

As. 119.947

Señor

DIRECTOR DIVISIÓN DE NUEVAS CREACION

SUPERINTENDENCIA DE INDUSTRIA Y COMERCIO

SUPERINTENDENCIA DE INDUSTRIA Y COMERCIO



No. 12-039387- -00003-0000

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REF: Expediente No. **12.039.387** solicitud de patente de invención a favor de
COLGATE PALMOLIVE COMPANY Título **EMPAQUE DE EXHIBICION**
PARA UNA PLURALIDAD DE PRODUCTOS

PETICION TRAMITE ACELERADO DE PATENTES

JUAN PABLO CADENA SARMIENTO, portador de la tarjeta profesional No. 57.492 del C.S.J.,
obrando como apoderado de la sociedad solicitante me permito presentar los siguientes
documentos para participar en el programa de trámite acelerado de patentes.

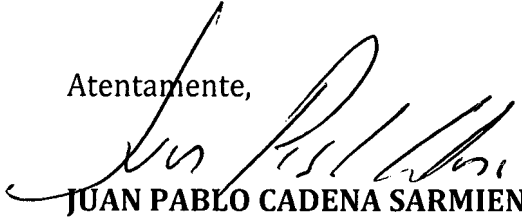
- a. Copia de la acción oficial de patentabilidad emitida por la USPTO en donde se establece
que las reivindicaciones 1-22 y 34 son concedidas y las reivindicaciones 23 y 27-33 son
rechazadas en vista de US 7.021,458.
- b. Copia del arte previo US 7,021,458 citado en la acción oficial.
- c. Copia de la respuesta presentada por el solicitante en respuesta a la acción oficial junto con
las reivindicaciones modificadas junto con la traducción al español.
- d. Copia de la notificación de concesión (notice of allowability) en donde se establece que las
reivindicaciones concedidas son las 1-22, 30 Y 34.
- e. Notificación de aceptación en donde se establece que la solicitud ha sido examinada y
aceptada para conceder la patente.
- f. Copia de la patente US 8,261,909.
- g. Tabla de correspondencia entre las reivindicaciones concedidas por la USPTO y las
reivindicaciones modificadas en Colombia el 31 de Julio de 2013.

Conclusión

De acuerdo a los documentos adjuntos, las reivindicaciones pendientes actualmente en Colombia
corresponden a las reivindicaciones patentadas en Estados Unidos teniendo en cuenta que el
alcance es idéntico. En consecuencia, solicitamos a su Despacho tener en cuenta el examen de
patentabilidad y las reivindicaciones concedidas por la USPTO y proceder con la concesión de la
patente para la solicitud en Colombia.

En vista de lo anteriormente expuesto, respetuosamente solicitamos el retiro de las objeciones de la presente solicitud y la concesión del privilegio solicitado, ya que en opinión del solicitante cumple con todos los requisitos establecidos en la decisión 486.

Atentamente,



JUAN PABLO CADENA SARMIENTO

T.P. No. 57.492 del C.SJ.

C.C. 80.410.337 de Usaquén

Calle 70 A No. 4 - 41

- a. Copia de la acción oficial de patentabilidad emitida por la USPTO en donde se establece que las reivindicaciones 1-22 y 34 son concedidas y las reivindicaciones 23 y 27-33 son rechazadas en vista de US 7.021,458 junto con la traducción al español

A

Office Action Summary	Application No. 12/886,095		Applicant(s) SORRENTINO ET AL.	
	Examiner DAVID FIDEI		Art Unit 3788	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2011.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.

5a) Of the above claim(s) 35-39 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 34 is/are allowed.

7) ☒ Claim(s) 23 and 27-33 is/are rejected.

8) ☒ Claim(s) 24-26 is/are objected to.

9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/20/2010 09/29/2010 02/10/2011 09/08/2011.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: ____.

YOUR APPLICATION FOR A PATENT IS DENIED

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Restriction/Election

1. Claims 35-39 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on December 12, 2011.

Claims

2. Claims 1-35 are pending and the subject of examination herein.

BASIS FOR THE DENIAL

3. The claimed invention is unpatentable for the reasons listed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 28 recites the limitation "the separator" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

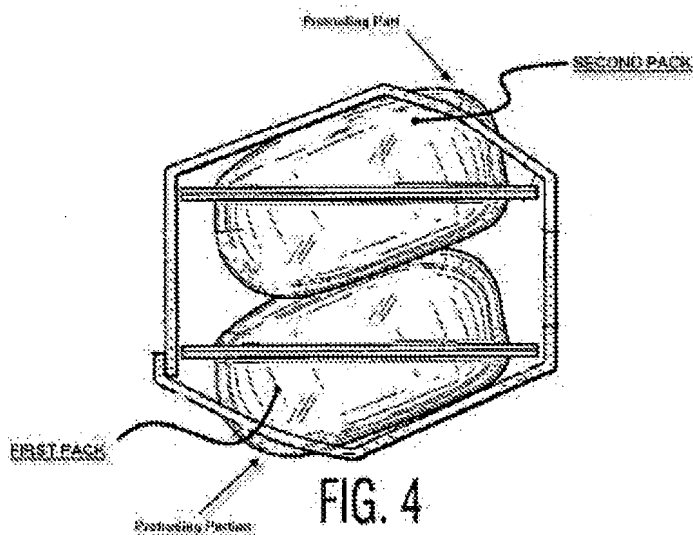
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 23, 27-30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cummings (US 7,021,458).

With respect to claim 23, a display package for soap bars is provided that meets the criteria of presently claimed invention. There is a first pack (either one of the packages 30) and a second pack (the other of package 30) where each of the first and second packs comprising a front wall, a rear wall, and at least one interior chamber located between the front and rear walls for holding at least one product, see Fig 4. The first and second packs arranged in a bundle so that a protruding portion (an outermost part of portion 36) of the front wall of the second pack contacts the first pack and a protruding portion (an outermost part of portion 38) of the rear wall

of the first pack contacts the second pack, see the diagram below. A sleeve comprising a front panel (16) having a front aperture (26), a rear panel (18) having a rear aperture (26), and first and second side panels (12, 22) connecting the front and rear panels to form a cavity, also shown in Fig 4. The bundle is positioned within the cavity of the sleeve, a protruding portion (30) of the front wall of the first pack protruding through the front aperture (26) of the front panel of the sleeve and a protruding portion of the rear wall of the second pack protruding through the rear aperture of the rear panel of the sleeve.



As for claims 27 and 30, the sleeve is formed about a central axis defined by fold line 21, see Fig 5. The front (16) and rear (18) panels of the sleeve being substantially parallel to the central axis, and wherein contact between the protruding portion of the front wall of the second pack and the first pack forms a first contact interface and contact between the protruding portion of the rear wall of the first pack and the second pack forms a second contact interface, and wherein the first and second contact interfaces are at an oblique angle to the central axis that manifestly prevents sliding inasmuch as is claimed, note Fig 4.

With respect to claim 28, the separator panel has no antecedent basis.

As for claim 29, transparent plastic is contemplated in col. 3, line 39.

The first and second packs are identical blister packs as recited in claim 32, note Fig 2.

Also, paperboard materials are contemplated in col. 3, line 36.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cummings (US 7,021,458) as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Wyslotzky (US 5,044,495).

In Cummings the sleeve has an open top end and open bottom end, wherein each of the first and second packs comprises a bottom edge and a top edge with the bottom edges of the first and second packs in the bundle being substantially coplanar with one another, and wherein the front panel of the sleeve comprises a bottom edge and the rear panel of the sleeve comprises a bottom edge, the bottom edges of the front and rear panels of the sleeve being substantially coplanar with the bottom edges of the first and second packs of the bundle. The bundle of Cummings does not protrude from the open top end and the open bottom end of the sleeve.

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Wyslowsky discloses a package 10 having a sleeve 16 that surrounds a bundle component 14. Wyslowsky teaches the sleeve extending below the package 14 so that a hanging mechanism 46 is exposed, note Figs 3 & 6. To provide the bundled packages of Cummings with header tops protruding above the sleeve would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art for the reason of enabling suspension of the bundled packages from a hanger.

12. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cummings (US 7,021,458) as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Atkinson (US 2,263,835).

To provide the sleeve with a pull tab adjacent to the adhered to the adhered panels as taught by Atkinson Fig 3, #15 would have been obvious for the reason of permitting separation of the sleeve.

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 1-22 and 34 are allowed.

14. Claims 24-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

RESPONSE TO THIS DECISION

15. If you want to amend your patent application, or disagree with this decision a formal written reply is required.

The reply to this decision must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. 1.111, including: "The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references". A general allegation that the claims "define a patentable invention" without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure, including the claims. See MPEP 2163.06 II(A), MPEP 2163.06 and MPEP 714.02. The "disclosure" includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

If no amendments are made to claims as applicant or patent owner believes the claims are patentable without further modification, the reply must distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the Examiner's action and must respond to every ground of objection and rejection in the prior Office Action in the same vain as given above, see 37 CFR 1.111 (b) & (c), M.P.E.P. 714.02.

16. A reply failing to meet the aforementioned requirements will be considered Non-Responsive.

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EXAMINER OF RECORD

17. Inquiries concerning this communication should be directed to Primary Examiner David T. Fidei, whose telephone number is (571)272-4553 and can normally be reached on Monday - Friday: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time).

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, Applicant may contact Supervisory Primary Examiner, John (Greg) Pickett on Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm (Eastern Standard Time) (571) 272-4560. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

CONCLUSION

18. Due to the change in practice as affecting final rejections; older decisions on questions of prematureness of final rejections or admission of subsequent amendments do not necessarily reflect present practice. "Under present practice, second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, except where the examiner introduces a new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by applicant's amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p)" (emphasis mine), see MPEP 706.07(a).

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David T. Fidei/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3788

SU SOLICITUD PARA UNA PATENTE ES DENEGADA

CONSIDERACIONES PRELIMINARES

Restricción/Elegibilidad

1. Las reivindicaciones 35-39 son retiradas de futuras consideraciones conforme a 37CFR 1.142(b) ya que se dirigen a una invención no elegible, no habiendo reivindicación genérica o vinculante.

La elección se hizo sin desplazamiento en la respuesta presentada en diciembre 12 de 2011.

Reivindicaciones

2. Las reivindicaciones 1-35 están pendientes y son la materia de examen aquí.

FUNDAMENTOS PARA DENEGAR

3. La invención reivindicada no es patentable por las razones enumeradas más abajo.

Rechazo de Reivindicaciones – USC 35 § 112

4. La siguiente es una cita del segundo párrafo de USC 35 § 112:

La descripción deberá concluir con una o más reivindicaciones señalando particularmente y reclamando distintivamente la materia que el solicitante considera su invención.

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5. La reivindicación 28 es rechazada en base a USC 35 § 112, segundo párrafo, por ser indefinida al fallar en señalar particularmente y reclamar distintivamente la materia que el solicitante considera su invención.

La reivindicación 27 recita la limitación "el separador" en la línea 1. No hay suficientes fundamentos para esta limitación en la reivindicación.

Rechazo de Reivindicaciones – USC 35 § 102

6. La siguiente es una cita de los párrafos apropiados de USC 35 § 102 que constituye la base para los rechazos basados en esta sección en esta Acción Oficial:

Una persona tendrá el derecho a una patente a menos que—

(b) la invención haya sido patentada o descrita en una publicación impresa en este o en un país extranjero o sea de uso público o en venta en este país, por más de un año antes de la fecha de solicitud para patente en los Estados Unidos.

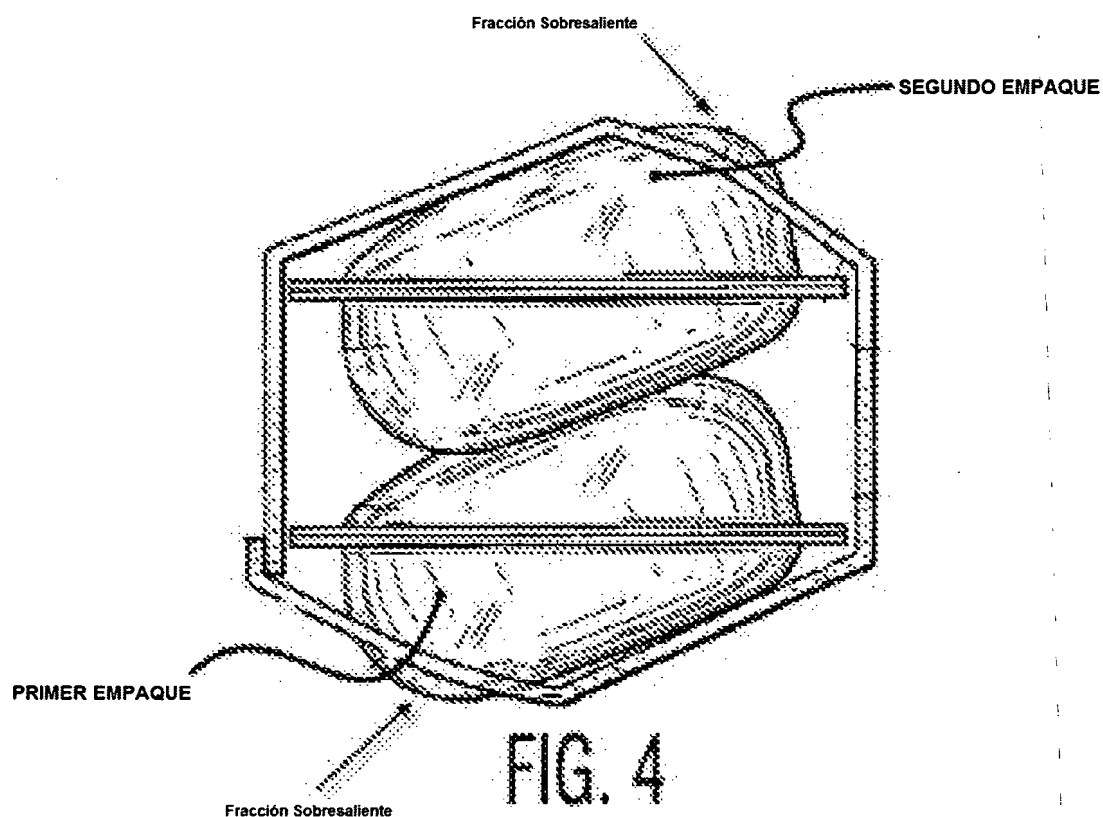
7. Las reivindicaciones 23, 27-30 y 32 son rechazadas en base a USC 35 § 112 al ser anticipadas por Cummings (US 7,021,458).

Con respecto a la reivindicación 23, se proporciona un empaque de exhibición para barras de jabón que satisface los criterios reclamados en la presente invención. Hay un primer empaque (cualquiera de los empaques 30) y un segundo empaque (el otro paquete 30) en donde cada uno del primer y segundo empaque comprende una pared frontal, una pared trasera, y al menos una cámara interior ubicada entre las paredes frontal y trasera para contener al menos un producto, ver Fig. 4. El primer y el segundo empaque dispuestos en una pila de manera que una porción sobresaliente (la parte de más afuera de la porción 36) de la pared frontal del segundo empaque contacte el primer empaque y una porción sobresaliente (la parte de más afuera de la porción 38) de la pared trasera del primer

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empaques contacte el segundo empaque, ver el diagrama de más abajo. Un manguito comprendiendo un panel frontal (16) que tiene una abertura frontal (26), un panel trasero (18) teniendo una abertura trasera (26), y primer y segundo paneles laterales (12, 22) conectando los paneles frontal y trasero para formar una cavidad, también mostrados en la Fig. 4. La pila se posiciona dentro de la cavidad del manguito, una porción sobresaliente (30) de la pared frontal del primer empaque sobresale a través de abertura frontal (26) del panel frontal del manguito y una porción sobresaliente de la pared trasera del segundo empaque sobresale a través de la abertura trasera del panel trasero del manguito.



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En cuanto a las reivindicaciones 27 y 30, el manguito se forma alrededor de un eje central definido por la línea de plegado 21, ver Fig. 5. Los paneles frontal (16) y trasero (18) del manguito siendo sustancialmente paralelos al eje central, y en donde el contacto entre la porción sobresaliente de la pared frontal del segundo empaque y el primer empaque forma una primera interfaz de contacto y el contacto entre la porción sobresaliente de la pared trasera del primer empaque y el segundo empaque forma una segunda interfaz de contacto, y en donde la primera y segunda interfaces de contacto se encuentran en ángulo oblicuo con respecto al eje central que manifiestamente previene el desplazamiento en la medida que es reivindicado, observar Fig. 4.

Con respecto a la reivindicación 28, el panel separador no tiene base en el antecedente.

En cuanto a la reivindicación 29, el plástico transparente se contempla en col. 3, línea 39.

El primer y segundo empaques son empaques tipo burbuja idénticos como se revela en la reivindicación 32, observar Fig. 2. Además, materiales de cartón también se contemplan en col. 3, línea 36.

Rechazo de Reivindicaciones – USC 35 § 103

8. La siguiente es una cita de USC 35 § 103(a) que constituye la base para todos los rechazos por obviedad expuestos en esta Acción Oficial:

(a) Una patente no puede obtenerse a pesar de que la invención no se haya divulgado o descrito de manera idéntica como se expone en la sección 102 de este título, si las diferencias entre la materia sobre la que se busca patente y el estado de la técnica son tales que la materia como un todo hubiese sido obvia al momento de la invención para una persona con conocimientos ordinarios en la técnica a la

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que dicha materia pertenece. La patentabilidad no se verá negativamente afectada por la forma en que la invención fue realizada.

9. Las indagaciones factuales establecidas en *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1,148 USPOQ 456 (1996), que se aplican para establecer antecedentes para determinar la obviedad según USC 35 § 103(a) se pueden resumir como sigue:

1. Determinar el objetivo técnico y el contenido del estado de la técnica.
2. Establecer las diferencias entre el estado de la técnica y las reivindicaciones en cuestión.
3. Fijar el nivel de habilidad ordinario en la técnica pertinente.
4. Considerar la evidencia objetiva presente en la solicitud que indica la obviedad o no-obviedad.

10. La presente solicitud nombra inventores conjuntos en el momento. Al considerar la patentabilidad de las reivindicaciones bajo U.S.C 35 § 103(a), el examinador asume que la materia de las distintas reivindicaciones era propiedad común al momento que cualquier invención cubierta en la misma fue hecha en ausencia de evidencia de lo contrario. Se le recuerda al Solicitante de la obligación bajo el CFR 37 1.56 de señalar el inventor y las fechas de invención de cada reivindicación que no fuera propiedad común en el momento que una invención posterior fue realizada para que el examinador pueda considerar la aplicabilidad de U.S.C 35 103(c) y potencialmente de arte previo U.S.C 35 102(e), (f) o (g) bajo U.S.C. 103(a).

11. La reivindicación 31 es rechazada bajo U.S.C 35 103(a) por no ser patentable sobre Cummings (US 7,021,458) como se ha aplicado anteriormente a la reivindicación 23, y además en vista de Wyslotsky (US 5,044,495). En Cummings el manguito tiene un extremo superior abierto y un extremo inferior abierto, en donde cada uno del primer y

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segundo empaques comprende un reborde inferior y un reborde superior con los rebordes inferiores del primer y segundo empaques en la pila siendo sustancialmente coplanares entre ellos, y en donde el panel frontal del manguito comprende un reborde inferior y el panel trasero del manguito comprende un reborde inferior, los rebordes inferiores de los paneles frontal y trasero del manguito siendo sustancialmente coplanares con los rebordes inferiores del primer y segundo empaques de la pila. La pila de Cummings no sobresale desde el extremo superior abierto y el extremo inferior abierto del manguito.

Wyslotsky divulga un empaque 10 teniendo un manguito 16 que rodea un componente de pila 14. Wyslotsky enseña que el manguito se extiende debajo del empaque 14 de manera que un mecanismo de colgado 46 sea expuesto, observar Figs. 3 & 6. Proporcionar los empaques apilados de Cummings con cabeceras extendiéndose sobre el manguito hubiera sido obvio para una persona medianamente versada en la materia por la razón de permitir la suspensión de los empaques apilados de un colgador.

12. La reivindicación 33 se rechaza bajo U.S.C 35 103(a) por no ser patentable sobre Cummings (US 7,021,458) como como se ha aplicado anteriormente a la reivindicación 23, y además en vista de Atkinson (US 2,263,835). Proporcionar un manguito con una pestaña de tracción adyacente a los paneles adheridos como se enseña en Atkinson Fig. 3, #15 hubiera sido obvio por cuanto permiten separar el manguito.

Materia Admisible

13. Las reivindicaciones 1-22 y 34 son admitidas.

14. Las reivindicaciones 24-26 son objetadas por ser dependientes de una reivindicación base objetada, pero serían admisibles si se redactan en forma independiente incluyendo todas las limitaciones de la reivindicación base y de cualquier reivindicación que intervenga.

b. Cópia del arte previo US 7,021,458 citado en la acción oficial.



US007021458B2

2A

(12) **United States Patent**
Cummings

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,021,458 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 4, 2006**

(54) **SOAP BAR PACKAGE**

(75) **Inventor:** **Bruce Cummings**, New York, NY (US)

(73) **Assignee:** **Colgate-Palmolive Company**, New York, NY (US)

(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 77 days.

(21) **Appl. No.:** **10/251,744**

(22) **Filed:** **Sep. 20, 2002**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2004/0055904 A1 Mar. 25, 2004

(51) **Int. Cl.**
B65D 75/28 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** 206/77.1; 206/462; 206/779;
229/162.1; 229/162.6

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 206/77.1;
206/462; 463, 705, 779, 780; 229/87.05,
229/87.18, 87.19, 162, 162.1, 162.6
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Primary Examiner—Mickey Yu

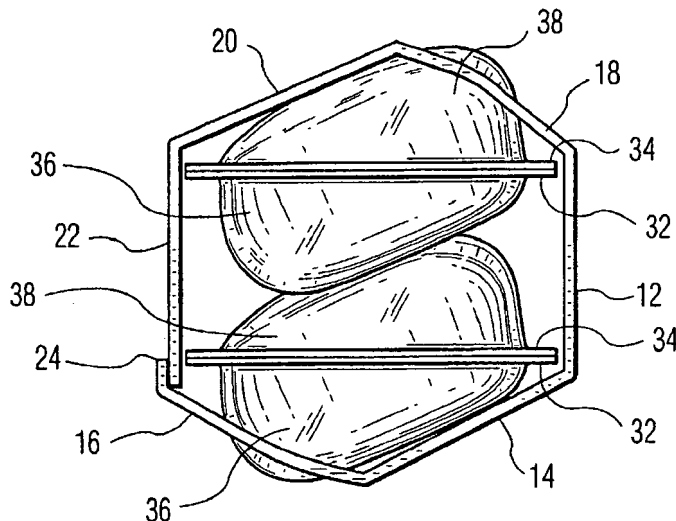
Assistant Examiner—Jerrold Johnson

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Harris A. Wolin

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The soap bar is contained in a package comprised of a first package and a second package. The first package fully surrounds and envelops the soap bar and in a preferred embodiment has a peripheral edge. The second package will contain one or more first packages with an aperture in at least one panel of the second package and a part of the first package protrudes through the second package and is stabilized in the second package. When the first package has a peripheral edge, it will be adjacent to the interior surface of the second package and additionally support the second package.

20 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



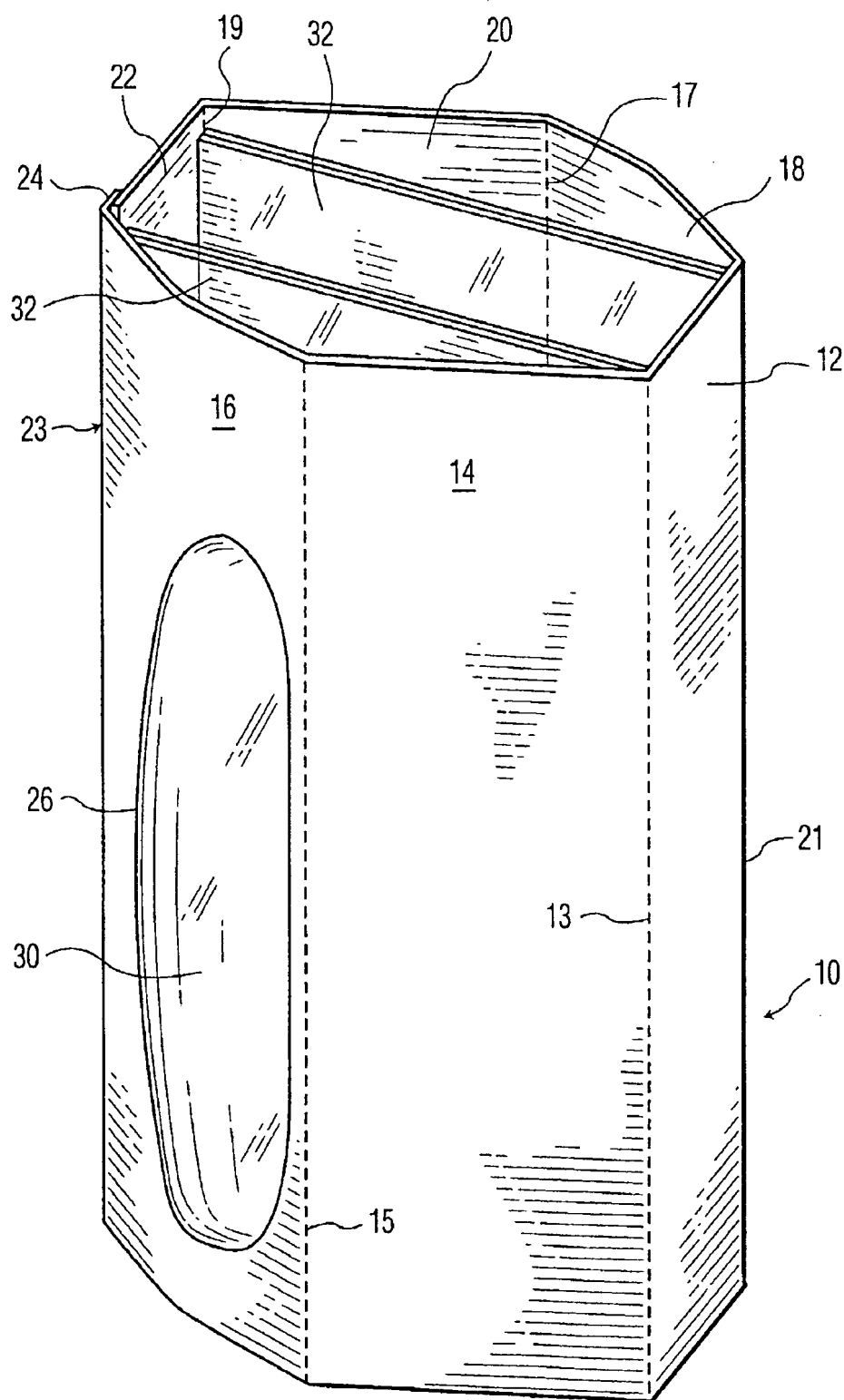


FIG. 1

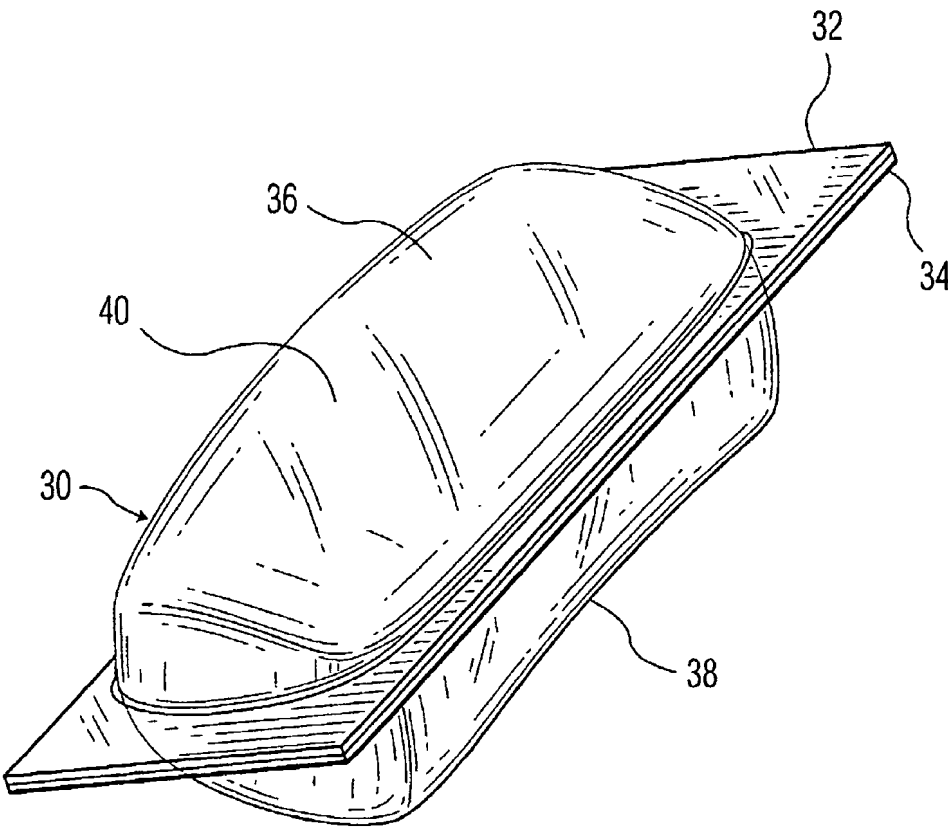


FIG. 2

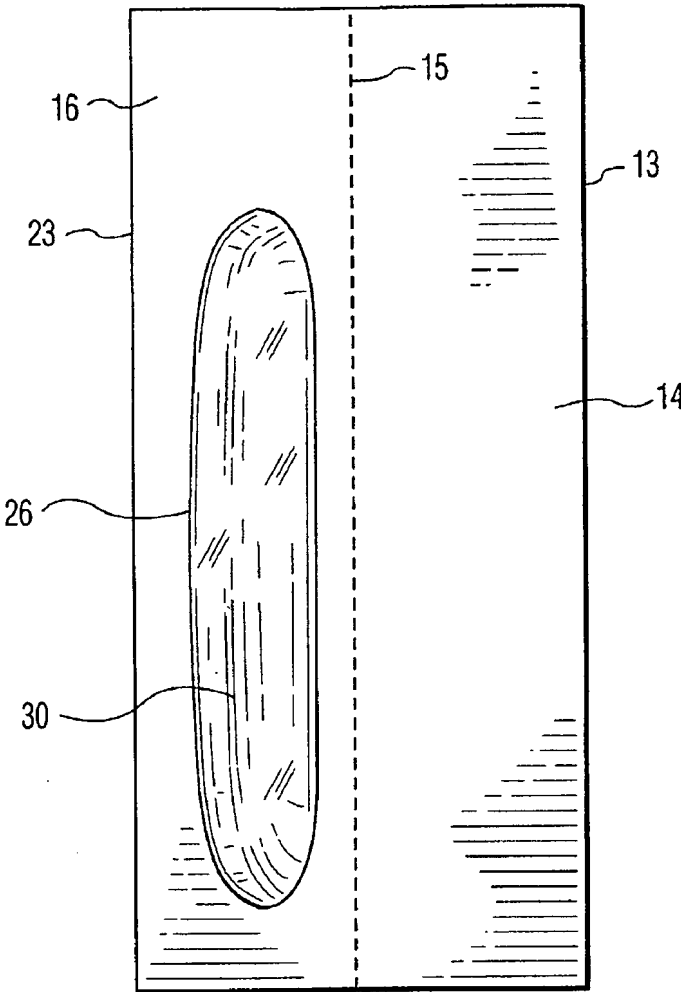


FIG. 3

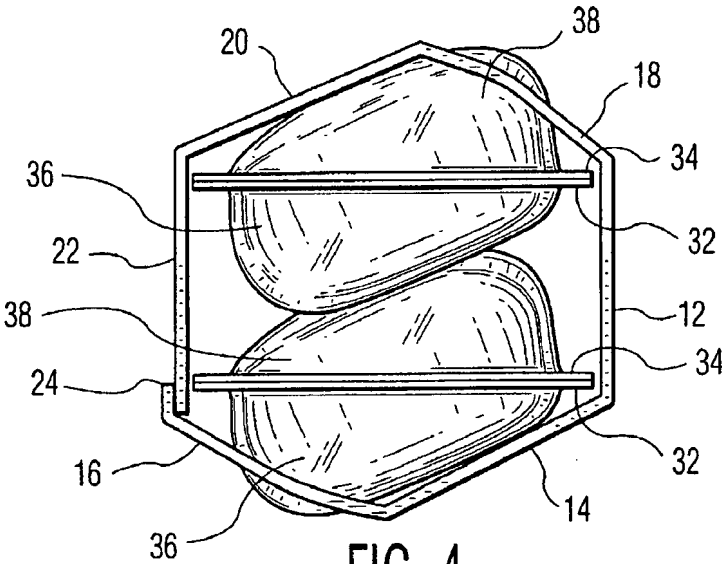


FIG. 4

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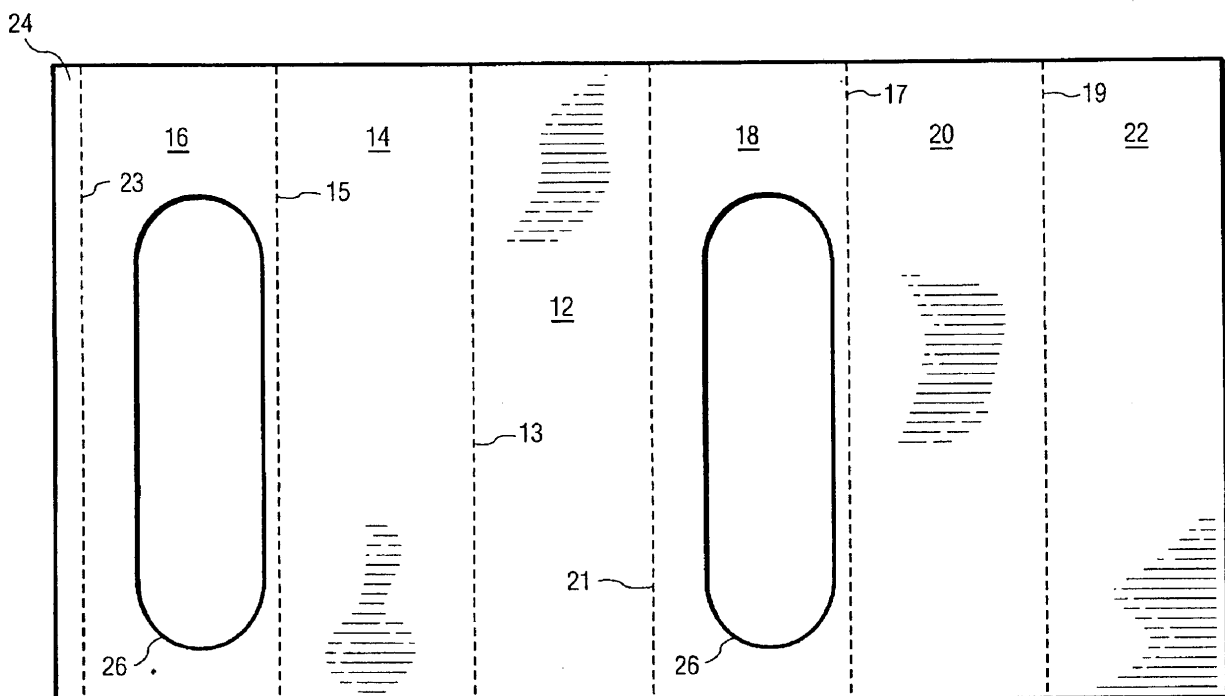


FIG. 5

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SOAP BAR PACKAGE

This invention relates to a soap bar package where a primary package supports a secondary package. This invention more particularly relates to a package where the primary package fully envelops the soap bar and provides the support for the secondary package that facilitates orientation on a display shelf.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Soap bars are packaged in various ways. These include the use of paperboard cartons, plastic boxes, and paper and plastic wrapping. The objective is to protect the soap bar from contamination, maintain a given moisture content in the soap bar and to provide an acceptable appearance at the point of sale. In addition, the package also may provide for stability on the sales shelf so that the soap bars can be stacked several bars high and several bars deep on the shelf.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present soap bar package is comprised of a primary package and a secondary package. The soap bar can be of any shape. The primary package surrounds and encloses the soap bar. The secondary package holds and contains one or more of the primary packages and holds these primary packages in an orientation so that along with the secondary package they can be self supporting on a store display shelf and also can be stacked on the store shelf. In addition, they can move readily be fitted into a shipping carton.

The primary package in one embodiment is comprised of a relatively stiff, self supporting material. This primary package material encloses the soap bar and has an outwardly extending peripheral edge. The peripheral edge extends outwardly so as to contact the inner surface of the secondary package. It can be in essentially any orientation with respect to the soap bar. However, in one embodiment this edge can be an extension of a plane through the longitudinal axis of the soap bar at an angle of 0 degrees to about 45 degrees to the lateral axis of the soap bar. In this orientation, the edges will be in a plane through the longitudinal axis to being in a plane about diagonally through the soap bar. The orientation, shape and dimension of this edge will be determined by the secondary package, the number of soap bars to be contained within the secondary package, and the end product rigidity of the secondary package.

The secondary package is comprised of a semi-rigid, to rigid material that when reinforced by the primary package can retain its shape as a package. This primary package can be anchored within the secondary package in various ways. In a preferred technique part of each contained primary package can protrude through a surface of the secondary package. This stabilizes the primary package within the secondary package and the primary package further reinforces the secondary package.

When the secondary package has such apertures the primary package need not have a peripheral edge adapted to reinforce the secondary package. Thus this peripheral edge can be of a reduced dimension so as not to contact the secondary package, or can be of a flexible material that would not substantially reinforce the secondary package.

The primary package and the secondary package can be constructed of various materials. These include paperboard, foils and plastics. Plastics are preferred for the primary package and paperboards for the secondary package. The plastics can be monolayers or laminates.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of two soap bars packaged in a primary package and secondary package.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a soap bar in a primary package.

FIG. 3 is an elevational view of the package of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of the packages of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a plan view of the blank of the secondary package of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention will be described in the preferred embodiments with reference to the drawings. Other embodiments which utilize the concept of a primary package and a secondary package, and in the instance where the primary package provides support for the secondary package in a similar manner are within the present concept.

FIG. 1 shows two packaged soap bars. The soap bars each are in a primary package and the two primary packages are in a secondary package 10. The secondary package has panel surfaces 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22. The panels 16 and 22 are attached at 24 by a glue flap. The panel 16 has an opening 26 through which part of a primary package 30 protrudes. A similar aperture is in panel 18 with part of a soap bar protruding also from this aperture. The protruding primary packages serve to hold the primary packages within the secondary package. Also, seen in FIG. 1 is the edge 32 of each primary package. The fold points of the secondary package are shown by dotted lines at 13, 15, 17 and 19. Fold points also are designated at 21 and 23. Further, the primary packaged soap bars by contact with the inner surface of the secondary package and protruding through apertures in the secondary package supports and provides structure to the secondary package.

FIG. 2 shows a primary package 30 containing a soap bar 40. In this embodiment the primary package is transparent. However, the material of the primary package also can be opaque or translucent. Also, it can be of essentially any color or tint. Here it is comprised of an upper portion 36 with edge 32 and a lower portion 38 with edge 34. The preferred materials for each portion are plastics, and plastics that can be thermoformed. After each portion is formed a soap bar is inserted in one portion and overlaid with the other portion. If then is heat-sealed around the edge to make a sealed primary package.

As an alternative the portions 36 and 38 can be sealed together and then through an injection opening a soap bar composition in a liquid state added to the hollow cavity and the liquid soap bar composition set to a hardened soap bar. In this latter embodiment, the portions 36 and 38 sealed together will have an opening at either end for the injection of the liquid soap composition. This opening is sealed after the injection of the liquid soap composition.

FIG. 3 shows the packaged soap bar in an elevational view. This view shows many of the features of FIG. 1 but in a different orientation.

The edges 32 and 34 can be an extension of a plane through the longitudinal axis of the soap bar and package. This plane also can be through the lateral axis of the soap bar or at an angle of up to 90 degrees to the lateral axis, and preferably up to about 45 degrees to the lateral axis. The positioning of the edges would be to optimize the reinforcing of the secondary package.

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FIG. 4 is a top plan view of the two soap bars of FIG. 1 in both the primary and secondary packages. Each primary package has the same structure of portion 36 with edge 32 and portion 38 with edge portion 34. Edges 32, 34 of each primary package support panels 12 and 22 of the secondary package. The primary packages are in a common contact along one side and protrude through panels 16 and 18 on the other side. All parts of the primary packages can be used to reinforce and support the secondary package. This includes all primary package surfaces including the edges 32, 34. The edges 32, 34 as shown serve to form panels 12 and 22 into substantially parallel surfaces. The result is that the secondary package can stand vertically on end as shown in FIG. 1 or horizontally on panels 12, 22, 14 or 20. Also the soap bar products can be readily cartoned for shipment in either orientation.

An optional embodiment is where the primary package does not have a peripheral edge or has a flexible peripheral edge. In this instance the contact of the two soap bars with each other and with the interior wall of the secondary package, and the projecting through the walls of the secondary package will stabilize the primary packaged soap bars in the secondary package. A key feature in this embodiment is each primary packaged soap protruding through the walls of the secondary package.

FIG. 5 shows the blank for the secondary package. There are shown panels 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22. Panels 16 and 18 each have an aperture 26. The glue flap to form the secondary package is at 24. The blank is folded at fold lines 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23. The panels are shown as being about equivalent in width. This is for illustrative purposes. The panels will be sized to accommodate primary packages of a particular size.

The primary and secondary package can be constructed of a variety of materials. These include plastics, foils and paperboards. The secondary package preferably is a paperboard and the primary package, a plastic, and preferably a thermoformable plastic. The plastics can be monolayers or multi-layered laminates. The plastics can be transparent, translucent or opaque. They preferably are thermoplastics such as polyethylenes, polypropylenes or polyesters such as polyethylene terephthalate. They also can be copolymers of ethylene, propylene, butylene vinyl and vinylidene monomers such as vinyl alcohol, vinyl acetate, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride and copolymers of these polymers.

The primary package can be of a flexible to a semi-rigid to rigid material. Where it will reinforce the secondary package it will be a semi-rigid to rigid material. The secondary package will be of a semi-rigid material to a rigid material. A semi-rigid material is sufficient and will be a cost savings.

What is claimed is:

1. A packaged soap bar comprising at least one soap bar enclosed in at least one primary package, the at least one primary package contained within a secondary package, said primary package having an enclosing portion fully enveloping said soap bar and an outwardly extending edge portion at a periphery of said enclosing portion, said secondary package having a plurality of connected side panels and, in a completed form of the package, open on at least one end, said outwardly extending edge portion of the primary package extending to adjacent an inner surface of said secondary package to reinforce the panels of said secondary package.

2. A packaged soap bar as in claim 1, wherein a part of said primary package protrudes through an aperture in a panel of said secondary package.

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3. A packaged soap bar as in claim 1, wherein there are at least two primary packages in said secondary package, said at least two primary packages being in other than an edge portion contact one to the other, and a part of each primary package protruding through at least one panel of said secondary package.

4. A packaged soap bar as in claim 3, wherein there are two primary packages.

5. A packaged soap bar as in claim 1, wherein said edge portion of said primary package surrounds said primary package.

6. A packaged soap bar as in claim 1, wherein the at least one primary package is comprised of a first portion and a second portion, the soap bar contained between said first portion and said second portion.

7. A packaged soap bar as in claim 6, wherein said first portion and said second portion have a peripheral edge.

8. A packaged soap bar as in claim 1, wherein the at least one primary package is comprised of a plastic.

9. A packaged soap bar as in claim 8, wherein the secondary package is comprised of a paperboard.

10. A packaged soap bar as in claim 8 wherein the secondary package is comprised of a paperboard.

11. A packaged soap bar as in claim 1, wherein said at least one primary package is comprised of a substantially transparent plastic.

12. A packaged soap bar comprising at least one soap bar enclosed in at least one primary package, said at least one primary package contained within a secondary package, said at least one primary package having an enclosing portion surrounding said soap bar, said secondary package having a plurality of side panels and, in a completed form of the package, open on at least one end, at least one of said side panels having at least one aperture, a part of the at least one primary package of said at least one soap bar protruding through said at least one aperture.

13. A packaged soap bar as in claim 12, wherein there are at least two primary packages in said secondary package, said at least one primary packages being in contact one to the other, and a part of each primary package protruding through a panel of said secondary package.

14. A packaged soap bar as in claim 12, wherein there are at least two primary packages in said secondary package, said primary packages being in contact one to the other, and a part of each primary package protruding through a panel of said secondary package.

15. A packaged soap bar as shown in claim 14, wherein there are two primary packages.

16. A packaged soap bars as in claim 12, wherein said edge portion of said at least one primary package surrounds said primary package.

17. A packaged soap bar as in claim 11, wherein the at least one primary package is comprised of a first portion and a second portion, the soap bar contained between said first portion and said second portion.

18. A packaged soap bar as in claim 17, wherein said first portion and said second portion have a peripheral edge.

19. A packaged soap bar as in claim 12, wherein the at least one primary package is comprised of a plastic.

20. A packaged soap bar as in claim 12 wherein said at least one primary package is comprised of a substantially transparent plastic.

* * * * *

- c. Copia de la respuesta presentada por el solicitante en respuesta a la acción oficial junto con las reivindicaciones modificadas junto con la traducción al español.

Serial Number: 12/886,095
Attorney Docket: 8705-00-TBP
Response to Non-Final Office Action of January 10, 2012

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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant: Alan Sorrentino, et al.

Examiner: David Fidei

Serial No.: 12/886,095

Art Unit: 3788

Filing Date: September 20, 2010

Confirmation No.: 9964

For: **Display Package For A Plurality Of
Products**

Attorney Docket No.: 8705-00-TBP

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action mailed on January 10, 2012, Applicants respond through their attorney as follows.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Paper; and

Remarks begin on page 7 of this Paper.

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REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-34 were pending for examination. Claims 35-39 were withdrawn in response to a previously issued restriction requirement. Claim 30 is being amended. Claims 23-29 and 31-33 are being cancelled. After entry of the above amendments, the claims pending in the subject application are claims 1-22, 30 and 34.

Reconsideration of this application based on the Amendments and Remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTION

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being allegedly indefinite. Applicant has cancelled claim 28, thereby mooting this rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 102 REJECTION

Claims 23, 27-30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,021,458 ("Cummings").

Applicant has cancelled claims 23, 27-29 and 32, thereby mooting their rejections. Claim 30 has been amended to depend from claim 1, which was found to be allowable. Therefore, at least for depending from an allowable independent claim, claim 30 is also allowable.

Thus, Applicant respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of claim 30.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Cummings in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,044,495 ("Wyslotsky"). Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Cummings in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,263,835 ("Atkinson").

Applicant has cancelled claims 31 and 33, thereby mooting their rejections.

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ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1-22 and 34 were allowed. Applicant did not make any amendments to claims 1-22 and 34. Therefore, claims 1-22 and 34 remain allowable. In addition, claim 30 is being amended to depend from allowable claim 1, and thus is allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

Claims 24-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant has cancelled 24-26, thereby mooting their objections.

In view of the amendments and remarks contained above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the 35 USC §112, §102 and §103 rejections, and request that a Formal Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-22, 30 and 34. Should the Examiner have any questions about the above remarks, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

In the event that a fee is due for entry of this response, The Director – United States Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account 03-2455 the fees necessary for entry of this response.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Sorrentino, et al.

Date: March 21, 2012

By: /Judy W. Chung/
Judy W. Chung
Reg. No.: 61,612
COLGATE-PALMOLIVE COMPANY
909 River Road; P.O. Box 1343
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1343
Telephone: (732) 878-7086

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims is intended to replace all prior versions, sets and/or listings of the claim in the case.

1. (Original) A display package comprising:

a plurality of packs, each pack comprising a front wall, a rear wall, and at least one interior chamber located between the front and rear walls for holding at least one product, the plurality of packs arranged in a bundle;

a separator panel having at least one upper aperture and at least one lower aperture positioned between adjacent packs in the bundle, a portion of the front wall of one pack in the bundle protruding through one of the upper or lower apertures in the separator panel and contacting an adjacent pack in the bundle and a portion of the rear wall of the adjacent pack in the bundle protruding through the other one of the upper or lower apertures in the separator panel and contacting the one pack in the bundle;

a sleeve comprising a front panel having a front aperture, a rear panel having a rear aperture, and first and second side panels connecting the front and rear panels to form a cavity; and

the bundle positioned within the cavity of the sleeve, a portion of the front wall of a front-most pack in the bundle protruding through the front aperture of the front panel of the sleeve and a portion of the rear wall of a rear-most pack in the bundle protruding through the rear aperture of the rear panel of the sleeve.

2. (Original) The display package of claim 1 wherein the packs are blister packs.

3. (Original) The display package of claim 2 wherein the sleeve is a cardboard carton.

4. (Original) The display package of claim 2 wherein for each blister pack, the front wall and rear wall are hingedly connected to one another.

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5. (Original) The display package of claim 4 wherein the front wall of each blister pack comprises at least one of the interior chambers and the rear wall of each blister pack comprises at least one of the interior chambers.
6. (Original) The display package of claim 1 wherein the cavity of the sleeve is formed about a central axis, the front and rear panels of the sleeve being substantially parallel to the central axis, and wherein the separator panel is oriented at an oblique angle to the central axis.
7. (Original) The display package of claim 6 wherein the separator panel has a top edge and a bottom edge, the upper aperture located adjacent the top edge of the separator panel and the lower aperture located adjacent the bottom edge of the separator panel.
8. (Original) The display package of claim 7 wherein the separator panel comprises first and second upper apertures and first and second lower apertures, the front wall of the one packs comprising first and second portions that protrude through the first and second upper apertures respectively and the rear wall of the adjacent pack comprising first and second portions that protrude through the first and second lower apertures respectively.
9. (Original) The display package of claim 8 wherein the rear panel comprises first and second rear apertures located adjacent a bottom edge of the rear panel, the rear wall of the rear-most pack having first and second portions that protrude through the first and second rear apertures respectively.
10. (Original) The display package of claim 9 wherein the entirety of one or more of the products located in the interior chamber of the front-most pack is displayed via the front aperture.
11. (Original) The display package of claim 10 wherein the bundle includes two packs, the rear-most pack being the one pack and the front-most pack being the adjacent pack.

✓ 3A

12. (Original) The display package of claim 1 wherein the bundle includes two packs, the rear-most pack being the one pack and the front-most pack being the adjacent pack.
13. (Original) The display package of claim 1 wherein the entirety of one or more of the products located in the interior chamber of the front-most pack is displayed via the front aperture.
14. (Original) The display package of claim 1 wherein the cavity of the sleeve is formed about a central axis, the front and rear panels of the sleeve being substantially parallel to the central axis, and wherein contact between the portion of the front wall of the one pack and the adjacent pack forms a first contact interface and contact between the portion of the rear wall of the adjacent pack and the one pack forms a second contact interface, and wherein the first and second contact interfaces are at an oblique angle to the central axis.
15. (Original) The display package of claim 14 wherein the separator panel is oriented at an oblique angle to both the central axis and the first and second interfaces.
16. (Original) The display package of claim 1 wherein the sleeve has an open top end and open bottom end, the bundle protruding from the open top end and the open bottom end of the sleeve.
17. (Original) The display package of claim 16 wherein each of the packs comprises a bottom edge and a top edge, the bottom edges of the packs in the bundle being substantially coplanar with one another.
18. (Original) The display package of claim 17 wherein the front panel of the sleeve comprises a bottom edge and the rear panel of the sleeve comprises a bottom edge, the bottom edges of the front and rear panels of the sleeve being substantially coplanar with the bottom edges of the packs of the bundle.
19. (Original) The display package of claim 16 wherein each of the packs comprises a top edge, at least one of the packs of the bundle comprising a hanging tab extending from the top edge of

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the pack and comprising a hanging aperture, the hanging tab extending above a top edge of the front panel and a top edge of the rear panel.

20. (Original) The display package of claim 1 wherein the packs are transparent identical to one another.

21. (Original) The display package of claim 1 wherein the portion of the front wall of the one pack that contacts the adjacent pack forms a portion of the interior chamber of the one pack and the portion of the rear wall of the adjacent pack that contacts the one pack forms a portion of the interior chamber of the adjacent pack.

22. (Original) The display package of claim 1 wherein the first and second side panels are appended to opposing sides of the front panel, the rear panel appended to the first side panel and comprising a pull tab, and a glue flap appended to the second side panel that is adhered to the rear panel adjacent the pull tab.

23-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The display package of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 1 wherein the cavity of the sleeve is formed about a central axis, and wherein contact between the protruding portion of the front wall of the second pack and the first pack forms a first contact interface and contact between the protruding portion of the rear wall of the first pack and the second pack forms a second contact interface, and wherein the first and second contact interfaces are adapted to prevent relative sliding between the first and second packs in an axial direction along the central axis.

31-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Original) A display package comprising:

a plurality of packs, each pack comprising a front wall, a rear wall, and at least one interior chamber located between the front and rear walls for holding at least one product, the plurality of packs arranged in a bundle;

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a separator panel positioned between adjacent packs in the bundle and having at least one aperture that allows contact between the adjacent packs in the bundle;

a tubular sleeve comprising a front panel having a front aperture and a rear panel having a rear aperture; and

the bundle positioned within the cavity of the tubular sleeve, a protruding portion of the front wall of a front-most pack in the bundle protruding through the front aperture of the front panel of the tubular sleeve and a protruding portion of the rear wall of a rear-most pack in the bundle protruding through the rear aperture of the rear panel of the sleeve.

35. (Withdrawn) A carton blank comprising:

a front panel comprising a front aperture;

a first side panel and a second side panel appended to opposite sides of the front panel;

a rear panel appended to the first side panel opposite the front panel, the rear panel comprising a pull tab and a rear aperture, the pull tab located adjacent a free side edge of the rear panel opposite the first side panel; and

a glue flap extending from the second side panel opposite the front panel for coupling to the rear panel at a location adjacent the pull tab.

36. (Withdrawn) The carton blank of claim 35 wherein the first side panel and the second side panel each comprise a top edge that extends at an oblique angle from a top edge of the front panel.

37. (Withdrawn) The carton blank of claim 36 wherein when the glue flap is coupled to the rear panel, the carton blank forms a tubular sleeve having an open top end and an open bottom end.

38. (Withdrawn) The carton blank of claim 37 wherein the front panel comprises a bottom edge and the rear panel comprises a bottom edge, the bottom edges of the front and rear panels being substantially coplanar with one another.

39. (Withdrawn) The carton blank of claim 38 comprising first and second rear apertures in the rear panel adjacent the bottom edge of the rear panel.

Número de Serial: 12/886,095
Expediente del Agente: 8705-00-TBP
Respuesta a la Acción Oficial No-Final del 10 de Enero de 2012

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En la Oficina de Patentes y Marcas de Estados Unidos

Solicitante: Alan Sorrentino, et al.	Examinador: David Fidei
Número de Serial: 12/866,095	Unidad de Técnica: 3788
Fecha de Presentación: Septiembre 20, 2010	Número de Confirmación: 9964
Para: Empaque De Exhibición Para Una	Expediente de Agente: 8705-0-TBP
Pluralidad De Productos	

RESPUESTA A ACCIÓN OFICIAL

En respuesta a la acción oficial enviada el 10 de Enero de 2012, los Solicitantes responden por medio de sus apoderados como sigue.

Las **Modificaciones a las Reivindicaciones** empiezan en la página 2 de este documento; y

Los **Comentarios** empiezan en la página 7 de este documento.

COMENTARIOS

Como cuestión preliminar, el Solicitante agradece al Examinador por indicar la materia admisible.

Las reivindicaciones 1-34 son las que se encontraban pendientes de examen. Las reivindicaciones 35-39 han sido retiradas en respuesta a un requerimiento de restricción previamente emitido. Las reivindicaciones 23-29 y 31-33 han sido suprimidas. Tras introducir las anteriores modificaciones, las reivindicaciones pendientes en la presente solicitud son las reivindicaciones 1-22, 30 y 34.

Se solicita respetuosamente reconsiderar la presente solicitud basado en las Modificaciones y Comentarios acá presentados.

RECHAZO POR U.S.C. 35 § 102

La reivindicación 28 fue rechazada en base a U.S.C 35 § 102, segundo párrafo por ser presuntamente indefinida. El Solicitante ha eliminado la reivindicación 28, superando así esta objeción.

RECHAZO POR U.S.C. 35 § 102

Las reivindicaciones 23, 27-30 y 32 fueron rechazadas en base a U.S.C 35 § 102(b) por ser presuntamente anticipadas por la Patente de EE.UU No. 7,021,458 ("Cummins").

El Solicitante ha cancelado las reivindicaciones 23, 27-29 y 32, superando así sus objeciones. La reivindicación 30 ha sido modificada para depender de la reivindicación 1, la cual fue considerada como admisible. Por tanto, al menos por depender de una reivindicación independiente admisible, la reivindicación 30 también es admisible.

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Respuesta a la Acción Oficial No-Final del 10 de Enero de 2012

Así, el Solicitante solicita respetuosamente el retiro del rechazo por U.S.C. 35 § 102 de la reivindicación 30.

RECHAZOS POR U.S.C. 35 § 103

La reivindicación 31 fue rechazada en base a U.S.C 35 § 103(a) por ser presuntamente no patentable sobre Cummings en vista de la Patente de EE.UU No. 5,044,495 ("Wyslotsky"). La reivindicación 33 fue rechazada en base a U.S.C 35 § 103(a) por ser presuntamente no patentable sobre Cummings en vista de la Patente de EE.UU No. 2,263,835 ("Atkinson").

El Solicitante ha eliminado las reivindicaciones 31 y 33, superando así sus objeciones.

MATERIA ADMISIBLE

Las reivindicaciones 1-22 y 34 fueron admitidas. El Solicitante no hizo ninguna modificación a las reivindicaciones 1-22 y 34. Por tanto, las reivindicaciones 1-22 y 34 siguen siendo admisibles. Adicionalmente, la reivindicación 30 ha sido modificada para depender de la reivindicación admisible 1, y así es admisible al menos por depender de una reivindicación independiente admisible.

Las reivindicaciones 24-26 fueron objetadas por su dependencia luego de un rechazo de una reivindicación base. El Solicitante ha eliminado 24-26, superando así sus objeciones.

En vista de las modificaciones y comentarios divulgados anteriormente, el Solicitante pide respetuosamente reconsideración de la solicitud, retiro de los rechazos por U.S.C 35 § 102, § 102 y § 103, y solicita que se emita un Aviso Formal de Admisibilidad para las reivindicaciones 1-22, 30 y 34. Si el Examinador tuviese cualquier pregunta sobre los comentarios anteriores, el apoderado que firma más abajo apreciaría una llamada telefónica.

Número de Serial: 12/886,095

Expediente del Agente: 8705-00-TBP

Respuesta a la Acción Oficial No-Final del 10 de Enero de 2012

En el evento que una tarifa se deba por introducir esta respuesta, El Director – Oficina de Patentes y Marcas de Estados Unidos está autorizado para cobrar las tarifas necesarias para la introducción de esta respuesta en la Cuenta de Deposito 03-2455.

Fecha: Marzo 21, 2012

Respetuosamente,

Alan Sorrentino, et al

Por: /Judy W. Chung

Judy W. Chung

Reg. No.: 61,612

COLGATE PALMOLIVE COMPANY

909 River Road; P.O Box 1343

Piscataway, NJ 08855-1343

Teléfono: (732) 878-7086

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CORRECCIONES A LAS REIVINDICACIONES

El siguiente listado de reivindicaciones tiene como finalidad reemplazar todas las versiones anteriores, capítulos reivindicatorios y/o listados de reivindicaciones en el caso.

1. (Original) Un empaque de exhibición que incluye:

una pluralidad de envases, constando cada envase de una pared frontal, una pared posterior y por lo menos una cámara interior localizada entre las paredes frontal y posterior para contener por lo menos un producto, disponiéndose la pluralidad de envases en un conjunto;

un panel de separación que tiene por lo menos una abertura superior y por lo menos una abertura inferior, posicionado entre envases adyacentes en el conjunto, una porción de la pared frontal de un envase en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de una de las aberturas superior e inferior en el panel de separación y contactando un envase adyacente en el conjunto, y una porción de la pared posterior del envase adyacente en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la otra de las aberturas superior e inferior en el panel de separación y contactando el envase en el conjunto;

una manga que comprende un panel frontal que tiene una abertura frontal, un panel posterior que tiene una abertura posterior, y paneles laterales primero y segundo que conectan los paneles delantero y posterior para formar una cavidad; y

el conjunto posicionado dentro de la cavidad de la manga, una porción de la pared frontal del envase que está más hacia adelante en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura frontal del panel frontal de la manga y una porción de la pared posterior del envase que está más hacia atrás en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura posterior del panel posterior de la manga.

2. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde los envases son envases tipo burbuja.

3. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 2 en donde la manga es una caja de cartón.

4. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 2 en donde para cada envase tipo burbuja, la pared frontal y la pared posterior se conectan articuladamente una con la otra.

A2

5. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 4 en donde la pared frontal de cada envase tipo burbuja comprende por lo menos una de las cámaras interiores y la pared posterior de cada envase tipo burbuja comprende por lo menos una de las cámaras interiores.
6. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la cavidad de la manga se forma alrededor de un eje central, los paneles delantero y posterior de la manga siendo sustancialmente paralelos al eje central, y en donde el panel de separación se orienta en un ángulo oblicuo al eje central.
7. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 6 en donde el panel de separación tiene un borde superior y un borde inferior, la abertura superior localizada adyacente al borde superior del panel de separación y la abertura inferior localizada adyacente al borde inferior del panel de separación.
8. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 7 en donde el panel de separación comprende aberturas superiores primera y segunda y aberturas inferiores primera y segunda, la pared frontal del envase comprendiendo porciones primera y segunda que sobresalen a través de las aberturas superiores primera y segunda respectivamente y la pared posterior del envase adyacente comprendiendo porciones primera y segunda que sobresalen a través de las aberturas inferiores primera y segunda respectivamente.
9. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 8 en donde el panel posterior comprende aberturas posteriores primera y segunda localizadas adyacentes a un borde inferior del panel posterior, la pared posterior del envase que está más hacia atrás teniendo porciones primera y segunda que sobresalen a través de las aberturas posteriores primera y segunda respectivamente.
10. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 9 en donde la totalidad de uno o más de los productos localizados en la cámara interior del envase que está más adelante se exhibe a través de la abertura frontal.
11. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 10 en donde el conjunto incluye dos envases, el envase que más hacia atrás siendo el envase y el envase que está más hacia adelante siendo el envase adyacente.

A3

12. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde el conjunto incluye dos envases, el envase que está más hacia atrás siendo el envase y el envase que está más adelante siendo el envase adyacente.

13. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la totalidad de uno o más de los productos localizados en la cámara interior del envase que está más adelante se exhibe a través de la abertura frontal.

14. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la cavidad de la manga se forma alrededor de un eje central, los paneles delantero y posterior de la manga siendo sustancialmente paralelos al eje central, y en donde el contacto entre la porción de la pared frontal del envase y el envase adyacente forma una primera interfaz de contacto y el contacto entre la porción de la pared posterior del envase adyacente y el envase forma una segunda interfaz de contacto, y en donde las interfaces de contacto primera y segunda están en un ángulo oblicuo al eje central.

15. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 14 en donde el panel de separación está orientado en un ángulo oblicuo tanto al eje central como a las interfaces primera y segunda.

16. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la manga tiene un extremo superior abierto y un extremo inferior abierto, el conjunto sobresaliendo del extremo superior abierto y el extremo inferior abierto de la manga.

17. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 16 en donde cada uno de los envases comprende un borde inferior y un borde superior, los bordes inferiores de los envases en el conjunto siendo sustancialmente coplanares uno con el otro.

18. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 17 en donde el panel frontal de la manga comprende un borde inferior y el panel posterior de la manga comprende un borde inferior, los bordes inferiores de los paneles frontal y posterior de la manga siendo sustancialmente coplanares con los bordes inferiores de los envases del conjunto.

19. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 16 en donde cada uno de los envases comprende un borde superior, por lo menos uno de los envases del conjunto incluyendo una lengüeta de soporte que se extiende del borde superior del envase e incluyendo una abertura de soporte, la lengüeta de soporte extendiéndose encima de un borde superior del panel frontal y un borde superior del panel posterior.

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20. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde los envases son transparentes e idénticos entre sí.

21. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la porción de la pared frontal del envase que contacta el envase adyacente forma una porción de la cámara interior del envase y la porción de la pared posterior del envase adyacente que contacta el envase forma una porción de la cámara interior del envase adyacente.

22. (Original) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde los paneles laterales primero y segundo se unen a lados opuestos del panel frontal, el panel posterior unido al primer panel lateral y comprendiendo una lengüeta de extracción, y una solapa adhesiva unida al segundo panel lateral que se adhiere al panel posterior adyacente a la lengüeta de extracción.

23-29 (Canceladas)

30. (Corregida Actualmente) El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación [[23]] 1 en donde la cavidad de la manga se forma sobre un eje central, y en donde el contacto entre la porción sobresaliente de la pared frontal del segundo envase y el primer envase forma una primera interfaz de contacto y el contacto entre la porción sobresaliente de la pared posterior del primer envase y el segundo envase forma una segunda interfaz de contacto, y en donde las interfaces de contacto primera y segunda se adaptan para impedir el deslizamiento relativo entre los envases primero y segundo en una dirección axial a lo largo del eje central.

31-33 (Canceladas)

34. (Original) El empaque de exhibición que comprende:

una pluralidad de envases, cada envase incluyendo una pared frontal, una pared posterior, y por lo menos una cámara interior localizada entre las paredes frontal y posterior para contener por lo menos un producto, la pluralidad de envases dispuesta en un conjunto:

un panel de separación posicionado entre envases adyacentes en el conjunto y que tiene por lo menos una abertura que permite el contacto entre los envases adyacentes en el conjunto;

una manga tubular que incluye un panel frontal que tiene una abertura frontal y un panel posterior que tiene una abertura posterior; y

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el conjunto posicionado dentro de la cavidad de la manga tubular, una porción sobresaliente de la pared frontal de un envase que está más hacia adelante en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura frontal del panel frontal de la manga tubular y una porción sobresaliente de la pared posterior del envase que está más hacia atrás en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura posterior del panel posterior de la manga.

35. (Retirada) Una pieza de cartón en bruto que comprende:

un panel frontal que incluye una abertura frontal;

un primer panel lateral y un segundo panel lateral unidos a lados opuestos del panel central;

un panel posterior unido al primer panel lateral opuesto al panel frontal, el panel posterior incluyendo una lengüeta de extracción y una abertura posterior, la lengüeta de extracción localizada adyacente al borde lateral libre del panel posterior opuesto al primer panel lateral; y

una solapa adhesiva que se extiende del segundo panel lateral opuesto al panel frontal para acoplarse al panel posterior en un sitio adyacente a la lengüeta de extracción.

36. (Retirada) La pieza de cartón en bruto de la reivindicación 35 en donde el primer panel lateral y el segundo panel lateral comprenden cada uno un borde superior que se extiende en un ángulo oblicuo desde un borde superior del panel delantero.

37. (Retirada) La pieza de cartón en bruto de la reivindicación 36 en donde cuando la solapa adhesiva se acopla al panel posterior, la pieza de cartón en bruto forma una manga tubular que tiene un extremo superior abierto y un extremo inferior abierto.

38. (Retirada) La pieza de cartón en bruto de la reivindicación 37 en donde el panel frontal comprende un borde inferior y el panel posterior incluye un borde inferior, los bordes inferiores de los paneles frontal y posterior siendo sustancialmente coplanares entre sí.

39. (Retirada) La pieza de cartón en bruto de la reivindicación 38 que incluye aberturas posteriores primera y segunda en el panel posterior adyacentes al borde inferior del panel posterior.

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- d. Copia de la notificación de concesión (notice of allowability) en donde se establece que las reivindicaciones concedidas son las 1-22, 30 Y 34.

2011 47

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	12/886,095	SORRENTINO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DAVID FIDEI	3788	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/21/2012.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22, 30 and 34.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>herein</u> .
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____	7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9. ☐ Other _____.

/David T. Fidei/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3788	
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- e. Notificación de aceptación en donde se establece que la solicitud ha sido examinada y aceptada para conceder la patente.



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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

23909 7590 05/07/2012
COLGATE-PALMOLIVE COMPANY
909 RIVER ROAD
PISCATAWAY, NJ 08855

EXAMINER	
FIDEI, DAVID	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3788	

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2012

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
12/886,095	09/20/2010	Alan Sorrentino	8705-00-TBP	9964

TITLE OF INVENTION: DISPLAY PACKAGE FOR A PLURALITY OF PRODUCTS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1740	\$300	\$0	\$2040	08/07/2012

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.
- B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

f. Cópia de la patente US 8,261,909.



US008261909B2

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(12) **United States Patent**
Sorrentino et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 8,261,909 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 11, 2012**

(54) **DISPLAY PACKAGE FOR A PLURALITY OF PRODUCTS**

(75) Inventors: **Alan Sorrentino**, Cranbury, NJ (US);
Andreas Haefliger, Triengen (CH)

(73) Assignee: **Colgate-Palmolive Company**, New York, NY (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 29 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **12/886,095**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 20, 2010**

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(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**
B65D 75/00 (2006.01)

Primary Examiner — David Fidei

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **206/362.4; 206/354; 206/526; 206/779**

(74) **Attorney, Agent, or Firm** — **Judy W. Chung**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **229/87.13; 206/352, 354, 526, 466, 461, 434, 779, 362, 206/362.4**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

See application file for complete search history.

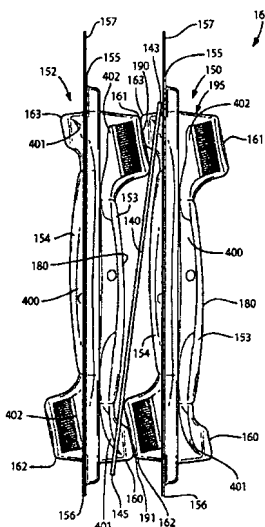
The present invention is directed to a display package that, in one embodiment, comprises a plurality of packs containing one or more products and a sleeve. The primary packs are arranged in a bundle and disposed within the sleeve. A separator panel can be included in certain embodiments of the bundle between the packs. Portions of the packs may protrude through apertures in the front and rear panels of the sleeve and apertures within the separator panel to assist with maintaining the bundle within the sleeve.

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24 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets



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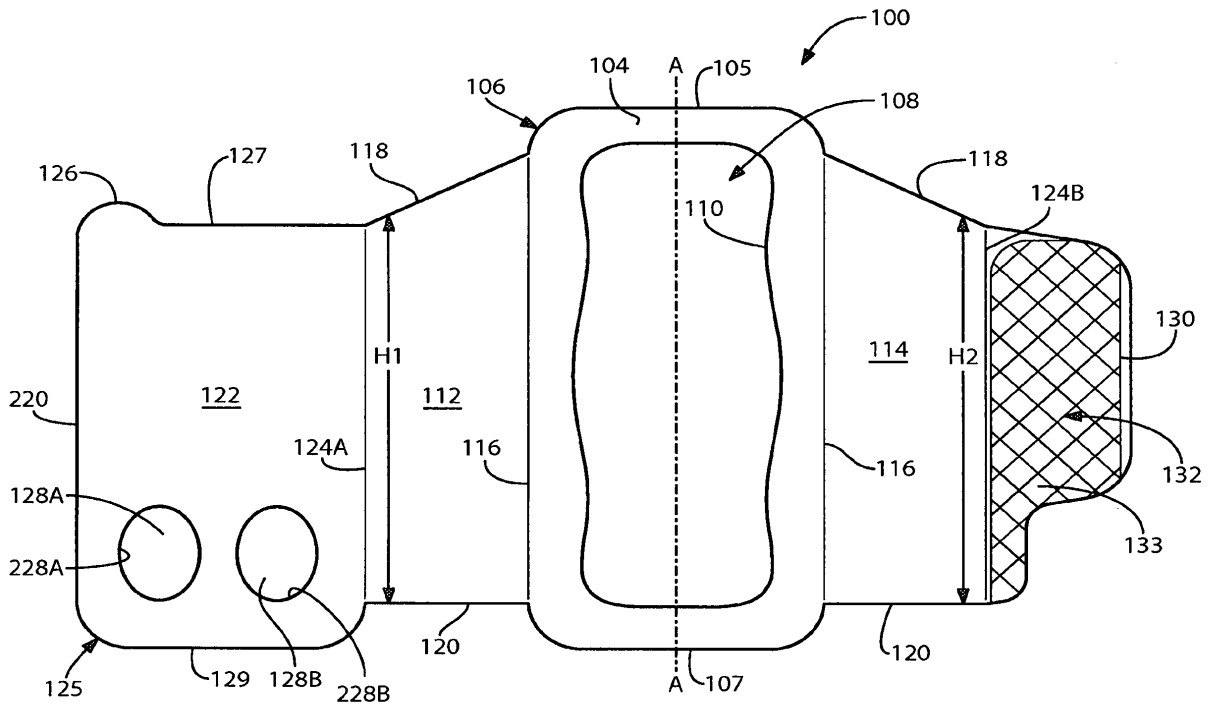


FIG. 1

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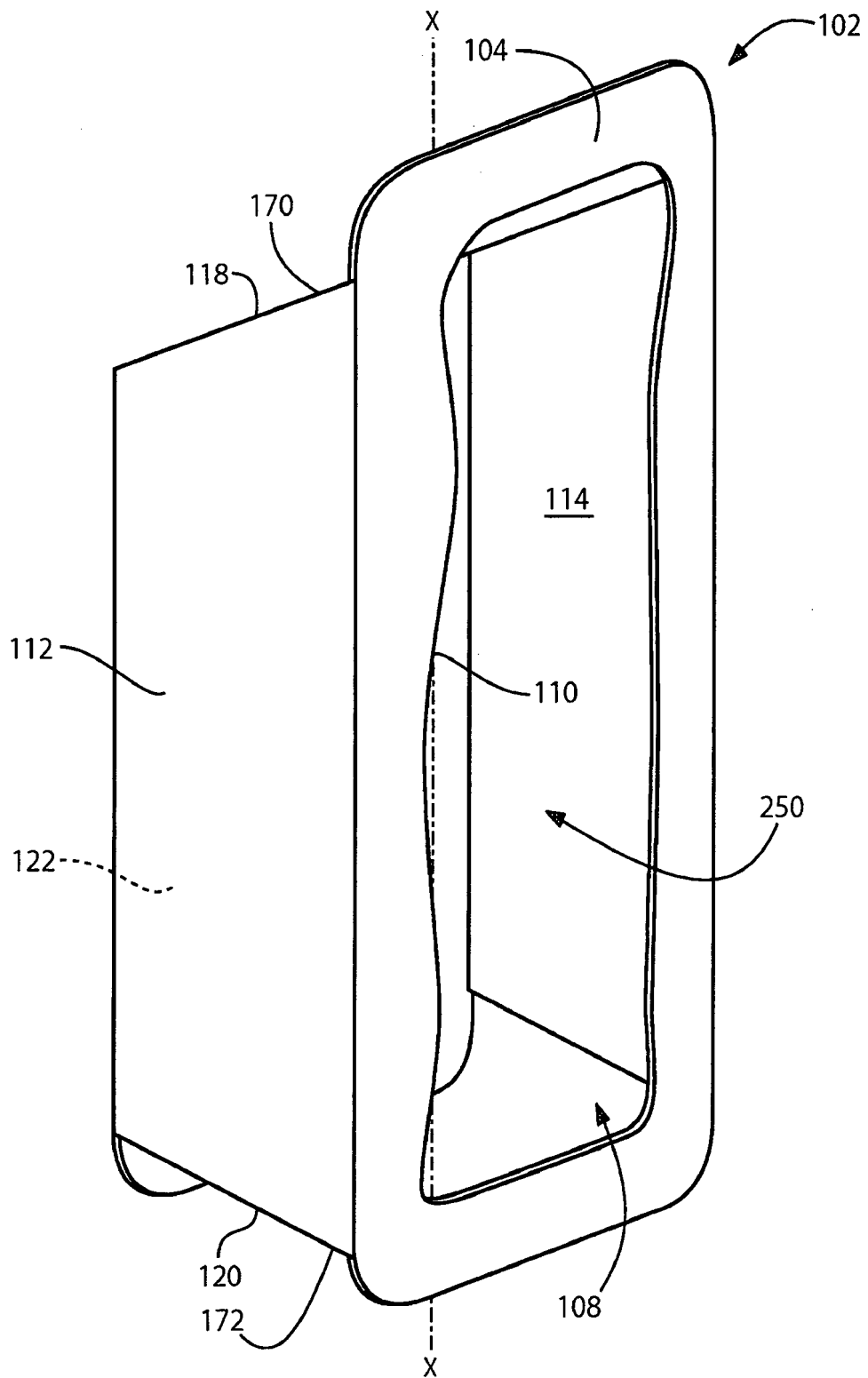


FIG. 2

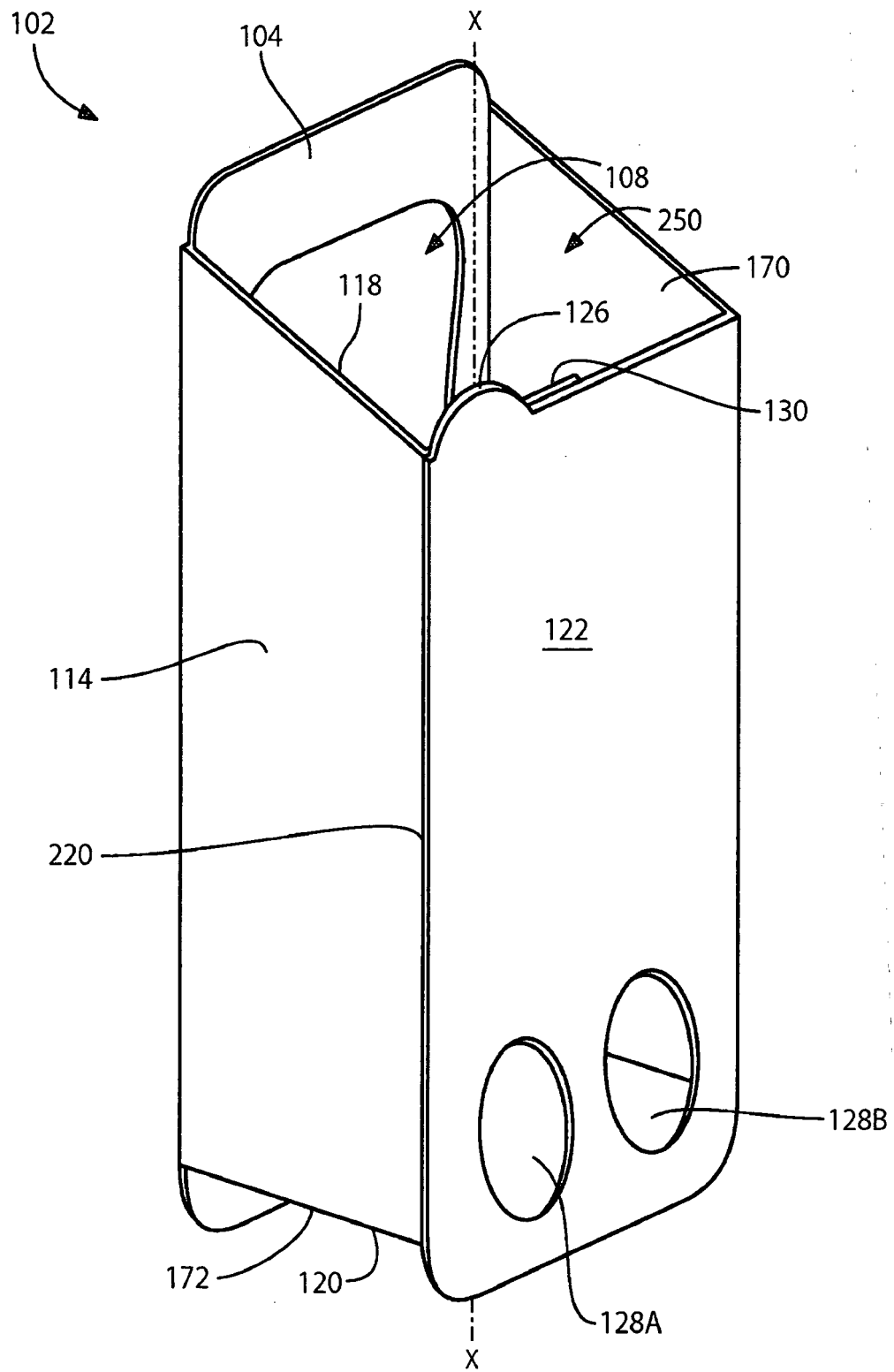


FIG. 3

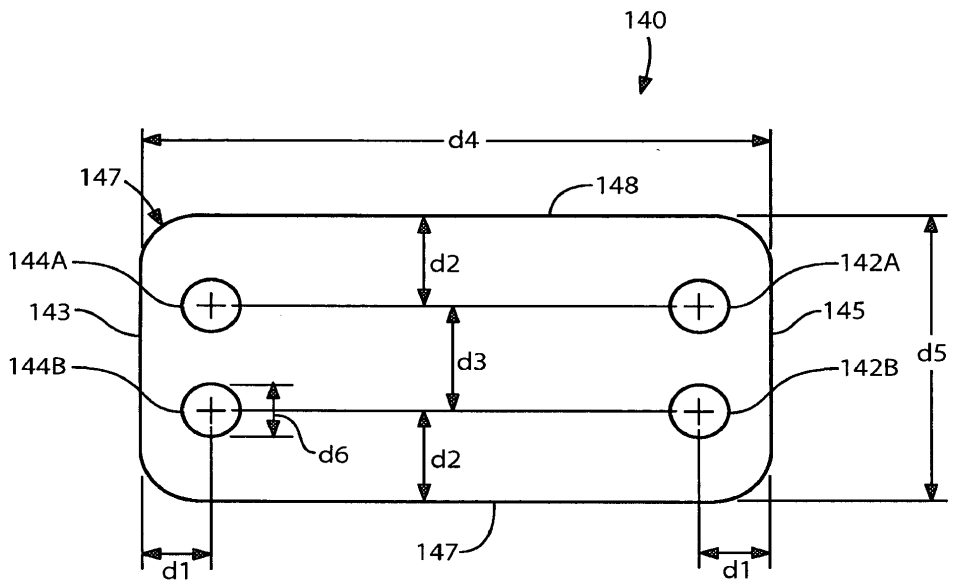


FIG. 4

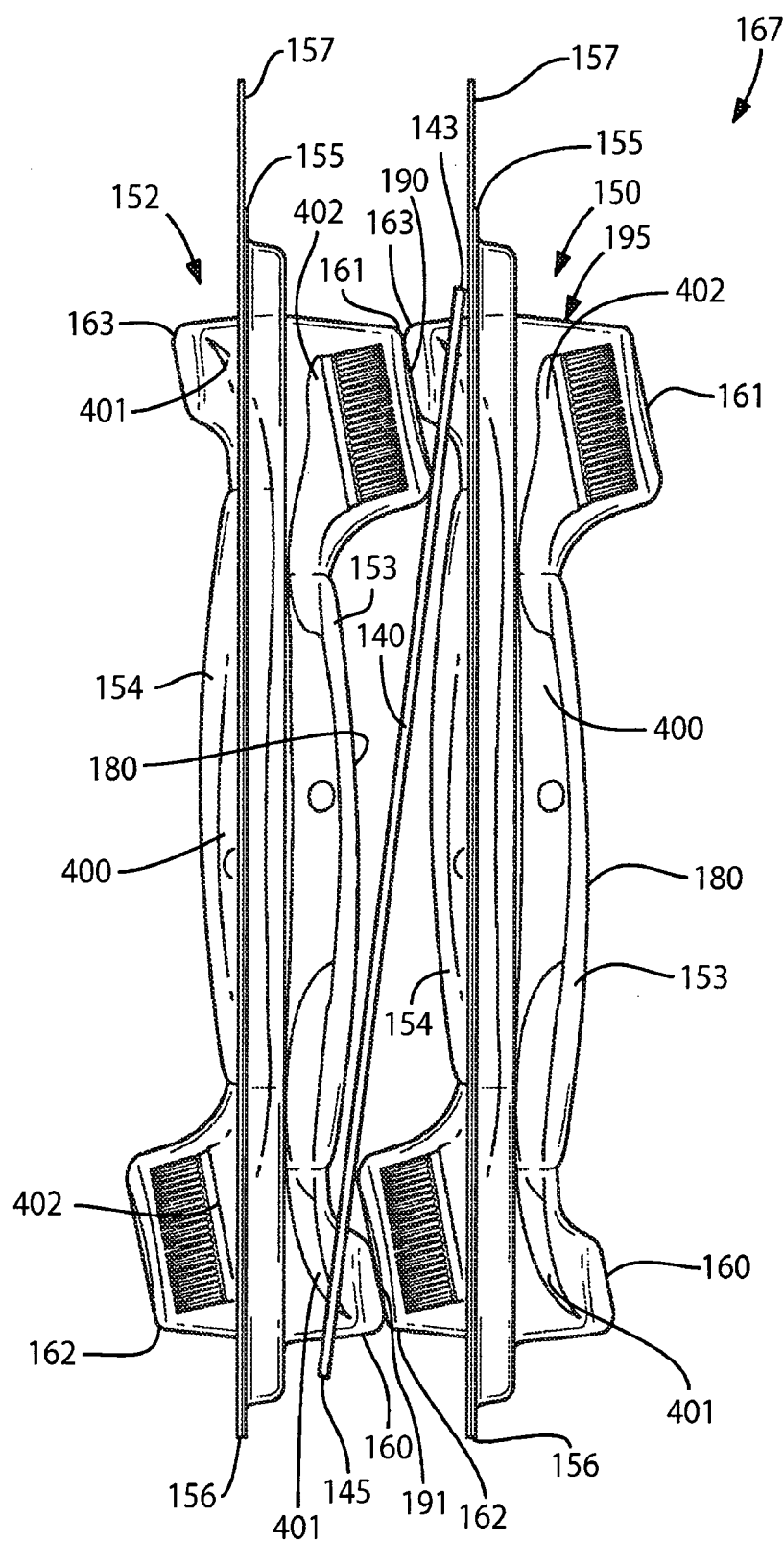


FIG. 5

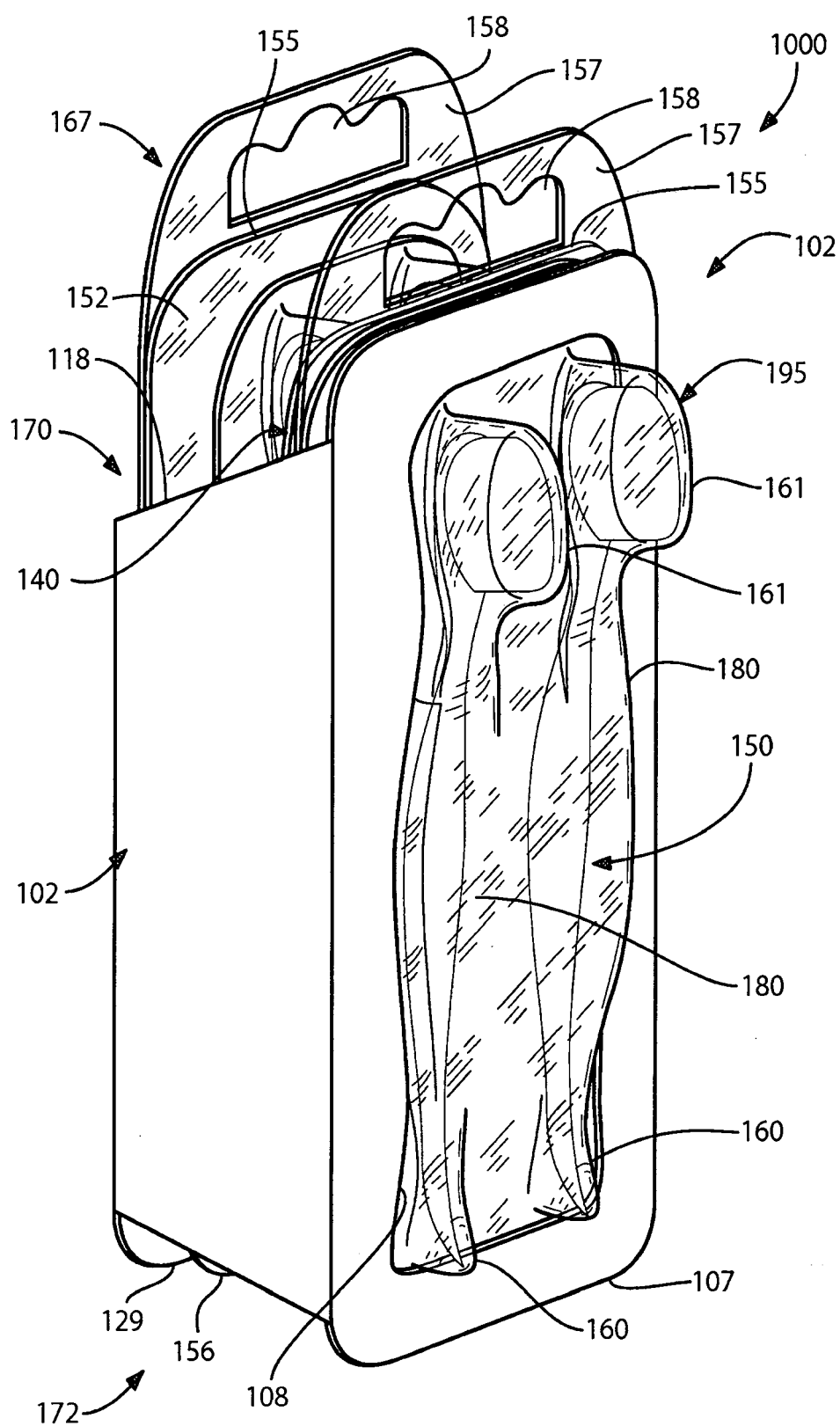


FIG. 6

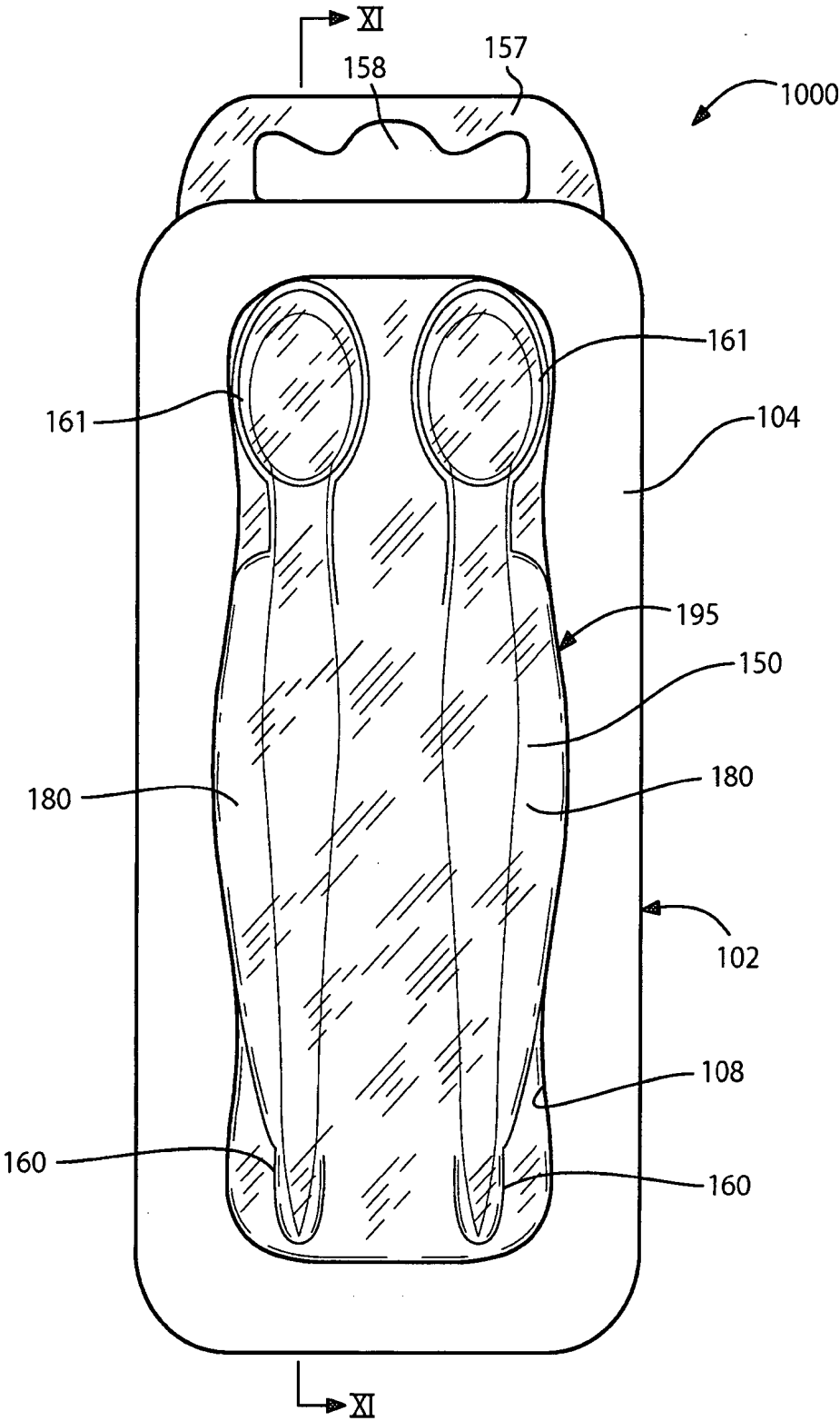


FIG. 7

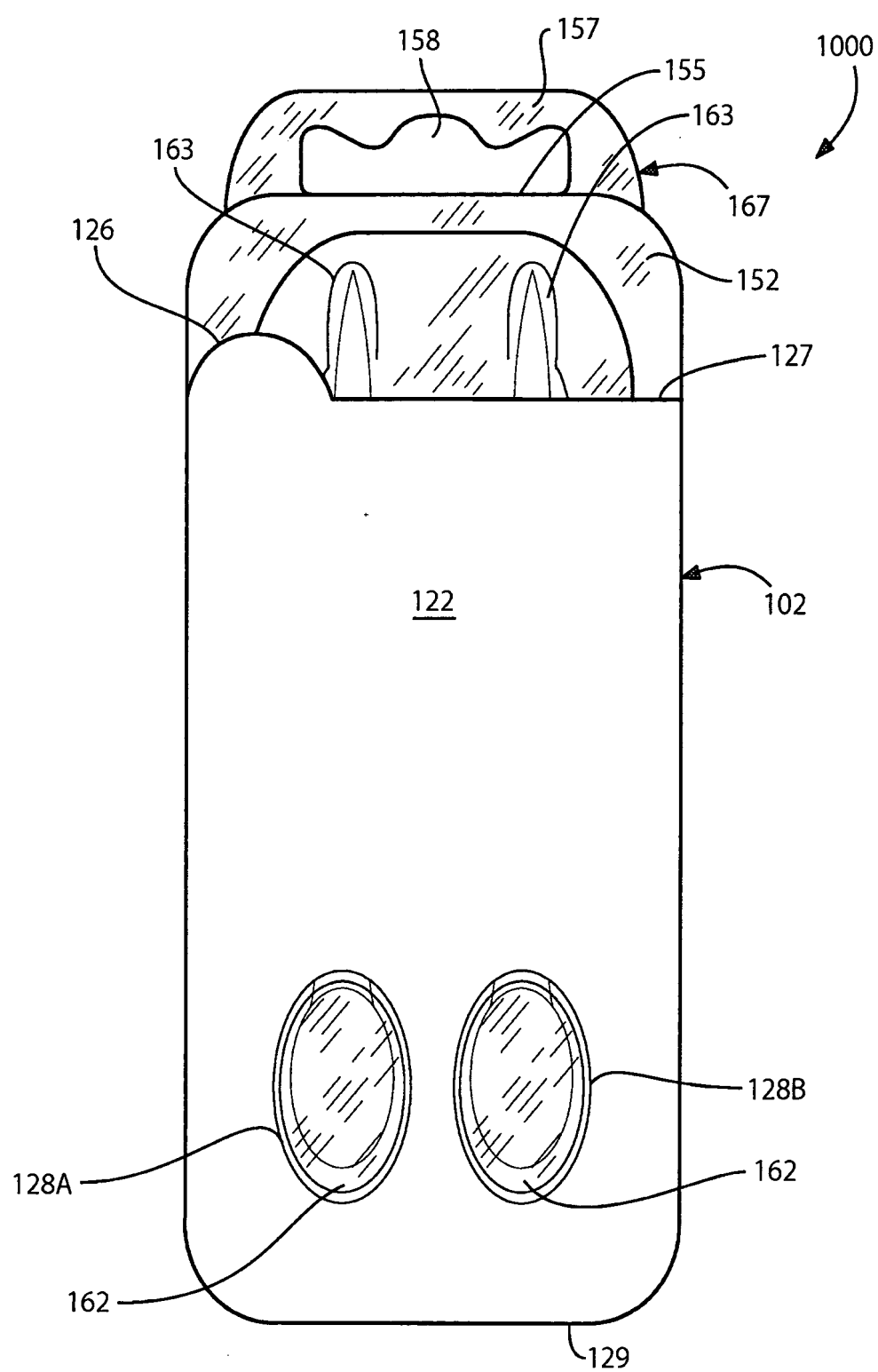


FIG. 8

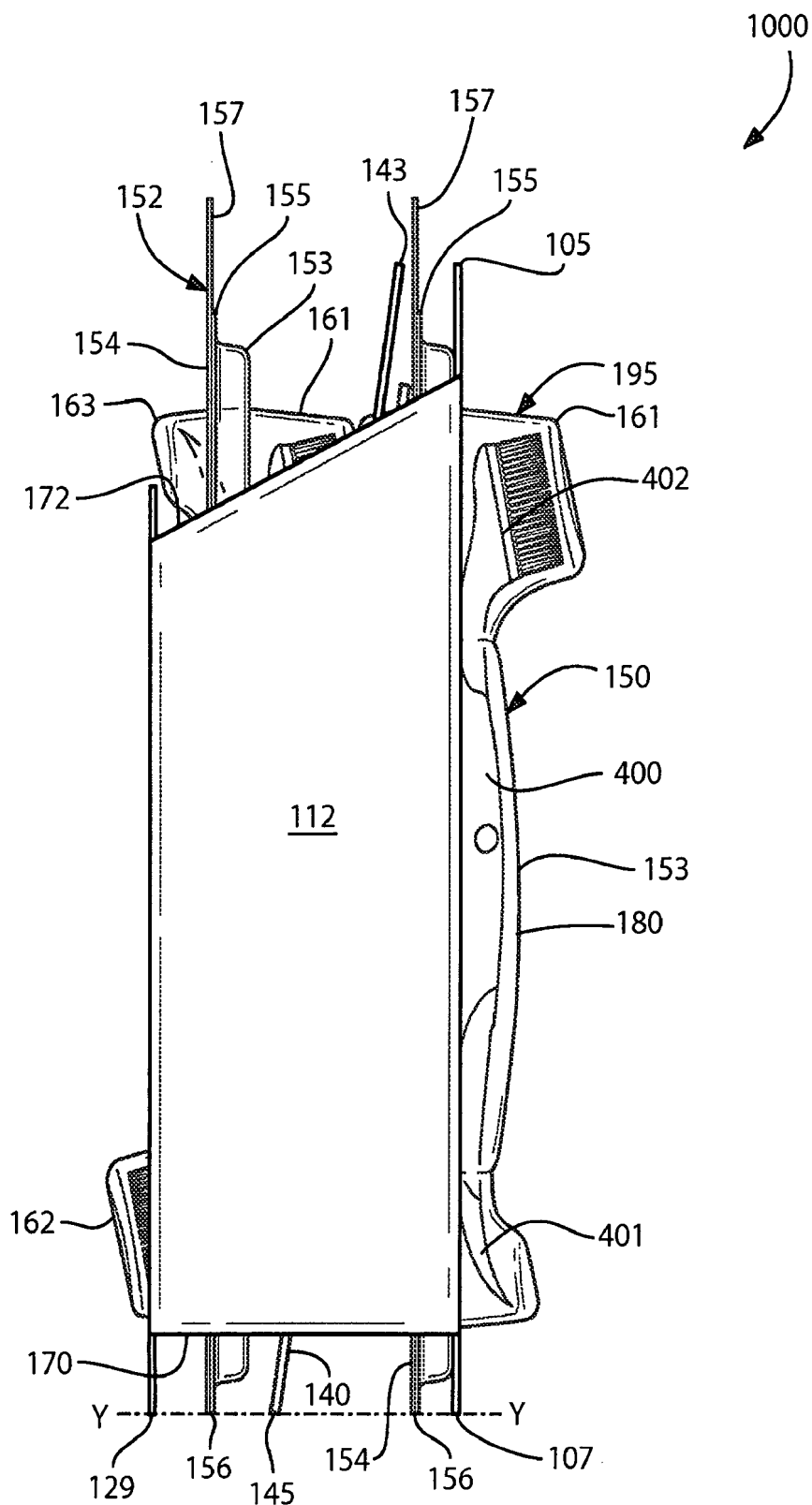


FIG. 9

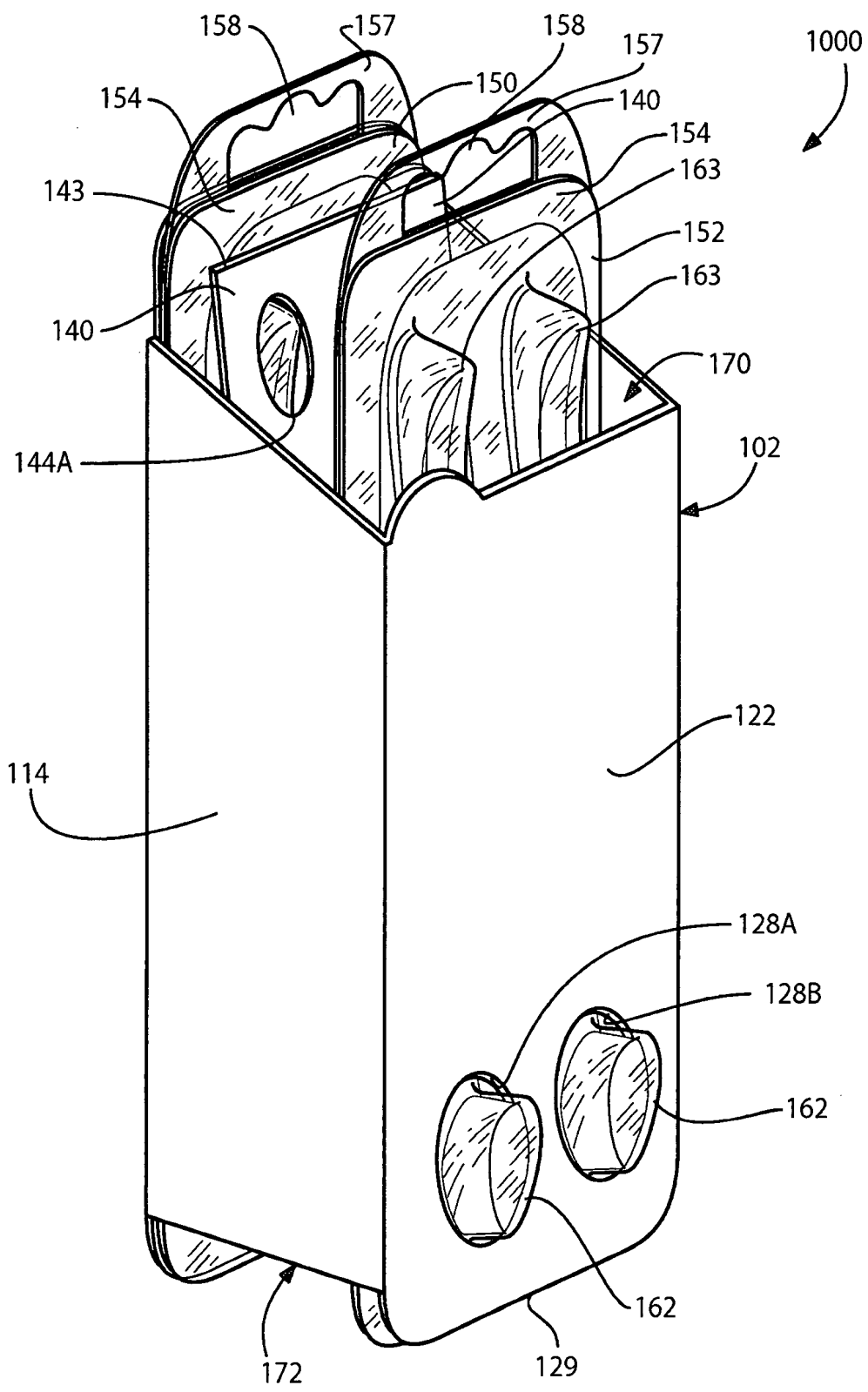


FIG. 10

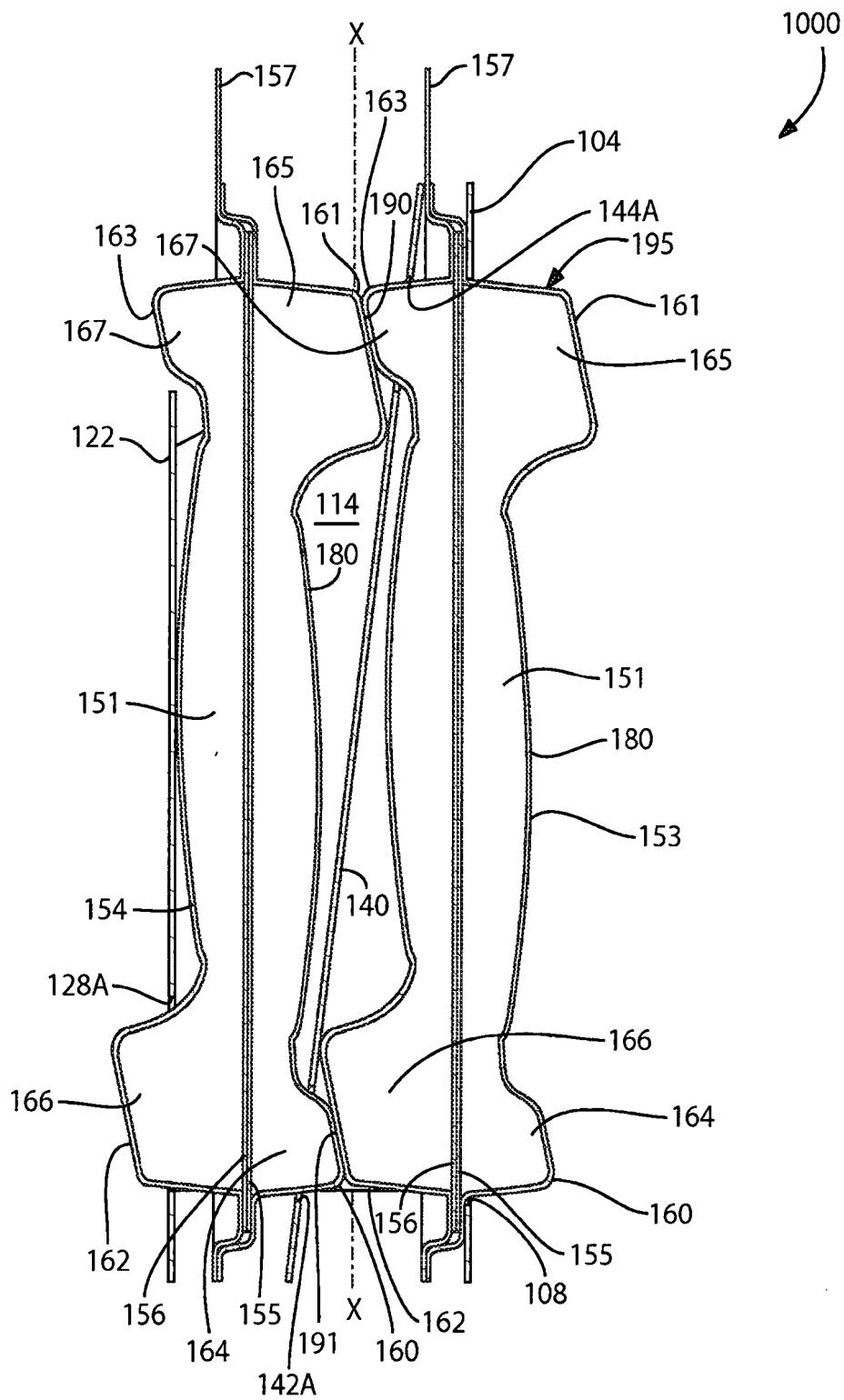


FIG. 11

DISPLAY PACKAGE FOR A PLURALITY OF PRODUCTS**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS**

The present patent application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/243,981, filed Sep. 18, 2009, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD

The present invention relates generally to product packaging that displays the products contained therein, and specifically to product packaging that displays the products contained therein that includes a primary package and a secondary package.

BACKGROUND

Many products are sold in bulk packaging which contain two or more of the subject products. In many instances, it is desirable to display the subject products in an organized and aesthetically pleasing manner to potential consumers, while the products remain in the bulk packaging. Display of the products themselves at the point of sale has proven to be a significant factor that positively influences consumer reaction to and/or evaluation of a product, thus, ultimately leading to increased sales. However, the aforementioned goal of product display (especially in bulk packaging) has been limited by the desire to maintain packaging costs as low as possible. Moreover, the requirements that bulk packaging also be structurally stable and versatile in display have also presented significant hurdles in the field. It is further desirable, especially in display packaging, that the packaging be capable of both resting on a store shelf and being suspended from a peg (or similar member) that extends outwardly from a vertical support with no or minimal alteration. It is also desirable that the display packaging be easily storable by the end consumer, especially in bulk packaging in which the products may be used over an extended period of time. To this extent, it has been desired to utilize packaging that is sleek, small in size, and easily portable and/or stackable. Finally, all product packaging should have sufficient structural stability so as to prevent damage to the products (and the packaging itself) during shipping and/or handling.

SUMMARY

The present invention is directed to a display package that, in one embodiment, comprises a plurality of primary packs that contain one or more products and a sleeve. The primary packs are arranged in a bundle and disposed within the sleeve. Preferably, the display package can be stood upright or hung from a peg or other member extending from a vertical wall.

In certain embodiments, a separator panel may be provided to prevent the primary packs from decoupling from one another and/or sliding out of the sleeve. The separator panel may also add rigidity to the display package. Apertures may be provided in opposing panels of the sleeve for receiving portions of the primary packs of the bundle to further facilitate retention of the bundle within the sleeve.

In one embodiment, the invention can be a display package comprising: a plurality of packs, each pack comprising a front wall, a rear wall, and at least one interior chamber located between the front and rear walls for holding at least one

product, the plurality of packs arranged in a bundle; a separator panel having at least one upper aperture and at least one lower aperture positioned between adjacent packs in the bundle, a portion of the front wall of one pack in the bundle protruding through one of the upper or lower apertures in the separator panel and contacting an adjacent pack in the bundle and a portion of the rear wall of the adjacent pack in the bundle protruding through the other one of the upper or lower apertures in the separator panel and contacting the one pack in the bundle; a sleeve comprising a front panel having a front aperture, a rear panel having a rear aperture, and first and second side panels connecting the front and rear panels to form a cavity; and the bundle positioned within the cavity of the sleeve, a portion of the front wall of a front-most pack in the bundle protruding through the front aperture of the front panel of the sleeve and a portion of the rear wall of a rear-most pack in the bundle protruding through the rear aperture of the rear panel of the sleeve.

In another embodiment, the invention can be a display package comprising: a first pack and a second pack, each of the first and second packs comprising a front wall, a rear wall, and at least one interior chamber located between the front and rear walls for holding at least one product; the first and second packs arranged in a bundle so that a protruding portion of the front wall of the second pack contacts the first pack and a protruding portion of the rear wall of the first pack contacts the second pack; a sleeve comprising a front panel having a front aperture, a rear panel having a rear aperture, and first and second side panels connecting the front and rear panels to form a cavity; and the bundle positioned within the cavity of the sleeve, a protruding portion of the front wall of the first pack protruding through the front aperture of the front panel of the sleeve and a protruding portion of the rear wall of the second pack protruding through the rear aperture of the rear panel of the sleeve.

In yet another aspect, the invention can be a display package comprising: a plurality of packs, each pack comprising a front wall, a rear wall, and at least one interior chamber located between the front and rear walls for holding at least one product, the plurality of packs arranged in a bundle; a separator panel positioned between adjacent packs in the bundle and having at least one aperture that allows contact between the adjacent packs in the bundle; a tubular sleeve comprising a front panel having a front aperture and a rear panel having a rear aperture; and the bundle positioned within the cavity of the tubular sleeve, a protruding portion of the front wall of a front-most pack in the bundle protruding through the front aperture of the front panel of the tubular sleeve and a protruding portion of the rear wall of a rear-most pack in the bundle protruding through the rear aperture of the rear panel of the sleeve.

In a further aspect, the invention can be a carton blank comprising: a front panel comprising a front aperture; a first side panel and a second side panel appended to opposite sides of the front panel; a rear panel appended to the first side panel opposite the front panel, the rear panel comprising a pull tab and a rear aperture, the pull tab located adjacent a free side edge of the rear panel opposite the first side panel; and a glue flap extending from the second side panel opposite the front panel for coupling to the rear panel at a location adjacent the pull tab.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing summary, as well as the following detailed description of the exemplary embodiments, will be better understood when read in conjunction with the appended

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drawings. It should be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown in the following figures:

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a carton blank according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a front perspective view a sleeve formed by the assembly of the carton blank of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a rear perspective view of the sleeve formed by the assembly of the carton blank of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a plan view of a separator panel that can be used in conjunction with the carton blank of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a side view of a bundle including two primary packs and the separator panel of FIG. 2 disposed therebetween that can be used in conjunction with the carton blank of FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a front perspective view of a display package according to an embodiment of the present invention wherein the bundle of FIG. 3 is disposed within a sleeve formed by the carton blank of FIG. 1.

FIG. 7 is a front view of the display package of FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a rear view of the display package of FIG. 6.

FIG. 9 is a side view of the display package of FIG. 6.

FIG. 10 is a rear perspective view of the display package of FIG. 6.

FIG. 11 is cross-sectional schematic of the display package of FIG. 6 taken along line XI-XI of FIG. 7.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The description of illustrative embodiments according to principles of the present invention is intended to be read in connection with the accompanying drawings, which are to be considered part of the entire written description. In the description of embodiments of the invention disclosed herein, any reference to direction or orientation is merely intended for convenience of description and is not intended in any way to limit the scope of the present invention. Relative terms such as "lower," "upper," "horizontal," "vertical," "above," "below," "up," "down," "top" and "bottom" as well as derivatives thereof (e.g., "horizontally," "downwardly," "upwardly," etc.) should be construed to refer to the orientation as then described or as shown in the drawing under discussion. These relative terms are for convenience of description only and do not require that the apparatus be constructed or operated in a particular orientation unless explicitly indicated as such. Terms such as "attached," "affixed," "connected," "coupled," "interconnected," and similar refer to a relationship wherein structures are secured or attached to one another either directly or indirectly through intervening structures, as well as both movable or rigid attachments or relationships, unless expressly described otherwise. Moreover, the features and benefits of the invention are illustrated by reference to the preferred embodiments. Accordingly, the invention expressly should not be limited to such preferred embodiments illustrating some possible non-limiting combination of features that may exist alone or in other combinations of features; the scope of the invention being defined by the claims appended hereto.

Referring first to FIG. 1, a carton blank 100 according to one embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. The carton blank 100, when assembled, forms a sleeve 102 (discussed in detail below with respect to FIGS. 2 and 3). The carton blank 100 is preferably constructed of paperboard, but can be constructed of other sheet-like materials, including without limitation cardboard, plastics, paper, thick foils and/or combinations thereof. The paperboards can be virgin folding box boards and bleached boards. Also various grades of

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recycled paperboards can be used. The useful paperboards include various Swissboards. The paperboards preferably have a weight of about 250 to about 500 g/m² and a thickness of about 0.25 millimeter to about 1.5 millimeters. The carton blank 100 generally comprises a front panel 104, a first side panel 112, a second side panel 114, a rear panel 122 and a glue flap 130, all of which are appended together as described below.

The front panel 104 has a top edge 105 and a bottom edge 107 and is substantially rectangular in shape with rounded corners 106. The top edge 105 and the bottom edge 107 of the front panel 104 are substantially parallel to one another and normal to a longitudinal axis A-A of the front panel 104. Of course, the front panel 104 can take on a wide variety of shapes, none of which are considered limiting of the present invention, unless specifically stated as such.

The front panel 104 further includes a front aperture 108 extending through the panel that acts as a display window. The front aperture 108 is defined by a closed-geometry aperture edge 110. In the exemplified embodiment, the aperture edge 110 is contoured such that the aperture edge 110 is shaped to correspond to a perimeter of a portion of one the packs 150, 152 (FIG. 5) that is intended to protrude from the front aperture 108. The front aperture 108 is preferably a sufficiently large window that allows the entirety of at least one of the products in a front-most pack 150 to be displayed therethrough. In one embodiment, the front aperture 108 is centralized and comprises at least a majority of the surface area of the front panel 104 so that the front panel 104 is effectively a frame about the front aperture 108. Of course, the front aperture 108 may take on any shape or size known to a person having ordinary skill in the art that enables at least a portion of one of the packs 150, 152 to protrude therethrough (as described in greater detail below).

The first and second side panels 112, 114 are appended to the front panel 104 along weakened areas/lines 116 on opposing sides of the front panel. The weakened areas/lines 116 allow the first and second side panels 112, 114 to be folded out of plane with respect to the front panel 104. The weakened areas/lines 116 can be formed by any method known in the art, including without limitation perforating, creasing, pressing, thinning, scoring, and/or combinations thereof. It is further preferable that the weakened areas/lines 116 extend substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis A-A of the front panel 104.

The first and second side panels 112 and 114 extend away from the front panel 104 in opposite directions. Each of the first and second side panels 112 and 114 include a top edge 118 and a bottom edge 120. The top edges 118 of the first and second side panels 112, 114 extend away from the front panel 104 at an oblique angle measured with respect to the longitudinal axis A-A of the front panel 104. To the contrary, the bottom edges 120 of the first and second side panels 112, 114 extend away from the front panel 104 at a normal angle measured with respect to a longitudinal axis A-A of the front panel 104. The oblique angles are preferably selected such that the heights H1, H2 of the first and second side panels 112, 114 decrease moving away from the front panel 104. Thought of another way, the oblique angles are preferably selected so that the top and bottom edges 118, 120 of each of the first and second side panels 112, 114 extend from the front panel 104 in a converging manner.

The rear panel 122 is appended to the first side panel 112 along weakened area/line 124A. The rear panel 122 is appended to a side of the first side panel 112 that is opposite the side of the first side panel 112 to which the front panel 104 is appended. The weakened area/line 124A allows the rear

panel 122 to be folded out of plane with respect to the first side panel 112. The weakened area/line 124A can be formed by any method known in the art, including without limitation perforating, creasing, pressing, thinning, scoring, and/or combinations thereof. It is further preferable that the weakened area/line 124A extend substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis A-A of the front panel 104.

The rear panel 122 comprises a top edge 127, a bottom edge 129, and a free side edge 220. The rear panel 122 is substantially rectangular in shape with rounded corners 125 delimiting the bottom edge 129. Of course, the rear panel 122 can take on a wide variety of shapes, none of which are considered limiting of the present invention, unless specifically stated as such. Both the top and bottom edges 127, 129 of the rear panel 122 extend substantially normal to the longitudinal axis A-A of the front panel 104. Furthermore, it is preferred that the bottom edge 129 of the rear panel 122 and the bottom edge 107 of the front panel 104 are substantially coplanar with one another (even when assembled into the sleeve 102). As discussed in greater detail below, the coplanar nature of the bottom edge 129 of the rear panel 122 and the bottom edge 107 of the front panel 104 provides the display package 1000 with the ability to stand upright when positioned on a horizontal surface.

The rear panel 122 further comprises a pull tab 126 located adjacent to the free side edge 220. In the exemplified embodiment, the pull tab 126 extends/protrudes from the top edge 127 and forms an extension of the free side edge 220. The pull tab 126 enables a user to grasp the rear panel 122 with their finger to open the display package 1000 (described in more detail below). Of course, the pull tab 126 may be located at different positions on the rear panel 122. For example, the pull tab 126 may extend from the free side edge 220 or may extend from the rear major surface of the rear panel 122.

At least one rear aperture, and preferably a plurality of rear apertures 128A, 128B, are formed in the rear panel 122. In the exemplified embodiment, the rear panel 122 comprises first and second rear apertures 128A, 128B. Each of the rear apertures 128A, 128B are separately defined by a closed-geometry rear aperture edge 228A, 228B. The rear apertures 128A, 128B are provided in the rear panel 122 so that a protruding portion of a rear-most pack 152 extends through each of the rear apertures 128A, 128B (discussed in greater detail below). The rear apertures 128A, 128B are preferably aligned with one another and located proximate the bottom edge 129 of the rear panel 122. In the exemplified embodiment, the rear apertures 128A, 128B are elliptical in shape but can take on a wide variety of shapes. Moreover, the rear panel 122 may include more or less than two rear apertures 128A, 128B as desired, and can be positioned in alternate locations on the rear panel 122.

The carton blank 100 further comprises a glue flap 130 that is appended to the second side panel 114 along the weakened area/line 124B. The glue flap 130 is appended to a side of the second side panel 114 that is opposite the side of the second side panel 114 to which the front panel 104 is appended. The weakened area/line 124B allows the glue flap 130 to be folded out of plane with respect to the second side panel 112. When the carton blank 100 is assembled into the sleeve 102, the glue flap 130 and the rear panel 122 extend substantially parallel to one another and the glue flap 130 is coupled to an inner surface of the rear panel 122 adjacent the free side edge 220 and the pull tab 126. The weakened area/line 124B can be formed by any method known in the art, including without limitation perforating, creasing, pressing, thinning, scoring, and/or combinations thereof. It is further preferable that the

weakened area/line 124B extend substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis A-A of the front panel 104.

The glue flap 130 includes an adhesive 132 applied thereto that couples the glue flap 130 to an inner surface of the rear panel 122. The glue flap 130 further comprises a notch 133 formed therein. When the carton blank 100 is assembled into the sleeve 102, the notch 133 overlies at least one of the rear apertures 128A, 128B so that the structure of the glue flap 130 does not obstruct the rear apertures 128A, 128B.

Referring now to FIGS. 2 and 3 concurrently, a sleeve 102 formed by the assembly (i.e., folding and coupling) of the carton blank 100 is illustrated. In order to assemble the sleeve 102 out of the carton blank 100, the first and second side panels 112 and 114 are folded along the weakened areas/lines 116 such that the first and second side panels 112 and 114 extend substantially normal to the front panel 104 and substantially parallel to one another. The glue flap 130 is then folded along the weakened area/line 124B such that the glue flap 130 extends substantially normal to the second side panel 114 and substantially parallel to the front panel 104. The rear panel 122 is then folded along the weakened area/line 124A such that rear panel 122 extends substantially normal to the first side panel 112 and substantially parallel to the front panel 104 (and the rear panel 122). At this point, the glue flap 130 is adjacent to and in contact with the rear panel 122. The glue flap 130 is then coupled to the inner surface of the rear panel 122 using the adhesive 132, thereby forming the sleeve 102. In one embodiment of forming the display package 1000, a bundle 167 is formed first and then the sleeve 102 is formed about the bundle 167 (discussed in greater detail below with reference to FIG. 5).

When the sleeve 102 is assembled as described above, the glue flap 130 is coupled to the rear panel 122 adjacent the free side edge 220 of the rear panel and adjacent to the pull tab 126. By nature of the relative positioning discussed above, a user could pull on the pull tab 126 to decouple the rear panel 122 from the glue panel 130 without compromising the overall integrity of the sleeve 102.

The sleeve 102 is a generally tubular structure that forms a cavity 250 for receiving the bundle 167 of packs 150, 152 (discussed below). The cavity 250 is formed about a central axis X-X. The sleeve 102 circumferentially surrounds the central axis X-X and has an open top end 170 and an open bottom end 172, each of which forms an axial passageway into the cavity 250. While the sleeve 102 is exemplified as having a substantially rectangular transverse cross-sectional profile, the sleeve 102 could be designed to have a wide variety of transverse cross-sectional profiles, including without limitation elliptical, polygonal, combinations thereof, or irregular shaped. In an embodiment where an elliptical transverse cross-sectional profile is used, the front panel, the rear panel and the first and second side panels would simply be portions of the elliptical wall. Moreover, while the sleeve 102 comprises both an open top end 170 and an open bottom end 172, in alternative embodiments, one or both of the top and bottom ends 170, 172 may be closed.

As can be seen, the front aperture 108 of the front panel 104 forms a transverse passageway into the cavity 250. Similarly, each of the rear apertures 128A, 128B of the rear panel 122 form a transverse passageway into the cavity 250.

Referring now to FIG. 4, a separator panel 140 is illustrated according to an embodiment of the present invention. As discussed in detail below, the separator panel 140 is used to separate and maintain the relative positioning of the packs 150, 152 with respect to one another and with respect to the sleeve 200. In the exemplified embodiment, the separator panel 140 is substantially rectangular-shaped. However, the

separator panel 140 can take on a wide variety of shapes. The separator panel 140 is preferably constructed of paperboard, but can be constructed of other sheet-like materials, including without limitation cardboard, plastics, paper, thick foils and/or combinations thereof. The paperboards can be virgin folding box boards and bleached boards. Also various grades of recycled paperboards can be used. The useful paperboards include various Swissboards. The paperboards preferably have a weight of about 250 to about 500 g/m² and a thickness of about 0.25 millimeter to about 1.5 millimeters.

The separator panel 140 includes a top edge 143, a bottom edge 145, a first side edge 147 and a second side edge 148, which collectively form a perimetric edge of the separator panel 140. First and second upper apertures 144A, 144B are formed into the separator panel 140 proximate the top edge 143 of the separator panel 140. Similarly, first and second lower apertures 142A, 142B are formed into the separator panel 140 proximate the bottom edge 145 of the separator panel 140. As discussed in detail below, the first and second upper apertures 144A, 144B and the first and second lower apertures 142A, 142B form passageways through the separator panel 140 to provide access ways through which the packs 150, 152 can contact one another when the bundle 167 is formed. Of course, more or less apertures can be provided in the separator panel 140 as desired. For example in certain embodiments, a single aperture may be provided. Moreover, the location of the aperture(s) in the separator panel 140 may also be varied as desired.

The first and second upper apertures 144A, 144B are aligned with one another relative to the top edge 143 while the first and second lower apertures 142A, 142B are aligned with one another relative to the bottom edge 145. The center of the upper apertures 144A, 144B are positioned a distance d1 from the top edge 143. Similarly, the center of the lower apertures 142A, 142B are also positioned a distance d1 from the bottom edge 145. The centers of both the first upper aperture 144A and the first lower aperture 142A are positioned a distance d2 from the second side edge 148. Similarly, the centers of both the second upper aperture 144B and the second lower aperture 142B are positioned a distance d2 from the first side edge 147. In one embodiment, d1 may be a range of 10 millimeters (mm) to 14 mm and d2 may be a range of 15 mm to 20 mm. In another embodiment, d1 may be about 12.25 mm and d2 may be about 17.25 mm.

The centers of the first and second upper apertures 144A, 144B are spaced a distance d3 from one another. Similarly, the centers of the first and second lower apertures 142A, 142B are spaced a distance d3 from one another. In one embodiment, d3 may be a range of 16 mm to 24 mm. In another embodiment, d3 may be about 20 mm. Moreover, the separator panel 140 may have a length of d4 and a width of d5. In one embodiment, d4 may be a range of 80 mm to 120 mm and d5 may be a range of 45 mm to 65 mm. In another embodiment, d4 may be about 108 mm and d5 may be about 54.5 mm. Further, each of the upper and lower apertures 142A-B, 144A-B may have a diameter of d6. In one embodiment, d6 may be a range of 7 mm to 13 mm. In another embodiment, d6 may be about 10 mm. It should be known to a person having ordinary skill in the art that the size and number of the apertures can be varied as needed.

In the exemplary embodiment, the upper and lower apertures 144A-B, 142A-B are substantially elliptical. However, in alternative embodiments, the upper and lower apertures 144A-B, 142A-B may have any shape. Further, the separator panel 140 includes a plurality of corners 147 that are substantially rounded. In an alternative embodiment, the corners 147 may be any shape such as, but not limited to, square-shaped.

Referring now to FIG. 5, a bundle 167 according to the present invention is illustrated. The bundle 167 generally comprises a first pack 150, a second pack 152, and the separator panel 140 disposed between the first and second packs 150, 152. The first pack 150 and the second pack 152 are arranged in a horizontal stack within the bundle 167 with portions thereof extending through the apertures 144A-B, 142A-B of the separator panel 140. The first and second packs 150, 152 are preferably identical to one another in all aspects, including structure, shape and size. In one preferred embodiment, the first and second packs 150, 152 are blister packs that are formed of a material, such as a thermoformed polymeric material, that is sufficiently transparent so that the products 400 contained therein are visible to a consumer through the first and second packs 150, 152. Blister packs are well known in the art and need no further discussion. While two packs 150, 152 and one separator panel 140 are exemplified in the bundle 167, it is to be understood that the invention is not so limited and the bundle 167 may include more packs and/or separator panels 140 as desired. Moreover, in certain embodiments of the invention, while not preferred, the separator panel 140 may be omitted from the bundle 167.

Referring now to FIGS. 5 and 11 concurrently, each of the packs 150, 152 comprises a front wall 153, a rear wall 154, and at least one interior chamber 151 located between the front and rear walls 153, 154. In the exemplified embodiment, each of the packs 150, 152 comprises four interior chambers 151, two located between the front wall 153 and a first foil layer 155 and two formed between the rear wall 154 and a second foil layer 156 (FIG. 11). A desired product 400, in the form of a disposable toothbrush, is positioned within each of the interior chambers 151. Of course, each pack 150, 152 can contain more or less interior chambers 151 as desired. For each of the packs 150, 152, the front wall 153 is hingedly connected to the rear wall 154 so that the packs 150, 152 can be opened by the user to access the interior chambers 151 individually.

The front wall 153 and the rear wall 154 of each of the packs 150, 152 are contoured, thereby forming the interior chambers 151 therein (best shown in FIG. 11). The front wall 153 of each of the packs 150, 152 comprises lower protruding portions 160 and upper protruding portions 161 extending in a first direction. Similarly, the rear wall 154 of each of the packs 150, 152 comprises lower protruding portions 162 and upper protruding portions 163 extending in a second direction opposite the first direction. In the exemplified embodiment, the lower protruding portions 160 of the front wall 153 form a portion 164 of the interior chamber 151 in which a handle portion 401 of the toothbrush 400 nests while the upper protruding portions 161 of the front wall 153 form a portion 165 of the interior chamber 151 in which a head portion 402 of the toothbrush 400 nests. Oppositely, the lower protruding portions 162 of the rear wall 154 form a portion 166 of the interior chamber 151 in which a head portion 402 of the toothbrush 400 nests while the upper protruding portions 163 of the rear wall 154 form a portion 167 of the interior chamber 151 in which a head portion 402 of the toothbrush 400 nests. Such orientation of the products 400 is referred to as a "head-to-tail" arrangement, which reduces the amount of space between the packs. This reduced space between the primary packs 150, 152 requires less material to be used in manufacturing the sleeve 102. Thus, achieving a reduction in waste and cost over a package that does not include the head-to-tail arrangement. Of course, the present invention is not limited by the type of product stored therein or the orientation of the product(s) within the packs.

The interaction between two adjacent packs in the bundle 167 will now be discussed in relation to the first pack 150, the second pack 152, and the separator panel 140. When positioned in the bundle 167, the upper protruding portions 163 of the rear wall 154 of the first pack 150 extend through the upper apertures 144A, 144B of the separator panel 140 and contact the front wall 153 of the second pack 152, and more specifically, contact the upper protruding portions 161 of the front wall 153 of the second pack 152. Concurrently, the lower protruding portions 160 of the front wall 153 of the second pack 152 extend through the lower apertures 142A, 142B of the separator panel 140 and contact the rear wall 154 of the first pack 150, and more specifically, contact the lower protruding portions 162 of the rear wall 154 of the first pack 150. The lower protruding portions 162 of the rear wall 154 of the first pack 150 are too large to fit through the lower apertures 142A, 142B of the separator panel 140. Similarly, the upper protruding portions 161 of the front wall 153 of the second pack 152 are too large to fit through the upper apertures 144A, 144B of the separator panel 140.

The upper protruding portions 163 of the rear wall 154 of the first pack 150 and the upper protruding portions 161 of the front wall 153 of the second pack 152 contact each other so as to form a first planar contact interface 190. Similarly, the lower protruding portions 160 of the front wall 153 of the second pack 152 contact the lower protruding portions 162 of the rear wall 154 of the first pack 150 so as to form a second planar contact interface 191. The first and second contact interfaces 190, 191 are arranged at an oblique angle relative to the central axis X-X (when the display package is fully assembled). Furthermore, when arranged in the bundle 167 as described above, the separator panel 140 is also oriented at an oblique angle relative to the central axis X-X (when the display package is fully assembled). In fact, the first and second contact interfaces 190, 191 are also oriented at an oblique angle relative to the separator panel 140.

The separator panel 140 facilitates stabilization of the package bundle 167 both internally and with respect to the sleeve 102 when the display package 1000 is assembled. Specifically, in the exemplary embodiment, the separator panel 140 assists with preventing the sleeve 102 from collapsing. Moreover, the separator panel 140 also prevents the first pack 150 from shifting relative to the second pack 152, thereby preventing the packs 150, 152 from becoming misaligned. As a result, the separator panel 140 prevents the first and second packs 150, 152 from inadvertently falling out of the sleeve 102. The separator panel 140 enables the sleeve 102 to have the open top end 170 and the open bottom end 172, which further reduces the amount of material used in manufacturing. Further, the inclusion of the separator panel 140 in the bundle 167 further prevents theft of a single pack by making it substantially more difficult to remove a single pack from the sleeve 102.

Referring to FIG. 6, each of the packs 150, 152 comprise a top edge 155 and a bottom edge 156 and hanger tab 157 extending from the top edge 155. Each of the hanger tabs 157 include a hanging aperture 158 therein for receiving a peg or other member extending from a vertical wall so that the display package 1000 can be hung at the point-of-sale if desired.

Referring now to FIGS. 6-11 concurrently a display package 1000 according to an embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. The display package 1000 is formed by positioning the bundle 167 into the cavity 250 of the sleeve 102. As can best be seen in FIG. 11, when the bundle 167 is positioned within the cavity 250 of the sleeve 102, the packs 150, 152 are oriented so that their longitudinal axes are substantially parallel to the central axis X-X and to the front and

rear panels 104, 122. For each pack 150, 152, the longitudinal axes is measured along a line extending from the top edge 155 to the bottom edge 156.

In the exemplified embodiment, because only two packs 150, 152 are used, the first pack 150 is considered a front-most pack of the bundle 167 and the second pack 152 is considered a rear-most pack of the bundle 167. Of course, when more than two packs are included in the bundle 167, middle packs will exist. Nonetheless, for purposes of describing the display package 1000 below, the first pack 150 will be referred to as the front-most pack while the second pack 152 will be referred to as the rear-most pack.

When the display package 1000 is fully assembled (as illustrated), the lower protruding sections 162 of the rear wall 154 of the rear-most pack 150 of the bundle 167 will extend through the rear apertures 128A, 128B in the rear panel 122 of the sleeve 102. Simultaneously, a protruding portion 195 of the front wall 153 of the front-most pack 150 of the bundle 167 will extend through the front aperture 108 in the front panel 104. In the exemplified embodiment, the protruding portion 195 consists of that portion of the front wall 153 of the front-most pack 150 that forms two of the interior chambers 151 in which a toothbrush 400 is fully disposed in each. Thus, the entireties of the two toothbrushes 400 are displayed via the front aperture 108. Preferably, the entirety of at least one product contained within the display package 1000 is displayed via the front aperture 108.

The protruding portion 195 includes the upper protruding portions 161 of the front wall 153 of the front-most pack 150, the lower protruding portions 160 of the front wall 153 of the front-most pack 150, and the intermediate protruding portions 180 of the front wall 153 of the front-most pack 150 (which contain the handle portion of the toothbrushes 400). Of course, the protruding portion 195 may include less than the aforementioned portions of the front wall 153 of the front-most pack 150, or may be formed by other portions of the front wall 153 of the front-most pack 150 entirely.

As best shown in FIGS. 9 and 10, when the display package 1000 is assembled, the bundle 167 extends from the cavity 250 of the sleeve 102 from both the open top end 170 and the open bottom end 172. In one preferred embodiment, the bottom edges 156 of the packs 150, 152 of the bundle 167 are substantially coplanar to one another and, optionally, to the bottom edges 107, 129 of the front and rear panels 104, 122 of the sleeve 102. In the exemplified embodiment, the bottom edges 156 of the packs 150, 152 and the bottom edges 107, 129 of the front and rear panels 104, 122 of the sleeve 102 all lie within the reference plane illustrated as line Y-Y. The coplanar nature of the bottom edges 156 of the packs 150, 152 and the bottom edges 107, 129 of the front and rear panels 104, 122 of the sleeve 102 provides the display package 1000 with the ability to stand upright when positioned on a horizontal surface.

While a number of embodiments of the current invention have been described and illustrated in detail, various alternatives and modifications will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. As various changes could be made in the above methods, compositions and structures without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in this application, including all mechanisms and/or modes of interaction described above, shall be interpreted as illustrative only and not limiting in any way the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A display package comprising:
 - a plurality of packs, each pack comprising a front wall, a rear wall, and at least one interior chamber located between the front and rear walls for holding at least one product, the plurality of packs arranged in a bundle;
 - a separator panel having at least one upper aperture and at least one lower aperture positioned between adjacent packs in the bundle, a portion of the front wall of one pack in the bundle protruding through one of the upper or lower apertures in the separator panel and contacting an adjacent pack in the bundle and a portion of the rear wall of the adjacent pack in the bundle protruding through the other one of the upper or lower apertures in the separator panel and contacting the one pack in the bundle;
 - a sleeve comprising a front panel having a front aperture, a rear panel having a rear aperture, and first and second side panels connecting the front and rear panels to form a cavity; and
 - the bundle positioned within the cavity of the sleeve, a portion of the front wall of a front-most pack in the bundle protruding through the front aperture of the front panel of the sleeve and a portion of the rear wall of a rear-most pack in the bundle protruding through the rear aperture of the rear panel of the sleeve.
2. The display package of claim 1 wherein the packs are blister packs.
3. The display package of claim 2 wherein the sleeve is a cardboard carton.
4. The display package of claim 2 wherein for each blister pack, the front wall and rear wall are hingedly connected to one another.
5. The display package of claim 4 wherein the front wall of each blister pack comprises at least one of the interior chambers and the rear wall of each blister pack comprises at least one of the interior chambers.
6. The display package of claim 1 wherein the cavity of the sleeve is formed about a central axis, the front and rear panels of the sleeve being substantially parallel to the central axis, and wherein the separator panel is oriented at an oblique angle to the central axis.
7. The display package of claim 6 wherein the separator panel has a top edge and a bottom edge, the upper aperture located adjacent the top edge of the separator panel and the lower aperture located adjacent the bottom edge of the separator panel.
8. The display package of claim 7 wherein the separator panel comprises first and second upper apertures and first and second lower apertures, the front wall of the one packs comprising first and second portions that protrude through the first and second upper apertures respectively and the rear wall of the adjacent pack comprising first and second portions that protrude through the first and second lower apertures respectively.
9. The display package of claim 8 wherein the rear panel comprises first and second rear apertures located adjacent a bottom edge of the rear panel, the rear wall of the rear-most pack having first and second portions that protrude through the first and second rear apertures respectively.
10. The display package of claim 9 wherein the entirety of one or more of the products located in the interior chamber of the front-most pack is displayed via the front aperture.
11. The display package of claim 10 wherein the bundle includes two packs, the rear-most pack being the one pack and the front-most pack being the adjacent pack.

12. The display package of claim 1 wherein the bundle includes two packs, the rear-most pack being the one pack and the front-most pack being the adjacent pack.

13. The display package of claim 1 wherein the entirety of one or more of the products located in the interior chamber of the front-most pack is displayed via the front aperture.

14. The display package of claim 1 wherein the cavity of the sleeve is formed about a central axis, the front and rear panels of the sleeve being substantially parallel to the central axis, and wherein contact between the portion of the front wall of the one pack and the adjacent pack forms a first contact interface and contact between the portion of the rear wall of the adjacent pack and the one pack forms a second contact interface, and wherein the first and second contact interfaces are at an oblique angle to the central axis.

15. The display package of claim 14 wherein the separator panel is oriented at an oblique angle to both the central axis and the first and second interfaces.

16. The display package of claim 1 wherein the sleeve has an open top end and open bottom end, the bundle protruding from the open top end and the open bottom end of the sleeve.

17. The display package of claim 16 wherein each of the packs comprises a bottom edge and a top edge, the bottom edges of the packs in the bundle being substantially coplanar with one another.

18. The display package of claim 17 wherein the front panel of the sleeve comprises a bottom edge and the rear panel of the sleeve comprises a bottom edge, the bottom edges of the front and rear panels of the sleeve being substantially coplanar with the bottom edges of the packs of the bundle.

19. The display package of claim 16 wherein each of the packs comprises a top edge, at least one of the packs of the bundle comprising a hanging tab extending from the top edge of the pack and comprising a hanging aperture, the hanging tab extending above a top edge of the front panel and a top edge of the rear panel.

20. The display package of claim 1 wherein the packs are transparent identical to one another.

21. The display package of claim 1 wherein the portion of the front wall of the one pack that contacts the adjacent pack forms a portion of the interior chamber of the one pack and the portion of the rear wall of the adjacent pack that contacts the one pack forms a portion of the interior chamber of the adjacent pack.

22. The display package of claim 1 wherein the first and second side panels are appended to opposing sides of the front panel, the rear panel appended to the first side panel and comprising a pull tab, and a glue flap appended to the second side panel that is adhered to the rear panel adjacent the pull tab.

23. The display package of claim 1 wherein the cavity of the sleeve is formed about a central axis, and wherein contact between the protruding portion of the front wall of the second pack and the first pack forms a first contact interface and contact between the protruding portion of the rear wall of the first pack and the second pack forms a second contact interface, and wherein the first and second contact interfaces are adapted to prevent relative sliding between the first and second packs in an axial direction along the central axis.

24. A display package comprising:

- a plurality of packs, each pack comprising a front wall, a rear wall, and at least one interior chamber located between the front and rear walls for holding at least one product, the plurality of packs arranged in a bundle;
- a separator panel positioned between adjacent packs in the bundle and having at least one aperture that allows contact between the adjacent packs in the bundle;

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a tubular sleeve comprising a front panel having a front aperture and a rear panel having a rear aperture; and the bundle positioned within the cavity of the tubular sleeve, a protruding portion of the front wall of a front-most pack in the bundle protruding through the front aperture of the front panel of the tubular sleeve and a

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protruding portion of the rear wall of a rear-most pack in the bundle protruding through the rear aperture of the rear panel of the sleeve.

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- * g. Tabla de correspondencia entre las reivindicaciones concedidas por la USPTO y las reivindicaciones modificadas en Colombia el 31 de Julio de 2013.

TABLA DE CORRESPONDENCIA ENTRE LAS REIVINDICACIONES CONCEDIDAS POR LA USPTO Y LAS REIVINDICACIONES MODIFICADAS EN COLOMBIA EL 31 DE JULIO DE 2013

Reivindicaciones patentadas Estados Unidos	Reivindicaciones modificadas y pendientes en Colombia	Explicación de la correspondencia
1. Un empaque de exhibición que incluye: una pluralidad de envases, constando cada envase de una pared frontal, una pared posterior y por lo menos una cámara interior localizada entre las paredes frontal y posterior para contener por lo menos un producto, disponiéndose la pluralidad de envases en un conjunto; un panel de separación que tiene por lo menos una abertura superior y por lo menos una abertura inferior, posicionado entre envases adyacentes en el conjunto, una porción de la pared frontal de un envase en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de una de las aberturas superior e inferior en el panel de separación y contactando un envase adyacente en el conjunto, y una porción de la pared posterior del envase adyacente en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la otra de las aberturas superior e inferior en el panel de separación y contactando el envase en el conjunto; una manga que comprende un panel frontal que tiene una abertura frontal, un panel posterior que tiene una abertura posterior, y paneles laterales primero y segundo que conectan los paneles delantero y posterior para formar una cavidad; y	1. Un empaque de exhibición que incluye: una pluralidad de envases, constando cada envase de una pared frontal, una pared posterior y por lo menos una cámara interior localizada entre las paredes frontal y posterior para contener por lo menos un producto, disponiéndose la pluralidad de envases en un conjunto; un panel de separación que tiene por lo menos una abertura superior y por lo menos una abertura inferior, posicionado entre envases adyacentes en el conjunto, una porción de la pared frontal de un envase en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de una de las aberturas superior e inferior en el panel de separación y contactando un envase adyacente en el conjunto, y una porción de la pared posterior del envase adyacente en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la otra de las aberturas superior e inferior en el panel de separación y contactando el envase en el conjunto; una manga que comprende un panel frontal que tiene una abertura frontal, un panel posterior que tiene una abertura posterior, y paneles laterales primero y segundo que conectan los paneles delantero y posterior para formar una cavidad; y el conjunto posicionado dentro de la cavidad de la	El alcance es idéntico

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el conjunto posicionado dentro de la cavidad de la manga, una porción de la pared frontal del envase que está más hacia adelante en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura frontal del panel frontal de la manga y una porción de la pared posterior del envase que está más hacia atrás en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura posterior del panel posterior de la manga.	manga, una porción de la pared frontal del envase que está más hacia adelante en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura frontal del panel frontal de la manga y una porción de la pared posterior del envase que está más hacia atrás en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura posterior del panel posterior de la manga.	
2. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde los envases son envases tipo burbuja.	2. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde los envases son envases tipo burbuja.	El alcance es idéntico
3. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 2 en donde la manga es una caja de cartón.	3. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 2 en donde la manga es una caja de cartón.	El alcance es idéntico
4. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 2 en donde para cada envase tipo burbuja, la pared frontal y la pared posterior se conectan articuladamente una con la otra.	4. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 2 en donde para cada envase tipo burbuja, la pared frontal y la pared posterior se conectan articuladamente una con la otra.	El alcance es idéntico
5. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 4 en donde la pared frontal de cada envase tipo burbuja comprende por lo menos una de las cámaras interiores y la pared posterior de cada envase tipo burbuja comprende por lo menos una de las cámaras interiores.	5. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 4 en donde la pared frontal de cada envase tipo burbuja comprende por lo menos una de las cámaras interiores y la pared posterior de cada envase tipo burbuja comprende por lo menos una de las cámaras interiores.	El alcance es idéntico
6. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la cavidad de la manga se forma alrededor de un eje central, los paneles delantero y posterior de la manga siendo sustancialmente paralelos al eje central,	6. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la cavidad de la manga se forma alrededor de un eje central, los paneles delantero y posterior de la manga siendo sustancialmente paralelos al	El alcance es idéntico

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y en donde el panel de separación se orienta en un ángulo oblicuo al eje central.	eje central, y en donde el panel de separación se orienta en un ángulo oblicuo al eje central.	
7. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 6 en donde el panel de separación tiene un borde superior y un borde inferior, la abertura superior localizada adyacente al borde superior del panel de separación y la abertura inferior localizada adyacente al borde inferior del panel de separación.	7. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 6 en donde el panel de separación tiene un borde superior y un borde inferior, la abertura superior localizada adyacente al borde superior del panel de separación y la abertura inferior localizada adyacente al borde inferior del panel de separación.	El alcance es idéntico
8. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 7 en donde el panel de separación comprende aberturas superiores primera y segunda y aberturas inferiores primera y segunda, la pared frontal del envase comprendiendo porciones primera y segunda que sobresalen a través de las aberturas superiores primera y segunda respectivamente y la pared posterior del envase adyacente comprendiendo porciones primera y segunda que sobresalen a través de las aberturas inferiores primera y segunda respectivamente.	8. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 7 en donde el panel de separación comprende aberturas superiores primera y segunda y aberturas inferiores primera y segunda, la pared frontal del envase comprendiendo porciones primera y segunda que sobresalen a través de las aberturas superiores primera y segunda respectivamente y la pared posterior del envase adyacente comprendiendo porciones primera y segunda que sobresalen a través de las aberturas inferiores primera y segunda respectivamente.	El alcance es idéntico
9. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 8 en donde el panel posterior comprende aberturas posteriores primera y segunda localizadas adyacentes a un borde inferior del panel posterior, la pared posterior del envase que está más hacia atrás teniendo porciones primera y segunda que sobresalen a través de las aberturas posteriores primera y segunda respectivamente.	9. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 8 en donde el panel posterior comprende aberturas posteriores primera y segunda localizadas adyacentes a un borde inferior del panel posterior, la pared posterior del envase que está más hacia atrás teniendo porciones primera y segunda que sobresalen a través de las aberturas posteriores primera y segunda respectivamente.	El alcance es idéntico

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10. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 9 en donde la totalidad de uno o más de los productos localizados en la cámara interior del envase que está más adelante se exhibe a través de la abertura frontal.	10. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 9 en donde la totalidad de uno o más de los productos localizados en la cámara interior del envase que está más adelante se exhibe a través de la abertura frontal.	El alcance es idéntico
11. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 10 en donde el conjunto incluye dos envases, el envase que más hacia atrás siendo el envase y el envase que está más hacia adelante siendo el envase adyacente.	11. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 10 en donde el conjunto incluye dos envases, el envase que más hacia atrás siendo el envase y el envase que está más hacia adelante siendo el envase adyacente.	El alcance es idéntico
12. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde el conjunto incluye dos envases, el envase que está más hacia atrás siendo el envase y el envase que está más adelante siendo el envase adyacente.	12. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde el conjunto incluye dos envases, el envase que está más hacia atrás siendo el envase y el envase que está más adelante siendo el envase adyacente.	El alcance es idéntico
13. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la totalidad de uno o más de los productos localizados en la cámara interior del envase que está más adelante se exhibe a través de la abertura frontal.	13. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la totalidad de uno o más de los productos localizados en la cámara interior del envase que está más adelante se exhibe a través de la abertura frontal.	El alcance es idéntico
14. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la cavidad de la manga se forma alrededor de un eje central, los paneles delantero y posterior de la manga siendo sustancialmente paralelos al eje central, y en donde el contacto entre la porción de la pared frontal del envase y el envase adyacente forma una primera interfaz de contacto y el contacto entre la porción de la pared posterior del envase adyacente y el envase forma una segunda interfaz de contacto, y en donde las interfaces de contacto primera y segunda están en un ángulo oblicuo al eje central.	14. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la cavidad de la manga se forma alrededor de un eje central, los paneles delantero y posterior de la manga siendo sustancialmente paralelos al eje central, y en donde el contacto entre la porción de la pared frontal del envase y el envase adyacente forma una primera interfaz de contacto y el contacto entre la porción de la pared posterior del envase adyacente y el envase forma una segunda interfaz de contacto, y en donde las interfaces de contacto primera y segunda están en un ángulo oblicuo al eje central.	El alcance es idéntico

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15. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 14 en donde el panel de separación está orientado en un ángulo oblicuo tanto al eje central como a las interfaces primera y segunda.	15. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 14 en donde el panel de separación está orientado en un ángulo oblicuo tanto al eje central como a las interfaces primera y segunda.	El alcance es idéntico
16. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la manga tiene un extremo superior abierto y un extremo inferior abierto, el conjunto sobresaliendo del extremo superior abierto y el extremo inferior abierto de la manga.	16. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la manga tiene un extremo superior abierto y un extremo inferior abierto, el conjunto sobresaliendo del extremo superior abierto y el extremo inferior abierto de la manga.	El alcance es idéntico
17. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 16 en donde cada uno de los envases comprende un borde inferior y un borde superior, los bordes inferiores de los envases en el conjunto siendo sustancialmente coplanares uno con el otro.	17. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 16 en donde cada uno de los envases comprende un borde inferior y un borde superior, los bordes inferiores de los envases en el conjunto siendo sustancialmente coplanares uno con el otro.	El alcance es idéntico
18. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 17 en donde el panel frontal de la manga comprende un borde inferior y el panel posterior de la manga comprende un borde inferior, los bordes inferiores de los paneles frontal y posterior de la manga siendo sustancialmente coplanares con los bordes inferiores de los envases del conjunto.	18. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 17 en donde el panel frontal de la manga comprende un borde inferior y el panel posterior de la manga comprende un borde inferior, los bordes inferiores de los paneles frontal y posterior de la manga siendo sustancialmente coplanares con los bordes inferiores de los envases del conjunto.	El alcance es idéntico
19. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 16 en donde cada uno de los envases comprende un borde superior, por lo menos uno de los envases del conjunto incluyendo una lengüeta de soporte que se extiende del borde superior del envase e incluyendo una abertura de soporte, la lengüeta de soporte	19. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 16 en donde cada uno de los envases comprende un borde superior, por lo menos uno de los envases del conjunto incluyendo una lengüeta de soporte que se extiende del borde superior del envase e incluyendo una abertura de soporte, la lengüeta de soporte extendiéndose encima de	El alcance es idéntico

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extendiéndose encima de un borde superior del panel frontal y un borde superior del panel posterior.	un borde superior del panel frontal y un borde superior del panel posterior.	
20. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde los envases son transparentes e idénticos entre sí.	20. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde los envases son transparentes e idénticos entre sí.	El alcance es idéntico
21. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la porción de la pared frontal del envase que contacta el envase adyacente forma una porción de la cámara interior del envase y la porción de la pared posterior del envase adyacente que contacta el envase forma una porción de la cámara interior del envase adyacente.	21. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la porción de la pared frontal del envase que contacta el envase adyacente forma una porción de la cámara interior del envase y la porción de la pared posterior del envase adyacente que contacta el envase forma una porción de la cámara interior del envase adyacente.	El alcance es idéntico
22. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde los paneles laterales primero y segundo se unen a lados opuestos del panel frontal, el panel posterior unido al primer panel lateral y comprendiendo una lengüeta de extracción, y una solapa adhesiva unida al segundo panel lateral que se adhiere al panel posterior adyacente a la lengüeta de extracción.	22. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde los paneles laterales primero y segundo se unen a lados opuestos del panel frontal, el panel posterior unido al primer panel lateral y comprendiendo una lengüeta de extracción, y una solapa adhesiva unida al segundo panel lateral que se adhiere al panel posterior adyacente a la lengüeta de extracción.	El alcance es idéntico
23. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la cavidad de la manga se forma sobre un eje central, y en donde el contacto entre la porción sobresaliente de la pared frontal del segundo envase y el primer envase forma una primera interfaz de contacto y el contacto entre la porción sobresaliente de la pared posterior del primer envase y el segundo	23. El empaque de exhibición de la reivindicación 1 en donde la cavidad de la manga se forma sobre un eje central, y en donde el contacto entre la porción sobresaliente de la pared frontal del segundo envase y el primer envase forma una primera interfaz de contacto y el contacto entre la porción sobresaliente de la pared posterior del primer envase y el segundo envase forma una	El alcance es idéntico

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envase forma una segunda interfaz de contacto, y en donde las interfaces de contacto primera y segunda se adaptan para impedir el deslizamiento relativo entre los envases primero y segundo en una dirección axial a lo largo del eje central.	segunda interfaz de contacto, y en donde las interfaces de contacto primera y segunda se adaptan para impedir el deslizamiento relativo entre los envases primero y segundo en una dirección axial a lo largo del eje central.	
24. El empaque de exhibición que comprende: una pluralidad de envases, cada envase incluyendo una pared frontal, una pared posterior, y por lo menos una cámara interior localizada entre las paredes frontal y posterior para contener por lo menos un producto, la pluralidad de envases dispuesta en un conjunto: un panel de separación posicionado entre envases adyacentes en el conjunto y que tiene por lo menos una abertura que permite el contacto entre los envases adyacentes en el conjunto; una manga tubular que incluye un panel frontal que tiene una abertura frontal y un panel posterior que tiene una abertura posterior; y el conjunto posicionado dentro de la cavidad de la manga tubular, una porción sobresaliente de la pared frontal de un envase que está más hacia adelante en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura frontal del panel frontal de la manga tubular y una porción sobresaliente de la pared posterior del envase que está más hacia atrás en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura posterior del panel posterior de la manga.	24. El empaque de exhibición que comprende: una pluralidad de envases, cada envase incluyendo una pared frontal, una pared posterior, y por lo menos una cámara interior localizada entre las paredes frontal y posterior para contener por lo menos un producto, la pluralidad de envases dispuesta en un conjunto: un panel de separación posicionado entre envases adyacentes en el conjunto y que tiene por lo menos una abertura que permite el contacto entre los envases adyacentes en el conjunto; una manga tubular que incluye un panel frontal que tiene una abertura frontal y un panel posterior que tiene una abertura posterior; y el conjunto posicionado dentro de la cavidad de la manga tubular, una porción sobresaliente de la pared frontal de un envase que está más hacia adelante en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura frontal del panel frontal de la manga tubular y una porción sobresaliente de la pared posterior del envase que está más hacia atrás en el conjunto sobresaliendo a través de la abertura posterior del panel posterior de la manga.	El alcance es idéntico

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