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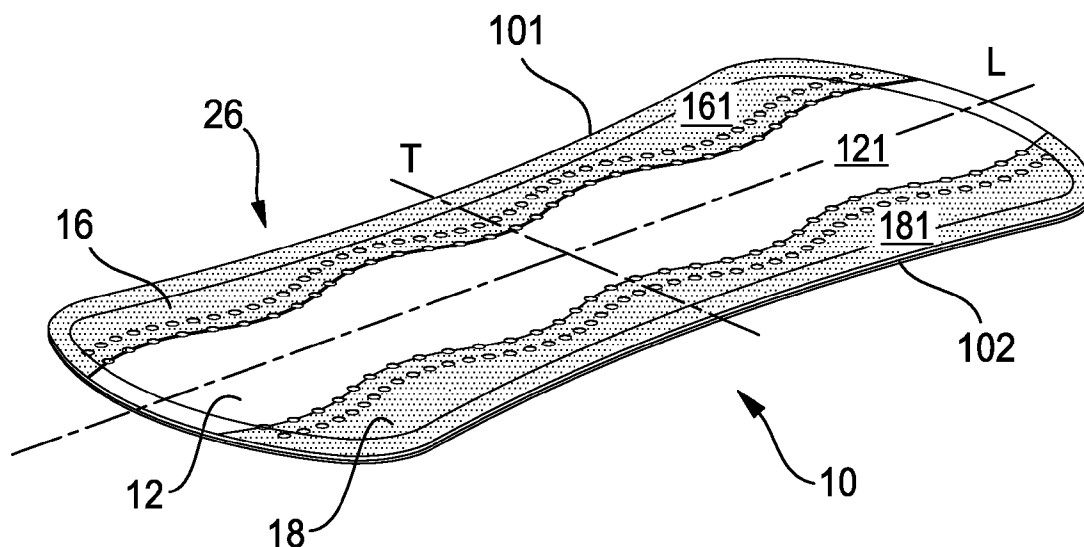
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- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING NONWOVEN LATERAL ZONES



(57) Abstract: A disposable hygiene article (10) for collecting bodily fluid comprising a body-facing surface (26), a garment-facing surface (28) and an absorbent structure (15). The article comprises in a first aspect i) a central fluid acquisition zone (121) which may be substantially white, ii) a first visually discernible lateral zone (161) situated on one side of the central zone and iii) a second visually discernible lateral zone (181) situated on the opposite side of the central zone, wherein the first and second lateral zones (161, 181) are formed by a nonwoven material (16, 18) comprising a coloured pigment. In a second aspect, the absorbent structure is a gradient core and the lateral zones are hydrophobic.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2007/051205

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61F13/15

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)
A61F

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 108 406 A (THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY) 20 June 2001 (2001-06-20) paragraph [0036] - paragraph [0053] paragraph [0060] - paragraph [0086]; figures 1-6	1,3-10
A	WO 93/19715 A (THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY) 14 October 1993 (1993-10-14) page 6, line 22 - page 9, line 22; figures	1-10
A	EP 1 247 508 A (MCNEIL-PPC, INC) 9 October 2002 (2002-10-09) paragraph [0020] - paragraph [0042]; figures	1-10

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

☒ See patent family annex.

* 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 document 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.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 July 2007

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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Box 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 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:

see additional sheet

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 an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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.:

1-10

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-10

absorbent article having a body-facing surface which comprises:
a central fluid acquisition zones; and
two lateral zones situated on each side of the acquisition zone; wherein the lateral zones are formed by a nonwoven material comprising a coloured pigment.

2. claims: 11-17

absorbent article having:
a central acquisition zone;
a first and a second hydrophobic lateral zone, each on a side of the central zone;
wherein the absorbent structure comprises a gradient core.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/IB2007/051205

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