

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

NEDERLANDSCH OCTROOIBUREAU  
P.O.Box 29720  
2502 LS The Hague  
PAYS-BAS

## PCT

### NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year)

12.04.2019

Applicant's or agent's file reference

P6075675PCT

#### IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/SE2017/050058

International filing date (day/month/year)

20.01.2017

Priority date (day/month/year)

Applicant

Essity Hygiene and Health Aktiebolag

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary report on patentability and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international  
preliminary examining authority:



European Patent Office  
D-80298 Munich  
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0  
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Römich, Lars-Oliver

Tel. +49 89 2399-7447



# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          |                                                                              |                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br>P6075675PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                          | <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>                                                    | See Form PCT/IPEA416 |
| International application No.<br>PCT/SE2017/050058                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | International filing date (day/month/year)<br>20.01.2017 | Priority date (day/month/year)                                               |                      |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC<br>INV. A61F13/64                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |                                                                              |                      |
| Applicant<br>Essity Hygiene and Health Aktiebolag                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                          |                                                                              |                      |
| <p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>8</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority, unless those sheets were superseded or cancelled, and any accompanying letters (see Rules 46.5, 66.8, 70.16, 91.2, and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets containing rectifications, where the decision was made by this Authority not to take them into account because they were not authorized by or notified to this Authority at the time when this Authority began to draw up this report, and any accompanying letters (Rules 66.4bis, 70.2(e), 70.16 and 91.2).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> superseded sheets and any accompanying letters, where this Authority either considers that the superseding sheets contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, or the superseding sheets were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box (see Rule 70.16(b)).</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing, in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see paragraph 3ter of Annex C of the Administrative Instructions).</p> |                                                          |                                                                              |                      |
| <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |                                                                              |                      |
| Date of submission of the demand<br><br>24.10.2018                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          | Date of completion of this report<br><br>12.04.2019                          |                      |
| Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:<br> European Patent Office<br>D-80298 Munich<br>Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0<br>Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                          | Authorized officer<br><br>Hoff, Céline<br><br>Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7895 |                      |



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.  
PCT/SE2017/050058

---

**Box No. I Basis of the report**

---

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on
- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
  - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
    - ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
    - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
    - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a) and (b))
2. With regard to the **elements\*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

**Description, Pages**

1-29 as published

**Claims, Numbers**

1-21 filed with the letter of

24-10-2018

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/8-8/8 as published

- ☐ a sequence listing - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
  - ☐ the claims, Nos.
  - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
  - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since either they are considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, or they were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rules 70.2(c) and (c-bis)):
- ☐ the description, pages
  - ☐ the claims, Nos.
  - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
  - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
5. ☐ This report has been established:
- ☐ taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rules 66.1(d-bis) and 70.2(e)).
  - ☐ without taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91(Rules 66.4bis and 70.2(e)).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.  
PCT/SE2017/050058

6. ☒ With regard to top-up searches (Rules 66.1 *ter* and 70.2(f)):
- ☐ A top-up search was carried out by this Authority on (all discovered documents are listed in the Supplemental Box Relating to Top-up Search).
  - ☐ Additional relevant documents have been discovered during the top-up search.
  - ☒ No top-up search was carried out by this Authority because it would serve no useful purpose.
7. ☐ Supplementary international search report(s) from Authority(ies) has/have been received and taken into account in establishing this report (Rule 45bis.8(b) and (c)).

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded".

---

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

---

1. Statement

|                               |             |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Novelty (N)                   | Yes: Claims | <u>1-21</u> |
|                               | No: Claims  |             |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Yes: Claims | <u>1-21</u> |
|                               | No: Claims  |             |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | <u>1-21</u> |
|                               | No: Claims  |             |

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

---

**Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application**

---

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**1      Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1.1      Reference is made to the following documents:**

D1: WO2010071507

D2: US20080208152

**1.2      Art. 33(2) PCT**

The subject matter of claims 1-21 is considered as being novel under Art. 33(2) PCT.

D1 and D2 fail to disclose that a second side panel (17) is bonded to the chassis (12) by a first breakable bond in said folded side panel configuration and the first side panel (16) is bonded to the second side panel (17) by a second breakable bond wherein the first breakable bond has a weaker peel strength than the second breakable bond.

**1.3      Art. 33(3) PCT**

The subject matter of claims 1-21 is considered as being inventive under Art. 33(3) PCT.

D1 is considered as representing the closest prior art. The difference between the subject matter of the present application and D1 is mentioned above. The technical effect resulting from said difference is that the first bond breaks before the second bond to allow easy opening of the side panels.

The problem to be solved is to provide an easy opening of a disposable article comprising two side panels. The solution is considered as being inventive according to Art. 33(3) PCT.

Faced with this technical problem, the skilled person would not have arrived at the subject matter of claim 1 based on the teachings of D2 because D2 does not teach a stronger bond between a first panel and a second panel and a weaker bond between the second panel and the chassis. Instead, D2 teaches that adjacent folds of an accordion fold side panel -no bond between a side panel and a chassis is present in D2 because of the accordion fold- can be sealed together with a maximum bond strength that allows easy opening of the side panel.

As a consequence the subject matter of claim 1-21 is not obvious from the combination of the teaching of D1 with the teaching of D2.

2

**Re Item VIII**

**Certain observations on the international application**

Reference signs are missing in the claims of the application. For instance in claim 19 reference sign (51) is missing. In claims 20 references signs (103) and (104) are missing. **The applicant is kindly requested to check all claims for missing reference signs.**

Document D2 should be acknowledged in the description of the application.



EUROPEAN PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS

www.nlo.eu

European Patent Office  
c/o P.O. Box 5818  
2280 HV RIJSWIJK

Your ref:

The Hague, 24 October 2018

Our ref: P6075675PCT

Re: International patent application

Subject: Disposable article

In the name of: Essity Hygiene and Health Aktiebolag

Application no. PCT/SE2017/050058

Publication no. WO 2018/135984

Dear Madam/Sir,

I write in response to the Written Opinion of the International Search Authority and request international preliminary examination (with the EPO as ISA) under Article 31 PCT, as indicated in the enclosed form PCT/IPEA/401.

An amended set of claims is enclosed (claims 1-21), which should replace the claims currently on file and form the basis of international preliminary examination.

#### Amendments

The typographical errors highlighted by the examiner in Box VII of the written opinion have been corrected. All amendments are shown in the enclosed annotated version of the amended claims.

No subject matter is abandoned in making these amendments.

#### Comments

##### Novelty and inventive step

The examiner acknowledges the novelty of all claims and states in the written opinion that the subject matter of claim 1 is distinguished from D1 by virtue of the first and second breakable bonds having different peel strengths, with the first bond being weaker than the second bond.

The result of the first bond being weaker than the second bond is that the bond between the second panel and the chassis breaks as the user pulls the first panel. After the first weaker bond between the second panel and the chassis has broken, the second stronger bond between the first panel and the



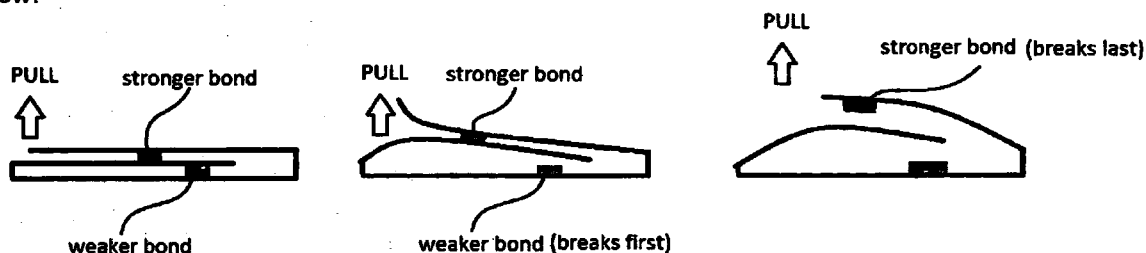
EUROPEAN PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS

www.nlo.eu

Our ref: P6075675PCT

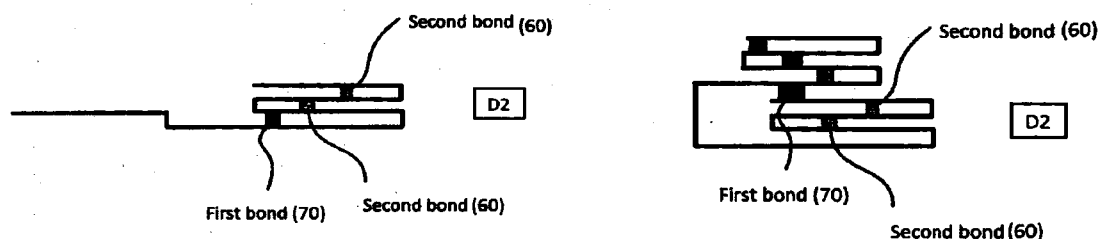
2/4

second panel breaks, leaving all panels free for use. This panel release order is shown in the schematic below.



The examiner asserts that first and second bonds having different peel strengths according to claim 1 would have been obvious to the skilled person because D2 describes a device comprising different peel strengths. However, we cannot agree with the examiner's reasoning because D2 does not disclose a first bond between a side panel and the chassis having a first strength and a second bond between the side panel and another side panel, wherein the first bond is weaker than the first bond.

Instead, D2 describes a system in which side panels are folded in an accordion-like manner (see Fig. 6B of D2) with a first bond 70 provided between the first and second side panels and/or the first side panel and the chassis. Second bonds 60 are provided between the adjacent folds of the accordion-like folds of the side panels. Such an arrangement is shown in schematic form below for (i) a first bond 70 between a first side panel and the chassis, and second bonds 60 between the accordion folds; and (ii) a first bond 70 between the first side panel and the second side panel, and second bonds 60 between the accordion folds.



Neither of the schematics shown above show a first bond between the chassis and a second side panel and a second bond between the second side panel and a first side panel, wherein the first bond is weaker than the second bond, as required by claim 1. Instead, the bonds 60 and 70 are provided as an intra-panel bond and an inter-panel bond.

The examiner argues that D2 implicitly discloses that the second bond 60 is weaker than the first bond 70. We do not agree with the examiner that D2 comprises an unambiguous disclosure that the second bond 60 is weaker than the first bond 70 (see largely overlapping ranges from claims 33 and 36 of D2). However, even if D2 were to provide an unambiguous disclosure of different bond strengths between



EUROPEAN PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS

www.nlo.eu

Our ref: P6075675PCT

3/4

bonds 60 and 70, the teachings of D2 would still fail to render the subject matter of claim 1 obvious because the weaker bond would not be provided between a side panel and the chassis, as required by claim 1.

For completeness, it should be noted that even if the schematics of D2 above were combined to include a bond 70 between the first and second panels and a bond 70 between a side panel and the chassis, there is no suggestion anywhere in D2 that one of these bonds should be weaker than the other, let alone in the configuration specified in claim 1.

By contrast, D2 teaches that a first bond 70 can be provided between the first panel and the chassis and/or the first panel and the second panel.

In the "or" scenario shown in the schematics above, the two bonds required by claim 1 (between the first and second side panels, and between one side panel and the chassis) are not present.

In an "and" scenario, the bond between the first panel and the second panel and the second panel and the chassis are the same bond: first bond 70. Therefore, rather than teaching a stronger bond between the first and second panel and a weaker bond between the second panel and the chassis, D2 teaches that the same bond should be used between these three components.

Since D2 fails to teach a stronger bond between the first side panel and the second side panel, and a weaker bond between the second side panel and the chassis, D2 would not have led the skilled person to arrive at the subject matter of claim 1. Hence, the subject matter of claim 1 is inventive.

In the written opinion, the examiner characterises the technical problem (with respect to D1) as how to provide a disposable article that offers easy release of the breakable bonds, specifically with the benefit of releasing both breakable bonds with one simple movement. However, the examiner's formulation of the technical problem appears to be arrived upon with the use of hindsight, and based upon D2, which is not permitted, according to the Guidelines for Examination.

The technical effect of the different peel strengths in claim 1 is that the first bond breaks before the second bond to allow easy opening of the side panels. The technical problem solved by the present invention (based on D1) is thus how to provide easy opening of an article comprising two side panels.

Faced with this technical problem, the skilled person would not have arrived at the subject matter of claim 1 based on the teachings of D2 because, as discussed above, D2 does not teach a stronger bond between a first panel and a second panel and a weaker bond between the second panel and the chassis. Instead, D2 teaches that adjacent folds of an accordion-fold side panel can be sealed together with a maximum bond strength that allows easy opening of the side panel.

Since D2 does not teach a solution to the above problem that would have led the skilled person to arrive at the subject matter of claim 1. Hence, the subject matter of claim 1 is new and inventive in view of the cited prior art.



EUROPEAN PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS

www.nlo.eu

Our ref: P6075675PCT

4/4

### Closing remarks

In view of the above, we believe that the pending claims fulfil the requirements for novelty and inventive step as set out in Article 33 PCT.

In case the International Preliminary Examination Authority cannot agree and thus does not intend to issue a favourable IPRP, a further opportunity to file amendments is requested under Rule 66.4 PCT and/or an interview by telephone is requested under Rule 66.6 PCT. The undersigned can be contact by email at [durling@nlo.eu](mailto:durling@nlo.eu) or by telephone at +31 7 03 31 25 42.

Finally, it is noted that the present response and the enclosed submissions do not imply the abandonment of any subject matter originally filed, and the Applicant reserves the right to re-instate any cancelled subject-matter either in the present application or in a divisional application.

Yours truly,

Durling, Barbara Eleanor Ravenhill  
Professional representative

## CLAIMS

1. A disposable article (10) comprising a chassis (12) having first and second end portions (18, 14) and a central portion (12a) extending therebetween,  
5 said article further comprising a first pair of side panels (16, 17) extending on each side of the first end portion (18) of the chassis (12) and said first and second side panels (16, 17) being folded over said chassis (12), to form a folded side panel configuration prior to use of said article (10),  
10 and said first side panel (16) being arranged at least partly on top of the second side panel (17) to form an overlap area (100) in the folded side panel configuration,  
wherein the second side panel (17) is bonded to the chassis (12) by a first breakable bond (101) in said folded side panel configuration and the first side panel (16) is bonded to the second side panel (17) by a second breakable bond (102) in said overlap area (100), and  
15 wherein the first breakable bond (101) has a weaker peel strength than the second breakable bond (102).
2. Disposable article (10) according to claim 1, wherein said article (10) having a body-oriented surface (21) facing the user during use and a garment-oriented  
20 surface (22) facing away from the user in use, and wherein the second side panel is folded over the body-oriented surface (21) when said article is in said folded side panel configuration.
3. Disposable article (10) according to claim 1, wherein said article (10) having a  
25 body-oriented surface (21) facing the user during use and a garment-oriented surface (22) facing away from the user in use, and wherein the second side panel is folded over the garment-oriented surface (22) when said article is in said folded side panel configuration.
4. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said  
30 first and second side panel (16, 17) comprises distal edges (103, 104) respectively, and each one of said distal edges (103, 104) of said first and second side panels

2

(16, 17) being folded over and beyond a longitudinal central line (35) when said article is in said folded side panel configuration prior to use such that the overlap area (100) is centrally arranged along the longitudinal central line of the disposable article (10).

5

5. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first breakable bond (101) is arranged in the overlap area (100) when said article (10) is in said folded side panel configuration.

10

6. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second breakable bond (102) is arranged on top of the first breakable bond (101) when the article is in said folded side panel configuration prior to use.

15

7. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the breakable bonds (101, 102) are arranged adjacent or on the longitudinal central line (35) of the disposable article (10).

20

8. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first breakable bond (101) is arranged in a pattern that covers the entire part of the second side panel (17) in the overlap area.

25

9. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second breakable bond (102) is arranged in a pattern that cover the entire part of the first side panel (16) in the overlap area.

10. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a force of 4-6 N is required to rupture the first breakable bond (101) and a force 7-14 N is required to rupture the second breakable bond (102).

11. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the force required for rupturing the first breakable bond (101) may be between 20-80% of the force required for rupturing the second breakable bond (102).

5 12. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first breakable bond (101) is an integral part of the second side panel (17), and/or the second breakable bond (102) is an integral part of the first side panel (16).

10 13. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims 1-11, wherein the first breakable bond (101) is a separate part of the second side panel (17), and/or the second breakable bond (102) is a separate part of the first side panel (16).

15 14. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one side panel is folded in an accordion-like fashion, for example folded in a Z-shape, M-shape, W-shape or the like, over said body-oriented surface (21) or over said garment-oriented surface (22).

20 15. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein any one of the first and second side panels (16, 17) comprises an intermediate elastic region.

25 16. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the disposable article (10) is a disposable absorbent article such as a diaper, a belted-diaper and an incontinence guard.

30 17. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the disposable article (10) has an absorption body (40) arranged between a first liquid-permeable covering layer (20), which may form the body-oriented surface (21), and a second substantially liquid-impermeable covering layer (30), which may form the garment-oriented surface (22).

4

18. Disposable article (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said article comprises a second pair of side panels attached to the chassis (12) so that a third side panel and a fourth side panel extend on each side of the second end portion (14) of the chassis (12).

5

19. Disposable article (10) according to claim 18, wherein the side panels (16, 17) of the first pair of side panels carries a respective first and second fastener adapted to be attached to the side panels of said second pair of side panels so that said article assumes a pant-like shape when in use.

10

20. Disposable article (10) according to claim 19, wherein the first and second fasteners are arranged on the distal edge of said respective first and second side panel (16, 17), and wherein the distal edge of the first side panel (16) is folded over the first fastener such as to cover the first fastener in said folded side panel configuration, and the distal edge of the second side panel (17) is folded over the second fastener such as to cover the second fastener in said folded side panel configuration, and wherein the first breakable bond (101) is arranged on the part of the first side panel (16) that covers the first fastener and the second breakable bond (102) is arranged on the part of the second side panel (17) that covers the second fastener.

15

20

21. Disposable article (10) according any one of the claims 1-17, wherein any one of the side panels (16, 17) of the first pair of side panels carries a fastener (51) adapted to be attached to an exterior surface of the other of the side panels of the first pair of side panels, and wherein said second end portion (14) of the chassis comprises a fastening device (48, 49) for securing the second end portion (14) of the chassis (12) to one of the side panels so that said article assumes a pant-like shape with the side panels forming a part of a waist portion of the pant when in use.

25