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Package opening means.

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This invention relates to a package which finds particular application as a sealed small paper package or sachet for sugar or the like. The package includes opening means constituted by one or more flexible opener strips which are deformable to rupture the package or a mouth of the package.

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"PACKAGE OPENING MEANS"

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to packages

More particularly the invention relates to a package incorporating an opener whereby it may readily be opened or ruptured to gain access to the contents.

Many known packages, particularly small sachets are difficult to open and it is therefore an object of the invention to provide a package incorporating means whereby it can be opened or ruptured very simply and if necessary, with only one hand.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention there is provided a package formed with an initially sealed upper end to retain the package contents, characterised by the provision of an opener comprising a pair of aligned elongated resiliently deformable opener strips that are initially disposed along an edge of the package, the strips being adapted to flex apart laterally when their ends are squeezed longitudinally thereby to rupture the edge and permit the package contents to be released.

The strips may be joined at one end, they may be bowed outwardly from their ends and they may have a laterally curved cross-section.

In an alternative form of the invention there are two juxtaposed opener strips which are formed with zones which alternatively diverge and converge. By urging the divergent zones together the adjacent converging zones are brought into contact with each other thereby deforming other zones of the members which rupture the package.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1A : is an isometric view of a sealed package or sachet with a section broken away to show the flexible members or opener strips;

Figure 1B : shows the same package after it has been ruptured by the application of pressure to opposite ends of the members in the direction indicated by the arrows; and

Figure 2 : is an isometric view of an opener; and

Figure 3 : is an isometric view of a large sealed package incorporating opener strips of a different configuration.

DESCRIPTION OF AN EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

Referring first to Figures 1 and 2 a package, for instance a sugar sachet, generally designated 10 is provided with opener means generally designated 12. The opener means 12 is incorporated either into the material of the package or in pockets formed therein, in the zone of one edge 14 thereof and is constituted by strips 13 hollow part cylindrical configuration in transverse cross section. The strips 13 are disposed with their concave surfaces facing each other. By the application of opposed forces in the directions shown by the arrows in Figure 1B the flexible strips 13 are deformed by bending outwardly in the direction of their cross sectional curvature in their middle sections thereby causing the package to rupture in the zone of its edge 14. The contents of the package may then be discharged.

The opener strips 13 are preferably joined at one end 12(a). The strips are bowed outwardly from their ends. Alternatively, the strips 13 may take the form of two separate strips. The strips are adhered within the upper interior portion of the package adjacent the sealed upper end 14 thereof. The opener strips 13 are laterally flexed apart when their opposite ends are squeezed in a direction longitudinal of the strips to thereby rupture the sealed end 15 and permit the package contents to be released, as indicated in Figure 1B.

Referring now to Figure 3 a large package 20 is provided with a second form of flexible opener means that includes strips 22 and 24 which are juxtaposed in the zone of the mouth of the package. It will be noted that the opener strips 22 and 24 are divergent at

opposed zones 26 and 28 and convergent at the adjacent zones 30 and 32 respectively. The extremities 34 and 36 of the two opener strips are also divergent.

When opposed forces are applied to the opener strips 22 and 24 in the directions indicated by the arrows their convergent zones 30, 32 are brought into contact with each other. This results in the splaying outwardly of the extremities 34, 36 of the two opener strips, thereby causing the package to rupture in the zone of its mouth. The contents of the package may then be discharged.

The flexible opener strips according to the invention may be constructed of any suitable material such as plastics or metal. The package itself may, of course, be of any suitable material, such as paper, which is capable of being ruptured by the opener strips.

The configuration and dimensions of the package and the opener strips may vary according to requirements.

Referring now to Figure 3, a large package is formed with a second form of flexible opener means 20 that include strips 22 and 24 which are juxtaposed in the zone of the mouth of the package. It will be noted that the opener strips 22 and 24 are divergent at opposed zones 26 and 28 and convergent at the adjacent zones 30 and 32 respectively. The extremities 34 and 36 of the two opener strips are also divergent.

CLAIMS:

1.

A package formed with an initially sealed upper end to retain the package contents, characterised by the provision of an opener comprising a pair of aligned elongated resiliently deformable opener strips that are initially disposed along an edge of the package, the strips being adapted to flex apart laterally when their ends are squeezed longitudinally thereby to rupture the edge and permit the package contents to be released.

2.

A package according to claim 1 characterised in that the strips are joined at one end.

3.

A package according to either of the preceding claims characterised in that the strips are bowed outwardly from their ends.

4.

A package according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the strips are of laterally curved cross-section.

5.

A package according to claim 1 characterised by the provision of two juxtaposed flexible strips formed with zones which alternatively diverge and converge, the converging zones being adapted, upon movement into contact with one another to deform other zones of the strips to rupture the package.

6. A package characterised by the provision of an opener comprising a pair of aligned elongated resiliently deformable opener strips that are initially disposed along an edge of the package, the strips being adapted to flex
5 apart laterally when their ends are squeezed longitudinally thereby to rupture the edge and permit the package contents to be released.

FIG. 1

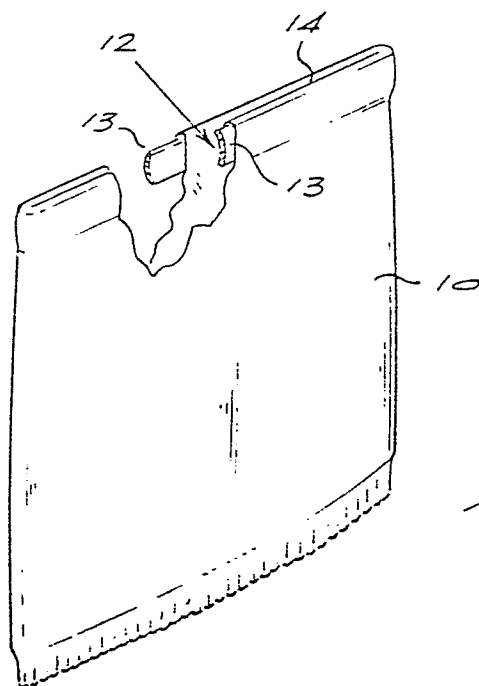


FIG. 2

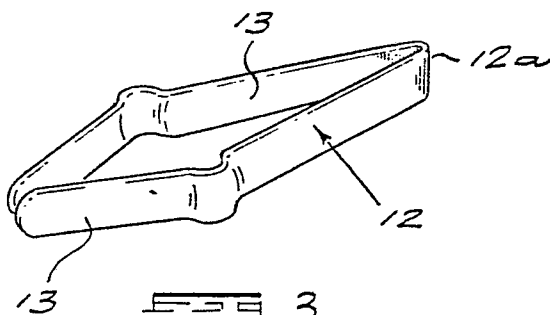
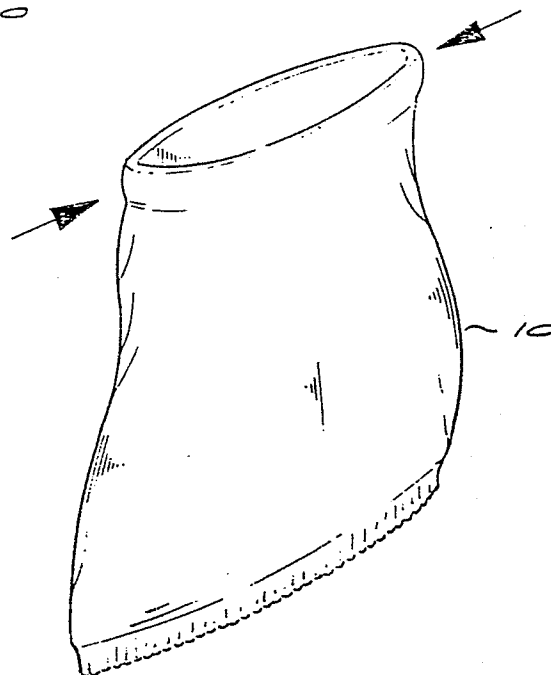


FIG. 3

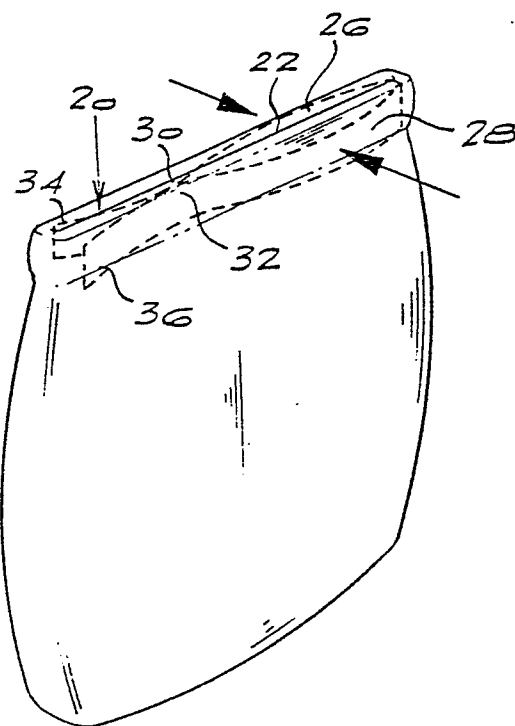


FIG. 4