

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal centerline, a lateral centerline, and first and second longitudinally extending sides joining first and second laterally extending ends, the absorbent article comprising:
a liquid pervious topsheet;
a liquid impervious backsheet joined to the topsheet; and
an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core having a longitudinal length and a lateral width, the absorbent core comprising:
a first longitudinally extending side core segment, the first side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article;
a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and
a central core segment extending along the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article, the central core segment separate from the first and second longitudinally extending side core segments and displaceable in the Z-direction relative to the first and second side core segments, *and the backsheet, and wherein the central core segment is displaceable in the Z-direction independently of the first and second side core segments from a first extended configuration to a second compressed configuration.*
2. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal centerline, a lateral centerline, and first and second longitudinally extending sides joining first and second laterally extending ends, the absorbent article comprising:
a liquid pervious topsheet;
a liquid impervious backsheet joined to the topsheet;
an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core having a longitudinal length and a lateral width, the absorbent core comprising:
a central core segment extending along the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article;
a first longitudinally extending side core segment, the first side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable

absorbent article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and
 a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and
 a lifting member disposed intermediate the backsheet and the central core segment for providing ^{independent} Z-direction displacement of the central core segment relative to the first and second side core segments.

3. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein each of the first and second side core segments is separate from the central core segment.
4. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the central core segment has a lateral width less than the lateral width of the absorbent core.
5. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the lifting member is nonabsorbent.
6. The disposable absorbent article of claim 2 wherein the lifting member has a wet caliper reduction of less than about eight percent.
7. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the lifting member has a wet caliper reduction which is no more than about 20 percent greater than the dry caliper reduction of the lifting member.
8. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the lifting member comprises a longitudinally extending lifting member having a plurality of pleats along the length of the lifting member, the pleats having a Z-direction height for providing Z-direction displacement of a portion of the central core segment relative to the backsheet.
9. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 8 wherein the pleats have a Z-direction height of at least 10 millimeters.

(the lateral spacing between the first and second side core segments is disposed intermediate the first and second side core segments, and wherein the lifting member provides independent Z-direction displacement of the central core segment relative to the first and second side core segments)

article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and

a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment separate from the central core segment and disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and

a lifting member disposed intermediate the backsheet and the central core segment for providing Z-direction displacement of the central core segment relative to the first and second side core segments.

wherein the first and second side core segments are spaced apart laterally, wherein at least a portion of the central core segment having a lateral width less than ().

24. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal centerline, a lateral centerline, and first and second longitudinally extending sides joining first and second laterally extending ends, the absorbent article comprising:

a liquid pervious topsheet;

a liquid impervious backsheet joined to the topsheet;

an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core having a longitudinal length and a lateral width, the absorbent core comprising:

a central core segment extending along the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article, the central core segment having a lateral width less than the lateral width of the absorbent core;

a first longitudinally extending side core segment, the first side core segment separate from the central core segment and disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and

a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment separate from the central core segment and disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article;

a longitudinally extending lifting member disposed intermediate the backsheet and the central core segment for providing Z-direction displacement of the central core segment relative to the first and second side core segments; and

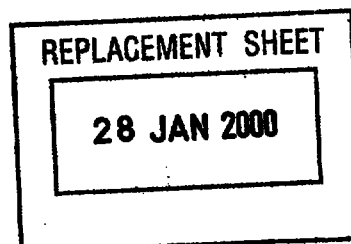
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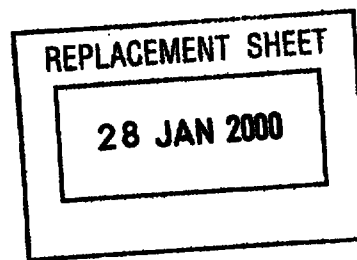
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal centerline, a lateral centerline, and first and second longitudinally extending sides joining first and second laterally extending ends, the absorbent article comprising:
 - a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - a liquid impervious backsheet joined to the topsheet; and
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core having a longitudinal length and a lateral width, the absorbent core comprising:
 - a first longitudinally extending side core segment, the first side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article;
 - a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and
 - a central core segment extending along the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article, the central core segment separate from the first and second longitudinally extending side core segments and displaceable in the Z-direction relative to the first and second side core segments, and the backsheet, and wherein the central core segment is displaceable in the Z-direction independently of the first and second side core segments from a first extended configuration to a second compressed configuration.

2. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal centerline, a lateral centerline, and first and second longitudinally extending sides joining first and second laterally extending ends, the absorbent article comprising:
 - a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - a liquid impervious backsheet joined to the topsheet;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core having a longitudinal length and a lateral width, the absorbent core comprising:
 - a central core segment extending along the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article;
 - a first longitudinally extending side core segment, the first side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable

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- absorbent article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and
- a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and
- a lifting member disposed intermediate the backsheet and the central core segment for providing independent Z-direction displacement of the central core segment relative to the first and second side core segments.
3. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein each of the first and second side core segments is separate from the central core segment.
 4. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the central core segment has a lateral width less than the lateral width of the absorbent core.
 5. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the lifting member is nonabsorbent.
 6. The disposable absorbent article of claim 2 wherein the lifting member has a wet caliper reduction of less than about eight percent.
 7. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the lifting member has a wet caliper reduction which is no more than about 20 percent greater than the dry caliper reduction of the lifting member.
 8. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the lifting member comprises a longitudinally extending lifting member having a plurality of pleats along the length of the lifting member, the pleats having a Z-direction height for providing Z-direction displacement of a portion of the central core segment relative to the backsheet.
 9. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 8 wherein the pleats have a Z-direction height of at least 10 millimeters.

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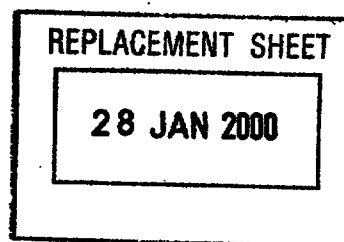
article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and

a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment separate from the central core segment and disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and

a lifting member disposed intermediate the backsheet and the central core segment for providing Z-direction displacement of the central core segment;

wherein the first and second side core segments are spaced apart laterally, wherein at least a portion of the central core segment having a lateral width less than the lateral spacing between the first and second side core segments is disposed intermediate the first and second side core segments, and wherein the lifting member provide independent Z-direction displacement of the central core segment relative to the first and second side core segments.

24. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal centerline, a lateral centerline, and first and second longitudinally extending sides joining first and second laterally extending ends, the absorbent article comprising:
- a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - a liquid impervious backsheet joined to the topsheet;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core having a longitudinal length and a lateral width, the absorbent core comprising:
 - a central core segment extending along the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article, the central core segment having a lateral width less than the lateral width of the absorbent core;
 - a first longitudinally extending side core segment, the first side core segment separate from the central core segment and disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and

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- a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment separate from the central core segment and disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article;
- a longitudinally extending lifting member disposed intermediate the backsheet and the central core segment for providing Z-direction displacement of the central core segment relative to the first and second side core segments; and
- a web of cellulosic fibers having a basis weight of between about 10 grams per square meter and about 65 grams per square meter, the web of cellulosic fibers having a first longitudinally extending side portion, a second longitudinally extending side portion, and a longitudinally extending central portion extending laterally intermediate the first and second side portions; wherein the central portion of the web is disposed intermediate the lifting member and the central core segment, wherein the first side portion of the web is disposed intermediate the backsheet and the first core side segment, and wherein the second side portion of the web is disposed intermediate the backsheet and the second core side segment.
25. A mold for forming an airlaid absorbent core, the mold comprising:
a mold top surface;
a deposition cavity formed in the mold top surface, the deposition cavity bounded by a perimeter sidewall and a foraminous bottom wall; and
at least one partition dividing the deposition cavity into cavity segments.
26. The mold recited in Claim 25 comprising a pair of generally parallel partitions.
27. The mold recited in Claim 26, wherein the mold forms a portion of the perimeter of a laydown drum, and wherein the partitions extend generally parallel to the direction of rotation of the laydown drum.
28. The mold recited in Claim 26 wherein each partition comprises a passageway for interconnecting adjacent cavity segments.

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1. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal centerline, a lateral centerline, and first and second longitudinally extending sides joining first and second laterally extending ends, the absorbent article comprising:
 - a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - a liquid impervious backsheet joined to the topsheet; and
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core having a longitudinal length and a lateral width, the absorbent core comprising:
 - a first longitudinally extending side core segment, the first side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article;
 - a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and
 - a central core segment extending along the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article, the central core segment separate from the first and second longitudinally extending side core segments and displaceable in the Z-direction relative to the first and second side core segments, and the backsheet, and wherein the central core segment is displaceable in the Z-direction independently of the first and second side core segments from a first extended configuration to a second compressed configuration.

2. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal centerline, a lateral centerline, and first and second longitudinally extending sides joining first and second laterally extending ends, the absorbent article comprising:
 - a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - a liquid impervious backsheet joined to the topsheet;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core having a longitudinal length and a lateral width, the absorbent core comprising:
 - a central core segment extending along the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article;
 - a first longitudinally extending side core segment, the first side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable

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- absorbent article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and
- a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and
- a lifting member disposed intermediate the backsheet and the central core segment for providing independent Z-direction displacement of the central core segment relative to the first and second side core segments.
3. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein each of the first and second side core segments is separate from the central core segment.
 4. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the central core segment has a lateral width less than the lateral width of the absorbent core.
 5. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the lifting member is nonabsorbent.
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 8. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein the lifting member comprises a longitudinally extending lifting member having a plurality of pleats along the length of the lifting member, the pleats having a Z-direction height for providing Z-direction displacement of a portion of the central core segment relative to the backsheet.
 9. The disposable absorbent article of Claim 8 wherein the pleats have a Z-direction height of at least 10 millimeters.

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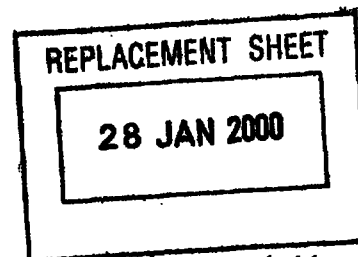
article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and

a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment separate from the central core segment and disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and

a lifting member disposed intermediate the backsheet and the central core segment for providing Z-direction displacement of the central core segment;

wherein the first and second side core segments are spaced apart laterally, wherein at least a portion of the central core segment having a lateral width less than the lateral spacing between the first and second side core segments is disposed intermediate the first and second side core segments, and wherein the lifting member provide independent Z-direction displacement of the central core segment relative to the first and second side core segments.

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- a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - a liquid impervious backsheet joined to the topsheet;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core having a longitudinal length and a lateral width, the absorbent core comprising:
 - a central core segment extending along the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article, the central core segment having a lateral width less than the lateral width of the absorbent core;
 - a first longitudinally extending side core segment, the first side core segment separate from the central core segment and disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the first longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article; and

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- a second longitudinally extending side core segment, the second side core segment separate from the central core segment and disposed intermediate the longitudinal centerline of the disposable absorbent article and the second longitudinally extending side of the disposable absorbent article;
- a longitudinally extending lifting member disposed intermediate the backsheet and the central core segment for providing Z-direction displacement of the central core segment relative to the first and second side core segments; and
- a web of cellulosic fibers having a basis weight of between about 10 grams per square meter and about 65 grams per square meter, the web of cellulosic fibers having a first longitudinally extending side portion, a second longitudinally extending side portion, and a longitudinally extending central portion extending laterally intermediate the first and second side portions; wherein the central portion of the web is disposed intermediate the lifting member and the central core segment, wherein the first side portion of the web is disposed intermediate the backsheet and the first core side segment, and wherein the second side portion of the web is disposed intermediate the backsheet and the second core side segment.
25. A mold for forming an airlaid absorbent core, the mold comprising:
a mold top surface;
a deposition cavity formed in the mold top surface, the deposition cavity bounded by a perimeter sidewall and a foraminous bottom wall; and
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26. The mold recited in Claim 25 comprising a pair of generally parallel partitions.
27. The mold recited in Claim 26, wherein the mold forms a portion of the perimeter of a laydown drum, and wherein the partitions extend generally parallel to the direction of rotation of the laydown drum.
28. The mold recited in Claim 26 wherein each partition comprises a passageway for interconnecting adjacent cavity segments.