Jan. 13, 1970 E. J. LANIGAN, JR., ET AL 3,489,433

INVENTORY CONTROL DEVICE

Original Filed Dec. 23, 1965

Fig. 1.

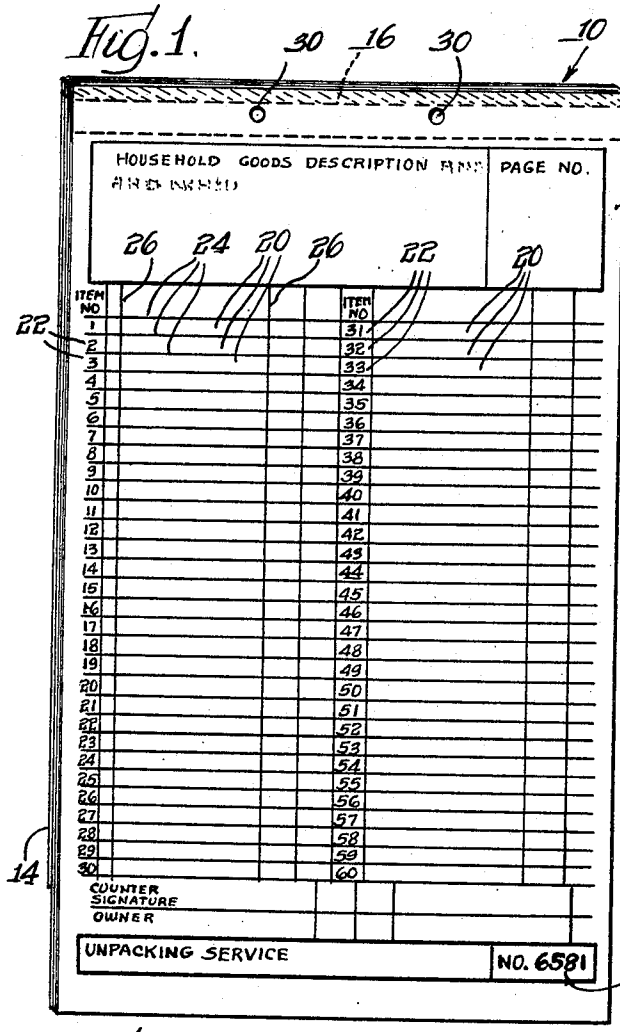


Fig. 2.

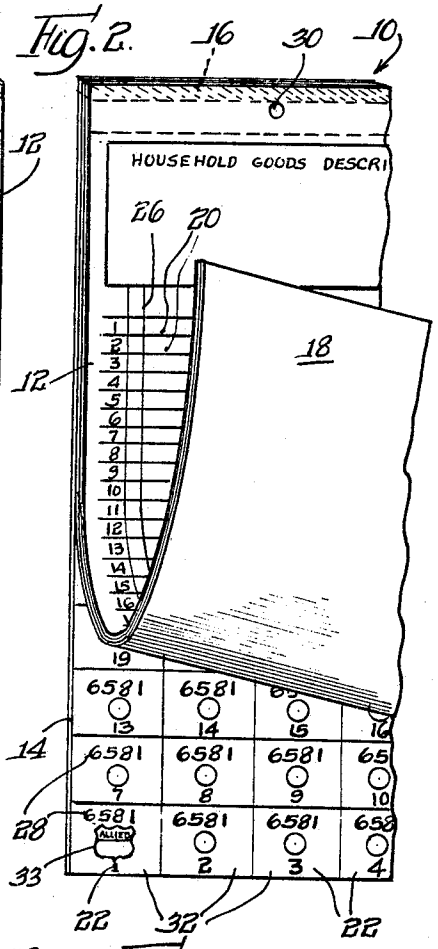


Fig. 3.

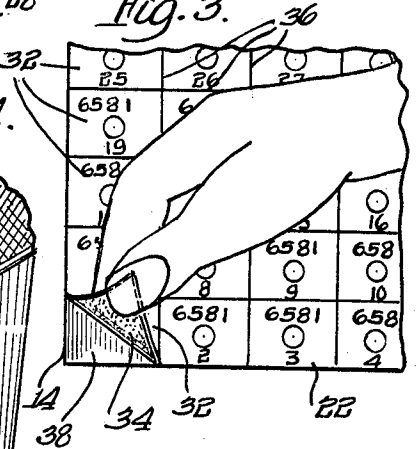


Fig. 5.

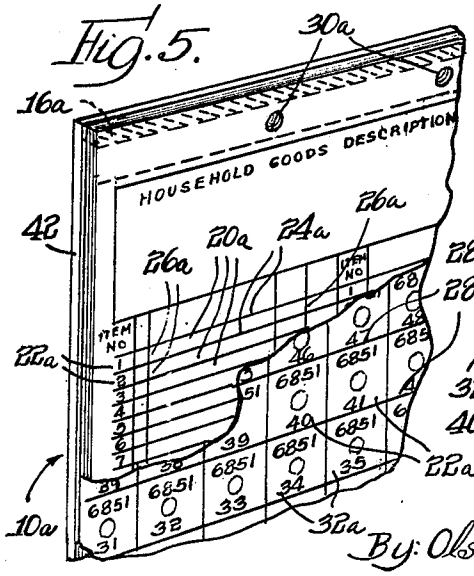
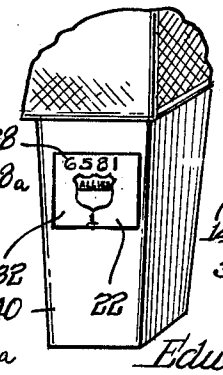


Fig. 4.



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3,489,433

INVENTORY CONTROL DEVICE

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Continuation of application Ser. No. 516,065, Dec. 23, 1965. This application Sept. 14, 1967, Ser. No. 671,916
Int. Cl. B42d 15/00; B41l 1/24
U.S. Cl. 283—55 5 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There is disclosed an inventory control device including a first control page having a job control indicia thereon and columnar control blanks prefixed with sequentially arranged item control indicia. A second page is attached to the first page and removably carries a plurality of adhesively attached labels arranged in rows. Each label bears a job control indicia and the labels are sequentially provided with item control indicia corresponding to the sequentially arranged item control indicia on the first page.

This application is a continuation of our co-pending application, Ser. No. 516,065, filed Dec. 23, 1965, now abandoned.

This invention relates generally to inventory control devices and especially to inventory control devices that are arranged for use in the furniture moving industry.

Control of an inventory of furniture, equipment or household items being moved from one location to another has proved to be a problem of substantial magnitude, especially if two or more lots are mixed in one van or if any of the items involved have had an intermediate stopover in a warehouse. Labeling of individual items has helped alleviate the problem to some degree; but heretofore, labeling schemes have not been developed to a high degree; and in the past, occasions have arisen all too frequently wherein an item could not be collated with a given job even if it bore an identifying label. Resultant claims against the carrier for lost goods have been closely and have seriously eroded profits.

Accordingly, an important object of the present invention is to provide an inventory control device which has assured effectiveness and which therefore is capable of substantially reducing claims for lost or undelivered goods.

A more general object of the invention is to provide a new and improved inventory control device.

Another object of the invention is to provide an inventory control device which is inexpensive to manufacture and convenient to use.

These and other objects and features of the invention will become more apparent from the following descriptions.

An inventory control device in accord with the invention includes a control page having an identifying inventory job control indicia thereon and having columnar item control blanks prefixed with individual item control indicia. A second page is disposed underlying the first page, and a plurality of control labels are removably mounted on the second page in ordered relationship. Each of the labels is provided with the job control indicia and with one of the item control indicia. Pressure-sensitive adhesive is applied to the rear face of each label, and means are provided to connect the first and second pages.

The invention, both as to its construction and its mode of usage, will be better understood by reference to the following disclosure and drawing forming a part thereof, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of an inventory control device constructed in compliance with the invention;

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary view similar to the showing in FIG. 1 but illustrating the device with the front pages turned up to reveal the page bearing the individual inventory labels;

FIG. 3 is a view illustrating removal of one of the control labels from the support page;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a furniture leg with one of the control labels adhesively mounted thereon; and

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of a modified form of the invention.

Referring now in detail to the drawing, specifically to FIGS. 1 and 2, an inventory control device constructed in compliance with the principles of the present invention is there indicated generally by the reference numeral **10**. The inventory control device **10** comprises a first, data page **12** and a second, support page **14** which are interconnected by suitable means such as a glue strip **16**. If desired, a number of duplicate data pages **18** may be situated between pages **12** and **14** interleaved with carbon sheets, not shown, to provide copies of the completed data page. The data page **12** is intended to receive a listing of the individual items in a particular inventory job; and therefore, the page **12** is provided with a plurality of item control blanks **20** which are arranged in columns and which, in compliance with the features of the present invention, are prefixed with individual item control indicia **22**. The control blanks are advantageously defined by ruled horizontal lines **24** and ruled vertical lines **26**. In further accord with the invention, the item control indicia **22** are provided in consecutive sequence. Numerals are conveniently used for an inventory job control indicia **28** as well as for the item control indicia **22**, but letters, combinations of letters and numerals or other suitable symbols may be employed. Provision for other control data may be made on the page **12** as is desired, and various auxiliary features may be incorporated such as punched holes **30** of the type that may be used in mounting the various pages in a binder.

In compliance with the principles of the invention, a plurality of unconnected control labels **32** are removably mounted on the support page **14** as is particularly well shown in FIG. 2. Each of the labels **32** bears the same inventory job control indicia **28** that is imprinted on the data page **12**. In addition, each of the labels **32** carries one of the item control indicia **22**. The indicia on the labels **32** are provided on the front face thereof; and since the item control indicia are provided in consecutive sequence, it is advantageous to arrange the labels **32** in ordered relationship corresponding to the sequence of the item control indicia. In particular accord with the invention, the labels **32** are arranged in tiered rows with the label having the lowest sequential indicia situated at a bottom corner of the page and with the remaining labels arranged consecutively from the bottom to the top of the page. An insignia **33** which indicates the originating company is advantageously disposed between the indicia **22** and the indicia **28** on each of the labels **32**. One of these insiginia is shown in FIG. 2, the circle symbol on the remaining labels being employed to suggest the illustrated insignia.

Turning to a consideration of FIG. 3, a typical label **32** is seen to be provided with a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive **34** covering its rear face. Various pressure-sensitive adhesives may be employed, and latex based adhesives have proved eminently useful. With horizontal and vertical die-cut, scored or perforated lines **36** separating the individual labels **32** and with a release surfacing **38** on the front face of support page **14**, each of the labels **32**

may be easily peeled from the support page, as is suggested in FIG. 3, and attached to an inventory item by placing the label thereon and applying pressure to activate the adhesive. In FIG. 4 a label **32** is shown attached to a furniture leg **40** in the described manner. The release surfacing **38** is selected to be a glossy material for example, such as a paraffin wax or polyethylene composition.

In use of the inventory control device **10**, a particular work unit will be assigned one or more inventory job control indicia; and corresponding, assembled pages will be supplied to the originating agent. As each item in the task is identified in the control blanks **20**, the label **32** bearing the corresponding, prefixed control indicia **22** will be removed from the support page **14** and attached to the work item. This procedure will be followed until all of the items have been identified in the columnar control blanks and have received a corresponding control label. Thus, wherever a particular work item may stray in storage or transit, it may be related to the specific job and identified from the description on the corresponding control blank.

In tasks involving large numbers of items to be deposited at different locations or in small tasks which are to be mixed in shipment, advantage may be derived by color coding the control labels by group or by job control indicia, whereby to provide, at a glance, a means of segregation.

While a particular embodiment has been thus far shown and described, various other embodiments may be constructed. Therefore and in order to enhance the understanding of the invention, a modified embodiment of the invention is shown in FIG. 5. Since the embodiment of FIG. 5 is similar in many respects to the embodiment of FIGS. 1–3, like numerals have been used to designate like parts with the suffix letter "*a*" being used to distinguish the similar elements of the embodiment of FIG. 5. The inventory control device **10***a* is particularly characterized by the incorporation of a second or support page **42** which, unlike the comparatively flexible support page **14** is fabricated to be comparatively rigid. Heavy gauge, pressed cardboard may be used for example in the construction of the support page **42**. Incorporating a relatively stiff support page, the inventory control device **10***a* may be used without resort to a wall, table top, clipboard or the like in providing resistance to the impression of the writing instrument employed in describing the individual work items in the control blanks **20***a*.

The specific examples herein shown and described are to be considered as being primarily illustrative. Various changes beyond those described will, no doubt, occur to those skilled in the art; and such changes are to be understood as forming a part of this invention insofar as they fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

The invention is claimed as follows:

1. An inventory control device comprising a first control data page having an identifying inventory job control indicia, item control indicia arranged in sequential predetermined ordered relationship of vertical columnar nature on said first page, and an item control blank on said first page associated with each of said item control indicia; a second page underlying the control data page and secured thereto; and a plurality of control labels arranged in rows on said second page, each of said labels having a back coated with pressure sensitive adhesive and being removably attached to said second page thereby and further being attachable to an item upon being removed from said second page, each of said labels having a first indicia corresponding with the job control indicia on the first page, each of said labels further having a second indicia corresponding with and complementary to one of said sequentially arranged item control indicia of the first page, each of said second indicia corresponding to a different one of said item control indicia, said first and second indicia being disposed on the front face of said label, the sequentially initial item control indicia on a label of said second page corresponding with a complementary sequentially initial item control indicia on said first page and being disposed on the label of a first row and positioned in the vicinity of one corner of said second page, the succeeding labels in said first row bearing successively sequentially arranged item control indicia beginning with said corner label and progressing to and including the label at the opposite end of said row in the vicinity of the opposite margin of said second page, the next adjacent second row of labels bearing item control indicia continuing sequentially from the item control indicia of the label at the aforesaid opposite end of the first row and corresponding with the continued sequential arrangement of item indicia on said first page.

2. An inventory control device as defined in claim **1**, wherein said rows of labels extend generally horizontally across said second page.

3. An inventory control device, as defined in claim **1**, which includes means securing upper margins of said first and second pages to each other, said label with the initial indicia thereon being located at a lower corner of said second page.

4. An inventory control device as defined in claim **1**, wherein said second page has a glossy surfacing and remains intact after removal of the labels therefrom for permitting the labels to be reapplied thereto at the conclusion of an inventory control operation.

5. An inventory control device, as defined in claim **1**, wherein said labels are completely separated from each other along die cut lines.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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