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(54) IDENTIFICATION HOLDER

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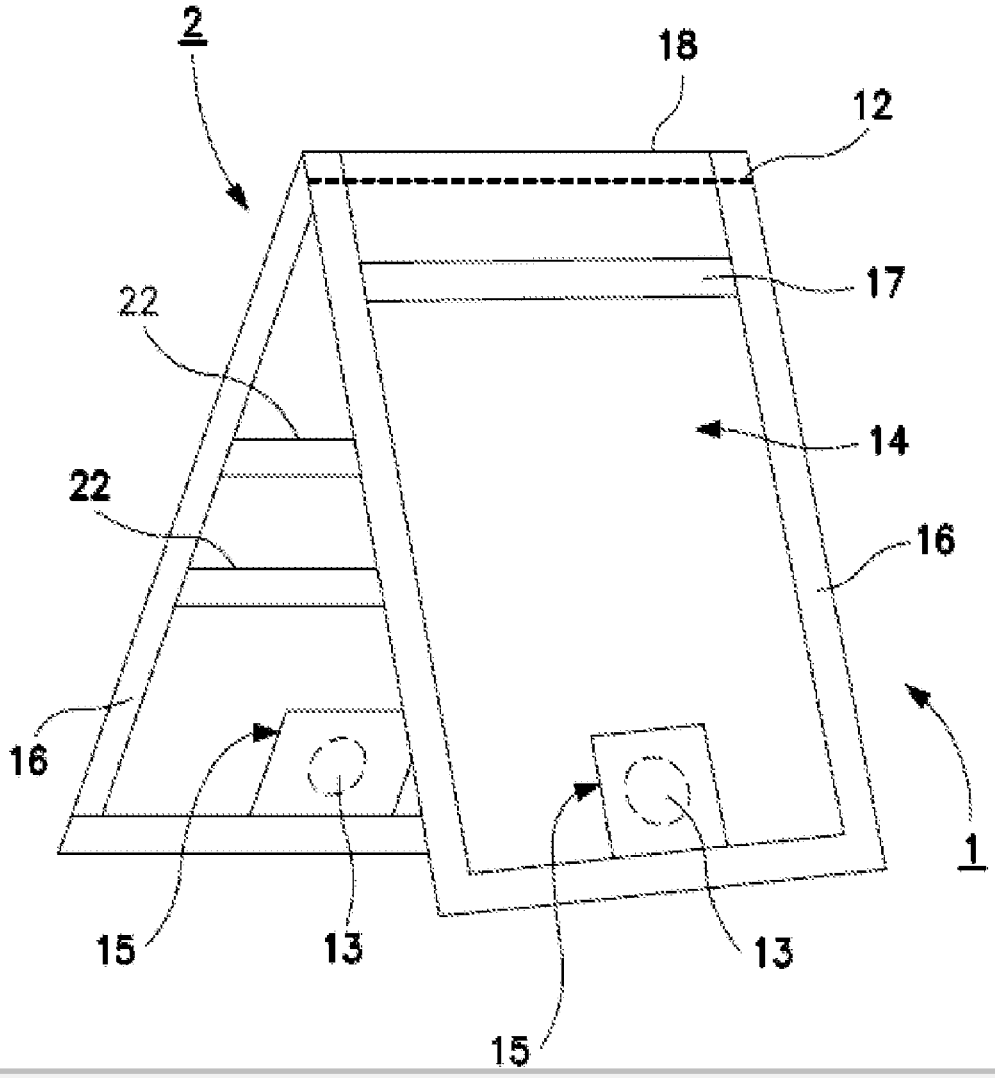
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A non-rigid identification card holder which can be securely attached via magnetic fasteners within the flaps of the holder to the clothing, lanyard, arm or leg band, to a bag or purse handle, or to an animal's collar or harness, is provided. The card holder comprises at least one pocket sized to hold an identification card. At least one face of the pocket comprises a transparent material to allow easy viewing of the card, and information contained on electronic chips as part of the card can be scanned through the transparent material. The outer face of each pocket can comprise a transparent window. The card holder may also provide additional pockets sized to hold business cards, credit cards, photographs, security cards, etc.



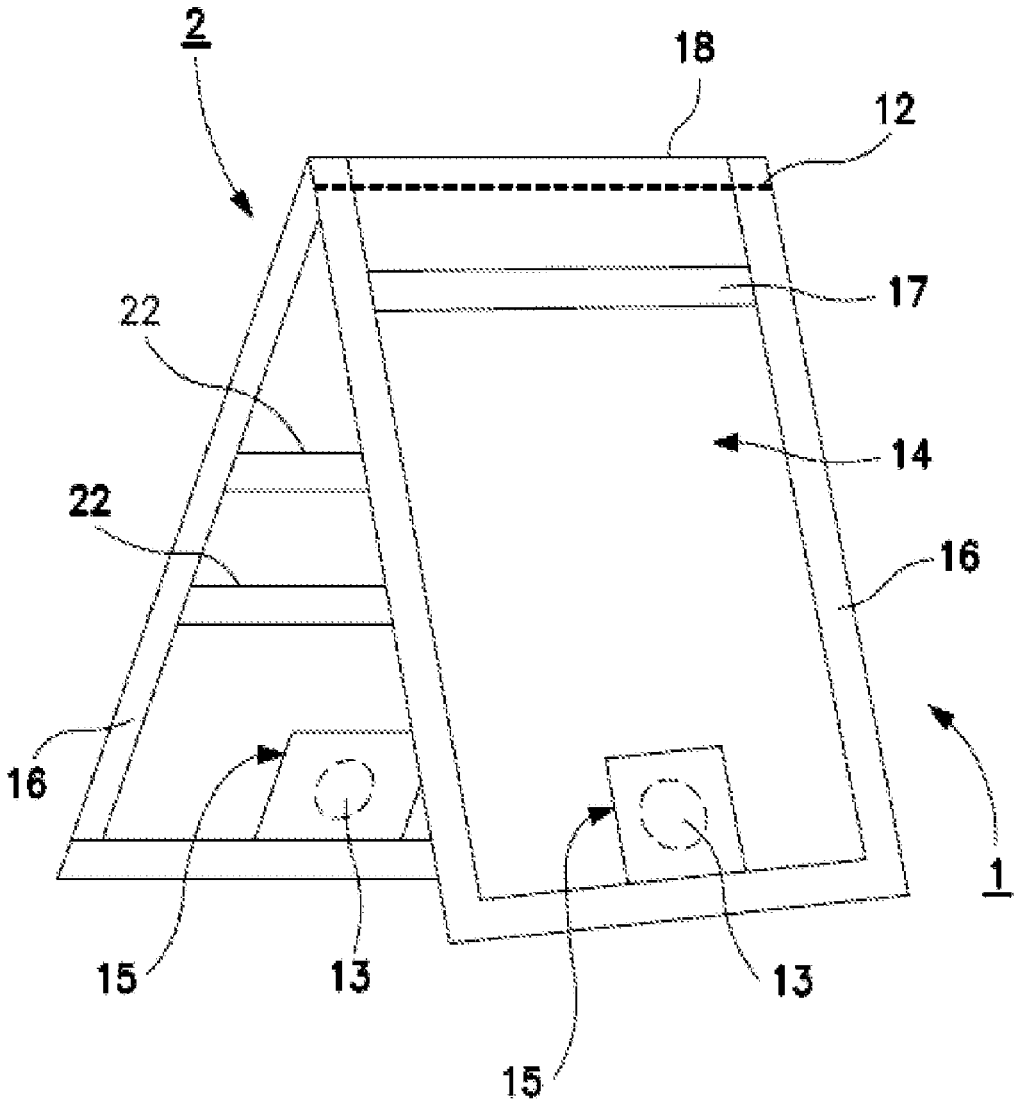


FIG. 1

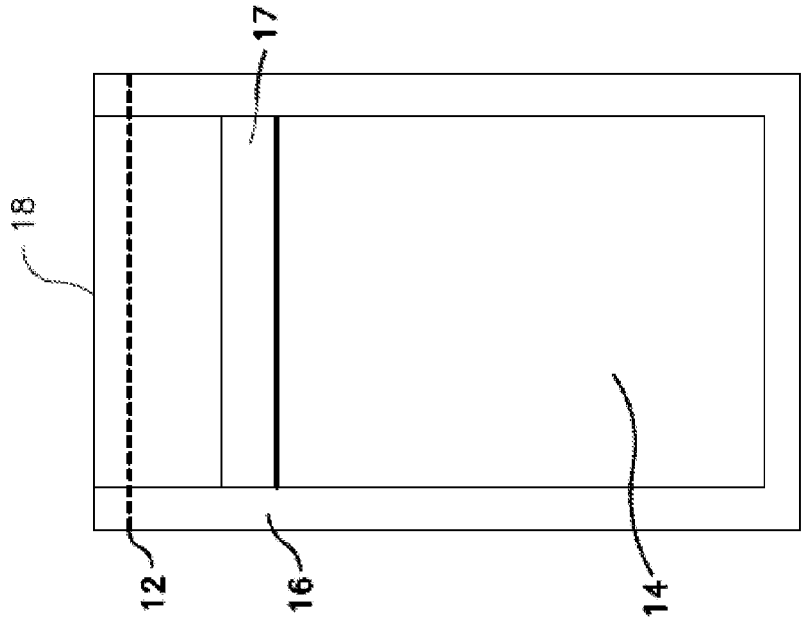


FIG. 2B

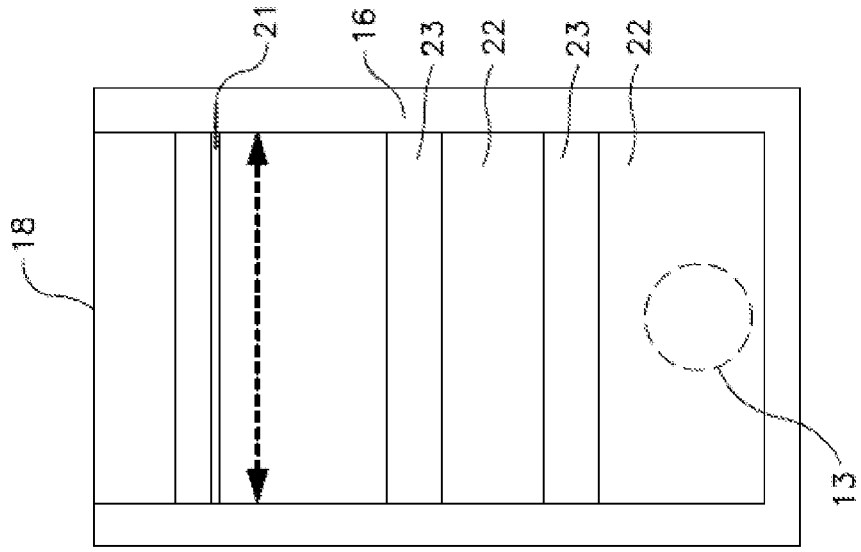


FIG. 2A

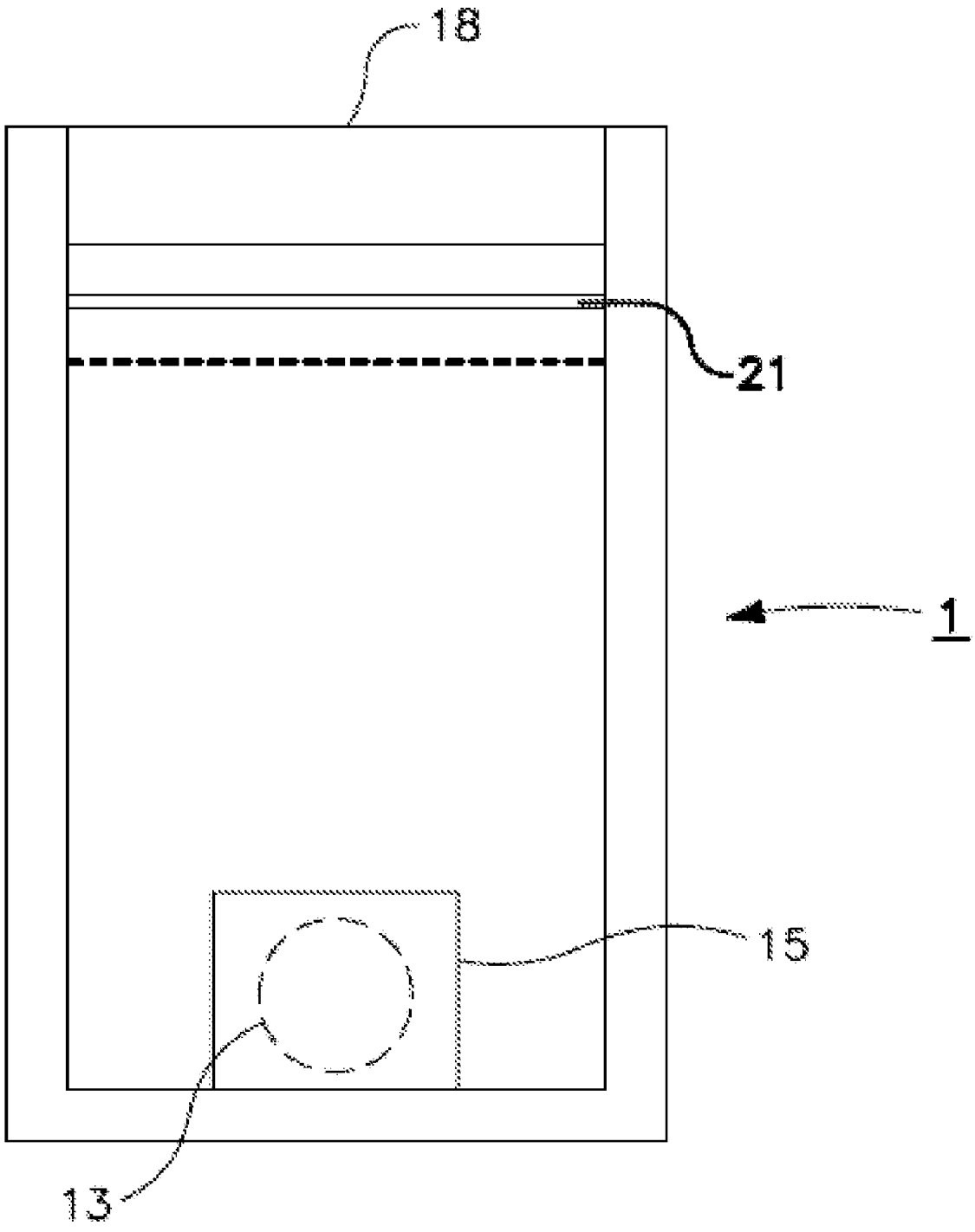


FIG. 2C

IDENTIFICATION HOLDER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/908,656, filed Mar. 28, 2007, which is incorporated to the extent there is no inconsistency with the present disclosure.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FEDERAL RESEARCH SUPPORT

[0002] Not applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The field of the present invention is the area of non-rigid identification card holders, in particular, one closed and/or secured to the wearer using magnetic fasteners or via a spring clip.

[0004] Commercially available protective identification card holders or badge holders include both holders which are used primarily for display of the identification card and holders which are used primarily for storage of the identification card, such as wallet-style holders. A non-rigid display-type identification card or badge holder is typically made wholly of flexible plastic and has a single pocket which substantially encloses the card, but allows removal of the card at one edge of the pocket. The card holder often is provided with a slot and/or holes spaced away from the pocket for connection to a neck lanyard, clip, pin, or other attachment device. An attachment device such as a clip may also be attached directly to the holder. Such plastic holders are subject to tearing at the edges of the pocket and at the point(s) of connection to the display device. A single pocket holder also does not allow separated storage of either multiple identification cards or of an identification card with another card such as a credit card. Separated storage for multiple cards allows the cards to be more easily organized and accessed.

[0005] The present invention provides an attractive, durable, non-rigid identification card holder which can be securely fastened to a wearer's pocket or connected to a breakaway lanyard or a band using magnetic fasteners. The identification card holder may optionally also provide separated storage for more than one identification card or for one or more identification cards and other cards such as business or phone cards or for photographs and/or cash. Separated storage of multiple cards allows more convenient organization of and access to the cards. Because of the magnetic fasteners within the card holder of the present invention, it is best not to store cards containing magnetic information in this card holder. Such an identification card holder is especially useful for airline personnel such as pilots, who are typically required to carry at least one identification card as well as a flight plan, as well as mechanics and rampers, and others including, but not limited to, security personnel, workers within secure areas, government employees, law enforcement, medical or military personnel, civilian employees working in military or other secure facilities, persons working or studying in secured facilities, employees of private enterprises where security and/or access is a concern, childcare workers, and students, teachers and personnel in schools, [illegible] fication materials is costly, but also dangerous in the sense of national and local security as well.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention provides non-rigid identification card holders, especially holders which can be attached to the clothing of the wearer. In an embodiment, the identification card holder includes two flaps and a clamping system capable of clamping clothing, fabric or other items between the flaps of the holder. At least one of the flaps contains a pocket for holding an identification card. In an embodiment, one flap of the holder may be placed in a pocket and the other outside the pocket, with the clamping device holding the holder securely to the pocket. The holder can be secured to a shirt or jacket pocket, sleeve, pants or skirt pocket, waistband, belt, epaulette, edge of shirt, coat or jacket or onto material of clothing, smock or apron, lanyard or other around-the-neck strap or chain, purse, bag, briefcase or other bag strap, and in any other configuration that serves to secure the identification holder to the wearer. When not attached to the person, it can be secured to a visor, bag, purse, backpack, or briefcase strap or loop of same.

[0007] The identification holders of the invention are capable of being attached to the user in an additional fashion as compared to similar identification holders whose flap ends are held together by fasteners such as snaps or Velcro. In particular, the clamping system of the invention allows the identification holder to be secured to the wearer by clamping clothing or other items between the flaps of the holder. In addition, it can encompass a belt or other item, with the ends of the flaps being in contact with one another. The clamping system is capable of supplying sufficient holding force even when the ends of the flaps are not in contact, but only in close proximity.

[0008] In an embodiment, the clamping system comprises a pair of magnetic fasteners being adapted to engage each other. The fasteners are positioned and of sufficient strength so that they are capable of engaging each other with sufficient holding force when brought into close proximity. In an embodiment, the centers of the fasteners align when the holder is in a closed or nearly closed position. In an embodiment, the two magnetic fasteners may be the same size (within the tolerance of the manufacturing processes) While the identification card holder is preferably closed and/or attached to the wearer by two neodymium magnets which are brought into close proximity when the holder is in the closed (folded) position, it is also possible to achieve secure fastening using one neodymium magnet and one magnetizable metal unit or two conventional magnets, or one conventional magnet and one magnetizable metal unit; however the use of conventional metal (ferric) magnets may set off metal detector alarms and thus would be less advantageous than the neodymium magnet pair exemplified in a preferred embodiment of the invention. Alternative magnetic materials include samarium cobalt, and cast or sintered alnico material, either for one or both of the magnetic fasteners used to secure the identification card holder.

[0009] The holder may be secured to the pocket or other aspect of the clothing via magnetic fasteners, especially one or more neodymium magnets. The holder could also be secured to an armband, legband, waistband, epaulette, belt or lanyard via its magnetic fasteners. Similarly, the holder could [illegible]

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