March 27, 1951 L. G. GENDERNALIK 2,546,738

POSTAGE STAMP DISPENSER

Filed May 31, 1949

Fig. 1.

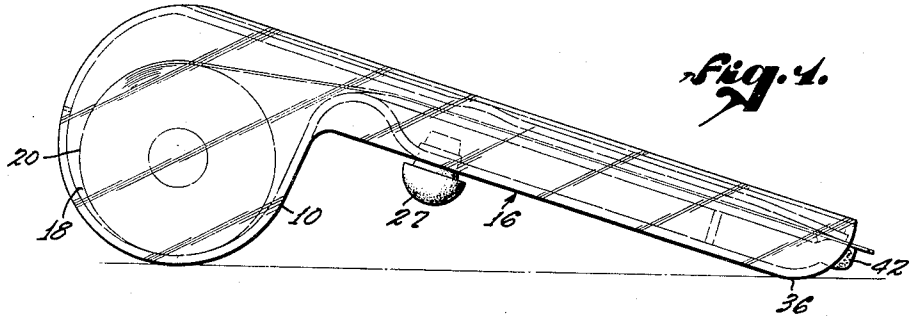


Fig. 2.

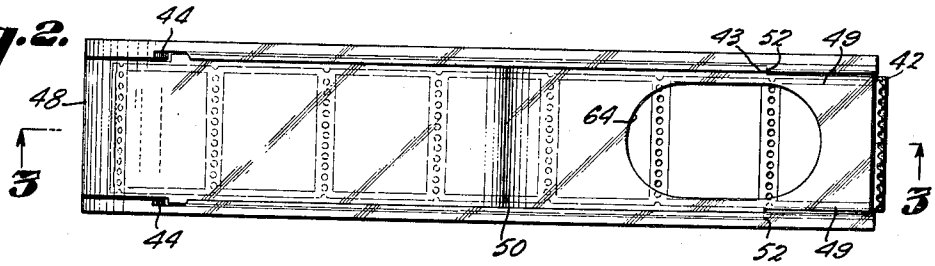


Fig. 3.

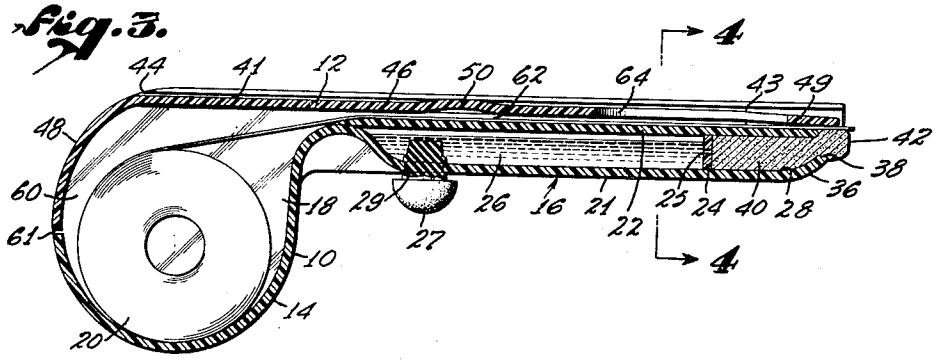
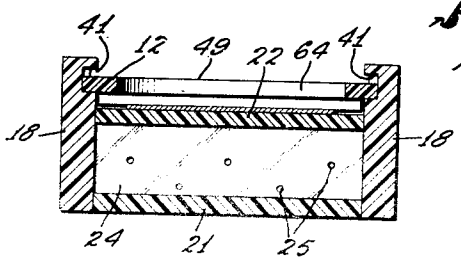


Fig. 4.



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POSTAGE STAMP DISPENSER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 91—62.5)

1

My invention relates to a device for use in applying postage stamps, labels, and other adhesive strip material. Since my invention finds particular utility in connection with its use for affixing postage stamps to gummed envelopes it will be described with particular reference thereto.

One object of my invention is to provide a postage stamp dispenser which may be conveniently employed for moistening the gummed flaps of envelopes as well as for applying moistened stamps to the envelope.

Another object of my invention is to provide such a device which may be rested on a table without wetting the table surface.

Another object of my invention is to provide a postage stamp dispenser with a moistening pad that will wet a postage stamp over only a small limited area when stamps are not being dispensed therefrom.

Another object of my invention is to provide a stamp dispensing device with a slidably removable top wall member which serves as a cover for a stamp storage compartment and a longitudinal dispensing slot.

The foregoing and other objects of my invention will be more clearly understood by reference to the following description and the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the stamp dispenser;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the stamp dispenser;

Figure 3 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the stamp dispenser taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view of the stamp dispenser taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Referring to the drawing, the postage stamp dispenser which is shown there, and which is constructed in accordance with the principles of my invention, includes a base structure 10 and a top cover member 12 which cooperate to dispense a perforated roll of stamps 20.

The base structure 10 includes a lower wall structure 14 which comprises a rear wall section 14 and a lower arm section 16, and also includes two side wall members 18. The lower arm section 16 comprises a lower wall 21 and an upper wall 22, which together with the side wall members 18, define a longitudinal space which is divided by a transverse wall member 24 into a water reservoir 26 and a moistening pad compartment 28. The transverse wall member 24 is so arranged as to provide communication between

2

the wall reservoir 26 and the moistening pad compartment 28. For convenience such communication may be established by perforations 25 in the transverse wall member 24. A replaceable stopper 27 projecting through a port 29 in the rear portion of the lower wall 20 is employed to facilitate filling the reservoir 26 with water. All walls of the dispenser are made of a transparent material in order to facilitate visual examination of the roll 20 of postage stamps.

The forward end of the lower wall 21 is curved slightly upwardly so as to form a chin 36. The forward ends of the upper and lower walls 21 and 22 together form a restricted opening or mouth 38 to shape a moistening pad 40 to form a moistening tongue 42, which projects slightly upwardly above the upper wall 22.

The portions of the two side wall members 18 which lie above the upper wall 22 of the lower arm section 16 are provided with two inwardly facing channels 41 which extend rearwardly from a point 43 adjacent the front ends of the lower arm section 16. The channels 41 lie parallel to the two walls 21 and 22 of the lower arm section 16. The front ends 43 of the channels 41 act as stops and the rear ends 44 are open.

The cover member 12 comprises a straight forward section 46 and a downwardly curving rear arcuate section 48. The forward section 46 is slidable within the two channels 41 and is provided with upwardly bent portions 50 on opposite sides thereof to assist in frictionally retaining it in the channel 40. The forward end 49 of the cover member 12 is slightly narrower than the remaining portion of the straight section 46 so as to form two shoulders 52 which abut the stops 43, thus enabling the forward end 49 of the forward section 46 to be located in a predetermined position relative to the lower wall structure 10. The forward end 49 is bent slightly downward to form a resilient retaining finger which is adapted to press a stamp against the moistening tongue 42.

When the cover member 12 is placed on the base structure 10, the downwardly curving rear arcuate section 48 of the cover member 12 and the rear wall section 14 of the base structure cooperate with the side wall members 18 to form a cylindrical stamp storage compartment 60. The straight section 46 of the cover member 12 cooperates with the upper wall 22 of the lower arm section 16 and the two side wall members 18 to form an arm having an elongated slot 62 which extends longitudinally and tangentially from the upper end of the stamp compartment 60. A

slight gap 61 may be left between the adjacent rear end of the two curved sections 14 and 48 for purposes which will be explained hereinafter.

The upper and lower walls 21 and 22 of the lower arm section 16 terminate a short distance behind the front end of the side wall members 18. As a result, the slot 62 is foreshortened slightly on the lower side thereof so that the moistening tongue 42 projects slightly into the slot in a position where it may contact postage stamps as they are fed forwardly in the slot 62. An elongated opening 64 large enough for inserting a thumb is located in the forward end of the top wall member 12 for the purpose of advancing stamps forwardly in the slot 62 between the finger 49 and the tongue 42.

In order to prepare the device for use, a moistening pad 40 of predetermined length is forced through the mouth 38 into the compartment 28. In practice it is found most satisfactory if the tongue 42 projects outwardly of the mouth 38 approximately one-eight of an inch or slightly less. Next the stopper 27 is removed and the water reservoir 26 filled with water and the stopper replaced. After a short time, water seeping through the perforations 25 moistens the moistening pad 40 throughout its entire length, including the tongue 42. The moistening pad 40 is formed of a plain piece of felt or other moisture-retaining material normally of rectangular configuration and having a normal thickness greater than the width of the mouth 38. Thus the pad is readily retained in place by being compressed between the upper and lower sides of the mouth.

Also in preparing the device for use the cover member 12 is withdrawn rearwardly, thereby providing access to the compartment 60 and the slot 62. A suitably perforated gummed roll 29 of postage stamps is then placed in the compartment 60 with its end extending lengthwise along the upper wall 28. The cover member 12 is then replaced and the dispenser is ready for use.

When it is desired to apply a postage stamp to an envelope, the user presses his thumb through the opening 64 against the strip of postage stamps and the strip is pressed forwardly past the tongue 42. Inasmuch as the forward end 49 of the cover member 12 presses downwardly against the tongue 42, the stamp becomes thoroughly moistened along its entire length. The moistened stamp extending from the slot 62 is then pressed into position on the envelope and is torn from the strip along the adjacent perforations. This process may be repeated any number of times desired as long as the roll of stamps lasts.

It is to be noted that when the dispenser is not in use, only a very small portion of the forwardmost stamp contacts the tongue 42. As a result, even though some of the adhesive on the stamp may be dissolved by the moisture in the tongue, the area from which such adhesive is removed is such a small portion of the total area of the stamp that it does not seriously impair the effectiveness of the adhesive coating.

The dispenser described above may not only be employed for affixing stamps to envelopes but may also be employed for moistening the gummed flaps of envelopes or other gummed surfaces. This may be accomplished readily by pressing the tongue 42 against the gummed surface in question. This use of the device is facilitated by virtue of the fact that the mouth 38 faces forwardly outwardly of the lower arm section 16.

The length of the tongue 42 is so proportioned relative to the various dimensions of the device

that when the lower curved wall 14 of the storage compartment and the chin 36 lie in contact with a flat table, the tongue 42 itself stands above the surface of the table. This prevents the tongue from wetting any table upon which the device is so rested. Also it is to be noted that if desired the device may be rested on a table upside down or on either side without the tongue 42 contacting and wetting the table.

The device described above may not only be employed to dispense postage stamps arranged in rolls, but may also be employed to dispense a strip of postage stamps. In this case, where only a strip of postage stamps is available the stamps are positioned in the slot 62 in the compartment 60 with the rear end of the strip projecting outwardly through the gap 61.

Though my invention has been described above particularly in its application to the dispensing of postage stamps and the moistening of envelopes, it will be obvious that it may also be employed with strips of other kinds of material provided with an adhesive coating on one side thereof, and for the moistening of other adhesive surfaces. Therefore it is to be understood that my invention is not limited to the details of construction shown and described but that many changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of my invention. Reference is therefore to be had to the appended claims for a definition of my invention.

I claim:

1. In a device of the class described for dispensing adhesive-bearing paper of predetermined width, a base structure comprising an upwardly curving arcuate wall section and a lower arm section extending outwardly therefrom, side wall members secured to said arcuate wall section and said lower arm section, said side wall members being spaced apart a distance greater than the width of said paper, said side wall members including track-defining means providing inwardly facing channels at the upper edges thereof, means defining stops on said track at the forward ends thereof, and a cover member having a downwardly curving rear arcuate section and a substantially straight forward section, said forward section slidably engaging said tracks and being provided with shoulders for engaging said stops, said shoulders being spaced rearwardly from the forward end of said forward section such a distance that the forward end of said cover member extends slightly forwardly of said lower arm section, thereby forming a longitudinal slot which is foreshortened on the lower side thereof, said two arcuate wall sections and said side walls forming a substantially cylindrical compartment tangentially arranged with respect to said slot said cylindrical compartment being free of any internal obstruction adjacent the center thereof, and means formed in said base structure for supporting a moistening pad in the foreshortened portion of said slot in position to contact a strip of adhesive-bearing paper pushed forwardly therein.

2. In a device of the class described, a base structure comprising an upwardly extending wall section and a lower arm section extending outwardly therefrom, side wall members secured to said wall section and said lower arm section, a cover member having a forward section slidably engaging said side wall members and having a downwardly extending rear arcuate section and having an opening adjacent the forward end thereof, said base structure and said wall mem-

bers when engaged forming a compartment having an elongated slot extending longitudinally forwardly therefrom, the rear portions of said wall section and said cover member being spaced apart to form a rear opening to provide access to said compartment, and means formed in said base structure for supporting a moistening pad at the outer end of said slot in position to contact a strip of adhesive-bearing paper pushed forwardly therein.

3. In a device of the class described in which an arm is provided with wall structure defining a longitudinal slot enclosed on all four sides, said slot extending outwardly from a storage compartment adapted for housing a roll of adhesive-bearing paper, the improvement therein which comprises, a moistening compartment formed in the lower portion of said arm and integrally therewith, said compartment having a mouth which communicates with said slot over a short distance at the outer end thereof, said mouth being adapted to hold a portion of a moistening pad at the end of said slot, and a pressure member formed by a portion of said wall structure located opposite said mouth, said pressure member projecting toward and being resiliently urged toward said mouth for pressing such paper into firm contact with said pad portion.

LEO G. GENDERNALIK.

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