June 27, 1944. W. MARCUS ET AL 2,352,559

CLOSURE OR SEALING MEANS FOR PAPER OR CARDBOARD RECEPTACLES

Filed April 29, 1942

Fig. 1.

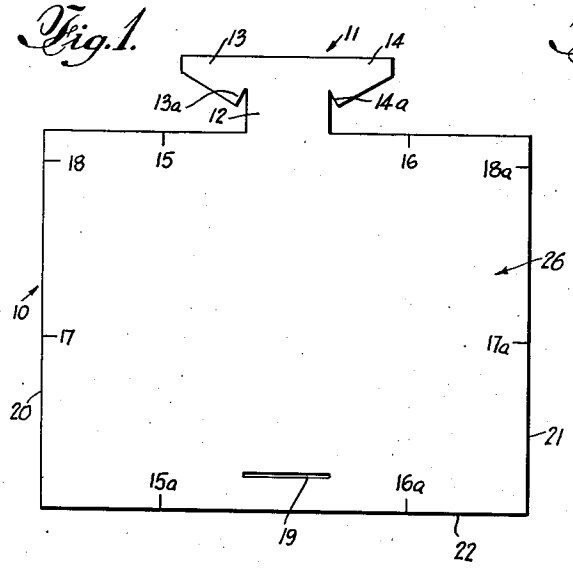
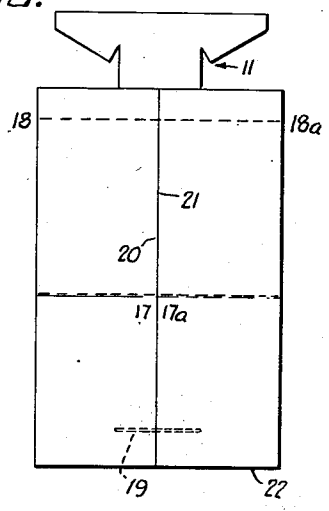


Fig. 2.



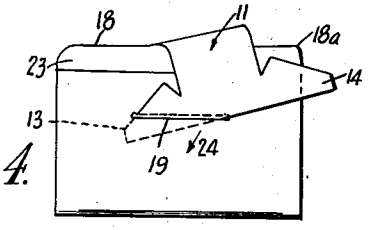


Fig. 4.

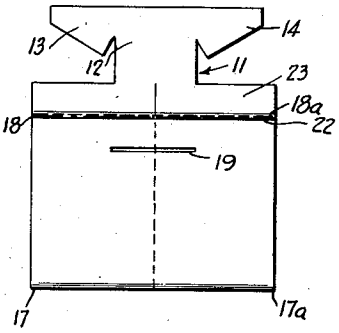


Fig. 3.

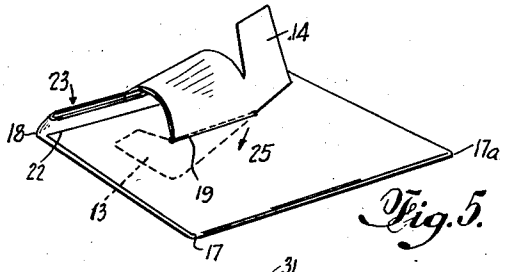


Fig. 5.

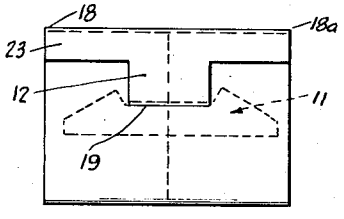


Fig. 6.

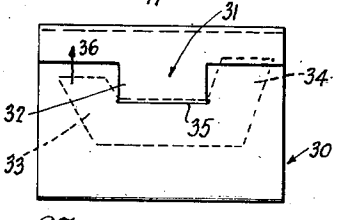


Fig. 7.

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CLOSURE OR SEALING MEANS FOR PAPER OR CARDBOARD RECEPTACLES

William Marcus, New York, and Albert Baum, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Application April 29, 1942, Serial No. 440,906

2 Claims. (Cl. 229—84)

This invention relates to closure or sealing means for paper-sheet envelopes, cardboard boxes, or similar receptacles made from substantially bendable and somewhat flexible material.

It is an object of the present invention to provide locking or sealing means for receptacles of the aforesaid nature which permits easy handling and operation thereof and complies with many requirements for protecting and preventing such receptacle from being opened by unauthorized persons.

It is another object of the present invention to provide very useful and efficient sealing or locking means which, although simple in construction, is inexpensive to manufacture and forms preferably an integral part of the receptacle.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide locking or sealing means of the above type which is devoid of any gummed or adhesive portions and is so constructed that when manipulated into locking position said means cooperates with an opening or slot provided in said receptacle whereby said sealing means is absolutely prevented from being removed from said slot without being destroyed, during reopening of the receptacle.

A further object of the present invention resides in the provision of a relatively flexible flap forming part of said sealing means, said sealing means being similar in function to that of a barb or fishhook.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following disclosure thereof together with the attached drawing which illustrates certain forms of embodiments thereof. These forms are shown for the purpose of illustrating the invention since the same has been found in practice to give satisfactory and reliable results, although it is to be understod that the various instrumentalities of which the invention consists can be variously arranged and organized and that the invention is not limited to the precise arrangement and organization of the instrumentalities as herein shown and described.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a letter-envelope provided with sealing means made in accordance with the invention.

Figs. 2 to 5 illustrate respective steps in performing closing or locking operation with locking means, shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 shows the letter-envelope of Fig. 1 in locked condition.

Fig. 7 shows a letter-envelope with modified sealing means.

In that form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 6, a blank sheet of paper 10 of substantially rectangular shape is shown having sealing means 11 comprising a tongue member 12 provided with a head having lateral projections 13, 14 and further provided with outer edges downwardly converging toward said tongue member and terminating into notches 13*a* and 14*a* for a purpose hereinafter described. As it can be well seen from the drawing tongue 12 extends beyond an edge of blank sheet 10, the latter being provided with score lines or creases indicated at 15—15*a*, 16—16*a*, 17—17*a* and 18—18*a*. Opposite tongue 12 and adjacent edge 22 opposite said aforesaid one edge and within the boundaries of blank 10, there is provider slot 19 having a length corresponding to the width of tongue 12.

Let it be assumed that the space of blank 10 has been used for correspondence, the blank is then being closed by first folding the paper blank about score lines 15—15*a* and 16—16*a* whereby a letter shape is obtained showing edges 20 and 21 of the blank in abutting relation, as clearly depicted in Fig. 2; thereafter the blank is folded over about score line 17—17*a* whereby slot 19 is brought up to a position, as shown in Fig. 3. It will be observed that edge or end 22 of the blank extends substantially to score line 18—18*a*.

Fig. 4 shows as a further stage or step of the folding operation tongue 12 with lateral extensions or projecting members 13, 14 folded over score line 18—18*a* thereby providing a flap portion 23 which comes to lie over said edge 22 when the thus formed letter-envelope is being finally closed.

In order to seal the letter-envelope, one of the projecting members 13 or 14 is inserted and slidably moved in the direction of arrow 24 into slot 19 (Fig. 4) and then somewhat turned and swung further (arrow 25) until the other of said projecting members clears slot 19 and may be forced to pass through said slot 19.

It is well understood that proportions and size of slot 19 and tongue member 12 are so chosen, that projections 13, 14 may be threaded through said slot without being damaged. Fig. 6 shows the position of sealing or locking means 11 after insertion thereof within slot 19. It will be thus realized that opening of the letter-envelope necessitates tearing off of any of the sealing means 11 or damage of slot 19. Notches 13*a* and 14*a* provide weakening areas or points at sealing means 11 facilitating the tearing off of either or

both projections 13, 14 when manipulated for opening the letter-envelope or like receptacle.

As hereinabove mentioned, when flap portion 23 is folded over edge 22 (Fig. 5) projecting members 13, 14 of sealing means 11 are inserted through slot 19, the concealing of correspondence written on the inside 26 of blank 10 is brought about, although the letter-envelope or like receptacle gives the appearance of being open at the sides thereof.

In some instances it might be useful to use a finger or knife-like instrument to perform the insertion of projecting members 13, 14 into slot 19.

It is further to be noted that flap 23 may have any other form than that shown in the drawing.

Fig. 7 shows a modification of the embodiment of the invention illustrating a letter-envelope or receptacle 30 with extension member sealing or locking means 31 comprising tongue member 32 and projections 33 and 34. It will be noted that projection 33 is somewhat shorter than projection 34, however, the operation of said locking means 31 is similar to that of locking member 11 (Fig. 4). The insertion of projection 33 through slot 35 is accomplished relatively easier than hereinabove set forth. After the projection 33 has been slipped through slot 35, tongue 32 may be so manipulated that projection 33 first moves in the direction of arrow 36 whereupon the projection 34 is being introduced into slot 35. After the insertion of projections 33 and 34, the tongue 32 redirects the projections 33 and 34 to a position as shown in Fig. 7, whereby a fishhook or barb effect is obtained, so that no tampering or opening of the letter-envelope may take place without tearing off one or both of said projections 33, 34.

It is well understood that the letter-envelope can be constructed with one or more locking members 11 or 31 and that the invention may be applied to any kind of paper receptacle, thus providing a perfect closure and sealing of the receptacle without the provision of any adhesive or gummed means.

In order to facilitate manipulation of the tongue member during closing operation, the ends of the slot may be shaped somewhat arcuate, thus effectively preventing accidental damage of the slot when introducing into said slot the aforesaid projecting members or extensions.

In both instances illustrated in Figs. 1 and 7, the length of the extremity of locking means 11 or 31 is greater than the width of slot or opening 19 or 35, however, tongue member 12 or 32 is firmly held in position in said slot between the walls of the latter.

While there has been shown and described and pointed out the fundamental novel features of the invention as applied to the above embodiments, it will be understood that various admissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the devices illustrated and its operation may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is:

1. In a paper receptacle or the like having sealing means forming part of a blank from which said receptacle is manufactured; a flap forming part of said blank to close the receptacle, a tongue member extending from said flap and adapted for engagement with a slot provided in said blank and being of a width substantially corresponding to the length of said slot, lateral extensions of different lengths projecting from said tongue member, and notches positioned, respectively, between said extensions and said tongue member proper, said tongue member being adapted to engage said slot upon introducing the longer of said extensions first into said slot whereby said tongue member may be manipulated so that the shorter extension enters said slot thereafter and the tongue member is then fixed in position in said slot and extends therewithout to finally seal said closed receptacle.

2. A sealable paper receptacle or like article comprising a substantially rectangular blank, a tongue member including a head, said head being provided with lateral projections having outer edges downwardly converging toward said tongue member, said tongue member and head being integral with said blank and centrally extending from one edge of said blank, said blank being provided with a slot adjacent another edge of said blank positioned opposite to said one edge, the length of said slot corresponding to the width of said tongue member and being smaller than the width of said head at its extremity, scores provided on said blank whereby said blank may be folded to closing position, and a flap formed between said one edge of said blank and a score within the boundaries of said blank and spaced from said one edge, whereby said flap in closing position of said receptacle overlies the other edge of said receptacle, said head and said projections being only successively insertable in said slot, whereby said tongue member is firmly held in position in said slot by the walls of the latter.

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