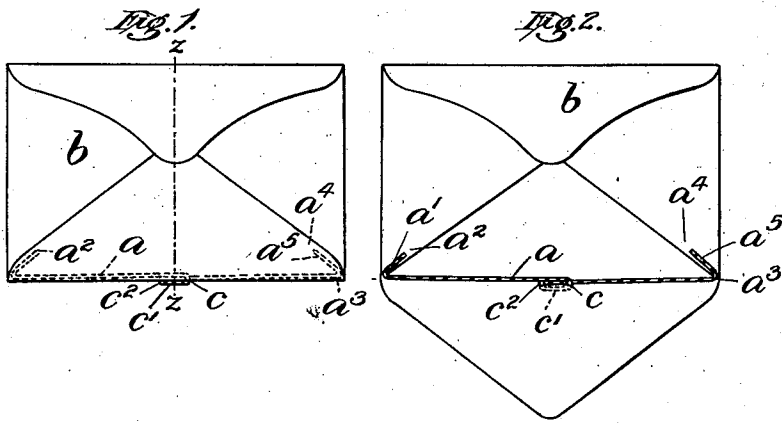


A. COUSTLEY.
ENVELOP OPENER.
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999,965.

Patented Aug. 8, 1911.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AARON COUSTLEY, OF PIMPINIO, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

ENVELOP-OPENER.

999,965.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern.

Be it known that I, AARON COUSTLEY, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at Pimpinio, in the State of Victoria, Australia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelop-Openers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention has been devised to provide improvements in or connected with the envelopes usually employed to cover correspondence and aims at affording increased facility and convenience in the opening of such letters by the receiver.

The invention consists in the improvements which I will now proceed to describe and claim.

In order that my invention may be the more easily understood, reference may be made to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows an envelop embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar illustration but with part of the back turned down for clearness.

In these drawings a is a small stout cord or thread set in the envelop b in a peculiar manner so that it may be employed for slicing or cutting open the edge near which it is set when it is operated by the nails of the thumb and forefinger. I place the small thread a longitudinally in one of the folds of the envelop b the one end, a' preferably the left, being secured in the adhesive a^2 joining the lower flap at the bottom of the envelop; the thread a then proceeds to a slight distance past the center line $Z-Z$ of the envelop, passes outwardly through a perforation c at the bottom of the envelop b to the outside at c' , returns for a distance of about three-eighths of an inch or more and again enters the envelop in a corresponding perforation at c^2 slightly past the center line $Z-Z$ and runs along to the opposite bottom corner a^3 . Here the cord is given a slight bend in an upward direction (as shown) so that it lies in the adhesive a^4 at the bottom right hand corner of the lower flap and proceeds upward in same for preferably about half an inch, as shown in dotted line at a^5 ; the exterior part c' of the thread in the center of the bottom line of the en-

velop forms sufficient length for the nails of the finger and thumb to grip.

It will be seen that in my invention a fold-severing cord is provided which extends along the interior of one of the folds of the envelop, and is cemented at its end portions to a concealed part of the envelop, the cemented end portions constituting anchoring members which prevent endwise displacement of the cord when a lateral pull is exerted on its intermediate portion in the direction required to cause it to sever the fold. If the end portions were not thus anchored, a lateral pull exerted on the intermediate portion would be liable to draw the cord endwise through the partially severed fold before the same is completely severed. The cemented end portions are preferably bent backwardly and overhang the ends of the intermediate portion as shown by Figs. 1, and 2, so that the cemented end portions do not reduce the operative length of the intermediate severing portion, the latter extending throughout practically the entire length of the fold in which it is laid.

In the construction shown the portion c' constitutes the outer stretch of a flattened loop into which the central portion of the cord is formed, the end portions of said loop passing through the fold to be severed, and the said outer stretch constituting a handle by which a lateral pull may be exerted on the cord. The engagement of a thumb and finger with the main portion of the cord is thus facilitated.

The limited central portion of the fold between the perforations c and c^2 is embraced by the flattened loop and is the first portion of the fold to be severed by the act of drawing out the portion c' of the cord. The portions of the cord forming the inner stretch of the flattened loop are drawn through the limited central portion of the fold before the cord commences to sever the longer end portions of the fold. When the central portion has been severed the loop bulges outwardly from the fold so that the operator can hold it firmly between his thumb and finger and easily exert the strain required to sever the end portions of the fold, the elongation of the cord caused by the act of drawing out the loop enabling the cord to be drawn obliquely through the end portions of the fold and thus easily sever the said portions.

I claim:—

An envelop having two perforations relatively close together in the central portion of one of its folds and an elongated fold-severing cord, the severing portion of which lies in and extends along said fold, while the end portions are cemented to covered parts of the envelop at opposite ends of the perforated fold whereby said end portions are anchored to prevent endwise displacement of the cord by a lateral pull exerted thereon, the severing portion being longer than the distance between its anchored end portions, and the central part of said severing portion being formed into a flattened loop, the ends of which pass through the

said perforations, the said loop embracing the portion of the fold between the perforations and having an outer stretch which lies on the exterior of the fold and constitutes a handle whereby a lateral pull may be exerted on the severing portion, and an inner stretch composed of two parts which sever the embraced portion of the fold and permit the loop to bulge outwardly from the fold.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

AARON COUSTLEY.

Witnesses:

ALICE HARKER,
AUGUSTINE T. MADDEN.