



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
**16.06.2004 Bulletin 2004/25**

(51) Int Cl.7: **B65D 75/00, B65D 75/56,  
B65D 33/02, B65D 33/10**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
**21.04.2004 Bulletin 2004/17**

(21) Application number: **03029913.5**

(22) Date of filing: **28.08.2001**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE TR**

(30) Priority: **29.08.2000 US 228581 P**

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in  
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:  
**01962979.9 / 1 315 658**

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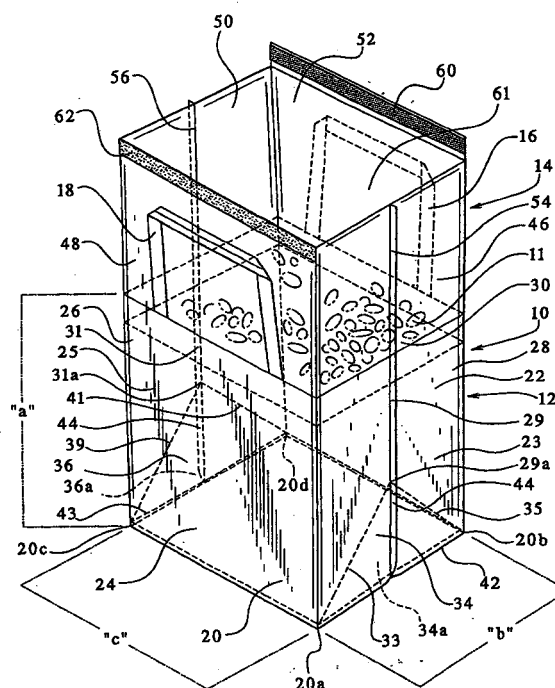
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(54) **Container for housing product and method for making same**

(57) A flexible container (10) has a base that includes a bottom (20), side walls (22,24,26,28) and an interior (30), the bottom defining a substantially flat planar surface when the container houses product and the container rests thereon, an upper panel portion (14), that is adapted to be received within the interior of the base portion and includes side panels that define a closure member (60,62). The upper panel is constructed and arranged to define a substantially flat surface (72) when the closure member is closed and portions of the upper panel are folded over. The upper panel includes a portion that is sealed to the base portion. A pair of handles (16,18) may be secured to the base portion. The flat top and flat bottom allow for vertical stacking of the filled containers. The container may be manufactured from a flat sheet of plastic material having a width substantially equal to a length of the base portion, by indexing the flat sheet in intervals equal to a width or more of the base portion; bonding handles at one end to the sheet; applying closure means to a free end of each of the pair of panels; and forming the flat sheet, panels and pair of handles into the flexible container.

**FIG.1**





European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 03 02 9913

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 March 2004	Examiner Pernice, C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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