March 14, 1950 J. W. McCAUSLAND 2,500,845

STAMP GUIDE FOR MAILING MACHINES

Filed May 8, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

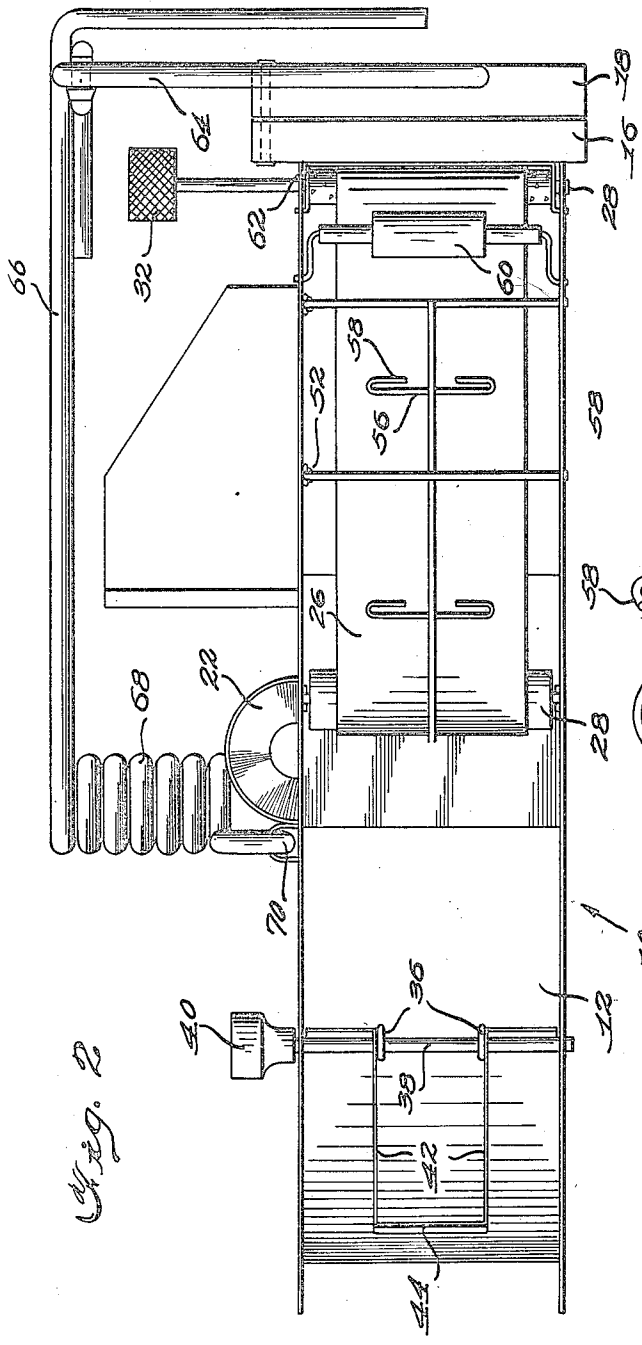


Fig. 2

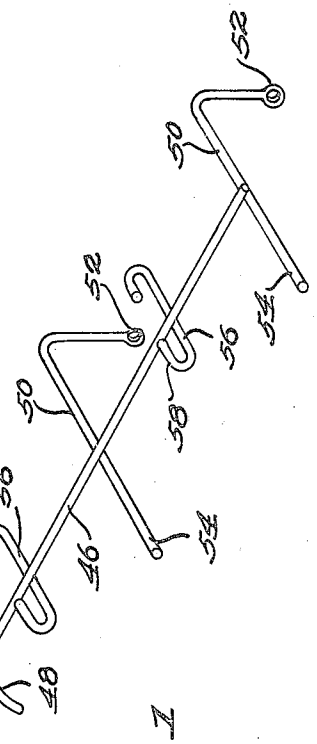


Fig. 1

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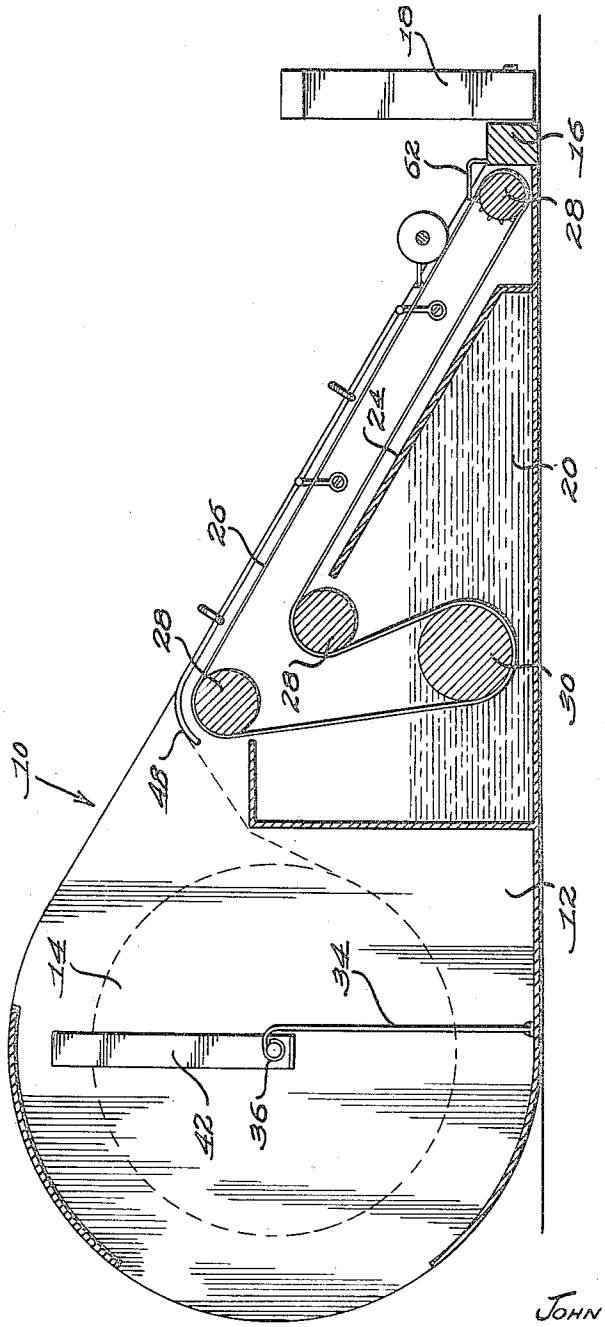
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Fig. 3



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STAMP GUIDE FOR MAILING MACHINES

John W. McCausland, Chicago, Ill.

Application May 8, 1946, Serial No. 668,089

1 Claim. (Cl. 91—14.5)

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The present invention relates to novel and useful improvements in a stamp guide for mailing machines, and in general relates to a device for dispensing, moistening and severing strips of gummed tape, stamps or the like.

Stamps and gummed tape dispensing machines are known in which a strip of material coated with an adhesive and wound into a roll is fed therefrom over a moistening means consisting of a continuous web, rotating and having a portion thereof disposed in a liquid reservoir for moistening the web, and is thence fed to a severing device. The portion of severed and moist tape is then directly applied to its point of use. Such machines have heretofore possessed the disadvantage that after a portion of the tape was dispensed and used, there remains a part of the tape still attached to the dispensing roll which had been moistened and still was in contact with the moistening web. After the machine had been used, and then left standing for a considerable period of time, this moistened portion of the strip dried and adhered to the web causing manifest difficulties when operation of the machine was again necessary.

The primary object of my invention, therefore, is to provide a means which shall overcome the aforesaid difficulties, which may be attached to existing machines of this type with little difficulty, and which shall be inexpensive but of serviceable construction.

Additional objects of my invention, in conformity with the foregoing object, are to provide suitable guiding means for feeding the tape from the roll to the moistening web and to further provide a means for pressing the gummed surface of the tape into contact with the moistening web at the desired point of travel of the tape.

These, together with numerous other objects of the invention, which will be apparent as the following description proceeds, are attained by my invention, one embodiment of which has been illustrated by way of example only in the annexed drawings; wherein,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my novel tape guiding means;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of a conventional type of dispensing machine showing the novel guide means attached thereto; and,

Figure 3 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken through the machine shown in Figure 2.

Referring now in more detail to the drawings, the numeral 10 designates generally a conventional type of machine which may be equipped

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with my invention, and as shown consists of a compartment 12 for receiving a roll of adhesive tape or gummed stamps indicated in dotted line construction at 14. At the other end of the casing is secured an anvil 16 and a knife 18 pivoted thereto in any suitable manner, these elements comprising a severing means of conventional type. Between the compartment and the severing means, the casing is provided with a fluid reservoir 20 having a laterally positioned funnel-shaped filling means 22. As shown more clearly in Figure 3, the fluid reservoir 20 has an inclined top and side portion 24 constituting a closure for the reservoir and a guiding means for an endless or continuous moistening web shown at 26. This web is supported by a plurality of fixed rollers 28 and a floating roller 30, each of said rollers being suitably journalled in the walls of the casing with the roller 30 disposed in a fold or loop of the web and by its weight serving to remove slack from the web and cause a portion of the web to be constantly immersed in the fluid of the reservoir. As will be obvious, the roller 30 will preferably be made of heavy material such as brass or lead. The roller 28 adjacent the severing means is provided with a handle or knob 32, whereby the tape may be manually rotated to bring a moistened portion thereof into operative position prior to use of the tape after a continued period of inaction. Secured to the base of compartment 12 are a pair of spaced standards 34 having eye portions 36 constituting journals for an arbor 38 provided with an operating knob 40. This arbor is intended to receive and support a roll of gummed tape between the supporting standards 36 and serve as guides positioning the rolls generally in the center of the compartment in line with the longitudinal axis of the moistening web. Freely revoluble upon the arbor 38 is a U-shaped guide member consisting of a pair of arms 42 connected by an end portion 44 integral therewith. As shown in Figure 1, the U-shaped member is adapted to seat upon the arbor 38 in a position to straddle the support eyes 36 and in this position is adapted to embrace the roll of adhesive coated tape and laterally guide the same as it is fed and dispensed from the roll.

As shown more clearly in Figure 1, my novel guide means consists of a bar or strip 46 preferably of metal, and having its upward extremity arcuately positioned as at 48. Suitably spaced along the length of the bar 46 are a plurality of transverse supporting members 50 having at one end eye portions 52 adapted for attachment to

the side of the casing as by screws, rivets or in any other suitable manner. At the other extremities the support members **50** terminate with end portions **54** adapted to be engaged in suitably positioned apertures upon the opposite side of the casing member from that to which the eyes **52** are secured. A plurality of transverse arms **56** are integrally united to the bar **46**, and are provided with U-shaped inturned end portions **58** overlying the arm portions **56** for a purpose to be now described. Referring now to Figure 3, it may be seen that the roll **14** of gummed tape has an end of the tape extended therefrom and up and over the arcuate guide surface **48** and thence the tape is drawn downwardly upon the length of the bar **46**, overlying the lateral arms **50** and **56**, and being received within the embrace of the guide portions **58**, whereby the tape will be held and supported above the surface of the moistening web, whereby the gummed portion of the tape will not be prematurely moistened. After leaving the lower extremity of the supporting guide, the tape is now pressed into contact with the moistened web by the heavy roller **60** which is pivotally journalled in the side wall of the casing and the tape then passes through a hold-down guide **62** for passage between the severing means **16** and **18**.

As shown more clearly in Figure 2, the blade **18** has rigidly attached thereto an operating arm **64** which is secured to the arms **66** of a helico coil spring **68** mounted rigidly upon the casing as at **70**. The spring **68** and arms **66** normally maintain or bias the knife **18** into its raised position, from which it may be manually depressed as by pressing upon the top surface of the knife member **18** to cause the latter to sever the tape passing between the knife and the handle **16**.

From the foregoing the operation of my device will now be apparent. The arbor **38** may be withdrawn from the casing, from the eyes **36** and from the arms **42** by engagement and manipulation of the knob **40** in order to remove or replace a roll of tape. Manual adjustment of the knob **32** will cause a properly moistened portion of the web to be brought adjacent the roller **60** to insure applying moisture to the plate when the device is to be operated. The arcuate surface **48**, the lateral arms **56** and **50** and the longitudinal member **46**, all serve to prevent contact of

the gummed surface of the tape with the moistening web until the portion of the tape has reached the depressing roller **60** where the moistening operation is to be performed as a prelude to the severing operation.

It is to be understood that the foregoing description together with the illustrations in the drawings, are to be taken as illustrative only and that I may employ any desirable modifications falling within the scope of the appended claim.

I claim as my invention:

In a gummed tape dispensing machine, in combination, a casing, a tape dispensing arbor, a liquid reservoir, a continuous moistening web, having an upper run portion of its surface supported in an inclined plane, a series of rolls supporting said moistening web, a lower run portion of said web being immersed in said reservoir, a tape severing means supported upon said casing adjacent the foot of said plane, and a tape support and guiding means disposed in parallel and overhanging relation to said inclined portion of said web, for guiding a gummed tape in spaced relation to said web in said inclined plane, and roller means depressing the gummed surface of said tape against said moistening web adjacent the foot of said inclined plane and said severing means, said guide means including a bar disposed longitudinally of and spaced parallel to and above said inclined portion of said web, means securing said bar to said casing, and tape guide fingers carried by said bar, said guide fingers comprising arms extending laterally from said bar and having inturned fingers at their extremities for partially embracing a gummed tape.

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