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(54) **Packaging for food product.**

(57) The invention relates to a packaging for food product useful for boil-in-bag or microwave comprising a sealed flexible pouch with a thermoformed bottom web (2) and a top web (3) of a monooriented material, one part of the top web consisting of two layers (10, 13) sealed together and with a precut (8) in the outer layer (10) which operates as starting pull tab for the opening.

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The invention relates to a packaging for food products useful for boil-in-bag or microwave.

Packages for boil-in-bag are well known and are the most used in the frozen food area. These packages are cheap and comprise a sealed pouch, which have then to be opened with scissors when the food is heated. The obligation of using scissors is not very convenient.

US Patent 3 373 926 concerns also a pouch containing for example potato chips and comprising a sealing strip for joining the edge portions of the tube formed for receiving the food product and a sealing for separating successive pouches. The great drawback of this system is the danger of having leakages at the position of the sealings, which renders this type of solution not absolutely accurate.

We have devised a package for heating a food product, which is easy to handle, i.e. to open and empty without any danger of burning the fingers and which is useful also in microwave oven.

Accordingly, the invention provides a packaging comprising a sealed flexible pouch with a thermoformed bottom web and a top web of a monooriented material, one part of the top web consisting of two layers sealed together and with a precut in the outer layer, which operates as starting pull tab for the opening. The two layers are sealed together and this means that only the edges of the layers are sealed and the precut is disposed therebetween.

Due to the monoorientation of the material the pull tab starts a tear strip without any weakening line in the material used.

The package according to the invention can be used for frozen products as well as for chilled products.

If the package is used in a microwave, one has from the precut in the outer layer to pull the tab across the seal joining both layers to allow for ventilation, avoiding therefore any risk of exploding the package.

If the package is used in boiling water, the package stays closed and the tab is pulled after final reheating.

According to another feature of the invention, the flexible pouch comprises at opposite ends handles stiffened with two strips of material. These strips are of high density Polyethylene. After heating and opening for instance the package, the help of the handles gives the opportunity to empty the pouch very easily by inverting it and the food product leaves the pouch.

The precut in the outer layer is present transversely to the orientation of the film of said web. The width of the part with the two layers is of 1 to 2 cm, so that the opening is as large as possible for discharging the food product. The precut is

approximately in the middle of the edge of the flexible pouch.

The material of the top web is any oriented plastic used for the food contact and preferably a monooriented polyester or Polyamide laminated to Polyethylene. The bottom web is made of Polyamide/Polyethylene, or any other formable material sealable on the top web.

The present invention will now be further illustrated by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 illustrates a side view of the package according to the invention,

Fig. 2 is a top view of the same package and

Fig. 3 is a cross section along line 3-3 of Fig. 2.

The package (1) comprises a thermoformed bottom web (2) and a top web (3) containing a food product (4). A sealing (5) closes the package. At the two opposite ends of the package, handles (6) are present for allowing a good handling of the package. These handles comprise further stiffened strips (7). The top web (3) comprises two layers in the part A and one web in the part B. The precut (8) in the top layer (10) gives the opportunity to pull a strip which tears the sealing (9) in the area (11) and the opening is then achieved by pulling until the end of the strip (12), which gives a clear opening of the top web of the package. The bottom layer (13) remains as such in the package.

It is clear that before opening the package, it has to be reheated. After the opening, the package is inverted and folded for discharging the food product (4) contained therein.

Claims

1. Packaging for food product useful for boil-in-bag or microwave comprising a sealed flexible pouch with a thermoformed bottom web and a top web of a monooriented material, one part of the top web consisting of two layers sealed together and with a precut in the outer web, which operates as starting pull tab for the opening.
2. Packaging according to claim 1, characterized in that the flexible pouch comprises at opposite ends handles stiffened with two strips of material.
3. Packaging according to claim 1, characterized in that the precut in the outer layer is present transversely to the orientation of the film of said layer.
4. Packaging according to claim 1, characterized in that the width of the part with the two layers

is of 1 to 2 cm.

5. Packaging according to claim 1, characterized in that the precut is near to one edge of the flexible pouch and approximately in the middle of this edge. 5
6. Packaging according to claim 1, characterized in that the top web is made of a monooriented plastic film. 10
7. Packaging according to claim 1, characterized in that the flexible pouch has a bottom web, which is of formable plastic laminate. 15
8. Packaging according to claim 2, characterised in that the stiffened material is Polyethylene high density.

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Fig. 1

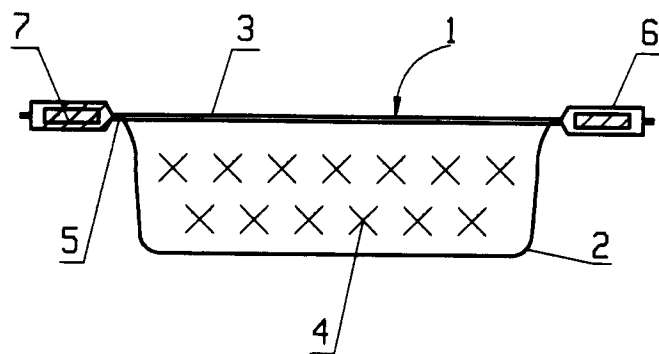


Fig. 2

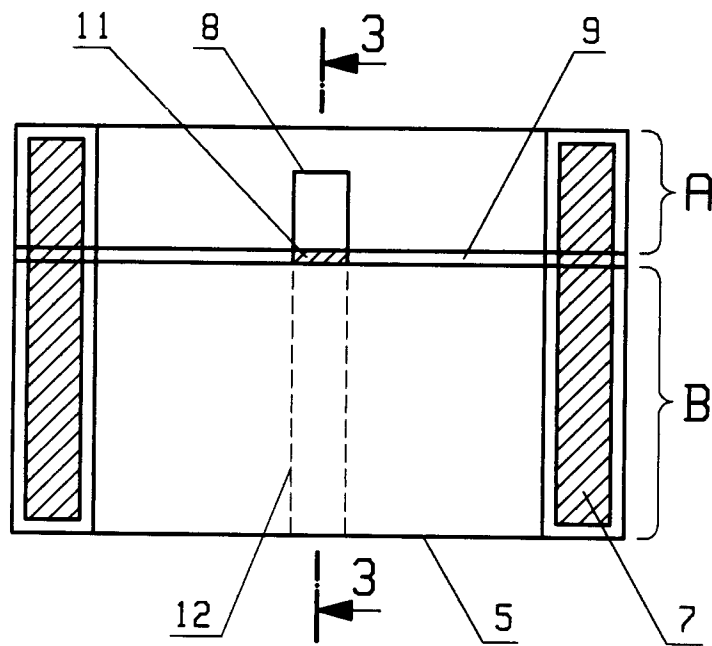
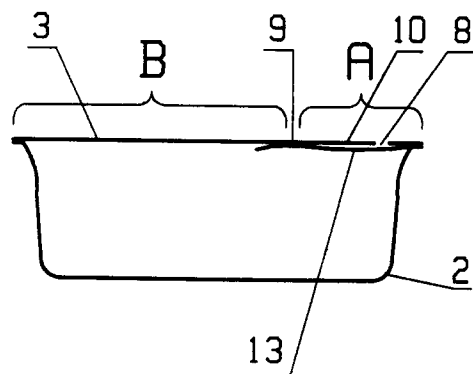


Fig. 3





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 11 8804

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)
Y	US-A-3 175 752 (STABENOW) * column 1, line 30 - line 41 * * column 2, line 12 - line 17 * * column 2, line 47 - line 57; figures * ---	1,3,5-6	B65D75/62 B65D75/56
Y	DE-A-3 700 988 (SENGEWALD) * column 4, line 62 - column 5, line 1; figures 8-10 * ---	1,3,5-6	
A	EP-A-340 037 (E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS) * page 2, line 48 - line 55; figure 9; example 11 * ---	1,7	
A	FR-A-1 242 231 (MELIDES) * page 1, right column, paragraph 7; figure 4 * ---	2	
A	DE-A-2 553 770 (BECK & CO PACKAUTOMATEN) * page 4, paragraph 1; figures * -----	2	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B65D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 MAY 1991	Examiner BRIDAULT A.A.Y.
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