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(71) Applicant: TEMTEC, INC. [US/US]; 100 Route 59, Suffern, NY 10901 (US).

(72) Inventors: HAAS, David, J.; 9 Margaret Ann Lane, Suffern, NY 10901 (US). HAAS, Sandra; 9 Margaret Ann Lane, Suffern, NY 10901 (US).

(74) Agent: ZALL, Michael, E.; Two Yorkshire Drive, Suffern, NY 10901 (US).

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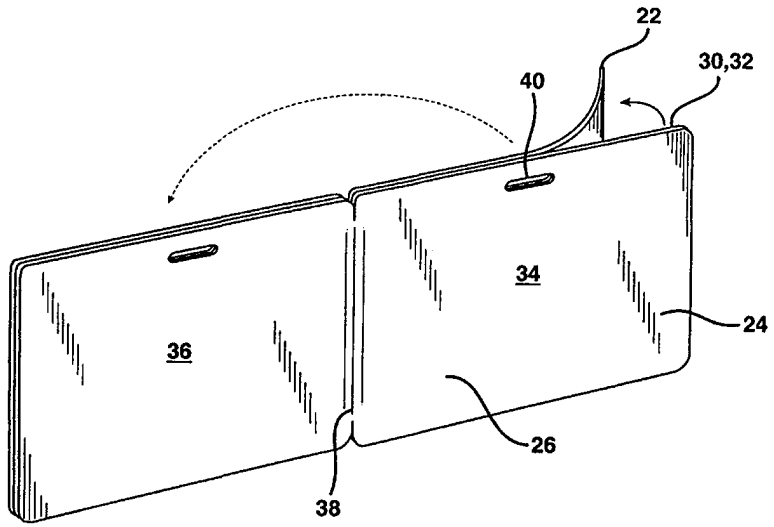

(57) Abstract

An identification card strip assembly (20) including a support strip (22) having thereon at least one, and preferably a plurality of identification card blanks (24) removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip (22). Each identification card blank (24) has a front printing surface (26) for printing indicia (28) thereon and a rear adhesive surface (30) having an adhesive (32) thereon. The rear adhesive surface (30) is removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip (22). The card blank (24) includes a first sheet (34) and a second sheet (36) foldably connected to each other along a fold line (38). Each sheet (34, 36) has at least one substantially identically shaped aperture (40) therein. Each of the sheets (34, 36) is of a size and shape and the aperture (40) is located in each sheet (34, 36) so that when the card blank (24) is removed from the support strip (22) and the sheets (34, 36) are folded along the fold line (40) upon each other with the adhesive surfaces (30) joined to each other, the first sheet (34) and the second sheet (36) are substantially superposed upon each other and substantially coextensive with each other and the apertures (40) in each sheet (34, 36) overlay each other to form a mounting means for mounting the card (24) on an object.

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TITLE: IDENTIFICATION CARD STRIP ASSEMBLY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to cards and badges for identification and security and specifically to thin paper or cardboard badges which can be easily manufactured, printed, written upon and distributed using computerized equipment to provide the capability of customizing printing, color, content and speed of delivery at low costs.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A primary disadvantage of known identification cards is that they are generally stiff and relatively thick and cannot pass through, for example, a laser printer. At meetings, conventions and seminars it has become desirable to place large amounts of data on a card, including bar codes, names, company name and address, etc. Further, identification cards that are made of plastic are not "environmentally friendly," they will not biodegrade. To date there has not been an effective system available.

U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,454,180; 4,547,252; and 4,648,930 to La Mers disclose a labeling system employing an elongated label strip used with motor driven sprocket rollers for sequentially delivering labels to a mechanism operable to apply each label to an object. These patents describe a carrier web consisting of a series of labels with viscous pressure sensitive adhesive applied to a carrier strip of paper which has been coated on the label side with a release agent. The labels are removed by moving them sequentially by pulling the carrier strip around a relatively sharp edge under tension. The label, because of its stiffness, releases from the carrier web and continues in a straight line over the edge rather than bend sharply and follow the carrier web. The labels shown in the La Mers patents are mounted on a carrier which employs a center line cut therein to facilitate the rapid and accurate removal of labels.

U.S. Patent No. 4,925,716 to Haas describes a computerized processing of identification badges employing a base carrier portion in the form of a web carrier. The web carrier has perforated end portions formed integrally therewith so that the sprockets of automated

computerized printing equipment can be used to engage the carrier web. The carrier web also is formed into sections via a lateral perforation so that each section is removable, one from the other. The badges are each removably adhesively mounted on individual ones of the sections. The badge may be peeled away from the carrier web without any adhesive remaining on the badge. The badge employed is relatively stiff, being formed of plastic material, and has an elongated slot formed on the upper central portion thereof so that the badge can be affixed to the person via a spring clip.

There are numerous other patents relating to identification cards and badges, methods of producing them, and their use. See, for example, the following U.S. Patents:

2,395,804 to DeGruchy
3,175,317 to Slavsky
3,996,679 to Warneke
4,020,575 to Kruger et al
4,170,015 to Elliano et al
4,222,662 to Kruegle
4,305,215 to Smith
4,579,754 to Maurer et al
4,596,409 to Holbein
4,680,459 to Drexler
4,687,526 to Wilfert
4,692,394 to Drexler
4,695,173 to Tomida
4,767,647 to Bree
4,790,566 to Boissier
4,869,941 to Ohki
4,999,065 to Wilfert
5,019,421 to Mecke et al
5,106,719 to Oshikoshi et al
5,157,424 to Craven et al
5,161,826 to Van Giesenet al
5,219,610 to Koshizuka et al
5,270,073 to Koshizuka et al
5,380,695 to Chiang et al
5,421,619 to Dyball
5,427,832 to Longtin

None of these references however provide an inexpensive and easy to use alternative to the relatively thick polymeric badges and holders presently used for seminars, corporate meetings, conferences and shows.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of this invention is to provide an identification card or badge system which can be easily automated using computer equipment to rapidly imprint badges with computer stored information and to enable the badges to be handled in the same manner as continuous fan fold computer paper.

Another object of this invention is to provide an identification badge or card which can be generated at the location where the same will be used, such as at a trade show.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide an identification card strip assembly wherein the cards can be made of thin paper or cardboard, printed thereon with, for example a laser printer, and then assembled into a sturdy, relatively thick identification card.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a relatively sturdy identification badge which can be easily printed thereon and affixed to the wearer without the use of any adhesive.

All of the foregoing objects of this invention are achieved by the identification card strip assembly of this invention and the process of using it to produce the identification cards described herein. Broadly, the identification card strip assembly comprises a support strip having thereon at least one, and preferably a plurality of identification card blanks removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip. Each identification card blank has a front printing surface for printing indicia thereon and a rear adhesive surface having an adhesive thereon. The rear adhesive surface is removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip. The card blank includes a first sheet and a second sheet foldably connected to each other along a fold line. Each sheet has at least one substantially identically shaped aperture therein. Each of the sheets is of a size and shape and the aperture is located in each sheet so that when the card blank is removed from the support strip and the sheets are folded along the fold line upon each other with the adhesive surfaces joined to each other, the first sheet and second sheets are substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive with each other and the apertures in each sheet overlay each other to form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object.

Alternatively, each sheet has at least one substantially identically shaped aperture area therein in the shape of an aperture, the aperture area being defined by a continuous slit in the sheet and being severable from the sheet along the slit. Each aperture area is located in each sheet so that when the card blank is removed from the support strip and the sheets are folded along the fold line upon each other with the adhesive surfaces joined to each other, the aperture areas in each sheet are substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive. The

aperture areas may then be removed from the sheets by severing along the slits to form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object.

The process for producing the identification cards comprises printing indicia on the printing surface of at least one of the first and second sheets of each card blank, removing the card blank from the support strip, folding the first and second sheets along the fold line upon each other with the adhesive surfaces joined to each other. The card may then be mounted on an object.

These as well as further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from a review of the following detailed specification, reference being made to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the identification card badge of this invention in use;

Fig. 2 is a schematic perspective indicating how the identification card of **Fig. 1** is assembled;

Fig. 3 is a schematic perspective indicating how the assembled card is placed on a badge clip; **Fig. 4** is a sectional view of the card badge of **Fig. 1** taken along line **4-4** of **Fig. 1.**;

Fig. 5 is schematic view showing one embodiment of a plurality of the card badges of this invention being printed with a Carol-type printer prior to assembly and use;

Fig. 6 is schematic view showing another embodiment of a plurality of the card badges of this invention being printed with a laser printer prior to assembly and use;

Fig. 7 is a schematic perspective indicating how an embodiment of the parking permit card of this invention is assembled;

Fig. 8 is a schematic perspective indicating how another embodiment of the parking permit card of this invention is assembled;

Fig. 9 is a schematic perspective indicating how the assembled parking permit card is placed on a clip to hang on a rear view mirror of a car;

Fig. 10 depicts the printed side of a parking permit card of this invention right after printing and prior to assembly;

Fig. 11 depicts the printed side of the parking permit card of this invention right after printing on a pin-feed or Carol-type printer and prior to assembly;

Fig. 12 is a perspective view of an embodiment of another embodiment of assembled parking permit card in use on a rear view mirror of a car;

Fig. 13 depicts the printed side of the parking permit card of depicted in **Fig. 12** right after printing and prior to assembly;

Fig. 14 depicts the printed side of a visitor identification card badge of this invention right after printing and prior to assembly; and

Fig. 15 depicts the printed side of another embodiment of an employee identification card badge of this invention right after printing and prior to assembly.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring, for example, to **Figs. 2, 5** and **6**, an identification card strip assembly **20** is provided. The assembly **20** comprises a support strip **22** having at least one, and preferably a plurality of identification card blanks **24** removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip **22**. Preferably, the support strip **22** is an elongated strip **22** as depicted, for example in **Fig. 5, 10, 11** and **13**, and may have pin-holes or perforations **44** along the longitudinal edges of the strip **22** to permit driving of the strip through an associated printing device **46,** see **Fig. 5.** A major advantage of this invention is that a standard laser type printer **48**, see **Fig. 6**, may be used to print the identification card blanks **24**. If such an embodiment is used then the support strip **22** may be a standard 8 ½ inch by 11 inch sheet having a plurality of card blanks **24** appropriately arranged. (See, **Fig. 6**). Optionally, although not shown, the support strip may be envelope size (#10) and have only one card blank thereon and fed to the printer in a manner similar to an envelope.

Referring, for example, to **Figs. 7-13**, each identification card blank **24** has a front printing surface **26** for printing indicia **28** thereon and a rear adhesive surface **30** having an adhesive **32** thereon. The rear adhesive surface **30** is removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip **22.**

The card blank **24** includes a first sheet **34** and a second sheet **36** foldably connected to each other along a fold line **38**. Each sheet **34, 36** has at least one substantially identically shaped aperture therein **40**. Each sheet **34, 36** is of a size and shape and each aperture **40** is located in each sheet **34,36** so that when the card blank **24** is removed from the support strip **22** and the sheets are folded along the fold line **38** upon each other with the adhesive surfaces **30** joined to each other, the first sheet **34** and second sheet **36** are substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive with each other and the apertures **40** in each sheet **34, 36** overlay each other to form a mounting means for mounting the card **24** on an object, for example a rear view mirror **42,** see **Fig. Figs. 9** and **12**. The apertures **40** may be located at any appropriate place in the card blank **24**, compare, for example, the location of the apertures in **Figs.** 7 (top) and **Fig. 8** (side).

Referring to **Figs. 12** and **13**, optionally each sheet **34, 36** may have at least one substantially identically shaped aperture area **50** therein in the shape of an aperture **52**, the aperture area **50** being defined by a continuous slit **54** in the sheet and being severable from the sheet **34, 36** along the slit **54.** Still referring to **Figs. 12** and **13**, each sheet **34, 36** is of a size

and shape and each aperture area **50** being located in each sheet **34, 36** so that when the card blank **24** is removed from the support strip **22** and the sheets **34, 36** are folded along the fold line **38** upon each other with the adhesive surfaces **30** joined to each other, the first sheet **34** and second sheet **36** and the aperture areas **52** in each sheet **34, 36** are substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive. Subsequently, the aperture areas **52** are removed from the sheets **34, 36** by severing along the slits **54** to form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object. As depicted in **Figs. 12** and **13**, the aperture **52** may be in the shape of a slot for placement on a rearview mirror **42**. This invention, however contemplates any type or shaped aperture.

Preferably, as depicted in **Figs. 5, 10** and **11**, the plurality of card blanks **24** are formed from a continuous sheet and defined by plurality of lateral slits **56** extending across the sheet at substantially equal longitudinal intervals. The card blanks **24** are then severable from each other along the slits **56**.

Optionally, for assemblies of the type depicted in **Fig. 6**, the plurality of card blanks **24** may be formed from a continuous sheet and defined by a plurality of lateral slits extending across the sheet at substantially equal longitudinal intervals and a plurality of longitudinal slits extending across the sheet at substantially equal lateral intervals, the card blanks **24** being severable from each other along the slits . The card blanks may also be spaced apart on the support sheet to permit easy peeling therefrom.

The process for producing the plurality of identification cards includes printing indicia **28**, for example as shown in **Figs. 5** and **6** on the printing surface **26** of at least one of the first and second sheets **34, 36** of each card blank **26**. One of the major advantages of this invention is that both sheets **34, 36** can be printed simultaneously, in effect, printing the front of the badge and the rear of the badge. Subsequently, the card blank **24** is removed from the support strip **22** (see **Figs. 2, 7** and **8)** and the first and second sheets **34, 36** folded along the fold line **38** upon each other with the adhesive surfaces **30** joined to each other. This produces an identification card **100** having the first sheet and second sheets **34, 36** substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive with each other. The apertures in each sheet **34, 36** overlaying each other to form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object. Or optionally, as indicated previously, the identically shaped aperture areas **52** in each sheet **34, 36** are substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive. Subsequently, the aperture areas **52**

are removed from the sheets **34, 36** by severing along the slits **54** to form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object.

The identification card produced **100** is a three layer laminate consisting of two sheets of cardstock having an adhesive layer therebetween that is relatively rigid due to such lamination.

Preferably, the assembled identification card **100** is mounted on a spring badge clip **62.** See, for example **Figs. 1, 3** and **4.** Such clips are known in the art, see for example, USSN Application No. 29/051,234 now U.S. Design Patent No. 386,215 (31009) and 08/579,137, now U.S. Patent No. 5,640,742 (30021) both to **White et al** and both entitled "Spring Badge Clip". The entire disclosures of these applications are incorporated by reference. Other type clips may also be used.

This invention has many benefits. For example, in its preferred embodiment, the identification card strip assembly **20** can be used to produce a 2-ply, relatively heavy duty cardstock identification cards **100** that can be custom printed on the back at the same time that you print on the front. Additionally, the identification cards **100** produced are preslotted so that they can be used with clips, e.g., the badge clips of **White et al.**

In a preferred embodiment of this invention, depicted in **Figs. 7-13,** the identification card strip assembly **20** can be used to prepare parking hangtags **100**. Parking hangtags **100** are typically made of plastic or very thick cardstock in order to hang vertically and not curl in an automobile (due to heat, humidity, handling). This rigidity also permits easy attachment and removal by means of a large die-cut hook or circle cut-out within the hangtag. Hangtags are almost always attached to the rear view mirror **42** of vehicles and are typically very large, 3" x 6" in order to permit them to be seen and read by enforcement officers from a distance of 15 to 25 feet from in front of the vehicle. This rear view mirror attachment is almost universal because it is the only common location near the driver where the hangtag can be attached and removed easily by the driver when parking and driving the vehicle. Additionally, if they are not removed before driving the vehicle because of their large size, they tend to swing and blow-around while the vehicle is in motion, being a distraction to the driver. There are several common problems with conventional parking hangtags. First, because of the difficulty in attaching and removing parking hangtags from the rear view mirror, they are typically left hanging from the rear view mirror during driving. Even though parking hangtags clearly state that they must be removed while driving, this warning is almost universally ignored. Further, almost all hangtags are

made of rigid 10 or 20 mil plastic in order to withstand the constant handling and attachment by the office or agency issuing the hangtags and the user. Because such thick materials are used they are not capable of being printed by normal office computer-printers. Typically the expiration date is written on by hand, which makes it easy altered and hence, the hangtags can be altered by changing the expiration date.

Still referring to **Figs. 7-13**, the preferred parking hang-tag of this invention **100** attaches to a simple plastic hook **64** that is left attached to the rear view mirror **42**. When a person is issued a hangtag for either permanent parking or disability parking, the simple plastic hook **64** is attached to the persons rear view mirror **42**. Each time the hangtag **100** is to be used, it is attached by means of the aperture or hole **40** in the hangtag, hooked over the rear view mirror **42** . When the car is to be driven again, the hangtag **100** is easily removed from the hook **64**.

As shown in **Figs. 7-13,** the parking hangtag of this invention **100** employs a separate plastic hook **64** that is permanently attached to the rear view mirror **42** and is easy to attach and remove from the mirror. This decreases the possibility of the parking hangtag **100** becoming a hazard while driving. Additionally, the hangtag **100** can be printed on demand by a thermal transfer or a laser printer which eliminates the problem of having to purchase large quantities of hangtags in advance. It also means that the date of expiration can be printed in very large numbers and letters by the electronic printer which will reduce the problem of date-changing. Furthermore, by printing the hangtags on an electronic printer, one can preprint the cardstock economically with all types of secure features such as panagraph, multiple colors, holograms, etc., to make them more secure and harder to counterfeit.

Optionally, as depicted in **Figs. 14-15**, the identification card may have an indicia **28** that is printed and also have an indicia that could be produced by placing a business card (**Fig. 14**) or a photograph (**Fig. 15**) behind sheet **36** that has a cut-out therein, and when the sheets **34, 36** are folded and adhesively sealed to each other, the business card or photograph is sealed between the sheets **34, 36** and can be viewed through the cut-out.

The identification cards produced from the strip assemblies of this invention have many other uses. For example, the identification cards may be used for retail tags, price tags, inventory tags. In all cases, the construction is similar to that described herein with the only variation being the size and shape of the card, and the location of the attachment hole.

While several advantageous embodiments have been chosen to illustrate the invention,

it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications can be made therein without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An identification card strip assembly comprising:

a support strip;

at least one identification card blank removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip;

each identification card blank comprising:

a front printing surface for printing indicia thereon and a rear adhesive surface having an adhesive thereon, the rear adhesive surface being removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip;

the card blank including a first sheet and a second sheet foldably connected to each other along a fold line;

each sheet having at least one substantially identically shaped aperture therein;

each sheet being of a size and shape and each aperture located in each sheet so that when the card blank is removed from the support strip and the sheets are folded along the fold line upon each other with the adhesive surfaces joined to each other, the first sheet and second sheets are substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive with each other and the apertures in each sheet overlay each other to form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object.

2. An identification card strip assembly comprising:

an elongated support strip;

a plurality of identification card blanks removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip;

each identification card blank comprising:

a front printing surface for printing indicia thereon and a rear adhesive surface having an adhesive thereon, the rear adhesive sureface being removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip;

the card blank including a first sheet and a second sheet foldably connnected to each other along a fold line;

each sheet having at least one substantially identically shaped aperture area therein in the shape of an aperture, the aperture area being defined by a continuous slit in the sheet and being severable from the sheet along the slit;

each sheet being of a size and shape and each aperture area being located in each sheet so that when the card blank is removed from the support strip and the sheets are folded along the fold line upon each other with the adhesive surfaces joined to each other, the first sheet and second sheets and the aperture areas in each sheet are substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive, and the aperture areas when removed from the sheets by severing along the slits, form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object.

3. The identification card strip assembly of Claim 2, wherein the plurality of card blanks are formed from a continuous sheet and defined by plurality of lateral slits extending across the sheet at substantially equal longitudinal intervals, the card blanks being severable from each other along the slits.

4. The identification card strip assembly of Claim 2, wherein the plurality of card blanks are formed from a continuous sheet and defined by a plurality of lateral slits extending across the sheet at substantially equal longitudinal intervals and a plurality of longitudinal slits extending across the sheet at substantially equal lateral intervals, the card blanks being severable from each other along the slits.

5. The identification card strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein the support strip has pin-type perforations along the longitudinal edges of the strip to permit driving of the strip through an associated printing device.

6. A process for producing a plurality of identification cards comprising:

A) providing an identification card strip assembly comprising:

a support strip;

a plurality of identification card blanks removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip;

each identification card blank comprising:

a front printing surface for printing indicia thereon and a rear adhesive surface having an adhesive thereon, the rear adhesive surface being removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip;

the card blank including a first sheet and a second sheet foldably connected to each other along a fold line;

each sheet having at least one substantially identically shaped aperture therein;

each sheet being of a size and shape and each aperture located in each sheet so that when the card blank is removed from the support strip and the sheets are folded along the fold line upon each other with the adhesive surfaces joined to each other, the first sheet and second sheets are substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive with each other and the apertures in each sheet overlay each other to form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object;

B) printing indicia on the printing surface of at least one of the first and second sheets of each card blank;

C) removing the card blank from the support strip;

D) folding the first and second sheets along the fold line upon each other with the adhesive surfaces joined to each other, the first sheet and second sheets substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive with each other and the apertures in each sheet overlaying each other to form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object.

7. A process for producing a plurality of identification cards comprising:

A) providing an identification card strip assembly comprising:

an elongated support strip;

a plurality of identification card blanks removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip;

each identification card blank comprising:

a front printing surface for printing indicia thereon and a rear adhesive surface having an adhesive thereon, the rear adhesive surface being removably and adhesively adhered to the support strip;

the card blank including a first sheet and a second sheet foldably connected to each other along a fold line;

each sheet having at least one substantially identically shaped aperture area therein in the shape of an aperture, the aperture area being defined by a continuous slit in the sheet and being severable from the sheet along the slit;

each sheet being of a size and shape and each aperture area being located in each

sheet so that when the card blank is removed from the support strip and the sheets are folded along the fold line upon each other with the adhesive surfaces joined to each other, the first sheet and second sheets and the aperture areas in each sheet are substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive, and the aperture areas when removed from the sheets by severing along the slits, form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object;

B) printing indicia on the printing surface of at least one of the first and second sheets of each card blank;

C) removing the card blank from the support strip;

D) folding the first and second sheets along the fold line upon each other with the adhesive surfaces joined to each other, the first sheet and second sheets and the aperture areas in each sheet substantially superimposed upon each other and substantially coextensive,

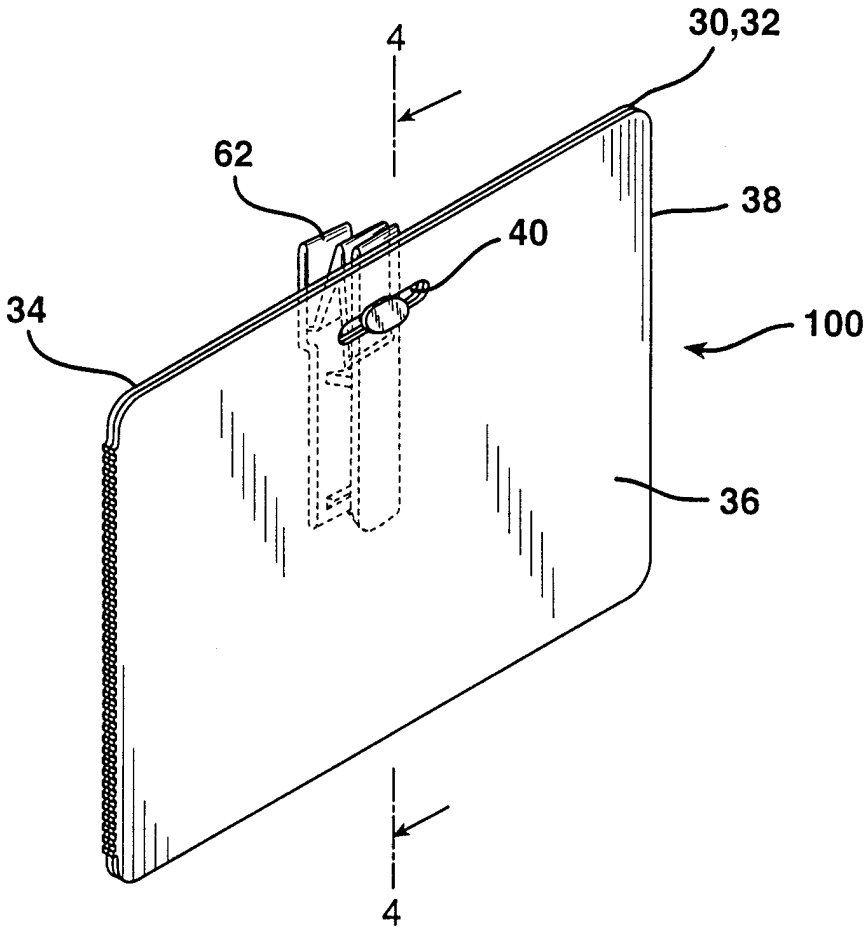
E) removing the aperture areas from the sheets by severing along the slits, to form a mounting means for mounting the card on an object.

8. The process of claim 6, wherein the plurality of card blanks are formed from a continuous sheet and defined by plurality of lateral slits extending across the sheet at substantially equal longitudinal intervals and wherein step C) removing includes severing the card blanks from each other along the slits.

9. The process of claim 6, wherein the plurality of card blanks are formed from a continuous sheet and defined by a plurality of lateral slits extending across the sheet at substantially equal longitudinal intervals and a plurality of longitudinal slits extending across the sheet at substantially equal lateral intervals and wherein step C) removing includes severing the card blanks from each other along the slits.

10. The process of claim 6, wherein step B) printing includes printing indicia on the printing surfaces of the first and second sheets of each card blank.

FIG. 1



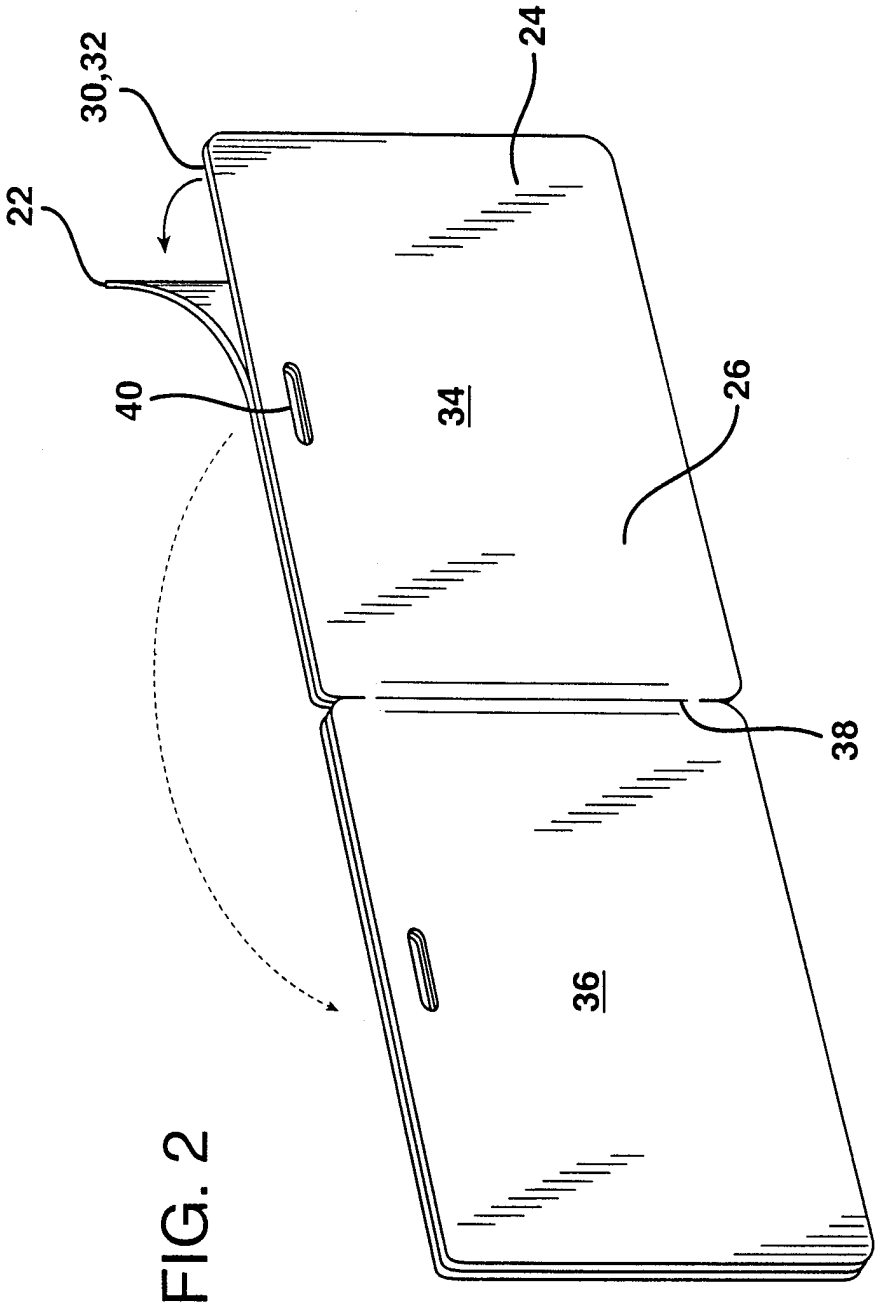


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

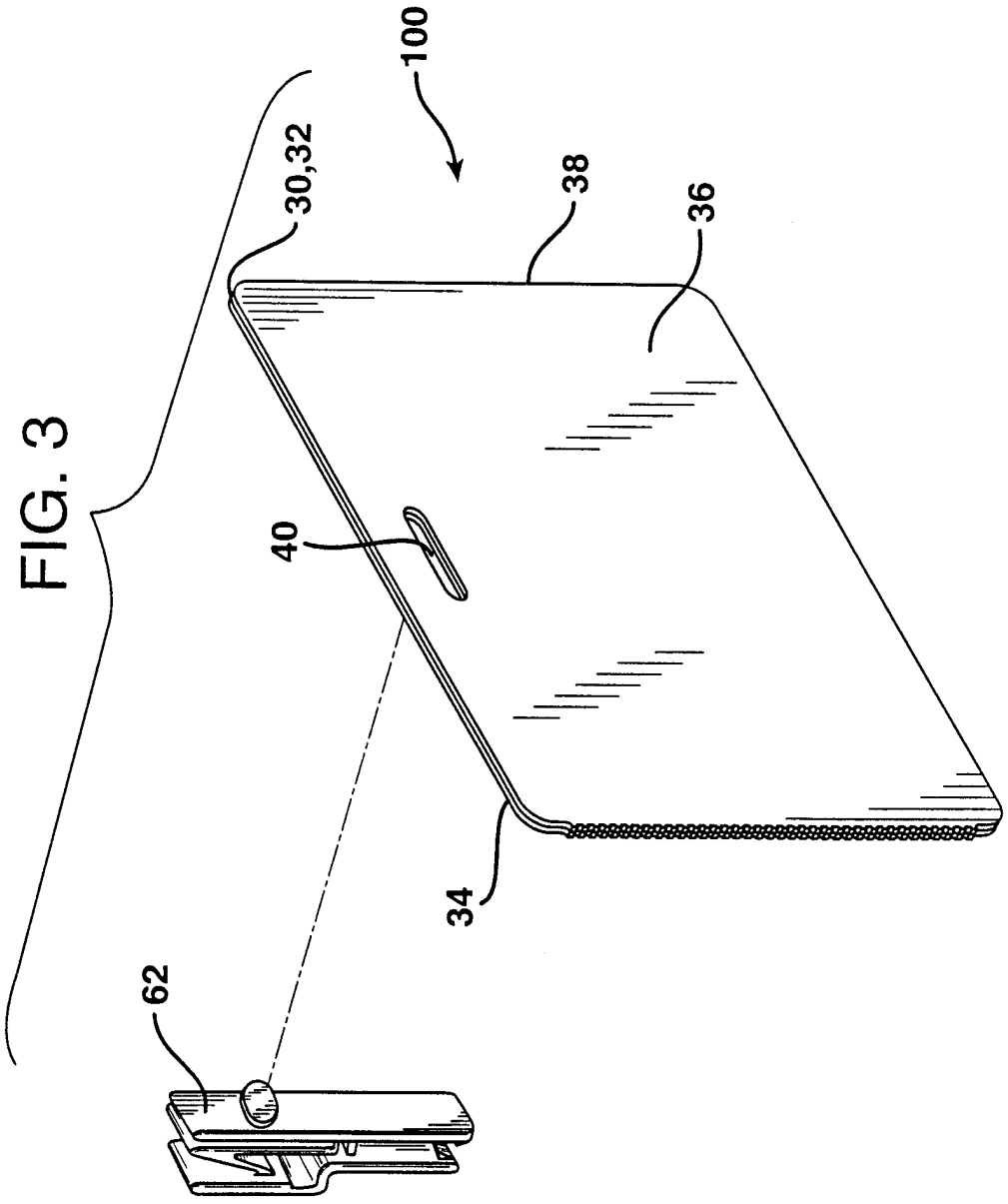


FIG. 4

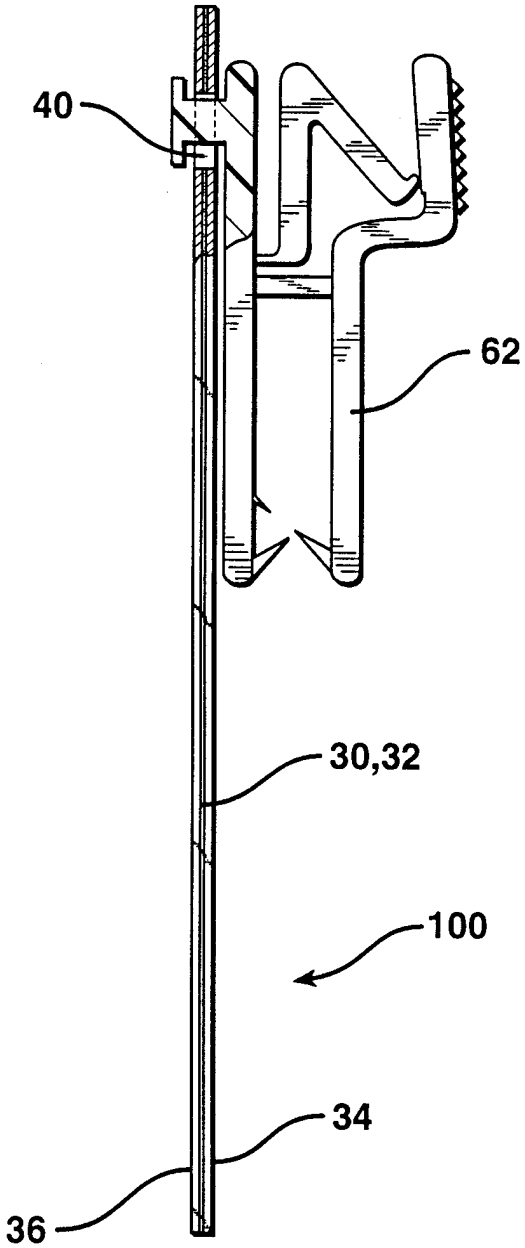


FIG. 6

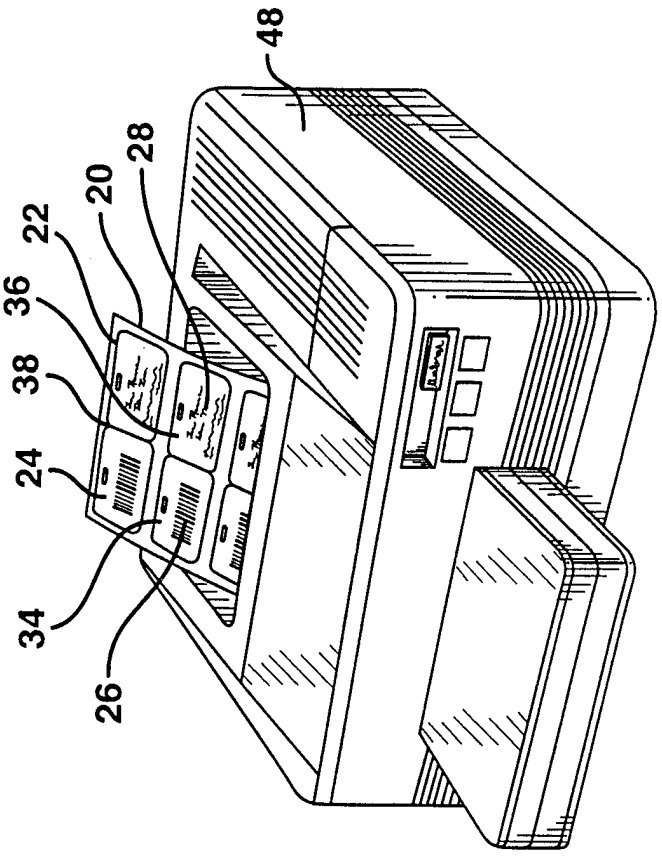
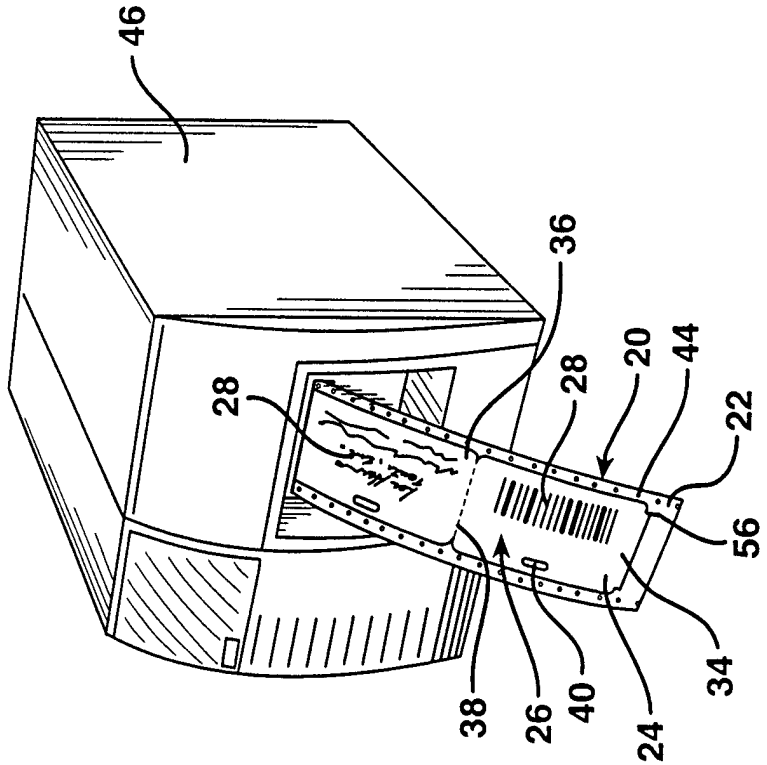


FIG. 5



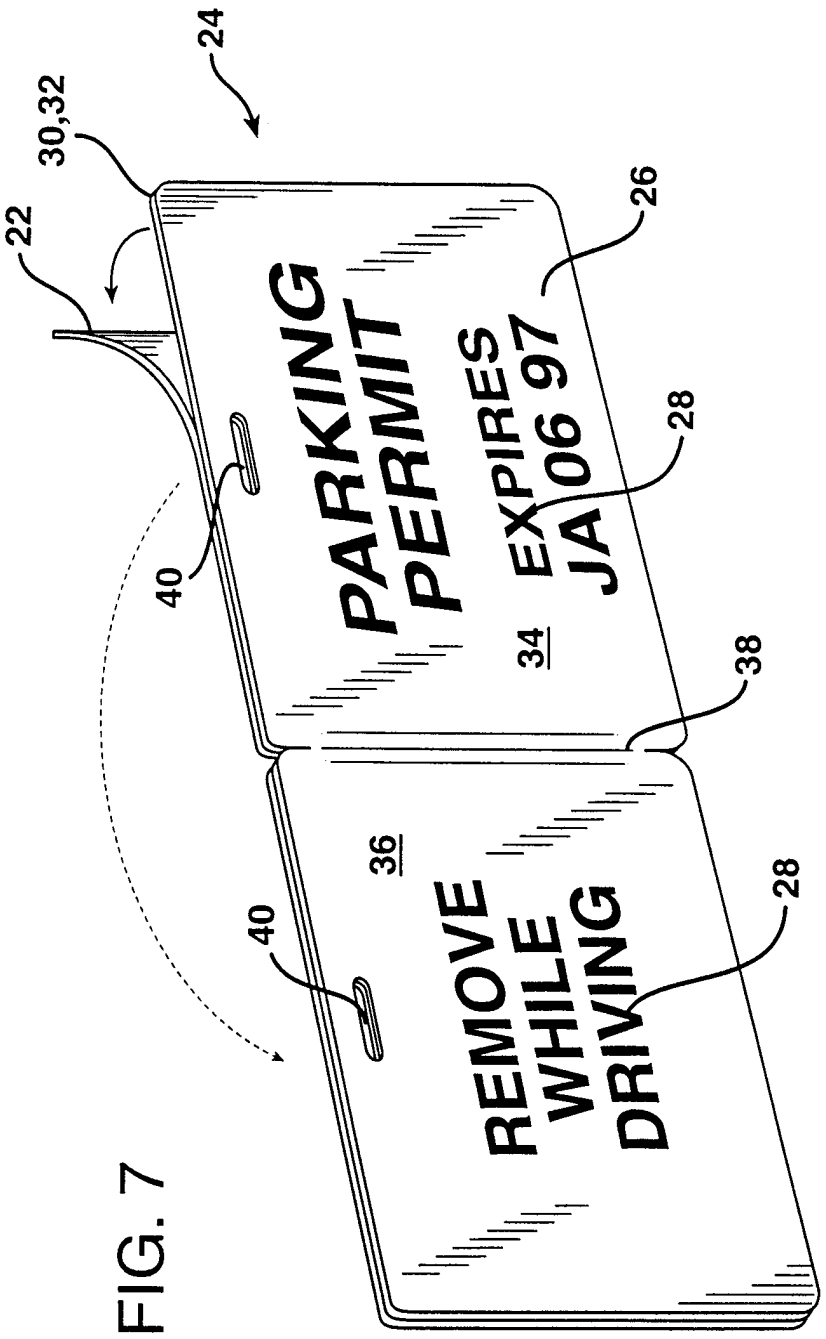
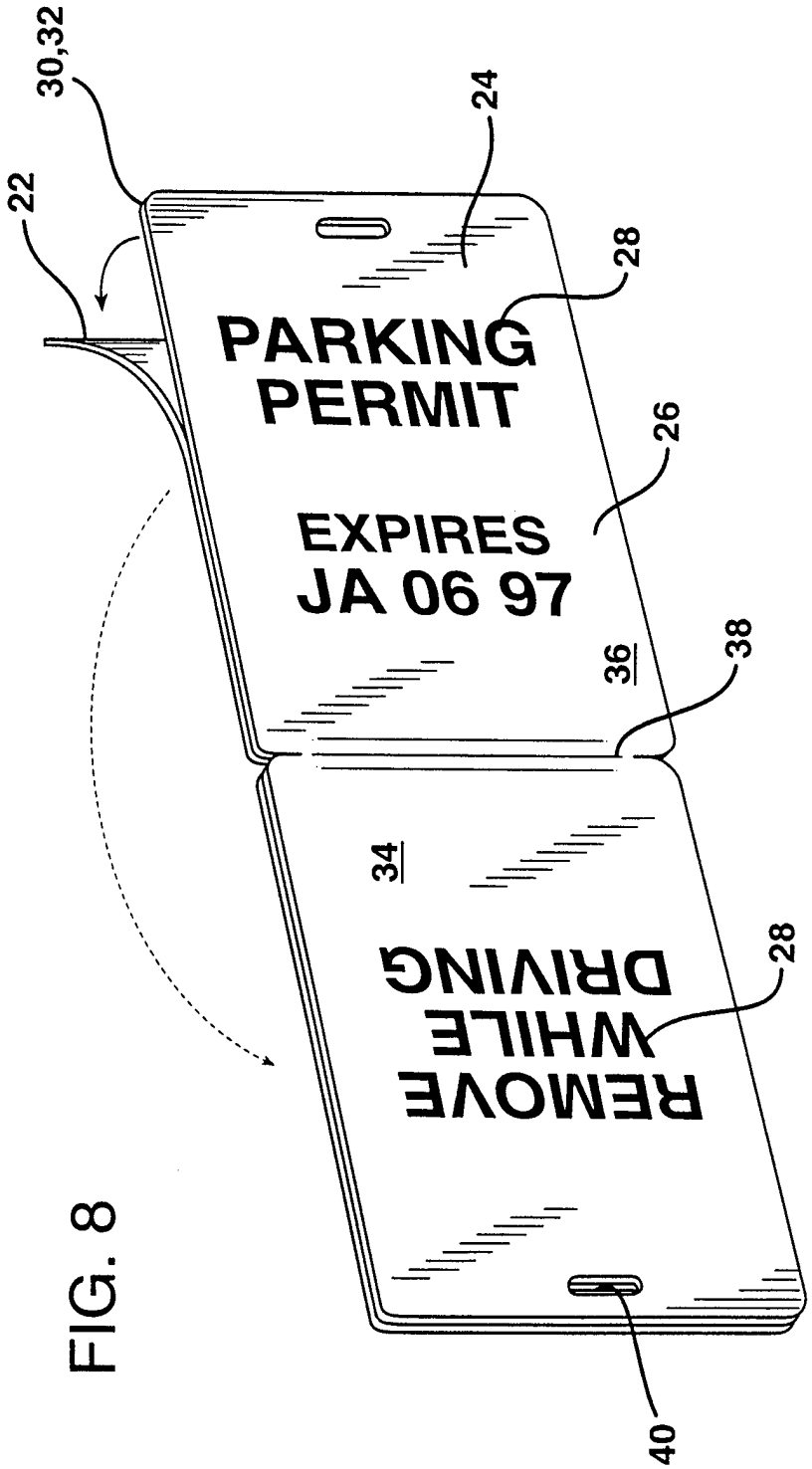

24
30,32
22
26
PARKING
PERMIT
EXPIRES
JA 06 97
28
40
34
38
36
REMOVE
WHILE
DRIVING
28
40

FIG. 7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24
22
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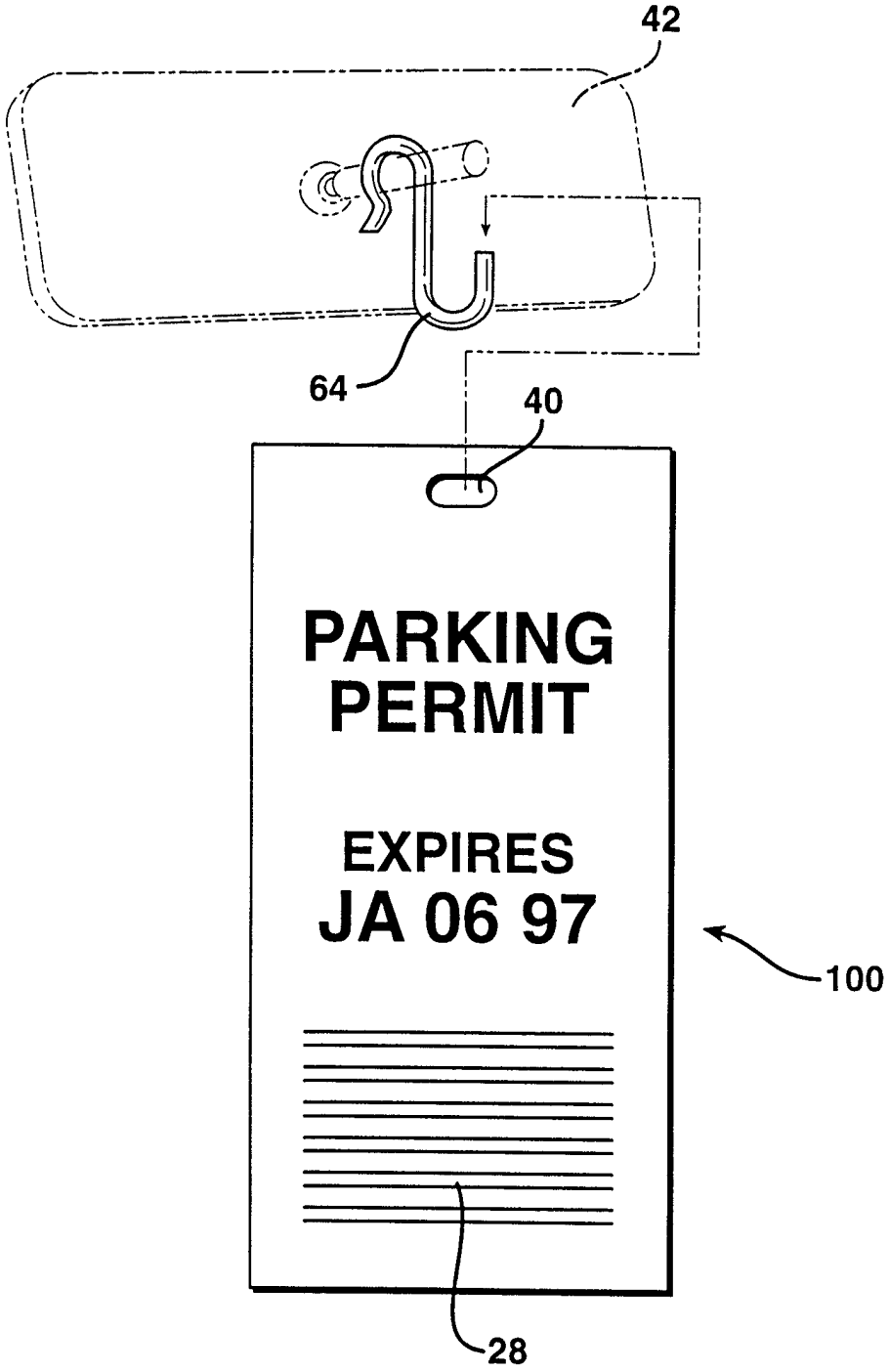
PARKING
PERMIT
26
EXPIRES
JA 06 97
36
38
34
REMOVE
WHILE
DRIVING
28
40

FIG. 8

FIG. 9



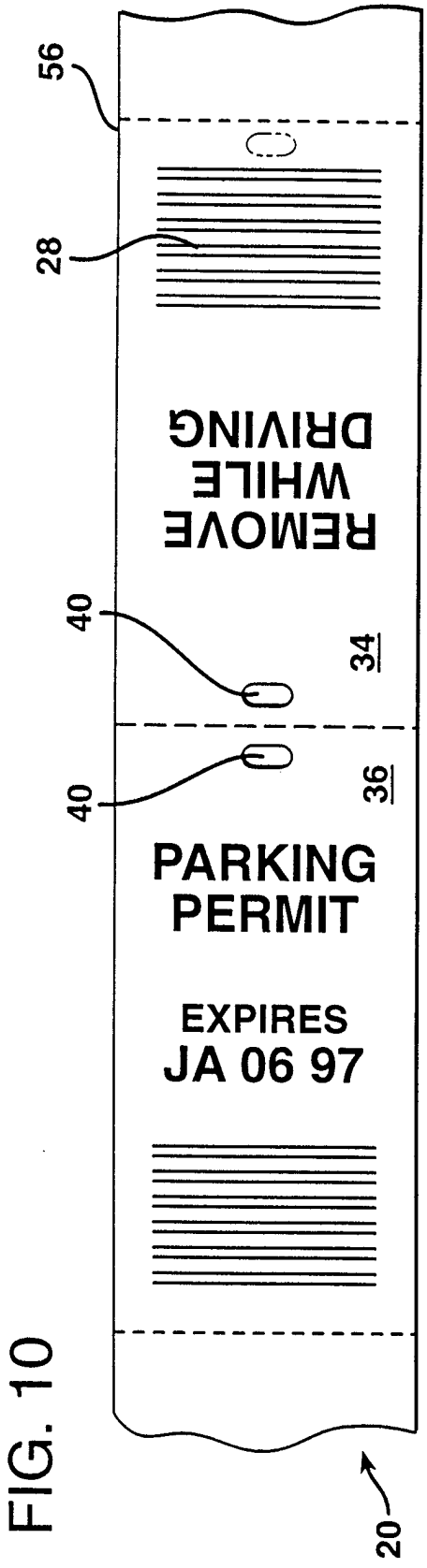
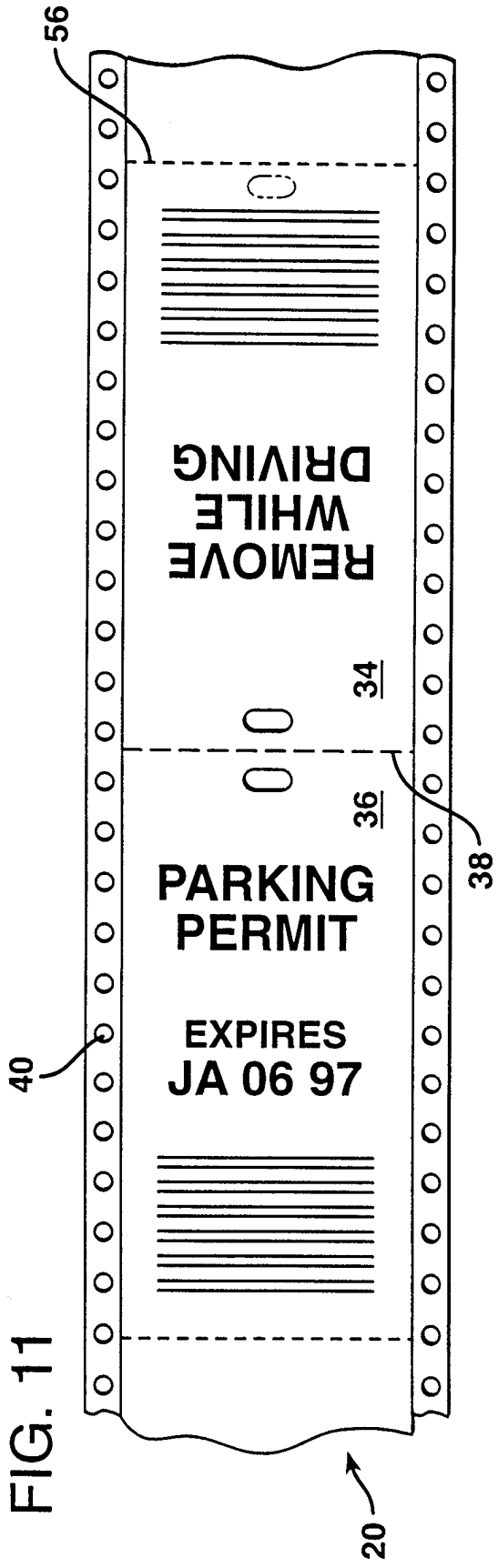

56
28
REMOVE WHILE DRIVING
40
34
40
36
PARKING PERMIT
EXPIRES JA 06 97
20

FIG. 10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REMOVE WHILE DRIVING
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PARKING PERMIT
EXPIRES JA 06 97
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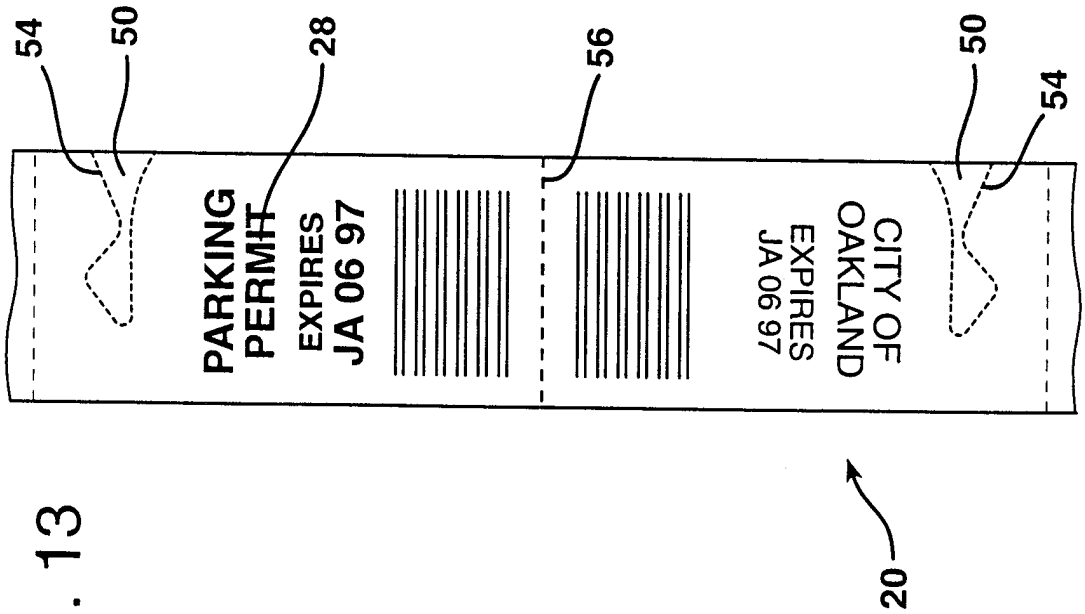
FIG. 11


54
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56
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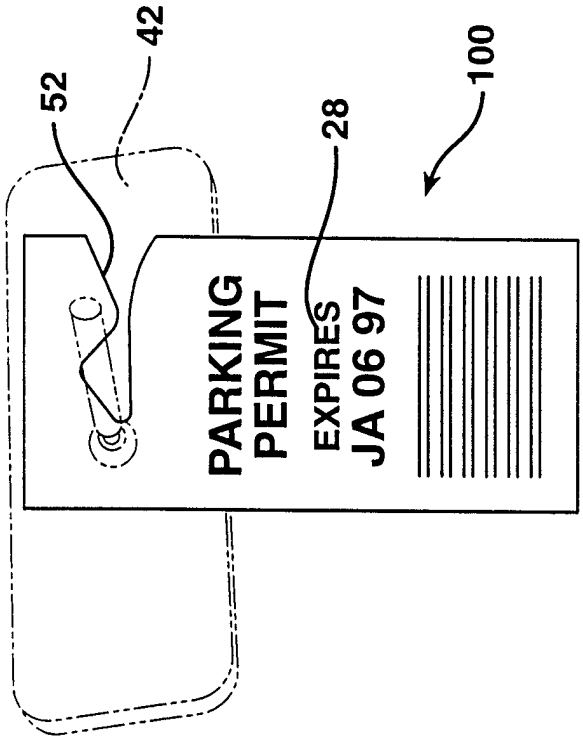
54
PARKING
PERMIT
EXPIRES
JA 06 97
CITY OF
OAKLAND
EXPIRES
JA 06 97
20

FIG. 13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PARKING
PERMIT
EXPIRES
JA 06 97

FIG. 12

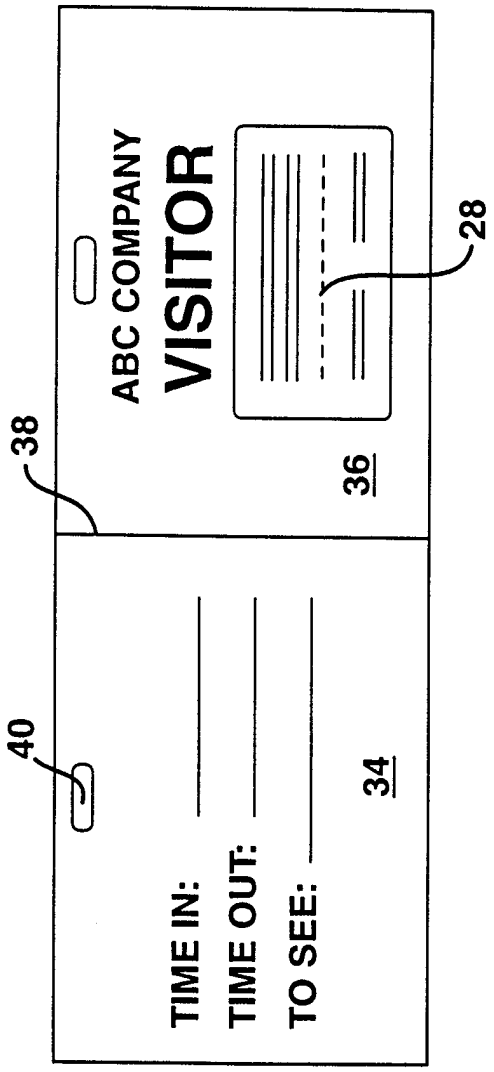
ABC COMPANY
VISITOR
TIME IN:
TIME OUT:
TO SEE:
28
36
34
38
40

FIG. 14

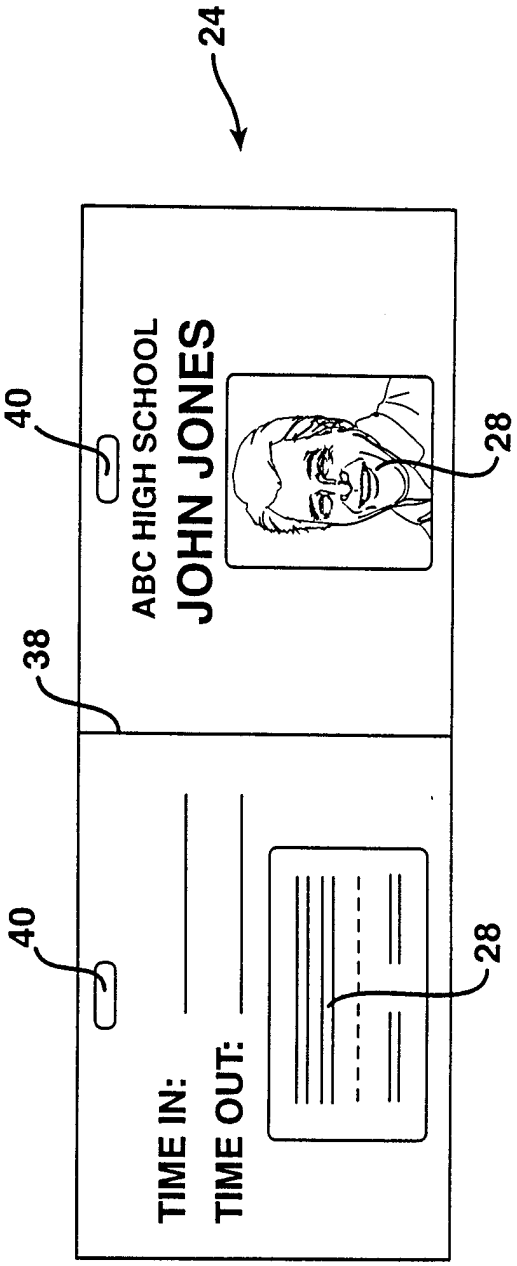
24
ABC HIGH SCHOOL
JOHN JONES
TIME IN:
TIME OUT:
28
38
40

FIG. 15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/10686

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :Please See Extra Sheet.
US CL :Please See Extra Sheet.
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 428/40.1, 42.1, 42.1, 43, 121, 131, 136, 137,192; 283/70, 74, 75, 81, 81, 101; 40/299, 625; 156/204, 211, 227, 247, 277

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

NONE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,529,345 A (KOHLS) 25 June 1996, see abstract; figures 1, 4, 5, and 11; column 6, lines 55-64 and column 7, lines 2-4 and 12-34.	1-10
Y	US 837,762 A (WILKINSON) 04 December 1906, see figures 1-3.	1-10
A	US 3,788,540 A (SAMMONS) 29 January 1974, see figures 1 and 2.	1
A	US 5,096,228 A (RINDERKNECHT) 17 March 1992, see figures 2 and 6.	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

*	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 18 AUGUST 1998	Date of mailing of the international search report 29 SEP 1998
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer NASSER AHMAD Telephone No. (703) 308-0661

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)(July 1992)★

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/10686

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:
IPC (6):

B31F 1/00; B32B 3/10; B42D 15/04, 15/10; B65D 65/28, 65/30; G09F 3/00, 3/10

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:
US CL :

428/40.1, 42.1, 42.1, 43, 121, 131, 136, 137,192; 283/70, 74, 75, 81, 81, 101; 40/299, 625; 156/204, 211, 227, 247, 277