

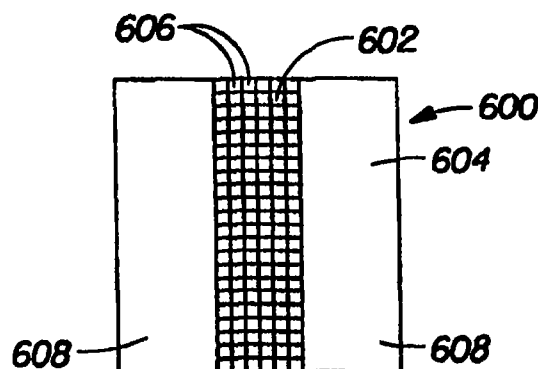
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61F 13/15	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/42067 (43) International Publication Date: 26 August 1999 (26.08.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB99/00225 (22) International Filing Date: 10 February 1999 (10.02.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/027,039 20 February 1998 (20.02.98) US (71) Applicant: THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). PROL (72) Inventors: McFALL, Ronald, Ray; 8253 Whitehill Lane, West Chester, OH 45069 (US). LAVON, Gary, Dean; 7320 Canterbury Court, West Chester, OH 45044 (US). NOEL, John, Richard; 1526 Shenandoah Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45237 (US). HAMMONS, John, Lee; 7379 Dust Commander Court, Hamilton, OH 45011 (US). ROE, Donald, Carroll; 6324 Emberwood Court, West Chester, OH 45069 (US). (74) Agents: REED, T., David et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, 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, SK (Utility model), 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, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.  *G00002*	

(54) Title: METHOD OF MAKING A SLITTED OR PARTICULATE ABSORBENT MATERIAL AND STRUCTURES FORMED THEREBY

(57) Abstract

A method of making a slitted or particulate absorbent material for an absorbent article such as sanitary napkins, diapers, incontinence devices, and the like is disclosed. More particularly, the present invention relates to a method as described above which can be carried out *in situ* on another component of the absorbent article in a manufacturing process without cutting the other component. In one embodiment, the absorbent material is placed between two carrier webs, and a force is applied to the composite of the absorbent material and the carrier webs. The force breaks the absorbent material, but only deforms the carrier webs to provide a self-contained web of particulate material between two carrier webs. Absorbent structures formed by this method are also disclosed. In one embodiment, the absorbent structure comprises a composite web of discrete elements of absorbent material. The composite web comprises at least one carrier web and a plurality of discrete elements of absorbent material arranged in an orderly array on the carrier web. In one embodiment, the discrete elements of absorbent material are positioned adjacent to each other without any intervening material between the discrete elements of absorbent material.



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