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THERMALLY SHRINKABLE LABELING BAND

The present invention relates to a thermally shrinkable labeling band adapted to be heat-fitted around one or more products to designate product information of the product bound by the band.

5 In the manufacture of slide fasteners, each group of finished slide fasteners is bound into a bundle by a binding strip or band having on its front surface various characters indicative of product information such as the type, size, color, quantities,
10 etc. of the bundle. The band is composed of a single strip of thermally shrinkable synthetic resin such as vinyl chloride or polyethylene, and requires a special printing equipment for providing clear characters on the synthetic resin band. The characters printed on
15 the band are likely to be distorted and become unclear as the band is thermally shrunk. Since the bundle of slide fasteners is flexible, printing on the band fastened around such flexible slide fasteners is

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tedious and not suitable for an automated high speed production.

It is believed possible by means of the present invention to provide a thermally shrinkable labeling band which can be easily printed thereon various characters indicative of product information of one or more products bounded by the band and is heat-fittable around the products to firmly hold them together without causing any distortion of the characters.

It is also believed possible by means of the present invention to provide a thermally shrinkable labeling band having printed characters which are protected from being stained.

According to the present invention, there is provided a labeling band comprising a strip having at least a pair of adjoining portions, one of said portions being made of printable, thermally non-shrinkable material, the other of said portions being made of thermally shrinkable material, said one and other portions of said strip comprising first and second strip members joined together along one end edges thereof, said first strip member including a sheet of paper and a film of synthetic resin coated on one of opposite surfaces of said paper sheet, said second strip member being united with said synthetic resin film, said one surface of said paper sheet having at least one character printed thereon, said synthetic resin film being transparent and provided on said one surface of said paper sheet.

The invention will be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:-

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a thermally shrinkable labeling band embodying the present invention; and

Figure 2 is a fragmentary schematic perspective view of an electric cord around which the labeling band of Figure 1 is fastened.

Figure 2 shows a band 17 which comprises an upper strip 18 of printable, thermally non-shrinkable material joined along its one end edge with an end edge of a lower strip 19 of thermally shrinkable material such as vinyl chloride or polyethylene. The upper strip 18 is composed of a sheet 20 of paper having reference characters 21 printed on one surface of the paper sheet 20, and a transparent film 22 of thermally non-shrinkable synthetic resin coated on the printed surface of the paper sheet 20. The end edge of the lower strip 19 laps over the end edge of the synthetic resin film 22 and is bonded or otherwise fused with the latter. With the band 17 looped around at least one product, the free end edge the strips 18, 19 are bonded or otherwise fused together. Then, the band 17 is heated by hot air whereupon the thermally shrinkable lower strip 19 is shrunk to thereby enable the band 17 to firmly fit around the product. The thermally non-shrinkable upper strip 18 is however dimensionally unchanged so that the reference characters 21 are protected from becoming distorted and unclear. The transparent synthetic resin film 22 serves to reinforce the paper sheet 20 and to protect the same from stains on the characters 21.

The band 17 of Figure 1 is used as a marking band for an electric cord 42, as shown in Figure 2. Due to thermal shrinking of the strip 19, the band 17 is firmly fitted around the cord 42. Since the strip 18 is thermally non-shrinkable and has the external transparent film layer (Figure 1), characters 21 provided on the band 17 are clear and stain-free.

CLAIMS:-



1. A labeling band comprising a strip having at least a pair of adjoining portions, one of said portions being made of printable, thermally non-shrinkable material, the other of said portions being made of thermally shrinkable material, said one and other portions of said strip comprising first and second strip members joined together along one end edges thereof; said first strip member including a sheet of paper and a film of synthetic resin coated on one of opposite surfaces of said paper sheet, said second strip member being united with said synthetic resin film, said one surface of said paper sheet having at least one character printed thereon, said synthetic resin film being transparent and provided on said one surface of said paper sheet.
 2. A labeling band substantially as described with reference to and as illustrated in Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings.
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