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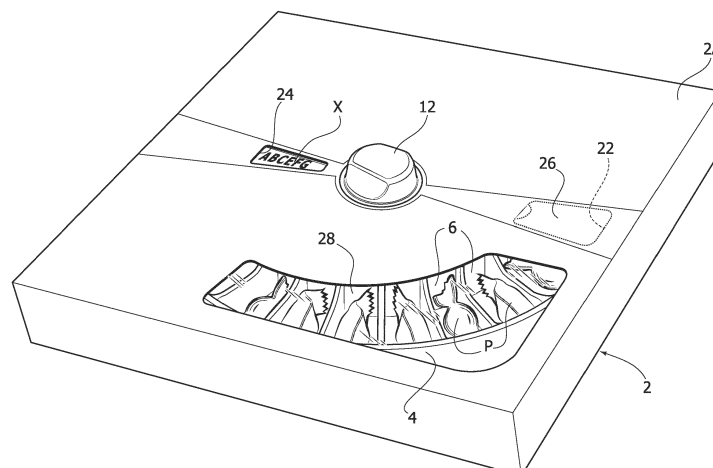
(54) **PACKAGE FOR A PLURALITY OF PRODUCTS, IN PARTICULAR CONFECTIONERY PRODUCTS**

(57) Described herein is a package for a plurality of products, preferably foodstuff products, even more preferably confectionery products.

The package is characterized in that it comprises:
- an outer container (2); and
- a tray (4), which is provided with a plurality of housings (6) containing said products (P) and is rotatably mounted within said container (2);
wherein provided on said tray (4) is an array of game indications (X);
wherein said outer container is provided with at least one opening (22, 24) or else an opening (22) and a transparent portion, which is or are configured for rendering ac-

cessible a product contained in a housing (6) so that it can be taken out, and for rendering visible from outside an indication (X) of said game; and
wherein said tray (4) is provided with a shaped portion (12), which faces, or projects on, the outside of the container (2) and which the consumer can get hold of, and wherein said tray is configured for being rotated, via said shaped portion (12), so as to render accessible a new product (P) and, simultaneously, render visible from outside a new game indication (X), through said at least one opening (22, 24) or else said opening (22) and said transparent portion.

FIG. 1



Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a "game package", i.e., a package that can also function as a game. The package described herein is designed for applications for foodstuff products, and in particular for confectionery products. It is, however, clear that the teachings provided herein can also be used for applications relating to other types of products.

[0002] In general, game packages are already known in the art. For instance, packages are known that comprise basic containers or boxes, constituted by folded sheets of paper or card, which are appropriately printed and designed so that they can be re-used as boards for table games. Once again by way of example, packages are also known that are constituted by containers, usually obtained with folded sheets of paper or card, which reproduce imaginative elements that can be re-used as components of a game.

[0003] In this context, the present invention regards a package that proposes associating the action of taking out the products contained therein to a game, so as to render this action an opportunity of amusement.

[0004] The object of the invention is specified in Claim 1.

[0005] Further characteristics and advantages of the invention will emerge clearly from the ensuing description with reference to the annexed drawings, which are provided purely by way of non-limiting example and in which:

- Figure 1 illustrates a preferred embodiment of the package described herein, according to an axonometric view;
- Figure 2 illustrates the package of Figure 1 partially disassembled; and
- Figures 3a and 3b are schematic illustrations of how the package described herein is used as a game.

[0006] In the ensuing description, various specific details are illustrated aimed at providing an in-depth understanding of the embodiments. The embodiments may be provided without one or more of the specific details, or with other methods, components, or materials, etc. In other cases, known structures, materials, or operations are not illustrated or described in detail so that various aspects of the embodiment will not be obscured.

[0007] The references used herein are only provided for convenience and hence do not define the sphere of protection or the scope of the embodiments.

[0008] The package described herein is a package for a plurality of products. In preferred embodiments, the products are foodstuff products, even more preferably confectionery products. As has been said, the same teachings provided herein may in any case be used also for applications relating to other types of products.

[0009] In general, the package described herein comprises:

- an outer container; and
- a tray, which is provided with a plurality of housings containing said products and is rotatably mounted within said container;

wherein provided on said tray are an array of game indications;

wherein said outer container is provided with at least one opening or else with an opening and a transparent portion, which is or are configured for rendering accessible a product contained in a housing so that it can be taken out, and for rendering visible from outside an indication of said game; and

wherein said tray is provided with a shaped portion, which faces, or projects on, the outside of the container and which the consumer can get hold of, and wherein said tray is configured for being rotated, via said shaped portion, so as to render accessible a new product and, simultaneously, render visible from outside a new indication, through said at least one opening or else said opening and said transparent portion.

[0010] The game and its indications may be of a wide range of types.

[0011] Preferably, the game envisages presenting to the single player or to the players a test that the player/players have to pass in order to be able to take the product out of the package.

[0012] By way of example, the game may envisage quizzes, riddles and puzzles, logic tests, etc. Alternatively, the game may require the players to carry out a series of actions or activities in the form of forfeits or trials of skill.

[0013] The indications referred to above are the questions, instructions, and riddles that constitute the game.

[0014] In any case, in the package described herein, the products are presented as prizes when the various trials or tests envisaged by the game have been passed.

[0015] The drawings illustrate a preferred embodiment of the package described herein.

[0016] According to this embodiment, the outer container, designated by the reference number 2, is constituted by a box obtained from a sheet of dinked card material folded on itself so as to define a container closed on all sides.

[0017] The box may be closed by fitting elements such as tabs into slots to enable opening of the box once the products are finished, for example, so that the package can be filled up again and re-used for playing, or else with glue so that closing is definitive.

[0018] With reference to Figure 2, the tray of the package described herein, designated by the reference number 4, is instead preferably made of thermoformed plastic material, and has the overall shape of a wheel. In various preferred embodiments, as in the one illustrated, the tray 4 is constituted by a single body of thermoformed plastic material that identifies, simultaneously, an annular array of housings 6 in the peripheral region, a plane surface 8, of an annular shape, which is delimited by the array of housings 6, and a central gripping element 12.

[0019] Figures 1 and 3A-3B represent the housings 6 containing confectionery products P of various types. In various preferred embodiments, as in the one illustrated, the box 2 may be provided with a transparent portion 28, which is configured for displaying a part of the array of products P contained in the tray 4.

[0020] Applied on the surface 8 of the tray is a disk 14, made, for example, of card material, printed on which are the aforesaid game indications, designated in the figures by the reference X, which are also arranged according to an annular array as are the housings 6. In various embodiments, the disk 14 is applied on the tray 4 in a removable way, for example by slotting, so that it can be replaced with another disk. In this connection, the package described herein may be provided with a plurality of disks, each bearing the indications for a corresponding game, which are interchangeable on the tray 4 according to the desired game.

[0021] The array of indications and the array of housings are the same in number so that an indication is assigned to each housing.

[0022] To return to the box 2, this has at its top surface 2A an opening 21 (Figure 2) through which the central gripping element 12 of the tray exits from the box. In various preferred embodiments, as in the one illustrated, the opening 21 and the gripping element 12 have corresponding circular profiles and are mutually engaged according to a rotatable coupling, so that the tray 4 will be coupled in a rotatable way to the box 2. In addition, in further embodiments, the tray 4 may be rotatably mounted directly on a pin that is attached, in a central position, to the side of the box 2 opposite to the side from which the gripping element 12 exits. The box 2 moreover has, on its top surface 2A, another two openings 24 and 22, the first one of which overlies the disk 14, and the other overlies the array of housings 6. The opening 22 is configured for rendering accessible the product of a single housing 6 so that it can be taken out. The opening 24 has, instead, the purpose of rendering visible from outside a number of indications X, preferably just one, of the array of indications reproduced on the disk 14.

[0023] The openings 22 and 24 are mutually arranged so that the product P will be accessible and simultaneously the indication X will be visible.

[0024] It is evident that the opening 22 constitutes the only point where the products can be taken out of the package. In various preferred embodiments, as in the one illustrated, the opening 22 can be closed by a removable covering element. In various preferred embodiments, as in the one illustrated, the covering element is constituted by a tab 26 (Figure 2) defined on the box 2 through a perforated line, which at the moment of use of the package can simply be torn away, thus exposing the opening 22.

[0025] Moreover, in various preferred embodiments, on the upper side 2A of the box there can be directly printed instructions (not illustrated) that will render immediately evident the rules of the game of the package.

[0026] The embodiment illustrated above constitutes a preferred embodiment. It is, however, possible to envisage alternative embodiments that depart from the configuration illustrated above. For instance, in a first alternative embodiment, the box 2 is provided with a single opening, which overlies both the array of housings 6 and the disk 14, so as to expose just one product and one game indication. In a second alternative embodiment, the opening 22 is, instead, replaced by a transparent portion that defines part of the outer surface of the box. On the other hand, once again in the preferred embodiment illustrated herein, it is possible to envisage a transparent film that closes the opening 24.

[0027] With reference to Figures 3a and 3b, the mode of use of the package envisages rotating the tray 4 randomly, bringing a new product P and a new game indication underneath the respective openings 22 and 24.

[0028] Incidentally, it should be noted that it is preferable that there is a gap or clearance between the tray and the surrounding walls of the box, the aim being to favour free movement of the tray. In this way, the tray can be rotated by actually making it spin freely, thus enhancing enjoyment of the game package.

[0029] Once the tray 4 has been spun, the player will have to follow the game indication X on the disk 14 that is displayed through the opening 24, and if he passes the test presented by the indication, he will be rewarded by being able to take the product that is contained in the housing 6 set underneath the opening 22.

[0030] Of course, without prejudice to the principle of the invention, the details of construction and the embodiments may vary, even significantly, with respect to what has been illustrated herein purely by way of non-limiting example, without thereby departing from the scope of the invention, as defined by the annexed claims.

Claims

1. A package for a plurality of products, preferably food-stuff products, even more preferably confectionery products, comprising:

- an outer container (2); and
- a tray (4), which is provided with a plurality of housings (6) containing said products (P) and is rotatably mounted within said container (2);

wherein provided on said tray (4) is an array of game indications (X);

wherein said outer container is provided with at least one opening (22, 24) or else an opening (22) and a transparent portion, which is or are configured for rendering accessible a product contained in a housing (6) so that it can be taken out, and for rendering visible from outside an indication (X) of said game; and

wherein said tray (4) is provided with a shaped por-

- tion (12), which faces, or projects on, the outside of the container (2) and which the consumer can get hold of, and wherein said tray is configured for being rotated, via said shaped portion (12), so as to render accessible a new product (P) and, simultaneously, render visible from outside a new game indication (X), through said at least one opening (22, 24) or else said opening (22) and said transparent portion.
2. The package according to Claim 1, wherein said container is constituted by a box (2) obtained from a sheet of dinked and folded card material.
 3. The package according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said tray (4) is constituted by thermoformed plastic material.
 4. The package according to Claim 3, wherein said tray (4) is constituted by a single body of thermoformed plastic material, which identifies an annular array of said housings (6) along the peripheral region, a plane surface (8), of an annular shape, which is delimited by said array of housings (6), and a central gripping element (12), which constitutes said portion that the consumer can get hold of.
 5. The package according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said container comprises a first opening (22) overlying said array of housings and configured for rendering accessible the product of a single housing (6) so that it can be taken out, and wherein said container (2) comprises a second opening (24) overlying said array of game indications (X) and configured for rendering visible from outside a number of indications of said array, preferably a single indication (X).
 6. The package according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein provided between said tray (4) and the surrounding walls of said container (2) is a gap or clearance, so that said tray will be free to turn with respect to said walls of said container.
 7. The package according to Claim 2, wherein said at least one opening (22, 24), or said opening (22) and said transparent portion, and said shaped portion (12) are positioned at a top wall of said box (2), and wherein printed on the outer side of said wall are instructions regarding the rules of the game of said package.
 8. The package according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said at least one opening (22, 24) or said opening (22) is closed by a removable covering element.
 9. The package according to Claim 2, wherein said at least one opening (22, 24) or said opening (22) are initially closed by a tab (26) that is identified on said box (2) through a perforated line.
 10. The package according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said tray (4) has a central gripping element (12) and said container has an opening (21) that enables said gripping element to project from said container, wherein said gripping element (12) and said opening (21) have corresponding circular profiles and are mutually engaged according to a rotatable coupling, so that said tray (4) will be coupled in a rotatable way to said container (2).
 11. The package according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said array of game indications (X) is reproduced on a disk (14) that is applied on said tray (4) in a removable way.
 12. The package according to Claim 11, which is provided with a plurality of disks presenting game indications, which can be applied on said tray in an interchangeable way.

FIG. 1

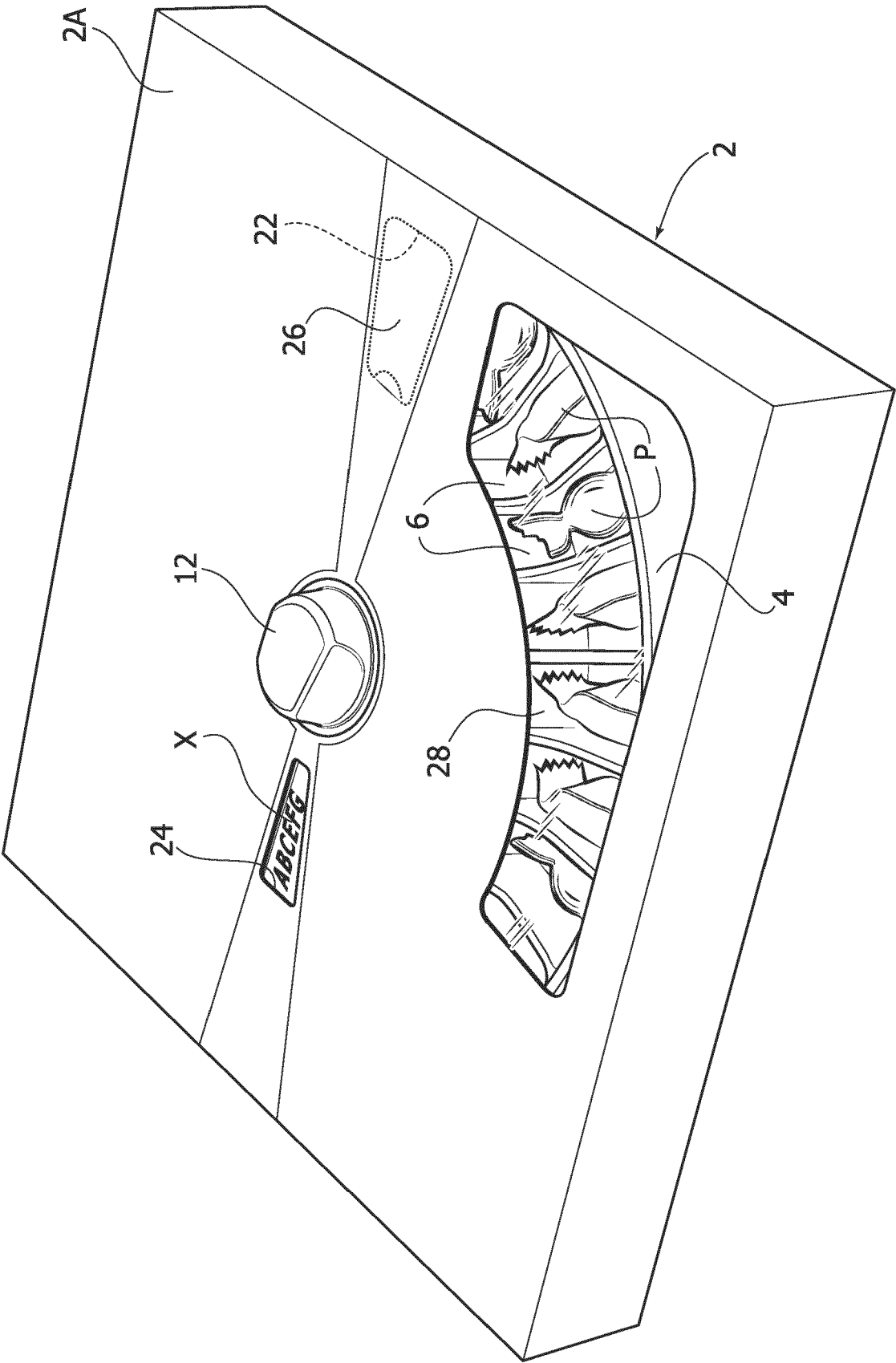


FIG. 2

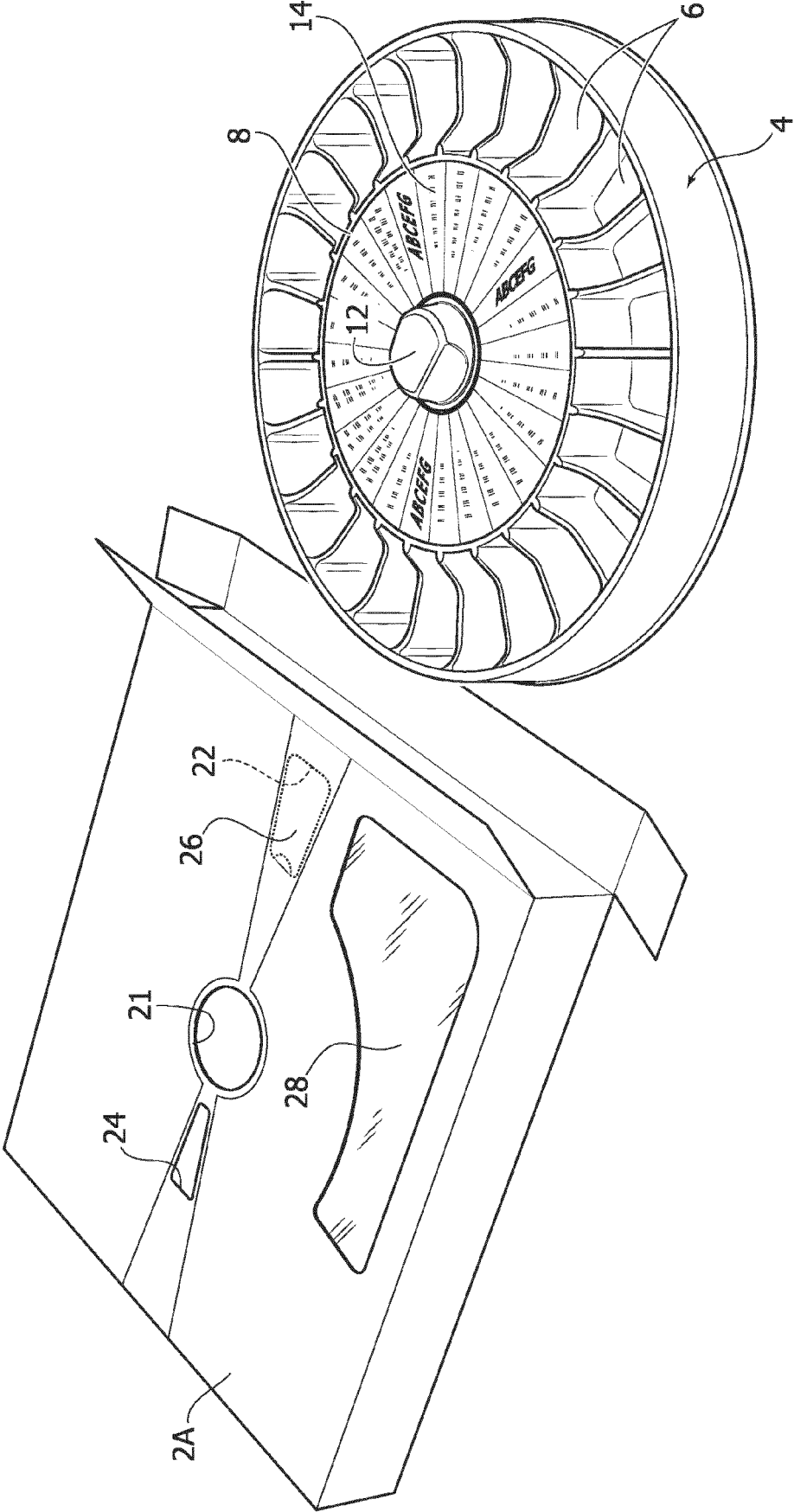
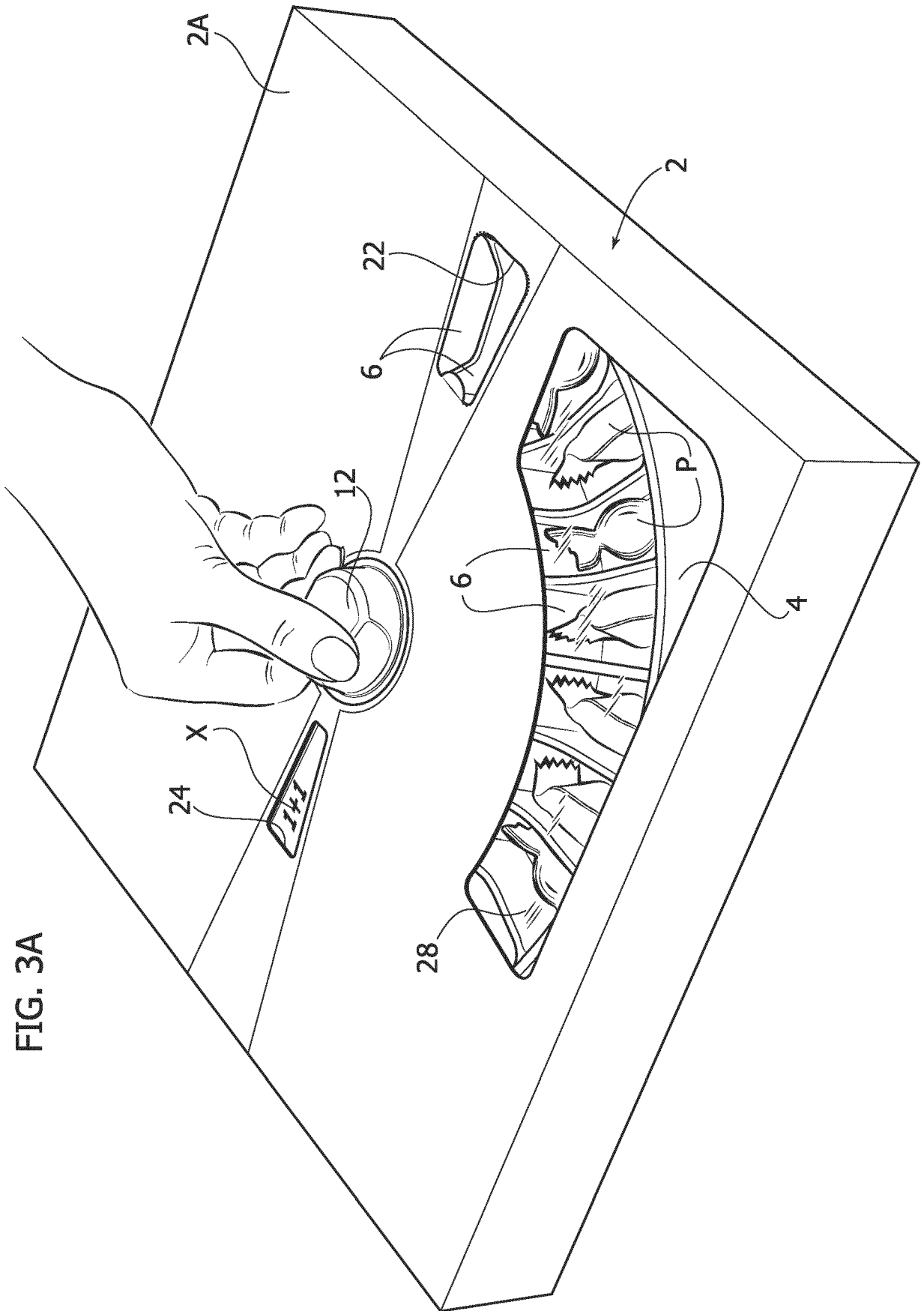


FIG. 3A



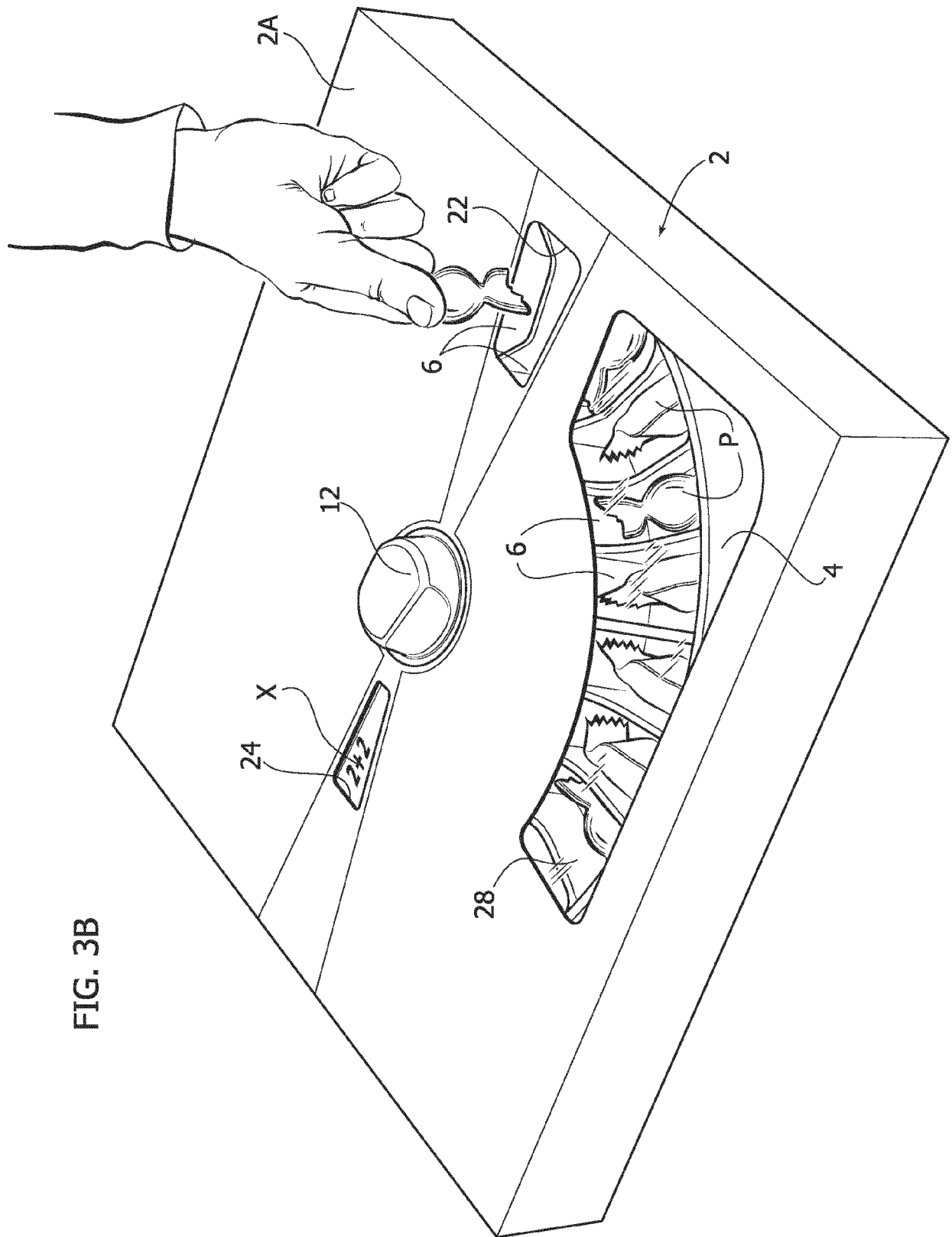


FIG. 3B



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

 Application Number
 EP 18 20 9629

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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Y	* column 3, line 35 - column 6, line 13 * * figures 1-19 *	2,5,8,11,12	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 17 April 2019	Examiner Rodriguez Gombau, F
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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5 This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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17-04-2019

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