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3,420,364

STRIP OF TAGS

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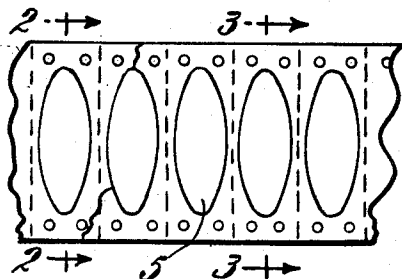


Fig. 1

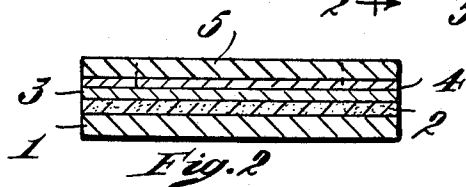


Fig. 2



Fig. 4

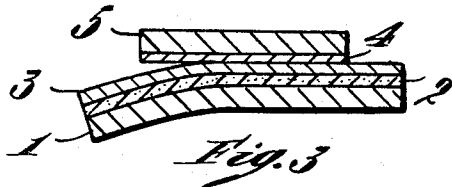


Fig. 3

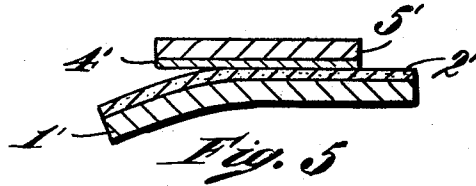


Fig. 5

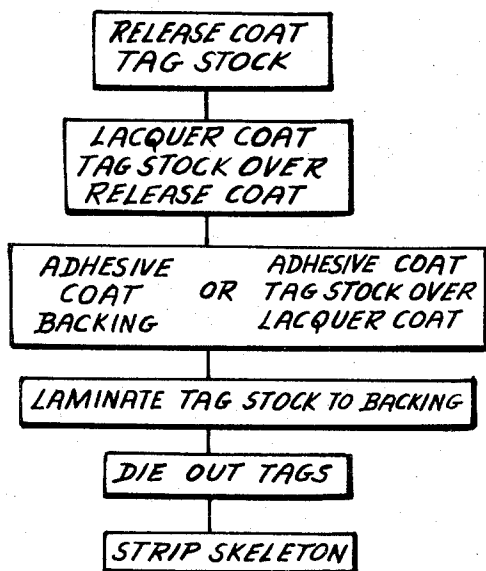


Fig. 6

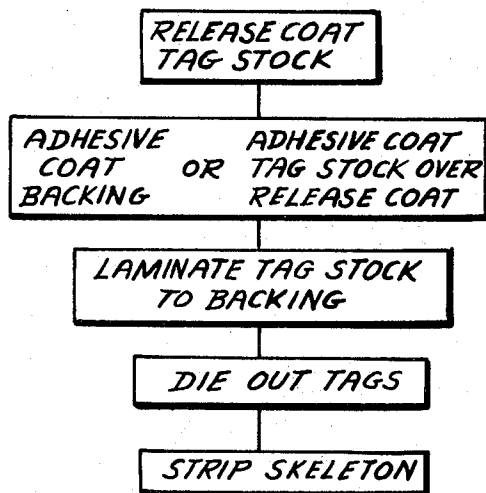


Fig. 7

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3,420,364

STRIP OF TAGS

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6 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A strip of paper or the like carrying a series of tags which do not cover the entire strip, a layer of release material between the tags and strip so that the tags may be peeled off the strip, the areas of the strip not covered by the tags being non-tacky and both sides of the tags being non-tacky when peeled off.

Objects of the invention are to provide a strip of tags in which the tags may be of any desired shape, which permits the tags to be removed individually as needed, which permits the tags to be printed in a computer or other printing apparatus, in which the tags are non-tacky on both sides when removed, and which is economical to produce.

According to this invention the strip of tags comprises a backing sheet, a series of tags disposed along one side of the backing sheet, and an intermediate layer comprising release material so that the tags may be peeled off and so that the areas of the sheet which are not covered by tags do not tend to adhere to surfaces contacted thereby, and the tags being non-tacky on both sides when peeled off. Preferably the tags adhere directly to said layer and a layer of adhesive interconnects said layer with the backing sheet. The adhesive layer may be pressure-sensitive or non-tacky when dry and the strip may have a lacquer layer between said layer of release material and said adhesive layer. After the layers have been laminated together the tag stock layer is died out to form tags of the desired shape and the tag-stock skeleton surrounding the tags is peeled off.

For the purpose of illustration typical embodiments of the invention are shown in the accompanying drawings in which

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a strip of tags;

FIG. 2 is a transverse section of the tag strip on line 2—2 of FIG. 1 after the tags have been died out but before the skeleton has been peeled off;

FIG. 3 is a similar section after the skeleton has been peeled off, showing where the split occurs when a tag is peeled off the backing;

FIG. 4 is a section like FIG. 2 showing a modification;

FIG. 5 is a section like FIG. 3 of the modification;

FIG. 6 is a diagram showing methods of making the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3; and

FIG. 7 is a diagram showing methods of making the modification of FIGS. 4 and 5.

The embodiment shown in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3 comprises a backing 1 of any suitable tag stock, a coating 2 of pressure-sensitive adhesive, a lacquer coating 3, a coating 4 of release material, and a row of oval tags 5. While the coatings may be formulated in many ways, the following formulations are preferred.

ADHESIVE

Vinyl ether EHBH, 25% solids	240
Vinyl ether EHBC	60
Staybellite ester #10	40

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LACQUER

Cellulose acetate butyrate EAB 381-20	100
Acetone	320
Toluene	164
Cellosolve acetate	79

RELEASE

Zein G-200	100
Methanol	231
Water	33
Carbowax 1540	66
28° Bé. ammonium hydroxide	5.78
Methyl Cellosolve	82.5

The modification shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 is like that shown in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3 and corresponding parts are correspondingly designated. However, the lacquer layer is omitted and the adhesive layer is non-tacky when dry.

In the first embodiment using pressure-sensitive adhesive the release layer should adhere to the adhesive more strongly than to the lacquer so as to cover the adhesive around the labels after the skeleton has been peeled off. In the modification of FIGS. 4 and 5 the release layer may be formulated to adhere to the tags more strongly than to the underlying coating in which case the portion of the release coating underlying each tag peels off with the tag as shown in FIG. 3, or the release coating may adhere to the underlying coating more strongly than to the tags in which case the tags peel off the release coating. In the above example the release coating adheres to the tags more strongly than to the underlying coating.

The preferred method of manufacture is to apply the coatings to the backing, then apply a layer of tag stock over the release coating, then die out the tags in well-known manner and then peel off the skeleton or matrix surrounding the tags. If release material is to peel off with the tags, the dies should cut through both tag stock and release coating as shown in FIG. 2, but if the tags are to be peeled off the release coating the dies need cut only through the tag stock (FIG. 3). The skeleton may be peeled off either before or after the tags are printed, the release coating peeling with the skeleton or remaining on the backing depending upon whether it adheres more firmly to the tag stock or to the underlying coating. If the adhesive coating is pressure-sensitive the release coating should remain on the backing to render the areas not covered by the tags non-tacky. Alternate methods of making the embodiment of FIGS. 1, 2 and 3 are shown in FIG. 6 and alternate methods of making the modifications of FIGS. 4 and 5 are indicated in FIG. 7.

From the foregoing it will be understood that after the skeleton has been peeled off the areas surrounding the tags are non-tacky and after the tags are peeled off they are non-tacky on both sides. The tags may be secured to merchandise or other articles in any suitable manner, as for example with strings or pins.

I claim:

1. A strip of tags comprising a backing sheet, a series of tags disposed along one side of the backing sheet, and an intermediate layer comprising release material so that the tags may be peeled off and so that the areas of the sheet which are not covered by tags do not tend to adhere to surfaces contacted thereby, and the tags being non-tacky on both sides when peeled off.

2. A strip according to claim 1 wherein the tags adhere directly to said layer.

3. A strip according to claim 1 further characterized by a layer of adhesive interconnecting said layer with the backing sheet.

4. A strip according to claim 3 wherein said adhesive layer is pressure-sensitive.

5. a strip according to claim 4 further characterized by

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a lacquer layer between said layer of release material and said adhesive layer.
6. A strip according to claim 3 wherein said adhesive layer is non-tacky when dry.

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