

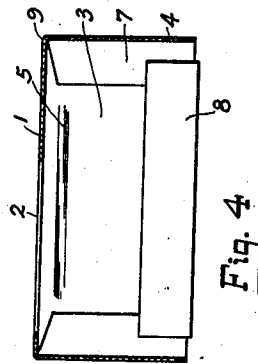
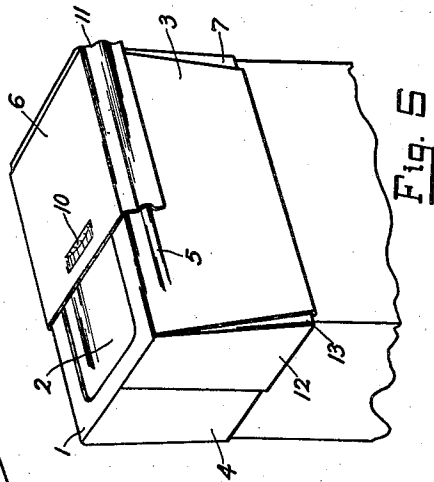
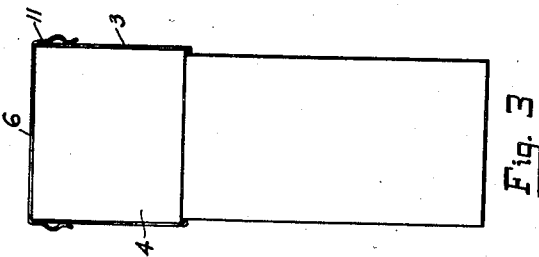
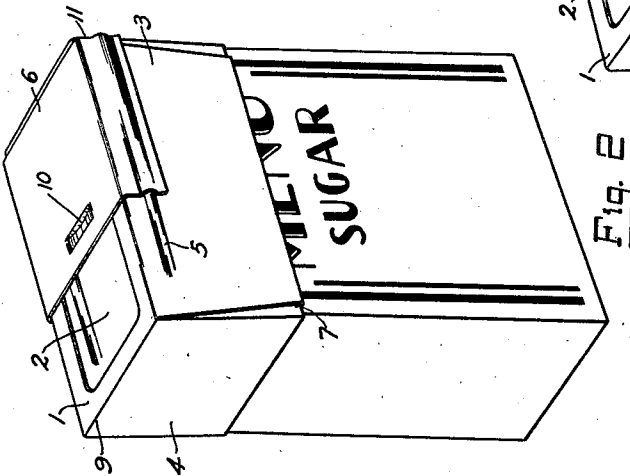
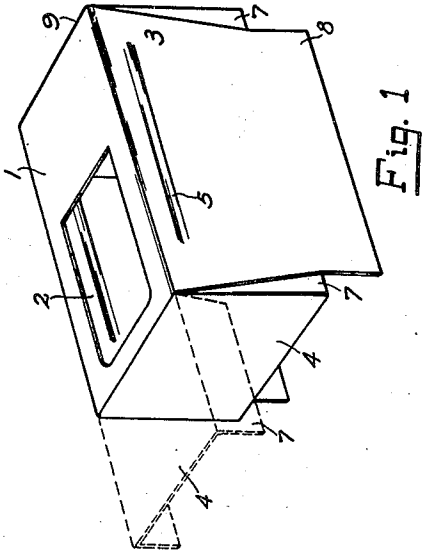
Feb. 11, 1936.

J. A. BURGNER

2,030,134

COVERING DEVICE

Filed April 7, 1934



Inventor
John A. Burgner

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,030,134

COVERING DEVICE

John A. Burgener, Hinsdale, Ill.

Application April 7, 1934, Serial No. 719,525

7 Claims. (Cl. 229-7)

This invention relates to covering devices or tops for use in connection with cartons or packages.

Numerous powdered, granular and farinaceous commodities, such as soap, salt, sugar, starch, cereals, seeds and the like, are dispensed in sealed cardboard cartons or packages. The consumer opens the package, usually by rupturing the top as by cutting or tearing off the same and, from time to time, removes such of the contents as are required for immediate use. The unused portion of the contents remains in the package, often for extended periods, and for obvious reasons should be protected from dust, dirt, etc. Very few packages are provided with re-closing means. The customary method of reclosing an opened package is to simply replace the severed top and, in some cases, to bind it in place by means of a cord or rubber band. This is inconvenient and unsightly and, what is of greater consequence, it gives little, if any, protection from dirt and dust to the package contents.

The present invention has for its object the provision of a simple and inexpensive cover which can readily be placed over the top of an open package and which will effectively seal the same against dust, dirt and moisture and likewise prevent spilling in case the package is overturned. For convenience in removing contents from the package an outlet with a suitable closure is provided. The cover, moreover, may be finished in attractive colors to provide a decorative touch to the pantry or cupboard shelves, as well as to hide the torn and unsightly tops of the open package.

The sealing function above referred to is accomplished thru the medium of a novel interlocking arrangement of the side and end walls, which constitutes one of the main features of the invention. The end walls of the cover are arranged for pivotal movement along their junction with the top member or wall and are provided with wings or flanges engaged by folds formed on the side walls. The lower edges of the end walls can thus be moved in or out for a considerable distance, permitting the adjustment of the cover to accommodate packages of various sizes and further serving as gripping members for clamping the cover to the package. This arrangement also permits the covers to be readily removed from emptied packages for subsequent use on new packages.

Another feature of the invention is concerned with the construction of the side walls with a fold along the lower edge thereof which serves

both to frictionally engage the flanges on the end walls and to limit the extent of movement of the end walls.

The foregoing features and others not specifically mentioned, together with the method of constructing the device comprising the invention will be described hereinafter, reference being had to the accompanying drawing comprising Figures 1 to 5, inclusive.

Fig. 1 is a view of a partially formed cover showing the general form of the portions cut out to permit forming into the desired shape. This figure also shows the manner in which the various parts cooperate and accomplish the functions referred to hereinbefore.

Fig. 2 is a view of the cover with the closure in place as applied to an ordinary paper package.

Fig. 3 is an end view of the cover as applied to a package.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on a plane extending longitudinally thru the center of the cover.

Fig. 5 shows a modification of a cover which provides for crosswise adjustment in addition to longitudinal adjustment.

The construction of the cover proper can be readily seen by referring to Figures 1, 2 and 4. The material used is preferably a metal of suitable strength and elasticity and is initially formed as a unitary blank. The corners are notched to define the portions which are to constitute the side and end walls and their appurtenances as shown in Fig. 1. A hole of suitable dimensions is punched in the center portion of the blank to provide an outlet. Referring to Fig. 1, it will be seen that the portions constituting the side walls are tapered from their upper edge to a point opposite the lower edge of the end walls. Below this point extends an untapered portion 8 which is eventually folded inwardly and substantially parallel with the plane of the side wall, as will be explained subsequently. The portions of the blank which constitute the end walls 4 are provided on each side with the wings or flanges 7 which, after forming, lie perpendicular to the walls 4 and in the same plane as the walls 8.

With the side walls 3 and end walls 4 bent into their normal position to make an angle of 90 degrees with the top portion 1, the wings 7 will lie along the inner faces of the side walls 3. The lower portion 8 of the side wall is now bent inwardly and folded over the wings 7 which are thus frictionally engaged between the fold 8 and wall 3. The fold is made at a point slightly below the end of the tapered section previously re-

ferred to so that the bottom edges of the flanges 7 are separated by a small gap from the inner surface of the fold. The end walls can thus be moved inwardly until the inner surface engages the edge of the fold 8. The end walls may also be moved outwardly until the lower corners of the flanges 7 come into contact with the fold which prevents further movement. This construction can be clearly seen in Fig. 4, wherein the relation between the flanges 7 and the folds 8 is clearly shown. It will also be noted that the upper edges of the flanges 7 are tapered slightly. This is to permit the inward movement of the end walls.

The closure shown in the instant case is of the sliding type, although it will be appreciated that any suitable closure may be used without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined hereinafter in the claims. In the embodiment shown the cover portion is provided with ridges 5 in both of the side walls. These ridges lie parallel with and slightly below the upper edges of the respective walls. The closure itself consists of a top portion 6 having two downwardly extending flanges 11 at opposite ends. The flanges are provided with grooves so spaced as to ride over the ridges 5 in the side walls which thus serve to guide the closure between open and closed positions. An indentation 10 in the top portion of the slide or closure provides a means for readily moving the closure from open to closed position. Further, this indentation acts as a stop to limit the movement of the slide member in both directions of travel, thereby preventing the slide from being accidentally pushed off of the guiding ridges.

Referring now to Fig. 5, it will be seen that the embodiment of the invention shown herein is substantially the same as that shown in Fig. 2 with respect to the interlocking of the side and end walls. In this case, however, the side wall 4 extends only part way across the end of the cover. The edge which aligns with the edge of the top member is provided with a flange for cooperation with the fold along the lower edge of the side wall 3. The end of the cover is filled out by an auxiliary end section 12 of a width slightly greater than that of the cut out portion. It is attached to the top portion of the cover by welding, soldering or other suitable means. Along the lower edge is a fold (not shown), which engages the overlapping edge of the end wall 4 in the same manner as the flanges 7 are engaged by the folds 8. The wall section 12 is provided with a flange 13 similar to the flanges 7 which is engaged by the fold 8 in the same manner and for the same purpose as in the construction heretofore described. This arrangement permits the lower edge of the cover to be adjusted crosswise in substantially the same manner as is done longitudinally, thus permitting the cover to be applied effectively to packages of different sizes, both as to length and width.

What is claimed is:

1. A sheet metal top cover for food packages and the like made of cardboard and intended to be opened by rupturing the top of the package, said cover comprising a top wall substantially conforming in size to the top of the package to which the cover is to be applied, and means depending from said top wall and frictionally engageable with the walls of the package to retain the cover in position thereon, said means including external gripping members carried by said top wall

and movable relative to each other so as to grip the sides of the package.

2. A sheet metal top cover for food packages and the like made of cardboard and intended to be opened by rupturing the top of the package, said cover comprising a top wall substantially conforming in size to the top of the package to which the cover is to be applied, an outlet in said top wall through which the contents of the package may be removed with the cover in place on the package, and means depending from said top wall and engageable with the sides of the package to retain the cover in position thereon, said means including opposed gripping members movable relative to each other to grip the sides of the package.

3. A sheet metal top cover for food packages and the like made of cardboard and intended to be opened by rupturing the top of the package, said cover comprising a top wall substantially conforming in size to the top of the package to which the cover is to be applied, means depending from said top wall and engageable with the sides of the package to retain the cover in position thereon, said means including opposed gripping members carried by the top wall and movable relative to each other to grip the sides of the package, and means on adjacent members cooperating to maintain the members in gripping position.

4. A sheet metal top cover for food packages and the like made of cardboard and intended to be opened by rupturing the top of the package, said cover comprising a top wall substantially conforming in size to the top of the package to which the cover is to be applied, means depending from said top wall and engageable with the sides of the package to retain the cover in position thereon, said means including opposed gripping members carried by the top wall and movable relative to each other to grip the sides of the package, and means on one of said members frictionally engageable by cooperating means on an adjacent member to maintain said one member in gripping position.

5. A sheet metal top cover for food packages and the like made of cardboard and intended to be opened by rupturing the top of the package, said cover comprising a rectangular top wall substantially conforming to the dimensions of the top of the package to which the cover is to be applied, side walls and end walls depending from said top wall, said end walls being movable relative to each other to bring them into frictional engagement with the sides of the package to grip the same and to provide a relatively tight seal between the package and the cover and thereby substantially prevent spilling of the package contents around the sides of the package, and means on said side walls cooperating with means on said end walls to maintain the end walls in frictional engagement with the sides of the package.

6. A sheet metal top cover adapted to be applied to cardboard food packages and the like of various sizes, said cover comprising a top wall conforming generally to the shape of the tops of the packages to which the cover is to be applied, side walls and end walls depending from said top member, certain of said walls being movable relative to the other walls to bring them into tight engagement with the sides of a package and to provide a substantially sealing fit between the cover and the package, and means for maintaining said movable walls in set position.

7. A detachable metal cover for temporarily

closing cardboard packages of different sizes after the tops of the packages have been ruptured or removed, said cover comprising a top member adapted to abut against the upper edges of the package sides, side members and end members depending from said top member to form a continuous wall around the upper part of the pack-

age, and means for varying the relative spacing between the free edges of oppositely disposed end members to adjust the wall to conform to the size of the package to which it is applied and thus effectively close the package.

JOHN A. BURGENER.