are made to the shape of the blank or container, new machine adjustments typically become necessary.

Besides, forming scoring or creasing lines to form bevelled or rounded edge portions in the container adds further complexity to the manufacturing process and can also result in the container having a weakened strength. In addition, in some cases, the visual and tactile perception of the container may be impacted, in that the outer surface of the rounded corners is not entirely smooth and can include ridges or ripples from where the creasing has occurred.

It would therefore be desirable to provide a blank for manufacturing a container for consumer goods that overcomes the drawbacks described above. In particular, it would be desirable to provide blank for manufacturing a container for consumer goods that makes the design, production and assembly process easier and more flexible. From a manufacturing standpoint, it would be particularly desirable to provide one such blank that can be folded by a conventional packing machine without requiring major structural modifications.

According to the present invention, there is provided a laminar blank for forming a container for consumer articles. The laminar blank has a thickness (T) and comprises a bottom wall panel for forming a bottom wall of the container and a top wall panel for forming a top wall of the container. Further, the laminar blank comprises a rear wall panel for forming at least part of a rear wall of the container and a front wall panel for forming at least a part of a front wall of the container. In addition, the laminar blank comprises two first side panels extending from the rear wall panel and two second side panels extending from the front wall panel, such that, when the container is assembled from the laminar blank, the first and the second side panels overlap to form at least part of left and right side walls of the container. The first side panels or the second side panels or both are connected to the respective one of the rear wall panel and the front wall panel by modified edge portions. Each of the modified edge portions has an inner and an outer surface, and the inner surfaces of the modified edge portions define respective ablation areas. Each ablation area comprises one or more ablated zones having a residual thickness that is less than the thickness (T) of the laminar blank. The laminar blank further comprises at least one pair of dust flaps extending from the first side panels or the second side panels or both, such that, when the container is assembled from the laminar blank, the flaps in a pair overlap the bottom wall panel to form the bottom wall or the top wall panel to form the top wall. Each dust flap in the at least one pair of dust flaps comprises a main flap portion depending along a fold line from a respective first or second side panel and a side flap portion extending laterally from the flap main portion beyond a peripheral edge of the respective first or second side panel. Each ablation are has a length (L) in the longitudinal direction of the modified edge portion and a width (A) that extends transversely to the length (L) across the modified edge portion. In each dust flap in the at least one pair of dust flaps the side flap portion

extends beyond the peripheral edge of the respective first or second side panel by at least about 25 percent of the width (A) of the ablation area.

The term “modified edge portion” is used herein to refer to an edge portion of the container having a non-square shape as viewed in cross-section. This may for example refer to a “curved edge portion”, that is an edge portion of the container having an arc-like shape

limited material removal, even in the case of containers with rounded corners, the strength of the container may advantageously be adjusted, so that appearance and resistance of the container are both improved.

Advantageously, the blank may be manufactured by precisely removing material from the round corner portion with a linear ablation tool (e.g. laser, blade). Repeated passages of the ablation tool over a given portion of the blank results in the removal of a greater percentage of material, that is in a reduced residual thickness.

Further, if the overall size (in terms of maximum width and depth) of a container is not significantly altered, the Applicant has advantageously found that it is easy to adapt the blank according to invention to form containers having different shapes, such that no major modifications of the packing machine are required.

In its most general terms, a laminar blank according to the present invention is adapted to form a container with non-squared edges. The blank comprises two first side panels extending from the rear wall panel and two second side panels extending from the front wall panel, such that, when the container is assembled from the laminar blank, the first and the second side panels overlap to form at least part of left and right side walls of the container. At least one of the first side panels and the second side panels are connected to the respective one of the rear wall panel and the front wall panel by modified edge portions. The modified edge portions have an inner and an outer surface, and the inner surfaces define respective ablation areas. Each ablation area comprises one or more ablated zones with a residual thickness that is less than the thickness (T) of the laminar blank.

Further, the blank comprises at least one pair of dust flaps extending from the first side panels or the second side panels or both, such that, when the container is assembled from the laminar blank, the flaps in a pair overlap the bottom wall panel to form the bottom wall or the top wall panel to form the top wall. Each dust flap in the at least one pair of dust flaps comprises a main flap portion depending along a fold line from a respective first or second side panel and a side flap portion extending laterally from the flap main portion beyond a peripheral edge of the respective first or second side panel.

In accordance with the present invention, each ablation area has a length (L) in the longitudinal direction of the modified edge portion and a width (w) that extends transversely to the length (L) across the modified edge portion. In each dust flap in the at least one pair of dust flaps the side flap portion extends beyond the peripheral edge of the respective first or second side panel by at least about 25 percent of the width (w) of the ablation area. Preferably, in each dust flap in the at least one pair of dust flaps the side flap portion extends beyond the peripheral edge of the respective first or second side panel by at least about 35 percent of the width (w) of the ablation area.