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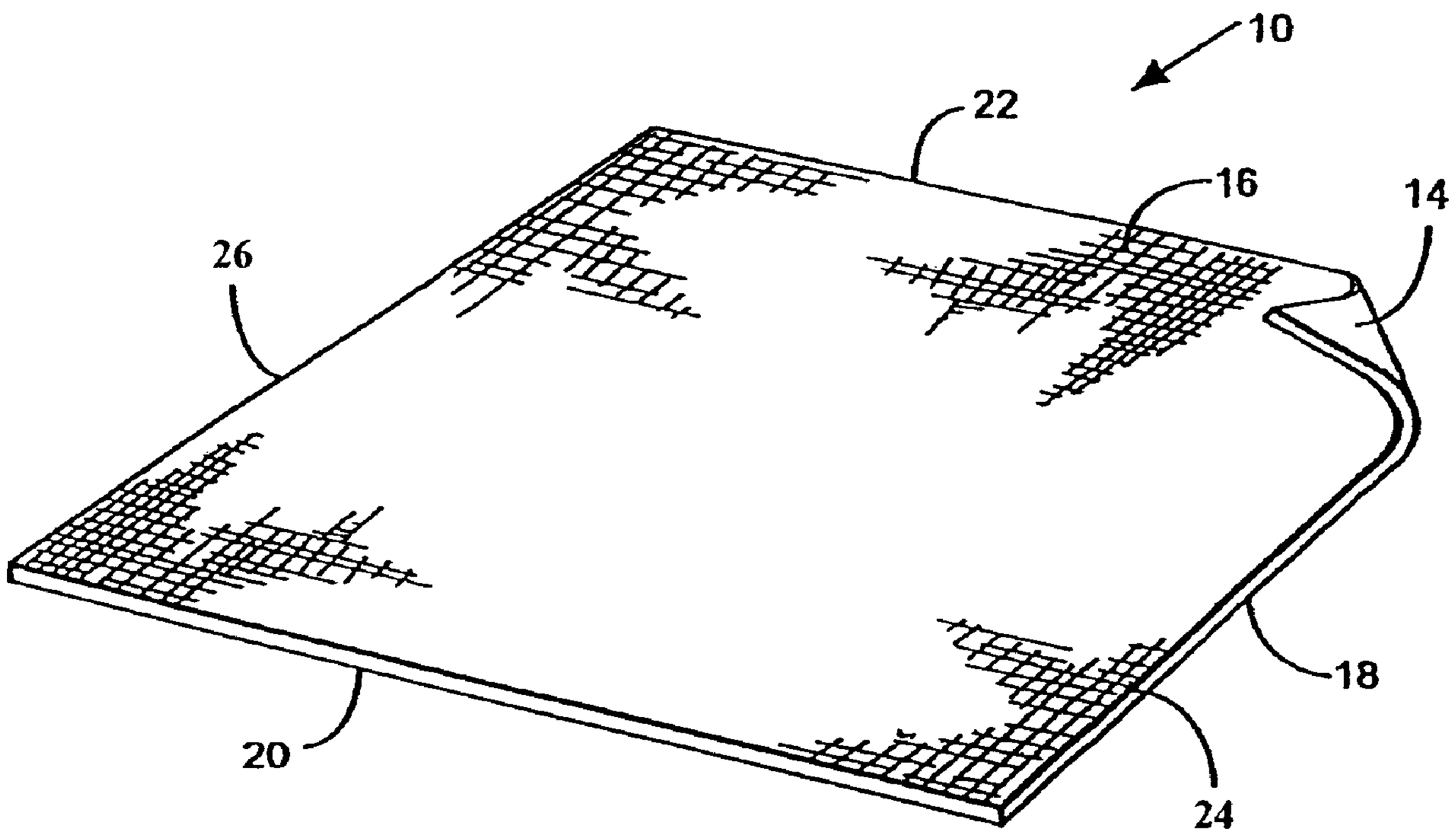
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(54) Titre : POLYMERE A FINI A APPARENCE DE TISSU SUR UNE DE SES SURFACES
(54) Title: POLYMERIC MATERIAL HAVING A CLOTH-APPEARING FINISH ON A SURFACE THEREOF



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
Flexible polymeric materials having a cloth-like appearance suitable for use in the formation of flower pot covers, floral wrappings and ribbon materials are disclosed.

ABSTRACT

Flexible polymeric materials having a cloth-like appearance suitable for use in the formation of flower pot covers, floral wrappings and ribbon materials are disclosed.

POLYMERIC MATERIAL HAVING A CLOTH-APPEARING FINISH ON A SURFACE THEREOF

This is a divisional application of Canadian Patent Application Serial No. 2,241,609 filed on June 25, 1998.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to polymeric materials having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof, and more particularly but not by way of limitation, to flower pot covers, floral wrappings and ribbon materials made from such polymeric materials. In another aspect, the invention relates to methods for producing flower pot covers and methods of wrapping floral groupings and flower pots with a sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof to provide a decorative cover for such floral groupings and flower pots.

It should be understood that the expression "the invention" and the like encompasses the subject-matter of both the parent and divisional applications.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect the invention provides a flexible material formable into a shape-sustaining flower pot cover, a decorative cover for a flower pot or a floral grouping, or a sleeve disposable about at least a portion of a floral grouping. The flexible material comprises a polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a cloth-appearing textured or matte finish on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

According to the invention a flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative cover about a flower pot or a floral grouping can comprise a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 to 30 mils. The sheet of material has an upper surface and a lower surface, and at least the lower surface of the polymeric film is embossed, printed, embossed and printed

or textured to provide the lower surface with a cloth-like appearance. A bonding material is disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the sheet of material.

Alternatively, the flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative cover about a flower pot or a floral grouping can comprise an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils. A substantially water-impervious polymeric film is laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film; the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils.

In another embodiment the flexible material capable of being formed into a shape-sustaining flower pot cover comprises an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils. An acrylic heat-sealable lacquer is disposed on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film. Upon forming the flexible material into a flower pot cover, a plurality of overlapping folds are formed, and at least portion of the overlapping folds are connected to adjacently-disposed portions of the flower pot cover via the acrylic heat-sealable lacquer.

The invention also contemplates a polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance for forming decorative bows and for wrapping items. The ribbon material comprises a polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface; at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film being provided with an embossed pattern to provide the polymeric ribbon material with a cloth-like appearance.

In another embodiment the invention provides a decorative

flower-pot cover which has a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof. The flower-pot cover comprises a sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface; at least a portion of the lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material being printed, embossed, or printed and embossed to provide the sheet of polymeric material with the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth. The sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot to provide the decorative flower-pot cover.

In another aspect of the invention, a method for providing a decorative cover for a flower pot comprises the steps of: providing a sleeve formed of a flexible polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve formed therefrom with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and an inner retaining space; providing a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface; and disposing the flower pot in the inner retaining space of the sleeve whereby the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot and provides a decorative cover for the flower pot which has the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof.

The invention also provides a method for wrapping a floral grouping with a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof. The method comprises the steps of: providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion

and a stem portion; providing a sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface, an outer peripheral surface and an inner retaining space, the sleeve being formed of a flexible polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide such surface with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth whereby at least one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface of the sleeve has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth; disposing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and binding the sleeve about the floral grouping.

In yet another aspect there is provided a method for packaging a plant comprising the steps of: providing a flower pot containing a floral grouping; and providing a flexible sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the flexible sleeve being formed of a polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide the polymeric material with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth. The flexible sleeve has perforations at preselected areas and a bonding material disposed thereon; the flexible sleeve being positionable about the flower pot such that a lower portion of the flexible sleeve closely surrounds and encompasses the flower pot and an upper portion of the flexible sleeve extends upwardly from the flower pot. The upper portion of the flexible sleeve is removable from the lower portion of the flexible sleeve along the perforations. The flower pot is disposed within the flexible sleeve such that the lower portion of the flexible sleeve is positioned

adjacent the flower pot and at least a portion of the lower portion of the flexible sleeve is bondingly connected to the flower pot via the bonding material, whereby the upper portion of the flexible sleeve extends upwardly from the flower pot and substantially surrounds and encompasses the floral grouping within the flower pot so that when the upper portion of the flexible sleeve is detached from the lower portion of the flexible sleeve along the perforations, the lower portion of the flexible sleeve remains disposed about the flower pot and forms a decorative cover which substantially surrounds and encompasses the flower pot. The decorative cover provides a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof.

According to an aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material, capable of being formed into a shape-sustaining flower pot cover, the material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils; and

an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film whereby, upon forming the flexible material into a flower pot cover, a plurality of overlapping folds are formed and at least portion of the overlapping folds are connected to adjacently-disposed portions of the flower pot cover via the acrylic heat-sealable lacquer.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material capable of being formed into a shape-sustaining flower pot cover, the material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material capable of being formed into a shape-sustaining flower pot cover, the material comprising:

a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least the surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed or embossed and printed to provide the lower surface with a matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative cover about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the material comprising:

a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 to 30 mils, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide the lower surface with a cloth-like appearance; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the sheet of material.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative cover about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a polymeric ribbon material for forming decorative bows and for wrapping items, the ribbon material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of 0.6 mil to 10 mils, wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is modified to provide the polymeric ribbon material with a cloth-like appearance.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance, the ribbon material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a sheet of material laminated to at least one of the upper and the lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film, at least one of the expanded-core polymeric film and the sheet of material having a cloth-like appearance such

that the polymeric ribbon is provided with a cloth-like appearance.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance for forming decorative bows and for wrapping items, the ribbon material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of 0.6 to 10 mils, and wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is printed to provide the polymeric ribbon material with a cloth-like appearance.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance for forming decorative bows and for wrapping items, the ribbon material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface, and wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern to provide the polymeric ribbon material with a cloth-like appearance.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance, the ribbon material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a sheet of material having a cloth-like texture laminated to at least one of the upper and the lower surface of the polymeric film, the sheet of material having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material capable of being formed

into a decorative sleeve for positioning about at least a portion of a flower pot or a floral grouping, the flexible material comprising:

a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed or embossed and printed to provide the lower surface with a cloth-like appearance.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative sleeve for positioning about at least a portion of a flower pot or a floral grouping, the flexible material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative sleeve for positioning about at least a portion of a flower pot or a floral grouping, the flexible material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of 0.6 mil to 10 mils, and wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is modified to provide the flexible material with a cloth-like appearance.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material formable into a shape-sustaining flower pot cover, a decorative cover for a flower pot or a floral grouping, or a sleeve disposable about at least a portion of a floral grouping, the flexible material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a cloth-appearing textured or matte finish on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material, comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils, and wherein at least the lower surface is provided with a cloth-appearing textured or matte finish; and

an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material, comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material, comprising:

a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least the surface of the expanded-

core polymeric film is embossed, printed or embossed and printed to provide the lower surface with a matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material, comprising:

a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide the lower surface with a cloth-like appearance; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the sheet of material.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a flexible material having an upper surface and a lower surface, the flexible material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils, and wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide the expanded-core polymeric film with a cloth-like appearance;

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the upper surface of the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper surface and lower surfaces of the flexible material.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for wrapping a floral grouping with a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the sleeve being formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the expanded-core polymeric film having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide such surface with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface defining an inner retaining space, an outer peripheral surface, and a bonding material disposed upon a portion of at least one of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve, for holding overlapping portions of the sleeve in a crimped position adjacent a portion of the stem portion of the floral grouping;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and

binding the sleeve about the floral grouping by crimping portions of the sleeve together causing at least one portion of the sleeve to overlap another portion of the sleeve, the bonding material engaging the overlapping

portions of the sleeve together in a position surrounding an adjacent portion of the floral grouping forming a crimped portion of the sleeve, at least a portion of the stem portion being disposed within the crimped portion thereby binding the sleeve in a position about the floral grouping.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for wrapping a floral grouping with a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the sleeve formed of a flexible polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the flexible polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide such surface with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface defining an inner retaining space, an outer peripheral surface, and a bonding material disposed upon a portion of at least one of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve for holding overlapping portions of the sleeve in a crimped position adjacent a portion of the stem portion of the floral grouping;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and

binding the sleeve about the floral grouping by crimping portions of the sleeve together causing at least one

portion of the sleeve to overlap another portion of the sleeve, the bonding material engaging the overlapping portions of the sleeve together in a position surrounding an adjacent portion of the floral grouping forming a crimped portion of the sleeve, at least a portion of the stem portion of the floral grouping being disposed within the crimped portion thereby binding the sleeve in a position about the floral grouping.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a substantially flexible, shape-sustaining cover for receiving a flower pot, at least a portion of one surface of the cover having a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the cover having a closed lower end, an open upper end with an opening extending therethrough and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the cover, the cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the cover, and the cover being constructed from a sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining laminated material comprising:

a sheet of expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the sheet having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of that lower surface being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or lacquered to provide at least a portion of the lower surface with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a sheet of paper or metallized foil laminated to the upper surface of the sheet of expanded-core polymeric film.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a substantially flexible, shape-sustaining cover for receiving a flower pot, at least a portion of one surface of the cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the cover having a closed lower end, an open upper end with an opening extending therethrough and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end thereof, the cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the cover, the cover being formed of at least one sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining laminated material comprising:

at least one sheet of polymeric film having a thickness in a range of from 0.5 mil to 10 mil, and selected from the group consisting of an expanded-core polymeric film and a polypropylene film; and

at least one sheet of paper or metallized foil laminated to the sheet of polymeric film and having a thickness in a range of from 0.5 mil to 10 mil;

and wherein at least a portion of one surface of the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining laminated material is embossed, printed, embossed and printed or lacquered so as to provide a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth so that at least a portion of one surface of the cover is provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a substantially flexible, shape-sustaining cover for receiving a flower pot, at least a portion of one

surface of the cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the cover having a closed lower end, an open upper end with an opening extending therethrough and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end thereof, the cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the cover, the cover being formed of at least one sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining laminated material comprising:

at least one sheet of expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces, at least a portion of the lower surface of the at least one sheet of expanded-core polymeric film being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or lacquered so as to provide the film with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

at least one sheet of paper or metallized foil laminated to the sheet of polymeric film; and

whereby, upon forming the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining laminated material into the cover, at least a portion of one surface of the cover is provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, and at least a portion of the overlapping folds formed in the cover are connected via the acrylic heat-sealable lacquer.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping and having a textured or matte

finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising:

a flexible sheet of polymeric material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the sheet having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of the lower surface of the sheet being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide the lower surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the flexible sheet of polymeric material;

wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the bonding material secures the flexible sheet of polymeric material about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping and having a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil;

wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern, a printed pattern, an embossed pattern and a printed pattern or a textured pattern such that the pattern provides a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth to at least a portion of one surface of the flexible laminated material from which the decorative cover is formed; and

wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising:

a flexible sheet of polymeric material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film, the sheet having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible sheet of polymeric material;

and wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the acrylic heat-sealable lacquer secures the flexible sheet about the flower pot or floral

grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the film having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the film being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil;

and wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material, comprising:

a sheet of polymeric material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of

from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the sheet having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of the lower surface of the sheet being embossed, printed or embossed and printed to provide the lower surface of the sheet with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the sheet of polymeric material, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil;

and wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising:

a flexible sheet of polymeric material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the flexible sheet having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the flexible sheet being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide at least one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the flexible sheet with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the flexible sheet of polymeric material;

and wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the bonding material secures the flexible sheet of polymeric material about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material having an upper surface and a lower surface, the flexible laminated material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the film being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide the film with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the upper surface of the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the flexible laminated material;

and wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such

that the bonding material secures the flexible laminated material about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising:

a flexible sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the material being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the flexible sheet of polymeric material;

and wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the bonding material secures the flexible sheet of polymeric material about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping and having a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the polymeric film;

wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern, a printed pattern, an embossed pattern and a printed pattern or a textured pattern such that the pattern provides a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth to at least a portion of one surface of the flexible laminated material from which the decorative cover is formed; and

wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising:

a flexible polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface thereof being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible polymeric film;

and wherein the flexible polymeric film is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the

acrylic heat-sealable lacquer secures the flexible polymeric film about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the polymeric film being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the polymeric film;

and wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for wrapping a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve formed of a flexible, laminated polymeric material having a texture and/or appearance simulating the texture and/or appearance of cloth, the flexible, laminated polymeric material being formed by laminating at least one sheet of a polymeric material to at least one sheet of material selected from the group

consisting of paper and metallized foil, the flexible, laminated polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof textured or modified to simulate the weave or texture of cloth so that at least a portion of the sleeve formed of the flexible, laminated polymeric material is provided with a texture and/or appearance simulating the texture and/or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an open upper end, an open lower end, an outer peripheral surface, and an inner peripheral surface which, when the sleeve is open, defines and encompasses an inner retaining space, the sleeve having bonding material disposed upon a portion of at least one of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface for holding the sleeve tightly about the stem portion of the floral grouping when the floral grouping is disposed in the inner retaining space of the sleeve;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and

binding the sleeve about the floral grouping by gathering portions of the sleeve together, causing at least one portion of the sleeve to overlap another portion of the sleeve whereby the bonding material engages the overlapping portions of the sleeve together in a position surrounding and adjacent at least a portion of the stem portion of the floral grouping so that the sleeve is bound in a position about the floral grouping.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for providing a decorative cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the decorative cover extending about at least a portion of a flower pot, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having at least one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve formed therefrom with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an upper end, a closed lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and an inner retaining space;

providing the flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface; and

disposing the flower pot in the inner retaining space of the sleeve whereby the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot and provides the decorative cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth for the flower pot.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for providing a decorative cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the decorative cover extending about at least a portion of a flower pot, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve formed of a flexible polymeric material having at least one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve formed therefrom with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an upper end, a closed lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and an inner retaining space;

providing a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface; and

disposing the flower pot in the inner retaining space of the sleeve whereby the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot and provides the

decorative cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth for the flower pot.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a sheet of polymeric material comprising:

a sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material is embossed, printed, or embossed and printed to provide such surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base

having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be

substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is printed to provide the expanded-core polymeric material with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of

the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern which provides a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a laminated polymeric material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil; and

a sheet of material having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the sheet of material being laminated to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the polymeric film to form the laminated polymeric material, at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto being modified to provide a textured or matte finish

simulating the appearance of cloth so that at least a portion of one surface of the laminated polymeric material and at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom are provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a laminated polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed, or embossed and printed to provide such surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom is provided

with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film to form the laminated polymeric material, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a laminated polymeric material comprising:

a first sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the first sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of the lower surface of the first sheet of polymeric material is provided with embossed, printed, or embossed and printed patterns to provide the lower surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot

cover formed therefrom is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a second sheet of polymeric material laminated to one of the upper and lower surfaces of the first sheet of polymeric material to provide the laminated polymeric material the embossed, printed, or embossed and printed patterns of the first sheet of polymeric material being visible and thereby providing at least a portion of one surface of the polymeric laminated material with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the second sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

at least one sheet of polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one of the base and the decorative border of the

decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the at least one sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film being printed and embossed to provide the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the printed and embossed patterns being in registry with one another; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

at least one sheet of polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one of the base and the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the at least one sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film being printed and embossed to provide the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the printed and embossed patterns being out of registry with one another; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that

the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

at least one sheet of polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one of the base and the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the at least one sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil;

and wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base

having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

at least one sheet of polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one of the base and the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the at least one sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil, at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for wrapping a floral grouping with a

sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface, an outer peripheral surface and an inner retaining space, the sleeve being formed of a polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the polymeric material is modified to provide a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth whereby at least one of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having a bonding material disposed upon a portion of at least one of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve for holding overlapping portions of the sleeve in a crimped position adjacent a portion of the stem portion of the floral grouping;

disposing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and

crimping the sleeve about at least a portion of the floral grouping, thereby causing portions of the sleeve to overlap, the bonding material engaging the overlapping portions of the sleeve so as to bond the overlapped portion together and bind the sleeve in a position about the floral grouping.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for wrapping a floral grouping with a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the

texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface, an outer peripheral surface and an inner retaining space, the sleeve being formed of a flexible polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide such surface with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth whereby at least one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface of the sleeve has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth;

disposing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and

binding the sleeve about the floral grouping.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for providing a decorative cover for a flower pot wherein the decorative cover has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve formed of a flexible polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve formed therefrom with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and an inner retaining space;

providing a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface; and

disposing the flower pot in the inner retaining space of the sleeve whereby the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot and provides the decorative cover for the flower pot wherein the decorative cover has the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for providing a decorative cover for a flower pot wherein the decorative cover has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve formed therefrom with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and an inner retaining space;

providing a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface; and

disposing the flower pot in the inner retaining space of the sleeve whereby the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot and provides the decorative cover for the flower pot and wherein the decorative cover has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the

decorative flower pot cover comprising a sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of the lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material is printed, embossed, or printed and embossed to provide the sheet of polymeric material with the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, and wherein the sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot to provide the decorative flower pot cover.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a decorative flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative flower pot cover comprising a flexible laminated polymeric material comprising:

a polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface; and

a material laminated to the polymeric material, the material laminated to the polymeric material being selected from the group consisting of a polymeric material, paper, metallized foil and combinations thereof, and at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric material and the material laminated thereto being printed, embossed, or printed and embossed so as to provide the flexible laminated polymeric material with the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth;

and wherein the flexible laminated polymeric material is formed about a flower pot to provide the decorative flower pot cover.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a sleeve for containing a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface and having a

floral grouping disposed therein, the sleeve formed of a polymeric material having at least one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve being formed therefrom with an appearance or texture simulating the appearance or texture of cloth, the sleeve having a closed lower end containing a gusset, an upper end, an outer peripheral surface, and an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space, the sleeve comprising:

a base portion having at least one of an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface thereof modified to provide such surface with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the base portion being tapered, sized and dimensioned so that the inner peripheral surface of the base portion of the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot when the flower pot is disposed in the sleeve; and

a skirt portion attached to and extending from the base portion and extending beyond the upper end of the flower pot and adjacent to at least a portion of the floral grouping disposed in the flower pot when the flower pot is disposed in the sleeve.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a plant package produced from a polymeric material having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the plant package comprising:

a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface and having a floral grouping disposed therein; and

a sleeve formed of a polymeric material, the sleeve having a closed lower end containing a gusset, an upper end, an outer peripheral surface, and an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space in which the

flower pot is disposed, at least one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface of the sleeve being modified to provide the sleeve with an appearance or texture simulating the appearance or texture of cloth, and wherein the sleeve further comprises:

a base portion having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface, the base portion being tapered, sized and dimensioned so that the inner peripheral surface thereof substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot; and

a skirt portion attached to and extending from the base portion and extending beyond the upper end of the flower pot.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for producing a decorative preformed flower pot cover, comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material is modified to provide such surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

forming the sheet of polymeric material into a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed

flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover; and

a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base;

wherein at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method for producing a decorative preformed flower pot cover, comprising the steps of:

providing a laminated polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the laminated polymeric material is modified to provide such surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the laminated polymeric material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil; and

a sheet of material having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the sheet of material laminated to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the polymeric film to form the laminated polymeric material, at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto being modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth so that at least a portion of one surface of the laminated polymeric material formed therefrom is provided with a

textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

forming the laminated polymeric material into a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover; and

a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base;

wherein at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a ribbon material for wrapping about items and forming into bows and decorative ornamentations containing ruffles, loops and curved segments, the ribbon material being produced by cutting a sheet or web of material into strips having a uniform width and which are capable of being wound onto a spool or roll, the ribbon material having boundaries and comprising:

a flexible material having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a holographic design on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, the flexible

material being formed of a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, metallized film, foil, laminates thereof and combinations thereof, and the flexible material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a laminated ribbon material for wrapping about items and forming into bows and decorative ornamentations containing ruffles, loops and curved segments, the laminated ribbon material produced by cutting a flexible sheet or web of laminated material into strips having a uniform width and which are capable of being wound onto a spool or roll, the laminated ribbon material having boundaries and comprising:

a flexible iridescent material having an upper surface and a lower surface, the flexible iridescent material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 10 mil; and

a flexible material laminated to one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible iridescent material so that iridescent qualities of the flexible iridescent material remain visible when the laminated ribbon material is wrapped about items and formed into bows and decorative ornamentations, the flexible material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a laminated ribbon material for wrapping about items and forming into bows and decorative ornamentations containing ruffles, loops and curved segments, the laminated ribbon material produced by cutting a flexible sheet or web of laminated material into strips having a uniform width and which are capable of being wound onto a

spool or roll, the laminated ribbon material having boundaries and comprising:

a flexible first material having an upper surface, a lower surface and a holographic design on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, the flexible first material being formed of a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, metallized film, foil, laminates thereof and combinations thereof, and the flexible first material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil; and

a flexible second material laminated to one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible first material so that the holographic design of the flexible first material remains visible when the ribbon material is wrapped about items and formed into bows and decorative ornamentations, the flexible second material being formed of a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, metallized film, foil, cloth, burlap, laminates thereof and combinations thereof, and the flexible material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a ribbon material for wrapping about items and forming into bows and decorative ornamentations containing ruffles, loops and curved segments, the ribbon material produced by cutting a sheet or web of flexible material into strips having a uniform width and which are capable of being wound onto a spool or roll, the ribbon material having boundaries and comprising:

a flexible material having an upper surface, a lower surface and a holographic design on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, the flexible material being formed of a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, metallized film, foil,

laminates thereof and combinations thereof, the flexible material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, and the flexible material being provided with a printed pattern on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof and an embossed pattern on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof such that the ribbon material formed therefrom has printed and embossed patterns thereon.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof of Fig. 1 having a bonding material disposed along one edge thereof.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof of Fig. 2 having a floral grouping disposed thereon.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the floral grouping of Fig. 3 being wrapped with the sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof of Fig. 2 by one method of wrapping.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a decorative cover for the floral grouping formed from the sheet of polymeric

material of Fig. 2 wherein the decorative cover formed from the sheet of material has a conical configuration.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a decorative cover formed from the sheet of polymeric material of Fig. 2 wherein a floral grouping is wrapped with the sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof by a second method of wrapping so that the decorative cover formed from the sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof has a substantially cylindrical configuration.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a decorative cover positioned about a flower pot wherein the decorative cover is formed from the sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof of Fig. 1.

Fig. 8 is a cross-sectional view of a flower pot cover former and band applicator apparatus having the sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof of Fig. 1 disposed above an opening of the flower pot cover former and band applicator and having a flower pot disposed above the sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof.

Fig. 9A is a perspective view of a sheet of expanded core polymeric film having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof wherein an acrylic heat sealable lacquer is disposed on at least one surface thereof.

Fig. 9B is a perspective view of a laminated sheet of material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof wherein the laminated sheet of material comprises a sheet of expanded core polymeric film having a sheet of water impervious polymeric film laminated thereto.

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of a preformed pot cover formed from a sheet of the expanded core polymeric film of Fig. 9A, or a laminated sheet of material of Fig. 9B, or a sheet of the polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof similar to the sheet of polymeric material of Fig. 1.

Fig. 11 is a perspective view of the preformed pot cover of Fig. 10 having a flower pot disposed therein.

Fig. 12 is a diagrammatic, cross-sectional view of a male and female mold having a sheet of the expanded core polymeric film of Fig. 9A disposed therebetween for forming the preformed pot cover of Fig. 10.

Fig. 13 is a perspective view of a floral sleeve formed from the sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof.

Fig. 14 is a perspective view of the floral sleeve of Fig. 13 disposed about a floral grouping.

Fig. 15 is a perspective view of a floral sleeve having a cinching member wherein the floral sleeve is formed from a sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof.

Fig. 16 is a perspective view of the floral sleeve of Fig. 15 disposed about a floral grouping.

Fig. 17 is a side view of a sleeve having a detachable portion wherein the sleeve is formed from a sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof.

Fig. 18 is a perspective view of the sleeve of Fig. 17 having a flower pot disposed therein.

Fig. 19 is a perspective view of a flower pot disposed in the sleeve of Fig. 17 wherein an upper portion of the sleeve has been removed to provide a decorative cover having a skirt.

Fig. 20A is a perspective view of a polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-appearing finish on a surface thereof.

Fig. 20B is a perspective view of a polymeric ribbon material formed of an expanded core polymeric film having an acrylic lacquer on at least one surface thereof.

Fig. 20C is a perspective view of a laminated polymeric ribbon wherein one layer of the laminate is an expanded core polymeric film.

Detailed Description

Description of Figures 1-9

Referring now to Figs. 1 and 2, designated generally by the reference numeral 10 is a sheet of polymeric material having a cloth-like finish or appearance. That is, at least one surface of the sheet of polymeric material 10 has been modified to provide a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth. The terms "cloth-like finish" or "cloth-like appearance" may be used interchangeably with the terms "finish simulating the appearance of cloth" and "cloth-appearing textured or matte finish". The modification of the sheet of polymeric material 10 to provide the sheet of polymeric material with a matte or textured finish can be accomplished in several ways. For example, a matte finish can be provided by printing a desired pattern on the sheet of polymeric material and thereafter laminating a matte material, such as a translucent polymeric film, over the printed pattern. To further enhance the cloth-like appearance of the sheet of polymeric material 10, the matte material may or may not have a plurality of spatially disposed holes extending therethrough. A matte or textured finish can also be produced by printing a sheet of polymeric material with a matted (i.e.

dull finish) ink, by lacquering at least one surface of the sheet of polymeric material with a dull finish lacquer or a matting lacquer, by embossing the sheet of polymeric material to provide an embossed pattern simulating the weave or texture of cloth, or by embossing and printing the sheet of polymeric material to provide embossed and printed patterns wherein the embossed and printed patterns may be in registry, out of registry or wherein a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are in registry and a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are out of registry. In addition, a matte or textured finish capable a providing the sheet of polymeric material with a cloth-like appearance can be achieved by extruding a polymeric resin onto a matted or textured chill roll or by laminating a second sheet of material to the sheet of polymeric material.

The sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance has an upper surface 14, a lower surface 16, and an outer peripheral edge 18. The lower surface 16 is matted or textured as described above to provide the sheet of polymeric material 10 with a cloth-like appearance. The outer peripheral edge 18 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 comprises a first side 20, a second side 22, a third side 24, and a fourth side 26. A bonding material 27 (Fig. 2) may be disposed on at least a portion of one or both surfaces of the sheet of material 10, such as the upper surface 14 thereof as shown and as further illustrated in U.S. Patent No. 5,181,364, entitled "Wrapping A Floral Grouping With Sheets Having Adhesive Or Cohesive Material Applied Thereto", issued January 26, 1999.

The sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance may be employed to provide a decorative cover for a

floral grouping (Figs. 3 through 6) or a decorative cover for a flower pot (Fig. 7); or it may be employed to form a preformed flower pot cover for covering a flower pot (Figs. 10 and 11); or it may be employed to provide a sleeve for wrapping or covering a floral grouping (Figs. 13 through 16) or a flower pot (Figs. 17 through 19); or it may be employed to provide a ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance (Fig. 20A through 20c). The use of the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance to form a decorative cover for a floral grouping or a flower pot, or to form a sleeve for a floral grouping or a flower pot, or to form a preformed flower pot cover, or as a ribbon material will be described in more complete detail herein.

As noted above, the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance can be utilized to form a decorative cover for a floral grouping or a flower pot. The term "flower pot" as used herein refers to any type of container for holding a floral grouping, or a plant, or even another pot type container. Examples of flower pots and/or pot type containers include, but are not limited to, clay pots, wooden pots, plastic pots, pots made from natural and/or synthetic fibers, or any combination thereof. Such flower pots and/or pot-type containers are provided with a retaining space for receiving a floral grouping. The floral grouping may be disposed within the retaining space of the flower pot with a suitable growing medium described in further detail below, or other retaining medium, such as a floral foam. It will also be understood that in some cases the floral grouping, and any appropriate growing medium or other retaining medium, may be disposed in a sleeve formed from the sheet of material 10 if the sleeve is adapted to contain a medium.

"Floral grouping" as used herein will be understood to include cut fresh flowers, artificial flowers, a single flower or other fresh and/or artificial plants or other floral materials and may include other secondary plants and/or ornamentation or artificial or natural materials which add to the aesthetics of the overall floral grouping. Further, the floral grouping may comprise a growing potted plant having a root portion as well. However, it will be appreciated that the floral grouping may consist of only a single bloom or only foliage, or a botanical item (not shown), or a propagule. The term "floral grouping" may be used interchangeably herein with the term "floral arrangement". The term "floral grouping" may also be used interchangeably herein with the terms "botanical item" and/or "propagule."

The term "growing medium" when used herein will be understood to include any liquid, solid or gaseous material used for plant growth or for the cultivation of propagules, including organic and inorganic materials such as soil, humus, perlite, vermiculite, sand, water, and including the nutrients, fertilizers or hormones or combinations thereof required by the plants or propagules for growth.

The term "botanical item" when used herein will be understood to include a natural or artificial herbaceous or woody plant, taken singularly or in combination. The term "botanical item" also includes any portion or portions of natural or artificial herbaceous or woody plants including stems, leaves, flowers, blossoms, buds, blooms, cones, or roots, taken singly or in combination, or in groupings of such portions such as bouquets or floral groupings.

The term "propagule" when used herein will be understood to include any structure capable of being propagated or acting

as an agent of reproduction including seeds, shoots, stems, runners, tubers, plants, leaves, roots or spores.

In the embodiments shown in the drawings, the sheet of polymericmaterial 10 having a cloth-like appearance is square. It will be appreciated, however, that the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance can be of any shape, configuration or size as long as the sheet of polymeric material 10 is sufficiently sized and shaped to wrap and encompass a floral grouping or a flower pot. For example, the sheet of polymeric material 10 may have a rectangular, round, oval, octagonal or asymmetrical shape. Further, multiple sheets of the polymeric material 10 may be used in a single circumstance to provide a decorative cover or sleeve for a floral grouping or a flower pot. Moreover, when multiple sheets of the polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance are used in combination, the sheets of polymeric material 10 need not be uniform in size or shape. Finally, it will be appreciated that the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance shown herein is a substantially flat sheet except for the texturing, matting, embossing, flocking, application of a foamable lacquer or foamable ink, or other treatments and techniques employed to provide the sheet of polymeric material 10 with the desired texture or matting so that the sheet of polymeric material 10 has the appearance of cloth.

Any thickness or stiffness of the sheet of polymeric material 10 may be utilized in accordance with the present invention as long as the sheet of polymeric material 10 can be modified to provide the sheet of polymeric material 10 with a cloth-like appearance and the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance can be wrapped about at least a

portion of a floral grouping or a flower pot, as described herein. Generally, the sheet of polymeric material 10 will have a thickness in a range of from about 0.1 mil to about 30 mil, and more desirably a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 2.5 mil.

The terms "polymer film", "polymeric film" and "polymeric material" when used herein will be understood to refer to a synthetic polymer such as a polypropylene, a naturally occurring polymer such as cellophane, an extruded polymeric material having an expanded core such as extruded polypropylene having an expanded core and combinations thereof, including but not limited to, laminated materials. The extruded polymeric material having an expanded core (which is sometimes referred to herein as an expanded core polymeric material) will generally have a thickness in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 10 mil, more desirably in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 1.25 mil. "Extruded polymeric material having an expanded core" as used herein refers to any extrudable polymeric material in which the core is expanded during extrusion, such as by incorporation of a blowing agent in the polymeric resin which is being extruded.

The sheet of material 10 may also be constructed, in whole or in part, from a cling material. "Cling material" when used herein includes any material which is capable of connecting to the sheet of material and/or itself upon contacting engagement during the wrapping process and is wrappable about an item whereby portions of the cling material contactingly engage and connect to other portions of another material, or, alternatively, itself, for generally securing the material wrapped about at least a portion of a flower pot. This connecting engagement is preferably temporary in that the

material may be easily removed, i.e., the cling material "clings" to the flower pot.

The cling material is constructed, and treated if necessary, from polyethylene such as Cling Wrap made by Glad®, First Brands Corporation, Danbury, Connecticut. The thickness of the cling material will, in part, depend upon the size of sleeve and the size of the flower pot in the sleeve, i.e., generally, a larger flower pot may require a thicker and therefore stronger cling material. The cling material will range in thickness from about 0.1 mil to about 10 mil, and preferably from about 0.5 mil to about 2.5 mil and most preferably from about 0.6 mil to about 2 mil. However, any thickness of cling material may be utilized in accordance with the present invention which permits the cling material to be modified as hereinbefore described to provide the cling material with a cloth-like appearance.

In one embodiment, a sleeve may be constructed from two sheets of polypropylene film wherein at least a lower or outer surface of one of the sheets of polypropylene film is modified as hereinbefore described to provide at least one of the sheets of polypropylene film with a cloth-like appearance. The sheets of polypropylene film employed to produce the sleeve may be connected together or laminated or may be separate layers. In an alternative embodiment, the sleeve may be constructed from only one sheet of polypropylene film having a cloth-like appearance.

The sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance may vary in color. Further, the sheet of polymeric material 10 may comprise other decorative patterns or designs in addition to the matting, texturing, flocking, application of flammable lacquers or foamable inks, or embossing employed

to impart the cloth-like appearance to the sheet of polymeric material 10.

As illustrated in Fig. 3, the sheet of polymeric material 10 has a width 30 extending generally between the first side 20 and the second side 22, respectively, sufficiently sized whereby the sheet of polymeric material 10 can be wrapped about and encompass a floral grouping or a flower pot. The sheet of polymeric material 10 has a length 32 extending generally between the third side 24 and the fourth side 26, respectively, sufficiently sized whereby the sheet of polymeric material 10 extends over a substantial portion of the floral grouping when the sheet of polymeric material 10 has been wrapped about the floral grouping in accordance with the present invention, as described in detail herein. The sheet of polymeric material 10 may also be wrapped about a flower pot to substantially wrap and cover the flower pot in accordance with the present invention.

A plurality of sheets of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance may be connected together to form a roll as is shown in U.S. Patent No. 5,459,976, issued October 24, 1995, entitled "Material And Adhesive Strip Dispenser".

Figs. 3-5 illustrate the use of the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance in wrapping a floral grouping 34 to provide a decorative cover 36 (Fig. 5) for the floral grouping 34 wherein the decorative cover 36 has an open upper end 38 and a lower end 40. The sheet of polymeric material 10 may optionally have the strip of bonding material 27 disposed upon the upper surface 14, the lower surface 16 or both, such as the strip of bonding material 27 disposed along at least a portion of the upper surface 14 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 so as to be disposed

substantially adjacent the fourth side 26 thereof substantially as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. Further, the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance can be provided either as an individual sheet or from a pad or roll of material.

The bonding material 27, if present, may have a backing or release strip (not shown). The backing or release strip may be left applied for a period of time to the bonding material 27 after it is disposed on a surface of the sheet of polymeric material 10 prior to its use as a wrapping material, to protect the bonding qualities of the bonding strip. In operation, an operator may dispose the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance on a support surface (not shown) such that the lower surface 16 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 (which has been modified to provide the sheet of polymeric material 10 with a cloth-like appearance) is in contact with the support surface.

Referring more specifically to Figs. 3-5, the floral grouping 34 is placed upon the upper surface 14 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 in a diagonal orientation. The floral grouping 34 has an upper bloom or foliage portion 42 and a lower stem portion 44. The sheet of polymeric material 10 is then wrapped about the floral grouping 34 by the operator (Figs. 4 and 5), the operator overlapping a portion of the sheet of polymeric material 10 over another portion of the sheet of polymeric material 10. That is, for example, the operator places the first side 20 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 over the floral grouping 34, as shown in Fig. 4. The operator continues to roll the floral grouping 34 and the sheet of polymeric material 10 in the direction toward the second side 22 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 until the

upper surface 14 near second side 22 firmly engages the lower surface 16 of the sheet of polymeric material 10, wherein the floral grouping 34 is substantially encompassed by the sheet of polymeric material 10, and wherein the bonding material 27 contacts the sheet of polymeric material 10 to provide the decorative cover 36 having a cloth-like appearance which substantially encompasses and surrounds a substantial portion of the floral grouping 34. Fig. 5 shows the floral grouping 34 wrapped in a conical fashion to provide the decorative cover 36 for the floral grouping 34 which has the appearance of being made of a cloth material. When the floral grouping 34 is wrapped in a conical fashion, the bloom portion 42 of the floral grouping 34 is exposed near the open upper end 38 of the decorative cover 36, and the stem portion 44 of the floral grouping 34 is exposed near the lower end 40 of the decorative cover 36.

In another embodiment, illustrated in Fig. 6, the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance is utilized to wrap the floral grouping 34 in a cylindrical fashion. The floral grouping 34 is disposed upon the sheet of polymeric material 10 approximately parallel to the third side 24 of the sheet of polymeric material 10. The sheet of polymeric material 10 is wrapped generally about the stem portion 44 of the floral grouping 34 to a position wherein the third side 24 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 generally overlaps the fourth side 26 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 in a cylindrical fashion. It should be noted that the sheet of polymeric material 10 may be wrapped a plurality of times about the stem portion 44 of the floral grouping 34 before the overlapping of the third side 24 and the fourth side 26 of the sheet of polymeric material 10. As before, the

portion of the sheet of polymeric material 10 near the third side 24 is disposed generally adjacent another portion of the sheet of polymeric material 10 and the two adjacent portions then are brought into contact where they may be bondingly engaged, thereby securing the sheet of polymeric material 10 generally about the floral grouping 34 so as to provide a decorative cover 36a for the floral grouping 34 which has the appearance of being fabricated of cloth.

In another version of the invention, the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance may be used to wrap a flower pot or pot-type container, as noted above. Shown in Fig. 7 is a flower pot designated by the reference numeral 50 having an open upper end 52, a bottom end 54, an outer peripheral surface 56, an inner retaining space 58 within which may be disposed a growing medium. The flower pot 50 may contain a botanical item, such as a plant 60, which has an upper portion 62 comprising blooms or foliage or both.

The sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance may be wrapped about the flower pot 50 by any one of numerous methods used to wrap sheets of material about flower pots to form decorative pot covers for flower pots, such as a decorative cover 61 having a cloth-like appearance disposed about the flower pot 50 illustrated in Fig. 7. The sheet of polymeric material 10 may, for example, be formed by hand about the outer peripheral surface 56 of the flower pot 50 to produce the decorative cover 61 which has the appearance of being fabricated of cloth. The decorative cover 61 can then be secured about the flower pot 50 by a bonding material or by an elastic band 64 such that the open upper end 52 of the flower pot 50 remains substantially uncovered by the decorative cover 61 substantially as shown in Fig. 7.

Referring now to Fig. 8, a flower pot cover former and band applicator apparatus 66 for forming the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance into the decorative cover 61 for the flower pot 50 of Fig. 7 is illustrated. The flower pot cover former and band applicator apparatus 66 comprises a band applicator 68 and a flower pot cover former 70. The flower pot cover former and band applicator apparatus 66 has a support platform 72 with an opening 74 formed therein. A band, such as elastic band 64, is disposed circumferentially about the opening 74 in the support platform 72.

The lower surface 16 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 (which has been modified to provide the sheet of polymeric material 10 with a textured or matted surface simulating cloth) is positioned on an upper surface 76 on the support platform 72 such that the sheet of polymeric material 10 is positioned over the opening 74 in the support platform 72. The flower pot 50 is positioned above the sheet of polymeric material 10 and is moved in a direction 78 into the opening 74 of the flower pot cover former and band applicator apparatus 66. As the flower pot 50 is moved into the opening 74, the sheet of polymeric material 10 is pressed about the outer peripheral surface 56 of the flower pot 50 thereby forming the decorative cover 61 about the flower pot 50. The decorative cover 61 (which has a cloth-like appearance) is then secured about the flower pot 50 by the elastic band 64. The flower pot 50 having the decorative cover 61 secured thereto is then moved in a direction 80 out of the opening 74 in the support platform 72.

The elastic band 64 can be applied manually or automatically such as by the method shown in U.S. Patent No.

5,105,599, entitled "Means For Securing A Decorative Cover About A Flower Pot", issued April 21, 1993. The band 64 can also be applied as a tie using a method such as described in "Single Station Covering and Fastening System", U.S. Patent No. 5,609,009, issued March 11, 1997. The sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance can also be applied automatically about the flower pot 50, for example, by methods shown in U.S. Patent No. 4,733,521, entitled "Cover Forming Apparatus" issued March 29, 1988, and U.S. Patent No. 5,291,721, entitled "Cover Forming Apparatus Having Pivoting Forming Members", issued March 8, 1994.

Instead of securing the decorative cover 61 about the flower pot 50 via the band 64, the decorative cover 61 formed from the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance may be secured to the flower pot 50 by the use of one or more bonding materials. For example, the upper surface 14 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 may have a bonding material such as the bonding material 27 disposed upon a portion thereof. When the sheet of polymeric material 10 is disposed about the flower pot 50, at least a portion of the upper surface 14 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 contacts the outer peripheral surface 56 of the flower pot 50 and is thereby bonded and held about the flower pot 50 via the bonding material.

The bonding material may cover a portion of the upper surface 14 of the sheet of polymeric material 10, or the bonding material may entirely cover the upper surface 14 of the sheet of polymeric material 10. The bonding material may be disposed on the upper surface 14 of the sheet of polymeric material 10 in the form of a strip or in the form of spaced-apart spots. One method for disposing a bonding material on

the sheet of polymeric material 10 is described in U.S. Patent 5,111,637, entitled "Method For Wrapping A Floral Grouping", issued May 12, 1992.

The term "bonding material" when used herein refers to an adhesive, frequently a pressure sensitive adhesive, or a cohesive or any adhesive/cohesive combination having adhesive qualities (i.e., qualities of adhesion or adhesion/cohesion, respectively) sufficient to cause the attachment of a portion of the sheet of polymeric material 10 to itself, to a floral grouping 34, or to a flower pot 50. Since the bonding material may comprise either an adhesive or an adhesive/cohesive combination, it will be appreciated that both adhesives and cohesives are known in the art, and both are commercially available. When the bonding material is a cohesive, a similar cohesive material must be placed on the adjacent surface for bondingly contacting and bondingly engaging with the cohesive material. The term "bonding material" also includes materials which are heat sealable and, in this instance, the adjacent portions of the material must be brought into contact and then heat must be applied to effect the seal. The term "bonding material" also includes materials which are sonically sealable and vibratory sealable. The term "bonding material" when used herein also includes a heat sealing lacquer or hot melt material which may be applied to the material and, in this instance, heat, sound waves, or vibrations, also must be applied to effect the sealing.

The term "bonding material" when used herein also includes any type of material or thing which can be used to effect the bonding or connecting of the two adjacent portions of the sheet of polymeric material 10 to effect the connection or bonding described herein. The term "bonding material" may

also include ties, labels, bands, ribbons, strings, tapes (including single or double-sided adhesive tapes), staples or combinations thereof. Some of the bonding materials would secure the ends of the material while other bonding materials may bind the circumference of a cover, or a sleeve, or, alternatively and/or in addition, the bonding materials would secure overlapping folds in the material and/or sleeve. Another way to secure the cover and/or sleeve is to heat seal the ends of the material to another portion of the material. One way to do this is to contact the ends with an iron of sufficient heat to heat seal the material.

Alternatively, a cold seal adhesive may be utilized as the bonding material. The cold seal adhesive adheres only to a similar substrate, acting similarly as a cohesive, and binds only to itself. The cold seal adhesive, since it bonds only to a similar substrate, does not cause a residue to build up on equipment, thereby both permitting much more rapid disposition and use of such equipment to form articles and reducing labor costs. Further, since no heat is required to effect the seal, the dwell time, that is, the time for the sheet of material to form and retain the shape of an article, such as a flower pot cover or flower pot, is reduced. A cold seal adhesive binds quickly and easily with minimal pressure, and such a seal is not readily releasable. This characteristic is different from, for example, a pressure sensitive adhesive.

The term "bonding material" when used herein also includes any heat or chemically shrinkable material, and static electrical or other electrical materials, chemical welding materials, magnetic materials, mechanical or barb-type fastening materials or clamps, curl-type characteristics of

the film or materials incorporated in material which can cause the material to take on certain shapes, cling films, slots, grooves, shrinkable materials and bands, curl materials, springs, and any type of welding method which may weld portions of the material to itself or to the pot, or to both the material itself and the pot.

Description of Figs. 9-12

Referring now to Figs. 9 through 11, a decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 [is] illustrated in Figs. 10 and 11 is constructed from a sheet of flexible material 112 having a cloth-like appearance (Fig. 9A) or a laminated sheet of flexible material 112a (Fig. 9B). It should be understood that a sheet of material similar to the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance hereinbefore described can also be employed to form the decorative preformed pot cover 110. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 9A, the sheet of flexible material 112 used in the construction of the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 comprises a sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114 having an upper surface 116, a lower surface 118 and a thickness in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 10 mil, more desirably in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 1.25 mil, and a coating of an acrylic heat sealable lacquer 120 disposed on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces 116 and 118, respectively, of the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114. While the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 is shown as being formed of the sheet of flexible material 112 having a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, it should be understood that the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 can also be formed from a sheet of flexible material 112

comprising a sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114 having a coating of acrylic heat sealable lacquer 120 disposed on at least one surface thereof wherein the surface of the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114 is not modified to provide a cloth-like appearance.

As previously stated, the modification of the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114 to provide the sheet of flexible material 112 with the desired matte or textured finish can be accomplished by printing a desired pattern on the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114 and thereafter laminating a matte material, such as a translucent polymeric film, over the printed pattern. To further enhance the cloth-like appearance, the matte material may or may not have a plurality of spatially disposed holes extending therethrough. A matte or textured finish can also be produced by printing a sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114 with a matted (i.e. dull finish) ink, by lacquering at least one surface of the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114 with a dull finish lacquer or a matting lacquer, by embossing the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114 to provide an embossed pattern simulating the weave or texture of cloth, or by embossing and printing the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114 to provide embossed and printed patterns wherein the embossed and printed patterns may be in registry, out of registry or wherein a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are in registry and a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are out of registry. In addition, a matte or textured finish capable a providing the sheet of flexible polymeric film 114 with a cloth-like appearance can be achieved by extruding a polymeric resin onto a matted or textured chill roll to produce the sheet of expanded core

polymeric film 114 or by laminating a second sheet of material to the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114.

When the sheet of flexible material 112 is formed into the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110, a plurality of overlapping folds 122 are formed and at least a portion of the overlapping folds 122 are connected to adjacently disposed portions of the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 via the acrylic heat sealable lacquer 120.

As shown in Figs. 10 and 11, the decorative preformed pot cover 110 has an upper end 125, a lower end 126, and an outer peripheral surface 128. An opening 130 intersects the upper end 125, forming an inner peripheral surface 132 which defines and encompasses a retaining space 133 within which a flower pot 134 containing a floral grouping 136 may be disposed in a manner well known in the art.

In another embodiment, a laminated sheet of flexible material 112a (Fig. 9B) is used in the construction of the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110. The laminated sheet of flexible material 112a is a laminated material which comprises a sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114a having an upper surface 116a, and a lower surface 118a, and a substantially water impervious polymeric film 120a. At least one surface of the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114a or substantially water impervious polymeric film 120a is modified to provide the laminated sheet of flexible material 112a with the desired cloth-like appearance. It should be understood that the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 can also be formed from a laminated sheet of flexible material 112a comprising a sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114a and a substantially water impervious polymeric film 120a wherein neither the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114a

nor the substantially water impervious polymeric film 120a is modified to provide the laminated sheet of flexible material 112a with the desired cloth-like appearance.

The sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114a desirably has a thickness in a range of from about 0.6 mil to about 10 mil, and more desirably from about 0.6 mil to about 1.25 mil, and the substantially water impervious polymeric film 120a desirably has a thickness in a range of from about 0.6 mil to about 10 mil. The substantially water impervious polymeric film 120a is desirably laminated to the sheet of expanded core polymeric material 114a with a colored adhesive so as to impart a desired color to the laminated sheet of flexible material 112a. While the thickness of the laminated sheet of flexible material 112a can vary widely, and will generally depend on the thickness of the sheet of expanded core polymeric film 114a and the thickness of the substantially water impervious polymeric film 120a, desirable results can be obtained where the laminated sheet of flexible material 112a has a thickness in the range of from about 1.5 mil to about 2.5 mil.

As previously stated, the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 may be constructed of the sheet of flexible material 112 (Fig. 9A), or from the laminated sheet of flexible material 112a (Fig. 9B), or from the sheet of polymeric material 10 (Fig. 1); and the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 so formed will have a plurality of overlapping folds 122 formed therein, at least a portion thereof being connected. If desired, the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 can be formed of a plurality of sheets of the same and/or different types of material.

The method and apparatus employed to form the preformed flower pot cover is substantially identical whether one uses one or more sheets of the flexible material 112 (Fig. 9A), or one or more laminated sheets of the flexible material 112a (Fig. 9B), or one or more sheets of polymeric material 10 (Fig. 1) or a combination of such sheets of material. Thus, only the formation of the preformed flower pot cover 110 using a sheet of the flexible material 112 of Fig. 9 will be described in detail hereinafter.

The decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 may be formed using a conventional mold system 140 comprising a male mold 142 and a female mold 144 having a mold cavity 146 for matingly receiving the male mold 142 (Fig. 12). The sheet of flexible material 112 is positioned between the male and female molds 142 and 144, respectively. Movement of the male mold 142 in the direction 148 and into the mold cavity 146 forces the sheet of flexible material 112 to be disposed about the portion of the male mold 142 disposed in the mold cavity 146 of the female mold 146 and thereby forms the sheet of material 112 into the preformed decorative flower pot cover 110 (Figs. 10 and 11). Further, in accordance with the present invention, the decorative preformed flower pot cover 110 constructed from the materials described herein above, may have a bonding material disposed upon a portion thereof.

Methods for forming such preformed decorative pot covers are well known in the art. Two methods of forming such covers are described in U.S. Patent 4,773,182, entitled "Article Forming System" issued September 27, 1998, and U.S. Patent 5,291,721, entitled "Cover Forming Apparatus Having Pivoting Forming Members", issued March 8, 1994.

Description of Figs. 13-19

Shown in Fig. 13 is a decorative cover designated therein by the general reference numeral 160 which comprises a flexible bag or sleeve 162 of unitary construction having a cloth-like appearance in accordance with the present invention. The sleeve 162 may be used as a decorative cover 160 for a floral grouping or a flower pot. The sleeve 162 initially comprises a flexible flat collapsed piece of material which is openable in the form of a tube or sleeve. Such sleeves are well known in the floral industry. Further, in accordance with the present invention, at least a portion of one surface, preferably an outer peripheral surface 164 of the sleeve 162, has been modified to provide with sleeve 162 with a cloth-like appearance, as previously described herein. The sleeve 162 has an upper end 166, a lower end 168 and the outer peripheral surface 164. The sleeve 162 may be tapered outwardly from the lower end 168 toward a larger diameter at its upper end 166. In its flattened state the sleeve 162 generally has an overall trapezoidal or modified trapezoidal shape, and when opened is substantially frusto-conical to coniform. It will be appreciated, however, that the sleeve 162 may comprise variations on the aforementioned shapes or may comprise significantly altered shapes such as square or rectangular, wherein the sleeve 162 when opened has a cylindrical form, as long as the sleeve 162 functions in accordance with the present invention in the manner described herein. The sleeve 162 (or any other sleeve disclosed herein) may have an angular or contoured shape.

The sleeve 162 has an opening 170 at the upper end 166 and may be open at the lower end 168, or closed with a bottom at the lower end 168. The sleeve 162 also has an inner

peripheral surface 172 which, when the sleeve 162 is opened, defines and encompasses an inner retaining space 174. When the lower end 168 of the sleeve 162 has a closed lower end 168, a portion of the lower end 168 may be inwardly folded to form one or more gussets (not shown) for allowing the lower portion of the inner retaining space 174 to be expandable, for example, for receiving the circular bottom of a pot or growing medium.

The sleeve 162 is generally frusto-conically shaped, but the sleeve 162 may be, by way of example but not by way of limitation, cylindrical, frusto-conical, a combination of both frusto-conical and cylindrical, or any other shape, as long as the sleeve 162 functions as described herein as noted above. Further, the sleeve 162 may comprise any shape, whether geometric, non-geometric, asymmetrical and/or fanciful as long as it functions in accordance with the present invention. The sleeve 162 may also be equipped with drain holes (if having a closed bottom) or side ventilation holes (not shown), or can be made from gas permeable or impermeable materials.

The material from which the sleeve 162 is constructed is the same as previously described above for the sheet of polymeric material 10 having a cloth-like appearance, or the sheet of flexible material 112 or 112a. Any thickness of material may be utilized in accordance with the present invention as long as the sleeve 162 may be formed as described herein, is provided with a cloth-like appearance, and as long as the formed sleeve 162 may contain at least a portion of a flower pot or a floral grouping, as described herein. Additionally, an insulating material such as bubble film, preferable as one of two or more layers, can be utilized in

order to provide additional protection for the item, such as a floral grouping, contained therein.

In Fig. 14 the sleeve 162 is illustrated having a cloth like appearance provided on the outer peripheral surface 164 of the sleeve 162. A floral grouping 176 is disposed within the inner retaining space 174 of the sleeve 162. Generally, an upper or bloom portion 178 of the floral grouping 176 is exposed near the opening 170 of the sleeve 162 and a lower or stem portion 180 of the floral grouping 176 is exposed near the lower end 168 of the sleeve 162. Either end of the sleeve 162 may be closed about the floral grouping 176. Generally, a portion of the sleeve 162 is tightened about a portion of the stem portion 180 of the floral grouping 176 for holding the decorative cover 160 about the floral grouping 176. For example, the sleeve 162 may be held by a tie 182 tied about the sleeve 162 such as is shown in Fig. 14. Other methods for binding the sleeve 162 may be employed such as the bonding methods and materials described elsewhere herein. For example, as shown in Fig. 15, a decorative cover 160a is shown which comprises a sleeve 162a having a cloth-like appearance and a cinching tab 184 having a bonding material 186 disposed upon a surface thereof. The cinching tab 184 can be used to gather portions of the sleeve 162a together about the stem portion 180 of the floral grouping 176 as shown in Fig. 16 for holding the sleeve 162a tightly about the floral grouping 176.

Similarly, it may generally be desired to use the sleeve 162 as a decorative cover for a flower pot (not shown). The flower pot will generally contain a botanical item or plant. The flower pot can be deposited into the open sleeve 162 in a manner well known in the art, such as manually wherein the

sleeve 162 is opened by hand and the flower pot deposited therein.

As noted above, a bonding material may be disposed on a portion of the sleeve 162 or any sleeve described herein to assist in holding the sleeve 162 to the flower pot when the flower pot is disposed within the sleeve 162 or to assist in closing the upper end 166 of the sleeve 162 or adhering the sleeve 162 to the flower pot after the flower pot has been disposed therein, as will be discussed in further detail below.

It will be understood that the bonding material, if present, may be disposed as a strip or block on a surface of the sleeve 162. The bonding material may also be disposed upon either the outer peripheral surface 164 or the inner peripheral surface 172 of the sleeve 162, as well as upon the flower pot. Further, the bonding material may be disposed as spots of bonding material, or in any other geometric, non-geometric, asymmetric, or fanciful form, and in any pattern, including covering either the entire inner peripheral surface 172 and/or outer peripheral surface 164 of the sleeve 162 and/or the flower pot. The bonding material may be covered by a cover or release strip which can be removed prior to the use of the sleeve 162 or flower pot. The bonding material can be applied by methods known to those of ordinary skill in their art. One method for disposing a bonding material, in this case an adhesive, is described in U.S. Patent 5,111,637, entitled "Method For Wrapping A Floral Grouping", issued May 12, 1993.

As noted above, a bonding material may be disposed on at least a portion of the inner peripheral surface 172 of the sleeve 162 (or any other sleeve described herein), or,

alternatively, the bonding material may be disposed on the outer peripheral surface of a flower pot contained within the sleeve 162, while the sleeve 162 may be free of the bonding material. In a further alternative, the bonding material may be disposed both on at least a portion of the flower pot as well as upon at least a portion of the inner peripheral surface 172 of the sleeve 162. In addition, a portion of the bonding material may also be disposed on the outer peripheral surface 164 of the sleeve 162 as well. It will be understood that the bonding material may be disposed in a solid section of bonding material. The bonding material, when present, is disposed on the sleeve 162 and/or flower pot by any method known in the art.

Certain versions of sleeves described herein may be used in combination with a preformed pot cover. For example, a preformed pot cover may be applied to the pot, then the covered pot wrapped or disposed within a sleeve. Either the cover or the sleeve, or both, may have a cloth-like appearance. Examples of sleeves which may be used in this invention are shown in the specification of U.S. Patent 5,625,979, entitled "Sleeve Having A Detachable Portion Forming A Skirt And Method", issued May 6, 1997. Equipment and devices for forming sleeves are commercially available, and well known in the art.

Shown in Figs. 17 and 18 is another embodiment of a decorative cover 160b comprising a sleeve having a cloth-like appearance constructed in accordance with the present invention and designated by the general reference numeral 162b. The sleeve 162b has a "detaching" element in predetermined areas for detaching a portion of the sleeve 162b. The sleeve 162b generally initially comprises a

flexible flat collapsed piece of material which is openable in the form of a tube or sleeve. The sleeve 162b is constructed of the same material and in the same way as described previously herein and may be described exactly the same as the other sleeves described herein except for the additional elements described hereinafter.

The sleeve 162b has an upper end 166b, a lower end 168b, and an outer peripheral surface 164b. The sleeve 162b has an opening 170b at the upper end 166b thereof, and the sleeve 162b may be open at the lower end 168b or closed with a bottom at the lower end 168b. In a flattened state, the sleeve 162b has a first side 171 and a second side 173. The sleeve 162b also has an inner peripheral surface 172b which, when the sleeve 162b is opened, defines and encompasses an inner retaining space 174b as shown in Fig. 18. When the lower end 168b of the sleeve 162b has a closed bottom, a portion of the lower end 168b may be inwardly folded to form one or more gussets (not shown) for permitting a circular bottom of an object such as a potted plant 176b to be disposed in the inner retaining space 174b of the lower end 168b of the sleeve 162b.

As shown in Figs. 17 and 18, the sleeve 162b is demarcated into an upper portion 188 and a lower portion 190. The lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b is generally sized to contain the flower pot 176b. The upper portion 188 of the sleeve 162b is sized to substantially surround and encompass a plant 192 contained in the flower pot 176b disposed within the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b. The sleeve 162b is demarcated into the upper portion 188 and the lower portion 190 by a detaching element 194 for enabling the detachment of the upper portion 188 of the sleeve 162b from the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b. In the present version, the

detaching element 194 is a plurality of generally laterally-oriented or alternatingly diagonally-oriented perforations which extend circumferentially across the outer peripheral surface 164b of the sleeve 162b from the first side 171 to the second side 173.

In a preferred embodiment, as shown in Figs. 17 and 18, the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b further comprises a base portion 196 and a skirt portion 198. The base portion 196 comprises that part of the lower portion 190 which, when the flower pot 176b is placed into the lower portion 190, has an inner peripheral surface 172b which is substantially adjacent to and surrounds an outer peripheral surface 199 of the flower pot 176b. The skirt portion 198 comprises that part of the lower portion 190 which extends beyond an open upper end 201 of the flower pot 176b and adjacent at least a portion of the plant 192 contained within the flower pot 176b and which is left to freely extend at an angle, inwardly or outwardly, from the base portion 196 when the upper portion 188 of the sleeve 162b is detached from the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b by actuation of the detaching element 194.

In the intact sleeve 162b, the skirt portion 198 comprises an upper peripheral edge congruent with the detaching element 194 which is connected to a lower peripheral edge, also congruent with the detaching element 194, of the upper portion 188 of the sleeve 162b. In Figs. 17 and 18, the upper peripheral edge of the skirt portion 198 is congruent with a series of alternatingly diagonally-oriented lines of perforations which together form a zig-zag and comprise the detaching element 194. The upper portion 188 of the sleeve 162b may also have an additional detaching element 200 indicated as a plurality of vertical perforations for

facilitating removal of the upper portion 188 and which are disposed more or less vertically therein extending between the detaching element 194 of the sleeve 162b.

The upper portion 188 of the sleeve 162b is thereby separable from the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b by tearing the upper portion 188 along both the detaching element 200 and the detaching element 194, thereby separating the upper portion 188 from the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b. The lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b remains disposed as the base portion 196 about the flower pot 176b and as the skirt portion 198 about the plant 192 forming a decorative cover 202 as shown in Fig. 19 which substantially surrounds and encompasses the flower pot 176b and the plant 192 contained therein. An outer peripheral surface 164b of the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b, for example, the base and skirt portions 196 and 198, may be modified to provide the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b with a cloth-like appearance, while the upper portion 188 is left unmodified or is printed with a design. When the upper portion 188 is detached, the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b remains about the flower pot 176b and thereby forms a decorative cover 202 about the flower pot 176b which has the appearance of a cloth decorative cover.

"Detaching element" as used herein, includes any element, or combination of elements, or features, such as, but not by way of limitation, perforations, tear strips, zippers, and any other devices or elements of this nature known in the art, or any combination thereof. Therefore, while perforations are shown and described in detail herein, it will be understood that tear strips, zippers, or any other "detaching elements"

known in the art, or any combination thereof, could be substituted therefor and/or used therewith.

In a general method of use of sleeve 162b as a decorative cover for a flower pot, an operator provides a sleeve 162b, and the flower pot 176b having a plant 192 disposed in a growing medium contained within the flower pot 176b. The operator then disposes the flower pot 176b having the plant 192 contained therein into the sleeve 162b by opening the sleeve 162b at its upper end 166b and assuring both that the opening 170b therein is in an open condition, and that the inner peripheral surface 172b of the sleeve 162b is somewhat expanded outward as well, as shown in Fig. 18. The operator then manually or automatically disposes the flower pot 176b into the opening 170b in the sleeve 162b, the flower pot 176b being disposed generally through the upper portion 188 of the sleeve 162b into generally the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b, the flower pot 176b remaining in the lower portion 190 of the sleeve 162b, permitting the sleeve 162b to substantially surround and tightly encompass the flower pot 176b. It will be understood that alternatively, the sleeve 162b may be provided with an extension (not shown), and the sleeve 162b may be disposed on rods or wickets, and the flower pot 176b may be disposed in the sleeve 162b either before or after the sleeve 162b has been removed from the wickets.

Embodiments of Figs. 20A-20C

Referring now to Fig. 20A, designated generally by the reference numeral 210 is a polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance for forming decorative bows and for wrapping items. That is, at least one surface of a web of polymeric material (not shown) is modified to provide a matte

or textured finish 212 simulating the appearance of cloth. The modification of the web of polymeric material (not shown) to provide the polymeric ribbon material 210 with a matte or textured finish 212 can be accomplished in several ways. For example, the polymeric ribbon material 210 having the matte or textured finish 212 can be produced by printing a web of polymeric material with a matted (i.e. dull finish) ink, by lacquering at least one surface of the sheet of polymeric material with a dull finish lacquer or a matting lacquer, by embossing the sheet of polymeric material to provide an embossed pattern simulating the weave or texture of cloth, or by flocking the sheet of polymeric material, or by application of a foamable lacquer or foamable ink to the sheet of polymeric material, or by embossing and printing the sheet of polymeric material to provide embossed and printed patterns wherein the embossed and printed patterns may be in registry, out of registry or wherein a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are in registry and a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are out of registry. In addition, a matte or textured finish 212 capable of providing the sheet of polymeric material 210 with a cloth-like appearance can be achieved by extruding a polymeric resin onto a matted or textured chill roll. Thereafter, the web of material having a cloth-like appearance can be cut in a conventional manner to provide the polymeric ribbon material 210 having a cloth-like appearance.

Any polymeric material capable of being textured or otherwise modified to provide the polymeric material with a cloth-like appearance can be employed in the formulation of the polymeric ribbon material 210. For example, the polymeric material employed to produce the polymeric ribbon material 210

can be polypropylene film having a thickness in a range of from about 0.1 mil to about 30 mil, and more desirably in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 2.5 mil, or an expanded core polymeric film having a thickness in a range of from about 0.6 mil to about 10 mil.

Referring now to Fig. 20B, designated generally by the reference numeral 220 is another embodiment of a polymeric ribbon material for forming decorative bows and for wrapping items. The polymeric ribbon material 220 comprises an expanded core polymeric film 222 having a thickness in a range of from about 0.6 mil to about 10 mil and a polymeric film 224 having a thickness in a range of from about 0.6 mil to about 10 mil. The polymeric film 224 is desirably laminated to the expanded core polymeric film 222 with a colored adhesive so as to impart a desired color to the polymeric ribbon material 220. If desired the polymeric ribbon material 220 may be treated or otherwise processed to provide the polymeric ribbon material 220 with a matte or textured finish 226 simulating the weave or knit of cloth so that the polymeric ribbon material 220 has a cloth like appearance similar to the polymeric ribbon material 210 hereinbefore described with reference to Fig. 20A. That is, a matte or textured finish 226 simulating cloth can be printed on the expanded core polymeric film 222, and thereafter the polymeric film 224 (which in this case is desirably a matte material of translucent polymeric film) is laminated to the polymeric film 224 to provide the polymeric ribbon material 220 with a cloth-like appearance. To further enhance the cloth-like appearance of the polymeric ribbon material 220, the polymeric film 224 may or may not have a plurality of spatially disposed holes extending therethrough. The matte or textured finish 226 can

be produced by printing the polymeric film 224 laminated to the expanded core polymeric film 222 with a matted (i.e. dull finish) ink, by lacquering at least one surface of the polymeric film 224 with a dull finish lacquer or a matting lacquer, by flocking the polymeric film 224, by application of a foamable lacquer or foamable ink to the polymeric film 224, by embossing the polymeric film 224 to provide an embossed pattern simulating the weave or texture of cloth, or by embossing and printing the polymeric film 224 to provide embossed and printed patterns wherein the embossed and printed patterns may be in registry, out of registry, or wherein a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are in registry and a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are out of registry. In addition, a matte or textured finish 226 capable of providing the polymeric ribbon material 220 with a cloth-like appearance can be achieved by extruding the resin used to produce the expanded core polymeric film 222 and\or the resin used to produce the polymeric film 224 onto a matted or textured chill roll.

Referring now to Fig. 20C, designated generally by the reference numeral 230 is another embodiment of a polymeric ribbon material for forming decorative bows and for wrapping items. The polymeric ribbon material 230 comprises a polymeric film 232 having an upper surface 234, a lower surface 236 and a thickness in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 10 mil. An acrylic heat sealable lacquer 238 is applied to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces 234 and 236 of the polymeric film 232, such as the lower surface 236 of the polymeric film 232 and the upper surface 234 of the polymeric film 232 is desirably modified to provide the polymeric ribbon material 230 with a matte or textured finish

240 simulating the appearance of cloth. The modification of the polymeric film 232 to provide the polymeric ribbon material 230 with a cloth-like appearance can be accomplished in several ways. For example, the polymeric ribbon material 230 having the matte or textured finish 240 can be produced by printing a web of polymeric material with a matted (i.e. dull finish) ink, by lacquering at least one of the upper surface 234 or the lower surface 236 of the polymeric film 232 with a dull finish lacquer or a matting lacquer, by flocking the polymeric film 232, by application of a foamable lacquer or foamable ink to the polymeric film 232, by embossing the polymeric film 232 to provide an embossed pattern simulating the weave or texture of cloth, or by embossing and printing the polymeric film 232 to provide embossed and printed patterns wherein the embossed and printed patterns may be in registry, out of registry or wherein a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are in registry and a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are out of registry. In addition, a matte or textured finish 240 capable of providing the polymeric film 232 with a cloth-like appearance can be achieved by extruding a polymeric resin onto a matted or textured chill roll. Thereafter, the polymeric film 232 having a cloth-like appearance can be cut in a conventional manner to provide the polymeric ribbon material 280.

Any polymeric film capable of being textured or otherwise modified to provide the polymeric material with a cloth-like appearance can be employed in the formulation of the polymeric ribbon material 230. For example, the polymeric film 232 employed to produce the polymeric ribbon material 230 can be polypropylene film having a thickness in a range of from about 0.1 mil to about 30 mil, and more desirably in a range of from

about 0.5 mil to about 2.5 mil, or an expanded core polymeric film having a thickness in a range of from about 0.6 mil to about 10 mil.

Changes may be made in the construction and the operation of the various components, elements and assemblies described herein or in the steps or the sequence of steps of the methods described herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A flexible material, capable of being formed into a shape-sustaining flower pot cover, the material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils; and

an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film whereby, upon forming the flexible material into a flower pot cover, a plurality of overlapping folds are formed and at least portion of the overlapping folds are connected to adjacently-disposed portions of the flower pot cover via the acrylic heat-sealable lacquer.

2. The flexible material of claim 1, wherein at least the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is provided with a cloth-appearing textured or matte finish.

3. The flexible material of claim 2, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film further contains printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof.

4. The flexible material of claim 3, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are in registry with one another.

5. The flexible material of claim 3, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

6. A flexible material capable of being formed into a shape-sustaining flower pot cover, the material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils.

7. The flexible material of claim 6, wherein at least the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is provided with a cloth-appearing textured or matte finish.

8. The flexible material of claim 7, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film further contains printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof.

9. The flexible material of claim 8, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are in registry with one another.

10. The flexible material of claim 8, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

11. The flexible material of claim 6, wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is printed, embossed or printed and embossed to provide the expanded-core polymeric film with a cloth-like appearance.

12. The flexible material of any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

13. The flexible material of any one of claims 6 to 12, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils, and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils.

14. A flexible material capable of being formed into a shape-sustaining flower pot cover, the material comprising:

a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least the surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed or embossed and printed to provide the lower surface with a matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils.

15. The flexible material of claim 14, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

16. The flexible material of claim 14 or 15, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range

of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils, and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils.

17. The flexible material of claim 14 or 15, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 1.25 mils, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils, and the flexible waterproof material has a thickness in the range of from 1.5 mil to 2.5 mils.

18. A flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative cover about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the material comprising:

a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 to 30 mils, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide the lower surface with a cloth-like appearance; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the sheet of material.

19. The flexible material of claim 18, wherein the bonding material is a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

20. The flexible material of claim 18 or 19, wherein the sheet of material is further characterized as having a first side, a second side, a third side and a fourth side, and wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive is disposed on

a portion of the upper surface of the sheet of material substantially adjacent the fourth side of the sheet of material so as to extend substantially between the first and second sides of the sheet of material.

21. A flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative cover about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils.

22. The flexible material of claim 21, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

23. The flexible material of claim 21 or 22, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils, and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 1.25 mils.

24. The flexible material of claim 21, 22 or 23, wherein at least one of the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern, a printed pattern or an embossed and printed pattern.

25. The flexible material of claim 21, 22 or 23, wherein at least one of the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern and a printed pattern.

26. The flexible material of claim 25, wherein the embossed and printed patterns are in registry with one another.

27. The flexible material of claim 25, wherein the embossed and printed patterns are out of registry with one another.

28. A polymeric ribbon material for forming decorative bows and for wrapping items, the ribbon material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of 0.6 mil to 10 mils, wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is modified to provide the polymeric ribbon material with a cloth-like appearance.

29. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 28, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film further contains printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof.

30. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 29, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are in registry with one another.

31. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 29, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

32. A polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance, the ribbon material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a sheet of material laminated to at least one of the upper and the lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film, at least one of the expanded-core polymeric film and the sheet of material having a cloth-like appearance such that the polymeric ribbon is provided with a cloth-like appearance.

33. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 32, wherein the sheet of material laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film is a polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils.

34. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 33, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

35. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 34, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils, and the polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils.

36. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 32, wherein the sheet of material laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film is a polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils, and the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils.

37. The polymeric ribbon material of any one of claims 32 to 36, wherein at least on of the expanded-core polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto further contains printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof.

38. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 37, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof are in registry with one another.

39. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 37, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof are out of registry with one another.

40. A polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance for forming decorative bows and for wrapping items, the ribbon material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of 0.6 to 10 mils, and wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is printed to provide the polymeric ribbon material with a cloth-like appearance.

41. A polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance for forming decorative bows and for wrapping items, the ribbon material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface, and wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern to provide the polymeric ribbon material with a cloth-like appearance.

42. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 41, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils.

43. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 41 or 42, wherein the embossed ribbon material further is provided with a printed pattern.

44. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 43, wherein the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are in register with one another.

45. The polymeric ribbon material of claim 43, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are out of register with one another.

46. A polymeric ribbon material having a cloth-like appearance, the ribbon material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a sheet of material having a cloth-like texture laminated to at least one of the upper and the lower surface of the

polymeric film, the sheet of material having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils.

47. A flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative sleeve for positioning about at least a portion of a flower pot or a floral grouping, the flexible material comprising:

a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed or embossed and printed to provide the lower surface with a cloth-like appearance.

48. A flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative sleeve for positioning about at least a portion of a flower pot or a floral grouping, the flexible material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils.

49. The flexible material of claim 48, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

50. The flexible material of claim 48 or 49, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils, and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 1.25 mils.

51. A flexible material capable of being formed into a decorative sleeve for positioning about at least a portion of a flower pot or a floral grouping, the flexible material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of 0.6 mil to 10 mils, and wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is modified to provide the flexible material with a cloth-like appearance.

52. The flexible material of claim 51, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film further contains printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof.

53. The flexible material of claim 52, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are in registry with one another.

54. The flexible material of claim 52, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

55. The flexible material of claim 52, wherein at least a

portion of the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

56. A flexible material formable into a shape-sustaining flower pot cover, a decorative cover for a flower pot or a floral grouping, or a sleeve disposable about at least a portion of a floral grouping, the flexible material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a cloth-appearing textured or matte finish on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

57. The flexible material of claim 56, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film is provided with a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils, and wherein the expanded-core polymeric film is further provided with printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

58. The flexible material of claim 57, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are in registry with one another.

59. The flexible material of claim 57, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

60. The flexible material of claim 57, wherein a portion of the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are in registry with one another, and wherein a portion of the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

61. The flexible material of any one of claims 57 to 60, wherein the cloth-appearing textured or matte finish of the expanded-core polymeric film is produced by printing, embossing, or printing and embossing the expanded-core polymeric film.

62. A flexible material, comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils, and wherein at least the lower surface is provided with a cloth-appearing textured or matte finish; and

an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film.

63. The flexible material of claim 62, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film further contains printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof.

64. The flexible material of claim 63, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are in registry with one another.

65. The flexible material of claim 63, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

66. A flexible material, comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils.

67. The flexible material of claim 66, wherein at least the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is provided with a cloth-appearing textured or matte finish.

68. The flexible material of claim 67, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film further contains printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof.

69. The flexible material of claim 68, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are in registry with one another.

70. The flexible material of claim 68, wherein the printed and embossed materials, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

71. The flexible material of claim 66, wherein at least a lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is

printed, embossed or printed and embossed to provide the expanded-core polymeric film with a cloth-like appearance.

72. The flexible material of any one of claims 66 to 71, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

73. The flexible material of any one of claims 66 to 72, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils, and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 1.25 mils.

74. A flexible material, comprising:

a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least the surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed or embossed and printed to provide the lower surface with a matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 10 mils.

75. The flexible material of claim 74, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

76. The flexible material of claim 74 or 75, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 1.25 mils, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils, and the flexible waterproof material has a thickness in the range of from 1.5 mil to 2.5 mils.

77. A flexible material, comprising:

a sheet of material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide the lower surface with a cloth-like appearance; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the sheet of material.

78. The flexible material of claim 77, wherein the bonding material is a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

79. The flexible material of claim 78, wherein sheet of material is further characterized as having a first side, a second side, a third side and a fourth side, and wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive is disposed on a portion of the upper surface of the sheet of material substantially adjacent the fourth side of the sheet of material so as to extend substantially between the first and second sides of the sheet of material.

80. A flexible material having an upper surface and a lower surface, the flexible material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils, and wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide the expanded-core polymeric film with a cloth-like appearance;

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the upper surface of the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mils; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper surface and lower surfaces of the flexible material.

81. The flexible material of claim 80, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water imperv4ous polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

82. The flexible material of claim 81, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mils, and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 to 1.25 mils.

83. A method for wrapping a floral grouping with a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the sleeve being formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the expanded-core polymeric film having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide such surface with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface defining an inner retaining space, an outer peripheral surface, and a bonding material disposed upon a portion of at least one of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve, for holding overlapping portions of the sleeve in a crimped position adjacent a portion of the stem portion of the floral grouping;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and

binding the sleeve about the floral grouping by crimping portions of the sleeve together causing at least one portion of the sleeve to overlap another portion of the sleeve, the bonding material engaging the overlapping portions of the sleeve together in a position surrounding an adjacent portion of the floral grouping forming a crimped portion of the sleeve, at least a portion of the stem portion being disposed within the crimped portion thereby binding the sleeve in a position about the floral grouping.

84. The method of claim 83, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, bonding material is disposed on a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve, and wherein the expanded-core polymeric film is provided with

at least one of an embossed pattern, a printed pattern, and combinations thereof which provide the expanded-core polymeric film and the sleeve formed therefrom with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

85. The method of claim 83, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the bonding material is disposed on a portion of the inner peripheral surface of the sleeve.

86. The method of claim 83, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the bonding material is disposed on portions of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve.

87. The method of any one of claims 83 to 86, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is further characterized as having a detaching element for detaching a portion of the sleeve after the sleeve has been bound about the floral grouping.

88. The method of any one of claims 83 to 86, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is further characterized as having a detaching element for detaching a portion of the sleeve, and wherein the method further comprises detaching a portion of the sleeve via the detaching element after the sleeve has been bound about the floral grouping.

89. The method of claim 88, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the portion of the sleeve detached and at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of

the portion of the sleeve bound about the floral grouping are provided with the appearance or texture simulating the appearance or texture of cloth.

90. The method of any one of claims 83 to 88, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with a printed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface thereof, which provides the sleeve with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

91. The method of claim 90, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is further provided with an embossed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface thereof which cooperates with the printed pattern to provide the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

92. The method of claim 91, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are in registry.

93. The method of claim 91, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are out of registry.

94. The method of any one of claims 83 to 88, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is further provided with an embossed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface thereof, which provides the

texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth to the sleeve.

95. A method for wrapping a floral grouping with a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the sleeve formed of a flexible polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the flexible polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide such surface with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface defining an inner retaining space, an outer peripheral surface, and a bonding material disposed upon a portion of at least one of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve for holding overlapping portions of the sleeve in a crimped position adjacent a portion of the stem portion of the floral grouping;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and

binding the sleeve about the floral grouping by crimping portions of the sleeve together causing at least one portion of the sleeve to overlap another portion of the sleeve, the bonding material engaging the overlapping portions of the sleeve together in a position surrounding an adjacent portion of the floral grouping forming a

crimped portion of the sleeve, at least a portion of the stem portion of the floral grouping being disposed within the crimped portion thereby binding the sleeve in a position about the floral grouping.

96. The method of claim 95, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is further characterized as having a detaching element for detaching a portion of the sleeve and wherein the method further comprises detaching a portion of the sleeve via the detaching element after the sleeve has been bound about the floral grouping.

97. The method of claim 96, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the portion of the sleeve detached and at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the portion of the sleeve bound about the floral grouping are each modified to provide the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth thereto.

98. The method of claim 95, 96 or 97, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the bonding material is disposed on a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve, and wherein the flexible polymeric material is further provided with an embossed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof which provides the sleeve with the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

99. The method of claim 95, 96 or 97, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the bonding material is disposed on a portion of the inner peripheral surface of the sleeve.

100. The method of claim 95, 96 or 97, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the bonding material is disposed on portions of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve.

101. The method of claim 95 or 96, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with a printed pattern on at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface thereof which provides the sleeve with the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

102. The method of claim 101, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is further provided with an embossed pattern on at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface thereof which cooperates with the printed pattern to provide the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

103. The method of claim 102, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are in registry.

104. The method of claim 102, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are out of registry with one another.

105. The method of claim 95 or 96, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with an embossed pattern on at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface thereof

which provides the sleeve with the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

106. A substantially flexible, shape-sustaining cover for receiving a flower pot, at least a portion of one surface of the cover having a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the cover having a closed lower end, an open upper end with an opening extending therethrough and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the cover, the cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the cover, and the cover being constructed from a sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining laminated material comprising:

a sheet of expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the sheet having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of that lower surface being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or lacquered to provide at least a portion of the lower surface with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a sheet of paper or metallized foil laminated to the upper surface of the sheet of expanded-core polymeric film.

107. A substantially flexible, shape-sustaining cover for receiving a flower pot, at least a portion of one surface of the cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the cover having a closed lower end, an open upper end with an opening extending therethrough and a decorative border extending

outwardly from the open upper end thereof, the cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the cover, the cover being formed of at least one sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining laminated material comprising:

at least one sheet of polymeric film having a thickness in a range of from 0.5 mil to 10 mil, and selected from the group consisting of an expanded-core polymeric film and a polypropylene film; and

at least one sheet of paper or metallized foil laminated to the sheet of polymeric film and having a thickness in a range of from 0.5 mil to 10 mil;

and wherein at least a portion of one surface of the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining laminated material is embossed, printed, embossed and printed or lacquered so as to provide a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth so that at least a portion of one surface of the cover is provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

108. The substantially flexible, shape-sustaining cover of claim 107, wherein the sheet of expanded-core polymeric film is an expanded-core polypropylene film.

109. A substantially flexible, shape-sustaining cover for receiving a flower pot, at least a portion of one surface of the cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the cover having a closed lower end, an open upper end with an opening extending therethrough and a decorative border extending

outwardly from the open upper end thereof, the cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the cover, the cover being formed of at least one sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining laminated material comprising:

at least one sheet of expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces, at least a portion of the lower surface of the at least one sheet of expanded-core polymeric film being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or lacquered so as to provide the film with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

at least one sheet of paper or metallized foil laminated to the sheet of polymeric film; and

whereby, upon forming the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining laminated material into the cover, at least a portion of one surface of the cover is provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, and at least a portion of the overlapping folds formed in the cover are connected via the acrylic heat-sealable lacquer.

110. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping and having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising:

a flexible sheet of polymeric material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the

range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the sheet having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of the lower surface of the sheet being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide the lower surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the flexible sheet of polymeric material;

wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the bonding material secures the flexible sheet of polymeric material about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

111. The decorative cover of claim 110, wherein the bonding material is a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

112. The decorative cover of claim 111, wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is further characterized as having a first side, a second side, a third side and a fourth side, and wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive is disposed on a portion of the upper surface of the flexible sheet substantially adjacent the fourth side of the flexible sheet so as to extend substantially between the first and second sides of the flexible sheet of polymeric material.

113. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping and having a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a

portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil;

wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern, a printed pattern, an embossed pattern and a printed pattern or a textured pattern such that the pattern provides a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth to at least a portion of one surface of the flexible laminated material from which the decorative cover is formed; and

wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

114. The decorative cover of claim 113, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

115. The decorative cover of claim 113 or 114, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil, and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core

polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil.

116. The decorative cover of claim 113, 114 or 115, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern disposed thereon, and at least a portion of one surface of one of the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film is provided with a printed pattern disposed thereon.

117. The decorative cover of claim 116, wherein the embossed and printed patterns are in registry with one another.

118. The decorative cover of claim 116, wherein the embossed and printed patterns are out of registry with one another.

119. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising:

a flexible sheet of polymeric material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film, the sheet having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible sheet of polymeric material;

and wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the acrylic heat-sealable lacquer secures the flexible sheet about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

120. The decorative cover of claim 119, wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material further contains printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

121. The decorative cover of claim 120, wherein the printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof provided on the flexible sheet of polymeric material are in registry with one another.

122. The decorative cover of claim 120, wherein the printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof provided on the flexible sheet of polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

123. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the film having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the film being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil;

and wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

124. The decorative cover of claim 123, wherein at least a portion of the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is provided with the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

125. The decorative cover of claim 124, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film further contains printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

126. The decorative cover of claim 125, wherein the printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof provided on the expanded-core polymeric film are in registry with one another.

127. The decorative cover of claim 125, wherein the printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof

provided on the expanded-core polymeric film are out of registry with one another.

128. The decorative cover of claim 123, wherein at least a portion of the lower surface of the expanded-core polymeric film is printed, embossed or printed and embossed to provide the expanded-core polymeric film with the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of the lower surface thereof.

129. The decorative cover of any one of claims 123 to 128, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

130. The decorative cover of any one of claims 123 to 129, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil, and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil.

131. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material, comprising:

a sheet of polymeric material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the sheet having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of the lower surface of the sheet being embossed, printed or

embossed and printed to provide the lower surface of the sheet with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the sheet of polymeric material, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil;

and wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

132. The decorative cover of claim 131, wherein the sheet of polymeric material and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

133. The decorative cover of claim 131 or 132, wherein the sheet of polymeric material has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the sheet of polymeric material has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil, and the flexible laminated material has a thickness in the range of from 1.5 mil to 2.5 mil.

134. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising:

a flexible sheet of polymeric material formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the flexible sheet

having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the flexible sheet being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide at least one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the flexible sheet with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the flexible sheet of polymeric material;

and wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the bonding material secures the flexible sheet of polymeric material about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

135. The decorative cover of claim 134, wherein the bonding material is a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

136. The decorative cover of claim 135, wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is further characterized as having a first side, a second side, a third side and a fourth side, and wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive is disposed on a portion of the upper surface of the flexible sheet of polymeric material substantially adjacent the fourth side of the flexible sheet of polymeric material so as to extend substantially between the first and second sides of the flexible sheet of polymeric material.

137. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material having an upper surface and a lower surface, the flexible laminated material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the film being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide the film with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the upper surface of the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the flexible laminated material;

and wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the bonding material secures the flexible laminated material about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

138. The decorative cover of claim 137, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-

impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

139. The decorative cover of claim 137 or 138, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil, and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil.

140. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising:

a flexible sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the material being embossed, printed, embossed and printed or textured to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of the upper surface of the flexible sheet of polymeric material;

and wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the bonding material secures the flexible sheet of polymeric material about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

141. The decorative cover of claim 140, wherein the bonding material is a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

142. The decorative cover of claim 141, wherein the flexible sheet of polymeric material is further characterized as having a first side, a second side, a third side and a fourth side, and wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive is disposed on a portion of the upper surface of the flexible sheet of polymeric material substantially adjacent the fourth side so as to extend substantially between the first and second sides of the flexible sheet of polymeric material.

143. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping and having a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the polymeric film;

wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern, a printed pattern, an embossed pattern and a printed pattern or a textured pattern such that the pattern provides a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth to at least a portion of one surface of the flexible laminated material from which the decorative cover is formed; and

wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping, thereby

forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

144. The decorative cover of claim 143, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern, and wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film is provided with a printed pattern.

145. The decorative cover of claim 144, wherein the embossed and printed patterns are in registry with one another.

146. The decorative cover of claim 144, wherein the embossed and printed patterns are out of registry with one another.

147. The decorative cover of claim 144, 145 or 146, wherein the polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

148. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising:

a flexible polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface thereof being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible polymeric film;

and wherein the flexible polymeric film is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping such that the acrylic heat-sealable lacquer secures the flexible polymeric film about the flower pot or floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

149. The decorative cover of claim 148, wherein the flexible polymeric film further contains printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

150. The decorative cover of claim 149, wherein the printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof provided on the flexible polymeric film are in registry with one another.

151. The decorative cover of claim 149, wherein the printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof provided on the flexible polymeric film are out of registry with one another.

152. A decorative cover positionable about a flower pot or a floral grouping, the decorative cover being provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative cover comprising a flexible laminated material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the polymeric film being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the polymeric film;

and wherein the flexible laminated material is formed about a flower pot or wrapped about a floral grouping, thereby forming the decorative cover having the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

153. The decorative cover of claim 152, wherein at least a portion of the lower surface of the polymeric film is provided with the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

154. The decorative cover of claim 153, wherein the polymeric film further contains printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

155. The decorative cover of claim 154, wherein the printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof provided on the polymeric film are in registry with one another.

156. The decorative cover of claim 154, wherein the printed and embossed patterns, designs and combinations thereof provided on the polymeric film are out of registry with one another.

157. The decorative cover of claim 152, wherein at least a portion of the lower surface of the polymeric film is printed, embossed or printed and embossed to provide the polymeric film with the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of the lower surface thereof.

158. The decorative cover of any one of claims 152 to 157, wherein the polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

159. A method for wrapping a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve formed of a flexible, laminated polymeric material having a texture and/or appearance simulating the texture and/or appearance of cloth, the flexible, laminated polymeric material being formed by laminating at least one sheet of a polymeric material to at least one sheet of material selected from the group consisting of paper and metallized foil, the flexible, laminated polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof textured or modified to simulate the weave or texture of cloth so that at least a portion of the sleeve formed of the flexible, laminated polymeric material is provided with a texture and/or appearance simulating the texture and/or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an open upper end, an open lower end, an outer peripheral surface, and an inner peripheral surface which, when the sleeve is open, defines and encompasses an inner retaining space, the sleeve having bonding material disposed upon a portion of at least one of the inner peripheral surface and

the outer peripheral surface for holding the sleeve tightly about the stem portion of the floral grouping when the floral grouping is disposed in the inner retaining space of the sleeve;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and

binding the sleeve about the floral grouping by gathering portions of the sleeve together, causing at least one portion of the sleeve to overlap another portion of the sleeve whereby the bonding material engages the overlapping portions of the sleeve together in a position surrounding and adjacent at least a portion of the stem portion of the floral grouping so that the sleeve is bound in a position about the floral grouping.

160. The method of claim 159, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the flexible, laminated polymeric material from which the sleeve is formed has a thickness in the range of from 1 mil to 20 mil.

161. The method of claim 160, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the sheet of polymeric material has a thickness in the range of from 0.5 mil to 10 mil, and the sheet of material selected from the group consisting of paper and metallized foil has a thickness in the range of from 0.5 mil to 10 mil.

162. The method of claim 161, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the sheet of polymeric material and the sheet of material selected from the group consisting of paper and metallized foil are laminated with a colored adhesive.

163. The method of claim 162, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the sheet of polymeric material has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil, the sheet of material selected from the group consisting of paper and metallized foil has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil and the flexible, laminated polymeric material has a thickness in the range of from 1.2 mil to 2.5 mil.

164. The method of any one of claims 159 to 163, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the bonding material is an adhesive or a cohesive, and the bonding material is disposed upon a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve.

165. The method of any one of claims 159 to 163, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the bonding material is an adhesive or a cohesive, and the bonding material is disposed upon a portion of the inner peripheral surface of the sleeve.

166. The method of any one of claims 159 to 163, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the bonding material is an adhesive or a cohesive, and the bonding material is disposed upon portions of both the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve.

167. The method of any one of claims 159 to 166, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the flexible, laminated polymeric material is provided with a printed pattern which simulates the weave or texture of cloth, thereby providing the flexible, laminated polymeric material with a texture

and/or appearance simulating the texture and/or appearance of cloth on a surface thereof.

168. The method of claim 167, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the flexible, laminated polymeric material is further provided with an embossed pattern which cooperates with the printed pattern to provide the flexible, laminated polymeric material with a texture and/or appearance simulating the texture and/or appearance of cloth on a surface thereof.

169. The method of claim 168, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are in registry.

170. The method of claim 169, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are out of registry with one another.

171. The method of any one of claims 159 to 166, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the flexible, laminated polymeric material is provided with an embossed pattern which simulates the weave or texture of cloth, thereby providing the flexible, laminated polymeric material with a texture and/or appearance simulating the texture and/or appearance of cloth on a surface thereof.

172. The method of any one of claims 159 to 166, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the texture and/or appearance simulating the texture and/or appearance of cloth is provided on at least one surface of the sleeve by

at least one of flocking, application of a foamable lacquer and application of a foamable ink.

173. A method for providing a decorative cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the decorative cover extending about at least a portion of a flower pot, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having at least one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve formed therefrom with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an upper end, a closed lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and an inner retaining space;

providing the flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface; and

disposing the flower pot in the inner retaining space of the sleeve whereby the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot and provides the decorative cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth for the flower pot.

174. The method of claim 173, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

175. The method of claim 173 or 174, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided by at least one of printing a pattern on at least one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film, embossing a

pattern on at least one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film, and combinations thereof.

176. The method of claim 175, wherein the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided by a printed pattern and an embossed pattern disposed on at least one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film.

177. The method of claim 176, wherein the printed and embossed patterns are in registry with one another.

178. The method of claim 176, wherein the printed and embossed patterns are out of registry with one another.

179. The method of claim 176, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern is in registry with the embossed pattern, and at least a portion of the printed pattern is out of registry with the embossed pattern.

180. The method of claim 173 or 174, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided by at least one of flocking, applying a foamable lacquer, applying a foamable ink, and combinations thereof to at least one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film.

181. A method for providing a decorative cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the decorative cover extending about at least a portion of a flower pot, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve formed of a flexible polymeric material having at least one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve formed therefrom with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an upper end, a closed lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and an inner retaining space;

providing a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface; and

disposing the flower pot in the inner retaining space of the sleeve whereby the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot and provides the decorative cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth for the flower pot.

182. The method of claim 181, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the flexible polymeric material has a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

183. The method of claim 181 or 182, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided by at least one of printing a pattern on at least one surface of the flexible polymeric material, embossing a pattern on at least one surface of the flexible polymeric material, and combinations thereof.

184. The method of claim 183, wherein the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided by a printed pattern and an embossed pattern disposed on at least one surface of the flexible polymeric material.

185. The method of claim 184, wherein the printed and embossed patterns are in registry with one another.

186. The method of claim 184, wherein the printed and embossed patterns are out of registry with one another.

187. The method of claim 184, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern is in registry with the embossed pattern, and at least a portion of the printed pattern is out of registry with the embossed pattern.

188. The method of claim 181 or 182, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided by at least one of flocking, applying a foamable lacquer, applying a foamable ink, and combinations thereof to at least one surface of the flexible polymeric material.

189. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a sheet of polymeric material comprising:

a sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material is embossed, printed, or embossed and printed to provide such surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

190. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and the

decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

191. The decorative preformed flower pot cover of claim 190, wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is printed, embossed, or printed and embossed to provide the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

192. The decorative preformed flower pot cover of claim 191, wherein the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth is provided by printing a pattern on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film and embossing a pattern on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film, and the printed and embossed patterns are in registry with one another.

193. The decorative preformed flower pot cover of claim 191, wherein the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth is provided by printing a pattern on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film and embossing a pattern on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film, and the printed and embossed patterns are out of registry with one another.

194. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base

having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is printed to provide the expanded-core polymeric material with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

195. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that

the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern which provides a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

196. The decorative preformed flower pot cover of claim 195, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil.

197. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot

cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a laminated polymeric material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil; and

a sheet of material having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the sheet of material being laminated to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the polymeric film to form the laminated polymeric material, at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto being modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth so that at least a portion of one surface of the laminated polymeric material and at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom are provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

198. The decorative preformed flower pot cover of claim 197, wherein the polymeric film and the sheet of material are laminated with a colored adhesive.

199. The decorative preformed flower pot cover of claim 197 or 198, wherein the polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil, the sheet of material laminated to the polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil, and the laminated polymeric material has a thickness in the range of from 1.5 mil to 2.5 mil.

200. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth

on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a laminated polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the sheet of material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded-core polymeric film is embossed, printed, or embossed and printed to provide such surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film to form the laminated polymeric material, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil.

201. The decorative preformed flower pot cover of claim 200, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the

substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

202. The decorative preformed flower pot cover of claim 200 or 201, wherein the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil.

203. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover being formed of a laminated polymeric material comprising:

a first sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the first sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of the lower surface of the first sheet of polymeric material is provided with embossed, printed, or embossed and printed patterns to provide the lower surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and

decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a second sheet of polymeric material laminated to one of the upper and lower surfaces of the first sheet of polymeric material to provide the laminated polymeric material the embossed, printed, or embossed and printed patterns of the first sheet of polymeric material being visible and thereby providing at least a portion of one surface of the polymeric laminated material with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the second sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil.

204. The decorative preformed flower pot cover of claim 203, wherein the first and second sheets of polymeric material are laminated with a colored adhesive.

205. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

at least one sheet of polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one of the base and the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the at least one sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film being printed and embossed to provide the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the printed and embossed patterns being in registry with one another; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil.

206. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that

the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

at least one sheet of polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one of the base and the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the at least one sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film being printed and embossed to provide the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the printed and embossed patterns being out of registry with one another; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil.

207. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral

surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

at least one sheet of polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one of the base and the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the at least one sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil;

and wherein the expanded-core polymeric film and the substantially water-impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

208. A decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, and a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

at least one sheet of polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one of the base and the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the sheet of polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, the at least one sheet of polymeric material comprising:

an expanded-core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil, at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

a substantially water-impervious polymeric film laminated to the expanded-core polymeric film, the

substantially water-impervious polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 1.25 mil.

209. A method for wrapping a floral grouping with a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface, an outer peripheral surface and an inner retaining space, the sleeve being formed of a polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the polymeric material is modified to provide a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth whereby at least one of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having a bonding material disposed upon a portion of at least one of the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve for holding overlapping portions of the sleeve in a crimped position adjacent a portion of the stem portion of the floral grouping;

disposing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and

crimping the sleeve about at least a portion of the floral grouping, thereby causing portions of the sleeve to overlap, the bonding material engaging the overlapping portions of the sleeve so as to bond the overlapped portion together and bind the sleeve in a position about the floral grouping.

210. The method of claim 209, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the polymeric material is provided with at least one of an embossed pattern, a printed pattern and combinations thereof on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, which provides the polymeric material and the sleeve formed therefrom with the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

211. The method of claim 209, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with an embossed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one of the outer and inner peripheral surfaces thereof which provides the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth to the sleeve.

212. A method for wrapping a floral grouping with a sleeve having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface, an outer peripheral surface and an inner retaining space, the sleeve being formed of a flexible polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide such surface with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth whereby at least one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface of the sleeve has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth;

disposing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and

binding the sleeve about the floral grouping.

213. The method of claim 212, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the flexible polymeric material is provided with an embossed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof which provides the sleeve with the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

214. The method of any one of claims 209 to 213, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is further characterized as having a detaching element for detaching a portion of the sleeve and wherein the method further comprises detaching a portion of the sleeve via the detaching element after the sleeve has been bound about the floral grouping.

215. The method of claim 214, wherein at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the portion of the sleeve detached and at least a portion of the outer peripheral surface of the portion of the sleeve bound about the floral grouping each are modified to provide the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth thereto.

216. The method of claim 209 or 212, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with a printed pattern on at least a portion of one of the outer and inner peripheral surfaces thereof which provides the sleeve with the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

217. The method of claim 216, wherein the sleeve is further provided with an embossed pattern on at least a portion of one of the outer and inner peripheral surfaces thereof which cooperates with the printed pattern to provide the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

218. The method of claim 217, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are in registry.

219. The method of claim 217, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are out of registry with one another.

220. A method for providing a decorative cover for a flower pot wherein the decorative cover has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve formed of a flexible polymeric material having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve formed therefrom with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and an inner retaining space;

providing a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface; and

disposing the flower pot in the inner retaining space of the sleeve whereby the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot and provides the

decorative cover for the flower pot wherein the decorative cover has the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof.

221. The method of claim 220, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the flexible polymeric material has a thickness in a range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

222. The method of claim 220 or 221, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided on at least a portion of one surface of the flexible polymeric material by at least one of printing, embossing, flocking, applying a foamable lacquer, applying a foamable ink, applying a matting lacquer, applying a matted ink, and combinations thereof.

223. The method of claim 222, wherein the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided by a printed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one surface of the flexible polymeric material and an embossed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one surface of the flexible polymeric material.

224. A method for providing a decorative cover for a flower pot wherein the decorative cover has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve formed of an expanded-core polymeric film having at least a portion of one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve formed therefrom with a

texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and an inner retaining space;

providing a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface; and

disposing the flower pot in the inner retaining space of the sleeve whereby the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot and provides the decorative cover for the flower pot and wherein the decorative cover has a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof.

225. The method of claim 224, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the expanded-core polymeric film has a thickness in a range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

226. The method of claim 224 or 225, wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided on at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film by at least one of printing, embossing, flocking, applying a foamable lacquer, applying a foamable ink, applying a matting lacquer, applying a matted ink, and combinations thereof.

227. The method of claim 226, wherein the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided by a printed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film and an embossed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one surface of the expanded-core polymeric film.

228. The method of claim 223 or 227, wherein the printed and embossed patterns are in registry with one another.

229. The method of claim 223 or 227, wherein the printed and embossed patterns are out of registry with one another.

230. The method of claim 223 or 227, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern is in registry with the embossed pattern, and at least a portion of the printed pattern is out of registry with the embossed pattern.

231. The method of any one of claims 220 to 230, wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the lower end of the sleeve is closed.

232. The method of claim 231, wherein the lower end of the sleeve is provided with a gusset formed therein.

233. A decorative flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative flower pot cover comprising a sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of the lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material is printed, embossed, or printed and embossed to provide the sheet of polymeric material with the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, and wherein the sheet of polymeric material is formed about a flower pot to provide the decorative flower pot cover.

234. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 233, wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the

lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material is further provided with a printed pattern in addition to the printing, embossing, or printing and embossing that provide the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

235. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 234, wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material is further provided with an embossed pattern in addition to the printed pattern and the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

236. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 235, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are in register with one another.

237. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 235, wherein the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are out of register with one another.

238. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 233, wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material is embossed in addition to the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

239. The decorative flower pot cover of any one of claims 233 to 238, further comprising a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material, wherein the bonding material secures the sheet of polymeric material in a position about the flower pot.

240. A decorative flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative flower pot cover comprising a flexible laminated polymeric material comprising:

a polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface; and

a material laminated to the polymeric material, the material laminated to the polymeric material being selected from the group consisting of a polymeric material, paper, metallized foil and combinations thereof, and at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric material and the material laminated thereto being printed, embossed, or printed and embossed so as to provide the flexible laminated polymeric material with the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth;

and wherein the flexible laminated polymeric material is formed about a flower pot to provide the decorative flower pot cover.

241. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 240, wherein the polymeric material and the material laminated thereto are laminated with a colored adhesive.

242. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 240 or 241, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric material and the material laminated thereto is further modified by at least one of embossing, printing and combinations thereof in addition to the printing, embossing, or printing and embossing that provide the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

243. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 242, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric material and the material laminated thereto is further provided with embossed and printed patterns and wherein the embossed and printed patterns are in register with one another.

244. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 242, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric material and the material laminated thereto is further provided with embossed and printed patterns and wherein the embossed and printed patterns are out of register with one another.

245. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 242, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric material and the material laminated thereto is further provided with embossed and printed patterns and wherein a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are in register with one another and a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are out of register with one another.

246. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 240 or 241, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric material and the material laminated thereto is provided with embossed and printed patterns to provide the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, and wherein the embossed and printed patterns are in register with one another.

247. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 240 or 241, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric material and the material laminated thereto is

provided with embossed and printed patterns to provide the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, and wherein the embossed and printed patterns are out of register with one another.

248. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 240 or 241, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric material and the material laminated thereto is provided with embossed and printed patterns to provide the matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth, and wherein a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are in register with one another and a portion of the embossed and printed patterns are out of register with one another.

249. The decorative flower pot cover of any one of claims 240 to 248, further comprising a bonding material disposed on at least a portion of one surface of the flexible laminated polymeric material, wherein the bonding material secures the flexible laminated polymeric material in a position about the flower pot.

250. The decorative flower pot cover of claim 239 or 249, wherein the bonding material is selected from the group consisting of adhesives, cohesives, heat sealable materials, cold sealable materials, sonically sealable materials, vibratory sealable materials, lacquers, ties, labels, bands, ribbons, strings, tapes, staples, heat or chemically shrinkable materials, magnetic materials, mechanical or barb-type fastening materials, clamps, and combinations thereof.

251. A sleeve for containing a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface and having a floral grouping disposed therein, the sleeve formed of a polymeric material having at least one surface thereof modified to provide the sleeve being formed therefrom with an appearance or texture simulating the appearance or texture of cloth, the sleeve having a closed lower end containing a gusset, an upper end, an outer peripheral surface, and an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space, the sleeve comprising:

a base portion having at least one of an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface thereof modified to provide such surface with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the base portion being tapered, sized and dimensioned so that the inner peripheral surface of the base portion of the sleeve substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot when the flower pot is disposed in the sleeve; and

a skirt portion attached to and extending from the base portion and extending beyond the upper end of the flower pot and adjacent to at least a portion of the floral grouping disposed in the flower pot when the flower pot is disposed in the sleeve.

252. The sleeve of claim 251, wherein the outer peripheral surface of the base portion of the sleeve is modified to provide the outer peripheral surface of the base portion with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, and wherein the skirt portion of the sleeve is characterized as having at least one of an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface thereof modified to provide such surface of the skirt portion of

the sleeve with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

253. The sleeve of claim 251 or 252, wherein the polymeric material is provided with a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, and wherein the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided by a printed pattern and an embossed pattern disposed on at least one surface of the polymeric material.

254. The sleeve of claim 253, wherein the printed and embossed patterns provided on the polymeric material are in registry with one another.

255. The sleeve of claim 253, wherein the printed and embossed patterns provided on the polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

256. The sleeve of claim 253, wherein a portion of the printed and embossed patterns provided on the polymeric material are in registry with one another, and wherein a portion of the printed and embossed patterns provided on the polymeric material are out of registry with one another.

257. The sleeve of claim 251 or 252, wherein the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth provided on at least one surface of the polymeric material is produced by printing, embossing, texturing, flocking, applying a foamable ink, applying a foamable lacquer, applying a matted ink, applying a matted lacquer, and combinations thereof.

258. The sleeve of any one of claims 251 to 257, wherein the polymeric material is an expanded-core polymeric film.

259. The sleeve of any one of claims 251 to 257, wherein the polymeric material is a laminated polymeric material.

260. The sleeve of any one of claims 251 to 257, the polymeric material has an acrylic heat-sealable lacquer disposed thereon.

261. A plant package produced from a polymeric material having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, the plant package comprising:

a flower pot having an upper end and an outer peripheral surface and having a floral grouping disposed therein; and

a sleeve formed of a polymeric material, the sleeve having a closed lower end containing a gusset, an upper end, an outer peripheral surface, and an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space in which the flower pot is disposed, at least one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface of the sleeve being modified to provide the sleeve with an appearance or texture simulating the appearance or texture of cloth, and wherein the sleeve further comprises:

a base portion having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface, the base portion being tapered, sized and dimensioned so that the inner peripheral surface thereof substantially surrounds the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot; and

a skirt portion attached to and extending from the base portion and extending beyond the upper end of the flower pot.

262. The plant package of claim 261, wherein the outer peripheral surface of the base portion of the sleeve is modified to provide the outer peripheral surface of the base portion with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth, and wherein the skirt portion of the sleeve is characterized as having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface in which at least one of the outer peripheral surface and the inner peripheral surface of the skirt portion of the sleeve is modified to provide such surface of the skirt portion of the sleeve with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth.

263. The plant package of claim 261 or 262, wherein the sleeve further comprises an upper portion attached to the skirt portion, and wherein the base portion and the skirt portion of the sleeve are constructed from the polymeric material and the upper portion of the sleeve is constructed from a second material.

264. The plant package of claim 261, 262 or 263, wherein the polymeric material has a thickness in a range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

265. The plant package of any one of claims 261 to 264, wherein the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of cloth is provided by at least one of printing, embossing, texturing, flocking, application of a foaming lacquer, application of a foaming ink, application of a matted lacquer, application of a matted ink, and combinations thereof.

266. A method for producing a decorative preformed flower pot cover, comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the sheet of polymeric material is modified to provide such surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

forming the sheet of polymeric material into a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover; and

a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base;

wherein at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

267. The method of claim 266, wherein, in the step of providing a sheet of polymeric material, the sheet of

polymeric material is an expanded-core polymeric film having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil.

268. The method of claim 266 or 267, wherein, in the step of providing a sheet of polymeric material, at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the sheet of polymeric material is printed, embossed, lacquered, textured or combinations thereof to provide the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

269. A method for producing a decorative preformed flower pot cover, comprising the steps of:

providing a laminated polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the laminated polymeric material is modified to provide such surface with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth, the laminated polymeric material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil; and

a sheet of material having a thickness in the range of from 0.6 mil to 10 mil, the sheet of material laminated to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the polymeric film to form the laminated polymeric material, at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto being modified to provide a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth so that at least a portion of one surface of the laminated polymeric material formed therefrom is provided with a

textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth; and

forming the laminated polymeric material into a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

a base having a lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover; and

a decorative border extending outwardly from the open upper end of the base;

wherein at least a portion of one surface of at least one of the base and decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover being provided with a textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

270. The method of claim 269, wherein, in the step of providing a laminated polymeric material, the polymeric film and the sheet of material are laminated with a colored adhesive.

271. The method of claim 269 or 270, wherein, in the step of providing a laminated polymeric material, at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the laminated polymeric material is printed, embossed,

lacquered, textured or combinations thereof to provide the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

272. The method of claim 268 or 271, wherein the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth is provided by printing and embossing, and the printed and embossed patterns are in registry with one another.

273. The method of claim 268 or 271, wherein the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth is provided by printing and embossing, and the printed and embossed patterns are out of registry with one another.

274. The method of claim 268 or 271, wherein the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth is provided by printing with a matted ink or lacquering with a matted lacquer.

275. The method of claim 268 or 271, wherein the textured or matte finish simulating the appearance of cloth is provided by printing with a foamable ink or lacquering with a foamable lacquer.

276. The method of any one of claims 269, 270 or 271, wherein, in the step of providing a laminated polymeric material, the polymeric film is an expanded-core polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated to the polymeric film is a substantially water-impervious polymeric film.

277. A ribbon material for wrapping about items and forming into bows and decorative ornamentations containing ruffles, loops and curved segments, the ribbon material being

produced by cutting a sheet or web of material into strips having a uniform width and which are capable of being wound onto a spool or roll, the ribbon material having boundaries and comprising:

a flexible material having an upper surface, a lower surface, and a holographic design on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, the flexible material being formed of a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, metallized film, foil, laminates thereof and combinations thereof, and the flexible material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

278. The ribbon material of claim 277, wherein the flexible material is provided with a printed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof such that the ribbon material further comprises a printed pattern.

279. The ribbon material of claim 278, wherein the flexible material is provided with an embossed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof such that the ribbon material further comprises an embossed pattern.

280. The ribbon material of claim 279, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are in register with one another and lie within the boundaries of the ribbon material.

281. The ribbon material of claim 279, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are in register with one another.

282. The ribbon material of claim 279, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are out of register with one another.

283. The ribbon material of claim 279, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are out of register with one another and wherein the printed pattern and the embossed pattern lie within the boundaries of the ribbon material.

284. The ribbon material of claim 277, wherein the flexible material is provided with an embossed pattern disposed on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof such that the ribbon material further comprises an embossed pattern.

285. The ribbon material of claim 284, wherein the embossed pattern lies within the boundaries of the ribbon material.

286. A laminated ribbon material for wrapping about items and forming into bows and decorative ornamentations containing ruffles, loops and curved segments, the laminated ribbon material produced by cutting a flexible sheet or web of laminated material into strips having a uniform width and which are capable of being wound onto a spool or roll, the laminated ribbon material having boundaries and comprising:

a flexible iridescent material having an upper surface and a lower surface, the flexible iridescent material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 10 mil; and

a flexible material laminated to one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible iridescent material so that iridescent qualities of the flexible iridescent material remain visible when the laminated ribbon material is wrapped about items and formed into bows and decorative ornamentations, the flexible material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

287. The laminated ribbon material of claim 286, wherein the flexible material laminated to one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible iridescent material is a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, metallized film, foil, cloth, burlap, laminates thereof and combinations thereof.

288. The laminated ribbon material of claim 286 or 287, wherein the flexible iridescent material and the flexible material are laminated with a tinted or colored bonding material.

289. The laminated ribbon material of claim 286, 287 or 288, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the flexible material, the flexible iridescent material, the sheet or web of laminated material or the laminated ribbon material is provided with an embossed pattern disposed thereon.

290. The laminated ribbon material of claim 286, 287 or 288, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the flexible material, the flexible iridescent material, the sheet or web of laminated material or the laminated ribbon material is provided with an embossed pattern and a printed pattern disposed thereon.

291. The laminated ribbon material of claim 290, wherein the printed pattern is in registry with the embossed pattern and wherein the embossed and printed patterns lie within the boundaries of the laminated ribbon material.

292. The laminated ribbon material of claim 290, wherein the printed pattern is out of registry with the embossed pattern.

293. The laminated ribbon material of claim 292, wherein the embossed pattern and the printed pattern lie within the boundaries of the laminated ribbon material.

294. The laminated ribbon material of claim 286, 287 or 288, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the flexible material, the flexible iridescent material, the sheet or web of laminated material or the laminated ribbon material is provided with a printed pattern disposed thereon.

295. The laminated ribbon material of claim 294, wherein the printed pattern lies within the boundaries of the laminated ribbon material.

296. The laminated ribbon material of claim 286, 287 or 288, wherein the flexible material is provided with an upper surface, and a lower surface and wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible material is provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of the laminated ribbon material formed therefrom is provided with a finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

297. The laminated ribbon material of any one of claims 286 to 296, wherein the flexible iridescent material has a thickness in the range of from 0.4 mil to 0.9 mil, and the flexible material has a thickness in the range of from 0.4 mil to 0.9 mil.

298. The laminated ribbon material of any one of claims 286 to 297, wherein the flexible material laminated to the flexible iridescent material is transparent such that the iridescent qualities of the flexible iridescent material are visible through the flexible material laminated thereto.

299. A laminated ribbon material for wrapping about items and forming into bows and decorative ornamentations containing ruffles, loops and curved segments, the laminated ribbon material produced by cutting a flexible sheet or web of laminated material into strips having a uniform width and which are capable of being wound onto a spool or roll, the laminated ribbon material having boundaries and comprising:

a flexible first material having an upper surface, a lower surface and a holographic design on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, the flexible first material being formed of a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, metallized film, foil, laminates thereof and combinations thereof, and the flexible first material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil; and

a flexible second material laminated to one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible first material so that the holographic design of the flexible first material

remains visible when the ribbon material is wrapped about items and formed into bows and decorative ornamentations, the flexible second material being formed of a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, metallized film, foil, cloth, burlap, laminates thereof and combinations thereof, and the flexible material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil.

300. The laminated ribbon material of claim 299, wherein the flexible first material having a holographic design and the flexible second material each have a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 10 mil.

301. The laminated ribbon material of claim 299, wherein the flexible first material having a holographic design and the flexible second material each have a thickness in the range of from 0.4 mil to 0.9 mil.

302. The laminated ribbon material of claim 299, 300 or 301, wherein the flexible first material having a holographic design and the flexible second material are laminated with a tinted or colored bonding material.

303. The laminated ribbon material of any one of claims 299 to 302, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the flexible first material having a holographic design, the flexible second material, the flexible sheet or web of laminated material or the laminated ribbon material is provided with an embossed pattern disposed thereon.

304. The laminated ribbon material of any one of claims 299 to 302, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the flexible first material, the flexible second material,

the flexible sheet or web of laminated material or the laminated ribbon material is provided with an embossed pattern and a printed pattern disposed thereon.

305. The laminated ribbon material of claim 304, wherein the printed pattern is in registry with the embossed pattern, and wherein the holographic design, the embossed pattern and the printed pattern lie within the boundaries of the laminated ribbon material.

306. The laminated ribbon material of claim 304, wherein the printed pattern is out of registry with the embossed pattern, and wherein the holographic design, the embossed pattern and the printed pattern lie within the boundaries of the laminated ribbon material.

307. The laminated ribbon material of any one of claims 299 to 302, wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the flexible first material having a holographic design, the flexible second material, the flexible sheet or web of laminated material or the laminated ribbon material is provided with a printed pattern disposed thereon.

308. The laminated ribbon material of claim 297, wherein the printed pattern lies within the boundaries of the laminated ribbon material.

309. The laminated ribbon material of any one of claims 299 to 308, wherein the flexible second material is provided with an upper surface and a lower surface, and wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible first material having a holographic design or at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces

of the flexible second material is provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth such that at least a portion of one surface of the laminated ribbon material formed therefrom is provided with a matte or textured finish simulating the appearance of cloth.

310. The laminated ribbon material of any one of claims 299 to 309, wherein the flexible second material is transparent and laminated to the surface of the flexible first material having the holographic design disposed thereon such that the holographic design of the flexible first material is visible through the flexible second material.

311. A ribbon material for wrapping about items and forming into bows and decorative ornamentations containing ruffles, loops and curved segments, the ribbon material produced by cutting a sheet or web of flexible material into strips having a uniform width and which are capable of being wound onto a spool or roll, the ribbon material having boundaries and comprising:

a flexible material having an upper surface, a lower surface and a holographic design on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, the flexible material being formed of a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, metallized film, foil, laminates thereof and combinations thereof, the flexible material having a thickness in the range of from 0.1 mil to 30 mil, and the flexible material being provided with a printed pattern on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof and an embossed pattern on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof such that the ribbon material formed therefrom has printed and embossed patterns thereon.

312. The ribbon material of claim 311, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern is in register with the embossed pattern.

313. The ribbon material of claim 311, wherein at least a portion of the printed pattern is out of register with the embossed pattern.

314. The ribbon material of claim 312 or 313, wherein the printed and embossed patterns lie within the boundaries of the ribbon material.

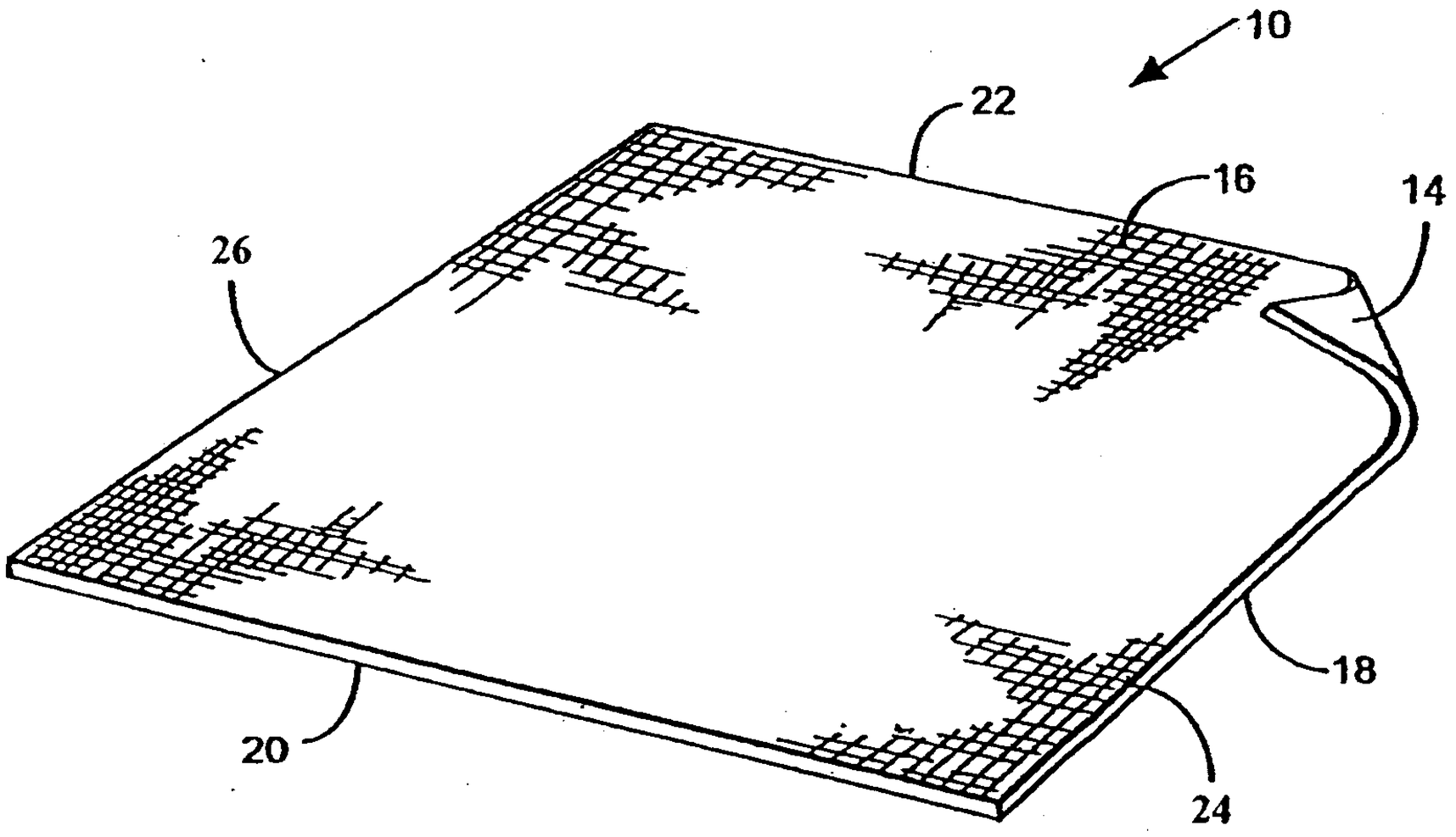


FIG. 1

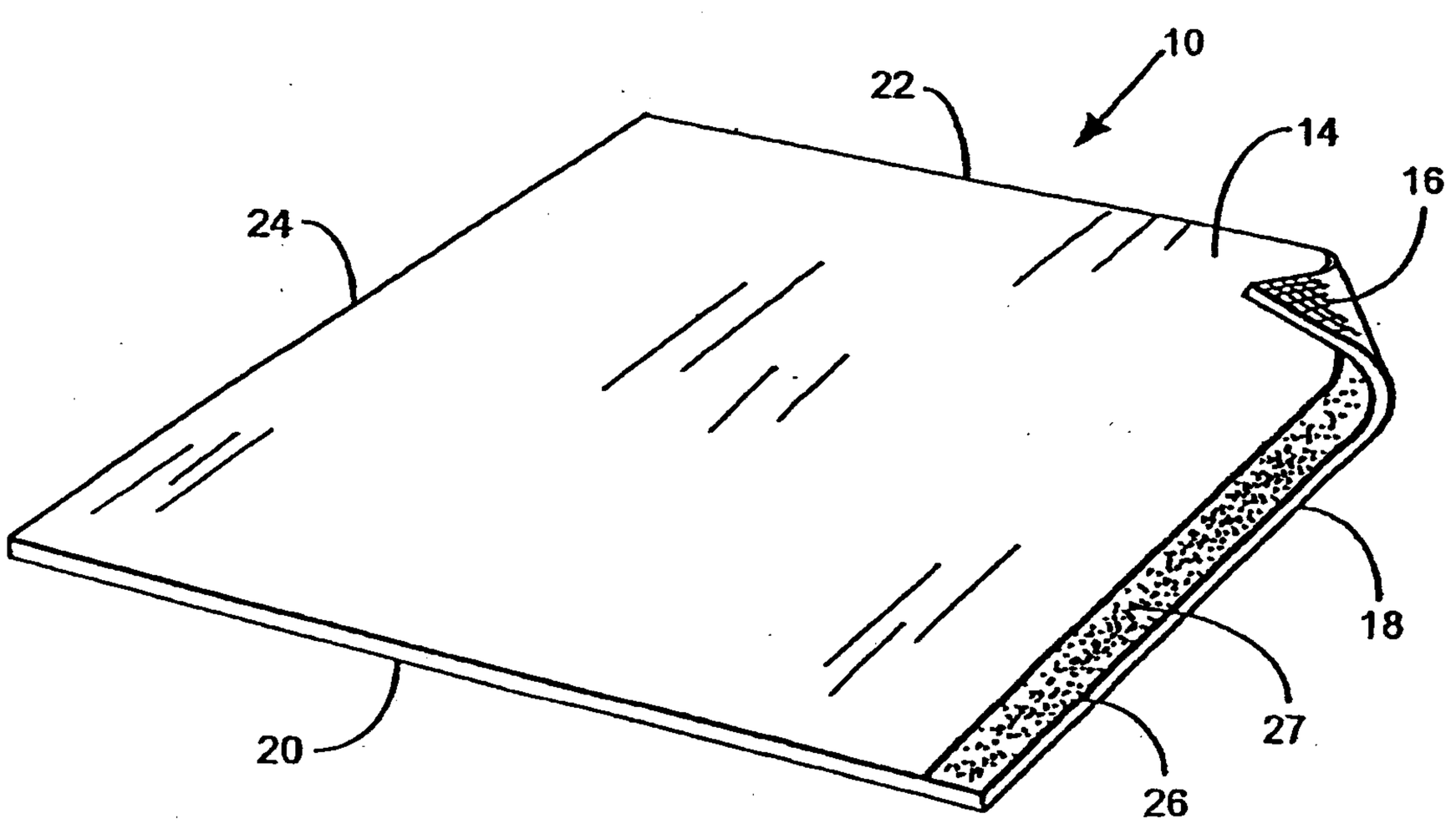


FIG. 2

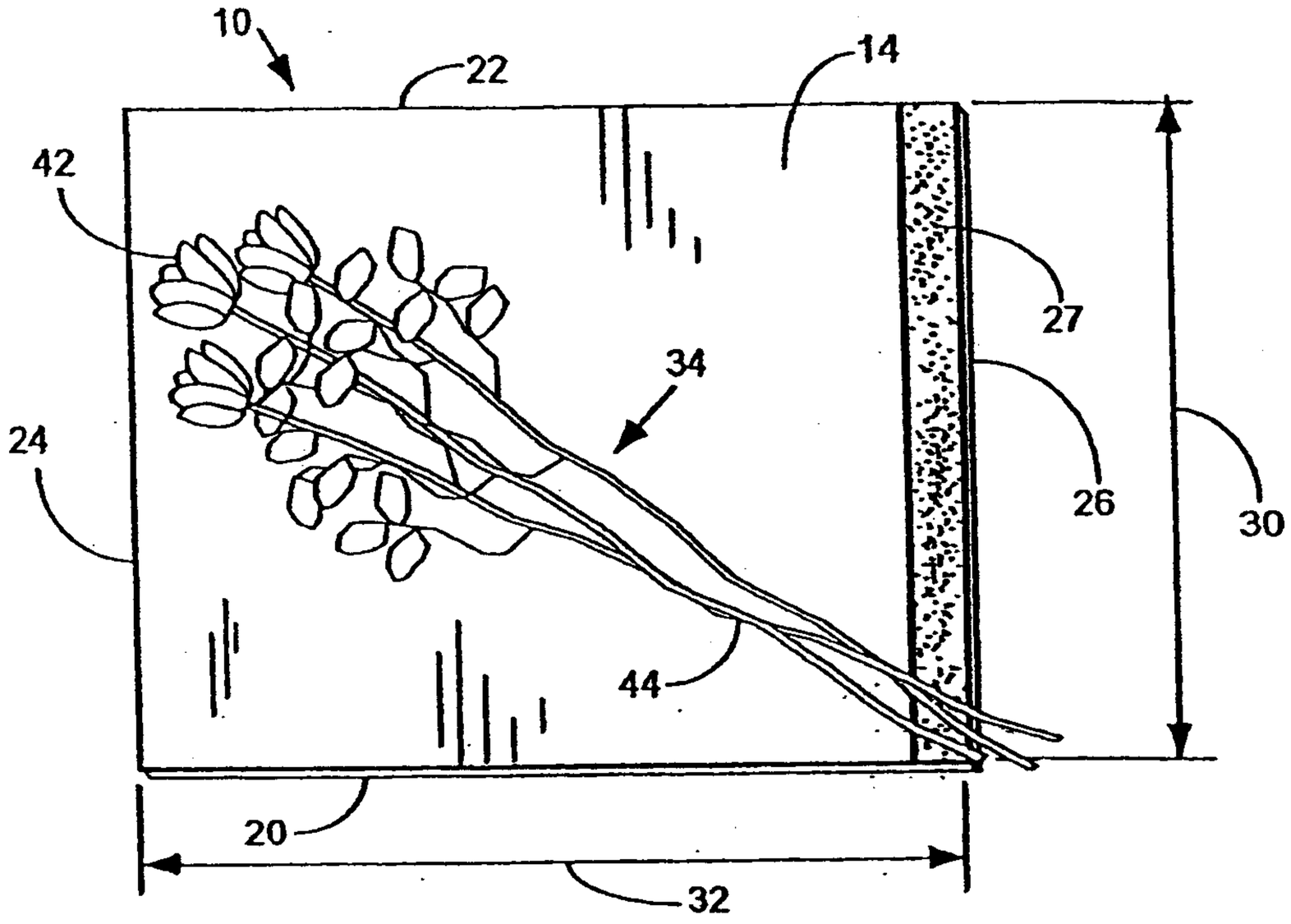


FIG. 3

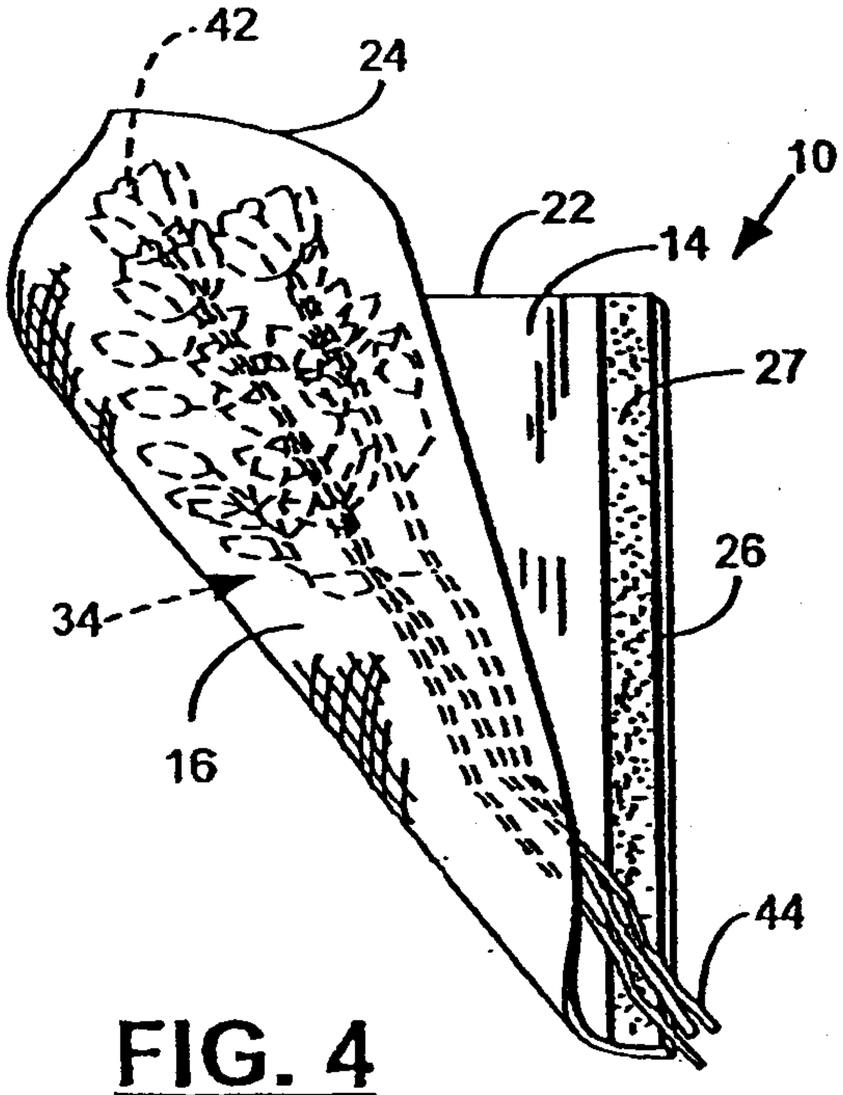


FIG. 4

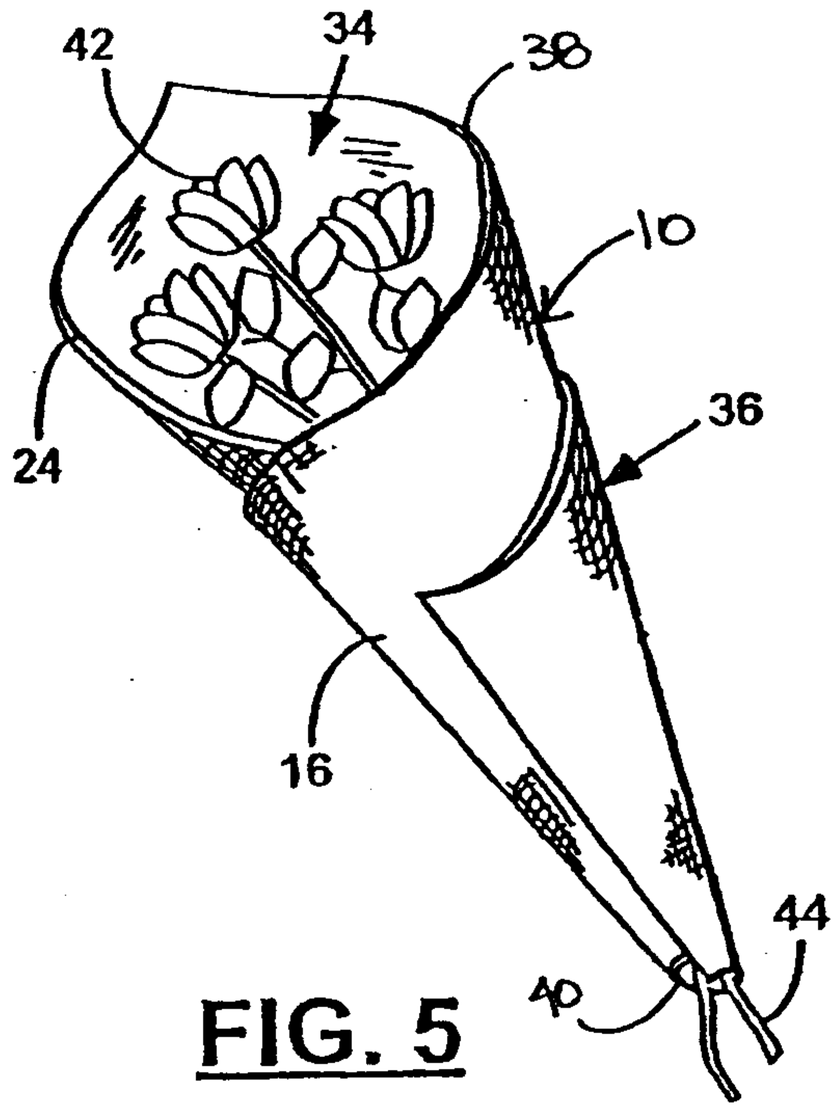


FIG. 5

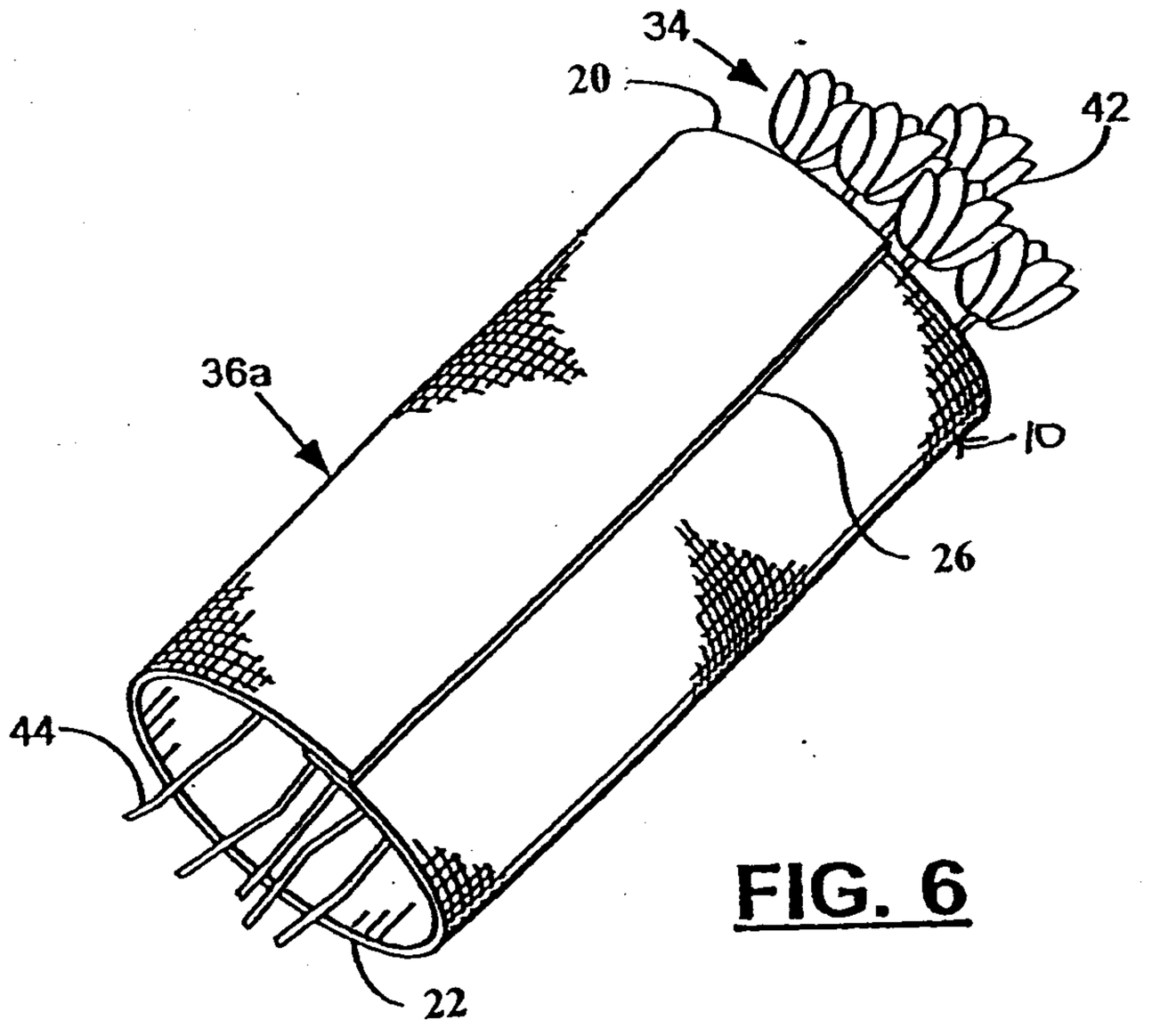


FIG. 6

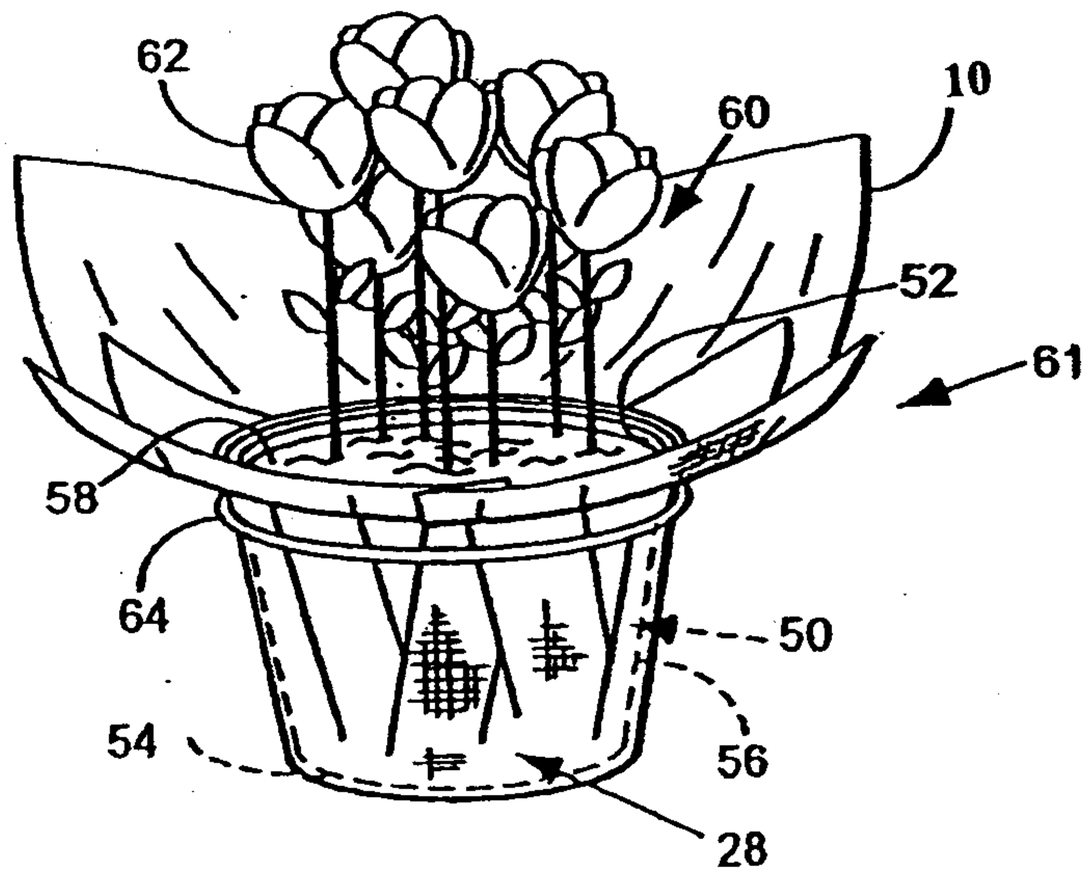


FIG. 7

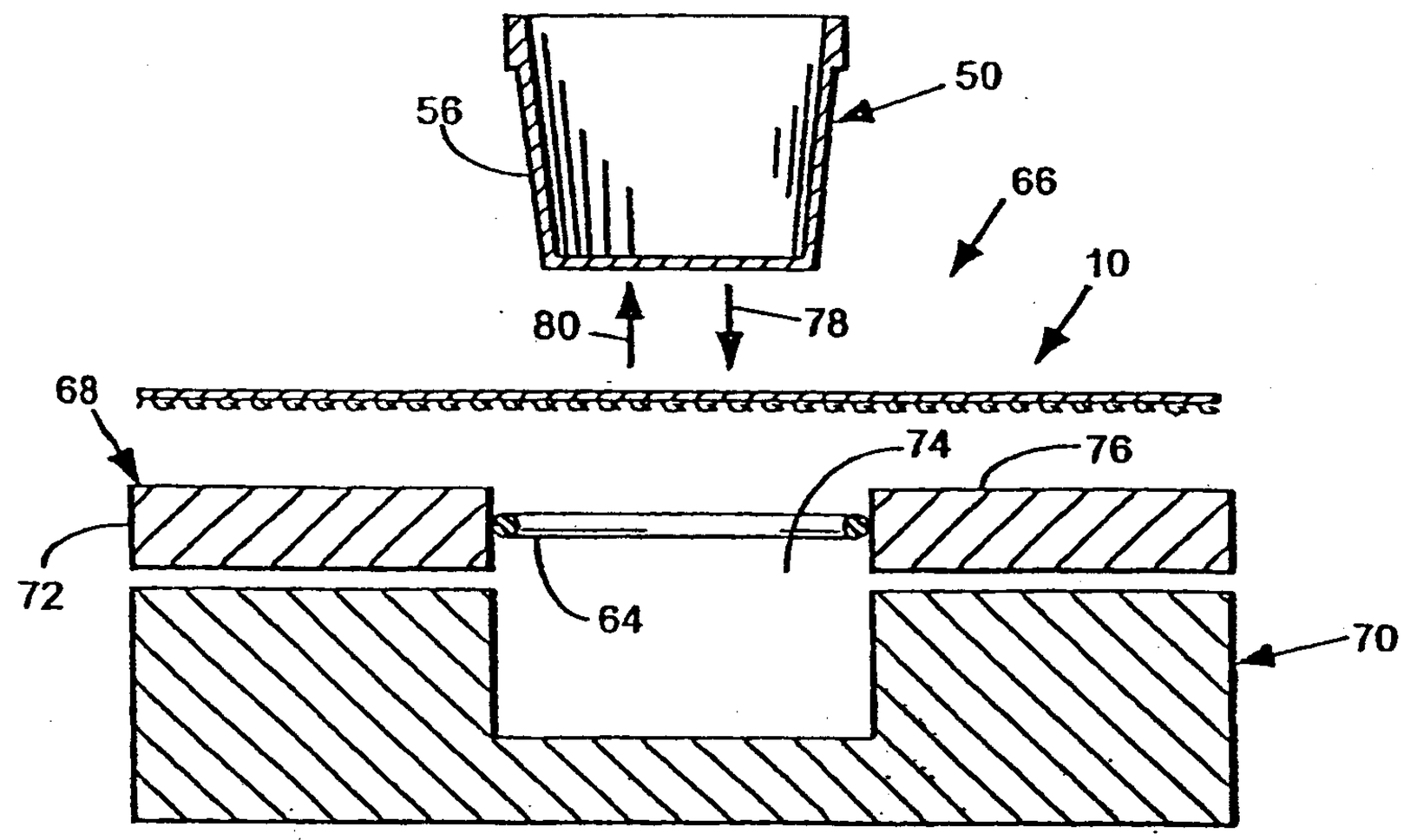


FIG. 8

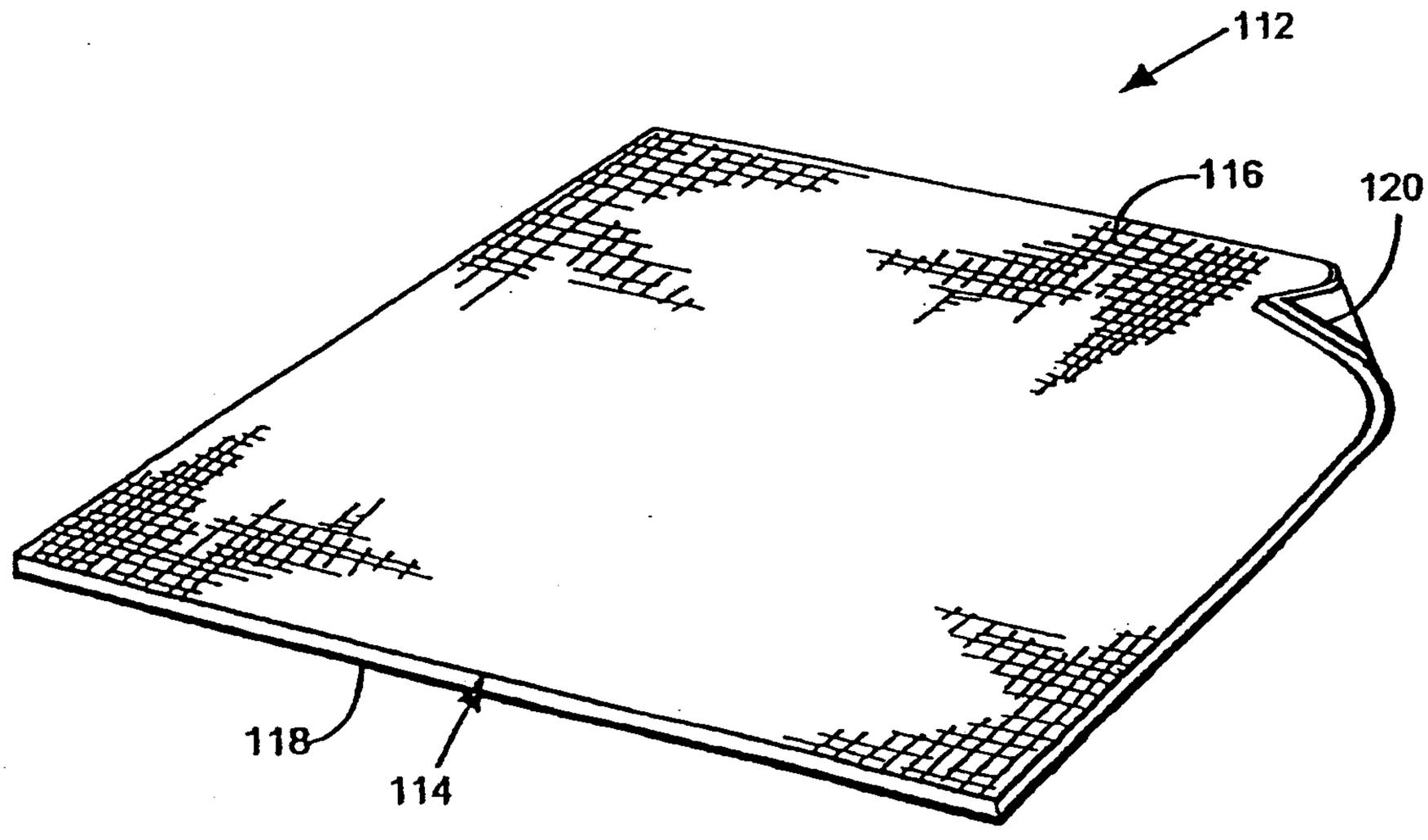


FIG. 9A

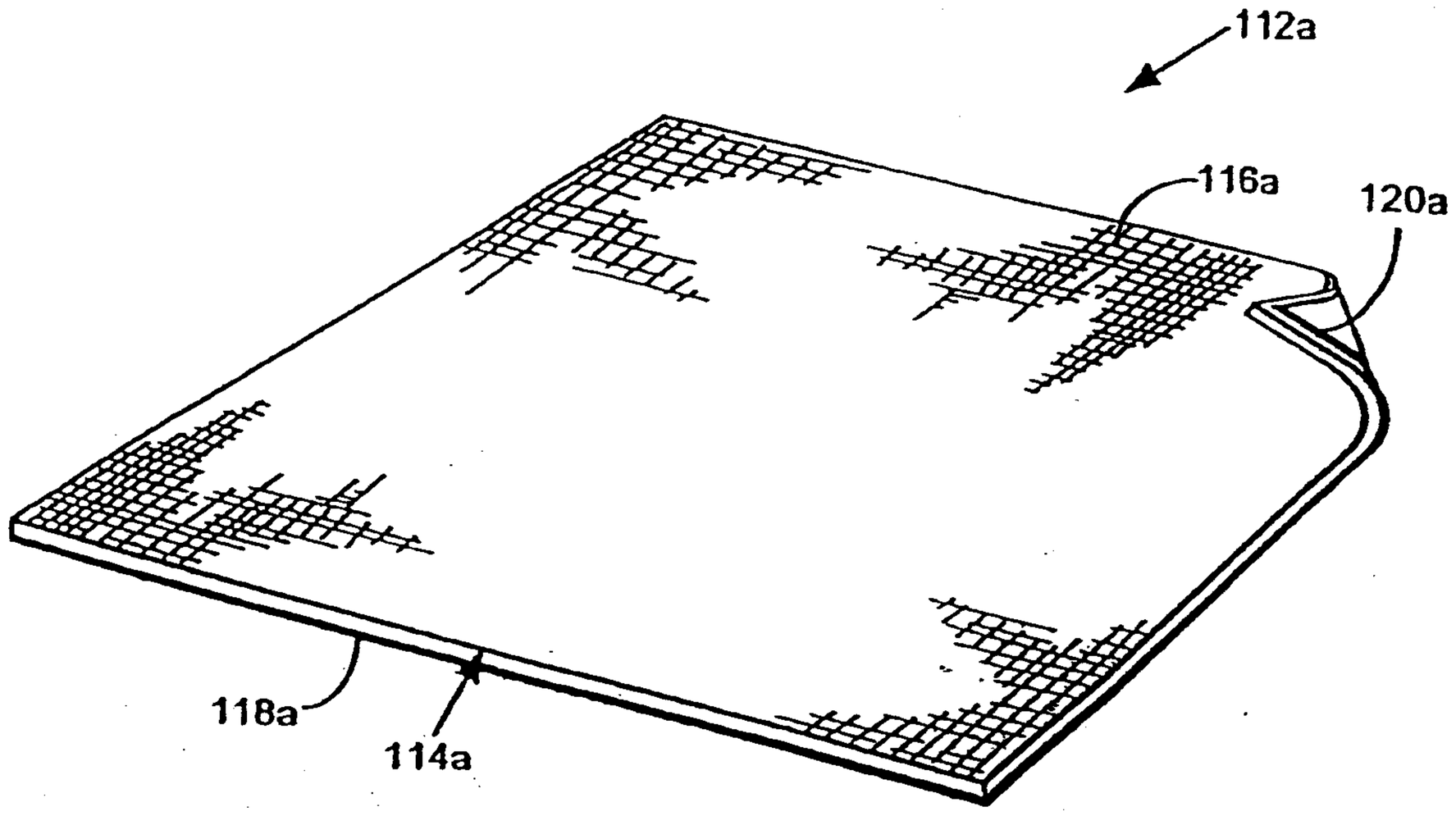


FIG. 9B

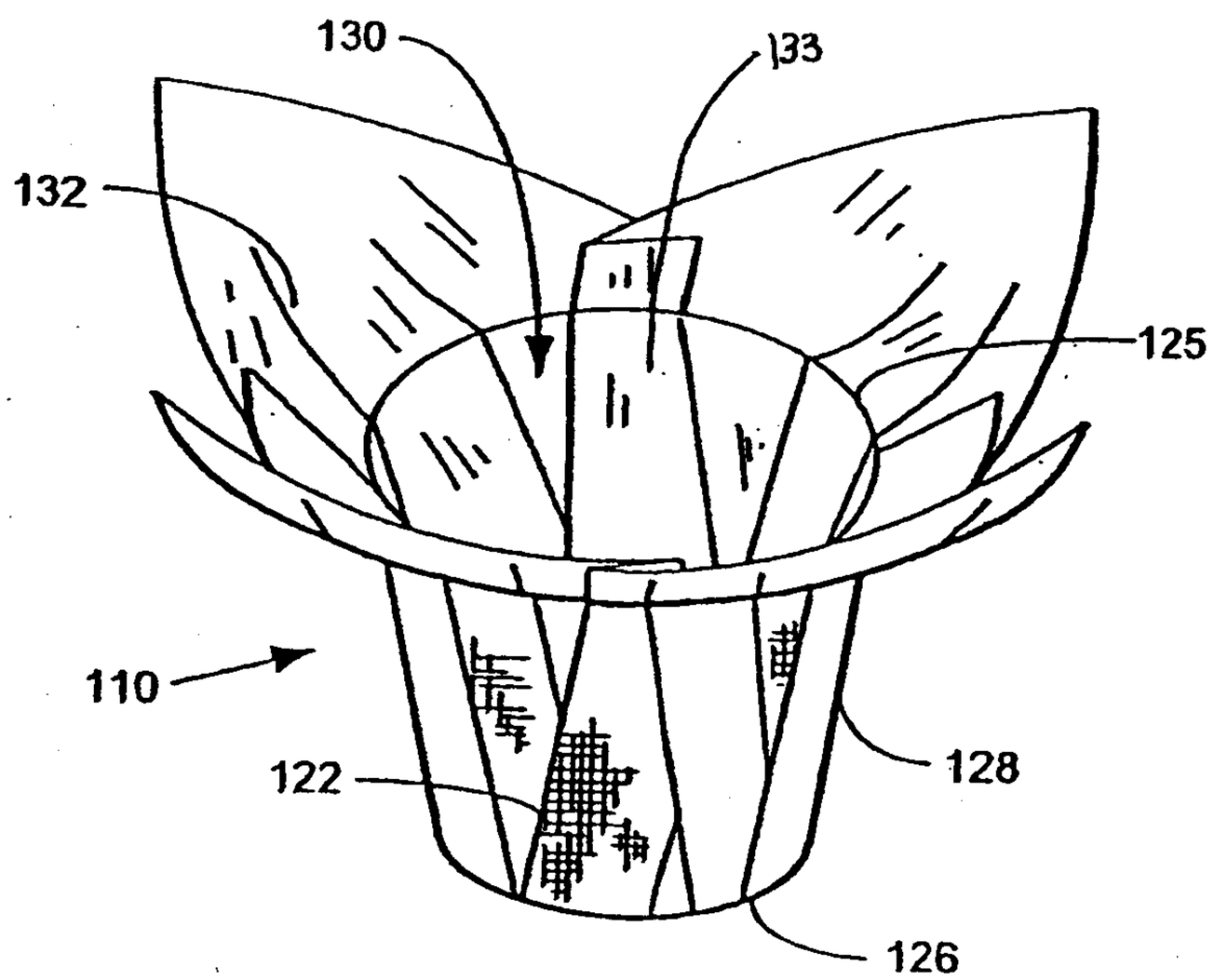


FIG. 10

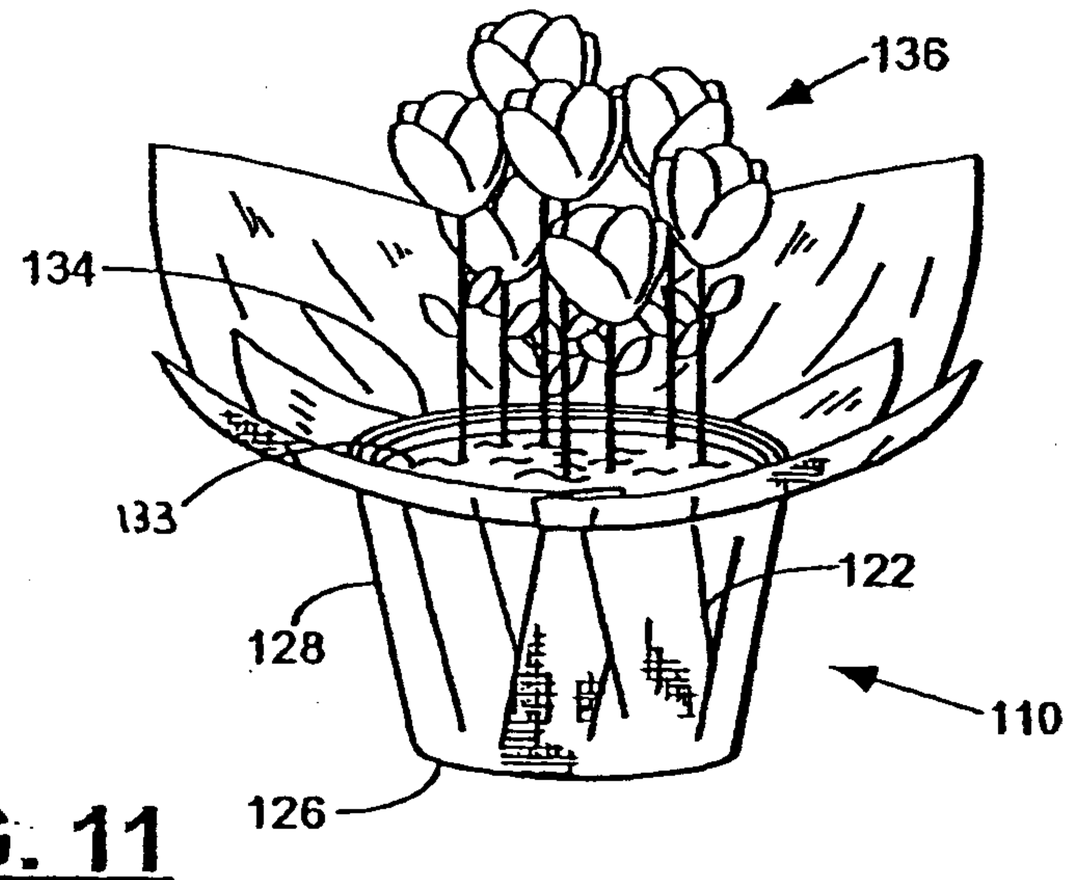


FIG. 11

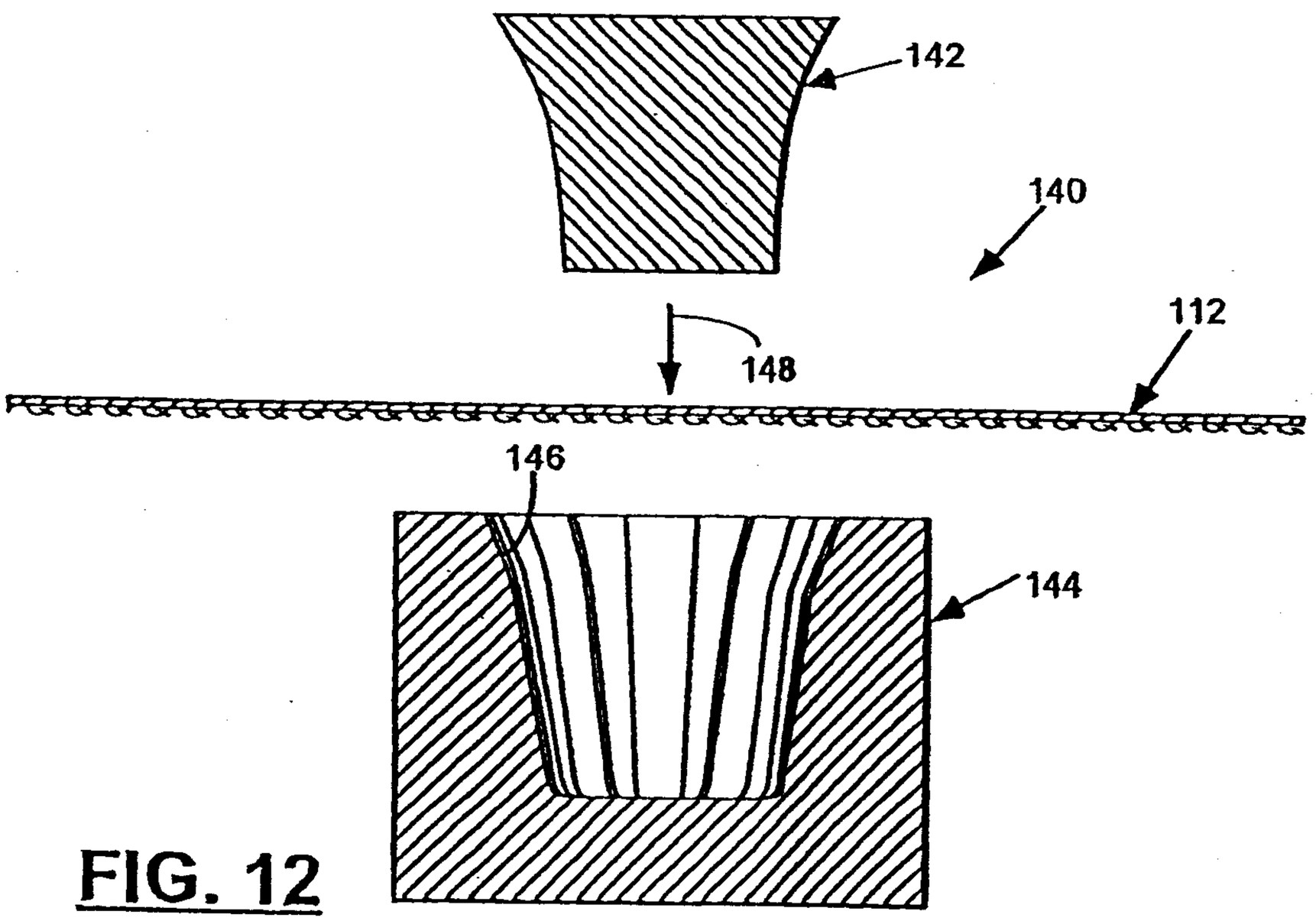


FIG. 12

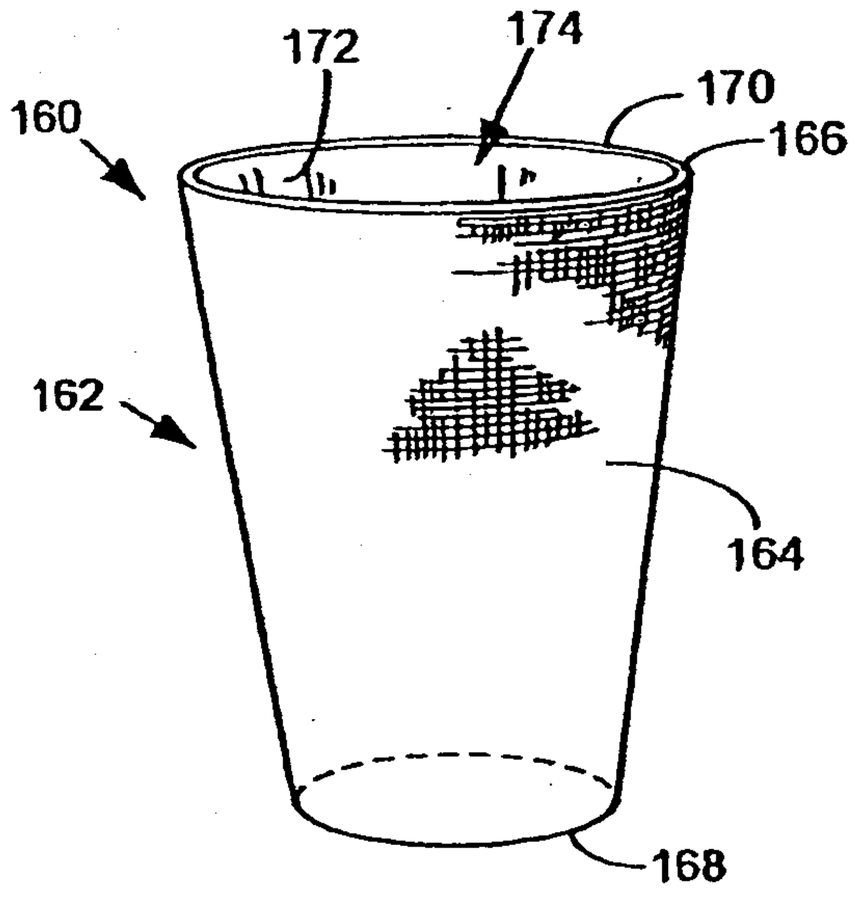


FIG. 13

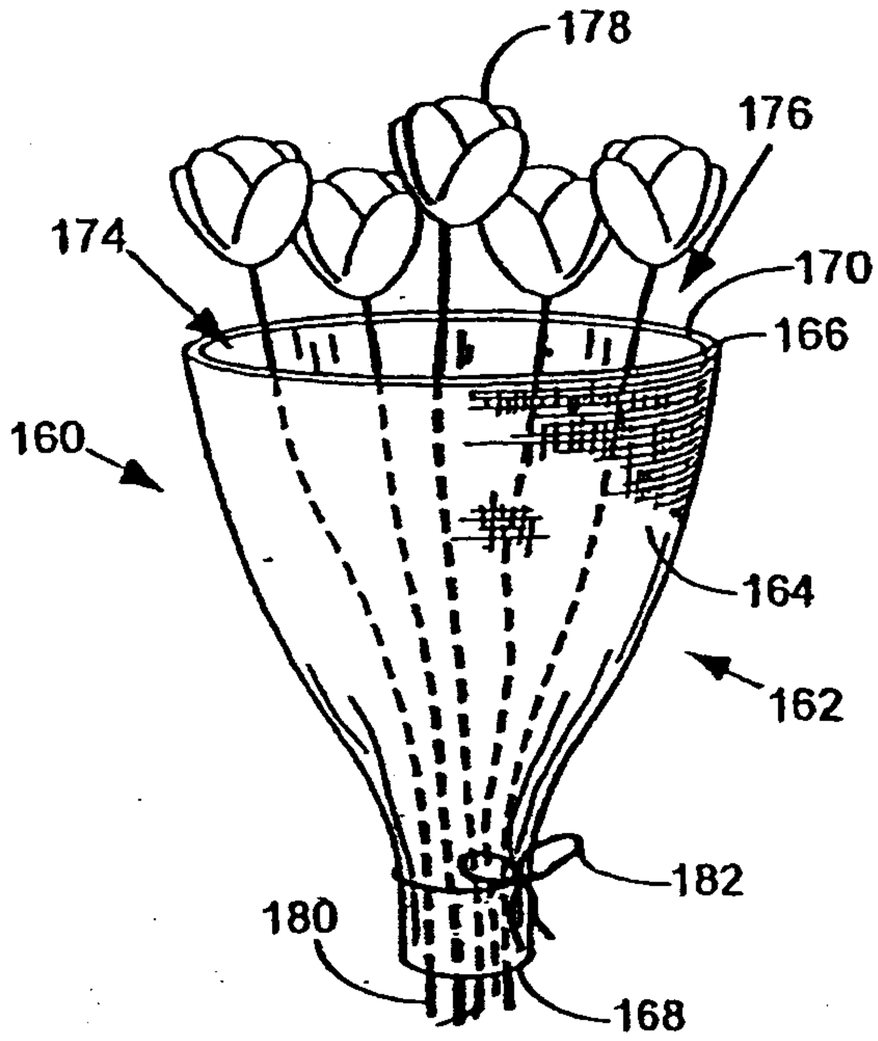


FIG. 14

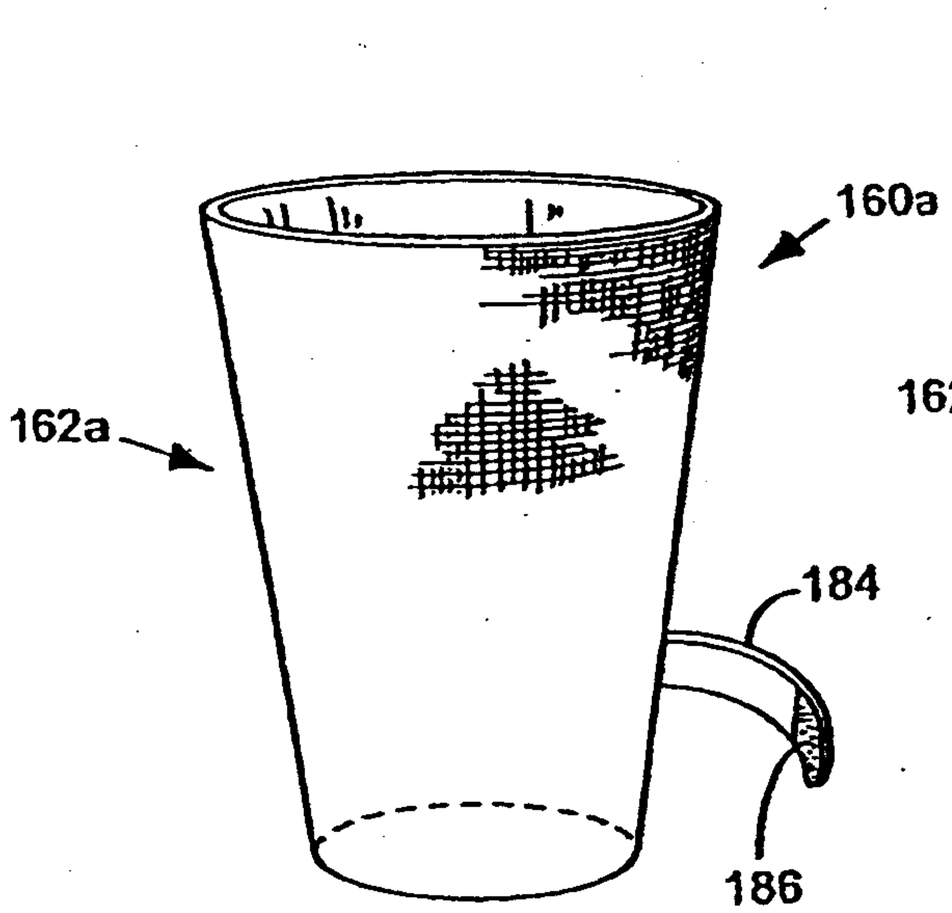


FIG. 15

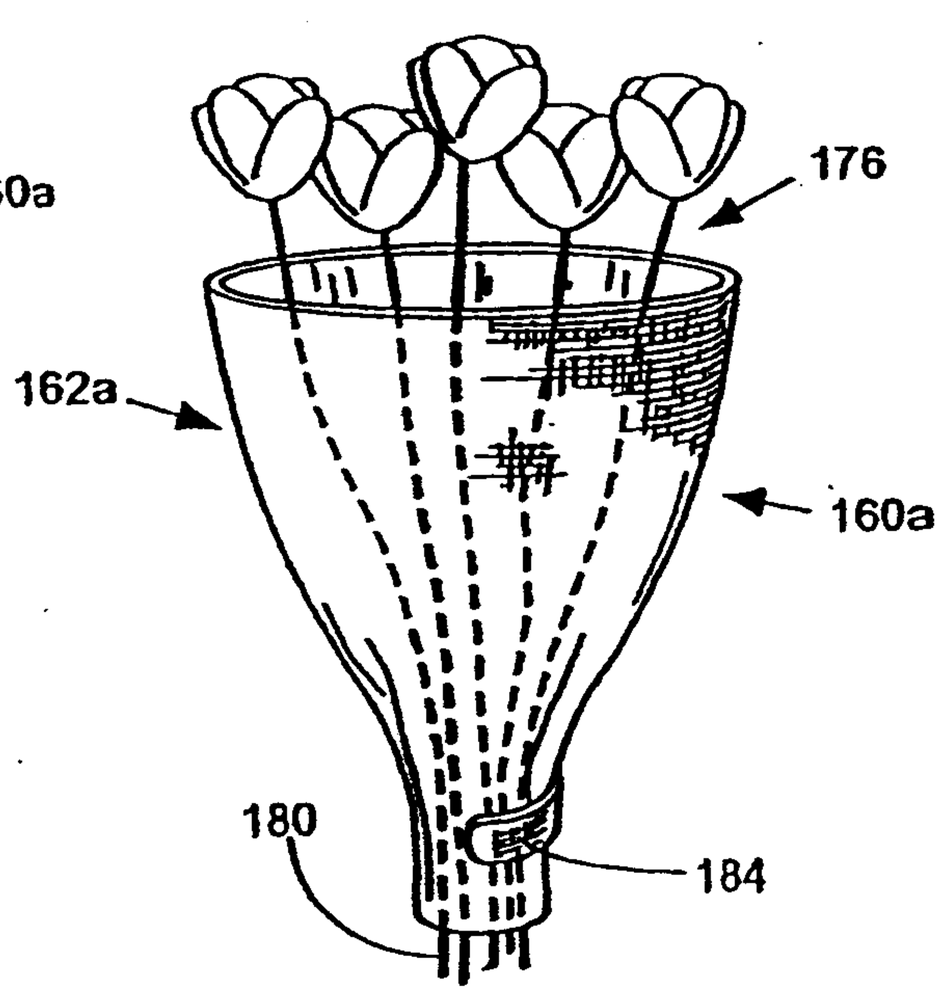


FIG. 16

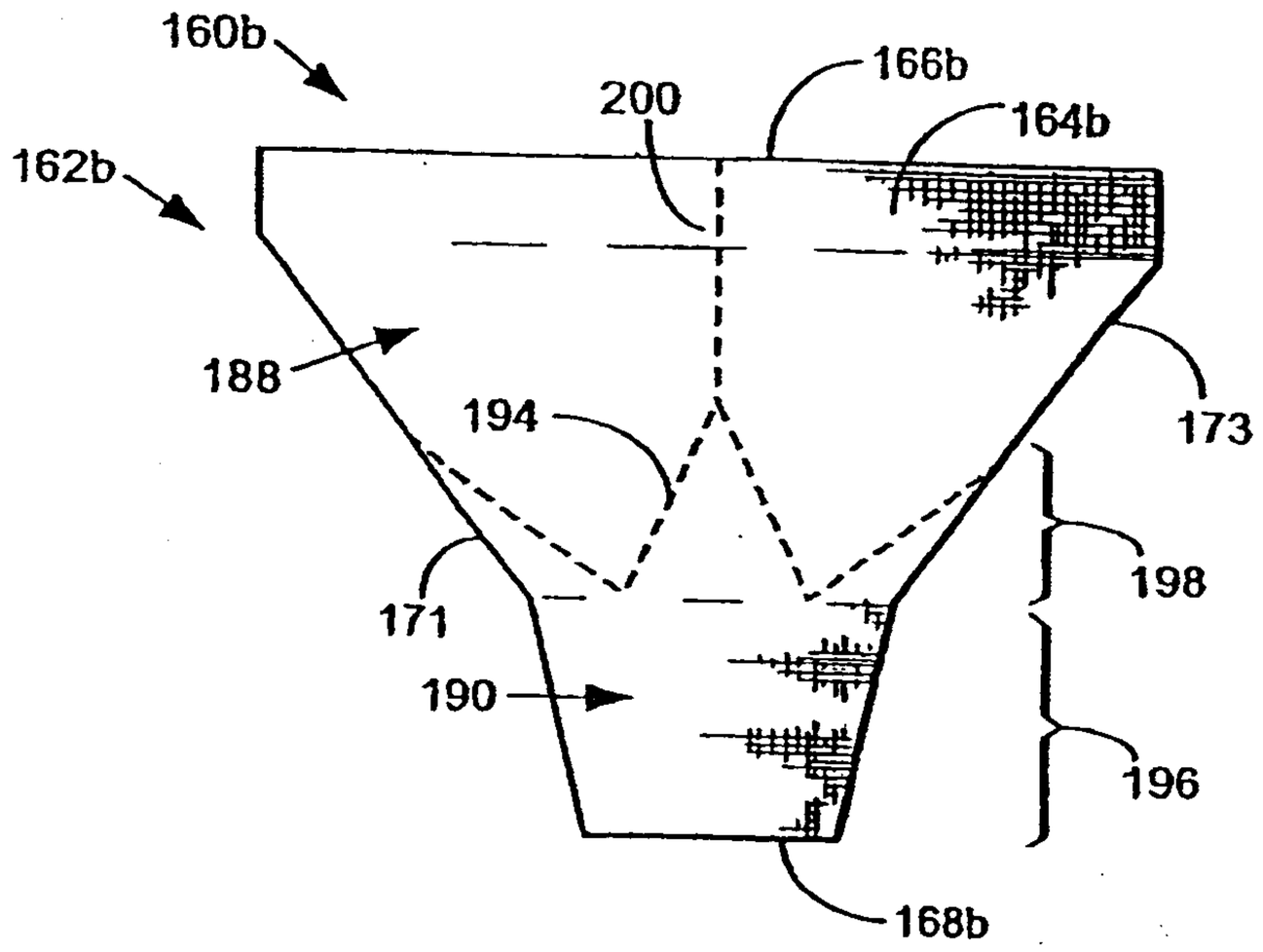

160b
166b
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164b
162b
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173
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168b

FIG. 17

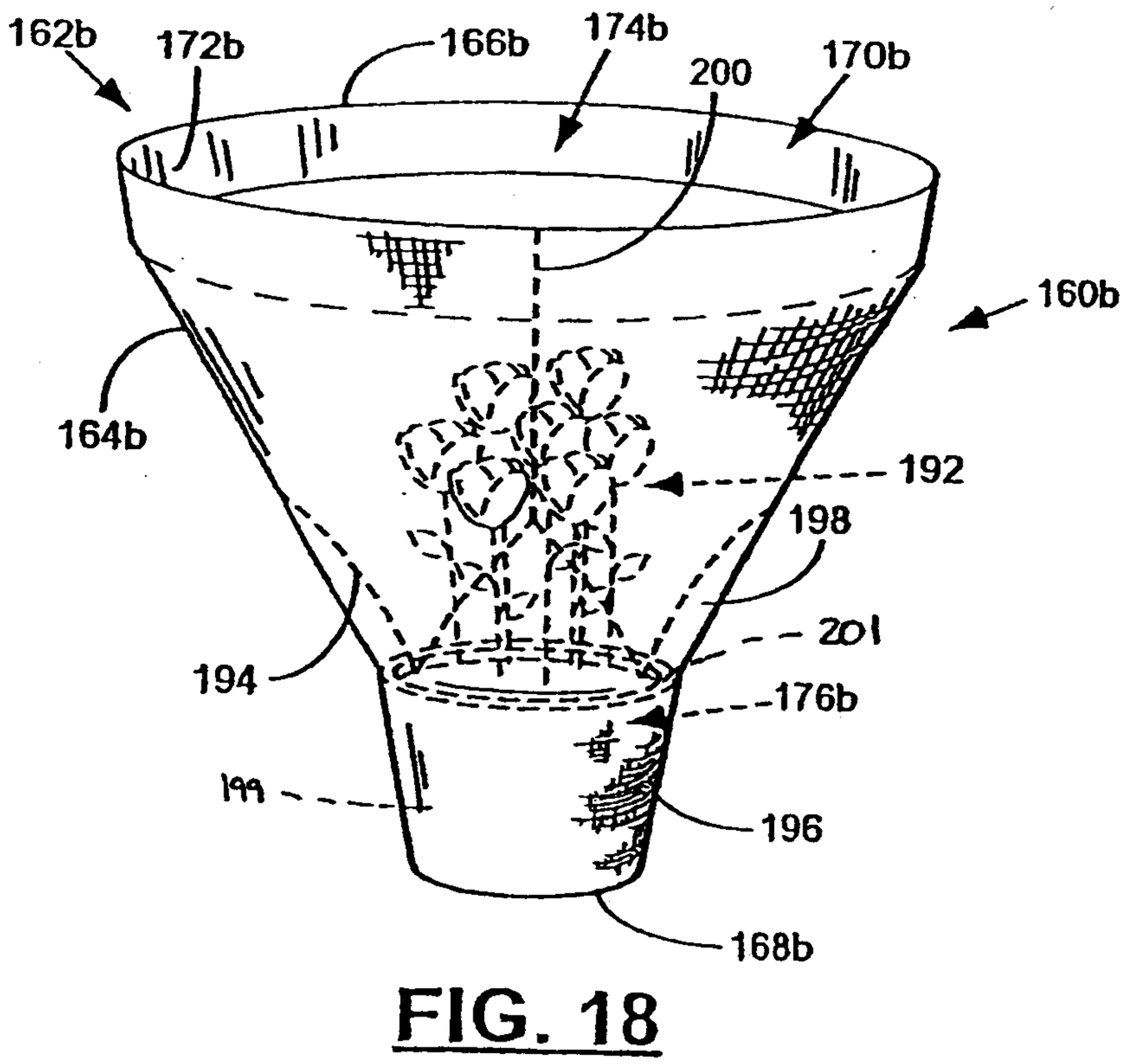

162b
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FIG. 18

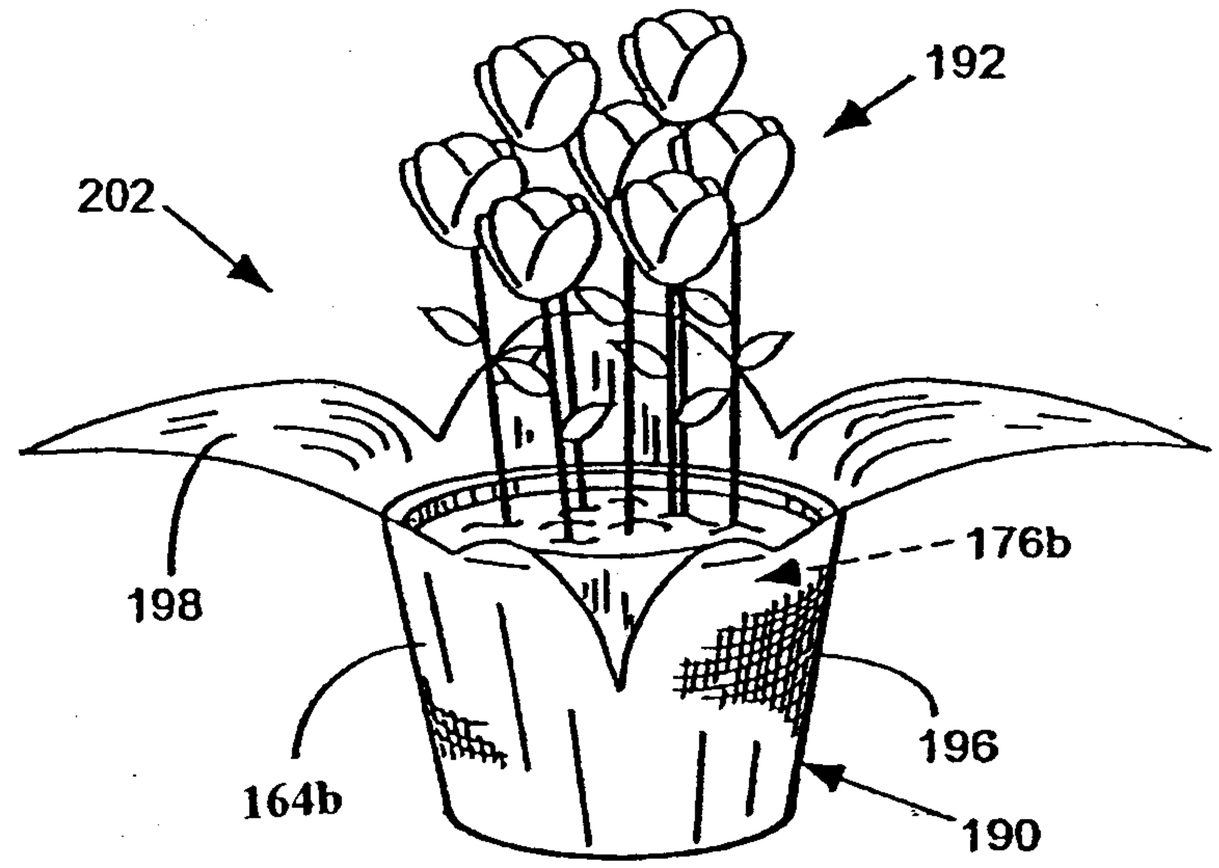


FIG. 19

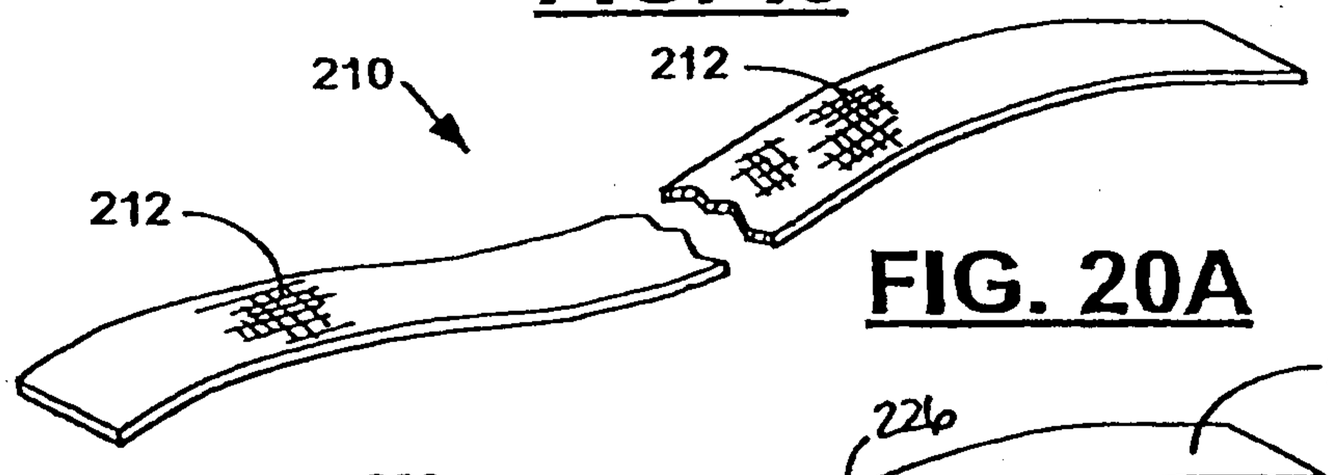


FIG. 20A

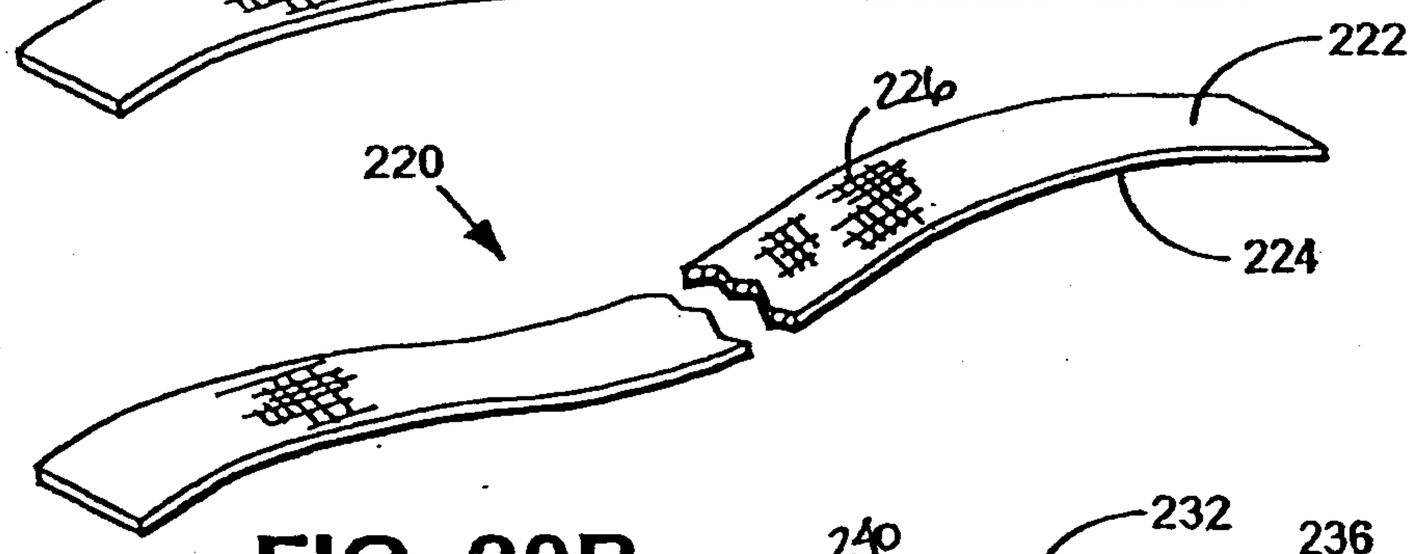


FIG. 20B

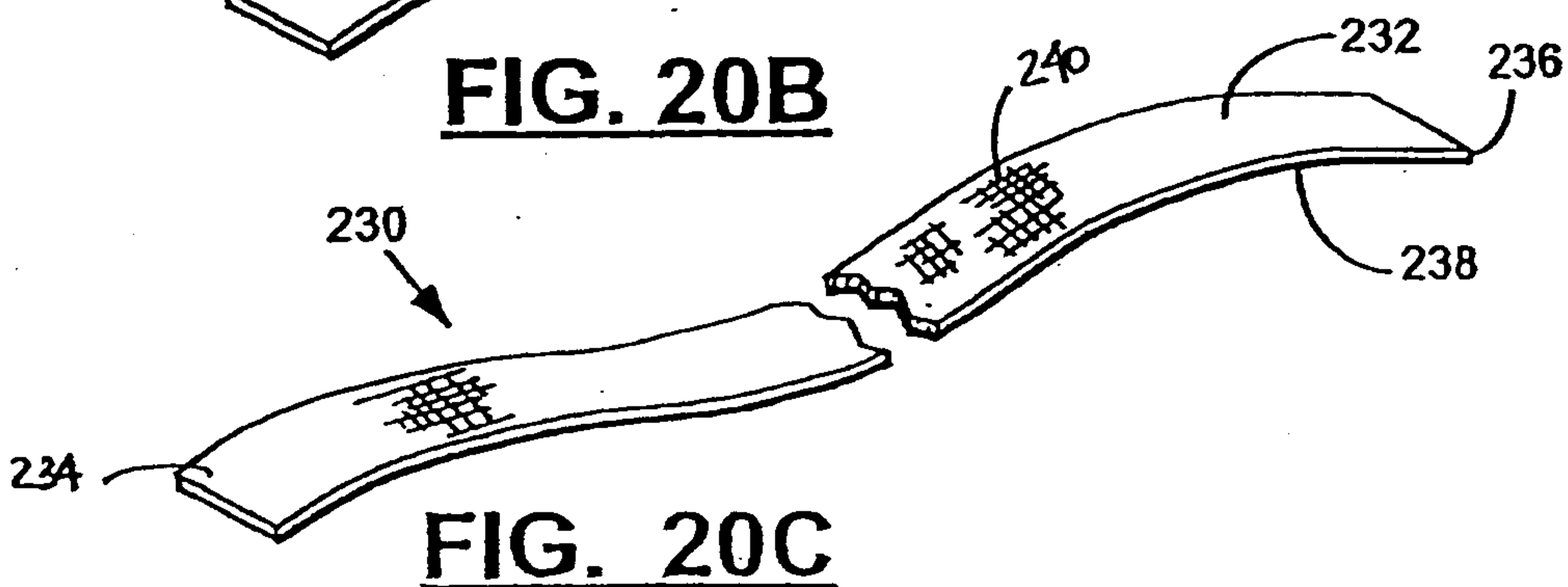
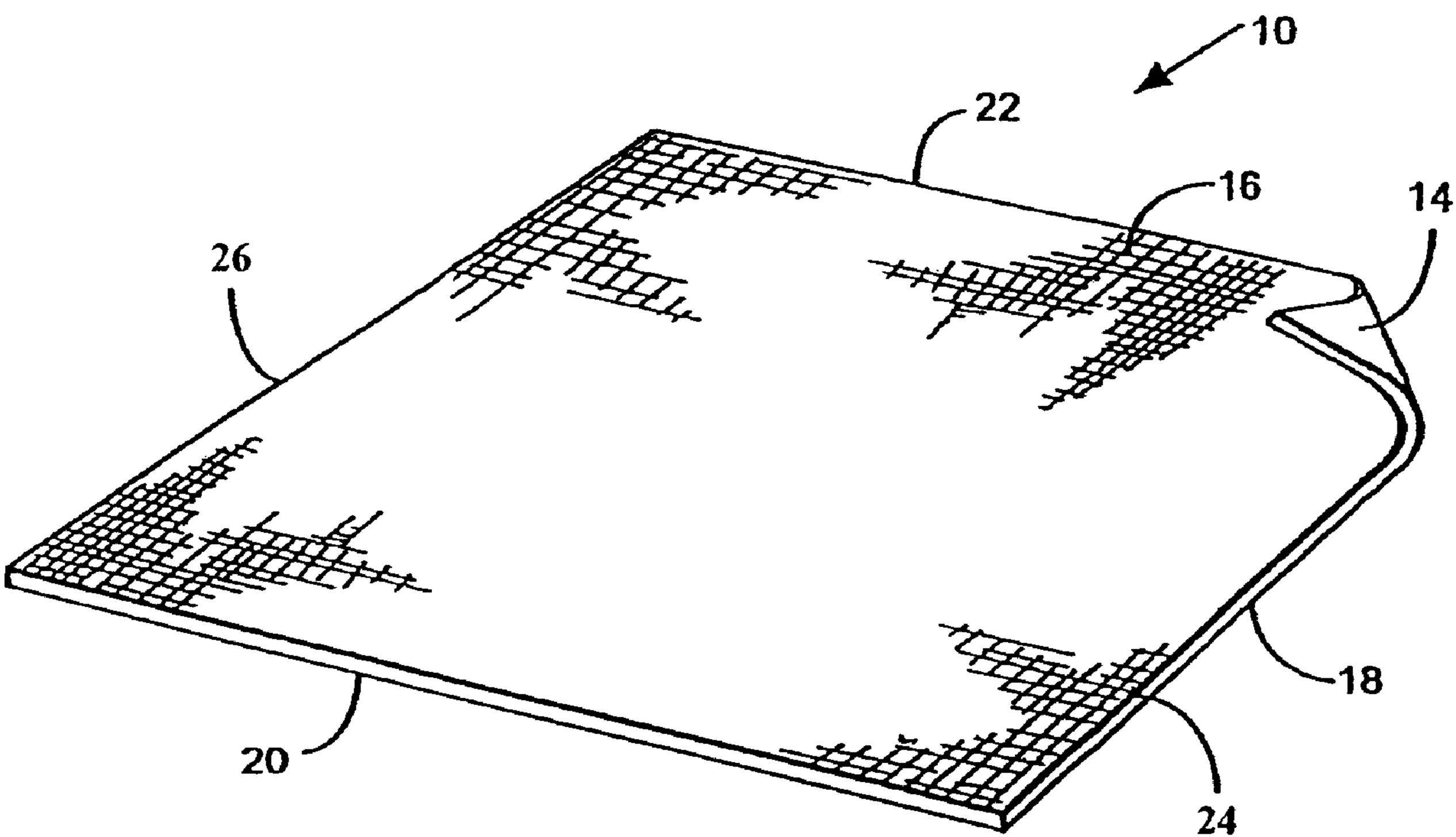


FIG. 20C


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