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WO 2006/113786 (26.10.2006 Gazette 2006/43)**(54) IDENTIFICATION BRACELET WITH SEALABLE WINDOW**

IDENTIFIKATIONSARMBAND MIT VERSIEGELBAREM FENSTER

BRACELET D'IDENTIFICATION POSSEDEANT UNE FENETRE POUVANT ETRE SCELLEE

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates generally to improvements in identification appliances such as wristbands and the like for mounting onto a specific person or object, and for carrying information associated with the specific band wearer. More particularly, this invention relates to an improved identification bracelet having a sealable window for overlying and protecting wearer-related information applied to or carried by the bracelet against contact with moisture and the like for an extended period of time, wherein such moisture contact could otherwise interfere with or adversely impact human and/or machine reading of the wearer-related information.

[0002] This invention relates especially to an identification bracelet in accordance with the preamble of claim 1 and known from US 6,546,656.

[0003] Bracelet-type identification appliances such as wristbands and the like are commonly worn by individual patients in a hospital or other medical facility. The identification bracelet normally carries certain human-readable patient identification information such as patient name, room number, patient identification (ID) number, etc., wherein this identification information can be printed directly onto the bracelet, or otherwise applied to a card, tag or label that is affixed to or suitably carried by the bracelet. In addition, a variety of machine-readable information may be similarly applied to or carried by the bracelet, such as bar code information which may duplicate the human-readable patient identification information but may also include selected patient condition information. In recent years, such identification bracelets have also incorporated radio frequency identification (RFID) circuits having the capacity to receive and store significant patient medical history in addition to patient identification and condition information. Such identification bracelets have also been used in a wide range of non-medical environments.

[0004] Moisture contact with the wearer-related information carried by the identification bracelet can interfere with and thereby prevent accurate reading thereof by human or automated means. In this regard, some bracelet designs have incorporated a transparent window element to overlie and thereby provide some protection for wearer-related information visible through the transparent window. For example, U.S. Patents 4,221,063; 4,285,146; 4,318,234; 4,386,795; and 5,581,924 depict a bracelet wherein a transparent window element cooperates with an underlying band to define a small slotted pocket for slide-fit reception of a card, tag or label having the wearer-related information printed thereon and viewable through the window element. However, many of these bracelet designs provide only limited protection, and, more specifically, are not sealed against water intrusion upon immersion of the bracelet as may occur, for example, during bathing.

[0005] Alternative bracelet configurations have been proposed wherein the transparent window element is backed with a transparent, typically pressure-sensitive adhesive layer. See, for example, U.S. Patents 3,197,899 and 6,546,656 which depict the transparent window element adhesively positioned over an information-bearing zone or region formed on or carried by an underlying flexible band. The transparent window element is initially adhered at one end to the underlying band

5 and thus comprises a movable flap that can be lifted to expose the information-bearing zone, and further to permit a peel-off film to be removed from the flap before downward displacement into adhered relation with the band in a position overlying the information-bearing zone.

10 15 Hermetic sealing of the periphery of the information-bearing zone, however, is at best limited to provide minimal protection against water intrusion. In addition, in these bracelet designs, the movable flap is incompatible with convenient and economical manufacturing methods particularly such as producing a plurality of ready-to-use bracelets in a snap-apart or break-apart sheet form.

20 Moreover, the transparent window element in these designs is combined with fastener means for adhesively mounting the bracelet about the wearer's wrist or the like, resulting in a complex bracelet construction with limited inherent variable size adjustment capability.

25 **[0006]** U.S. Patent 5,740,623 describes another alternative bracelet construction including a tubular band formed from transparent plastic, and defining an internal 30 pocket for slide-fit reception of an information-bearing card, tag or label, with a connector element provided for press-fit reception into the opposite ends of the band to form and retain the band into a closed loop configuration wrapped about a person's wrist or the like. While this

35 bracelet design may provide improved hermetic protection against ingress or moisture or other liquids into contact with the information-bearing card or the like, the tubular band construction does not provide inherent size adjustment capability. In addition, the tubular band construction is also not susceptible to convenient and economical manufacturing methods particularly such as producing a plurality of ready-to-use bracelets in snap-apart or break-apart sheet form.

40 **[0007]** There exists, therefore, a significant need for 45 further improvements in and to identification bracelets of the type used in a medical facility and the like, particularly wherein a transparent window element is mounted onto an underlying flexible band in a manner conducive to economical manufacture in multi-bracelet sheet form, 50 and further wherein a transparent window element is adapted to overlie and hermetically seal underlying wearer-related information against contact with moisture and the like. The present invention fulfills these needs and provides further related advantages.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] In accordance with the invention, an improved

identification bracelet according to claim 1 is provided for mounting about a person's wrist or the like, and includes a sealable window to protect wearer-related information against potentially damaging contact with moisture and the like, wherein such moisture contact can interfere with or adversely impact human and/or machine reading of the wearer-related information. The improved bracelet is designed for economical manufacture in a convenient sheet form including multiple bracelets adapted for snap-apart separation from the sheet in a ready-to-use state, or in an end-to-end roll form.

[0009] In one preferred form, the identification bracelet comprises an elongated flexible band constructed from a moisture-resistant material to include an information-bearing zone adapted to receive and support wearer-related information such as information printed or written directly thereon, or information applied to a card, tag or label positioned thereon. A transparent, adhesive-backed cover strip spans the information-bearing zone in overlying relation thereto, with opposite ends of the cover strip securely adhered to the underlying band generally at opposite ends of the information-bearing zone. This central window segment is initially separated or easily separable from the underlying band, as by means of a peel-off release film on the underside of the cover strip.

[0010] At the time of use, one end of the cover strip central window segment is adapted for lift-away separation from the flexible band, as by tearing the cover strip along a line of weakness such as a perforation line formed therein at a position generally overlying one end of the information-bearing zone on the band. This now-separated end of the cover strip central window segment can be raised relative to the flexible band to expose the information-bearing zone for receiving the wearer-related information, and also for exposing the release film on the underside of the central window segment for peel-off removal. The central window segment can then be pressed downwardly onto the band, into firmly seated and sealed adherence therewith. The cover strip central window segment and the flexible band cooperatively define an hermetically sealed perimeter circumscribing the wearer-related information to safeguard such information against subsequent contact with moisture and the like, thereby safeguarding the information for reliable and accurate reading by human and/ or machine means.

[0011] The identification bracelet includes fastener means for retaining the elongated band in a closed loop configuration of selected diametric size wrapped about the wrist or the like of a person or object associated therewith. In one preferred form, the fastener means includes interengageable fastener elements at opposite ends of the flexible band, and preferably independent of the information-bearing zone on the band, such as snap-fit engageable male and female components at one end of the band for engagement with one of a longitudinally spaced-apart series of fastener ports formed in the other end of the band, as disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,581,924 which is incorporated by reference herein. Alternative

fastening elements such as adhesive fastening means and the like may be used.

[0012] Other features and advantages of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings which illustrate, by way of example, the principles of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] The accompanying drawings illustrate the invention. In such drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a top perspective view of a sheet form incorporating a plurality of separable identification bracelets each having a sealable window and constructed in accordance with the novel features of the invention;

FIGURE 2 is a top perspective view of a single identification bracelet having a sealable window in accordance with the invention, and showing opposite ends of an adhesive-backed transparent cover strip initially adhered to an underlying flexible band;

FIGURE 3 is an exploded perspective view showing the adhesive-backed transparent cover strip in exploded relation to the underlying flexible band;

FIGURE 4 is a top perspective view similar to FIG. 2, but depicting an initial step for manipulating the identification bracelet to separate or sever one end of the transparent cover strip from the underlying flexible band;

FIGURE 5 is a top perspective view showing an identification card, tag or label in exploded relation to the identification bracelet with the protective cover strip in a raised position;

FIGURE 6 is a further top perspective view illustrating peel-off separation of a protective paper or the like from the underside of the transparent cover strip to expose an adhesive film on the underside of said cover strip;

FIGURE 7 is another top perspective view showing removal of the peel-off protective paper or the like for disposal, following peel-off separation from the cover strip;

FIGURE 8 is a top perspective view illustrating sealed seating of the adhesive-backed cover strip onto the flexible band in overlying relation to the identification card, tag or label, and further with a perimeter region of the cover strip in adhesively sealed engagement with a perimeter region of the information-bearing zone on the flexible band to define a sealed window protecting the identification card, tag or label against contact with moisture or the like;

FIGURE 9 is a top plan view of the identification bracelet of FIG. 8;

FIGURE 10 is a bottom plan view of the identification bracelet;

FIGURE 11 is an enlarged fragmented vertical sec-

tional view taken generally on the line 11-11 of FIG. 9; FIGURE 12 is a perspective view showing the assembled identification bracelet oriented in a closed loop configuration for mounting about a person's wrist or the like, and further illustrating a fastener for retaining the bracelet in the closed loop configuration of desired diametric size;

FIGURE 13 is a fragmented top perspective view similar to FIG. 4, but depicting an alternative preferred form of the invention;

FIGURE 14 is a somewhat schematic perspective view showing one exemplary production line process for producing the identification bracelet in sheet form; FIGURE 15 is a perspective view illustrating a supply reel carrying material used for the adhesive-backed transparent cover strip, for use in the production process of FIG. 14;

FIGURE 16 is an enlarged fragmented perspective view corresponding generally with the encircled region 16 of FIG. 15;

FIGURE 17 is a plan view showing a succession of identification bracelets constructed in accordance with the invention, in end-to-end array;

FIGURE 18 shows the end-to-end bracelets of FIG. 17 carried on a supply reel; and

FIGURE 19 illustrates a dispenser for dispensing the end-to-end bracelets of FIGS. 17-18 one at a time.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0014] As shown in the exemplary drawings, an improved identification bracelet referred to generally by the reference numeral 10 is provided for mounting in a closed loop configuration (FIGURE 12) about the wrist or the like of a person or object associated therewith, wherein the bracelet 10 includes or carries wearer-related information 12 (FIGS. 5-9 and 12) associated with the specific person or object. The wearer-related information 12 may be provided in human-readable and/or machine-readable form, and, in accordance with a primary aspect of the invention, is protectively encased within a sealed window where it is safeguarded against contact with moisture and the like. The improved bracelet 10 has a construction suitable for convenient and economical manufacture in a sheet assembly or form 14 (FIG. 1) including multiple bracelets 10 adapted for snap-apart or tear-off separation from the form 14 in a ready-to-use state.

[0015] Information-bearing identification bracelets and the like are widely used in a number of applications wherein a convenient and lightweight, relatively inobtrusive identification appliance is desired for use in verifying the identity and/or other key information pertaining to a person or object to whom the bracelet is attached. As one key example, such identification bracelets are well known for use in a hospital or other medical facility to identify an individual patient. That is, wearer-related information such as patient name, etc., is applied to the

bracelet which is then affixed about the wrist or the like of the associated patient. The wearer-related information may be applied in human-readable written, typed or printed form, and/or such information may be applied in a machine-readable format such as bar code or by means of memory circuits such as radio frequency identification (RFID) devices. The use of machine-readable formats beneficially expands the volume and type of information, such as patient medical records and/or patient condition information, that can be inputted to and subsequently read from the identification bracelet.

[0016] The improved identification bracelet 10 of the present invention beneficially accommodates a wide range of wearer-related information applied directly to the bracelet, or otherwise mounted onto the bracelet as by means of a card, tag or label 18 8 (FIGS. 5-9 and 11-12), including human-readable and/or machine-readable formats applied thereto by suitable printing methods, such as laser printing, while effectively safeguarding the wearer-related information against potentially damaging contact with moisture and other liquids including solvents and the like, as well as potentially damaging contact with abrasive surfaces, to which the bracelet may be exposed in the course of normal, typically multi-day usage cycle. In the example of an identification bracelet used by a medical patient, the patient may be required to shower or bathe, or otherwise be subjected to various liquids in the course of a hospital stay and related treatment regimen. Moisture contact with the wearer-related information can cause written information to lose clarity, and can interfere with operation of electronic memory circuits, resulting in interference with and/or prevention of information read-out by human or machine methods. The present invention safeguards the wearer-related information against contact with moisture or the like, in a bracelet construction that is suitable for economical manufacture and convenient use, and is compatible with existing facility procedures for printing cards, tags or labels. As shown in FIGS. 5-9 and 12, the machine-readable information may be bar code information printed directly onto the bracelet, or printed onto the card, tag or label 18, and/or an RFID device or chip 15 mounted onto the bracelet or alternately onto the card, tag or label 18.

[0017] As shown generally in FIGS. 2-3, each identification bracelet 10 of the present invention comprises an elongated strap or band 20 having a single or multi-ply or multi-layer construction formed from a soft, smooth, non-abrasive, flexible and lightweight moisture-resistant or moisture-impervious, and stretch-resistant material of selected color, and shaped to define an upwardly presented information-bearing zone 22 thereon. In one preferred form, the band material comprises a multi-ply durable plastic strap including adhesive bonded layers (not shown) having a combined thickness on the order of about 10-12 mils. The information-bearing zone 22 is positioned longitudinally between a first band end 24 and a second band end 26, at least one of which includes fastener means adapted for shaping and retaining the

band in a closed loop configuration (FIG. 12) of selected diametric size wrapped about the wrist or the like of a person or object to be associated therewith. Accordingly, the information-bearing zone 22 on the band 20 is independent of such fastener means.

[0018] The illustrative drawings show the first band end 24 to include fastener means such as snap-fit engageable male and female fastener components 28 and 30 adapted to interlock through a selected one of a series of longitudinally spaced fastener ports 32 formed in the second band end 26, as shown and described in more detail in U.S. Patent 5,581,924 which is incorporated by reference herein. Such fastener components are beneficially designed for self-locking, and effectively permit removal of the bracelet 10 from a person's wrist or the like only by cutting and destroying the bracelet. Persons skilled in the art will recognize and appreciate that a variety of different fastener means and fastener constructions, such as adhesive fastener elements, and alternative mechanical fastener elements, may be used.

[0019] A transparent cover strip 34 is mounted onto the flexible band 20 in a position extending over or spanning the information-bearing zone 22 on the band. This transparent cover strip 34 is also formed from a lightweight and water-resistant or water-impervious and substantially transparent material such as a plastic film, and, in the preferred form, is backed by a thin layer of a transparent adhesive material such as a pressure-sensitive adhesive. In an initial configuration, opposite ends 36 and 38 of the adhesive-backed cover strip 34 are securely adhered to the flexible band 20 respectively at opposite ends of the underlying information-bearing zone 22. However, a central region of the cover strip 34, defining a transparent central window segment 40, is initially separated or spaced from the band and thus is not adhered thereto, by means of a thin peel-off paper-based release film 42. Thus, in the initial as-constructed configuration, the cover strip 34 has both ends firmly connected by the adhesive backing to the band 20 at opposite ends of the information-bearing zone 22, with the peel-off release film 42 separating the central window segment 40 from the underlying information-bearing zone 22 on the band 20. This initial as-constructed configuration is particularly suitable for convenient and economical production in the sheet form 14 as viewed in FIG. 1, wherein this form 14 includes multiple identification bracelets 10 in substantially side-by-side relation and adapted for individual snap-apart or tear-apart separation from the sheet form 14 along appropriate inter-bracelet lines of weakness such as perforation lines 44, when bracelet use is desired.

[0020] FIG. 4 shows initial manipulation of the identification bracelet 10 preparatory to addition of appropriate wearer-related information 12 to the information-bearing zone 22. As shown, the central window segment 40 can be separated from the adjacent adhesively anchored end 38 of the cover strip 34, as by tearing along a pre-formed line of weakness such as a perforation line 48 or the like

formed in the cover strip. The thus-separated end 46 of the central window segment 40 can then be raised relative to the underlying information-bearing zone 22, effectively pivoting the window segment 40 upwardly about a hinge or fold line 49 adjacent the still anchored opposite end 36 of the cover strip as viewed in FIG. 5. This exposes the information-bearing zone 22 for receiving the wearer-related information 12, as by placement of the card, tag or label 18 thereon, or alternately by direct hand-written application of the wearer-related information on the information-bearing zone 22.

[0021] With the window segment 40 in the raised position, the peel-off release paper-based film 42 is substantially exposed for easy access and removal (FIGS. 6-7), thereby exposing the thin-film transparent adhesive backing. In particular, FIG. 6 shows peel-off separation of the release film 42 from the window segment, and FIG. 7 shows removal of the peeled-off release film 42 for appropriate disposal. Upon subsequent downward displacement of the strip central window segment 40, the adhesive-backed window segment can be pressed and seated firmly onto the information-bearing zone 22 of the band 20 (FIGS. 8-9 and 11), with the adhesive backing 50 in intimate adhered engagement with the underlying band 20 as viewed best in FIG. 11. Importantly, the wearer-related information 12 applied to this zone 22 is positioned with a perimeter spaced inwardly from a perimeter of the zone 22, so that a moisture-impermeable hermetic seal perimeter circumscribing the information 12 is cooperatively defined by the window segment 40 and the underlying band 20. Thus, the window segment 40 and band 20 cooperatively form the sealable window encasing the wearer-related information 18 for reliable and accurate information read-out by human and/or machine means.

[0022] Persons skilled in the art will recognize and appreciate that alternative forms of the invention may be employed to achieve the desired moisture-impermeable hermetic seal perimeter circumscribing the wearer-related information 12 on the information-bearing zone 22 of the band 20. For example, in lieu of the pressure sensitive adhesive and peel-off release film 42 initially underlying the transparent central window segment 40, other techniques such as heat sealing of the central window segment 40 onto the underlying band 20 following placement of the wearer-related information 12 on the zone 22 may be used.

[0023] In use, the bracelet 10 thus incorporates the wearer-related information 12 viewable through the transparent central window segment 40. Importantly, this window segment 40 comprising a laminating element which cooperates with the underlying band 20 to hermetically encase the wearer-related information 12 on the information-bearing zone 22 is a manner that is protected against moisture ingress. The hermetic seal perimeter circumscribing the wearer-related information is sufficiently flexible to accommodate normal bending and use of the bracelet 10 in a closed loop configuration (FIG. 12)

mounted onto the wrist or the like of a person or the like associated with the information 12. The thus-formed sealed window thereby safeguards the wearer-related information 12 against potentially damaging contact with moisture and other liquids, while permitting normal activities such as bathing and showering, etc.

[0024] FIGURE 13 depicts an alternative preferred form of the invention, wherein components similar to those shown and described in FIGS. 1-12 are identified by common reference numerals increased by 200. As shown, a modified identification bracelet 210 comprises an elongated flexible strap or band 220 shaped to define an upwardly presented information-bearing zone 222 positioned longitudinally between a first band end 224 having fastener components, such as the illustrative male and female snap-fit members 228 and 230, and a second band end 226 having multiple fastener ports 232 formed therein. A transparent cover strip 134 overlies the information-bearing zone 222 and is backed by a thin transparent adhesive layer or film for affixation to the band 220. In the configuration shown, opposite ends 236 and 238 of the cover strip 234 are adhered to the underlying band 220, with a transparent central window segment 140 defined between these adhered ends 236, 238. A peel-off, paper-based release film 242 is shown underlying the central window segment 240, to extend from a hinge line 249 proximate the adhered strip end 236 to a position spaced a short distance from the opposite end of the cover strip 234 thereby defining the opposite strip end 238 with exposed adhesive for initial adherence to the band 220.

[0025] In use, the adhered end 238 of the cover strip 234 can be lifted and separated from the underlying band 220, as viewed in FIG. 13. This exposes the information-bearing zone 222 for receiving and supporting the wearer-related information, all as shown and described previously herein with respect to FIGS. 1-12. Following placement of the wearer-related information on the zone 222, the release film 242 can be separated from the central window segment 240, followed in turn by adhesive seating and sealing of the window segment 240 and the associated strip end 238 with the underlying band 220. Importantly, the window segment 240 and cover strip end 238 effectively define an hermetically sealed perimeter circumscribing and thus protecting the wearer-related information, while visually exposing such information for human and/or machine communication.

[0026] Accordingly, the alternative embodiment shown in FIG. 13 also provides for initial adherence of both ends 236, 238 of the transparent cover strip 234 with the band 220, for simplified manufacturing of the bracelet 220 in sheet or roll form.

[0027] FIGURES 14-16 illustrate one exemplary production process for manufacturing the identification bracelet 10 of the present invention in multi-bracelet sheets 14 as depicted in FIG. 1, although it will be understood that a similar production process may be employed for manufacturing the bracelet 210 as depicted in

FIG. 13. In this regard, the bracelet construction wherein both of the opposite ends 36, 38 of the cover strip 34 are securely anchored as by adherence onto the underlying band 20 beneficially accommodates a variety of production processes without concern for an otherwise loose or free flap-type structure lifting prematurely to interfere with high volume production.

[0028] More specifically, FIG. 14 shows an elongated web 114 of suitable band-forming material that is conveyed as by drawing from a supply reel (not shown) or the like through a sequence of process stations. At an initial laminating station 60, an elongated web 134 of suitable cover strip-forming material is drawn from a supply reel 62 for adhesive placement onto the band-forming material 114. In this regard, FIGS. 15-16 show the supply reel 62 carrying the cover strip-forming material 134 having the transparent adhesive film applied to one side thereof and protectively covered by a peel-off release layer 142. This peel-off release layer 142 includes elongated cuts or slits 64 spaced inwardly short distances from the opposed edges thereof.

[0029] The cover strip-forming material 134 is drawn from the supply reel 62 over suitable guide reels 66 and 68 which guide and press the material 134 onto the underlying band-forming material 114. Importantly, thin edge strips 70 and 72 of the release layer 142 are separated from the material 134 by a waste roller 74, so that the opposite edges of the material 134 are pressed into secure adhered engagement with the band-forming material 114. These adhered opposite edges of the cover strip-forming material 134 correspond with the opposite ends 36, 38 of each cover strip 34, with the remaining central portion of the release layer 142 corresponding with the release film 42, all as previously shown and described herein.

[0030] From the laminating station 60, the partially underlying band-forming material 114 and the overlying cover strip-forming material 134 are drawn or transported further through a sequence of die cutting stations, such as an outline die station 76 for cutting the underlying material into the outline shape of a succession of individual bracelets 10 separable along adjoining lines of weakness such as perforations 44, and a hole cutting station 78 for cutting multiple fastener ports 32 in each bracelet 10. An additional perforation die station 80 then forms the line of weakness such as the perforation 48 between the central window segment 40 and one adhesively anchored end 38 of each cover strip 34. Although rotary die elements are shown, it will be understood that other types of die elements, including non-rotary die elements, may be used.

[0031] A waste web station 82 separates any remaining marginal material from the elongated succession of bracelets 10 which can then be formed into the desired multi-bracelet sheets 14.

[0032] FIGURES 17-19 illustrate an alternative multi-bracelet construction, wherein individual identification bracelets 10 of the present invention are produced in

end-to-end interconnected array adapted for tear-away separation along lines of weakness such as perforations 90. The end-to-end bracelets 10 can be assembled within a supply reel 92 (FIGS. 18-19) that can be mounted within a dispenser 94 for convenient draw-out dispensing of the bracelets 10 one at a time.

[0033] Irrespective of the production process and direction, i.e., side-by-side in multi-bracelet sheet form as viewed in FIG. 14, or end-to-end in multi-bracelet roll form as viewed in FIGS. 18-19, the cover strip 34 on each bracelet 10 is adhered securely at both ends 36, 38 thereof to the underlying band 20 whereby there are no free-ended flaps or similar structures that can limit production method or direction, and/or can cause production equipment to jam.

[0034] A variety of further modifications and improvements in and to the identification bracelet 10 of the present invention will be apparent to persons skilled in the art. Accordingly, no limitation on the invention is intended by the foregoing description and accompanying drawings, except as set forth in the appended claims.

Claims

1. An identification bracelet (10) comprising an elongated flexible band (20) having a first end (24) and a second end (26), and defining an information-bearing zone (22) on one side thereof; a fastener means (28, 30, 32) for retaining said band (20) in a closed loop configuration; and an adhesive-backed (50) and substantially transparent cover strip (34) defining a flexible central window segment (40) between opposite strip ends (36, 38),

characterized in that,

said opposite strip ends (36, 38) being initially adhered to said band (20) generally at opposite ends of said information-bearing zone (22) to position said central window segment (40) in overlying relation to said information-bearing zone (22); said central window segment (40) including one end (46) separable from said band (20) to permit said window segment (40) to be lifted upwardly relative to said band (20) to expose said information-bearing zone (22) to receive wearer-related information (12), said window segment (40) being thereupon movable to a position overlying said information-bearing zone (22) with at least a perimeter of said window segment (40) sealingly adhered to said band (20) for defining a sealed perimeter circumscribing the wearer-related information (12).

2. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, further including a peel-off release film (42) carried by said central window segment (40) to initially separate said central window segment (40) from said band (20) and thereby prevent adherence thereof to said information-bearing zone (22) on said band (20), said

release film (42) being exposed for access and removal from said central window segment (40), when said central window segment (40) is lifted upwardly relative to said band (20).

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3. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein said one end (46) of said central window segment (40) is separable from one of said strip ends (24, 26) adhered to said band (20), to permit said one end (46) of said window segment (40) to be lifted upwardly relative to said band (20).

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4. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein said band (20) and said central window segment (40) of said cover strip (34) are formed from a substantially moisture-impervious material.

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5. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein the wearer-related information (12) comprises human-readable information.

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6. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein the wearer-related information (12) comprises machine-readable information.

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7. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein the wearer-related information (12) is carried by an RFID device (15).

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8. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein the wearer-related information (12) comprises bar code information.

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9. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein the wearer-related information (12) is applied to a card, tag or label (18), said card, tag or label (18) having a size and shape for placement onto said information-bearing zone (22) on said band (20).

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10. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 3, further including a line of weakness formed in said cover strip (34) generally at said one end of said central window segment (40).

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11. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, further including a hinge line (49) formed in said cover strip (34) generally at an opposite end (46) of said central window segment (40).

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12. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein said information-bearing zone (22) on said band (20) is independent of said fastener means (28, 30, 32).

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13. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein said fastener means (28, 30, 32) comprises at least one fastener component (28, 30) mounted generally to at least one of said first and second ends (24, 26) of said band (20).

14. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein a plurality of said identification bracelets (10) are assembled in a sheet form (14) and each separable from said sheet form (40) by tear-away separation along at least one line of weakness (44) therebetween.

15. The identification bracelet (10) of claim 1, wherein a plurality of said identification bracelets (10) are assembled end-to-end and each separable along at least one line of weakness (90) therebetween.

Patentansprüche

1. Identifizierungsbändchen (10), das Folgendes umfasst: ein längliches flexibles Band (20), das ein erstes Ende (24) und ein zweites Ende (26) aufweist und auf einer Seite einen Informationsträgerbereich (22) definiert; ein Befestigungsmittel (28, 30, 32) zum Halten des Bandes (20) in einer geschlossenen Schlaufenkonfiguration zu halten; und einen auf der Rückseite mit Klebstoff beschichteten (50) und im Wesentlichen transparenten Deckstreifen (34), der ein flexibles zentrales Fenstersegment (40) zwischen gegenüberliegenden Streifenenden (36, 38) definiert,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass

die gegenüberliegenden Streifenenden (36, 38) zunächst an dem Band (20) allgemein an gegenüberliegenden Enden des Informationsträgerbereichs (22) angeklebt werden, um das zentrale Fenstersegment (40) über dem Informationsträgerbereich (22) anzurordnen; wobei das zentrale Fenstersegment (40) ein Ende (46) enthält, das von dem Band (20) abgelöst werden kann, damit das Fenstersegment (40) relativ zu dem Band (20) abgehoben werden kann, um den Informationsträgerbereich (22) frei zu legen, um Bändchenträger-Informationen (12) aufzunehmen, wobei das Fenstersegment (40) daraufhin in eine Position bewegt werden kann, die sich über dem Informationsträgerbereich (22) befindet, wobei mindestens ein Umfangsrand des Fenstersegments (40) in versiegelnder Weise an dem Band (20) angeklebt ist, um einen versiegelnden Umfangsrand zu definieren, der um die Bändchenträger-Informationen (12) herum verläuft.

2. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, das des Weiteren eine abziehbare Trennfolie (42) enthält, der durch das zentrale Fenstersegment (40) getragen wird, um zunächst das zentrale Fenstersegment (40) von dem Band (20) zu lösen und dadurch zu verhindern, dass es an dem Informationsträgerbereich (22) auf dem Band (20) anhaftet, wobei die Trennfolie (42) frei liegt, damit sie zugänglich ist und von dem zentralen Fenstersegment (40) abgezogen werden kann, wenn das zentrale Fenstersegment

(40) relativ zu dem Band (20) abgehoben wird.

3. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei das eine Ende (46) des zentralen Fenstersegments (40) von einem der an dem Band (20) angeklebten Streifenenden (24, 26) abgelöst werden kann, damit das eine Ende (46) des Fenstersegments (40) relativ zu dem Band (20) abgehoben werden kann.

4. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Band (20) und das zentrale Fenstersegment (40) des Deckstreifens (34) aus einem im Wesentlichen feuchtigkeitsundurchlässigen Material bestehen.

5. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Bändchenträger-Informationen (12) durch einen Menschen lesbare Informationen umfassen.

6. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Bändchenträger-Informationen (12) maschinenlesbare Informationen umfassen.

7. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Bändchenträger-Informationen (12) in einem RFID-Transponder (15) gespeichert sind.

8. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Bändchenträger-Informationen (12) Strichcode-Informationen umfassen.

9. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Bändchenträger-Informationen (12) auf eine Karte, einen Anhänger oder ein Etikett (18) aufgebracht sind, wobei die Karte, der Anhänger oder das Etikett (18) eine Größe und eine Form aufweisen, die ihr Platzieren in dem Informationsträgerbereich (22) auf dem Band (20) gestatten.

10. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 3, das des Weiteren eine Schwächungslinie aufweist, die in dem Deckstreifen (34) allgemein an einem gegenüberliegenden Ende (46) des zentralen Fenstersegments (40) ausgebildet ist.

11. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, das des Weiteren eine Scharnierlinie (49) enthält, die in dem Deckstreifen (34) allgemein an einem gegenüberliegenden Ende (46) des zentralen Fenstersegments (40) ausgebildet ist.

12. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Informationsträgerbereich (22) auf dem Band (20) unabhängig von dem Befestigungsmittel (28, 30, 32) ist.

13. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wo-

bei das Befestigungsmittel (28, 30, 32) mindestens eine Befestigungsmittelkomponente (28, 30) umfasst, die allgemein an mindestens einem des ersten und des zweiten Endes (24, 26) des Bandes (20) angebracht ist.

14. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei mehrere der Identifizierungsbändchen (10) in Form einer Bahn (14) zusammengefasst sind und einzeln von dieser Bahn (40) entlang mindestens einer zwischen den Identifizierungsbändchen (10) befindlichen Schwächungslinie (44) abgetrennt werden können.

15. Identifizierungsbändchen (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei mehrere der Identifizierungsbändchen (10) Ende an Ende aneinander befestigt sind und einzeln entlang mindestens einer zwischen den Identifizierungsbändchen (10) befindlichen Schwächungslinie (90) abgetrennt werden können.

Revendications

1. Bracelet d'identification (10) comprenant une bande souple allongée (20) ayant une première extrémité (24) et une seconde extrémité (26), et définissant une zone portant des informations (22) d'un côté de celle-ci ; un moyen de fixation (28, 30, 32) pour maintenir ladite bande (20) dans une configuration en boucle fermée ; et une bande de couverture sensiblement transparente (34) à dos adhésif (50) définissant une partie fenêtre centrale souple (40) entre les extrémités opposées de la bande de couverture (36, 38),

caractérisé en ce que

lesdites extrémité opposées de la bande de couverture (36, 38) sont initialement collées sur ladite bande (20) généralement à des extrémités opposées de ladite zone portant des informations (22) pour positionner ladite partie fenêtre centrale (40) de manière à ce qu'elle recouvre ladite zone portant des informations (22) ; ladite partie fenêtre centrale (40) comprend une extrémité (46) séparable de ladite bande (20) pour permettre de soulever ladite partie fenêtre centrale (40) par rapport à ladite bande (20) afin d'exposer ladite zone portant des informations (22) pour recevoir des informations associées à l'utilisateur (12), ladite partie fenêtre centrale (40) pouvant alors être déplacée à une position recouvrant ladite zone portant des informations (22) avec au moins un périmètre de ladite partie fenêtre centrale (40) qui est collé de manière à la sceller sur ladite bande (20) pour définir un périmètre scellé circonscrivant les informations associées à l'utilisateur (12).

2. Bracelet d'identification (10) selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre une pellicule détachable (42)

portée par ladite partie fenêtre centrale (40) pour séparer initialement ladite partie fenêtre centrale (40) de ladite bande (20) et de ce fait empêcher qu'elle se colle sur ladite zone portant des informations (22) sur ladite bande (20), ladite pellicule détachable (42) étant exposée pour l'accès et le retrait de ladite partie fenêtre centrale (40), lorsque ladite partie fenêtre centrale (40) est soulevée de ladite bande (20).

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370 375 380 385 390 395 400 405 410 415 420 425 430 435 440 445 450 455 460 465 470 475 480 485 490 495 500 505 510 515 520 525 530 535 540 545 550 555 560 565 570 575 580 585 590 595 600 605 610 615 620 625 630 635 640 645 650 655 660 665 670 675 680 685 690 695 700 705 710 715 720 725 730 735 740 745 750 755 760 765 770 775 780 785 790 795 800 805 810 815 820 825 830 835 840 845 850 855 860 865 870 875 880 885 890 895 900 905 910 915 920 925 930 935 940 945 950 955 960 965 970 975 980 985 990 995 1000 1005 1010 1015 1020 1025 1030 1035 1040 1045 1050 1055 1060 1065 1070 1075 1080 1085 1090 1095 1100 1105 1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180 1185 1190 1195 1200 1205 1210 1215 1220 1225 1230 1235 1240 1245 1250 1255 1260 1265 1270 1275 1280 1285 1290 1295 1300 1305 1310 1315 1320 1325 1330 1335 1340 1345 1350 1355 1360 1365 1370 1375 1380 1385 1390 1395 1400 1405 1410 1415 1420 1425 1430 1435 1440 1445 1450 1455 1460 1465 1470 1475 1480 1485 1490 1495 1500 1505 1510 1515 1520 1525 1530 1535 1540 1545 1550 1555 1560 1565 1570 1575 1580 1585 1590 1595 1600 1605 1610 1615 1620 1625 1630 1635 1640 1645 1650 1655 1660 1665 1670 1675 1680 1685 1690 1695 1700 1705 1710 1715 1720 1725 1730 1735 1740 1745 1750 1755 1760 1765 1770 1775 1780 1785 1790 1795 1800 1805 1810 1815 1820 1825 1830 1835 1840 1845 1850 1855 1860 1865 1870 1875 1880 1885 1890 1895 1900 1905 1910 1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050 2055 2060 2065 2070 2075 2080 2085 2090 2095 2100 2105 2110 2115 2120 2125 2130 2135 2140 2145 2150 2155 2160 2165 2170 2175 2180 2185 2190 2195 2200 2205 2210 2215 2220 2225 2230 2235 2240 2245 2250 2255 2260 2265 2270 2275 2280 2285 2290 2295 2300 2305 2310 2315 2320 2325 2330 2335 2340 2345 2350 2355 2360 2365 2370 2375 2380 2385 2390 2395 2400 2405 2410 2415 2420 2425 2430 2435 2440 2445 2450 2455 2460 2465 2470 2475 2480 2485 2490 2495 2500 2505 2510 2515 2520 2525 2530 2535 2540 2545 2550 2555 2560 2565 2570 2575 2580 2585 2590 2595 2600 2605 2610 2615 2620 2625 2630 2635 2640 2645 2650 2655 2660 2665 2670 2675 2680 2685 2690 2695 2700 2705 2710 2715 2720 2725 2730 2735 2740 2745 2750 2755 2760 2765 2770 2775 2780 2785 2790 2795 2800 2805 2810 2815 2820 2825 2830 2835 2840 2845 2850 2855 2860 2865 2870 2875 2880 2885 2890 2895 2900 2905 2910 2915 2920 2925 2930 2935 2940 2945 2950 2955 2960 2965 2970 2975 2980 2985 2990 2995 3000 3005 3010 3015 3020 3025 3030 3035 3040 3045 3050 3055 3060 3065 3070 3075 3080 3085 3090 3095 3100 3105 3110 3115 3120 3125 3130 3135 3140 3145 3150 3155 3160 3165 3170 3175 3180 3185 3190 3195 3200 3205 3210 3215 3220 3225 3230 3235 3240 3245 3250 3255 3260 3265 3270 3275 3280 3285 3290 3295 3300 3305 3310 3315 3320 3325 3330 3335 3340 3345 3350 3355 3360 3365 3370 3375 3380 3385 3390 3395 3400 3405 3410 3415 3420 3425 3430 3435 3440 3445 3450 3455 3460 3465 3470 3475 3480 3485 3490 3495 3500 3505 3510 3515 3520 3525 3530 3535 3540 3545 3550 3555 3560 3565 3570 3575 3580 3585 3590 3595 3600 3605 3610 3615 3620 3625 3630 3635 3640 3645 3650 3655 3660 3665 3670 3675 3680 3685 3690 3695 3700 3705 3710 3715 3720 3725 3730 3735 3740 3745 3750 3755 3760 3765 3770 3775 3780 3785 3790 3795 3800 3805 3810 3815 3820 3825 3830 3835 3840 3845 3850 3855 3860 3865 3870 3875 3880 3885 3890 3895 3900 3905 3910 3915 3920 3925 3930 3935 3940 3945 3950 3955 3960 3965 3970 3975 3980 3985 3990 3995 4000 4005 4010 4015 4020 4025 4030 4035 4040 4045 4050 4055 4060 4065 4070 4075 4080 4085 4090 4095 4100 4105 4110 4115 4120 4125 4130 4135 4140 4145 4150 4155 4160 4165 4170 4175 4180 4185 4190 4195 4200 4205 4210 4215 4220 4225 4230 4235 4240 4245 4250 4255 4260 4265 4270 4275 4280 4285 4290 4295 4300 4305 4310 4315 4320 4325 4330 4335 4340 4345 4350 4355 4360 4365 4370 4375 4380 4385 4390 4395 4400 4405 4410 4415 4420 4425 4430 4435 4440 4445 4450 4455 4460 4465 4470 4475 4480 4485 4490 4495 4500 4505 4510 4515 4520 4525 4530 4535 4540 4545 4550 4555 4560 4565 4570 4575 4580 4585 4590 4595 4600 4605 4610 4615 4620 4625 4630 4635 4640 4645 4650 4655 4660 4665 4670 4675 4680 4685 4690 4695 4700 4705 4710 4715 4720 4725 4730 4735 4740 4745 4750 4755 4760 4765 4770 4775 4780 4785 4790 4795 4800 4805 4810 4815 4820 4825 4830 4835 4840 4845 4850 4855 4860 4865 4870 4875 4880 4885 4890 4895 4900 4905 4910 4915 4920 4925 4930 4935 4940 4945 4950 4955 4960 4965 4970 4975 4980 4985 4990 4995 5000 5005 5010 5015 5020 5025 5030 5035 5040 5045 5050 5055 5060 5065 5070 5075 5080 5085 5090 5095 5100 5105 5110 5115 5120 5125 5130 5135 5140 5145 5150 5155 5160 5165 5170 5175 5180 5185 5190 5195 5200 5205 5210 5215 5220 5225 5230 5235 5240 5245 5250 5255 5260 5265 5270 5275 5280 5285 5290 5295 5300 5305 5310 5315 5320 5325 5330 5335 5340 5345 5350 5355 5360 5365 5370 5375 5380 5385 5390 5395 5400 5405 5410 5415 5420 5425 5430 5435 5440 5445 5450 5455 5460 5465 5470 5475 5480 5485 5490 5495 5500 5505 5510 5515 5520 5525 5530 5535 5540 5545 5550 5555 5560 5565 5570 5575 5580 5585 5590 5595 5600 5605 5610 5615 5620 5625 5630 5635 5640 5645 5650 5655 5660 5665 5670 5675 5680 5685 5690 5695 5700 5705 5710 5715 5720 5725 5730 5735 5740 5745 5750 5755 5760 5765 5770 5775 5780 5785 5790 5795 5800 5805 5810 5815 5820 5825 5830 5835 5840 5845 5850 5855 5860 5865 5870 5875 5880 5885 5890 5895 5900 5905 5910 5915 5920 5925 5930 5935 5940 5945 5950 5955 5960 5965 5970 5975 5980 5985 5990 5995 6000 6005 6010 6015 6020 6025 6030 6035 6040 6045 6050 6055 6060 6065 6070 6075 6080 6085 6090 6095 6100 6105 6110 6115 6120 6125 6130 6135 6140 6145 6150 6155 6160 6165 6170 6175 6180 6185 6190 6195 6200 6205 6210 6215 6220 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formée dans ladite bande de couverture (34) généralement à une extrémité opposée (46) de ladite partie fenêtre centrale (40).

12. Bracelet d'identification (10) selon la revendication 5
1, dans lequel ladite zone portant des informations (22) sur ladite bande (20) est indépendante dudit moyen de fixation (28, 30, 32).

13. Bracelet d'identification (10) selon la revendication 10
1, dans lequel ledit moyen de fixation (28, 30, 32) comprend au moins un composant de fixation (28, 30) monté généralement à au moins l'une desdites première et seconde extrémités (24, 26) de ladite bande (20). 15

14. Bracelet d'identification (10) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel une pluralité desdits bracelets d'identification (10) sont assemblés sous une forme de feuille (14) et chacun d'entre eux peut être séparé de ladite forme de feuille (40) par déchirure le long d'au moins une ligne de faiblesse (44) entre eux. 20

15. Bracelet d'identification (10) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel une pluralité desdits bracelets d'identification (10) sont assemblés bout-à-bout et chacun d'entre eux peut être séparé le long d'au moins une ligne de faiblesse (90) entre eux. 25

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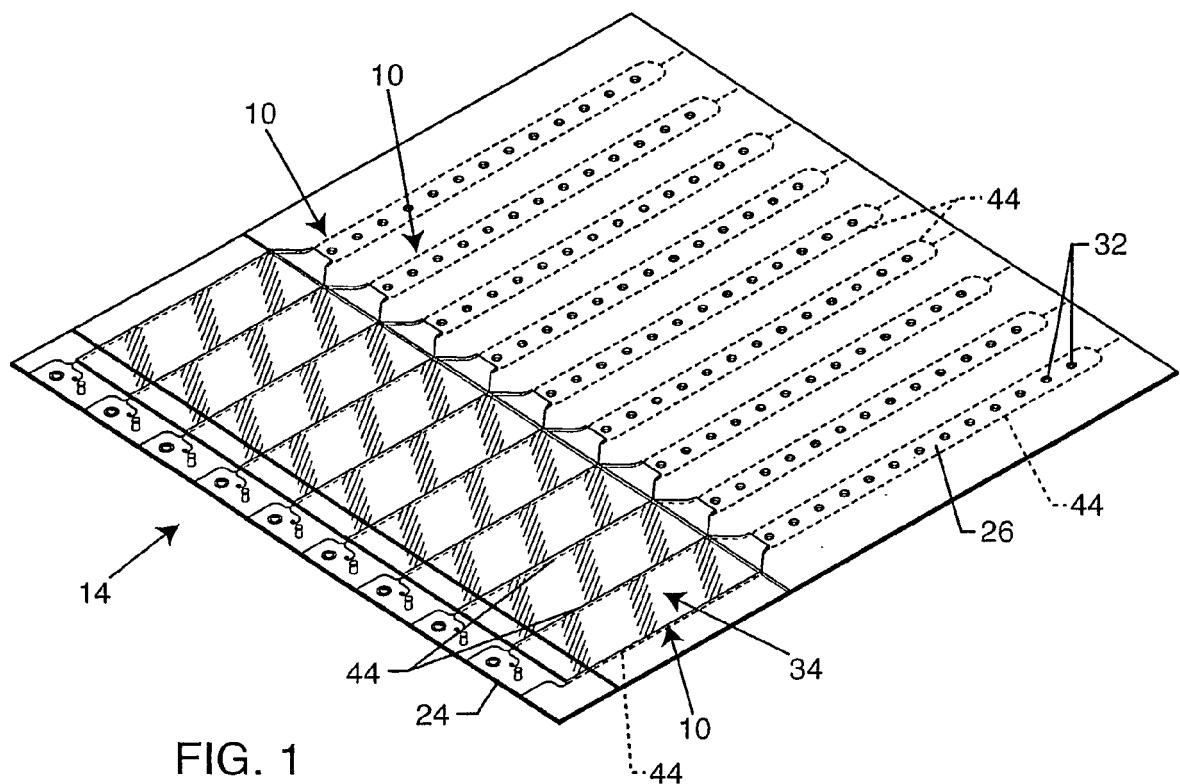


FIG. 1

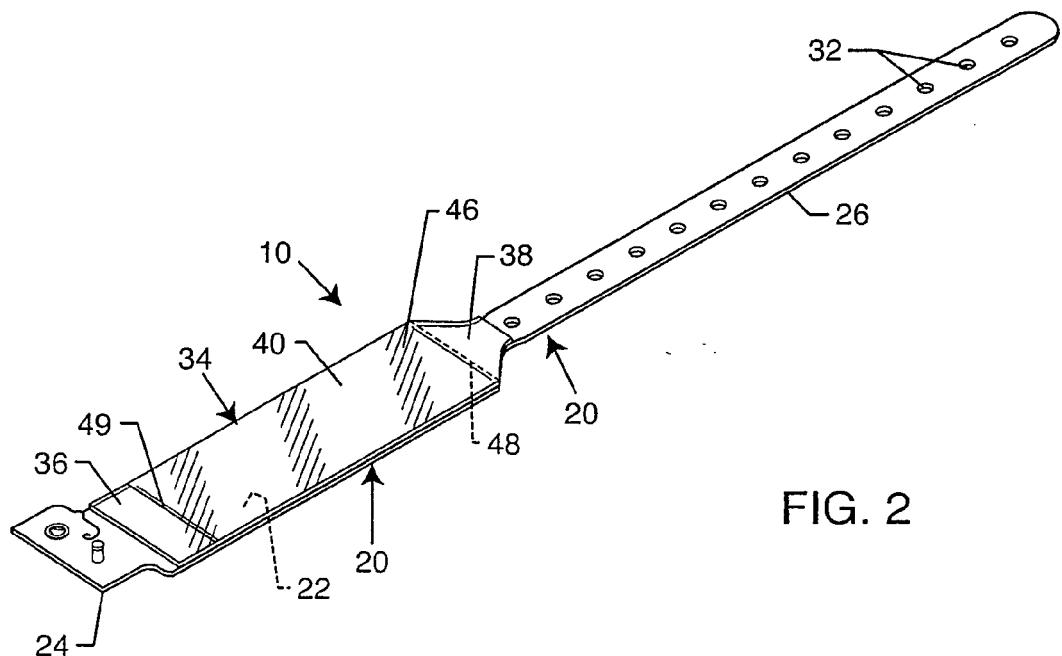


FIG. 2

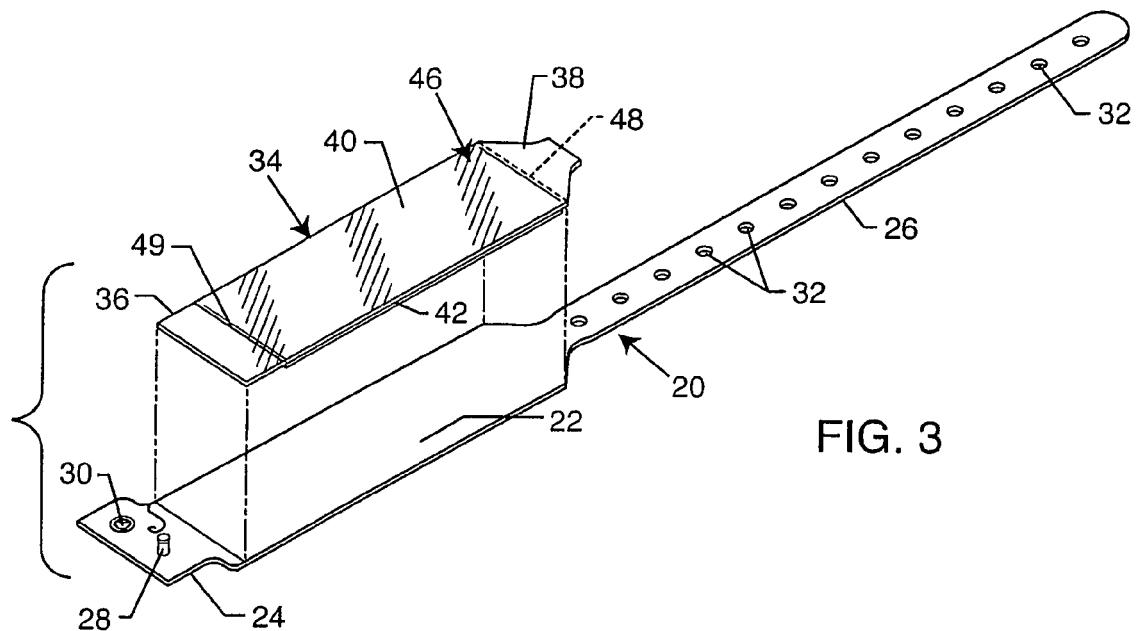


FIG. 3

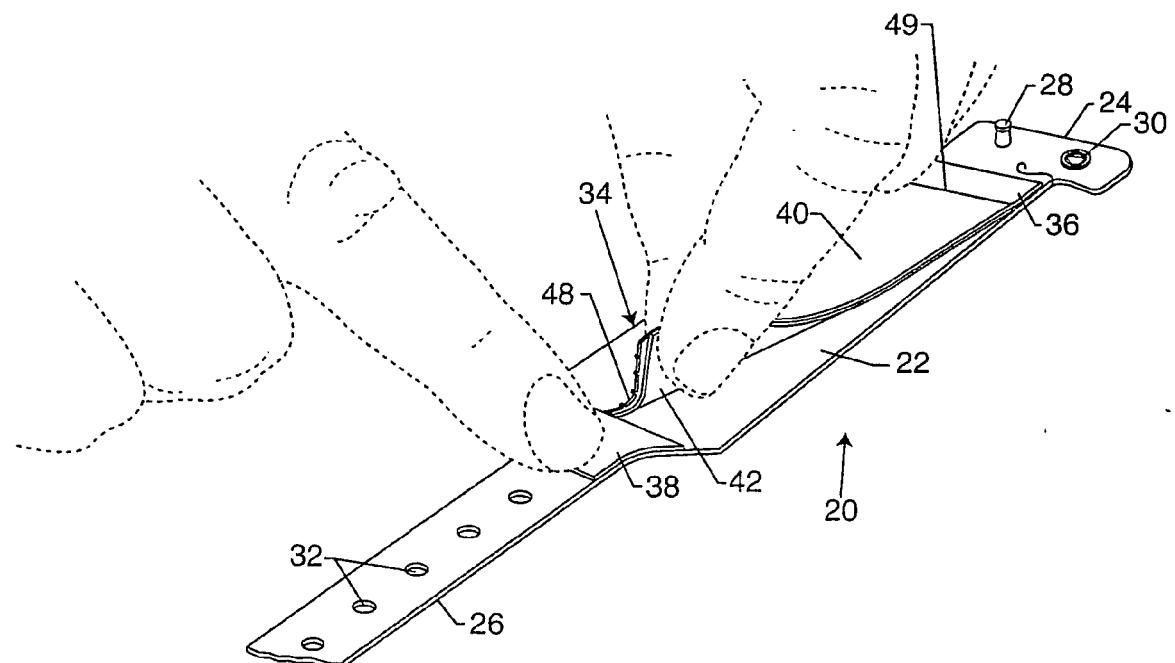


FIG. 4

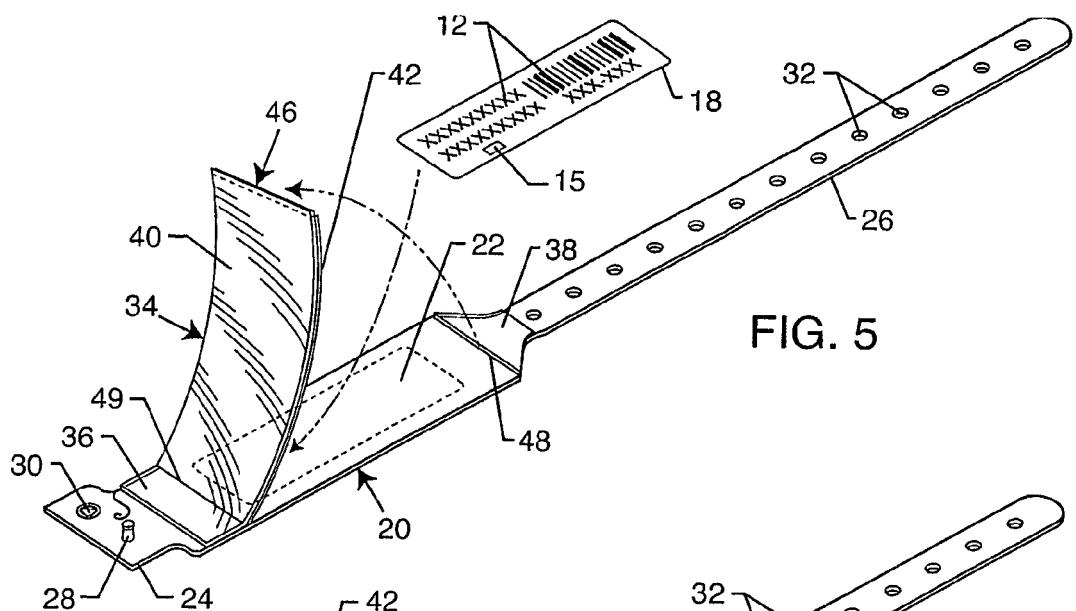


FIG. 5

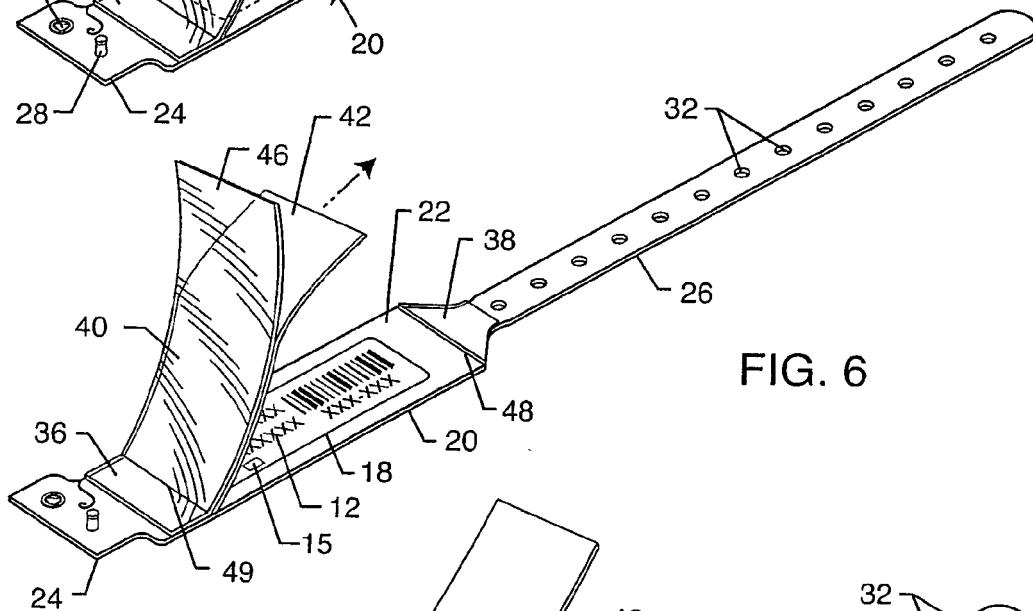


FIG. 6

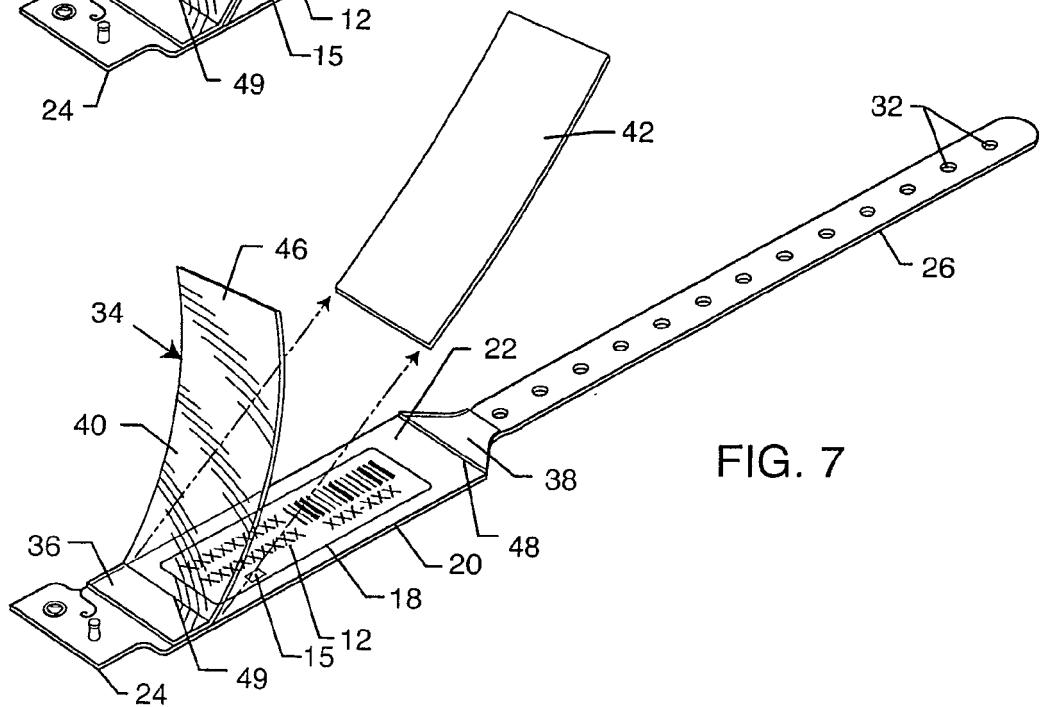


FIG. 7

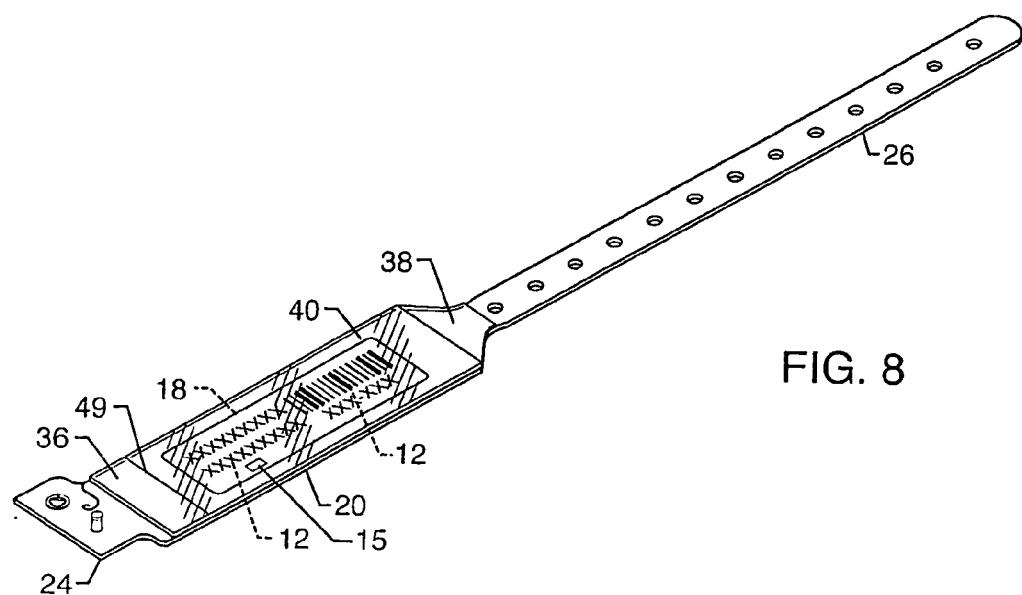


FIG. 8

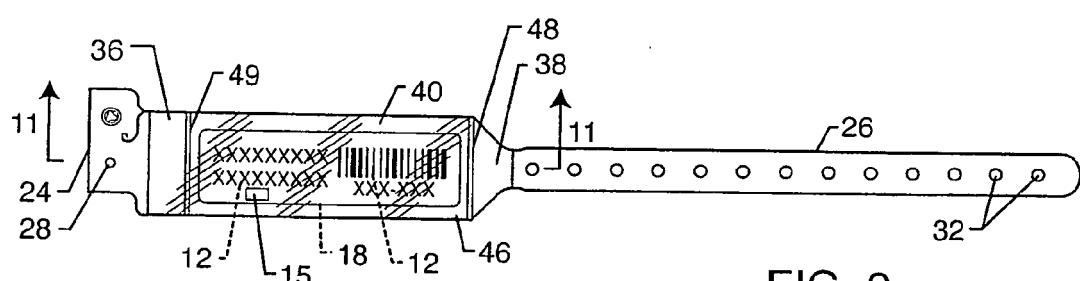


FIG. 9

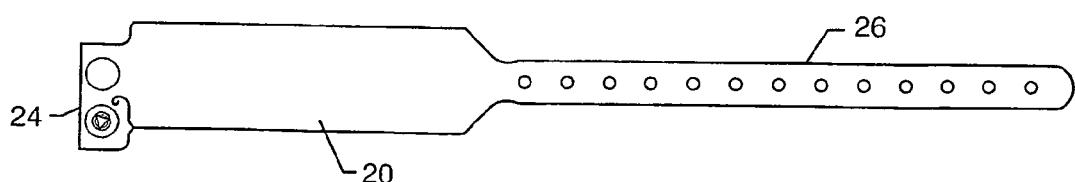


FIG. 10

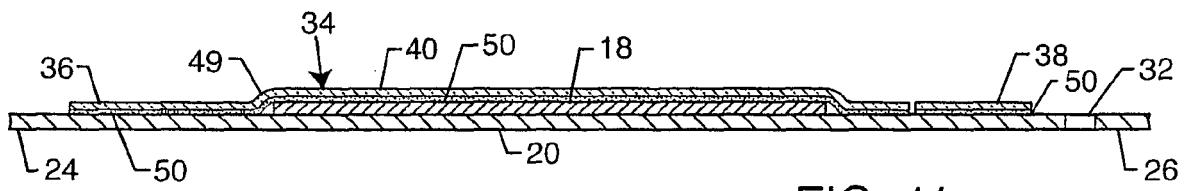


FIG. 11

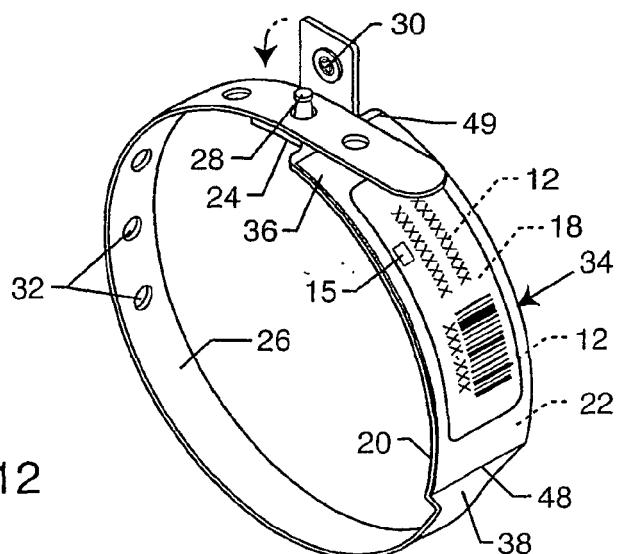


FIG. 12

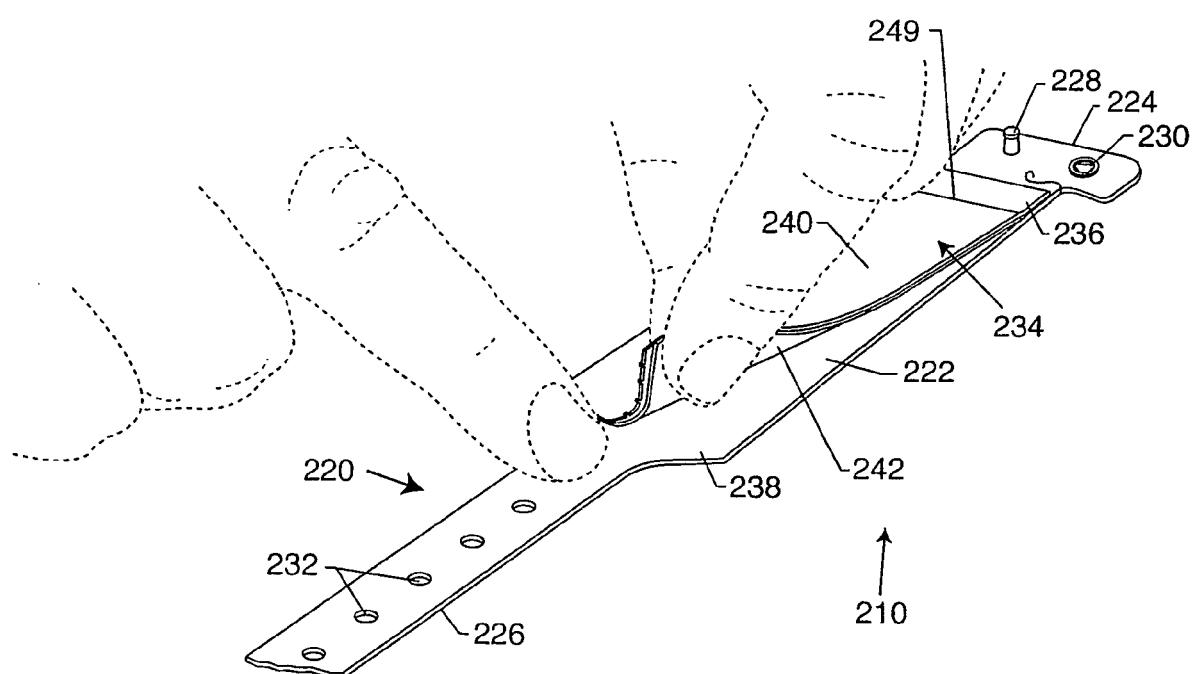
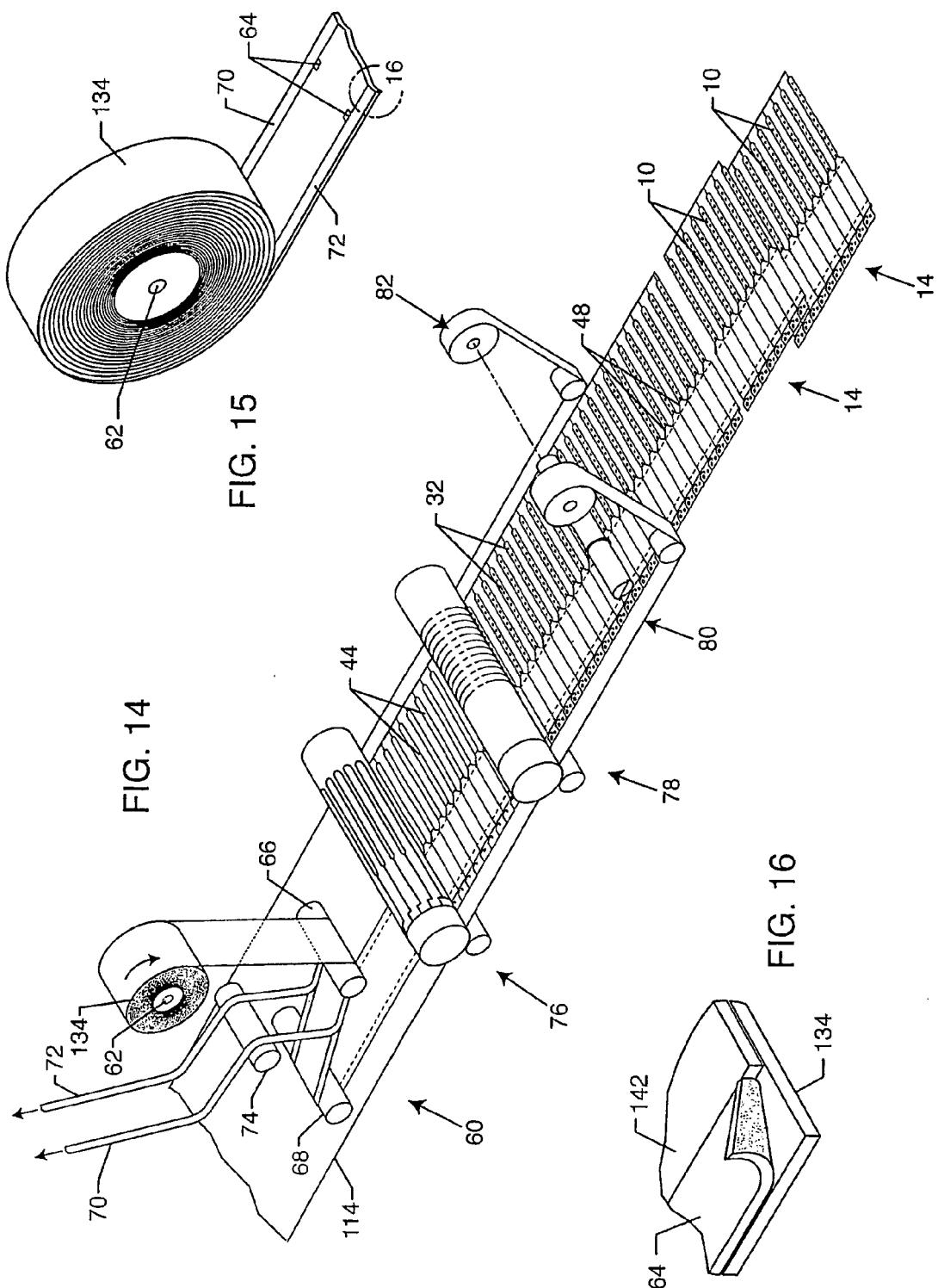
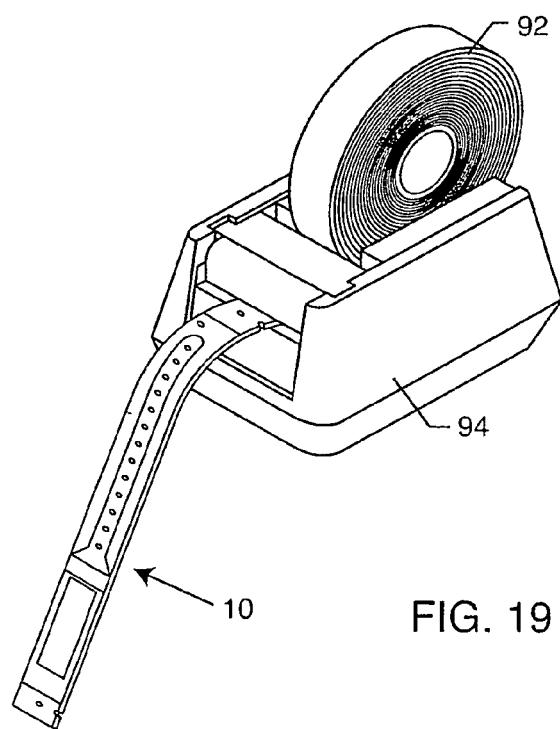
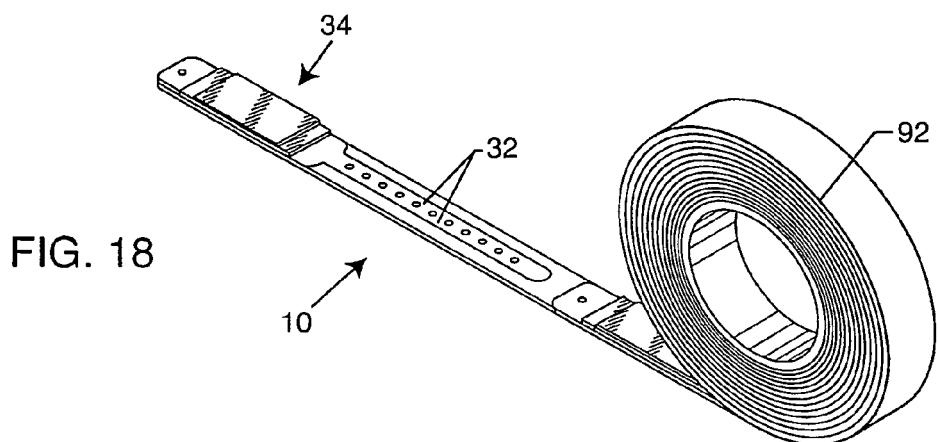
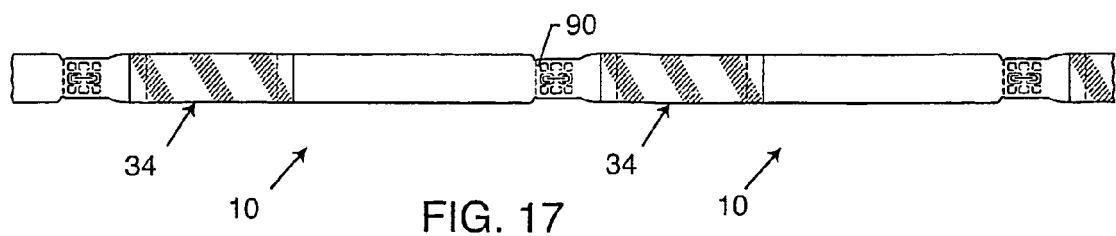


FIG. 13





REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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