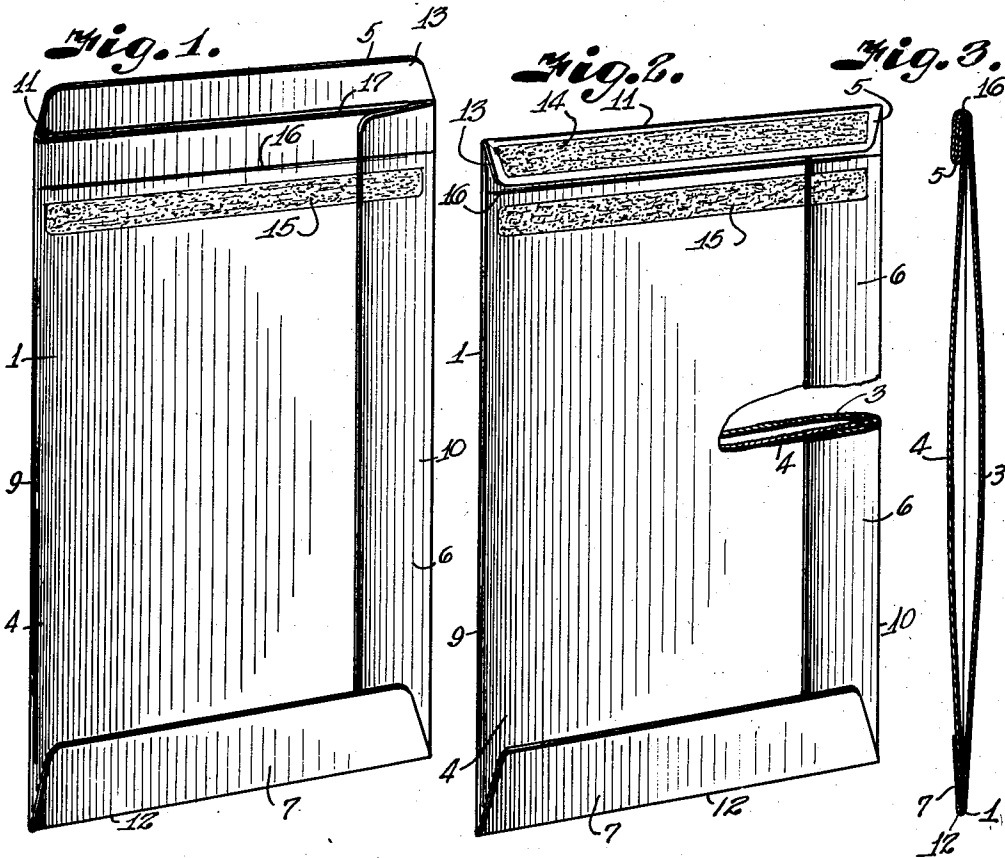


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SELF SEALING ENVELOPE
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SELF-SEALING ENVELOPE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 229—80)

This invention relates to self-sealing envelopes and similar containers employing a self-sealing gum, or adhesive substance, such as latex, on the closures thereof whereby they may be sealed without the use of moisture.

Containers of this type are particularly suited for enclosures likely to be affected by moisture, for the reason that adhesives of the latex type require no moisture in effecting a seal and the seal when completed is of waterproof character. However, it is necessary to provide the adhesive on the sealing flap or closure and also on the registering portion of the container to which it is sealed, consequently, it is difficult to package or handle the containers prior to their use without causing accidental sealing of the adhesive. Various methods have been devised, such as auxiliary flaps, to prevent accidental contact of the adhesive substances. These methods, however, have not proved entirely satisfactory for the reason that the containers are difficult to produce on present day envelope-making machines. Moreover, these constructions leave a large part of the underlying portions of the flaps unsealed when the containers are in use.

It is, therefore, the principal object of the present invention to provide a container of this character with a closure so constructed that the flap may be positioned in the same manner as the flap of a conventional envelope without danger of pre-contacting of the adhesive substances, and when sealed tightly closes the container against exposure or loss of its contents.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an envelope of this character that may be produced on the present-day envelope-making machines.

In accomplishing these and other objects of the invention, I have provided improved details of construction, the preferred forms of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an envelope embodying the features of the present invention and showing the sealing flap in extended condition.

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the sealing flap folded over the back of the envelope but out of sealing contact with its complementary sealing stripe.

Fig. 3 is a section through the envelope showing the sealing flap in sealed condition.

Referring more in detail to the drawing:

1 designates an envelope constructed in accordance with my invention and which is formed of foldable material, such as paper or the like,

having a surface which does not adhere to adhesives of latex character when in substantially dehydrated form. The envelope includes a substantially rectangular portion 3, a back flap 4, sealing flap 5, and side and bottom flaps 6 and 7. The rectangular portion 3 constitutes the front body portion of the envelope and has its edges defined by fold lines 9, 10, 11 and 12, spaced to conform to the size and shape of the completed envelope.

The back flap 4 lies coextensively with the fold line 9 and is of sufficient width to overlie the portion 3. The bottom and side flaps 6 and 7 are coextensive with the fold lines 12 and 10 respectively and are folded over and sealed to the back flap to form the back portion of the envelope.

The sealing flap 5 is coextensive with the fold line 11, and has its sides preferably inclined as at 13 to merge with the fold lines 9 and 10 at the sides of the envelope. The front face of the sealing flap is provided with a stripe 14 of self-sealing gum, or adhesive substance, such as latex, to co-operate with a similar stripe 15 of latex extending along the outer face of the back portion of the envelope as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

When the sealing flap is extended (Fig. 1) the latex stripe thereon lies on the front face of the envelope, opposite to the latex stripe on the back portion, so that the envelopes may be packaged in stacked relation without danger of contacting the latex portions of one envelope with those of the adjacent envelope to cause sticking of the envelopes together. The nature of the latex is such that when dried it will not adhere to the paper or other material forming the envelope, so that even though the latex on one envelope contacts an uncoated surface on an adjacent envelope it will not adhere thereto.

The latex stripe 15 is spaced below a fold line 16 extending through the body of the envelope at a point spaced below the insert opening 17 a distance slightly greater than the depth of the sealing flap. Therefore, the sealing flap may be folded on the line 11 over the insert opening 17 to lie in contact with that portion of the back and side flaps between the line 11 and the latex 15, in which position the latex stripes lie on the same side of the envelope but they are retained out of contact, or if desired the entire sealing flap may be folded over the back flap on the line 16, to overlie the latex stripe 15 on the back portion. This folding corresponds to that of a conventional envelope, but the latex stripes thereof cannot come in contact as the stripe 15 is

covered by the back face of the sealing flap, while the stripe 14 is on the outer or front face of the sealing flap.

Attention is here directed to the fact that when the latexed portion of the sealing flap is folded on the line 11 the outer edge of the sealing flap substantially registers with the fold line 16 and the latex stripes extend in slightly spaced, parallel relation so that when the flap is again folded on the line 16 the latex stripes will be brought into sealing contact with each other to effect an autogenous seal when the closure flap is pressed against the back flap. While the sealing material might be extended to the edges 15 and 16 of the envelope, it is preferable to leave a slight margin as shown, so as to prevent any likelihood of the edges sticking together when the envelopes are stacked.

In using the envelope the sealing flap is extended as shown in Fig. 1, to expose the insert opening 17 to permit insertion of the articles to be enclosed, whereupon the sealing flap is folded on the line 11 so that the latex 14 thereon lies in coextensive, parallel relation to the latex stripe 15. The envelope is then folded on the line 16 to bring the latex stripes into sealing contact with each other. Then upon applying pressure to the sealing flap the latex portions form an autogenous seal due to the autogenic characteristic of latex.

An envelope constructed in accordance with the invention is particularly adapted for containing powder, seeds, and other merchandise that is likely to escape from the envelope for the reason that folding of the end of the envelope on the score 16 forms a positive guard against loss of the merchandise, in addition to the seal effected by the latex stripes 14 and 15.

From the foregoing, it is obvious that I have provided an envelope equipped with autogenous or self-sealing features, which conforms in character to a standard envelope, and wherein the closure flaps may be so positioned as to retain the cooperative adhesive substances out of contacting engagement prior to use thereof.

It is also obvious that by folding the sealing flap retractively on itself to bring the sealing substances into contacting registry a seal is effected directly at the open mouth or insert opening 17 of the envelope.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. An envelope including front and back portions forming a pocket having an insert opening extending along an edge of the pocket and having a score extending across said portions at a point spaced below the insert opening, and a sealing substance on said portion below the score, a sealing flap on the other portion having a sealing substance on its outer face and having a score between said sealing substance and the insert opening whereon the portion of the sealing flap bearing the sealing substance is bent back over the insert opening to bring the sealing substances into registry when a fold is made on the score extending across said front and back portions.

2. An envelope including front and back portions forming a pocket having an insert opening extending along an edge of the pocket and having a score extending across said portions at a point spaced below the insert opening, one of said portions having a seal on its outer face and extending below said score, and a sealing flap on the other portion having a seal on its outer face and having a score between the seal and the insert opening whereon the portion of the sealing flap bearing the seal is bent back over the insert opening to bring the seals into registry when a fold is made on the score extending across the front and back portions.

3. An envelope including interconnected front and back body portions forming a pocket having an insert opening, a sealing flap on one of said portions having a fold substantially registering with the insert opening whereon said sealing flap is foldable over the other portion, a sealing substance on the outer face of the sealing flap, and a sealing substance on the other portion spaced below the insert opening a distance slightly greater than the height of the sealing flap, said front and back portions having registering folds whereon said envelope is bendable between the folded over sealing flap and the sealing substance on said body portion to close the insert opening to bring the sealing substances into registry with each other.

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