

FILE FOLDER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a file folder which can holds various kinds of documents.

2. Description of the Related Art

Nowadays a simple file folder which can hold documents is widely used for various kinds of deskworks and so on. This file folder has a pair of rectangular sheet materials, which are connected via a folding line at a longer side, and a pair of shorter sides which adjoins said longer side are welded each other. Therefore, documents can be inserted through the other (open) longer and shorter sides into a gap between the both sheet materials to be held.

Conventional file folders are made of synthetic resins to observe documents which are held, and to keep durability, so that users can not draw their favorite designs or write texts concerning the documents on their surfaces to arbitrarily and visually record the content of the documents.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention was conceived in order to solve the conventional problems, and the purpose is to provide a file folder which is made of a synthetic resin, and which allows arbitrary and visual recording on its surface.

To solve the above-mentioned problem, the present invention according to claim 1 provides a file folder which is made of a synthetic resin, and has a pair of sheet materials which are connected each other, and are opposed each other, which documents are held between the inner surfaces of said sheet materials, wherein a receiving layer which can receive substances which are displaying media such as inks is formed on at least one of the outer surfaces of said pair of sheet materials.

The above-mentioned sheet materials can be made of a synthetic resin such as polyethylene, polypropylene, a polyester, a polycarbonate, and polymethacrylate. The displaying media include various printing inks such as UV inks for printing, heat transcription inks and ink-jet inks for printers, toners for copying machines, oily inks for oil pens, water-color inks for

water-color pens, core materials for pencils, stamp inks for stamps, and cinnabar seal inks.

A receiving layer which can receive materials for these displaying media is formed, for example, with a resin layer which contains both large particle size sponge silica having a particle size of 8-18 μm and small particle size sponge silica having a particle size of 1-7 μm . The term "sponge silica" in the present invention means the silica which has pores in a silica particle, i.e., "sponge structure".

The pore volume of the sponge silica is preferably 0.7-7 ml/g, more preferably 0.8-4 ml/g. If the pore volume of the sponge silica is too small, the record-receiving property of the receiving layer tends to become low. If the pore volume of the sponge silica is too large, the viscosity of the resin liquid which consists of the receiving layer tends to become too high to coat for forming the receiving layer.

The resin liquid includes resin solutions, resin emulsions, molten hot-melt resins, two-liquid curing type unreacted resin liquid, UV-light-curing type unreacted resin liquid, and so on. The procedures to cure the resin liquid after coating or printing on a sheet material include evaporation of solvents or dispersants, cooling, heating, UV-light irradiation, and so on, depending on each case.

The large particle sponge silica has a particle size of 8-18 μm as mentioned above. If only the large particle sponge silica is used, the silica is sedimented in the resin liquid, and the quality of the receiving layer tends to become uneven, and such a disadvantage can occur that the friction-resistance of the receiving layer is lowered and so on. If only the small particle sponge silica having a particle size of 1-7 μm is used, the receiving performance is lowered so that it is impossible to achieve the purpose of the present invention.

The 'small particle sponge silica' / 'large particle sponge silica' weight ratio is preferably 0.1-5 or so. By using such a ratio, it becomes easy to counterbalance disadvantages of both sponge silicas, and to make the best use of their advantages.

With respect to the relation between the amount of the sponge silica and the amount of the resin, it is preferable that the resin / 'sponge silica' weight ratio is 0.15-1.5. If the ratio is too small, the resistance against friction of

the receiving layer will be lowered. If the ratio is too large, the receiving property of the receiving layer will be lowered.

The above-mentioned receiving layer can be formed by printing with a UV-light-curable ink containing a liquid water-soluble monomer, a hydrophobic polymer which is soluble to said monomer, and a filler having an average particle size of 0.1 μm - 30 μm , followed by curing with UV-light. The term "liquid water-soluble monomer" in the present invention means a polymerizable monomer, which can be freely dissolved in water at a normal temperature, such as a (meth)acrylic acid ester of a polyhydric alcohol, a (meth)acrylic acid ester of an N-alkylaminoalcohol, a polyethylene glycol (meth)acrylate, an N-alkyl (meth)acrylic acid amide, and a vinyl ether of a polyhydric alcohol.

The liquid water-soluble monomer also includes butanediol monoacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, N,N-diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl acrylate, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, N,N-dimethylacrylamide, acryloylmorpholine, 2-hydroxyethyl vinyl ether, and the like. A mixture of these monomers can also be used.

Two criteria should be considered upon the selection of a polymer. The first criterion is that a polymer is dissolved in the above-mentioned water-soluble monomer or a mixture consisting of 100 pts. wt. of a water-soluble monomer and 80 pts. wt. or less of a non-water-soluble monomer. The second criterion is that, in case a film is produced with a polymer and is soaked in water at 25°C for 2 h, 100 g of the polymer does not absorb 10 g or more of water, or the polymer does not substantially dissolved in the water.

Hydrophobic polymers which satisfy the above-mentioned two criteria include an alkyl (meth)acrylate (co)polymer, 'vinyl chloride'-'vinyl acetate' copolymer, a polyester, cellulose acetate, cellulose propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, nitrocellulose, butyral resin, and the like. Preferable ones are cellulose derivatives such as cellulose acetate, cellulose propionate, and cellulose acetate butyrate.

The polymer is added to the liquid water-soluble monomer at a polymer / 'liquid water-soluble monomer' weight ratio of preferably 0.03-0.8, more preferably 0.05-0.6. If the ratio is smaller than the ranges, the sticking and welding properties of a toner or thermal transcription ink coating film when the obtained receiving layer is printed by thermal transcription and the

water-resistance can become low. If polymer is not added, the storage stability and the printability of the ink is extremely bad. If the ratio is larger than the ranges, the transcription of a toner or thermal transcription ink coating film can become bad, and clear images are hardly obtained.

A filler which can be used for the present invention include well known fillers such as silica, talc, clay, zeolite, calcium carbonate, calcium silicate, magnesium carbonate, barium sulfate, mica, synthetic mica, diatomaceous earth, aluminum hydroxide, alumina, and titanium oxide. Judging from the receiving property, water-resistance, and brightness, preferable fillers include silica, synthetic mica, aluminum hydroxide, and alumina. The average particle size of the filler is preferably 0.1-30 μm , more preferably 0.2-15 μm .

When designs which are favorable for a user and/or information concerning documents which are held are added to the receiving layer which was thus formed on the outer surface of the sheet material, the designs and/or information are attached according to the following procedure: 1) the designs and/or information are put into a personal computer, 2) the file folder is set in a printer, 3) the receiving layer is printed, and 4) inks are received in the receiving layer.

It is also possible to copy the designs and the like on the receiving layer using a copying machine, and to draw them using water-color inks, oily inks, or pencils.

With respect to the file folder according to claim 2 of the present invention, the above-mentioned pair of sheet materials are connected via a folding line at one side, and they are joined at another side which adjoins the folding line. The remaining adjacent two sides are not joined (i.e., open). Documents and the like can be inserted through the open two sides to be held.

The file folder according to claim 3 of the present invention has (A) a pair of sheet materials which are made of a synthetic resin, and are bendably connected each other via a folding line at one side, (B) a receiving layer which is formed on the outer surface of at least one of the outer surfaces of the above-mentioned pair of sheet materials, and can receive substances which are displaying media such as inks, and (C) an adhesion material which is on one inner surface of one of the above-mentioned pair of sheet

materials, is formed along a side which adjoins above-mentioned folding line, and can adhere to a corresponding material of the other sheet material which is bent along above-mentioned folding line.

With respect to the file folder according to claim 2 of the present invention, a pair of sheet materials are connected by folding along a folding line at one side, and they are joined at another side which adjoins the folding line, so that the joined part can interfere the paper-feeding mechanism of a printer, and irregular running so called "paper-clogging" can occur, and fine printing could become impossible. Therefore, a pair of sheet materials which were bendably connected are set in a printer without bending according to claim 3 of the present invention. This allows fine printing without causing irregular running so called "paper-clogging".

After printing, the pair of the sheet materials are folded along the folding line, and then the both sheet materials are adhered each other at the adhesion part. Thus, a file folder in which a pair of sheet materials are connected along a folding line at one side, and are adhered each other at another side which adjoins the folding line, is formed.

With respect to a file folder according to claim 4 of the present invention, the above-mentioned adhesion part is an adhesion layer which is prepared by applying having an adhesive, and said layer has a sheet of attached peelable paper on it. Therefore, printing can be performed without trouble with the adhesion layer not touching the paper-feeding mechanism when printed in a printer. After printing, the sheet of peelable paper is removed, a pair of sheet materials are folded along a folding line, and both sheet materials are adhered each other in the adhesion part. Thus, a file folder in which a pair of sheet materials are folded along a folding line at one side, and are adhered each other along another side which adjoins the folding line, is formed.

The adhesion layer consists, for example, of an acrylic ester (co)polymer, a vinyl acetate (co)polymer, a rubber-based adhesive, and the like. The adhesion layer can be formed 1) by applying an emulsion of an adhesive containing adhesive globules having a particle size of 2-100 μm onto a substrate, followed by drying, or 2) by applying a radiation-curable ink on a substrate, followed by radiation. The adhesion layer which is prepared by the latter method is weakly adhesive, and sheet materials which were

adhered each other can be peeled off again. Therefore, sheet materials which were adhered each other can be peeled again, and be printed in a printer again.

The application can be carried out by the screen printing, the offset printing, the gravure, the aniline process, the typography, the roll coat, the spray coat, and the like; most preferably by the screen printing which allows formation of a thick adhesion layer. The thickness of the adhesion layer is preferably 4 μm or larger, more preferably 10 μm or larger in view of repeelability and adhesion stability.

A file folder according to claim 5 of the present invention can receive prints by a printer, so that, as described before, designs and information can have been put into a personal computer, the file folder is set in the printer, the receiving layer can be printed, ink(s) can be received on the receiving layer, so that designs and/or information can be added.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig.1 illustrates a squint view of a file folder according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

Fig.2 illustrates a cross section, along line A-A of Fig.1, of a file folder according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

Fig.3 illustrates a squint view of a file folder according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

Fig.4 illustrates a cross section, along line B-b of Fig.2, of a file folder according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Embodiments of the present invention will be presented below using figures. Figs.1 and 2 illustrate the first embodiment of the present invention. File folder 1 has a pair of sheet materials 2 and 3 which are folded, and are opposed each other. The sheet materials 2 and 3 are rectangular, and are made of a synthetic resin such as polyethylene, polypropylene, a polyester, a polycarbonate, and polymethacrylate, and transparent or translucent. The sheet materials 2 and 3 are connected by folding along a folding line at a longer side, and they are heat welded in adhesion part 5 along a shorter side.

On outer surface 2a of one sheet material 2, receiving layer 6 is formed substantially throughout the surface. Receiving layer 6 is formed by coating

an agent which consists of 50 pts. wt. of sponge silica having a pore volume of 1.9 ml/g and an average particle size of 11 μm , 50 pts. wt. of sponge silica having a pore volume of 1.7 ml/g and an average particle size of 5 μm , and 500 pts. wt. of an emulsion which contains acrylic resin at 10 wt.%, onto outer surface 2a of sheet material 2, followed by thermally evaporating the water. Therefore receiving layer 6 has a property which can receive materials which are displaying media such as UV inks for printing, thermal transcription inks for printers, ink-jet inks, toners for copying machines, oily inks for oily pens, water-color inks for water-color pens, core materials for pencils, stamp inks for stamps, and cinnabar seal inks.

In the embodiment of the present invention having the above-mentioned constitution, when a user of file folder 1 adds to receiving layer 6 favorite designs and/or information concerning the documents which are held between both sheet materials 2 and 3, those designs and/or information are put into a personal computer previously. Then, the file folder is set in a printer, with receiving layer 6 being the surface to be printed, and printing is started. Thus, receiving layer 6 receives ink(s) from the printer, designs and/or information are printed, and file folder 1 can be prepared which favorite designs and/or necessary information are printed on receiving layer 6.

It is also possible to copy designs and the like on receiving layer 6 using a copying machine, or to draw designs and the like using aqueous pens, oily pens, or pencils. When file folder 1 is used, documents and the like are inserted to be held between a pair of sheet materials through the two open sides.

Receiving layer 6 can also be formed by blending raw materials using a mixer at weight ratios shown in Examples 1-4 in Table 1 (below) to produce light-curable receiving inks, which are then screen printed on outer surface 2a of sheet material 2, followed by the UV-radiation.

Table 1

	Examples			
	1	2	3	4
Cellulose acetate *1	4.0		4.0	
Polyvinylbutyral *1		4.0		4.0

Acryloylmorfoline *2	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0
Methoxypolyethyleneglycol acrylate *2	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Olygourethane diacrylate *3	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Photopolymerization initiator	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Cowhide fiber powder	23.5	23.5		
Silica			23.5	23.5
Antifoam and dispersant	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

*1 Monomer-soluble hydrophobic polymer

*2 Liquid water-soluble monomer

*3 Monomer-soluble polymerizable oligomer

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate the second embodiment of the present invention. File folder 11 has a pair of sheet materials 2 and 3 which are connected via a folding line 14. Sheet materials 2 and 3 have forms which are similar to ones which were described in the above-mentioned embodiment, and are made of a synthetic resin. On outer surface 2a of one sheet material 2, receiving layer 6 which is similar to one which was described in the above-mentioned embodiment is formed substantially throughout the surface (see Fig.2).

On inner surface 3b of the other sheet material 3 is provided adhesion layer 8 forming adhesion part 7 along a side which adjoins above-mentioned folding line 14. Adhesion layer 8 consists of an 'acrylic acid ester'-'vinyl acetate' (co)polymer, a rubber-based adhesive, and the like. On the surface is peelably attached a sheet of peelable paper 9.

In the embodiment having the above-mentioned constitution of the present invention, when favorite designs and the like are added to receiving layer 6 using a printer, the designs and the like are put in a personal computer previously. Then, for example, as arrow 3 in Fig.3 shows, the file folder is set in a printer from the side of sheet material 2, with receiving layer 6 being the surface to be printed, and printing is started. Thus, receiving layer 6 receives ink(s) from the printer, and the designs and so on are printed.

When printed, in the case of file folder 1 shown in the above-mentioned embodiment, a pair of sheet material 2 and 3 are folded, and they are heat

welded each other at the shorter side in connection part 5, so that connection part 5 can interfere the paper-feeding mechanism, and can cause irregular running so called "paper clogging", and fine prints could become impossible. With respect to file folder 11 in the embodiment, however, sheet materials 2 and 3 pass through a printer separately, and they have no folded part, so that irregular running so called "paper clogging" does not occur. As peelable paper 9 is attached on the surface of adhesion layer 8, adhesion layer 8 does not come in contact with the paper-feeding mechanism of a printer. Therefore, printing can be performed without trouble, and fine prints becomes possible.

After printing, peelable paper 9 is removed, sheet materials 2 and 3 are folded along folding line 14 (Fig.3, arrow b), and the surface of adhesion layer 8 is adhered with the corresponding part of the inner surface of sheet material 2. Thus, file folder 11 which is connected along folding line 14 at one side, and is joined via adhesion layer 8 at another side which adjoins folding line 14, is formed. When file folder 11 is used, documents and so on can be inserted through the two open sides of sheet materials 2 and 3 to be held.

Although strongly adhesive adhesion layer 8 such as a rubber-based adhesive was described in the second embodiment, a weakly adhesive adhesion layer can also be used which can be peeled from the corresponding part of the inner surface of sheet material 2. In this case, adhered sheet material 2 can be peeled from sheet material 3 again, and can be printed again in the printer.

Although receiving layer 6 is formed only on one sheet material 2 of a pair of sheet materials 2 and 3 in the above-mentioned embodiment, receiving layer 6 can be formed on both sheet materials 2 and 3, or on only parts of sheet materials 2 and 3. Receiving layer 6 can consists not only of the components shown in the above-mentioned embodiment, but also of well known components.

As described above, as the file folder according to the present invention is made of a synthetic resin, holds documents between a pair of sheet materials, and has a receiving layer which can receive a substance which is a displaying medium such as inks on its outer surface of the sheet material, users of the file folder can arbitrarily and visually add their favorite designs

and/or information concerning the documents to hold.

In addition, a file folder according to the present invention has a receiving layer which can receive a substance which is a displaying medium such as inks is formed on the outer surface of a pair of sheet materials which are made of a synthetic resin, and are connected along a folding line, and an adhesion part which, in the inner surface of one of the sheet materials, can adhere to the corresponding part of other sheet along the side which adjoins the above-mentioned folding line. Therefore, the file folder can be printed in a printer, with a pair of sheet materials unfolding, without causing irregular running so called "paper clogging", allowing fine printing. After the printing, a pair of sheet materials are folded along a folding line, and then both sheet materials are adhered each other in the adhesion part, so that a file folder can be formed which a pair of sheet materials are folded along a folding line, and are adhered along the side which adjoins the folding line. Thus, a file folder can be obtained which allows fine printing, and in which one side and adjacent another side are closed.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS::

1. A file folder which is made of a synthetic resin, and has a pair of sheet materials which are connected each other, and are opposed each other, which documents are held between the inner surfaces of said sheet materials, wherein a receiving layer which can receive a substance which is a displaying medium such as an ink is formed on at least one of the outer surfaces of said pair of sheet materials.
2. A file folder according to claim 1, wherein said pair of sheet materials are connected via a folding line at one side, and they are joined at another side which adjoins the folding line.
3. A file folder which has (A) a pair of sheet materials which are made of a synthetic resin, and are connected via a folding line at one side, (B) a receiving layer which is formed on at least one of the outer surfaces of said pair of sheet materials, and can receive a substance which is a displaying medium such as an ink, and (C) an adhesion material which is on one inner surface of said sheet materials, is formed along a side which adjoins said folding line, and can adhere to a corresponding part of the other sheet material which is bent along said folding line.
4. A file folder according to claim 3, wherein said adhesion part is an adhesive layer which is prepared by applying an adhesive, and a sheet of peelable paper is peelably attached on said adhesive layer.
5. A file folder according to one of claims 1-4, wherein the receiving layer can be printed by a printer.

