

July 27, 1937.

C. B. OVERBAUGH, JR

2,088,068

ENVELOPE

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Fig. 1.

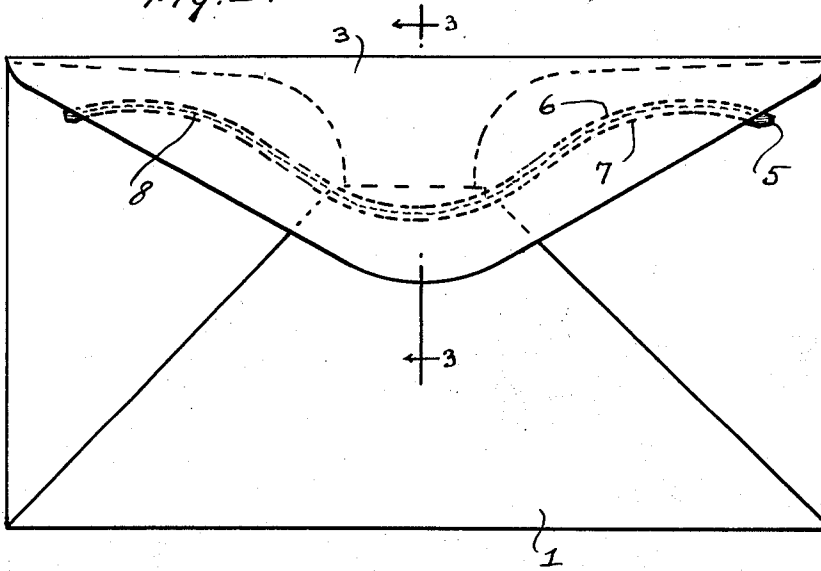


Fig. 2.

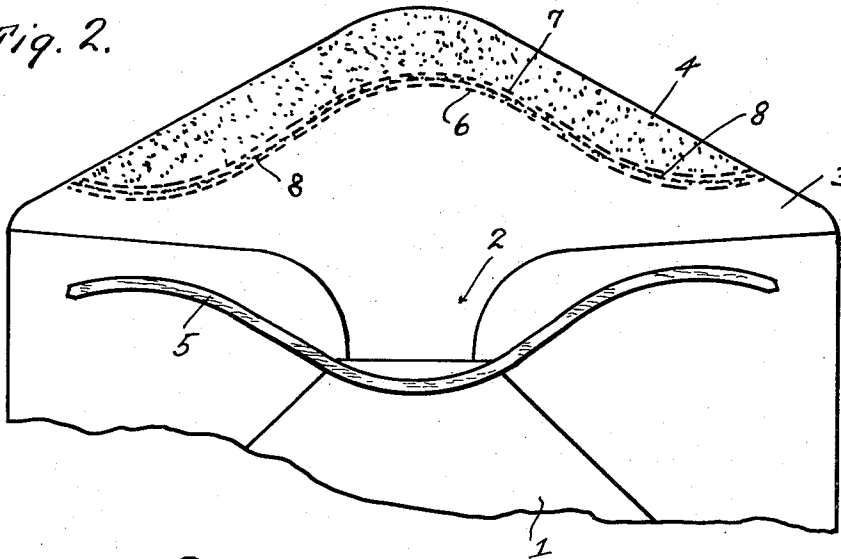
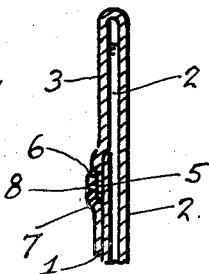


Fig. 3.



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ENVELOPE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 229-83)

The present invention relates to new and useful improvements in envelopes and has for its primary object to provide, in a manner as hereinafter set forth, an envelope embodying novel opening means.

Another very important object of the invention is to provide an envelope of the aforementioned character comprising novel means for clearly indicating if an attempt has been made by an unauthorized person to open the envelope, such as by the application of steam or water.

Other objects of the invention are to provide an envelope of the character described which will be comparatively simple in construction, strong, durable, highly efficient and reliable in use, and which may be manufactured at low cost.

All of the foregoing and still further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from a study of the following specification, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein like characters of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, and wherein:—

Figure 1 is a view in rear elevation of an envelope constructed in accordance with the present invention, showing said envelope closed.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary view in rear elevation, showing the envelope open.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view in vertical section, taken substantially on the line 3-3 of Figure 1.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, it will be seen that the envelope, as usual, comprises a back 1, a front 2 and a flap 3 on said front 2. The inner side of the flap 3 is provided with an adhesive 4.

Mounted transversely on the back 1 of the envelope adjacent the top thereof is an adhesive rip tape 5 which is curved substantially as shown to advantage in Figure 2 of the drawing. The rip tape 5 is impregnated with a suitable colored water soluble substance.

On the inner border of the adhesive area 4 the flap 3 is provided with perforations 6 and spaced outwardly therefrom is another row of perforations 7. Between the rows of perforations 6 and 7 the flap 3 of the envelope is further provided with a row of perforations 8.

The construction and arrangement is such that when the flap 3 is moistened, closed and secured in the usual manner the adhesive 4 covers the rip tape 5 with the perforations 6 and 7 extending along the longitudinal edges of said rip tape and the perforations 8 extending along the outer face of said rip tape. It will further be seen that the end portions of the tape 5 project slightly beyond the closed flap 3 to facilitate obtaining a grip on

said tape. Now, when it is desired to open the envelope this may be expeditiously done by grasping either end of the tape 5 and pulling thereon in a manner to remove said tape from the back 1 of the envelope thereby ripping the flap 3 along the rows of perforations 6 and 7 for detaching the inner portion of said flap 3 from the outer portion of said flap which is covered on one side by the adhesive 4, this last portion remaining on the back 1. Should an attempt be made by an unauthorized person to open the envelope by the application of steam or water to the adhesive 4 the colored indicating substance with which the tape 5 is impregnated will be dissolved and run through the perforations 8. In addition to functioning in the aforementioned manner, the tape 5 positively secures the several flaps constituting the back 1 of the envelope together.

It is believed that the many advantages of an envelope constructed in accordance with the present invention will be readily understood, and although a preferred embodiment of the device is as illustrated and described, it is to be understood that changes in the details of construction and in the combination and arrangement of parts may be resorted to which will fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed is:—

In an envelope comprising a back composed of several flaps, a front and a closure flap on said front, said closure flap including an adhesive on one side of its free end portion, a rip tape adhesively mounted on the back to positively secure the several flaps of the back adjacent the top thereof and adapted to be covered by the closure flap and the adhesive thereon when said closure flap is in closed position, the end portions of said rip tape projecting free of the closure flap when said flap is in closed position, said closure flap having a series of perforations therein on the inner border of the adhesive and further having a series of perforations therein spaced outwardly from the first-named perforations, the first and second-named perforations extending along the longitudinal edges of the rip tape and defining a detachable strip removable with said rip tape for disconnecting the inner portion of the closure flap which is free of the adhesive from the outer portion thereof carrying said adhesive, the rip tape being impregnated with a moisture soluble colored indicating medium, the closure flap further having a series of perforations therein between the first and second-named perforations for the escape of said indicating medium when it is dissolved.

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