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Blister packs

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(56) Related Art

GB 2247668

GB 2085844

FR 2583721

ABSTRACT

A blister pack, said pack comprising a support card with a transparent plastics blister at the rear of the card, the card closing an open side of the blister to enclose product within the blister, the front face of the card being laminated with a transparent plastics sheet and including a window through which the contents of the blister can be viewed from the front of the pack.

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PATENTS ACT 1990
COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
FOR A PETTY PATENT
(ORIGINAL)

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INVENTION TITLE: "Blister Packs"

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to us:

BLISTER PACKS

The present invention relates to blister packs, for example for small items of hardware such as screws, nails, bolts, or wall anchors.

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Blister packs for small items of hardware such as those just discussed conventionally comprise a transparent plastics blister attached to a sheet of relatively thin card which rigidifies the pack and facilitates suspension of the pack from a hanger of a point-of-sale display. The card will usually be printed with appropriate data concerning
10 the product within the pack. The pack is configured so that on the point-of-sale display, the blister is at the front so that the contents within the blister are clearly visible to the customer, with the card closing the rear of the blister, access to the contents being afforded by tearing the card for which purpose the card is usually provided with perforations.

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According to the present invention, there is provided a blister pack, said pack comprising a support card with a transparent plastics blister at the rear of the card, the card closing an open side of the blister to enclose product within the blister, the front face of the card being laminated with a transparent plastics sheet over substantially its entire area and including a window through which the contents of the blister can be viewed from the front
20 of the pack, wherein the front face of the card is printed with indicia relating to the product and viewable through the transparent plastics sheet and the transparent plastics sheet is laminated to the front of the card by a compound which penetrates into the outer surface portion of the card whereby opening of the pack can be effected by pulling the plastics sheet and the surface portion of the card adhering thereto away from the remainder
25 of the thickness of the card so as to open the window for withdrawal of product via the window without requiring tearing of the card to increase the open area of the window.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-



Figure 1 is a perspective view of a blister pack in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the pack being shown prior to opening; and

Figure 2 is a perspective view showing the pack after opening.

5 In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention, a blister pack for small items of hardware such as those discussed at the outset comprises a card 2 carrying a transparent blister 4 of a semi-rigid plastics material, the card 2 closing the open side of the blister 4. In contrast to conventional blister packs of this general type, the card 2 is designed to lie at the front of the blister 4 when the pack is hung via a suspension aperture 10 5 or otherwise mounted in the point-of- sale display, and to facilitate viewing of the contents the card 2 is provided with a window 6 through which the contents within the pack can be observed by a customer viewing the pack from the front. The detailed structure of the pack will now be described with reference to the following description of the method by which the pack is produced.

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The pack is manufactured using the following process steps:

1. The front and rear sides of the card 2 are printed.
2. One or more coats of heat seal compound are applied to the front and rear faces of the card 2.
- 20 3. The aperture for forming the window 6 is cut within the card 2, for example using a die cutting process.
4. The front of the card 2 is laminated with a transparent plastics film or other transparent plastics sheet 8 using a heat sealing process by applying heat and pressure.
- 25 5. The card and the suspension aperture 5 is cut, for example using a die cutting process, followed by stripping of the suspension aperture 5.
6. The blister 4 is adhered to the back of the card 2 using a heat seal blister machine.

In the step of laminating the front of the card 2 with the transparent plastics film 8, 30 the heat seal compound bonds through the printed surface of the card to the fibres lying

adjacent the surface of the card. In order to open the pack, all that is necessary is to lift a corner of the laminate 8 and pull the laminate away from the card in the zone of the window 6. In so doing, a thin surface layer of the card to which the laminate 8 is adhered will simply tear away from the remainder of the card thickness. Product can then be
5 withdrawn via the open window 6.

Although opening of the pack is accomplished very easily by a consumer in the manner just described, nevertheless the laminated structure of the card reinforces the card and reduces the risk of pilferage of product when the pack is within the point-of-sale
10 display. In contrast, conventional packs of the type discussed at the outset are highly susceptible to pilferage of product while within the point-of-sale display by pressing the blister at the front of the card to force a product against the card which is readily torn due to the presence of the perforations.

The design of the pack described whereby the card lies at the front of the pack with the contents being visible through the small window 6 at the front of the card provides a display in which substantial product information printed on the front of the card is
15 immediately visible to a potential customer without having to remove the pack from the display. In contrast in current packs in which the blister lies to the front of the card in the display, the blister and the contents within the blister tend to obscure some of the data
20 visible at the front face of the card.

The embodiment has been described by way of example only and modifications are possible within the scope of the invention.

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Throughout this specification and claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers.

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SECRET

THE CLAIM DEFINING THE INVENTION IS AS FOLLOWS:-

1. A blister pack, said pack comprising a support card with a transparent plastics blister at the rear of the card, the card closing an open side of the blister to enclose product within the blister, the front face of the card being laminated with a transparent plastics sheet over substantially its entire area and including a window through which the contents of the blister can be viewed from the front of the pack, wherein the front face of the card is printed with indicia relating to the product and viewable through the transparent plastics sheet and the transparent plastics sheet is laminated to the front of the card by a compound which penetrates into the outer surface portion of the card whereby opening of the pack can be effected by pulling the plastics sheet and the surface portion of the card adhering thereto away from the remainder of the thickness of the card so as to open the window for withdrawal of product via the window without requiring tearing of the card to increase the open area of the window.

DATED this 16th day of January, 2001

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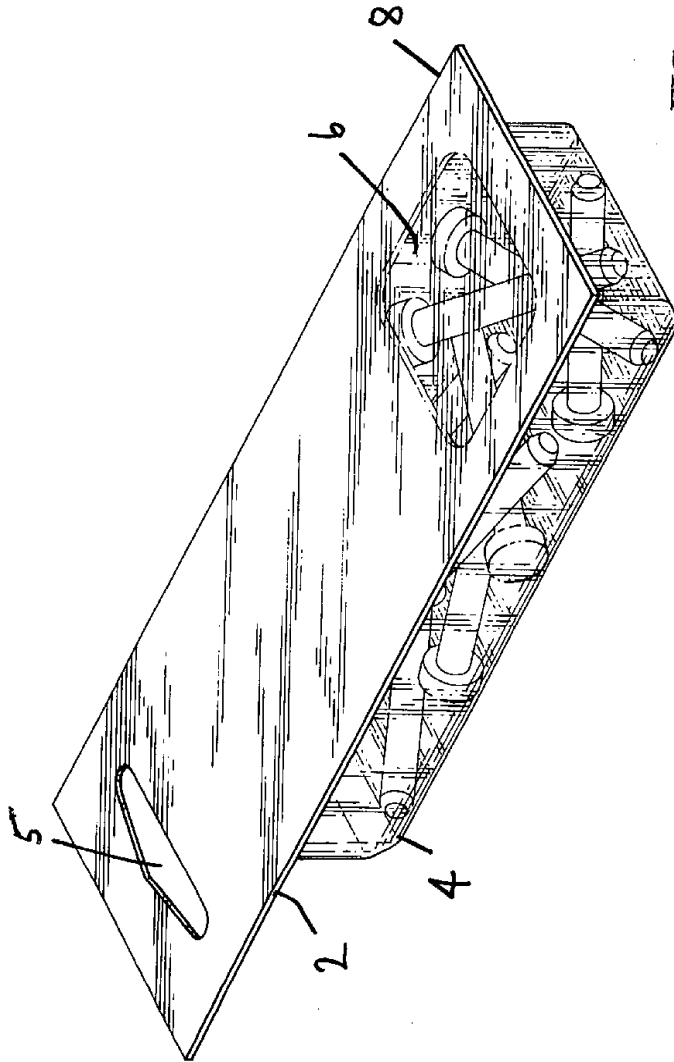


FIG. 1

20 25 30 35 40

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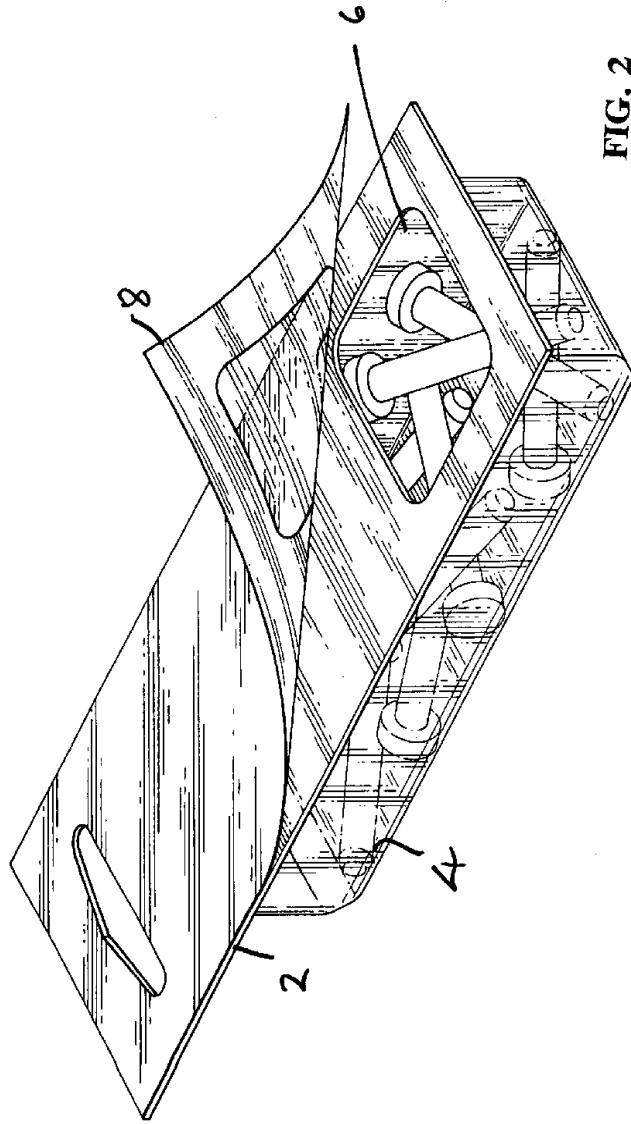


FIG. 2