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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

**Published:**

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
19 January 2012

(54) Title: EASY OPEN BAG

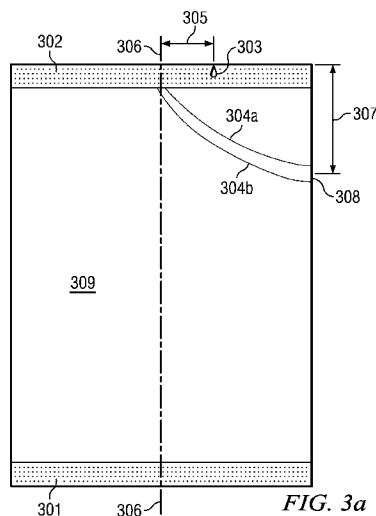


FIG. 3a

(57) Abstract: An easy open bag and method for making the same. A film is fed into a jaw assembly comprising a first seal jaw comprising a blade gap and a second seal jaw comprising a removable insert. The removable insert comprises a blade pin. When the first and second seal jaws are mated, a notch is formed. The film also comprises a score line in the outer layer. Upon tearing the notch the tear propagates along the score line. Thus, the package can be easily opened by initiating a tear at a tear notch.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2011/037746

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - B31B 49/04; B65D 30/00 (2011.01)

USPC - 383/109; 493/189

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) - B31B 49/04, B65B 9/12, B65D 30/00, B65D 65/30 (2011.01)

USPC - 53/451, 469; 156/308.4, 583.1; 206/484, 494; 383/62, 88, 104, 109, 200; 493/189, 197, 205, 209

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)

Patbase, Google Scholar, Google Patents

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ----- Y	US 6,422,986 B1 (CLAYBAKER et al) 23 July 2002 (23.07.2002) entire document	17, 23, 24, 25 ----- 18-22, 26, 27
X ----- Y	US 2009/0049800 A1 (SADLER et al) 26 February 2009 (26.02.2009) entire document	42-45 ----- 18-20
Y	US 2010/0111453 A1 (DIERL) 06 May 2010 (06.05.2010) entire document	1-16, 28-41
Y	US 2007/0023425 A1 (KANZAKI et al) 01 February 2007 (01.02.2007) entire document	1-16, 28-41
Y	US 5,964,688 A (WOODY et al) 12 October 1999 (12.10.1999) entire document	21-22
Y	US 4,200,416 A (KEZRAN) 29 April 1980 (29.04.1980) entire document	26-27
A	US 4,332,327 A (FROHWERK et al) 01 June 1982 (01.06.1982) entire document	1-45
A	US 6,871,476 B2 (TOBOLKA) 29 March 2005 (29.03.2009) entire document	1-45
A	US 2004/0011007 A1 (KOHL et al) 22 January 2004 (22.01.2004) entire document	1-45

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"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)

"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

"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

"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

"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

"&amp;"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 November 2011

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 NOV 2011

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2011/037746

## 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.:  
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:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees need to be paid.  
Group I, claims 1-16, 28-41 are drawn to a package.

Group II, claims 17-27, 42-45 are drawn to a jaw assembly.

The inventions listed in Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, because under PCT Rule 13.2 they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The special technical features of Group I, a package comprising a film having an outer layer comprising at least one score line, are not present in Group II; and the special technical features of Group II, a jaw assembly comprising a first seal jaw comprising a blade gap, and a second seal jaw comprising a removable insert, are not present in Group I.

Since none of the special technical features of the Group I and II inventions are found in more than one of the inventions, unity is lacking.

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 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.