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CONTINUOUS ENVELOPE ASSEMBLIES

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Fig. 1.

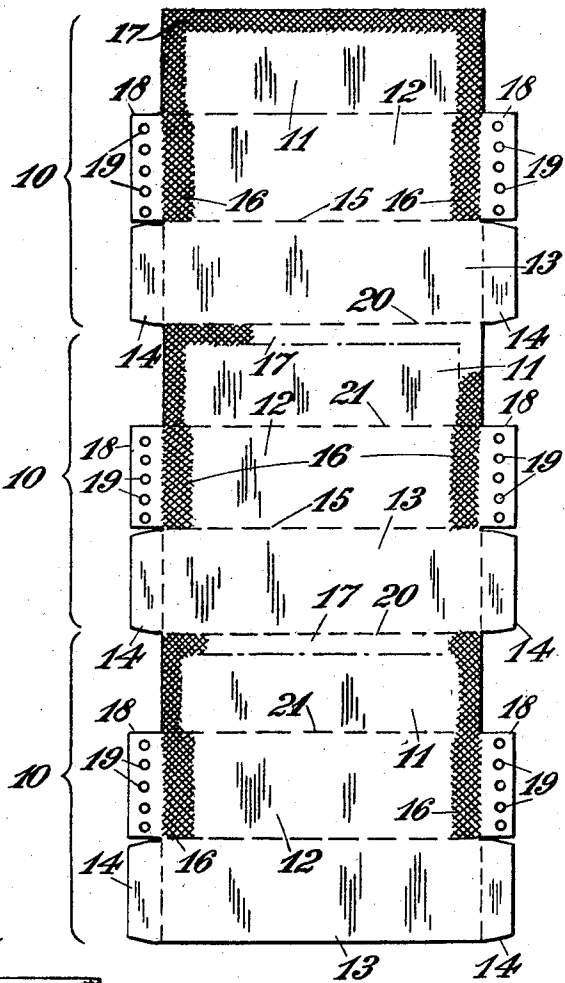
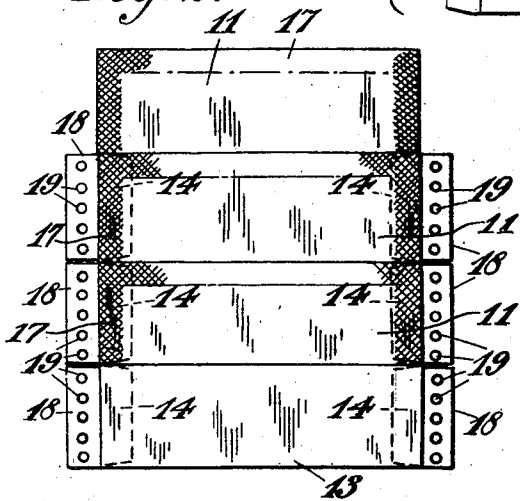


Fig. 2.



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CONTINUOUS ENVELOPE ASSEMBLIES

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2 Claims. (Cl. 229—69)

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This invention relates to continuous envelope assemblies of the type in which a series of envelopes are interconnected in line for feeding in continuous strip form through a typewriter, addressing machine, franking machine or the like, the envelope openings being transverse to the length of the assembly. Such assemblies avoid the waste of time entailed when individual envelopes have to be separately manipulated in the machine.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved envelope assembly of the above type adapted for positive feeding through a writing machine equipped with pin-type feeding devices, for example of the kind described in British patent specification No. 408,125.

The present invention consists of an envelope assembly of the type described formed from a single blank, the flap portion of each envelope being integral with the back portion of the immediately preceding envelope of the series, and the assembly being provided with side marginal feeder bands each in the form of a succession of separate strips integral with or adhesively attached to the envelope sides, which feeder bands may be driven frictionally by friction wheels or by a feeding device of the pin type, in which case each band will be formed with a row of apertures for positive co-operation with pin-type (wheel or band) feeding devices.

In one arrangement according to the invention every part of each envelope is formed from and by a single continuous strip doubled upon itself at regular intervals to provide the envelope pockets. Conveniently with this arrangement the marginal feeder bands are formed by integral lateral extensions of those portions of the continuous strip which constitute the envelope fronts.

One example of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the continuous strip used in forming an assembly; and

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 showing the strip after it has been folded and gummed to form the connected series of individual envelopes.

In the example illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 every part of each envelope of a consecutive series is formed from and by a single continuous paper strip which, at regular intervals throughout its length, is doubled upon itself to provide the envelope pockets, the openings to which are transverse to the length of the strip. In this arrange-

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ment the strip is divided transversely of its length into consecutive areas 10 of the same dimensions each constituting the blank for one envelope. Each envelope blank 10 is divided transversely into three portions consecutive in the length of the strip, namely a portion 11 constituting the flap of the envelope, a front portion 12 and a back portion 13. The back portion 13 is formed with comparatively narrow side extensions or wings 14. The back portion is doubled upon the rear face of the front portion about the line 15, the wings 14 having previously been turned in. The wings 14 are secured to previously gummed areas 16 at the sides of the front portion. The inner face of the flap 11 may be provided with a gummed area 17 by means of which the flap may later be secured in the closed position in normal manner. Alternatively, the flap may be of the turned-in type in which case it is left ungummed. Each front portion is formed with side wing extensions 18 in which feed holes 19 are provided.

In making up the assembly ready for use, each flap portion 11 is doubled on to the back portion 13 of the preceding envelope of the series, as shown in Figure 2. It will also be seen from Figure 2 that in the assembly the perforated side wings 18 form in effect continuous feeder bands to co-operate with pin-type feeding devices. At each line of demarcation 20 between adjacent envelopes (i. e. the division line between the flap 11 of one envelope and the back portion 13 of the preceding envelope), the strip may be perforated so that after the continuous web has been passed through a typewriter or like machine the envelopes may be severed individually from the remainder of the web. The depth of each flap 11 is made equal to the depth of the envelope back 13, so that the continuous web may (prior to passage through a writing machine) be zig-zag folded, into the form of a pack, about the hinge lines 21 of the envelope flaps. In the above arrangement it will be appreciated that the flaps being of the same depth as the envelope backs, the whole of the front of each envelope is accessible for inscription. The perforated bands 18 may be cut away or stripped by any convenient mechanism as the web leaves the writing machine.

It is to be understood that in every arrangement according to the invention the envelope assembly comprises a series of envelopes each complete in itself. That is to say, the formation of each envelope pocket by gumming together overlying portions of the envelope fronts and

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backs, with the use of in-turned wing pieces, is effected in the initial manufacture of the assembly so that after passage of the latter through the writing machine all that remains to be done is to sever the individual envelopes from the remainder of the series, thereby providing completely pre-formed envelopes.

An envelope assembly provided by the invention may be passed alone through a writing machine or it may form one element of a multiple set of forms including one or more continuous strips bearing successive form-printed areas on which data may be recorded at the same time as the envelopes are inscribed and including, if desired, strips of transfer material.

When an envelope assembly as described above is to be fed by means of friction wheels through various machines, instead of by a feeding device of the pin type, the perforations 19 in the feeder bands 18 may be omitted.

I claim:

1. An envelope assembly of the class described comprising an elongated strip consisting of a succession of alternating flap, back and front portions of the series of envelopes making up the assembly, integral lateral extensions provided on the front portions of the envelopes and apertured to form marginal feeder bands, and integral lateral extensions provided on the back portions of the envelopes and turned over on to the rear faces of the corresponding envelope fronts and secured thereto by adhesive.

2. An envelope assembly of the class described comprising an elongated strip consisting of a

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succession of alternating flap, back and front portions of the series of envelopes making up the assembly, the aforesaid back and front portions constituting the opposed body portions of the envelopes, integral lateral extensions provided on both sides of one of each two opposed body portions and apertured to form marginal feeder bands, and integral lateral extensions provided on both sides of the other of each two opposed body portions and turned over on to the rear face of the aforesaid body portion provided with marginal feeder bands and secured thereto by adhesive.

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