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(54) **Package and blank therefor**

(57) The invention relates to a package comprising a carton, a plurality of articles (148) and one or more promotional items (146); a blank (110) for forming such a carton or carrier; and the carton itself. More specifically, but not exclusively, the invention relates to carton of the wraparound type comprising means for securing one or more promotional items (146) within the carton. Said blank (110) has an area (124) for receiving said secondary type article (146) to be securely retained within the

carrier and a securing panel (122) structured and arranged such that it is disposable atop said area (124) for overlaying at least a portion of the secondary article (146). The securing panel (122) is disposable in bonding relationship with one or more portions of a panel (118) juxtaposed said area (124). In this way the secondary article (146) disposed in said area (124) is retainable by the securing panel (122) once the carrier is fully formed and during its assembly.

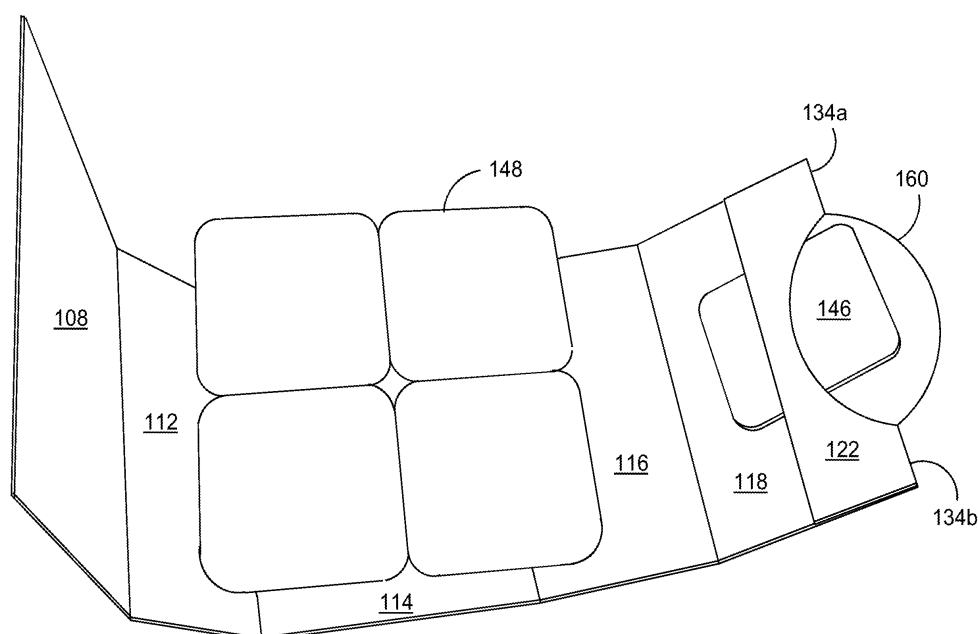


FIGURE 8

Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention relates to a package comprising a carton; a plurality of articles; and one or more promotional items, a blank for forming such a carton and the carton itself. More specifically, but not exclusively, the invention relates to carton of the wraparound type comprising means for securing one or more promotional items within the carton.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] In the field of packaging it is often required to provide consumers with a plurality of grouped articles for ease of purchase, for example a multipack of cans or diary produce such as yoghurts. Cartons provide a convenient means for securely grouping multiple articles thus enabling the group easily to be carried. Additionally it is often desirable to add promotional or informative materials or secondary articles such as coupons; novelty toys and/or drinking straws into such cartons. These additional items can inadvertently fall out of cartons if they are not securely retained therein. This is undesirable. Additionally, such items can, if not securely retained, be deliberately withdrawn from a carton before purchase. This is also undesirable, especially if such deliberate removal of the secondary article(s) is not noticed and the actual purchaser of the carton does not realise that their promotional gift; coupon or other secondary article is missing until after leaving the point of purchase.

[0003] It is known to provide promotional material such as coupons as integral parts of the carton that can later be torn away. US 4,834,240 to Dagostine discloses one such carton wherein premium cards (34) are connected to a main panel of the carton by means of a breakable perforate line. Supplying promotional material in this way is only applicable to paperboard or cardboard type items and is therefore limited in application. Additionally, because the coupon is easily removable, it can be too easy to remove before purchase.

[0004] It is known in the prior art to first form a carrier loaded with primary articles and then as a last step in the construction process manually add in a secondary article. However, this is labour intensive, slow and unreliable. Additionally, the secondary articles are easily removable by the same method by which they are inserted into the carton.

[0005] It is known from US 4, 453, 664 in the name of the Mead Corp (to whom the present applicant is successor in title) to secure promotional material within a wraparound type carrier by adhering a separate article carrier promotional means (p) to an internal face of a side wall of the carrier. The article carrier promotional means (p) is manipulated in such manner that a primary coupon (51) is folded into flat face contacting relation with a secondary coupon (52). Following this, promotional means

(p) is adhered to the inner surface of a side wall (6) of the carton. Though this arrangement provides for secure retention of secondary articles within a carrier, it requires a number of folding and manipulating steps to construct the finished carrier, as well as requiring the manipulation of two separate elements. The additional material used to form the article carrier promotional means (p) adds undesirable cost and complexity to the overall carrier.

[0006] It is an objective of the present invention to avoid or at least mitigate these and other problems associated with the prior art by providing a carrier with means for securely retaining therein one or more secondary articles such a promotional item.

15 SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0007] Accordingly, a first aspect of the invention provides a blank for forming a carrier for containing one or more primary articles, the blank comprising a series of panels, an area for receiving a secondary article to be securely retained within the carrier and a securing panel hinged to one or more of said panels, the securing panel being structured and arranged such that it is disposable atop said area for receiving a secondary article for overlaying at least a portion of a secondary article and is disposable in bonding relationship with one or more portions of a panel juxtaposed said area such that a secondary article disposed in said area is retainable by said securing panel during subsequent manipulation of the blank into a carrier.

[0008] A second aspect of the invention provides blank for forming a carrier of the type that is wrapped around one or more primary articles, the blank comprising a series of panels, an area for receiving a secondary article to be securely retained within the carrier and a securing panel hinged to one or more of said panels, the securing panel being structured and arranged such that it is disposable atop said area for receiving a secondary article for overlaying at least a portion of a secondary article and is disposable in bonding relationship with one or more portions of a panel juxtaposed said area such that a secondary article disposed in said area is retainable by said securing panel during subsequent manipulation of the blank into a wraparound carrier.

[0009] Optionally, the securing panel is arranged such that a pocket is formable, the pocket having at least a partially closed portion by which a secondary article is retained during subsequent manipulation of the blank to form a wraparound carrier and a partially open portion by which the secondary article is removable. Preferably said at least partially closed portion of said pocket is formed closer than said partially open portion to a panel of the blank upon which the or each primary articles are receivable.

[0010] Preferably the securing panel is hinged to a panel comprising said area for receiving a secondary article. Alternatively, the securing panel is hinged to a panel other than the panel comprising said area for receiving

a secondary article. Additionally, panel other than the panel comprising said area and the panel comprising said area are hinged together.

[0011] Preferably, first and second top panels for forming a composite top wall of the carrier are provided and said area for receiving a secondary article is provided on an internal face of the first of said top panels; the securing panel is hinged to said first top panel and a portion of the external face of the first of said top panels is prepared such that an internal face of the second of said top panels is securely bondable to that portion.

[0012] Optionally, the securing panel is shaped to promote nesting of adjacent blanks. Preferably, the securing panel has an outline shape that, at least in part, is complementary to the outline shape of a side edge of two or more panels of the blank.

[0013] Preferably, the securing panel is defined by a shaped cutline and two hinge portions respectively, said shaped cut line enables the panel comprising the area for receiving a secondary article to have an area sufficient to accommodate the secondary article yet the fold lines are positioned in an offset manner from the outer extent of the shaped cut line and closer to the area such that the securing panel is foldable across a central portion of the area for receiving a secondary article to assist with retaining said secondary article within the carrier.

[0014] Preferably, the securing panel comprises a fold line and said fold line is arranged to overlay a hinged connection between the panel comprising said area for receiving a secondary article and an adjacent panel, such that when the securing panel overlays said secondary article, the panels of the blank can be formed into a carrier unhindered by said securing panel. Preferably, the securing panel is hinged to said adjacent panel.

[0015] According to a third aspect, the invention provides a package comprising a carrier, one or more primary articles and one or more secondary articles, the carrier comprising a series of panels, at least one area for receiving the or each secondary article and a securing panel hinged to one or more of said panels for securely retaining the secondary article within the carrier, the securing panel being structured and arranged in overlaying relationship with at least a portion of the secondary article and being bonded to one or more portions of a panel juxtaposed said area such that the secondary article disposed in said area is retainable within the carrier by said securing panel and retainable during formation of the package.

[0016] According to a fourth aspect, the invention provides a carrier or carton for containing one or more primary articles and a secondary article, the carrier comprising a series of panels, an area for receiving a secondary article and a securing panel hinged to one or more of said panels for securely retaining the secondary article within the carrier, the securing panel being structured and arranged in overlaying relationship with at least a portion of the secondary article and being bonded to one or more portions of a panel juxtaposed said area such

that the secondary article disposed in said area is retainable within the carrier by said securing panel and retainable during formation of the package.

[0017] According to a fifth aspect, the invention provides a method of forming a package, the package comprising one or more primary articles; a secondary article; and a carrier, the carrier comprising a series of panels, an area for receiving the secondary article and a securing panel hinged to one of said panels, said method comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing the carrier in flat form;
- (ii) disposing said secondary article in the area for receiving the secondary article;
- (iii) applying bonding means to the securing panel and/or to one or more portions of a panel juxtaposed said area for receiving the secondary article;
- (iv) manipulating said securing panel into bonding relationship with one or more portions of a panel juxtaposed said area and at the same time manipulating said securing panel such that the securing panel overlays at least a portion of the secondary article such that said secondary article is retained by the securing panel during subsequent manipulation of the carrier;
- (v) loading said one or more primary articles onto a panel of the carrier and forming the remaining of said panels with the secondary article into a package comprising said primary article(s).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] Three exemplary embodiments of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

- Fig. 1 shows a plan view of a blank for forming a carton according to a first embodiment of the invention;
- Fig. 2 shows a first step in the construction of a package from the blank of figure 1, wherein a secondary article, in this case a promotional gadget has been adhered to the blank;
- Fig. 3 illustrates a second step in the construction of the packages referred to above, wherein a securing flap has been disposed on top of a portion of the promotional gadget to secure the promotional gadget within the package;
- Fig. 4 illustrates the loading of a group of primary articles into the carrier of figure 3 and shows a further step in the construction of the a package;
- Fig. 5 shows the package formed from the blank of fig1; primary articles and secondary article;
- Fig. 6 shows a blank for forming a carton according

to a second embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 7 shows a blank for forming a carton according to a third embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 8 shows a step in the construction of a package from the blank of the second embodiment of Figure 6.

[0019] Reference numerals used in Figures 1- 5 have similarly been used in figures 6 and 7 to highlight features or details of the first embodiment common to the second and third embodiments; albeit the reference numerals of the second and third embodiments are increased by a factor of '100' and '200' respectively.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0020] Three specific embodiments of the invention will now be described with reference to Figures 1 - 8. Each of figures 1, 6 and 7 shows a blank 10, 110, 210 for forming a carrier 50 (see figure 5) of the type that is wrapped around one or more primary articles 48, 148. It is envisaged that the invention to be described is applicable to other types of carrier, for example a basket carrier; fully enclosed carton; and/or top gripping carrier as unlimiting examples (this list is not exhaustive). Although most advantageously the invention is applicable to a carrier of the wraparound type where, it is required to manipulate an open blank sleeve 10, 110, 210 around a group of articles to maintain those articles as an assembled group. Difficulties can arise where it is required to secure within such a carrier a further, secondary, article (46, 146) such as a promotional gift, a toy for example; information media; auxiliary item(s) to be used with the primary product (e.g. cutlery; drinking straws; syringe; flavouring sachet) and/or any collectables. Again this list is non-limiting and provides just some examples of the types of secondary article that may be used. The exact nature or number of the secondary article(s) is not material to the operation of the invention and it is envisaged that in other embodiments of the invention, the secondary product is a healthcare or personal care item(s).

[0021] In the embodiments shown a single primary article 48, 148 is depicted (see figures 4, 5 and 8). The single primary article is a linked group of four yoghurt pots. The exact nature or number of the primary article (s) is not material to the operation of the invention and a four-pack of yoghurt pots is shown for illustrative purposes only. In other embodiments a tiered stack of two or three such grouped pots may be contained and it is envisaged that in other embodiments of the invention, the primary product is not a food or beverage item but rather a healthcare or personal care item(s).

[0022] Each blank 10, 110, 210 is made of paperboard though other similar foldable sheet material can be used. Each blank shown in Figures 1, 6 and 7 is illustrated

showing the printable "white" or "good" side of the paperboard facing out.

[0023] Each blank comprises a hinged series of panels for forming the main walls of the carton including: a top wall panel 8, 108, 208; first side wall panel 12, 112, 212; bottom panel 14, 114, 214; second side wall panel 16, 116, 216 and glue flap 18 or inner top wall panel 118, 218. The series of panels are hinged together along fold lines 26/126/226, 28/128/228, 30/130/230 and 32/132/232 respectively.

[0024] Since in the embodiments depicted, the primary article is a group of pots 48, 148, the bottom wall panel 14, 114, 214 is provided with means 40, 140, 240 for retaining a heel portion of a pair of pots. In the first embodiment it can be seen that the heel retaining means comprises a pair of cut lines 38 defining a bow shape. The heel retaining means 40 thereby formed is depicted in figure 5, wherein the bow shaped heel retaining means has been pushed inwardly of the carton 50 to engage and/or brace between a pair of adjacent pots. In a wrap-around carrier, this heel retaining means assists in the tight securement of the carrier sleeve 50 around the primary article(s). In other embodiments where different primary articles are held, more or indeed no heel apertures may be provided, and it will be understood that the heel apertures are entirely optional.

[0025] Each blank 10, 110, 210 is provided with an area 24, 124, 224 for receiving a secondary type article 46, 146 to be securely retained within the carrier 50. Each such area (for illustrative purposes) is depicted by a solid line in figures 1, 6 and 7. Optionally the area 24, 124, 224 for receiving a secondary type article 46, 146 is not demarcated by any line. Further, in each embodiment, a securing panel 20/22, 122, 222 is shown, by which, the secondary article 46, 146 is retained.

[0026] The securing panel 20/22, 122, 222 preferably is hinged to a panel of the respective blank 10, 110, 210 along fold line 34, 134a/134b, 234a/234b. The securing panel 20/22, 122, 222 is structured and arranged such that it is disposable atop said area 24, 124, 224 for receiving a secondary article 46, 146 and for overlaying at least a portion of a secondary article 46, 146. Each securing panel 20/22, 122, 222 is disposable in bonding relationship with one or more portions 42/142/242, 44/144/244 of a panel juxtaposed (or adjacent to) the secondary article 46, 146 receiving area 24, 124, 224. In this way a secondary article 46, 146 disposed in said area 24, 124, 224 is retainable by the securing panel 20/22, 122, 222. The secondary article 46, 146 is retainable by the securing panel 20/22, 122, 222 once the carrier 50 is fully formed and also during the assembly of the loaded carrier 50.

[0027] Turning to the construction of the carrier as illustrated in Figure 5 it is envisaged that the carrier or package 50 can be formed by a series of sequential folding operations in a straight line machine so that the blank 10/110/210 and/or carrier 50 or package is not required to be rotated or inverted to complete its construction. The

folding process is not limited to that described below and may be altered according to particular manufacturing requirements.

[0028] Since the construction of a carrier 50 from the blank 10 of the first embodiment differs slightly from that of the second and third embodiments, the construction of the first embodiment will be described separately.

[0029] Referring to Figure 2, the blank 10 is placed printed side down and the secondary article 46 placed in the area 24. Glue or other adhesive is then applied in the regions of 42, 44 as depicted, for illustrative purposes, in Figure 1. In another embodiment the adhesive means is deposited onto securing panel 20/22. The securing panel 20/22 is then folded about angled fold line 34 and into face contacting relationship with portions 42, 44 and the secondary article 46 (see Figure 3).

[0030] Referring now to Figure 4, primary article 48 is loaded onto bottom wall panel 14. First side wall panel 12 and glue flap 18 are then folded about fold lines 30 and 32 in order to bring the first side wall panel into abutment with a side of primary article 48 and to bring the glue flap on top of primary article 48. Adhesive means is then applied to the outer face of glue flap 18 in the region shown as 52. This region 52 of glue flap 18 is prepared without any lamination or varnish in order to ensure a strong bond between the glue flap 18 and top wall panel 8.

[0031] To complete construction of the carrier 50 (shown in Figure 5), first side wall panel 12 and top wall panel 8 are folded about fold lines 28 and 26 respectively. It can be seen that securing panel 20/22 is divided into two portions, 20 and 22 by fold line 36. Fold line 36 is provided to fall into deliberate alignment with fold line 26 once the securing flap 20/22 is disposed in overlapping relationship with top wall panel 8 and first side wall panel 12. In this way, the top wall panel 8 and first side wall panel 12 together with the secondary article and securing flap 20/22 can be formed around the primary article 48 unhindered.

[0032] Additionally, and beneficially, the securing panel is arranged such that a pocket is formed. The pocket has at least a partially closed portion by which a secondary article 46 is retained. This closed portion is defined by the bonded regions 42 and 44 along with composite fold line 26/36. During subsequent manipulation of the blank to form a wraparound carrier the composite fold lines 26/36 together with the bonded closed portions 42 and 44 maintain the secondary article 46 within the carrier. The pocket is also defined by a partially open portion by which the secondary article 46 is, when desired, removable. The at least partially closed portion of said pocket is formed closer than said partially open portion to the bottom wall panel 14 of the blank 10 upon which the primary article is loaded 48. Because of this, the secondary article 46 is securely retained during construction and therefore construction can be carried out by a machine.

[0033] In the first embodiment of the invention the outer edge of the securing panel is shaped to promote nesting

of adjacent blanks. To this end the outline shape of the securing panel is, at least in part, shaped complementarily to the outline shape of a side edge of two or more panels of the blank.

[0034] Turning now to the second and third embodiments of the invention shown in Figures 6 and 7, the securing panel 122, 222 is in each of these embodiments hinged to the panel comprising the area 124, 224 upon which the secondary article is disposed. (This contrasts with the first embodiment wherein the securing panel 20/22 is hinged to a panel 12, which is a panel other than the panel 8 comprising said area 24 for receiving a secondary article 46).

[0035] Each securing panel 122, 222 is defined by a shaped cutline 160, 260 and two hinge portions 134a, 134b 234a, 234b respectively. The shaped cut line 160, 260 beneficially enables the inner top panel 118, 218 to have an area sufficient to accommodate the secondary article yet at the same time the position of the fold lines 134a, 134b, 234a, 234b (being offset from the outer extent of the shaped cut line 160, 260 toward the area 124, 224) enables the securing panel 122, 222, to be foldable across a central portion of the secondary article to assist with retaining it within the carton. Once received in the area 124, 224, the secondary article 146 is securely retained in between the securing panel 122, 222 and the inner top wall panel 118, 218 by means of the securing panel overlapping the secondary article 146 and by means of the securing panel being bonded to the inner top panel 118, 218 in two regions 142/144, 242/244 each juxtaposed the area for receiving the secondary article 124, 224 and each juxtaposed the respective hinge portions 134a, 134b, 234a, 234b.

[0036] The blanks 110, 210 of figures 6 and 7 are shown "white side" facing out. Though the line of demarcation of the area 124, 224 for receiving a secondary article 146 is shown on the "good side"; this is for illustrative purposes only and the secondary article is positioned on the internal face of the inner top panel 118, 218 as shown in Figure 8. This applies also to the areas highlighted for receiving adhesive, 142, 144, 242, 244. The glue regions 152, 252 are however disposed on the external (good side) of the inner top panel 118, 218 and this region of the good side of the paperboard deliberately is prepared without varnish or other lamination in order to ensure a strong bond between the inner top panel 118, 218 and the respective outer top panel 108, 208.

[0037] The inner top wall panel 118, 218 is folded into overlapping relationship with the primary article 148 and then the outer top panel 108 secured (by means of glue applied to either the inner or the outer top wall panel 118/108, 218/208 in region 152, 252). In this way the secondary article 146 is tightly sandwiched between the primary article 148 and securing panel 122 (222) on one side and the inner top wall panel 118 (218) and outer top wall panel 108 (208) on the other side.

[0038] It can be appreciated that various changes may be made within the scope of the present invention, for

example, the size and shape of the panels may be adjusted to accommodate articles of differing size or shape. The size of the securing panel may be altered according to the size of the secondary article, though preferably the securing panel overlaps a central portion of the secondary article. In other embodiments of the invention it is envisaged that the type of carton will be of a type alternative to a wraparound carton as illustrated. It is also envisaged that more than one secondary article is retained with a carton, additionally it is envisaged that more than one secondary article is retained by a single securing flap. In such an embodiment the securing flap optionally is bonded in two or more regions juxtaposed the area for receiving the secondary articles. In a further embodiment, the or each secondary article is optionally adhered of bonded to the area for receiving the secondary article.

[0039] It will be recognised that as used herein, directional references such as "top", "bottom", "front", "back", "end", "side", "inner", "outer", "upper" and "lower" do not limit the respective panels to such orientation, but merely serve to distinguish these panels from one another. Any reference to hinged connection should not be construed as necessarily referring to a single fold line only; indeed it is envisaged that hinged connection can be formed from one or more of the following, a short slit, a frangible line or a fold line without departing from the scope of the invention.

Claims

1. A blank (10, 110, 210) for forming a carrier (50) for containing one or more primary articles (48, 148), the blank comprising a series of panels, an area (24, 124, 224) for receiving a secondary article (46, 146) to be securely retained within the carrier and a securing panel (20/22, 122, 222) hinged to one or more of said panels, the securing panel (20/22, 122, 222) being structured and arranged such that it is disposable atop said area (24, 124, 224) for receiving a secondary article for overlaying at least a portion of a secondary article and is disposable in bonding relationship with one or more portions of a panel (8/12, 118, 218) juxtaposed said area (24, 124, 224) such that a secondary article disposed in said area is retainable by said securing panel during subsequent manipulation of the blank into a carrier.
2. A blank according to claim 1 for forming a carrier of the type that is wrapped around one or more primary articles, the securing panel being structured and arranged such that it is disposable atop said area for receiving a secondary article for overlaying at least a portion of a secondary article and is disposable in bonding relationship with one or more portions of a panel juxtaposed said area such that a secondary article disposed in said area is retainable by said securing panel during subsequent manipulation of
- the blank into a wraparound carrier.
3. A blank according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the securing panel is arranged such that a pocket is formable, the pocket having at least a partially closed portion by which a secondary article is retained during subsequent manipulation of the blank to form a wraparound carrier and a partially open portion by which the secondary article is removable.
4. A blank according to claim 3 wherein said at least partially closed portion of said pocket is formed closer than said partially open portion to a panel of the blank upon which the or each primary articles are receivable.
5. A blank according to any preceding claim wherein the securing panel (122, 222) is hinged to a panel (118, 218) comprising said area (124, 224) for receiving a secondary article or wherein the securing panel (20/22) is hinged to a panel (12) other than the panel (8) comprising said area (24) for receiving a secondary article.
6. A blank according to claim 5 wherein said panel other than the panel comprising said area and the panel comprising said area are hinged together.
7. A blank according to any preceding claim comprising first and second top panels (118/108, 218/208) for forming a composite top wall of the carrier and wherein said area (124, 224) for receiving a secondary article is provided on an internal face of the first (118, 218) of said top panels; the securing panel (122, 222) is hinged to said first top panel (118, 218) and a portion of the external face of the first of said top panels is prepared such that an internal face of the second of said top panels is securely bondable to that portion.
8. A blank according to any preceding claim wherein the securing panel is shaped to promote nesting of adjacent blanks.
9. A blank according to claim 9 wherein the securing panel has an outline shape that, at least in part, is shaped complementarily to the outline shape of a side edge of two or more panels of the blank.
10. A blank according to any preceding claim wherein the securing panel (122, 222) is defined by a shaped outline (160, 260) and two hinge portions (134a, 134b; 234a, 234b) respectively, said shaped cut line (160, 260) enables the panel (118, 218) comprising the area (124, 224) for receiving a secondary article to have an area sufficient to accommodate the secondary article yet the fold lines (134a, 134b; 234a, 234b) are positioned in an offset manner from the

outer extent of the shaped cut line (160, 260) and closer to the area (124, 224) such that the securing panel (122, 222) is foldable across a central portion of the area (124, 224) for receiving a secondary article to assist with retaining said secondary article within the carrier. 5

11. A blank according to any preceding claim 1 to 9 wherein the securing panel (20/22) comprises a fold line (36) and said fold line is arranged to overlay a hinged connection (26) between the panel (8) comprising said area (24) for receiving a secondary article and an adjacent panel (12), such that when the securing panel overlays said secondary article, the panels of the blank can be formed or wrapped around a primary article and formed into a carrier unhindered by said securing panel. 10 15

12. A blank according to claim 11 wherein the securing panel is hinged to said adjacent panel (12). 20

13. A carrier for comprising one or more articles or a package comprising a carrier, one or more primary articles and a secondary article, the carrier comprising a series of panels, an area for receiving a secondary article and a securing panel hinged to one or more of said panels for securely retaining the secondary article within the carrier, the securing panel being structured and arranged in overlaying relationship with at least a portion of the secondary article and being bonded to one or more portions of a panel juxtaposed said area such that the secondary article disposed in said area is retainable within the carrier by said securing panel and retainable during formation of the package. 25 30 35

14. A carrier for comprising one or more articles or a package comprising a carrier, one or more primary articles and a secondary article, according to claim 13 wherein the carrier is formed from a blank according to any of claims 1 to 12. 40

15. A method of forming a package, the package comprising one or more primary articles; a secondary article; and a carrier, the carrier comprising a series of panels, an area for receiving the secondary article and a securing panel hinged to one of said panels, said method comprising the steps of: 45

- (i) providing the carrier in flat form; 50
- (ii) disposing said secondary article in the area for receiving the secondary article;
- (iii) applying bonding means to the securing panel and/or to one or more portions of a panel juxtaposed said area for receiving the secondary article; 55
- (iv) manipulating said securing panel into bonding relationship with one or more portions of a

panel juxtaposed said area and at the same time manipulating said securing panel such that the securing panel overlays at least a portion of the secondary article such that said secondary article is retained by the securing panel during subsequent manipulation of the carrier; (v) loading said one or more primary articles onto a panel of the carrier and forming the remaining of said panels with the secondary article into a package comprising said primary article(s).

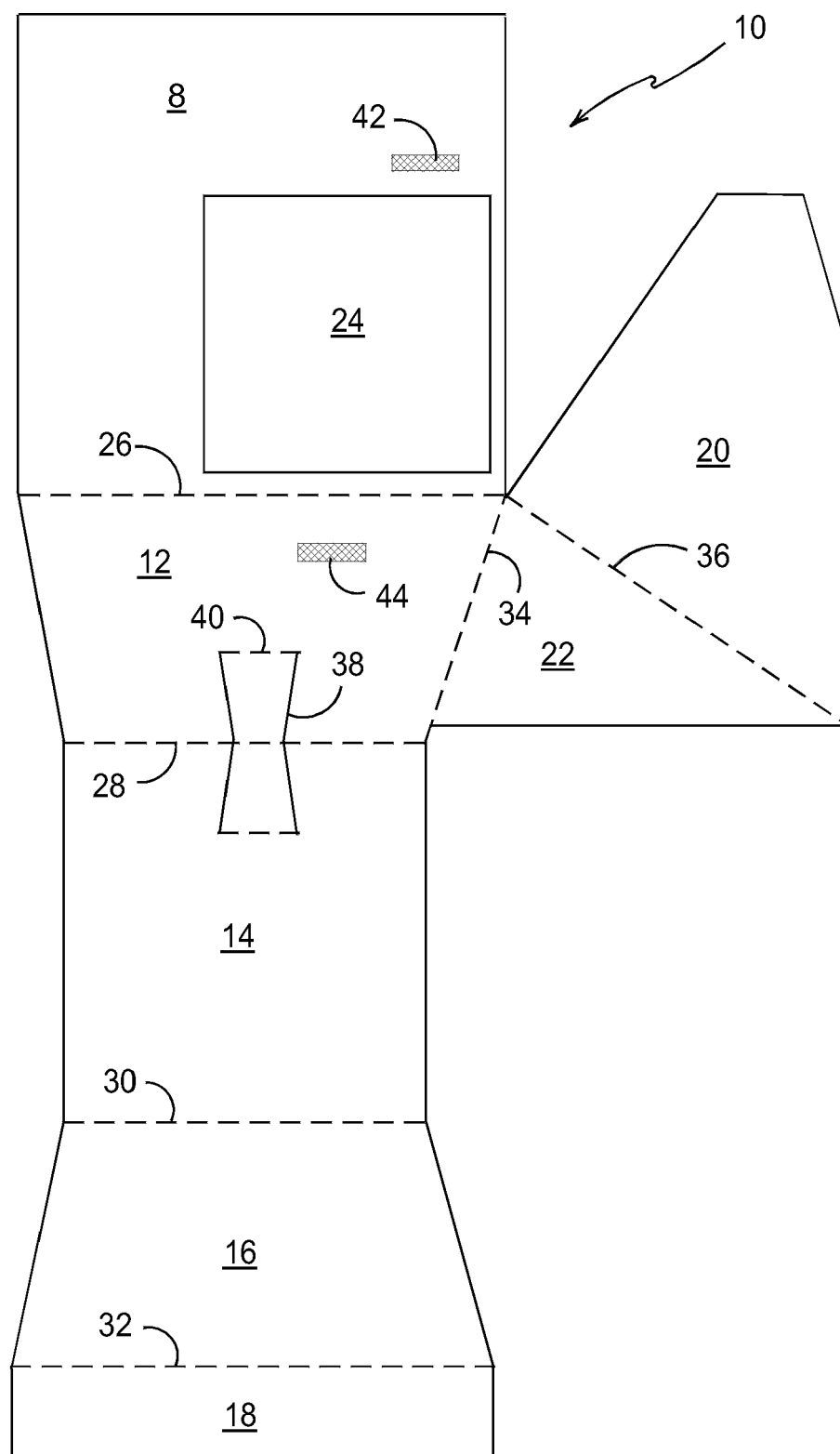


FIGURE 1

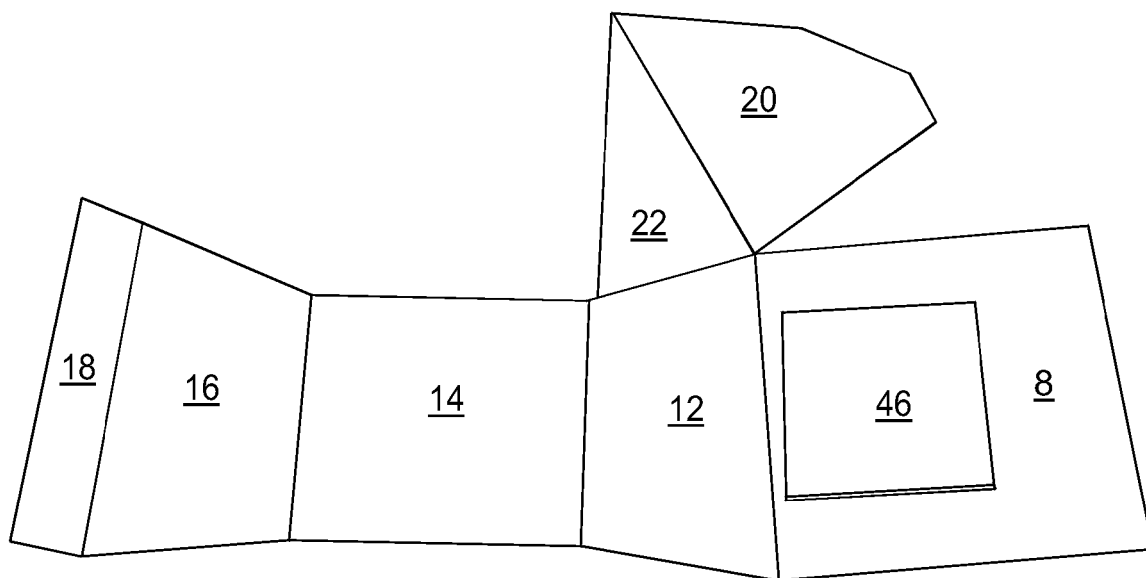


FIGURE 2

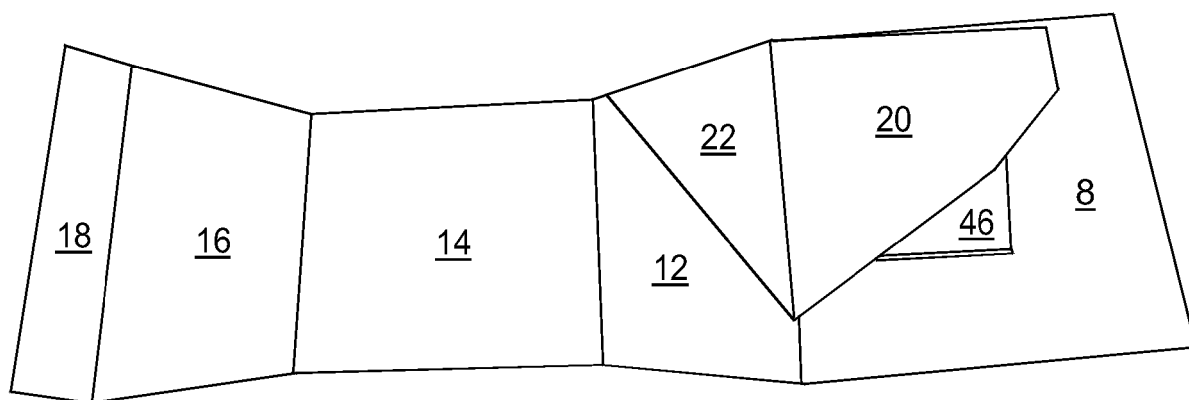


FIGURE 3

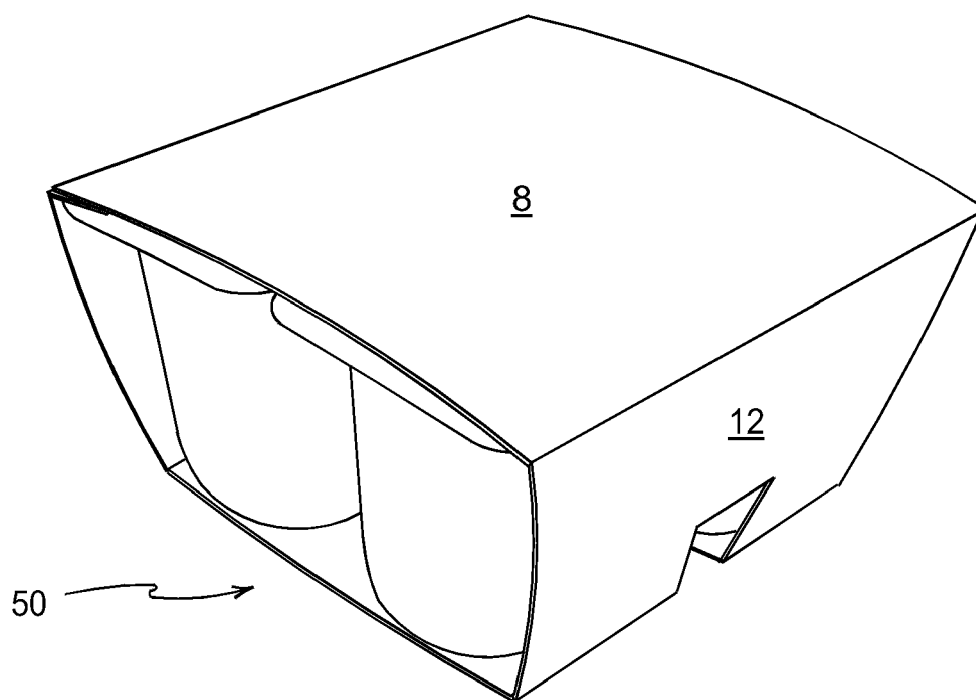
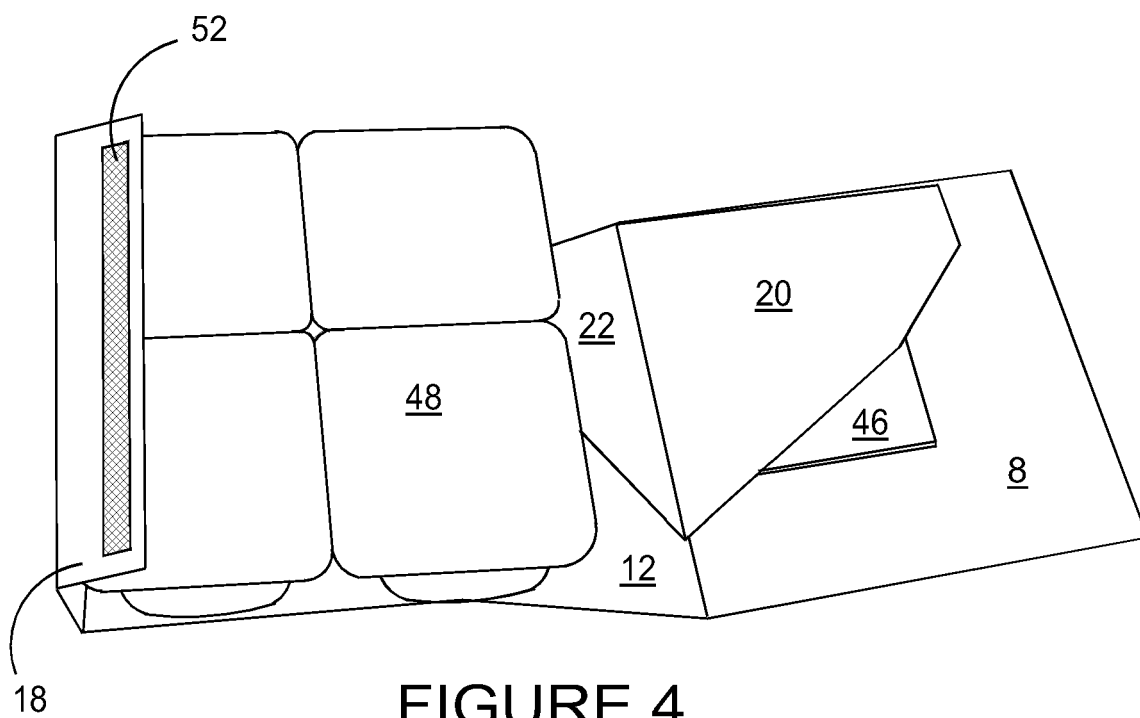
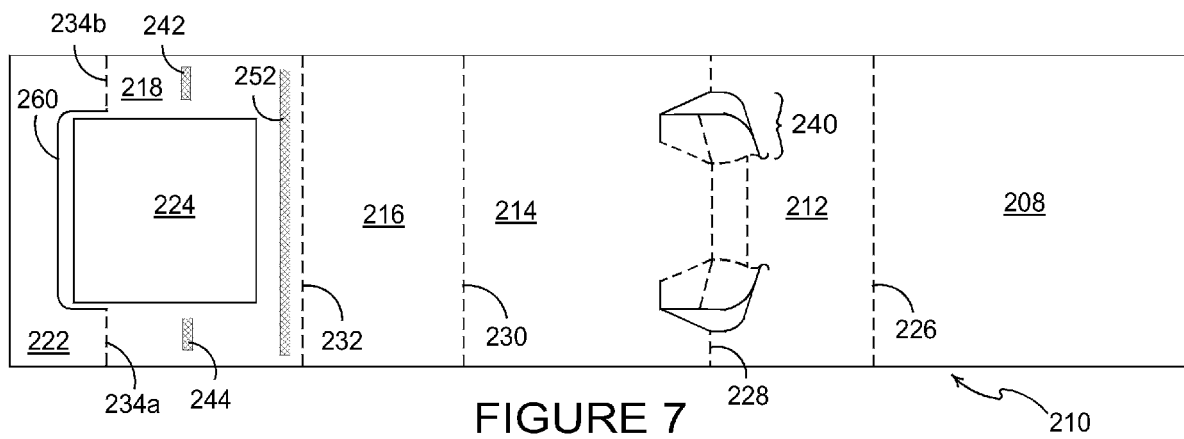
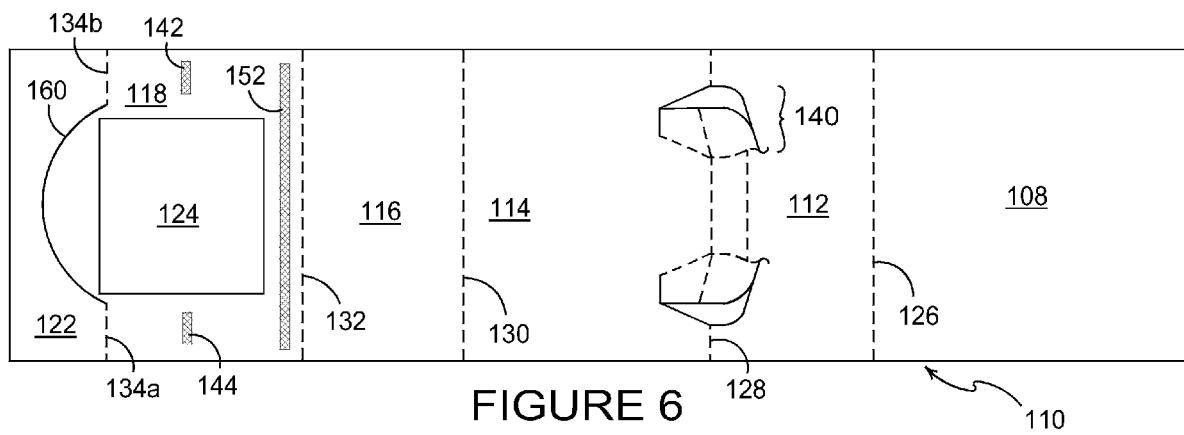


FIGURE 5



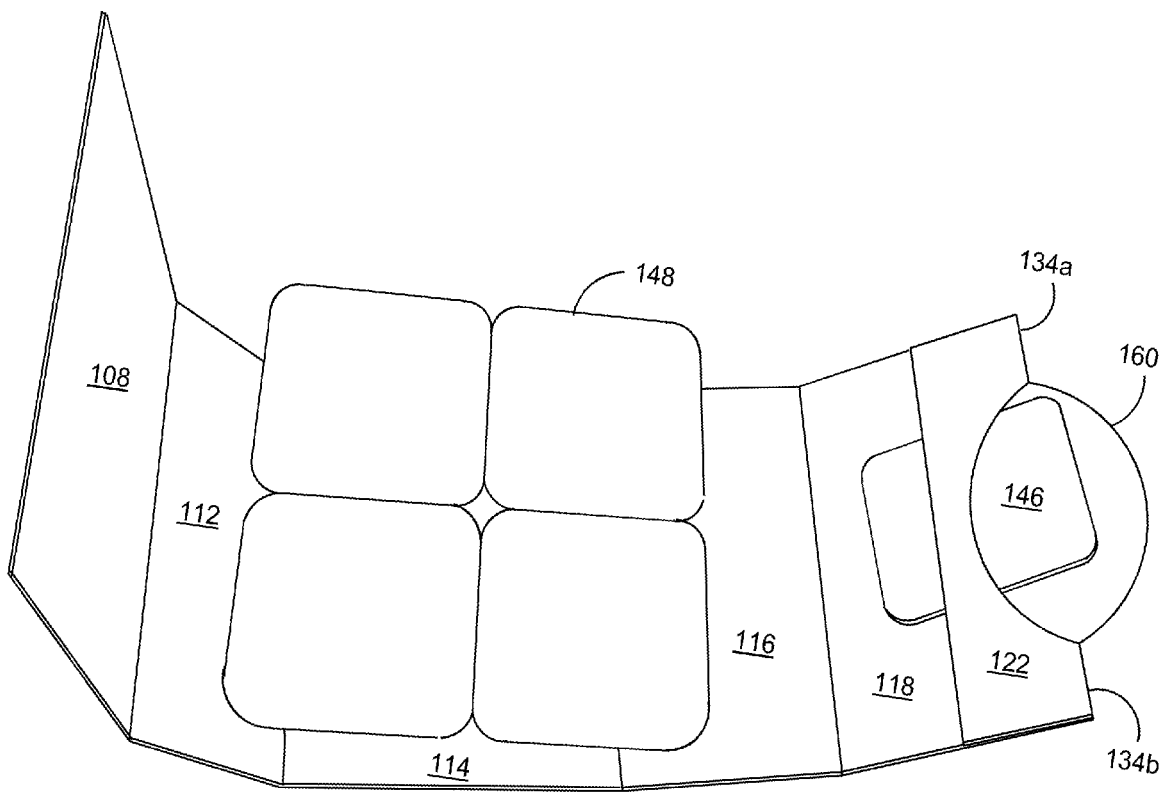


FIGURE 8



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 17 2006

| 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 | US 3 533 546 A (KOSSNAR DENNIS J) 13 October 1970 (1970-10-13) * column 1, line 24 - line 39 * * column 1, line 68 - column 3, line 31 * * figures 1-4 * | 1-6,8-15 | INV. B65D5/42 B65D71/16 |
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