

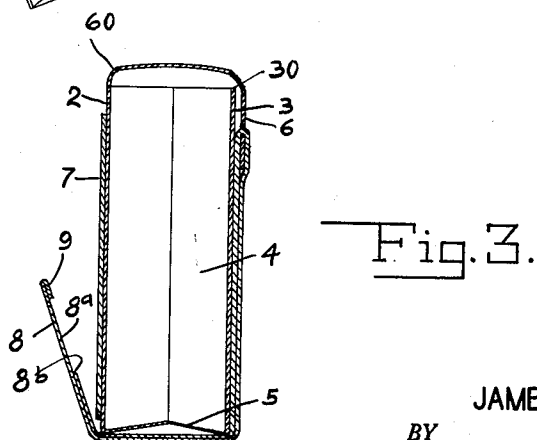
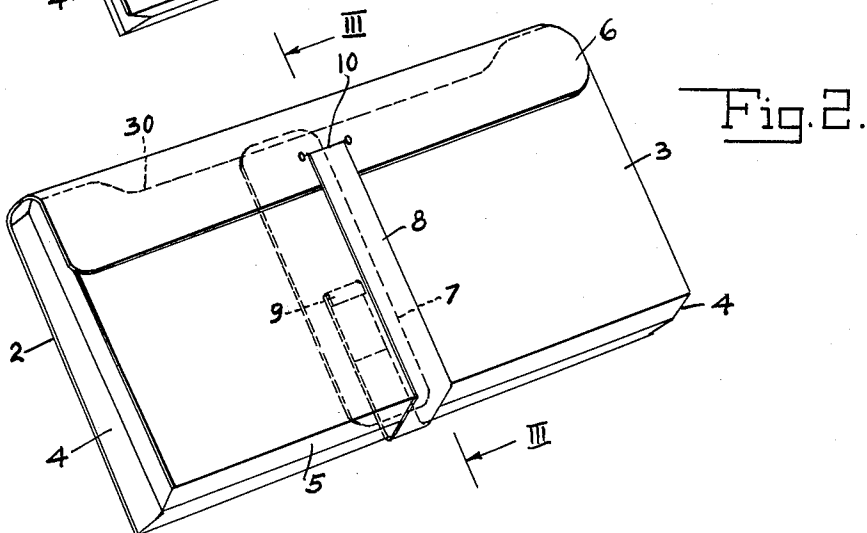
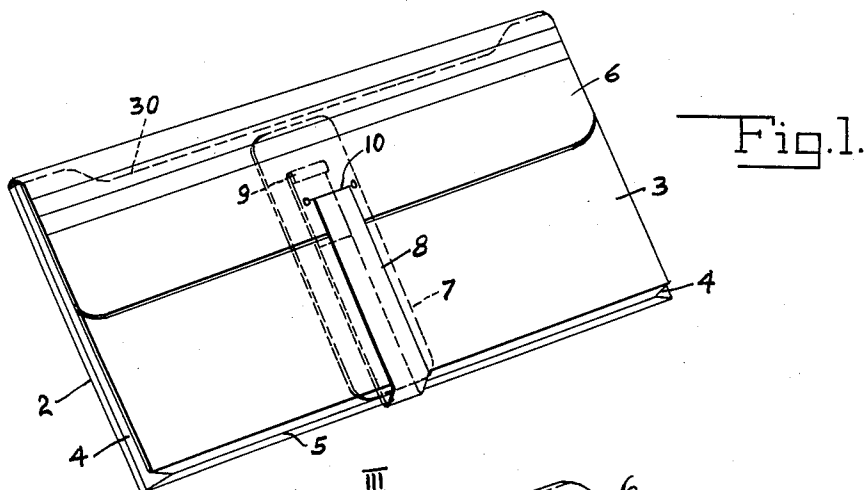
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2,726,031

FILE WRAPPERS AND ENVELOPES

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1

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FILE WRAPPERS AND ENVELOPES

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2 Claims. (Cl. 229—79)

My invention relates to large file wrappers and accordion envelopes of the sort used by lawyers and business men to contain and file various legal and business papers, and the invention consists in certain new and useful structural improvements in such containers. The application for this patent comprised a continuation-in-part of my application Serial No. 255,045, filed November 6, 1951.

An envelope of the sort to which my invention especially relates is formed of heavy paper, or light cardboard, or other suitable sheet material. Such an envelope has a front wall and a back wall united along their side and bottom edges by plaited side and bottom walls, and a flap hinged to said front wall on a fold-line. The flap is movable on the fold-line over the top edge of said back wall to close the envelope. In order to secure the envelope in closed position a cord or ribbon is attached to said flap, and, when the flap is closed, the cord is passed around the body of the envelope and the two ends of the cord are tied. In this way the envelope cannot become unintentionally opened and its contents lost, and, since the otherwise free edge of the flap is secured upon the face of said back wall, the envelope may be readily slipped into place or removed from position between other envelopes in a filing drawer or cabinet, without the flaps of adjacent envelopes becoming caught or snagged with one another, although it may be noted that the tied cords sometimes become snagged with the flaps of adjacent envelopes in the drawer, and usually prevent as compact an assembly of envelopes as might otherwise may be.

In the use of such envelopes the tying and untying of the cords is a nuisance, and often the cords become detached from the envelope flaps and become lost, or, if not lost, the detached cords increase the nuisance encountered in the use of the envelopes.

More particularly, my invention eliminates the use of cords, while providing a simpler and more effective security of the flap of an envelope in closed position. The flap may be readily secured and released at will, to close and open the envelope, all without objectionable increase in the cost of the envelope. The invention will be understood upon reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of an envelope embodying the invention in exemplary way;

Fig. 2 is a view comparable with Fig. 1, showing the envelope with a greater volume of contents than it has in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the envelope as seen on the plane III—III of Fig. 2 with the end of one of the attaching elements removed from flap-securing engagement with its cooperating element.

Referring to the drawings, an envelope of the sort in which the invention may be incorporated comprises a body formed of card-board, or fibre-board, or of other suitable material in sheet form. The envelope comprises a front wall 2 and a back wall 3, which are not immov-

2

ably united along their side edges. The companion side edges of said walls are designed to yield relatively to one another in order to adapt the envelope for contents of widely varying bulks. As shown herein, the walls 2 and 3 are united along their side and bottom edges by bellows or accordion-like side and bottom walls 4 and 5, respectively. A flap 6 is hinged on a line-of-fold 60 to the front wall 2, and is movable on such line over the top edge 30 of the back wall 3, into overlapped position upon said back wall. In order to open the envelope the flap is swung away from the back wall, upwardly and clear of the top edge of the said back wall, whereby access to the interior of the envelope is had for the introduction and removal of papers, etc. When the envelope is closed, it is desirable for the reasons already mentioned that the flap shall be secured in position upon the face of the back wall, while providing for the ready detachment of the flap to permit the envelope to be opened. The invention is found in improved means to this end, and in the particularly effective organization and combination of such means with the envelope structure.

In accordance with the invention the flap-attaching device of my envelope comprises an element 7 on the front wall 2 of the envelope and a cooperating element 8 on the flap 6. The attaching element on the flap 6 is provided at its distal end with a permanently tacky adhesive, while the cooperating element on the front wall may comprise a film that forms a "glazed" surface upon which the adhesive may be readily attached and detached. The tacky adhesive may be one of several adhesives with which the art is familiar, such, for example, as the permanently tacky adhesive used on "Scotch Tape"—a material widely known in the market and in general use at the present time. As an example of the known adhesives reference is made to the adhesives disclosed in Patent No. 2,156,380, granted to Richard G. Drew on May 2, 1939; Patent No. 2,410,079, granted to Waldo Kellgren on October 29, 1946; and Patent No. 2,177,627, granted to Richard G. Drew on October 31, 1939. The smooth, glossy film on the envelope front wall may comprise a sheet of thin cellophane, or Celluloid, or other suitable material which is chemically inert and relatively impervious to the said adhesive, to provide a surface to which the adhesive on the cooperating attaching element may be readily and firmly attached, to secure the envelope flap in closed position, and from which the adhesive may be cleanly detached, to release the flap for opening the envelope.

More particularly, the cooperating attaching element comprises a strap 8 of heavy cloth, or plastic tape, or other suitable material, which has exposed on the under or inner surface of its distal end portion a coating of an adhesive of the sort described. The strap 8 may be secured at its upper end to the flap 6 by means of a suitable cement, or by rivets, wire staples or the like. Again, the strap may be removably secured (permitting renewal of the strap if need be) by passing the upper end of the strap through a slot 10 in the flap, and extending the end downwardly over the inner face of the flap.

The strap passed through the slot 10 is doubled back upon itself, with the adhesive-bearing surfaces of the two reaches of the strap united face to face from the lower edge of the flap 6 to the point 8b where the doubled reach ends. Beyond the point 8b the adhesive face of the strap remains exposed in an area 8a. Above the lower edge of the flap the two reaches of the strap are adhered to the adjacent inner and outer surfaces of the flap.

In securing the flap 6 in closed position, the strap 8 is passed downward over the back wall, under the bottom, and upward over the front wall of the envelope, where the distal end of the strap is secured by applying and

pressing the exposed adhesive-coated strap portion 8a against the surface of the attaching element 7. It may be noted that the length of the strap portion 3a is substantially greater than the breadth of the strap, and that the breadth of the attaching element 7 is substantially greater than that of the said strap.

The attaching element 7 may comprise a film or sheet of cellophane, or Celluloid, or other suitable material which is chemically inert and substantially impervious to the adhesive on strap 8. Such film or sheet may be secured to the envelope wall by cement, preferably a colorless cellulosic cement, of the sort known to the plastic industry at the present time.

Alternatively, a solvent of the material, of which the element 7 is made, may be sprayed or brushed on one surface of the element, and such surface thereby reduced to a tacky condition for application to the envelope wall 2. When the element is applied and pressed against wall 2, the solvent is soon dissipated and a permanent bond of the element to the wall is established.

In modification, the cellophane, or other glaze-producing material, may be prepared as a solution, and applied in liquid form to the envelope wall 2. The pervious body of the envelope wall over the area of application may be partially or wholly impregnated with the liquid. When the solvent evaporates the solute remains as a permanent element of the envelope wall, and provides thereon a "glazed" surface film of the characteristics desired.

In further modification, a thermo-plastic material, such as a coumarone resin, may be applied in molten condition to the envelope wall and pressed under a platen or die into the substance of the wall. Upon cooling and solidification the plastic material provides a smooth, glossy film on the wall. Again, the thermo-plastic material may be applied in sheet form, and a heated die employed to effect the ends described.

The distal end of the strap 8 may be readily adhered to the "glazed" surface of the attaching element 7. In secured position the strap tightly embraces the body of the envelope and affords structural reinforcement for the envelope in service. While the device 7, 8 firmly secures the flap 6 in closed position, it is important to note that the strap 8 may be readily and quickly detached from the element 7, whereby the flap 6 is released, permitting the envelope to be opened. The strap may be thus detached simply by grasping the end of the strap and pulling it downwardly and outwardly. This progressively breaks the adhesion of the strap upon the surface of element 7. In order to facilitate such manipulation of the strap a tip 9 may be formed on the end of the strap, as shown.

Accordion-like envelopes of the type shown in the drawing are adapted to contain varying amounts of papers. When a few papers are in the envelope the body of the envelope is thin, and the flap 6 extends upwardly upon the back wall 3 of the envelope a relatively great distance, as shown in Fig. 1. On the other hand, when the contents are of greater bulk the body of the envelope is expanded, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the flap 6 extends upwardly a shorter distance upon the wall 2. In order to adapt the flap-securing device 7, 8 of my invention to the varying bulk or thickness of the envelope in service, it will be noted that the reach of the film element 7 is vertically extended between the top and bottom edges of the front wall 2; that is, the extent of the attaching element 7 in a direction normal to the fold-line about which the flap 6 swings is substantially greater than the extent of the area 8a of the exposed adhesive, with the effect that the strap 8 may be securely attached to the element 7 irrespective of the bulk and thickness of the envelope and the degree of overlap of the flap 6 on the back wall 3 of the envelope.

The particular doubled construction of the strap 8 provides for firm adherence of the strap to both the inner and outer surfaces of the flap 6 below slot 10. The double thickness of the strap from the free edge of the flap 6

to the point 8b affords great strength in the strap, and when the envelope is open the strap may be bent back upon itself and the exposed tacky area 8a temporarily applied to the opposed face of the strap, whereby any papers withdrawn from the envelope will not make contact with and stick to the said area 8a.

The flat body of the strap extends in flap-securing position flat against the back wall 3, under the bottom of the envelope and up the front wall 2. Such flat engagement of the strap with the envelope walls not only reinforces the envelope in closed position, but also tends to prevent the secured flap from going askew, as it does with other types of flap fasteners, particularly when the contents of the envelope are bulky, and when the envelope is being inserted into a filing cabinet snugly between other envelopes. There are many other advantages of the structure of this invention, which will occur to those skilled in the art.

For example, it has been discovered that when an envelope is filled to bulging proportions, it is difficult to secure the flap in tightly closed position. The flap 6 tends, under the stress of the bulging contents upon the walls of the envelope, to swing outwardly on the fold-line on which the said flap is hinged to the envelope body, wherefore, if a flap-securing device is provided for adhering the distal edge of the flap to the back wall of the envelope, it is difficult to retain the elements of the securing device in adhered flap-securing engagement; that is a substantial component of the force tending to swing the flap outwardly from closed position reacts normally to the plane of the adhering surfaces of the elements of the flap-securing device, with the consequence and effect that the adhered elements are gradually and slowly pulled apart and the security of the flap in closed position destroyed. This objection or difficulty is substantially eliminated in the structure of my invention, as follows: When the envelope is closed, no matter how full or bulged may be the envelope body, the strap 8 is pulled downwardly, drawing the flap into closed position against the back wall 3 of the envelope. Then, as already described, the taut strap is passed under the bottom edge or wall 5 and upward upon the front wall 2 and the adhesive area 8a of the strap is adhered to the cooperating attaching element or area 7 on the front wall 2. The major component of the stress which tends to swing the closed flap 6 into open position is converted into tension effective along the length of the strap, and this tension reacts in a direction substantially parallel to or coincident with the plane of the adhered surfaces of the portions 7 and 8a. There is substantially no effective force reacting normally to the plane of such adhered surfaces, wherefore my attaching device remains engaged in flap-securing position until it is intentionally disengaged.

The invention has been described as it has been embodied in an accordion or bellows-type envelope, but it is to be understood that the invention may be applied to other sorts of file wrappers having flaps which may advantageously be secured in temporarily closed position.

Many modifications of the structures described will be apparent to the artisan, without departing from the spirit of the invention defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a file wrapper having an envelope-like body formed of sheet material and adapted to enclose contents of various bulks, said body comprising a back wall, a front wall, bellows side walls, and a flap, said flap being hinged on a fold-line to said front wall and being movable on the fold-line into overlapped position upon said back wall to close the wrapper, and means for securing said flap in closed position; the invention herein described comprising a strap secured to said flap and adapted to be drawn taut and extended downwardly from the flap over said back wall, under the bottom and upwardly over the front wall of the wrapper body, the distal end portion only of said strap carrying on its inner surface an ex-

5

posed area of permanently tacky adhesive material, and the outer surface of said front wall having a film portion of a material which is chemically inert to said permanently tacky adhesive material of the strap and presenting a glazed portion which receives the adhesive area of the strap in an intentionally disengageable union for securing the flap in closed position on said back wall, the flap-securing force of said strap comprising tension that extends through the strap downwardly over said back wall, under the bottom and upwardly over the front wall of the wrapper and that acts at the distal end portion of the strap in a direction substantially coincident with the plane of the union of said strap to said film portion, the extent of said film portion in a direction normal to said fold-line being substantially greater than the corresponding extent of the adhesive area exposed on the end portion of said

10

15

6

strap, whereby the strap is effective in conjunction with said film portion to secure the flap closed while providing for wide variation in the thickness of the wrapper body.

2. The structure of the next-preceding claim, wherein said strap comprises adhesive tape extending in double thickness, with the adhesive sides of the united tape portions face to face, from said flap to said exposed adhesive area at the distal end portion of said strap.

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