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(54) Soft bag for personal-hygiene articles

(57) A soft bag for accomodating a stack (16) of personal-hygiene articles, especially of cosmetic cotton pads (17), comprises a side wall (1), a bottom wall (2) and a removal mechanism, located in the bottom area (6) of the bag, with a tear-off latch, defined by weakening lines (9) in the bag wall. Two separate tear-off latches (7, 8) on two sides of the bottom area (6) facing away from each other are provided in order to form two separate removal openings (4, 5). The tear-off latches (7, 8) extend from the bottom wall (2) into the side wall (1) of the bag.

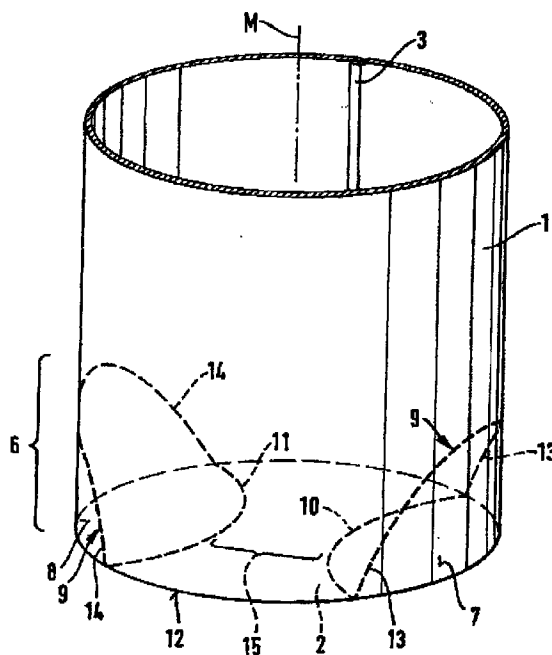


Fig. 1

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Description

The invention relates to a soft plastic bag for accommodating a stack of personal-hygiene articles, in particular of cosmetic cotton pads, according to the features mentioned in the preamble of claim 1.

Soft bags of the generic type, which are produced in usual manner by doubling and welding a foil web made of e.g. polyethylene, comprise a substantially cylindrical side wall and a substantially circular bottom wall. The latter is formed by doubling and welding one end of a sheet-plastic tube which is an intermediate product of bag production.

A bag, prefabricated in this usual manner, is filled with a stack of personal-hygiene articles, such as the aforementioned circular cotton pads, the direction of stacking running parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bag. Afterwards, the bag is closed by a combined weld and string closure, as shown for example in WO-A-94/19249.

For the successive removal of the cotton pads, a removal mechanism, formed substantially by a removable tear-off latch surrounded by weakening lines, is located in the bottom area of the bag.

The prior art teaches various configurations for the tear-off latch. Commonly, a circular tear-off latch is used, having a diameter slightly reduced in comparison to the diameter of the bottom wall, the position of the tear-off latch in the bottom wall being concentric, which can also be seen in the above-mentioned WO-publication. In a hanging position of the bag - independently of its filling ratio - the bottom article of the remaining stack rests on the circular marginal edge which is left over from the bottom wall and can thus be grasped with the fingers from below. In this case, however, there is the disadvantage that the grasping of the bottom article is impeded by the fact that during this procedure the stack usually recedes into the inner part of the bag. This is often found annoying, especially if the bag is already emptied partially.

Furthermore, it is known from the prior art to provide a removal opening in the shape of a tearable slit located in the side wall of the bag at a short distance from the latter's bottom wall and running in a parallel direction to the edge of the bottom wall. Although the personal-hygiene articles in the bag can be grasped from the side and a receding of the stack is thus avoided, the removal of the article is yet complicated by the fact that the slit only forms a relatively narrow removal opening. Moreover, it is possible that the removal opening is directed towards the wall in the case of a soft bag hung by its string on a wall hook, so that for removal of a pad, the bag has to be turned around, which is rather inconvenient.

The above-mentioned disadvantage also applies to another known configuration of the removal opening, in which a single tear-off latch extends from the bottom wall into the side wall of the bag.

It is the object of the invention to further develop a

soft bag of the generic type such that the convenience of handling the removal of an article is decisively improved.

In order to attain this object, it is provided according to the characterizing part of claim 1, that two separate tear-off latches forming two separate removal openings are located on two sides of the bottom area of the bag facing away from each other in such a manner that the tear-off latches extend from the bottom wall into the respective side wall of the bag. By means of this arrangement, two large-surface removal openings facing away from each other are formed, so that the articles contained in the bag can be grasped and removed from two sides opposite of each other. For a bag hanging on a wall hook this means that one removal opening is always accessible either from the front or from the side, so that the bag, independently of its position, never has to be turned around before the removal of an article. By means of the removal openings extending into the side wall, the articles disposed there can easily be grasped from the side without the risk of the stack receding back into the bag, as mentioned above.

Preferred embodiments as well as further features, details and advantages of the soft bag according to the invention can be found in the dependent claims and in the following description of an embodiment referring to the attached drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a partial perspective view of a soft bag,

Fig. 2 is a partial side view of the bag with the tear-off latches removed, and

Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the soft bag according to Fig. 2.

As becomes obvious from the attached drawings, a soft bag according to the invention comprises a substantially cylindrical side wall 1 as well as a substantially circular bottom wall 2, both being formed in one piece out of a thin web of a polyethylene foil. During this procedure, the foil strip is doubled accordingly and welded together by means of a welding seam 3; thus a sheet-plastic tube is produced. The sheet-plastic tube again is cut to a certain length and formed by doubling and welding one end of the bottom wall 2. In the attached drawings, the doublings and welding seams, usually taking a relatively complex course, are left out for the sake of clarity. A combined weld and string closure is located in the head portion of the soft bag (not shown), as described in more detail in the above-mentioned WO-A-94/19249.

In order to form two removal openings 4, 5 in the bottom area 6 of the soft bag, two separate tear-off latches 7, 8 are provided, each being defined by perforated lines 9. As becomes obvious from Fig. 1, in which the contents of the bag are left out for the sake of clarity, the two tear-off latches 7, 8 are located on two sides of the bottom area 6 facing away from each other in such

a manner that the tear-off latches 7, 8 extend from the bottom wall 2 into the side wall 1 of the bag.

As can be seen in Figs. 1 and 3, the two legs 10, 11 of the perforated lines 9 running in the bottom wall 2 are formed as circular arcs curved in opposite direction to the circular lateral edge and disposed symmetrically to the central longitudinal plane M, the circular arcs continuing in the area of the lateral edge 12 as legs 13, 14 which also have the shape of circular arcs and are concave towards the bottom wall 2. This configuration of the perforated lines 9 produces a supporting rib 15 connecting the two opposed areas of the side wall 1, which supporting rib 15 is left over after the two tear-off latches 7, 8 have been removed and on which rests the stack 16 of circular cotton pads 17 (see Figs. 2, 3) under the influence of gravity. In this case, the minimum width b of the supporting rib 15 is approximately equivalent to one third of the diameter D of the bottom wall 1. Besides, the two removal openings are formed symmetrically to the central longitudinal plane.

As becomes obvious from the two aforementioned drawings, the bottom cotton pads 17 of the stack 16 resting on the supporting rib 15 can easily be grasped from the side and pulled out of the bag from two directions of access Z1, Z2 facing away from each other.

rated lines (9).

6. Soft bag according to one of claims 1 through 5, characterized in that the two removal openings (4, 5) are arranged symmetrically to the central longitudinal plane (M) of the soft bag.

Claims

1. Soft bag for accommodating a stack (16) of personal-hygiene articles, in particular of cosmetic cotton pads (17), comprising a substantially cylindrical side wall (1), a substantially circular bottom wall (2) and a removal mechanism, located in the bottom area (6) of the bag, with a removable tear-off latch defined by weakening lines (9) in the bag wall (1, 2), characterized in that in order to form two separate removal openings, two separate tear-off latches (7, 8) are disposed in the bottom area (6) on two sides facing away from each other in such a manner that the tear-off latches (7, 8) extend from the bottom wall (2) into the side wall (1) of the bag.
2. Soft bag according to claim 1, characterized in that the legs (10, 11, 13, 14) of the weakening line (9) running in the side wall (1) or the bottom wall (2), respectively, are each formed as circular arcs.
3. Soft bag according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that after the removal of both tear-off latches (7, 8), a supporting rib (15) of the bottom wall (1) is left over, connecting the two opposite side wall areas.
4. Soft bag according to claim 3, characterized in that the minimum width (b) of the supporting rib (15) is approximately equivalent to one third of the diameter (D) of the bottom wall (2).
5. Soft bag according to one of claims 1 through 4, characterized in that the weakening lines are perforated lines (9).

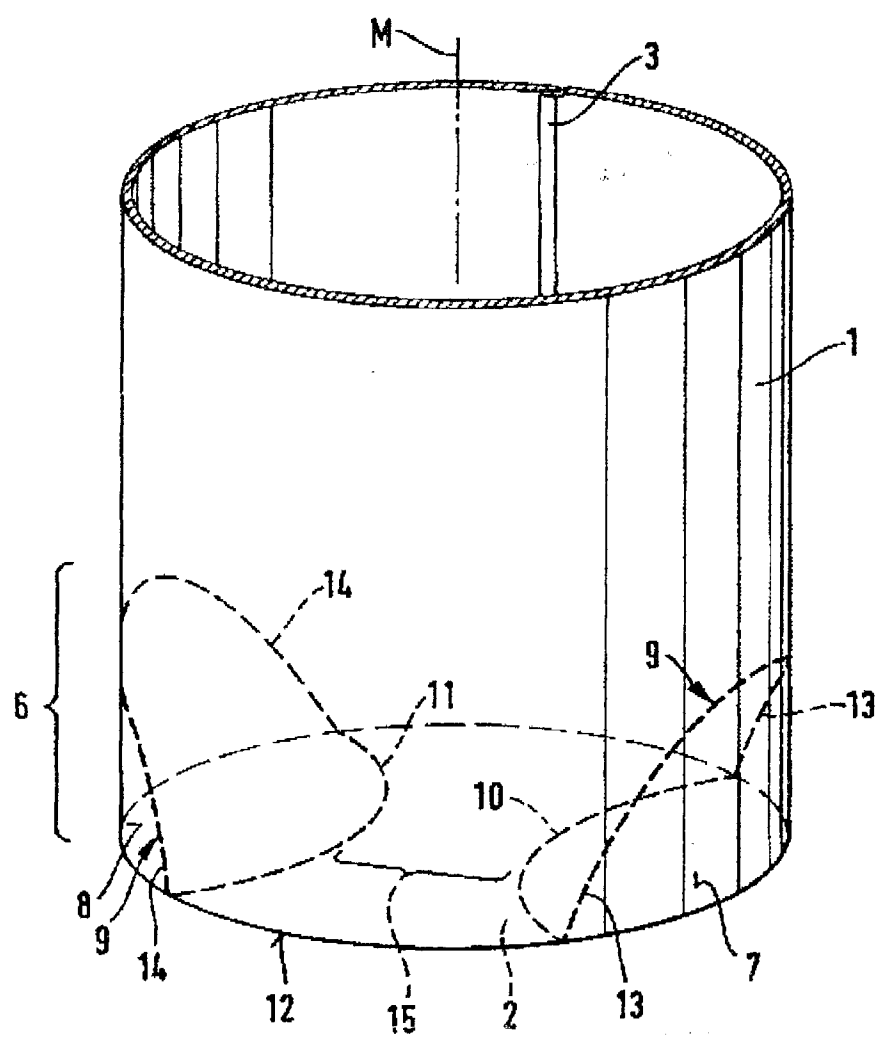
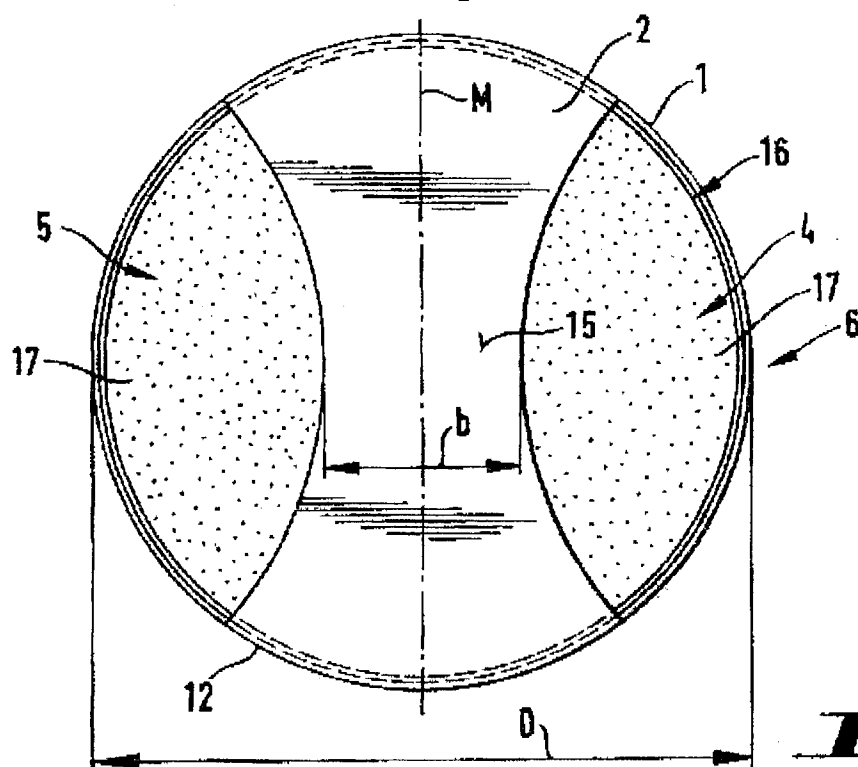
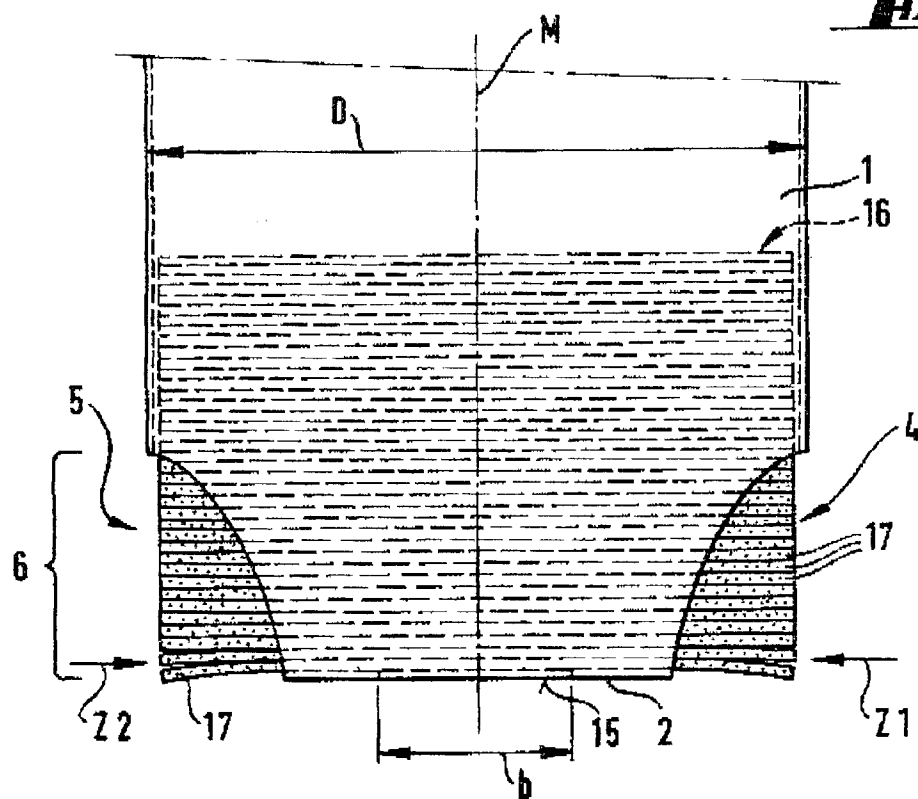


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

**Fig. 3**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 11 6136

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.6)
D,A	WO-A-94 19249 (VP-SCHICKDEANZ) * page 3, line 7 - line 17; figures 1,2 * ---	1	B65D83/08 B65D75/58
A	WO-A-94 27889 (VP-SCHICKEDANZ) ---		
A	FR-A-2 017 599 (OHLER EKCO VERPACKUNGEN) ---		
A	WO-A-93 16929 (PARAMOUNT) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B65D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		29 February 1996	Martens, 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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