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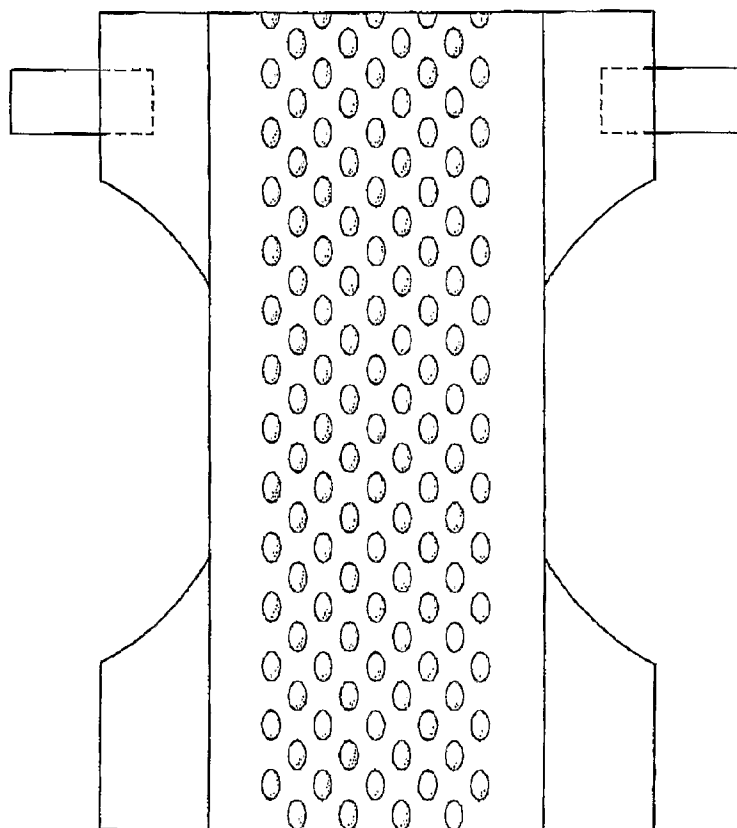
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT ARTICLES HAVING AN INTERIOR DESIGN SIGNAL



(57) Abstract: A disposable absorbent article (10) including an interior design signal indicating absorbency (See Figures 5 and 6) and an absorbent core (14) including first and second absorbent layers (60, 62), the first absorbent layer including a first substrate (64) and the second absorbent layer including a second substrate (72), the first and second absorbent layers further including absorbent particulate polymer material (66, 74) deposited on the first and second substrates and thermoplastic material (68, 76) covering the absorbent particulate polymer material on the respective first and second substrates, the first and second absorbent layers combined together such that at least a portion of the thermoplastic material of the first absorbent layer contacts at least a portion of the thermoplastic material of the second absorbent layer, the absorbent particulate polymer material is disposed between the first and second substrates in an absorbent particulate polymer material area, and the absorbent particulate polymer material is substantially continuously distributed across the absorbent particulate polymer material area.

WO 2008/065627 A3



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB07/54852

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: **A61F 13/511(2006.01),13/53(2006.01)**

 USPC: **604/366,368,370,372,378,385.01**
 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)
 U.S. : 604/366, 368, 370, 372, 378, 385.01

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 practicable, search terms used)
 Please See Continuation Sheet


C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	EP 1 116 479 A2 (JAPAN ABSORBENT TECHNOLOGY INST. et al) 18 July 2001 (18.07.2001), Figures, esp. 1, 3, and 6-12, and paragraphs 21-22, 24, 26-27, 30, 43, 46-47 and 52-57.	1-5, 10-11 ----- 3
Y	US 5,429, 630 A (BEAL et al) 04 July 1995 (04.07.1995), see Figures and col. 5, lines 48-65.	3
Y	US 4,079,739 A (WHITEHEAD) 21 March 1978 (21.03.1978), see Figures and col. 4, lines 15-37.	3

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"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
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search: **14 May 2008 (14.05.2008)**
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: 6-9
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
 2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
 3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

 4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
 - The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
 - No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.