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<p>(54) Title: EASY OPENING HERMETICALLY SEALED FILM</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>The present invention relates to a biaxially oriented multilayer film which is heat sealable over a broad temperature range. It is desirable to have a broad sealing temperature range to increase the production of packaging machines. The present invention also relates to a biaxially oriented multilayer film which provides easy opening and hermetic seals to packages. The film is made up of a core layer comprising linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE) and at least one skin layer having a melting point of at least 10 °C below the core layer melting point.</p>		

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EASY OPENING HERMETICALLY SEALED FILM

The present invention relates to a multilayer film which is heat sealable over a broad
5 temperature range. It is desirable to have a broad sealing temperature range to increase the
production of packaging machines. The present invention also relates to a multilayer film
which provides easy opening and hermetic seals to packages.

Packaging technology has over the years required the development of many disciplines.
Currently packaging technologists integrate elements of engineering, chemistry, food science,
10 metallurgy, and other technologies in order to provide the consumer fresh, healthy dry or
liquid food product. In those cases where packages are prepared from multilayer film, it is
desirable to be able to provide a hermetic seal, i.e., a seal which does not permit passage of
gas, such as air.

Oriented polypropylene films with thin sealable surface layers of ethylene-propylene
15 copolymers or ethylene-propylene-butene-1 terpolymers have been used in packaging
operations. However, these films have not yielded hermetic seals on bags made with the films
on packaging machines operated at standard conditions. Hermetic seals are required when
leak free packaging is important.

Additionally it is also desirable to provide seals which can be readily opened by the
20 consumer without creating a 'z-direction' tear. A z-direction tear is one which cause the
disruption of the integrity of the multilayer film when the film is pulled apart at the seal. A z-
direction tear is one which does not simply separate at the line at which the seal is formed.
Instead, the separation extends to layers of the film when ripped along the layers thereof and
not simply delaminated one from another. As a result of z-direction tears, it is difficult to
25 reclose such packages to maintain freshness of the contents. When z-direction tears can be
eliminated, packages are easily refolded and sealed by a mechanical means such as a clip

Accordingly it is the object of the present invention to provide a film which yields
hermetic seals over a broad temperature range and provides easy opening on bags.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide easy opening with directional
30 tear.

It is still a further object to provide re-sealable packaging with a zipper attachment.

In accordance with the present invention a multilayer film is provided which is hermetically sealable over a broad temperature range. The film comprises a core layer comprising linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) and at least one skin layer having a melting point of at least 10°C below the core layer melting point.

5 Hermetic seals as used herein means both peelable and unpeelable seals which provide hermetic barrier properties, i.e., does not permit passage of a gas such as air.

Multi-layer film as used herein means a film having more than one layer of material which forms the final product. Generally, the multilayer film of the present invention is a three or five layer structure.

10 The core layer comprises conventional (Ziegler Natta -type) LLDPE or a blend of from 70 to 99 wt.% conventional LLDPE and from 1 to 30 wt.% metallocene produced LLDPE (mLLDPE) having a density in the range of from 0.91 to 0.95 g/cm³.

The skin layer(s) comprise a polymer having a melting point of at least 10°C below the core layer melting point having a density in the range of from 0.86 to 0.97 g/cm³.

15 Suitable polymers include polyethylene, ethylene alpha-olefin copolymer (C₃-C₂₀), metallocene catalyzed polyethylene (mPE) having a density in the range of 0.86 to 0.902 g/cm³, metallocene catalyzed ethylene alpha-olefin copolymer (C₃-C₂₀), ethylene-propylene copolymer, ethylene-propylene-butene-1 terpolymer, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene- acrylic acid copolymer, ethylene-methyl acrylic acid copolymer, or a mixture thereof.

20 The films employed in the present invention are biaxially oriented. The typical range of orientation is from 1.5 to 8 times, generally 1.5 to 5 times, in the machine direction and 2 to 10 times, generally 3 to 6 times, in the transverse direction. The film thickness can range from 0.5 mil to 5.0 mil. It is preferred that the film is coextruded and oriented through the tenter process.

25 Coextruded biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP) film orientation requires machine direction orientation (MDO) roll temperatures above 220°F (104°C) for stretching. Therefore low minimum seal temperature (MST) sealants cannot be coextruded due to sealant sticking on the MDO rolls. However, coextruded biaxially oriented LLDPE film can use low MST sealants, such as EVA copolymer and metallocene polyethylene, for MD orientation without
30 sticking problems on the MDO rolls.

The biaxially oriented LLDPE film with low MST sealant can be laminated with BOPP for flexible packaging applications to make low temperature seal and/or increase the packaging speed.

5 Metallized films are also contemplated. Usually the corona or flame treated film surface is metallized by vacuum deposition of aluminum.

In order to provide a high barrier film with hermetic seals several factors must be considered. It is important to provide a sealing capability at as low a temperature as possible in order to retain among other things stereo regularity imposed during orientation, little or no film shrinkage, retention of film and/or chemical additive properties and highly consistent
10 quality sealing capabilities.

An extrusion processing additive may be added to the core layer to improve extrusion processability, i.e. to reduce the extrusion melt pressure. The extrusion processing aid is in an amount in the range of from 1 to 20 wt.%, preferably in the range of from 5 to 10 wt.%. Suitable extrusion processing aids include ethylene-propylene copolymer, butylene-propylene
15 copolymer, ethylene-propylene-butene-1 terpolymer and polybutylene, polydimethylsiloxane, or a mixture thereof.

The multilayer films of the present invention may be used in packaging having a zipper closure. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,152,613; 5,020,194 and 5,007,143 describe the use of zippers for thermoplastic bags.

20 Machine direction (MD) unidirectional tear provides easy opening along the tear direction by hand for hermetic seal packaging. The unidirectional tear prevents z-direction tear, which destroys the bag during opening. A reclosable zipper is fastened on the biaxially oriented multilayer films of the present invention during packaging. The reclosable zipper is located inside the bag below the top seal zone or above the bottom seal zone and is in parallel
25 to the top or bottom seal direction. When the bag is opened, the seal zone above the zipper is torn unidirectionally by hand in the bag. The bag can then be resealed with the zipper. Unoriented LLDPE films, such as cast LLDPE or blown LLDPE, do not have unidirectional tear and require a knife or scissors to cut the bag in order to use a reclosable zipper.

The biaxially oriented multilayer films of the present invention may be used in laminate
30 form having an outer web to enhance barrier properties and machinability. The outer web may include paper and mono- and/or multilayer films, including metallized films. Suitable films

include oriented polypropylene, ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylidene chloride, polyacrylonitrile copolymer, fluoropolymer, polyethylene terephthalate, polyamide, polyethylene, polyethylene naphthalate, polyester, polycarbonate, or a mixture thereof.

5 The following examples illustrate the present invention. The following films in Examples 1 to 7 are laminated with a commercial BOPP film and adhesive (Morton 333 adhesive sold by Morton Chemical). The films are run through a Hayssen Vertical Form Fill and Seal packaging machine. Excellent sealant ranges are observed as shown in Table 1 below. The packaging speed is 55 packages per minute. The bag size is 5 1/4 inches by 14
10 inches. The crimp seal temperature and fin seal temperature are shown in Table 1 below.

Example 1

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to a commercial biaxially oriented polypropylene film (Mobil product 120SPW-L). The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in
15 which the B core layer of the film is conventional LLDPE having a density of 0.917 (Exxon LL3001), the A skin layer is an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer with 18% vinyl acetate having a density of 0.94 (Dupont Elvax 3170SHB) and the C skin layer is an EP-copolymer with 6% ethylene with 2000 ppm silicone sphere and 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 (Fina EOD94-
21-12SB). The total film thickness is 110 gauge (27.5 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge
20 (1.25 μm). The C skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 8 times in the TD.

Example 2

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to biaxially oriented polypropylene film. The 3
25 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is conventional LLDPE (ExxonLL3001), the A skin layer is an EVA copolymer with 18% vinyl acetate (Dupont Elvax 3170SHB) and the C skin layer is an EP-copolymer with 6.5% C₂ (Fina EOD94-21-12SB). The total film thickness is 110 gauge (27.5 μm) and each skin layer is 5
30 gauge (1.25 μm). The C skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 3 times in the MD and 8 times in the TD.

Example 3

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to biaxially oriented polypropylene film. The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is conventional LLDPE (ExxonLL3001), the A skin layer is an EVA copolymer with 18% vinyl acetate (Dupont Elvax 3170SHB) and the C skin layer is an EP-copolymer with 6.5% C₂ (Fina EOD94-21-12SB). The total film thickness is 110 gauge (27.5 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The C skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 2 times in the MD and 8 times in the TD.

10 Example 4

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to biaxially oriented polypropylene film. The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is conventional LLDPE (ExxonLL3001), the A skin layer is an EVA copolymer with 18% vinyl acetate (Dupont Elvax 3170SHB) and the C skin layer is an EP-copolymer with 6.5% C₂ (Fina EOD94-21-12SB). The total film thickness is 110 gauge (27.5 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The C skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 1.5 times in the MD and 8 times in the TD.

Example 5

20 In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to biaxially oriented polypropylene film. The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is conventional LLDPE (ExxonLL3001), the A skin layer is an EVA copolymer with 18% vinyl acetate (Dupont Elvax 3170SHB) and the C skin layer is an EP-copolymer with 6.5% C₂ (Fina EOD94-21-12SB). The total film thickness is 110 gauge (27.5 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The C skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 7 times in the TD.

Example 6

30 In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to biaxially oriented polypropylene film. The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is conventional

LLDPE (ExxonLL3001), the A and C skin layers are metallocene catalyzed ethylene-octene copolymer with density 0.909 (Dow Affinity PL1840). The total film thickness is 95 gauge (23.75 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The C skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

5 Example 7

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a commercial biaxially oriented polypropylene film (Mobil product 90SPW-L) laminated with adhesive to a commercial biaxially oriented polypropylene film (Mobil product BSR).

Table 1

Example No.	Crimp Seal Temperature	Fin Seal Temperature
1	140°F (60°C)	100°F (38°C)
2	140°F	100°F
3	140°F	100°F
4	140°F	100°F
5	140°F	90°F
6	90°F (32°C)	90°F
7	80°F (27°C)	70°F (21°C)

20

In Examples 8-20, biaxially oriented LLDPE (BO-LLDPE) films are laminated with heat resistant outer webs and evaluated through three packaging machines. The packaging machines used for evaluation are VFF&S (Hayssen), HFF&S (Doboy) and HFF&S Pouch (Bartelt). Hermetic seals are observed using the underwater vacuum method at 10 inches mercury vacuum.

25

Example 8

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with polyethylene to a 38 gauge (9.5 μm) polyester film. The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film thickness is 100 gauge (25 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

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Example 9

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to a 38 gauge (9.5 μm) polyester film. The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film thickness is 100 gauge (25 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

Example 10

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with polyethylene to a 38 gauge (9.5 μm) polyester film. The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film thickness is 90 (22.5 μm) gauge and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

Example 11

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to a 38 gauge (9.5 μm) polyester film. The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film thickness is 90 gauge (22.5 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

Example 12

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with polyethylene to a 38 gauge (9.5 μm) polyester film. The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film thickness is 80 gauge (20 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

Example 13

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to a 38 gauge (9.5 μm) polyester film. The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.929/cm³ (Dow 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of (Dow 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film thickness is 80 gauge (20 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

The BO-LLDPE films of Examples 8-13 are evaluated using a Dobby at a speed of 86 fpm resulting in a broad hermetic seal window as shown below in Table 2.

Table 2

Laminate Structure Example No.	Crimp Seal Temperature Range (Hermetic Seal)
Example 8	0°F to 420°F
Example 9	310°F to 420°F
Example 10	340°F to 420°F
Example 11	300°F to 420°F
Example 12	340°F to 420°F
Example 13	300°F to 420°F
Packaging Speed: 86 fpm	
Bag Length: 6"	
Fin Wheel: 350 F	

The BO-LLDPE films of Examples 8-13 are also laminated to an oriented polypropylene film product (Mobil 70 SPW-L) and evaluated using a Hayssen at a speed of 55 ppm resulting in broad hermetic seal windows as shown below in Tables 3-8.

Example 14

5 In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with polyethylene to an oriented polypropylene film (Mobil product 70 SPW-L). The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film thickness is 100 gauge (25 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

Example 15

15 In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to an oriented polypropylene film (Mobil product 70 SPW-L). The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film thickness is 100 gauge (25 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

Example 16

25 In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with polyethylene to an oriented polypropylene film (Mobil product 70 SPW-L). The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film

30

thickness is 90 gauge (22.5 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

Example 17

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded
5 biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to an oriented polypropylene film (Mobil
product 70 SPW-L). The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of
the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a
ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A)
and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131)
10 with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film
thickness is 90 gauge (22.5 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is
corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

Example 18

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded
15 biaxially oriented film laminated with polyethylene to an oriented polypropylene film (Mobil
product 70 SPW-L). The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of
the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A) and EP copolymer in a
ratio of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of 0.92 (Dowlex 2045A)
and EP copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131)
20 with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film
thickness is 80 gauge (20 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The A skin layer is
corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

Example 19

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 3 layer coextruded
25 biaxially oriented film laminated with adhesive to an oriented polypropylene film (Mobil
product 70 SPW-L). The 3 layer film is of the structure A/B/C, in which the B core layer of
the film is a blend of LLDPE having a density of (Dow 2045A) and EP copolymer in a ratio
of 95:5, the A skin layer is a blend of LLDPE having a density of (Dow 2045A) and EP
copolymer in a ratio of 80:20, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Exact 3131) with 2000
30 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The total film thickness is 80

gauge (20 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The C skin layer is corona treated. The film is oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD.

Table 3
Crimp Seal Temperature
Example 14

		250°F	270°F	290°F	310°F
5					
10	F	330°F	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	I	310°F	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	N	290°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak
15	S	270°F	Leak	Leak	No Leak
	E	250°F	Leak	Leak	No Leak
	A	230°F	Leak	Leak	No Leak
20	L				

Table 4
Crimp Seal Temperature
Example 15

		250°F	270°F	290°F	310°F
25					
30	F	330°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	I	310°F		Leak	No Leak
	N	290°F		Leak	No Leak
35	S	270°F		Leak	No Leak
	E	250°F		Leak	Leak
	A				
	L				

Table 5
Crimp Seal Temperature
Example 16

		250°F	270°F	290°F	310°F
5					
	330°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	310°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
10	290°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	270°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
15	250°F	Leak	Leak	Leak	No Leak

Table 6
Crimp Seal Temperature
Example 17

		250° F	270°F	290°F	310°F
20					
	330°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	310°F	Leak	Leak	No Leak	No Leak
25	290°F	Leak	Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	270°F	Leak	Leak	No Leak	No Leak
30	250°F	Leak	Leak	Leak	Leak

Table 7
Crimp Seal Temperature
Example 18

		250° F	270°F	290°F	310°F	
5						
	F	330°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	I	310°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
10	N	290°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	S	270°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	E	270°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	A	270°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
15	L	250°F	Leak	Leak	Leak	Leak

Table 8
Crimp Seal Temperature
Example 19

		250° F	270°F	290°F	310°F	
20						
	F	330°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
25	I	310°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	N	290°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	S	290°F	Leak	No Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	E	270°F	Leak	Leak	No Leak	No Leak
30	A	270°F	Leak	Leak	No Leak	No Leak
	L	250°F	Leak	Leak	Leak	Leak

Example 20

In this example a laminated film structure is prepared from a 5 layer coextruded biaxially oriented film laminated with polyethylene to a 48 gauge (12 μm) polyester film. The 5 layer film is of the structure A/D/B/E/C, in which the B core layer is LLDPE (Dow 2045A), the A skin layer is metallocene PE (Affinity 1845) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E, and the C skin layer is metallocene PE (Affinity 1845) with 2000 ppm Tospearl, 1000 ppm Siloblock S45 and 2000 ppm Kem-E. The D and E intermediate layers are a blend of (LL3002) and metallocene PE (Affinity 1845) in a ratio of 70:30. The total film thickness is 200 gauge (50 μm), each intermediate layer is 20 gauge (5 μm) and each skin layer is 5 gauge (1.25 μm). The C skin layer is corona treated. The film is

oriented 4 times in the MD and 6 times in the TD. Good seal integrity is observed using the Bartelt at a packaging speed of 70 ppm as shown below in Table 9.

Table 9

	<u>Side Seal</u>	<u>Bottom Seal</u>	<u>Seal Performance</u>
5	210°F	230°F	Light Tack Seal; Good Cuttability
	220°F	230°F	Peelable Seal; Good Cuttability
	230°F	230°F	Fusion Seal; Good Cuttability
	250°F	230°F	Fusion Seal; Good Cuttability
10	290°F	230°F	Fusion Seal; Good Cuttability
	300°F	230°F	Fusion Seal; Good Cuttability
	300°F	250°F	Fusion Seal; Fair Cuttability
	310°F	250°F	Fusion Seal; Poor Cutting
	330°F	250°F	Fusion Seal; Poor Cutting

CLAIMS:

1. A biaxially oriented multilayer film for packaging which comprises:
 - (a) a core layer comprising from 70 to 99 wt.% Ziegler Natta catalyzed linear low density polyethylene and from 1 to 30 wt.% metallocene catalyzed linear low density polyethylene; and
 - (b) at least one skin layer comprising an ethylene polymer and/or copolymer having a density in the range of from 0.86 to 0.97 g/cm³.
2. The biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the core layer further comprises an extrusion processing additive selected from the group consisting of ethylene-propylene copolymer, butylene-propylene copolymer, ethylene-propylene-butene terpolymer, polybutylene and polydimethylsiloxane, and mixtures thereof.
3. The biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 2, wherein the extrusion processing aid is in an amount in the range of 1 to 20 wt.%.
4. The biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 3, wherein the extrusion processing aid is in an amount in the range of from 5 to 10 wt.%.
5. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the film is hermetically sealable.
6. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the skin layer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, ethylene alpha-olefin copolymer, metallocene catalyzed polyethylene, metallocene catalyzed ethylene alpha-olefin copolymer, ethylene-propylene copolymer, ethylene-propylene-butene-1 terpolymer, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene acrylic acid copolymer, ethylene-methyl acrylic acid copolymer and mixtures thereof.
7. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the film is metallized.

8. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the film has a fin seal temperature range above 70°F.

5 9. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the film is oriented from 1.5 to 5 times in the machine direction and from 3 to 6 times in the transverse direction.

10 10. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 2, wherein the skin layer comprises ethylene-propylene copolymer.

15 11. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the film is a laminate comprising an outer web selected from the group consisting of paper, oriented polypropylene, ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylidene chloride, polyacrylonitrile copolymer, fluoropolymer, polyethylene terephthalate, polyamide, polyethylene, polyethylene naphthalate, polyester, polycarbonates and mixtures thereof.

20 12. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the linear low density polyethylene has a density in the range of from 0.91 to 0.95 g/cm³.

13. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, having a reclosable fastener.

25 14. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the film is oriented through a tenter frame process.

15. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 1, having a directional tear in the machine direction.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/30339

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : B32B 27/32

US CL : 428/ 349, 355, 412, 421, 475.8, 476.3, 483, 511, 516, 518

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. : 428/ 349, 355, 412, 421, 475.8, 476.3, 483, 511, 516, 518

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WEST: Ziegler Natta and (Metallocene or Single Site), (ethylene or polyethylene)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,814,399 A (EICHBAUER) 29 September 1998, see the entire document including example 2 and column 2, lines 44-64.	1-15
A	US 5,604,043 A (AHLGREN) 18 February 1997, see Examples 63-67 and claims 1-3.	1-15
A	US 5,582,923 A (KALE et al.) 10 December 1996, see column 6, lines 23-46 and column 19, lines 11-26.	1-15
A	US 5,530,065 A (FARLEY et al.) 25 June 1996, see the entire document especially column 8, lines 25-31; column 9, lines 49-62; and claims 1, 12, 16, 22, and 24.	1-15

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
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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)	*G* 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	

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

D. LAWRENCE TARAZANO

Telephone No. (703)-308-0661