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STENCIL ASSEMBLY WITH PROTECTIVE FILM

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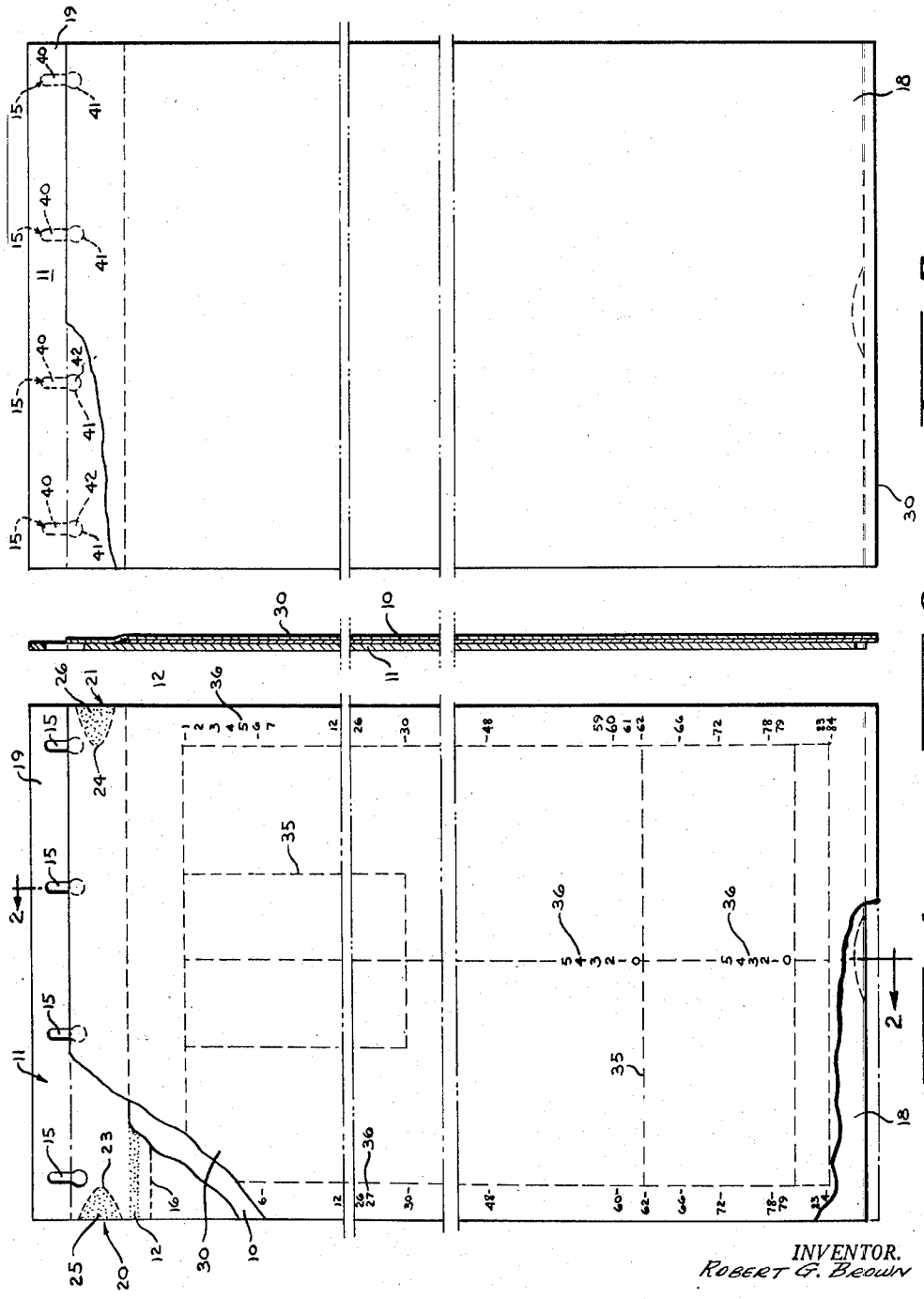


FIG. 3

FIG. 2

FIG. 1

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STENCIL ASSEMBLY WITH PROTECTIVE FILM

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1 Claim. (Cl. 101—128.2)

My present invention relates to stencil paper and more particularly it relates to a film mounting for stencil paper.

Stencil paper consists usually of a heavy base board and a transparent film with a stencil sheet sandwiched in between the two of them. As is well known in the art, stencils are used in a mimeograph process to reproduce from one original a large number of copies. The original may be cut by means of a typewriter or in any other way but during the cutting process it must be protected from dirt, markings and any excess ink. To protect the stencil sheet a transparent film is usually placed on top of the stencil sheet to insure that the stencil sheet is not damaged by dirt and markings and that the excess ink that is left on the typewriter keys is not transferred to the stencil sheet.

When these stencils are made for sale and distribution the common method is to have a strip of glue extend from one end at the top of the stencil sheet to the other end and to attach the film to the stencil sheet by means of this glue. The glue, usually placed on the heavy base board, is of such consistency to permit the typist to easily remove the film mounting to make corrections on the sheet when errors have been made thereon. Instead of using a continuous strip of glue on the base board at the top of the stencil paper it is also possible to use a series of spots of glue placed similarly on the heavy base board at the top of the stencil paper. When the stencil has been completely cut it is then necessary to remove the film permanently and mount the stencil in the reproducing machine which may be a mimeograph machine.

However, it was found that the residue of glue that remains on the stencil sheet is quite undesirable since it attracts dirt and dust and may stick to the sheets being mimeographed and thereby hinder the reproducing operation.

One method to overcome the difficulty of the residue glue on a stencil sheet has been to perforate the film at the top of the stencil paper and to attach firmly a strip of the protective film on the base board. This method proved to be quite undesirable because the thinness of the film makes it very difficult to perforate.

Furthermore, it is practically impossible for the operator to detach the film exactly along the perforated line without leaving ragged edges. And finally, during the preparation or cutting of the stencil it is impossible to partially remove the film to correct errors since once removed there is no way of attaching the film to the stencil paper.

One object of the present invention is a provision of means whereby the protective film of a stencil sheet may be partially removed.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of means whereby residue glue or adhesive is eliminated from the stencil once the stencil has been cut and the protective film removed therefrom.

In the present invention the heavy base board is provided with a number of perforated tabs on which glue

or adhesive may be placed. The protective film is then attached to the base board by means of these spots of glue. These tabs are left in place while the stencil is being prepared, but after its completion and the removal of the protective film the tabs may be easily removed from the base board thus removing also the glue or adhesive.

In one embodiment of the present invention the tabs are located in the spaces ordinarily used by the gripping holes on the base board at the top of the stencil paper. At the end of the cutting operation the operator can easily remove these tabs by means of his fingernails.

In another embodiment of the present invention separate tabs are provided at the two edges of the base board at the top of the stencil paper. The tabs are provided with perforations to permit the operator to insert his fingernails for removal of the tabs at the end of the stenciling operation.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent in the following discussion when taken in connection with the drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the stencil sheet of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of the stencil sheet of the present invention, taken at 2—2 of Figure 1 looking the direction of the arrows.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the modification of the stencil sheet of Figure 1.

Referring first to Figure 1 and Figure 2, the stencil **10** is fixedly attached on base board **11** by any suitable means, for example, a continuous strip of glue as shown in **12**. Stencil **10** is a well known material and therefore will not be described.

Base board **11** is made of heavy paper and is provided at the top portion with a number of holes **15** so that a stencil sheet may be easily gripped. Base board **11** is also provided with transverse perforations shown at **16** under the continuous glue strip **12** to permit the removal of the lower portion **18** of base board **11** at the completion of the stenciling operation.

At the completion of the stenciling operation therefore, the stencil **10** remains attached only to top portion **19** of base board **11**. Base board **11** is also provided with two tabs **20** and **21** at the two edges of top portion **19** of base board **11**. Tabs **20** and **21** are obtained from portion **19** of base **11** by means of perforations **23** and **24** respectively.

On top of tabs **20** and **21** is a spot of glue **25** and **26** respectively. The glue used on these tabs **20** and **21** must be as previously mentioned of such consistency as to permit the typist or stencil cutter to easily remove the film **30** attached to base board **11** through glue spots **25** and **26** on tabs **20** and **21**.

Film **30** is usually made of transparent plastic material and serves to protect stencil sheet **10** from dirt, accidental markings and to insure that no ink from the typewriter keys is transferred to stencil sheet **10**.

It is now possible to understand the operation of this novel film mounting. At the beginning of the cutting operation stencil **10** provided with base board **11** and protective film **30** is introduced in the typewriter or any other cutting apparatus. The operator then cuts stencil **10** by pressing letters against the film **30** mounted now on stencil **10** if a typewriter is used for this purpose.

Assuming that the operator made a mistake or that a change should be made on the already cut portion of stencil **10** the operator may remove a portion of film **30** from the top portion **19** of base board **11** by pulling the film **30** away from base board **11**.

This operation leaves stencil sheet **10** in a position such that the operator may now make the desired change

in the already cut portion by using suitable substances as is well known in the art. At the end of this correction the operator replaces film 30 in its original position and secures it to the board 11 by pressing over film 30 on the tabs 20 and 21.

This operation will be repeated as many times as desired.

At the end of the stenciling operation and before the reproducing operation the operator removes film 30 and portion 18 of base board 11 by making use of the perforations 16. The operator then removes tabs 20 and 21 by engaging with his fingernails perforations 23 and 24 on portion 19 of base board 11. Portion 19 of base board 11 carries stencil 10 and is now positioned in the mimeograph machine through the gripping holes 15 or in any other suitable manner.

At this point the reproducing process is started. As is seen from the above the glue spots 25 and 26 remain on the base board 11 until the very end of the cutting operation to permit easy removal and replacement of film 30 over stencil 10. On the other hand, since at the end of the cutting operation tabs 20 and 21 carrying glue spots 25 and 26 are removed, the disadvantage of the gluey portion in the base board 11 does not exist any longer.

Referring next to Figure 3 showing a modification of the present invention I have denoted with the same numerals the parts already described in connection with Figures 1 and 2.

It will be noted that in the embodiment of Figure 3 I do not provide tabs 20 and 21 at the edges of portion 19, of base board 11. On the other hand, the previously mentioned gripping holes 15 are now filled with tabs 40 obtained from portion 19 and base board 11 by means of perforations 41.

On each tab 40 is a spot of glue 42. Film 30 is now removed and attached to base board 10 through these glue spots 42 on tabs 40. Since the glue used for glue spots 42 is also of low consistency film 30 may be easily removed and replaced over stencil 10.

At the end of the cutting operation and before the reproducing operation in addition to removing film 30

and portion 18 of base board 11 tabs 40 are removed by means of the operator's fingernails through perforations 41 leaving therefore the previously mentioned gripping holes 15 through which stencil 10 may now be placed in the mimeograph machine.

While in the second embodiment it was mentioned that each of the gripping holes 15 is now occupied by a tab 40 it is to be understood that other modifications are possible in which only some of the gripping holes 15 are occupied by tabs 40 carrying glue spots 42.

Furthermore, both film 30 and stencil 10 are provided with markings and graduations such as at 35 and 36 as aids for the operator during the cutting operation.

In the foregoing I have described my invention solely in connection with specific illustrative embodiments thereof. Since many variations and modifications of my invention will now be obvious to those skilled in the art, I prefer to be bound not by the specific disclosures herein contained but only by the appended claim.

I claim:

A stencil assembly for mimeograph reproduction comprising a base board, a series of transverse perforations in said base board, a transverse strip of adhesive above said perforations, a stencil attached to said base board through said adhesive strip; said base board having above said transverse adhesive strip a plurality of tabs located across the transverse dimensions of the base board and consisting of areas of base board outlined by perforations, spots of adhesive on said tabs, and a transparent protective film removably attached to said base board through said tabs; a plurality of holes for gripping the assembly being produced as said tabs are removed from the base board.

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