

(No Model.)

D. B. ANDRUS.

DEVICE FOR MOISTENING AND SEALING ENVELOPS.

No. 581,258.

Patented Apr. 27, 1897.

FIG. 1

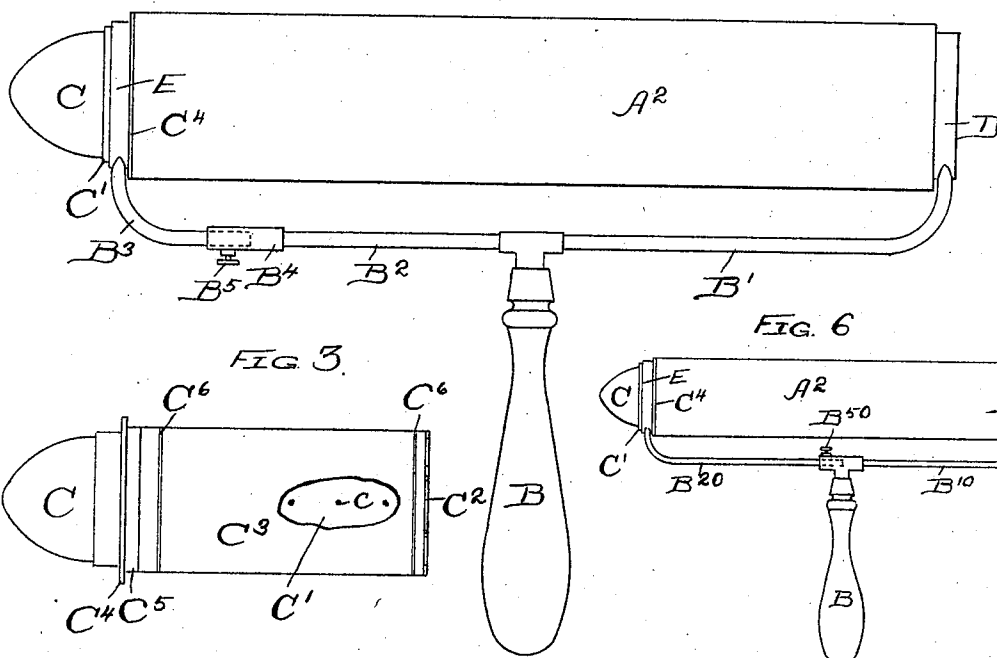


FIG. 3

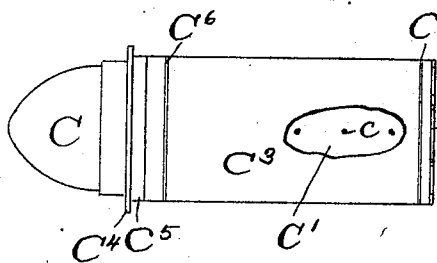


FIG. 6

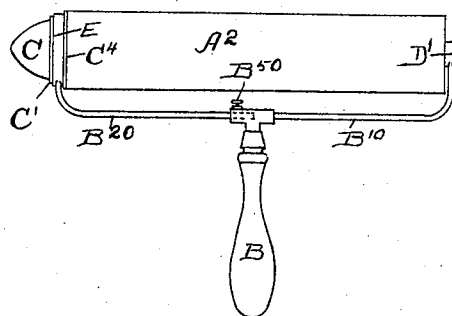


FIG. 2

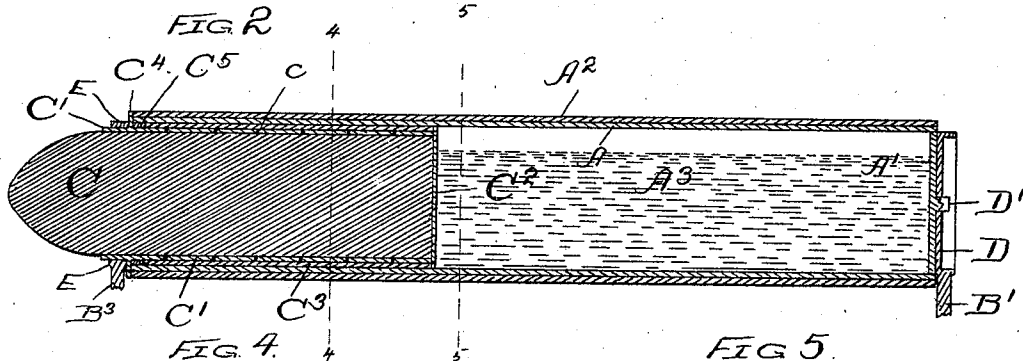
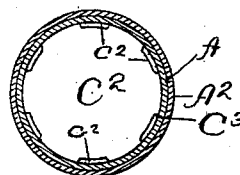
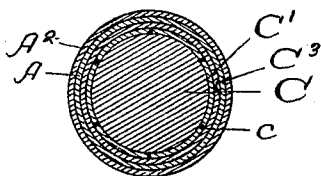


FIG. 4

FIG. 5



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DEVICE FOR MOISTENING AND SEALING ENVELOPS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 581,258, dated April 27, 1897.

Application filed July 22, 1896. Serial No. 600,126. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL B. ANDRUS, a citizen of the United States, residing in Batavia, in the county of Kane and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Devices for Moistening and Sealing Envelops, &c., of which the following is a specification.

It is the object of this invention to furnish a convenient, light, and easily-manipulated hand implement adapted to be used in sealing envelops or attaching stamps or in securing gummed paper to another surface.

The invention consists in the combination of a suitable moistening device, a pressing device preferably in the form of a plane-surfaced roller, and a handle whereby the moistening and pressing devices may be manipulated.

It further consists in the combination, with a presser-roller, of a moistening device supported in the roller, and a handle having bearings for the roller and by means of which the roller may be manipulated.

The invention further consists in a hollow pressing-roller one end of which is adapted to act as a water-chamber, a moistening device inserted in and closing the other end of said roller, and a handle having branching arms in which the roller is journaled, all combined and forming a hand implement adapted to the uses above mentioned.

The invention further consists in the novel construction and combination of parts and devices hereinafter set forth, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings I show at Figure 1 a plan view of my invention; at Fig. 2, a longitudinal section of the roller and moistening device. Fig. 3 is a plan of the moistening device removed from the roller. Figs. 4 and 5 are sections upon the lines 4 4 and 5 5, respectively, of Fig. 2. Fig. 6 is a plan of a modified construction.

In the drawings, A represents a light cylinder, of metal or other suitable material, entirely closed at one end by the head A' and open at the other end. On the outside it is covered with a coating of felt A² or other soft material or cloth. This cylinder forms a pressing-roller adapted to smooth and press the

moistened paper down and cause its attachment to the opposing surface or the body of the envelop; and in order that the roller may be conveniently manipulated and caused to exert the necessary pressure I provide it with a handle B, having two branching arms B' B², in which the roller is journaled, as more particularly set forth hereinafter.

The moistening device consists of a body of felt or other suitable material, (shown at C.) The moistening material is inserted in and preferably fills a short tube or holder C', which is closed at its inner end by a head C² and is perforated throughout its surface, as seen at c, to form openings through which the water with which the open space or chamber A³ of the tube A is charged may find its way to the felt C. The moistener-tube C' is also covered with felt or cloth C³, so as to fill the space between the inner surface of the tube A and the outer surface of the moistener-tube C' without excluding the moisture from the felt. At its outer end the holder C' is provided with an outstanding flange or collar C⁴, adapted to abut against the end of the tube A, and also with a raised surface C⁵, adapted to accurately fit the interior of tube A. This flange and raised surface form a practically water-tight joint with the tube A, so that the implement when not in use may be positioned with the roller lying horizontally, and when in use may be tipped to a vertical position, without danger of leakage in either case. The felt C or other material employed in its stead is firmly compressed within the holder C' as an additional preventive of the loss of water, and it extends through the open end of the holder, as plainly indicated, so that the projecting portion or tip can be brought in contact with the gummed surface of the envelop and moved over the same, imparting moisture thereto as it proceeds. The handle B enables the implement to be used in this manner with facility.

The cloth cover of the holder C' may be secured by fastening-bands C⁶ or in any other suitable way.

The arm B' of the handle is attached to the disk D, having an axial opening which receives the pivotal projection D' upon the head A'. The arm B² is made in two parts, its outer

portion B³ being removable and normally secured in a sleeve B⁴ by a set-screw B⁵. The removable portion B³ is attached to a ring E, which encircles the outer end of the felt-holder C' and sits up against the flange C⁴ of the holder and acts as a bearing for the roller. With this construction it will be seen that the roller will be free to rotate and that it will be securely held in the handle, so that it can be lifted and used both in moistening the gummed flap or surface and in pressing down and smoothing the moistened surface so as to effect its attachment.

The operation of my invention is as follows:

15 The arm B³ being released from the set-screw B⁵ and removed with its band E, the moistening material and its holder are then taken out of the roller and the chamber A³ is charged with water. The moistener is then reinserted in the roller and the band E and arm B³ replaced and secured by tightening the set-screw, and the implement is then ready for use. If an envelop is to be sealed, the operator moves the moistening material over the gummed surface of the flap and then presses the flap down on the body of the envelop by means of the roller, which acts not only to smooth it, but to complete its attachment to the body. If a stamp is to be applied to the envelop, the moistener C is pressed upon that part of the envelop to which it is desired to attach the stamp, and then the stamp may be attached by positioning it and moving the roller over it.

5 The head C² of the holder C' fits the interior of the roller-tube, but is preferably not fitted so tight as to exclude the passage of water from chamber A³ to the exterior covering of the holder. If a sufficient supply of water cannot be obtained in this way, the head C² may be cut away for portions of its periphery at c², or other openings therein may be provided, so as to give the needed supply to keep the moistener in condition for use at all times.

5 When my improved moistening and sealing implement is not in use, it may occupy a position upon the table or stand with the roller lying horizontally. In this position the pressure of the water in the water-chamber will be slight, because the diameter of the chamber is limited as compared with its length, and consequently even if the chamber is full the pressure of the water will be slight. When, however, the implement is tipped up endwise in moistening the gummed paper, the pressure of the water toward the moistener will be increased, because of its greater depth, and some impelling force will also be added to it by the tipping movement. It will thus be seen that the supply of water to the moistener will increase and decrease in the ratio of the use. Should the moistener become too dry during periods of non-use, it may be recharged by holding the implement for a short time with the moistener pointing down.

The outer end of the moistener is made in

conical form, as illustrated, in order to reduce the liability of the water dripping from it should it become surcharged.

In the modified construction shown at Fig. 6 the entire arm B³⁰, corresponding to B³ and B³ of Fig. 1, is made removable and is secured by a set-screw B⁵⁰ or equivalent fastener directly to the handle. The arm B¹⁰, corresponding to the arm B' of the other figure, instead of being secured to a disk D is extended beyond the axis D of the roller and is flattened and perforated to receive the axis.

While the construction I have shown is the best now known to me, it will be understood that it may be considerably varied without departing from the spirit of the invention, and I therefore do not wish to be limited in my claims to the construction illustrated.

The covering of the presser-roller is of felt or some similar material and is adapted to act as a cushion upon the surface to be sealed by pressing together irregular surfaces, as, for instance, envelops containing pins or hard substances which would prevent a hard-surfaced roller from perfectly accomplishing the work, and also to absorb while passing over the surface any surplus moisture which may be left in the process of sealing, thus preventing damage to or soiling any surface with which it may come in contact.

I claim—

1. A hand implement for sealing envelops, &c., consisting of a moistening device and a pressure device having an internal reservoir for the water-supply of the moisture in combination with a handle whereby they may be manipulated, substantially as specified.

2. A hand implement for sealing envelops, &c., consisting of a moistening device and a pressure-roller having an internal reservoir for the water-supply of the moisture in combination with a handle whereby they may be manipulated, substantially as specified.

3. A hand implement for sealing envelops, &c., consisting of a moistening device and a pressure-roller in combination with a handle whereby they may be manipulated, said moistening device being carried in said roller, substantially as specified.

4. The hand implement for sealing envelops, &c., consisting of a roller adapted to hold water, a moistening device carried in said roller, and a handle in which the roller is journaled, substantially as specified.

5. The hand implement for sealing envelops, &c., consisting of a hollow roller closed at one end, a moistening device closing the other end of the roller and kept wet by water confined in the roller, and a handle in which the roller is journaled, substantially as specified.

6. The hand implement for sealing envelops, &c., consisting of a hollow roller adapted to hold water, a moistening device and holder therefor, inserted axially in the roller, and kept charged by the water therein, and a handle having branching arms in which the roller

is journaled at its ends, substantially as specified.

7. The hand implement for sealing envelopes, &c., consisting of a hollow roller adapted to hold water, a moistening device and holder therefor, inserted axially in the roller, and kept charged by the water therein, and a handle having branching arms in which the roller is journaled at its ends, one of the journals being removable, substantially as specified.

8. The hand implement for sealing envelopes, &c., consisting of a hollow roller adapted to hold water, a moistener removably held in one end of the said roller, and a handle having branching arms in which the roller is journaled at its ends, the journal at the moistener end being also removable, substantially as specified.

9. The combination of a presser-roller made hollow and adapted to hold water, means whereby said roller may be manipulated in sealing the envelop and a moistening device closing one end of the roller, and shutting off leakage, substantially as specified.

10. The combination with the presser-roller of the moistener C, a holder for such moistener having a head C^2 cut away at c^2 and having the perforations, c , and also covered with cloth C^3 , substantially as specified.

11. In a machine or implement for sealing envelopes, &c., the combination of a presser-roller, a moistening device supported in said roller, and a handle for operating the roller, substantially as specified.

12. The implement for moistening and sealing envelopes, &c., consisting of a suitable handle and a pressure-roller or device having a moistener at one end and also having its water-supply located relative to the moistener as set forth, so that the water will be

impelled toward the moistener when the implement is tipped in the act of moistening the paper.

13. The implement for moistening and sealing envelopes, &c., consisting of a suitable handle and a pressure-roller or device adapted to occupy a horizontal position when not in use, said roller having an interior water-chamber, and a moistener located in the end of said roller and in communication with said water-chamber, whereby the endwise tipping of the implement in moistening the paper will increase the supply of water to the moistener.

14. The implement for moistening and sealing envelopes &c., consisting of a horizontal cylinder adapted to be rolled over the envelop-flap in sealing, and having a suitable handle whereby it may be manipulated, said roller also having a reservoir in one end and a moistener with a conical outer extremity at the other end, substantially as specified.

15. As a new article of manufacture, a device for sealing envelopes &c., embodying a dry-surfaced fountain-roller, a handle whereby the roller may be manipulated and a moistener projecting axially from the roller, substantially as specified.

16. In a device for moistening and sealing envelopes, &c., a moistener-holder perforated exteriorly and covered with cloth C^3 , and a water-supply admitting the water to the moistener through said cover in combination with an imperforate cylinder covering the perforated portion of the holder, substantially as specified.

DANIEL B. ANDRUS.

Witnesses:

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ALBERT E. SNOW.