

THIN-ARTICLE CONTAINER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a thin-article container for containing thin articles, such as makeup puffs.

Description of the Related Art

10 Generally, makeup puffs are made of a nonwoven fabric or cotton in a flat shape. These thin makeup puffs are contained in a vertical position in a container. When taking out one of the thin makeup puffs from the container, it sometimes occurs that the adjacent makeup puff is pulled out of the container because the surfaces of the makeup puffs are rough and frictional.

15 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

 The present invention has been made in view of such a problem and it is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a thin-article container that enables thin articles contained therein to be taken out surely one at a time.

20 According to one aspect of the present invention, a thin-article container for containing soft, thin articles in a vertical position comprises a top panel, four side panels and a bottom panel, in which outlet openings through which the thin articles are taken out are formed in the top panel, or the top
25 panel and the side panels, and the outlet openings are formed in a width smaller than that of the thin articles contained in the thin-article container so that the thin articles are caught by the edge of the outlet openings.

 When the thin article contained in the thin-article
30 container of the present invention is pulled to take out the same through the outlet opening, the next thin article adjacent to that being pulled is dragged by the thin article being pulled. However, the next thin article being dragged by the thin article being pulled is caught by the edge of the outlet opening and is
35 restrained from being dragged out of the thin-article container. Consequently, only the thin article being pulled is taken out of the thin-article container through the outlet opening.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a thin-article container in a first embodiment according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a blank for forming the thin-article container shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of packets of makeup puffs;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a thin-article container in a second embodiment according to the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a blank for forming the thin-article container shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a thin-article container in a third embodiment according to the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a thin-article container in a fourth embodiment according to the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a plan view of a blank for forming the thin-article container shown in Fig. 7; and

Figs. 9(a) to 9(g) are diagrammatic views of edges of outlet openings.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

First Embodiment

Referring to Figs. 1 to 3, a thin-article container (hereinafter referred to simply as "container") 10 in a first embodiment according to the present invention has a top panel 11, four side panels 12, 13, 14 and 15, and a bottom panel 16. A flap 17 for covering the top panel 11 extends from the side panel 15. A tuck flap 18 to be placed on the side panel 13 extends from the flap 17. The tuck flap 18 has a tear tab 19.

Makeup puffs (thin articles) 2 are contained in the container 10. The makeup puffs 2 are arranged in two rows in a vertical position in the container 10. The makeup puffs 2 are made of a nonwoven fabric or cotton. The top panel 11 of the

container 10 is provided with two outlet openings 20 at positions respectively corresponding to the two rows of the makeup puffs 2. The outlet openings 20 have a width L_1 smaller than the width L_2 of the makeup puffs 2. Therefore, the makeup puff 2 is rubbed
 5 by the edge 20a of the outlet opening 20 when the same is taken out of the container 10.

As shown in Fig. 2, a blank 10a for forming the container 10 has a top panel section 11a, a side panel sections 12a, 13a, 14a and 15a, a bottom panel section 16a, a flap section 17a and
 10 a tuck flap section 18a respectively corresponding to the top panel 11, the side panels 12, 13, 14 and 15, the bottom panel 16, the flap 17 and the tuck flap 18. The side panel sections 12a and 14a extend from the opposite longitudinal ends of the top panel section 11a, respectively, and from the opposite
 15 longitudinal ends of the bottom panel section 16a, respectively. Connecting flap sections 4 extend from the opposite longitudinal ends of the side panel sections 13a and 15a, respectively.

The outlet openings 20 of the top panel 11 of the container 10 are covered with sealing tabs 22. The sealing tabs 22 are
 20 portions of the top panel 11 demarcated by perforations and are bonded adhesively to the flap panel 17. When the flap 17 is pulled open, the sealing tabs 22 are separated together with the flap 17 from the top panel 11 to open the outlet openings 20.

The blank 10a is folded along folding lines to build the
 25 container 10, the makeup puffs 2 are put in the container 10, and then the connecting flap sections 4 are glued to the adjacent panel sections to complete the sealed container 10.

The tear tab 19 is held between fingers and is pulled to peel the tuck flap 18 off the side panel 13 and to open the flap
 30 17. The sealing tabs 22 of the top panel 11 are torn off the top panel 11 when the flap 17 is pulled open to open the outlet openings 20. One makeup puff 2 is taken through the outlet opening 20 out of the container 10 at a time. The next makeup puff 2 adjacent to the makeup puff 2 being pulled, is dragged by the makeup puff
 35 2 being pulled, and tends to come out of the container 10 together with the makeup puff 2 being pulled. However, since the width L_1 of the outlet opening 20 is smaller than the width L_2 of the

makeup puffs 2, the next makeup puff 2 is caught by the edge 20a of the outlet and is unable to come out of the container 10. Only the makeup puff 2 held between fingers is taken through the outlet opening 20 out of the container 10. Thus, the makeup puffs 2 can
5 be taken out of the container 10 surely one at a time.

Second Embodiment

A container 10 in a second embodiment according to the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 4 and 5, in which parts like or corresponding to those shown in
10 Figs. 1 to 3 are designated by the same reference characters and the description thereof will be omitted.

As obvious from Figs. 4 and 5, the container 10 in the second embodiment is similar to the container 10 shown in Figs. 1 to 3, except that the container 10 in the second embodiment does
15 not have any part corresponding to the tuck flap 18 of the container 10 in the first embodiment.

Third Embodiment

A container 10 in a third embodiment according to the present invention will be described with reference to Fig. 6, in which parts like or corresponding to those shown in Figs. 1
20 to 3 are designated by the same reference characters and the description thereof will be omitted.

As shown in Fig. 6, the container 10 in the third embodiment does not have any parts corresponding to the flap 17 and the tuck flap 18 of the container 10 in the first embodiment, and outlet
25 openings 20 are formed in a corner defined by a top panel 11 and a side panel 13 and in a corner defined by the top panel 11 and a side panel 15, respectively. The container 10 in the third embodiment is similar in other respects to the container 10 in
30 the first embodiment shown in Figs. 1 to 3. Makeup puffs 2 are contained in two rows in the container 2. The two rows of the makeup puffs 2 are taken out of the container 10 through the outlet openings 20, respectively.

Fourth Embodiment

35 A container 10 in a fourth embodiment according to the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 7 and 8, in which parts like or corresponding to those shown in

Figs. 1 to 3 are designated by the same reference characters.

Referring to Figs. 7 and 8, the container 10 has a top panel 11 provided with outlet openings 20, and a flap 17 provided with projections 27 for supporting the flap at an open position. In
 5 Fig. 8 the arrows P indicate the grain direction of a blank 10a for forming the container 10 shown in Fig. 7.

The outlet openings 20 are formed in a top panel section 11a of the blank 10a. The blank 10a has a side panel sections 12a and 14a extending from the opposite longitudinal ends of the
 10 top panel section 11a and a bottom panel section 16a, respectively. A pair of auxiliary panels 24 extend from end edges of side panel sections 13a and 15a on the side of a side panel 12 so as to lie on the inner side of the side panel 12. A pair of auxiliary panels
 15 24 extend from end edges of the side panel sections 13a and 15a on the side of a side panel 14 so as to lie on the inner side of the side panel 14. The auxiliary panels 24 are provided with cuts 24a through which a puff holding member, not shown, is extended. When makeup puffs 2 are packed in the container 10,
 20 the puff holding member extending through the cuts 24a holds the makeup puffs 2, the puff holding member is separated from the makeup puffs 2, and then the side panel sections 12a or 14a are closed.

A flap 17 has a base part 25 connected to the top panel 11, and a covering part 31 capable of swinging relative to the
 25 base part 25 and covering the top panel 11. The flap 17 corresponds to a flap section 17a of the blank 10a. The flap section 17a has a base section 25a corresponding to the base part 25, a covering section 31a corresponding to the covering part 31, and sections corresponding to gussets 29 attached to the top
 30 panel 11. A folding line 26 extends between the base section 25a and the covering section 31a. Perforations 28 are formed between the covering section 31a and the sections corresponding to the gussets 29.

As shown in Fig. 8, cuts are formed in the covering section
 35 31a so as to extend perpendicularly to the folding line 26 to the base section 25a to form the projections 27 projecting from the covering part 31 toward the base part 25. When the covering

part 31 is turned relative to the base part 25 to its open position, the projections 27 serve as stays to prop the covering part 31 open. A locking lug 30 is formed by making a cut into the covering part 31. When the covering part 31 is turned to its closed position, the locking lug 30 engages with the edge 20a of the outlet opening 20 to hold the covering part 31 at the closed position.

The container 10 shown in Fig. 7 is formed by folding and blank 10a shown in Fig. 8. Makeup puffs 2 are put into the container 10 through an open end on the side of the side panel 12 before folding the side panel sections 12a to form the side panel 12. The makeup puffs 2 are held by the puff holding member extended through the cuts 24a of the auxiliary panels 24. In this state, the side panel sections 12a are folded to form the side panel 12.

When the covering part 31 of the flap 17 is pulled up, the covering part 31 is torn along the perforations 28 and the gussets 29 attached to the top panel 11 remain on the top panel 11. The covering part 31 is turned on the folding line 26 to its open position, and the stays 27 prop the covering part 31 open. The makeup puff 2 is taken out of the container 10 through the outlet opening 20 formed in the top panel 11. Since the edge 20a of the outlet opening 20 is provided with a plurality of convex, circular projections 35, the next makeup puff 2 dragged by the makeup puff 2 being pulled is caught by the projections 35 and is prevented from being pulled out of the container 10.

In the container 10 in accordance with the present invention is provided with the outlet openings 20 in the top panel 11, or in the top panel 11 and the side panel 13 and in the top panel 11 and the side panel 15, and the makeup puff 2 is caught by the edge 20a of the outlet opening 20. The edge 20a of the outlet openings may be provided with any suitable projections other than the convex, circular projections 35 shown in Fig. 7. The edge 20a may be provided with triangular projections 35 (Fig. 9(a)), concave, circular projections 35 (Figs. 9(b), 9(f), 9(g)), or rectangular projections 35 (Figs. 9(c), 9(d), 9(e)).

Although the invention has been described in its preferred

embodiments with a certain degree of particularity, obviously many changes and variations are possible therein. It is therefore to be understood that the present invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described herein
5 without departing from the scope and spirit thereof.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A thin-article container for containing soft, thin articles in a vertical position , said thin-article container comprising:

- a top panel;
- four side panels; and
- a bottom panel;

wherein an outlet opening through which the thin articles are taken out, are formed in a portion of the top panel or the side panels, and the outlet opening has a width smaller than that of the thin articles so that the thin articles are caught by an edge of the outlet opening.

2. The thin-article container according to claim 1 further comprising a flap that covers the top panel.

3. The thin-article container according to claim 2, wherein the outlet opening formed in the top panel or the side panels is covered with a sealing tab, and the sealing tab is bonded to the flap, and is separated from the top panel or the side panels when the flap is opened.

4. the thin-article container according to claim 1, wherein

the thin articles are arranged in rows in a vertical position, and a plurality of outlet openings are formed so as to correspond to the rows of the thin articles.

5. The thin-article container according to claim 1, wherein

the outlet openings formed in the top panel or the side panels has an edge which is provided with a plurality of projections.

6. The thin-article container according to claim 5, wherein

the projections are triangular, rectangular or circular.



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7. The thin-article container according to claim 2,
wherein

the flap has a base part connected to the top plate, and
a covering part covering the top panel and capable of turning
relative to the base part.

8. The thin-article container according to claim 7,
wherein

the covering part of the flap has projections capable of
projecting toward the base part to prop the covering part open.



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