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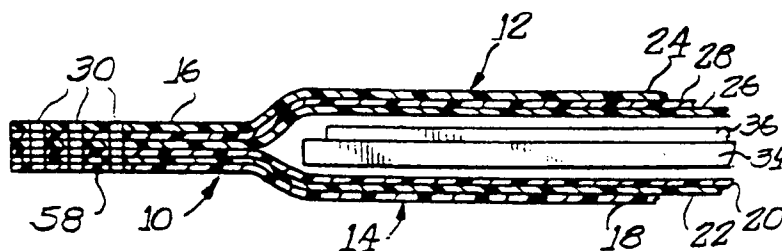
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(54) **Cook-in package method and apparatus.**

(57) A method and apparatus for manufacturing a cook-in package (10) which is capable of withstanding a cook/pasteurization cycle while having edges capable of unaided manual tear initiation. The package (10) is made from non-peelable laminated films and has a hermetically-sealed interior pouch for containing a food product. Unaided manual tear initiation is facilitated by a plurality of punctures (30) which are formed in edge portions (16) of the package during or after heat sealing of upper and lower walls (12 and 14) of the package to one another. The punctures (30) are preferably formed along an area which is subsequently trimmed to ensure that the perforated area extends entirely to the edges of the package. Hermeticity of the package is ensured by maintaining an unperforated sealed area (31) inwardly of the perforated areas.

FIG.5A





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	FR-A-2 080 339 (DEKMATEL) * page 5, line 24 - page 6, line 33 * * page 7, line 16 - line 19 * * page 8, line 11 - line 39; figures 1,2,6 *	1, 13	B65D81/34 B65D75/58 B65D75/26 B65D75/30 B31B21/00 B65B61/02
A	US-A-3 615 711 (MARKUS ET AL.) * column 1, paragraph 1 * * column 3, paragraph 1 * * column 7, line 19 - line 22 * * column 7, line 52 - line 65; figures 1,5,15,16 *	1,9,13	
A	FR-A-2 574 051 (ASAHI KASEI KOGYO) * page 8, line 6 - line 34 * * page 17, line 25 - page 18, line 14; claim 1; figures 3A-3D,6,7,13 *	1,9,13	
A	US-A-4 778 058 (YAMAZAKI ET AL.) * column 2, line 16 - line 50; figures 2-5A,13 *	13	
A	US-A-4 687 688 (CURIE ET AL.) * column 1, line 35 - line 39 * * abstract; figures 1,4 *	13,15	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) B65D B31B B65B
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 17 NOVEMBER 1992	Examiner SPETTEL J.D.M.L.
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	

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