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Binder with label holder

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(56) Related Art

US 4629349
US 3870223
SE 175812

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This binder (10) includes a front cover (12), a rear cover (14) and a spine (16) and is provided with a transparent label holder (50) which extends across the spine (16) and is attached to at least one of the covers (12,14). The label holder (50) provides an open upper margin (52) and is attached at the side margins (60, 62) and at least partially attached at the lower margin (54) to retain the label (100) which thereby has an increased area for label information.

AUSTRALIA

PATENTS ACT 1990

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

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INVENTION TITLE:

Binder with label holder

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us:-

This invention relates generally to binders and particularly to an improved labeling system for the binder.

In general, the contents of binders, and the like, are identified by a label attached to the spine and/or front cover. In the former attachment the identifying data is readily visible when the binder is vertically placed in a bookcase or spine upper most in a hanging file and in the latter when the binder is laid flat. Conventionally, such labels are of two types. The first type of label consist of a simple rectangle of paper on which the identification data can applied and the label then adhesively attached to the spine or front cover. The second type of label consists of a rectangle of transparent material which is either heat sealed to the spine or front cover of the binder or is adhesively attached to the spine or front cover of the binder to provide a pocket into which a label bearing identification data can be inserted. In both cases, where the spine label is used, the label is narrower than or substantially the same width as the spine. In the first case the paper label is prone to becoming detached from the spine. In the second case it is frequently difficult to insert the thin paper label into the pocket between the seals and they often require trimming. Also where additional information is desired on the binder it may be necessary to use both spine and cover labels.

It is also proposed in the prior art to provide a clear overlay multi-label holder extending the combined widths of the binder, i.e., the front, back and spine. This holder is sealed on both side edges and the bottom and also at the fold lines defining the spine. This arrangement, in effect, defines three label holding areas one being the width of the spine and the other being the width of the

front and back covers. Because this label holder is sealed along both of the spine fold lines the arrangement does not permit the use of a single label which extends continuously between the spine and one or both of the covers, nor does this arrangement permit the use of a standard 8½ inches 11 inches sheet as a label which embraces the spine area.

According to one aspect of the invention there is provided a binder with label holder including:

(a) a front cover, a rear cover and a spine connecting said front and rear covers and defined by fold lines;

(b) a holder including a sheet of transparent material having an upper margin, a lower margin and opposed side margins and a width less than the total width of the front cover, the rear cover and the spine; and

(c) at least one of said holder side margins being attached to one of said covers and the other of said side margins being attached to one of said other cover and spine, the holder being substantially free of attachment to the binder in the vicinity of at least one of said fold lines and at least one of said upper and lower margins being open to receive a label.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a binder with label holder including:

(a) a front cover, a rear cover and a spine connecting said front and rear covers and defined by fold lines said covers and spine being of heat sealable material and having the same height;

(b) a holder including a sheet of transparent heat sealable material having an upper margin, a lower margin and opposed side margins and a width less than the total width of the front cover, the rear cover and the spine; and

(c) said holder upper and lower margins being spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the height of the covers, and said holder side margins being spaced

substantially equidistant from the spine, and being heat sealingly attached to associated covers, said upper margin being substantially free of attachment and said holder being substantially free of attachment to the binder in the vicinity of the fold lines to provide said holder with a label receiving open end, and said lower margin being at least partially heat sealingly attached to associated covers to provide a label engaging stop.

According to a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a binder with label holder including:

(a) a front, a rear cover and a spine connecting said front and rear covers and defined by fold lines;

(b) a holder including a sheet of transparent material having a first pair of opposed margins and a second pair of opposed margins and a width greater than the spine and leass than the total width of the front cover, the rear cover and the spine; and

(c) both of said one pair of opposed margins being attached to said covers and at least one of said margins of the other pair of margins being open to receive a label and said holder being free of attachment to said binder in the vicinity of at least one of said fold lines.

The binder labeling system according to a preferred embodiment of the invention is wider than the width of the spine and provides a pocket or label holder into which a relatively large sheet of identification material can be readily inserted.

A preferred embodiment of the invention provides for a label holder of transparent material which is not limited to the width of the spine and may be adapted to suit a sheet of paper of conventional size. For example, 8½ inches by 11 inches capable of bearing data in addition to the identification data on the spine and allows for custom computerized copy using a single label insert. This permits

information to be carried on the front and back of the binder as well as the spine and is possible because the label holder is free of attachment in the vicinity of at least one of the fold lines defining the spine.

Preferably, said upper margin is open to receive a label having a width greater than the width of the spine.

It is preferred that said lower margin is at least partially attached to at least one of said cover means to provide a stop for said label.

Preferably, one of said opposed side margins is attached to said front cover in spaced relation from said spine and the other of said side margins is attached to said rear cover in spaced relation from said spine.

It is preferred that said side margins are attached to their associated covers substantially equidistant from said spine.

It is also preferred that said lower margin ends are attached to associated covers to provide a stop for said label.

Preferably said label is of a conventional paper size.

It is preferred that the binder is of a size to receive a conventional size of paper and the label is the same size as said binder paper.

It is also preferred that the binder is polyethylene and the sheet of transparent material is polyethylene film having the side margins attached to the front and rear covers by heat sealing.

It is preferred that the upper and lower margins of the holder are attached and at least one of the side margins is open receive a label.

The identifying label according to the preferred embodiment of the invention is inexpensive to manufacture, easy to use and particularly effective for its intended purpose.

To assist in the understanding of the invention, a preferred embodiment will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the drawings, of which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a binder incorporating a labeling system according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 is an elevational view of the outside of the binder of FIG. 1 showing, in an open position, the attachment of the label holder and the inserted label;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 3-3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view similar to FIG. 3, but with the binder in a closed condition;

FIG. 5 is an elevational view of the label;

FIG. 6 is a similar view to FIG. 4 showing a modified holder; and

FIG. 7 is a similar view to FIG. 2 showing a modified holder attachment.

Referring now by reference numerals to the drawings and first to FIGS. 1 and 2 it will be understood that the binder, generally indicated by numeral 10, includes a front cover 12, a rear cover 14, and a spine 16 interconnecting said front and rear covers at fold lines 18 and 20. In the embodiment shown, the binder 10 is a three-ring binder having an offset, conventional ring assembly 22 attached as by rivets 24 to the rear cover 14. However, it will be understood that this arrangement is merely exemplary and the ring assembly 22 could be attached to the spine 16, as is also conventional. As best shown in FIG. 2, the binder front cover 12

is defined by upper and lower margins 30 and 32, side margin 34 and fold line 18. The rear cover 14 is defined by upper and lower margins 36 and 38, side margin 40 and fold line 20. The spine 16 is defined by upper and lower margins 42 and 44 and fold lines 18 and 20. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 4, the binder covers 12 and 14 and the spine 16 are unitarily formed from single ply plastic material, such as high density polyethylene sheet, having compression fold lines. A sheet thickness of about 0.05 inches has been found to be suitable. However, the binder covers and spine could also be formed from laminated material such as two plies of plastic having a cardboard or chipboard core sandwiched therebetween, or by any other conventional construction.

Importantly, the binder 10 includes a label holder 50 which, in the embodiment shown, is formed from a single sheet of transparent plastic material such as polyethylene film and a thickness of about 0.015 inches has been found to be suitable. The label holder 50 provides a pocket for a label 100, which can be of paper or the like, and which carries imprinted information relating to the contents of the binder 10. In the embodiment shown, the label holder 50 extends beyond and wraps around the spine 16 and is substantially the same height as the binder covers and spine. The label holder 50 includes an upper margin 52, which is generally free of attachment to the front and rear covers 12 and 14 and the spine 16; a lower margin 54, which in the embodiment shown, is generally free of attachment to the front and rear covers 12 and 14 and the spine 16 except for short portions, such as end portions

indicated by numerals 56, which are attached to the front and rear covers 12 and 14 respectively, and side margins 60 and 62, which may be attached for their full length to the front and rear covers 12 and 14 respectively.

The structural arrangement of parts described above provides that the label 100 need be only slightly narrower in width than the dimension between the label holder attached side margins and may be readily slipped into place with the binder 10, when the binder is in an open condition. As shown in FIG. 3, in phantom outline, a gap G is created between binder front and rear covers 12 and 14 and spine 16 and the holder 50 when the covers 12 and 14 are flexed beyond 180° alignment. Because the label holder is free from attachment to the binder in the vicinity of the fold lines 18 and 20 defining the spine 16, there is no obstruction to the label 100 being slipped into place in wrap-around relation to the spine. The short lower margin end portions 56 provide a stop means which engage the label 100 and prevent it from exiting inadvertently from the bottom of the holder 50.

In the preferred embodiment, the material of the binder front and rear covers 12 and 14 and the spine 16 and the material of the label holder 50 are compatible so that the attachment of the holder sheet material along the side margins and lower margins may be by heat seals.

A particular advantage of the arrangement described is that it allows the use of conventional typing size paper such as 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches to be used for the label 100 which, as shown in

FIG. 5, facilitates considerably the provision of informational indicia on the label and allows the use of computer customized copy which cannot be achieved with smaller label sizes which cannot be run through a computer printer.

The label holder 50 has been shown essentially symmetrically arranged as in FIG. 4, in which the label holder 50 is free of attachment to the binder in the vicinity of both fold lines 18 and 20. However, it may be desirable to provide that a larger share of the label holder width be arranged on the front cover 12 and the spine 16 as opposed to the rear cover 14 and this is easily achieved by making the distance from the label holder side margin 60 to the fold line 18 considerably greater than the distance from the label holder side margin 62 to the fold line 20. In both cases the label holder 50 is free of attachment to the spine 16 in the vicinity of the fold lines 18 and 20. Alternatively, in a modified arrangement shown in FIG. 6, the side margin 62 may be attached to the spine 16 in the vicinity of the fold line 20 but is free of attachment to the binder in the vicinity of the fold line 18.

Also, within the scope of the invention, and as shown in FIG. 7, it may be desirable in some instances to attach the upper and lower margins 52 and 54 to the covers and leave at least one of the side margins, for example margin 60, open so that the label can be inserted from the side rather than from the top. In this case the end portions 64 of margin 60 may be closed to provide a stop means.

Although the binder has been described by making detailed reference to a preferred embodiment, such detail is to be

understood in an instructive rather than in any restrictive sense, many other variants being possible within the scope of the claims hereunto appended.

The reference to any prior art in this specification is not, and should not be taken as, an acknowledgment or any form of suggestion that that prior art forms part of the common general knowledge in Australia.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A binder with label holder including:

(a) a front cover, a rear cover and a spine connecting said front and rear covers and defined by fold lines;

(b) a holder including a sheet of transparent material having an upper margin, a lower margin and opposed side margins and a width less than the total width of the front cover, the rear cover and the spine; and

(c) at least one of said holder side margins being attached to one of said covers and the other of said side margins being attached to one of said other cover and spine, the holder being substantially free of attachment to the binder in the vicinity of at least one of said fold lines and at least one of said upper and lower margins being open to receive a label.

2. A binder as defined in claim 1, wherein:

(d) said upper margin is open to receive a label having a width greater than the width of the spine.

3. A binder as defined in claim 2, wherein:

(e) said lower margin is at least partially attached to at least one of said covers to provide a stop for said label.

4. A binder as defined in claim 1, wherein:

(d) one of said opposed side margins is attached to said front cover in spaced relation from said spine and the other of said side margins is attached to said rear cover.

5. A binder as defined in claim 4, wherein:

(e) said side margins are attached to their associated covers substantially equidistant from said spine.

6. A binder as defined in claim 4, wherein:

(e) said lower margin includes end margin portions attached to associated covers to provide a stop for said label.

7. A binder as defined in claim 4, wherein:

(e) said label is of a convention paper size.

8. A binder as defined in claim 4, wherein:

(e) the binder is of a size to receive a conventional size of paper and the label is the same size as said binder paper.

9. A binder as defined in claim 4, wherein:

(e) the binder is polyethylene and the sheet of transparent material is polyethylene film having the side margins attached to the front and rear covers by heat sealing.

10. A binder with label holder including:

(a) a front cover, a rear cover and a spine connecting said front and rear covers and defined by fold lines said covers and spine being of heat sealable material and having the same height;

(b) a holder including a sheet of transparent heat sealable material having an upper margin, a lower margin and opposed side margins and a width less than the total width of the front cover, the rear cover and the spine; and

(c) said holder upper and lower margins being spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the height of the covers, and said holder side margins being spaced substantially equidistant from the spine, and being heat sealingly attached to associated covers, said upper margin being substantially free of attachment and said holder being substantially free of attachment to the binder in the vicinity of the fold lines to provide said holder with a label receiving open end, and said lower margin being at least partially heat sealingly attached to associated covers to provide a label engaging stop.

11. A binder with label holder including:

(a) a front, a rear cover and a spine connecting said front and rear covers and defined by fold lines;

(b) a holder including a sheet of transparent material having a first pair of opposed margins and a second pair of opposed margins and a width greater than the spine and leass than the total width of the front cover, the rear cover and the spine; and

(c) both of said one pair of opposed margins being attached to said covers and at least one of said margins of the other pair of margins being open to receive a label and said holder being free of attachment to said binder in the vicinity of at least one of said fold lines.

12. A binder with label holder as defined in claim 11, wherein:

(d) the attached pair of margins are upper and lower margins; and

(e) the second pair of margins are side margins, at least one of said side margins being open to receive a

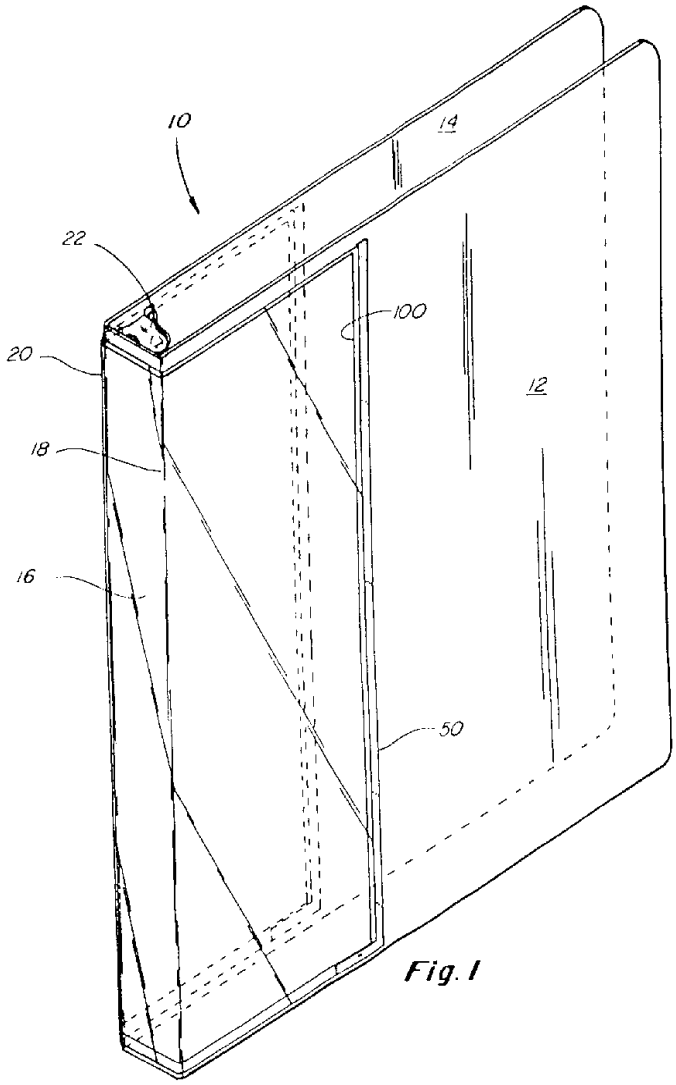
label.

13. A binder substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings and/or Examples.

DATED this 19th day of June, 2001

Calvert Holdings, LLC

By **DAVIES COLLISON CAVE**
Patent Attorneys for the applicant


10
14
22
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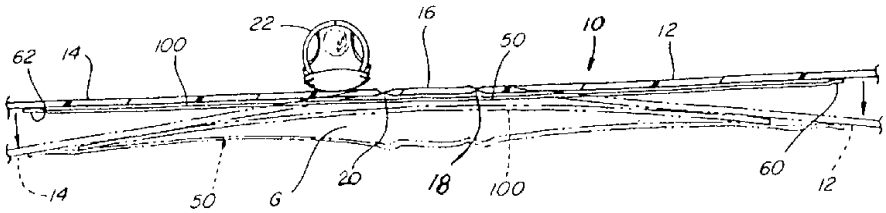
20
12
18
16
50

Fig. 1


62
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50
6
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18
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60
12

Fig. 3

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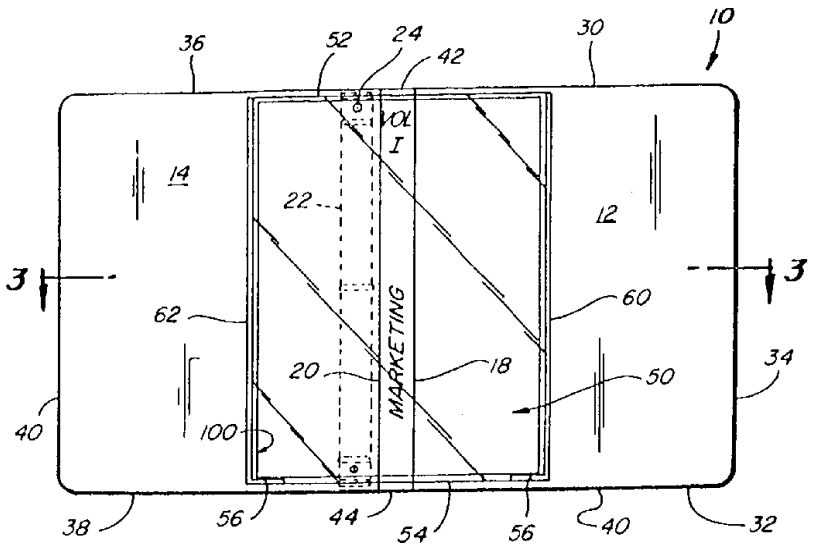

Fig. 2

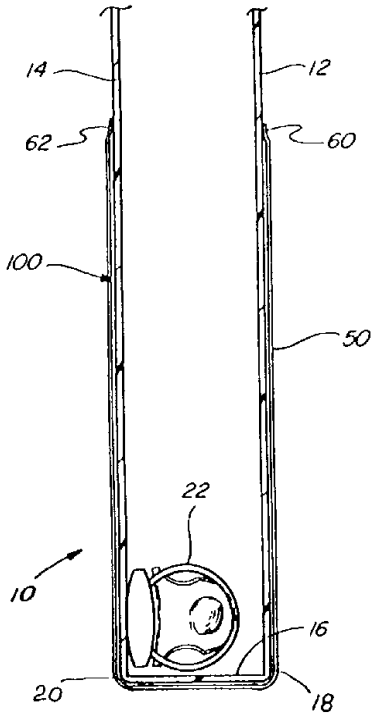

Fig. 4

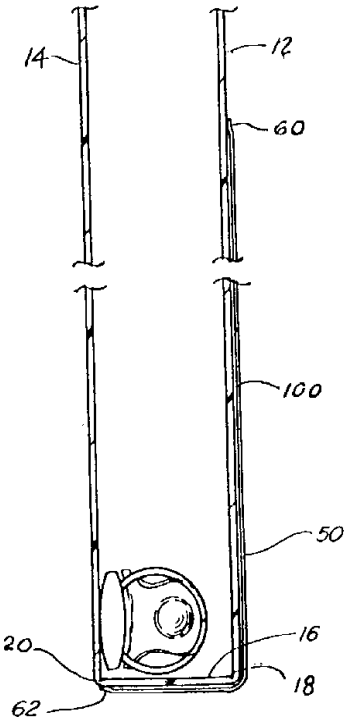

Fig. 6

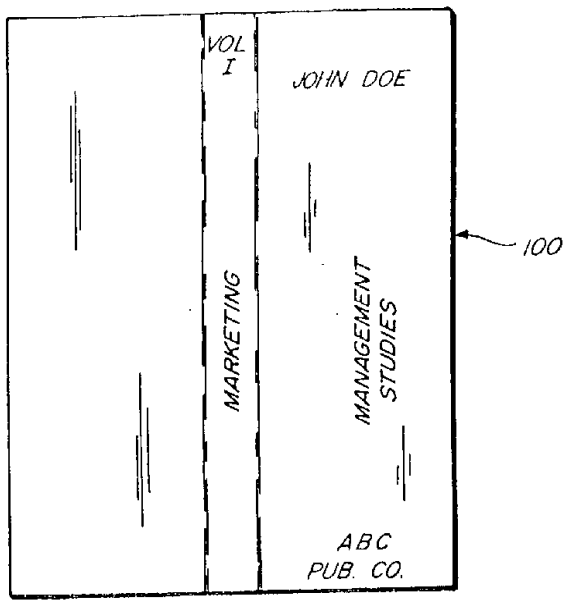
VOL
I
JOHN DOE
MARKETING
MANAGEMENT
STUDIES
ABC
PUB. CO.
100

Fig. 5

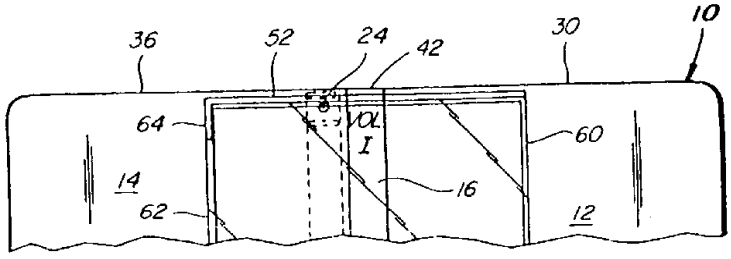
36
52
24
42
30
10
64
VOL
I
60
14
16
62
12

Fig. 7