

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK E. MASON, OF STROUD, OKLAHOMA.

LETTER-OPENER.

No. 929,233.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 27, 1909.

Application filed July 14, 1908. Serial No. 443,498.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK E. MASON, citizen of the United States, residing at Stroud, in the county of Lincoln and State of Oklahoma, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Openers, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to a novel device for opening envelopes, trimming paper, or performing like operations, and the object of the invention is the provision of a simple and compact device of this character which can be readily mounted upon a desk and which may be conveniently manipulated to accomplish the desired result.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction and the means for effecting the result, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an envelop opener embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates the casing which is open at the bottom and in the present instance is shown as having a substantially rectangular formation. The front of the casing is provided at its upper portion with an opening 2 and projecting inwardly from the bottom of this opening is a shelf 3, the ends of the shelf being received in grooves 4 in the ends of the casing. Secured to the back of the casing and projecting inwardly within the same are the arms 5 the extremities 5^a of which are extended laterally and are slightly spaced from the rear ends of the shelf 3 to form stops for limiting the inward movement of an envelop or piece of paper placed upon the shelf. Inclined downwardly and inwardly from the top of the opening 2 is a guide member 6 which coöperates with the shelf 3 to form a flared mouth for receiving an envelop or piece of paper and serves to deflect the envelop or piece of paper downwardly into engagement with the shelf. For the purpose of opening an envelop it is designed that one end thereof be thrust into the opening 2 until its edge engages the

stops 5^a, the portion of the envelop projecting beyond the inner edge of the shelf being then severed by a blade 7 which is mounted to reciprocate between the shelf and the stops 5^a. The ends of the blade 7 are received within vertical grooves or guide ways 8 in the ends of the casing while an intermediate portion of the blade is secured to a plunger 9 which is slidably mounted in the top of the casing. The upper portion of the plunger is enlarged and operates within a boss 10 projecting upwardly from the casing, a spring 12 which is housed within the boss being interposed between the top of the casing and the shoulder at the termination of the enlarged upper end of the plunger and operating to normally lift the plunger and hold the blade in an elevated position. A knob 11 is applied to the upper extremity of the plunger and by pressing downwardly upon this knob the spring 12 may be compressed and the blade 7 moved downwardly, the lower edge of the blade being sharpened at 7^a so as to co-operate with the inner edge of the shelf 3 to sever that portion of the envelop or paper which projects inwardly beyond the shelf. In the preferred construction the blade 7 is removably secured to the plunger by fastening members such as the screws 13 and the guide 6 is detachably applied to the casing, being shown in the present instance as held in position by the screws 14. When this guide is removed access may be readily had to the screws 13 for detaching the blade from the plunger and, when the blade has thus been detached, both the plunger and the blade may be removed from the casing.

If found desirable the cutting edge 7^a may be inclined so as to obtain a draw cut when a number of envelopes are placed in the device at the same time.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. In a letter opener, the combination of a hollow casing having an opening in one side thereof, a shelf projecting within the interior of the casing from the lower edge of the opening, a guide member removably applied to the casing so as to project inwardly from the upper edge of the opening, the said guide member being inclined downwardly so as to coöperate with the shelf to form a flared mouth for receiving an envelop, a reciprocating blade mounted within the interior of the casing and adapted to co-

operate with the inner edge of the shelf to sever that portion of the envelop projecting inwardly beyond the shelf, a plunger for the blade, and a fastening member for securing the plunger to the blade, the said fastening member being located within the casing and access being obtainable thereto from the exterior of the casing when the before mentioned guide member is removed.

10 2. In a letter opener, the combination of a hollow casing formed at its opposite ends with guide-ways and also provided in one of its sides with an opening, a shelf projecting within the interior of the casing
15 from one edge of the opening, arms projecting within the interior of the casing from the opposite side thereof to that provided

with the opening, the extremities of the arms being extended laterally and being slightly spaced from the inner edge of the shelf, a reciprocating blade mounted within the before mentioned guide-ways so as to move between the shelf and the arms and sever that portion of an envelop projecting inwardly from the shelf and coming into contact with the arms, and means for operating the reciprocating blade.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRANK E. MASON. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

B. E. KIRTLLEY,
J. R. EAKIN.