

R. M. DONOHUE.  
ENVELOP.  
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1,064,302.

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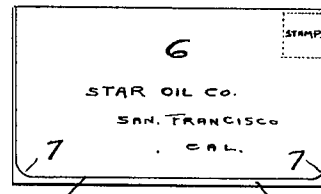
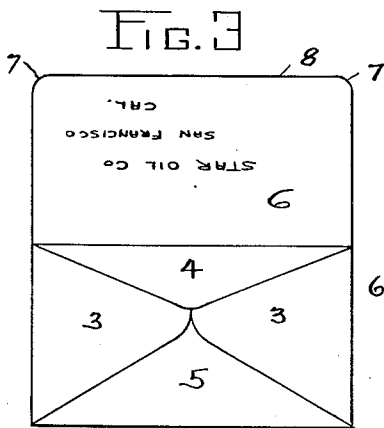
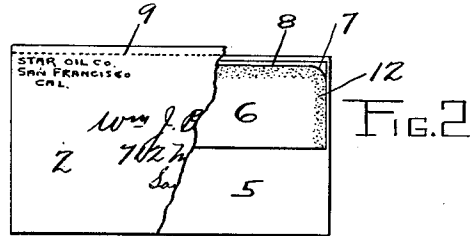
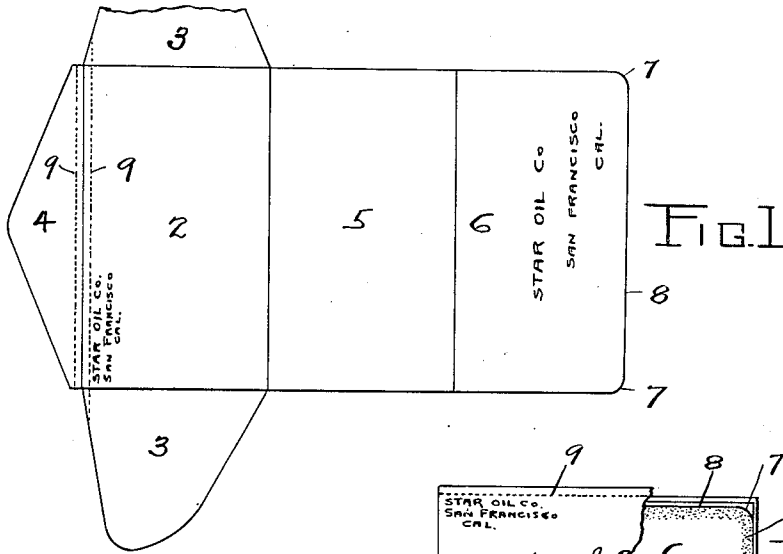


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## ENVELOP.

1,064,302.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 10, 1913.

Application filed May 27, 1911. Serial No. 629,851.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, REBECCA M. DONOHUE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Oakland, in the county of Alameda and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to return-reply envelops, and the principal object is to form an envelop which, after it has been delivered and opened, may again be used as an envelop in reply to the sender of the letter.

Another object of the invention is to form an envelop cut from one piece of stock which may be used twice before its efficiency is destroyed.

Heretofore, as far as I am aware, all envelops which have been used for return purposes have been formed of two or more pieces of stock, fastened together, which renders the envelop more expensive than the common method of inclosing an addressed envelop for the reply.

By the use of my invention a return reply envelop is formed which has the appearance of an ordinary envelop and which is only slightly more expensive than the ordinary envelop.

With these and other objects in view, as will more fully hereinafter appear, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings and particularly pointed out in the appended claim, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportions, size, material and minor details of the structure may be made without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

The following description explains the nature of my said invention and the manner in which I proceed to apply the same in the production of an envelop, reference being had to the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a view of the blank from which the envelop is formed, the sender's card and return address being printed thereon in their proper places. The lines crossing the blank indicate the lines of fold. Fig. 2 is a view of a sealed envelop, part of the front face being torn away to disclose the position of the return address flap.

Fig. 3 is a view of the back of an envelop after it has been opened and the return address flap withdrawn therefrom. Fig. 4 is a view of the envelop as sealed for the return reply. Figs. 5 and 6 are exaggerated cross sections through the envelop as originally mailed and as sealed for the return reply, the envelop being shown empty.

The blank is formed with the customary body or face 2, the side flaps 3, and the seal flap 4. The back flap 5 is made rectangular in shape and of less height than the face 2 so that when the blank is folded and the envelop sealed, the upper edge of the back flap will lie below and be spaced apart from the upper edge of the envelop. Attached to the back-flap 5 and formed integrally therewith is the return address flap 6. This flap 6 is of slightly less area than the face 2, is not greater in height than the back flap 5, and is provided with rounded corners 7, for reasons as will hereinafter appear. Upon this flap 6 is printed the address to which the reply is to be sent. In folding the blank to complete the envelop the reply address flap 6, folds into the interior of the envelop and is preferably folded on itself so that the edge 8 lies adjacent the opening in the envelop, and below the upper edge of the face 2, as shown in Fig. 5.

When the envelop has been sealed, it must be opened along the upper edge in order that the reply address flap may be withdrawn and used. This fact must be called to the attention of the person opening the envelop, or he may open it on the end and defeat the purpose of the invention, as shown in the present embodiment. The person's attention may be called to this fact by printing a notice on the face of the envelop adjacent the upper edge, or by running lines of perforations 9 adjacent the edge or by other similar means.

After the envelop has been opened along the upper edge, the reply address flap 6 is withdrawn, the corners 7 thereof being rounded to facilitate its removal. This flap, which is integral with the back of the envelop is now folded over the front and sealed thereto in the usual manner by means of the gummed surface 12. The old address has therefore been covered and the envelop is ready for return mailing.

When it is desired the return address may be printed up-side-down from that shown

in the drawings, so that the person replying will place the stamp on the envelop along the lower edge as now shown, attaching the stamp partly to the reply flap 6 and partly to the face 2, thereby effectively sealing the envelop by means of the stamp and making it more difficult for an unlicensed person to open.

In the envelops shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the envelop has been opened by tearing along the lines of perforation so that the return envelop is slightly smaller than the original, but where such perforations are not employed the return envelop will be of the same size as the original.

The envelop may also be used for inclosing mail matter not sealed from inspection by folding the seal flap into the envelop instead of sealing it to the back flap.

I claim:

A return reply envelop consisting of a single sheet comprising a body portion, end flaps, a seal flap, a back flap of less height than the body portion, and a return reply flap comprising an extension of the back flap being not greater in height than the height of the back flap, and on the side removed from the body portion, said return reply flap folded upon itself along its longitudinal center line and being arranged within the envelop so that the free edge thereof lies adjacent the edge of the body portion from which the seal flap extends.

REBECCA M. DONOHUE.

Witnesses:

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H. G. PROST.