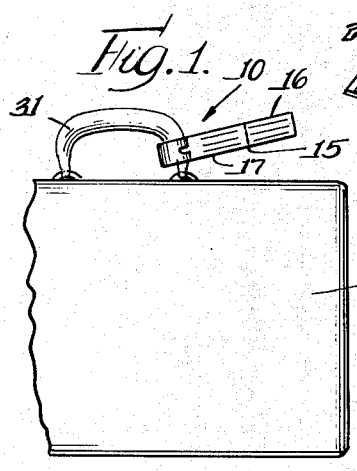
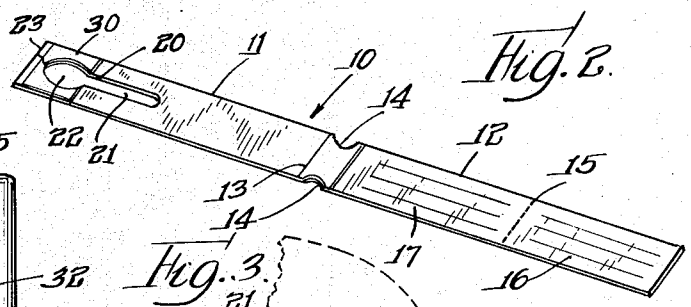
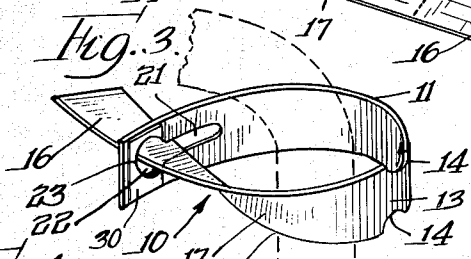
Feb. 1, 1966 R. W. SWETT 3,231,992

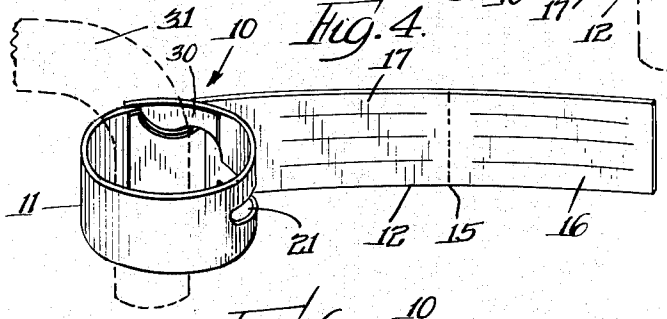
PARCEL IDENTIFICATION DEVICE

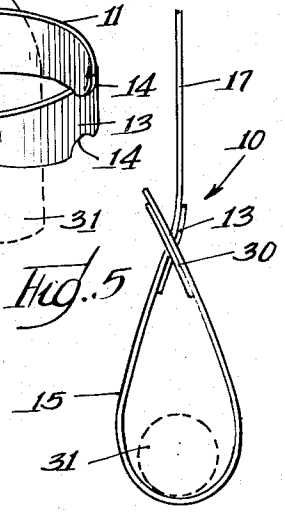
Filed Oct. 4, 1962

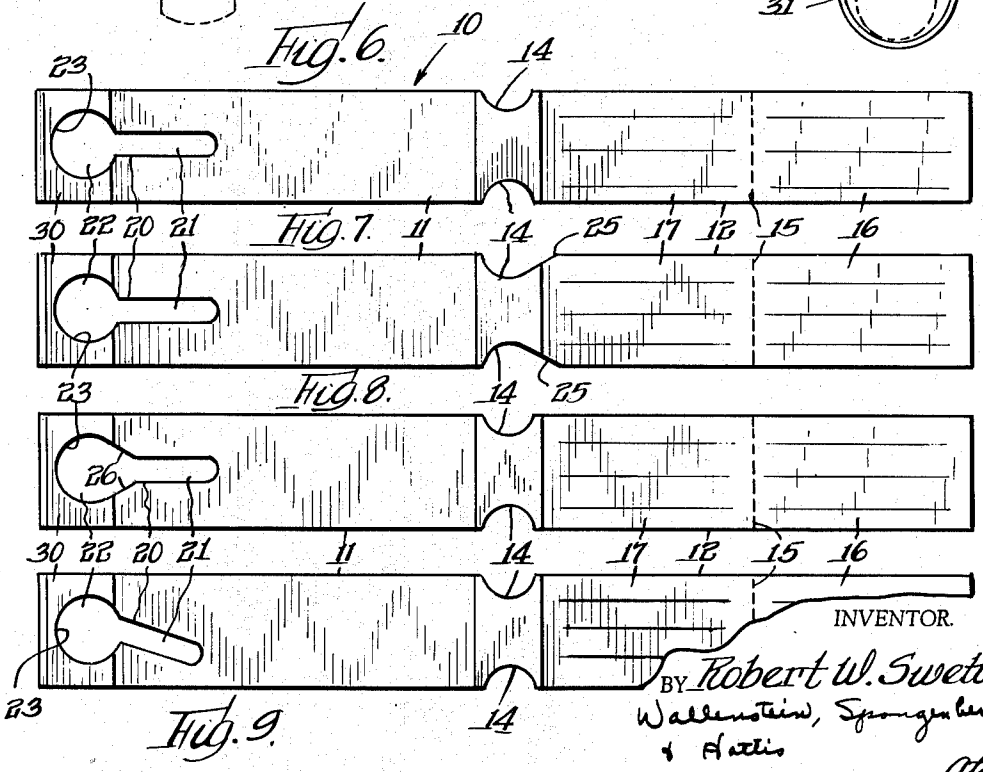












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PARCEL IDENTIFICATION DEVICE

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This invention relates to an improved parcel identification device, and more particularly to an improved parcel identification device of the type which is attached to a parcel by the checker, a portion of the device being removed and given to the person checking the parcel, the detached portion of the device containing identifying indicia corresponding to indicia on the portion of the device remaining with the parcel.

There are a variety of parcel identification devices presently utilized by organizations providing parcel checking services. A commonly used form of such a device is a cardboard tag, a portion of which is removable and serves as a claim check, the other portion being attached to the parcel by a length of string which has been passed through a reinforced hole in one end of the tag and knotted to form a loop. Another form of conventional parcel identification devices comprises a cardboard strip which is foldable on itself and is provided with a gummed area at one end thereof by which portions of the device may be glued together for retention on the parcel.

Although such forms of parcel identification devices satisfactorily accomplish their intended function, they have certain significant disadvantages, particularly from an economic standpoint, which make their utilization an important cost item, especially in large-scale parcel checking operations. The unfavorable economic considerations involved in the utilization of such conventional parcel identification devices can, in the main, be attributed to the multiplicity of operations required in their fabrication and to the need for cost increasing materials such as, for example, strings, gums, adhesives and the like. While such cost factors seemingly are insignificant on a per item basis, when viewed in the light of a large-scale checking operation, they assume significant proportions.

It is an object of this invention to provide an improved parcel identification device which can be manufactured at a minimal cost, which is simple and efficient to use, and which is rugged enough to withstand the rough handling frequently encountered in parcel checking operations. Further objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent as the description proceeds.

Briefly, the parcel identification device of the present invention comprises a flexible, unitary, elongated strip, having a parcel engaging portion, an identifying indicia carrying portion and a reinforced portion desirably having inwardly curved edges. The identifying indicia carrying portion of the strip advantageously is perforated to enable a part thereof to be removed and given to the person checking the parcel. The parcel engaging portion of the strip advantageously has an opening longitudinally disposed therein proximal to one end thereof. The opening, which has a configuration suggestive of that of a key-hole, desirably comprises a narrow, elongated portion joined to a substantially circular portion of greater diameter than the narrow, elongated portion. The area of the parcel engaging portion of the strip adjacent the substantially circular portion of the opening advantageously is reinforced to provide added strength characteristics. The opening is of sufficient length and width to receive the reinforced portion of the strip and to permit the inwardly curved edges thereof to engage the peripheral margin of the reinforced substantially circular portion of the opening. In this position, the reinforced portion of

the strip is disposed and locked in the reinforced circular portion of the opening in substantially transverse relation with respect to the plane of the opening.

When the curved edges of the reinforced portion of the strip are in engagement with the margin of the reinforced substantially circular portion of the opening in the parcel engaging portion of the strip, a loop is formed by the parcel engaging portion and an area of the reinforced portion of the strip. The loop portion of the strip is retained on the handle, for instance, of the parcel, along with the non-detachable part of the identifying indicia carrying portion of the strip. The unitary construction of the device of the present invention, together with the simplicity of its design, make it exceedingly economical to manufacture, and easy and efficient to use.

These and other objects, advantages and features of the invention will manifest themselves upon making reference to the specification to follow, the claims and the accompanying drawing in which:

FIG. 1 is a fragmentary view in elevation showing an embodiment of the parcel identification device of this invention applied to a parcel prior to the removal of the portion of the device to be given to the person checking the parcel;

FIG. 2 is a view in perspective of said embodiment of the parcel identification device;

FIG. 3 is a view in perspective showing the manner in which said embodiment of the parcel identification device is looped around the handle of a parcel to be checked;

FIG. 4 is a view in perspective illustrating the said embodiment of the parcel identification device in its secured position on the handle of a parcel to be checked, the detachable portion of the device being still in position thereon;

FIG. 5 is a side view in elevation of said embodiment of the parcel identification device illustrating the relative positions of the reinforced areas thereof when the device has been placed on a parcel to be checked;

FIG. 6 is a plan view of said embodiment of the parcel identification device;

FIG. 7 is a plan view of another embodiment of the parcel identification device of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a plan view of yet another embodiment of the parcel identification device of the present invention; and

FIG. 9 is a fragmentary plan view of a further embodiment of the parcel identification device of the present invention.

Referring now to the drawing, and in particular to FIGS. 2 and 6 thereof, the embodiment of the parcel identification device of the present invention, there illustrated and designated generally at **10**, advantageously comprises a unitary, elongated rectangular strip of flexible, semi-rigid material which may be cardboard, heavy paper, plastic, or the like, having a parcel engaging member or portion **11** and an identifying indicia carrying member or portion **12** between which is provided a connecting member or reinforced portion **13**. The edges **14** of the portion **13** advantageously are curved inwardly for reasons that will be made clear as the description proceeds.

The identifying carrying portion **12** of the strip **10** desirably is perforated as shown at **15**, thereby providing a detachable claim check **16** to be removed by the checker and retained by the person checking the parcel. The identifying indicia appearing on the claim check **16** and the non-detachable stub **17** of the identifying indicia carrying portion **12** of the strip will, of course, correspond thereby facilitating identification of the parcel when it is claimed.

The parcel engaging portion **11** of the strip **10** advantageously has an opening **20** longitudinally disposed therein. Desirably the opening **20** is positioned proximal to the free end of the portion **11** and comprises a narrow, elongated area or portion **21** which is continuous with a centrally disposed substantially circular area or portion **22** of greater width than the portion **21**. The length of the opening **20** is sufficient to permit the free end of the identifying indicia carrying portion **12** to be inserted therein and to enable the portion **12** to be drawn therethrough. The substantially circular portion **22** of the opening **20** is of sufficient width to permit the inwardly curved edges **14** of the portion **13** to snugly engage the peripheral margin **23** of the portion **22** to enable the reinforced portion **13** to be disposed therein in substantially transverse relation with respect to the plane of the opening **20**.

In FIG. 7 there is illustrated another embodiment of the parcel identification device of the present invention. In this embodiment of the device, the inwardly curved edges **14** of the reinforced portion **13** are joined to inwardly extending or tapering edge portions **25** of the identifying indicia carrying portion **12** of the strip **10**. This construction facilitates positioning of the reinforced portion **13** in the substantially circular portion **22** of the opening **20**.

Referring now to FIG. 8 of the drawing, still another embodiment of the parcel identification device of the present invention is illustrated. In this embodiment, the narrow, elongated portion **21** of the opening **20** is provided at its juncture with the substantially circular portion **22** with outwardly diverging margins **26** which join with the peripheral margin **23** of the portion **22**. As in the previously described embodiment of this invention shown in FIG. 7, this construction of the opening **20** facilitates engagement of the inwardly curved edges **14** of the reinforced portion **13** with the portion **22** of the opening **20**.

In the embodiment of the present invention illustrated in FIG. 9, the narrow, elongated portion **21** of the opening **20** is angularly disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the strip **10**. This construction of the opening **20** facilitates insertion of the free end of the identifying indicia carrying portion **12** of the strip **10** through the opening **20**, and, in addition, enables the portion **12** to be more easily drawn therethrough and facilitates engagement of the edges **14** of the portion **13** with the portion **22** of the opening **20**.

In each of the embodiments of the device described hereinabove, a section **30** of the parcel engaging portion **11**, adjacent the portion **22** of the opening **20**, advantageously is reinforced. Reinforcement of this area of the strip, as well as of the portion **13**, is desirable in order to achieve a reasonably rigid, secure and snug interlock between the edges **14** of the portion **13** and the cooperating margin **23** of the portion **22** of the opening **20**. Reinforcement of the section **30** and the portion **13** may be accomplished in any manner known in the art. In the embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawing, this is achieved by simply superimposing, as by gluing, paper of suitable thickness over the appropriate areas of the strip **10**.

In utilizing the parcel identification device of the present invention, it is only necessary to loop the device around the handle **31** of the parcel **32** in the manner shown in FIGS. 1, 3 and 4, and insert the free end of the identifying indicia carrying portion **12** of the strip through the opening **20** in the parcel engaging portion **11** thereof. The free end of the identifying indicia carrying portion **12** of the strip is then drawn through the opening **20** until the inwardly curved edges **14** of the reinforced portion **13** are therewithin. The portion **13** is then turned to engage the edges **14** with the margin **23** of the substantially circular portion **22** of the opening **20**. In this position, as indicated hereinabove, the reinforced portion **13** is disposed and locked in substantially transverse relation with

respect to the plane of the opening **20**. The enclosed area or loop formed in this manner is freely movable on the handle of the parcel and yet cannot be dislodged therefrom even by the roughest handling of the parcel. The inherent resiliency of the strip tends to maintain the portions **11** and **13** in their interlocked position on the parcel **31**, and to resist forces which tend to disengage the edges **14** from their snug contact with the margin **23**.

The claim check **16** of the portion **12** of the device may be separated along the perforations **15** either after the device is in position on the parcel being checked, or before. In removing the portion of the device retained on the parcel, the person checking the parcel, after the return thereof to him, need only tear the strip off, or, in the event the strip is made of a non-readily tearable material such as plastic, the reinforced portion **13** need only be turned to disengage it from its edge contact with the margin **23** of the substantially circular portion **22** of the opening **20**, and the stub **17** of the identifying indicia carrying portion **12** withdrawn from the opening **20**.

The parcel identification device of the present invention is extremely durable and rugged. Referring to FIG. 5, the interlocking relationship of the reinforced areas of the strip is clearly shown. This arrangement provides the strip with maximum strength characteristics at the areas thereof likely to encounter the greatest stresses in the event, for example, the stub **17** of the strip is grasped inadvertently during the handling of the parcel. The effect of such a force on the device of the present invention is illustrated in FIG. 5. The inherent flexibility of the device enables it to compensate for any normal pulling force on the stub **17**. Further, tear-preventing, resistance is provided by the interlocked areas, namely, reinforced portion **13** and section **30**. The device of the present invention has been demonstrated to be capable of withstanding stresses of the order of approximately 30 pounds, more or less. In a normal checking operation, however, forces of such magnitude are generally not encountered and, therefore, the likelihood of the device becoming dislodged from the parcel is remote.

The embodiments of this invention provide efficient, inexpensive, and effective means for checking parcels of substantially any size and description, and while they have been described with reference to specific structural features, various modifications therein will be readily apparent to persons skilled in the art and may be adopted without departing from the broader spirit and aspects of this invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A parcel identification device comprising a flexible, unitary, elongated strip of predetermined length, width, and thickness, the strip having a parcel engaging portion and an identifying indicia carrying portion, the identifying indicia carrying portion being perforated to permit a part thereof to be detached, the strip further having a reinforced portion between the parcel engaging and identifying indicia carrying portions, the reinforced portion having inwardly curved edges joined to inwardly extending edge portions of the identifying indicia carrying portion, the parcel engaging portion of the strip having a key hole shaped opening longitudinally disposed therein proximal to the free end thereof, an area of the parcel engaging portion surrounding the opening being reinforced, the opening including an enlarged substantially circular hole merging with an elongated open slot having opposed sides which are spaced a distance greater than the thickness of the strip and a length which in conjunction with the size of the circular hole provides the opening with a length greater than the width of the strip, the opening being of sufficient size to receive the free end of the identifying indicia carrying portion and to enable the identifying indicia carrying portion to be freely drawn therethrough and the substantially circular hole of the opening being of sufficient width to receive the reinforced portion be-

tween the parcel engaging and identifying indicia carrying portions of the strip to permit the reinforced portion to be disposed in the substantially circular hole of the opening in substantially transverse relation with respect to the plane of the opening, the parcel engaging portion of the strip defining with an area of the reinforced portion of the strip a loop through which a part of the parcel passes and which together with the non-detachable portion of the identifying carrying portion is retained on the parcel.

2. A parcel identification device comprising a flexible, unitary, elongated strip of predetermined length, width, and thickness, the strip having a parcel engaging portion and an identifying indicia carrying portion, the identifying indicia carrying portion being perforated to permit a part thereof to be detached, the strip further having a reinforced portion between the parcel engaging and identifying indicia carrying portions, the reinforced portion having inwardly curved edges, the parcel engaging portion of the strip having a key hole shaped opening longitudinally disposed therein proximal to the free end thereof, an area of the parcel engaging portion surrounding the entire opening being reinforced, the opening including an enlarged substantially circular hole merging with an elongated open slot having opposed sides which are spaced a distance greater than the thickness of the strip, which diverge for a portion of their length and join the margins of the circular hole, and which are of a length which in conjunction with the size of the circular hole provides the opening with a length greater than the width of the strip, the opening being of sufficient size to receive the free end of the identifying indicia carrying portion and to enable the identifying indicia carrying portion to be freely drawn therethrough and the substantially circular hole of the opening being of sufficient width to receive the reinforced portion between the parcel engaging and identifying indicia carrying portions of the strip to permit the reinforced portion to be disposed in the substantially circular hole of the opening in substantially transverse relation with respect to the plane of the opening, the parcel engaging portion of the strip defining with an area of the reinforced portion of the strip a loop through which a part of the parcel passes and which together with the non-detachable portion of the identifying carrying portion is retained on the parcel.

3. A parcel identification device comprising a flexible, unitary, elongated strip of predetermined length, width, and thickness, the strip having a parcel engaging portion and an identifying indicia carrying portion, the identifying indicia carrying portion being perforated to permit a part thereof to be detached, the strip further having a reinforced portion between the parcel engaging and identifying indicia carying portions, the reinforced portion having inwardly curved edges, the parcel engaging portion of the strip having a key hole shaped opening longitudinally disposed therein proximal to the free end thereof, an area of the parcel engaging portion adjacent the opening being reinforced, the opening including an enlarged substantially circular hole merging with an elongated open slot having opposed sides which are spaced a distance greater than the thickness of the strip, are angularly disposed with respect to the longitudinal axis of the parcel engaging portion of the strip and have a length greater than the width of the circular hole, the opening being of sufficient size to receive the free end of the identifying indicia carrying portion of the strip and to enable the identifying indicia carrying portion to be freely drawn therethrough and the substantially circular hole of the opening being of sufficient width to receive the reinforced portion between the parcel engaging and identifying indicia carrying portions of the strip to permit the reinforced portion to be disposed in the substantially circular hole of the opening in substantially transverse relation with respect to the plane of the opening, the parcel engaging portion of the strip defining with an area of the reinforced portion of the strip a loop through which a part of the parcel passes and which together with the non-detachable portion of the identifying carrying portion is retained on the parcel.

4. A parcel identification device comprising a flexible, unitary, elongated strip of predetermined length, width, and thickness, a portion of the strip being reinforced, the edges of the reinforced portion extending inwardly for at least a segment of their length, the strip further having a key-hole shaped opening longitudinally disposed therein, an area of the strip surrounding the opening being reinforced, the opening including an enlarged substantially circular hole merging with an elongated open slot having opposed sides which are spaced a distance greater than the thickness of the strip and a length which in conjunction with the size of the circular hole provide the opening with a length greater than the width of the strip to freely receive the reinforced portion of the strip and to permit the inwardly extending edges thereof to be disposed in the circular hole of the opening in substantially transverse relation with respect to the plane thereof to form an enclosed area through which a part of the parcel passes and which is retained on the parcel, a portion of the strip being detachable for retention by the person checking the parcel.

5. A parcel identification device comprising a flexible, unitary, elongated strip of predetermined length, width, and thickness, the strip having a parcel engaging portion and an identifying indicia carrying portion, the parcel engaging portion having a reinforced portion at one end thereof and a substantially key-hole shaped opening longitudinally disposed at the other end thereof, the reinforced portion having inwardly extending edges, the opening in the parcel engaging portion including an enlarged substantially circular hole merging with an elongated open slot having opposed sides which are spaced a distance greater than the thickness of the strip, which diverge for a portion of their length and join the margins of the circular hole, and which are of a length which in conjunction with the size of the circular hole provides the opening with a length greater than the width of the strip to freely receive the reinforced portion and to permit the inwardly extending edges thereof to be disposed in the circular hole of the opening in substantially transverse relation with respect to the plane thereof to form an enclosed area through which a part of the parcel passes and which is retained on the parcel, and area of the strip surrounding the entire opening also being reinforced, the identifying indicia carrying portion of the strip being perforated to permit a part thereof to be detached.

6. A parcel identification device comprising a flexible, unitary, elongated strip of predetermined length, width, and thickness, having a parcel engaging portion and an identifying indicia carrying portion, the parcel engaging portion having notched side edges adjacent one end thereof and a substantially key-hole shaped opening substantially longitudinally disposed adjacent the other end thereof, the substantially key-hole shaped opening including an enlarged substantially circular hole merging with an elongated open slot having opposed sides which are spaced a distance greater than the thickness of the strip and a length which in conjunction with the size of the circular hole provides the opening with a length greater than the width of the strip to freely receive the strip so as to permit quick insertion of the strip through the substantially longitudinally disposed key-hole shaped opening and to permit the notched side edges of the strip to be disposed in the circular hole of the opening in substantially transverse relation with respect to the plane of the strip to form an enclosed area through which a part of the parcel passes and which is retained by interlocking of the notched side edges and the circular hole of the substantially key-hole shaped opening on the parcel, an area of the strip surrounding the key-hole shaped opening

also being reinforced, the identifying indicia carrying portion of the strip being perforated to permit a part thereof to be detached.

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