This invention relates to fanfolded paper label strips.

It is an object of the invention to provide a strip of a construction adapted to cause said strip to fold easily in fanfolded conformation and to tend to resume its original fanfolded conformation after having been temporarily straightened, as for example, while being fed through a marking machine.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear hereinafter.

A preferred embodiment of the invention selected for purposes of illustration is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic view showing a fanfolded label strip being fed through a marking machine and being re-fanfolded thereafter.

Figure 2 is a plan view of a label strip.

Figure 3 is a similar view of a modified form of strip.

Fanfolded paper label strips have come to be an important item in the label field, particularly in retail grocery and meat markets and stores. Such markets and stores use large quantities of labels on which suitable information such as price, weight, etc., is printed. For various reasons, fanfolded strips have been found well adapted for such use.

As a typical example, such label strips might be formed from a paper strip having a width of 2" with individual labels defined by incised lines extending transversely across the strip at intervals of 1½" so that the individual labels when separated along said incised lines would measure 1½" by 2". In such a typical example, the strip might be folded along the incised line following each group of six labels with each successive fold in an opposite direction so that the strip may assume a fanfolded conformation.

In handling such strips, and particularly when feeding them through a marking machine where it is necessary that said strips be straightened temporarily, it is desirable that after the individual labels have been marked, the strip should resume its fanfolded conformation. It is also desirable that it should do so without attention by an operator and that it should do so without fail.

The problem is illustrated diagrammatically in Figure 1 in which the labels strip 1 is being fed from a fanfolded stack 2 through a marking machine 3. On emerging from the marking machine the strip should resume its original fanfolded conformation in the stack 4.

According to the present invention the transverse incised lines along which the strip is folded to provide a fanfolded conformation are formed by incisions having a total length greater than the total length of the incisions forming the incised lines which occur between the fold lines. Since the greater total length of the incisions of the fold lines leaves connecting lands of less total length, the result is increased flexibility at the fold lines.

This desired result may be achieved in a variety of specific ways. Thus, as illustrated in Figure 2 the incisions 11 forming the incised lines 12 extending transversely across the strip at points other than the folded lines are more widely spaced than the incisions 13 forming the incised lines at the desired fold lines 14. Therefore, while the individual incisions are the same length in each case, there are more incisions in and the total length of the incisions of lines 14 is greater than the total length of the incisions of lines 12.

Alternatively, the incisions 15 of Figure 3 forming the incised line at a fold line 16 may be longer than the incisions 17 at the non-folding lines 18. Other variations will occur to those skilled in the art.

It will be understood that the invention may be variously modified and embodied within the scope of the subjoined claim.

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

**REFERENCES CITED**

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

**UNITED STATES PATENTS**

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