

**CLAIMS**

1. A method for producing a plurality of blanks from a continuous strip of material, the method comprising the steps of:

5 providing a continuous strip of material having a plurality of cut-outs spaced along a longitudinal direction of the strip; and

cutting the continuous strip along a plurality of cut lines to form the plurality of blanks, wherein each cut line comprises a straight transverse section and a curved section;

10 wherein: the cut lines are spaced along the longitudinal direction of the strip, each cut line intersects a respective cut-out in the strip in the curved section of the cut line, and each cut line together with its respective intersected cut-out corresponds to an edge of one of the plurality of blanks.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forming the plurality of cut-outs in the continuous strip of material.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of cut lines, with its respective intersected cut-out, corresponds to a first edge of the blank on one side of the cut line and a second edge, opposite the first edge, of the blank on the other side of the cut line.

4. A method according to any preceding claim, further comprising the step of selecting a combination of cut line shape, cut-out shape, and cut-out to cut line orientation, such that the edge of the at least one of the plurality of blanks comprises an undercut recess.

5. A method according to any preceding claim, further comprising, after the step of cutting the continuous strip, the step of separating the blanks in the longitudinal direction of the strip.

6. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein each of the plurality of cut-outs in the continuous strip of material are the same shape.

7. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein each of the plurality of cut-outs in the continuous strip of material is fully enclosed by the material.

8. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the continuous strip of material is provided with an additional plurality of cut-outs spaced along the longitudinal direction of

the strip, the additional plurality of cut-outs being spaced from the plurality of cut-outs along a transverse direction of the continuous strip.

9. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the longitudinal spacing of the plurality of cut lines is the same as the longitudinal spacing of the plurality of cut-outs.

10. A method according to any preceding claim, further comprising the step of using the plurality of blanks in packaging for consumer goods.

11. A blank formed according to the method of any preceding claim.

12. A container for consumer goods, the container comprising an inner frame formed from a blank formed according to the method of any of claims 1 to 10.

13. A continuous strip of material for forming a plurality blanks for use in packaging for consumer goods, wherein the continuous strip of material comprises a plurality of cut-outs spaced along a longitudinal direction of the strip.

14. A continuous strip of material according to claim 12, wherein each of the plurality of cut-outs in the continuous strip of material are the same shape.

15. A continuous strip of material according to claim 13 or claim 14, further comprising an additional plurality of cut-outs spaced along the longitudinal direction of the strip, the additional plurality of cut-outs being spaced from the plurality of cut-outs along a transverse direction of the continuous strip.

**CLAIMS**

1. A method for producing a plurality of blanks from a continuous strip of material, the method comprising the steps of:
  - 5 providing a continuous strip of material having a plurality of cut-outs spaced along a longitudinal direction of the strip; and
  - cutting the continuous strip along a plurality of cut lines to form the plurality of blanks, wherein each cut line comprises a straight transverse section and a curved section;
  - wherein: the cut lines are spaced along the longitudinal direction of the strip, each cut
  - 10 line intersects a respective cut-out in the strip in the curved section of the cut line, and each cut line together with its respective intersected cut-out corresponds to an edge of one of the plurality of blanks
  - wherein the method further comprises the step of selecting a combination of cut line shape, cut-out shape, and cut-out to cut line orientation, such that the edge of the at least
  - 15 one of the plurality of blanks comprises an undercut recess.
2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forming the plurality of cut-outs in the continuous strip of material.
- 20 3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of cut lines, with its respective intersected cut-out, corresponds to a first edge of the blank on one side of the cut line and a second edge, opposite the first edge, of the blank on the other side of the cut line.
- 25 4. A method according to any preceding claim, further comprising, after the step of cutting the continuous strip, the step of separating the blanks in the longitudinal direction of the strip.
5. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein each of the plurality of cut-outs
- 30 in the continuous strip of material are the same shape.
6. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein each of the plurality of cut-outs in the continuous strip of material is fully enclosed by the material.
- 35 7. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the continuous strip of material is provided with an additional plurality of cut-outs spaced along the longitudinal direction of

the strip, the additional plurality of cut-outs being spaced from the plurality of cut-outs along a transverse direction of the continuous strip.

5 8. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the longitudinal spacing of the plurality of cut lines is the same as the longitudinal spacing of the plurality of cut-outs.

9. A method according to any preceding claim, further comprising the step of using the plurality of blanks in packaging for consumer goods.

10 10. A blank formed according to the method of any preceding claim.

11. A container for consumer goods, the container comprising an inner frame formed from a blank formed according to the method of any of claims 1 to 9.

15 12. A continuous strip of material for forming a plurality blanks for use in packaging for consumer goods, wherein the continuous strip of material comprises a plurality of cut-outs spaced along a longitudinal direction of the strip.

20 13. A continuous strip of material according to claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of cut-outs in the continuous strip of material are the same shape.

25 14. A continuous strip of material according to claim 12 or claim 13, further comprising an additional plurality of cut-outs spaced along the longitudinal direction of the strip, the additional plurality of cut-outs being spaced from the plurality of cut-outs along a transverse direction of the continuous strip.