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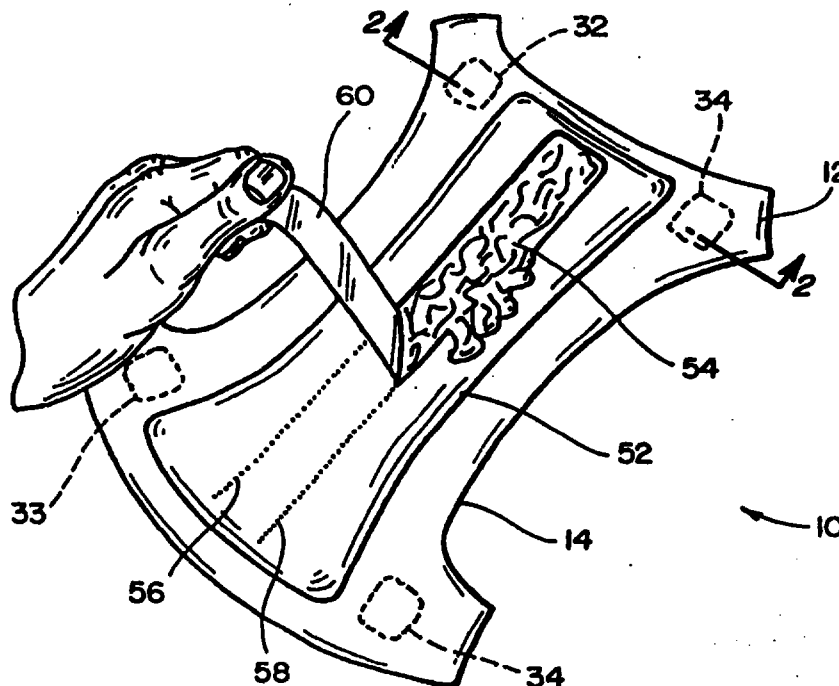
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(54) Title: FLUSHABLE DIAPER AND METHOD

(57) Abstract

This invention is a flushable diaper (10) for use on the body of an infant or adult. An envelope (16) has inner (20) and outer walls (22) which are secured together at their outer periphery to form an inner cavity (24). The outer wall (22) is comprised of a hydrophobic outer layer (30) together with a hydrophilic inner layer (28). The inner wall (20) is comprised of a hydrophobic outer layer (25) together with a hydrophilic inner layer (23). The inner and outer walls are separated by an interior cavity which contains one or more containers (32, 34). The container (32, 34) is comprised of either a single layer or of a laminated wall which forms a chamber that encloses a charge of water. The laminate wall is comprised of a hydrophobic inner laminate and a hydrophilic outer laminate. When manually ruptured, the containers release water into the double walled envelope, which causes disintegration of the hydrophilic inner layers of the double walls, along with the hydrophobic outer layers. An absorbent member (18) is carried on the inner wall of the envelope, and the absorbent member comprises a fluid pervious cover (52) which encloses an inner body (54) that is comprised of a material that is sufficiently hydrophilic to absorb urine and other fluids from the body while maintaining structural integrity of the inner body, and to also absorb water in an effective amount to cause the inner body to disintegrate into small pieces.



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