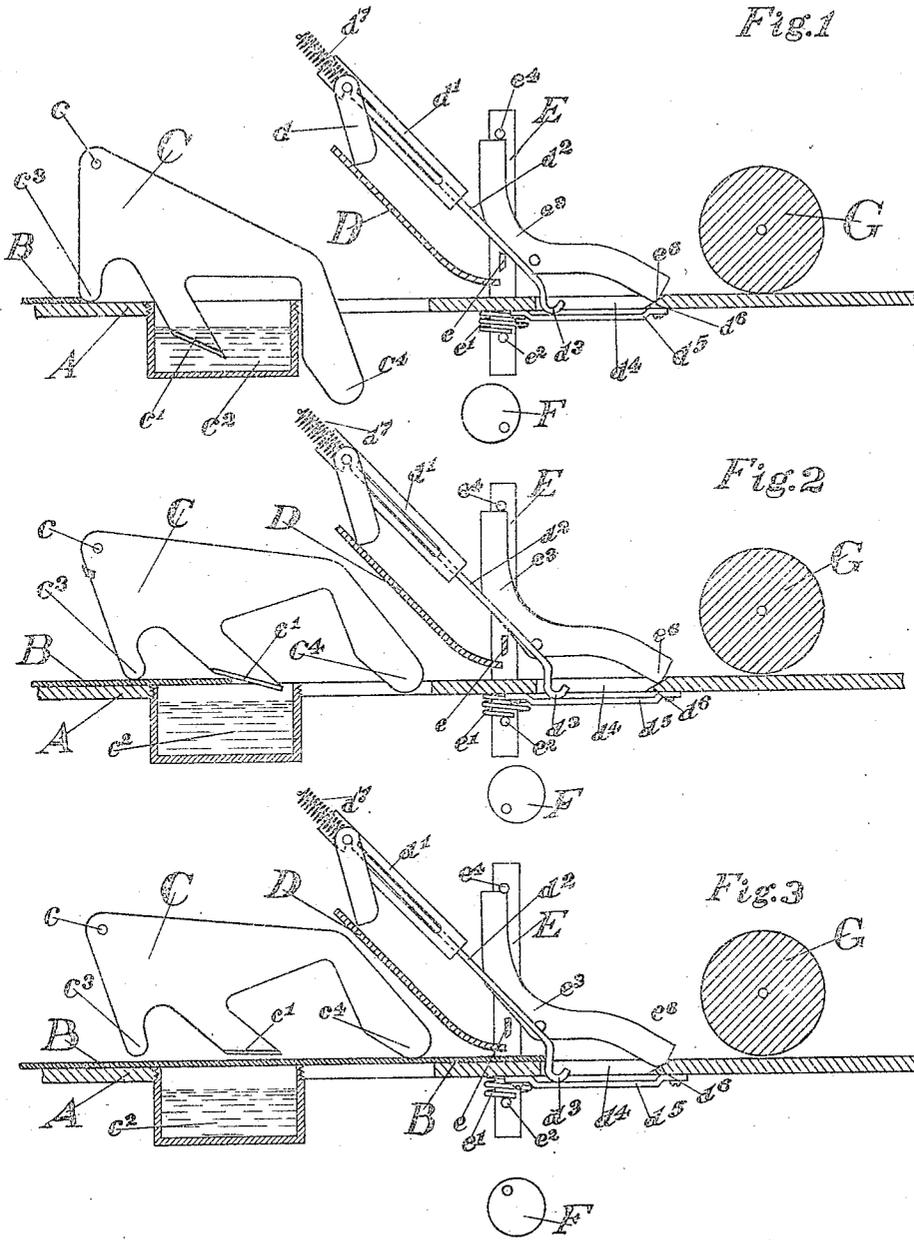


W. F. SCHWEIGER.
STAMP AFFIXING MACHINE.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 22, 1919.

1,426,780.

Patented Aug. 22, 1922.
2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



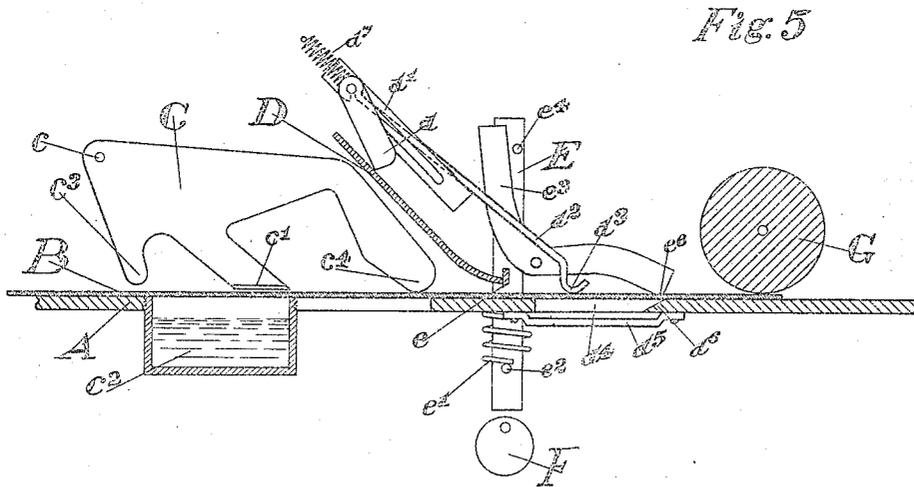
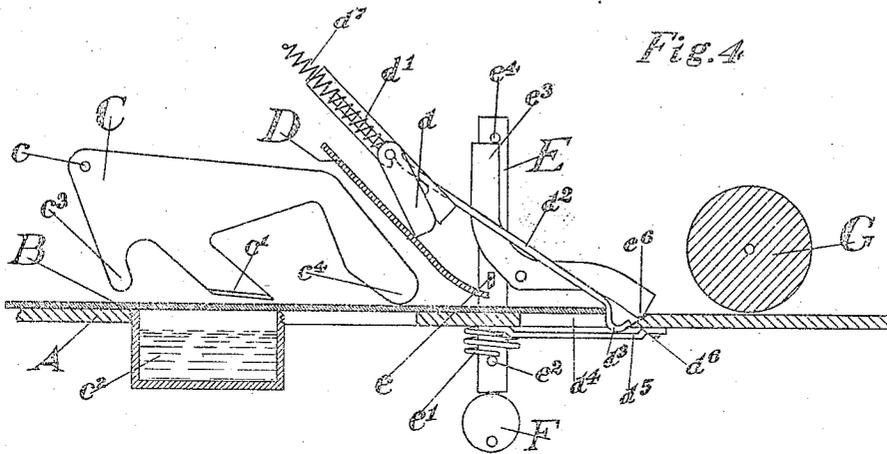
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William F. Schweiger
BY
Harold E. Stonebraker
his ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM F. SCHWEIGER, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO MULTIPOST COMPANY, INCORPORATED, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

STAMP-AFFIXING MACHINE.

1,426,780.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 22, 1922.

Application filed December 22, 1919. Serial No. 346,473.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. SCHWEIGER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stamp-Affixing Machines, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a machine for automatically affixing stamps on envelopes, and it has for its primary purpose to provide efficient and practical means for successively moistening an envelope as it is fed through the machine, thereafter feeding a stamp strip so as to bring a stamp into proper position above the envelope, and finally severing a stamp from the strip, so that the severed stamp occupies the desired position upon the envelope.

A more particular object of the invention is to employ means whereby the envelope itself, as it travels through the apparatus, operates the moistening means and also operates the stamp strip feeding mechanism, by which is meant that the stamp strip feeding mechanism is operated or moved by the envelope as the latter travels along, for which purpose an interlocking or equivalent relationship is established between the envelope and the strip feeding mechanism so that the envelope determines the speed of travel of the feeding mechanism, the envelope and stamp strip both moving in the same general direction.

The invention also consists in certain other features of advantage, all of which will be made clear from the following description, in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, the novel characteristics being pointed out in the claims following the specification.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a sectional view, with parts appearing in elevation, showing the general arrangement of a machine embodying features of the invention, with the parts appearing in normal position before an envelope is fed through;

Figure 2 is a similar view showing the operation of the moistening means as an envelope is brought into cooperation therewith;

Figure 3 is a similar view showing the envelope in position after it has lifted the moistening device out of engagement, and

just as it commences to operate the strip feeding mechanism;

Figure 4 is a similar view illustrating the strip feeding mechanism after it has been operated by the envelope, and

Figure 5 is a similar view showing the strip feeding mechanism retracted to its normal position and the stamp severing mechanism after it has been released by the envelope.

The invention may be carried out in any number of different ways, and for the purpose of this application I have illustrated a mechanism which is intended merely to show the different functions of the apparatus; and their sequence and manner of operation, and do not in any sense limit the invention to any one structure.

In the drawings, A designates a table or platform upon which the envelope B is fed by any convenient feeding devices, such as rollers or belts, as common in this general class of apparatus.

The envelope B is shown in its initial feeding position in Figure 1, and travels from left to right, coming in contact first with the moistening device, which is designated generally by C. The moistening device C is pivoted at c and carries the moistening member c' which projects through an opening in the table into a water tank c^2 . The moistening device C also carries a foot c^3 which normally rests on the table in advance of the moistening member, and a downwardly projecting leg c^4 which projects through an opening in the table for a purpose that will appear presently.

As the envelope is fed forwardly, it first engages the foot c^3 , elevating the moistening device as shown in Figure 2, and thereafter comes into contact with the moistening member c' and elevates it out of the water tank c^2 . The envelope then passes under the moistening member c' , water being transferred therefrom to the surface of the envelope. After sufficient area of the envelope has been moistened to receive a stamp, it is desirable that the moistening member be elevated further, so as to free it from contact with the rest of the envelope, as the latter travels through, and this is accomplished by the leg c^4 which is lifted by the envelope, as shown in Figure 3, until the moistening member c' is clear of the envelope. This position of the moistening member is occu-

ped until the envelope has passed beyond the leg e^4 , after which the moistening device returns by gravity to the position of Figure 1.

5 As soon as the stamp space of the envelope is moistened, it is necessary to bring a stamp into proper position thereon, and to accomplish this I provide means for supporting a stamp strip and feeding the strip
10 by the actuation of the envelope, the stamp strip and envelope traveling in the same direction for a given distance, at the end of which the stamp is severed from the strip.

I have not deemed it necessary, for the
15 purpose of this disclosure, to illustrate the stamp strip and its support, because it will be understood that a coil of stamps is employed and supported as usual in manually operated stamp affixing devices. The stamp
20 strip feeds down a channel D, being moved by fingers d which engage the perforations between the stamps, and which travel in the guides d' . The feeding fingers d are moved downwardly by a lever d^2 , the lower end of
25 which is curved as at d^3 , and extends in an opening or slot d^4 in the table. d^5 is a supporting guide arranged under the opening d^4 to receive the lower end of the lever d^2 . As the envelope travels through the ma-
30 chine, it engages the lever d^2 in the manner shown in Figure 3, and thereafter moves the lever d^2 along, as shown in Figure 4. This action of the lever d^2 draws the feeding fingers d downwardly from the position
35 shown in Figure 1 to that shown in Figure 4, and carries with the feeding fingers the stamp strip, which is not shown, but which, it will be understood, travels down the chan-
40 nel or incline D sufficiently to bring the stamp into position above the envelope, and beyond the lower end of the channel D. At the end of the opening d^4 in the table, an inclined surface d^6 is provided which is ar-
45 ranged to engage the curved end d^3 of the lever and cause the latter to ride upwardly when it reaches the position in Figure 4, until it is sufficiently elevated to become dis-
50 engaged from the envelope, whereupon the spring d^7 retracts the lever d^2 and with it the stamp feeding fingers d .

Following the operation of the strip feed-
ing mechanism, it becomes necessary to sever the stamp from the strip so that it will at-
55 tach itself to the envelope as the latter travels on. This is brought about by severing mechanism which is normally held inactive, and is released by the envelope, as I will now describe. E designates a vertical reciprocatory plunger carrying a knife e .
60 The plunger E is operated downwardly to sever a stamp from the strip by means of the spring e' which is located between a stop e^2 and the table, and is under compression, when in the position of Figures 1 to 4. The
65 plunger E is held in this position by a lock-

ing device consisting of the bell crank e^3 , the upper end of which engages a pin or stop e^4 on the plunger. The bell crank is pivoted at e^5 and its opposite end is bent downwardly at e^6 and lies in the path of
70 the envelope, so that when the latter comes into engagement with the lower end e^6 of the bell crank and elevates it, the upper end thereof is tilted, as shown in Figure 5, and the stop e^4 on the plunger released. The
75 spring e' thereupon causes the plunger to drop instantaneously, carrying the knife e into contact with the stamp strip and severing the end stamp therefrom. As soon as the envelope has passed beyond the bell
80 crank e^3 , the latter is returned to its normal position by gravity, and the plunger E is returned to normal position by means of a continuously rotating cam F which elevates the plunger E so that it can again be en-
85 gaged and locked by the bell crank e^3 . As soon as the severed stamp and envelope pass beyond the bell crank, they travel under a pressure roller G which engages the stamp and forces it against the envelope tightly,
90 the previously applied liquid serving to retain the stamp thereon.

It is to be understood that the invention set forth is susceptible of various modifica-
95 tions and changes from the precise mechanism shown, and any such changes or departures are to be considered nevertheless as coming within the underlying features of my improvement as set forth in the follow-
100 ing claims.

I claim:

1. A machine for automatically affixing stamps on envelopes comprising moistening means operated by an envelope as it is fed through the machine, stamp strip feeding
105 means which is engaged and moved along by the forward edge of an envelope at the same speed as the envelope, and stamp severing mechanism, the operation of which is controlled by the envelope. 110
2. A machine for automatically affixing stamps on envelopes comprising stamp strip feeding means which is engaged and moved
115 along by the forward edge of an envelope and at the same speed as the envelope during a portion of its travel through the machine. 120
3. A machine for automatically affixing stamps on envelopes comprising stamp strip feeding mechanism, and means whereby the forward edge of an envelope traveling through the machine for a predetermined distance causes a corresponding travel of the stamp strip feeding mechanism at the same speed as the envelope. 125
4. A machine for automatically affixing stamps on envelopes comprising stamp strip feeding mechanism, and means for establishing interlocking connection between said feeding mechanism and an envelope as it
130

travels through the machine, whereby the envelope moves said feeding mechanism for a predetermined distance.

5 A machine for automatically affixing stamps on envelopes comprising a table upon which an envelope is fed, a moistening device normally occupying a position beneath the table and adapted to be elevated by an envelope into contact with the upper surface thereof, means carried by the moistening device and also arranged to be engaged by the envelope so as to elevate the moistening device further and out of contact with the envelope after a predetermined area has
10 been moistened, stamp strip feeding mecha-

nism, means whereby the strip feeding mechanism is interlockingly engaged with the envelope during a predetermined travel of the latter, whereby the envelope actuates the strip feeding mechanism during such travel, mechanism for severing a stamp from the strip, and locking means normally holding the strip severing mechanism against operation, said locking means being engaged by the envelope and actuated thereby so as to release the strip severing mechanism. 20 25

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name.

WILLIAM F. SCHWEIGER.