United States Patent

Ward

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[54] COMBINATION RETURN ADDRESS AND RECEIPT INDICATING ANSWER CARD DEVICE

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** .....**229/92.8,** 283/21, 40/2 R

[51] **Int. Cl.**.....**B65d 27/00**

[58] **Field of Search**.....229/70, 73, 74, 92.7, 92.8; 283/18–21; 40/2 R

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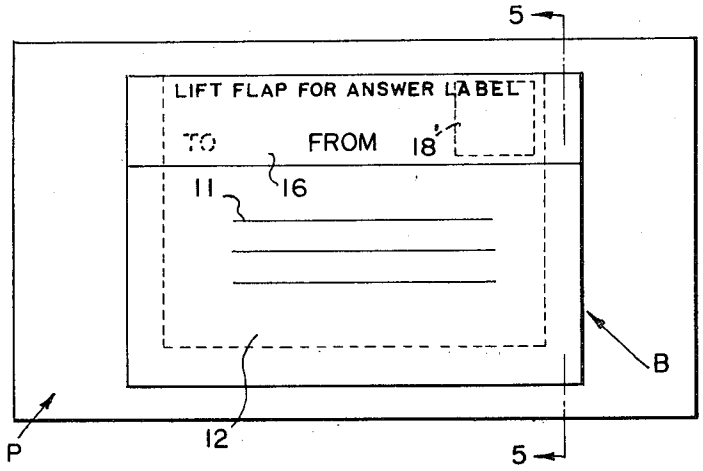
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Attorney—Learman & McCulloch

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A blank adapted to be adhesively secured to an envelope or package and having a removable card section with address receiving indicia on one side and receipt indicating indicia on the other. A removable flap portion is provided which may be folded down to cover the upper stamp receiving portion of the return address receiving side of the removable card section. Adhesive is provided on portions of the blank which bound the removable card section to permit the device to be attached return address side up.

10 Claims, 7 Drawing Figures



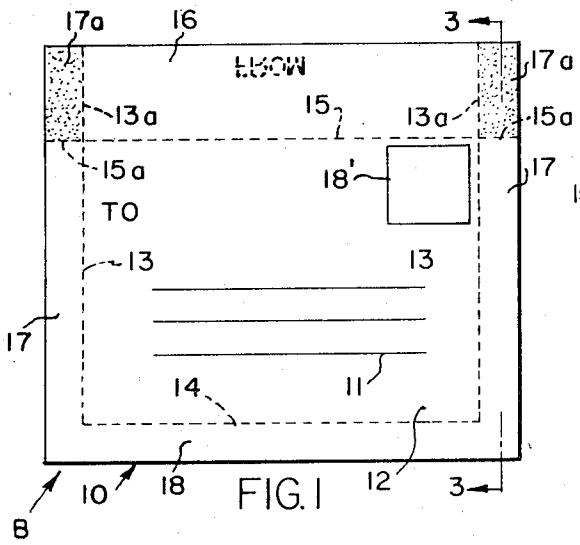


FIG. 1

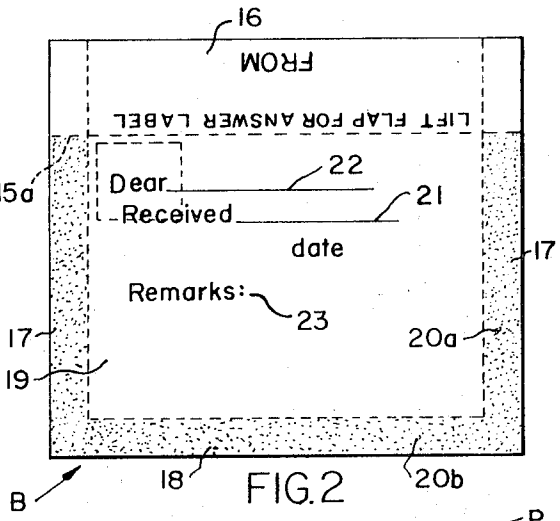


FIG. 2

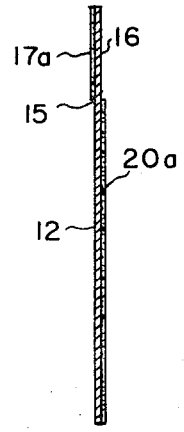


FIG. 3

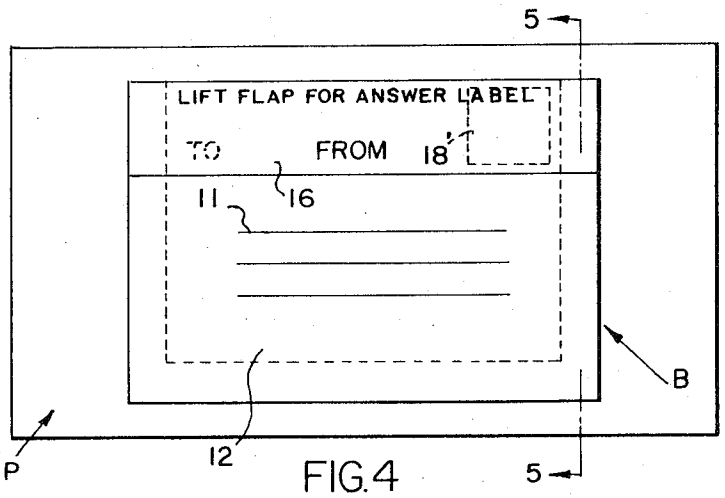


FIG. 4

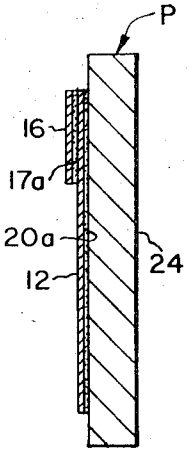


FIG. 5

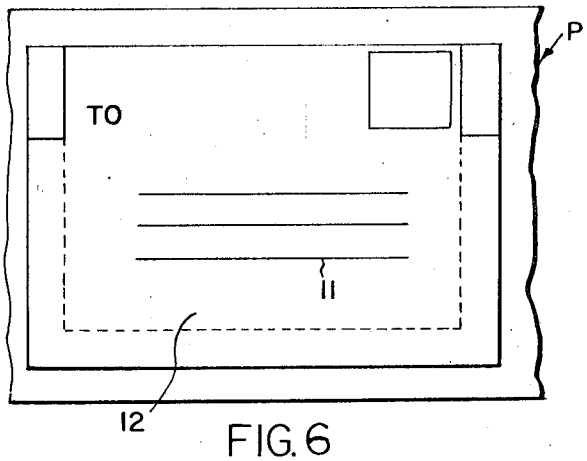


FIG. 6

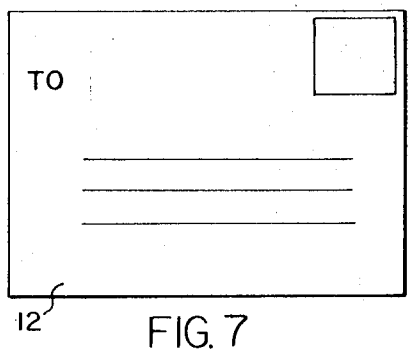


FIG. 7

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COMBINATION RETURN ADDRESS AND RECEIPT INDICATING ANSWER CARD DEVICE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates more particularly to a dual purpose device for envelopes, packages, and the like, which initially functions as a return address label for the sender and subsequently functions as a reply card to be mailed by the addressee to the sender as an acknowledgment of receipt.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is common business practice to have the receiver of mail acknowledge receipt thereof by mailing a card affixed to the envelope back to the sender. It is also common practice for the mailer to affix his address thereto so that in the event the envelope is not delivered to the addressee for any reason, it may then be returned to the sender by the postal system.

The present practice of placing a sender's return address on the envelope or package to be mailed, as well as on the return receipt card, amounts to an unnecessary duplication of effort and it is an important object of the present invention to provide a device which will function both as the return address label for a sender and also as an already addressed, acceptable return receipt card to be mailed back by the addressee.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a novel return receipt card which is convenient and inexpensive to use and has space thereon for a message.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art as the description proceeds.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A sheet or blank having adhesive along the marginal portions of one side for securing the sheet to an envelope or package to be mailed, the sheet including tear facilitating impressed lines defining a first removable card section bounded by said marginal portions, and having an address receiving portion with address receiving indicia printed thereon on the opposite side of the sheet from the adhesive, and a removable flap section adapted to be folded to overly only the upper stamp receiving portion of the removable card section to leave the address receiving portion exposed.

The present invention may more readily be described by reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. **1** is a side elevational view of a dual-purpose card blank constructed according to the present invention;

FIG. **2** is an opposite side elevational view;

FIG. **3** is a transverse sectional view of the blank taken along the line **3—3** of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **4** is a side elevational view showing the blank with the flap folded down, secured to a package so that the address receiving portion can function as a return address label;

FIG. **5** is a transverse sectional view taken along the line **5—5** of FIG. **3**;

FIG. **6** is a side elevational view, similar to FIG. **4**, illustrating the device with the overlying flap removed; and

FIG. **7** is a side elevational view of the removable card section, showing it removed and ready to function as a return receipt card.

DESCRIPTION

The invention is particularly adapted for use with mailing devices such as letters, packages and the like and, for purposes of illustration I have elected to show a package P (see FIGS. **4** and **5** particularly). The addressee's name is printed n the front of the package P and the card device I have invented may be affixed to the upper left-hand corner of the package, in the case of large packages, or to the rear face of a smaller package or envelope. In the present instance the device is shown attached to the rear face of a small package.

Referring now more particularly to the accompanying drawings in which I have disclosed only a preferred form of the invention, the blank, which I have chosen to generally designate B, comprises a sheet, preferably formed of card stock of a weight comparable to or slightly lighter than United States government post card stock, and typically may be 4⅝ inches × 5-⅛ inches. In FIG. **1**, the address-receiving side **10** of the blank is shown as having address-receiving indicia lines **11** in a central card section designated **12** which is defined by impressed, tear facilitating, perforated lines **13** at the sides, and **14** along the bottom. At its top, the card section **12** is defined by a similar impressed perforated line **15** which separates the card section **12** from an upper flap section **16**, adapted to be folded down over the upper portion of the card section **12**, when the device is being used, in a manner which will be later explained. Typically, the flap may be an 1 inch in width. The side portions of the blank B, which bound the card portion **12**, are designated **17**, and the bottom portion, which bounds the card portion **12**, is identified by the numeral **18**. Typically, these portions may be ⅜ of an inch in width. It will be observed that the perforated line **15** extends across the side portions **17**, as at **15a** and that the perforated lines **13** extend across the flap section **16** as at **13*a***. Adhesive film coatings **17*a***, of a conventional type which preferably are rendered tacky or activated by water or saliva, are provided on the side boundary portions **17** above the flap fold line portions **15*a***. Also printed on the address-receiving side **12** of the blank is additional indicia in the form of the word "To," and a stamp-receiving rectangle **18**, as also shown in FIG. **1**. As FIG. **4** indicates, the flap portion **16**, when folded down, covers the word "To" and rectangle **18**.

On the opposite receipt-indicating side **19** of the blank B (see FIG. **2**), the word "From" is inversely printed on the flap portion **16**, as shown, and the side boundary portions **17** below perforate line portions **15*a***, and the bottom boundary portion **18**, are provided with adhesive film coatings **20*a*** and **20*b*** respectively, of the character previously mentioned. Also provided on this side of the flap portion **16** is the inversely printed instruction "Lift flap for answer label," and, printed on the card section **12** portion of the blank are indicia **21** and **22** respectively, provided to facilitate writing in the date of receipt of the item mailed and any remarks which the receiver would care to make. Optionally an indicia line **23** may be provided to facilitate the inscription of an appropriate salutation.

The ruled lines for inserting the name and address of the sender on the face **10** are located to register with the line spacer on typewriters equipped with standard pica, elite, and certain other type faces. The words and ruled lines on the opposite face **19**, for inscribing a receipt acknowledgment, its data, etc., are also so located. The over-all spacing chosen is, or should be, adequate to permit convenient longhand writing of the several inscriptions. The words and ruled lines on the face **19** are arranged in a sequence calculated to evoke an intelligible and logical response from the inscriber (the addressee).

FIGS. **4** through **7** particularly illustrate the manner in which the blank B is conditioned for use and applied to a package or envelope to be mailed. The party mailing the package or envelope, first of all, inscribes the addressee's name and address on the front side **24** of package P in the usual manner, and affixes sufficient postage to the package for the weight of the blank B and package P. In the case of a smaller package, such as illustrated, the blank B will then be affixed to the opposite side of the package. The party sending the package first inscribes his own name and address on the printed lines **11**, and may affix a postage stamp of postal card denomination over the rectangle **18**. He, or she, then moistens the adhesive film portions **17*a*** and folds the flap **16** downwardly so that it overlies the word "To," and the postage stamp affixed, as shown in FIG. **4**, and mails the package. When flap **16** is folded down, the words "From" and "Lift Flap For Answer Label" are visible and instructive. When the package is received, the party receiving it need only lift the

central portion of the flap **16** upwardly which tears the flap section **16** along the upper portions **13a** of the lines of perforation **13**, and then may remove the central portion of the flap **16** completely by tearing it off along the perforated line **15**. Doing this reveals the word "To" and the postage stamp, if one has been affixed.

In FIG. **6**, the flap **16** has been removed and the receiver of the package may then grasp the upper edge of the card section **12** centrally and tear it first downwardly along the lines of perforations **13**, and finally laterally, along the line of perforations **14**, to remove the card portion **12**. The removed, pre-addressed and preferably stamped card section **12** is shown in FIG. **7**, and need only be dropped into a convenient mail box by the party receiving the package, after he or she has noted the date of receipt and otherwise inscribed the receipt indicating face **19** of the card **12** in the manner desired. Thus, with a minimum amount of time and effort on the part of both the sender and the receiver, a convenient vehicle is provided for acknowledging delivery of the letter or package and facilitating the inscription of any brief, pertinent comment in addition.

It is to be understood that the drawings and descriptive matter are in all cases to be interpreted as merely illustrative of the principles of the invention, rather than as limiting the same in any way, since it is contemplated that various changes may be made to achieve the same or similar results without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A device for use with mailing envelopes, packages, and the like, including: first and second sheet sections adapted to be secured in superposed disposition; said first sheet section including impressed tear facilitating boundary lines defining a removable card having one side with an upper stamp receiving portion and a lower address receiving portion adapted to have an address inscribed thereon; the opposite side of said card having receipt indicating space thereon; said second section also including impressed tear facilitating boundary lines defining a removable flap section of a width to cover said upper stamp receiving portion while leaving said address receiving portion exposed; and means for securing said first and second sections in said superposed disposition.

2. The device set forth n claim **1** wherein said removable flap includes indicia on its exposed face indicating that an address to be inscribed on said address receiving portion is that of an addressor.

3. The device set forth in claim **1** wherein said first mentioned tear facilitating lines define marginal strip portions on said first sheet section having adhesive on the receipt indicating side thereof, for securing said first sheet section to a mailing envelope.

4. The device set forth in claim **3** wherein said second mentioned tear facilitating lines define marginal strip portions on said second sheet section; and said means for securing said first and second sheet sections in superposed disposition comprises a dried, moisture activated adhesive on the marginal strip portions of one of said first and second sheet sections.

5. The device set forth in claim **1** wherein said card includes indicia on said upper portion of the card positioned so as to be covered by said removable flap and indicating that a stamp is to be placed thereon and the address below is that of a mailee.

6. The combination of claim **1** wherein the receipt indicating side includes, on said card, indicia for inscribing the date of receipt and any pertinent comments.

7. A blank comprising: a sheet of material, adhesive means along at least two marginal portions of one side of said sheet for securing said sheet to said envelope; said sheet including tear facilitating impressed lines inwardly of said marginal portions defining a removable card section with address receiving indicia inscribed on the opposite side of said sheet and receipt indicating indicia inscribed on the said one side.

8. The combination defined in claim **7** in which an impressed line across the upper portion of said blank defines a flap section adapted to be folded down to overlie the upper portion of the address receiving side of said sheet while leaving the address receiving indicia exposed.

9. The combination defined in claim **8** in which an activatable adhesive film is applied to the side boundary portions of the flap for securing the flap in folded over position.

10. The combination defined in claim **7** in which said adhesive means comprises a coating applied to the side and bottom boundary portions, but not to the upper boundary portion.

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