

W. J. BALKWILL AND W. F. SCHWEIGER.
 STAMP FEEDING MACHINE.
 APPLICATION FILED NOV. 1, 1916.

1,312,669.

Patented Aug. 12, 1919.

Fig. 1

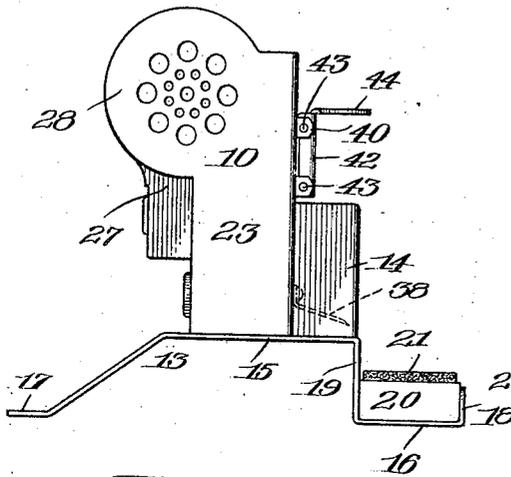


Fig. 2

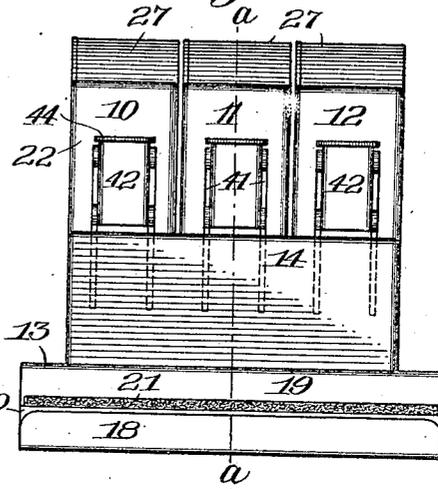


Fig. 3

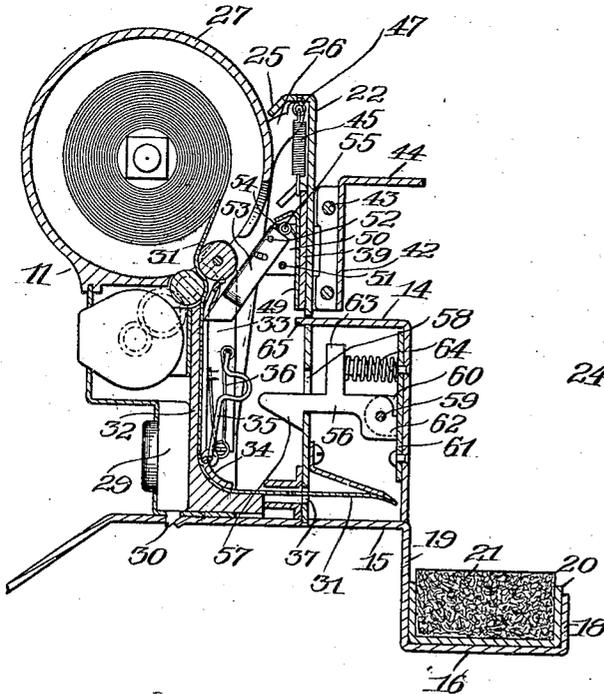
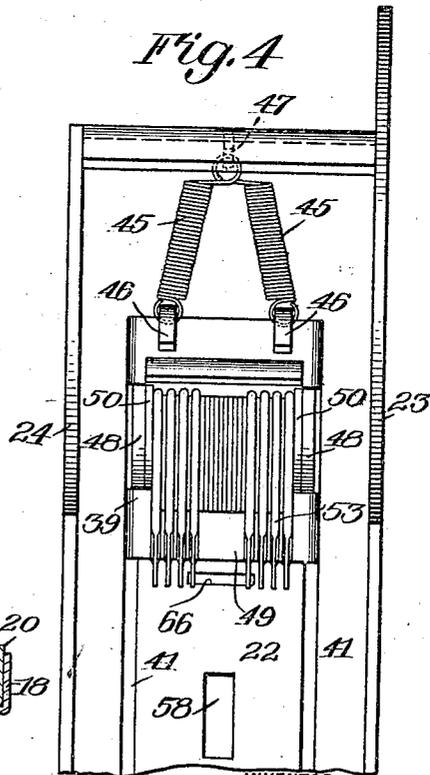


Fig. 4



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STAMP-FEEDING MACHINE.

1,312,669.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WESLEY J. BALKWILL and WILLIAM F. SCHWEIGER, both of Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stamp-Feeding Machines; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to the reference characters marked thereon.

Our present invention relates to machines for supplying stamps, or labels, and has for its object to provide a base, or standard, carrying stamp feeding mechanism and supporting one or more containers for the stamps, which when in operative position on the base coöperates with the feeding devices, whereby the end of the stamp strip will be discharged in position to enable the stamps to be readily severed by the operator. A further object of the invention is to provide a removable locking device which renders the feeding mechanism inoperative, and prevents access to the stamp strip, said device being held in its operative position by a latch which is accessible only when the stamp container is removed. To these and other ends the invention consists in certain improvements and combinations of parts, all as will be hereinafter more fully described, the novel features being pointed out in the claims at the end of the specification.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a machine embodying our invention;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation thereof;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged transverse sectional view taken on line *a-a* of Fig. 2, and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail elevational view showing a portion of the mechanism for feeding stamps from the machine.

Similar reference characters throughout the several views indicate the same parts.

Our invention relates to a machine for feeding stamps of different denominations, either singly or in series, and is adapted particularly for use in connection with the stamping of parcel post packages and other articles upon which it is inconvenient to apply stamps by means of a stamp affixing machine *per se*. However, it will be understood that the present invention may be

readily used, if desired, in connection with the stamping of letters, post cards and all other articles regardless of their size or shape.

In illustrating our present invention, we have shown in the drawings a base or standard carrying a plurality of stamp or label containers 10, 11 and 12, normally locked upon a frame or base 13, the stamp strips therein being rendered inoperative by an exteriorly mounted guard 14, the removal or release of which cannot be effected without first unlocking at least one of the containers, in the present instance, the one at the center of the machine. The frame or base 13 preferably comprises a single metal plate having an elevated horizontal portion 15 upon which said units are mounted and upon the opposite sides of which are the supporting flanges or feet 16 and 17, the former being turned up at 18 to form with the vertical portion 19 of the frame a channel or trough in which is positioned a receptacle 20 carrying a moistening pad 21 into contact with which the stamps or labels as they are fed from the machine may be passed by the operator. The several stamp feeding units are substantially identical in construction and a description of one will suffice.

The stamp containers or units are independently mounted upon the base or standard, and each comprises the stamp receptacle and stamp guideway; a counter coöperating therewith, and a lock for securing the container on the base. On the latter is provided the upright front wall 22 carrying the feeding devices, and integral side walls 23 and 24 adapted to embrace the side walls of the container. The front wall 22 is provided at its top with a flange, the end of which projects downwardly as indicated at 25, beneath which lugs 26 on the container 27 may interlock. Each of the side walls 23 is provided with an enlarged circular portion 28 adapted to close the open sides of the containers through which the stamp rolls are inserted. The bottom of the container is provided with a suitable lock 29 carrying a latch 30 extending into engagement with the horizontal portion 15 of the frame, as shown in Fig. 3. The latch 30, together with the lugs 26, serve to hold the container in the desired position on the base of the machine. The stamp strips 31 are fed along a stationary

plate or rear guide wall 32 curved outwardly at its lower end, as shown in Fig. 3. A front guide member 33 curved at 34 is yieldingly held in engagement with the stamp strip upon the curved portion of the rear guide wall by means of a brace 35 controlled by a spring 36. The stamp strip as it leaves the container is fed through an elongated opening 37 in the upright wall 22; and passes under a cutter, which may have a saw tooth edge 38, and over the moistening pad 21 in convenient position to be brought into contact therewith by the operator's fingers. When the desired number of stamps have been fed from the container the operator severs them from the strip by means of said cutter. The ejecting of the stamps is effected by the feeding mechanism mounted upon the stationary upright wall 22, and comprises a reciprocating carriage 39 having guides 40 projecting through vertical openings or guideways 41 in the upright wall 22. An actuating member 42 for moving the carriage is secured upon the outer ends of the guides by means of suitable pins 43, and is provided with a horizontally disposed finger piece 44 by means of which the carriage may be moved downwardly against the action of a pair of springs 45, the lower ends of which diverge and are connected with the hook-like projections 46 at the top of the carriage. The upper ends of the springs are secured upon a downwardly extending projection 47 preferably in the form of an eye bolt secured upon the flanged portion of the wall 22. The carriage is provided with rearwardly extending projections or ears 48, and between them and on the rear face of the carriage is mounted a finger holder 49 carrying at its opposite sides the rearwardly extending spaced projections 50 to which they are secured by a pin 51. A pivot pin 52 has its opposite ends secured upon the projections 50 of the finger holder and upon said pin a series of stamp feeding fingers 53 are pivotally mounted in position to engage the perforations between adjacent stamps in the strip when placed in the guideway formed by the parts 32 and 34. The fingers 53 are each yieldingly controlled by a coil spring 54, one end of which extends into the finger and the other of which is wound upon a pin 55.

The guard or cover plate 14 is of sufficient length to extend beneath all of the actuating members 42 to prevent their operation and at its lower edge rests on the base 15 and is preferably locked in place by means of a latch 56 projecting through an aperture 58 in the wall 22 and provided with a beveled shoulder 57 adapted to engage one of the edges of the aperture. The latch is pivoted at 59 between extensions 60 carried by a plate 61 securely mounted upon the inner face of the front wall of the guard. The

latch is limited in its downward movement by a shoulder 62 normally engaging the plate 61, but is free to move upwardly upon its pivot. An upstanding projection 63 upon the latch forms a seat for one end of a coil spring 64, the other end of which is secured upon the plate 61. The guard 14 is provided with one or more tongues or projections 65 adapted to extend through a slot or slots 66 in the wall 22 to prevent lateral shifting of the guard, and the arrangement of these parts, as shown, renders the release of the guard impossible until the stamp container is removed to render the latch 56 accessible.

When the lock 29 is operated to withdraw a latch 30, the associated stamp container or unit may be removed as a whole. The guide member 33 and the rear guide wall 32 form a part of said unit. The front guide member 33 is made in the form of a U-shaped plate open through the center and the feeding fingers 53 cooperate through this open part with the strip of stamps lying against the guide wall 32. When it becomes necessary to replenish the supply of stamps, the container unit is removed and the guide member 33 which carries the upper feed roller is detached therefrom. A new roll of stamps is then placed in the container and the end drawn down over the rear guide wall 32. The guide member is then replaced and holds the strip of stamps in position to be engaged and fed by the feeding fingers when the unit is returned to its operative position in the apparatus.

We claim as our invention:

1. A stamp feeding machine comprising a frame, feeding devices thereon, a stamp container in locked engagement therewith, a removable guard normally rendering the feeding devices in operative, and means for locking the guard to the frame, which are accessible only upon the unlocking of the container.

2. A stamp feeding machine comprising a frame having an aperture, a stamp container in locked engagement with the frame having a stamp guideway registering with the aperture to direct a stamp strip there-through, means for feeding stamps from the container, a guard adapted to normally prevent the operation of said feeding means and cover the point of discharge of the stamp strip, and locking devices for the guard which are accessible only upon the unlocking of the container.

3. In a stamp feeding machine, the combination of a frame, a plurality of supports each adapted to contain a plurality of stamps, separate means for feeding stamps from each support, and a removable guard for preventing the actuation of the several feeding means.

4. A stamp feeding machine comprising a frame, a plurality of stamp containers car-

ried by the frame and normally locked thereon, a feeding mechanism cooperating with each of the containers for feeding stamps therefrom, independent actuating members for said feeding mechanism, a guard for preventing the operation of all of the actuating members, means for locking it to the frame, the release of said locking means being dependent upon the unlocking of one of the containers.

5. A stamp feeding machine comprising a frame, stamp feeding devices thereon and stamp containers cooperating with said feeding devices adapted to be detachably locked to the frame, a guard plate removably fitted to the frame beneath the stamp feeding devices to prevent their operation and a latch member on the inner side of the plate cooperating with the frame and when in locked

position accessible only upon removal of a stamp container.

6. A stamp feeding machine comprising a base plate and an upright wall thereon having an opening at its lower end, a stamp feeding device movably supported on the wall, and a stamp container cooperating with the feeding device and adapted to be held in locked engagement with the base plate and wall and having a stamp guide-way cooperating with said opening, a guard plate covering the latter and cooperating with the feeding device to render it in operative, and means on the inner side of the guard for detachably securing it in inoperative position.

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