H. E. GRIZZARD.

ENVELOP OPENING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 10, 1913.

1,093,695. Patented Apr. 21, 1914.

Fig. 1.

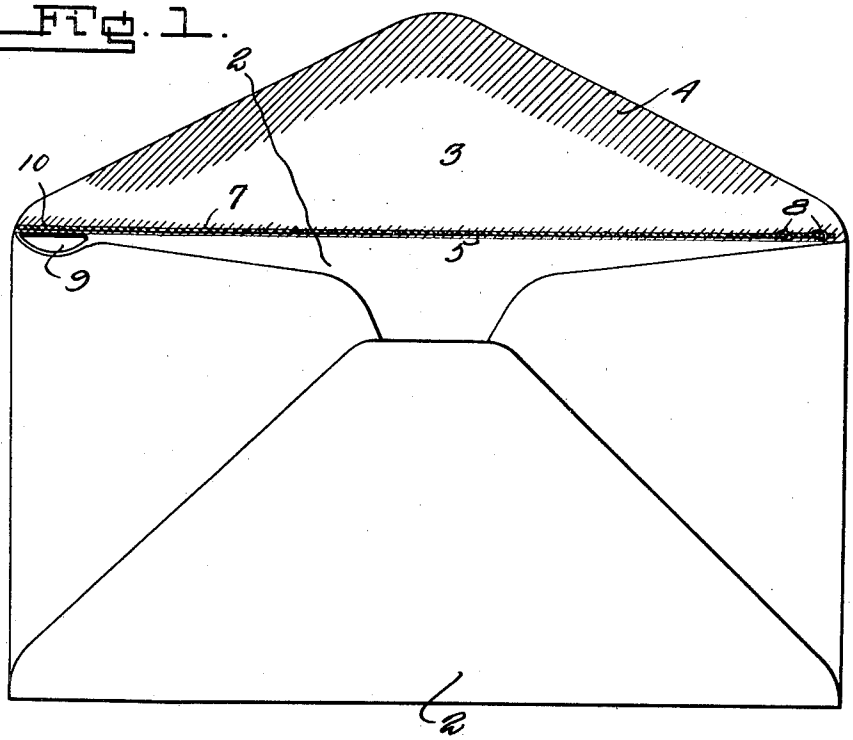


Fig. 2.

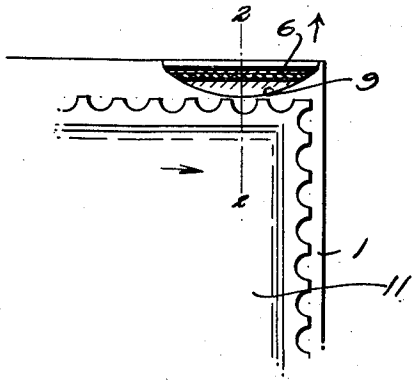
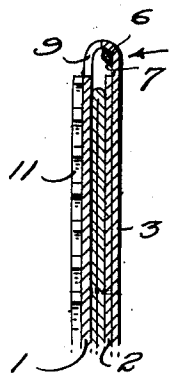


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY E. GRIZZARD, OF FRANKLIN, VIRGINIA.

ENVELOP-OPENING DEVICE.

1,093,695. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 21, 1914.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY E. GRIZZARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Franklin, in the county of Southampton and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelop-Opening Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to envelops equipped with openers.

It is one of the objects of my invention to provide an envelop with an opening means which, itself, will not be visible from the exterior of the envelop but which may be readily operated in a manner to easily open the envelop.

A further object of my invention is to provide an envelop with an opener which will not unnecessarily mutilate the body of the envelop and which preferably operates to open the envelop on a line substantially coincident with the score line at the juncture of the flap with the envelop body.

A further object of my invention is to provide an opening, preferably in the front side of the envelop, to permit insertion of the finger so as to grasp one end of the cord opener to tear open the envelop. In this connection I preferably provide a raised portion, adjacent such opening, so as to prevent the opening from acting objectionably in catching other mail matter by the corners and otherwise retarding the assembling of letters into bundles or packages.

The device of my invention will be more fully described in connection with the accompanying drawing and will be more particularly pointed out in and by the appended claim.

In the drawing: Figure 1 is a rear view of an envelop with the flap in an open position and the device of my invention applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the upper right-hand corner of the envelop. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on line 2—2 of Fig. 2.

Like characters of reference designate similar parts throughout the different figures of the drawing.

I have shown in the drawing an ordinary form of envelop in which the front side is indicated at 1, the rear side at 2, and the flap at 3. The flap is provided with the usual gummed sealing material 4, and 5 indicates the juncture of the flap with the envelop body which is usually scored on a line to give the flap an initially true fold. At the juncture of the flap and body, I provide means preferably in the form of a very small cord or string 6 which constitutes an opener. It will be understood that the size of the string will be determined by the character and toughness of the paper from which the envelop is made. In the most improved embodiment of the invention the cord is glued or gummed in place, as indicated at 7, and extends along the juncture or score line of the flap and body toward but preferably not outside of the ends of the body so that the cord opener will not be visible, or in other words, will not project from the envelop body.

In order to insure complete severance of the envelop throughout the juncture line 5, I provide the cord 6 with one or more enlargements which may be in the form of knots 8, so as to provide for such accumulation of gum thereabout as to insure a very firm anchorage of the knotted end so that when the opposite end of the cord is pulled to tear the envelop the line of tear or rip will extend completely lengthwise of the envelop. It will be readily understood that if the string were not securely gummed at all intermediate points, it would, nevertheless, provide for a complete severance of the envelop by reason of the securely gummed lengths of the string subsequent to the imperfectly gummed lengths, but if the terminal end were not securely gummed the string might pull out before the envelop had been completely severed throughout its length and therefore the enlarged or knotted end performs a very useful function.

In order to facilitate location of that end of the string to be grasped in opening the envelop, I provide an opening which is desirably arranged at the upper right-hand corner on the front side of the envelop, as indicated at 9. This opening renders a small portion of the opening end 10, of the cord 6 accessible for a short length and permits of the insertion of one of the operator's fingers so that the finger only can engage the string. An opposite pressure on the imperforate rear side in the direction of the arrow shown in Fig. 3, by another finger, will enable the user to get hold of the string with a sufficient grasp to pull it upwardly in the direction of the arrow shown in Fig. 2 so as to tear the envelop on the juncture line 5.

It will be readily seen that on the ordinary correspondence or business envelop I can provide a very fine string which will not bulge the envelop or in any way detract from the appearance of the same and which will not in any way discommode the user in the operation of inserting matter in the envelop.

I provide the opening 9 at the upper right-hand corner for the reason that the stamp 11 provides a convenient raised or elevated portion adjacent said opening so that in assembling letters into packages or bundles, the sliding movement of one in superposed relation with the other would make it impossible for the corner of one to become lodged in the opening 9. Furthermore, the contents of the envelop will usually fill the body so that the front side will slope rearwardly adjacent the opening 9 thereby further avoiding any objectionable engagement of the corners of the letters therein.

In view of the fact that the envelop is opened at the juncture line 5, the usefulness of the envelop as a container for its contents, subsequent to the receipt thereof, will not be in any way impaired. Furthermore, the opening 9 is in full view of the receiver and is disposed at the stamped corner so as to clearly invite use of the string in opening the envelop as it is customary to open the envelop from the stamped corner.

While I prefer to provide an opening in the envelop to render the string accessible at at least one portion of its length, still, the device of my invention may be useful with a completely closed envelop as any one familiar with the device could readily grasp the string by slightly tearing one corner or by grasping the string on opposite sides, through the thicknesses of the front and back of the envelop. It is also possible that the invention might be serviceable by utilizing the enlarged or knotted portions to facilitate grasping one portion of the string for tearing the envelop open thereby omitting the opening 9.

While I have herein shown and described one specific form of my invention I do not wish to be limited thereby except for such limitations as the claim may import.

I claim:

An envelop opening device comprising an envelop having a string opener gummed throughout its length inside of one marginal fold of and extending substantially throughout the length of such fold but not outside of the envelop, the envelop having an opening near one end of the cord extending in advance of the line of fold and string and along one side portion of the envelop and the remaining side portion and the fold to which the string is attached being imperforate whereby the string may be gummed to the fold throughout the length of that portion of the string extending along the opening, and the remaining end of the string being knotted to collect larger masses of the gum and prevent detachment of the string when the same is being pulled to open the envelop, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY E. GRIZZARD.

Witnesses:
E. R. Carr,
Thos. D. Boone.