United States Patent

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[54] MAILING DEVICE
5 Claims, 5 Drawing Figs.

[52] U.S. Cl. 206/62, 206/45.31
[51] Int. Cl. B65d 73/00
[50] Field of Search ..... 206/62 P, 62 R, 0.830, 46 F, 46 R; 229/68, 92.9, 92.8

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ABSTRACT: An elongated sheet is divided into four panels by three score lines with the two intermediate panels containing openings, so that when these panels are folded about their common score line, the openings are in face to face alignment. An article is mounted on one of the intermediate panels so that it is visible through the openings. The two end panels are foldable about their corresponding fold lines to cover the openings and are fastened for mailing. These intermediate panels have indicia and designs thereon for mailing.

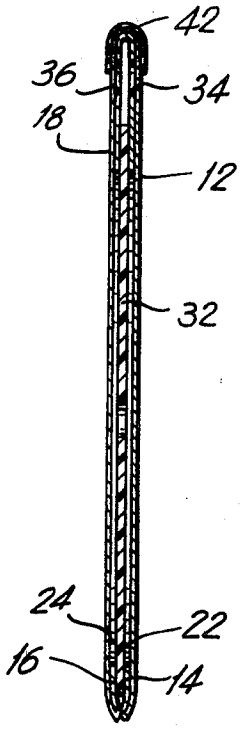


FIG. 1

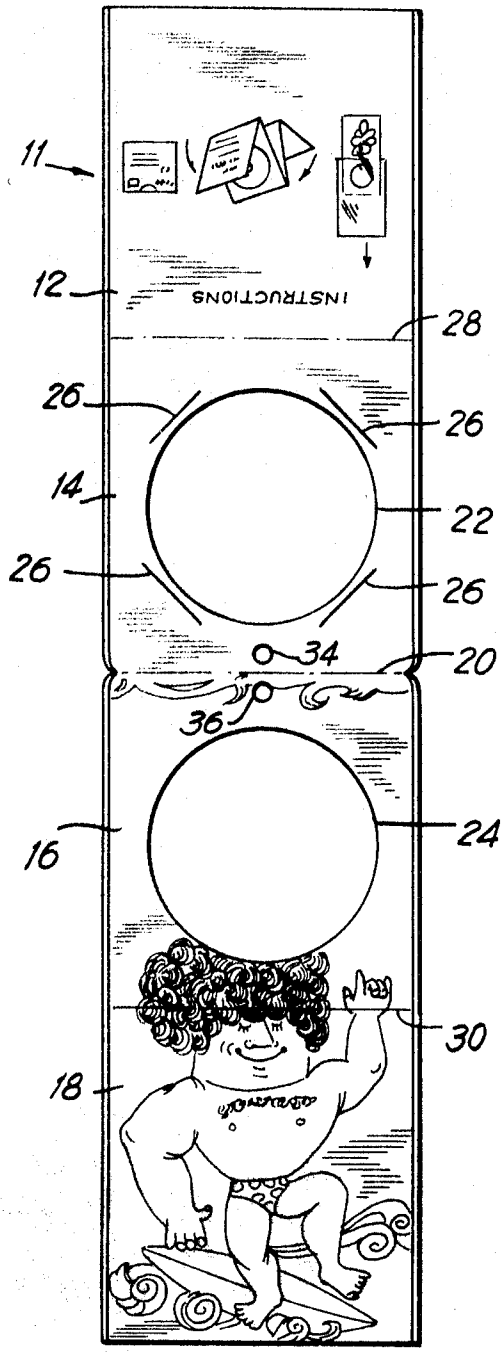
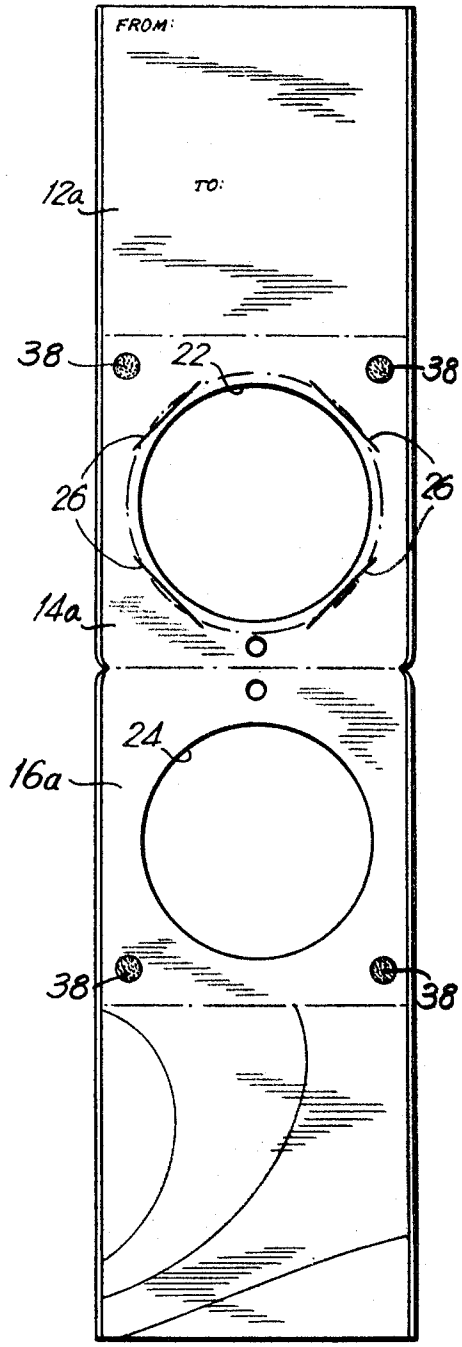


FIG. 2



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FIG. 3

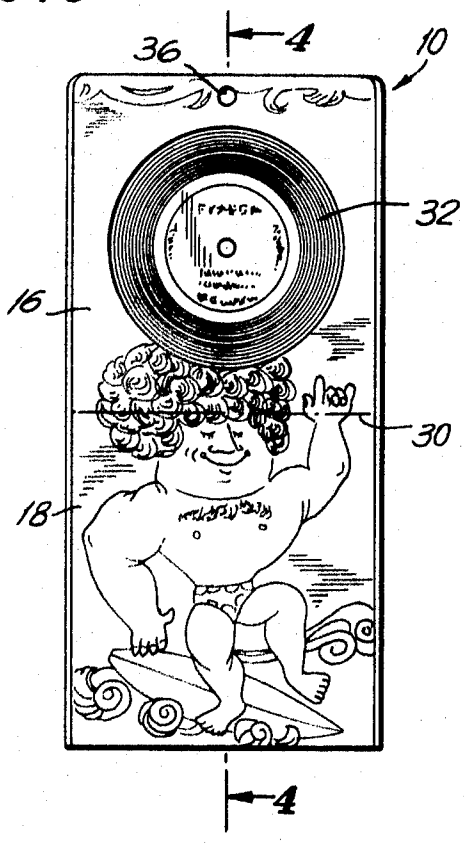


FIG. 4

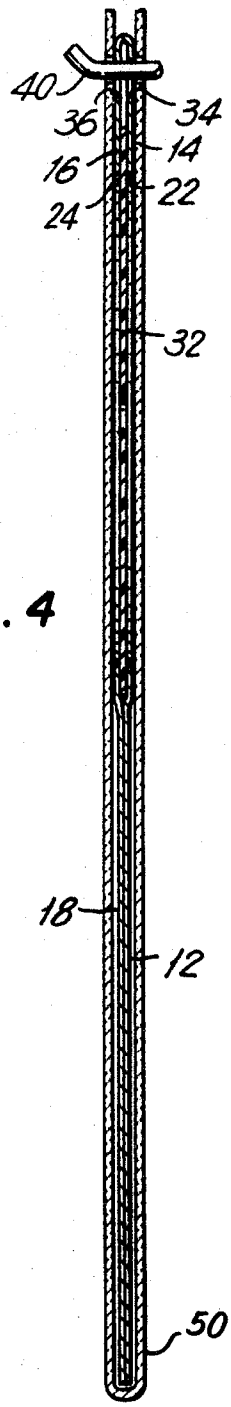
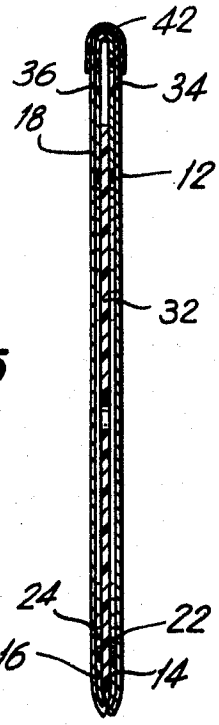


FIG. 5



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MAILING DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to improvements in mailing devices, and it relates particularly to an improved mailing device which removably contains an article positively held within the mailing device and visible prior to mailing.

Heretofore mailing devices for carrying articles, such as flat discs for coins or records, or the like, had elaborate structures for mounting the articles to prevent inadvertent displacement or disengagement while the article was viewed or examined. These prior art mailing devices are usually expensive in nature and used an involved structure for preventing disengagement of the article. Further, these mailing devices required a separate covering for the article, and hence were usually of a very limited application, and otherwise left much to be desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is thus the principal object of the invention to provide an improved mailing device carrying an article.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved mailing device carrying a record and providing a message, which allows the record and the message to be examined without surreptitiously being removed.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide an improved mailing device carrying a record, which is easily mounted in assembly but cannot be removed clandestinely without effectively destroying the mailing piece.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved mailing device, which is easy to fabricate and assemble, pleasant to view and easy to use.

The above and other objects of the present invention will become apparent from the reading of the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing which illustrates a preferred embodiment thereof.

The present invention contemplates the provision of a mailing device comprising a first and second body member folded about a centerfold line in superimposed relation, with each of these members containing an opening in face to face alignment. A record is mounted on one of the members and positioned between them when in folded position, and is visible through the openings. A side flap extends from each of the edges of the first and second members diametrically opposite to the centerfold line. The flaps are foldable back on their corresponding body members to overlie their respective openings. Securing means secure the flaps in the folded position for mailing. Various indicia, directions and designs are placed on the outer surfaces of the flaps for providing a message to the receiver.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of an elongated sheet, punched, pressed, and printed in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the opposite face of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is the strip folded about its centerfold line containing a record, and displayed for sale;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 4–4 of FIG. 3, on an enlarged scale; and

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view showing the piece in mailing position.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawing which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the present invention, reference numeral **10** generally designates a mailing device, which as shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, is formed from an elongated strip of material **11**, made of cardboard or heavy paperboard or the like. Strip **11** is divided into four panels **12**, **14**, **16** and **18**. Intermediate panels **14** and **16**, are body members and are separated by a fold line **20** which also bisects strip **11**. Panels **14** and **16** each

contain an opening **22** and **24** respectively therein, which are so positioned that when strip **11** is folded about fold line **20**, openings **22** and **24** are in face to face alignment. As seen best in FIGS. **1** and **2**, panel **14** has a plurality of circumferential slits **26** equally spaced about opening **22**. Advantageously, panels **16** and **18** have a design or message or other indicia, if desired. FIG. **2** shows the opposite side of strip **11** with surface **12***a* of flap **12** containing a place for the address to where piece **10** will be mailed.

Positioned between body member **14** and flap **12** is a score line **28** for folding flap **12** in a direction opposite to that of fold line **20**, so that surface **12***a* faces outwardly in folded position. Similarly, between member **16** and flap **18** is a score line **30** which folds in a direction opposite to fold line **20**. A record **32** is mounted on member **14**, so that its peripheral edge is received within slits **26**. Hence, slits **25** have a radius which is slightly smaller than the radius of record **32**. Record **32** is slipped through slits **26**, which firmly hold record **32** in position, so there is no danger of it becoming dislodged. Spaced equidistant from fold line **20** and axially aligned in panels **14** and **16** respectively, are pair of openings **34** and **36** respectively, which are in face-to-face alignment when members **14** and **16** are folded about fold line **20**.

After record **32** is mounted in slits **26**, strip **11** is folded about fold line **20** so as to position record **32** between the faces **14***a* and **16***a*. Suitable adhesive or securing means is positioned on the faces **14***a* and **16***a* respectively as shown at **38**, for preventing separation of members **14** and **16**. In this form, mailing device **10** is placed in a clear plastic bag or transparent envelope (**50**) and affixed through openings **34** and **36** on a wall peg **40**, as seen best in FIG. **4** for display.

To use, mailing device **10** is removed from the transparent envelope and the address or message is placed on the appropriate panels. Flap **18** is folded about fold line **30** to abut panel **16** and overlies opening **24**, and flap **12** is folded about score line **28** to abut panel **14** and overlies opening **22**. Flaps **12** and **18** are secured by means of a sticker **42**, as seen in FIG. **5**, or by staples, locking tabs or similar locking means.

While record **32** was shown held in position on panel **14** by means of circumferential slits **26**, it can also be held in position by means of radial slots to form locking tabs. Sticker **42** is preferably placed in the display bag so as to be available hen needed.

The present device allows the record or article to be viewed and examined while displayed, but protects the article from pilferage and during mailing. While records were described as the article being carried, other flat discs, such as coins, or photographs can be used. Also, panels **12**, **14**, **16** and **18** are shown being of equal sizes, however, they may vary if desired.

While there has been described and illustrated a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it is apparent that numerous alterations, omissions and additions may be made without departing from the spirit thereof.

What I claim is:

1. A mailing device comprising a pair of first and second body members folded about a fold line in superimposed relation, each of said first and second members having an opening therein in face-to-face alignment, a flat article positioned between said first and second members and visible through said openings, at least one of said first members having radial slits extending from said opening therein for forming tongues for overlying said article and retaining said article on said first member, a side flap extending from the edge of each of said first and second members diametrically opposite to the first-mentioned fold line, said flaps being foldable back on its corresponding member to overlie said openings therein, and means securing said flaps in said folded position for mailing.

2. A mailing device in accordance with claim **1**, wherein said edges of first and second members opposite said fold line are adapted to fold over said openings in said first and second member, and means for engaging the edges of said flaps for retaining said members in folded position.

3. A mailing device in accordance with claim 1, further including a passageway through said first and second members adjacent to said first mentioned fold line for receiving a wall peg, and a transparent envelope encompassing said body members and their corresponding side flaps in coplanar relation for allowing examination of any design and indicia on the outer surfaces of said members and flaps, and viewing an article through the opening in said members.

4. A mailing device comprising a pair of first and second body members folded about a fold line in superimposed relation, each of said first and second members having an opening therein in face-to-face alignment, a flat, generally circular article positioned between said first and second members and visible through said openings, at least one of said first members having a plurality of circumferential slits arranged about said opening for receiving said article, the radius of said slits being smaller than the radius of said article, a side flap extending from the edge of each of said first and second members diametrically opposite to the first-mentioned fold line, said flaps being foldable back on its corresponding member to overlie said openings therein, and means securing said flaps in said folded position for mailing.

5. A mailing device as in claim 4, wherein said article is a phonograph record.