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Miller

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(54) **DISPLAYABLE SHIPPING CONTAINER**

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B65D 5/42 (2006.01)
B65D 5/32 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***B65D 5/4204*** (2013.01); ***B65D 5/326*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 206/772, 769, 773–774, 45.21; 229/103, 229/240, 120.011
See application file for complete search history.

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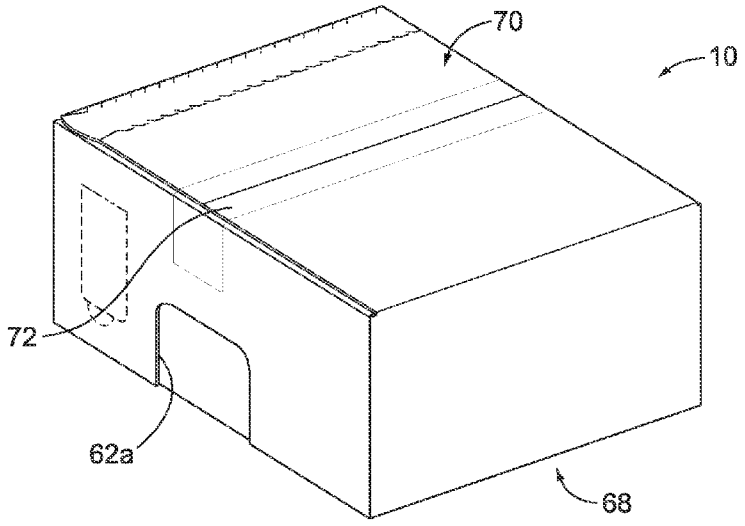
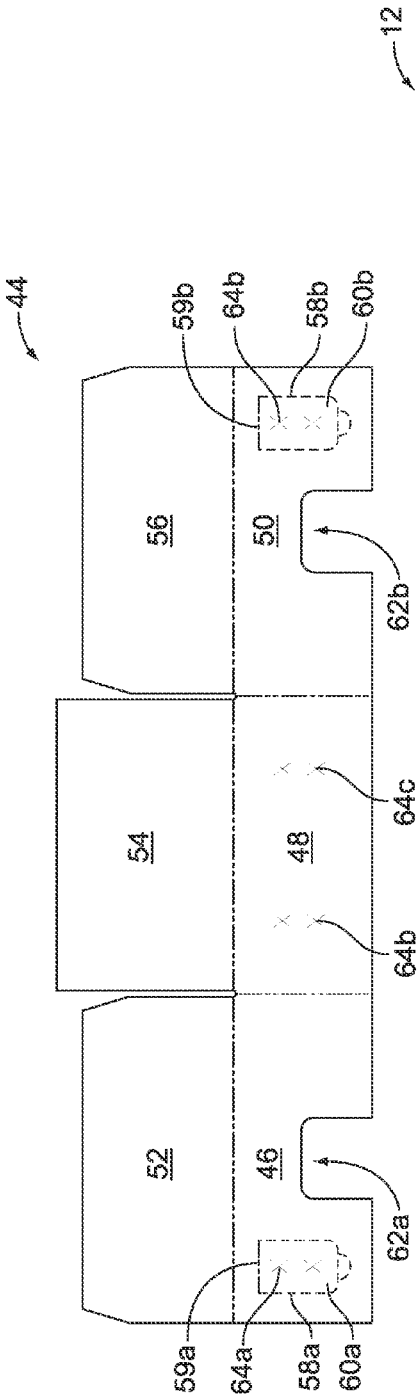
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A container includes a first blank and a second blank. The first blank includes a first plurality of panels and a first plurality of flaps integrally formed from a first sheet of material. The first plurality of panels includes a first side panel, a second side panel opposing the first side panel, a back panel, and a front panel. The first plurality of flaps define a bottom of the container and a first portion of a top of the container. The front panel includes a window portion. The second blank includes two or more panels and two or more top flaps integrally formed from a second sheet of material. The two or more panels include a cover front panel and a first side panel. The two or more top panels define a second portion of the top of the container. The cover front panel is attached to the window panel.

21 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

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58a
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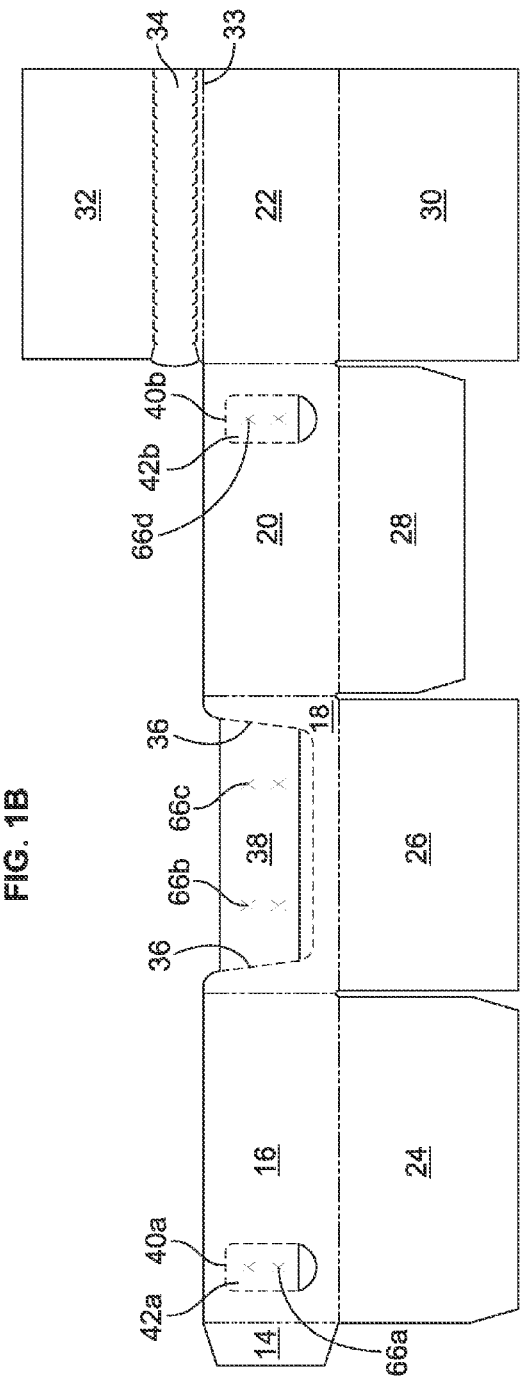
FIG. 1B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14
66a

FIG. 1A

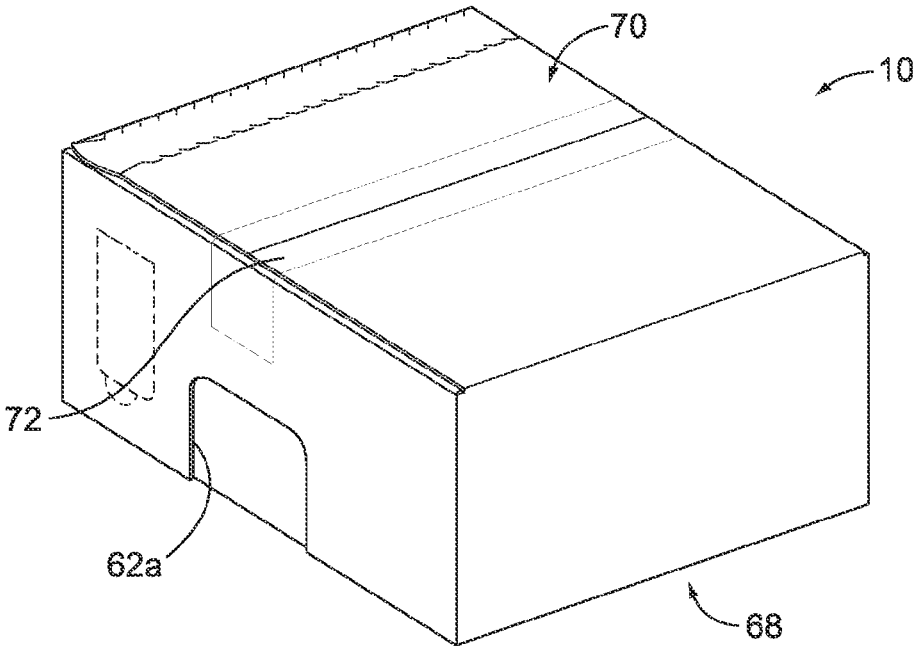


FIG. 2

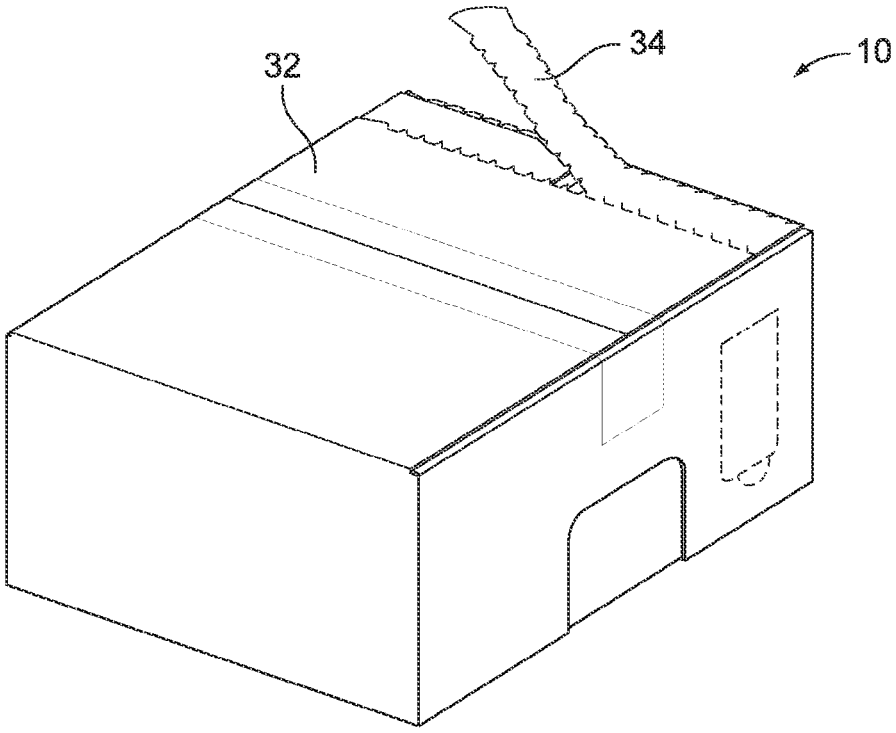


FIG. 3A

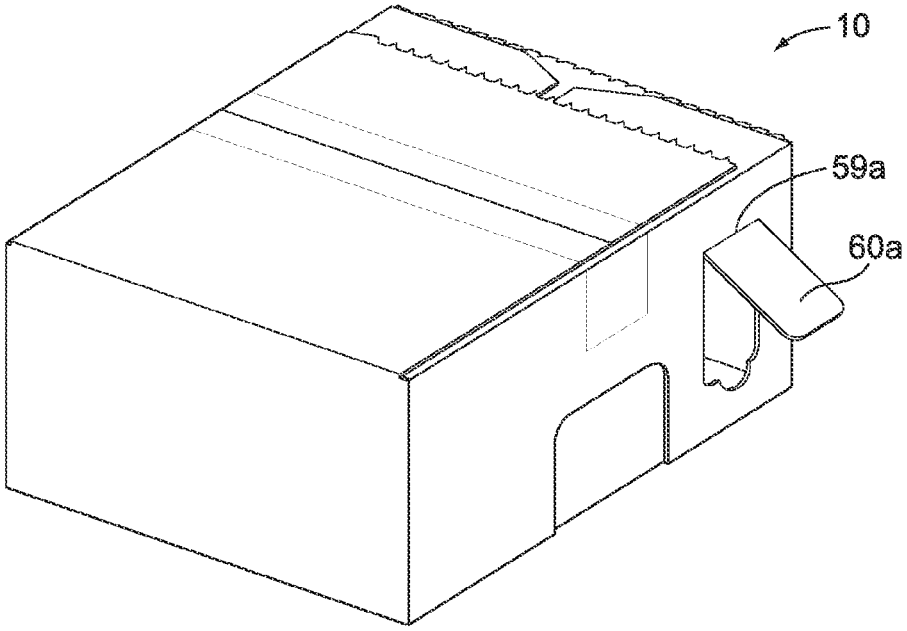


FIG. 3B

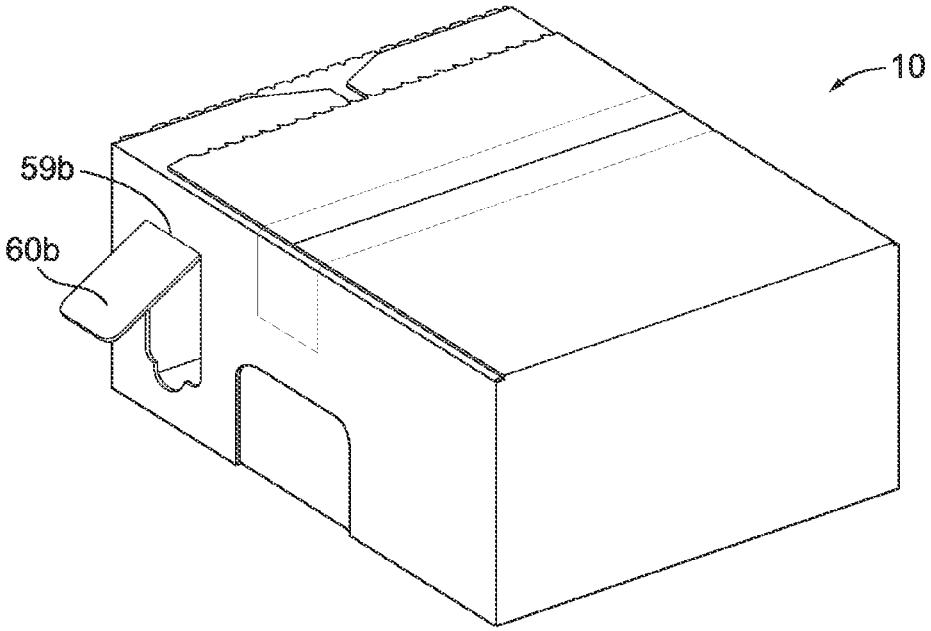


FIG. 3C

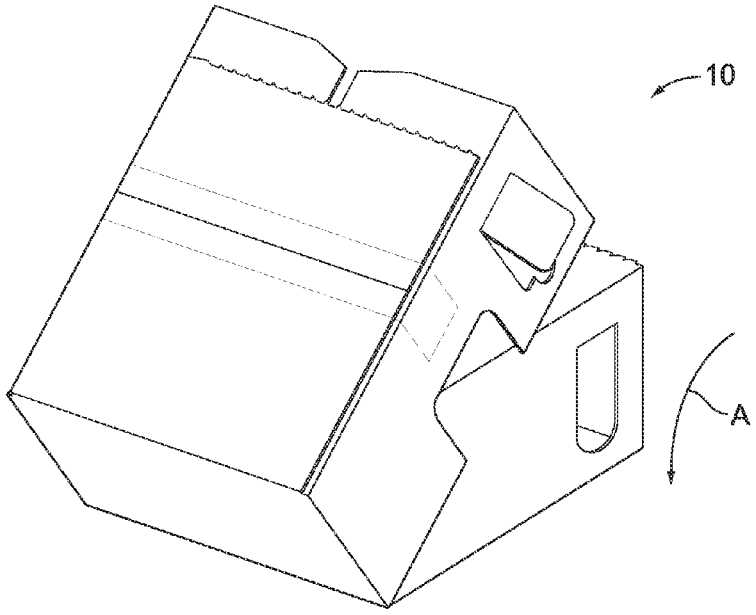


FIG. 3D

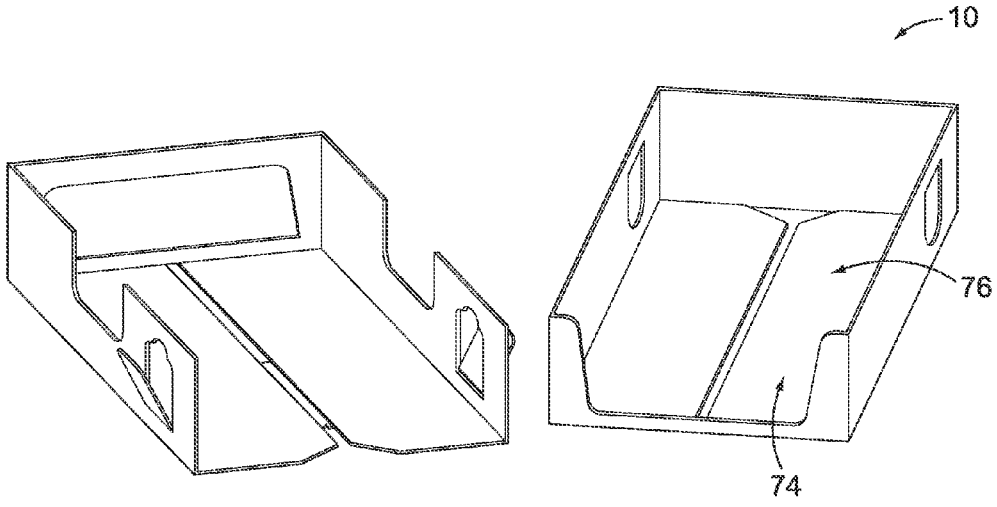
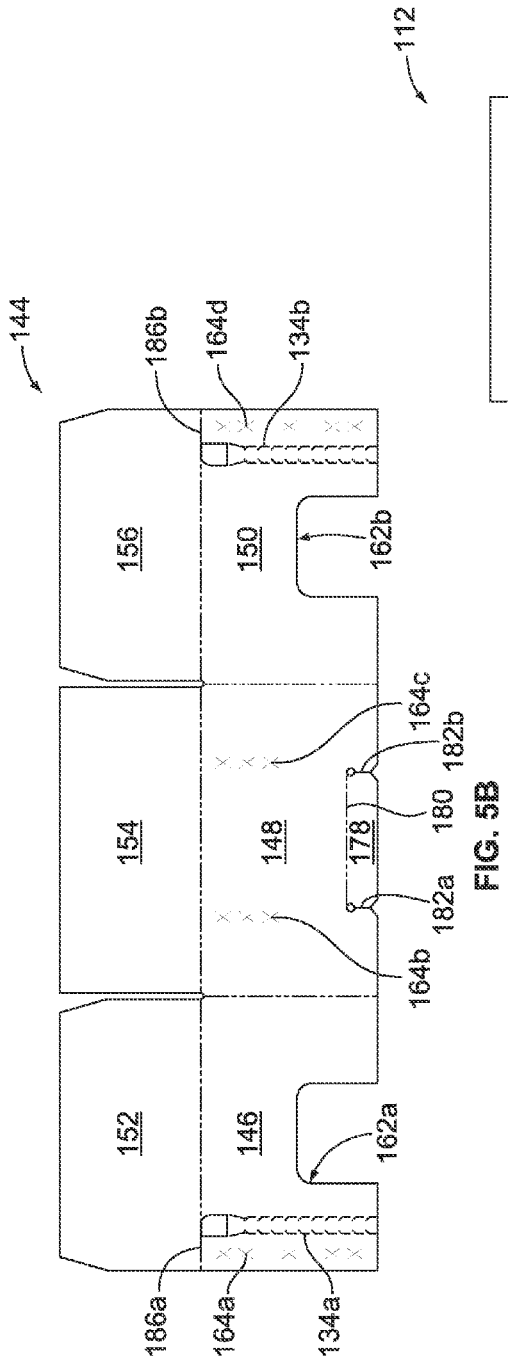


FIG. 4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134b
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162b
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164c
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182a
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162a
186a
164a
134a

FIG. 5B

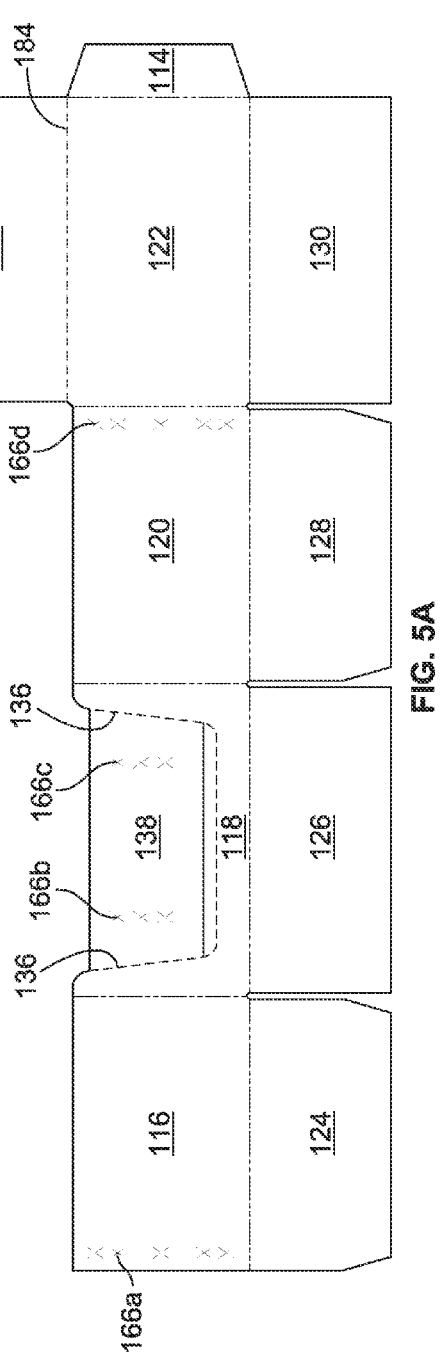
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FIG. 5A

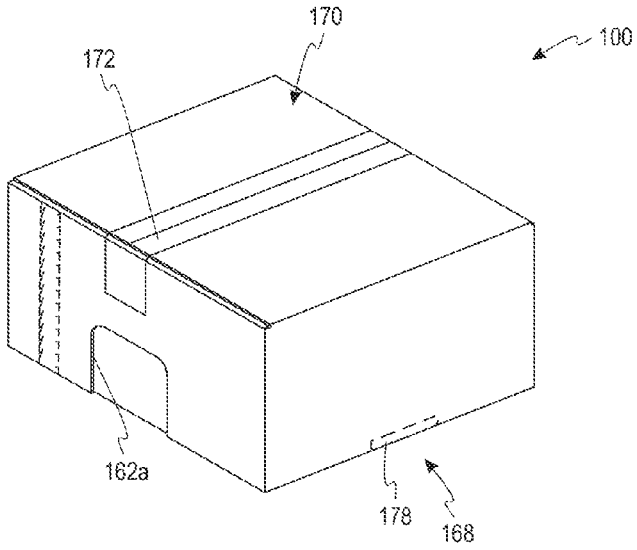


Fig. 5C

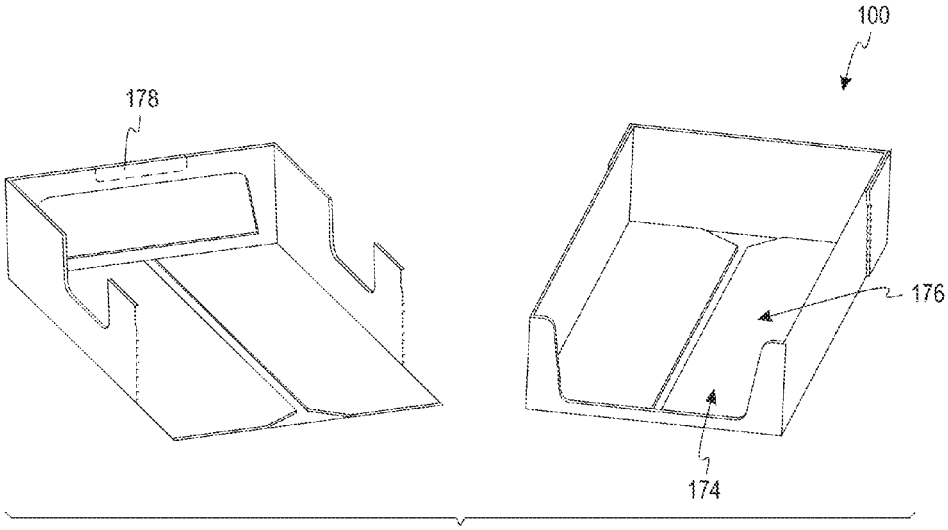
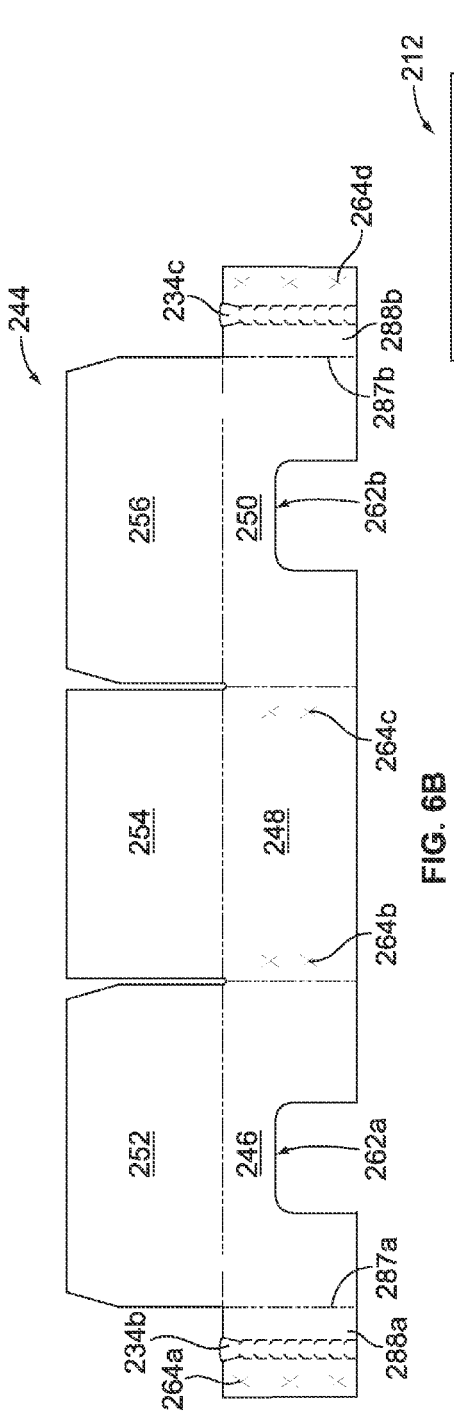


Fig. 5D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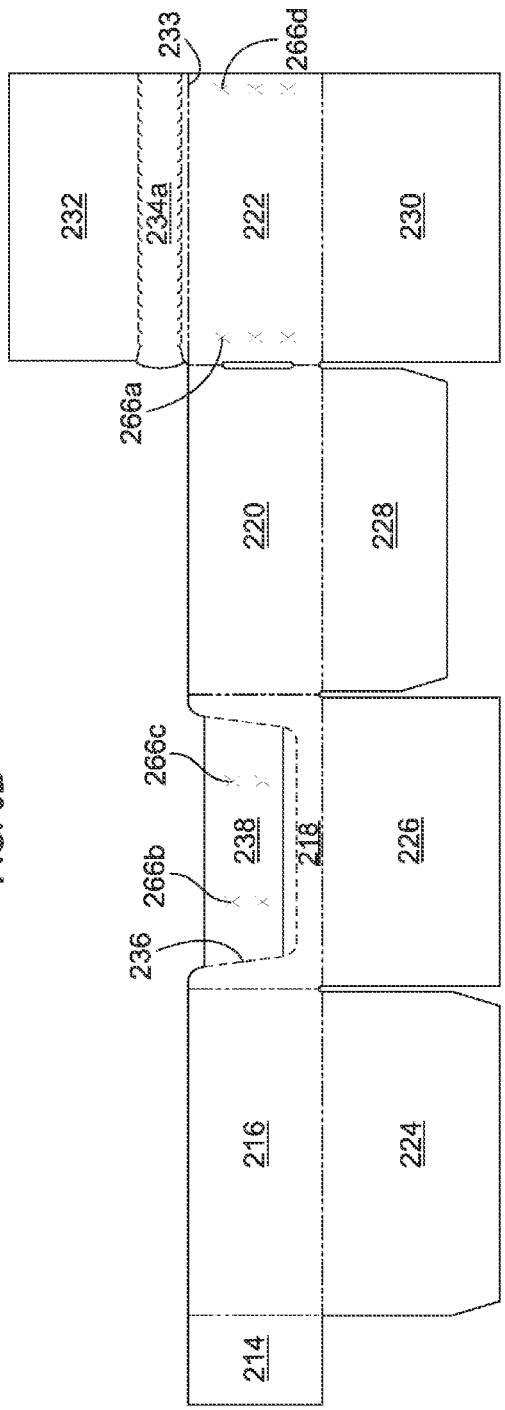
234b
264a
288a

FIG. 6B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233
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266a
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266b
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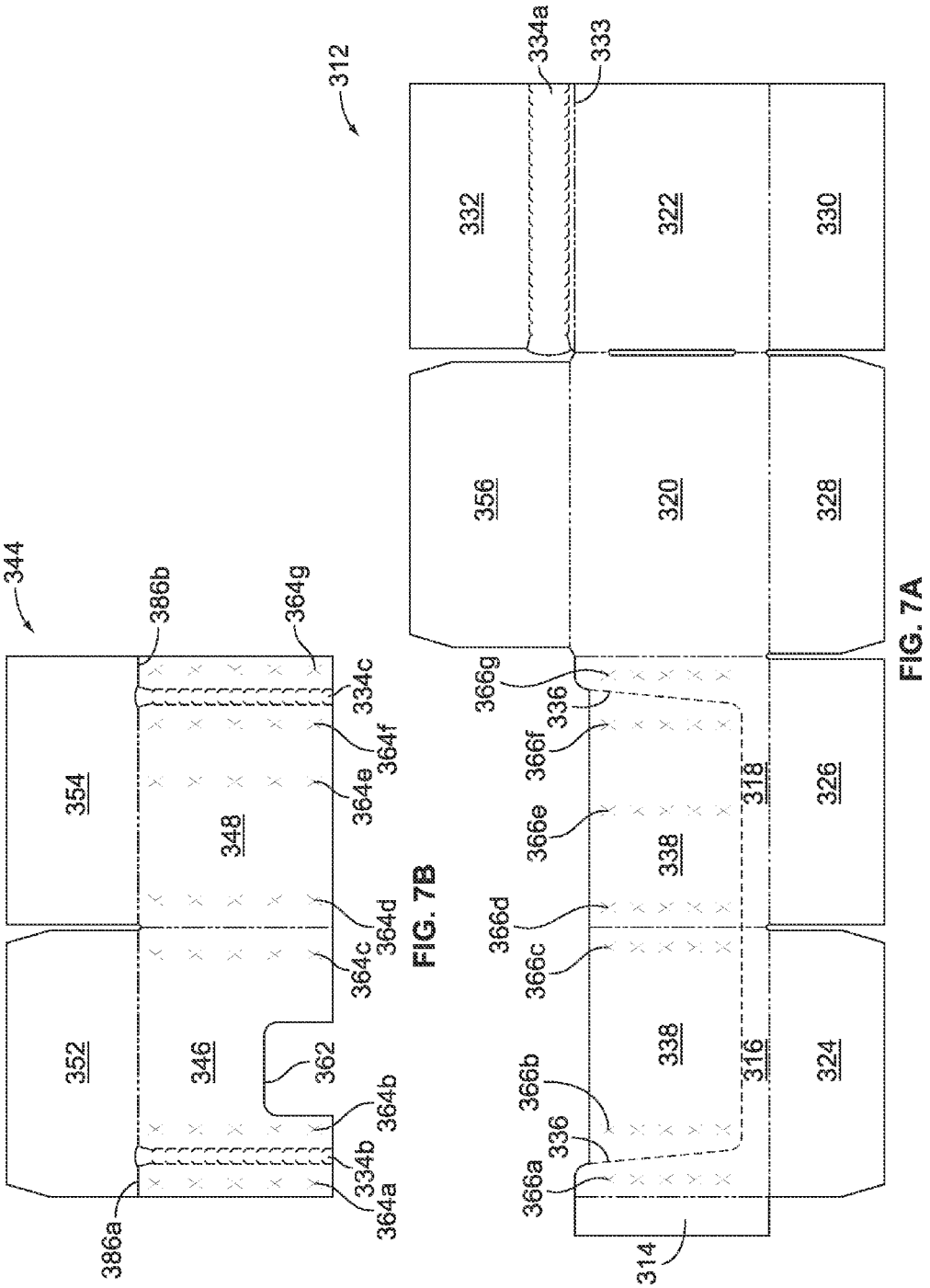
FIG. 6A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366b
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366a
314
344
386b
364g
334c
364f
364e
354
348
364d
364c
352
346
362
364b
334b
364a
386a

FIG. 7A

FIG. 7B

DISPLAYABLE SHIPPING CONTAINER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of and priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/590,642, titled "Displayable Shipping Container" and filed on Jan. 25, 2012, which is incorporated herein by reference in its respective entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to containers. In particular, the present invention relates to displayable shipping containers having superior compression features.

BACKGROUND

Flat sheets of corrugated paperboard, typically referred to as blanks, have been used for many years as the starting material to form containers. Corrugated paperboard generally refers to a multi-layer sheet material comprised of two sheets of liner bonded to a central corrugated layer of medium. Given a basic size requirement specified by the customer, industry standards, and the preference for low cost, paperboard container manufacturers strive to provide structural stacking strength with a minimal amount of corrugated paperboard.

In shipping and displaying products, particularly in a retail setting, it is desirable to have a container which is easy to pack, sturdy and fully enclosed for protection of contents during storage and shipping, and also suitable for display at a retail site. For example, it is beneficial to have a container which allows a customer at a retail site to easily reach into the container and remove products for purchase. Of course, the access opening through which a consumer can access the products must also be closed during shipment and storage to prevent spilling of the product out of the container. This has resulted in the development of a variety of containers which are configured to be convertible from a shipping configuration to a display configuration, which permits the converted container to be placed directly upon a shelf, or floor display, without having to remove the individual product items from the container. Typically, this is accomplished by providing the container with removable portions of the container that create apertures through which customers may then help themselves to the products within the converted container.

Such convertible containers represent a challenge in that they must be readily convertible into a form presentable to customers, while at the same time maintaining certain shipping performance characteristics, suitable for the shipment of non-self-supporting or even fragile products. Prior attempts at providing a displayable shipping container may suffer from a number of disadvantages. For example, prior displayable shipping containers often are either lacking in the necessary shipping performance characteristics or, in order to provide such performance, have structural elements that remain in position after converting to a display configuration that make access to the product inconvenient. Other displayable shipping containers are labor intensive to manufacture, assemble, or convert. And still other containers require excessive materials or, in some cases, extraneous components (e.g., a tie or a wrap) to secure a lid on a body of the container. Once converted to a display configuration, many displayable shipping containers often also include rough, unfinished, jagged, and uneven surfaces in prominent locations that are somewhat unsightly and do not provide the appeal of a neat, clean and presentable display.

Therefore, it would be desirable to have a container that addresses many, if not all, of these disadvantages.

SUMMARY

According to some aspects of the present disclosure, a container includes a first blank and a second blank. The first blank includes a first plurality of panels and a first plurality of flaps integrally formed from a first sheet of material. The first plurality of panels includes a first side panel, a second side panel opposing the first side panel, a back panel, and a front panel of the container. The first plurality of flaps define a bottom of the container and a first portion of a top of the container. The front panel includes a window portion. The second blank includes two or more panels and two or more top flaps integrally formed from a second sheet of material. The two or more panels include a cover front panel and a first side panel. The two or more top panels define a second portion of the top of the container. The cover front panel is attached to the window panel.

According to some additional aspects of the present disclosure, a container includes a first blank and a second blank. The first blank includes a first plurality of panels and a first plurality of flaps. The first plurality of panels includes a first side panel, a second side panel opposing the first side panel, a back panel, and a front panel of the container. The first plurality of flaps defines a bottom of the container and a first portion of a top of the container. The front panel includes a removable window portion. The second blank includes a first cover side panel, a cover front panel, and a second cover side panel, and a plurality of top flaps. The plurality of top flaps define a second portion of the top of the container. The cover front panel is attached to the removable window portion of the front panel. The first cover side panel and the second cover side panel are attached to one or more of the first plurality of panels.

According to some additional aspects of the present disclosure, a container includes a first blank and a second blank. The first blank includes a first side panel, a front panel, a second side panel, and a back panel. The first blank further includes a plurality of bottom flaps that define a bottom of the container, a first minor top flap, and a first major top flap. The front panel includes a removable window portion. The second blank includes a cover side panel, a cover front panel, a second minor top flap connected to the first cover side panel, and a second major top flap connected to the cover front panel. An interior surface of the cover front panel is attached to an exterior surface of the removable window portion of the front panel. An interior surface of the cover side panel is attached to an exterior surface of the first side panel.

The above summary is not intended to represent each embodiment or every aspect of the present invention. Additional features and benefits of the present invention are apparent from the detailed description and figures set forth below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other advantages of the invention will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description and upon reference to the drawings in which:

FIG. **1**A is a top plan view of a blank for forming an enclosure portion of a container according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. **1**B is a top plan view of a blank for forming a cover portion of a container according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the container formed from the blanks of FIGS. **1**A-B in a shipping configuration.

FIGS. **3**A-D are perspective views of the container formed from the blanks of FIGS. **1**A-B as the container is being converted from a shipping configuration to a display configuration.

FIG. **4** is a perspective view of the container formed from the blanks of FIGS. **1**A-B in a display configuration.

FIGS. **5**A-B are top plan views of blanks for forming a container according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. **5**C is a perspective view of the container formed from the blanks of FIGS. **5**A-**5**B.

FIG. **5**D is a perspective view of the container formed from the blanks of FIGS. **5**A-**5**B in a display configuration.

FIGS. **6**A-B are top plan views of blanks for forming a container according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIGS. **7**A-B are top plan views of blanks for forming a container according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.

While the invention is susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, a specific embodiment thereof has been shown by way of example in the drawings and will herein be described in detail. It should be understood, however, that it is not intended to limit the invention to the particular forms disclosed, but on the contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. **1**A illustrates a top plan view of a blank **12** for an enclosure portion of a container according to one embodiment of the present disclosure (also referred to as an "enclosure blank"). The enclosure blank **12** includes an overlap panel **14**, a first side panel **16**, a front panel **18**, a second side panel **20**, and a back panel **22**. Adjacent panels **14**, **16**, **18**, **20**, **22** are connected with one another by substantially parallel fold lines. The overlap panel **14** is configured to be attached to the back panel **22**, as described in further detail below.

The enclosure blank **12** further includes a first minor bottom flap **24**, a first major bottom flap **26**, a second minor bottom flap **28**, and a second major bottom flap **30** hingedly connected to the first side panel **16**, the front panel **18**, the second side panel **20**, and the back panel **22**, respectively, by fold lines. The enclosure blank **12** also includes a first major top flap **32** hingedly connected to the back panel **22** by a fold line **33**. The first major top flap **32** includes a separation element **34** at or near the fold line **33** that connects the first major top flap **32** and the back panel **22**. The separation element **34** is configured to permit separation and removal of first major top flap **32** (or a portion thereof) from the back panel **22**. In the illustrated embodiment, the separation element **34** comprises a zipper rule; however, it is contemplated that the separation element **34** can comprise any suitable feature for separating and removing the first major top flap **32** (or a portion thereof) from the back panel **22** (e.g., a perforation line, a tear-strip, etc.).

The front panel **18** of the enclosure blank **12** includes a line of weakness **36** that defines a removable window portion **38**. The window portion **38** is separable and removable from the remainder of the enclosure blank **12** via the line of weakness **36**. It is contemplated that the window portion **38** is not limited to the particular shape, size, and configuration illustrated in FIG. **1**. Rather, the window portion **38** can be formed in other shapes, sizes, and/or locations on the front panel **18**.

The first side panel **16** includes a line of weakness **40***a* that defines a removable first breakaway portion **42***a* and the second side panel **20** includes a line of weakness **40***b* that defines a removable second breakaway portion **42***b*. As will be described below, the first breakaway portion **42***a* and the second breakaway portion **42***b* are configured to be separable and removable from the remainder of the enclosure blank **12** during conversion from a shipping configuration to a display configuration.

Turning now to FIG. **1**B, a top plan view of a blank **44** for an cover portion of the container (also referred to as an "cover blank"). The cover blank **44** includes a first cover side panel **46**, a cover front panel **48**, and a second cover side panel **50**. Adjacent panels **46**, **48**, and **50** are connected with one another by substantially parallel fold lines. The cover blank **44** further includes a first minor top flap **52**, a second major top flap **54**, and a second minor top flap **56** hingedly connected to the cover first side panel **46**, the cover front panel **48**, the cover second side panel **50**, respectively, by fold lines.

The first cover side panel **46** includes a first breakaway-assist portion **60***a* defined by a line of weakness **58***a* and a fold line **59***a* and a second breakaway-assist portion **60***b* defined by a line of weakness **58***b* and a fold line **59***b*. The first cover side panel **46** also includes a first recessed surface **62***a* and the second cover side panel **50** includes a second recessed surface **62***b*.

The assembly of the enclosure blank **12** and the cover blank **44** to form the displayable shipping container **10** (see FIG. **2**) will now be described. First, the cover blank **44** is attached to the enclosure blank **12**. In the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. **1**A-**1**B, the cover blank **44** is attached to the enclosure blank **12** by applying an adhesive generally at or near one or more adhesive areas **64***a-d* of the cover blank **44** and/or one or more adhesive areas **66***a-d* of the enclosure blank **12**. As such, it is contemplated that the adhesive(s) can be applied to the adhesive areas **66***a-d* of the enclosure blank **12**, the adhesive areas **64***a-d* of the cover blank **44**, or both to attach the cover blank **44** to the enclosure blank **12**.

With the cover blank **44** attached to the enclosure blank **12**, the adhesive area **64***a* is aligned with the adhesive area **66***a*, the adhesive area **64***b* is aligned with the adhesive area **66***b*, the adhesive area **64***c* is aligned with the adhesive area **66***c*, and the adhesive area **64***d* is aligned with the adhesive area **66***d*. Accordingly, the cover front panel **48** is attached to the window portion **38**, the first breakaway-assist portion **60***a* is attached to the first breakaway portion **42***a*, and the second breakaway-assist portion **60***b* is attached to the second breakaway portion **42***b*. By attaching the cover blank **44** to the removable breakaway portions **42***a*, **42***b* and the removable window portion **38** of the enclosure blank **12**, the cover blank **44** can be secured to the enclosure blank **12** when the container **10** is in a shipping configuration and fully removed (i.e., no portion of the cover blank **44** remains attached to the container **10**) when the container **10** is converted to a display configuration. While the breakaway-assist portions **60***a*, **60***b* are illustrated as having a size and shape that is similar to the size and shape of the breakaway portions **42***a*, **42***b*, it is contemplated that the breakaway-assist portions **60***a*, **60***b* can have a size and shape that is different from the shape of the breakaway portions **42***a*, **42***b*.

After the cover blank **44** has been attached to the enclosure blank **12**, the blanks **12**, **44** can then be erected to form the assembled container **10** in a shipping configuration as shown in FIG. **2**. First, the overlap panel **14** is attached to the back panel **22** by, for example, a suitable adhesive(s). Next, the first minor bottom flap **24** and the second minor bottom flap **28**, followed by the first major bottom flap **26** and the second major bottom flap **30**, are folded inward (i.e., towards the space formed by the panels **16**, **18**, **20**, **22**) and sealed (e.g., by tape, staples, adhesives, combinations thereof, and/or the like) to form a bottom **68** of the container **10**. The container **10** can then be optionally filled with products through the top opening of the container **10**. Then the first minor top flap **52** and the second minor top flap **56**, followed by the second major top flap **54** and the first major top flap **32**, are folded inwards and sealed (e.g., by tape, staples, adhesives, combinations thereof, and/or the like) to form a top **70** of the container **10**.

The sealing of the first major bottom flap **26** and the second major bottom flap **30** and the sealing of the first major top flap **32** and the second major top flap **54** can be configured to allow (i.e., to not prevent or inhibit) separation and removal of the cover blank **44** from the enclosure blank **12** when the container **10** is later converted to a display configuration. For example, in the embodiment illustrated in FIG. **2**, the first major top flap **32** and the second major top flap **54** are sealed with a piece of tape **72** such that the tape **72** does not contact the first side panel **16**, the front panel **18**, the second side panel **20**, or the back panel **22**, and the first major bottom flap **26** and the second major bottom flap **30** are sealed by a piece of tape (not shown) such that the tape does not contact any portion of the cover blank **44**. Advantageously, the recessed surfaces **62***a*, **62***b* of the cover blank **44** assist in sealing the bottom flaps **26**, **30** by providing an area for attaching the tape to the first side panel **16** and the second side panel **20**.

It is contemplated that the assembly of the container **10** described above can be achieved with or without the assistance of a case erector. Additionally, it is contemplated that some of these steps can be performed in a different order than is described above. For example, the top **70** of the container **10** can be formed before forming the bottom **68** of the container **10** or the cover blank **44** can be attached to the enclosure blank **12** after the overlap panel **14** is attached to the back panel **22**.

As described above, FIG. **2** shows the container **10** in a shipping configuration. In the shipping configuration, the container **10** provides a closed enclosure that prevents loss of product and product damage during shipping. The interior space of this closed enclosure is defined by the top **70**, the bottom **68**, the first side panel **16**, the front panel **18**, the second side panel **20**, and the back panel **22**.

After shipping the container **100** to a retail site, the container **10** can be converted from the shipping configuration (FIG. **2**) to a display configuration (FIG. **4**) by removing the cover blank **44** and the window portion **38** as shown in FIGS. **3**A-D. The following are exemplary steps for converting the container **10** from a shipping configuration to a display configuration as illustrated in FIGS. **3**A-B. First, the separation element **34** is actuated to separate the first major top flap **32** (or a portion thereof) from the remainder of the enclosure blank **12** as shown in FIG. **3**A. Next, the breakaway-assist portions **60***a*, **60***b* are folded outwardly along the fold lines **59***a*, **59***b* (i.e., in a direction generally away from the interior space of the container **10**) as shown in FIGS. **3**B-C. Because the breakaway portions **42***a*, **42***b* are attached to the breakaway-assist portions **60***a*, **60***b*, the breakaway portions **42***a*, **42***b* are separated and removed from the first side panel **16** and the second side panel **20** as the breakaway-assist portions **60***a*, **60***b* are outwardly folded. The cover blank **44** and the attached first major top panel **32** can then be pulled in a general direction towards the front panel **18** (e.g., the general direction indicated by arrow A) to separate and remove the window panel **38** from the front panel **18** along the line of weakness **36** as shown in FIG. **3**D.

With the window portion **38**, the first major top panel **32**, and the cover blank **44** removed from the remainder of the enclosure blank **12**, the remainder of the enclosure blank **12** forms the container **10** in the display configuration. As shown in FIG. **4**, the container **10** in the display configuration includes a window opening **74** formed in the front panel **18** where the window portion **38** was removed. The window opening **74** provides access to the products within the container **10**. Additionally, with the container **10** in the display configuration, products within the container **10** can also be accessed from above the container **10** through a top opening **76**.

As mentioned above, the container **10** in the display configuration does not include any portion of the cover blank **44** because, in the shipping configuration, the cover blank **44** is only attached to removable portions of the enclosure blank **12** (i.e., the first major top panel **32**, the window portion **38**, the first breakaway portion **42***a*, and the second breakaway portion **42***b*). As such, the container **10** in the display configuration provides a neat, clean, and presentable display for goods and products within the container **10**.

It is contemplated that the container **10** may include advertising features, descriptions, graphics, or other information. Further, it is contemplated that the exterior surface of the cover blank **44** can itself be printed with graphics or text for use during shipment—for example, shipping instructions or information about placement of the item within a store—which are removed along with the cover blank **44** for display of the container **10**. In other words, the cover blank **44** can be provided with distribution information thereon, which is unimportant to an end user such as a retail customer and is easily removed for display of the container.

Turning now to FIGS. **5**A-B, top plan views of an enclosure blank **112** and a cover blank **144** according to another exemplary embodiment are illustrated. The enclosure blank **112** includes an overlap panel **114**, a first side panel **116**, a front panel **118**, a second side panel **120**, a back panel **122**, a first minor bottom flap **124**, a first major bottom flap **126**, a second minor bottom flap **128**, a second major bottom flap **130** connected via fold lines. The enclosure blank **112** further includes a first major top flap **132** connected to back panel **122** by a line of weakness **184**. The front panel **118** includes a line of weakness **136** that defines a window portion **138**. The enclosure blank **112** also includes adhesive areas **166***a-d*.

The cover blank **144** includes a first cover side panel **146**, a cover front panel **148**, a second cover side panel **150**, a first minor top flap **152**, a second major top flap **154**, a second minor top flap **156**, recessed surfaces **162***a*, **162***b*, and adhesive areas **164***a-d*, which are similar to the similarly numbered features illustrated in FIG. **1**B. The cover front panel **148** includes an assist tab portion **178** defined by a fold line **180** and two lines of weakness **182***a*, **182***b*. It is contemplated that according to some alternative embodiments, the lines of weakness **182***a*, **182***b* can instead be die cuts or other means of separation. The first cover side panel **145** includes a first separation element **134***a* disposed

between the adhesive area **164***a* and the remainder of the first cover side panel **146**, and a second separation element **134***b* disposed between the adhesive area **164***d* and the remainder of the second cover side panel **150**. The assist tab portion **178**, the first separation element **134***a* and the second separation element **134***b* assist in converting an assembled container **100** from a shipping configuration to a display configuration. The cover blank **144** further includes a line of weakness **186***a* that connects the adhesive area **164***a* of the first cover side panel **146** to the first minor top flap **152** and a line of weakness **186***b* that connects the adhesive area **164***d* of the second cover side panel **150** to the second minor to flap **156**.

To assemble the enclosure blank **112** and the cover blank **144** to form a container **100** in a shipping configuration, the cover blank **144** is attached to the enclosure blank **112** via adhesive(s) applied at or near the adhesive areas **164***a-d*, **166***a-d*, the overlap panel **114** is attached to the first side panel **116**, the bottom flaps **124**, **126**, **128**, **130** are folded inwards and sealed to form a bottom surface, and the top flaps **152**, **154**, **156**, **132** are folded inwards and sealed to form a top surface as described above. To convert the container **100** from the shipping configuration to a display configuration, the separation elements **134***a*, **134***b* and the lines of weakness **186***a*. **186***b* are actuated or torn out to separate the adhesive area **164***a* from the first cover side panel **146** and the adhesive area **164***d* from the second cover side panel **150**. Then the assist tab portion **178** can be pulled in the general direction from the front panel **118** to the back panel **122** to separate and remove the window panel **138** from the front panel **118** along the line of weakness **136**. Because the first major top panel **132** is sealed to the cover blank **144** (e.g., via a piece of tape), the first major top panel **132** can then separated and removed from the back panel **122** along the line of weakness **184**, for example, by continuing to pull the cover blank **144** in the direction away from the back panel **122**. With the window portion **138**, the first major top panel **132**, and the cover blank **144** removed from the remainder of the enclosure blank **112**, the remainder of the enclosure blank **112** forms a container **100** in a display configuration, including a window opening **174** and a top opening **176**.

As described above with respect to the container **10** formed from the enclosure blank **12** and the cover blank **44** (FIGS. **1**A-B), no portion of the cover blank **44** remained attached to the container **10** in the display configuration (see FIG. **4**). By contrast, due to the adhesive areas **164***a*, **164***d* being separated from the remainder of the cover blank **144**, the portions of the cover blank **144** including the adhesive areas **164***a*, **164***d* remain attached to the enclosure blank **112** in the display configuration. While the container **10** assembled from the blanks **12**, **44** of FIGS. **1**A-B can provided a cleaner presentation, the container assembled from the blanks **112**, **144** of FIGS. **5**A-B provides a more readily apparent prompt for use and the portion of the cover blank **144** that remains attached to enclosure blank **112** is generally not in disposed a prominent location so as to be unsightly.

Turning now to FIGS. **6**A-B, top plan views of an enclosure blank **212** and a cover blank **244** according to another exemplary embodiment are illustrated. The enclosure blank **212** includes an overlap panel **214**, a first side panel **216**, a front panel **218**, a second side panel **220**, a back panel **222**, a first minor bottom flap **224**, a first major bottom flap **226**, a second minor bottom flap **228**, a second major bottom flap **230**, and a first major top flap **232** connected via fold lines. The front panel **218** includes a line of weakness **236** that defines a window portion **238**. The first major top flap **232** includes a separation element **234***a* at or near the fold line **233** connecting the first major top flap **232** and the back panel **222**. The enclosure blank **212** also includes adhesive areas **266***a-d*.

The cover blank **244** includes a first cover side panel **246**, a cover front panel **248**, a second cover side panel **250**, a first minor top flap **252**, a second major top flap **254**, a second minor top flap **256**, and recessed surfaces **262***a*, **262***b*, which are similar to the similarly numbered features illustrated in FIG. **1**B. Additionally, the cover blank **244** includes a first cover overlap panel **288***a* connected to the first cover side panel **246** via a fold line **287***a* and a second cover overlap panel **288***b* connected to the second cover side panel **250** via a fold line **287***b*. The first cover overlap panel **288***a* includes an adhesive area **264***a* and the second cover overlap panel **288***b* includes an adhesive area **264***d*. The first cover overlap panel **288***a* further includes a first cover separation element **234***b* disposed between the adhesive area **264***a* and the fold line **287***a* and the second cover overlap panel **288***b* includes a second cover separation element **234***c* disposed between the adhesive area **264***d* and the fold line **287***b* to assist in converting an assembled container from a shipping configuration to a display configuration.

To assemble the enclosure blank **212** and the cover blank **244** to form a container in a shipping configuration, the cover blank **244** is attached to the enclosure blank **212** via adhesive(s) applied at or near the adhesive areas **264***b-c*, **266***b-c*, the overlap panel **214** is attached to the back panel **222**, the adhesive areas **264***a*, **264***d* of the cover overlap panels **288***a*, **288***b* are attached to the adhesive areas **266***a*, **266***d* of the back panel **222**, the bottom flaps **224**, **226**, **228**, **230** are folded inwards and sealed to form a bottom surface, and the top flaps **252**, **254**, **256**, **232** are folded inwards and sealed to form a top surface as described above. To convert the container from the shipping configuration to a display configuration, the separation elements **234***a-c* are actuated or torn out, and the window portion **238** is separated and removed from the front panel **218** along the line of weakness **236**. The resulting container in the display configuration includes a window opening and a top opening. Similar to the container formed from the blanks **112**, **144** described above with respect to FIGS. **5**A-B, the portions of the cover blank **244** including the adhesive areas **264***a*, **264***d* remain attached to the enclosure blank **212** when the container is in the display configuration.

Turning now to FIGS. **7**A-B, top plan views of an enclosure blank **312** and a cover blank **344** according to yet another exemplary embodiment are illustrated. The enclosure blank **312** includes an overlap panel **314**, a first side panel **316**, a front panel **318**, a second side panel **320**, a back panel **322**, a first minor bottom flap **324**, a first major bottom flap **326**, a second minor bottom flap **328**, a second major bottom flap **330**, a first major top flap **232**, and a second minor top flap **356** connected via fold lines. The first major top flap **332** includes a separation element **334***a* at or near the fold line **233** connecting the first major top flap **332** and the back panel **322**. The enclosure blank **312** includes a line of weakness **336** disposed on the first side panel **316** and the front panel **318** that defines a window portion **338**. As such, the window portion **338** spans across the first side panel **316** and the front panel **318**. The enclosure blank **212** also includes adhesive areas **366***a-g*.

The cover blank **344** includes a first cover side panel **346**, a cover front panel **348**, a first minor top flap **352**, a second major top flap **354**, and recessed surfaces **362**, which are similar to the similarly numbered features illustrated in FIG.

1B. The cover blank **344** further includes adhesive areas **364***a-g*. The first cover side panel **346** includes a separation element **364***b* disposed between the adhesive area **364***a* and the adhesive area **364***b*. The cover front panel **348** includes a separation element **364***c* disposed between the adhesive area **364***f* and the adhesive area **364***g*. The adhesive area **364***a* of the first cover side panel **346** is connected to the first minor top flap **352** by a line of weakness **386***a*, and the adhesive area **364***g* of the cover front panel **348** is connected to the second major top flap **354** by a line of weakness **386***b*.

To assemble the enclosure blank **312** and the cover blank **344** to form a container in a shipping configuration, the cover blank **344** is attached to the enclosure blank **312** via adhesive(s) applied at or near the adhesive areas **364***a-g*, **366***a-g*, the overlap panel **314** is attached to the back panel **322**, the bottom flaps **324**, **326**, **328**, **330** are folded inwards and sealed to form a bottom surface, and the top flaps **352**, **354**, **356**, **332** are folded inwards and sealed to form a top surface as described above. To convert the container from the shipping configuration to a display configuration, the lines of weakness **386***a-b* and the separation elements **334***a-c* are actuated or torn out, and the window portion **338** is separated and removed from the first side panel **316** and the front panel **318** along the line of weakness **336**. The resulting container in the display configuration includes a window opening and a top opening. In particular, the window opening spans two sides of the container in the display configuration to allow for even greater access to goods or products within the container. Similar to the container formed from the blanks **112**, **144** described above with respect to FIGS. **5**A-B, the portions of the cover blank **344** including the adhesive areas **364***a*, **364***g* remain attached to the enclosure blank **312** when the container is in the display configuration.

It is contemplated that the features described above for the various embodiments illustrated in the figures can be combined. For example, the breakaway portions and the breakaway-assist portions, the assist tab portion, the cover overlap flaps, the window portion spanning multiple panels, or any of the separation elements can be provided in any combination in accordance with the concepts of the present disclosure. Additionally, although the overlap panel has been illustrated and described as being attached to either a first side panel or a back panel, it will be appreciated that an overlap panel can be connected to a second side panel or a front panel in some embodiments.

The above containers provide a number of advantages over other displayable shipping containers. It has been discovered that prior containers that had a cover that encompassed all sides of the inner enclosure tend to have an imbalance of compression strength from front to back (due, in part, to the window in the front of the container). As a result such prior containers required additional material or different strengths of material to compensate for the lack or non-uniformity of compressions strength at the front of the container. The containers of the present disclosure provide improved and more uniform compression strength characteristics due to the cover panels being located over the window portion(s) and one or two side panels, while at the same time reducing the amount of material required and lowering the costs of manufacture.

Additionally, for example, when the cover includes a front panel and two side panels, important graphics on the exterior can be protected during transit. Generally, the graphics on the back panel are not as important to protect because the customer is not likely to see the back panel when the container is being used in a display configuration. Moreover, for example, providing a cover blank that includes two or three panels reduces binding during manufacture and assembly of the containers. Additionally, for example, the containers of the present disclosure can include window openings that span multiple sides of the container, thus providing greater access to goods and products within the containers. And still further, for example, the containers of the present disclosure can be configured such that no portion of the cover blank remains attached to the container in the display configuration or the containers can be configured such that the portions of the cover blank that remain attached to the container in the display configuration are relatively small in size and located in non-prominent locations on the container (e.g., on or near the back panel of the container).

The containers of the embodiments described herein are typically manufactured using corrugated paperboard, preferably with the corrugations running in a vertical direction for increased strength. As non-limiting examples, the container is manufactured from C-flute, EB-flute, E-flute or B-flute corrugated paperboard. It is to be understood that the principles of this invention could be applied to containers made of other materials, such as non-corrugated paperboards, cardboard, corrugated fiberboard, non-corrugated fiberboard, solid-fiber board, polymeric materials, and other foldable materials.

While the containers of the embodiments described above include glue or adhesive for attaching various panels and flaps of the containers, it is contemplated that any other suitable method of joining or attaching panels and flaps may be utilized such as, for example, staples, tapes, a system of corresponding slits and tabs, combinations thereof, and/or the like.

While the present invention has been described with reference to one or more particular embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that many changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Each of these embodiments and obvious variations thereof is contemplated as falling within the spirit and scope of the claimed invention, which is set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A container comprising:

a first container part formed from a first blank, the first blank including a first plurality of panels and a first plurality of flaps, the first plurality of panels including a first side panel, a second side panel opposing the first side panel, a back panel, and a front panel of the container, the first plurality of flaps defining a bottom of the container and a first exterior portion of a top of the container, the front panel including a removable window portion; and

a second container part formed from a second blank, the second blank including two or more panels and two or more top flaps, the two or more panels including a cover front panel and a first cover side panel, the two or more top flaps defining a second exterior portion of the top of the container, the cover front panel being attached to the removable window portion of the front panel and the first cover side panel being attached to one of the first plurality of panels.

2. The container of claim **1**, wherein an interior surface of the cover front panel is attached to an exterior surface of the removable window portion.

3. The container of claim **1**, wherein the first cover side panel includes a recessed surface configured to permit the bottom to be sealed by a first sealing element that is attached to at least one of the plurality of panels.

4. The container of claim 1, wherein the first blank further includes a breakaway portion and the second blank further includes a breakaway-assist portion, the breakaway portion being attached to the breakaway-assist portion such that the breakaway portion can be removed from the first blank by movement of the breakout-assist portion.

5. The container of claim 1, wherein the second blank includes an assist tab portion configured to assist in a conversion of the container from a shipping configuration to a display configuration.

6. The container of claim 1, wherein the first plurality of flaps includes a major top flap, the major top flap including a separation element configured to separate at least a portion of the major top flap from the first blank.

7. The container of claim 1, wherein the second blank includes a separation element configured to assist in separating at least a portion of one of the second plurality of panels from the second blank.

8. The container of claim 1, wherein the first side panel includes the removable window portion and the first cover side panel is attached to the removable window portion.

9. A container comprising:

a first container part formed from a first blank, the first blank including a first plurality of panels and a first plurality of flaps, the first plurality of panels including a first side panel, a second side panel opposing the first side panel, a back panel, and a front panel of the container, the first plurality of flaps defining a bottom of the container and a first portion of a top of the container, the front panel including a removable window portion; and

a second container part formed from a second blank, the second blank including a first cover side panel, a cover front panel, and a second cover side panel, and a plurality of top flaps, the plurality of top flaps defining a second portion of the top of the container, the cover front panel being attached to the removable window portion of the front panel, the first cover side panel and the second cover side panel being attached to one or more of the first plurality of panels.

10. The container of claim 9, wherein the first cover side panel is attached to the first side panel and the second cover side panel is attached to the second side panel so as to attach the second blank to the first blank on at least three sides of the container.

11. The container of claim 10, wherein the first side panel includes a first breakaway portion, the second side panel includes a second breakaway portion, the first cover side panel includes a first breakaway-assist portion, and the second cover side panel includes a second breakaway-assist portion, the first breakaway portion being attached to the first breakaway-assist portion, the second breakaway portion being attached to the second breakaway-assist portion.

12. The container of claim 9, wherein the first plurality of flaps includes a second major top flap, the second major top flap including a separation element configured to separate at least a portion of the second major top flap from the first blank.

13. The container of claim 10, wherein the first cover side panel includes a first separation element and the second cover side panel includes a second separation element, the first separation element being configured to separate a first portion of the first cover side panel from the second blank, the second separation element being configured to separate a second portion of the second cover side panel from the second blank, the first portion of the first cover side panel being attached to the first side panel of the first blank, the second portion of the second cover side panel being attached to the second side panel of the first blank.

14. The container of claim 10, wherein the second blank further includes a first cover overlap panel connected to the first cover side panel and a second overlap cover panel connected to the second cover overlap panel.

15. The container of claim 14, wherein first cover overlap panel includes a first separation element and the second cover overlap panel includes a second separation element and wherein the first separation element is configured to separate a first portion of the first cover overlap panel from the second blank, the second separation element being configured to separate a second portion of the second overlap side panel from the second blank, the first portion of the first cover overlap panel and the second portion of the second cover overlap panel being attached to the back panel of the first blank.

16. The container of claim 10, wherein the second blank is attached to the first blank in a shipping configuration such that the second blank can be entirely removed from the first blank in a display configuration by at least one of a separation element, a line of weaknesses, and a removable portion of a panel of the first blank.

17. The container of claim 10, wherein the first side panel includes the removable window portion and the first cover side panel is attached to the removable window portion.

18. The container of claim 9, wherein the cover front panel is attached to the first blank only at an exterior surface of the removable window portion.

19. The container of claim 10, further comprising:

an assist-tab portion hindgedly coupled to the cover front panel and configured to assist in a conversion of the container from a shipping configuration to a display configuration; and

a first recess on the first cover side panel and a second recess on the second cover side panel configured to permit the bottom to be sealed by at least one sealing element that is attached to the first side panel and the second side panel while the first cover side panel is attached to the first side panel and the second cover side panel is attached to the second side panel.

20. The container of claim 9, wherein the first cover side panel and the second cover side panel extend from the back panel to the front panel such that the first cover side panel and the second cover side panel substantially cover the entire first side panel and the entire second side panel, respectively.

21. The container of claim 1, wherein the first exterior portion is coupled to the back panel by a line of weakness such that the container can be converted from a shipping configuration to a display configuration in which the removable window portion, the first exterior portion of the top, and the second exterior portion of the top are removed from a remainder of the container.

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