Oct. 15, 1940. V. E. HEYWOOD 2,217,949

PACKAGING OF DRY-SEALING ENVELOPES

Filed May 20, 1936 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

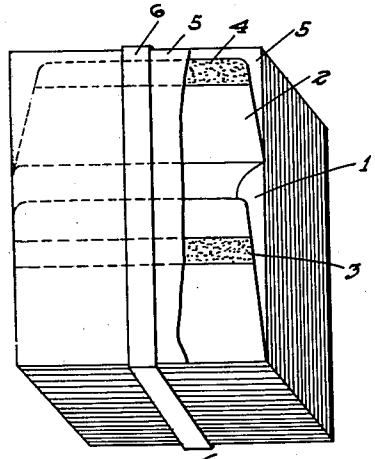


Fig. 1.

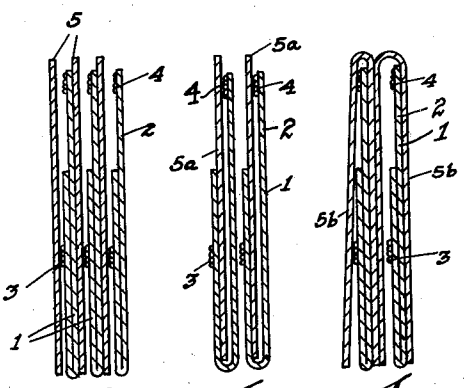


Fig. 2. Fig. 3. Fig. 4.

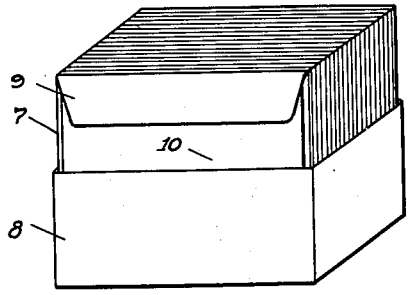


Fig. 5.

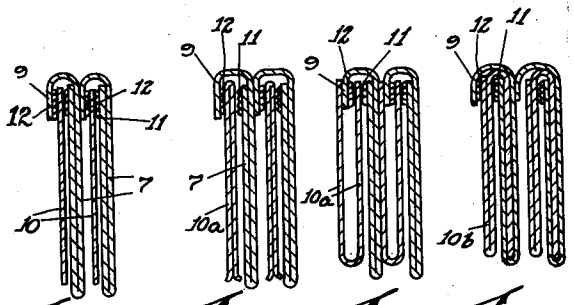


Fig. 6. Fig. 7. Fig. 8. Fig. 9.

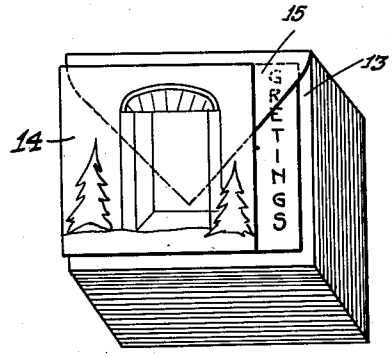


Fig. 10.

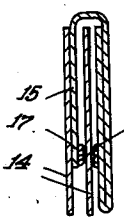


Fig. 11.

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PACKAGING OF DRY-SEALING ENVELOPES

Filed May 20, 1936 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

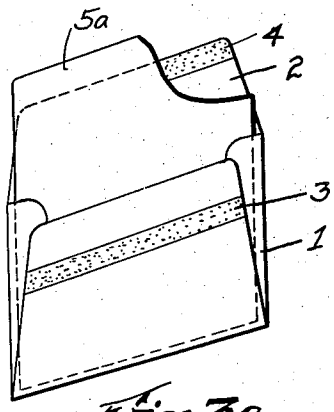


Fig. 3a.

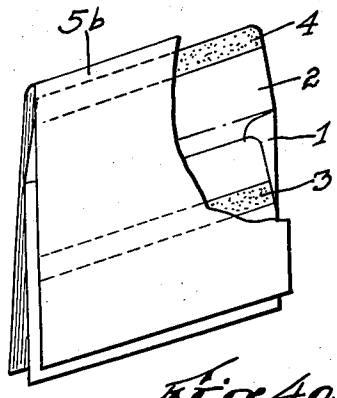


Fig. 4a.

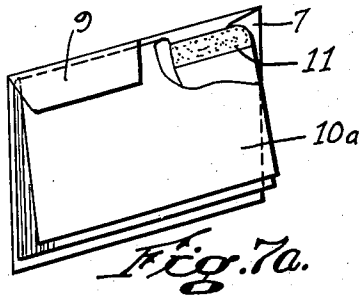


Fig. 7a.

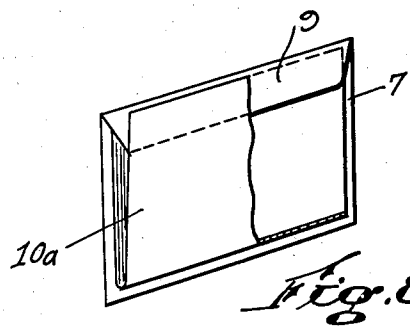


Fig. 8a.

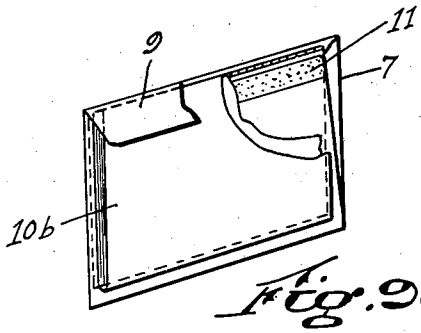


Fig. 9a.

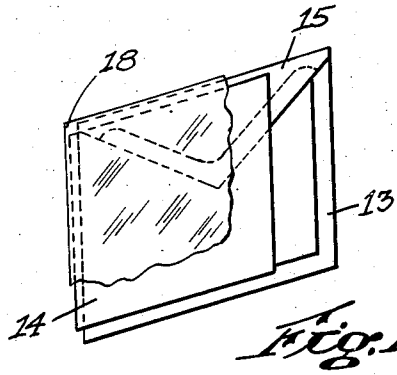


Fig. 11a.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PACKAGING OF DRY-SEALING ENVELOPES

Vincent E. Heywood, Worcester, Mass., assignor to United States Envelope Company, Springfield, Mass., a corporation of Maine

Application May 20, 1936, Serial No. 80,819

3 Claims. (Cl. 206—63)

The present invention relates in general to the packaging of stationery, and more particularly to packaging of dry-sealing envelopes. In such an envelope, as is well known, the sealing is obtained without any need for moistening or wetting of an adhesive area, by effecting contact of two complemental areas, both coated with a special dry-sealing adhesive.

Dry-sealing envelopes are characterized by the provision of correspondingly shaped areas of dry-sealing adhesive on different parts of each envelope, and special precautions have to be taken in packing and handling such envelopes, in order to prevent accidental engagement between these adhesive areas, prior to the loading and sealing of the envelopes. To this end, it has been proposed to employ extra flaps, or to perform special folding operations on the envelopes, with resulting increase of manufacturing costs. Furthermore, the utilization of the above expedients for preventing accidental engagement between the adhesive areas, necessitates unaccustomed manipulations of such envelopes by their users, in order to purposely bring the dry-sealing adhesive areas into contact for sealing.

My invention eliminates the above-mentioned difficulties, by packaging the dry-sealing envelopes in a novel mode or manner, viz., by associating or assembling with each envelope of the package the enclosure, part, or piece of stationery, that is destined to be received in the envelope's pocket, the association being such as to prevent any accidental contact between the dry-sealing adhesive areas of the envelope. Furthermore, the manner of packaging is such as to provide, in a form most convenient for use, similar units each consisting of a dry-sealing envelope and its ultimate enclosure. The above and other advantageous features of the invention will hereinafter more fully appear from the following description, considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an assembly of dry-sealing envelopes, packaged in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of a number of envelopes, packed as in Fig. 1.

Figs. 3 and 4 are sectional views similar to Fig. 2, showing different relations between the envelopes and enclosure sheets.

Figs. 3*a* and 4*a* are perspective views, partly broken away, of units corresponding to those depicted, respectively, by Figs. 3 and 4.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a modified form of packaging.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of a number of envelopes, packed as in Fig. 5.

Figs. 7, 8 and 9 are sectional views similar to Fig. 6, showing different relations between the envelopes and enclosure sheets.

Figs. 7*a*, 8*a* and 9*a* are perspective views, partly broken away, of units corresponding to those depicted, respectively, by Figs. 7, 8 and 9.

Fig. 10 is a perspective view, showing a further modification in the manner of packaging.

Fig. 11 is a sectional view of one of the units of Fig. 10.

Fig. 11*a* is a perspective view, partly broken away, of the unit shown in Fig. 11.

Like reference characters refer to like parts in the different figures.

Referring first to Figs. 1 and 2, a number of dry-sealing envelopes 1 are shown arranged in a package, with each envelope having its seal flap 2 in open or extended position and with the body and flap of each envelope 1 providing correspondingly shaped dry-sealing adhesive areas 3 and 4. By the term "dry-sealing adhesive," is meant any adhesive which, when in a dry condition, has the property of adhering to itself upon non-moistened contact, although not so adhering when brought into contact with the materials commonly employed in the manufacture of envelopes, or other containers.

In packaging the dry-sealing envelopes 1, in accordance with the present invention, enclosure sheets 5 are assembled between the envelopes, in alternating relation thereto, with the area of each sheet substantially the same as the combined areas of an envelope body and its extended seal flap 2. The assembled envelopes 1 and sheets 5, can be held together as a complete package in any suitable manner, as by means of a band 6, or by packing in a box, or holder, and obviously, there will be no possibility of the dry-sealing adhesive areas 3 and 4 coming into accidental engagement while an envelope and its associated sheet is in the package.

The sheets 5 may be in the form of writing paper, or other types of enclosures, and the assembled units, each consisting of an envelope and its associated sheet, can be withdrawn from the package, as required for use. The fact that each envelope 1 is packed flat, with its seal flap extended, permits the sheet to be readily inserted therein, after being written upon and folded, sealing of the envelope being quickly accomplished by folding over the flap 2 to bring the adhesive areas 3 and 4 into engagement, accompanied by pressure.

In the arrangement shown by Figs. 3 and 3*a*, each unit consists of a dry-sealing envelope, with flap 2 extended, and with a sheet 5*a* inserted in and projecting from the envelope pocket—the projecting portion of said sheet covering the adhesive area 4 of the flap. A particular advantage of this arrangement is the close association of

the sheet with its envelope, enabling the parts to be handled in unison without the danger of becoming accidentally separated.

In the arrangement shown by Figs. 4 and 4*a*, the sheets 5*b* are substantially double the area of the sheets 5*a*, and are folded at their middle. In assembling the package, each sheet 5*b* is folded to enclose an envelope with its extended seal flap, so that a folded sheet and envelope can be conveniently removed from the package in that relation.

Figs. 5 and 6 show a package of stationery consisting of a plurality of dry-sealing envelopes 7 contained in a box 8; in this instance, each envelope's seal flap 9, instead of being extended as in the previously-described forms of the invention, is folded down over the envelope's back wall, the latter having an area 11 of dry-sealing adhesive in complemental relation to a similar area 12 of dry-sealing adhesive on the seal flap 9. However, no premature or accidental contact of the areas 11 and 12 can occur, because each unit of the illustrated package includes, in addition to the envelope itself, a sheet 10 interposed between the folded-over seal flap 9 and the envelope's back wall, said sheet 10 serving, until removed for insertion within the envelope pocket, to keep the dry-sealing adhesive areas 11 and 12 out of engagement.

The sheets 10 may be provided in the form of correspondence cards, each having an area slightly less than the body of an envelope 7, and an envelope and its associated card may be readily removed from the box together by seizing the envelope at its upper folded-over edge, thus keeping the unit intact because its seizure includes the upper edge of the sheet or card 10. After the card has been written upon, it is readily inserted in the envelope, and sealing accomplished by folding down the flap 9 to bring the dry-sealing adhesive areas 11 and 12 into contact, accompanied by the application of pressure.

The arrangement shown in Figs. 7 and 7*a* is the same as that last described, except that the interposed sheet element of each unit takes the form of a double letter sheet 10*a*, folded upon itself, with the folded edge inserted between the seal flap 9 and body of the envelope, to separate the dry-sealing adhesive areas 11 and 12. As shown in Figs. 8 and 8*a*, the folded sheet 10*a* is reversed to bring its fold at the bottom of the envelope body, with the opposed parts of the sheet disposed on opposite sides of the seal flap 9.

In the arrangement shown by Figs. 9 and 9*a*, the sheet element of each unit is a folded sheet 10*b*, preferably having two folds, with one portion of the sheet inserted in the envelope pocket, and the other two portions disposed between the body and the seal flap 9 to separate the dry-sealing adhesive areas 11 and 12. The arrangement of Figs. 9 and 9*a* has the advantage of making it possible to extend the major portion of the sheet 10*b*, for the purpose of writing upon it, without removing the remainder of the sheet from the envelope pocket. That is to say, in such a unit the sheet element that prevents premature or accidental contact of the dry-sealing adhesive areas 11 and 12 provides a portion which has substantially permanent occupancy of the envelope pocket—this permitting the unit to be kept intact at all times. It is then only necessary to tuck the portions of the sheet that have been written upon into the envelope pocket, and fold over the flap 9 to accomplish sealing. Thus, the envelope of Figs. 9 and 9*a* may be loaded and sealed in a substantially continuous operation.

Referring now to Figs. 10, 11 and 11*a* the invention is shown as being applied to the packaging of dry-sealing envelopes 13 in conjunction with folded sheets 14, each positioned with the fold along one side of the envelope to receive the seal flap 15 between the portions of the sheet 14. A folded sheet of this character is well adapted for use as a greeting card, and the portions of the sheet on either side of the fold line may be of different lengths, so that printed matter on both portions will be exposed, even when folded.

As shown in Fig. 11, the envelope body and tip of the seal flap 15 provide opposed dry-sealing adhesive areas 16 and 17, respectively, which are separated in the package by one portion of the sheet 14. Envelopes and sheets, packed as shown in Fig. 10, can be wrapped in a transparent covering 18 (Fig. 11*a*), for merchandising purposes, so that the customer sees not only the printed material on the sheets 14, but also a portion of the uppermost envelope. The packaging of dry-sealing envelopes, in association with greeting cards, is very advantageous from the user's standpoint, since a large number of envelopes can be loaded and quickly sealed, without the application of moisture.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that by the present invention I have provided improvements in the packaging dry-sealing envelopes or other containers, in association with various forms of enclosure sheets to be used with the envelopes, that reduce to a minimum the possibility of accidental contact between the dry-sealing areas. In the following claims, the term "dry-sealing envelope" means any envelope or similar container, adapted to be sealed by bringing its complemental dry-sealing adhesive areas into contact, while the term "enclosure sheet" means a member or element of any kind of material contained by or insertable in an envelope pocket, including cards, letter sheets and writing papers, as well as circulars or return forms, with or without printing.

I claim,

1. A package of stationery consisting of a plurality of substantially identical units, each unit comprising, in combination, an envelope having complemental areas of dry-sealing adhesive on opposite sides of the line of fold of said envelope's closure flap and an element in the form of a piece of stationery in association with said envelope, with folded portions of said element embracing the dry-sealing adhesive areas of the envelope to prevent premature or accidental contact of said complemental dry-sealing adhesive areas.

2. The improvement in the packaging of dry-sealing envelopes, which consists in assembling a plurality of envelopes, each having complemental areas of dry-sealing adhesive on opposite sides of the fold line of its closure flap, with folded enclosure sheets alternately disposed between the envelopes and having portions embracing the dry-sealing adhesive areas of the envelopes.

3. The improvement in the packaging of dry-sealing envelopes, each having complemental areas of dry-sealing adhesive on opposite sides of the fold line of its closure flap, which consists in assembling said envelopes alternately with folded sheets of stationery each having portions embracing the folded over closure flap of an envelope, to prevent premature or accidental contact between overlying dry-sealing adhesive areas in the package.

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