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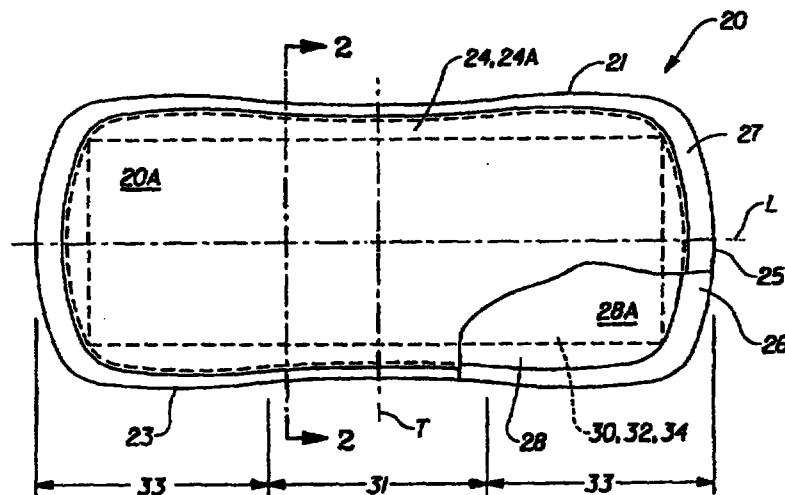
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(54) Title: WATER DISPERSIBLE AND FLUSHABLE ABSORBENT ARTICLE



(57) Abstract

A flushable and dispersible absorbent article is described. The absorbent article comprises a liquid pervious topsheet which preferably comprises a wet laid, apertured fibrous web having a temporary wet strength resin incorporated therein, the topsheet also having a body surface provided with a plurality of fibrils, the fibrils comprising a water resistant resinous material, a backsheet impervious to bodily fluids which preferably comprises a wet laid fibrous assembly having a temporary wet strength resin incorporated therein, the body surface of the backsheet being coated with a water resistant resinous material, an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet, and means for removably attaching the sanitary napkin to a wearer's undergarment. Apparatus and methods suitable for producing such topsheets and backsheets are also disclosed. The topsheet and the backsheet are joined, at least about their periphery, using a water soluble adhesive. Alternative embodiments of the present invention can also comprise laterally extending flaps.