Nov. 15, 1927. 1,649,591

H. H. HONIGBAUM

CONTAINER

Filed March 24, 1927

Fig. 1

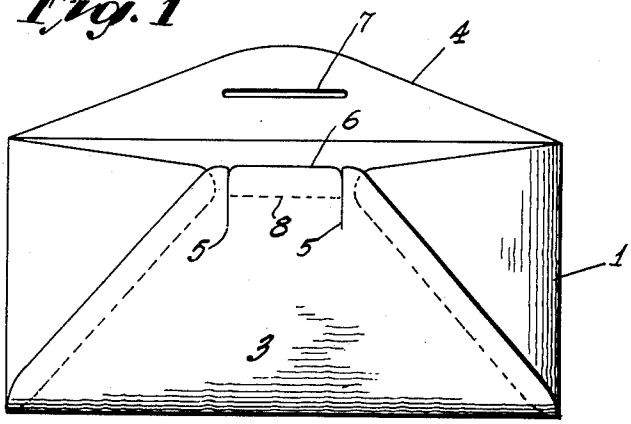
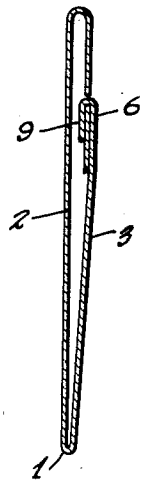


Fig. 3



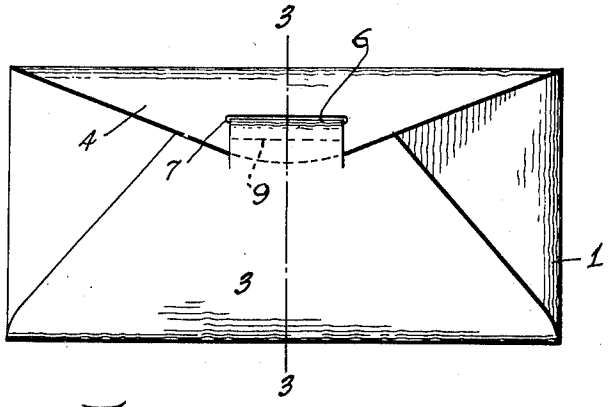


Fig. 2

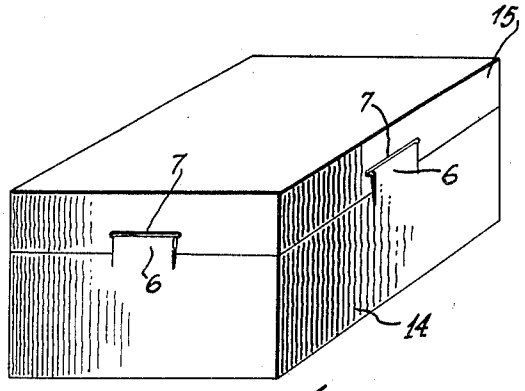
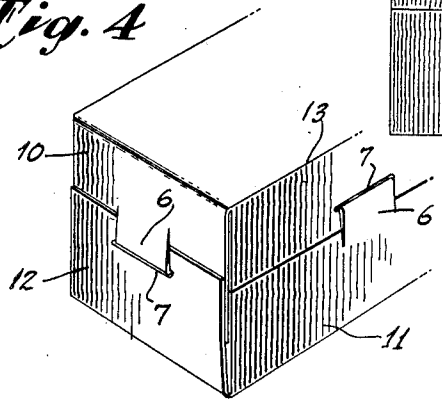


Fig. 5

Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY H. HONIGBAUM, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CONTAINER.

Application filed March 24, 1927. Serial No. 177,910.

This invention is a container and the object of the container is to maintain the same in closed position, so that it will not inadvertently open, but to provide for its opening in a simple and efficient manner when desired.

The invention is adapted for wide application in containers generally, such, for example, as cartons, boxes and other enclosures of any suitable material, such as paper, metal, fibre and the like, but for the purpose of illustration, reference may be had thereto when used particularly in conjunction with an envelope.

In the usual manner of making envelopes, it is the practice to form them from a single blank embodying a plurality of flaps folded over to form the envelope and one of these flaps is generally provided on its under side with a suitable adhesive which, when moistened, is adapted to be secured to the body of the envelope to maintain this flap in closed or sealed condition.

One purpose of the present invention is to entirely eliminate the use of an adhesive and to provide a simple and efficient means for securing the flap in closed position without extraneous parts. Thus, in practically carrying out the invention in an envelope, the flap at the open side of the envelope is provided with a slot extending longitudinally of the envelope and the back of the body of the envelope is transversely slit to form a tongue, which, when the flap of the envelope is folded down, is adapted to overlie the flap. This tongue is scored or otherwise formed, so that its free end may be passed through the slot in the flap of the envelope and thereupon returned upon itself in underlying relation with a flap, so as to form a hooked portion adapted to maintain the envelope against inadvertent opening. If it is desired to open the envelope, the flap may be withdrawn, or if the envelope is to be discarded after opening, the flap or hook portion may be merely torn away. In the former case, the envelope may be used repetitively, or in the latter case where the parts may be torn away, the envelope is unfit for further use.

I wish to call particular attention to the fact that the present invention may be associated with a container without the employment of any extraneous fastening devices, the closure locking means of the invention being formed directly from the material which constitutes the container.

Features of the invention, other than those specified, will be apparent from the hereinafter detailed description and claims, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

The accompanying drawings illustrate different practical embodiments of the invention, but the constructions therein shown are to be understood as illustrative, only, and not as defining the limits of the invention.

Figure 1 shows an envelope embodying the present invention, this view being taken from the back of the envelope and showing the flap turned up.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1, but showing the flap turned down and locked in place.

Figure 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Figure 2; and,

Figures 4 and 5 are perspective views showing the present invention as embodied in cartons and boxes.

Referring to the drawings and more particularly to Figures 1, 2 and 3, 1 designates an envelope which is, in the main, substantially conventional. It has the usual front 2, a back 3 and a flap 4. These parts are shaped in the manner generally employed in the making of conventional envelopes. In associating the invention with an envelope of this kind, the back 3 is provided with slits 5 extending downwardly from the upper edge of the back for a greater distance than the depth of the flap 4 and preferably in substantially parallel relation to form between them a tongue 6.

The flap 4 is provided with a transverse slot 7 substantially equal in length to the width of the tongue 6 and juxtaposed with reference to the tongue. When it is desired to close an envelope of this character, the tongue is pulled forward prior to fold-

ing down the flap 4, and when the flap is folded down into the position of Figure 2, it extends to substantially the bases of the slots 5 leaving the tongue 6 in a position to overlie the flap.

The tongue is preferably scored or folded under along the line 8, so that after the flap is folded down as described, the end portion 9 of the tongue which lies between the line 8 and the free end of the tongue may be introduced through a slot 7 and returned beneath the tongue after the manner shown in Figure 3 to form said tongue into a substantially hook shape engaging the lower edge of the slot 7. When the tongue is folded in the manner described, this hook portion will effectually preclude inadvertent disengagement of the tongue from the flap and consequently will lock the flap in closed position until such time as it is desired to manually release the tongue by reversing the operations described.

In Figures 1 to 3, the invention is described as incorporated in an envelope, but it is not limited to this particular use. Thus, as shown in Figure 4, a carton is illustrated as embodying the present invention. The carton shown is of the general type employed in the packaging of crackers and other commodities and is manufactured by the appropriate folding of a suitable blank. It is not considered necessary to show the entire blank or the whole carton as the invention has to do merely with the manner of fastening the flaps of the blank in accordance with the present invention in lieu of the adhesive or other fastening means heretofore employed. The arrangement is the same in Figure 4 from a structural standpoint as in Figs. 1 to 3. The flaps 10 and 11 are slit to provide the tongues 6, while the flaps 12 and 13 are provided with slots 7. The tongues are introduced through and bent back beneath these slots in the same manner as in the preceding figures.

Figure 5 illustrates the invention as associated with the box having a detachable cover. The sides of the body 14 of the box are slit to form the tongue 6, while the top or cover 15 of the box is provided with the slots 7 and the tongues are introduced and bent back in the same manner as in the preceding figures and serve to hold the cover in place on the box body.

It will be apparent from the foregoing detailed description that the invention is susceptible of employment in boxes, cartons and other containers generally adapted to be made from paper, sheet metal or other materials that may be readily bent. The arrangement is simple in construction, but thoroughly practical in the carrying out of its intended functions. The employment of the present invention in closure construction does not materially add to the cost of the finished product and entirely eliminates the necessity for the employment of adhesives. When the tongues are bent back to form the hook retainers as specified, a substantially positive lock is provided which cannot inadvertently slip or give way without rupture of the material. The structure is such, moreover, as to utilize the maximum strength of the material, so that such rupture is minimized. I wish to call particular attention to the fact that while the closure of the present invention will lock the container against inadvertent opening or loosening, it nevertheless permits of manual disengagement and re-engagement of the parts. In other words, it is not necessary to disrupt the construction to open the container. The invention is thus broadly adapted for use in envelopes or other containers adapted for postal transit and those classes which require that the container may be readily opened for inspection by the postal authorities. The invention is not restricted to this use, however, as it may be used in hat boxes, suit boxes, and in all sorts of containers without departing from this invention.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the preferred form of the invention, but the invention is to be understood as fully commensurate with the appended claims.

Having thus fully described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A container embodying relatively movable portions, one of which portions is provided with a slot, and the other of which portions is provided with a tongue extending through the slot and returned upon itself with its free edge disposed within the container to form a hook adapted to lock said portions against relative opening movement.

2. A container embodying relatively movable portions, one of which is provided with a slot and the other of which is provided with slits extending into the body thereof from one of its edges to form between said slits a tongue adapted to extend through the slot and to be returned upon itself to form a hook with its free edge within the container and adapted to secure said portions against inadvertent opening movement.

3. A container embodying relatively movable portions, one of which is provided with a slot extending longitudinally of said portion and of appreciably less length than the length of said portion and the other of which portions is provided with a tongue of substantially the same width as the length of the slot, said tongue formed within the confines of the said portion and adapted to extend through the slot and being returned upon itself to form a hook adapted to lock the portions against relative opening movement.

4. As a new article of manufacture, an

envelope, the flap of which is provided with a longitudinal slot of appreciably less length than the length of the envelope and the back of which envelope is cut to form a tongue extending through the slot and returned upon itself to form a hook adapted to retain the flap against inadvertent opening, said tongue being formed within the confines of the said portion and having its free edge confined within the container.

In testimony whereof I have signed the foregoing specification.

HARRY H. HONIGBAUM.