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(54) **PACK FOR SMOKING ARTICLES WITH A HINGED LID PROVIDED WITH AN OVERWRAP**

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PAQUET POUR DES ARTICLES À FUMER COMPRENANT UN COUVERCLE ARTICULÉ
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Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] This invention relates to a pack of smoking articles provided with an overwrap.

[0002] This invention finds advantageous application in the production of a rigid cigarette packet containing a group of cigarettes, to which the following discussion will make explicit reference without, as a result, losing any generality thereby.

PRIOR ART

[0003] The cigarette packets with hinged lids are currently the most popular cigarette packets on the market as they are easy to produce, easy and practical to use, and protect well the cigarettes contained therein.

[0004] A cigarette packet with a hinged lid comprises a soft wrapping consisting of a group of cigarettes wrapped in a sheet of metallic paper and a rigid outer container housing the wrapping and it is provided with a hinged lid.

[0005] A cigarette packet with a hinged lid is generally provided with a sealed overwrap (or one impermeable to air) that has the function of protecting the tobacco from the outside environment (especially for preserving the correct degree of humidity in the tobacco). The sealed overwrap surrounds and encloses the outer container, it consists of a wrapping sheet of transparent, plastic material (typically cellophane or polypropylene), and it is provided with a tear-open band, which is grasped and pulled by the user to divide (cut) in two the overwrap and, thus, enables the simple and quick removal, at least partially, of the overwrap.

[0006] The overwrap is made of (transparent) plastic material while the rest of the cigarette packet is produced of paper; as a result, when the cigarette packet is finished, the plastic overwrap must be separated from the rest of the cigarette packet in order to differentiate their disposal. In any case, very often, the user, when first opening the cigarette packet, removes just an upper portion of the overwrap (directly connected to the tear-open band) leaving a lower portion of the overwrap (not connected to the tear-open band) around the cigarette packet; as a result, when the cigarette packet is finished, the user often forgets to separate the lower portion of the overwrap from the rest of the cigarette packet and throws both into the "paper" container, thus incorrectly recycling the wrapping materials.

[0007] An additional obstacle to the complete removal of the overwrap (and thus, to the correct disposal of the overwrap) upon first opening the cigarette packet is due to the fact that, while it is very easy to remove the upper portion of the overwrap (directly connected to the tear-open band), it is, in contrast, more difficult and complicated to remove also the lower portion of the overwrap (not connected to the tear-open band), especially when

the overwrap has been well stretched around the outer container using a heat shrinking treatment (which confers the overwrap with a particularly pleasant look).

[0008] To facilitate the complete removal of the overwrap, it was proposed, for example as described in the patent application EP0601583A1, to tilt the tear band in relation to the wrapping sheet so that the tear band is arranged along a diagonal of the cigarette packet; in any case, this solution entails significant changes to the tear band application unit and, thus, very high equipment costs.

[0009] To enable the complete removal of the overwrap, it was proposed, as for example described in the patent application EP1839845A1, to produce, in the lower portion of the overwrap, weakening notches that trigger the breakage of the lower portion of the overwrap after the removal (pulling the tear-open band) of the upper portion of the overwrap; in any case, these weakening notches compromise the integrity of the plastic material that constitutes the overwrap, causing the loss of the seal compared to the outside and, thus, eliminating, at least in part, the protection function of the overwrap's external agents.

[0010] To enable the complete removal of the overwrap, it was proposed, as for example described in the patent application WO2014132171A1, to apply to the overwrap a laceration element consisting of a glued label; in any case, this solution is particularly costly both due to the need for adding a new material to the cigarette packet (the label), and for the need to add a new assembly that applies the label to the packing machine.

[0011] To facilitate the complete removal of the overwrap, it was proposed, as, for example, described in the patent application WO2015145304A1, to apply additional, secondary tear-open bands that extend transversally, starting from the main tear-open band, to the overwrap; in any case, this solution entails significant changes to the tear band application unit and, thus, very high equipment costs. Patent application GB2386234A1 and patent US4947994A describe other examples of a packet provided with an overwrap equipped with a tear-open band, which is grasped and pulled by the user to divide (cut) in two the overwrap and, thus, enables the simple and quick removal, at least partially, of the overwrap.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0012] The purpose of this invention is to provide a cigarette packet with a hinged lid provided with an overwrap; this packet of cigarettes enables the correct recycling of wrapping materials and, at the same time, is easy and economical to produce.

[0013] In accordance with this invention, a cigarette packet with a hinged lid provided with an overwrap, according to what is claimed in the attached claims, is provided.

[0014] The claims describe embodiments of this invention forming an integral part of this description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] This invention will now be described with reference to the attached drawings that illustrate some non-limiting embodiments thereof, in which:

- Figures 1 and 2 are two perspective views, front and back respectively, of a rigid cigarette packet with a hinged lid provided with a transparent overwrap;
- Figures 3 and 4 are two perspective views, front and back respectively, of the cigarette packet in Figures 1 and 2, after the removal of the transparent overwrap and still in a closed configuration;
- Figures 5 and 6 are two exploded perspective views, front and back respectively, of the transparent overwrap of the cigarette packet in Figures 1 and 2;
- Figure 7 is a plan view of a wrapping sheet used to produce the transparent overwrap of the cigarette packet in Figures 1 and 2;
- Figure 8 is a plan view of a variant of the wrapping sheet in Figure 7;
- Figures 9 and 10 are two side views of the cigarette packet in Figures 1 and 2 before and after, respectively, the removal of an upper portion of the transparent overwrap;
- Figure 11 is a front perspective view of a rigid cigarette packet with a sliding opening provided with a transparent overwrap;
- Figure 12 is a front perspective view, in an open configuration, of the cigarette packet in Figure 11, after the removal of the transparent overwrap and in an open configuration; and
- Figures 13 and 14 are two side views of the cigarette packet in Figures 11 and 12 before and after, respectively, the removal of an upper portion of the transparent overwrap.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

[0016] In Figures 1 and 2, reference number 1 indicates, as a whole, a rigid cigarette packet with a hinged lid. The cigarette packet 1 comprises an outer container 2 consisting of rigid cardboard or card and cup-shaped, and a soft wrapping 3 (partially illustrated in Figure 12) housed within the outer container 2 and it encloses a group of cigarettes.

[0017] In the description that follows of the cigarette packet 1, terms such as "low" and "high" and "lower" and "upper" will be used, to designate the positions of portions of the cigarette packet, assuming that the packet is arranged so that the main extension direction, i.e., the longitudinal direction, coincides with the vertical one; however, the lower and upper walls are respectively arranged "low down" and "high up" and the transverse direction is orthogonal to the longitudinal direction.

[0018] The outer container 2 has an open upper end and is provided with a lid 4, which is cup-shaped and is hinged to the outer container 2 along a hinge 5 (illustrated

in Figure 2) in order to rotate, in relation to the outer container 2, between an open position (not illustrated) and a closed position (illustrated in Figures 1 and 2) of the open upper end.

[0019] According to what is better illustrated in Figures 3 and 4, the outer container 2 has a basically parallelepipedal, rectangular shape oriented according to a vertical, main extension direction, it is cup-shaped, and has an open upper end, a lower wall 6 opposite the open upper end, a front wall 7 and a rear wall 8 (wherein the hinge 5 is arranged) parallel and opposite each other, and two side walls 9 that are parallel and opposite each other. Between the front 7, rear 8, and side 9 walls of the outer container 2 four longitudinal corners are defined, while between the walls 7, 8, and 9 and the lower wall 6 of the outer container 2, four transverse corners are defined.

[0020] The lid 4 has a basically parallelepipedal, rectangular shape, it is cup-shaped, and has an open lower end (facing the open upper end of the outer container 2 when the lid 4 is in the closed position), an upper wall 10 (which is parallel and opposite the lower wall 6 of the outer container 2 when the lid 4 is in the closed position), a front wall 11 (which is parallel to and aligned with the front wall 7 of the outer container 2 when the lid 4 is in the closed position), a rear wall 12 (which is parallel to and aligned with the rear wall 8 of the outer container 2 when the lid 4 is in the closed position and is hinged to the rear wall 8 of the outer container 2 along the hinge 5), and two side walls 13 parallel and opposite each other (which are parallel to and aligned with, in particular coplanar and adjacent, to the side walls 9 of the outer container 2 when the lid 4 is in the closed position 4). Between the front 11, rear 12, and side 13 walls of the lid 4 four longitudinal corners are defined, while between the walls 11, 12, and 13 and the lower wall 10 of the lid 4, four transverse corners are defined. The longitudinal corners and the transverse corners of the lid 4 are parallel to and aligned with the corresponding longitudinal and transverse corners of the outer container 2 when the lid 4 is in the closed position.

[0021] According to what is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the cigarette packet 1 comprises an overwrap 14 surrounding and enclosing the outer container 2 and the lid 4 (the lid 4 is an integral part of the outer container 2) consists of a wrapping sheet 15 (illustrated in Figure 7) of transparent plastic material (typically cellophane or polypropylene) folded around the outer container 2 and the lid 4, and it is provided with a tear-open band 16 that is grasped and pulled by the user in order to divide (cut) the overwrap 14 into two portions 17 and 18 and, thus, to enable a simple and quick removal of the overwrap 14. In particular, and according to what is illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, the tear-open band 16 divides (cuts) the overwrap 14 into a lower portion 17 (which is totally disconnected from the tear-open band 16, i.e., it has no point of connection with the tear-open band 16), and an upper portion 18 (which is connected to the tear-open

band 16, i.e., is integral to the tear-open band 16).

[0022] To enable the grip, the tear-open band 16 has a starting end 19 that is completely separated and raised by the overwrap 14 and is formed through a suitable cut shaped by the wrapping sheet 15 when the wrapping sheet 15 is separated by a continuous band of plastic wrapping material (as clearly illustrated in Figures 7 and 8).

[0023] The wrapping sheet 15 is folded around the outer container 2 and the lid 4 and is, thus, stabilised using a heat seal, i.e., by joining via a heat seal overlapping portions of the wrapping sheet 15. According to what is illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, the wrapping sheet 15 has two opposite flaps 20 and 21 (illustrated separately in Figure 7) that are overlapped with each other and heat-sealed to form a longitudinal seal 22 contributing to stabilising the overwrap 14; in addition, the overwrap 14 comprises two additional transverse seals 23 (just one of which is illustrated in Figures 5 and 6) that are arranged at opposite ends of the overwrap 14, extend perpendicularly to the longitudinal seal 22, and contribute to stabilising the overwrap 14.

[0024] According to what is illustrated in Figures 1-4, the lid 4 has a front edge 24, delimiting the front wall 11 at the bottom, and two side edges 25, each delimiting a side wall 13 at the bottom and connecting one end of the front edge 24 to one end of the hinge 5. The front edge 24 of the lid 4 (when the lid 4 is closed) rests on a front edge of the outer container 2 and, similarly, the side edges 25 of the lid 4 (when the lid 4 is closed) rest on corresponding side edges of the outer container 2.

[0025] According to what is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the tear-open band 16 is arranged between the upper wall 10 of the lid 4 and the front edge 24 of the lid 4; in this way, the upper portion 18 of the overwrap 14 is smaller than the lid 4 and the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 also extends over part of the lid 4 (i.e., partially covers the lid 4). In this way, once the only upper portion 18 of the overwrap 14 is removed, by pulling the tear-open band 16, it still is not possible to open the lid 4 since the lid 4 is blocked by the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14; as a result, when first opening the cigarette packet 1, the user is forced to remove not only the upper portion 18 of the overwrap 14 but also the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 and, thus, they are pushed to correctly recycle both the portions 17 and 18 of the overwrap 14 (i.e., all the overwrap 14) together.

[0026] According to a preferred embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the tear-open band 16 is arranged higher than the front edge 24 of the lid 4 so as not to have any part overlapping the front edge 24 of the lid 4. In particular, the tear-open band 16 is arranged at a distance D other than zero from the front edge 24 of the lid 4; preferably, the distance D is equal to at least 2 mm and generally greater than 4 mm (generally ranging between 4 mm and 8 mm). According to a possible embodiment, the tear-open band 16 is arranged closer to the upper wall 10 of the lid 4 than to the front edge 24 of the

lid 4.

[0027] According to a possible embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the tear-open band 16 is arranged so that it straddles the hinge 5. According to an alternative embodiment not illustrated, the tear-open band 16 is arranged between the hinge 5 and the front edge 24 of the lid 4; according to an additional embodiment not illustrated, the tear-open band 16 is arranged between the upper wall 10 of the lid 4 and the front edge 24 of the lid 4.

[0028] According to what is illustrated in Figures 5-6 and 9-10, the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 has at least one pre-weakened line 26, which helps tear it, originates near an upper edge of the lower portion 17, and extends towards the lower wall 6; according to possible embodiments, the pre-weakened line 26 can start exactly at the upper edge of the lower portion 17 (i.e. next to the tear-open band 16), the pre-weakened line 26 can start beyond the upper edge of the lower portion 17 (i.e., also involving a small piece of the tear-open band 16), or the pre-weakened line 26 can start at a small distance from the upper edge of the lower portion 17 (i.e., at a small distance from the tear-open band 16). According to a preferred yet not binding embodiment, the pre-weakened line 26 is parallel to the longitudinal corners of the outer container 2 (defined between the front wall 7 and the rear wall 8 and the two side walls 9); alternatively, the pre-weakened line 26 could be slightly tilted in relation to the longitudinal corners of the outer container 2 and could also have a zig-zag progression.

[0029] According to a preferred embodiment, the pre-weakened line 26 consists of at least one through cut that completely goes through the wrapping sheet 15; i.e., the pre-weakened line 26 may consist of a single, continuous through cut or it may consist of a series (row) of through cuts that are equally spaced apart (i.e., arranged at a certain distance from each other).

[0030] According to a preferred embodiment, the pre-weakened line 26 is arranged near the longitudinal seal 22 (consisting of the joining of the two flaps 20 and 21 of the wrapping sheet 5) so that the pre-weakened line 26 is completely surrounded by joined portions wherein the two flaps 20 and 21 are sealed together; in this way, the pre-weakened line 26 does not put the inner overwrap 14 in communication with the outside environment, thus ensuring the seal of the overwrap 14, which remains, in any case, totally sealed from the outside environment.

[0031] According to a preferred embodiment, the longitudinal seal 22 has, on the inside, a neutral area 27, which is free from any seal between the two flaps 20, 21, it contains - on the inside - the pre-weakened line 26, and is completely surrounded by joined portions in which the two flaps 20, 21 are sealed together. The function of the neutral area 27 is, above all, to avoid making a seal above the pre-weakened line 26 to prevent the seal from "closing" the pre-weakened line 26 (i.e., restoring, at least partially, the continuity of the wrapping material straddling the pre-weakened line 26) thus eliminating its functionality. An additional (secondary) function of the neutral

area 27 is to increase the local weakening of the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 so as to facilitate the breakage of the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14.

[0032] According to one possible embodiment, the neutral area 27 has a longitudinal extension, i.e., parallel to the longitudinal corners of the outer container 2 (defined between the front wall 7 and the rear wall 8 and the two side walls 9), that is greater than a transverse extension, i.e., the neutral area 27 is "*longer*" than it is "*wide*". According to one possible embodiment, the neutral area 27 has a longitudinal extension, i.e., parallel to the longitudinal corners of the outer container 2 (defined between the front wall 7 and the rear wall 8 and the two side walls 9), that is greater than a longitudinal extension of the pre-weakened line 26; i.e., the neutral area 27 is larger than the pre-weakened line to increase the localised weakening of the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14. Generally, the pre-weakened line 26 only involves one of the two flaps 20 and 21 of the wrapping sheet 15; i.e., the pre-weakened line 26 is only formed on the inner flap 20 of the wrapping sheet 15 (as illustrated in Figure 8) i.e., or it is only formed in the outer flap 21 of the wrapping sheet 15 (as illustrated in Figure 7). It is also possible that only the flap 20 of the wrapping sheet 15 has several pre-weakened lines 26 separated and parallel between them, or only the flap 21 of the wrapping sheet 15 has several pre-weakened lines separated and parallel to each other. Normally, forming two different pre-weakened lines 26 on both the flaps 20 and 21 of the wrapping sheet 15 is avoided so as to avoid any possible overlap (even only accidental due to the effect of the construction tolerances) of the two different pre-weakened lines 26 on both the flaps 20 and 21 of the wrapping sheet 15 from putting the inside of the overwrap 14 in communication with the outside environment.

[0033] According to a possible embodiment not illustrated, a pre-weakened line 26 is also formed near the upper portion 18 of the overwrap 14 with the same identical construction methods of the pre-weakened line 26 formed near the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14. Obviously, the pre-weakened line 26 also formed in the upper portion 18 of the overwrap 14 must be arranged above the tear-open band 16 (i.e., it must not affect, unless marginally, the tear-open band 16) to avoid weakening the tear-open band 16 and, thus, causing any undesired breaking to it when the tear-open band 16 is pulled.

[0034] According to an alternative embodiment illustrated in Figures 11 and 12, the cigarette packet 1 has a sliding opening and comprises the outer container 2 that has the open end no longer arranged above (as in the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1-4), but arranged at the side; in addition, the cigarette packet 1 comprises an inner container 28 containing the wrapping 3 and it is housed so that it can slide in the outer container 2 to slide between a closed position (illustrated in Figure 11), wherein the inner container 28 is completely arranged in the outer container 2, and an open position (illustrated in

Figure 12), wherein the inner container 28 is partially extracted from the outer container 2.

[0035] In the example of the cigarette packet 1 illustrated in Figures 11 and 12, it is clear that it is, in any case, necessary to completely eliminate the overwrap 14 to be able to access the cigarettes, i.e., it is necessary to eliminate both the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14, and the upper portion 18 of the overwrap 14 in order to be able to access the cigarettes, irrespective of the position of the tear-open band 16.

[0036] In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 11, 13, and 14, the tear-open band 16 is arranged at (approximately) halfway so that the two portions 17 and 18 of the overwrap 14 have (approximately) the same size; according to other embodiments, the tear-open band 16 could be arranged higher (so that the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 is bigger than the upper portion 18 of the overwrap 14) or even lower (so that the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 is smaller than the upper portion 18 of the overwrap 14) compared to what is illustrated in Figures 11, 13, and 14.

[0037] Obviously, in the embodiment illustrated in Figures 11, 13, and 14, the overwrap 14 is provided with the pre-weakened line 26 (produced, as described above, i.e., arranged in the neutral area 27 of the longitudinal seal 22) to also facilitate the removal of the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 after having eliminated the upper portion 18 of the overwrap 14.

[0038] According to one possible embodiment, indications (symbols and/or text) could be printed on the overwrap 14 (i.e., on the wrapping sheet 15) that explain (show) how to proceed with the fast removal of the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14.

[0039] The embodiments described herein may be combined between them without departing from the scope of protection of this invention.

[0040] The cigarette packet 1 described above has numerous advantages.

[0041] In the first place, the cigarette packet 1 described above encourages the correct recycling of the wrapping materials, since, in order to be able to open the lid 4, it is necessary to remove not only the upper portion 18 of the overwrap 14, but also the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 1 (in fact, even just the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 prevents the opening of the lid 4); thus, the user is forced to remove and immediately dispose of the whole plastic overwrap 14 in the appropriate containers, without leaving the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 around the outer container 2 until finishing the cigarette packet 1.

[0042] In addition, in the cigarette packet 1 described above, the removal of the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 is simple and quick thanks to the presence of the pre-weakened line 26, which makes it possible to easily break the lower portion 17 of the overwrap 14 (including when the overwrap 14 has been stretched via heat shrinking) by simply pulling the overwrap 14 with a finger at the pre-weakened line 26. To this end, it is im-

portant to observe that, thanks to the particular positioning of the pre-weakened line 26 within the longitudinal seal 22 of the wrapping sheet 15, the presence of the pre-weakened line 26 does not affect the seal of the overwrap 14, which remains, in any case, totally sealed from the outside environment.

[0043] Finally, the cigarette packet 1 described above is very simple to produce compared to a similar, known cigarette packet in that it is enough: to change the positioning of the tear-open band 16 in relation to the wrapping sheet 15; to insert in the cutting unit (already present) an additional blade for making the pre-weakened line 26; and to slightly change the shape of the welder to produce the neutral area 27 within the longitudinal seal 22.

[0044] The embodiment illustrated in the attached figures refers to the production of a cigarette packet, but this invention can be applied, without significant changes, to the production of any other type of pack of smoking articles (for example, a pack of cigars, a pack of electronic cigarettes of the liquid vaping type, a new-generation cigarette packet without tobacco combustion).

REFERENCE NUMBER LIST FOR FIGURES

[0045]

- 1 cigarette packet
- 2 outer container
- 3 wrapping
- 4 lid
- 5 hinge
- 6 lower wall
- 7 front wall
- 8 rear wall
- 9 side walls
- 10 upper wall
- 11 front wall
- 12 rear wall
- 13 side walls
- 14 overwrap
- 15 wrapping sheet
- 16 tear-open band
- 17 lower portion
- 18 upper portion
- 19 start end
- 20 inner flap
- 21 outer flap
- 22 longitudinal seal
- 23 transverse seal
- 24 front edge
- 25 side edges
- 26 pre-weakened line
- 27 neutral area
- 28 inner container
- D distance

Claims

1. A pack (1) for smoking articles comprising:

- 5 an outer container (2) having a lower wall (6), a front wall (7), a rear wall (8) and two side walls (9);
- a lid (4), which is hinged to the outer container (2) along a hinge (5) and has an upper wall (10), a front wall (11), a rear wall (12) and two side walls (13);
- 10 an overwrap (14), which surrounds and wraps the outer container (2) and the lid (4); and
- a tear-open band (16), which is coupled to the overwrap (14) and is designed to be pulled in order to divide the overwrap (14) into a lower portion (17), which is not connected to the tear-open band (16), and an upper portion (18), which is integral to the tear-open band (16);
- 15 wherein the lid (4) has a front edge (24), which delimits the front wall (11) at the bottom;
- the pack (1) for smoking articles is **characterized in that** the tear-open band (16) is arranged between the upper wall (10) of the lid (4) and the front edge (24) of the lid (4) so that the upper portion (18) of the overwrap (14) is smaller than the lid (4) and the lower portion (17) of the overwrap (14) partially covers the lid (4).
- 25

- 30 2. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to claim 1, wherein the tear-open band (16) is arranged higher than the front edge (24) of the lid (4) so as not to have any part overlapping the front edge (24) of the lid (4).
- 35

- 3. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the tear-open band (16) is arranged at a distance (D) other than zero - and preferably equal to at least 2 mm - from the front edge (24) of the lid (4).
- 40

- 4. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the tear-open band (16) is arranged closer to the upper wall (10) of the lid (4) than to the front edge (24) of the lid (4).
- 45

- 5. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to one of the claims from 1 to 4, wherein the lid (4) has two side edges (25), each delimiting a side wall (13) at the bottom and connecting an end of the front edge (24) to an end of the hinge (5); and wherein the tear-open band (16) is arranged between the hinge (5) and the front edge (24) of the lid (4) .
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- 6. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to one of the claims from 1 to 4, wherein the lid (4) has two side edges (25), each delimiting a side wall (13) at the bottom and connecting an end of the front edge
- 55

(24) to an end of the hinge (5); and wherein the tear-open band (16) is arranged astride the hinge (5).

7. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to one of the claims from 1 to 4, wherein the lid (4) has two side edges (25), each delimiting a side wall (13) at the bottom and connecting an end of the front edge (24) to an end of the hinge (5); and wherein the tear-open band (16) is arranged between the hinge (5) and the upper wall (10) of the lid (4) . 5
8. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to one of the claims from 1 to 7, wherein the lower portion (17) of the overwrap (14) has at least one pre-weakened line (26), which helps tear it, originates close to an upper edge of the lower portion (17) and extends towards the lower wall (6). 10
9. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to claim 7, wherein the pre-weakened line (26) is parallel to longitudinal corners of the outer container (2) defined between the front wall (7) and the rear wall (8) and the two front walls (9). 15
10. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the overwrap (14) consists of a wrapping sheet (15), which was folded around the outer container (2) and the lid (4) and was stabilized by means of at least one heat seal; and wherein the pre-weakened line (26) consists of at least one through cut completely going through the wrapping sheet (15). 20
11. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to claim 10, wherein: 25

the wrapping sheet (15) has two opposite flaps (20, 21), which overlap and are heat-sealed to one another so as to form a longitudinal seal (22); and the pre-weakened line (26) is arranged in the area of the longitudinal seal (22). 30
12. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to claim 11, wherein the pre-weakened line (26) affects only one of the two flaps (20, 21) of the wrapping sheet (15). 35
13. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the longitudinal seal (22) has, on the inside, a neutral area (27), which is free from any seal between the two flaps (20, 21), contains - on the inside - the pre-weakened line (26) and is completely surrounded by joined portions in which the two flaps (20, 21) are sealed to one another. 40
14. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to claim 13, wherein the neutral area (27) has a longitudinal 45

extension, namely an extension parallel to longitudinal corners of the outer container (2) defined between the front wall (7) and the rear wall (8) and the two front walls (9), which is greater than a transverse extension.

15. The pack (1) for smoking articles according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the neutral area (27) has a longitudinal extension, namely an extension parallel to longitudinal corners of the outer container (2) defined between the front wall (7) and the rear wall (8) and the two front walls (9), which is greater than a longitudinal extension of the pre-weakened line (26). 50

Patentansprüche

1. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel, umfassend:

einen Außenbehälter (2), der eine untere Wand (6), eine vordere Wand (7), eine hintere Wand (8) und zwei Seitenwände (9) aufweist;
einen Deckel (4), der längs eines Gelenks (5) an dem Außenbehälter (2) angelenkt ist und eine obere Wand (10), eine vordere Wand (11), eine hintere Wand (12) und zwei Seitenwände (13) aufweist;
eine Umverpackung (14), die den Außenbehälter (2) und den Deckel (4) umgibt und umhüllt; und
ein Aufreißband (16), das mit der Umverpackung (14) gekoppelt ist und so ausgelegt ist, dass es gezogen wird, um die Umverpackung (14) in einen unteren Abschnitt (17), der nicht mit dem Aufreißband (16) verbunden ist, und einen oberen Abschnitt (18), der mit dem Aufreißband (16) integral ist, zu teilen;
wobei der Deckel (4) eine vordere Kante (24) hat, die die vordere Wand (11) an der Unterseite begrenzt;
wobei die Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel **dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, dass** das Aufreißband (16) zwischen der oberen Wand (10) des Deckels (4) und der vorderen Kante (24) des Deckels (4) angeordnet ist, so dass der obere Abschnitt (18) der Umverpackung (14) kleiner als der Deckel (4) ist und der untere Abschnitt (17) der Umverpackung (14) den Deckel (4) teilweise bedeckt.

2. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Aufreißband (16) höher als die vordere Kante (24) des Deckels (4) angeordnet ist, so dass es keinen Abschnitt hat, der die Vorderkante (24) des Deckels (4) überlappt. 55
3. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei das Aufreißband (16) in einem Ab-

stand (D), der nicht null ist - und vorzugsweise wenigstens 2 mm beträgt - von der vorderen Kante (24) des Deckels (4) angeordnet ist.

4. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, wobei das Aufreißband (16) näher an der oberen Wand (10) des Deckels (4) als an der vorderen Kante (24) des Deckels (4) angeordnet ist. 5
5. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, wobei der Deckel (4) zwei seitliche Kanten (25) hat, die jeweils eine Seitenwand (13) an der Unterseite begrenzen und ein Ende der vorderen Kante (24) mit einem Ende des Gelenks (5) verbinden; und wobei das Aufreißband (16) zwischen dem Gelenk (5) und der vorderen Kante (24) des Deckels (4) angeordnet ist. 10
6. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, wobei der Deckel (4) zwei seitliche Kanten (25) hat, die jeweils eine Seitenwand (13) an der Unterseite begrenzen und ein Ende der vorderen Kante (24) mit einem Ende des Gelenks (5) verbinden; und wobei das Aufreißband (16) auf dem Gelenk (5) angeordnet ist. 20
7. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, wobei der Deckel (4) zwei seitliche Kanten (25) hat, die jeweils eine Seitenwand (13) an der Unterseite begrenzen und ein Ende der vorderen Kante (24) mit einem Ende des Gelenks (5) verbinden; und wobei das Aufreißband (16) zwischen dem Gelenk (5) und der oberen Wand (10) des Deckels (4) angeordnet ist. 25
8. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7, wobei der untere Abschnitt (17) der Umverpackung (14) wenigstens eine Schwächungslinie (26) hat, die das Aufreißen erleichtert, direkt an einer oberen Kante des unteren Abschnitts (17) entspringt und sich zur unteren Wand (6) erstreckt. 30
9. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach Anspruch 7, wobei die Schwächungslinie (26) parallel zu Längskanten des Außenbehälters (2) verläuft, die zwischen der vorderen Wand (7) und der hinteren Wand (8) und den zwei vorderen Wänden (9) definiert sind. 35
10. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach Anspruch 7 oder 8, wobei die Umverpackung (14) aus einem Verpackungsbogen (15) besteht, der um den Außenbehälter (2) und den Deckel (4) gefaltet wurde und mittels wenigstens einer Heißsiegelung stabilisiert wurde; und wobei die Schwächungslinie (26) aus wenigstens einem durchgehenden Schnitt besteht, der vollständig durch den Verpackungsbogen (15) hindurchgeht. 40

11. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach Anspruch 10, wobei:

der Einwickelbogen (5) zwei gegenüberliegenden Laschen (20, 21) hat, die überlappen und miteinander heißgesiegelt werden, um eine Dichtung (22) in Längsrichtung zu bilden; und die Schwächungslinie (26) im Bereich der Dichtung (22) in Längsrichtung angeordnet ist.

12. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach Anspruch 11, wobei die Schwächungslinie (26) nur eine der zwei Laschen (20, 21) des Verpackungsbogens (15) betrifft. 15

13. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach Anspruch 11 oder 12, wobei die Dichtung in Längsrichtung (22) an der Innenseite einen neutralen Bereich (27) hat, in dem es keine Dichtung zwischen den zwei Laschen (20, 21) gibt, der - an der Innenseite - die Schwächungslinie (26) enthält und vollständig von verbundenen Abschnitten, bei denen die zwei Laschen (20, 21) miteinander heißgesiegelt sind, umgeben ist. 25

14. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach Anspruch 13, wobei der neutrale Bereich (27) eine Ausdehnung in Längsrichtung hat, und zwar eine Ausdehnung parallel zu Längskanten des Außenbehälters (2), die zwischen der vorderen Wand (7) und der hinteren Wand (8) und den zwei vorderen Wänden (9) definiert sind, die größer als eine Ausdehnung in Querrichtung ist. 30

15. Verpackung (1) für Rauchartikel nach Anspruch 13 oder 14, wobei der neutrale Bereich (27) eine Ausdehnung in Längsrichtung hat, und zwar eine Ausdehnung parallel zu Längskanten des Außenbehälters (2), die zwischen der vorderen Wand (7) und der hinteren Wand (8) und den zwei vorderen Wänden (9) definiert ist, die größer als eine Ausdehnung der Schwächungslinie (26) in Längsrichtung ist. 35

45 Revendications

1. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer comprenant :

un contenant externe (2) ayant une paroi inférieure (6), une paroi avant (7), une paroi arrière (8) et deux parois latérales (9) ;
un couvercle (4) qui est articulé par rapport au contenant externe (2) le long d'une charnière (5) et a une paroi supérieure (10), une paroi avant (11), une paroi arrière (12) et deux parois latérales (13) ;
un suremballage (14) qui entoure et enveloppe le contenant externe (2) et le couvercle (4) ; et

- une bande d'ouverture par déchirure (16) qui est couplée au suremballage (14) et est conçue pour être tirée afin de diviser le suremballage (14) en une partie inférieure (17) qui est raccordée à la bande d'ouverture par déchirure (16) et en une partie supérieure (18) qui est solidaire de la bande d'ouverture par déchirure (16) ; dans lequel le couvercle (4) a un bord avant (24) qui délimite la paroi avant (11) au niveau du fond ; le paquet (1) pour articles à fumer est **caractérisé en ce que** la bande d'ouverture par déchirure (16) est agencée entre la paroi supérieure (10) et le couvercle (4) et le bord avant (24) du couvercle (4) de sorte que la partie supérieure (18) du suremballage (14) est plus petite que le couvercle (4) et la partie inférieure (17) du suremballage (14) recouvre partiellement le couvercle (4) .
2. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la bande d'ouverture par déchirure (16) est agencée plus haut que le bord avant (24) du couvercle (4) afin de ne pas avoir de partie qui chevauche le bord avant (24) du couvercle (4).
 3. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel la bande d'ouverture par déchirure (16) est agencée à une distance (D) différente de zéro - et de préférence égale à au moins 2 mm - du bord avant (24) du couvercle (4).
 4. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon la revendication 1, 2 ou 3, dans lequel la bande d'ouverture par déchirure (16) est agencée plus à proximité de la paroi supérieure (10) du couvercle (4) que du bord avant (24) du couvercle (4).
 5. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon l'une des revendications 1 à 4, dans lequel le couvercle (4) a deux bords latéraux (25), délimitant chacun une paroi latérale (13) au niveau du fond et raccordant une extrémité du bord avant (24) à une extrémité de la charnière (5) ; et dans lequel la bande d'ouverture par déchirure (16) est agencée entre la charnière (5) et le bord avant (24) du couvercle (4).
 6. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon l'une des revendications 1 à 4, dans lequel le couvercle (4) a deux bords latéraux (25), délimitant chacun une paroi latérale (13) au niveau du fond et raccordant une extrémité du bord avant (24) à une extrémité de la charnière (5) ; et dans lequel la bande d'ouverture par déchirure (16) est agencée à cheval sur la charnière (5) .
 7. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon l'une des revendications 1 à 4, dans lequel le couvercle (4) a deux bords latéraux (25), délimitant chacun une paroi latérale (13) au niveau du fond et raccordant une extrémité du bord avant (24) à une extrémité de la charnière (5) ; et dans lequel la bande d'ouverture par déchirure (16) est agencée entre la charnière (5) et la paroi supérieure (10) du couvercle (4).
 8. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon l'une des revendications 1 à 7, dans lequel la partie inférieure (17) du suremballage (14) a au moins une ligne pré-affaiblie (26) qui aide à la déchirer, se situe à proximité d'un bord supérieur de la partie inférieure (17) et s'étend vers la paroi inférieure (6).
 9. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon la revendication 7, dans lequel la ligne pré-affaiblie (26) est parallèle aux coins longitudinaux du contenant externe (2) défini entre la paroi avant (7) et la paroi arrière (8) et les deux parois avant (9).
 10. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon la revendication 7 ou 8, dans lequel le suremballage (14) se compose d'une feuille d'emballage (15) qui est pliée autour du contenant externe (2) et du couvercle (4) et a été stabilisée au moyen d'au moins un joint thermique ; et dans lequel la ligne pré-affaiblie (26) se compose d'au moins une découpe traversant complètement la feuille d'emballage (15).
 11. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon la revendication 10, dans lequel :
la feuille d'emballage (15) a deux rabats (20, 21) opposés qui se chevauchent et sont thermoscellés entre eux afin de former un joint longitudinal (22) ; et
la ligne pré-affaiblie (26) est agencée dans la zone du joint longitudinal (22).
 12. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon la revendication 11, dans lequel la ligne pré-affaiblie (26) n'affecte que l'un des deux rabats (20, 21) de la feuille d'emballage (15).
 13. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon la revendication 11 ou 12, dans lequel le joint longitudinal (22) a, à l'intérieur, une zone neutre (27) qui est dépourvue de tout joint entre les deux rabats (20, 21), contient - à l'intérieur - la ligne pré-affaiblie (26) et est complètement entourée par des parties assemblées dans lesquelles les deux rabats (20, 21) sont scellés entre eux.
 14. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon la revendication 13, dans lequel la zone neutre (27) a une extension longitudinale, c'est-à-dire une extension parallèle aux coins longitudinaux du contenant externe (2) définis entre la paroi avant (7) et la paroi arrière

(8) et les deux parois avant (9), qui est supérieure à une extension transversale.

15. Paquet (1) pour articles à fumer selon la revendication 13 ou 14, dans lequel la zone neutre (27) a une extension longitudinale, c'est-à-dire une extension parallèle aux coins longitudinaux du contenant externe (2) définis entre la paroi avant (7) et la paroi arrière (8) et les deux parois avant (9), qui est supérieure à une extension longitudinale de la ligne préaffaiblie (26).

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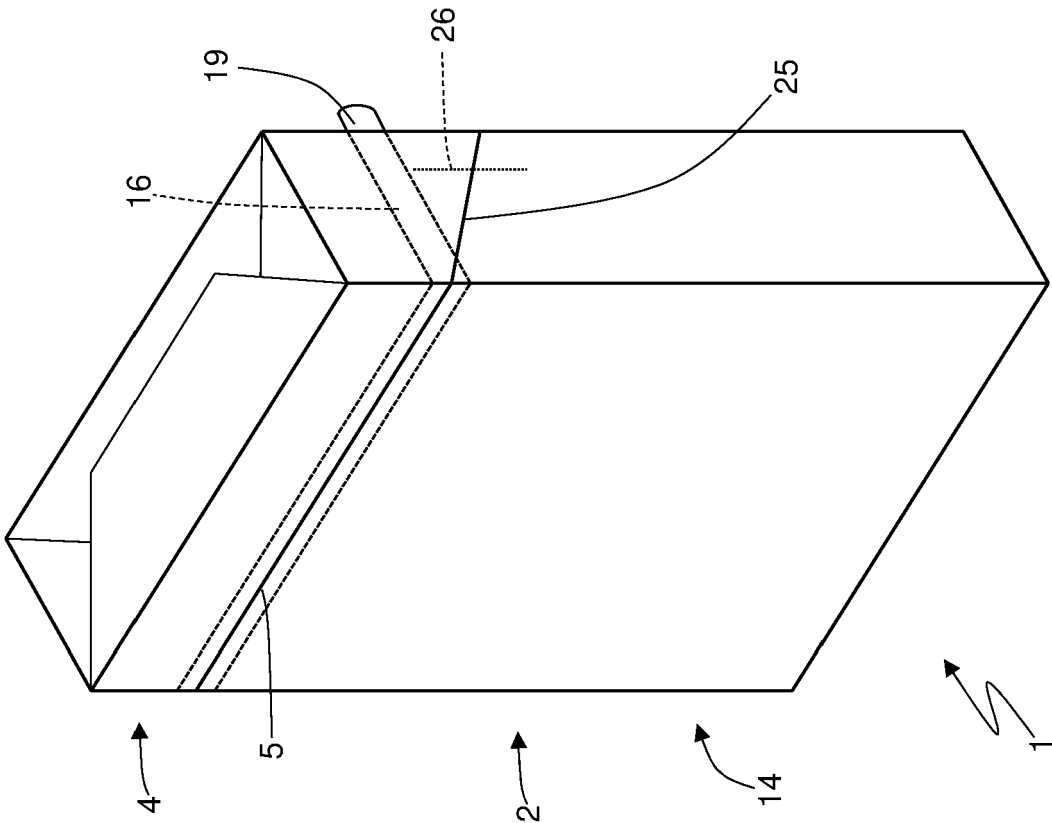


Fig. 1

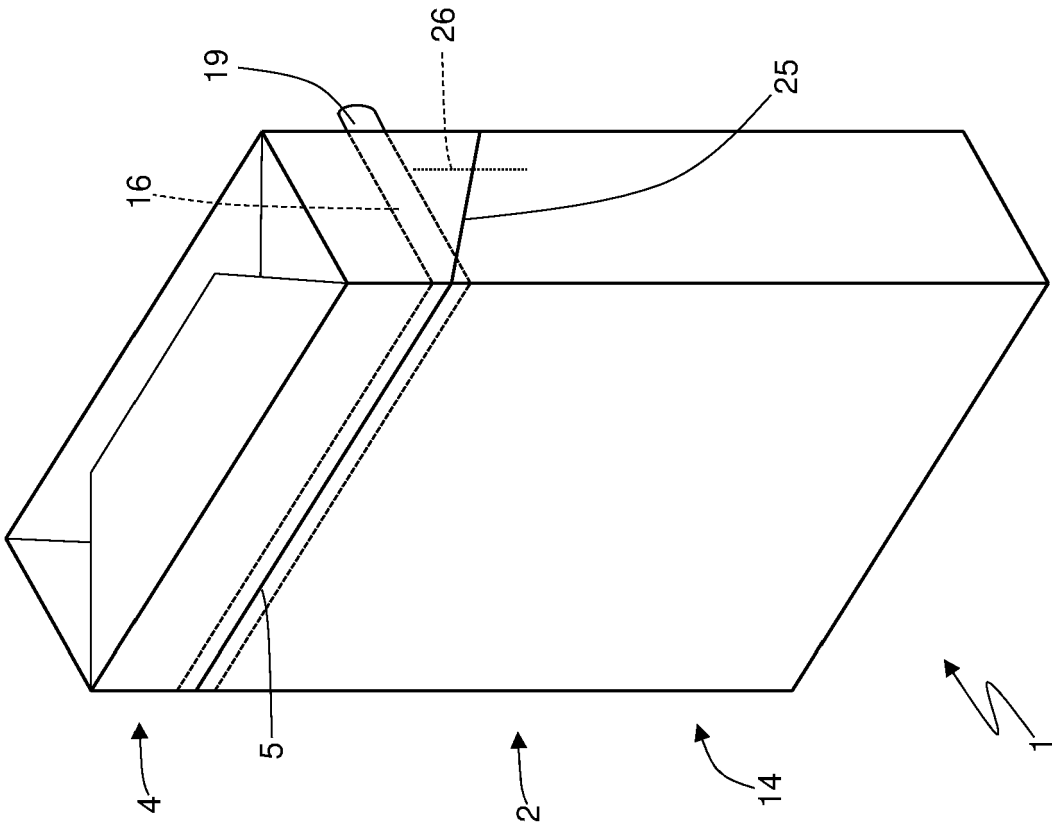


Fig. 2

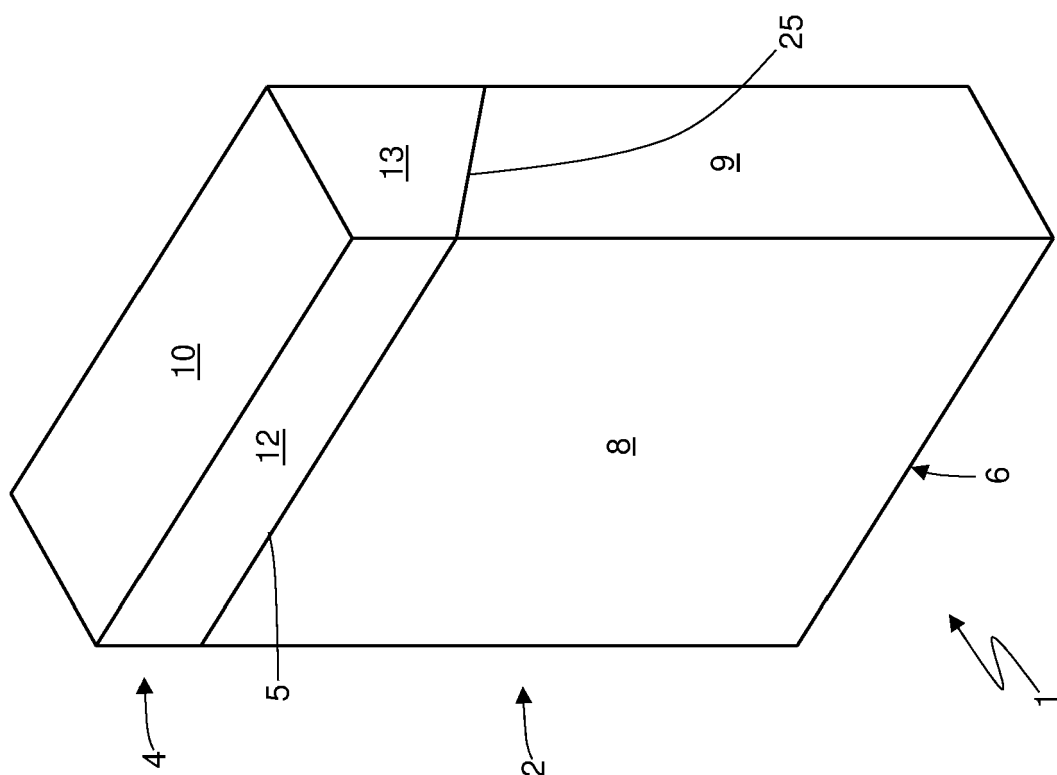


Fig. 4

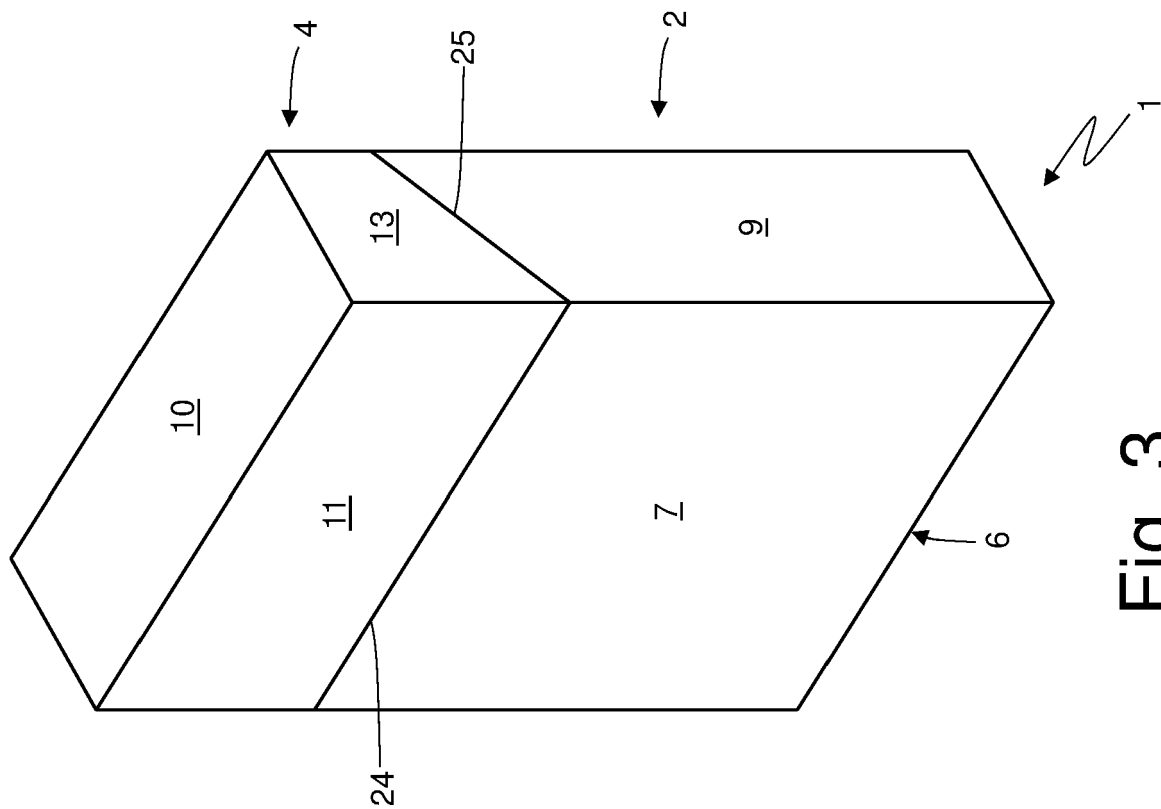


Fig. 3

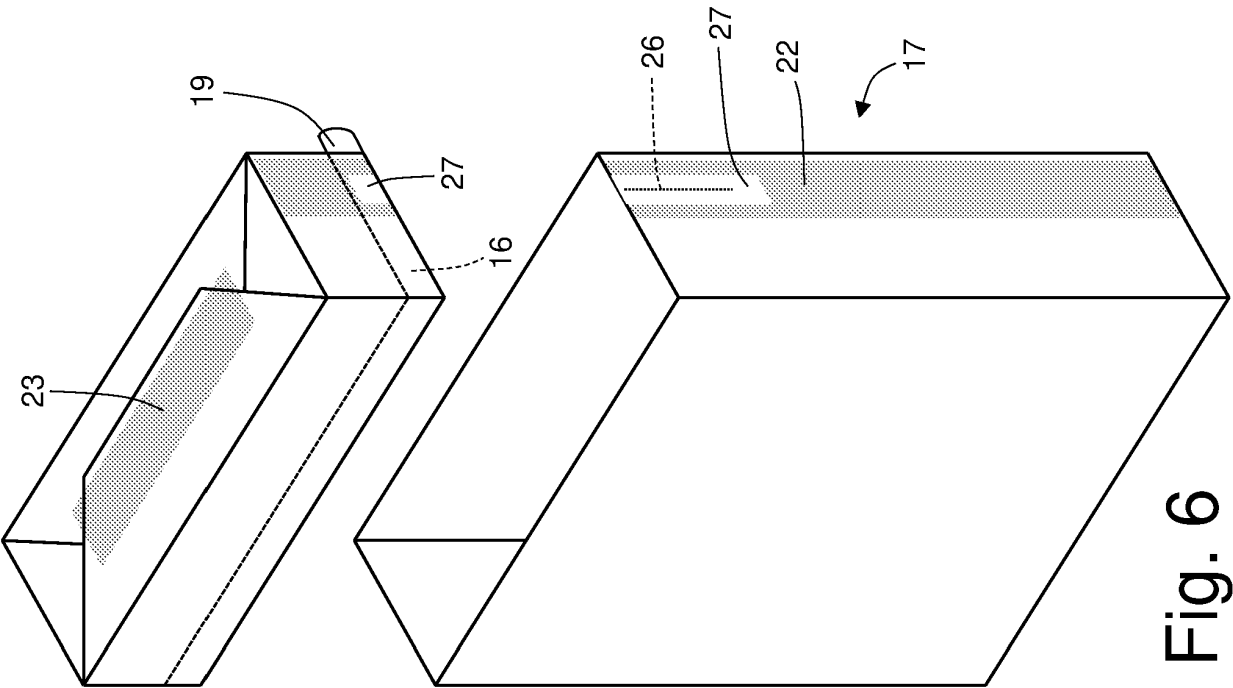


Fig. 6

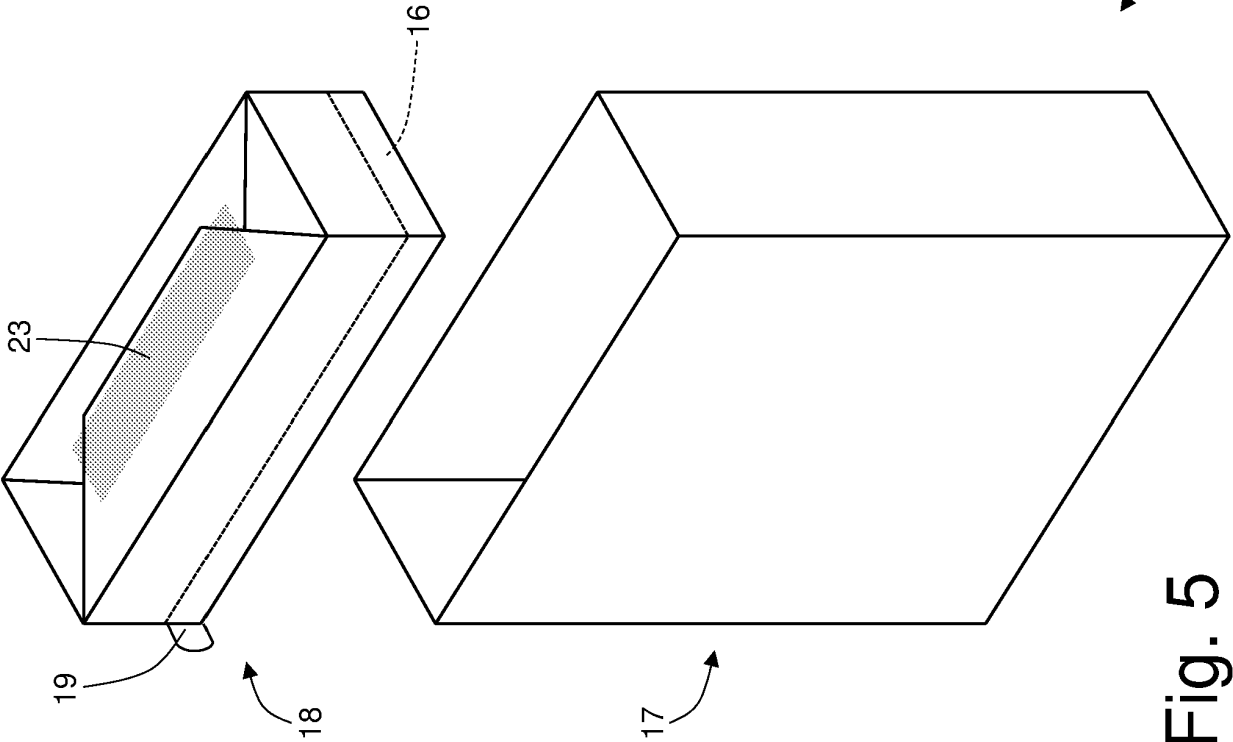


Fig. 5

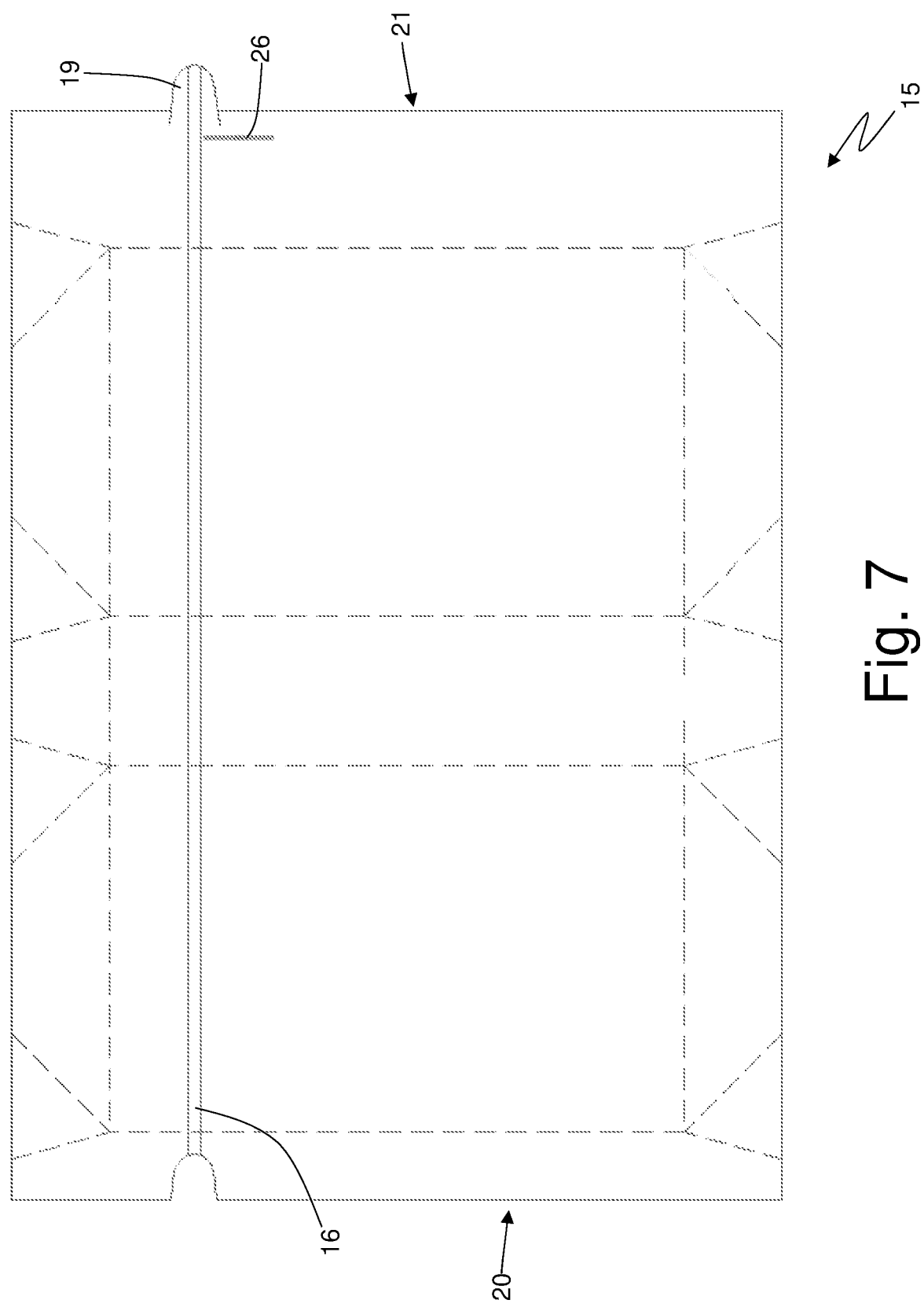


Fig. 7

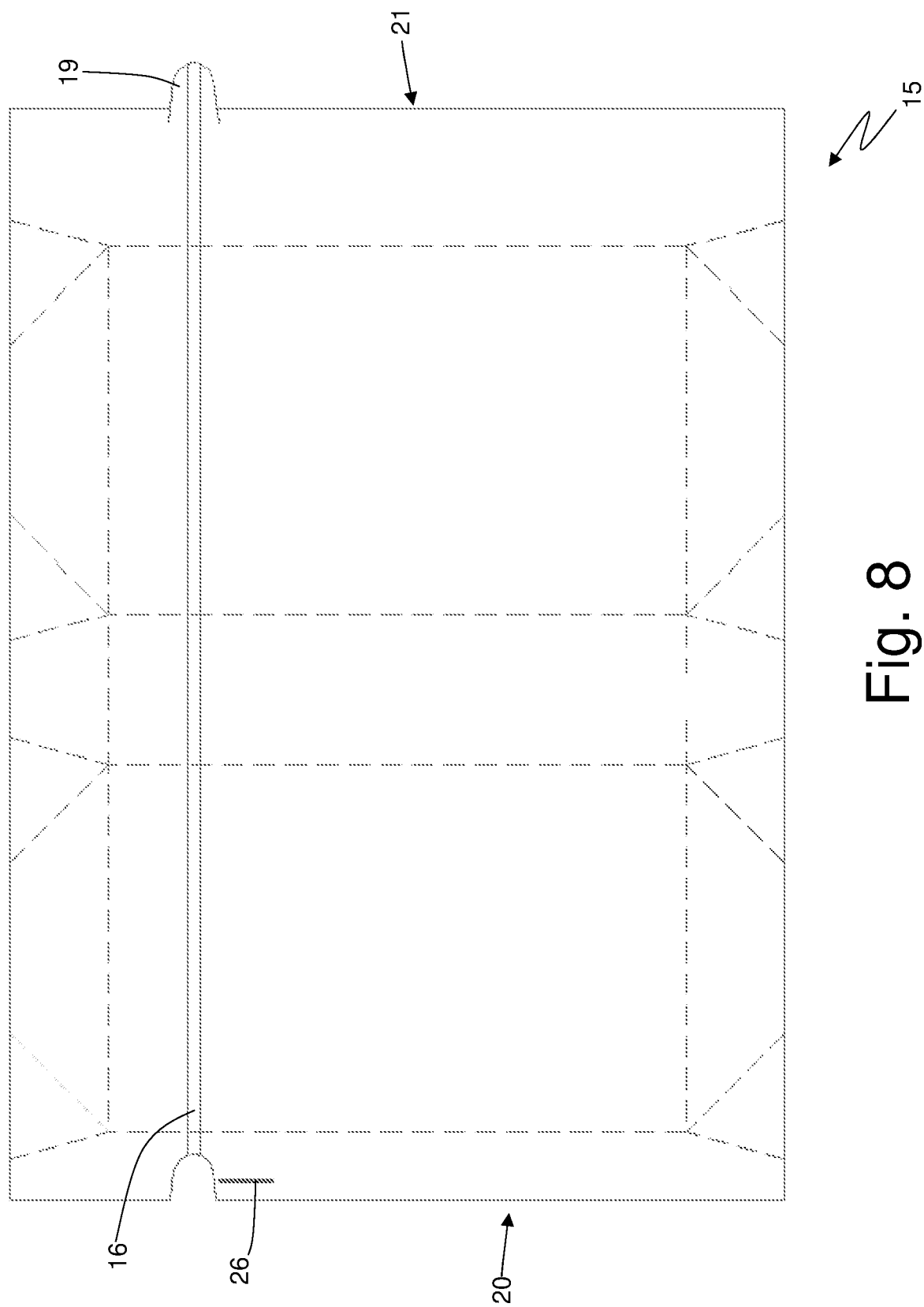
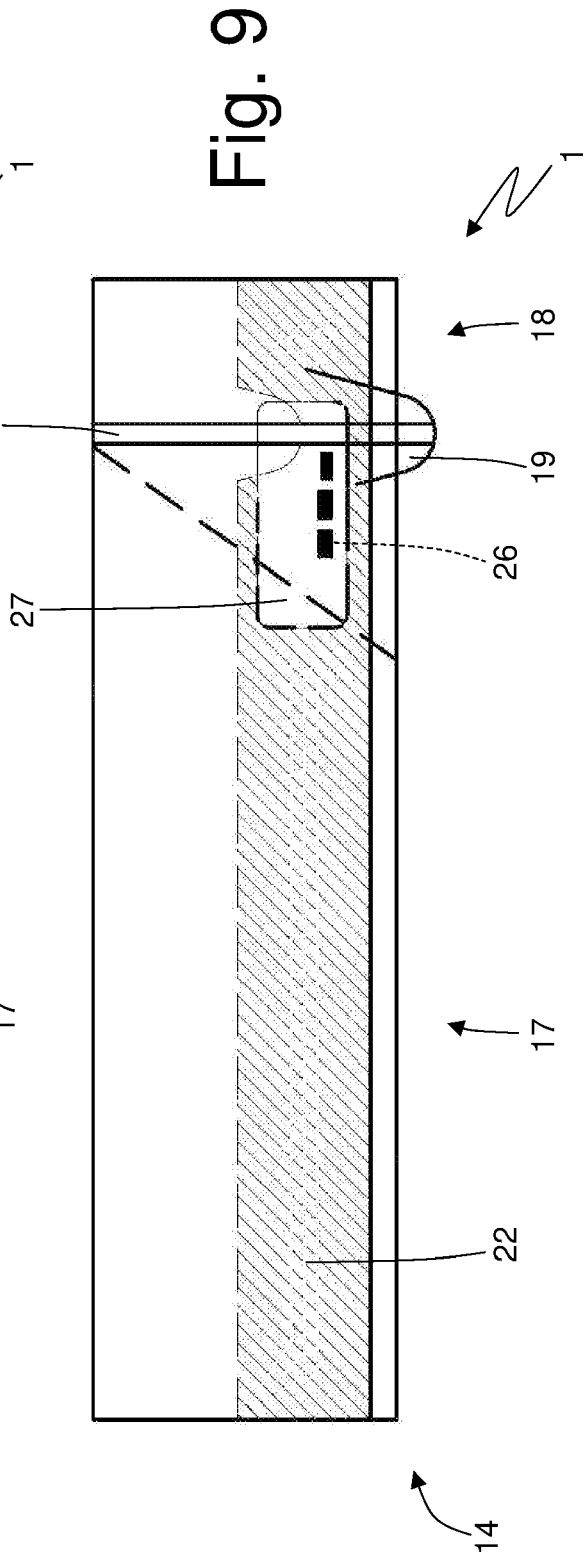
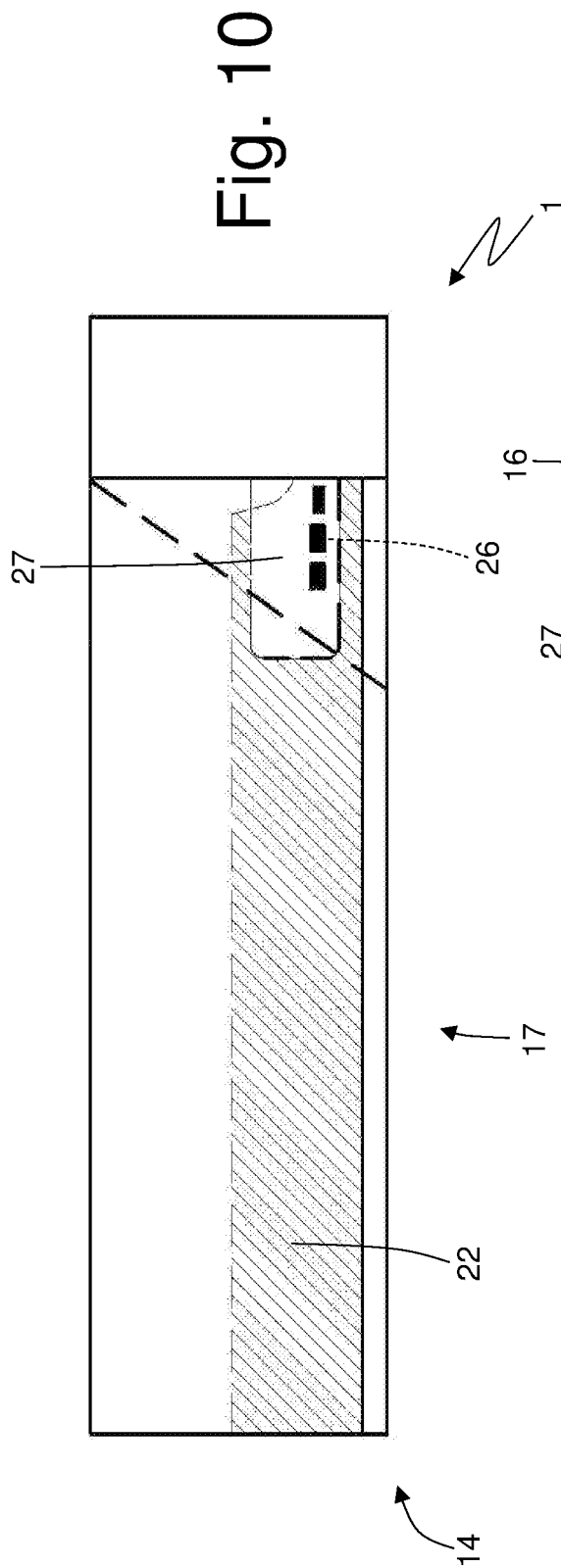


Fig. 8



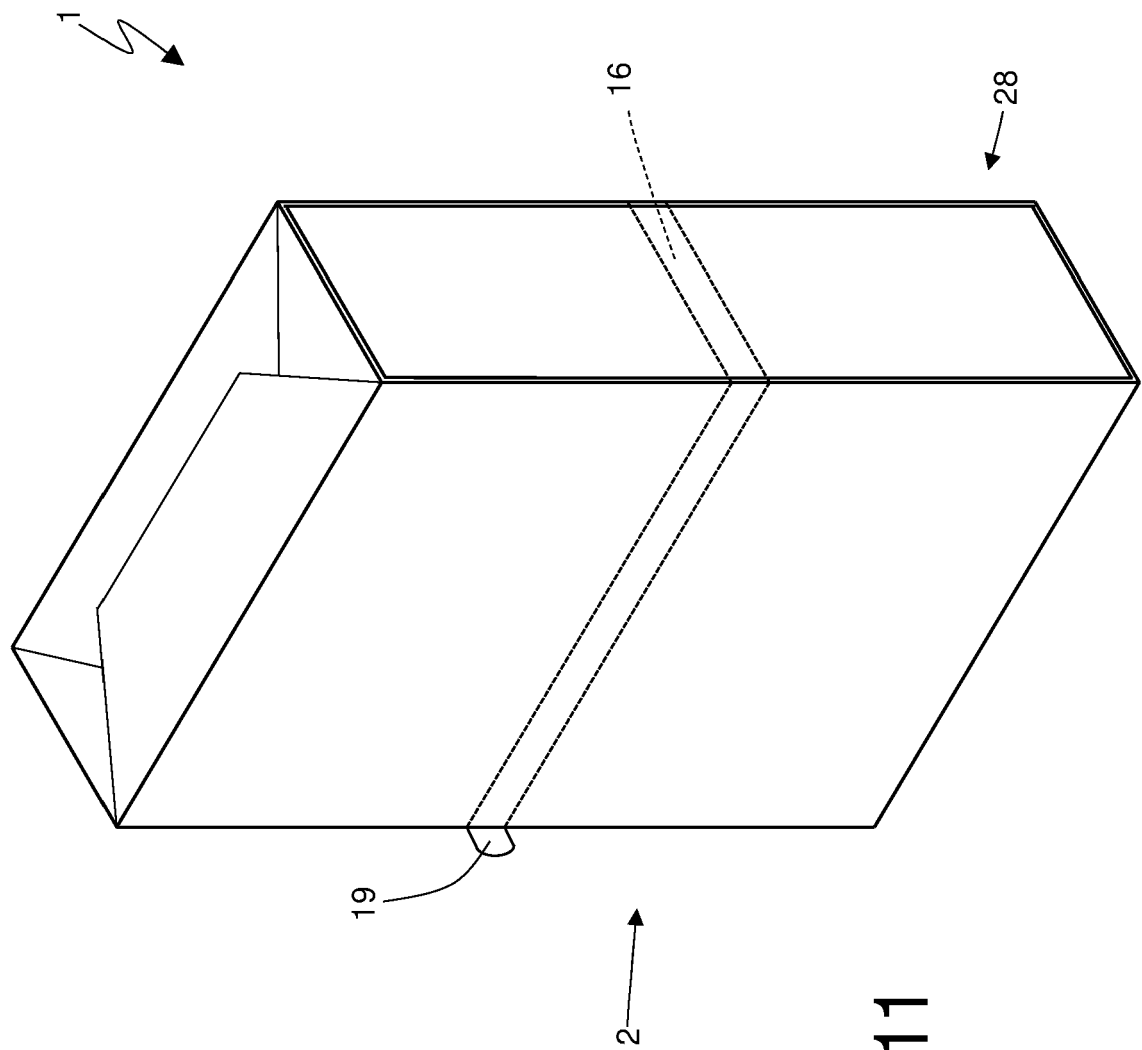


Fig. 11

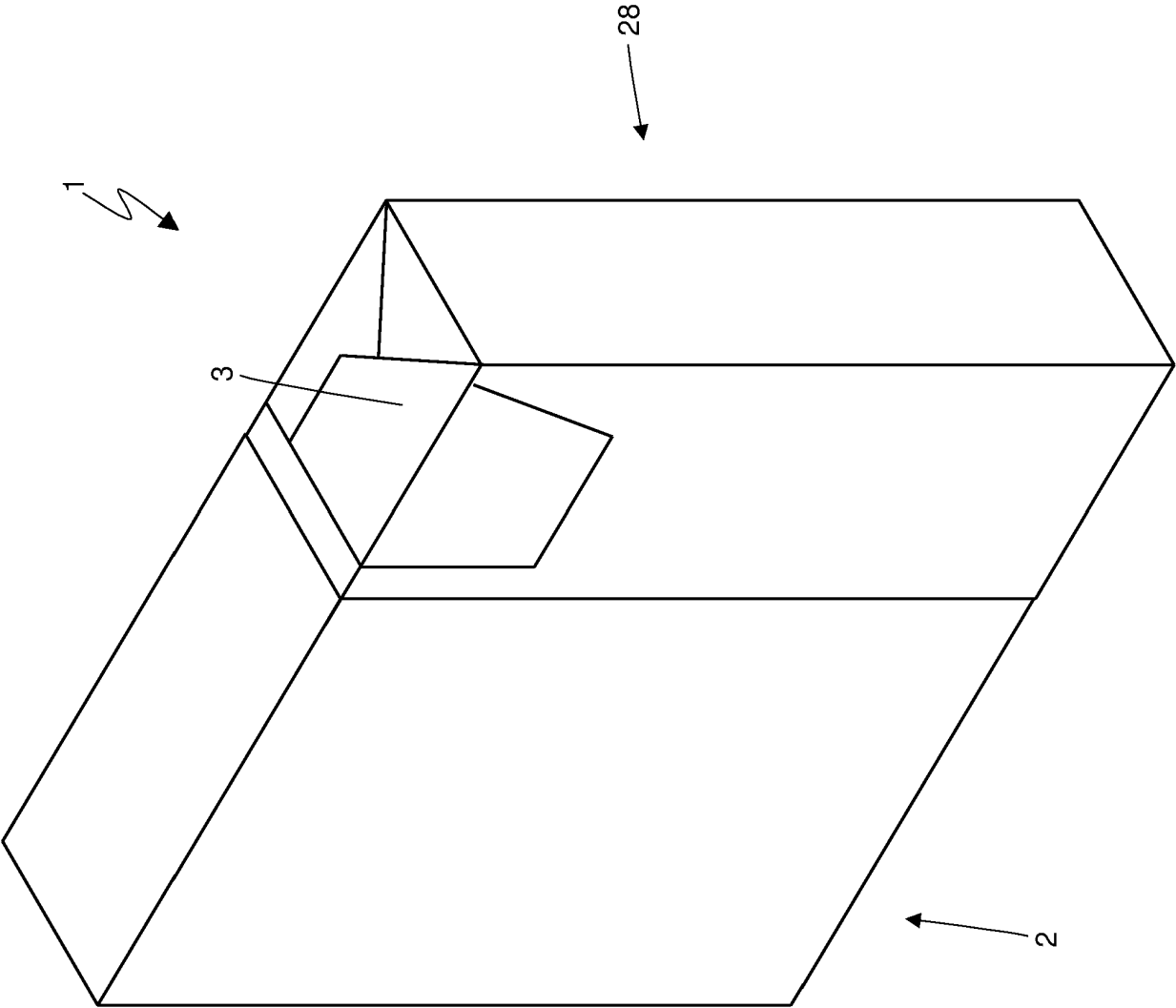
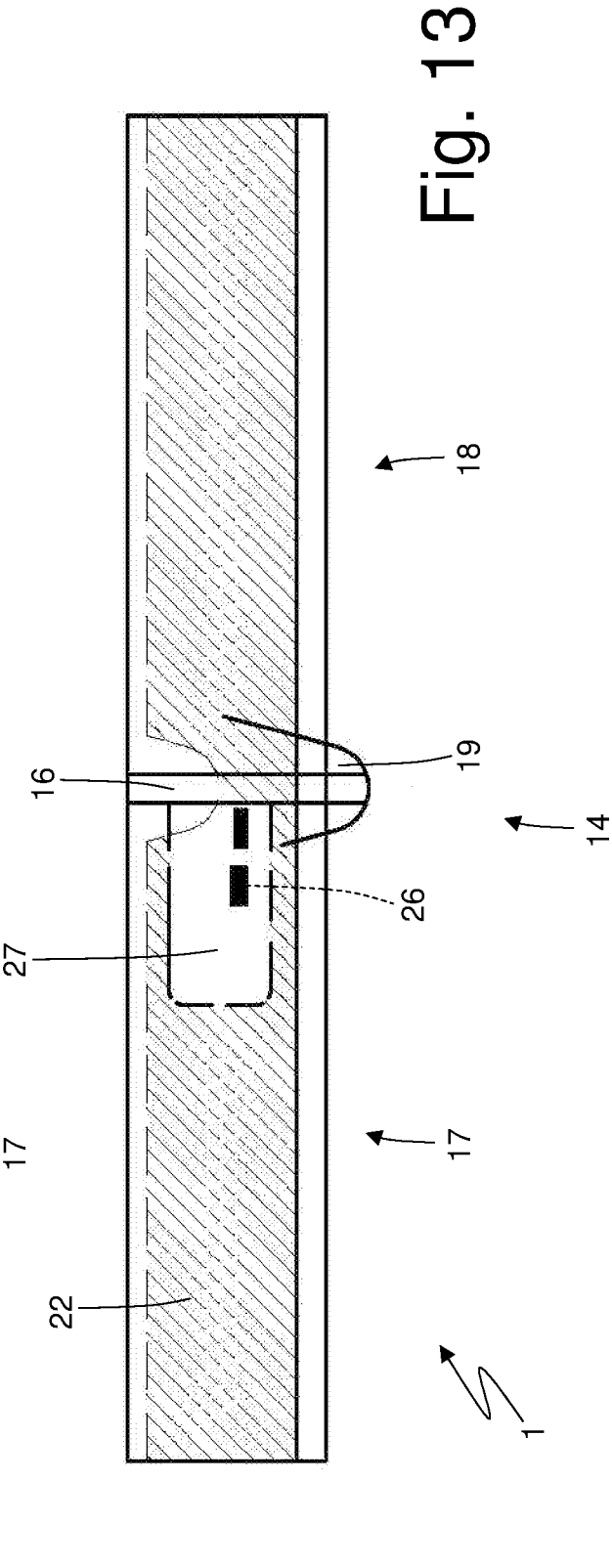
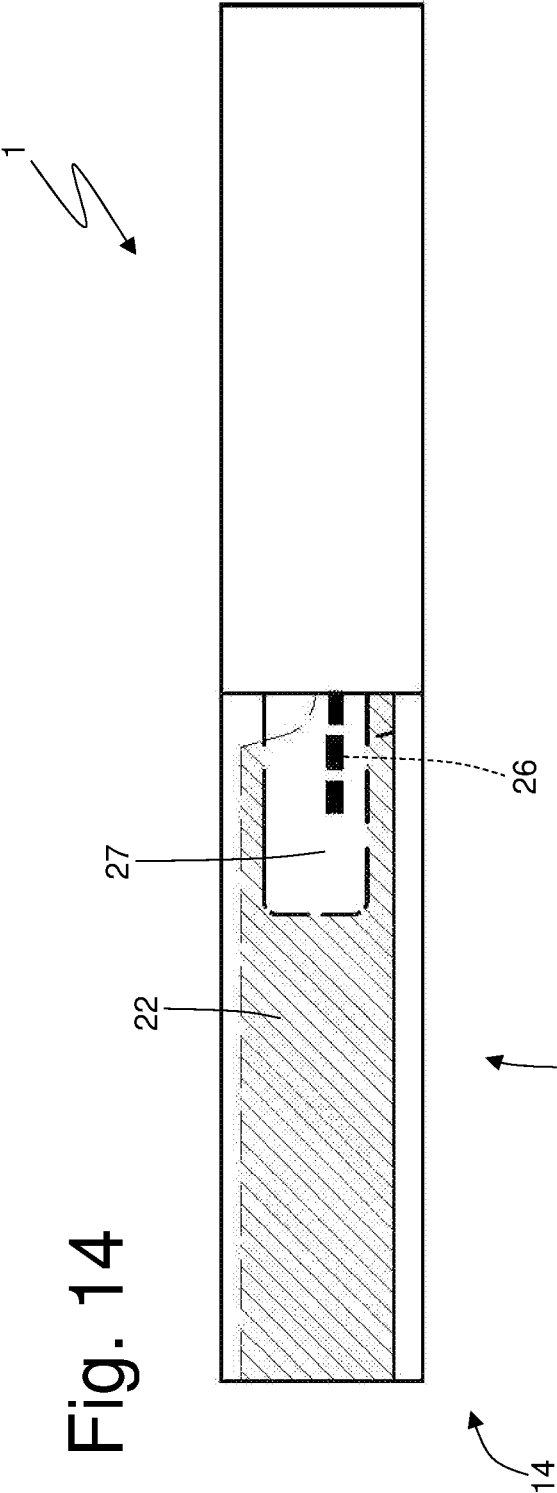


Fig. 12



REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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