Aug. 30, 1938. M. VOGEL 2,128,275

COMBINED LETTER SHEET AND ENVELOPE

Filed March 18, 1936

Fig. 1.

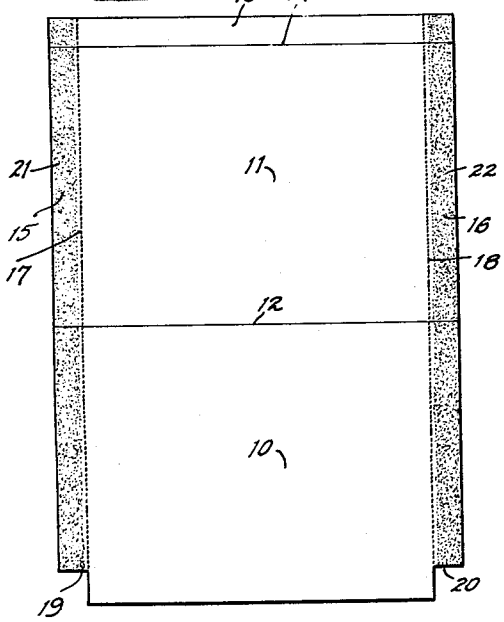


Fig. 6.

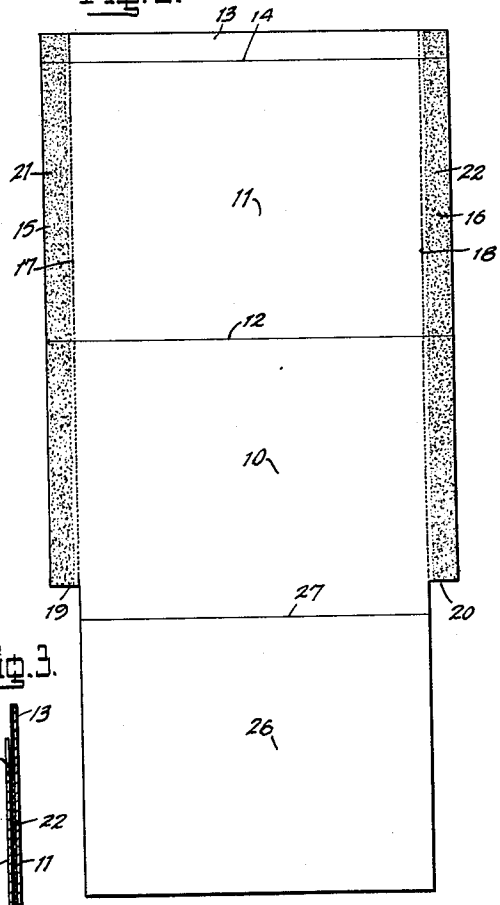
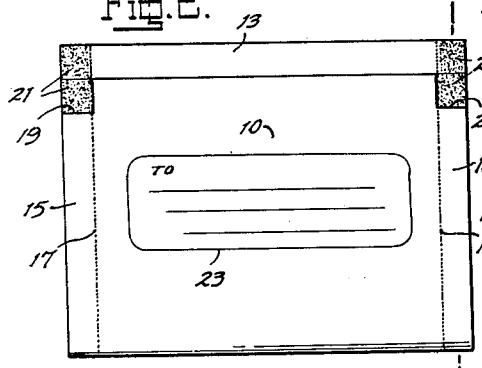


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

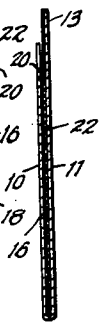
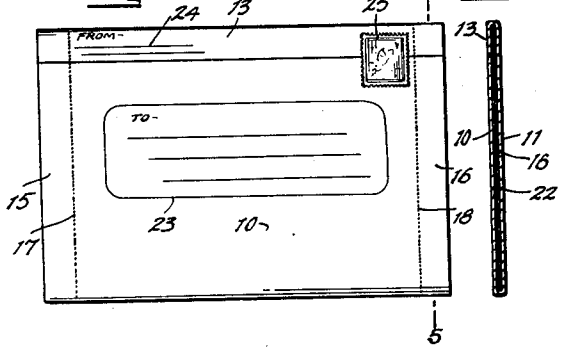


Fig. 4.



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Fig. 5.

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COMBINED LETTER SHEET AND ENVELOPE

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Application March 18, 1936, Serial No. 69,463

8 Claims. (Cl. 229—92.7)

The present invention relates to a combined letter sheet and envelope, and has for an object to provide a device of this character which does not require moistening of its sealing means in order to effectively seal it, as is necessary with the usual type of combined letter sheet and envelope wherein ordinary gum is used for sealing. For this purpose I propose to employ cooperating adhesive surfaces having an adhesive coating of a type which, even when moistened, will not stick or adhere to uncoated areas of the paper, but will firmly stick to the same adhesive substance, a suitable substance of this character being a solution of para rubber in gasoline. For convenience this substance, because of its property of adhering to itself without the necessity of moistening it, will hereinafter be referred to as dry adhesive.

A further object is to provide a combined envelope and letter sheet structure having a closing flap adapted to be folded about the edge of the folded over section of the sheet and sealed by means of the dry-adhesive, so that the closed envelope will have smooth folded upper and lower edges, as distinguished from combined letter sheets and envelopes heretofore in use where the sharp edges of the folded sheet were exposed. It is further proposed to provide means whereby an area of the dry-adhesive will be exposed upon the folding of the sheet for the purpose of cooperating with the dry-adhesive upon the closing flap. A further object is to provide a combined letter sheet and envelope structure which when sealed will prevent the unauthorized opening of the letter without showing evidence of having been opened. Another object is to provide a combined letter sheet and envelope structure which may be readily opened by the recipient of the letter and when opened will present a letter of neat rectangular form upon which the address, postal place and time stamps, etc. will be preserved. Another object is to provide a structure in which the dry-adhesive will be in the form of parallel strips at the same side of the sheet so that it may be most conveniently applied as the sheet moves in one direction in the machine for applying the dry-adhesive.

With the above and other objects in view embodiments of the invention are shown in the accompanying drawing, and these embodiments will be hereinafter more fully described with reference thereto, and the invention will be finally pointed out in the claims.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a combined letter sheet and envelope according to my invention, the same being shown in open position ready to be written upon.

Fig. 2 is a plan view showing the sheet folded preparatory to sealing, the closing flap being shown in raised open position.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a plan view showing the combined letter sheet and envelope in sealed condition and with the stamp in place thereon.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a plan view, similar to Fig. 1, of a modified form of the invention in which the sheet is provided with an additional writing section.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawing.

Referring to the drawing, the combined letter sheet and envelope according to the exemplary illustrated embodiment of the invention comprises a blank of rectangular paper, cardboard, or other suitable material, having sections 10 and 11 of substantially corresponding dimensions and foldable on the line 12, a closing flap portion 13 constituting an upwardly projecting extension of the section 11 and foldable with respect thereto along the line 14, and marginal strips 15 and 16 extending along the side edges of the sections 10, 11 and 13 and defined by lines of tearing perforations 17 and 18, the strips 15 and 16 terminating at their lower ends in upwardly spaced relation to the lower end of the section 10 to provide notches or cut-outs 19 and 20 of a depth approximately corresponding to the width of the closing flap 13. The inner surfaces of the strips 15 and 16 are coated with dry-sealing adhesive substance 21 and 22 which is preferably in the form of a rubber solution, as for instance natural or compounded latex, or rubber cement, the invention also contemplating the use of other adhesives possessing the same general characteristics, these characteristics being that the substance upon one coated surface will adhere to a similar substance upon another coated surface, although it will not adhere to uncoated surfaces, even though moistened.

The inner surfaces of the sections 10 and 11 constitute the writing space, which when the device is closed and sealed is concealed, while the outer surface constitutes the space for the address of the recipient of the letter and the writer's address, the outer surface of the section 10 preferably having a block 23 printed thereon for receiving the address of the recipient and the clos-

ing flap 13 having a printed space 24 for receiving the address of the sender. Instead of the printed block 23 the sheet may have a transparent window so that the address written at the beginning of the letter upon the section 11 will show through.

In operation the device is closed, after the letter is written upon the inner surface of the sections 10 and 11, by folding the section 10 upon the section 11 along the line 12, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, whereupon the dry adhesive coatings of the sections of the side strips 15 and 16 extending from the sides of the sections 10 and 11 contact each other and seal the sections together beyond the lines of perforations 17 and 18. It will be noted that the notches 19 and 20 expose areas of the dry-adhesive substance below the fold line 14 approximately corresponding to the areas of dry-adhesive substance at the ends of the closing flap 13, so that upon folding the closing flap downwardly, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the closing flap encloses the upper edge of the section 10 and is sealed through contact of the areas of dry-adhesive substances at the ends of the closing flap with the areas of dry-adhesive substance exposed through the notches 19 and 20. The postage stamp 25 may be placed upon the device at any suitable position, but will preferably be placed over the edge of the closing flap inwardly of the line of perforations 18, so that when the letter is opened the postal place and time stamps will be preserved upon the body of the letter sheet. In order to open the letter it is only necessary to remove the sealed strips 15 and 16 by tearing along the tearing perforations 17 and 18, after which the letter may be opened simply by breaking the seal provided by the postage stamp.

In Fig. 6 I have illustrated a modification in which an additional writing section 26 is provided as an extension of the lower extremity of the section 10, this section 26 corresponding in dimensions substantially to the sections 10 and 11. Inasmuch as the section 26 will be enclosed between the sections 10 and 11 in the closed sealed condition of the device it may receive written matter upon both surfaces. The section 26 also has the function of stiffening the closed device and rendering it more opaque, so that thinner material can be used without enabling the contents of the letter to be read by holding the same up at the light. In closing this form of the invention the section 26 is first folded upon the section 10 along the line 27, the sections 10 and 26 being then folded upon the section 12, the operation of closing and sealing being otherwise the same as in the first embodiment.

The lines of folding 12, 14 and 27 may either be score lines, folds, or suitably indicated lines of folding.

While I have described the use of dry-adhesive sealing substance, it will be understood that ordinary gum which must be moistened for sealing may be used if desired, in which case it is only necessary to apply such gum to the strip portions at the sides of the section 11, areas of which will be exposed by the cut-outs 19 and 20 to engagement of the strip portions at the sides of the closing flap.

I have illustrated and described preferred and satisfactory embodiments of the invention, but it will be obvious that certain changes may be made therein within the spirit and scope thereof as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A combined letter sheet and envelope comprising a sheet of material of rectangular form having a plurality of sections foldable transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation, one of said sections constituting a back section and another constituting a front section, a closing flap forming an extension of said back section and also foldable transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation with said back section, a pair of separable marginal strip portions extending along the parallel longitudinal sides of said sections and said closing flap, each coated at one side with an adhesive of a type adapted to adhere to itself upon the application of pressure alone, whereby upon the folding of said sections into superimposed relation the folded strip portions adhere in folded relation, the strip portions at the sides of said front section having cut-out means adapted to expose areas of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said back portion to engagement of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said flap portion when said flap portion is folded.

2. A combined letter sheet and envelope comprising a sheet of material of rectangular form having a plurality of sections foldable along predetermined lines of folding transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation, one of said sections constituting a back section and another constituting a front section, a closing flap forming an extension of said back section and also foldable along a predetermined line of folding transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation with said back section, a pair of separable marginal strip portions extending along the parallel longitudinal sides of said sections and said closing flap, each coated at one side with an adhesive of a type adapted to adhere to itself upon the application of pressure alone, whereby upon the folding of said sections into superimposed relation the folded strip portions adhere in folded relation, the strip portions at the sides of said front section terminating, when folded, in spaced relation to the fold line of said closing flap whereby areas of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said back section are exposed to engagement of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said flap portion when said flap portion is folded.

3. A combined letter sheet and envelope comprising a sheet of material of rectangular form having a pair of approximately equal sized sections foldable along predetermined lines of folding transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation, one of said sections constituting a back section and the other constituting a front section, a closing flap forming an extension of said back section and also foldable along a predetermined line of folding transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation with said back section, a pair of separable marginal strip portions extending along the parallel longitudinal sides of said sections and said closing flap, each coated at one side with an adhesive of a type adapted to adhere to itself upon the application of pressure alone, whereby upon the folding of said sections into superimposed relation the folded strip portions adhere in folded relation, the strip portions at the sides of said front section terminating, when folded, in spaced relation to the fold line of said closing flap whereby areas of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said back section are exposed to engagement of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said flap portion when said flap portion is folded.

4. A combined letter sheet and envelope com-

prising a sheet of material of rectangular form having a plurality of sections foldable transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation, one of said sections constituting a back section and another constituting a front section, a closing flap forming an extension of said back section and also foldable transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation with said back section, separable marginal strip portions extending along the parallel longitudinal sides of said sections and said closing flap, each coated at one side with an adhesive of a type adapted to adhere to itself upon the application of pressure alone, whereby upon the folding of said sections into superimposed relation the folded strip portions adhere in folded relation, the strip portions at the sides of said front section having cut-out means adapted to expose an area of the coating of the strip portions at the sides of said back section to engagement of the coating of the strip portions at the sides of said flap portion when said flap portion is folded, and said front section terminating, when folded, in underlying relation to said folded flap portion.

5. A combined letter sheet and envelope comprising a sheet of material of rectangular form having a plurality of sections foldable along predetermined lines of folding transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation, one of said sections constituting a back section and another constituting a front section, a closing flap forming an extension of said back section and also foldable along a predetermined line of folding transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation with said back section, separable marginal strip portions extending along the parallel longitudinal sides of said sections and said closing flap, each coated at one side with an adhesive of a type adapted to adhere to itself upon the application of pressure alone, whereby upon the folding of said sections into superimposed relation the folded strip portions adhere in folded relation, the strip portions at the sides of said front section terminating, when folded, in spaced relation to the extremities of the strip portions at the sides of said closing flap whereby areas of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said back section are exposed to engagement of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said flap portion when said flap portion is folded.

6. A combined letter sheet and envelope comprising a sheet of material of rectangular form having a plurality of sections foldable along predetermined lines of folding transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation, one of said sections constituting a back section and another constituting a front section, a closing flap forming an extension of said back section and also foldable along a predetermined line of folding transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation with said back section, separable marginal strip portions extending along the parallel longitudinal sides of said sections and said closing flap, each coated at one side with an adhesive of a type adapted to adhere to itself upon the application of pressure alone, whereby upon the folding of said sections into superimposed relation the folded strip portions adhere in folded relation, the strip portions at the sides of said front section terminating, when folded, in spaced relation to the extremities of the strip portions at the sides of said closing flap whereby areas of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said back section are exposed to engagement of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said flap portion when said flap portion is folded, and said front section terminating, when folded, in underlying relation to said folded flap portion.

7. A combined letter sheet and envelope comprising a sheet of material of rectangular form having a plurality of sections foldable transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation, one of said sections constituting a back section, another constituting a front section, and another constituting an extension of said front section, a closing flap forming an extension of said back section and also foldable transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation with said back section, separable marginal strip portions extending along the sides of said front and back sections and said closing flap, each coated at one side with an adhesive of a type adapted to adhere to itself upon the application of pressure above, whereby upon the folding of said sections into superimposed relation the folded strip portions adhere in folded relation, the strip portions at the sides of said front section having cut-out means adapted to expose areas of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said back section to engagement of the coatings of the strip portions at the sides of said flap portion when said flap portion is folded.

8. A combined letter sheet and envelope comprising a sheet of material of rectangular form having a plurality of sections foldable along predetermined lines of folding transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation, one of said sections constituting a back section and another constituting a front section, a closing flap forming an extension of said back section and also foldable along a predetermined line of folding transversely of the sheet into superimposed relation with said back section, a pair of separable marginal strip portions extending along the parallel longitudinal sides of said sections and said closing flap, the strip portions at the sides of said front section having cut-out means adapted to expose areas of the strip portions at the sides of said back portion to engagement of the strip portions at the sides of said flap portion when said flap portion is folded, whereby said flap may be sealed to said back section by a sealing substance between them.

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