Jan. 3, 1939. F. W. RANDOLPH 2,142,374

REMITTANCE ENVELOPE

Filed Aug. 21, 1936

Fig. 1.

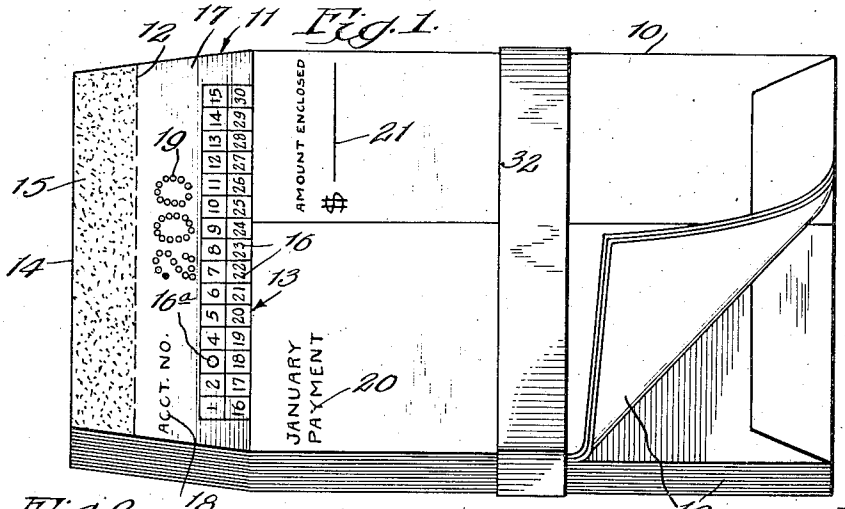


Fig. 2.

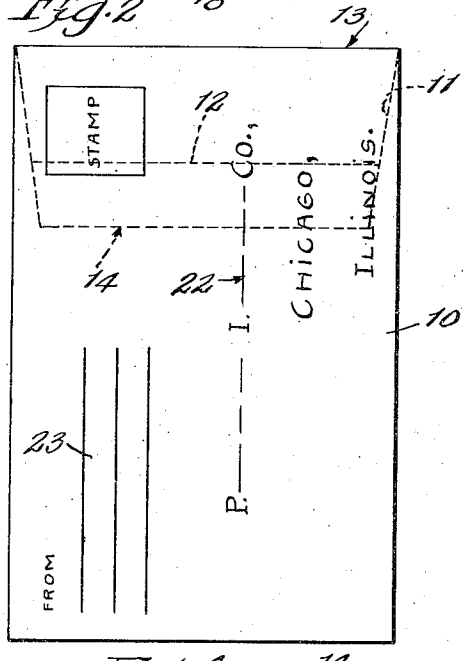


Fig. 3.

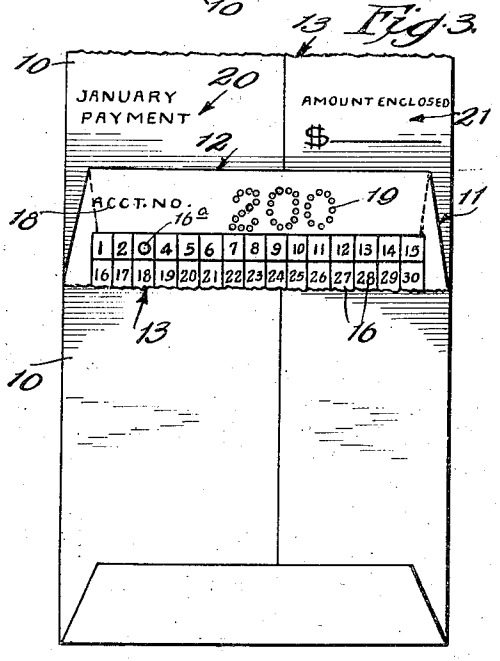


Fig. 4.

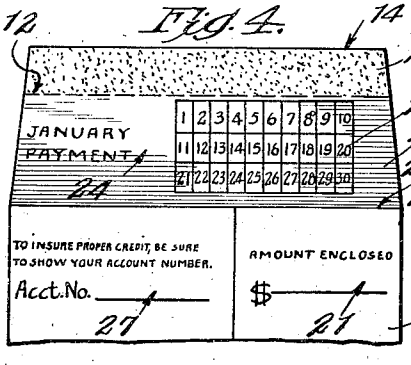
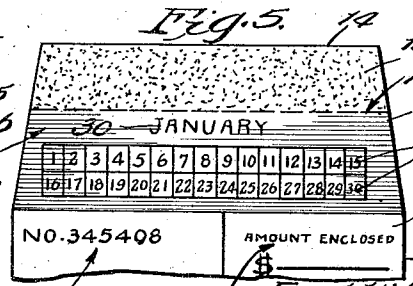


Fig. 5.



Inventor:
Fred W. Randolph.
By.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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REMITTANCE ENVELOPE

Fred W. Randolph, Elgin, Ill., assignor to Heco Envelope Co., Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

Application August 21, 1936, Serial No. 97,240

3 Claims. (Cl. 283—1)

This invention relates to improvements in remittance envelope, and one of the objects of the invention is to provide an improved envelope of this character which is adapted for use in making remittances or payments at regular intervals and which envelope will form a complete record of the remittance and also a record of payment date and of all information regarding the particular transaction.

The envelope is especially adapted for use by all concerns doing business on periodical installments, or deferred payments running over a specified period of time, and inasmuch as the transactions in connection with which the envelopes are to be employed require payments at a time certain, the present invention provides a combined remittance coupon or tab or form and return envelope by means of the use of which and the convenience of the combination and arrangement of the parts, the payments or remittances will be accelerated and errors will be avoided. At the same time the handling of the accounts in the office of the concern employing such envelopes will be greatly facilitated.

A further object is to provide a combined return remittance envelope and form, having certain records thereon placed in such a manner that when the envelope is sealed, such record will be concealed by the sealing flap.

The said flap when severed from the body of the envelope to open the envelope, will still be attached to the envelope, but to another portion thereof, and will be adapted to be folded back to expose the record, the flap constituting a coupon or form having data concerning the transaction carried by that face of the flap which will be concealed when the envelope is sealed, but will be exposed when the flap is cut to open the envelope and then folded back to expose such face. The flap forms an integral part of the envelope before the latter is sealed, and will be attached to another portion of the envelope by the sealing thereof, when severed to open the envelope.

Other objects, advantages and features of the invention will be apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which latter—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a plurality of remittance envelopes embodying the features of this invention with the sealing flap open exposing a portion of the record to be produced when making a remittance, with the account number and payment date indicated thereon.

Figure 2 is a view of the address face of the envelope shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a view of the same face of the envelope as shown in Figure 1, after the flap has been sealed to make the remittance, and then severed to open the envelope, with the flap forming a coupon or form sealed to another portion and folded back to expose the record which was concealed by the flap during the transit of the envelope.

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3, of a portion of an envelope having a modified form and arrangement of the record data thereon.

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 4 having still another modified form and arrangement of the record data thereon.

In carrying this invention into operation, each of the envelopes 10 is provided with a flap 11 of a suitable size having a scored or folding line 12, which latter is spaced a substantial distance from the folding line 13. The line 12 is also spaced from the free edge 14 of the flap to provide a space 15 in which is provided a suitable sealing material such as is usually employed on the flaps of envelopes to seal them shut.

The flap of each envelope is provided on its inner face with a day date area 16 divided into a number of divisions corresponding to the number of days in each month and which divisions are numbered and suitably arranged. In the drawing thirty divisions representing thirty days are shown, but it is to be understood that any number of such divisions and day indications may be provided.

This day date area 16 is preferably arranged across the flap and is close proximity to the folding line 13 and is preferably of a shape to provide a space or area 17 of substantial size between the day date area 16 and the proximate edge of the given containing area 15 of the flap, that is, below the line 12.

This space 17 may appropriately be designated with any suitable legend 18 such as "Account Number' either written in full or appropriately abbreviated, and in the space 17 the account number is adapted to be placed by the concern which issues the envelopes in any suitable manner, such as by writing, stamping, perforating, etc.

The account number may be applied to the space 17 of the flaps of each of the envelopes in any suitable manner, such as by printing, stamping, writing or in any suitable manner, but preferably by means of a perforating machine so that all of the series of envelopes to be used in each single transaction may be simultaneously sup-

plied with the account number such as designated at 19.

On the body of the envelope below the folding line 13 of the lap 11, and out of the range of the gummed or sealing portion or area 15 of the flap, may be arranged any other suitable indicia to form a part of the record of the transaction or remittance, such for instance as a month or period designation 20, and any other indicia, such as a suitably designated space 21, in which the amount of the remittance contained in the envelope is to be entered either by the sender or the receiver.

One of these envelopes is provided for each month and on the face of the envelope the return address 22 and space 23 for the sender's name and address are provided, the latter forming a part of the record of the transaction, so that all the sender has to do is to put his name and address in the space 23, and if desired, fill in the space 21 with the amount of the remittance, the latter before sealing down the flap 11.

The number of envelopes to be used in each transaction is determined by the number of deferred payments which are to be made.

Assuming that twelve payments are to be made, one during each month, then twelve envelopes, each with their specific month designation 16, will be employed.

Assuming that the first remittance is to be made on January 3rd, twelve envelopes, one for each month may be arranged in a package with the flaps 11 open and superposed, so that the account number 19 may be simultaneously applied. This is accomplished by inserting the flaps into a perforating machine and perforating the number designated by the numeral 19 into the flap. While the envelopes are thus assembled, the numeral 3 in the day date area 16 of the first month may then be perforated or punched as at 16a, and as all of the respective day dates for the successive months on the remaining eleven envelopes are in register with that on the first envelope, the same day in the different months on the respective envelope flaps will be simultaneously punched. The result being that all of the envelopes are simultaneously provided with the account number as well as the month day designation.

Obviously, the first envelope to be used will be the one representing the month in which the first remittance is to be made, and the remaining envelopes will be arranged serially, that is, by successive month designations.

The remitter should first enter in the space 21 the amount of the remittance he encloses in the envelope, then seal the flap 15 and write his name in the space 23 on the face of the envelope, apply the necessary stamp and mail the same. This necessitates very little work on the part of the sender in making his remittance, but at the same time and by his acts, a complete record as far as the sender is concerned has been made, which record is concealed and remains concealed until the envelope is opened by the addressee.

Upon receipt of the envelope and remittance by the addressee, the envelope is opened by cutting the flap 11 along the line 13, severing one edge of the flap from the envelope, thereby transforming the flap from a sealing flap into a coupon tab or form which remains attached to the envelope by the gummed or sealing area 15.

The tab 11 may then be folded down or back upon the line 12, as shown in Figure 3, so as to expose all of that portion of the record of the transaction which was concealed by the flap 11 before the flap became detached or severed along the line 13.

The flap 11, which has been transformed by this operation into a tab, becomes a part of the record and will be permanently attached to the envelope, with the result that by reason of the convenience and arrangement of the parts and the data, all cooperating with each other, not only a permanent record is formed, but remittances or payments will be accelerated, and errors will be avoided.

Furthermore, the handling of the accounts in the office of the addressee will be facilitated and the loss of any paper or record which enters into or forms a part of the remittance transaction will be prevented.

If desired the envelopes of any series or from any remittance transaction may be temporarily held in assembled relation, for convenience in handling, in any suitable manner.

In the form of the invention shown in Figure 4, the month or period designation 24 and the day date area 25 are both arranged on the inner face of the flap 26, while the space 27 for the account number is arranged on the body of the envelope, with instructions to the remitter to insert his account number thereon, and these are both positioned to be concealed or covered when the flap is sealed down.

In the form shown in Figure 5, the account number 28 is also arranged on the body of the envelope and in a position to be concealed or covered by the flap 29 and the month designation 30 and day date area 31 are arranged on the flap.

If desired, and in either of the forms of the invention, after the envelope has been opened by the payee, by severing along the line 13, instead of allowing the flap to remain attached to the envelope by the adhesive portion 15, the tab may be severed along the line 12, to form a separate record. This mode of use would be particularly advantageous with the form of the invention shown in Figures 1 to 3, where the account number is displayed upon the tab.

All forms of the invention are to be employed in the same manner.

If desired and in order to maintain the envelopes in a package, an encircling band 32 may be employed for that purpose. Obviously the envelopes may be arranged in any successive order from the first or outer envelope, which latter is marked with the month designation 20, indicating the first month during which the first remittance is to be made.

While the preferred forms of the invention have been herein shown and described in much detail, it is to be understood that the data and positioning of the same may be changed both upon the body of the envelope and the sealing flap from that specifically shown and described herein, all without departing from this invention, and are all to be considered to be within the spirit of this invention, and within the scope of the claims.

What is claimed as new is:

1. A remittance envelope embodying a pocket and a closure flap, said flap having indicia on the inner face thereof and adapted to be folded and sealed to obscure said indicia, the sealing area being disposed beyond said indicia, said flap adapted to be severed to open the pocket but remaining attached by its sealed portion to the envelope when thus severed, said flap having

also indicated thereon a fold-back line and adapted when severed to open the envelope to be folded back up said line against the sealed face of the envelope to expose the said indicia, the indicia being exposed when the flap is either unsealed or severed and folded back and being in the same direction with relation to the open edge of the envelope in both the unsealed and severed and folded back positions of the flap.

2. A remittance envelope embodying a pocket and a closure flap, said flap having indicia on the inner face thereof and adapted to be folded and sealed to obscure said indicia, the sealing area being disposed beyond said indicia, said flap adapted to be severed to open the pocket but remaining attached by its sealed portion to the envelope when thus severed, said flap provided with a scored line along which the flap when severed to open the envelope is adapted to be folded back and against the sealed face of the envelope to expose the said indicia, the indicia being exposed when the flap is either unsealed or severed and folded back and being in the same direction with relation to the open edge of the envelope in both the unsealed and severed and folded back positions of the flap.

3. A remittance envelope embodying a pocket and a closure flap, said flap having indicia on the inner face thereof and adapted to be folded and sealed to obscure said indicia, sealing material on the flap providing a clearly defined sealing area, one edge of said area constituting a fold-back line along which the flap, when severed to open the envelope, is adapted to be folded back and against the sealed face of the envelope to expose the said indicia, the indicia being exposed when the flap is either unsealed or severed and folded back and being in the same direction with relation to the open edge of the envelope in both the unsealed and the severed and folded back positions of the flap.

FRED W. RANDOLPH.