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(54) **LUGGAGE-LABEL.**

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## Description

The present invention relates to a luggage-label which is separable from a web and comprises a luggage portion attachable to a luggage handle or the like, and a ticket portion. The invention is particularly useful in commercial aviation but is, of course, not restricted thereto and can also be used for other applications.

In commercial aviation, lost or missent luggage constitutes a major problem whereby the airline companies every year incur heavy expense. One reason why luggage disappears or reaches the wrong destination is that the luggage-label is unclear or even wrongly marked. It also happens that the luggage-label comes off the suitcase.

To avoid unclear or faulty marking of luggage-labels, a new check-in system has been developed. When the passenger checks in, the required number of luggage-labels are produced in a printer connected to the system. The luggage-label consists of a luggage portion which is attached around the suitcase handle or the like, and a ticket portion which is affixed to the ticket. Both the luggage portion and the ticket portion are printed with clear text showing the destination, airline and flight number and also any intermediate stops. By this new system, the checking-in time is shortened and the amount of missent suitcases is reduced considerably.

To make the new checking-in system function adequately, rigid demands are, however, placed on the label itself. It must, of course, allow printing but also be strong and weatherproof and allow careless handling. Moreover, it must facilitate handling when checking in, i.e. the ticket portion must be easily separable from the rest of the label, and the luggage portion must be readily attachable to the luggage. WO-A1-86/05 303 discloses a marker arrangement for the above mentioned purpose, i.e. serving as a luggage label. The known label is intended to be passed through a printer for receiving intended marking and after printing a ticket part is intended to be removed from the label portion and a piece of a release paper removed from the rear side of the label to bare an adhesive material surface to be affixed to the rear side of the opposite end of the label.

To allow the removal of the ticket part and the release paper piece there are arranged a couple of cuts across the multiply web forming the label. If unsatisfactorily arranged such cuts may cause considerable damage to the proper function of the printer.

It has been noted that the cut separating one piece of release paper from the remainder thereof and localized at an edge recess at the label face material causes trouble as the loose unsupported release paper corner within the recess tends to bend in either direction and catch in projections and the like along the label web passage of the printer. As any displace-

ment of the release paper may lay bare the adhesive surface, a total blocking will occur as soon as the adhesive sticks to any part of the passage.

To a minor extent also the recesses at the cut separating the ticket part from the rest of the label unit may cause similar trouble.

Besides creating a label meeting the demands earlier mentioned an object of the invention is to bring about a label allowing trouble free handling thereof. This is achieved by a luggage-label in accordance with the characterising clause of claim 1.

The invention will now be described in greater detail in the form of a preferred embodiment, reference being had to the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a luggage-label according to the invention,

Fig. 2 is a bottom view of the luggage-label, and  
Fig. 3 is an enlarged longitudinal cross-section of a part of the luggage-label.

The luggage-label consists of a long web of separable labels 1. The web comprises a face material which, according to the embodiment shown in Fig. 3, consists of a printable front layer 2 and a protective layer 3. Under these layers, an adhesive layer 4 and finally a release paper 5 are provided. The front layer which has been processed in some suitable manner to permit printing in, for example, a thermoprinter, has high strength when combined with the protective layer, but is susceptible to tear initiation. The protective layer 3 is intended to protect the front layer when the web is being cut, as will be explained below. Alternatively, the front layer may comprise several layers, for example a top paper layer suited for printing and an underlying support layer having the necessary strength properties.

As shown in Fig. 1, the luggage-label 1 comprises a luggage portion 9 and a ticket portion 10. The label 1 is separable from the web by means of a through perforation line 6. A cut 11 separates the luggage portion 9 from the ticket portion 10. The cut 11 penetrates the face material 2 and 3 and the adhesive layer 4 down to the release paper 5, as illustrated more clearly in Fig. 3.

A second cut 12 is made from below through the release paper 5 up to the protective layer 3, as is best shown in Fig. 3. By means of this cut 12, the release paper 5 is removed and the adhesive layer 4 exposed such that the ends of the label can be joined. The cut 12 is, however, provided merely along the centre of the web, i.e. it does not reach the edges of the web but leaves about 2.5 mm of the release paper 5 uncut. This prevents tear initiations in the edges of the face material when the cuts are being made, and substantial deterioration of its strength properties thus is avoided.

In the embodiment shown, the web is provided with a pair of recesses 7 which are adapted on the one

hand to reduce the width of the web at the perforation lines 6 and facilitate tearing off of the labels and, on the other hand, to indicate the ends of the labels when the web is supplied through a printer. These recesses 7 are unsymmetrical with regard to each other but may, of course, be symmetrical or shaped in some other manner, e.g. merely occur in one edge of the web. The web is further provided with two symmetrical recesses 8 in the intermediate part of the luggage portion 9 so as to facilitate attachment thereof around a luggage handle.

The luggage-label 1, i.e. both the luggage portion 9 and the ticket portion 10, is suitably preprinted with particulars about the airline etc and is provided with fields in which particulars about the destination etc are to be printed. Preferably, the preprinted text and the printing are effected such that the same text is to be found on both halves of the luggage portion, the text on one half being upside-down relative to the text on the other half. When being used, i.e. when the printed label is dispensed by the printer, the label is separated along the perforation line 6. By a slight deflection, the ticket portion of the label is released from the release paper along the cut 11 and is readily removed and attached to, for example, a flight ticket. Subsequently, the release paper 5 is removed from the luggage portion 9 adjacent the ticket portion 10 and is torn off along the cut 12 such that the adhesive layer 4 is exposed. The label can now be pulled through a luggage handle and the ends of the luggage portion can be joined. The "double" text on the luggage portion makes reading easy, no matter which side of the label is up. Besides, the strength of the face material prevents the label from being easily removed or coming loose.

The invention is, of course, not limited to the embodiment described above and shown in the drawing, but may be modified within the scope of the appended claims.

## Claims

1. A luggage-label separable from a web and comprising a luggage portion attachable to a luggage handle, and a ticket portion, which label (1) web consists of a face material comprising e.g. a printable, resistant front layer (2) and an underlying protective layer (3), an adhesive layer (4) and a release paper (5) removable to expose the adhesive layer surface, said label (1) being separable from the web by means of perforation lines (6) through said face material and said release paper, said luggage portion (9) and said ticket portion (10) being separated by a cut (11) extending transversely through the face material and the adhesive layer (4) down to the release paper (5), **characterized** in that a continuous release paper (5) portion adhering to the surface of one end part of the

face material adhesive backing of the luggage label portion (9) and to the surface of the adhesive backing of the ticket portion (10), is removable in one piece so as to expose an adhesive layer (4) surface portion along said end part of the luggage label portion and the entire adhesive surface of the ticket portion, and is separable from the rest of the label adhesive layer adhering part of the release paper by means of a cut (12) cutting through less than the whole width of the release paper leaving the adhesive, the protective, and the face layers uncut and leaving both edges of the release paper smooth and even both adjacent the cut severing the label face, and adhesive layers and thereby separating the ticket portion from the luggage portion and adjacent said less than whole width cut through the release paper also defining the remote end of the exposable surface of the label portion.

2. The luggage-label as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** in that adjacent the through perforation lines (6), the edges of the web are provided with recesses (7) indicating the ends of the label when used in a printer.

## Patentansprüche

1. Ein Gepäcketikett, das von einer Unterlage abtrennbar ist und einen Gepäckteil aufweist, der an einem Gepäckgriff befestigt werden kann, sowie einen Etikettenteil, wobei die Etikettenunterlage (1) aus einem Deckmaterial besteht, das zum Beispiel eine bedruckbare widerstandsfähige Vorderseite (2) und eine darunterliegende Schutzschicht (3), eine Klebeschicht (4) und einen abziehbaren Papierstreifen (5) aufweist, der abgezogen werden kann, um die Klebeschicht freizulegen, wobei das Etikett (1) von der Unterlage mittels einer Perforierung (6) entfernt werden kann, die das Deckmaterial und den Papierstreifen durchquert, wobei der Gepäckteil (9) und der Etikettenteil (10) durch eine Schnittstelle (11) getrennt werden, die sich quer durch das Deckmaterial und die Klebeschicht (4) bis zu dem abziehbaren Papierstreifen (5) erstreckt, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** ein kontinuierlicher abziehbarer Papierstreifen (5), der an der Fläche eines Endteils der an der Rückseite des Deckmaterials angebrachten Klebeschicht des Gepäcketiketts (9) und an der Fläche der rückseitigen Klebeschicht des Etikettenteils (10) haftet, in einem Stück abgezogen werden kann, um eine Klebeschicht (4) entlang dem Endteil des Gepäcketiketts und die gesamte Klebefläche des Etikettenteils freizulegen und der von dem Rest des klebenden Abschnitts des Papierstreifens, der an der Klebeschicht des Etiketts haftet, mittels einer Schnittstelle (12) abgetrennt werden kann, die weniger als die gesamte Breite des abziehbaren Papierstreifens durchtrennt und die Klebeschicht, die Schutzschicht und die Deckschichten nicht durch-

trennt und beide Kanten des abziehbaren Papierstreifens an der Schnittstelle, die die Etikettenfläche und die Klebeflächen trennt, eben und glatt läßt und dadurch den Etikettenteil von dem Gepäckteil abtrennt und an die weniger als die Breite durchtrennenden Schnittstelle durch den abtrennbaren Papierstreifen auch das entfernte Ende der freilegbaren Fläche des Etikettenteils bildet.

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2. Ein Gepäcketikett nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** an der Perforierung (6) die Kanten der Unterlage mit Ausschnitten (7) versehen sind, die das Ende des Etiketts anzeigen, wenn es in einem Drucker beschriftet wird.

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## Revendications

1. Etiquette pour bagage séparable d'une bande et comportant une partie bagage pouvant être fixée à la poignée d'un bagage, et une partie ticket; bande d'étiquettes (1) qui consiste en un matériau frontal soit une couche frontale (2) imprimable et en une couche de protection sous-jacente (3), et une couche adhésive 4 ainsi qu'un papier enlevable 5 pouvant être retiré pour exposer la surface de la couche adhésive, cette étiquette (1) étant séparable de la bande à l'aide d'une ligne de perforations (6) traversant ce matériau frontal et ce papier enlevable, ladite partie bagage (9) et cette partie ticket (10) étant séparées par une entaille (11) s'étendant à travers le matériau frontal et la couche adhésive (4) jusqu'au papier enlevable (5), caractérisée par le fait qu'une portion continue du papier enlevable (5) adhérant à la surface d'une extrémité du dos adhésif du matériau frontal de la partie bagage (9) et à la surface du dos adhésif de la partie ticket (10) s'enlève d'une pièce de manière à exposer une portion de surface de la couche adhésive (4) le long de cette extrémité de la partie bagage et la totalité de la surface adhésive de la partie ticket et peut être séparée du reste de la partie adhérente de la couche adhésive de l'étiquette du papier enlevable au moyen d'une entaille (12) pratiqué sur moins de la largeur totale du papier enlevable et laissant non sectionnés les couches adhésive, de protection et frontale et laissant les deux bords du papier enlevable lisses et égaux adjacents à l'entaille sectionnant la face de l'étiquette, et les couches adhésives séparant ainsi la partie ticket de la partie bagage, et cet entaille au travers du papier enlevable s'étendant sur moins de la largeur totale définissant également l'extrémité éloignée de la surface exposable de la partie d'étiquette.

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2. Etiquette pour bagage selon la revendication 1, caractérisée par le fait qu'à proximité de la ligne de perforations traversantes (6), les bords de la bande sont munis de renforcements (7) indiquant les extrémités de l'étiquette provenant d'une imprimante.

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