Jan. 4, 1966 W. H. GABRUK 3,226,862

TAG-LABEL ASSEMBLY

Filed Aug. 6, 1962

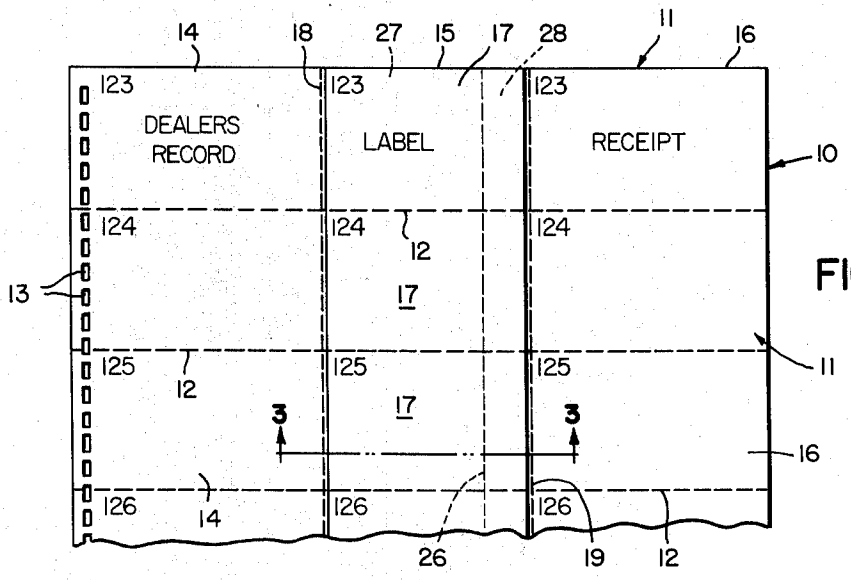


FIG. 1

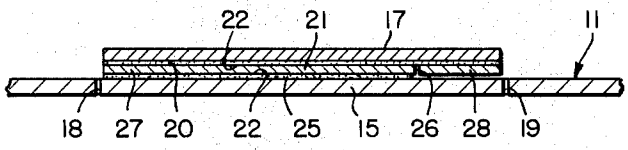


FIG. 3

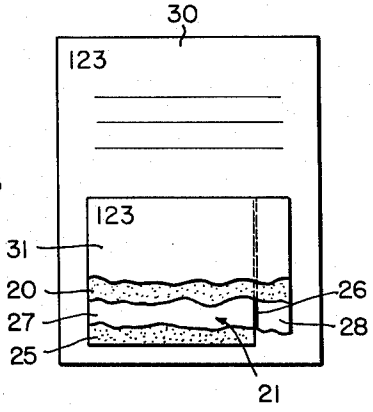


FIG. 2

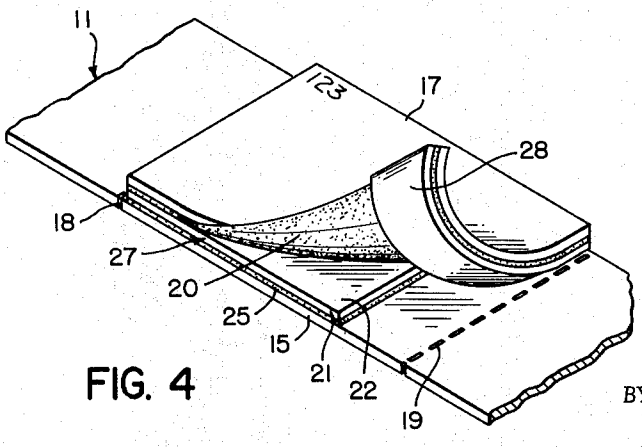


FIG. 4

WALTER H. GABRUK
INVENTOR.

BY R. Frank Smith
Lloyd F. Hesbach
ATTORNEY & AGENT

United States Patent Office

3,226,862
Patented Jan. 4, 1966

3,226,862

TAG-LABEL ASSEMBLY

Walter H. Gabruk, Rochester, N.Y., assignor to Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N.Y., a corporation of New Jersey

Filed Aug. 6, 1962, Ser. No. 215,045
2 Claims. (Cl. 40—2)

The present invention relates to labels and more particularly to a tag-label structure which permits the label to be removed from the tag for affixation to an article for identification and the tag to be divided into sections that can serve as a record and a receipt.

In many businesses a dealer often serves as the intermediary between the customer and the manufacturer for the return of an article to the manufacturer for the purpose of repair or replacement. In such instances, the customer receives a stub with an identification number and the dealer's name and address, a second stub bearing the same identification number is attached to the article, and a third stub is retained by the dealer for his record of the transaction and forwarding of the article to the manufacturer. Such tags are known in the art and are usually in the form of a single strip of paper or cardboard that is separable by means of spaced lines of perforations to form a number of individual stubs, the stub to be attached to the article being provided with a water-soluble adhesive or a pressure-sensitive adhesive that is usually protected by a cover sheet. While it is known in the prior art to provide a label having a pressure-sensitive adhesive on one surface thereof and to protect such surface with a cover sheet, the removal of the cover sheet often presents a problem in that it is difficult to separate the label from the cover sheet. It is also known in the art to mount a label having a pressure-sensitive adhesive coating on one surface thereof and a protective cover sheet on a tag in such a manner that the label and cover sheet can be removed as a unit. Since the label still carries the cover sheet, the problem still remains in that the cover sheet must be removed before the label can be affixed to the article.

The present invention eliminates the problem of removing the cover sheet on the label in that the cover sheet remains adhered to the tag when the label is removed. The tag-label structure disclosed and described herein comprises a tag having a film of pressure-sensitive adhesive on one surface thereof which is separated from the pressure-sensitive adhesive coating on the label by a sheet having adhesive release surfaces on opposite sides thereof. The adhesive on the tag is one which has a greater affinity for the sheet having the release surfaces than the adhesive on the label. As a result, when the label is removed from the tag, the release sheet is peeled from the label and remains adhered to the tag. The adhesive surface on the label is then fully exposed and the label can be immediately affixed to the article. Since the label can be carried by or affixed to any one section of the tag, it can be removed either before or after the tag is separated into a number of sections or stubs.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a tag-label structure in which the label can be readily removed from the tag with all or a portion of its adhesive surface exposed for affixing it directly to an article.

Another object of the invention is to provide a tag-label structure wherein the label is carried by one of the sections of a multiple-section tag with the adhesive surface of the label separated from the adhesive surface on the one section by a separator sheet having adhesive release surfaces, the adhesive surface on the section having a greater affinity for the separator sheet than the adhesive surface on the label, whereby upon removal of the label, the separator sheet remains adhered to the tag section.

And still another object of the invention is to provide a tag-label structure wherein the label is carried by one of the sections of a multiple-section tag having an adhesive area and an adhesive-free area and the adhesive surface of the label is separated from the adhesive area on the tag portion by a separator sheet having release surfaces and a slit intermediate its ends in accordance with the line of division between said areas, whereby only the portion of the separator sheet in contact with the adhesive area remains adhered thereto upon removal of the label.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art by the embodiments of the invention disclosed and described hereinafter.

Reference is now made to the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numerals designate like parts and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a partial plan view of a group of tag-label assemblies arranged in sheet form and showing each tag-label assembly as being separable by suitable lines of perforations;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of a single section tag-label structure wherein the label is positioned centrally of a tag that is larger than the label;

FIG. 3 is a vertical section taken principally through the label on one of the tag sections as along line **3—3** in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 4 is an enlarged perspective view of the label carrying section of a tag showing the label being removed from the tag section.

With reference particularly to FIG. 1 of the drawing the numeral **10** designates a sheet of tag-label assemblies, each of the tags **11** being separable from each other by spaced parallel lines of perforations designated by the numeral **12**. Such a sheet of tag-label assemblies can be provided along one edge with a row of perforations **13** which are suitable for mounting the page or sheet in a spiral binder in a well-known manner. Each of the tag-label assemblies **11** comprises three sections, namely a dealer record section **14**, a label carrying section **15**, and a receipt section **16**. Each of the sections **14**, **15** and **16** can be provided with suitable identification indicia which is imprinted on each of the sections **14** and **16** and on the label **17** which is mounted on the section **15** in a manner to be described hereinafter. In addition, each of the sections **14** and **16**, as well as the label **15**, can be imprinted with an identification number which is the same for each of the sections and the label. By means of the identification number the article to which the label is ordinarily attached can be identified by either the number on the dealer record section or the customer receipt section. The sections of the tag can be made separable by providing vertically spaced lines of perforations **18** and **19**. The multiple section tag described thus far can be made of paper, cardboard, or any other suitable material which lends itself to being readily separated into sections by means of lines of perforations.

The label **17** is preferably made of paper or a material which is readily capable of having a pressure-sensitive

adhesive material coated thereon. The pressure-sensitive adhesive **20** which is applied to the surface of the label **17** facing the tag section **15** is protected by a separator sheet **21** having adhesive release surfaces **22** on each side of the sheet. Such a separator sheet can be, for example, made of glassine paper. As is well-known in the art, the adhesive material **20** can be applied to the surface of the label **17** by a continuous process. After such layer has been applied to the label, the separator sheet **21** can then be applied over the adhesive surface.

The tag can have a pressure-sensitive adhesive material **25** applied to any one of the sections **14**, **15**, or **16** and in the embodiment described in FIGS. 1, 3 and 4 of the drawing the adhesive material is applied to the center section **15**. Such an adhesive material can be applied to the tag section by an application process or by a transfer process. In either case, after the adhesive has been applied to the tag, the label, together with the separator sheet **21**, is then mounted on the tag section to which the adhesive **25** has been applied.

As shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 the separator sheet **21** can be provided with a slit **26** which extends transversely of the separator sheet and is arranged intermediate its ends. Such a slit can be utilized to separate or peel the separator sheet from the label as is well-known. However, in the present invention the slit **26** is utilized to divide the separator sheet into a section **27** that is adhered to the tag and a section **28** that is used as a finger piece for peeling the label from the tag.

The pressure-sensitive adhesive applied to the label **17** is different from that applied to the tag section **15** in that the adhesive **25** on the tag section has a greater affinity for the separator sheet **21** than the adhesive **20** on the label. As a result of choosing adhesives having this particular property, the label can be removed from the separator sheet so that the adhesive material normally covered by the separator sheet is fully exposed for affixing the label to an article.

Since the adhesive layer **25** on the tag section does not extend beyond the slit **26** in the separator sheet **21**, as shown in FIG. 3, the section **28** of the separator sheet not adhered to the tag section provides a finger piece which covers that portion of the adhesive material on the label so as to permit the label to be readily peeled from the tag section without sticking to the finger of the person removing the label. Obviously, the location of the transverse slit **26** with respect to the ends of the label can be positioned at any point along the longitudinal dimension of the label in accordance with the area of the adhesive **25** and the affinity of the adhesive on the tag section for the adhered section **27** of the separator sheet. In other words, the area and affinity of the adhesive layer **25** must be sufficient to retain the adhered section **27** of the separator sheet **21** on the tag section. As shown in FIG. 4 the free end of the label **17** and separator sheet **21** is merely lifted upward with the result that the section **27** of the separator sheet adhered to the tag section **15** remains with the tag section and the corresponding area of the adhesive surface on the label is thereby fully exposed.

In another modification of the tag-label structure described above, the label **17** can be provided with a pressure-sensitive adhesive **20** that is protected by a separator sheet **21** having an adhesive release surface on only one side thereof; that is, on the side that is in contact with the adhesive **20** on label **17**. A suitable substance for the pressure-sensitive adhesive **20** would be, for example, Fasson R–125 which is commercially available from Fasson Products Company of Painesville, Ohio. The tag section **14**, **15** or **16** can therefore have a pressure-sensitive, water-soluble or other suitable adhesive **25** applied thereto, as described above, and the separator sheet **21** will then be affixed securely to one of the tag sections when the label and separator sheet are mounted as a unit in superposed relation thereto. For this embodiment, an adhesive having an aqueous dextrin base would be suitable for the adhesive **25**, e.g. Fuller's Glue which is commercially available from the H. B. Fuller Co. of St. Paul, Minnesota. By this arrangement, it is not necessary to rely on pressure-sensitive adhesive materials having different affinities for the release surfaces **22** on separator sheet **21** to retain section **27** on the tag section. With separator sheet **21** securely affixed to the tag section, label **17** can always be peeled from the tag section without the separator sheet **21**. It should also be noted that in any of the embodiments disclosed and described herein, the pressure-sensitive adhesive **20** need only cover that area of the label **17** which corresponds to the section **27** of the separator sheet **21**, in which case the section or finger piece **28** can be eliminated and separator sheet **21** need not be provided with slit **26**.

A modified form of the tag-label assembly is shown in FIG. 2 wherein the tag **30** comprises a single section and the label **31** is mounted thereon in the same manner as described above with respect to the disclosures in FIGS. 1, 3 and 4. The label **31**, while shown centrally located with respect to longitudinal edges of the tag **30**, can obviously be positioned in any relation to the edges of the tag **30**. It is also to be stated that the label does not have to be of the same size as a tag section, as shown in FIG. 1, nor the same size as the tag per se, as shown in FIG. 2.

Since the tag-label assembly described hereinabove can be modified in many ways so as to position the label on any one of the tag sections in the case of a multiple section tag, or in any relation to a single section tag, and the tag and label can be made from any compatible materials, the invention is not to be limited to the embodiments described but is of a scope as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A tag-label structure comprising: a tag having a film of substantially nonreleasable adhesive on one surface thereof; a label of substantially the same size and shape as said tag that is arranged over and in registry with the latter, said label having one surface that is divided into two areas, one of which extends along an edge of said label and the other of which has a pressure-sensitive adhesive coating thereon; and a separator sheet of substantially the same size and shape as said label that is disposed between and in registry with said tag and label, said separator sheet having one surface that is secured to said tag by said film of nonreleasable adhesive and an adhesive release surface on which said label is removably secured by said pressure-sensitive adhesive coating; whereby by grasping said one area said label can be peeled from said separator sheet, which is retained by said tag, and affixed to an article by the exposed pressure-sensitive adhesive coating on said other area.

2. A tag-label structure comprising:

a tag having at least one transverse line of perforations for providing separable tag sections, one of said tag sections having a film of substantially nonreleasable adhesive on one surface thereof; a label of substantially the same size and shape as said one tag section that is arranged over and in registry with the latter, said label having one surface that is divided into two areas, one of which extends from one corner along an edge of said label and the other of which has a pressure-sensitive adhesive coating thereon; and

a separator sheet of substantially the same size and shape as said label that is disposed between and in registry with said one tag section and said label,

said separator sheet having one surface that is secured to said one tag section by said film of nonreleasable adhesive and an adhesive release surface on which said label is removably secured by said pressure-

sensitive adhesive coating; whereby by grasping said one area said label can be peeled from said separator sheet, which is retained by said one tag section, and affixed to an article by the exposed pressure-sensitive adhesive coating.

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EUGENE R. CAPOZIO, *Primary Examiner.*

EDWARD V. BENHAM, JEROME SCHNALL, *Examiners.*