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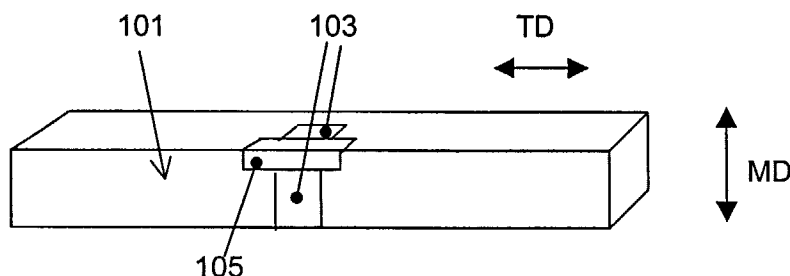
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(54) Title: PACKAGING METHODS AND PACKS MADE THEREBY



(57) Abstract: There is described a method for wrapping an article using a web of packaging film having at least one tear line thereon in the MD, the method comprising the steps of: (a) forming at regular intervals in the MD a tab on the film, the tab having a free end connected by free sides to an opposite end of the tab attached to the film, the tab being positioned on the film so the axis of at least one tear line in the MD passes through both ends of

the tab; (b) severing the film web to form sheets by cutting substantially along an axis across the TD of the web, the axis passing across the tab between its ends, where the tab along said axis is not substantially severed there through so the tab protrudes from the leading edge of the sheet; (c) wrapping a sheet formed from step (b) around an article to form a tube with the cut sides of the sheet overlapping, where the free end of the tab lies on the top of the overlap on the outside of the tube and where the cut sides of the sheet overlap at least to the extent that the tab in the film on the top surface overlaps with film underneath, and (d) sealing the film together within the overlap region by a sealing means which: (i) seals more strongly in the overlap region outside a tear line region inside the overlap, where the tear line region is defined by the cut edges of the overlap region (ex TD) and a pair of axes parallel to the non-cut sides of the film sheet (ex MD) each axis passing through the respective widest points of the side of the tab; so the free end of the tab is either unsealed or only weakly sealed to the film; and (e) wrapping the ends of the tube around the article and sealing the ends to form a sealed package around the article, the package readily openable by pulling the free tab end to initiate tearing along the tear line. Packaging (such as cigarette cartons) wrapped with films by this method are also described.



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