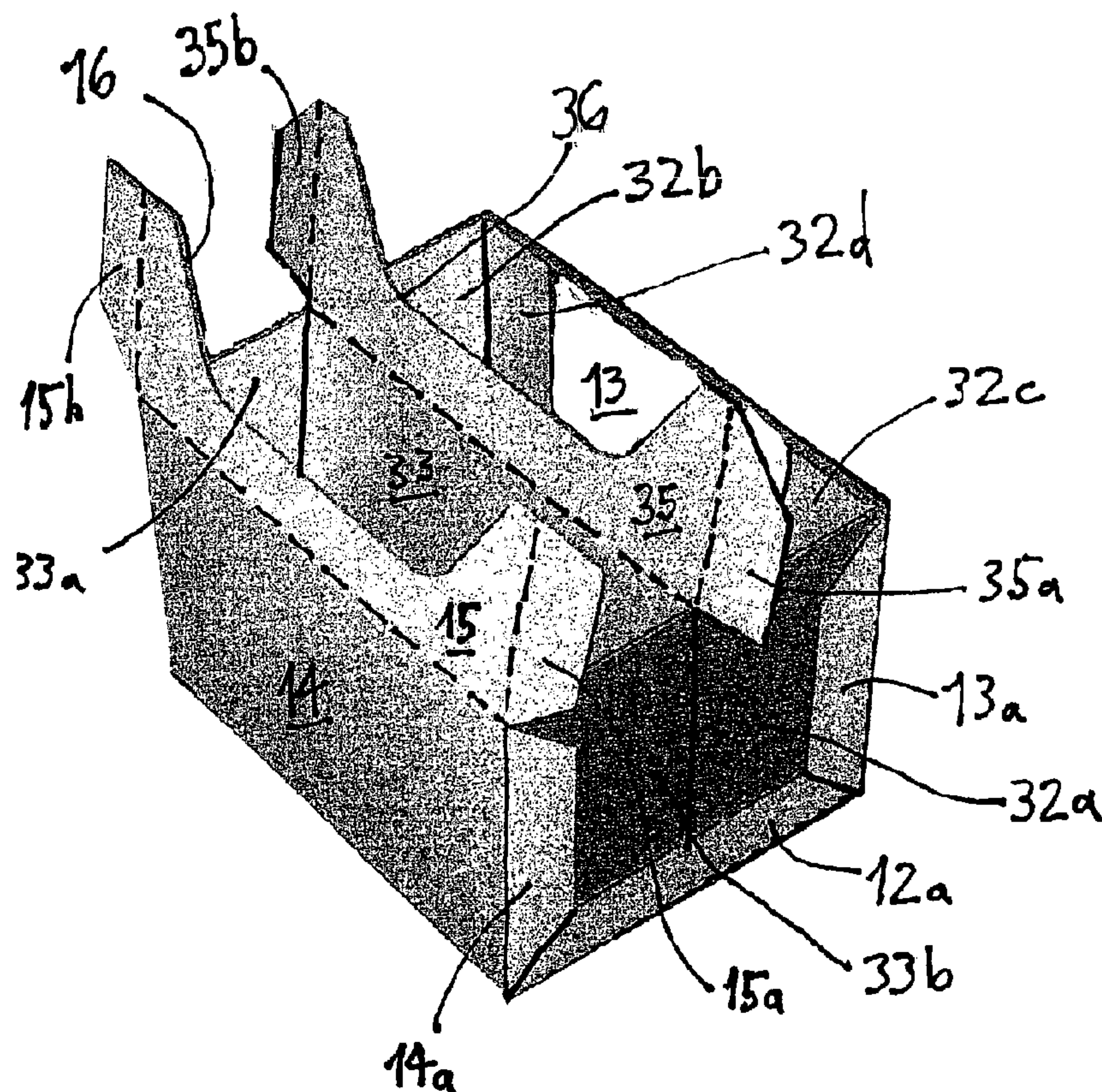




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(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

According to one aspect of the present invention, a container is provided for shipping a plurality of items, such as pre-wrapped reams of cut-sized paper, more particularly, a container for shipping items is provided, comprising: a base portion sized to receive a plurality of items therein; a lid portion sized to fit over the base portion, thereby enclosing the plurality of items therein; wherein at least a portion of either the base portion or the lid portion includes a break-away section for at least partially opening the container to permit removal of at least one of the plurality of items therefrom.



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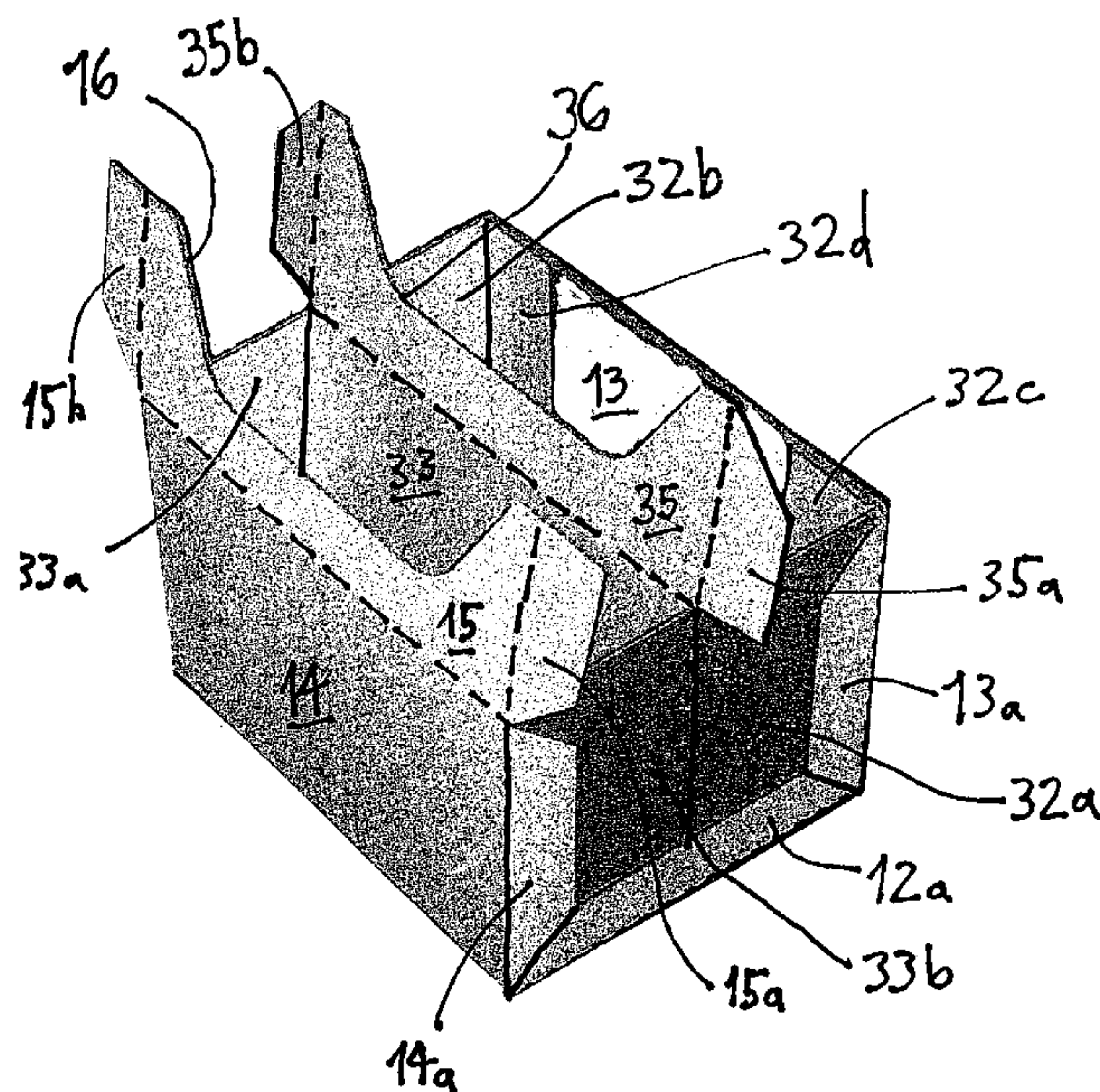
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(54) Title: **SHELVED DISPLAY PACKAGE**



(57) Abstract: According to one aspect of the present invention, a container is provided for shipping a plurality of items, such as pre-wrapped reams of cut-sized paper, more particularly, a container for shipping items is provided, comprising: a base portion sized to receive a plurality of items therein; a lid portion sized to fit over the base portion, thereby enclosing the plurality of items therein; wherein at least a portion of either the base portion or the lid portion includes a break-away section for at least partially opening the container to permit removal of at least one of the plurality of items therefrom.

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SHELVED DISPLAY PACKAGE**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Technical Field of the Invention**

5 The present invention relates generally to a container for shipping, storing, handling and displaying a plurality of products. More particularly, the present invention relates to a container for shipping, storing, handling and displaying a plurality of products, wherein the container defines two or more chambers.

2. Brief Description of the Related Art

10 In the packaging, delivery and sale of large quantities of products, it is desirable for the products to be shipped in a container that can be utilized at the point-of-sale as a display. For example, so-called "club stores" or other department or grocery stores that deal in large quantities of products, oftentimes utilize the shipping containers for purposes of display and delivery to the end-user at the point-of-sale. Rather than remove
15 the products from their shipping containers and place them individually upon a display shelf (such as is the practice in conventional department and grocery stores), club store practice prefers for products to be delivered in a container that can be quickly and easily converted into a display container at the point-of-sale. Accordingly, it is desirable to provide a container suitable for shipping, storing and handling a plurality of products,
20 wherein the container may be converted for purposes of display and sale of the products to end-users thereof.

 It is desirable furthermore for the container to define two or more chambers, which may permit for more efficient and orderly packing, delivery, storing and displaying

of the products. For example, slipsheets (i.e., individual flat pieces of corrugated material) may be utilized so that multiple rows of products (such as, individual packages of lunch meat) can be stacked atop one another in a neat and orderly fashion that is not disturbed during shipping, storing and handling thereof. However, once sufficient quantities of the product have been removed from the container, the slipsheet becomes unnecessary and an item that needs to be discarded. It is desirable, therefore, to provide a container suitable for shipping, storing and handling a plurality of products, wherein the container integrally defines two or more chambers.

It also is desirable to provide a container for shipping, storing, handling and displaying a plurality of items, wherein the container is adapted to be packed/filled while in a first orientation, and wherein the container is adapted to permits its being positioned in a second orientation when displaying the products at the point-of-sale.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a container for shipping, storing, handling and displaying a plurality of items, and more particularly, for displaying a plurality of items for purchase by end-users at the point-of-sale thereof. A container according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention is formed from two blanks, which may be integrally-formed and then separated or may be formed separately and then combined as described herein.

The first blank is constructed from any suitable foldable material, but preferably from foldable corrugated paperboard or the like, and is used to define a wrapper portion of the container, wherein the wrapper defines a bottom wall, opposing side walls and a

first fold-over front wall of the container.

The second blank is constructed from any suitable foldable material, but preferably from foldable corrugated paperboard or the like, and is used to define a divider portion of the container, wherein the divider is positionable within the wrapper and
5 therein defines a shelf dividing an interior region of the container into first and second chambers, opposing end walls and a second fold-over front wall of the container. End walls are affixed, such as by adhesive, tape, stapling or the like, to fold-over wings provided along the end edges of the opposing side walls and the bottom wall.

First and second fold-over front walls may each be positioned in an open
10 orientation, wherein first and second chambers of the container are readily accessible, such as, for example, during packing operations. Fold-over front walls also may be positioned in a closed configuration, wherein front walls function to retain products within the container, such as, for example, during shipping.

An opening is provided in each of the first and second fold-over front walls such
15 that products may be removed from the container, such as, for example, at the point-of-sale, where purchasers may wish to buy one or more of the products. Openings may be integral with the front walls or may be provided by a removable segment formed in each front wall and separable from therefrom, such as, by perforation lines. Alternatively, the openings may be covered by a film, or the like, during shipment so as to prevent products
20 from falling therefrom, which such film may be removed easily at the point-of-sale.

According to one aspect of the present invention, a container according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention provides a multi-chamber container for packing products when the container is in an "upright" (i.e., the container is resting on the

bottom wall thereof) orientation, yet may be repositioned in a “sideways” (i.e., the container is resting on one of the sidewalls thereof) orientation at the point-of-sale for easy removal of products therefrom.

According to one aspect of the present invention, a container for shipping items is provided, comprising: a first blank defining opposing side walls connected along respective lower edges thereof by a bottom wall; a second blank defining opposing end walls positioned between the side walls; the side walls, the end walls and the bottom wall cooperating to define an interior space of the container; wherein the second blank defines a divider extending between the end walls and so as to divide the interior space into at least a first and second chamber; wherein the first blank includes a first fold-over flap extending at least partways over the first chamber; and, wherein the second blank includes a second fold-over flap extending at least partways over the second chamber.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing, as well as other objects and advantages of the invention, will become apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a top view of a first blank used to form a wrapper portion of a container according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the first blank of Figure 1, shown in a folded orientation to define a bottom wall, opposing sidewalls and a first front wall of the container according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 3 is a top view of a second blank used to form a divider portion of the container according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the second blank of Figure 2, shown in a folded orientation to define a divider, opposing end walls and a second front wall of the
5 container according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the container according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, wherein the container is shown in an “upright” orientation suitable for packing;

Figure 6, is a perspective view of the container of Figure 5, shown in a
10 “sideways” orientation suitable for display and dispensing of products therefrom; and,

Figure 7 is a partial view of a front flap of a container according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

15 With reference to Figure 1, the container 1 (Figure 4) according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention is constructed from a first blank 10 and a second blank 30 (Figure 3). First blank 10 is constructed from a foldable material, such as, for example, corrugated paperboard or the like, and is generally rectangular in shape. A plurality of generally parallel fold lines 11a, 11b, 11c divide the blank 10 into four panels
20 including a bottom wall panel 12, a first side wall panel 13, a second side wall panel 14 and a first fold-over front flap 15. First fold-over flap 15 includes a cut-out 6.

First blank 10 also includes a pair of edge fold lines 11d, 11e which traverse the length of the blank 10, thereby defining first side wall fold-over wings 13a, 13b, bottom

wall fold-over wings 12a, 12b, second side wall fold-over wings 14a, 14b and first front flap fold-over wings 15a, 15b. Each fold-over wing 12a, 12b, 13a, 13b, 14a, 14b, 15a, 15b includes tapered edges 12a', 12b', 13a', 13b', 14a', 14b', 15a', 15b', the purpose of which will be described in greater detail below.

5 Referring now to Figure 2, first blank 10 is folded to form a wrapper portion 10' of the container 1 (Figure 5) according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. More particularly, first side wall panel 13 is folded about fold line 11a relative to bottom wall panel 12 so that first side wall panel 13 is generally perpendicular to the bottom wall panel 12. Similarly, second side wall panel 14 is folded about fold line 11b
10 relative to bottom wall panel 12 so that second side wall panel 14 is generally perpendicular to the bottom wall panel 12 and opposes first side wall panel 13. For the moment, first front wall flap 15 remains generally in the same plane as the second side wall panel 14, and as such, extends away from the bottom wall panel 12.

Referring to Figure 3, the container 1 (Figure 5) according to a preferred
15 embodiment of the present invention further includes a second blank 30 constructed from a foldable material, such as, for example, corrugated paperboard or the like, and is generally rectangular in shape. A main fold line 31a divides the second blank 30 into a first divider wall panel 32 and a second divider wall panel 33. A second fold-over front wall flap 35 extends from the first divider wall panel 32 along a flap fold line 31b and
20 includes a cut-out 36.

A pair of first end wall fold lines 31d traverse first and second divider wall panels 32, 33, respectively, and are generally perpendicular to main fold line 31a. A pair of second end wall fold lines 31e traverse first and second divider wall panels 32, 33,

respectively, spaced outward from first end wall fold lines 31d. First and second end wall fold lines 31d, 31e, respectively, cooperate to define first end wall panels 32a, 32b in the first divider wall panel 32 and further to define second end wall panels 33a, 33b in the second divider wall panel 33. Second end wall fold lines 31e further cooperate to define
5 first anchor flaps 32c, 32d in the first divider wall panel 32 and further to define second anchor flaps 33c, 33d in the second divider wall panel 33. Fold lines 31f, 31g traverse at least a portion of the second front wall flap 35, thereby defining second front flap wings 35a, 35b extending transversely therefrom.

Referring now to Figure 4, second blank 30 is folded to define a divider portion
10 30' of the container 1 (Figure 5) according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. More particularly, second divider wall panel 33 is folded about main fold line 31a relative to first divider wall panel 32 so that first and second divider wall panels 32, 33 are in face-to-face relationship, joined along a bottom edge by main fold line 31a.

First end wall panels 32a, 32b are folded about first end wall fold lines 31d
15 relative to the first divider wall panel 32 away from the second divider wall panel 33 so that first end wall panels 32a, 32b are generally perpendicular to the first divider wall panel 32. Second end wall panels 33a, 33b are folded about second wall fold lines first end wall fold lines 31d relative to the second divider wall panel 33 away from the first divider wall panel 32 so that the second end wall panels 33a, 33b are generally
20 perpendicular to the second divider wall panel 33. For the moment, first anchor flaps 32c, 32d and second anchor flaps 33c, 33d remain generally in the same plane as first end wall panels 32a, 32b and second end wall panels 33a, 33b, respectively. Similarly, second front wall flap 35 remains generally in the same plane as the first divider wall

panel 32. Thus configured, the divider portion 30' of the container 1 (Figure 4) takes on a generally H-shaped appearance, when viewed from above.

Referring now to Figure 5, the container 1 according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention is assembled by positioning the folded divider portion 30' within the wrapper portion 10'. More particularly, the divider portion 30' is positioned such that the divider wall panels 32, 33 are generally parallel to the side walls 13, 14. End wall panels 32a, 32b, 33a, 33b are disposed between first side wall wings 13a, 13b, bottom wall wings 12a, 12b and second side wall wings 14a, 14b, all of which have been folded about edge fold lines 11d, 11e, respectively, and adhered to end wall panels 32a, 3b, 33a, 33b. Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that tapered edges 12a', 12b', 13a', 13b', 14a', 14b', 15a', 15b' are provided to permit adjacent wings (such as wings 13b, 12b and wings 12b, 14b) to fold as shown and be affixed to end wall panels 32a, 32b, 33a, 33b by any conventional means.

Divider portion 30', as shown in Figure 5, defines an interior space of the container 1 as comprising first chamber 2 and second chamber 3. Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that orienting the container 1 as shown in Figure 5 may be filled or packed with products (not shown) using conventional container packing equipment, which typically require the container being packed to have an open upper end. Once packed, the front flaps 15, 35 are folded about their respective fold lines 11c, 31b to substantially cover the open upper end of the container 1. Wings 15a, 15b, 35a, 35b of the front flaps 15, 35, respectively, are then folded and adhered or otherwise affixed to the end wall panels 32a, 32b, 33a, 33b. A polymeric film (not shown) may be adhered to the outer surface of the container 1 over the openings defined by cut-outs 16, 36, for

example, to prevent spillage of the products from the container 1 during shipping.

Referring to Figure 6, the container 1 is shown in an orientation suitable for display and for dispensing of the products, for example, at the point-of-sale where purchasers of the products will remove them one-at-a-time from the container 1.

5 Openings created by cut-outs 16, 36 are sufficiently large to permit a purchaser to reach inside the container 1 for the purpose of selecting and removing one or more products therefrom. If a polymeric film was affixed to the container 1 to prevent spillage of the products from the container 1, film may be removed easily prior to stacking the container 1 on a shelf at the point-of-sale.

10 Referring to Figure 7, a container according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention includes detachable segments 37 in the front wall flaps 35 that fits within cutout 36 and may be removed therefrom, such as, for example, by perforations 38 provided along cutout 36. Segment 37, therefore, provides for a completely enclosed container for shipping purposes, but can be removed easily to create openings for
15 display/dispensing purposes.

While the invention has been described with reference to preferred embodiments, those skilled in the art will appreciate that certain substitutions, alterations and omissions may be made without departing from the spirit thereof. Accordingly, the foregoing description is meant to be exemplary only and should not be deemed limitative on the
20 scope of the invention set forth herein.

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ARTICLE 34 AMENDMENTS

1. A container for shipping items, comprising:
 - a first blank defining opposing side walls connected along respective lower edges thereof by a bottom wall;
 - a second blank defining opposing end walls positioned between said side walls, said side walls, said end walls and said bottom wall cooperating to define an interior space of said container;
 - wherein said second blank defines a divider extending between said end walls and so as to divide said interior space into at least a first and second chamber;
 - wherein said first blank includes a first fold-over flap extending at least partways over said first chamber;
 - and wherein said second blank includes a second fold-over flap extending at least partways over said second chamber.
2. The container according to claim 1, wherein said first blank includes at least one fold-over wing adapted to overlay at least a portion of one of said end walls.
3. The container according to claim 1, wherein said first fold-over flap includes at least one fold-over wing adapted to overlay at least a portion of one of said end walls.
4. The container according to claim 1, wherein said first fold-over flap includes a first cutout.

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5. The container according to claim 1, wherein said second blank includes at least one end wall panel adapted to overlay at least a portion of one of said side walls.
6. The container according to claim 1, wherein said second fold-over flap includes at least one fold-over wing adapted to overlay at least one portion of one of said side walls.
7. The container according to claim 1, wherein said second fold-over flap includes a second cutout.
8. The container according to claim 7, wherein said second cutout defines a second detachable segment adapted to be removed from said second fold-over flap.
9. The container according to claim 7, wherein said first fold-over flap includes a first cutout.
10. The container according to claim 9, wherein said first cutout defines a first detachable segment adapted to be removed from said first fold-over flap.
11. The container according to claim 1, wherein said divider is formed from a first divider wall panel and a second divider wall panel adapted to overlay said first divider wall panel.
12. The container according to claim 11, wherein said first divider wall panel includes first and second end wall panels, wherein said second divider wall panel includes first and second end wall panels, wherein said first end wall panel of said first divider wall panel cooperates with said first end wall panel of said second divider wall panel to define a first end

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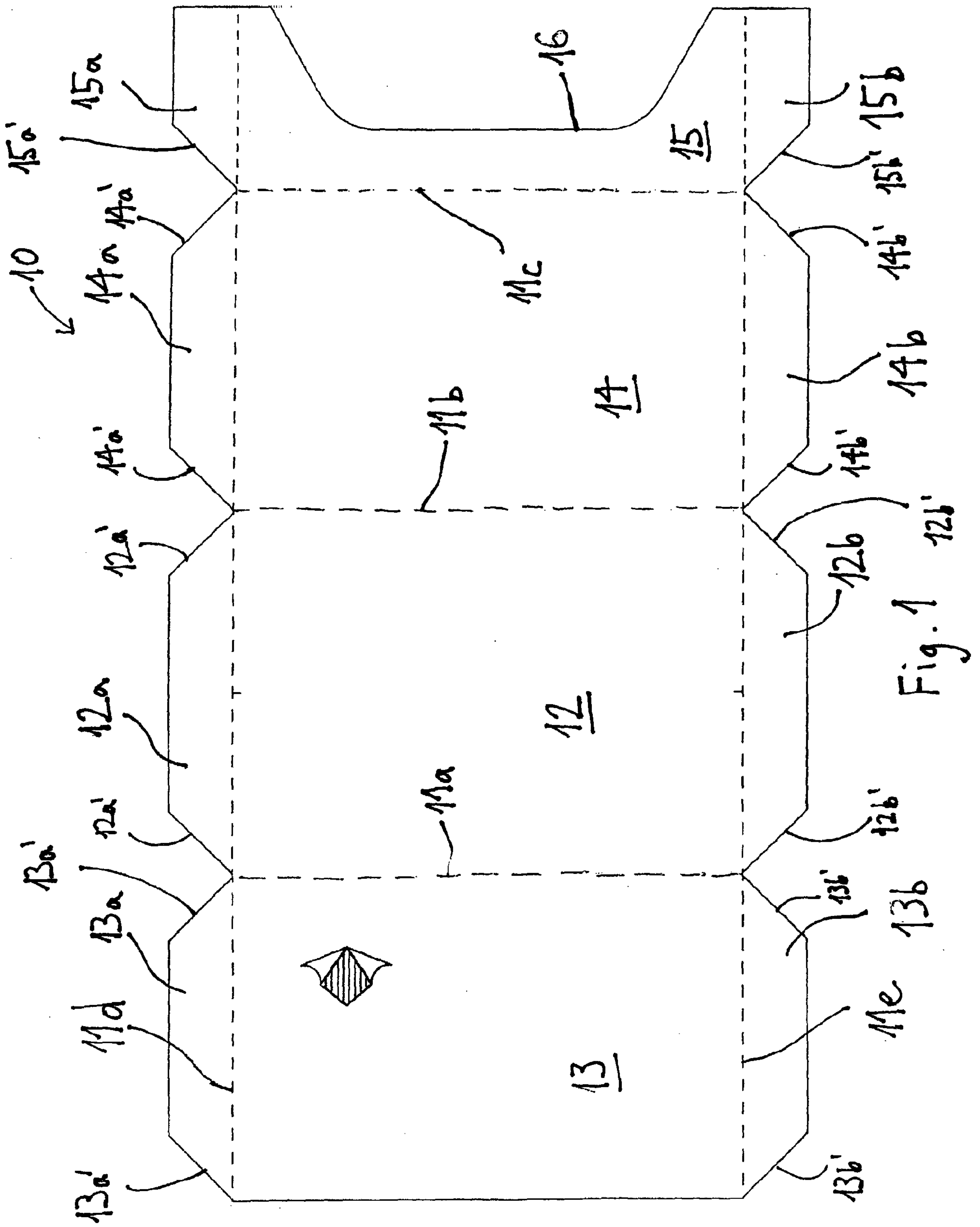
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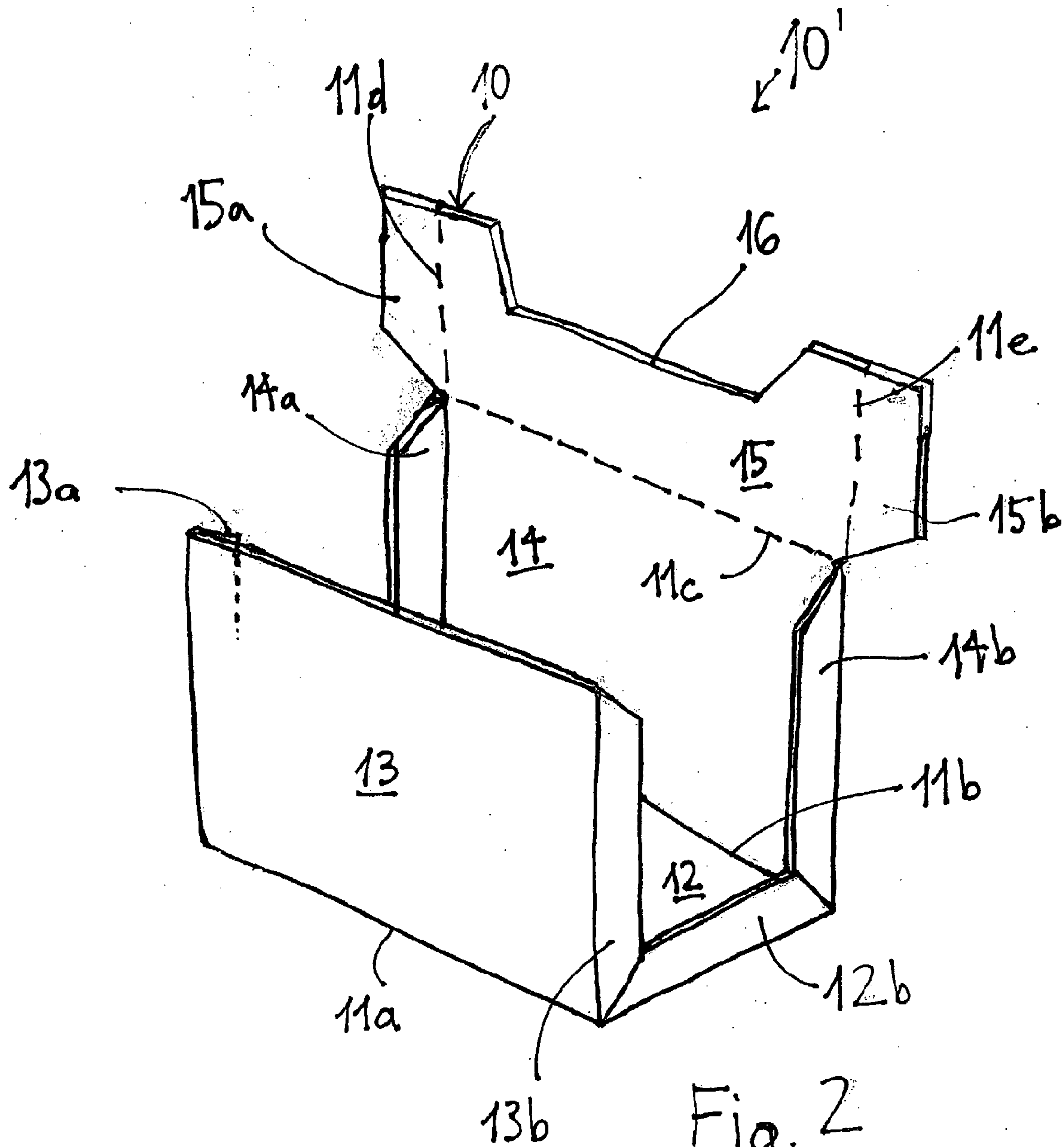
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wall of said container, and wherein said second end wall panel of said first divider wall panel cooperates with said second end wall panel of said second divider wall panel to define a second end wall of said container.

13. The container of claim 1, wherein said first blank is constructed from paperboard.
14. The container of claim 13, wherein said second blank is constructed from paperboard.
15. The container of claim 1, wherein said first blank is of a generally planar unitary construction adapted to be folded to define said side walls and said bottom wall of said container.
16. The container of claim 1, wherein said second blank is of a generally planar unitary construction adapted to be folded to define said end walls and said divider.
17. The container of Claim 1, wherein said bottom wall of said first blank has no perforation such that said first and second chambers are separable.
18. The container of Claim 1, wherein said first and second chambers are inseparable.





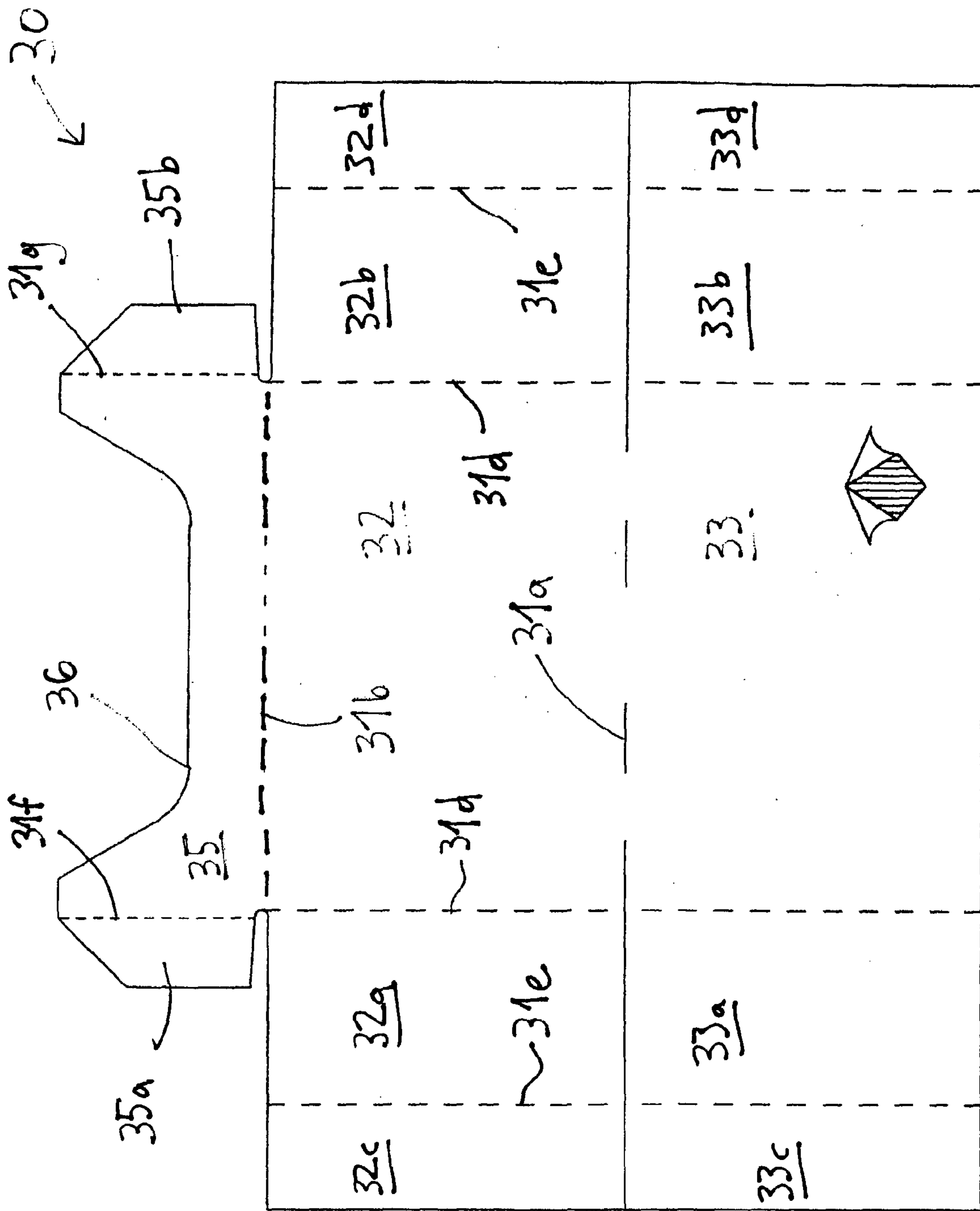


Fig. 3

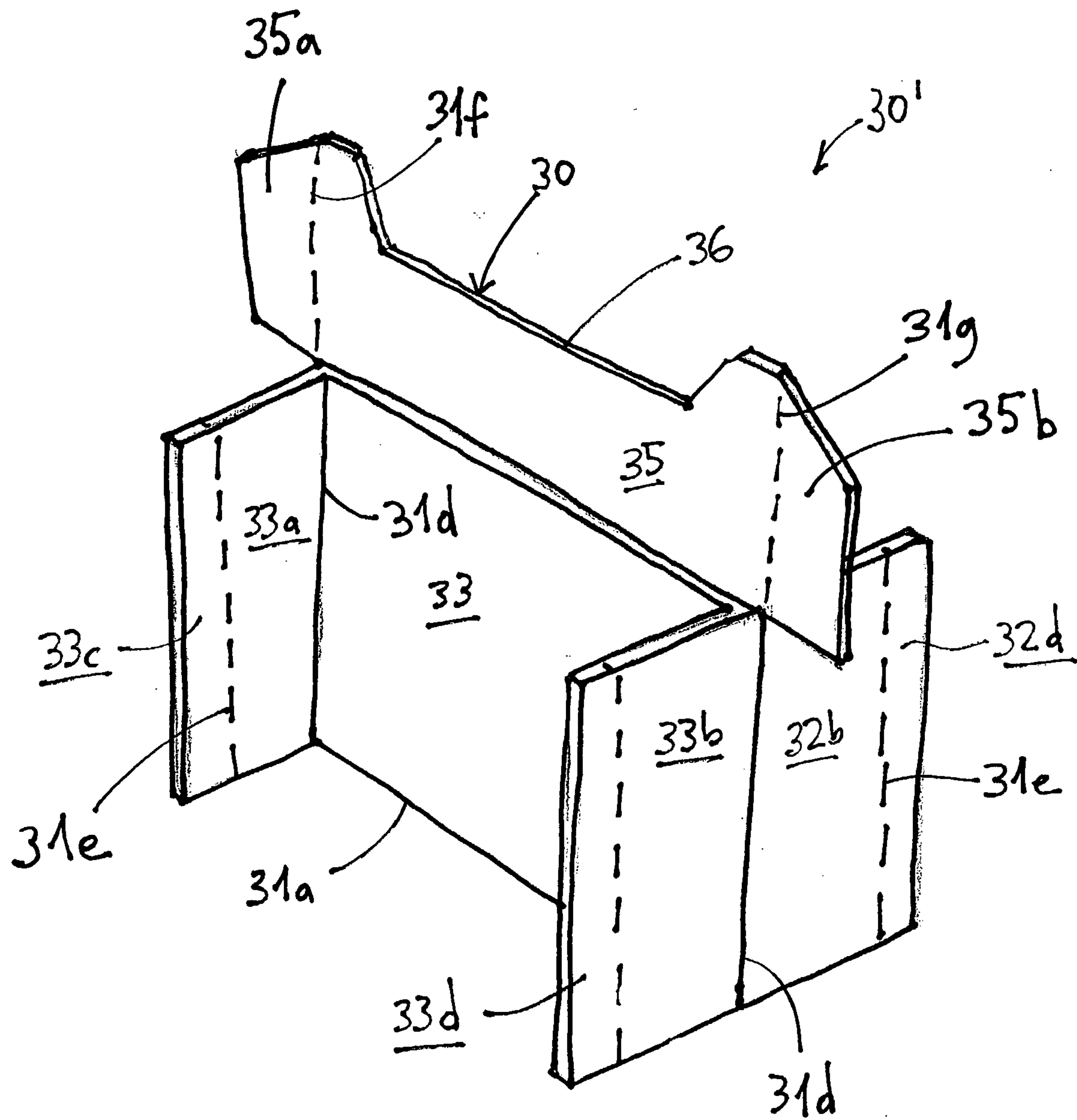


Fig. 4

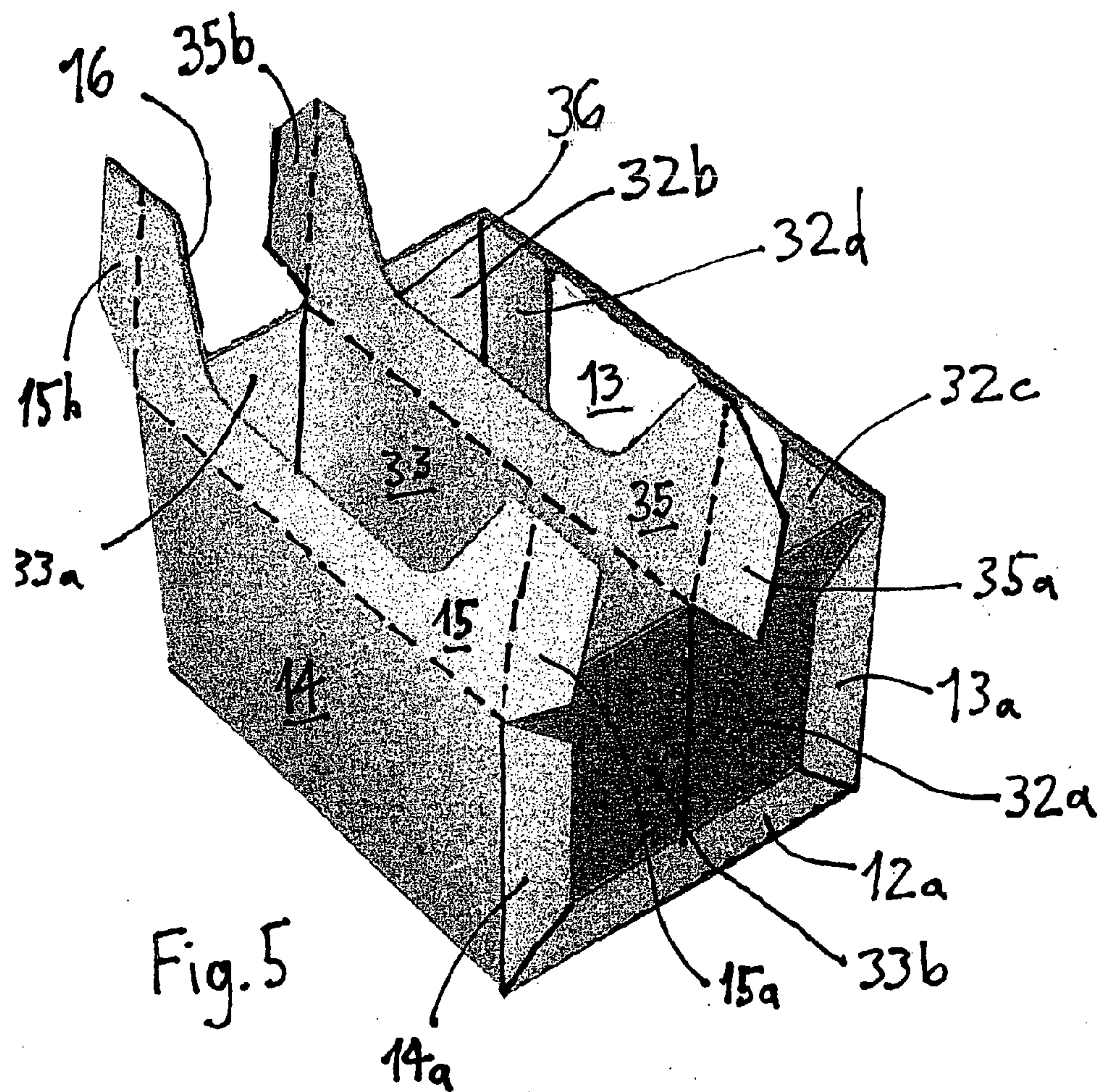
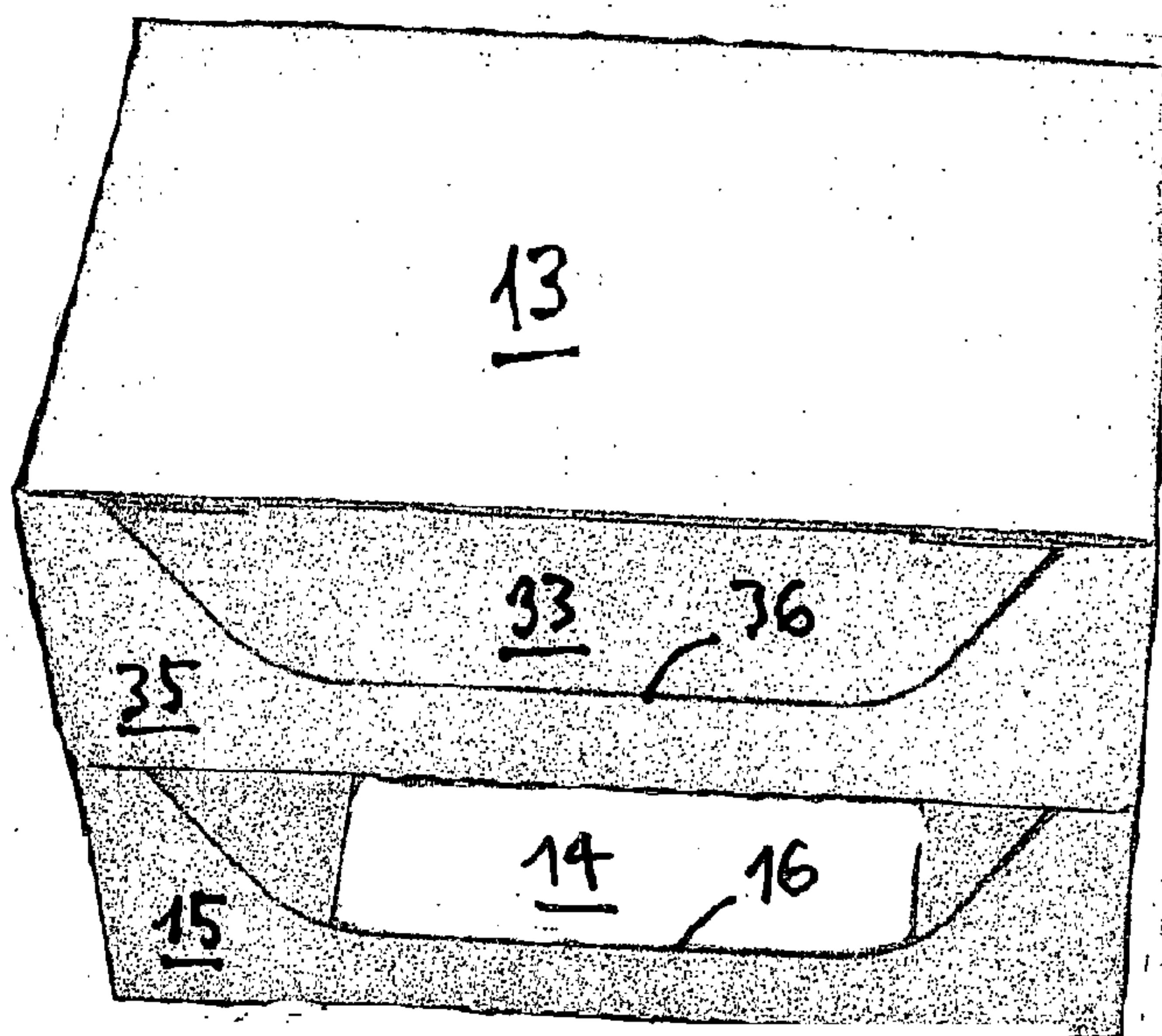


Fig. 6



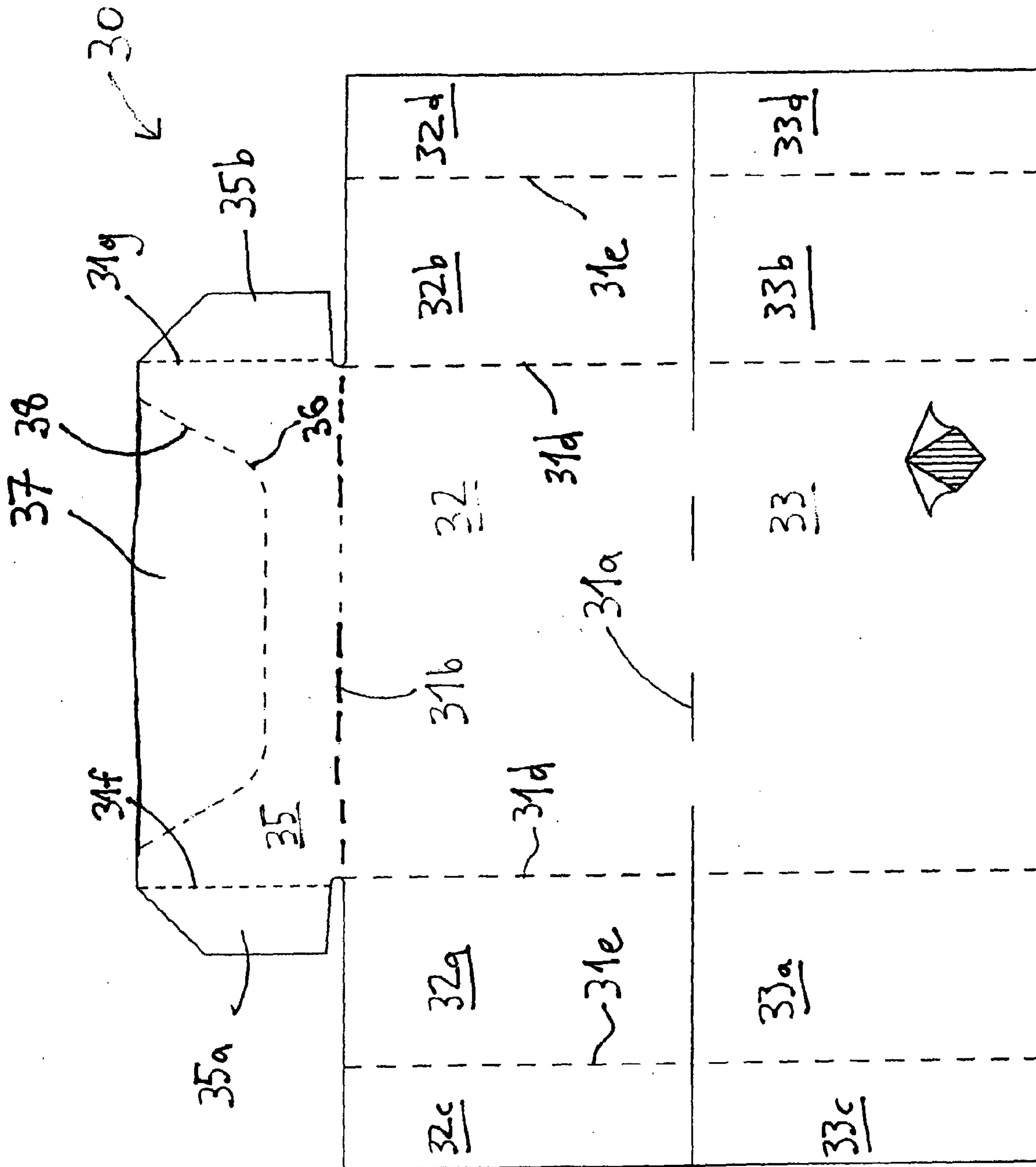


Fig. 7

