Dec. 7, 1943. R. MENDEZ 2,336,025

ENVELOPE

Filed July 24, 1940

Fig. 1

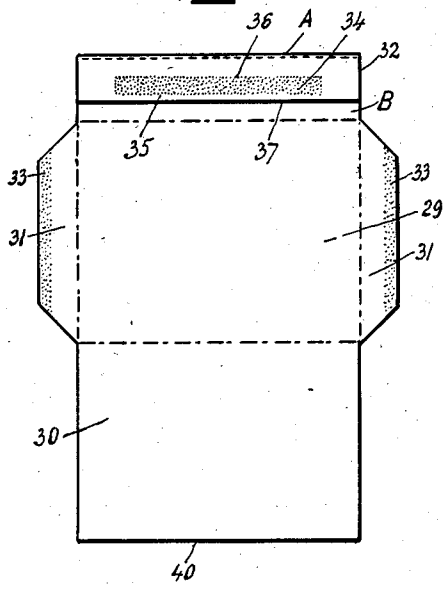


Fig. 2

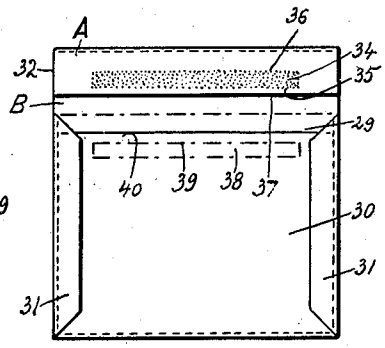


Fig. 4

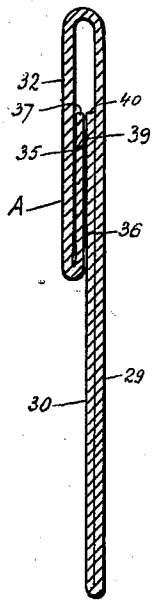
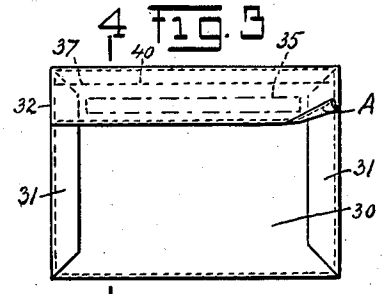


Fig. 3



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Patented Dec. 7, 1943 2,336,025

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,336,025

ENVELOPE

Raymond Mendez, New York, N. Y.

Application July 24, 1940, Serial No. 347,210

1 Claim. (Cl. 229—85)

My invention has for its object, the provision in envelopes as an integral part thereof of a simple readily accessible means of opening the same, without recourse to extraneous aids such as letter openers, whereby the envelope may be opened quickly, without risk of tearing or otherwise disturbing the contents, and without risk of paper cut wounds, which commonly result in opening envelopes by hand.

Another object is to provide such integral means of readily opening envelopes as will permit the same to be opened without substantial tearing of parts, and without substantial disfiguration of the same, so that they may be preserved in good condition for the philatelist or other collector who may value the same, or be available for such other uses as may be found.

A further object is to provide a novel relation, position and correlation of envelope parts, adaptable to the many uses, achieving thereby the advantages hereinabove enumerated.

Another object is to provide envelopes, having the advantages above, without substantially increasing the cost of manufacture of envelopes as presently made in the art.

My invention also has for its object such other advantages as hereinafter are made to appear.

To fully explain my invention, I shall briefly refer to the disadvantages and difficulties encountered in the use of ordinary envelopes.

It is customary in the opening of envelopes for one to use as a means of opening the same, a thin blade instrument or other device, commonly known as a letter opener. In the use of this or other instrument, the envelope is mutilated and at times the contents as well. In its use, the opener sometimes cuts or mutilates the contents, causing damage to enclosed documents. If such instrument is not readily available, the envelope is customarily torn open by hand, and at times, the contents also are torn. It is not unusual in the tearing for one to suffer a paper cut wound.

Frequently, a letter or magazine may be received while at work, or in the field, or at other points away from home, where an opener is not generally available, and therefore, there is a definite need in the art for a simple, inexpensive means of opening an envelope, integral with the envelope itself and readily available, so that it may readily be opened, without disfiguration of the envelope or damage to contents.

For the philatelist or other collector, a torn envelope is a loss of value, since the collector desires to preserve the envelope and its stamp in as good condition as is possible.

The prior art has been characterized by complicated means to fill the existing need, substantially increasing the cost, and making involved the steps of manufacture, and in the ordinary type of mailing envelopes, particularly envelopes for magazines characterizing the greatest volume of transmitted mail, the art although old, is noticeably lacking altogether in an adequate solution of this need. Particularly, in the provision of a simple method of avoiding the shredding, stripping and tearing of envelopes, is the art lacking.

I have discovered a novel position and relation of parts, whereby all of the disadvantages encountered in the use of envelopes are avoided.

My invention resides in providing parts in such positions and relation that the pulling tab which opens the improved envelope cannot attach itself to the contents, or continue to engage in a tearing action the main body of the envelope, other than the sealing portions of the same. The principle requires that in the sealing of the envelope, the innermost longitudinal boundary lines of the sealing areas shall be closely proximate to raised abrupt edges, parallel to the said boundary lines, so that the short strips, or shreds of envelope torn by opening must abruptly end, without opportunity to attach themselves to the main body of the envelope.

Essentially, the object of my invention is obtained by providing an envelope body having a sealing flap, and an opening tab, in which the surface area of the sealing flap, holding a narrow band of sealing adhesive, and the corresponding surface area to which the sealing flap adheres on sealing of the envelope, furnish the only tearing surfaces on opening; the advantageous result being brought about by the proximity of the inner longitudinal boundary lines of the respective surfaces to abrupt raised edges, raised away from the main body of the envelope so as to prevent adhesion to and ripping of the same. The sealing flap is made of greater thickness than the main envelope body for the purpose of strengthening the same so it may serve as an opening tab; and for the further purpose of providing one of the raised edges essential to the invention. The main portion of the envelope body or a part added thereto is made to furnish the other raised edge. Thus, the area of adhesion, upon sealing, furnished by the envelope body, as well as that furnished by the sealing flap, each end at abrupt raised edges preventing engagement of these portions beyond these edges with the balance of the envelope body, so that upon opening, there is no tendency to rip or tear any portion of the en-

velope body, save the small areas bearing the adhesive material and cooperating in the sealing of the envelope.

My invention also resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction as herein set forth and claimed.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevated view of the front of an envelope blank.

Fig. 2 is an elevated view of the front of an envelope blank with sections sealed to form the pocket of the envelope, the sealing flap being shown prior to sealing.

Fig. 3 is an elevated view of the front of an envelope blank with sealing flap closed, showing the tab available for opening.

Fig. 4 is an elevated cross section along line 4—4 of Fig. 3 viewed in the direction of the arrow as indicated.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, Figure 1 represents an elevated view of the front of an envelope blank. The blank has a front portion 29, a back portion 30, two side flaps 31, 31, and a sealing flap 32. The side flaps are provided with areas of adhesive material, as is customary in the art. The sealing flap comprises two portions designated "A" and "B". Portion A is of double thickness, produced by folding the end of the envelope blank upon itself and permanently affixing the two thicknesses together by suitable adhesive. The double thickness may also be produced by other means, as for example, by the use of a narrow paper strip, preferably of the same type of paper as the envelope blank, the strip being superimposed upon the end of the flap 32 and permanently affixed thereto by suitable adhesive, so as to produce a double thick end. A narrow area of adhesive material 34, is applied to the sealing flap as indicated in Fig. 1. The double thickness, serves the purpose of providing the abrupt edge at which tearing ends, also to provide a reinforced opening tab.

In Fig. 2, the back portion 30 of the envelope blank has been brought up into position to form the envelope pocket, and the side flaps 31, 31, folded to seal said pocket at its sides. A narrow area of adhesive material 34 is applied to the sealing flap, 32. Its lower boundary line, 35, is preferably proximate to and slightly above edge 37 of the double thick portion A. Its upper boundary line is shown as 36.

The area of adhesive, 34, is so placed and the boundary line, 35, is so positioned that upon sealing of the envelope, area 34 will correspond with the area 38 of the back portion 30, and will be superimposed thereupon, with line 35 coinciding with line 39 as shown in Fig. 2 and by the dotted lines in Fig. 3. The upper boundary 39 of area 38 is proximate to but slightly below the upper edge 40 of back portion 30, so as to avoid adherence by the adhesive to the front portion 29. The result is that the sealing flap 32 is sealed to end portion 30, along the area 38 by adhesive area 34, leaving the portion A of sealing flap 32 free and loose and available as an opening tab to easily open the envelope, and the resulting relation and position of parts presents abrupt edges, 40 and 37, at which envelope tearing must end and the shredding and tearing of the envelope and contents avoided. Fig. 3 shows this result and the opening tab raised in position for opening the envelope. In Fig. 4, a cross section along line 4—4 in Fig. 3, viewed in the direction of the arrow, the position and relation of parts is shown.

The provision and positioning of the area of adhesive 34 so that its lower boundary line 35 corresponds upon sealing approximately with the upper boundary line 39 of area 38, together with back portion 30 and its abrupt edge 40, and tab A with its abrupt edge 37, resulting from the double thickness at this point, furnishes a correlation of the envelope elements, as permits the opening of the envelope with ease, quickly and without access to extraneous means and without substantially disfiguring, tearing, shredding or stripping of envelope parts. This results from the fact that the adhesive is confined by this means to designated narrow portions and is prevented from affixing itself to the main portion of the wrapper or envelope beyond designated areas. A pulling on the tab severs the sealed areas, and these in each instance ending abruptly, area 38 proximate to edge 40 of portion 30 and area 34 proximate to edge 37 of flap A, prevents the possibility of the tab pulling shreds and strips of envelope after it of either section B of sealing flap 32, or parts of the front portion 29, or back portion 30. A relatively clean severance of parts is the result.

I have made reference to the use of adhesive. The type of adhesive to be used is well known to the art. The adhesives used in the art are made of dextrin gum. Fish glues, various vegetable glues, and other adhesives may also be used, these being well known in the art.

Various changes in the form, proportion and the details of construction may be resorted to without deparing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention. Although I have described my invention with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the present disclosure has been made only by way of example.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

An envelope to serve as a container for letters and other objects, having an enclosing body portion and a sealing flap integral therewith along a folded line to seal said envelope; the back of said body portion terminating at its end in an abrupt edge parallel to and adjacent said fold line, said sealing flap being inwardly folded upon itself with its inner free abrupt edge, in operative position, substantially coinciding with the first named abrupt edge, and adhesive means upon a substantial portion of the area of said flap and in spaced relation to the folded edge of the sealing flap, leaving the end of said flap free of adhesive to provide an opening tab; said adhesive means being disposed as to be confined within said abrupt edges upon sealing said envelope.

RAYMOND MENDEZ.