

CARD SLEEVES

BACKGROUND

Field

The present disclosure relates to containment systems, particularly for cards such as playing cards.

Description of Related Art

In the world of collectibles, such as trading cards or playing cards, users enjoy protecting their property against wear and tear, as well as dust, detriment, or other particulate. A common method of protecting cards is to use a sleeve, which is generally a thin plastic membrane into which a card is inserted. However, the use of a single sleeve will often still offer the opening into which the card is inserted for particulate to enter. Additionally, this unprotected edge of the card may still be subject to general wear and tear, as it does not enjoy the same protections as the rest of the card.

One solution to the existence of an unprotected edge is to have a sealable or fold-over type sleeve. However, this may add unwanted bulk to the sleeve, making actions such as shuffling more burdensome and clumsy. Another solution to this unprotected edge is to use multiple sleeves – an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve. This combination of sleeves allows protection of all four edges of a card, while still maintain the generally narrow profile of a single sleeve system. However, the solutions offered by sleeve systems including inner sleeves and outer sleeves have problems of their own, which will be explored more thoroughly in this disclosure.

SUMMARY

The present disclosure describes systems and techniques for containing a card, such as a playing card. The system may include separate subcomponents that are used in conjunction or separately based on the needs of the user.

1 In some examples, a card sleeve system includes an outer sleeve. According to
2 some examples, the outer card sleeve includes an outer front sheet. The outer card sleeve
3 may include an outer back sheet coupled to the outer front sheet along an outer bottom
4 edge, an outer left edge, and an outer right edge of the outer sleeve. In some examples, an
5 outer top edge of the outer card sleeve defines an outer opening configured to receive an
6 inner card sleeve. According to some examples, an outer top left corner and an outer top
7 right corner of the outer card sleeve define right angles. An outer bottom left corner and
8 an outer bottom right corner of the outer card sleeve may define rounded corners.

9 In some examples, the outer front sheet comprises a finish selected from the group
10 consisting of optically clear and translucent. According to some examples, the outer front
11 sheet further comprises a texture selected from the group consisting of gloss, matte, and
12 anti-glare. The outer front sheet may comprise a color.

13 In some examples, the outer back sheet comprises a finish selected from the group
14 consisting of optically clear, translucent, at least partially opaque, and fully opaque.
15 According to some examples, the outer back sheet comprises a color.

16 The outer front sheet may have a thickness between 0.115 mm and 0.125 mm. In
17 some examples, the outer back sheet has a thickness between 0.135 mm and 0.145 mm.
18 According to some examples, the outer card sleeve defines a height of between 91.3 mm
19 and 92.3 mm. The outer card sleeve may define a width of between 66.3 mm and 67.3
20 mm. In some examples, the outer card sleeve defines a height of between 88.3 mm and
21 89.3 mm. According to some examples, the outer card sleeve defines a width of between
22 61.6 mm and 62.6 mm.

23 The card sleeve system may further comprise an inner card sleeve configured to
24 insert into the outer card sleeve. In some examples, the inner card sleeve comprises an
25 inner front sheet. According to some examples, the inner card sleeve further comprises an
26 inner back sheet coupled to the inner front sheet along an inner top edge, an inner left
27 edge, and an inner right edge of the inner card sleeve. An inner bottom edge of the inner
28 card sleeve may define an inner opening configured to receive a card. In some examples,
29 an inner top left corner and an inner top right corner of the inner card sleeve define right
30 angles. According to some examples, an inner bottom left corner and an inner bottom
31 right corner of the inner card sleeve define rounded corners. The inner front sheet may

1 not be bonded to the inner back sheet along the rounded corners of the inner bottom left
2 corner and the inner bottom right corner.

3 In some examples, the inner front sheet is optically clear. According to some
4 examples, the inner back sheet comprises a finish selected from the group consisting of
5 optically clear, at least partially opaque, and fully opaque.

6 The inner front sheet and the inner back sheet may have a thickness between
7 0.045 mm and 0.055 mm. In some examples, the inner card sleeve defines a height of
8 between 88.9 mm and 89.9 mm. According to some examples, the inner card sleeve
9 defines a width of between 63.7 mm and 64.7 mm. The inner card sleeve may define a
10 height of between 86.5 mm and 87.5 mm. According to some examples, the inner card
11 sleeve defines a width of between 59.8 mm and 60.8 mm.

12 The embodiments described above include many optional features and aspects.
13 Features and aspects of the embodiments can be combined.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a front view of an example card sleeve system, including an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve.

FIG. 2A is a front view of a playing card being inserted into an inner sleeve, according to some examples.

FIG. 2B is a front view of a playing card inside of an inner sleeve being inserted into an outer sleeve, forming the example card sleeve system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is an exploded front view of the example card sleeve system of FIG. 1 showing the individual components of the outer sleeve, the inner sleeve, and the playing card.

FIG. 4A is a front view of an inner sleeve, according to some examples.

FIG. 4B is a side view of the inner sleeve of FIG. 4A.

FIG. 5 is a profile view of the inner sleeve of FIGS. 4A and 4B.

FIG. 6A is a front view of an outer sleeve, according to some examples.

FIG. 6B is a side view of the outer sleeve of FIG. 6A.

FIG. 7 is a profile view of the outer sleeve of FIGS. 6A and 6B.

FIG. 8 is a front view of another example card sleeve system, including an outer sleeve.

FIG. 9 is a front view of a playing card being inserted into an outer sleeve, forming the example card sleeve system of FIG. 8.

FIG. 10 is an exploded front view of the example card sleeve system of FIG. 8 showing the individual components of the outer sleeve and the playing card.

Component Index

10a – Card sleeve system

10b – Card sleeve system

102 – Outer sleeve

104 – Inner sleeve

106 – Playing card

402 – Inner top edge

404 – Inner bottom edge

1	406 – Inner left edge
2	408 – Inner right edge
3	410 – Inner sleeve height
4	412 – Inner sleeve width
5	414 – Right angle
6	416 – Rounded corner
7	418 – Inner sleeve pocket
8	420 – Inner front sheet
9	422 – Inner back sheet
10	424 – Inner side wall
11	426 – Inner sleeve thickness
12	428 – Inner sleeve opening
13	602 – Outer top edge
14	604 – Outer bottom edge
15	606 – Outer left edge
16	608 – Outer right edge
17	610 – Outer sleeve height
18	612 – Outer sleeve width
19	614 – Outer sleeve pocket
20	616 – Outer front sheet
21	618 – Outer back sheet
22	620 – Outer side wall
23	622 – Outer sleeve thickness
24	624 – Outer sleeve opening

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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Owners of collectibles often seek out solutions to protect their investments. In the case of trading cards or playing cards, the solutions offered are often limited to a few options. For keeping multiple cards protected at once, there is the option of deck boxes, varying greatly in size and scope of how many cards may be preserved together. For protecting individual cards, however, the options are limited to using some type of sleeve.

1 For additional protection, two sleeves may be used in tandem – an inner sleeve and an
2 outer sleeve – with their openings on opposing sides so that the card is protected along all
3 four edges.

4 Traditional card sleeves have long been made with rectangular form – that is to
5 say, all four corners of the card sleeves have sharp, right-angle or approximately right-
6 angle corners. These sharp angles can dig into the palm of a user during use and while
7 shuffling their deck of cards. This can be solved by rounding the corners of the card
8 sleeves. However, rounding all of the corners of a card sleeve creates weak welds
9 between the front sheet and back sheet, creating a higher likelihood of failure of the
10 sleeve as a whole – in some cases the sleeve may simply separate down the weld.

11 A solution to both of these issues, and the content of this disclosure, is a card
12 sleeve, and a card sleeve system, which uses rounded corners on one side of the sleeve,
13 and right-angle, or approximately right-angle corners on the opposite side of the sleeve.
14 The right-angled corners allow for a stronger weld of the back sheet and front sheet, and
15 thus an overall greater structural integrity. The rounded corners prevent the user from
16 having any pain or discomfort from sharp edges digging into their palms during handling
17 of the cards.

18 An additional deficiency in the prior art, for both all right-angle corners or all
19 rounded corners, is that it is impossible to tell if all cards are facing in the same direction
20 without looking at each individual card while it is face up. This is important in card
21 games where the player wants to be able to read any effects listed on their card, or intend
22 to deal the cards while they are facing a specific direction. Card sleeves with one side
23 having right-angle corners and the opposite side having rounded corners can fix this issue
24 by keeping the bottom of every card at the same styled end. For instance, if the bottom of
25 the card is always at the edge of the card with rounded corners, a user knows immediately
26 how to face the card without having to turn the card over to check.

27 FIG. 1 shows a front view of an exemplary card sleeve system 10a. As illustrated
28 in FIG. 1, a card sleeve system 10a may include an outer sleeve 102, an inner sleeve 104,
29 and a playing card 106. The playing card 106 is not necessary for the system to be
30 complete, however, the purpose of the card sleeve system 10a is to provide an element of
31 protection (i.e., wear and tear, light exposure, etc.) to some object, and thus a playing

1 card 106 is shown throughout the figures and described throughout this disclosure with
2 the purpose of providing a reference as to the actions being performed by the outer sleeve
3 102 and the inner sleeve 104.

4 Inner sleeve 104 is illustrated in broken lines, illustrating that inner sleeve 104 is
5 shown within outer sleeve 102. Likewise, playing card 106 is illustrated with broken lines
6 to illustrate that playing card 106 is shown within inner sleeve 104.

7 FIGS. 2A and 2B illustrate front views of playing card 106 being inserted into the
8 inner sleeve 104 (FIG. 2A), and then this assembly being inserted into outer sleeve 102
9 (FIG. 2B) to complete exemplary card sleeve system 10a.

10 FIG. 2A shows the playing card 106 being inserted into the bottom of the inner
11 sleeve 104, where there is an opening that will be described in greater detail in FIGS. 4A,
12 4B, and 5. According to FIG. 2A, the inner sleeve 104 is configured to receive the
13 playing card 106 through the inner sleeve opening 428 along the inner bottom edge 404,
14 whereby the playing card 106 slides into the inner sleeve pocket 418 until the playing
15 card 106 is substantially enclosed by the inner sleeve 104. Arrows are provided to show
16 the direction of movement of playing card 106 traveling with respect to inner sleeve 104
17 during the motion of entry. The playing card 106 is illustrated with broken lines only in
18 the area where the playing card 106 has been inserted into the inner sleeve 104 to show
19 the transition from being outside of inner sleeve 104 to being inside of inner sleeve 104.

20 FIG. 2B, likewise, shows the assembly of the playing card 106 inside of inner
21 sleeve 104 being inserted into the top of the outer sleeve 102, where there is an opening
22 that will be described in greater detail in FIGS. 6A, 6B, and 7. According to FIG. 2B, the
23 outer sleeve 102 is configured to receive the inner sleeve 104 with the playing card 106
24 through the outer sleeve opening 624 along the outer top edge 602, whereby the inner
25 sleeve 104 with the playing card 106 slides into the outer sleeve pocket 614 until the
26 inner sleeve 104 with the playing card 106 is substantially enclosed by the outer sleeve
27 102. Arrows are provided to show the direction of movement of playing card 106 and
28 inner sleeve 104 with respect to outer sleeve 102 during the motion of entry. The playing
29 card 106 is illustrated with broken lines throughout, showing that the entirety of the
30 playing card 106 is within the inner sleeve 104 in FIG. 2B. The inner sleeve 104 is
31 illustrated with broken lines only in the area where the inner sleeve 104 has been inserted

1 into the outer sleeve 102 to show the transition from being outside of outer sleeve 102 to
2 being inside of outer sleeve 102.

3 FIG. 3 shows the separate components of exemplary card sleeve system 10a in an
4 exploded front view. FIG. 3 allows a clearer view of the outer sleeve 102, the inner
5 sleeve 104, and the playing card 106, as well as the potential differences in sizes between
6 these distinct components.

7 FIG. 4A illustrates a front view of an exemplary inner sleeve 104. As shown, the
8 inner sleeve 104 comprises, generally, four distinct sides. These sides include an inner
9 top edge 402 and an inner bottom edge 404 which is at least partially parallel to, and
10 opposite of, the inner top edge 402. Also included are an inner left edge 406 and an inner
11 right edge 408 which is at least partially parallel to, and opposite of, the inner left edge
12 406. Inner left edge 406 and inner right edge 408 are both at least partially perpendicular
13 to inner top edge 402 and inner bottom edge 404.

14 Where the inner top edge 402 meets the inner left edge 406, a right angle 414 is
15 shown. It is understood that this angle approximates a right angle 414, and degrees of
16 variance between the inner top edge 402 and the inner left edge 406 are permitted, as
17 tolerance is expected in any manufacturing process. Likewise, where inner top edge 402
18 meets the inner right edge 408, a right angle 414 is also shown, but not labeled to avoid
19 cluttering the drawing and facilitate readability. It is also understood that these two top
20 corners are approximately equal in degrees to one another, but perfect reflection is not
21 expected nor needed.

22 Where inner bottom edge 404 meets inner right edge 408, a rounded corner 416 is
23 shown. Likewise, where inner bottom edge 404 meets inner left edge 406, a rounded
24 corner 416 is also shown, but not labeled, again to avoid cluttering of drawing and
25 facilitate readability. Similar to the right angles 414, it is understood that the rounded
26 corners 416 are approximately equal to one another, but perfect reflection is not expected
27 nor needed.

28 Within the confines of the inner top edge 402, inner bottom edge 404, inner left
29 edge 406, and inner right edge 408, exists an inner sleeve pocket 418. The inner sleeve
30 pocket 418 is configured to receive an object, such as a playing card 106, through the
31 inner bottom edge 404, and hold the entirety of said object within its confines as

1 indicated by the broken lines. As is shown, the inner sleeve pocket 418 extends to the
2 beginning of the rounded corners 416, showing that the opening into the inner sleeve
3 pocket 418 includes both rounded corners 416 not being attached between the two sheets
4 that make up inner sleeve 104 (the inner front sheet 420 and the inner back sheet 422, see
5 FIG. 4B).

6 Inner sleeve 104 has an inner sleeve height 410 and inner sleeve width 412 that
7 may vary depending on the needs of the user. To proceed with the analysis of a playing
8 card 106 – a standard playing card commonly has a height of approximately 88
9 millimeters and a width of approximately 63 millimeters. In such a case, the inner sleeve
10 104 would be sized slightly larger than these dimensions. Exemplary dimensions include
11 an inner sleeve height 410 of approximately 89.4 millimeters and an inner sleeve width
12 412 of approximately 64.2 millimeters. These dimensions allow the thickness of the walls
13 of inner sleeve 104 to still permit the playing card 106 to enter the inner sleeve 104. To
14 allow for tolerance, a user may desire a range for these values to fall within. Assuming a
15 tolerance of about 0.5 millimeters, the inner sleeve height 410 may fall between the
16 values of 88.9 millimeters and 89.9 millimeters, and the inner sleeve width 412 may fall
17 between the values of 63.7 millimeters and 64.7 millimeters.

18 As an additional example, Japanese playing cards 106 commonly have a height of
19 approximately 59 millimeters and a width of approximately 86 millimeters. In such a
20 case, the inner sleeve 104 would, again, be slightly larger than these dimensions to
21 prevent the thickness of the walls from interfering with the playing card 106 during
22 insertion. Exemplary dimensions for such a case include an inner sleeve height 410 of
23 approximately 87 millimeters and an inner sleeve width 412 of approximately 60.3
24 millimeters. As described previously, a user may desire a range for the values to fall into,
25 to allow for tolerance of the machines being used to create the card sleeve system 10a.
26 Again, assuming a tolerance of about 0.5 millimeters, the inner sleeve height 410 may
27 fall between the values of 86.5 millimeters and 87.5 millimeters, and the inner sleeve
28 width 412 may fall between the values of 59.8 millimeters and 60.8 millimeters.

29 As shown in FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B is a side view, specifically from the right side, of
30 the inner sleeve 104 of FIG. 4A. As is shown, the inner sleeve 104 may comprise an inner
31 front sheet 420 welded to an inner back sheet 422 along all of the sides that do not consist

1 of the opening to the inner sleeve pocket 418 (the inner top edge 402, the inner left edge
2 406, and the inner right edge 408). The area where the inner front sheet 420 and inner
3 back sheet 422 are welded together are shown as inner side wall 424. Along the inner
4 bottom edge 404 exists an inner sleeve opening 428 for access to the inner sleeve pocket
5 418. It is along this inner bottom edge 404 that an object, such as a playing card 106 may
6 enter.

7 The sheets of inner sleeve 104 have an inner sleeve thickness 426, which is the
8 thickness of the material used to manufacture the sheets that make up inner sleeve 104.
9 Because the inner sleeve thickness 426 is not dependent on the size of the object placed
10 within the inner sleeve pocket 418, this inner sleeve thickness 426 will not change in the
11 presented examples of a standard playing card 106 and a Japanese playing card 106. The
12 inner sleeve thickness 426 in either scenario may be approximately 0.05 millimeters.
13 Because of fluctuations in material thickness in the manufacturing process, a user may
14 desire a range for the values of this inner sleeve thickness 426 to fall into. Assuming a
15 tolerance of about 0.005 millimeters, the inner sleeve thickness 426 may fall between the
16 values of 0.045 millimeters and 0.055 millimeters.

17 In some examples, the inner front sheet 420 is optically clear. The inner back
18 sheet 422 may also be optically clear, or it may be at least partially opaque or fully
19 opaque. Both the inner front sheet 420 and the inner back sheet 422 may be made from
20 polypropylene or an ecological friendly equivalent, such as a bio-based polypropylene.

21 FIG. 5 is a profile view of the inner sleeve of FIGS. 4A and 4B, showing the inner
22 sleeve opening 428 “puckered” to further indicate how the opening operates. It is
23 understood that, while the inner sleeve opening 428 is shown and described along the
24 inner bottom edge 404, this opening may be presented along any of inner left edge 406 or
25 inner right edge 408 for “side-loading” of the playing card 106, or along inner top edge
26 402.

27 FIG. 6A illustrates a front view of an exemplary outer sleeve 102. The outer
28 sleeve 102 shares a lot of similarities with the inner sleeve 104, with the exceptions of the
29 sizes (to permit the inner sleeve 104 to enter the outer sleeve 102), as well as the location
30 of the opening. While there are many similarities between the outer sleeve 102 and the
31 inner sleeve 104, the features will be reiterated here to facilitate readability. As shown,

1 the outer sleeve 102 comprises, generally, four distinct sides. These sides include an outer
2 top edge 602 and an outer bottom edge 604 which is at least partially parallel to, and
3 opposite of, the outer top edge 602. Also included are an outer left edge 606 and an outer
4 right edge 608 which is at least partially parallel to, and opposite of, the outer left edge
5 606. Outer left edge 606 and outer right edge 608 are both at least partially perpendicular
6 to outer top edge 602 and outer bottom edge 604.

7 Where the outer top edge 602 meets the outer left edge 606, a right angle 414 is
8 shown. It is understood that this angle approximates a right angle 414, and degrees of
9 variance between the outer top edge 602 and the outer left edge 606 are permitted, as
10 tolerance is expected in any manufacturing process. Likewise, where outer top edge 602
11 meets the outer right edge 608, a right angle 414 is also shown, but not labeled to avoid
12 cluttering the drawing and facilitate readability. It is also understood that these two top
13 corners are approximately equal in degrees to one another, but perfect reflection is not
14 expected nor needed.

15 Where outer bottom edge 604 meets outer right edge 608, a rounded corner 416 is
16 shown. Likewise, where outer bottom edge 604 meets outer left edge 606, a rounded
17 corner 416 is also shown, but not labeled, again to avoid cluttering of drawing and
18 facilitate readability. Similar to the right angles 414, it is understood that the rounded
19 corners 416 are approximately equal to one another, but perfect reflection is not expected
20 nor needed.

21 Within the confines of the outer top edge 602, outer bottom edge 604, outer left
22 edge 606, and outer right edge 608, exists an outer sleeve pocket 614. The outer sleeve
23 pocket 614 is configured to receive an object, such as a playing card 106, through the
24 outer top edge 602, and hold the entirety of said object within its confines as indicated by
25 the broken lines. As is shown, the outer sleeve pocket 614 extends to the outer top edge
26 602, showing that the opening into the outer sleeve pocket 614 exists on this outer top
27 edge 602 as opposed to the outer bottom edge 604, as is the case with the inner sleeve
28 104.

29 Outer sleeve 102 has an outer sleeve height 610 and outer sleeve width 612 that
30 may vary depending on the needs of the user. Using the assumptions of a standard
31 playing card 106 and the resulting dimensions of an inner sleeve 104, exemplary

1 dimensions may include an outer sleeve height 610 of approximately 91.8 millimeters
2 and an outer sleeve width 612 of approximately 66.8 millimeters. These dimensions
3 allow the thickness of the walls of outer sleeve 102 to still permit the inner sleeve 104 to
4 enter the outer sleeve 102. To allow for tolerance, a user may desire a range for these
5 values to fall within. Assuming a tolerance of about 0.5 millimeters again, the outer
6 sleeve height 610 may fall between the values of 91.3 millimeters and 92.3 millimeters,
7 and the outer sleeve width 612 may fall between the values of 66.3 millimeters and 67.3
8 millimeters.

9 Following along with the additional example of Japanese playing cards 106,
10 exemplary dimensions may include an outer sleeve height 610 of approximately 88.8
11 millimeters and an outer sleeve width 612 of approximately 62.1 millimeters. As
12 described previously, a user may desire a range for the values to fall into, to allow for
13 tolerance of the machines being used to create the card sleeve system 10a. Again,
14 assuming a tolerance of about 0.5 millimeters, the outer sleeve height 610 may fall
15 between the values of 88.3 millimeters and 89.3 millimeters, and the outer sleeve width
16 612 may fall between the values of 61.6 millimeters and 62.6 millimeters.

17 As shown in FIG. 6A, FIG. 6B is a side view, specifically from the right side, of
18 the outer sleeve 102 of FIG. 6A. As is shown, the outer sleeve 102 may comprise an outer
19 front sheet 616 welded to an outer back sheet 618 along all of the sides that do not consist
20 of the opening to the outer sleeve pocket 614 (the outer bottom edge 604, the outer left
21 edge 606, and the outer right edge 608). The area where the outer front sheet 616 and
22 outer back sheet 618 are welded together are shown as outer side wall 620. Along the
23 outer top edge 602 exists an outer sleeve opening 624 for access to the outer sleeve
24 pocket 614. It is along this outer bottom edge 602 that the inner sleeve 104, an object
25 such as a playing card 106, or a combination thereof may enter.

26 The sheets that make up outer sleeve 102 have an outer sleeve thickness 622,
27 which is the thickness of the material used to manufacture the sheets of outer sleeve 102.
28 Because the outer sleeve thickness 622 is not dependent on the size of the object, or inner
29 sleeve 104, placed within the outer sleeve pocket 614, this outer sleeve thickness 622 will
30 not change in the presented examples of a standard playing card 106 and a Japanese

1 playing card 106. Additionally, the outer front sheet 616 and the outer back sheet 618
2 may comprise different thicknesses.

3 For example, the outer front sheet 616 may have an outer sleeve thickness 622 of
4 approximately 0.12 millimeters. Because of fluctuations in material thickness in the
5 manufacturing process, a user may desire a range for the values of this outer sleeve
6 thickness 622 to fall into. Similar to the inner sleeve thickness 426, assuming a tolerance
7 of about 0.005 millimeters, the outer sleeve thickness 622 of the outer front sheet 616 in
8 this example may fall between the values of 0.115 millimeters and 0.125 millimeters.

9 The outer back sheet 618 may have an outer sleeve thickness 622 of
10 approximately 0.14 millimeters. Again assuming a tolerance of about 0.005 millimeters,
11 the outer sleeve thickness 622 of the outer back sheet 618 in this example may fall
12 between the values of 0.135 millimeters and 0.145 millimeters.

13 It is understood that these dimensions are exemplary only and that it is not strictly
14 necessary for the outer sleeve thickness 622 of the outer front sheet 616 to be different
15 than the outer sleeve thickness 622 of the outer back sheet 618.

16 In some examples, the outer front sheet 616 is optically clear. Additionally or
17 alternatively, the outer front sheet 616 may be translucent. According to some examples,
18 the outer front sheet 616 comprises a matte finish. The outer front sheet 616 may also
19 comprise an anti-glare finish. The matte or anti-glare finishes can reduce the effect of foil
20 from cards, and allow the cards to show up better on camera, facilitating online play or
21 coverage, such as in a tournament.

22 The outer back sheet 618 may be optically clear, translucent, at least partially
23 opaque, or fully opaque. In some examples, the outer back sheet 618 is colored.
24 Additionally or alternatively, the outer back sheet 618 may feature artwork.

25 Both the outer front sheet 616 and the outer back sheet 618 may be made from
26 polypropylene or an ecologically friendly equivalent, such as a bio-based polypropylene.

27 FIG. 7 is a profile view of the outer sleeve 102 of FIGS. 6A and 6B, showing the
28 outer sleeve opening 624 “puckered” to further indicate how the opening operates. It is
29 important to note, similar to the description of the inner sleeve 104 in FIG. 5, that while
30 the outer sleeve opening 624 is shown and described along the outer top edge 602, this
31 opening may be presented along any of outer left edge 606 or outer right edge 608 for

1 “side-loading” of the playing card 106 or the inner sleeve 104, or along outer bottom
2 edge 604. It may be desired that the outer sleeve opening 624 is along an edge opposite
3 that of the inner sleeve opening 428 to further prevent detriment or other particulate from
4 accessing the playing card 106, but this, also, is not strictly necessary.

5 FIG. 8 shows a front view of another exemplary card sleeve system 10b. As
6 illustrated in FIG. 8, a card sleeve system 10b may include an outer sleeve 102 and a
7 playing card 106. The playing card 106 is not necessary for the system to be complete,
8 however, as already discussed in FIG. 1 with regards to exemplary card sleeve system
9 10a, the purpose of the card sleeve system 10b is to provide an element of protection (i.e.,
10 wear and tear, light exposure, etc.) to some object, and thus a playing card 106 is shown
11 throughout the figures and described throughout this disclosure with the purpose of
12 providing a reference as to the actions being performed by the outer sleeve 102. Playing
13 card 106 is illustrated with broken lines to illustrate that playing card 106 is shown within
14 outer sleeve 102.

15 FIG. 9 illustrates a front view of playing card 106 being inserted into the outer
16 sleeve 102 to complete exemplary card sleeve system 10b. As shown, the playing card
17 106 is inserted into the top of the outer sleeve 102, where there is an opening as described
18 in FIGS. 6A, 6B, and 7. According to FIG. 9, the outer sleeve 102 is configured to
19 receive the playing card 106 through the outer sleeve opening 624 along the outer top
20 edge 602, whereby the playing card 106 slides into the outer sleeve pocket 614 until the
21 playing card 106 is substantially enclosed by the outer sleeve 102. Arrows are provided
22 to show the direction of movement of playing card 106 traveling with respect to outer
23 sleeve 102 during the motion of entry. The playing card 106 is illustrated with broken
24 lines only in the area where the playing card 106 has been inserted into the outer sleeve
25 102 to show the transition from being outside of outer sleeve 102 to being inside of outer
26 sleeve 102.

27 FIG. 10 shows the separate components of exemplary card sleeve system 10b in
28 an exploded front view. FIG. 10 allows a clearer view of the outer sleeve 102 and the
29 playing card 106, as well as the potential differences in sizes between these distinct
30 components.

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INTERPRETATION

The various features and processes described above may be used independently of one another, or may be combined in various ways. All possible combinations and subcombinations are intended to fall within the scope of this disclosure. In addition, certain method, event, state, or process blocks may be omitted in some implementations. The methods, steps, and processes described herein are also not limited to any particular sequence, and the blocks, steps, or states relating thereto can be performed in other sequences that are appropriate. For example, described tasks or events may be performed in an order other than the order specifically disclosed. Multiple steps may be combined in a single block or state. The example tasks or events may be performed in serial, in parallel, or in some other manner. Tasks or events may be added to or removed from the disclosed example embodiments. The example systems and components described herein may be configured differently than described. For example, elements may be added to, removed from, or rearranged compared to the disclosed example embodiments.

Conditional language used herein, such as, among others, "can," "could," "might," "may," "e.g.," and the like, unless specifically stated otherwise, or otherwise understood within the context as used, is generally intended to convey that certain embodiments include, while other embodiments do not include, certain features, elements and/or steps. Thus, such conditional language is not generally intended to imply that features, elements and/or steps are in any way required for one or more embodiments or that one or more embodiments necessarily include logic for deciding, with or without author input or prompting, whether these features, elements and/or steps are included or are to be performed in any particular embodiment. The terms "comprising," "including," "having," and the like are synonymous and are used inclusively, in an open-ended fashion, and do not exclude additional elements, features, acts, operations and so forth. Also, the term "or" is used in its inclusive sense (and not in its exclusive sense) so that when used, for example, to connect a list of elements, the term "or" means one, some, or all of the elements in the list. Conjunctive language such as the phrase "at least one of X, Y, and Z," unless specifically stated otherwise, is otherwise understood with the context as used in general to convey that an item, term, etc. may be either X, Y, or Z. Thus, such conjunctive language is not generally intended to imply that certain embodiments require

1 at least one of X, at least one of Y, and at least one of Z to each be present.

2 The term “and/or” means that “and” applies to some embodiments and “or”
3 applies to some embodiments. Thus, A, B, and/or C can be replaced with A, B, and C
4 written in one sentence and A, B, or C written in another sentence. A, B, and/or C means
5 that some embodiments can include A and B, some embodiments can include A and C,
6 some embodiments can include B and C, some embodiments can only include A, some
7 embodiments can include only B, some embodiments can include only C, and some
8 embodiments include A, B, and C. The term “and/or” is used to avoid unnecessary
9 redundancy.

10 While certain example embodiments have been described, these embodiments
11 have been presented by way of example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of
12 the inventions disclosed herein. Thus, nothing in the foregoing description is intended to
13 imply that any particular feature, characteristic, step, module, or block is necessary or
14 indispensable. Indeed, the novel methods and systems described herein may be embodied
15 in a variety of other forms; furthermore, various omissions, substitutions, and changes in
16 the form of the methods and systems described herein may be made without departing
17 from the spirit of the inventions disclosed herein.

18

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

2
3 1. A card sleeve system comprising:

4 an outer card sleeve comprising:

5 an outer front sheet; and

6 an outer back sheet coupled to the outer front sheet along an outer bottom edge,
7 an outer left edge, and an outer right edge of the outer card sleeve, wherein:

8 an outer top edge of the outer card sleeve defines an outer opening configured to
9 receive an inner card sleeve,

10 an outer top left corner and an outer top right corner of the outer card sleeve
11 define right angles, and

12 an outer bottom left corner and an outer bottom right corner of the outer card
13 sleeve define rounded corners.

14
15 2. The card sleeve system of Claim 1, wherein the outer front sheet comprises a
16 finish selected from the group consisting of optically clear and translucent.

17
18 3. The card sleeve system of Claim 2, wherein the outer front sheet further
19 comprises a texture selected from the group consisting of gloss, matte, and anti-glare.

20
21 4. The card sleeve system of Claim 3, wherein the outer front sheet comprises a
22 color.

23
24 5. The card sleeve system of Claim 1, wherein the outer back sheet comprises a
25 finish selected from the group consisting of optically clear, translucent, at least partially
26 opaque, and fully opaque.

27
28 6. The card sleeve system of Claim 5, wherein the outer back sheet comprises a
29 color.

1 7. The card sleeve system of Claim 1, wherein the outer front sheet has a thickness
2 between 0.115 mm and 0.125 mm, and

3 wherein the outer back sheet has a thickness between 0.135 mm and 0.145 mm.
4

5 8. The card sleeve system of Claim 1, wherein the outer card sleeve defines a height
6 of between 91.3 mm and 92.3 mm, and

7 wherein the outer card sleeve defines a width of between 66.3 mm and 67.3 mm.
8

9 9. The card sleeve system of Claim 1, wherein the outer card sleeve defines a height
10 of between 88.3 mm and 89.3 mm, and

11 wherein the outer card sleeve defines a width of between 61.6 mm and 62.6 mm.
12

13 10. The card sleeve system of Claim 1, further comprising:

14 an inner card sleeve configured to insert into the outer card sleeve, the inner card
15 sleeve comprising:

16 an inner front sheet; and

17 an inner back sheet coupled to the inner front sheet along an inner top edge, an
18 inner left edge, and an inner right edge of the inner card sleeve, wherein:

19 an inner bottom edge of the inner card sleeve defines an inner
20 opening configured to receive a card,

21 an inner top left corner and an inner top right corner of the inner
22 card sleeve define right angles,

23 an inner bottom left corner and an inner bottom right corner of the
24 inner card sleeve define rounded corners, and

25 the inner front sheet is not bonded to the inner back sheet along the
26 rounded corners of the inner bottom left corner and the inner bottom right
27 corner.
28

29 11. The card sleeve system of Claim 10, wherein the inner front sheet is optically
30 clear.
31

- 1 12. The card sleeve system of Claim 10, wherein the inner back sheet comprises a
2 finish selected from the group consisting of optically clear, at least partially opaque, and
3 fully opaque.
4
- 5 13. The card sleeve system of Claim 10, wherein the inner front sheet and the inner
6 back sheet have a thickness between 0.045 mm and 0.055 mm.
7
- 8 14. The card sleeve system of Claim 10, wherein the inner card sleeve defines a
9 height of between 88.9 mm and 89.9 mm, and
10 wherein the inner card sleeve defines a width of between 63.7 mm and 64.7 mm.
11
- 12 15. The card sleeve system of Claim 10, wherein the inner card sleeve defines a
13 height of between 86.5 mm and 87.5 mm, and
14 wherein the inner card sleeve defines a width of between 59.8 mm and 60.8 mm.
15
16