Aug. 15, 1967 E. C. HUMMEL 3,335,508

LABEL HOLDER FOR COMB BINDING

Filed Feb. 4, 1965

Fig. 1

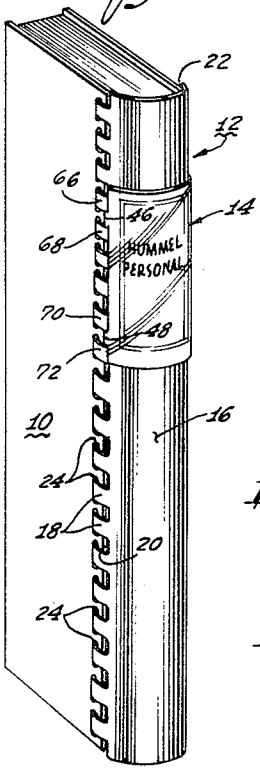


Fig. 2

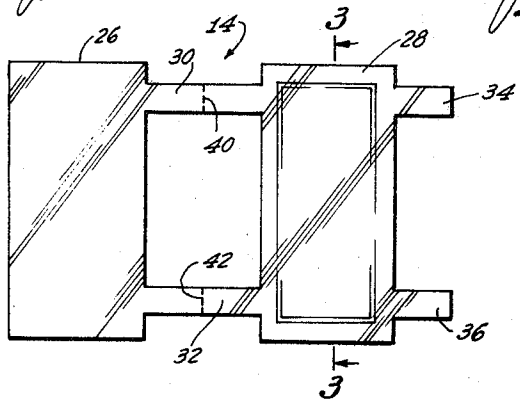


Fig. 3

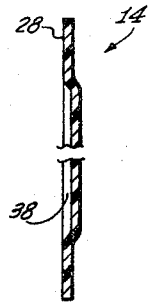


Fig. 4

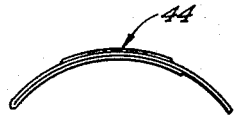


Fig. 5

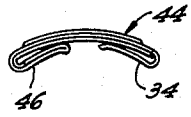


Fig. 6

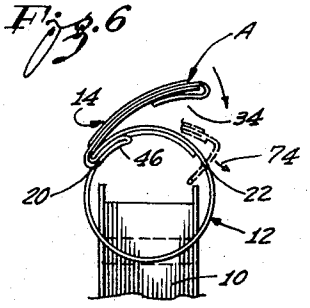


Fig. 7

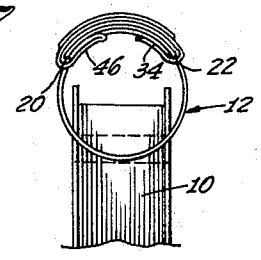


Fig. 8

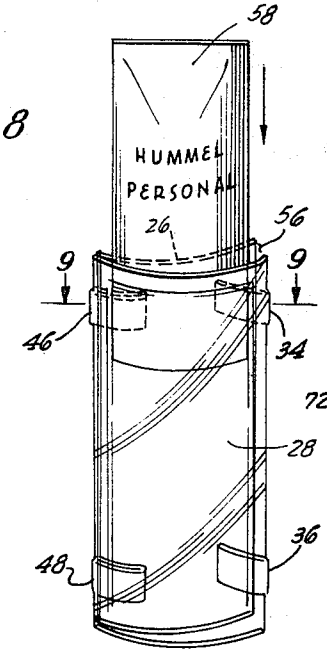
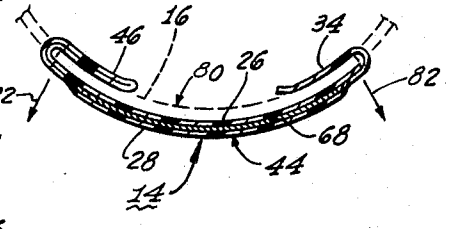


Fig. 9



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LABEL HOLDER FOR COMB BINDING

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This invention relates to a new and improved label holder, and more particularly to the solution of the problem of labeling books having comb bindings.

A typical comb binding for a book comprises a long, thin, curved, flexible body of sheet plastic extending the length of the book and having integral spaced flexible teeth or fingers protruding from one side of the flexible comb like the teeth of a comb.

These flexible fingers are each curved into a ring-like configuration overlapping the other edge of the flexible comb body and are adapted to be inserted in spaced holes formed along the edges of the pages and cover of the book. These fingers forming a plurality of rings throughout the length of the comb body form the comb body into a cylindrical configuration about which the pages rotate when the book is opened or closed.

The problem with comb bindings for books is that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to label the bindings themselves, and as a result, when such books are placed endwise on a shelf, or in a bookcase, like other books, the books cannot be identified by title or number because the ends or edges of the books are unmarked. This, of course, makes it necessary to remove the books from the shelf or bookcase to read the title on the front cover.

Previous attempts to label comb binders for identification by using a pen or felt tipped labeling pencil have been unsuccessful. The reason for this is that the comb bindings, being made of plastic, will not accept the ink from either the pen or the felt tipped labeling pencil without bleeding or running or without smearing when touched. Other attempts to label the binding by use of plastic tape to hold typewritten labels on the bindings have likewise been unsuccessful because the plastic tape after a time becomes sticky and yellow, making the books generally unacceptable.

This invention teaches a solution to the problem of labeling books with comb bindings by providing a label holder which may be easily secured to the comb bindings and which hold labels clearly visible, thus facilitating identification of books while on their edges, and thus eliminating the use of plastic tape to hold labels thereon. This invention comprises a label holder of folded sheet plastic for sandwiching a label therebetween but in full view, and which is further provided with tabs which are disposed between the comb teeth and which overlap or hook over the opposite edges of the body of the comb to hold the label holder on the comb binder. This invention utilizes the inherent resiliency of the plastic of which it is made for securing the holder in place on the comb binding, and for facilitating removal of either the label or the label holder therefrom.

As will be pointed out in the more detailed description hereinafter, this invention also teaches a new method of making a label holder for comb binders and additional advantages and features of the present invention will become apparent from a more detailed description when considered with the drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a typical book with a comb binding and illustrating the label holder constructed in accordance with the teachings of this invention;

FIGURE 2 is a plan view of the label holder showing the back and front sides unfolded as during a step in the process of forming the label holder;

FIGURE 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 3—3 of FIGURE 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIGURE 4 is a top view of the label holder immediately after the back and front sides are folded to form the label but before the tabs are formed in their final position;

FIGURE 5 is a top view of the label holder in its final configuration;

FIGURE 6 is a top view of the label holder and illustrating the manner of attaching the same to the comb binding;

FIGURE 7 is a top view of the label holder attached to the comb binding;

FIGURE 8 illustrates the manner in which a label is inserted in the label holder; and

FIGURE 9 is an enlarged top, cross-sectional view taken along line 9—9 of FIGURE 8 and illustrating the label in its final form and attached to the comb binding.

Turning now to FIGURE 1, it can be seen that a book **10** is provided with a comb binding **12** and with a label holder formed in accordance with the teachings of this invention and indicated at **14**.

The comb binding **12** comprises an elongated, thin, curved, plastic body **16** with integral curved fingers or teeth **18** which extend from one edge **20** of the binding body and which overlap the opposite edge of the comb binding as at **22** (more clearly shown in FIGURES 6 and 7) to form a series of rings insertable in a series of longitudinally spaced holes **24** in the pages and cover forming the book. In practice, the comb fingers, being formed of plastic, are sufficiently resilient to remain overlapped with respect to the edge **22** of the comb body after insertion into holes **24** and maintain the ring-like configuration to adequately hold the pages and the binding together. These ring-like fingers form the means for opening and closing the book by the movement of openings **24** on the rings.

Turning now to FIGURES 2, 3, 4 and 5 where the process of forming the label holder **14** is depicted, it can be seen that the label holder is formed from a single sheet of clear plastic material into a pair of rectangular pieces **26** and **28** joined together by a pair of relatively narrow strips **30** and **32**. The rectangular pieces **26** and **28** can be of any suitable length and preferably of a width substantially the same as the width of the comb body **16** so that when placed on the comb body, the label holder will extend from one edge of the comb body to the other. The rectangular piece **28** is also provided with a pair of tabs **34** and **36** which extend in a direction opposite from the narrow strips **30** and **32**, but are positioned so as to be in alignment with the strips **30** and **32**. The distances between the strips **30** and **32** and between the tabs **34** and **36** are preferably equal and depend upon the size and spacings of the fingers **18** of the comb binding for a purpose which will be clear from the further description hereinafter.

In addition to the strips **30** and **32** and tabs **34** and **36**, the rectangular piece **28** is also provided with a relatively shallow depression **38** which is more clearly depicted in the cross-sectional view of FIGURE 3 to accommodate the thickness of a label to be placed in the label holder. The size and shape as well as the depth of this depression will depend upon the type of label to be used, the rectangular depression **38** being but illustrative of one type.

In the formation of the label holder, strips **30** and **32** are folded at the fold lines **40** and **42** which are centrally located in the strips so that the rectangular piece **28** overlies the rectangular piece **26** to form respectively a front and back wall for the label holder, thus forming a label holder body indicated in its entirety as **44**

so that the label may be sandwiched between the back wall **26** and the front wall **28** of the label holder body when inserted in the depression **38**. It will be noted that in folding of the strips **30** and **32**, a second pair of tabs **46** and **48** (see FIGURE 8 for a clear illustration thereof) are formed, which tabs are of the same size and length as the tabs **34** and **36** but, of course, extend in the opposite direction.

After the tabs **46** and **48** are formed and the holder is pressure formed to its desired curvature such as illustrated in FIGURE 4, all of the tabs are reformed by heat and pressure so as to form hook-like elements. These hook-like elements are spaced slightly from the back wall **26** near the latter's edges to accommodate the thickness of the comb body when the holder is attached to the comb body and in resilient pressure engagement with the back wall **26** near the ends of the hook-like elements.

When the label holder is thus formed, it is ready for insertion of the label, and turning now to FIGURES 8 and 9, it can be seen that the back wall **26** and the front wall **28** of the holder are separated slightly by bending back the tabs **34** and **36** in a direction more normal to the back wall **26** to provide a space **56** for the insertion of the label **58**. This label **58** is preferably inserted from the top or the bottom as shown in FIGURE 8 and is of a size and shape to correspond to the depression **38** so that when the front wall and back wall are again returned to the normal position, the label will be sandwiched in the holder, more clearly illustrated in FIGURE 8 and, in effect, framed by the outer edges of the front wall **28** as seen clearly in FIGURE 1.

With the label holder thus formed and containing the label, the label holder is ready to be attached to the comb binding and attention is now directed to FIGURES 6 and 7. In FIGURE 6, it can be seen that the first step in attaching the holder to the comb binding is to place one pair of tabs now formed in hook-like elements such as **46** and **48** between the fingers of the tab holder such as between fingers **66**, **68**, **70** and **72** shown more clearly in FIGURE 1 with the edge of the comb body **20** close to the edge of the holder body. This step will place the label holder in a position such as indicated at A in FIGURE 6 and the other tabs **34** and **36** are then bent back in opposition to the tendency of the tabs to remain in their hooked configuration, that is, in a direction away from the back wall **26**, as indicated by arrow **74**, so as to be inserted over the opposite edge **22** of the comb body between the same fingers **66–72**, inclusive. Upon release of the force on the tabs, the tabs will return to their original position due to their resiliency, as shown more clearly in FIGURE 7, and the label holder will then be secured to the comb binding.

It should be noted that in the preferred practice of the invention, the radius of curvature of the label holder is slightly larger than the radius of curvature of the comb binding with which the holder is designed to be used. Thus, once the holder is mounted on the binding, the tendency of the holder to return to its normal curvature resiliently urges the tabs against the inner surface **80** of the comb binding such as seen in FIGURE 9. Stated another way, the label holder tends to resume its original curvature as indicated by the arrow **82** in FIGURE 9, the tabs are effectively clamped against the surface **70**. This feature clampingly secures the label holder very firmly to the comb binding for the holder augments the clamping action of the resilient tabs as it tends to return to its normal non-stressed position.

From the foregoing, it can be seen that this invention provides simple and inexpensive manner of solving the problem of labeling books with comb bindings. The label is held clearly visible to a viewer when the book is placed on end on a shelf or in a book case; and, while the label was described as inserted before the label holder was attached to the comb binding in FIGURES 8 and 9, the label could be inserted just as easily after the holder is attached to the comb binding. In other words, the label **58** can be placed in the holder and the steps of attaching the holder to the binding as described in connection with FIGURES 6 and 7 could follow. Too, it should be apparent that the label can be changed at any time by bending back tabs **34** and **36** and removing the entire label and replacing it with a new one, and it should also be apparent that the label holder itself could be removed as easily as it is attached.

It is also pointed out that when the word "plastic" is used herein in describing the material used to fabricate the label holder, any suitable clear (transparent) plastic material presently available will suffice so long as the above described label holder can be formed therefrom and subjected to heat for folding and forming such as in forming tabs **34**, **36** and **46**, **48**, and so long as the material has the resilient properties so as to enable the holder to be attached to the comb binding in the manner described. For example, light gauge, thin sheet plastic of about 0.010 inch thick such as that sold under the trade name of Plexiglas or a light gauge, thin sheet cellulose acetate such as sold under the trade name of Celluloid by the E. I. du Pont de Nemours company may be used.

While only a single embodiment of the present invention is disclosed and described herein, it will be readily apparent to persons skilled in the art that numerous changes and modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the foregoing disclosure and description thereof are for illustrative purposes only and do not in any way limit the invention which is defined only by the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. A label holder for use in connection with a comb binding for labeling a book, said comb binding including an elongated, cylindrical body and a plurality of fingers spaced apart and formed into ring-like configurations for inserting into holes in pages of the book, said label holder comprising:

a holder body having a curved back wall and a curved front wall for sandwiching a label therebetween joined togethed by a pair of strips connecting with the edges of said walls;

said strips being folded to form a pair of tabs extending from the edge of said holder body; and

a second pair of tabs extending in a direction opposite from said first pair of tabs, said pairs of tabs being formed in a hook configuration for connecting to the comb body, said tabs being spaced apart so as to be insertable between said fingers and hooked around the edges of the comb body to permit removal and attachment of the holder to the comb body.

2. A label holder for use in connection with a comb binding for labeling a book, said comb binding including an elongated, cylindrically curved body and a plurality of fingers spaced apart and formed into ring-like configurations for inserting into holes in pages of the book, said label holder comprising:

a holding body having a plastic back wall and a plastic front wall connected together by integral strips, said front wall having a depression for receiving a label therein; and

tabs formed of said integral strips extending in one direction from one edge of said holder body and tabs formed on another edge of said holder body and extending in a direction opposite from said first tabs for connecting to the comb body, said tabs being spaced apart so as to be insertable between said fingers and hooked around the edges of the comb body to permit removal and attachment of the holder to the comb body.

3. A label holder as claimed in claim **2**, wherein said tabs are integral with said holder body and bent back near the edges of said holder body to form resilient hooks which may be displaced to be insertable over the edges

of said comb body and which will assume their hooked position after being displaced so as to hold the label holder on the comb body.

4. A label holder as claimd in claim 2, wherein said front and back walls are curved in cross-section but with a radius of curvature larger than the radius of curvature of said comb body so that the resiliency of said walls when stressed to the curvature of said comb body will serve to hold said tabs tight against the comb body to firmly grip the comb body.

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