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Storing box for bulky objects

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A storing box (1) adapted to contain duvets, eiderdowns, windcheaters, pillows, ski suits and any other bulky object which may be squeezed, is disclosed. Such a box (1) comprises an upper lid (3) and a set of shelves (4) removably attached, by side straps (5) placed there-

on, to VELCRO® straps (6) formed in the inner surfaces of the main body (2) of the storing box (1). Each shelf (4) and the side face of the main body (2) form a compartment wherein the bulky item is stored decreasing its volume.

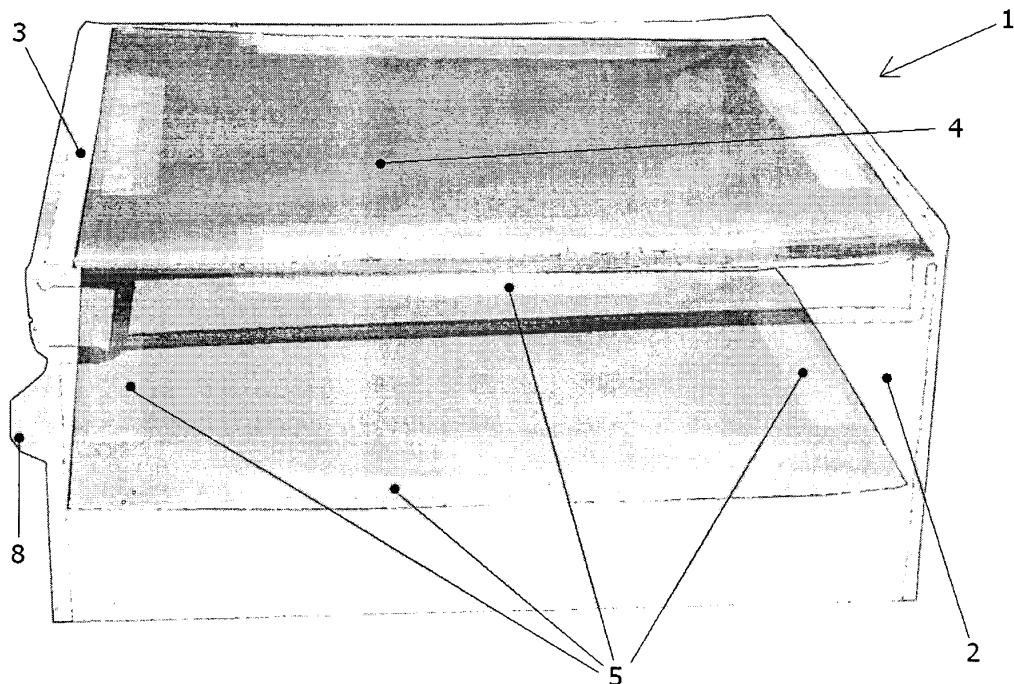


FIG. 1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a storing box adapted to contain duvets, eiderdowns, windcheaters, pillows, ski suits and any other bulky object which can be, preferably, squeezed in order to be stored.

[0002] Bulky objects, indeed, take up a large amount of space when they need to be stored, not only in household duties but also for shipping and transportation reasons. Furthermore, bulky objects, even if squeezable, are very often difficult to be folded and so they do not easily fit to restrained spaces.

[0003] Therefore the present invention aims to overcome the above mentioned disadvantages by providing a storing box which allows easy and quick handling of this kind of objects, besides decreasing their required whole storage space. In addition the box structure is designed to facilitate a storing operation when more than one object has to be inserted in the storing box.

[0004] GB 2204015 A discloses a bag designed for duvets and the like, comprising two sheets of flexible material attached to each other at the lower edges, the ends of each sheet being folded towards the interior of the bag forming a gusset at each end, at least one of these gussets being formed with an opening through which the bag is filled. However, the aforementioned bag is intended for containing only one item at a time and basically for transportation and not for storage. Since the bag is formed with flexible material, it is certainly unable to constrain the inside item in a well-defined space, thus not optimally decreasing and/or limiting the item volume.

[0005] WO 2006/030207 A1 discloses a method of packaging a duvet and a particular corresponding package, such as a plastic sheeting, suitable to enclose said folded duvet, forming a six faces container with at least two flat faces. Such a document, however, does not provide a storage method useful for household duties wherein the described method becomes hard to be adopted and the package difficult to be mounted.

[0006] The storing box according to the present invention is provided with a main enclosing body and a plurality of shelves suitable to form, once mounted, a set of compartments preferably separate from each other. Therefore each compartment can store any bulky item therein, thus allowing user to store at least two different item in the same box according to the invention. Moreover the main body has a parallelepiped and rigid structure which allows the box to maintain a determined shape as well as the original size, independently from its material and/or item volume inside the box.

[0007] An embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a mounted storing box for bulky items according to the present invention;
Fig. 2 is a perspective view of an empty storing box, without shelves therein, for bulky items according to

the present invention; and

Fig. 3a and 3b show volume decrease of a duvet inserted into the storing box for bulky items according to the present invention.

[0008] Referring now to fig. 1, the storing box 1 comprises a parallelepiped main body 2, formed by five faces fixed to one another, a lid 3 as the sixth face, a set of shelves 4, each provided with a VELCRO® strap 5 for each side thereof, a handle 8 formed on the main body 2, and a plurality of sets of VELCRO® straps 6. The lid 3 is joined to the main body 1 at the free edge of one of the five faces being able to rotate about an axis coincident to said free edge. The VELCRO® strap 6 has an L-shaped cross-section, thus allowing to fix one surface of the VELCRO® strap 6, corresponding to one side of the L-shaped cross-section, to each inner face of the main body 2 and leaving the other surface, corresponding to the other side of the L-shaped cross-section, for connection with shelf 4 by its VELCRO® strap 5. In this manner each set of the VELCRO® strap 6 comprises four straps 6, one for each face of the main body 2.

[0009] Therefore in order to store the first item, once rolled or folded in any suitable way depending on the case, it is leant on the bottom of the main body 2 and then it is squeezed downward by pushing a shelf 4 thereon, until said shelf 4 reaches its corresponding set of VELCRO® straps 6; finally, said shelf 4 can be locked in position by fixing each VELCRO® strap 5 on the shelf to the corresponding VELCRO® strap 6 on the main body 2. Thus the first item is kept in place constrained in the space defined by bottom of the storing box, the four side faces and the first shelf 4. The next item can be stored operating as before and using another shelf 4, which creates a second compartment defined by the previous shelf 4, the four side faces of the main body 2 and the second shelf; a second set of VELCRO® strap 6 is provided for said second shelf 4. The number of compartments is given by the number of sets of VELCRO® strap provided for the storing box 1, on the basis of size of the current storing box 1.

[0010] The whole storing box 1 is preferably made with carton lined with fabric, but it can also be made with wood, metal, plastic, fabric.

[0011] It is clear that modifications, fittings and changes to the embodiment, previously described as illustrative, could be done, without falling out of the scope of the invention, defined by the following attached claims.

Claims

1. - A storing box (1) comprising:

a main body (2);
a lid (3);
a set of shelves (4);
a VELCRO® strap (5) for each side of each shelf

(4);
a plurality of sets of VELCRO®straps (6); and
a handle (8) formed on the main body (2),

wherein said main body (2) is parallelepiped shaped 5
and integral with said lid (3) at one box face edge,
which said lid (3) is able to rotate about, **character-**
ized by the fact that each inner surface of the side
faces is provided with said VELCRO® strap (6) for
fixing each shelf (4) by its corresponding VELCRO® 10
strap (5).

2. - The storing box (1) according to claim 1, wherein
said VELCRO®strap (6) have a L-shape cross-sec- 15
tion in order to fix one surface of the VELCRO® strap
(6), corresponding to one side of the L-shaped cross-
section, to the inner surface of side face and leaving
the other surface, corresponding to the other side of
the L-shaped cross-section, for connection with shelf 20
(4) by its VELCRO® strap (5).
3. - The storing box (1) according to claim 1, wherein
said shelves (4) form compartments separate from
each other. 25
4. - The storing box (1) according to claim 1, which can
be made with carton, plastic, wood, metal materials
lined with fabric. 30

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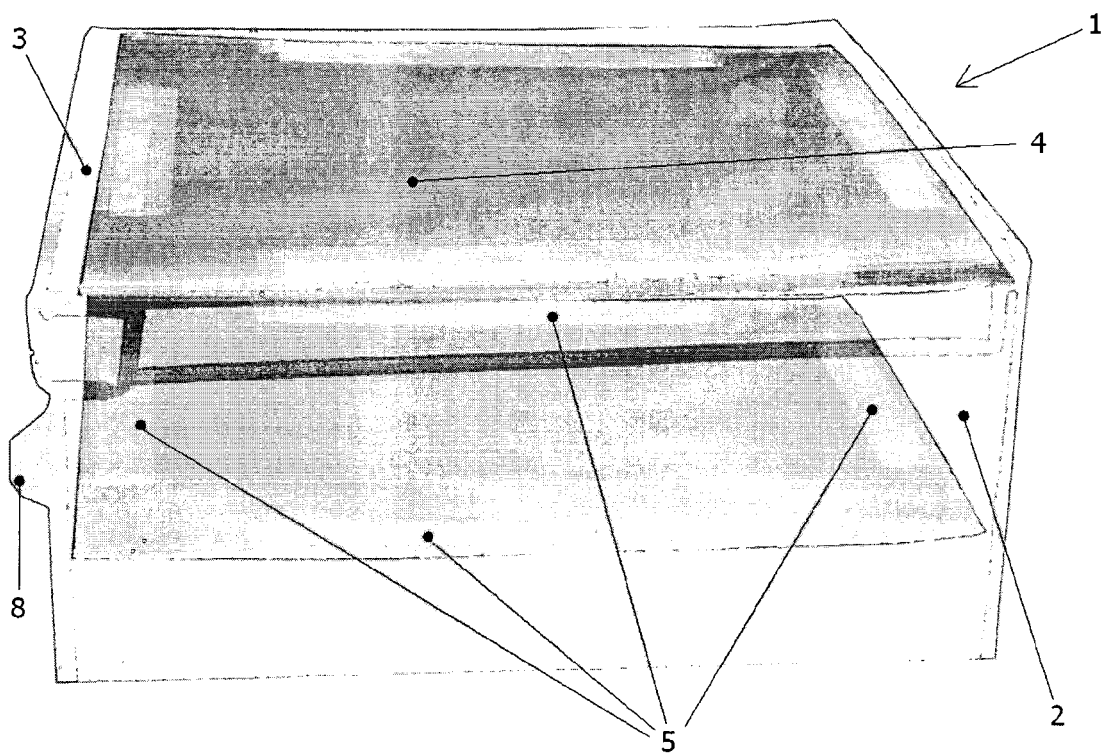


FIG. 1

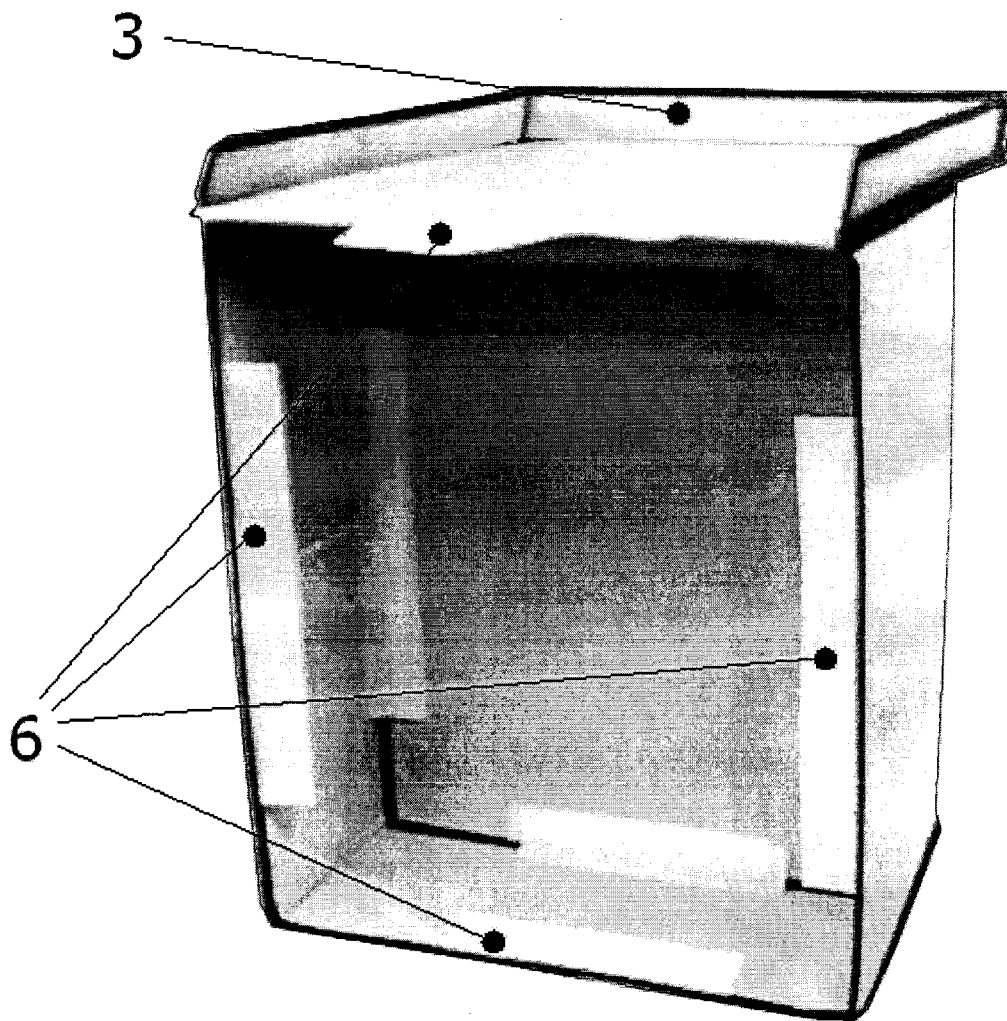


FIG. 2

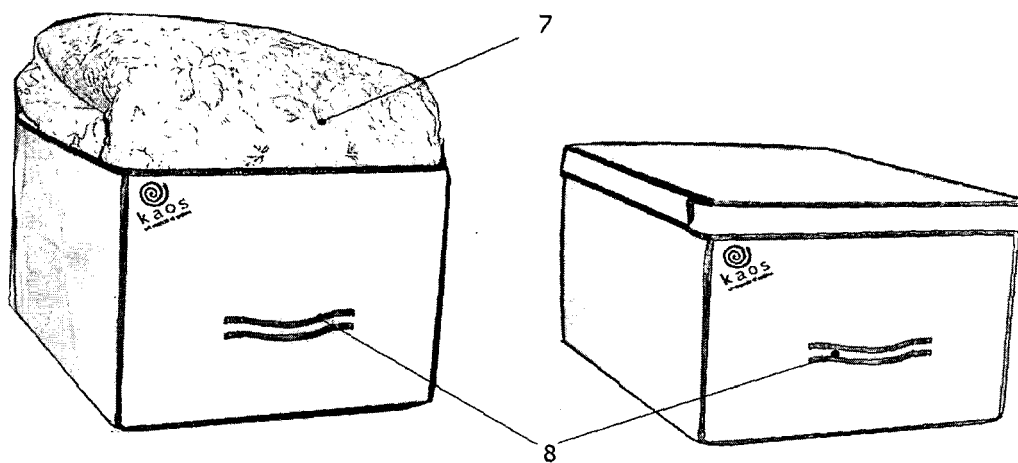


FIG. 3a

FIG. 3b



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 07 7196

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 5 833 114 A (LINNELL MICHAEL CHARLES [GB]) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) * column 4, line 27 - line 61 * * column 5, line 24 - line 40 * * column 6, line 20 - line 29 * * figure 1 *	1-4	INV. B65D5/48 B65D25/06
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A	US 2005/023281 A1 (BRADFORD JUDSON A [US]) 3 February 2005 (2005-02-03) * paragraph [0028] - paragraph [0033] * * figure 2 *	1-4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 6 February 2008	Examiner Appelt, Lothar
<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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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

EP 06 07 7196

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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- WO 2006030207 A1 [0005]