No. 841,699. PATENTED JAN. 22, 1907.

R. R. LAWSON.

CLOSURE FOR ENVELOPS AND PACKAGE WRAPS.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 9, 1904.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

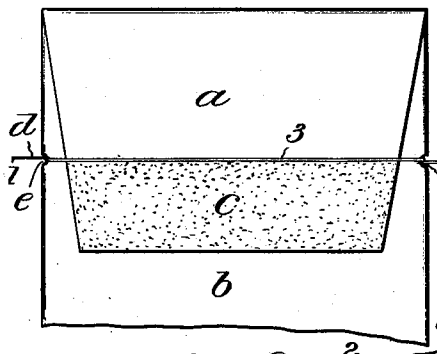


Fig. 3.

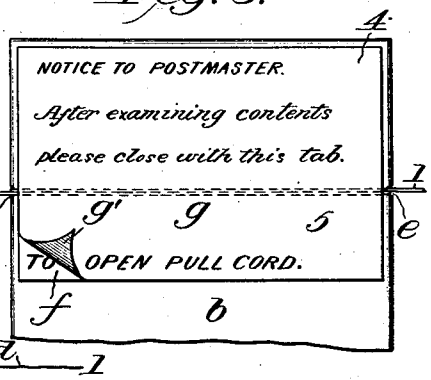


Fig. 4.



Fig. 2.

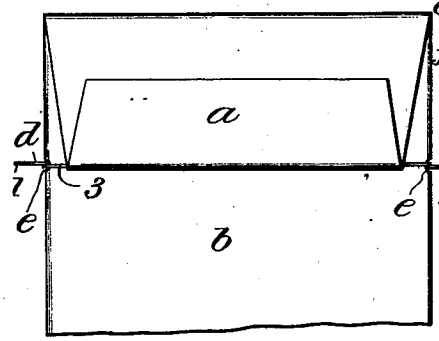
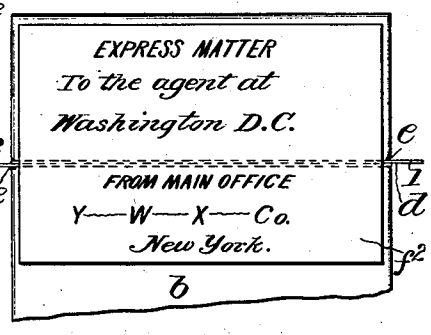


Fig. 6.



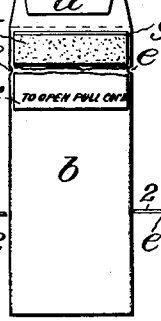
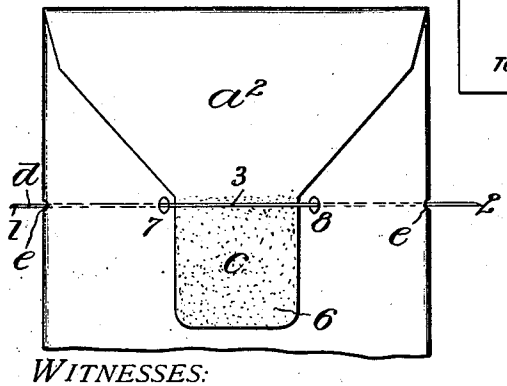


Fig. 5.

Fig. 8.



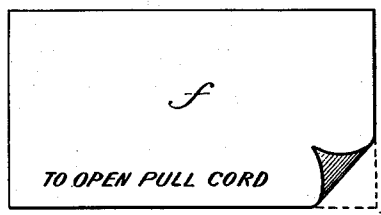
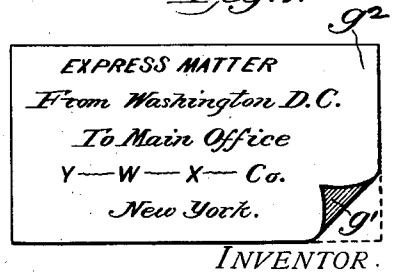


Fig. 7.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 9.

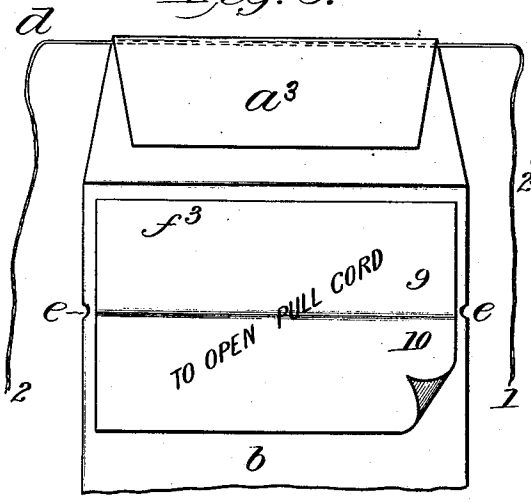


Fig. 10.

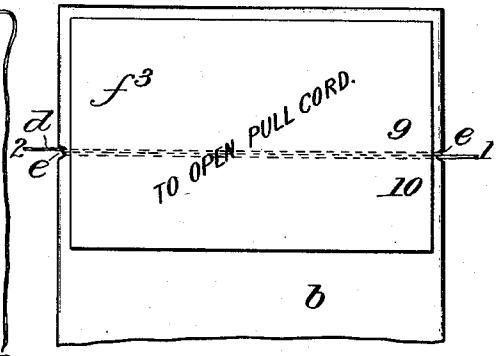


Fig. 11.

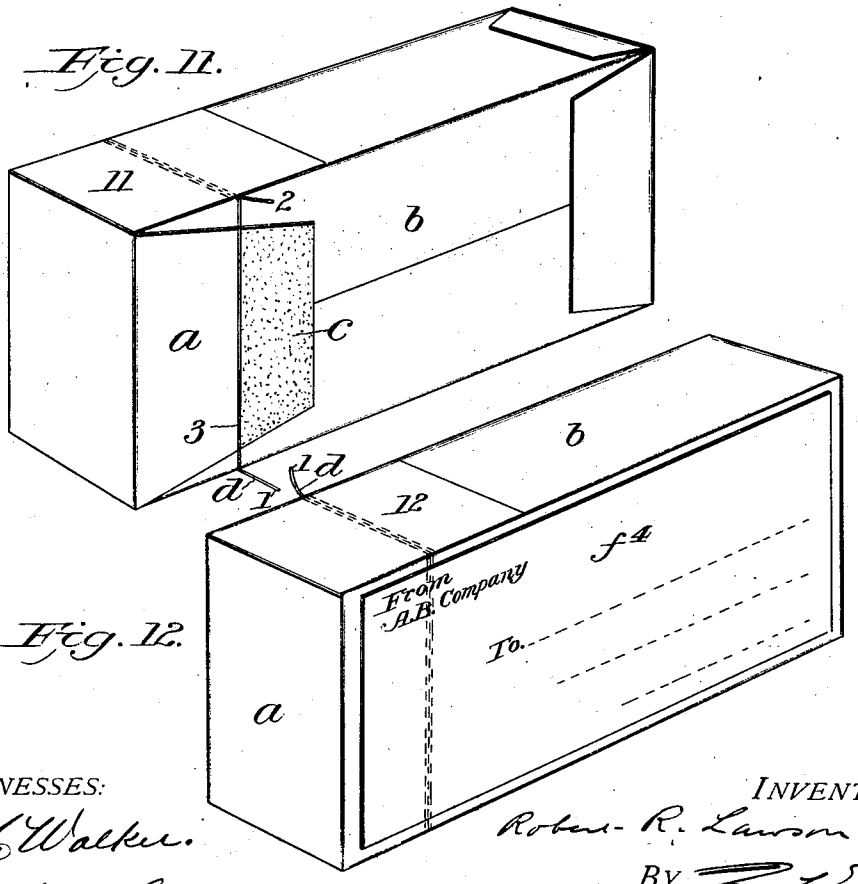


Fig. 12.

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CLOSURE FOR ENVELOPS AND PACKAGE-WRAPS.

No. 841,699. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 22, 1907.

Application filed September 9, 1904. Serial No. 223,918.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT R. LAWSON, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of the borough of Brooklyn, New York city, in the State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Closures for Envelops and Package-Wraps, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to what may be termed "string" or "cord" closures; and it consists in a novel device adapted to be incorporated in an envelop for mail or express matter or in a wrap for boxes and other packages, as hereinafter set forth and claimed.

The leading objects of the present invention are to facilitate quickly unfastening and securely resealing such envelops and wraps by means of one and the same cord closure, to adapt the same to be made with the main flap integral with the body of the envelop or wrap, and in the preferred species to obviate tying the cord in the operation of sealing or resealing the closure.

Two sheets of drawings accompany this specification as part thereof.

Figures 1 and 2 are back views of the closure end of an envelop or package-wrap primarily designed for fourth-class mail-matter, showing the closure respectively ready for sealing and sealed. Fig. 3 is a face view of the same envelop or wrap as it leaves the sender. Fig. 4 is a small scale face view of the unfastened envelop or wrap. Fig. 5 represents the gummed sheet or paster partly exposed in Fig. 3. Fig. 6 is a face view of the closure end of an express-envelop constituting a second species. Fig. 7 is a face view of a resealing-paster used in connection with the closure represented by Fig. 6. Fig. 8 is a back view of the closure end of another envelop or package-wrap, illustrating a third species. Figs. 9 and 10 are face views of the closure end of another envelop or wrap, illustrating a fourth species and showing the closure respectively before and after the sealing operation. Figs. 11 and 12 are perspective views of a box-wrap provided with the improved closure, showing, respectively, the back and the front of the same as it appears before sealing.

Like reference letters and numbers indicate like parts in all the figures.

The improved closure in all its forms comprises a main flap a or a^2 or a^3, integral with the body b of the envelop or wrap and adapted to be folded upon itself and permanently secured in folded condition by adhesive gum or paste, (represented at c in Fig. 1,) the envelop or wrap being of any of the foldable materials ordinarily employed for such articles. The flap a is intended to be gummed, as above, at the factory, so as to be self-sealing. Said main flap a or a^2 or a^3 is preferably and conveniently formed in continuation of the front of an open-ended envelop or wrap at the open end thereof and coacts with a string or cord d, embracing the end of the envelop or wrap or a sufficient portion thereof with or without the aid of notches e in the edges of the envelop or wrap to locate the cord and having its ends 1 and 2 secured by a paster f or f^2 or f^3 or f^4, of thinner material than the body b or material that can easily be torn, as thin paper gummed on one side and adhesively attached to the front of the envelop or wrap.

In the several species represented by Figs. 1 to 8, inclusive, and Figs. 11 and 12 the cord d is drawn across the back of the envelop or wrap at the closure end to form a keeper 3, and the ends 1 and 2 are drawn across the front in opposite directions and stretched side by side beneath the paster f or f^2 or f^4, which securely fastens them and attaches the cord d in its final shape to the envelop or wrap, so that it is only necessary at the sealing operation to insert the flap a beneath the keeper 3, as in Figs. 1 and 11, and then to double this flap upon itself and around the cord, as in Fig. 2, after dampening it so that it will seal itself, to complete the sealed envelop or wrap in the shape in which it leaves the sender.

In all the species the ends 1 and 2 of the cord d project in opposite directions from beneath the paster, and the envelop or wrap is unfastened and opened by simply pulling the respective ends of the cord d in opposite directions toward and past each other, so as to tear the same free from the paster. (See Fig. 4.) Pulling one end of the cord may suffice to free both, and until the cord is thus freed or is cut the closure is securely fastened.

In the first species (illustrated by Figs. 1 to 5, inclusive) there is in addition to the paster f above described, which is shown detached by Fig. 5, a superposed resealing-paster g, (shown in Figs. 3 and 4,) bearing literally or in substance the following notice to postmasters: "After examining contents please close with this tab." A portion 4 of this resealing-paster g, which does not extend over the cord d, is gummed fast at the factory, leaving a

flap or "tab" 5 at the other edge of the paster unattached, but provided on its back with adhesive gum g', so as to provide for gumming it down over the cord to reseal the envelop after inspection. Both pasters bear the direction: "To open, pull cord." Otherwise the paster f may in this species be blank.

In the second species (illustrated by Figs. 6 and 7) another style, g^2, of resealing-paster is used to facilitate the employment of the closure by express companies, insurance companies, and the like, where it is desirable to have one and the same envelop pass back and forth between two offices. For example, the agents of an express company are furnished with such gummed pasters g^2, one of which is shown detached by Fig. 7, and in order to reseal an envelop after it has been opened one of them is gummed fast over the paster f^2 (shown in Fig. 6) after rearranging the ends of the cord d as before. By this means in sending express-matter from one office to another under seal and in getting returns to the original office the same envelop can be used any number of times. The closure can be used in like manner by insurance companies and in other businesses.

In the third species (represented by Fig. 8) the gummed portion or tongue end 6 of the main flap a^2 is reduced in width, so as to facilitate handling and sealing it, and the cord d in this case is drawn through a pair of holes 7 and 8 in the back of the body b and out through the holes formed by said notches e in the edges of the envelop or wrap to form the keeper 3 instead of drawing it across the back of the envelop or wrap as a whole. In either case the cord d forms a convenient keeper 3, beneath which the tongue end 6 of the flap is inserted preliminary to sealing it around the cord.

In the fourth species (illustrated by Figs. 9 and 10) the cord d is fastened at mid-length in the main flap a^3 at the factory, and the gummed sheet or paster f^3 is permanently attached along one half 9, leaving the other half 10 free, as illustrated by Fig. 9, and the envelop or wrap is fastened by drawing the ends of the cord d from opposite sides across the front beneath the paster f^3 and then gumming down said portion 10 over the cord, a knot being conveniently located beneath the paster if the cord is tied. In this arrangement the paster f^3 fastens the envelop or wrap in the same manner as the resealing-pasters g and g^2 of the first and second species, and the external appearance of the fastened closure is or may be identical with that of either of the resealed closures above described.

In the fifth species (represented by Figs. 11 and 12) the closure is applied to a wrap for boxes or box-shaped packages. The main flap a may be and preferably is of the same form as that of the species first described. The cord d is attached at the factory beneath an address-label on the front of the wrap, which constitutes the paster f^4, and is further secured by side portions 11 and 12 of the body b, gummed down over the cord d, so that the ends 1 and 2 of the cord project at the back of the wrap at the respective ends of the keeper 3.

Apart from the improved closure as above described the construction of the respective envelops and wraps shown in the drawings forms no part of the present invention and need not, therefore, be specified.

It will be understood that the closure as applied to envelops may be made with or without said notches e at the edges of the envelop to assist in holding the cord d in place. The terms "back" and "front" are used herein arbitrarily and by way of accommodation and may be applied at will to any opposite faces or sides of envelops or wraps. In the second species the back of the envelop or wrap may be either of the construction and arrangement shown in Fig. 1 or that shown in Fig. 8. In the third species the front may be either of the construction and arrangement illustrated by Figs. 3 and 5 or that illustrated by Figs. 6 and 7. In the fourth and fifth species resealing-pasters may obviously be superadded. The paster and resealing-paster may be of any preferred shape and provided with any suitable printed matter or other distinguishing-marks to provide for detecting counterfeits. The closure may be at both ends of long envelops and wraps or at one or each of the longer edges of the envelop or wrap in some cases, and other like modifications will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art.

Having thus described said improvement, I claim as my invention and desire to patent under this specification—

1. A closure for envelops and package-wraps comprising a main flap integral with the body of the envelop or wrap and arranged to fold down on the back of the envelop or wrap, a free-ended cord extending around the envelop or wrap or a sufficient portion thereof parallel with the fold of said main flap and doubled across the face of the envelop or wrap with its ends protruding in opposite directions, said main flap being interlocked with said cord by doubling the flap on itself and around the cord and securing the same in this shape, and a paster of thin paper or the like affixed to the front of the envelop or wrap and serving to cover and secure the doubled portion of said cord and to provide for opening the closure by pulling the cord and thereby tearing it free from said paster.

2. A closure for envelops and package-wraps comprising a self-sealing gummed main flap integral with the body of the envelop or wrap and arranged to fold down on the back of the envelop or wrap and to be

doubled upon itself with its gummed surface inside, a free-ended cord extending around the envelop or wrap or a sufficient portion thereof parallel with the fold of said main flap and doubled across the face of the envelop or wrap with its ends protruding in opposite directions, said main flap being interlocked with said cord by doubling and sealing the flap around the cord, and a paster of thin paper or the like affixed to the front of the envelop or wrap and serving to cover and secure the doubled portion of said cord and to provide for opening the closure by pulling the cord and thereby tearing it free from said paster.

3. A closure for envelops or package-wraps comprising a main flap integral with the body of the envelop or wrap and arranged to fold down on its back and to be doubled upon itself, a free-ended cord extending around the envelop or wrap or a sufficient portion thereof parallel with the fold of said main flap forming a keeper on the back of the envelop or wrap to interlock with said main flap and doubled across the face of the envelop or wrap with its ends protruding in opposite directions, and a paster of thin paper or the like affixed to the face of the envelop or wrap and arranged to cover and secure the doubled portion of the cord and to provide for opening the envelop or wrap by pulling the cord and thereby tearing it free from said paster.

4. A closure for envelops or package-wraps comprising a main flap adapted to be folded down on the back of the envelop or wrap and to be doubled upon itself, a free-ended cord extending around the envelop or wrap or a sufficient portion thereof parallel with the fold of said main flap and forming a keeper at the back of the envelops or wrap beneath which said main flap may be passed and around which said main flap is folded and permanently secured, said cord being also doubled across the front of the envelop or wrap with its respective ends protruding in opposite directions, a paster of thin paper or the like affixed to said front of the envelop or wrap so as to cover and secure said doubled portion of the cord and to provide for opening the envelop or wrap by pulling the cord and thereby tearing it free from said paster, and a supplemental paster of thin paper or the like for resealing the envelop or wrap in like manner after rearranging the cord beneath the same.

5. A closure for envelops or package-wraps comprising a main flap adapted to be folded down on the back of the envelop or wrap and to be doubled upon itself, a free-ended cord extending around the envelop or wrap or a sufficient portion thereof parallel with the fold of said main flap and forming a keeper at the back of the envelop or wrap beneath which said main flap may be passed and around which said main flap is folded and permanently secured, said cord being also doubled across the front of the envelop or wrap with its respective ends protruding in opposite directions, a paster of thin paper or the like affixed to said front of the envelop or wrap so as to cover and secure said doubled portion of the cord and to provide for opening the envelop or wrap by pulling the cord and thereby tearing it free from said paster, and a supplemental paster of thin paper or the like for resealing the envelop or wrap in like manner after rearranging the cord beneath the same; such resealing-paster being affixed to the paster first named on one side of the cord and adapted to have its free portion or tab gummed fast over the cord to reseal the envelop or wrap, substantially as hereinbefore specified.

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Witnesses:
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P. J. MURPHY.