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(54) **Hanging fabric panels with integrated stiffened areas**

(57) Woven, knitted or otherwise manufactured decorative hanging fabric panels (5) of synthetic or synthetic blended base yarns, the panels (5) having integrated stiffened areas (7) at one or more edges or in chosen internal areas made by interspersing in these areas stiffener yarns (1) incorporating a composite mixture of low

melt temperature filaments and common polymer filaments similar or identical to the base yarns. The stiffener yarns (1) are designed to melt or plasticize at the temperature typically encountered in the tenting process for such fabrics. The stiffener yarns (1) rigidify after cooling and bond with the base yarns to provide a controllable stiffness for the panel (5).

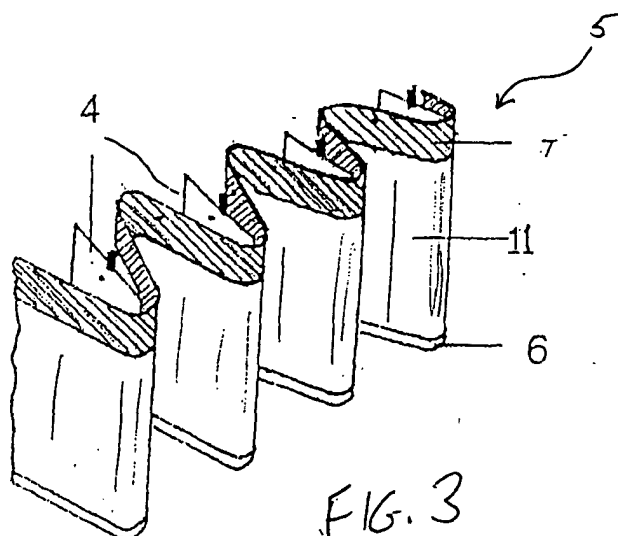


FIG. 3

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                   |                                              |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                   |                                              |
| Place of search<br>The Hague                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Date of completion of the search<br>10 March 2005 | Examiner<br>D'Hulster, E                     |
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                                              |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                                              |
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| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS<br>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document<br>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                                              |

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