



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : A61F 13/20	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/06071 (43) International Publication Date: 10 February 2000 (10.02.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/17159 (22) International Filing Date: 29 July 1999 (29.07.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/126,491 30 July 1998 (30.07.98) US (71) Applicant: THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). (72) Inventors: BOWLES, Virginia; 8323 St. Clair Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45236 (US). CURTIS, Jon, Arthur; Route 22 South, Ticonderoga, NY 12883 (US). FRANCIS, Jenene, Marie; 3727 Sachem Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45226 (US). (74) Agents: REED, T., David et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).		(81) Designated States: AE, 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, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, 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 <i>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.</i>
(54) Title: LAYERED TAMPON (57) Abstract This invention relates to absorbent tampons. More particularly, the invention relates to an improved absorbent tampon having an improved fluid acquisition rate without decrease in capacity or fluid retention characteristics. This is accomplished by an absorbent tampon comprising a layered structure constructed from layers of rayon and cotton. The tampon pledget of the present invention is in the form of a laminar pad of discrete layers. The pledget comprises at least an uppermost layer, a lowermost layer, and at least one intermediate layer positioned between the uppermost layer and the lowermost layer. The uppermost layer and the lowermost layer are each comprised primarily of rayon. At least one intermediate layer is comprised primarily of cotton. In a particular aspect of the invention, the outer layers (i.e. the uppermost layer and the lowermost layer) are comprised of at least about 60 % rayon, more preferably at least about 90 % rayon, and even more preferably entirely of rayon. In another aspect of the invention at least one intermediate layer is comprised of at least about 60 % cotton, more preferably at least 90 % cotton, and even more preferably entirely of cotton.		