April 7, 1959 H. M. WHITMAN 2,880,799

ENVELOPE STRIPPING DEVICE

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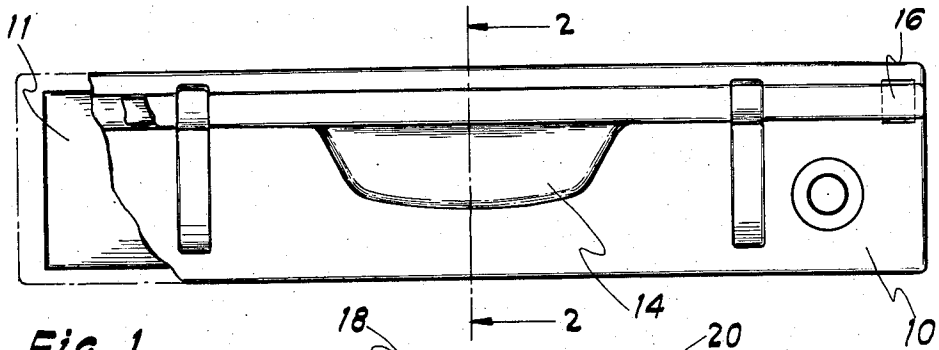


Fig. 1

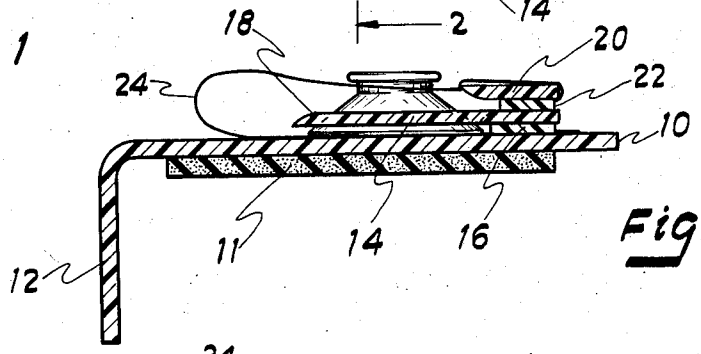


Fig. 2

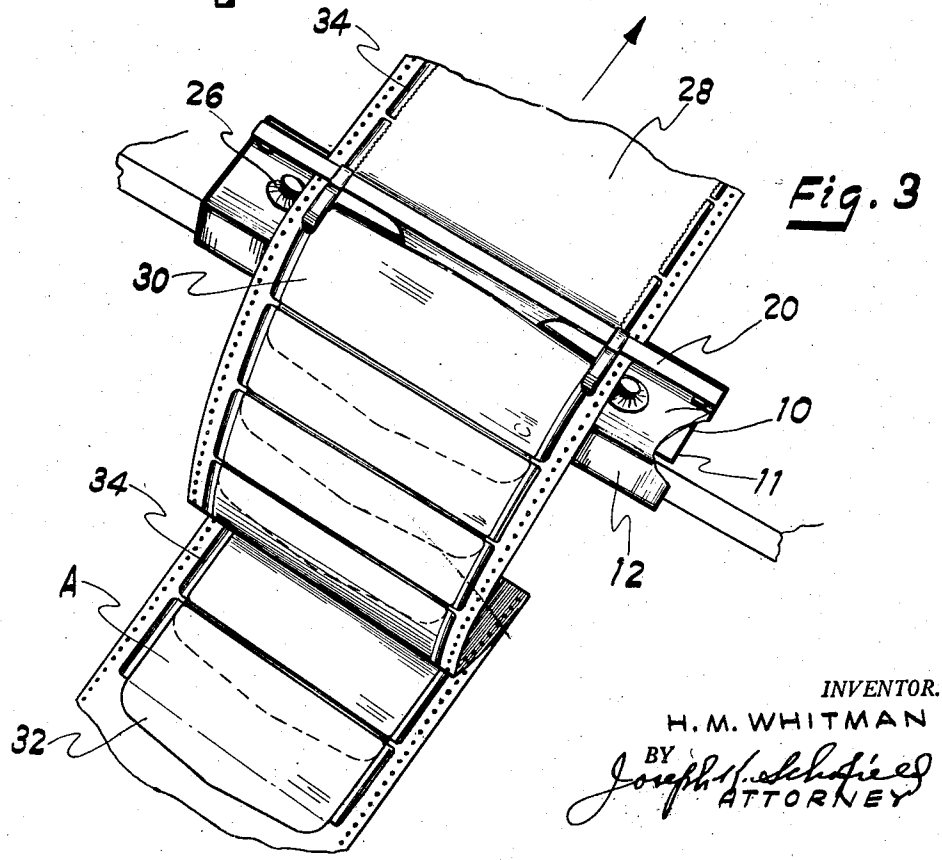


Fig. 3

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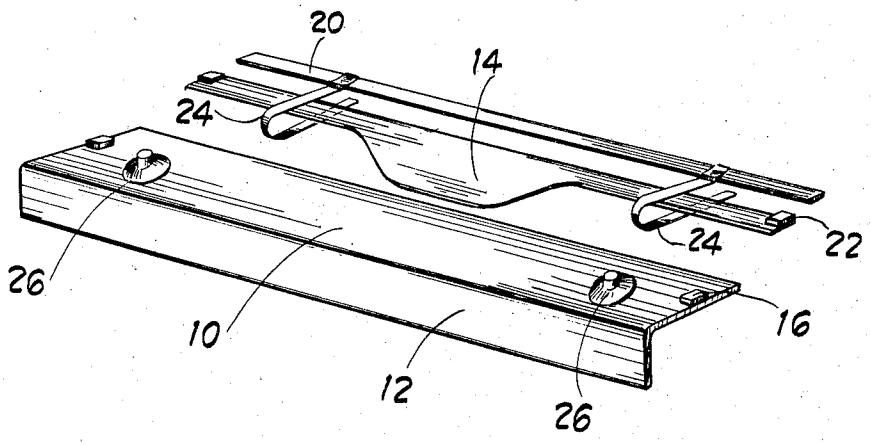


Fig. 4

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2,880,799

ENVELOPE STRIPPING DEVICE

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Application September 10, 1956, Serial No. 608,975

3 Claims. (Cl. 164—36)

This invention relates to envelope separating or stripping machines or devices and more particularly to a device which may be operated by hand to separate a series of envelopes from a backing sheet to which the envelopes are attached in closely adjacent relation to each other.

An object of importance of the invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive device that may be mounted on an office table and through which the backing sheet and envelopes may be pulled, there being a blade forming part of the device over which the envelopes pass while being stripped and while the backing sheet is being manually pulled below the blade.

A feature of importance of the invention enabling the envelopes to be readily separated is that the device has a base with a wide flat surface over which closely lies a wide blade so that the envelopes and backing sheet may be drawn past the blade.

More particularly it is an object of the invention to provide means to separate or strip envelopes shown in my patent No. 2,723,077 granted November 8, 1955, from their backing sheet, the supplemental flaps extending laterally from the envelopes being torn from the ends of their envelope panel along their lines of perforations during the stripping operation.

Another important feature of the invention is that guiding means are provided for the backing sheet and envelopes as they are pulled through the device, also spring detent or depressing means are provided which hold the supplemental flaps of the envelopes closely against the surface of the base member as the envelopes are being separated from the backing sheet and supplemental flaps.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention may include the features of construction and operation set forth in the following specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

In the accompanying drawing annexed hereto and forming a part of this specification, I have shown the invention embodied in a simple device which operates without moving parts, but it will be understood that the invention can be otherwise embodied and that the drawing is not to be construed as defining or limiting the scope of the invention, the claims appended to this specification being relied upon for that purpose.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a complete device in which the invention is embodied;

Fig. 2 is a central vertical sectional view of the device taken on the plane of line 2—2 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the device with envelopes and their backing sheet being pulled therethrough; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the envelope stripper shown in the preceding figures.

In the above mentioned drawing, there has been shown but one embodiment of the invention which is now deemed preferable, but it is to be understood that changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Briefly and in its preferred aspect, the invention may include the following principal parts: First, a base member or board having a depending flange adapted to fit over the edge of a table; second, a blade member extending substantially the full width of the device and spaced slightly from the upper surface of the base; third, a strip extending parallel to and above the blade member and spaced therefrom; fourth, means adjustable on said strip for resiliently pressing the supplemental flaps extending from the lateral edges of the envelopes closely against the upper surface of the base member; and fifth, guiding means adapted to be positioned on the base to aid in guiding the backing sheet past the separating blade member.

Referring more in detail to the figures of the drawing and first to Figs. 1 and 2, it will be seen that the device comprises a base **10** having a wide depending flange **12** adapted to fit over the edge of a table or other supporting surface. Below the base member **10** may be attached a soft pad **11** of rubber or other resilient material. On this base **10** is secured at its opposite ends a blade member **14** extending substantially the entire width of the base. This blade member **14** is slightly spaced above the upper surface of the base **10** in a plane parallel thereto as by means of spacers **16** permanently secured adhesively or otherwise between the blade member **14** and base **10**. The central portion of the blade member **14** is greatly widened and its envelope engaging edge is bevelled as shown at **18** to aid in separating the envelopes **30** along the line of perforations between the rear panel and supplemental flaps **34**.

Above the blade member **14** and secured in parallel relation thereto is an elongated strip **20**. Preferably and as shown, this strip **20** is secured to the blade member **14** by spacers **22** at the opposite ends of the strip and directly above the spacers **16** for the blade member. These spacers **16** and **22** may be attached to the blade member and strip adhesively. Slidable along the strip **20** are spring members **24** bent into the form of a loop with the free end bent back upon itself and resiliently bearing against the upper surface of the base **10**. The opposite ends of these looped spring members **24** are bent loosely around strip **20** so that the loop members **24** may be slidably positioned at any point along the strip.

To aid in guiding the envelope assembly A through the device rubber or other members **26** may be positioned on the base member **10** slightly beyond the lateral edges of the backing strip **28**. In the embodiment of the invention illustrated the guide means **26** are held in position on the base **10** by suction action, the guide members being pressed firmly downward against the base to effect this engagement.

In operation the backing sheet **28** shown in Fig. 3 to which the envelopes **30** are secured closely adjacent each other and with the sealing flap **32** of each envelope **30** underlying the body portion of the trailing envelope is threaded below the blade member **14**. The leading envelope **30** is guided over the blade member **14** and the spring members **24** adjusted along the strip **20** so that they will ride over the supplemental flaps **34** extending laterally from opposite ends of the envelopes **30**. As the backing sheet **28** is pulled in the direction of the arrow, the envelopes **30** are successively stripped from the sheet. This separation occurs along the line of perforations between the envelope body **30** and the supplemental flaps **34**. The suplemental flaps **34** remain attached to the backing sheet **28** while the envelopes **30** ride loosely on its upper surface.

I claim as my invention:

1. An envelope stripping device comprising a base member, a blade member thereon spaced above the base member and extending in a plane parallel thereto, a strip extending above said blade member and spring members secured at one end to said strip adapted to resiliently press

against said base member, whereby an envelope assembly may be passed through said device below said spring members and the envelope separated from their supporting member.

2. An envelope stripping device comprising a base member, a blade member thereon spaced above the base member and extending in a plane parallel thereto, a transverse strip secured in fixed position above said blade member and having spring members thereon adapted to press against said base member, whereby an envelope assembly may be passed through said device below said strip and spring members and with the envelope supporting member below the blade member and with the envelopes above the blade member.

3. A device for stripping a succession of envelopes supported adjacent each other on a backing sheet, said envelopes having flaps laterally extending therefrom secured to said backing sheet, said device comprising a base member, a blade member fixedly supported slightly above said base member, and spring pressed members supported above said base member and positioned to press against said lateral flaps of the envelope as said envelopes and backing sheet are passed through the device, whereby said blade member will sever said envelopes from their laterally extending flaps.

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