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(54) **PACKAGE WITH SECURITY FEATURES**

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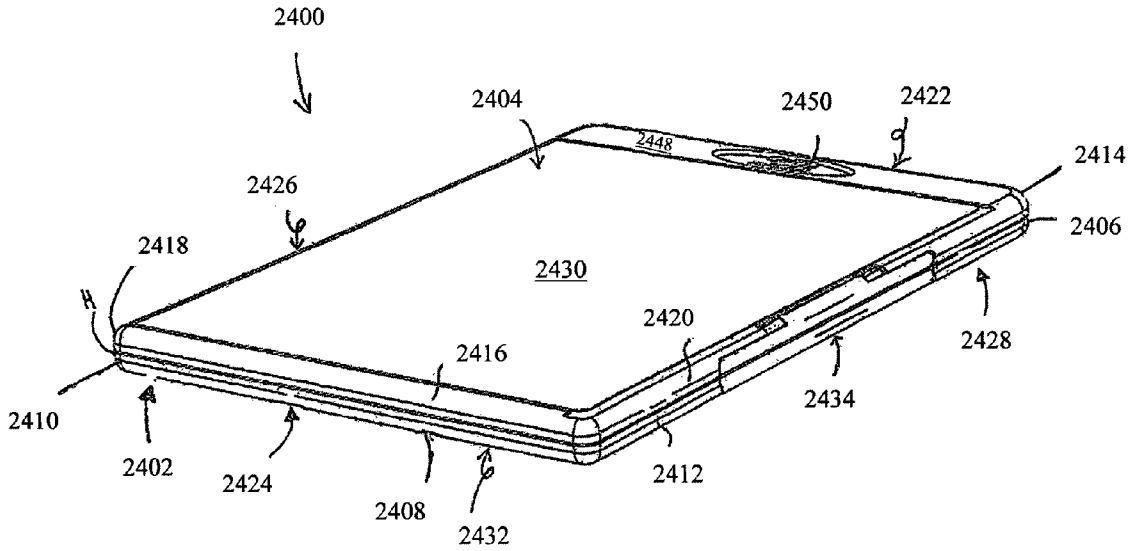
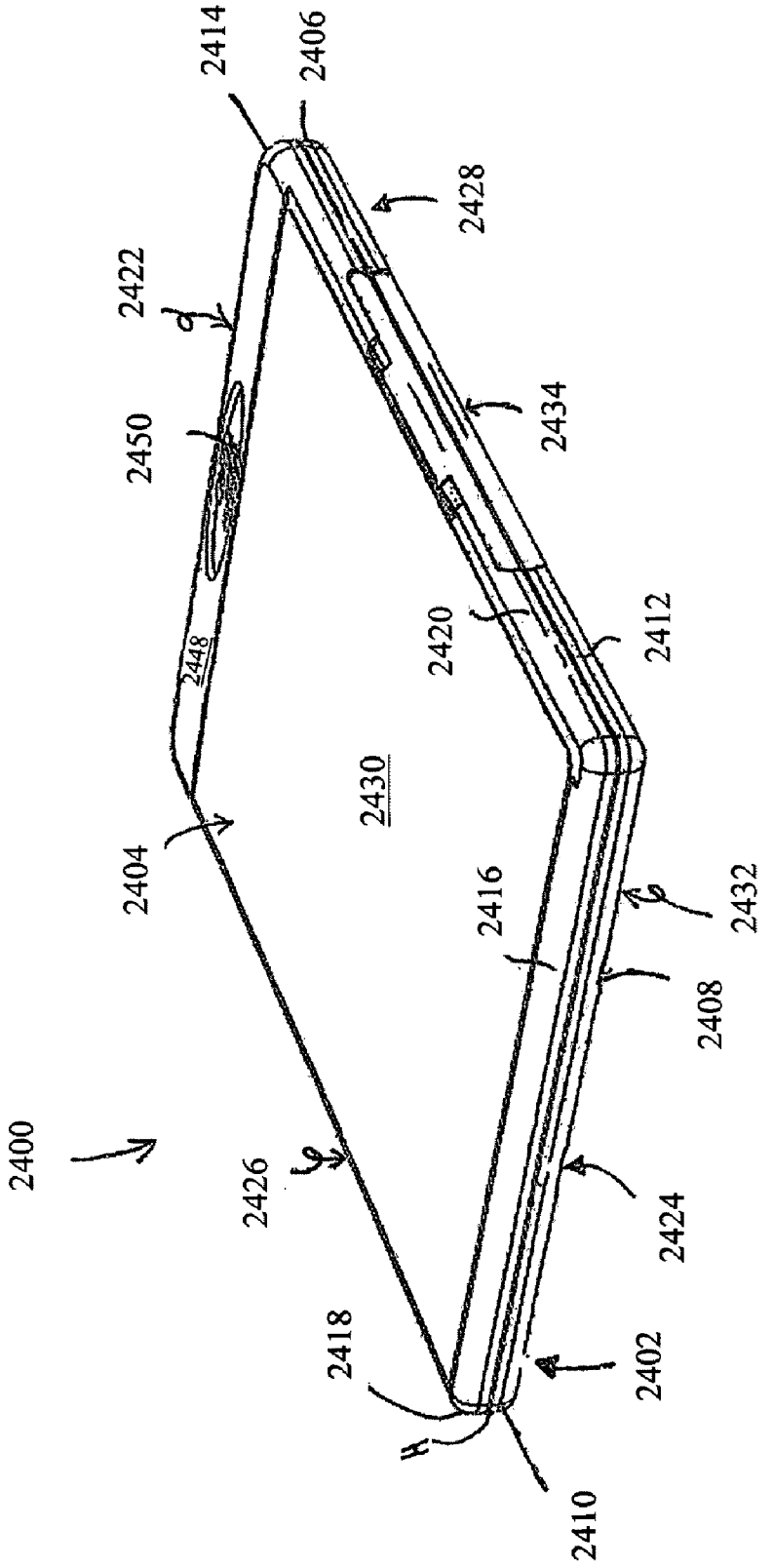
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Packages that include security features to inhibit tampering or theft are provided. Such packages can include security ribs to prevent tampering or theft. Additionally, such containers can include a novel hinge configuration, which allows an integrally formed hinge to be curved, and a spine of a package to have a generally arcuate cross-sectional contour.

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2402
2404
2406
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2410
2412
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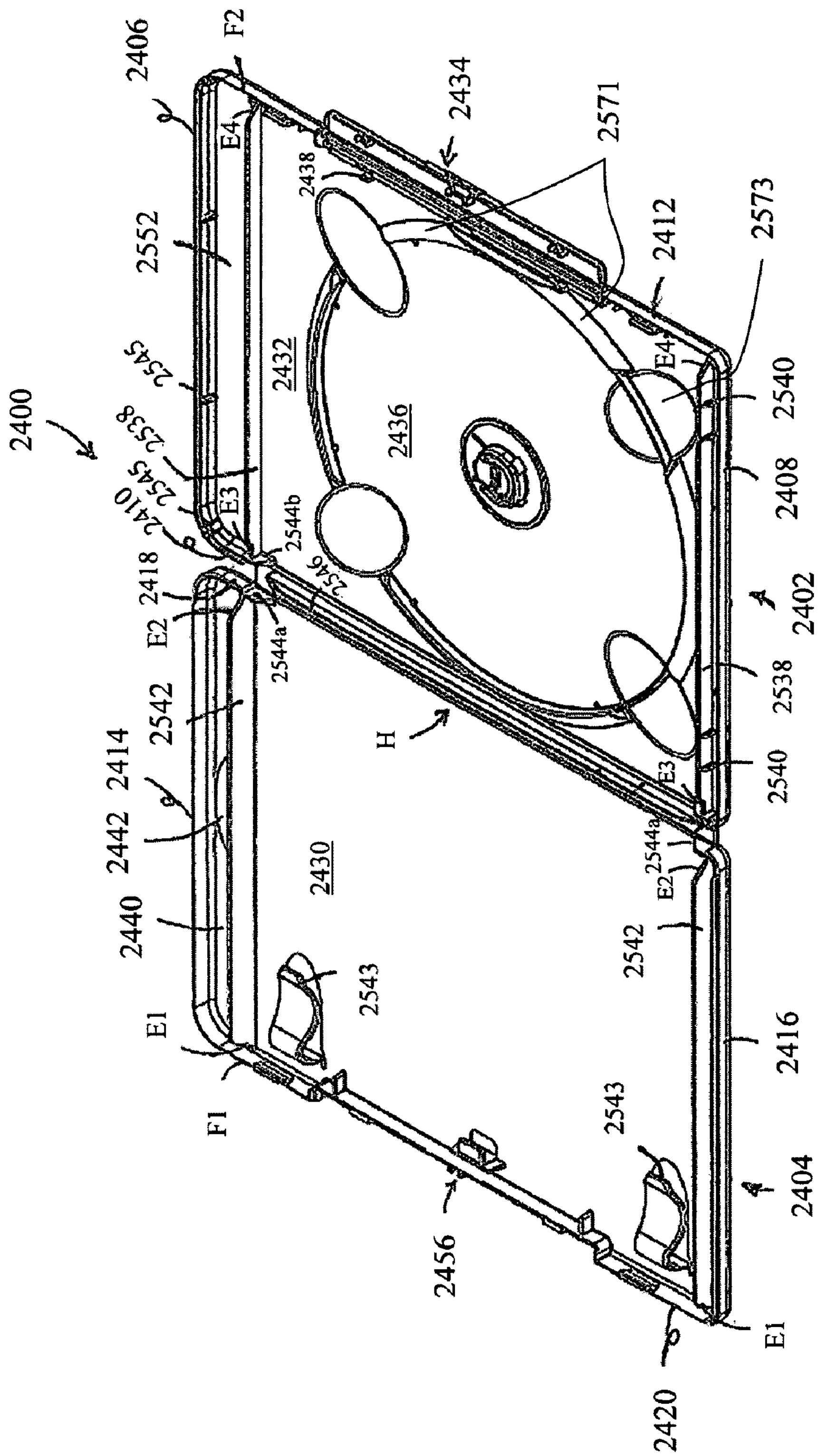
2428
2430
2432
2434
2448
2450
H

Figure 1


2400
2406
F2
2434
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2573
2412
2438
E4
2552
2545
2432
2436
2540
2408
2538
2545
2410
E3
2544b
2546
2418
E2
2544a
2402
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2414
2442
2440
2430
H
2543
E1
F1
2456
2420
2416
2404

Figure 2

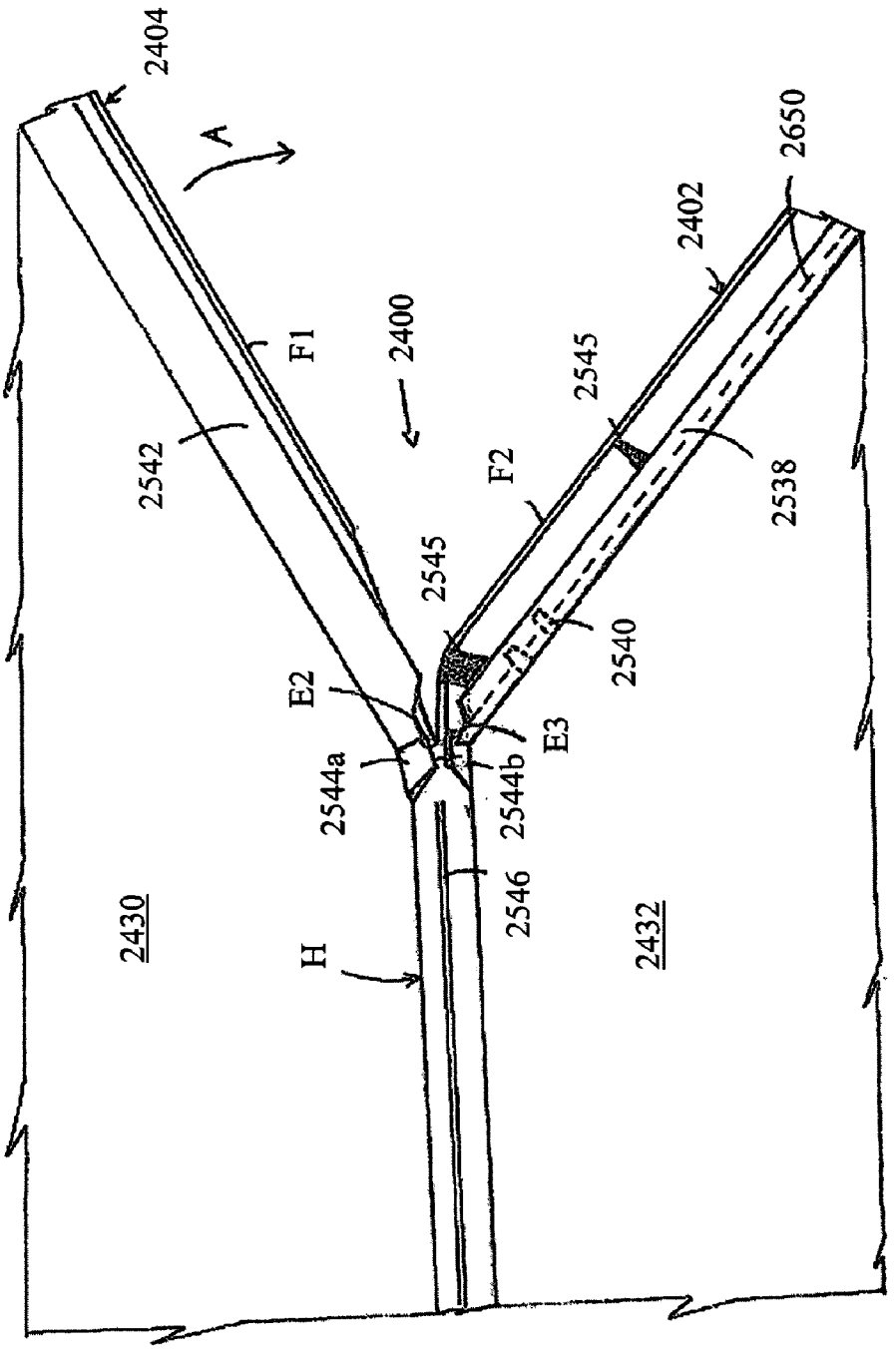
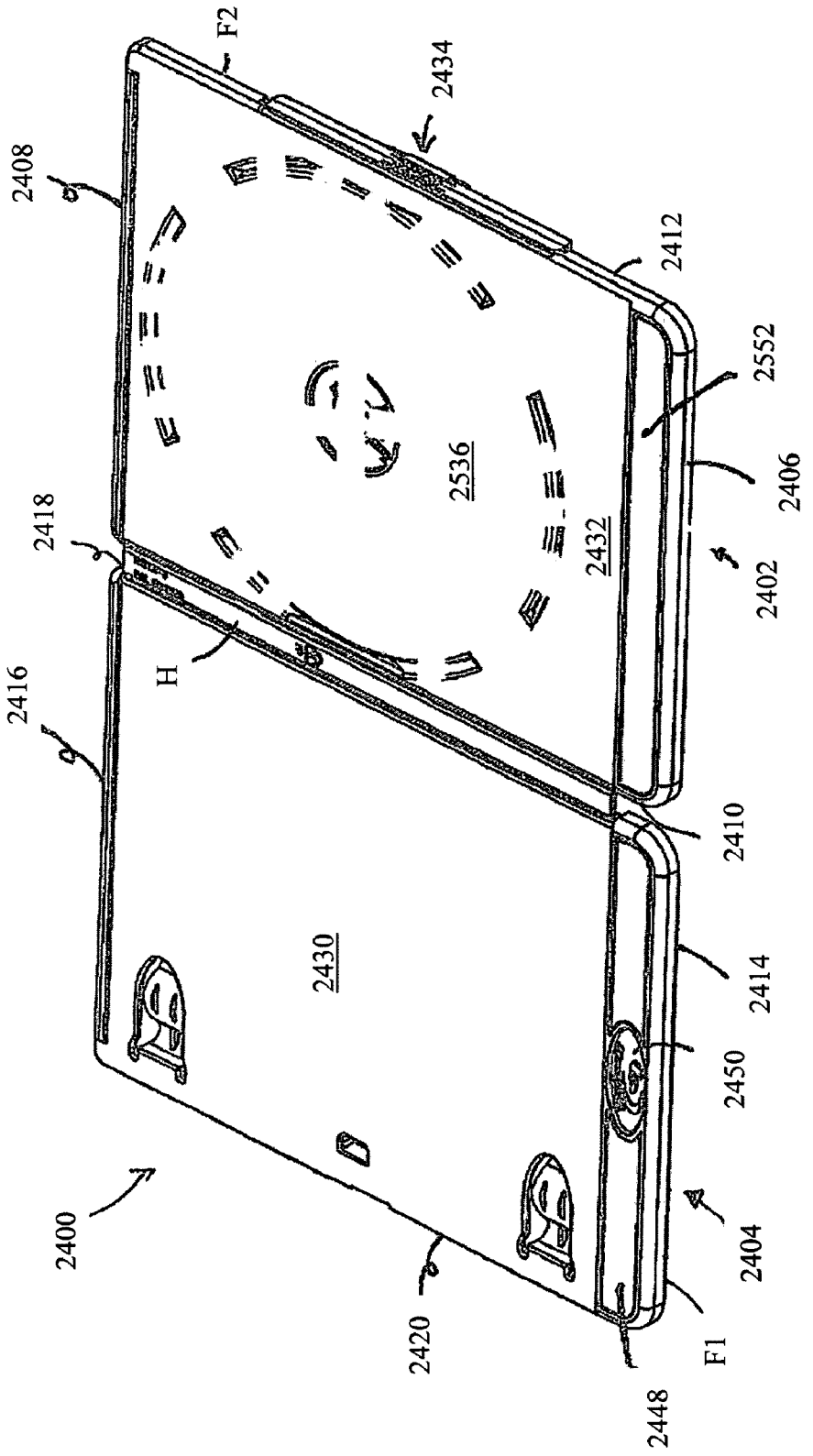

2404
A
2650
2402
F1
2400
2545
2542
F2
2538
2545
2540
E2
E3
2544a
2544b
2546
2430
H
2432

Figure 3


F2
2434
2408
2412
2552
2536
2406
2418
2432
2402
H
2416
2410
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2400
2404
2420
F1
2448

Figure 4

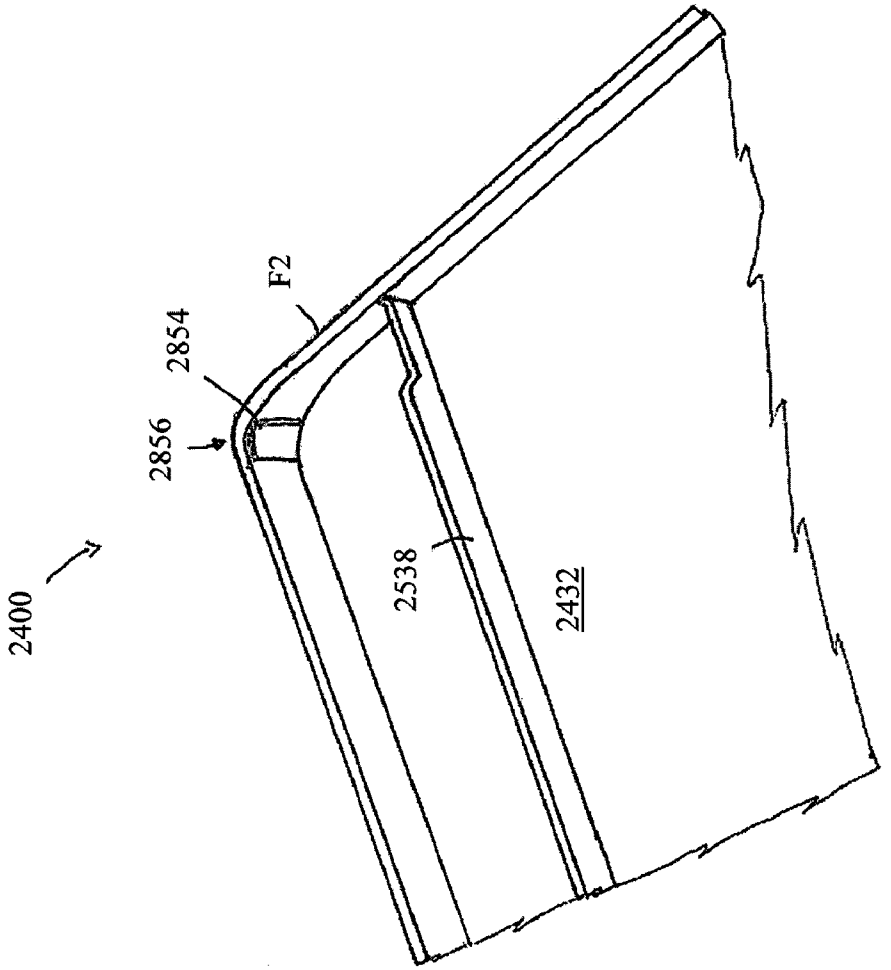

Figure 5

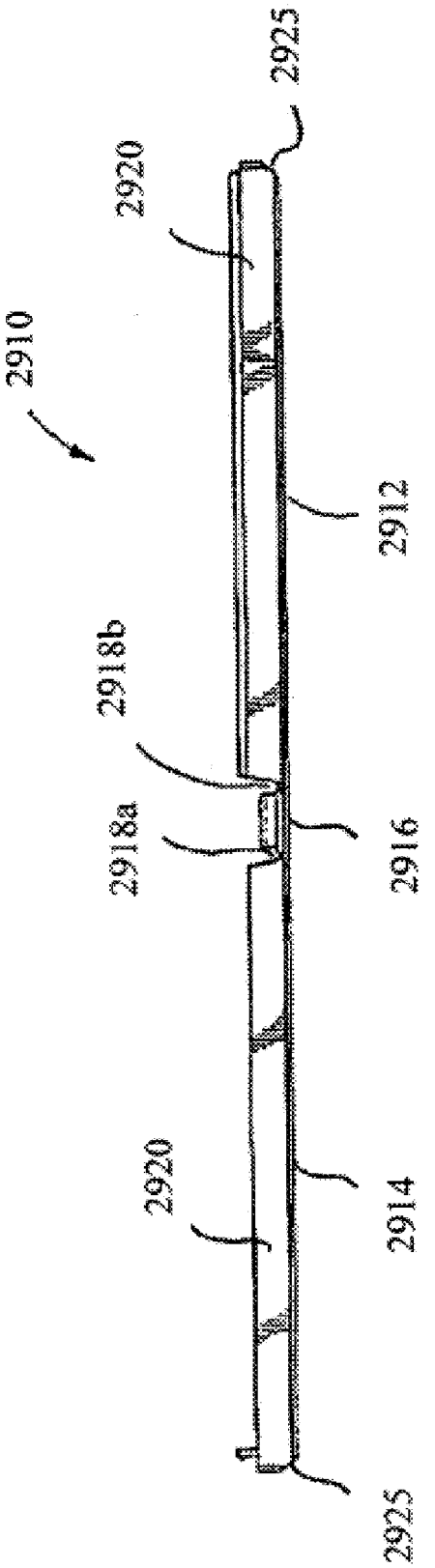

Figure 6
Prior Art

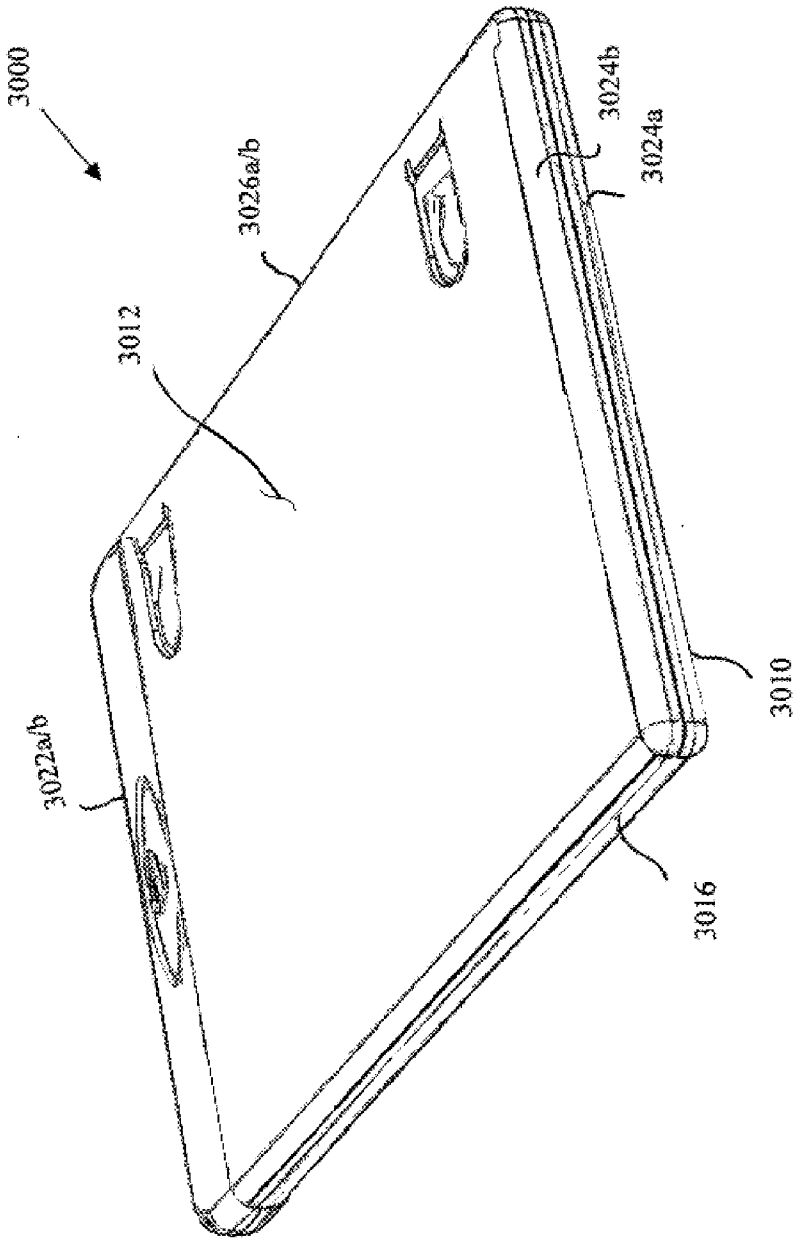

Figure 7

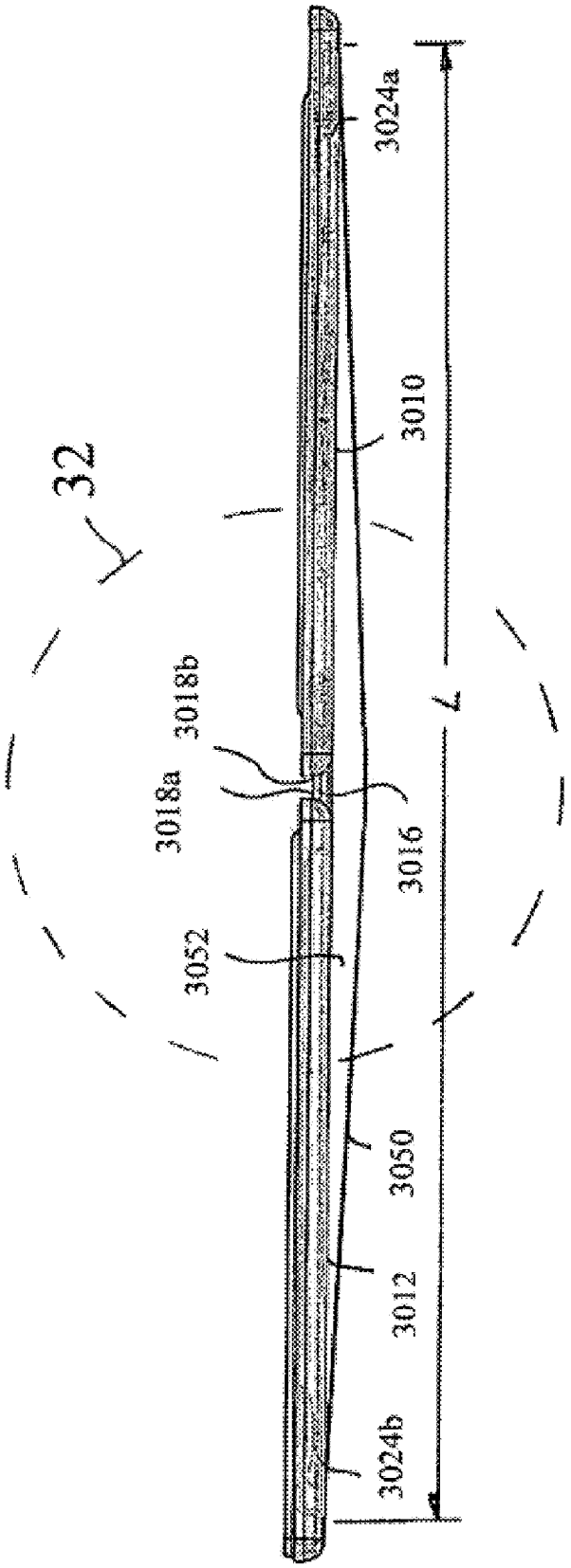

Figure 8

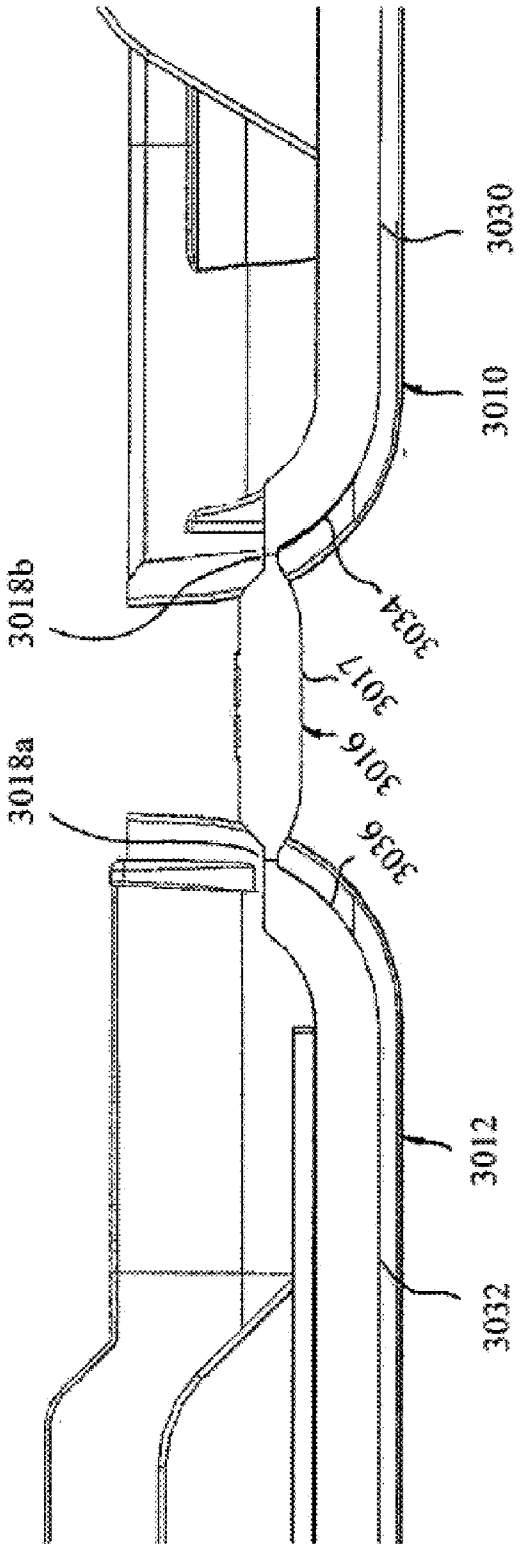

Figure 9

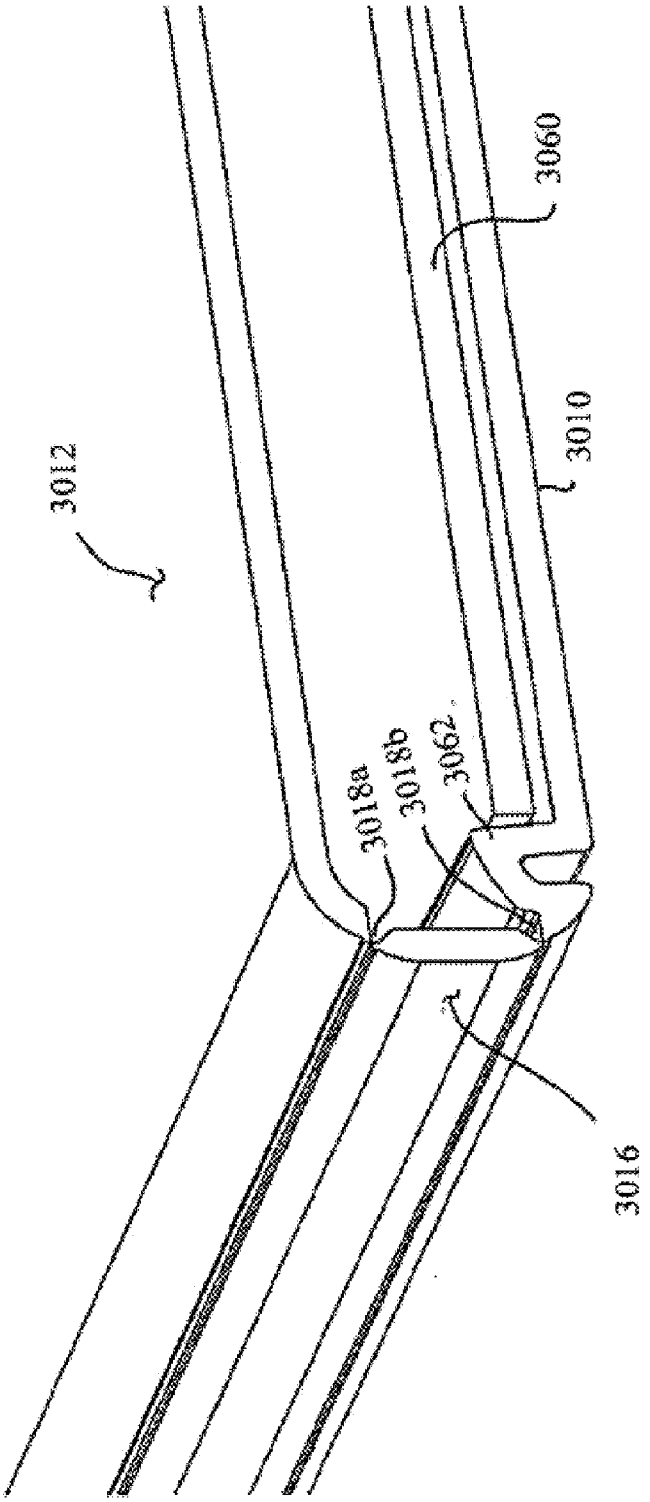

Figure 10

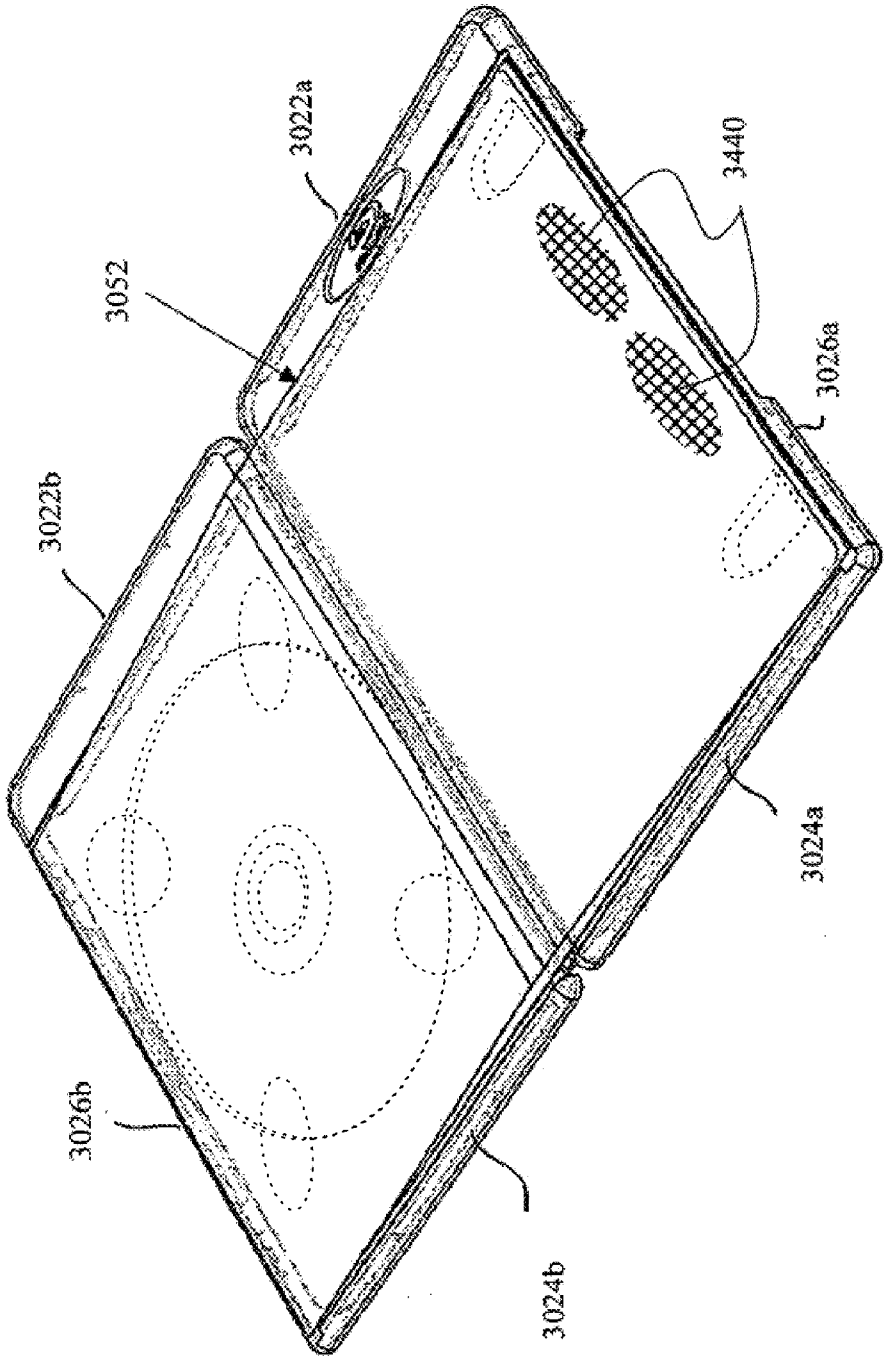

Figure 11

PACKAGE WITH SECURITY FEATURES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/584,288, filed Oct. 20, 2006 and now U.S. Pat. No. 7,757,848, which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119 of U.S. provisional applications 60/728,456, 60/728,497, and 60/728,612 each filed Oct. 20, 2005, 60/731,918 filed Oct. 30, 2005, 60/755,458 filed Dec. 30, 2005, and 60/820,693 filed Jul. 28, 2006. Each of the foregoing applications is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to packaging for carrying items, particularly merchandise offered for sale. More particularly, the present invention is directed to packaging having security features to prevent or inhibit tampering with or theft of the package contents.

[0004] 2. Description of Related Art

[0005] Packaging, including containers, boxes and cases of all types have been specifically designed for storing items for transport and display for centuries. As society has evolved from small, low traffic general stores to mass market super stores, the ability of the shopkeeper to effectively police their floor has diminished. In response, tamper evident, tamper proof packages and security devices therefor have proliferated in more recent years.

[0006] In a pharmacy setting, package safety measures have become increasingly important in maintaining the integrity of the products sold. For some products, the pharmacist requires the ability to temporarily access the contents of the package and, subsequently, reactivate the tamper mechanisms.

[0007] In response to these needs, many in-store security systems put products in an external case and/or wrap a device around the product. The outer case and wrap visually disrupt the presentation of the product. However, additional cost is associated with such outer cases and wraps, at least in-part due to the labor required for insertion and removal of the product and to wasted material. In many instances the outer cases or wraps are welded shut and require a knife to cut open the security outer case or wrap. In some instances, the outer security device is used with an unlocking device that requires training to use, and time to manipulate. The unlocking of a mechanical outer case and/or electromechanical security system decreases the rate at which a clerk can ring up products at a cash register. Moreover, such outer security cases consume additional space on a retail shelf. Further, known electronic security devices that use cables to wrap around a package or product can damage the package and prevent the package from sitting flat on a shelf.

[0008] One particular segment of the marketplace, which is particularly susceptible to theft, is that of recorded media products, including music, video and video games, for example. Packages for containing such media, such as media recorded on optical discs, can greatly benefit from enhanced security features.

[0009] In view of the foregoing, there is a need for packaging that provides indication of tampering with the package. Also, a need exists for packages that prevent theft, which can optionally facilitate apprehension of a perpetrator. Further, there is a need for packaging that allows selective access to the contents. The present invention provides a solution for these needs and addresses the main problems with prior technologies.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] The purpose and advantages of the present invention will be set forth in and apparent from the description that follows. Additional advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by the methods and systems particularly pointed out in the written description and claims hereof, as well as from the appended drawings.

[0011] To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the invention, as embodied, the invention includes, in one aspect, a package in the form of a case with a base portion including a base first side and a cover portion including a cover first side hingedly connected to the base. The case further includes at least one cover security rib extending from the cover first side to a cover second side. The security rib includes a first edge proximate to the top edge of the cover first side, and a distal second edge proximate to the top edge of the cover second side. At least one base security rib extends from the base first side to a base second side, and at least one stop rib is affixed to the cover portion proximate to the cover security rib, and is substantially aligned with the cover first side.

[0012] In accordance with the invention, the case can include at least one stop rib affixed to the base portion proximate to the cover security rib and substantially aligned with the base first side. The case can include at least one base security rib and/or at least one alignment rib positioned on one of the security ribs. Such alignment rib(s) can be tapered. Additionally or alternatively, the case can include at least one interlock and/or a recessed branding bar on one of the base and cover portions.

[0013] In accordance with a further aspect of the invention, a package is provided, which includes a base portion, a cover portion and at least one pair of security ribs. The base portion includes a base first side. The cover portion includes a cover first side hingedly connected to the base first side. The security ribs extend from at least one of the cover first side and the base first side to at least one of a cover second side and a base second side. The pair of security ribs include a first edge proximate to the top edge of at least one of the cover first side and the base first side, and a distal second edge proximate to the top edge of at least one of the cover second side and the base second side. The case further includes at least one stop rib affixed to at least one of the cover portion and the base portion proximate to the pair of security ribs and substantially aligned with one of the cover first side and the base first side, and at least one item enclosed within the case.

[0014] In accordance with this aspect of the invention, at least one alignment rib can be affixed to a side of the pair of security ribs, which alignment rib can be tapered. The case can additionally or alternatively include at least one interlock and/or a recessed branding bar on one of the base and cover portions.

[0015] The invention also provides, in one aspect, a method of fulfilling a case, including: providing a case, inserting at least one item into the case, rotating a first portion of the case towards a second portion, where the first portion is restricted from rotating to an angle approximately greater than ninety-degrees by at least one of stop rib, and closing the case, such that the case is aligned during closure by the stop rib.

[0016] In accordance with this aspect, the method can include a first portion security rib interfacing with a second portion security rib, having first and second edges, wherein the first edge is proximate to the top edge of the first portion and the second edge proximate to the top edge of the first portion. The method can further include the step of closing being further aided by a second pair of interfacing security ribs. Optionally, at least one alignment rib can be affixed to one of the security ribs. If desired, the alignment rib(s) can be tapered.

[0017] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute part of this specification, are included to illustrate and provide a further understanding of the method and system of the invention. Together with the description, the drawings serve to explain the principles of the invention, wherein:

[0019] FIGS. **1-5** are perspective views of a package according to the present invention having tamper-resistant ribs formed therein.

[0020] FIG. **6** is a side view of a prior art compact disc package arranged in the open position;

[0021] FIG. **7** is a perspective view directed at the cover of a further embodiment of a package constructed in accordance with the invention;

[0022] FIG. **8** is a side view of the compact disc package of FIG. **7** arranged in the open position;

[0023] FIG. **9** is an enlarged view illustrating the configuration of the spine and living hinge assembly for the package of FIG. **7**;

[0024] FIG. **10** is a cross-sectional view of the package of FIG. **7**, illustrating the spine and living hinge assembly for the package and an integrated retainer for the insert tray; and

[0025] FIG. **11** is a perspective view of the package of FIG. **7**, illustrating the back and front of the package having a clear film affixed thereto so as to form a pocket.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0026] Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. The method and corresponding steps of the invention will be described in conjunction with the detailed description of the system.

[0027] The devices and methods presented herein may be used for storage, transport and/or display of merchandise. The present invention is particularly suited for merchandise that is susceptible to tampering or theft.

[0028] In accordance with the invention, packages, particularly packages for carrying media discs, such as compact discs, including audio discs, DVDs, Blu-Ray and HD-DVD discs, and the like, include security features for preventing the tampering with or theft of the packages. It should be noted that the packages described herein can be adapted to hold any desired item, and are not limited to holding such media discs. Several security features are provided, which can be used alone or in combination to reduce/eliminate theft and/or tampering.

[0029] FIG. **1** illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a package, particularly a case **2400**. The material used to manufacture the case **2400** can be any material known to those skilled in the art. In testing, Applicants utilized a thin thermoplastic polymer, polypropylene. This material is inexpensive, resistant to fatigue, and lightweight. However, in order to sustain a functional case with these properties, the inventor added features to increase rigidity, aid in proper closure of the case **2400**, provide additional security, reduce cosmetic damage during fulfillment, and eliminate unwanted particulates from entering the case **2400**.

[0030] The case **2400** includes a base portion **2402** and a cover portion **2404**. The base portion **2402** and the cover portion **2404** are adapted to mate when the case **2400** is in the closed position, as shown in FIG. **1**. More specifically, the base portion **2402** includes a base top end **2406**, a base bottom end **2408**, a base first side end **2410**, and a base second side end **2412**, which are adapted to mate with the cover portion **2404** comprising a cover top end **2414**, a cover bottom end **2416**, a cover first side end **2418**, and a cover second side end **2420**.

[0031] Further, the base first side end **2410** is hingedly connected to the cover first side end **2418** by a living hinge H. The corresponding ends of the base portion **2402** and the cover portion **2404** form the composite walls of the case **2400** when the case is in the closed position. More specifically, the top ends **2406**, **2414** form a composite top wall **2422**, the bottom ends **2408**, **2416** form a composite bottom wall **2424**, the first side ends **2410**, **2418** form a composite first side wall **2426**, and the second side ends **2412**, **2420** form a composite second side wall **2428**. The cover portion **2404** includes a cover panel **2430** and the base portion **2402** includes a base panel **2432** of the case **2400**. The cover portion **2404** further includes a recessed cover branding bar **2448**, on which a logo **2450** is affixed. The recessed cover branding bar **2448** is described in detail with respect to FIG. **4**. The case **2400** further includes a locking mechanism **2434**.

[0032] Referring now to FIG. **2**, the case **2400** is shown in the open position. The inside of the base portion **2402** and the cover portion **2404** can be seen. The inner portion of the base panel **2432** includes a "nest" or recess **2536**. The illustrated recess **2536** is designed to house a compact disc (CD), a digital video disc (DVD), Blu-ray disc, or like media, as is known to those skilled in the art. It is contemplated, however, that in alternative embodiments the recess **2536** can be designed to house any portable items such as, but not limited to, cigars, syringes, medicines, makeup, and the like. A base security rib **2538** is affixed to the base panel **2432** above the recess **2536** and proximate to a recessed base branding bar **2552**. Another base security rib **2538** is affixed below the recess **2536**. The base security ribs **2538** extend from the base first side end **2410** to the base second side end **2412**. Further, the base security ribs **2538** are formed such that they are taller than the base edge F2 of the base top end **2406** and the base bottom end **2408**. This decreases the likelihood of theft, for example, by prying open the composite top wall **2422** and/or the composite bottom wall **2424** to remove the disc.

[0033] Affixed to the inner portion of the cover panel **2430** are cover security ribs **2542**. The cover security ribs **2542** function to increase the rigidity of the case **2400** and to properly align materials that are typically stored beneath clips **2543**. The cover security ribs **2542** extend from the cover second side end **2420** to the cover first side end **2418**. The edges E1 perpendicularly terminate at the cover second side

end **2420** below the cover edge F**1**. The edges E**2** perpendicularly terminate at the cover first side end **2418** even with the cover edge F**1**. Edges E**1** and E**2** aid in eliminating binding and misalignment between the cover portion **2404** and the base portion **2402** when the case **2400** is being closed. The extended cover security ribs **2542** and the tapered edges E**1** and E**2** also function to eliminate an audible click that was present prior to adding these features, particularly when the cover portion **2404** and the base portion **2402** were misaligned.

[0034] Further, in the illustrated embodiment, the cover security ribs **2542** are positioned so as to be offset to the base security ribs **2538**. When the case **2400** is in the closed position, this offset positions the cover security ribs **2542** in contact with tapered alignment ribs **2540**, which are affixed to the base security ribs **2538**. The illustrated alignment ribs **2540** are positioned on the outer side of the base security ribs **2538**; that is, facing the top end **2406** and bottom end **2408**, respectively and the cover security ribs **2542** are positioned to interface with the alignment ribs **2540** when the case **2400** is closed. It is contemplated, however, that the alignment ribs **2540** can be positioned on the inner face of the base security ribs **2538**, as such the cover security ribs **2542** can be positioned offset towards the interior of case **2400**. The alignment ribs **2540** guide the cover security ribs **2542** into the closed position, thus providing further aid in eliminating binding and misalignment between the cover portion **2404** and the base portion **2402**. Additional advantages of the alignment ribs **2540** include reducing clearance between the security ribs and providing more accurate alignment while closing.

[0035] It is contemplated that the alignment ribs **2540** can be any size, shape, and positioned in any way such as to achieve a substantially similar result when closing case **2400**. The alignment ribs **2540** also function to increase the rigidity of the base security ribs **2538** and consequently the overall rigidity of case **2400**. In alternative embodiments the alignment ribs **2540** are positioned adjacent the cover security ribs **2542** so as to interface with the alignment ribs **2538** when the case **2400** is closed.

[0036] The locking mechanism **2434** attaches to cover receiving elements **2436** to secure the base portion **2402** to the cover portion **2404**. The locking mechanism **2434** attaches to base receiving elements **2438** so as to stow the locking mechanism **2434** in a passive position.

[0037] Stop ribs **2544***a*, **2544***b* are affixed to both the cover and base panels **2430**, **2432**, respectively, so as to be perpendicular to the security ribs **2538**, **2542** and align longitudinally with first side ends **2410**, **2418**. The stop ribs **2544***a*, **2544***b* increase overall rigidity of the case **2400**. Further, when case **2400** is in the closed position, the stop ribs **2544***a*, **2544***b* are positioned in a face-contacting relationship with living hinge. This prevents dust and other particulates from entering the case **2400**.

[0038] During fulfillment, the cover portion **2404** is typically rotated towards the base portion **2402** to close the case **2400**. Without the stop ribs **2544***a*, **2544***b* the living hinge H typically rotates to an angle approximately greater than ninety-degrees, a condition that caused the cover edge F**1** to extend beyond the base edge F**2**, thus making proper alignment difficult and automated closing problematic. The stop ribs **2544***a*, **2544***b* prevent the living hinge H from being rotated to an angle approximately greater than ninety-degrees, thus preventing binding and misalignment of the cover and base edges F**1** and F**2**, respectively.

[0039] The position of the stop ribs **2544***a*, **2544***b* during closure is best shown in FIG. **3**. As shown, the cover portion **2404** is being rotated towards the base portion **2402** in direction A. The stop rib **2544***a* is positioned in a face-contacting relationship with living hinge H and as such prevents the living hinge H from being rotated to an angle approximately greater than ninety-degrees, thus preventing the cover edge F**1** from being misaligned with the base edge F**2**. In alternative embodiments, the stop rib **2544***b* is positioned in a face-contacting relationship with living hinge H and as such prevents the living hinge H from being rotated to an angle approximately greater than ninety-degrees, thus preventing the cover edge F**1** from being misaligned with the base edge F**2**. To further aid in preventing binding and misalignment, the height and thickness of the spine rib **2546** is increased.

[0040] In further alternative embodiments, the recessed base branding bar **2552** (not shown) forms a trough **350** that provides a receiving channel for the base security rib **2538**.

[0041] Referring now to FIG. **4**, a transparent perspective view of the back of the case **2400** and the recessed cover and base branding bars **2448**, **2552**, respectively, are shown. The cover branding bar **2448** is recessed with respect to the cover panel **2430**. Likewise, the base branding bar **2552** is recessed with respect to the base panel **2432**. The cover branding bar **2448** includes a logo **2450**. The recessed position of the cover branding bar **2448** protects the logo **2450** from cosmetic damage. For example, when multiple closed cases **2400** are positioned in a panel-contacting relationship, the recessed cover branding bar **2448** of one case and the recessed base branding bar **2552** of another case align so as to prevent cosmetic damage to the logo **2450**.

[0042] Many of the previously described features increase the torsional rigidity of various portions of the case **2400**. The overall rigidity of the case **2400** is further increases by the addition of supports **2545**, as best shown in FIG. **2** and FIG. **3**.

[0043] Referring now to FIG. **5**, there is shown the outer top of case **2400**. The interior of the outer top corner includes an interlock **2854**. The interlock **2854** increases corner rigidity of the case **2400**, thus allowing for a thinner, lighter material to be used. The interlock **2854** includes a lip that creates a receiving channel **2856** between the interlock **2854** and the base edge F**2**. When the case **2400** is in the closed position, the cover edge F**1** and the base edge F**2** are held in face-contacting position by the receiving channel **2856**.

[0044] Referring again to FIGS. **1-5** which illustrate a package **2400** for holding compact discs and the like, the package **2400** includes four arcuate rib structures **2571** (FIG. **25**) formed on the surface of base panel **2432**, which itself can be a separate insert tray in alternative embodiments. The rib structures **2571** are configured and adapted to visually emulate the design elements of the finger wells at region **2573**, but are not, per se, finger wells. The ribs **2571** are positioned to support a disc held in the recess **2536** during drop tests, shipping and handling, thus protecting the rosette **2575** from experiencing the full load of impact. The outer edge of the disc with exception of the four locations of corresponding ribs **2571** is fully accessible, in comparison with a container having only finger wells to enable grasping of a disc.

[0045] The complexity of design of the base panel **2432** is minimized, but as mentioned, the base panel **2432** still includes a visual element (e.g., the impression of finger wells at region **2573**) that a consumer may expect to see in a package for holding media discs. The aforementioned configuration also creates minimal visual interruption of graphics that

may be viewed through the surface of the base panel **2432**. The aforementioned configuration also allows for better support of the outer cover material—e.g. a printed booklet, because both the cover and base are essentially flat, uninterrupted surfaces (with exception to the center rosette **2575**).

[0046] However, with respect to disc packages that have a hinged multi-panel outer cover, a molded base panel **2432** and a molded cover **2430**, the alignment rib **2540** details that are formed in the cover and base are particularly advantageous. Such alignment features allow for the cover **2430** and base to be hinged from an open to a closed position without the cover **2430** and base **2432** binding with one another.

[0047] FIG. **6** is a side view of a package **2900** in accordance with the prior art, which is provided herein to serve as a comparison with the package embodiment of FIGS. **7-11**. The package **2900**, which is particularly suited to containing recorded media, such as CDs or DVDs, includes a back or base portion **2912**, a front or cover portion **2914** and a spine section **2916**. The base portion **2912** and the cover portion **2914** are attached to the spine section **2916** using two living hinges **2918***a*, **2918***b*.

[0048] In conventional CD packages or jewel boxes, such as that shown in FIG. **6**, when the package **2910** is in the open position the spine section **16** is positioned in the same plane as the base portion **2912** and the cover portion **2914**. This is done so that the pocket that is formed by welding plastic film to the package **2910** can accept a printed slip sheet of a similar dimension to the open package. Normally the spine side wall and spine section of the printed graphic slip sheet are close in dimension. Additionally, the slip sheet length closely matches the linear distance of the un-sealed length of the film. This feature helps prevent the graphics from shifting when the package is opened and closed.

[0049] The base and cover portions **2912**, **2914** each include three side walls **2920** which project from common edge radiuses **2925** associate with the edge of the base and cover portions **2912**, **1294**. When package **2900** is in the closed position (not shown), there exists slightly radiused transitions between the base and cover portions, **2912** and **2914** respectively, and the spine section **2916**. These radiuses result from the inwardly formed and bending living hinges **2918***b*. The slightly radius transition that join the base and the cover portions **2912**, **2914** to the spine section **2916** do not closely match the common edge radiuses **2925** of the package **2900** and therefore, package **2900** has three ends with a rounded profile and a forth end with substantially straight profile.

[0050] Consequently, a disadvantage associated with the conventional package design illustrated in FIG. **6** is that the configuration of its spine **2916** and the living hinges **2918***a*, **2918***b* will not allow the end of the package **2916** defined by the spine and hinges to be curved or rounded in a similar fashion to the other three ends of the CD package. As a result, the end of the package **2900** defined by the spine **2916** and hinges **2918***a*, **2918***b* has a different profile than other three ends.

[0051] Referring now to FIGS. **7-11**, there is illustrated a compact disc package constructed in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention and identified generally by reference numeral **3000**. The compact disc package **3000** includes a living hinge configuration that allows the spine of the package to be curved or rounded so that all four ends of the package can have the same curved profile.

[0052] Package **3000** includes a base portion **3010**, a cover portion **3012** and a spine section **3016**. The base and the cover portions **3010**, **3012** are joined to the spine section **3016** by living hinges **3018***a* and **3018***b*. As best seen in FIGS. **6**, **8**, and **11**, the base and cover portions, **3010** and **3012** respectively, of package **3000**, each include three curved end sections which are adapted to mate when package **3000** is in the closed position. More specifically, base portion **3010** includes top end **3022***a*, bottom end **3024***a* and side end **3026***a* which are adapted to mate with top end **3022***b*, bottom end **3024***b* and side end **3026***b* associated with cover portion **3012**. Each of these end sections has a curved surface profile so that when the package **3000** is in the closed position (see FIG. **7**) the package ends are rounded or curved.

[0053] Unlike the previously described prior art package **2900**, wherein the spine section **2916** is positioned in the same plane as the base portion **2912** and the cover portion **2914** when the package **2900** is in the open position, the spine portion **3016** and living hinges **3018***a*, **3018***b* of package **3000** are not located in the plane shared by the base and cover portions when the package is in the open position (see FIG. **9**). Rather, the spine section **3016** is posited well above the plane shared by the outer surfaces **3030**, **3032** of the base and cover portions **3010**, **3012** and is located at approximately the mid-height of the base and cover portions.

[0054] Referring specifically to FIG. **9**, it can be seen that the living hinges **3018***a* and **3018***b* are positioned at the end of an arc **3034**, **3036** that extends from the outer surfaces **3030**, **3032** of the cover and the base. Moreover, spine section **3016** includes a curved outer surface **3017** the has a profile which is configured to give the spine end of package **3000** a curved profile similar to the three other ends of the package **3000** when in the closed position.

[0055] The described living hinge and spine configuration create a package that has a shorter overall open position length than a traditional package, such as package **2900**. This means that in certain embodiments, the graphic slip sheet may need to be shorter than the length of the opening of the trap **3052** (designated as "L" in FIG. **8**) provided for by the package **3000** and the outer clear film **3050**. As a result, however, the slip sheet can shift as the package is opened and closed.

[0056] As solution to the aforementioned problem with the slip sheet is shown in FIG. **11**. An adhesive is pre-applied to an area **3440** on the inner surface of the slip sheet, preferably at the leading edge. The slip sheet is then inserted into the trap **3052** and located such that its leading edge is in the desired position. Then the adhesive is remotely activated using know techniques, such as for example, heat, UV light or pressure, to allow a portion of the slip sheet, in this example the leading edge, to be adhered to the cover portion **3012** of the package **3000**. This will allow the cover section **3012** to have graphics that will not shift, but allow for the spine and back sections of the graphic slip sheet to slide between the cover and film as the package is opened and closed.

[0057] Referring now to FIG. **10**, which provides a cross-sectional view of package **3000**. Those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that certain embodiments of the presently disclosed compact disc package can include a disc tray **3060**, which is inserted into the base portion **3010** and provides a rosette for supporting the compact disc. In such embodiments, it is advantageous for the base section **3010** to further include a rib member **3062** for securing the disc tray **3060**.

[0058] One advantage of the configuration of the package **3000** of FIGS. **7-11** is that the package **3000** includes a living

hinge and spine configuration that it allows all of the package side walls, including the spine end, to share angled arced, curved and radiuses edges that are greater than the wall section or thickness of the package. Those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the disclosed living hinge configuration and spine design can be readily applied to packages of a variety of thicknesses, including the traditional 7 mm to 15 mm packages.

[0059] Another advantage of the configuration of package **3000** is that it includes a cost effective method for securing a portion of the slip sheet to the cover while allowing the remaining portion of the sheet to move freely, as needed, when the package is opened and closed.

[0060] The illustrated embodiments can be understood as providing exemplary features of varying detail of certain embodiments, and therefore, unless otherwise specified, features, components, modules, elements, and/or aspects of the illustrations can be otherwise combined, interconnected, sequenced, separated, interchanged, positioned, and/or rearranged without materially departing from the disclosed systems or methods. Additionally, the shapes and sizes of components are also exemplary and unless otherwise specified, can be altered without materially affecting or limiting the disclosed technology.

[0061] While the invention has been described with respect to preferred embodiments, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that various changes and/or modifications can be made to the invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention.

1. A case for storing an optical storage disk comprising:
- a cover portion having a cover top end, a cover bottom end, a cover first side end, a cover second side end and a cover inner surface;
- a base portion having a base top end, a base bottom end, a base first side end, a base second side end and a base inner surface;
- a hinge connecting said cover portion and said base portion along said cover first side end and said base first side end;
- means provided on said base inner surface for holding an optical storage disk;
- a base upper security rib disposed on said back inner surface between said disk holding means and said base top end; and
- a cover upper security rib disposed on said cover inner surface so as to be adjacent to and substantially parallel with said base upper security rib when the case is in a closed configuration.

2. A case as claimed in claim **1**, wherein said base upper security rib extends substantially from said base first side end to said base second side end.

3. A case as claimed in claim **2**, wherein said cover upper security rib extends substantially from said cover first side end to said cover second side end.

4. A case as claimed in claim **1**, further comprising:
- a base lower security rib disposed on said back inner surface between said disk holding means and said base bottom end; and
- a cover lower security rib disposed on said cover inner surface so to be adjacent to and substantially parallel with said base lower security rib when the case is in a closed configuration.

5. A case as claimed in claim **4**, wherein said base lower security rib extends substantially from said base first side end to said base second side end.

6. A case as claimed in claim **4**, wherein said cover lower security rib extends substantially from said cover first side end to said cover second side end.

7. A case as claimed in claim **1**, wherein said base top end, said base bottom end, at least a portion of said base first side end, and said base second side end define a base edge wall for said base portion, and wherein said base upper security rib has a height that is greater than the height of the portion of said base edge wall formed by said base top end.

8. A case as claimed in claim **1**, wherein said cover top end, said cover bottom end, at least a portion of said cover first side end, and said cover second side end define a cover edge wall for said cover portion, and wherein said cover upper security rib has a height that is greater than the height of the portion of said cover edge wall formed by said cover top end.

9. A case for storing an optical storage disk comprising:
- a cover portion having a cover top end, a cover bottom end, a cover first side end, a cover second side end, a cover outer surface and a cover inner surface;
- a base portion having a base top end, a base bottom end, a base first side end, a base second side end, a base outer surface and a base inner surface;
- a hinge connecting said cover portion and said base portion along said cover first side end and said base first side end;
- means provided on said base inner surface for holding an optical storage disk;
- at least one of said base portion and said cover portion having formed on its outer surface a band arranged along its respective top end, said band being configured and adapted for display of indicia; and
- a first upper security rib disposed on the inner surface of the one of said base portion and said cover portion having said band formed thereon, said first upper security rib being positioned proximate to said band.

10. A case as claimed in claim **9**, further comprising a second upper security rib disposed on the inner surface of the other of said base portion and said cover portion so as to be adjacent to and substantially parallel with said first upper security rib when the case is in a closed configuration.

11. A case as claimed in claim **10**, wherein said first upper security rib extends substantially from the first side end to the second side end of the one of said base portion and said cover portion on which said first upper security rib is formed.

12. A case as claimed in claim **11**, wherein said second upper security rib extends substantially from the first side end to the second side end of the one of said base portion and said cover portion on which said second upper security rib is formed.

13. A case as claimed in claim **10**, further comprising:
- a base lower security rib disposed on said back inner surface between said disk holding means and said base bottom end; and
- a cover lower security rib disposed on said cover inner surface so to be adjacent to and substantially parallel with said base lower security rib when the case is in a closed configuration.

14. A case for storing an optical storage disk comprising:
- a cover portion having a cover top end, a cover bottom end, a cover first side end, a cover second side end and a cover inner surface;

a base portion having a base top end, a base bottom end, a base first side end, a base second side end and a base inner surface;

a hinge connecting said cover portion and said base portion along said cover first side end and said base first side end;

means provided on said base inner surface for holding an optical storage disk;

a base upper security rib disposed on said back inner surface between said disk holding means and said base top end and extending substantially from said base first side end to said base second side end; and

a cover upper security rib disposed on said cover inner surface so as to be positioned between said disk holding means and said cover top end when the case is in a closed configuration.

15. A case as claimed in claim **14**, wherein said cover upper security rib extends substantially from said cover first side end to said cover second side end.

16. A case as claimed in claim **14**, wherein said cover upper security rib is disposed substantially parallel with said base upper security rib when the case is in a closed configuration.

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