No. 841,346. PATENTED JAN. 15, 1907.

J. A. SHERMAN.

ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 19, 1901.

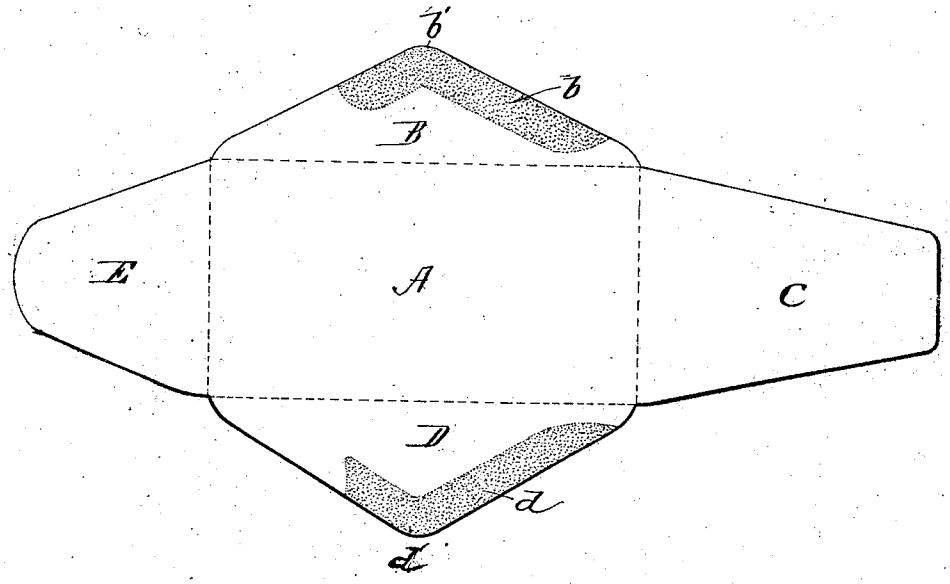


Fig. 1.

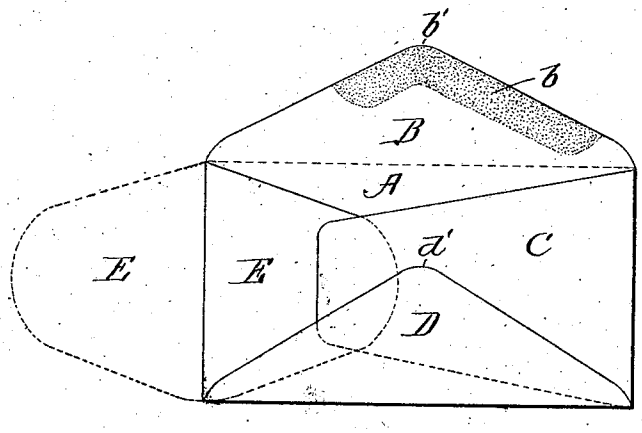


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ENVELOP.

No. 841,346. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 15, 1907.

Application filed December 19, 1901. Serial No. 86,476.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. SHERMAN, of Worcester, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of envelops used especially for mailing circulars which are intended to be made up, except as hereinafter stated, and used in the same manner in which the ordinary letter-envelop is used.

It is desirable that an envelop inclosing a circular shall be not only capable of being opened, so that its contents may be examined in the mail, but shall appear to be sealed like a letter in order that the receiver shall not easily recognize what it must contain, but shall open it as he would a letter and at least glance at its contents. It is also desirable that such envelop shall be made of a blank of such shape that it may be cut economically from a web of paper and made up, gummed, and folded by the ordinary envelop-machine, and that while affording opportunity for examining its contents, as required by law, the loose flap shall be large enough in proportion to the opening which it closes to enable the envelop to be used for circulars weighing at least the limit of single postage, according to the postal rules. In such envelops as have heretofore been made, so far as I am aware, the gumming has been exclusively on one side of the middle line of the envelop—viz., the side opposite to that carrying the loose end flap. This has made it impracticable, owing to the comparatively small surface of the blank to be gummed, to rely solely upon the picker or gumming mechanism of the envelop-machine to lift the blank from the pile of blanks, and it has therefore been necessary to provide some other mechanism—for example, a vacuum lifter—to assist the ordinary pickers in their function of lifting the blank to place it upon the carrying mechanism whereby it is to be carried to the folding mechanism.

The purpose of my invention is to make an envelop the contents of which may be easily examined without breaking its seal and upon which at the same time the gumming-surfaces shall be so distributed that the gumming-pickers may be relied upon solely to lift the blank, the distribution of the gumming-surfaces upon the blank being such that the pickers may lift the blank near and on both sides of its middle section. The weight of the blank will thus be distributed with substantial equality upon both sides of the pickers and the blank may be lifted without the addition of any other instrumentality than the pickers. Thus my envelop, as below described, may be made upon any ordinary envelop-machine of that well-known character which requires gumming-pickers only to lift the blank from the top of the pile with only a slight change in the extent of the picking or gumming surface. My envelop below described is therefore one in which the sealing-surface of the front or seal flap extends along considerably more than half the edge of that flap, so that not only may the blank be thus lifted, but when the envelop is sealed there will not only be afforded a secure gummed closure to the envelop, as in the case of an ordinary envelop, but it will be possible to inspect its contents without unnecessary trouble.

My invention will be understood by reference to the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows a blank adapted to make an envelop embodying my invention, Fig. 2 showing the envelop made therefrom ready for use.

The blank from which the envelop is made consists of a body portion A and four flaps B, C, D, and E. The gummed surface upon the seal-flap B is indicated by the shading lines *b*, and it will be seen that it leaves the end flap E unsealed. The gummed surface upon the back flap D is indicated by the shading lines *d*, and it will be noted that in each case the gummed surface extends along one side of each flap and for a considerable distance beyond its middle or projecting point *b' d'* along the other side of the flap, so that when the envelop is closed there will be nearly the same amount of gummed surface holding the envelop closed as in the ordinary sealed letter-envelop or both sides of the inner surface.

The end flap C is made considerably longer than the end flap E, the length of this flap C and the gummed surfaces *b* and *d* being so proportioned to each other that both the front flap B and the back flap D may be sealed to the extremity of this end flap C, thus affording a very adequate closure and reducing considerably the opening which would exist if both end flaps were the same size, meeting in the middle of the envelop, as is the case with the ordinary letter-envelop.

The envelop as originally made up is per-

manently closed in the manufacture thereof by the folding in first of the end flap E, then of the end flap C, and lastly of the gummed flap D, the seal-flap B being creased as usual, but, as it carries wet gum, not being pressed against the end flaps to close the envelop permanently, the gum upon the seal-flap being allowed to dry in the usual manner.

The envelop so constructed may be banded and boxed in the ordinary manner and may be filled with circulars in the same manner in which a letter-envelop may be filled, after which the seal-flap is sealed, all as with the letter-envelop. The sealing of the seal-flap and the back flap against the end flap C makes a permanent and secure closure to prevent the contents of the envelop from falling out; but as the gum upon these two flaps does not touch the end flap E that flap is always free to be withdrawn for the examination of the contents of the envelop in its passage through the mails, if desired. When the envelop reaches the receiver, however, it is to all appearances a sealed letter.

I am aware of Letters Patent No. 532,206, dated January 8, 1895; No. 673,864 of May 14, 1901, and No. 687,196 of November 26, 1901, and disclaim the inventions therein described. By extending the gum across the point of both my back flap and seal-flap, as I am enabled to do with perfect safety without causing both end flaps to be sealed, owing to the relative shapes of the flaps, I am enabled to lift any ordinary blank in the ordinary envelop-making machine by the ordinary gumming-pickers alone, no matter what its dimension, because of the symmetrical disposition of the gum on both sides of the median line of the blank. Moreover, the free end of the completed envelop by reason of its short length is easily drawn out and also less likely to accidentally come out than in the envelops shown in any of the patents referred to.

What I claim as my invention is—

An envelop having attached to the body thereof a back flap, a seal-flap, and two end flaps one of which end flaps is made considerably longer than the other and is adapted also to overlap the same in part, which back and seal flaps are adapted to lap over said end flaps and be permanently secured to the longer of said flaps, both said back flap and said seal-flap having gummed surfaces extending on both sides of their projecting points whereby said flaps may become permanently sealed to said longer end flap by seals extending to the extremity thereof.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my name this 14th day of December, 1901.

JOHN A. SHERMAN.

Witnesses:
GUSTAF BERG,
FRED R. HINCKEL.