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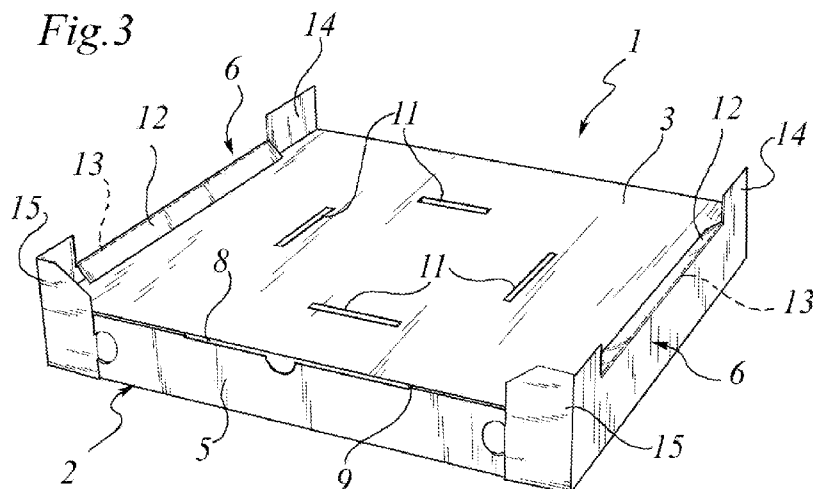
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(54) **Title:** CONTAINER FOR CARRYING HOT PIZZAS AND THE LIKE



(57) **Abstract:** Container for carrying pizzas and analogous food products, comprising a box (1) made of cardboard or analogous material having a base (2) and a lid (3) joined to the base (2) and provided with vent openings (9). The box has a pair of « projections (12) serving in use as spacer supports for an analogous overlapped box stacked over the lid (3) and formed by flaps (12) of two opposite lateral walls (S) projecting beyond the lid (3) and foldable, around respective foldable lines (13) located above the lid (3), against the external surface of the latter.

"Container for carrying hot pizzas and the like"

* * *

Field of the invention

The present invention refers to containers for
5 carrying hot pizzas and similar food products, of the
type comprising a box made up of a single cardboard
sheet or analogous flexible material with folding lines
defining a base, lateral walls, and an articulated lid
at the base at one of the lateral walls in an openable
10 and reclosable manner.

State of the prior art

Known from the European patent application number
EP-A-1298073 on behalf of the same Applicant is a
container thus made whose lid has vent openings and at
15 least one pair of projections spaced protruding
upwards, serving as support spacers for analogous
containers possibly overlapped stacked on the lid of
the box.

This solution allows, in use, the vapour generated
20 by the pizza or an analogous hot product contained in
the box to be released therefrom efficiently upwards,
with considerable reduction of phenomena of
condensation of the vapour on the walls of the box
itself, thus contamination and organoleptic
25 deterioration of the food product. The presence of
projections protruding from the lid allows maintaining
this effect unaltered even in cases where the container
is stacked for transport using analogous containers.

In this known solution, the abovementioned spaced
30 projections are formed by folded marginal portions of
the lid. The mounting of the box starting from the
plane development of the sheet requires given ability
and expertise by the user (typically a pizza maker),
essentially regarding the proper positioning and
35 folding of the marginal portions of the lid intended to

form the abovementioned projections.

In the Italian patent application n° TO2007A000630 (not published as of the date of filing of the present application) in the attempt to overcome such drawback, the same Applicant proposed a simplified solution wherein when forming the projections serving as spacer supports, the respective marginal portions of the lid are made in such a manner to collapse automatically when the lid is closed relatively at the base.

10 Summary of the invention

The object of the present invention is that of providing a container of the abovementioned type made in such a manner that the formation of the projections serving as spacer supports is obtainable, when mounting the box, in an even more easy, quick and immediate manner.

With the aim of attaining such object, the invention consists of a container for carrying hot pizzas and the like of the type defined above, whose main characteristic lies in the fact that the abovementioned projections are formed by flaps of two opposite lateral walls projecting beyond the lid and foldable, around respective folding lines located above the lid itself, against the external surface of the latter.

As observable hereinafter, alongside allowing the formation of projections in a simple and immediate manner, this solution also allows the stacking of the mounted box, awaiting to be used, with overall dimensions not greater than those of analogous conventional boxes without spacer projections.

According to the invention, the lateral walls provided with the abovementioned foldable flaps are those arranged along the sides of the lid orthogonal to the lateral wall at which the lid is joined to the

base, and such lateral walls define, alongside the abovementioned two foldable walls, lateral and corner stop edges projecting upwards beyond the respective projections to contain an analogous overlapped
5 container stacked on the lid.

The container according to the invention may be prearranged to contain one pizza or an analogous food product, or two or more pizzas or analogous food products. In such case, the container further includes
10 at least one support shelf whose shape and dimension generally correspond to those of the base and having corner slots defining vent passages in communication with the vent openings formed in the lid.

According to a further characteristic, a separable
15 plate may be integrally formed in the base of the container.

Brief description of the drawings

Further characteristics and advantages of the invention shall be apparent from the following detailed
20 description, with reference to the attached drawings, strictly provided for exemplifying and non-limiting purposes, wherein:

- figure 1 shows the plane development of the sheet starting from which a first embodiment of the container
25 according to the invention is obtained,

- figure 2 is a schematic perspective view showing the container obtained starting from the plane development of figure 1, open,

- figure 3 is a view analogous to figure 2 showing
30 the same container closed,

- figure 4 shows the plane development of the sheet starting from which a second embodiment of the container according to the invention is obtained,

- figure 5 is a perspective and partially exploded
35 view of the container obtained starting from the plane

development of figure 4, open, and

- figure 6 shows the same container closed.

Detailed description of the invention

Initially referring to figures 1-3, reference
5 numeral 1 is indicating a un container for carrying hot
pizzas and similar food products according to the
invention in its entirety, represented by a box made of
cardboard or similar material, for example flexible
10 plastic material for food products, made starting from
a single die-cut and ribbed flat sheet, whose
development is represented and indicated with L in the
figure 1.

The box 1, which in the example has a general
quadrangular shape, comprises a base 2 with a bottom
15 wall 4 delimited at the front by a front lateral wall 5
and on the sides by two opposite lateral walls 6, and a
lid 3 joined to the base 2 at the rear lateral wall 7
of the box 1. At the opposite side, the lid 3 has an
end strip 8 which, when the box is closed as
20 represented in figure 3, is inserted into a notch 9
defined between the front wall 5 and a projecting flap
10 of the latter.

The sheet folding lines L that define the base 2
with the bottom wall 4, the front wall 5 with the
25 respective flap 10, the lateral walls 6 and the rear
wall 7, as well as the lid 3 with the respective front
strip 8 are indicated with dashed lines in figure 1.

The lid 3 is made having slots 11 which
respectively define vent openings for releasing, in
30 use, the vapour generated by the hot pizza or analogous
food product contained in the box 1.

Furthermore, the box 1 is made having a pair of
spaced projections 12 which, when the box 1 is closed
as represented in figure 3, define spacer supports for
35 an analogous box overlapped stacked above the cover 3.

According to the invention, the projections 12 are formed by respective flaps of the lateral walls 6 projecting, when the box 1 is closed, beyond the lid 3 and folded, around respective folding lines 13 located above the lid 3 itself, against the external surface of the latter. In such manner, a possible identical box 1 overlapped stacked on the lid 3 shall be positioned lying on the projections 12, with the respective bottom 2 spaced by the lid 3 of the underlying box 1, thus without obstructing its vent openings 11 and thus allowing, in use, the free release of the vapour generated by the food product contained in the underlying box 1.

The portions of the lateral walls 6 located on one side and on the other with respect to the corresponding flaps 12 also project above the lid 3 (still referring to the condition of the box 1 closed represented in figure 3), defining respective lateral edges 14, adjacent to the rear wall 7, and the respective corner edges 15 comprised between the lateral walls 6 and the front wall 5. Such lateral 14 and corner 15 edges serve as elements for stopping and restraining a possible analogous box 1 overlapped stacked on the lid 3.

The bottom wall 4 of the base 2 may be conveniently formed with a circular pre-die-cut line 16 suitable to delimit a plate 17 separable from such base 2 and useable for consuming the food product contained in the box 1, after opening the lid 3.

Mounting the box 1 starting from its plane development L, and in particular forming the spacer supports defined by the flaps 12, is extremely easy and immediate and it does not require any particular expertise. When mounted, the box 1 has an overall dimension practically identical to that of conventional boxes, and the respective lateral 14 and corner 15

edges allow perfect stacking thereof with analogous boxes both awaiting use and during transport of the food products. When the product does not provide for stacking other boxes 1, the flaps 12 of the box 1 may
5 also be folded, inside the box itself instead of against the external surface of the lid 3.

The variant represented in figures 4-6 is generally similar to the embodiment described previously, and only the differences shall be described in detail,
10 using the same reference numbers for the identical or similar parts.

Such variant represents a multiple box, i.e. prearranged for carrying two (or more) hot pizzas or similar food products therein. In such case, the height
15 of the walls 5, 6 and 7 is obviously greater than that of the analogous walls of the embodiment according to figures 1-3, and provided for is at least one support and separation shelf 18 having shape and dimensions generally corresponding to those of the base 2 and
20 having folded corner flaps 19 adapted to define vent passages that communicate the lower part of the box 1 with the upper one and thus with the vent openings 11 made in the lid 3. Such folded flaps 19 also serve as supports for the shelf 18 on the bottom wall 4 of the
25 base 2, or for a possible further underlying analogous shelf in case the box 1 is intended for carrying three or more stacked food products.

Obviously, the construction details and the embodiments may widely vary with respect to the
30 description and illustration provided above, without for this reason departing from the scope of the present invention as defined by the following claims.

CLAIMS

1. Container for carrying hot pizzas and the like, comprising a box (1) formed by a single sheet (L) made of cardboard or analogous material with folding lines defining a base (2), lateral walls (5, 6, 7) and a lid (3) joined to the base (2) at one of said lateral walls (7) in an openable and reclosable manner, and having vent openings (11), the box (1) having at least one pair of spaced projections (12) protruding upwards and serving in use as spacer supports for an analogous overlapped box stacked over said lid (3), characterised in that said projections are formed by flaps (12) of two opposite lateral walls (6) projecting beyond the lid (3) and foldable, around respective foldable lines (13) located above the lid (3), against the external surface of the latter.

2. Container according to claim 1, characterised in that the lateral walls (6) provided with said foldable flaps (12) are arranged along the sides of the lid (3) orthogonal to said lateral wall (7) at which the lid (3) is joined to the base (2).

3. Container according to claim 2, characterised in that said two lateral walls (6) define, alongside said two foldable flaps (12), lateral and corner stop edges (14, 15) protruding upwards beyond said projections (12) for containing an analogous container overlapped stacked on said lid (3).

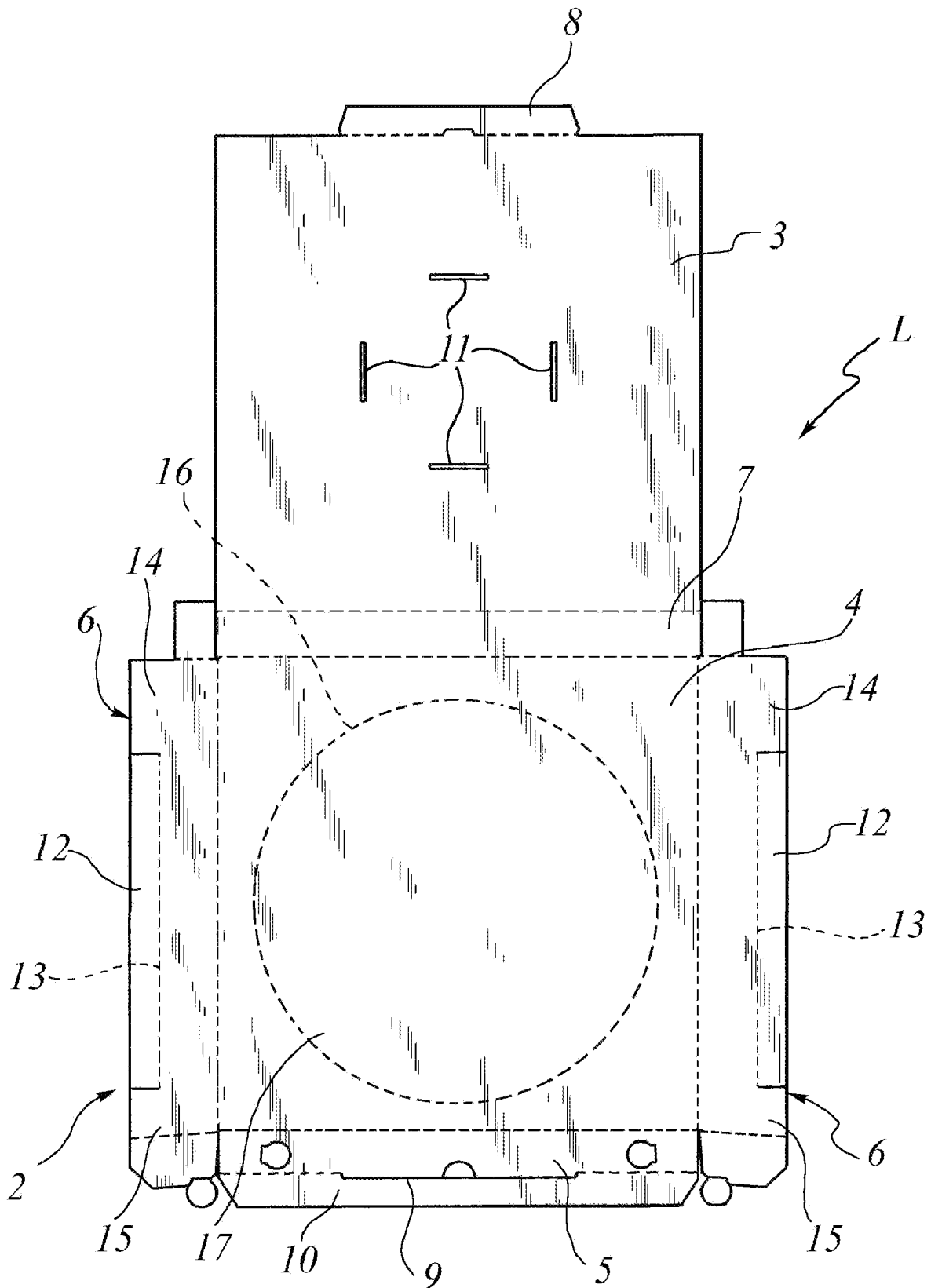
4. Container according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterised in that said box (1) is prearranged to contain several pizzas or the like overlapped on each other spaced by means of at least one separation and support shelf (18) having shape and dimensions generally corresponding to those of the base (2) and having folded corner flaps (19) defining vent

passages in communication with said vent openings (8) of said lid (3).

5 5. Container according to claim 4, characterised in that said folded angle flaps (19) serve as supports on said base (2) or, respectively, on an underlying support and separation shelf (18).

10 6. Container according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said base (2) has a bottom wall (4) integrally formed in which is a plate (17) separable from said bottom wall (4).

Fig.1



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Fig.2

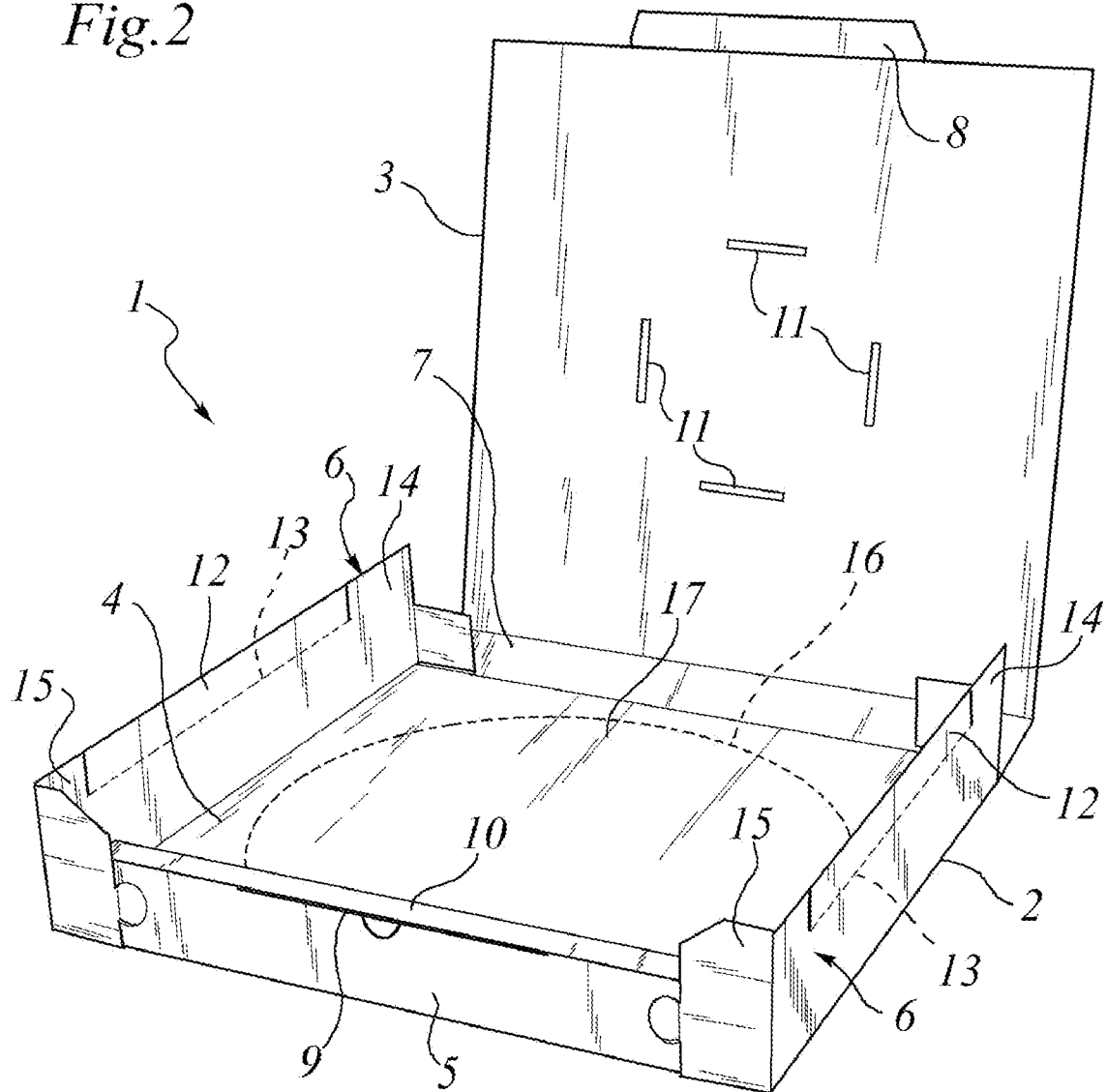
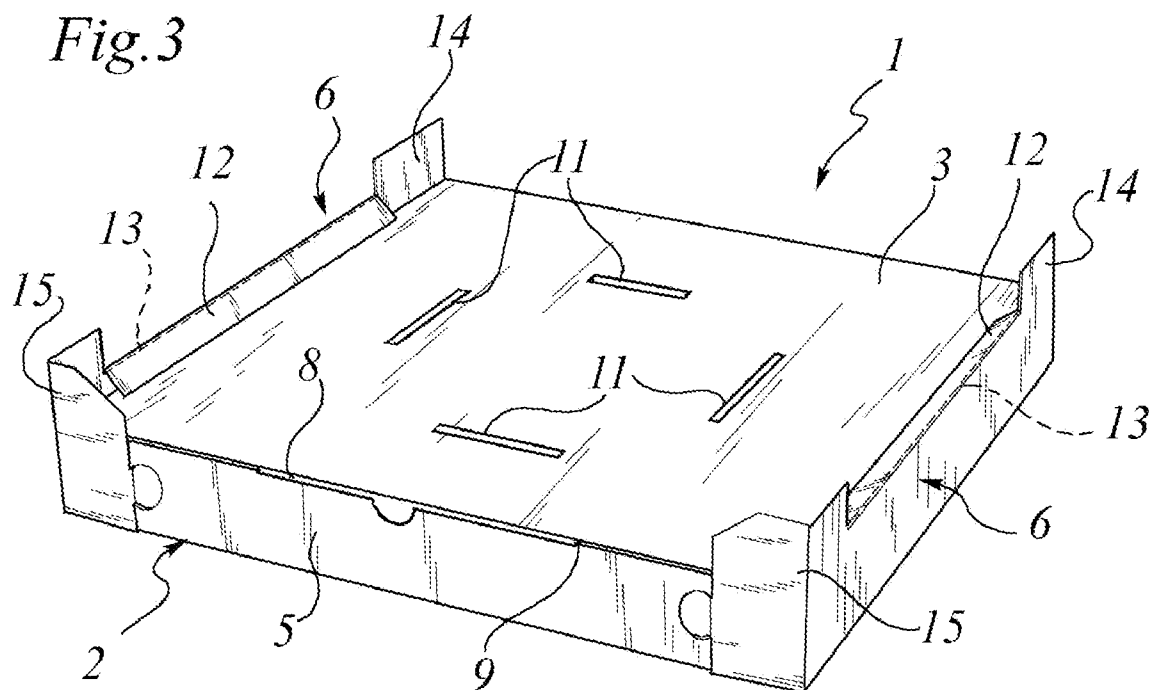
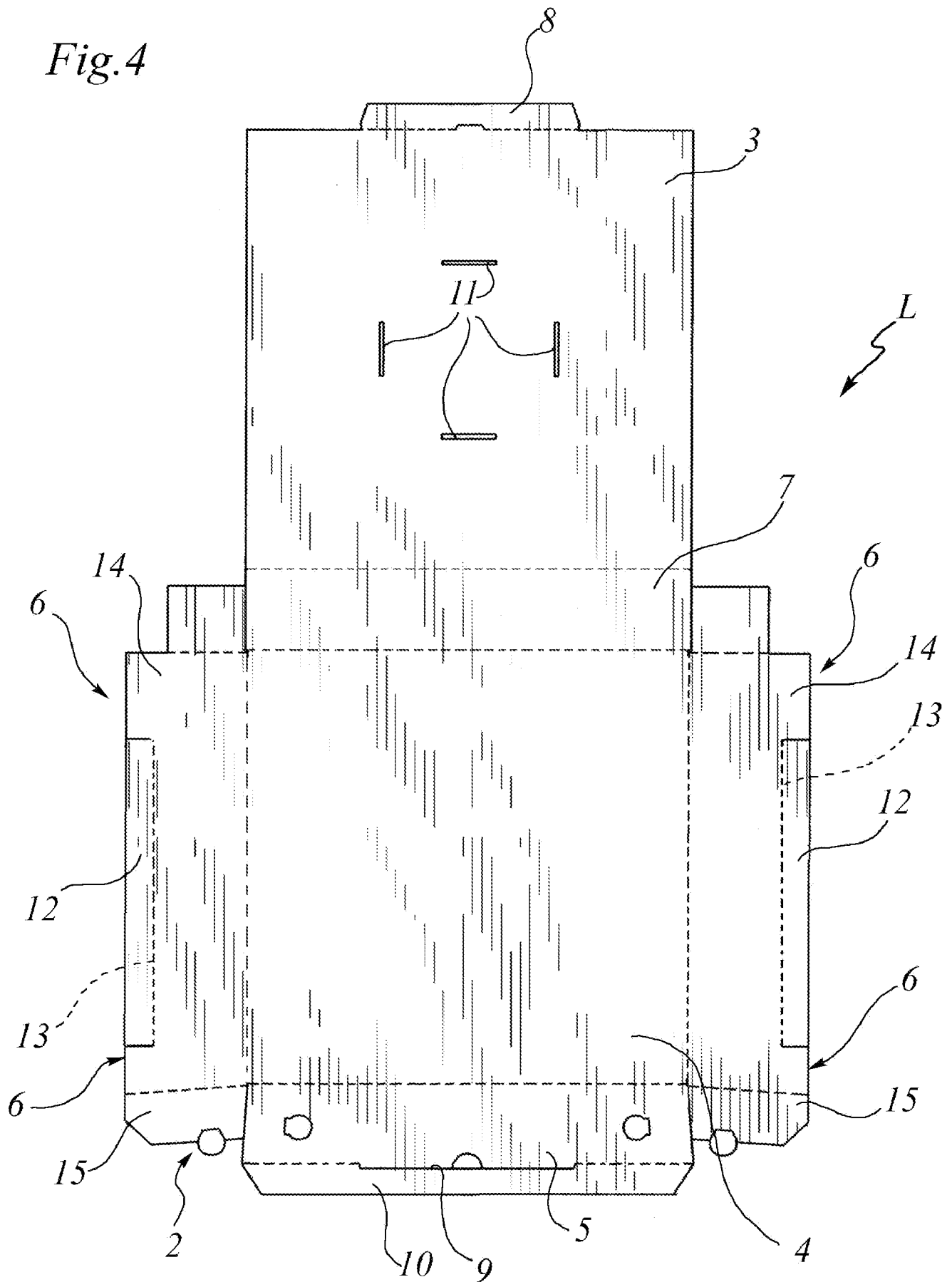


Fig.3



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Fig. 4



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Fig.5

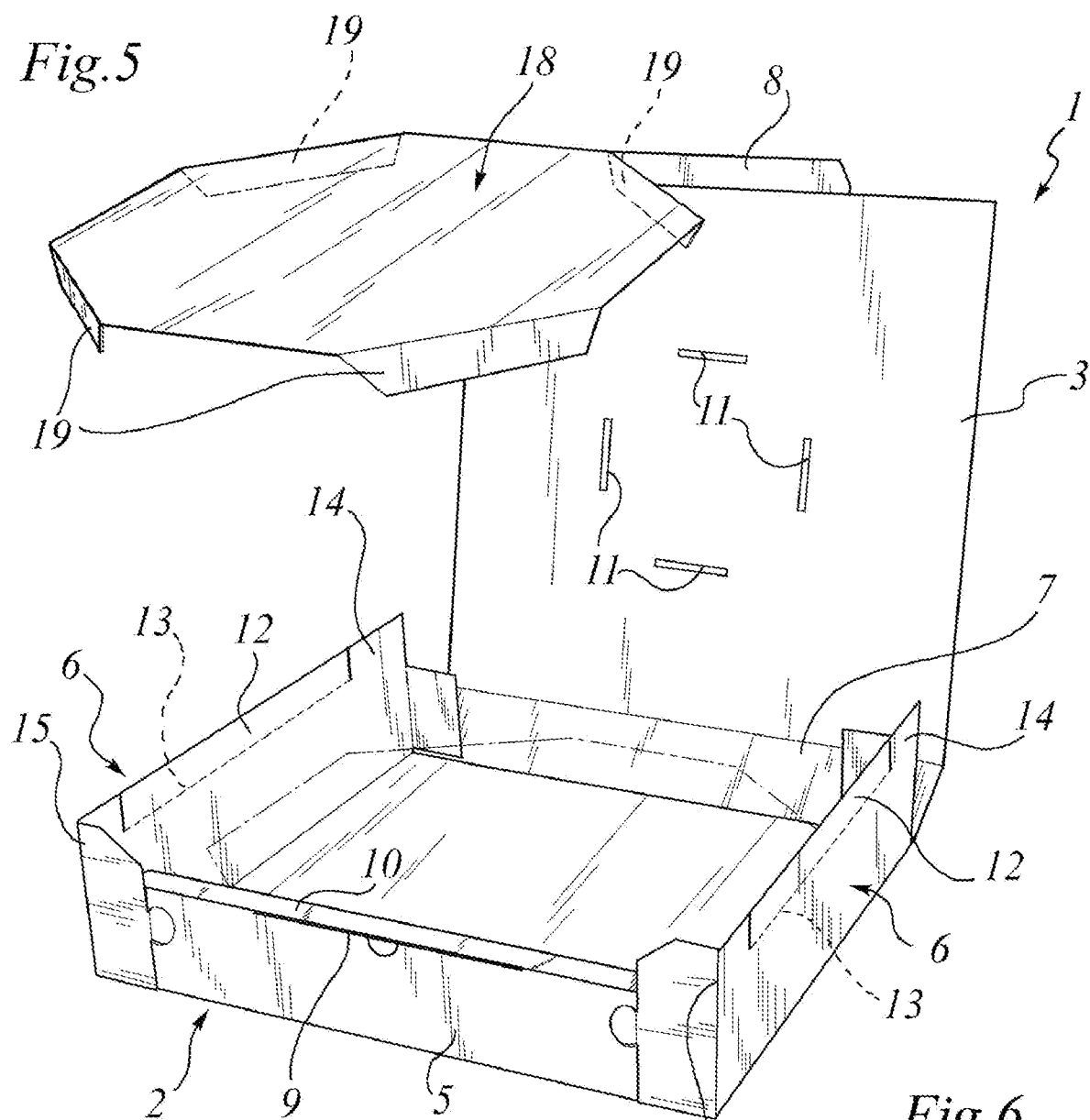
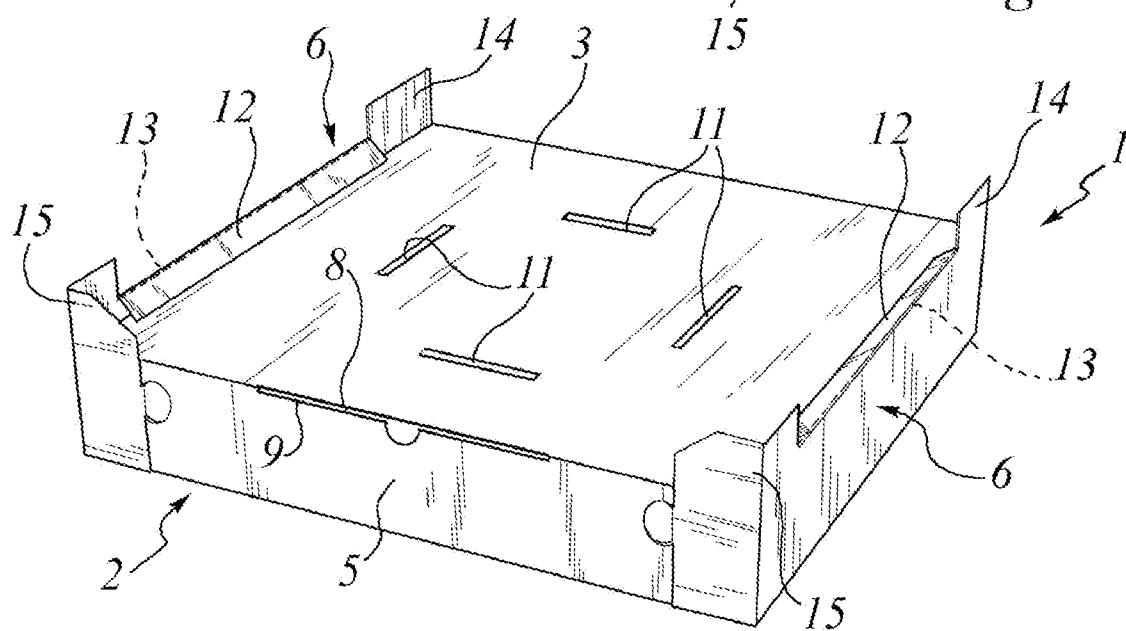


Fig.6



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2009/051889

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B65D5/42 B65D5/48

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

B65D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2 153 333 A (LOWEY ROY E) 4 April 1939 (1939-04-04) figures 5-7	1-2
A	WO 2008/014377 A2 (GRAPHIC PACKAGING INT INC [US]) 31 January 2008 (2008-01-31) figure 1d	1,6
A	US 6 915 949 B1 (ECONOMOPOULOS DEMOSTHENES O [US]) 12 July 2005 (2005-07-12) figure 3	1,4-5
A	US 4 984 734 A (ZION KENNETH J [IL] ET AL) 15 January 1991 (1991-01-15) figures 6,7	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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8 document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/IB2009/051889

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WO 2008014377	A2	31-01-2008	CA 2658237 A1	31-01-2008
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