Nov. 9, 1943. A. B. KNER 2,333,798

CONTAINER

Filed March 27, 1941 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

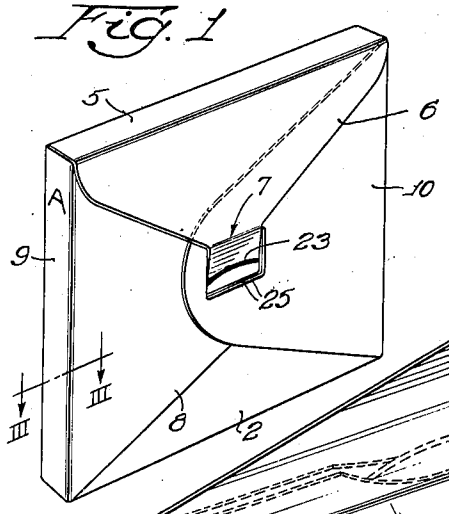

Fig. 2

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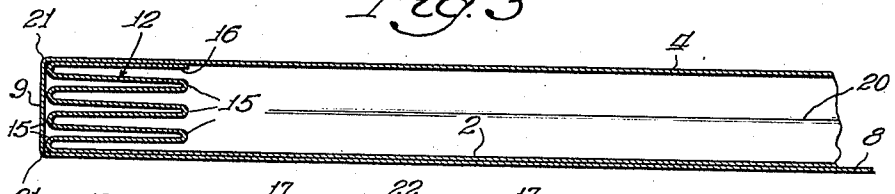
Fig. 3



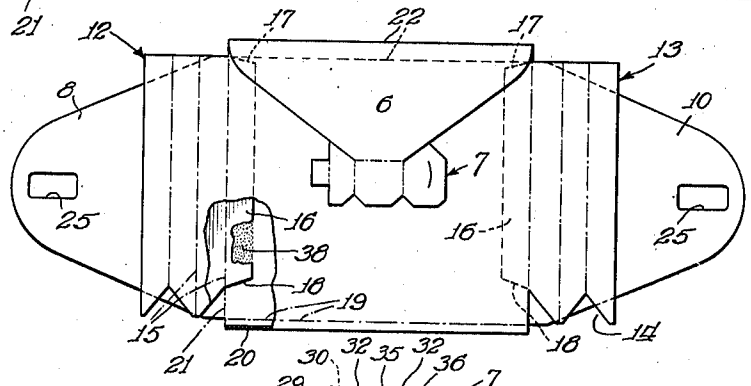


Fig. 5

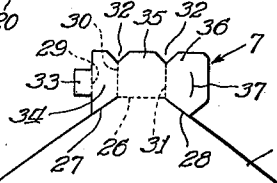


Fig. 4

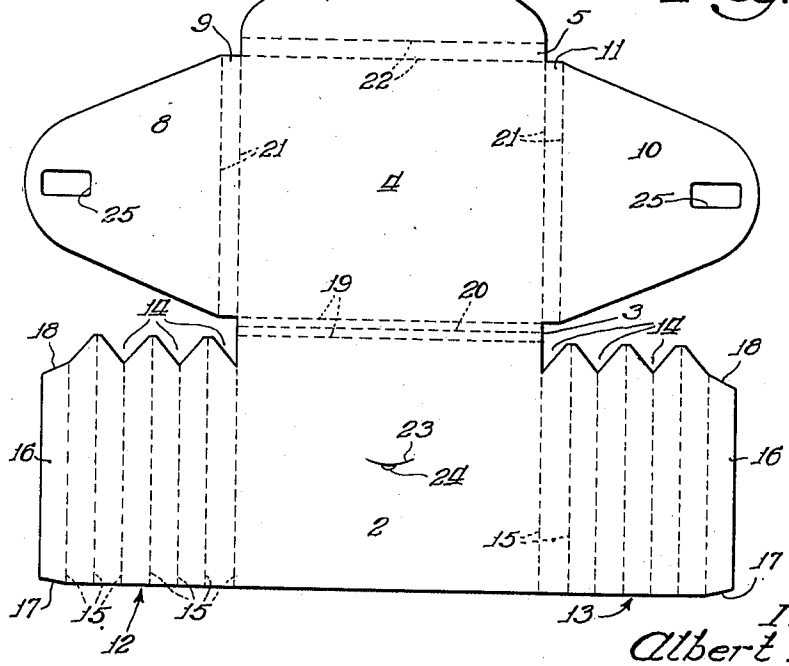


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Fig. 6

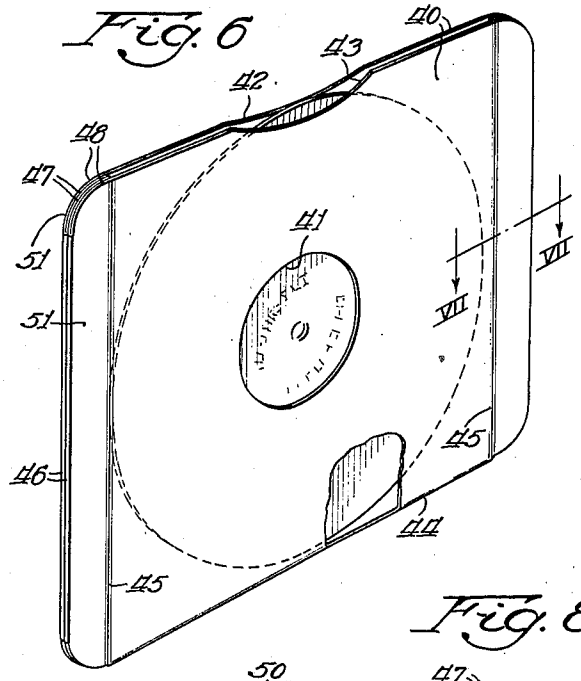


Fig. 7

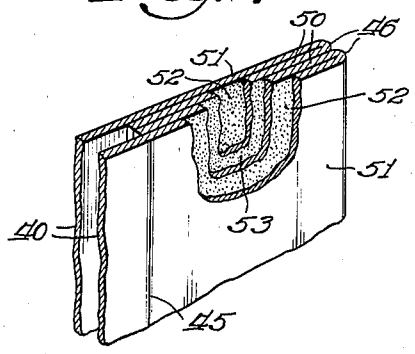
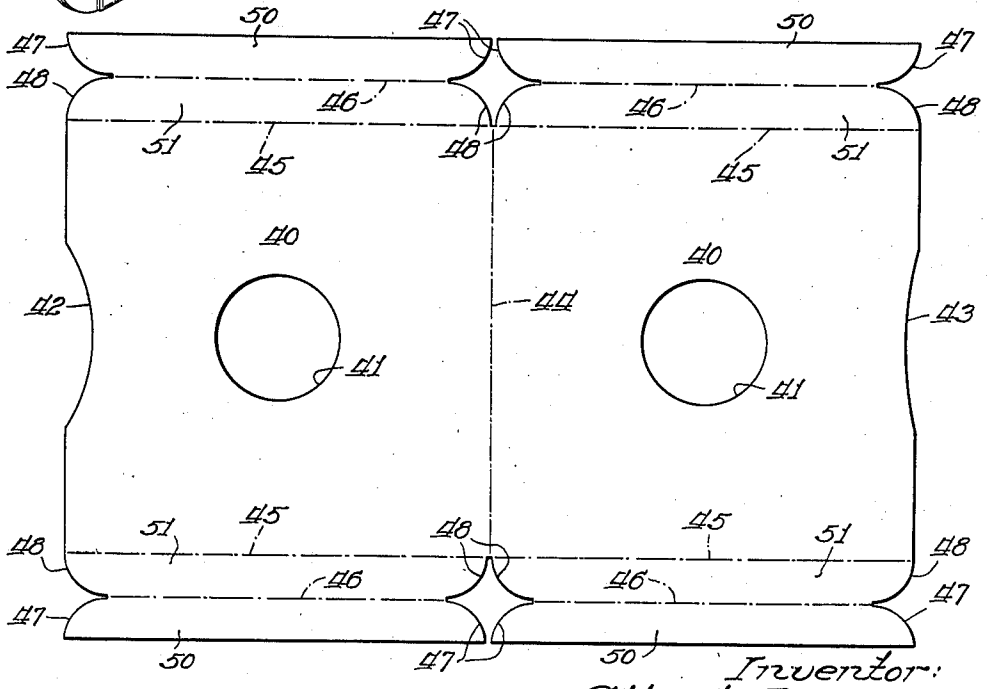


Fig. 8



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Patented Nov. 9, 1943

2,333,798

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,333,798

CONTAINER

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Application March 27, 1941, Serial No. 385,440

7 Claims. (Cl. 229—68)

The invention relates to containers constructed from paper-board, fiber-board and similar material and, more particularly, to a container or folder adapted to receive and retain one or more articles such as relatively flat files, plates or discs and is especially constructed and arranged to receive, retain and protect such articles as phonograph or other disc records for storage, shipment and sundry other purposes. In view of the peculiar value of the invention as a receptacle for disc records, it will be disclosed herein in its preferred application to that use although it will become apparent that the invention is or may readily be adapted to other uses and purposes.

One of the principal objects of the invention is to provide a container or folder adapted to receive and safely retain one or more articles of a flat or disc-like nature, the arrangement preferably being such that where a plurality of articles is enclosed, each article is spaced from each adjacent article.

Another principal object is to provide a container so constructed that the edges as well as the faces of fragile contents, such as record discs, will be protected against injury and so that blows, shocks, jars or other stresses, which otherwise might seriously injure or destroy the contents, will be cushioned and absorbed by the container itself without transmission to the contents.

Another important object is to provide a container or receptacle particularly well adapted to receive and retain one or a plurality of fragile articles, such as record discs, so that the articles may be stored "on edge" on shelves or the like much after the usual practice of shelving books. In this connection it may be noted that the container may be marked along an edge face with such data or indicia as desired to identify or describe its contents, the marking being exposed to view when stored in the manner suggested.

Still another object is to provide a container, of the character mentioned, so constructed and arranged that it may be constructed from a single sheet of material, properly cut and scored for folding at its place of manufacture and shipped to a consumer or user in such "flat" or "knocked-down" condition, or, partly or completely folded, set-up and temporarily closed at the factory and thereafter and in that condition shipped to the user or consumer.

A further object is to provide a compact and economical container adapted to have a long life even though it may be roughly handled and constantly used. In this connection it may be stated that in its preferred form for holding phonograph record discs (as illustrated) the container is of the "bellows" type so that it may be compressed to small volume when not in use, or for shipment, yet may be expanded easily to receive and dispense but firmly to hold its fragile contents and various quantities of the same.

The invention objects also include: the provision of a special envelope receptacle adapted to receive a record disc or the like and to be received, with its contained disc, in the record holder or container together with other envelopes of like character each carrying a disc, the envelopes being so constructed and arranged as to give a maximum amount of cushioning protection to the record edges and to minimize chances of cracking or breaking the record across its face; the provision of reenforcing and cushioning members or flaps; the provision of an easily operated lock whereby the reenforcing and cushioning flaps may be secured in their proper positions; and the provision of a closure member arranged to cooperate and interlock with the reenforcing and cushioning flaps, the closure member carrying a locking tongue of novel construction.

Other objects as well as the advantages and uses of the invention should become apparent and be understood by those skilled in the art after reading the following description and claims and after viewing the drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a container or holder for phonograph disc records, showing the same in closed condition.

Fig. 2 is a large scale view in perspective of the container of Fig. 1 in open position with portions broken away to permit unobstructed sight of parts which would otherwise be obscured.

Fig. 3 is a section of a fragment of the holder of Fig. 1, the section being aken along line III—III of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a plan or developed view of the container or holder illustrating same in its blank form as cut from a sheet of suitable material, after scoring and ready to be folded.

Fig. 5 illustrates the holder in a partially folded state in which condition each of a plurality of blanks conveniently may be stacked one upon another for storage or shipment.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of an envelope folder specially devised for reception of articles such as record discs and the like and specially arranged to be received in and to cooperate with the holder or container of Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive, for the protection, storage and transportation of the articles therein contained.

Fig. 7 is a section of a fragment of the envelope of Fig. 6, the section being taken along line VII—VII of Fig. 6, and

Fig. 8 is a plan or developed view of the cut and scored blank from which the envelope of Fig. 6 may be constructed.

In constructing the particular form of the invention illustrated, blanks of the configurations shown in Figs. 4 and 8 are cut with suitable dies from the desired material, such as paper-board, fiber-board or other sheet material, and, either simultaneously or otherwise, are suitably scored along predetermined lines of bending or folding. The blank of Fig. 4 provides the outer folder, wrapper or case and will be described first while the blank of Fig. 8 provides the inner folder, case or envelope adapted to receive the individual articles, such as disc records, the outer folder being arranged in this instance to receive four envelopes each carrying one record disc. Of course, the outer folder may be constructed to receive only one envelope and its contained record or it may be constructed to receive any number to the limit of the material strength. Bellows plaits are provided in each of the side edge walls and are complementary in number and arrangement thereby to provide corresponding slots or guides which not only permits the inner disc carrying envelopes to be slid into place in the pocket of the outer folder but also serve to space the inner envelopes and their contents from one another and to cushion the contents against blows, pressure or jars that otherwise might injure the contents. It should be appreciated, however, that each of the folders, inner and outer, may be used without the other although, for disc record holding purposes, the combination of the two is preferred since they supplement one another in many respects in attaining many of the objectives.

Now, referring to the outer folder and its blank shown in Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive, the cutting and scoring provide a one piece blank the major divisions or parts of which are, a front wall panel 2, a bottom wall panel 3, a back wall panel 4, a top wall panel 5, a front wall closure or cover flap 6, a locking tongue member generally designated 7, correspondingly similar side flaps 8 and 10 joined to the opposite side edges of back wall panel 4 by side wall panels 9 and 11, respectively, and side wall panels generally designated 12 and 13 attached to the opposite side edges of front wall panel 2. The side wall panels 12 and 13 which are to be plaited accordion-wise to provide a bellows construction, as well illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, may be notched along corresponding edges (those edges which will become the bottom edges), as shown at 14, although it is preferred to omit these notches except those adjacent front wall panel 2. Side wall panels 12 and 13 are also scored along parallel equally spaced lines 15, the innermost of which define the side edges of the front wall panel 2 and the outermost of which set off end strips 16 which are to be secured by adhesive or other means to the back or rear wall panel 4 as will later appear. Those edges of the strips 16 which will fall in upper and lower positions when the outer folder is completed preferably are bevelled as indicated at 17 and 18, respectively.

Parallel score lines 19 define the bottom wall panel 3 between front and back wall panels 2 and 4 and a third score line 20 divides the panel 3 into two equal parts. Similarly, parallel score lines 21 and 22 respectively define the side wall panels 9, 11 and top panel 5 from the back wall panel 4 and the side flaps 8, 10 and top or front cover flaps 6. Each of panels 3, 5, 9 and 11 may be substantially the same width (shortest dimension) although it may be desirable to have panels 9 and 11 wider than panel 3 by one thickness of the material since their flaps 8 and 10 are intended to overlap the front panel 2 on the outside thereof and, similarly, the width of top panel 5 may exceed the width of side panels 9 and 11 by one thickness of the material since the cover flap 6 attached to the top panel is intended to overlap the flaps 8 and 10 on the outside thereof.

The front panel 2 is provided with a substantially centrally disposed arcuate or crescent shaped slot or slit 23 which at its upper edge may be widened as at 24 for finger nail or tip insertion for opening the slit and each of the side flaps 8 and 10 is provided with an opening 25 each adapted fully to register with the other and with slit or slot 23 when the flaps are folded over one another and across the outside face of front panel 2, as shown in Fig. 1. The locking tongue member 7 is joined to the cover flap 6 only along score line 26 being cut free therefrom along lines 27, 28, parallel score lines 29, 30 and 31 and notches 32 divide member 7 into four (4) parts designated 33, 34, 35 and 36. Part 36 is provided with a slit 37 which, when this part is folded against the under (inside) face of part 35 and part 34 is folded thereover, is adapted to receive part 33 therein and therethrough to lock these parts in the relative positions illustrated in Fig. 2. This construction reenforces the locking tongue member 7 and, by reason of the fact that portions 34 and 36 extend across score line 26 and overlap flaps 6, the locking tongue member while free to hinge at score line 26 is yet prevented from being bent too far under flap 6.

It has been found desirable partially to prefold the blank when it is to be stored for later use or for shipment from its place of manufacture to another place where it is to be used as such arrangement facilitates packing large numbers of the blanks upon one another, conserves shipping space, and minimizes chances of injury to the blanks themselves. Since the end strips 16 are to be secured (as by adhesive 38) to the back wall panel 4 at its inner face and adjacent to the inner of the score lines 21, this operation is performed the blank being folded on score line 20 and the side wall panels 12 and 13 being folded along their middle score lines 15, for this purpose. Thereafter the top or cover flap 6 may be folded down about the score line 22 segregating it from top panel 5 so that it assumes the position shown in Fig. 5. When it is desired to set-up the folder it is only necessary to effect the bellows arrangement of the side wall panels 12 and 13 by plaiting them along the several score lines 15, to fold and lock the parts 34, 35 and 36 of the tongue member 7, and to fold the several other parts along the remaining score lines 19, 21 and 22, which results in the product illustrated in Fig. 2.

The inner folder or envelope depicted in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 and indicated as partially disposed in one of the four plait-pockets of the outer folder in Fig. 2, may also be constructed in a one-piece blank cut from the same or similar material as that from which the outer folder is composed. As shown in Fig. 8, the blank is cut to provide similarly shaped panels 40, 40 having centrally disposed circular openings 41 and arcuate notches 42 and 43 in their free edges, their adjacent edges being joined along score line 44. At each side of each panel 40 score lines 45

and 46 together with arcuate edges 47 and 48 demark complementary marginal portions 50 and 51 of which portion 50, when folded on score line 46 is adapted to lie upon and be secured, as by adhesive 52, to that face of its connected panel which will be an inner face of the envelope or folder. All of the portions 50 are folded down upon their adjacent portions 51 and secured thereto in the same sense and thereafter one panel 40 is folded about score line 44 to bring it in face to face relation with the other panel 40, although spaced therefrom, and to bring the corresponding infolded marginal portions 50 into contact with one another throughout their lengths in which mated position they are secured together as by adhesive 53.

This arrangement and construction spaces the panels 40, 40 apart from one another over their entire areas between score lines 45 and provides a pocket into which a phonograph record disc or other like shaped article may be disposed. Preferably the vertical distance between the opposite inturned free edges of portions 50 will be only slightly greater than the diameter of the record disc or other article to be received in the envelope and the depth of the pocket will be such as would conceal the record were it not for the arcuate notches 42, 43 one of which may be deeper cut than the other to permit the record edge to be observed and grasped for removal. Preferably also, the thickness of the material, of which the inner folder or envelope is composed, is such that two thicknesses thereof will closely approach the thickness of the record discs or other article to be packaged, or strip inserts could be placed between the portions 50 and 51 or both to build up the side thickness to a thickness equivalent to the thickness of the article.

The marginal portions 50 serve as cushions adapted to absorb shocks or blows which, if falling against the edge of a record disc, might chip or break the same. Also by reason of the substantial equality of thickness throughout the side marginal lengths of the envelope edge portions to the thickness of the envelope over the area covering the record disc, no "steps" or inequality occurs between the envelope margin surfaces and the surface actually covering the record disc, thereby reducing the chances of cracking or breaking the record by a blow across its face while the record is in the envelope. Score lines 45 may be omitted although it is deemed preferable to have them since they permit the envelope marginal portions to flex to a slight degree relative to the record and, thereby, to conform to inequalities in alignment between opposite plaits in the outer folder earlier described.

The outer folder of Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive is designed to receive four of the inner folders or envelopes just described, whether the envelopes do or do not contain records. Each envelope with its contained record is adapted to slide into the pocket of the outer folder with its marginal edge portions guided into correspondingly opposite plaits in the side walls of the outer folder as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2, the pocket depth being such that when the bottom edge of the inner envelope comes to rest against the bottom wall panel 3, the top edges of panels 40 will lie flush with the plane of the top of the outer folder pocket. When it is desired to close the outer folder, the side flaps 8 and 10 are folded around the plaited side wall panels and overlapped one on the other over the front wall panel 2, the cover panel is folded over the mouth of the pocket and over the outer of the flaps 8 and 10, and the tongue member 7 is inserted in the slit or slot 23. Ordinarily the package of records will be stored on its bottom edge, that is, resting on the bottom wall panel 3, in which case data relative to the contents of the package appropriately may be marked on an edge (side wall) as indicated by the letter A in Fig. 1.

The invention is susceptible of various modifications and variations as well as of incorporation in packaging containers of other types and for other purposes, as will be appreciated. Consequently the scope of the invention is not to be bounded by the foregoing description of a present preferred embodiment or to the construction designed for a particular use, but rather by its spirit and the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A container comprising, a generally rectangular back panel defining top, bottom and lateral edges, a bottom panel attached to the bottom edge of said back panel, a generally rectangular front panel attached along one edge to said bottom panel and extending over and in spaced relation to a substantial part of the area of said back panel, the edge of said front panel that is opposite to its edge attached to said bottom panel being free, means connecting each of the other pair of opposite edges of said front panel to said back panel, a pair of lateral flaps one of which is attached to one and the other to the other of the lateral edges of the back panel and being adapted to overlap one another in a position overlying said front panel, a closure flap attached to the top edge of the back panel and being adapted to overlie portions of said lateral flaps, said lateral flaps and said front panel having registering openings, and tongue means carried by said closure flap and adapted to be disposed through said openings to secure said container in closed condition.

2. A container comprising, a generally rectangular back panel defining top, bottom and lateral edges, a bottom panel attached to the bottom edge of said back panel, a generally rectangular front panel attached to said bottom panel along one of a pair of opposite edges and extending over and in spaced relation to a substantial part of the area of said back panel, means connecting each of the other pair of opposite edges of said front panel to said back panel, a pair of lateral flaps one of which is attached to one and the other to the other of the lateral edges of the back panel and being adapted to overlap one another in a position overlying said front panel, a closure flap attached to the top edge of the back panel and being adapted to overlie portions of said lateral flaps, and means for securing said flaps together in their positions overlying one another.

3. A container comprising, a generally rectangular back panel defining top, bottom and lateral edges, a bottom panel attached to the bottom edge of said back panel, a front panel attached along one edge to said bottom panel and extending over and in spaced relation to a substantial part of the area of said back panel, said front panel having substantially oppositely disposed lateral edges, means connecting each of said opposite edges of said front panel to said back panel adjacent to the lateral edges thereof, at least one lateral flap attached to a lateral edge of the back panel and being adapted to overlap said front panel, a closure flap attached to the top edge of the back panel and being adapted to overlie a portion of said lateral flap, and means

for securing said flaps together in their positions overlying one another.

4. A paperboard container comprising a generally rectangular back panel defining top, bottom and lateral edges, a bottom panel attached to the bottom edge of said back panel, a generally rectangular front panel attached to said bottom panel along one of a pair of opposite edges and extending over and in spaced relation to a substantial part of the area of said back panel, a multiple-plaited side wall on each of the other pair of opposite edges of said front panel extending toward and secured to the inner surface of said back panel, a lateral flap on each of the lateral edges of said back panel, said lateral flaps being adapted to overlap one another in part in a position overlying said front panel, a closure flap attached to the top edge of said wall adapted to overlie portions of said lateral flaps, and means for securing said flaps together in their positions overlying one another.

5. A paperboard container according to claim 4 wherein said securing means includes registering openings in said lateral flaps and said front wall, and a tongue carried by said closure flap having laterally extending portions folded over upon each other and secured together, said tongue being adapted to be disposed through said openings.

6. A paperboard container according to claim 4 wherein each of said lateral flaps is provided with a score line parallel to the lateral edge of the back panel to which it is attached and spaced therefrom a distance substantially equal to the dimension of said bottom panel defining the spacing between said back and front panels.

7. A paperboard container for record discs and the like comprising, in combination, a container according to claim 4 and a plurality of envelopes adapted to receive such discs disposed in and between each pair of oppositely disposed plaits in said side walls, each of said envelopes comprising a single sheet of paperboard folded upon itself along an intermediate transverse line to provide two envelope walls, said transverse line constituting a bottom edge, a marginal strip on each side edge of each of said envelope walls, and an extension strip on each of said marginal strips, said extension strips on each side of said envelope being infolded against and secured to their associated marginal strips and also being secured to each other, whereby said envelope walls are spaced from each other.

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