US00RE42304E

(19) **United States**

(12) **Reissued Patent**

Frank et al.

(10) **Patent Number: US RE42,304 E**

(45) **Date of Reissued Patent: Apr. 26, 2011**

(54) **LOCK OUT TAG**

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(21) Appl. No.: **12/796,815**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 9, 2010**

Related U.S. Patent Documents

Reissue of:

(64) Patent No.: **7,624,525**
Issued: **Dec. 1, 2009**
Appl. No.: **11/277,007**
Filed: **Mar. 20, 2006**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G09F 3/14 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **40/664**; 40/5

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 40/664, 40/330, 630, 631, 6, 661.12, 655
See application file for complete search history.

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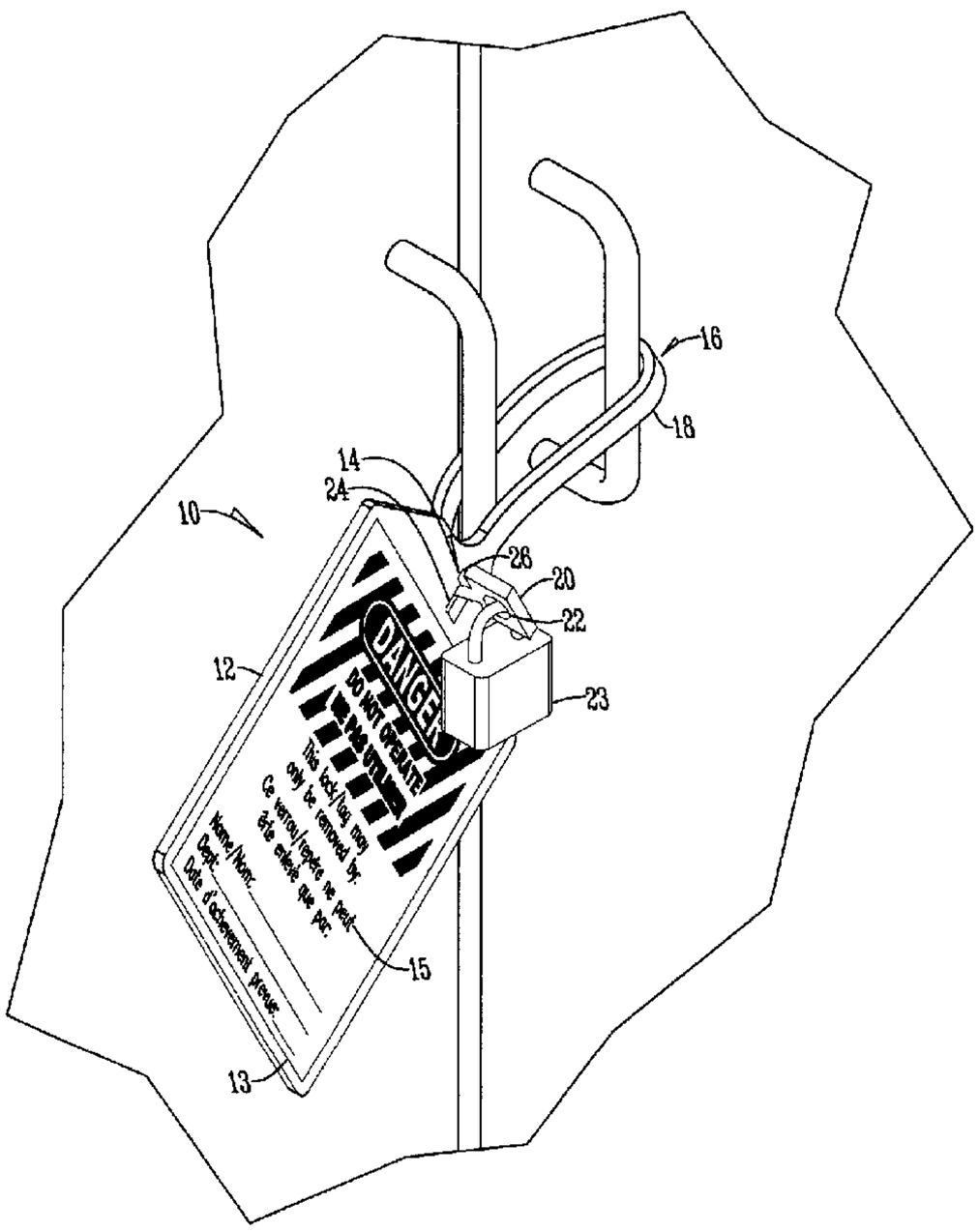
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A tag has an in-mold graphic plate portion with a slot therein. Extending outwardly from the plate portion is an extension or tongue that has a neck and locking tip. The locking tip has an aperture adapted to receive a lock. The neck of the tongue is flexible such that the locking tip is received by and extends through the slot.

1 Claim, 2 Drawing Sheets



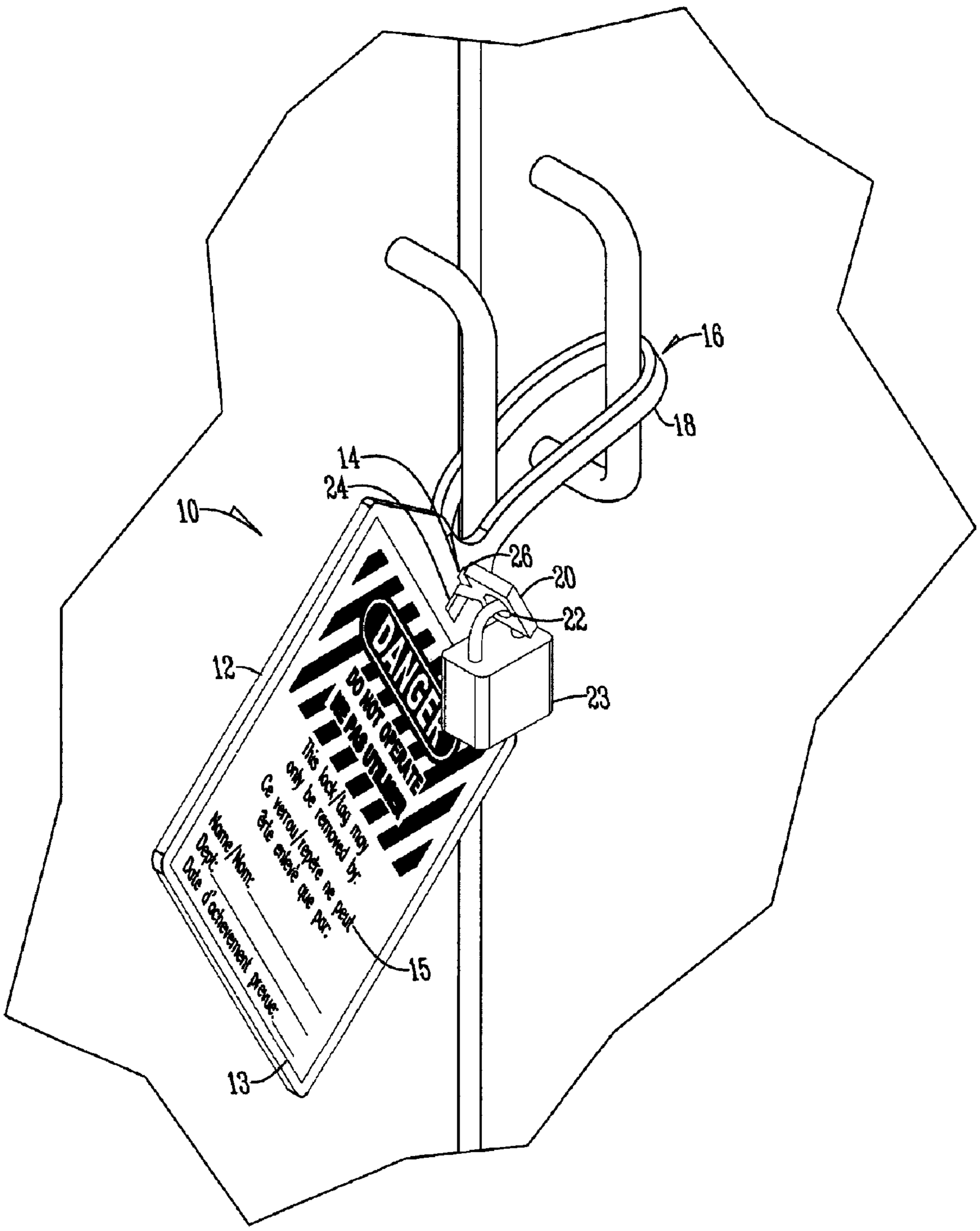

16
18
14
24
10
26
20
22
12
23
DANGER
DO NOT OPERATE
This lock/tag may only be removed by.
Ce verrou/repère ne peut être enlevé que par.
Name/Nom.
Dept.
Date d'achèvement prévue.
15
13

Fig. 1


20
22
16
18
10
26
14
24
12
DANGER
DO NOT OPERATE
NE PAS UTILISER
13
This lock/tag may
only be removed by:
15
Ce verrou/repère ne peut
être enlevé que par:
Name/Nom:_____
Dept:_____
Date d'achevement prevue:_____

Fig. 2

LOCK OUT TAG

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [ ] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention is directed toward a tag, and more specifically a lock out tag for complying with OSHA regulations.

Lock out tags are known in the art to provide notice and authorization to specific individuals permitting removal of a lock from a secured area, such as an electrical switch/breaker box. Standard lock out tags are sold having separate pieces. Presently, a need exists for an all-in-one tag having a strap that conveniently receives a loc and provides an in-mold graphic.

An object of the present invention is to provide a tag that is easy to use.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a tag that is economical to manufacture.

These and other objects will be apparent to those skilled in the art based on the following written description.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A tag has an in-mold graphic plate portion with a slot therein. Extending outwardly from the plate portion is an extension or tongue that has a neck and locking tip. The locking tip has an aperture adapted to receive a lock. The neck of the tongue is flexible such that the locking tip is received by and extends through the slot.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a tag and a lock; and
FIG. **2** is a top plan view of a tag.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the figures, a tag **10** has a plate portion **12**. Molded within the plate portion **12** is a sheet **13** having a graphics and printed indicia **15**. The graphics and indicia **15** may include a warning as well as information indicating the individual authorized to remove the tag **10**.

Extending through the plate **12** is a slot **14**. While the slot is of any shape and size, preferred is a T-shaped slot. Extending outwardly from the plate portion **12** is an extension or tongue **16**. The tongue **16** has a neck portion **18** and a locking tip **20**. The locking tip **20** is formed to be received within the slot **14** such that once the tip **20** passes through the slot and is twisted the tip **20** is retained by the tip **20** engaging a surface of the plate portion **12**. The neck **18** is made of a flexible material such that the neck **18** may be bent to permit the tip **20** to be received by and pass through the slot **14**. The locking tip **20** has an aperture **22** adapted to receive a lock **23**, such as a conventional padlock.

In use, a tag **10** is provided and the tongue **16** is bent around an object so that the locking tip **20** is received by and passes through the slot **14**. In the embodiment shown in the drawings, the neck **18** is bent and twisted such that the tip **20** slides through the narrow section **24** of the T-shaped slot **14**. Once through the slot **14**, when the neck **18** is permitted to untwist, the neck **18** is received in the transverse section **26** of the slot **14**, such that an edge of the tip engages a surface of the plate portion **12**. Once the tip **20** is retained, the lock **23** is inserted through aperture **22** and locked in place.

From the foregoing, a tag has been shown that meets at least all the state objectives.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of securing an object, comprising the steps of:
providing a tag having an elongate, in-mold plastic plate portion, a slot, and a flexible tongue wherein the tongue further comprises a neck portion that extends outwardly from the plate portion and a locking tip extending from the neck portion; wherein the neck portion is narrower than the tongue and locking tip and wherein the locking tip has a centrally located aperture adapted to receive a lock;
bending the tongue around an object to be secured;
engaging the locking tip and the slot;
twisting the tongue so that the locking tip is received by and passes through the slot; and inserting a lock through the aperture.

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