June 9, 1964 E. B. BERKOWITZ 3,136,476

WINDOW ENVELOPE FOR MAILING BANK STATEMENTS AND THE LIKE

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Fig. 1.

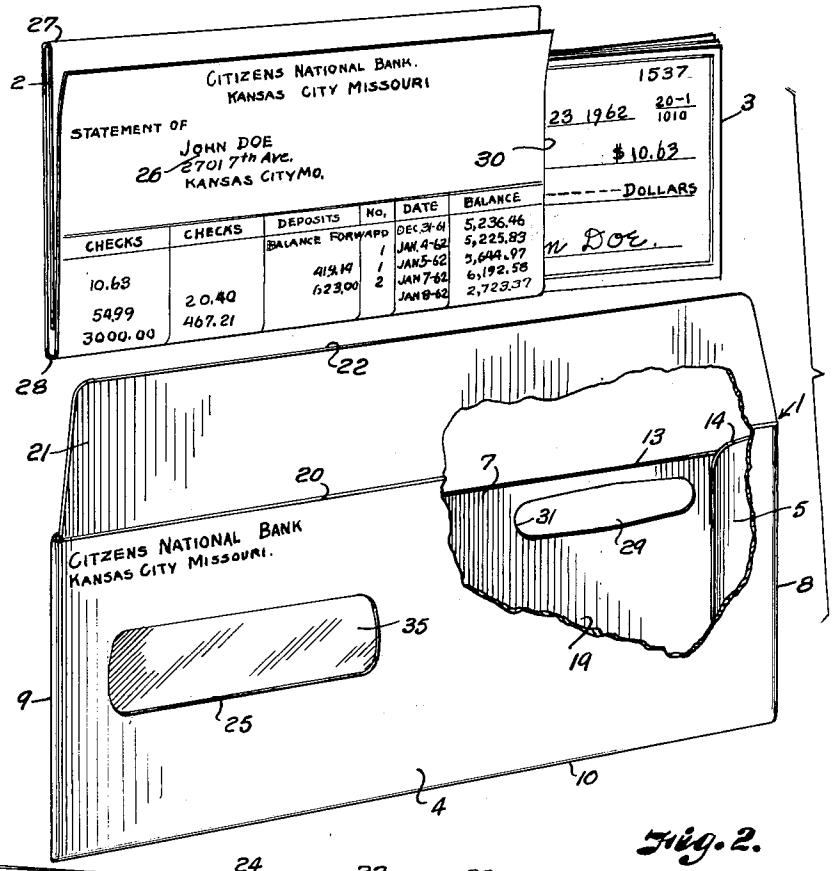
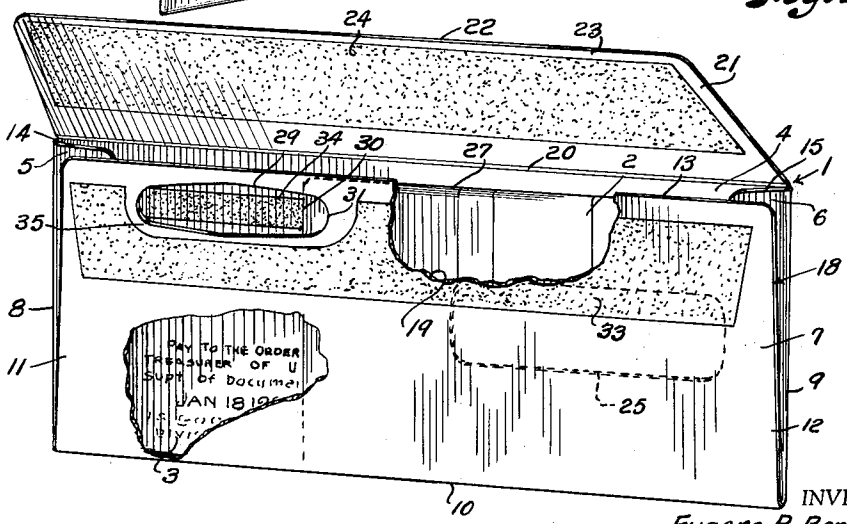


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

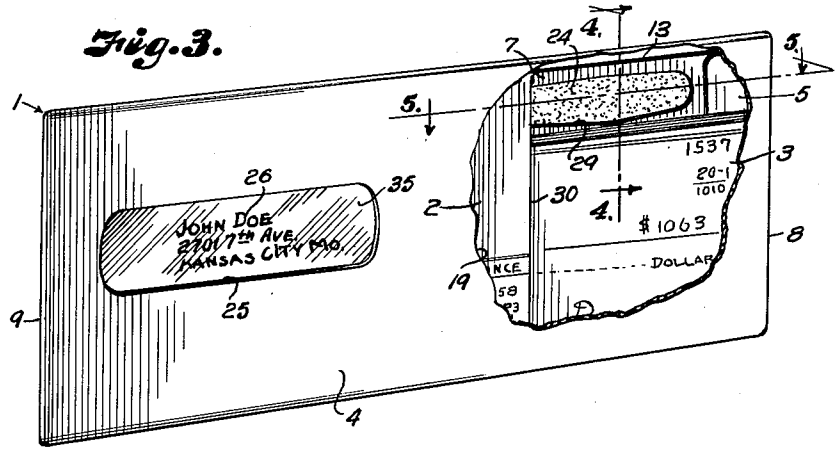


Fig. 4.

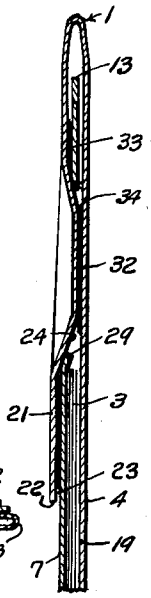


Fig. 5.

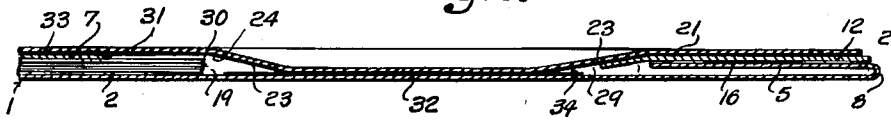
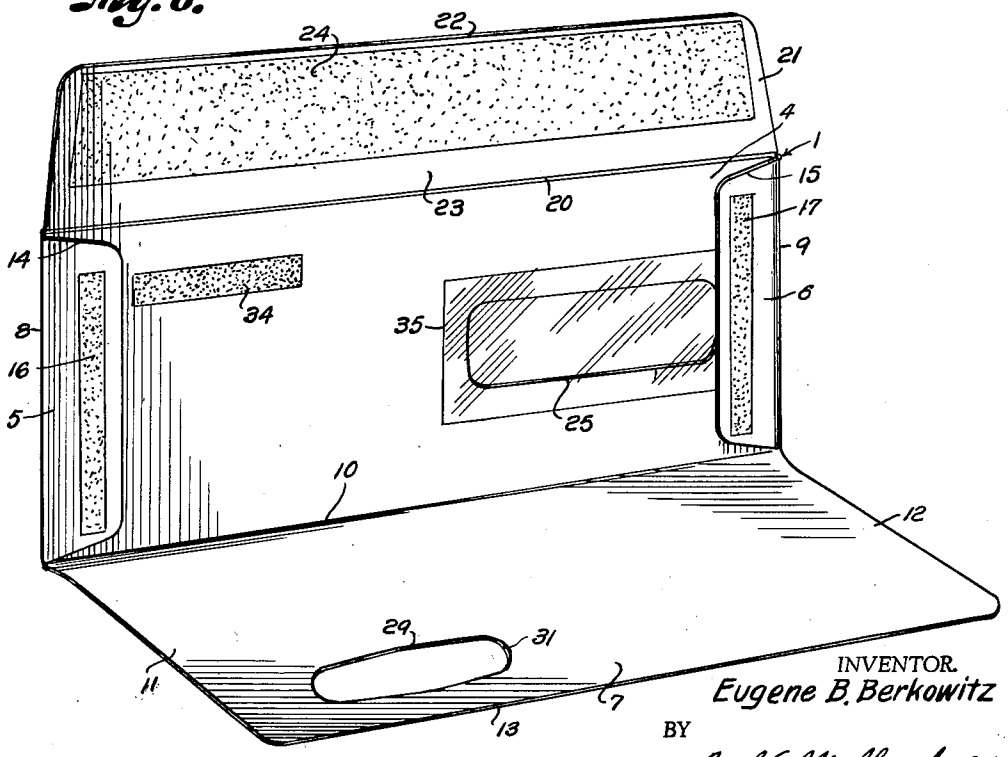


Fig. 6.



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WINDOW ENVELOPE FOR MAILING BANK STATEMENTS AND THE LIKE

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Filed May 9, 1962, Ser. No. 193,547
1 Claim. (Cl. 229—71)

This invention relates to window envelopes of a type used by banks in mailing statements, together with canceled checks, to their depositors.

It is the practice for banks to wrap the statement of a checking account about the canceled checks and place them in a window envelope large enough to accommodate the checks therein. This requires some form of special envelope to keep the address on the statement in registry with the window of the envelope, because modern bank statements, being more or less standard in size to accommodate them to automatic bookkeeping and accounting machines, are considerably narrower in width than the length of the checks that are enclosed therewith.

Various means have been incorporated into an envelope construction to retain the statement in registry with a window, but they are too complicated and expensive to manufacture, or they are difficult to manipulate and assure positive contact when sealing the envelope, and many of them cannot be opened without damaging the enclosures, particularly when the retention means is sealed thereto. Another difficulty with this type of envelope is that the upper edge of the back flap terminates considerably short of the upper edge of the front panel, so that the envelope is not as secure where security is a factor.

It is, therefore, a principal object of the present invention to provide a window envelope wherein the retention means is easily sealed simultaneously responsive to the same sealing pressure applied to seal the closure flap. It is a further object to provide the envelope with a back or bottom flap that is of substantially the size of the front panel, whereby the side seams may extend the full height of the envelope and substantially more sealing area may be provided between the closure flap and the back flap.

In carrying out the invention, the stop seal is effected by providing the back flap with an opening located within the sealing area of the adhesive which seals the closure flap, so that a portion of the adhesive seals through the opening to a block of adhesive on the inner face of the front panel.

I have found that the envelope is not only more secure, but it is easier to break the stop seal because the marginal edge of the back flap completely surrounds the stop seal which, together with the closure flap, provides a double thickness of paper to be grasped in peeling the stop seal apart. The location of the opening in the back flap is in the area of the adhesive thereon and is in registry with adhesive on the inner face of the front panel to assure seal of both adhesives with the adhesive of the closure flap when the closure flap is pressed into contact with the adhesive on the back flap. Thus the stop seal is made simultaneously and does not interfere with adjustment of the closure flap.

In accomplishing these and other objects of the invention as hereinafter pointed out, improved structure has

been provided, the preferred forms of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the front face side of an envelope embodying the features of the present invention, and showing insertion of a statement and canceled check assembly, a portion of the front panel being broken away to show the opening in the back flap or back panel of the envelope through which the stop seal is effected.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the back face side of the envelope showing the canceled checks and statement assembly in place within the pocket of the envelope and showing the envelope ready for sealing of the closure flap, parts of the envelope being broken away to better illustrate the position of the statement and checks with respect to the opening through which the stop seal is effected.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the front face of the sealed envelope, with a part of the front panel of the envelope broken away to better illustrate the stop seal through the opening in the back flap.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged section through the envelope on the line 4—4 of FIG. 3, showing the stop seal transversely thereof.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged section through the envelope on the line 5—5 of FIG. 4, showing the stop seal in the lengthwise direction thereof.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the envelope, opened up to better illustrate the blank from which the envelope is constructed.

Referring more in detail to the drawings:

1 designates a window envelope constructed in accordance with the present invention, for mailing a bank depositor's statement of account 2, together with the canceled checks 3 set out in the statement, so that the depositor may verify his records.

The envelope 1 is formed from a single blank, much as in the manufacture of a conventional side seam envelope, to provide a front panel 4 having a width conforming to the length of the checks 3 and a depth of ample size to conform with the height of the folded statement 2, as later to be described. The envelope also includes side flaps 5 and 6 and a back or bottom flap 7. The side flaps 5 and 6 are joined with the sides of the front panel by folds 8 and 9 so that they overlie the inner face of the front panel, as best shown in FIGS. 2 and 6. The back or bottom flap 7 is connected with the lower portion of the front panel on a transverse fold 10, so that the marginal portions 11 and 12 overlap the side flaps 5 and 6.

In accordance with the present invention, the back or bottom flap has an upper edge 13 substantially corresponding with the upper edges 14 and 15 of the side flaps, so that when the back and side flaps are sealed together by the adhesive stripes 16 and 17 (FIG. 6), the side and back flaps combine to form a back panel 18 (FIG. 2) which is substantially the size of the front panel. The front and back panels 4 and 18 are of generally rectangular shape and provide a pocket 19 therebetween, having the sides and bottom closed by the folds 8, 9 and 10. The pocket 19 has an insert opening between the edge 13 and a fold line 20 of a closure flap 21 extending across the width of the envelope.

In order to conform with the requirements of most banks that the envelope be securely sealed, the closure flap 21 is of substantial depth between the fold line 20

and transverse edge 22, and the inner face 23 is provided with a relatively wide band of dry adhesive 24 of the pressure sealing type extending substantially the full length thereof, to make a substantial depth of seal with the back panel 18.

The front panel 4 has a window opening 25 therein that is located near one of the side folds, for example, the fold 9, and at a height to expose the depositor's name and address 26 that is always provided on the heading of the statement, so that this address 26 may be used for the mailing address of the envelope.

Since the statement 2 is of considerably less width than the width of the pocket 19, means must be provided in cooperation with the side fold 9 to retain the statement 2 from shifting movement in the envelope, so as to retain the address 26 within the limits of the window opening 25.

This is easily solved in a vertical direction by folding the statement 2 so that the upper and lower folds 27 and 28 conform to the depth of the pocket 19 in such a manner that the address 26 is registered vertically within the vertical height of the window opening, as shown in FIG. 6.

In order to provide an inner stop means for engaging the inner side edge of the statement, the back flap 7 is provided below the upper edge 13 with an elongated opening 29 located between the side fold 8 and the inner side edge 30 of the statement and at a point above the projecting ends of the checks 3 (see FIG. 2), preferably so that the inner end 31 of the opening is substantially at the inner side edge of the statement.

In carrying out the invention, the upper marginal portion of the back flap that underlies the closure flap is provided with a band of pressure sealing adhesive 33 corresponding to the band of adhesive 24 of the closure flap, except for a portion occupied by the opening 29. It is thus apparent that the opening 29 is within the area of the pressure sealing adhesive 33, as clearly shown in FIG. 2 of the drawings.

Also, an elongated block or stripe of pressure sealing adhesive 34 is applied to the inner face of the front panel in registry with the opening 29. The pressure sealing adhesives may be applied after the envelope is folded and the side seams completed, in which case the block of adhesive 34 will be applied through the opening 29, making sure that it is separated from the adhesive 33 by the ungummed margins 35 at the ends and bottom of the opening 29, as shown in FIG. 2.

When the closure flap 21 is folded over the insert opening and the adhesive thereon is sealed to the adhesive 33 on the back flap 7, the adhesive that extends across the elongated opening 29 may be pressed into sealing contact with the inner surface of the front panel 4 to form a seal 32 therewith, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5. The seal thus provides a stop that retains the statement locked against the side fold 9, as well as a stop above the checks 3.

It is obvious that the opening 29 and related block of pressure sealing adhesive 34 can be positioned anywhere along the width of the back flap, depending upon the width of the bank statement or any other enclosure that is of less width than the envelope. However, the elongated opening 29 is located substantially between the upper and lower limits of the band of pressure sealing adhesive 33, so that the elongated block of pressure sealing adhesive 34 is exposed through the elongated opening 29 between the upper and lower limits of the band of adhesive 33, and preferably with the upper edge thereof in alignment with the upper limit of the band, as is clearly shown in FIG. 2. It is obvious that the up and down width of the band of adhesive 24 is substantially the same as the space between the upper and lower limits of the band of adhesive 33, so that in sealing the closure flap the pressure sealing adhesive of the band 24 is sealed simultaneously to the block of pressure sealing adhesive 34 and to the band 33 of pressure sealing adhesive, by pressure applied to the closure flap over the area between the upper and lower limits of the band of pressure sealing adhesive 33.

If desired, the window opening 25 may be covered on the inner side of the front panel 4 by a transparent patch 35 (FIG. 6).

In using the envelope, the statement 2 is folded about the canceled checks 3 in the manner shown in FIG. 1. The assembly is placed so that the address 26 faces the inner face of the front panel 4, with the fold 28 of the statement positioned within the insert opening of the envelope. In this position the statement is guided between the inner face of the front panel 4 and the back panel 18, with a side of the statement sliding within the side fold 9. When the assembly is in place, with the lower fold 28 of the statement engaging the bottom fold 10, the upper fold 27 is slightly below the fold 20 of the closure flap 21. The projecting ends of the canceled checks are below the elongated opening 29. The closure flap is folded on the fold 20 to close the insert opening and the closure flap is brought into contact with the pressure sealing adhesive 33 on the back flap, to seal the closure flap thereto by pressure on the area of the adhesive 33, which also presses the portion of the closure flap that covers the opening 29 through the opening 29 into sealing contact with the block of adhesive 34, to seal that portion of the closure flap to the front panel. A stop seal is formed that engages the inner edge of the statement to hold the opposite edge in contact with the inner face of the side fold 9. Thus the statement is held thereby, with the address 26 thereon in registry with the window opening 25 while the envelope is being transmitted through the mails. It is apparent that the pressure sealing adhesive on the closure flap is sealed with both the adhesive 34 and the adhesive 33 with the same application of pressure, to assure that the stop seal is made.

In opening the envelope, the closure flap may be slit along the fold 20 by means of a paperknife or the like, with the point of the knife pressing above the stop seal. The upper edge of the severed closure flap and the upper edge of the back flap form two thicknesses of material that may be gripped between the thumb and finger of one hand, while the severed edge of the front panel is gripped by the fingers of the other hand to peel the adhesive on the closure flap and the block of adhesive 34 on the front panel apart without tearing the pocket of the envelope. The pocket of the envelope, being intact, can now be used as a depository for the checks wherein they may be filed away for future reference.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

An envelope containing an addressed enclosure of a smaller width than the width of the envelope and a second enclosure of less depth than the envelope, said envelope comprising

overlapping generally rectangular front and back panels interconnected along bottom and side edges of the panels to provide a pocket having an insert opening between upper edges of the panels with the upper edge of the back panel substantially coextensive with the front panel,

one of the panels having a window for exposing the address when the enclosures are placed within the pocket by way of the insert opening,

a closure flap coextensive with the upper edge of one of the panels and foldable over the upper edge of the other panel to overlie the upper marginal portion of the said other panel,

a band of pressure sealing adhesive extending along and substantially covering said marginal portion of the said other panel,

the said other panel having an opening at one side of the enclosure which is of less width and located above the enclosure which is of less depth and substantially within upper and lower limits of the area covered by the band of pressure sealing adhesive,

a block of pressure sealing adhesive on the inner face of the panel having the closure flap and located in registry with the opening in the said other panel and also lying between said upper and lower limits of said band of pressure sealing adhesive, and

a continuous band of pressure sealing adhesive on the closure flap coextensive with the first named band of pressure sealing adhesive and having a depth substantially coresponding to that between the upper and lower limits of the first named band for simultaneous sealing contact with the block of pressure sealing adhesive through said opening and with the said first named band of pressure sealing adhesive when pressure is applied along the closure flap over the area between said upper and lower limits of the said bands of pressure sealing adhesive for sealing the envelope and for retaining the enclosures substantially immovable within said envelope and to maintain said address within said window.

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