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PRODUCT HOUSING STACKED BODY OF WET TISSUES



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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a wet tissue product having a stacked body of folded wet tissues housed in a container or package.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In general, wet tissues are sealed and housed in a container or package so as to keep their wet state before used or when unused. These wet tissues are stacked, such that they have overlapping portions between the upper and lower wet tissues, so that they are consecutively and sequentially pulled out of an outlet provided in the container or package. When the wet tissue at the uppermost position is pulled out, a portion of the succeeding wet tissue is protruded from the outlet of the container. This is generally called the "pop-up type". The conventional wet tissue stacked body of this "pop-up type" will be described with reference to the drawings.

One example of the conventional wet tissue stacked body, as shown in **Fig. 9**, is formed in the following manner. First, a wet tissue **61A** is folded in two along its center line **64** as a folding line, as shown in **Fig. 7(A)**, such that a wet tissue **61B** having such a shape as shown in **Fig. 7(B)** is provided. In **Fig. 9**, the wet tissues **61B** are stacked such that a lower half **63** of the upper wet tissue **61B** is sandwiched between an upper half **62** and a lower half **63** of the lower wet tissue **61B**.

When the upper wet tissue **61B** is pulled out, the upper half **62** of the lower wet tissue **61B**, which is put on the lower half **63** of the upper wet tissue **61B**, is pulled up together toward the outlet (not shown) to be pulled out from the outlet. Thus, the upper half **62** of the lower wet tissue **61B** comes out of the outlet so that the wet tissues can be pulled out consecutively one by one.

However, in the wet tissue stacked body shown in **Fig. 9**, the overlapping area between the lower half **63** of the upper wet tissue **61B** and

the upper half **62** of the lower wet tissue **61B** is as large as about one half of the area of the wet tissue **61A** before being folded. Therefore, when the upper wet tissue **61B** is pulled out, the length of the protrusion of the succeeding lower wet tissue **61B** becomes as large as about one half of the length of the wet tissue **61A** before being folded.

If the protrusion of the wet tissue is too large, it can not be confined within the area of a cover which is usually provided with the container or package to cover the outlet. As a result, the protrusion partially extends out of the cover. Then, the wet tissue dries up at this portion extending out of the cover. Moreover, when the protrusion partially extends out of the cover, it is difficult to close the cover reliably. This lowers the sealability of the container or package, so that the overall wet tissue stacked body is liable to dry up.

Fig. 10 shows another example of the conventional wet tissue stacked body. The wet tissue stacked body shown in **Fig. 10** is formed in the following manner. A wet tissue **71A**, as shown in **Fig. 8(A)**, is folded back at its end portions toward the opposite faces along the folding lines **75** and **76** which divide the wet tissue **71A** substantially in three, such that a wet tissue **71B** having such a shape as shown in **Fig. 8(B)** is formed. As shown in **Fig. 10**, the wet tissues **71B** are stacked such that a lower portion **72** of the upper wet tissue **71B** is sandwiched between an upper portion **74** and an intermediate portion **73** of the succeeding lower wet tissue **71B**.

In this construction, the overlapping area between the lower portion **72** of the upper wet tissue **71B** and the upper portion **74** of the lower wet tissue **71B** is as large as about one third of the area of the wet tissue **71A** before folded. Therefore, the length of the protrusion of the succeeding lower wet tissue **71B** becomes shorter than that of the example shown in **Fig. 9**. However, since the wet tissue **71B** is folded in three, the stacked body composed of a plurality of wet tissues **71B** becomes too thick.

Disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 213453/1995 (which corresponding U.S. patent is No. 5,497,903) is a wet tissue folding

structure which allows the wet tissues to be consecutively pulled out. This wet tissue folding structure is shown in **Fig. 11**. In this folding structure, the lower half **63** of the wet tissue **61B** shown in **Fig. 7(B)** is further folded in two along a folding line **65** to form a wet tissue **61C** shown in **Fig. 7(C)**. As shown in **Fig. 11**, the wet tissues **61C** are then stacked such that the upper half **62** of the lower wet tissue **61C** is sandwiched between the upper half **62** and an intermediate portion **66** of the upper wet tissue **61C**.

Here, as shown in **Fig. 11**, the wet tissue **61C** is further indicated by **61C1**, **61C2** and **61C3**, in order from the top. When the wet tissue **61C1** is pulled out, the righthand half of the upper half **62** of the wet tissue **61C2** is pulled up together with the intermediate portion **66** of the wet tissue **61C1** and protruded from the outlet. In this folding structure, therefore, the length of the protrusion of the succeeding lower wet tissue **61C** is optimized to about one quarter of the length of the wet tissue **61A** before being folded. Moreover, the stacked body does not become too thick.

However, the folded wet tissue **61C** composing the wet tissue stacked body shown in **Fig. 11** is formed by folding the wet tissue **61A** along the widthwise center line **64** and then by folding only the lower half **63** along the folding line **65**. As a result, the widthwise center line of the folded wet tissue **61C** is not identical to that of the unfolded wet tissue **61A**. Therefore, the wet tissue has to be supplied to the folding step while being guided such that its center is widthwise shifted. This makes it difficult and seriously troublesome to adjust and stabilize the folding line at a correct position on the supply line.

At the folding step, moreover, because the center of wet tissue is liable to be offset, the center line **64** or the folding line **65** is liable to move out of position. With this discrepancy in the folding size, the overlapping area between the upper half **62** of the lower wet tissue **61C** and the intermediate portion **66** of the upper wet tissues **61C** fails to take one quarter of that of the unfolded wet tissue **61A** accurately, so that the length of the protrusion of the wet tissue cannot be fixed. In addition, there may be such a

case that the folding line **65** of the upper wet tissue and the folding line **65** of the lower wet tissue overlap each other. As a result, the central portion of the stacked body may become thick.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention has been conceived to solve the above-mentioned problems of the prior art and has an object to provide a wet tissue product in which when a wet tissue is pulled out, the protrusion of the succeeding wet tissue is appropriately small.

Another object of the invention is to provide a wet tissue product in which the protrusion of the wet tissue can always be constant.

The present invention provides a wet tissue product comprising: a stacked body of folded wet tissues; and a container or package housing the stacked body,

wherein each of the folded wet tissues is formed by folding a plane wet tissue with opposite edges thereof to the same side along folding line portions to have a first folded portion, a second folded portion and an intermediate portion between the first and second folded portions, and

the folded wet tissues are so consecutively combined that the folding line portion forming the second folded portion of the upper wet tissue is sandwiched between the first folded portion and the intermediate portion of the succeeding lower wet tissue, and the second folded portion of the upper wet tissue and the first folded portion of the lower wet tissue are in face-to-face contact with each other.

In the present invention, it is preferred that each of the folded portions has an area about one quarter as large as that of the unfolded wet tissue.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1(A) and 1(B) are perspective views showing a method of folding a wet tissue for an embodiment of the wet tissue product according to

the invention;

Fig. 2 is a section for explaining a method of combining the folded wet tissues shown in **Fig. 1(B)**;

Fig. 3 is a section of an embodiment of the wet tissue product composed of the folded wet tissues shown in **Fig. 1(B)**;

Fig. 4 is a partially perspective view of the wet tissue product shown in **Fig. 3**;

Fig. 5 is a section of another embodiment of the wet tissue product according to the invention;

Fig. 6 is a section for illustrating a protrusion of a wet tissue;

Figs. 7(A), 7(B) and 7(C) are perspective views showing a method by which a wet tissue is folded to form a stacked body according to the prior art;

Figs. 8(A) and 8(B) are perspective views showing a method by which a wet tissue is folded to form a stacked body according to the prior art;

Fig. 9 is a section showing a wet tissue stacked body according to the prior art;

Fig. 10 is a section showing a wet tissue stacked body according to the prior art; and

Fig. 11 is a section showing a wet tissue stacked body according to the prior art.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 3 is a section showing an embodiment of a wet tissue product according to the invention. **Figs. 1(A) and 1(B)** are perspective views showing a method of folding a plane wet tissue to form a folded wet tissue for the wet tissue product shown in **Fig. 3**. **Fig. 2** is a section for explaining a method of combining the folded wet tissues shown in **Fig. 1(B)**.

Here will be described a folded wet tissue 11 for the first

embodiment of the wet tissue product according to the invention. The folded wet tissue 11 is formed by folding a plane wet tissue into three portions. As shown in **Fig. 1(A)**, the plane wet tissue before being folded has a rectangular shape (having a lateral dimension in the direction X and a longitudinal dimension in the direction Y). The folded wet tissue 11 is formed such that one laterally extending edge 17 is folded upward along a folding line portion 15 extending in parallel with the edge 17 and the other laterally extending edge 18 is folded upward along a folding line portion 16 extending in parallel with the edge 18. That is, the folded wet tissue 11 is formed by folding the edges 17 and 18 to the same side, along the folding line portions 15 and 16. The folded wet tissue 11 thus obtained has a general shape of letter "C", as shown in **Fig. 1(B)**. This folded wet tissue 11 has a first folded portion 12, which is formed by the folding line portion 15, a second folded portion 14, which is formed by the folding line portion 16, and an intermediate portion 13 intervening between the first and second folded portions 12 and 14. Here, in this embodiment (as shown in **Figs. 1(A)** and **1(B)**), the folding line portions 15 and 16 extend in the direction X (i.e., in the lateral direction of the unfolded wet tissue), and the folding line portion 15 is spaced from the edge 17 by about one quarter of the longitudinal dimension of the plane wet tissue (i.e., unfolded wet tissue) whereas the folding line portion 16 is spaced from the edge 18 by about one quarter of the longitudinal dimension of the plane wet tissue (i.e., unfolded wet tissue). Therefore, the first folded portion 12 and the second folded portion 14 each have an area of about one quarter as large as that of the plane wet tissue (i.e., unfolded wet tissue).

The folded wet tissues 11 thus obtained are stacked in such a manner as shown in **Fig. 2**, such that a wet tissue stacked body 30 as shown in **Fig. 3** is provided. Here, in order to facilitate the explanation of the stacked state, the individual folded wet tissues 11 are designated numerals 11a, 11b, 11c and 11d in an order which begins from the top of the stacked body 30.

As shown in **Fig. 2**, each wet tissue 11 is combined with its underlying wet tissue 11, having its folding line portion 16 forming the second

folded portion **14** sandwiched between the first folded portion **12** and the intermediate portion **13** of the underlying wet tissue **11**. For example, the folding line portion **16** of the wet tissue **11a** is sandwiched between the first folded portion **12** and the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11b**, and the folding line portion **16** of the wet tissue **11b** is sandwiched between the first folded portion **12** and the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11c**.

As described above, a plurality of the folded wet tissues **11** are consecutively combined to provide the wet tissue stacked body **30**, as shown in **Fig. 3**. This stacked body **30** is constructed by combining a number of, e.g., fifty or one hundred wet tissues. Here, the wet tissue stacked body **30** is thinner than that of the prior art.

In **Fig. 3**, the wet tissue stacked body **30** is housed in a container **35** having an outlet **36** for pulling out the wet tissues, to provide the wet tissue product of the invention. Here, the bottom of the container **35** is omitted in **Fig. 4**, but the container **35** is sealed up excepting the outlet **36** so as to prevent the wet tissues from drying up. Further, the container **35** is generally provided with a cover (or lid) for closing (or covering around) the outlet **36** when the product is unused, although it is omitted in **Fig. 4**.

Before use, the outlet **36** confronts the edge **17** of the first folded portion **12** of the uppermost folded wet tissue **11a**. Upon use, this uppermost folded wet tissue **11a** is pulled out from the outlet **36** by pinching its edge **17**. At this time, the first folded portion **12** of the succeeding folded wet tissue **11b** is pulled up together with the second folded portion **14** of the wet tissue **11a** and then comes out of the outlet **36**. That is, when the folded wet tissue **11a** is pulled out from the outlet **36**, the succeeding folded wet tissue **11b** protrudes partially from the outlet **36** and becomes the uppermost one to be pulled out next. Then, when this protruding folded wet tissue **11b** is pulled out, the succeeding folded wet tissue **11c** protrudes partially from the outlet **36** and becomes the uppermost one to be pulled out next, likewise.

As described above, in the wet tissue stacked body **30**, when the uppermost wet tissue is pulled out, the succeeding wet tissue protrudes

partially from the outlet **36**. Here, the size of the protrusion of the succeeding wet tissue is determined by the overlapping area between the uppermost wet tissue and the first folded portion **12** of the succeeding wet tissue. In this embodiment, the size in the direction Y of the first folded portion **12** is about one quarter as large as the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue, as shown in **Fig. 1(A)**, so that the length (or height) of the protrusion from the outlet **36** is also equal to about one quarter as large as the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue.

Thus, when the uppermost wet tissue is pulled out, the length of the protrusion of the succeeding wet tissue is so short that the wet tissue protruding partially from the outlet **36** is difficult to dry and provides a good appearance. Furthermore, in the case where the container **35** is provided with a cover for closing the outlet **36**, the protrusion of the wet tissue from the outlet **36** can be easily confined within the area of the closed cover so that the outlet **36** can be easily sealed up with the cover.

Moreover, because the individual sizes, as taken in the direction Y, of the folded portions **12** and **14** of the wet tissue **11** are about one quarter as large as the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue, the wet tissue stacked body **30** thus far described is kept in its total height away from extremely exceeding that of the stacked body of the prior art shown in **Fig. 9**, which is made by stacking the wet tissues all folded in two. Further, the thickness of the stacked body **30** can be made generally even, so that the stacked body **30** provides a good appearance.

Fig. 4 is a partial perspective view showing the exterior of the wet tissue product of the invention, in which the stacked body **30** is housed in the container **35** as shown in **Fig. 3**. The outlet **36** is disposed at the substantially central portion in the upper face of the container, **35**. Specifically, the outlet **36** is formed at a position to confront the central portion of the faces of the folded wet tissues **11** constructing the wet tissue stacked body **30** housed in the container **35**. And, the edge **17** of the uppermost wet tissue **11** appears from the outlet **36**. When the user uses the

wet tissue product for the first time, he or she can pull out the upper folded portion of the wet tissue 11 easily by pinching its edge 17 because the edge 17 appears in the outlet 36. The outlet 36 may be given a function as the so-called "resisting portion" to prevent the succeeding next wet tissue from being dragged and pulled out more than necessary from the outlet 36 by the upper wet tissue, when this upper wet tissue is pulled out.

In a process for producing the wet tissue stacked body 30, a long paper band (which has a width equal to the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue shown in Fig. 1(A)) is continuously supplied so that it is folded by means of blades along the folding line portions 15 and 16 extending along the feeding direction of the paper band. These paper bands are combined in plurality in such a manner as shown in Fig. 2, and are then cut to the size of each stacked body 30 (i.e., to the lateral dimension of the unfolded wet tissue).

Generally, a three-folded wet tissue is liable to have a size deviation at its folding step in the production process. Therefore, in the wet tissue stacked body of the prior art shown in Fig. 11, for example, it is difficult to stack them in a secure manner. In the wet tissues 11 composing the wet tissue stacked body 30 shown in Fig. 3, on the contrary, the center lines along the direction X are aligned between the wet tissues 11 before being folded and after being folded. Since the center lines are thus unchanged before and after the folding step, little dislocation in the direction Y occurs in the supply line of the paper band to the folding step so that the folding line portions can be accurately and easily adjusted by the blades to make the folding size accurate.

As compared with the three-folded wet tissue stacked body of the prior art, therefore, the wet tissue stacked body 30 can be produced easily and homogeneously as a whole. In other words, the overlapping areas can be set such that they are substantially uniform, between the second folded portion of the upper wet tissue and the first folded portion of the lower wet tissue. As a result, the dispersion in the length of the protrusion is reduced.

Here, the folded wet tissues **11** thus stacked are in a face-to-face contact with each other through a liquid. Subsequently, these wet tissues are adhered (or engaged) considerably strong to each other by the surface tension of the intervening liquid. The adhesion (or the engaging force), which is established when the wet tissues contact in the face-to-face relation with each other through the liquid, is influenced by the differences in the roughness of the tissue surfaces and in the hydrophilic nature and water retention of fibers appearing on the tissue surfaces.

In the case where the wet tissue is made of a spun lace nonwoven fabric, for example, it has a relatively smooth and good-sliding face (of a low adhesion (or engaging force)) on one side, which is directly treated by the water jets (or water flows for interlacing the fibers) at the step of making the spun lace nonwoven fabric, and a relatively rough and less-sliding face (of a high adhesion (or engaging force)) on the other side, which is not treated by the water jets and becomes fluffy. This result likewise applies to a wet tissue which is manufactured by the wet paper making process, and the side for confronting a cylinder mold in the paper making process becomes a relatively rough and less-sliding face (of a high adhesion (or engaging force)).

Further, there may be a wet tissue made of a nonwoven fabric having a two-layered structure composed of a layer containing more hydrophobic fibers and a layer containing more hydrophilic fibers. In this wet tissue, it is hard for the layer containing the hydrophobic fibers to retain the water so that the adhesion by the surface tension of the liquid is lowered thereby to provide a face having a relatively low adhesion (or engaging force). On the other hand, the other layer containing the hydrophilic fibers can more easily retain the water so that the adhesion by the surface tension of the liquid is enhanced thereby. As a result, a face having a relatively high adhesion (or engaging force) is provided.

When the wet tissue stacked body **30** shown in **Fig. 3** is to be constructed of wet tissues each having a high adhesion face (as indicated at reference numeral **41** by broken lines in **Fig. 2**) and a low adhesion face (as

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indicated at reference numeral **40** by solid lines in **Fig. 2**), it is preferable that each wet tissue **11** is folded such that the intermediate portion **13** and the folded portions **12** and **14** are in face-to-face contact with their high adhesion faces **41** (as indicated by the broken line) opposed to each other. In short, it is preferable that the folded portions **12** and **14** are folded to have the high adhesion faces **41** inside.

In **Fig. 2**, the intermediate portion **13** and the folded portions **12** and **14** of the wet tissue **11a** contact with each other such that their high adhesion faces **41** confront each other at mating portions **50A** and **50B**. Between the wet tissue **11a** and the wet tissue **11b**, which is positioned second from the top, moreover, the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11a** and the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11b** contact with each other through the low adhesion faces **40** and the high adhesion face **41** at a mating portion **51**. Between the wet tissue **11a** and the wet tissue **11c**, which is positioned third from the top, the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11a** and the first folded portion **12** of the wet tissue **11c** contact with each other through the low adhesion faces **40** at a mating portion **52**. This rule is to be repeated in the stacked body **30** so that the adhesions between the wet tissues at the mating portions **50A**, **50B**, **53A** and **53B** are stronger than those at the mating portions **51**, **52**, **54** and **55**.

When the wet tissue **11a** is pulled out, therefore, the wet tissues can be separated more easily at the mating portions **51** and **52** than at the mating portions **50A** and **50B**. Accordingly, the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11a** can be easily separated from the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11b** and the first folded portion **12** of the wet tissue **11c**, and the second folded portion **14** of the wet tissue **11a** can be pulled out from the outlet **36** while being in close contact with the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11a**. As a result, only the first folded portion **12** of the wet tissue **11b** is pulled up together with the second folded portion **14** of the wet tissue **11a** and is protruded from the outlet **36**.

With such a structure, when the uppermost wet tissue is pulled

out, only the first folded portion **12** of the succeeding next wet tissue is protruded from the outlet **36**. As a result, the protrusion is not excessively enlarged but is stabilized. On the other hand, because the second folded portion **14** of the uppermost wet tissue and the first folded portion **12** of the succeeding wet tissue contact with each other having the low adhesion face **40** and the high adhesion face **41** opposed to each other, the second folded portion **14** of the uppermost wet tissue and the first folded portion **12** of the succeeding wet tissue can be separated relatively easily from each other at the instant when the uppermost wet tissue is wholly pulled from the outlet **36**. Therefore, the resistance to the pull-out of the wet tissue is so low that the container **35** is not pulled up by the wet tissue being pulled out.

However, if the wet tissue is made of a nonwoven fabric having no difference in adhesion (or engaging force) between the front and back sides, it is unnecessary to consider the aforementioned combination. For example, it is preferable that the wet tissue is made of a nonwoven fabric having a three-layered structure, which is composed of two outer layers containing relatively more hydrophobic fibers and an intermediate layer containing relatively more hydrophilic fibers. If this nonwoven fabric is employed, the water present between the wet tissues is reduced due to the hydrophobic fibers so that the adhesion (or engaging force) between the wet tissues due to the surface tension of the water becomes relatively weak, on both faces of each wet tissue. Therefore, when the uppermost wet tissue is pulled out, only the first folded portion **12** of the succeeding wet tissue (as overlapping the outlet side of the second folded portion **14** of the uppermost wet tissue) is pulled up and protruded. However, the remaining portions are not protruded from the outlet.

Alternatively, the wet tissue may be made of a nonwoven fabric, in which both the front and back faces are made uneven (or to have recesses). This unevenness of the wet tissue faces makes it easy for the air to enter between the confronting faces of the upper and lower wet tissues. As a result, the surface tension of water is thereby lowered such that the adhesion

between the wet tissues is lowered.

Fig. 5 is a section showing another embodiment of the wet tissue product of the invention. The wet tissue product shown in **Fig. 5** is obtained by housing the wet tissue stacked body **30** shown in **Fig. 3** upside down in the container **35**. The stacked body thus housed upside down in the container **35** is designated by reference numeral **31**. In this wet tissue stacked body **31**, the wet tissue at the lowermost position in the stacked body **30** confronts the outlet **36** and becomes the uppermost wet tissue designated by reference numeral **11z**. In the stacked body **31**, the individual wet tissues **11** are designated by reference numeral **11z**, **11y** and **11x**, in an order which begins from the top. As shown in **Fig. 5**, the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11z** confronts the outlet **36**, and the folding line portion **16** of the wet tissue **11y** is sandwiched between the first folded portion **12** and the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11z**.

When the uppermost wet tissue **11z** is pulled out from the outlet **36**, the second folded portion **14** and the about half of the intermediate portion **13** of the succeeding wet tissue **11y** is pulled up together with the first folded portion **12** of the wet tissue **11z** to be protruded from the outlet **36**. At this time, as shown in **Fig. 6**, the wet tissue **11y** partially protrudes such that the folding line portion **16** makes a crest while the edge **18** being left in the container **35**. Then, the length of the protrusion is about or less than one quarter as long as the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue. In this case, moreover, the second folded portion **14** and the intermediate portion **13** forming the protrusion are apt to separate from each other to form a loop. This looped protrusion provides a good appearance.

When the wet tissue stacked body **31** is composed of wet tissues each having the high and low adhesion faces **41** and **40**, it is preferred that each wet tissue is folded such that the intermediate portion **13** and the folded portions **12** and **14** are in face-to-face contact with their high adhesion faces **41** opposed to each other. In short, it is preferable that the folded portions **12** and **14** are folded to have the high adhesion face **41** inside. The

combination between the high adhesion face **41** and the low adhesion face **40** at this time is identical to that in the wet tissue stacked body **30** shown in **Fig. 2**.

In this case, the first folded portion **12** of the uppermost wet tissue **11z** and the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11x** positioned third from the top confront each other through the low adhesion faces **40**. Accordingly, when the wet tissue **11z** is pulled out, the wet tissue **11z** is easily separated from the wet tissue **11x**. Further, the second folded portion **14** and the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11y** confront each other through the high adhesion faces **41**. Therefore, when the wet tissue **11z** is pulled out, the wet tissue **11y** protrudes from the outlet **36** with its folded portion **14** and intermediate portion **13** being in close contact with each other. Moreover, because the intermediate portion **13** and the first folded portion **12** of the wet tissue **11z** and the second folded portion **14** and the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11y** contact with each other through the low and high adhesion faces **40** and **41**, the wet tissue **11z** and the wet tissue **11y** are separated relatively easily at the instant when the wet tissue **11z** comes out from the outlet **36**.

On the other hand, the wet tissue stacked body **31** may be composed of wet tissues each having two low adhesion faces, in place of the aforementioned wet tissues each having the high and low adhesion faces.

When the wet tissue is to be protruded as shown in **Fig. 6**, it is preferable that the distance between the edge **18** of the lower wet tissue and the edge **17** of the upper wet tissue is adjusted so that the edge **18** of the lower wet tissue may be left without fail in the container **35**. For example, it is preferable that the edge **18** of the lower wet tissue is closer to the central portion of the stacked body **31** than the edge **17** of the upper wet tissue. In the wet tissue stacked body **31**, as shown in **Fig. 5**, the edge **17** of the uppermost wet tissue **11z** is spaced by a distance **47** from the edge **18** of the succeeding wet tissue **11y**. When the wet tissue **11z** is pulled out, the second folded portion **14** and the intermediate portion **13** of the wet tissue **11y** are

protruded from the outlet **36** exclusively at the portion located on the lefthand side relative to the edge **17** of the wet tissue **11z** in **Fig. 5**. In other words, the second folded portion **14** of the wet tissue **11y** is left in the container at the portion indicated by the distance **47** from the edge **18**. The distance **47** is preferably 3mm or more, more preferably 5 mm or more.

When the wet tissue stacked body **31** shown in **Fig. 5** is to be sold as a product by housing it in the container or package, only the first wet tissue confronting the outlet (e.g., uppermost wet tissue) may be folded in a shape different from the wet tissue **11** shown in **Fig. 1(B)**, so that it may be easily pulled out when the user uses the unused product for the first time. For example, the first wet tissue is preferably folded such that the edge **18** or the folding line portion **16** confronts the outlet. After the first wet tissue was pulled out, the continuing wet tissues consecutively protrude from the outlet.

The aforementioned wet tissues **11** are made of a nonwoven fabric or paper composed of natural fibers and/or synthetic fibers. For example, use can be made of a spun lace nonwoven fabric made of polyethylene or polypropylene and having a high wet strength. The size of the unfolded wet tissue, as shown in **Fig. 1(A)**, is exemplified by about 150 x 200 mm, although it can be suitably changed depending upon the size of the container or package. The wet tissues **11** are impregnated with water, alcohol, humectants, surface active agents, perfumes, antiseptics, mildewcides or the like.

The container **35** is made from a relatively hard synthetic resin such as polyethylene, polypropylene or the like. The outlet **36** is preferably provided with a cover for closing (covering around) the outlet **36** so as to seal up the container **35** and prevent the protruded wet tissue from drying up. Alternatively, instead of the hard container **35**, a package (or envelope) of a liquid-impermeable film may be used to house the wet tissue stacked body. In addition, the wet tissue product of the invention can also be used as the so-called "refill package", in which the wet tissue stacked body housed in the package is further housed in a hard container.

In the wet tissue stacked body **30** and **31** thus far described, the size in the direction Y of the folded portions of the wet tissue **11** is set about one quarter as long as the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue. However, the wet tissue stacked body may be composed of wet tissues in which the folding line portions **15** and **16** are apart from the edges **17** and **18** by about one fifth of the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue. In this case, the length of the protrusion of the wet tissue can be made much shorter to about one fifth of the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue.

In the wet tissue stacked body of the invention, however, there will be a more or less size dispersion at the folding step of the production process. The folding line portions **15** and **16** are not always located accurately at one quarter or one fifth of the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue from the edges, but may be located at less than or about one quarter or one fifth of the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue.

Moreover, in the wet tissue stacked body of the invention, the length of the protrusion can be adjusted in accord with demand by adjusting the locations of the folding line portions **15** and **16**. Therefore, the folding line portions **15** and **16** may be located at one third or one sixth of the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue from the edges, for example. However, the length of the protrusion of the wet tissue in the general use is preferably one quarter or less of the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue. In addition, when the folding line portions **15** and **16** are located apart from the edges **17** and **18** by one quarter of the longitudinal dimension of the unfolded wet tissue, the individual folded portions of the wet tissue are divided to the right and left of the stacked body so that the thickness of the stacked body is made generally even. Therefore, the stacked body is well shaped to provide a good appearance.

While in the foregoing specification this invention has been described in relation to preferred embodiments and many details have been set

forth for purpose of illustration it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the invention is susceptible to additional embodiments and that certain of the details described herein can be varied considerably without departing from the basic principles of the invention.

Further, 'comprises/comprising' when used in this specification is taken to specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps or components but does not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, components or groups thereof.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wet tissue product comprising: a stacked body of folded wet tissues; and one of a container and package for housing the stacked body,

wherein each of the folded wet tissues is formed by folding a plane wet tissue with opposite edges thereof to the same side along folding line portions to have a first folded portion, a second folded portion and an intermediate portion between the first and second folded portions, and

the folded wet tissues are consecutively combined such that a folding line portion forming the second folded portion of an upper wet tissue is sandwiched between the first folded portion and the intermediate portion of a succeeding lower wet tissue, and the second folded portion of the upper wet tissue and the first folded portion of the lower wet tissue are in face-to-face contact with each other.

2. The wet tissue product according to Claim 1, wherein:

each folded portion has an area about one quarter as large as that of an unfolded wet tissue.

3. The wet tissue product according to Claim 2, wherein:

each wet tissue has one face which has a low adhesion and another face which has a high adhesion, and the folded portions are folded such that the high adhesion side faces inward.

4. The wet tissue product according to Claim 2, wherein:

one of the container and package has an outlet, and the stacked body of wet tissues is housed in one of the container and package such that the first folded portion faces toward the outlet.

5. The wet tissue product according to Claim 2, wherein:

one of the container and package has an outlet, and the stacked body of wet tissues is housed in one of the container and package such that the intermediate portion faces toward the outlet.