

May 19, 1925.

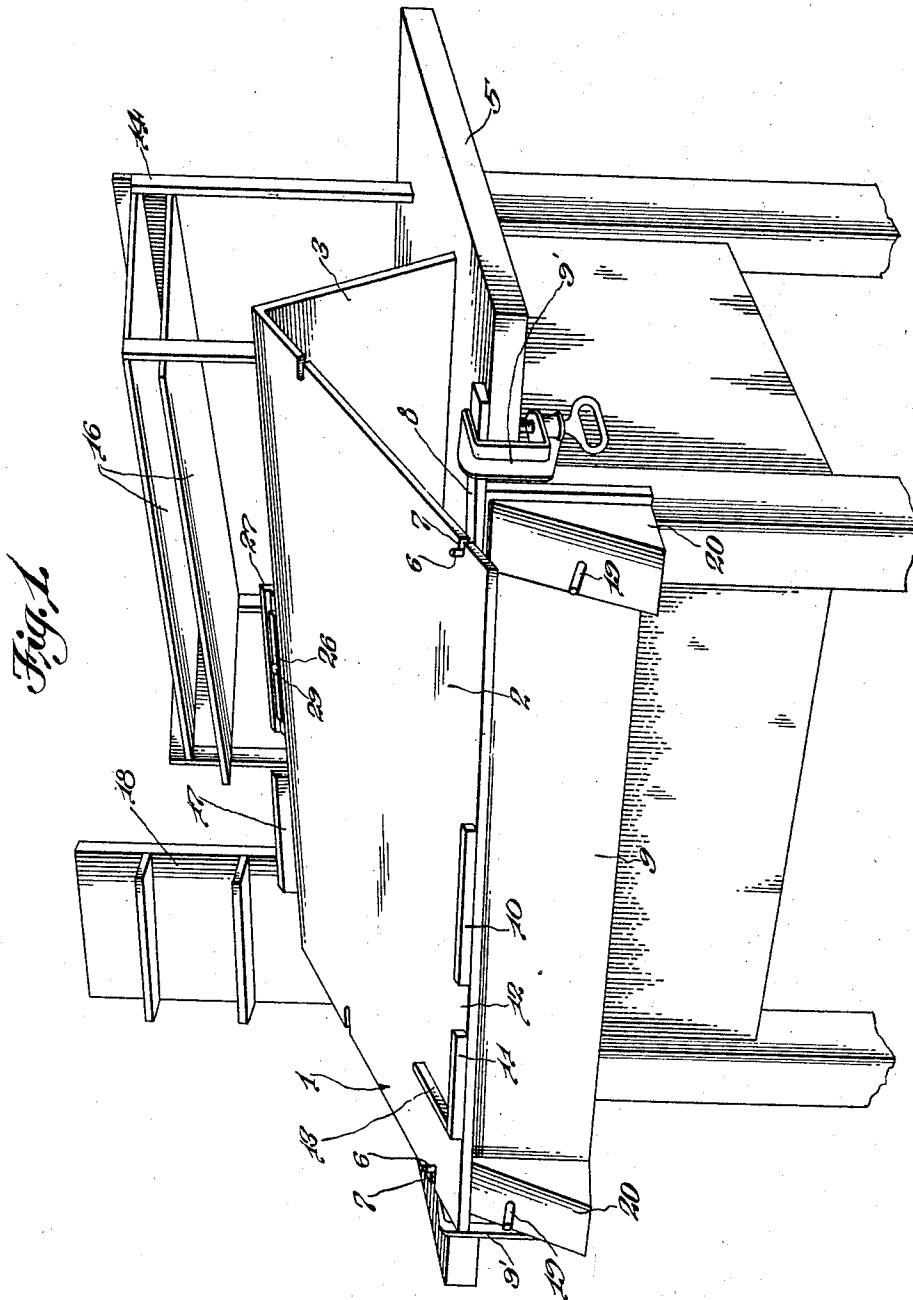
C. E. McCORMICK

1,538,712

MAILING DEVICE

Filed July 27, 1923

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



C. E. McCormick

INVENTOR

BY *Victor J. Evans*

ATTORNEY

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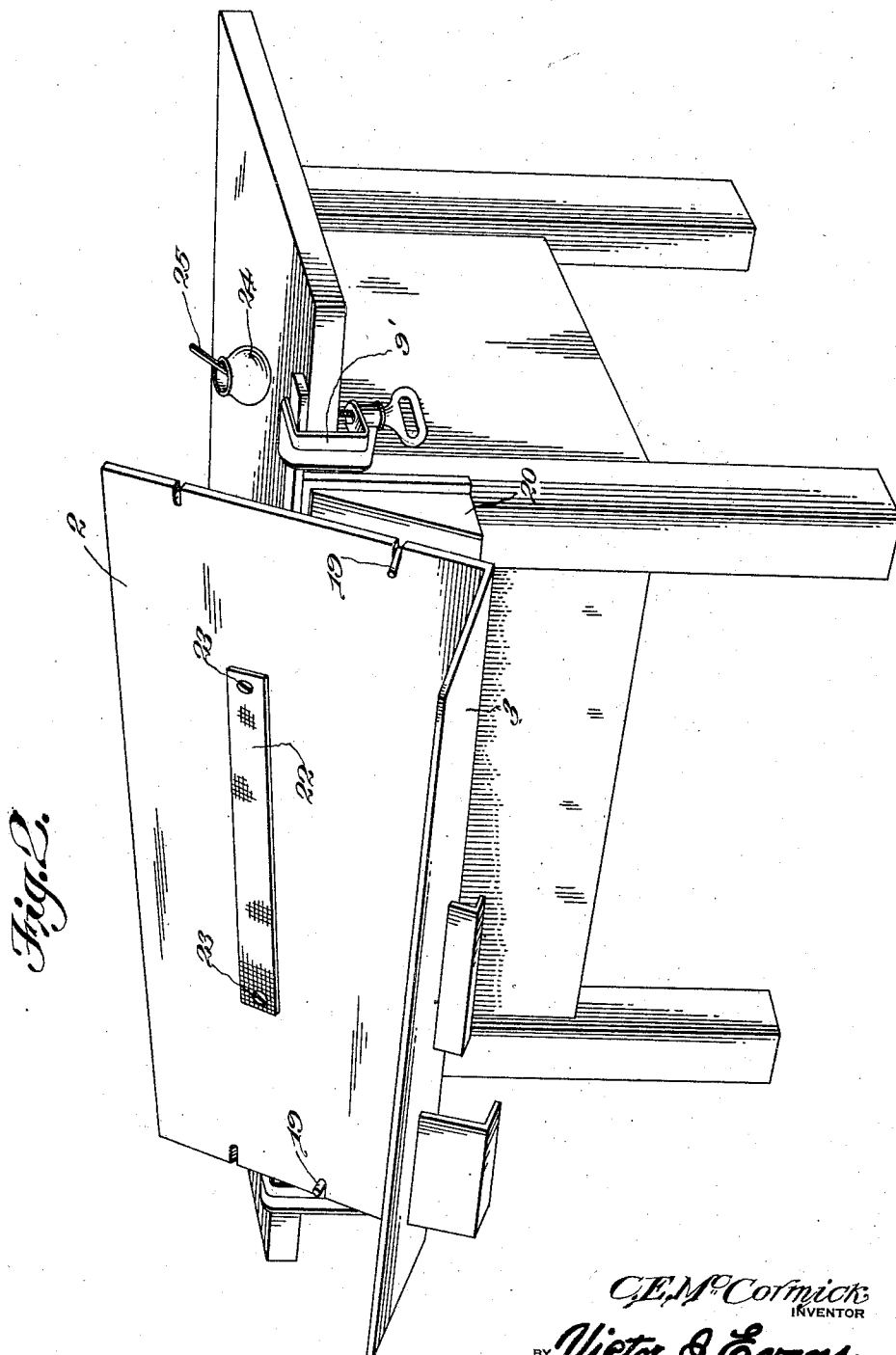
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Fig. 6.

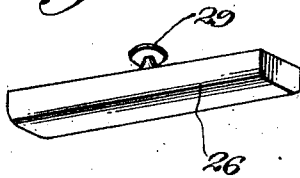


Fig. 3.

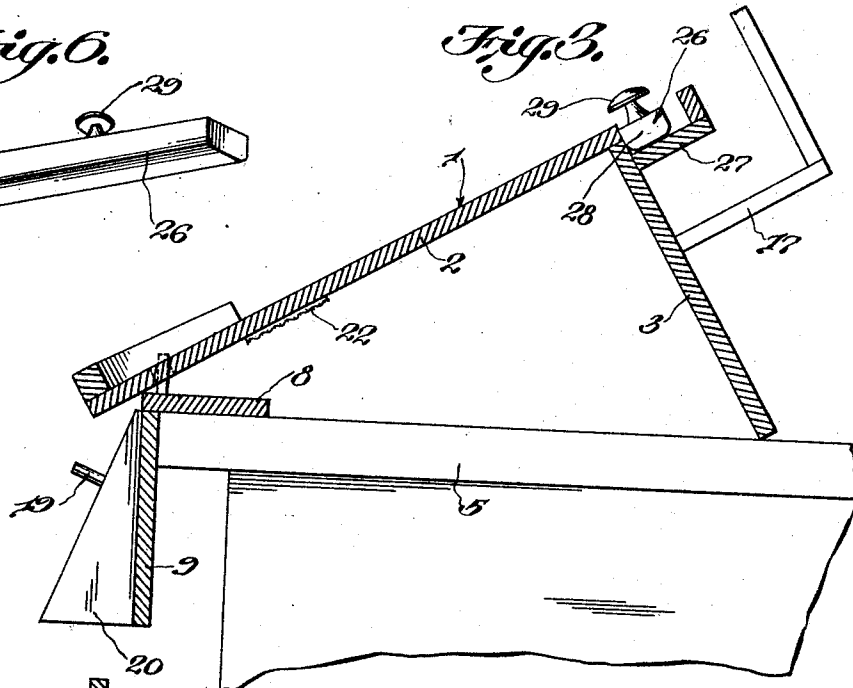


Fig. 5.

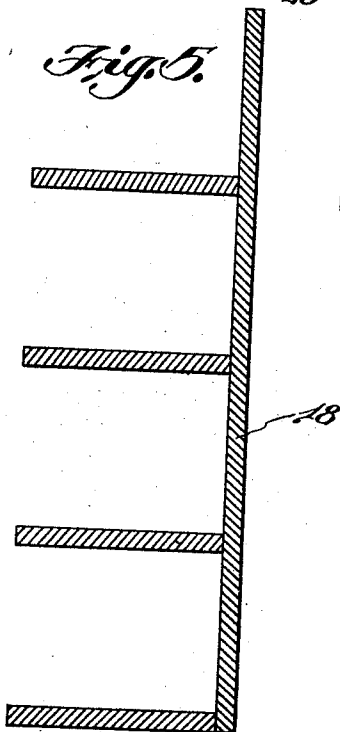
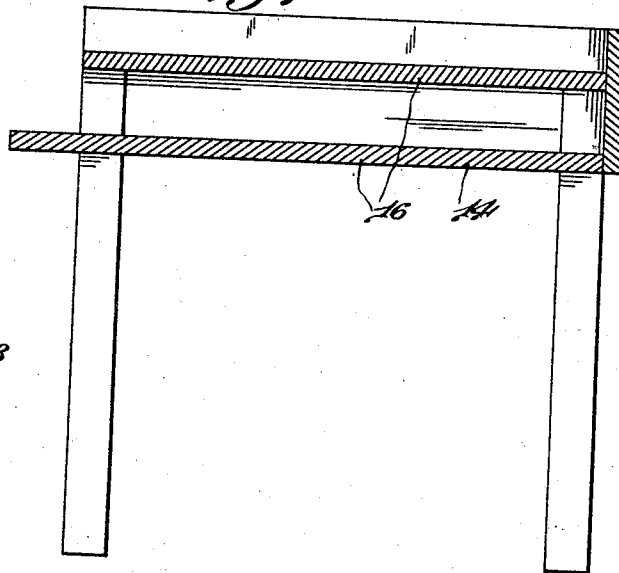


Fig. 4.



WITNESS:

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Patented May 19, 1925.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. McCORMICK, OF PRINCETON, INDIANA.

MAILING DEVICE.

Application filed July 27, 1923. Serial No. 654,208.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. McCORMICK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Princeton, in the county of Gibson and State of Indiana, have invented new and useful Improvements in Mailing Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a device or apparatus particularly designed to facilitate the mailing of circulars, circular letters or analogous mail matter, and an object of the invention is to provide a simple apparatus which may be manufactured at a comparatively low cost and by means of which mail matter may be folded, envelopes stuffed, sealed and stamped in a quick manner and with a minimum amount of manual labor.

Another object of this invention is to provide a mailing device which is constructed and arranged so as to permit the obtaining of the most pronounced results with the least number of motions of the hands of the user.

A further object of this invention is to provide a device as specified, which embodies a table frame which may be clamped to any suitable type of mailing or office table and which forms a detachable support for the main body of the mailing device, embodying suitable means for supporting the main body in folding position and in inserting, stamping and sealing position.

A further object of the invention is to provide, in a mailing device a combined folder, assembler, envelope stuffer, sealer and stamper which is arranged to facilitate the manual work in performing these operations and permit the hand and arm motions to be so systematized as to give remarkable speed with minimum exertion of manual effort, and also to provide a device as specified which does not include any mechanism which would get out of order during continuous use and to provide a device which is especially adapted for circular and letter mailing that does not warrant the relatively expensive mailing machinery or automatic mailing machinery of approved types now on the market.

Other objects of the invention will appear in the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the improved mailing device showing it in folding position.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the improved mailing device showing it in envelope stuffing, stamping and sealing position.

Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the device showing it in folding position.

Fig. 4 is a vertical section through a supply table used in connection with the device.

Fig. 5 is a detail vertical section through an assembling rack employed in the device.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of an improved form of creaser sometimes used in folding mail matter on the device when in folding position.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the improved mailing device comprises the main body structure 1 which includes a flat board 2. A supporting board 3 is attached to one edge of the board 2 and extends at right angles thereto for supporting the board 2 in an inclined position when the board 2 is used for the folding operation, and in position as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawings. The board 2 is held against movement relative to the supporting table 5, by means of pins 6 which engage in slots or notches 7 cut into the ends of the board 2 adjacent to its edge remote from the angularly extending board 3. The pins 6 are carried by the flat strip 8 of the table clamp structure 9, which flat strip is clamped upon the top of the table 5 and securely held in position thereon by means of any approved type of clamps 9'. The board 2 has edging strips 10 and 11 attached to one surface thereof along its edge remote from the board 3 and the facing ends of the strips 10 and 11 are spaced as clearly shown at 12 to permit the insertion of the finger of the operator therebetween to engage the sheets of paper or circulars to be folded. The right angularly extending edging strip 13 is attached to the board 2 at the outer end of the strip 11, and the strips 10, 11 and 13 form suitable means for properly positioning the paper or material to be folded.

A supply table 14 is provided, which is comparatively small relative to the table 5 and rests upon the table 5. The supply table 14, shown in the drawings is provided with upper and lower supporting shelves 16

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the im-

and while only two of such supporting shelves are shown in the drawings, it is to be understood that any desired number of shelves may be employed without departing
 5 from the spirit of this invention. The shelves 16 are adapted to support the circulars, or sheets of letters to be mailed and in case there are two sheets to be enclosed a stack of one sheet may be placed on one of
 10 the shelves and a stack of the second sheet on the other shelf so that they may be easily and quickly taken from the table 14 and placed on the folding board for folding. It is preferable to make the shelves in staggered relation, that is one slightly wider
 15 than the one next thereabove.

In the folding operation, the sheets are placed upon the board 2 with the lower left hand corners engaging the strips 11 and 13
 20 and they are folded, in any approved manner or system, to the proper size to fit the envelopes in which they are to be mailed.

It is to be understood that the motions required for folding may be quickly studied
 25 out so as to permit the proper folding with the least number of movements. After the letters or circulars have been folded to fit the envelope, they are placed in the receiving trough 17 which is carried by the right
 30 angularly extending board 3. When the trough 17 is filled, the stack or bundle of folded mail matter may be taken therefrom and placed in the assembler structure 18 or on the supply table and after all or any desired number of the circulars or letters have
 35 been folded, the board 1 is disconnected from the table clamp 9 and is turned over, with the strips 10, 11 and 13 on the under side of the board and the right angularly extending
 40 board 3 projecting outwardly from the lower edge of the board 2, as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings. The board 2 is supported in this inverted position by pins 19 which are in turn carried by the triangular shaped
 45 supporting blocks 20 on the table or clamping frame 9. The board 3 comprises a trough or support on which the envelopes to be filled are stacked and if it is so desired a stack of the folded matter to be
 50 mailed may be placed on the board or the individual folded matter may be taken one at a time from the assembling rack 18 and stuffed or placed in the envelopes, after which the gummed portion of the sealing
 55 flap of the envelope is moistened upon the moistener 22.

The moistener 22 comprises a strip of wick or any suitable moisture absorptive material and it is fastened to the surface of
 60 the board 2 by thumb tacks 23 or any other suitable fastening devices so that if it is desired it may be removed. It is desirable to provide a suitable receptacle 24 for water and a brush 25 by means of which the strip
 65 22 may be moistened as desired during the

sealing operation. The moisture strip 22 also serves for moistening the stamps and it has been found practical to stamp the envelopes before they are filled.

In Fig. 6 of the drawings a creaser 26 is
 70 shown which is adapted to normally rest in the trough 27 carried by the board 3. The creaser 26 comprises a relatively long body 28 which has a handle 29 centrally thereon to facilitate its use. The creaser is preferably
 75 to be used when a number of folds are to be broken at one time.

While the rack 18 has heretofore been termed a storage rack, it is to be understood that this rack may be used as an assembler
 80 or assembling rack when preparing the subject matter to be mailed. It is only in rare instances when circular mail matter consists of only one piece, as most envelopes carry a plurality of inserts or pieces of mail, and the rack 18 serves admirably as an assembling rack permitting the placing of the
 85 various circulars or pieces of mail matter in stacks upon each of the shelves of the rack so that one at a time may be taken from the rack to facilitate the proper assembling of the matter in the envelope.

No particular system or manner of folding, stuffing and sealing has been described, as it is to be understood that the proper
 90 steps in the system may vary with the different types of mail matter to be mailed; however, it will be apparent from the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings that with the use of
 95 the improved mailing device heretofore described the manual labor necessary for folding and mailing matter may be reduced to a minimum and the speed increased to a
 100 maximum and also that the improved device may be manufactured at a relatively low cost.

It is, of course, to be understood that the invention may be constructed in other manners and the parts associated in different
 110 relations and, therefore, I do not desire to be limited in any manner except as set forth in the claims hereunto appended.

Having thus described my invention what I claim is:—

1. A mailing device comprising a table frame adapted to be clamped to a table, a body board, a plurality of edging strips carried by one face of said body board, a supporting board attached to the body
 120 board along one edge and extending transversely to the body board, said body board provided with notches extending inwardly from its end edges, pins carried by said table frame for engagement in said notches, substantially triangular shaped supporting
 125 blocks carried by said table frame, pins carried by said triangular supporting blocks, said body board provided with a second set of notches adapted to engage over the pins
 130

carried by said triangular shaped supporting blocks for supporting the body board in an envelope sealing position.

2. A mailing device comprising a table frame adapted to be clamped to a table, a body board, a plurality of edging strips carried by one face of said body board, a supporting board attached to the body board along one edge and extending transversely to the body board, said body board provided with notches extending inwardly from its end edges, pins carried by said table frame for engagement in said notches, substantially triangular shaped supporting blocks carried by said table frame, pins carried by said triangular supporting blocks, said body board provided with a second set of notches adapted to engage over the pins carried by said triangular shaped supporting blocks for supporting the body board in an envelope sealing position, and a moistener carried by said body board.

3. In a mailing device the combination, of

a table frame adapted to be clamped to a table, a body board, a plurality of edging strips carried by one face of said body board, a supporting board attached to the body board along one edge and extending transversely to the body board, said body board provided with notches extending inwardly from its end edges, pins carried by said table frame for engagement in said notches, substantially triangular shaped supporting blocks carried by said table frame, pins carried by said triangular supporting blocks, said body board provided with a second set of notches adapted to engage over the pins carried by said triangular shaped supporting blocks for supporting the body board in an envelope sealing position, a moistener carried by said body board, an article supporting table, and an assembling rack for receiving the folded articles.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CHARLES E. McCORMICK.