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(54) **DISPOSABLE DIAPER HAVING A MECHANICAL FASTENING SYSTEM**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A disposable diaper includes tape fasteners extending outward from transversely opposite side edges of the diaper and provided on their inner surfaces with hook members. The hook members have their inner surfaces partially coated with adhesive layers by which the hook members are peelably bonded to release zones defined in the proximity of the transversely opposite side edges of the diaper.

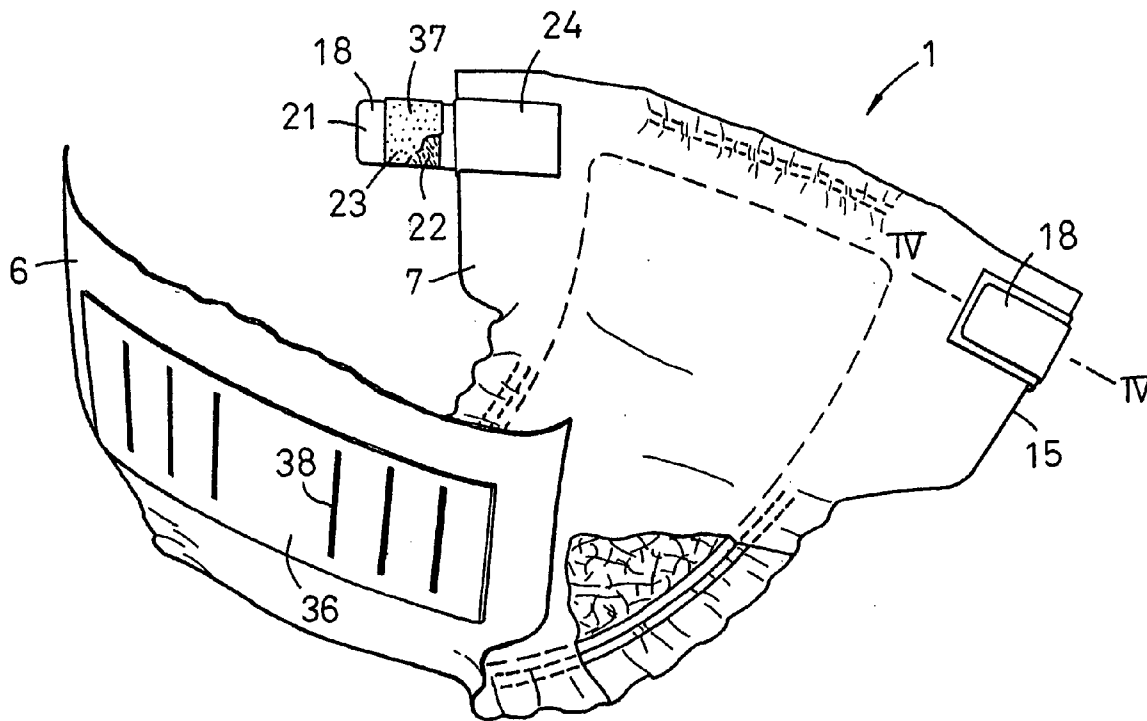


FIG. 1

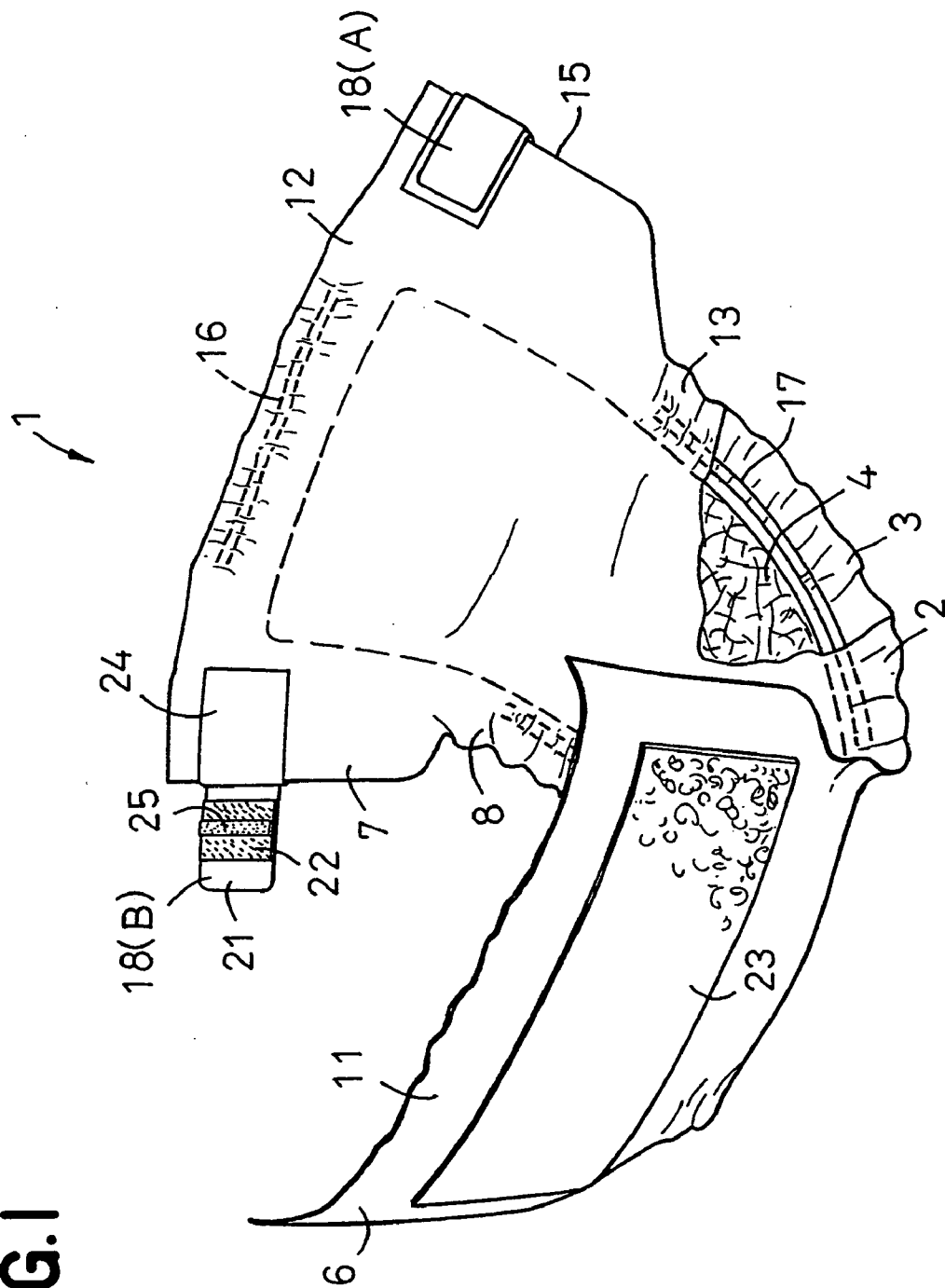


FIG.2

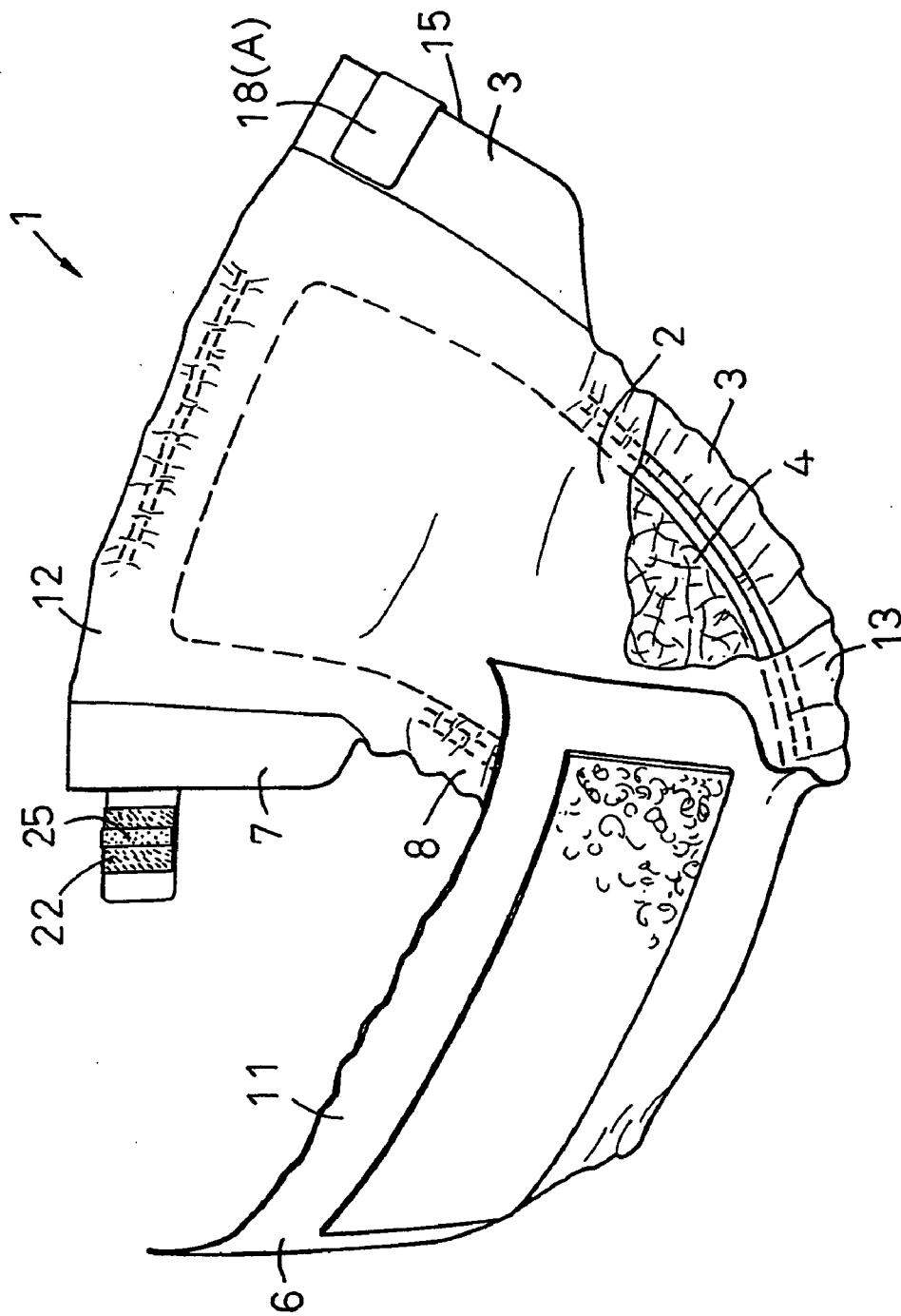


FIG. 3

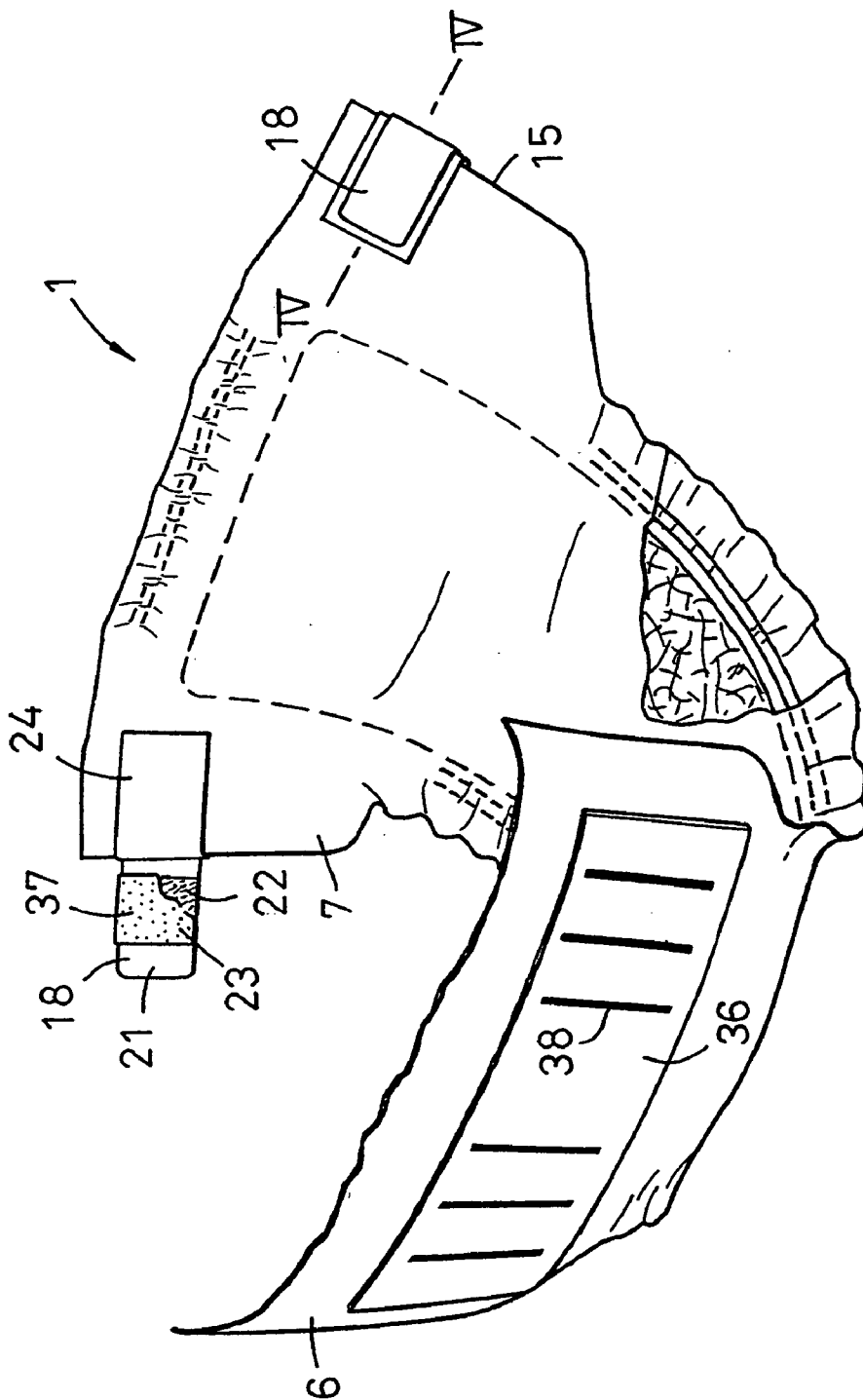
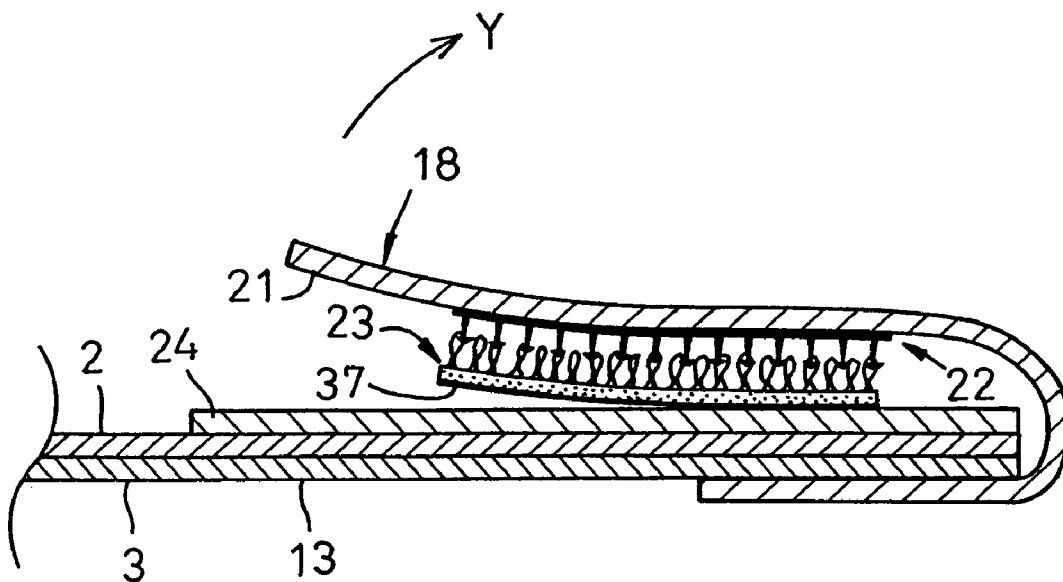


FIG. 4



DISPOSABLE DIAPER HAVING A MECHANICAL FASTENING SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a disposable diaper having a mechanical fastening system.

[0002] Conventional disposable diapers are provided at transversely opposite side edges of a rear waist region of the diaper with a pair of tape fasteners for joining the side edges to transversely opposite side edges of a front waist region of the diaper. There are various types of tape fasteners used for the above purpose. For example, a tape fastener may comprise a base tape provided on its inner surface with an adhesive zone or a hook member adapted to be combined with a loop member to form a mechanical fastener. Disposable diapers are also known to have the side edges made of a plastic sheet, a nonwoven fabric or a laminate of a plastic sheet and a nonwoven fabric.

[0003] Disposable diapers provided with tape fasteners are usually supplied to consumers in the form of a package in which individual diapers are folded up with the tape fasteners folded back inwardly of the diapers and placed on the inner surfaces of the respective side edges of the diapers. In this manner, the adhesive zones and/or the hook elements of the fasteners can be protected from being contaminated by extraneous substances. Furthermore, the presence of the fasteners do not obstruct the diapers from being folded up. However, a serious problem should be encountered when the fasteners use hook members and the transversely opposite side edges of the diaper have their inner surfaces formed by plastic sheets. Specifically, it is impossible in such an arrangement to temporarily anchor the hook members to the foregoing inner surfaces and the fasteners may unintentionally shift to obstruct operation of folding up the diapers. Thus, extraneous substances may contaminate the inner surfaces of the fasteners.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] In view of the problem as has been described above, it is an object of the present invention to provide a disposable diaper in which hook members employed in tape fasteners for the disposable diaper can be temporarily bonded to the inner surfaces of the diaper side edges.

[0005] According to the present invention, there is provided a disposable diaper comprising: a liquid-pervious topsheet, a liquid-impervious backsheets and a liquid-absorbent core disposed therebetween so as to form a first waist region, a second waist region and a crotch region extending therebetween; front surfaces in proximity of transversely opposite side edges of the first waist region including a release zone; the first waist region being provided on the transversely opposite side edges thereof with a pair of extensions; the extensions being provided on front surfaces thereof with hook members adapted to be engaged with loop members; the hook members having adhesive layers formed on front surfaces thereof; and the extensions being folded back inwardly of the diaper and peelably bonded to the release zones by the adhesive layers.

[0006] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the loop members are provided on a rear surface of the second waist region.

[0007] According to another embodiment of the present invention, the loop members are peelably engaged with the hook members on front surfaces of the loop members, the loop members being peelably bonded to the release layers by adhesive layers formed on rear surfaces of the loop members.

[0008] It should be noted here that the extensions, the hook members and the adhesive layers form tape fasteners.

[0009] In the disposable diaper according to the present invention, the presence of the tape fasteners does not obstruct the diapers from being rolled up for packaging or storage even when the tape fasteners use the hook members of a so-called mechanical fastener type. The reason for this is that each of the tape fasteners is provided on its inner surface with the adhesive layer by means of which the tape fastener can be temporarily bonded to the inner surface of the diaper.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. 1 is a perspective partially cut away view showing a disposable diaper according to the present invention;

[0011] FIG. 2 is a view similar to FIG. 1 showing an embodiment of the invention;

[0012] FIG. 3 is a view similar to FIG. 2 showing another embodiment of the present invention; and

[0013] FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along line IV-IV in FIG. 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0014] Details of a disposable diaper according to the present invention will be more fully understood from the description given hereunder with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0015] Disposable diaper 1 shown by FIG. 1 in a perspective partially cut away view comprises a liquid-pervious topsheet 2, a liquid-impervious backsheets 3 and a liquid-absorbent core 4 disposed between these two sheets 2, 3. As viewed longitudinally, the diaper 1 is configured with a front waist region 6, a rear waist region 7 and a crotch region 8 extending between said two regions 6, 7. The topsheet 2 and the backsheets 3 extend outward beyond peripheral edges of the core 4 so as to be placed upon each other and bonded together along the respective extensions of two sheets 2, 3, forming respective end flaps 11, 12 of the front and rear waist regions 6, 7 and transversely opposite side edge flaps 13 extending between the front and rear waist region 6, 7. The end flap 12 and the side flaps 13 are provided with a transversely extending elastic member 16 and with longitudinally extending elastic members 17, respectively. These elastic members 16, 17 are laid between the topsheet 2 and the backsheets 3 and secured under appropriate tension to the inner surface of at least one of these two sheets 2, 3.

[0016] The rear waist region 7 of the diaper 1 is provided with a pair of tape fasteners 18 respectively extending outward from transversely opposite side edges 15 thereof and folded back onto the inner side of the diaper 1 before actual use of the diaper 1. It should be understood that these

tape fasteners **18** are shown with the one **18(A)** folded back inwardly of the diaper **1** and with the other **18(B)** projecting outward.

[0017] Each of the tape fasteners **18** comprises a piece of base tape **21** having an inner end fixed to the rear waist region **7** in the proximity of the side edge **15** thereof, an outer free end projecting outward beyond the side edge **15**, and a hook member **22** attached to the inner surface of the base tape **21**. The hook member **22** is adapted to cooperate with a loop member **23** as will be described later in detail. These two members **22**, **23** constitute together a so-called mechanical fastener which is well known under various trade names such as VELCRO. The hook member **22** lies between the outer end of the base tape **21** and the side edge **15**. A portion of the base tape **21** in the proximity of the outer end is used as a grip for the tape fastener **18**.

[0018] The hook member **22** has its inner surface partially coated with pressure sensitive adhesive to define an adhesive zone **25**. On the other hand, the rear waist region **7** is provided on its inner surface in the proximity of the side edge **15** with a release sheet **24** made of a plastic material allowing the adhesive zone **25** to be easily peeled off therefrom. In this manner, the tape fastener **18** may be folded back inwardly of the diaper **1** and then anchored to the release sheet **24** by means of the adhesive **25**.

[0019] The front waist region **6** of the diaper **1** is provided with the loop member **23** made of a nonwoven fabric attached thereto. The diaper **1** is put on a wearer's body by peeling the tape fasteners **18** off the release sheets **24** and fastening the respective hook members **22** to the loop member **23**. The loop member **23** is made of a nonwoven fabric having a relatively low fiber density so that areas over which the adhesive **25** of the respective hook members **22** acts on the loop member **23** can be adequately limited in order to ensure that the presence of the adhesive **25** should not obstruct desired smooth peeling of the hook members **22**. The loop member **23** may be previously surface-treated to facilitate peeling of adhesive **25** off the surface of the loop member **23**.

[0020] With the diaper **1** constructed as has been described above, the tape fasteners **18** extending outward from the transversely opposite side edges of the diaper **1** are folded back and temporarily bonded to the inner side of the diaper **1** before actual use thereof. Accordingly, the presence of these tape fasteners **18** does not obstruct the diaper **1** from being folded up. When the used diaper **1** is disposed, the used diaper **1** may be rolled up and then an adhesive force of the tape fasteners **18** may be utilized to hold the diaper in a rolled-up state.

[0021] FIG. 2 is a view similar to FIG. 1 showing an embodiment according to the present invention. With the diaper **1** according to this embodiment, the backsheet **3** made of a plastic sheet extends outward further than the topsheet **2** along the side flaps **13** of the rear waist region **7**. The tape fasteners **18** folded back inwardly of the diaper **1** are placed upon the inner surface of the backsheet **3** and temporarily bonded to the inner surface by means of the adhesive **25** in the proximity of the side edges of the rear waist region **7**. The inner surface of the backsheet **3** may be previously surface-treated to facilitate peeling of the adhesive **25** therefrom.

[0022] FIG. 3 is a view similar to FIG. 1 showing still another embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 4 is

a sectional view taken along line IV-IV in FIG. 3. FIG. 4 shows the tape fastener **18** being folded back in the direction as indicated by an arrow Y. With the diaper **1** according to this embodiment, the tape fastener **18** is provided on the inner surface of the base tape **21** with the hook member **22** and relatively small individual loops of the loop member **23** are peelably bonded on the surface of the hook member **22**. The surface of the loop member **23** opposed to the loops is coated with adhesive **37** to define an adhesive zone. The tape fastener **18** is folded back inwardly of the diaper **1** and bonded to the release sheet **24** provided on the rear waist region **7** in the proximity of the side edge **15** by means of the adhesive **37**. In the front waist region **6** of the diaper **1**, the backsheet **3** made of a plastic sheet is provided on its outer surface with a plastic sheet **36** to which the loop member **23** is fixed. The tape fastener **18** peeled off from the release sheet **24** may be moved together with the loop member **23** bonded thereto to the outer surface of the front waist region **6**. Then, an appropriate index **38** may be selected from a plurality of position-indices **38** printed on the plastic sheet **36** serving to fix the loop member **23** and this loop member **23** may be fixed to the position corresponding to the selected index **38** by means of the adhesive **37**. In this way, the tape fastener **18** may be separably fixed to the plastic sheet **36** fixed to the front waist region **6**. The plastic sheet **36** serves also as a reinforcing member adapted to prevent the backsheets **3** from being broken or torn even if fixation and peeling off are repeated.

[0023] The diaper **1** according to the present invention may also employ a nonwoven fabric or an apertured plastic sheet as the topsheet **2**, and a plastic sheet or paper as the base tape **21**.

1-7. (cancelled)

8. A disposable diaper having, in a longitudinal direction thereof, a front waist region, a rear second waist region and a crotch region extending therebetween, said diaper comprising:

- a liquid-pervious topsheet;
- a liquid-impermeable backsheet extending transversely beyond a periphery of said top sheet in said rear waist region to form a pair of extended portions which define transversely opposite side edges of said rear waist region, respectively, wherein an outer surface of said backsheet defines an outer surface of said diaper, and an inner surface of said backsheet in the extended portions defines, together with an inner surface of said topsheet, an inner surface of said diaper;
- a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and backsheet;
- release zones defined solely by the inner surface of said backsheet in the extended portions, in proximity of the transversely opposite side edges of said rear waist region, respectively;
- a pair of extensions provided on the transversely opposite side edges of said rear waist region, respectively;
- hook members provided on inner surfaces of said extensions, respectively;
- adhesive layers coated on inner surfaces of said hook members, respectively;

said extensions, in a folded state, being folded back inwardly of said diaper and peelably bonded to said release zones by said adhesive layers, respectively; and at least one loop member provided on the outer surface of said diaper in said front waist region and adapted to be peelably engaged with said hook members;

wherein

said backsheet is made of a plastic sheet; and

a holding force of said adhesive layers against the outer surface of said diaper is sufficient to hold said diaper in a rolled state after use.

9. The disposable diaper according to claim 8, wherein the inner surface of the backsheet is surface-treated to facilitate peeling of the adhesive layers therefrom.

10. The disposable diaper according to claim 8, wherein, when said hook members, and hence said adhesive layers, are attached to said loop member, holding forces between said adhesive layers and said loop member are not higher than those between said hook and loop members, thereby preventing the presence of said adhesive layers from obstructing smooth peeling of said hook members from said loop member.

11. A disposable diaper having, in a longitudinal direction thereof, a front waist region, a rear second waist region and a crotch region extending therebetween, said diaper comprising:

- a liquid-pervious topsheet;
- a liquid-impermeable backsheet extending transversely beyond a periphery of said top sheet in said rear waist region to form a pair of extended portions which define transversely opposite side edges of said rear waist region, respectively, wherein an outer surface of said backsheet defines an outer surface of said diaper, and an inner surface of said backsheet in the extended portions defines, together with an inner surface of said topsheet, an inner surface of said diaper;
- a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and backsheet;
- release zones defined by the inner surface of said backsheet in the extended portions, in proximity of the transversely opposite side edges of said rear waist region, respectively;
- a pair of extensions provided on the transversely opposite side edges of said rear waist region, respectively;
- hook members provided on inner surfaces of said extensions, respectively;
- adhesive layers coated on inner surfaces of said hook members, respectively;
- said extensions, in a folded state, being folded back inwardly of said diaper and peelably bonded to said release zones by said adhesive layers, respectively; and
- at least one loop member provided on the outer surface of said diaper in said front waist region and adapted to be peelably engaged with said hook members;

wherein

said backsheet includes a plastic sheet having an exposed surface defining the inner surface of said backsheet in the extended portions;

said hook members have hooks mechanically engageable with loops of said loop member; and

a holding force of said adhesive layers against the outer surface of said diaper is sufficient to hold said diaper in a rolled state after use.

12. The disposable diaper according to claim 11, wherein said loop member is surface-treated to facilitate peeling of said adhesive layers therefrom after said hook members, and hence said adhesive layers, have been attached to said loop member.

13. The disposable diaper according to claim 11, wherein, when said hook members, and hence said adhesive layers, are attached to said loop member, holding forces between said adhesive layers and said loop member are not higher than those between said hook and loop members, thereby preventing the presence of said adhesive layers from obstructing smooth peeling of said hook members from said loop member.

14. A disposable diaper having, in a longitudinal direction thereof, a front waist region, a rear second waist region and a crotch region extending therebetween, said diaper comprising:

- a liquid-pervious topsheet partially defining an inner surface of said diaper, a liquid-impermeable backsheet defining an outer surface of said diaper, and a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and backsheet;
- release zones defined on the inner surface of said diaper in proximity of transversely opposite side edges of said rear waist region, respectively;
- a pair of extensions provided on said transversely opposite side edges of said rear waist region, respectively;
- hook members provided on inner surfaces of said extensions, respectively;
- adhesive layers partially and directly coated on inner surfaces of said hook members, respectively;
- said extensions, in a folded state, being folded back inwardly of said diaper and peelably bonded to said release zones by said adhesive layers, respectively; and
- at least one loop member provided on the outer surface of said diaper in said front waist region and adapted to be peelably mechanically engaged with said hook members;

wherein a holding force of said adhesive layers is sufficient to hold said diaper in a rolled state after use.

15. The disposable diaper according to claim 14, wherein said loop member is surface-treated to facilitate peeling of said adhesive layers therefrom after said hook members, and hence said adhesive layers, have been attached to said loop member.

16. The disposable diaper according to claim 14, wherein, when said hook members, and hence said adhesive layer, are attached to said loop member, holding forces between said adhesive layers and said loop member are not higher than those between said hook and loop members, thereby preventing the presence of said adhesive layers from obstructing smooth peeling of said hook members from said loop members.