

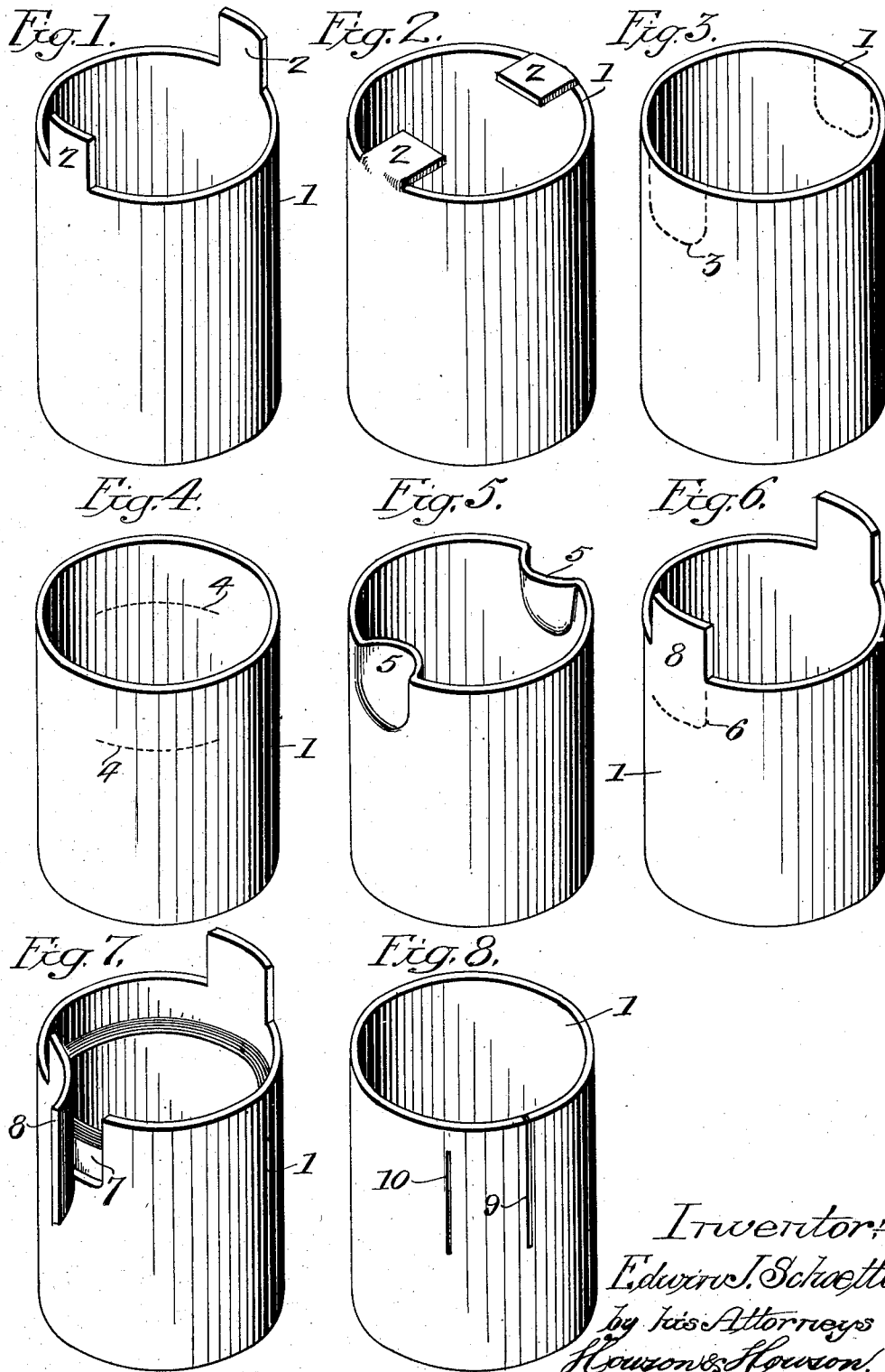
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MAILING TUBE

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MAILING TUBE

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This invention relates to improvements in mailing tubes and one object of the invention is to provide a tube having novel and improved means for preventing accidental dislodgment of the contents from the tube. Another object is to provide novel and advantageous means for facilitating removal of the contents when this is desired.

Heretofore it has been customary to make the self sustaining or rigid type mailing tube of hard, brittle card board and, where desired or necessary, to provide the ends of the tube with flexible paper extensions capable of being folded into the ends of the tube to hold the contents in place. These paper extensions add materially to the cost of the tubes. I have discovered that there is a material advantage to be had in forming this type of tube of card board or other suitable material which will stand bending and creasing without breaking, and I have provided a self sustaining tube that includes as an integral part thereof means for effectively preventing accidental dislodgment of the contents. The invention has resulted in a material saving in the manufacturing cost, and a corresponding reduction in the sale price of this article.

In the attached drawings, in which I have illustrated several embodiments of my invention—

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of one end of a mailing tube;

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing the tube in condition for mailing;

Fig. 3 is a view in perspective of a tube end illustrating a modification;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing a still further modification;

Fig. 5 is a view in perspective illustrating the manner in which the tubes of Figs. 3 and 4 are deformed to insure retention of the contents;

Figs. 6 and 7 are views in perspective illustrating a representative embodiment of that part of the invention relating to means for facilitating removal of the contents of the tube, and

Fig. 8 is a like perspective view illustrating further embodiments.

Referring to the drawings, 1 in each instance indicates a mailing tube, one end only of which is shown. These tubes are made of card board or the like sufficiently heavy to make the tube self sustaining as to form under ordinary conditions of use, yet sufficiently flexible to permit substantial deformation without breaking.

In the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the tube comprises at the end or ends a pair of integral extensions in the form of ears, which normally extend as shown in Fig. 1 in alignment with the body of the tube, and which may be turned into the open end of the tube, as shown in Fig. 2, to obstruct the end and thereby prevent dislodgment of the contents. Although the two ears shown are sufficient for the purpose, any number may be employed, and there is no limitation as to form.

With the relatively flexible and non-brittle material of which the tube is formed, I also have found it practicable to insure retention of the contents by denting the ends of the tube inwardly so as to obstruct the opening. In this case it is preferable to score the tube along the lines of deformation, as shown at 3 in Fig. 3, or as in Fig. 4 to provide a scored line 4 to limit the extent of the indentation. The indentations normally take the form shown in Fig. 5 in which the indented parts are indicated by the reference numeral 5. In the illustration two of these indentations are shown but there is no limitation as to their number.

I have further found it of advantage to provide the tubes with means aiding the removal of the contents. This like the retaining means described above may take many forms, and a representative one of these I have illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7. In this instance I have scored the tube along a line 6 extending longitudinally from the end edge of the tube and the scoring is sufficiently deep to readily permit rupture of the tube along the line thereof, thereby to expose the contents of the tube and render them easily accessible for withdrawal. In the form shown, the scored line at its inner end extends transversely or circumferentially of

the tube so that a substantial part of the contents 7 is exposed when the flap 8 defined by the scored line is turned aside. Obviously the scorings may take many forms, and instead of the scored line the tube may actually be divided on a line at or near the end of the tube as indicated at 9 and 10 in Fig. 8. In the latter case the slit 10 extends sufficiently close to the end of the tube to render it readily torn out to the end. When so torn out a flap is formed between the slits 9 and 10 which may be turned back to expose the contents. The slits 9 and 10, however, need not thus be used together since either alone is adapted for the desired end.

I claim:

1. A rigid mailing tube comprising a portion at each extremity thereof defined by a scored line which terminates at both ends in the end edges of the tube, said portions being adapted to be pressed inwardly so as to obstruct the normally unobstructed ends of the tube.

2. A mailing tube formed of relatively stiff and flexible material rendering the tube self-sustaining as to form under normal conditions of use independent of the contents and capable of substantial deformation without rupture to obstruct the normally unobstructed ends, and means at the end of the tube defining deformable portions to obtain such obstruction, said means weakening the wall of the tube to facilitate deformation of said portions.

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