April 7, 1931. E. J. LEWIS 1,799,428

ENVELOPE

Filed Jan. 3, 1928

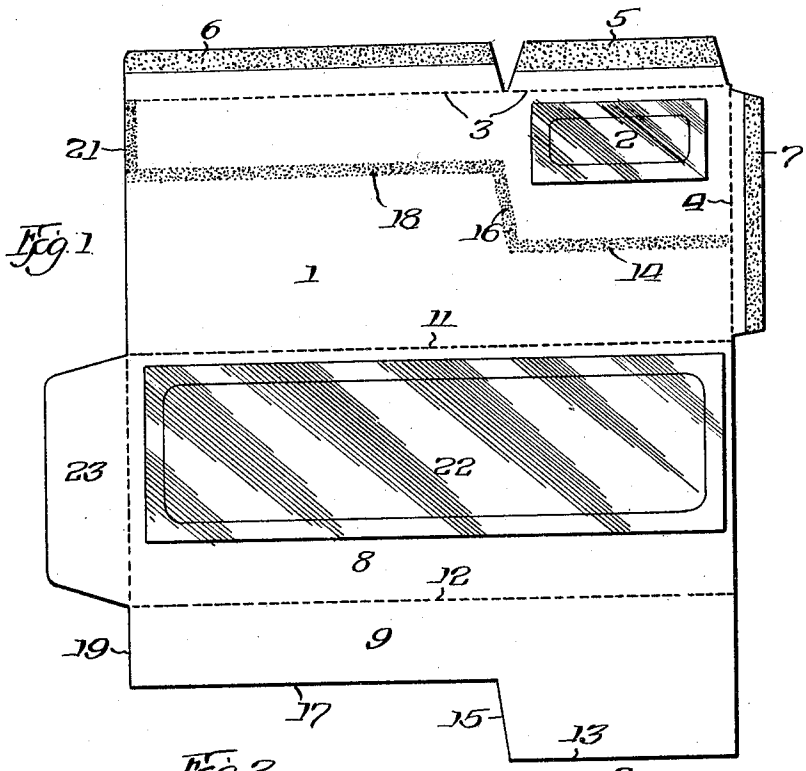


Fig. 1

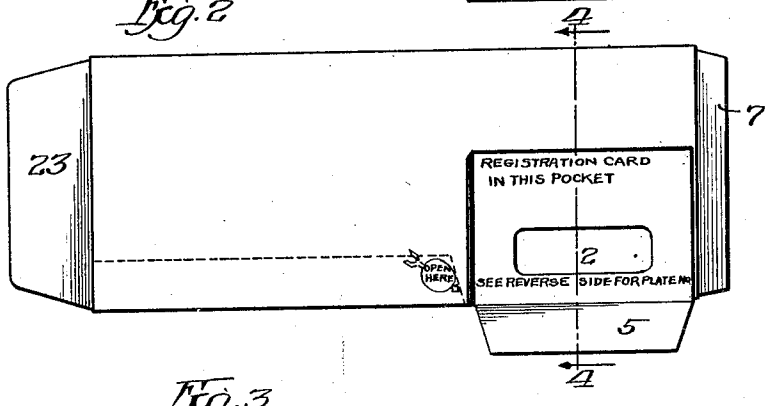


Fig. 2

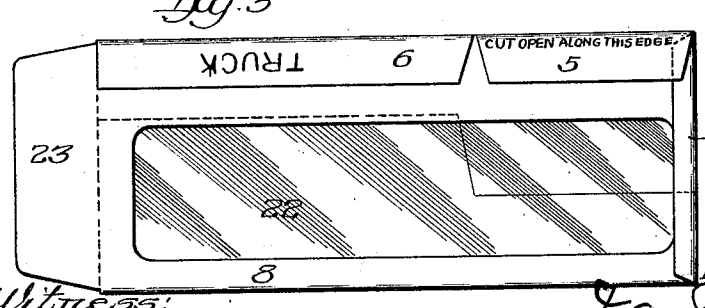


Fig. 3

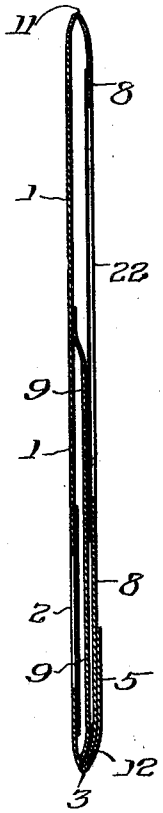


Fig. 4

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Patented Apr. 7, 1931 1,799,428

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ENVELOPE

Application filed January 3, 1928. Serial No. 244,065.

This invention pertains to improvements in multi-compartment envelopes and more particularly to envelopes having transparent windows therein through which may be viewed the contents of the several compartments.

This invention is especially useful where the contents of one of the compartments is intended to remain therein for sometime prior to the dispatching of the envelope in the mails. Heretofore when it was desired to mail this matter, a sendee was selected and his name and address were then properly indicated on the envelope and often, though not always, some first class mail matter was put in the other compartment and sealed therein. Prior to the dispatching of the envelope, it has heretofore been necessary to open the second class mail compartment to make sure that it contains the proper contents and it is often necessary for the postal authorities also to open this same compartment to examine its contents.

This invention, however, provides a window in the second class compartment through which the contents of the compartment may be examined at any time. It will then only be necessary for the sender to look through the window to make sure that the second class compartment contains what it is supposed to contain.

This envelope is found especially useful for transmitting automobile license plates, the practice being to place the plates in the large compartment with the numbers visible through the elongated window and to insert the license card in the small compartment. The license cards always bear the name and mailing address of the party for whom the plates are intended. Consequently no special effort is required for the addressing of the envelope. The manufacturers of the license plates heretofore have placed the plates in the double mailing envelopes and sent them to the license bureau. When the numbers later became assigned to some automobile owner, it was necessary for someone to check the number of the plates inclosed in the second class compartment before he could feel sure that he was mailing the correct plates to the party licensed. Failure to make this examination or carelessness in making it has often resulted in mistakes, great confusion and attendant expense. It is obvious that with the use of the envelope hereinafter described, no mistakes can occur and no time need be spent in checking numbers.

One of the objects therefore of this invention is to provide in a double mailing envelope one compartment which has a window through which may be viewed the name and address of the sendee as it appears on mailing matter inserted into that compartment, and another compartment which has a window through which may be viewed at any time prior to the mailing or thereafter the contents of said compartment so that the presence and identity of said contents may easily and quickly be known.

Another object of this invention is to provide an envelope which is especially useful for the transmission of license plates from manufacturers to the license bureau and from the license bureau to the ultimate user of the plates, whereby the plates identify themselves and the ordinary license card indicates the sendee.

Other objects and advantages pertaining to this invention are inherently possessed by it and will become apparent with a further study of the specification and drawing herein, it being understood that this particular drawing has been selected to illustrate the invention and that the scope of the invention is not limited to this illustrated embodiment.

In the drawing,

Fig. 1 is an elevation of a single sheet of paper prior to folding, from which this envelope may be made;

Fig. 2 is an elevation showing the folded side of the envelope when folded with the flaps open;

Fig. 3 is an elevation showing the rear side of the envelope with all flaps sealed excepting the one left open for postal inspection;

Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse section of the folded envelope taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Referring now in greater detail to the

drawing, the panel 1 is provided with a transparent or translucent window 2, the window being made of any suitable material such as a translucent paper, disposed over and about a hole cut in the panel. Connected to the panel 1 and foldable along the score lines 3 and 4 are the following flaps; flap 5 which is used to seal the small compartment along one edge of the envelope, flap 6 which is adapted to be sealed permanently along the remaining portion of the same edge of the envelope and flap 7 which is adapted for the permanent sealing of one end of the envelope. The sealing of flap 7, as will later be understood, simultaneously seals one end of the larger compartment and also prevents the loss of mailing matter through the corresponding end of the minor compartment.

The rear panel 8 is integral with the front panel 1 and with an inside panel 9, these three panels being foldable toward each other along the score lines 11 and 12.

When the envelope is folded, the inside panel 9 lies between the front and rear panels with the edge 13 in contact with the line of adhesive 14, the edge 15 in contact with the line of adhesive 16, the edge 17 in contact with the line of adhesive 18, and the edge 19 contacting with the line of adhesive 21 on the front panel.

To make this more clear, assume that the rear panel 8 remains horizontal, as shown in the drawing, then fold the inside panel 9 upwardly along the score line 12 until it lies against the rear panel. Then fold the front panel 1 upwardly along the score line 11 and lay the flap against the inside panel. This brings the indicated edges into contact with the lines of adhesive as previously explained.

This same folding operation brings the score line 3 into juxtaposition with the score line 12 with the flaps 6 and 5 extending beyond the edge of the envelope. The flap 6 will then be folded along the score line 3 around the edge of the envelope and sealed against the outside of the rear panel as indicated in Fig. 3. The flap 5 may be left open until the proper mailing matter containing the address of the sendee has been inserted into the minor compartment. This flap may then be stuffed into the compartment or it may be sealed as shown in Fig. 3.

When the envelope has been folded, the end flap 7 which in this illustration is integral with the front panel 1, may then be permanently sealed as in Fig. 3 against the outside face of the rear panel.

It will be understood that when the envelope is folded and the flap 6 has been sealed, an opening into the minor compartment still remains between the bottom surface of the inside panel 9, as viewed with reference to Fig. 1, and the inside surface of the panel 1, adjacent to the window 2.

When this envelope is used for transmitting license plates, the manufacturer or anyone else inserts a pair of the plates into the larger compartment with the numbers on one plate visible through the window 22 which is disposed in the rear panel. The loose flap 23 may then be stuffed into the end of the major compartment to hold the plates in place. When a licensee has been selected and these plates have been assigned to him, the usual license card is typed with the name and address of the licensee on it together with the license number which has been awarded to him. This card is then inserted into the minor compartment with the name and address of the licensee showing through the window 2. In order to guard against mistakes and to make sure that the right plates are transmitted, the person inserting the card needs only to look through the rear window 22 to make sure that he is sending the correct plates.

It should be understood that the major compartment lies in the space between the top surface of the rear panel and the top surface of the inside panel, as viewed with reference to Fig. 1, and that the minor compartment lies between the top surface of the panel 1 and the under surface of the inside panel 9, as viewed with reference to Fig. 1, the useful area of this compartment lying between the adhesive line 14 and the score line 3.

I claim:

1. A multi-compartment envelope for use in the mailing of license plates, formed from a blank cut from a single sheet of paper, and comprising front, rear, and inside panels, foldable in superimposed relation along parallel fold lines with said inside panel between said front and rear panels, and one end portion of said inside panel being sealed to said front panel thus forming a major compartment extending the full length and width of the envelope between the inside panel and the rear panel, said compartment being formed of a size adequate for receiving an automobile license plate, flaps for closing the openings formed by the free edges of said front and rear panels transverse to said fold lines, and flaps along the free edge of said front panel parallel with the fold lines, one of said flaps being permanently sealed over the edge adjacent said sealed end portion of the inside panel, and the other forming a sealing flap for a compartment of reduced dimension formed between said inside and front panels, the rear panel being provided with a transparent portion sufficiently large to reveal all of the numerals on the automobile license plate when the latter is placed in the larger compartment, the compartment of reduced dimension being formed of a size sufficient to receive a pocket size auto license card, and being provided with a window which is so dimensioned as to reveal the name

and address of the licensee as written upon the card.

2. A multi-compartment envelope for use in the mailing of automobile license plates comprising front and rear panels of equal width connected to each other on a longitudinal fold line, an inside panel connected on a longitudinal fold line to the rear panel and adapted when folded to lie between the front and rear panels and to be sealed along two of its free edges to said front panel to form therewith a separate compartment of reduced size having a mail opening on a fold line at one edge of the folded envelope, said compartment being of a size sufficient to receive a pocket size auto license card, separate sealing flaps on said front panel adapted to fold over said edge of the envelope, one of which is adapted for covering said mail opening and the other for permanently sealing the remainder of said envelope edge, the front and rear panels enclosing a major compartment of a size sufficient to receive an automobile license plate, said compartment of reduced size being formed with a window for revealing the name and address of the licensee as written upon the license card contained therein, and said major compartment having a window in the rear panel of a size sufficient to reveal all of the characters on the license plate contained in the major compartment.

3. A multi-compartment envelope for use in the mailing of automobile license plates, which comprises a major compartment of a size sufficient to receive an automobile license plate, and a compartment of reduced size formed in the envelope on the side opposite the major compartment, and dimensioned to receive a pocket size auto license card, flaps formed on the envelope for closing each of the compartments, said major compartment being formed on its outer panel with a window of a size sufficient to reveal all of the characters on the license plate contained therein, and said compartment of reduced size being formed with a window for revealing the name and address of the licensee as written upon the license card contained therein.

In witness of the foregoing I affix my signature.

EMANUEL J. LEWIS.