

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An absorbent hygiene article (10) for collecting bodily fluid, ~~thesaid~~ absorbent
~~hygiene article comprising~~
~~a topsheet having a body-faceableing surface comprising a central fluid~~
~~acquisition zone(26),~~
~~a backsheet having a garment faceableing surface, (28) and~~
~~an absorbent structure (15) situated between the topsheet said body-facing~~
~~surface and the backsheet said garment-facing surface,~~
~~wherein said body-facing surface comprises:~~
~~i) — a central fluid acquisition zone (121),~~
~~ii) — a first visually discernible lateral zone (161) situated on one side~~
~~of the central fluid acquisition zone, and,~~
~~iii) a second visually discernible lateral zone (181) situated on an opposite side~~
~~of the central fluid acquisition zone,~~
~~wherein characterized in that each of the said first and second visually discernible~~
~~lateral zones (161, 181) are situated above the body-faceable surface of the topsheet and~~
~~are formed by a colored-pigmented nonwoven material (16, 18) comprising a coloured~~
~~pigment;~~
~~wherein the color-pigmented nonwoven material comprises a blend of colored~~
~~pigments and thermoplastic material;~~
~~wherein the nonwoven material comprises fibers made of a polymer selected~~
~~from the group comprising polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamides, and mixtures~~
~~thereof; wherein the nonwoven material is made of bicomponent fibers comprising a~~
~~core of polypropylene and a sheath of polyethylene; and wherein the pigment is present~~
~~in the polypropylene core; and~~
2. — An absorbent hygiene article according to the preceding claim wherein ~~thesaid~~
central fluid acquisition zone is substantially white.

~~3. An article according to any of the preceding claims wherein said first and second lateral zones are at least partially situated above the absorbent structure.~~

~~24. The absorbent hygiene~~An article according to any of the preceding claims ~~1~~ wherein ~~thesaid~~ body-faceable ~~ing~~ surface is conceptually divided in its length in two halves by a longitudinal centerline (L) and wherein ~~thesaid~~ central fluid acquisition zone substantially encompasses ~~thesaid~~ longitudinal centerline (L) so that ~~thesaid~~ first lateral zone is on one side of the longitudinal centerline (L) and ~~thesaid~~ second lateral zone is on the other side.

~~5. An article according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein said body-facing surface is conceptually divided in its width in two halves by a transversal centerline (T) and wherein said fluid acquisition zone encompasses said transversal centerline (T) so that said first lateral zone is on one side of the transversal centerline (T) and said second lateral zone is on the other side.~~

~~36. The absorbent hygiene~~An article according to any of the preceding claims ~~1~~ wherein ~~thesaid~~ nonwoven material forming the lateral zone has an Opacity Index of at least 50%, measured at 745 nm.

~~47. The absorbent hygiene~~An article according to any of the preceding claims ~~1~~ wherein ~~thesaid~~ nonwoven material is hydrophobic, preferably wherein said nonwoven material comprises fibers made of a polymer selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamides, and mixtures thereof.

~~8. An article according to the preceding claims wherein the nonwoven material is made of bicomponent fibers comprising a core of polypropylene and a sheath of polyethylene, preferably when the pigment is present in the core of polypropylene.~~

~~59. The absorbent hygiene~~An article according to any of the preceding claims ~~1~~

wherein the first and second visually discernible lateral zones (161, 181) extend to the periphery of the absorbent hygiene article (101, 102).

610. The absorbent hygiene article according to any of the preceding claims 1
 wherein the absorbent structure comprises a gradient core.

7. The absorbent hygiene article according to claim 1 wherein the color-pigmented nonwoven material comprises from about 0.3% to about 2.5%, by weight, of pigments.

8. The absorbent hygiene article according to claim 1 wherein the color-pigmented nonwoven material has an angle ω of from 220° to 310°.

941. An absorbent hygiene article (10) for collecting bodily fluid, the absorbent hygiene article comprising

a topsheet having a body-faceable surface comprising a central fluid acquisition zone (26),

a backsheet having a garment-faceable surface, (28) and

an absorbent structure (15) situated between the topsheet said body-facing surface and the backsheet said garment-facing surface,

wherein said body-facing surface comprises:

i) a central fluid acquisition zone (121),

ii) a first visually discernible hydrophobic lateral zone (161) situated on one side of the central fluid acquisition zone, and;

iii) a second visually discernible hydrophobic lateral zone (181) situated on the opposite side of the central fluid acquisition zone,

wherein each of the said first and second visually discernible hydrophobic lateral zones (161, 181) are situated above the body-faceable surface of the topsheet and are formed by made of a nonwoven material comprising a colored pigment (16, 18), and said first and second lateral zones are at least partially situated above the absorbent structure (15),

wherein the nonwoven material comprises fibers made of a polymer selected from the group comprising polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamides, and mixtures

thereof; wherein the nonwoven material is made of bicomponent fibers comprising a core of polypropylene and a sheath of polyethylene; and wherein the pigment is present in the polypropylene core characterized in that the absorbent structure comprises a gradient core.

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12. — An absorbent hygiene article according to the preceding claim wherein said central fluid acquisition zone is substantially white.

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13. — An article according to claim 11 or 12 wherein said body-facing surface is conceptually divided in its length in two halves by a longitudinal centerline (L) and wherein said central fluid acquisition zone encompasses said longitudinal centerline (L) so that said first lateral zone is on one side of the longitudinal centerline (L) and said second lateral zone is on the other side.

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14. — An article according to any of the preceding claims wherein said body-facing surface is conceptually divided in its width in two halves by a transversal centerline (T) and wherein said central fluid acquisition zone encompasses said transversal centerline (T) so that said first lateral zone is on one side of the transversal centerline (T) and said second lateral zone is on the other side.

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15. — An article according to any of claims 11 to 14 wherein said nonwoven material has an Opacity Index of at least 50%, measured at 745nm.

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16. — An article according to any claims 11 to 15 wherein the first and second hydrophobic lateral zones (161, 181) extend to the periphery of the article (101, 102).

17. — An article according to any of claim 11 to 16 wherein the gradient core comprises:

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— a first outermost layer forming said wearer facing surface, which is provided from a mixture of bi-component fibers and cellulose or viscose fibers, preferably non-softened cellulose fibers, and said first layer has a weight fraction of the overall core construction of 10%-30%;

5 ——— a second outermost layer forming the garment facing surface of the core, the second layer being provided by softener treated cellulose fibers having a weight fraction of the overall core of 30%-50%, and a surface binder, preferably a latex, on said garment facing surface of said core in an amount of 0%-2% by weight of said core, and

10 ——— at least one inner layer, sandwiched between said first and said second layer, the inner layer comprising non-softened cellulose fibers, optionally bi-component fibers, and further comprising super absorbent material, the inner layer having a weight fraction of the overall core of 30%-50%.