

DESCRIPTION

TITLE OF INVENTION

FOOD PACKAGE, AND METHOD OF ENCASING FOOD PIECES
5 INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED WITH SHEET WRAPPERS IN PACKAGE
CONTAINER

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a food
package, and to a method of encasing food pieces
10 individually wrapped with sheet wrappers in a package
container.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] As a food package containing food pieces
individually wrapped (or individually packaged) with
15 sheet wrappers in a package container, a package
containing plate-shaped food pieces such as of chewing
gum or chocolate individually wrapped with sheet
wrappers in a package container is proposed in Patent
Literature 1.

20 In the package disclosed in Patent Literature 1,
the sheet wrappers wrapping the plate-shaped food
pieces each include a removable portion and a fixing
portion which are separable from each other along a
perforation line. With the individually wrapped
25 plate-shaped food pieces being accommodated in the

package container, the fixing portions of the
respective sheet wrappers wrapping the plate-shaped
food pieces are fixed to an interior wall of the package
container through adhesive bonding with the use of an
5 adhesive agent or an adhesive tape, or through fusion.

[0003] When the plate-shaped food pieces
accommodated in the package container of the package
disclosed in Patent Literature 1 are to be eaten, a cover
board of the package container is opened to uncover the
10 removable portions of the sheet wrappers respectively
wrapping the plate-shaped food pieces. Then, one of
the removable portions is held and pulled away along
the perforation line, whereby the removable portion is
separated from the fixing portion which has been fixed
15 to the package container. Thus, a portion of the
plate-shaped food piece covered with that removable
portion is uncovered. Even if one hand is unavailable,
the uncovered portion can be held by the other hand or
by a mouth, whereby the entire plate-shaped food piece
20 can be readily taken out of the package container to
be eaten.

CITATION LIST

PATENT LITERATURE

[0004] Patent Literature 1: JP-A-2009-173322

25 SUMMARY OF INVENTION

TECHNICAL PROBLEM

[0005] In Patent Literature 1, a hot-melt adhesive is conceivably used as an adhesive for fixing the fixing portions of the sheet wrappers to the package container.

5 In this case, the hot-melt adhesive is heated to be melted in an adhesive injector called applicator, then injected onto overlap portions of the fixing portions and the package container and, after the fixing portions are pressed against the package container, the hot-melt
10 adhesive is solidified through natural cooling.

Alternatively, the hot-melt adhesive is preliminarily applied onto the fixing portions or the package container, then heated to be melted by a heater or the like, and solidified through natural cooling. Thus,
15 the fixing portions are fixed to the package container.

[0006] Where the food pieces are chocolate, however, heat of the heated hot-melt adhesive is conducted to the chocolate to melt the chocolate due to "heat shock." Thus, the chocolate is liable to suffer from so-called
20 blooming.

In view of the foregoing, it is an object of the present invention to provide a food package and a method of encasing food pieces individually wrapped with sheet wrappers in a package container, wherein the food pieces
25 are prevented from experiencing the heat shock when the

food pieces individually wrapped with the sheet
wrappers are fixed to the package container with a
hot-melt adhesive.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM

5 [0007] According to an inventive aspect of claim 1,
there is provided a food package, which includes: a
package container; and food pieces individually wrapped
with sheet wrappers and accommodated in the package
container; wherein the sheet wrappers individually
10 wrapping the food pieces each have a bonding fin
extending from a longitudinal end of the food piece;
wherein the individually wrapped food pieces are
juxtaposed perpendicularly to lengths thereof on one
interior wall of the package container, so that the
15 bonding fins for the respective food pieces are
sequentially arranged in adjacent relation; wherein the
interior wall of the package container has a portion
turned back to hold the arranged bonding fins; wherein
the arranged bonding fins are fixed between the interior
20 wall and the turn-back portion with a hot-melt adhesive
in the package container.

[0008] According to an inventive aspect of claim 2,
the food pieces each include a polygonal chocolate bar,
and the sheet wrappers each have a rectangular shape
25 and are each folded to wrap the chocolate bar in the

food package of claim 1. The bonding fin is defined by a portion of the folded sheet wrapper extending along a longitudinal surface of the chocolate bar and projecting from a longitudinal end of the chocolate bar.

5 According to an inventive aspect of claim 3, the sheet wrappers each include a fixing portion having the bonding fin, a removable portion disposed away from the bonding fin, and separation means disposed on a longitudinally middle portion of the individually
10 wrapped food piece for permitting separation between the fixing portion and the removable portion in the food package of claim 1 or 2.

[0009] According to an inventive aspect of claim 4, the separation means includes a perforation line in the
15 food package of claim 3.

 According to an inventive aspect of claim 5, the sheet wrappers each include a one-side sheet defining the fixing portion and an other-side sheet defining the removable portion, and the separation means includes
20 an overlap between the one-side sheet and the other-side sheet in the food package of claim 3.

[0010] According to an inventive aspect of claim 6, there is provided a method including the steps of:
individually wrapping food pieces with sheet wrappers;
25 and encasing the individually wrapped food pieces in

a package container; wherein, when the food pieces are individually wrapped with the sheet wrappers, bonding fins are formed from parts of the respective sheet wrappers as each extending from a longitudinal end of the food piece; wherein, after the individually wrapped food pieces are encased in the package container, the bonding fins are bonded to the package container with a hot-melt adhesive without any thermal influence on the food pieces.

10 [0011] According to an inventive aspect of claim 7, when the bonding fins are bonded to the package container with the hot-melt adhesive, the bonding fins are held between an interior wall of the package container and a folded end portion of the interior wall, and the
15 interior wall, the bonding fins and the folded portion are bonded to be fixed together by the hot-melt adhesive in the method of claim 6.

ADVANTAGEOUS EFFECTS OF INVENTION

[0012] In the food package according to the
20 inventive aspect of claim 1, the sheet wrappers individually wrapping the food pieces each have the bonding fin extending from the longitudinal end of the food piece. That is, the bonding fin is provided longitudinally outward of the food piece in the sheet
25 wrapper wrapping the food piece.

When the individually wrapped food pieces are accommodated in the package container, the food pieces are juxtaposed perpendicularly to the lengths thereof on the interior wall of the package container. Thus, the bonding fins for the respective food pieces are sequentially arrange in adjacent relation.

[0013] The interior wall of the package container has the turn-back portion. The bonding fins arranged as described above are fixed between the interior wall and the turn-back portion with the hot-melt adhesive in the package container.

Since the bonding fins extend from the food pieces so as to be located away from the food pieces, the food pieces are prevented from being adversely affected by heat of the hot-melt adhesive, i.e., by a heat shock, when the bonding fins are fixed in the package container with the hot-melt adhesive.

[0014] Where the food pieces are chocolate, so-called "foil wrappers" are typically used as the sheet wrappers for individually wrapping the food pieces. The hot-melt adhesive properly fixes the bonding fins of the foil wrappers to the package container.

According to the inventive aspect of claim 2, the food pieces each include the polygonal chocolate bar.

The sheet wrappers each have a rectangular shape, and are each folded to wrap the chocolate bar. The bonding fin is defined by the portion of the folded sheet wrapper extending along the longitudinal surface of the chocolate bar and projecting from the longitudinal end of the chocolate bar. That is, the bonding fin extends from the longitudinal end of the chocolate bar so as to be flush with the longitudinal surface of the chocolate bar.

[0015] Therefore, when the bonding fins are held between the interior wall of the package container and the turn-back portion for fixing the bonding fins with the hot-melt adhesive, the longitudinal surfaces of the chocolate bars contact the interior wall of the package container, whereby the entire chocolate bars are stably positioned. Therefore, working efficiency for fixing the bonding fins is improved, so that the chocolate bars are substantially free from blooming without the heat shock.

[0016] According to the inventive aspect of claim 3, the sheet wrappers each include the separation means disposed on the longitudinally middle portion of the individually wrapped food piece for permitting the separation between the fixing portion having the bonding fin and the removable portion disposed away from

the bonding fin.

The fixing portion having the bonding fin is fixed to the package container. Therefore, when the removable portion is pulled, the removable portion is separated from the fixing portion by the separation means. Thus, a portion of the food piece which has been covered with the removable portion is uncovered. Even if one hand is unavailable, the uncovered portion can be held by the other hand or by a mouth, whereby the entire food piece can be readily taken out of the package container to be eaten.

[0017] Alternatively, the entire food piece can be extracted from the package container by pulling a portion of the food piece covered with the removable portion together with the removable portion separated from the fixing portion. Thus, a portion of the extracted food piece which has been covered with the fixing portion is uncovered. Therefore, this portion of the food piece can be eaten first. At this time, the food piece can be held via the removable portion (of the sheet wrapper) without direct contact with the hand and, therefore, the food package is sanitary.

[0018] According to the inventive aspect of claim 4, the separation means includes the perforation line. The perforation line can be easily formed as the

separation means.

According to the inventive aspect of claim 5, the sheet wrappers each include the one-side sheet defining the fixing portion and the other-side sheet defining the removable portion, and the separation means includes the overlap between the one-side sheet and the other-side sheet. Therefore, when the removable portion of the sheet wrapper wrapping the food piece is pulled, the removable portion is reliably separated from the fixing portion along the overlap between the one-side sheet and the other-side sheet.

[0019] Thus, the portion of the food piece which has been covered with the removable portion can be reliably uncovered. Further, the entire food piece can be extracted from the package container by pulling the portion of the food piece covered with the removable portion together with the removable portion separated from the fixing portion.

In the method including the steps of individually wrapping the food pieces with the sheet wrappers and encasing the individually wrapped food pieces in the package container according to the inventive aspect of claim 6, the bonding fins are formed from the parts of the respective sheet wrappers as each extending from the longitudinal end of the food piece when the food

pieces are individually wrapped with the sheet wrappers. After the individually wrapped food pieces are encased in the package container, the bonding fins are bonded to the package container with the hot-melt adhesive without any thermal influence on the food pieces.

[0020] That is, the bonding fins each provided in a portion of the sheet wrapper located outside the food piece are fixed to the package container, so that the heat of the hot-melt adhesive is less liable to be conducted to the food piece. Thus, the food pieces respectively wrapped with the sheet wrappers are prevented from being adversely affected by the heat of the hot-melt adhesive.

According to the inventive aspect of claim 7, the bonding fins are held between the interior wall of the package container and the folded end portion of the interior wall to be bonded and fixed to the package container with the hot-melt adhesive. Therefore, the bonding fins can be reliably fixed to the package container.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0021] FIG. 1(a) is a perspective view of a food package 1 according to one embodiment of the present invention with its cover 52 being opened, and FIG. 1(b) is a perspective view of the food package 1 with its

cover 52 being further opened as seen from a position different from that in FIG. 1(a).

FIGS. 2(a) to 2(j) are perspective views for explaining how to wrap a food piece 2.

5 FIG. 3 is a perspective view for explaining how to assemble a package container 4 to complete the food package 1.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view showing a step subsequent to the step of FIG. 3.

10 FIG. 5 is a perspective view showing a step subsequent to the step of FIG. 4

FIG. 6 is a sectional view of major portions of the food piece 2 and the package container 4 in a state shown in FIG. 5.

15 FIG. 7 is a perspective view showing a step subsequent to the step of FIG. 5.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view showing a step subsequent to the step of FIG. 7.

20 FIG. 9 is a perspective view showing a step subsequent to the step of FIG. 8.

FIG. 10 is a sectional view of major portions of the food piece 2 and the package container 4 in a state shown in FIG. 9.

25 FIG. 11 is a perspective view for explaining how to take out a food piece 2 from the package container

4.

FIGS. 12(a) and 12(b) are sectional views of major portions of the food package 1, showing how to take out a food piece 2 from the package container 4.

5 FIGS. 13(a) and 13(b) are perspective views of a sheet wrapper 3 according to a variation, particularly, FIG. 13(a) showing a state before the food piece 2 is wrapped, FIG. 13(b) showing a state after the food piece 2 is wrapped.

10 FIGS. 14(a) and 14(b) are sectional views of major portions of a food package 1 employing the sheet wrapper 3 of FIGS. 13(a) and 13(b), showing how to take out the food piece 2 from the package container 4.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

15 [0022] Embodiments of the present invention will hereinafter be described specifically with reference to the drawings.

FIG. 1(a) is a perspective view of a food package 1 according to one embodiment of the present invention with its cover 52 being opened, and FIG. 1(b) is a perspective view of the food package 1 with its cover 52 being further opened as seen from a position different from that in FIG. 1(a).

Referring to FIG. 1(a), the food package 1
25 according to the embodiment of the present invention

includes food pieces 2, sheet wrappers 3 respectively wrapping the food pieces 2, and a package container 4 accommodating the food pieces 2 respectively wrapped with the sheet wrappers 3. In this embodiment, four
5 chocolate bars, for example, are accommodated as the food pieces 2 in the package container 4.

[0023] FIGS. 2(a) to 2(j) are perspective views for explaining how to wrap a food piece 2.

Referring to FIG. 2(a), the food piece 2 is a
10 polygonal chocolate bar elongated in a predetermined direction. Based on the posture of the food piece 2 in FIG. 2(a), the food piece 2 has a generally isosceles trapezoidal profile tapered upward as seen longitudinally thereof. Further, the food piece 2 has
15 a generally isosceles trapezoidal profile elongated horizontally as seen in a transverse direction extending along a horizontal plane perpendicularly to the length thereof in FIG. 2(a). The profile of the food piece 2 may be rectangular or polygonal rather than
20 trapezoidal.

[0024] For convenience of explanation, an upper surface 5, a lower surface (longitudinal surface) 6, a front surface 7, a rear surface 8, a left surface 9 and a right surface 10 of the food piece 2 are defined
25 based on the posture of the food piece 2 in FIG. 2(a).

FIGS. 2(a) to 2(i) are perspective views of the food piece 2 as seen from a front side thereof. FIG. 2(j) is a perspective view of the food piece 2 as seen from a side longitudinally opposite from the side in FIGS.

5 2(a) to 2(i).

[0025] The sheet wrapper 3 wrapping the food piece 2 has a rectangular shape elongated along the length of the food piece 2.

The sheet wrapper 3 has a size sufficient to wrap
10 the food piece 2. Therefore, the sheet wrapper 3 has a greater length and a greater width than the food piece 2 as seen in plan. In this embodiment, the food piece 2 is chocolate and, therefore, a so-call "foil wrapper" is often used as the sheet wrapper 3 for wrapping the
15 food piece 2.

The sheet wrapper 3 has a perforation line 50 (separation means) provided in a longitudinally intermediate portion (more specifically, a longitudinally generally middle portion) thereof. The
20 perforation line 50 extends perpendicularly to the length of the sheet wrapper 3 (transversely of the sheet wrapper 3), and divides the sheet wrapper 3 into a one-side sheet 3A disposed on the rear side and an other-side sheet 3B disposed on the front side. In
25 other words, the perforation line 50 defines a boundary

between the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B.

[0026] Next, how to wrap the food piece 2 with the sheet wrapper 3 will be described.

5 First, the food piece 2 assuming the posture of FIG. 2(a) is moved up from a lower side with respect to the sheet wrapper 3. At this time, the food piece 2 is positioned substantially at the center of the sheet wrapper 3 as seen in plan. More strictly, a projection
10 amount X of one longitudinal end portion of the sheet wrapper 3 (adjacent to the rear surface 8 of the food piece 2) is greater than a projection amount Y of the other longitudinal end portion of the sheet wrapper 3 (adjacent to the front surface 7 of the food piece 2)
15 as measured longitudinally.

[0027] As shown in FIG. 2(b), a left portion 11 of the sheet wrapper 3 projecting leftward from the upper surface 5 is folded downward along a fold line of the sheet wrapper 3 corresponding to a left edge of the upper
20 surface 5 of the food piece 2. A right portion 12 of the sheet wrapper 3 projecting rightward from the upper surface 5 is folded downward along a fold line of the sheet wrapper 3 corresponding to a right edge of the upper surface 5 of the food piece 2.

25 Subsequently, a front end portion 13 of the sheet

wrapper 3 extending from the upper surface 5 is folded downward along a fold line of the sheet wrapper 3 corresponding to a front edge of the upper surface 5 as indicated by a bold arrow in FIG. 2(b). Thus, as shown in FIG. 2(c), an upper portion of the front end portion 13 extending downward extends along and covers the front surface 7 of the food piece 2 from an outer side, and a lower portion of the front end portion 13 projects downward from the front surface 7.

[0028] At this time, an upper portion of the left portion 11 of the sheet wrapper 3 extends along and covers the left surface 9 of the food piece 2 from an outer side, and a lower portion of the left portion 11 projects downward from the left surface 9. Further, at this time, an upper portion of the right portion 12 of the sheet wrapper 3 extends along and covers the right surface 10 of the food piece 2 from an outer side, and a lower portion of the right portion 12 projects downward from the right surface 10.

In turn, portions of the left portion 11 and the right portion 12 projecting forward from the food piece 2 are folded toward each other along fold lines corresponding to a left edge and a right edge of the front surface 7 of the food piece 2 as indicated by bold arrows in FIG. 2(c). Thus, as shown in FIG. 2(d), upper

portions of these projecting portions are respectively overlaid on transverse outer edge portions of the upper portion of the front end portion 13 from an outer side and extend along the front surface 7, and lower portions of the projecting portions are respectively overlaid on transverse outer edge portions of the lower portion of the front end portion 13 from an outer side and project downward from the front surface 7.

[0029] In turn, as shown in FIG. 2(e), the portions of the sheet wrapper 3 projecting downward from the front surface 7 of the food piece 2 are folded rearward along a fold line of the sheet wrapper 3 corresponding to a lower edge of the front surface 7 as indicated by a bold arrow in FIG. 2(e). Thus, the folded portions of the sheet wrapper 3 extend along and cover a front portion of the lower surface 6 of the food piece 2 from an outer (lower) side.

Subsequently, the lower portion of the left portion 11 of the sheet wrapper 3 (projecting downward from the left surface 9 of the food piece 2) is folded rightward along a fold line corresponding to a lower edge of the left surface 9. Further, the lower portion of the right portion 12 of the sheet wrapper 3 (projecting downward from the right surface 10 of the food piece 2) is folded leftward along a fold line

corresponding to a lower edge of the right surface 10. Then, the lower portions of the left portion 11 and the right portion 12 thus folded overlap each other, and extend along and cover the lower surface 6 of the food
5 piece 2 from an outer (lower) side. This state is shown in FIG. 2(f).

[0030] As shown in FIG. 2(f), rear end portions (lower rear end portions 14) of the left portion 11 and the right portion 12 thus folded and overlapping each
10 other project rearward from the lower surface 6 of the food piece 2. Further, a rear end portion (left rear end portion 15) of the upper portion of the left portion 11 (extending along the left surface 9 of the food piece 2) projects rearward from the left surface 9. A rear
15 end portion (right rear end portion 16) of the upper portion of the right portion 12 (extending along the right surface 10 of the food piece 2) projects rearward from the right surface 10. A rear end portion (upper rear end portion 17) of a portion of the sheet wrapper
20 3 extending along the upper surface 5 of the food piece 2 projects rearward from the upper surface 5. A hollow space 18 is defined by the lower rear end portions 14, the left rear end portion 15, the right rear end portion 16 and the upper rear end portion 17. The space 18 has
25 a profile which is generally conformal to the generally

isosceles trapezoidal profile of the rear surface 8 of the food piece 2 as seen longitudinally of the food piece 2.

[0031] Subsequently, as shown in FIG. 2(g), the upper rear end portion 17 is folded downward (inward of the space 18) along a fold line corresponding to a rear edge of the upper surface 5 as indicated by a bold arrow in FIG. 2(g).

Thus, as shown in FIG. 2(h), the upper rear end portion 17 extends along and covers the rear surface 8 of the food piece 2 from an outer side. As the upper rear end portion 17 is folded, the left rear end portion 15 is folded rightward along a fold line extending between a rear left end of the upper surface 5 and a rear left end portion of the lower rear end portion 14 to be formed into a generally triangular shape tapered rearward. As the upper rear end portion 17 is folded, the right rear end portion 16 is folded leftward along a fold line extending between a rear right end of the upper surface 5 and a rear right end portion of the lower rear end portion 14 to be formed into a generally triangular shape tapered rearward.

[0032] Depending upon the projection amount X (see FIG. 2(a)), the left rear end portion 15 and the right rear end portion 16 thus folded may each have a generally

trapezoidal shape tapered rearward, or a rear portion of the folded upper rear end portion 17 may project rearward from the rear surface 8 of the food piece 2 and overlap the lower rear end portion 14.

5 Subsequently, the left rear end portion 15 and the right rear end portion 16 thus folded are further folded toward each other.

[0033] Thus, as shown in FIG. 2(i), rear portions of the left rear end portion 15 and the right rear end
10 portion 16 are respectively overlaid on transverse outer edge portions of the lower rear end portion 14. At the same time, as shown in FIG. 2(j), front portions (rear portions in FIG. 2(j)) of the left rear end portion 15 and the right rear end portion 16 are respectively
15 overlaid on transverse outer edge portions of the upper rear end portion 17 from an outer side to extend along the rear surface 8 of the food piece 2.

[0034] A bonding fin 19 is formed by thus overlapping the rear portions (front portions in FIG. 2(j)) of the
20 left rear end portion 15 and the right rear end portion 16 with the lower rear end portion 14. The bonding fin 19 is a part of the folded sheet wrapper 3. The bonding fin 19 has a thin planar generally isosceles trapezoidal shape tapered rearward (forward in FIG. 2(j)) as seen
25 in plan. The bonding fin 19 extends (projects) along

the lower surface 6 longitudinally outward from one longitudinal end of the food piece 2.

[0035] As described above, the sheet wrappers 3 are folded to wrap the food pieces 2, whereby the individual wrapping (individual packaging) of the food pieces 2 with the sheet wrappers 3 is completed. It should be noted that the method of individually wrapping the food pieces 2 is not limited to that described above. The sheet wrapper 3 may be folded in a manner different from that described above, as long as the bonding fin 19 can be formed.

The food pieces 2 thus individually wrapped are each provided with the bonding fin 19 positioned longitudinally outward thereof. In other words, the bonding fin 19 is located longitudinally outward of the food piece 2 in the sheet wrapper 3 wrapping the food piece 2.

[0036] When the food pieces 2 are individually wrapped, the sheet wrappers 3 are each folded to tightly cover one longitudinal end surface (here, the front surface 7) of the food piece 2 as in the conventional case (see FIG. 2(i)), and the sheet wrappers 3 are each folded to form the bonding fin 19 while covering the other longitudinal end face (here, the rear surface 8) of the food piece 2.

As described above, the sheet wrapper 3 is divided into the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B by the perforation line 50 (see FIG. 2(a)). With the food piece 2 individually wrapped (individually packaged) with the sheet wrapper 3, the perforation line 50 is located in the longitudinally intermediate portion (e.g., longitudinally generally middle portion) of the food piece 2. In this state, the perforation line 50 extends perpendicularly to the length of the food piece 2 to surround the food piece 2. Further, the bonding fin 19 is formed from the one-side sheet 3A. In the following description, the one-side sheet 3A of the sheet wrapper 3 is referred to as "fixing portion 48" and a portion (other-side sheet 3B) of the sheet wrapper 3 on a side of the perforation line 50 opposite from the fixing portion 48 is referred to as "removable portion 49" when the sheet wrapper is in an individually wrapping state. In other words, the one-side sheet 3A defines the fixing portion 48, while the other-side sheet 3B defines the removable portion 49. The fixing portion 48 and the removable portion 49 of the sheet wrapper 3 in the individually wrapping state are separable from each other along the perforation line 50.

[0037] Next, how to encase the individually wrapped

food pieces 2 in the package container 4 will be described.

FIGS. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 are perspective views for explaining how to assemble the package container 4 to complete the food package 1. FIG. 6 is a sectional view of major portions of the food piece 2 and the package container 4 in a state shown in FIG. 5. FIG. 10 is a sectional view of major portions of the food piece 2 and the package container 4 in a state shown in FIG. 9.

[0038] First, as shown in FIG. 3, a single pattern 20 is prepared through cutting in conformity with a development view of the package container 4. The package container 4 is assembled by folding the pattern 20.

Based on the posture of the pattern 20 in FIG. 3, how to encase the food pieces 2 in the package container 4 to complete the food package 1 will be described.

The pattern 20 includes a lower board 21. The lower board 21 has a rectangular shape having a slightly greater longitudinal dimension than the wrapped food piece 2 (including the bonding fin 19). The lower board 21 has two perforation lines 22 which are provided in a rear end portion thereof so as to be spaced transversely (perpendicularly to the length of the

lower board 21). The left perforation line 22 linearly extends from a rear left corner of the lower board 21 toward a front right side, and the right perforation line 22 linearly extends from a rear right corner of the lower board 21 toward a front left side.

[0039] A left board 23 is connected to a left edge of the lower board 21, and a right board 24 is connected to a right edge of the lower board 21. The left board 23 and the right board 24 each have an elongated rectangular shape having the same longitudinal dimension as the lower board 21. The left board 23 and the right board 24 have the same transverse dimension.

A press board 25 (turn-back portion, folded portion) is connected to a front edge of the lower board 21, and a first cover board 26 is connected to a rear edge of the lower board 21. The press board 25 and the first cover board 26 each have a rectangular shape elongated transversely of the lower board 21. The longitudinal dimensions of the press board 25 and the first cover board 26 as measured transversely of the lower board 21 are equal to the transverse dimension of the lower board 21.

[0040] Here, the lower board 21 and the press board 25 connected to the lower board 21 are collectively defined as an interior wall (one interior wall) 51. The

interior wall 51 defines an inside space of the complete package container 4 from a lower side. The press board 25 is a front end portion of the interior wall 51, and is foldable along a fold line defined by a boundary
5 between the press board 25 and the lower board 21.

A first left extension board 27 is connected to a rear edge of the left board 23 as extending rearward, and a second left extension board 28 is connected to a front edge of the left board 23 as extending forward.

10 The first left extension board 27 and the second left extension board 28 each have a slightly smaller width than the left board 23, and are each slightly offset toward a left edge of the left board 23. An upper board 29 is connected to the left edge of the left board 23.

15 The upper board 29 has a rectangular shape having substantially the same size as the lower board 21. The upper board 29 has a perforation line 35 provided in a transversely middle portion of a rear end portion thereof and having a generally U-shape projecting

20 forward. The perforation line 35 are continuous to a rear edge of the upper board 29 at its left and right ends. The upper board 29 has an incision 36 provided in a position forwardly adjacent to the perforation line 35 and having a generally U-shape projecting forward.

25 The upper board 29 further has an auxiliary incision

41 provided at a transversely middle position of the incision 36 and extending rearward continuously from the incision 36.

[0041] A first right extension board 30 is connected
5 to a rear edge of the right board 24 as extending rearward, and a second right extension board 31 is connected to a front edge of the right board 24 as extending forward. The first right extension board 30 and the second right extension board 31 each have a slightly smaller width
10 than the right board 24, and are each slightly offset toward a right edge of the right board 24. The first left extension board 27 and the first right extension board 30 are generally conformal to each other, and the second left extension board 28 and the second right
15 extension board 31 are generally conformal to each other.

[0042] A first connection board 32 is connected to a right edge of the right board 24. The first connection board 32 has an elongated generally rectangular shape
20 having the same longitudinal dimension as the right board 24. The first connection board 32 has a right edge which is inclined rearward from its middle position toward the right board 24.

A second cover board 33 is connected to a rear edge
25 of the first cover board 26. The second cover board

33 has a rectangular shape slightly elongated transversely of the lower board 21. The second cover board 33 has the same dimension as the first cover board 26 as measured transversely {of the lower board 21}.

5 A projection 34 is unitarily provided on a generally middle portion of a rear edge of the second cover board 33 as generally arcuately projecting rearward.

[0043] A second connection board 37 is connected to a left edge of the upper board 29. The second connection
10 board 37 has a rectangular shape elongated longitudinally of the upper board 29. The longitudinal dimension of the second connection board 37 is equal to the longitudinal dimension of the upper board 29. The transverse dimension of the second connection board
15 37 is equal to the transverse dimension of the right board 24.

A closure board 38 is connected to a front edge of the upper board 29. The closure board 38 has a rectangular shape elongated transversely of the upper
20 board 29. The longitudinal dimension of the closure board 38 as measured transversely of the upper board 29 is equal to the transverse dimension of the upper board 29.

[0044] A fold board 39 is connected to a front edge
25 of the closure board 38. The fold board 39 has a

rectangular shape elongated transversely of the upper board 29. The fold board 39 has the same dimension as the closure board 38 as measured transversely of the upper board 29. A connection portion between the closure board 38 and the fold board 39 has incisions 40 provided at opposite ends thereof. The left and right incisions 40 extend toward each other as curving rearward.

[0045] Corner portions of the pattern 20 are rounded so as to be prevented from being caught when the pattern 20 is folded.

Then, as shown in FIG. 4, the four individually wrapped food pieces 2 are placed on an upper surface of the lower board 21 of the pattern 20. That is, these food pieces 2 are accommodated in the package container 4 before the package container 4 is assembled. The lower surfaces 6 (see FIG. 2(a)) of the respective food pieces 2 placed on the lower board 21 and the bonding fins 19 are opposed to the lower board 21 from above. With the food pieces thus placed, the removable portions 49 are located on a rear portion of the lower board 21 (adjacent to the first cover board 26), and the fixing portions 48 are located on a front portion of the lower board 21 (adjacent to the press board 25).

[0046] In this state, the food pieces 2 do not

project out of the lower board 21. With the food pieces 2 thus placed, therefore, distal ends (front ends) of the bonding fins 19 are located slightly rearwardly away from the front edge of the lower board 21. Then, the
5 four food pieces 2 placed on the lower board 21 are juxtaposed parallel to each other as extending along the lower board 21 (interior wall 51). More specifically, the four food pieces 2 are juxtaposed perpendicularly to their lengths (laterally thereof).
10 Thus, the bonding fins 19 for the food pieces 2 are sequentially arranged transversely of the lower board 21 in adjacent relation.

[0047] Then, as shown in FIG. 5, the press board 25 is folded rearward (or turned back) along a fold line
15 defined by a boundary between the press board 25 and the lower board 21, and overlaid on a front end portion of the upper surface of the lower board 21 and the bonding fins 19 for the food pieces 2. At this time, a hot-melt adhesive 44 fused by heating is injected from an
20 applicator (not shown) to be applied onto substantially the entire transversely extending overlap portion between the lower board 21 and the press board 25 between which the bonding fins 19 are held. Thus, the hot-melt adhesive 44 is applied to the press board 25 to contact
25 the front end portion of the upper surface of the lower

board 21 and the bonding fins 19 for the food pieces 2 across the width of the lower board 21. All the bonding fins 19 thus juxtaposed are held between the press board 25 (the folded edge portion of the interior wall 51) and the front end portion of the lower board 21 (a portion of the interior wall 51 other than the press board 25) (also see FIG. 6).

[0048] In this state, the hot-melt adhesive 44 is cooled to be cured. Thus, the bonding fins 19 held between the press board 25 and the lower board 21 in contact with the hot-melt adhesive 44 are bonded and fixed to the press board 25 and the lower board 21 contacting the hot-melt adhesive 44 by the hot-melt adhesive 44, whereby the bonding fins 19, the press board 25 and the lower board 21 are unified. As a result, the individually wrapped food pieces 2 are fixed to the package container 4 via the bonding fins 19.

Particularly, the bonding fins 19 are held between the interior wall 51 (lower board 21) of the package container 4 and the press board 25, and fixed to the package container 4 with the use of the hot-melt adhesive 44, so that the bonding fins 19 for the food pieces 2 can be reliably fixed to the package container 4. Even if the foil wrappers are used as the sheet wrappers 3, the hot-melt adhesive 44 can properly fix the bonding

fins 19 of the foil wrappers to the package container.

[0049] Here, as described above, the bonding fins 19 extend from longitudinal one-side ends of the respective food pieces 2, and are located outside the food pieces 2. The bonding fins 19 of the sheet wrappers 3 located outside the food pieces 2 are held and fixed between the interior wall 51 of the package container 4 and the press board 25 with the hot-melt adhesive 44. In this case, heat of the heated hot-melt adhesive 44 is less liable to be conducted to the food pieces 2. That is, the bonding fins 19 are bonded to the package container 4 with the use of the hot-melt adhesive 44 without any thermal influence on the food pieces 2. In other words, the heat of the hot-melt adhesive 44 is not conducted as a heat shock to the food pieces 2.

[0050] Particularly, where the food pieces 2 are chocolate which is easily melted by the heat to experience blooming, it is possible to achieve the bonding with the hot-melt adhesive 44 without the heat shock while properly maintaining the quality of the chocolate.

The bonding with the hot-melt adhesive 44 may be achieved by preliminarily applying the hot-melt adhesive 44 to the press board 25, holding the bonding fins 19 between the press board 25 and the lower board

21 and heating the hot-melt adhesive 44 by a heater or the like, rather than by injecting the heated adhesive around the bonding fins 19.

[0051] As shown in FIG. 6, the bonding fins 19 extend from the longitudinal one-side ends of the food pieces 2 so as to be flush with the lower surfaces 6 of the food pieces 2.

When the bonding fins 19 are held between the interior wall 51 of the package container 4 and the press board 25 so as to be fixed with the hot-melt adhesive 44, the lower surfaces 6 (longitudinal surfaces) of the food pieces 2 abut against the interior wall 51 (lower board 21) of the package container 4, whereby the entire food pieces 2 are stably positioned. With the food pieces 2 being stably positioned, the bonding fins 19 can be thus fixed.

[0052] In the case of a so-called pillow package or twist package, end portions of wrappers such as of a film each project outward. Therefore, it is

theoretically possible to utilize the end portion as the bonding fin 19. In practice, however, the end portion is flush with neither of upper and lower surfaces of the wrapper, but is present at an intermediate position between the upper and lower surfaces in the pillow package or the twist package. Therefore, when

an attempt is made to hold the end portions between the press board 25 and the lower board 21 to bond the end portions, wrapped products (food pieces 2 in this embodiment) are entirely leaped up about the end

5 portions. This makes it impossible to fix the wrapped products in the package container 4.

[0053] In the present invention, the bonding fins 19 are intentionally formed so as to be flush with the longitudinal surfaces (lower surfaces 6) of the food
10 pieces 2.

After the four food pieces 2 thus placed on the lower board 21 are fixed to the lower board 21 (uncompleted package container 4), the left board 23 is first folded upward perpendicularly with respect to
15 the lower board 21.

[0054] In turn, the first connection board 32 is folded perpendicularly with respect to the right board 24, and the right board 24 is further folded upward perpendicularly with respect to the lower board 21.
20 Thus, the first connection board 32 extends generally horizontally just above the rightmost food piece 2 in FIG. 7.

Subsequently, the upper board 29 is folded rightward perpendicularly with respect to the left
25 board 23 so as to be opposed to the lower board 21 with

the food pieces 2 held between the upper board 29 and the lower board 21. Then, the second connection board 37 is folded downward perpendicularly with respect to the upper board 29.

5 [0055] Thus, as shown in FIG. 8, the first connection board 32 abuts against a right edge portion of the upper board 29 disposed in upwardly spaced and opposed relation to the lower board 21 from a lower side, and the second connection board 37 contacts the right board
10 24 from a right outer side. Through bonding with an adhesive tape or fusion, the first connection board 32 is fixed to the upper board 29, and the second connection board 37 is fixed to the right board 24.

As a result, a hollow body 43 is produced, which
15 has front and rear openings 42. The hollow body 43 is an uncompleted package container 4. For convenience of explanation, the closure board 38 is folded away from the front opening 42A in FIG. 8, so that the front opening 42A can be easily seen.

20 [0056] The front opening 42A is defined by the front edges of the lower board 21, the left board 23, the right board 24 and the upper board 29. The rear opening 42B is defined by rear edges of the lower board 21, the left board 23, the right board 24 and the upper board 29.
25 The openings 42 each have a rectangular shape elongated

transversely of the package container 4.

After the hollow body 43 is produced, the second left extension board 28 and the second right extension board 31 are folded toward each other. Then, the closure board 38 is folded downward perpendicularly with respect to the upper board 29, and the fold board 39 is folded rearward perpendicularly with respect to the closure board 38.

[0057] Further, the first left extension board 27 and the first right extension board 30 are folded toward each other, and the first cover board 26 is folded upward perpendicularly with respect to the lower board 21. Further, the second cover board 33 is folded forward perpendicularly with respect to the first cover board 26.

Then, as shown in FIG.9, the front opening 42A is closed from a front side by the closure board 38, and the rear opening 42B is closed from a rear side by the first cover board 26. At this time, the fold board 39 (see FIG. 8) is fitted between the second left extension board 28 and the second right extension board 31 (see FIG. 8) along the front edge portion of the lower board 21, so that the closure board 38 keeps closing the front opening 42A. Further, the second cover board 33 is fixed to a portion (separable portion 45, see FIG. 8)

of the upper board 29 surrounded by the perforation line
35 through the bonding with the adhesive tape or the
fusion. Therefore, the first cover board 26 connected
to the second cover board 33 keeps closing the rear
opening 42B. Here, the first cover board 26 and the
second cover board 33 are collectively referred to as
a cover 52, which closes and covers the opening 42B.

[0058] Thus, the package container 4 and the food
package 1 are completed. In the food package 1 thus
completed, the four food pieces 2 individually wrapped
with the sheet wrappers 3 are accommodated in the package
container 4. The number of the food pieces 2 is not
limited to four, but may be increased or reduced
depending on applications. In the package container
4 of the completed food package 1, a space 53 is defined,
in which the folded press board 25 and the bonding fins
19 for the respective food pieces 2 are located (see
FIG. 10). In the presence of the space 53, the food
pieces 2 are spaced from the closure board 38 which
closes the opening 42A. Therefore, even if the closure
board 38 hits against the floor when the food package
1 is dropped on the floor, the resulting impact is
prevented from being transmitted to the food pieces 2.

[0059] When the food pieces 2 are to be taken out
of the completed food package 1 for eating, the

projection 34 of the second cover board 33 is held and pulled away from the upper board 29 (upward in FIG. 9). Then, as shown in FIG. 1(a), the separable portion 45 fixed to the second cover board 33 is separated from the upper board 29 (a portion of the upper board 29 other than the separable portion 45) along the perforation line 35, so that the second cover board 33 is separated together with the separable portion 45 from the upper board 29.

[0060] Thus, the first cover board 26 is moved away from the rear opening 42B to open the cover 52, thereby uncovering the opening 42B. Further, a cut-away portion 46 having the same size as the separable portion 45 and continuously extending to the opening 42B is formed in a portion of the upper board 29 in which the separable portion 45 has been present. As a result, the four food pieces 2 accommodated in the package container 4 are exposed from the rear opening 42B and the cut-away portion 46. At this time, the removable portions 49 of the sheet wrappers 3 respectively wrapping the food pieces 2 are exposed from the opening 42B and the cut-away portion 46.

[0061] In order to completely uncover the opening 42B, the first left extension board 27 and the first right extension board 30 may be folded away from each

other.

When the projection 34 is further pulled to the lower board 21 of the package container 4 to further open the cover 52, as shown in FIG. 1(b), the lower board 21 is cut along the left and right perforation lines 22 thereof, whereby a cut-away portion 47 defined between the left and right perforation lines 22 and continuously extending to the opening 42B is formed in the lower board 21. Therefore, the removable portions 49 of the sheet wrappers 3 respectively wrapping the four food pieces 2 in the package container 4 are exposed not only from the rear opening 42B and the cut-away portion 46 (see FIG. 1(a)) but also from the cut-away portion 47. If the food pieces 2 in the package container 4 are not easily seen (nor easily picked), the cover 52 is further opened to form the cut-away portion 47.

[0062] FIG. 11 is a perspective view for explaining how to take out the food piece 2 from the package container 4. FIGS. 12(a) and 12(b) are sectional views of major portions of the food package 1, showing how to take out the food piece 2 from the package container 4.

Referring to FIG. 11, the cover 52 is opened, and then the removable portion 49 of the sheet wrapper 3

for one of the food pieces 2 exposed from the rear opening 42B and the cut-away portion 46 (further from the cut-away portion 47) is held and pulled (see a food piece 2 located at the second highest position in FIG. 11).

5 As shown in FIG. 11, when the food package 1 is placed on a table or the like with its cover 52 being open, the second cover 33 of the cover 52 abuts against the table, whereby the food package 1 is inclined with the opening 42B facing obliquely upward. In this case, the
10 opening 42B is accessible from an obliquely upper side, so that the removable portion 49 can be easily held.

[0063] Here, the bonding fins 19 for the food pieces 2 arranged in the package container 4 are held between the interior wall 51 (lower board 21) of the package
15 container 4 and the press board 25 and, in this state, fixed to the package container 4 with the hot-melt adhesive 44. That is, the fixing portions 48 respectively having the bonding fins 19 are fixed to the package container 4 (also see FIG. 10). Therefore,
20 when the removable portion 49 is pulled, the removable portion 49 is separated from the fixing portion 48 along the perforation line 50. That is, the one-side sheet 3A defining the fixing portion 48 and the other-side sheet 3B defining the removable portion 49 are reliably
25 separated from each other along the perforation line

50 defined by the boundary line between the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B. Therefore, a portion of the food piece 2 which has been covered with the removable portion 49 can be reliably uncovered.

5 [0064] Even if one hand is unavailable, the uncovered portion of the food piece 2 can be held by the other hand or by a mouth, whereby the entire food piece 2 can be readily taken out of the package container 4 to be eaten. Particularly, the food package is
10 sanitary, because the uncovered portion of the food piece 2 can be taken out of the package container 4 by holding the food piece 2 by the mouth and then eaten without touching the food piece 2 by the hand. Where the food piece 2 is chocolate, the food package is
15 convenient, because the chocolate can be eaten without dirtying the hand with the chocolate.

[0065] Referring to FIG. 12(a), the removable portion 49 separated from the fixing portion 48 and a portion of the food piece 2 covered with the removable
20 portion 49 may be pulled out together in a bold arrow direction to extract the entire food piece 2 from the package container 4 as shown in FIG. 12(b). Thus, a portion of the extracted food piece 2 which has been covered with the fixing portion 48 is uncovered.
25 Therefore, the exposed portion of the food piece 2 can

be eaten first. At this time, the food piece 2 is not directly touched by a hand H, but held via the removable portion 49 (sheet wrapper 3) by the hand H. Therefore, the food container is sanitary.

5 [0066] The operation of pulling the removable portion 49 of the sheet wrapper 3 to remove the sheet wrapper 3 for eating the food piece 2 creates an unexpected effect, so that a person who handles the food package 1 can enjoy eating the food piece 2 as well as
10 pulling out and removing the removable portion 49 of the sheet wrapper 3. By pulling out the removable portion 49, the sheet wrapper 3 is partly removed at a time. This eliminates the need for taking out the wrapped food piece 2 from the package container 4 and
15 then removing the sheet wrapper 3 by holding the sheet wrapper 3 by finger tips.

[0067] Where some of the food pieces 2 remain in the package container 4, as shown in FIG. 1(a), the projection 34 is held to move the second cover board
20 33 to cover the rear opening 42B with the first cover board 26. Thus, the cover 52 is closed. Then, the projection 34 is inserted into the incision 36 of the upper board 29, whereby the rear opening 42B is kept covered with the first cover board 26 (the cover 52 is
25 kept closed). Thus, the food pieces 2 remaining in the

package container 4 can be preserved until they are next eaten.

[0068] FIGS. 13(a) and 13(b) are perspective views of a sheet wrapper 3 according to a variation, particularly, FIG. 13(a) illustrating a state before the food piece 2 is wrapped, FIG. 13(b) illustrating a state after the food piece 2 is wrapped. FIGS. 14(a) and 14(b) are sectional views of major portions of the food package 1 employing the sheet wrapper 3 of FIGS. 13(a) and 13(b), showing how to take out the food piece 2 from the package container 4.

In the sheet wrapper 3 described above, the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B are connected to each other via the perforation line 50 provided in the longitudinally intermediate portion of the sheet wrapper 3, and are separable from each other along the perforation line 50 by pulling the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B away from each other (see FIG. 2(a)).

[0069] In the sheet wrapper 3 according to the variation shown in FIGS. 13(a) and 13(b), end portions of the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B overlap each other.

Based on the posture of the sheet wrapper shown in FIG. 13(a), more specifically, a front end portion

of the other-side sheet 3B disposed on the rear side is overlaid on a rear end portion of the one-side sheet 3A disposed on the front side across the width of the sheet wrapper. Thus, the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B each have an overlap portion K (separation means).

[0070] Here, if the front end portion of the other-side sheet 3B is simply overlaid on the rear end portion of the one-side sheet 3A, there is a possibility that the overlap portions K of the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B are easily separated from each other. Therefore, the overlap portions K of the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B may be partly and lightly bonded to each other as required. In FIG. 13(a), the overlap portions of the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B are bonded to each other at bonding sites 54 located in transversely opposite end portions and a transversely middle portion. Since the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B are lightly bonded to each other at the bonding sites 54, the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B are easily separated from each other by pulling the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B away from each other.

[0071] Then, the food pieces 2 are individually

wrapped with the sheet wrappers 3 each including the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B with their end portions overlapping each other in substantially the same manner as in the embodiment described above (see FIGS. 2(a) to 2(j)). The individually wrapped food piece is shown in FIG. 13(b). Even with the use of the sheet wrappers 3 according to the variation, as in the embodiment described above, the bonding fins 19 are formed from the one-side sheets 3A, and held between the interior wall 51 (lower board 21) of the package container 4 and the press board 25 and fixed with the hot-melt adhesive 44 as shown in FIG. 14(a). Thus, the one-side sheet 3A defines the fixing portion 48, and the other-side sheet 3B defines the removable portion 49. The fixing portion 48 and the removable portion 49 overlap each other at the overlap portions K.

[0072] In this state, the cover 52 of the package container 4 is opened (see FIG. 11), and the removable portion 49 is held by a hand H as indicated by a bold arrow. Thus, the removable portion 49 which has overlapped the end portion of the fixing portion 48 at the overlap portions K is separated from the fixing portion 48 as shown in FIG. 14(b). That is, the fixing portion 48 and the removable portion 49 are reliably separated from each other along the overlap portions

K between the one-side sheet 3A and the other-side sheet 3B. Thus, a portion of the food piece 2 which has been covered with the removable portion 49 can be reliably uncovered.

5 [0073] Even if one hand is unavailable, the uncovered portion of the food piece 2 can be held by the other hand or by a mouth, whereby the entire food piece 2 can be readily taken out of the package container 4 to be eaten.

10 The removable portion 49 separated from the fixing portion 48 and a portion of the food piece 2 covered with the removable portion 49 may be pulled out together to extract the entire food piece 2 from the package container 4. Thus, a portion of the extracted food
15 piece 2 which has been covered with the fixing portion 48 is uncovered. Therefore, the uncovered portion of the food piece 2 can be eaten first without directly touching the food piece 2 by the hand H.

[0074] It should be understood that the present
20 invention be not limited to the embodiments described above, but various modifications may be made within the scope of the present invention defined by the appended claims.

For example, the food pieces 2 are chocolate, but
25 other examples of the food pieces 2 include heat-labile

food.

REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

- [0075] 1: FOOD PACKAGE
- 2: FOOD PIECE
- 5 3: SHEET WRAPPER
- 3A: ONE-SIDE SHEET
- 3B: OTHER-SIDE SHEET
- 4: PACKAGE CONTAINER
- 5: UPPER SURFACE
- 10 6: LOWER SURFACE
- 7: FRONT SURFACE
- 8: REAR SURFACE
- 9: LEFT SURFACE
- 10: RIGHT SURFACE
- 15 11: LEFT PORTION (OF SHEET WRAPPER)
- 12: RIGHT PORTION (OF SHEET WRAPPER)
- 13: FRONT END PORTION (OF SHEET WRAPPER)
- 14: LOWER REAR END PORTION (OF SHEET WRAPPER)
- 15: LEFT REAR END PORTION (OF SHEET WRAPPER)
- 20 16: RIGHT REAR END PORTION (OF SHEET WRAPPER)
- 17: UPPER REAR END PORTION (OF SHEET WRAPPER)
- 18: SPACE (OF SHEET WRAPPER)
- 19: BONDING FIN
- 20: PATTERN
- 25 21: LOWER BOARD

22: PERFORATION LINE (OF LOWER BOARD)
 23: LEFT BOARD
 24: RIGHT BOARD
 25: PRESS BOARD
 5 26: FIRST COVER BOARD
 27: FIRST LEFT EXTENSION BOARD
 28: SECOND LEFT EXTENSION BOARD
 29: UPPER BOARD
 30: FIRST RIGHT EXTENSION BOARD
 10 31: SECOND RIGHT EXTENSION BOARD
 32: FIRST CONNECTION BOARD
 33: SECOND COVER BOARD
 34: PROJECTION
 35: PERFORATION LINE (OF UPPER BOARD)
 15 36: INCISION (OF UPPER BOARD)
 37: SECOND CONNECTION BOARD
 38: CLOSURE BOARD
 39: FOLD BOARD
 40: INCISION (OF CLOSURE BOARD)
 20 41: AUXILIARY INCISION
 42: OPENING
 42A: FRONT OPENING
 42B: REAR OPENING
 43: HOLLOW BODY
 25 44: HOT-MELT ADHESIVE

45: SEPARABLE PORTION
 46: CUT-AWAY PORTION (OF UPPER BOARD)
 47: CUT-AWAY PORTION (OF LOWER BOARD)
 48: FIXING PORTION
 5 49: REMOVABLE PORTION
 50: PERFORATION LINE
 51: INTERIOR WALL
 52: COVER
 53: SPACE (OF COMPLETED FOOD PACKAGE)
 10 54: BONDING SITE
 H: HAND
 K: OVERLAP PORTION
 X: PROJECTION AMOUNT (OF SHEET WRAPPER AT ONE END)
 Y: PROJECTION AMOUNT (OF SHEET WRAPPER AT OTHER END)

CLAIMS

1. A food package comprising:

a package container; and

food pieces individually wrapped with sheet

5 wrappers and accommodated in the package container;

wherein the sheet wrappers individually wrapping the food pieces each have a bonding fin extending from a longitudinal end of the food piece;

wherein the individually wrapped food pieces are
10 juxtaposed perpendicularly to lengths thereof on one interior wall of the package container, so that the bonding fins for the respective food pieces are sequentially arranged in adjacent relation;

wherein the interior wall of the package container
15 has a portion turned back to hold the arranged bonding fins;

wherein the arranged bonding fins are fixed between the interior wall and the turn-back portion with a hot-melt adhesive in the package container.

20 2. The food package according to claim 1,

wherein the food pieces each include a polygonal chocolate bar,

wherein the sheet wrappers each have a rectangular shape and are each folded to wrap the chocolate bar,
25 and the bonding fin is defined by a portion of the folded

sheet wrapper extending along a longitudinal surface of the chocolate bar and projecting from a longitudinal end of the chocolate bar.

3. The food package according to claim 1 or 2,

5 wherein the sheet wrappers each include a fixing portion having the bonding fin, a removable portion disposed away from the bonding fin, and separation means disposed on a longitudinally middle portion of the individually wrapped food piece for permitting
10 separation between the fixing portion and the removable portion.

4. The food package according to claim 3,
wherein the separation means includes a perforation line.

15 5. The food package according to claim 3,
wherein the sheet wrappers each include a one-side sheet defining the fixing portion and an other-side sheet defining the removable portion,

wherein the separation means includes an overlap
20 between the one-side sheet and the other-side sheet.

6. A method comprising the steps of:

individually wrapping food pieces with sheet wrappers; and

encasing the individually wrapped food pieces in
25 a package container;

wherein, when the food pieces are individually wrapped with the sheet wrappers, bonding fins are formed from parts of the respective sheet wrappers as each extending from a longitudinal end of the food piece;

5 wherein, after the individually wrapped food pieces are encased in the package container, the bonding fins are bonded to the package container with a hot-melt adhesive without any thermal influence on the food pieces.

10 7. The method according to claim 6,

 wherein, when the bonding fins are bonded to the package container with the hot-melt adhesive, the bonding fins are held between an interior wall of the package container and a folded end portion of the
15 interior wall, and the interior wall, the bonding fins and the folded portion are bonded to be fixed together by the hot-melt adhesive.