



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
21.01.2009 Bulletin 2009/04

(51) Int Cl.:
B65D 75/58 (2006.01) B65D 75/56 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **07014284.9**

(22) Date of filing: **20.07.2007**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK RS

- **Zöller, Günther**
69198 Schriesheim (DE)
- **Breitenstein, Jennifer**
64673 Zwingenberg (DE)
- **Ohlsson, Kristin**
68161 Mannheim (DE)
- **Marinoni, Sarah**
22070 Lurago Marinone
Como (IT)

(71) Applicant: **SCA Hygiene Products AB**
405 03 Göteborg (SE)

(72) Inventors:
• **Eilert, Diana**
68239 Mannheim (DE)
• **Bredahl, Gunnar**
67549 Worms (DE)

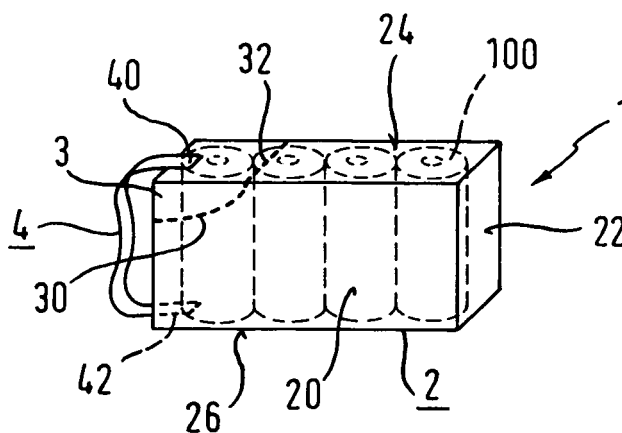
(74) Representative: **HOFFMANN EITLE**
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Arabellastrasse 4
81925 München (DE)

(54) **Pack for containing hygiene products**

(57) The present disclosure relates to a pack (1) for containing at least two hygiene products (100), in particular at least two uncompressed toilet paper rolls, kitchen paper rolls, household towel rolls, individual packs of handkerchiefs or other tissue paper products, the pack

comprising a packaging (2) for containing the hygiene products; an opening section (3) in the packaging defining an opening for removing hygiene products; a handle (4) having a first section (40) attached to the opening section (3) and a second section (42) attached to the packaging (2) in an area outside the opening section (3).

Fig. 1



Description

[0001] The present invention relates to packs for containing at least two hygiene products, in particular for containing at least two toilet paper rolls, kitchen paper rolls, household towel rolls, individual packs of handkerchiefs or other tissue paper products, in particular uncompressed hygiene products.

TECHNICAL FIELD AND PRIOR ART

[0002] It is known to fill hygiene products for distribution, presentation and for retailing to the end customer into packs, in particular into flexible packs made from a plastic film material. The packs are usually made such that an appropriate number of hygiene products can be retailed to the customer. For example, rolls of toilet paper are often supplied to the end customer in packs of 1x2, 2x2, 2x5, 2x4, 3x3, 4x3 or 4x5 rolls. However, other configurations for containing up to 25 toilet paper rolls are also widely used. Typically, the rolls are arranged in these packs in single, double or triple layer arrangements such that the respective winding axes of the toilet paper rolls of a layer are situated in the plane defined by the layer and the winding axes are substantially parallel to one another. In other typical packs, the winding axes of the toilet paper rolls of one layer are parallel to one another but extend substantially perpendicular to the plane defined by the layer such that the winding axes represent the nodes of a substantially perpendicular grid.

[0003] Packs of this kind are also known in the field of other hygiene products that are wound onto rolls, in particular kitchen towels and household towels. Due to the greater axial extension of these rolls, the rolls are typically arranged parallel to one another, particularly in single layer or double layer arrangements. In other words, packs of 1x2, 1x3, 1x4, 2x2 or 2x4 kitchen towels or household towels are customary. However, other configurations for containing up to 16 rolls of kitchen towels or household towels are also widely used.

[0004] Handkerchiefs, in particular tissue handkerchiefs, are typically distributed in small flexible packs containing five to ten single handkerchiefs. However, other numbers between three and 25 single handkerchiefs, and even higher numbers of handkerchiefs, are also used. These small packs, referred to as individual packs in the following, are very convenient for the customer to use and to carry. However, at least in supermarkets and retail markets the individual packs of handkerchiefs are not sold singly, but in packs of a plurality of individual packs. One example of an individual pack used for tissue handkerchiefs is disclosed in DE 41 21 914 A1.

[0005] The pack sizes of individual packs of handkerchiefs retailed to the end customer are typically in arrangements of 2x2, 2x5, 2x3x5 or other typical configurations, depending on the outer appearance the tissue handkerchief manufacturer aims to achieve. However, it is customary in these distribution packs to fill at least two

layers of individual packs of handkerchiefs on top of one another. Three and more layers are also widely used.

[0006] The packaging material of these packs is usually made of a plastic film material, in particular a substantially transparent plastic film material, on which product designations, trade names, trademark designations, decorations or the like can be printed.

[0007] All the packs mentioned above have in common that they are used to distribute a plurality of hygiene products, in particular rolls of toilet paper, rolls of household towels, kitchen towels or individual handkerchief packs. The packs used for distribution and for retailing the hygiene products need to be opened by the end consumer. Typically, the end consumer opens the distribution package by ripping/tearing it open wherein the end customer typically uses its hands or fingers to pierce through the plastic film material at a random position, then tears the pack open and withdraws the intended number of hygiene products. This tearing open results in a pack that is untidily torn open at a random point and in which the hygiene products are scattered around in an untidy manner. In many cases, the package even rips apart completely, bearing the risk that the hygiene products fall out and possibly come into contact with the floor with the inherent risk of contamination. In many cases, the packaging is also torn open in the region of lettering or printing and, thus, any product information or information with respect to expiry dates is lost.

[0008] Furthermore, it takes the end customer a great deal of force to use the fingers to pierce the film material at a random point and a considerable force is necessary to tear open the pack, which might be a problem, in particular for elderly people.

[0009] US 2002/0112982 A1 discloses a flexible pack for containing articles. A handle for carrying and ripping open the pack is disclosed. However, this handle is provided in an asymmetric position on the pack such that the pack cannot be easily carried.

SUMMARY

[0010] Starting from the aforementioned prior art, it is an object of the present invention to provide a flexible pack for containing at least two hygiene products, which can be easily opened and carried, in particular by elderly people.

[0011] Accordingly, a pack for containing at least two hygiene products, in particular at least two uncompressed toilet paper rolls, kitchen paper rolls, household towel rolls, individual packs of handkerchiefs or other tissue paper products, is provided. The pack comprises a packaging for containing the hygiene products and an opening section defined in the packaging for defining an opening for removing hygiene products. Furthermore, a handle having a first section attached to the opening section and a second section attached to the packaging in an area outside the opening section is provided.

[0012] The provision of the handle in this configuration

enables the end customer to carry the pack conveniently by using the handle. If it comes to opening the pack, the end customer may use the first section of the handle to open the pack in the opening section in order to withdraw/remove single hygiene products from the packaging.

[0013] This double function of the handle thus provided is very convenient and has many advantages. In particular, using a single handle for the two functions results in less material that needs to be processed, compared to a situation in which a separate handle for carrying and for opening the pack are provided. The specific arrangement of the handle also enables the end customer to conveniently carry the package as there is less risk of accidental opening the pack compared to a situation of holding to a handle that is only attached to an opening section. In addition, the pack may hang more balanced on the handle when it is carried, as the first and second sections of the handle are attached to positions spaced apart from one another.

[0014] The specific concept of providing a handle that is, in a first section, attached to the opening section but is, in a second section, attached to the packaging outside the opening section, provides a flexible pack which can easily be carried, in particular by elderly people, as the handle can be situated such that the pack is well balanced. This enables elderly people to carry the flexible pack, e.g. over the shoulders or aids simply in lifting the pack.

[0015] Furthermore, the section of the handle attached to the opening section can be used in aiding during opening of the pack such that the opening section can be easily opened, in particular by elderly people.

[0016] As the handle is not only attached to the opening section alone, but also to the packaging in an area outside the opening section, the force that is transmitted to the opening section during carrying is considerably reduced. Due to this reduction of the force transmitted to the opening section during carrying, the opening section can be defined in the packaging with a reduced opening force. In other words, as the force that is applied to the opening section during a carrying operation is relatively low as it is distributed between two points spaced apart from one another, there is no need to have a very strong attachment of the opening section to the rest of the packaging. Accordingly, the opening section can be designed such that opening of the pack is made easier.

[0017] Throughout the description, the term "packaging" will be understood to embrace at least bags and wrappers. Bags provide a volume into which the hygiene products can be filled. Bags are typically pre-manufactured by using a tube-like film material, a folded film material or two webs of film material, the respective layers of the film material being joined together on an appropriate number of edges in order to form the bag, leaving open only one single side of the pre-manufactured bag. In contrast, wrappers are provided in the form of a single layer of flat film material which is wrapped around the already arranged hygiene products and is then attached

to itself in order to close in the hygiene products.

[0018] As a material for the film material for the packaging, in particular for a bag or a wrapper, it is preferred using polypropylene films, polyethylene films, starch based films, biodegradable films and/or material mixtures thereof. In other embodiments it is envisaged using a paper material as the packaging. A shrink film material may also be used. The packaging material may be provided in the form of different layers of material, in particular as a multi-layer film and/or a laminate.

[0019] The hygiene products that can be contained in the pack include, but are not limited to, toilet paper rolls, kitchen paper rolls, household towel rolls, individual packs of handkerchiefs, napkins, facials, hand wiping towels, folded and unfolded tissue paper, object wiping rolls and any other suitable hygiene product for personal hygiene or for object wiping and cleaning. It will be appreciated that also the comparatively big rolls and packs used in public or professional dispensers may be the hygiene products contained in the pack. In a preferred embodiment, the hygiene products themselves are also contained in a individual packaging, in particular in the form of individual rolls wrapped in paper or in a plastic film material.

[0020] In an advantageous embodiment, the handle is a separate element attached to the packaging. By using a separate element, the handle can be placed very flexibly to the packaging, resulting in improved carrying/wearing comfort and improved opening characteristics. The handle may also be made from a material different from the material of the packaging in order to accommodate for the specific needs of the handle. For example, the handle may have a higher tearing resistance than the packaging material itself, resulting in a secure function of the handle, in particular as the handle has typically quite small lateral dimensions. In particular, the handle could be formed of a combination of a paper and a scotch tape-like strip.

[0021] The opening section may be defined by lines of weakness in the packaging, in particular by perforation lines, in order to enable an easy opening process. The provision of lines of weakness by perforation lines is a cost efficient way of defining an opening section. The perforation lines may be provided in the form of circular, triangular, rectangular, oval and/or wavy openings and may be provided as single, double or multi perforation lines.

[0022] In order to keep the pack, and in particular the carrying properties of the handle, intact after having opened it, the opening section may comprise a hinge portion for keeping the opened opening section connected to the packaging. This embodiment also enables an easy re-closing of the packaging once the desired amount of hygiene products has been withdrawn from the packaging.

[0023] In an alternative embodiment, however, a hinge portion is not at all provided such that the opening section can be completely removed from the remainder of the

packaging, leaving one section of the handle fixedly attached to the packaging and the other section free. In other words, the perforation may extend completely around the opening section.

[0024] In a preferred embodiment, the opening section has dimensions allowing the withdrawal of a single one of the hygiene products through the resulting opening.

[0025] A specific appearance of the pack results when the first section and the second section of the handle are attached to the same wall of the packaging. This wall is typically the top wall of the pack such that the pack can be carried easily and opened in an opening section situated on the top wall aided by the handle.

[0026] In an alternative embodiment, the first section and the second section of the handle are attached to two separate walls of the packaging, the walls being situated opposite to one another and are substantially parallel to one another. In this embodiment, a handle design resembling that of a handbag results, which can be advantageous from a stability point of view. This feature in combination with the proper arrangement of a hinge section at the opening section on an edge opposite the direction in which the carrying force is directed leads to a pack that can be easily carried without the risk of accidental opening of the pack during carrying, but which can be opened easily by using the handle. In particular, the hinge section is preferably placed in a position of the opening section opposite the direction towards the second section of the handle.

[0027] In yet another embodiment, a third section of the handle is attached to the packaging, resulting basically in two separate loops of the handle. In a case in which the third section is attached to the packaging in an area outside the opening section, a first loop that is completely connected to the fixed sections of the packaging, and a second loop that is connected to the opening section are provided. The first loop can be used for carrying the pack safely, wherein the second loop can also be used for opening the pack.

[0028] Furthermore, it will be appreciated that the first section, second section and/or third section of the handle can be situated on the bottom wall of the packaging, even though this is not shown in the Figures. This is also the case for the opening section which may also be defined in the bottom wall of the packaging or may have at least portions extending into the bottom wall.

[0029] However, in another preferred embodiment, two separate handle segments are used that are joined to the packaging in different positions.

[0030] Preferably, the pack has a re-closable tab, in particular a re-closable stripe of adhesive material or a re-closable stripe of mechanically attachable material, such as Velcro, a button, a snap fastener or a zipper, in order to re-close the opening section after opening.

[0031] In order to increase the convenience for an end customer even more, the opening mechanism is identified by a colour coding of the packaging.

[0032] Preferably, the pack is a distribution pack for

distributing a plurality of hygiene products to the end customer.

[0033] In order to provide an easy opening mechanism, the opening section is defined by a line of weakness that tears open when the packaging is held only at the first section of the handle due to the own weight of the pack.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0034] The invention will be described in more detail below with reference to the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a pack according to a first embodiment of the invention in a closed state;

Figure 2 is a schematic perspective view of the pack of Figure 1 in an opened state;

Figure 3 is a schematic perspective view of a pack according to a second embodiment of the invention in a closed state;

Figure 4 is a schematic perspective view of the pack according to Figure 3 in an opened state;

Figure 5 is a schematic perspective view of a pack according to a third embodiment of the invention in a closed state;

Figure 6 is a schematic perspective view of the pack according to Figure 5 in an opened state;

Figure 7 is a schematic perspective view of yet another embodiment of the present invention in a closed state;

Figure 8 is a schematic perspective view of the pack according to Figure 7 in an opened state;

Figure 9 is yet another embodiment of a pack in a perspective schematic view in its closed state;

Figure 10 is a schematic perspective view of the pack according to Figure 9 in an opened state;

Figure 11 is another embodiment of a pack in a perspective schematic view in a closed state;

Figure 12 is a schematic perspective view of the pack according to Figure 11 in an opened state;

Figure 13 is a schematic perspective view of a pack according to yet another embodiment in a closed state;

Figure 14 is a schematic perspective view of the pack

according to Figure 13 in an opened state;

Figure 15 is a schematic perspective view of still another embodiment of a pack in a closed state; and

Figure 16 is the schematic perspective view of the pack according to Figure 15 in an opened state.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0035] In the following description of the respective embodiments, the same reference numerals are used for the same or similar features and a iterated description of the respective features is not provided in order to improve the intelligibility of the disclosure.

[0036] Figure 1 shows a pack 1 for hygiene products 100, the hygiene products being shown schematically in Figure 1 in the form of four household towel rolls.

[0037] The pack 1 comprises a packaging 2 for containing the hygiene products 100, such that the packaging 2 completely encloses the hygiene products 100 and provides the volume for containing the hygiene products. The packaging 2 has typically two main walls 20, two side walls 22, a top wall 24 and a bottom wall 26. The two main walls 20 and the two side walls 22 are typically situated opposite to one another and basically parallel to one another, respectively. The packaging 2 in this embodiment may be provided in the form of a wrapped film or in the form of a pre-fabricated bag.

[0038] An opening section 3 is provided in the packaging 2 in an upper corner of the packaging 2. The upper corner is defined such that the opening section 3 includes at least sections of main walls 20, one side wall 22 and the top wall 24. Nevertheless, depending on the orientation of the pack 1, the opening section 3 could also be situated in a different position. However, it is convenient for the consumer that the opening section 3 is provided in a corner position of the packaging 2. This is in particular the case as the opening section 3 permits then easy access to the hygiene products 100 contained within the packaging 2 from one end of the contents of the packaging and the remaining hygiene products 100 within the packaging 2 may retain their initial tidy arrangement.

[0039] The opening section 3 is typically defined in the packaging 2 by lines of weakness, shown in Figure 1 by a perforation 30 in the main wall 20. Another section of the perforation 32 extends through the top wall 24 of the packaging 2 and it is understood that a perforation similar to the perforation 30 shown in Figure 1 is also present in the opposite main wall 20.

[0040] The perforation 30 of the opening section 3 does not, however, extend through the side wall 22. This leaves a section of the side wall 22 intact, such that the opening section 3 is hinged to the side wall 22 in its opened position. This is shown, e.g., in Figure 2, in which the lid-shaped opening section 3 is opened and basically hinged in a hinge position 34 to the side wall such that the opening section 3 cannot be removed from the pack-

aging 2.

[0041] However, it will be appreciated that in an alternative embodiment the perforation could also be provided such that the opening section can be completely removed. With other words, the perforation extends completely around the opening section.

[0042] Returning to the embodiment shown in Figure 1, a handle 4 is present, having a first section 40, which is attached to the opening section 3, and a second section 42, which is attached to the packaging in an area outside the opening section 3, as can be seen in the bottom wall 26 in the embodiment shown in Figures 1 and 2. In other words, the handle extends from the opening section 3 to the bottom wall 26.

[0043] The handle 4 is made from a separate piece of material and may be provided from a material that is different from the film material of the packaging 2.

[0044] As may be appreciated, the handle 4 can be used to carry the pack 1 easily. However, as can be appreciated from Figure 2, the handle 4 can also be used for opening the opening section 3 by pulling the handle 4 at its first section 40 basically in the direction of the arrow 400.

[0045] Accordingly, the handle 4 has at least the double function of being usable for carrying the pack 1 from the supermarket to the home of the end customer and to help the end customer opening the opening section 3 when the hygiene products 100 are to be withdrawn from the pack 1.

[0046] Another beneficial function of the handle is that the end customer may hang up the pack 1 with the remaining hygiene products 100 contained therein, in order to provide a secure, tidy and hygienically unobjectionable form of storage of the opened and unopened packs.

[0047] It will be appreciated that the lines of weakness 30 and 32, that are used to define the opening section 3, can be made such that they tear open relatively easy, e.g. by adjusting the step width of the openings, as not the total weight of the pack 1 and the hygiene products 100 rests on the section 40 but this weight is distributed between the first handle section 40 and the second handle section 42. Accordingly, it is possible to design the opening section 3, and in particular the lines of weakness 30, 32, such that it can be more easily opened.

[0048] As can be seen from Figure 2, it will also be appreciated that the pack 1 can still be carried by using the handle 4 when the opening section 3 is in the opened position. In particular, even if some of the hygiene products 100 have been withdrawn from the pack 1, the pack can still be carried, using the handle 4, in particular also because the opening section 3 and the resulting opening are provided on an end of the pack 1 which ensures that the hygiene products 100 remaining in the pack do not fall out of the opening due to gravity.

[0049] In a second embodiment, Figure 3 shows a pack 1 with a packaging 2 in which the arrangement of the handle 4 as well as the design of the opening section 3 is slightly different from that described with respect to

Figures 1 and 2. In particular, the handle 4 is attached to the top wall 24 of the packaging 2 only. In particular, the opening section 3 is defined by a perforation 30 in the main wall 20, another perforation 32 in one of the side walls 22 and it is understood that the perforation 30 is also present in the opposite main wall 20. In the top wall 24, a hinging portion 34 is present. The hinging portion is provided by omitting a perforation in this section of the material such that the packaging material remains intact. Accordingly, the opening section 3 opens, as it is shown in Figure 4, upwards by pivoting around hinging section 34.

[0050] The handle 4 is attached in a first section 40 to the opening section 3 and in a second section 42 in an area outside the opening section 3 but still on the top wall 24 of the packaging 2.

[0051] The embodiment shown in Figures 3 and 4 leads to a different handling of the pack.

[0052] In an embodiment not shown in the figures, an indication of the opening mechanism is colour coded on the packaging 2 in order to enable an easy opening. Such a colour coding may be achieved e.g. by printing icons on the packaging 2.

[0053] In Figures 5 and 6, yet another embodiment of the pack 1 is shown. In this embodiment, the hygiene products 100 are shown as single handkerchief packs, wherein each of these single handkerchief packs may contain five or ten tissue paper handkerchiefs.

[0054] The structure of the packaging 2 of the pack 1 of the third embodiment is similar to the packaging 2 shown in Figures 3 and 4. In particular, the opening section 3 is, again, provided by a perforation 30 in the main wall 20 and another perforation 32 in the side wall 22. Furthermore, it is understood that the perforation 30 also extends in the opposite side wall 20. A hinging portion 34 is also present, around which the opening section 3 is pivoted in the opened state, as can be seen in Figure 6.

[0055] As may be appreciated from Figures 5 and 6, the handle 4 is attached to the opening section 3 in its first section 40 in the area of the side wall 22. The second section 42 of the handle 4 is, consequently, attached to the opposite side wall 22. As can be seen in Figures 5 and 6, this leads to yet another embodiment of a pack 1, which can be easily opened by pulling the handle 1 at the first section 40 and can be used for carrying the pack 1 easily, wherein the lines of weakness or perforations 30, 32 of the opening section 3 can be designed such that they can be opened more easily than the ones known in the state of the art.

[0056] In Figures 7 and 8, yet another embodiment of a pack 1 is shown. It will be appreciated that the form of the packaging 2 of pack 1 is basically identical to that shown and described with respect to Figures 5 and 6. In particular, the opening section 3 defined by the perforations 30 and 32 as well as by the hinging portion 34 is designed basically identical to that shown in Figures 5 and 6.

[0057] The main difference between the embodiment

shown in Figures 5 and 6 and that shown in Figures 7 and 8 is the provision of a differently arranged handle 4. Handle 4 is, in its first section 40, attached to the side wall 22 within the opening section 3. The second section 42 of handle 4 is attached to the opposite side wall 22. A middle section or third section 44, of the handle 4 is also attached to the packaging 2 but to the top wall 24. The third section 44 of the handle 4 is attached in an area outside the opening section on the top wall 24.

[0058] As can be seen, e.g. in Figure 8, the first loop of the handle 4 that is defined between the first section 40 and the third section 44, can be used to easily open the opening section 3 or packaging 2 in order to be able to withdraw hygiene products 100 from packaging 2. The second loop of handle 4 remains even in the opened position of the opening section 4 in an unchanged state. The second loop of the handle 4, which extends between the second section 42 and the third section 44 of the handle 4, does not change in this arrangement.

[0059] It will be appreciated that also different ways of providing the two loops of the handle 4 may be provided. In particular, it is envisaged that the first loop of the handle and the second loop of the handle are provided by means of two separate stripes of material which are then attached to the packaging 2. In order to form the embodiment shown in Figures 7 and 8, two separate handle segments can be provided which are joined to one another as well as to the packaging 2 in the third section 44. However, in another preferred embodiment, the two separate handle segments are joined to the packaging 2 in different positions (not shown in the Figures).

[0060] Furthermore, even though it is not explicitly shown in the Figures it will be appreciated that the first section 40, second section 42 and/or third section 44 of the handle 4 could also be situated on the bottom wall 26 of the packaging 2. This is, naturally, also the case for the opening section 3 which may also be defined in the bottom wall 26 of the packaging 2 or may have at least portions extending into the bottom wall 26.

[0061] Figure 9 shows a pack 1' in yet another embodiment. A packaging 2 is provided in which an opening section 3 is defined by lines of weakness, in particular in the form of perforations 30. A handle 4' is integrated into the packaging 2. The packaging has one of the typical forms of a pre-fabricated bag.

[0062] Figure 10 shows this pack 1' in the opened state, in which the opening section 3 is opened by means of the integrated handle 4'.

[0063] Figures 11 and 12 show a pack 1" in still another embodiment. A packaging 2 is provided with an opening section 3' wherein the opening section 3' is defined by perforations 30 in the main wall 20 of the packaging 2. The opening section 3' extends from a carrying handle 4" downwards, and the opening section 3' can be opened by accessing the opening section 3' from the carrying opening of the carrying handle 4".

[0064] In Figures 13 and 14, yet another embodiment of a pack 1 is shown. As may be appreciated, Figure 13

basically corresponds to the embodiment shown in Figure 1. However, the hinge portion 34 of this embodiment is provided in the top wall 24 of the pack 1, which results, as can be seen in Figure 14, in a different opening direction of the opening section 3. In particular, the hinge portion 34 is situated opposite to the direction towards the second section 42 of the handle 4. This specific arrangement of the pack has the advantage that, during the carrying operation, the force that is exerted from the handle 4 to the opening section 3 is mainly carried by the hinge portion 34 such that an accidental opening of the opening section 3 can be avoided. Even if any accidental opening of the opening section 3 occurs, the hygiene products 100 cannot fall out of the pack as the opening section 3 remains in its closed position due to the pull of the handle 4. The perforation 30' is shown schematically in the form of a double line perforation.

[0065] In order to open the pack 1, the second section 40 of the handle 4 is moved into the direction schematically shown by arrow 400.

[0066] In Figures 15 and 16, yet another embodiment of a pack 1 is shown, in which the hinge portion 34 is situated in a structurally similar position as shown in Figures 13 and 14. Here, again, the hinge portion 34 is situated opposite to the direction of the handle 4 towards the second section 42 of the handle 4.

[0067] While only preferred embodiments have been described in terms of particular variations and illustrative figures, those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the invention is not limited to the variations or figures described. Therefore, it will be understood that various modifications, variations, changes and adaptations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the scope of the appended claims and it is the intent that this patent will cover those modifications, variations, changes and adaptations, as well as equivalents to the subject-matter found in the claims.

Claims

1. Pack (1) for containing at least two hygiene products (100), in particular at least two uncompressed toilet paper rolls, kitchen paper rolls, household towel rolls, individual packs of handkerchiefs or other tissue paper products, the pack comprising:

- a packaging (2) for containing the hygiene products;
- an opening section (3) in the packaging defining an opening for removing hygiene products;
- a handle (4) having a first section (40) attached to the opening section (3) and a second section (42) attached to the packaging (2) in an area outside the opening section (3).

2. Pack according to claim 1, wherein the handle (4) is a separate element attached to the packaging (2).

3. Pack according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the handle is made from a material different from the material of the packaging (2).

4. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the opening section (3) is defined by lines of weakness in the packaging (2), in particular by perforation lines (30, 32), in particular in the form of circular, triangular, rectangular, oval and/or wavy perforation openings, in particular single, double or multi perforation lines.

5. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the opening section (3) comprises a hinge portion (34) for keeping the opened opening section (3) connected to the packaging (2).

6. Pack according to claim 5, wherein the hinge portion (34) is situated in a position of the opening section (3) opposite the direction towards the second section (42) of the handle (4).

7. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the opening section (3) has dimensions allowing the removal of a single one of the hygiene products (100) through the resulting opening.

8. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first section (40) and the second section (42) of the handle (4) are attached to the same wall (24) of the packaging (2).

9. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first section (40) and the second section (42) of the handle (4) are attached to two separate walls of the packaging (2), the walls being situated opposite to one another and substantially parallel to one another (22).

10. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a third section (44) of the handle (4) is attached to the packaging (2).

11. Pack according to claim 10, wherein the third section (44) is attached to the packaging in an area outside the opening section (3).

12. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a re-closable tab, in particular a re-closable stripe of adhesive material or a re-closable stripe of mechanically re-closable material, such as Velcro, a button, a snap fastener or a zipper is provided in order to re-close the opening section (3) after opening.

13. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the opening mechanism is identified by a colour coding of the packaging.

14. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pack is a distribution pack for distributing a plurality of hygiene products (100) to the end customer.

5

15. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the packaging (2) is made from a film material, in particular polypropylene films, polyethylene films, starch based films, biodegradable films, shrinkable films and/or mixtures thereof, and/or a paper material, in particular in the form of different layers of material, in particular as a multi-layer film and/or a laminate.

10

16. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the opening section is defined by a line of weakness that tears open when the packaging (2) is held only at the first section (40) of the handle (4) due to the weight of the pack (1).

15

20

17. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the packaging is a bag or a wrapper, in particular a pre-manufactured bag made from a tube-like film material, a folded film material or two webs of film material, or a wrapper in the form of a flat film wrapped around the hygiene products.

25

18. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hygiene products include toilet paper rolls, kitchen paper rolls, household towel rolls, individual packs of handkerchiefs, napkins, facials, hand wiping towels, folded and unfolded tissue paper, object wiping rolls and any other suitable hygiene products for personal hygiene, for object wiping and/or cleaning purposes.

30

35

20. Pack according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a second handle is provided, both ends of which being joined to the package outside the opening section.

40

45

50

55

Fig. 1

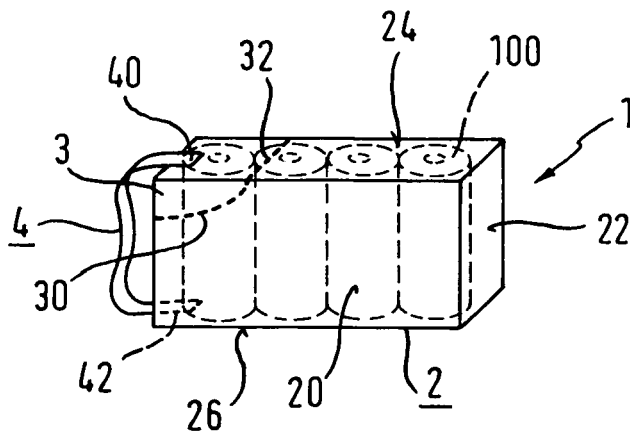


Fig. 2

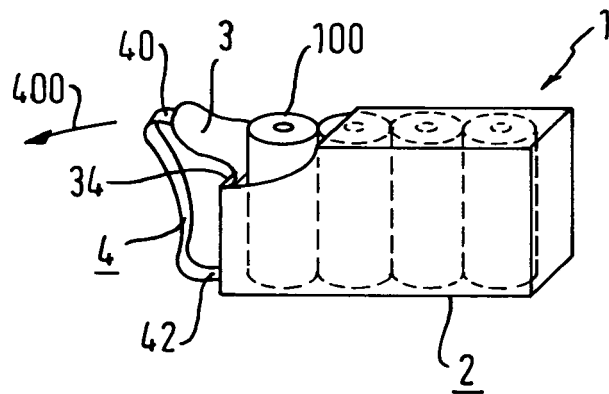


Fig. 3

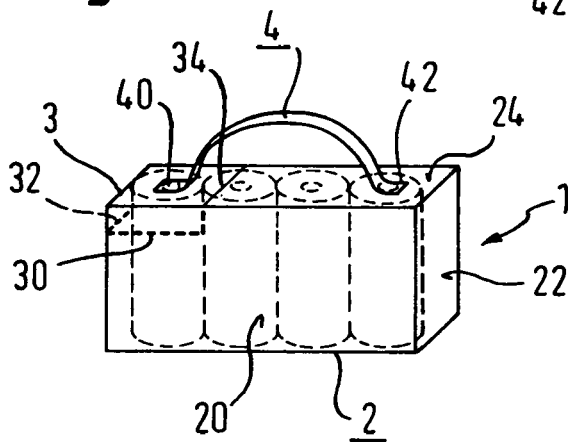


Fig. 4

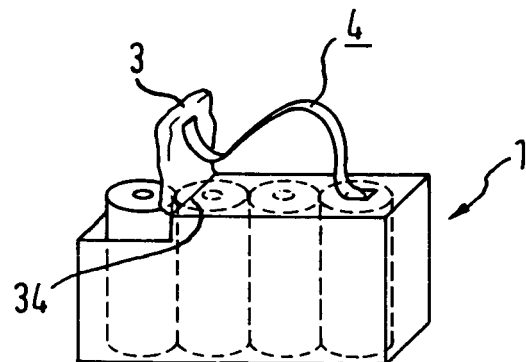


Fig. 5

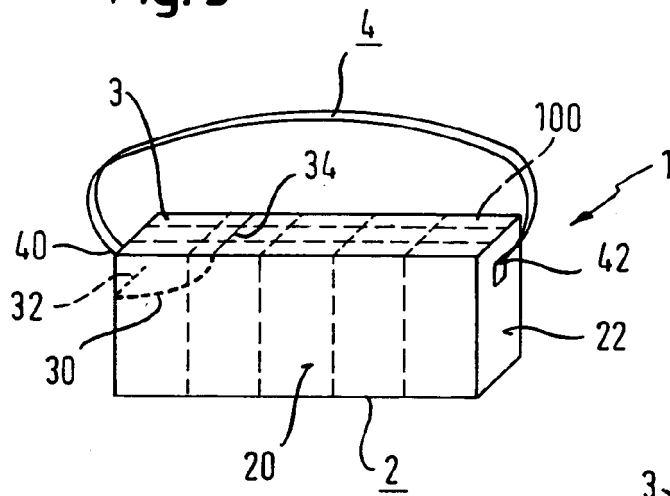


Fig. 6

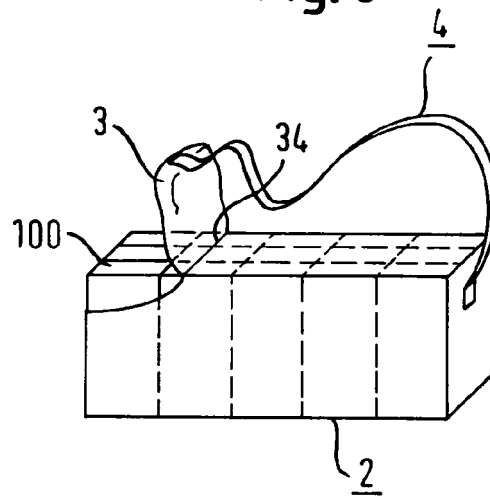


Fig. 7

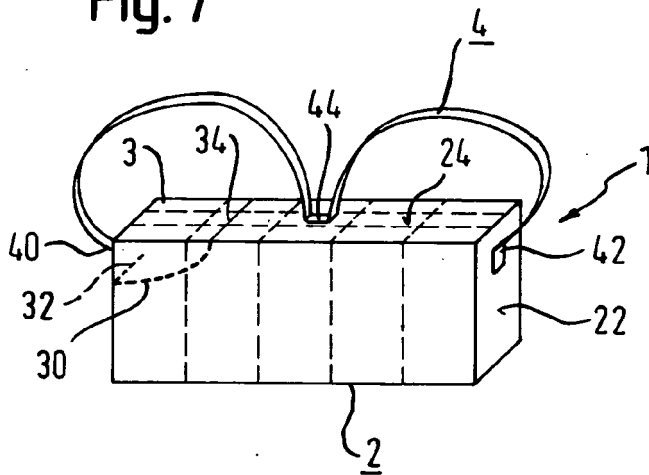
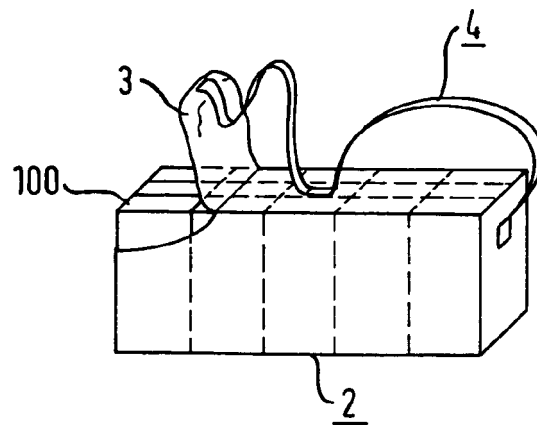


Fig. 8



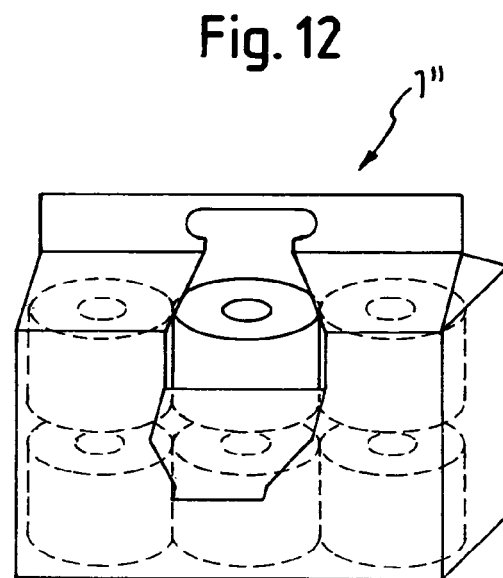
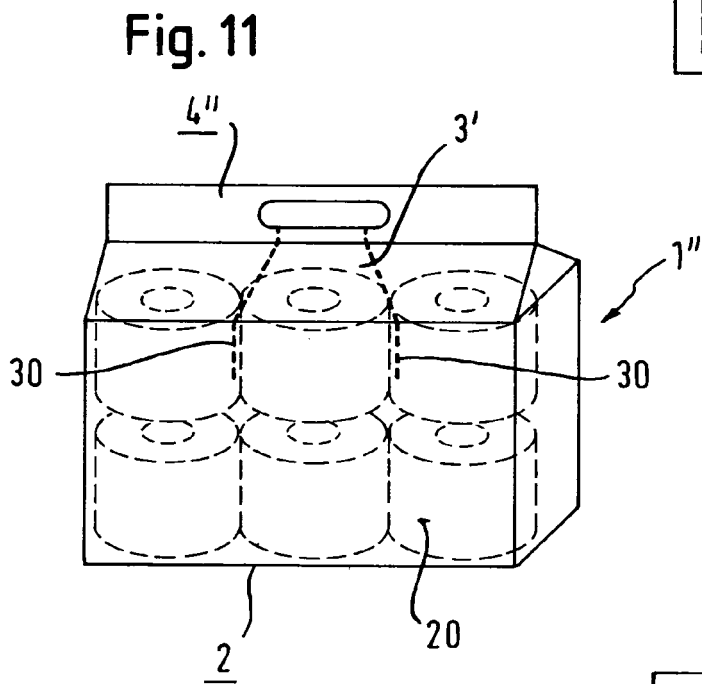
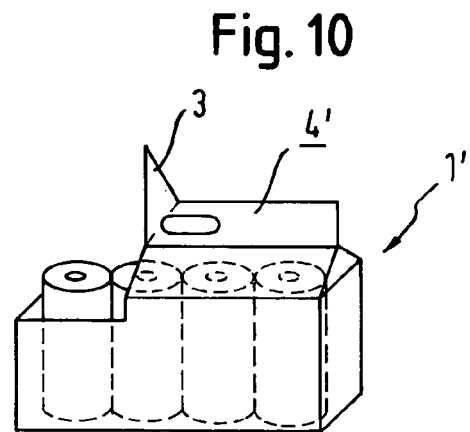
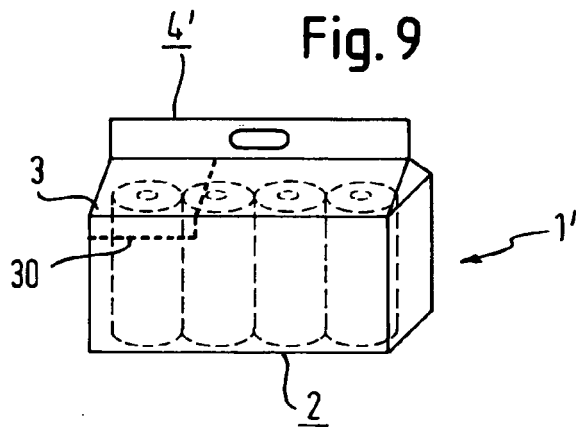


Fig. 13

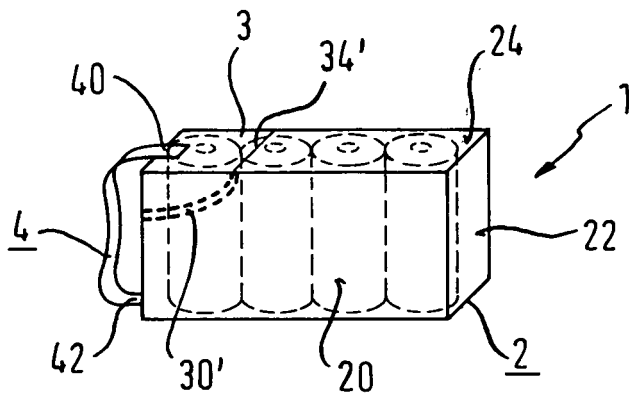


Fig. 14

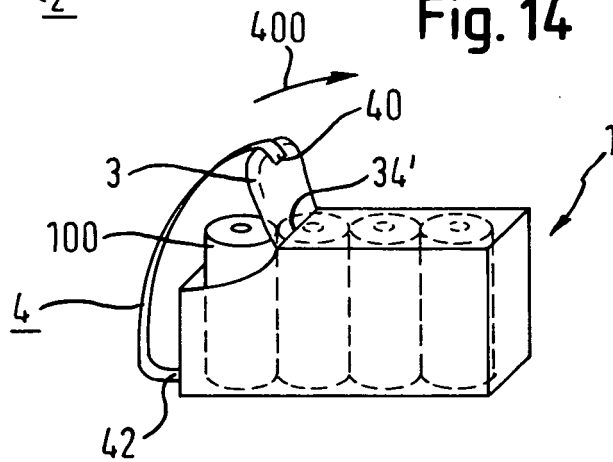


Fig. 15

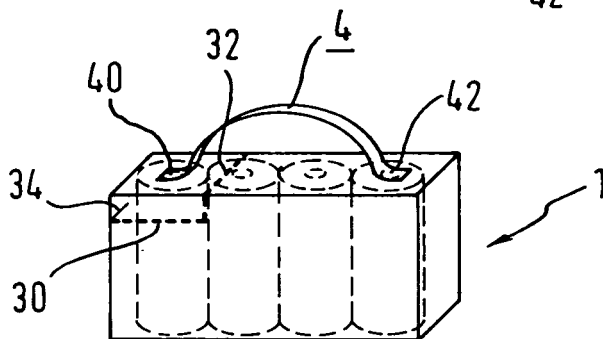
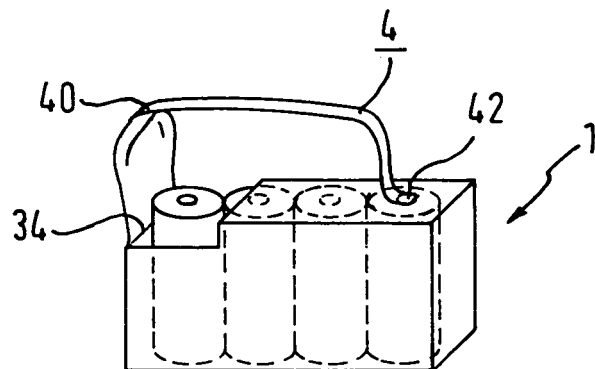


Fig. 16





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 01 4284

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	EP 1 110 877 A (ETABLISSEMENTS MOREAU ANDRE) 27 June 2001 (2001-06-27) * column 4, line 57 - column 7, line 13; figures 2-4 *	1,2,4,5,7,9,14,15,17,18,20	INV. B65D75/58 B65D75/56
X	EP 0 454 541 A (KAYSERSBERG) 30 October 1991 (1991-10-30) * column 1, line 25 - column 4, line 9; figure *	1-7,9,12,14,15,17,18	
X	WO 91/08962 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 27 June 1991 (1991-06-27) * page 13, line 27 - page 14, line 8; figures 1-4 *	1	
X	DE 91 09 154 U (M & W VERPACKUNGEN) 12 September 1991 (1991-09-12) * page 4, line 33 - page 7, line 17; figures 1,2 *	1	
X	DE 42 24 639 A (KOBUSCH FOLIEN) 27 January 1994 (1994-01-27) * column 3, line 41 - column 4, line 24; figure 2 *	1	
A	GB 2 264 278 A (MÖLNLYCKE) 25 August 1993 (1993-08-25) * page 10, line 26 - line 30 *	16	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B65D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 22 November 2007	Examiner Newell, Philip
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			

2
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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

EP 07 01 4284

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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

22-11-2007

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 1110877	A	27-06-2001	AT 325050 T	15-06-2006
			DE 60027678 T2	21-09-2006
			FR 2802899 A1	29-06-2001

EP 0454541	A	30-10-1991	AT 106835 T	15-06-1994
			DE 69102343 D1	14-07-1994
			DE 69102343 T2	03-11-1994
			ES 2054458 T3	01-08-1994
			FR 2661403 A1	31-10-1991

WO 9108962	A	27-06-1991	AT 128432 T	15-10-1995
			AU 658817 B2	04-05-1995
			AU 7160191 A	18-07-1991
			CA 2068316 A1	16-06-1991
			DE 69022739 D1	02-11-1995
			DE 69022739 T2	18-04-1996
			DK 504317 T3	27-11-1995
			EP 0504317 A1	23-09-1992
			ES 2077216 T3	16-11-1995
			GR 3018383 T3	31-03-1996
			IE 904519 A1	19-06-1991
			JP 5503059 T	27-05-1993
			MX 174135 B	22-04-1994
			US 5054619 A	08-10-1991

DE 9109154	U	12-09-1991	NONE	

DE 4224639	A	27-01-1994	NONE	

GB 2264278	A	25-08-1993	AU 3580593 A	13-09-1993
			MX 9300811 A1	29-07-1994
			SE 9200529 A	22-08-1993
			WO 9316925 A1	02-09-1993
			ZA 9300864 A	09-09-1993

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- DE 4121914 A1 [0004]
- US 20020112982 A1 [0009]