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DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
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MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD,
SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR,
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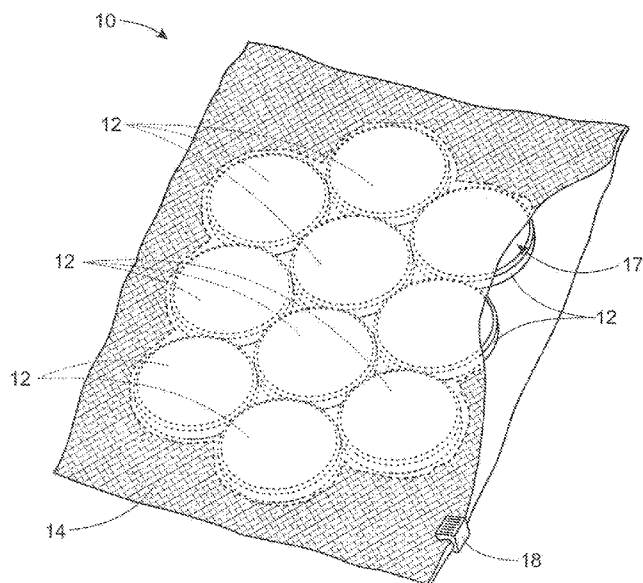
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(54) **Title:** IMPROVED FLAT PACKAGING OF PETRI DISHES FOR PROLONGED PRESERVATION AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME



(57) **Abstract:** The present invention provides an improved flat package of petri dishes and method of producing the same for prolonging shelf life and preservation of sterility of the petri dishes. The flat package is comprised of an optically clear, high-barrier, moisture-, gas- and microbial-resistant pouch. A plurality of petri dishes located adjacent one another are placed in an interior cavity of the pouch, after which the pouch is vacuum-packed, optionally flushed with an inert gas and then heat sealed. The placement and immobilization of the petri dishes in the pouch allow for prolonged shelf life and preservation of sterility, greatly reduced breakage rates, and enhanced visibility of the petri dishes by a user.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 12/34097

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - C12M 1/22; B65D 71/00, 71/08 (2012.01)

USPC - 206/497, 534.1; 534.2, 538, 558

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(8) - B65D 71/00, 71/08 (2012.01)

USPC - 206/497, 534.1; 534.2, 538, 558

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

USPC - 206/504

(Text Search)

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

Dialog Classic Files -- 2,6,35,64,144,155,315,371,344,347,348,349,654,652,340,345,351; Google Scholar; Google Patents.

Search terms - Petri dish; pack;pouch; package; bag; pac; packaging; storage; ship; ziplock; stack;flat;packet;pouch; glass;damage; breakage;plastic; sterile; adjacent; ?shelf life?;preservation;blister pack;sterility; alignment;

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2,780,353 A (VOLCKENING) 05 February 1957 (05.02.1957) col 1, ln 15-17, 21-27; col 1 ln 62 to col 2, ln 9; FIG 1, 2 and 4	1-20
Y	US 4,709,819 A (LATTUADA et al.) 01 December 1987 (01.12.1987) claim 1-3; abstract; col 1, ln 53, 57-61; col 2, ln 19-66; col 3, ln 6-22; FIG 1-2	1-20
Y	US 6,253,920 B1 (KALLGREN) 03 July 2001 (03.07.2001) col 2, ln 38-44; col 1, ln 21-26	3 and 15
Y	US 2008/0254471 A1 (BORDANO) 16 October 2008 (16.10.2008) para [0028], [0031], [0032]	8 and 17



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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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

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"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

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