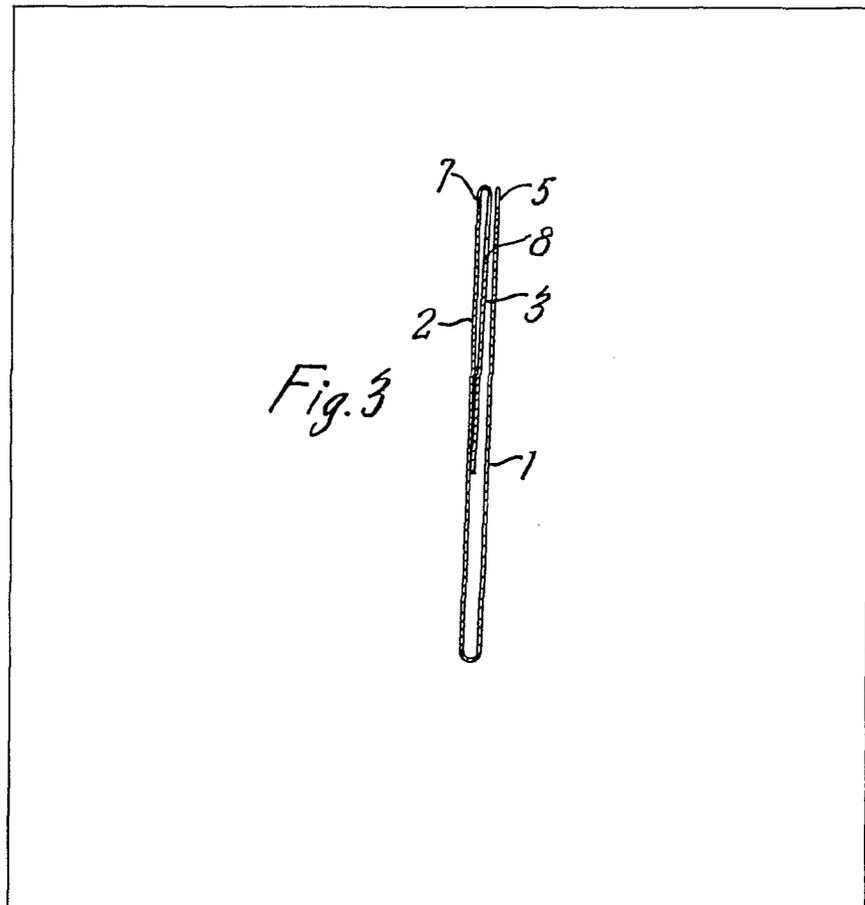


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(54) Storage envelopes or sleeves

(57) A storage envelope or sleeve, particularly for processed X-ray films, consists of front and back panels (1,2) joined together at a hinge line and connected along the intermediate sides by connecting flaps. An inner pocket is formed from a third flap (3) which is folded to lie against the inner face of the back panel (2) and is glued thereto to define the inner pocket. The panels may have additional score lines parallel to the closed sides of the envelope and the inner pocket by means of which the envelope and the inner pocket can accommodate bulky contents. The free edge (8) of the pocket is inset from the open side of the envelope, and finger cut-outs may be provided to facilitate access to the contents of the envelope and the pocket.



<sup>1/2</sup>  
Fig. 1 <sub>12</sub>

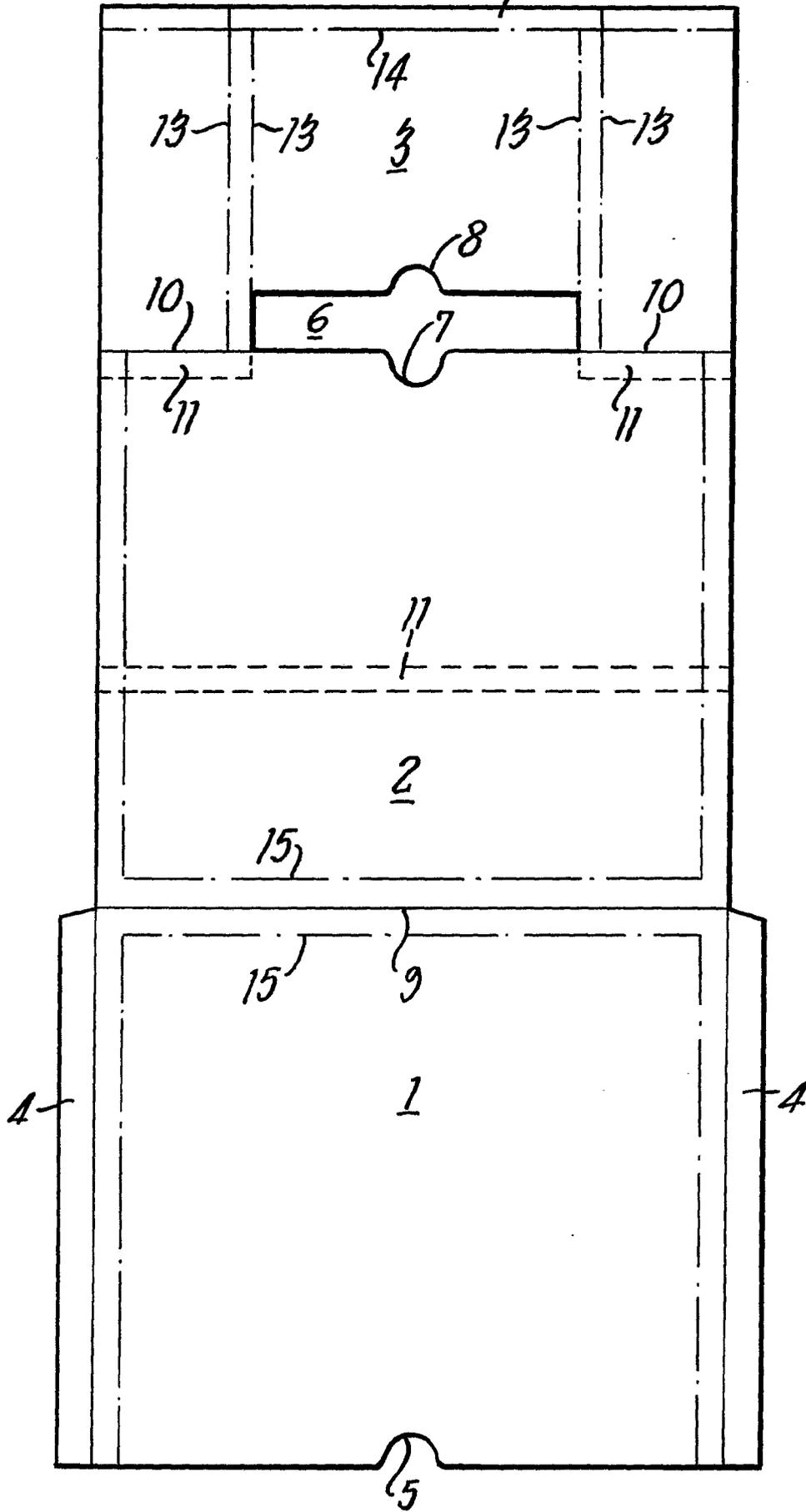


Fig. 2

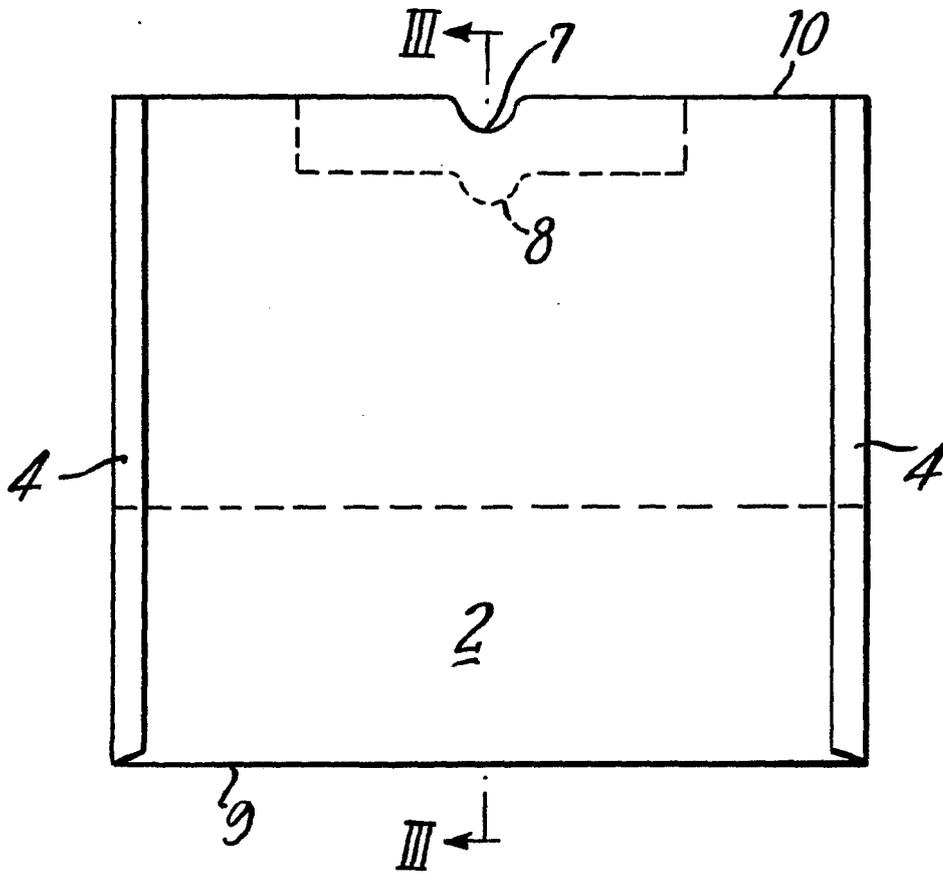
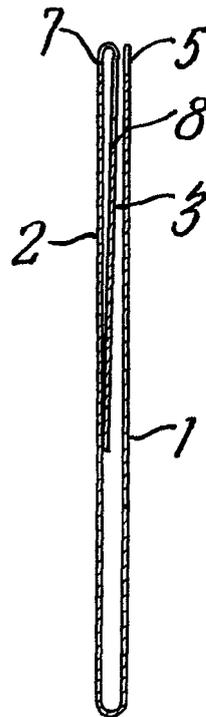


Fig. 3



## SPECIFICATION

**Storage envelopes or sleeves**

5 This invention relates to storage envelopes or sleeves, for example for the storage and handling of processed X-ray films and similar records. Particularly in the case of X-ray films as used in hospitals, there is a need to be able to store and handle the processed films and any related case material in such a way that they can be easily held in any convenient record system or archive while also being conveniently handled for medical and clerical purposes with minimal risk of damage to the processed film

15 X-ray films are typically of relatively large size, usually between 240 mm x 300 mm and 356 mm x 432 mm. After processing the films are usually kept in envelopes which must therefore be of a type, size and quality to meet the normal service requirements. Frequently the envelope is required to include separate case notes and it is important to be able to minimise as far as possible the risk of loss or damage to such separate material.

25 The present invention seeks to provide a storage envelope or sleeve particularly but not exclusively for the storage of processed X-ray films, wherein the envelope or sleeve comprises a rectangular first front panel, one side of which defines an open side of the envelope or sleeve and a rectangular second, back panel hinged at one side to the side of the first panel opposite said one side, the back panel overlying the front panel and the adjacent intermediate sides of both panels being joined together to form an envelope or sleeve closed on three sides and having one open side- the edge of the back panel defining the open side thereof being provided with a third panel hinged thereto and lying on the inner face of the back panel, being secured locally thereto to define an inner pocket substantially closed on three sides and having an open side open towards the open side of the envelope.

Preferably the third panel forming the inner pocket is cut in such a way that the open side of the pocket is displaced inwards from the open side of the envelope. The free edges of the front and back panels and of the pocket may have finger cutouts to facilitate access to their respective contents.

The invention also provides a blank for an envelope or sleeve comprising a rectangular first front panel to one edge of which is hinged a second rectangular back panel, the edge of the back panel opposite the part panel having a third panel extending therefrom, the region between the second and third panels being shaped whereby when folded up, the third panel overlies the inner face of the back panel and defines an inner pocket of the envelope or sleeve open towards the open side thereof.

Inner pockets have been provided in known X-ray storage envelopes but these pockets were made separately and then secured inside the envelope, typically by being glued in. Such pockets were prone to become detached from the envelope during service and apart from the risk of loss, they involve additional material which added to the bulk of the

envelope and cost more to produce. Additionally, the edges of the separate pocket are a possible source of damage to the X-ray film. The invention enables less material to be used while at the same time preventing the detachment of the pocket from the envelope and minimising damage to the contents.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of an example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which :-

*Figure 1* is a developed plan view of a blank from which the envelope sleeve is made,

*Figure 2* is a view of an envelope or sleeve in accordance with the invention, and

*Figure 3* is a section along the line III-III in *Figure 2*.

As can be seen from the drawings, the envelope is made from a single blank of material of a suitable grade and quality, for example in conformity with British Standard BS3043:1973 which sets out the recommended standards for storage envelopes for processed X-ray films for use in medical radiography. The envelope consists of a first rectangular front panel 1, one edge of which has a semi-linear cut-out 5 at its mid-point. To the opposite edge is hinged a sleeved back panel 2 and the adjoining side edge of the panel 1 have side flaps 4 by means of which the front and back panels are joined together to form the envelope which is open along the side having the cut-out 5.

The edge of the back panel 2 remote from the front panel 1 has a third panel 3, the three panels being demarcated from each other by the scored fold lines 9 and 10 by means of which the three panels can be folded to overlie one another in the desired relationship with the panel 3 extending between panels 1 and 2, as shown in *Figure 3*.

As can be seen particularly from *Figure 1*, the panel 3 is shorter than the adjoining panel 2 measured perpendicularly from the fold line 10 and when folded inwards to lie against the inner face 9 of the back panel 2 its edge region 12 is glued to or otherwise secured to the back panel along the area 11 extending across the panel 2 and the regions adjoining the fold line 10 are also secured to the regions 11A of the back panel in order to form the inner pockets of the completed envelope.

The central portion of the panel 3 adjoining the hinge line 10 is cut away to leave a substantially rectangular aperture 6. Two substantially semi-linear contacts 7 and 8 are provided which, in the completed envelope, provide finger access to the contents both of the envelope and of the inner pocket. The shape of the cut-away area 6 ensures that the open side of the inner pocket will be displaced inwards from the open side of the envelope. Score lines 13 and 14 are formed in the panel 3 before folding, enabling the completed pocket to expand in order to accommodate a greater thickness of content without distortion or tearing.

Score lines 15 may also be provided on the front and back panels 1 and 2 to enable the envelope to accommodate more bulky contents without straining the side seams or the fold line 9.

The fabrication of the envelope or sleeve with its inner pocket from a single piece of material results in

an economy of manufacturing operation and a saving of material, with consequent cost advantage. Additionally, if any part of one or more surfaces is required to bear printed matter, this is readily applied to the flat blank before it is folded into its final form.

The envelopes or sleeves are not limited as to size and can be adopted for use in storing records of other kinds. For example they can contain computer print-outs in the envelope proper and supplementary material such as punch cards can be stored in the inner pocket. Similarly, the envelope may contain plans or working drawings, with relevant sketches, notes, photographs and the like held in the pocket. Equally, art work or large photographs can be kept in the main envelope and sketches, small prints, transparencies or negatives can be placed in the pocket. The envelope could also be of a size to accommodate a gramophone record, the pocket being used for associated matter such as the score, the text of any vital material or printed notes relating to the recorded work.

As stated above, the envelope or sleeve will normally be made from a single blank of strong paper or thin card depending on its service requirements. If desired, however, it could be made from a blank of a synthetic plastics material which is cut, folded and joined together at the appropriate regions, for example by heat sealing or welding.

## CLAIMS

1. A storage envelope or sleeve wherein the envelope or sleeve comprises a rectangular first, front panel one side of which defines an open side of the envelope or sleeve and a rectangular second back panel hinged at one side to the sides of the front panel opposite said one side, the back panel overlying the front panel and the adjacent intermediate sides of both panels being joined together, the edge of the back panel defining the open side of the envelope being provided with a third panel hinged thereto and overlying the inner face of the second, back panel, being secured locally thereto to define an inner pocket substantially closed on three sides and having an open side open towards the open side of the envelope.

2. An envelope according to claim 1 wherein the third panel is at least partially cut away such that the open side of said inner pocket is displaced inwardly from the open side of said envelope.

3. An envelope according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the intermediate sides of the first and second panels are connected by side flaps.

4. An envelope according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the inner pocket is defined by score lines provided in the third panel.

5. An envelope according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the front and back panels are provided with score lines parallel to the three closed sides of the envelope.

6. An envelope according to claim 4 or claim 5 wherein the inner pocket is provided with score lines parallel to the three closed sides thereof.

7. A blank for a storage envelope or sleeve

comprising a rectangular first, front panel to one edge of which is hinged a rectangular second, back panel, the edge of the second panel opposite the first panel having a third panel extending therefrom, the region between the second and third panels being shaped whereby when folded up the third panel overlies the inner face of the second panel to define an inner pocket of the envelope or sleeve open towards the open side thereof.

8. A blank according to claim 7 wherein the intermediate edges of the front or back panels are provided with side flaps by which the front and back panels can be secured together when the panels are folded into overlying relationship.

9. A blank according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the third panel is provided with score lines delimiting the inner pocket.

10. A blank according to any one of claims 7 to 9 wherein additional score lines are formed in the front and back panels parallel to the sides thereof forming the closed sides of the envelope when the panels are in overlying relationship.

11. A storage envelope or sleeve substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

12. A blank for a storage envelope or sleeve substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.