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(54) **CABLE RETAINERS FOR PACKAGING AND METHODS OF PACKAGING A CABLE**

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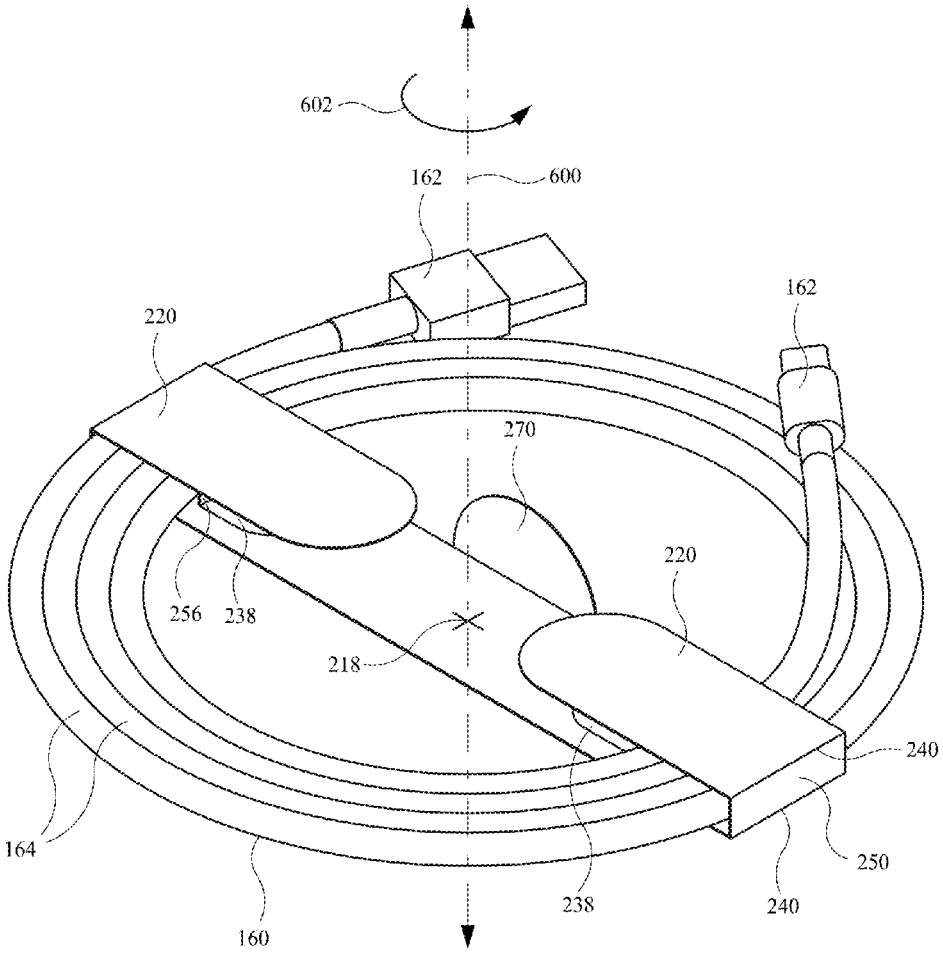
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Packaging and cable retainers for packaging wound cables are provided. The packaging may include a cavity configured to receive a wound cable held by a cable retainer. The cable retainer may be a single foldable piece of material. The cable retainer may include a plurality of fingers hingedly coupled to a panel and a plurality of flaps cut from the panel and hingedly coupled to the panel. The fingers may be attached to respective flaps to thereby define passageways through which a wound cable may extend. Methods of packaging wound cables are also discussed.



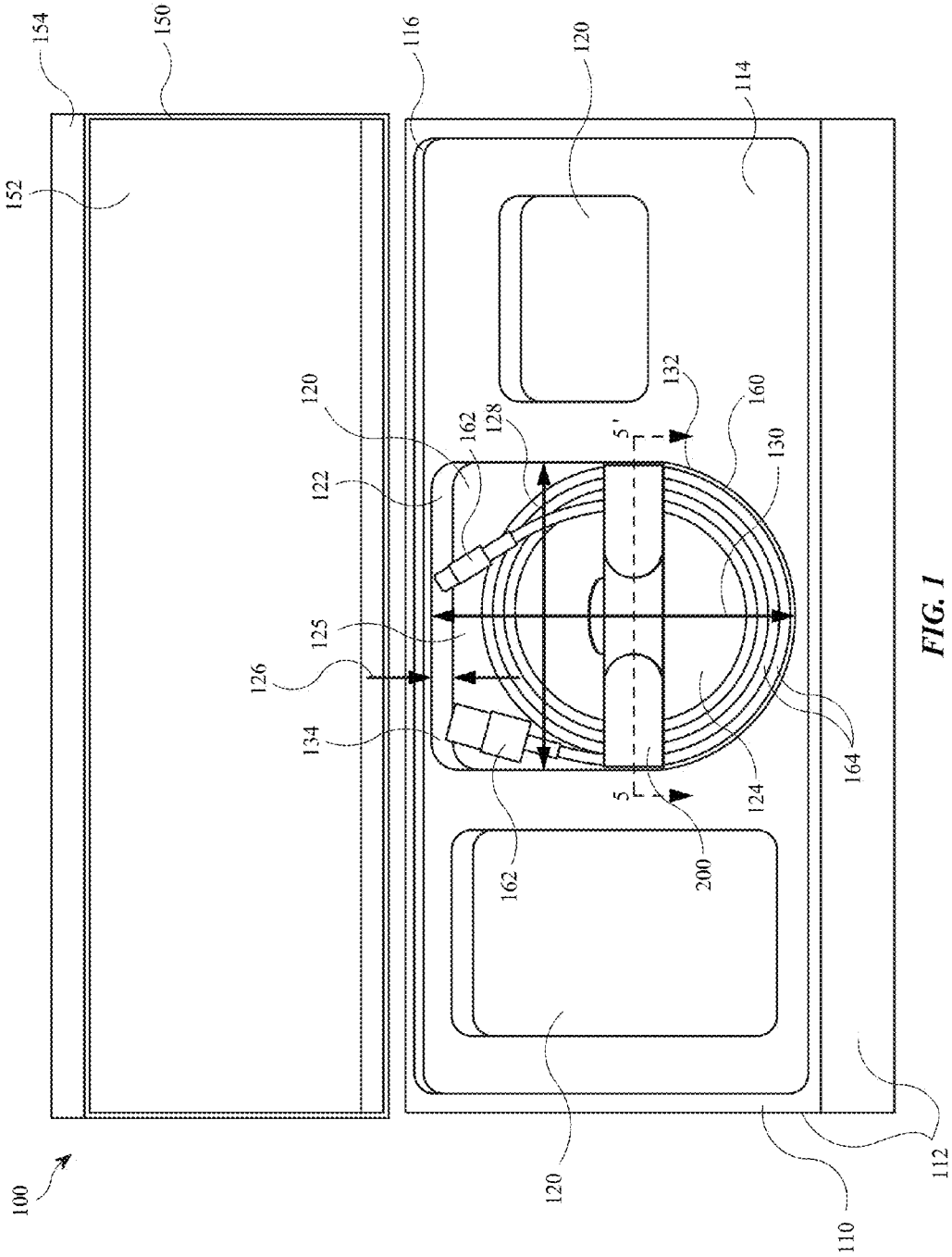

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FIG. 1

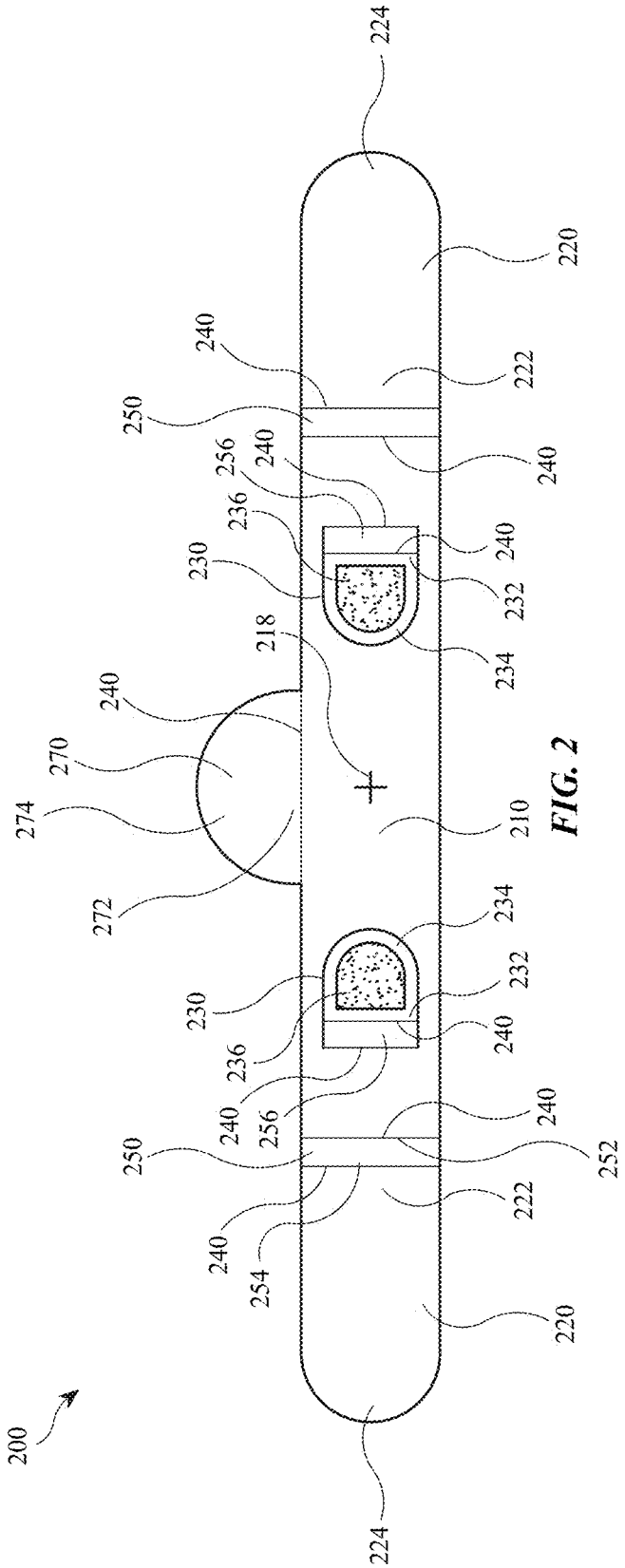
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FIG. 2

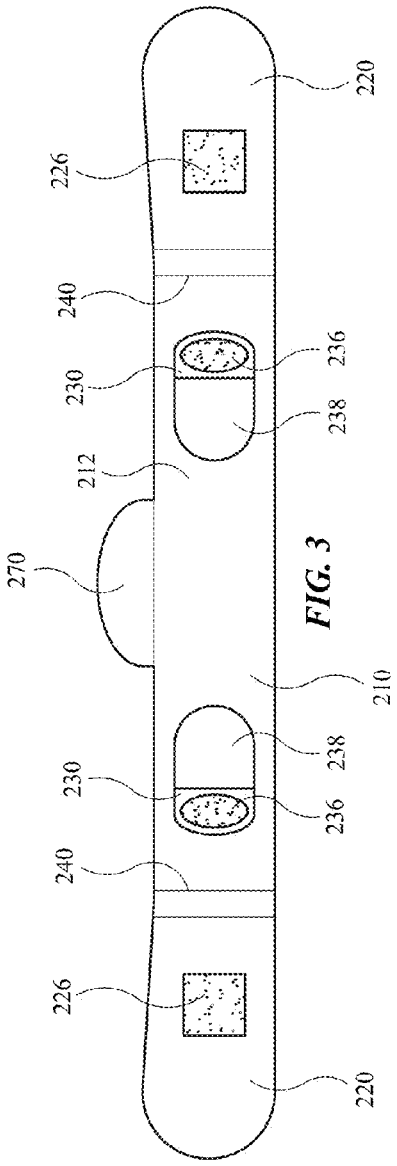
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FIG. 3

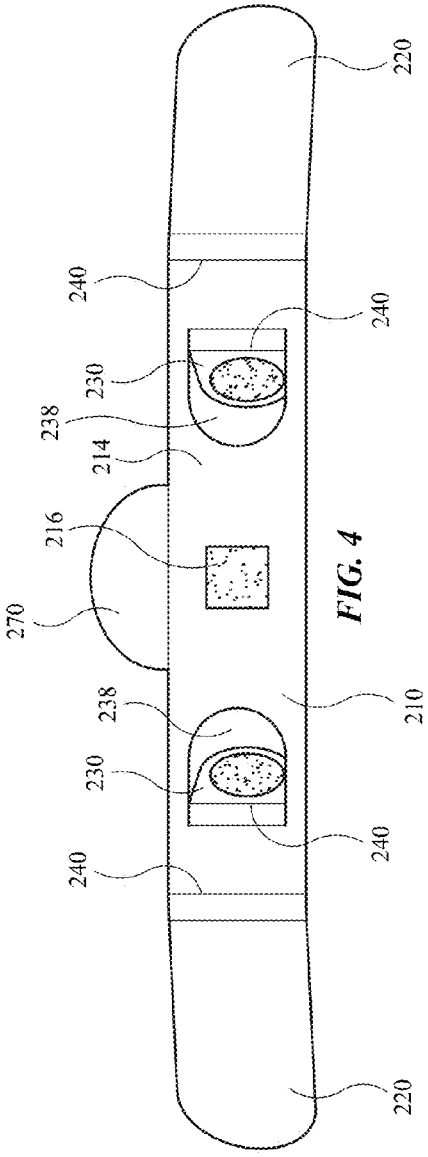
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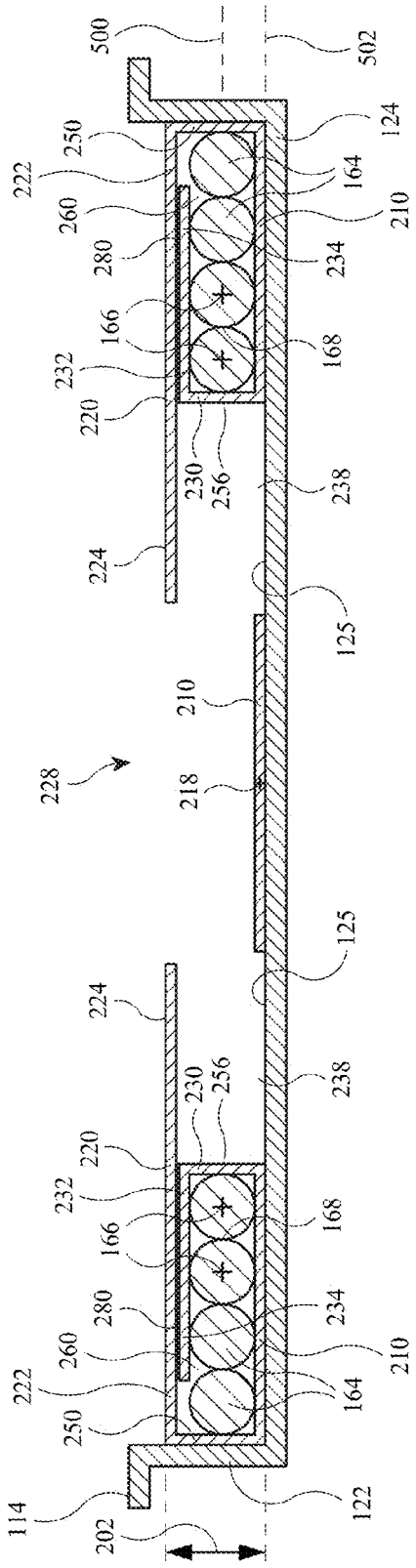
FIG. 4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228
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114
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202

FIG. 5

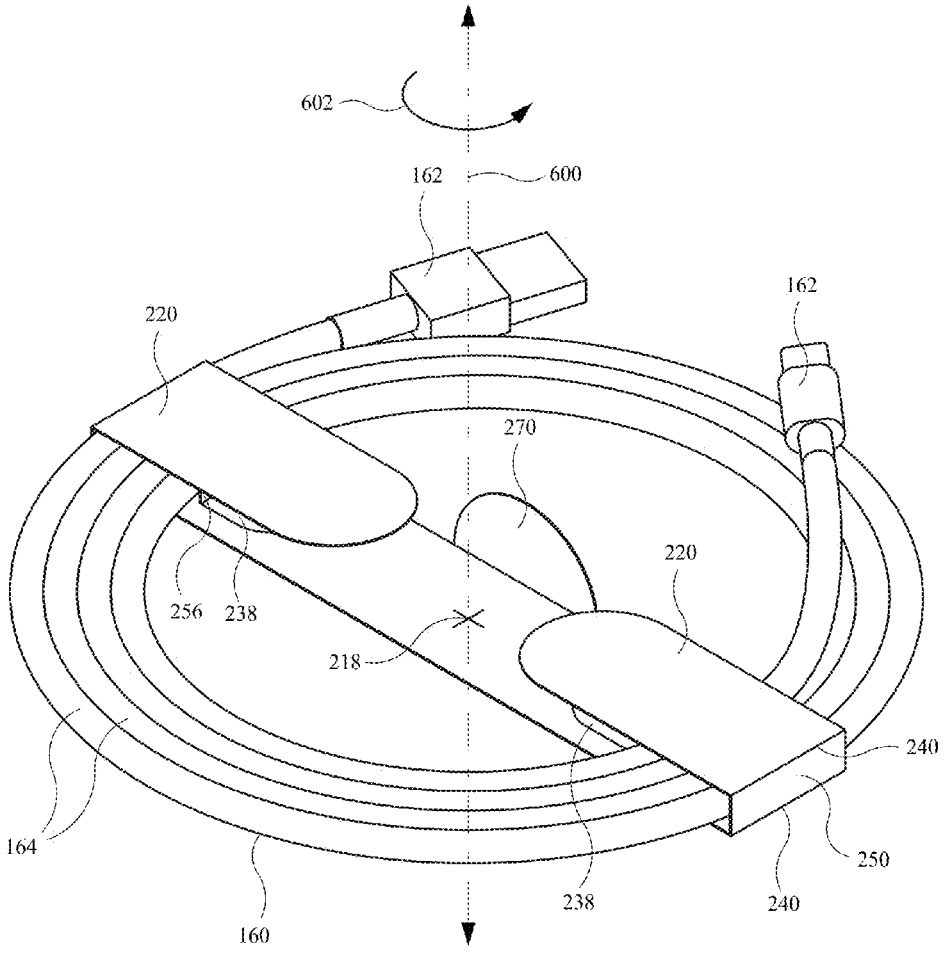


FIG. 6

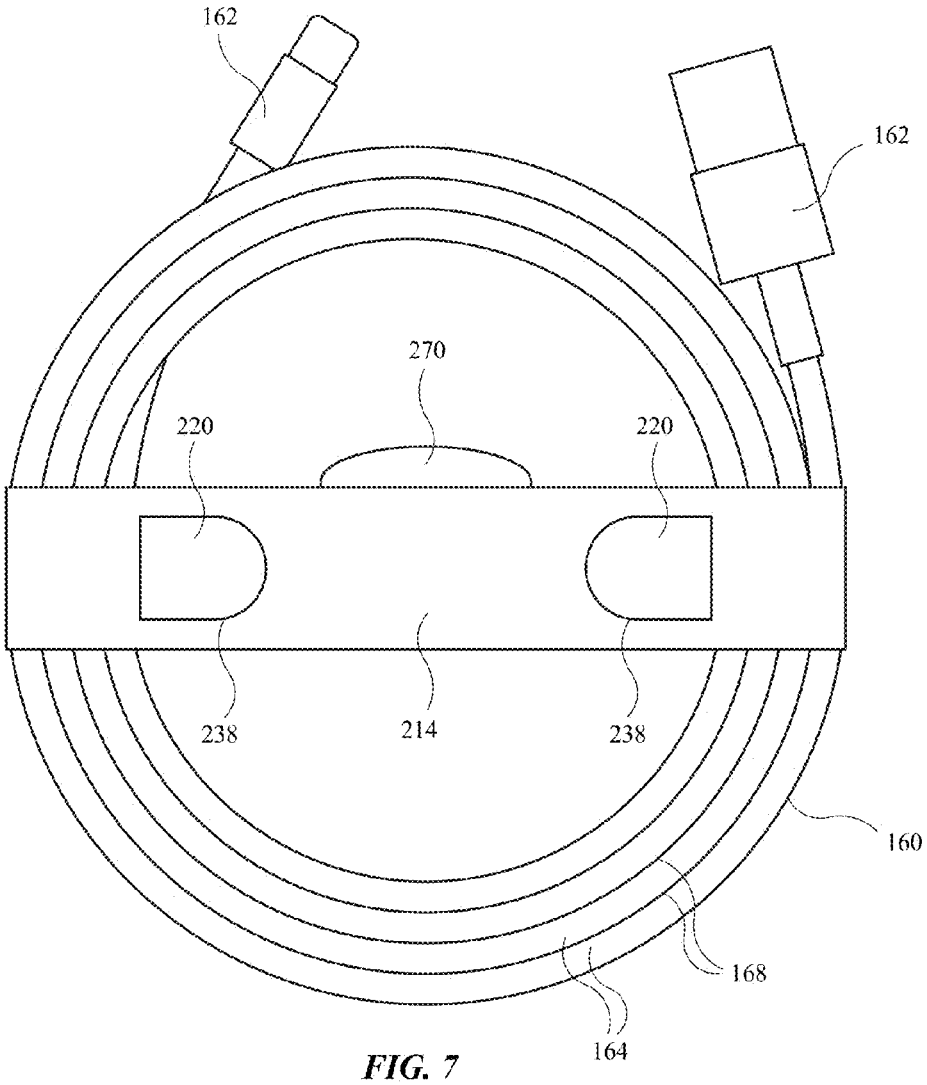
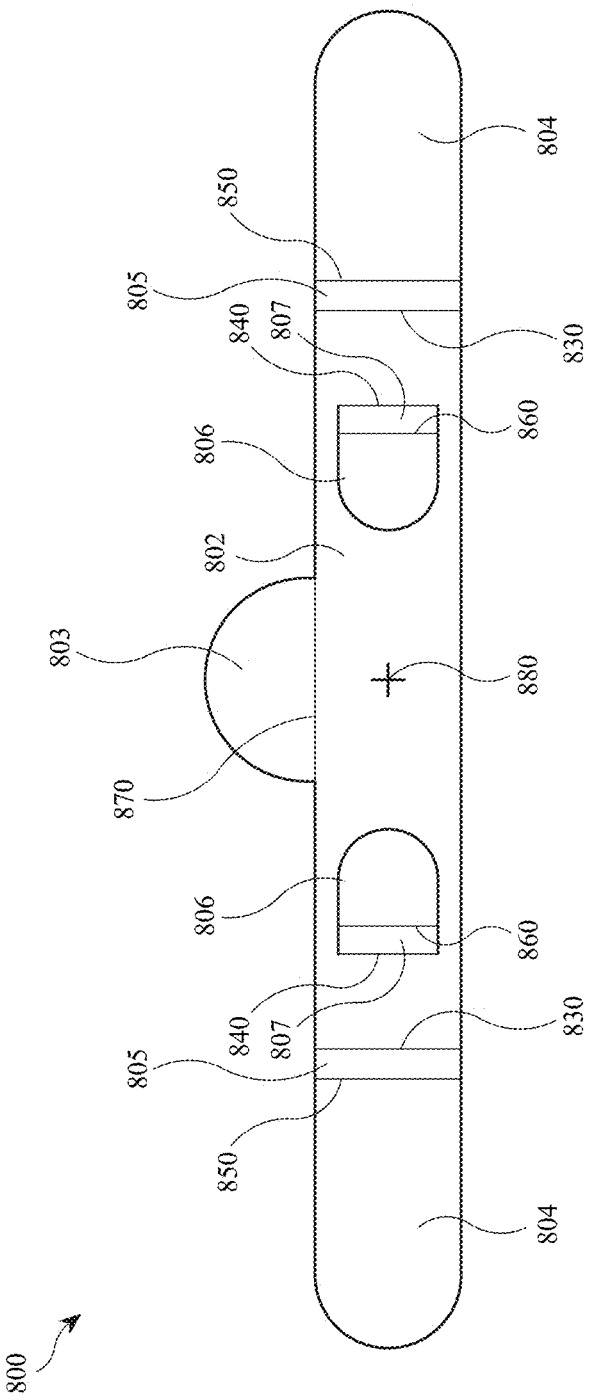


FIG. 7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804

FIG. 8A

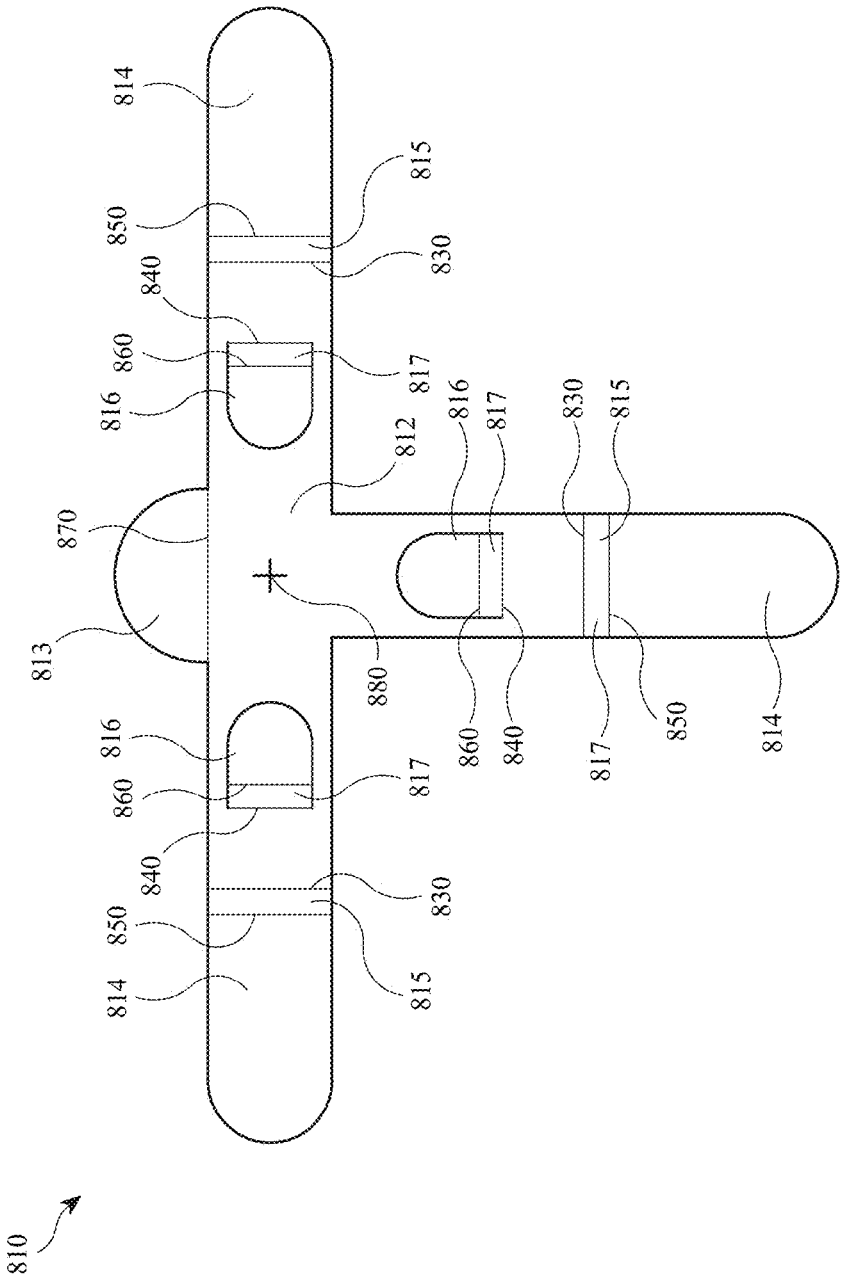


FIG. 8B

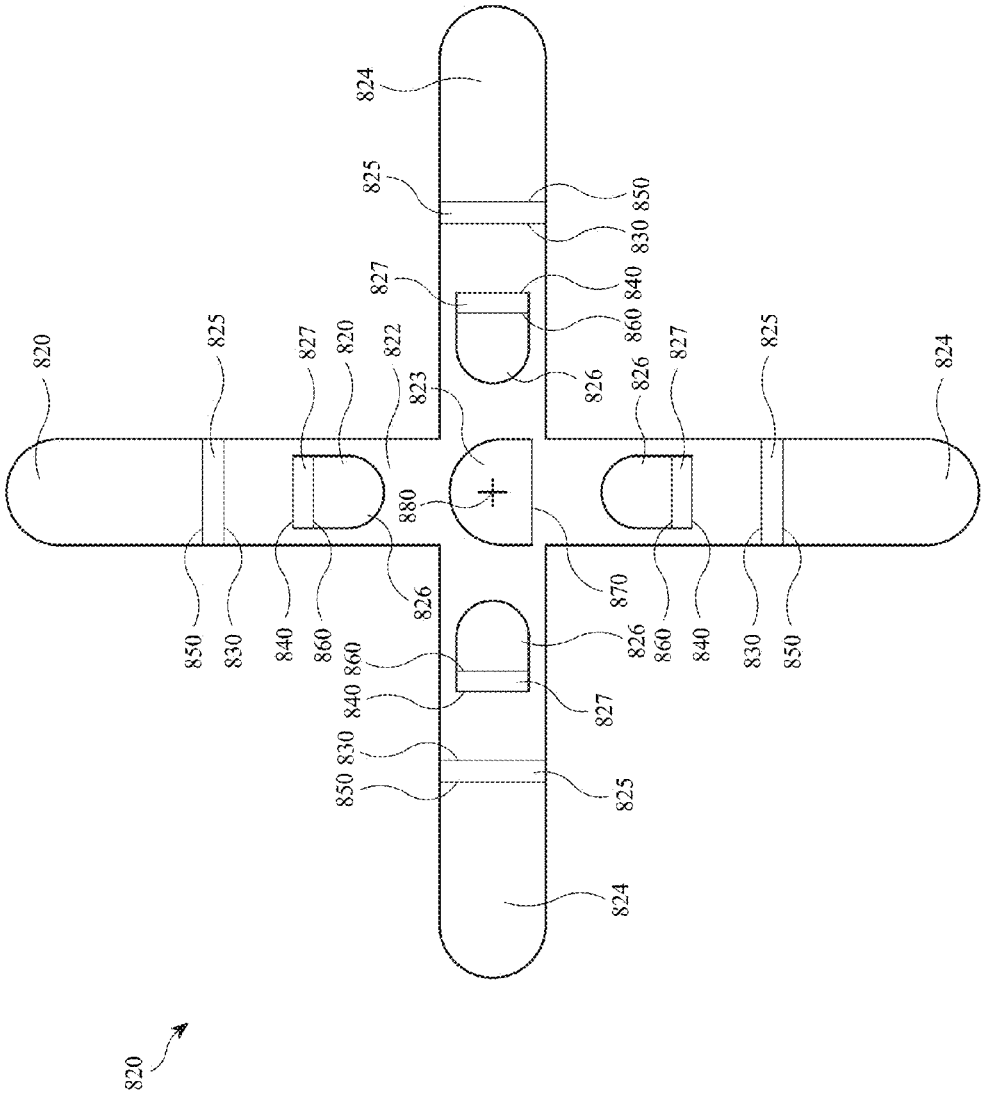
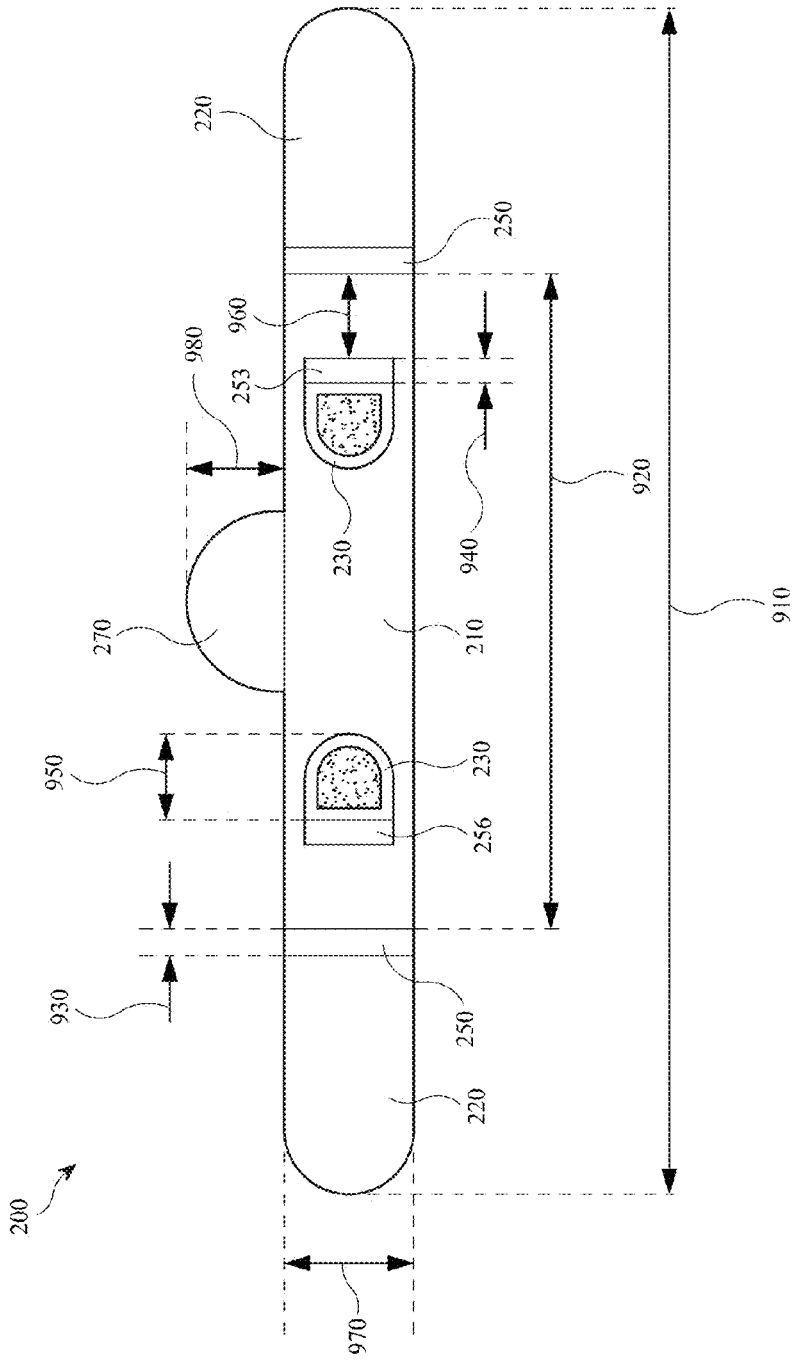


FIG. 8C


200
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250
960
980
253
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940
920
910
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210
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930
250
220
970

FIG. 9

CABLE RETAINERS FOR PACKAGING AND METHODS OF PACKAGING A CABLE

FIELD

[0001] The described embodiments relate generally to cable retainers. More particularly, the described embodiments relate to cable retainers for use in packaging.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Many products utilize cables in some form or another. For example, an electronic device may utilize one or more cables to receive or transmit power and/or data (e.g., audio or video signals). In some instances, it may be desirable to store and/or package the cable(s) (e.g., between uses, in transit, or while presented for sale).

SUMMARY

[0003] Packaging for consumer products protects the products from damage and facilitates brand recognition. Effective packaging can be an important tool used to attract and retain customers. In some embodiments, packaging can be used to engage the consumer's attention and focus that attention on the product(s) rather than the packaging itself. In some embodiments packaging is easily undone for removal of a product or product component/accessory. This can reduce frustration of a customer. In some embodiments packaging, or portions thereof, may be reused by the consumer, contributing to its overall utility.

[0004] While ease of operating packaging to access a packaged product may be desirable from a consumer standpoint, efficiency and cost in manufacturing and constructing (assembling) packaging may be a consideration for manufactures and/or sellers of the packaging. For example, environmental considerations may play a role in developing packaging. Packaging made out of recyclable and/or biodegradable material can reduce environmental impact. Additionally, packaging that utilizes minimal resources, from a material, energy, and/or labor perspective, may be desirable. Further, packaging that requires a relatively small number of manufacturing and/or assembly steps may reduce costs (e.g., manpower and machine costs) associated with the packaging. Maintaining desired aesthetics and function of packaging in view of such environmental and resource considerations can be a challenge.

[0005] The packaging according to embodiments described herein, or elements thereof, accomplish one or more of these and other objectives.

[0006] Some embodiments are directed towards packaging having a base including a cavity, a cable retainer disposed within the cavity, the cable retainer including a panel extending across the cavity, a plurality of fingers, each finger hingedly coupled to the panel, and a plurality of flaps cut from the panel and hingedly coupled to the panel, where each finger is attached to a flap to thereby together define a passageway.

[0007] In some embodiments, each finger may be releasably attached to the flap via an attachment member. In some embodiments, the attachment members may include an adhesive.

[0008] In some embodiments, the passageways may extend parallel to a lower surface of the cavity. In some embodiments, the packaging may include a wound cable extending through the passageways. In some embodiments, the wound cable may loop through the passageways multiple times, and each loop of the wound cable that extends through the passageways may be disposed on the same plane parallel to the lower surface of the cavity. In some embodiments, the cavity of the packaging may include a corner, and a plug of the cable may be positioned adjacent to the corner outside of the loops of the wound cable, such that contact between the plug and walls of the corner inhibits rotation of the wound cable.

[0009] In some embodiments, the panel, the fingers, and the flaps may be a single integrally formed piece.

[0010] In some embodiments, the panel of the cable retainer may be disposed on a lower surface of the cavity, and the cable retainer may have a maximum thickness of less than or equal to 7 millimeters measured perpendicularly from the lower surface of the cavity.

[0011] In some embodiments, the base of the packaging may include a product surface for supporting a product, and the cavity may be formed in the product surface. In some embodiments, the cavity may have a depth of less than or equal to 7 millimeters measured from the product surface to a lower surface of the cavity. In some embodiments, the cable retainer may be completely disposed within the cavity.

[0012] In some embodiments, the hinged couplings between each finger and the panel may be defined by grooves on the cable retainer. In some embodiments, the hinged couplings between each finger and the panel may be defined by fold lines on the cable retainer.

[0013] In some embodiments, each finger may be hingedly coupled to a segment that is hingedly coupled to the panel. In some embodiments, the panel, the segments, the fingers, and the flaps may define the passageways of the cable retainer.

[0014] In some embodiments, a free end of each finger attached to a flap points in a direction opposite the direction that a free end of the flap points.

[0015] In some embodiments, the cable retainer may be composed of a paper-based product.

[0016] In some embodiments, the cable retainer may have the same number of fingers as flaps. In some embodiments, the cable retainer may include a pull tab coupled to the panel.

[0017] In some embodiments, the panel of the cable retainer may be releasably coupled to a lower surface of the cavity.

[0018] Some embodiments are directed towards a cable retainer for packaging a wound cable, the cable retainer including a single foldable piece of material configured to fold from a flat configuration to a folded configuration, the single foldable piece of material including a panel, a plurality of fingers, each finger hingedly coupled to the panel, and a plurality of flaps cut from the panel and hingedly coupled to the panel, where, in the folded configuration, each finger is folded towards a geometric center of the panel and attached to a respective flap to define a plurality of passageways for receiving a wound cable.

[0019] In some embodiments, the attachment between the fingers and respective flaps may be a releasable attachment. In some embodiments, the releasable attachments may include one or more of an adhesive, a tab and slot coupling, a snap-fit coupling, and a hook and loop fastener.

[0020] In some embodiments, the cable retainer may include a pull tab hingedly coupled to the panel.

[0021] In some embodiments, the single foldable piece of material may be composed of a paper-based product. In some embodiments, the single foldable piece of material may be a compostable material. In some embodiments, the single foldable piece of material may be a recyclable material.

[0022] Some embodiments are directed towards a packaged cable including a cable retainer in a folded configuration and a wound cable extending through the passageways defined by the cable retainer.

[0023] In some embodiments, the wound cable may loop through the passageways defined by the cable retainer multiple times, each loop of the wound cable that extends through the passageways may be disposed on the same plane parallel to a top surface of the cable retainer panel, and no loop of the wound cable may be disposed on top of another loop of the wound cable.

[0024] Some embodiments are directed towards packaging including a base having a cavity, a cable retainer in a folded configuration disposed in the cavity, and a wound cable extending through the passageways defined by the cable retainer.

[0025] Some embodiments, are directed towards a method of assembling a packaged cable, the method including winding a cable to form a wound cable including a plurality of cable loops, folding a cable retainer about the wound cable, and positioning the cable retainer and the wound cable in a cavity formed in a packaging container, where folding the cable retainer includes folding flaps cut from a panel of the cable retainer, folding fingers hingedly coupled to the panel of the cable retainer, and attaching the fingers to respective flaps to thereby define a plurality of passageways through which the loops of the wound cable extend.

[0026] In some embodiments, each loop of the wound cable may be disposed on the same plane parallel to a top surface of the cable retainer panel. In some embodiments, the cable may be wound such that each loop of the cable is in contact with immediately adjacent loops along a majority of each loop.

[0027] Some embodiments are directed towards a blank for forming a cable retainer, the blank including a central panel connected to a plurality of fingers by a first set of upward fold lines and a plurality of flaps cut from the central panel and connected to the central panel by a second set of upward fold lines, where each upward fold line in the first set of upward fold lines is oriented parallel to an upward fold line in the second set of upward fold lines.

[0028] In some embodiments, the blank may include a plurality of segments, each segment may be disposed between the central panel and a respective finger, the segments may be connected to the fingers by the first set of upward fold lines, and the segments may be connected to the central panel by a third set of upward fold lines.

[0029] In some embodiments, the blank may include a pull tab connected to the central panel by a fourth upward fold line.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0030] The disclosure will be readily understood by the following detailed description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate like structural elements, and in which:

[0031] FIG. **1** shows packaging according to an embodiment.

[0032] FIG. **2** shows a cable retainer in a flat configuration according to an embodiment.

[0033] FIG. **3** shows a top view of a cable retainer in a partially folded configuration according to an embodiment.

[0034] FIG. **4** shows a bottom view of a cable retainer in a partially folded configuration according to an embodiment.

[0035] FIG. **5** shows a cross-sectional view along the line **5-5'** in FIG. **1**.

[0036] FIG. **6** shows a perspective view of a cable retainer folded about a wound cable according to an embodiment.

[0037] FIG. **7** shows a bottom view of a cable retainer folded about a wound cable according to an embodiment.

[0038] FIG. **8**A shows a cable retainer blank according to an embodiment.

[0039] FIG. **8**B shows a cable retainer blank according to an embodiment.

[0040] FIG. **8**C shows a cable retainer blank according to an embodiment.

[0041] FIG. **9** shows a cable retainer according to an embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0042] Reference will now be made in detail to representative embodiments illustrated in the accompanying drawings. It should be understood that the following descriptions are not intended to limit the embodiments to one preferred embodiment. To the contrary, it is intended to cover alternatives, modifications, and equivalents as can be included within the spirit and scope of the described embodiments as defined by the appended claims.

[0043] References to "one embodiment," "an embodiment," "some embodiments," "an example embodiment," etc., indicate that the embodiment described may include a particular feature, structure, or characteristic, but every embodiment may not necessarily include the particular feature, structure, or characteristic. Moreover, such phrases are not necessarily referring to the same embodiment. Further, when a particular feature, structure, or characteristic is described in connection with an embodiment, it is submitted that it is within the knowledge of one skilled in the art to effect such feature, structure, or characteristic in connection with other embodiments whether or not explicitly described.

[0044] The packaging and cable retainers discussed herein may be used to hold, display, and/or transport products, one or more cables that receive or transmit power and/or data (e.g., audio or video signals), or both. A cable (which may also be referred to as a cord) typically has a length many times greater than its width. For packaging, a cable may be coiled upon itself (i.e., wound) to create a compact configuration to occupy a compact area, in order to efficiently store/package the cable. A cable may be wound any suitable number of times. Adjacent cable windings may be flush with one another.

[0045] The packaging and cable retainers discussed herein may hold and display wound cables in an aesthetically appealing and consumer-friendly fashion. Packaging and cable retainers discussed herein may maintain a wound cable in a compact configuration, which may be aesthetically appealing to consumers. In some embodiments, a cable retainer may be disposed in a cavity of a packaging container and the cable retainer and cavity may work in concert to retain the cable in a compact configuration. In some embodiments, a cable retainer may be a standalone cable retainer provided to maintain a wound cable in a compact configu-

ration. Additionally, the packaging, and in particular the cable retainer, may present a wound cable in a fashion that facilitates easy removal of the cable retainer and/or wound cable from the packaging by a consumer.

[0046] In some embodiments, the cable retainer may be presented in such a way that a consumer intuitively knows how to remove the cable retainer from a packaging container and/or undo the cable retainer to free the retained cable. In some embodiments, a cable retainer may be folded about the wound cable and secured to itself (e.g., with an adhesive or other attachment member). The cable retainer may present one or more free ends releasably attached to other portions the cable retainer to a consumer. Pulling the free ends may release the attachment between the cable retainer and the packaging and/or between different portions of the cable retainer. Pulling on the free ends may cause the cable retainer to unfold, thereby allowing a wound cable to be removed from a packaging container and/or the cable retainer. In some embodiments, the cable retainer may be re-constructed (e.g., re-folded) by re-attaching the free ends to respective portions of the cable retainer.

[0047] Additionally, the packaging and/or cable retainers may be manufactured in a cost-effective and environmentally friendly way. In some embodiments, the cable retainer may be constructed of a single integrally formed piece of material. The single integrally formed piece of material may be a foldable material that is folded into a configuration that holds and secures a wound cable, either alone or within a cavity of a packaging container. In some embodiments, the foldable material may be a single piece of material that is cut by a single operation (e.g., a single die cutting operation). In some embodiments, the foldable material may be die cut from a stock material (e.g., a sheet or roll of material). Single integrally formed pieces of material that are cut by a single cutting operation may facilitate efficient and reproducible manufacturing of cable retainers. Moreover, such manufacturing may reduce waste by reducing waste material during manufacturing.

[0048] Cable retainers discussed herein and features thereof may be used to package merchandise other than wound cables. In such cases, the cable retainer may be referred to as a "product retainer" or "accessory retainer." For example, cable retainers discussed herein may be used to package products having a cable (or cord) physically attached to them, such as a wired headset, wired earphones, mouse, keyboard, or other device. Also, packaging and cable retainers discussed herein may be used to package non-wired products. For example, the cable retainers discussed herein may be used to package products/accessories with an opening or multiple products/accessories such that the cable retainer may be folded about the product(s)/accessory(ies). Such products/accessories may include but are not limited to, wireless headphones, wireless headsets, remote controls, or printed materials.

[0049] These and other embodiments are discussed below with reference to the figures. However, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the detailed description given herein with respect to these figures is for explanatory purposes only and should not be construed as limiting.

[0050] Some embodiments include packaging **100** for protecting, transporting, and/or displaying one or more consumer products. Consumer products may be, but are not limited to, electronic devices such as laptops, phones, multimedia devices, tablets, gaming devices, keyboards, headsets, earphones, cameras, mice, trackpads, remotes, and watches. Packaging **100** may also house one or more wound cables (e.g., wound cable **160**) associated with the electronic device (s). A wound cable may be, for example, a power cable (e.g., a 120/220 volt wall charger or inductive charger), or a data cable. Data cables may include, but are not limited to, a Universal Serial Bus (USB) cable (which may also deliver power), a High-Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI) cable, or an Ethernet cable. In some embodiments, packaging **100** may house only a wound cable (i.e., the only merchandise within the packaging may be a wound cable). Wound cable **160** may be held within a cavity (e.g., cavity **120**) formed in packaging **100**. In some embodiments, wound cable **160** may be held and secured within cavity **120** with a cable retainer (e.g., cable retainer **200**).

[0051] As shown in FIG. **1**, packaging **100** may include a base **110**. Base **110** includes sidewalls **112** defining a perimeter of base **110**. Base **110** may include a product surface **114** for supporting a product (e.g., a consumer electronic device). In some embodiments, product surface **114** may include a product cavity **116**. Product cavity **116** may be sized and shaped to receive all or a portion of a product. In some embodiments, product surface **114** and/or product cavity **116** may be sloped to accommodate the shape of a product. As shown in FIG. **1**, base **110** may include one or more cavities **120** formed therein (e.g., in product surface **114**). Each cavity **120** may be defined by a vertical wall **122** extending from and surrounding a horizontal wall **124**. Horizontal wall **124** and/or vertical wall **122** may be configured to support a wound cable, a product, or a product component/accessory within packaging **100**. Horizontal wall **124** defines a lower surface **125** of cavity **120**. In some embodiments, horizontal wall **124** may be perpendicular to vertical wall **122**.

[0052] Cable retainer **200** may be disposed in a cavity **120** and configured to, among other things, hold wound cable **160** in place within cavity **120**, orient wound cable **160** within cavity **120**, and retain the winding of wound cable **160** such that adjacent cable windings (loops) are flush with one another. Cable retainer **200** may include a panel **210** that, when disposed within cavity **120**, extends across the cavity **120** (e.g., across lower surface **125** of cavity **120**). In some embodiments, panel **210**, or a portion thereof, may extend completely across cavity **120** in one or more directions (i.e., from one side of vertical wall **122** to an opposing side of vertical wall **122**). In such embodiments, panel **210** may hold wound cable **160** in place within cavity **120** by preventing lateral movement between opposing sides of vertical wall **122**.

[0053] Cavities **120** may be sized and shaped to accommodate specific products, product components/accessories, or wound cables. In other words, vertical wall **122** and horizontal wall **124** may be sided and shaped to accommodate specific products, product components/accessories, or wound cables. In some embodiments, one or more cavities **120** may have a depth **126** of less than or equal to 7 millimeters (e.g., measured from product surface **114** to lower surface **125** of cavity **120**). In some embodiments, cavity **120** with cable retainer **200** disposed therein may have a maximum length **128** in the range of 95 millimeters to 105 millimeters. In some embodiments, maximum length **128** may be 90 millimeters+/−2 millimeters. In some embodiments, cavity **120** with cable retainer **200** disposed therein may have a maximum width **130** in the range of 100

millimeters to 120 millimeters. In some embodiments, maximum width **130** may be 109 millimeters+/−2 millimeters. In some embodiments, vertical wall **122** may include a curved portion **132**. Curved portion **132** may have a curvature corresponding to an exterior shape of wound cable **160** (or product, product component/accessory). In some embodiments, a diameter of curved portion **132** may equal length **128**. In some embodiments, curved portion **132** may aid in holding wound cable **160** within cavity **120** and may help inhibit undesired movement of wound cable **160** within cavity **120**.

[0054] In some embodiments, cavity **120** may include one or more corners **134** defined by vertical wall **122** and configured to hold and secure wound cable **160** within cavity **120**. In such embodiments, a plug **162** (e.g., USB plug) of wound cable **160** may be positioned within cavity **120** such that plug **162** is adjacent to a corner **134** outside the loops **164** of wound cable **160**. In such embodiments, contact between plug **162** and portions of vertical wall **122** defining the corner **134** may inhibit rotation of wound cable **160** within cavity **120**. In some embodiments, corner(s) **134** may be formed at approximately a 90 degree angle.

[0055] In some embodiments, base **110** may be a single integrally formed piece. In some embodiments, base **110** may include multiple pieces. For example, in some embodiments, base **110** may include a base box configured to receive all or a portion of a packaging insert the same as or similar to the base boxes and packaging inserts described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/318,011, filed on Jun. 27, 2014, which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference thereto. In some embodiments, base **110** may include a pedestal the same as or similar to the pedestals described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/328,974, filed on Jul. 11, 2014, which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference thereto.

[0056] Packaging may include a lid **150** having a top wall **152** and sidewalls **154**. When assembled in a closed configuration, lid **150** may be placed over base **110** and may receive at least a portion of base **110**. In some embodiments, lid **150** may receive the entire base **110**. Lid **150** may be the same as or similar to the lids discussed in U.S. patent application Ser. Nos. 14/318,011 and 14/328,974.

[0057] In some embodiments, base **110** and/or lid **150** may be composed of a recyclable and/or biodegradable (e.g., compostable) material. In some embodiments, base **110** and/or lid **150** may be composed of a paper-based product. Suitable paper-based products include, but are not limited to, cardboard, paperboard (e.g., solid bleached sulfate (SBS)), or molded fiber paper. In some embodiments, base **110** and/or lid **150** may be composed of a molded fiber paper (e.g., a molded fiber paper composed of 60 wt % to 70 wt % bamboo fibers and 30 wt % to 40 wt % bagasse fibers). In some embodiments, base **110** and/or lid **150** may be composed of one or more polymeric materials. Suitable polymeric materials include, but are not limited to, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, polymer blends including one or more of these polymers, or copolymers including one or more of these polymers.

[0058] As shown for example in FIGS. **2-4**, cable retainer **200** may include one or more fingers **220** hingedly coupled to panel **210** via a hinged coupling **240**. Hinged couplings **240** may include, but are not limited to, structurally weakened regions on cable retainer **200**. Structurally weakened regions may include, but are not limited to, grooves formed in cable retainer **200**, fold lines, and perforated lines. Grooves may be formed by removing material from a surface of cable retainer **200**. For example, grooves may be V-shaped or U-shaped grooves formed in a surface of cable retainer **200**. Fingers **220** may include a connection end **222** hingedly coupled to panel **210** at a hinged coupling **240** and a free end **224** not directly coupled to panel **210**. In some embodiments, fingers **220** may include an attachment member **226**. Attachment members **226** may be releasable attachment members. In some embodiments, attachment members **226** may be re-attachable attachment members. Attachment members **226** may include an adhesive, a male or female portion of a mechanical fastener (e.g., a hook portion of a hook and loop faster (e.g., Velcro®), or combination thereof. An attachment member **226** on a finger **220** may be configured to attach to a flap **230** cut from panel **210** and/or a corresponding attachment member **236** located on flap **230**.

[0059] Cable retainer **200** may also include one or more flaps **230** cut from panel **210** and hingedly coupled to panel **210**. Flaps **230** may be cut from panel **210** such that through holes **238** are formed in panel **210** (see, e.g., FIGS. **3** and **4**). Similar to fingers **220**, each flap **230** may be hingedly coupled to panel **210** via a hinged coupling **240**. Also similar to fingers **220**, flaps **230** may include a connection end **232** hingedly coupled to panel **210** at a hinged coupling **240** and a free end **234** not directly coupled to panel **210**.

[0060] In some embodiments, flaps **230** may include an attachment member **236**. An attachment member **236** on a flap **230** may be configured to attach to a finger **220** hingedly coupled to panel **210** and/or a corresponding attachment member **226** located on finger **220**. Attachment members **236** may be releasable attachment members. In some embodiments, attachment members **236** may be re-attachable attachment members. Attachment members **236** may include an adhesive, a male or female portion of a mechanical fastener (e.g., a loop portion of a hook and loop faster (e.g., Velcro®), or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, attachment members **226**/**236** may include double-sided adhesive tape or other suitable adhesive such as glue. In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may include the same number of flaps **230** as fingers **220**. Each finger **220** of cable retainer **200** may be configured to attach to a respective flap **230** via attachment members **226** and/or attachment members **236**. In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may include one finger **220** and one flap **230** configured to attach to each other.

[0061] In some embodiments, one or more fingers **220** may be hingedly coupled to a segment **250** that is hingedly coupled to panel **210**. In such embodiments, segment(s) **250** may include an interior end **252** hingedly coupled to panel **210** via a hinged coupling **240** and an exterior end **254** hingedly coupled to finger **220**. In some embodiments, flaps **230** may be hingedly coupled to a segment **256** that is hingedly coupled to panel **210**. Segments **256** may be the same as or similar to segments **250**. In some embodiments, segments **256** may have a length that is shorter than the length of segments **250**. In some embodiments, the difference between the length of segments **256** and the length of segments **250** may be equal to the thickness of fingers **220**. This may facilitate a flush attachment between fingers **220** and segments **230**.

[0062] In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may include a pull tab **270**. Pull tab **270** may include a connection end **272** hingedly coupled to panel via a hinged coupling **240**

and a free end **274** not directly coupled to panel **210**. In some embodiments, pull tab **270** may be coupled to panel **210** in the same or similar fashion as finger(s) **220**. In some embodiments, pull tab **270** may be cut from panel **210** in the same or similar fashion as flap(s) **230**.

[0063] In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may be a single foldable piece of material. In some embodiments, the single foldable piece of material may be an integrally formed piece of material (e.g., formed via injection molding, pressing, stamping, and/or die cutting). In other words, panel **210**, finger(s) **220**, flap(s) **230**, segment(s) **250**, segment(s) **256**, and pull tab **270** may be a single integrally formed piece. In some embodiments, the foldable material may be a single piece of material that is cut using a single processing step. For example, the foldable material may be cut from a stock material (e.g., a sheet or roll of material) by a single die cutting step.

[0064] In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may be composed of a recyclable material. In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may be composed of a biodegradable (e.g., compostable) material. In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may be composed of a paper-based product. Suitable paper-based products include, but are not limited to, cardboard or paperboard (e.g., solid bleached sulfate (SBS)). In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may be composed of a polymeric material. Suitable polymeric materials include, but are not limited to, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, polymer blends including one or more of these polymers, or co-polymers including one or more of these polymers. In some embodiments, all or some of the exterior surfaces of cable retainer **200** may be laminated.

[0065] In operation, cable retainer **200** may be configured to fold from a flat configuration (see e.g., FIG. **2**) to a folded configuration (see e.g., FIGS. **1**, **6**, and **7**). In the folded configuration, finger(s) **220**, flap(s) **230**, and segment(s) **250/256** may be folded about their respective hinged couplings **240** to folded positions. When folded, each finger **220** may be folded towards a center point **218** of panel **210** between fingers **220** (i.e., free ends **224** of each finger **220** may point towards center point **218**). When in the folded configuration, each flap **230** may be folded away from center point **218** of panel **210** (i.e., free ends **234** of each flap **230** may point in the opposite direction as free ends **224** of fingers **220**—away from center point **218**). Center point **218** may be the location on panel **210** around which fingers **220** and/or flaps **230** are radially disposed.

[0066] When folded, fingers **220** may attach to flaps **230** via attachment members **236** on flaps **230** and/or attachment members **226** on fingers **220** at attachment points **280** (see FIG. **5**). In some embodiments, the attachment between a finger **220** and a respective flap **230** may be a releasable attachment. In some embodiments, the attachment between a finger **220** and a respective flap **230** may be a re-attachable attachment. The attachment between finger(s) **220** and respective flap(s) **230** may include one or more of: an adhesive, a tab and slot coupling, a snap-fit coupling, and a hook and loop fastener (e.g., Velcro®).

[0067] FIG. **5** shows a cross-sectional view of cavity **120**, cable retainer **200**, and wound cable **160** along the line **5-5'** of FIG. **1** showing cable retainer **200** folded (i.e., in the folded configuration) about wound cable **160** within cavity **120**. When disposed in cavity **120**, panel **210** may be disposed on lower surface **125** of cavity **120**. In some embodiments, a bottom surface **214** of panel **210** may be in direct contact with lower surface **125** of cavity **120**. In some embodiments, panel **210** may be attached to lower surface **125** of cavity **120**. In some embodiments, panel **210** may be releasably attached to lower surface **125** of cavity **120** (e.g., via an attachment member **216** disposed on bottom surface **214** of panel **210** (see e.g., FIG. **4**)). In some embodiments, attachment member **216** may be disposed on lower surface **125** of cavity **120**.

[0068] In the folded configuration, each finger **220** may be attached to a respective flap **230** to, along with panel **210**, define a passageway **260**. In embodiments including segments **250/256**, segments **250/256** may also define a portion of passageway **260**. In other words, panel **210**, finger(s) **220**, flap(s) **230**, and segment(s) **250/256** may define passageway (s) **260**. In embodiments including segments **250/256**, segments **250/256** may define a vertical dimension of passageway(s) **260** (i.e., in the vertical direction parallel to vertical axis **600** in FIG. **6**).

[0069] Passageway(s) **260** may be sized and shaped to receive a wound cable **160** (e.g., a plurality of loops **164** of wound cable **160**). In some embodiments, segments **250** may abut an outermost loop **164** of wound cable **160** and segments **256** may abut an innermost loop **164** of wound cable **160** to aid in holding adjacent cable loops **164** flush with one another in passageway **260**. As used herein, cable loops **164** that are "flush" refers to adjacent cable loops **164** having circumferential sidewalls **168** that are in contact with each other. In some embodiments, segments **250** are the same length as a thickness of cable **160**, to define a height of passageway **260** that is the same as the thickness of cable **160**.

[0070] Panel **210**, fingers **220**, flaps **230**, and segments **250/256** may form passageways **260** that are closed except for in a radial direction **602** around a vertical axis **600** extending through center point **218** of panel **210** (see e.g., FIG. **6**). In some embodiments, passageways **260** may extend parallel to lower surface **125** of cavity **120**, when a folded cable retainer **200** is disposed within a cavity **120** (i.e., lower surface **125** of cavity **120** may be parallel to radial direction **602** when a folded cable retainer **200** is disposed in a cavity **120**).

[0071] In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may be completely disposed within cavity **120** in the folded configuration. In other words, no portion of cable retainer **200** may extend from cavity **120** above product surface **114**. In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may have a maximum thickness **202** of less than or equal to 7 millimeters measured perpendicularly from lower surface **125** of cavity **120** (see FIG. **5**).

[0072] As shown in FIG. **5**, wound cable **160** may extend through passageways **260**. In some embodiments, wound cable **160** may be looped through passageways **260** multiple times (e.g., one or more loops **164** of wound cable **160** may extend though passageways **260**). In some embodiments, each loop **164** of wound cable **160** that extends through passageways **260** is disposed on the same plane (e.g., plane **500** in FIG. **5**) parallel to lower surface **125** of cavity **120** (i.e., plane **502** in FIG. **5**). In other words, the axial centers **166** of loops **164** may all be disposed on plane **500**, which is parallel to plane **502**. In this configuration, no loop **164** of wound cable **160** is disposed on top of another loop **164** of wound cable **160**. Similarly, each loop **164** of wound cable **160** that extends through passageway **260** may be disposed

on the same plane **500** parallel to a top surface **212** of panel **210** (i.e., axial centers **166** of loops **164** may all be disposed on plane **500**, which is parallel to top surface **212**).

[0073] The length of fingers **220** may be such that, when folded, a gap **228** is present between the free ends **224** of two or more fingers **220**. Gap **228** may be sized such that the tip of a human finger may fit in gap to facilitate gripping of a free end **224** of a folded finger **220**. For example, gap **228** may have a width of 15 millimeters or more. In some embodiments, the free end **224** of one or more fingers **220** may extend significantly beyond an attachment point **280** between finger **220** and a respective flap **230** (e.g., by 20 millimeters or more). In such embodiments, the portion of finger(s) **220** extending beyond attachment point **280** may provide a location for a consumer to grip and pull finger **220**. In this manner, fingers **220** may provide a visible and intuitive mechanism for undoing (unfolding) cable retainer **200**, thereby increasing the ease at which a consumer may undo cable retainer **200**. In a similar fashion, pull tab **270** may provide a visible and intuitive mechanism for removing cable retainer **200** from cavity **120**.

[0074] FIGS. **8**A-**8**C show cable retainer blanks **800**, **810**, and **820** for forming a cable retainer according to various embodiments. Each cable retainer blank **800**/**810**/**820** includes a central panel **802**/**812**/**822** with a center point **880**. Similar to center point **218**, center point **880** of each cable retainer blank **800**, **810**, and **820** may be located on central panel **802**/**812**/**822** at a point around which the fingers and/or flaps of the cable retainer blank are radially disposed. While FIGS. **8**A-**8**C show embodiments with two, three, and four fingers/flaps, cable retainer blanks may be used to form a cable retainer with any number of finger/flap sets.

[0075] FIG. **8**A shows cable retainer blank **800**, which may be used to form a cable retainer with two fingers the same as or similar to cable retainer **200** discussed herein. Central panel **802** may be connected to two fingers **804** by a first set of upward fold lines **830**. Central panel **802** may also include two flaps **806** cut from central panel **802** and connected to central panel **802** by a second set of upward fold lines **840**. Each upward fold line in the first set of upward fold lines **830** may be oriented parallel to an upward fold line in second set of upward fold lines **840**. In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **800** may include two finger segments **805**, each finger segment **805** being disposed between central panel **802** and a respective finger **804**. Finger segments **805** may be connected to central panel **802** by first set of upward fold lines **830** and finger segments **805** may be connected to fingers **804** by a third set of upward fold lines **850**. Each upward fold line in the first set of upward fold lines **830** may be oriented parallel to an upward fold line in the third set of upward fold lines **850**.

[0076] In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **800** may include two flap segments **807**, each flap segment **807** being disposed between central panel **802** and a respective flap **806**. Each flap segment **807** may be connected to central panel **802** by second set of upward fold lines **840** and flap segments **807** may be connected to flaps **806** by a fourth set of upward fold lines **860**. Each upward fold line in the second set of upward fold lines **840** may be oriented parallel to an upward fold line in the fourth set of upward fold lines **860**.

[0077] In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **800** may include a pull tab **803** connected to central panel **802** by a fourth upward fold line **870**. In some embodiments, fingers **804** may be located opposite each other on opposite ends of central panel **802** (e.g., disposed radially about center point **880** and separated by 180 degrees), as shown in FIG. **8**A. In some embodiments, fingers **804** may have alternative arrangements. For example, fingers **804** may be disposed radially about center point **880** such that they are separated by 90 degrees in one rotational direction and 270 degrees in the opposite rotational direction.

[0078] FIG. **8**B shows a cable retainer blank **810** that may be used to form a cable retainer with three fingers. In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **810** may have a central panel **812** that is T-shaped, as shown in FIG. **8**B. Central panel **812** may be connected to three fingers **814** by a first set of upward fold lines **830**. Central panel **812** may also include three flaps **816** cut from central panel **812** and connected to central panel **812** by a second set of upward fold lines **840**. Each upward fold line in the first set of upward fold lines **830** may be oriented parallel to an upward fold line in the second set of upward fold lines **840**. In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **810** may include three finger segments **815**, each finger segment **815** being disposed between central panel **812** and a respective finger **814**. Finger segments **815** may be connected to central panel **812** by first set of upward fold lines **830** and finger segments **815** may be connected to fingers **814** by a third set of upward fold lines **850**. Each upward fold line in the first set of upward fold lines **830** may be oriented parallel to an upward fold line in the third set of upward fold lines **850**.

[0079] In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **810** may include three flap segments **817**, each flap segment **817** being disposed between central panel **812** and a respective flap **816**. Flap segments **817** may be connected to central panel **812** by second set of upward fold lines **840** and flap segments **817** may be connected to flaps **816** by a fourth set of upward fold lines **860**. Each upward fold line in the second set of upward fold lines **840** may be oriented parallel to an upward fold line in the fourth set of upward fold lines **860**.

[0080] In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **810** may include a pull tab **813** connected to central panel **812** by a fourth upward fold line **870**. In some embodiments, fingers **814** may be may be arranged radially about center point **880** in a T-shaped fashion, as shown in FIG. **8**B. In some embodiments, fingers **814** may have alternative arrangements. For example, fingers **814** may be connected to central panel **812** such that each finger **814** is equilaterally arranged radially about center point **880** (i.e., each finger **814** may be separated from its neighbors by 120 degrees).

[0081] FIG. **8**C shows a cable retainer blank **820** that may be used to form a cable retainer with four fingers. In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **820** may include a central panel **822** that is cross-shaped, as shown in FIG. **8**C. Central panel **822** may be connected to four fingers **824** by a first set of upward fold lines **830**. Central panel **822** may also include four flaps **826** cut from central panel **822** and connected to central panel **822** by a second set of upward fold lines **840**. Each upward fold line in the first set of upward fold lines **830** may be oriented parallel to an upward fold line in the second set of upward fold lines **840**. In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **820** may include four finger segments **825**, each finger segment **825** being disposed between central panel **822** and a respective finger **824**. Finger segments **825** may be connected to central panel **822** by first set of upward fold lines **830** and finger segments **825** may be connected to

fingers **824** by a third set of upward fold lines **850**. Each upward fold line in the first set of upward fold lines **830** may be oriented parallel to an upward fold line in the third set of upward fold lines **850**.

[0082] In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **820** may include four flap segments **827**, each flap segment **827** being disposed between central panel **822** and a respective flap **826**. Flap segments **827** may be connected to central panel **822** by second set of upward fold lines **840** and flap segments **827** may be connected to flaps **826** by a fourth set of upward fold lines **860**. Each upward fold line in the second set of upward fold lines **840** may be oriented parallel to an upward fold line in the fourth set of upward fold lines **860**.

[0083] In some embodiments, cable retainer blank **820** may include a pull tab **823** connected to central panel **812** by a fourth upward fold line **870**. In some embodiments, pull tab **823** may be cut from central panel **822** in the same or similar fashion as flaps **826**. In some embodiments, fingers **824** may be may be arranged about center point **880** in a cross-shaped fashion, as shown in FIG. **8**C. In such embodiments, each finger **824** may be equilaterally arranged radially about center point **880** (i.e., each finger **814** may be separated from its neighbors by 90 degrees).

[0084] FIG. **9** shows dimensions of a cable retainer **200** according to an embodiment. In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may have an overall length **910** in the range of 175 millimeters to 155 millimeters. In some embodiments, overall length **910** may be approximately 165 millimeters (as used herein in conjunction with a stated value, "approximately" includes values within 5% of the stated value). In some embodiments, panel **210** may have a panel length **920** in the range of 80 millimeters to 100 millimeters. In some embodiments, panel length **920** may be approximately 91 millimeters. In some embodiments, segments **250** may have a segment length **930** in the range of 5 millimeters to 2.5 millimeters. In some embodiments, segment length **930** may be approximately 3.5 millimeters. Segments **256** may have a segment length **940** the same as or similar to segment length **930**. In some embodiments, segments **256** may have a segment length **940** that is shorter than the segment length **930** of segments **250**. In some embodiments, the difference between segment length **940** and segment length **930** may be equal to the thickness of fingers **220**. This may facilitate a flush attachment between fingers **220** and segments **230**. In some embodiments, fingers **220** may have a thickness of approximately 0.4 millimeters. In some embodiments, panel **210**, flaps **230**, and segments **250**/**256** may have the same thickness as fingers **220**.

[0085] In some embodiments, flaps **230** may have a flap length **950** in the range of 10 millimeters to 15 millimeters. In some embodiments, flap length **950** may be approximately 12 millimeters. In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may have a passageway length **960** in the range of 10 millimeters to 15 millimeters. In some embodiments, passageway length **960** may be approximately 12 millimeters.

[0086] In some embodiments, cable retainer **200** may have a panel/finger width **970** in the range of 10 millimeters to 20 millimeters. In some embodiments, panel/finger width **970** may be approximately 15 millimeters. In some embodiments, pull tab **270** may have a width **980** in the range of 10 millimeters to 20 millimeters. In some embodiments, width **980** may be approximately 15 millimeters. While FIG. **9** shows cable retainer **200** having two fingers **220**, the dimensions shown in FIG. **9** may apply to other cable retainer embodiments (e.g., cable retainers with three or four fingers). Additionally, the dimensions shown in FIG. **9** may be scaled up or down depending on a specific cable, product, product component, or product accessory. For example, the dimensions may be scaled up or down depending on the length and diameter of cable to be wound and packaged.

[0087] A wound cable (e.g., wound cable **160**) may be packaged using the following exemplary method. The order of the processes discussed below is exemplary and may be rearranged depending on a number of factors, for example, but not limited to, optimization of the assembly process and the layout (e.g., the location of equipment and/or process flow) of a production floor.

[0088] A cable may be wound to form a wound cable (e.g., wound cable **160**) with a plurality of cable loops (e.g., loops **164**). In some embodiments, the winding of the cable may be performed manually. In some embodiments, the winding of the cable may be performed using automated machinery. In some embodiments, the cable is wound such that each loop of the cable is in contact with immediately adjacent loops along a majority of each loop (i.e., the circumferential sidewalls **168** of adjacent loops **164** are in contact with each other along the majority of a loop **164**). In some embodiments, a temporary restraint may be applied to wound cable **160** to hold it in its wound configuration. In some embodiments, the cable is wound from the outside in. An outside-in winding direction can help ensure proper position of plug **162** within corner **134**, as described above, especially in the case where cable length may vary.

[0089] After winding, a cable retainer blank (e.g., cable retainer blank **800**) may be folded about the wound cable, thereby forming a cable retainer (e.g., cable retainer **200**). The folding of the cable retainer blank may include folding flaps (e.g., flaps **806**) cut from a panel (e.g., central panel **802**) of the cable retainer blank, folding fingers (e.g., fingers **804**) hingedly coupled to the panel of the cable retainer blank, and attaching the fingers to respective flaps to thereby define a plurality of passageways (e.g., passageways **260**) through which the loops of the wound cable extend. In some embodiments, an adhesive (e.g., double sided tape or Velcro®) may be placed on the fingers and/or the flaps before folding them. In some embodiments, the attachment between the fingers and the flaps may be accomplished by features formed on the fingers or the flaps (e.g., tabs and slots). In some embodiments, the folding of cable retainer blank may be performed manually. In some embodiments, the folding of the cable retainer blank may be performed using automated machinery. After folding the cable retainer about the wound cable, the temporary restraint, if present, may be removed.

[0090] Once folded about the wound cable, the cable retainer and the wound cable may be positioned within a cavity (e.g., cavity **120**) formed in a packaging container (e.g., packaging **100**). In some embodiments, the cable retainer may be releasably attached to the cavity (e.g., adhesively attached to a lower surface of the cavity). In some embodiments, a plug (e.g., plug **162**) of the wound cable may be positioned adjacent to a corner (e.g., corner **134**) of the cavity outside of the wound cable's loops such that contact between a plug and the walls of the corner inhibits rotation of the wound cable within the cavity. This

may help ensure that wound cables are consistently positioned and oriented with cavities of different packaging containers.

[0091] The foregoing descriptions of the specific embodiments described herein are presented for purposes of illustration and description. These exemplary embodiments are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the embodiments to the precise forms disclosed. All specific details described are not required in order to practice the described embodiments.

[0092] It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that many modifications and variations are possible in view of the above teachings, and that by applying knowledge within the skill of the art, one may readily modify and/or adapt for various applications such specific embodiments, without undue experimentation, without departing from the general concept of the present invention(s). Such adaptations and modifications are intended to be within the meaning and range of equivalents of the disclosed embodiments, based on the teaching and guidance presented herein.

[0093] The Detailed Description section is intended to be used to interpret the claims. The Summary and Abstract sections may set forth one or more but not all exemplary embodiments of the present invention(s) as contemplated by the inventor(s), and thus, are not intended to limit the present invention(s) and the appended claims.

[0094] The present invention(s) have been described above with the aid of functional building blocks illustrating the implementation of specified functions and relationships thereof. The boundaries of these functional building blocks have been arbitrarily defined herein for the convenience of the description. Alternate boundaries can be defined so long as the specified functions and relationships thereof are appropriately performed.

[0095] The phraseology or terminology used herein is for the purpose of description and not limitation, such that the terminology or phraseology of the present specification is to be interpreted by the skilled artisan.

[0096] The breadth and scope of the present invention(s) should not be limited by any of the above-described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. Packaging comprising:

a base comprising a cavity;

a cable retainer disposed within the cavity, the cable retainer comprising:

a panel extending across the cavity,

a plurality of fingers, each finger hingedly coupled to the panel;

a plurality of flaps cut from the panel and hingedly coupled to the panel;

wherein each finger is attached to a flap to thereby together define a passageway.

2. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein each finger is releasably attached to the flap via an attachment member.

3. The packaging of claim **2**, wherein the attachment members comprise an adhesive.

4. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein the passageways extend parallel to a lower surface of the cavity.

5. The packaging of claim **4**, further comprising a wound cable extending through the passageways.

6. The packaging of claim **5**, wherein the wound cable loops through the passageways multiple times, and wherein each loop of the wound cable that extends through the passageways is disposed on the same plane parallel to the lower surface of the cavity.

7. The packaging of claim **5**, wherein the cavity includes a corner, and wherein a plug of the cable is positioned adjacent to the corner outside of the loops of the wound cable, such that contact between the plug and walls of the corner inhibits rotation of the wound cable.

8. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein the panel, the fingers, and the flaps are a single integrally formed piece.

9. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein the panel is disposed on a lower surface of the cavity, and wherein the cable retainer has a maximum thickness of less than or equal to 7 millimeters measured perpendicularly from the lower surface of the cavity.

10. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein the base comprises a product surface for supporting a product, and wherein the cavity is formed in the product surface.

11. The packaging of claim **10**, wherein the cavity has a depth of less than or equal to 7 millimeters measured from the product surface to a lower surface of the cavity.

12. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein the cable retainer is completely disposed within the cavity.

13. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein the hinged couplings between each finger and the panel are defined by grooves on the cable retainer.

14. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein the hinged couplings between each finger and the panel are defined by fold lines on the cable retainer.

15. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein each finger is hingedly coupled to a segment that is hingedly coupled to the panel.

16. The packaging of claim **15**, wherein the panel, the segments, the fingers, and the flaps define the passageways.

17. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein a free end of each finger attached to a flap points in a direction opposite the direction that a free end of the flap points.

18. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein the cable retainer is composed of a paper-based product.

19. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein the cable retainer comprises the same number of fingers as flaps.

20. The packaging of claim **1**, further comprising a pull tab coupled to the panel.

21. The packaging of claim **1**, wherein the panel is releasably coupled to a lower surface of the cavity.

22. A cable retainer for packaging a wound cable, the cable retainer comprising:

a single foldable piece of material configured to fold from a flat configuration to a folded configuration, the single foldable piece of material comprising:

a panel, a plurality of fingers, each finger hingedly coupled to the panel, and a plurality of flaps cut from the panel and hingedly coupled to the panel;

wherein, in the folded configuration, each finger is folded towards a geometric center of the panel and attached to a respective flap to define a plurality of passageways for receiving a wound cable.

23. The cable retainer of claim **22**, wherein the attachment between the fingers and respective flaps is a releasable attachment.

24. The cable retainer of claim **23**, wherein the releasable attachments comprise one or more of the following: an adhesive, a tab and slot coupling, a snap-fit coupling, and a hook and loop fastener.

25. The cable retainer of claim **22**, further comprising a pull tab hingedly coupled to the panel.

26. The cable retainer of claim **22**, wherein the single foldable piece of material is composed of a paper-based product.

27. The cable retainer of claim **22**, wherein the single foldable piece of material is a compostable material.

28. The cable retainer of claim **22**, wherein the single foldable piece of material is a recyclable material.

29. A packaged cable comprising:

the cable retainer of claim **22** in the folded configuration, and

a wound cable extending through the passageways defined by the cable retainer.

30. The packaged cable of claim **29**, wherein the wound cable loops through the passageways defined by the cable retainer multiple times,

wherein each loop of the wound cable that extends through the passageways is disposed on the same plane parallel to a top surface of the cable retainer panel, and

wherein no loop of the wound cable is disposed on top of another loop of the wound cable.

31. Packaging comprising:

a base comprising a cavity;

the cable retainer of claim **22** in the folded configuration disposed in the cavity, and

a wound cable extending through the passageways defined by the cable retainer.

32. A method of assembling a packaged cable, the method comprising:

winding a cable to form a wound cable including a plurality of cable loops;

folding a cable retainer about the wound cable, wherein the folding comprises:

folding flaps cut from a panel of the cable retainer,

folding fingers hingedly coupled to the panel of the cable retainer, and

attaching the fingers to respective flaps to thereby define a plurality of passageways through which the loops of the wound cable extend; and

positioning the cable retainer and the wound cable in a cavity formed in a packaging container.

33. The method of claim **32**, wherein each loop of the wound cable is disposed on the same plane parallel to a top surface of the cable retainer panel.

34. The method of claim **32**, wherein the cable is wound such that each loop of the cable is in contact with immediately adjacent loops along a majority of each loop.

35. A blank for forming a cable retainer, the blank comprising:

a central panel connected to a plurality of fingers by a first set of upward fold lines; and

a plurality of flaps cut from the central panel and connected to the central panel by a second set of upward fold lines;

wherein each upward fold line in the first set of upward fold lines is oriented parallel to an upward fold line in the second set of upward fold lines.

36. The blank of claim **35**, further comprising a plurality of segments, each segment disposed between the central panel and a respective finger;

wherein the segments are connected to the fingers by the first set of upward fold lines, and wherein the segments are connected to the central panel by a third set of upward fold lines.

37. The blank of claim **35**, further comprising a pull tab connected to the central panel by a fourth upward fold line.

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