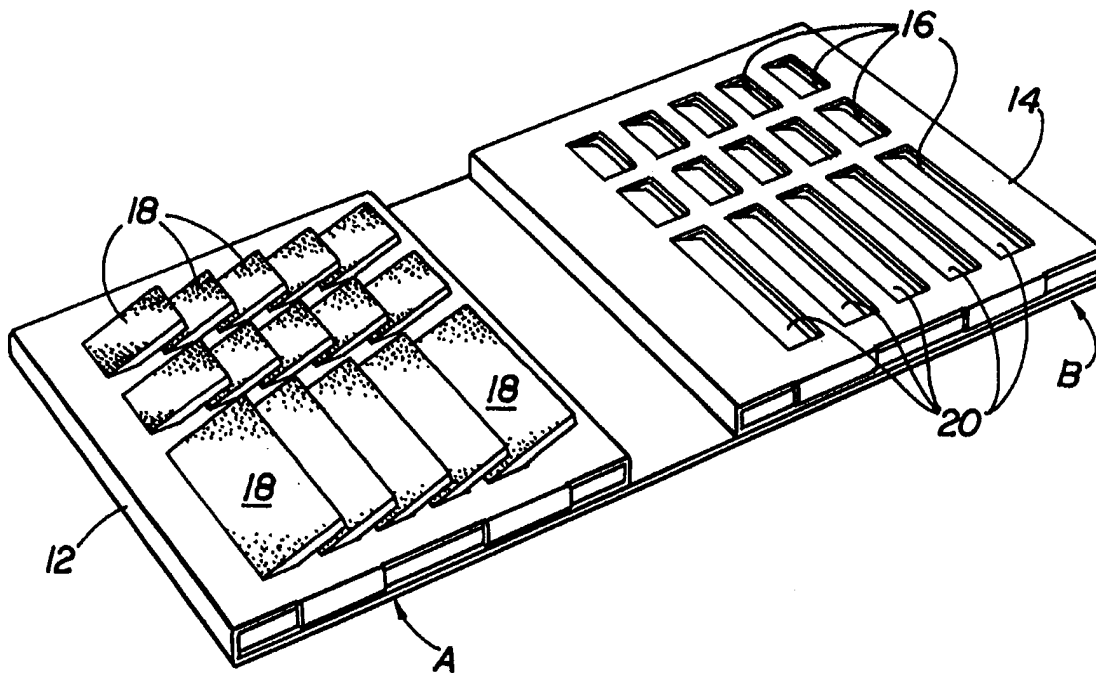




## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> : <b>B65D 85/62</b></p>	<p><b>A1</b></p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 98/56690</b> (43) International Publication Date: 17 December 1998 (17.12.98)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/12052 (22) International Filing Date: 9 June 1998 (09.06.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/049,281 10 June 1997 (10.06.97) US (63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Application US 60/049,281 (CIP) Filed on 10 June 1997 (10.06.97) (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INTERFACE, INC. [US/US]; Suite 2000, 2859 Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA 30339 (US). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): HADDEN, James, W. [US/US]; 103 Victoria Drive, LaGrange, GA 30240 (US). (74) Agents: PRATT, John, S. et al.; Kilpatrick &amp; Stockon, Suite 2800, 1100 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GE 30309-4530 (US).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p><b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i></p>

(54) Title: CARPET SAMPLE BOOK



## (57) Abstract

A carpet sample book (10) is provided which is constructed from a single sheet of material, such as cardboard. Tab and slot fasteners (40, 44) are used to avoid the need for adhesives. The samples are supported in the facing pages of the book by slots (16) which are cut into the cardboard surface. The slots are cut in a "C" shape which allows the samples to be held at an angle.

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## CARPET SAMPLE BOOK

### Background of the Invention

Numerous carpet sample books are available which allow the display of one or  
5 more segments of carpet to prospective buyers. Most such sample books display the  
sample in a flat orientation. As a result, the sample books must be very large or the  
samples quite small in order to fit an adequate number of samples in the book.  
Moreover, it may be difficult to compare samples to each other, for the purpose of, for  
instance, comparing samples to be used in conjunction for a patterned floor treatment.  
10 Also, it may be difficult to remove the sample from the book for close examination.

U.S. Patent No. 5,316,138 to Thompson, entitled "Carpet Display Sample Kit,"  
discloses a sample kit comprising a box and a support tray. The support tray supports  
numerous carpet samples at an angle, allowing more samples to be contained in a given  
area and allowing the samples to be compared and contrasted. Also, the samples may  
15 easily be removed from the support tray, allowing ease of inspection. The kit of  
Thompson accommodates only a limited number of samples because only one tray is  
provided. Moreover, the kit of Thompson is a relatively complex and requires several  
parts. This may increase the weight of the kit, making it bulky and difficult to carry.  
Also, the multi-part construction may increase the cost and complexity of manufacture.

20 Thus, it would be desirable to provide a carpet sample book or case that allows a  
large number of samples to be carried in a light-weight, inexpensive and easy-to-  
assemble unit.

### Summary of the Invention

25 The carpet sample display book of the present invention has two "pages" joined  
by a spine segment. The entire book may be formed from a single sheet of cardboard or  
other suitable material. Each page is made by folding a portion of the cardboard sheet  
over three times. The first two folds form the page itself. The third fold forms the  
spine of book. Tabs and slots are provided on the folds in order secure the folds in the  
30 folded position.

The face of each page is perforated with "C" shaped cuts to form a number of slots with interior louvers. The slot/louver combination allows carpet samples, typically square or rectangular segments, to be inserted into the page and displayed at an angle. Rectangular perforations in the rear or backing face of the page may be provided to allow the samples to be seated in the slots to a greater depth. The rectangular perforations also allow the user to display the backing of the samples without having to remove the samples from the slots.

Because the sample book may be constructed from a single sheet, it is very light weight. Because the sample book may be assembled without adhesives, i.e., with slots and tabs, the manufacture of such sample books is also simple and inexpensive.

Accordingly, it is an object of the invention to provide a carpet sample book that allows numerous samples to be displayed in a relatively small space.

Another object of the invention to provide a carpet sample book that allows numerous samples to be displayed in an overlapping manner so that adjacent samples may be compared to and contrasted with each other.

Another object of the invention to provide a carpet sample book that allows samples to be easily removed from the sample book for closer inspection.

Another object of the invention to provide a carpet sample book which may be constructed from a single sheet of material.

Another object of the invention to provide a carpet sample book which may be assembled without the use of adhesives or other fasteners.

Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent with reference to the drawings, the following description of the drawings and the claims.

### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a carpet sample book of the present invention in open and closed positions.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the carpet sample book of FIG. 1 in the open position with carpet samples inserted in one page.

FIG. 3 is an end elevation view, partially in section, of an alternative embodiment of a carpet sample book according to the invention.

FIG. 4 is an end elevation view, partially in section, of the carpet sample book of FIG. 1.

5 FIG. 4A is an end elevation view, partially in section, of an alternative embodiment of the carpet sample book of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the carpet sample book of FIG. 1 in the open position with one page disassembled.

10 FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the carpet sample book of FIG. 1 in the open position with one page further disassembled.

FIG. 7 is a plan view of the carpet sample book of FIG. 3 fully disassembled.

FIG. 8 is a plan view of the carpet sample book of FIG. 1 fully disassembled.

### **Detailed Description of the Drawings**

15 FIG. 1 shows a carpet sample book 10 in accordance with the present invention. Book 10 comprises two pages 12, 14, which may be folded together, as in position A, or spread open, as in position B. Book 10 may be constructed from a single sheet of suitable material, including, but not limited to, cardboard, fiberboard, corrugated pasteboard, corrugated plastic board or any other suitable material. The sheet is folded  
20 and affixed in the desired shape, as discussed in detail below.

A number of slots 16 may be provided in the face of each page 12, 14. Slots 16 may be varied in size to allow the display of different sized carpet samples 18 (not shown). Slots 16 are formed by making a "C" shaped incision in the face of the page so that a louvers 20 are formed. As shown in FIG. 2, carpet samples 18 may be inserted  
25 into slots 16 so that they are displayed at an angle. As shown in FIGS. 3 (showing an alternative embodiment, discussed below), 4 and 4A, carpet samples 18 rest against louvers 20 and are urged thereby against edges 24 of slots 16 and, in that manner, are held securely within slot 16. The bottom edge of carpet samples 18 may rest in cutouts 22 which may be provided in pages 12, 14.

30 As shown in FIG. 4A, slots 16 may be positioned so that carpet samples 18 may be aligned in a "herringbone" pattern which allows pages 12, 14 of book 10 close

together more closely. The herringbone arrangement also makes the closed book 10 more stable as pages 12, 14 are less likely to slide about with respect to each other.

FIG. 3 illustrates an alternative embodiment of a carpet sample book according to the present invention. Book 100 comprises page 14 and cover flap 112. Book 100  
5 allows samples 18 to be carried on only one page (14) while providing a cover which helps retain and protect samples 18 while book 100 is in transit.

As Shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, closures 114 may be provided on books 10, 100 which allow books 10, 100 to be held in a closed position during storage and transport. As shown in FIG. 3, a hook and loop fastener, such as Velcro®, may be used for  
10 closure 114. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 4, a string and button closure may be used for fastener 114. Other closures or fasteners may be used as appropriate.

FIGS. 5-8 illustrate the assembly of books 10, 100. Because book 100 is identical in construction to book 10, except that only one page is provided, the following description will be directed to the construction of book 10. Referring to FIG.  
15 8, book 10 is made up of a single sheet of cardboard laterally creased to define spine 31, narrow page ends 36 and 38, blank rectangular plate 30, face plate 34 and backer plate 32. Face plate 34 has one or more flaps 40. Backer plate 32 has foldouts 42 with slots 44 extending from each side.

Slots 44 correspond with the positions of flaps 40 so that when page 14 is  
20 assembled, i.e., folded into its final form, flaps 40 may be inserted into slots 44, thereby holding sections 32 and 34 against each other in the folded position. FIGS. 5 and 6 illustrate book 10 with page 14 being disassembled, thus illustrating the manner in which the creases act as hinges and the interaction of slots 44 and flaps 40. Of course, foldouts 42 and flaps 40, may be positioned differently or other assembly means may  
25 provided and still provide the desired assembly of book 10. For instance, foldouts 42 may be formed on face plate 34 and flaps 40 may be positioned on backing plate 32. Likewise, face plate 34 may have foldout 42 on one side and flaps 40 on the other, with a complimentary arrangement on backing plate 32.

FIG. 6 illustrates a book 100 which has only one page 112. In lieu of a second  
30 page, book 100 has a flap 114 which covers and protects carpet samples 18 (not shown) when book 100 is not in use.

Although the foregoing is provided for purposes of illustrating, explaining and describing certain embodiments of the carpet sample book in particular detail, modifications and adaptations to the described books and other embodiments will be apparent to those skilled in the art and may be made without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention.

5

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A sample book comprising:
  - 2 a) at least one page having a display surface defining a first at least one
  - 3 display slot;
  - 4 b) a louver formed within the slot for retaining a sample therein.
  
- 1 2. The sample book of claim 1 further comprising a second page having a display
- 2 surface defining a second at least one display slot and a louver formed therein.
  
- 1 3. The sample book of claim 2 further comprising a closure means affixed to the
- 2 first page which cooperates with a closure means affixed to the second page.
  
- 1 4. The sample book of claim 2 in which first and second display slots are
- 2 positioned in an offset such that when the book is closed, carpet samples
- 3 positioned within the display slots form a herringbone pattern.
  
- 1 5. The sample book of claim 2 in which the book is constructed from a single sheet
- 2 of cardboard.
  
- 1 6. The book of claim 5 in which the first page is formed by defining on the sheet
- 2 first, second and third plates, a first narrow page end between the first and
- 3 second segments, a second narrow page end between the second and third
- 4 segments, at least one flap on an edge of the second plate and at least one slot
- 5 proximate to the edge of the third plate and folding the sheet along the hinges
- 6 such that the flap lies proximate to and may be inserted into the slot.
  
- 1 7. A sample book for displaying carpet samples comprising:
  - 2 a) a sheet defining a spine, first, second and third plates, a first page end
  - 3 between the first and second plates, a second page end between the
  - 4 second and third plates, a first at least one tab on an edge of the second
  - 5 plate and a first at least one slot proximate to the edge of the third plate;



- 6           i)       in which the position of the first at least one tab and the position  
7                   of the first at least one slot correspond such that folding the sheet  
8                   about the second page end aligns the first at least one tab and  
9                   first at least one slot; and  
10          ii)       in which the second plate defines at least one “C” shaped  
11                   perforation.

1    8.       The sample book of claim 6 in which the third plate defines at least one cutout.

1    9.       The sample book of claim 6 in which the sheet further defines:

- 2           a)       fourth, fifth and sixth plates, a third page end between the fourth and  
3                   fifth plates, a fourth page end between the fifth and sixth plates, a second  
4                   at least one tab on an edge of the fifth plate and a second at least one slot  
5                   proximate to the edge of the sixth plate;  
6           i)       in which the position of the second at least one tab and the  
7                   position of the second at least one slot correspond such that  
8                   folding the sheet about the fourth page end aligns the tab and  
9                   slot;  
10          ii)       in which the fifth plate defines at least one “C” shaped  
11                   perforation; and  
12          b)       in which the fourth plate is adjacent to the first plate.

1    10.      The sample book of claim 8 in which the sixth panel defines at least one cutout.

1    11.      The sample book of claim 9 in which the sheet is cardboard.

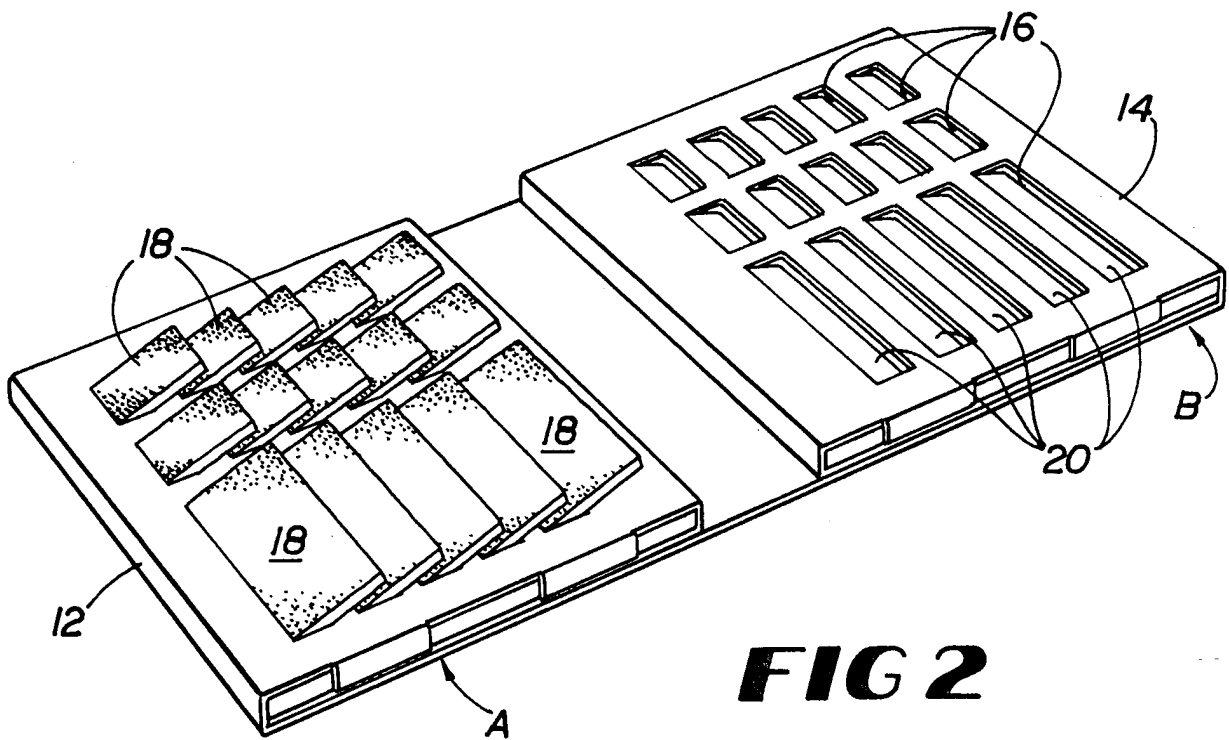
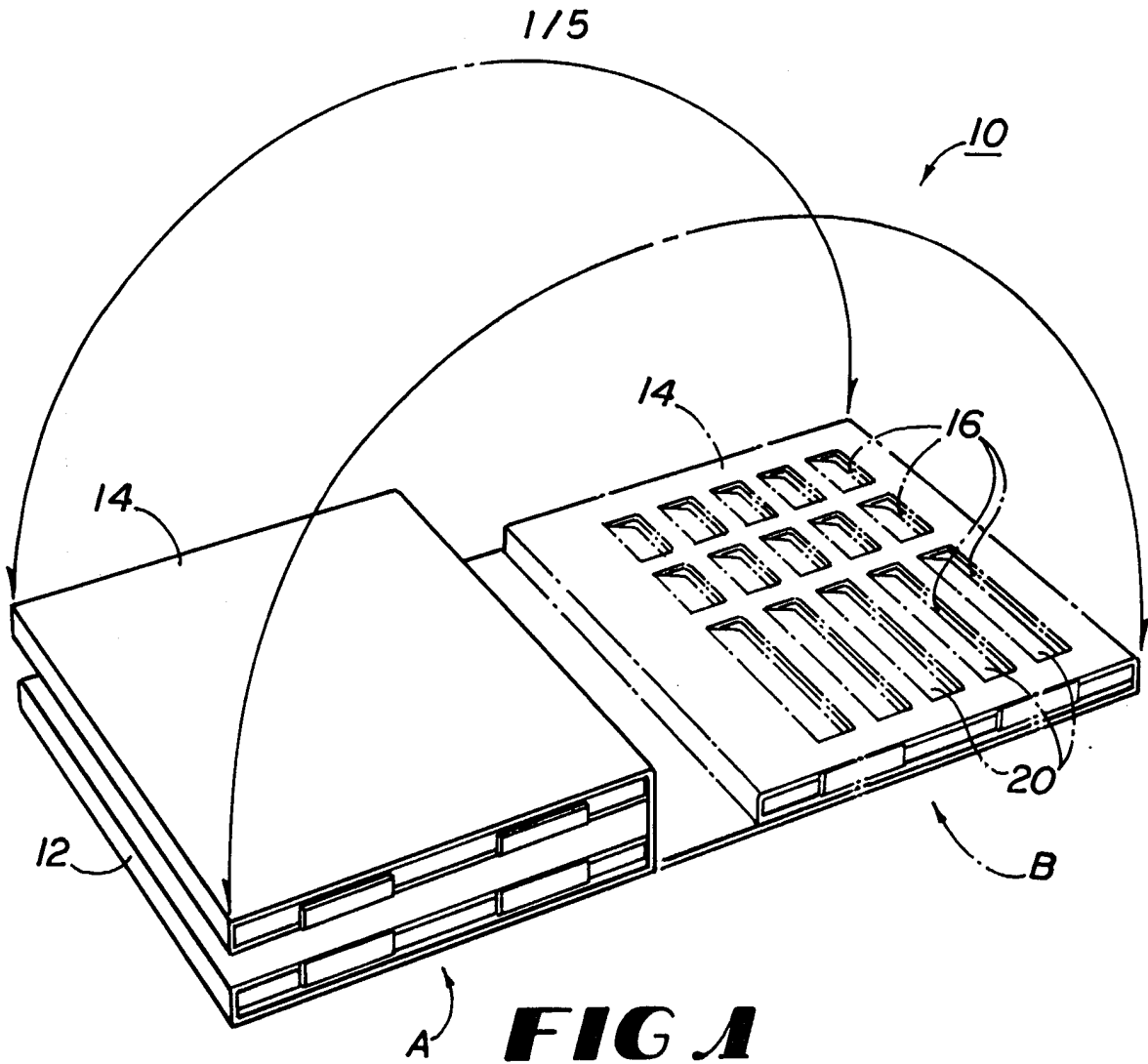
1    12.      The sample book of claim 9 further comprising a closure means affixed the first  
2              page end and a corresponding closure means affixed to the third page end.

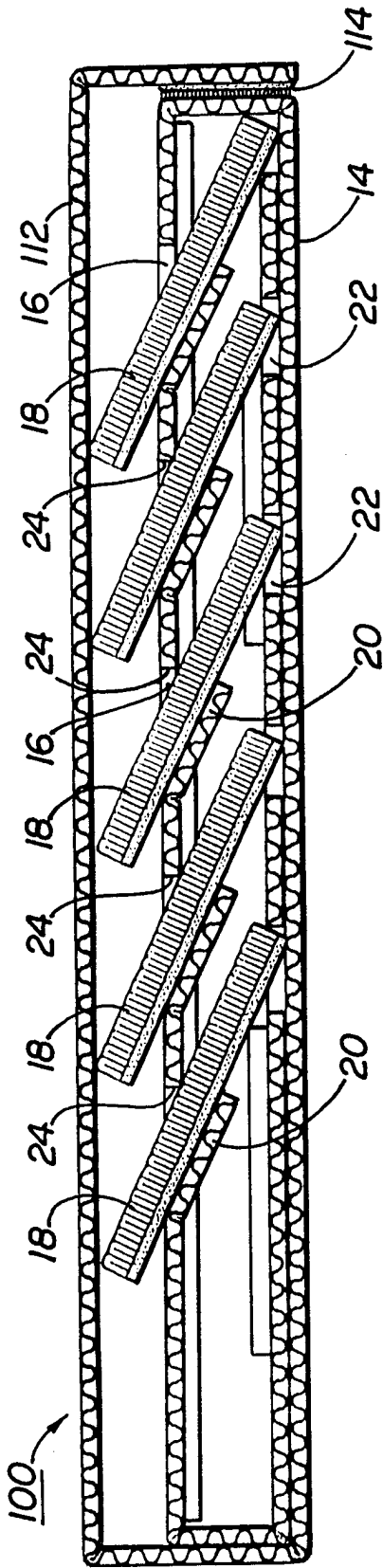
1 13. A blank for making a carpet sample book comprising a rectangular sheet of  
2 corrugated cardboard having ten lateral creases defining a centrally located  
3 spine and, on each side of the spine:

- 4 a) a blank rectangular plate;
- 5 b) a first narrow page end;
- 6 c) a face plate perforated by a plurality of "C" shaped slits;
- 7 d) a second narrow page end; and
- 8 e) a backer plate perforated by a plurality of rectangular holes.

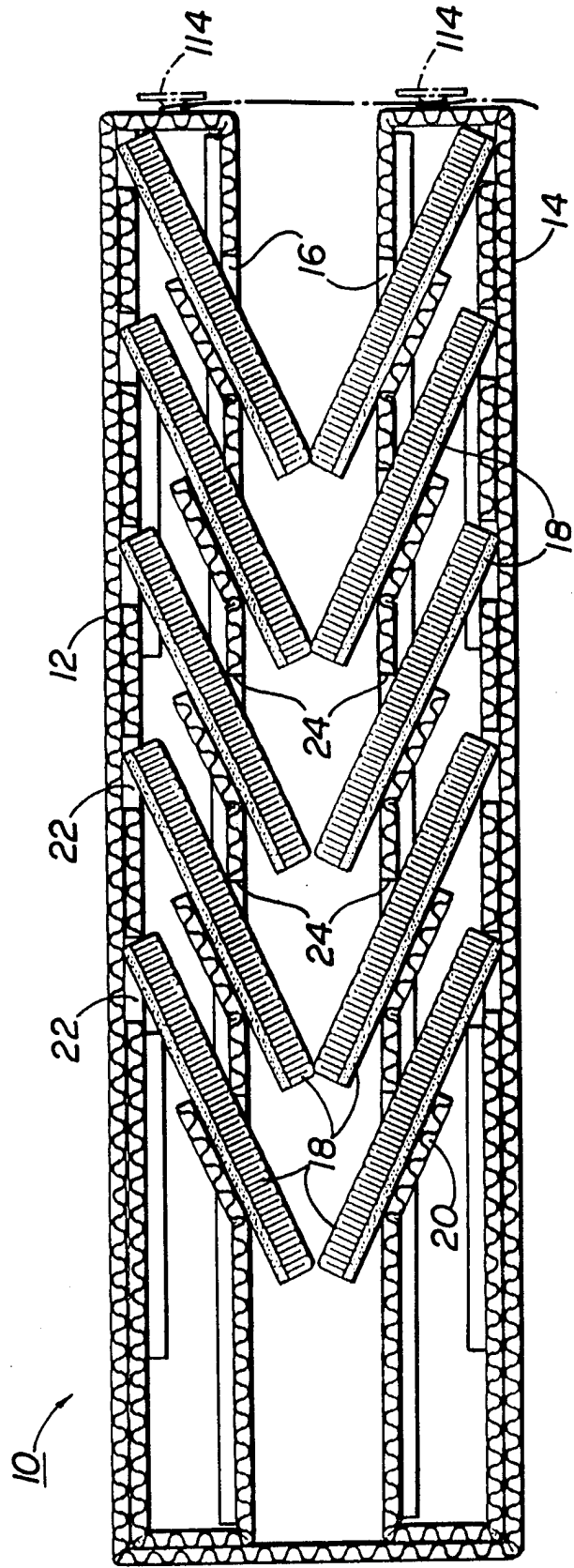
1 14. The blank of claim 13 further comprising:

- 2 a) at least one flap protruding from the face plate; and
- 3 b) at least one foldout protruding from the backer plate having at least one  
4 slot defined therein for receiving the flap.

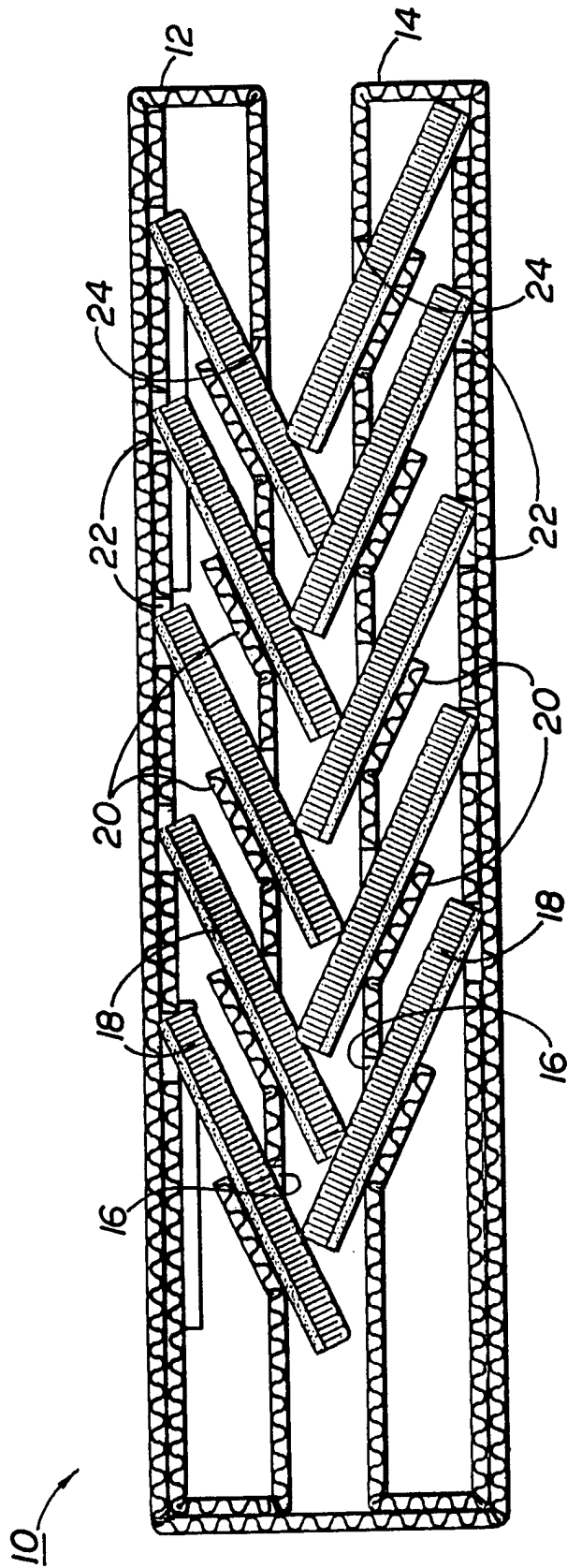




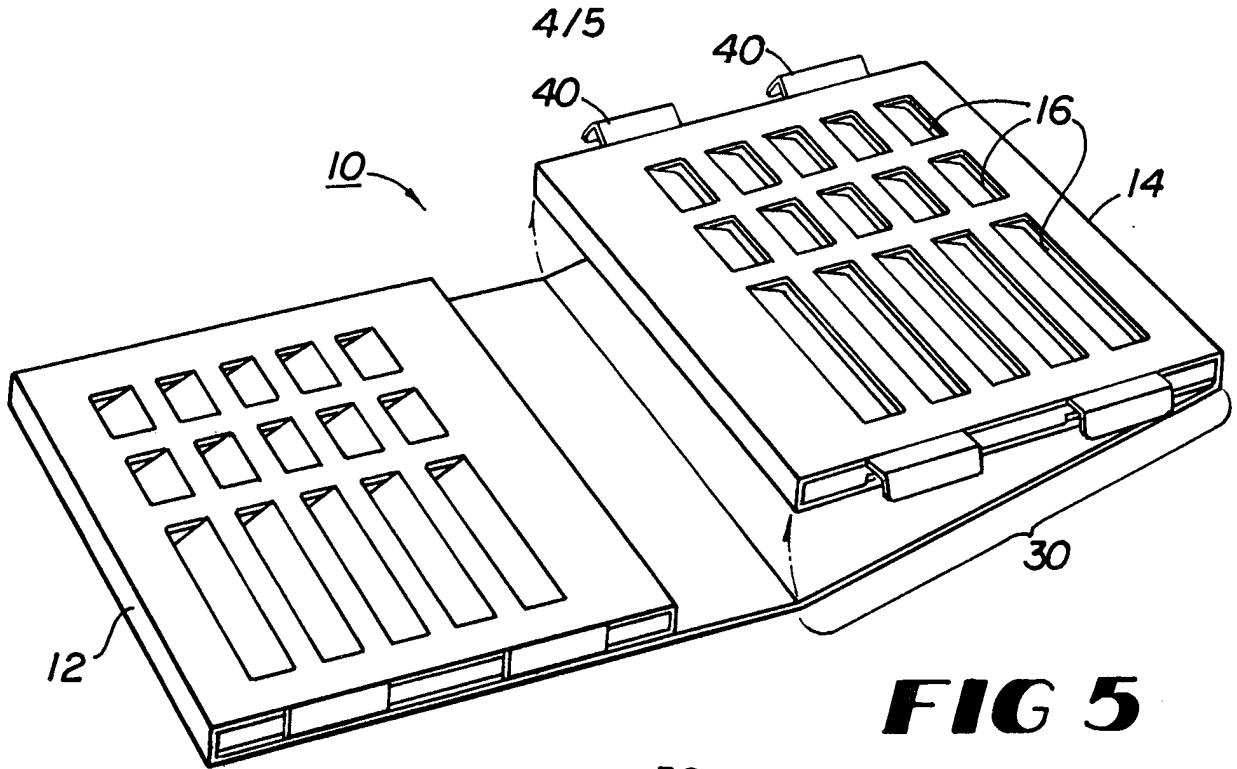
**FIG 3**



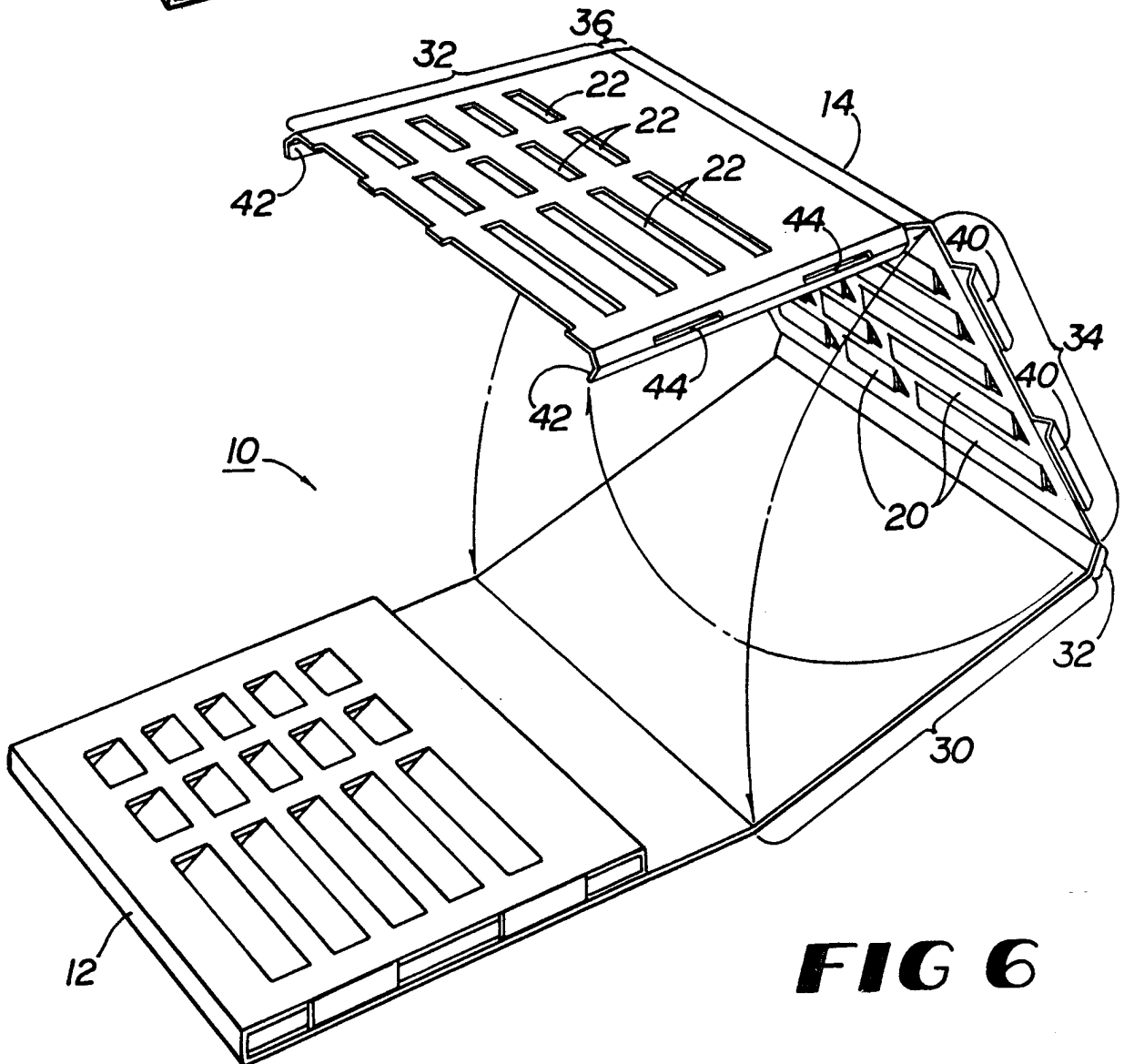
**FIG 4**



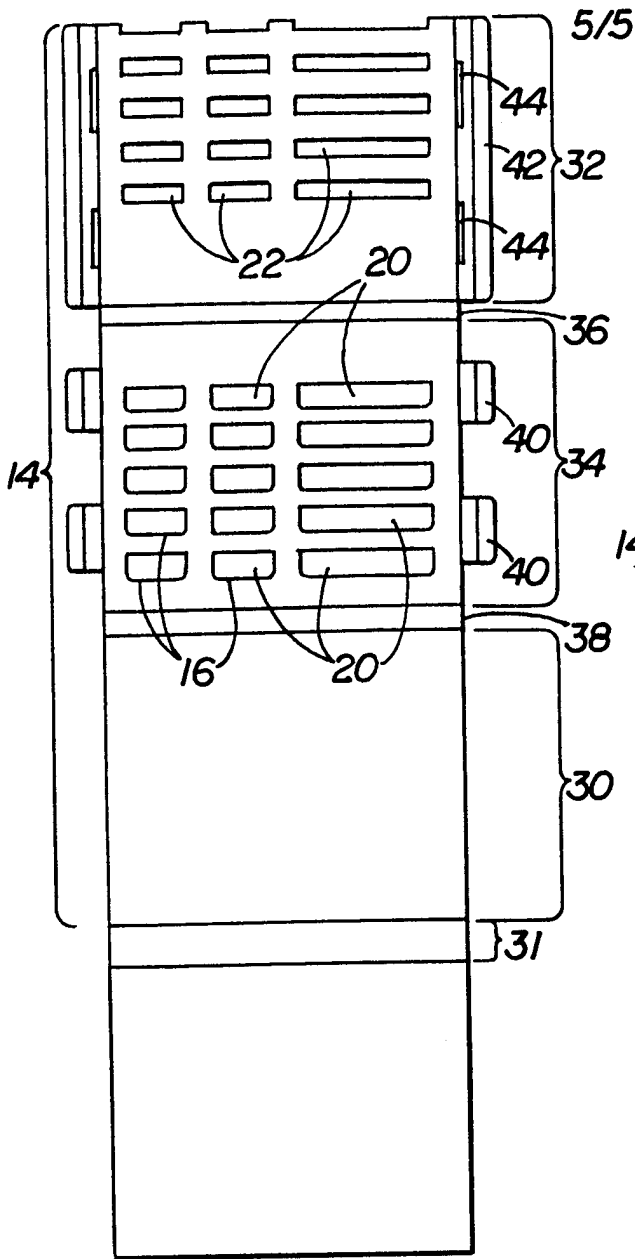
**FIG 4A**



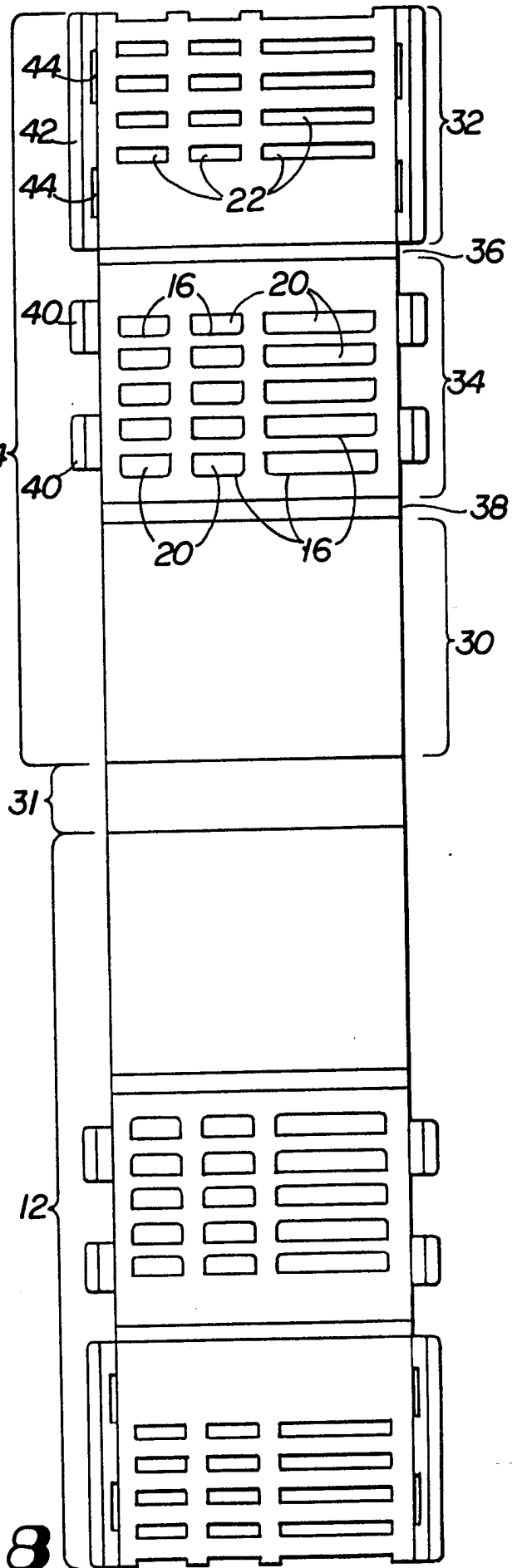
**FIG 5**



**FIG 6**



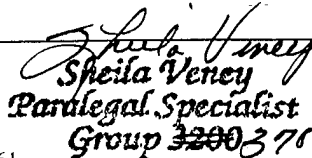
**FIG 7**



**FIG 8**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US98/12052

<p><b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>                  IPC(6) :B65D 85/62                  US CL :206/472, 486, 733, 760, 763; 229/120.21                  According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>																	
<p><b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>                  Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)                  U.S. : 206/214, 321, 449, 472, 473, 476, 485-487, 730, 733, 736, 747, 750, 756, 759, 760, 763; 766, 767, 774 ; 229/120.21</p> <p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p> <p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)</p>																	
<p><b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category*</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X --- Y</td> <td>US 2,126,407 A (PAYNE et al) 09 August 1938, see entire document.</td> <td>1-3, 5 --- 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 244,818 A (McLEAN) 26 July 1881, see Figures 1-2.</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 5,407,076 A (SABET) 18 April 1995, see entire document.</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 2,833,457 A (TYRSECK) 06 May 1958.</td> <td>1-14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X --- Y	US 2,126,407 A (PAYNE et al) 09 August 1938, see entire document.	1-3, 5 --- 4	Y	US 244,818 A (McLEAN) 26 July 1881, see Figures 1-2.	4	X	US 5,407,076 A (SABET) 18 April 1995, see entire document.	1	A	US 2,833,457 A (TYRSECK) 06 May 1958.	1-14
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.      <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.</p>																	
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<p>Date of the actual completion of the international search 20 JULY 1998</p>		<p>Date of mailing of the international search report <b>18 AUG 1998</b></p>															
<p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230</p>		<p>Authorized officer                    PAUL T. SEWELL                  Telephone No. (703) 305-5861</p>															