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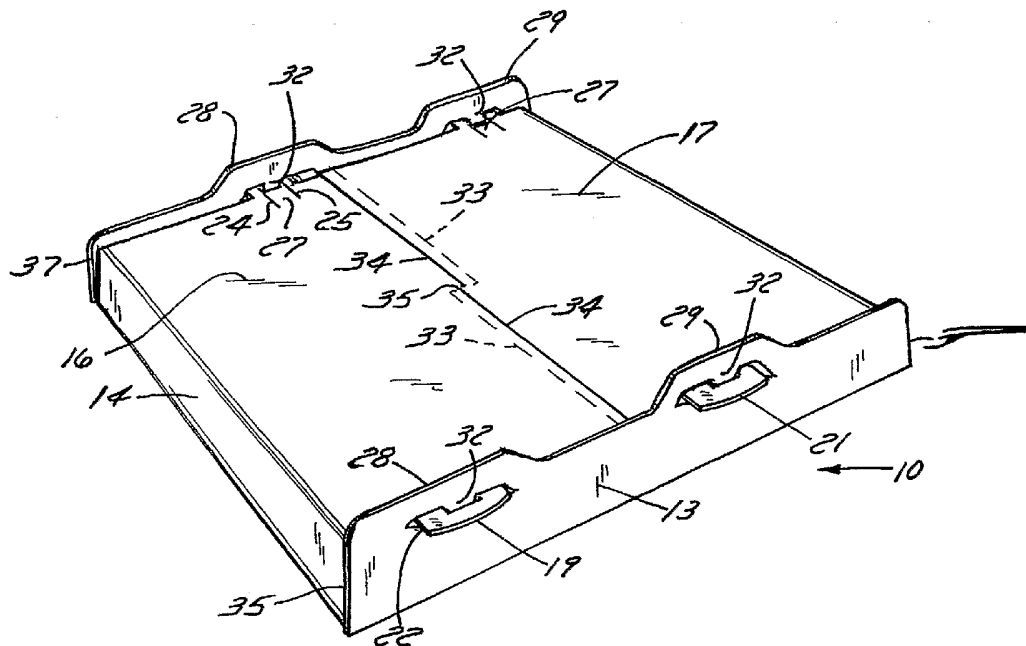
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PIZZA BOX



(57) Abstract: A folded pizza box is formed from a lay flat blank for retaining, transporting and serving hot pizza. The blank includes an arrangement of end panels, side panels and lid panels foldable relative to a bottom panel such that, in the erected box, the lid panels overlap and are interlocked with the end panels by frictionally engaged detents. The side panels slant upwardly and inwardly from the bottom panel to add rigidity and save material for the carton. The end panels flare upwardly and outwardly from the bottom panel to prevent shifting of stacked boxes. The lid panels each have less width than the bottom panel and do not extend completely across the width of a box erected from the blank.



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PIZZA BOX

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to containers for storing and
5 handling product, and more particularly to containers made from a corrugated
paperboard blank for retaining, transporting and serving food, especially pizza.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Pizza businesses make and sell millions of hot pizzas for delivery
10 and carryout. The success of these businesses depends to an extent on the cost and
functionality of the folded boxes utilized in packaging the pizza product. Ideally, it is
recognized that these boxes should be inexpensive, easy to use, stackable, rigid, and
crush-resistant.

[0003] Some prior art boxes employ inward-slanting wall constructions in
15 an effort to conserve manufacturing costs, or rely on foldable blanks capable of being
manufactured in nested and inverted configuration in order to achieve a minimum of
material consumption and to attain maximum stacking strength. Certain cartons
employ various rigid cover structures and avoid the use of any tabs projecting above
their cover structure so as to allow stacking of multiple cartons one on top of the
20 other. The top and bottom surfaces of these boxes are generally flat and smooth,
whereby they tend to slide on top of one another when stacked.

[0004] The construction of prior art folded pizza boxes requires several
steps in their use. These steps include pre-erecting the boxes, stacking empty pre-
erected boxes on a shelf, removing a pre-erected box from the shelf and opening the
25 pre-erected box, removing a pizza from an oven and placing it on a counter surface for
cutting, and after cutting the pizza transferring it from the counter surface to the
opened box, and then re-closing the box.

[0005] Conventional pizza boxes have a large one-piece lid that pivots from
one side between open and closed positions. This large lid interferes with adjoining
30 structures and makes it awkward to gain access to the pizza.

[0006] Several drawbacks are inherently unavoidable in using the prior art boxes to package pizza. For example, previous box designs require a substantial amount of labor to pre-erect the boxes, place a pizza on a surface to cut it, transfer the cut pizza to the box, and re-close the box. This extra handling of the pizza also results in increased risk of contamination of the pizza. Moreover, the pizza starts cooling during the cutting process, which is undesirable to the consumer. Additionally, the construction of conventional pizza boxes makes it difficult for the consumer to serve the pizza from the box, or to cut the pizza while it is in the box.

[0007] It should also be appreciated that once a pizza is boxed, it is important to let the moisture out of the carton to prevent soggy pizza. Prior art pizza cartons generally accomplish this task by venting the carton through seams or gaps between the end walls or sidewalls and the cover structure, or through other vent holes formed in the carton surface.

[0008] Mindful of such prior art structures and their use, there is a need for a pizza box that meets the strength and ventilation requirements and uses a minimum amount of material in its construction, is easy to erect, requires minimal handling of the pizza at the food preparation site, and enables the consumer to easily gain access to and serve pizza from the box, and/or to cut the pizza while it is in the box.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] The box of the invention is inexpensive, meets the strength and ventilation requirements of pizza boxes, uses a minimum amount of material in its construction, is easy to erect, requires minimal handling of the pizza at the food preparation site, and enables the consumer to easily gain access to and serve pizza from the box, and/or to cut the pizza while it is in the box.

[00010] The pizza box of the present invention is formed from a paperboard blank that may be left flat at the food preparation site, and upon which a pizza may be placed directly from the oven so that it can be cut on the flattened box, after which the box can be closed. This eliminates steps in the handling of the pizza, reduces the risk of contamination, and minimizes cooling of the pizza. It also speeds the process of

preparing and packaging the pizza.

5 [00011] To attain these advantages, the box of the invention is formed from a blank that includes a substantially rectangular bottom panel, a pair of opposed end wall panels foldably connected to opposite ends of the bottom panel, a pair of opposed side wall panels foldably connected along a first edge to opposite sides of the bottom panel, and a pair of lid panels foldably connected to a second, free edge of the side wall panels. Each lid panel has a width less than the width of the bottom panel, and cooperating detents on the lid panels and end panels releasably hold the lid panels closed in a box erected from the blank.

10 [00012] In a first form of the present invention, the lid panels in their closed position are supported at opposite edges on the end walls of the box, and in a second form the lid panels have depending slotted or notched flaps at their opposite ends which mate with slots or notches in the box end walls to support the lid. Both of these variations improve the crush strength of the lid.

15 [00013] The blank is supplied flat to the food preparer, who stores it flat until it is needed. The flat blank is then retrieved from a stack of the flat blanks and laid on a counter or other surface, and a cooked pizza is moved from the oven directly onto the flat blank. The pizza may then be cut while it is resting on the bottom panel of the blank. After the pizza is cut, the end walls are folded upwardly to an approximately vertical orientation, and the side walls are then folded up and the lid panels are folded inwardly and down over the top of the box, engaging the detents to hold the box in erected position.

20 [00014] In the first form of the invention, the detents comprise locking tabs projecting upwardly from the upper edge of the end walls, and cooperating slots in opposite end edges of the lid panels. In a first variation of this form, there are two locking tabs on each end wall, with a cooperating slot in each end edge of each lid panel. In a second variation of this form, only one locking tab is provided on each end wall, and one cooperating slot is in only one end edge of each lid panel.

30 [00015] In the second form of the invention, the detents comprise down-turned flaps on opposite end edges of the lid panels, with at least one generally V-

shaped slot or notch in a lower edge of the flaps, and cooperating generally V-shaped slots or notches in an upper edge of each end wall arranged so that the notches in the flaps engage with the notches in the end walls when the lid panels are in their closed position, with portions of the flaps overlapping and interwoven with portions of the end walls to frictionally hold the lid panels closed. The closing process in this form of the invention is designed to take advantage of the natural motions of the hands and fingers of the worker when setting up the box, and the box can be quickly and easily set up from a flat blank without lifting it from the work surface. This eliminates the need to pre-erect the box, a process that adds additional work elements and often consumes space in the pizza preparation area.

[00016] In a preferred construction, opposite end edges of the end wall panels are inwardly inclined, whereby when the side wall panels are folded upwardly against these end edges they are slightly inwardly inclined. This reduces the size of the blank and also ensures that the pizza is tightly contained within the box.

[00017] Further, the lid panels slightly overhang the end walls, and the detent slots may be located near the overhanging edge of the lid panels so that when the locking tabs on the end walls are engaged in the slots, the end walls are slightly outwardly inclined. This permits the bottom of one erected box to be received between the upwardly projecting locking tabs of another box when they are stacked on top of one another, thereby preventing sliding of the upper box over the top of the lower box. Also, and as noted previously, with this arrangement the opposite edges of the panels are supported on top of the end walls, improving the crush strength of the lid.

[00018] The locking tabs and slots may be positioned so that multiple, side-by-side, contiguous blanks can be simultaneously cut on a multiple out die, with the locking tabs on one blank cut from the edge of the adjacent blank, thereby reducing the overall blank size and amount of waste material and thus reducing cost.

[00019] The blank size for the various forms of the box of the invention is 2% to 15% smaller than the blank size of conventional boxes.

[00020] Because the box of the invention can be folded from its blank with

the pizza in place, it enables the worker to place the pizza directly on the box after baking. This eliminates the extra steps of placing the pizza on the counter or cutting surface and re-scooping the cut pizza to place it into a pre-erected box. In other words, the pizza can be placed directly onto the flat blank for cutting, followed by
5 folding of the box. This reduces the amount of labor and increases the speed of packaging the pizza. It also reduces heat loss and possible contamination that occurs when the pizza is placed on a separate cutting surface.

[00021] The box of the invention is also more convenient to use by consumers, since the full size top panel found on conventional boxes has been split in
10 half, making it easier to gain access to and serve pizza from the box. Additionally, in the serving form the box lies flat and this aids in the folding of the box for disposal. Conventional pizza boxes must be broken down for disposal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 [00022] The foregoing, as well as other objects and advantages of the invention, will become apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

[00023] Fig. 1 is a top perspective view of a first embodiment of the pizza
20 box according to the invention.

[00024] Fig. 2 is a top plan view of a blank for making the box of figure 1.

[00025] Fig. 3 is a top perspective view of the box of figure 1, shown with the lid panels open.

[00026] Fig. 4 is a top perspective view of a plurality of the boxes of figure 1
25 in stacked relationship.

[00027] Fig. 5 is a top perspective view of a second embodiment of the box of the invention.

[00028] Fig. 6 is a top perspective view of the box of figure 5, with one of the lid panels open.

30 [00029] Fig. 7 is a top plan view of a blank for making the box of figure 5.

[00030] Fig. 8 is a top perspective view of a plurality of the boxes of figure 5 in stacked relationship.

[00031] Fig. 9 is a top perspective view of a third embodiment of the box of the invention.

5 [00032] Fig. 10 is a top perspective view of the box of figure 9 with one lid panel open.

[00033] Fig. 11 is a top plan view of a blank for making the box of figure 9.

[00034] Fig. 12 is a top plan view of a pair of the blanks of figure 11, depicting how plural blanks can be cut on a multiple out die to achieve a saving in
10 material.

[00035] Fig. 13 is a top perspective view of a fourth embodiment of the box of the invention.

[00036] Fig. 14 is a top perspective view of the box of figure 13, showing the lid panels in partially closed position and depicting how the notched end flaps on the
15 lid panels interengage with the notched end walls.

[00037] Fig. 15 is a top plan view of a blank for making the box of figure 14.

[00038] Fig. 16 is a top plan view of an alternate blank for making the box of figure 14, wherein the side walls of a box erected from the blank are inwardly inclined.

20

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[00039] The first embodiment of the box of the invention is indicated at 10 in figures 1-4. This box comprises a bottom wall 11 with opposed end walls 12 and 13 foldably connected to opposite ends thereof, opposed side walls 14 and 15 foldably connected to opposite sides thereof, and partial lid panels 16 and 17 foldably
25 connected to the respective side walls.

[00040] Locking tabs 18, 19 and 20, 21 project laterally outwardly from respective opposite side edges of each lid panel, and have outwardly divergent opposite side edges 22 and a rounded outer end 23. A pair of spaced apart, parallel
30 cuts 24 and 25 extend a short distance into the respective lid panels from

approximately the center of each locking tab, perpendicular to the side edges of the lid panels, and a transverse cut 26 connects the cuts 24 and 25 at their outer ends, forming a short bendable tab 27 lying in the plane of the respective lid panel at each locking tab, with the free end of the tabs spaced slightly outwardly of the associated lid panel side edge.

[00041] Raised projections 28 and 29 extend upwardly from the top edge of each end wall 12 and 13 in positions to be in aligned registry with the locking tabs when the lid panels are in closed position. Shaped slots 30 and 31 are formed through the projections approximately in line with the height of the top edge of the respective end wall, and a short latching tab 32 projects downwardly from the top center of each slot.

[00042] The free outer edge of each lid panel is stepped or offset at its center, defining a wider leading edge 33 and a recessed edge 34, said edges being connected by an angled shoulder 35.

[00043] To erect the box of figure 1, the opposite side walls 13 and 14 are first folded upwardly, followed by inward folding of the lid panels and interengagement of the angled shoulders 35, whereby the leading edge of one lid panel overlaps the recessed edge of the other. This holds the lid panels in place until the end walls can be erected, and serves to reinforce the lid against collapse when a force is applied on top of it. The end walls 11 and 12 are then folded upwardly, with the locking tabs 18, 19 and 20, 21 being inserted through the slots 30 and 31. As the tabs 18, 19 and 20, 21 are being inserted through the slots, the latching tabs 32 slide along the top of the bendable tabs 27, causing them to flex downwardly until the latching tab passes the free end of the bendable tab, at which time the bendable tab springs back up, latching behind the latching tab 32. This arrangement securely holds the box in its erected position until it is desired to open it, at which time slight downward pressure can be exerted on top of the lid panels just behind the projections 28 and 29, thereby releasing the latching tabs and enabling the end walls 13 and 14 to be folded downwardly and the lid panels opened.

[00044] The overlapped and interlocked free outer edges of the lid panels,

and the secure engagement of the locking tabs in the slots formed in the end walls results in increased strength and resistance to collapse of the lid when a force is exerted on it.

5 [00045] It will be noted that the opposite side edges 35 and 36 of the end walls are upwardly convergent or angled inwardly. Thus, the side walls will be inwardly inclined when are folded upwardly against these angled edges. This arrangement permits less material to be used in the construction of the box and also more closely constrains the pizza or other product placed in the box.

10 [00046] Additionally, the opposite end edges 37 and 38 of the side walls are slightly outwardly divergent or outwardly angled, whereby the end walls are outwardly inclined and the top of the box has a slightly greater length dimension than the bottom, enabling the bottom of an upper box to fit between the projections 28 and 29 of a lower box so that the boxes can be more stably stacked than conventional boxes.

15 [00047] Further, it will be noted that the projections 28 and 29 and the associated slots 30 and 31 on one end wall are offset relative to the projections and slots on the opposite end wall. Similarly, the locking tabs 18, 19 and 20, 21 on the respective lid panels are correspondingly offset. Thus, in the manufacture of the blank, the locking tabs on one blank can be cut from the edge of an adjacent blank, as
20 depicted with a different blank in figure 12, resulting in a saving in material.

 [00048] The second embodiment of the box of the invention is indicated at 40 in figures 5-8. In this embodiment, the lid panels 41 and 42 are wider than the bottom wall 43, whereby the lid panels slightly overhang the end walls 44 and 45 in an erected box. In addition, the locking tabs 46, 47 and 48, 49 project upwardly from
25 the upper edge of the end walls, and the slots 50 and 51 for receiving the locking tabs are formed in the outer end edges of the lid panels. The free outer edges 52 of the lid panels are straight, rather than offset as in the first embodiment, and when the lid panels are in closed position the free edges of the lid panels overlap one another. In this form of the invention the opposite side edges 53 and 54 of the lid panels are
30 supported on top of the end walls, lending further strength to the construction. In all

other respects, with the exception of the omission of the cuts 24, 25 and 26, bendable tabs 27, and latching tabs 32, this form of the invention is the same as the previously described embodiment, e.g., the opposite side walls 55 and 56 are inwardly inclined due to the convergent side edges 57 and 58 on opposite side edges of the end walls, and the distance between the upwardly projecting locking tabs 46, 47 and 48, 49, respectively, is greater than the width of the bottom so that the bottom of an upper box can fit between the locking tabs of a lower box. Also, the end walls are slightly outwardly inclined due to the placement of the slots 50 and 51 near the outer edges of the extended lid panels.

[00049] The third embodiment of the invention is indicated generally at 60 in figures 9-12. This form of the invention is virtually identical to the second embodiment described above, except that one of the locking tabs and its associated slot is omitted from each end of the box. Thus, there is only one latching tab 61 and associated slot 62 associated with each lid panel, with the locking tab and associated slot for the respective lid panels being located on opposite ends of the box and on opposite sides of the box centerline. As in the previous embodiment, when the lid panels are in their closed position the free outer edges of the lid panels overlap one another. This double thickness along the centerline of the box effectively forms a beam that reinforces the lid against collapse when pressure is applied on it.

[00050] As seen in figure 12, multiple blanks 60A, 60B, 60C and 60D can be produced on a multiple out die, with the tabs 61 on one blank being cut from the edge of an adjacent blank, forming a void or recess 62 which can aid in ventilating the box.

[00051] The fourth embodiment of the invention is indicated at 70 in figures 13-15. In this form of the invention the locking tabs and associated slots are omitted, and instead, flaps 71 and 72 extend downwardly from opposite ends of each lid panel 73 and 74, and generally V-shaped notches 75 in the lower edges of the flaps engage with similar V-shaped notches 76 in the upper edge of the end walls 77 and 78 to frictionally hold the lid panels closed. The notches 75 are located nearer to the free outer edge of the respective lid panels, defining a relatively long flap 79 adjacent the hinged edge of the lid panel, and a relatively short flap 80 adjacent its free outer edge.

In use, the long flaps 79 extend downwardly against the outer surface of the associated end wall, and the short flaps 80 extend downwardly against the inner surface of the end wall. The free outer edges of the lid panels extend slightly beyond the short flap, defining a narrow lip or overhang 81 that overlaps with the corresponding edge on the other lid panel when the lid panels are closed. This also results in setting the short flap slightly back from the free outer edge of the lid panel, whereby when the lid panels are in their closed position there is no interference between the flap and the confronting edge of the opposite lid panel.

[00052] Figure 16 depicts a blank 90 for making a box substantially the same as that shown in figures 13-15, except that the opposite side edges 91 and 92 of the end walls 93 and 94 are upwardly convergent, and the end edge 96 of the longer flaps 97 on the lid panels 98 and 99 is angled parallel to the respective edge 91, 92. Thus, in a box (not shown) erected from this blank, the opposite side walls 100 and 101 are inwardly inclined, and the edge 96 of the flaps 97 conforms to the shape of the lower corners of the ends of the box.

[00053] A box embodying the present invention is formed from a blank typically constructed of corrugated paperboard but may otherwise be fabricated of other suitable foldable materials. The intended use for this carton is for the retention, storage and serving of pizza. However, it should be understood that the invention is not restricted in use and may have broader applications for containment of other articles.

[00054] In use, an article such as a pizza taken directly from an oven, is positioned and cut upon the bottom panel of the box while the box remains flat on a supporting surface. The flat orientation of the box facilitates cutting of the pizza without damage to or interference from its end and side walls, it being understood that the bottom panel and box are sized to accommodate the pizza. Once the box has been closed around the pizza, it is ready for delivery to or pick up by a customer. The box can be used by the customer to serve the pizza, either by opening both lid panels, or by opening a single lid panel, or by laying the box completely flat.

[00055] The lid panels interlock with the end walls and overlap one another

to reinforce each other and provide strength to the top of the box. It should be appreciated that when boxing hot pizza, it is important to let moisture escape from the box to prevent a soggy product. While some moisture is released by the seams or gaps between the inside surfaces of the walls and the lateral edges of the lid panels, the lower portions of the tab-receiving openings are sized and shaped to further allow for venting of the moisture. With this design, the box is able to retain sufficient heat to keep the pizza at a desirable temperature while preventing condensation from forming thereon.

[00056] From the foregoing, it should be understood that the preferred use of the blank facilitates a highly efficient and economic food packaging operation in comparison with prior art pizza packaging. Use of the present invention eliminates the prior art handling steps of pre-erecting a box, stacking multiple pre-erected boxes on a shelf, removing a pre-erected box from the shelf, opening the pre-erected box, placing the pizza on a counter surface for cutting after removing it from the oven, moving the cut pizza (which may have since cooled) to the open box and then re-closing the box. In addition, loading the pizza directly from the oven reduces labor costs, speed packaging, and prevents potential contamination of the pizza from the counter surface.

[00057] While the invention has been described with reference to preferred embodiments, those skilled in the art will appreciate that certain substitutions, alterations and omissions may be made without departing from the spirit thereof. Accordingly, the foregoing description is meant to be exemplary only and should not be deemed limitative on the scope of the invention set forth in the following claims

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A pizza box having length and width dimensions and comprising:
 - a substantially flat and rectangular bottom panel having opposite end edges and
 - 5 opposite side edges;
 - a pair of opposed end panels foldably connected to opposite end edges of the bottom panel;
 - a pair of opposed side panels foldably connected to opposite side edges of the bottom panel;
 - 10 a lid panel foldably connected at one edge to each of said side panels and having an opposite free edge, said lid panels each having a width substantially less than the width of the box but wide enough to overlap at their free edges when the lid panels are in closed position; and
 - cooperating detent means on the lid panels and end panels to lock the lid panels
 - 15 in closed position.
2. A pizza box as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
 - said detent means comprises:
 - projections on an upper edge of each end panel, said projections extending
 - 20 above the lid panels when the lid panels are in their closed position;
 - slots formed in the projections substantially coplanar with the lid panels; and
 - laterally projecting locking tabs projecting outwardly from opposite side edges of the lid panels in positions to extend through the slots.
- 25 3. A pizza box as claimed in claim 2, wherein:
 - a latching tab projects into each slot; and
 - a bendable tab is formed in an adjacent edge of each lid panel in position to cooperate with the latching tab to latch the lid panels closed.
- 30 4. A pizza box as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the free edge of each lid panel is stepped or offset at its center, defining a wider leading edge and a recessed edge, said edges being connected by an angled shoulder and arranged so that the wider leading edge of one lid panel is opposed to the recessed edge of the opposite lip panel and said angled shoulders are in substantial alignment with one another; and

the leading edge of one lid panel overlapping with the recessed edge of the opposite lid panel when the lid panels are in closed position.

5. A pizza box as claimed in claim 4, wherein:
a latching tab projects into each slot; and
a bendable tab is formed in an adjacent edge of each lid panel in position to cooperate with the latching tab to latch the lid panels closed.

6. A pizza box as claimed in claim 1, wherein said detent means
comprises:
at least one locking tab projecting upwardly from an upper edge of each end panel; and
a slot formed in a side edge of each lid panel in position to receive the locking tab when the lid panel is in closed position.

7. A pizza box as claimed in claim 6, wherein:
said lid panels have a width greater than the length dimension of the box so that the lid panels overhang the end walls of the box.

8. A pizza box as claimed in claim 7, wherein:
there are two locking tabs projecting upwardly from each end panel; and
the lid panels each have a slot in opposite side edges thereof in positions to receive the locking tabs on the end panels.

9. A pizza box as claimed in claim 7, wherein:

there is only one locking tab projecting upwardly from each end panel, and only one slot in each lid panel in positions to receive the respective locking tabs, said locking tabs and corresponding slots being located on opposite ends of the box and on
5 opposite sides of the longitudinal centerline of the box.

10. A pizza box as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detent means comprises:
a flap depending from each of the opposite side edges of each lid panel;
at least one generally V-shaped notch in a lower edge of each flap; and
10 at least one generally V-shaped notch in an upper edge of each end panel in positions to engage with said at least one notch in the flaps when the lid panels are in closed position, said flaps having a portion lying against an outer surface of the associated end panel and a portion lying against an inner surface of the associated end panel to frictionally hold the lid panels closed.

15

11. A pizza box as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
each flap has only one generally V-shaped notch, positioned closer to the free edge of the associated lid panel than to the side wall to which the lid panel is foldably connected.

20

12. A pizza box as claimed in claim 11, wherein:
the flaps have an end adjacent to but spaced from the free edge of each lid panel,
whereby the free edge extends beyond the flap so that when the lid panels are in
25 closed position and the free edges thereof overlap, the flaps do not interfere with closing of the lid panels.

13. A pizza box as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
opposite side edges of the end panels angle inwardly toward an upper edge
30 thereof; and

the side panels are inwardly inclined toward an upper edge thereof.

14. A pizza box as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the dimensions of the bottom panel are such that the bottom of an upper box
5 fits
between the projections of a lower box when the boxes are stacked on top of one
another.

15. A pizza box as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

10 the dimensions of the bottom panel are such that the bottom of an upper box
fits
between the locking tabs of a lower box when the boxes are stacked on top of one
another.

16. A pizza box as claimed in claim 5, wherein:

15 the dimensions of the bottom panel are such that the bottom of an upper box
fits
between the projections of a lower box when the boxes are stacked on top of one
another.

17. A pizza box as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

20 the dimensions of the bottom panel are such that the bottom of an upper box
fits
between the projections of a lower box when the boxes are stacked on top of one
25 another.

18. A method of packaging a pizza baked in an oven, comprising the steps
of:

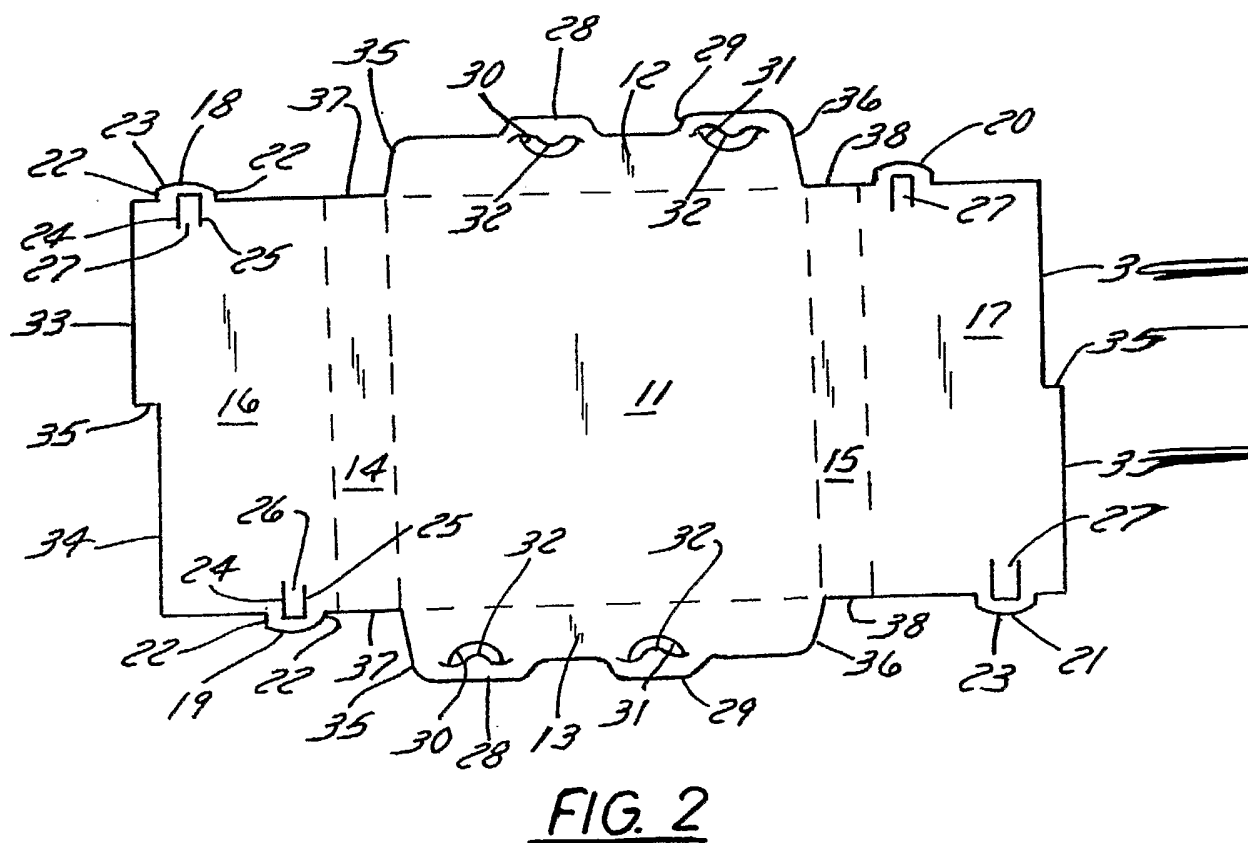
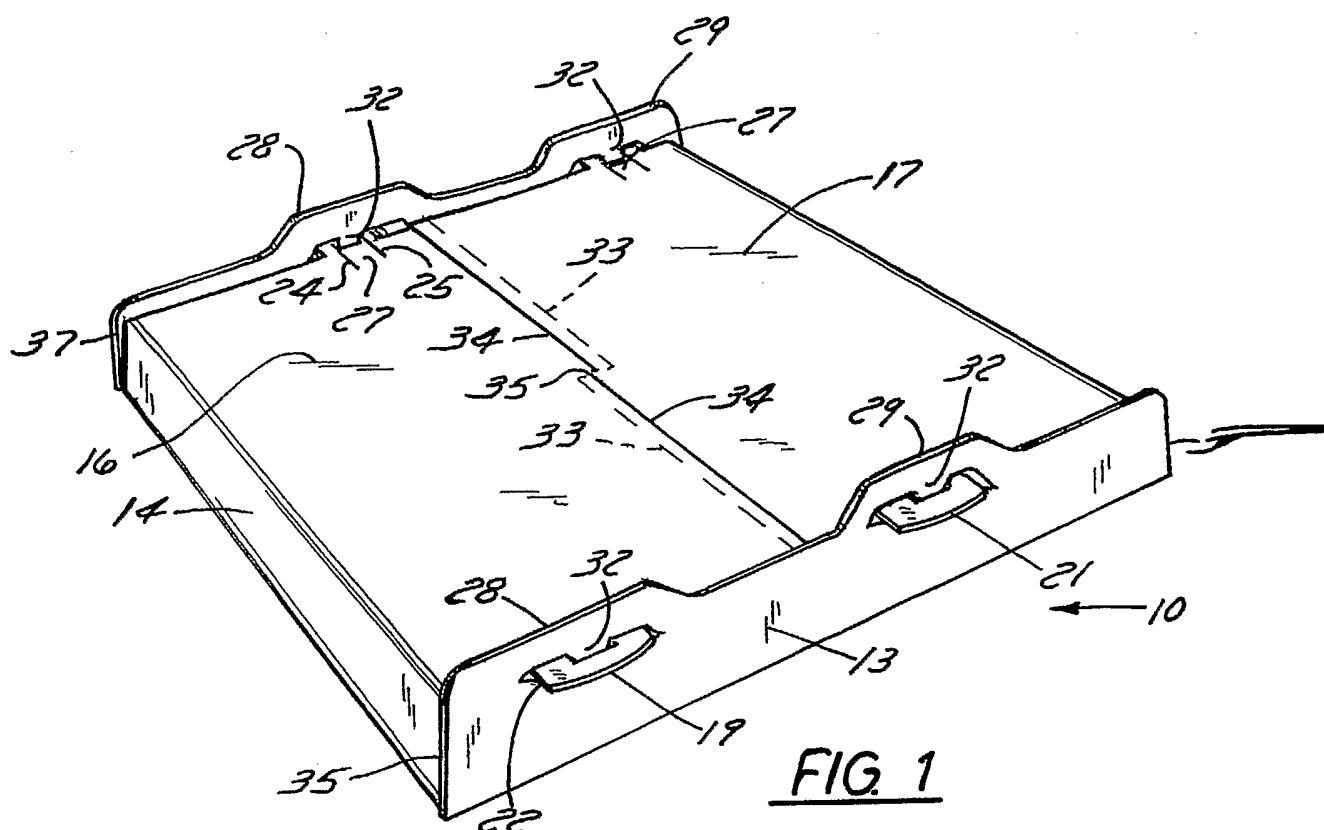
providing a flat blank comprising a substantially rectangular bottom panel, a
30 pair of opposed side panels foldably connected to opposite side edges of the bottom

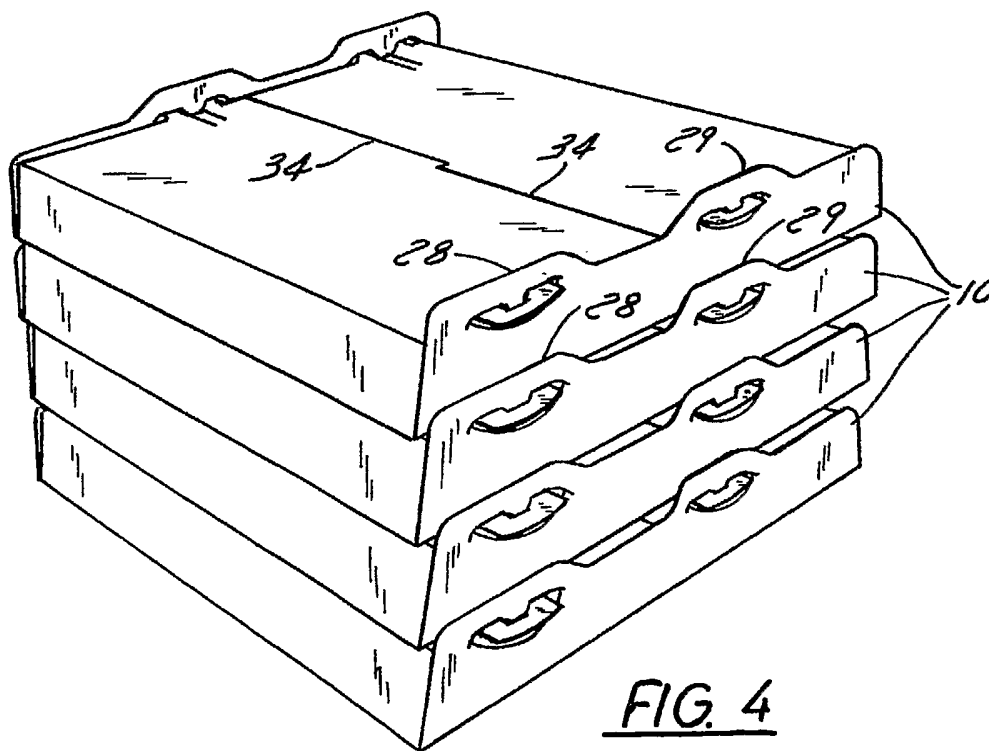
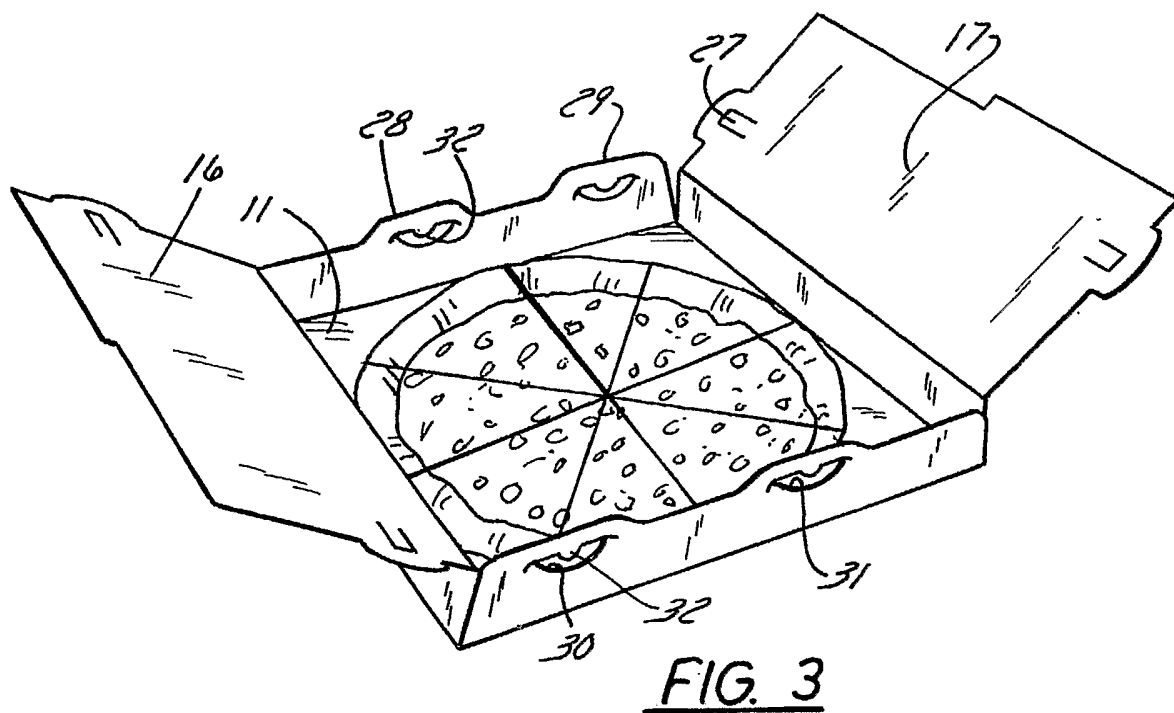
panel, a pair of opposed lid panels foldably connected to the side panels, a pair of opposed end panels foldably connected to opposite end edges of the bottom panel, and cooperating detent means on the lid panels and end panels to lock the lid panels in closed position;

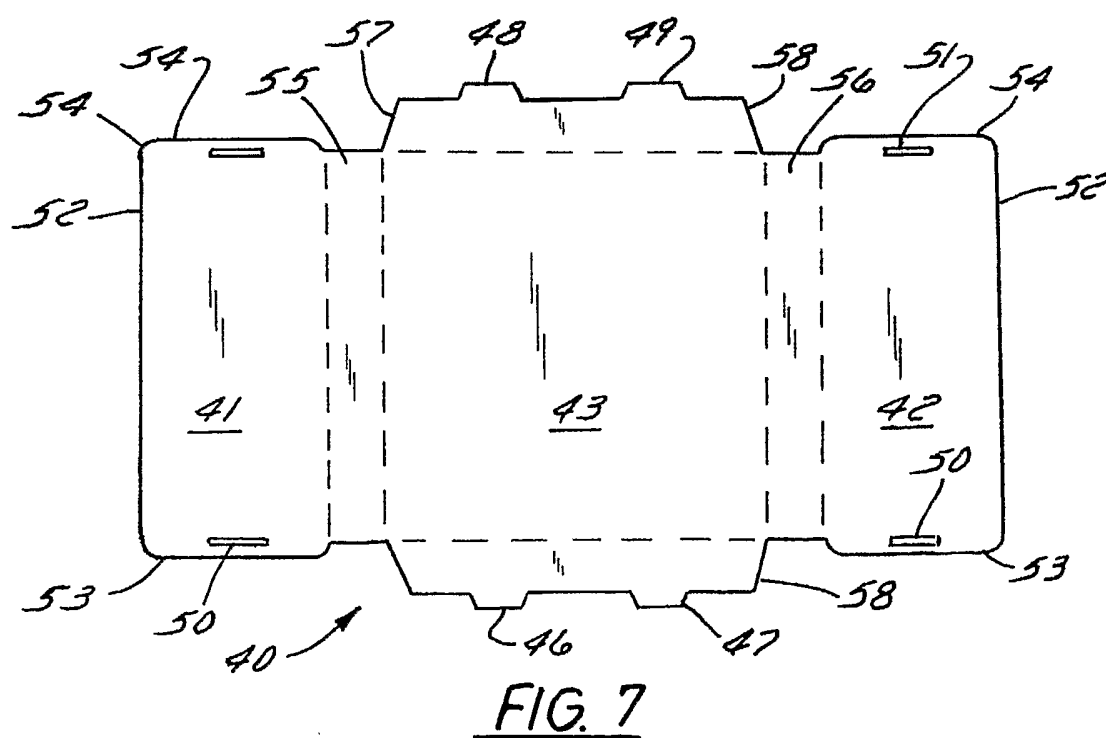
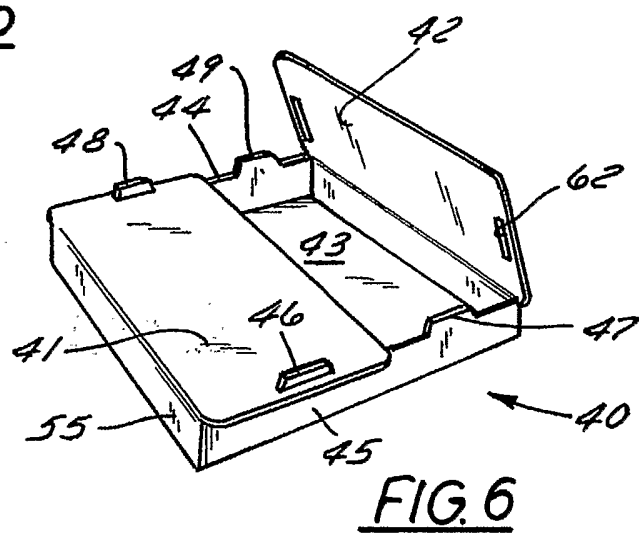
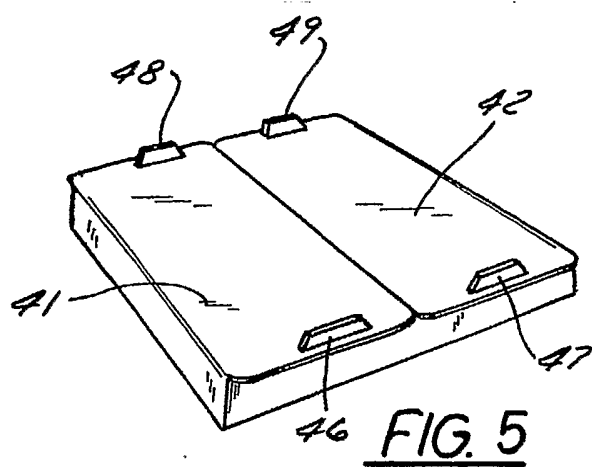
- 5 removing a pizza from the oven and placing it directly onto the bottom panel;
 slicing the pizza on the bottom panel; and
 folding the side and end panels and the lid panels to enclose the pizza.

19. A foldable blank for making a pizza box, said blank comprising:
10 a substantially rectangular bottom panel having length and width dimensions;
 a pair of opposed end panels foldably connected to opposite end edges of the
bottom panel;
 a pair of opposed side panels foldably connected to opposite side edges of the
bottom panel;
15 a pair of opposed lid panels, each foldably connected to a respective opposite
side panel and having a free outer edge and opposite side edges, said lid panels each
having a width substantially less than the width of the bottom panel; and
cooperating detent means on the lid panels and the end panels to lock the lid panels in
closed position.

20







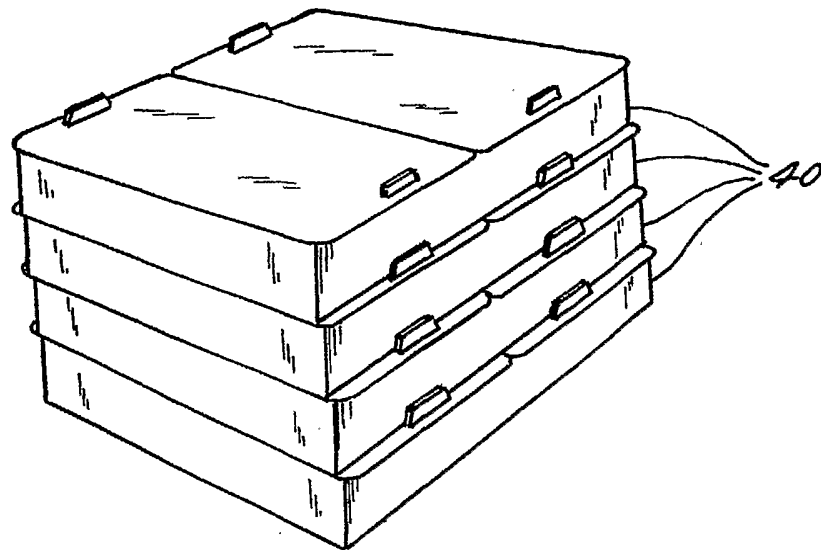


FIG. 8

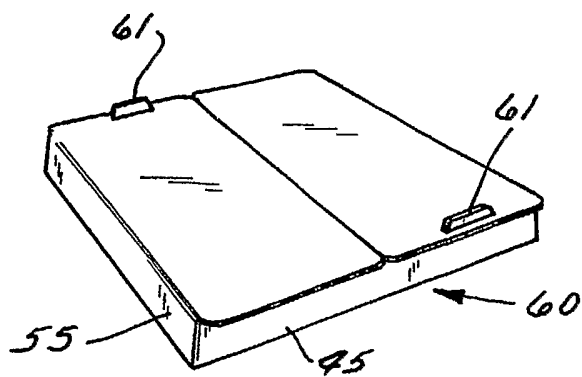


FIG. 9

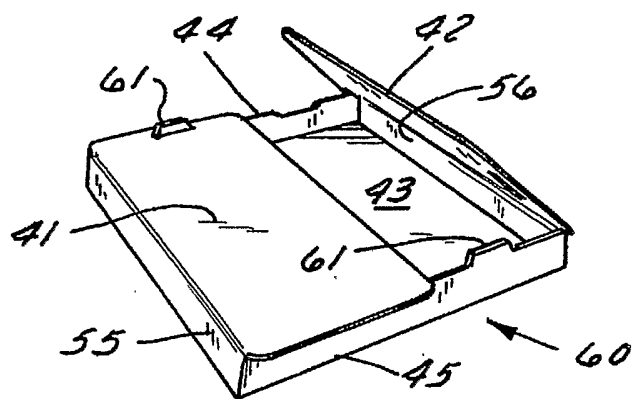


FIG. 10

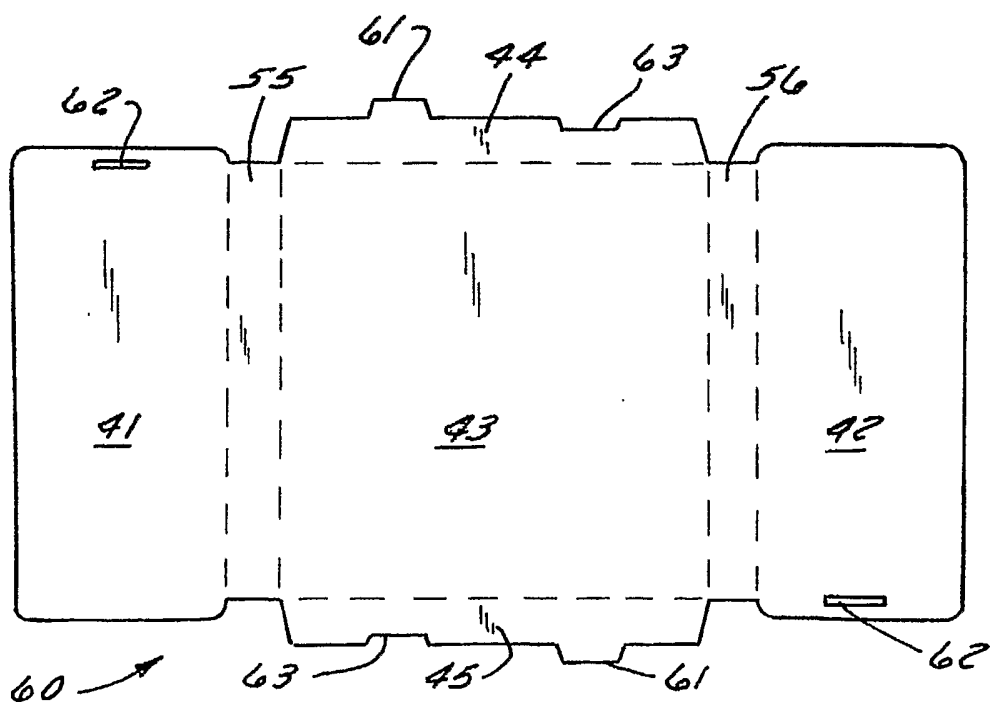


FIG. 11

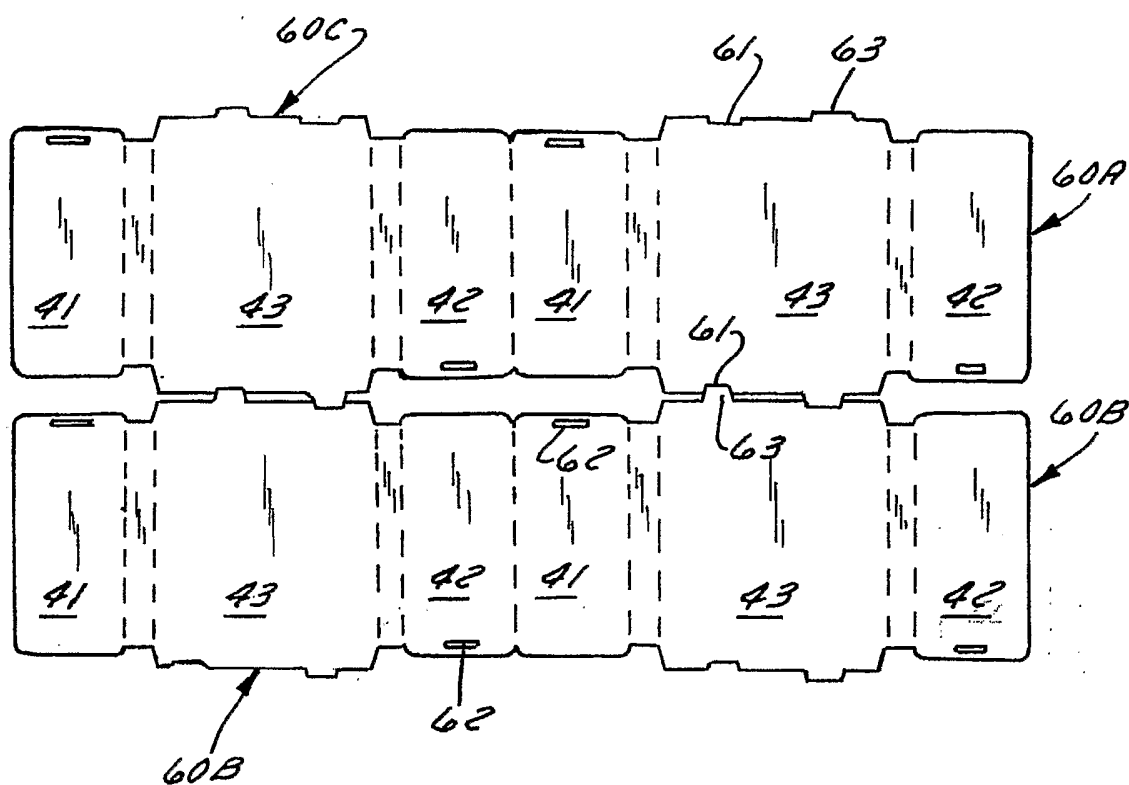
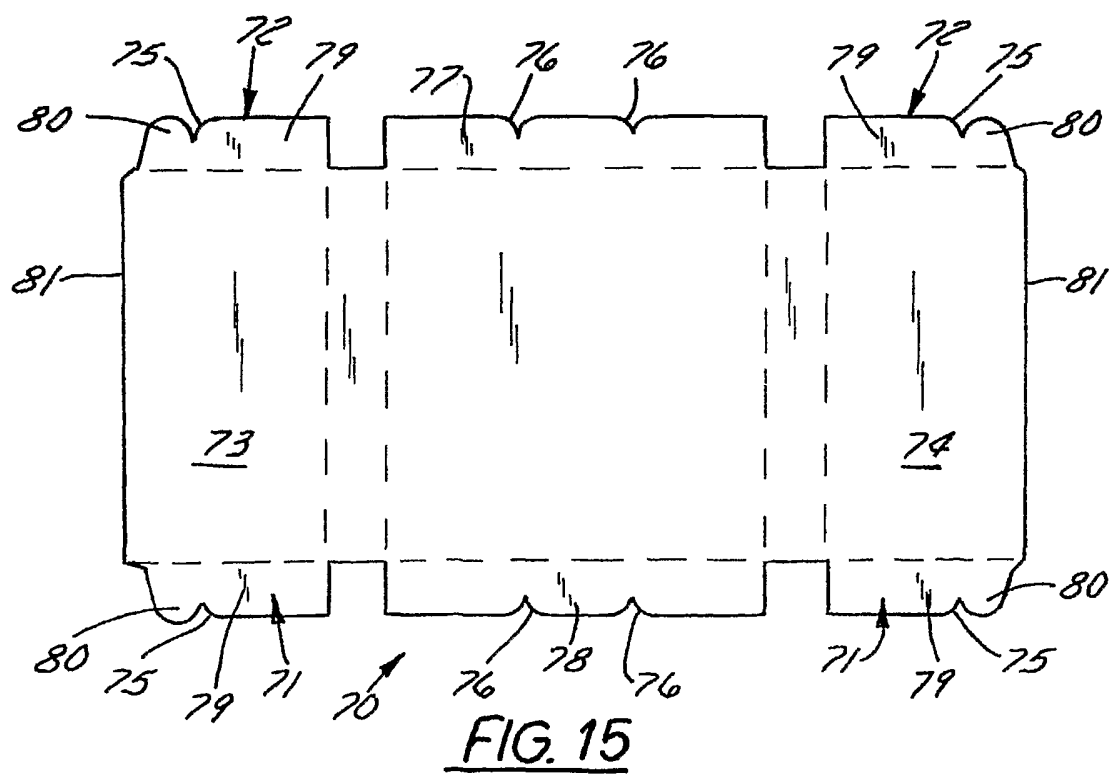
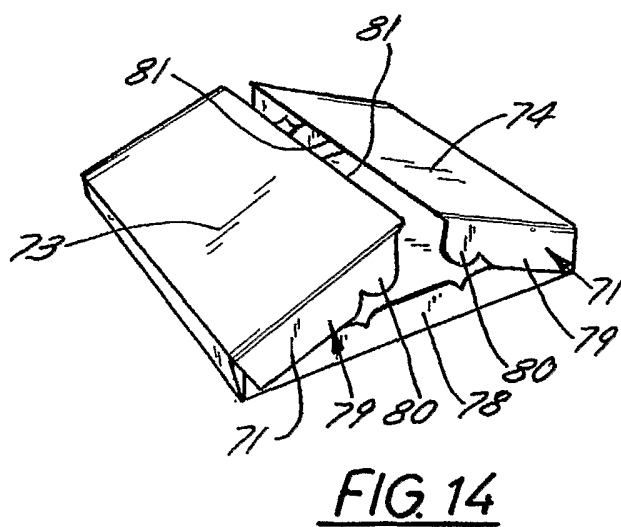
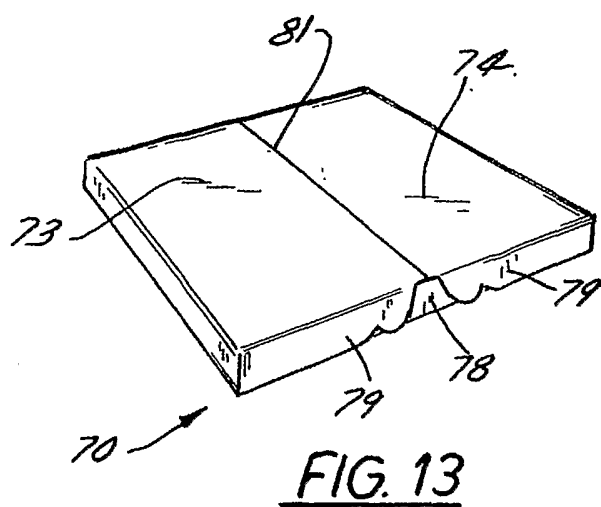


FIG. 12



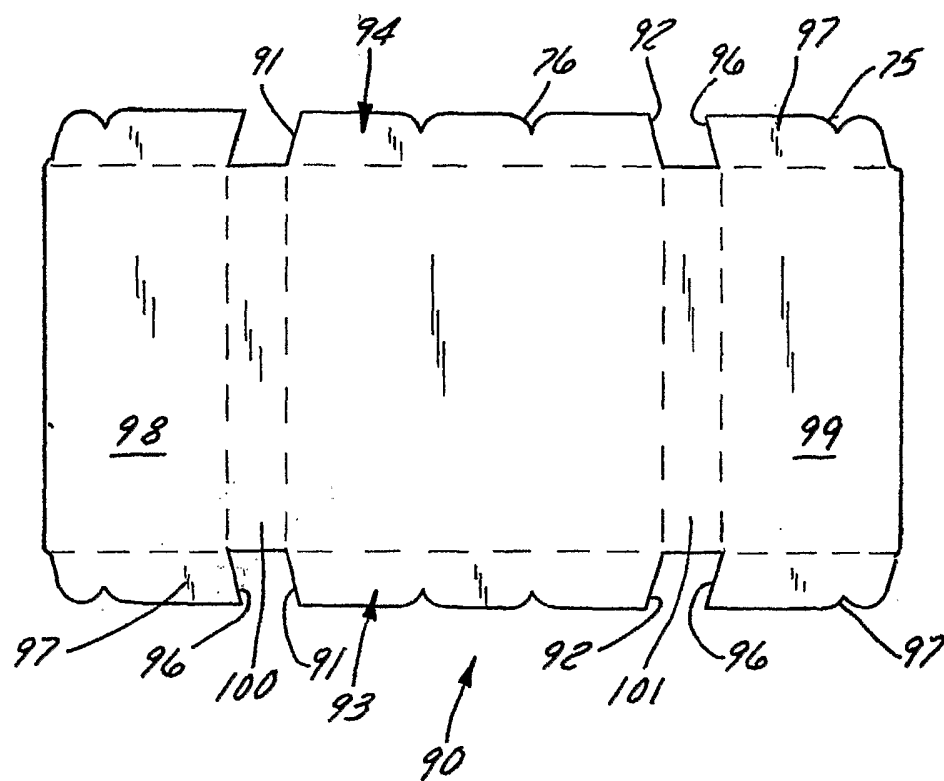


FIG. 16