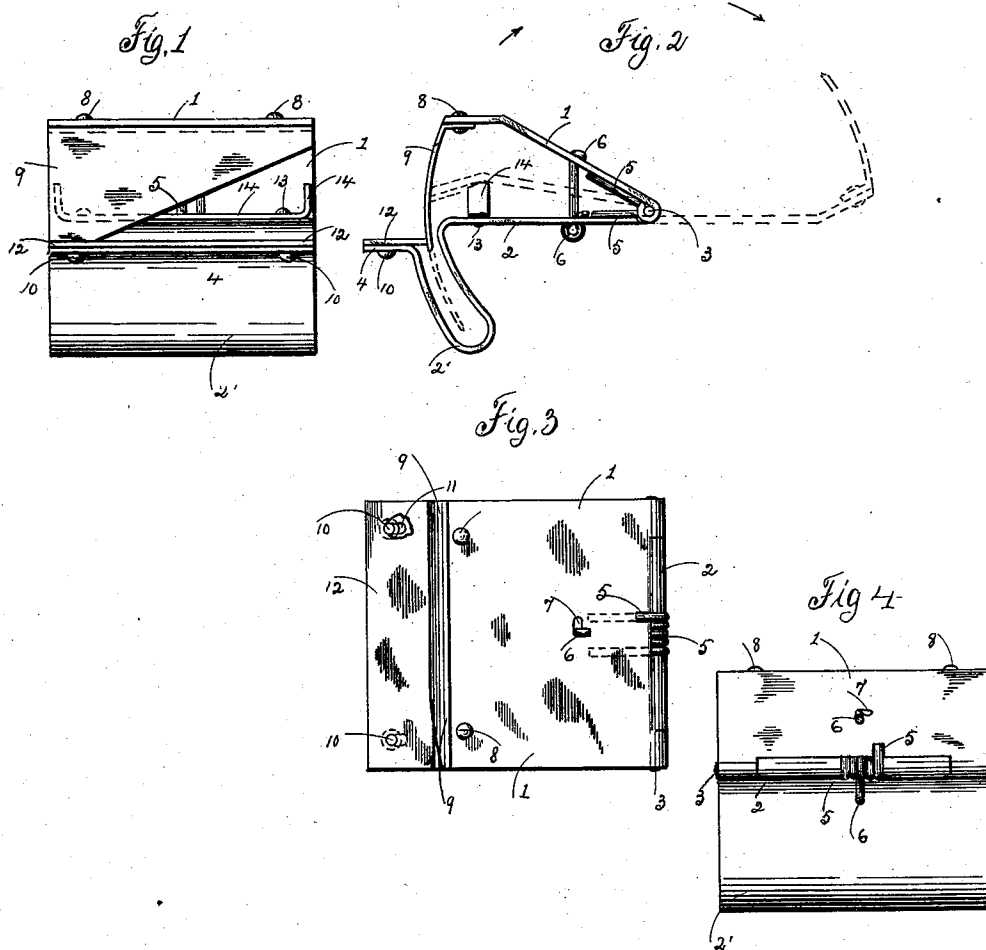


(No Model.)

C. W. STEVENER.
ENVELOP OPENER.

No. 601,309.

Patented Mar. 29, 1898.



Witnesses,
Richard D. Harrison,
Somers M. Rutledge

Inventor
C. W. Stevener
By O. A. Lewis
Att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES W. STEVENER, OF TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA.

ENVELOP-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 601,309, dated March 29, 1898.

Application filed April 12, 1897. Serial No. 631,758. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES W. STEVENER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Tarentum, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelop-Openers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in envelop-openers.

The invention has for its object the construction of a device for the above-described purpose that will be simple in construction and operation, strong, durable, and comparatively inexpensive to manufacture.

With the above objects in view the invention finally consists of the novel construction, combination, and arrangements of parts, as will be hereinafter more specifically described in detail.

In describing the invention in detail reference is had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and wherein like numerals designate similar parts, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of the device. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same. Fig. 3 is a top view, and Fig. 4 is a back view.

To construct a device in accordance with my invention, I provide a frame consisting of the plates 1 and 2, which are hinged together upon the pin 3. The upper plate 1 is formed in an angular shape, as shown, and the lower plate has the spring-looped portion 2' formed thereon and terminates in the flanged portion 4, which is parallel with the body portion of the plate, but sets at a lower elevation. Loosely fitted upon the said pin 3, upon which the two plate-sections are hinged together, is the spiral spring 5, having extended ends, one of which engages with the inner side of the upper plate-section and the other with the inner side of the lower plate-section in such manner that a spring tension is placed upon the plates. An open-

ing is formed within the lower plate-section and into which is loosely secured the key 6, having a loop formed upon its lower end and a hook upon its upper end. An oblong opening 7 is formed within the upper plate, through which the said hook end of the key is passed, after which it is turned round at right angles, as shown, so as to hold the two sections in position and prevent them from separating too far. Secured to the outer free end of the said upper plate-section and by the rivets 8 is the shear-knife 9, which is formed upon a line with the working point where the two plates are joined together and is formed at an angle upon its face or shearing edge, as shown at Fig. 1. Secured upon the flanged portion 4 of the lower plate-section and by the screws 10, which are inserted through oblong openings 11 of the said flange portion, is the cutter-bar 12, which engages with the edge of the cutter-knife or shear and is capable of being adjusted by the said screws 10 and oblong openings 11. To the inner upper side of the lower plate-section is secured by the rivets 13 the stop-bar 14, having upwardly-turned ends which engage against the inner side of the upper section when the sections are pressed together to operate the shear and is adapted to form a stop to prevent the two sections from coming too closely together.

In practice the end of the envelop is inserted over the cutter-bar and beneath the shear-knife. Thence by pressing the two sections together, as shown by dotted lines at Fig. 2, the shear-knife operates and shears the end from the envelop, and when the pressure is relieved it returns to its former position. Should a longer cut be required, the envelop is moved farther forward to the cutting edge and the operation repeated.

Should it be desired to sharpen the shear-knife, the locking-key 6 is turned at right angles, so that the hook portion may be disengaged with the upper section through the opening 7. The upper section may then be thrown back, as indicated by the small arrows and dotted lines, showing the position when opened.

Slight variation may be made in the detail parts of the device without departing from the general principle of the same.

Having thus fully shown and described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An envelop-opener consisting of an upper plate having secured thereto a depending cutter, an opening in said plate for the reception of a key, in combination with a lower plate provided with a looped portion and a cutter-bar, upon said plate, substantially as set forth.

2. An envelop-opener consisting of an upper and a lower plate hinged together at one end, a spiral spring provided with an extension, located at the hinged portion, said upper

plate having secured thereto a cutter, an opening in said plate for the reception of a key, the lower plate being provided with a spring looped portion for the reception of the said cutter, the end of said looped portion terminating in a flanged portion having adjus- tably attached thereto a cutter-bar, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES W. STEVENER.

Witnesses:

JOHN GROETZINGER,
O. SIMS.