

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
19 February 2004 (19.02.2004)

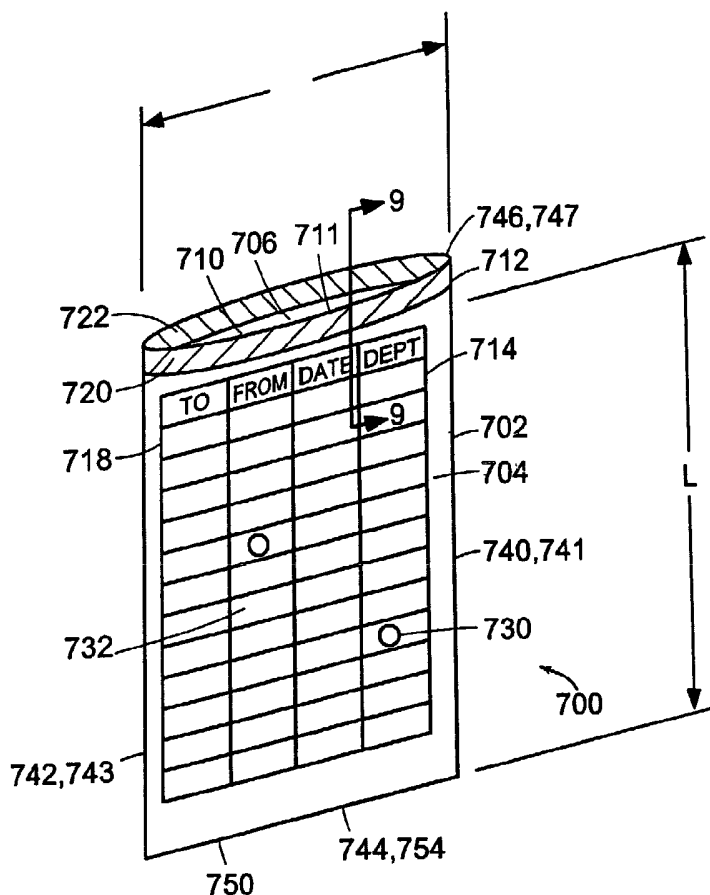
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/014751 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **B65D 33/24**
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2003/025414
- (22) International Filing Date: 12 August 2003 (12.08.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
10/218,048 12 August 2002 (12.08.2002) US
- (63) Related by continuation (CON) or continuation-in-part (CIP) to earlier application:  
US 10/218,048 (CON)  
Filed on 12 August 2002 (12.08.2002)
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **VELCRO INDUSTRIES B.V.** [NL/NL]; Castorweg 22-24, Curaçao (AN).
- (72) Inventors; and  
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **SHEPARD, William, H.** [US/US]; 7 Highland Drive, Amherst, NH 03031 (US). **CLUNE, William, P.** [US/US]; 99-1 Lakeshore Drive, Northwood, NH 03261 (US).
- (74) Agent: **BABINEAU, James, W.**; Fish & Richardson P.C., 225 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110-2804 (US).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: RECLOSABLE BAGS



(57) Abstract: A reclosable mailer (700, 700a, 800) includes a body (702, 802) having first (704, 804) and second (706, 806) opposing side walls. Edges (740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813) of the side walls (704, 706, 804, 806) are joined to form therebetween a pouch (710, 816) having an open end (711, 818). The first (704, 804) and second (706, 806) opposing side walls have a width (W) and length (L) sufficient to allow the pouch (710, 816) to accommodate an unfolded 8 x 11 (20.32 x 27.94 cm) inch piece of paper, and an outer surface of at least one of the side walls (704, 706, 804, 806) includes an area (718, 834) markable with ink for identifying an intended recipient of the mailer. The mailer includes a closure (712, 822) that has first (720, 850) and second (722, 852) fastener strips. The first fastener strip (720, 850) includes a strip form base that has an array of discrete first fastener elements integrally molded with and extending from the base. The second fastener strip (722, 852, 596, 104) includes a plurality of second fastener elements engageable by the first fastener elements. The fastener strips (720, 722, 850, 852) are permanently attached to the body (702, 802) and positioned to releasably engage one another to close the open end (711, 818) of the pouch (710, 816).



European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**  
17 June 2004

**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

*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/US 03/25414

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B65D33/24

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 7 B65D A44B

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)

EP0-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category ° | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| X          | DE 11 95 509 B (GRAMMOPHON GES MIT<br>BESCHRAENKT) 24 June 1965 (1965-06-24)       | 1,2,15,<br>17,21      |
| Y          | the whole document                                                                 | 3,14,16,<br>18-20     |
|            | -----<br>-/--                                                                      |                       |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in 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

22 December 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

05.05.04

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Kakoullis, M

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 03/25414

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category ° | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Y          | WO 00/27721 A (VELCRO IND ;SHEPARD WILLIAM H (US); CLUNE WILLIAM (US); PROVOST GE)<br>18 May 2000 (2000-05-18)<br>page 1, line 11 - page 2, line 17<br>page 5, lines 26-31<br>page 9, lines 20-22<br>page 37, lines 7-9<br>page 48, lines 15-20<br>page 56, lines 15-17<br>page 61, lines 20-30<br>page 64, lines 13-24<br>figures 4A,30,36,41A,45 | 3,14,16,<br>18-20     |
| A          | -----                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1,21                  |
| A          | WO 01/91593 A (VELCRO IND ;SHEPARD WILLIAM H (US); CLUNE WILLIAM (US); PROVOST GE)<br>6 December 2001 (2001-12-06)<br>page 1, lines 16-22<br>figure 10<br>-----                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1                     |

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US 03/25414

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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 II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 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.:

1-4, 14-21

### Remark on Protest

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

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

1. claims: 1-4,14-21

A reclosable mailer having welded first and second fastener.  
---

2. claims: 1,5-8

A reclosable mailer having a flap.  
---

3. claims: 1,9

Dimensions of a reclosable mailer.  
---

4. claims: 1,10

A reclosable mailer having opaque side walls.  
---

5. claims: 1,11,21,22

A reclosable mailer having viewing holes.  
---

6. claims: 1,12,13,21,23

A reclosable mailer having a markable area.  
---

7. claims: 24-34

A reclosable tamper-evident bag.  
---

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 03/25414

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |   | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
|-------------------------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| DE 1195509                                | B | 24-06-1965          | NONE                       |                     |
| WO 0027721                                | A | 18-05-2000          | US 6202260 B1              | 20-03-2001          |
|                                           |   |                     | AU 764439 B2               | 21-08-2003          |
|                                           |   |                     | AU 1344800 A               | 29-05-2000          |
|                                           |   |                     | CA 2348034 A1              | 18-05-2000          |
|                                           |   |                     | CN 1325354 T               | 05-12-2001          |
|                                           |   |                     | DE 69903464 D1             | 14-11-2002          |
|                                           |   |                     | DE 69903464 T2             | 26-06-2003          |
|                                           |   |                     | EP 1304213 A1              | 23-04-2003          |
|                                           |   |                     | EP 1127011 A1              | 29-08-2001          |
|                                           |   |                     | ES 2186420 T3              | 01-05-2003          |
|                                           |   |                     | JP 2002529169 T            | 10-09-2002          |
|                                           |   |                     | WO 0027721 A1              | 18-05-2000          |
|                                           |   |                     | US 2003031386 A1           | 13-02-2003          |
|                                           |   |                     | US 2003228078 A1           | 11-12-2003          |
|                                           |   |                     | US 6656403 B1              | 02-12-2003          |
| WO 0191593                                | A | 06-12-2001          | AU 6347401 A               | 11-12-2001          |
|                                           |   |                     | CA 2410484 A1              | 06-12-2001          |
|                                           |   |                     | CN 1441643 T               | 10-09-2003          |
|                                           |   |                     | EP 1286605 A2              | 05-03-2003          |
|                                           |   |                     | JP 2003534081 T            | 18-11-2003          |
|                                           |   |                     | WO 0191593 A2              | 06-12-2001          |