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(56) Documents cited  
**GB 1473129 A** **US 4285681 A**

(58) Field of search  
 UK CL (Edition J) **B8K KAC KX KXX**  
 INT CL<sup>4</sup> **B65D**

(54) **Strip of bags for use as socks**

(57) In a strip of tubular articles (1) Fig 1 of a flexible material, detachably connected end to end at (5) each article (4) when detached has an open end, the other end being closed along a seam (7) Fig 2 which extends non-linearly across the width of the article (4) or linearly at an oblique angle to the length of the strip (1). The articles may be used as socks when trying on shoes.

Fig. 1.

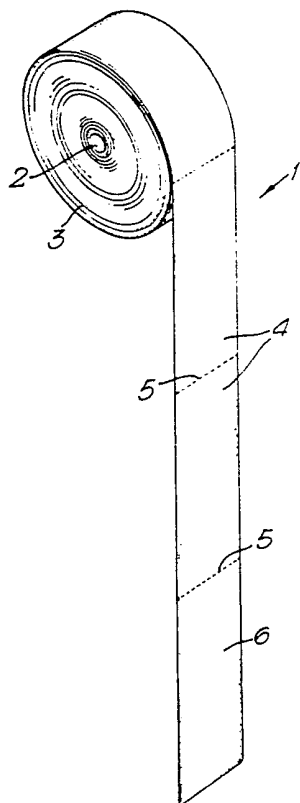


Fig. 2.

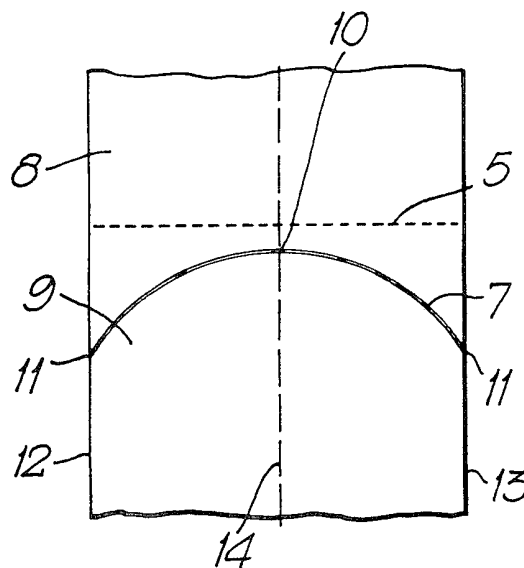


Fig. 1.

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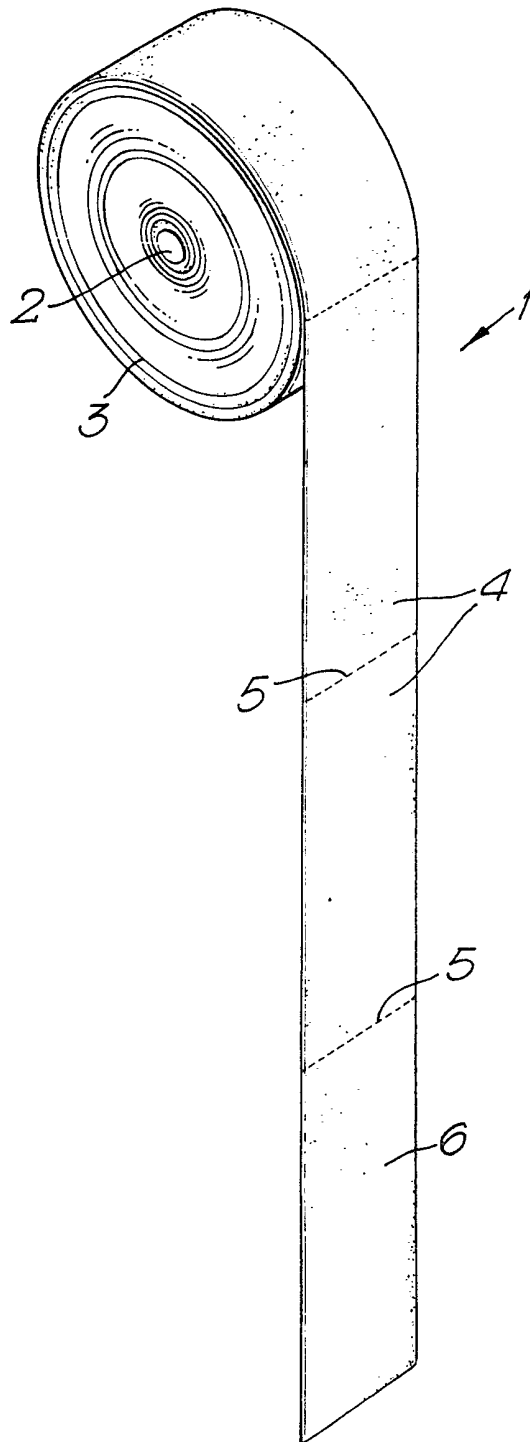


Fig. 2.

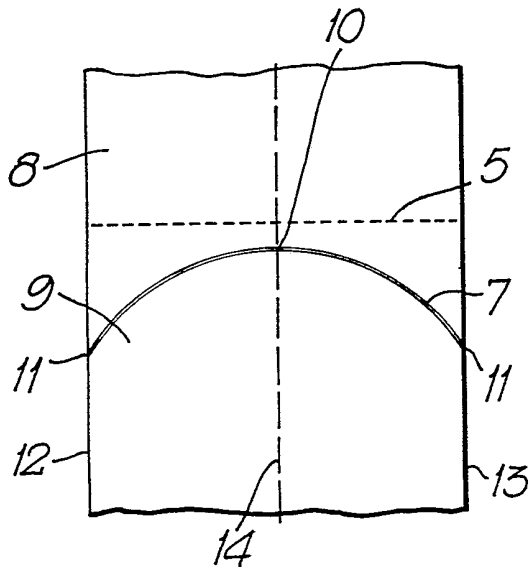


Fig. 3.

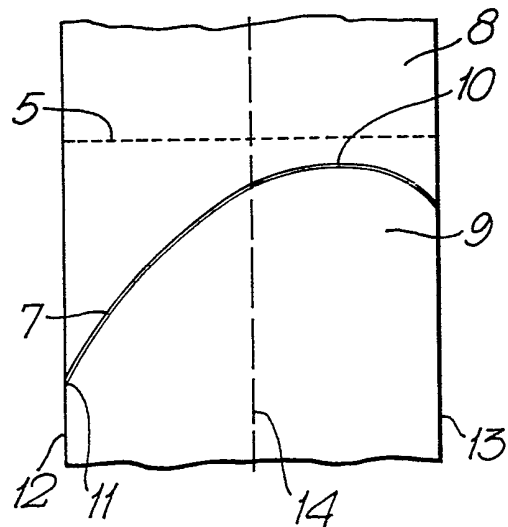
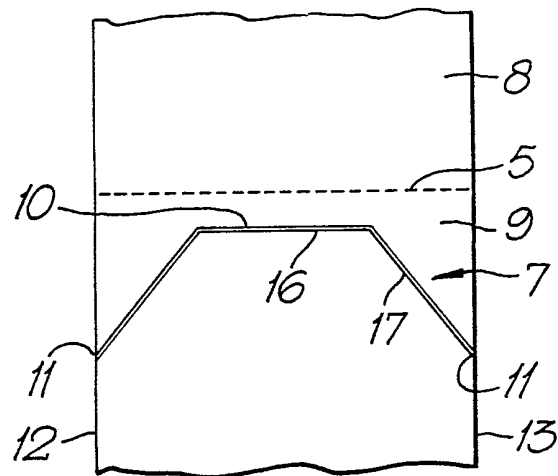


Fig. 4.



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TUBULAR ARTICLES

This invention relates to tubular articles and in particular a strip of detachably connected tubular articles.

10 Previously, in shoe retailing outlets, a customer wishing to try on shoes would have been given a communally used sock to wear while trying the shoes on. This communal sock would probably already have been used by a large number of previous customers and this is  
15 obviously very un-hygienic, as any customer with a foot infection using the sock could infect subsequent customers.

In accordance with the present invention I provide a strip of tubular articles of a flexible material,  
20 detachably connected end to end, each article when detached having an open end, the other end being closed along a seam which extends non-linearly across the width of the article or linearly at an oblique angle to the length of the strip.

25 In the preferred embodiment the detachable connection comprises a series of perforations and the flexible material is typically a thermoplastic material, for example a nylon mesh material. Hence, the series of perforations may be formed by applying heat to the  
30 thermoplastic material. In general the articles will be connected in a region spaced from the seam although in some cases the seam itself could provide the detachable connection (e.g. be perforated).

The seam is preferably formed by heat sealing if the  
35 flexible material is thermoplastic, although the seam may be stitched whether the flexible material is thermoplastic or not. Typically the non-linear seam

comprises three linear seam portions or has a curved form so that it conforms to the toes of a human foot. However, a linear seam extending obliquely across the strip is also possible.

5 Typically each article of the strip of tubular articles is a sock adapted to fit on a foot, the seam being shaped to conform to a foot, and where the strip of socks is designed for use in a shoe retailing outlet, the strip of socks is preferably rolled onto a holder and  
10 held inside a container. Preferably the socks are disposable and used only once.

Three examples of a strip of tubular articles in accordance with the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in  
15 which:-

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a strip of tubular articles of a flexible material;

Figure 2 is a detailed schematic diagram of a first example of a strip of tubular articles;

20 Figure 3 is a detailed schematic diagram of a second example of a strip of tubular articles; and,

Figure 4 is a detailed schematic diagram of a third example of a strip of tubular articles.

The apparatus shown in Figure 1 comprises a strip of  
25 tubular socks designed to be worn on the foot, designated generally by reference numeral 1, and wrapped onto a holder 2 to form a roll 3.

Each sock 4 on the strip 1 is detachably connected at each end to another sock 4 by a series of perforations  
30 5. The first sock 6 to be detached is connected at one end only by a series of perforations 5 to a second sock 4.

The perforations are formed by heating the sock material which is thermoplastic, for example a fine nylon  
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mesh, so that a person may detach a sock by pulling it with his or her hands.

Examples of non-linear seams for the closed end of the socks 4 are shown in figures 2 to 4. These show  
5 sections of two socks 8,9 with a series of perforations 5 separating them. A seam 7 closes one end of sock 9 and is formed preferably by heat sealing the material but may be stitched. The seam 7 extends non-linearly across the width of the sock and is preferably shaped to conform  
10 to the toes of a person's foot.

In Figure 2 seam 7 forms an arch shape with the closest point 10 to the perforations 5 being located on the central axis 14. The seam 7 curves away from the central axis 14 on both sides and from the perforations 5  
15 until it meets the edges 12,13 of the sock material at the points 11.

In the embodiment of Figure 3 seam 7 again forms an arch shape, but in this case the closest point 10 to the perforations 5 is offset from the central axis 14 so that  
20 it lies between the central axis 14 and the edge 13 of the sock material. In this example ends of the seam 7 are relatively offset along the length of the strip.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 4 the non-linear seam 7 is composed of three linear seam portions  
25 15,16,17. Linear seam portion 16 runs parallel to and is closest to the perforations 5 and is located centrally on the sock 9. The linear seam portions 15,17 extend from each end of the linear seam 16 to the edges 12,13 of the sock 9. The seam portions 15,17 are not parallel with  
30 either the seam portion 16 or the edges 12,13 and extend away from the perforations 5. Hence, the furthest points 11 of the non-linear seam 7 from the perforation 5 occurs where linear seam 15 meets edge 12 and linear seam 17 meets edge 13 of the sock 9.

Typically the roll 3 of socks would be used in a shoe retailing outlet. When a customer wished to try on a shoe he or she would detach a sock 6 from the roll 3 and put it on his or her foot before trying the shoe on.  
5 Preferably the sock would be disposable and used only by a single customer.

Typically the roll 3 of socks 4 would be mounted in a container so that only the first sock 6 protruded from the container.

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CLAIMS

1. A strip of tubular articles of a flexible material,  
5 detachably connected end to end, each article when detached having an open end, the other end being closed along a seam which extends non-linearly across the width of the article or linearly at an oblique angle to the length of the strip.
- 10 2. A strip of tubular articles according to claim 1, wherein the detachable connection comprises a series of perforations.
3. A strip of tubular articles according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the non-linear seam is stitched.
- 15 4. A strip of tubular articles according to any preceding claim, wherein the flexible material is a thermoplastic material.
5. A strip of tubular articles according to claim 4 wherein the thermoplastic material is a nylon mesh.
- 20 6. A strip of tubular articles according to claim 4 or claim 5 when dependant on claim 2, wherein the series of perforations have been formed by heating the thermoplastic material.
7. A strip of tubular articles according to any of  
25 claims 4 to 6, wherein the non-linear seam is formed by applying heat to the thermoplastic material.
8. A strip of tubular articles according to any preceding claim, wherein the non-linear seam comprises three linear seam portions.
- 30 9. A strip of tubular articles according to any of claims 1 to 7 wherein the non-linear seam has a curved form.
10. A strip of tubular articles according to any preceding claim wherein each article is a sock adapted to  
35 fit on a foot.



11. A strip of tubular articles according to any preceding claim, further comprising a holder onto which the strip of tubular articles is rolled.

12. A strip of tubular articles substantially as  
5 hereinbefore described with reference to any of the accompanying drawings.

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