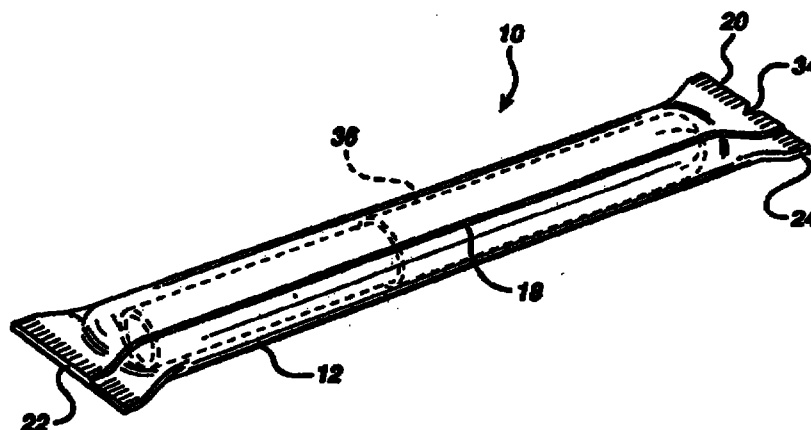


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(54) Title: **A FLEXIBLE TUBULAR PACKAGE**

(57) Abstract

A simple, strong overwrap package which has a generally tubular shape and which incorporates features to help the user to open the package in a controlled manner at a controlled location is disclosed. The overwrap package has a longitudinal seam formed of: (a) a first narrow longitudinal strip portion of outwardly facing, sealable inner surface which is superposed over a corresponding longitudinal strip portion of the outer surface; (b) a second narrow longitudinal strip portion of outwardly facing outer surface adjacent said sealable inner surface; and (c) a third narrow longitudinal strip portion of inwardly facing sealable inner surface which is superposed over and sealed to the first and second longitudinal strip portions. Preferably, the first narrow strip is formed by folding a portion of the inner surface of the packaging material over the outer surface. The seam therefore provides a reinforced tearing strip, and a tear originating at the first generally flattened end proximate the longitudinal seam away from the first lateral side is capable of following the longitudinal seam toward the second generally flattened end. The method of making such packages is also disclosed.