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(54) **PANEL INTERLOCKING MEANS FOR CARTONS**

VERRIEGELUNGSMITTEL FÜR WANDUNGEN FÜR KARTONS

MOYENS DE BLOCAGE DES PANNEAUX D'UNE BOITE EN CARTON

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Description

[0001] This invention relates to panel interlocking means for securing together a pair of panels, for example, adjacent overlapping panels of a paperboard carton. In some situations, these panels are provided by the opposite ends of a wrapper blank which are brought together in overlapping relationship and interlocked.

[0002] Locking tabs which are struck from one end of the carton wrapper and which are arranged to be driven through corresponding apertures defined by retaining tabs, struck from an opposite end of a wrapper are well known. However, in the present invention, the interlocking of panels is effected by causing a locking tab to be engaged through an aperture. In the present invention, locking tabs are directed away from the free end of their respective panel, such configurations are known, for example, US 3 351 263 (Wood) or US 5 004 147 (Bien-aime). Both documents show a locking arrangement in which a first panel includes a locking tab which is directed away from free end of the first panel. A second panel includes a first aperture through which the tab is passed and then passed over a portion of the panel located beyond the aperture and is inserted through a second aperture in select combination.

[0003] A problem associated with known locking arrangements is that the forming of such locking arrangements is complicated and requires additional features, for example, additional retaining means or apertures. The more complicated arrangements also require precise registration of the two panels that are to be interlocked.

[0004] The present invention seeks to mitigate the problems outlined above by providing a simplified but secure locking arrangement.

[0005] One aspect of the present invention provides panel interlocking means for securing together a first panel and a second panel of a carton in overlapping relationship, the first panel comprising a locking tab struck from the first panel adjacent a free edge thereof and extending away from the free edge of the first panel. The locking tab has a neck portion hinged at a base thereof to the first panel and terminating in a shoulder portion and wherein the second panel includes an aperture struck from the second panel adjacent a free edge thereof and wherein the aperture is adapted to receive the locking tab such that when the panels are locked together the free edge of the second panel, outboard of the aperture, is located along the locking tab between the base of the neck portion and the shoulder portion.

[0006] According to an optional feature of this aspect of the invention the neck portion may include a transverse fold line so that the shoulder portion is hinged relative to the neck portion.

[0007] According to another optional feature of this aspect of the invention a locking edge may be formed between the shoulder portion and the neck portion, the locking edge is adapted to interengage with a comple-

mentary edge of an aperture of the first panel which was created by the formation of the locking tab.

[0008] A second aspect of the invention provides panel interlocking means for securing together a first panel and a second panel in overlapping relationship, the first panel comprising a locking tab struck from the first panel adjacent to a free edge thereof and extending away from the free edge of the first panel, the locking tab having a neck portion hinged at a base thereof to the first panel and terminating in a shoulder portion, and wherein the second panel includes an aperture struck from the second panel adjacent a free edge thereof, and wherein the aperture is adapted to receive the locking tab such that the locking tab overlaps part of the second panel between the aperture and the free edge of the second panel. The locking tab is self-locking in an aperture created by formation of the locking tab to maintain the first panel and the second panel in a locked overlapped relationship.

[0009] According to an optional feature of the second aspect of the invention a locking edge of the locking tab may be provided at each of the opposed side edges of the locking tab at the transition between the neck portion and the shoulder portion to interengage with complementary edges of the aperture created by formation of the locking tab.

[0010] According to another optional feature of the second aspect of the invention, the neck portion may include a transverse fold line so that the shoulder portion is hinged relative to the neck portion adjacent the locking edges.

[0011] According to another optional feature of the second aspect of the invention, the locking edges and the complementary edges may be curvilinear.

[0012] A third aspect of the invention provides a carton for accommodating a plurality of articles including first and second panels to be interlocked, which first and second panels are provided with a plurality of panel interlocking means described in any of the preceding paragraphs.

[0013] A fourth aspect of the invention provides a method of securing together a first panel and a second panel in overlapping relationship, the first panel comprising a locking tab struck from the first panel adjacent a free edge thereof and extending away from the free edge of the first panel, the locking tab having a neck portion hinged at the base thereof to the first panel adjacent the free edge and terminating in a shoulder portion, and wherein the second panel includes a single aperture struck from the second panel adjacent a free edge thereof, which method comprises the following steps: (i) folding the locking tab out of the plane of the first panel and towards the free edge thereof; (ii) bringing the first and second panels into overlapping relationship so that the aperture and locking tab are brought into registry; (iii) inserting the locking tab through the aperture; and (iv) folding the locking tab into overlapping relationship with the second panel between the aperture and free

edge thereof towards its original position and inserting it through the aperture through which the locking tab was struck such that the locking tab is interengaged with an edge portion of the tab aperture such that the first and second panels are locked together in overlapping relationship.

[0014] Preferably, the locking tab is interengaged with the end portion of the tab aperture such that the first and second panels are locked together in overlapping relationship with the free edge of the second panel located along the locking tab between the base of the neck portion and the shoulder portion.

[0015] A fifth aspect of the invention provides a carton blank incorporating panel interlocking means having a first panel and a second panel, the first panel comprising a locking tab struck therefrom, the locking tab including a neck portion and a shoulder portion, the neck portion being positioned adjacent to a free edge of the first panel and hinged to the first panel by a fold line at the base of the neck portion and wherein opposed side edges of the locking tab at the transition between the neck portion and shoulder portion are each shaped to define a locking edge extending from the tab to cooperate with an adjacent locking edge formed in the first panel and wherein an aperture is struck from the second panel spaced from a free edge thereof to receive the locking tab. The locking tab defines in the first panel at least part of an aperture adapted to engage the locking tab to secure the first and second panels.

[0016] According to an optional feature of the fifth aspect of the invention, the neck portion may include a transverse fold line so that the shoulder portion is hinged relative to the neck portion.

[0017] According to another optional feature of the fifth aspect of the invention, there may further comprise a locking edge formed between the underside of the shoulder portion and the neck portion, the locking edge being adapted to interengage with a complementary edge of the aperture in the first panel which is created by the formation of the locking tab. Preferably, the locking edge and the complementary edge are curvilinear.

[0018] An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, in which:

FIGURE 1 shows a pair of panels which are positioned opposite ends of a carton blank, in close proximity, one of which includes a locking tab and the other of which includes locking apertures; and

FIGURES 2, 3 and 4 are perspective views of part of the panels illustrated in Figure 1 showing the various stages of interlocking the two panels.

[0019] Referring to the drawings, a pair of panels 10, 12 respectively are adapted to be placed in an overlapping relationship and interlocked and are formed from paperboard or similar foldable sheet material. The panels 10, 12 may, for example, be disposed at the opposite

ends of one and the same carton blank which is to be formed into a carton sleeve in which panels 10, 12 then provide bottom panels of the carton. The carton is used for packaging a plurality of articles, for example, cans. It is envisaged that the panel interlocking means for securing together a first and second panel can be incorporated into a variety of carton types, for example, wrap-around, basket or fully enclosed without departing from the scope of invention.

[0020] Locking tab 14 is struck from panel 10 and is hingedly connected thereto by fold line 16 with the locking tab extending away from the free edge. In this embodiment, the fold line 16 is substantially parallel to and spaced from the end edge 18 of panel 10. The locking tab 14 comprises a neck portion 20 and a "shoulder" or main portion 22. The neck portion 20 is hingedly connected to first panel 10 along fold line 16. As shown in Figure 1, a pair of oppositely disposed cut lines 24, 26 define the side edges of the neck portion 20 and the main portion 22 is hingedly connected to neck portion 20 along a transverse fold line 28 which is substantially parallel to fold line 16. Optionally, fold line 28 is separated by a cut line 30 to make folding the shoulder portion 22 easier.

[0021] The shoulder portion 22 is separated from panel 10 by a cut line 32 which in this embodiment is substantially "D shaped": the cut line 32 can also define a pair of interlocking parts 34, 36 positioned along the opposing side edges of shoulder portion 22. Preferably, the cut lines 24, 26 are curvilinear to define a pair of oppositely disposed anchor tabs 38, 40 connected to first panel 10 and positioned adjacent to side edges of neck portion 20. Thus, at the intersection of cut lines 24 and 30 and cut lines 26 and 30, a locking edge 42, 44 which in this embodiment is substantially hook shaped is formed for interlocking parts 24, 26 respectively.

[0022] As shown in Figure 1, an aperture 46 which is preferably elongate in shape, is struck from panel 12, being substantially parallel to the free edge 48 of second panel 12 and comprising a front edge 50 and a rear edge 52, the front edge 50 being nearer to the free edge 48 of panel 12. Preferably, the front edge 50 of aperture 46 is spaced from the free edge 48 of panel 12 by a distance d which corresponds approximately to the length of neck portion 20 (shown in Figure 3). In this embodiment, the free edge 48 is formed with an indentation 49 so that the distance is reduced to the correct dimensions outlined above. In this embodiment, there are two further locking tabs 60 and apertures 62 which are substantially identical to locking tabs 14 and aperture 46 and are not therefore described in any greater detail.

[0023] Turning to the construction of the panel interlocking means, illustrated in Figures 2 to 4, the blank requires a series of sequential folding operations. The folding process is not limited to that described below and can be altered according to the particular manufacturing requirements.

[0024] One method of locking together panels 10 and

12 is first fold the locking tab 14 about fold line 16 into a substantially face contacting overlapping relationship with a portion of first panel 10. The panels 10 and 12 are brought into an overlapping relationship with each other, and locking tab 14 can then be folded out of alignment with panel 10 and through aperture 46, as illustrated in Figure 2. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the locking tab may be an interference fit with the locking aperture. One advantage of the present invention is that the locking process does not require precise registration of the two panels 10 and 12, because locking tab 14 is self locking in its own aperture.

[0025] The natural resilience of the paperboard material then allows the locking tab to automatically spring back in the direction F into its original position as shown in Figure 3. Optionally, guide means is used if manufacturing requirements or the carton design means that the locking tab 14 needs to be guided back to its original position. Optionally, the shoulder portion 22 of locking tab 14 is folded out of alignment with neck portion 20 along fold line 24. In this embodiment, locking tab 14 is pushed in the direction G through the aperture 54 created by the formation of locking tab 14 such that the interlocking parts 34, 36 and the anchor tab 38, 40 may interengage, as shown in Figure 4.

[0026] Tension is applied to the panels in opposition to the locking direction, i.e. in a direction tending to move the panels apart. Thus, the butt engagement between the interlocking parts 34, 36 and the anchoring tabs 38, 40 maintain the locking tab 14 in its locked condition. Panels 10, 12 remain interlocked because the front edge of aperture 46 is located along the locking tab 14 between the base of the neck portion and the shoulder portion 22 and, preferably, in butt engagement with fold line 16 of panel 10.

[0027] Thus, the free edge of panel 12, outboard of the aperture 48 is located along the locking tab between the base of the neck portion and the shoulder portion. Further, or alternatively, the locking tab overlaps part of the second panel between said aperture and said free edge, and wherein a locking edge of the locking tab is provided at each of the opposed side edges of the locking tab at the transition between the neck portion and the shoulder portion to interengage with the free edge of the second panel outboard of said aperture located along the locking tab between the base of said neck portion and said shoulder portion.

[0028] The present invention and its preferred embodiment relates to a means of locking two adjacent panels in a wraparound carton and is shaped to provide satisfactory strength to maintain the panels in a locked position but with a degree of flexibility so that the load transferred to the panels is absorbed by the carrier. The shape of the blank minimises the amount of paperboard required. The carrier can be formed by hand or automatic machinery. It is anticipated that the invention can be applied to a variety of carriers not limited to those of the wraparound type.

Claims

1. Panel interlocking means for securing together a first panel (10) and a second panel (12) of a carton in overlapping relationship, said first panel comprising a locking tab (14) struck from said first panel adjacent a free edge (18) thereof and extending away from the free edge of said first panel, the locking tab having a neck portion (20) hinged at a base thereof to said first panel and terminating in a shoulder portion (22) and wherein said second panel includes an aperture (46) struck from said second panel adjacent a free edge (48) thereof and wherein the aperture is adapted to receive the locking tab **characterised in that** when the panels are locked together the free edge of said second panel, outboard of said aperture, is located along the locking tab between the base of said neck portion and said shoulder portion.
2. Panel interlocking means according to claim 1 wherein said neck portion (20) includes a transverse fold line (28) so that said shoulder portion (22) is hinged relative to the neck portion.
3. Panel interlocking means according to claim 1 or claim 2 further comprising a locking edge (42, 44) formed between shoulder portion (22) and said neck portion (20), said locking edge being adapted to interengage with a complementary edge of an aperture (54) of the first panel (10) which was created by the formation of said locking tab (14).
4. Panel interlocking means for securing together a first panel (10) and a second panel (12) in overlapping relationship, said first panel comprising a locking tab (14) struck from said first panel adjacent to a free edge (18) thereof and extending away from the free edge of said first panel, said locking tab having a neck portion (20) hinged at a base thereof to said first panel and terminating in a shoulder portion (22), and wherein said second panel includes an aperture (46) struck from said second panel adjacent a free edge (48) thereof and wherein the aperture is adapted to receive the lock tab (14) such that the locking tab overlaps part of the second panel between said aperture and said free edge of said second panel, **characterised in that** the locking tab is self-locking in an aperture (54) created by formation of the locking tab to maintain said first panel and said second panel in a locked overlapped relationship.
5. Panel interlocking means as claimed in claim 4 wherein a locking edge (42, 44) of the locking tab is provided at each of the opposed side edges of the locking tab at the transition between the neck portion (20) and the shoulder portion (22) to inter-

engage with complementary edges of said aperture (54) created by formation of said locking tab.

6. Panel interlocking means as claimed in claim 4 wherein said neck portion (20) includes a transverse fold line (28) so that said shoulder portion (22) is hinged relative to the neck portion adjacent said locking edges.

7. Panel interlocking means as claimed in claim 5 wherein said locking edges (42, 44) and said complementary edges are curvilinear.

8. A carton for accommodating a plurality of articles including first and second panels to be interlocked, which first and second panels are provided with a plurality of panel interlocking means as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 or claims 4 to 7.

9. A method of securing together a first panel (10) and a second panel (12) in overlapping relationship, said first panel comprising a locking tab (14) struck from said first panel adjacent a free edge (18) thereof and extending away from the free edge of said first panel, the locking tab having a neck portion (20) hinged at the base thereof to said first panel adjacent said free edge and terminating in a shoulder portion (22), and wherein said second panel includes a single aperture (46) struck from said second panel adjacent a free edge (48) thereof, which method comprises the following steps:

(i) folding the locking tab (14) out of the plane of the first panel (10) and towards said free edge (18) thereof;

(ii) bringing the first and second panels (10, 12) into overlapping relationship so that the aperture (46) and locking tab (14) are brought into registry;

(iii) inserting the locking tab (14) through said aperture (46); and

(iv) folding the locking tab (14) into overlapping relationship with the second panel (12) between the aperture (46) and free edge (48) thereof towards its original position and inserting it through a tab aperture (54) through which the locking tab was struck such that the locking tab is interengaged with an edge portion of the tab aperture such that the first and second panels are locked together in overlapping relationship.

10. A method of securing together a first panel (10) and a second panel (12) according to claim 9 wherein the locking tab (14) is interengaged with the end portion of the tab aperture (54) such that the first and second panels are locked together in overlapping relationship with the free edge (48) of the sec-

ond panel located along the locking tab between the base of said neck portion (20) and said shoulder portion (22).

11. A carton blank incorporating panel interlocking means having a first panel (10) and a second panel (12), said first panel comprising a locking tab (14) struck therefrom, said locking tab including a neck portion (20) and a shoulder portion (22), said neck portion being positioned adjacent to a free edge (18) of said first panel and hinged to the first panel by a fold line (16) at the base of the neck portion and wherein opposed side edges of the locking tab at the transition between said neck portion and shoulder portion are each shaped to define a locking edge (42, 44) extending from said tab to cooperate with an adjacent locking edge formed in said first panel and wherein an aperture (46) is struck from said second panel spaced from a free edge (48) thereof to receive said locking tab **characterised in that** the locking tab defines in said first panel at least part of an aperture (54) adapted to engage the locking tab to secure the first and second panels.

12. A carton blank incorporating panel interlocking means according to claim 11 wherein said neck portion (20) includes a transverse fold line (28) so that said shoulder portion (22) is hinged relative to the neck portion.

13. A carton blank incorporating panel interlocking means according to claim 11 or claim 12 further comprising a locking edge (42, 44) formed between the underside of said shoulder portion (22) and said neck portion (20), said locking edge (42, 44) being adapted to interengage with a complementary edge of said aperture (54) in the first panel which is created by the formation of said locking tab.

14. A carton blank incorporating panel interlocking means according to claim 13 wherein said locking edge (42, 44) and said complementary edge are curvilinear.

Patentansprüche

1. Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung zum festen Verbinden einer ersten Wandfläche (10) und einer zweiten Wandfläche (12) einer Schachtel in einer sich überlappenden Beziehung, wobei die erste Wandfläche eine Verschlusslasche (14) umfasst, die aus der ersten Wandfläche angrenzend zu deren freien Kante (18) ausgestanzt ist und sich von der freien Kante der ersten Wandfläche weg erstreckt, die Verschlusslasche einen Halsabschnitt (20) aufweist, der an einem unteren Teil davon mit

- der ersten Wandfläche gelenkig verbunden ist und in einem Schulterabschnitt (22) endet, und wobei die zweite Wandfläche eine Öffnung (46) einschließt, die aus der zweiten Wandfläche angrenzend zu einer freien Kante (48) davon ausgestanzt ist, und wobei die Öffnung angepasst ist, die Verschlusslasche aufzunehmen, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die freie Kante der zweiten Wandfläche dann, wenn die Wandflächen miteinander verriegelt sind, außenbords der Öffnung entlang der Verschlusslasche zwischen dem unteren Teil des Halsabschnitts und dem Schulterabschnitt angeordnet ist.
2. Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Halsabschnitt (20) eine schräg verlaufende Falllinie (28) einschließt, so dass der Schulterabschnitt (22) im Verhältnis zu dem Halsabschnitt gelenkig verbunden ist.
3. Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, die weiterhin eine Verriegelungskante (42, 44) umfasst, die zwischen dem Schulterabschnitt (22) und dem Halsabschnitt (20) ausgebildet ist, wobei die Verriegelungskante angepasst ist, mit einer komplementären Kante einer Öffnung (54) der ersten Wandfläche (10), die durch die Ausbildung der Verschlusslasche (14) geschaffen wurde, zusammenzuwirken.
4. Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung zum festen Verbinden einer ersten Wandfläche (10) und einer zweiten Wandfläche (12) in einer sich überlappenden Beziehung, wobei die erste Wandfläche eine Verschlusslasche (14) umfasst, die aus der ersten Wandfläche angrenzend zu einer freien Kante (18) davon ausgestanzt ist und sich von der freien Kante der ersten Wandfläche weg erstreckt, wobei die Verschlusslasche einen Halsabschnitt (20) aufweist, der an einem unteren Abschnitt davon mit der ersten Wandfläche gelenkig verbunden ist und in einem Schulterabschnitt (22) endet, und wobei die zweite Wandfläche eine Öffnung (46) einschließt, die aus der zweiten Wandfläche angrenzend einer freien Kante (48) davon ausgestanzt ist, und wobei die Öffnung angepasst ist, eine Verschlusslasche (14) aufzunehmen, dergestalt, dass die Verschlusslasche einen Abschnitt der zweiten Wandfläche zwischen der Öffnung und der freien Kante der zweiten Wandfläche überlappt, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Verschlusslasche selbstverriegelnd in einer Öffnung (54) ist, die durch Ausbildung der Verschlusslasche geschaffen ist, um die erste Wandfläche und die zweite Wandfläche in einer verriegelten, sich überlappenden Beziehung zu halten.
5. Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 4, wobei die Verriegelungskante (42, 44) der Verriegelungslasche an jeder der gegenüberliegenden Seitenkanten der Verschlusslasche an dem Übergang zwischen dem Halsabschnitt (20) und dem Schulterabschnitt (22) bereitgestellt ist, um mit komplementären Kanten der Öffnung (54), die durch Ausbildung der Verschlusslasche geschaffen sind, zusammenzuwirken.
6. Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 4, wobei der Halsabschnitt (20) eine schräg verlaufende Falllinie (28) einschließt, so dass der Schulterabschnitt (22) im Verhältnis zu dem Halsabschnitt angrenzend der Verriegelungskanten gelenkig verbunden ist.
7. Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 5, wobei die Verriegelungskanten (42, 44) und die komplementären Kanten krummlinig sind.
8. Schachtel zur Aufnahme einer Vielzahl von Gegenständen, die miteinander zu verriegelnde erste und zweite Wandflächen einschließt, wobei die erste und zweite Wandfläche mit einer Vielzahl von Wandflächen-Verriegelungsmitteln versehen sind, wie sie nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche 1 bis 3 oder der Ansprüche 4 bis 7 beansprucht sind.
9. Verfahren zum festen Verbinden einer ersten Wandfläche (10) und einer zweiten Wandfläche (12) in einer sich überlappenden Beziehung, wobei die erste Wandfläche eine Verschlusslasche (14) umfasst, die aus der ersten Wandfläche angrenzend zu deren freien Kante (18) ausgestanzt ist und sich weg von der freien Kante der ersten Wandfläche erstreckt, die Verschlusslasche einen Halsabschnitt (20) aufweist, der gelenkig an einem unteren Teil davon mit der ersten Wandfläche angrenzend der freien Kante verbunden ist und in einem Schulterabschnitt (22) endet, und wobei die zweite Wandfläche eine einzelne Öffnung (46) einschließt, die aus der zweiten Wandfläche angrenzend einer freien Kante (48) davon ausgestanzt ist, wobei das Verfahren die folgenden Schritte umfasst:
- (i) Falten der Verschlusslasche (14) aus der Ebene der ersten Wandfläche (10) heraus und hin zu der freien Kante (18) davon;
 - (ii) Führen der ersten und zweiten Wandfläche (10, 12) in eine sich überlappende Beziehung, so dass die Öffnung (46) und die Verschlusslasche (14) in Passgenauigkeit gebracht werden;
 - (iii) Einführen der Verschlusslasche (14) durch die Öffnung (46); und
 - (iv) Falten der Verschlusslasche (14) in eine sich überlappende Beziehung mit der zweiten Wandfläche (12) zwischen der Öffnung (46) und der freien Kante (48) davon hin zu deren

ursprünglicher Position und Führen der Verschlusslasche durch eine Laschenöffnung (54), aus welcher die Verschlusslasche ausgestanzt war, derart, dass die Verschlusslasche mit einem Kantenabschnitt der Laschenöffnung in Eingriff gebracht wird, derart, dass die erste und zweite Wandfläche miteinander in einer sich überlappenden Beziehung verriegelt sind.

10. Verfahren zum festen Verbinden einer ersten Wandfläche (10) mit einer zweiten Wandfläche (12) gemäß Anspruch 9, wobei die Verschlusslasche (14) mit dem Endabschnitt der Laschenöffnung (54) in Eingriff gebracht wird, derart, dass die erste und zweite Wandfläche miteinander in sich überlappenden Beziehung verriegelt sind, wobei die freie Kante (48) der zweiten Wandfläche entlang der Verschlusslasche zwischen dem unteren Teil des Halsabschnitts (20) und dem Schulterabschnitt (22) angeordnet ist.

11. Schachtelzuschnitt, der eine Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung aufweist, mit einer ersten Wandfläche (10) und einer zweiten Wandfläche (12), wobei die erste Wandfläche eine Verschlusslasche (14) aufweist, die daraus ausgestanzt ist, wobei die Verschlusslasche einen Halsabschnitt (20) und einen Schulterabschnitt (22) aufweist, der Halsabschnitt angrenzend zu einer freien Kante (18) der ersten Wandfläche angeordnet ist und gelenkig mit der ersten Wandfläche durch eine Falllinie (16) an dem unteren Teil des Halsabschnitts verbunden ist, und wobei gegenüberliegende Seitenkanten der Verschlusslasche an den Übergang zwischen dem Halsabschnitt und dem Schulterabschnitt jeweils so geformt sind, dass sie eine Verriegelungskante (42, 44) definieren, die sich von der Lasche erstreckt, um mit einer angrenzenden Verriegelungskante zusammenzuwirken, die in der ersten Wandfläche ausgebildet ist, und wobei eine Öffnung (46) aus der zweiten Wandfläche beabstandet von einer freien Kante (48) davon ausgestanzt ist, um die Verschlusslasche aufzunehmen, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Verschlusslasche in der ersten Wandfläche wenigstens einen Teil einer Öffnung (54) definiert, die angepasst ist, die Verschlusslasche in Eingriff zu nehmen, um die erste und zweite Wandfläche miteinander fest zu verbinden.

12. Schachtelzuschnitt, der eine Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung gemäß Anspruch 11 umfasst, wobei der Halsabschnitt (20) eine schräg verlaufende Falllinie (28) einschließt, so dass der Schulterabschnitt (22) im Verhältnis zu dem Halsabschnitt gelenkig verbunden ist.

13. Schachtelzuschnitt, der eine Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 11 oder 12 einschließt und weiterhin eine Verriegelungskante (42, 44) aufweist, die zwischen der Unterseite des Schulterabschnitts (22) und dem Halsabschnitt (20) ausgebildet ist, wobei die Verriegelungskante (42, 44) angepasst ist, um mit einer komplementären Kante der Öffnung (54) in der ersten Wandfläche zusammenzuwirken, welche durch die Ausbildung der Verschlusslasche geschaffen wird.

14. Schachtelzuschnitt, der eine Wandflächen-Verriegelungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 13 umfasst, wobei die Verriegelungskante (42, 44) und die komplementäre Kante krummlinig sind.

Revendications

1. Moyens d'accrochage de panneaux servant à fixer l'un à l'autre un premier panneau (10) et un second panneau (12) à chevauchement mutuel d'une boîte, ledit premier panneau comprenant une languette de blocage (14) partant dudit premier panneau au voisinage immédiat d'un bord libre (18) de celui-ci et s'étendant à l'opposé du bord libre dudit premier panneau, la languette de blocage ayant un rétrécissement (20) articulé à sa base avec ledit premier panneau et aboutissant à un épaulement (22), et dans lequel ledit second panneau comporte une ouverture (46) ménagée dans ledit second panneau au voisinage immédiat d'un bord libre (48) de celui-ci, et dans lequel l'ouverture est conçue pour recevoir la languette de blocage, **caractérisés en ce que**, lorsque les panneaux sont bloqués mutuellement, le bord libre dudit second panneau, vers l'extérieur de ladite ouverture, se trouve le long de la languette de blocage entre la base dudit rétrécissement et ledit épaulement.

2. Moyens de blocage de panneaux selon la revendication 1, dans lesquels ledit rétrécissement (20) comporte une pliure transversale (28) de façon que ledit épaulement (22) soit articulé par rapport au rétrécissement.

3. Moyens de blocage de panneaux selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, comprenant en outre une arête de blocage (42, 44) formée entre l'épaulement (22) et ledit rétrécissement (20), ladite arête de blocage étant destinée à coopérer avec une arête complémentaire d'une ouverture (54) du premier panneau (10), créée par la formation de ladite languette de blocage (14).

4. Moyens de blocage de panneaux servant à fixer l'un à l'autre un premier panneau (10) et un second panneau (12) à chevauchement mutuel, ledit premier

- panneau comportant une languette de blocage (14) partant dudit premier panneau au voisinage immédiat d'un bord libre (18) de celui-ci et s'étendant à l'opposé du bord libre dudit premier panneau, ladite languette de blocage ayant un rétrécissement (20) articulé à sa base avec ledit premier panneau et aboutissant à un épaulement (22), et dans lequel ledit second panneau comporte une ouverture (46) ménagée dans ledit second panneau au voisinage immédiat d'un bord libre (48) de celui-ci, et dans lesquels l'ouverture est conçue pour recevoir la languette de blocage (14) de façon que la languette de blocage chevauche une partie du second panneau entre ladite ouverture et ledit bord libre dudit second panneau, **caractérisés en ce que** la languette de blocage est autobloquante dans une ouverture (54) créée par la formation de la languette de blocage afin de maintenir le premier panneau et ledit second panneau bloqués à chevauchement mutuel.
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- libre et aboutissant à un épaulement (22), et dans lequel ledit second panneau comporte une seule ouverture (46) ménagée dans ledit second panneau au voisinage immédiat d'un bord libre (48) de celui-ci, lequel procédé comprend les étapes suivantes, consistant à :
- (i) plier la languette de blocage (14) pour la faire sortir du plan du premier panneau (10) et la rapprocher dudit bord libre (18) de celui-ci ;
- (ii) amener le premier et le second panneaux (10, 12) à se chevaucher mutuellement de façon que l'ouverture (46) et la languette de blocage (14) viennent coïncider l'une avec l'autre ;
- (iii) insérer la languette de blocage (14) à travers ladite ouverture (46) ; et
- (iv) plier la languette de blocage (14) à chevauchement mutuel avec le second panneau (12) entre l'ouverture (46) et le bord libre (48) de celui-ci vers sa position d'origine et insérer celle-ci à travers une ouverture (54) pour languette à travers laquelle la languette de blocage a été sortie de façon que la languette de blocage coopère avec une arête de l'ouverture pour languette afin que le premier et le second panneaux soient accrochés l'un à l'autre à chevauchement mutuel.
10. Procédé pour fixer l'un à l'autre un premier panneau (10) et un second panneau (12) selon la revendication 9, dans lequel la languette de blocage (14) coopère avec l'extrémité de l'ouverture (54) pour languette de façon que le premier et le second panneaux soient accrochés l'un à l'autre à chevauchement mutuel, le bord libre (48) du second panneau se trouvant le long de la languette de blocage entre la base dudit rétrécissement (20) et ledit épaulement (22).
11. Ebauche de boîte comportant des moyens de blocage de panneaux ayant un premier panneau (10) et un second panneau (12), ledit premier panneau comportant une languette de blocage (14) partant de celui-ci, ladite languette de blocage comportant un rétrécissement (20) et un épaulement (22), ledit rétrécissement étant placé au voisinage immédiat d'un bord libre (18) dudit premier panneau et étant articulé audit premier panneau par une pliure (16) à la base du rétrécissement, et dans laquelle les bords latéraux opposés de la languette de blocage au niveau de la transition entre ledit rétrécissement et l'épaulement ont chacune une forme visant à définir une arête de blocage (42, 44) s'étendant depuis ladite languette pour coopérer avec une arête de verrouillage adjacente formée dans ledit premier panneau, et dans laquelle une ouverture (46) est ménagée dans ledit second panneau à distance d'un bord libre (48) de celui-ci pour recevoir ladite

languette de blocage, **caractérisée en ce que** la languette de blocage définit dans ledit premier panneau au moins une partie d'une ouverture (54) conçue pour coopérer avec la languette de blocage pour fixer les premier et second panneaux.

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12. Ebauche de boîte comportant des moyens de blocage de panneaux selon la revendication 11, dans laquelle ledit rétrécissement (20) comporte une pliure transversale (28) de façon que ledit épaulement (22) soit articulé par rapport au rétrécissement.

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13. Ebauche de boîte comportant des moyens de blocage de panneaux selon la revendication 11 ou la revendication (12), comportant en outre une arête de blocage (42, 44) formée entre le dessous dudit épaulement (22) et ledit rétrécissement (20), ladite arête de blocage (42, 44) étant conçue pour coopérer avec une arête complémentaire de ladite ouverture (54) du premier panneau, créée par la formation de ladite languette de blocage.

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14. Ebauche de boîte comportant des moyens de blocage de panneaux selon la revendication 13, dans laquelle ladite arête de blocage (42, 44) et ladite arête complémentaire sont curvilignes.

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