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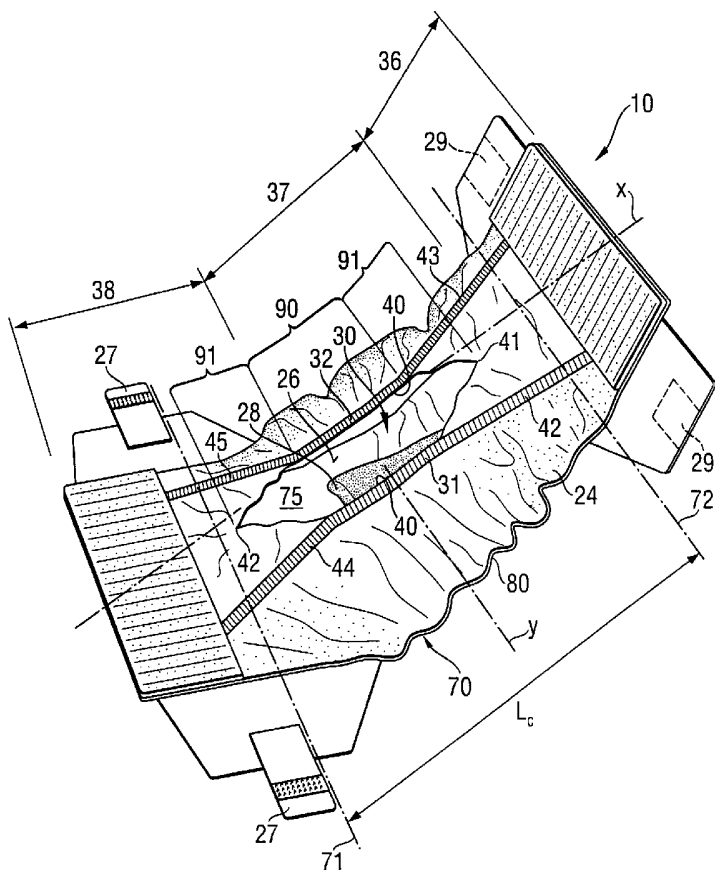
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KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN,
MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK (utility model), SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT ARTICLES WITH MASKING TOPSHEET



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a disposable absorbent article, such as a diaper, training pants, adult incontinence article, having a specific topsheet with an opening to receive bowel movement waste (BM) and which is such that it masks the waste present underneath said topsheet. The topsheet is air permeable and it has a uniform pore size distribution with small pores only and it has a low surface energy and therefore an alcohol repellency of at least 7, typically at least 9 or even preferably 10.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PO/US 03/35667

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61F13/15

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)
IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00/01334 A (SCA HYGIENE PROD AB ;KRISTIANSEN BJOERN (SE)) 13 January 2000 (2000-01-13) page 3, line 1 - line 21	1-5, 12-14
Y	page 14, line 9 - line 14	6-8,10, 11
Y	US 5 989 478 A (LANGDON FREDERICK M ET AL) 23 November 1999 (1999-11-23) column 15, line 27 - column 17, line 35; claims; figures	6
Y	EP 1 201 212 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 2 May 2002 (2002-05-02) claims; figures	7,8,10
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 03/35667

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 934 736 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 11 August 1999 (1999-08-11) cited in the application column 6, line 35 - line 50 column 11, line 13 - line 20 column 12, line 9 - line 21; claims; figures	11
A	----- US 5 122 407 A (YEO RICHARD S ET AL) 16 June 1992 (1992-06-16) claims -----	1,6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 03/35667

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: **1,2,12-14 (all in part)**
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

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

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-8, 10-14

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1,2,12-14 (all in part)

In present claims 1,2, 12-14 an attempt is made to define the product by reference to a result to be achieved expressed in the form of the following parameters:

P1: alcohol repellency
P2: BM rewet value

The use of these parameters in the present context is considered to lead to a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT. It is impossible to compare the parameters the applicant has chosen to employ with what is set out in the prior art. The lack of clarity is such as to render a meaningful complete search impossible. Consequently, the search has been restricted to those parts of the claims which appear to be clear and concise i.e. : claims 3-8, 10,11 as disclosed, claims 1,2, 12-14 (the above parameters excluded) in combination with claim 6 and the compounds mentioned in the description page 8 line 9 page 9 line 25.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-8,10-14.

Disposable absorbent article having one or more openings that provide a passage to a void space and wherein the topsheet comprises a sheet of fibrous material with uniform pore size distribution and with a maximum pore size distribution of less than 100 micrometer.

2. claim: 9

Disposable absorbent article having a topsheet and a backsheet and comprising an additional sheet between the topsheet and the backsheet, said sheet being a threedimensiona wb of fiber regions where the fibers are bonded to another and regions where the fibers are unbonded to onother.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 03/35667

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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