APPLICATION FOR A PATENT

I/We, SALVE S.A., a Swiss Corporate Body, of 17, rue des Pierres-du-Niton, Case Postale 59 CH-1211 Geneve 6, Switzerland, hereby apply for the grant of a Patent for an invention entitled:

"IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO A PACKAGE"

which is described in the accompanying complete specification.

My/Our address for service is care of E. F. WELLINGTON, Patent Attorney, 457 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, Commonwealth of Australia.

DATED this 20 day of October 1977 A.D.

Salve SA

/Signed by Managing Director/

To: The Commissioner of Patents,
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
In support of the application made by SALVE S.A.,
for a patent/patent of addition for an invention entitled:
"IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO A PACKAGE".
I, CHRISTER CEDERROTH, Managing Director, of 17, rue des Pierres-du-Niton,
Case Postale 59 CH-1211 Geneve 6, Switzerland,
do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

1. I am authorised by SALVE S.A.,
the applicant for the patent/patent of addition to make this
declaration on its behalf.

2. HANS SPIEGELBERG,
of Grindtorpsvagen 33,
S-182 32 Taby, Sweden,
is the actual inventor of the invention and the facts upon which
the said SALVE S.A.
application are as follows:
The Company is the assignee of the actual inventor.

DECLARED at Geneve this 20 day of October A.D.1977

To: The Commissioner of Patents,
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
1. A package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by one or more portions of a protective foil, said package comprising a base sheet or the like adjacent said member and means directly or indirectly connecting one portion of the foil to the base sheet so that said one portion of the foil will be removed from the corresponding area of the said adhesive surface layer during removal of said member from said package.
The following statement is a full description of this invention including the best method of performing it known to me/us.
The present invention relates to a package and more particularly the invention relates to a package which contains a member having one or more surfaces provided with an adhesive, the adhesive being covered by one or more protective foils.

The invention will be described in this Specification with reference to a package containing a medical plaster as used for treating small wounds, but this description of the invention is given merely by way of example and it is to be appreciated that the invention may find other applications.

A conventional adhesive plaster for use in treating small wounds, cuts or abrasions, comprises a strip of flexible material, which may be a fabric material or a plastics material, this strip being provided, on one surface thereof, with a self-adhesive layer. In the central region of the surface of the strip provided with the self-adhesive layer is a medical dressing comprising gauze or a similar material, and in many instances this dressing is impregnated with an antiseptic or the like.

The self-adhesive layer provided on an adhesive plaster of this type is usually protected by one or more foils which are usually made of a plastics material. It is intended that the foils should be pulled off the strip of flexible material to expose the adhesive layers before the plaster is used to cover a wound. The removal of these protective foils is troublesome, and often requires the use of both hands. It is frequently the practice to utilise two protective foils, one provided at each end of the strip of flexible material, the foils being loosely superimposed or overlapped in the centre of the strip of flexible material, that is to say in the region
of the medicated gauze pad. In using such a plaster the protective foils are gently eased away from the medical dressing, i.e. the gauze pad, to expose the gauze pad, the gauze pad being placed in contact with the surface of the wound. Subsequently the protective foils are removed by pulling them in opposite directions away from the gauze pad, this action serving to stretch the flexible strip and, on skilful manipulation of the protective foils, to bring the adhesive coated surface of the flexible strip into firm contact with the skin of the patient adjacent the wound. If a plaster is applied in this way there is a risk that the surface of the wound will be irritated, since the gauze pad is brought into firm contact with the surface of the wound, and furthermore there is a considerable risk that the gauze pad will not be correctly positioned over the wound, and it will be appreciated that once the plaster has been applied it is not possible to remove the plaster and re-position the plaster.

The present invention seeks to provide a package containing a member provided with an adhesive layer, which adhesive layer is protected by a protective foil or the like, in which the removal of the protective foil or the like is facilitated, and in which the above described disadvantages of the prior art are reduced or obviated. More particularly the present invention seeks to provide a package containing a medical plaster, such medical plaster comprising a flexible strip with one surface provided with an adhesive layer, a central region of that surface being provided with a medical dressing, an adhesive zone on each side of the dressing being covered by a removable protective foil or the like, the said package being provided with means for automatically removing at least part
of the protective foil when the plaster is removed from the package.

According to one aspect of this invention there is provided a package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by one or more portions of a protective foil, said package comprising a base sheet or the like adjacent said member and means directly or indirectly connecting one portion of the foil to the base sheet so that said one portion of the foil will be removed from the corresponding area of the said adhesive surface layer during removal of said member from said package.

Preferably said foil is immediately adjacent said base, and said foil is directly secured to the base.

Advantageously the surface of said member opposite to the adhesive surface layer is adjacent said base, and said foil is secured to the base indirectly by means of a band secured to the foil and secured to the base.

Conveniently two foil portions are provided, one foil portion having a free edge region, which free edge region is connected to said base.

Preferably said foil is connected to the carrier on both sides of side member.

According to another aspect of this invention there is provided a package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by two flap-free portions of protective foil, a region of one foil overlapping part of the second foil, said package comprising a base sheet or the like adjacent said member and means connecting a region of said one foil to the base sheet so that said one foil will be removed from the corresponding area of said adhesive layer during removal of said member from said package.
Preferably said overlapping region of said one foil is the region connected to the base sheet, and said portion of said one foil is secured to the base by an adhesive coated band.

According to a further aspect of this invention there is provided a package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by two portions of protective foil, a region of one foil overlapping part of the second foil, said package comprising a base sheet or the like adjacent said member and means connecting a region of said one foil to the base sheet so that said one foil will be removed from the corresponding area of said adhesive layer during removal of said member from said package, said connecting means directly connecting said foil to said base and comprising adhesive, heat welding or the like.

According to yet a further aspect of this invention there is provided a package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by two portions of protective foil, a region of one foil overlapping part of the second foil, said package comprising a base sheet or the like adjacent said member and means connecting a region of said one foil to the base sheet so that said one foil will be removed from the corresponding area of said adhesive layer during removal of said member from said package, each foil being provided with a folded back flap at the free edge thereof, one said flap being the region connected to the base.

Preferably said flaps overlap, and advantageously said one flap is secured to the base by an adhesive coated band.

Said package may comprise said base sheet and a second superimposed sheet secured thereto, the sheets engaging one or
more lugs provided on said foil to connect the foil to the package.

Preferably said package includes a separate sheet which is connected to said base sheet to define a pocket, said member being located within said pocket with part thereof protruding from the pocket.

Conveniently said member comprises a medical plaster constituted by a flexible strip having said adhesive surface layer on one side thereof and a medical dressing substantially centrally disposed on said one side, the adhesive being covered by two removable foils one of which is directly or indirectly connected to said base sheet at a free edge thereof located in the central region of the plaster.

The invention also relates to a multi-pack and a wallet.

According to yet another aspect of this invention there is provided a method of making a package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by one or more portions of a protective foil comprising the steps of locating said member adjacent a base sheet and directly or indirectly connecting one portion of the foil to the base sheet so that one portion of the foil will be removed from the corresponding area of said adhesive surface layer during removal of said member from said package.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood and so that further features thereof may be appreciated the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a multiple pack in accordance with the invention, the multiple pack comprising
a plurality of medical plasters each retained within a respective individual package,

Figure 2 is a perspective view of one package of the multiple pack of Figure 1 with part folded back to expose the interior of the package,

Figure 3 is a perspective view corresponding to Figure 2 showing the package when the plaster is partially withdrawn from the package,

Figure 4 is a perspective view of another package in accordance with the invention with part folded back to expose the interior of the package,

Figure 5 is a perspective view corresponding to Figure 4 showing the package when the plaster is partially withdrawn from the package,

Figure 6 is a perspective view of yet another package in accordance with the invention, with part folded back to expose the interior of the package,

Figure 7 is a perspective view corresponding to Figure 6 showing the package when the plaster is partially withdrawn from the package, and

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a wallet containing a number of multiple packages as illustrated in Figure 1.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings Figure 1 shows a multiple pack 1 containing a number of medical plasters 2, the plasters being located side by side. The multiple pack is provided with perforations or lines of mechanical weakness 3 between adjacent plasters 2, so that separate discrete packages, each comprising a plaster and the surrounding portion of the multiple pack 1 may be removed from the rest of the multiple pack 1.
The multiple pack 1 is formed by two superimposed sheets 4, 5 of aluminium, paper of plastics material, one suitable material being that sold under the Registered Trade Mark COSIL. The two sheets 4, 5, are superimposed and the sheets are joined together by means of adhesive, welding, or in some other way depending upon the nature of the material selected, along one side edge 6 of the package and in the regions 7 between adjacent plasters 2. The arrangement is such that when one package containing a plaster 2 has been removed from the rest of the multiple pack 1, as shown in Figure 2 the side edges 8, 9 of the removed portion of the package are constituted by portions of the sheets 4, 5, that are joined together. Thus it will be appreciated that each package that is removed from the multiple pack 1 constitutes a pocket or the like, and when the package is in the form as illustrated in Figure 1 the pockets are each open at one end 10 and can readily be separated from each other.

The plasters 2 may be located within the multiple pack 1 during production thereof, and in this case the plasters 2 are located between the sheets of material 4, 5 before they are joined together. The multiple pack 1 may be made of indefinite length virtually endless sheets 4, 5 are utilised. The plasters 2 are arranged in such a way that one end 11 of each plaster projects slightly from the completed multi-pack 1 and so that the opposite end 12 of the plaster is located at a small predetermined distance from the side edge 6 of the multi-pack which forms the bottom of each pocket.

Referring now to Figures 2 and 3 of the accompanying drawings plaster 2 illustrated consists of a flexible strip of material 13 which may be formed of a plastics material or a
fabric, this strip 13 being provided with an adhesive layer 14, 15 at least one each side of a gauze dressing 16 which is located substantially centrally on the strip 13. The gauze dressing 16 may be impregnated with a suitable antiseptic. The regions of the adhesive layer 14, 15 on either side of the central dressing 16 are protected by means of removable protective foils 17, 18 which extend over the dressing 16, so that the dressing is also protected and is maintained in a substantially sterile condition. It will be appreciated that the protective foils overlap each other in the region of the dressing 16.

In this embodiment of the invention one of the removable protective foils 18 is connected indirectly to the sheet 4 which forms part of the package, and the arrangement is such that when the plaster 2 is withdrawn from the package the said foil 18 that is connected to the package remains connected to the package, and thus that protective foil is removed from the region 15 of the adhesive layer initially protected by the foil 18.

Consequently, when the plaster 2 has been removed from the package at least one of the regions 15 of the adhesive film is exposed ready for use.

Referring again to Figures 2 and 3 it is to be appreciated that a band of material 21 is provided, the band of material having, on one face thereof, a strongly adherent adhesive. This band 8 is firmly adhered, by the adhesive, to the lowermost sheet 4 and extends across the plaster 2. The band 21 is also firmly adhered to a portion of one of the protective foils 18.

Thus, the band 21 is connected both to the protective foil 18, and to the base sheet 4 that forms part of the
Figure 3 illustrates what happens when the plaster 2 is withdrawn from the package by grasping the protruding end 11 of the plaster and withdrawing the plaster 2 from the package. The band 21 remains secured to sheet 4 of the package and also remains secured to the foil 18 with the result that as the plaster 2 is removed from the package the foil 18 is separated from the rest of the plaster 2 and the gauze dressing 16 is revealed. As the plaster is completely removed from the package the foil 18 is removed entirely from the plaster 2. The plaster 2 may then be utilised to dress a small wound or the like by placing the exposed adhesive 15 adjacent the wound, urging the gauze dressing 16 gently into contact with the wound and subsequently removing the foil 17 to expose the adhesive zone 14, this adhesive zone 14 finally being brought into contact with the skin of the patient.

It will be appreciated that in manufacturing the embodiment described above and illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 in the form of a multi-pack the plasters will be superimposed upon the first sheet 4 of the multi-pack, with the foils in position, and subsequently an elongate band 21 will be located over the plasters and over the base sheet 4 forming the multi-pack. Subsequently the uppermost sheet 5 will be positioned on the base sheet 4 and the sheets will be secured together to define the separate pockets, and finally the score lines or perforations 3 will be provided to facilitate the removal of individual packages from the remainder of the multi-pack. The score lines will pass through the band 21. Thus it will be appreciated that multi-packs comprising packages as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 may be readily manufactured.
with a continuous production process.

Whilst the invention has been described above with reference to one particular embodiment it is to be appreciated that many modifications and alterations may be made to this particular embodiment of the invention.

In a second embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figures 4 and 5 (in which reference numerals common to Figures 2 and 3 denote corresponding features) both of the protective foils 17, 18 are provided with a flap 19, 20 respectively that is folded back to be superimposed upon the major portion of the foil, the flaps being superimposed over the dressing 16. The band 21 is secured directly to the flap 20 provided on foil 18, the band 21 also being secured to the lowermost sheet 4 of the two superimposed sheets forming the pocket. This particular embodiment will operate in a very similar way to that described above, as can be seen from the accompanying drawings, but the provision of the flap 20 facilitates the withdrawal of the plaster from the package, and the provision of flap 19 facilitates the subsequent removal of foil 17.

In a further embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figures 6 and 7 (in which reference numerals common to Figures 2 and 3 denote like features) the adhesive band 21 is not provided, and in this embodiment of the invention one protective foil 18 is connected directly by means of an adhesive 22, or by means of heat welding, to the uppermost sheet 5 of the sheets 4, 5 constituting the package. In manufacturing this embodiment of the invention the plaster is located on the lowermost sheet 4 of the package, a portion of the foil 18 is rendered tacky either by applying an adhesive, or by heating the portion of the foil 18, and
subsequently the uppermost sheet of the package is located in position over the plaster, this uppermost sheet of the package being firmly connected to the foil by the adhesive or by heat welding. Again this package will operate in a very similar manner to that described above, as is illustrated in Figure 7. In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 6 and 7 the plasters are up-side-down as compared with the embodiments illustrated in Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Figure 8 of the accompanying drawings illustrates four multi-packs 1, each in accordance with the present invention, when incorporated into a wallet 23. Each of the multi-packs 1 contains four plasters 2. The multi-packs are placed on a member 24 of card or the like. A flap of the member 24 is folded to embrace the multi-packs 1 and the assembly is secured by staples 26 or the like, care being taken to ensure that the staples do not pass through the plasters 2. The wallet 23 may be closed, in a manner similar to a book of matches, by tucking a further flap 26 of the member 24 beneath the free edge of flap 25. It is to be appreciated that, if the plasters 2 are mounted in a wallet as illustrated in Figure 4 the individual plasters 2 may be removed from the appropriate pockets without removing any portion of the packages from the wallet, merely by grasping the protruding end of the plaster and pulling. The plaster, when removed from the wallet, will have the foil 18 removed, and the foil 17 still in position.

A wallet as illustrated in Figure 4 may contain packages of any of the three types described above.

In another embodiment of the invention (not illustrated) the foil 18 may be provided with two laterally extending lugs adjacent the free end thereof, the lugs being
secured between the sheets 4, 5 when the sheets are adhered together in regions 7. Thus the foil 18 could be directly connected to the package.

Whilst the invention has been described with specific reference to medical plasters it is to be appreciated that the invention is not restricted solely to this application. Also whilst the invention has been described with specific reference to embodiments which each comprise a package in the form of an envelope, a package in accordance with the invention could comprise a member having an adhesive surface layer protected by a foil or the like mounted on a single support sheet or the like, the foil being directly or indirectly connected to the support sheet or the like so that when the member is removed from the package the foil is automatically separated from the adhesive surface layer on the member.

The matter contained in each of the following claims is to be read as part of the general description of the present invention.
The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by one or more portions of a protective foil, said package comprising a base sheet or the like adjacent said member and means directly or indirectly connecting one portion of the foil to the base sheet so that said one portion of the foil will be removed from the corresponding area of the said adhesive surface layer during removal of said member from said package.

2. A package according to claim 1 wherein said foil is immediately adjacent said base, said foil is directly secured to the base.

3. A package according to claim 1 wherein the surface of said member opposite to the adhesive surface layer is adjacent said base, and said foil is secured to the base indirectly by means of a band secured to the foil and secured to the base.

4. A package according to any one of the preceding claims wherein two foil portions are provided, one foil portion having a free edge region, which free edge region is connected to said base.

5. A package according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said foil is connected to the carrier on both sides of side member.
6. A package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by two flap-free portions of protective foil, a region of one foil overlapping part of the second foil, said package comprising a base sheet or the like adjacent said member and means connecting a region of said one foil to the base sheet so that said one foil will be removed from the corresponding area of said adhesive layer during removal of said member from said package.

7. A package according to claim 6 wherein said overlapping region of said one foil is the region connected to the base sheet.

8. A package according to claim 6 or 7 wherein said portion of said one foil is secured to the base by an adhesive coated band.

9. A package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by two portions of protective foil, a region of one foil overlapping part of the second foil, said package comprising a base sheet or the like adjacent said member and means connecting a region of said one foil to the base sheet so that said one foil will be removed from the corresponding area of said adhesive layer during removal of said member from said package, said connecting means directly connecting said foil to said base and comprising adhesive, heat welding or the like.
10. A package according to claim 7 wherein said overlapping region of said one foil is the region connected to the base sheet.

11. A package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by two portions of protective foil, a region of one foil overlapping part of the second foil, said package comprising a base sheet or the like adjacent said member and means connecting a region of said one foil to the base sheet so that said one foil will be removed from the corresponding area of said adhesive layer during removal of said member from said package, each foil being provided with a folded back flap at the free edge thereof, one said flap being the region connected to the base.

12. A package according to claim 11 wherein said flaps overlap.

13. A package according to claim 11 or 12 wherein said one flap is secured to the base by an adhesive coated band.

14. A package according to claim 1 wherein said package comprises said base sheet and a second superimposed sheet secured thereto, the sheets engaging one or more lugs provided on said foil to connect the foil to the package.
15. A package according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said package includes a separate sheet which is connected to said base sheet to define a pocket, said member being located within said pocket with part thereof protruding from the pocket.

16. A package according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said member comprises a medical plaster constituted by a flexible strip having said adhesive surface layer on one side thereof and a medical dressing substantially centrally disposed on said one side, the adhesive being covered by two removable foils one of which is directly or indirectly connected to said base sheet at a free edge thereof located in the central region of the plaster.

17. A multi-pack comprising a plurality of packages according to any one of the preceding claims detachably connected together.

18. A wallet containing one or more multi-packs according to claim 17.

19. A method of making a package containing a member having an adhesive surface layer covered by one or more portions of a protective foil comprising the steps of locating said member adjacent a base sheet and directly or indirectly connecting one portion of the foil to the base sheet so that one portion of the foil will be removed from the corresponding area of said adhesive
surface layer during removal of said member from said package.

20. A multi-pack substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings.

21. A package substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in Figures 2 and 3 of the accompanying drawings.

22. A package substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in Figures 4 and 5 of the accompanying drawings.

23. A package substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in Figures 6 and 7 of the accompanying drawings.

24. A wallet substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in Figure 8 of the accompanying drawings.

25. A method of making a package substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

DATED this 7th day of November, A.D. 1977

SALVE S.A.,
By its Patent Attorney,

EDWIN F. WELLINGTON