



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 788 981 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
13.08.1997 Bulletin 1997/33

(51) Int Cl. 6: B65D 81/00

(21) Application number: 97200385.9

(22) Date of filing: 11.02.1997

(84) Designated Contracting States:
BE DE DK FR GB IE IT NL

(72) Inventor: Bolwijn, Bartold Alexander
3451 RA Vleuten (NL)

(30) Priority: 12.02.1996 NL 1002312

(74) Representative:
Smulders, Theodorus A.H.J., Ir. et al
Vereenigde Octrooibureaux
Nieuwe Parklaan 97
2587 BN 's-Gravenhage (NL)

(71) Applicant: Sara Lee/DE N.V.
3532 AA Utrecht (NL)

(54) **Tea, coffee or herb bag provided with a label**

(57) The invention relates to a tea, coffee or herb bag, provided with a string with a label, wherein the label is provided with a slit at one edge, which slit makes an

angle with the edge of from 45° to 135°, wherein the string is fitted in the slit and passed back around the edge through the slit.

Description

The invention relates to a tea, coffee or herb bag provided with a string having a label attached thereto. Such bags, hereinafter to be referred to as 'tea bag', generally consist of porous material. The bags are filled with extractable solid substance, such as tea leaves, ground coffee or dried herbs.

Tea, coffee and herb bags are generally suspended in a cup, a mug or a tea pot with boiling water for preparing tea, coffee and the like. In theory, the bags can have any shape, but in practice they are either rectangular or round. After the beverage has been prepared, the bags are generally removed. To simplify the removal of a bag, it is typically provided with a string with a label. This label may also serve as identification for the brand and type of the material.

The attachment of the label to the string is generally effected by gluing or by means of a staple. However, this requires the use of separate materials, which does not only mean an additional operation, but which is also disadvantageous in view of environment and processing of the bags in composting apparatuses.

The object of the invention is to provide a tea, coffee or herb bag provided with a string with a label, wherein, for attaching the label to the string, a simple construction is used which can be realized without additional aids.

The invention is based upon the surprising insight that through the provision of a slit of a specific form in the label, the string can readily be attached.

Hence, the invention relates to a tea, coffee or herb bag provided with a string with a label, wherein the label is provided with a slit at one edge, which slit makes an angle with the edge of from 45° to 135°, wherein the string is fitted in the slit and passed back around the edge through the slit.

Surprisingly, it has been found that the string can be attached to the label in a simple manner, without additional aids. This involves the string being first inserted into the slit, whereupon it is passed around the edge of the label and passed through the slit again. Owing to the stiffness of the paper of the label, the string stays in position perfectly, without requiring additional material or aids. Preferably, the string is fitted at the end of the slit in the label.

Preferably, the slit will be provided with an internal angle, which may in particular be between 60° and 120°. This angle is not necessarily sharp. It is also possible to use a rounded angle.

The internal angle of the slit is preferably slightly less than 90°. Preferably, it has an angle of from 75° to 85°. Such an angle has the advantage that the string remains properly attached to the label, while the fitting operation remains easy.

When a slit having an internal angle is used, it is preferred to pass the string twice around the edge wherein the slit is located. In the case where the slit has no internal angle, the slit will be located transversely to

the label, while the string is passed twice around one of the three other sides of the label.

The positioning and angle of the slit or notch in the label are not particularly critical. From an aesthetic and practical viewpoint, it is preferred that in a square or rectangular label, the slit be provided at the center of an edge. This slit is preferably provided perpendicularly to the edge. This provides the easiest way to fit the string.

Hereinabove, the use of a substantially square or rectangular label is started from. However, it is also possible to use a label having a different shape, for instance a polygon having more than four angles, a circular or elliptic shape and the like. For positioning the slit and the internal angle, if any, of the slit, structures can be selected similar to those for square labels.

The invention is presently explained on the basis of the accompanying Figure. In the Figure, five labels are shown, provided with a slit.

In all five examples, the string is passed through the slit, passed around the bottom side of the label and then passed through the label once again.

Claims

- 25 1. A tea, coffee or herb bag, provided with a string with a label, wherein the label is provided with a slit at one edge, said slit making an angle with the edge of from 45° to 135°, wherein the string is fitted in the slit and passed back around the edge through the slit.
- 30 2. A tea bag according to claim 1, wherein the slit is provided with an internal angle of from 60° to 120°.
- 35 3. A tea bag according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the slit is provided perpendicularly to the edge.
- 40 4. A tea bag according to claims 1-3, wherein the internal angle of the slit ranges between 75° and 85°.

45

50

55

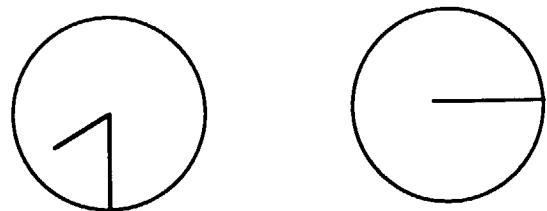
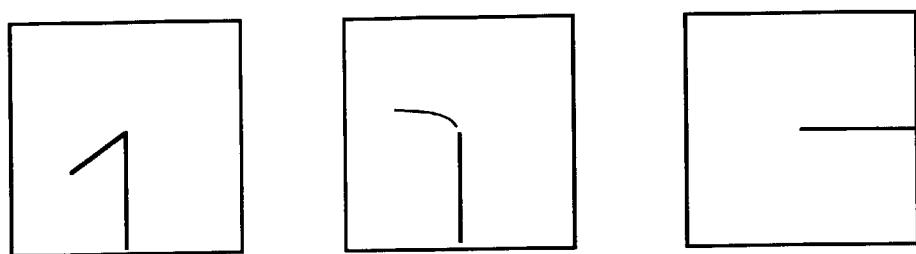


FIG. 1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 20 0385

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	US 1 799 006 A (COOPER) 31 March 1931 * page 1, line 22 - line 55; figures 1-3 *	1,3	B65D81/00
A	CH 361 753 A (SEELIG) 15 June 1962 * page 2, line 31 - line 43; figures 4,5 *	1,3	
A	US 4 880 110 A (WALKER) 14 November 1989 * column 5, line 29 - line 53; figures 1-16 *	1-4	
A	DE 12 81 927 A (KLAR) 31 October 1968 * column 4, line 37 - line 49; claims 3,4; figures 1-3 *	1,3	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B65D B65B
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	15 May 1997	Vantomme, M	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
<small> EPO FORM 1500 02.82 (P04/01) 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 </small>			