container meeting at a junction. Each of the first modified edge portion and the second modified edge portion has a length in the longitudinal direction of the respective modified edge portion and a respective width that extends transversely to the length. The first modified edge portion is defined by an ablation area on its inner surface, the ablation area comprising one or more ablated lines each having a residual thickness less than the thickness (T) of the laminar blank. The first modified edge portion comprises a first portion and an end portion extending from the first portion, the end portion tapering from a width (W) of the first portion to a point at the junction with the second modified edge portion. The second modified edge portion is defined by a plurality of creasing lines in the laminar blank. The ablation area of the first modified edge portion comprises a first ablated line and a second ablated line extending in parallel in the longitudinal direction of the first modified edge portion within the first portion of the ablation area. Each of the first and second ablated lines is arranged proximate to a respective one of the first planar wall and the second planar wall.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a laminar blank for forming a container for consumer articles, the laminar blank comprising: a first planar wall; a second planar wall connected to the first planar wall by a first modified edge portion; and a third planar wall connected to the first planar wall by a second modified edge portion. The longitudinal direction of the first modified edge portion is transverse to the longitudinal direction of the second modified edge portion. The first modified edge portion and the second modified edge portion form, when the container is assembled from the laminar blank, adjacent edge portions of the container meeting at a junction. Each of the first modified edge portion and the second modified edge portion has a length in the longitudinal direction of the respective modified edge portion and a respective width that extends transversely to the length. The first modified edge portion is defined by an ablation area on its inner surface, the ablation area comprising one or more ablated lines each having a residual thickness less than the thickness (T) of the laminar blank. The first modified edge portion comprises a first portion and an end portion extending from the first portion, the end portion tapering from a width (W) of the first portion to a point at the junction with the second modified edge portion. The second modified edge portion is defined by a plurality of creasing lines in the laminar blank. The ablation area of the first modified edge portion comprises a first ablated line and a second ablated line extending in parallel in the longitudinal direction of the first modified edge portion within the first portion of the ablation area. Each of the first and second ablated lines is arranged proximate to a respective one of the first planar wall and the second planar wall.

It shall be appreciated that any features described with reference to one aspect of the present invention are equally applicable to any other aspect of the invention.

In contrast to known blanks/containers having two adjacent non-squared (for example, rounded or bevelled) modified edge portions, at least one of the modified edge portions tapers towards the intersection with an adjacent modified edge portion. In more detail, the at least one modified edge portion comprises a first portion, for example one having a substantially constant width over at least a part of its length, and at least a tapered end portion extending from the first portion to the intersection with another modified edge portion of the same planar wall of the container.

Because the interference between adjacent modified edge portions is limited, if not eliminated altogether, the risk of damaging the blank/container during the folding operation is significantly reduced. Thus, bending of the blank when forming the container is easier and results

CLAIMS

1. A container for consumer articles, the container being at least partially formed from a laminar blank, the laminar blank defining a portion of the container, which comprises:

a first planar wall;

a second planar wall connected to the first planar wall by a first modified edge portion; and

a third planar wall connected to the first planar wall by a second modified edge portion;

the longitudinal direction of the first modified edge portion being transverse to the longitudinal direction of the second modified edge portion; the first modified edge portion and the second modified edge portion forming, when the container is assembled from the laminar blank, adjacent edge portions of the container meeting at a junction;

wherein each of the first modified edge portion and the second modified edge portion has a length in the longitudinal direction of the respective modified edge portion and a respective width that extends transversely to the length;

wherein the first modified edge portion is defined by an ablation area on its inner surface, the ablation area comprising one or more ablated lines each having a residual thickness less than the thickness (T) of the laminar blank, the first modified edge portion further comprising a first portion and an end portion extending from the first portion, the end portion tapering from a width (W) of the first portion to a point at the junction with the second modified edge portion;

wherein the second modified edge portion is defined by a plurality of creasing lines in the laminar blank;

wherein the ablation area of the first modified edge portion comprises a first ablated line and a second ablated line extending in parallel in the longitudinal direction of the first modified edge portion within the first portion of the ablation area; and

wherein each of the first and second ablated lines is arranged proximate to a respective one of the first planar wall and the second planar wall.

2. A container according to claim 1, wherein both of the first modified edge portion and the second modified edge portions comprise a respective first portion and a respective end portion extending from the respective first portion and tapering from a width of the respective first portion to a point at the junction with the other one of the first modified edge portion and the second modified edge portion.

3. A container according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the plurality of creasing lines extend in the longitudinal direction of the second modified edge portion over the whole length of the second modified edge portion.

4. A container according to claim 3, wherein the second modified edge portion is defined by at least four creasing lines in the laminar blank, the at least four creasing lines extending in the longitudinal direction of the second modified edge portion over the whole length of the second modified edge portion.

5. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the first ablated line and the second ablated line comprises a slanted section extending over at least part of the tapering end portion of the first modified edge portion, along a direction forming a non null angle with the longitudinal direction of the first modified edge portion.

6. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each ablated line has a residual thickness of less than about 50 percent of the thickness (T) of the laminar blank.

7. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each ablated line has a residual thickness of at least about 5 percent of the thickness (T) of the laminar blank.

8. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a fourth planar wall connected to the first planar wall by a third modified edge portion, the longitudinal direction of the third modified edge portion being transverse to the longitudinal direction of the first modified edge portion and substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the second modified edge portion, such that, when the container is assembled from the laminar blank, the first modified edge portion and the third modified edge portion form adjacent edge portions of the container meeting at a second junction;
wherein the first modified edge portion comprises a first portion and two opposite end portions extending from the first portion, each end portion tapering from a width (W) of the first portion to a point at the junction with a respective one of the second and third modified edge portions (A2, A3).

9. A container according to claim 8, wherein the third modified edge portion (A3) is defined by a plurality of creasing lines in the laminar blank extending in the longitudinal direction of the third modified edge portion over the whole length of the third modified edge portion.

10. A container according to any one of the preceding claims containing smoking articles.

11. A laminar blank for forming a container for consumer articles, the laminar blank comprising:

a first planar wall;

a second planar wall connected to the first planar wall by a first modified edge portion; and

a third planar wall connected to the first planar wall by a second modified edge portion;

the longitudinal direction of the first modified edge portion being transverse to the longitudinal direction of the second modified edge portion; the first modified edge portion and the second modified edge portion forming, when the container is assembled from the laminar blank, adjacent edge portions of the container meeting at a junction;

wherein each of the first modified edge portion and the second modified edge portion has a length in the longitudinal direction of the respective modified edge portion and a respective width that extends transversely to the length;

wherein the first modified edge portion is defined by an ablation area on its inner surface, the ablation area comprising one or more ablated lines each having a residual thickness less than the thickness (T) of the laminar blank, the first modified edge portion further comprising a first portion and an end portion extending from the first portion, the end portion tapering from a width (W) of the first portion to a point at the junction with the second modified edge portion;

wherein the second modified edge portion is defined by a plurality of creasing lines in the laminar blank;

wherein the ablation area of the first modified edge portion comprises a first ablated line and a second ablated line extending in parallel in the longitudinal direction of the first modified edge portion within the first portion of the ablation area; and

wherein each of the first and second ablated lines is arranged proximate to a respective one of the first planar wall and the second planar wall.