

PACKAGE HAVING STACKED SHEET PRODUCTS ✓10053
copy**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a package having a plurality of sheet products stacked therein, which has an opening of a small opening area, from which the sheet products can be picked up easily.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Fig. 2(A) is a perspective view showing a conventional handy package from which stacked sheet products such as wet tissue papers can be picked up one after another. The main body of the conventional package is composed of an envelope 1 formed from, for example, a piece of laminated film, and the envelope 1 houses the stacked wet tissue papers therein.

Fig. 2(B) is a plan view showing the package in Fig. 2(A), with a lid 3 removed. An opening 2 is formed on the surface of the envelope 1, and an edge portion Sa of the uppermost one of the wet tissue papers appears therein. By pinching and pulling the edge portion Sa with two fingers through the opening 2, the wet tissue papers housed in the envelope 1 are picked up one after another. The opening 2 is formed in an oval or elliptic shape, with the major axis (i) parallel to the edge portion Sa and with the minor axis (ii) perpendicular to the edge portion Sa. In such a handy package, it should be noted that the opening area of the opening 2 is required to be as small as possible, for preventing the wet tissue paper from drying in use. In the package shown in Figs. 2(A) and 2(B), because the dimensions of the opening 2 are much larger in the direction parallel to the edge portion Sa than in the direction perpendicular to the edge portion Sa, it enables picking the wet tissue papers without providing an excessive resistance between the wet tissue papers and the edge of the opening 2. The opening 2 is usually closed with the lid 3 for preventing the wet tissue paper from drying, and opened by pulling a tab portion of the lid 3 only in use.

9902848-2**27 MAY 1999**

The lid 3 has an adhesive layer such as of pressure sensitive adhesive on the side opposite to the envelope 1, and the adhesive layer enables the lid 3 to removing from and attaching to the periphery of the opening 2 repeatedly. In such a handy package, it should be also noted that the lid 3 is provided to be pulled in the lengthwise direction of the envelope 1 as shown in Figs. 2(A), because the overall size of the envelope 1 is so small.

However, the opening 2 in the conventional handy package shown in Figs. 2(A) and 2(B) has such a problem that because the dimension of the opening 2 in the direction perpendicular to the edge portion Sa (i.e. the minor axis (ii)) is too small, it is difficult to separate two fingers from each other sufficiently within the opening 2, whereby the edge portion Sa is difficult to pinch with two fingers.

Further, because the opening 2 elongates much in the lengthwise direction of the envelope 1, the lid 3 also elongates much in the same direction. Therefore, the lid 3 has to be pulled a relatively long distance to open the opening 2, and there is a possibility that the opening 2 is not sealed completely, because the lid 3 or the envelope 1 is wrinkled when the lid 3 is attached to the periphery of the opening 2.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is to solve the conventional problems as mentioned above, and an object of the present invention is to provide a package having a plurality of sheet products stacked therein, which has an opening of a small opening area, from which the sheet products can be picked up easily.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a package having a plurality of sheet products stacked therein, which is provided with a lid which can open an opening easily and can close the opening securely.

The present invention is to provide a package having a plurality of sheet products stacked to each other therein, the package comprising an envelope for housing the stacked sheet products, the envelope having an opening through which an edge portion of the up-

imparting the adhesive power to a portion 11c which is surrounded by the notches or perforations. Thus, the portion 11c is separated from the envelope 11 along the notches or perforations to open the opening 12 in the envelope 11. Thereafter, the portion 11c remains attached to the surface of the lid 13 as shown in Fig. 1(A). Because the envelope 11 is sealed almost completely until the opening 12 is opened by pulling up the lid 13 for the first time, the wet tissue papers S impregnated with water or chemicals can be prevented from drying. Also, because the aluminum foil in the laminated film is impermeable to water and oxygen and has an excellent air tightness, it also contributes to the prevention of the drying of the wet tissue papers S.

The wet tissue papers S are picked up one by one from the opening 12. As shown in Fig. 1(B), the uppermost wet tissue paper S1 is exposed from the opening 12, with the edge portion Sa1 conforming to the substantial center of the opening 12. The wet tissue paper S1 is picked up by pinching and pulling the edge portion Sa1 with two fingers (e.g. thumb and forefinger) through the opening 12. In this embodiment, in order to make the opening 12 as small as possible for preventing the wet tissue papers S from drying, the opening 12 is formed in an oval or elliptic shape, with its major axis (i) perpendicular to the edge portion Sa1 and with the minor axis (ii) parallel to (identical to) the edge portion Sa1. That is, the dimensions of the opening 12 are larger in the direction perpendicular to the edge portion Sa1 than in the direction parallel to the edge portion Sa1 (i.e. larger in X direction than in Y direction). That is because the edge portion Sa1 is to be pinched with two fingers from the direction perpendicular to the edge portion Sa1.

It is preferred that the major axis (i) of the opening 12 is 40 ± 3 mm. Within this range, two fingers, which are inserted into the opening 12, can be separated from each other sufficiently within the opening 12 in the widthwise direction of the package 10. However, if it is above the upper limit, the opening area of the opening 12 becomes too large insignificantly, so that the water or chemicals contained in the wet tissue papers S is easily dried.

It is preferred that the minor axis (ii) of the opening 12 is $30\pm 3\text{mm}$. Within this range, the thumb can be inserted into the opening 12 allowing a margin. However, if it is above the upper limit, the opening area of the opening 12 becomes too large insignificantly, so that the water or chemicals contained in the wet tissue papers S is easily dried.

It should be noted that the shape of the opening 12 is not limited to an oval or elliptic shape, it may be formed in any shape such as rectangular shape so long as the dimensions of the opening 12 are larger in the direction perpendicular to the edge portion Sa1 than in the direction parallel to the edge portion Sa1. It is preferred that the dimensions -length and width- of the opening 12 in a rectangular shape are respectively $40\pm 3\text{mm}$ and $30\pm 3\text{mm}$.

The lid 13 is generally provided to the envelope 11 such that the lid 13 is pulled along the lengthwise direction of the envelope 11, because the envelope 11 does not have a sufficient dimension for the lid 13 in the widthwise direction. In the embodiment of the present invention, the minor axis (ii) of the opening 12 extends along the lengthwise direction of the envelope 11. Thus, the dimension of the lid 13 in the lengthwise direction of the envelope 11 can be made smaller, as compared with the conventional package shown in Fig. 2(A). Providing the lid 13 in such way as mentioned-above, the opening 12 can be easily opened by pulling the tab portion 13a of the lid 13 in the lengthwise direction of the envelope 11 a relatively short distance. Further, owing to the small dimension of the lid 13 in the lengthwise direction of the envelope 11, the envelope 11 or the lid 13 is prevented from being wrinkled, when the opening 12 is closed with the lid 13. Thus, the opening 12 can be completely sealed with the lid 13 for preventing the wet tissue papers S from drying.

While in the foregoing specification the present invention has been described in relation to the preferred embodiment and many details have been set forth for purpose of illustration, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the present invention is susceptible to additional embodiments, and that certain details described herein can be varied considerably without departing from the basic princi-

ples of the present invention.

For example, the opening 12 may be opened in the production process instead of opening the opening 12 by separating the portion 11c from the envelope 11 by pulling the lid 13 in use.

The envelope 11 may be formed from paper or may be molded of plastic material in a box shape. The material of the lid 13 can be changed in accordance with the material of the envelope 11.

The sheet products to be housed may be dry tissue papers instead of wet tissue papers. In this case, the lid 13 is not necessarily required, and the opening 12 can be opened by pinching and separating the portion 11c with fingers in use. Even in the case where the sheet products are dry tissue papers, because the dimensions of the opening 12 are larger in the direction perpendicular to the edge portion Sa1 than in the direction parallel to the edge portion Sa1, the dry tissue papers are easily picked up one by one. Further, because the opening 12 is opened in a minimum area, dust or dirt is prevented from coming inside of the envelope 11 through the opening 12.



WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A package having a plurality of sheet products stacked to each other therein, the package comprising an envelope for housing the stacked sheet products, the envelope having an opening through which an edge portion of the uppermost one of the stacked sheet products is pinched by fingers in use,

wherein the dimensions of the opening are larger in the direction perpendicular to the edge portion than in the direction parallel to the edge portion.

2. The package of claim 1, wherein:
the sheet products are wet tissue papers, and the envelope is provided with a lid for the opening.

3. The package of claim 2, wherein:
the opening is formed in an oval or elliptic shape.

4. The package of claim 3, wherein:
the dimensions of the opening are 40 ± 3 mm and 30 ± 3 mm.

5. The package of claim 4, wherein:
the lid has a tab portion and a base portion on opposite sides in the direction parallel to the edge portion, and has an adhesive layer for enabling the lid to be removed or attached to the envelope repeatedly.

6. The package of claim 5, wherein:
the adhesive layer is of a pressure sensitive adhesive.

7. The package of claim 6, wherein:

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REPLACED

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the envelope is formed from a laminated film of a polyethylene terephthalate film, an aluminum foil and a sealant film, and the lid is formed from a biaxially oriented polypropylene film.

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