

(19)



(11)

EP 2 019 044 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
09.03.2011 Bulletin 2011/10

(51) Int Cl.:
B65D 5/36 *(2006.01)* **B65D 5/54** *(2006.01)*
B65D 5/68 *(2006.01)* **B65D 71/06** *(2006.01)*

(21) Application number: **08425489.5**

(22) Date of filing: **18.07.2008**

(54) **Container for paper napkins comprising a napkins dispenser.**

Behälter für Papiertaschentücher mit Papiertaschentuchspender.

Réceptient pour serviettes en papier comportant un distributeur de serviettes.

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL NO PL PT
RO SE SI SK TR**

(30) Priority: **24.07.2007 IT FI20070173**

(43) Date of publication of application:
28.01.2009 Bulletin 2009/05

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GB-A- 2 043 598 US-A- 4 595 093

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Description

Technical field

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of disposable paper products, in particular for domestic use. Specifically, the present invention relates to the field of paper napkins or similar products. The term paper napkins is intended within the context of the present description and of the appended claims as any product made of paper, preferably tissue paper, folded and stacked to form packs of articles.

Background art

[0002] Currently paper napkins are usually packaged in packages containing a variable number of folded napkins, for example 25, 50, 100, 250 napkins, of variable dimensions, for example from 15x15 to 40x40 cm. Each package is closed by a plastic film. When the package is opened tearing the plastic film, the napkins remain devoid of container, can become soiled and the stack of napkins forming the package is disarranged. For practical use of this type of consumable material dispensers or containers have been produced, into which the individual stacks of folded napkins are inserted. These containers or dispensers usually have the shape of an open tray, with plan dimensions equal to the dimensions of the single folded napkin. In some cases the container is equipped with a retaining element for the napkins, such as a metal bar, which prevents the napkins from spilling or flying about, for example when the container is intended for outdoor use.

[0003] Other products, in particular interleaved paper handkerchiefs, are packaged in individual cardboard boxes, which present a slot protected by a portion of cardboard detachable along a perforation line. This type of packaging is costly, as each group of handkerchiefs must be equipped with a box, which represents a cost in terms of material and also makes the packaging process more complex, lengthy and costly.

[0004] US-A-4,595,093 discloses a package of compressed toilet paper rolls. The package is formed by a thermoplastic film in combination with a convertible support panel. The support panel is made of cardboard and forms the bottom of the package. The film is adhered to the support panel. Said support panel is convertible, since it can be converted into a display tray, where the toilet paper rolls can be placed once the thermoplastic film of the package has been removed.

[0005] GB-A-2043598 discloses a carton formed from blanks. Each carton has a body and a closing cover, made of two cardboard blanks. The carton is intended for packaging fruit, vegetable or the like. Once the cover is removed, the body of the carton forms a display unit for displaying the merchandise contained therein. The cartons are designed such that they can be loaded on on the other without collapsing.

Summary of the invention

[0006] The object of the invention is to provide a novel napkin packaging which totally or partly overcomes the drawbacks of the known products mentioned above. This object is achieved with a package according to claim 1. The dependent claims relate to further advantageous embodiments of the invention.

[0007] Substantially, according to one aspect, the invention provides for a multiple package of packs of napkins, associated with which is a container or dispenser for said napkins, produced in sheet material folded in the collapsed position and expansible in the using position. The container or dispenser is preferably housed inside a bag, produced for example in paper or plastic film, in which said individual packs or packages of napkins are contained.

[0008] The container or dispenser can be made of plastic sheet material, creased and welded. Preferably, however, also for reasons of environmental impact, the container or dispenser is made of cardboard of adequate grammage. This allows it to be easily recycled.

[0009] In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the container or dispenser comprises a body and a cover, each produced from a respective piece of folded sheet material. In this way, the container or dispenser can be more easily and rapidly taken to the using position, simply by lifting, with respect to the respective bottom of the body and of the cover, the lateral sides which, during production, have been formed by folding and gluing or welding.

[0010] In an advantageous embodiment, the container or dispenser presents a tab openable by tearing along a perforation line, to form an opening for removing the napkins from the container. The tab can remain constrained to the cover, for example along a crease line after tearing along the perforation line, so as to form a non-removable protective element, which closes the opening for removing the napkins, nonetheless allowing easy removal thereof. To obtain a wide and practical opening, in one embodiment, the body has a recessed edge, the shape of which preferably corresponds to a portion of the edge of the opening defined by the tab in the cover intended to close the body of the container or dispenser.

[0011] In an advantageous embodiment, the body and the cover each respectively present a bottom and four lateral sides. Preferably, the tab of the cover is produced partly on the bottom and partly on one of the sides of the cover.

[0012] Although it is preferably to package the container or dispenser together with the packs or packages of napkins, it would also be possible to use the container or dispenser individually, i.e. separately with respect to the packages of napkins. For example, it could be provided as advertising or promotional means, or as a gadget to be given as free gift to the customer following the purchase of a certain number of packages of napkins and/or similar articles.

[0013] Further features and embodiments of the invention will be described below with reference to an example of embodiment.

Brief description of the drawings

[0014] The invention will be better understood by following the description and accompanying drawing, which shows a non-limiting practical embodiment of the invention. More in particular, in the drawing:

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a bag or multiple package containing a container or dispenser.

Fig.2 shows a perspective view of a dispenser or container of napkins in the folded position in which it is inserted into the multiple pack or bag of Fig.1; Figs.3 and 4 show in an unfolded position the punched sheets intended to form the upper part or cover and the lower part or body of the container or dispenser of Fig.2;

Fig.5 shows an intermediate step of the operation to fold and glue the body or lower part of the container or dispenser; and

Fig.6 shows an exploded view of the container or dispenser with a stack or package of napkins to be inserted therein.

Detailed description of an embodiment

[0015] Fig.1 shows a multiple package or bag indicated as a whole with 1. In some embodiments, the multiple package 1 is formed by a folded and welded sheet or film of plastic material 3, with which it is also possible to form an upper strip 4, in which a handle 5 is produced by cutting. A plurality of individual packs or packages 6 of napkins is arranged inside the film or sheet 3. In the example shown the pack 1 contains four individual packs or packages 6, but it would also be possible to produce multiple packages 1 with a different number of individual packs or packages.

[0016] In some embodiments, each individual pack or package 6 of napkins is formed conventionally with a welded external film or sheet of plastic material which encloses the stack of napkins. It would also be possible to produce the packaging, i.e. the sheet that enclose the individual package 6 and/or the multiple package 1, in a different material, such as paper, in which case closing can take place in a different way, for example by gluing.

[0017] Preferably, inside the multiple bag or package 1 a folded container or dispenser is placed, indicated as a whole with 9, into which the user can insert the individual packages 6, after having removed the outer film or wrapping therefrom.

[0018] The container or dispenser 9 is comprised of two parts, each formed by a sheet of laminate material, punched, creased, folded and glued or welded in a suitable manner, so that the ready-to-use container can be obtained simply by opening and assembling the two por-

tions of which it is formed and which are packaged in the collapsed or folded position in the multiple bag or package 1. In Fig.2 the container or dispenser is shown in the folded position, in which it is housed in the multiple pack 1.

[0019] The structure of the container or dispenser 9 and the manner in which it is constructed and used will be described in detail below with reference to Figs.3, 4, 5, 6.

[0020] Fig.6 shows in an exploded view, a pack or stack P of napkins and the dispenser 9 formed by an upper part or cover 9A and by a lower part or body 9B. The body or lower part 9B is shaped as a tray with a bottom and four sides, into which the stack P of folded napkins T is inserted. The stack P can be formed of the whole individual package 6, or even by a fraction of said package. It would also be possible to produce the container 9 of greater height than the package 6, to insert therein more than one individual package of napkins. The protective wrapping or plastic film (or the like) is removed from the stack P of napkins T prior to insertion thereof in the lower part or body 9B of the dispenser or container 9.

[0021] The lower body 9B presents a parallelepiped shape with a dimension in the top view corresponding to the dimension of the napkin T. One of the edges thereof is cut to form a wide recess 9C, which serves to facilitate removal of the single napkins from the container 9.

[0022] The lateral walls or sides and the bottom of the body or lower part 9B of the container are produced from suitable folded portions of a punched sheet shown in the spread out position thereof in Fig.4, and which will be described in greater detail below.

[0023] The cover or upper part 9A of the container or dispenser 9 presents a shape similar to that of the body or lower part 9B, but of slightly greater dimension, so that it can be fitted to the body or lower part 9B with the sides thereof on the outside with respect to the sides of the body 9B. The cover 9A is obtained from a punched sheet shown in the spread out position in Fig.3 and described in greater detail below.

[0024] With reference to Fig.4, the punched sheet intended to form the body or lower part 9B of the container 9, also indicated with 9B, presents an approximately square area, with a square central portion 9.1 that forms the bottom of the container. The square central portion 9.1. is delimited by two mutually opposed and parallel crease lines 9.2. and by two crease lines 9.3 orthogonal to the lines 9.2. Along the two crease lines 9.2 there are connected to the central portion 9.1 two appendages 9.4 which, once folded along the crease lines 9.2 through 90° to be positioned orthogonally to the central portion 9.1, form two of the four sides (again indicated with 9.4 in Fig. 6) of the body 9B of the container or dispenser 9.

[0025] One of the two appendages 9.4 is cut to form the shaped edge 9C mentioned above.

[0026] Two shaped tabs 9.6 are connected to the appendages 9.4, along the crease lines 9.5, orthogonal to the crease lines 9.2. When the container (Fig.9) is in the assembled condition, the crease lines 9.5 define the cor-

ners of the body or lower part 9B.

[0027] Connected to the quadrangular central portion 9.1, along the crease lines 9.3, there are two lateral appendages 9.7, each of which is delimited by two respective inclined crease lines 9.9, which represent fold lines of triangular tabs 9.10. The triangular tabs 9.10 can be folded through 180° along the crease lines 9.9 to fold them down against the respective appendages 9.7 in order to allow folding the body 9B of the container 9 in a collapsed position after the punched sheet has been folded and glued in the manner described below to form the body 9B.

[0028] The body 9B is obtained from the punched sheet 9B of Fig.4 by reciprocally gluing each tab 9.6 to the contiguous triangular tab 9.10. This operation can take place with the use of normal paper converting machines. Fig.5 shows an intermediate step of the operation to glue the body 9B of the container 9. The tabs 9.6 have been folded down with folds along the crease lines 9.5 against the corresponding appendages 9.4. The appendages 9.7 have been folded down by folding along the crease lines 9.3 against the central portion 9.1, and the triangular tabs 9.10 have been folded down along the lines 9.9 against the face of the appendages 9.7 opposite the one in contact with the portion 9.1.

[0029] Having reached this position, a glue can be applied to the free surfaces of the triangular tabs 9.10 and/or to the exposed surfaces of the tabs 9.6. In Fig.5, the glue, indicated with C, has been applied to the triangular tabs 9.10.

[0030] The assembly is completed by folding down the appendages 9.4, with folds along the crease lines 9.2, against the central portion 9.1. The tabs 9.6 remain between the appendages 9.4 and the tabs 9.10.

[0031] The punched sheet 9A (Fig.3) which serves to form the upper part 9A or cover of the container 9 is cut and creased analogously and is folded and glued with a procedure analogous to the one described above. In Fig. 3 the portions of the punched sheet 9A corresponding to those of the punched sheet 9B are indicated with the same reference numbers increased by 10. Therefore, the central portion corresponding to the portion 9.1 of the punched sheet 9B is indicated with 19.1 etc.

[0032] As can be observed by comparing Figs. 3 and 4, the two punched sheets 9A, 9B are substantially identical, except for the fact the punched sheet 9A has no slot or recess 9C and instead is provided with a perforation line 9D, which delimits, together with a crease line 19.12, a tab 9G. There is also provided a cut line 9E that forms a hole 9F.

[0033] In Fig.6 the various portions of the cover or upper part 9A are indicated with the same reference numbers used in Fig.3. As can be understood from Fig.6, once the pack or stack P of napkins T has been inserted in the lower part 9B of the container 9, this is closed with the cover 9A, from which the tab 9G is detached along the perforation line 9D. The tab 9G thus remains secured and hinged to the cover 9A along the crease line 19.12

and can be opened and closed to protect the napkins T and allow easy removal thereof through the wide slot left free by the tab 9G and by the recess 9C.

[0034] In the folded or collapsed position, the two upper and lower parts 9A, 9B of the container or dispenser 9 take a dimension equal to the dimension of the two bottom portions 9.1 and 19.1 respectively, and a maximum thickness equal to five times the thickness of the laminate material (for example, cardboard or card), in which the punched sheets that form the two portions of the container or dispenser are produced. These two folded portions can be placed mutually adjacent and joined, for example by a strip 10 (Fig.2), for example made of paper or other recyclable material and be inserted in the multiple package 1 during the normal packaging operation.

[0035] When the first individual package 6 is used, the user opens the strip 10, separates the two portions or parts 9A, 9B of the dispenser or container and places them in the expanded or spread out position, as shown in Fig.6, if necessary also breaking the perforation line 9D that keeps the tab 9B joined along the entire edge thereof to the cover 9A. After inserting the pack or stack P of napkins T in the lower part 9B of the container or dispenser, this can be closed by fitting the cover 9A thereover. The tab 9G protects the napkins T contained in the container and at the same time allows easy removal thereof, simply by lifting.

[0036] It is understood that the drawing only shows a practical embodiment of the invention, which can vary in shapes and arrangements without however departing from the scope of the concept underlying the invention as defined by the claims. Any reference numbers in the claims below are provided purely to facilitate reading thereof in the light of the description above and of the accompanying drawings, and do not in any way limit the scope of protection defined by the claims.

Claims

1. A multiple package (1) including a wrapping sheet (3) and a plurality of packs (6) of napkins arranged inside said sheet, and further including a napkins dispenser (9), produced in sheet material and arranged inside said package folded in a collapsed position and expansible in a using position, said dispenser comprising a body (9B) and a cover (9A) which can be mutually superposed, each said body and said cover being produced in said sheet material and suitable to take a collapsed position and a spread out position, said cover and said body being reciprocally couplable in said spread out position to define a closed volume into which to insert said napkins.
2. Package according to claim 1, wherein said dispenser is housed inside a bag made of folded and welded

film of plastic material (3), in which said packs of napkins are contained.

3. Package according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said dispenser is made of cardboard. 5
4. Package according to one or more of the preceding claims, wherein said cover has a tab (9G) openable by tearing along a perforation line (9D), to form an opening for removing the napkins from the dispenser (9). 10
5. Package according to claim 4, wherein said body (9B) presents a recessed edge (9C), the shape of which is such as to correspond with a portion of the edge of the opening defined by said tab (9G). 15
6. Package according to claim 4 or 5, wherein said tab is connected to the cover (9A) along a crease or fold line (19.12), to remain stably constrained to said cover after opening by tearing along said perforation line. 20
7. Package according to one or more of the previous claims, wherein said body (9B) and said cover (9A) each respectively present a bottom (9.1; 19.1) and four lateral sides (9.4, 9.7; 19.4, 19.7). 25
8. Package according to claims 4 and 7, wherein said tab (9G) of the cover (9A) is produced partly on the bottom (19.1) and partly on one of the sides (19.4) of the cover. 30
9. Package according to claims 5 and 7, wherein said recessed edge (9C) is produced in one of the sides (9.4) of the body of said dispenser. 35
10. Package according to one or more of claims 7 to 9, wherein: 40
 - a first pair of opposed sides (9.4; 19.4) of said body (9B) and of said cover (9A) are produced by appendages of sheet material joined to the bottom (9.1; 19.1) along respective fold or crease lines (9.2; 19.2); 45
 - each of said appendages forming the first pair of opposed sides is joined to two lateral tabs (9.6; 19.6) along respective fold or crease lines (9.5; 19.5);
 - a second pair of opposed sides (9.7; 19.7) of said body (9B) and of said cover (9A) are each produced by a respective further appendage joined to the bottom (9.1; 19.1) along fold or crease lines (9.3; 19.3) and by two triangular lateral tabs (9.10; 19.10) joined by fold or crease lines (9.9; 19.9) to said further appendages; 50
 - each of said lateral tabs (9.6; 19.6) joined to the appendages forming the first pair of sides 55

(9.4; 19.4) is connected to a respective triangular tab (9.10; 19.10).

11. Package according to claim 10, wherein said lateral tabs (9.6; 19.6) joined to the appendages forming the first pair of sides (9.4; 19.4) are connected to the triangular tabs (9.10; 19.10) by gluing.

10 Patentansprüche

1. Eine Mehrfachpackung (1) die einen Verpackungsbogen (3) und eine Mehrzahl von Packungen (6) von Servietten umfasst, die in diesem Bogen angeordnet sind, und ferner einen Serviettenspender (9), der aus Bogenmaterial produziert und in der Packung in einer zusammengelegten Position und entfaltbar in eine Gebrauchsposition angeordnet ist, wobei der Spender einen Körper (9B) und eine Abdeckung (9A) umfasst, die wechselseitig überlagert werden können, wobei jeder Körper und die Abdeckung aus dem Bogenmaterial produziert sind und dazu geeignet sind, eine zusammengelegte Position und eine ausgebreitete Position einzunehmen, wobei die Abdeckung und der Körper in der ausgebreiteten Position miteinander gekoppelt werden können, um ein geschlossenes Volumen zu begrenzen, in das die Servietten eingeführt werden können.
2. Packung gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei der Spender in einer Tasche untergebracht ist, die aus gefalteter und geschweißter Folie aus Kunststoffmaterial (3) gefertigt ist, in der die Serviettenpackungen enthalten sind.
3. Packung gemäß Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei der Spender aus Karton gefertigt ist.
4. Packung gemäß einem oder mehreren der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Abdeckung eine Lasche (9G) aufweist, die durch Aufreißen entlang einer Perforation (9D) geöffnet werden kann, um eine Öffnung zum Entfernen der Servietten aus dem Spender (9) zu bilden.
5. Packung gemäß Anspruch 4, wobei der Körper (9B) eine zurück versetzte Kante (9C) aufweist, deren Form so beschaffen ist, dass sie mit einem Abschnitt der Kante der von der Lasche (9G) begrenzten Öffnung korrespondiert.
6. Packung gemäß Anspruch 4 oder 5, wobei die Lasche mit der Abdeckung (9A) entlang einer Knick- oder Faltlinie (19.12) verbunden ist, um nach dem Öffnen durch Aufreißen entlang der Perforationslinie stabil an der Abdeckung festgehalten zu bleiben.
7. Packung gemäß einem oder mehreren der vorange-

henden Ansprüche, wobei der Körper (9B) und die Abdeckung (9A) jeweils eine Unterseite (9.1; 19.1) und vier Seitenwände (9.4, 9.7; 19.4, 19.7) aufweisen.

8. Packung gemäß Anspruch 4 und 7, wobei die Lasche (9G) der Abdeckung (9A) teilweise auf der Unterseite (19.1) und teilweise auf einer der Seitenwände (19.4) der Abdeckung ausgeführt ist.

9. Packung gemäß Anspruch 5 und 7, wobei die zurück versetzte Kante (9C) an einer der Seitenwände (9.4) des Körpers des Spenders ausgeführt ist.

10. Packung gemäß einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 7 bis 9, wobei:

- ein erstes Paar einander gegenüber angeordneter Seitenwände (9.4; 19.4) des Körpers (9B) und der Abdeckung (9A) durch Anhänge aus Bogenmaterial ausgeführt ist, das mit der Unterseite (9.1; 19.1) entlang entsprechender Falt- oder Knicklinien (9.2; 19.2) verbunden ist;
- jeder der Anhänge, die das erste Paar einander gegenüber angeordneter Seitenwände bilden, mit zwei seitlichen Laschen (9.6; 19.6) entlang entsprechender Falt- oder Knicklinien (9.5; 19.5) verbunden ist;
- ein zweites Paar einander gegenüber angeordneter Seitenwände (9.7; 19.7) des Körpers (9B) und der Abdeckung (9A) jeweils durch einen entsprechenden weiteren Anhang ausgeführt sind, der mit der Unterseite (9.1; 19.1) entlang Falt- oder Knicklinien (9.3; 19.3) verbunden ist, und durch zwei dreieckige seitliche Laschen (9.10; 19.10), die durch Falt- oder Knicklinien (9.9; 19.9) mit den weiteren Anhängen verbunden sind;
- jede der seitlichen Laschen (9.6; 19.6), die mit den Anhängen verbunden sind, welche das erste Paar der Seitenwände (9.4; 19.4) bilden, mit einer entsprechenden dreieckigen Lasche (9.10; 19.10) verbunden ist.

11. Packung gemäß Anspruch 10, wobei die seitlichen Laschen (9.6; 19.6), die mit den Anhängen verbunden sind, welche das erste Paar der Seitenwände (9.4; 19.4) bilden, mit den dreieckigen Laschen (9.10; 19.10) durch Kleben verbunden sind.

Revendications

1. Emballage multiple (1) comprenant une feuille d'emballage (3) et une pluralité de paquets (6) de serviettes agencés à l'intérieur de ladite feuille, et comprenant en outre un distributeur de serviettes (9), fabriqué dans un matériau en feuille et agencé à l'intérieur

dudit emballage plié dans une position pliée et expansible dans une position d'utilisation, ledit distributeur comprenant un corps (9B) et un couvercle (9A) qui peuvent être superposés mutuellement, ledit corps et ledit couvercle étant chacun fabriqués dans ledit matériau en feuille et convenant pour adopter une position pliée et une position déployée, ledit couvercle et ledit corps pouvant être couplés réciproquement dans ladite position déployée pour définir un volume fermé dans lequel sont insérées lesdites serviettes.

2. Emballage selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit distributeur est logé à l'intérieur d'un sac en film de matière plastique (3) plié et soudé, dans lequel lesdits paquets de serviettes sont contenus.

3. Emballage selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel ledit distributeur est en carton.

4. Emballage selon une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, dans lequel ledit couvercle comporte une languette (9G) pouvant être ouverte en la détachant suivant le pointillé (9D) pour former une ouverture permettant de retirer les serviettes du distributeur (9).

5. Emballage selon la revendication 4, dans lequel ledit corps (9B) présente un bord évidé (9C) dont la forme est telle qu'elle correspond à une partie du bord de l'ouverture définie par ladite languette (9G).

6. Emballage selon la revendication 4 ou 5, dans lequel ladite languette est reliée au couvercle (9A) le long d'une ligne de pliage ou de pli (19.12) pour rester contrainte de façon stable vers ledit couvercle après l'avoir ouverte en la détachant suivant ledit pointillé.

7. Emballage selon une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, dans lequel ledit corps (9B) et ledit couvercle (9A) présentent chacun respectivement un fond (9.1; 19.1) et quatre côtés latéraux (9.4, 9.7; 19.4, 19.7).

8. Emballage selon les revendications 4 et 7, dans lequel ladite languette (9G) du couvercle (9A) est réalisée en partie sur le fond (19.1) et en partie sur un des côtés (19.4) du couvercle.

9. Emballage selon les revendications 5 et 7, dans lequel ledit bord évidé (9C) est réalisé dans un des côtés (9.4) du corps dudit distributeur.

10. Emballage selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 7 à 9, dans lequel :

- une première paire de côtés opposés (9.4; 19.4) dudit corps (9B) et dudit couvercle (9A)

sont réalisés par des appendices de matériau en feuille reliés au fond (9.1 ; 19.1) le long de lignes de pli ou de pliage respectives (9.2 ; 19.2) ;

- chacun desdits appendices formant la première 5
 paire de côtés opposés est relié à deux languettes latérales (9.6 ; 19.6) le long de lignes de pli ou de pliage respectives (9.5 ; 19.5) ;
- une deuxième paire de côtés opposés (9.7 ; 19.7) dudit corps (9B) et dudit couvercle (9A) 10
 sont chacun réalisés par un autre appendice respectif relié au fond (9.1 ; 19.1) le long de lignes de pli ou de pliage (9.3 ; 19.3) et par deux languettes latérales triangulaires (9.10 ; 19.10) 15
 reliées par des lignes de pli ou de pliage (9.9 ; 19.9) auxdits autres appendices ;
- chacune desdites languettes latérales (9.6 ; 19.6) reliée aux appendices formant la première 20
 paire de côtés (9.4 ; 19.4) est reliée à une languette triangulaire respective (9.10 ; 19.10).

11. Emballage selon la revendication 10, dans lequel 25
 lesdites languettes latérales (9.6 ; 19.6) reliées aux appendices formant la première paire de côtés (9.4 ; 19.4) sont reliées aux languettes triangulaires (9.10 ; 19.10) par collage.

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Fig. 1

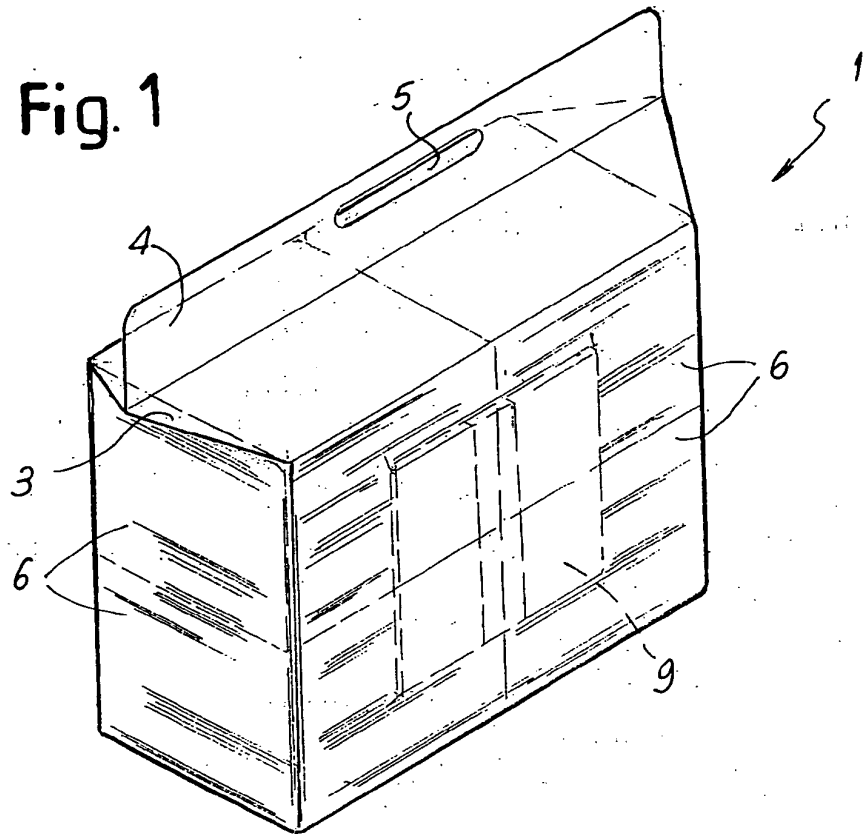
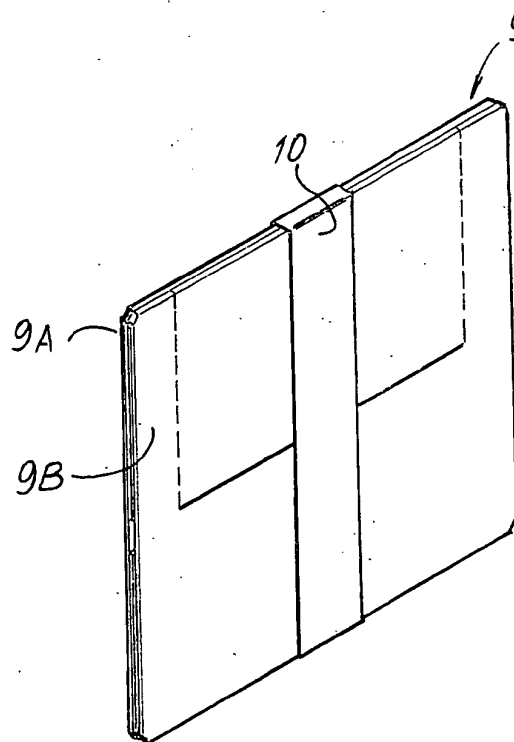


Fig. 2



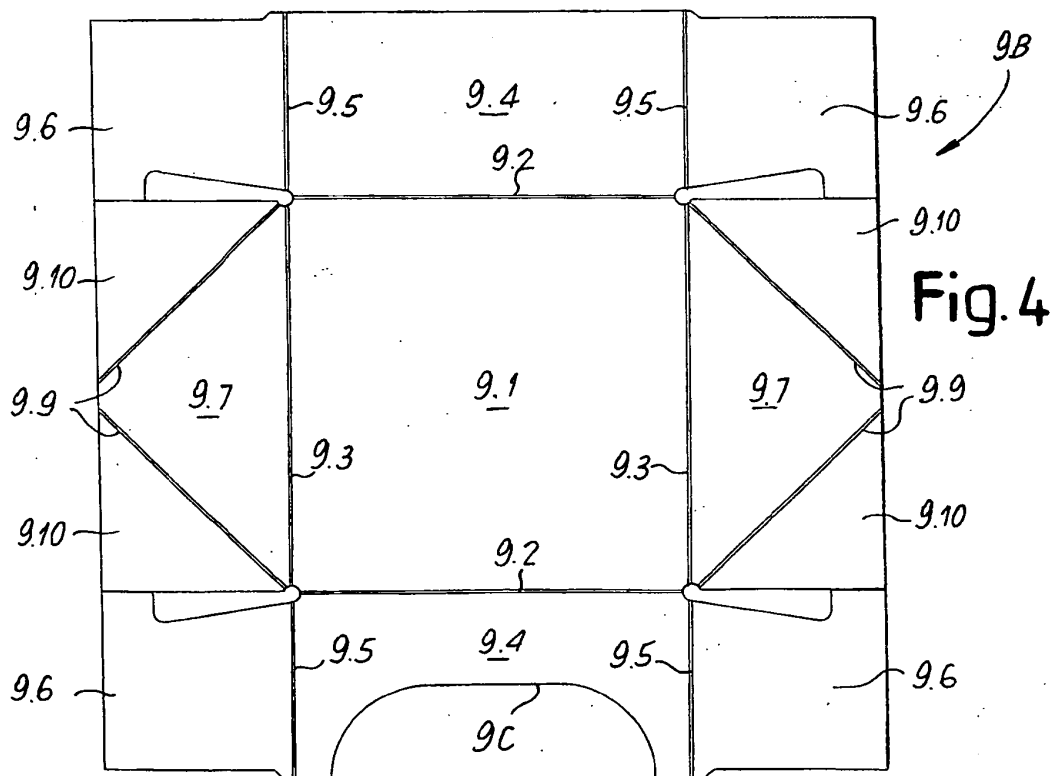
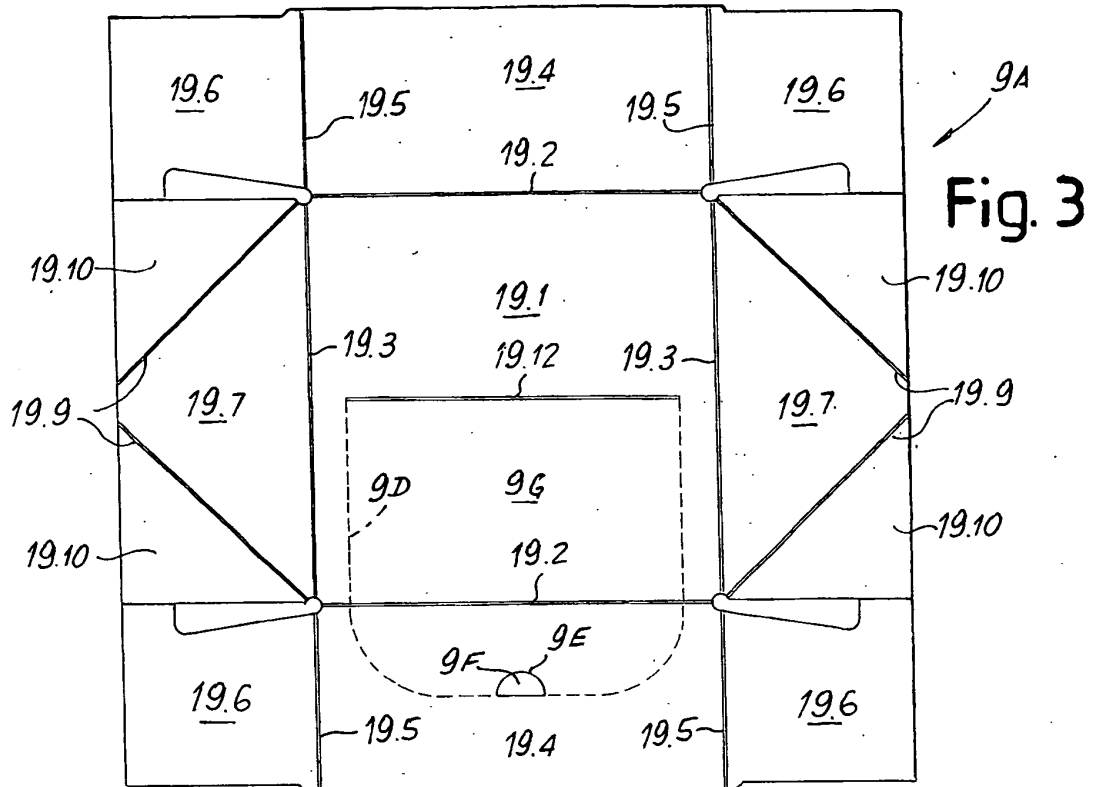
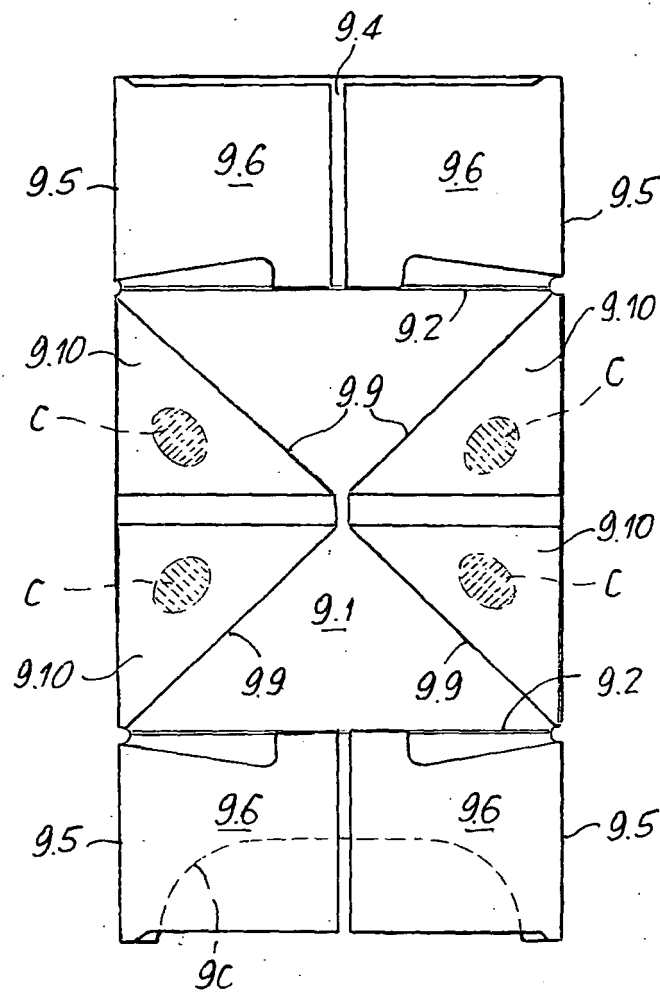
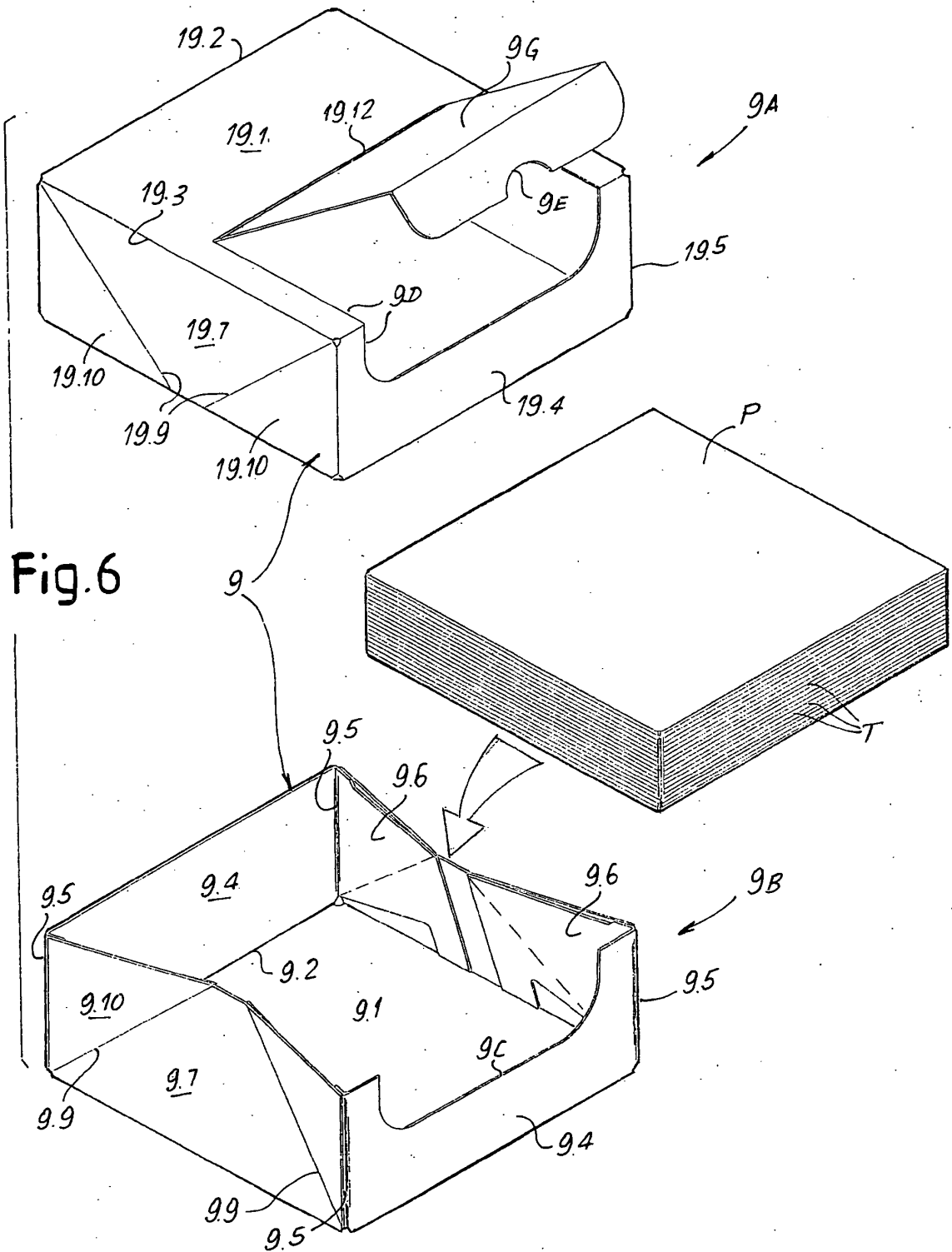


Fig.5





REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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