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(54) **Pack for smoking articles**

(57) A pack (2) for smoking articles substantially in the form of a rectangular parallelepiped comprises: a pair of opposed major side walls (4, 6); a pair of opposed minor side walls (8, 10); four longitudinal edges (16) between the major (4, 6) and minor (8, 10) side walls; and a pair of substantially rectangular opposed end faces (12, 14) defined by transverse edges of the major (4, 6) and minor (8, 10) side walls. At least one of the four longitudinal edges (16) has a non-right-angled portion (20) and the transverse perimeter of the pack (2) is substantially constant. The pack (2) is preferably formed from a folded blank (22) and the non-right-angled portion (20) is preferably defined by at least three lines of weakness in the blank (22).

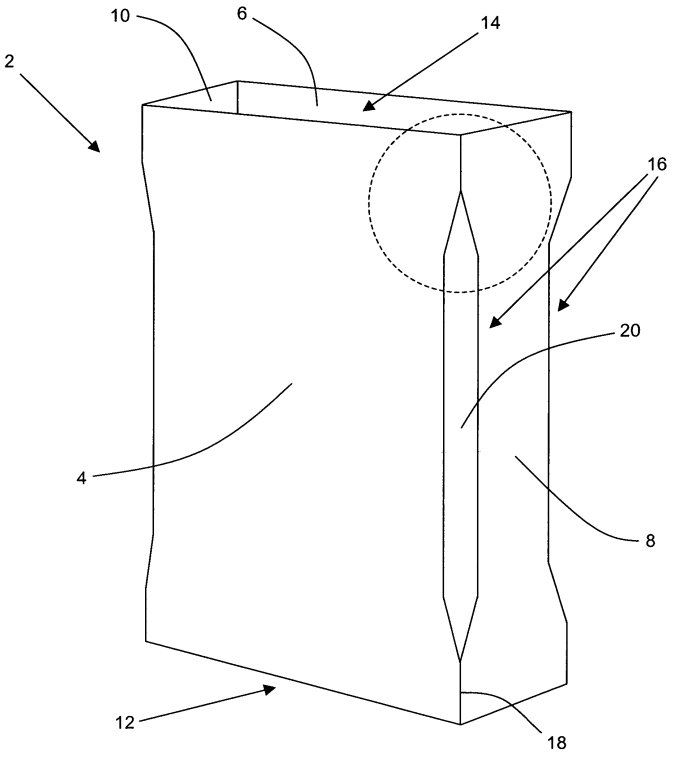

Figure 1

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a pack for smoking articles with one or more bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges and in particular to a rigid cup pack with one or more bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges.

[0002] Cigarettes are commonly packaged in three separate wrappings, namely an inner liner, a soft or rigid outer pack and an overwrapper. The inner liner in the form of, for example, metal foil or metallised paper is wrapped around a bundle of cigarettes and folded in at the ends of the bundle. A printed cardboard or paper blank is folded around the bundle of cigarettes and inner liner to form a soft or rigid outer pack. Depending on the number of walls thereof, these outer packs are commonly referred to in the art as having the form of a sleeve, cup or box. A 'sleeve' pack typically has four side walls and open upper and lower ends. A 'cup' pack typically has four side walls, a bottom wall and an open upper end. A 'box' pack typically has four side walls, a bottom wall and a top wall. To preserve the freshness of the bundle of cigarettes, the pack is shrink wrapped with an overwrapper of, for example, polyethylene or polypropylene film, which typically includes a tear tape to facilitate opening thereof.

[0003] Rigid packs for cigarettes are normally substantially in the form of a rectangular parallelepiped with two major side walls and two minor side walls connected along right-angled longitudinal edges. When an overwrapper is wrapped around a rectangular parallelepipedal rigid pack, rectangular folded sections of the overwrapper are created at the upper and lower ends of the pack.

[0004] Rigid packs having one or more bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges, formed by scoring the cardboard blank that is folded to produce the rigid pack, are also known. Rigid packs with bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges are advantageously more ergonomic than those with right-angled longitudinal edges and may result in reduced wear on consumers' garments and bags. However, the upper and lower ends of such packs are not rectangular, but instead have 'missing corners' due to the bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges of the pack. When an overwrapper is wrapped around a rigid pack with bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges, rectangular folded sections of the overwrapper are still created at the upper and lower ends of the pack. These rectangular folded sections of the overwrapper do not follow the shape of the bevelled or rounded upper and lower corners of the pack. Instead, the right-angled corners of the rectangular folded sections of the overwrapper protrude beyond the bevelled or rounded upper and lower corners of the pack. Consequently, to avoid unsightly folds, it is necessary for the overwrappers of rigid packs with bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges to be shrunk more at the upper and lower corners of the pack than the overwrappers of rigid rectangular parallelepipedal packs.

[0005] In rigid cup packs, the upper end of the pack is open and has a tendency to deform inwards when a rigid cup pack with bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges is shrink wrapped with an overwrapper due to the forces created by the additional shrinkage necessary to compensate for the 'missing corners'. As a result, where rigid cup packs have bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges, it is not possible to additionally shrink the transparent overwrapper at the upper and lower corners of the pack without producing unsightly wrinkles in the overwrapper.

[0006] It would be desirable to produce a pack for smoking articles with bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges that can be overwrapped without the need for additional shrinkage of the transparent overwrapper at the upper and lower corners or the pack or along the bevelled or rounded longitudinal edges thereof.

[0007] According to the present invention there is provided a pack for smoking articles substantially in the form of a rectangular parallelepiped, the pack comprising: a pair of opposed major side walls; a pair of opposed minor side walls; four longitudinal edges between the major and minor side walls; and a pair of opposed substantially rectangular end faces defined by transverse edges of the major and minor side walls, wherein at least one of the four longitudinal edges includes a non-right-angled portion and the transverse perimeter of the pack is substantially constant.

[0008] Throughout the specification, transverse perimeter is used to denote the distance around the major and minor side walls of the pack, perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the pack.

[0009] The combination of opposed rectangular end faces and a substantially constant transverse perimeter advantageously allows packs according to the invention to be overwrapped without the need for additional shrinkage of the overwrapper at either the upper and lower corners of the pack or along the four longitudinal edges of the pack.

[0010] When folded over the opposed rectangular end faces of packs according to the invention, an overwrapper follows the shape of the substantially right-angled corners of the opposed substantially rectangular end faces of the pack. Furthermore, as the transverse perimeter of packs according to the invention is substantially constant, additional shrinkage of the overwrapper is also not required in order to make the overwrapper follow the shape of the longitudinal edges of the pack. The substantially constant transverse perimeter means that the transverse perimeter of the opposed substantially rectangular end faces of packs according to the invention is substantially the same as the transverse perimeter around non-right-angled portions of the four longitudinal edges thereof. This advantageously facilitates getting a smooth, wrinkle free overwrapper when packs according to the invention are overwrapped.

[0011] At least one of the four longitudinal edges may have a non-right-angled, flat bevelled portion. For example, at least one of the four longitudinal edges may have a flat bevelled portion inclined at between about 30 de-

grees and about 60 degrees, preferably at about 45 degrees, to the adjacent major and minor side walls of the pack.

[0012] Alternatively, or in addition, at least one of the four longitudinal edges may have a non-right-angled, rounded portion of substantially curved cross-section. For example, at least one of the four longitudinal edges may have a rounded portion of substantially outwardly convex transverse cross-section. Alternatively or in addition, at least one of the four longitudinal edges may have a rounded portion of substantially outwardly concave transverse cross-section.

[0013] Preferably, each of the four longitudinal edges includes a non-right-angled-portion.

[0014] In a preferred embodiment of the invention, each of the four longitudinal edges of the pack has a non-right-angled, flat bevelled portion. In another preferred embodiment of the invention, each of the four longitudinal edges of the pack has a non-right-angled, rounded portion of substantially curved transverse cross-section. However, in alternative embodiments of the invention, at least a first one of the four longitudinal edges of the pack has a non-right-angled, flat bevelled portion and at least a second one of the four longitudinal edges has a non-right-angled, rounded portion of substantially curved cross-section. For example, each of a first pair of the four longitudinal edges may have a non-right-angled, flat bevelled portion and each of a second pair of the four longitudinal edges may have a non-right-angled, rounded portion of substantially curved cross-section.

[0015] Preferably, at least one of the four longitudinal edges has a pair of opposed substantially right-angled portions adjacent the opposed substantially rectangular end faces and a non-right-angled portion disposed between the pair of substantially right-angled portions. The pair of opposed substantially right-angled portions may be of the same or different length.

[0016] More preferably, at least one of the four longitudinal edges has a pair of opposed substantially right-angled minor portions adjacent the opposed substantially rectangular end faces and a non-right-angled major portion disposed between the pair of substantially right-angled portions.

[0017] In a preferred embodiment of the invention, each of the four longitudinal edges has a pair of opposed substantially right-angled minor portions adjacent the opposed substantially rectangular end faces and a non-right-angled major portion disposed between the pair of substantially right-angled minor portions.

[0018] Packs according to the invention may be formed from any suitable known material or combination of materials used for packaging including, but not limited to, paper, cardboard, paperboard, metals, such as aluminium, or plastics.

[0019] Packs according to the invention are preferably formed from folded blanks, more preferably from folded cardboard blanks, most preferably from folded cardboard blanks with a weight of between about 200 grams per square metre and about 400 grams per square metre. In a particularly preferred embodiment of the invention, the pack is formed from a folded cardboard blank with a weight about 250 grams per square metre.

[0020] Preferably, the pack is formed from a folded blank and at least one of the four longitudinal edges has a non-right-angled portion formed by two or more longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank. More preferably, at least one of the four longitudinal edges has a non-right-angled portion formed by between two and five longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank

[0021] The term "line of weakness" is used in the present specification to describe a line formed by compressing or partially cutting the blank by creasing, scoring, embossing or an equivalent known process.

[0022] For example, at least one of the four longitudinal edges may have a non-right-angled, flat bevelled portion formed by two longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank. Alternatively or in addition, at least one of the four longitudinal edges may have a non-right-angled, rounded portion of substantially curved transverse cross-section formed by three or more longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank.

[0023] Preferably, at least one the four longitudinal edges has a non-right-angled portion formed by at least three longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank. More preferably, at least one the four longitudinal edges has a non-right-angled portion formed by between three and five longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank.

[0024] Formation of the non-right-angled portion from at least three longitudinal lines of weakness advantageously increases the curvature of the non-right-angled portion of the longitudinal edge and gives the pack a rounded and ergonomic appearance.

[0025] The non-right-angled portion may be formed by two or more straight longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank or by two or more curved longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank or by a combination of at least one straight longitudinal line of weakness and at least one curved longitudinal line of weakness in the blank.

[0026] In a preferred embodiment, at least one the four longitudinal edges has a non-right-angled portion formed by at least three substantially parallel, straight longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank.

[0027] At least one of the four longitudinal edges may have a non-right-angled portion formed from at least two longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank that extend from the respective adjacent major side wall of the pack into the respective adjacent minor side wall of the pack. This gives the impression that the non-right-angled portion is 'twisted' around the longitudinal edge of the pack.

[0028] Preferably, at least one of the opposed substantially rectangular end faces is defined by free transverse edges of the major and minor side walls. More preferably, one of the opposed substantially rectangular end faces is defined by free transverse edges of the major and minor side walls and the other one of the opposed substantially rectangular end faces defined by transverse edges

of the major and minor side walls is a substantially rectangular end wall of the pack.

[0029] Packs according to the invention are preferably rigid cup packs with an upper substantially rectangular end face defined by free transverse edges of the major and minor side walls and a lower substantially rectangular end wall. However, it will be appreciated that packs according to the invention may also be other known types of packs for smoking articles including, but not limited to, hinge-lid packs, slide and shell packs, shoulder packs and booklet packs.

[0030] Packs according to the invention may be overwrapped in a known manner with any suitable known material or combination of materials including, but not limited to, cellophane, polymeric films of, for example, polyethylene or oriented polypropylene, metallised polymeric films and laminated polymeric films.

[0031] Preferably, packs according to the invention are shrink wrapped with a transparent overwrapper. More preferably, packs according to the invention are shrink wrapped with a transparent overwrapper of polyethylene or polypropylene film.

[0032] Packs according to the invention may be overwrapped with overwrappers including one or more tear tapes. The one or more tear tapes may extend in a transverse or longitudinal direction around the perimeter of the pack.

[0033] Packs according to the invention may be used to house smoking articles including, but not limited to, conventional lit-end cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, heated cigarettes (for example cigarettes of the type disclosed in US-A-5,711,081) and cigarettes for use with electrical smoking systems (for example cigarettes of the type disclosed in US-A-5 591 5512).

[0034] Through an appropriate choice of the dimensions thereof, packs according to the invention may be designed to house a total of, for example, ten, fifteen sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one or twenty-five smoking articles. Smoking articles housed in packs according to the invention may be arranged in different collations, depending on their total number. For example, packs according to the invention may house smoking articles arranged: in one row of six, seven, eight, nine or ten; in two rows of five, six, seven, eight, nine or ten; in two rows in a 5-6, 6-7 or 7-8 collation; in three rows of five or seven; in three rows in a 5-6-5, 6-5-6, 5-6-7, 6-7-5, 7-5-7, 7-6-7, or 8-9-8 collation; or in four rows of four, five or six.

[0035] Alternatively or in addition, packs according to the invention may be designed to house smoking articles of different dimensions (for example, smoking articles of different length or different circumference). Packs according to the invention may, for example, be designed to house different numbers of short (between about 60 mm and about 65 mm in length), regular size (about 70mm in length), king size (about 75 mm in length), super-king size, slim, super-slim or wide cigarettes. Cigarettes or other smoking articles housed within packs according to the invention may be of round or oval transverse cross-section.

[0036] Packs according to the invention preferably further comprise an inner liner, which is wrapped around a bundle of smoking articles housed in the pack. Preferably, the inner liner is formed from a substantially air impermeable material. In a preferred embodiment, the inner wrapper is sealed to form a substantially an airtight wrapped bundle of smoking articles. Preferably, the inner liner comprises a reclosable flap that allows the consumer to open and reclose the wrapped bundle of smoking articles.

[0037] The exterior surfaces of packs according to the invention may be printed, embossed, debossed or otherwise embellished (for example using labels or stickers) with manufacturer or brand logos, trade marks, slogans and other consumer information and indicia.

[0038] The invention will be further described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of an empty rigid cup pack according to a first embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 shows a side plan view of the pack shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a plan view of a blank for forming the pack of Figure 1;

Figure 4a shows an enlarged perspective view of an upper corner of the pack of Figure 1;

Figure 4b shows a perspective view of an upper corner of a rigid cup pack according to a second embodiment of the invention;

Figure 4c shows a perspective view of an upper corner of a rigid cup pack according to a third embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 5 shows a perspective view of a longitudinal edge of a rigid cup pack according to a fourth embodiment of the invention.

[0039] The empty rigid cup pack 2 according to the first embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 1 is substantially in the form of a rectangular parallelepiped and comprises: a major front wall 4 and an opposed major rear wall 6; a first minor side wall 8 and an opposed second minor side wall 10; and a lower rectangular end wall 12 and an opposed open upper rectangular end face 14, which is defined by upper transverse free edges of the major front wall 4, major rear wall 6, first minor side wall 8 and second minor side wall 10.

[0040] The terms "front", "rear", "lower" and "upper" are used in the present specification to describe the relative positions of the walls, ends and faces of a rigid cup pack when the rigid cup pack is in an upright position with the open end face thereof at the top of the pack. When describing packs according to the present invention, these terms are used irrespective of the orientation of the rigid cup pack being described.

[0041] The first minor side wall 8 and the second minor side wall 10 are each connected to the major front wall 6 and the major rear wall 10 along a pair of opposed longitudinal edges 18. As shown in Figure 1, each of the longitudinal edges 18 includes a pair of opposed minor right-angled portions 18 adjacent the lower end wall 12 and the open upper end face 14 of the pack 2, and a major, non-right-angled, flat bevelled portion 20 disposed between the pair of opposed right-angled portions 18. It will be appreciated that, in alternative embodiments (not shown) the opposed right angled-portions 18 may be of different length or may be omitted. The major non-right-angled, flat bevelled portion 20 of each longitudinal edge 16 is inclined at about 45 degrees to the major wall 6, 10 and minor side wall 8, 10 of the pack 2 adjacent to the longitudinal edge 16. Where the rigid cup pack 2 houses smoking articles, the height of the rigid cup pack 2 preferably substantially corresponds to the length of the smoking articles.

[0042] Figure 2 shows a side plan view of the rigid cup pack 2 according to the first embodiment of the invention. As shown in Figure 2, the major front wall 4 and major rear wall 6 of the rigid cup pack 2 are slightly outwardly convex in the region of the major non-right-angled, flat bevelled portions 20 of the four longitudinal edges 16. The transverse perimeter of the rigid cup pack 2 according to the first embodiment of the invention thus remains substantially constant.

[0043] An elongate one-piece cardboard blank 22 for forming the rigid cup pack 2 according to the first embodiment of the invention is shown in Figure 3; the same reference numbers are used in Figure 3 for parts of the blank 22 corresponding to parts of the pack 2. In Figure 3, solid lines are used to denote cut lines or outer borders of the blank 22. Dashed lines are used to denote lines of weakness, which are formed by compressing or partially cutting the cardboard of the blank 22, along which the blank 22 is bent upon erection of the rigid cup pack 2. The lines of weakness are formed for example by creasing, scoring, embossing or an equivalent process.

[0044] The blank 22 comprises a major front wall panel 4 and a major rear wall panel 6 separated in the longitudinal direction of the blank 22 by a lower rectangular end wall panel 12. Opposed first 8a and second 10a outer minor side walls panels are connected to either side of the major front wall panel 4 along longitudinal lines of weakness, which form the longitudinal edges 16 of the erected rigid cup pack 2. Opposed first 8b and second 10b inner minor side walls panels are connected to either side of the major rear wall panel 6 along longitudinal lines of weakness, which form the longitudinal edges 16 of the erected rigid cup pack 2. As shown in Figure 3, the major non-right-angled, flat bevelled portion 20 of each longitudinal edge 16 is formed by a pair of parallel, spaced apart, straight longitudinal lines of weakness that converge at the ends of the opposed right-angled portions 18 of the longitudinal edge 16.

[0045] In an alternative embodiment (not shown), in which the pairs of opposed minor right-angled portions 18 of the four longitudinal edges 16 of the pack 2 are omitted, the pairs of longitudinal lines of weakness forming the non-right-angled, flat bevelled portions 20 of the longitudinal edges 16 converge at the corners of the major front wall panel 4 and major rear wall panel 6 of the blank 22.

[0046] The blank 22 further comprises a pair of lower end wall flaps 28, which are connected to the ends of the first 8b and second 10b inner minor side walls panels proximate the lower rectangular end wall panel 12 along transverse lines of weakness.

[0047] In the blank of Figure 2, the longitudinal free edges of the outer 8a, 10a and inner 8b, 10b minor side wall panels of the blank 22 are cut to follow the profile of the lines of weakness forming the minor right-angled portions 18 and a major, non-right-angled, flat bevelled portions 20 of the four longitudinal edges 16 of the rigid cup pack 2.

[0048] Figure 4a shows an enlarged perspective view of the upper front corner of the rigid cup pack 2 according to the first embodiment of the invention encircled in broken lines in Figure 1. Figures 4a and 4b shows corresponding views of the upper corners of rigid cup pack according to second and third embodiments of the invention, respectively.

[0049] As in the rigid cup pack 2 according to the first embodiment of the invention, each of the four longitudinal edges of the rigid cup pack according to the second embodiment of the invention includes a pair of opposed minor right-angled portions 18 and a major, non-right-angled portion 20 disposed between the pair of opposed right-angled portions 18. However, as shown in Figure 4b, in the rigid cup pack according to the second embodiment of the invention the major non-right-angled portion 20 of each of the longitudinal edges is formed by four parallel, straight longitudinal lines of weakness that converge at the ends of the opposed right-angled portions 18 of the longitudinal edge.

[0050] Each of the four longitudinal edges of the rigid cup pack according to the third embodiment of the invention also includes a pair of opposed minor right-angled portions 18 and a major, non-right-angled portion 20 disposed between the pair of opposed right-angled portions 18. However, in the rigid cup pack according to the third embodiment of the invention the major non-right-angled portion 20 of each of the longitudinal edges is formed by five parallel, straight longitudinal lines of weakness. As shown in Figure 4c, four of the five parallel, straight longitudinal lines of weakness forming each non-right-angled portion 20 converge at the ends of the opposed right-angled portions 18 of the longitudinal edge. The fifth, central straight longitudinal line of weakness is of reduced length compared to the other four longitudinal lines of weakness, and does not extend to the ends of the opposed non-right-angled portions 18.

[0051] Figure 5 shows a perspective view of a longitudinal edge of a rigid cup pack according to a fourth em-

bodiment of the invention. As in the rigid cup packs according to the first, second and third embodiments of the invention, each of the four longitudinal edges of the rigid cup pack according to the fourth embodiment of the invention includes a pair of opposed minor right-angled portions 18 and a major, non-right-angled portion 20 disposed between the pair of opposed right-angled portions 18. However, as shown in Figure 5, in the rigid cup pack according to the fourth embodiment of the invention the major non-right-angled portion 20 of each of the longitudinal edges extends downwardly from the respective adjacent minor side wall 8 of the pack into the respective adjacent major side wall 4 of the pack. This gives the rigid cup pack according to the fourth embodiment of the invention the impression of being twisted counter-clockwise. In an alternative embodiment (not shown), the major non-right-angled portion 20 of each of the longitudinal edges extends downwardly from the respective adjacent major side wall 4 of the pack into the respective adjacent minor side wall 8 of the pack. This gives the rigid-cup pack the impression of being twisted in clockwise.

[0052] The rigid cup packs according to the second, third and fourth embodiments of the invention are otherwise of identical construction to the rigid cup pack 2 according to the first embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 1.

[0053] Rigid cup packs according to the invention may advantageously be produced using existing machinery for producing known hinge-lid packs following only minor modifications thereto.

[0054] While the invention has been exemplified above with respect to a rigid cup pack, it will be appreciated that packs according to the invention may alternatively be hinge-lid packs, slide and shell packs, shoulder packs, booklet packs or any other packs substantially in the form of a rectangular parallelepiped known in the art.

Claims

1. A pack (2) for smoking articles substantially in the form of a rectangular parallelepiped, the pack (2) comprising:

a pair of opposed major side walls (4, 6);
a pair of opposed minor side walls (8, 10);
four longitudinal edges (16) between the major (4, 6) and minor (8, 10) side walls; and
a pair of opposed substantially rectangular end faces (12, 14) defined by transverse edges of the major (4, 6) and minor (8, 10) side walls,

wherein at least one of the four longitudinal edges (16) has a non-right-angled portion (20) and the transverse perimeter of the pack (2) is substantially constant.

2. A pack (2) according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the four longitudinal edges (16) has a pair of opposed substantially right-angled portions (18) adjacent the opposed substantially rectangular end faces (12, 14) and a non-right-angled portion (20) disposed between the pair of substantially right-angled portions (18).

3. A pack (2) according to claim 1 or 2 wherein at least one of the four longitudinal edges (16) has a non-right-angled, flat bevelled portion (20).

4. A pack (2) according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein at least one of the four longitudinal edges (16) has a non-right-angled, rounded portion (20) of substantially curved transverse cross-section.

5. A pack (2) according to any of claims 1 to 4 formed from a folded blank (22), wherein at least one of the four longitudinal edges (16) has a non-right-angled portion (20) formed by at least two longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank (22).

6. A pack according to claim 5 wherein the at least two longitudinal lines of weakness extend from the respective adjacent major side wall (4) of the pack into the respective adjacent minor side wall (8) of the pack.

7. A pack (2) according to claim 5 or 6 wherein at least one of the four longitudinal edges (16) has a non-right-angled portion (20) formed by at least three longitudinal lines of weakness in the blank (22).

8. A pack (2) according to any preceding claim wherein at least one of the four longitudinal edges has a rounded portion of substantially outwardly convex transverse cross-section.

9. A pack (2) according to any preceding claim wherein at least one of the opposed substantially rectangular end faces (14) is defined by free transverse edges of the major (4, 6) and minor (8, 10) side walls.

10. A pack (2) according to any preceding claim wherein each of the four longitudinal edges (16) has a non-right-angled portion (20).

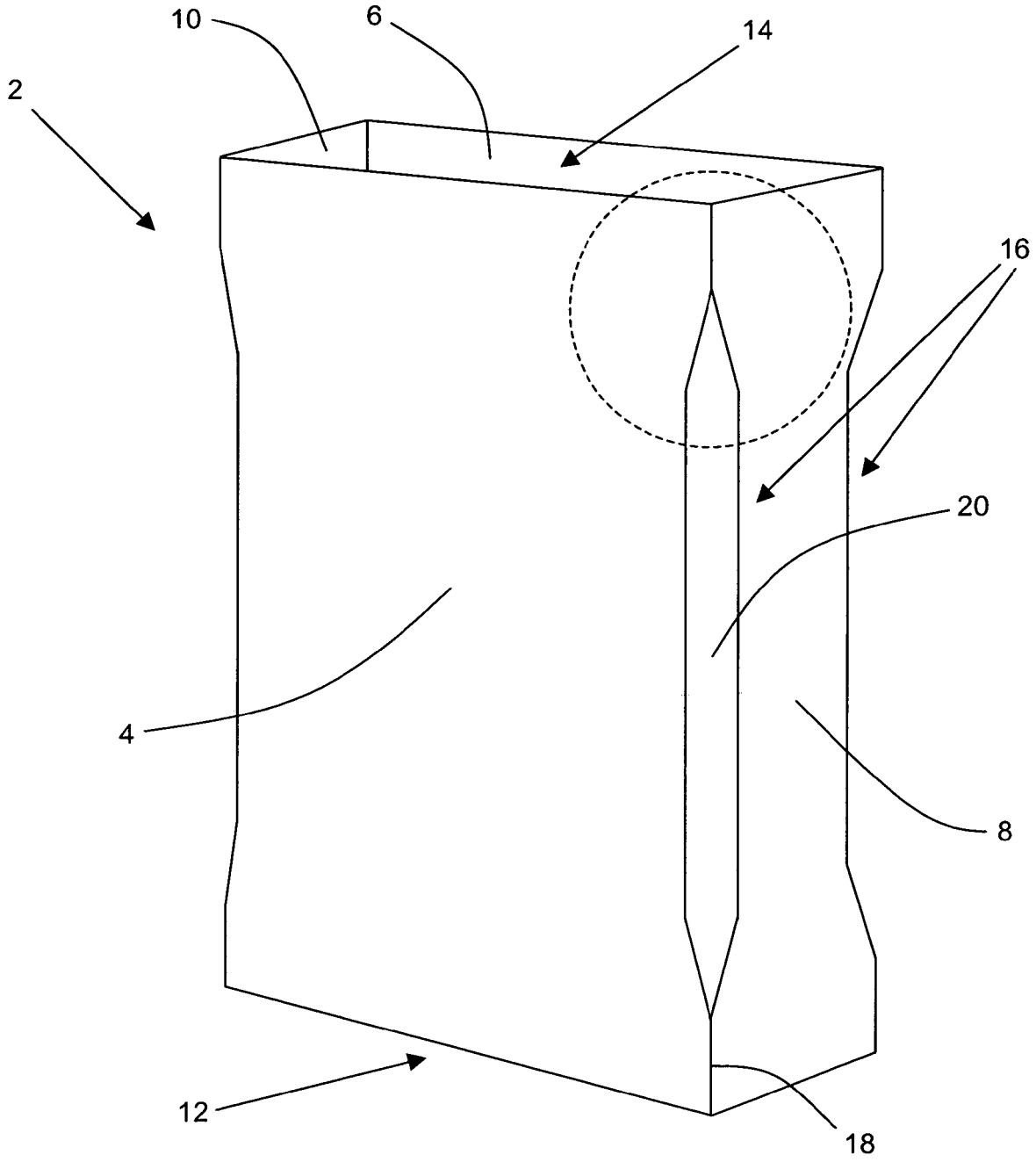

Figure 1

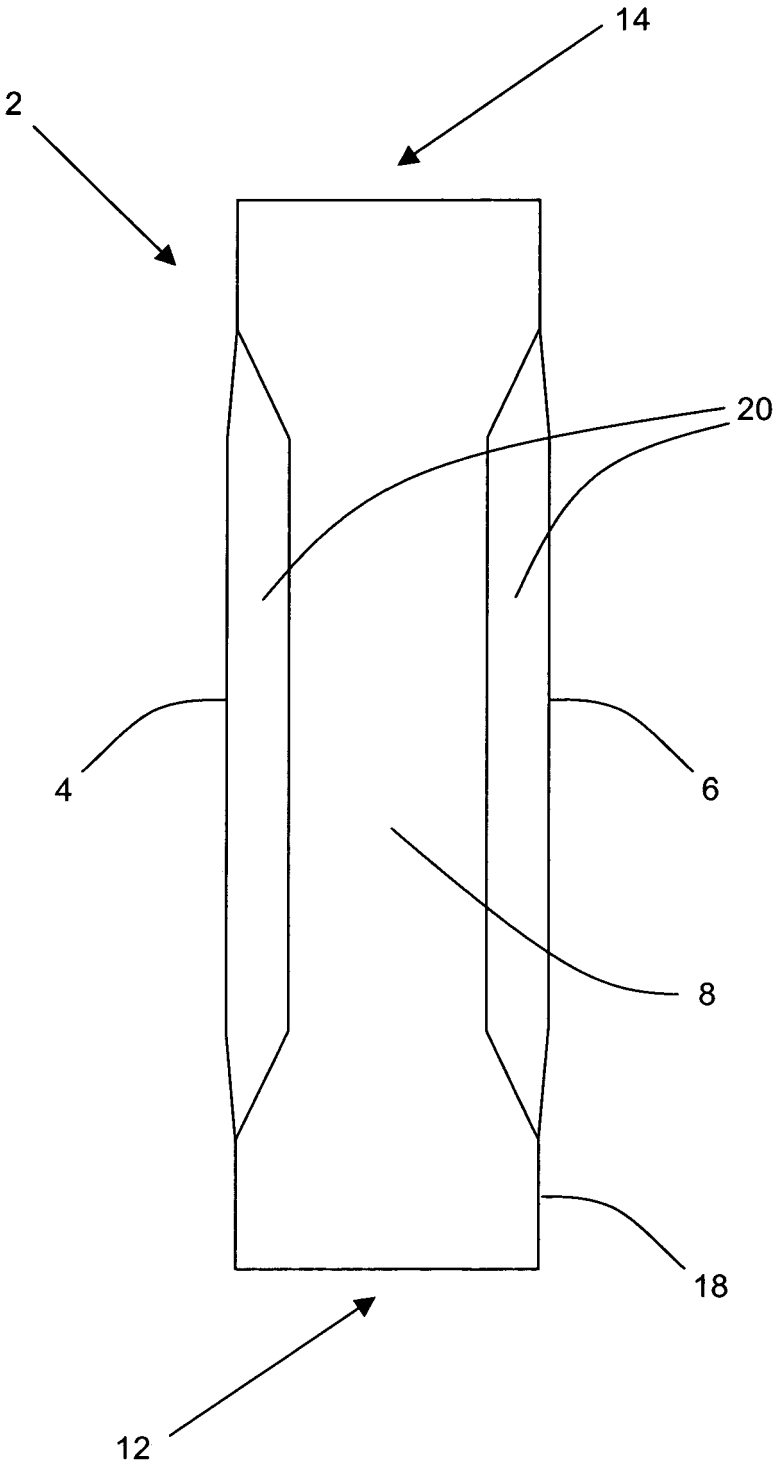

Figure 2

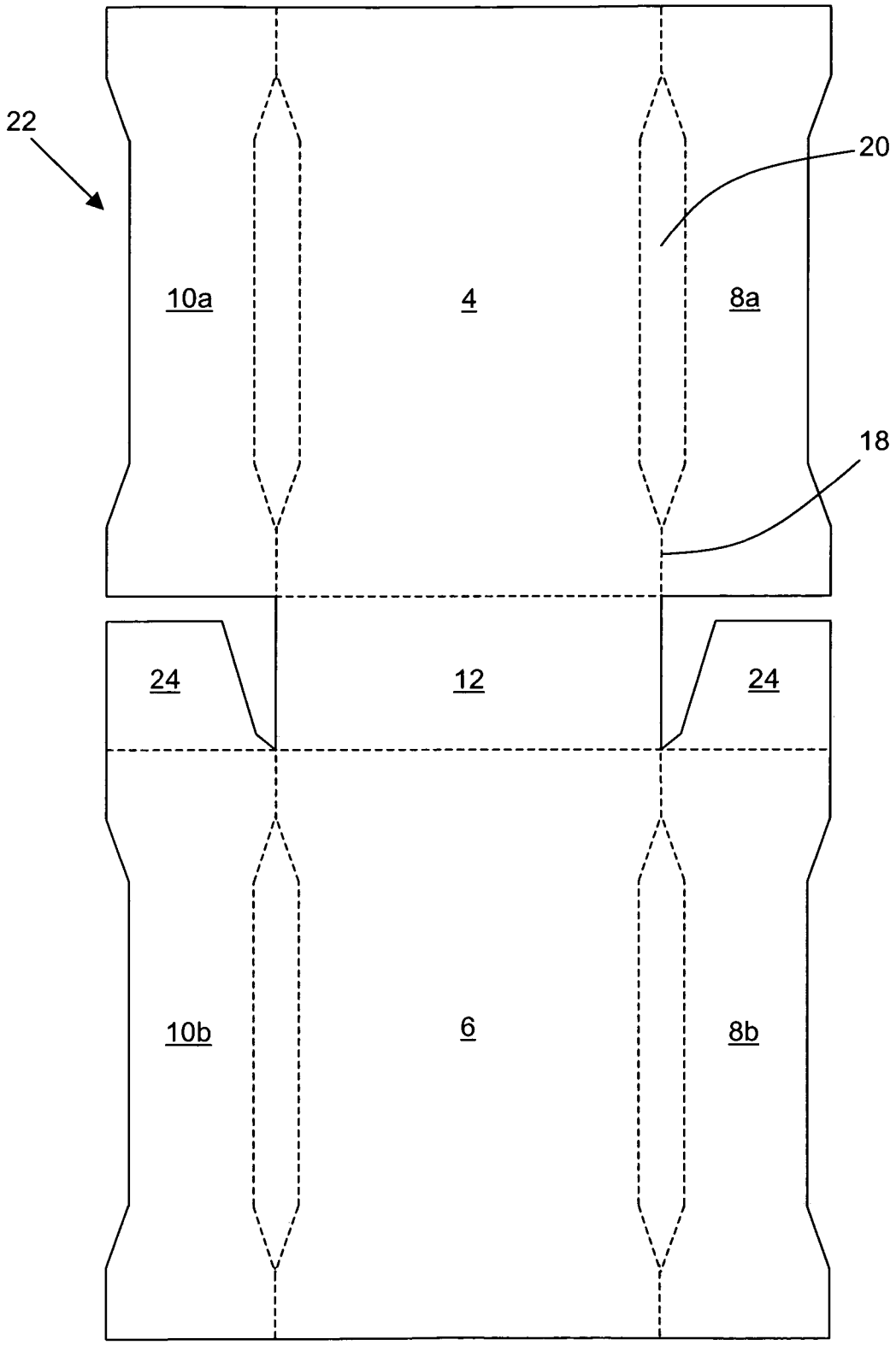

Figure 3

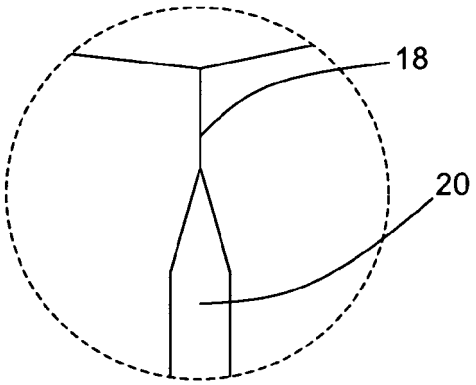

Figure 4a

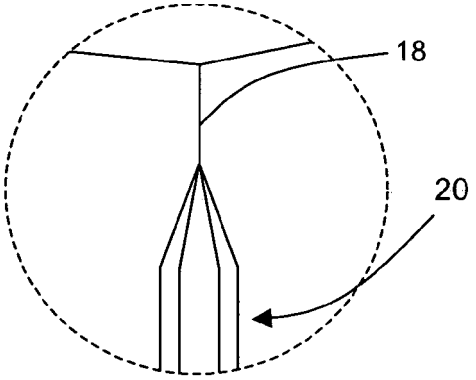

Figure 4b

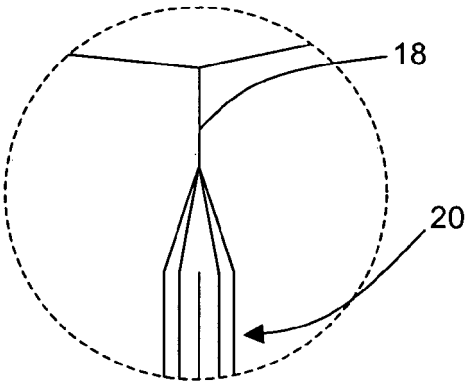

Figure 4c

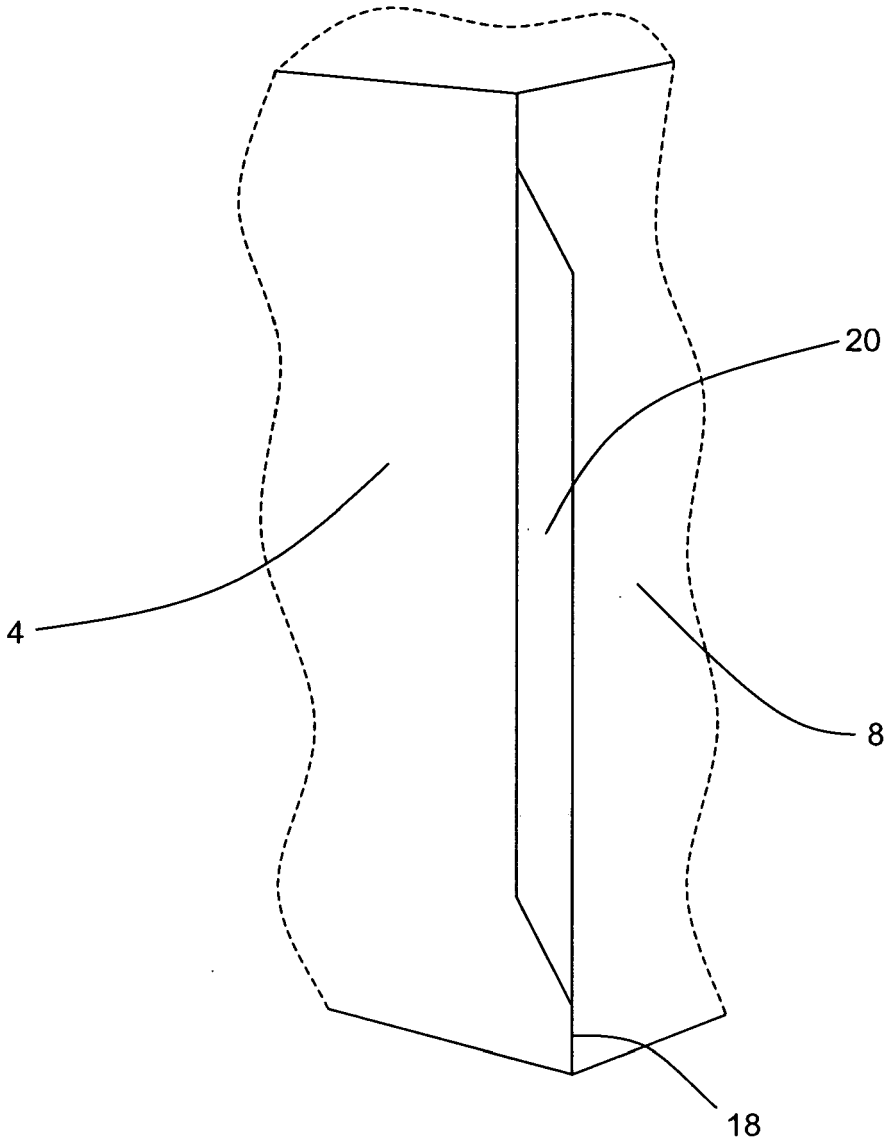

Figure 5

European Patent Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

which under Rule 63 of the European Patent Convention shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

Application Number EP 08 25 1038

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	WO 02/32786 A (GD SPA [IT]; COLO CHIARA [IT]; DRAGHETTI FIORENZO [IT]) 25 April 2002 (2002-04-25) * the whole document *	1,3,5,9, 10	INV. B65D5/02 B65D85/10
Y		2,4,7,8	
Y	EP 1 338 521 A (TETRA LAVAL HOLDINGS & FINANCE [CH]) 27 August 2003 (2003-08-27) * paragraph [0031]; figures 7-9 *	2	
Y	EP 1 033 327 A (IMP TOBACCO CO LTD [GB]) 6 September 2000 (2000-09-06) * the whole document *	4,7,8	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)

B65D

INCOMPLETE SEARCH

The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.

Claims searched completely :

Claims searched incompletely :

Claims not searched :

Reason for the limitation of the search:

see sheet C

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich	12 August 2008	Schelle, Joseph

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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A : technological background
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T : theory or principle underlying the invention
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
D : document cited in the application
L : document cited for other reasons

& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

2

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04E07)

European Patent Office

INCOMPLETE SEARCH SHEET C

Application Number
EP 08 25 1038

Claim(s) not searched:
6

Reason for the limitation of the search:

In all of the embodiments shown in in the figures the longitudinal lines of weakness extend from the right-angled portions of the longitudinal edges into the major side wall or into the minor side wall.

According to claim 6, however, the at least two longitudinal lines of weakness extend from the respective adjacent major side wall of the pack into the respective adjacent minor side wall of the pack.

This discrepancy between what is disclosed in the drawings and the accompanying description renders claim 6 completely unclear.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 08 25 1038

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