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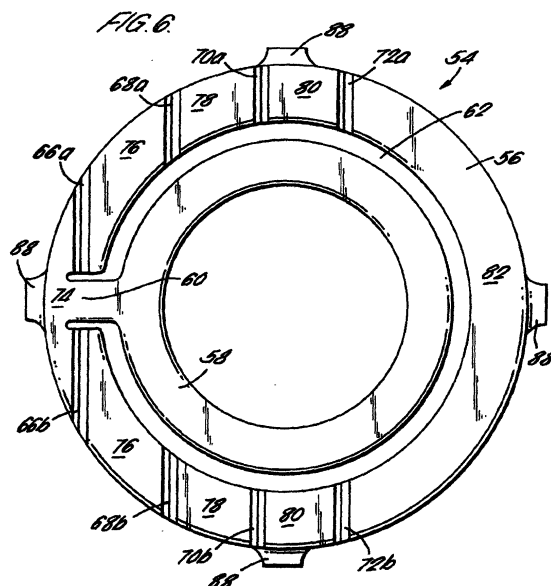
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(54) **Pull-tab**

(57) There is described a pull-tab for use in removing a membrane adhered to a container (32). The container (32) defines an opening (40) having a periphery and the membrane overlies the opening (40) and is adhered to the periphery so as to prevent access to the contents of the container (32) via the opening (40) prior to the removal of the membrane. The pull-tab (54) comprises a peripheral portion having a shape corresponding to at least a part of the periphery of the opening (40) and is joined to the membrane in a region approximate that part. A tab portion (58) is joined to the peripheral portion (56). The peripheral portion (56) comprises means (66,68,70,72) to restrict a pulling force applied to the tab portion (58) from being substantially transmitted to all but a sector of the peripheral portion until such time as the membrane approximate that sector has been pulled away from the container (32).





European Patent  
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 25 4152

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.7)
X,D	US 4 815 618 A (GACH PETER P) 28 March 1989 (1989-03-28)	1-14	B65D47/10
A	* column 2, line 38 - column 3, line 48 * * figures 1,2 *	15-34	
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A	US 5 145 085 A (YOST CHARLES E) 8 September 1992 (1992-09-08) * column 2, line 3 - line 6 * * column 2, line 58 - line 66 * * column 3, line 41 - line 54 * * figures 1,2,5-7 *	1-34	
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A	EP 1 052 181 A (NESTLE SA) 15 November 2000 (2000-11-15) * column 5, paragraph 32 * * figures 2,3 *	1-34	
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A	US 3 417 897 A (JOHNSON CHARLES L) 24 December 1968 (1968-12-24) * column 2, line 68 - column 3, line 4 * * column 3, line 53 - line 65 * * column 4, line 5 - line 8 * * figures 2,3,6,7 *	1-34	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>BERLIN</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>21 May 2003</b>	Examiner <b>Nistor, L</b>
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> 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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 25 4152

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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