

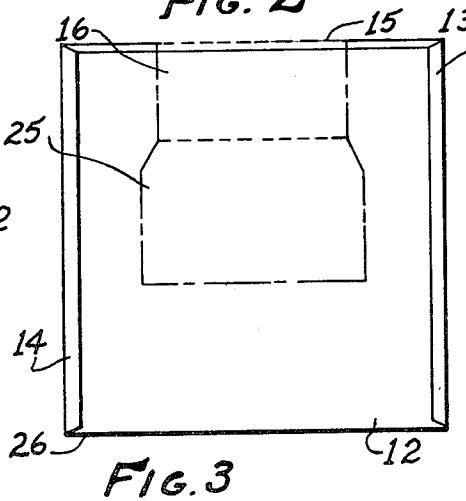
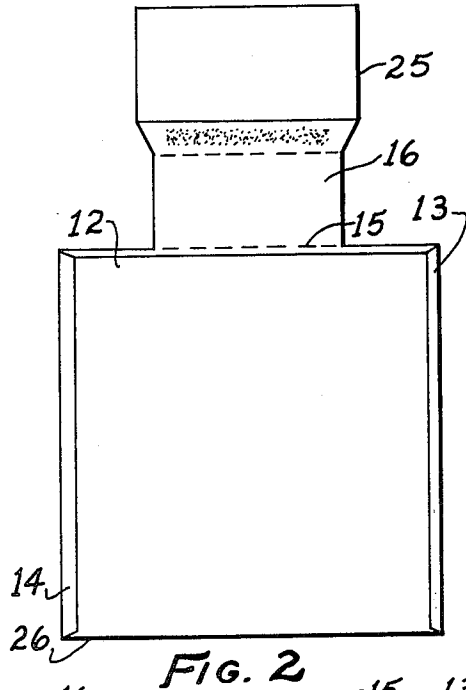
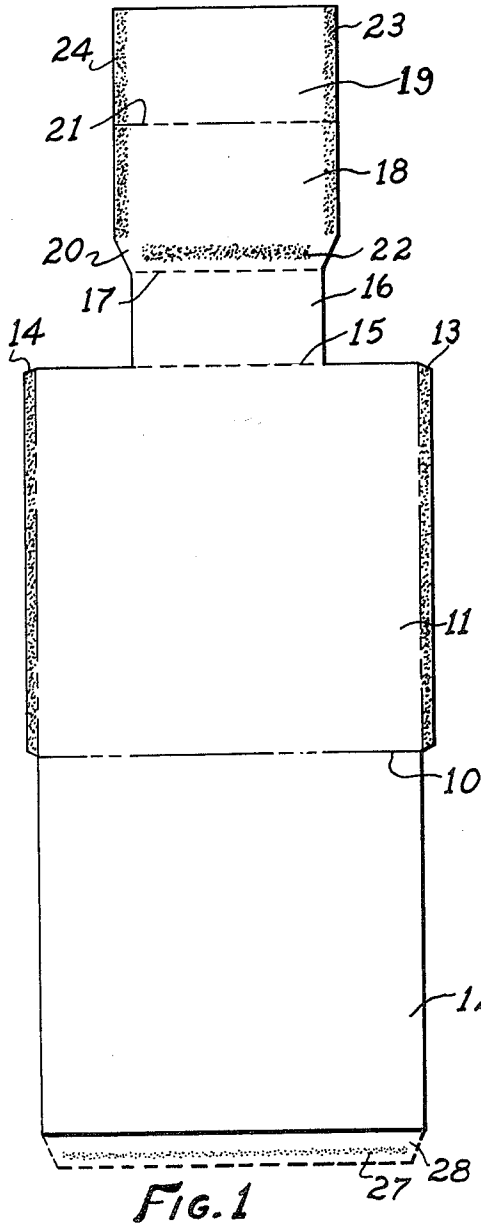
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3,167,243

RETURN ENVELOPE

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1

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RETURN ENVELOPE

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This invention relates to a dual envelope of unitary construction. More particularly it relates to a business promotional envelope having a detachable extension flap and a business reply envelope integral therewith.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a dual multi-purpose envelope from a one-piece blank folded and sealed to form two individual envelopes unitarily joined by a detachable extension member.

A further object is to provide a dual envelope of unitary construction comprising a large primary envelope having a secondary envelope hingedly attached thereto and adapted to fit within the primary envelope.

Another object of the invention is to provide a dual envelope having two separate compartments plus an intermediate member, all of which may be readily separated without destroying the function of each.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent to persons skilled in the art, upon examination of the accompanying drawing and description, without departure from the concepts herein taught as defined in the appended claims.

In the drawing, in which like parts are identified by the same reference numerals:

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of a unitary blank from which a dual envelope may be formed in accordance with the invention.

FIG. 2 is a plan view of a dual envelope formed from the blank shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is another plan view of the same envelope showing the preferred cooperative arrangement of the elements of the dual envelope when ready for use.

In modern merchandising there is a need for compact utilitarian packaging, which satisfactorily and efficiently performs multi-purpose functions. Premium offers, sales followups, warranty notices and the like are examples of services which can be performed more efficiently, if such material is made a part of the original wrapping.

The improved dual envelope of this invention is designed to meet these needs and may be manufactured at comparatively low cost and with a minimum use of material.

In the preferred form of the invention shown in the drawing, the dual envelope may be formed from a unitary die-cut blank of paper, lightweight cardboard, or other flexible material. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the blank is provided with a main body portion substantially rectangular in configuration and divided by fold line 10 into a front wall 11 and a back wall 12, which is adapted to fold in overlying relationship to front wall 11. Front wall 11 is provided at its lateral edges with side flaps 13 and 14 to which a suitable adhesive may be applied when forming the envelope. These side flaps are adapted to be folded over back wall 12, when the latter is in its assembled position overlying front wall 11 as shown in FIG. 2, and secured thereto by an adhesive or other suitable means.

Back wall 12 may also be provided with an optional sealing flap 28 having an adhesive material 27 applied thereto. Other sealing means may also be used.

The upper edge of front wall 11 has attached thereto by a line of weakness 15 an extension member 16. Extension member 16 is of less width than the upper edge of front wall 11 and is attached medially thereof. Extension member 16 has a secondary body portion attached

2

thereto by a second line of weakness 17. The secondary body portion is substantially rectangular in configuration and is also divided into a front panel 18 and a back panel 19 by a fold line 21, with the front panel having an auxiliary sealing flap 20 integral therewith, provided with a suitable activatable adhesive 22 for subsequent sealing. The secondary body portion is also provided with suitable adhesive areas 23 and 24 on its lateral edges adapted for sealing said edges when back panel 19 is folded to overlie front panel 18 forming the pocket of a secondary envelope 25 as shown in FIG. 2.

The secondary envelope 25 and extension member 16 may then be folded on line of weakness 15 to fit into primary envelope 26 as shown in FIG. 3.

Primary envelope 26, secondary envelope 25, and extension member 16 may be printed on both sides with promotional material, premium offers, warranties, return addresses, or the like. The walls of both envelopes may also be provided with die-cut windows, either patched or open, for the usual purposes.

The particular embodiment shown in the drawing is especially designed for use as a phonograph record jacket, but it is apparent that the size and shape of both envelopes can be readily modified to fit other uses. For example, by adding optional flap 28, the primary envelope may also be suitably sealed and used as a mailer.

Extension member 16 may be suitably imprinted with indicia embodying promotional material, as noted above, and is readily detachable along line of weakness 15 after it has served its original informational purpose.

Secondary envelope 25 may be used as a business reply envelope or for storing auxiliary material related to the contents of primary envelope 26. When the extension member and secondary envelope are detached from the primary envelope along line of weakness 17, the primary envelope is suitable for continued use by itself as a storage jacket with or without a sealing flap, or alternately may be used as a mailer if provided with optional sealing flap 28.

It is understood that the size and shape of the envelopes are not restricted to those shown in the drawings. However, the dimensions of the primary envelope are related in width and depth to the dimension of the extension member plus the secondary envelope. The latter dimensions should be of a size which conveniently fits into the primary envelope without difficulty, if such folded arrangement is desired.

While the drawings show side flaps 13 and 14 as being lateral extensions of front wall 11, it is apparent that such flaps alternately may extend from the edges of back wall 12 and still fall within the scope of this invention.

The simplicity of construction of the unitary blank makes it possible for the finished dual envelope to be fabricated on automatic envelope machinery.

It is also understood that the secondary envelope itself could be of conventional envelope construction with the back wall being comprised of the usual triangular shaped flaps suitably folded over the front wall and adhesively joined in a known manner.

The form of the invention herein shown and described is to be taken only as the preferred embodiment. Various changes in shape, size and arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A dual envelope of unitary construction comprising a primary envelope closed on three sides and open on a fourth side, an extension member attached to said open side by a line of weakness, said member being substantially shorter in dimension than said open side at the common line of attachment and being positioned medi-

3

ally of said open side, said extension member having a further extension element comprising a secondary envelope of a size substantially smaller than said primary envelope, said secondary envelope being closed on three sides and open on a fourth side, said fourth side being provided with a sealing flap, said sealing flap being attached to said member by a second line of weakness.

2. A dual envelope of unitary construction comprising a large primary envelope, a smaller secondary envelope, and an intermediate member detachably connecting said envelopes, said primary envelope and said secondary envelope being closed on three sides and open on a fourth side, said secondary envelope having a sealing flap on its open side, said member being of less width than the primary envelope and of the approximate width of the secondary envelope, said member being positioned medially of the open side of the primary envelope and detachably secured thereto and to the sealing flap on the open side of said secondary envelope by lines of weakness whereby said envelopes and said member may be individually separated.

3. A dual envelope of unitary construction comprising a large primary envelope, a smaller secondary envelope, and an intermediate member detachably connecting said envelopes, said primary envelope comprising a front wall with side flaps and a back wall folded in overlying relationship to form with said side flaps an envelope pocket closed on three sides, the open side of said primary envelope pocket having a foldable sealing flap extending from said back wall, said secondary envelope comprising a front panel and a back panel folded in overlying relationship and sealed along the panel edges to form an envelope pocket having an extension flap integral with said front panel, said extension flap being detachably joined to said intermediate member by a line of weakness, the edge of said member opposite from said line of weakness being detachably joined to the open side of the front wall of said primary envelope by a second line of weakness, said member being of less width than said primary envelope and of the approximate width of said secondary envelope, said member being positioned medially of the open side of the front wall of said primary envelope.

4. A dual envelope of unitary construction comprising a large primary envelope closed on three sides and open on a fourth side, a rectangular extension member

4

detachably secured centrally of said open side, said extension member being of less width than said open side, a secondary envelope smaller in size than said primary envelope, said secondary envelope being closed on three sides and having a sealing flap on a fourth side, said sealing flap detachably secured to said extension member on the edge of said member opposite from said primary envelope, the dimension taken perpendicularly from a point on the line of attachment of said member to said primary envelope to a point on the outer closed side of said secondary envelope being less than the perpendicular interior dimension of said primary envelope, whereby said extension member and secondary envelope may be folded in and enclosed by said primary envelope.

5. A unitary blank for forming a dual purpose envelope comprising a main body portion, a secondary body portion, and a communicating member therebetween, said main body being substantially rectangular and having a central fold line dividing said body into a front wall section and a back wall section whereby said sections may be folded in overlying relationship, the lateral edges of said front wall section being provided with sealing flaps, said communicating member being of less width than said main body and being attached medially of the top edge of said front wall section by a line of weakness, said secondary body portion forming an extension of said communicating member and being attached thereto by a second line of weakness, said secondary body portion being of less width than said main body portion and of substantially the same width as said communicating member, said secondary body portion being substantially rectangular and divided into a front panel and back panel by a central fold line whereby said panels may be folded in overlying relationship, the front panel of said secondary body portion being additionally provided with an auxiliary sealing flap interposed between said rectangular secondary body portion and said second line of weakness.

6. The blank of claim 5 in which the bottom edge of the back wall section of said main body portion is additionally provided with a sealing flap.

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