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(71) Applicant: **THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY**
[US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US).

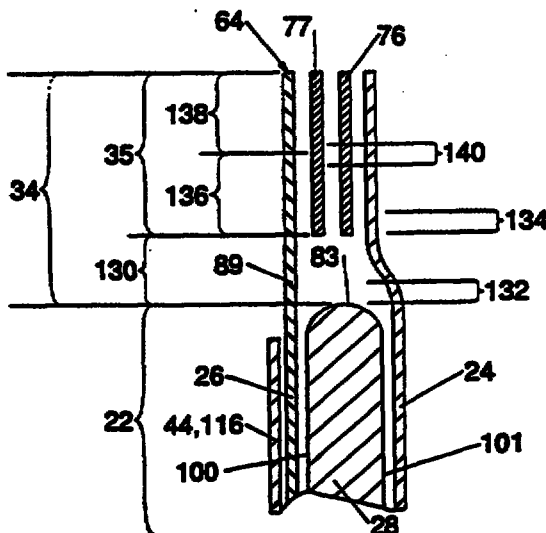
(72) Inventors: **BUELL, Kenneth, Barclay**; 218 Brodorf Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45215 (US). **CLEAR, Sandra, Hintz**; 9056 Meadow Drive, Maineville, OH 45039 (US). **FALCONE, Daniela, Threase**; 4168 Hamilton Avenue #4, Cincinnati, OH 45223 (US).

(74) Agent: **REED, T., David**; The Procter & Gamble Company, Ivorydale Technical Center, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).

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This Sheet Has Been Replaced

(54) Title: **ABSORBENT ARTICLE WITH ELASTIC WAIST WITH PREDISPOSED RESILIENT HINGE****(57) Abstract**

Absorbent articles such as disposable diapers, incontinent briefs, diaper holders and the like, that have an elastic waist feature that improves the fit of the elasticized waistband as well as the containment characteristics of the absorbent article. The elastic waist feature (34) preferably comprises an interconnecting panel zone (130), a first flexural hinge zone (132) joining the interconnecting panel zone with the containment assembly (22), an elasticized waistband (35), and a second flexural hinge zone (134) joining the elasticized waistband with the interconnecting panel zone. The elasticized waistband comprises a shaping panel zone (136); a waistline panel zone (138); and a predisposed, resilient, waistband hinge zone (140) joining the shaping panel zone and the waistline panel zone. The waistband hinge zone is predisposed to allow the panel zones to bend about a defined axis and is resilient to provide a restoring moment that returns the panel zones to their pre-use configuration, especially when the elasticized waistband has been pretensioned by a closure system (36). The closure system creates and maintains lateral tension through the elasticized waistband thereby allowing the elasticized waistband better expand and contract with the motions of the wearer. The absorbent article additionally preferably comprises a pair of elasticized side panels (30) disposed in the front/rear waist region (58). Alternative features wherein portions of the topsheet (24) and/or backsheet (26) lying in elasticized regions of the article have been prestrained are also described.