



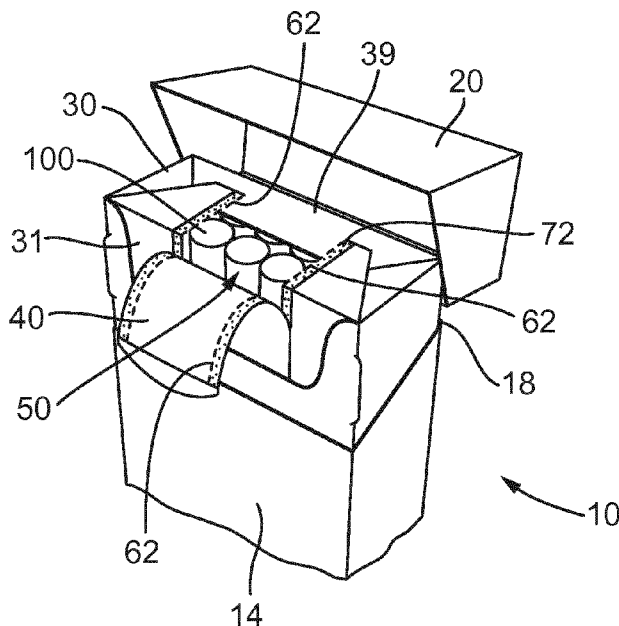
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CONTAINER COMPRISING A RE-SEALABLE INNER PACKAGE

Fig. 1



(57) Abstract: A container (10) for consumer goods, the container having a re-sealable inner bundle (30). The container includes a housing including a box (14) and a lid (20) hinged to the box, where the box includes a front wall, a rear wall and opposing side walls. The container also includes an inner liner (30) disposed within the housing, the inner liner comprising a base layer for at least partially defining an interior volume for housing consumer goods, the base layer having at least two longitudinal substantially parallel lines of weakness extending the entire length of the base layer. The inner liner includes a closure layer permanently adhered to at least a portion of the base layer and extending at least partially between the lines of weakness whereby at least part of the closure layer remains attached to the base layer during tearing along the lines of weakness to form an access opening (40) and closure member (50). A re-sealable adhesive is provided on the base layer or closure member, or both, to enable repeated attachment of the closure member to the base layer to re-seal the access opening.

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CONTAINER COMPRISING A RE-SEALABLE INNER PACKAGE

The present invention relates to a container for consumer goods with a re-closable inner bundle. The container finds particular application as a container for elongate smoking articles such as cigarettes.

Cigarettes are generally wrapped within an inner liner of metallized paper, metal foil, or other flexible sheet material and then the wrapped bundle is contained within a cigarette pack, usually in the form of a box with a hinged lid. The finished pack is then wrapped within a protective film.

The inner liner is generally provided with a pull section located centrally at the top of the bundle. First opening of the bundle is achieved by pulling the pull section upwardly to tear away a pre-perforated upper portion of the inner liner, thereby enabling initial access to the contents of the liner. Different sealing mechanisms have been described to enable re-sealing of the inner bundle so as to keep the contents fresh and to prevent any foreign material exchange between the inside and outside of the inner liner bundle.

For example, European Patent Application EP-A-0 944 539 discloses a hinge-lid container of smoking articles in which the smoking articles are enclosed in a sealed enclosure of a layer of barrier material having an access aperture defined therein. The access aperture is covered by a cover layer with a permanently tacky surface, which can be engaged with the layer of barrier material to reseal the enclosure after first opening the aperture. To aid opening and re-opening of the sealed enclosure, a non-adhesive tab is provided at the bottom edge of the cover layer.

The present invention seeks to provide an improved re-sealable container for consumer goods, in particular smoking articles, that maintains the freshness of the articles and provides the consumer with means to easily reseal the inner liner of a container to give enhanced freshness.

In one aspect of the invention, a container for consumer goods is described. The container includes a housing including a box and a lid hingedly attached to the box, where the box includes a front wall, a rear wall and opposing side walls. The container also includes an inner liner disposed within the housing, the inner liner comprising a base layer for at least partially defining an interior volume for housing consumer goods, the base layer having at least two longitudinal substantially parallel lines of weakness extending the entire length of the base layer. The inner liner includes a closure layer permanently adhered to at least a portion of the base layer and extending at least partially between the lines of weakness whereby at least part of the closure layer remains attached to the base layer during tearing along the lines

of weakness to form an access opening and closure member. A re-sealable adhesive is provided on the base layer or closure member, or both, to enable repeated attachment of the closure member to the base layer to re-seal the access opening.

Advantageously, this two-layer construction provides a cost-effective manner in which to provide a sealed package that can be opened and closed to preserve the freshness of the package's content. In addition, the two-layer construction requires fewer elements while providing improved sealing properties of the container.

The inner liner of the present invention may be a flexible sheet which is wrapped or folded around a bundle of consumer goods, such as smoking articles. In its unfolded condition, the inner liner has a length in its longitudinal direction, and a width transverse to its length. The inner liner may be made of any suitable material or materials.

The access opening of the inner liner is preferably at the top of the container, proximate to the lid. Preferably, the access opening of the inner liner extends across at least part of the top wall, and preferably at least part of the top of the front wall, of the inner package or bundle formed by the inner liner in the outer housing. Preferably, when the inner liner is in its folded or wrapped condition in the outer housing, the at least two longitudinal substantially parallel lines of weakness of the base layer extend in a direction from the base of the wrapped bundle to the top of the wrapped bundle. Alternatively or additionally, when the inner liner is in its folded or wrapped condition in the outer housing, the at least two longitudinal substantially parallel lines of weakness of the base layer extend in a direction from the front of the wrapped bundle to the rear of the wrapped bundle. The container may take any suitable form for housing consumer goods. For example, as already mentioned, the container may be a hinge-lid container having one or more hinged lids connected to a box housing the consumer goods. In one or more embodiments, the container may be a slide and shell container having an inner slide for housing the consumer goods mounted within an outer shell. Where the container is a slide and shell container, the outer shell or the inner slide may include one or more hinged lids. The container, inner frame, inner bundle, and outer wrapper may be formed from any suitable materials including, but not limited to, cardboard, paperboard, plastic, metal or combinations thereof. The cardboard may have a weight of between about 100 grams per square meter and about 350 grams per square meter.

Containers according to the invention may be in the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped, with right-angled longitudinal and right-angled transverse edges. Alternatively, the container may include one or more rounded longitudinal edges, rounded transverse edges, bevelled longitudinal edges, or bevelled transverse edges, or combinations thereof.

Where the container includes one or more rounded edges, preferably the blanks forming the container include three, four, five, six or seven scoring lines or creasing lines to

form each rounded edge in the assembled container. The scoring lines or creasing lines may be either on the inside of the container or on the outside of the container. Preferably, the scoring lines or creasing lines may be either on the inside of the container or on the outside of the container. Preferably, the scoring lines or creasing lines are spaced from each other by between about 0.3mm and 4mm.

Preferably, the spacing of the creasing lines or scoring lines is a function of the thickness of the laminar blank. Preferably, the spacing between the creasing lines or scoring lines is between about 0.5 and about 4 times larger than the thickness of the laminar blank. Where the container includes one or more bevelled edges, preferably the bevelled edge has a width of between about 1mm and about 10mm, preferably between about 2mm and about 6mm. In one or more embodiments, the container may include a double bevel formed by three parallel creasing or scoring lines that are spaced such that two distinct bevels are formed on the edge of the container. Where the container includes a bevelled edge, the bevel may be formed by two parallel creasing lines or scoring lines in the laminar blank from which the container is formed. The creasing lines or scoring lines may be arranged symmetrically to the edge between a first wall and a second wall. Alternatively, the creasing lines or scoring lines may be arranged asymmetrically to the edge between the first wall and the second wall, such that the bevel reaches further into the first wall of the container than into the second wall of the container.

Alternatively, the container may have a non-rectangular transverse cross section, for example, polygonal such as triangular or hexagonal, or oval, semi-oval, circular or semi-circular.

Containers according to the invention find particular application as packs for elongated smoking articles such as, for example, cigarettes, cigars or cigarillos. It will be appreciated that through appropriate choices of the dimensions of the container, containers according to the invention may be designed for different numbers of conventional size, king size, super-king size, slim or super-slim cigarettes.

Through an appropriate choice of dimensions, containers according to the invention may be designed to hold different total number of smoking articles, or different arrangements of smoking articles. For example, through an appropriate choice of the dimensions, containers according to the invention may be designed to hold a total of between ten and forty smoking articles.

As well as housing a bundle of smoking articles, the container may further include other consumer goods, for example, matches, lighters, extinguishing means, breath fresheners, or electronics. The other consumer goods may be attached to the outside of the

container, contained within the container along with the smoking articles, in a separate compartment of the container, or combinations of the same.

The lid of the housing is hingedly attached to the box and is adapted to be manipulated between an open position and a closed position. In the open position, the consumer can access the consumer goods disposed within the housing following opening of the inner bundle. The lid can be hingedly attached to the box along a hinge line that extends across a rear wall of the container. The term "hinge line" refers to a line about which the lid may be pivoted to open the container. A hinge line may be, for example, a fold line or a score line in the panel forming the back wall of the housing.

Disposed within the housing is an inner bundle that includes the consumer goods. The inner bundle at least partially defines an interior volume for housing consumer goods. The inner bundle comprises a base layer and a closure layer for forming a closure member.

In an embodiment, the closure layer has smaller dimensions than the base layer and is permanently adhered to a substantially central region of the base layer. That is, the closure layer has smaller length and a smaller width than the base layer and is permanently adhered to a substantially central region of the base layer. The base layer is provided with two substantially parallel lines of weakness, the lines of weakness being provided within a perimeter of the closure layer. For example, the closure layer may comprise an elongated strip of material permanently adhered along the central region of the base layer except for along the longitudinal edges of the closure layer. The closure layer is provided with two substantially parallel lines of re-sealable adhesive between the lines of weakness of the base layer and the longitudinal edges of the closure layer. The central region of the base layer may be torn along the lines of weakness to separate the closure layer from the rest of the base layer, thereby forming a closure member with re-sealable adhesive along its edges.

In another embodiment, the closure layer and the base layer are of substantially the same dimensions, that is the closure layer and base layer may be co-extensive. Put another way, the length of the closure layer and the length of the base layer are of substantially the same size, and the width of the closure layer and the width of the base layer are of substantially the same size. The closure layer is provided with two substantially parallel first lines of weakness at a first distance apart and the base layer is provided with two substantially parallel second lines of weakness at a second distance apart, the first distance being greater than the second distance. A re-sealable adhesive is applied between corresponding first and second lines of weakness provided on the closure layer and base layer respectively to provide two substantially parallel lines of re-sealable adhesive along at least a partial length of the closure layer. The closure layer and base layer may be separated from the rest of the layers along

the lines of weakness to provide a closure member having re-sealable adhesive along its edges.

The closure member is preferably provided with a tab extending beyond the base layer.

Preferably, the lines of weakness define a closure member that has three sides that separate the member from the base layer, and a fourth side that forms a hinge line between the closure member and the base layer. The closure member can take any suitable shape or combination of shapes and have any suitable dimensions.

The line of weakness can be continuous or discontinuous (for example, perforated). Further, the line of weakness can be formed using any suitable technique or combination of techniques, for example, laser cutting or mechanical cutting (for example, die cutting or kiss cutting). The line of weakness can include any suitable depth in a direction transverse to the base layer or closure layer. Preferably, the line of weakness has a depth that is at least about 90 per cent of a total thickness of the base layer or closure layer. More preferably, the line of weakness has a depth that is about 100 percent of the total thickness of the base layer or closure layer. Any suitable percentage of material can remain along the line of weakness after the line has been formed. Preferably, between about 5 percent and about 25 percent of the material of the base layer or closure layer remains along the line of weakness after the line has been formed.

The access opening formed by opening of the closure member can be disposed in any suitable location within the inner bundle. In one or more embodiments, the access opening can be disposed such that it is located on a front wall of the inner bundle. In one or more embodiments, the access opening can be disposed such that it is located on a top wall of the inner bundle. In one or more embodiments, the access opening can be disposed such that it is located across a portion of the front wall and the top wall of the inner bundle. The access opening can take any suitable shape or combination of shapes.

The base and closure layers can include any suitable material or combination of materials. The base layer can include the same material as the closure layer or different material from the closure layer. Preferably, at least one of the base and closure layers is formed of metal or metalized paper. At least one of the base and closure layers may be formed as a laminate of a metalized polyethylene film and a liner material. The closure layer is preferably transparent. At least one of the base and closure layers can have a thickness that is between about 10 microns and about 50 microns. In addition, the base and closure layers may be provided with a print-receptive top coating.

The closure member is adapted to reattach to the base layer when the member is in the closed position. Preferably, the closure member is adapted to overlap the access opening

in a seal region such that the member attaches to the base layer within the seal region when the closure member is in the closed position. The adhesive disposed between the closure member and the seal region allows for repeated opening and closing of the closure member so that the consumer goods disposed within the inner bundle can be accessed when the closure member is in the open position, and so that the consumer goods remain sealed within the inner bundle when the closure member is in the closed condition. Preferably, the adhesive disposed between the closure member and the seal region provides sufficient adhesion for the member to be reattached at least as many times as there are consumer goods within the inner bundle such that the consumer can open and reseal the inner bundle until it is empty.

The re-sealable adhesive can be disposed in any suitable location between the closure member and the seal region. In one or more embodiments, this adhesive can be disposed on the closure member. In one or more embodiments, this adhesive can be disposed along at least a portion of a perimeter of the closure member corresponding to the seal region when the member is in the closed position.

Preferably, the closure member has an area that is greater than the area of the access opening created in the base layer so that the access opening is covered by the closure member when it is in the closed position.

The lines of weakness of the closure layer that define the closure member expose the seal region of the base layer. The seal region can have any suitable dimension or dimensions. For example, in one or more embodiments, the seal region can have a constant width that extends from a perimeter of the access opening (corresponding to the line of weakness of the base layer) to the line of weakness of the closure layer. In one or more embodiments, the seal region can have a width that varies along the perimeter of the access opening. Preferably, the average width of the seal region is 2-5 mm. Preferably, a surface area of the seal region is between about 25 percent and about 300 percent of an area of the access opening. More preferably, the surface area of the seal region is between about 25 percent to about 65 percent of the area of the access opening.

In another aspect of the present invention there is provided a sheet material to form a wrapper for wrapping around one or more consumer goods, the sheet material comprising: a base layer for defining an interior volume for housing consumer goods, the base layer having at least two longitudinal, substantially parallel lines of weakness extending the entire length of the base layer; a closure layer permanently adhered to at least a portion of the base layer and extending at least partially between the lines of weakness; and a re-sealable adhesive provided on the base layer or closure layer.

In an embodiment, the closure layer has smaller dimensions than the base layer and is permanently adhered to a substantially central region of the base layer, said base layer

having two substantially parallel lines of weakness within a perimeter of the closure layer and the closure layer having two substantially parallel lines of re-sealable adhesive between the lines of weakness of the base layer and the perimeter of the closure layer.

In another embodiment, the closure layer and the base layer are of substantially the same dimensions, the closure layer is provided with two substantially parallel first lines of weakness at a first distance apart and the base layer is provided with two substantially parallel second lines of weakness at a second distance apart, the first distance being greater than the second distance and wherein the re-sealable adhesive is applied between corresponding first and second lines of weakness provided on the closure layer and base layer respectively to provide two substantially parallel lines of re-sealable adhesive along at least a length of the closure layer.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a method of manufacturing a container of consumer goods, the method comprising: wrapping a wrapper around one or more consumer goods to form a bundle of consumer goods, the wrapper formed from a sheet material comprising: a base layer for defining an interior volume for housing consumer goods, the base layer having at least two longitudinal, substantially parallel lines of weakness extending the entire length of the base layer; a closure layer permanently adhered to at least a portion of the base layer and extending at least partially between the lines of weakness; and a re-sealable adhesive provided on the base layer or closure layer; and folding a laminar blank around the bundle of consumer goods to form an outer housing containing the bundle of consumer goods.

Preferably, the base layer is wrapped around the consumer goods and a permanent adhesive is applied to free ends of the base layer at a region outside the two lines of weakness, preferably being at the intended top wall of the bundle.

Referring now to the drawings, in which some aspects of the invention are illustrated.

FIG. 1 is a schematic perspective partial front view of a container according to an embodiment of the invention shown with the outer housing and an inner liner in an open position;

FIG. 2 is a sheet material for forming the inner liner shown in the container of Figure 1;

FIG. 3 is a schematic perspective partial front view of a container according to another embodiment of the invention shown with the outer housing and an inner liner in an open position; and

FIG. 4 is a sheet material for forming the inner liner shown in the container of Figure 3.

Referring to FIG. 1, a schematic perspective view of an embodiment of a container 10 for consumer goods is depicted. The container 10 includes a housing that includes a box 14 and a lid 20 hingedly attached to the box via a hinge line 18. The hinge line 18 extends across the back of the box 14 of the container 10, and acts to allow the lid 20 to be moved from a closed position (not shown) to an open position (shown). An inner liner 30 is disposed within the housing. The inner liner 30 is made from a barrier material or materials to enclose the consumer goods before the container is opened for the first time. The barrier material may be a metal foil, a plastic material or a laminate comprising two or more of a plastic material, a metal material and a paper material.

The inner liner 30 is made from a sheet of material, such as that shown in FIG.2, with the liner being wrapped around a bundle of consumer goods, for example cigarettes, to form an inner bundle having a front wall 31, a back wall (not shown), opposing side walls, a bottom wall and top wall 39. A permanent adhesive or another form of permanently closing, for example welding is used to seal overlapping folded regions of the sheet to form the top wall 39, thereby sealing the goods within the bundle.

The inner liner is provided with two parallel lines of weakness, such as perforations 62 creating a flap 40 that is formed by the inner liner between the lines of weakness. This enables the flap 40 to be separated from the rest of the inner liner by tearing along the lines of weakness thereby defining an access opening 50 (see FIG. 1) so that the contents of the inner bundle can be accessed when desired. The flap 40 remains attached to the inner liner along one side so that it may be folded back over the opening 50 to cover the opening once access is no longer required, thereby forming a closure member. The degree of separation of the flap from the inner liner is variable to enable a small opening to be provided (for example, allowing access to a single cigarette from the top wall) or a larger opening (for example, extending into the front wall to allow access to multiple cigarettes). A re-sealable adhesive 72 is provided along at least part of the perimeter of the flap or the perimeter of the access opening, or both, to enable the flap to be re-attached to the rest of the inner bundle, thereby resealing the inner bundle. The adhesive should provide sufficient adhesion for the flap to be reattached to the liner at least as many times as there are consumer goods within the inner bundle such that the consumer can open and reseal the inner liner until the package is empty. The inner bundle 10 may include an inner stiffener (not shown) disposed within the inner liner. The inner frame can include a reinforcing element disposed between the inner frame and an inner surface of the inner liner.

FIG. 2 illustrates one embodiment for a sheet for forming the re-sealable inner liner 30 according to FIG. 1. The inner liner includes a base layer 60 having a width "a" and provided with two longitudinal, substantially parallel lines of weakness 62 provided along the

length of the base layer. A closure layer 70 is attached centrally to an intended outer surface of the base layer. The closure layer comprises an elongated transparent strip of material having a width "b" that is slightly wider than the distance between the two lines of weakness 62 provided on the base layer. For example, the closure layer may be 20 -30 mm in width. The closure layer is attached to the base layer by an adhesive, for example a permanent adhesive 64 between the two lines of weakness 62 and the elongate edges of the closure layer extending beyond these lines are provided with a re-sealable adhesive 72 along their length. One end of the closure layer that will form part of the top wall in the assembled bundle extends beyond the end of the base layer to form a tab 74. In use, the tab 74 is pulled downwardly (i.e. in a direction from the top wall to the front wall), causing the base layer to tear along the lines of weakness 62 to separate the base layer, having the closure layer permanently adhered to it, from the rest of the base layer, thereby forming flap 40. This provides the access opening 50. The flap may be subsequently re-attached to the rest of the base layer by means of the re-sealable adhesive 72 provided along opposing sides of the flap, thereby forming a closure member.

The closure member may be provided with a hinge-line (not shown) 42 which, in the assembled container, corresponds in position to an indentation 80 provided in the front wall of the outer housing or inner frame. In this manner, pulling of the tab by the user is delimited by the edge of the front wall (see FIG. 1).

FIG. 3 illustrates a container according to another embodiment of the present invention. Identical features to those shown in Figure 1 are given the same reference numerals and only the differences will be described in detail. The inner liner 30 is comprised of a base layer and a closure layer, the base layer having two parallel lines of weakness 62' and the closure layer being provided with two parallel lines of weakness 76 at a greater distance apart than those of the base layer. The base layer and closure layer are permanently adhered to each other except in the region between adjacent lines of perforations 62', 76 where re-sealable adhesive 72' is provided. This enables the flap 40' to be formed by tearing along the lines of weakness 62', 76. The central part of the base layer remains attached to the closure layer between the lines of weakness 62'. The flap may then be folded back over the opening 50 to cover the opening once access is no longer required, thereby forming a closure member. The re-sealable adhesive 72' enables re-sealing of the flap to the base layer in the area between the perforated lines 62', 76.

FIG. 4 of the accompanying drawings illustrates a sheet material for forming the inner bundle for the container shown in Figure 3, being more suitable for bulk production of the inner liner. The sheet comprises a base layer 60' and a closure layer 70', the base and closure layers being of substantially the same dimensions ("x"). The closure layer 70' is provided with

two substantially parallel first lines of weakness 76 at a first distance apart (y) and the base layer 60' is provided with two substantially parallel second lines of weakness 62' at a second distance apart (z), the first distance (y) being greater than the second distance (z). The two layers are permanently adhered to each other by permanent adhesive 64' except along two strips defined by adjacent lines of weakness 62', 76 where re-sealable adhesive 72' is applied between the layers to form a sealing region. One end of the closure layer between the lines of weakness 62' that will form part of the top wall in the assembled bundle extends beyond the end of the base layer to form a tab 74'.

The sheet material is wrapped around a bundle of consumer goods, such as cigarettes, and sealed using permanent adhesive applied to overlapping end regions of the base layer in the same manner as conventional bundling techniques thereby providing a bundle that looks the same as prior art bundles. Upon first use of the container, the tab 74' is pulled downwardly, causing the base layer to tear along the lines of weakness 62' and the closure layer to tear along the lines of weakness 76. Such first opening of the bundle requires greater force to effect tearing along the lines of weakness. This separates the central region of the base and closure layers "y" and "z" from the rest of the base and closure layers "c", thereby forming a flap 40 to expose an access opening 50 in the inner liner. The closure layer that forms the flap is of a greater width "y" than the base layer to which it is attached and has sealing regions along its edges provided by the resealable adhesive 72'. This enables the closure layer and base layer that forms the flap to be subsequently re-attached to the inner liner "c" by means of the re-sealable adhesive, thereby acting as a closure member to reseal the inner bundle. Subsequent access to the contents of the bundle is then achieved more easily by opening and closing the closure member.

CLAIMS

1. A container for consumer goods, comprising:

an outer housing comprising a box and a lid hingedly attached to the box, wherein the box comprises a front wall, a rear wall and opposing side walls;

an inner liner disposed within the housing, the inner liner comprising: a base layer for defining an interior volume for housing consumer goods, the base layer having at least two longitudinal, substantially parallel lines of weakness extending the entire length of the base layer;

a closure layer permanently adhered to at least a portion of the base layer and extending at least partially between the lines of weakness whereby at least part of the closure layer remains attached to the base layer during tearing along the lines of weakness to form an access opening and closure member; and

a re-sealable adhesive provided on the base layer or closure member to enable repeated attachment of the closure member to the base layer to re-seal the access opening.

2. The container of claim 1 wherein the closure layer has smaller dimensions than the base layer and is permanently adhered to a substantially central region of the base layer.

3. The container of claim 2 wherein the base layer is provided with two substantially parallel lines of weakness, the lines of weakness being provided within a perimeter of the closure layer.

4. The container of claim 3 wherein the closure layer is provided with two substantially parallel lines of re-sealable adhesive between the lines of weakness of the base layer and the perimeter of the closure layer.

5. The container of claim 1 wherein the closure layer and the base layer are of substantially the same dimensions.

6. The container of claim 5 wherein the closure layer is provided with two substantially parallel first lines of weakness at a first distance apart and the base layer is provided with two substantially parallel second lines of weakness at a second distance apart, the first distance being greater than the second distance.

7. The container of claim 6 wherein the re-sealable adhesive is applied between corresponding first and second lines of weakness provided on the closure layer and base layer respectively to provide two substantially parallel lines of re-sealable adhesive along at least a partial length of the closure layer.

8. The container of any one of the preceding claims wherein the closure member is provided with a tab extending beyond the inner liner.

9. An assembly comprising the container of any one of the preceding claims and then consumer goods, wherein the consumer goods are housed in the interior volume defined by the inner package.

10. The container of claim 9 wherein the consumer goods are smoking articles.

11. A sheet material to form a wrapper for wrapping around one or more consumer goods, the sheet material comprising:

a base layer for defining an interior volume for housing consumer goods, the base layer having at least two longitudinal, substantially parallel lines of weakness extending the entire length of the base layer;

a closure layer permanently adhered to at least a portion of the base layer and extending at least partially between the lines of weakness; and

a re-sealable adhesive provided on the base layer or closure layer.

12. A sheet material of claim 11 wherein the closure layer has smaller dimensions than the base layer and is permanently adhered to a substantially central region of the base layer, said base layer having two substantially parallel lines of weakness within a perimeter of the closure layer and the closure layer having two substantially parallel lines of re-sealable adhesive between the lines of weakness of the base layer and the perimeter of the closure layer.

13. A sheet material of claim 11 wherein the closure layer and the base layer are of substantially the same dimensions, the closure layer is provided with two substantially parallel first lines of weakness at a first distance apart and the base layer is provided with two substantially parallel second lines of weakness at a second distance apart, the first distance being greater than the second distance and wherein the re-sealable adhesive is applied between corresponding first and second lines of weakness provided on the closure layer and base layer respectively to provide two substantially parallel lines of re-sealable adhesive along at least a length of the closure layer.

14. A method of manufacturing a container of consumer goods, the method comprising:

wrapping a wrapper around one or more consumer goods to form a bundle of consumer goods, the wrapper formed from a sheet material comprising:

a base layer for defining an interior volume for housing consumer goods, the base layer having at least two longitudinal, substantially parallel lines of weakness extending the entire length of the base layer;

a closure layer permanently adhered to at least a portion of the base layer and extending at least partially between the lines of weakness; and

a re-sealable adhesive provided on the base layer or closure layer; and

folding a laminar blank around the bundle of consumer goods to form an outer housing containing the bundle of consumer goods.

15. A method of claim 14 further comprising wrapping the base layer around the consumer goods and applying permanent adhesive to free ends of the base layer at a region outside the two lines of weakness.

Fig. 1

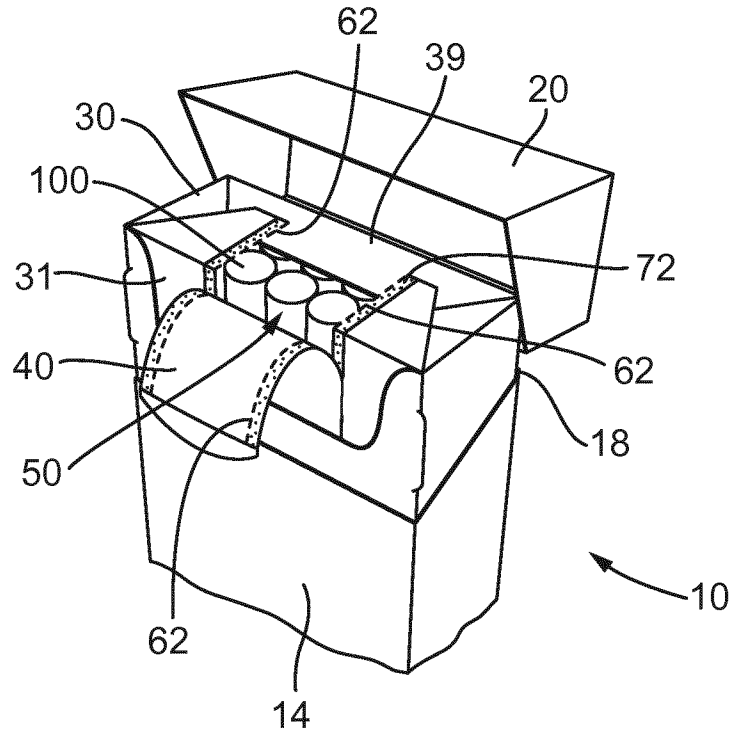


Fig. 2

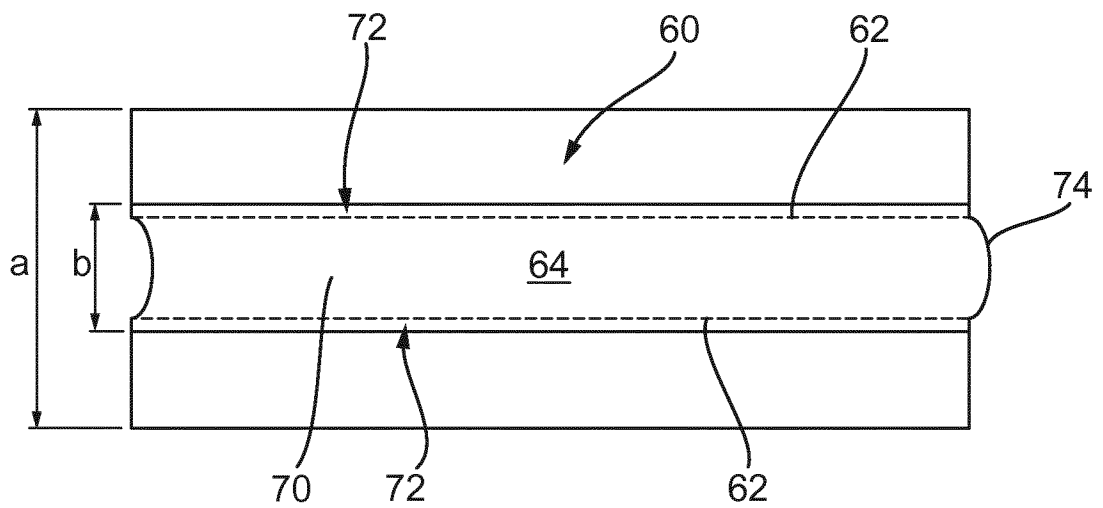


Fig. 3

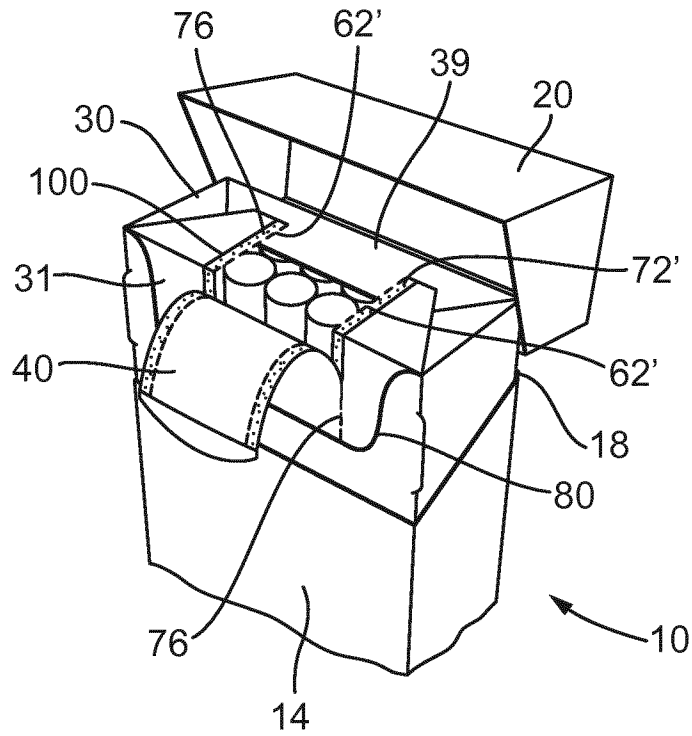
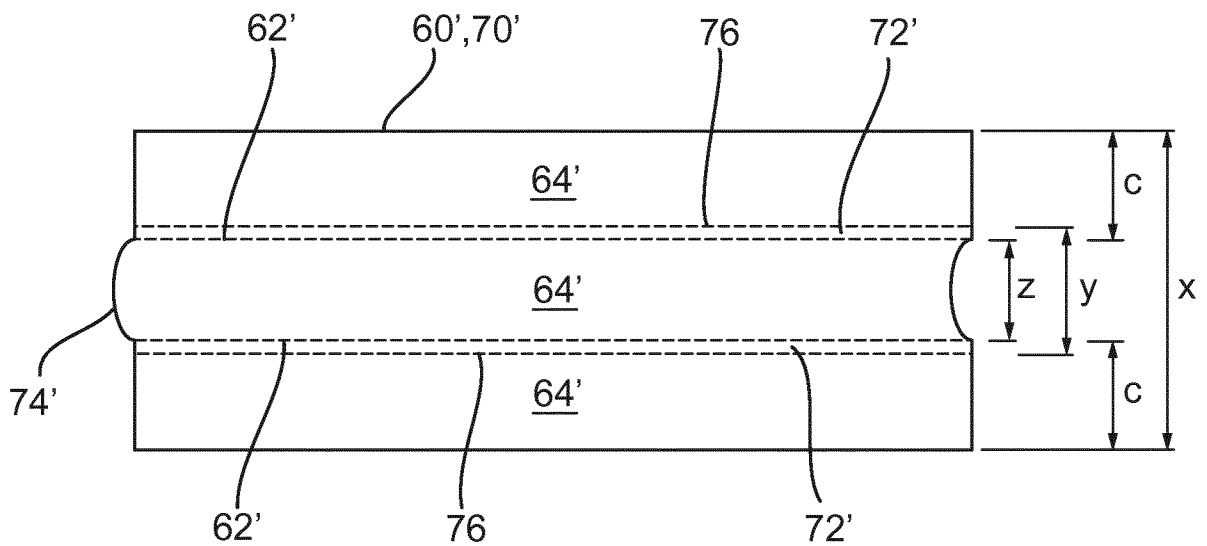


Fig. 4



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2017/054667

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. B65D85/10 B65D75/58
 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 practicable, search terms used)
 EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	GB 2 319 511 A (ROTHMANS INTERNATIONAL LTD [GB]) 27 May 1998 (1998-05-27) page 1, line 3 - page 3, line 21 page 5, line 1 - page 6, line 4 figures 1,2 -----	1-15
Y	WO 2015/139941 A1 (AMCOR FLEXIBLES BURGDORF GMBH [CH]) 24 September 2015 (2015-09-24) paragraph [0017] - paragraph [0043] figures 1,2,4,7-9 -----	1-15
Y	EP 0 944 539 A1 (ROTHMANS INTERNATIONAL LTD [GB]) 29 September 1999 (1999-09-29) cited in the application paragraphs [0017], [0033] - [0045] figures 1-5 -----	1-15

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search
 28 March 2017

Date of mailing of the international search report
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Information on patent family members

International application No

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