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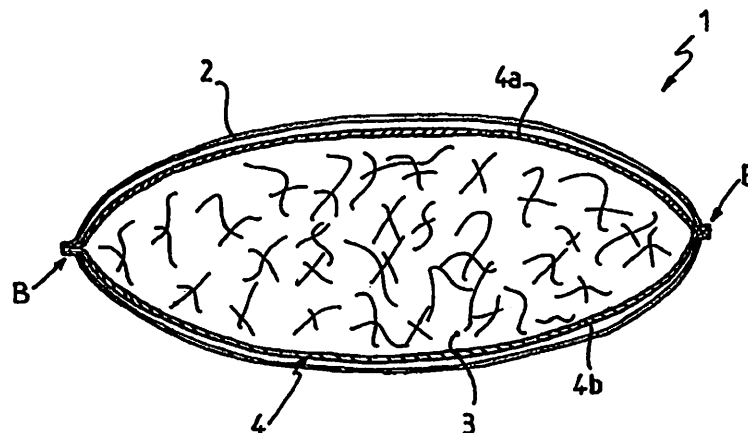
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(54) Article of bedding such as a pillow, comforter or the like

(57) The present invention relates to an article of bedding such as a pillow, comforter or the like consisting of a cover or outer casing (2) made from an external woven natural cotton-like fabric stuffed with an inner filling (3), characterized in that the inner filling (3) is enclosed in an inner casing (4) consisting of at least two panels (4a, 4b; 4c) made of a non-woven fabric treated in the mass or by

impregnation and in that each panel of said inner casing (4) is connected to the outer casing (2), the product or active ingredient having one or a combination of the following features: antibacterial, anti-mite, fireproof and anti-odor, aromatherapy product.

FIG. 1

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Specification

[0001] The present invention relates to an article of bedding such as a pillow, comforter or the like.

[0002] It more particularly relates to an article of bedding having anti-allergenic, hygienic and safety properties.

[0003] Such an article of bedding is already known in the prior art, particularly from the French Certificate of Utility FR 2 763 928, specifically a pillow having a combined antibacterial and anti-mite action by combining an outer casing of natural fabric (cotton) with an anti-mite treatment and antibacterial filling

[0004] Although tests have been performed on this type of article of bedding to determine the compatibility, especially in regards to irritation or sensitivity, of the treated outer casing when in contact with the skin of the user, it appears that some scientists confirm their doubts about the safety of this product, especially given the limited hindsight of studies carried out, causing thereby a disaffection on the part of some consumers who prefer not to use the product out of a measure of precaution.

[0005] Furthermore, the design of such articles of bedding also raises the question of safety of manufacturers who have to inhale all day the effluents from the treatment products added into the fillings, particularly during the stage in which the filling is introduced into the article of bedding.

[0006] The object of the invention is to provide an article of bedding such as a pillow, a comforter or the like which resolves part or all of the above disadvantages.

[0007] To this end, the present invention relates to an article of bedding such as a pillow, a comforter or the like consisting of a cover or outer casing made from an external woven natural cotton-like fabric stuffed with an inner filling, characterized in that the inner filling is enclosed in an inner casing consisting of at least two panels made of a non-woven fabric treated in the mass or by impregnation and in that each panel of said inner casing is connected to the outer casing.

[0008] According to an advantageous characteristic of the present invention, the panels of the inner casing are connected respectively to the panels constituting the outer casing by sewing their edges.

[0009] Also according to the invention, the inner filling consists of an untreated filling, such as feathers, foam, fibers or the like.

[0010] According to an advantageous characteristic of the present invention, the panels of the interior casing are treated with a product having one or a combination of the following characteristics: antibacterial, anti-mite, fireproof or anti-odor.

[0011] The characteristics of the invention mentioned above, as well as others, will become more apparent upon reading the following description of an embodiment, referring to the accompanying drawings in which:

- Figure 1 is a sectional view of a pillow according to the present invention, and
- Figure 2 is a sectional view of a pillow according to an alternative embodiment.

[0012] Figure 1 represents an article of bedding, in this case a pillow 1 consisting of a cover 2 or outer casing made from a conventional external woven fabric such as natural cotton stuffed with an inner filling 3 that ensures the stuffing and comfort of the article.

[0013] According to the present invention, the inner filling 3 is enclosed in an inner casing 4 consisting of two panels 4a, 4b made from a non-woven fabric treated in the mass or by impregnation, particularly by an anti-allergen active ingredient and each panel 4a, 4b of said inner casing 4 is connected to the outer casing 2 thereby providing a barrier against the migration of bacteria towards the inside of the pillow.

[0014] It should be noted that the active ingredient is incorporated into the non-woven fabric forming the inner casing either by impregnation of the fabric and fixation of the ingredient by heating and rolling, or by incorporating the active ingredient at the output of the extrusion of the fibers that will subsequently form the fabric.

[0015] It is understood that the panels 4a, 4b of the inner casing 4 are treated according to a variant embodiment with a product or active ingredient having one or a combination of the following features: antibacterial, anti-mite, fireproof or anti-odor depending on the desired result. The active ingredient may also be, without departing from the scope of the invention, a product of aromatherapy.

[0016] According to an embodiment shown in Figure 1, the inner casing 4 consists of an upper panel 4a and of a lower panel 4b connected respectively to the upper and lower panels forming the outer casing 2 by sewing their edges B.

[0017] Such a connection of the panels of the inner casing 4 with the panels of the outer casing 2 advantageously ensures the comfort of the article of bedding by avoiding any displacement of said inner casing particularly following a wash.

[0018] It should be noted that the inner casing 4 made of non-woven fabric treated or impregnated in the mass allows, on the one hand, maintaining the comfort of the article of bedding because of the light weight of said inner casing and, on the other hand, ensuring the longevity of the effectiveness of the treatment compared to conventional surface treatment with a low introduction of the treatment product.

[0019] In addition, the use of such non-woven fabric panels treated according to the invention allows using all types of natural fillings including feathers or die-cut foam, the latter not finding a use in conventional solutions because of their inability to be treated against mites and bacteria.

[0020] When using an untreated filling such as feathers, the inner casing helps prevent the migration of the filling outwards thus ensuring increased comfort for the user.

[0021] Similarly, in the case of untreated filling such as foam which presents the drawback of quickly turning yellow over time, the inner casing of whitish appearance helps mask the yellowing of the filling thus ensuring a visual barrier and guaranteeing the aestheticism of the product.

[0022] According to a variant embodiment shown in Figure 2, the inner casing consists of three panels, respectively upper 4a, central 4c and lower 4b in which the central panel is, for example, scented.

[0023] Without departing from the scope of the invention, the upper and lower panels of the inner casing may, in the context of medical applications, be coated with a plastic layer on the outer surface.

[0024] Similarly, it should be understood that a third panel may be superimposed on the lower or upper panel and impregnated or treated in the mass with a different active ingredient from the active ingredient of the lower and upper panels.

[0025] Upon reading the above description, it is clear that the article of bedding according to the present invention advantageously allows guaranteeing the user contact with a natural product without a risk of exposure to the active ingredients integrated in the mass or by impregnation of the inner casing. Moreover, such an article eliminates issues for manufacturers because it prevents the release of effluent treatment products during the filling

phase of these pillows, comforters or duvets thanks to the use of natural products.

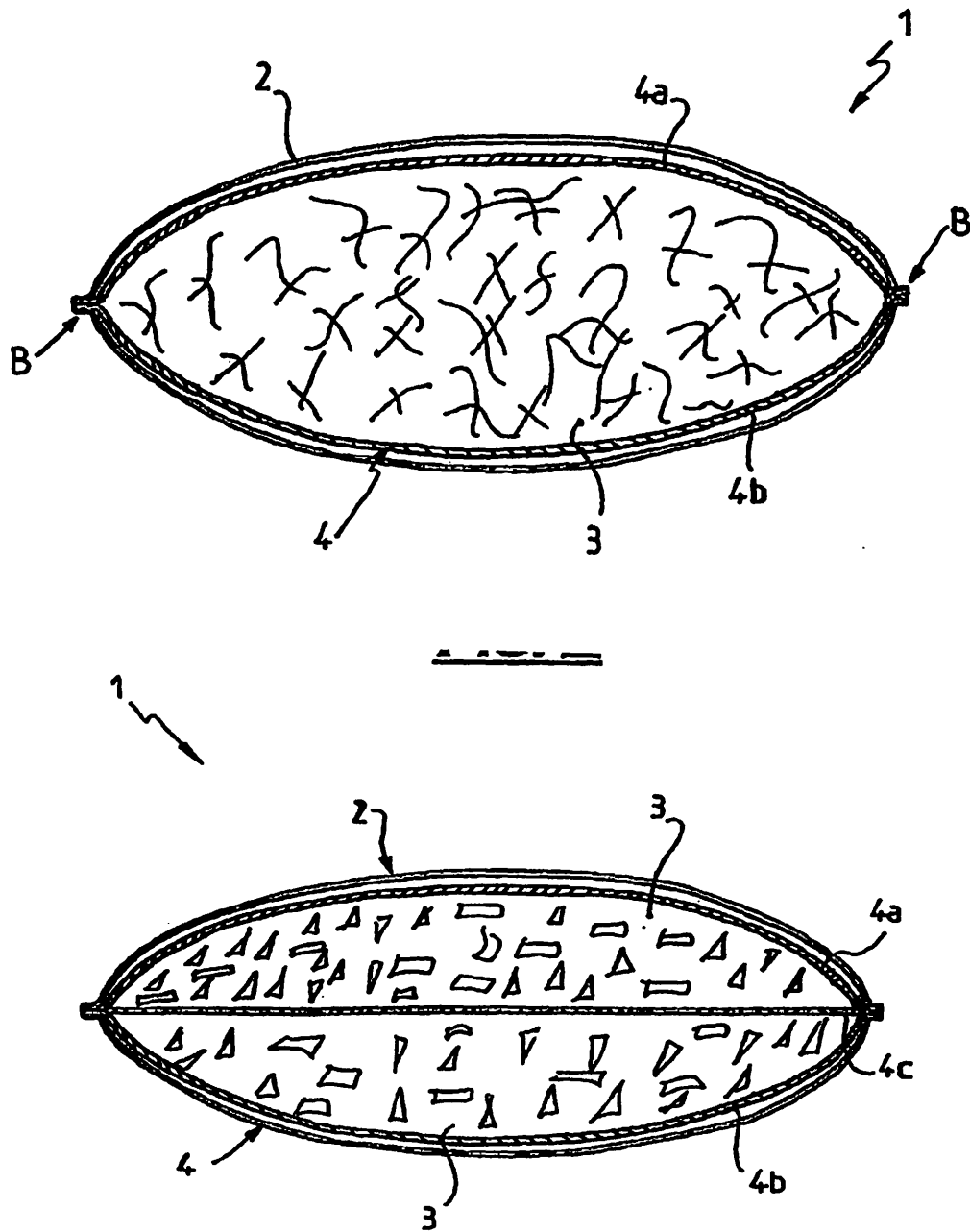
[0026] It should also be noted that such articles allow using a lesser quantity of treatment products thus promoting environmental protection.

[0027] Although the invention has been described in connection with two particular embodiments, it encompasses all technical equivalents of the described means.

Claims

1. An article of bedding such as a pillow, a comforter or the like consisting of a cover or outer casing (2) made from an external woven natural fabric such as cotton stuffed with an inner filling (3), **characterized in that** the inner filling (3) is enclosed in an inner casing (4) consisting of at least two panels (4a, 4b; 4c) made of a non-woven fabric treated in the mass or by impregnation and **in that** each panel of said inner casing (4) is connected to the outer casing (2).
2. The article of bedding such as a pillow, a comforter or the like according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the panels (4a, 4b; 4c) of the inner casing (4) are connected respectively to the panels constituting the outer casing (2) by sewing their edges (B).
3. The article of bedding such as a pillow, a comforter or the like according to Claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the inner filling (3) consists of an untreated filling such as feathers, foams, fibers or the like.
4. The article of bedding such as a pillow, a comforter or the like according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the panels (4a, 4b; 4c) of the inner casing (4) are treated with a product or an active ingredient presenting one or a combination of the following features: antibacterial, anti-mite, fireproof or anti-odor, aromatherapy product.

FIG. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number:
EP 03 36 6004

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, if necessary, of the relevant parts	Relevant claim	Classification of the application (Int. Cl. 7)
Y	DE 196 54 798 A (KIRCHHOFF INTERNATIONAL GMBH M) July 2, 1998 (07-02-1998) * abridged; figures 1,2 * * column 7, line 3 - line 5 * * column 6, line 47 - line 64 * ---	1-4	A47G9/00 A47G9/02
D, Y	FR 2 763 928 A (ABEIL) December 4, 1998 (12-04-1998) * the entire document * ---	1-4	
A	FR 2 742 977 A (SOGILO NV) July 4, 1997 (07-04-1997) * Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 * ---	1, 4	
A	EP 0 323 116 A (WOODCOCK) July 5, 1989 (07-05-1989) * column 3, line 22 - line 38; figure 2 * ---	1, 3	
A	US 4 969 869 A (BURGIN ET AL) November 13, 1990 (11-13-1990) * column 2, line 39 - line 64; figure 1 * -----	1, 3	TECHNICAL RESEARCH AREAS (Int.Cl.7) A47G
This report was prepared for all claims			
Search location THE HAGUE		Date of completion of search September 30, 2003	Examiner van Overbeek, K
CATEGORY OF DOCUMENTS CITED X: particularly relevant in itself Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document		T: theory or principle at the basis of the invention E: anterior patent document, but published at the filing date or after that date D: cited in the application L: cited for other reasons &: Member of the same family, corresponding document	

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