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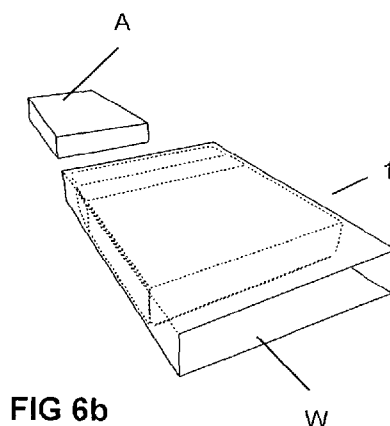


FIG 6b

(57) Abstract: A container blank (1) for forming a wrapped container into which one or more articles (A) can be placed to form a shipping pack includes a sheet of wrapping material (W) applied thereto. The container blank is folded into a flattened configuration with open end walls and around which the wrapping material is disposed to form an enveloping sleeve around the flattened container. The container is erected to receive one or more articles by moving the side walls around their respective fold lines from the flattened position to an upright position. Once the or each article is in place, end walls are folded inwardly and tucked into position before the wrapping material is folded and secured over the sides. A method of forming a shipping pack having at least one article therein is also disclosed.



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RECYCLABLE CONTAINER BLANK FORMABLE INTO A GIFT WRAPPED SHIPPING PACK

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a container blank formable into a gift wrapped shipping pack for dispatching gifts, clothing, promotional items and the like. The invention also relates to the dispatching of single and multiple flat articles, such as books or video cassettes and discs such as CDs and DVDs. The invention further relates to a shipping pack (that is, including packaged articles) formed using the container blank of the invention. The invention yet further relates to the method used to shape the blank into a shipping pack for constraining at least one article therein for dispatch or storage.

The invention particularly relates to the configuration of a container blank made of card, cardboard, paperboard, laminate or similar material, including a decorative outer covering to simulate individual parcel gift wrapping. Additionally, the invention relates to a method of manipulating the blank firstly to form an shipping pack ready to receive one or more articles for dispatch or storage and subsequently to seal the shipping pack with the article constrained therein. The invention is described herein below with reference to flat articles such as those exemplified above, however it should be appreciated that no such limitation exists.

It will be appreciated by the skilled addressee that the invention, although directed towards the packaging of one or more substantially flat articles and pre-packaged articles in boxes, may be applied to any three-dimensional object locatable within the container and is not limited to similarly shaped articles such as books and

DVDs.

Background to the Invention

Increasingly, customers are eschewing the time-consuming routine of travelling to purchase their shopping and/or personal and business requisites. It is now common for purchases to be made by mail order, telephone and via the Internet and email. As a consequence, for goods to be received there is a marked increase in the use of postal and courier services to deliver the purchases.

The further involvement of postal services and other delivery systems is different from the traditional mode of shopping where the customer travels to purchase articles over the counter and returns using public or their own transport means. In this scenario, packing or packaging is done at the counter or before the customer leaves, after which responsibility for damage no longer resides with the seller. As most postal and courier services either limit their liability for damage to articles delivered by them or charge significant premiums for insurance against such damage, it falls to the retailer, warehouseman or company dispatching the purchase to ensure there is minimal risk of damage during transit to the customer. The term "postal" as used herein is intended as a convenient expression of all local, national and international dispatch and courier services, including drop-shipping services.

With the increased popularity of Internet shopping and the dispatch of ordered articles via the postal system the requirement for packaging has increased manyfold. The popularity of such websites as Amazon™ and eBay™ have increased the postal traffic of books, CDs, CDRoms and DVDs amongst others. Due to the vast turnover of dispatched articles and the inherent risks associated with the bulk handling of goods, there is a market requirement for sturdy containers. Additionally, as the volume of mail order catalogue business increases so to does the volume of returns. This has a severe consequence on the profitability of the mail order transaction and, where the returned article is damaged, the customer must bear responsibility for the damage. This condition of sale often has repercussions for customer relationships.

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In other words, a fundamental requirement of any method of goods transportation is that the goods are not damaged during transport so that they reach their destinations in a non-damaged state.

It has been found in practice, that the packaging of articles such as books, records, and similar articles having at least one surface with a relatively large surface area in relation to depth or thickness of the article has presented, in terms of packaging, a significant ongoing problem. This problem manifests itself particularly in situations where the articles are packaged on a production line basis using a packaging method involving the folding of a card or like blank into a container for receiving an article to be packed.

Containers formed from blanks made of card and cardboard and other materials suitable for dispatch through the postal services are well known in the prior art. Generally, the containers are formed from a relatively simple blank having side walls separated by fold lines and one or more base and lid portions connected to one or more of the side walls by corresponding fold lines. To construct the container, an end tab of one side wall is secured to an edge portion of another side wall and the or each base portion is folded and secured to form an open-mouthed container. When the or each article to be dispatched has been placed within the container, the or each lid portion is folded and secured. The means of securing the portions to form the container is normally selected from gluing, stapling or applying adhesive tape.

In many cases, the resultant containers or shipping packs are not aesthetically pleasing and whilst printing the container on its external surfaces may achieve certain aesthetic effect, it is not considered a viable solution economically.

The prior art provides a number of solutions to the above problem of which the provision of a sheet of film or wrapping material (which may have a decoration or ornamentation of choice) is the focus of the present application. United States Patent No. 5,065,935 to MANCEL discloses a blank adapted to form a box having a pair of lid panels which join along a mid portion to form a completed box. Central, side and lid panels each have corresponding end flaps which provide a

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convoluted peripheral edge profile. In the pre-wrapped embodiment of this disclosure, wrapping paper is located over the outer surfaces of the panels and end flaps and wrapped around the peripheral edges thereof to conform with the profile of the blank. The wrapped around regions of the wrapping paper are adhered to the inner surface of the box blank. The side walls present a pair of opposed end flaps which include transverse slots to provide interlocking engagement when the box is assembled. Additional prior art, as exemplified by US Patent No. 3,257,068 to WRIGHT, US Patent No. 4,005,814 to FOSTER, US Patent No. 3,790,069 to STRACCAMORE and International Patent Application Publication No. WO95/31328 to SAVAGE, each have convoluted edge profiles which include end flaps adapted either to interengage (such as the hook and receiver portions of WRIGHT) or which include locking tabs adapted to engage corresponding slots on an opposed end flap. In FOSTER, a pair of trapezoidal end flaps are associated with "top panel portions", each of the end flaps including a protruding tab portion which combine when the top panel portions are brought together to form closure tabs adapted to engage corresponding slits in the bottom end flaps. In SAVAGE, there is provided a pair of major end flaps and minor end flaps at each end of the container blank. One of each of major end flaps is provided with a pair of extension tabs formed to engage with corresponding mating tab slots on the remaining ones of each of said major end flaps.

As will be appreciated by the skilled addressee, the convoluted edge profiles of the blanks and the interlocking arrangements of end flaps provides well-appreciated disadvantages with respect particularly to registration and throughput speed during forming of the blanks. These disadvantages are further complicated by the addition of the wrapping material which is discussed in more detail below.

Again with reference to SAVAGE, the forming of a flattened tube structure, as the preferred form of delivery to market, is often achieved using a lap joint created by gluing a tab provided on the distal edge of one major planar surface to the inside surface of a side wall panel, for example. In SAVAGE the wrapping paper is offset along the central longitudinal axis of the blank and secured thereto at tacking points (which themselves require registration). Where the wrapping material edges meet to envelop the container, a length of adhesive tape may be

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pre-applied to the respective edge. It is noted also that a length of pre-applied tape may be applied adjacent preformed fold lines adapted to create an apex of wrapping material at the ends of the container. STRACCAMORE also discloses the use of a lap joint to secure (and form) a side wall panel and additionally fixes one end of the wrapping material within the lap joint. Strips of adhesive having release papers thereon are provided along the edges of the wrapping material to coincide with the end flaps into which corresponding locking tabs are slotted. FOSTER illustrates the application of a thin, flexible decorative overwrap which is adhered to the outer surface of a carton blank to form a single unitized structure. Specifically, the overwrap is adhered to the free edges of the partial top panels and the free edges of the partial top end flaps. Other areas may be adhered but the overwrap must not be adhered to the bottom end flaps or the side end flaps. There is discussion of printing a patch of pressure-sensitive adhesive to the outer surface of the overwrap material but the document does not reveal how a single piece of release paper covers an area of adhesive that is formed when the top panel portions are brought together during the formation of a flattened carton from a container blank.

As notes above, there are several disadvantages associated with the prior art which limit significantly the speed at which the container blanks and subsequently a flattened wrapped container may be formed. It will also be evident from the prior art that automated filling and sealing of the wrapped container is not readily enabled.

Often at a retail outlet a wrapping service is provided for gift items. This service is often provided for free but puts an additional workforce load on the outlet owner. By providing shoppers with a range of pre-wrapped gift containers in flattened form, the onus of gift wrapping can be transferred back to the purchaser.

Gift wrapping is also now offered by many online stores and in some cases a premium is charged. It will be appreciated that a quality wrapped shipping pack which can be formed, filled and sealed with ease provides numerous labour and cost advantages.

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There are a number of reasons to gift wrap an item, the most common being to imbue on the recipient a sense of expectation and delight or to distinguish a gift from other deliveries. Gift wrapping can also be used to disguise the contents of the shipping pack.

Where a high volume of articles are dispatched from a single site and the dimensions of the articles often differ significantly not only in their dimensions but also in rigidity, handling is a well-appreciated problem. Where one or more articles are to be wrapped, the challenges in successively and efficiently handling the articles increases.

There has been an increasing awareness for the need for packaging to be easily recyclable and, although the general public are increasingly involved in the separation of recyclable and non-recyclable waste, where there is separation of materials required it is perceived as being simpler simply to discard the entire packaging for processing as non-recyclable waste. More recently, packaging legislation has pushed packaging manufacturers towards simpler and less obtrusive packaging use to cut down the volume of packaging material that is used for individual containers.

It is an object of the present invention to seek to alleviate some of the perceived disadvantages of known shipping packs and to provide packaging that is wholly recyclable and provides an aesthetically pleasing shipping pack which is easily adaptable to constrain articles of differing dimensions.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide a method for the manipulation of a container blank to form a gift wrapped shipping pack for dispatching gifts, books, clothing, promotional items and the like.

Summary of the Invention

In its primary aspect, the present invention provides a container blank, so sized and shaped as to form a closable container adapted to receive one or more articles therein, the container having attached thereto a film or sheet of wrapping material adapted to envelop the container, in which the container blank comprises:

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a first major surface to which there is attached an adhesive-bearing side wall portion and, at the opposite side of the first major surface, a second side wall portion; and

a second major surface is attached at one side to the second wall portion and at the opposite side to a fixing tab adapted for adhering to the first side wall portion,

wherein the first side wall portion has a length of wrapping material secured thereto, the wrapping material being so sized and shaped as to envelop a container formed from the container blank and adapted to constrain one or more articles therein to present a wrapped shipping pack.

Advantageously, the major surfaces define a base region and a top region to which there are attached, via fold lines, a common side wall and, attached to one of said major surfaces, an adhesive-bearing side wall portion having an adhesive strip on an outer surface thereof, there being secured to one section of said strip a leading edge of a sheet of wrapping material, leaving the remaining section of the strip available for attaching a trailing edge of said sheet of wrapping material.

Preferably, the fixing tab is adhered to an inner surface of the adhesive-bearing side wall portion to form a container sleeve about which the wrapping material is fixed by securing the trailing edge of the wrapping material to the remaining section of said adhesive strip.

Conveniently, the second major surface includes end wall elements attached thereto along fold lines, each element including a "tuck-in" portion, for defining an article receiving mouth and facilitating closure by a user.

In a preferred arrangement, the container blank is presented for use in a flattened configuration in which the fixing tab is secured to the underside of the first side wall and a leading edge of the wrapping material is secured at one edge to the adhesive-bearing first side wall, the material overlying the major surfaces of the flattened container, and secured at its trailing edge again to the first side wall,

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thereby forming an enveloping sleeve around the flattened container.

The container is erected to receive one or more articles by moving the side walls around their respective fold lines from a flattened position into an upright position.

To receive an article, one end wall element is folded inwardly and its tuck-in portion aligned with its opposing major surface to form an open-mouthed container. Once the or each article is placed within the container, the open end wall element is folded inwardly and its tuck-in flap correspondingly positioned. The wrapping material which protrudes from the ends of the container in a sleeve-like configuration may then be closed and sealed to form a wrapped shipping pack.

Conveniently, the outer surface of the fixing tab bears a strip of adhesive to secure the tab to an underside of the first end wall portion.

Advantageously, the fixing tab and the underside of the first end wall portion include a cohesive region, the cohesive region having an adhesive adapted to adhere only to surfaces having like adhesive thereon.

The constructions of the invention obviate the need for locking end wall tabs common to the prior art arrangements and presents a simplified edge profile facilitating better handling and forming speeds.

The present invention further provides a method of forming a container from a container blank of the type having attached thereto a film or sheet of wrapping material adapted to envelop the container, the method including:

forming a container blank having a pair of major surfaces to define a base region and a top region, to which there is attached, via fold lines, a common side wall and to one of said major surfaces, an adhesive-bearing side wall portion;

securing to a first section of an adhesive strip on said adhesive-bearing side wall portion a leading edge of a sheet of wrapping paper;

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adhering a fixing tab associated with the other one of said major surfaces to the underside of the adhesive-bearing side wall portion to form a container sleeve; and;

wrapping the wrapping material around the container sleeve thus formed and securing the trailing edge thereof to the remaining section of the adhesive strip on the adhesive-bearing side wall portion to envelop the container sleeve.

Ideally, the leading edge of the wrapping material sheet is secured to half of the adhesive strip and the trailing edge is secured to the remaining half.

Preferably, the method includes erecting the container to receive one or more articles by moving the side walls around their respective fold lines from a flattened position into an upright position.

The method further includes folding inwardly a first end wall element and tucking a “tuck-in” portion thereof into alignment with its opposing major surface to form an open-mouthed container.

Conveniently, the method includes forming a shipping pack for one or more articles by placing the or each article into the open mouth of the container.

The method of the invention facilitates improved handling and forming speeds and allows for rapid machine processing. By obviating the locking end wall tabs common to the prior art arrangements and presenting a simplified edge profile, forming, filling and sealing of wrapped shipping packs is enabled.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will now be described more particularly with reference to the accompanying drawings which show, by way of example only, one embodiment of recyclable container blank formable into a gift wrapped shipping pack and method of forming a wrapped shipping pack from a container blank in accordance with the invention. In the drawings:

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Figure 1 is a top plan view of a container blank for forming a wrapped shipping pack;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the blank of Figure 1 formed into an open ended and flattened container suitable for shipping to dispatch centres;

Figures 3a and 3b are a perspective view and a side elevation of the flattened container of Figure 2 onto which one edge of a length of wrapping material has been adhered to a side wall, respectively;

Figures 4a and 4b are a perspective view and a side elevation similar to those shown in Figures 3a and 3b respectively, in which the wrapping material envelops the flattened container and the trailing edge of the wrapping material is adhered to the side wall;

Figures 5a and 5b are a perspective view and a side elevation of an erected container having open end walls and wrapping material around the material forming an enveloping sleeve;

Figures 6a to 6c are perspective views similar to that shown in Figure 5a in which a first side wall is folded and tucked into position to form an open mouthed container into which an article is placed and the corresponding end wall element is folded inwardly and tucked into the now completed container, respectively; and

Figure 7a and 7b are perspective views illustrating the folding of the wrapping material to overlie the end walls for sealing so as to present a wrapped shipping pack.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

In the description that follows, the terms “side walls” and “end walls” are used conveniently to describe pairs of opposed walls and should not be considered as limiting. Certain portions or tabs are also described in a similar fashion, again only to assist the reader.

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Referring to the drawings and initially to Figure 1, a shipping pack container blank comprising a unitary body 1 is cut from craft card or cardboard and includes a first major planar surface 3 which is attached to a second major planar surface 4 by a side wall which defines the depth of the shipping pack to be formed by the blank, via fold lines 3a,4a. At the opposite side of the first major surface 3 an adhesive-bearing side wall portion 7 is connected via a fold line 3b and a region of adhesive 9 is formed or positioned thereon to subsequently form an external surface onto which wrapping material is adhered.

As described hereinbelow, the first and second planar surfaces 3,4 are illustrated as the base and top of the container respectively, however, it will be appreciated by the skilled addressee that the container may be handled in any suitable orientation which maximises the efficiency with which the blank is formed, wrapped, filled and sealed whether that is manually, automatically or a combination of both.

The second major surface 4 is attached to the depth defining wall portion 6 at one side and at its opposite side to a fixing tab 11 adapted for adhering to the underside of the adhesive-bearing side wall portion 7. The second major surface also includes a pair of opposed end wall elements 13,14, each including respective "tuck-in" portions 17,18 adapted to form closable and sealable end walls in cooperation with end wall tabs attached to each side wall portion 6,7.

To form the flattened container blank illustrated in Figure 2, the base region 3 together with each of the side wall portions are folded around the fold line 4a of the container top region 4 and the adhesive-bearing side wall portion 7 is folded about its fold line 3b so as to overlie the side wall tab 11 and be adhered thereto. The elements are secured normally by way of pre-applied, cold-seal pressure-sensitive adhesive located on the side wall tab 11 and/or the underside of the adhesive-bearing side wall portion 7.

As illustrated in Figures 3a and 3b, a length of wrapping material W is positioned to overlie the flattened container blank and positioned so that the leading edge Wa of the wrapping material W is fixed to one half of the area of pre-applied adhesive

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9 on said adhesive-bearing side wall 7, thereby leaving the other half of the adhesive exposed.

To form a wrapped flattened container, suitable for bulk despatching to a distribution centre or retail outlet, for example, a trailing edge Wb of the wrapping material W is folded around the flattened container so as to envelop a container formed from the container blank and is adhered to the remaining half of the region of pre-applied adhesive 9.

In the form illustrated in Figure 4a and Figure 4b, the wrapped container has a distinct commercial life where it can be transported in bulk to distribution centres, for example, the gift dispatch section of a department store or to a central warehousing and distribution centre for commercial enterprises distributing books, DVDs, clothes, pre-packed electrical items and so on. The wrapped pack may also be sold to stationery shops, post offices and delivery service centres such as Federal Express offices for purchase by a customer wishing to send an article as a gift. Drop shipping companies may also use the wrapped container in instances where articles purchased are gifts for the intended recipient. The wrapped container may also be provided as an intermediary stage in the packaging process for organisations where a high percentage of outgoing articles are gifts or promotional items and need to be presented in an aesthetically pleasing form.

From the configuration shown in Figure 4a, the container is erected to receive one or more articles by moving the side walls around their respective fold lines from the flattened position into an upright position, as illustrated in Figures 5a and 5b. Before the or each article A can be placed in the container, one of the end walls is closed to define an open-mouthed container, such as that shown in Figure 6a. To achieve this, one the end wall flaps of each of the side wall portions 6,7 is folded inwardly around its respective fold line before the "tuck-in" portion 18 of the end wall element 14 is folded inwardly and tucked into a position where the outer surface of the tuck-in portion 18 is disposed against the inner surface of the base region 3 of the container. As shown in Figure 6b, at least one article A is then placed into the container through the still open opposite end wall, which is subsequently closed in the same manner as described above with respect to the

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first end wall.

Finally, with reference to Figures 7a and 7b, the wrapping material which protrudes from the end of the container in a sleeve-like configuration is then folded and sealed to form a wrapped shipping pack. The folded flaps of the wrapping material may be sealed using adhesive tape or adhesive sprayed onto the wrapping material as part of the folding process. The shipping pack may then be labelled for dispatch or sent to storage.

As will be appreciated from the foregoing, although the invention is described with particular reference to shipping books, CDs, DVDs and like articles, it can also be used without modification to ship any article which conveniently fits within the dimensions of the container. The wrapped container also provides enhanced protection for pre-packed articles such as mobile phones, cameras and other electrical or electronic items which are already packed in display cartons which are not ideally suited to postal dispatch.

It will also be appreciated by the skilled addressee that the use of a single piece container blank, which requires only a wrapping material applied in a rapid and cost effective manner represents minimal waste in the manufacturing process of the blank and the forming of a shipping pack, has significant advantages. As the cardboard container and wrapping material is fully recyclable, the exposure to potential levies and recycling costs is minimised.

It will also be appreciated that the container can be reused either on its own or by applying new wrapping material to the container.

It will of course be understood that the invention is not limited to the specific details described herein, which are given by way of example only, and that various modifications and alterations are possible within the scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A container blank so sized and shaped as to form a closable container adapted to receive one or more articles therein, the container having attached thereto a film or sheet of wrapping material adapted to envelop the container, in which the container blank comprises:

a first major surface to which there is attached an adhesive-bearing side wall portion and at the opposite side of the first major surface a second side wall portion; and

a second major surface is attached at one side to the second wall portion and at the opposite end to fixing tab adapted for adhering to the first side wall portion,

wherein the first side wall portion has a length of wrapping material secured thereto, the wrapping material being so sized and shaped as to envelop a container formed from the container blank, the container being adapted to constrain one or more articles therein to present a wrapped shipping pack.

2. A container blank as claimed in Claim 1, in which the major surfaces define a base region and a top region to which there are attached, via fold lines, a common side wall and, attached to one of said major surfaces, an adhesive-bearing side wall portion having an adhesive strip on an outer surface thereof, there being secured to one section of said strip a leading edge of a sheet of wrapping material, leaving the remaining section of the strip available for attaching a trailing edge of said sheet of wrapping material.

3. A container blank as claimed in Claim 2, in which the fixing tab is adhered to an inner surface of the adhesive-bearing side wall portion to form a container sleeve about which the wrapping material is fixed by securing the trailing edge of the wrapping material to the remaining section of said adhesive strip.

4. A container blank as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the second major surface includes end wall elements attached thereto along fold

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lines, each element including a “tuck-in” portion, for defining an article receiving mouth and facilitating closure by a user.

5. A container blank as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the container is presented for use in a flattened configuration in which the fixing tab is secured to the underside of the first side wall and a leading edge of the wrapping material is secured at one edge to the adhesive-bearing first side wall, the material overlying the major surfaces of the flattened container, and secured at its trailing edge again to the first side wall, thereby forming an enveloping sleeve around the flattened container.
6. A container blank as claimed in Claim 5, in which the container is erected to receive one or more articles by moving the side walls around their respective fold lines from a flattened position into an upright position.
7. A container blank as claimed in any one of Claims 4 to 6, in which to receive an article, one end wall element is folded inwardly and its tuck-in portion aligned with its opposing major surface to form an open-mouthed container, so that once the or each article is placed within the container, the open end wall element is folded inwardly and its tuck-in flap correspondingly positioned, the wrapping material protruding from the ends of the container in a sleeve-like configuration being then closed and sealed to form a wrapped shipping pack.
8. A container blank as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the outer surface of the fixing tab bears a strip of adhesive to secure the tab to an underside of the first end wall portion.
9. A container blank as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the fixing tab and the underside of the first end wall portion include a cohesive region, the cohesive region having an adhesive adapted to adhere only to surfaces having like adhesive thereon.
10. A method of forming a container from a container blank of the type having attached thereto a film or sheet of wrapping material adapted to envelop the

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container, the method including:

forming a container blank having a pair of major surfaces to define a base region and a top region, to which there is attached via fold lines a common side wall and to one of said major surfaces, an adhesive-bearing side wall portion;

securing to a first section of an adhesive strip on said adhesive-bearing side wall portion a leading edge of a sheet of wrapping paper;

adhering a fixing tab associated with the other one of said major surfaces to the underside of the adhesive-bearing side wall portion to form a container sleeve; and;

wrapping the wrapping material around the container sleeve thus formed and securing the trailing edge thereof to the remaining section of the adhesive strip on the adhesive-bearing side wall portion to envelop the container sleeve.

11. A method of forming a container from a container blank as claimed in Claim 10, in which the leading edge of the wrapping material sheet is secured to one half of the adhesive strip and the trailing edge is secured to the remaining half.

12. A method of forming a container from a container blank as claimed in Claim 10 or Claim 11, in which the method includes erecting the container to receive one or more articles by moving the side walls around their respective fold lines from a flattened position into an upright position.

13. A method of forming a container from a container blank as claimed in any one of Claims 10 to 12, the method including folding inwardly a first end wall element and tucking a "tuck-in" portion thereof into alignment with its opposing major surface to form an open-mouthed container.

14. A method of forming a container from a container blank as claimed in Claim 13, in which the method includes forming a shipping pack for one or more articles by placing the or each article into the open mouth of the container.

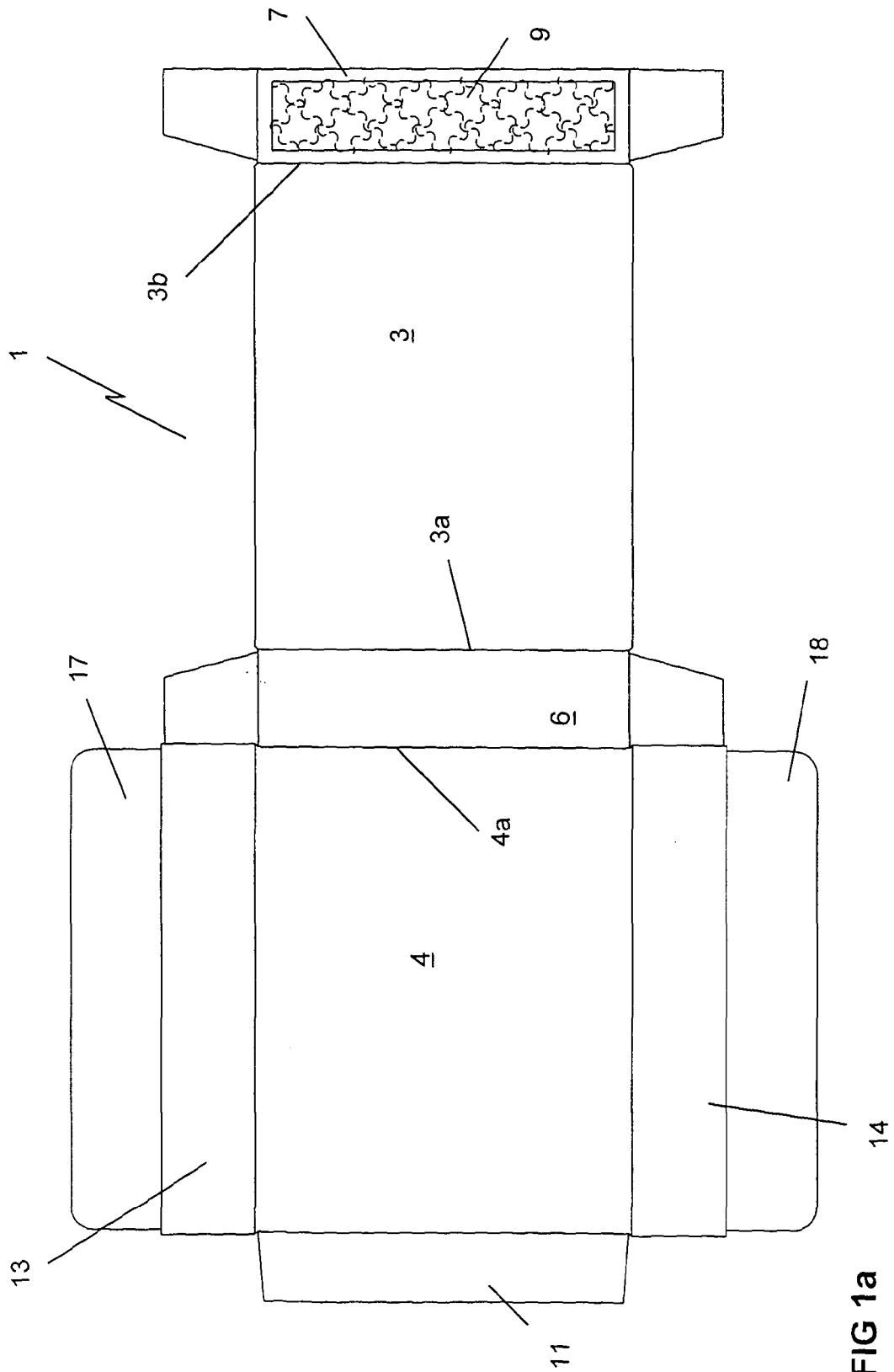
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15. A method of forming a container from a container blank as claimed in any one of Claims 10 to 14, the method facilitating rapid machine processing with improved handling and forming speeds by obviating the locking end wall tabs common to the prior art arrangements and by presenting a simplified edge profile, so that forming, filling and sealing of wrapped shipping packs is enabled.

16. A container blank for forming a wrapped shipping pack substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

17. A method of forming a shipping pack from a container blank substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

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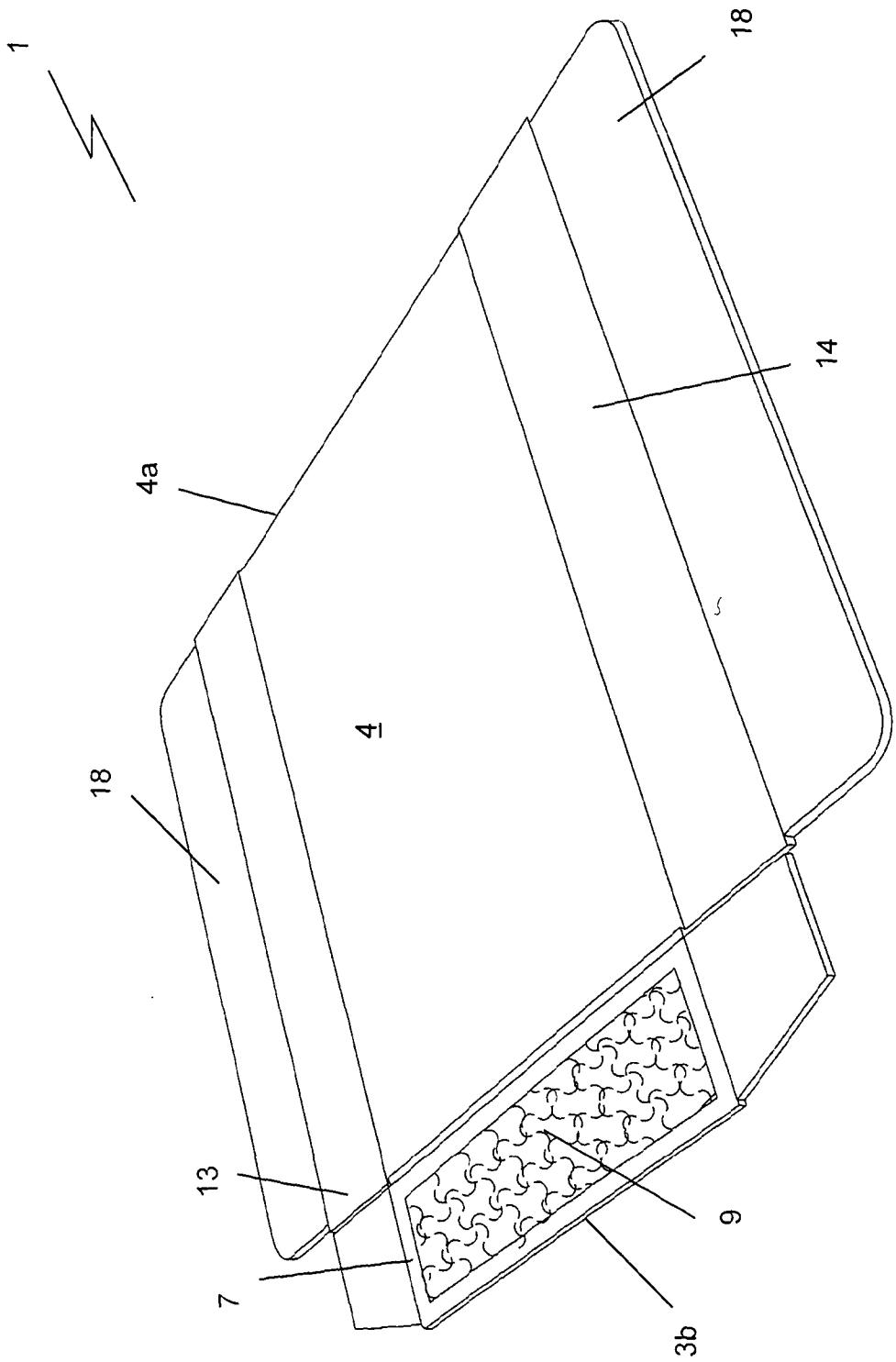


FIG 2

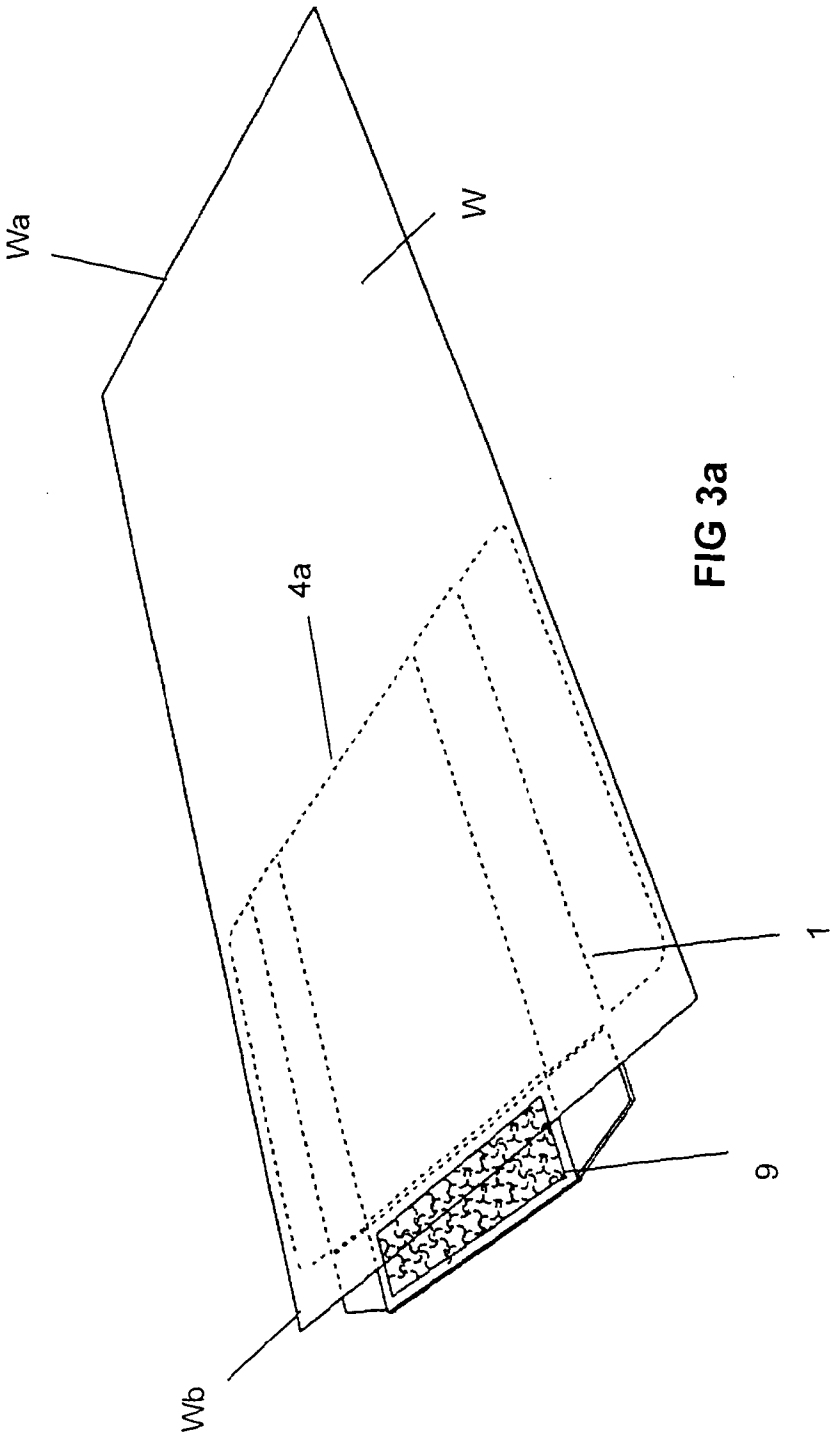


FIG 3b

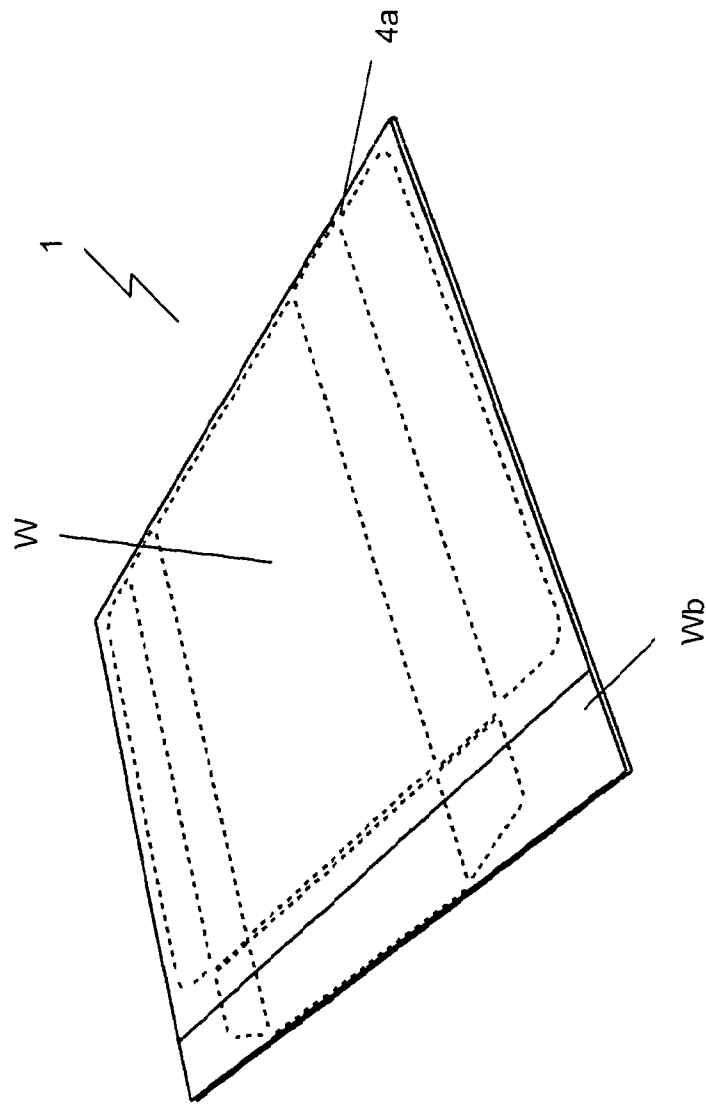
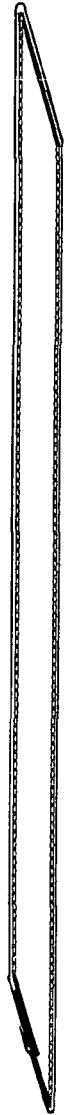


FIG 4a

FIG 4b



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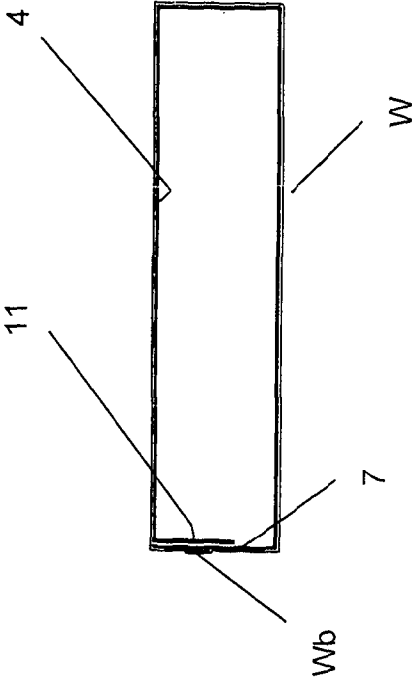


FIG 5b

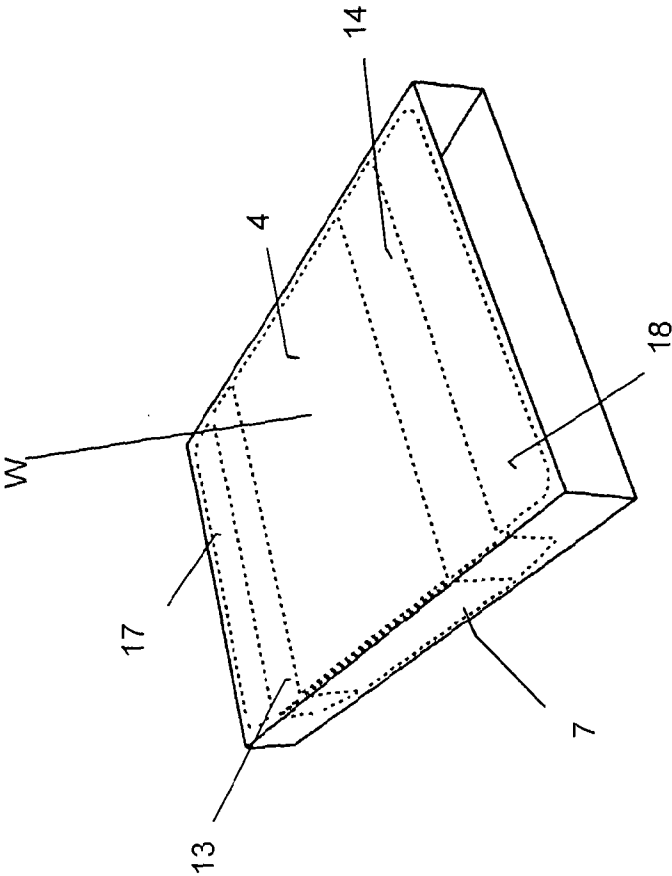


FIG 5a

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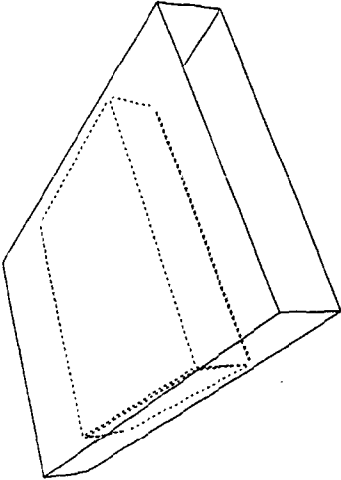


FIG 6c

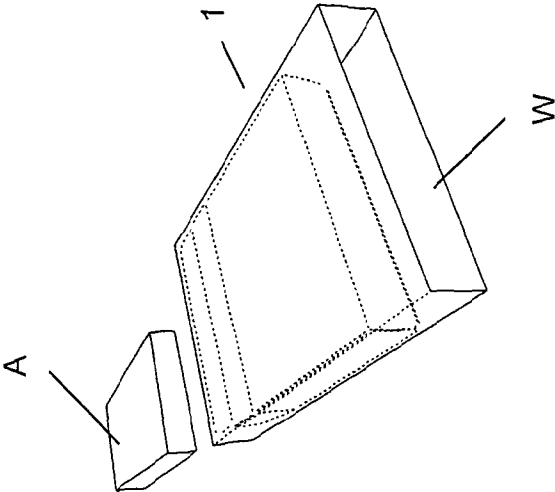


FIG 6b

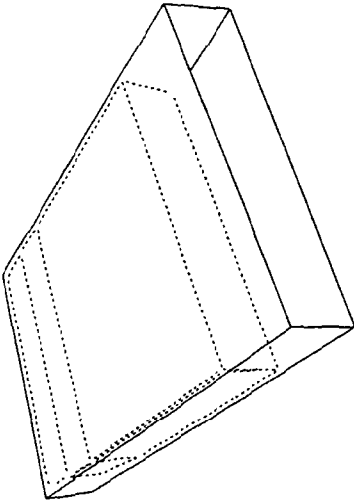


FIG 6a

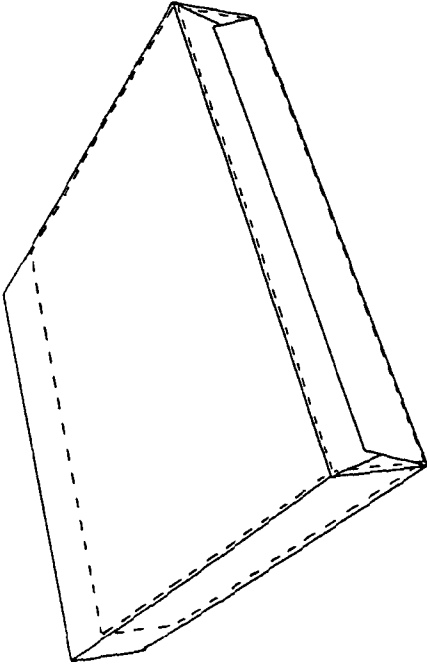
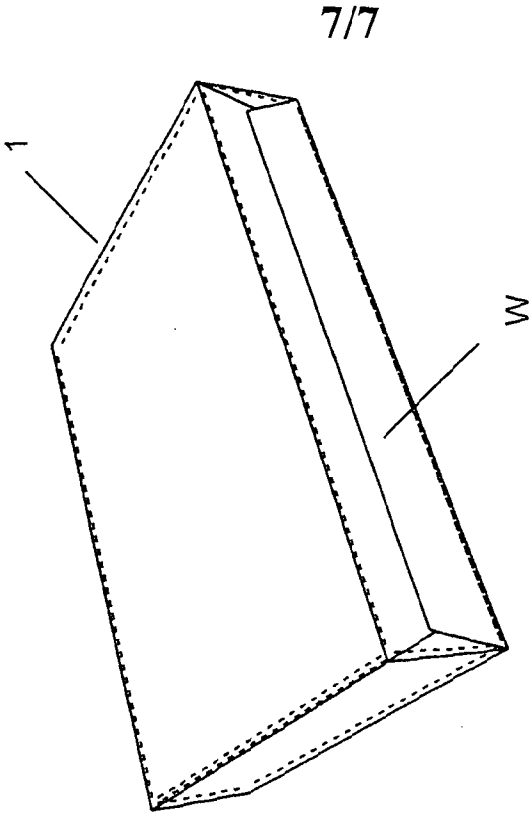


FIG 7a



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FIG 7b

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/GB2011/001170

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B65D5/62 B65D77/00

ADD.

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)

B65D

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	GB 1 418 167 A (SOMERVILLE IND LTD) 17 December 1975 (1975-12-17) page 2, line 11 - line 61; claims 1,2; figures 1,2	1-15
X	----- GB 2 417 026 A (DUSCHNITZ JOHN [GB]) 15 February 2006 (2006-02-15) page 2, line 33 - page 4, line 18 page 5, line 11 - line 23; claims 1,7; figures 1-5	1-9
X	----- US 2 479 456 A (ARTHUR WILLIAM H) 16 August 1949 (1949-08-16) column 1, line 55 - column 4, line 12; claims 1,2; figures 1-8 ----- -/--	1,4-7

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

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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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)

"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

25 October 2011

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/11/2011

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Authorized officer

Janosch, Joachim

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/GB2011/001170

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3 829 005 A (HACKENBERG R ET AL) 13 August 1974 (1974-08-13) column 3, line 51 - column 5, line 21; claim 1; figures 1-9 -----	1-15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2011/001170

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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.: 16, 17
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:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
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 No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
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.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 16, 17

The subject-matter of claims 16 and 17 is exclusively defined by a reference to the drawings and the description. Consequently, claims 16 and 17 are so unclear (Art. 6 PCT) that an opinion cannot be given.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2011/001170

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB 1418167	A	17-12-1975	CA 943513 A1	12-03-1974
GB 2417026	A	15-02-2006	NONE	
US 2479456	A	16-08-1949	NONE	
US 3829005	A	13-08-1974	NONE	