May 23, 1944. L. BARKER 2,349,234

ENVELOPE

Filed Nov. 20, 1943

Fig. 1.

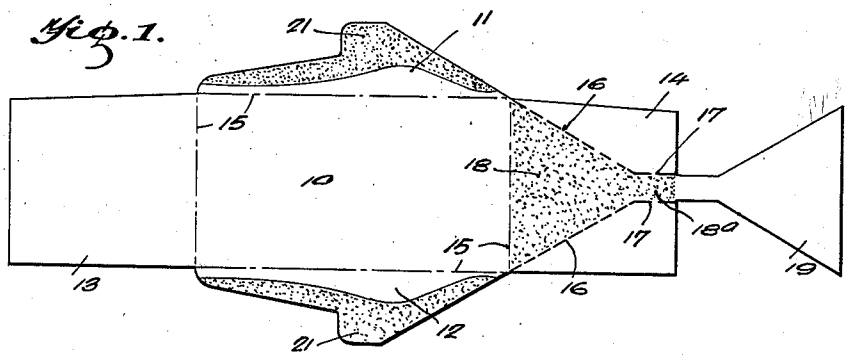


Fig. 6.

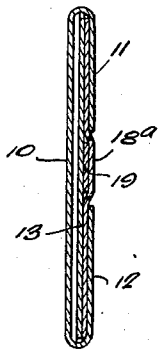


Fig. 2.

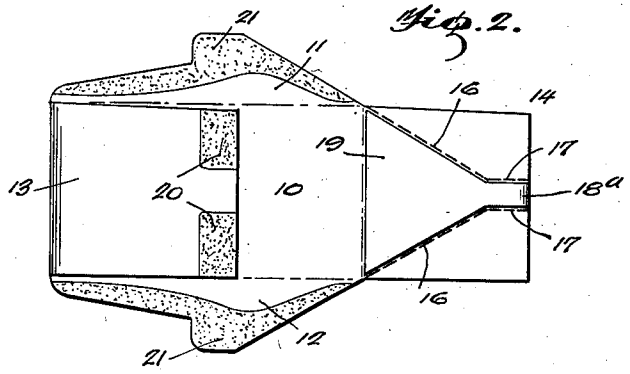


Fig. 3.

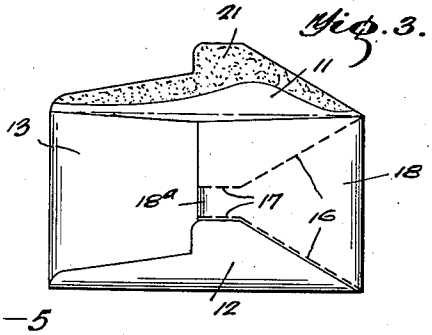


Fig. 4.

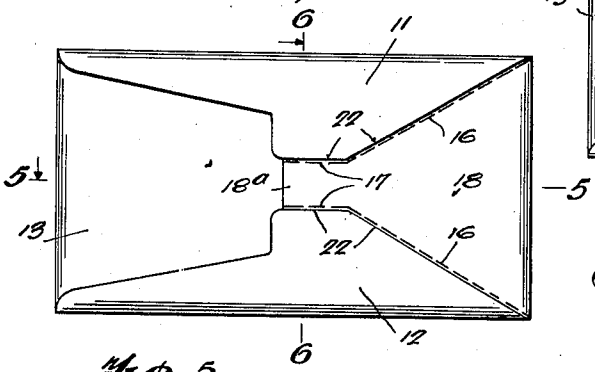


Fig. 7.

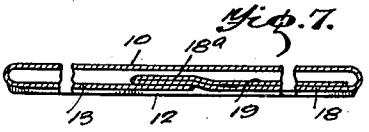
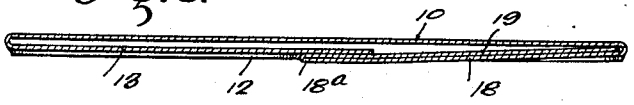


Fig. 5.



INVENTOR.
LEE BARKER,
BY Myron G. Olson
ATTORNEY

Patented May 23, 1944 2,349,234

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,349,234

ENVELOPE

Lee Barker, Los Angeles, Calif.

Application November 20, 1943, Serial No. 511,065

4 Claims. (Cl. 229—68)

The present invention relates generally to mailing envelopes and has for its primary object the provision of certain improvements whereby the envelope, after sealing, may be easily and quickly opened to expose an entire end thereof for the convenient withdrawal of its contents without danger of mutilation of such contents as very frequently happens where an envelope is opened with a blade or an end thereof is sheared off.

A further object of the invention is the provision of improvements of the above character which lend themselves readily to use of the envelope in either a sealed first class mailing condition, or an unsealed or second class mailing condition.

The foregoing general objects, as well as further and more specific objects, along with the features of construction, functions and advantages of the invention, will be better understood and more thoroughly appreciated in the course of the following description in detail thereof, and by reference to the accompanying drawing, illustrating the invention and forming a part of this specification.

In the drawing,

Figure 1 is a plan view of the envelope blank, as initially cut.

Figure 2 is a rear elevation of the completed blank, with one end flap and the inner reinforcing rip guide of the other end flap infolded respectively on the body and the latter end flap.

Figure 3 is a similar view with the envelope complete ready for the reception of mailing matter and for final sealing of its upper closure flap.

Figure 4 is another similar view showing the envelope in final sealed condition for transmission by first class mail.

Figure 5 is a longitudinal sectional view therethrough taken substantially on line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a vertical sectional view taken therethrough substantially on line 6—6 of Figure 4, and,

Figure 7 is a fragmentary longitudinal section, illustrating adaptation of the invention to use as second class mailing matter.

Referring now to the drawing and particularly to the blank as shown in Figure 1, it will be noted that it is formed with a generally rectangular body or central portion 10 which, in the finished envelope, forms the usual unbroken front wall thereof. This body portion 10 is bordered by top and bottom flaps 11 and 12, and side flaps 13 and 14. All of these flaps are subsequently infolded across the rear of the body 10 along the broken lines 15, the initial infolding of the side flaps 13 and 14 into sealed overlapping relation and the infolding of the bottom flap 12 into sealed relation overlapping the lower portions of the side flaps, constituting the rear wall of the envelope to thus leave the material receiving space or pocket open at its top until final folding and sealing of the upper closure flap 11.

As also seen in Figure 1, the side flap 14 is scored, perforated or otherwise weakened along angular lines 16 extending from the top and bottom portions of its inner edge adjacent to its folding line 15 at the respective side of the body 10, and converging to and merging into short parallel, similarly weakened lines 17 adjacent to, and extending through, its outer free edge, to thus form a displaceable tongue or section 18 which has a narrow tab 18a at one end and substantially the full vertical dimension of the body 10, at its other end. The section 18, thus formed, is to be reenforced by an extra layer or strip 19 which is of the same shape of, though slightly less in width, than said section so as to be fixed to underlie the latter with the side edges thereof bordering the weakened lines 16 and 17 along the inner sides of said lines.

Thus, the reenforcing strip 19 may be a separate part, or as seen in Figure 1, it may be initially formed as an outstanding extension of the side flap 14, to be folded onto the latter so as to underly the displaceable section or tongue 18 and its tap 18a. In any event the respective surface of tongue 18 is gummed as seen in Figure 1 so that the reenforcing strip 19 may be secured flatwise thereon, in the above described relation.

In the formation of the envelope, the side flap 13 is initially infolded partially across the rear face of the body 10, as in Figure 2, and its rear face provided with gummed areas 20 adjacent to its inner free edge and vertically spaced to leave between them a plain surface underlying the free end of the tab 18a of tongue 18 and its reenforcing strip 19, when the side flap 14 is next infolded to partially overlap side flap 13. Thus the gummed areas 20 provide for sealed connection of the upper and lower overlapping portions of flaps 13 and 14, but leave the displaceable tongue 18 free to be ripped out of flap 14 so as to fully open the respective side of the envelope.

The lower flap 12 is then folded to overlie the lower portions of the folded and connected side flaps 13 and 14, as in Figure 3 thus completing the envelope except for the folding and

sealing of the upper flap 11 after mailing matter has been placed within the envelope. These upper and lower flaps 11 and 12 are of similar form, each gummed at 21 as in Figure 2 for sealing connection, and each having angular edges, indicated at 22 which, when the flaps are sealed, border the weakened lines 16 and 17 along the outer sides of the latter.

Thus in the finished and sealed envelope, ready for mailing as first class mail matter, the tab 18a of tongue 18 lies in substantially protected relation between the adjacent portions of the upper and lower flaps 11 and 12, and the weakened lines 16 and 17 defining between them said tongue 18 and tab 18a, are positioned inwardly of and along the angular edges 22 of the upper and lower flaps, and outwardly of, and along, the side edges of the inner reinforcing strip 19.

In opening the envelope it is easy to insert the finger nail or any suitable implement beneath the free end of tab 18a and raise the same to start rupture along the weakened lines 16 and 17. When once started, continued pull of the tongue 18 serves to continue the rupture and displacement thereof to the respective side of the envelope so as to completely open the latter at one side for removal of its contents without danger of mutilation of the latter, since this rupture takes place between, and has for its guidance, the bordering angular edges of the reenforcing strip 19, at the inner face of the tongue, and the bordering edges 22 of the upper and lower flaps 11 and 12, at the outer face of the tongue. This relation of the parts is plainly indicated in Figures 5 and 6, especially the latter, and it is obvious that in so opening the envelope for the removal of its contents, slitting by means of opening blades is eliminated and cutting or tearing of portions of the envelope in a manner placing the contents in danger of similar cutting and tearing, is also unnecessary.

The manner in which it is thus provided that the initially sealed envelope may be readily and effectively opened, lends itself to use in connection with second class mailable matter, since after sealing of the envelope, the tongue 18 may be pulled free along its perforated or otherwise weakened rupture lines and then replaced with the free end of its tab 18a extended beneath the central portion of the free edge of the underlying side flap 13, as in Figure 7 so that said tongue will thereafter be held in place merely by friction as an inspection flap.

Having thus fully disclosed the invention, what is claimed is:

1. An envelope comprising a front, a back including a pair of oppositely extending flaps secured in partially overlapping relation, and a second pair of oppositely extending flaps, one thereof forming a closure flap, which are spaced apart when connected to partially overlap said first flaps, one of said first pair of flaps having weakened lines defining between them a tongue having its inner end freely overlying the other flap of said pair, the second flaps having opposing edge portions bordering said tongue along, and outwardly of, said weakened lines.

2. An envelope comprising a front, a back including a pair of oppositely extending flaps secured in partially overlapping relation, and a second pair of oppositely extending flaps, one thereof forming a closure flap, which are spaced apart when connected to partially overlap said first flaps, one of said first pair of flaps having weakened lines defining between them a tongue having its inner end freely overlying the other flap of said pair, the second flaps having opposing edge portions bordering said tongue along, and outwardly of, said weakened lines, and a reenforcing strip secured to said tongue upon its inner face and bordering said tongue along, and inwardly of, said weakened lines.

3. An envelope comprising a front, a back consisting of a series of cooperating flaps extending from, and along, sides of said front, including a pair of oppositely extending and partially overlapping flaps secured to one another at spaced points and free of one another between said points, and a second pair of oppositely extending flaps, one of which constitutes a closure flap, for partially overlapping and connection to said first named flaps, one of said first named flaps having weakened lines defining therebetween a rip tongue whose outer end extends along one full side of the front and whose inner end forms a tab lying between the spaced connected portions of said first named flaps, the second named flaps, when so connected presenting spaced inner edges bordering said rip tongue and its tab and extending continuously along, and outwardly of, the said weakened lines of the tongue-carrying flap.

4. An envelope comprising a front, a back consisting of a series of cooperating flaps extending from, and along, sides of said front, including a pair of oppositely extending and partially overlapping flaps secured to one another at spaced points and free of one another between said points, and a second pair of oppositely extending flaps, one of which constitutes a closure flap, for partial overlapping and connection to said first named flaps, one of said first named flaps having weakened lines defining therebetween a rip tongue whose outer end extends along one full side of the front and whose inner end forms a tab lying between the spaced connected portions of said first named flaps, the second named flaps, when so connected, presenting spaced inner edges bordering said rip tongue and its tab and extending continuously along, and outwardly of, the said weakened lines of the tongue-carrying flap, and a reenforcing strip secured to, and across, the under surface of said tongue and its tab and having edge portions extending along, and inwardly of, the said weakened lines of the tongue-carrying flap.

LEE BARKER.