

Aug. 30, 1927.

1,640,685

S. M. AITELLI

ENVELOPE

Filed Dec. 22, 1926

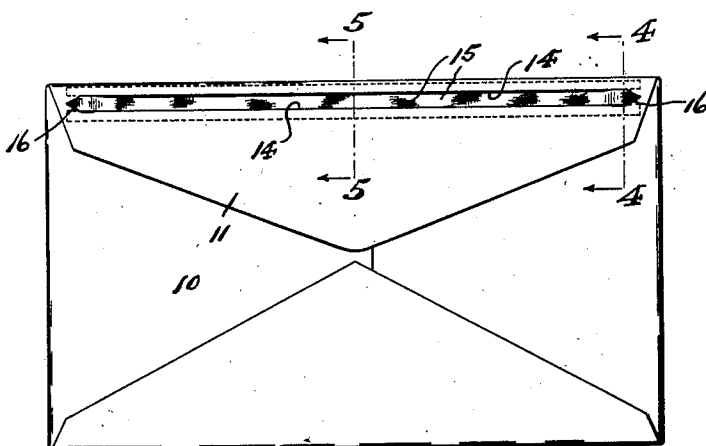


Fig. 1

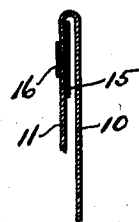


Fig. 4

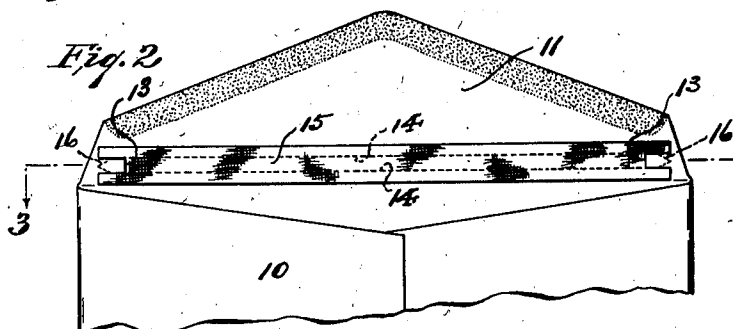


Fig. 2

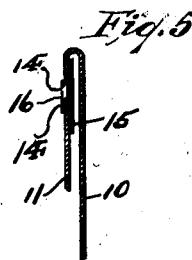


Fig. 5

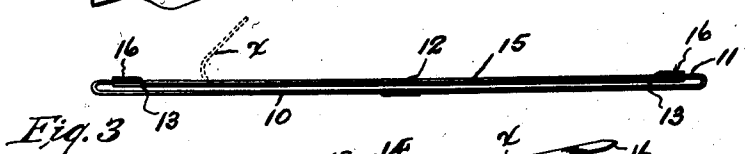


Fig. 3

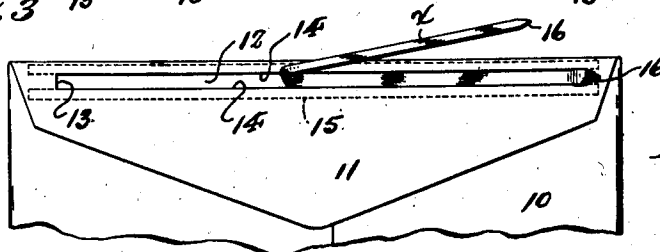


Fig. 6

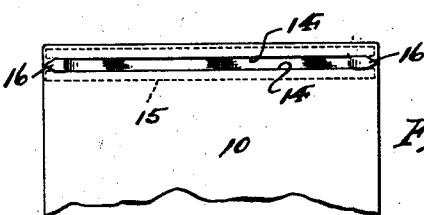


Fig. 7

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SILVIO M. AITELLI, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

ENVELOPE.

Application filed December 22, 1926. Serial No. 156,489.

The invention relates to an improved envelope, paper wrapper or other mail cover having a self-contained opening means.

The invention has for its principal object to provide a novel construction, arrangement and relation of fabric tearing strip in combination with the body of an envelope, paper wrapper or other mail cover; and the invention consists in providing the body of the envelope or other mail cover with an open slot, in alignment with which, and so as to be attached to the inner surface of said body in the location of said slot, is provided a fabric tearing strip, having at one or both ends exteriorly projecting tabs extending through an end or ends of the slot so as to be accessible to the fingers of the operator in opening the envelope or the like; the longitudinal margins of the slot providing guides against which the tearing action is exercised to longitudinally disrupt the strip and thus remove the portion thereof which normally closes the open slot of the body of the envelope or the like.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a rear face view of a closed envelope, the closing or sealing flap of which is provided with the novel opening means, made according to and embodying the principles of this invention; Figure 2 is a fragmentary rear face view, with the sealing flap open, and showing the fabric tearing in operative connection with the inner face thereof; Figure 3 is a longitudinal section, taken on line 3—3 in Figure 2; Figure 4 is a fragmentary vertical section, on an enlarged scale, taken on line 4—4 in Figure 1; Figure 5 is a similar fragmentary vertical section, on an enlarged scale, taken on line 5—5 in Figure 1; Figure 6 is a fragmentary rear face view of a closed envelope, showing the manner of disrupting the tearing strip to open the same; and Figure 7 is a fragmentary front face view of a closed envelope, provided in its body and across one end thereof with the novel opening means, made according to and embodying the principles of this invention.

Similar characters of reference are employed in all of the hereinabove described views, to indicate corresponding parts.

In the drawings, the reference character 10 indicates an ordinary envelope provided with the usual closing or sealing flap 11. In one form or embodiment of my invention

the novel opening means is provided in connection with said closing or sealing flap 11 so as to extend longitudinally of the base thereof adjacent to its junction with the envelope body 10. In such location, the body of the flap 11 is provided with a longitudinal open slot 12, the ends 13 of which terminate adjacent to the outer ends of the flap body, and the longitudinal edges 14 of which are spaced apart an appreciable distance, preferably so as to provide a slot of approximately one-eighth of an inch in width.

The reference character 15 indicates a tearing strip made of a plain woven fabric with the warp and weft respectively running longitudinally and transversely of the strip, so that the body of the strip may be easily disrupted longitudinally. This strip 15 is of a width appreciably greater than the width of the open slot 12 of the envelope flap, and also of a length exceeding said slot, so that when applied to the latter and aligned with the slot 12 it overlaps the bounding marginal portions thereof. Said strip 15 is provided with a coating of strong adhesive by which it is secured to the inner face of the flap 11 so as to normally close over the open slot 12 in the wall of the latter. The strip is provided at one or both extremities with a tongue or tab 16 of a width approximating the width of the slot 12, the same being formed by longitudinal incisions extending inwardly from the end or ends of the strips, which tongue or tab 16 is inserted through the adjacent end of the slot 12 to project exteriorly from the same, and so as to normally lie upon the outer face of the flap 11, thus providing a finger piece accessible to and engageable by the fingers of the operator when it is desired to disrupt the tearing strip to open the envelope.

In manipulating a closed and sealed envelope, which is provided with the above described novel construction of opening means, the operator grasps an exteriorly projecting tongue or tab 16, and pulls outwardly and backwardly upon the same. The incisions bounding and defining the sides of the tongue or tab 16 provide initial lines of tear or disruption substantially in line with the longitudinal edges of the slot 12, so that as the tongue or tab 16 is pulled outwardly and backwardly, a portion of the strip will tear bodily away therefrom, the longitudinal sides

of the slot 12, as reenforced by the adhering underlying marginal portions of the strip, forming guides or straight edge abutments against which the tearing action is exercised. As the result of such manipulation, the strip 15 is disrupted and the part *x* is bodily torn away therefrom, leaving the slot 12 freely open to communication with the interior of the envelope, whereby access to the contents thereof and removal of the same therefrom is attained.

From the above description it will be obvious I have provided a very simple and easily manipulated opening means for envelopes, which is nevertheless in its initial state a reenforcement rather than a weakening of the envelope structure. The normal arrangement of the opening strip assures normal securely closed and sealed condition of the envelope in transit, and the exterior finger pieces or tabs lying in the plane of and within the marginal limits of the envelope offer practically no risk of being accidentally engaged or tangled with other mail with likelihood of accidentally tearing open the strip. The opening strip is per se of a substantial material which easily resists accidental tearing, and yet by reason of its novel association and relation to the pre-formed slot of the envelope, may be readily disrupted by a proper manipulation thereof in the manner above pointed out.

It will be obvious that the slot and its associated tearing strip may be variously located relative to the envelope body or its parts; for example, it may be directly related to the body of the envelope in a transverse relation to an end thereof, as shown in Figure 7, or it may be otherwise located and related to any other desired part of the envelope.

It will also be apparent that my present invention may be applied to forms of mail covers other than envelopes, such, for example, as paper wrappers, mailing tubes, etc.

Alterations in construction and arrangement, other than those above referred to, may be comprised within the scope of my invention; hence I do not limit myself to the exact details and arrangements above described and as shown in the accompanying drawings except in so far as may be required by the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. The combination with the body of a mail cover of an opening means, comprising the provision in said body of a slot having spaced longitudinal edges, a fabric tearing strip of greater width than said slot and exceeding the same in length, said strip being adhesively secured to the inner side of said body to normally close said slot, and an end of said strip being longitudinally incised coincident to the sides of the slot to form a gripping tongue, said tongue being exteriorly projected through the adjacent end of said slot, the longitudinal edges of said slot providing guides against which the strip may be bodily disrupted and a portion thereof removed to open up said slot.

2. An envelope having in a portion thereof an open slot of appreciable width, a fabric tearing strip of a width and length exceeding the dimensions of said slot, said strip being adhesively secured to the inner side of the envelope along the marginal portions bordering the slot thereof to close over the latter, and the ends of said strip being longitudinally incised coincident to the sides of said slot to form tongues, respectively exteriorly projected through the opposite ends of said slot, the longitudinal edges of said slot providing guides against which the strip may be bodily disrupted and a portion thereof removed to open up said slot.

In testimony, that I claim the invention set forth above I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of December, 1926.

SILVIO M. AITELLI.