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(54) A METHOD OF AND ARRANGEMENT FOR STORING HANDLED BAGS

(71) We, BENGT LUNDIN AB, a Company incorporated under the laws of Sweden, of Box 4033, S-671 04 Arvika, Sweden, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a method of arranging bundles of bags provided with two handle openings which allows one bag at a time to be removed from the bundle, and an arrangement of such bags.

In bags with handle openings, and particularly plastics bags, it has long been a problem to take one bag at a time from a bundle of bags and to open the bag. It is not possible, either to simply stack plastic bags, because the bags will slide apart after a certain time, unless the stack or bundle is held together. This problem is specially evident at cash registers in self-service shops where the customers are expected to take one bag at a time from a stock and to fill the bag with articles. It was found that the customers in many cases take more bags than necessary and thereby cause economic waste.

The present invention has as its object to eliminate the aforesaid problems and, in addition, provide a possibility of easier filling the bags with articles.

According to the present invention there is provided a method of suspending a bundle of bags each provided with two handle openings on a rod which allows one bag at a time to be removed from the bundle, wherein one of said two handle openings of each bag is folded downwards of said bag and wherein said bags are threaded suspended with their other handle opening on said rod to form said bundle on said rod which is formed with a cross-sectional shape having at least one cross-sectional dimension substantially corresponding to a corresponding dimension of the opening in the threaded position, said bags being threaded on said rod with the side having folded-down handle opening facing a free end of said rod, said

bags being prevented from slipping off unintentionally from said free end of the rod by a stop on said rod.

The invention also provides an arrangement of bags with two handle openings on a rod which allows for manual removal of one bag at a time from said bundle wherein said bags are arranged with one handle opening folded downwards of the side of the bag about a line substantially transverse to the filling opening of the bag, the other handle opening being threaded onto said rod.

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described in greater detail with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 shows the invention realized, the bags being seen from the side, and

Figure 2 shows a perspective view of a separated bag.

According to Figure 1, the bags are suspended on a rod 1 in such a manner, that one of the handle openings 2 is threaded over the rod. The other handle opening 3 is folded down so as to be located below the rod. The rod 1 has a dimension, which substantially corresponds to the size of the handle opening, and at the end of the rod 1 a stop means in the form of a thickening is provided so that the bag is drawn off with some resistance from the rod 1.

The bags, thus, are in bundles threaded on the rod 1, and the handle opening 3, which is folded downwards, faces in the direction, in which the bags are drawn off from the rod 1. Due to the fact that the foremost handle opening 3 is folded down, it is easy to seize said handle opening with one hand and draw off the bag from the rod. There is no risk of subsequent bags following along therewith, and the bags, thus, are taken from the rod 1 one at a time. When a suitable inertia or friction engagement exists between the rod 1 and the handle opening 2, the bag will open itself whilst it is being drawn off and thereby will render it possible to place the articles into the bag. This is facilitated as the bag is seized only with one hand, and the other

hand is free for placing the articles into the bag.

In the embodiment shown, the bags are arranged freely suspended from a horizontal rod 1, but variations are imaginable and suitable. The rod 1 may be arranged inclined, and lateral supports for the bags may be provided to prevent the bags from swinging forth and back on the rod 1. Furthermore, a bottom support for the bag may be provided in the form of a plate or the like, which plate may extend past the end of rod 1 and constitute a plane for placing the bag thereon after it has been filled or for filling it with articles.

The Figures, further, show a special embodiment of the bag at which the handle openings are disposed above the bag edges. This is not necessary, but the only necessary requirement is that one handle opening can be folded down. A great number of variations of such bags exist. An imaginable variation also is that the bag is a conventional paper bag with two handles arranged at the upper edge of the bag. Also such a bag can suitably be used for realizing the invention. The rod 1 furthermore, in the embodiment shown is round, but several other shapes may be used. It is essential, however, that a certain agreement exists between the cross-sectional shape of the rod 1 and the handle openings, in order to achieve all of the aforementioned advantages of the invention. It should be emphasized, however, that the rod, for example, may have the form of a board placed on edge and having a longest dimension in the cross-sectional shape which coincides with the dimension of the handle opening in the corresponding direction.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A method of suspending a bundle of

bags each provided with two handle openings on a rod which allows one bag at a time to be removed from the bundle, wherein one of said two handle openings of each bag is folded downwards of said bag and wherein said bags are threaded suspended with their other handle opening on said rod to form said bundle on said rod which is formed with a cross-sectional shape having at least one cross-sectional dimension substantially corresponding to a corresponding dimension of the opening in the threaded position, said bags being threaded on said rod with the side having folded-down handle opening facing a free end of said rod, said bags being prevented from slipping off unintentionally from said free end of the rod by a stop on said rod.

2. An arrangement of bags with two handle openings on a rod which allows for manual removal of one bag at a time from said bundle wherein said bags are arranged with one handle opening folded downwards of the side of the bag about a line substantially transverse to the filling opening of the bag, the other handle opening being threaded onto said rod.

3. An arrangement as claimed in claim 2 wherein the handle openings threaded onto the rod are located above the filling opening of the bag.

4. A method of suspending a bundle of bags substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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