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CLASP FOR ENVELOPES AND THE LIKE

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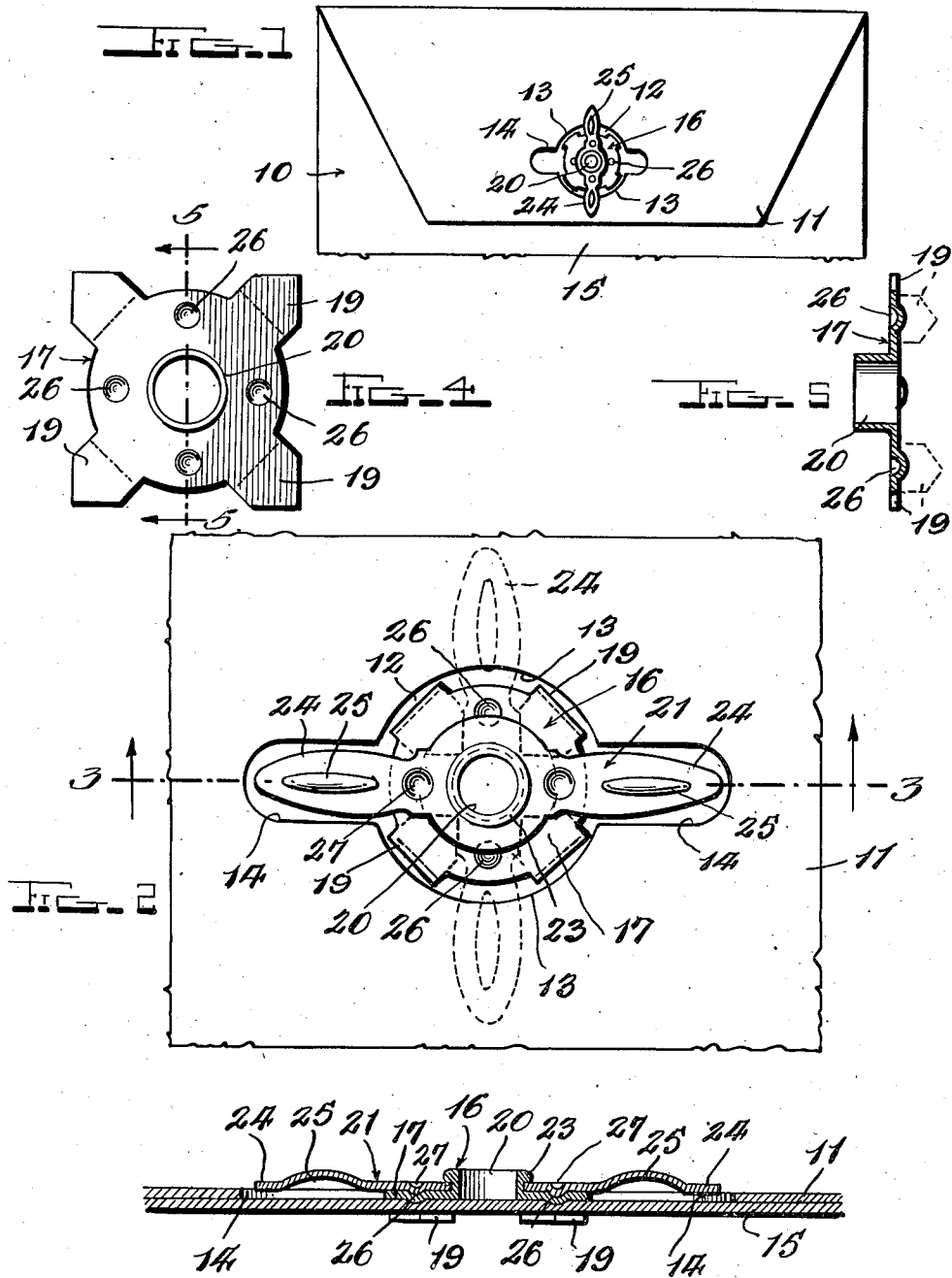


FIG. 3

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CLASP FOR ENVELOPES AND THE LIKE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 229—78)

This invention relates to a clasp for envelopes and like closures and it consists in the constructions, arrangements and combinations herein described and claimed.

It is a particular object of the invention to provide a clasp device which may be repeatedly actuated to permit opening and closing of an envelope flap, without liability of breakage of the clasp.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a clasp which will effectively secure the envelope flap against accidental opening and maintain the flap in proper closed relation with respect to the envelope per se.

It is a still further object of the invention to provide a clasp which may be stamped from sheet metal and which may be readily incorporated upon an envelope, portfolio or the like with but slight change in the envelope, etc.

Additional objects, advantages and features of invention will be apparent from the following description, considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein,

Figure 1 is a fragmentary rear plan view of an envelope having my clasp installed thereon, in closed position.

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary plan view of an envelope illustrating the clasp in open position, the closed position being indicated in dotted lines.

Figure 3 is a cross section on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of an anchor plate employed in the clasp.

Figure 5 is a vertical section on the line 5—5 of Figure 4.

There is illustrated a fragmentary portion of an envelope 10 of usual construction, embodying a closure flap 11, at one end, although this construction is not arbitrary, since the clasp may be readily installed upon portfolios in which oppositely swinging closures are employed, and since these are well known and widely used, detailed showing is not believed necessary.

The flap 11, in the present instance, is provided with a medial arcuate shaped opening 12 defined by upper and lower semi-circular edges 13, the terminals of which join respective upper and lower edges of laterally disposed slots 14.

Upon the back portion 15 of the envelope, the clasp 16 is secured, positioned so as to be readily received within the arcuate shaped opening and slots when the flap 11 is brought into closed relation with the back of the envelope.

The clasp 16 consists of an anchor member 17, which as clearly shown in Figures 4 and 5, com-

prises a metallic plate substantially circular in plan from which radially extended prongs 19 are extended. The prongs are arranged in diametrically opposite pairs and are bent at right angles to the plate, so that the prongs may be readily inserted through the back portion 15 of the envelope. After insertion in the back portion, the prongs 19 are bent inwardly so as to extend parallel with the back portion and beneath the anchor plate 17. In the clinched position of the prongs, the anchor member will be securely fixed to the back portion.

Medially of the anchor plate 17 there is formed an integral annular collar 20 adapted to rotatably mount a resilient clasp arm 21, which is formed with a hub 22 to receive the collar therethrough. The upper end of the collar is peened or otherwise upset as indicated at 23 so as to retain the arm thereon. It should be noted that the plate 17 is of the same thickness as the material forming the flap 11 so that the clasp arm 21 may clear the latter, yet lie in snug engagement therewith when in closed position.

The anchor plate 17 is positioned medially of the arcuate-shaped opening 12, and the arm 21 is of a length slightly less than that of the slots 14 so that the flap 11 may be readily moved into position over the arm 21.

The arm 21 in the present instance, is formed in the general shape of an aeroplane propeller, respective blade members 24 being integrally formed with the hub. Extending longitudinally of each blade there is a raised rib 25 which will permit ready grasp for effecting rotation of the arm to secure or release the closure flap.

In order that the arm 21 may be retained in its desired position, the anchor plate is provided with four circular recesses 26 equally spaced between respective pairs of prongs, and circumferentially arranged so as to register and engage with a similarly shaped nib 27 formed in each arm 21.

The closure of an envelope or the like may be quickly effected by merely turning the arm 21 so as to extend across the opening 12 and when one of the nibs 27 engages within respective recesses 26 it will be firmly held against accidental movement. However, due to the resilience of the arm, it may be readily sprung to release the nibs so that the arm may be moved as desired.

The present showing of the clasp has been greatly enlarged for the sake of clearness, and obviously the parts may be manufactured in such proportions as to avoid any undue thickness and weight.

While I have shown and described my clasp

with great particularity in the best form in which I have thus far embodied it, it will nevertheless be understood that various modifications in construction, arrangement and combination of parts, substitution of materials may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention as may be more fully determined from the claims hereto appended.

I claim:

1. A closure fastener for envelopes and the like comprising in combination with a body and closure flap, said closure flap having an arcuate medial opening and lateral elongated slots, an anchor plate having prong elements for securement to the body, an annular collar on the anchor plate, an arm rotatably mounted on the collar, said arm being of a length less than that of the lateral slots for reception therewithin, and having raised ribs adjacent respective ends, a plurality of spaced recesses being formed in the

anchor plate, and said arm having a pair of ribs complementary to said recesses when the arm is moved to a position within the slots or transversely of the medial arcuate opening.

2. A closure fastener for envelopes and the like comprising in combination with a body and closure flap, said closure flap having an arcuate medial opening and lateral elongated slots, an anchor plate having prong elements for securement to the body, an arm rotatably mounted on the anchor plate, said arm being of a length less than that of the lateral slots for reception therewithin, and having raised ribs adjacent respective ends, a plurality of spaced recesses being formed in the anchor plate, and said arm having a pair of ribs complementary to said recesses when the arm is moved to a position within the slot or transversely of the medial arcuate opening.

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