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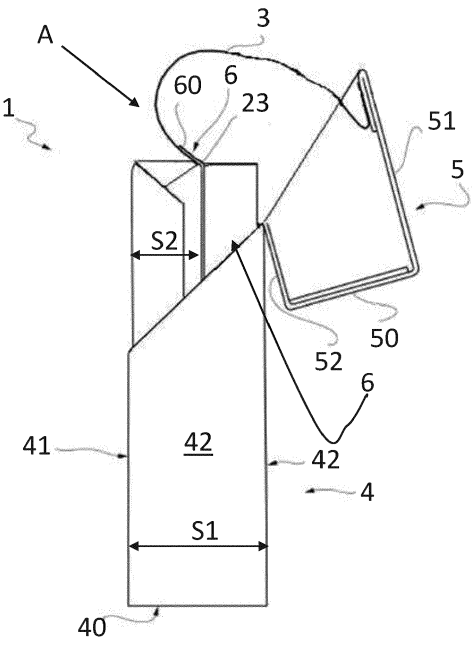
(54) RIGID PACK OF SMOKING ARTICLES PROVIDED WITH A FILLING ELEMENT

(57) A pack (1) of smoking articles comprising: a wrap (2) which wraps a group of smoking articles and comprises an extraction opening (20) for articles; a reclosable label (3) fixed to the inner wrap (2); an outer container (4) which houses the inner wrap (2), has a thickness (S1) greater than the thickness (S2) of the inner wrap (2); a lid (5) which is hinged to the outer container (4); a box-shaped filling element (6) which is inserted into the outer container (4) to compensate for the difference in thickness between the outer container (4) and the inner wrap (2). The reclosable label (3) comprises an end (30) connected to the lid (5). The filling element (6) comprises an accompanying flap (60) which protrudes from the front wall (61) of the filling element (6) towards the front wall (41) of the outer container (4) to keep the reclosable label (3) folded towards the front wall (41) of the outer container (4).

FIG. 5



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Description

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This Patent Application claims priority from Italian Patent Application No. 102021000007580 filed on March 29, 2021.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates to a rigid pack of smoking articles provided with a filling element. In particular, the present invention refers to a rigid pack having a hinged lid.

[0003] The present invention finds advantageous application to a pack of cigarettes, to which the following description will make explicit reference without thereby losing generality.

[0004] In fact, in the present text, reference will be made indiscriminately to the specific example of *"cigarettes"* rather than to the more generic expression *"smoking articles",* without however losing generality in relation to other types of articles (such as cigars or cigarillos, electronic type of cigarettes or *ecigs,* auxiliary products such as filters, refills for *ecigs* and other tobacco-based products or alternative or substitute components to tobacco).

PRIOR ART

[0005] The rigid packs of cigarettes with a hinged lid are the most widespread packs of cigarettes currently on the market as they are simple to manufacture, are easy and practical to use, and offer good protection to the cigarettes contained on the inside thereof.

[0006] A rigid pack of cigarettes with a hinged lid and a filling element is described in the patent application EP3166860A1.

[0007] This pack provides for a group of smoking articles and an inner wrap made of foil that wraps the group of smoking articles. This inner wrap is contained in an outer container that is thicker than the wrap and has an open upper end from which the inner wrap protrudes. A lid is hinged to the outer container and is movable to open and close the open upper end of the outer container. In addition, the pack comprises a filling element that is inserted into the outer container to compensate for the difference in thickness between the outer container and the inner wrap and has a front wall that is arranged in contact with the inner wrap.

[0008] This pack provides for wrapping the group of cigarettes inside foil which has a removable part (called *"pull"*) which is removed by the smoker when the pack is first opened.

[0009] Therefore, once the pack is opened, the cigarettes must be consumed in a short time in order to preserve their aroma and the right humidity of the tobacco.

[0010] In order to allow the smoker to preserve the aroma of the cigarettes for a longer time, packs of smoking articles are known which provide for wrapping the cigarettes in a waterproof wrap that has a cigarette extraction opening which is closed by a reusable reclosable label. The reclosable label is permanently glued to an inner surface of a front wall of the lid so that, upon opening or closing the lid, also the reclosable label is simultaneously opened or closed. An example of this pack is described in document EP2155568A1 owned by the same Applicant.

[0011] It is known that in this type of pack, in order for the label to be properly closed, it is necessary to reduce the extraction opening of the wrap: in fact, to control the progressive reclosing of the label it is necessary that at the maximum opening of the lid and, therefore, of the reclosable label, it still maintains a portion glued to the upper wall and that this latter portion is substantially tangent to the upper wall itself.

[0012] Therefore, providing an inner wrap with a reclosable label in a pack that provides for a filling element (and in which the inner wrap has a reduced thickness) would lead to a reduction in the extraction opening of the inner wrap and this causes difficulties during extraction of the cigarettes.

[0013] To facilitate the extraction of the cigarettes from the packs, it is not possible to increase the transversal dimension of the extraction opening, as the extraction label would be devoid of a guide and would deform in an undesirable way towards the inside of the lid, preventing the same from its regular and uniform closure on the upper panel of the inner wrap.

[0014] The patent application WO2021044359A1 describes a rigid pack of cigarettes with a hinged lid and containing a sealed wrap having a cigarette extraction opening engaged by a reclosable label which is connected to an inner surface of the lid to be moved by the lid itself.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0015] The object of the present invention is to provide a rigid pack of smoking articles provided with a filling element, which is free from the drawbacks described above and is, at the same time, easy and inexpensive to manufacture.

[0016] Object of the present invention is also a relative method for manufacturing the aforesaid pack.

[0017] According to the present invention, a rigid pack of smoking articles is provided, and a relative manufacturing method, according to what is claimed in the attached claims.

[0018] The claims describe preferred embodiments of the present invention forming an integral part of the present description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] The present invention will now be described

with reference to the attached drawings, which illustrate some non-limiting embodiments thereof, wherein:

- Figure 1 is a front perspective view and in a closed configuration of a pack of cigarettes manufactured according to the present invention;
- Figure 2 is a rear perspective view of the pack of cigarettes of Figure 1 in a closed configuration;
- Figure 3 is a front perspective view of an inner wrap of the pack of Figure 1 in a closed configuration;
- Figure 4 is an unfolded view of a reclosable label of the inner wrap of Figure 3 highlighting the areas with glue present on the reclosable label itself;
- Figure 5 is a side view with some parts removed for clarity of the pack of cigarettes of Figure 1 with the lid in an open configuration;
- Figure 6 is a front perspective view of the content of the outer container of the pack of Figure 5, in which the reclosable label has been removed;
- Figure 7 is a side view of Figure 6 with the reclosable label schematized;
- Figure 8 is a plan view of a blank for manufacturing the filling element of the pack of Figure 5.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

[0020] In Figures 1, 2 and 5, number 1 denotes, as a whole, a rigid pack of cigarettes. The pack of cigarettes 1 which comprises a rigid outer container 4 (namely, made of cardboard or rigid paperboard), a sealed inner wrap 2 (better illustrated in Figure 3) housed in the outer container 4 and a filling element 6.

[0021] The outer container 4 which is cup-shaped, has an open upper end (shown in Figure 5), and is provided with a lid 5. The lid 5 is cup-shaped and is hinged to the outer container 4 along a hinge 44 (illustrated in Figure 2) to rotate, with respect to the outer container 4 itself, between an open position (illustrated in Figure 5) and a closed position (illustrated in Figures 1 and 2) .

[0022] The outer container 4 has a substantially rectangular parallelepiped shape oriented according to a predominantly vertical development direction, is cup-shaped, and has an open upper end, a lower wall 40 opposite the open upper end, a front wall 41 and a rear wall 42 (in which the hinge 44 is arranged) parallel and opposite one another, and two side walls 43 parallel and opposite one another. Four longitudinal edges are defined between the front 41, rear 42 and side 43 walls of the outer container 4, while four transverse edges are defined between the walls 41, 42, 43 and the lower wall 40 of the outer container 4.

[0023] The lid 5 has a substantially rectangular parallelepiped shape, is cup-shaped, and has an open lower end (facing the open upper end of the outer container 4 when the lid 5 is in the closed position), an upper wall 50 (which is parallel and opposite the lower wall 40 of the outer container 4 when the lid 5 is in the closed position), a front wall 51 (which is parallel and aligned with the front wall 41 of the outer container 4 when the lid 5 is in the closed position), a rear wall 52 (which is parallel and aligned with the rear wall 42 of the outer container 4 when the lid 5 is in the closed position and is hinged to the rear wall 42 of the outer container 4 along the hinge 44), and two side walls 53 parallel and opposite one another (which are parallel and aligned, in particular coplanar and adjacent, to the side walls 43 of the outer container 4 when the lid 5 is in the closed position). Four longitudinal edges are defined between the front 51, rear 52 and side 53 walls of the lid 5, while four transverse edges are defined between the walls 51, 52, 53 and the upper wall 50 of the lid 5. The longitudinal edges of the lid 5 are parallel and aligned with the corresponding longitudinal edges of the outer container 4 when the lid 5 is in the closed position and the transverse edges defined by the upper wall 50 of the lid 5 are parallel to the transverse edges defined by the lower wall 40 of the outer container 4 when the lid 5 is in the closed position.

[0024] As illustrated in Figure 5, the pack 1 of cigarettes is devoid of a rigid collar. According to an alternative embodiment, the pack 1 of cigarettes can comprise a rigid collar (not illustrated), which is connected (by gluing) folded into a "U" shape inside the outer container 4 to partially protrude outside the open upper end of the outer container 4 and engages a corresponding inner surface of the lid 5, when the lid 5 is arranged in the closed position. Preferably, the collar comprises a front wall, which is connected to the front wall 41 of the outer container 4 and is arranged in contact with the front wall 51 of the lid 5 when the lid 5 is in the closed position, and two side walls, which are connected to the side walls 43 of the outer container 4 and are arranged in contact with the side walls 53 of the lid 5 when the lid 5 is in the closed position. The front wall of the collar is provided with an extraction opening through which the access to the content of the pack 1 of cigarettes is facilitated. Furthermore, the front wall of the collar can be provided with a pair of extensions which protrude laterally to engage with interference the side walls 53 of the lid 5 when it is in the closed position so as to keep the lid 5 in the closed position.

[0025] As illustrated in the attached figures, the pack 1 of cigarettes comprises an inner wrap 2 (illustrated in Figure 3) which is housed in the outer container 4 to partially protrude outside the open upper end and encloses a parallelepiped-shaped group of cigarettes.

[0026] The inner wrap 2 has a substantially parallelepiped shape. The inner wrap 2 has: an upper wall 21 and a lower wall 24 opposite and parallel to one another; a front wall 25 and a rear wall 22 opposite and parallel to one another; two side walls 26 opposite and parallel to one another.

[0027] As illustrated in Figure 5, the outer container 4, which houses the inner wrap 2, has a thickness S1 greater than the thickness S2 of the inner wrap 2. The thickness S1 of the outer container 4 is the dimension of the outer container 4 measured along the direction perpendicular to the front wall 41 and to the rear wall 42 of the

outer container 4; in other words, the thickness S1 of the outer container 4 is equal to the width of the side wall 43 of the outer container 4. The thickness S2 of the inner wrap 2 is the dimension of the inner wrap 2 measured along the direction perpendicular to the front wall 25 and to the rear wall 22 of the inner wrap 2; in other words, the thickness S2 of the inner wrap 2 is equal to the width of the side wall 26 of the inner wrap 2.

[0028] The pack 1 comprises, furthermore, a filling element 6 which is inserted in the outer container 4 to compensate the thickness difference between the outer container 4 and the inner wrap 2.

[0029] According to a possible embodiment, the inner wrap 2 can have on the inside thereof a reinforcing element (not illustrated), which is made of cardboard or rigid paperboard (completely similar to the cardboard or rigid paperboard making up the outer container 4), is "U"-shaped and is arranged inside the inner wrap 2 in contact with the group of cigarettes. The reinforcing element comprises a front wall having a rectangular shape, which is arranged in contact with a front wall of the group of cigarettes and a pair of side walls, which are connected to opposite sides of the front wall and are arranged in contact with the side walls of the group of cigarettes. The front wall has a window that is arranged at the top, is delimited by an edge, is "U"-shaped and facilitates the extraction of the cigarettes from the group of cigarettes as it leaves an upper area of the front wall of the group of cigarettes exposed.

[0030] According to an alternative embodiment, the inner wrap 2 is devoid of the reinforcing element.

[0031] In summary, some embodiments are provided wherein the pack 1 is provided: only with the collar (that is, the pack 1 of cigarettes does not have the reinforcing element), only with the reinforcing element (that is, the pack 1 of cigarettes is devoid of the collar) or with both the collar and the reinforcing element (that is, the pack 1 of cigarettes has both, namely, the collar and the reinforcing element).

[0032] The inner wrap 2 has at the top and at the front an extraction opening 20 for the cigarettes (illustrated in Figure 6) closed by a reclosable label 3 (illustrated in Figures 3, 4, 5 and 7). According to a possible embodiment, the reclosable label 3 is made of a plastic material or a multilayer material which comprises, for example, an inner layer made of a paper material and an outer layer made of aluminium.

[0033] Preferably, the extraction opening 20 for the cigarettes extends at the top until reaching a rear edge 23 (indicated for example in Figure 5) comprised between an upper wall 21 and a rear wall 22 of the inner wrap 2.

[0034] As illustrated in Figures 3-5, the reclosable label 3 is fixed to the inner wrap 2 by means of re-stick glue 31 that does not dry (illustrated in Figure 4), which is applied to an inner surface 3a of the reclosable label 3 (namely, the surface of the reclosable label 3 facing the inner wrap 2) and is arranged all around the extraction opening 20 to allow the reclosable label 3 to be partially separated from the inner wrap 2 several times and then fixed again to the inner wrap 2 (at each closing of the pack 1 of cigarettes).

[0035] Preferably, the reclosable label 3 is fixed to the inner wrap 2 by means of a permanent glue at the rear wall of the inner wrap 2.

[0036] In particular, the reclosable label 3 is fixed to the inner wrap 2 and is movable between an open position A (illustrated in Figure 5), in which the access to the smoking articles is allowed through the extraction opening 20, and a closed position B (illustrated in Figures 1, 3), in which it closes the extraction opening 20 thus preventing the access to the smoking articles.

[0037] The reclosable label 3 is fixed to the inner wrap 2, closes the extraction opening 20 for the cigarettes and has an end 30 connected, in particular glued, to a wall of the lid 5 (in particular, to the front wall 51). In this way, by moving the lid 5, the reclosable label 3 is moved between the open position A and the closed position B and vice versa.

[0038] Preferably, the end 30 of the reclosable label 3 is fixed to the wall of the lid 5 by means of glue (illustrated in Figure 4) that is, in particular, a strong glue 32, which is applied to an outer surface 3b of the reclosable label 3 (namely, the surface of the reclosable label 3 facing towards the lid 5). The reclosable label 3 is preferably permanently connected by means of the glue 32 to the front wall 51 of the lid 5 so as to lift the reclosable label 3 during the opening of the lid 5 and, similarly, so as to lower the reclosable label 3 during the closing of the lid 5.

[0039] The filling element 6 has a box-like shape (namely is box-shaped and therefore is internally empty). In particular, the filling element has a parallelepiped shape defined by six walls that delimit an empty inner volume. The filling element 6 has a front wall 61 which faces (in particular in contact with) the inner wrap 2, in particular the rear wall 22 of the inner wrap 2.

[0040] To ensure the progressive correct closing of the reclosable label 3 it is necessary that at the maximum opening of the lid 5 and, therefore, of the reclosable label 3, the latter is substantially tangent to the upper wall 21, as illustrated in Figure 5. In other words, to correctly reposition the reclosable label 3 (namely, to progressively connect the reclosable label 3 to the inner wrap 2 while closing the lid 5 so as to properly close the extraction opening 20) it is necessary that, with the lid 5 completely open, the reclosable label 3 remains substantially tangent to the upper wall 21 of the inner wrap 2.

[0041] This condition is guaranteed by the accompanying flap 60 that protrudes from the front wall 61 of the filling element 6 towards the front wall 41 of the outer container 4 to keep the reclosable label 3 folded towards the front wall 41 of the outer container 4. This accompanying flap 60, due to its conformation and positioning, avoids, when the lid 5 is in the open position, the complete and uncontrolled detachment of the reclosable label 3 in particular near the rear edge 23 of the inner wrap 2.

[0042] In other words, due to its conformation and po-

sitioning, the accompanying flap 60 avoids, when the lid 5 is in the completely open position, the complete detachment of the reclosable label 3 from the upper wall 21 of the inner wrap 2, in particular near the rear edge 23 of the inner wrap 2, and allows to keep a portion of the reclosable label 3, at the last point of adhesion, substantially tangent to the upper wall 21 or forming an angle with the upper wall 21 which, in its maximum extension is less than about 30°.

[0043] With particular reference to Figures 5-7, the filling element 6 has: the front wall 61, two side walls 62 which are opposite one another, are perpendicular to the front wall 61 and are arranged in contact with the side walls 43 of the outer container 4, a rear wall 63 which is opposite and parallel to the front wall 61 and is arranged in contact with the rear wall 42 of the outer container 4.

[0044] The accompanying flap 60 is hinged to the front wall of the filling element 6 along a folding line; the folding line facilitates the positioning of the accompanying flap 60 protruding towards the front wall 41 of the outer container 4. Preferably, the folding line can be provided with a creasing or perforations.

[0045] In a preferred embodiment, the accompanying flap 60 has a transverse extension measured parallel to the side walls 43 of the outer container 4 which is at least equal to 2 mm and in particular is at least equal to 4 mm.

[0046] The filling element 6 illustrated in Figures 5-7 is formed starting from the blank 6' illustrated in Figure 8. This blank 6' comprises: a first panel 61' intended to form the front wall 61 of the filling element 6; a second panel 62' and a third panel 62', which develop from opposite sides of the first panel 61' and that are intended to form the side walls 62 of the filling element 6; a fourth panel 63', which develops from the second panel 62' and that is intended to form at least a part of the rear wall 63 of the filling element 6; the accompanying flap 60, which protrudes from the first panel 61'. In addition, the blank 6 'comprises a fifth panel 63', which develops from the third panel 62' and that is intended to form a part of the rear wall 63 of the filling element 6.

[0047] In particular, the rear wall 63 of the filling element 6 is formed by two portions that are planar and parallel to the rear wall 43 of the outer container 4.

[0048] It is understood that the blank illustrated in Figure 8 is only one of the embodiments of a blank suitable to form the filling element 6 of the pack 1 object of the present invention. In alternative embodiments, the filling element 6 could also comprise an upper wall and/or a bottom wall; or the filling element 6 could have a rear wall formed by a single panel.

[0049] The blank 6' can be obtained starting from a strip of wrapping material. In particular, the embodiment of the blank 6' illustrated in Figure 8 allows to have no scrap, that is, waste material.

[0050] The accompanying flap 60 is part of the filling element 6. It is made of paper material.

[0051] According to the illustrated embodiment, the accompanying flap 60 extends over the entire width of the front wall 61 of the filling element 6. According to alternative embodiments, the flap 60 could extend only on a part of the width of the front wall 61 of the filling element 6.

[0052] The outer container 4 and the lid 5 are made by folding a flat blank (not illustrated) made of cardboard or rigid paperboard and having a substantially elongated rectangular shape. This blank is of a known type and will therefore not be described in detail.

[0053] According to a preferred embodiment, the inner wrap 2 is obtained by folding a heat-sealable wrapping sheet (not illustrated), which has a rectangular shape, is folded around the group of cigarettes and once folded is stabilized by heat-sealing (namely, the overlapping portions of the wrapping sheet 2 are connected to one another in a stable manner by heat sealing). The wrapping sheet 2 has an incision that is "U"-shaped and defines the extraction opening 20 of the inner wrap 2. In addition, the reclosable label 3 is glued to the wrapping sheet 2, which completely covers the incision (namely, the extraction opening 20). Between the reclosable label 3 and the wrapping sheet 2 the re-stick glue 31 is interposed, which is pressure sensitive (namely, that does not dry) and which allows even after a long time and for a high number of times to separate the reclosable label 3 from the wrapping sheet 2 and, therefore, to re-join the reclosable label 3 to the wrapping sheet 2.

[0054] In the embodiments illustrated in the attached figures, the longitudinal and transverse edges are straight; alternatively, the longitudinal and/or transverse edges could be rounded or bevelled.

[0055] The embodiments described herein can be combined with one another without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[0056] Another object of the present invention is the method to make the pack 1 according to the embodiments described above.

[0057] The method comprises the step of: wrapping the group of smoking articles in a wrapping sheet (not illustrated) forming the inner wrap 2, in which the wrapping sheet has an incision intended to define the extraction opening 20 of the wrap and the reclosable label 3 is fixed to the same.

[0058] The method comprises, furthermore, the step of providing the blank 6' (a possible embodiment is illustrated in Figure 8), which comprises a first panel 61' intended to form the front wall 61 of the filling element 6, a second panel 62' and a third panel 62', which develop from opposite sides of the first panel 61' and that are intended to form the side walls 62 of the filling element 6, a fourth panel 63', which develops from the second panel 62' or from the third panel 62' and that is intended to form at least a part of the rear wall 63 of the filling element 6, the accompanying flap 60 that protrudes from the first panel 61'.

[0059] The method further comprises the steps of: folding the blank 6' to form the filling element 6; folding the accompanying flap 60 so that the accompanying flap 60 is transversal with respect to the front wall 61 of the filling

element 6 and oriented away from a rear wall 63 of the filling element 6 (Figures 6 and 7).

[0060] The method further comprises the steps of: arranging the front wall 60 of the filling element 6 in contact with the rear wall 22 of the inner wrap 2 (Figures 6 and 7); wrapping a blank intended to form the outer container 4 and the lid 5 around the inner wrap 2 and the filling element 6.

[0061] Preferably, the step of folding the accompanying flap 60 so that the accompanying flap 60 is transversal with respect to the front wall 61 of the filling element 6 and oriented away from a rear wall 63 of the filling element 6 is performed before the step of arranging the front wall 61 of the filling element 6 in contact with the rear wall 22 of the inner wrap 2.

[0062] According to an embodiment, the step of folding the accompanying flap 60 can comprise the steps of: folding the accompanying flap 60 against the first panel 61' of the blank 6' (that is, folded before the blank 6' is folded to form the filling element 6); releasing the accompanying flap 60. According to an alternative embodiment, the accompanying flap 60 could be folded against the front wall 61 of the filling element 6 (that is, it is folded after the blank 6' is folded to form the filling element 6).

[0063] According to an alternative of the method, the step of folding the accompanying flap 60 so that the accompanying flap 60 is transversal with respect to the front wall 61 of the filling element 6 is performed after the step of arranging the front wall 61 of the filling element 6 in contact with the rear wall 22 of the inner wrap 2.

[0064] The pack of cigarettes 1 described above has numerous advantages.

[0065] Mainly, the pack 1 of cigarettes described above allows to obtain an accurate repositioning of the reclosable label 3 with the simple addition of the accompanying flap 60, the introduction of which does not complicate the composition of a packaging machine for smoking articles.

[0066] In fact, by means of the accompanying flap 60 a progressive correct gluing (reclosing) of the label 3 is obtained on the extraction opening 20 starting from the rear edge 23 of the inner wrap 2, even if previously the label 3 was substantially detached from the upper wall 21 of inner wrap 2. By means of the action of the accompanying flap 60 on the label 3 it is ensured that at least a portion of the label 3 remains substantially tangent to the upper wall 21 of the inner wrap 2 even if the lid 5 is arranged in the open position or, alternatively, that the label 3 forms an angle with the upper wall of the inner wrap 2 which, in its maximum extension, is less than 30°.

[0067] The pack 1 of cigarettes according to the present invention allows for a better extraction of the cigarettes, since the extraction opening 20 has a larger size extending up to the rear edge of the inner wrap 2, without negatively affecting the correct repositioning of the reclosable label 3 and, therefore, its correct re-gluing to the upper wall of the inner wrap 2, when closing the lid 5.

[0068] The accompanying flap 60 guides the movement of the reclosable label 3 both during its upward path and during its downward path and therefore allows to avoid undesired deformation of the reclosable label 3 towards the inside of the lid 5, which would not allow its subsequent correct repositioning.

[0069] Therefore, the accompanying flap 60 guarantees a gradual detachment of the reclosable label 3 and allows its subsequent correct repositioning, without crumpling.

[0070] It is therefore clear that the pack of cigarettes according to the present invention has a better preservation of the aroma and humidity of the group of cigarettes wrapped in the inner wrap 2, since the reclosable label 3 is always perfectly positioned on the extraction opening 20, when the lid 5 closed.

[0071] The pack of cigarettes also provides for an improved extraction of the cigarettes since the opening extends up to the rear edge and since it is no longer necessary that at least a portion of the reclosable label 3 remains glued to the top wall when the lid 5 is in the open position.

Claims

1. A pack (1) of smoking articles comprising:

a group of smoking articles;
an inner wrap (2) which wraps the group of smoking articles and comprises a smoking article extraction opening (20);
an outer container (4) which houses the inner wrap (2), has a thickness (S1) greater than the thickness (S2) of the inner wrap (2) and has: an open upper end from which the inner wrap (2) protrudes, a lower wall (40) opposite the open upper end, a front wall (41) and a rear wall (42) opposite one another, and two side walls (43) opposite one another;
a lid (5) which is hinged to the outer container (4) and which is movable to open and close the open upper end of the outer container (4); and
a filling element (6) which has a box-like shape, is inserted in the outer container (4) to compensate for the difference in thickness between the outer container (4) and the inner wrap (2) and has a front wall (61) which faces a rear wall (22) of the inner wrap (2);
the pack (1) being **characterized in that:**

it comprises a reclosable label (3) which is fixed to the inner wrap (2) and which is movable between an open position (A), in which the access to the smoking articles is allowed through the extraction opening (20), and a closed position (B), in which it closes the extraction opening (20) by preventing the access to the smoking articles;
the reclosable label (3) comprises an end

(30) connected to the lid (5) so that the reclosable label (3) is moved between the open position (A) and the closed position (B) and vice versa by moving the lid (5); and the filling element (6) comprises an accompanying flap (60) which protrudes from the front wall (61) of the filling element (6) towards the front wall (41) of the outer container (4) to keep the reclosable label (3) folded towards the front wall (41) of the outer container (4).

2. The pack (1) according to claim 1, wherein:

the inner wrap (2) has an upper wall (21) through which at least part of the extraction opening (20) is obtained, the rear wall (22) and a rear edge (23) defined between the upper wall (21) and the rear wall (22);
the rear wall (22) of the inner wrap (2) is arranged in contact with the front wall (61) of the filling element (6).

3. The pack (1) according to claim 2, wherein the extraction opening (20) of the inner wrap (2) extends up to the rear edge (23) of the inner wrap (2).

4. The pack (1) according to any one of the claims from 1 to 3, wherein the accompanying flap (60) is hinged to the front wall (61) of the filling element (6) along a folding line.

5. The pack (1) according to any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 4, wherein the accompanying flap (60) has a transverse extension which, measured parallel to the side walls (43) of the outer container (4) which is at least equal to 2 mm and, in particular, is at least equal to 4 mm.

6. The pack (1) according to any one of the claims from 1 to 5, wherein the filling element (6) has, in addition to the front wall (61): two side walls (62) which are opposite one another, are perpendicular to the front wall (61) and are arranged in contact with the side walls (43) of the outer container (4); a rear wall (63) which is opposite and parallel to the front wall (61) and is arranged in contact with the rear wall (42) of the outer container (4).

7. The pack (1) according to claim 6, wherein the filling element (6) is formed starting from a blank (6') which comprises: a first panel (61') intended to form the front wall (61) of the filling element (6); a second panel (62') and a third panel (62') which develop from opposite sides of the first panel (61') and which are intended to form the side walls (62) of the filling element (6); a fourth panel (63') which develops from the second panel (62') or from the third panel (62') and which is intended to form at least part of the rear wall (63) of the filling element (6); the accompanying flap (60) that protrudes from the first panel (61').

8. The pack (1) according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the rear wall (63) of the filling element (6) is formed by two portions that are planar to one another and parallel to the rear wall (42) of the outer container (4).

9. The pack (1) according to any one of the claims from 1 to 8, wherein the accompanying flap (60) extends over the entire width of the front wall (61) of the filling element (6).

10. The pack (1) according to any one of the claims from 1 to 9, wherein the filling element (6) is formed by folding a blank (6').

11. The pack (1) according to any one of the claims from 1 to 11, wherein the filling element (6) has an internally empty parallelepiped shape.

12. A method for making a pack (1) of smoking articles according to one of the claims from 1 to 11 and comprising the steps of:

wrapping the group of smoking articles in a wrapping sheet forming the inner wrap (2), in which the wrapping sheet has an incision intended to define the extraction opening (20) of the inner wrap (2) and the reclosable label (3) is fixed to the same;
providing a blank (6') which comprises a first panel (61') intended to form the front wall (61) of the filling element (6), a second panel (62') and a third panel (62') which develop from opposite sides of the first panel (61') and which are intended to form the side walls (62) of the filling element (6), a fourth panel (63') which develops from the second panel (62') or from the third panel (62') and which is intended to form at least a part of the rear wall (63) of the filling element (6), the accompanying flap (60) that protrudes from the first panel (61') ;
folding the blank (6') to form the box-shaped filling element (6) ;
folding the accompanying flap (60) so that the accompanying flap (60) is transversal with respect to the front wall (61) of the filling element (6) and oriented away from a rear wall (63) of the filling element (6);
arranging the front wall (61) of the filling element (6) and the rear wall (22) of the inner wrap (2) in contact with one another; and
wrapping a blank intended to form the outer container (4) and the lid (5) around the inner wrap (2) and the filling element (6) ;
fixing the end (30) of the reclosable label (3) to

the lid (5).

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the step of folding the accompanying flap (60) so that the accompanying flap is transversal with respect to the front wall (61) of the filling element (6) and oriented away from the rear wall (63) of the filling element (6) is performed before the step of arranging the front wall (61) of the filling element (6) and the rear wall (22) of the inner wrap (2) in contact with one another.

FIG. 2

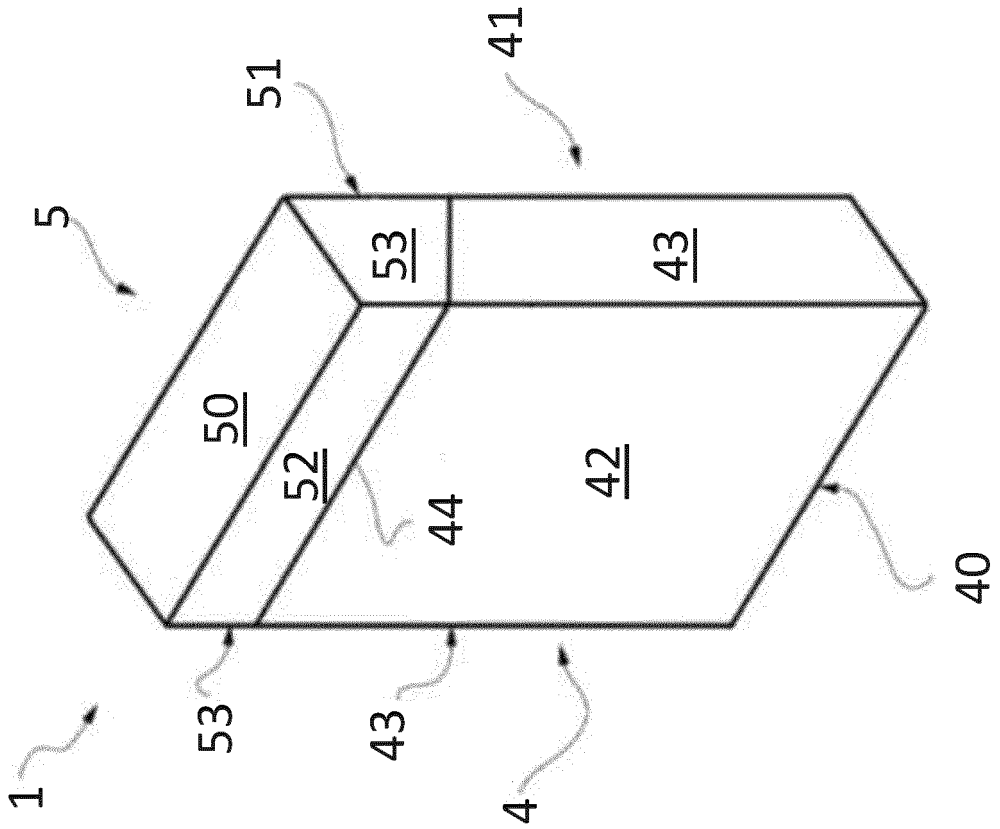


FIG. 1

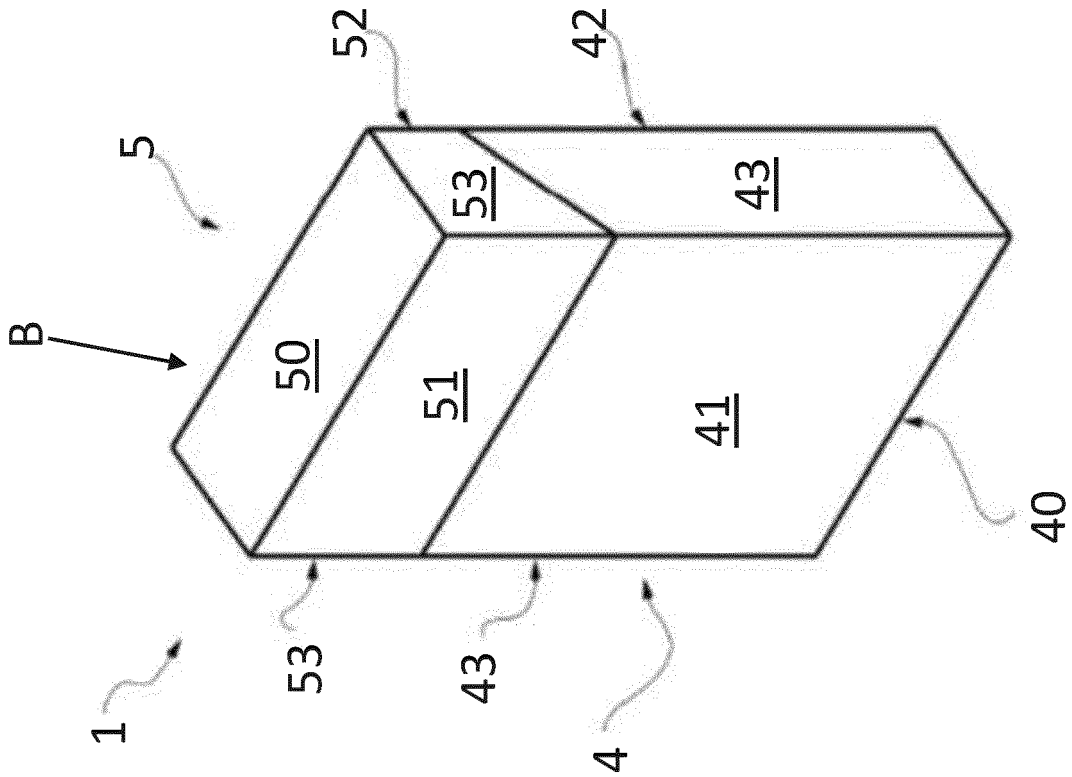


FIG. 4

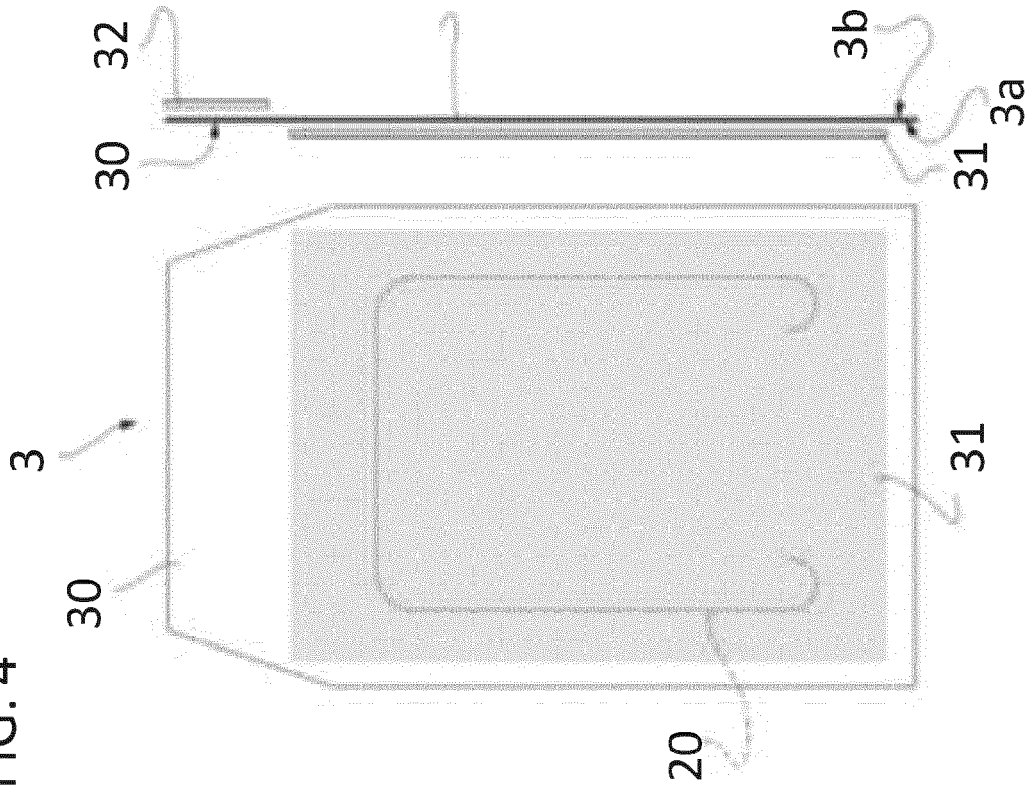
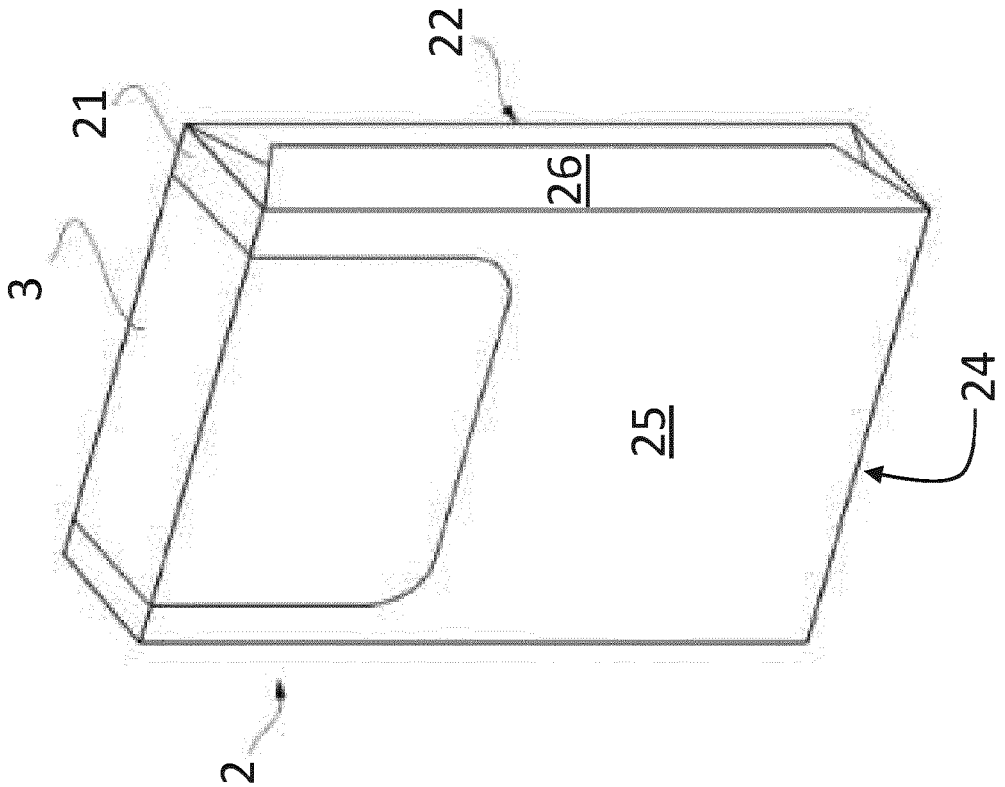


FIG. 3



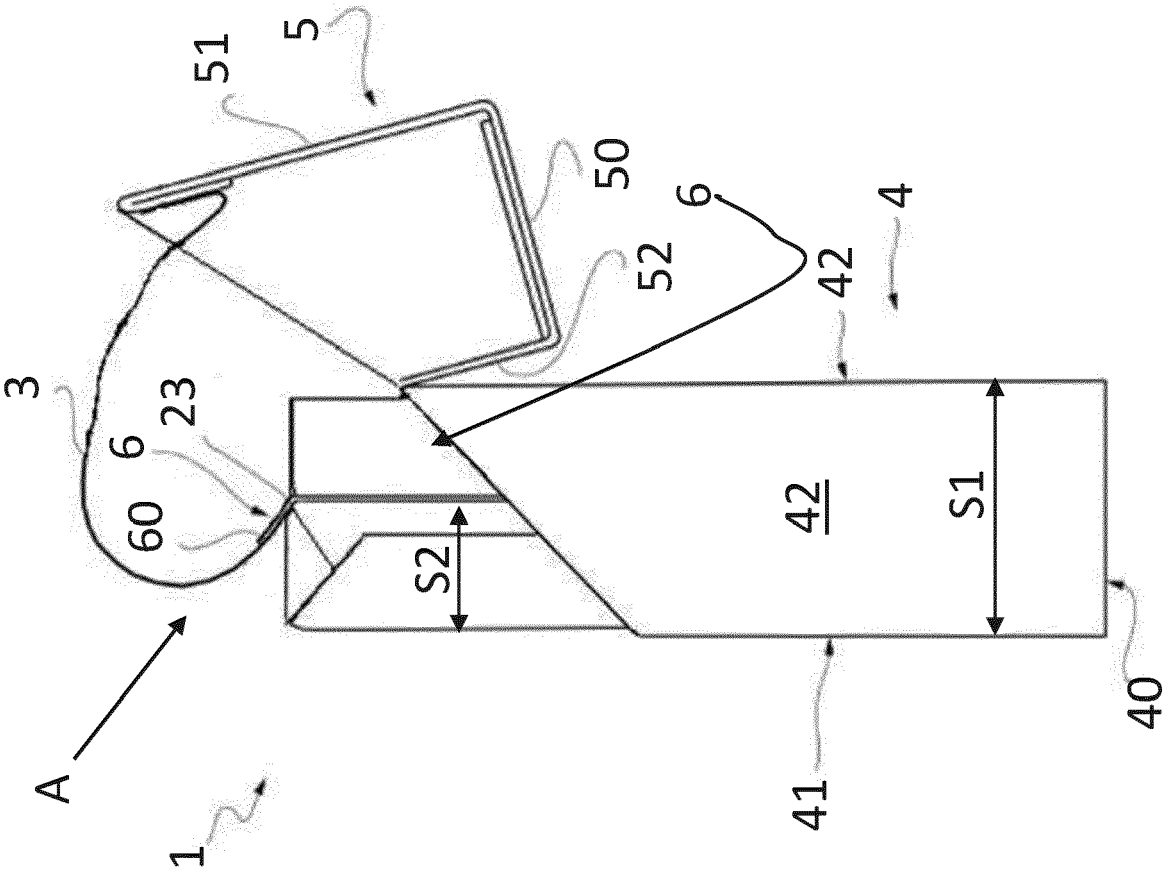


FIG. 5

FIG. 7

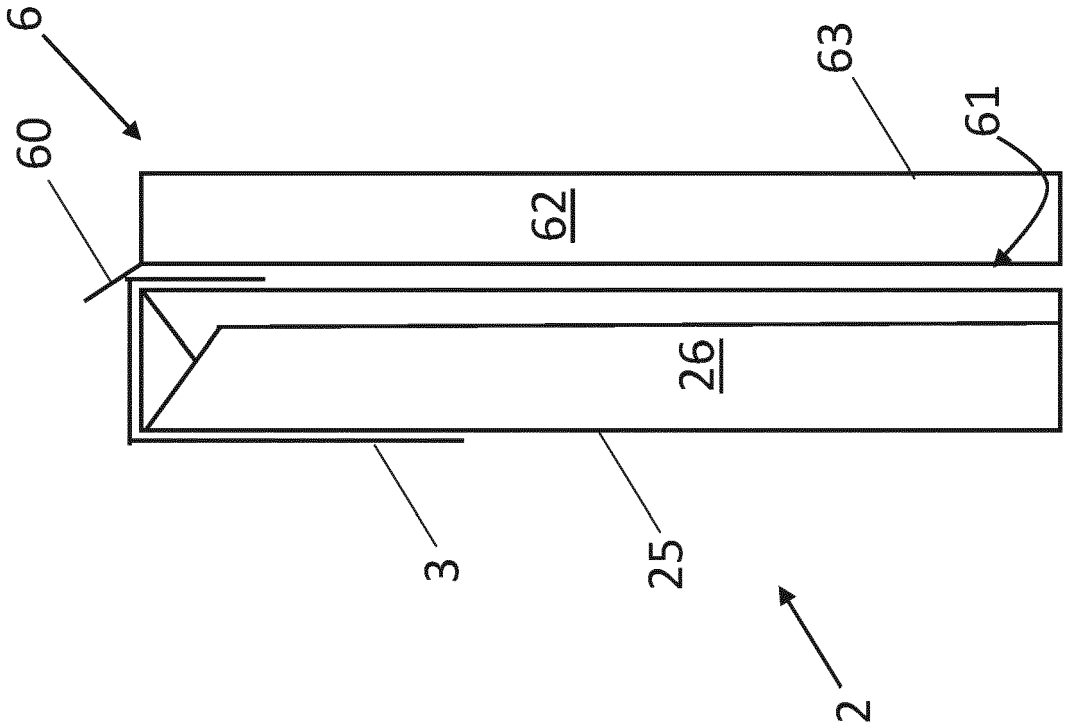
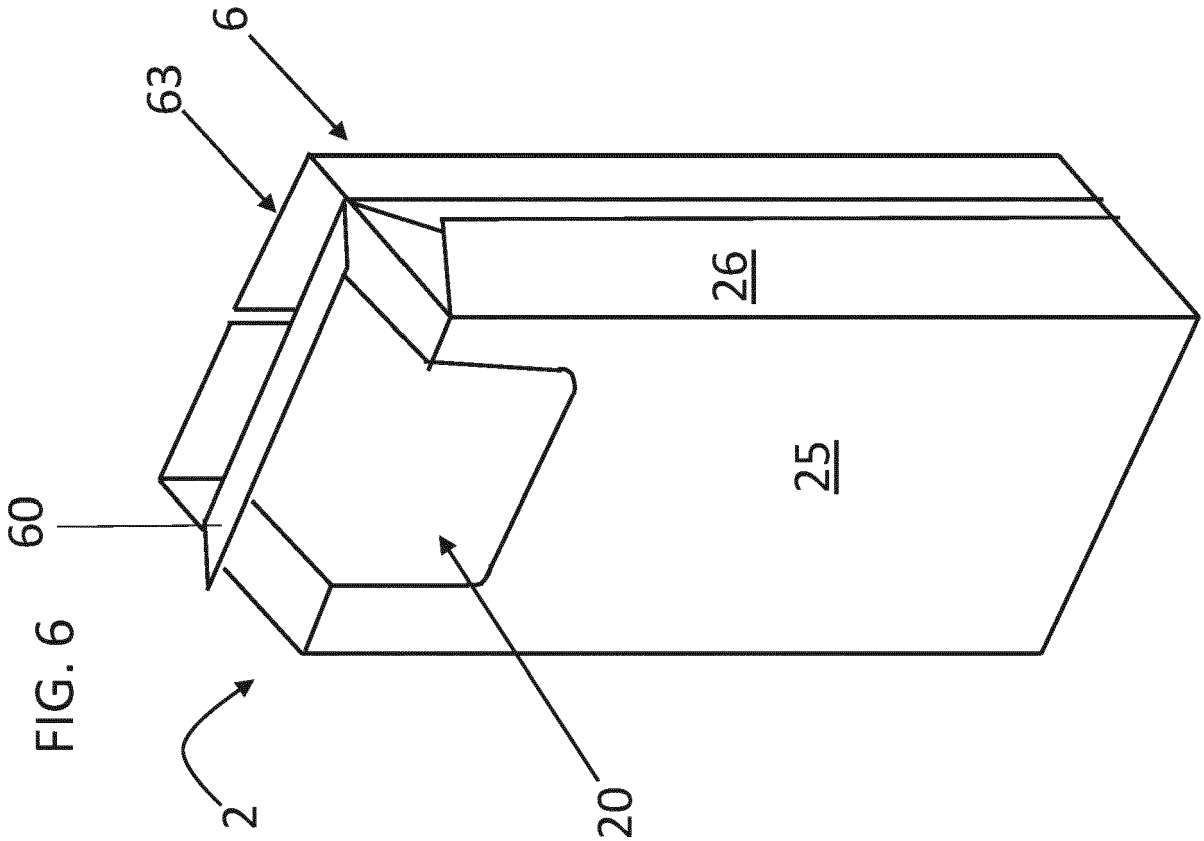


FIG. 6



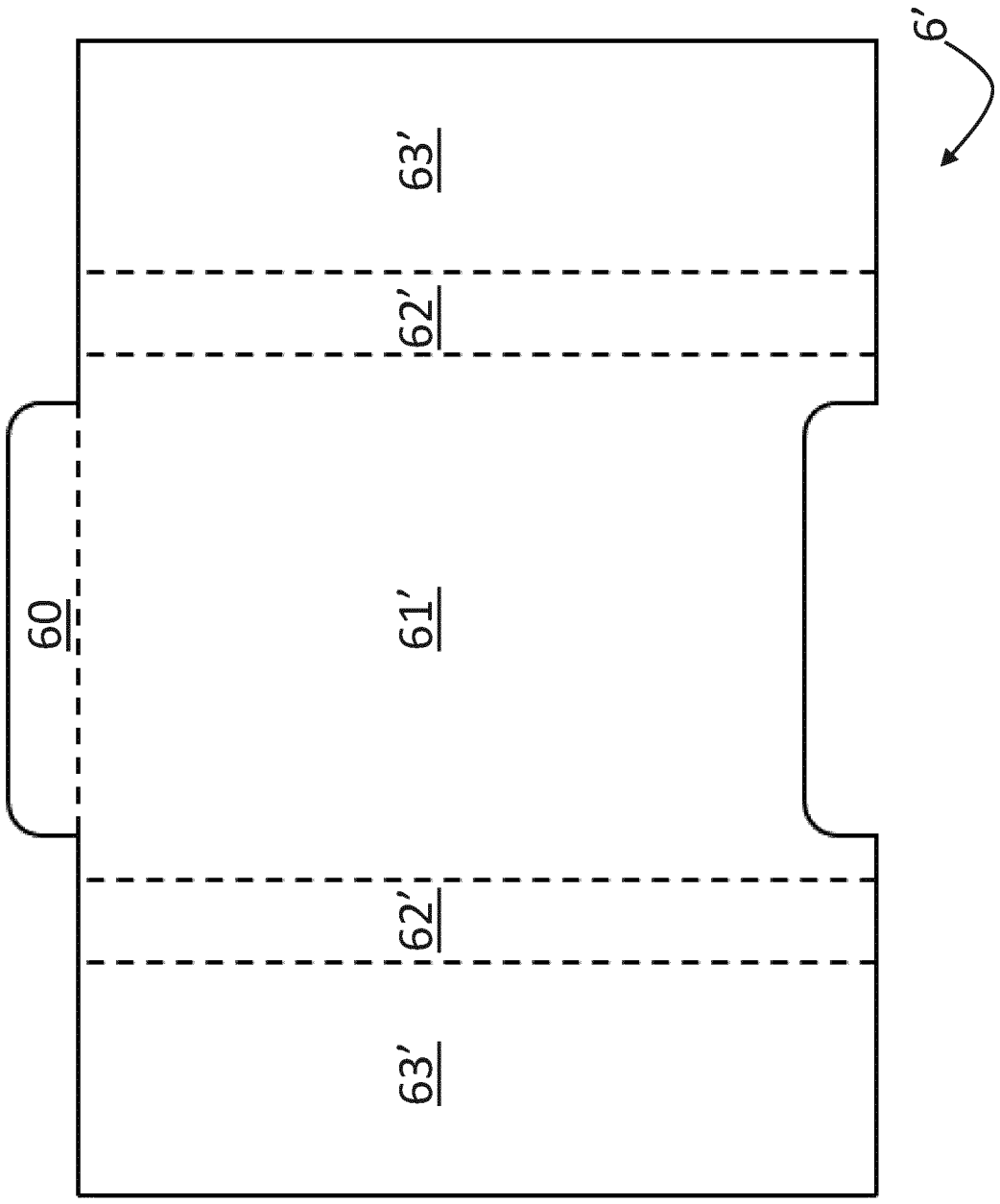


FIG. 8

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 22 16 5128

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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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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich	26 August 2022	Balz, Oliver

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