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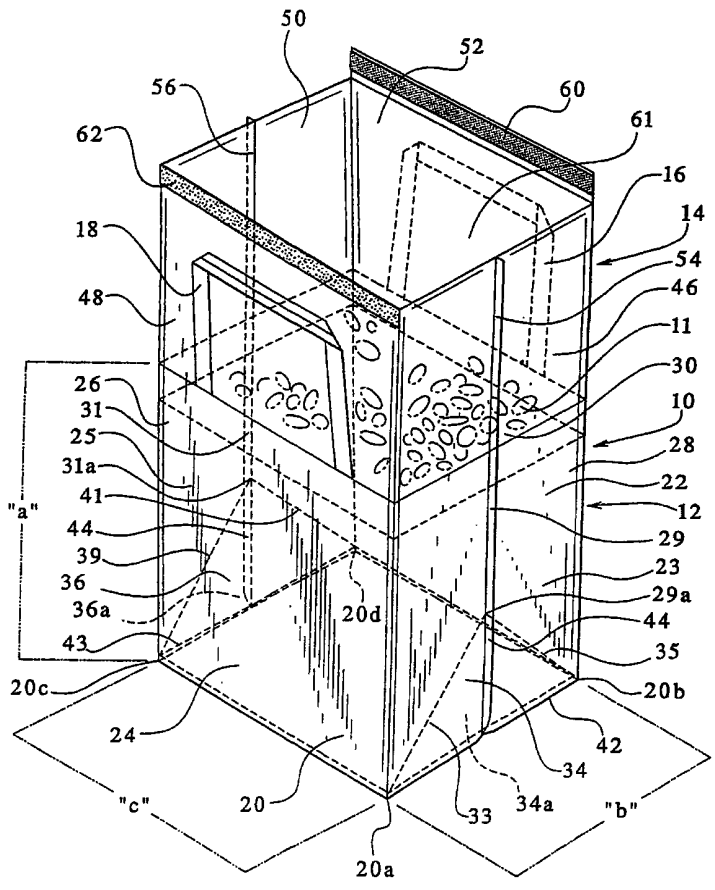
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(54) Title: FLEXIBLE CONTAINER HAVING FLAT WALLS



(57) Abstract: A flexible container (10) has a base (12) that includes a bottom (20), side walls (22, 24, 26, 28) and an interior (30), the bottom defining a substantially flat planar surface when the container houses product and the container rests thereon, an upper panel portion (14), that is adapted to be received within the interior of the base portion and includes side panels that define a closure member (60, 62). The upper panel is constructed and arranged to define a substantially flat surface (72) when the closure member is closed and portions of the upper panel are folded over. The upper panel includes a portion that is sealed to the base portion. A pair of handles (16, 18) may be secured to the base portion. The flat top and flat bottom allow for vertical stacking of the filled containers. The container may be manufactured from a flat sheet of plastic material having a width substantially equal to a length of the base portion, by indexing the flat sheet in intervals equal to a width or more of the base portion; bonding handles at one end to the sheet; applying closure means to a free end of each of the pair of panels; and forming the flat sheet, panels and pair of handles into the flexible container.

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GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Y	DE 19 04 655 A (PAPPERSTEKNIK AB) 28 August 1969 (1969-08-28) the whole document	3,16, 19-21
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Y	US 5 816 709 A (DEMUS ANDREW) 6 October 1998 (1998-10-06) the whole document	7-10,20, 22,23

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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