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Description

This invention relates to infusion packages such as tea bags, and to methods for their manufacture.

Tea bags are sealed soft porous bags containing tea leaves which are placed in cups, mugs or teapots of boiling water to produce a drink of tea. The bags can theoretically be of any shape, but are generally either rectangular or round. When the bags are placed in cups or mugs of boiling water, they are usually removed prior to the tea being drunk - this can also, although not necessarily, be the case when the bags are placed in the teapot. In the process of removing the bags either from the cup, mug or teapot, it is quite normal to squeeze the bags into a relatively dry state, usually by employing a kitchen utensil such as a teaspoon. Removal of excess liquid from the tea bag, in order to prevent the tea bag from dripping or leaving puddles of liquid on the surface with which it is in contact, is most desirable in view of the strongly staining nature of tea. However, a problem with using such kitchen utensils is that it is not easy to achieve efficient removal of excess liquid from the tea bag, and frequently the tea bag will have a tendency to drip even after it has been squeezed.

Numerous attempts have been made to overcome this problem, but the majority of such attempts have involved providing a means for applying an external pressure to the tea bag to squeeze out residual liquid. For example, it is known to provide a tea bag with a single tagged string which passes through a hole in an associated folded strip of card. After use, the tea bag is removed from the cup, mug or teapot by holding the tagged string in one hand, and the tea bag is then drawn up between the folded edges of the card which are then squeezed with the other hand to compress the tea bag and cause residual tea to be expressed therefrom. Such an approach is illustrated in, for example, US-A-3550528, US-A-3057729, US-A-3047397 and US-A-3092242. It has been found that a significant disadvantage of this approach is that residual tea is left on the folded card which consequently has a tendency to drip. Moreover the package is somewhat bulkier than is ideally desirable and, of course, the manufacture of the package is rendered somewhat more complex.

Another approach to this problem has been to provide a string harness around the tea bag, the string harness being tightened about the bag after use to squeeze liquid from the bag. Such an approach is illustrated by, for example, US-A-3237550, US-A-2881910 and US-A-3415656. In US-A-3415656, there is disclosed a tea bag arrangement in which a drawstring extends along a channel around the bag periphery. The drawstring does

not extend into the interior of the bag and, in use, acts to squeeze the bag rather than cause it to collapse from within.

In US-A-2881910, the bag is provided with two tagged pairs of drawcords which pass through the material of the tea bag from one face of the bag to the opposed face of the bag, and form a sling arrangement around the lower edge of the bag. After the teabag has been steeped in hot water for the desired length of time, the drawcords are pulled to fold the teabag in half and tighten the sling about the lower part of the bag thereby to squeeze out excess liquid. A disadvantage of such an arrangement is that the string tends to exert a very localised squeezing effect, and consequently does not efficiently express fluid from the bag. Moreover, the complexity of the string harness, and in particular the need for it to be sewn into the fabric of the bag, means that as a practical matter, it would be extremely difficult to produce such tea bags efficiently and economically on a large scale.

It is an object of the present invention to overcome the aforesaid problems by providing a tea bag which has means for efficient removal of excess liquid from the bag. In particular it is an object of the present invention to provide means for removing excess liquid from the tea bag such that the tea bag thereafter does not drip.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a tea bag having the aforesaid characteristics which can be manufactured efficiently on a large scale.

The present inventor has found that these objects can be met by providing a tea bag with drawstrings which are so arranged that when pulled, the tea bag collapses in on itself, the reduction in volume of the bag serving to force excess liquid out of the bag. Since it is the walls of the tea bag, rather than the string, which exert the main squeezing effect, liquid is expressed from the tea bag more efficiently than is the case when the string itself exerts the squeezing effect. Furthermore, the present inventor has also found that by arranging the drawstrings such that they are anchored in the sealed margins on one side of the bag, and pass through the interior of the bag and out through the sealed margins at an opposing side of the bag, without interengaging the side walls of the bag, the construction of the tea bag is considerably simplified. Such a construction avoids the need to sew the strings into the walls of the bag, for example as is the case with the tea bag disclosed in US-A-2881910.

According to the present invention, there is provided an infusion package comprising a closed bag containing an infusible substance for infusion in a liquid, the bag being formed from panels of porous material sealed together at their peripheral

margins; and being provided with a pair of drawstrings, characterized in that: each drawstring extends into the interior of the bag through a first seal between the panels on the peripheral margins, and extends across the interior of the bag to an anchoring point at a generally opposed location, with respect to its entrance location, on the peripheral margins without any intermediate interengagement with the said panels of the bag; wherein each drawstring is anchored at said opposed location by being held between two sealed together portions of the panels, the arrangement being such that pulling the drawstrings through the first seals and pulling the drawstrings in generally opposite directions causes the bag to collapse, thereby to express liquid absorbed by the infusible substance during infusion.

The two drawstrings are preferably the two ends of a single continuous length of string, although separate lengths of string may be employed. The external ends of the drawstrings may be joined or may together form an integral loop of string extending from one point of entry into the bag to the other point of entry. However, it is preferred that the two drawstrings terminate separately externally of the bag. Preferably each drawstring is tagged.

It is preferred that the infusion package is constructed such that the drawstrings extend into the interior of the bag through sealed margins at spaced apart (e.g. opposed) locations on the margins. It is also preferred that the pair of drawstrings are anchored at points spaced apart along the said opposed location on the peripheral margins of the bag. The pair of drawstrings may cross over within the interior of the bag although this is not essential. Preferably the arrangement of the drawstrings is symmetrical about a plane of symmetry passing through the centre of the bag.

The bags may in theory be any shape or size, but typically they are rectangular or circular in plan. Although the bags may contain any infusible substance, it is envisaged that the invention will find its greatest application in relation to infusible substances for use in the preparation of beverages, and in particular to tea bags or coffee bags.

In general, the two drawstrings extending from the bag will be tagged to permit them to be gripped more firmly. One of the tags may be enlarged to form an envelope for the bag if so desired. Furthermore, one of the tags may be enlarged to form a platform upon which the used bag may be conveyed to a waste disposal container after use. Such a form of construction is envisaged as having application to tea and coffee bags in general and not merely to the collapsible bags of the present invention.

In a further aspect, the invention provides a method of preparing an infusion package comprising a closed bag containing an infusible substance for infusion in a liquid, the bag being formed from two panels of porous material sealed together at their peripheral margins and being provided with a pair of drawstrings; which method comprises positioning the panels in mutually confronting relationship; arranging the said drawstrings such that they are interposed between the two confronting panels; and sealing the panels together so as to form the porous bag; the infusible substance being disposed between the panels prior to final closure of the bag; characterised in that the drawstrings are interposed between the panels in such a way that following the sealing together of the panels at their peripheral margins, each drawstring extends into the interior of the bag through a first seal between the panels on the peripheral margins, and extends across the interior of the bag to an anchoring point at a generally opposed location on the peripheral margins without any intermediate interengagement with the said panels of the bag; each drawstring being anchored by being held between two sealed together portions of the panels, the arrangement of the drawstrings in the final product being such that pulling the drawstrings through the first seal and pulling the drawstrings in generally opposite directions causes the bag to collapse, thereby to express liquid absorbed by the infusible substance during infusion.

It will be appreciated from the foregoing that the present invention provides an infusion package such as a tea bag which is provided with two string type attachments which, in use, hang freely over the lip of a cup, mug or tea pot containing the bag. After use, the two attachments can then be used to remove the tea bag from the mug, cup or teapot by lifting them up and simultaneously pulling them in generally opposite lateral directions. The pulling of the attachments in generally opposite lateral directions will cause the bag to collapse thus squeezing the tea bag into a relatively dry state. Thus the use of the said two attachments will eradicate totally the requirement for any other external utensil either to lift out or squeeze the tea bag into a relatively dry state.

The invention will now be illustrated in more detail by reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the tea bag;

Figure 2 is a side sectional view along line AA in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a front sectional view along lines BB in Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a side elevation in section of a container such as a cup containing the tea bag of Figures 1 to 3;

Figure 5 is a round tea bag according to the invention;

Figure 6 is a sectional view through a further embodiment of a rectangular tea bag according to the invention; and

Figures 7a and 7b are partial sectional views illustrating alternative methods of anchoring the drawstrings in the sealed margins.

Referring now to the Figures, it can be seen from Figures 1 and 2 that the tea bag is of generally rectangular shape comprising a bag 1 formed of a generally porous material of the type conventionally used for tea bags. The tea bag is formed from two panels 2 and 3 of porous material heat sealed together at sealed margins 4 around its periphery. Extending from adjacent corners 13 and 14 of the tea bag are draw strings 11 and 12, to the ends of which are attached tags 21 and 22. As is shown in Figure 2, the drawstrings 11 and 12 pass through the sealed margins 4 between panels 2 and 3 into the interior of the tea bag. Inside the tea bag, the strings pass from one side 5 to the other side 6 crossing over at point 7 and are anchored in the opposite sealed margin 6. The string enters the sealed margin 6 at point 16, forms a loop extending along the cage of the bag and re-enters the interior of the bag through the margin 6 at point 15.

The arrangement of the string is illustrated in more detail in Figure 3. Here it can be seen that strings 11 and 12 are in fact the two ends of a single continuous piece of string. The string enters the bag through the sealed margin at point 13 and runs in approximately diagonal fashion across the interior of the bag to point 16 before passing out through the sealed margin and along the edge of the tea bag to define a loop section 17. The string re-enters the bag through the sealed margin at 15 and then passes through the interior of the bag, crossing over itself at point 7 before passing out through the sealed margin again at point 14, to form drawstring 1. It can be seen that at no point is the string interengaged with either panel 2 or panel 3 of the tea bag.

In an alternative arrangement, the length of string 17, which is shown in Figure 3 as forming a loop along the external edge of the bag, can be retained entirely within the sealed margin 6, as is illustrated in Figure 7a. The loop may also lay along the interior of the bag, as is shown in Figure 7b. As a further variation on the arrangement shown in Figure 3, the string, rather than extending between points 13 and 16, and between points 14 and 15 so as to define a crossover point 17, may be arranged as illustrated by the dotted line 23. Thus the string can traverse the interior of the bag between points 13 and 15, and between 14 and 16.

The length of the looped section 17, can vary in that points 15 and 16 can be located at any point

between the midpoint 20 and the corners 18 and 19 of the tea bag. However, it is preferred that points 15 and 16 are spaced equidistantly from the midpoint 20. In general, for both rectangular and circular bags (or indeed bags of any other shape), it is preferred that the arrangement of the string is symmetrical about a plane of symmetry running through the centre of the bag.

In use, the tea bag is inserted into a cup, mug or pot, and the two tags 21 and 22 are then hung freely over the opposing lips of the cup, mug or teapot C as illustrated in Figure 4. When it is adjudged that the tea bag has been steeped in the water for a sufficiently long period of time, the two tags are pulled in opposed directions as illustrated by arrows in Figure 4. This has the effect of causing the tea bag to collapse inwardly towards its centre, thus squeezing most of the liquid in the tea bag out of the bag, whilst simultaneously withdrawing the tea bag from the cup, mug or teapot. The result is a relatively dry tea bag which does not thereafter drip or leave puddles of tea on any surface with which it comes into contact.

Although the string is sealed into the margins at points 13 and 14, it should be noted that when pulled in the manner described above, the string will pull through the seal. However, the string remains anchored at positions 15 and 16, thanks to the external loop 17 which serves to ensure that the string does not pull through the sealed margin 6. In an alternative arrangement, the loop 17 may be retained entirely within the sealed margin, and need not be in the form of an external loop, provided that the margin is wide enough and the seal sufficiently strong to ensure that the loop 17 does not pull through.

Turning now to Figure 5, this Figure illustrates a tea bag constructed in a manner similar to that of the tea bag illustrated in Figures 1 to 4, except that it is round rather than rectangular.

Figure 6 illustrates a view in section of a rectangular tea bag similar to the embodiment shown in Figures 1 to 4 except that the arrangement of the drawstrings differs slightly. In this embodiment, there are provided two separate drawstrings 26 and 27 which are anchored in the sealed margins at adjacent corners 28 and 29. The two strings 26,27 traverse the interior of the tea bag from their respective anchoring points 28,29 to the respective diagonally opposite corners 30,31 crossing over at point 32. The strings 26,27 pass through the sealed margins in the manner described above in relation to Figures 1 to 5 and terminate in tags 33,34.

In each of the rectangular tea bags illustrated, the drawstrings are shown as passing through the sealed margins at adjacent corners. However, it will be appreciated that it is not essential that the drawstrings should pass through the sealed margin

at the exact locations of the corners. They could, for example, pass through the margin at locations displaced from, but near to, the corners.

The tea bags of the present invention differ from tea bags of the type disclosed in US 2881910 in that the arrangement of the drawstrings is such that when pulled, they cause the tea bag to collapse into itself, and thus it is the walls of the tea bag itself which provide the squeezing action on the tea leaves within the bag. This is in contrast to known tea bags of the type described hereinabove which have string harnesses designed to encircle the tea bag such that the compression force on the tea leaves is exerted mainly by the string itself, rather than the tea bag casing as a whole.

It is contemplated that an advantageous property of the tea bags of the present invention is that they will lend themselves to efficient manufacture on a large scale. Conventional tea bag manufacture involves the use of continuous webs of porous material, and, in one known process, a single web of porous material is gradually folded in half and then heat sealed along a line transverse to the fold to form a pocket into which tea is inserted. The sides of the pocket are then heat sealed in like fashion and the completed tea bag is then cut from the web or perforated to allow subsequent separation. In another method of manufacturing tea bags, two continuous webs of porous material are brought together and are heat sealed together. The method of preparing the tea bags of the present invention can be substantially the same as outlined above in respect of conventional tea bags, but will differ in that the drawstring or strings is or are laid into the space between the two individual webs or the two halves of the folded over web prior to the heat sealing steps. Such a modification is of course simpler than sewing the drawstring into the tea bag casing as would be required with the tea bags illustrated in US-A-2881910.

The embodiments illustrated in the drawings are for the purposes of exemplification only, and it will be readily apparent to the skilled man that numerous modifications and alterations may be made to the illustrated tea bags without departing from the present invention, which is limited only by the scope of the appended Claims.

Claims

1. An infusion package comprising a closed bag (1) containing an infusible substance for infusion in a liquid, the bag being formed from panels (2,3) of porous material sealed together at their peripheral margins (4); and being provided with a pair of drawstrings (11, 12) characterised in that; each drawstring extends into the interior of the bag through a first seal

between the panels (2,3) on the peripheral margins (4), and extends across the interior of the bag to an anchoring point (6) at a generally opposed location, with respect to its entrance location, on the peripheral margins without any intermediate interengagement with the said panels (2,3) of the bag; wherein each drawstring (11, 12) is anchored at said opposed location by being held between two sealed together portions of the panels, the arrangement being such that pulling the drawstrings through the first seals and pulling the drawstrings in generally opposite directions causes the bag to collapse, thereby to express liquid absorbed by the infusible substance during infusion.

2. An infusion package according to Claim 1 wherein the pair of drawstrings (11, 12) are the two ends of a single continuous length of string.
3. An infusion package according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the drawstrings (11, 12) extend into the interior of the bag at spaced apart locations (13, 14) on the peripheral margins (4).
4. An infusion package according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the anchoring points (15, 16) are spaced apart along the peripheral margins (4) of the bag.
5. An infusion package according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the arrangement of the drawstrings (11, 12) is symmetrical about a plane of symmetry running through the centre of the bag.
6. An infusion package according to Claim 2 wherein, the anchoring points (15, 16) are spaced apart along the peripheral margins and are linked by a portion (17) of the single continuous length of string which forms a loop of string lying outside the seal.
7. An infusion package according to Claim 2 wherein the anchoring points (15, 16) are linked together by a portion of the single continuous length of string which is held entirely between two sealed together portions of the panels.
8. An infusion package according to any one of the preceding Claims which is rectangular or circular in plan.
9. An infusion package according to Claim 8 which is rectangular in plan and wherein the

drawstrings extend into the interior of the bag at or near adjacent corners of the bag.

10. An infusion package according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the panels of porous material are sealed together around substantially the entirety of their peripheral margins (4). 5
11. An infusion package according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the panels are defined by integral portions of a single piece of porous fabric. 10
12. An infusion package according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the panels of porous material are sealed together by means of heat seals. 15
13. An infusion package according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the drawstrings have tagged ends (21, 22) 20
14. An infusion package according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the infusible substance is tea or coffee. 25
15. A method of preparing an infusion package comprising a closed bag (1) containing an infusible substance for infusion in a liquid, the bag being formed from two panels (2, 3) of porous material sealed together at their peripheral margins (4) and being provided with a pair of drawstrings (11, 12); which method comprises positioning the panels (2, 3) in mutually confronting relationship; arranging the said drawstrings (11, 12) such that they are interposed between the two confronting panels (2, 3); and sealing the panels (2, 3) together so as to form the porous bag; the infusible substance being disposed between the panels prior to final closure of the bag; characterised in that the drawstrings are interposed between the panels in such a way that following the sealing together of the panels (2, 3) at their peripheral margins, each drawstring extends into the interior of the bag through a first seal between the panels (2, 3) on the peripheral margins (4), and extends across the interior of the bag to an anchoring point (6) at a generally opposed location on the peripheral margins without any intermediate interengagement with the said panels (2, 3) of the bag; each drawstring (11, 12) being anchored by being held between two sealed together portions of the panels, the arrangement of the drawstrings in the final product being such that pulling the drawstrings through the first seal and pulling the drawstr-

ings in generally opposite directions causes the bag to collapse, thereby to express liquid absorbed by the infusible substance during infusion.

16. A method according to Claim 15 wherein the porous material is in the form of a single sheet, which is folded in half, each half defining one panel.
17. A method according to Claim 16 wherein the sheet of porous material forms part of a web of such sheets linked together.

Patentansprüche

1. Aufgusspackung umfassend einen einen geschlossenen, aufgußfähigen Stoff zum Aufbrühen in einer Flüssigkeit enthaltenden Beutel (1), wobei der Beutel aus an ihren peripherischen Rändern (4) zusammengeschlossenen Feldern (2, 3) aus porösem Material geformt und mit einem Paar Zugschnüren (11, 12) versehen ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß jede Zugschnur durch einen ersten Verschuß zwischen den Feldern (2, 3) an den peripherischen Rändern (4) verläuft und sich ohne irgendeinen Zwischeneingriff in die genannten Felder (2, 3) durch das Innere des Beutels zu einem Verankerungspunkt (6) an einer bezüglich ihrer Eintrittsstelle allgemein gegenüberliegenden Stelle an den peripherischen Rändern erstreckt, wobei die Anordnung so ist, daß beim Ziehen der Zugschnüren durch die ersten Verschlüsse und beim Ziehen der Zugschnüren in allgemein entgegengesetzten Richtungen ein Zusammenziehen des Beutels verursacht wird, wodurch von dem aufgußfähigen Stoff während des Aufbrühens aufgenommene Flüssigkeit ausgepreßt wird.
2. Aufgusspackung nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Paar Zugschnüre (11, 12) die zwei Enden einer einzelnen durchgehenden Schnur sind.
3. Aufgusspackung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei sich die Zugschnüre (11, 12) an mit Abstand zueinander angeordneten Stellen (13, 14) an den peripherischen Rändern (4) in das Innere des Beutels erstrecken.
4. Aufgusspackung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Verankerungspunkte (15, 16) mit Abstand zueinander entlang der peripherischen Ränder (5) des Beutels angeordnet sind.

5. Aufgußpackung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Anordnung der Zugschnüren (11, 12) zu einer durch die Mitte des Beutels verlaufende Symmetrieebene symmetrisch ist. 5
6. Aufgußpackung nach Anspruch 2, wobei die Verankerungspunkte (15, 16) mit Abstand zueinander entlang der peripherischen Ränder angeordnet sind und durch einen Abschnitt (17) der einzelnen durchgehenden Schnur, die eine außerhalb des Verschlusses liegende Schnurschleife bildet, verbunden sind. 10
7. Aufgußpackung nach Anspruch 2, wobei die Verankerungspunkte (15, 16) durch einen Abschnitt der einzelnen durchgehenden Schnur, der vollständig zwischen zwei zusammengeschlossenen Abschnitten der Felder gehalten wird, miteinander verbunden sind. 15 20
8. Aufgußpackung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, die in Draufsicht rechteckig oder kreisförmig ist. 25
9. Aufgußpackung nach Anspruch 8, die in Draufsicht rechteckig ist und wobei die Zugschnüre an oder in der Nähe benachbarter Ecken in das Innere des Beutels verlaufen. 30
10. Aufgußpackung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Felder aus porösem Material um im wesentlichen die Gesamtheit ihrer peripherischen Ränder (4) herum zusammengeschlossen sind. 35
11. Aufgußpackung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Felder von integrierten Abschnitten eines einzelnen Stücks porösen Materials definiert werden. 40
12. Aufgußpackung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Felder aus porösem Material mittels Verschweißungen zusammengeschlossen sind. 45
13. Aufgußpackung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Zugschnüren mit Anhängern versehene Enden (21, 22) haben. 50
14. Aufgußpackung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei der aufgußfähige Stoff Tee oder Kaffee ist. 55
15. Verfahren zur Anfertigung einer Aufgußpackung umfassend einen geschlossenen, einen aufgußfähigen Stoff zum Aufbrühen in einer Flüssigkeit enthaltenden Beutel (1), wobei der

Beutel aus an ihren peripherischen Rändern (4) zusammengeschlossenen Feldern (2, 3) aus porösem Material geformt und mit einem Paar Zugschnüren (11, 12) versehen ist, Verfahren umfassend das Positionieren der Felder (2, 3) in einander gegenüberliegendem Verhältnis, das Anordnen der genannten Zugschnüre (11, 12), so daß sie zwischen den beiden einander gegenüberliegenden Feldern (2, 3) liegen, und Zusammenschließen der Felder (2, 3), so daß sie einen porösen Beutel formen, wobei der aufgußfähige Stoff vor dem endgültigen Verschließen des Beutels zwischen die Felder eingebracht wird, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Zugschnüre in einer solchen Weise zwischen den Feldern eingelegt werden, daß jede Zugschnur nach dem Zusammenschließen der Felder (2, 3) an ihren peripherischen Rändern durch einen ersten Verschluss zwischen den Feldern (2, 3) an den peripherischen Rändern (4) in das Innere des Beutels verläuft und sich ohne irgendeinen Zwischeneingriff in die genannten Felder (2, 3) des Beutels durch das Innere des Beutels zu einem Verankerungspunkt (6) an einer bezüglich ihrer Eintrittsstelle allgemein gegenüberliegenden Stelle an den peripherischen Rändern erstreckt, wobei jede Zugschnur (11, 12) dadurch verankert wird, daß sie zwischen zwei zusammengeschlossenen Abschnitten der Felder gehalten wird, wobei die Anordnung der Zugschnüre im Endprodukt so ist, daß beim Ziehen der Zugschnüren durch die ersten Verschlüsse und beim Ziehen der Zugschnüren in allgemein entgegengesetzten Richtungen ein Zusammenziehen des Beutels verursacht wird, wodurch von dem aufgußfähigen Stoff während des Aufbrühens aufgenommene Flüssigkeit ausgepreßt wird.

16. Verfahren nach Anspruch 15, wobei das poröse Material in der Form eines Blatts ist, das in zwei Hälften gefaltet wird, wobei jede Hälfte ein Feld definiert.

17. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, wobei das Blatt aus porösem Material Teil einer Bahn derartiger, miteinander verbundener Blätter bildet.

Revendications

1. Un ensemble d'infusion se composant d'un sachet fermé (1) contenant une substance infusible pour infusion dans un liquide, le sachet étant formé de panneaux (2, 3) en matériau poreux scellés sur leurs marges périphériques (4) : et étant muni de deux fils à tirer (11, 12) qui se caractérisent en ce que chaque fil à

- tirer se prolonge à l'intérieur du sachet en passant par un premier joint entre les panneaux (2, 3) sur les marges périphériques (4), et se prolonge dans la face interne du sachet vers un point d'ancrage (6), en un emplacement généralement opposé à l'emplacement d'entrée, sur les marges périphériques, sans aucun interengagement intermédiaire avec lesdits panneaux (2, 3) du sachet ; dans lequel chaque fil à tirer (11, 12) est fixé audit emplacement opposé du fait qu'il est maintenu entre deux sections de panneaux scellées ensemble, l'agencement étant tel qu'en tirant sur les fils par les premiers joints et en tirant les fils dans des directions généralement opposés, le sachet s'affaisse, ce qui exprime le liquide absorbé par la substance infusible au cours de l'infusion.
2. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de la revendication 1, dans lequel les deux fils à tirer (11, 12) sont les deux extrémités d'une longueur unique de fil continu.
 3. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de la revendication 1 ou de la revendication 2, dans lequel les fils à tirer (11, 12) se prolongent à l'intérieur du sachet à des emplacements situés à certains intervalles (13, 14) sur les marges périphériques (4).
 4. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel les points d'ancrage (15, 16) sont situés à certains intervalles le long des marges périphériques (4) du sachet.
 5. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel l'agencement des fils à tirer (11, 12) est symétrique dans un plan de symétrie passant par le centre du sachet.
 6. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de la revendication 2, dans lequel les points d'ancrage (15, 16) sont situés à certains intervalles le long des marges périphériques, et sont reliés par une portion (17) de la longueur unique de fil continu, qui constitue une boucle de fil se trouvant en dehors du joint.
 7. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de la revendication 2, dans lequel les points d'ancrage (15, 16) sont reliés par une portion (17) de la longueur unique de fil continu, qui est entièrement maintenue entre deux sections de panneaux scellées ensemble.
 8. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, qui, vu en plan, est rectangulaire ou circulaire.
 9. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de la revendication 8, qui, en plan, est rectangulaire, et dans lequel les fils à tirer se prolongent dans l'intérieur du sachet, au niveau de coins adjacents du sachet, ou à proximité de ceux-ci.
 10. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel les panneaux en matériau poreux sont scellés ensemble sur pratiquement l'intégralité de leurs marges périphériques (4).
 11. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel les panneaux sont définis par des portions intégrales d'une seule pièce de matériau poreux.
 12. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel les panneaux de matériau poreux sont scellés ensemble par des joints thermiques.
 13. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel les fils à tirer sont munis d'étiquettes à leur extrémité (21, 22).
 14. Un ensemble d'infusion, selon les stipulations de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la substance infusible est du thé ou du café.
 15. Une méthode de préparation un ensemble d'infusion comprenant un sachet fermé (1) contenant une substance infusible pour infusion dans un liquide, le sachet étant formé de deux panneaux (2, 3) en matériau poreux scellés sur leurs marges périphériques (4) et étant muni de deux fils à tirer (11, 12) ; laquelle méthode comprend le positionnement des panneaux (2, 3) selon une manière mutuellement opposée ; l'agencement desdits fils à tirer (11, 12) de sorte qu'ils sont interposés entre les deux panneaux se faisant face (2, 3) ; et le scellement des panneaux (2, 3) de manière à former le sachet poreux ; la substance infusible étant disposée entre les panneaux avant la fermeture finale du sachet ; qui se caractérise en ce que les fils à tirer sont inter-

posés entre les panneaux de telle sorte qu'après le scellement des panneaux (2, 3) sur leurs marges périphériques, chaque fil à tirer se prolonge à l'intérieur du sachet en passant par un premier joint entre les panneaux (2, 3) sur les marges périphériques (4), et se prolonge dans la face interne du sachet vers un point d'ancrage (6), en un emplacement généralement opposé sur les marges périphériques, sans interengagement intermédiaire avec lesdits panneaux (2, 3) du sachet ; chaque fil à tirer (11, 12) étant fixé du fait qu'il est maintenu entre deux sections de panneaux scellées ensemble, l'agencement des fils à tirer dans le produit final étant tel qu'en tirant sur les fils par le premier joint et en tirant les fils dans des directions généralement opposés, le sachet s'affaisse, ce qui exprime le liquide absorbé par la substance infusible au cours de l'infusion.

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16. Une méthode, selon les stipulations de la revendication 15, dans laquelle le matériau poreux se présente sous la forme d'une seule feuille, qui est pliée en deux, chaque moitié définissant un panneau.

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17. Une méthode, selon les stipulations de la revendication 16, dans laquelle la feuille de matériau poreux fait partie d'un rouleau de feuilles de ce type reliées ensemble.

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FIG. 1.

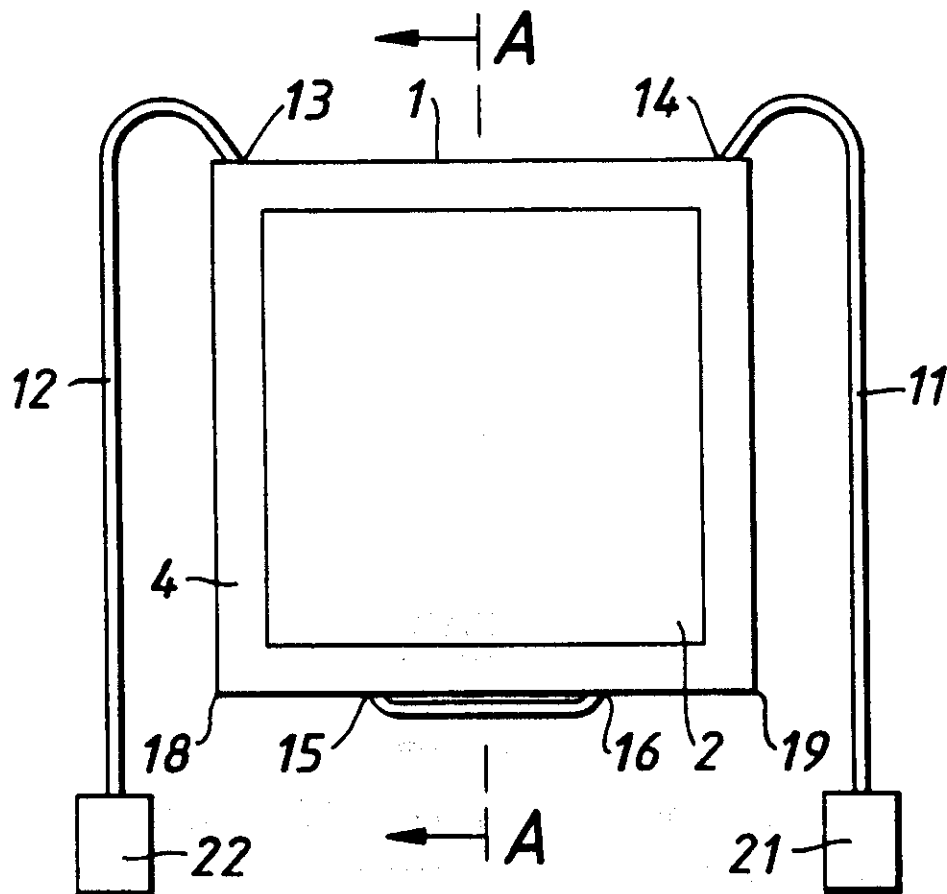


FIG. 2.

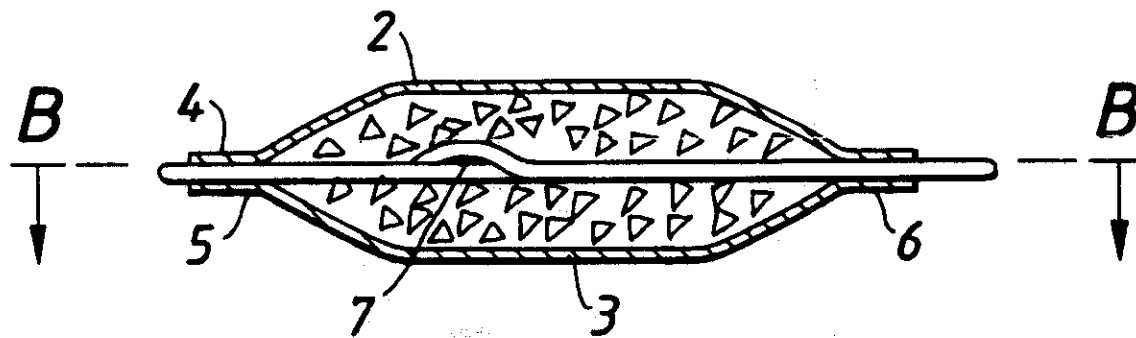


FIG. 3.

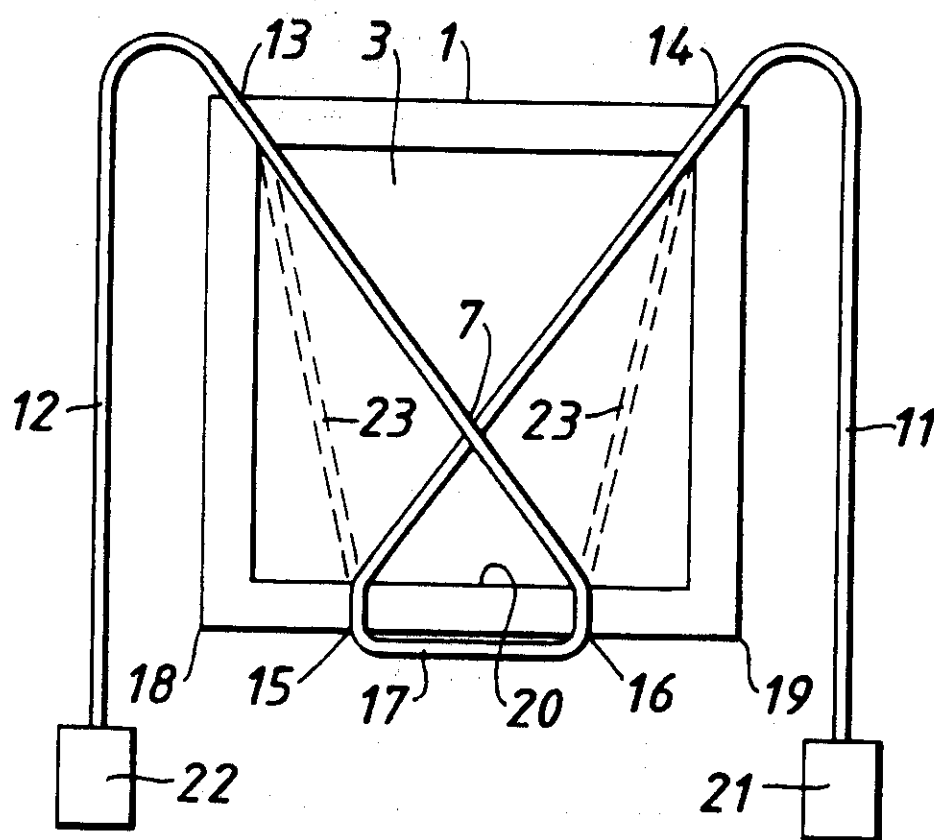


FIG. 4.

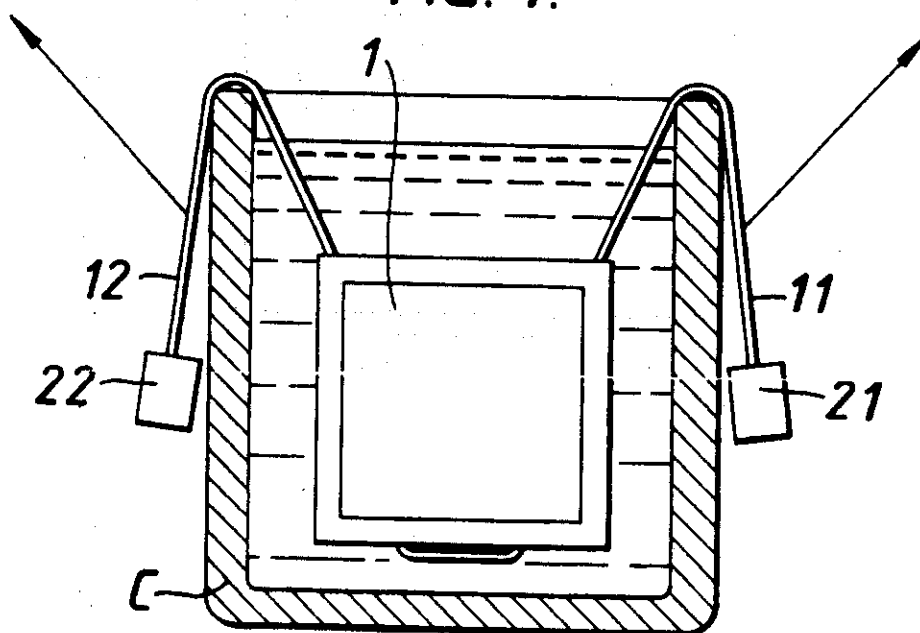


FIG. 5.

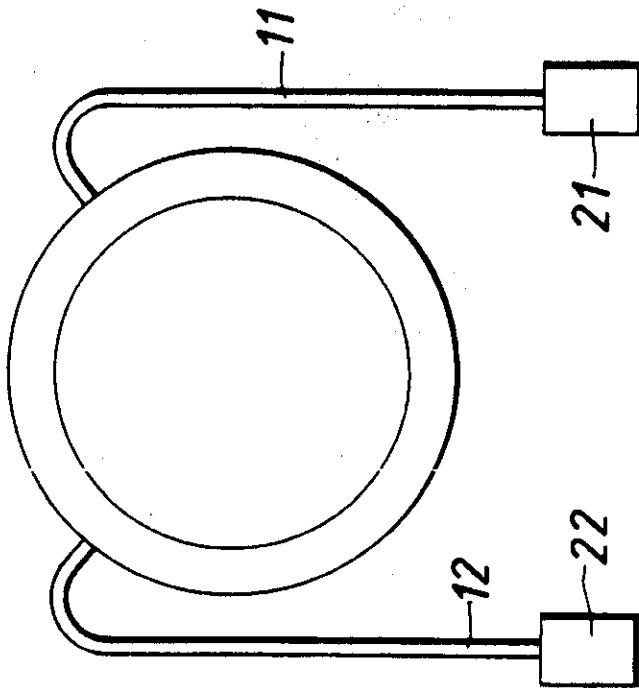


FIG. 6.

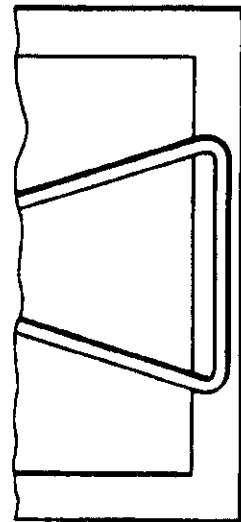
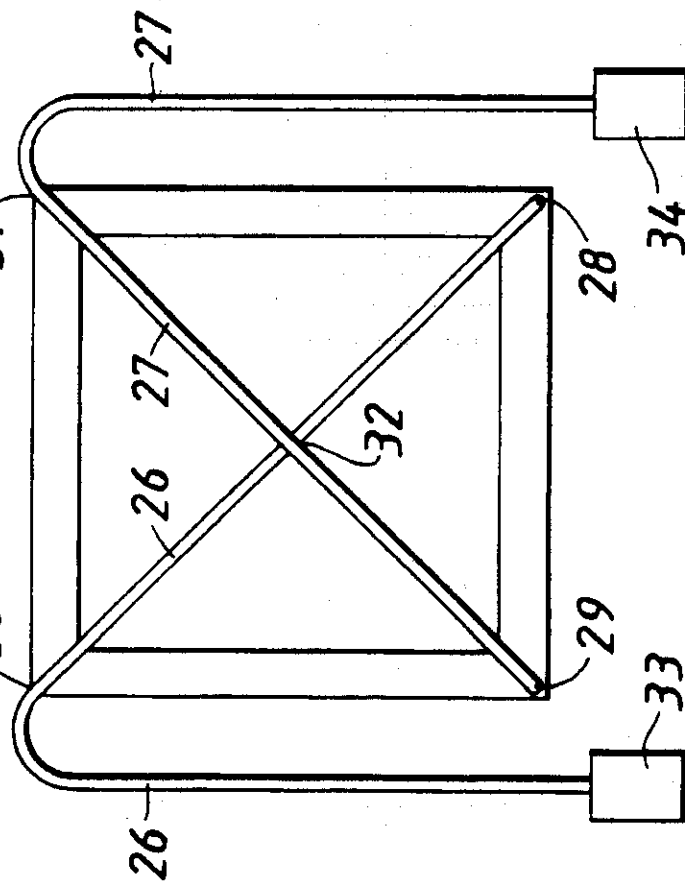


FIG. 7A.

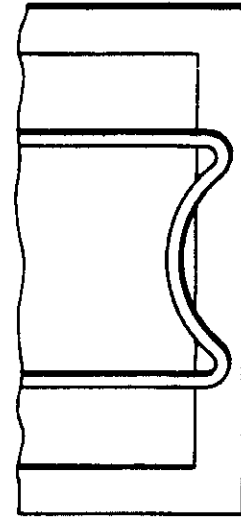


FIG. 7B.

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