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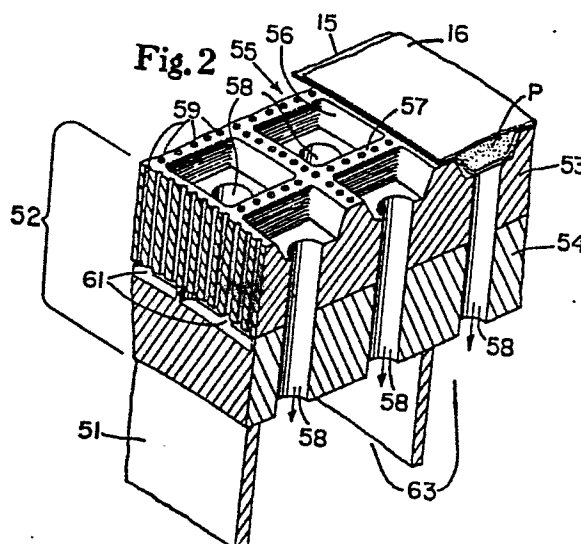
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Method and apparatus for manufacturing porous pouches containing granular product.

A method and apparatus for making a porous laminated sheet product having upper and lower web members (15, 16) connected about their periphery and having at least one compartment formed therein, and containing a predetermined quantity of inner product (P) within such compartment. In a preferred embodiment, the apparatus includes a pouch-forming surface having at least one inner product loading area (55) formed therein which further includes a cavity (56) surrounded by peripheral land areas (57), a passageway (58) adapted to place the product loading area cavity (56) in fluid communication with a vacuum source such that suction can be selectively applied to the cavity, and one or more apertures (59) formed through the peripheral land areas (57) and adapted to be selectively placed in fluid communication with a source of pressurized air whereby outward air flow can emanate from the peripheral land areas. The preferred process for making the porous pouches includes placing a first porous web of pouch material in contact with the pouch forming surface, depositing a quantity of granular product on the upper surface of the first porous web such that the vacuum source tends to hold the granular product against the upper surface of the first web in the product loading area cavity while the pressurized air tends to keep the granular product from being deposited on the upper surface of the first web in the peripheral land areas, and supplying a second web of pouch material and laminating the lower surface thereof to the upper surface of the first porous web along the peripheral land areas. This process thereby forms one or more porous pouches containing a predetermined quantity of granular product sealed about their periphery.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | EP 85201973.6 |
|---|---|--|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4) |
| Y | US - A - 2 949 713 (VOGT) | 1-4;8- | B 65 B 29/02 |
| | * Totality * | 11;14 | B 65 B 47/10 |
| A | -- | 15-25 | B 65 B 9/04 |
| Y | US - A - 3 426 505 (CLOUD) | 1-4;8- | |
| | * Totality * | 11;14 | |
| A | -- | 12,13 | |
| D,A | US - A - 4 437 294 (ROMAGNOLI) | 1;14 | |
| | * Totality * | | |
| | ---- | | |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4) A 61 F 13/00 A 61 L 15/00 B 65 B 9/00 B 65 B 29/00 B 65 B 37/00 B 65 B 47/00 B 32 B 31/00 |
| Place of search VIENNA | | Date of completion of the search 31-03-1987 | Examiner MELZER |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | | | |