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G. RIOUX
LINER, DISPENSER, AND CLOSURE COVER
FOR CIGARETTE PACKAGES
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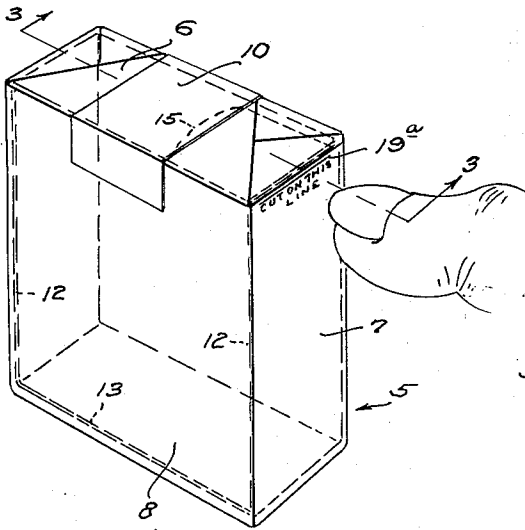


Fig. 1.

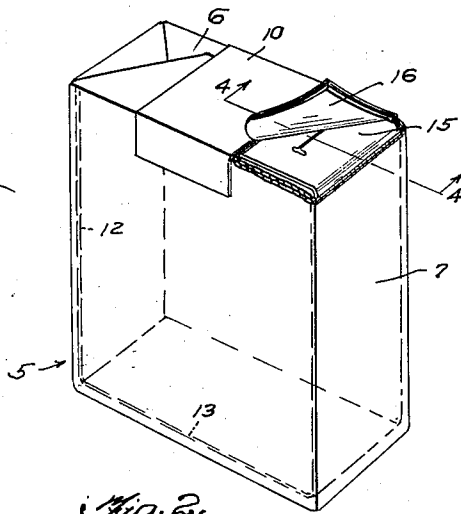


Fig. 2.

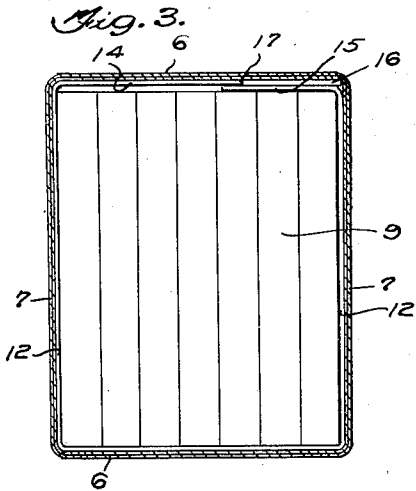


Fig. 3.

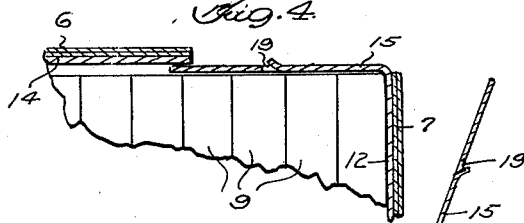


Fig. 4.

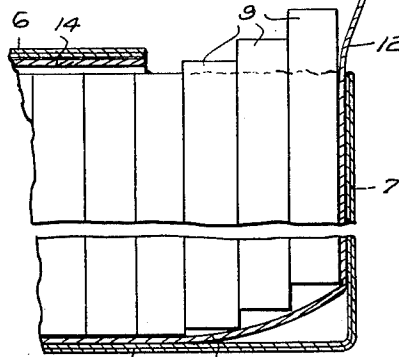


Fig. 5.

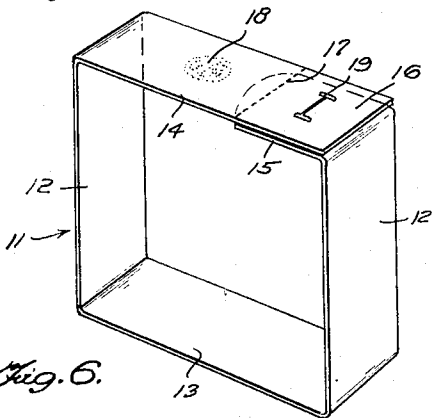


Fig. 6.

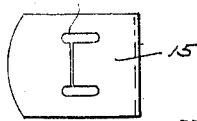


Fig. 7.

INVENTOR.
GENE RIOUX,
BY
James D. Ryles
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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LINER, DISPENSER, AND CLOSURE COVER FOR CIGARETTE PACKAGES

Gene Rioux, Pine Cove, Ontario, Canada

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1 Claim. (Cl. 206—41.2)

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This invention relates to an improvement in cigarette packages of the conventional shape and size and has for its object the provision of an inner liner embodying means to facilitate the opening of the package, aid in the initial removal of the cigarettes and a closure for the protection of the remaining cigarettes.

It is an important object of the invention to provide a continuous liner for the ends and sides of the package, with overlapping ends at one inner corner of the package for providing a cutting guide as an aid in the removal of that portion of the package wrapper ordinarily removed by the average smoker, the liner further serving to lend rigidity to the package against crushing.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an inner liner for packaged cigarettes, being continuous and having its free ends overlapping at that upper corner of the package normally torn off, with the overlapping end perforated along the line to be torn and serving as a guide or pattern for the amount of the wrapper to be removed, while the remaining end may be withdrawn and pulled upwardly to start the first rows of cigarettes and then reinserted under the remaining portion of the end that was removed to serve as a closure cover for the remaining cigarettes in the package.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a stiffening liner extending entirely around the inner walls of the package and functioning in the manner hereinbefore stated, with the upper portion of liner cemented to the wrapper against accidental shifting and the closure end provided with a finger nail engaging tab to assist in its removal and further to serve as a limit stop for the reinsertion of the closure end.

Other objects will be readily apparent during the course of the following description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, wherein is shown a preferred exemplification of the invention and wherein like numerals of reference refer to like parts throughout the several figures.

In the drawings;

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cigarette package embodying the invention and in the act of being opened,

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the package with the wrapper and liner flap partially removed,

Figure 3 is a vertical section through the package, taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1,

Figure 4 is a fragmentary enlarged section through the corner of the package with the wrap-

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per material and liner flap torn away, taken on line 4—4 of Figure 2,

Figure 5 is a foreshortened enlarged vertical section through one end of the package, showing the manner of starting the cigarettes,

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the liner prior to insertion in the package and,

Figure 7 is a plan view of the liner closure end illustrating the means for facilitating removal and insertion of the closure.

Referring specifically to the drawings, the numeral 5 designates a package of cigarettes of conventional size and shape, having end portions 6, sides 7 and faces 8 formed by the usual paper wrapper, for enclosing the cigarettes 9. The end portions are folded in the usual manner and one end portion is sealed with the familiar revenue stamp 10. The package is normally wrapped in the conventional cellophane wrapping, not shown and which is usually removed by the smoker prior to the opening.

The liner consists of an elongated strip of relatively heavy material, such as cardboard and indicated generally at 11. The strip is of a width permitting its insertion into the package wrapper and conforms to the inner walls of the package, snugly engaging the sides 7, and ends 6, forming a substantial rectangle having sides 12, bottom 13 and a top 14. The free end of one side 12, terminates in a closure and ejecting flap 15, bent at a right angle to the side portion and underlying the terminal end of the top portion, indicated at 16. The terminal end 16 is adapted to be severed upon opening the package and to facilitate its removal, the top portion 14 is perforated entirely across, as indicated at 17. The top portion is adapted to be held against shifting in use by cementing it to the wrapper of the package at a point indicated generally at 18. The flap 15 is provided with a finger nail engaging cut 19, stamped therethrough, as a combined means to assist the user in withdrawing the flap for the removal of a cigarette and as a limit stop to prevent the flap from passing too far beneath the remaining end of the top 14 when the flap is reinserted to covering position.

The package 5, see Figure 1, is provided with an indicating line, with suitable instruction data therebeneath, serving to indicate to the user the line on which the package is to be opened and this indicating line is in direct alignment with the juncton of the bend for the flap 15 and the terminal end of the flap 16, this junction forming a definite cutting guide for the finger nail or other instrument of the user.

In the use of the device, the liner as it appears in Figure 6 has been inserted in the package at the time it is packed, providing a relatively stiff package against crushing. When it is desired to open the package, the user employs his finger or thumb nail as a cutting instrument, cutting along the line 19^a, to completely cut the wrapper entirely across. This cutting action is guided by the terminal end 16, as before indicated. The user then grasps the material of the wrapper top 6 and the flap 16, tearing backward and across, as indicated in Figure 2, completely removing the upper corner of the package back to the line of perforations 17, the flap 16 serving to determine the amount of wrapper to be removed. The removal of the upper corner of the package exposes the closure flap 15 which, in this position has its terminal end extended a short distance beneath the remaining portion of the top 14, which is the normal position of the flap when in the closed position. The finger nail of the user is then engaged in the cut 19, pulling the flap 15 backward and upward for exposing the group of the cigarettes in the end of the package. The engagement of the finger nail in the cut 19, causes the material of the flap to be extended upward, where it will remain and serves to limit the sliding movement under the top 14 when it is reinserted. After the flap 15 has been moved outwardly, an upper pull thereon will cause the first several rows of cigarettes to be elevated, as indicated in Figure 5 for facilitating the removal of one or more cigarettes as desired. Downward pressure of the flap causes the cigarettes to be again seated as before and the flap is then reinserted under the remaining end of the top 14, providing an adequate closure cover for the remaining cigarettes.

It will be seen from the foregoing that an extremely simple and efficient liner has been provided for packaged cigarettes. The liner being in a single stamped strip extending entirely around the inside of the package serves to avoid the usual crushing of the package as is so common in present day packing. The construction of the liner with its overlapping flaps presents a definite cutting edge for the user and the perforated end 15 serves to determine the proper amount of the wrapper to be torn away, leaving a relatively neat severed corner to the package. The liner being in one continuous strip will serve as an ejector for the end cigarettes by pulling the flap 15 upwardly, flexing the lower portion 13 of the liner. Pressure upon the upper ends of the extended cigarettes causes the cigarettes and the bottom 13 of the liner to be again seated in its original position. Thus the flap 15 serves as a most convenient means of ejecting the end cigarettes and also as a closure cover. The liner will be held against shifting when the package is partially empty by the cementing 18 and the side portion 12 will be limited in its shifting move-

ment when the package is partially empty by the abutment of the extended material of the cut 19 engaging the remaining end of the top 14. The device is extremely cheap to manufacture, is strong, durable and highly convenient in use.

It is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the precise form shown, but that it includes within its purview, whatever changes fairly come within either the terms or the spirit of the appended claim.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A stiffening liner for cigarette package wrappers comprising a one piece strip of relatively stiff material of a width corresponding to the inner thickness of the package and bent to form a substantially rectangular frame extending entirely around the inner circumference of the package, one free end of the strip extending along the top of the package and terminating at a top edge of the package and perforated transversely for providing a severable flap, the other free end extending upwardly along a side of the package and bent inwardly at a right angle and underlying the severable flap and of a length to project slightly beyond the line of perforations, the terminal end of the severable flap and the point of bending of the other free end positioned at the corner of the package and jointly providing a groove and cutting gauge for the wrapper, the wrapper provided with an indicating line of cutting in parallelism with the groove, the upper corner portion of the wrapper adapted to be torn away after cutting by removing the flap and wrapper material simultaneously, the flap serving to determine the area of wrapper material to be removed for exposing the other free end of the liner, said remaining free end of the liner provided with a preformed tab engageable by the finger nail of the operator for aid in withdrawing said free end for exposing the enclosed cigarettes. In one end of the package, the said free end and its connected side and bottom portion adapted to be lifted upward for ejecting a plurality of rows of cigarettes, said free end, side and bottom adapted to be reseated with the free end engaging beneath the remaining end of the severed portion as a closure cover, said remaining end of the severed portion cemented to the wrapper against shifting movement.

GENE RIOUX.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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