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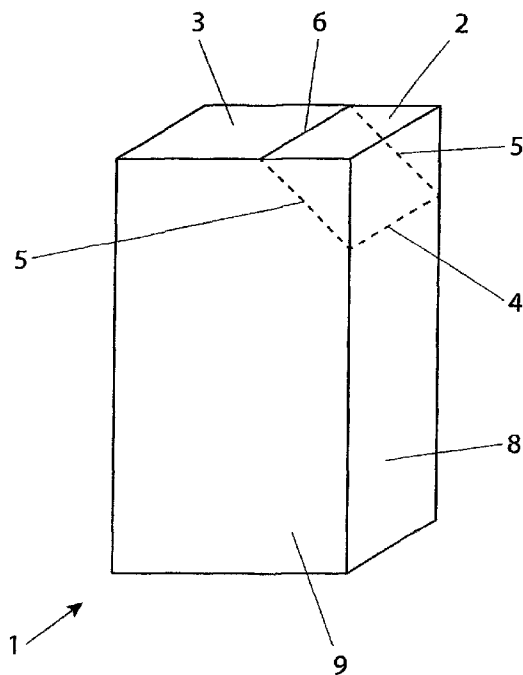


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a packaging for household and hygiene paper products, comprising a closed plastic film encompassing a paper bundle that forms a rectangular block. The packaging according to the invention is characterised in that the plastic film (1) comprises a weakening line extending parallel with a first side (3) of the packaging and consisting of a first edge section (4) that is adapted to be ripped open and is situated at a second side (8) of the packaging at a given distance from said first side (3), and second edge sections (5) connecting the first edge section (4) with the first side (3) of the packaging that are also adapted to be ripped open and are situated at a third side (9) of the packaging, where a flap (2) is formed on the packaging after the edge sections (4, 5) have been ripped open, the flap (2) being adapted to be either folded upwards and back along a folding edge (6) lying in the plane of the first side (3) of the packaging or removed if so desired.

PACKAGING FOR HOUSEHOLD AND HYGIENE PAPER PRODUCTS

Technical field

5 The invention relates to a packaging for household and hygiene paper products, comprising a closed plastic film encompassing a paper bundle that forms a rectangular block.

 In the context of this application the term "household and hygiene paper" is used to refer primarily to paper handkerchiefs and paper napkins, but the term may also cover
10 rectangular sheet toilet tissue or bundles of toilet tissue or paper wipes having a cylindrical shape.

Background art

 The prior art contains a number of widely applied solutions for packaging household
15 and hygiene paper products. The utility model with registration number U 2059 discloses a device for storing paper handkerchiefs, where the storage device has an arrangement known per se, i.e. it is a box having an opening at the middle of its top face. The storage device is arranged to conform to the shape of the objects to be stored, and the surface of the storage device includes another opening arranged such that the second opening
20 overlaps with the first opening.

 In the patent E 002 284 a packing is disclosed for a stack of tissue paper or nonwoven. According to the disclosure, the top and/or bottom layer is provided on its outside with at least one glue layer, the packing comprising a packing wrapper. Also, according to the disclosure, the packing wrapper has, at least within the area of each glue
25 layer, a small capacity to adhere to the welding or to the glue layer(s) of the stack on at least the side which faces the stack.

 According to a widely applied solution, in case of small packs (i.e. packs containing
10 handkerchiefs, the block formed from the handkerchiefs is wrapped in plastic film, the film being welded or glued down at the bottom and top face of the block. To provide for
30 easier opening and re-closing, the packaging is cut at the wider side of the block shape near its longer end, and is provided with a restickable strip. This arrangement allows users to pull out handkerchiefs one by one from the already opened film wrapping, and then re-close the packaging.

 For larger packs of paper handkerchiefs containing 50-300 pieces the conventional
35 solution is to wrap the block formed of the paper handkerchiefs in plastic film, and seal the packaging by welding or gluing together the film edges at the bottom and top faces of the block. This conventional solution has the disadvantages that the packaging cannot be re-closed after it has been opened, it is difficult to pull out paper handkerchiefs from the

packaging one by one, and the remaining paper handkerchiefs cannot be stored hygienically. Also, with solutions commonly applied for packaging paper napkins it is troublesome to pull out napkins from the packaging.

5 Description of the invention

The object of the invention is to provide a simple and convenient packaging for household and hygiene paper products through eliminating the disadvantages of existing solutions.

10 The objective of the invention is fulfilled by providing a packaging for household and hygiene paper products comprising a closed plastic film encompassing the paper bundle that forms a rectangular block. The sides of the rectangular block may end at edges. The term "edge" is used here to refer also to edges with rounding-off necessarily occurring during the manufacturing process. The edges of the rectangular block may also be rounded off. However, rounding-off is limited by the requirement that each side of the
15 block must have a flat portion.

The packaging according to the invention is characterised in that the plastic film comprises a weakening line extending parallel with a first side of the packaging and consisting of a first edge section that is adapted to be ripped open and is situated at a second side of the packaging at a given distance from said first side, and second edge
20 sections connecting the first edge section with the first side of the packaging that are also adapted to be ripped open and are situated at a third side of the packaging, where a flap is formed on the packaging after the edge sections have been ripped open, the flap being adapted to be either folded upwards and back along a folding edge lying in the plane of the first side of the packaging or removed if so desired.

25 In a preferred embodiment the first side of the packaging is formed by the smallest face of the rectangular block, the second side of the packaging being formed by one of the larger faces perpendicular to the first side, and the third side of the packaging being formed by the largest face.

30 In another preferred embodiment the first side of the packaging is formed by any face of the rectangular block, the second and third sides being perpendicular thereto.

In a further preferred embodiment the weakening line of the packaging and the weakening line of the folding edge are implemented as perforated lines. The weakening line may be of a different implementation known from prior art, such as a Velcro strip pressed on the plastic film, or a similar arrangement.

35 The weakening line may be a straight or curved line, or a combination of straight and curved lines.

The packaging according to the invention is made from a material that is easy to manufacture and is readily available. It is preferable to utilise a packaging material to

which information, such as coloured shapes or text can be applied easily and cheaply. In a preferred embodiment the material of the film is polyethylene, polypropylene, or a combination thereof.

The packaging according to the invention is suitable for packaging household and hygiene paper products that are shaped as a rectangular block. It can be preferably applied for packaging a relatively larger quantity of paper handkerchiefs (e.g. 50-300), or for example for packaging as many as 10-5000 paper napkins. The packaging of blocks formed by superposing paper wrap cylinders or formed from toilet paper rolls also falls in the scope of protection of the invention.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the edges adapted to be ripped open are arranged on the rectangular block in such a manner that the upper corner of the block is left open or is closed off by the flap formed by ripping open the specific edge sections. In that case the folding edge is formed at the first side of the block. The size of the open corner applicable for pulling the paper products from the packaging after the edge sections have been ripped open is determined by the dimensions of the flap. It is preferable that the folding edge is situated between 5-100% of the width of the side. For easier removal of the paper products from the packaging, and also for providing protection for the products remaining in the packaging it is preferable that the distance of the first edge section adapted to be ripped open from the first side comprising the folding edge is at least 1% of the full height of the packaging.

The first side of the packaging comprising the folding edge may be the smallest face of the rectangular block, the second side comprising the first edge section adapted to be ripped open may be the next smallest face of the rectangular block, while the third side may be formed by the largest face of the rectangular block. The folding edge and the first edge section may also have a "reverse" arrangement, in which case the flap extends downwards (instead of upwards) from the packaging. The arrangement wherein the folding edge and the first edge section, respectively, are formed at the largest and the smallest face of the rectangular block also falls in the scope of protection of the invention.

Brief description of the drawings

The invention will now be explained in detail referring to the accompanying drawings, where

Fig. 1 illustrates an embodiment of the packaging according to the invention before the packaging is ripped open, and

Fig. 2 illustrates an embodiment of the packaging according to Fig. 1 after the packaging has been ripped open.

Modes for carrying out the invention

Fig. 1 illustrates the packaging according to the invention. The packaging is made from a film 1 having a rectangular block shape that has two opposite first sides 3, two opposite second sides 8 and two opposite third sides 9. The first sides 3 of the rectangular block have the smallest surface area, the surface area of the second sides 8 being larger and the surface area of the third sides 9 the largest. The plastic film 1 has a weakening line that is shown in dashed lines in Fig. 1. The weakening line consists of three parts: a first edge section 4 disposed on the second side 8 of the packaging at a given distance from the first side 3 extending parallel therewith, and two second edge sections 5 connecting the first edge section 4 with the first side 3 of the packaging. The second edge sections 5 are disposed on the third side 9 of the packaging. The edge sections 4, 5 (adapted to be ripped open) define a folding edge 6 on the first side 3. After the first edge section 4 and the second edge sections 5 have been ripped open, the flap 2 can be folded up and back along the folding edge 6. It has to be noted that the folding edge 6 may optionally be fitted with a weakening line (perforations), whereby the flap 2 can be removed from the packaging. Fig. 2 illustrates the packaging in its open state, i.e. after it has been ripped open. In case of the embodiment illustrated in Figs 1 and 2, the folding edge 6 is situated in the middle (50%) of the width of the first side 3. The distance of the first edge section 4, adapted to be ripped open, from the first side 3 is 25% of the full height of the packaging. For better clarity this proportion is exaggerated in the drawings. For a given realized packaging the percentage values may significantly differ from the percentage values given as examples.

The advantage of the packaging according to the invention lies in its ease of use. The sealed packaging can be opened easily, while the contents of the packaging may be stored hygienically.

CLAIMS

1. Packaging for household and hygiene paper products, comprising a closed plastic
5 film (1) encompassing a paper bundle that forms a rectangular block, characterised in that
the plastic film (1) comprises a weakening line extending parallel with a first side
(3) of the packaging and consisting of a first edge section (4) that is adapted to be ripped
open and is situated at a second side (8) of the packaging at a given distance from said
first side (3), and second edge sections (5) connecting the first edge section (4) with the
10 first side (3) of the packaging that are also adapted to be ripped open and are situated at
a third side (9) of the packaging, where a flap (2) is formed on the packaging after the
edge sections (4, 5) have been ripped open, the flap (2) being adapted to be either folded
upwards and back along a folding edge (6) lying in the plane of the first side (3) of the
packaging or removed if so desired.
- 15 2. The packaging according to Claim 1, characterised in that the first side (3) of the
packaging is formed by the smallest face of the rectangular block, the second side (8) of
the packaging being formed by one of the larger faces perpendicular to the first side (3),
and the third side (9) of the packaging being formed by the largest face.
- 20 3. The packaging according to Claim 1, characterised in that the first side (3) of the
packaging is formed by any one of the faces of the rectangular block, the second side (8)
and third side (9) of the packaging being perpendicular to the first side (3).
4. The packaging according to Claim 1, characterised in that the folding edge (6)
lying at the plane of the first side of the packaging comprises a weakening line to make
the flap (2) removable.
- 25 5. The packaging according to any one of the previous Claims, characterised in that
the weakening line consisting of the first edge section (4) and the second edge section
(5), as well as the weakening line of the folding edge (6), is implemented as a perforated
line.
- 30 6. The packaging according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the weakening
line consisting of the first edge section (4) and the second edge sections (5) is formed as
a Velcro strip pressed on the plastic film (1).
7. The packaging according to any one of the previous Claims, characterised in that
the weakening line consists of straight and/or curved sections.
8. The packaging according to any one of the previous Claims, characterised in that
35 the plastic film (1) is made from polyethylene material.
9. The packaging according to any one of the previous Claims, characterised in that
the plastic film (1) is made from polypropylene material.

10. The packaging according to any one of the previous Claims, characterised in that the plastic film (1) is made from a combination of polypropylene and polyethylene materials.

5 11. The packaging according to any one of the previous Claims, characterised in that the folding edge (6) is situated at 5-100% of the width of the first side (3).

12. The packaging according to any one of the previous Claims, characterised in that the distance between the first edge section (4) adapted to be ripped open and the first side (3) is at least 1% of the full height of the packaging.

LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

5	
	1 film
	2 flap
	3 first side
	4 first edge section
10	5 second edge section
	6 folding edge
	8 second side
	9 third side

15

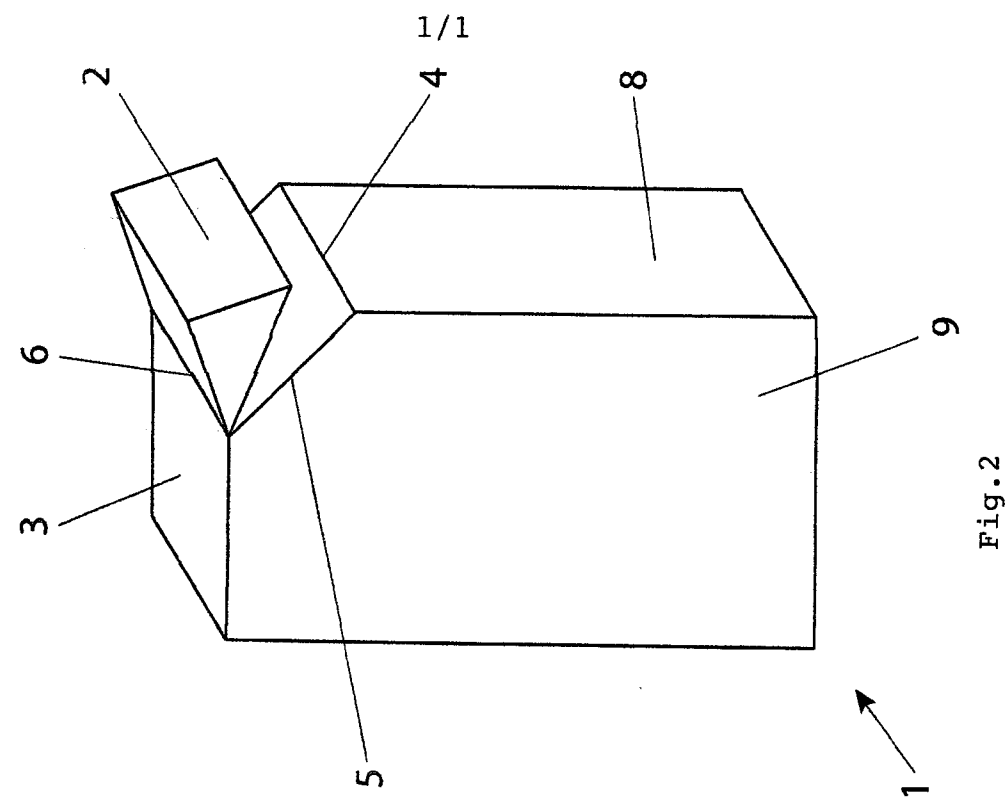


Fig. 1

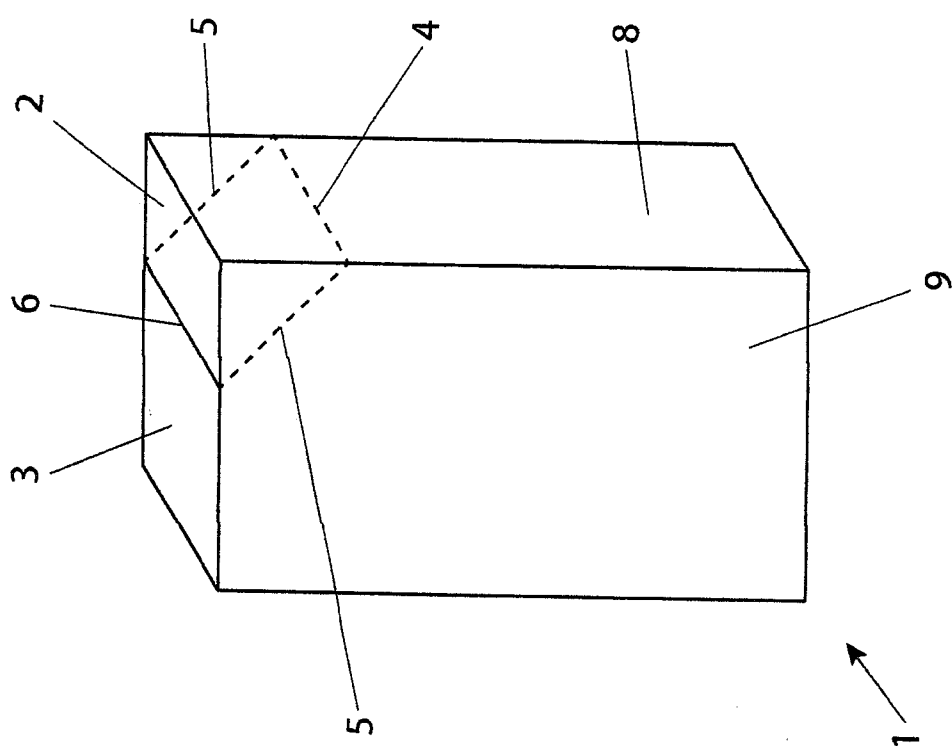


Fig. 2