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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US):* **PHILIP MORRIS PRODUCTS** S.A. [CH/CH]; Quai Jeanrenaud 3, CH-2000 Neuchatel (CH).

(72) Inventor: CHATELAIN, Lucas; Eden Roc 11, CH-1073 Savigny (CH).

(74) Agent: TAYLOR, Gillian, **Claire;** Reddie & Grose, 16 Theobalds Road, London, WClX 8PL (GB).

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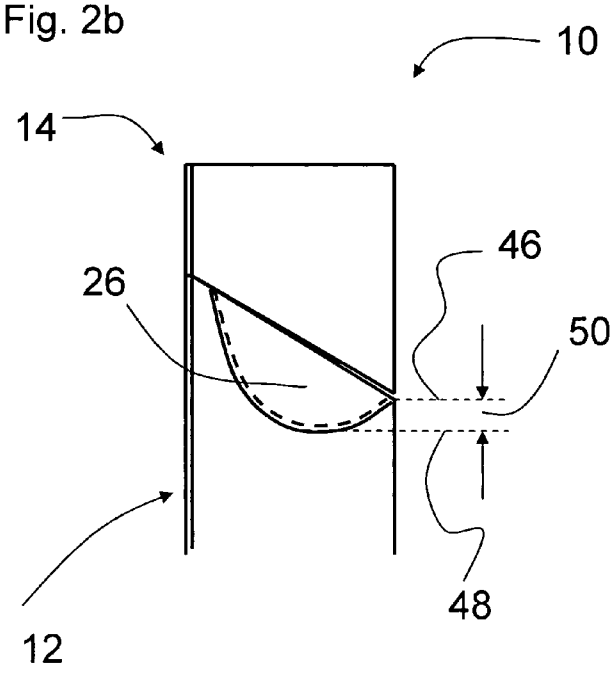
Fig. 2b



(57) Abstract: Container comprising a box (12) and a hinge lid (14), each comprising opposed side walls, each formed from an outer side wall panel and an inner side wall panel. One of the lid inner side wall panels extends beyond the corresponding lid outer side wall panel at the lower edge of the lid side wall to provide a closure tab (2b), and the corresponding box inner side wall panel comprises a cut out (32) corresponding in shape to the closure tab. In the closed position of the lid, the closure tab is covered by a corresponding side wall of the box and the lower edge of the closure tab abuts the upper edge of the corresponding box inner side wall panel. Furthermore, the lowest point of the closure tab is lower than the lowest point of the corresponding lid outer side wall panel and the shapes of the closure flap and the cut out are such that the edge of the closure flap does not engage with the box while the lid is moved between the closed position and the open position.

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HINGE LID CONTAINER WITH INNER SIDE WALL CLOSURE TABS

The present invention relates to a novel hinge lid container, which finds particular application as a container for consumer goods, for example elongate smoking articles such as cigarettes.

It is known to package elongate smoking articles and other consumer goods in containers formed from folded laminar blanks. Elongate smoking articles, such as cigarettes and cigars, are commonly sold in hinge lid packs having a box for housing the smoking articles and a lid connected to the box about a hinge line extending across the rear wall of the container. Such packs are typically constructed from one-piece laminar cardboard blanks. In use, the lid is pivoted about the hinge line to open the pack and so gain access to the smoking articles held in the box.

The lid of standard hinge lid cigarette packs typically comprises a pair of opposed, trapezoidal side walls, which are each formed from an inner side wall panel and an outer side wall panel. During folding of a laminar blank to produce the pack, the outer side wall panels are affixed to the outer surfaces of the corresponding inner side wall panels. It is desirable for the outer side walls panels of the lid and the box to be properly aligned with each other when the pack is closed. However, due to the complexity of the folding process and the very high speed of production, this is not always achievable and as a result the angled free edges may be slightly spaced apart in the formed pack.

It is known from WO 2008/087378 to improve the closure of the lid with interlocking flaps that keep the lid in the closed position. This changes the opening mechanism of the container as an additional force has to be exerted to overcome the interlocking mechanism.

In standard hinge lid packs, the cut separating the side walls of the box and the lid continues a short distance into the back wall towards the location where the hinge line begins. This improves the opening and closing of the lid. However, this cut on the back wall diminishes the structural strength of the pack against transverse movement of the lid, that is, a movement of the lid in a direction other than the intended pivotal movement. An example of a transverse movement is a movement of the lid perpendicular to the front and back walls or a twisting movement around the longitudinal axis of the pack. This transverse movement of the lid is particularly undesirable where a printed image, text, logo or other indicia extends over the front or side walls of the box and the lid and a transverse movement of the lid distorts that printed image, text, logo or other indicia.

It would be desirable to provide a hinge lid container for smoking articles that has improved resistance to a transverse movement of the lid. It would be particularly desirable to provide a hinge lid container that has improved resistance to a transverse movement of the lid and which may be produced using existing machinery for the assembly of hinge lid packs,

preferably at the same high speed of production. It would also be desirable to provide a hinge lid container with improved closure while preventing the need to apply additional force to open the container.

According to the present invention there is provided a container comprising a box and a lid hinged to the box along a hinge line extending across a rear wall of the container. The box comprises opposed side walls, each formed from a box outer side wall panel and a box inner side wall panel. The lid comprises opposed side walls, each formed from a lid outer side wall panel and a lid inner side wall panel. At least one of the lid inner side wall panels extends beyond the corresponding lid outer side wall panel at the lower edge of the lid side wall to provide a closure tab and at least one corresponding box inner side wall panel comprises a cut out corresponding in shape to the closure tab.

The lid is moveable between an open position and a closed position, wherein in the closed position of the lid, the at least one closure tab is covered by a corresponding side wall of the box and the lower edge of the at least one closure tab at least partially abuts the upper edge of the corresponding box inner side wall panel.

Containers according to the invention are characterised in that the lowest point of the closure tab in the lid inner side wall is lower than the lowest point of the corresponding lid outer side wall panel when the container is closed and that the shapes of the at least one closure flap and the at least one cut out are such that the edge of the closure flap does not engage with the box or any other part of the container while the lid is moved between the closed position and the open position.

According to the present invention there is also provided an elongate laminar blank for forming such a container. The elongate laminar blank according to the invention has a box-defining portion and a lid-defining portion, the lid-defining portion comprising a pair of opposed lid outer side wall panels and a pair of opposed lid inner side wall panels, wherein at least one lid inner side wall panel comprises a closure tab as described above.

The terms "front", "rear", "upper", "lower", "side", "top", "bottom", "left", "right" and other terms used to describe relative positions of the components of containers according to the invention refer to the container in an upright position. "Rear" or "back" refers to the side where the hinge is located. Many parallelepidal hinge lid packs have two wider vertical walls and two narrower vertical walls. The "rear" or "back" wall may be either one of the wider vertical walls or one of the narrower vertical walls. When the container in the upright position is open, the consumer goods contained in the box may be removed from the upper end of the container.

The term "hinge line" refers to a line about which the lid may be pivoted in order to open the container. A hinge line may be, for example, a fold line or a score line in the panel forming the rear wall of the container. Alternatively, a hinge line may be a fold line or a score line in a piece of material bridging the lower edge of the rear wall of the lid and the upper edge of the

rear wall of the box. Such a piece of material may be, for example, a label that is permanently or removably attached to the rear wall of the lid and the rear wall of the box. Preferably, the hinge line is positioned along the rear wall of the container at a level below the upper edge thereof.

The problem of transverse movement of the pack as described above is substantially eliminated in containers of the present invention. The lid inner side wall panels are deliberately formed so as to protrude beyond the lower edges of the lid outer side wall panels to form a closure tab on at least one side of the Nd, preferably, on both sides of the Nd. Instead of abutting the upper edge of the side wall of the box, each of the closure tabs is slidable between the side wall of the box and the consumer goods within the box or their packaging, where present. This ensures that when the lid is closed, the lower edge of each of the outer side wall panels of the Nd will always abut the upper edge of the corresponding side wall of the box and there will be no gap between the lower edges of the Nd and the upper edges of the box.

According to the invention, the shape of the closure tab and the cut out are such that the free edge of the closure tab does not engage with the box of the container during the closing or opening of the container. . In particular, the edge of the closure tab does not come into contact with the upper edges of the front and side wall of the box, or any other part of the front, side or back walls. Furthermore, the edge of the closure tab does not come into contact with the inner frame, where an inner frame is provided. This allows advantageously for a smooth movement of the Nd and prevents an interlocking of the Nd and the box towards the opening of the box.

In addition, the at least one closure tab inside the box increases the structural strength of the container against transverse movement. As the lowest point of the closure tab in the Nd inner side wall is lower than the lowest point of the corresponding lid outer side wall panel, at least one section of the closure tab will brace itself against the corresponding cut out section in a transverse direction. The container is thus easy to open and at the same time improved in its resistance to transverse movement of the lid.

The side walls of the lid of containers according to the present invention will thus be well aligned with the corresponding side walls of the box. This allows the application of designs or other indicia on the sides of the container that require precise registration at the line of abutment between the lower edges of the lid and the upper edges of the box.

As the lid is moved from its open position to its closed position, the at least one closure tab slides between the corresponding outer side wall of the box and the content of the container, for example the sides of a bundle of smoking articles. Preferably, the container further comprises an inner frame mounted within the box wherein in the closed position of the lid, the at least one closure tab lies between the box and the inner frame. A space or pocket is defined between the side walls of the box and those of the inner frame, in which the at least one closure tab slides as the Nd is moved between the close and open positions.

Alternatively, or in addition to an inner frame, the content of the container, for example a bundle of smoking articles, may be wrapped with a printed wrapper, which is visible above the upper edge of the front wall of the box and the front wall of the inner frame, if present, when the container is open.

Preferably, the at least one closure tab comprises a front corner that protrudes beyond the lower edge of the lid outer side wall panel such that during pivotal movement of the lid between the open position and the closed position, the lid passes through an intermediate position in which the front corner of the closure tab engages with the upper edge of the box. Preferably, if the container includes a closure tab on each side of the lid, each of the closure tabs is provided with a protruding front corner that engages with the upper edge of the box during closure or opening of the container.

Preferably, the lower edge of the closure tab is curved, in order to ensure that the closure tab slides smoothly between the side wall of the box and the bundle of smoking articles, as the lid is closed.

According to the present invention there is also provided a container comprising a box and a lid hinged to the box along a hinge line extending across a rear wall of the container. The lid comprises opposed side walls, each formed from a lid outer side wall panel and a lid inner side wall panel, wherein the lid inner side wall panel comprises a lower edge. The box comprises opposed side walls, each formed from a box inner side wall panel and a box outer side wall panel, wherein each of the box inner side wall panels comprises an upper edge. When the lid is in the closed position, the lower edge of each of the lid inner side wall panels abuts the upper edge of the corresponding box inner side wall panel in a line of abutment comprising at least one first section and at least two second sections, wherein in the at least one first section the line of abutment has a positive gradient and wherein in the at least two second sections, the line of abutment has a negative gradient. The at least one first section is located in between two second sections. For example, the line of abutment may be a continuous wavy or zigzagged line.

A positive gradient means that the first derivative of the line of abutment is positive. A negative gradient means that the first derivative of the line of abutment is negative. This means that the line of abutment between the lower edge of the lid inner side wall and the upper edge of the box inner side wall is inclined towards the back of the container in at least one section and inclined towards the front of the container in at least another section. Therefore, the two edges abut with each other at least in one section that will reduce a transverse movement in a first direction and abut with each at least in a second section that will reduce a transverse movement in a second, opposite direction. The greater the inclination of the line of abutment in a section, the greater is the reduction of transverse movement.

The at least one lower edge of the lid inner side wall does not engage with the upper edge of the corresponding box side wall panel when the lid is moved between the closed position and the open position.

According to the invention, the line of abutment may include additional sections, which may each have a positive or negative gradient. According to the invention, the line of abutment may be completely covered by the lid outer side wall panel when the lid is in the closed position. Alternatively, the line of abutment may be completely covered by the box outer side wall panel when the lid is in the closed position. Alternatively, the line of abutment may be partially covered by the lid outer side wall panel and partially covered by the box outer side wall panel when the container is in the closed position.

The container may be formed from any suitable materials including, but not limited to, cardboard, paperboard, plastic, metal, or combinations thereof. Preferably, the container is formed from one folded laminar cardboard blank and preferably, the cardboard has a weight of between about 100 grams per square metre and about 350 grams per square metre.

Containers according to the invention may be in the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped, with right-angled longitudinal and right-angled transverse edges. Alternatively, the container may comprise one or more rounded longitudinal edges, rounded transverse edges, bevelled longitudinal edges or bevelled transverse edges, or combinations thereof. For example, the container according to the invention may comprise, without limitation:

- One or two longitudinal rounded or bevelled edges on the front wall, and/or one or two longitudinal rounded or bevelled edges on the back wall.

- One or two transverse rounded or bevelled edges on the front wall, and/or one or two transverse rounded or bevelled edges on the back wall.

- One longitudinal rounded edge and one longitudinal bevelled edge on the front wall, and/or one transverse rounded edge and one transverse bevelled edge on the back wall.

- One or two transverse rounded or bevelled edges on the front wall and one or two longitudinal rounded or bevelled edges on the front wall.

- Two longitudinal rounded or bevelled edges on a first side wall or two transverse rounded or bevelled edges on the second side wall.

Where the container comprises one or more rounded edges and is made from one or more laminar blanks, preferably the blanks comprise three, four, five, six or seven scoring lines or creasing lines to form each rounded edge in the assembled container. The scoring lines or creasing lines may be either on the inside of the container or on the outside of the container. Preferably, the scoring lines or creasing lines are spaced from each other by between about 0.3 mm and 4 mm.

Preferably, the spacing of the creasing lines or scoring lines is a function of the thickness of the laminar blank. Preferably, the spacing between the creasing lines or scoring lines is between about 0.5 and about 4 times larger than the thickness of the laminar blank.

Where the container comprises one or more bevelled edge, preferably the bevelled edge has a width of between about 1 mm and about 10 mm, preferably between about 2 and about 6 mm. Alternatively, the container may comprise a double bevel formed by three parallel creasing or scoring lines that are spaced such that two distinct bevels are formed on the edge of the container.

Where the container comprises a bevelled edge and is made from one or more laminar blanks, the bevel may be formed by two parallel creasing lines or scoring lines in the laminar blank. The creasing lines or scoring lines may be arranged symmetrically to the edge between a first wall and a second wall. Alternatively, the creasing lines or scoring lines may be arranged asymmetrically to the edge between the first wall and the second wall, such that the bevel reaches further into the first wall of the container than into the second wall of the container.

Alternatively, the container may have a non-rectangular transversal cross section, for example polygonal such as triangular or hexagonal, semi-oval or semi-circular.

Containers according to the invention find particular application as packs for elongate smoking articles such as, for example, cigarettes, cigars or cigarillos. It will be appreciated that through appropriate choices of the dimensions thereof, containers according to the invention may be designed for different numbers of conventional size, king size, super-king size, slim or super-slim cigarettes. Alternatively, other consumer goods may be housed inside the container.

Through an appropriate choice of the dimensions thereof, containers according to the invention may be designed to hold different total numbers of smoking articles, or different arrangements of smoking articles. For example, through an appropriate choice of the dimensions thereof, containers according to the invention may be designed to hold a total of between ten and thirty smoking articles.

The smoking articles may be arranged in different collations, depending on the total number of smoking articles. For example, the smoking articles may be arranged in a single row of six, seven, eight, nine or ten. Alternatively, the smoking articles may be arranged in two or more rows. The two or more rows may contain the same number of smoking articles. For example, the smoking articles may be arranged in: two rows of five, six, seven, eight, nine or ten; three rows of five or seven; or four rows of four, five or six. Alternatively, the two or more rows may include at least two rows containing different number of smoking articles to each other. For example, the smoking articles may be arranged in: a row of five and a row of six (5-6); a row of six and a row of seven (6-7); a row of seven and a row of eight (7-8); a middle row of five and two outer rows of six (6-5-6); a middle row of five and two outer rows of seven (7-5-7); a middle row of six and two outer rows of five (5-6-5); a middle row of six and two outer rows

of seven (7-6-7); a middle row of seven and two outer rows of six (6-7-6); a middle row of nine and two outer rows of eight (8-9-8); or a middle row of six with one outer row of five and one outer row of seven (5-6-7).

Containers according to the present invention may hold smoking articles of the same type or brand, or of different types or brands. In addition, both filterless smoking articles and smoking articles with various filter tips may be contained, as well as smoking articles of differing length (for example, between about 40 mm and about 180 mm), diameter (for example, between about 4 mm and about 9 mm). In addition, the smoking articles may differ in strength of taste, resistance to draw and total particulate matter delivery. Preferably, the dimensions of the container are adapted to the length of the smoking articles, and the collation of the smoking articles. Typically, the outer dimensions of the container are between about 0.5 mm to about 5 mm larger than the dimensions of the bundle or bundles of smoking articles housed inside the container.

The length, width and depth of containers according to the invention may be such that, in the closed lid position, the resultant overall dimensions of the container are similar to the dimensions of a typical disposable hinge-lid pack of twenty cigarettes.

Preferably, containers according to the invention have a height of between about 60 mm and about 150 mm, more preferably a height of between about 70 mm and about 125 mm, wherein the height is measured from the top wall to the bottom wall of the container.

Preferably, containers according to the invention have a width of between about 12 mm and about 150 mm, more preferably a width of between about 70 mm and about 125 mm, wherein the width is measured from one side wall to the other side wall of the container.

Preferably, containers according to the invention have a depth of between about 6 mm and about 100 mm, more preferably a depth of between about 12 mm and about 25 mm wherein the depth is measured from the front wall to the back wall of the container (comprising the hinge between box and lid).

Preferably, the ratio of the height of the container to the depth of the container is in between about 0.3 to 1 and about 10 to 1, more preferably between about 2 to 1 and about 8 to 1, most preferably between about 3 to 1 and 5 to 1

Preferably, the ratio of the width of the container to the depth of the container is in between about 0.3 to 1 and about 10 to 1, more preferably between about 2 to 1 and about 8 to 1, most preferably between about 2 to 1 and 3 to 1.

Preferably, the ratio of the height of the lid back wall to the height of the box back wall of the container is between about 0 to 1 (hinge located at the top edge of the container) to about 1 to 1, more preferably, between about 1 to 5 and about 1 to 10, most preferably, between about 1 to 6 to about 1 to 8.

Preferably, the ratio of the height of the lid front wall of the container to the height of the box front wall of the container is between about 1 to 0 (lid covering the entire front wall) to about 1 to 10, more preferably, between about 1 to 1 and about 1 to 5, most preferably, between about 1 to 2 and about 1 to 3.

Where the container comprises smoking articles, the container may further comprise waste-compartments (for example for ash or butts) or other consumer goods, for example matches, lighters, extinguishing means, breath-fresheners or electronics. The other consumer goods may be attached to the outside of the container, contained within the container along with the smoking articles, in a separate compartment of the container or combinations thereof.

The exterior surfaces of containers according to the invention may be printed, embossed, debossed or otherwise embellished with manufacturer or brand logos, trade marks, slogans and other consumer information and indicia.

Where the container according to the present invention contains a bundle of cigarettes or other elongate smoking articles, the smoking articles are preferably wrapped in an inner liner of, for example, metal foil or metallised paper.

Once filled, containers according to the invention may be shrink wrapped or otherwise over wrapped with a transparent polymeric film of, for example, high or low density polyethylene, polypropylene, oriented polypropylene, polyvinylidene chloride, cellulose film, or combinations thereof in a conventional manner. Where containers according to the invention are over wrapped, the over wrapper may include a tear tape. In addition, the over wrapper may be printed with images, consumer information or other data.

The invention will be further described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows a container according to the present invention with the lid in an open position;

Figure 2a and 2b each show a side view of the container of Figure 1 with the lid in various degrees of closure;

Figure 3 shows a side view of an alternative embodiment of the container according to the invention; and

Figure 4 shows the cardboard blank for forming the container of Figures 1 and 2a and 2b.

The hinge lid container 10 shown in Figures 1 to 3 is a rectangular parallelepiped and comprises a lower box 12 and an upper lid 14 that is hinged to the box 12 along a hinge line extending substantially horizontally along the rear wall of the container. A bundle of cigarettes 16 is housed in the box 12 of the container 10. The overall size of container 10 is substantially the same as that of a standard hinge lid cigarette pack.

The box 12 has a front wall 18, a left side wall, a right side wall 20, a rear wall, and a bottom wall. The upper side of the box 12 is open, to provide an upper opening through which the cigarettes can be removed.

The lid 14 has a front wall 18a, a left side wall, a right side wall 20a, a rear wall and an upper wall. When the container 10 is closed, the free edges of the walls of the lid 14 abut the free edges of the walls of the box 12 along a line of abutment. In the closed position, the walls of the lid 14 therefore form extensions of the corresponding walls of the box 12 to define the walls of the container 10.

Each of the side walls of the lid 14 is formed from a lid inner side wall panel 22a and a lid outer side wall panel 24a (see Fig. 4), which overlies the lid inner side wall panel 22a and is glued thereto. As shown in Figures 1 to 2c, the lid inner side wall panels 22a extend beyond the lower edges of the lid outer side wall panels 24a to form a pair of opposed closure tabs 26.

Each closure tab 26 has a curved lower edge 30, which extends between the front edge 28 of the closure tab and the lower edge of the lid outer side wall panel 24a. The curved lower edge 30 of the closure tab 26 meets the lower edge of the lid outer side wall panel 24a at a small distance from the rear wall of the lid 14. This offset is provided in order to facilitate closure of the lid.

Each of the side walls of the box 12 is similarly formed from a box inner side wall panel 22 and a box outer side wall panel 24 (see Fig. 4), which overlies the box inner side wall panel 22 and is glued thereto. As shown by the dashed line in Figures 2a and 2b, each of the box inner side wall panels 22 comprises a cut out 32 at the upper edge thereof. The shape of the cut out 32 corresponds to the shape of the closure tab 26 so that when the lid 14 is in a closed position, the closure tab 26 fits exactly into the cut out 32.

An inner frame 34 is mounted within the box 12, in the conventional manner. The upper edges of the inner frame 34 extend above the upper edges of the box 12 and the front wall of the inner frame is provided with a cut out, to facilitate removal of the smoking articles from the box 12.

Figure 1 shows the container 10 with the lid 14 in an open position. As the lid 14 is moved towards its closed position, in the direction shown by the arrow in Figure 2a, each of the closure tabs 26 slides between the corresponding side wall of the box 12 and the inner frame 34, without engaging with each other during the movement.

Once the lid 14 is fully closed as shown in Fig 2b, the lower edge of each of the lid side wall panels abuts the upper edge of the corresponding box side wall panels such that no gap exists between the side walls of the box 12 and the lid 14. As a result, the lower edge of the front wall of the lid 14 also abuts the upper edge of the front wall of the box, so that the inner frame 34 is not visible. As can be seen in Fig. 2b, the lowest point 48 of the cut out 32 is a distance 50 lower than the lowest point 46 of the box outer side wall 24.

In the closed position of the container 10 transverse movement of the lid 14 is thus prevented in a direction of the front wall by the interaction between the section of the closure tab 26 and the cut out 32 which is between the lowest point 48 of the cut out and the lowest point 46 of the box outer side wall 24. Likewise, transverse movement of the lid 14 is prevented in a direction of the back wall of the container 10 by the interaction between the section of the closure tab 26 and the cut out 32 which is between the lowest point 48 of the cut out and the back wall of the container. This also reduces any transverse, twisting movement of the lid in the closed position of the container 10.

Figure 3 shows an alternative embodiment of the container according to the invention. The lower edge 30 of the lid inner side wall 22a and the upper edge of the box inner side wall 22 comprise several sections 36a, 36b, 36c, 36d that come into abutment when the container is closed. Sections 36a and 36b with a positive gradient will abut with each other when the container is closed. Similarly, sections 36c and 36d with a negative gradient will abut with each other when the container 10 is closed.

The positive gradient of sections 36a and 36b means that the cut line 36 is inclined to the left in this section if the pack is viewed from this side. In the second sections 36c and 36d of the cut line 36 the line of abutment has a negative gradient, that is, the cut line 36 is inclined to the right in this section if the pack is viewed from this side. When the pack is closed, the abutment of sections 36a and 36b will reduce transverse movement in a direction from left to right as indicated by arrow 42. The abutment of sections 36c and 36d will reduce transverse movement in a direction from right to left as indicated by arrow 44.

The container 10 shown in Figures 1, 2a and 2b and described above may be formed from the cardboard blank 110 shown in Figure 4. The solid lines in Figure 4 indicate the lines along which the blank is cut, whilst the dashed lines indicate the fold or score lines about which adjacent panels are folded to assemble the container 10. In order to form the closure tab 26 and the cut out 34 of the box inner side wall panels, a single, curved cut line 36 is provided on each side of the blank. The shape of the free edge of the closure tabs 26 therefore exactly matches that of the free upper edges of the box inner side wall panels 22, such that when the lid 14 is in a closed position, the closure tabs 26 fit exactly into the corresponding cut outs 34 in the box inner side wall panels 22.

In order to form the container 10, the blank is folded around a wrapped bundle of cigarettes and glued as necessary, using standard methods and machinery. Once assembled, the container 10 is overwrapped with a transparent wrapper.

CLAIMS

1. A container comprising

a box, wherein the box comprises opposed side walls, each formed from a box outer side wall panel and a box inner side wall panel; and

a lid hinged to the box along a hinge line extending across a rear wall of the container, wherein the lid comprises opposed side walls, each formed from a lid outer side wall panel and a lid inner side wall panel,

wherein at least one of the lid inner side wall panels extends beyond the corresponding lid outer side wall panel at the lower edge of the lid side wall to provide a closure tab, and wherein at least one corresponding box inner side wall panel comprises a cut out corresponding in shape to the closure tab;

wherein the lid is moveable between an open position and a closed position, wherein when the lid is in the closed position, the at least one closure tab is covered by a corresponding side wall of the box and the lower edge of the at least one closure tab at least partially abuts the upper edge of the corresponding box inner side wall panel; and

wherein the lowest point of the closure tab in the lid inner side wall is lower than the lowest point of the corresponding lid outer side wall panel when the lid is in the closed position and wherein the shapes of the at least one closure flap and the at least one cut out are such that the edge of the closure flap does not engage with the box when the lid is moved between the closed position and the open position.

2. A container according to claim 1 wherein the container further comprises an inner frame mounted within the box and wherein in the closed position of the lid, the at least one closure tab lies between the box and the inner frame.

3. A container according to any preceding claim, wherein the lower edge of the closure tab is curved.

4. A container comprising

a box; and

a lid hinged to the box along a hinge line extending across a rear wall of the container, wherein the lid comprises opposed side walls, each formed from a lid outer side wall panel and a lid inner side wall panel, wherein each of the lid inner side wall panels comprises a lower edge, and wherein the box comprises opposed side walls, each formed from a box inner side

wall panel and a box outer side wall panel, wherein each of the box inner side wall panel comprises an upper edge,

wherein the lid is moveable between a closed position and an open position, wherein when the lid is in the closed position, the lower edge of at least one of the lid inner side walls panel abuts the upper edge of the corresponding box inner side wall panel along a line of abutment comprising at least one first section and at least two second sections, wherein in the at least one first section of the line of abutment has a positive gradient and wherein the at least two second sections of the line of abutment have a negative gradient and wherein the at least one first section is located in between the at least two second sections; and

wherein the at least one lower edge of the lid inner side wall does not engage with the upper edge of the corresponding box side wall panel when the lid is moved between the closed position and the open position.

5. An elongate laminar blank for forming a container according to any preceding claims having a box-defining portion and a lid-defining portion connected along a transverse hinge line, the lid-defining portion comprising a pair of opposed lid outer side wall panels and a pair of opposed lid inner side wall panels, wherein at least one lid inner side wall panel comprises a closure tab.

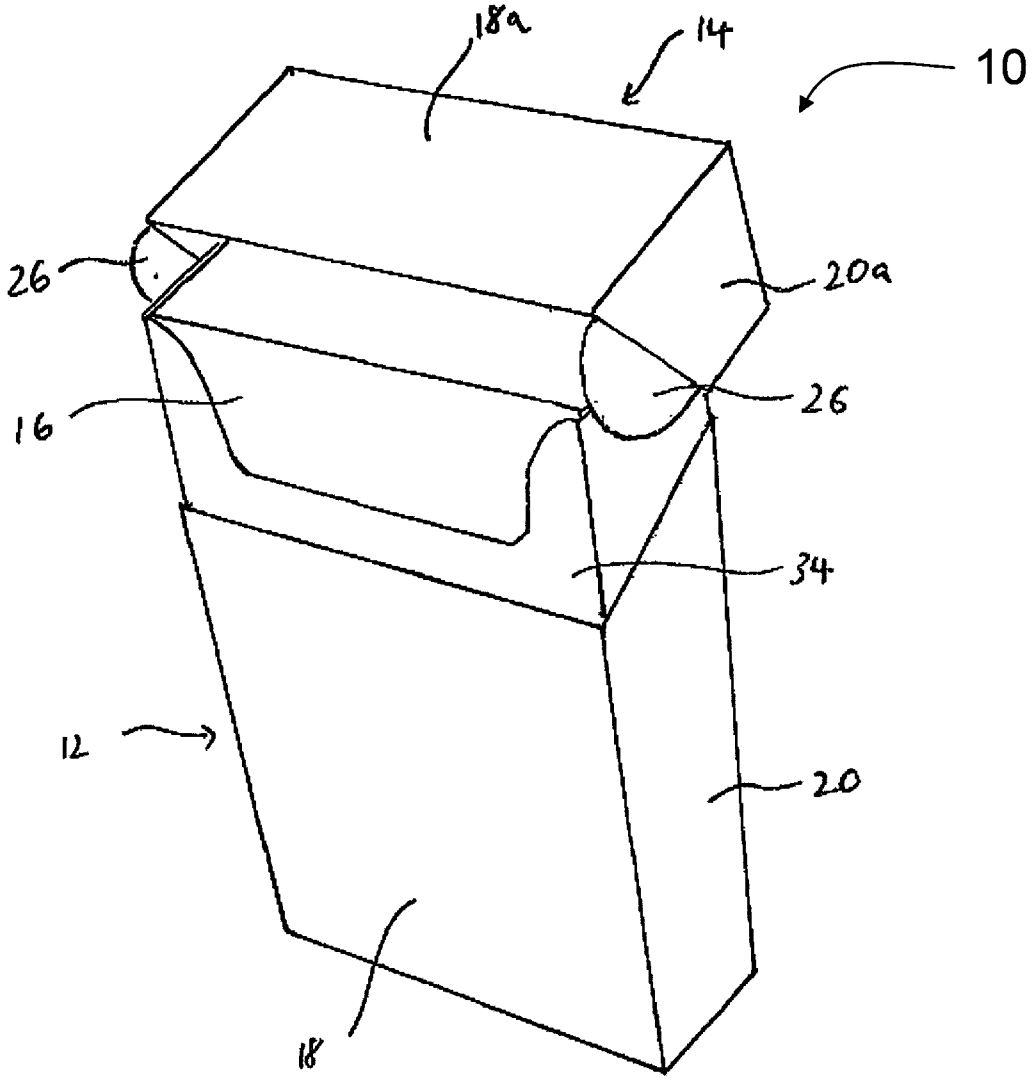

Fig. 1

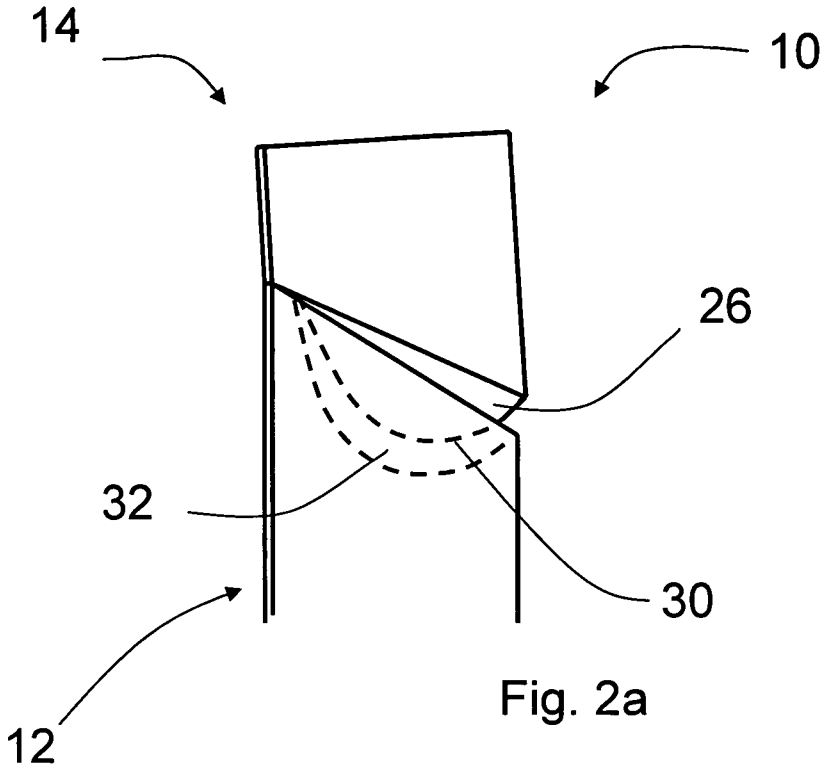

Fig. 2a

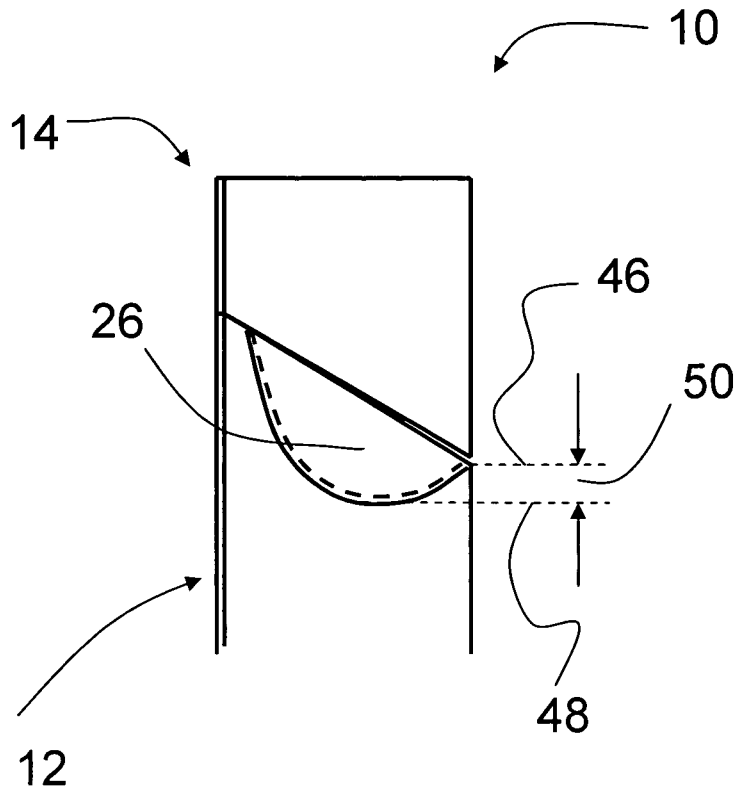

Fig. 2b

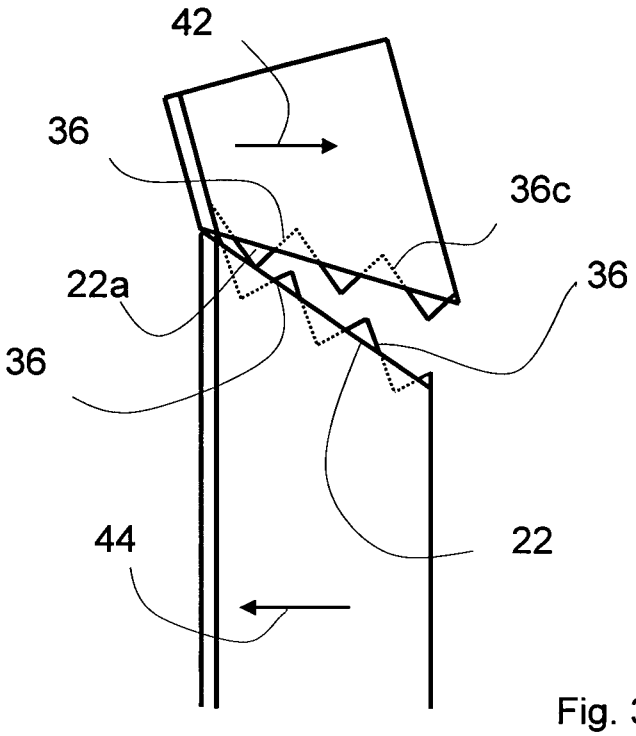

Fig. 3

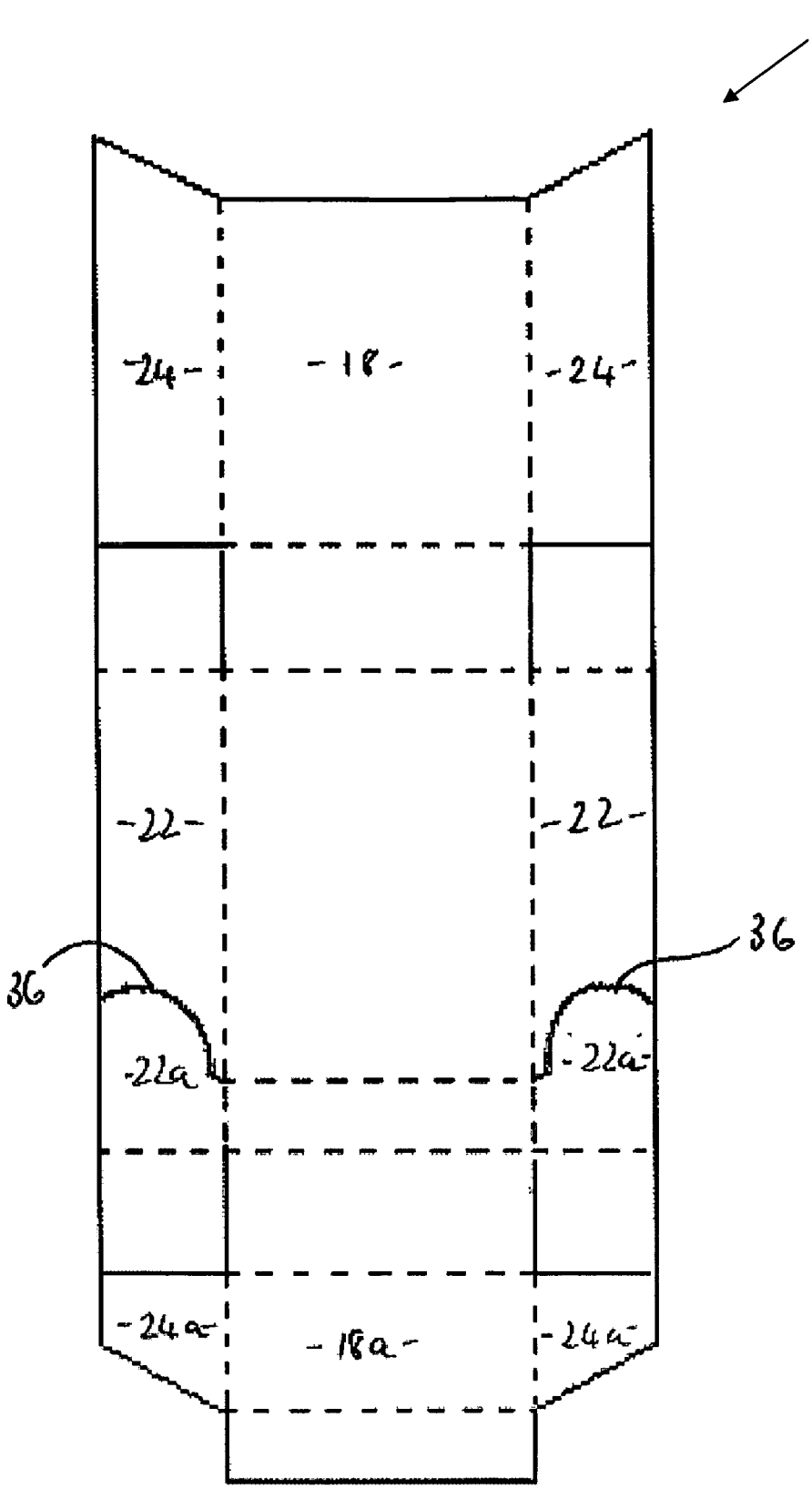

Fig. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2009/005070

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. B65D85/10 B65D5/66

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. RELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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.
X	DE 10 78 934 B (EILEBRECHT CIGARETTEN UND RAUC) 31 March 1960 (1960-03-31) column 1, line 32 - column 2, line 27 column 3, line 3 - line 20; figures	1-5
A	US 3 078 030 A (GERTON ROBERT T) 19 February 1963 (1963-02-19) figure 1	1-5
A	WO 02/40379 A (GD SPA [IT]; BORIANI SILVANO [IT]; FRANCHINI ALBERTO [IT]; DRAGHETTI F) 23 May 2002 (2002-05-23) abstract; figure 1	1-5

D Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. [X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

'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

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'&' document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
30 October 2009	09/11/2009

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax; (+31-70) 340-3016	Zanghi , Amedeo

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/EP2009/005070

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