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⑯ Packaging cosmetic containers.

⑯ A cosmetic container and support arrangement is disclosed, and a method by which it is assembled. The container itself includes a main section (20) defining a compartment (24) adapted to house a cosmetic therein and a cooperating lid(22). The support (14) has a sheet-like main body (60) which includes a cutout (62) configured to accommodate the container. The container when closed is supported within the cutout such that at least one edge section (64a, 64b) of the main body (60) along the cutout extends between edge parts (26a,b;28a,b) of the container's main section (20) and closed lid (22) to be entrapped by them and maintain the container in place. The entire arrangement may be hung from a peg (18) or the like by means of a cooperating through-hole (70) in the tab's main body (60). The container is packaged by opening it, passing either the lid (22) or the main section (20) through the cutout (62) and closing it so as to entrap the edge section(s) (64a,64b) and hold the container in place until such time as it is again opened. The cutout (62) may have segments (68,66) for accommodating latch (50) and hinge (42) parts of the container and allowing them to function without interference.

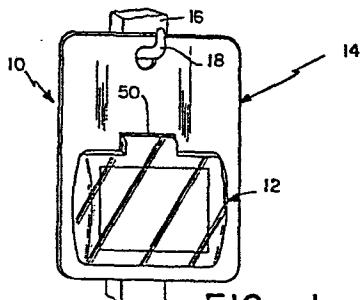


FIG.—1

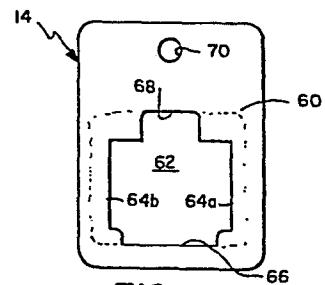


FIG.—6

PACKAGING COSMETIC CONTAINERS

The present invention relates generally to the packaging of cosmetic (make-up) containers for blush, 5 eye shadow, lipstick, compacts and the like and more particularly to a specific technique for supporting the containers on a display rack, shelf, peg or the like.

Heretofore, it has been common practice to package 10 cosmetic products of the type recited above in blister type packaging. Whilst this type of packaging approach is generally satisfactory, it is a primary object of the present invention to provide a more economical packaging technique and specifically one which supports 15 and displays a cosmetic container in an uncomplicated, attractive and readily visible fashion.

The present invention utilizes a support tab in combination with the cosmetic container to be packaged. The support tab has a sheet-like main body which 20 includes a cutout configured to accommodate the container. The container is disposed within the cutout such that at least one edge section of the tab body along the cutout is interlocked with the container to maintain the latter in place. The interlocking takes place in 25 an inlet in the container, preferably formed between two mutually movable parts of the container. Then, placing the two parts in one relative configuration locks the container into the tab with portions of it projecting respectively beyond respective faces of the 30 tab, while in another relative configuration the locking is released and the container may be removed from the cutout. In the specific embodiment disclosed herein, the container includes a main section defining a compartment adapted to house a cosmetic therein,

for example the blush, eye shadow or the like recited above, and a lid which cooperates with the main section for opening and closing the compartment. This container with its lid closed is supported within the cutout such that confronting 5 edge sections of the tab body along opposite edges of the cutout extend into and between the container's main section and closed lid. This combination container and tab may be supported to a hook or peg forming part of a display rack or shelf utilizing a cooperating through-hole which may be 10 readily provided in the tab just above its cutout. In this way, the tab alone serves as a package and a support for its associated cosmetic container in an economical and uncomplicated way while, at the same time, placing most of the container in direct view, e.g. uncovered, for visual inspection 15 by potential customers.

The combination cosmetic container and support arrangement just described generally will be discussed in more detail hereinafter in conjunction with the drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the combination arrangement shown supported to a shelf or display rack;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the cosmetic container comprising part of the overall combination arrangement of Figure 1, the container being shown in its opened position;

25 Figure 3 is a top plan view of the opened container;

Figure 4 is a front elevational view of the opened container;

Figure 5 is a back elevational view of the container when the latter is in its closed position;

30 Figure 6 is a front elevational view of a support tab comprising part of the combination arrangement illustrated

-3-

in Figure 1;

Figure 7 is a front elevational view of the combination arrangement of Figure 1 with a front portion of the container removed to show how the tab and a back portion of the 5 container cooperate with one another; and

Figure 8 is a back elevational view of the combination arrangement of Figure 1 with a back portion of the container removed to show how the tab support and a front portion of the container cooperate with one another.

- 10 Turning now to the drawings, wherein like components are designated by like reference numerals throughout the various figures, attention is first directed to Figure 1. This figure illustrates a combination cosmetic container and support arrangement which is designed in accordance with the 15 present invention and which is generally designated by the reference numeral 10. As will be described in more detail hereinafter, this combination arrangement includes and preferably consists solely of a cosmetic container 12 and a support tab 14. The container is adapted to house a cosmetic therein, as discussed above, and the support tab 20 serves as a package for the container and, at the same time, a means of supporting the container to a display or shelf rack which is at least partially represented by the up-standing post 16 and its associated hook 18. As will be 25 seen below, container 12 is interlocked in place within a cooperating cutout in tab support 14 and cannot be removed without being opened first. At the same time, the entire front face of the container remains uncovered and in direct view for visual inspection by potential customers.
- 30 Referring now to Figures 2-5, attention is specifically directed to container 12 which is shown including a generally rectangular main section 20 and a similarly shaped lid 22. As best seen in Figure 3, main section 20 defines a compartment 24 which houses a cosmetic, for example blush,

- eye shadow, lipstick, or the like, generally indicated at 25. Main section 20 also includes a circumferential margin or edge 26 extending entirely around compartment 24. As seen best in Figure 4, lid 22 includes a similar margin or 5 edge 28 defining most of its rectangular periphery. In the embodiment illustrated, this margin or edge extends around a centrally located clear window 30 which, as will be seen below, exposes the cosmetic 26 to view when the lid is closed against main section 20.
- 10 Lid 22 is pivotally connected along its back edge 32 to the back edge 40 of main section 20 by a cooperating hinge mechanism generally indicated at 42 in Figure 5. As seen in this latter figure, the hinge mechanism includes an elongated hinge element 44 depending from a central location 15 along the length of back edge 32 of lid 22. The back edge 40 of main section includes a complementary slot for receiving element 44 and opposing pivot projections 48 extending into cooperating openings at the opposite ends of element 44. In this way, the lid is pivotally movable between its 20 opened position illustrated in Figures 2-4 and its closed position illustrated in Figures 1 and 5. While a hinge mechanism could be provided to bias lid 22 in its closed position, the overall container preferably includes a suitable latching mechanism to maintain the lid in a disengag- 25 ably closed position. This mechanism which is generally indicated at 50 in Figure 1 extends along and forms part of the front edges 52 and 54 of the lid and container main section, respectively, as best seen in Figures 3 and 4. As seen in these latter figures, the ~~hinge~~ mechanism includes 30 interlocking tabs 56 and 58.

From the foregoing, it should be apparent that the circumferential margin or edge 26 on the top side of container section 20 and the circumferential margin or edge 28 on the underside of lid 22 engage one another when the lid is 35 closed. As will be seen hereinafter, these engaging margins or edges and specifically opposite sections thereof are used

to interlock the overall container with support tab 14 when the container is disposed within a cooperating cutout which is formed in the tab and which will be described below.

Referring now to Figure 6, attention is directed to the 5 details of tab 14. As seen in this figure, the tab includes a generally rectangular, sheet-like main body 60 which may be cardboard, plastic, sheet metal, metal foil or like sheet material having sufficient structural integrity to support container 12 in the manner to be described. Main body 60 10 includes a generally rectangular cutout 62 which is configured to accommodate the container in an interlocking manner when the container lid is closed. This is best illustrated in Figures 7 and 8 in conjunction with Figures 1 and 6. As seen in Figure 7, with the container in place 15 within cutout 62, main section 20 is disposed on the back side of tab body 60 such that opposite edge sections 26a and 26b of edge 26 rest against the back sides of opposite edge sections of the tab body 60 along and on opposite sides of cutout 62. These latter edge sections are generally indicated by dotted lines at 64a and 64b in Figure 6. At the same time, lid 22 is located on the front side of tab body 60, as best seen in Figure 8. The margin or edge sections 28a and 28b of margin 28 engage the front sides of edges 64a and 64b. In this way, the container cannot be removed from 20 cutout 62 without opening the container. In fact, in order to initially position the container in cutout 62 in the manner just described, the container lid must be opened and either the lid or main section must be passed through the cutout before the lid can be closed. Once the opened container 25 is positioned within the cutout in this way, the lid is pivotally moved to its closed position. In this regard, the cutout itself includes a bottom cutout segment 66 (Figure 6) adapted to receive hinge mechanism 42 such that the tab body does not interfere with operation of the hinge mechanism. For the same reason, cutout 62 includes a top 30 cutout segment 68 adapted to receive the latch mechanism 50, that is, so that the tab body does not interfere with its 35

operation. At the same time, these cutout segments serve to properly align the container in place.

It should be apparent from the foregoing that the overall configuration of cutout 62 in tab body 60 depends upon the 5 overall configuration of container 12 and therefore may vary depending upon the configuration of its associated container. Nevertheless, the cutout configuration selected must be one which allows at least one edge section of the tab body along the cutout to extend into the container between its main 10 section and lid when the latter is closed for locking the container in place. The cutout is preferably configured so that at least two opposing edge sections of the tab body extend into the container when the latter is closed. Obviously, in any of the configurations selected, the container 15 must be allowed to be opened and closed within the cutout. In the case of a hinged and latching lid, the hinge and latching mechanisms must be allowed to function in their intended manner. Moreover, the container itself must be one which lends itself to this overall interlocking relationship 20 with the tab body.

Having described the way in which tab body 60 supports its associated container 12, attention is now directed to the way the entire arrangement is supported on hook 18 of post 16 in Figure 1. All that is necessary to accomplish this is 25 to provide the tab body with a through-hole 70 which is preferably located directly above cutout 62. This through-hole receives the hook 18 or any other shelf type peg in the manner illustrated in Figure 1. In this regard, note that the entire front face of the container remains uncovered and 30 in direct view for inspection by potential customers. This includes window 30 which readily displays the cosmetic therein.

CLAIMS:

1. A packaged cosmetic container (10) comprising the container (12) and a support (14), characterised in that the support (14) having a sheet-like main body (60) which includes a cutout (62) configured to accommodate said container (12) being disposed within the cutout (60) such that at least one edge section (64a, 64b) of the main body (60) of the support (14) 10 along said cutout is overlain by part (26a, 26b) of the container to maintain the latter in place.
2. A packaged cosmetic container according to claim 1 15 wherein the container (12) has a main section (20) with a compartment (24) adapted to house a cosmetic therein and a lid (22) which cooperates with the main section (20) for alternatively gaining access into and closing the compartment (24); the container (12) with 20 its lid (22) closed being disposed within said cutout such that the at least one edge section (64a, 64b) of the main body along the cutout extends between edge parts of the main section (20) and the closed lid (22) for maintaining said container (12) in place.
3. A packaged cosmetic container according to claim 2 25 wherein the main section (20) and lid (22) of the container (12) include interlocking latching elements (56,58) for maintaining said lid closed and wherein the cutout (62) in the main body (60) of the support 30 includes a cutout segment (68) configured to allow the latching elements (56,58) to interlock with one another without interference from the body.
- 35 4. A packaged cosmetic container according to claim 2

or claim 3 wherein the main section (20) and lid (22) of said container include cooperating pivot means (42) pivotally connecting the lid and main section and wherein the cutout (62) in the main body (60) of the 5 support (14) includes a cutout segment (66) configured to allow free movement of said cooperating pivot means while the container (12) is in place.

5. A packaged cosmetic container according to claim 10 2, claim 3 or claim 4 wherein the the main body (60) of the support (14) includes two edge sections (64a and 64b) extending between edge parts of the main section (20) and closed lid (22) of said container (12) for maintaining said container in place, said edge 15 sections being disposed on opposite sides of and extending between latching elements (56,58) and pivot means (42) of the container, whereby the container (12) must be opened before it can be removed from the support (14).

20 6. A packaged cosmetic container according to claim 5 wherein the cutout (62) is approximately rectangular, cutout segments (66,68) are disposed on opposite sides from one another for receiving a pivot means (42) 25 and latching elements (56,58) of the container and wherein the main body (60) includes two said edge sections (64a and 64b) along said cutout (62) on opposite sides of the latter between the cutout segments (66,68).

30 7. A packaged cosmetic container according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the main body of the support includes a through-hole (70) adapted to receive a peg (18) or the like for supporting the packaged 35 container.

- 9 -

8. A support (14) which in combination with a cosmetic container (12) forms the packaged container (10) of any one of the preceding claims.

5 9. A method of packaging a cosmetic container (12) which has a main section (26) defining a compartment (24) adapted to house a cosmetic therein and a lid (22) which cooperates with said main section for alternatively gaining access into or closing said 10 compartment, by temporarily holding the container in place on a support (14) said method comprising: opening the container (12) positioning either the main section (20) or lid (22) of said container through a cutout (62) in a sheet-like main body (60) of the 15 support so that said main section (20) and lid (22) are on opposite sides of the body (60); and thereafter closing the container (12) such that at least one edge section (26a,26b) of the main body along said cutout (62) extends into and between said main section (26) 20 and closed lid (22) for maintaining said container (12) in place in the support.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the support (14) is provided with a through-hole (70), said method 25 including supporting said tab and container onto a projecting peg (18).

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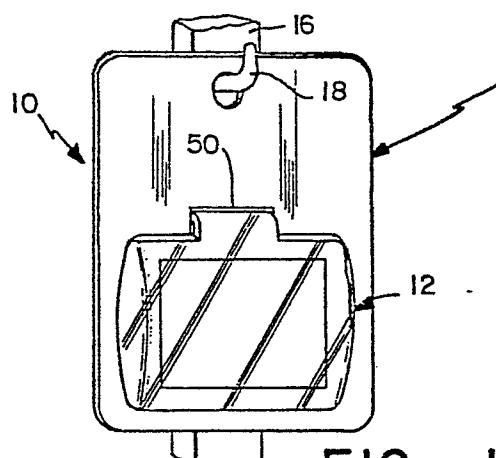


FIG. -1

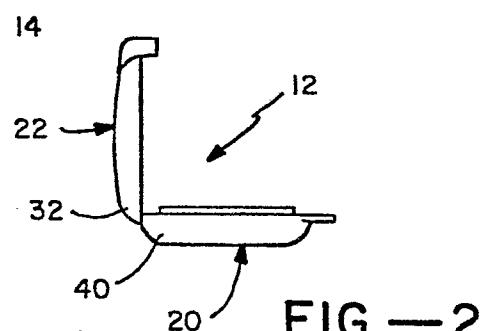


FIG. -2

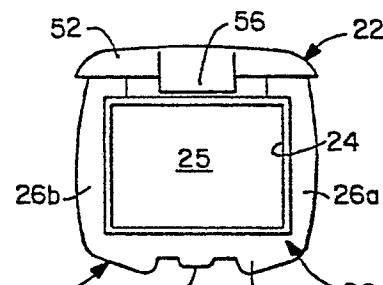


FIG. -3

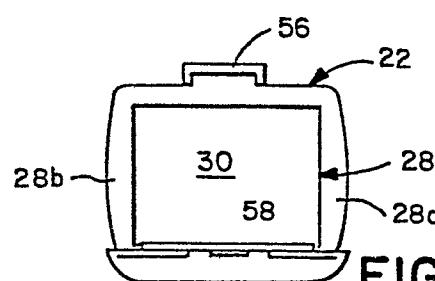


FIG. -4

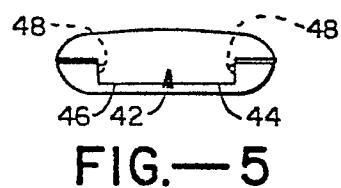


FIG. -5

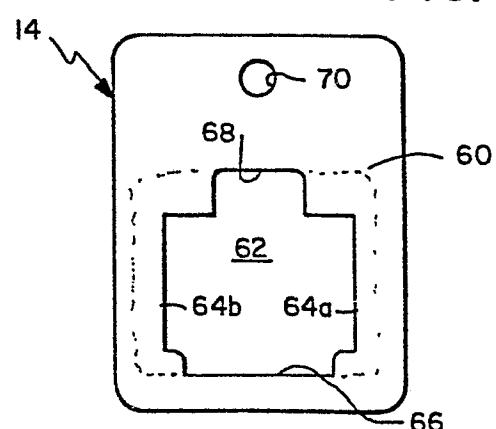


FIG. -6

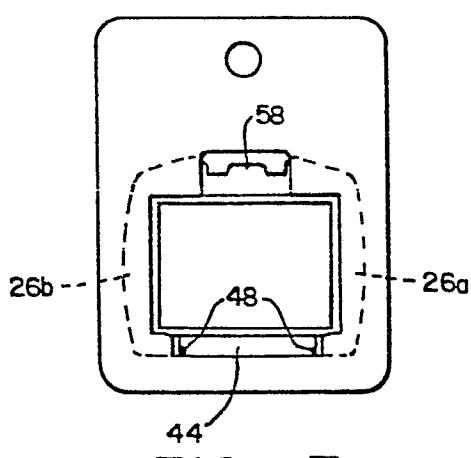


FIG. -7

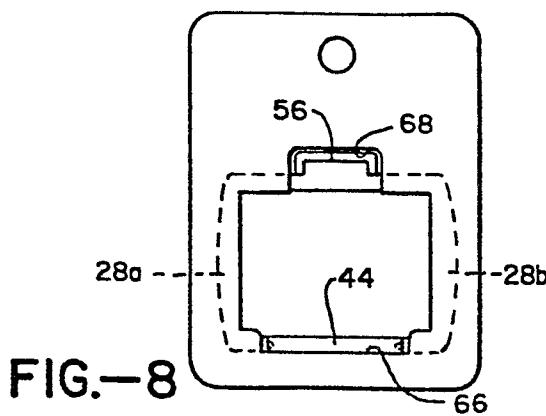


FIG. -8



European Patent  
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0055621  
Application number

EP 81306140.5

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT |   |                   | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)   |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Category                            | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim |  |
| A                                   | US - A - 4 184 308 (SHARP)<br>--  | 7-10              | B 65 D 25/22   |
| A                                   | FR - A - 2 131 916 (COMBES)<br>--   | 1,2,7-10          |  |
| A                                   | US - A - 3 908 827 (BEMMELS et al.)<br>-----                                  |                   |  |
|                                     |   |                   | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.3)   |
|                                     |   |                   | A 45 D 33/00<br>A 45 D 34/00<br>A 45 D 40/00<br>B 65 B 15/00<br>B 65 B 61/14<br>B 65 D 25/00<br>B 65 D 73/00<br>B 65 D 85/00   |
|                                     |   |                   | CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS  |
|                                     |   |                   | X: particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A: technological background<br>O: non-written disclosure<br>P: intermediate document<br>T: theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D: document cited in the application<br>L: document cited for other reasons<br>&: member of the same patent family,<br>corresponding document |
| X                                   | The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                    |                   |  |
| Place of search                     | Date of completion of the search  | Examiner          |  |
| VIENNA                              | 08-04-1982  | MELZER            |  |