Aug. 7, 1956 A. CLEMENTE 2,757,584

TEAR TAB MACHINE

Filed Oct. 11, 1950 5 Sheets-Sheet 1

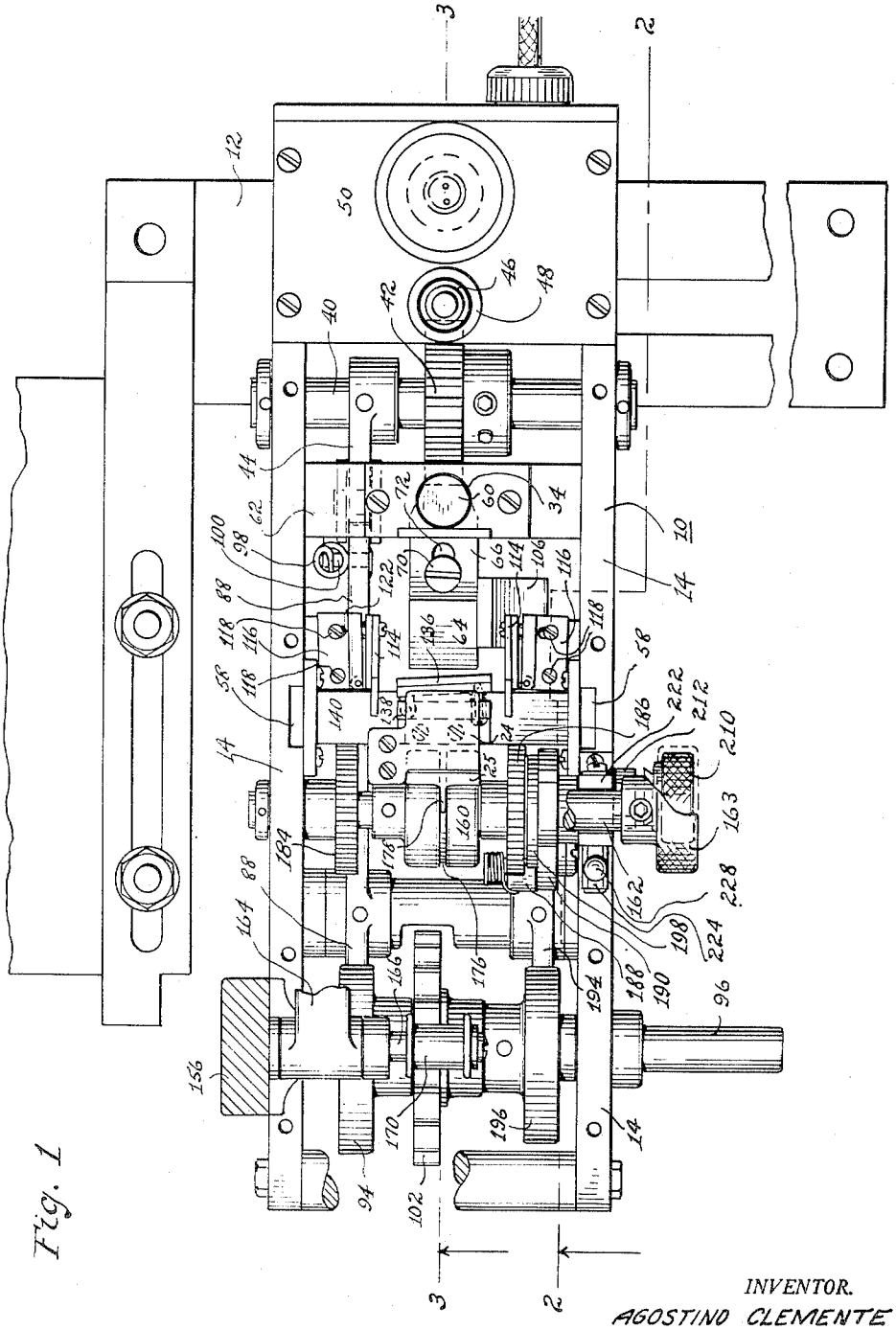


Fig. 1

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TEAR TAB MACHINE

Filed Oct. 11, 1950 5 Sheets-Sheet 2

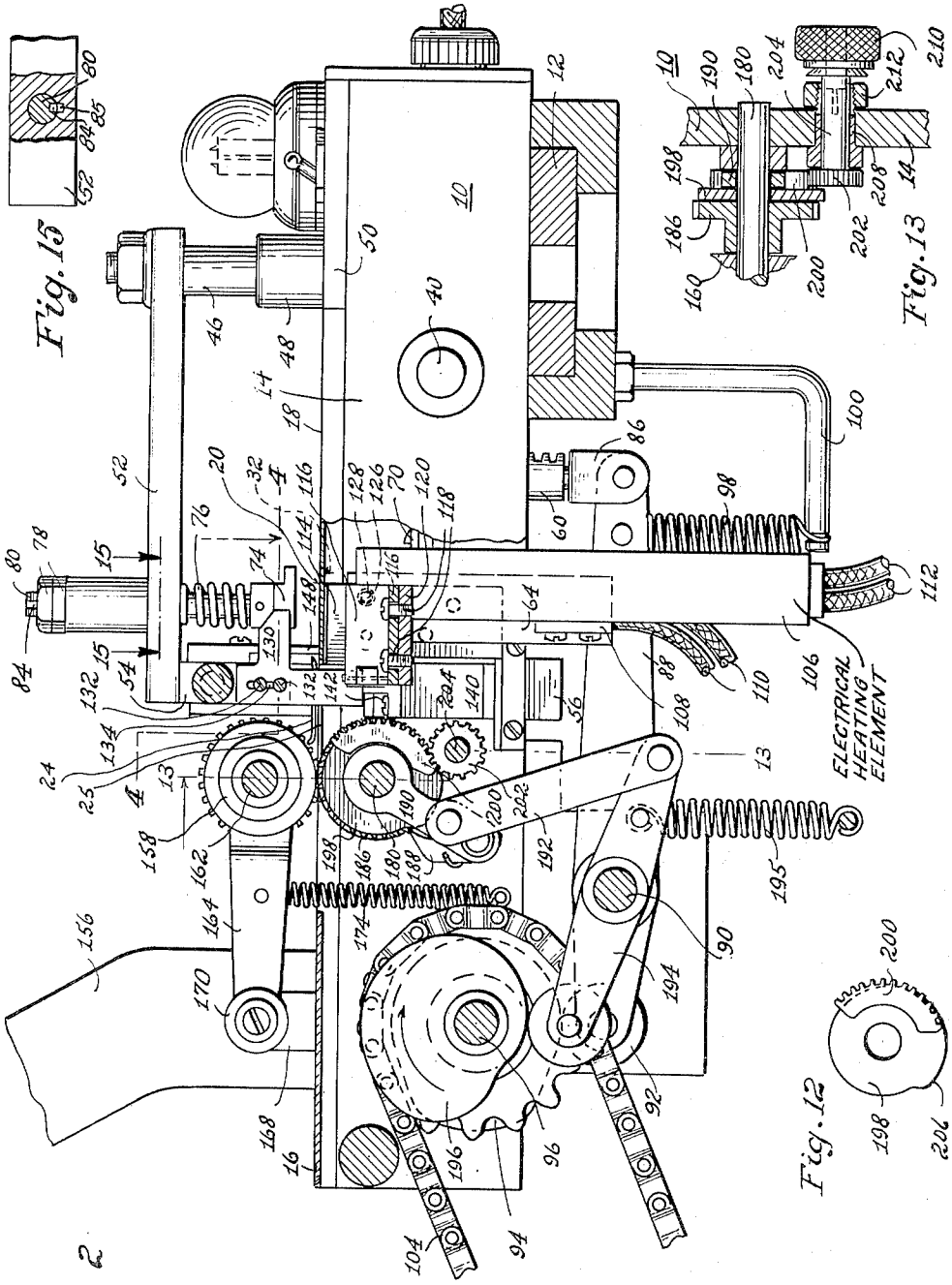


Fig. 15

Fig. 13

Fig. 12

Fig. 2

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TEAR TAB MACHINE

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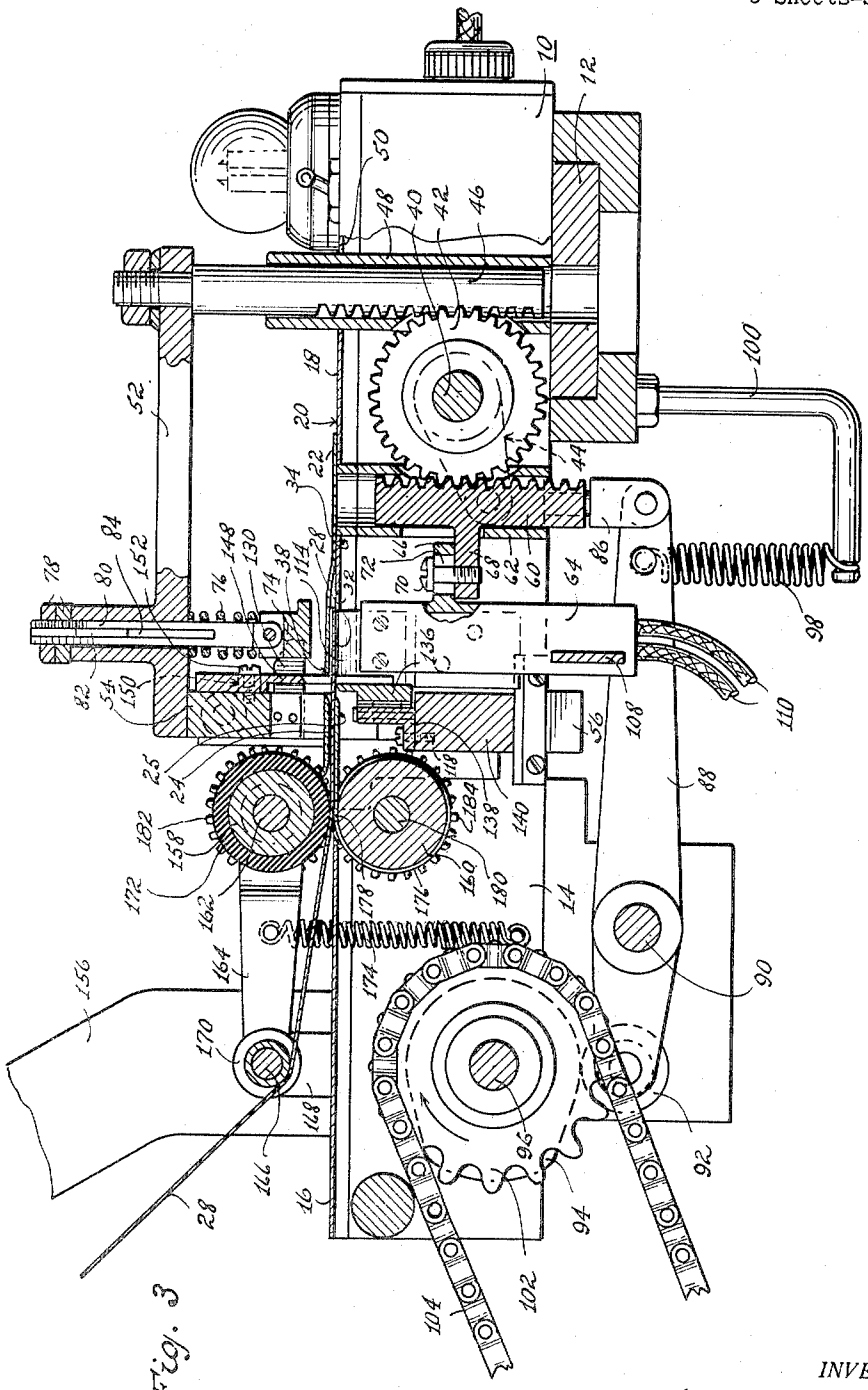


Fig. 3

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TEAR TAB MACHINE

Filed Oct. 11, 1950

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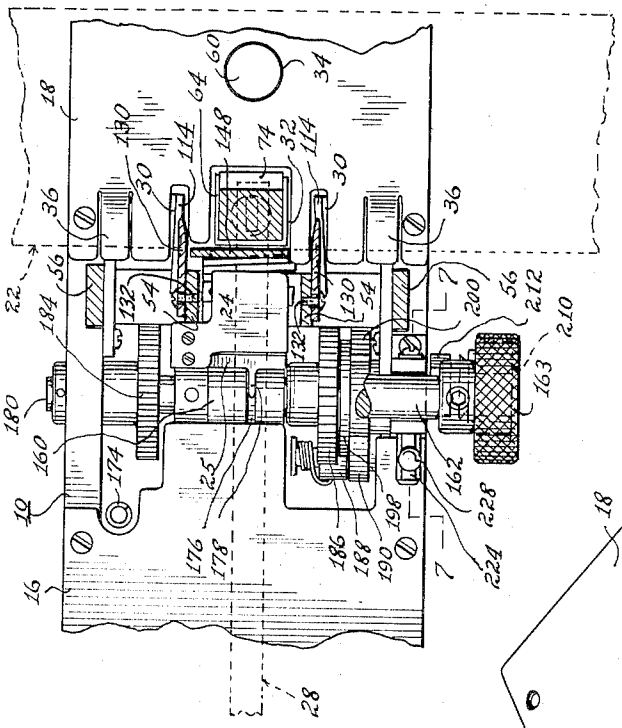


Fig. 5

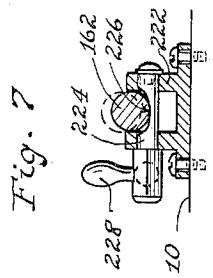


Fig. 7

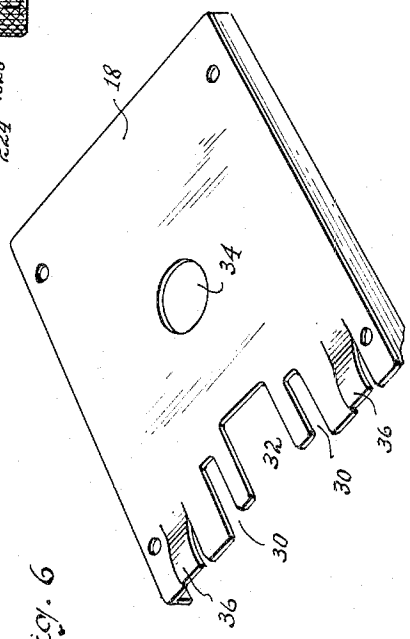


Fig. 6

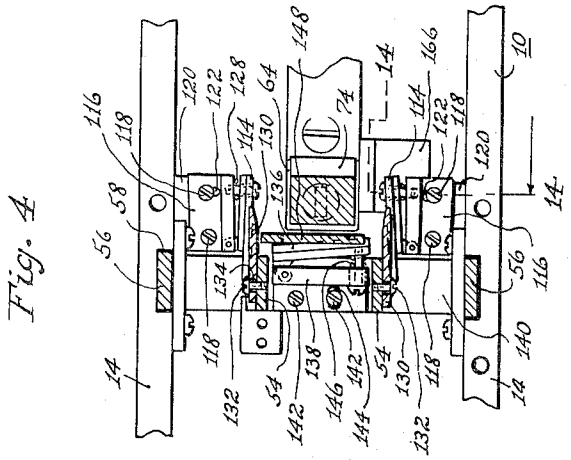


Fig. 4

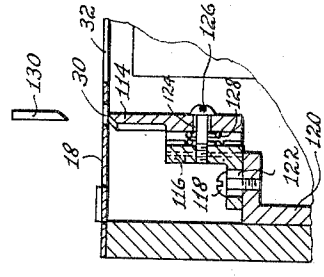


Fig. 14

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TEAR TAB MACHINE

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Fig. 10

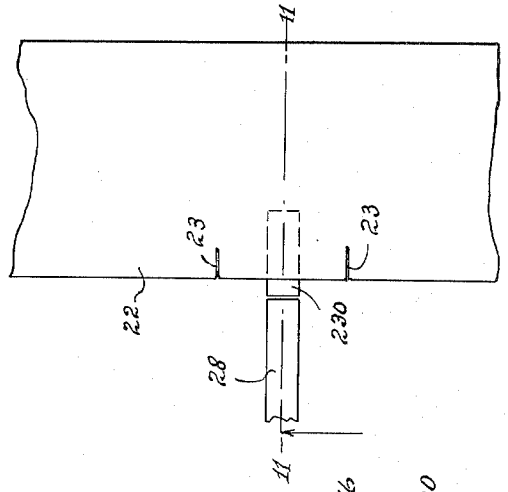


Fig. 11

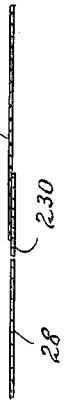


Fig. 9

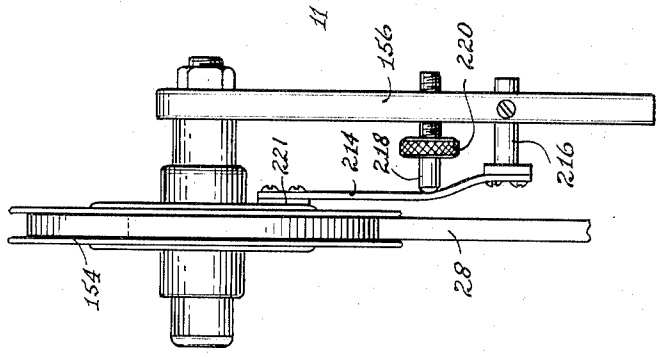
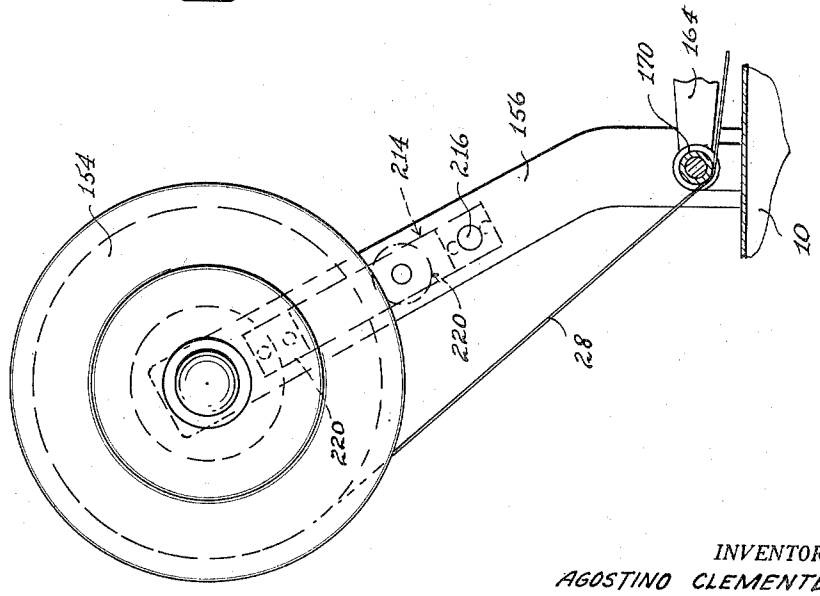


Fig. 8



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United States Patent Office 2,757,584 Patented Aug. 7, 1956

2,757,584

TEAR TAB MACHINE

Agostino Clemente, Elkins Park, Pa., assignor, by direct and mesne assignments, of one-fifth to Peter Dippolito, Philadelphia, one-fifth to John D. Conti, Elkins Park, and one-fifth to Emil M. Farris, Wayne, Pa., and one-fifth to Morris A. Rabkin, Camden, N. J.

Application October 11, 1950, Serial No. 189,518

14 Claims. (Cl. 93—1)

This invention relates to improvements in mechanisms for applying a succession of tear tabs to a web of wrapping material and slitting the edge of said web on each side of the tear tabs.

One of the primary objects of the present invention is to provide a more compact and efficient mechanism for performing the operations of affixing tear tabs to a web of wrapping material for wrapping cigars, cigarettes, candy, bread, and other products than such mechanisms heretofore developed.

Another and important object of the present invention is to provide a mechanism of the character mentioned having improved and effective means for slitting the edge of a web of wrapping material and severing tear tabs from a strip of material without wrinkling the edges of the materials.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a mechanism for the purpose mentioned having improved means for advancing the tear tab strip across the web of wrapping material and regulating the lengths of the tabs.

Another object of the present invention is to provide effective means for heat sealing of the tear tabs to the web of wrapping material.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent from the following specification taken in connection with the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a tear tab mechanism embodying the present invention, but showing the yoke which carries the upper shearing blades and the spring urged pressure member removed, and also with the front and middle cover plates removed from base **10**.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on the line **2—2** of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrow.

Fig. 3 is a partially sectional view taken on the line **3—3** of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line **4—4** of Fig. 2 and showing the cover plate removed.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, but with the front and middle cover plates and other parts in assembled position.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the rear cover plate.

Fig. 7 is a sectional view showing cam elements for lifting the top feed roller shaft taken on the line **7—7** of Fig. 5.

Fig. 8 is a side elevation of a reel for the tear tab strip.

Fig. 9 is a rear elevation of the reel shown in Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a plan view of a section of the web of wrapping material and a tear tab applied thereto.

Fig. 11 is a sectional view taken on the line **11—11** of Fig. 10.

Fig. 12 is a side view of a combined quadrant and disc for limiting the advance of the tear tab strip.

Fig. 13 is a sectional view of the quadrant shown in Fig. 12, as installed in combination with the means for advancing the tear tab strip, taken on the line **13—13** of Fig. 2.

Fig. 14 is a sectional view taken on the line **14—14**

of Fig. 4, but showing the rear cover plate in position on the base of the mechanism.

Fig. 15 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line **15—15** of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings, in which like numerals designate like parts in the several views, the improved mechanism for applying tear tabs to a web of wrapping material includes a base **10** adapted to be attached to a machine for wrapping cigars or other articles with sheet material fed through the machine on suitable rollers, by means of a bracket **12** carried by the tear tab mechanism. The wrapping machine (not shown) may be of any conventional type in which articles are automatically wrapped. Such machines are provided with means for advancing a web of wrapping material continuously or intermittently at a timed rate of travel, and it is therefore essential that the rate of advance across said web of a strip of material from which tear tabs are severed be coordinated with that of the web of wrapping material.

The base **10** is preferably of rectangular form, having walls **14** and being open at its top and bottom. The plates **16** and **18** are secured to the top of the base to shield the mechanism mounted inside the base and to form a supporting surface **20** for the web of wrapping material **22**, which is arranged to move transversely across said surface. Guide plates **24** and **25** for the tear tab strip **28** are secured to base **10** between the opposed ends of plates **16** and **18**. Plate **18** is provided at its front end with a pair of spaced, narrow slots **30** (Fig. 6), a wider slot **32** extending longitudinally of said plate, and a circular opening **34** in its central portion. Plate **18** has elevated portions **36** at its front end outwardy from slots **30** for lifting the front edge **38** of web **22**, to permit pasage of the end of the tear tab strip **28** back of the web when the tear tab strip is advanced, as more clearly shown in Fig. 3.

A shaft **40**, transversely journaled in the walls **14** below plate **18**, has rigidly mounted thereon a gear wheel **42** and a rocker arm **44**. Meshing with one side of gear wheel **42** is a vertical rack member **46** which is slidably mounted in a guide sleeve **48** depending from a rear plate **50**. The plate **50** is secured to the top of base **10** and provides a continuation rearwardly of the surface **20**. To the outer end of rack **46** is rigidly secured one end of a yoke **52** having depending portions **54** and also depending guide legs **56** slidably mounted in vertical openings **58** in the walls **14** of base **10**. In the construction described, the yoke is positively guided at both ends for reciprocal movement on base **10**.

Another rack member **60** meshing with the opposite side of gear wheel **42** is guided for slidable movement in a guide member **62** secured within the walls of base **10**. A support member **64** is rigidly connected to rack member **60** through an integral arm **66** on support member **64** and a corresponding arm **68** on rack member **60**, together with a screw **70** slidable in slot **72** of arm **66** by means of which support member **64** is adjustable longitudinally of base **10**. A pressure member **74** is slidably mounted on yoke **52** in opposed alignment with support member **64**. A spring **76** urges said pressure member toward the base **10** and the support member **64**. Pressure member **74** is adjustable toward and from base **10** by means of nuts **78** on threaded stem **80** projecting through yoke **52**. A spline **82** in a slot **84** of stem **80** engages a corresponding slot **85** (Fig. 15) in yoke **52** to hold the pressure member **74** against rotation.

Rocker arm **44** is connected through link member **86** with one end of a lever **88** which is pivotally mounted near its front end on a transverse shaft **90** and has a roller **92** on its front end in contact with a cam **94** mounted on another shaft **96**. A spring **98** attached to the rear end of lever **88** and to a support **100** on base **10** urges

roller 92 into contact with cam 94. A sprocket wheel 102 on shaft 96 is driven by a chain 104 from a suitable motive source. An electrical heating element 106 is rigidly connected through bracket 108 with support member 64 and is supplied with current through wires 110 and 112 from any suitable power source. The support and pressure members 64 and 74 are normally spaced apart, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, to receive the web of wrapping material 22 and the tear tab strip 28 therebetween preparatory to the operations of clamping or pressing the end of the tear tab strip to the web, slitting the edges of the web on each side of the tear tab strip and severing a tear tab strip from the strip, which may be provided with a fusible coating for heat sealing, or with adhesion material for sealing under pressure only. In either case, the parts just described will be substantially the same.

For the operation of slitting the front edge of the web 22, a pair of identical shear blades 114 are hinged at one end to supports 116 secured by screws 118 to brackets 120 carried by the walls 14 of base 10. Slots 122 are formed in supports 116 at one end and the screws 118 project through these slots to permit adjustment of the rear ends of the blades 114 toward each other. A slot 124 is provided in the free end of each shear blade 114 and a screw 126 projects through this slot into support 116 to afford means of angular adjustment of the blade 114. A spring 128 is mounted on each screw between the blade 114 and support 116, this spring being under sufficient compression to urge the blade outwardly on its hinge, thereby forcing the blades at an angle to each other convergent rearwardly. As shown more clearly in Fig. 14, the upper edge of each blade 114 lies just below plate 18, substantially in registry with one of the slots 30, but is urged outwardly by spring 128, so that the blade is on a slight bias with the slot. Opposed blades 130, cooperative with blades 114, are rigidly secured by screws 132 to the depending portions 54 of yoke 52 with provision through slots 134 for adjusting blades 114, as more clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 4. As shown in Figs. 5 and 14, the blades 130 are in alignment with slots 30 in plate 18, blades 114 being on a slight yieldable bias with the blades 130. The blades 114 may be angularly adjusted, either outwardly or inwardly in relation to the blades 130, by means of the screws 126.

For the operation of severing tear tabs from the tear tab strip 28, a single shear blade 136 similar to either of the blades 114 is hinged at one end to a support 138, which support is mounted on a cross-bar 140 of the base 10 transversely of the blades 114. One of the screws 142 securing support 138 to cross-bar 140 at the free end of blade 136 passes through a slot 144 which affords means of angular adjustment of the blade 136, and a spring 146 mounted between the free end of blade 136 and support 138 urges the blade 136 outwardly at an angle in relation to support 138. A blade 148 is rigidly, but adjustably, mounted transversely on yoke 52 between depending portions 54, and is provided with a slot 150 and screw 152 which afford means of adjustability of blade 148 toward the base 10.

The tear tab strip 28 is preferably wound on a reel 154 journaled upon an arm 156 mounted at the front end of base 10 and from this reel the strip is intermittently advanced across the web 22 by means of rollers 158 and 160 and guided between plates 24 and 25. Roller 158 is mounted on a shaft 162 which is journaled in an arm 164 pivotally mounted on a shaft 166 carried by a bearing 168 and having a flanged idler pulley 170 on its inner end under which the tear tab strip is supported and guided thereby. A rotating and lifting handle or knob 163 is mounted on the outer end of shaft 162. Roller 158 may be covered by a resilient cylindrical coating or cylindrical casing 172 to provide additional grip on the tear tab strip, which may be made of material having a slippery surface. A spring 174 urges arm 164 toward base 10, thereby holding roller 158 in contact under pressure with lower roller 160. The roller 160 has an annular groove 176 intermediate its ends in which a finger 178 projecting from the rear end of lower guide plate 25 is inserted to align the plate with the tear tab strip. Roller 160 is mounted on shaft 180. Intermeshing gear wheels 182 and 184 are mounted on the respective shafts 162 and 180 to provide positive means for rotating rollers 158 and 160 simultaneously. A ratchet wheel 186 is also mounted on shaft 180. A pawl 188, pivoted on an arm 190 which is mounted on the shaft 180, is actuated through link 192, rocker arm 194 and cam 196 to rotate shaft 180 in a clockwise direction, as viewed in Fig. 2, to advance the tear tab strip 28 intermittently toward web 22. Rocker arm 194 has a spring 195 urging its forward end into contact with cam 196. The arm 194 is mounted on shaft 90 which also carries the lever 88 connected with rack members 46 and 60. Pawl 188 is of sufficient width to overlie the outer perimeter of a disc 198 which is freely mounted on the shaft 180 and carries a toothed quadrant 200. This quadrant is in mesh with a pinion 202 carried by a stub shaft 204. A portion 206 of the perimeter of disc 198 (Fig. 12) is of slightly greater diameter than the ratchet wheel 186 so that, when it is desired to limit the effective stroke of pawl 188, the disc 198 is rotated to bring such portion of the larger diameter under the pawl as necessary to limit the rotation of the ratchet wheel 186 as desired to regulate the advance of the tear tab strip 28. Stub shaft 204 projects through a sleeve 208 fixed in one wall 14 of base 10 and has a handle or knob 210 on its outer end. The outer end of sleeve 208 is tapered, split, and screw-threaded, and a nut 212 is threaded on the end to lock the shaft 204 against rotation after the disc 198 has been adjusted as desired. The details of this feature are shown in Fig. 13.

Brake means for reel 154 comprises a resilient plate 214 secured at 216 to arm 156 and an adjusting pin 218 screw-threaded through arm 156 and having a wheel 220 for rotating said pin. The inner end of pin 218 bears against plate 214, the outer end 221 of which is in frictional contact with reel 154. Any desired longitudinal tension may be placed on tear tab strip 28 by adjusting the pin 218 in relation to plate 214. Such adjustments are important in advancing the strip 28 for the reason that, if the tension is not sufficient, the strip will tend to sag and wrinkle, and if it is too great, the strip will slip between the rollers 158 and 160.

Shaft 162 extends across the base 10 through a support 222 comprising a guide for said shaft (Fig. 7). A cam member 224 is mounted transversely in the support 222 below shaft 162, the shaft 162 resting and in a cut out portion 226 of the cam member. A handle 228 is attached to one end of the cam member for rotating this member to lift shaft 162 and thus raise the roller 158 from contact with roller 160, as when inserting the end of a new reel of tear tab material.

Although it is to be understood that the web of wrapping material 22 is movable, and that the mechanism for applying tear tabs thereto must be coordinated with the movements of the web, the means for controlling the web forms no part of the present invention. It is to be understood that the web of wrapping material may be carried by any conventional type of machine for wrapping cigars and the like, to which the mechanism of the present invention is attached.

From the foregoing description, it will be seen that the tear tab strip 28 is advanced intermittently across the web of wrapping material 22 by means of rollers 158, 160, ratchet wheel 186 and pawl 188, the latter being actuated by cam 196. The extent, or distance, of advance is controlled by the disc 198 and quadrant 200, by means of which the distance of advance may be adjusted according to the length of tear tab desired.

As the tear tab strip advances, the front end of the strip passes back of the front edge of web 22, which is lifted from the surface 20 by the elevated portions 36 of

the plate 18, and the strip is stopped when the effective limit of the stroke of pawl 188 has been reached. Immediately thereafter, the rear end of lever 88 is forced upwardly by cam 94 and, through rocker arm 44, effects rotation of gear wheel 42 clock-wise (as viewed in Fig. 3). This causes rack 46 to move downwardly, carrying with it the yoke 52, the pressure member 74, the longitudinal shear blades 130 and the transverse shear blade 148. The upper surface of support member 64 and the lower surface of pressure member 74 contact the under side of tear tab strip 28 and the top side of the web 22, respectively, when they come together, the end of support member 64 projecting through slot 32 in plate 18. At this point, by reason of the spring 76, both members 64 and 74 move upwardly a short distance, carrying with them the web 22 and the tear tab strip 28 clamped together between the two members. However, the yoke 52 continues to move downwardly, carrying with it the rigid shear blades 130 and 148. These blades press the edge of the web and the tear tab strip downwardly through adjacent slots in the surface of the base into contact with the hinged shear blades 114 and 136 and complete the operation of slitting the edge of the web, as shown at 23 (Fig. 10), and severing a tear tab 230 from the strip 28. As hereinbefore explained, the tear tab will be sealed to the web by pressure of the members 64 and 74, irrespective of whether heat is applied through a heating element.

The narrow slots 30 in the plate 18, for admitting passage of the upper shear blades 130, and the narrow space between the support 64 and the front edge of guide plate 24 leave the maximum amount of surface for support of the web and tear tab strip, and also permit a minimum distance of travel of the web and tear tab strip toward the shear blades mounted on the base, which greatly aids in performing the shearing operations without distortion of and wrinkling of the web and tab. The solidity of the supporting arrangement insures clean slitting of the edges of the web and severing of tear tabs from the tear tab strip.

As previously explained herein, the shear blades 114 and 136 mounted on the base 10 are hingedly mounted and urged outwardly under spring tension which may be adjusted to impose such shearing tension against the upper shear blades 130 and 148 as may be necessary for different kinds and thicknesses of material used in the web and tear tab strip.

Various modifications or changes in the construction and arrangement of parts in the mechanism shown and described in the foregoing specification may be made within the scope of the present invention, and it is therefore to be understood that the embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings is illustrative only, and not restrictive thereto.

I claim:

1. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material comprising a base having an outer surface to support said web, adjustable means for advancing a tear tab strip a predetermined distance across said web, a yoke slidably mounted on said base, a pressure member slidably mounted on said yoke, spring means urging said member toward said base, a support member slidably mounted on said base in opposed alignment with said pressure member, said members being normally spaced apart to receive said web and tear tab strip therebetween, means for simultaneously moving each of said members toward the other to clamp said tear tab strip to said web, and cooperating shear elements carried by said base and said yoke for slitting the edge of said web on each side of said strip and for severing tear tabs from said strip.

2. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material comprising a base having an outer surface to support said web, adjustable means for advancing a tear tab strip a predetermined distance across said web, a yoke slidably mounted on said base, a pressure member slidably mounted on said yoke, spring means urging said member toward said base, a support member slidably mounted on said base in opposed alignment with said pressure member, said members being normally spaced apart to receive said web and tear tab strip therebetween, means for simultaneously moving each of said members toward the other to clamp said tear tab strip to said web, shear blades hingedly mounted on said base, and cooperating blades rigidly carried by said yoke for slitting the edge of said web on each side of said tear tab strip and for severing tear tabs from said strip.

3. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material comprising a base having an outer surface to support said web, said surface having slots therein adjustable means for advancing a tear tab strip a predetermined distance across said web, shear blades mounted on said base below and in registry with said slots, a yoke slidably mounted on said base, a pressure member slidably mounted on said yoke, spring means urging said member toward said base, a support member slidably mounted on said base in opposed alignment with said pressure member, said members being normally spaced apart to receive said web and tear tab strip therebetween, means for simultaneously moving each of said members toward the other to clamp said tear tab strip to said web, and blades carried by said yoke cooperative through said slots with the shear blades mounted on said base for slitting the edge of said web on each side of said tear tab strip and for severing tear tabs from said strip.

4. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material comprising a base having an outer surface to support said web, said web supporting surface having slots therein, adjustable means for advancing a tear tab strip a predetermined distance across said web, shear blades hingedly mounted on said base below and in registry with said slots, spring means urging the free ends of said blades outwardly on a slight yieldable bias with adjacent edges of said slots, a yoke slidably mounted on said base, a pressure member slidably mounted on said yoke, spring means urging said member toward said base, a support member slidably mounted on said base in opposed alignment with said pressure member, said members being normally spaced apart to receive said web and tear tab strip therebetween, means for simultaneously moving each of said members toward the other to clamp said tear tab strip to said web, and blades aligned with said slots and rigidly carried by said yoke cooperative through said slots with the shear blades mounted on said base for slitting the edge of said web on each side of said tear tab strip and for severing tear tabs from said strip.

5. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material comprising a base having secured thereto a relatively thin cover plate forming an outer surface to support said web, said plate having slots therein, adjustable means for advancing a tear tab strip a predetermined distance across said web, shear blades mounted on said base below and in registry with certain of said slots, a yoke slidably mounted on said base, a pressure member slidably mounted on said yoke, spring means urging said member toward said plate, a support member slidably mounted on said base in opposed alignment with said pressure member, said support member being also in registry with one of said slots in said plate, said pressure member and support member being normally spaced apart to receive said web and tear tab strip therebetween, means for simultaneously moving each of said members toward the other to clamp said tear tab strip to said web, and blades carried by said yoke cooperative through said slots with the shear blades mounted on said base for slitting the edge of said web on each side of said tear tab strip and for severing tear tabs from said strip.

6. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material according to claim 1 and including means for heating said support member slidably mounted on said base.

7. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material comprising means for advancing a tear tab strip a predetermined distance across said web, adjustable means for limiting the advance of said strip, adjustable means for longitudinally tensioning said strip, means for lifting the front edge of said web to permit passage of said tear tab strip back of said web, means for pressing said tear tab strip to said web, and means cooperative with said pressing means for slitting the edge of said web on each side of said tear tab strip and for severing tear tabs from said strip.

8. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material comprising a base having an outer surface to support said web, adjustable means for limiting the advance of said strip, a yoke slidably mounted on said base, a pressure member slidably mounted on said yoke, resilient means urging said member toward said base, a support member slidably mounted on said base in aligned opposition to said pressure member, said members being normally spaced apart to receive said web and tear tab strip therebetween, means for simultaneously moving each of said members toward the other to clamp said tear tab strip to said web, and cooperating shear elements carried by said yoke and said base for slitting the edge of said web on each side of said tear tab strip and for severing tear tabs from said strip.

9. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material comprising a base having a flat surface to support said web, said supporting surface having slots therein, adjustable means for advancing a tear tab strip a predetermined distance across said web, means on the front end of said surface for lifting the front edge of said web to permit passage of said tear tab strip back of said web through said slots, shear blades hingedly mounted on said base below and in registry with said slots, a yoke slidably mounted on said base, rigid blades carried by said yoke, said rigid blades being cooperative through said slots with the shear blades mounted on said base for slitting the edge of said web on each side of said tear tab strip and for severing tear tabs from said strip, a pressure member slidably mounted on said yoke, a support member slidably mounted on said base in opposed alignment with said pressure member, and means for simultaneously moving each of said members toward the other to clamp said tear tab strip to said web.

10. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material according to claim 9 in which each of said shear blades hingedly mounted on the associated said shear base is provided with spring means at its free end urging said blade outwardly on a yieldable bias with the blades carried by said yoke to effect a positive shearing action on said tear tab strip and said web.

11. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material comprising a base having an outer surface to support said web, adjustable means for advancing a tear tab strip a predetermined distance across said web, a first shaft journaled transversely of said base, a rocker arm fixedly mounted on said first shaft, cam means for intermittently moving said arm in alternate directions, a second shaft journaled transversely of said base, a yoke above said base, a gear wheel fixedly mounted on said second shaft, a first rack member meshing with one side of said wheel and connected to said yoke at its upper end, a pressure member slidably mounted on said yoke, spring means urging said pressure member toward said base, a support member slidably

mounted on said base in opposed alignment with said pressure member, a second rack member meshing with the opposite side of said gear wheel and connected to a support member, said cam means normally holding said pressure member and support member in spaced relation to receive said web and tear tab strip therebetween, shear blades mounted on said base below said web and tear tab strip, and cooperating blades carried by said yoke, said gear wheel and rack connections providing means for moving said pressure member and said support member simultaneously toward each other to clamp said tear tab strip to said web and also to slit the edge of said web on each side of said tear tab strip and to sever tear tabs from said strip.

12. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material according to claim 11 in which the shear blades mounted on said base are hinged thereto at one end and are provided with spring means at their face ends for urging said blades outwardly on a yieldable bias with the blades carried by said yoke.

13. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material according to claim 11 in which the shear blades for slitting the edge of said web are hingedly mounted on supports on said base, which supports are adjustable at the free ends of said blades toward and from the edge of said tear tab strip, and in which the shear blade for severing tear tabs from said tear tab strip is hingedly mounted on a support on said base, which latter support is adjustable at the free end of said last named blade toward the vertical plane of the cooperating blade carried by said yoke.

14. A mechanism for applying tear tabs to a movable web of wrapping material comprising a base having an outer surface to support said web, adjustable means for advancing a tear tab strip a predetermined distance across said web, a mounting member slidably mounted on said base, a pressure member slidably mounted on said mounting member, spring means urging said pressure member toward said base, a support member slidably mounted on said base in opposed alignment with said pressure member, said pressure and support members being normally spaced apart to receive said web and tear tab strip therebetween, means for simultaneously moving each of said pressure and support members toward the other to clamp said tear tab strip to said web, and cooperating shear elements carried by said base and said mounting member for slitting the edge of said web on each side of said strip and for severing tear tabs from said strip.

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