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Gathered nonwoven elastic web.

A process for producing a gathered nonwoven elastic web including a nonwoven elastic web joined to a fibrous nonwoven gathered web is disclosed. The process includes the steps of (a) providing a nonwoven elastic web (22) having a relaxed unbiased length and a stretched, biased length; (b) stretching (34) the nonwoven elastic to its stretched, biased length; (c) forming a fibrous nonwoven gatherable web (50) directly upon a surface of the nonwoven elastic web while maintaining the nonwoven elastic web at its stretched, biased length; (d) forming a composite nonwoven elastic web (52) by joining the fibrous nonwoven elastic web to the nonwoven elastic web while continuing to maintain the nonwoven elastic web at its stretched length; and (e) relaxing the nonwoven elastic web to its relaxed length to gather the fibrous nonwoven gatherable web. In some embodiments, joining of the fibrous nonwoven gatherable web to the nonwoven elastic web may be separable so that the gathered nonwoven web may be separated from the elastic nonwoven web after the gathering step.

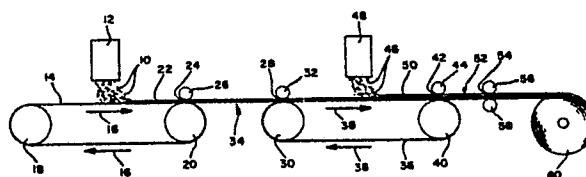


FIG. 1

EP 0 212 284 A3



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	US-A-2 957 512 (WADE) * Column 6; claim 1 * ---	1,3,21	D 04 H 1/56 D 04 H 13/00
A	US-A-4 100 324 (KIMBERLY-CLARK) * Abstract; column 4, line 34; claim 1; column 10; example I * ---	2,5,16, 18,20	
A	WO-A-8 000 676 (H.B. FULLER) * Abstract; claim 1 * -----	3,21,32	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			D 04 H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 29-08-1989	Examiner DURAND F.C.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			