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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/21373 (22) International Filing Date: 21 November 1997 (21.11.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/755,435 22 November 1996 (22.11.96) US (71) Applicant: KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC. [US/US]; 401 North Lake Street, Neenah, WI 54956 (US). (72) Inventors: CHAN, Michael, Yuwah; 10435 Stanyan Street, Alpharetta, GA-30202 (US). TRAMONTINA, Paul, Francis; 155 Cobblestone Way, Alpharetta, GA 30201 (US). (74) Agents: SIDOR, Karl, V. et al.; Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc., 401 North Lake Street, Neenah, WI 54956 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, ID, IL, 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, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: INTERFOLDED NAPKIN DISPENSING SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

An interfolded paper napkin dispensing system composed of : a) an outer housing (12) defining an interior space (14); b) stacking means (16) mounted within the outer housing (12) for holding a stack of paper napkins (18) within the interior space (14); and c) a dispensing face (20) defined in the outer housing (12) proximate to an end of the stacking means (16). The dispensing face (20) has a central portion (22) projecting out from the dispenser and a dispensing throat (24) located in the central portion (22). The dispensing throat (24) is composed of a slot portion (26) having a length sufficient to permit a paper napkin to be pulled through by a user, but a relatively narrow width that prevents more than a few napkins from being pulled through the throat (24) at one time. The dispensing throat (24) further includes a finger access portion (28) to help a user grip and pull a paper napkin through the dispensing slot despite the relatively narrow width of the dispensing slot.

