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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/02686 (22) International Filing Date: 13 February 1998 (13.02.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/812,225 6 March 1997 (06.03.97) US (71) Applicant: THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). (72) Inventor: DOBRIN, George, Christopher; 2941 Eggers Place, Cincinnati, OH 45211 (US). (74) Agents: REED, T., David et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING A BREATHABLE BACKSHEET**(57) Abstract**

A disposable absorbent article (20) having a breathable laminate backsheet (26). The absorbent article (20) has a front waist region (46), a rear waist region (44), a crotch region (48) positioned between the front waist region (46) and the rear waist region (44), a pair of opposed side edges (50), a first end edge (52) and a second end edge (52). The absorbent article (20) includes

an absorbent core (28) having a pair of opposing longitudinal edges (50), a garment-facing side (70) and a body-facing side (72), and a breathable laminate backsheet (26) disposed adjacent to the garment-facing side (70) of the absorbent core (28). The breathable laminate backsheet (26) has an inner layer (90) and an outer layer (92) joined to one another. The inner layer (90) is positioned between the absorbent core (28) and the outer layer (92). The outer layer (92) is relatively vapor pervious. The inner layer (90) is substantially liquid impermeable and substantially vapor pervious. The inner layer (90) is longitudinally coterminous with the absorbent article (20) and of a smaller transverse width than the front waist region (46), the rear waist region (44), and the crotch region (48) so as to form a breathable zone (82) which is longitudinally coterminous with the absorbent article (20) and adjacent to each of the side edges.

