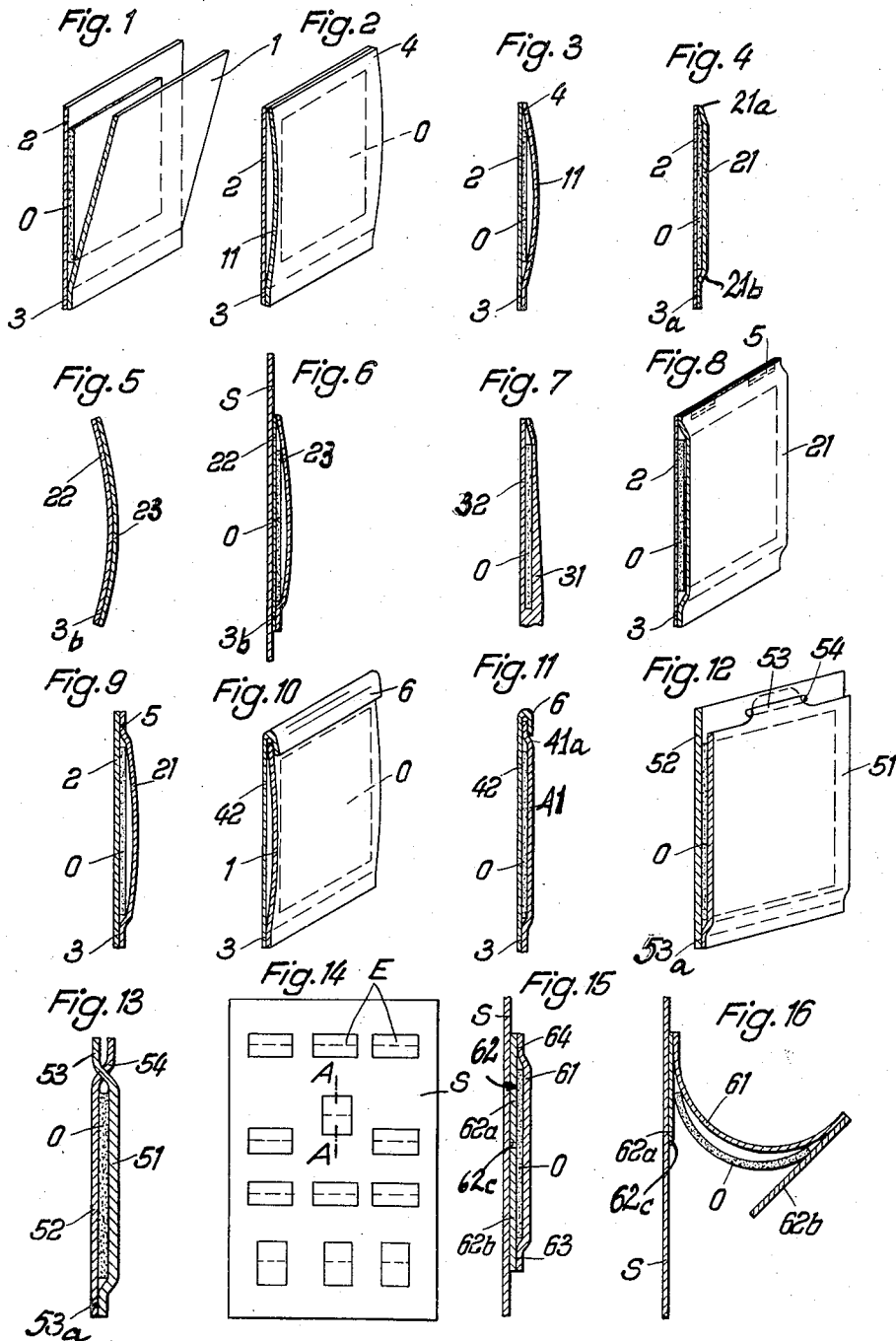


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H. WIDMAIER
CARRIERS OR POCKETS FOR STAMPS
AND SIMILAR FLAT ARTICLES
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Inventor:
HANS WIDMAIER
BY *Hans Widmaier*
A.G.T.

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CARRIERS OR POCKETS FOR STAMPS AND SIMILAR FLAT ARTICLES

Hans Widmaier, Berlin, Germany

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The present invention relates to improved holders or carriers having pockets, envelopes or the like for stamps and similar flat objects, such as labels, prints, etc. More particularly, the invention relates to improved holders of the aforesaid type, in which the pockets have a transparent cover leaf and a back leaf joined to each other along a fold or seam which aids in retaining in place the stamps or like substantially flat objects inserted therein.

It has long been known to mount stamps or similar flat objects in albums or the like by means of a holder carrying an adhesive strip on its underside and provided with an aperture for receiving the object or objects. Such adhesive strips were made of transparent, stiff paper, such as relatively weak cardboard, tracing cloth, parchment, or resinous foils and were secured to a surface by adhesive means. Such adhesive strips made of transparent and therefore exceedingly thin materials have proven so flaccid, that the objects are not properly held in the envelopes; the requisite clamping action was obtained only by use of a hard paper or thin cardboard, i. e., by use of opaque cover materials.

Attempts have been made to obtain pockets or envelopes exerting a clamping action by the use of transparent cover or front leaves of cellophane connected to respective backing leaves, such as paper or similar sheet material. When placing such carriers or envelopes in albums, however, the space taken up by these envelopes was excessive. For example, with an album having 50 sheets or 100 pages the thickness of the stamps alone would run approximately 10 mm. i. e., about 0.1 mm. per stamp. The envelopes with transparent covers, however, are each about 0.15 mm. thick and consequently the total thickness of stamps and envelopes is about 25 mm., which thickness must be taken up by the binding of the album. Moreover, if the cover leaf of the envelope is bent under the rear or back leaf another 5 mm. thickness is added.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide means facilitating insertion and display of stamps, bank notes, labels or like flat articles in a carrier system of extremely reduced thickness.

It is another object of the present invention to provide means affording retention of said flat articles in envelopes or pockets having a transparent cover leaf for ease of display and an opaque backing leaf of relatively greater strength than that of said cover leaf.

It is still another object of the invention to provide means rendering the possibility of storing and retaining one or more substantially flat articles, such as stamps, labels, bank notes and like articles in a carrier which is devoid of any marked bulkiness and consequently does not contribute to heavy album or like collection book structures heretofore generally objected to.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide means conducive to a durable and highly practical holder or carrier for displaying stamps and the like, which carrier is light in weight, may be readily conformed to any sur-

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face configuration of a suitable support, such as an album, and effectively protects the stamps and like articles against damage and spoilage.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide means enabling the use of springy and elastic polystyryl resinous strip or foil material for a carrier of the aforesaid type, which efficiently holds the article for display and in a substantially flat condition thereby protecting the serrated or notched edge or edges of the respective article.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide means affording an efficient carrier which due to its construction automatically exerts a predetermined clamping action on the stamp and like article enclosed in said carrier thereby ensuring automatic straightening out of the article to substantially flat condition.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide means facilitating ready insertion in and removal of one or more flat articles in side by side relation in regard to a space provided between cover and backing leaves which constitute said carrier.

Yet a further object of the present invention is to provide means enhancing the retention of the article in the carrier, different materials and curvatures for the cover leaf and for the back leaf, respectively, being employed and different thicknesses for the cover leaf and back leaf being selected to thereby regulate the springiness of the same.

Still another object of the invention is to provide means regulating the gap between back leaf and front or cover leaf of the carrier commensurate with the thickness of the article to be displayed, one of said leaves being offset with respect to the other leaf thereby obtaining a tendency of said leaves automatically to close one upon the other.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide means aiming at a particular reinforced construction of the free edges of the carrier or envelope, which normally are subjected to manipulation for closing and opening said carrier.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide means facilitating the enclosure of one or more substantially flat articles in a closable carrier provided with a pressure-adhesive or like means.

Yet a further object of the present invention is to provide means serving the purpose of removably or detachably connecting adjacent edges of cover and back leaves for closing said carrier and for facilitating repeated insertion and removal of articles to be displayed by said carrier.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide means utilizing an opening or slot of one of the leaves and situated substantially midway of the height of said leaf, to facilitate insertion of an article in and removal from said carrier.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide means aiding in a simplified and effective construction of a carrier or envelope for substantially flat articles, whereby the article or articles will be held practically undisplaceable under certain clamping conditions derived from the material and configuration of the top or cover and rear or backing leaves forming said carrier.

These and other advantages, objects and features are apparent from the following detailed description of the invention when taken in conjunction with the annexed drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, partly in section, of a carrier embodying the invention and consisting of a stamp pocket or envelope,

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a modified carrier provided with a curved cover leaf,

Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the carrier of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a vertical section through a further modified carrier provided with an offset cover leaf.

Fig. 5 is a vertical section through another modified envelope having both curved cover and back leaves.

Fig. 6 is a vertical section showing the envelope or carrier of Fig. 5 in the position mounted on the page of an album and enclosing a stamp.

Fig. 7 is a vertical section through a further modification of an envelope having an enlarged clamping jaw and an offset cover leaf.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of a further modified envelope provided with selectively interengageable formations on the cover and back leaves, respectively.

Fig. 9 is a vertical section through the envelope of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of a still further modification wherein the back leaf is provided with a curved upper edge for retention of the cover leaf.

Fig. 11 is a vertical section of the envelope of Fig. 10.

Fig. 12 is a perspective view of still a further modification, wherein the cover leaf is provided with a tongue engageable with a corresponding slot in the back leaf for retention purposes.

Fig. 13 is a vertical section taken substantially along the longitudinal median line of the envelope of Fig. 12.

Fig. 14 is a front view of a page of an album having mounted thereon a plurality of carriers in the form of envelopes produced in accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 15 is an enlarged vertical section through a portion of the album page taken along line A—A of Fig. 14.

Fig. 16 is a view similar to Fig. 15 showing the envelope, as it appears when a stamp is to be inserted in or removed from the envelope.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, there are disclosed carriers in the form of envelopes E affixed to an album page S.

Fig. 1 shows a transparent cover leaf 1 which is joined to a back leaf 2 by an adhesive or welded seam 3. Between cover leaf 1 and back leaf 2 a postal stamp or label is inserted. The cover and back leaves are formed of resilient, non-hygroscopic foils of resinous material, such as polymers of styrene and substitution or combination products thereof substantially free from unpolymerized monomer. The resinous material is extruded, drawn or otherwise shaped into wide bands of material and thereafter cut into narrower widths of suitable length.

The seam or line of juncture 3 is formed by moistening a foil along a longitudinal edge with a solvent for the resinous material, such as xylene to soften the polystyrene. By pressing the complementary foil against the moistened edge, the two foils thus constituting a U-shaped strip material are welded together at a seam as strong as the foil itself. As seen in Fig. 1, the cover and back leaves 1, 2 of the envelope resulting from cutting of the welded foils into relatively short lengths form legs of a U-shaped assembly and diverge from each other to provide a wedge-shaped space having its apex at the seam 3.

By inserting the stamp or similar flat article O into the space as far as possible toward and adjacent the seam 3, the article will be wedged between the cover and back leaves 1, 2 and will be retained therebetween against displacement, falling out or accidental movement.

In the embodiment according to Figs. 2 and 3 the cover leaf 11 is curved outwardly from the back leaf 2. The upper or marginal edge 4 of the cover leaf abuts against the corresponding marginal edge of the back leaf 2 to thereby enclose a stamp within a circular-shaped sector defined by the cover and back leaves welded at seam 3.

Fig. 4 shows a slight modified cover leaf 21 which is U-shaped in cross-section with the crosspiece thereof joined to portions of the leaves or legs of the envelope,

which is off-set adjacent its upper edge 21a, and at the seam 3a at 21b for seating thereat stamp O.

The envelope shown in Fig. 5 is formed of a cover leaf 23 and a back leaf 22 joined along seam 3b. Both leaves 23 and 22 are similarly curved. When such envelope is fastened to a page S of an album (Fig. 6), the back leaf 22 is straightened, while the cover leaf 21 retains its curvature to thereby provide a space for receiving stamp O similar to the manner shown in Fig. 3.

The envelope shown in Fig. 7 is formed by extrusion of the resinous material through a nozzle corresponding in shape to the U-shaped cross-section of the envelope, whereby the cover leaf 31 is formed integral with the back leaf 32, eliminating the need for special measures in joining said leaves.

The embodiments and modifications illustrated in Figs. 8 to 13 provide means for closing the upper edge of the envelope by providing interengageable formations on the upper edges of the cover and back leaves.

In Figs. 8 and 9 a permanent adhesive 5 is provided to secure the upper edges of the cover leaf 21 and of the back leaf 2.

In Figs. 10 and 11, the back leaf 42 is provided with a turned-over rim 6 into which the upper edge 41a of the cover leaf 41 may fit.

The back leaf 52 in Figs. 12 and 13 is provided with a slot 54 extending in parallel direction to the seam 53a while the cover leaf 51 is provided with a projecting tongue 53 engageable in said slot 54.

The cover leaf 61 shown in Figs. 15 and 16 is joined at its upper and lower edges by seams 64 and 63, respectively, to back leaf 62 comprising portions 62a and 62b, respectively, which have a slot 62c therebetween. When back leaf portion 62a is mounted onto album page S, back leaf portion 62b may be swung away from said album as shown in Fig. 16, so that the stamp O may be inserted or removed. Upon releasing the envelope, the resilience of cover leaf 61 will return back leaf portion 62b to the position shown in Figs. 14 and 15 so that the slot 62c between the portions 62a and 62b becomes barely noticeable.

The new holder or carrier as hereinabove disclosed has sufficient stiffness but enough flexibility to maintain the article, such as labels, prints, stamps and the like, in substantially flat condition, simultaneously permitting withdrawal of the same in a most convenient and practical manner. The foil material made from resinous substances is not only elastic, but also springy, ensuring long use for an extended period of time without causing breakage and damage to the article displayed.

Due to the fact that top and back leaf may be different in character and in color (back leaf opaque or colored and front leaf transparent) and that the connecting seam may provide that one leaf is offset with respect to the other, the clamping effect or preload imparted to said leaves by the particularity of the seam may be readily regulated or selected in accordance with the thickness and other characteristics of the article to be displayed. The inner distance between the back leaf and the front leaf corresponds approximately to the thickness or half the thickness of the article to be displayed, whether the leaves are curved and/or plane. It is preferred that the back leaf be flat and plane. If the same is also curved as the front or top leaf, then said back leaf will generally be straightened out when affixed to a carrier or album, while the front or top leaf maintains its curvature.

In some instances it is proposed to thermically treat the top leaf and to shape the same before the connecting seam is produced. It is further possible to connect the top leaf and back leaf substantially in a plane form and to subject the same after their connection along their seam to a curving or other shaping operation.

If the resinous material is shaped through casting or die-casting, the respective nozzles may be so shaped that they impart to the leaves respective cross sections with-

out the necessity of any additional molding steps. Thus, it is possible to produce beading at the free edge of the pocket or to give the free edge any other suitable shape which will facilitate insertion and withdrawal of the article to be displayed.

As shown in Figs. 10 and 11, the free edge of the rear leaf may further be shaped to accommodate the free edge of the front or top leaf under the turned over rim of said back leaf. Thus, by the creation of double clamping seams the article to be displayed is permanently undisplaceable within the carrier or pocket. Such advantages are further attained according to the embodiments shown in Figs. 12 to 16, inclusive.

According to Figs. 15 and 16, only two straight layers of foil are required to bring about insertion of the article therebetween and without requiring any folded over and like rims.

A further advantage of such structure is that only a part of the back leaf requires adhesion to an album or like carrier and that theft and other damage to the article to be displayed will be made practically impossible.

It is preferred in many instances and in particular when applied to a stamp collector's album that the rear or back leaf be made at least partially transparent or translucent in order to clearly coincide with the field or area to which the back leaf is to be affixed.

It is further possible to provide indicia (figure or catalog numbers as well as other markings or identifications) on the front face of the back leaf for collecting purposes so that the article to be inserted in the pocket of the carrier will be placed in any desired position.

It can thus be seen that there has been provided in accordance with the invention a carrier for a stamp, label and like flat article, comprising a substantially U-shaped strip of spring hard, thermoplastic, non-hygroscopic foil material forming two legs terminating in adjacent marginal edges, and preshaped welded seam means forming a crosspiece at a location of said legs opposite said marginal edges and intimately connecting predetermined portions of said legs to such an extent, as to impart a preload to the remainder of said legs so that one leg is forced against the other leg at said adjacent marginal edges in abutting relation, thereby maintaining said article in substantially flat condition between said legs when inserted therebetween.

Various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention and it is intended that such obvious changes and modifications be embraced by the annexed claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed

as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is:

1. A carrier for receiving and releasing a stamp, label and like substantially flat article, comprising two spring hard, non-hygroscopic weldable, thermoplastic leaves which are arranged one above the other and in mutual intimate surface contact, one of said leaves forming a cover leaf and being transparent, said cover leaf being united with the other leaf forming a back leaf along at least one marginal edge of same so that the leaves exert a clamping action on said flat article when inserted therebetween, at least said one leaf being curved so that the mantle line of curvature is substantially parallel to said one marginal edge, the opposite edge of said cover leaf contacting the back leaf when the flat article is inserted therebetween.

2. A carrier according to claim 1, wherein said back leaf is substantially flat and extends in a single plane.

3. A carrier of the type described comprising two substantially coextensive leaves made of weldable resinous material, at least one of said leaves being provided with a curved portion to thereby impart to said one leaf a bias for urging said one leaf toward said other leaf, said curved portion being convexly curved outwardly, at least one pair of adjacent edges of said leaves being welded to each other, another pair of adjacent edges located opposite said one pair of adjacent edges being separable from each other against the action of said bias for the insertion of an article between said leaves and for removal therefrom.

4. An envelope for a stamp and like article comprising two spring hard strips of weldable, thermoplastic polymeric substance arranged one above the other and normally in surface contact with each other, one of said strips being transparent, both strips being directly welded along one pair of adjacent marginal edges thereof and to an extent so that the remainder of said strips exerts a clamping action on an article when inserted therebetween, said one strip being curved convexly outwardly with respect to the other of said strips and exposing said article through said transparent strip.

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