R. A. MERRILL.

ENVELOP.

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1,142,349. Patented June 8, 1915.

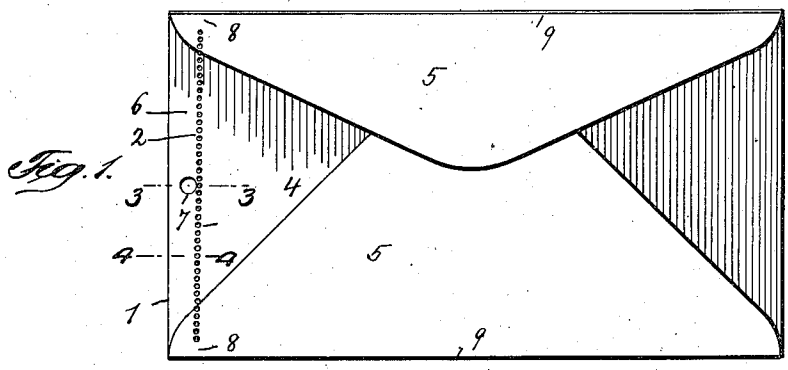


Fig. 1.

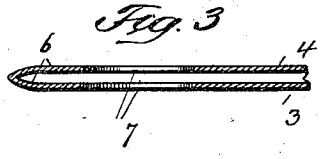


Fig. 3

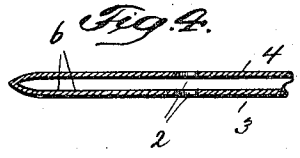


Fig. 2.

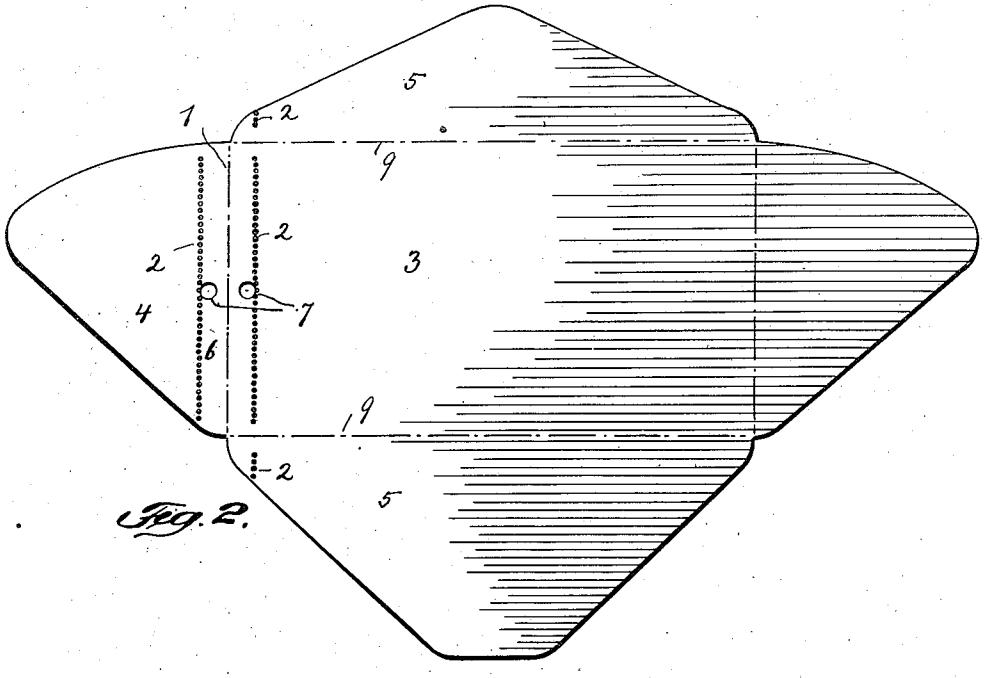


Fig. 2.

WITNESS

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ENVELOP.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RAYMOND A. MERRILL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York city, county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an envelop of novel construction, which can be readily opened by tearing off a doubled rim portion along a line of reduced resistance, while means are provided for ascertaining whether the letter inclosed by the envelop, projects beyond said line into said rim portion. In this way the letter may be pushed back into the main body of the envelop, prior to the tearing operation, so that it will not become mutilated by the opening process.

In the accompanying drawing: Figure 1 is a front view of an envelop embodying my invention; Fig. 2 a plan of the blank; Fig. 3 an enlarged cross section on line 3—3 Fig. 1 and Fig. 4 an enlarged cross section on line 4—4 Fig. 1.

Along one of the transverse edges 1, of an envelop there extends a weakened line 2, which is preferably formed by means of a row of minute apertures punched through the main section 3 as well as through one of the side flaps 4, and part of the end flaps 5. In this way the envelop is divided into a main body or pocket adapted to house a letter or other insert, and into a doubled narrow tearing strip 6, flanking said pocket.

In order to ascertain whether the letter projects between the folds of tearing strip 6, the latter is furnished with a sight hole or window 7, which should extend close up to the tearing line 2. Before opening the envelop, a glance through the sight hole will suffice to ascertain whether or not strip 6 is clear of the letter, so that the latter may, if necessary, be pushed out of harm's way into the main body of the envelop. This can be readily accomplished, by slightly tapping the envelop or in other simple manner. When the sight hole discloses the fact that the letter no longer projects beyond line 2, strip 6 may be torn off so that the letter may be removed without being injured.

In constructing the envelop, a sight hole is formed in the tearing strip portion of the main section 3 of the blank, as well as in the tearing strip portion of the side flap 4, so that when the blank is folded and the strip is thus doubled, the two holes will become alined, and form conjointly a window passing clear through both moities of the strip. Thus there will be a clear line of vision through the envelop when the strip is empty, and an obstructed line of vision, when the strip is occupied.

I prefer to so construct the envelop that the weakened line 2 does not extend along the entire width of the envelop, but stops short some distance from both of its longitudinal edges, so that in this way an imperforate section 8 will remain at each end of the line. This imperforate section constitutes a reinforcement which protects the envelop from a starting tear at the ends of the weakened line through rough handling in the mail. In order to obtain this desirable result, the tearing line stops short some distance from the longitudinal edges 9 of the envelop on the main section 3 as well as on the side flap 4 and end flaps 5, so that when the blank is folded the imperforate portions of the various sections will become juxtaposed.

As shown in the drawing the opening 7 is arranged in close proximity to weakened line 2, and merges into the same. In this way there is formed by the opening and in the weakened line, a clearance or section of reduced resistance which permits the tearing operation to be here readily started by using the opening as a finger hole. The construction is particularly desirable with envelops having the reinforced sections 8, inasmuch as it dispenses with the necessity of so carefully gaging the starting tear, as to cause it to run out into the weakened line.

I claim:

1. An envelop provided with a weakened line, to form a tearing strip, and with an

opening formed in said strip and merging into the weakened line.

2. An envelop provided with a weakened line, to form a doubled tearing strip, and a pair of alined sight openings formed in the folds of said strip and merging into the weakened line.

3. An envelop provided with a weakened line extending along one of the transverse edges of the envelop to form a tearing strip, said weakened line terminating a distance from both longitudinal edges of the envelop, and with an opening in said tearing strip that merges into the weakened line.

RAYMOND A. MERRILL.