H. L. LOFT.

FILING ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 20, 1913.

1,149,657. Patented Aug. 10, 1915.

FIG. 4.

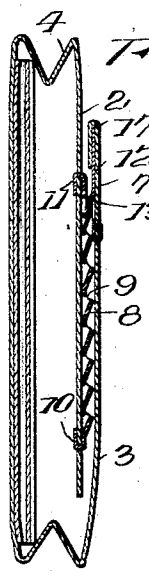


FIG. 7.

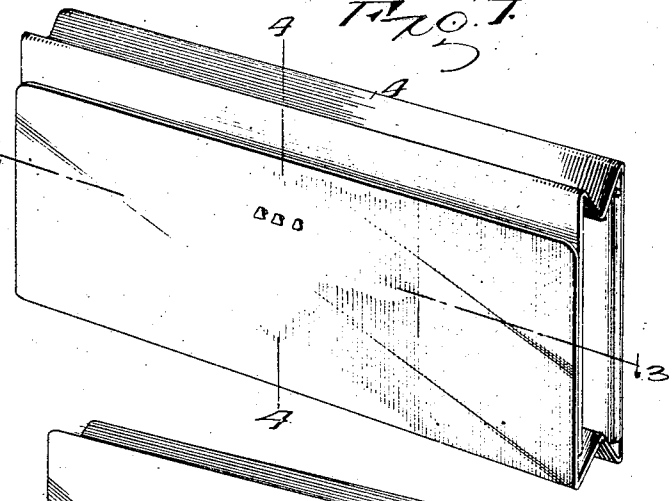


FIG. 5.

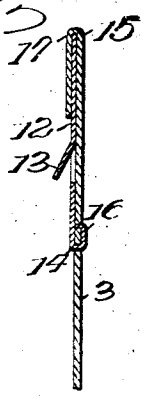


FIG. 2.

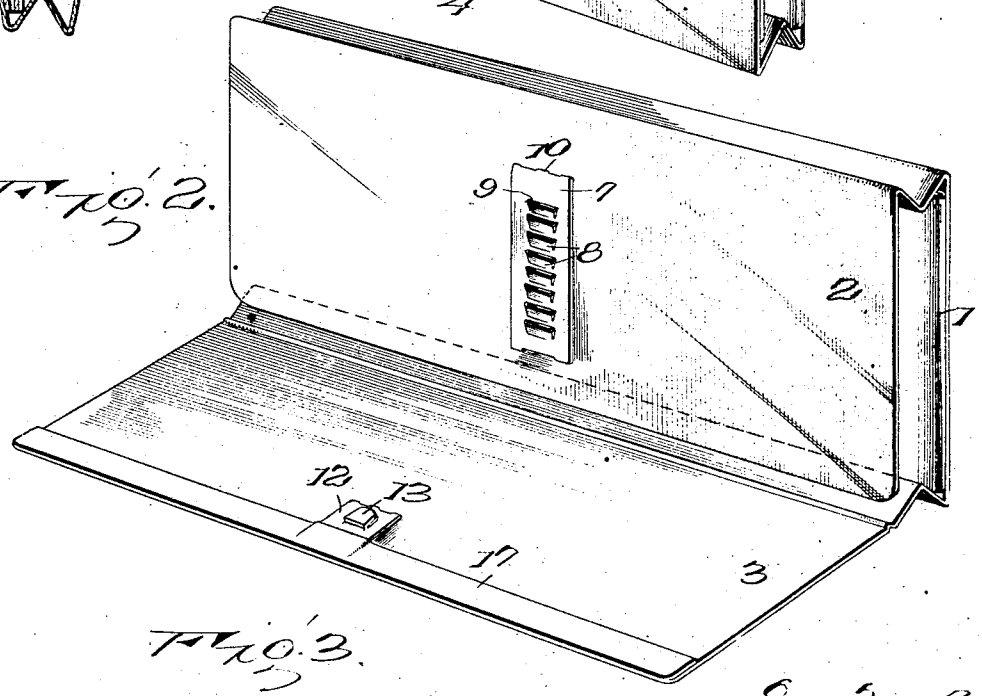
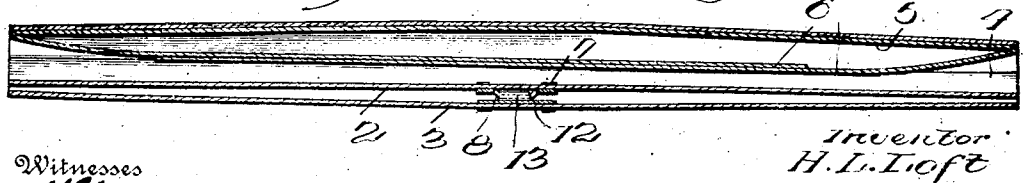


FIG. 3.



Witnesses

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FILING-ENVELOP.

1,149,657. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 10, 1915.

Application filed October 20, 1913. Serial No. 796,291.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY L. LOFT, citizen of the United States, residing at Cherokee, in the county of Cherokee and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Filing-Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to expansible filing envelops and has as one of its objects to provide an envelop of this class which will automatically lock when closed about the papers disposed therein and which will accommodate itself, also automatically, to the bulk of its contents.

Another aim of the invention is to so construct the clasp for holding the envelop closed that it will not be exposed to view even though the contents of the envelop are bulky, and will not embody any parts projecting beyond the exterior surface of the envelop in position liable to interfere with the filing of the envelop with others of its kind nor to tear or catch in the lining of one's pocket if the envelop is carried about.

The invention further has as it object to so construct the clasp for closing it that the envelop will not be bulged at the point of location of the clasp.

Another object of the invention is to so construct the members of the clasp that the interengaging elements thereof will be adapted to wedge more tightly as the contents bulge the envelop so that when the envelop has been folded tightly about its contents and the members comprising the clasp have become interlocked, there will be little or no likelihood of the envelop accidentally opening.

The invention still further aims to so construct the members of the clasp and to so secure the same to the envelop that even though the contents of the envelop exert a considerable outward pressure against the sides thereof, the clasp members will not be liable to be torn loose.

In short, the invention aims to provide a filing envelop which may be readily closed about its contents, which will automatically lock as it is closed, which will be free from surface projections, and which will obviate the employment of rubber bands, tying tapes, bulky fastening or closing devices, and the like, and which, while simple and durable in construction, may be manufactured and sold at a reasonable cost.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of the filing envelop of the present invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view but showing the envelop partly open. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view through the tongue member of the clasp.

In the drawings the envelop is illustrated as formed from a folded blank and the front of the envelop is indicated by the numeral 1, the back by the numeral 2, and the closure flap by the numeral 3. The sides of the envelop may be of bellows formation as indicated at 4, or plain or folded as desired, and the envelop is preferably provided upon the inner side of its front 1 with a strip 5 of greater length than the envelop, the end portions of the strip being folded back to form closure flaps 6 designed to inclose the ends of the folded papers placed within the envelop and thereby prevent the loss of the papers.

By reference to the drawings, it will be understood that the papers to be filed within the envelop are placed upon the strip 5 and the closure flaps 6 are then folded over the ends of the papers, after which the back 2 is folded down upon the said flaps and finally the closure flap 3 is folded down against the back, the automatic clasp embodying the present invention and the members of which are carried by the back 2 and flap 3, acting automatically to lock the closure flap 3 in position against the back 2 when the envelop is closed.

The clasp embodying the present invention includes a keeper member and a tongue member adapted to coöperate therewith. The keeper member comprises a plate 7 which is preferably rectangular and of relatively thin sheet metal and this plate is stamped with a series of teeth 8 extending longitudinally of the plate, the teeth themselves extending transversely and projecting slightly above the upper surface of the plate.

In the stamping operation the plate is slit transversely at intervals and the metal between the slits is pressed up so that a slot is formed at the forward or engaging side of each tooth, as indicated by the numeral 9, the body portions of the teeth being located in upwardly inclined planes and the upper or engaging edges of the teeth being all presented in the same direction and toward that end of the plate which is located

the more remote from the free edge of the back 2 when the plate is secured to the said back. By reference to the drawings it will be observed that the teeth at their ends or sides are integral with the plate or, in other words, there are no incisions at the sides of the teeth and thus the slots 9 are closed at their ends, by reason of which construction a useful purpose is subserved, as will be presently pointed out. In order that the keeper plate may be secured to the back 2 of the envelop the plate 7 is provided at each end with spurs 10 which are driven through the back and are overturned as indicated by the numeral 11. The tongue member of the clasp comprises a plate 12 which is stamped up about its middle to form a tongue 13 projecting upwardly at an angle from the upper side of the plate. The plate 12 is provided at one end with spurs 14 corresponding to the spurs 10 but at its other end is devoid of any such fastening elements. In securing the plate to the closure flap 3 the plate is disposed in the position shown in the drawings with its edge 15 spaced a short distance from the free edge of the closure flap and the spurs 14 are then driven through the flap and overturned, as indicated by the numeral 16. The edge portion of the closure flap is then folded over and glued along its entire length to the inner side of the body portion of the flap and the line of fold is coincident with the edge 15 of the plate 12 so that this edge bears directly in the fold and the portion of the plate between the base of the tongue 13 and the said edge 15 is covered by the folded over edge portion of the flap and securely held between the same and the inner side of the body portion of the flap. It will now be apparent that as the envelop is closed about its contents the tongue 13 will ride over the teeth 8 and when the envelop has been tightly drawn and then released, the tongue will engage beneath one of the teeth 8 and the closure flap will be securely locked in closed position. It will be furthermore apparent that inasmuch as the body portions of the teeth are inclined as is also the tongue 13, the tongue will wedge beneath the teeth and will more firmly engage as the outward pressure of the contents of the envelop increases. It is to be noted that the strain upon the tongue is in such direction as to tend to pull the plate 12 toward the free edge of the closure flap but it will be understood that the plate is securely held against being torn loose due to the fact that its edge 15 seats directly in the fold indicated in the drawings by the numeral 17 and consequently the spurs 14 will be relieved of strain to a considerable extent.

As before stated, the slots 9 are closed at their ends due to the fact that the sides of the teeth are integral with the plate 7 and as a consequence the tongue 13 is prevented from lateral displacement from the teeth so that should the contents of the envelop be more bulky at one end than at the other, the clasp will symmetrically bulge the walls of the envelop. It is furthermore to be observed that the tongue 13 is spaced inwardly from the free edge of the closure flap so that when it is desired to open the envelop the thumb may be inserted beneath the projecting edge portion of the flap and the same turned in a direction away from the back 2 so as to rock the tongue out of engagement with the teeth upon the keeper plate. Furtheremore, due to the fact that the tongue is spaced inwardly from the edge of the flap 3, the envelop may be extended to its fullest extent before any of the teeth 8 will be exposed. There is, therefore, a distinct advantage in having the tongue so located as distinguished from a structure in which the tongue would be located directly at the edge of the flap. Not only does the folded over edge portion of the flap 3 serve as a means to secure one end of the plate 12 in place but the folded over portion furthermore reinforces the edge of the flap throughout its entire length and, therefore, there is little likelihood that the corners of the flap will be bent over or broken or interfere with the proper filing of the envelop with others of its kind.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. The combination with an envelop having overlapped inner and outer closing portions, of a clasp including a member carried by the inner closing portion and a member carried by the outer closing portion, the members having coöperating locking elements and the body portion of the member carried by the outer closing portion comprising a plate secured at its end to said closing portion, the outer edge of said closing portion being folded over and securing the outer end of the plate and the locking element of said member rising therefrom between the ends thereof.

2. The combination with an envelop having overlapped closing portions, of a clasp including members carried by the said closing portions and having coöperating locking elements, the free edge of one of the closing portions being folded over and secured to one face thereof and the clasp member carried thereby comprising a plate having its outer end seated in the fold of the said closing portion and overlapped by the said folded free edge, and its inner end constructed with fastening elements inserted through and secured to the closing portion of the envelop, and the locking element of said member projecting therefrom between the ends of the same.

3. The combination with an envelop hav-

ing overlapped closing portions, of a keeper member secured upon one of the said portions and having a series of teeth, and a plate secured upon the other portion and having its outer end approximately coincident with the free edge of the said portion and provided between its ends with a tongue presented in a direction away from the said edge, the inner end of the plate being formed with securing devices inserted through and secured to the said closing portion, and the said tongue being engageable with the teeth of the keeper member, the free edge of the closing portion being doubled whereby to inclose and secure the outer end of the plate.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY L. LOFT. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
JAMES PAYTON,
CLAUDE M. SULLIVAN.