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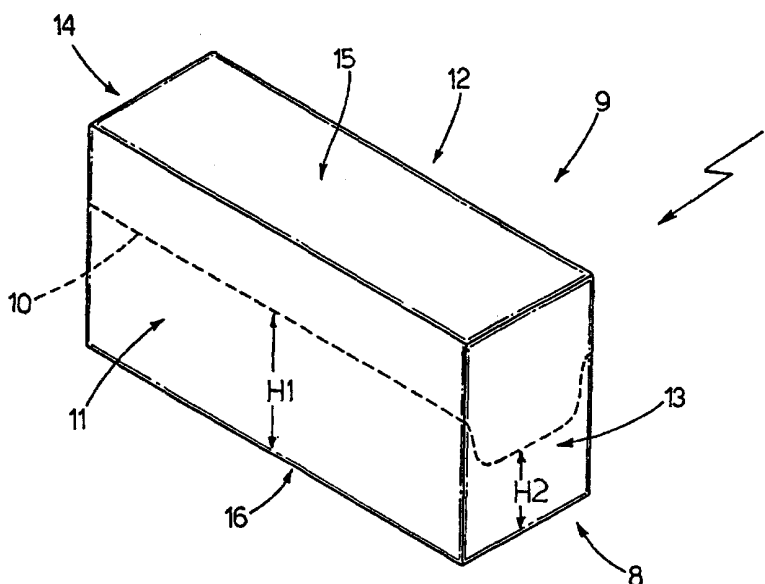
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: RIGID CARTON OF CIGARETTES PARTIALLY OPENABLE FOR DISPLAY



(57) Abstract: A rigid parallelepiped-shaped carton (1) for packets (3) of cigarettes, having a cup-shaped bottom container (8) and a substantially cup-shaped top lid (9) connected to the bottom container (8) along at least one preweakened tear line (10) running along two parallel, facing vertical lateral walls (11, 12), and along a vertical front wall (13), so as to divide each vertical wall (11, 12, 13) into a respective bottom portion (11a, 12a, 13a) forming part of the container (8), and a respective remaining top portion (11b, 12b, 13b) forming part of the lid (9); each packet (3) of cigarettes being housed inside the carton (1) with a major lateral wall (5) of the packet parallel to the front wall (13); and the preweakened tear line (10) being located at a first height (H1) along the vertical lateral walls (11, 12) and dropping to a second height (H2), lower than the first height (H1), along the vertical front wall (13).



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## RIGID CARTON OF CIGARETTES PARTIALLY OPENABLE FOR DISPLAY

TECHNICAL FIELD

10 The present invention relates to a rigid carton of cigarettes partially openable for display.

More specifically, the present invention relates to a rigid carton of cigarettes made from a flat cardboard blank and containing a group of ten packets of  
15 cigarettes.

BACKGROUND ART

The end user of a carton of cigarettes is normally a retailer who simultaneously uses, and removes individual packets for sale, from a number of different open cartons  
20 (of different brands and/or types of cigarettes).

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a rigid carton of cigarettes designed to permit a clear view of the type of packets contained inside, as well as  
25 troublefree withdrawal and adequate retention of the packets themselves.

According to the present invention, there is provided a rigid carton of cigarettes; the carton being

parallelepiped-shaped and comprising a cup-shaped bottom container for supporting a group of packets of cigarettes, and a top lid; the carton being characterized in that the lid is substantially cup-shaped and connected to the bottom container along at least one preweakened tear line running along two parallel, facing vertical lateral walls, and along a vertical front wall, so as to divide each vertical wall into a respective bottom portion forming part of the container, and a respective remaining top portion forming part of the lid; each packet of cigarettes being housed inside the carton with a major lateral wall of the packet parallel to said front wall; and the preweakened tear line being located at a first height along the vertical lateral walls and dropping to a second height, lower than the first height, along the vertical front wall.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A number of non-limiting embodiments of the present invention will be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a front view in perspective of a preferred embodiment of the carton according to the present invention in a closed configuration;

Figure 2 shows a front view in perspective of the Figure 1 carton in an open configuration;

Figure 3 shows a layout of a blank used to form the Figure 1 carton;

Figure 4 shows a front view in perspective of an

alternative embodiment of the carton according to the present invention in an open configuration;

Figure 5 shows different embodiments of a detail of the Figure 1 carton.

5        BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Number 1 in Figures 1 and 2 indicates as a whole a rigid carton containing a group 2 of ten packets 3 of cigarettes arranged in one row 4. Each packet 3 is substantially parallelepiped-shaped, and comprises two  
10 vertical, parallel, facing major lateral walls 5 (only one wall 5 of the first packet 3 is shown partly in Figure 2), and two vertical, parallel facing minor lateral walls 6 (only one wall 6 of each packet 3 is shown partly in Figure 2). Packets 3 in row 4 are  
15 arranged with respective major lateral walls 5 contacting one another; and each major lateral wall 5 has respective writing and/or a respective graphic element 7 clearly and unmistakably indicating the brand and characteristics of the cigarettes (not shown) inside respective packet 3.

20        In an alternative embodiment shown in Figure 4, the ten packets 3 of cigarettes in group 2 are arranged in two identical, side by side rows 4.

Carton 1 is substantially right-parallelepiped-shaped, and comprises a cup-shaped bottom container 8 for  
25 supporting group 2 of packets 3, and a substantially cup-shaped top lid 9 connected to bottom container 8 along a preweakened tear line 10 and detachable from container 8 to enable carton 1 to assume a closed configuration

(Figure 1) and an open configuration (Figure 2).

When lid 9 is in the closed configuration, carton 1 is substantially in the form of a right parallelepiped defined by a pair of parallel, facing vertical lateral walls 11 and 12 (only wall 11 shown in Figures 1 and 2), a vertical front wall 13, a vertical rear wall 14 (not shown in Figures 1 and 2), a horizontal top wall 15, and a horizontal bottom wall 16 (not shown in Figures 1 and 2).

10       Preweakened line 10 runs along the two lateral walls 11 and 12 and along front wall 13 to divide each wall 11, 12, 13 into a respective bottom portion 11a, 12a, 13a forming part of container 8, and into a respective remaining top portion 11b, 12b, 13b forming part of lid 9. Rear wall 14 and bottom wall 16 are exclusive to  
15 container 8, and top wall 15 exclusive to lid 9.

As shown in Figure 2, packets 3 in row 4 are arranged with major lateral walls 5 positioned vertically and parallel to front wall 13 of carton 1; and the first  
20 packet 3 in row 4 is positioned with a major lateral wall 5 directly contacting an inner surface of front wall 13.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, preweakened line 10 is located at a first height H1 along lateral walls 11 and 12, and drops to a second height H2, lower than first  
25 height H1, along front wall 13, so that portions 11a and 12a of container 8 have much larger surfaces than the corresponding portions 11b and 12b of lid 9, and portion 13a of container 8 has a surface comparable with that of

portion 13b of lid 9.

As shown in Figure 2, the shape and size of portion 13a allow a clear view of the writing and/or graphic element 7 of the first packet 3 in row 4; each packet 3 may be removed easily from container 8, by portions 11a and 11b being lower than minor lateral walls 6 of packets 3 and so permitting easy grip of packets 3 by the user; and the relatively high surfaces of portions 11b and 12b provide for adequately retaining packets 3 even when fewer than the initial number.

Carton 1 is therefore easy to store, transport and handle in the closed configuration (Figure 1) and, when opened by detaching lid 9 from container 8 (Figure 2), allows a clear view of the type of packets 3 inside, and provides for easy withdrawal and adequate retention of packets 3.

In an alternative embodiment shown in Figure 5, carton 1 comprises a further preweakened tear line 17 running parallel to and above preweakened line 10 along at least a portion of lateral wall 11, so as to define a tear-off strip by which to tear open carton 1 easily.

More specifically, as shown in the enlarged detail in Figure 5, preweakened tear lines 10 and 17 comprise respective initial portions 18, which are detached and located side by side close to an outer edge 19 of lateral wall 11 to define a tear-off tongue 20.

In the Figure 5 embodiment, line 17 runs parallel to line 10 along the edge between lateral wall 11 and top

wall 15.

In an alternative embodiment not shown, line 17 runs parallel to and above preweakened line 10 along the whole of lateral wall 11; and, in a further embodiment not shown, line 17 runs parallel to and above preweakened line 10 along the whole lateral walls 11 and 12 and front wall 13.

As shown in Figure 3, carton 1 in Figures 1 and 2 is formed from a corresponding flat blank 21, which is substantially in the form of an elongated rectangle, and the parts of which are indicated, wherever possible, using the same reference numbers, with superscripts, as for the corresponding parts of carton 1.

Blank 21 comprises a longitudinal central axis 22, and two longitudinal bend lines 23 and 24 dividing blank 21 into a central longitudinal strip 25 and two lateral longitudinal strips 26. Strips 25 and 26 are crossed by a number of transverse bend lines 27, 28, 29, 30, which divide central strip 25 into a panel 16' extending between an outer edge of blank 21 and line 27, a panel 11' extending between lines 27 and 28, a panel 15' extending between lines 28 and 29, a panel 12' extending between lines 29 and 30, and a tongue 16" extending between line 30 and an outer edge of blank 21.

When forming carton 1, panel 16' and tongue 16" are superimposed and glued together to define bottom wall 16 of carton 1.

Panel 12' comprises a wing 13' and a wing 14'



located on opposite sides of panel 12'; and, as shown in Figure 3, panels 11' and 12' and wing 13' comprise respective portions of preweakened tear line 10.

Panel 12' is divided by the respective portion of preweakened line 10 into a portion 12a' forming part of container 8, and a remaining portion 12b' forming part of lid 9; wing 14' is connected to portion 12a' by a portion of respective longitudinal bend line 24, and is connected to portion 12b' by a longitudinal portion of the respective portion of preweakened line 10.

Panel 11' is divided by the respective portion of preweakened line 10 into a portion 11a' forming part of container 8, and a remaining portion 11b' forming part of lid 9; and portion 11a' forming part of container 8 is joined to lateral tongues 31 and 32 located on opposite sides of panel 11' and which are superimposed on and glued respectively to wings 13' and 14' to define walls 13 and 14 of carton 1.

Panel 15' comprises substantially rounded lateral tongues 33 and 34 located on opposite sides of panel 15' and which are superimposed respectively on wings 13' and 14' to define walls 13 and 14 of carton 1. Tongue 34 is superimposed on but not connected (in particular, not glued) to wing 14', in that wing 14' forms part of container 8, and tongue 34 part of lid 9.

As shown in Figure 3b, wing 13' is divided by the respective portion of preweakened line 10 into a portion 13a' forming part of container 8, and a remaining portion

13b' forming part of lid 9; tongue 33 is superimposed on and glued to portion 13b'; tongue 31 is superimposed on and glued to portion 13a'; and tongues 31 and 33 are so shaped and sized as not to overlap preweakened line 10.

## CLAIMS

1) A rigid carton of cigarettes; the carton (1) being parallelepiped-shaped and comprising a cup-shaped bottom container (8) for supporting a group (2) of packets (3) of cigarettes, and a top lid (9); the carton (1) being characterized in that the lid (9) is substantially cup-shaped and connected to the bottom container (8) along at least one preweakened tear line (10) running along two parallel, facing vertical lateral walls (11, 12), and along a vertical front wall (13), so as to divide each vertical wall (11, 12, 13) into a respective bottom portion (11a, 12a, 13a) forming part of the container (8), and a respective remaining top portion (11b, 12b, 13b) forming part of the lid (9); each packet (3) of cigarettes being housed inside the carton (1) with a major lateral wall (5) of the packet parallel to said front wall (13); and the preweakened tear line (10) being located at a first height (H1) along the vertical lateral walls (11, 12) and dropping to a second height (H2), lower than the first height (H1), along the vertical front wall (13).

2) A carton as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that each said packet (3) of cigarettes is parallelepiped-shaped, and comprises two vertical major lateral walls (5) and two vertical minor lateral walls (6); said group (2) of packets (3) of cigarettes comprising one row (4) of packets (3) arranged with

respective major lateral walls (5) contacting one another.

3) A carton as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that each said packet (3) of cigarettes is substantially  
5 parallelepiped-shaped, and comprises two vertical major lateral walls (5) and two vertical minor lateral walls (6); said group of packets (3) of cigarettes comprising two side by side rows (4) of packets (3); and the packets (3) in the same row (4) being arranged with respective  
10 major lateral walls (5) contacting one another.

4) A carton as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized by comprising a vertical rear wall (14), which is substantially devoid of said preweakened tear line (10) and is exclusive to said bottom container (8).

15 5) A carton as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized by comprising a bottom and a top preweakened tear line (10, 17) parallel to each other.

6) A carton as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that said bottom preweakened tear line (10) extends along  
20 the whole lateral walls and the front wall, and said top preweakened tear line (17) only extends along one said lateral wall (11).

7) A carton as claimed in Claim 5 or 6, characterized in that said top preweakened line (17) is  
25 located at an outer edge of a top wall (15) of the carton (1).

8) A carton as claimed in Claim 5, 6 or 7, characterized in that said preweakened tear lines (10,

17) comprise respective initial portions (18), which are detached and located side by side close to an outer edge (19) of a said lateral wall (11).

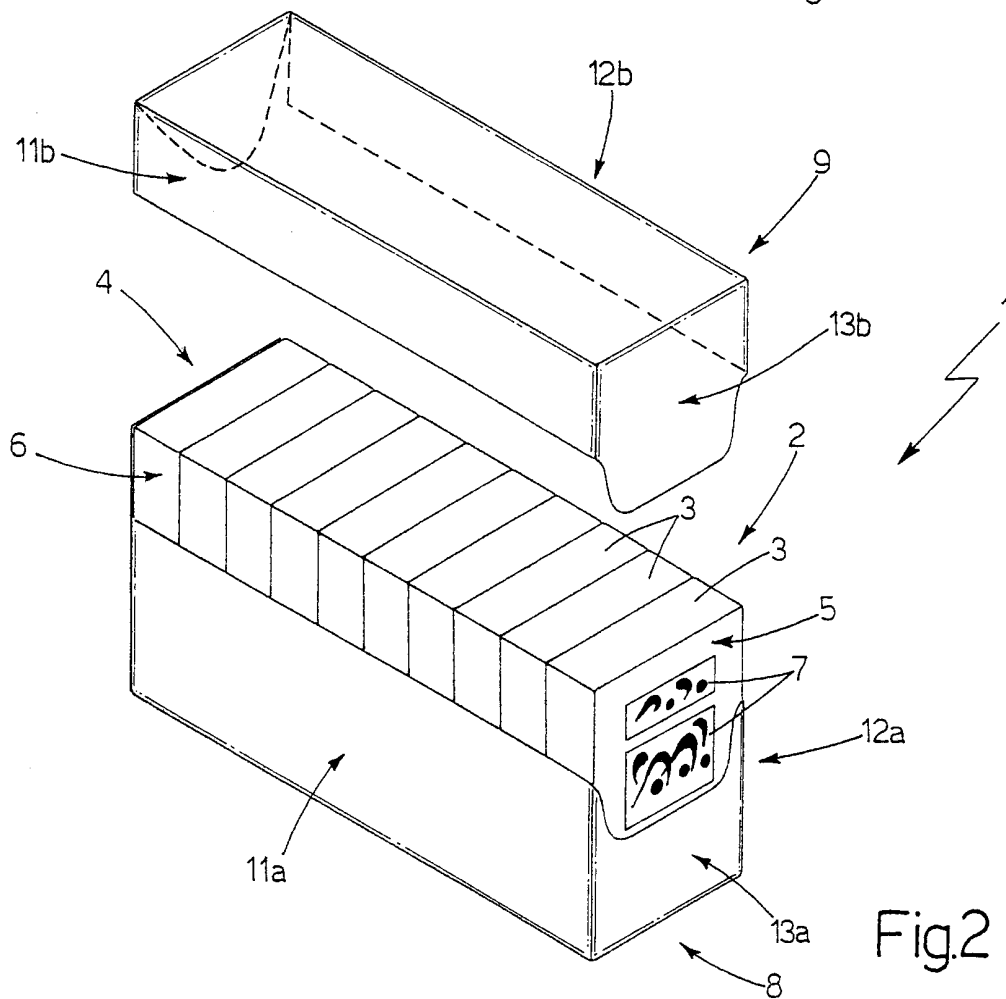
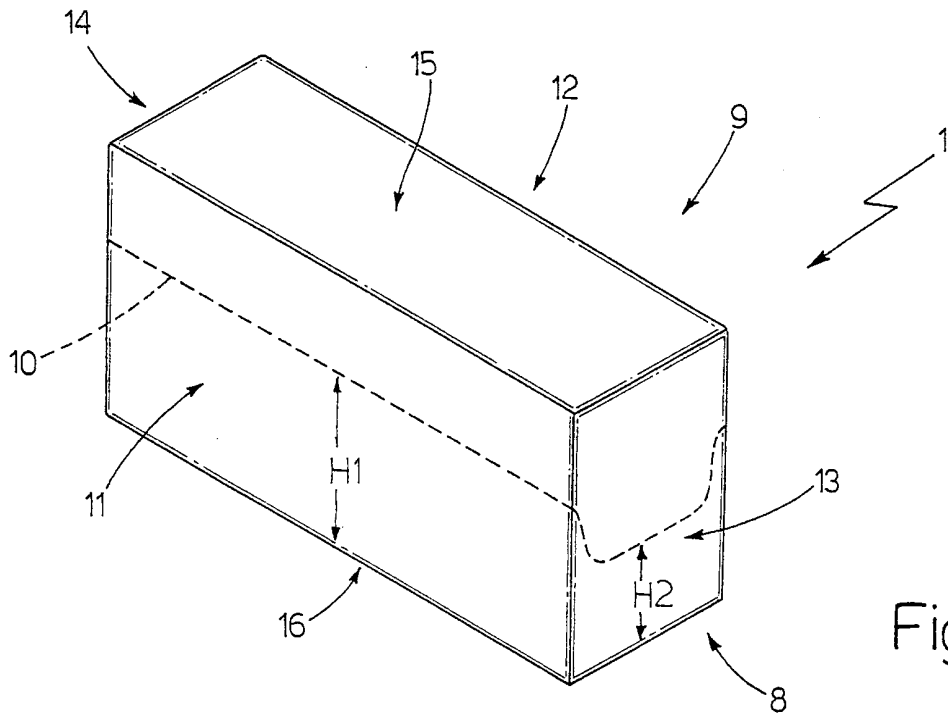
9) A carton as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8  
5 and formed from a flat blank (21); said blank (21) having two longitudinal bend lines (23, 24), and a number of transverse bend lines (27, 28, 29, 30) defining, between said two longitudinal bend lines (23, 24), a first panel (16') corresponding to a bottom wall (16) of the carton  
10 (1), a second panel (11') corresponding to a first lateral wall (11) of the carton (1), a third panel (15') corresponding to a top wall (15) of the carton (1), and a fourth panel (12') corresponding to a second lateral wall (12) of the carton (1); said fourth panel (12') having a  
15 first wing (13') and a second wing (14') located on opposite sides of the fourth panel (12') and respectively corresponding to a front wall (13) and a rear wall (14) of the carton (1); and said second and fourth panel (11', 12') and said first wing (13') comprising respective  
20 portions of said preweakened tear line (10).

10) A carton as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that said fourth panel (12') is divided by the respective said portion of the preweakened tear line (10) into a first portion (12a') forming part of said bottom  
25 container (8), and a second portion (12b') forming part of said top lid (9); said second wing (14') being connected along a portion of the respective longitudinal bend line (24) to the first portion (12a') of the fourth

panel (12'), and being connected along a further portion of said preweakened tear line (10) to the second portion (12b') of the fourth panel (12').

11) A carton as claimed in Claim 9 or 10,  
5 characterized in that said second panel (11') is divided by the respective said portion of the preweakened tear line (10) into a first portion (11a') forming part of said bottom container (8), and a second portion (11b') forming part of said top lid (9); the first portion  
10 (11a') of the second panel (11') having respective lateral tongues (31, 32).

12) A carton as claimed in Claim 9, 10 or 11,  
characterized in that said third panel (15') has  
respective substantially rounded lateral tongues (33,  
15 34).



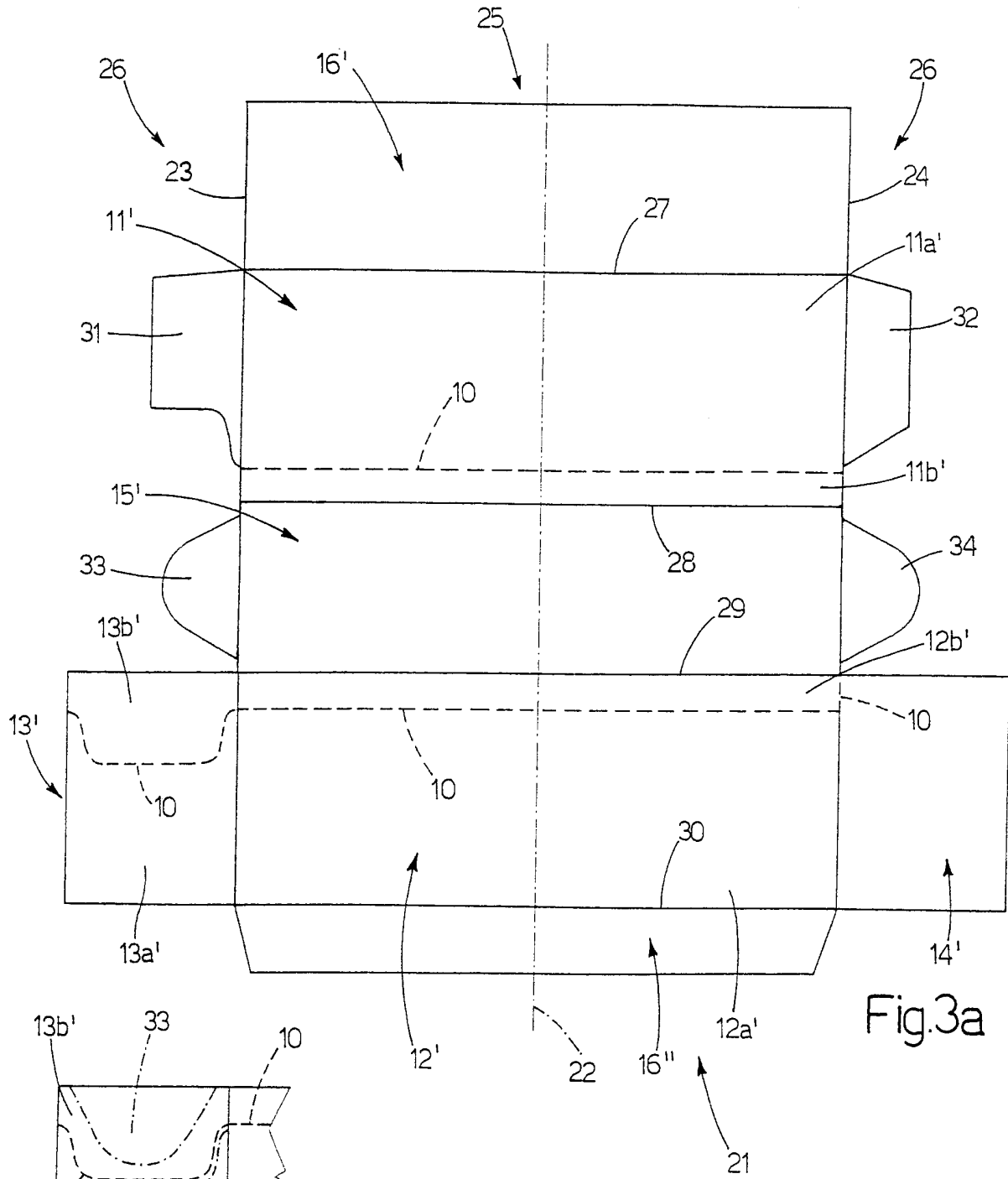


Fig.3a

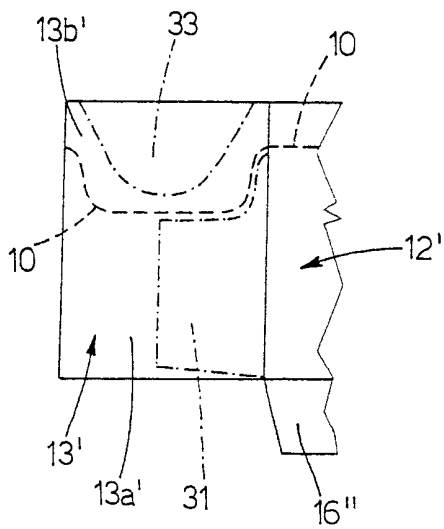
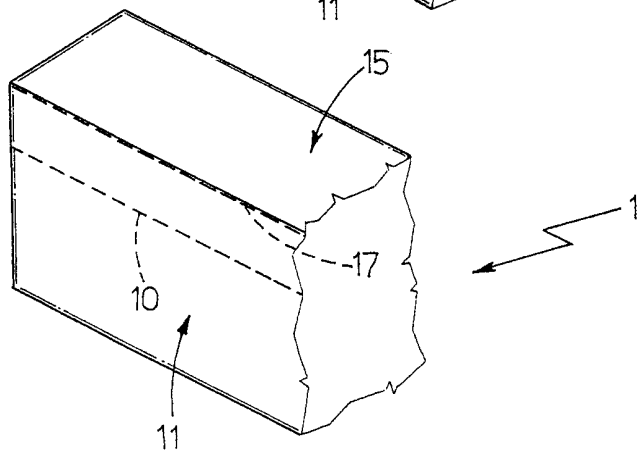
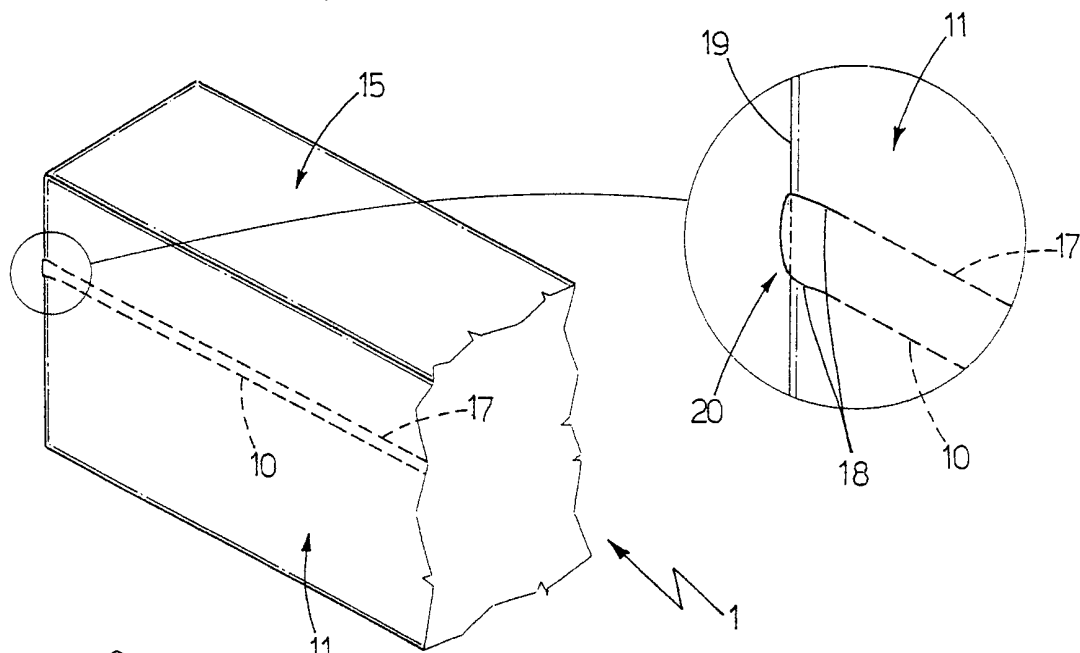
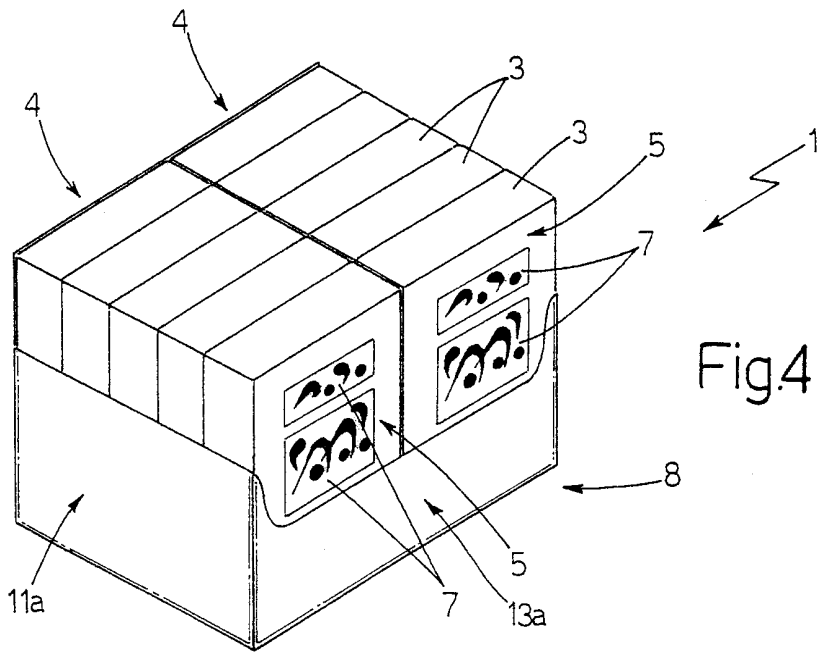


Fig.3b





# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IT 00/00410

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC 7 B65D85/10 B65D5/54

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)

IPC 7 B65D

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**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 651 497 A (THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMP.) 29 July 1997 (1997-07-29) column 2, line 59 -column 3, line 65; figures 1-3	1-3
Y	DE 295 18 315 U (OSTMA MASCHINENBAU) 8 February 1996 (1996-02-08) page 6, paragraph 3; figures 1,2	1-3
A	US 3 531 045 A (HOERNER WALDORF CORP.) 29 September 1970 (1970-09-29) column 2, line 50-60; figure 3	4
A	GB 2 321 238 A (DAVID S SMITH PACKAGING) 22 July 1998 (1998-07-22) page 2, line 20 -page 3, line 1; figures 1,2	5,8
	-/--	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 February 2001

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/IT 00/00410

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	FR 2 669 893 A (SOCAR) 5 June 1992 (1992-06-05) page 3, line 10-38; figures 1-4,9 -----	9

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

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