

Form 1

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1952

FEE STAMP TO VALUE OF

3..... ATTACHED

MAIL OFFICER.....VV.....

APPLICATION FOR A STANDARD PATENT

(Combined Form – Convention and Non–Convention)



We EASI-BIND INTERNATIONAL LIMITED, a British company,
of Adams Close, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE7 7GX England.

hereby apply for the grant of a Standard Patent for an invention entitled
DOCUMENT WALLET

which is described in the accompanying ~~Provisional~~ Complete Specification.

Strike our para,2.
for non-convention

2. This application is a convention application and is based on the application(s) for a patent or similar protection made –

in ... United Kingdom
on ... October 19, 1985, numbered ... 8525821, and
on ... March 12, 1986, numbered ... 8606029, and
on numbered

3. My/Our address for service is: Care of COWIE, THOMSON & CARTER, Patent Attorneys, of 71 Queens Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia.

DATED this 15th day of October 1986.

APPLICATION ACCEPTED AND AMENDMENTS

To The Commissioner of Patents

~~COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA~~
LODGED AT SUB-OFFICE

17 OCT 1986

Malbourne

COWIE, THOMSON & CARTER

Patent Attorneys
71 Queens Road, Melbourne,
Victoria, 3004, Australia

ALLUVED

COWIE, THOMSON & CARTER

By :

Patent Attorneys for
EASI-BIND INTERNATIONAL
LIMITED

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71 Queens Road,
Melbourne, 3004
Australia

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Patents Act 1952-1962

Forms 7 and 8
(Combined Form)

Declaration in Support of an Application for a Patent

In support of the application made by EASI-BIND INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

for a patent for an invention entitled: "Document Wallet"

TERENCE LEONARD TOWNSEND

DIRECTOR

I,
(INSERT FULL NAME) (CAPACITY)

of and care of the applicant company do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

1. ~~XXX~~ the applicant(s) for the patent.
~~We are XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

or

I am authorised by the applicant for the patent to make this declaration on its behalf.

Strike out Para 2. for non-convention

2. The basic application(s) as defined by section 141 of the Act ^{was} made
~~were~~

in United Kingdom.....
on the 19th.....day of October.....19 85....., No. 8525821.....,
by Easi-Bind International Limited....., and
in United Kingdom.....
on the 12th.....day of March.....19 86....., No. 8606029.....,
by Easi-Bind International Limited....., and
in
on the.....day of.....19....., No.....,
by.....

The basic application(s) referred to ^{was} the first application(s) made in a Convention country in respect
~~were~~ of the invention the subject of the application.

3. ~~XXX~~ the actual inventor(s) of the invention.
~~We are XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

or

.....Harry John Skidmore and Sean Dean Skidmore, British citizens
of "The Orchard", Asher Lane, Pentrich, Derbyshire, England,
.....and 49 Oakland Crescent, Riddings, Derbyshire, DE55 4EF,
England, respectively.....

~~is~~ the actual inventor(s) of the invention and the facts upon which the applicant is entitled to make the
are application are as follows:—

The said company is the assignee of the
invention from the said actual inventors
by reason of an employment contract.

(12) PATENT ABRIDGMENT (11) Document No. AU-B-64150/86
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (10) Acceptance No. 603554

(54) Title
DOCUMENT WALLET

International Patent Classification(s)
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(71) Applicant(s)
EASI-BIND INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

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(56) Prior Art Documents
FR 7919279
DE 2258250
US 2622897

(57) Claim

1. A blank for a folder including a front wall spaced from a rear wall by a pair of side walls and a bottom wall, the blank being formed from a single sheet of a stiff but resilient synthetic plastic or synthetic plastic laminated material which is cut and provided with fold lines to define a first wall panel connected to a second wall panel by an intermediate bottom wall panel, the first and second wall panels in the erected folder defining either the front and rear walls or the rear and front walls of the folder respectively, a pair of side wall panels foldably connected to opposite sides of the second wall panel, and an attachment panel foldably connected to each side wall panel, each attachment panel in the erected folder residing in face to face contact with the first wall panel and being connected thereto by co-operable latch means, the co-operable latch means for connecting each attachment panel to the first wall panel comprising at least one tongue engageable with a co-operating tongue accommodating opening, the tongue being formed either on the first wall panel or the attachment panel and the co-operating opening being formed on the attachment panel or the first wall panel respectively, the fold lines between the second wall panel, side wall panels and

(11) AU-B-64150/86

-2-

(10) 603554

attachment panels together with the resilience of the synthetic plastic or synthetic plastic laminated material in which the fold lines are provided are such that, after folding along these lines, the side wall panels and attachment panels are biased to return toward their unfolded positions, so that, in the erected folder, each tongue is urged into engagement with its cooperating tongue accommodating opening to thereby maintain the folder in its erected condition.



PATENTS ACT 1952-1973

Form 10

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

(ORIGINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE

Class:

Int. Cl:

603554

Application Number: 64150/86
Lodged:

This document contains the
amendments made under
Section 49 and is correct for
printing.

Complete Specification—Lodged:

Accepted:

Published:

Priority:

Related Art:

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

Name of Applicant: EASI-BIND INTERNATIONAL LIMITED, a British company, of
Adams Close, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE7 7GX England.

Address of Applicant:

Actual Inventor: HARRY JOHN SKIDMORE & SEAN DEAN SKIDMORE

Address for Service:

Care of: COWIE, THOMSON & CARTER,
Patent Attorneys,
71 Queens Road,
Melbourne, Vic., 3004.
Australia.

Complete Specification for the invention entitled:

DOCUMENT WALLET

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me:—

- 1 -

*Note: The description is to be typed in double spacing, pica type face, in an area not exceeding 250 mm in depth and 160 mm in width, on tough white paper of good quality and it is to be inserted inside this form.

DOCUMENT WALLET

The present invention relates to a folder, in particular a folder for the loose storage of documents.

5 Folders for retaining loose documents are known but are usually in a preassembled condition when supplied to the user. Accordingly such folders take up a large amount of storage space which is undesirable particularly in an office where space is limited.

10 In addition, for presentation purposes, it is desirable for folders to have a maximum of flat space on which printing may be performed. Accordingly the use of glue lines, rivet holes etc. used in prior art constructions for assembling a folder are undesirable as such use restricts the available space for printing. Folders for long term storage have also been proposed as described in DE 2258250.

15 The present invention aims to reduce the above drawbacks and also provide other advantages. The present invention also aims to provide a blank for a folder which can be folded into an erected folder without the need for separate fixing means.

20 According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a blank for a folder including a front wall spaced from a rear wall by a pair of side walls and a bottom wall, the blank being formed from a single sheet of a stiff but resilient synthetic plastic or synthetic plastic laminated material which is cut and provided with fold lines to define a first wall panel connected to a second wall panel by an intermediate bottom wall panel, the first and second wall panels in the erected folder defining either the front and rear walls or the rear and front walls of the folder respectively, a pair of side wall panels foldably connected to opposite sides of the second wall panel, and an attachment panel foldably connected to each side wall panel, each attachment panel in the erected folder residing in face to face contact with the first wall panel and being connected thereto by co-operable latch means, the co-operable latch means for connecting each attachment panel to the first wall panel comprising at least one tongue engageable with a co-operating tongue accommodating opening, the tongue being formed either on the first wall panel or the attachment panel and the co-operating opening being formed on the attachment panel or the first wall panel respectively, the fold lines between the second wall panel, side wall panels and

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attachment panels together with the resilience of the synthetic plastic or synthetic plastic laminated material in which the fold lines are provided are such that, after folding along these lines, the side wall panels and attachment panels are biased to return toward their unfolded positions, so that, in the erected folder, each tongue is urged into engagement with its cooperating tongue accommodating opening to thereby maintain the folder in its erected condition.

In the erected folder each tongue of the co-operable latch means is maintained in engagement with the associated opening by said outward bias of the sidewalls which is created by the inherent resilience of the sheet material when folding the blank. This engagement is also assisted by the weight of documents contained within the erected folders.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a folder formed from a blank as defined above.

Various aspects of the present invention are hereinafter described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a folder according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a plan view of a blank suitable for forming the folder illustrated in Figure 1.

The folder illustrated in Figure 1 includes a rear wall 11, a front wall 12, a pair of side walls 14, 16 respectively, a bottom wall 18, a top wall 20 and a closure flap 22 attached to the top wall 20. The upper sides of the rear, front and side walls define a mouth 24 which provides access into the interior of the folder. The mouth 24 is conveniently enlarged as shown by forming a recess 25 in the upper portion of the front wall 12.

The flap 22 is provided with one part of a catch 28 and the front wall 12 is provided with a co-operating part of the catch 28 so that the top wall 20 and flap 22 may be moved to close the mouth 24 and be releasably retained in that position. The catch 28 may be of any conventional construction, but is preferably of a type that can be readily attached manually. If desired more than one catch 28 may be provided.

The blank 3 for forming the folder of Figure 1 is shown in Figure 2 and is conveniently formed in a single operation from a suitable sheet material. Suitable



sheet materials include plastics sheet such as polypropylene of say a thickness between 0.5mm to 1.5mm or card which may be laminated with a plastics film on one or both sides of the card.

In forming the blank, the blank is cut and is provided with various fold lines FL to define the following, a rear wall forming panel 40, a pair of side wall forming panels 42, 43 respectively, a bottom wall forming panel 46, a main front wall forming panel 48, a top wall forming panel 50, a closure flap forming panel 52, sidewall attachment panels 53, 54, a pair of co-operating latch formations 56, 57 and reinforcement tabs 58.

The attachment panels 53, 54 have formed therein a latch formation 56 in the form of a slit 60 having inwardly directed end portions 62 which define a tongue receiving opening. The main front wall panel 48 is provided with a latch formation 57 in the form of a tongue 65 which is defined by a 'U' shaped slit 66.

To erect a folder from the blank 30, the tabs 58 are folded toward the attached sidewall forming panel 42, 43 respectively, the sidewall forming panels 42, 43 are then folded toward the rear wall panel 40, and the attachment panels 53, 54 are folded toward the attached sidewall panel 42, 43 respectively.

The bottom wall panel 46 and main front wall panel 48 are folded toward the rear wall panel 40 to thereby overlap the folded attachment panels 53, 54.

The tongues 65 are then introduced through the tongue receiving opening in the underlying attachment panel 53, 54 respectively to achieve a folder as illustrated in Figure 1.

Formation of at least the fold lines defining the sidewalls and attachment panels 42, 43, 53 and 54 is performed so that after folding, those panels are biased to return toward their unfolded positions.

Accordingly, as seen in Figure 1, sidewalls 14, 16 are biased outwardly and so urge the latch formations 56, 57 into engagement to thereby maintain the folder in its erected condition. It follows therefore that the latch formations 56, 57 may be in the form of a simple tongue and accommodating slit, the tongue and slit not requiring additional formations for restraining removal of the tongue from the slit. Accordingly engagement of a tongue into a co-operating slit is easily achieved.

It will be appreciated that the folders of the present invention may be stored



in a flat condition, which minimises the amount of storage space required, and that a folder is simply and quickly erected when required. The blank is also preferably provided with apertures 70 to enable the catch means to be attached in the correct position. Such catch means can be conveniently stored separately and attached to the blank prior to erection.

The front wall 12 is preferably formed as illustrated in Figure 1, namely from a main panel 48 and the upper portions of attachment panels 53 and 54. In this way it is possible to locate the latch formations 56, 57 near to the upper edge of the front panel 48 and yet at an intermediate position between the ends of each side wall.

It is envisaged that the side wall and associated attachment panel for each side wall may be attached to the front panel 48.

The material chosen for the blank should have sufficient stiffness to maintain reasonable rigidity in the side walls and bottom wall to restrain collapse of the folder.

The reinforcement tabs 58 serve to restrain collapse of the folder at the bottom corners thereof.

If necessary, the tabs 58 may be extended in length as illustrated in broken lines in Figure 2 so that in the erected folder the terminal end portions 58a of the tabs 58 overlap one another. The overlapping end portions 58a are provided with co-operating latch means, in the form of slits 58b, to restrain longitudinal separation of the tabs 58. In this way the tabs not only serve to provide reinforcement for the bottom wall 46 but also act to restrain outward movement of the sidewalls 42, 43 at the bottom region thereof.

In view of the absence of fixing means for creating an erected folder large unimpeded surfaces are present on the folder which enable printing of promotional matter to be provided.

It will be appreciated that the above construction of blanks also conveniently enables a variety of sizes of folders to be produced simply by altering the dimensions of the blanks during manufacture. In addition, particularly for larger folders it is envisaged that the top wall forming panel 50 may be adapted, for instance by the provision of suitable apertures, for the attachment of a carrying handle.



The claims defining the invention are as follows:-

1. A blank for a folder including a front wall spaced from a rear wall by a pair of side walls and a bottom wall, the blank being formed from a single sheet of a stiff but resilient synthetic plastic or synthetic plastic laminated material which is cut and provided with fold lines to define a first wall panel connected to a second wall panel by an intermediate bottom wall panel, the first and second wall panels in the erected folder defining either the front and rear walls or the rear and front walls of the folder respectively, a pair of side wall panels foldably connected to opposite sides of the second wall panel, and an attachment panel foldably connected to each side wall panel, each attachment panel in the erected folder residing in face to face contact with the first wall panel and being connected thereto by co-operable latch means, the co-operable latch means for connecting each attachment panel to the first wall panel comprising at least one tongue engageable with a co-operating tongue accommodating opening, the tongue being formed either on the first wall panel or the attachment panel and the co-operating opening being formed on the attachment panel or the first wall panel respectively, the fold lines between the second wall panel, side wall panels and attachment panels together with the resilience of the synthetic plastic or synthetic plastic laminated material in which the fold lines are provided are such that, after folding along these lines, the side wall panels and attachment panels are biased to return toward their unfolded positions, so that, in the erected folder, each tongue is urged into engagement with its cooperating tongue accommodating opening to thereby maintain the folder in its erected condition.

2. A blank according to claim 1 wherein each tongue is integrally formed on the first wall panel and which, in the erected folder extends through the co-operating opening in the attachment panel to project into the interior of the folder to underlie the attachment panel.

3. A blank according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein each tongue is defined by a U shaped slit formed in the first wall panel.

4. A blank according to claim 3 wherein each tongue accommodating opening is in the form of a slit formed in the attachment panel and which extends substantially



parallel to the fold line between the attachment and the side wall panels.

5. A blank according to claim 4 wherein each slit defining a tongue accommodating opening has inwardly directed end portions which extend toward the fold line between the attachment and side all panels.

6. A blank according to any one of the preceding claims wherein in the erected folder the first wall panel overlies each attachment panel to leave the upper portions thereof exposed so that the front wall of the folder is defined by the first wall panel and the exposed upper portions of the attachment panels, the co-operable latch means being located near to the upper edge of the first wall panel.

7. A blank according to any one of the preceding claims wherein a reinforcement tab is foldably attached to each side wall forming panel at a bottom edge thereof.

8. A blank according to claim 7 wherein the reinforcement tabs are of extended length so as to have overlapping terminal end portions in the erected folder.

9. A blank according to claim 8 wherein the overlapping terminal end portions have co-operable latch means which when engaged restrain longitudinal separation of the reinforcement tabs.

10. A blank according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the sheet material is a plastics sheet.

11. A blank according to claim 10 wherein the plastics is polypropylene.

12. A blank according to claim 10 or 11 wherein the thickness of the sheet is between 0.5 and 1.5mm.

~~13. A blank according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the sheet material is card.~~



13. A blank according to claim 12 wherein the sheet material is card laminated on one or both sides with a plastics film.

14. A blank according to any one of the preceding claims wherein a top wall panel is connected to the second wall panel, and a closure panel is connected to the top wall panel.

15. A blank according to claim 14 wherein the closure panel is provided with catch means and the first wall panel has a co-operating part to releasably engage the catch means.

16. A blank according to claim 14 or claim 15 wherein the first wall panel has a surface area greater than half the surface area of the second wall panel.

17. A blank according to any one of claims 14 to 15 wherein the closure panel has a surface area greater than one half the surface area of the second wall panel.

18. A document folder constructed from a blank according to any one of the preceding claims.

19. A blank substantially as described with reference to and as illustrated in Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings.

20. A document folder substantially as described with reference to and as illustrated in Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings.

DATED this 23rd day of August, 1990.

EASI-BIND INTERNATIONAL LIMITED.



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MELBOURNE, 2001, AUSTRALIA

64150/86

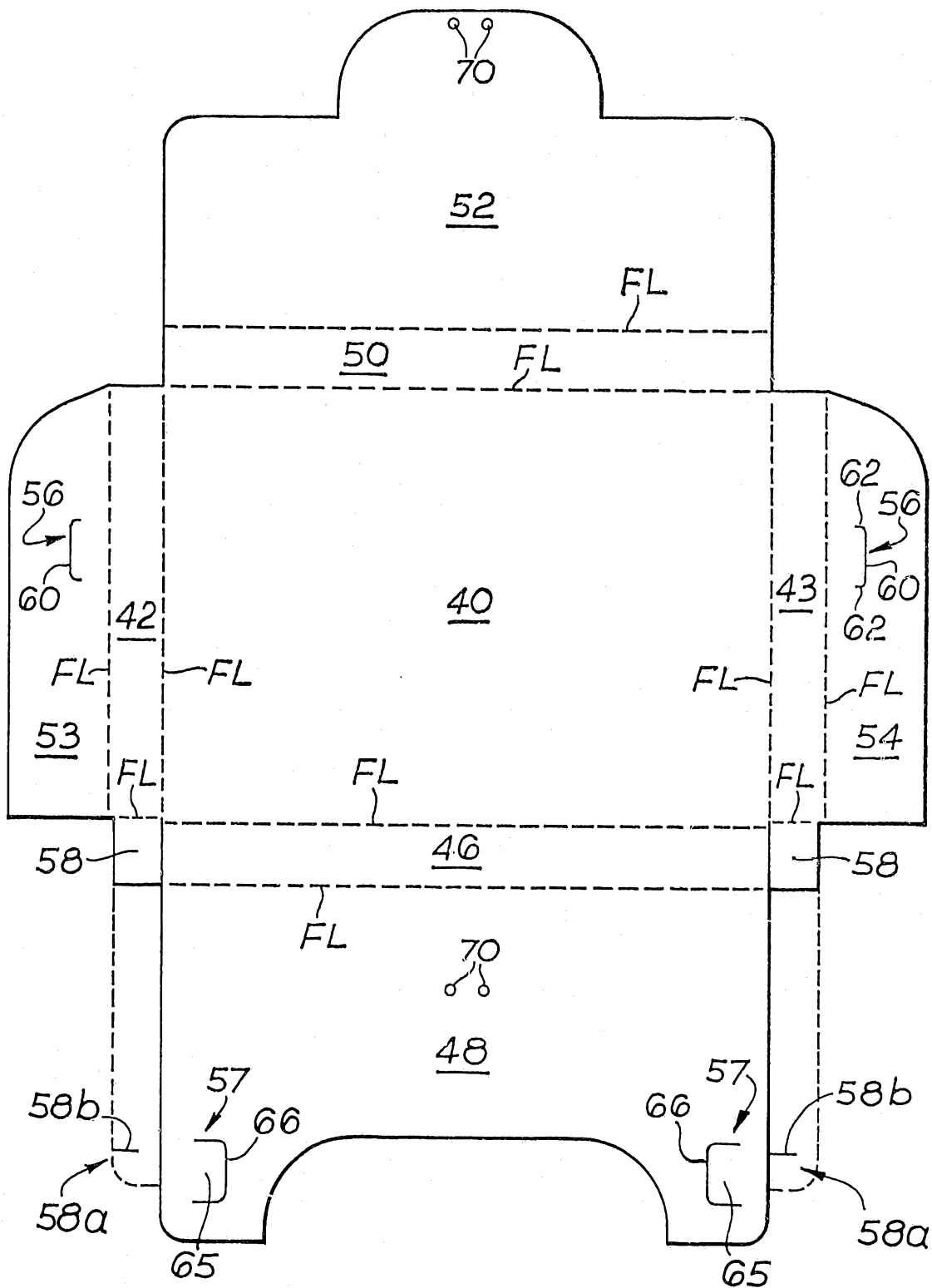


Fig. 2