June 5, 1951 G. H. MATTHIESEN 2,555,983

CLASP-TYPE CLOSURE FOR ENVELOPES

Filed June 4, 1947

Fig. 1

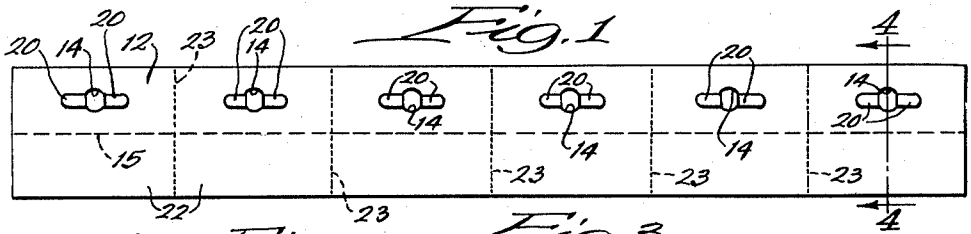


Fig. 2

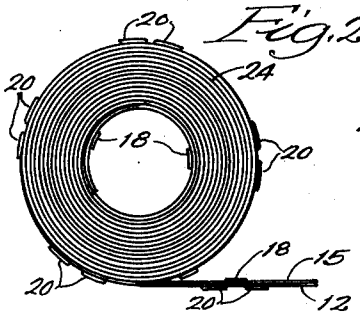


Fig. 3

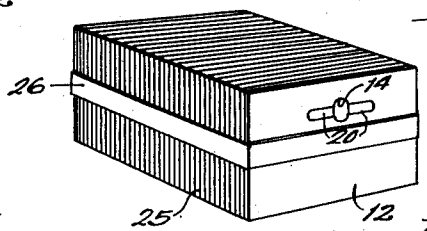


Fig. 4

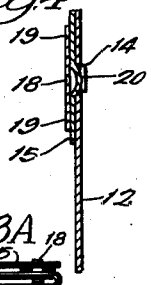


Fig. 3A

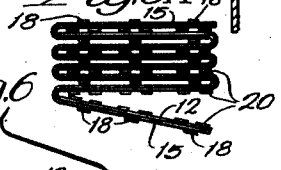


Fig. 5

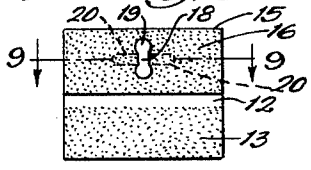


Fig. 6

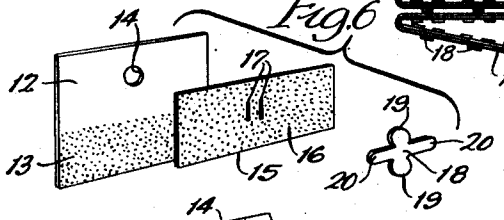


Fig. 7

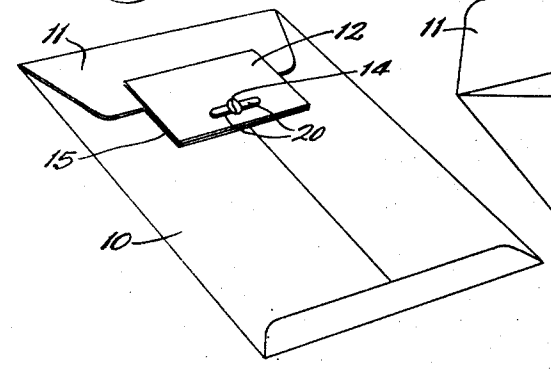


Fig. 8

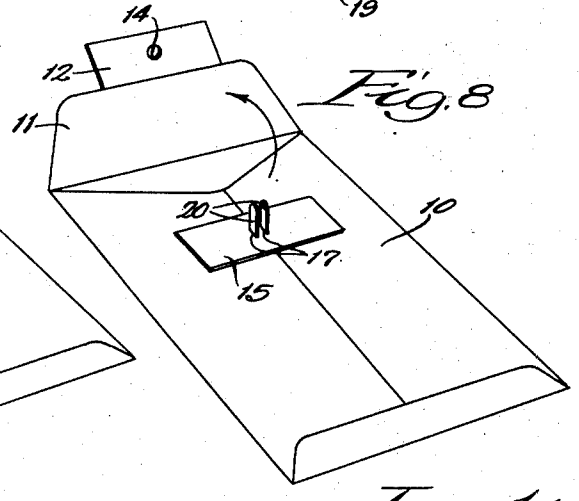
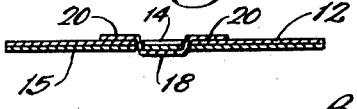


Fig. 9



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Patented June 5, 1951 2,555,983

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,555,983

CLASP-TYPE CLOSURE FOR ENVELOPES

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Application June 4, 1947, Serial No. 752,309

4 Claims. (Cl. 229—77)

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This invention relates to a clasp-type closure for an envelope and the method of stuffing and closing an envelope having a flap.

In stuffing and closing envelopes with conventional clasp-type closures, it is first necessary to provide the envelope with the clasp-type closure. This entails the relatively expensive procedure of accurately placing a hole in the envelope flap, opening the mouth of the envelope and accurately securing a clasp to the envelope through the open mouth so that it will register with the hole when the flap is closed. The clasp is bent flat when applied to the envelope to facilitate storage and handling of the same. The envelope is then stuffed, the clasp is bent upwardly, the flap is closed with the hole registering with the clasp and then the clasp is again bent flat. Thus there are required at least four accurate steps in providing the envelope with a clasp and also there are required at least four time-consuming steps to stuff and close the envelope. The cost of stuffing and closing envelopes with conventional clasp-type closures is, therefore, relatively high when the above factors are taken into consideration. During the stuffing and closing operations great difficulty is often encountered in matching the holes with the clasps, which of course is time-consuming, and quite often the clasps are broken or the holes are torn, requiring discarding of the mutilated envelope. These difficulties may be brought about by inaccuracies in the locations of the holes and clasps in the envelopes and by stuffing the envelopes with varying amounts and types of material.

The principal objects of this invention are to provide an improved clasp-type closure for an envelope and an improved method of stuffing and closing an envelope with a clasp-type closure to reduce the time and expense involved in stuffing and closing envelopes and to obviate the aforementioned difficulties.

In carrying out these objects of the invention, an improved clasp-type closure for a conventional envelope is provided. The clasp-type closure preferably comprises a first blank having an adhesive coating on a portion of one side and a hole through the uncoated portion, a second blank having an adhesive coating on one side and overlying the uncoated portion of the first blank with the adhesive coatings of both blanks exposed, and a clasp carried by the second blank and extending through the hole in the first blank. These preformed clasp-type closures may be supplied individually or in strips or rolls or fan-fold strips to be severed into individual closures.

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In the formation of the closures the clasps are bent flat when they are inserted in the blanks and they remain that way. Thus, relatively few and inexpensive steps are required for the formation of the clasp-type closures and they may be automatically accomplished on simple, high speed machinery.

In stuffing and closing the envelope with the clasp-type closure of this invention, a plain, inexpensive envelope with a flap is all that is required. The plain envelope is stuffed, the flap is closed, and the preformed clasp-type closure is adhesively applied with one blank adhesively secured to the envelope and the other to the flap. There is no need for matching clasps with holes or for bending the clasps during the closing operation. There is no danger of breaking the clasps or tearing the holes or otherwise mutilating the envelopes and the envelopes may accommodate almost any amount or type of material. Since there is no need for bending the clasps, accidental cutting of the fingers of the operator and infection thereof are entirely prevented. The stuffing and closing of envelopes in accordance with this invention are, therefore, greatly simplified, requiring fewer steps and less time, producing less damage to the envelopes and being otherwise accomplished inexpensively.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon reference to the accompanying specification, claims and drawing, in which—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a strip of clasp-type closures embodying this invention;

Fig. 2 is a view illustrating a strip of clasp-type closures in roll form;

Fig. 3 illustrates a plurality of clasp-type closures packaged in individual form;

Fig. 3A illustrates a plurality of clasp-type closures arranged in fan-fold strips;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the clasp-type closure as it appears from the side having the adhesive coatings;

Fig. 6 is an exploded view of the clasp-type closure showing the construction of the three component parts thereof;

Fig. 7 illustrates the clasp-type closure applied to an envelope with the envelope closed;

Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 7 but illustrating the envelope subsequently opened; and

Fig. 9 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially along the line 9—9 of Fig. 5.

Referring first to Figs. 7 and 8, the clasp-type

closure of this invention may be applied to a conventional, inexpensive envelope 10 having the usual flap 11.

The clasp-type closure includes a first blank 12 which may be made of paper, cloth or other suitable material. An adhesive coating 13 is applied along a portion of one side of the blank 12 and the uncoated portion of the blank 12 is preferably provided with a hole 14. For the purposes of this invention the adhesive coating 13 may be of varying types such as a pressure-sensitive adhesive type or a glue type requiring wetting before application.

The clasp-type closure also includes a second blank 15 provided along one side with an adhesive coating 16 and may be provided with holes 17 through which the clasp extends. The holes 17 may be initially placed in the blank 15 before inserting the clasp or the holes 17 may be formed by the operation of inserting the clasp through the blank 15. The blank 15 is adapted to overlie the uncoated portion of the blank 12 with the adhesive coatings on both blanks exposed on the same side of the assembly, as illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6. The material of the blank 15 and the type of adhesive coating 16 thereon may correspond to the materials and coatings of the blank 12.

The clasp-type closure also includes a clasp 18 having an enlarged head 19 and prongs 20. The prongs 20 are preferably bent up in the formation of the clasp 18 and are then inserted through the blank 15, as at 17, and through the hole 14 in the blank 12. The prongs are then bent flat to hold the two blanks 12 and 15 together. Thus in fabricating the clasp-type closure all that is necessary is to overlie two blanks provided with adhesive coatings and insert the clasp therethrough. This is an extremely simple operation and may be inexpensively and automatically accomplished by simple, high speed machinery.

In stuffing and closing envelopes in accordance with this invention, the plain and inexpensive envelope 10 is first stuffed, the flap 11 is closed and then the clasp-type closure is adhesively applied thereto with one blank adhesively secured to the flap and the other blank adhesively secured to the envelope. As illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8, the blank 12 is adhesively secured to the flap 11 and the blank 15 is adhesively secured to the envelope. This may be accomplished in a single operation and effectively closes the envelope regardless of the amount and type of stuffing therein, and without danger of damaging the envelope.

To open the envelope after it is once closed in the above fashion, all that is necessary is to raise the prongs 20 and lift the flap 11, as illustrated in Fig. 8.

Fig. 1 illustrates a plurality of clasp-type closures arranged in a strip 22 for convenient manufacture and handling. Individual clasp-type closures may be taken from the strip and to facilitate this the strip may be provided with tear lines 23.

In Fig. 2 the strip may be formed in a roll 24 to facilitate handling a large number of clasp-type closures.

In Fig. 3 the clasp-type closures may be stacked as at 25 and packaged by a suitable band 26 therearound.

In Fig. 3A the clasp-type closures may be arranged in fan-fold strips.

For general office use perhaps the best form of handling the closure members is illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, but where large numbers of envelopes are to be stuffed and closed, as in large mail order houses, the roll of closure members illustrated in Fig. 2 or the fanfold strips illustrated in Fig. 3A, may be more convenient, particularly when the closure members are to be applied by means of automatic machinery.

While it is preferable initially to provide the blank 12 with the hole 14 for receiving the prongs 20 of the clasp 18, it may be omitted and holes similar to the holes 17 of blank 15 may be formed in the blank 12 by the operation of inserting the clasp through the blank 12. Substantially the same results are obtained by each construction with the exception that reopening and reclosing of the envelope may be more readily accomplished with the use of the hole 14.

While for purposes of illustration one form of this invention has been disclosed, other forms thereof may become apparent to those skilled in the art upon reference to this disclosure, and, therefore, this invention is to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims and prior art.

I claim as my invention:

1. A clasp-type closure for an envelope comprising, a first blank having an adhesive coating on a portion of one side, a second blank having an adhesive coating on one side and overlying the uncoated portion of the first blank with the adhesive coatings of both blanks exposed, and a clasp having an enlarged head engaging the coated surface of the second blank and having prongs extending through the second blank and the uncoated portion of the first blank and bent flat to hold together the two blanks.

2. A clasp-type closure for an envelope comprising, a first blank having an adhesive coating on a portion of one side and a hole through the uncoated portion, a second blank having an adhesive coating on one side and overlying the uncoated portion of the first blank with the adhesive coatings of both blanks exposed, a clasp having an enlarged head engaging the coated surface of the second blank and having prongs extending through the second blank and the uncoated portion of the first blank and bent flat to hold together the two blanks, one of the blanks adapted to be adhesively secured to the envelope flap and the other adapted to be secured to the envelope and the clasp adapted to be held in place by the enlarged head and the adhesive action of the second blank.

3. A strip of clasp-type closures for envelopes comprising, a first strip having longitudinally arranged adhesive coating on a portion of one side, a second strip having an adhesive coating on one side and overlying the uncoated portion of the first strip with the adhesive coatings of both strips exposed, and a plurality of longitudinally arranged clasps having enlarged heads engaging the coated surface of the second strip and having prongs extending through the second strip and the uncoated portion of the first strip and bent flat to hold together the strips.

4. A strip of clasp-type closures for envelopes comprising, a first strip having longitudinally arranged adhesive coating on a portion of one side, a second strip having an adhesive coating on one side and overlying the uncoated portion of the first strip with the adhesive coatings of both strips exposed, a plurality of longitudinally arranged clasps having enlarged heads engaging the coated surface of the second strip and having prongs extending through the second strip

and the uncoated portion of the first strip and bent flat to hold together the strips, and transverse tear lines in both strips arranged between the clasps for severing individual clasp-type closures from the strip of clasp-type closures.

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