

another within an opening area (18), so that within the opening area in each case one first half-shell (12) and one second half-shell (13) form a vacuum chamber (8).

21. Apparatus for filling and sealing prefabricated pouches with a filling device (20) for filling empty pouches (5), a sealing device (21) for sealing the pouches, a removal device (22) for removing filled pouches and a feed device (16) for the feeding of empty pouches, characterized by an apparatus for opening prefabricated pouches according to one of the claims 11 to 20.

ABSTRACT

Method for opening prefabricated pouches for the subsequent filling thereof, each pouch having a circumferential seal and an opening zone, with the steps

- a) holding a pouch on a support,
- b) introducing the support with the pouch into a vacuum chamber, which has a first opening, which faces the opening zone of the pouch and is connected to the environment, and a second opening remote from the opening zone,
- c) suction of air from the vacuum chamber through the second opening, with a volume flow adequate in order to produce in the vacuum chamber a vacuum with respect to the environment, through which the pouch is opened,
- d) moving the support with the opened pouch held thereon out of the vacuum chamber.