ICYOF 00158

VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

Re: International Patent Application No. PCT/JP95/00805
FILING SHEET FOR ACCOMMODATING SHEET PIECES

I, Yoshio Yamaguchi c/o. Yamaguchi Patent & Trademark Firm of 2nd Floor, Shouei Bldg., 17-9, Atago 4-chome, Tama-shi, Tokyo, Japan, hereby declare that I am conversant with the document attached and certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the following is a true and correct translation of International Patent Application No. PCT/JP95/00805.

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Dated this 28th day of December 1996

SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

FILING SHEET FOR ACCOMMODATING SHEET PIECES

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a filing sheet for mainly accommodating sheet pieces such as photographs, postcards, name cards, or the like.

BACKGROUND ART

In recent years, the diversification of functions of cameras has made it possible to arbitrarily take photographs of a so-called panoramic size in addition to those of a standard size. Since photographs of this panoramic size are longer as compared to conventional standard-size photographs, filing sheets for an album have appeared in which both standard-size and panoramic-size photographs can be accommodated and stored in single filing sheets for an album.

Fig. 6 illustrates an example of a conventional filing sheet for an album which is capable of selectively accommodating standard-size and panoramic-size photographs. This filing sheet for an album is comprised of a rectangular filing-sheet forming paper 30 and a transparent film 31 for covering obverse and reverse surfaces of the filing-sheet forming paper 30 on one side thereof.

The left-hand side, as viewed in Fig. 6, of the filing-sheet forming paper 30 is bound in an unillustrated

binder. As for the filing-sheet forming paper 30, its upper and lower edge portions which are covered by the film 31 are slightly cut off to form allowances for heat sealing. Punched portions 35, 36 in a first row are formed with the same dimensions at two portions along an upper edge of the filing-sheet forming paper 30, while punched portions 37, 38 and 39, 40 in second and third rows, which have the same dimensions, are formed below these punched portions 35, 36.

The obverse and reverse portions of the film 31 are connected to each other at two heat-sealed portions 41, 42 located at an upper end of the film 31 and arranged along the punched portions 35, 36 in the first row, and at a heat-sealed portion 49 located at a lower end of the film 31, and heat-sealed portions 43 to 48, in which the obverse and reverse portions of the film 31 are heat-sealed in spots, are formed in areas of the punched portions 35 to 40. Consequently, accommodating areas for respectively accommodating standard-size photographs P1, P2, and P3 are formed at three portions, while an area for accommodating a panoramic-size photograph P4 is formed along a vertical direction.

According to such a filing sheet for an album, there is an advantage in that photographs whose sizes vary substantially can be selectively accommodated by a single filing sheet, and that panoramic-size photographs which

have found widespread use in recent years can be accommodated in a single album, making it possible to preserve continuous souvenir photographs.

However, with such a filing sheet for an album arranged as described above, since the punching dimensions of the punched portions 35 to 40 are the same, the heat sealing areas of the heat-sealed portions 43 to 48 inevitably become mutually identical. For that reason, when the panoramic-size photograph P4, in particular, is inserted and removed repeatedly, the binding-side heat-sealed portion 43 located in the first row becomes gradually fragile, so that there has been a drawback in that the obverse and reverse portions of the film 31 are liable to be separated from each other.

It is true that since the above-described filing sheet for an album has at a position above the heat-sealed portion 43 the additional heat-sealed portion 41 whose length is identical to that of the heat-sealed portion 43, it is possible to increase the strength to a certain extent. However, since the heat-sealed portion 41 is located outside the the filing-sheet forming paper 30, there arises a drawback in that the appearance is undermined. Moreover, with the conventional structure, the heat-sealed portion 49 located at the lower edge of the film 31 appears noticeably outside the filing-sheet forming paper 30, and the appearance is undermined in this respect as well.

The present invention has been devised to overcome the drawbacks of such a conventional example, and its object is to provide a filing sheet for an album which is capable of improving the strengthwise reliability by preventing the separation of obverse and reverse portions of the film within a heat-sealed portion located on an inserting/removing-opening side where a load is liable to be applied when sheet pieces such as photographs are inserted or removed, and which is capable of improving the appearance by forming the heat-sealed portions at positions where they are not noticeable.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

To attain the above object, in accordance with the present invention, in a filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces, comprising: a filing-sheet forming paper having punched portions or notched portions at predetermined positions; and a bag-like film for covering a fixed area on one side of said filing-sheet forming paper from obverse and reverse sides thereof, heat-sealed portions for heat-sealing obverse and reverse portions of said film being provided in said punched portions or said notched portions so as to allow one or two or more kinds of sheet pieces being capable of being accommodated between said filing-sheet forming paper and said film, an arrangement is provided wherein said heat-sealed portions are provided along a direction in which the sheet pieces

are inserted or removed, and a heat-sealing area of at least one of said heat-sealed portions located on a side of an inserting/removing opening of the sheet pieces is set to be larger than that of another one of said heat-sealed portions.

In addition, in accordance with the present invention, in a filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces, comprising: a filing-sheet forming paper having punched portions or notched portions at predetermined positions; and a bag-like film for covering a fixed area on one side of said filing-sheet forming paper from obverse and reverse sides thereof, heat-sealed portions for heat-sealing said film being provided in said punched portions or said notched portions so as to allow sheet pieces having a first size to be accommodated in a transverse direction of the filing-sheet forming paper and to allow a sheet piece having a second size to be accommodated from a longitudinal one-end side, an arrangement is preferably adopted wherein there are provided one or two or more heat-sealed portions which are located on a side of an inserting/removing opening of the sheet piece having the second size and are located on a side where said filing-sheet forming paper is bound, and an aggregate total of these heat-sealing areas is set to be relatively larger than that of another one of said heat-sealed portions. Here, it is preferred that said heat-sealed portion which is located on the side of the

inserting/removing opening of the sheet piece having the second size and is located on the side where said filingsheet forming paper is bound be provided by being dispersed into two or more portions, and that said heat-sealed portion located on an opposite side to the binding side be set to be larger than said heat-sealed portion on the binding side.

Incidentally, said film is preferably formed by using an two-edge-open type bag made of a single sheet material.

In addition, said heat-sealed portions are disposed at intervals which allow the standard-size photographs and/or the panoramic-size photograph to be selectively accommodated.

In the filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces in accordance with the present invention, since the heat sealing area of the heat-sealed portion located on the inserting/removing-opening side when the photographs, postcards, and the like as objects to be accommodated are inserted or removed is set to be relatively larger than the heat-sealing area of each of the other heat-sealed portions, the strength of the heat-sealed portion on the inserting/removing-opening side is physically enhanced. Accordingly, the possibility of separation of the obverse and reverse portions of the film at that heat-sealed portion due to the frequent insertion and removal of the sheet pieces is effectively reduced. In addition, in an

arrangement in which sheet pieces of varying sizes are made capable of being accommodated, particularly in cases where the sheet pieces are photographs, photographs of different sizes can be selectively accommodated, so that it is possible to accommodate serial record photographs.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a front view illustrating a first embodiment to which a filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces in accordance with the present invention is applied to a filing sheet for an album;

Fig. 2 is a front view of a filing-sheet forming paper in the embodiment;

Fig. 3 is a front view illustrating a second embodiment;

Fig. 4 is a front view illustrating a third embodiment;

Fig. 5 is a front view illustrating a fourth embodiment; and

Fig. 6 is a front view illustrating a conventional filing sheet for an album.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Referring now to the accompanying drawings, a detailed description will be given of the preferred embodiments of the present invention. It should be noted that, in the following description, the same reference numerals as those of the above-described conventional example will be used as

necessary.

<First Embodiment>

Fig. 1 illustrates a first embodiment in which the filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces in accordance with the present invention is applied to a filing sheet for a so-called pocket album. In this drawing, the filing sheet for a pocket album is comprised of a rectangular filing-sheet forming paper 10 and a transparent film 11 capable of covering obverse and reverse surfaces of the filing-sheet forming paper 10 on one side thereof, i.e., over a range which is slightly more than half of the right-hand side of the filing-sheet forming paper 10 in the drawing.

Binding perforations 10A are formed at two vertical positions along the left side edge of the filing-sheet forming paper 10, so that the filing sheets for an album can be consecutively bound in an unillustrated binder by means of unillustrated binder pins or the like. This filing-sheet forming paper 10 is formed in a vertically elongated rectangular shape as a whole, and substantially U-shaped notched portions 13, 14 are formed at two positions at its upper edge, as shown in Fig. 2. At this juncture, of the notched portions 13, 14, the notched portion 13 which is located on the binding side of the filing-sheet forming paper 10 is notched in a horizontally more elongated shape than the other notched portion 14 and

is hence provided with a larger notch area. Punched portions 15 to 18 are formed at predetermined intervals at positions vertically below these notched portions 13, 14 as viewed in the drawing, and these punched portions 15 to 18, together with the notched portions 13, 14, form allowances for heat sealing for the film 11.

The film 11 is made of a single sheet material, and is formed by using a raw film in which a transparent belt-like film, such as polypropylene or polyethylene obtained by, for instance, an inflation film forming method, is formed into a continuous bag shape. In this embodiment, the film 11 is formed by using a bag whose two sides are open as the bag is cut open at a center along the extending direction of the raw film. Specifically, the left-hand edge and the upper edge in Fig. 1 are open edges, while the bottom edge and the right-hand edge on the opposite side to the binding side are closed edges. Heat-sealed portions 20 to 25 for connecting the obverse and reverse portions of the film 11 are respectively provided in the areas of the notched portions 13, 14 and the punched portions 15 to 18 in a state in which the obverse and reverse surfaces of the filing-sheet forming paper 10 are covered by the film 11.

Here, as for the heat-sealed portion 20 provided in the area of the notched portion 13, its heat-sealing area is set to be larger than that of each of the other heat-sealed portions 21 to 25 due to the fact that the notch

area of the notched portion 13 is made large. Incidentally, the heat-sealed portions 21 to 25 are provided with mutually substantially identical heat-sealing lengths.

When photographs P1 to P3 of a standard size which is a first size are accommodated in the filing sheet for an album thus arranged, the photographs P1 to P3 can be accommodated into the gap between the filing-sheet forming paper 10 and the film 11 from the binding side of the filing-sheet forming paper 10 by using the surface thereof as a guide surface. Meanwhile, when a photograph P4 of a panoramic size which is a second size is accommodated, the photograph P4 can be accommodated if the gap on the upperend opening side is opened by slightly enlarging the upper-end open side by using a finger, and if the photograph P4 is inserted by setting the upper end side of the film 11 as an inserting/removing opening in this state.

Accordingly, in accordance with the above-described first embodiment, since the heat-sealing area of the heat-sealed portion 20 on the binding side of the filing-sheet forming paper 10, of the heat-sealed portions 20, 21 located on the inserting/removing-opening side when inserting the panoramic-size photograph P4, is set to be relatively larger, the strength at that position is physically enhanced. Hence, there is an advantage in that it is possible to effectively avoid the separation of the obverse and reverse portions of the film 11 at the heat-sealed

portion 20 due to the insertion and removal of the panoramic-size photograph P4, in particular. If a detailed description of this advantage is given, when accommodating the standard-size photographs P1 to P3, if the photographs P1 to P3 are slid by using the surface of the filing-sheet forming paper 10 as a guide surface, the photographs P1 to P3 can be easily accommodated without applying a large load to the aforementioned heat-sealed portions. On the other hand, when accommodating the panoramic photograph P4, since the initial guide surface is not present, the photograph P4 cannot be accommodated in the close gap between the filing-sheet forming paper 10 and the film in a similar sliding operation. Therefore, when accommodating the panoramic photograph P4, an operation of inserting a finger into the interior of the gap and enlarging the gap is required so as to form an artificial gap between the filing-sheet forming paper 10 and the film 11, with the result that a large load is applied to the heat-sealed portion 20, in particular. In this embodiment, however, since the heat-sealed portion 20 is arranged to be provided with a relatively larger heat-sealing area, the separation of the obverse and reverse portions of the film 11 can be effectively prevented even by the above-described operation since the heat-sealed portion 20 is arranged to be provided with a relatively larger heat-sealing area.

In addition, in this embodiment, the same number of

photographs P1 to P3 or P4 as that in the conventional case can be accommodated by means of a total of six heat-sealed portions 20 to 25, so that the simplification of the arrangement can be also realized by reducing the number of heat-sealed portions by at least 2.

Moreover, the heat-sealed portions 20 to 25 of the film 11 are respectively provided in the areas embedded in the filing-sheet forming paper 10, and are arranged, so to speak, in such a manner as to be fused with the filing-sheet forming paper 10. Hence, there is an advantage in that these heat-sealed portions 20 to 25 become unnoticeable, thereby making it possible to secure a good appearance.

In addition, the filing-sheet forming paper 10 is obtained by punching very small portions of a substantially rectangular original paper, and as compared with a conventional filing-sheet forming paper in which relatively large portions are cut at upper and lower edges, the amount of material wasted is small. Hence, it is possible to expect an advantage that this arrangement contributes to the conservation of resources when seen macroscopically.

Next, a description will be given of other embodiments of the present invention. It should be noted that, in the following embodiments, the same reference numerals will be used for component parts identical to or equivalent to those of the above-described first embodiment, and a

description thereof will be omitted or simplified.

<Second Embodiment>

Fig. 3 shows a second embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the heat-sealed portion 20 located on the upper-edge side is dispersed into two portions along the horizontal direction, and the other arrangements are identical to those of the above-described first embodiment.

If the heat-sealed portions 20 of the dispersed type are adopted, it is possible to impart additional advantages in that the risk of the concentration of the shrinkage of the film 11 on one spot during heat sealing can be reduced to improve the product accuracy, and that even if one of the heat-sealed portions 20 is separated, it is possible to prevent the possibility of separation in a continuous manner.

<Third Embodiment>

Fig. 4 shows a third embodiment of the present invention. This embodiment is suitable for accommodating postcards PC1 and PC2, such as New Year's cards and Christmas cards, an the panoramic-size photograph P4 as objects to be accommodated. Specifically, the heat-sealed portions 22, 23 are formed immediately below the heat sealed portions 20 and 21, respectively. Also, punched portions 26, 27 are provided slightly below the heat-sealed portions 24, 25, and heat-sealed portions 28, 29 are

additionally provided in the punched portions 26, 27, thereby making it possible to accommodate the two postcards PC1, PC2 and the panoramic-size photograph P4. The other arrangements are substantially identical to those of the first embodiment.

According to such an arrangement, an advantage can be obtained in that different kinds of objects to be accommodated can be accommodated in a single filing sheet.

<Fourth Embodiment>

Fig. 5 illustrates a fourth embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the arrangement of the above-described third embodiment is partially modified. Specifically, the notched portion 13 on the upper-end side is dispersed into two portions that are horizontally adjacent to each other, the heat-sealed portions 20, 20 are provided in the areas of the notched portions 13, respectively, such that the aggregate total of the heat-sealing areas of these heat-sealed portions 20, 20 becomes relatively larger than that of each of the other heat-sealed portions. At this juncture, of the heat-sealed portions 20, 20, the heat-sealing length of the heat-sealed portion 20 located on the side away from the binding side, i.e., the right-hand side in Fig. 5, is set to be slightly greater than the heat-sealed portion 20 on the binding side, i.e., on the left-hand side in the drawing, with the result that an attempt has been made to enhance the

strength against the load applied when the photograph P4, in particular, is inserted or removed. The other arrangements are identical to those of the third embodiment.

It should be noted that although, in the above-described embodiments, only the heat-sealed portion 20 is provided with a relatively larger heat-sealing area, the heat-sealed portions 15, 17, and 28 on the side where the standard-size photographs P1 to P3 are inserted and removed may also be provided with large heat-sealing areas. If such an arrangement is adopted, it is possible to further prevent the possibility of separation of the obverse and reverse portions of the film 11 due to the insertion and removal of the standard-size photographs P1 to P3, thereby making it possible to ensure long periods of use.

In addition, the present invention is similarly applicable to a filing sheet for a name card holder or the like. Nevertheless, if the general form of storage of name cards is considered, the sorting or replacement of the name cards is frequently carried out over time, the possibility of separation of the heat-sealed portions located on the side of insertion and removal of the name cards becomes even greater, so that the heat-sealing areas of all the heat-sealed portions that are located on the side of insertion and removal of the name cards are preferably set to be larger than those of the heat-sealed portions on the

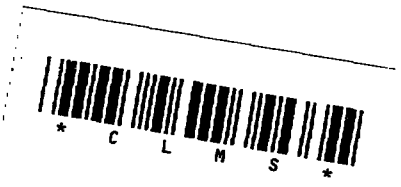
innermost side.

The present invention is arranged as described above, it is possible to provide a filing sheet for for accommodating sheet pieces which is capable of demonstrating unprecedentedly outstanding advantages in that the strengthwise reliability can be improved by preventing the separation of obverse and reverse portions of the film within a heat-sealed portion located on an inserting/removing-opening side where a load is liable to be applied when sheet pieces such as photographs are inserted or removed, and that the appearance can be improved by forming the heat-sealed portions at positions where they are not noticeable.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The present invention can be used for an album in which the accommodation of standard-size photographs, postcards, name cards, and the like and the accommodation of panoramic-size photographs can be selectively effected by a single filing sheet.

CLAIMS



1. A filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces, comprising: a filing-sheet forming paper having punched portions or notched portions at predetermined positions; and a bag-like film for covering a fixed area on one side of said filing-sheet forming paper from obverse and reverse sides thereof, heat-sealed portions for heat-sealing obverse and reverse portions of said film being provided in said punched portions or said notched portions so as to allow one or two or more kinds of sheet pieces being capable of being accommodated between said filing-sheet forming paper and said film, wherein said heat-sealed portions are provided along a direction in which the sheet pieces are inserted or removed, and a heat-sealing area of at least one of said heat-sealed portions located on a side of an inserting/removing opening of the sheet pieces is set to be larger than that of another one of said heat-sealed portions.

2. A filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces, comprising: a filing-sheet forming paper having punched portions or notched portions at predetermined positions; and a bag-like film for covering a fixed area on one side of said filing-sheet forming paper from obverse and reverse sides thereof, heat-sealed portions for heat-sealing said film being provided in said punched portions or said

notched portions so as to allow sheet pieces having a first size to be accommodated in a transverse direction of the filing-sheet forming paper and to allow a sheet piece having a second size to be accommodated from a longitudinal one-end side, wherein there is provided at least one heat-sealed portion which is located on a side of an inserting/removing opening of the sheet piece having the second size and is located on a side where said filing-sheet forming paper is bound, and an aggregate total of these heat-sealing areas is set to be relatively larger than that of another one of said heat-sealed portions.

3. A filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces according to Claim 2, wherein said heat-sealed portion which is located on the side of the inserting/removing opening of the sheet piece having the second size and is located on the side where said filing-sheet forming paper is bound is provided by being dispersed into two or more portions, and said heat-sealed portion located on an opposite side to the binding side is set to be larger than said heat-sealed portion on the binding side.

4. A filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said film is formed by using an two-edge-open type bag made of a single sheet material.

5. A filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said heat-

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sealed portions are disposed at intervals which allow the standard-size photographs and the panoramic-size photograph to be selectively accommodated.

6. A filing sheet for accommodating sheet pieces according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said heat-sealed portions are disposed at intervals which allow postcards and the panoramic-size photograph to be selectively accommodated.