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(54) Title: PACKAGING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EXPANDABLE PADDED MAILERS

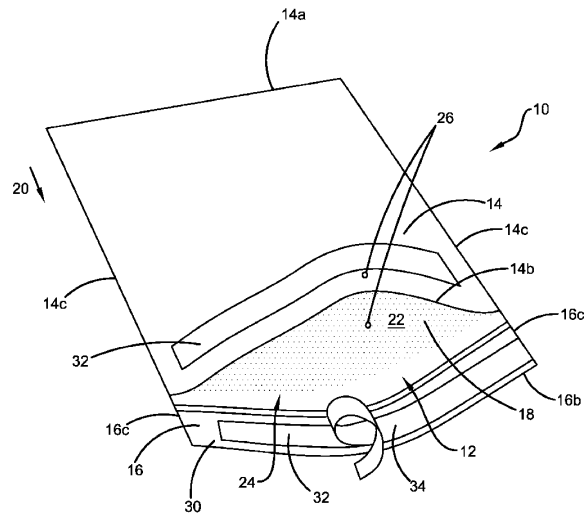


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A packaging system that enables a packer to open a packaging envelope with one hand and insert an item to be packaged before removing the packaging envelope and closing the packaging envelope for shipment. The packaging system includes an envelope support assembly configured to support an upright stack of a plurality of packaging envelopes, and a capture mechanism configured to engage and hold a top edge of a front sheet of a bottom envelope in the upright stack so that a top edge of a rear sheet can be moved downward and away from the front sheet to open the packaging envelope with one hand for insertion of the item to be shipped. Each packaging envelope has a front sheet and a rear sheet connected together along a bottom edge and along respective side edges to form a pouch into which an item to be shipped can be inserted.

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