

No. 890,538.

PATENTED JUNE 9, 1908.

C. B. STILLWELL.
ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 27, 1907.

Fig. 1

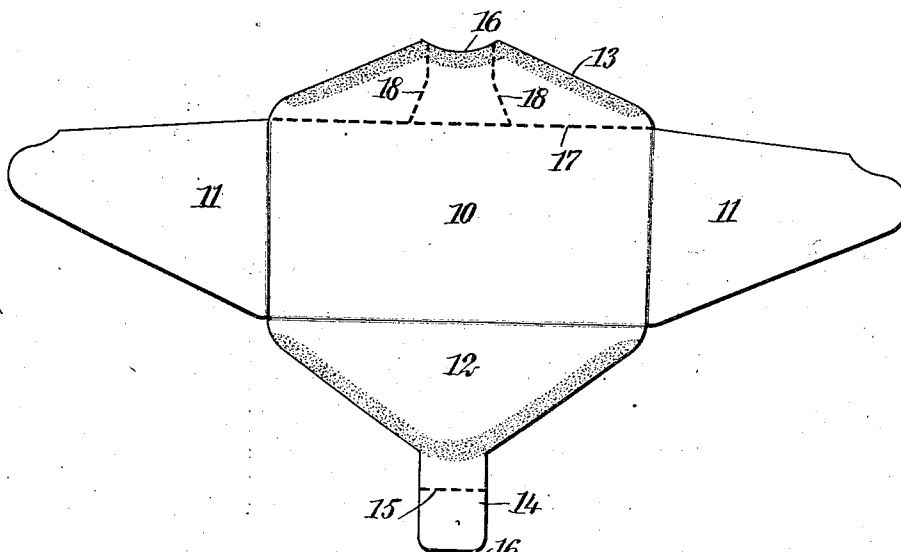


Fig. 2

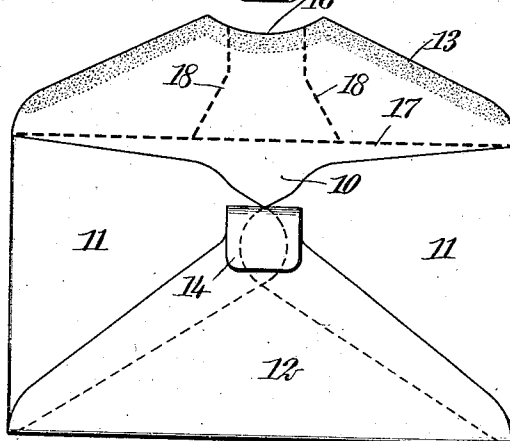
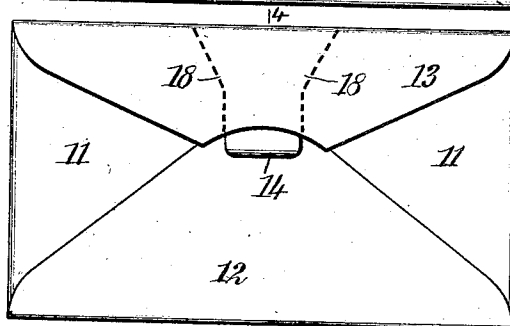
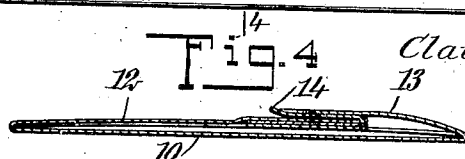


Fig. 5



4
19.4



WITNESSES

J. A. Booply
C. W. Fairbank

INVENTOR

Claude B. Stillwell

BY

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLAUDE BATTEY STILLWELL, OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

ENVELOP.

No. 890,588.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 9, 1908.

Application filed November 27, 1907. Serial No. 404,015.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLAUDE BATTEY STILLWELL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Jacksonville, in the county of Duval and State of Florida, have invented a new and Improved Envelop, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description:

This invention relates to certain improvements in envelopes, and more particularly to a construction adapted to facilitate the opening of the envelop after it has been sealed.

The envelop is so constructed as to present a tab by means of which an opening may be torn in the envelop sufficiently large to permit the ready insertion of the finger, a lead pencil, or the like, in opening up the envelop along one edge.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures, and in which

Figure 1 is a view of an envelop blank constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2 is a view of an envelop having the top flap thereof open ready for use; Fig. 3 is a view of the envelop closed and sealed; and Fig. 4 is a transverse section through the envelop and along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

My improved envelop may be made of any form desired and of any suitable material. The envelop illustrated is of the form commonly used and is provided with the customary rectangular body 10 forming the front of the envelop, end flaps 11, a bottom flap 12, and a top flap 13. The end flaps are no different from those employed in ordinary envelops, and the bottom flap 12 differs only in that it is provided with a tab 14 integral therewith and extending therefrom at the apex of the flap. The tab may be of any width desired, but is preferably from one-half inch to an inch wide, so that it may be readily grasped between the thumb and finger in opening the envelop. The tab intermediate its ends is preferably provided with a weakened line 15 on a line of perforations 15, to facilitate the tearing of the tab at the predetermined point.

The top or upper flap of the envelop may be of the exact form of the top flap of an ordinary envelop, but the point thereof is preferably cut away to form a curved recess 16, of a width slightly greater than the width of the tab. The top flap is preferably inte-

gral with the body 10 but is adapted to be detached therefrom along a weakened line or line of perforations 17. Extending from this line to the free edge of the flap are two weakened lines or rows of perforations 18, spaced apart a distance slightly greater than the width of the tab, and preferably diverging as they approach the weakened line 17. The outer ends of the weakened lines 18 terminate adjacent the ends of the recess 16, if such recess is provided.

The lower or bottom flap 12 is gummed along its free edge and across the base of the tab, although the tab itself is free from gum or adhesive material. The top flap 13 is gummed along its free edge in the usual manner. The envelop is formed by the folding in of the end flaps 11 and the gumming to them of the bottom flap 12. The tab 14 is folded back upon itself or back upon the top of the lower flap along the weakened line 15, leaving the envelop ready for use in the form shown in Fig. 2. The envelop is sealed in the usual manner, with the top flap gummed to the end flaps 11 and with the portion of the top flap between the lines 18 gummed to the outer surface of the tab adjacent its extremity. The tab is of sufficient length to extend a slight distance beyond the edge of the upper flap when the envelop is sealed, as shown in Fig. 3.

In opening the envelop the end of the tab 14 is raised and serves to tear the upper flap 13 along the lines 18, and itself becomes separated from the bottom 12 along the line 15. When the tab has been detached and the portion of the upper flap between the lines 18 has been separated from the end portions of the upper flap, this central portion is entirely removed by tearing along the line 17. The envelop now presents an opening of a width equal to the distance between the lines 18 and sufficiently large to permit of a cursory inspection of the contents of the envelop and the insertion of the finger or any suitable instrument for opening the envelop without any liability of injuring the contents thereof.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. An envelop having a plurality of flaps, one of said flaps having a tab carried thereby at its free edge and normally folded back upon the body of the flap, and the other of said flaps adapted to be gummed across said folded tab, and having weakened lines ex-

tending inwardly from the free edge thereof and lying upon opposite sides of the tab when the envelop is sealed.

2. An envelop having a flap provided
5 with weakened lines extending inwardly from the free edge thereof, and a tab separate from said flap and adapted to be secured to the portion of the flap between said
10 lines as the envelop is sealed, said tab extending beyond the edge of the flap and serving as means whereby the portion between the weakened lines may be torn away.

3. An envelop blank including a body
15 flaps having a tab separated from the body of

the flap by a weakened line and the other of said flaps having two weakened lines extending inwardly from the free edge thereof and spaced apart a distance approximately as great as the width of said tab, and so dis- 20 posed as to lie upon opposite sides of the tab when the blank is folded to form an envelop.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CLAUDE BATTEY STILLWELL.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. MOZO,
T. T. WILLIAMS.