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E. W. JACKSON
COIN-CONTAINER WRAPPER

2,480,368

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Fig. 1

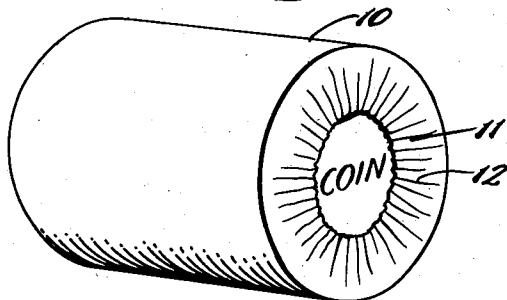


Fig. 2

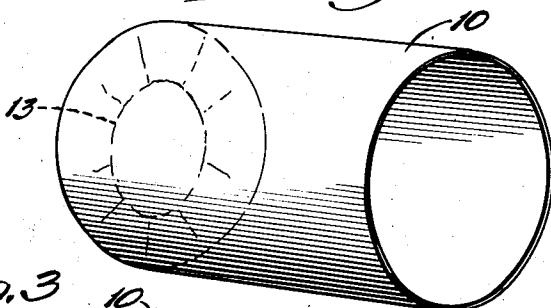


Fig. 3

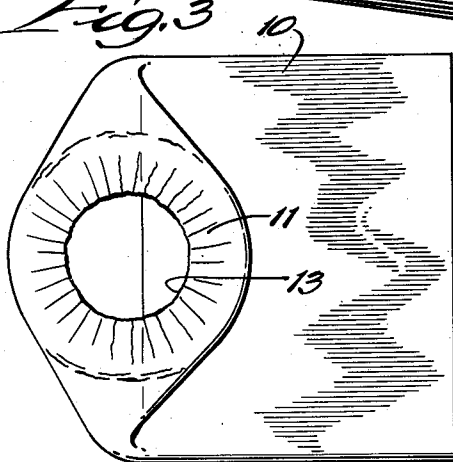


Fig. 4



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COIN-CONTAINER WRAPPER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 229-87.2)

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This invention relates to a coin-container wrapper. It is particularly useful for the enclosure of coins of a specified number and kind and as a temporary container for the coins. The application constitutes a continuation-in-part of my co-pending application Serial No. 588,620 for Coin wrapper. In the handling of coins in banks, the saving of time is of the utmost importance. Coin wrapper or container devices which may be readily formed into operative condition and will receive coins, permitting the quick sealing of the package and further permitting the coins to be counted without removal from the wrapper, are highly desirable.

Transparent plastic wrappers, and particularly when formed in tubular shape, are extremely efficient as means for the packaging of coins while permitting the counting thereof after packaging. However, the containers in tube form require too much space, and further the ends of the tubes have to be sealed after the coins are inserted.

If containers of any shape cross section are folded, the material when shaped in such collapsed form tends to form rigid grooves or folds along its length, and the insertion of coins becomes extremely difficult by reason of the presence of such grooves and the tendency of the material to assume its original collapsed shape.

An object of the present invention is to provide a tubular body, preferably of plastic material which is transparent and which is collapsed for shipment in flat condition, means, however, being provided for quickly restoring the body to tubular shape so that the container is ready to receive coins. A further object is to provide a tubular transparent body of flexible or resilient material with a relatively rigid base adapted to be folded with the axis of the base at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the tube whereby, after unfolding the structure, the base serves as a rigid means for holding the tubular body in open condition. Yet another object is to provide such a tubular container-wrapper for coins wherein the relatively rigid base member is provided with an air vent or central port permitting ready folding of the base upon the tube body and facilitating the insertion of coins. Yet another object is to provide a tubular body with a relatively rigid base portion having a central orifice and radiating air passages whereby air can readily leave the tube when coins are inserted, while at the same time the base tends to urge the resilient plastic tube toward fully open condition. Other objects and advantages will appear as the specification proceeds.

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The invention is illustrated, in a preferred embodiment, by the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a coin-container wrapper embodying my invention; Fig. 2, a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the container wrapper open and in condition for receiving coins; Fig. 3, a top plan view of the container wrapper folded in accordance with my invention; and Fig. 4, a side view in elevation of the structure shown in Fig. 3.

In the illustration given, 10 designates a tubular sheath which is preferably formed of transparent plastic material. In the forming of the wrapper, I prefer to extrude the material through a tubular die so as to form a seamless tube, the tube being cut in proper lengths so that each tube can receive the desired number of coins. It will be understood, however, that the wrapper may be formed in any suitable manner.

Any suitable material may be employed. I prefer a transparent material which is flexible and at the same time resilient. For some purposes, it is also desirable that the material be slightly water-absorbent and also sealable by heat. For example, excellent results have been received with polyvinyl alcohol plastic. It will be understood, however, that there are a variety of plastic and other materials which have the desired flexibility and resilience, enabling the carrying out of the invention herein described.

After the tubular body 10 has been formed, I prefer to turn one end of the tube inwardly and to seal the same under the influence of heat so as to form a relatively rigid base 11. In the infolding operation, the heat-responsive material forms overlapping portions with tiny grooves or crevices 12 extending laterally along the base. The overlapping of the portions causes the material to assume a relatively rigid character. The resulting circular base body has a rigidity considerably more than twice that of the tubular body 10, and it is this increased rigidity which gives the new results hereinafter described. After the base 11 has been formed as above described, the tube 10 is flattened to the condition shown in Figs. 3 and 4, and the base 11 is folded over upon the flattened tube 10 with the axis of the circular base running substantially at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the tube 10.

In the flattened condition shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the container structure may be shipped in compact form, the collapsed containers occupying relatively small space in a general container.

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In the operation of the device, the bank teller removes a container wrapper from the general container and opens the tube 10 by straightening the container. In this operation, the rigid base 11 swings to the position illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 and serves as a circular hoop for restoring the walls of the container 10 to circular position. Under the effect of the rigid base 11, the resilient walls of the wrapper 10 move from their creased condition toward a fully open tube position so that the teller can drop coins readily into the resulting tube. The opening 13 in the base 11 permits the rapid escape of air as coins are dropped into the container. Although the base 11 may be resting upon a table or desk, air escapes laterally through the grooves 12 as the coins fall into the container. Further, in the folding operation, as indicated in Figs. 3 and 4, the vent 13 permits the rapid escape of air so that the base 11 may be folded flat upon the container portion 10 without the trapping of air.

The rigid base portion 11 serves several important functions. It provides an unfolded and truly flat base for supporting the coin wrapper, and when the base 11 is swung to a position in which the plane of the base is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tube 10, it serves as an alignment member for snapping the resilient walls of the container into their original circular condition. The rigid base exerts a pressure constantly, tending to remove any creases formed in the original folding of the tube 10. At the same time, when in the flattened condition shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the relatively rigid base 11 serves as a means for resisting opening of the tube and tends to maintain it in its flattened condition.

After the coins have been inserted by the teller, he may seal the top of the container by simply tapping the open end of the tube against a heated element. This provides a closure for the open end and a barrier against the egress of coins. The heated element forms inwardly-extending locking shoulders which may be of very slight extent. A slight shoulder formed at the open end under the influence of heat is sufficient to prevent the escape of coins, while at the same time the shoulder may be removed upon the application of a heated instrument. If it is desired to reuse the plastic tube, this may be done by applying a heated instrument to the inwardly-turned shoulder and flaring the same outwardly under the influence of heat. On the other hand, if it is not desired to reuse the container, the wrapper may simply be broken and the coins removed by pouring them onto the counter.

While in the description given, I have described a heat-responsive plastic material, it will be understood that other types of material may be employed. For example, a plastic material may be provided with the rigid base by means of a solvent which reduces the end portion of the tubular body to a flowing material readily moldable into the desired rigid horizontal base. Evap-

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oration of the solvent provides the desired rigid bottom for the container. Cellophane and a variety of plastic bodies may be employed in carrying out the invention.

While in the foregoing specification, I have set forth one embodiment of the invention in considerable detail, it will be understood that such details may be modified widely by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A coin-container wrapper, comprising a tubular body of plastic resilient transparent material, having an end portion turned inwardly to form a substantially circular base with a central aperture therein, said base being formed by overlapping portions flattened to provide a rigid base body, said tube being flattened and folded upon itself at the end adjacent said base to bring said base upon said body with the plane of the base substantially parallel with the plane of the flat body.

2. A coin-container wrapper, comprising a transparent tubular body of resilient plastic material, having an end portion turned inwardly to form a circular base with overlapping portions flattened to make the base rigid, said body being flattened and folded adjacent said base to bring said base upon the body with the plane of the base parallel to the plane of the flattened body, said base when moved to a position in which the base is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tubular body, urging said resilient body material toward a fully open tubular position.

3. A coin-container wrapper, comprising a transparent tubular resilient body formed of polyvinyl alcohol plastic, said body having an end portion turned inwardly to form a circular base with overlapping portions flattened to make the base rigid, said body being flattened and folded adjacent the base to bring said base upon said body with the plane of the base substantially parallel with the plane of the flattened body, said base when moved to a position in which the plane of the base is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the body, urging said resilient body material toward a fully open tubular position.

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