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(54) **Container with hinged cover**

(57) The present invention relates to a box-like construction (1), specifically designed for holding cotton coated sticks, comprising a box-like body (2), to which

a cover (3) can be coupled by pressing.

The main feature of the invention, is that the cover comprises first and second opposite portions (11,12) which can be selectively opened.

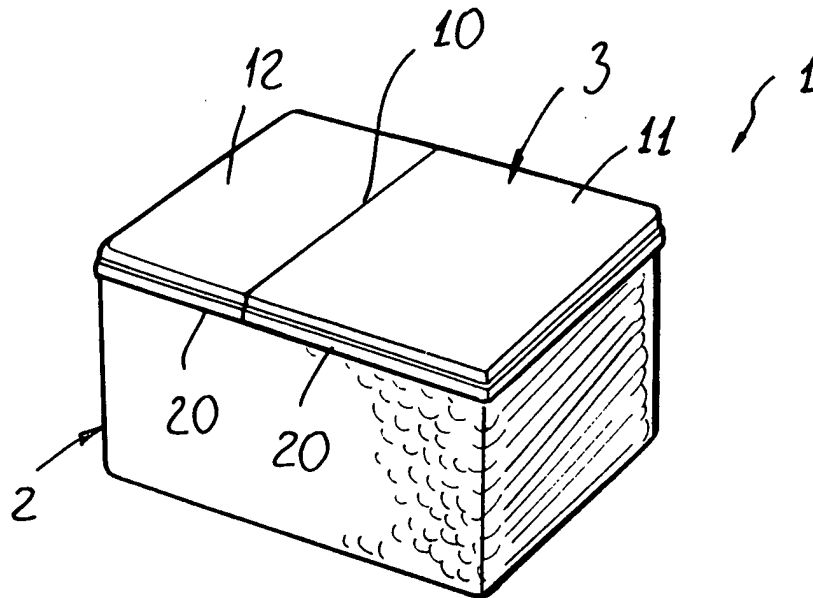


FIG. 1

Description**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] The present invention relates to a box-like construction, which has been specifically designed for holding cotton coated sticks, for ear cleaning purposes.

[0002] Prior box-like elements for holding or packaging therein cotton coated sticks conventionally comprise a box-like body, to which a closure cover is coupled by pressing.

[0003] As the individual cotton coated sticks must be used, it is necessary to remove the box cover, which is fully separated from the box-like body, in order to withdraw the individual ear cleaning sticks.

[0004] As it would be apparent, this operation, which is conceptually very simple, can originate drawbacks, since the cover is fully removed from the box-like body.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] Accordingly, the aim of the present invention is to overcome the above mentioned drawbacks, by providing a box-like construction, specifically designed for holding cotton coated sticks, in which the inside of the box-like element or vessel can be easily accessed, without fully removing the cover from the box-like body.

[0006] Within the scope of the above mentioned aim, a main object of the present invention is to provide such a box-like element construction, allowing several access possibilities to be easily obtained, in order to remove individual cotton-coated sticks, thereby greatly facilitating the use thereof.

[0007] Yet another object of the present invention is to provide such a box-like construction which, owing to its specifically designed constructional features, is very reliable and safe in operation.

[0008] Yet another object of the present invention is to provide such a cotton-coated stick box-like construction which can be easily made by starting from easily available elements and materials and which, moreover, is very competitive from a mere economic standpoint.

[0009] According to one aspect of the present invention, the above mentioned aim and objects, as well as yet other objects, which will become more apparent hereinafter, are achieved by a box-like construction, specifically designed for holding cotton-coated sticks, comprising a vessel to which a cover element can be pressure applied, characterized in that said cover element comprises a first and second opposite cover portions which can be selectively opened.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] Further characteristics and advantages of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed disclosure of a box-like construction, specifically designed for holding cotton-coated sticks, and which

is illustrated, by way of an indicative but not limitative example, in the figures of the accompanying drawings, where:

5 Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating the box-like construction in a closed condition thereof;
 Figure 2 illustrates the box-like element or construction, in an open condition thereof;
 10 Figure 3 is an exploded perspective view illustrating the box-like element or construction according to the present invention; and
 Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the box-like element or construction according to the present invention.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0011] With reference to the number references of the above mentioned figures, the box-like construction, specifically designed for holding cotton-coated sticks according to the present invention, which has been generally indicated by the reference number 1, comprises a holding body 2, which is advantageously made of an optionally optically clear plastic material, to which can be removably pressure applied a cover element, generally indicated by the reference number 3.

[0012] The cover element 3 can also be made of an optically clear material, and comprises a weakening line 10, which is practically constituted by a notched arrangement formed in the plastics material, thereby delimiting a first portion 11 and a second portion 12, which are opposite to one another and are pivoted to one another.

35 [0013] More specifically, the portions 11 and 12 have advantageously a different length and can be individually and selectively opened.

[0014] This constructional feature allows to open either one or the other portions, depending on the open space to be obtained, while holding the cover coupled to the holding or vessel body 2.

[0015] As shown, the cover element 3 is provided with an outer edge or rim 20, provided for pressure encompassing the top free edge of the holding body 2.

45 [0016] Inside the box-like construction, are provided locating abutments 21, designed for holding the cover element perfectly centered on the holding or vessel body.

[0017] The device, as disclosed, allows to pivot a pre-set portion of the cover to an open condition thereof, without accidentally separating or removing the cover element from the holding body.

[0018] From the above disclosure it should be apparent that the invention fully achieves the intended aim and objects.

55 [0019] In particular, a box-like element or construction has been provided which is very practically and functional, since the cover element allows to perform to dis-

crete and different opening operations.

[0020] In practicing the invention, the used materials, though the best results have been made by using the disclosed materials, can be any, depending on requirements.

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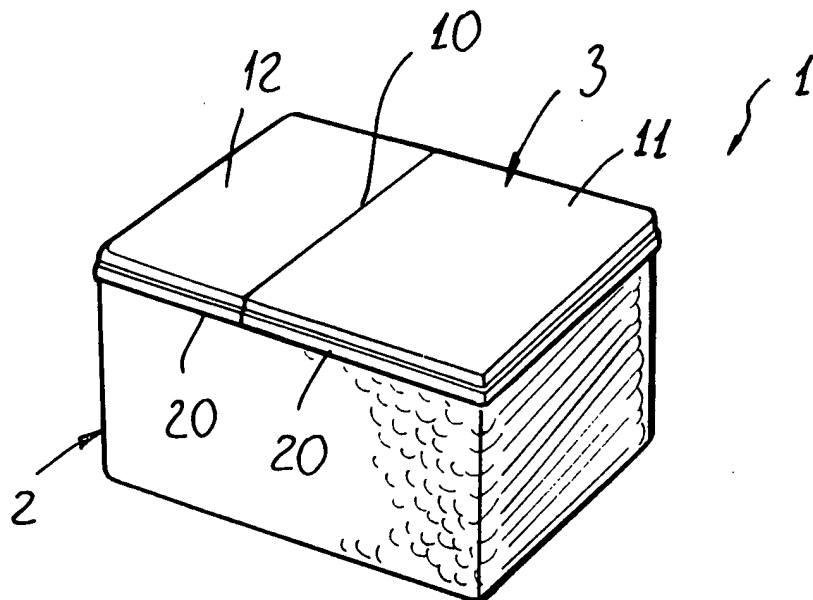
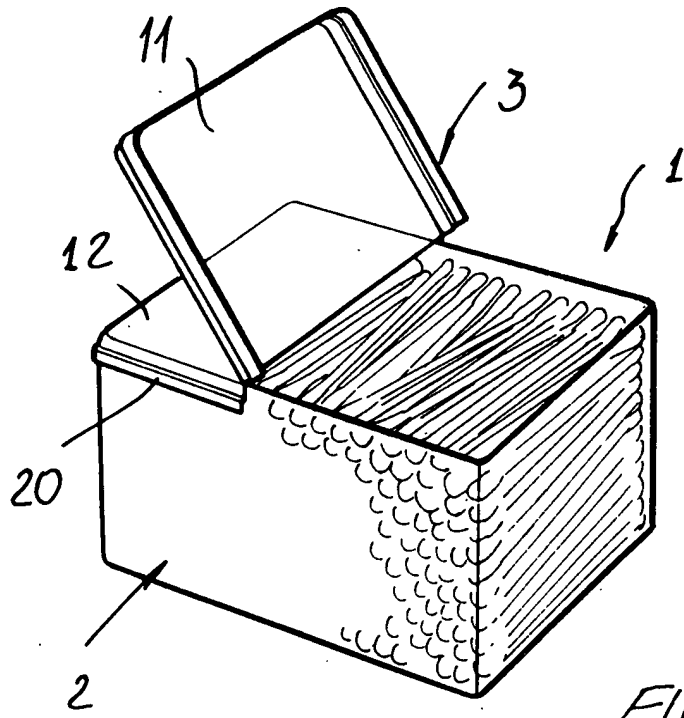
Claims

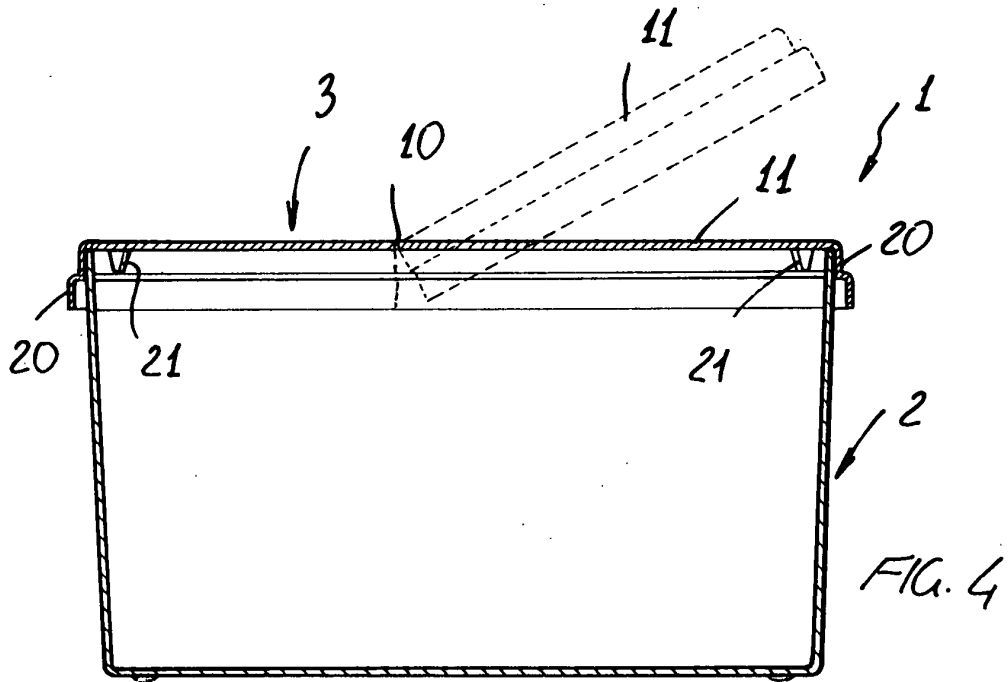
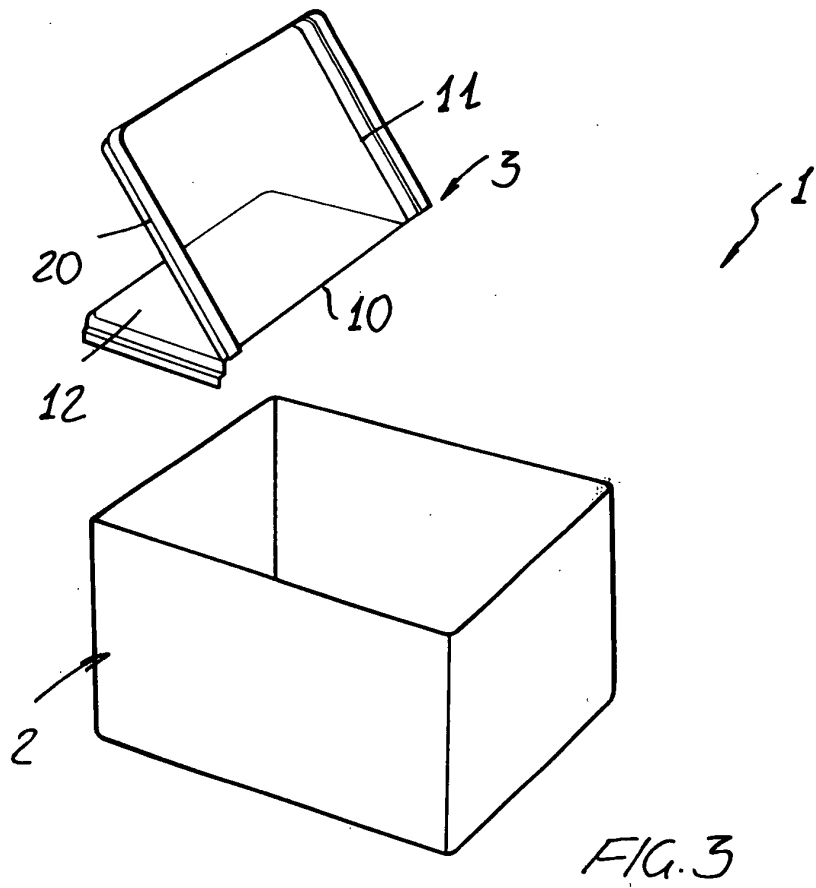
1. A box-like construction, specifically designed for holding cotton-coated sticks, comprising a holding body, to which a cover element is coupled by pressure, **characterized in that** said cover element comprises a first and second opposite cover portions, which can be selectively opened. 10
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2. A box-like construction, according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** said first and second cover elements have different lengths. 20
3. A box-like construction, according to Claims 1 and 2, **characterized in that** said first and second cover portions are separated by a weakening line, designed for operating as a hinge for selectively opening either one or the other cover portions. 25
4. A box-like construction, according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said cover element comprises a rim portion arranged outside of the top edge of the holding body. 30
5. A box-like construction, according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said box-like construction comprises, inside said cover element, abutment elements for coupling with an inner surface of said holding body. 35
6. A box-like construction, specifically designed for holding ear-cleaning cotton coated sticks, according to one or more of the preceding claims, and substantially as broadly disclosed and illustrated and for the intended aim and objects. 40

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European Patent Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

EP 01 12 0501

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	FR 1 319 370 A (LIVAREK) 1 March 1963 (1963-03-01) * page 2, left-hand column, line 39 - right-hand column, line 17 *	1-5	B65D43/16
A	DE 297 01 541 U (FURTAK) 27 March 1997 (1997-03-27) * the whole document *	1	
A	US 1 354 211 A (REED) 28 September 1920 (1920-09-28) * figures 1-3 *	1	
A	US 5 873 461 A (TURBETT) 23 February 1999 (1999-02-23) * the whole document *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B65D A61F
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely : 1-5</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched : 6</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search: Rule 29(6) EPC.</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		29 January 2002	Newell, P
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPC FORM 1503 03.92 (P04/07)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 12 0501

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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29-01-2002

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82