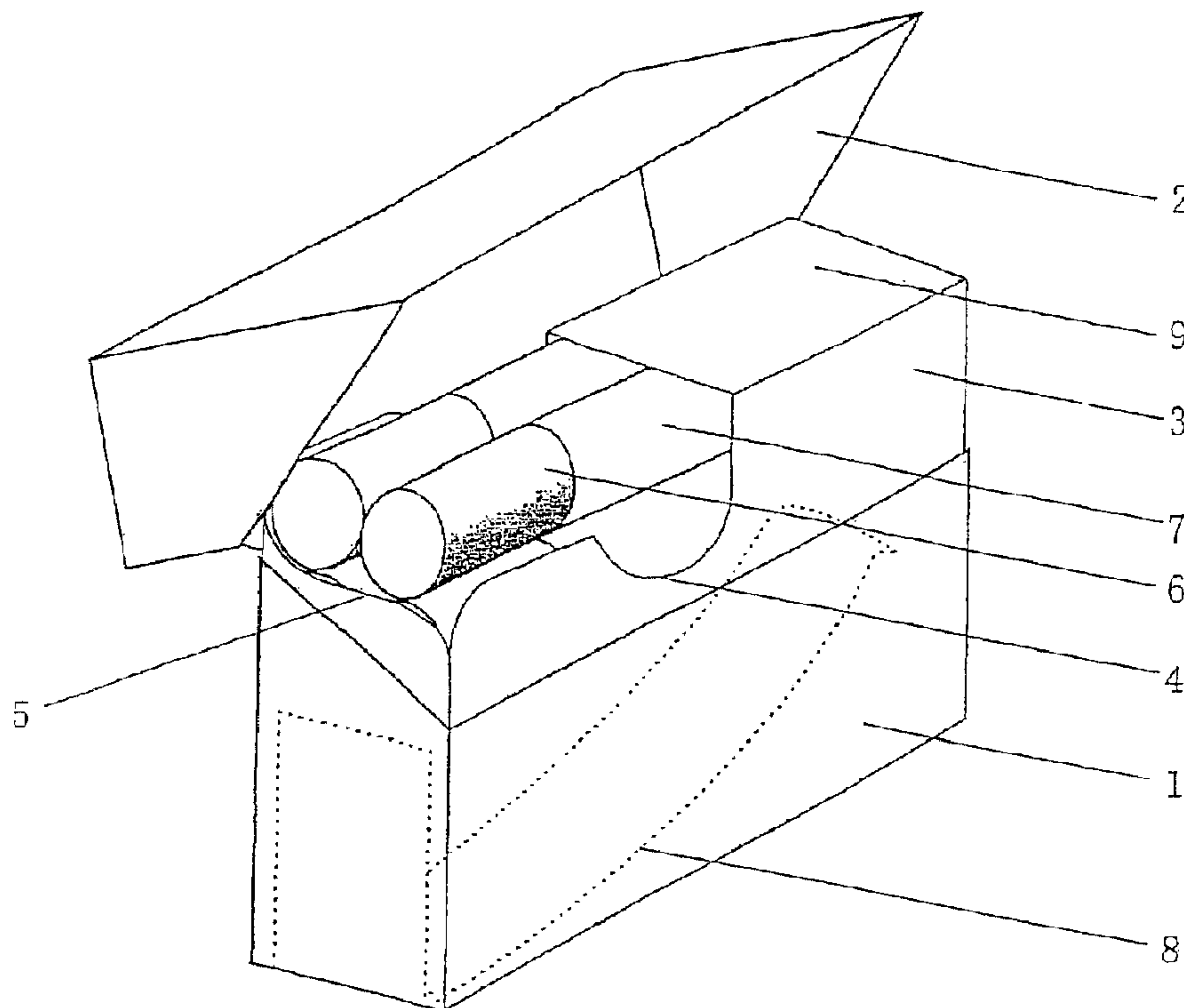




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(54) Title: SANITARY CIGARETTE CASE



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A package for cigarettes comprises a sanitary cigarette case which can avoid filter tips from being contacted by fingers, thereby preventing germs on the fingers from spreading into the mouth via filter tips. The case includes a case body and a case cover and an opening surface of the case body that is parallel with the longitudinal axis of cigarettes. The opening end of the case body can be covered by the case cover, which has a concavity in its longer face. An advantage of this cigarette case is that it is designed so that a person can grasp the middle of a cigarette when they remove the cigarette from the cigarette case, thereby preventing the filter tips from being contacted by the fingers, and preventing germs on the fingers from spreading into the mouth via the filter tips. This cigarette case can have a sanitary, convenient, elegant operation, simple manufacturing process and low cost.



Abstract

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SANITARY CIGARETTE CASE

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to sanitary cigarette packages, including a sanitary cigarette case which can avoid the filter tips of cigarettes therein from being
5 contacted by fingers so as to prevent germs on the fingers from spreading into the mouth via the filter tips.

BACKGROUND ART OF THE INVENTION

At present, the known high-grade cigarette package is generally a chipboard cigarette case with the cover turned up, in which generally accommodates twenty
10 cigarettes. There are also cases for accommodating nine, ten and sixteen etc. cigarettes. An opening is provided at the short side of the rectangular cigarette case, with the opening surface disposed transversely to the longitudinal axis of the cigarette. A defect of this kind of cigarette case (which has been used for many years) is that the cigarette is taken out from the cigarette case by holding the filter tip
15 with the hand. The filter tip having contacted the fingers is then contacted with the user's lips while smoking, which leads to germs on the fingers spreading into the mouth via the filter tip making the unhealthy smoking habit more unsanitary. Sometimes, the smoker will invite other persons to have the cigarette by grasping the filter tip. This is not only unsanitary but also increases potential infecting sources
20 of illness, and may be awkward. The function of the filter tip is for filtering the substances in the cigarette harmful to the human body in order to protect peoples' health. However, the existing cigarette case structure causes the filter tip to be a medium for introducing harmful substances into the human body. In order to avoid this occurrence, some smokers would prefer to remove the cigarette by grasping the
25 end with exposed tobacco leaf (e.g. by opening the bottom of the cigarette case instead of taking the cigarette from the top opening). Although this way is more

sanitary, it is easy to make the tobacco leaf loose by grasping the end at which the tobacco leaf is exposed, and the cigarette may fall out, thus affecting the appearance of the cigarette case and the cigarette quality. Also, this operation is cumbersome.

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with a broad aspect of the present invention, there is provided a sanitary, convenient package structure, which can allow people to grasp the middle portion of a cigarette when they pick the cigarette out of a cigarette case, thus not only avoiding unsanitary contact associated with grasping the cigarette tip, but also
10 avoiding losing cigarette leaf while taking the end at which the cigarette leaf is exposed. Aspects of this cigarette case also have a simple structure and convenient, elegant operation.

Unlike the prior art, aspects of include a sanitary cigarette case, which can prevent people's fingers from contacting cigarette filter tips, thus preventing germs
15 on the fingers from spreading into the mouth via the filter tip.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a cigarette case comprising a generally rectangular case body, and an inner lining disposed within the body having a first surface, a second surface generally parallel with the first surface, a third surface connecting the first surface and the second
20 surface, and a closing surface connecting the first surface and the second surface. An opening is positioned between the first, second, third, and closing surfaces. As well, at least a part of a recess is located in a middle portion of at least one of the first surface and the second surface, the recess being adjacent to the opening. The recess is offset longitudinally from the third surface, and a notch is disposed on the
25 inner lining at the third surface. The cigarette case further comprises a side surface opposite the case opening, an elastic sheet disposed at the side surface and a case cover configured to cover the opening. One end of the elastic sheet is attached

between the inner lining and the inner surface of the case body, the elastic sheet being formed by a hard sheet under which a spring is disposed. In one embodiment, a protruded part of the inner lining is folded onto another protruded part of the inner lining to form the closing surface.

- 5 Advantageously, the case may further comprise a pulling strip for holding cigarettes, the strip being positioned toward the bottom of the case, one end of the strip being adhered to an inner upper end of the case, while the other end thereof extends to the opening at the opposite side surface of the case body.

10 The advantages of aspects of the present invention include providing a sanitary cigarette case, which can allow people to avoid finger contact with the filter tip of cigarettes, thus preventing germs on the fingers from spreading into the mouth via the filter tip. The cigarette case can have a simple structure and a convenient, elegant operation.

15 The foregoing and other features and advantages of the present invention will now be described with reference to the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig 1 is a schematic structural view of an embodiment of the present invention;

20 Fig 2 is a schematic view showing the inner lining shape in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig 3 is a schematic view showing the long recess formed by the perforating lines provided at the case body;

Fig 4 is a structural schematic view showing the formed pulling strip at the bottom of the case body.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | 1 case body | 2.....case cover |
| | 3..... inner lining | 4..... recess |
| | 5..... notch | 6.....filter tip |
| | 7..... cigarette | 8.....elastic sheet |
| 5 | 9..... closing surface | 10....protruded part |
| | 11perforating line | 12....pulling strip |

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

10 A case in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention includes a case body 1 and a case cover 2. The case body 1 and the case cover 2 can be formed integrally, and also can be formed separately. An opening surface of the case body 1 is disposed parallel to the longitudinal axis of the cigarette in the cigarette case. Accordingly, the cigarettes are disposed transversely at the opening of the case, which can make it easier for holding the middle portion of the cigarettes.

15 The case cover 2 covers the opening surface of the case body.

A recess 4 is disposed at a surface (as can be seen, a long side surface) of the opening in which a long side of the opening surface lies. Preferably, recess 4 is disposed at the middle portion of the long side of the opening surface. Disposing the recess at the long side can make it easier for the user to hold the cigarette at the

20 recess with the fingers and to remove the cigarettes. When a longer recess is needed, a multi-stage tearing arrangement can be adopted to extend the recess, thus making it easier to remove all the cigarettes from the case. The surface of recess 4 can be coated with thin paper, with one end of the thin paper connected to one side of the recess and joined to the recess surface for covering the recess, or

25 recess 4 can be formed by perforated lines (which are easy to tear) on the case body 1. For example, a plurality of parallel perforating lines 11 can be disposed along a longitudinal direction of recess 4. The corresponding covering part can be torn along the perforated lines depending on the position of the cigarette to be

removed. Accordingly, the length of recess 4 can be selectively lengthened to allow convenient removal of all the cigarettes within the case.

When the case cover 2 is connected with the case body 1 integrally, the case cover 2 can be turned up. In one embodiment, there is a notch 5 at another surface
5 (as can be seen, a short side surface of the opening) of case body 1 for taking cigarettes out conveniently. A short side of the opening surface lies in the above short side surface, the area of the notch 5 can be slightly larger than the sectional area of the cigarette, or a larger notch 5 can be formed by cutting out a part of the upper end of the short side of the opening surface. The case can also include a
10 section of a closing surface 9 at the opening surface of the case body, within which the cigarette exposed ends are disposed. This arrangement can not only protect the cigarette exposed ends, but can also prevent the cigarettes from spilling out of the case, for example when removing cigarettes at the bottom of the case by inverting the case.

15 In addition, when an elastic sheet or pulling strip is disposed at the opposite side of the case opening surface, it can prevent cigarettes from being ejected or pulled out. For example, an elastic sheet 8 can be disposed at the opposite side (that is, the bottom of the case body) of the opening of case body 1, which can push the cigarettes at the lower layer to the upper layer at the opening. In another
20 embodiment, a pulling strip 12 holds cigarettes from the bottom of case body 1, with one end of the pulling strip adhered to the inner upper end of the case body, while the other end extends to the opening opposite of the adhered position at the upper end of the case body. This arrangement allows the user to hold the pulling strip at the opening and take the cigarettes out.

25 The inner lining 3 is disposed within the case body for enhancing the strength of the case body. Inner lining 3 can include an overlap part being formed by the inner lining at the upper of the case body 1 and the case cover 2, which can hold cigarettes within the case while opening the case. When the case cover and the case body are formed integrally, recess 4 at the long side surface of the opening can

be formed on the inner lining 3, and a notch can be disposed on inner lining 3 (for convenient removal of the cigarettes) at the short side surface of the case opening and can extend to the edge of the recess at the long side of the inner lining. A protruded part 10 of the inner lining can be folded onto another protruded part of the
5 inner lining to form the section of the closing surface 9 at the one end of the long side of the case body. The one end of the elastic sheet 8 can be attached between the inner lining 3 and the inner surface of the case body 1. The elastic sheet 8 can be formed by a hard sheet under which a spring is disposed, with the spring fixed at the bottom of the case body, and the cigarettes disposed on the hard sheet.

10 As will be apparent from the above, the present invention provides a sanitary cigarette case, which can allow people to avoid finger contact with the filter tip of cigarettes, thus preventing germs on the fingers from spreading into the mouth via the filter tip. A cigarette case in accordance with the present invention can have a simple structure and a convenient, elegant operation. The scope of the present
15 invention is not limited to the above preferred embodiments, and any equivalent modifications of the present invention are considered to fall within the scope of the claims which follow.

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. A cigarette case, comprising:
 - (a) a generally rectangular case body;
 - 5 (b) an inner lining disposed within the case body and having a first surface, a second surface generally parallel with the first surface, a third surface connecting the first surface and the second surface, and a closing surface connecting the first surface and the second surface, wherein an opening is positioned between the first, second, third, and closing surfaces, and
10 wherein at least a part of a recess is located in a middle portion of at least one of the first surface and the second surface, the recess being adjacent to the opening, the recess being offset longitudinally from the third surface, and wherein a notch is disposed on the inner lining at the third surface;
 - (c) a side surface opposite the case opening;
 - 15 (d) an elastic sheet disposed at the side surface, wherein one end of the elastic sheet is attached between the inner lining and the inner surface of the case body, the elastic sheet being formed by a hard sheet under which a spring is disposed; and,
 - (e) a case cover configured to cover the opening.
- 20 2. A cigarette case as defined in claim 1, wherein a protruded part of the inner lining is folded onto another protruded part of the inner lining to form the closing surface.
3. A cigarette case as defined in claim 1, further comprising a pulling strip for holding cigarettes, positioned toward the bottom of the case, one end of the pulling
25 strip being adhered to an inner upper end of the case, while the other end thereof extends to the opening at the opposite side surface of the case body.

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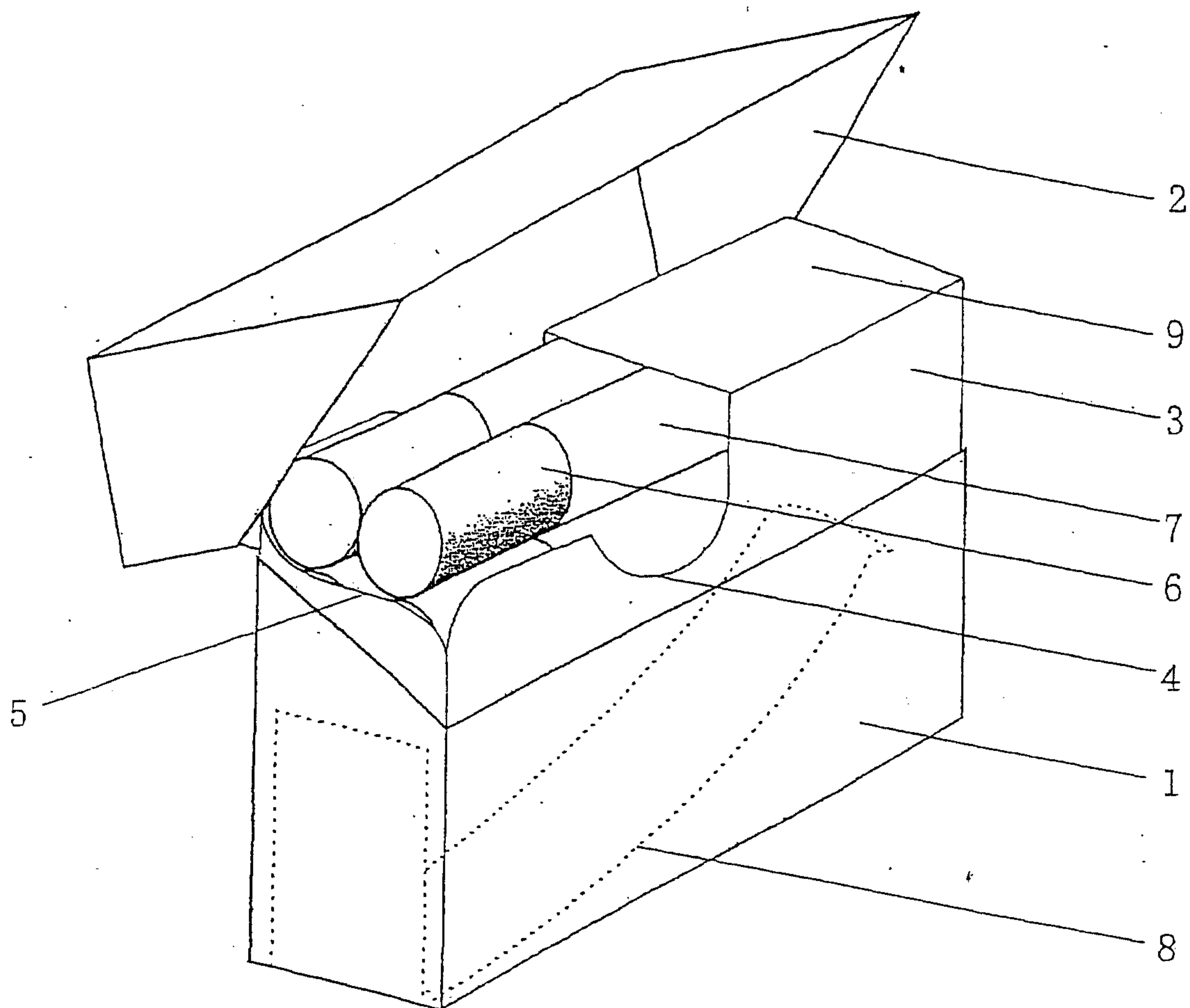


Fig.1

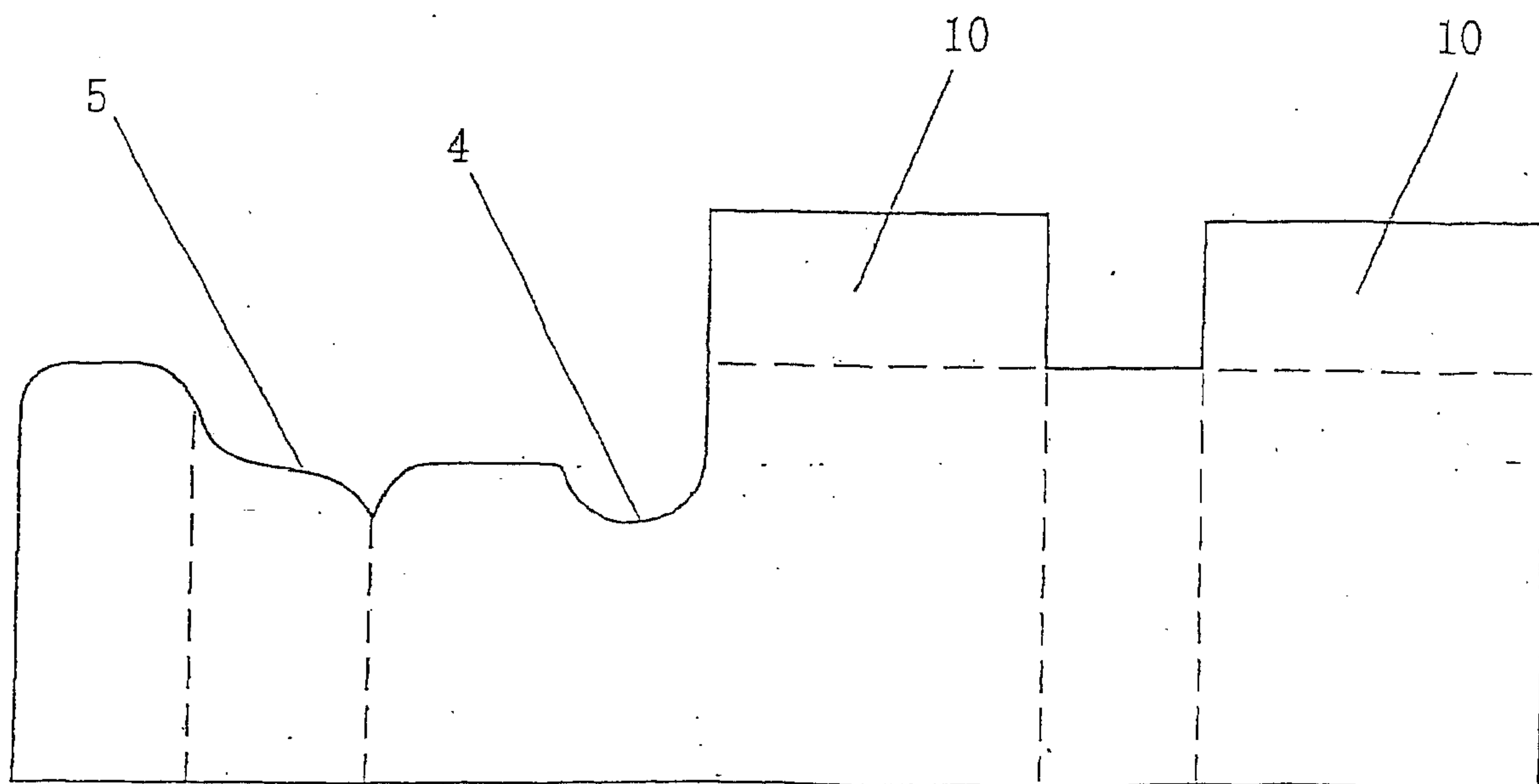


Fig.2

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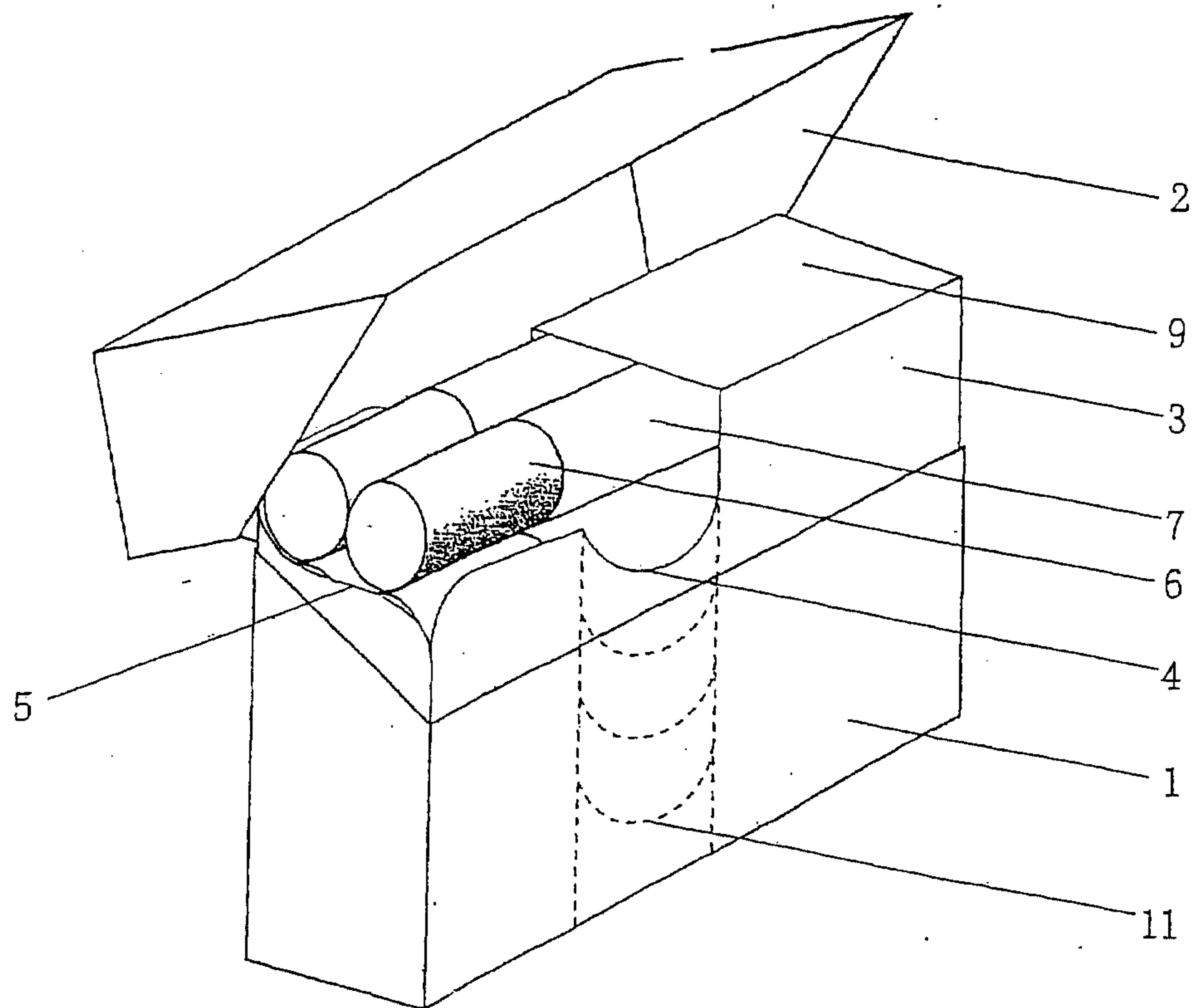


Fig.3

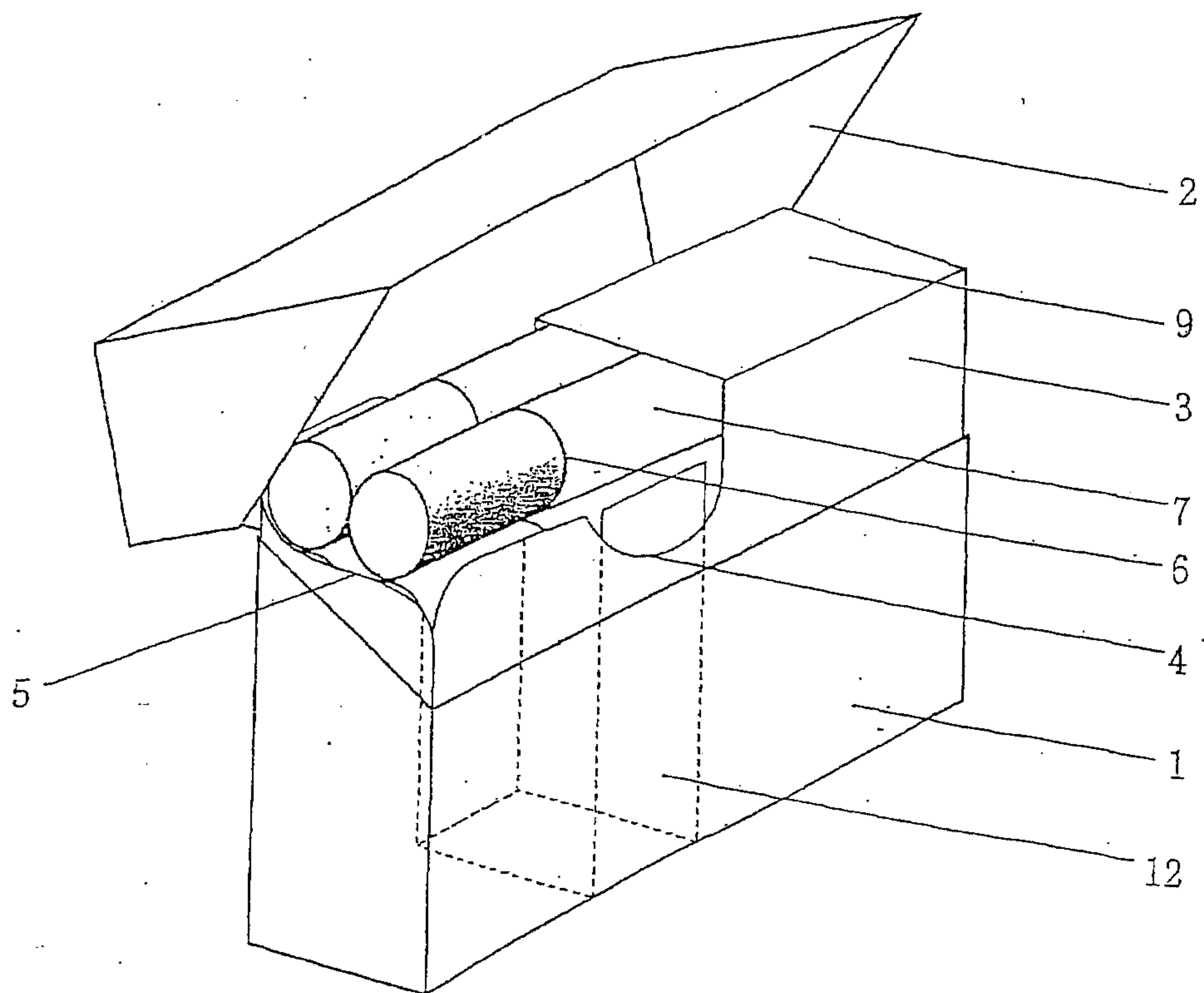


Fig.4

