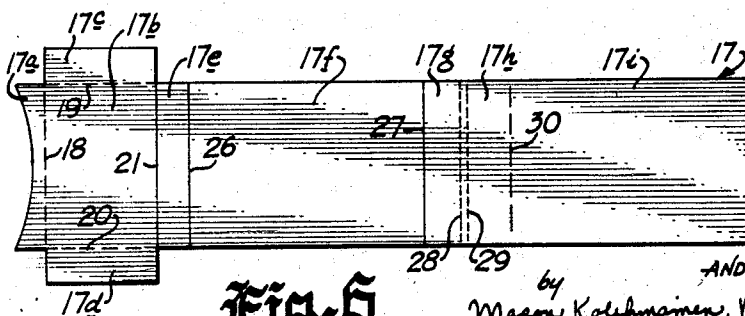


Fig. 6



INVENTORS
ALBERT R. KASPARI,
HENRY C. RUTHERFORD
AND GEORGE M. AVALON
by
Mason, Kolehmainen, Rothman and Wyse.
ATTORNEYS.

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PHONOGRAPH NEEDLE PACKAGE

Albert R. Kaspari, Mount Prospect, Henry C. Rutherford, Chicago, and George M. Avalon, Wilmette, Ill., assignors to Fidelitone, Incorporated, a corporation of Illinois

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The present invention relates to a phonograph needle package, and more particularly to a package in which replacement phonograph needles are contained and displayed.

Phonograph needles or styli require periodic replacement, and this is true of even the so-called permanent type needles made of precious stones such as diamonds and the like. Consequently, it is customary to pack replacement needles in independent packages for sale to the customer of such replacement needles. It will be appreciated that phonograph needles or styli are relatively tiny items and are subject to damage if not carefully handled. Therefore, a suitable package for such replacement needles should be one that fully protects the needle at all times while in the package. Due to the large number of manufacturers of phonograph pickups, and also the variety of types of phonograph pickups available, as well as the fact that phonograph records sold today are driven at four different speeds requiring variations in needle types, there are in use today literally many hundreds of different kinds of phonograph needles. Consequently, there must be available literally hundreds of replacement needles. This makes a rather complicated problem for the retailer of such needles, since he must stock the many different kinds and must be able to sell the purchaser what he wants in the line of a replacement. Obviously, such packages must have rather complete identification of the phonograph needle and what needle it is to replace so that both the retailer and the customer will have no problem in selling and purchasing, respectively, such needles.

Many times when replacing a needle special tools are necessary, and it is common practice for these tools to be supplied with a replacement needle. Consequently, the needle package must contain the special tools or other equipment (installation aids) useful in installing the replacement needle. In connection with certain replacement needles it has been found desirable for the manufacturer to include a small mirror element which can be placed under the pickup unit so that it may aid the customer in observing the screws to be removed in replacing the needle. Such mirror, in addition to the tools for replacing the needle and perhaps additional nuts or washers, preferably should be included in the replacement needle package. In other words, all required installation aids should be included in the needle package.

The retailer, in selling a needle, and to maintain stock control, often wishes to keep a running account of the inventory of certain needles, particularly when he must stock literally hundreds of different needles. To this end it would be desirable for such needle package to contain some means for aiding in reordering needles for his stock or to aid in the inventory of needles.

Preferably, a needle package should be one whereby the needle is visible to the seller and purchaser, partly as an aid to the seller to know that he is selling the right needle in viewing the needle directly without having to open the package, and supplementing the indicia that is

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available on the package. As a further check, the dealer should know whether the needle is to be used with 78 r.p.m. records, 45 r.p.m. records, 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ r.p.m. records, or 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ r.p.m. records, and some ready means of color coding in this regard should be available.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved package for phonograph needles.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a package for phonograph needles in which the needle is visible and yet is completely protected against damage by rough handling or the like.

Still another object of the present invention resides in the provision of a needle package which includes space for required installation aids such as tools and the like.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a needle package including a single element inserted in the package serving as a label, as a reorder aid, and also as a packaging aid.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent as the following description proceeds, and the features of novelty which characterize the invention will be pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this specification.

For a better understanding of the present invention reference may be had to the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a phonograph needle package embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a somewhat enlarged sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a small enlarged sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a greatly enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3, assuming that Fig. 3 shows the complete structure;

Fig. 5 is an exploded perspective view of the needle package of the present invention showing the needle to be packaged therein in position; and

Fig. 6 is a developed view of one element of the needle package of the present invention.

Preferably, the present invention comprises a transparent box and cover, a portion of which is filled by a resilient pad of so-called foam plastic such as polyurethane, and another portion of which is ostensibly filled by a folded paper or cardboard member which defines a hollow space in the container for installation aids or tools. The needle is adapted to lie on top of the sponge pad of foam plastic and when the cover is closed is depressed into the foam plastic in a manner so that an effective three-dimensional view thereof through the transparent container is visible. The folded paper or cardboard member, part of which is visible through the cover and also through the bottom, contains the necessary indicia identifying the needle and the instructions for installing the same, and preferably also includes a portion extending outside the container which functions as a reorder ticket. The foam plastic is preferably color coded to identify the speed of the record with which the needle is to be used so that a quick check may be had separate from the specific needle identification information included in the package.

Referring now to the drawing, there is illustrated in Fig. 1 a needle package generally designated at 10 comprising a box portion 11 and a cover portion 12 for housing therein any type or kind of needle generally indicated in the drawing as 13. It will be appreciated that the container 10, including the bottom 11 and cover 12, may have any configuration such as circular, square, rectangular or the like, but for purposes which will become apparent from the ensuing description, it is pref-

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erably rectangular as indicated and formed from a suitable plastic material which is both transparent and sufficiently rigid so that the container 10 will hold its shape indefinitely. Preferably, it is formed from an acrylic resin such as methylmethacrylate, although obviously it may be formed from numerous other plastics. Methylmethacrylate is a transparent plastic having desirable characteristics from the standpoint of light transmission and, additionally, provides a sufficiently rigid housing. By virtue of employing such a rigid container, satisfactory protection is afforded, and the packages may be stacked one on top of another. Additionally, they may be dispensed from automatic dispensing machines or other types of needle dispensers.

As illustrated, and for the purpose of preventing inadvertent removal of the cover as well as to permit removal thereof when desired, the box portion 11 is provided with spaced ribs 11a, best shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 5, which insures engagement of the cover only over a relatively small area. Additionally, the cover 12 is provided with finger cutouts designated at 14, whereby the bottom of the container 11 may be held between two fingers or a thumb and finger for facilitating removal of the cover.

In accordance with the present invention there is disposed within the container 10 a needle cushion or sponge pad 15 in the form of a so-called foam plastic. Obviously, this needle cushion could be foam rubber or the like. Preferably, it comprises polyurethane, sometimes called urethane rubber. As illustrated, the needle cushion 15 is rectangular in shape and fills at least one-half the volume of the container 10. The needle 13 is disposed on the cushion 15 and, since the latter fills the container 10, the needle will be depressed by the cover 12 into the foam plastic or cushion. By virtue of the light-transmitting characteristics of the acrylic resin from which the container is formed and the fact that the needle is pushed into the cushion 15, as is clearly indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawing, a very excellent three-dimensional view of the needle is obtained through the transparent cover 12 of the container 10.

The sponge pad or cushion 15 is preferably made in different colors so as effectively to be color coded for the speeds of the phonograph with which the needle is to be used. For example, a green color pad might be used for needles useful for all record speeds; a blue pad might be used for needles useful for 78 r.p.m. records; and a pink pad might be used for needles to be used with 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ -45 r.p.m. record speeds. Obviously, still other colors can be employed for other speeds if there are such. It should be appreciated that the particular color coding suggested is purely by way of explanation.

In accordance with the present invention there is provided a label 17 formed of light cardboard or paper which is at least partially disposed within the container 10 and which contains identification information, instructions for replacing the needle and the like, all of which information is visible through the container without removing the label. As best shown in Figs. 5 and 6 of the drawing, the label 17 is made of a plurality of parts specifically identified as 17a, 17b, 17c, 17d, 17e, 17f, 17g, 17h and 17i, all of which portions are interconnected or, in other words, formed from an integral sheet of paper or cardboard. From Fig. 6 it will be apparent that portions 17a, 17c, 17d and 17e are narrow flaps extending from each of the four sides of portion 17b of label 17, being connected thereto by folds of score lines 18, 19, 20 and 21, respectively. When folded along these lines in the manner designated in Fig. 2 of the drawing, these portions of the label form a sort of box open at the bottom and of a size to completely fill the space in container 10 not filled in by sponge pad 15. Thus, there is defined a hollow space designated by the reference numeral 22 in Fig. 2 of the drawing which may contain installation aids generally designated as 23

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and 24 in Fig. 2 of the drawing which might comprise tools, nuts or similar material. The portion 17f of the label 17 is integrally attached to the portion 17e at a fold line 26 and is of such a size as to completely fill the bottom of the container 10. Preferably, suitable indicia is placed on the section 17f of the label with respect to removing the old needle and installing the new needle, and this information is visible through the bottom of the portion 11 of the container 10.

In accordance with the present invention the sections 17g, 17h and 17i of the label are all joined together and comprise extensions of the section 17f remote from the fold line 26. As illustrated, the section 17g is joined to the section 17f by fold line 27. The section 17h is joined to the section 17g by a pair of closely spaced score lines 28 and 29, and the section 17i is joined to the section 17h by a score line 30. It will be apparent that the section 17g extends along the end of the box portion 11 between the end wall and the sponge pad 15, and the space between the score lines 28 and 29 lies on top of the top edge of the end wall of container portion 11. The portion 17h, on the other hand, is confined between this end wall of the container portion 11 and the corresponding end wall of the cover 12 so that the section 17i of the label 17 is outside the container 10 and effectively disposed parallel with the bottom thereof. This portion 17i of the label 17 is preferably a tear type reorder ticket which is torn off by the dealer along the score line 30 when the needle is sold for use in re-ordering and to permit a constant inventory control of the particular needle. It also preferably includes information with respect to the needle for an aid in re-ordering.

It will be apparent that various indicia may be included on the different flaps of the label 17. For example, the flap 17b, which is exposed through the cover 12, includes the principal identification indicia such as the number of the needle or the like. Price information, record speed, the type of needle, etc. is included on the other flaps, such as 17a, 17c, 17d, 17h and the like. Preferably, the portion 17b may be color coded to indicate whether the needle is of a particular type. For example, one color such as gold could be used to indicate it was a diamond needle; silver could be used to indicate it was sapphire; and other colors could be used to indicate precious or other metal needles.

It will be appreciated that in packaging the needle the label 17 with the suitable indicia contained thereon is folded in the manner indicated in Fig. 5 of the drawing and first inserted in the box portion 11 of container 10. Any installation aids will be placed in the space 22 before the section 17b of the label is moved into place. Thereafter the sponge pad 15 will be put in the remaining space so that effectively the entire space in the portion 11 of the container 10 is filled. The needle is then placed on the sponge pad 15 and the cover 12 put on. The ribs 11a then engage the depending portions of the cover 12 so as to hold the cover in place. The reorder ticket portion 17i of the label extends outside the container so as to be readily torn off when a sale is made.

From the above detailed description the desirable features of the needle package of the present invention will readily be understood by those skilled in the art. In removing the needle from the package, the sponge pad 15 may be lifted out as an aid to removing the needle without danger to delicate parts of the needle. Moreover, the sponge pad nestles the needle in the package with the cover 12 in place so as to permit a three-dimensional view. The one-piece construction of the label 17 insures permanent correct association of all information supplied with each needle. Moreover, the label 17 permits identification all around the package so that it may be selected by the retailer from any storage arrangement.

While there has been illustrated and described a specific embodiment of the present invention, it will be

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understood that numerous changes and modifications may occur to those skilled in the art. It is aimed in the appended claims to cover all those changes and modifications that fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A package including a phonograph stylus, tools for installing said stylus, a rigid container formed by a bottom tray and a cover telescoping over said tray, said tray and said cover being formed of transparent material, a rectangular block of resilient material disposed in one end of said tray adjacent a first end wall thereof and occupying all of the space at that end, said block being deformable and having a thickness approximately equal to the depth of the tray so as to hold the stylus between said block and said cover, and a folded paper member disposed in said container and folded to define a rectangularly shaped chamber containing said tools and taking up the space in said container not occupied by said block, said paper member including an end fold lying adjacent a second end wall of the tray, a pair of side folds respectively lying adjacent the opposed side walls of the tray, a top fold lying adjacent the cover and a bottom fold extending along the inside bottom of the tray from said second end wall and beneath said block, whereby the bottom fold cooperates with the end fold, the side folds and the top fold to conceal the interior of the chamber from the exterior of the container, said bottom fold having a flap extending upwardly along the inside of said first end wall, said flap extending downwardly along the outside of said first end wall between said tray and said cover and terminating in a detachable integral extension located outside of said container.

2. The package defined by claim 1 wherein the integral extension is attached to the flap by a weakened score line lying adjacent the outside bottom of said first end wall so that said extension may be removed by tearing along the score line.

3. The package defined by claim 1 wherein the cover is provided with cutout notches in opposed downwardly extending walls thereof to permit said tray to be held while the cover is lifted therefrom.

4. The package defined by claim 3 wherein the telescoping cover and tray respectively include adjacent walls at least one of which is provided with external projections frictionally engaging the other to hold the cover and the tray together.

5. The package defined by claim 1 wherein the resilient block is formed of a material having a color corresponding to the type of stylus contained in the package.

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6. A package including a phonograph stylus, tools for installing said stylus, a rigid container formed by a bottom tray and a cover telescoping over said tray, said tray and said cover being formed of transparent material, a rectangular block of resilient material disposed in one end of said tray adjacent a first end wall thereof and occupying all of the space at that end, said block being deformable and having a thickness approximately equal to the depth of the tray so as to hold the stylus between said block and said cover, and a folded paper member disposed in said container and folded to define a rectangularly shaped chamber containing said tools and taking up the space in said container not occupied by said block, said paper member including an end fold lying adjacent a second end wall of the tray, a pair of side folds respectively lying adjacent the opposed side walls of the tray, a top fold lying adjacent the cover and a bottom fold extending from said second end wall along the inside bottom of the tray, whereby the bottom fold cooperates with the side folds, the end fold and the top fold to conceal the interior of the chamber from the exterior of the container, said paper member having a flap extending downwardly along the outside of one of the walls of said tray between said tray and said cover and terminating in a detachable integral extension located outside of said container.

7. The package defined by claim 6 wherein the integral extension is attached to the flap by a weakened score line lying adjacent the outside bottom of said one wall so that said extension may be removed by tearing along the score line.

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