United States Patent [19]

Heimann

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[45] **July 24, 1973**

[54] **INDEX TAB**

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Jan. 9, 1970 Germany ..... P 20 00 798.1

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **40/2 R,** 40/360

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A44c 3/00**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 40/2, 23 A

[56] **References Cited**

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Primary Examiner—Robert W. Michell

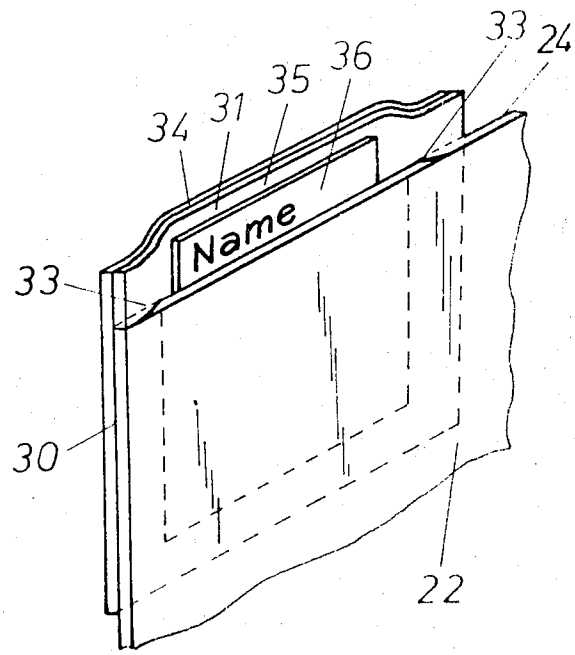
Assistant Examiner—Wenceslao J. Contreras

Attorney—George H. Spencer et al.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to index tabs which are constructed of self adhesive sheet material protected by a backing sheet. The index tab comprises a larger label portion cut from the adhesive sheet and a smaller index portion cut from the backing sheet. The part of the index tab projecting outwardly from the edge of the card consists of a part of the label portion and the index portion, whereby the upper edges of both are coinciding.

1 Claim, 14 Drawing Figures



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SHEET 1 OF 3

Fig.1

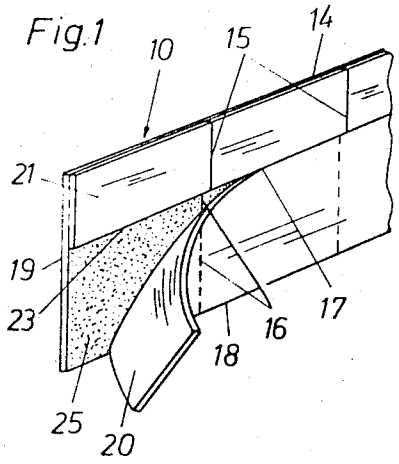


Fig.2

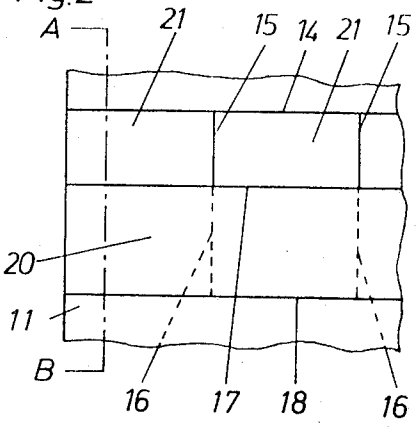


Fig.3

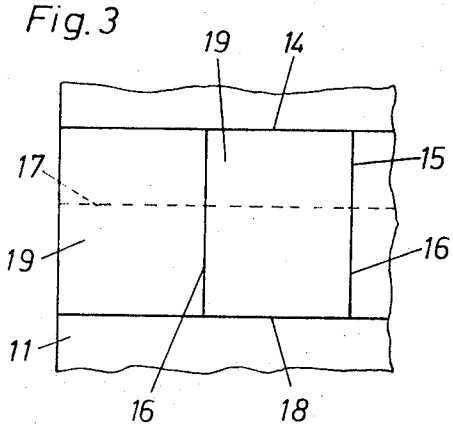


Fig.4

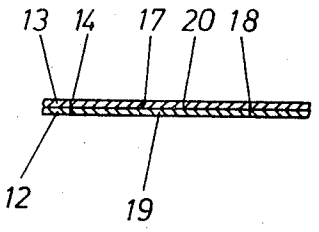


Fig.5

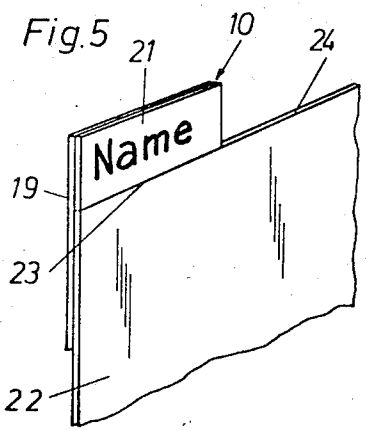
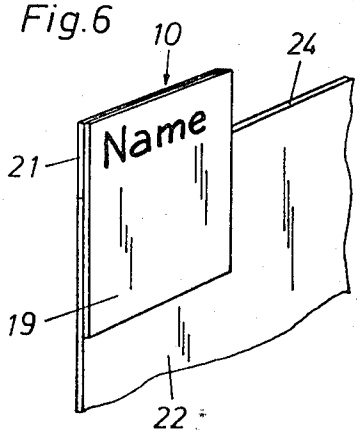


Fig.6



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Fig. 7

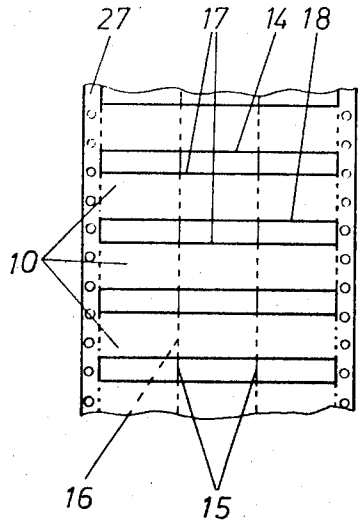


Fig. 8

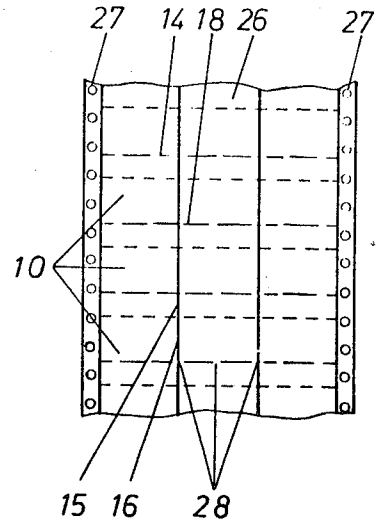


Fig. 9

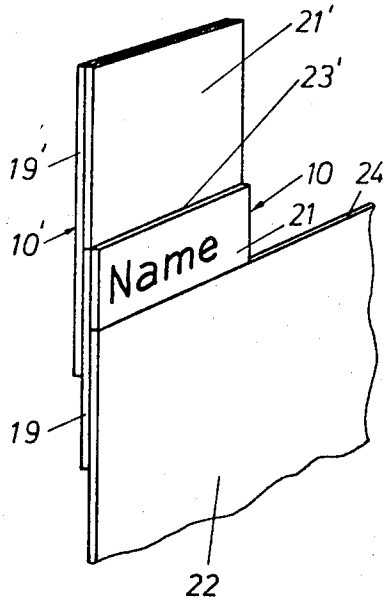


Fig. 10

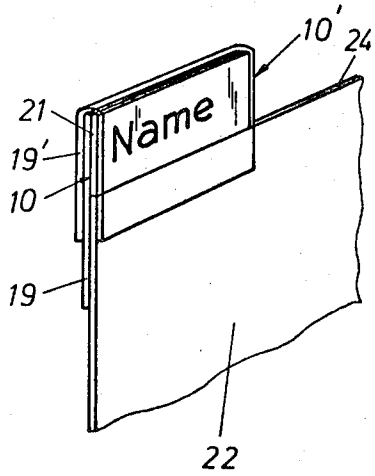


Fig. 11

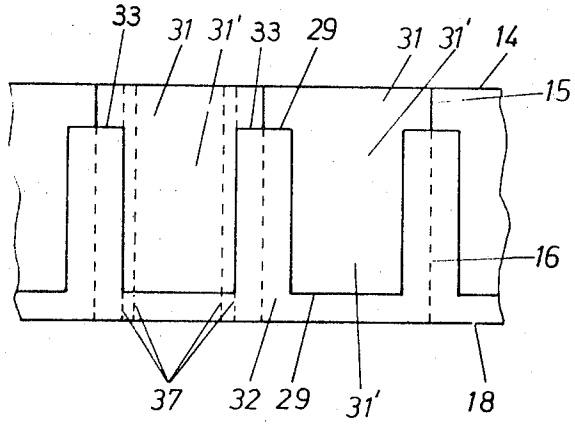


Fig. 14

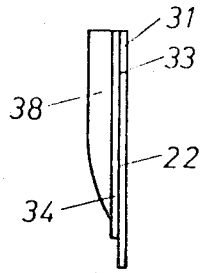


Fig. 12

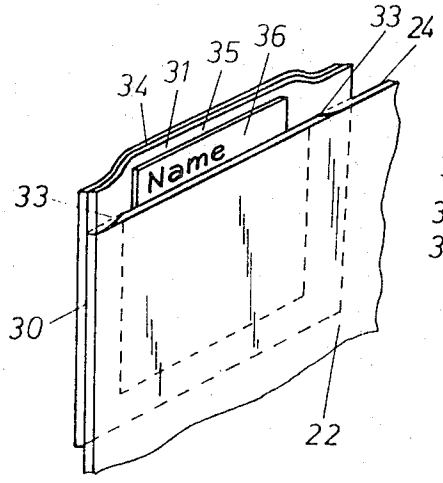
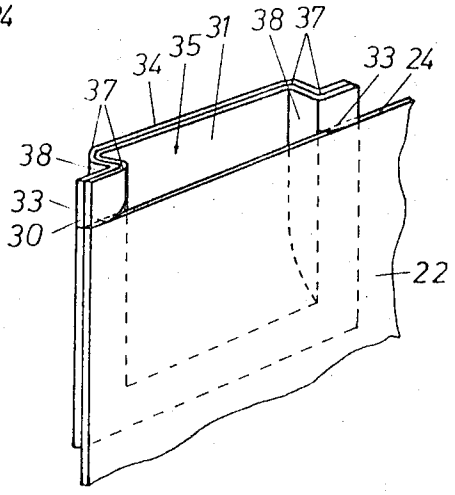


Fig. 13



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INDEX TAB

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to index tabs constructed of adhesive coated sheet material and more particularly to a material in sheet, strip or tape form having a non-drying pressure sensitive adhesive surface coated with a backing sheet, and to various products and applications thereof which have a tab projecting outwardly from the edge of the card or member to carry a label for an index designation.

Index tabs of the general type set forth above are constructed of a transparent sheet with a self sealing layer and a portion for index designation, that is cut out of the backing sheet. After releasing the index tab from the backing sheet there are uncoated portions of the transparent sheet above and below the index portion.

These index tabs are used in a way that after designation the lower portion of the transparent sheet is being attached to the rear side of a card and the upper portion being folded over the index portion and affixed to the front side of the card.

This index tab is difficult to produce, as tab sheet material has to be cut from both sides to secure a quite and unobjectionable release of the index tab fom the remaining backing sheet. To facilitate releasing a strongly adhesive repelling backing sheet is required, whereby it is scarcely avoidable that the rear side of the backing sheet becomes also adhesive repelling. The consequence of this is that index designations will not sufficiently adhere to the surface of the index label.

Users of such index tabs have also experienced difficulty in the necessity to produce an index tab by folding the upper transparent plastic portion over the lable for index designation.

An object of the present invention is the provision of an improved index tab of the general type set forth above which overcomes the aforementioned disadvantages and difficulties.

In accordance with the present invention the index tab comprises a larger label portion cut from the adhesive coated material and a smaller index portion cut from the backing sheet material, whereby the part of the index tab projecting outwardly from the edge of the card or member consists of parts of both adhesive coated and backing material, whereby the edges of the label and index portion are coinciding.

According to this embodiment of the invention an improved index tab is obtained of a construction that is simple to produce and easy to applicate.

For production may be used a known format sheet, consisting of an adhesive coated material covered with a backing material. By longitudinally cutting said format sheet into strips according to the width of the index tabs and by transversely cutting the adhesive coated material into label portions according to the length of the index tabs as well as cutting the backing material into index portions and a remaining supporting strip by a longitudinal cutting line according to the width of the index portion and a plurality of transverse cutting lines according to the length of said index portions, index tabs are reached which for easy application are arranged one after another on a continued supporting strip consisting of a part of said backing sheet. Index tabs produced in this manner may easily be peeled from the supporting strip as the protruding portion of said tab is freely disposed as a pull tab.

Marking may receive either the index portion cut from the backing material or the label portion cut from the adhesive coated material. The index portion may also be exchanged by another similar portion.

The presnet invention furthermore suggests that the backing sheet may be coated with adhesiv repelling layer only in the area of said supporting strip, whereas in the area of the index portions said backing sheet is non repelling. In this case the index portion will be firmly adherent to the label so that it cannot be exchanged.

In another embodiment of the present invention the longitudinal cutting line to devide the backing material into a supporting strip and index portions is executed not vertically but in an angle to the label portions.

By this typing on the index portion will be facilitated as the index tab will not be released so easily from the supporting strip by turning round the typewriter roll.

In a further modification of the present invention the longitudinal cutting lines to divide the format sheet into tab strips are executed as score lines so that the tab strips are coherent and arranged one over the other in an continuous form. Thus also a printing of the tabs on tabulating machines is possible.

It is further an object of the invention to affix to a first index tab a second index tab, by using the lower edge of the second index portions as an abutting edge against the upper edge of the first tab. The indices and designations may especially in this case be very variable, so the index portion of the seond tab may for instance receive a preliminary mark which may be removed by releasing the index portion from the label. This label portion which consists preferably of a transparent foil may after removing the index portion be used as a protection foil by folding over the first index tab and affixing it to the front side of the said tab and the member.

Another form of this invention provides an index tab, which has a pocket to insert additionally index strips or other objects as punched cards or folded punched tapes.

In this embodiment the cutting line for deviding the backing sheet into a supporting strip and index portions has the form of a winding course like a meander. The tab may also be provided with folding lines in order to form an expandible pocket so that voluminous folded punched paper tapes may be inserted therein.

The various forms of the present invention and the features thereof, together with the method of making the same will be herein after fully pointed out.

In the drawings forming part of this specification

FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective viei of a portion of the supporting strip with several index tabs, the first part of said strip is bent away to show one index tab more clearly.

FIG. 2 illustrates the back view of a portion of the format sheet with index tabs cut free by a plurality of longitudinal and transversal cutting lines.

FIG. 3 is a face view of a portion like FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a transverse section taken along the line A–B of FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 illustrates a perspective view of an index tab designated on the index portion and affixed to the rear side of a card or member.

FIG. 6 illustrates a perspective view of an index tab designated on the projecting part of the label portion

of said tab and affixed to the front side of a card or member.

FIG. 7 illustrates a back view of a portion of the continuous form of tab strips devided by score lines.

FIG. 8 illustrates the face view of the continuous form like FIG. 7.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of an index tab affixed to a card with a second index tab affixed to the first tab.

FIG. 10 illustrates a perspective view like FIG. 9, the second index tab consisting of transparent foil folded over the index portion of the first tab.

FIG. 11 illustrates index tabs with pockets to insert index portions.

FIG. 12 is a perspective view of an index tab with a pocket affixed to a member.

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of a tab like FIG. 12 with folding lines to insert voluminous material into the pocket.

FIG. 14 is a side view to FIG. 13.

In carrying out the invention the index tab **10** is cut free by the cutting lines **14,15,16,17** and **18** fom a format sheet **11**, consisting of a sheet material **12** coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive and a backing sheet **13** coated with an adhesive repelling layer.

Said format sheet **11** is cut into strips by the cutting lines **14** + **18** according to the width of the index tab **10**. The cutting lines **16** and **15** are separating individual labels **19** from the adhesive coated material **12**, the cutting lines **15** going also through the backing sheet **13**. A cutting line **17** is designed to devide the backing sheet **13** into a supporting strip **20** and a portion **21** used as a stiffening and designation member of the protruding part of the index tab.

It will be apparent that in this manner index tabs **10** are provided side by side, which consists of a label **19** coated on one side with a portion **21** and a continous supporting strip **20**. The index tab **10** may be easily be removed from said supporting strip **20** by gripping the tab at the portion **21** and pulling it away from the supporting strip **20**. Then the index tab **10** may be attached to a card or member **22**, as illustrated in FIG. **5** and **6**, using the edge **23** as an abutting edge against the card edge **24** and securing it at the surface of said card **22** by the pressure sensitive layer **25** (FIG. **1**).

It will be apparent that the index tab **10** may receive a mark on the portion **21** and/or the label **19** and said tab may be attached with the label **19** to the front side or rear side of the card or membe **22** as illustrated in FIG. **5** and **6**.

The portion **21** having adhesive repelling qualities may be removed and replaced by another portion **21** with or without adhesive repelling qualities so that the index designations may be changed as may be desired.

If no further change of the designation is desired the portion **21** should not be adhesive repellent. In this case the backing sheet **13** may have adhesive repelling coating only in the area of the supporting strip **20** whereas in the area of the portion **21** said backing sheet **13** will be non repellent so that portion **21** will firmly adhere to the label **19**.

In FIG. **4** is illustrated an index tab **10** of which the longitudinal cutting line **17** to divide the backing sheet **13** into the supporting strip **20** and the portion **21** is not cut vertically but in an angle of less than 90° to the label **19**. This feature will prevent resolving the upper edge of the strip **20** from the label **19** when the index tab **10** will be turned round a typewriter roll for the purpose of typing on the portion **21**.

A similar problem will arise designating the index tabs **10** in tabulating machines of the electronic processing. In this case it will be required that the index tabs **10** are arranged in a continuous form **26** with a plurality of control punch holes **27** formed along the length of the marginal edges thereof which holes are used to mate with appropriate pin driving mechanismus of the tabulating machine, whereby the index tabs **10** are arraged in a plurality of strips **20** one over the other. The marginal strip of punched holes **27** may be formed from the backing sheet material **13** or from both the backing sheet **13** and adhesive sheet **12**. In carrying out this invention to attain a continuous form **26** the cutting lines **14**, respectively **18** is scored in the adhesive coated material **12**, i.e. said lines **14** will be interrupted in some points so that there will remain connecting dots which hold the rows of the individual index tabs **10** together. After designation, the rows of tabs transversely connected by the supporting strip **20** which is connected with the marginal strips of punched holes **27** may easily be separated.

It will be apparent that in this case the surface of the continuous form **26** will remain closed if it is turned round the machine rolls of samll diameter and no resolving cutting edges will disturb the machine operation. In this case, however, the designation should be preferably executed only on the labels **19**.

It will be apparent that the label **19** of the tab **10** may also be formed from the adhesive coated material **12** consisting of a transparent foil with an adhesive layer. This form permits the inscription of index portion **21** on both sides as the rear side of said portion **21** will show through the transparent foil. For rear side inscription the portion **21** may be removed from the transparent foil and attached after inscription or replaced by another designated portion. Index tabs of this construction may also be affixed to an index tab **10** which has been already attached to a member **22**. Then the portion **21** may have an additional or preliminary inscription which may afterwards be removed.

After removing the portion **21'** the overlapping part of the label **10'** may be folded over the first index tab **10** and glued to the portion **21** as well as to the front side of the member **22**, as is illustrated in FIG. **10**.

In this manner an existing index tab **10** which has been attached to a member may at any time be protected against dust and scratches. This method has furthermore the advantage that the protecting label may be attached after the inscription is final.

It is apparent that an index tab **10** may also be manufactured with a second index tab **10'** as a mounted unit, as is illustrated in FIG. **9** whereby of course instead of the member **22** there will be the supporting strip **20**.

In a further embodiment of this invention the cutting line **29** in the backing sheet **13**, as shows FIG. **11**, has a meander-like winding course.

After removing the tab **30** with T-shaped portion **31** from the supporting strip **32** the edges **33** of the portion **33** may serve as abutting edges against the upper edge **24** of the card or member **22**. The lower part **31'** of the portion **31** is covering the intermediate part of the pressure sensitive adhesive coated label **34**, whereas a U-shaped area of the label **34** is laid open so that a pocket **35** for an additional changeable index strip **36** is

formed when said tab is affixed to the surface of a card or member **22.**

It will be apparent that said pocket **35** as shown in FIG. **13** may not only be used for index strip **36** but also other objects may be inserted not illustrated in the drawing, as for example zig-zag folded punched paper tapes or cards.

If these strips are voluminous, the tab may be provided with groove lines **37** so that a pocket **35** may be formed by expandable sides **38** as FIG. **13** illustrates. FIG. **11** shows a tab with these groove lines **37** in the left part of the drawings, whereas the right tab of the drawing has no groove lines.

It is obvious that many variations and changes may be made in the specific embodiments of the invention herein disclosed, and it is to be understood tht all such variations are intended to be included in the appended claims as is broadly consistent with the prior art.

What I claim is:

1. An index tab adapted to be attached to a card, comprising in combination:

a. a label portion having a face coated over its entire area with a pressure-sensitive adhesive; said face being divided into a first, T-shaped zone and a second, U-shaped zone partially surrounding said first zone; said label portion having, in said first zone, a progressively bulging configuration;

b. a T-shaped index or covering portion attached to said face of said label portion over the entire area of said first zone in registry therewith; and

c. a U-shaped supporting strip having a face provided with an adhesive repelling coating, said supporting strip being attached, with its adhesive repelling coating, to said face of said label portion over the entire area of said second zone; said label portion being adapted to be attached by said second zone to said card subsequent to the removal of said supporting strip, whereby said label portion and said covering portion attached thereto define an open pocket with a wall portion of said card.

* * * * *