Aug. 4, 1959 R. W. CARVER 2,898,257

COMBINED CARD MOUNT AND POCKET AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME

Filed Dec. 15, 1953

Fig. 1.

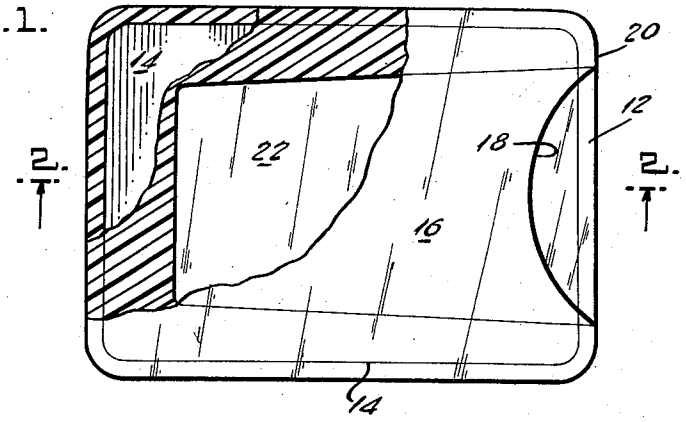


Fig. 2.

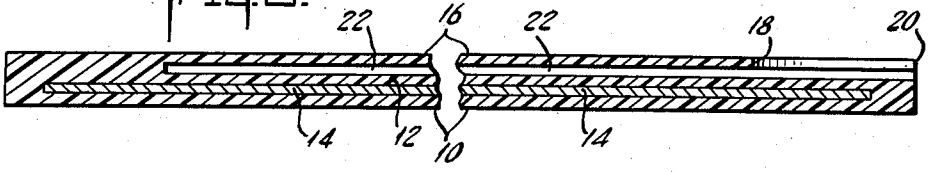


Fig. 3.

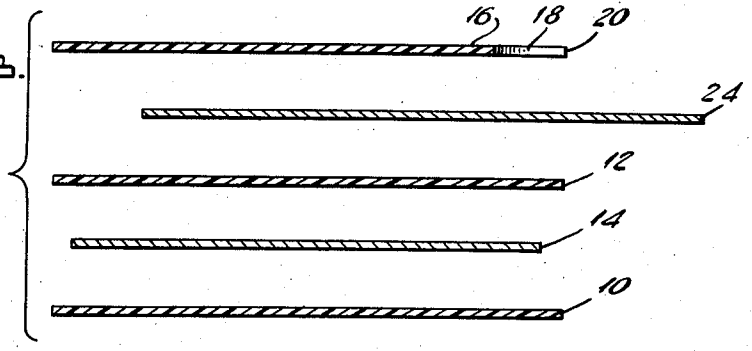
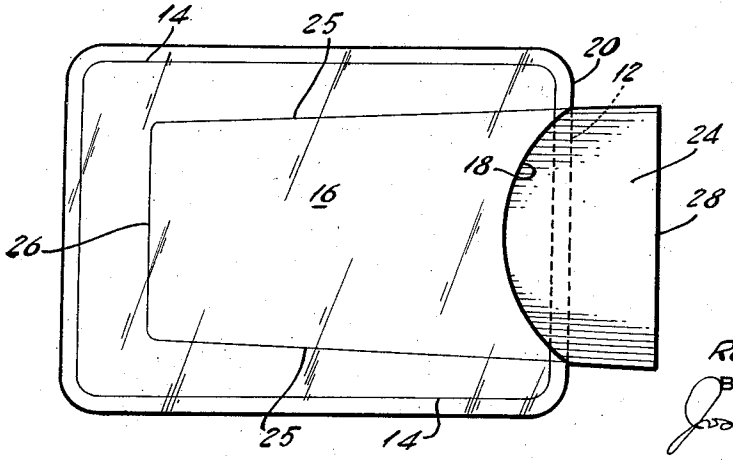


Fig. 4.



INVENTOR
ROBERT W. CARVER
BY
Joseph W. Schaines
ATTORNEY

United States Patent Office 2,898,257 Patented Aug. 4, 1959

2,898,257

COMBINED CARD MOUNT AND POCKET AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME

Robert W. Carver, Chatham, N.J.

Application December 15, 1953, Serial No. 398,339

1 Claim. (Cl. 154—116)

The present invention relates to an improved device for mounting and protecting documents, papers, cards, photographs and the like, and it relates more particularly to an improved device serving a dual function of providing a protective sealed transparent covering for papers, cards, photographs and the like as well as a transparent pocket for receiving and holding supplementary papers or cards and which permits their ready removal and replacement.

There are many activities frequently encountered which require the presentation of information of a relatively permanent nature in addition to information of a periodically renewable or modified nature. The information of a permanent nature may be personal identification data, personal photographs, vehicle identification data, transportation destinations and routes, rights and privileges, and similar information whereas the information of a temporary and renewable nature may include such data as time periods, expiration dates and any other information which is frequently modified. Typical of the activities requiring the presentation of the above information are social, sporting and professional organizations, communication tickets, toll bridge passes and many other activities often met with. It has been customary in the past to renew regularly the cards or devices carrying the permanent as well as the temporary information. This is obviously highly inefficient and uneconomical. On the other hand, where the temporary information only was changed, the information of a permanent nature was unprotected and shortly lost its legibility and usefulness due to frequent handling.

It is thus a principal object of the present invention to provide an improved device for mounting and protecting papers, cards, documents, photographs and the like.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved device for mounting and protecting papers, cards, photographs and the like having means for removably receiving and retaining supplementary cards, papers or the like.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide an improved device for mounting and protecting in a completely sealed manner, while permitting their exhibition, papers, cards, photographs and the like, said device having means for removably receiving and retaining supplementary cards, papers or the like and permitting the viewing thereof while so held.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a simple, handy device for mounting in a transparent completely sealed manner a card, photograph or the like, said device having a transparent pocket for removably receiving a supplementary card.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide an improved method of forming pockets or envelopes of organic thermoplastic material.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved method of mounting cards, papers, photographs and the like and simultaneously forming a pocket for removably holding additional cards, papers or the like.

The above and further objects of the present invention will become apparent from a reading of the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein

Figure 1 is a top plan view of an improved device in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken along line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a front elevational view of the parts and elements entering into the fabrication of the improved device and employed in practicing the improved method; and

Figure 4 is a top plan view thereof.

The present invention broadly contemplates an improved device of the character described comprising first and second superimposed organic thermoplastic panels having an object sandwiched between their confronting faces and having their borders integrally fused and a third panel superimposed upon one said thermoplastic panel and being secured thereto along a portion of its borders to define a pocket having an opening therein to permit access into the interior thereof.

Also broadly contemplated by the present invention is a method of forming a thermoplastic envelope or pocket comprising the steps of superimposing a pair of organic thermoplastic panels having sandwiched between their confronting faces a separator plate which extends beyond one of the edges of one of said panels, applying sufficient pressure and heat to said panels to integrally fuse the abutting borders thereof and thereafter removing said separator plate.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the first and second panels are of similar rectangular configuration whose borders are integrally fused and which have sandwiched between them a rectangular information-carrying card of lesser corresponding dimensions. A third panel of substantially similar configuration to the first two panels is superimposed upon one of said panels, the confronting peripheral borders of said panels being integrally fused along the two long and one short edge to form a pocket. If desired, the third panel may have the other of its edges inwardly recessed. The inner side edges of the pocket are inwardly inclined toward each other. In fabricating the improved device by a preferred method, the three panels are superimposed upon each other, the information-carrying card being sandwiched between the first and second panels. The separator plate, preferably of trapezoidal shape, is disposed between the second and third panels with its base extending beyond one edge of the third panel. Thereafter, the assembly is subjected to sufficient heat and pressure to fuse integrally their abutting borders, and is then cooled under pressure. The separator plate is thereupon removed to complete the fabrication.

Reference is now made to the drawing and more particularly to Figures 1 and 2 thereof, which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the present invention wherein the numerals **10** and **12** generally designate first and second flat panels of transparent thermoplastic material which are of generally rectangular shape. The panels **10** and **12** are superimposed upon each other and have sandwiched between them an information-carrying card, photograph or the like **14**, likewise of generally rectangular shape similar to the panels **10** and **12** but of smaller dimensions and substantially centered within the edges of the panels so as to leave the borders of the panels in contact with each other. The borders of the panels **10** and **12** are integrally fused to completely seal and enclose the card **14** between the panels **10** and **12** thereby completely protecting the card from wear, tampering and mishandling. A third panel **16**, of similar dimension and

configuration as the panels **10** and **12** is superimposed upon the second panel **12** and has its borders other than along the short edge **20** integrally fused to the confronting borders of the second panel **21** thereby to define a pocket **22** between the panels, the pocket **22** having an opening along the edge **20**. It should be noted that preferably the inner opposite long edges of the pocket **22** are inwardly inclined toward each other.

Considering now the improved method of fabricating the present device, reference is made to Figures 3 and 4 of the drawing wherein the panels **10**, **12** and **16** are arranged in laminar fashion in the order designated. It should be noted that the recess **18** is preferably not preformed in the panel **16** but is cut therein subsequent to the assembly of the article. Furthermore, the corners of the panels **10**, **12** and **16** may be rounded either prior or subsequent to assembly. The card or photograph **14** is sandwiched between the panels **10** and **12** and is centrally positioned relative to the edges thereof. Disposed between the second and third panels **12** and **16** is a separator plate **24** of generally trapezoidal configuration whose longitudinal axis coincides with the longitudinal axis of the panels **12** and **16** and whose long inclined edges **25**, **25** and upper edge **26** is spaced inwardly from the corresponding edges of the panels **12** and **16**, and whose base **28** is located outwardly beyond the adjacent edges of the panels **10**, **12** and **16**. The plate **24** may be formed of any suitable material which will not deform or adhere to the plastic panels under fusing heats and pressures. A single assembly of the three panels, card and separator plate, or a stack of several of these assemblies individually separated by suitable plates, is positioned between the heated plates of a laminating press and sufficient heat and pressure applied for a predetermined time necessary to effect the fusion of the abutting borders of the panels **10**, **12** and **16** into a unitary integral structure in a manner well known in the art. The assembly or assemblies are then subjected to a cooling step while under pressure and are thereafter removed and the separator plates **24** extracted. Any conventional laminating press may be employed such as is generally used in plastic laminating of identification cards and the like. An example of such a press which may be employed to good advantage is described in U.S. Patent No. 2,404,165, issued on July 16, 1946, to F. S. Carver. The temperatures, pressures and times required in effecting the lamination depends on the type of plastic, the thickness and the number of assemblies simultaneously treated. These values are well known in the laminating art.

The plastic forming the panels may be of any suitable type, rigid, semi-rigid or flexible, or a mixture of these as desired, for example, Vinylite, a vinyl acetate chloride copolymer of any desired degree of flexibility. While the panels are preferably transparent and colorless, they may be colored, transparent, translucent or opaque as desired.

While there has been described and illustrated preferred embodiments of the present invention, it is apparent that numerous alterations and omissions may be made without departing from the spirit thereof.

I claim:

The method of making a combination card mount and pocket comprising the steps of placing a pair of heat sealable thermoplastic panels in overlying relationship, interposing a sheet of indicia carrying material between said panels with the panels extending beyond the edges of said sheet, positioning a third panel of heat sealable material in overlying relationship with one of the first said panels, interposing a separator plate of trapezoidal shape between the last said panel and said one panel, said plate being shaped to extend at its wider end beyond one edge of said panels and permit border contact between the other edges of the panels, applying heat and pressure to said panels to effect integral fusion about the confronting edges of the panels, cooling said fused panels and then removing said separate plate to provide a tapered pocket between the third panel and said one panel with said sheet being permanently sealed between said pair of panels.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,071,226	Goodsell et al.	Aug. 26, 1913
1,693,006	Thomas	Nov. 27, 1928
1,699,865	Walton	Jan. 22, 1929
2,294,796	Moulder	Sept. 1, 1942
2,364,870	Otto	Dec. 12, 1944
2,401,110	Rohdin	May 28, 1946
2,520,449	Allen	Aug. 29, 1950
2,572,735	Kugel	Oct. 23, 1951
2,584,632	Southwick	Feb. 5, 1952
2,588,067	Whitehead	Mar. 4, 1952
2,598,755	Birch	June 3, 1953
2,676,702	Whitefoot	Apr. 27, 1954
2,679,194	Ehrenfried et al.	May 25, 1954
2,725,913	Horwin	Dec. 6, 1955