Oct. 11, 1927. 1,645,073

W. F. SCHWEIGER

STAMP AFFIXING MACHINE

Filed Oct. 11, 1924

Fig. 1

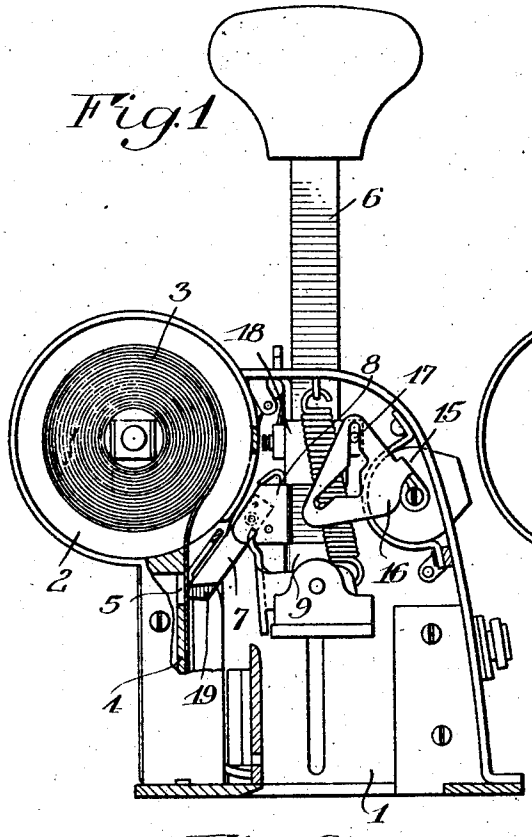


Fig. 2

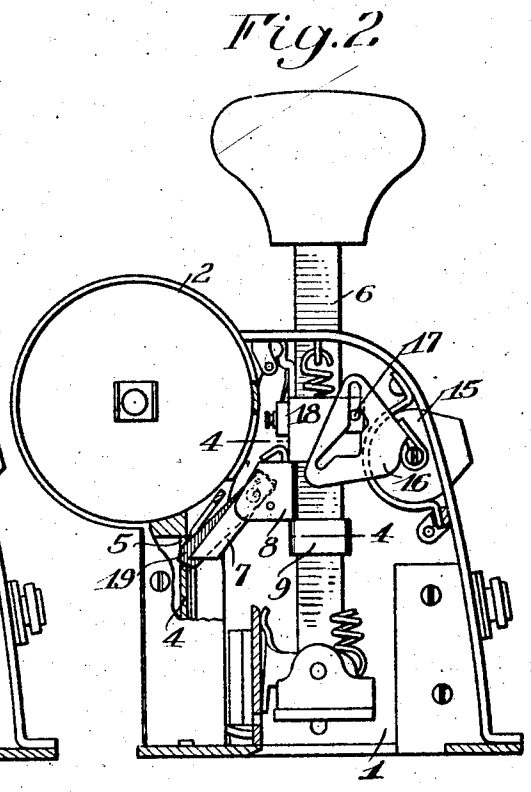


Fig. 3

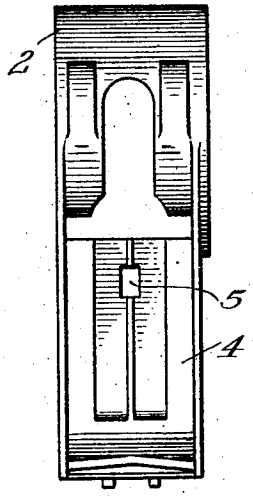
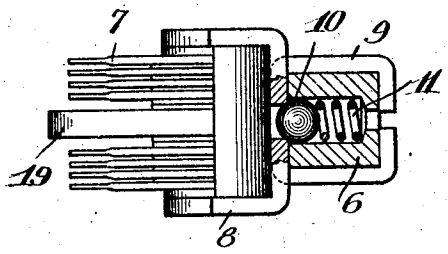


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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STAMP-AFFIXING MACHINE.

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The invention relates to a stamp affixing machine, and more particularly to the class of machines involving a stamp strip in the form of a roll, strip feeding instrumentalities operated by a plunger that is depressed to successively feed the strip, sever the stamp, and affix it to an envelope, and a counting device that is controlled through downward movement of the plunger.

The function of the counting device is to inform the operator of the total number of stamps used, and this is accomplished by recording the number of operations of the plunger, but the plunger may be operated after the stamp strip is exhausted and the object of the invention is to afford mechanism that will automatically prevent operation of the counting device after the stamp strip is exhausted.

A further purpose of the invention is to automatically lock the strip feeding instrumentalities against movement, when the stamp strip is exhausted, thereby preventing unnecessary wear and tear on the delicate parts of the machine, if the plunger is operated with no stamps in the machine.

An additional object of the improvement is to provide an arrangement whereby the stamp strip feeding instrumentalities and the actuator for the counting device are mounted upon the plunger and movable therewith while the stamp strip is feeding, but are automatically locked against movement when the stamp strip is exhausted, through the instrumentality of a locking member that is held out of locking position by the stamp strip and released when the latter is exhausted.

To these ends, the invention comprises the construction that will appear more clearly from the following description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, the novel features being pointed out in the claims following the description.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view of a stamp affixing machine, illustrating the application of a preferred embodiment of the invention, and showing the parts in normal or uppermost position;

Figure 2 is a similar view showing the position of the parts when the stamp strip is exhausted and the plunger has been depressed;

Figure 3 is a side elevation of a portion of the housing, and

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view on line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, in which like reference characters throughout the several views indicate the same parts, 1 indicates a housing and 2 the removable stamp roll containing chamber of the well known "multipost" machine, while 3 is a stamp strip which passes downwardly over the guide plate 4 the latter having an opening or recess 5 therein for a purpose that will appear presently.

6 designates the operating plunger having mounted thereon the usual strip feeding, stamp severing, and stamp affixing instrumentalities. The stamp strip feeding instrumentalities includes fingers 7 pivotally supported on a carrier 8 that is mounted upon the plunger 6 and normally movable therewith. To this end, the carrier 8 includes arms 9 which embrace the plunger 6 while 10 is a ball mounted in an opening in the plunger and engaging a recess in the carrier, the carrier being held frictionally engaged with the plunger by means of the spring 11 which holds the ball 10 in tight relationship to the carrier.

This arrangement permits a relative movement between the strip feeding instrumentalities and the plunger in order to permit the latter to move downwardly to sever and affix the stamp, after the strip has been fed a sufficient distance to eject a stamp. The strip feeding instrumentalities thus far described are shown in prior patents and form no part of the present invention, except in so far as they are combined with the mechanism now to be described.

15 designates a counting device for indicating the number of stamps that are used, and including a cam plate 16. The latter is controlled by an actuator, which comprises a pin 17 mounted upon a plate 18 which is a part of or fixedly connected to the aforementioned carrier 8. With this arrangement, when the plunger 6 is depressed, carrying with it the carrier 8 and plate 18, the counting device is operated during such downward travel of the plunger 6. The plunger can be depressed after the stamp strip is exhausted, and it is desirable to prevent operation of the strip feeding fingers and the counting device after the stamp strip is exhausted, even though the plunger is depressed, as otherwise the machine can be

abused and correct counting of the stamps cannot be had.

To accomplish this, I employ means for automatically locking the strip feeding instrumentalities and actuator against movement when the stamp strip is exhausted. This can be done in different ways, and one means includes a locking member or dog 19 mounted upon the carrier preferably intermediate the feeding fingers 7, as shown in Figure 4, and spring pressed toward the stamp strip. The locking dog 19 is held in unlocking position, as shown in Figure 1, by the stamp strip while the latter is feeding past the locking member, but upon exhaustion of the stamp strip, downward movement of the plunger 6 brings the dog 19 opposite to the opening 5 in the guide plate 4, and the spring actuated dog then enters the opening, in the manner shown in Figure 2.

This locks the carrier 8 against downward movement so that no matter how many times the plunger 6 may be thereafter operated, no further downward movement of the carrier 8 with the strip feeding fingers and counter actuator can be effected as long as there are no stamps in the machine and the counting device cannot register until a fresh stamp roll is inserted.

While the invention has been disclosed with reference to a particular embodiment, it is not confined to the parts herein recited, and the improvements may be adapted in a practical way to other arrangements without departing from the underlying purpose of the invention or scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a stamp affixing machine, the combination with reciprocatory stamp strip feeding instrumentalities, and a reciprocatory plunger controlling the same and operating to feed a stamp strip during its downward movement, a counting device, an actuator for the counting device mounted on the plunger, and means carried by the plunger and acting automatically to lock the actuator against movement when the stamp strip is exhausted.

2. In a stamp affixing machine, the combination with a reciprocatory plunger, of a carrier mounted on the plunger, stamp strip feeding fingers pivotally arranged on the carrier and acting to feed a stamp strip during downward movement of the plunger and carrier, a counting device, an actuator for the counting device mounted on the carrier, a locking member pivoted on the carrier, and a guide plate for the stamp strip having an opening to receive the locking member and retain the actuator against movement when the stamp strip is exhausted.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name.

WILLIAM F. SCHWEIGER.