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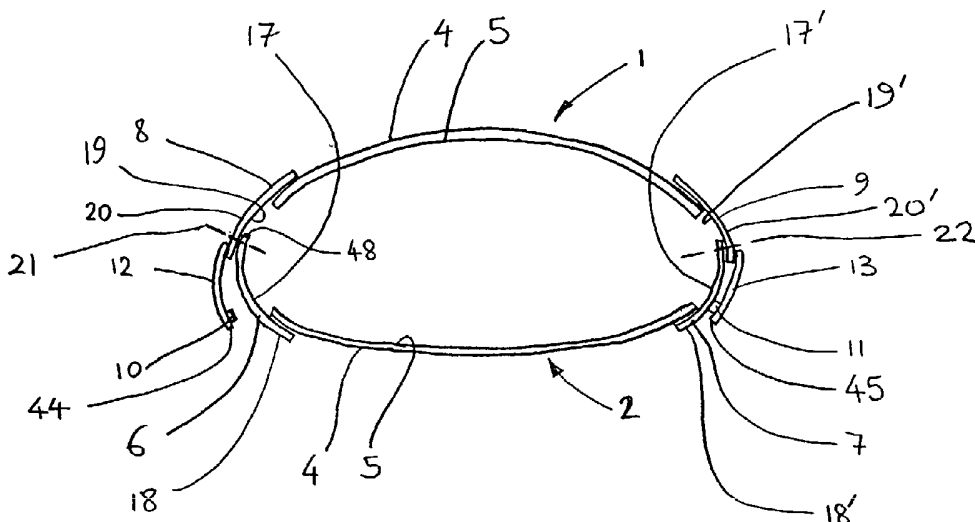
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PREFASTENED ABSORBENT PRODUCT WITH ELASTIC RECLOSABLE SIDES AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME



(57) Abstract: An absorbent prefastened product in the form of a disposable pants diaper is provided with a side closure arrangement on each side. The side closure includes front and rear side flaps having elastic portions where an inner surface (19, 19') of a rear side flap (8, 12, 9, 13) is overlapped and welded to an outer surface (18, 18') of a front side flap (6, 7). Each side flap (8, 12, 9, 13) is also provided with one part of a releasable fastening system (10, 11, 15, 16) located such that the weld is located on at least one of the elastic portions and such that it lies inward of the releasable fastening system in the prefastened state. A method of forming the absorbent product is also provided, in which an overlapped attachment is formed by joining front and rear side flap members (7a, 9a, 13a) together and attaching the side flap members (7a, 9a, 13a) to an absorbent chassis member.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 03/03384

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 A61F13/15 A61F13/56

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 A61F

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

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

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 370 634 A (ANDO KENJI ET AL) 6 December 1994 (1994-12-06) column 4, line 9 - column 5, line 9 column 8, line 11 - line 17; claims; figures 4,5	1-12,14
Y	---	13
Y	EP 0 570 980 A (UNI CHARM CORP) 24 November 1993 (1993-11-24) claims; figures	13
A	US 4 940 464 A (SCHLEINZ ROBERT J ET AL) 10 July 1990 (1990-07-10) column 3, line 10 - line 33 column 4, line 54 - column 5, line 8 --- -/--	1,6

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

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

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

Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 September 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/10/2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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al Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 496 298 A (KUEPPER REBECCA J ET AL) 5 March 1996 (1996-03-05) column 5, line 9 - line 27 column 9, line 36 - line 45 column 10, line 5 - line 22 ----	1,6,7,10
A	WO 00 37005 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 29 June 2000 (2000-06-29) page 28, line 1 - line 7 ----	1,8
A	WO 00 35396 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 22 June 2000 (2000-06-22) claims; figures ----	1
A	US 6 113 717 A (BLENKE TIMOTHY JAMES ET AL) 5 September 2000 (2000-09-05) column 18, line 10 - line 23 -----	15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/03384

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

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

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

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

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

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

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

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

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

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. Claims: 1-14

Prefastened absorbent product having a pair of rear side flaps and a pair of front side flaps attached to each other by a weld.

2. Claims: 15-19

Method for producing a prefastened absorbent product having a pair of rear side flaps and a pair of front side flaps attached to each other by a weld.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 Int'l Application No
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