

N. S. McNAB.  
MACHINE FOR FEEDING, DETACHING, AND AFFIXING POSTAGE STAMPS AND  
THE LIKE TO ENVELOPS OR OTHER ARTICLES.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 24, 1912.

1,111,601.

Patented Sept. 22, 1914

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

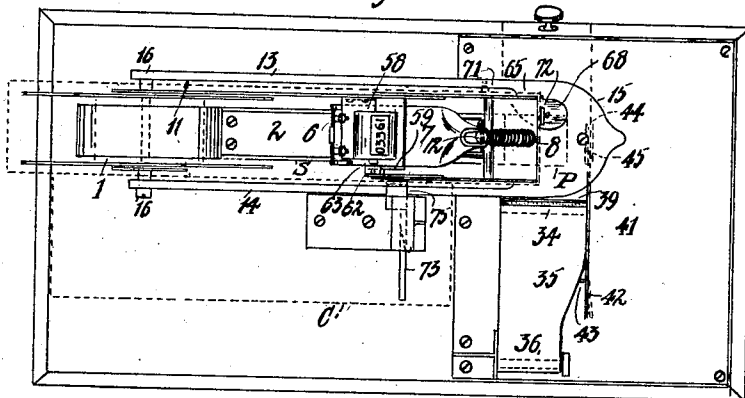
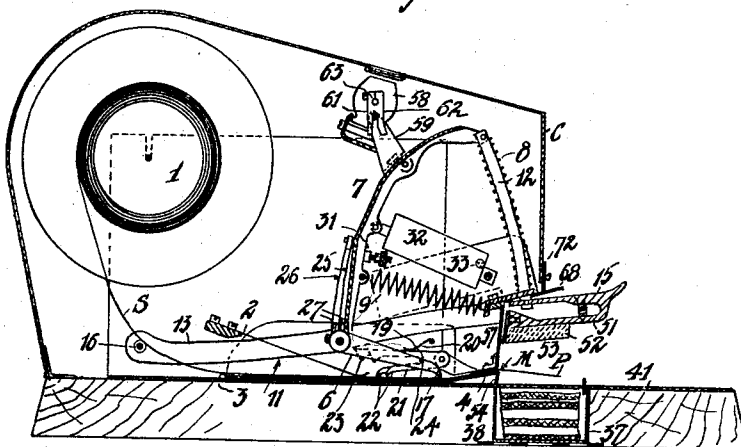


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

Inventor  
Norman S. McNab  
by *[Signature]*  
James L. Norris Jr.

*[Signature]*

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3 SHEETS-SHEET 2.

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Fig. 3.

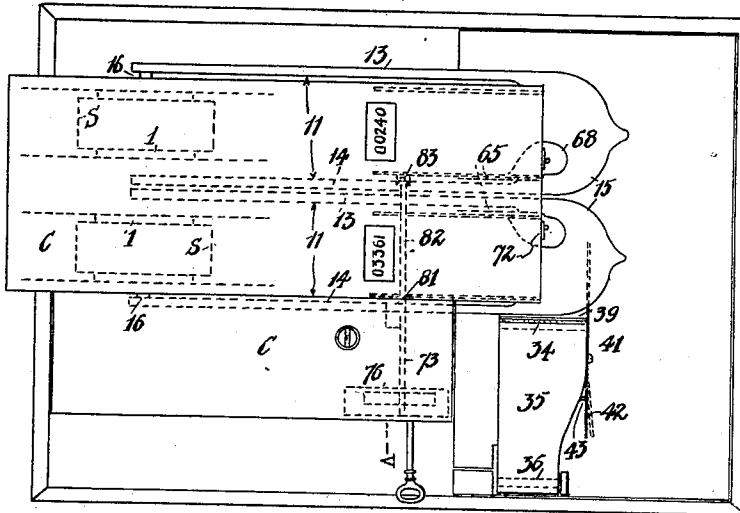
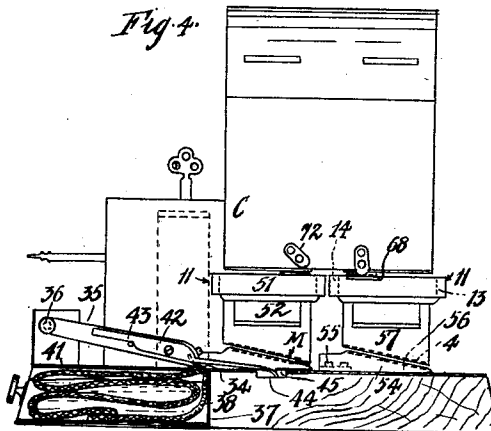


Fig. 4.



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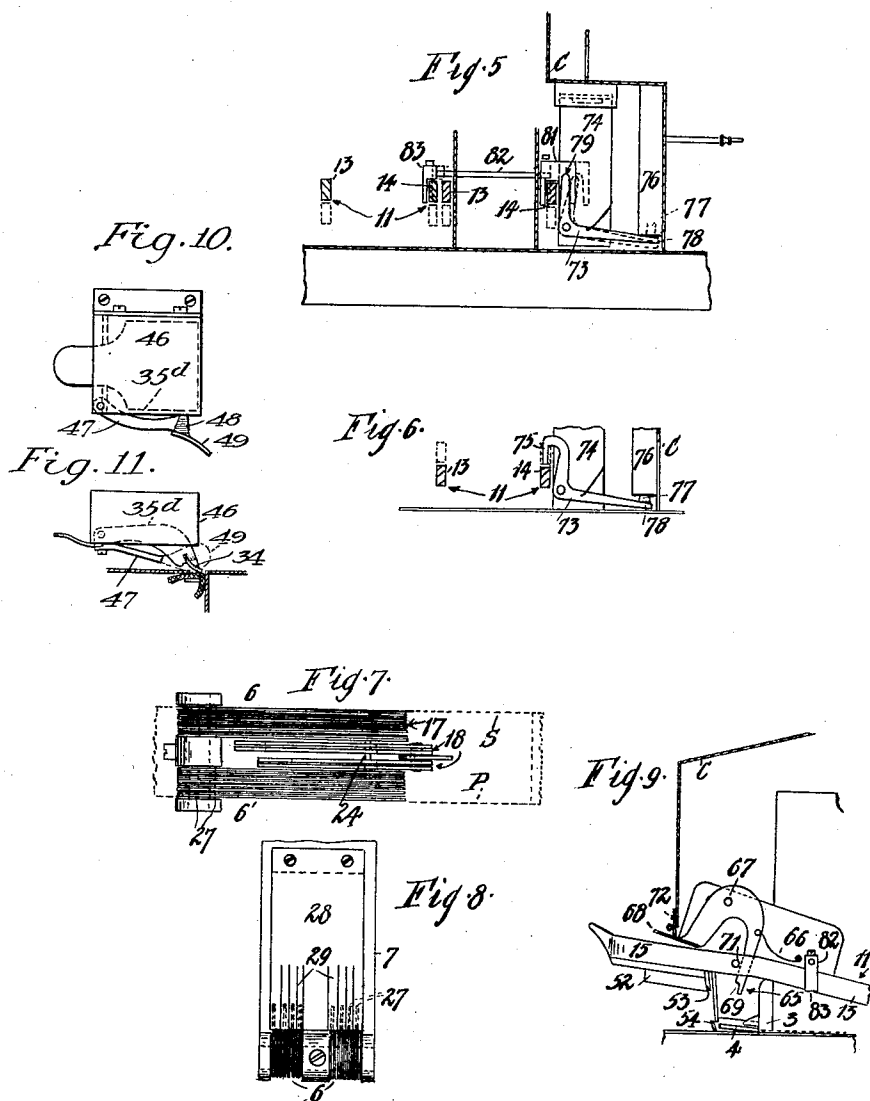
*Ed. H. H. H.*

*W. H. H.*

Inventor  
Norman S. McNab  
by

*Amos L. Norris*

*Atty.*



Witnesses:

*W. H. H. H.*

*W. H. H. H.*

Inventor  
 Norman S. McNab  
 by

*James L. Norris & Co.*

*att'y*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NORMAN SINCLAIR McNAB, OF CAULFIELD, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

MACHINE FOR FEEDING, DETACHING, AND AFFIXING POSTAGE-STAMPS AND THE LIKE TO ENVELOPS OR OTHER ARTICLES.

1,111,601.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 22, 1914.

Application filed April 24, 1912. Serial No. 692,952.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, NORMAN SINCLAIR McNAB, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at Waiora Road, Caulfield, in the State of Victoria, Commonwealth of Australia, consulting engineer, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in and Relating to Machines for Feeding, Detaching, and Affixing Postage-Stamps and the like to Envelops or other Articles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to apparatus or machines for feeding and detaching labels, coupons, vouchers, adhesive postage, duty and other stamps or the like and if desired affixing the same to envelopes, tickets, bills, documents, books or other suitable matter.

It consists of means for feeding the stamps, labels or the like from a stock sheet, band, roll, rolls or the like; means for damping or moistening the matter upon which the label is to be fixed, means for moving the label to position and mechanism for detaching or cutting off the same from the roll; means for pressing the label and the matter together and for recording the number of labels which may have been used. Suitable means may also be utilized for preventing the use of the machine unless unlocked by a key or the like.

The invention is illustrated by the accompanying drawings, whereof—

Figure 1 is a plan of a single form of the machine (with the casing removed), Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section thereof, Fig. 3 is a plan of a duplex form of the machine adapted for applying either of two different kinds of stamps, labels or the like, Fig. 4 is a part-sectional front elevation of Fig. 3, Fig. 5 is a transverse vertical section on line V, Fig. 3, illustrating the locking mechanism of the duplex form of the machine, Fig. 6 is a similar view of a simplified construction used in the single form of the machine, Figs. 7 and 8 are respectively an enlarged plan and end elevation of the feed and check pawls shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 9 is a detail of the means employed for putting any of the operating levers temporarily out of action, Figs. 10 and 11 are respectively a plan and front elevation of a modified form of the dampening device.

In order to facilitate a clear understanding of the invention the machine will be described as it is used for affixing postage stamps to envelopes.

According to this invention a band or strip S of stamps is placed on a roll or reel 1 and the forward end is led under a spring plate 2, then along a channel guide 3, and through a slotted guide 4 at the mouth M of the magazine portion. The band or strip of stamps is fed forward as required by means of a series of parallel feed pawls or fingers 6 pivotally mounted on a lever 7 controlled by a tension spring 8 and a compression spring 9, said lever 7 being connected with the operating or affixer lever 11 of the machine by a connecting rod 12.

The operating or affixer lever 11 has two arms 13, 14, joined by a finger-piece 15 and it is pivoted as at 16, 16, and maintained in its normal or raised position by the spring 8 on said connecting rod 12.

The ends 17 of the feed pawls or fingers 6 preferably engage in perforations, incisions or the like dividing the stamps P, whereby it is assured that the strip S will be moved forward the length of a stamp by the operation of the lever 7.

A series of check pawls 18 controlled by springs 20 are employed to engage the perforations of the strip and prevent further movement thereof after the end stamp has been fed through the mouth of the magazine portion. These pawls have two joined arms 19, 21, one above the other, termed the releasing and engaging arms, the lower arms 21 being formed with points 22 to engage with the strip and the upper arms with inclined downwardly extending projections 23. To one or more of the operating or feed pawls 6 there is fixed a pin 24 which, when the pawls move to advance the strip, engages the projections 23 and releases the check pawls 18 which otherwise normally rest upon the strip. By preference the check pawls 18 are staggered, *i. e.* some in advance of the others as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 7.

The operating or feed pawls 6 are spring controlled and the springs are mounted on the lever 7. Two sets of springs 25, 26, are preferably employed and they engage with studs 27 on the pawls and each set of springs

may consist of a metal plate 28 divided into a series of spring strips 29 as illustrated in Fig. 8.

A suitable adjustable stop 31 is provided for the lever 7 so that the forward movement of the latter may be so regulated as to push the end stamp just the required distance out of the mouth of the magazine portion. A dash-pot and plunger 32 may, if desired, be connected with the lever 7, the outlet 33 of the dash-pot being provided with an adjusting screw. By means of this dash-pot the speed of the forward feed of the stamp may be somewhat retarded.

The means for moistening the envelop or the like to which the stamp, label or the like is to be applied consists of a wick, pad or like absorbent material 34 attached to an overbalanced dampening lever 35 pivoted as at 36 in conjunction with a water supply well or reservoir 37 containing some absorbent material 38 which enters a slot 39 in the base plate 41 of the machine and contacts with the pad 34 of said overbalanced lever.

When the envelop or the like is passed under the lever it lifts the same slightly and the pad moistens only the top of the envelop which is then passed along under the end stamp P, protruding from the mouth of the magazine portion. This lever has on the side in some cases a pivoted spring arm 42, the rear end of which is supported on a pin 43 on said lever while the forward end is bent down as at 44 and normally lies in a slot 45 in the base plate and base. By this construction when the forward edge of the envelop engages the bent end 44 of arm 42, the latter is lifted and by reason of the other end of said arm engaging the pin the lever is also lifted and with it the moistening pad 34 thereof so that only the corner of the envelop to which the stamp is to be affixed is moistened as the envelop is passed completely along. When the envelop is removed the lever 35 drops again with its pad in engagement with the absorbent wet material in the well or reservoir and the arm likewise drops. This lifting arm may be thrown out of action by slightly springing its rear end outwardly and downwardly as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1.

If desired the dampening lever 35<sup>a</sup> may be contained in a bottomless case 46 as in Figs. 10 and 11 and a releasing arm 47 provided with a bevel or wedge shaped head 48 and with a finger piece 49 is pivoted to said case so that said arm projects toward the front of the case with the edge of head 48 projecting toward the lever. By this means after the envelop has been pushed along under the pad of the lever sufficiently to moisten the required area for the stamp or stamps the wedge shaped head 48 of the arm 47 is pushed inwardly by means of

the finger piece 49 under lever 35<sup>a</sup> thus raising the latter sufficiently to keep the pad 34 off the rest of the envelop as it is moved farther forward beneath said lever. The pad or wick may have a rubber backing so as to make it flexible and readily adapt itself to the surface to be moistened.

Upon the underside of the press plate 15 of the operating lever is a finger piece 51 provided with a pad 52 and with a blade 53 on its inner end which coöperates with a flexible blade 54 fixed at one end only as at 55 to the mouth of the magazine portion. One or both of these blades may be inclined so as to give a shearing cut when the operating lever is depressed and in order to feed the stamps properly to the mouth the slotted guide 4 also may be inclined as well as the bottom edge 56 of the front plate 57 of the mouth.

A suitable counting or recording mechanism 58 may be provided if desired, this mechanism being operated by an arm 59 on the lever 7 having a pin 61 in engagement with a slotted lug 62 on the spindle 63 of the mechanism.

The means by which a stamp is affixed to an envelop is as follows:—The envelop is slid sidewise under the damping lever 35 thereby first moistening the top right hand corner then by engaging the bent end 44 of arm 42 lifting the damping lever 35 to insure the rest of the surface being kept dry. The stamp P which is protruding through the mouth M is then cut off from the strip S by the blades 53, 54, along the line of perforations by depressing the finger-piece 15 of the operating lever 11 which at the end of its stroke presses the adhesive surface of the stamp by means of its pad 52 on to the moistened surface of the envelop. By releasing the spring controlled operating lever 11, the feed pawls 6 of lever 7 push the strip forward, momentarily raising the check pawls 18 so that the end stamp is fed through the mouth of the magazine portion.

A catch 65 is provided to enable each operating lever to be temporarily held down after a stamp has been cut off so as to prevent the next one being fed through the mouth of the machine and also to prevent pilfering of the stamps. This mechanism is illustrated, particularly in Figs. 3 and 9, wherein it will be seen that the catch which is controlled by a spring 66 is pivoted to the frame or casing C at 67 and is provided with a finger plate 68 at one end and a notch 69 at the other end, this notch being adapted when the operating lever is depressed to engage a stud 71 on one of the lever arms and hold the same until the finger plate is depressed. By means of this catch in duplex magazines where several

machines containing various kinds of stamps are provided the mechanism controlling the magazines not required may be thrown out of action.

5 Each catch is normally held out of action by means of a cam-like depressor 72 adapted when turned as shown in Fig. 4 to slightly depress the finger plate 68, and so keep the notch 69 of the catch from engaging with  
10 the stud 71 when the operating lever is depressed. Means are provided for locking the operating levers in their depressed position so that they cannot be released until a lock in the casing C is unlocked. This  
15 mechanism is illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 and referring to the latter figure which illustrates the simplest form as adapted for machines with a single magazine it will be seen that a spring-controlled bell crank latch  
20 lever 73 is pivoted to a bracket 74 and formed with a stop 75 at one end while on the casing C is a lock 76 which when the bolt 77 thereof is shot out engages and depresses the end 78 of the bell crank latch  
25 lever and brings the stop 75 above one arm 14 of the operating lever when the latter is held in its depressed position as shown in Fig. 6.

When applied to the duplex form of the  
30 machine as in Fig. 5 the end of the bell crank latch lever 73 engages a recess 79 in one stop 81 and the latter is mounted on a transverse rod 82 which is adapted to slide in the frame and is provided with a stop 83  
35 for each additional lever. Thus while the operating levers are held down the bell crank is operated by the bolt 77 of the lock 76 and the stops 81, 83, are drawn simultaneously across over the tops of one of the  
40 arms 14 of each operating lever 11.

It is to be understood that although in the duplex form of the machine as shown in Fig. 3 only two magazines and mechanisms are provided, any number may be joined  
45 together in the same manner by correspondingly duplicating the mechanism with the exception of the dampening device which may be used with any of the operating levers.

50 What I do claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In a machine of the kind described, the combination of a spring-controlled operating lever comprising a pair of pivoted  
55 arms, and a finger piece joining said arms and provided with a blade; a spring-controlled rocking lever; a rod connecting said levers; a series of feed pawls carried by said

rocking lever; and a blade located at the mouth of the machine for coöperation with 60 the first-named blade.

2. In a machine of the kind described, the combination, with the operating lever, of means for temporarily holding said lever out of action comprising a stud on said 65 lever, a spring-controlled pivoted catch formed at one end with a finger plate and at the other end with a notch adapted when the operating lever is depressed to engage said stud, and means for throwing said catch 70 out of action.

3. In a machine of the kind described, the combination, with the operating lever, of means for temporarily holding said lever out of action comprising a stud on said 75 lever, a spring-controlled pivoted catch formed at one end with a finger plate and at the other end with a notch adapted when the operating lever is depressed to engage said stud, and means for throwing said catch 80 out of action consisting of a pivoted cam-like depressor adapted to engage and depress the finger plate of said catch.

4. In a machine of the kind described, an operating lever, a spring-controlled bell 85 crank lever formed at one end with a stop, and a lock on the casing the bolt of which is adapted to depress the other end of said bell crank lever and move said stop laterally over said operating lever when in its de- 90 pressed position.

5. In a machine of the kind described, the combination of a depressible operating lever, a spring-controlled bell-crank lever, a lock 95 having a bolt adapted to operate the bell-crank lever, and a stop associated with said bell-crank lever for holding said operating lever in depressed position.

6. In a machine of the kind described, the combination of a series of depressible oper- 100 ating levers, a spring-controlled bell-crank lever, a lock having a bolt adapted to operate the bell-crank lever, a stop associated with each operating lever for holding the same in depressed position, and a sliding rod 105 whereon said stops are mounted, one of said stops being associated with said bell-crank lever for operation thereby.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing wit- 110 nesses.

NORMAN SINCLAIR McNAB.

Witnesses:

EDWARD A. WATERS,

WILLIAM H. WATERS.