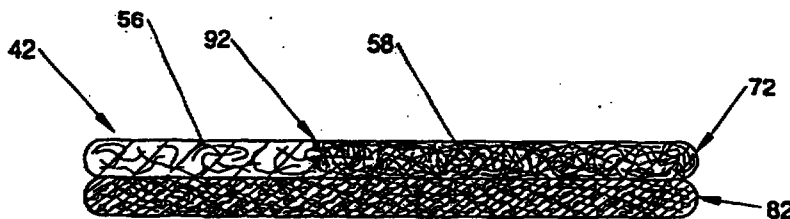




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5 : A61L	A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 94/2376 (43) International Publication Date: 27 October 1994 (27.10.94)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US94/03073 (22) International Filing Date: 22 March 1994 (22.03.94) (30) Priority Data: 08/042,950 5 April 1993 (05.04.93) US (71) Applicant: THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). (72) Inventors: PAYNE, Michael; 11651 Norbourne Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45240 (US). PERKINS, Roberts, William; 7153 Lookout Court, Hamilton, OH 45011 (US). MOORE, Danny, Raymond; 7691 Lakota Springs Drive, West Chester, OH 45069 (US). (74) Agents: REED, T., David et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CZ, F, GE, HU, JP, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SD, SI, SK, TJ, TT, UA, U, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, B, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>

(54) Title: **IMPROVED ABSORBENT MEMBERS HAVING IMPROVED FLUID DISTRIBUTION VIA LOW DENSITY AND BASIS WEIGHT ACQUISITION ZONES**



(57) Abstract

An absorbent article having a dual-layer absorbent member, wherein the deposition region of its upper acquisition layer comprises a distribution zone and an acquisition zone having a lower average density and a lower average basis weight per unit area than the distribution zone. The acquisition zone is positioned toward the front of either the absorbent member or the absorbent article so that the acquisition zone may most effectively and efficiently rapidly acquire discharged liquids. The lower storage layer comprises a mixture of hydrophilic fiber material and discrete particles of absorbent gelling material having a particular size distribution so as to enhance the absorbent capacity and acquisition rate of the dual-layer absorbent member. The upper acquisition layer comprises a homogeneous composition of stiffened, twisted, and curled cellulose fibers which provide enhanced wicking action in the densified distribution zone. The upper acquisition layer serves to rapidly and evenly distribute fluids to the lower storage layer for storage, while freeing the acquisition zone for the next discharge of fluid.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

