May 8, 1934. H. N. WILL 1,957,684

ENVELOPE

Original Filed Aug. 31, 1932

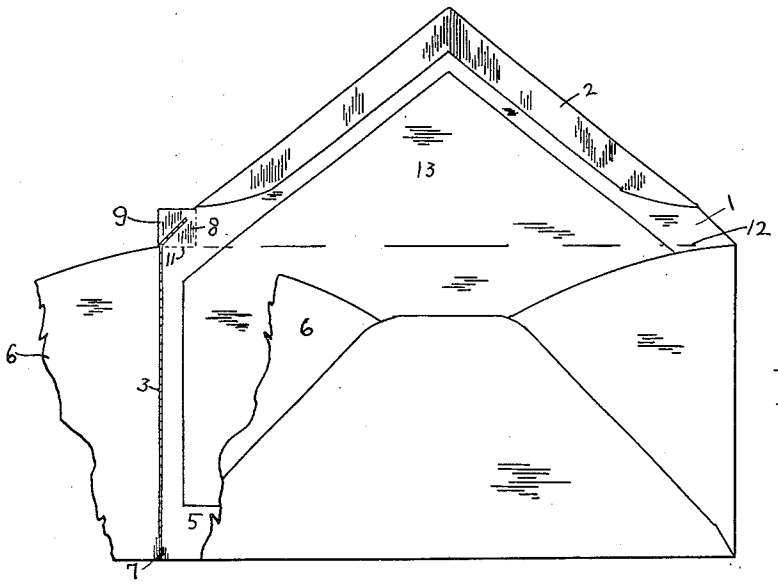


Fig. I.

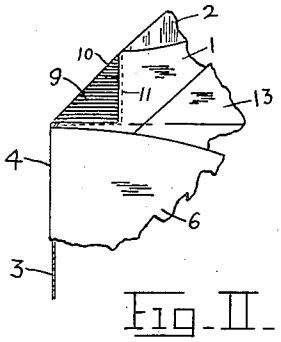


Fig. II.

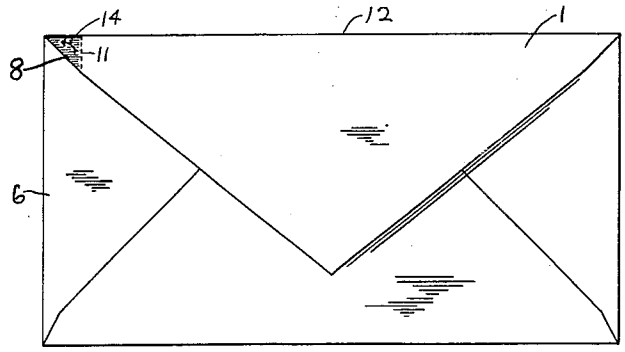


Fig. III.

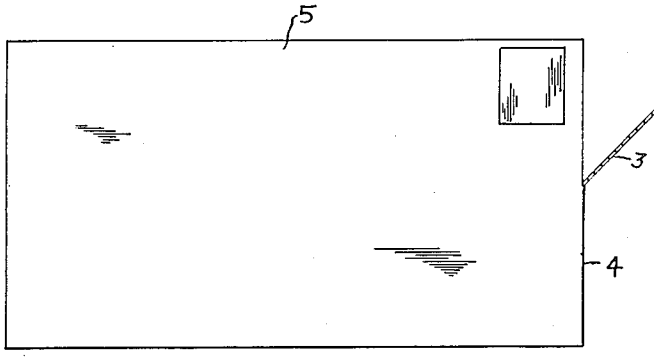


Fig. IV.

Inventor

Harold N. Will

Patented May 8, 1934 1,957,684

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,957,684

ENVELOPE

Harold N. Will, Kettle Falls, Wash.

Continuation of application Serial No. 631,290, August 31, 1932. This application November 10, 1933, Serial No. 697,431

3 Claims. (Cl. 229—86)

This invention relates to an improved combination envelope and opener, and particularly to actuating means for the opener, and consists in the novel design, combination, and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully disclosed.

An object of this invention is to provide a simple, convenient, and effective means of opening sealed envelopes with an opening means comprising a cutting member secured in one of the folds of the envelope and attached at one end to a detachable portion of the envelope flap, said detachable portion forming a means by which the cutting member may be actuated to open the envelope along one of the lines of fold.

A further object of the invention is to provide as a part of an envelope an operating means for the cutting member that will be noticeable and easily distinguishable from the other parts of the envelope.

A further object of the invention is to provide in an envelope having a self contained opener an operating means therefor, the purpose of which may be readily understood by persons not accustomed to envelopes equipped with openers.

A further object of the invention is to provide a paper ear which is formed as a part of that part of the envelope flap designated as the operating member, the purpose of which is to cover and more securely fasten the end of the cutting member to said operating member.

A further object of the invention is to provide an envelope with self contained opening means that will have sufficient novelty and good appearance to be appropriate for high grade stationery as well as for business use.

I attain these and other objects by the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which—

Figure 1 is a rear view of an envelope with the closure flap in an open position and showing a cut open section with the cutting member exposed.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary elevation of one of the upper corners of the envelope showing the ear folded and sealed over the end of the cutting member.

Figure 3 is a rear view of the envelope with the flaps in a closed position and showing an outside view of the operating member.

Figure 4 is an elevation of the front of the envelope showing the operation of opening.

I have shown a common form of letter envelope with my invention applied thereto, and referring to the drawing, 1 indicates the envelope closure flap which is provided with gummed sealing material 2, 3 indicates the cutting member which extends along the fold line 4 formed between the envelope body 5 and the flap 6. The cutting member 3 which is preferably a fine thread of silk, cotton or wire is glued or otherwise fastened along the full length of the fold line 4 or along the extreme lower portion of the fold line 4 as indicated at 7. The other end of the cutting member extends outside of the fold formed by flap 6 and is fastened by glue, gum, or other adhesive means between an operating member 8 and an ear 9, the ear 9 is a folding member of operating member 8, the juncture line between the two being indicated at 10. Both the operating member 8 and the folding ear 9 are formed as a part of the envelope closure flap 1 and they are weakened therefrom and made detachable by perforations 11 which also weakens them from the envelope body 5 along the fold line 12.

When the ear 9 is folded over and sealed to the operating member 8 as in Figure 2 it will completely cover the end of the cutting member 3 and also cover up all sealing material on these parts; this makes the envelope much neater in appearance and also prevents said operating member from sticking to other parts of the envelope. It also makes possible the use of the same kind of sealing material on said operating member and said ear as is used on the envelope closure flap 1.

An envelope lining 13 may be used in the envelope as shown in Figure 1.

It will be noted that when the envelope is folded as in Figure 3, the operating member 8 in no way changes the general shape or form of a standard envelope flap, and that it presents an easily detachable means for actuating the cutting member 3.

It will also be noted in Figure 3 that the operating member 8 has an arrow 14 stamped thereon indicating the direction that said operating member should be pulled off along the perforated line 11. The arrow 14 should be formed as an elevated portion of the paper. It may be of any suitable color. The exposed portions of the operating member 8 and the ear 9 are colored, gilded, shaded or otherwise given a value, tint or hue so as to present an operating means that will be noticeable and particularly set forth in superficial appearance from the rest of the envelope which is preferably uncolored or lightly tinted.

Now it is evident that any one receiving a sealed envelope embodying this invention will upon noticing the operating member 8 be guided

to pull it in the direction indicated thereon, and in so doing will pull the cutting member 3 away from the end of the envelope as indicated in Figure 4. The operation of pulling said operating member away from the end of the envelope will cause said cutting member to neatly cut open the envelope along the fold line 4.

It should be mentioned that while it is considered preferable to have the ear 9 made as a part of the envelope a member made separately could also be used without departing from the invention.

While I have herein shown and described my invention as applied to opening the right hand end of a sealed letter envelope, I do not wish to be limited thereby except for such limitations as my claims may import.

I claim:

1. In combination, an envelope having a closure flap and several inturned flaps, the closure flap having near its fold an ear to be folded against a detachable portion of said closure flap, and a thread having one end fastened beneath the ear of the closure flap of said envelope and running along and fastened within the fold of one of said inturned flaps.

2. An envelope having in combination, a front, several ordinary flaps formed from the same sheet of paper as said front and folded over to make the back of the envelope, a closable flap also from the same sheet of paper, an ear forming a projection from said closable flap, perforations in said closable flap following the edge of said ear when it is folded against said closable flap, and a thread having one end fastened beneath said ear, running along and fastened within the fold of one of said ordinary flaps.

3. An envelope having in combination, a front, several ordinary flaps formed from the same sheet of paper as said front and folded over to make the back of the envelope, a closable flap also from the same sheet of paper, an ear forming a projection from said closable flap, perforations in said closable flap following the edge of said ear when it is folded against said closable flap, a thread having one end fastened beneath said ear, running along and fastened within the fold of one of said ordinary flaps, an indicating arrow stamped on the outside of the detachable portion of the closure flap formed by said perforations, and coloring material deposited on the exposed portions of said ear and said detachable portion of the envelope closure flap.

HAROLD N. WILL.