

Housing for disc-shaped information carrier.

The invention relates to a housing for holding a disc-shaped information carrier, which housing comprises a bottom section having a holding device for holding the information carrier, and further comprising a cover section which is hingeably connected to the bottom section at a back side of the housing, the bottom section comprising a bottom
5 wall, a transparent front wall, which faces the back side of the housing, and two side walls, and an insert sheet being arranged on the bottom wall, which insert sheet has an upright portion which extends adjacent the front wall.

Such a housing is known from DE-A 34 25 579 and is used for the
10 storage of an optical information disc, particularly a Compact Disc. The known housing comprises a bottom section having a central clamping device for clamping the optical disc and further comprises a cover section which is hingeably connected to the bottom section. The bottom section has raised side walls, of which one side wall forms an uninterrupted front wall and of which two opposite side walls have recesses for the removal of the information
15 disc from housing. The bottom section generally contains an insert sheet with information, which insert sheet has a folded upright front portion, which faces the transparent raised front wall. The front portion can accommodate readable data about the information stored digitally in the information disc. A drawback of the known housing is that it has only limited possibilities to accommodate externally readable information.

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It is an object of the invention to modify the housing of the type defined in the opening paragraph in such a manner that the possibilities of accommodating externally readable information in the housing are extended considerably.

To this end, the housing in accordance with the invention is characterized
25 in that the side walls are transparent and the insert sheet has upright portions which extend adjacent the side walls.

As a result of these measures the housing in accordance with the invention can accommodate readable information about the information disc on at least three side faces of the housing, which are formed by the front wall and the two side walls of the bottom section. This

provides great freedom in the design of storage devices, such as storage racks, for housings of information discs because in such devices the housing in accordance with the invention can occupy various positions in which the relevant information is readable for a user. A further advantage is that when the housing lies flat on a table or shelf the information at the side faces is perceptible from different directions or at different angles, so that a user is informed at a glance about the content of the housing. Furthermore, the housing in accordance with the invention provides additional creative opportunity for artwork designers.

A preferred embodiment of the housing in accordance with the invention is characterized in that the bottom section comprises a transparent rear wall facing the front wall, the insert sheet comprising an upright portion which extends adjacent the rear wall. In this embodiment optimum use is made of the possibility of displaying information at the side faces of the housing.

Preferably, all the upright portions of the insert sheet have been provided with printed information.

A preferred embodiment of the housing in accordance with the invention has the characteristic features defined in Claim 4. Preferably, the construction of the cover section is such that the rear wall is also substantially uninterrupted and has a height corresponding to the height of the front wall and the side walls.

The invention will now be described in more detail, by way of example, with reference to the drawings, in which

Figure 1 is an exploded view of an embodiment of the housing in accordance with the invention, and

Figure 2 is a perspective view showing the embodiment of Figure 1 in a closed condition.

The housing in accordance with the invention shown in Figures 1 and 2 is suitable for the storage of an optical information carrier 20, in the present example a DVD. Such an information carrier has one or more optically inscribable and/or readable information layers and has a center hole. The housing, which has two parts, comprises a bottom section 1 and a cover section 3, which are hingeably connected to one another by corner hinges 5a and 5b. The bottom section 1 comprises a holding device 7, in the present example in the form of an insert tray, having a central clamping unit 7a for clamping the information carrier in position, the central clamping unit 7a engaging the center hole of the information carrier in

the clamped condition.

The bottom section 1 is box-shaped and open at one side and it comprises a bottom wall 2, a front wall 1a and a rear wall 1b, which are upright with respect to the bottom wall 2, and two side walls 1c, which are upright with respect to the bottom wall 2.

5 The front wall 2a, the rear wall 1b and the side walls 1c, all having the same height h, are transparent and essentially uninterrupted. Therefore, the front wall, the rear wall and the side walls have mutually the same height. In the present example the bottom wall 2 is also transparent. The rear wall 1b forms the back side of the housing, near which back side the hinges 5a and 5b are disposed. In the present example the hinges 5a and 5b comprise
10 trunnions 6a, which form part of the cover section 3 and which engage openings 6b of the bottom section 1. The cover section 3 itself is substantially plate-shaped, is transparent, and in the present example it comprises lugs 3a for retaining an inserted information booklet or folder 9. In the present example, the housing has external dimensions corresponding to the generally known CD jewel box, the cover section 3 as well as the bottom section 5 in the
15 present example having rounded corners.

The housing in accordance with the invention has been provided with an insert sheet 11, which is situated in the bottom section 1, i.e. on the bottom wall 2. In the present example the insert sheet 11 comprises four upright portions, i.e. a portion 11a which extends adjacent the front wall 1a, a portion 11b which extends adjacent the rear wall 1b,
20 and two portions 11c which extend adjacent the side walls 1c. Those sides of the upright portions 11a, 11b and 11c which face the transparent walls 1a, 1b and 1c have been provided with printed information relating to the information carrier 20 associated with the housing. The upright portions 11a, 11b and 11c are preferably integral with a main portion 12 of the insert sheet 11 and have been folded with respect thereto about folding lines. The insert sheet
25 11 can be made of paper, a plastic or any other suitable material.

As is apparent from the drawings, the insert sheet 11 is wholly situated inside the bottom section 1, the main portion 12 in the present example extending between bottom wall 2 and the holding device 7.

It is to be noted that the invention is not limited to the embodiment
30 disclosed herein. For example, the hinges, the holding device, and other elements which are less relevant to the invention can be constructed in a different manner.

Moreover, the housing can be adapted specifically to different types of disc-shaped information carriers.

CLAIMS:

1. A housing for holding a disc-shaped information carrier, which housing comprises a bottom section having a holding device for holding the information carrier, and further comprising a cover section which is hingeably connected to the bottom section at a back side of the housing, the bottom section comprising a bottom wall, a transparent front
5 wall, which faces the back side of the housing, and two side walls, and an insert sheet being arranged on the bottom wall, which insert sheet has an upright portion which extends adjacent the front wall, characterized in that the side walls are transparent and the insert sheet has upright portions which extend adjacent the side walls.
2. A housing as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the bottom section
10 comprises a transparent rear wall facing the front wall, the insert sheet comprising an upright portion which extends adjacent the rear wall.
3. A housing as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that all the upright portions of the insert sheet have been provided with printed information.
4. A housing as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the front wall and
15 the side walls of the bottom sections are each formed by an at least substantially uninterrupted wall and have at least substantially the same height with respect to the bottom wall.