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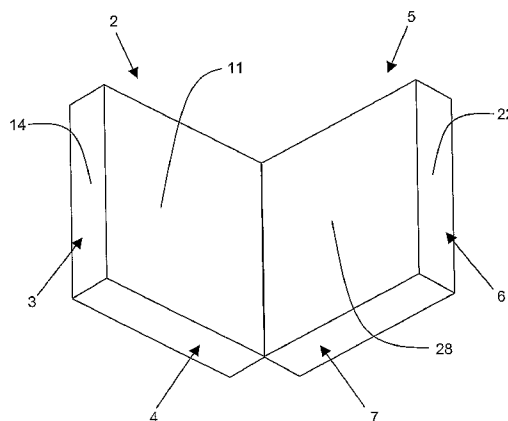


Figure 1a

(57) Abstract: A container for smoking articles comprises at least two hingedly connected packs, each for housing a separate bundle of smoking articles. The container comprises: a first pack (2) having a first wall (11, 11', 51) with opposed first and second edges; a second pack (5) having a first wall (21, 21', 61) with opposed first and second edges; and a connector (28, 28', 68, 78) extending between the first edge of the first wall (11, 11', 51) of the first pack (2) and the second edge of the first wall (21, 21', 61) of the second pack (5). The connector (28, 28', 68, 78) is hingeable relative to the first pack (2) about the first edge of the first wall (11, 11', 51) of the first pack (2) and hingeable relative to the second pack (5) about the second edge of the first wall (21, 21', 61) of the second pack (5) between a first position, in which the first edges of the first walls (11, 11', 21, 21', 51, 61) of the first (2) and second (5) packs are adjacent and the second edges of the first walls (11, 11', 21, 21', 51, 61) of the first (2) and second (5) packs are adjacent, and a second position, in which the first edges of the first walls (11, 11', 21, 21', 51, 61) of the first (2) and second (5) packs are spaced apart and the second edges of the first walls (11, 11', 21, 21', 51, 61) of the first (2) and second (5) packs are spaced apart.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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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X	WO 88/08602 A (WIDMANN HORST [FR]) 3 November 1988 (1988-11-03)	1-3,5,8
Y	page 3, line 3 - line 6; figure 4	4,6,7
X	US 5 261 533 A (ADAMS JOHN M [US] ET AL) 16 November 1993 (1993-11-16) column 4, line 52 - column 5, line 44; figures 3,4	1-3,6
X	US 3 645 382 A (ABRAMS ANDREW M) 29 February 1972 (1972-02-29) column 2, line 29 - line 61; figure 4	1-3
Y	FR 1 496 551 A (MOLINS MACHINE CO LTD) 29 September 1967 (1967-09-29) figure 1	4
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8 document member of the same patent family

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Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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