J. H. HUSTED.

ENVELOP FASTENER.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 11, 1906.

920,466. Patented May 4, 1909.

Fig. 1.

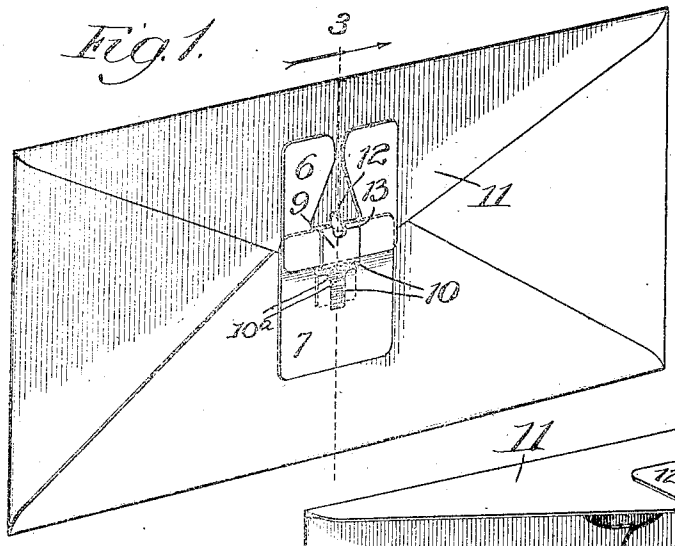


Fig. 2.

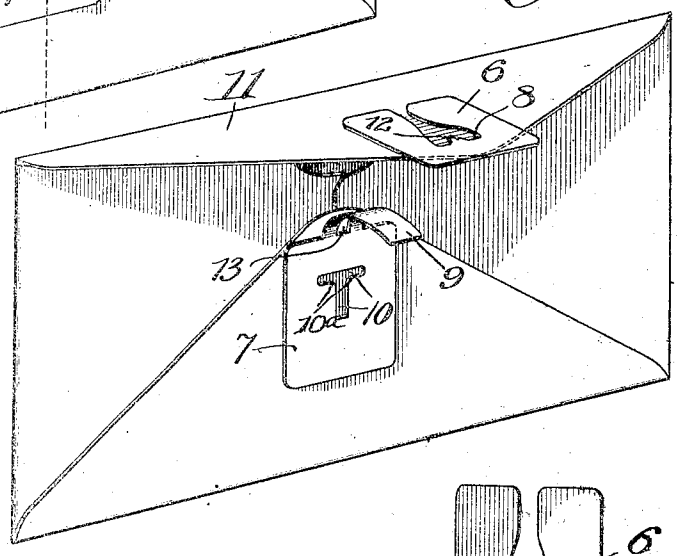


Fig. 3.

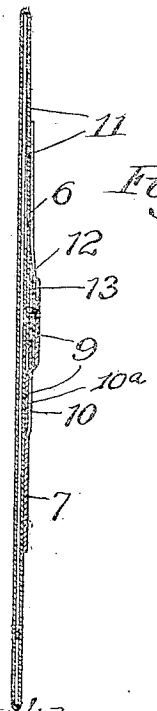


Fig. 4.

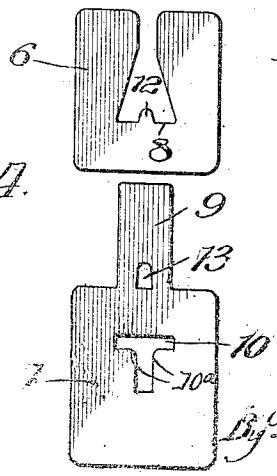
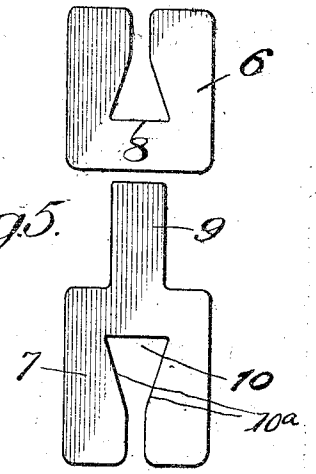


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

Geo. E. Gaylord.

J. H. Landes

Inventor:

Julius H. Husted,

By Dyrenforth, Dyrenforth, Lee & Wiles

Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JULIUS H. HUSTED, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

ENVELOP-FASTENER.

No. 920,466. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 4, 1909.

Application filed May 11, 1906. Serial No. 316,323.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JULIUS H. HUSTED, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Envelop-Fasteners, of which the following is a specification.

My object is to provide means of improved construction for use in fastening down the flaps of envelops in a manner, more especially, to permit the ready opening of the envelop for the inspection of contents as required, for example, in the case of third class mail.

In carrying out my invention, I provide the fastening means in two parts of flexible material, which may be leather or cloth, for example, but preferably paper, one part being a loop-member, and the other being a slotted tongue-member. The loop-member is gummed or pasted against the surface of the envelop flap, and the tongue-member is gummed or pasted against the body of the envelop, the parts being so attached and positioned that to lock the flap the tongue of the tongue-member may be passed through the loop-member and thence into the slot of the tongue-member, which houses the end of the tongue and holds it with desired security. By preference, I provide the loop-member with a short projection, and the tongue with an opening near its base to receive the projection and operate as additional means for preventing the tongue from being drawn through the loop to release its end from the slot of the tongue-piece and permit inadvertent unlocking and opening of the flap.

Referring to the drawing—Figure 1 is a perspective view of the rear side of an envelop with my improvements applied thereto, and showing the parts in locked position; Fig. 2, a similar view showing the parts unlocked, and the flap of the envelop partly open; Fig. 3, an enlarged section taken on line 3 in Fig. 1; Fig. 4, a face view of the fastening members of the preferred form; and Fig. 5, a similar view of the fastening members of a modified form.

The fastening members consist of a loop-piece 6 and a tongue-piece 7. They are preferably of paper of desired toughness. The loop-piece may be of bifurcated form, as shown, presenting the edge 8 at the base of the loop. The tongue-piece, or member, has a tongue 9, and may have a T or other shaped opening, as shown in Fig. 4, or be bifurcated as shown in Fig. 5, to produce a housing-slot 10 into which extend lips 10^a, for a purpose hereinafter explained. The loop member is gummed or pasted to the envelop flap 11 to occupy the position indicated, that portion from the edge 8 to the lower end being left free or ungummed to permit the ready passage of the tongue through the loop. The body-portion of the tongue-piece is pasted or gummed to the envelop body in the position shown and in a manner to leave pocket below the slot 10 to receive the end portion of the tongue, as indicated.

To lock down the flap the tongue 9 is passed upward between the lower part of the loop-piece and edge of the flap through the opening left by the ungummed space, and is drawn through the loop and bent over the edge 8. The free end portion of the tongue is then passed through the slot 10 into the housing pocket left behind the loop-piece, as described. The bending of the tongue over the edge 8, and the insertion of its end into the slot 10, operates effectively to lock the parts together with desired security and hold the flap closed. As additional security, the edge 8 may be provided with a projection 12, and an opening 13 may be provided at the base of the tongue, whereby, when the tongue is bent over the edge 8, the projection 12 will enter the opening 13 and prevent the tongue from slipping in the loop.

The loop and tongue members of my improved envelop-fastener may be cut to present any desired shape, so long as the essential features hereinafter claimed are present.

The foregoing description relates more especially to the manner of re-fastening an envelop after it has been opened, as, for instance, for inspection purposes by the postal authorities. In the process of manufacturing my fastener it is the practice to fasten together the two members of the fastener and attach it to an envelop at one end of its ends only, thereby leaving the other end free to be pasted down upon the envelop to close it after the latter has been filled, or to assemble the fasteners and provide the trade with them disconnected from envelops. By providing the lips 10^a extending into the slot on the tongue-equipped member the fastener-members may be assembled very quickly by inserting, in each case, the tongue through the slotted loop-member, thence bending the tongue backward to cause it to lie against the lips and over the slot, and by a small rod

or pencil press the end of the tongue through the slot and past the lips, which latter immediately spring back into place and press against the tongue to hold it firmly between them and the envelop. By so assembling the members arching of the tongue with its consequent buckling is dispensed with and the tongue is maintained at its free end, at all times, in flat condition.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is

1. The combination with an envelop, of means for locking the flap to the body comprising a slotted member upon one said part of the envelop and a flexible member on the other said part of the envelop provided with a tongue and containing an elongated slot so shaped as to permit the tongue, when inserted through the slot in said first-named slotted member and bent back upon the member carrying it, to be flexed through said last-named slot without buckling the tongue lengthwise thereof.

2. The combination with an envelop, of means for locking the flap to the body comprising a slotted member upon one said part of the envelop, and a flexible member on the other said part of the envelop provided with a tongue and containing a slot so shaped as to permit the tongue, when inserted through said slotted member and bent back upon the member carrying it, to be pressed through the slot and past the sides thereof, for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination with an envelop, of means for locking the flap to the body, comprising a slotted member upon one said part of the envelop, a flexible member on the other said part of the envelop provided with a tongue, slots in said flexible tongue-equipped member communicating with each other and extending at approximately right angles to each other and arranged transversely and longitudinally, respectively, of the said tongue, said flexible tongue being adapted to be inserted through the slot of the said first-named member and thence through the slot of the tongue-equipped member, substantially as described.

4. The combination with an envelop, of means for locking the flap to the body, comprising a slotted member upon one said part of the envelop, a flexible member on the other said part of the envelop provided with a tongue, a slot in said tongue-equipped member, and lips extending into said slot, said tongue being adapted to be passed through the slot of said first-named member and thence through the slot in said tongue-equipped member to lie between the envelop and said lips, for the purpose set forth.

5. The combination with an envelop, of means for locking the flap to the body, comprising a slotted member upon one said part of the envelop, a flexible member on the other said part of the envelop provided with a tongue and a slot, the tongue being adapted to be inserted through the slot in said first-named member and bent back and inserted through the slot in said other member, and interlocking means intermediate the marginal edges of the tongue, for the purpose set forth.

6. An envelop fastener comprising a member having a slot and a tongue projecting into the slot, and a second member provided with a slot and a tongue extending from said last-named member, said second-named member being provided with a second opening intermediate the marginal edges of the said last-named tongue for receiving the tongue on said first-named member when the fastener is in assembled condition, for the purpose set forth.

JULIUS H. HUSTED.

In presence of—
A. U. THORIEN,
J. H. LANDES