June 12, 1956 T. D. THURMAN 2,750,102

ENVELOPE

Filed Dec. 4, 1953

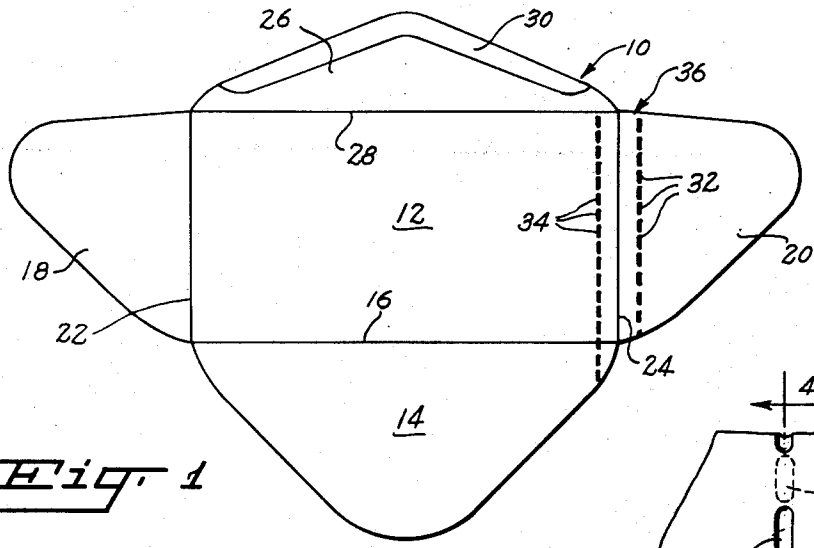


Fig. 1

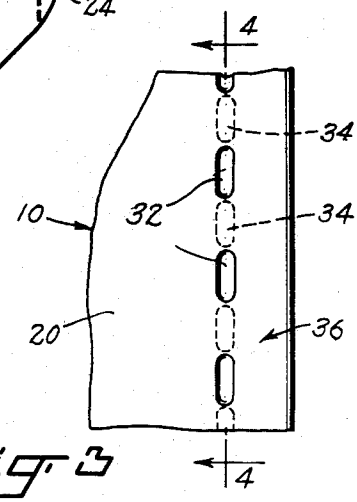


Fig. 3

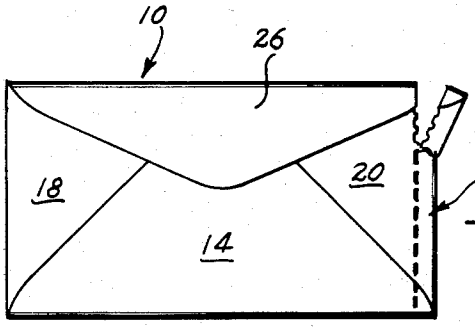


Fig. 2

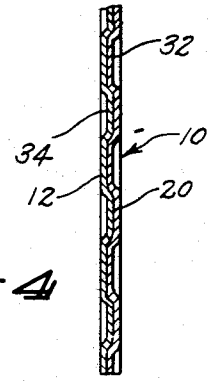


Fig. 4

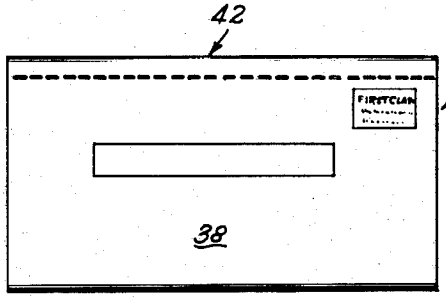


Fig. 5

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United States Patent Office 2,750,102 Patented June 12, 1956



2,750,102

# ENVELOPE

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Application December 4, 1953, Serial No. 396,202

1 Claim. (Cl. 229—85)

This invention relates to an envelope and more particularly to an envelope of the type employed for the transmission of mailable matter.

The primary object of this invention is to facilitate the opening of the envelope and the extraction of the contents therefrom.

Another object is to facilitate the removal of messages including advertising and the like from the enclosing envelope and to avoid danger of tearing or otherwise mutilating the material enclosed in the envelope.

The above and other objects may be attained by employing this invention which embodies among its features a row of elongated longitudinally spaced indentations in a flap of an envelope, said row of indentations extending in spaced parallel relation to one edge of the front panel of the envelope, a second row of elongated longitudinally spaced indentations in the front panel adjacent the edge thereof adjacent the first mentioned row of indentations, and the rows of indentations registering when the indented flap overlies the front panel.

Other features include so forming the indentations in the flap and the front panel that when the flap overlies the front panel, the indentations therein will lie in staggered relation to the indentations of the front panel and will intermesh therewith.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan view of an envelope blank constructed in accordance with this invention;

Figure 2 is a back view of the completed envelope;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary enlarged view of the envelope;

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially on the line 4—4 of Figure 3; and

Figure 5 is a front view of an envelope of modified construction.

Referring to the drawings in detail, this improved envelope designated generally **10** comprises a front panel **12**, a back flap **14** joined to the front panel **12** along a fold line **16**, end flaps **18** and **20** joined to the envelope front panel **12** by fold lines **22** and **24**, respectively. The front panel **12** is provided with a conventional sealing flap **26** which is joined to the front panel along a fold line **28** and the sealing flap is provided with a conventional gummed area **30** by which it is sealed in closed relation after the contents of the envelope have been introduced thereinto. A row of longitudinally spaced elongated longitudinally extending indentations **32** is formed in the flap **20** and extends in spaced parallel relation to the fold of line **24**, and a similar row of longitudinally spaced elongated longitudinally extending indentations **34** are formed in the front panel **12** and, as illustrated in Figure 1, the row of indentations **34** is extended through the back panel **14** but does not extend into the sealing flap **26**. The indentations **32** and **34** are so spaced relative to one another that they are in staggered relation and are equidistant on opposite sides of the fold of line **24** so that when the flap **20** is folded over, the front panel **12** beneath the back panel **14**, as



illustrated in Figure 2, the indentations **32** and **34** will intermesh, as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4, to provide along the adjacent side edge of the envelope a tear strip designated generally **36**.

In the modified form of the invention illustrated in Figure 5, the rows of indentations are carried in the front panel **38** of an envelope designated generally **40** in spaced parallel relation to the sealing flap (not shown) and a similar row of longitudinally spaced indentations is carried by the sealing flap to define with the front panel **38** of the modified envelope **40** a tear strip designated generally **42**. Like the indentations previously described, the indentations in the front panel **38** and its accompanying sealing flap are arranged in staggered relation so that when the flap is sealed, the indentations will intermesh, as previously described.

In use, the matter to be mailed may be introduced into the envelope in the conventional manner and sealed by moistening the gummed portion **30** of the sealing flap **26**. With the end flaps **18** and **20** and the back panel folded in the conventional manner to define the envelope **10**, the indentations **32** and **34** will intermesh, as illustrated in Figure 4, to define a weakened portion in both the front panel and the adjacent end flap **20** so that when tearing effort is applied to the tear strip **36**, the tear strip may be separated from the envelope with but a minimum of effort and the tearing stress will be alternately transferred from the front panel to the end flap **20**. In this way, the contents of the envelope, whether it be a written message or advertising material, may be readily extracted from the interior of the envelope with but a minimum of effort and no danger of injury to the contents of the envelope will result.

As will be noted from Figure 3, each of the indentations **32** or **34** is of substantial length as compared to the width thereof, and is formed with rounded ends. The distance between the adjacent ends of adjacent indentations **32** is slightly greater than the overall length of the indentation **34** located between said adjacent indentations **32**. As a result, the adjacent ends of adjacent indentations **32**, **34** are disposed in closely spaced relation. Further, the rounding of the ends of the several indentations progressively reduces the normal width of each indentation at each end portion thereof, in the direction of the outer terminus or extremity of said end portion. The result is that when the indentations **32** are intermeshed with the indentation **34**, and tearing of the envelope along the aligned rows of indentations proceeds, said tearing proceeds along the length of each indentation **32** or **34**, and is directed to the longitudinal center line of each indentation when the tearing approaches the end of the indentation. Then, the tearing proceeds to the next indentation, entering said next indentation at the longitudinal center line thereof and proceeding along the length of said next indentation of the opposite end. At said opposite end, should the tearing have moved toward one or the other side of the indentation from the longitudinal center line, it is again guided back to the longitudinal center line due to the progressive reduction of the width of the indentation at said opposite end.

Obviously, in the modified form of the invention, illustrated in Figure 5, the tearing open of the envelope takes place along the edge thereof adjacent the sealing flap and the same advantages are experienced as with the envelope illustrated in Figures 1 through 4, inclusive.

It is to be noted that the indentations **34** extend through the back panel **14** but do not extend into the sealing flap **26** so as to avoid any possibility of weakening the sealing flap and creating an area therein which might become torn or otherwise deformed during the sealing of the envelope.

While in the foregoing there has been shown and de-

scribed the preferred embodiment of this invention, it is to be understood that minor changes in the details of construction, combination and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed is:

In an envelope, a front panel, a flap, and means to facilitate the opening of the envelope for the extraction of the contents thereof, comprising a row of indentations in the flap, said row extending in spaced parallel relation to one edge of the front panel and the indentations of the row being elongated in the direction of the length of the row, each indentation having an intermediate portion formed with straight sides parallel to one another and to the longitudinal center line of the indentation, each indentation having end portions progressively reduced in width in the direction of the extremities of the indentation, and a second row of indentations in the front panel adjacent said one edge thereof, the rows of indentations registering when the indented flap overlies the front panel, the indentations of the front panel being formed identically to those of the flap, adjacent ends of adjacent indentations of the front panel being spaced apart a distance



slightly greater than the overall length of each indentation of the flap and the indentations of the flap and front panel being staggered longitudinally of the registering rows, each indentation of the flap lying wholly in the space between adjacent indentations of the front panel, said reduction in width of the indentations of the flap and front panel forming means guiding to the longitudinal center line of the rows a tear line following the registering rows, as said tear line arrives at the end of one indentation of one row and proceeds into the adjacent indentation of the other row.

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