Feb. 10, 1970 W. H. GENDRON 3,494,537

CONTINUOUS FORM ENVELOPE

Filed April 19, 1968

Fig. 1

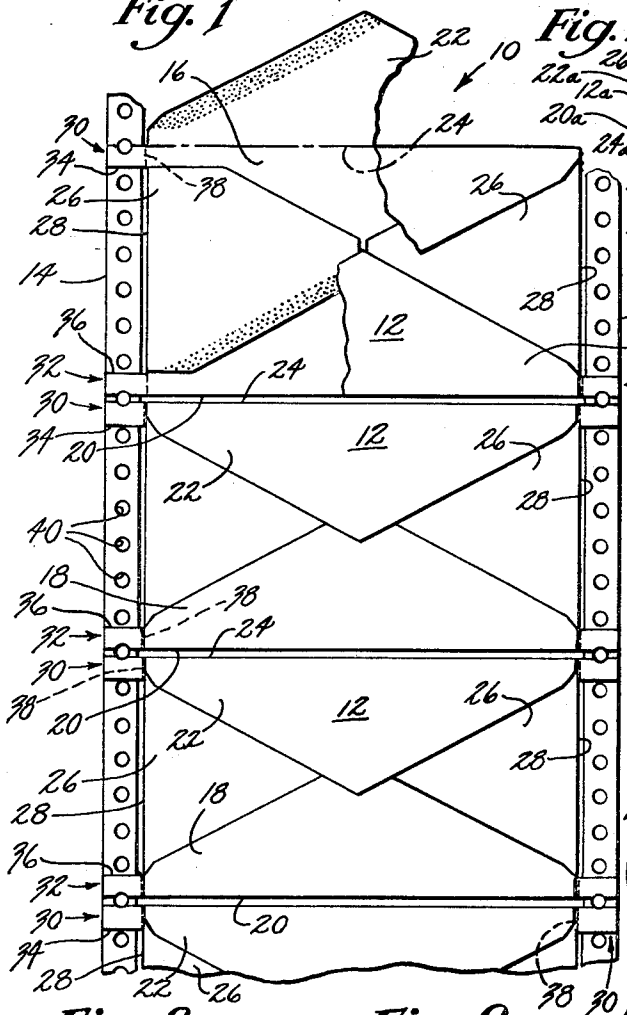


Fig. 2

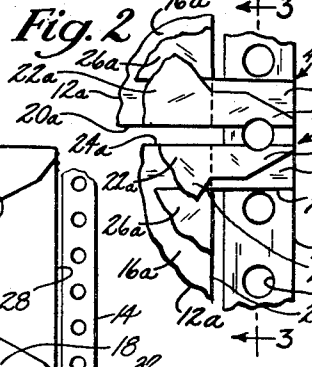


Fig. 3

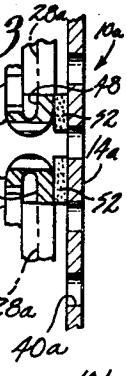


Fig. 4

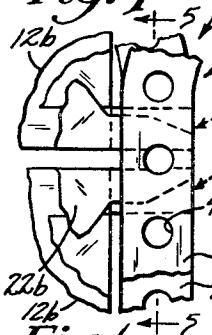


Fig. 5

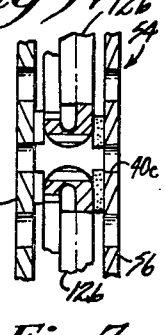


Fig. 6

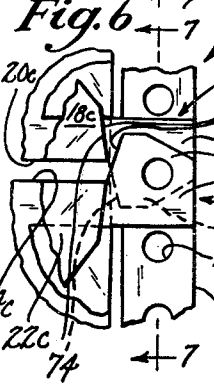


Fig. 7

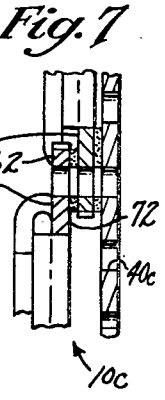


Fig. 8

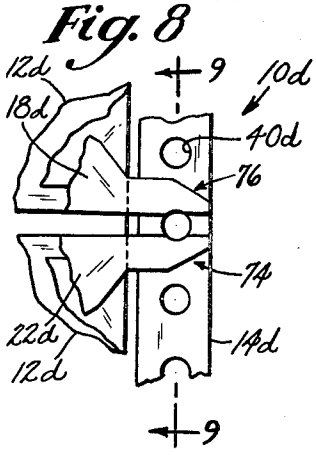
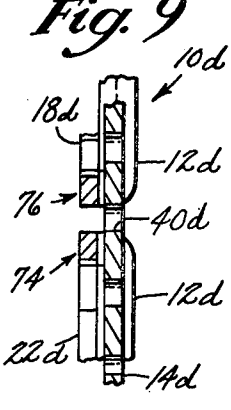


Fig. 9



INVENTOR.
Wilfred H. Gendron
BY
McCormick, Paulding & Huber
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,494,537 Patented Feb. 10, 1970



3,494,537

# CONTINUOUS FORM ENVELOPE

Wilfred H. Gendron, Wilbraham, Mass., assignor to United States Envelope Company, Springfield, Mass., a corporation of Maine

Filed Apr. 19, 1968, Ser. No. 727,134
Int. Cl. B65d 27/10
U.S. Cl. 229—69 10 Claims

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Continuous form envelope assemblies include a plurality of individual envelopes each formed from a unitary blank and having front, bottom and sealing panels. Tabs integrally connected to one or more of the various panels project outwardly from corners of each envelope at opposite ends thereof and are attached to carrier strips which retain the envelopes in series-connected relation. Embodiments are shown wherein tabs cooperate with connecting strips to retain envelopes in series-connected relation with the sealing panels thereof in closed position.

## BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

This invention relates in general to continuous form stationery and deals more particularly with improved continuous form or series-connected envelope assemblies. Envelopes of this general type are particularly adapted to be successively automatically or semi-automatically feed through a typewriter, printing machine or the like and readily separated each from the other after addresses or other messages have been imprinted thereon.

The general aim of the present invention is to provide improved continuous form assemblies of conventional envelopes adapted for production on high speed envelope making machinery.

## SUMMARY OF INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention envelope assemblies are provided wherein individual envelopes formed from unitary blanks have integral tabs variously connected thereto which cooperate with carrier strips to retain the envelopes in series-connected relation. Tabs are provided which cooperate with carrier strips to retain envelopes in series-connected relation with the sealing panels thereof in closed position.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a rear view of a continuous form envelope assembly embodying the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a somewhat enlarged fragmentary rear view of another continuous form envelope assembly embodying the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken generally along the line 3—3 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a view similar to FIG. 2 but shows still another embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of FIG. 4.

FIG. 6 is similar to FIG. 2 but shows yet another embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 7 is a sectional view taken along the line 7—7 of FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is generally similar to FIG. 2 but shows a still further embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 9 is a sectional view taken generally along the line 9—9 of FIG. 8.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In accordance with the present invention continuous form envelope assemblies comprise a plurality of individual envelopes retained in series-connected relation by a pair of carrier strips and adapted to be readily separated therefrom. Each envelope includes a front panel and bottom and sealing panels connected to the front panel along generally parallel fold lines. Tabs extend outwardly from opposite ends of at least one of the panels of each envelope proximate the fold lines for attaching the envelope to the carrier strips. Various embodiments of the invention are illustrated in the drawing and differ each from the other in the arrangement of the tabs relative to the aforesaid panels and in the manner in which the tabs cooperate with the carrier strips. However, it will be noted that all of the various illustrated envelopes are or may be substantially identical in outward appearance after having been separated from the carrier strips and sealed.



Referring now to the drawing and particularly, to FIG. 1 a continuous form envelope assembly indicated generally at **10** comprises a plurality of individual envelopes **12, 12** retained in longitudinally spaced series relation by a pair of carrier strips **14, 14**. A typical envelope **12** has a front panel **16** and a bottom panel **18** connected to the front panel along a lower fold line **20** and folded inwardly therealong or toward the center of the front panel. A sealing panel **22** connected to the front panel along an upper fold line **24** is foldable inwardly therealong to a closed position, in which position it forms a closure for the mouth of the envelope, as will be hereinafter evident. Preferably, the envelope **12** further includes side panels **26, 26** each connected to the front panel **16** along a respectively associated side fold line **28** and folded inwardly therealong. The side panels **26, 26** of each envelope **12** are adhesively joined to the bottom panel **18** and cooperate therewith to form the rear panel of the envelope the mouth of which opens toward the upper fold line **24**. It will be noted that a substantial portion of the envelope rear panel is formed by side panels **26, 26**.

Upper and lower tabs respectively generally indicated at **30** and **32** extend laterally outwardly from each end of the envelope **12** for attaching it to an associated carrier strip **14**. Each upper tab **30** is cut or otherwise separated from an associated side panel **26** before the side panel is folded inwardly and extends outwardly from the front panel **16** beyond an associated side fold line **28** proximate the upper fold line **24**. Preferably each tab **30** is separated from its associated side panel **26** along a slit **34** cut in the side panel and which extends outwardly from an associated fold line **28**. Thus each tab **30** is solely connected to the front panel **16**. The lower tabs **32, 32** are formed in a like manner, each tab **32** being cut or separated from associated side panel **26** along a slit **36**. The tabs **32, 32** are solely connected to the front panel **16** and extend outwardly therefrom proximate the lower fold line **20**.

The tabs **30, 30** and **32, 32** are preferably adhesively attached to the carrier strips **14, 14** to retain the envelopes in series-connected relation. Marginal portions of the bottom panel **18** and the sealing panel **22** in its closed position overlie associated portions of the side panels **26, 26** and cover the cutout portions of the side panels from which the upper and lower tabs are formed so that when the envelope is in a sealed condition the rear surface thereof is substantially imperforate.

Longitudinally extending lines of weakening or perforation **38, 38** extend across each tab generally adjacent the ends of the envelope **12** and in alignment with the fold lines **28, 28** to enable the envelope to be readily separated therealong from the tabs **30, 30** and **32, 32** and the carrier strips **14, 14**. The envelope assembly **10** is preferably adapted to the successively automatically or semi-automatically fed through a typewriter printing machine or the like and for this purpose a longitudinal series of spaced feed apertures **40, 40** are formed in each of the carrier strips **14, 14** for engagement with a feed mech-

anism (not shown), as for example a mechanism of the pin-wheel type.

The envelopes of the various other embodiments hereinafter described are substantially identical in most respects to the envelopes **12, 12** previously described, but differ therefrom in tab construction and arrangement. Portions of the envelope assemblies hereinafter described which are substantially identical to corresponding portions of the assembly **10** are identified by the same reference numerals used in the description of the assembly **10** but include a letter suffix and will not be hereinafter further described.

Referring now to FIGS. 2 and 3, another envelope assembly embodying the invention and indicated generally at **10***a* comprises a plurality of individual envelopes **12***a*, **12***a* retained in series-connected relation by carrier strips **14***a*, **14***a*. The envelope **12***a* includes upper tabs **42, 42** and lower tabs **44, 44** for connected with the carrier strips. Considering first, typical upper tab **42**, this tab includes a portion **43** cut from a side panel **26***a* along a slit **34***a* and connected to and extending outwardly from the front panel **16***a* in the manner generally aforedescribed. However, the tab **42** also includes an additional portion **46** formed by the outwardly extension of the sealing panel **22***a*. The tab portion **46** extends outwardly beyond a side fold line **28***a* and is connected to the tab portion **43** along the upper fold line **24***a*. Each lower tab **44** is made in substantially the same manner and includes a portion **48** cut from a side panel **26***a* and extending outwardly from the front panel **16***a*. An additional tab portion **50** extends outwardly from the bottom panel **18***a* and is connected to the tab portion **48** along the lower fold line **20***a*. The tabs **42, 42** and **44, 44** are preferably connected to the carrier strip **14***a* by spots of adhesive **52, 52** as best shown in FIG. 3. Tabs formed in the latter manner provide somewhat stronger connection between the envelopes and their associated carrier strips than do the tabs **30, 30** and **32, 32** of the previously described embodiment.

A further embodiment of the invention is indicated generally at **10***b* in FIGS. 4 and 5 and includes a plurality of the individual envelopes **12***b*, **12***b* substantially identical to the envelopes **12***a*, **12***a* previously described. Each envelope **12***b* also includes upper and lower tabs respectively indicated at **42** and **44**. However, the assembly **10***b* differs from the assembly **10***a* in the construction and arrangement of its carrier strips. Specifically, each carrier strip generally indicated at **54** comprises a pair of parallel tapes **56, 56** preferably adhesively joined in face-to-face relation each to the other with the tabs **42** and **44**, disposed therebetween. It will be apparent that when the tapes **56, 56** are joined to the tabs in the illustrated manner the tapes will cooperate with the tabs both to retain the envelopes **12***b*, **12***b* in series-connected relation and to retain each sealing panel **22***b* in its closed position until each envelope **12***b* is separated from its tabs and carrier strips.

A still further embodiment of the invention is indicated at **10***c* in FIGS. 6 and 7 and includes an upper tab **58** which has a portion **60** cut from a side panel **26***c* and extending outwardly from the front panel **16***c* in the manner generally aforedescribed. However, an additional tab portion **62** formed by the extension of the sealing flap outwardly beyond a side fold line **28***c* is connected to the tab portion **60** along the extension of the upper fold line **24***c*. The tab portion **62** is separated from the sealing panel **22***c* by a slit or cut **66** which extends from the upper fold line **34***c* and through the sealing panel so that the resulting tab **58** is connected solely to the front panel **16***c*. A lower tab **68** is formed in a like manner one portion **70** thereof comprising the extension of the front panel **16***c* and another portion **72** being formed by the extension of the bottom panel **18***c*. A slit **74** which extends from the lower fold line **20***c* and through the bottom panel **18***c* separates the tab portion **72** from the bottom panel so that the tab **68** is solely connected to the front panel **16***c*. The lower tab of one envelope **12***c* is adhesively attached to an associated carrier strip **14***c* and to an upper tab **58** on the next successive envelope **12***c* as best shown in FIG. 6. This overlapping tab arrangement serves to strengthen the assembly **10***c* in the area of attachment.

Still another envelope assembly embodying the invention is indicated at **10***d* in FIGS. 8 and 9. The assembly **10***d* includes envelopes **12***d*, **12***d* which have upper and lower tabs respectively indicated at **74** and **76**. Each upper tab **74** is formed solely by the outwardly extension of the envelope sealing panel **22***c* whereas each lower tab **76** is formed solely by the outwardly extension of the bottom panel **18***d*. It will be evident that when the tabs **74, 74** and **76, 76** are connected to carrier strips **14***d*, **14***d* as shown in FIG. 9 the tabs cooperate with the carrier strip both to retain the envelopes in series-connected relation and to retain the sealing panel **22***d* in its closed position.

It should be evident from the foregoing description of the various embodiments that continuous form envelope assemblies may be made to include various combinations of upper and lower tab retained in series-connected relation by either single carrier strips or carrier strips including pairs of tapes joined in face-to-face relation in the manner illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5, and such variations are contemplated within the scope of the invention.

I claim:

**1.** A continuous form envelope assembly comprising a series of individual envelopes each formed from a unitary blank having a plurality of panels connected together along fold lines and including a front panel, a sealing panel and a pair of opposing side panels, each of said side panels folded inwardly along an associated side fold line, said sealing panel being foldable inwardly along an upper fold line to a closed position relative to said front panel and said side panels, each of said envelopes at each end having a pair of spaced apart tabs including an upper tab extending outwardly from at least one of said panels proximate said upper fold line and a lower tab extending outwardly from at least one of said panels proximate the lower edge of said envelope, at least a portion of one of said tabs in each said pair being slit from an associated one of said side panels and extending outwardly beyond an associated side fold line, and a pair of spaced carrier strips, each of said strips attached to the tabs at an associated end of each of said envelopes and retaining said envelopes in connected longitudinal series relation.

**2.** A continuous form envelope assembly as set forth in claim **1** wherein each of said strips comprises a pair of parallel tapes joined each to the other in face-to-face relation, said tabs being disposed between said tapes.

**3.** A continuous form envelope assembly as set forth in claim **1** wherein at least a portion of each said upper tab extends from said sealing panel and said upper tabs cooperate with said lower tabs and said strips to retain said sealing panel in said closed position.

**4.** A continuous form envelope assembly as set forth in claim **1** wherein each of said envelopes includes a bottom panel connected to said front panel and folded inwardly along a bottom fold line, each of said side panels having upper and lower slits therethrough respectively separating said upper and lower tabs therefrom, said upper and lower tabs in each said pair extending outwardly from a respectively associated side fold line.

**5.** A continuous form envelope assembly as set forth in claim **4** wherein marginal portions of said bottom panel and said sealing panel in its closed position overlie associated portions of said side panels to form an envelope having a substantially imperforate rear surface.

**6.** A continuous form envelope assembly as set forth in claim **4** wherein end portions of said sealing panel extend outwardly beyond said side fold lines to form additional portions of said upper tabs connected to the other

portions of said upper tabs along said upper fold line and end portions of said bottom panel extend outwardly beyond said side fold lines to form additional portions of said lower tabs connected to the other portions of said lower tabs along said lower fold line.

7. A continuous form envelope assembly as set forth in claim 6 wherein said sealing and bottom panels have cuts therethrough extending outwardly respectively from said upper and lower fold lines, each of said cuts separating one of said additional portions from an associated one of the latter said panels, said upper and lower tabs being solely connected to said front panel.

8. A continuous form envelope assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein said additional portions are folded into overlying engagement with said other portions, each of said carrier strips being attached to at least one portion of each of said tabs.



9. A continuous form envelope as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said carrier strips has a longitudinally extending and longitudinally spaced series of feed apertures therethrough.

10. A continuous form envelope assembly as set forth in claim 1 including lines of weakening on each of said tabs generally coincident with an associated side fold line to enable said envelopes to be readily separated therealong from said tabs and said carrier strips.

**References Cited**

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DAVID M. BOCKENEK, Primary Examiner

PO-1050
(5/69)

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE
# CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 3,494,537 Dated February 10, 1970

Inventor(s) Wilfred H. Gendron

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

Col. 3, line 18, "connected" should read --connection--.

Col. 5, line 16, "porportion" should read --portion--.

SIGNED AND
SEALED
JUN 23 1970

(SEAL)
Attest:

Edward M. Fletcher, Jr.
Attesting Officer

WILLIAM E. SCHUYLER, JR.
Commissioner of Patents