

SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to a marker tag

This invention relates to a marker tag and, more particularly, to a marker tag to be attached to the handle or other suitable portion of luggage.

Luggage markers comprising a single member formed of a moulded synthetic polymer to be used for identifying luggage have been proposed, particularly for airline baggage identification.

These markers generally comprise an elongated strip having a label-receiving portion and a strap portion. The strap is generally integrally moulded with the label-receiving portion for securement of the marker tag to the handle or other suitable portion of a piece of luggage. Various structures have been proposed wherein the strap portion or even part of the label-receiving portion is looped back upon itself to attach the identification marker tag to the luggage.

However, a disadvantage of luggage markers of the type described is that no structure is provided for securing or locking the marker strap in place when it is secured to a piece of luggage.

The object of the present invention is to provide an improved luggage marker.

According to this invention, there is provided a marker tag comprising: an indicia-receiving body portion; an elongated strap, bifurcated to form two spaced apart legs, and having one end integral with the body portion, the end of the strap distal to the body portion being closed by a bight portion shaped to define a transversely extending slot, the bifurcation of the strap being dimensioned to allow the passage of the body portion therethrough for providing a strap loop for fastening the marker tag to a piece of luggage and the transversely extending slot being adapted to accommodate the legs when the tag is thus looped such that each leg lies at a respective end of the slot; and means integral with the strap for selectively fixing the dimension of a loop so formed as the strap is pulled tight.

A locking means is also preferably provided which materially assists in assuring that the luggage marker tag is not significantly movable along the portion of the luggage to which it is secured. This greatly reduces the likelihood of the strap portion being excessively weakened by abrasion or being marked, and thus severed, as often naturally occurs when a luggage marker tag loosely slides back and forth along the handle of a piece of luggage.

So that the invention may be more readily understood and so that further features thereof may be appreciated, a luggage marker in accordance with the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of a luggage marker tag in accordance with the invention, shown as secured in a locked position on a handle, not shown, of a piece of luggage;

Figure 2 is a top plane view of the luggage

marker tag of Figure 1, in a flat extended position;

Figure 3 is a vertical longitudinal cross-section of the luggage marker tag of Figure 1 taken in the direction of the arrows 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a vertical longitudinal cross-section of the luggage marker tag of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical transverse cross-section taken in the direction of the arrows 5—5 of Figure 4 particularly showing specific details of the strap locking mechanism; and

Figure 6 is an enlarged vertical transverse cross-section taken in the direction of the arrows 6—6 of Figure 4 particularly showing details of means for securing an indicia bearing label within a body portion of the luggage marker tag.

Referring first to Figures 1 and 2, the luggage marker indicated generally at 10 comprises an indicia-receiving body portion, indicated generally at 12, having integrally formed therewith an elongated bifurcated strap indicated generally at 14 for fastening the luggage marker 10 to a piece of luggage, not shown, for example by securement to a portion of the luggage, such as a handle, in manner that will become clear as the description proceeds. Figure 1 shows the marker 10 in the fastened position and Figure 2 shows it in the unfastened position.

The preferred embodiment 10 of the luggage marker includes means indicated generally at 16 for securing and protecting an indicia-bearing label which is placed within the body portion 12. In the preferred embodiment illustrated, the securing and protecting means 16 comprises an elongated window 18 integral with a base wall 20 of the body portion 12 and the window 18 is attached to the base wall 20 by means of a hinge 22 of reduced transverse dimension for reasons that will become clear as the description proceeds.

In the preferred embodiment illustrated, the elongated bifurcated strap indicated generally at 14 comprises strap legs 24 and 26 provided distal to their attachment to the body portion 12, with a bight portion 28. As can be seen from a simultaneous consideration of Figures 1 and 2, an indicia-bearing label indicated generally at 30, comprising heavy weight paper stock, cardboard, or the like, and bearing a name and address, for example, is shown in secured and protected position trapped between a surface 32 of the window 18 and a surface 34 of the base wall 20. In the preferred embodiment 10 of the luggage marker, the window 18 is provided with a longitudinally extending tab 36, and means to be described in greater detail hereinbelow are provided for providing latching engagement of the window 18 and of the body portion 12 with an indicia-bearing label 30 trapped therebetween. As is best seen in Figure 3, the hinge 22 comprises a transversely extending region of reduced thickness, relative to the thickness of the window 18, to facilitate positioning the window 18 as illustrated in Figures 1, 4 and 6.

Turning now to a description of Figures 4 and 5, taken together with the simultaneous

consideration of the foregoing figures and particularly Figure 1, it will be understood that the elongated slot, indicated generally at 18, provided by the peripheral portions comprising the body portion 12, the strap legs 24 and 26 and the strap bight portion 28 is so dimensioned as to allow the passage of the body portion 12 therethrough. Thereafter, as is best seen from a simultaneous consideration of Figures 1, 4 and 5, the strap legs 24 and 26 are turned back upon themselves with the strap legs 24 and 26 passing through the bight portion 28 of the bifurcated strap 14 to provide a strap loop, indicated generally at 40, for fastening the luggage marker 10 about a portion of a piece of luggage, not shown, such as for example in encircling engagement relative to a handle.

A significant aspect of the invention resides in the provision of means, indicated generally at 42, for selectively fixing the dimension of the strap loop 40 so that the strap will lock in encircling engagement the luggage handle, or the like. This engagement assists materially in reducing the likelihood of the luggage marker 10 becoming detached from the piece of luggage, for example by being excessively weakened by abrasion as a result of movement back and forth across the luggage handle, or by the straps defining the luggage loop 40 being snared and possibly severed such as often occurs during the handling of luggage while in the possession of a common carrier.

In the preferred embodiment 10 illustrated, the bight portion 28 and the ends of the strap legs 24 and 26 distal to the body portion 12 define a transversely extending elongated slot 46 dimensioned to receive the strap legs 24 and 26. The bight portion 28 comprises an integral bight tab portion 48 that projects into the bight slot 46, which tab 48 is dimensioned to hinder displacement of the strap legs 24 and 26 from their fastened position, as is best appreciated from the simultaneous consideration of Figures 1 and 5. Thus, a lock means is provided for releasably securing the bight portion 28 relative to the strap legs 24 and 26.

The strap legs 24 and 26 in the preferred embodiment 10 comprise generally aligned transverse notches 50 provided in that part of the strap loop 40 which, in the fastened position of the strap, comprises the outer surface 52 of the strap loop 40. The transverse notches 50 coact with the bight tab 48 to provide a detent means so that the laterally disposed portions 49 of the bight tab 48 can snap-lock into respective associated transverse notches 50 as the strap loop 40 is reduced in dimension by being pulled tight about the luggage handle. The tightening is achieved by pulling on the body portion 12 in the direction of the arrow A shown adjacent thereto in Figure 1. From a further consideration of Figures 1 and 5, it will be seen that the transverse notches 50, by virtue of providing regions of reduced thickness, provide one-way hinging of the strap legs 24 and 26, thus facilitating formation of the strap loop 40.

Turning now to a specific description of Figure 6, taken together with the foregoing description of Figures 1 and 2 in particular, it will be seen that the body portion 12, and more specifically the base wall 20, comprises an upstanding peripheral, generally circumferentially extending wall portion 54, which is provided with inwardly inclined inner wall surface 56 for the reception of the window 18. The window is provided with longitudinally extending edge wall surfaces 58 complementary to the surfaces 56 to provide the above-mentioned means for the latching engagement of the window 18 and the body portion 12.

A preferred embodiment of the luggage marker 10 is moulded by conventional techniques from a flexible or resilient material such as low density polyethylene or low density polyethylene having a suitable amount of E.V.A. added for additional strength or toughness. Other polymers or mixtures of polymers can be used. The polymer used to make the window 18 and the thickness of the window 18 will be chosen to permit the indicia on the label 30 to be seen through the window 18 when the window is operatively positioned as shown in Figures 1, 4 and 6. It will further be appreciated that the window tab 36, when a window 18 is provided, facilitates disengagement of the window from the base portion to remove and/or change the tag 30.

The surface 34 of the body portion 20 may be suitably treated to provide a surface upon which indicia may be permanently or removably placed, thus possibly dispensing with the need for the provision of the window 18 and the means for providing latching engagement of the window 18 with the body portion 12.

CLAIMS

1. A marker tag comprising: an indicia-receiving body portion; an elongate strap, bifurcated to form two spaced apart legs, and having one end integral with the body portion, the end of the strap distal to the body portion being closed by a bight portion shaped to define a transversely extending slot, the bifurcation of the strap being dimensioned to allow the passage of the body portion therethrough for providing a strap loop for fastening the marker tag to a piece of luggage and the transversely extending slot being adapted to accommodate the legs when the tag is thus looped such that each leg lies at a respective end of the slot; and means integral with the strap for selectively fixing the dimension of a loop so formed as the strap is pulled tight.

2. A marker tag according to claim 1 additionally comprising means for securing and protecting an identification indicia-bearing label within the body portion.

3. A marker tag according to claim 2, in which the securing and protecting means comprises a window member integral with the body portion.

4. A marker tag according to claim 3, in which the window member is hinged to the body portion.

5. A marker tag according to claim 2, in which said securing and protecting means comprises a

consideration of the foregoing figures and particularly Figure 1, it will be understood that the elongated slot, indicated generally at 18, provided by the peripheral portions comprising the body

5 portion 12, the strap legs 24 and 26 and the strap bight portion 28 is so dimensioned as to allow the passage of the body portion 12 therethrough.

Thereafter, as is best seen from a simultaneous consideration of Figures 1, 4 and 5, the strap legs 10 24 and 26 are turned back upon themselves with the strap legs 24 and 26 passing through the bight portion 28 of the bifurcated strap 14 to provide a strap loop, indicated generally at 40, for fastening the luggage marker 10 about a portion 15 of a piece of luggage, not shown, such as for example in encircling engagement relative to a handle.

A significant aspect of the invention resides in the provision of means, indicated generally at 42, 20 for selectively fixing the dimension of the strap loop 40 so that the strap will lock in encircling engagement the luggage handle, or the like. This engagement assists materially in reducing the likelihood of the luggage marker 10 becoming 25 detached from the piece of luggage, for example by being excessively weakened by abrasion as a result of movement back and forth across the luggage handle, or by the straps defining the luggage loop 40 being snared and possibly 30 severed such as often occurs during the handling of luggage while in the possession of a common carrier.

In the preferred embodiment 10 illustrated, the bight portion 28 and the ends of the strap legs 24 35 and 26 distal to the body portion 12 define a transversely extending elongated slot 46 dimensioned to receive the strap legs 24 and 26. The bight portion 28 comprises an integral bight tab portion 48 that projects into the bight slot 46, 40 which tab 48 is dimensioned to hinder displacement of the strap legs 24 and 26 from their fastened position, as is best appreciated from the simultaneous consideration of Figures 1 and 5. Thus, a lock means is provided for releasably 45 securing the bight portion 28 relative to the strap legs 24 and 26.

The strap legs 24 and 26 in the preferred embodiment 10 comprise generally aligned transverse notches 50 provided in that part of the strap loop 40 which, in the fastened position of 50 the strap, comprises the outer surface 52 of the strap loop 40. The transverse notches 50 coact with the bight tab 48 to provide a detent means so that the laterally disposed portions 49 of the bight tab 48 can snap-lock into respective associated 55 transverse notches 50 as the strap loop 40 is reduced in dimension by being pulled tight about the luggage handle. The tightening is achieved by pulling on the body portion 12 in the direction of 60 the arrow A shown adjacent thereto in Figure 1. From a further consideration of Figures 1 and 5, it will be seen that the transverse notches 50, by virtue of providing regions of reduced thickness, provide one-way hinging of the strap legs 24 and 65 26, thus facilitating formation of the strap loop 40.

Turning now to a specific description of Figure 6, taken together with the foregoing description of Figures 1 and 2 in particular, it will be seen that the body portion 12, and more specifically the 70 base wall 20, comprises an upstanding peripheral, generally circumferentially extending wall portion 54, which is provided with inwardly inclined inner wall surface 56 for the reception of the window 18. The window is provided with longitudinally 75 extending edge wall surfaces 58 complementary to the surfaces 56 to provide the above-mentioned means for the latching engagement of the window 18 and the body portion 12.

A preferred embodiment of the luggage marker 80 10 is moulded by conventional techniques from a flexible or resilient material such as low density polyethylene or low density polyethylene having a suitable amount of E.V.A. added for additional strength or toughness. Other polymers or mixtures 85 of polymers can be used. The polymer used to make the window 18 and the thickness of the window 18 will be chosen to permit the indicia on the label 30 to be seen through the window 18 when the window is operatively positioned as 90 shown in Figures 1, 4 and 6. It will further be appreciated that the window tab 36, when a window 18 is provided, facilitates disengagement of the window from the base portion to remove and/or change the tag 30.

95 The surface 34 of the body portion 20 may be suitably treated to provide a surface upon which indicia may be permanently or removably placed, thus possibly dispensing with the need for the provision of the window 18 and the means for 100 providing latching engagement of the window 18 with the body portion 12.

CLAIMS

1. A marker tag comprising: an indicia-receiving body portion; an elongate strap, bifurcated to form 105 two spaced apart legs, and having one end integral with the body portion, the end of the strap distal to the body portion being closed by a bight portion shaped to define a transversely extending slot, the bifurcation of the strap being 110 dimensioned to allow the passage of the body portion therethrough for providing a strap loop for fastening the marker tag to a piece of luggage and the transversely extending slot being adapted to accommodate the legs when the tag is thus 115 looped such that each leg lies at a respective end of the slot; and means integral with the strap for selectively fixing the dimension of a loop so formed as the strap is pulled tight.

2. A marker tag according to claim 1 additionally comprising means for securing and protecting an identification indicia-bearing label within the body portion.

3. A marker tag according to claim 2, in which the securing and protecting means comprises a 125 window member integral with the body portion.

4. A marker tag according to claim 3, in which the window member is hinged to the body portion.

5. A marker tag according to claim 2, in which said securing and protecting means comprises a



window member adapted to be pressed into latching engagement with the body portion with the indicia-bearing label secured therebetween.

6. A marker tag according to any one of the preceding claims in which the means for selectively fixing the dimension of the said strap loop comprises lock means for releasably securing the bight portion relative to the legs of the elongated bifurcated strap.
7. A marker tag according to claim 6, in which the lock means comprises means for interlocking the bight portion and the strap legs.
8. A marker tag according to claim 7, in which the interlocking means comprises tab means adapted to coact with tab detent means.
9. A marker tag according to claim 8, in which the tab means is carried by the bight portion and

the tab detent means is carried by the strap legs.

10. A marker tag according to claim 8 or claim 9, in which the detent means is carried by the strap legs on a surface thereof that, upon formation of the said strap loop, is on the outer surface of the strap loop.
11. A marker tag according to any one of claims 8 to 10 in which the detent means comprises transverse notches in the strap legs whereby formation of a strap loop is facilitated by a hinging effect provided by the notches.
12. A marker tag according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the marker tag is formed of moulded synthetic polymer.
13. A marker tag substantially as herein described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.