

May 15, 1934.

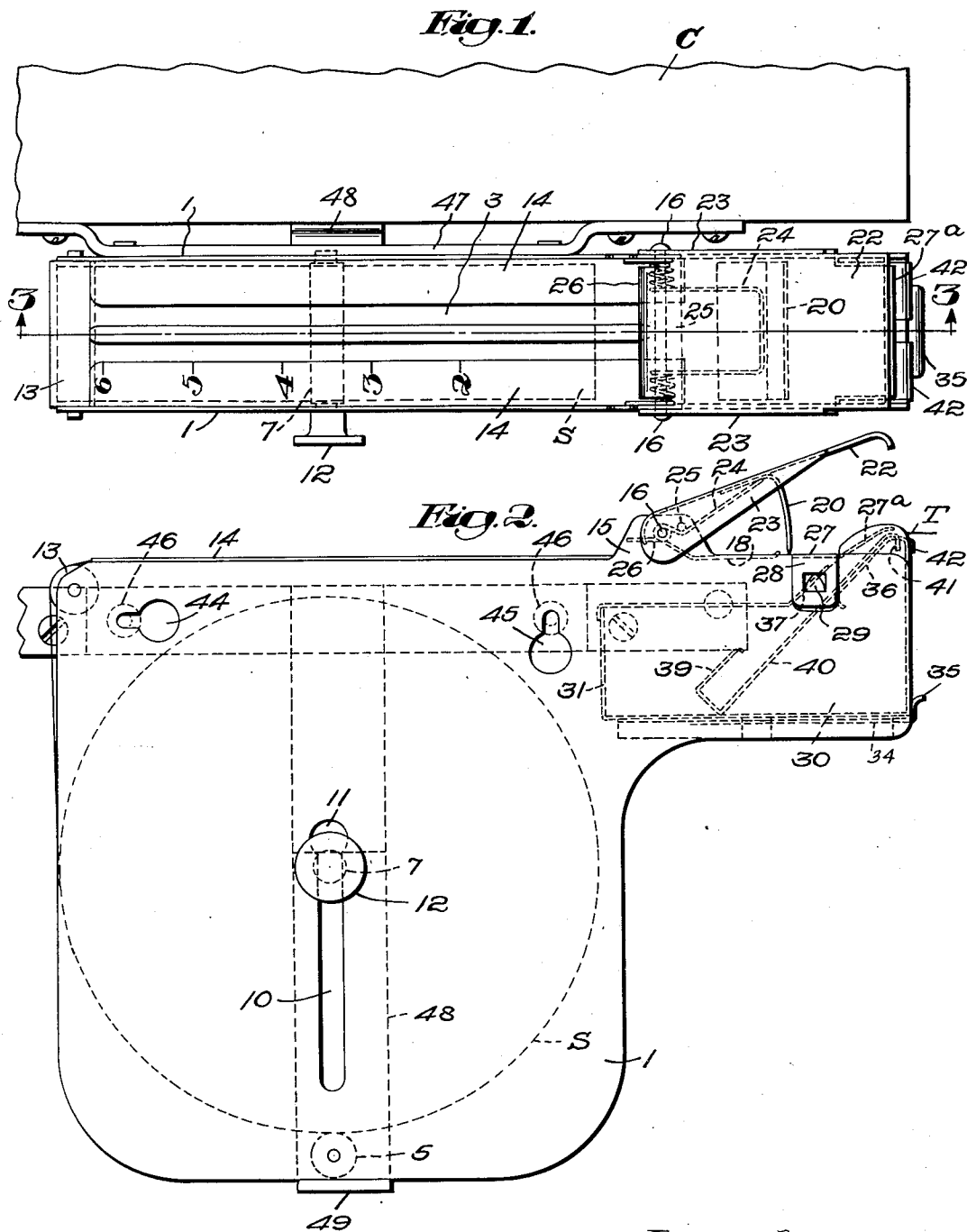
R. W. PHILLIPS

1,958,443

STRIP SERVING APPARATUS

Original Filed May 12, 1930

4 Sheets-Sheet 1



Inventor:
Russell W. Phillips,
by Emery, Booth, Varney and Townsend
Attys

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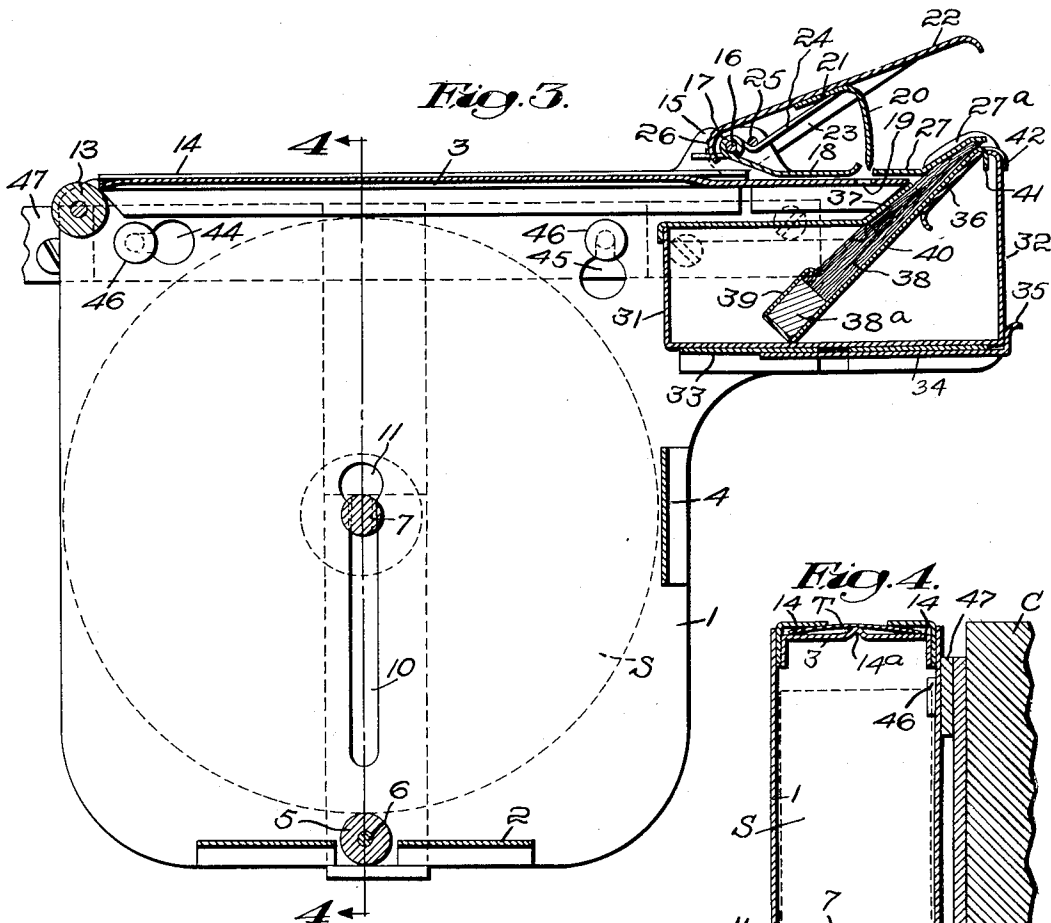
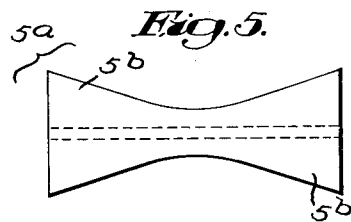
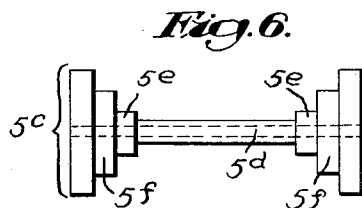
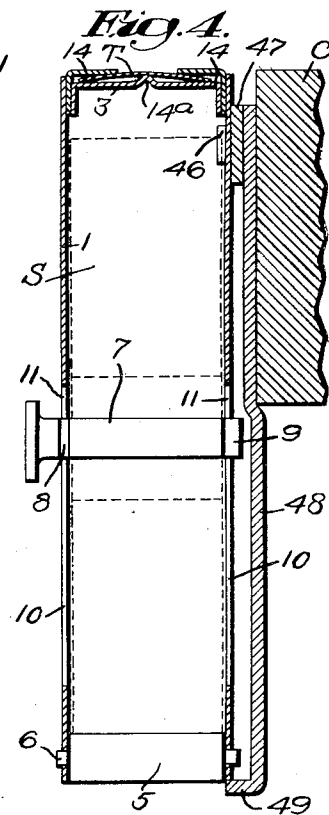
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STRIP SERVING APPARATUS

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4 Sheets-Sheet 2



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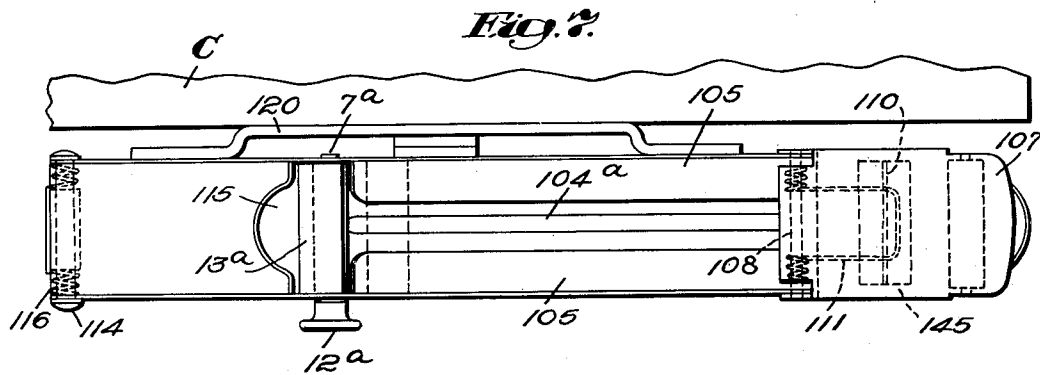
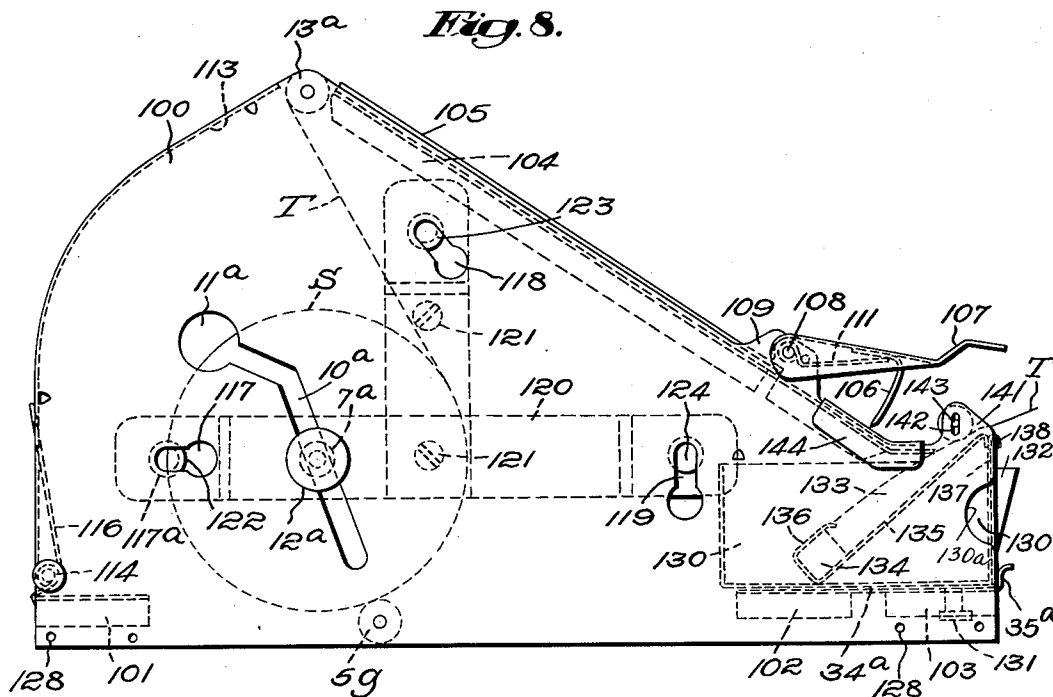
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STRIP SERVING APPARATUS

Original Filed May 12, 1930

4 Sheets-Sheet 3



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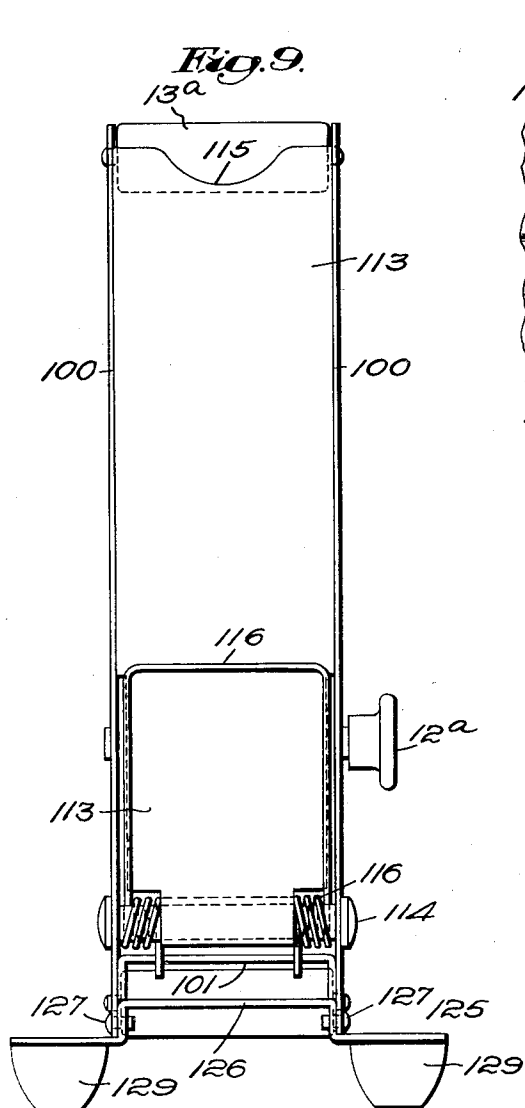
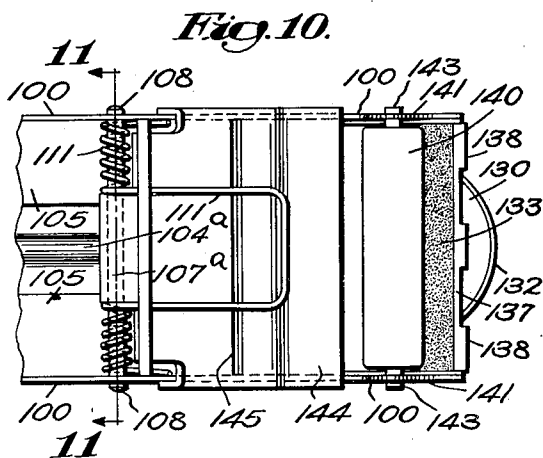
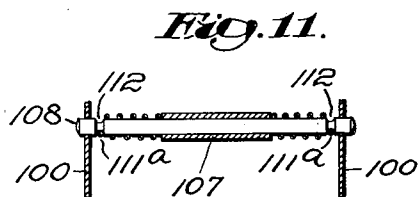
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STRIP SERVING APPARATUS

Original Filed May 12, 1930

4 Sheets-Sheet 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,958,443

STRIP SERVING APPARATUS

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Continuation of applications Serial No. 526,659, March 31, 1931, and Serial No. 451,773, May 12, 1930. This application April 7, 1932, Serial No. 603,778

30 Claims. (Cl. 164—43)

My present invention relates to apparatus for serving or delivering strip material, such as adhesive or gummed tape and labels, particularly in connection with packaging, labeling and the like. It aims to provide simplified, inexpensive and otherwise improved means of the class referred to, whereby selected and variable lengths of the adhesive or gummed tape or like strips may be delivered from a supply, the length of material delivered generally being presented in adhesive or moistened condition for immediate use. As to all common subject matter, this application is a continuation of my co-pending applications Serial No. 451,773, filed May 12, 1930, and Serial No. 526,659, filed March 31, 1931. The claims of the present application are directed to certain elements and combinations of elements aside from the moistening means, claims to the latter being contained in my co-pending application Serial No. 603,777, filed April 7, 1932 and in divisional applications.

In the drawings, illustrating, by way of example, certain embodiments of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a strip server in accordance with one form of the invention, it being shown supported in operative position as upon a store counter, table, wall or the like;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the device of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section through the device of Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig. 4 is a vertical cross-section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Figs. 5 and 6 are elevations of modified forms of tape supporting rollers;

Fig. 7 is a plan view corresponding to Fig. 1, illustrating another embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 8 is a side elevation of the device of Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a rear or left end elevation of the device of Figs. 7 and 8, upon a larger scale;

Fig. 10 is a plan, on the scale of Fig. 9, corresponding to the right portion of Fig. 7, but with the severing device removed to display the underlying parts; and

Fig. 11 is a vertical cross-section on the line 11—11 of Fig. 10.

Referring first to Figs. 1 to 4, the illustrative embodiment of the invention as there shown is particularly adapted for use where the space available is limited horizontally, as for example on store counters, tables, shelves such as wrapping shelves, or in other confined areas, such as the narrow aisles or inside counted spaces of certain chain stores.

Accordingly the device as a whole is constructed

and arranged as a relatively narrow structure, that is, of greater height than width, or of a width not greatly exceeding that of the widest tape or strip it is intended to handle, and means is desirably provided for supporting or suspending the device in such position, as upon the edge portion of a counter, shelf, table or the like, or upon a wall, or the device may be sunk into the horizontal top of a counter or the like.

As herein illustrated, the device comprises a housing or container including side walls or upright members 1 connected at their lower parts by cross pieces or flooring 2, and at their upper ends by a top wall or platform 3, providing a feed table, these parts preferably being formed of one or more pieces of sheet metal, stamped or otherwise fashioned. The side walls 1 may be cross-connected at other points, as by the front cross member 4, Fig. 3. At the rear, that is, at the left in Figs. 1 to 3, the described housing or receptacle is open or openable for the insertion and removal of the strip supply in the form of a roll S, the described parts providing a well for the latter.

Suitable means for supporting the roll S in position to be drawn upon is provided, in this instance including a roller 5 rotatably carried, as at 6, on the side walls of the housing. The strip supply or roll S rests by gravity upon this roller, and its axis is retained in a given vertical plane with respect to the supporting roller as by means of a floating spindle 7 seen in elevation in Fig. 4. At points spaced the width of the container, the spindle 7 is provided with non-circular flattened or reduced portions 8 and 9 adapted to be received in vertical slots 10—10 in the respective container side walls 1. At the upper ends of these slots are the enlarged portions or eyes 11, at least equalling in diameter that of the spindle, so that the latter may be entered through the eyes and through the core of the roll S, bringing the non-circular portions 8 and 9 of the spindle into the plane of the side walls 1 and in alignment with the guide slots.

The spindle desirably has a head 12 for convenience in manipulating it. Once the spindle is inserted with a roll upon it, and its reduced portions have been engaged in the slots, the spindle is held against unintentional withdrawal and is guided for vertical movement. The roll and spindle thus in effect float upon the under roller 5, while the roll S is permitted to turn readily upon the spindle. The tape or strip is preferably drawn off from the under face of the supported roll, and to the rear, as indicated at

T in Fig. 2, in which case the described roll supporting and guiding means automatically affords a braking action upon the roll, preventing undesirable over-running of the latter, by reason of the frictional resistance resulting from the weight of the roll and spindle upon the roller 5. The roll S is thus in effect self-braking. As illustrated in Fig. 2 the tape in the roll S is assumed to be wound gummed side in. Should the tape be wound gummed side out, it may be led off in the opposite direction at the bottom of the roll, that is, to the right, and reversed back around the roller 5, or it may be taken off at the top of the roll, directly to the left.

The tape or strip T is directed upwardly from the supply over a guide roll 13 journaled in the container sides, and thence forwardly over the top wall or platform 3, through a receiving and guiding throat provided by the latter and by the opposed inwardly extending longitudinal flanges, throat sides or strip members 14—14 on the housing. The throat is preferably equipped with a longitudinally extending tape arching and friction reducing means or rib-like element 14^a, which, together with the throat structure as a whole may be similar to that disclosed and claimed in my above-mentioned copending applications. The strip or tape is fed through the throat by the operator by placing one or more fingers upon it at the selected point on its upper face exposed between the throat sides and moving his hand along the throat toward the delivery end.

At or near the front end of the feed throat means is provided for cutting off the tape. The container top wall or platform 3 is continued forwardly beyond the throat sides 14. The container sides are extended upwardly or otherwise formed with projections or ears 15—15 carrying a cross-bar or pin 16. Hinged on the latter, as at 17, is a forwardly and downwardly extending guide plate or strip depressor 18, having its front end substantially in a vertical plane with a cross slot 19 in the feed table or platform 3.

A tape severing blade or knife 20 is adapted to be moved across the path of the tape and downwardly through said slot, to sever the strip. This blade is attached as at 21 to an actuator 22 which may be generally similar to that of my said co-pending application Serial No. 526,659, being positioned for operation by a continuation of the operator's strip-feeding finger movement, in the course of a single uninterrupted and substantially uni-planular down-bearing forward movement of the latter's fingers or hand. In the present instance the cutter actuator 22 is reinforced and guided by side flanges 23, the rear portions of which stand flatwise adjacent, and herein outside, the ears 15, and receive the cross-pin 16, whereby the actuator is rotatably supported. The actuator and blade are normally held in up position, substantially as in Figs. 2 and 3, by suitable spring means, herein including the spring 24 of general U-shape, the forward yoke portion of which underlies an intermediate portion of the actuator. The two legs of the spring extend rearwardly, beneath studs 25 on the housing ears 15, and are turned about and supported on the cross pin 16 previously mentioned. The rear end of the cutter actuator 22 has a downwardly extending tail 26 adapted to abut the tops of the side strips 14 of the throat, or other adjacent stationary part, thereby to limit the upward movement of the actuator.

In advance of the cutting-off point the strip is

conducted up to and across suitable moistening means, being guided across the front end of the feed table or platform 3, between the latter and a top guide 27 which forms in effect a continuation of the feed throat. This guide may be generally similar to that disclosed and claimed in my said copending application, being preferably in the form of a removable clip-like member having down-turned feet 28 equipped with spring detents 29 adapted to snap into openings or depressions in the housing walls.

It will be understood that the disclosed mechanism, in any of the forms shown, is equally adapted for use with pre-gummed strips or tape, which are rendered adhesive by moistening, or with non-gummed strips or tape which it renders adhesive by application of liquid adhesive thereto, and the terms such as "gummed tape" and "moistening means" as herein employed, both in the description and in the claims, in conformity with usage in the art, refer to either or both such practices, that is, they refer to rendering the strip adhesive, broadly, either by moistening a gummed surface or by applying liquid adhesive to a surface not previously gummed.

Various means may be provided, if desired, for moistening the strip. In Figs. 1 to 4 such means includes a reservoir or tank 30 having an enclosed rear portion 31 and a somewhat higher front portion 32. The reservoir is operatively supported between the front parts of the side frames 1 and upon a cross-member 33 extending between the latter, where it is removably retained as by a spring member 34 having a finger piece 35 whereby it may conveniently be depressed to release the reservoir. The front wall of the reservoir is turned over rearwardly and downwardly to form an angular lip 36, and the front edge of the top wall of the lower portion of the reservoir is extended angularly upwardly as at 37 in substantial parallelism with said lip, leaving a transverse opening between them.

The moistening element proper is illustrated as a wick or brush 38; see particularly Fig. 3. The brush itself may consist of a multiplicity of bristles or hairs set into a suitable anchoring composition, as indicated at 38^a. It is removably held in the clip-like lower portion 39 of the bristle-supporting plate or support 40. This latter desirably extends substantially the full length of the bristles, to support and align these practically to their extreme free ends. The brush and its supporting plate 40 are received between the previously described parallel lip portions 36, 37 of the reservoir, which assist in positioning the brush moistener and in retaining it in substantially the forwardly inclined angular position as illustrated. It will be noted that the rear flange or lip 37 is adapted to contact the upper side face of the group of bristles, confining and guiding them, and to a certain extent limiting the quantity of moisture which will be conducted upwardly by capillary action.

The brush may further be positively located as by means of hook-like down-turned fingers 41, 42 at the front end of the bristle-support 40. The inner finger 41 is adapted to set down through an appropriate opening in the front lip 36 of the reservoir, while the outer finger or fingers 42 extend down over the reservoir front wall.

It will be noted that in accordance with the described construction the reservoir, brush and brush-support may be removed bodily as a unit, or the brush element, including the brush and the bristle-supporting plate 40, may be removed while

leaving the reservoir in place. Direct access to the brush may be had merely by removing the front guide 27. The latter includes the forwardly and upwardly projecting portion 27^a directly overlying the outer end of the brush and serving to confine and direct the free ends of the bristles to insure proper moistening engagement between the lower face of the tape and the brush, as the tape is passed forwardly over the latter. This front element or clip 27, 27^a thus may herein directly cooperate with and constitute an element of the feed means, the severing means, and the moistening mechanism. It partly provides the blade-guiding front wall of the cutting slot, and assists to press the moving blade into proper cutting position. If desired the fore edge of this element 27—27^a may be made to serve as a stationary knife or severing element, against which the strip may be deflected and cut or torn off, being for that purpose serrated or otherwise formed.

In some instances, and particularly where the device is intended for handling only strips of minimum width, the supporting under roll for the strip supply may be cylindrical, as illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4. In other instances, more particularly when the device is of a width adapting it to dispense strips of greater than minimum width, or in any case, the under roll may have either of the forms as illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6. In Fig. 5, for example, the peripheral surface of the roller 5^a is concaved, the roller being of greater diameter at its ends 5^b and of decreasing diameter toward its central portion. By reason of this construction tape rolls of different widths will be centered and guided automatically by the supporting roller.

In the further modified form of bearing roller shown in Fig. 6, the roller, indicated as a whole by the numeral 5^c, includes a main roller portion 5^d of a width to receive a given minimum width tape, for example, 1½" or 2". At the ends of this main roller portion are cooperating stepped portions 5^e, 5^f, 5^g, 5^h, respectively spaced to receive and center wider rolls, for example, 2½" and 3". It will be understood that rollers such as those of Figs. 5 and 6 may be employed in connection with the device of Figs. 1 to 4, with a similar self-braking action as previously referred to.

As stated, the strip server of Figs. 1 to 4 is particularly constructed and arranged for suspension, or lateral support, in a vertical position, with or without base support, and either in a wall or in a laterally exposed position. To this end means is provided whereby the device may be so operatively positioned adjacent a vertical face of a counter, table, wall or the like, indicated at C in Figs. 1 and 4. Such means in this instance includes one or more bayonet slots 44, 45, in one or both side walls of the housing. These bayonet slots are adapted to cooperate with buttons 46 of a bracket or like device 47 to be secured as by screws to the counter C or other part upon which the device is to be hung. Said bracket is herein illustrated as of general T-shape, including a leg 48 having a lateral foot 49 at its lower end which is adapted to underlie and support the bottom of the housing when the buttons are in locked position in the respective bayonet slots. If more than one such slot is used at either side wall, two of the slots in a given wall preferably are arranged substantially at right angles to each other, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, whereby the device is held against unintentional displacement both vertically and horizontally. When so arranged, as in

Figs. 2 and 3, the device as a whole is readily removed from its suspended or operating position as there shown, by rocking it slightly upward at its front or right hand end, about the button in the horizontal slot 44 as a pivot. The vertical slot 45 may then be withdrawn from its button, whereupon the device may be shifted rearwardly or to the left in Figs. 2 and 3 sufficiently to free the horizontal slot 44 from its cooperating button. By supplying similar attaching means such as the described bayonet slots at both sides of the device, it may be selectively supported at either side, to deliver the tape in the desired direction.

Referring now to Figs. 7 to 11, the strip serving apparatus there illustrated is a combined or convertible counter or aisle form, adapted for use either in standing position upon a counter, table or the like, or in suspended position in a store aisle, upon a wall, at the edge of a counter or like locations, such as mentioned in connection with the previous figures. In respects not otherwise mentioned the construction may be substantially the same as in the preceding figures.

In said Figs. 7 to 11, the frame or housing of the strip server includes the side frames or upright members 100 interconnected at their lower portions as by the cross strips 101, 102, 103, and at their intermediate and upper portions by the floor, top wall or platform 104 constituting the bottom of the tape guide channel or feed throat, and being preferably of the ribbed construction 104^a generally similar to that of the top wall or platform 3 of Figs. 1 to 4. Inwardly projecting flanges 105, generally similar to the members 14, 14 of the preceding figures, serve to confine the side portions of the strip or tape and furnish a feed slot between them for feeding access to the tape.

At the forward end of the feed channel is a tape severing blade, cutter or knife 106 having a finger or hand-engaging portion or actuator 107 of generally similar construction as in the preceding figures. The knife and actuator are pivotally supported as by a sleeve 107^a, Fig. 10, at the rear of the actuator received on a pin 108 held in ears 109 upon the respective side frames 100. A slot 110, Fig. 7, in the feed platform 104 permits the blade 106 to be depressed to sever the tape. The blade and its actuator are normally elevated by a suitable spring 111 of general U-shape, having its ends turned about the knife pivot pin 108.

As best seen in Figs. 10 and 11, the cutter lever or actuator 107, together with the blade 106, are constructed and arranged for ready dismounting. This is effected merely by forcing out the pivot pin 108, axially, the latter being normally releasably held in assembled position by the spring 111. For that purpose one or more annular grooves 112 are formed in the pin 108, disposed to receive the end or other portions of said spring, as indicated at 111^a in Fig. 11. While the pin and cutter are thus firmly held in place, the cutter may quickly be removed for sharpening, replacement, or to afford access to underlying parts.

The tape or adhesive strip supply in roll form is received in position to be drawn upon, between the side frames of the housing, as indicated at S. The roll S has a floating support upon a roller 5^e as in the previous figures, and the axis of the tape roll is confined to a given path, as the tape roll S decreases in size, by means of the slot formations 10^a in the opposite side frames. Said slot formations have enlarged portions 11^a for entrance of a spindle 7^a having a head 12^a and reduced guide

portions whereby it is retained against unintentional withdrawal, as previously described.

In Fig. 8 the tape roll S is assumed to be wound with the adhesive face of the tape outside, the tape passing upwardly from the roll supply, as indicated at T, over an upper guide roll 13^a journaled on the machine frame, thence through the feed channel 104, 105, past the cutter 106 and the moistening means, to be described, for delivery as indicated by the full line T at the right in Fig. 8.

The interior of the housing or tape well desirably is closed at the rear or left end as viewed in Figs. 7 and 8. For this purpose I have illustrated a rear cover plate 113 pivotally supported on the side frames near the bottom of the latter, as at 114, and extending upwardly substantially to the guide roll 13^a. The upper end of the cover 113 may be recessed or otherwise formed as at 115, Fig. 7, for engagement of the operator's finger to open it against the closing tension of a suitable spring 116, herein supported on the cover pivot 114.

It will be observed that the tape roll supporting means, the feed channel and guides, and the tape severing means are similarly cooperatively disposed as in the preceding figures, but with the feed channel somewhat downwardly and forwardly inclined. As in the form of Figs. 1 to 4, the tape may be engaged by the operator's finger at any desired point along the channel 104, 105, and is fed out past the severing and the moistening means by forward down-bearing movement of the operator's finger or hand along an uninterrupted substantially uni-planular path, the feeding, moistening and severing operations being effected in the course of this single continuous manual operation.

In accordance with my invention the strip server of Figs. 7 to 11 is constructed and arranged for use either as a counter or table device, either upon a horizontal supporting surface, or as a suspended device as described in connection with Figs. 1 to 4. Further, when used in suspended position, as in a store aisle, it may be supported so as to face and feed in either direction. Accordingly I have provided, at each side of the strip server, suspending formations for cooperation with suspension means upon the counter, wall or other part upon which the device is to be mounted. As best seen in Fig. 8, such suspension formations, as herein illustrated, comprise a series of key-hole slot 117, 118 and 119, on each of the side frames 100. The longitudinal center lines of two of these slots, herein 118 and 119, are disposed substantially along arcs drawn from a central point 117^a at the closed end of the other slot 117 as a center. A bracket 120 is provided for attachment, as by means of screws 121, to the counter or the like C, Fig. 7. The bracket carries laterally projecting studs 122, 123, 124 located to correspond with the positions of the key-hole slots 117, 118, 119.

In attaching the strip server the stud 122 is first entered into the larger end of the slot 117, and the strip server is then moved forwardly to bring the stud into the narrower portion of said slot 117. With the front portion of the device slightly elevated about the stud 122 as a pivot, the studs 123 and 124 may then be entered into the larger portions of their corresponding slots 118 and 119, whereupon the forward portion of the strip server may be dropped down into its operative supported position as in Fig. 8. Subsequent removal of the strip server is readily ef-

fectured by a reverse procedure. Preferably, similar and correspondingly arranged key-hole slots are provided in each side frame, whereby the strip server may be mounted with its left side face adjacent the bracket, to deliver tape toward the right, as in Fig. 8, or with its right side face adjacent the bracket, to deliver the tape in the opposite direction. It will be understood that the slots and studs may be interchanged, as to the element on which they are provided, and that the demountable suspension means may otherwise be widely varied in construction.

To adapt the described strip server for use as a counter type I may provide detachable base elements or supporting means, shown in assembled position in Fig. 9. Herein for the purpose I have employed, as one convenient form, a yoke-like strap or cross bar 125 having an upstanding central portion or shoulder 126 dimensioned for reception between the side frames 100, to which it may be removably secured as by means of the screws or the like 127 received in apertures 128, see Fig. 8, in the adjacent portions of the side frames. The outwardly projecting portions of this strap 125, at the two sides of the strip server, preferably carry rubber-tipped or other supporting feet 129. Any desired number of such straps and feet may be provided, disposition for two of them being indicated in Fig. 8, at the opposite ends of the device as a whole, by means of the screw apertures 128. Obviously one or more of the described detachable base elements may have the feet centrally or otherwise arranged, or the feet may be dispensed with. Also within the scope of my invention the side frames may themselves be interchangeable, some having suspension means and others provided with base elements, for use selectively in the machine as a whole.

The tape moistening means, as well as the strip supply holding means, the feed provisions and the severing means already described may be similar in Figs 7 to 11 as in any of the preceding figures, but as illustrated in Figs. 7 to 11 the moistening means and associated parts of the tape feeding, guiding and severing means embody novel features, claims to which are contained in one or more of my said co-pending applications.

The moistening means, referring particularly to Figs. 7, 8 and 10, includes a tank or reservoir 130 removably received between the fore portions of the side frames and upon the cross straps 102, 103 previously described. The reservoir is removably retained against unintentional forward withdrawal as by a spring detent 34^a having an operating finger piece 35^a as in the preceding figures. A stop 131 projecting downwardly from the cross piece 103 and extending through a corresponding aperture in the detent 34^a serves to limit the down movement of the latter. A filling lip 132 may be provided at the front of the reservoir. The side frames 100 may be recessed as at 130^a to afford a grip on the reservoir for inserting or removing it.

The moistening means further includes a brush 133 herein comprising a multiplicity of bristles or hairs set into a suitable anchoring composition as at 134. The brush is adapted to be disposed with its lower portion in the reservoir and the free ends of its hairs or bristles projecting from it, but in the markedly forwardly inclined position, at an angle desirably substantially not greater than 45 degrees with the horizontal, as described in connection with the previous figures. In this instance the brush is provided with

unitary or self-contained supporting means for retaining it at the described operating angle, comprising a supporting strip of plate 135 formed with a clip-like lower portion 136 in which the butt 134 of the brush is removably but firmly held. The supporting plate 135 extends upwardly and forwardly along the under face of the brush for substantially its entire length and at its front end is provided with an integral or other rest or foot 137. One or more lips 138 may be provided at the fore part of the described brush unit, as by turning over the upper edge of the foot 137, or a portion thereof, such lip or lips being adapted to engage over the top of the front wall of the reservoir.

Cooperating with the described brush moistener I provide means, illustrated as of a non-friction character, for guiding the tape across the brush in proper moistening relation with it. Herein for the purpose I have shown a rotatable element, which may be bodily fixed or vertically movable. As illustrated in Figs. 7, 8 and 10, said element comprises a roller 140 rotatably mounted between ears or upward extensions 141 on the side frames 100. These ears are formed with bearing apertures or slots 142 for reception of the roller journal or bearings 143. Thus the brush-cooperative roller is supported in position for either fixed or vertically movable moistening cooperation with the brush when the latter is in operative position. Rearwardly of the roller 140 is a guide clip 144 having side portions holding it resiliently in position overlying the lower portion of the feed channel, in a manner generally similar to the element 27 of Figs. 1 to 3. In the present instance the clip 144 is elongated to extend from a point rearwardly of the cutter 106, past the latter and substantially up to the moistener roller 140, so as to overlie and accurately guide the tape up to and between the latter and the brush. A slot 145, Fig. 7, is formed in the clip, in line with the underlying slot 110 in the platform itself, for the down passage of the knife 106.

The mounting or suspension means for the apparatus, for use in association with a support at the point of use, such as a store counter, wrapping shelf or the like, certain embodiments of which are herein illustrated and described, is herein claimed generically and also specifically, another embodiment thereof being disclosed and claimed in my copending application S. N. 451,773, which latter application also discloses and claims reversing means in connection with means for guiding a strip from a roll support. In my copending application S. N. 526,659 are claims for displaceable guide means overlying the strip path and for an overlying guide constituted as means against which the strip may be deflected and severed, including claims generic to the embodiments of such means as herein disclosed. Strip moistening or adhesive-rendering means, of which certain embodiments are herein disclosed, are contained in my copending application S. N. 603,777 and/or in divisional applications of the latter.

My invention is not limited to the particular illustrative embodiments herein shown and described, its scope being set forth in the appended claims.

I claim

1. In a strip serving device, a housing including a strip-roll chamber, one or more rollers rotatably supported in said chamber and adapted to receive the strip roll edgewise, a floating spindle

axially carried by the strip roll, said spindle having an intermediate portion of a diameter to pass through the roll core, having reduced portions at opposite sides of said intermediate portion and having a manipulating head at one end, and opposed slot formations on the roll chamber walls, at least one of them having an enlarged part for insertion of the intermediate portion of the spindle and said formations each including a guide portion for cooperation with the reduced portions of the spindle, removably to retain the spindle and strip roll in position relative to said roller or rollers.

2. In a strip serving device, a housing including a strip-roll chamber, one or more rollers rotatably supported in said chamber and adapted to receive the strip roll edgewise, a floating spindle axially carried by the roll, and means for removably retaining the spindle in a given plane containing or parallel with the roller axis or axes, said roller or rollers having peripheral strip-roll centering formations.

3. In a strip-serving device, a frame or housing including spaced upright members, strip guiding means on the frame along its upper portion, a guide roller rotatably supported between said upright members below said strip guiding means and in position to conduct a strip upwardly to said guiding means, a floating spindle for rotatably receiving a strip supply in roll form, and spindle guiding formations on said uprights providing for free vertical movement of the spindle but confining it to a given path toward or away from the axis of said guide roller and with its supported strip roll resting upon the roller, whereby the latter cooperates with a supported strip roll to tension and brake the strip leading off from the bottom of the roll between it and the roller.

4. In a strip serving device, a freely-movable rotary member adapted to guide the strip coming from a supply roll of gummed tape, a floating spindle extending axially through the supply roll, and guide means to restrain said spindle to a given path of approach to said rotary member and so as to enable the roll to rest with its lower peripheral portion in contact therewith, said rotary member constructed and arranged to provide optionally for strip movement in one or the opposite direction at the lower portion of the supply roll accordingly as the tape is wound gummed face in or the reverse, and cooperating with the floating roll in the manner of a strip braking and tensioning means.

5. In a strip serving device, a housing including a strip-roll chamber, and a roller rotatably mounted in the chamber in position to underlie a strip roll, said roller having oppositely disposed portions of similarly decreasing diameter, the inclined surfaces of which are adapted to cooperate with strip rolls of different widths to guide and align them uniformly.

6. In a strip serving device, a housing including a strip-roll chamber, and a roller rotatably mounted in the chamber in position to underlie a strip roll, said roller having an intermediate portion of minimum diameter and oppositely disposed stepped portions at the ends of said intermediate portion, to receive and align rolls of different widths.

7. Mechanism for serving gummed strips from a roll, comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to

the severing means, suspension formations at a side of the housing, and cooperable engaging formations adapted for mounting on the support available at the place of use of the mechanism, whereby the mechanism may be operatively suspended in use position.

8. Mechanism for serving gummed strips from a roll, comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, suspension formations at a side of the housing, and cooperable engaging formations adapted for mounting on the support available at the place of use of the mechanism, whereby the mechanism may be operatively suspended in use position, said formations including one or more projecting elements and a like number of receiving elements therefor.

9. Mechanism for serving gummed strips from a roll, comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, suspension formations at both sides of the housing, and engaging formations cooperable with said suspension formations at either side of the housing, whereby the mechanism may be suspended to conduct the strip in one or the opposite direction.

10. Mechanism for serving gummed strips from a roll, comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, and means to suspend said mechanism in operative position, including one or more studs or the like and cooperable receiving formations therefor.

11. Strip serving mechanism comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, and means to suspend said mechanism in operative position, including a bracket having a lateral projection to underlie a fixed portion of the mechanism housing.

12. Strip serving mechanism comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, and means to suspend said mechanism in operative position, including a bracket having a lateral projection to underlie a fixed portion of the mechanism housing, and other interengaging formations on the bracket and housing.

13. Mechanism for serving gummed strips from a roll, comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, and means to suspend said mechanism in operative position, including a plurality of studs and a like number of elongated stud-receiving formations in a side wall of the housing.

14. Strip serving mechanism comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, and means to suspend said mechanism in operative position, including a plurality of studs and a like number of elongated stud-receiving formations,

one of said stud-receiving formations having its center line disposed substantially along an arc struck from an end portion of another of said formations.

15. Strip serving mechanism comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, and means to suspend said mechanism in operative position, including a plurality of studs and a like number of elongated stud-receiving formations, one of said stud-receiving formations being constructed and arranged to receive its stud in one end of said formation and then to permit rotative movement of the housing about the stud previously entered in another formation, to bring the housing to operative suspended position.

16. Strip serving mechanism comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, base means associated with the housing operatively to support it upon a substantially horizontal surface, and suspension means alternatively to mount the housing in operative position otherwise than solely by base support.

17. Strip serving mechanism comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, means to suspend the housing in operative position, and demountable base supporting means for alternative operative positioning of the housing.

18. A strip serving device comprising, in combination, a housing including side frames and transverse means connecting them, strip-roll supporting means between the side frames, strip severing means carried by the housing, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, one or more base elements adapted to support said side frames, and means associated with said side frames and said base element or elements for demountably attaching the latter.

19. A strip serving device comprising, in combination, a housing including side frames and transverse means connecting them, strip-roll supporting means between the side frames, strip severing means carried by the housing, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, one or more base elements adapted to support said side frames, and means associated with said side frames and said base element or elements for demountably attaching the latter, one or both of said side frames having alternative formations for suspending the housing, independently of said base element or elements.

20. A strip serving device comprising, in combination, a housing including side frames and transverse means connecting them, a strip-roll chamber between the side frames, means to support a strip roll in draft position in said chamber, a strip guide channel at the upper portion of the side frames and constituting a connecting and top closure element between them, a guide roller journaled between the side frames, above the strip-roll chamber and at the rear end of said strip guide channel, and a rear cover element for said chamber, mounted on the side frames for movement to roll-receiving or to chamber-closing positions.

21. In a strip serving device having a frame, strip-roll supporting means on the frame, strip guide means for conducting the strip from a supported roll for delivery, a cutter overlying the strip path, an actuator for depressing the cutter to sever the strip, a pivot pin for the cutter actuator, supports on the frame for removably carrying said pivot pin, and spring means releasably to hold the pin in actuator-supporting position on its supports whereby the actuator may readily be dismounted by removal of said pin.

22. In a strip serving device having a frame, strip-roll supporting means on the frame, strip guide means for conducting the strip from a supported roll for delivery, a cutter overlying the strip path, an actuator for depressing the cutter to sever the strip, a pivot pin for the cutter actuator, supports on the frame for removably carrying said pivot pin, a spring for normally elevating the actuator and having a portion supported on said pivot pin, and means on the pin whereby said spring retains the latter against displacement relative to its supports.

23. In a strip serving device having a frame, strip-roll supporting means on the frame, strip guide means for conducting the strip from a supported roll for delivery, a cutter overlying the strip path, an actuator for depressing the cutter to sever the strip, a pivot pin for the cutter actuator, supports for the pivot pin on the frame, and a strip guide to overlie the path of the strip adjacent the cutter, said guide having a portion pivotally associating it with said pivot pin.

24. In a strip serving device having a frame, strip-roll supporting means on the frame, strip guide means for conducting the strip from a supported roll for delivery, a cutter overlying the strip path, an actuator for depressing the cutter to sever the strip, a pivot pin for the cutter actuator, supports for the pivot pin on the frame, and a strip guide displaceably received on the frame and overlying the path of the strip from a point adjacent said pivot pin to a point beyond the cutter, in the direction of strip delivery, said guide having a transverse slot formation for the passage of the cutter in severing the strip.

25. A device for serving lengths of adhesive strip material comprising a strip-roll support, a guide through which a length of material may be drawn off from the supported roll and delivered for use, said support and guide together forming parts of a relatively narrow upright structure, and formations on said structure for cooperation with supporting means adapted for attachment

at the edge of a store counter or the like, whereby said structure may be mounted in operative position on such counter or the like.

26. A device for serving lengths of adhesive strip material comprising a frame or housing adapted to support a strip roll to be drawn upon and equipped with strip severing means, a guide to conduct the strip from the roll to and past said means, and attaching means on the frame cooperable with receiving means adapted for mounting on a store counter or the like whereby the strip-serving device may be operatively suspended at a vertical side of such counter or the like.

27. In combination, in a strip serving device including a support for a strip supply, strip severing means and a strip conducting guide between the supply support and the severing means, and supporting formations on the device at one longitudinal side thereof cooperable with receiving formations for attachment to a counter, wall or like vertical support, whereby the device may be suspended in operative position, as contrasted with mere superposition on a counter top.

28. Apparatus for serving lengths of adhesive strip material, comprising, in combination, a frame, means to support a supply roll of the strip material, strip guide means to conduct and deliver strip lengths from a supported roll, and engaging means on the apparatus for detachable association with a support at the point of use of the apparatus.

29. A device for serving lengths of adhesive strip material comprising a strip-roll support, a guide through which a length of material may be drawn off from the supported roll and delivered for use, said support and guide together forming parts of a relatively narrow structure, and attaching formations on said structure whereby it may be mounted in operative position on a store counter, table, wrapping shelf, or the like at a level below or substantially in the plane of the top of such counter, shelf, or the like.

30. Mechanism for serving gummed strips from a roll, comprising, in combination, a housing including a strip-roll support, means to sever a length of strip coming from a supported roll, guide means to conduct the strip from the roll to the severing means, attaching formations on the housing, and securing means cooperable with said formations whereby the mechanism may be operatively mounted at a working level below or substantially coplanular with the working surface of a counter, wrapping shelf, table or the like in association with which it is to be used.

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