IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 6-12, without prejudice.

1. (Withdrawn) A die responsive to a pressure applied thereto to cut a shape from a sheet material against which the die is pressed, said die comprising an inside opening that corresponds to the shape to be cut from the sheet material, an outside border that surrounds said inside opening, and a cutting edge that projects from said outside border to cut the shape from the sheet material, said cutting edge being located on said outer border such that said cutting edge surrounds the inside opening of said die, whereby none of said outside border extends past the cutting edge and none of said outside border lies between said cutting edge and said inside opening, so that said cutting edge is registered with the shape to be cut when said die is positioned on the sheet material and the outside border of said die surrounds the shape.

2. (Withdrawn) The die recited in Claim 1, wherein the cutting edge which projects from the outside border of said die is a cutting blade.

3. (Withdrawn) The die recited in Claim 1, wherein said cutting edge is located on the outside border of said die so as to lie exactly at the periphery of the inside opening of said die surrounded by said outside border, whereby said cutting edge exactly defines the shape to be cut from the sheet material.

4. (Withdrawn) The die recited in Claim 1, wherein the cutting edge of said die is located at the interface of said inside opening with said outside border.

5. (Withdrawn) The die recited in Claim 1, wherein the outside border of said die has a width of at least 2.5 mm.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

Please insert the following new claims in substitution of former Claims 6-12:

13. (New) A method for cutting out, by means of a first die, a shape that is printed on a sheet material, wherein the die includes an inside opening that corresponds to the shape to be cut from the sheet material, a flat outside border having first and opposite faces that surround said inside opening, and a cutting edge that projects from the first face of the flat outside border, such that

said cutting edge surrounds the inside opening of said first die and corresponds exactly with the shape that is printed on the sheet material and none of the flat outside border of said die extends into the inside opening of said die past the interface of said cutting edge with the first face of said flat outer border, said method comprising the steps of:

locating the shape printed on the sheet material to be cut therefrom;

placing the first face of the flat outer border of said first die on the sheet material and looking through the inside opening of said first die so that the shape printed on the sheet material is located entirely within the inside opening of said first die and the cutting edge which projects from the first face of said flat outside border is automatically registered so as to lie against the sheet material and surround the shape to be cut therefrom; and

applying a force to the opposite face of the flat outside border of said first die for pushing said cutting edge through said sheet material to cut the shape outwardly therefrom.

14. (New) The method recited in Claim 13, comprising the additional step of applying said force to the opposite face of the flat outside border of said first die by means of a roller press.

15. (New) The method recited in Claim 13, comprising the additional step of forming said first die by chemically etching a flat piece of metal.

16. (New) The method recited in Claim 15, comprising the additional step of forming at least a second die by chemically etching the flat piece of metal, such that the second die is nested within and spaced from the first die so as to lie at the inside opening of said first die, whereby the size of the inside opening of said first die is larger than said second die.