Dec. 9, 1941. H. A. WOLF 2,265,411

ENVELOPE

Filed April 7, 1939

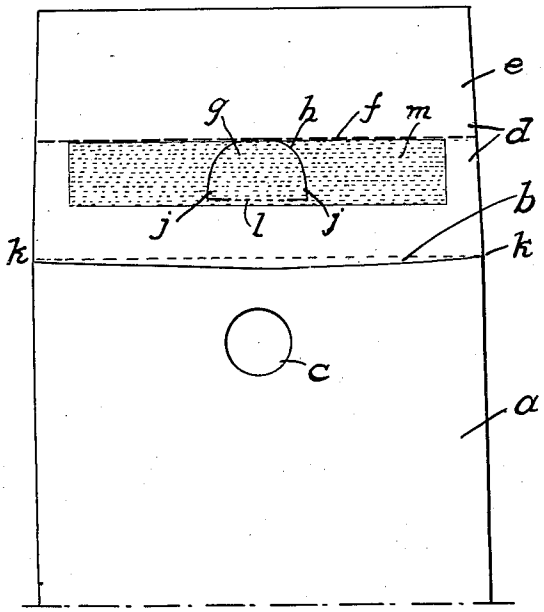


FIG. 1.

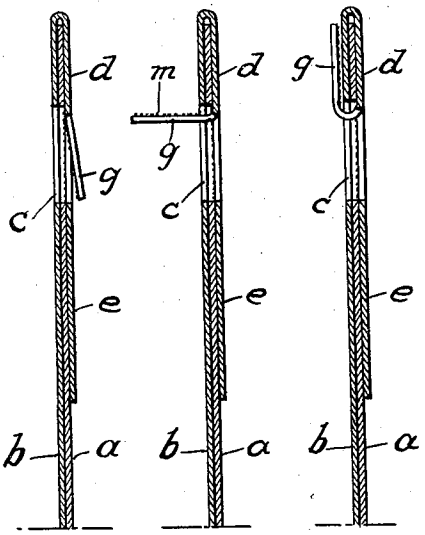


FIG. 4.

FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

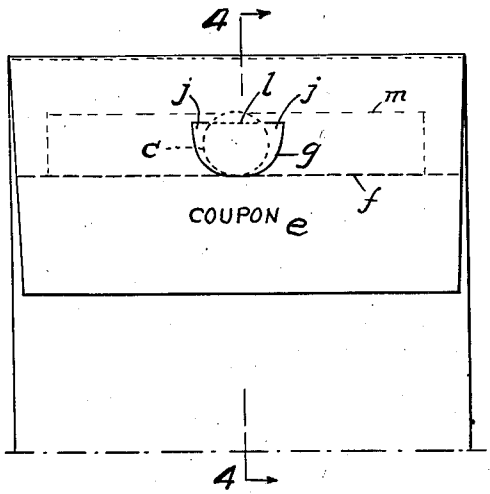


FIG. 2.

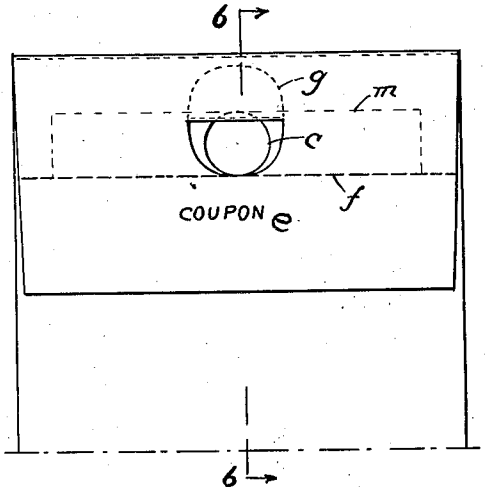


FIG. 3.

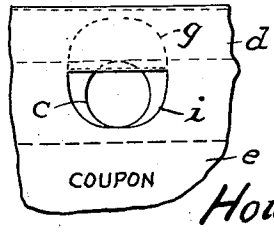


FIG. 7.

WITNESS:

Robt. R. Mitchell.

INVENTOR

Howard A. Wolf.

BY

Burns, Hardung

ATTORNEYS.

Patented Dec. 9, 1941

2,265,411

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,265,411

ENVELOPE

Howard A. Wolf, Philadelphia, Pa., assignor to Louis Wolf, Elias Wolf, Howard A. Wolf, and Walter L. Wolf, copartners trading and doing business as Wolf Brothers, Philadelphia, Pa.

Application April 7, 1939, Serial No. 266,465

2 Claims. (Cl. 229—68)

This invention relates to an improvement in envelopes and more particularly to envelopes adapted for repeated use such as are, for example, used in the photographic trade to initially contain exposed film for processing and finally to contain processed film and prints.

Generally speaking, envelopes according to this invention will be formed of any suitable paper, may be of any desired dimensions and will be provided with identification and with closure means adapted to be releasably locked in closed position and to be sealed repeatedly.

More specifically, according to this invention a closure flap, having a removable extension adapted to serve for identification, will be provided with a tongue adapted to removably engage with the body of the envelope to releasably secure the closure flap in closed position and, at the same time, the tongue and the closure flap independently of the tongue will be gummed, enabling either the tongue or the flap to be independently adhered to the body of the envelope to seal the flap in closed position.

Having now indicated in a general way the nature and purpose of this invention, I will proceed to a detailed description of a preferred embodiment thereof with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a rear view of the upper part of an envelope embodying this invention.

Figure 2 shows the envelope of Figure 1 with the closure flap in closing position.

Figure 3 shows the envelope of Figure 2 with the locking tongue in position to secure the closure flap in closed position.

Figure 4 is a sectional view of the envelope and the closure flap on line **4—4**, Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a sectional view of the envelope and the closure flap showing the locking tongue extended through the body of the envelope.

Figure 6 is a sectional view of the envelope and the closure flap on line **6—6**, Figure 3.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary view showing in detail a modification of the structure shown in Figures 1–6.

In the several figures *a* indicates the back wall and *b* the front wall of the body of an envelope or bag which may be formed of any suitable material, as paper, and in any suitable well known manner. Below the upper edge of the back wall *a* the walls *a* and *b* are provided with aligning apertures *c*. The aligning apertures *c* are shown as circular but, as will appear, they may be of any suitable shape and size.

The front wall *b* is extended to form a closure flap *d* an extension of which in turn forms an identification coupon *e*. A line of perforations or indents *f* defines juncture of the closure flap and the coupon *e* and permits ready removal of the coupon.

A locking tongue *g*, adapted, when the closing flap *d* is folded down against the back wall *a*, on line *k*, *k*, to align with the openings *c*, is formed in the closure flap by slitting the flap, on the lines *h*, from the line of juncture of the flap and coupon, as shown in Figure 1, or wholly within the body of the flap, on the lines *i*, as shown in Figure 7. The locking tongue *g* is formed of a size greater than that of the aligning openings *c* in the walls of the envelope and is provided at its base with oppositely extending ears *j*, *j*. The line of juncture of the locking tongue *g* with the flap *d* is desirably weakened as by perforations or indents *l*.

The inner surface of the locking tongue is coated with an adhesive *m* or gummed. Similarly, an area of the inner surface of the closure flap adjacent its free edge and on opposite sides of the locking tongue is coated with adhesive *m* or gummed. Any suitable substance or composition which will be rendered adhesive by moisture may be used for gumming the locking tongue and flap.

Variously, the adhesive *m* or gumming may, if desired, be omitted from either the locking tongue or the closure flap, or from both.

Again, when desirable for additional strength, the walls of the envelope about the openings *c* and the locking tongue may be reinforced by means of reinforcing material adhered to the walls and tongue.

In using the envelope according to this invention as described above, for example, to contain photographic film for processing and the processed film and prints, the exposed film is placed in the bag, the closure flap *d* and coupon *e* are folded down on line *k*, *k* and the locking tongue *g* flexed through the aligning openings *c* and bent up against the front wall *b*, on the line of perforations or indents *l*, as shown in Figures 5 and 6. The coupon is torn off on the line of perforations or indents *f* and given to the customer for future identification when the processing of the film has been completed.

Obviously, this coupon may contain a number corresponding with a number on the body of the envelope, or any other identifying symbol, the name and address of the customer and any desirable data, advertising matter and what not.

Since the exposed film will be in a roll or pack and will comprise a single article, the closure

flap *d* will be sufficiently secured by the locking tongue *g* for safe transmission of the envelope and its contents to the point where the film will be processed, or storage until processing is begun, when the envelope may be readily opened without any damage to its integrity by merely flexing the locking tongue back through the openings *c*.

When the film has been processed and prints made the separate negatives and prints are returned to the envelope, the closure flap folded down, the locking tongue flexed through the openings *c* and now the adhesive *m* on the locking tongue is moistened and the tongue adhered to the outside of the front wall *b* of the envelope, thus doubly insuring that the closure flap will be retained in closed position for the protection of the several negatives and prints until called for by the customer.

In due course, when the customer presents the identification coupon, the customer will generally desire to examine the contents of the envelope and to such end it will only be necessary to tear the closure flap away from the locking tongue along the line of perforations or indents *l*, thus freeing the flap for ready opening of the envelope.

The contents of the envelope having been examined and returned the closure flap may be again secured, for the continued protection of the contents, by merely moistening the adhesive *m* on the flap and adhering it to the back wall *a*.

As will be obvious, when the envelope is closed the aligning openings *c* will allow passage of a finger or fingers enabling the envelope to be conveniently carried.

It will be appreciated that it is not intended that this invention and the claims appended thereto shall be limited to the specific details of the embodiment described above for illustrative purposes, since various modifications in detail may be made without departing from the scope of the invention.

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

1. An envelope comprising a body having front and back walls provided with aligning openings, a closure flap and a detachable coupon formed by an extension of one of the walls, a retrovertible tongue formed by slitting the closure flap in an area in line with the aligning openings in the front and back walls so that the tongue may be passed through said openings when the closure flap is folded into closing position, a coating of adhesive on the inner surface of the tongue whereby it may be adhered to a wall of the envelope exteriorly thereof and a coating of adhesive on the inner surface of the closure flap whereby it may be adhered to the opposite wall of the envelope exteriorly thereof independently of the tongue, the line of juncture of the tongue with the closure flap being weakened to permit ready separation of the two when the tongue is adhered to a wall of the envelope.

2. An envelope comprising a body having front and back walls provided with aligning openings, a closure flap and a detachable coupon formed by an extension of one of the walls, a retrovertible tongue of larger size than the said aligning openings formed by slitting the closure flap in an area in line with the aligning openings in the front and back walls so that the tongue may be passed through said openings when the closure flap is folded into closing position, a coating of adhesive on the inner surface of the tongue whereby it may be adhered to a wall of the envelope exteriorly thereof and a coating of adhesive on the inner surface of the closure flap whereby it may be adhered to the opposite wall of the envelope exteriorly thereof independently of the tongue, the line of juncture of the tongue with the closure flap being weakened to permit ready separation of the two when the tongue is adhered to a wall of the envelope.

HOWARD A. WOLF.