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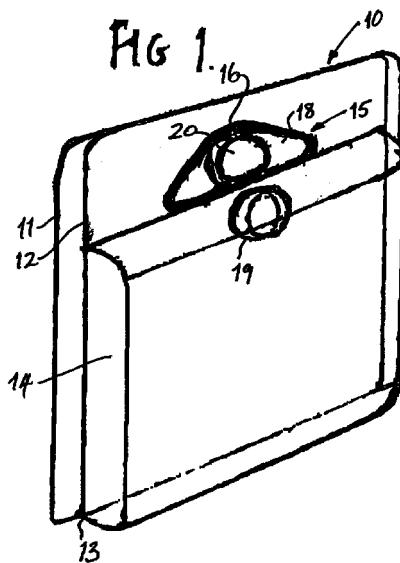
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### (54) Closure for Blisters

(57) A vacuum/pressure formed packaging container having a portion (15) in which the material of the container is cut to reveal a Euro-slot by which the container may be mounted on a hook or the like, the cut material forming a tab (18) which may be folded over about an edge (17) of the slot to form a closure by inter-engagement of poppers (19, 20) formed by deformation of parts of the container walls.



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**Description**

**[0001]** THIS INVENTION concerns vacuum/pres-  
sure formed packaging containers usually made from  
plastics material such as PVC or PET and preferably of  
the type generally referred to as 'blister packs'.

**[0002]** Such containers may be formed in a single  
formed sheet with a recessed part foldable to be super-  
imposed with a further recessed or flat part of the same  
sheet thus to contain, for example, items of merchan-  
dise. Alternatively, a single blister may be mounted on a  
retaining card there being some means whereby the  
blister and card are maintained in abutting relationship  
until the package is required to be opened.

**[0003]** In the case of a single-piece folded container  
the two parts are held in a closed condition often by the  
use of so-called poppers i.e. interengaging, friction fit-  
ting parts of the material of the container which act  
much like a press stud and must be forced apart when  
the contained items are to be removed.

**[0004]** It is common in such packaging containers  
for the material in an upper region of the container to be  
cut to reveal a slot, sometimes referred to as a Euro-  
slot, by which the packaging may be mounted on a hook  
or the like for displaying the merchandise. The material  
cut from the package to reveal the slot is usually dis-  
posed of as waste material.

**[0005]** According to the present invention, a vac-  
uum/pressure formed packaging container having a  
portion in which the material is cut to reveal a slot by  
which the container may be mounted on a hook or the  
like is characterised in that a tab of the material is fold-  
able about an edge of the slot to form a closure for the  
container.

**[0006]** Preferably, the entire cut portion is foldable  
to form the closure tab for the container.

**[0007]** Alternatively, a tab may be provided which is  
adapted to pass through the slot to be attached to  
another part of the container to form the closure.

**[0008]** The tab may contain a deformation which is  
frictionally engageable with a further deformation on the  
container thus closing same by interengagement of the  
deformations.

**[0009]** The container may be formed from two parts  
of a single sheet foldable together and closed by said  
tab.

**[0010]** The container may be formed as a single  
blister to be mounted on or contained within a further  
packaging container, the two containers being main-  
tained in abutting relationship by means of said de-  
formations.

**[0011]** The cut material may reveal a Euro-slot in  
the container and be foldable into superimposed rela-  
tionship with a further part of the container to form the  
closure.

**[0012]** Embodiments of the invention will now be  
described, by way of example only, with reference to the  
accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a vacuum formed  
packaging container made in accordance with one  
embodiment of the invention;

5 Fig. 2 is a side view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a section through a second embodiment.

10 and Fig. 4 is a section through a third embodiment.

**[0013]** Referring now to Figs. 1 and 2 a packaging  
container is formed from a single sheet 10 of plastics  
material which may be vacuum formed to provide a  
backing leaf 11 and a front leaf 12 having a recessed  
15 portion 14 which, being creased at 13 may be folded to  
become superimposed over leaf 11 thus forming there-  
with a container in which merchandise or the like may  
be packaged. The material of the sheet 10 is preferably  
translucent or transparent whereby the contained mer-  
chandise may be displayed.

**[0014]** The container is capable of being sus-  
pended on a hook or the like by cutting out, from an  
upper region 15, a so-called Euro-slot i.e. an aperture  
having an apex 16 which is to rest upon a display hook.

**[0015]** In conventional packaging of this kind the  
material cut from the sheet 10 to reveal the Euro-slot is  
disposed of as waste material. In this embodiment also,  
the material of the slot is removed, and a tab 18 of mate-  
rial is formed on the outer end of the front leaf 12 and of  
30 a similar shape to the slot whereby when the backing  
and front leaves are folded together, the tab 18 may  
pass through the slot as can be seen in Fig. 2. Inter-  
engaging complementary deformations or poppers 19 and  
20 are formed on leaf 11 and tongue 18 respectively,  
25 which when the latter is folded as shown by arrow 21  
serve to close the container.

**[0016]** In an alternative embodiment as shown in  
Fig. 3, the tool used to cut out the Euro-slot in leaf 11 is  
incomplete leaving a bottom edge 17 intact whereby the  
cut material forms a tab 28 which may be folded over as  
40 indicated at 29 in Fig. 3. By providing interengaging  
deformed poppers 30 and 31 on the backing leaf 11 and  
the cut tab 28 respectively, and an aperture 12a in leaf  
12, then once the package is folded as illustrated in Fig.  
45 3 the tab 28 may be folded and the poppers 30 and 31  
snapped together to close the package.

**[0017]** Referring now to Fig. 4, in this case the pack-  
age is formed from a single sheet 32 recessed at 33 to  
contain an item of merchandise and surrounded by a  
paperboard sheet or box 34 which, for example, may  
have a window overlying the recess 33 through which  
an item contained therein is displayed. Once again, the  
upper part of the sheet 32 is deformed to provide a male  
popper 35 extending rearwardly and a female popper 36  
50 in a tab 37. The cut-away material of the slot is creased  
about a fold line 37 and if the paperboard sheet or box  
34 includes an aperture which passes over the male  
popper 35, then by snapping the poppers 35 and 36

together, the sheet or box 34 is retained. Sheet 32 may be doubled over as shown at 40 to retain the lowermost rear edge of the sheet or box 34.

**[0018]** Thus, it can be seen, that there is considerable advantage in utilising the material removed to reveal the Euro-slot, to provide for closure of the packing container. 5

**[0019]** While deformed poppers have been illustrated and described, other forms of attachment may be provided whereby the part of the material cut to reveal the suspension or Euro-slot, or another complementary part, may be somehow engaged with another part of the packaging and thus utilised as a closure therefor. In another example, a self-adhesive pad may be provided on the folded material portion which adhesively engages with a part of the packaging again to form the closure. In another example a separate press-stud or the like may be applied. 10 15

#### Claims 20

1. A vacuum/pressure formed packaging container having a portion in which the material (10) of the container is cut to reveal a slot (at 15) by which the container may be mounted on or suspended from a hook or the like; characterised in that a tab (18) of the material is foldable about an edge (17) of the slot to form a closure for the container. 25
2. A container according to Claim 1, wherein the entire cut portion is foldable to form a closure tab (18) for the container. 30
3. A container according to Claim 1, wherein the tab (18) is adapted to pass through the slot to be attached to another part (19) of the container to form the closure. 35
4. A container according to any preceding claim, wherein the tab (18) contains a deformation (20) 40 which is frictionally engageable with a further deformation (19) on the container thus forming a closure by inter-engagement of the deformations.
5. A container according to any preceding claim 45 formed from two parts (11, 12) of a single sheet foldable together and closed by said tab (18).
6. A container according to Claim 4, formed as a single blister (32, 33) to be mounted on or contained 50 within a further packaging container (34), the two containers being maintained in abutting relationship by means of deformations (35, 36).
7. A container according to any preceding claim, 55 wherein the cut material is formed to reveal a Euro-slot (at 15) in the container wall (12) and a tab (18) foldable into superimposed relationship with a fur-

ther part of the container wall (11) to form the closure.

FIG. 1.

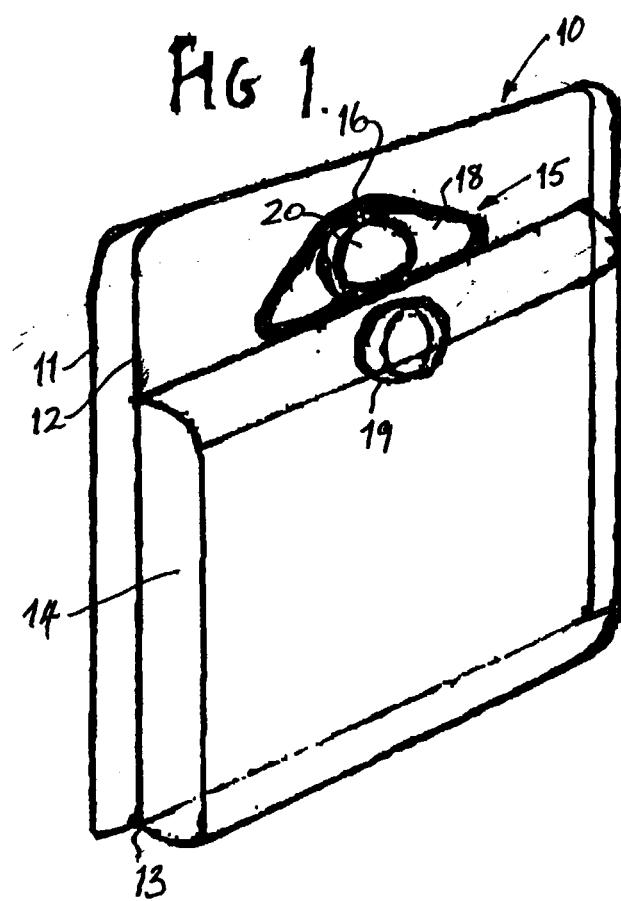
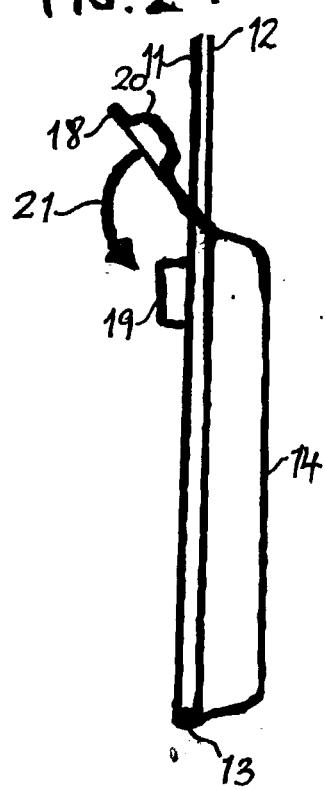


FIG. 2.



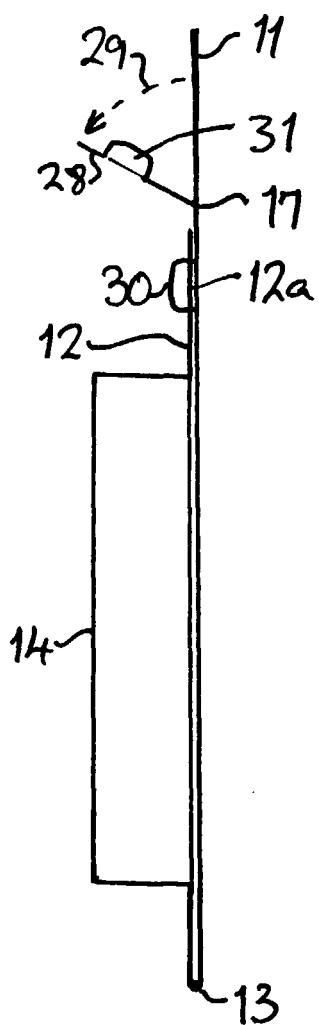


Fig. 3

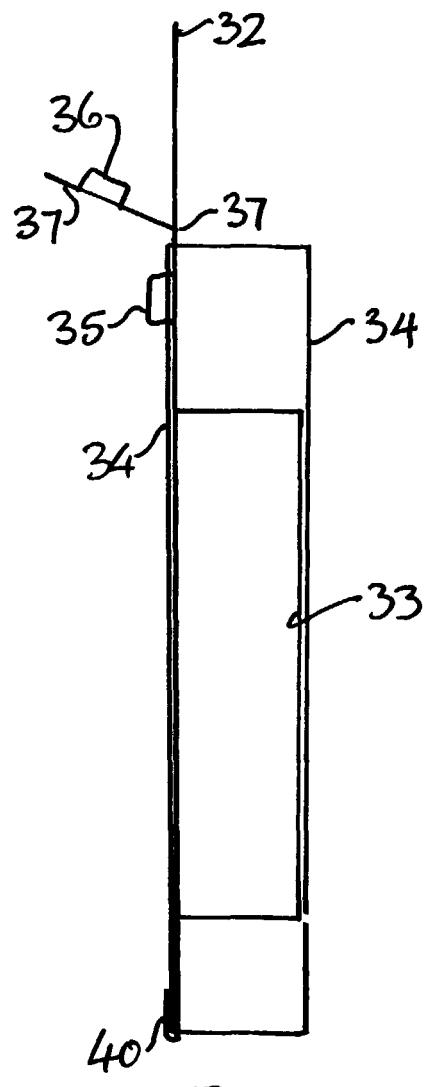


Fig. 4.



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 0274

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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A	GB 2 266 513 A (WELPAC HARDWARE LTD) 3 November 1993 (1993-11-03) * figure 4 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B65D
<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	4 May 2000		Zanghi, A
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 0274

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04-05-2000

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