April 24, 1951 I. A. REISS 2,549,931

BAG OR ENVELOPE

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Fig.1

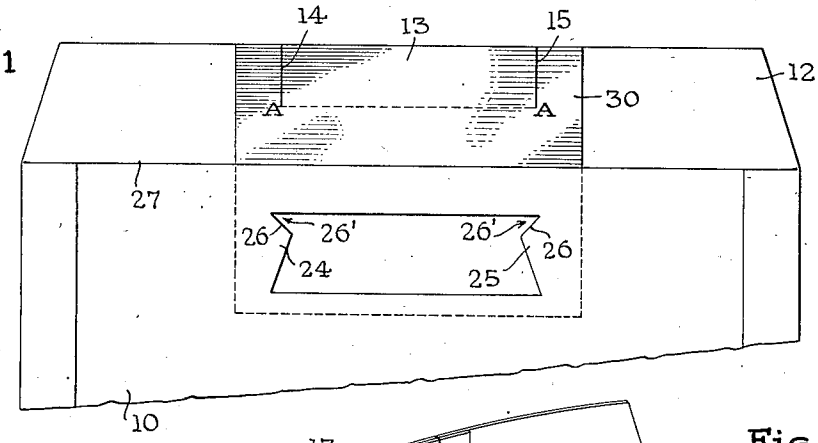


Fig.2

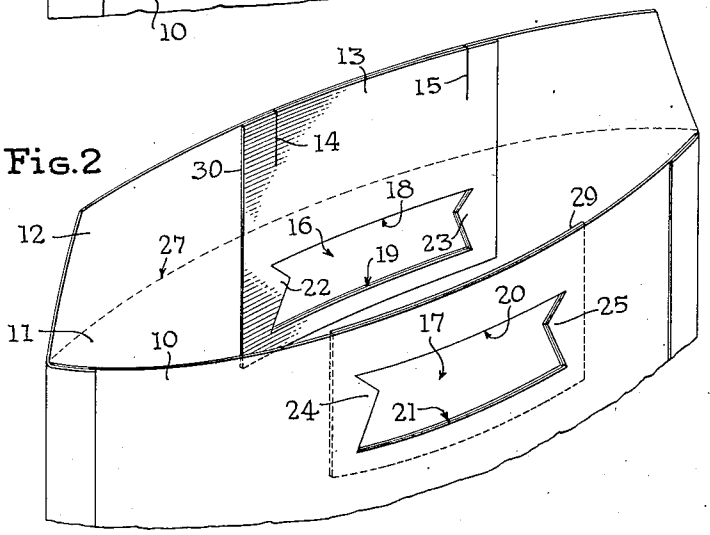


Fig.6

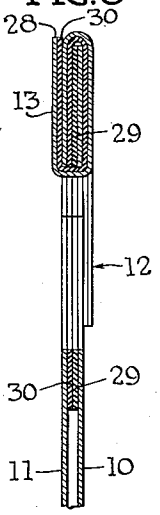
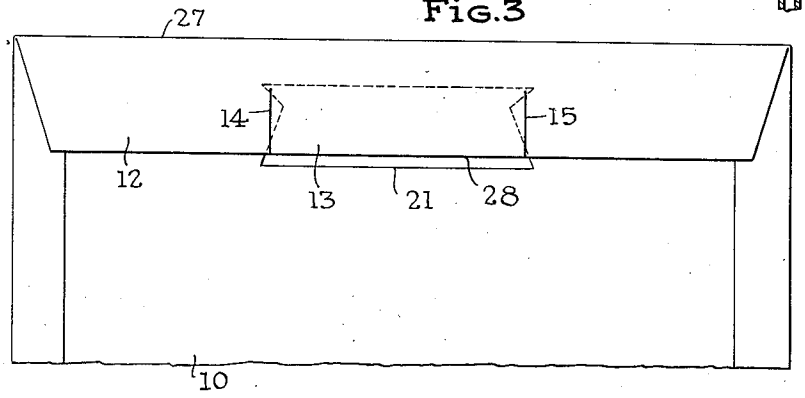


Fig.3



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Fig. 4

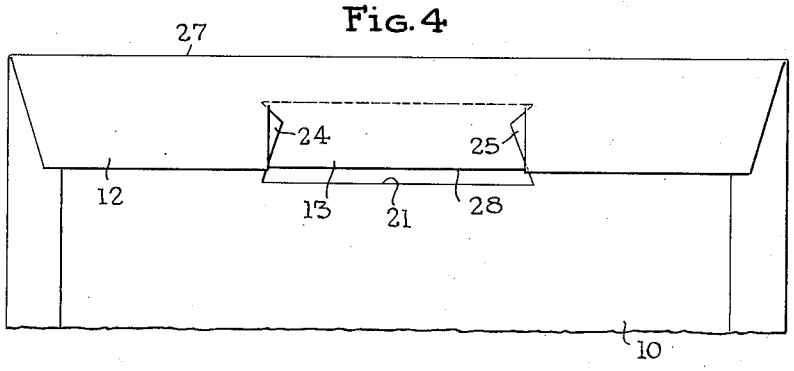


Fig. 5

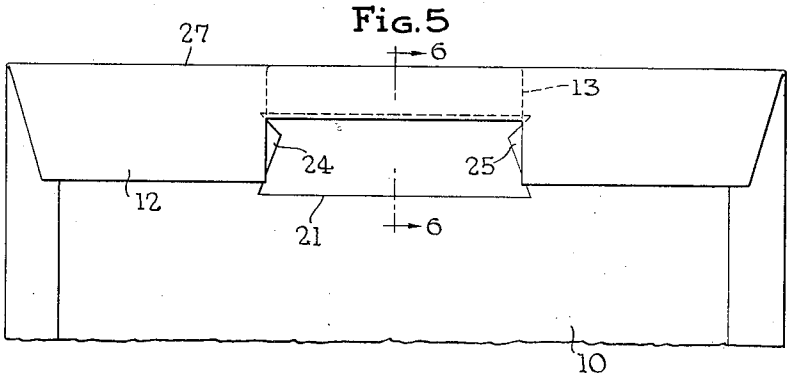
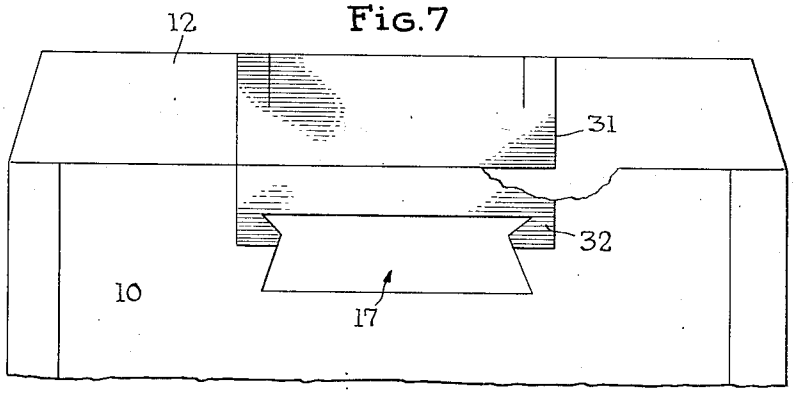


Fig. 7



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,549,931

BAG OR ENVELOPE

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Application June 23, 1948, Serial No. 34,737

1 Claim. (Cl. 229—54)

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My invention relates to a bag or envelope of paper or similar material, such as is used in carrying relatively light articles of merchandise. The invention is more particularly directed to improved carrying and locking means for such bags or envelopes, in which the carrying and locking means are combined into an integral structure and the flap of the bag or envelope can be readily and securely locked into place.

Up to now, bags available for carrying light articles and provided both with a handle and a locking means for the handle are of a construction which make it difficult to fold the closure flap and to securely lock the flap and handle in position.

The purpose of my invention is to avoid these disadvantages by providing a construction affording easy closing and secure locking of the closure flap in a single manual operation. In addition, this locking structure markedly contributes to the strength of the handle and moreover reenforces the handle against tearing.

My invention and its advantages will be understood from the detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a front view of the top of my bag with the closing flap up, the lower portion of the bag being broken away;

Figure 2 shows a perspective view of the top part of my bag, the latter being opened with the flap in extended position;

Figure 3 shows a front view of the top of the bag with the flap in folded but unlocked position;

Figure 4 shows a front view of the top of the bag with the flap closed and the locking tongue back of the projecting guide and locking means;

Figure 5 shows the top of the bag with the locking tongue folded upwardly in locked position;

Figure 6 is a cross section along line 6—6 of Figure 5, and

Figure 7 is a view of a modified embodiment of my bag.

By reference to the embodiment of my bag illustrated in Figures 1 to 6 of the drawings, it will be seen that the bag comprises body panels 10 and 11, which are suitably united at their side and bottom edges in a conventional manner. While the drawings illustrate a die cut envelope or bag, it will be understood that the invention is also applicable to serrated edge bags or envelopes without further modification. One of the panels 11 is provided at its top with a foldable flap 12, which carries in its central part a foldable locking tongue 13. This locking tongue is formed by slitting the

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flap along two lines 14 and 15, thus enabling the locking tongue to fold readily along a line A—A joining the inner ends of the slits 14 and 15.

The top portions of the body panels are provided with a pair of aligned elongated openings 16 and 17 which not only serve as convenient carrying means or handles of the bag but, as will be more fully described below, receive the tongue 13 to lock the flap 12 securely in its closed position. The openings are defined at their top and bottom by straight parallel edges, i. e., by the edges 18, 19 in the case of the opening 16 and edges 20, 21, in the case of opening 17. The side walls of these openings have inwardly projecting, preferably V-shaped portions 22, 23 in the case of the opening 16, and 24, 25 in the case of the opening 17, these said portions extending inwardly into their respective openings intermediate the top and bottom edges thereof, as shown in Figure 2. While V-shaped projections have been indicated as preferable, they may of course also be of suitable arcuate contour. As will be observed, the side walls of the openings define reentrant angles with respect to the openings, the projecting portions 22, 23, 24, 25 serving as guiding and locking means for the side edges of the locking tongue during the locking operation, as will appear hereinafter. The upper edge 26 of each projection forms together with the adjacent end of the upper edge of the opening a V-shaped lateral slit 26' which receives and retains the corresponding side edge of the locking tongue when the latter is in its locking position in the openings. As shown in Figs. 3, 4, 5, the width of the openings 16 and 17 at their top and bottom edges is preferably slightly greater than the width of the free edge and the fold line or base A—A of the locking tongue 13 and is not less than the same in order to insure easy introduction of the tongue into the openings 16 and 17 and its ready guiding into the locking slits 26'.

When the bag or envelope is to be closed, the flap 12 is folded as shown in Figure 3 about the line 27 which substantially corresponds with the upper edge of the panel 10. When the flap is thus folded to closing position the free edge 28 of the locking tongue, before the latter is introduced into the openings, terminates short of the lower edges 19 and 21 of the openings, as will be readily observed by referring to Figure 3. Thereupon, the locking tongue 13 is pushed inwardly through the openings, the V-shaped side walls of which form means for guiding the side edges of the locking tongue (formed by the slits 14, 15) until the side edges of the locking tongue enter into the V-shaped lateral slits 26' formed

in the top portions of the aligned openings, the relative position of the parts being now as illustrated in Figure 4 of the drawings. As is clearly apparent from Figures 3, 4 and 5 of the drawings, the width of the locking tongue 13 is greater than the distance between the inner ends of the opposed V-shaped projections 22, 23 and 24, 25. Therefore, once the side edges of the locking tongue have entered into the aligned V-shaped slits 26' at the upper portions of the openings 16, 17, the locking tongue is securely received and retained therein, and the V-shaped projections will resist the release and the return of the tongue 13 to the front of the projections. Thereafter, the locking tongue is folded upward so as to lie on the outside of the panel 11 with its free edge 28 adjacent the fold line of the closing flap, as shown in Figure 5 and particularly in Figure 6. The bag or envelope can now be easily carried in locked position by inserting the hand or fingers through the aligned openings 16 and 17.

As is apparent from an inspection of Figures 1, 2 and 6, the area around the openings and the locking tongue, as well as the locking tongue itself, are provided with suitable reenforcing material 29, 30.

In a slightly modified construction, illustrated in Figure 7, reenforcing material 31 is provided for a portion of the flap about the locking tongue 13 and for the upper outer portion of the panel around the opening 17 as shown at 32.

Under certain circumstances, as when the bag or envelope of the present invention is to be used for mailing purposes, additional means may

be used for uniting the tongue to one of said panels. These additional means may be of various types, such as adhesive, string or a metal clamp, (not shown) for binding the tongue 13 to the marginal area of the panel 11 above the upper edge 18 of the opening 16.

I claim:

A bag or envelope comprising body panels united at their side and bottom edges, one of said panels being provided with a foldable top closing flap, a foldable locking tongue carried by said flap, aligned openings in said body panels at the top portions thereof, the upper end of one of the openings terminating in lateral slits adapted to receive and retain the locking tongue in position when the flap is folded to close the bag and the tongue is inserted through the slitted portion of the opening and folded upward, the width of the opening between the terminal closed ends of the slits being not less than the width of the locking tongue at the base thereof.

IRWIN A. REISS.

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