



- (51) International Patent Classification:  
*B65D 5/20* (2006.01)      *B65D 25/16* (2006.01)  
*B65D 5/56* (2006.01)      *B32B 1/00* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/FI2017/050160
- (22) International Filing Date: 13 March 2017 (13.03.2017)
- (25) Filing Language: Finnish
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
20165216      15 March 2016 (15.03.2016)      FI
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: PRODUCT PACKAGE AND A METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE PACKAGE

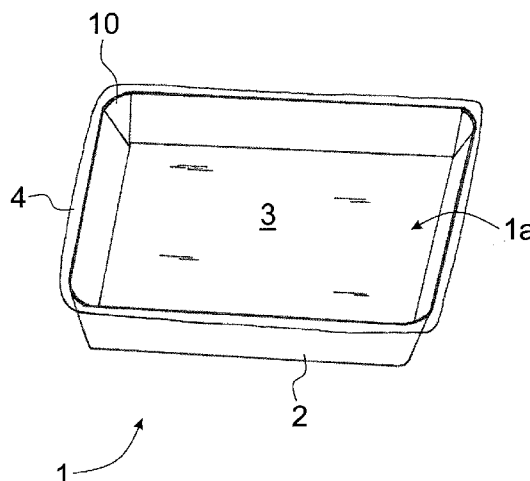
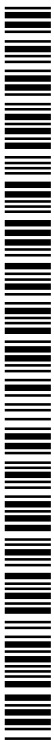


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: The object of the invention is a product package and a method for producing the product package. The product package comprises a recess (1a) for the product to be packed, the recess being provided with a base and with walls in connection with the base, in which case the frame part (2) of the recess (1a) has been formed by means of folds from recyclable fiber material and the aforementioned recess (1a) is lined on the inside with a separate inner lining (3), which is removable from the aforementioned frame part. The top edges of the side walls and end walls of the frame part and also the top edges of the corner parts (10) form the top edge of the recess, which top edge is arranged to function as a fastening surface for the inner lining (3), which inner lining (3) is adapted to comprise an edge section (4) extending over the top edge (5a) of the recess (1a).



## PRODUCT PACKAGE AND A METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE PACKAGE

The object of the present invention is a product package, such as e.g. a foodstuff package, as presented in the  
5 preamble of claim 1, the package being manufactured mainly from recyclable fiber material, and a method for producing the aforementioned product package as presented in the preamble of claim 9. An advantageous alternative material can be corrugated board, board or some other suitable recyclable  
10 fiber material.

Known in the art are various foodstuff packages, in which are packed e.g. convenience foods, which can be heated in a microwave oven or corresponding. Most of these types of  
15 packages are nowadays fabricated wholly from plastic, which cannot be recycled. This produces a large environmental problem. The frame of a package is manufactured from some suitable plastic and it is lined inside with a separate foodstuff film. The package is shaped into a suitable shape  
20 in such a way that the desired amount of food can be packed into it. The shaping also comprises a horizontal edge flange circling the whole of the top edge of the package, which flange is intended as a fastening surface and a sealing base for the package lid, with which the package is closed in a  
25 leak-tight manner by heat sealing when the package has been filled and, if necessary, the food in it cooked. Often the food in a package must be cooked to completion before it can be sent onwards for sale as convenience food. A problem arises if the cooking takes place at a high temperature,  
30 which not all the plastics of package boxes endure, but instead special plastics that are expensive must be used in the boxes.

Also known in the art are foodstuff packages that are  
35 produced e.g. from board or corresponding and lined inside with a separate foodstuff film, as in conventional plastic packages. One such solution is disclosed in patent specification no. WO2009138786 (A2). On the top edge of the

foodstuff package produced from board described in the specification in question is an essentially horizontal planar edge flange pointing sideways, for the fastening of the lid, as also in the plastic package described earlier. The package  
5 is additionally lined on the inside with a foodstuff film in such a way that the film also comes onto the top of the edge flange. A problem in this solution is *inter alia* that making the edge flange complicates the manufacturing of a board package.

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In both the aforementioned solutions, i.e. in both plastic packages and board packages, another problem is that the edge flange intended for fastening the lid increases the outer dimensions of the package, as a consequence of which the  
15 package takes up to 20 percent more space in the horizontal direction compared to if there were no edge flange. When a number of packages are stored side-by-side, a smaller space requirement would be a great advantage. Moreover, a package with edge flanging needs more material than is needed for a  
20 package without an edge flange, which increases costs.

The edge flange can also cause problems for fastening the lid with heat sealing, because fastening the lid in such a way that the package becomes leak-tight enough is challenging.  
25 When the heat sealing is performed, the edges of the lid are pressed against the edge flange. It is a problem, however, that not all the pressing is exerted on the sealing point, but instead some of the pressing is distributed over a wider area on an edge flange thicker than the plastic lid.  
30 Consequently, proper sealing is not necessarily the result. The thickness of the edge flange can also vary, which can affect the success of the sealing. Dirt or food splashed there during heating can, in some circumstances, also be on the edge flange. In these types of cases the sealing is not  
35 necessarily good enough. If the sealing does not reliably succeed and the package is not sufficiently leak-tight, the package has to be wrapped inside separate plastic, which in turn increases the material costs and space requirement, and

the package is not as neat in its outward appearance as without this additional wrapping.

The purpose of the present invention is to eliminate the  
5 aforementioned drawbacks and to provide an inexpensive and  
flexible product package that is space-efficient and cost-  
effective. The purpose is also to provide a product package,  
the fastening of the lid of which is reliable and the product  
10 package is therefore leak-tight when it is closed with the  
lid. The product package according to the invention is  
characterized by what is disclosed in the characterization  
part of claim 1. Correspondingly, the method according to  
the invention for producing the aforementioned product  
15 package is characterized by what is disclosed in the  
characterization part of claim 9. Other embodiments of the  
invention are characterized by what is disclosed in the  
other claims.

Preferably the product package according to the invention  
20 comprises at least a recess for the product to be packed,  
the recess being provided with a base and with walls in  
connection with the base, in which case the frame part of  
the recess is formed by means of folds from recyclable fiber  
material and the aforementioned recess is lined on the  
25 inside with a separate inner lining, which is removable from  
the aforementioned frame part. It is characteristic of the  
invention that the top edges of the side walls and end walls  
of the frame part and also the top edges of the corner parts  
form the top edge of the recess, which top edge is arranged  
30 to function as a fastening surface for the aforementioned  
inner lining, which inner lining is adapted to comprise an  
edge section (4) extending over the top edge of the recess.

The method according to the invention is characterized in  
35 that, in connection with fastening the inner lining, the  
section of the inner lining extending over the top edge of  
the recess is used for tensioning the inner lining against  
the top edge of the recess functioning as a fastening

surface, and in that the lid of the product package is fastened to the section of the inner lining extending over the top edge of the recess.

5 One advantage, among others, of the solution according to the invention is that the product package is made mainly from recyclable material, which almost entirely eliminates the environmental problems associated with plastic packages. It is also an advantage that the closing of the product  
10 package with the lid can be done securely and reliably, whereby the package becomes leak-tight. From this follows the advantage that possible additional wrapping plastic is not needed. One advantage is also that on the top edge of the product package according to the invention there is no  
15 edge flange made from thick plastic, board or other material extending in the sideways direction, as a result of which the product package is smaller in its outer dimensions than product packages known in the art having a recess of the same size. From this follows the advantage that a product  
20 package also takes up less space than packages known in the art. Savings in space of up to 20 percent are possible. Omitting the edge flange also saves manufacturing material and makes manufacture of a product package easier. Another advantage also is that shaping of the product package is  
25 easy, as a result of which the corners of the package can e.g. be rounded, in which case a sharp corner will not e.g. break a plastic bag when the package is inside one.

In the following the invention will be described in more  
30 detail by the aid of one example of its embodiment with reference to the attached simplified drawings, wherein

Fig. 1 presents a product package according to the invention as viewed obliquely from the side and from above,  
35 Fig. 2 presents a top view of a product package according to the invention as an opened blank before it has been folded into a product package,

Fig. 2a presents a simplified side view, not to scale, of one sectioned corner of the product package according to Fig. 2,

Fig. 3 presents a top view of a second product package according to the invention as an opened blank before it has been folded into a product package,

Fig. 3a presents a simplified side view, not to scale, of one sectioned corner of the product package according to Fig. 3,

10 Fig. 4 presents a simplified side view, not to scale, of a sectioned product package according to the invention, with the lid fastened,

Fig. 5 presents a simplified side view, not to scale, of one sectioned corner of the product package according to Figs. 2 and 4, with the lid fastened, and

Fig. 6 presents a simplified side view, not to scale, of one sectioned corner of the product package according to Fig. 3 with the lid fastened.

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Fig. 1 presents a product package 1 according to the invention as viewed obliquely from the side and from above, while Figs. 2 and 3 present the product package from above and with the folds opened. Preferably the product package 1 according to the invention is a foodstuff package, e.g. for a ready meal. The product package 1 comprises a frame part 2 and an inner lining 3, which comprises an edge, i.e. an edge section 4, extending over the top edges of the frame part 2. The frame part 2 comprises a base, two side walls, two end walls and the corner sections 10 between them. Some suitable recycleable fiber material is used as the manufacturing material of the frame part 2. Preferably the material is e.g. corrugated board, board or some other suitable recycleable fiber material. The inner lining 3 is foodstuff plastic and after use it can easily be detached from the frame part 2, in which case the frame part 2 can be delivered to recycling.

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The frame part 2 is produced by folding it e.g. mechanically, from the blank 2a presented in Fig. 2 or 3 into its shape presented in Fig. 1. The blank 2a is precut to be such that a product package 1 of the desired shape and size is obtained from it by folding, which product package comprises a recess 1a provided with walls, the recess being for the food to be packed, such as for a foodstuff portion.

In the blank 2a of the frame part 2 presented in Fig. 2 is a base 5, side walls composed of the two parts 6 and 7, also end walls composed of the two parts 8 and 9, and additionally corner pieces 10a. The blank 2a is arranged to be folded into an assembled frame part 2 in such a way that the first parts, i.e. the inside parts 6 and 8, of the side walls and end walls are folded in a first direction, i.e. essentially upwards from the folding points 6a and 8a, and the second parts, i.e. the outside parts 7 and 9, of the side walls and end walls are folded into a second direction, i.e. essentially downwards, from the folding points 7a and 9a. The second parts 7 and 9 of the walls are folded into attachment with the first parts 6 and 8 and fastened to them e.g. by gluing. In this case the first parts 6 and the second parts 7 of the side walls together form the side walls of the frame part of the product package 1, the thickness of which side walls is essentially double the thickness of the blank material, and correspondingly the first parts 8 and the second parts 9 of the end walls together form the end walls of the frame part of the product package 1, the thickness of which end walls is essentially double the thickness of the blank material.

The folding of the frame part 2 is arranged to be carried out in such a way that the corner pieces 10a of the blank 2a overlap each other and they are fastened to each other by means of glue, in which case the corner pieces 10a form the corner parts 10 between the side walls and the end walls of the frame part 2. The corner parts 10 can be curved, as presented in the embodiment, in which case they form rounded

corners. The corner parts 10 can just as well form beveled corners or also right-angled corners, as in rectangular boxes.

- 5 Fig. 2a presents a simplified side view of one sectioned corner of the product package 1 made from the blank 2a presented in Fig. 2. Fig. 2a is not presented to scale and the thickness of the blank material is exaggerated.
- 10 When the blank 2a has been folded to completion into a box-type frame part 2 comprising a recess 1a, the folding points 7a and 9a between the first and second parts 6 and 7 as well as 8 and 9 of the side walls and end walls and the top edges of the corner parts 10 form the essentially integral top edge
- 15 5a of the frame part 2 and simultaneously of the recess 1a. On the top edge 5a of the frame part 2 there are no edge flanges extending in the sideways direction, as there are in solutions known in the art, but instead only an essentially curved, possibly upwardly convex folding point 7a and 9a,
- 20 which functions as a fastening surface for the inner lining 3.

In the blank 2a of the frame part 2 presented in Fig. 3 is a base 5, side walls composed of one part 6, and likewise end

25 walls composed of one part 8, and additionally corner pieces 10a. The blank 2a is arranged to be folded into an assembled frame part 2 in such a way that the parts 6 and 8 forming the side walls and end walls are folded essentially upwards, from the folding points 6a and 8a, in which case a box-type frame

30 part 2 comprising a recess 1a is formed, the thickness of the base 5 and side walls and end walls of which frame part being essentially the same as the thickness of the blank material.

Fig. 3a presents a simplified side view of one sectioned

35 corner of the product package 1 made from the blank 2a presented in Fig. 3. Fig. 3a is not presented to scale and the thickness of the blank material is exaggerated.

When the blank 2a has been folded to completion into a box-type frame part 2 comprising a recess 1a, the free edges, i.e. the top edges, of the side walls and end walls 6 and 8 and the top edges of the corner parts 10 form the essentially integral top edge 5a of the frame part 2 and simultaneously of the recess 1a. On the top edge 5a of the frame part 2 there are no edge flanges extending in the sideways direction, as there are in solutions known in the art, but instead only a fastening surface essentially the thickness of the material of the blank for fastening the inner lining 3.

Figs. 4-6 present a simplified side view of a sectioned product package 1 according to the invention, with the lid 11 fastened into position. The product package 1 is not presented to scale and for the sake of clarity the material thicknesses are presented as thicker than normal. In Figs. 4-6 the parts of the inner lining 3 and of the lid 11 that extend to outside the top edges 5a of the product package 1 are, for the sake of clarity, presented as horizontal sections, but in reality they often bend downwards as much as the material of the lid 11 allows. When the material of the lid 11 is thin and soft, the aforementioned outer sections of the top edge 5a bend almost perpendicularly downwards when the product package 1 is in the normal position, e.g. on a table or other planar surface. The inner lining 3 and the lid 11 can be made to be such that they do not bend downwards by themselves, but instead they are deliberately folded downwards, they remain essentially horizontal, or they are folded upwards either obliquely or at a right angle.

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The plastic inner lining 3 is fastened to the frame part 2 and it is arranged to make the package airtight together with the lid 11. The fastening of the inner lining 3 is performed e.g. in such a way that negative pressure is produced below the frame part 2 and positive pressure above it. By means of the negative pressure the inner lining 3, which has glue on its bottom surface, is arranged to be sucked into attachment with the inside surface of the frame part 2. This occurs by

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sucking the air out from between the frame part 2 and the inner lining 3 placed inside it through the frame part 2 by means of the negative pressure. The positive pressure above the package also gives further assistance to the fastening.

5 With the method described above the inner lining 3 is attached in a leak-tight manner to the inside surface of the frame part 2.

As stated above, the frame part 2 has no edge flanges at all  
10 extending in the sideways direction. Instead, the inner lining 3 is dimensioned in such a way that it extends over the top edges 5a of the frame part 2 and forms an essentially narrow edge 4 resembling an edge flange. The lid 11 of the product package 1 is arranged to be fastened to this edge 4  
15 e.g. with heat sealing or with some other suitable fastening method. Performing heat sealing directly onto the thin plastic of the inner lining 3 is considerably easier and more dependable compared to if there were a thicker edge flange under the plastic. This is because compressive force can be  
20 exerted directly onto the seam, in which case the compressive force being exerted onto the seam is certainly sufficient for achieving a reliable and leak-tight seam.

Fig. 6 presents a structure according to one preferred  
25 embodiment of the invention, which is also presented in Figs.3 and 3a. This structure differs from, among others, the structure according to Figs. 4 and 5 in that only a single layer of material is in the side walls and end walls of the product package, i.e. only the wall parts 6 and 8 bent  
30 essentially upwards from the base 5, of which only one of the side wall parts 6 is presented in Fig. 6. The inner lining 3 is fastened to the inside surface and top edge 5a of the frame part 2 in essentially the same way as in the structure according to Fig. 5. Likewise, the lid 11 is fastened to the  
35 top surface of the inner lining 3 in essentially the same way as in the structure according to Fig. 5.

As stated previously, on the top edge 5a of the recess 1a there are no edge flanges extending in the sideways direction, but instead only a fastening surface essentially determined by the thickness of the material of the blank 2a for fastening the inner lining 3. In this case the material thickness of the essentially integral top edge 5a of the recess 1a is, depending on the structure of the wall of the product package 1, essentially between 1...2 times the material thickness of the package blank 2a.

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It is obvious to the person skilled in the art that the invention is not limited solely to the examples described above, but that it may be varied within the scope of the claims presented below. Thus, for example, some structural solutions can also be different to what is presented above. In this case the outer layer of the side walls and end walls of the frame part presented e.g. in Figs. 2, 2a, 4 and 5 can be essentially narrower than the inner layer, in which case the outer layer extends from the top edge of the wall downwards for only a short distance, but however extends downwards far enough for it to strengthen the top edges of the walls and make possible a fastening surface, wider than one wall layer, for the inner lining.

25 It is also obvious to the person skilled in the art that the product packages can also be different in shape to what is presented above. The simplest and most common frame part of a product package is of a rectangular shape, which is presented as an embodiment in all the figures. However, the shape of a package can be other than the rectangular-type shape of a box. Thus the shape can be e.g. polygonal or also round or oval, depending on e.g. the fold lines prefabricated in the blank.

35 It is further obvious to the person skilled in the art that the product packages can be of some other material than recyclable fiber material. Thus, the frame part of a product package can be produced from some other foldable material

than corrugated board. The frame part of a product package can be produced e.g. from different boards, cardboards or papers or also from woven material, or from combinations of different materials.

## CLAIMS

1. Product package, which comprises a recess (1a) for the  
5 product to be packed, the recess being provided with a base  
(5) and with walls in connection with the base (5), in which  
case the frame part (2) of the recess (1a) has been formed  
by means of folds from recycleable fiber material and the  
aforementioned recess (1a) is lined on the inside with a  
10 separate inner lining (3), which is removable from the  
aforementioned frame part (2), **characterized** in that the top  
edges of the side walls and end walls of the frame part (2)  
and also the top edges of the corner parts (10) form the top  
edge (5a) of the recess (1a), which top edge (5a) is  
15 arranged to function as a fastening surface for the  
aforementioned inner lining (3), which inner lining (3) is  
adapted to comprise an edge section (4) extending over the  
top edge (5a) of the recess (1a).

20 2. Product package according to claim 1, **characterized** in  
that the fastening surface of the top edge (5a) of the  
recess (1a) for the inner lining (3) is the folding point  
(7a, 9a), where the upward pointing wall part (6, 8) is  
folded into a downward pointing wall part (7, 9), and also  
25 the fastening surface on the corner parts (10) of the recess  
(1a) is the top edges of two corner pieces (10a) fastened to  
overlap each other.

3. Product package according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized**  
30 in that the top surfaces of the folding points (7a, 9a) of  
the side walls and end walls and the top edges of the corner  
parts (10) form the essentially integral top edge (5a) of  
the frame part (2) and simultaneously of the recess (1a).

35 4. Product package according to claim 1, 2 or 3,  
**characterized** in that the top edges of the side walls and  
end walls and the top edges of the corner parts (10) form

the essentially integral top edge (5a) of the frame part (2) and simultaneously of the recess (1a).

5. Product package according to any of the preceding claims,  
5 **characterized** in that the material thickness of the essentially integral top edge (5a) of the recess (1a) is essentially between 1...2 times the material thickness of the package blank (2a).

10 6. Product package according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the material of the frame part (2) is recycleable board.

7. Product package according to any of the preceding claims,  
15 **characterized** in that the product package (1) is a foodstuff package and the inner lining (3) is foodstuff plastic.

8. Method for producing a product package, which product package (1) comprises a recess (1a) for the product to be  
20 packed, the recess being provided with walls, in which case the frame part (2) of the recess (1a) has been formed by means of folds from recycleable fiber material and the aforementioned recess (1a) is lined on the inside with a separate inner lining (3), which is removable from the  
25 aforementioned frame part (2), **characterized** in that the lid (11) of the product package (1) is fastened to the section (4) of the inner lining (3) extending over the top edge (5a) of the recess (1a).

30 9. Method according to claim 8, **characterized** in that the lid (11) of the product package (1) is fastened with heat sealing or with some other suitable fastening method to the section (4) of the inner lining (3) extending over the top edge (5a) of the recess (1a) by performing the heat sealing  
35 or other fastening directly onto the section (4) of the inner lining (3).

10. Method according to claim 8 or 9, **characterized** in that, in connection with the fastening of the inner lining (3), the section (4) of the inner lining (3) extending over the top edge (5a) of the recess (1a) is used for tensioning the  
5 inner lining (3) against the top edge (5a) of the recess (1a) functioning as a fastening surface.

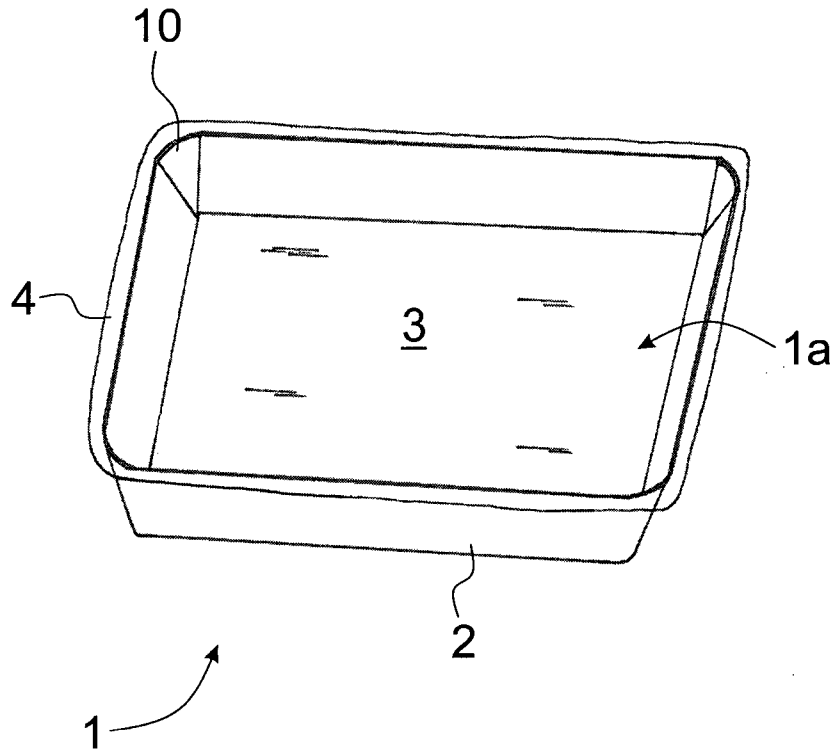


Fig. 1

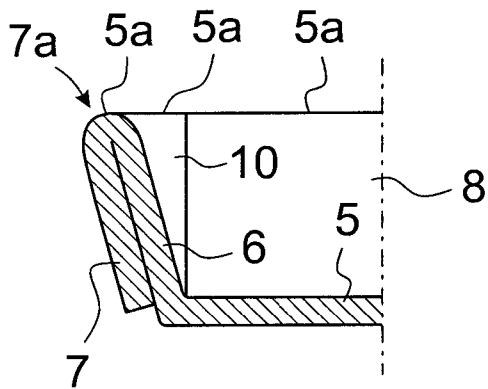


Fig. 2a

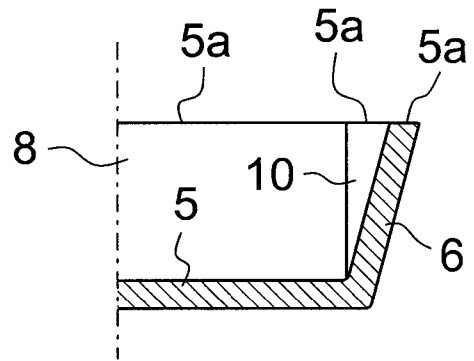


Fig. 3a

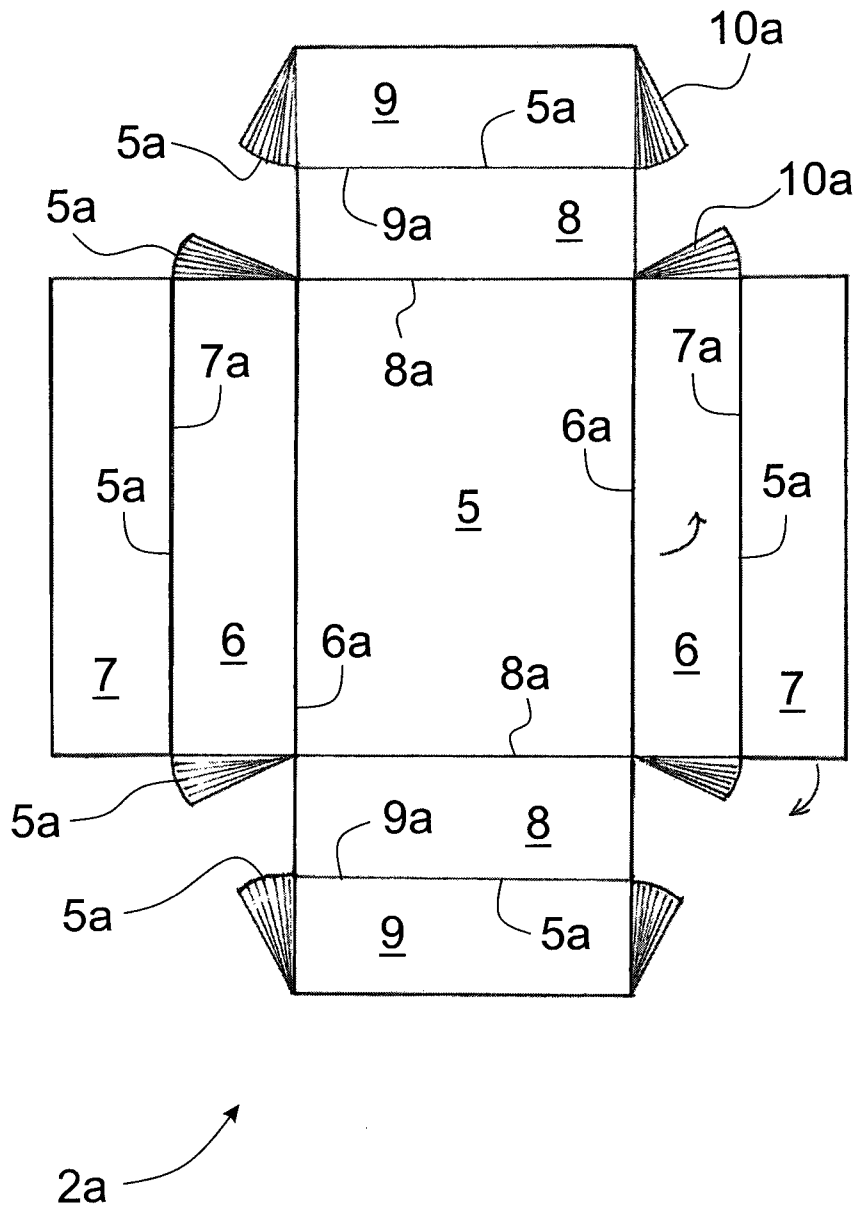


Fig. 2

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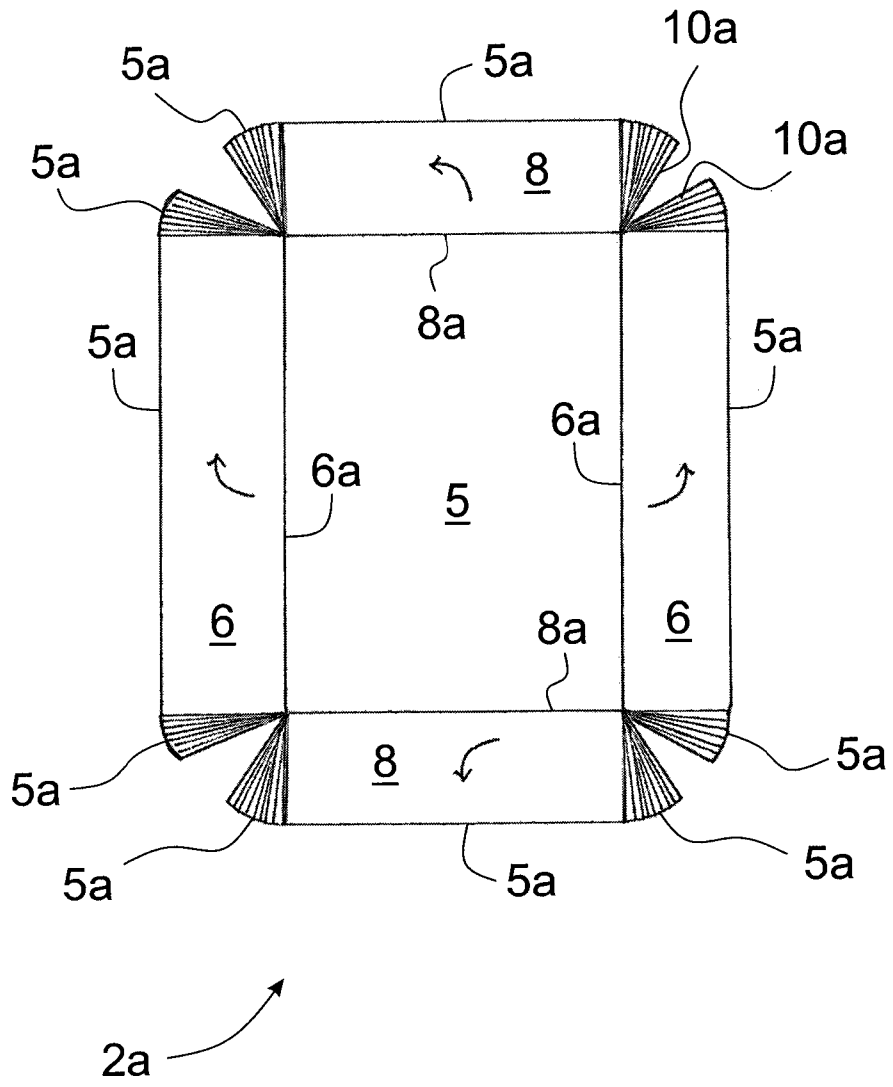


Fig. 3

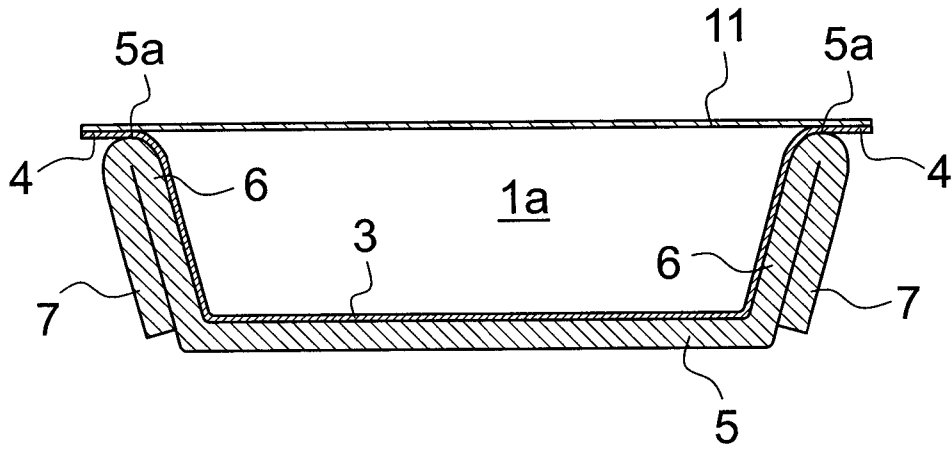


Fig. 4

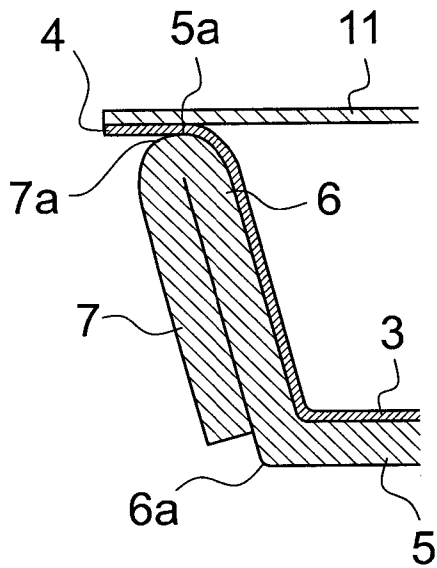


Fig. 5

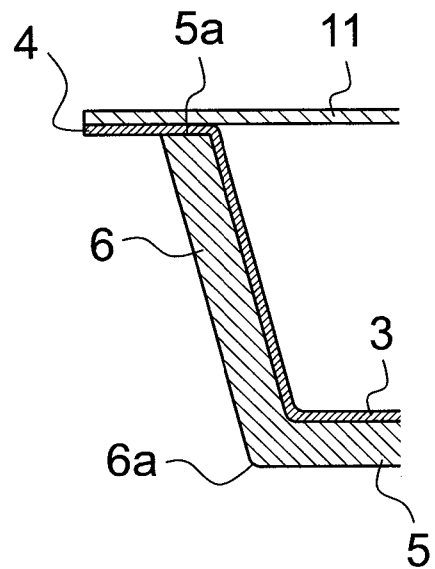


Fig. 6

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI2017/050160

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

See extra sheet

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: B65D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

FI, SE, NO, DK

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base, and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPODOC, EPO-Internal full-text databases, WPIAP, PRH-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 2965997 A1 (JOSPAK OY [FI]) 13 January 2016 (13.01.2016) whole document; see in particular paragraphs [0012], [0014]; claims 1, 7; figures 4-6	1-10
Y	US 5679109 A (GICS PAUL W [US]) 21 October 1997 (21.10.1997) whole document; see in particular column 3, line 55 - column 4, line 59; figures 1-4	1-10
A	US 4722474 A (DROPSY PHILIPPE [FR]) 02 February 1988 (02.02.1988) whole document; see in particular figures 1-3	1-10
A	JP 2001072042 A (LINING CONTAINER KK) 21 March 2001 (21.03.2001) figures 1-4b & abstract EPOQUENET EPODOC/EPO [online] & machine translation into English by EPOQUENET EPODOC/EPO [online]; whole document	1-10

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

02 June 2017 (02.06.2017)

Date of mailing of the international search report

08 June 2017 (08.06.2017)

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI2017/050160

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	US 5492703 A (GICS PAUL W [US]) 20 February 1996 (20.02.1996) whole document; see in particular figures 6, 7	1-10
A	US 3316102 A (MARTIN DOLL et al.) 25 April 1967 (25.04.1967) whole document	1-10

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CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC  
**B65D 5/20** (2006.01)  
**B65D 5/56** (2006.01)  
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**B32B 1/00** (2006.01)