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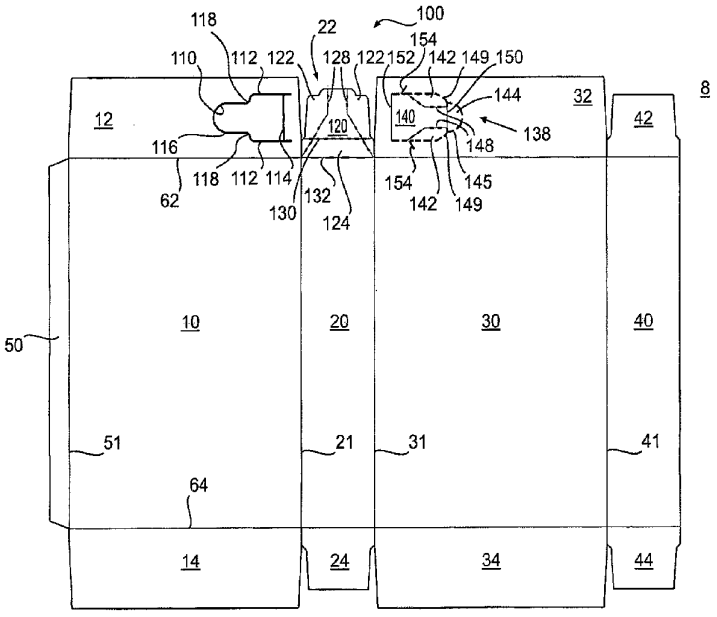

(57) Abstract: A carton (140) includes a spout dispenser (160) formed in a top panel (170) of the carton. The spout dispenser is formed from a spout section of a side top flap adhered to an end top flap. Pivoting the spout section away from the top panel (170) causes part of the end top flap to be pulled through an aperture (110) through which product can be dispensed.

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CARTON HAVING A PIVOTABLE DISPENSER

BACKGROUND

[0001] Dispensing cartons are known. Such cartons typically have a top panel formed from flaps that are separable to open the top of the carton. The contents of the carton can then be dispensed from the open carton top. Such cartons, however, typically are not easily closed once opened, and may not provide for easy dispensing of the carton contents. One solution to this problem is to include a pivotable dispenser that can be opened for dispensing the carton contents and then closed for storage. Conventional pivotable dispensers, however, may be difficult to open and/or to place in a dispensing configuration. Many conventional dispensers also require a metal or plastic insert spout piece to form the dispensing portion of the carton, which may increase costs and/or complexity of manufacture.

[0001a] The discussion of documents, acts, materials, devices, articles and the like is included in this specification solely for the purpose of providing a context for the present invention. It is not suggested or represented that any or all of these matters formed part of the prior art base or were common general knowledge in the field relevant to the present invention as it existed before the priority date of each claim of this application.

SUMMARY

[0002] According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a carton comprising a first side panel, a first end panel, a second side panel, a second end

panel, a bottom panel and a top panel. The top panel comprises a first end top flap, a first side top flap overlying the first end top flap and having an aperture formed therein, and a second side top flap overlying the first side top flap. The first end top flap is adhered to the underside of the second side top flap through the aperture in the first side top flap. A plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap define in part a pivotable dispenser in the top panel.

[0003] The pivotable dispenser may be placed in a dispensing configuration by breaching the plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap and pulling the dispenser open. An access flap can be defined in the dispenser to allow a user to insert a finger into the top panel and thereby access the dispenser. Accessing and opening the dispenser can be performed using a relatively simple motion.

[0004] According to one embodiment of the invention, the first end top flap can include a spout section having wing portions. The wing portions can engage inside edges of the aperture in the first side top flap to secure the dispenser in the dispensing configuration. Locking cuts may be formed in the top panel in which the wing portions can be removably engaged to further secure the dispenser in the dispensing configuration. The dispenser can be closed by pressing the dispenser back into the top panel.

[0005] According to a further embodiment of the invention, the spout dispenser can be formed from the top flaps of the carton such that no additional inserts or pieces etc. are required.

[0005a] An embodiment of the first aspect includes a carton comprising: a first side panel; a first end panel; a second side panel; a second end panel; a bottom panel; and a top panel comprising: a first end top flap; a first side top flap overlying the first end top flap, the first side top flap having an aperture, wherein the aperture defines a first shoulder and a second shoulder; and a second side top flap overlying the first side top flap, the first end top flap, the first top flap and the second side top flap forming a pivotable dispenser in the top panel, wherein a plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap define a spout section of the pivotable dispenser, the spout section being at least partially separable from

the second side top panel to enable pivoting of the pivotable dispenser, wherein the spout section comprises a central spout portion, a first wing portion extending from and foldably connected to a first side of the central spout portion, and a second wing portion extending from and foldably connected to a second side of the central spout portion; and wherein a central portion of the first end top flap is adhered to the central spout portion of an underside of the second side top flap through the aperture and the first wing portion and second wing portion of the spout section abut and overlay the first shoulder and second shoulder, respectively, when the pivotable dispenser is in a closed position.

[0005b] According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a blank, comprising: a first side panel; a first end panel; a second side panel; a second end panel; a first side top flap foldably connected to the first side panel and having an aperture formed therein; a first end top flap foldably connected to the first end panel and having a first plurality of lines of disruption formed therein; a second side top flap foldably connected to the second side panel and having a second plurality of lines of disruption formed therein; and at least one bottom flap extending along a bottom marginal area of the blank, wherein the second plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap defines a central spout portion.

[0005c] An embodiment of the second aspect includes a blank comprising: a first side panel; a first end panel; a second side panel; a second end panel; a first side top flap foldably connected to the first side panel and having an aperture formed therein, wherein the aperture defines a first shoulder and a second shoulder; a first end top flap foldably connected to the first end panel and having a first plurality of lines of disruption formed therein, the first end top flap including a central portion; a second side top flap foldably connected to the second side panel and having a second plurality of lines of disruption formed therein, the second plurality of lines of disruption defining a spout section including a central spout portion, a first wing portion foldably connected to a first side of a central spout portion, and a second wing portion foldably connected to a second side of the central spout portion; and at least one bottom flap extending along a bottom marginal area of the blank, wherein the first side top flap, the first end top flap and the second side top flap are foldable to form a top panel of the carton comprising a

pivotable dispenser, the first end top flap is configured to be attached to an inner surface of the second side top flap in the carton, and in the carton formed from the blank, the central portion of the first end top flap is for being adhered to the central spout portion through the aperture, and the first wing portion and second wing portion are configured to abut the first shoulder and second shoulder, respectively, when the pivotable dispenser of the carton formed from the blank is in a closed position.

[0005d] According to a third aspect of the invention there is provided a method of dispensing product from a carton, comprising: providing a carton with dispensable product contained therein, the carton comprising: a first side panel; a first end panel; a second side panel; a second end panel; a bottom panel; and a top panel comprising: a first end top flap having a first plurality of lines of disruption formed therein; a first side top flap overlying the first end top flap, the first side top flap having an aperture formed therein; and a second side top flap overlying the first side top flap and having a second plurality of lines of disruption formed therein, the second plurality of lines of disruption defining a spout section in the second side top flap; breaching the second plurality of lines of disruption; pivoting the spout section away from a remainder of the top panel, wherein pivoting the spout section pulls at least a portion of the first end top flap through the aperture in the first side top flap; and dispensing product through the aperture in the first side top flap.

[0005e] An embodiment of the third aspect includes a method of dispensing product from a carton, comprising: providing a carton with dispensable product contained therein, the carton comprising: a first side panel; a first end panel; a second side panel; a second end panel; a bottom panel; and a top panel comprising: a first end top flap having a first plurality of lines of disruption formed therein, the first end top flap including a central portion; a first side top flap overlying the first end top flap, the first side top flap having an aperture formed therein, wherein the aperture defines a first shoulder and a second shoulder; and a second side top flap overlying the first side top flap and having a second plurality of lines of disruption formed therein, the second plurality of lines of disruption defining a spout section including a central spout portion, a first

wing portion extending from a first side of a central spout portion, a second wing portion extending from a second side of the central spout portion, and an access flap foldably connected to the central spout portion, wherein the central portion of the first end top flap is adhered to the central spout portion of the second side top flap through the aperture, and the first wing portion and the second wing portion abut the first shoulder and the second shoulder, respectively, when the spout section is in a closed position; breaching the second plurality of lines of disruption; pivoting the spout section away from a remainder of the top panel, wherein pivoting the spout section pulls at least a portion of the first end top flap through the aperture in the first side top flap; dispensing product through the aperture in the first side top flap; and pivoting the spout section toward the aperture so the first wing portion abuts the first shoulder and the second wing portion abuts the second shoulder.

[0005f] Throughout the description and claims of this specification, the word "comprise" and variations of the word, such as "comprising" and "comprises", is not intended to exclude other additives, components, integers or steps.

[0006] Other aspects, features, and details of the present invention can be more completely understood by reference to the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the drawings and from the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

[0007] According to common practice, the various features of the drawings discussed below are not necessarily drawn to scale. Dimensions of various features and elements in the drawings may be expanded or reduced to more clearly illustrate the embodiments of the invention.

[0008] FIG. 1 is a plan view of a first side of a blank used to form a carton having a pivotable spout dispenser according to a first embodiment of the invention.

[0009] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a partially erected carton.

[0010] FIGS. 3A and 3B are perspective views of the erected carton.

[0011] FIG. 4 is a partial top plan view of the spout dispenser.

[0012] FIG. 5 illustrates the spout dispenser being opened.

[0013] FIG. 6 illustrates the spout dispenser being opened.

[0014] FIG. 7 is an end view of the carton with the spout dispenser opened and in a dispensing configuration.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] The present invention generally relates to dispensing or pour features for cartons. The present invention can be used, for example, in cartons that contain articles or other products such as, for example, food and beverages. The articles can also include particulate products such as, for example, rice, beans, sugar, and other pourable dry products. In this specification, the relative terms "bottom," "side,"

"end," and "top" may indicate orientations determined in relation to fully erected and upright cartons.

[0016] **FIG. 1** is a plan view of a blank **8** used to form a carton **190** having a pivotable spout dispenser **160** (illustrated in **FIGS. 3A** and **3B**) according to a first embodiment of the invention. The blank **8** comprises a first side panel **10**, a first end panel **20** connected to the first side panel **10** at a first transverse fold line **21**, a second side panel **30** foldably connected to the first end panel **20** at a second transverse fold line **31**, and a second end panel **40** foldably connected to the second side panel **30** at a third transverse fold line **41**. An adhesive panel **50** may be foldably connected to the first side panel **10** at a fourth transverse fold line **51**.

[0017] The first side panel **10** is foldably connected to a first side top flap **12** and a first side bottom flap **14**. The first end panel **20** is foldably connected to a first end top flap **22** and a first end bottom flap **24**. The second side panel **30** is foldably connected to a second side top flap **32** and a second side bottom flap **34**. The second end panel **40** is foldably connected to a second end top flap **42** and a second end bottom flap **44**. The top flaps **12, 22, 32, 42** extend along a first or top marginal portion of the blank **8**, and may be foldably connected along a first longitudinal fold line **62**. The bottom flaps **14, 24, 34, 44** extend along a second or bottom marginal portion of the blank **8**, and may be foldably connected along a second longitudinal fold line **64**. The longitudinal fold lines **62, 64** may be straight fold lines, or may be offset at one or more locations to account for, for example, blank thickness. When the carton **190** is erected, the top flaps **12, 22, 32, 42** close a first or top opening of the carton **190**, and the bottom flaps **14, 24, 34, 44** close a second or bottom opening of the carton **190**.

[0018] A spout dispenser pattern **100** is formed in the blank **8**. According to an aspect of the invention, the spout dispenser pattern **100** includes lines of disruption formed in the first side top flap **12**, the first end top flap **22**, and the second side top flap **32**. The spout dispenser pattern **100** defines the pivotable spout dispenser **160** in the erected carton **190** (**FIGS. 3A** and **3B**).

[0019] Referring to **FIG. 1**, the spout dispenser pattern **100** includes an aperture **110** formed from a plurality of lines of disruption in the first side top flap **12**. The aperture **100** is defined by spaced side cut lines **112**, an end cut line **114**, and an

arcuate end cut line **116**. The cut lines **112** define shoulders **118** on either side of the aperture **110**. The cut lines **112, 114, 116** of the exemplary embodiment define the opening or aperture **110** in the first side top flap **12**. Alternatively, the lines **112, 114, 116** could be breachable lines of disruption (e.g. tear lines) in the flap **12** defining a knockout panel (not illustrated). The knockout panel could be removed during erection of the blank **8** or during use of the carton **190**.

[0020] In the first top end flap **22**, a pair of dogleg-shaped cut-crease lines **128** (e.g., fold lines) extend from a distal end of the flap **22** to the first longitudinal fold line **62**. A longitudinally extending cut-crease fold line **130** extends through a medial portion of the first top end flap **22** and across the cut-crease lines **128**. The lines **128, 130** define a central portion **120**, first and second wing portions **122**, and a base **124** in the first end top flap **22**. The central portion **120** is foldably connected to the base **124** at the fold line **130**. At the first end top flap **22**, the longitudinal fold line **62** can include a cut-crease section **132**.

[0021] In the second side top flap **32**, a spout section **138** is defined by a plurality of lines of disruption. The spout section **138** includes a central spout portion **140** and first and second wing portions **142** defined by dogleg-shaped interior side cut-crease lines **148** (e.g., fold lines), spaced exterior side cut-space lines **149** (e.g., tear lines), and a laterally extending end fold line **152**. An access flap **144** is defined by an arcuate cut-space line **145** (e.g., tear line) connecting the side cut-space lines **149** and a lateral fold line **150**. Oblique locking cuts **154** extend outwardly from the exterior side cut-space lines **149**.

[0022] The lines **128, 130, 148** may be formed from, for example, cut-crease lines having 100% cuts (i.e., cuts that extend through the entire blank) in **FIG. 1**, or partial cuts may also be used. Cut-space lines, for example, may also be used to form the lines **128, 130, 148**. The lines **145, 149** are breachable lines of disruption that may be, for example, cut-space lines having 100% cuts or partial cuts. Cut-crease lines, for example, may also be used to form the lines **145, 149**.

[0023] An exemplary process of erecting the carton **190** will be discussed with reference to **FIGS. 1** and **2**. Referring to **FIG. 1**, adhesive may be applied to the exterior side of the adhesive panel **50** and/or to the interior side of the second end flap **40**. The blank **8** is folded about the transverse fold lines **21** and **41** to bring the

exterior side of the adhesive flap **50** into contact with the interior or underside of the second end panel **40**. The panels **40, 50** are thereby adhered together. The resulting article is then "opened" to have a generally closed tubular structure.

[0024] In order to close the top of the carton, adhesive is applied to the exterior side of the first end top flap **22** between the dogleg shaped cut-crease lines **128** and/or to the interior or underside of the spout section **138** of the second side top flap **32**, between the dogleg shaped interior side cut-crease lines **148**. Adhesive may also be applied to the underside of part of or the entirety of the exterior side of the first side top flap **12** except in the area of the shoulders **118**. Alternatively or in addition to adhesive applied to the first side top flap **12**, adhesive may be applied to the entirety of or part of the underside of the second side top flap **32** outside of the area defined by the lines **145, 149, 152**, and so that the shoulders **118** are not adhered to the second side top flap **32**. Adhesive may be applied to the entirety of or part of the upper surface of the second end top flap **42**.

[0025] The top flaps **12, 22, 32, 42** may be closed by folding the first and second end top flaps **22, 42** down as shown in **FIG. 2**. The first side top flap **12** is then folded over onto the end top flaps **22, 42** so that the side flap **12** overlies the end flaps **22, 42**. The first side top flap **12** may be adhered to the second end top flap **42** at any desired location or locations. The underside of the first side top flap **12** may be adhered to the upper side of the first end top flap **22** in the area of the base **124**.

[0026] The second side top flap **32** is folded over the first side top flap **12** so that the flap **32** overlies the flap **12**. The underside of the second side top flap **32** may be adhered to the exterior or upper side of the first side top flap **12** in areas outside of the spout section **138**. The upper or exterior side of the central portion **120** may be adhered to the underside of the central spout portion **140** of the second side top flap **32** through the aperture **110**.

[0027] The bottom flaps **14, 24, 34, 44** may then be folded and adhered together to close the bottom of the carton. The resultant carton **190** is illustrated in **FIGS. 3A** and **3B**. Dispensable product may be loaded into the carton **190** before closing both ends of the carton. If the contents of the carton **190** are to be held within a bag or other vessel, the bag (not shown) may be inserted into the partially closed carton before closing both ends of the carton.

[0028] Referring to **FIGS. 3A** and **3B**, the top flaps **12, 22, 32, 42** are adhered together to form a top panel **170**, and the bottom flaps **14, 24, 34, 44** are adhered together to form a bottom panel **180**. The dispenser pattern **100** (illustrated in **FIG. 1**) in the top flaps **12, 22, 32** defines a pivotably (e.g., hingedly or foldably) attached spout dispenser **160** in the top panel **170**. **FIG. 4** is a top plan view of a portion of the top panel **170** illustrating the pivotable dispenser **160** in detail. As shown in **FIG. 4**, the dispenser **160** can be formed entirely from the top flaps **12, 22, 32** comprising the top panel **170**.

[0029] Referring to **FIGS. 1-4**, the shape of the central portion **120** in the first end top flap **22** generally corresponds to the shape of the central spout portion **140** of the spout section **138**, and the upper surface of the central portion **120** is adhered to the underside of the central spout portion **140** through the aperture **110** in the first end top flap **12**. The wings **122** of the first end top flap **22** may remain unadhered to any other part of the carton **190**.

[0030] **FIGS. 5-7** illustrate an exemplary process of opening of the dispenser **160**. Referring to **FIG. 5**, a user inserts a finger, tool or other object into the top panel **170** at the access flap **144**. The top panel **170** tears along the arcuate breachable line **145** as the access flap **144** is pressed inwardly.

[0031] Referring to **FIG. 6**, the top panel **170** is further torn along the breachable lines **149** as the central spout portion **140** and wing portions **142** in the second side top panel **32** are pivoted outwardly about the fold line **152**. The central portion **120** in the first end top flap **22** is adhered to the central spout portion **140** and the portion of the first end top flap **22** beyond the fold line **130** also pivots outwardly. This movement pulls the central portion **120** of the first end top flap **22** through the aperture **110** in the first side top panel **12**. At the same time, contact with the sides of the aperture **110** causes the wings **122** in the first end top flap **22** to be folded inwardly at the lines **128** with respect to the central portion **120**.

[0032] **FIG. 7** illustrates the pivotable spout dispenser **160** opened and in its dispensing configuration, thereby forming a dispenser opening **165**. Friction between the wings **122** and the interior edges of the aperture **110** serves to maintain the dispenser **160** in its dispensing configuration. If desired, the spout dispenser **160** can be pivoted open further so that the wings **122** engage the locking cuts **154**. The

pivotable dispenser **160** can be reclosed by simply pushing the dispenser **160** back towards the top panel **170**. The shoulders **118** at each side of the aperture **110** project inwardly to partially occlude the aperture **110**, and abut the wing portions **142** to prevent the dispenser **160** from being pressed too far in through the aperture **110**.

[0033] According to the above-described embodiments, cartons can be provided with dispensers that are simple in construction, and that are easily opened and reclosed. The carton provides a relatively simple, one-step action for opening and dispensing product from the carton. The spout dispenser is formed from the top flaps of the carton and no additional inserts or pieces are required.

[0034] In the exemplary embodiment discussed above, the blank is formed from clay coated newsprint (CCN). In general, the blank may be constructed of paperboard, having a caliper of at least about 14, so that it is heavier and more rigid than ordinary paper. The blank, and thus the carton, can also be constructed of other materials, such as cardboard, or any other material having properties suitable for enabling the carton to function at least generally as described above.

[0035] The first and second sides of the blank can be coated with, for example, a clay coating. The clay coating may then be printed over with product, advertising, and other information or images. The blank may then be coated with a varnish to protect any information printed on the blank. The blank may also be coated with, for example, a moisture barrier layer, on either or both sides of the blanks. The blank can also be laminated to or coated with one or more sheet-like materials at selected panels or panel sections.

[0036] In accordance with the exemplary embodiments, a fold line can be any substantially linear, although not necessarily straight, form of weakening or disruption in a blank that facilitates folding therealong. More specifically, but not for the purpose of narrowing the scope of the present invention, fold lines include: score lines, creases, cuts that extend partially into a material along a desired line of weakness, and/or a series of cuts that extend partially into and/or completely through the material along the desired line of weakness, and various combinations of these features.

[0037] For purposes of the description presented herein, the term "line of disruption" can be used to generally refer to either a cut line, a crease line, a tear line, or a fold line formed in the material (or a combination of at least one cut line, tear line, fold line, etc.). A breachable line of disruption is a line of disruption that is intended to be breached during ordinary use of the carton. An example of a breachable line of disruption is a tear line.

[0038] A tear line can be any form of weakening that facilitates tearing therealong. Specifically, but not for the purpose of narrowing the scope of the present invention, tear lines include: a cut that extends partially into the material along the desired line of weakness, and/or a series of cuts that extend partially into and/or completely through the material along the desired line of weakness, or various combinations of these features.

[0039] The term "line" as used herein includes not only straight lines, but also other types of lines such as curved, curvilinear or angularly displaced lines.

[0040] The above embodiments may be described as having one or more panels adhered together by glue. The term "glue" is intended to encompass all manner of adhesives commonly used to secure paperboard carton panels in place.

[0041] In the present specification, a "panel" or "flap" need not be flat or otherwise planar. A "panel" or "flap" can, for example, comprise a plurality of interconnected generally flat or planar sections.

[0042] It will be understood by those skilled in the art that while the present invention has been discussed above with reference to preferred embodiments, various additions, modifications, and variations can be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as set forth in the following claims.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A carton, comprising:

a first side panel;

a first end panel;

a second side panel;

a second end panel;

a bottom panel; and

a top panel comprising:

a first end top flap;

a first side top flap overlying the first end top flap; and

a second side top flap overlying the first side top flap, wherein

a plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap define in part a pivotable dispenser in the top panel, wherein

the first end top flap is adhered to an underside of the second side top flap through an aperture in the first side top flap.

2. The carton of claim 1, wherein a plurality of lines of disruption in the first end top flap define in part the pivotable dispenser and wherein the plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap define a spout section having a central spout portion.

3. The carton of claim 2, wherein the plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap further define a first wing portion extending from a first side of the central spout portion and a second wing portion extending from a second side of the central spout portion.

4. The carton of claim 2, wherein the plurality of lines of disruption in the first end top flap define a central portion in the first end top flap, the central portion of the first end top flap being adhered to an underside of the central spout portion.

5. The carton of claim 4, wherein the plurality of lines of disruption in the first end top flap further define a base portion, the base portion being pivotably connected to the

central portion, and the plurality of lines of disruption in the first end top flap define a first wing portion extending from a first side of the central portion and a second wing portion extending from a second side of the central portion.

6. The carton of claim 5, wherein the aperture in the first side top flap defines a first shoulder and a second shoulder, the first shoulder overlying the first wing portion in the first end top flap, and the second shoulder overlying the second wing portion in the first end top flap.

7. The carton of claim 2, wherein the plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap comprises breachable lines of disruption that in part define a perimeter of the spout section so that the dispenser is pivotable away from the top panel.

8. The carton of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the carton is substantially parallelepipedal and wherein the bottom panel comprises a plurality of bottom flaps.

9. A blank, comprising:

a first side panel;

a first end panel;

a second side panel;

a second end panel;

a first side top flap foldably connected to the first side panel and having an aperture formed therein;

a first end top flap foldably connected to the first end panel and having a first plurality of lines of disruption formed therein;

a second side top flap foldably connected to the second side panel and having a second plurality of lines of disruption formed therein; and

at least one bottom flap extending along a bottom marginal area of the blank, wherein

the second plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap defines a central spout portion.

10. The blank of claim 9, wherein the second plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap further defines a first wing portion extending from a first side of the central spout portion and a second wing portion extending from a second side of the central spout portion.

11. The blank of claim 10, wherein the first plurality of lines of disruption defines a central portion and a base portion, the base portion being pivotably connected to the central portion, the first plurality of lines of disruption further defines a first wing portion extending from a first side of the central portion and a second wing portion extending from a second side of the central portion, and the aperture in the first side top flap defines a first shoulder and a second shoulder.

12. The blank of claim 10, wherein the second plurality of lines of disruption comprises a transverse fold line at a first end of the central spout portion, and defines an access flap at a second end of the central spout portion.

13. A method of dispensing product from a carton, comprising:

providing a carton with dispensable product contained therein, the carton comprising:

a first side panel;

a first end panel;

a second side panel;

a second end panel;

a bottom panel; and

a top panel comprising:

a first end top flap having a first plurality of lines of disruption formed therein;

a first side top flap overlying the first end top flap, the first side top flap having an aperture formed therein; and

a second side top flap overlying the first side top flap and having a second plurality of lines of disruption formed therein, the second plurality of lines of disruption defining a spout section in the second side top flap;

breaching the second plurality of lines of disruption;

pivoting the spout section away from a remainder of the top panel, wherein pivoting the spout section pulls at least a portion of the first end top flap through the aperture in the first side top flap; and

dispensing product through the aperture in the first side top flap.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein sides of the first end top flap engage interior edges of the aperture as the spout section is pivoted.

15. The method of claim 13 or claim 14, wherein the first end top flap is adhered to the spout section through the aperture in the first side top flap.

16. A carton, comprising:

a first side panel;

a first end panel;

a second side panel;

a second end panel;

a bottom panel; and

a top panel comprising:

a first end top flap;

a first side top flap overlying the first end top flap, the first side top flap having an aperture, wherein the aperture defines a first shoulder and a second shoulder; and

a second side top flap overlying the first side top flap, the first end top flap, the first top flap and the second side top flap forming a pivotable dispenser in the top panel,

wherein a plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap define a spout section of the pivotable dispenser, the spout section being at least partially separable from the second side top panel to enable pivoting of the pivotable dispenser,

wherein the spout section comprises a central spout portion, a first wing portion extending from and foldably connected to a first side of the central spout portion, and a second wing portion extending from and foldably connected to a second side of the central spout portion; and

wherein a central portion of the first end top flap is adhered to the central spout portion of an underside of the second side top flap through the aperture and the first wing portion and second wing portion of the spout section abut and overlay the first shoulder and second shoulder, respectively, when the pivotable dispenser is in a closed position.

17. The carton of claim 16, wherein a plurality of lines of disruption in the first end top flap define in part the pivotable dispenser.

18. The carton of claim 17, wherein the plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap further define the first wing portion and the second wing portion.

19. The carton of claim 17, wherein the plurality of lines of disruption in the first end top flap define the central portion of the first end top flap.

20. The carton of claim 19, wherein the plurality of lines of disruption in the first end top flap further define a base portion, the base portion being pivotably connected to the central portion, and the plurality of lines of disruption in the first end top flap define a first wing extending from a first side of the central spout portion and a second wing extending from a second side of the central spout portion.

21. The carton of claim 20, wherein the first shoulder overlies the first wing in the first end top flap, and the second shoulder overlies the second wing in the first end top flap when the pivotal dispenser is in the closed position.

22. The carton of claim 19, wherein the plurality of lines of disruption in the second side top flap comprises breachable lines of disruption that in part define a perimeter of the spout section so that the dispenser is pivotable away from the top panel.

23. The carton of any one of claims 16 to 22, wherein the carton is substantially parallelepipedal and wherein the bottom panel comprises a plurality of bottom flaps.

24. A blank, comprising:

a first side panel;

a first end panel;

a second side panel;

a second end panel;

a first side top flap foldably connected to the first side panel and having an aperture formed therein, wherein the aperture defines a first shoulder and a second shoulder;

a first end top flap foldably connected to the first end panel and having a first plurality of lines of disruption formed therein, the first end top flap including a central portion;

a second side top flap foldably connected to the second side panel and having a second plurality of lines of disruption formed therein, the second plurality of lines of disruption defining a spout section including a central spout portion, a first wing portion foldably connected to a first side of a central spout portion, and a second wing portion foldably connected to a second side of the central spout portion; and

at least one bottom flap extending along a bottom marginal area of the blank, wherein

the first side top flap, the first end top flap and the second side top flap are foldable to form a top panel of the carton comprising a pivotable dispenser,

the first end top flap is configured to be attached to an inner surface of the second side top flap in the carton, and

in the carton formed from the blank, the central portion of the first end top flap is for being adhered to the central spout portion through the aperture, and the first wing portion and second wing portion are configured to abut the first shoulder and second shoulder, respectively, when the pivotable dispenser of the carton formed from the blank is in a closed position.

25. The blank of claim 24, wherein the first plurality of lines of disruption defines a central portion and a base portion, the base portion being pivotably connected to the central portion, the first plurality of lines of disruption further defines a first wing extending from a first side of the central portion and a second wing extending from a second side of the central portion.

26. The blank of claim 24, wherein the second plurality of lines of disruption comprises a transverse fold line at a first end of the central spout portion, and defines an access flap at a second end of the central spout portion.

27. A method of dispensing product from a carton, comprising:

providing a carton with dispensable product contained therein, the carton comprising:

a first side panel;

a first end panel;

a second side panel;

a second end panel;

a bottom panel; and

a top panel comprising:

a first end top flap having a first plurality of lines of disruption formed therein, the first end top flap including a central portion;

a first side top flap overlying the first end top flap, the first side top flap having an aperture formed therein, wherein the aperture defines a first shoulder and a second shoulder; and

a second side top flap overlying the first side top flap and having a second plurality of lines of disruption formed therein, the second plurality of lines of disruption defining a spout section including a central spout portion, a first wing portion extending from a first side of a central spout portion, a second wing portion extending from a second side of the central spout portion, and an access flap foldably connected to the central spout portion,

wherein the central portion of the first end top flap is adhered to the central spout portion of the second side top flap through the aperture, and the first wing portion and the second wing portion abut the first shoulder and the second shoulder, respectively, when the spout section is in a closed position;

breaching the second plurality of lines of disruption;

pivoting the spout section away from a remainder of the top panel, wherein pivoting the spout section pulls at least a portion of the first end top flap through the aperture in the first side top flap;

dispensing product through the aperture in the first side top flap; and

pivoting the spout section toward the aperture so the first wing portion abuts the first shoulder and the second wing portion abuts the second shoulder.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein sides of the first end top flap engage interior edges of the aperture as the spout section is pivoted.

29. The method of claim 27 or claim 28, wherein the first end top flap is adhered to the spout section through the aperture in the first side top flap.

30. A carton substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

31. A blank substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

32. A method of dispensing product from a carton substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

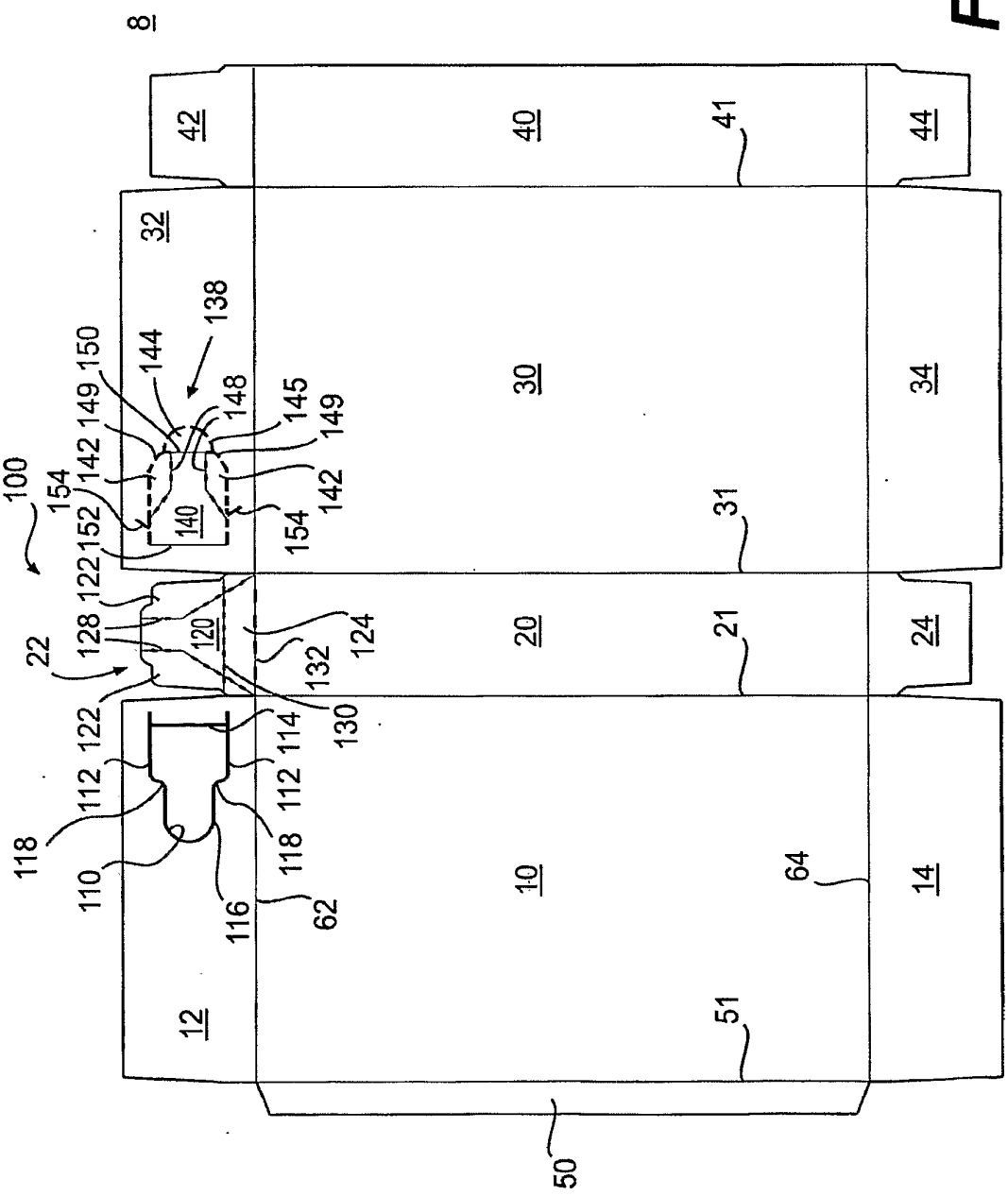
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FIG. 1

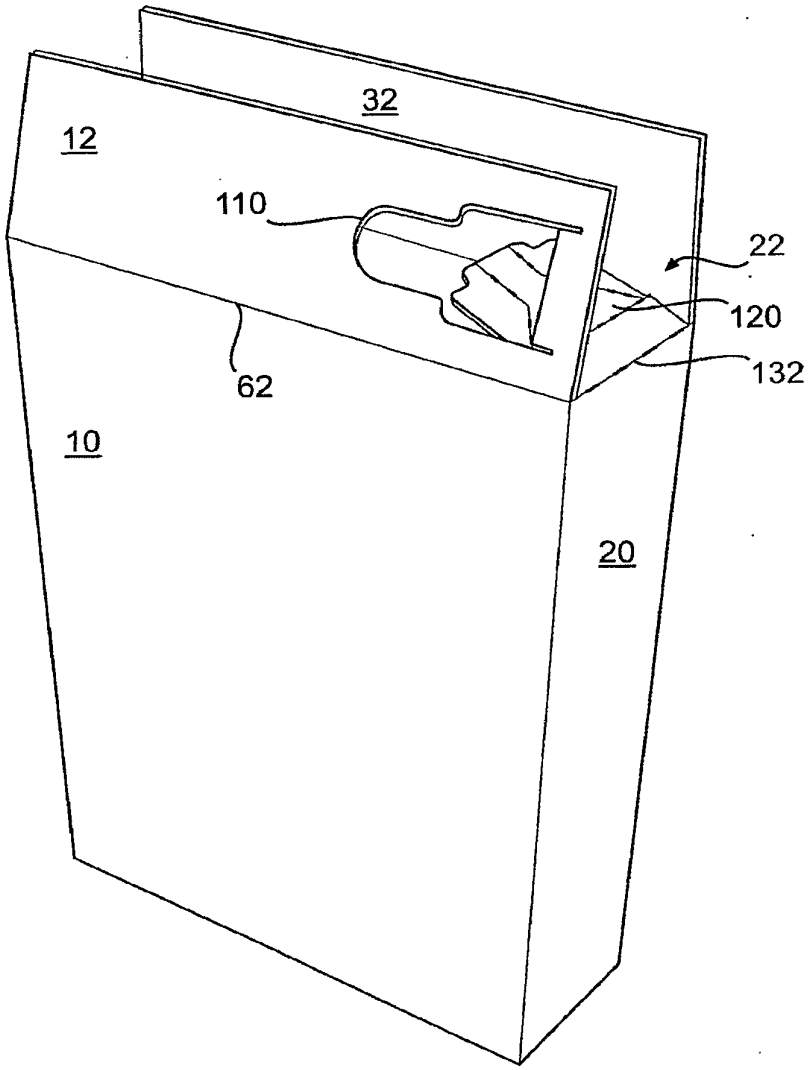

FIG. 2

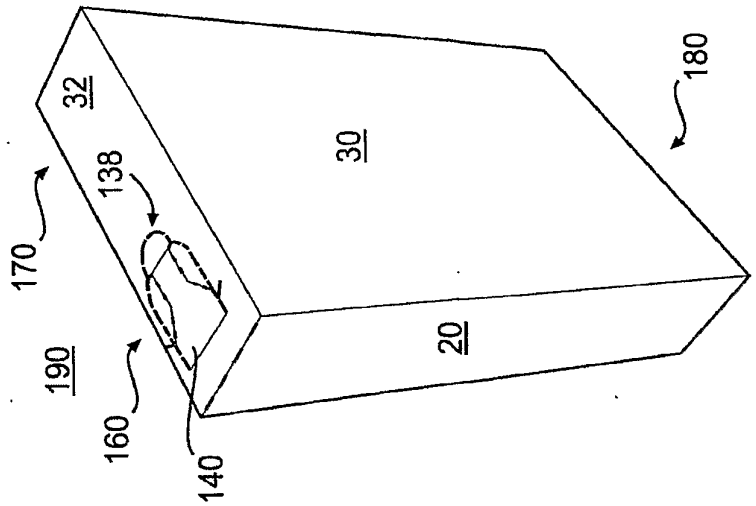
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FIG. 3B

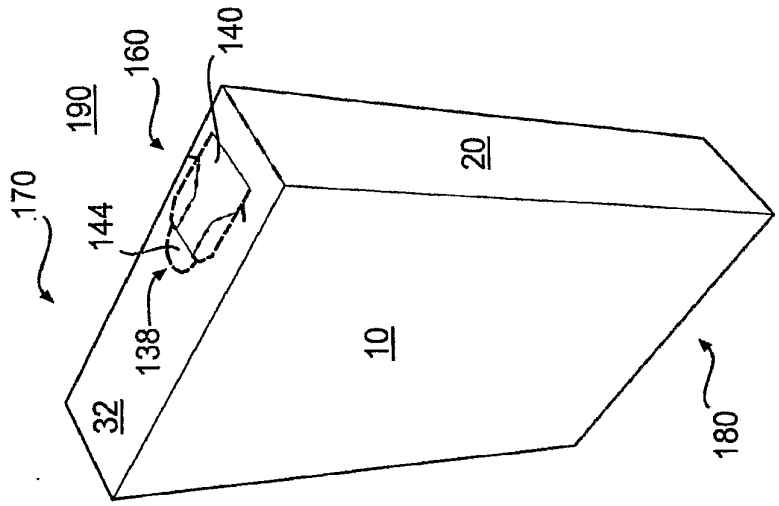
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FIG. 3A

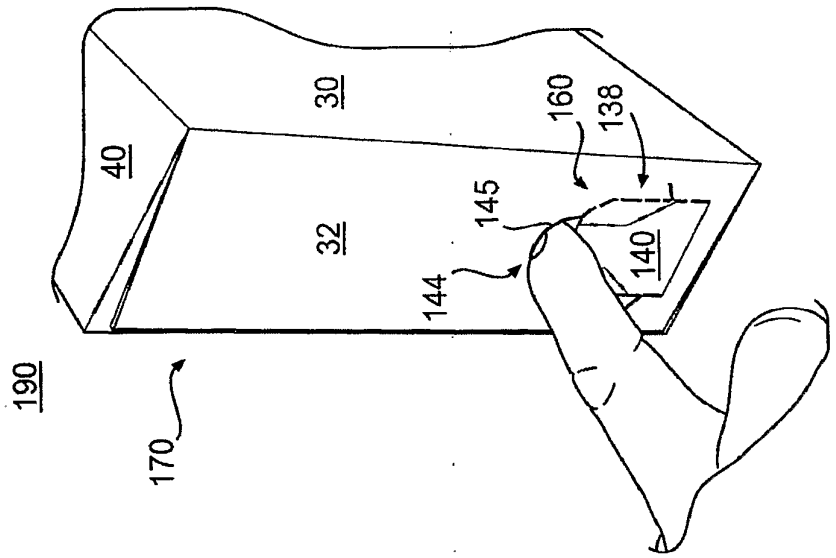
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FIG. 5

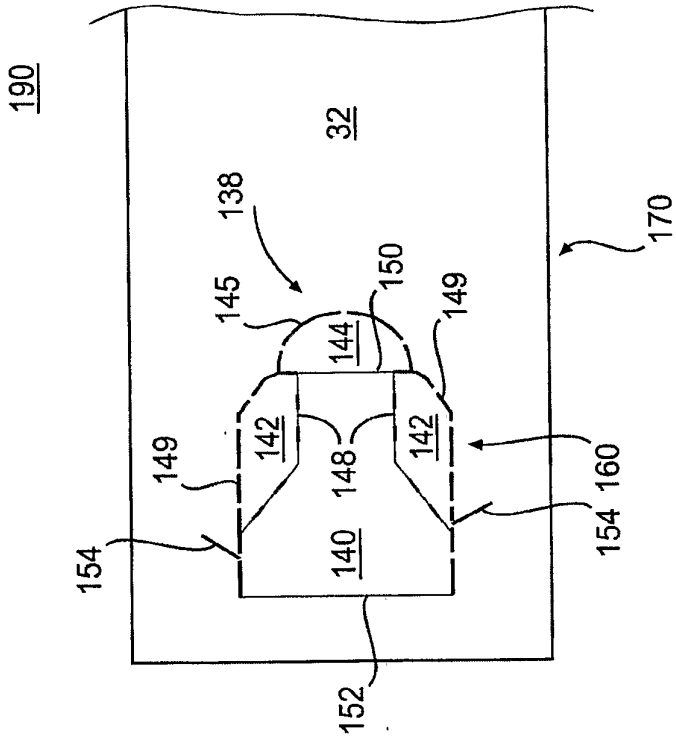
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FIG. 4

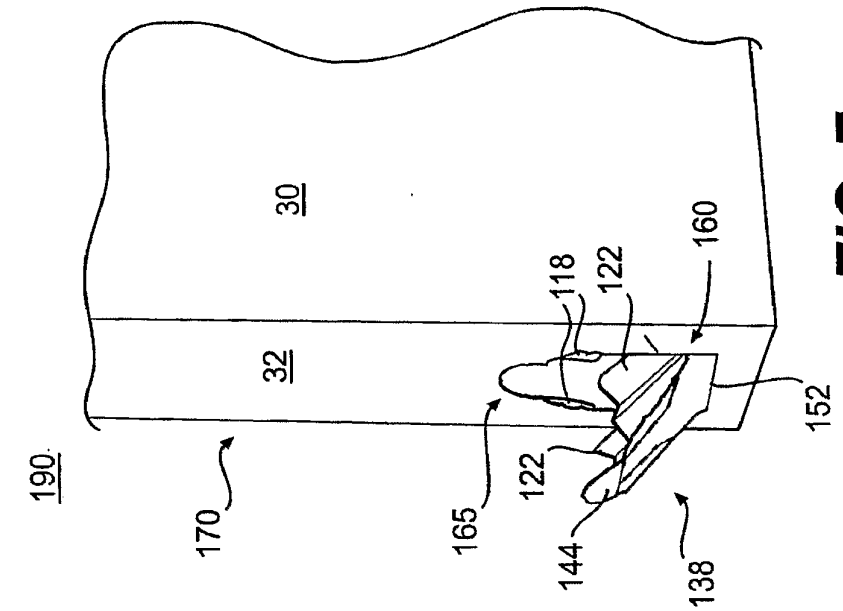
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FIG. 7

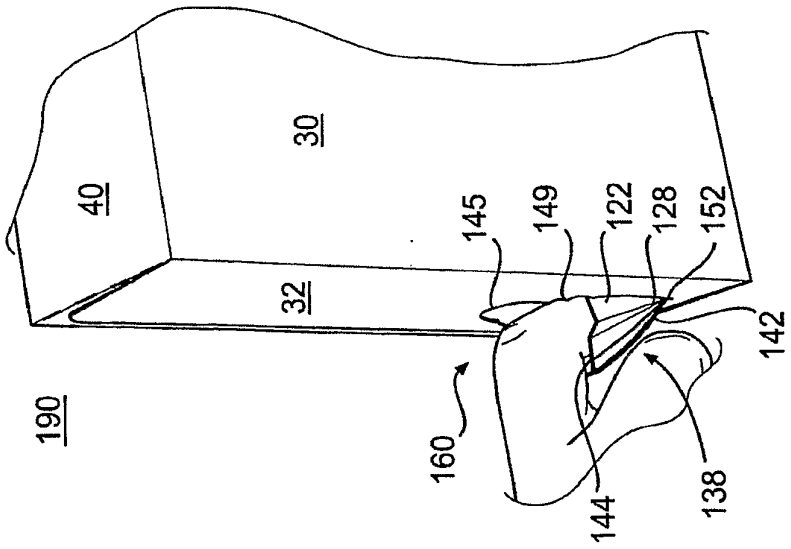
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FIG. 6