

Oct. 18, 1932.

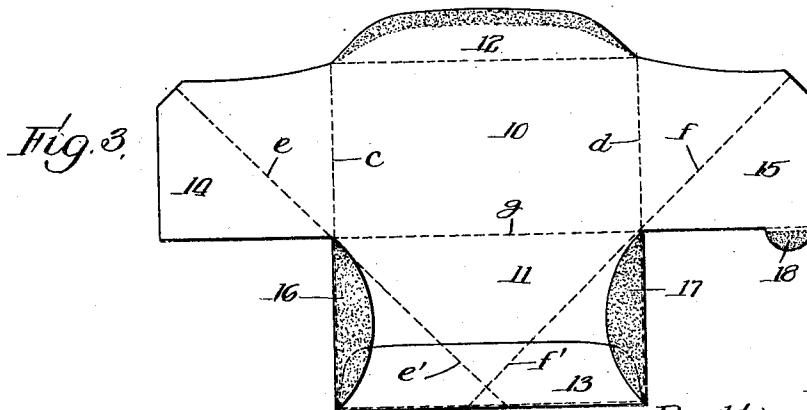
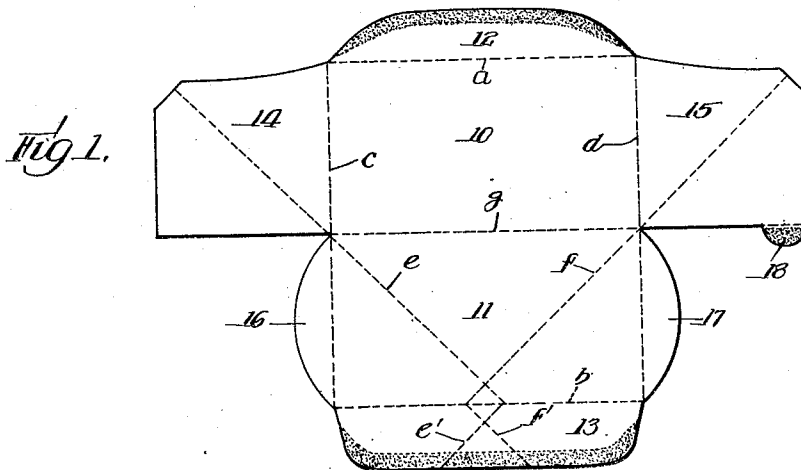
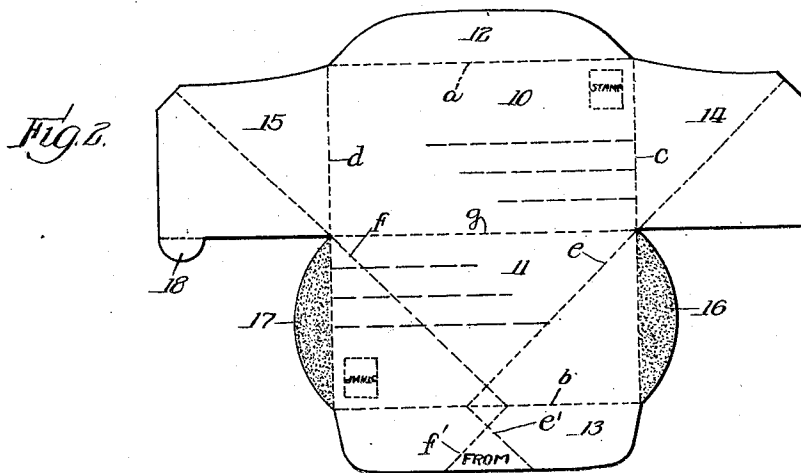
B. F. BARTSCH

1,883,475

RETURN ENVELOPE AND BLANK THEREFOR

Filed Jan. 2, 1931

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Inventor:
Beatrice F. Bartsch
By Fisher, Clapp, Soaus + Pond attys

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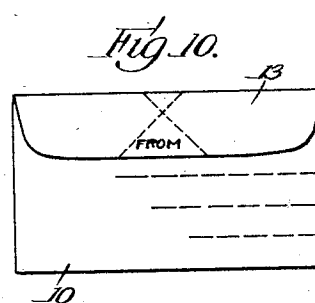
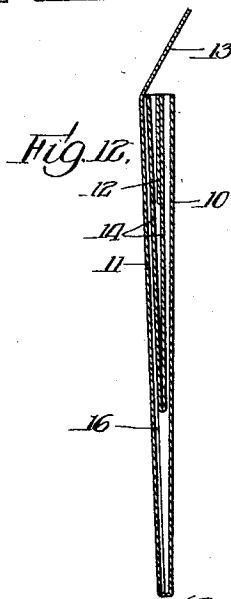
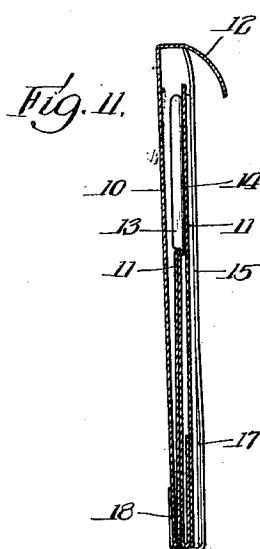
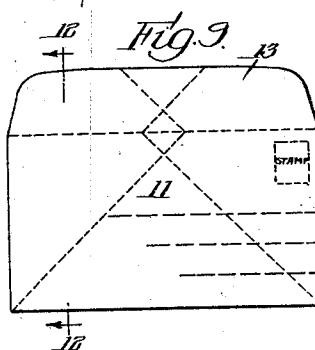
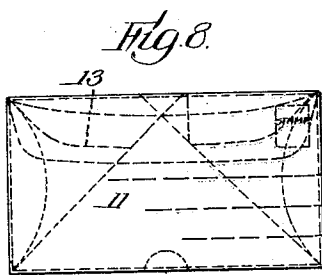
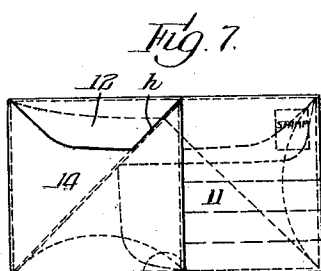
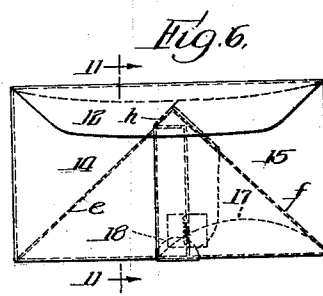
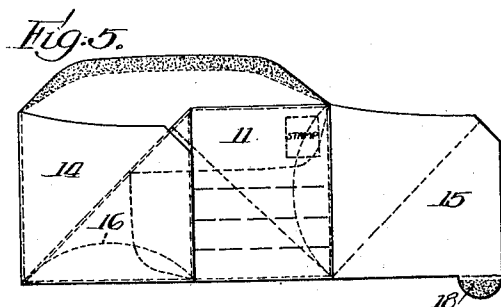
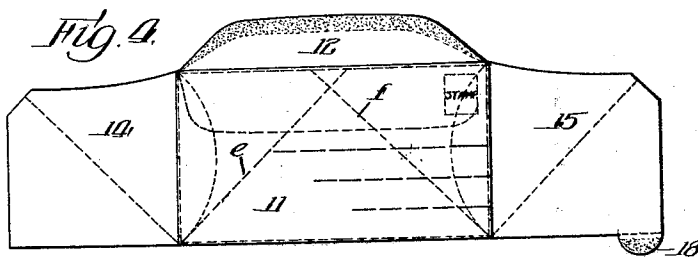
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RETURN ENVELOPE AND BLANK THEREFOR

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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By Fisher, Clapp, Soans & Pond,
attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

BEATRICE F. BARTSCH, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

RETURN ENVELOPE AND BLANK THEREFOR

Application filed January 2, 1931. Serial No. 506,008.

This invention relates to mailing envelopes, having reference more particularly to a type of envelope known as a "return" envelope, which is structurally so designed that, after having been opened in the usual manner for removal of the original letter, it can be used to carry the reply letter.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple, inexpensive and thoroughly practical envelope of the type referred to, wherein both the forward and return enclosures will be securely sealed, and wherein the forwarding and return addresses will appear on different walls of the envelope, thus enabling the latter to be made of comparatively thin and semi-transparent paper if desired. Another object is to provide an envelope of the character specified, wherein the forwarding address, which appears on the front of the envelope when the letter is forwarded, may serve as the senders address, appearing on the back of the envelope, when the envelope and its enclosure are returned to the original sender. A still further object is to provide an envelope of the type specified, wherein the operations of adjusting the structure to serve as a return envelope may be very easily and quickly performed.

Still other objects and attendant advantages of the invention will be apparent to persons skilled in the art as the same become better understood by reference to the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein I have illustrated one simple and practical embodiment of the invention, and in which—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the blank from one side thereof.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same blank inverted sidewise.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but showing the bottom flap and side flaps folded inwardly.

Fig. 4 is a plan view showing the lower body wall, with its folded flaps, folded upwardly over the upper wall.

Fig. 5 is a plan view showing the left upper triangular section of the lower body wall folded inwardly, and the left wing folded thereover.

Fig. 6 is a plan view showing the right upper triangular section of the lower body wall folded inwardly, and the right wing folded thereover, and also showing the locking tab on the bottom of the right wing folded over the lower edge of the envelope and pasted to the front wall thereof and the top sealing flap folded down; this view showing the envelope ready to receive the original enclosure.

Fig. 7 is a plan view showing the upper sealing flap torn obliquely and the right upper triangular section of the lower body wall, with the overlying portion of the right wing, unfolded outwardly, exposing the return stamp and address lines.

Fig. 8 is a plan view showing the left upper triangular section of the lower body wall and the overlying portion of the left wing similarly unfolded outwardly, fully exposing the return face of the envelope.

Fig. 9 is a view similar to Fig. 8, but showing the return sealing flap pulled out.

Fig. 10 is a plan view showing the back side of the re-folded and sealed envelope.

Fig. 11 is an enlarged vertical cross-section through the envelope in its sending form, on the line 11—11 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 12 is a similar sectional view of the envelope in its return form, on the line 12—12 of Fig. 9.

Referring first to Figs. 1 and 2, which show the blank from opposite sides, it may be stated at the outset that the dotted lines shown in these figures illustrate lines of fold. 10 designates the upper rectangular body wall, and 11 the lower rectangular body wall of the same dimensions as the upper wall. In the sending form of the envelope the upper wall 10 constitutes the front wall and the lower wall 11, folded to triangular form, constitutes mainly the rear wall; while in the return form of the envelope the wall 11, unfolded to rectangular form, constitutes the front wall and the wall 10 constitutes the rear wall, as will hereinafter appear. These walls may carry, on the outer sides thereof, dotted address lines and stamps, as shown in Fig. 2. Continuous with the upper edge of the wall 10 is a gummed sealing flap 12, which

constitutes the sealing flap of the envelope when carrying the original enclosure; and continuous with the lower edge of the body wall 11 is a gummed sealing flap 13, which constitutes the sealing flap of the envelope when carrying the reply enclosure. The upper flap 12 folds on the dotted line *a* and the lower flap 13 folds on the dotted line *b*. Continuous with the ends of the upper body wall 10 are left and right wings 14 and 15, each of slightly greater length than one-half the length of the wall 10 and respectively designed to fold inwardly on the dotted lines *c* and *d* respectively. Continuous with the ends of the lower body wall 11 are right and left narrow gummed flaps 16 and 17; and depending from the lower edge of the right wing 15 is a gummed locking tab 18.

To facilitate easy folding of the parts to the finished envelope form, the left and right wings 14 and 15 and the lower body wall 11 are preferably creased or scored along the oblique lines *e* and *f*, these lines intersecting slightly above the folding line *b*; and the return sealing flap 13 is similarly creased obliquely on the lines *e'* and *f'*, which, when the lower sealing flap 13 is folded upwardly, register with and overlies the lower portions of the creased lines *e* and *f*, as shown in Fig. 3.

Assuming that the blank, as shown in Fig. 1, is laid on a flat surface, the folding operations, to produce the envelope in its original or sending form, are as follows. The lower sealing flap 13 is first folded upwardly on the lower body wall 11, and the flaps 16 and 17 are then folded inwardly over the ends of the flap 13, with their gummed sides uppermost, as shown in Fig. 3. The lower body wall 11 is then folded upwardly, on the fold line *g* onto and over the top body wall 10. The structure as thus far formed is illustrated in Fig. 4.

Next, the upper left triangular section of the bottom wall 11 is folded inwardly on the line *e*, the gummed side of the flap 16 is moistened, and the left wing 14 is then folded inwardly, the lower edge of said wing adhering to the flap 16, as shown in Fig. 5. Similarly, the upper right triangular section of the wall 11 is folded inwardly, slightly overlapping the inwardly folded wing 14, and exposing the gummed side of the flap 17, which latter is moistened, and the right wing 15 is then folded inwardly over the previously folded upper right triangular section of the wall 11, the lower edge of said wing adhering to the flap 17. The locking tab 18 is then moistened and folded over the lower edge of the envelope, adhering to the front wall 10 of the latter. This produces the envelope in completed form for mailing the original letter or other enclosure. With the upper sealing flap 12 thrown back, the enclosure is inserted between the wall 10, which carries the mailing stamp and address and the

interior folded wall 11 which, at its upper portion, is overlaid by the central portion of the lower sealing flap 13, as shown in Fig. 11; the flap 12 is then sealed, and the letter is ready for mailing.

The purpose of having the oblique fold lines *e* and *f* intersect at a point inwardly of the lower edge of wall 11 is to shorten the height of said wall when the same is folded to overlie wall 10 and then folded obliquely on itself to the triangular form shown in Fig. 6, so that the slitting or cutting of the top edge of the envelope to release the enclosure will not affect the integrity of the back wall 11 and its sealing flap 13.

When the letter is received, the envelope is opened by either slitting or cutting the sealing flap 12 along the fold line *a*, and the enclosure withdrawn. To adjust the envelope to receive the return letter, the locking tab 18 is cut off at the bottom edge of the envelope, and the free edge portions of the upper right triangular section of the wall 11 and the overlying lower triangular section of the wing 15 are then grasped by the thumb and finger, and the portion of the sealing flap 12 which overlies and is pasted to the upper portions of the wings 14 and 15, as shown in Fig. 6, is torn obliquely on the line *h*, which permits the lower triangular section of the wing 15 and the underlying upper triangular section of the wall 11 to be laid back on the registering portions of the fold line *f*, as shown in Fig. 7. By similarly grasping the free edge portions of the upper triangular section of the wall 11 and the overlying lower triangular section of the wing 14, these parts may be similarly laid back, fully exposing the return address lines and stamp, as shown in Fig. 8. The return sealing flap 13 is then pulled outwardly, as shown in Fig. 9, and the reply letter or other enclosure is then inserted either between the wall 11 and the triangular portions of the obliquely folded wings 14 and 15 or between the wall 10 and the said folded portions of the wings 14 and 15, the unfolded wall 11 then constituting the front wall of the return envelope. The return flap 13 is then sealed, as shown in Fig. 10, and the letter, addressed and stamped on the outer face of the wall 11 is ready for mailing.

The outer side of the return sealing flap 13 preferably carries the printed word "From" and, by reference to Fig. 10, it will be seen that this word appears directly above the original addressee's name and address, thus making it unnecessary for the person replying to supply a return name and address on the back of the envelope.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the article of my invention not only does away with the necessity on the part of the original sender of enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope for a reply, thus economizing both

time and material, but the envelope may be opened either by slitting or cutting in the customary manner without damage to the contents, and it may then be converted into return form by simply making a short tear across the original sealing flap, unfolding the right and left folded sections on the back of the envelope, and then pulling out the return sealing flap. And while I have shown and described a specific form of the invention well adapted to effectuate the stated purposes and objects thereof, I do not limit the invention to the structural details herein disclosed, but reserve such variations, modifications and mechanical equivalents as fall within the spirit and purview of the claims.

I claim:

1. An envelope of the type described, comprising front and back body walls, side wings formed as end extensions of said front wall, end flaps on said back wall, and sealing flaps on the respective upper edges of said walls; said back wall, with its end flaps and sealing flap folded inwardly thereon, being folded on itself obliquely to form a triangular wall of double thickness, and said wings being folded inwardly over said triangular wall and at their lower edges adhered to said end flaps.

2. An envelope of the type described, comprising front and back body walls, side wings formed as end extensions of said front wall, end flaps on said back wall, and sealing flaps on the respective upper edges of said walls; said back wall, with its end flaps and sealing flap folded inwardly thereon, being folded on itself on intersecting, oblique fold lines to thereby form a triangular wall of double thickness and of less height than said front wall, and said wings being folded inwardly over said triangular wall and at their lower edges adhered to said end flaps.

3. An envelope of the type described, comprising front and back body walls, side wings formed as end extensions of said front wall and each of a length exceeding one-half the length of said front wall, narrow end flaps on said back wall, a locking tab on the lower edge of one of said side wings, and sealing flaps on the respective upper edges of said walls; said back wall, with its end flaps and sealing flap folded inwardly thereon, being folded on itself on intersecting oblique fold lines to thereby form a triangular wall of double thickness and of less height than said front wall, said wings being folded inwardly over said triangular wall with their free ends in overlapping relation and at their lower edges adhered to said end flaps, and said locking tab extending across the lower edge of the envelope and adhered to the front wall thereof.

4. A return envelope blank, comprising upper and lower rectangular body walls adapted to be folded one on the other, side wings formed as foldable end extensions of said

upper wall, foldable end flaps on said lower wall, and sealing flaps on the upper edge of said upper wall and the lower edge of said lower wall respectively; said wings and lower wall having continuous creased fold lines extending obliquely from the upper outer corners of said wings to the lower edge of said lower wall.

5. A return envelope blank, comprising upper and lower rectangular body walls of equal size adapted to be folded one on the other, side wings formed as foldable end extensions of said upper wall and each of a length exceeding one-half the length of said upper wall, foldable end flaps on said lower wall, sealing flaps on the upper edge of said upper wall and the lower edge of said lower wall respectively, and a locking tab on the lower edge of one of said wings; said wings and lower wall having continuous creased fold lines extending obliquely from the upper outer corners of said wings to the lower edge of said lower wall and intersecting at a point above said lower edge, and said lower sealing flap having reversely directed intersecting creased fold lines continuous with the lower ends of said first-named fold lines.

BEATRICE F. BARTSCH.

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