March 20, 1951 M. L. WALL 2,545,505

TAG

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Fig. 1.

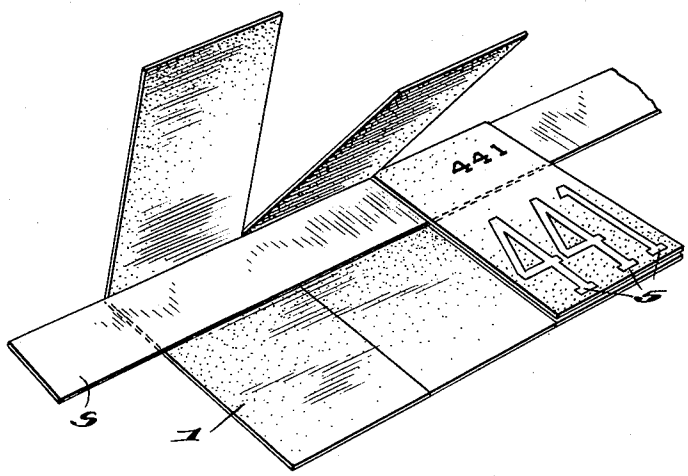


Fig. 2.

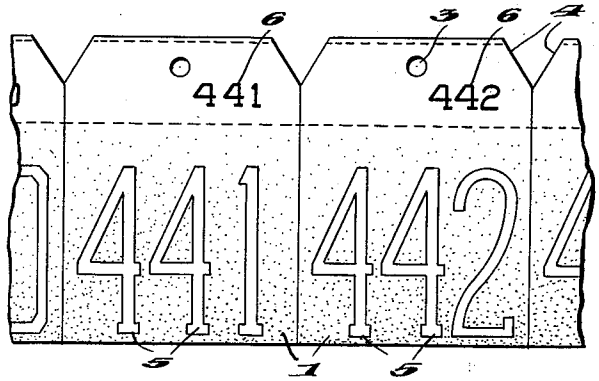


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

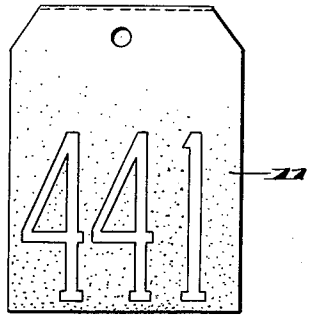
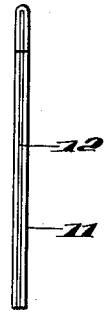


Fig. 5.



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TAG

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3 Claims. (Cl. 40—27)

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This invention relates to improvements in tags, particularly of the character used as identification or shipping tags, stockyards, baggage checks, and the like.

Identification tags, such as are used customarily on live stock, baggage, etc., are provided ordinarily with identification numbers, letters or marks, whereby the stock or baggages can be identified to determine their ownership. Such tags are applied ordinarily by means of wire fastenings, string or other suitable material, to the stock or articles to be identified, which fastening means is extended through a hole in one end of the tag opposite from the end which carries the identifying number, letters or mark. Much difficulty has occurred due to the tearing off of the tag from the attaching means which separates the identifying number, letters or mark from the article and thereby results in confusion and often claims for damages against the custodian of the property.

Various attempts have been made to overcome these objections, but the tags provided in commercial use are made generally with an external reinforcing element at the hole of the tag, usually by a metal or paper grommet around the hole for reinforcing purposes. Such a grommet tends to prevent the pulling out of the hole by the attaching string or wire, but it is objectionable for an additional reason that it interferes with the printing in an automatic press at a point on the tag adjacent the hole. Moreover, it leaves the tag free for tearing and separation at a point adjacent the hole outside the grommet which would then remove the identifying number, letters or mark from the article.

The object of this invention is to improve the tag construction to permit the printing of an identifying number, letters or mark on the tag at a point where it may not be separated accidentally from the stock or article on which the tag is applied by the tearing away of a portion of the tag on which the number, letters or mark is applied, and without providing unsightly projections on the tag, such as would result from a raised grommet around the hole as well as interfering with the application of printing for identification or otherwise, in an automatic press at any point on the tag as, for instance, adjacent the hole. The area of the tag formed according to this invention is relatively smooth, uniform and of improved appearance, and the danger of tearing away the portion of the tag on which the identifying number, letters, or mark is printed is substantially eliminated.

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Such tags are constructed ordinarily of relatively thin paper stock containing a plurality of layers adhesively secured together. I have provided, according to this invention, for the incorporation between the layers of the paper stock of either a strip of thin sheet-metal, plastic, fiber, fabric and/or of any other suitable reinforcing material which overlaps the region of the hole in the tag around the region in which an identifying number, letters or mark is applied to the outer surface of the tag, so as to prevent the accidental separation from the attaching means that passes through the hole of the portion of the tag on which the number, letters or mark is applied. This metal or other suitable reinforcing material insert may extend throughout only one end portion of the tag or throughout the area thereof, whichever may be desired, but in the event that it is applied only at one end portion the identifying number, letters or mark should be printed on said end portion within the confines of the reinforcing strip adjacent the hole. The incorporation of the metal strip or strip of any other type of reinforcing material between the plies of the paper stock leaves the surface of the tag free of raised portions around the hole which might interfere with the printing of the identifying number thereon in an automatic printing press.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the process of forming the tag, according to this invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a series of tags embodying this invention;

Fig. 3 is an edge view of a tag constructed according to Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a tag in which the metal strip and/or of any other type of reinforcing material extends throughout the area thereof; and

Fig. 5 is an edge view thereof.

Tags of the character used as shipping tags or identification tags, or the like, are made ordinarily of relatively thin paper stock of multiple layers, such as the paper stock generally indicated by the numeral 1, in Figs. 1 to 3. This paper stock may be formed originally of narrow strips corresponding with the width of the tags or formed of a wide strip later to be slit to provide the respective tags. As shown in Fig. 1, this paper stock is adapted to be folded over on itself to provide a two-ply tag, although the number of plies used may be varied as desired by applying additional layers of paper.

Before folding the stock, a metal strip or strip of any other type of reinforcing material S is inserted between the plies adjacent the fold line, as shown in Fig. 1. This strip is formed of very thin sheet metal or other suitable reinforcing material which, nevertheless, will have sufficient strength to reinforce the region of the tag around the hole to be formed therein and may extend throughout the area of the tag, if desired. The strip extends preferably throughout the width of the tag as will be evident where a long metal strip, or strip of plastic, fiber, fabric or other suitable reinforcing material, is used in this manner.

The paper stock is then folded over the metal strip, or strip of any other reinforcing material S, and adhesively secured thereto as well as between the respective plies of the paper stock, preferably by means of a waterproof adhesive to insure secure attachment of the plies together, as well as to the metal strip or strip of any other reinforcing material. The metal strip or strip of other reinforcing material is then cut into lengths corresponding with the width of the tag, separating the respective tags, or, where a wide paper strip is used, this may be slit at the same time to form the tag edges. The corners of the tag may be sheared during this severing operation, if desired, and the hole may be punched through the stock and metal strip or other reinforcing material simultaneously to complete the formation of the tag structure.

A complete tag is shown in Figs. 2 and 3, as comprising a strip of paper stock 1, folded back upon itself enclosing therebetween either a metal strip or strip of plastic, fiber, fabric, and/or any other type of suitable reinforcing material designated generally at 2, which extends throughout the width of the tag at the fold edge of the paper stock. Only a very thin sheet metal, plastic, fiber, fabric or other suitable reinforcing material would be required for this purpose and the thickness both of the metal or other reinforcing material strip 2 and of the paper stock 1 is considerably exaggerated in Fig. 3, because in actual practice, the surfaces of the tag are relatively smooth with the metal or other type of reinforcing material strip enclosed therein.

The hole in an end of each tag is designated generally at 3. The size and shape of the hole may be varied as desired, according to the use of the tag and the type of fastening device to be attached thereto. The notched or sheared corners are shown at 4, which may be provided, if desired, or they may be made round, oblong, etc., simultaneously with the operation of making the hole in the end of the tag.

In the form shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the paper stock 11 is folded upon itself substantially as described above in connection with Fig. 1, but the metal or other reinforcing material 12 extends throughout the length of the tag as indicated in Fig. 5.

Tags of this character are provided ordinarily with identifying numbers, letters or marks thereon, frequently of relatively large numbers as indicated at 5 in Fig. 2. Where the tags are used for stockyard identification for cattle and other animals, the tags will be numbered consecutively, as indicated, with the numerals sufficiently large to be visible readily for a considerable distance for identification of the respective animals. This is true also of baggage checks and other parcel identifying tags. Where the metal strip or strip of any other type of reinforcing material 2 extends throughout an area located only at one end portion of the tag, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, a smaller identifying number indicated at 6 may be applied to the region of the tag covered by the reinforcing strip, so that if the remainder of the tag should be separated from the attached portion, the identifying number would not be lost nor confusion result. The lack of a grommet or other raised portion around the hole makes possible the printing of this identifying number 6 adjacent thereto in an automatic printing press. In either event, the reinforcing strip 2 or 12 extends throughout the area of the tag on which an identifying number is applied, as well as around the hole area by means of which the tag is attached to stock or an article.

This construction provides substantially for the elimination of argument as to the identification of baggage, articles, or stock on which the tag is applied by insuring that the identifying number, letters or mark will always be attached to the article without danger of its accidental separation therefrom due to the tearing away of the tag from the attaching means. At the same time, it is practical for manufacture and use, as well as presenting an attractive appearance by the elimination of grommets and other unsightly projections around the hole which would interfere with the printing operation in an automatic press. Any desired form or size of hole may be used, according to the type of attaching means required, and since this does not require any special attachment in the hole, it may be formed in one simplified operation in a single machine whereby the entire tag may be formed automatically. Either or both sides of the tag may be used for printing any desired identification or indicia thereon, in addition to or instead of the numbers referred to above, according to the use to be made of the tag.

I claim:

1. A tag comprising a paper strip folded upon itself with the end edges thereof terminating substantially adjacent each other and forming superposed plies adhesively secured together, and a strip of reinforcing material secured entirely between the plies and extending continuously from side-to-side of the tag and from the folded edge thereof toward the opposite edge of the tag, said tag having indicia applied to at least one surface thereof and having a hole in one end thereof extending through the plies and through the reinforcing strip adjacent the indicia, said strip extending throughout the area of the hole and continuously therefrom throughout the area under the indicia to prevent separation of the indicia from the attaching means passing through the hole.

2. A tag comprising a paper strip folded upon itself with the end edges thereof terminating substantially adjacent each other, a flat reinforcing strip lying entirely within and between the folds of the paper, whereby either side of the tag presents a plain smooth surface adapted to receive indicia, one edge of said flat reinforcing strip lying adjacent the fold and extending from side to side of the strip, and means securing the folds of the paper strip together and confining the reinforcing strip therebetween.

3. A tag comprising a strip of non-metallic material folded upon itself with the end edges thereof terminating substantially adjacent each other, a flat reinforcing strip lying entirely within and between the folds of the first-mentioned strip whereby either side of the tag presents a substantially plain smooth surface adapted to

receive indicia, one edge of said flat reinforcing strip lying adjacent the fold and extending substantially from side to side of the first-mentioned strip, and means securing the folds of the first-mentioned strip together and confining the reinforcing strip therebetween, said tag having an opening therethrough extending through the folds of the first-mentioned strip and through the reinforcing strip adapted to receive a fastener, the reinforcing strip aiding in preventing separation of the tag from the fastener.

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