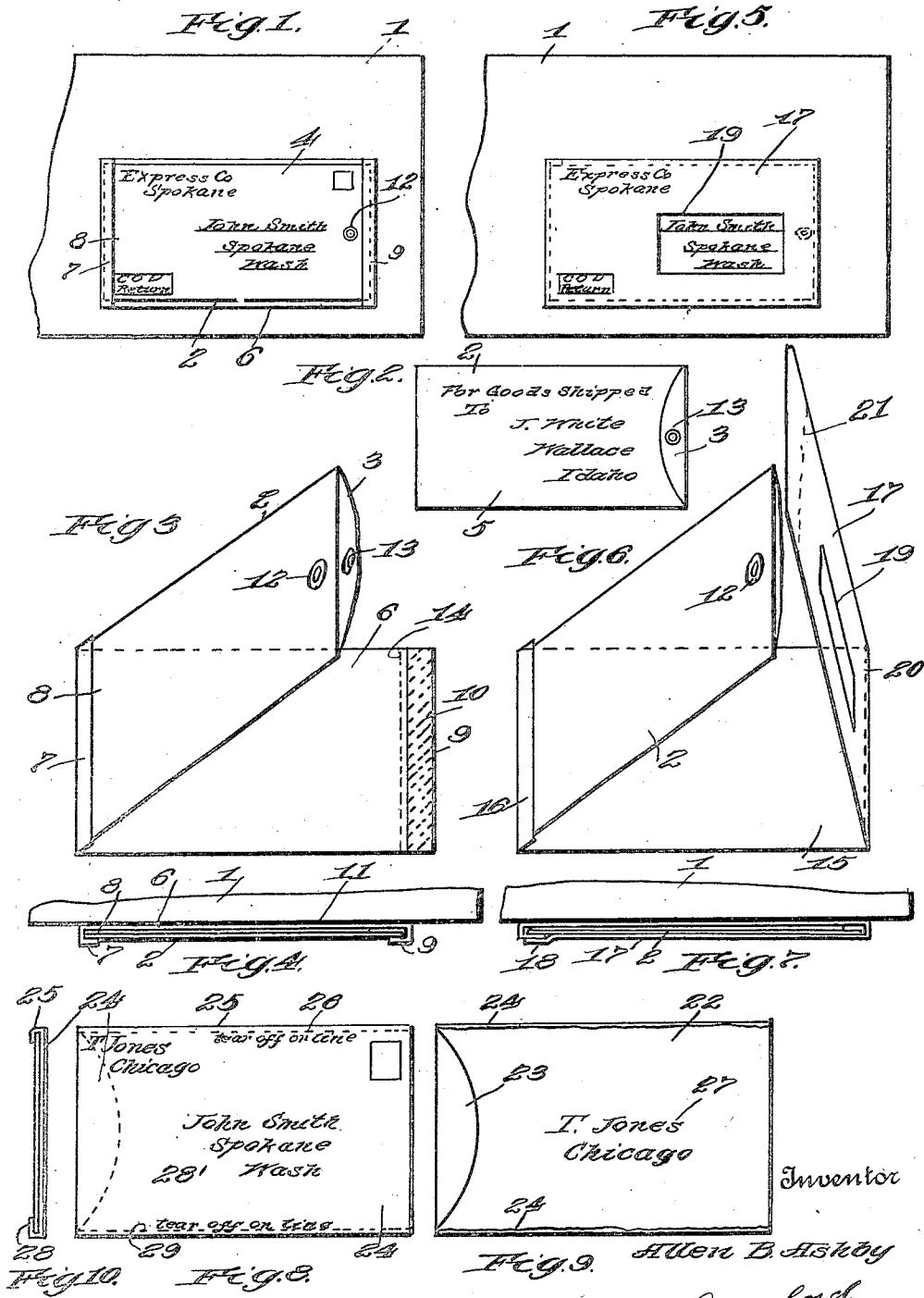


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 ENVELOPE PROTECTOR.
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ENVELOPE PROTECTOR.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALLEN B. ASHBY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bonners Ferry, in the county of Boundary and State of Idaho, have invented new and useful Improvements in Envelope Protectors, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in envelopes and has to do more particularly with protecting devices for envelopes.

In one utility, the device of my invention is a specially advantageous for C. O. D. envelopes used by express companies and which are now tacked on to a box or package for destination direction of shipment, the envelope being removed from the package at the point of consignment or receipt of the box or package. Now this envelope contains the C. O. D. returns and may contain other information, and it frequently happens that in removing this envelope from a box or package not only is the envelope torn and rendered unfit for remailing, but frequently the contents of the envelope are mutilated and rendered illegible. Care is not always taken, and it is some times difficult to determine whether the tacks are being driven merely through the envelopes or through the contents thereof.

Now in accordance with my invention a protecting strip is detachably secured to the envelope in such a manner as to form a pasting surface whereby when this strip is pasted to the box or package, the envelope will be firmly secured thereto, and the consignee or operatives at the place of destination, can rip or tear the envelope quickly off from the strip without in any way mutilating or damaging the envelope or its contents, and therefore all the matter is not only legible, but the envelope is in good condition for remailing.

It is also a feature of my invention to provide an envelope which is specially adapted as a return envelope, with a protecting flap adapted to take the address of the receiver, said flap being disposed in superimposed relation over the addressing face of the envelope which has been previously addressed with the sender's name.

My invention has many other objects and features which will be more fully described in the accompanying drawing and which will

be more particularly pointed out in and by the appended claims.

In the drawing:—

Figure 1 is a view of a package or box showing the application thereto of my preferred form of envelope protector.

Figure 2 is a view of the reverse side of said envelope after the same has been removed from the package.

Figure 3 is a perspective view showing one end of the envelope attached to the protector strip and showing the flap end of the envelope elevated or separated from the remaining end of the strip.

Figure 4 is a plan view of the box showing the envelope and the protecting strip in edge view with the thicknesses somewhat exaggerated for purposes of illustration.

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 1 showing a modified form of envelope wherein the protecting strip extends abreast of both faces of the envelope.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of this form before the parts are finally sealed.

Figure 7 is a view similar to Figure 4.

Figure 8 is a view of a further modification showing the protecting flap functioning as an addressing face.

Figure 9 is a view of the same side of this envelope after the addressing strip has been torn off.

Figure 10 is an end edge view of the envelope shown in Figure 8.

Like characters of reference designate similar parts throughout the different figures of the drawing.

First referring to Figures 1 to 4, 1 designates a box or package to which the device of my invention is applied. The envelope, which is a common form of C. O. D. express envelope is designated at 2 and has an end flap 3. The face 4 of said envelope is designed to bear the consignee's name and address whereas the face 5, or reverse side, bears the consignor's name and address. These C. O. D. envelopes contain collection and other valuable papers which are inspected at the point of destination to obtain the shipper's instructions. If these papers are mutilated and become illegible, the delay and cost in the loss of time is very considerable. Furthermore, it is the practice to re-mail this envelope with the C. O. D. col-

lection back to the consignor, and hence it is desirable to have the envelope intact and it is a great advantage to avoid tacking or nailing the envelope to the package.

5 In accordance with my invention, a protecting strip 6, preferably of paper, and having a width and a length in excess of the dimensions of the envelope, is employed. Initially, the end 7 overlaps end 8, of the
10 envelope, and is secured thereto by being pasted, gummed or otherwise. It will be noted that end 8 of the envelope is that end remote from the flap end, therefore, the flap end is free to receive the contents of the C.
15 O. D. papers. After the envelope has been addressed on face 4 and face 5 and the contents inserted, then the flap 3 is folded but not necessarily secured in the position shown in Figure 2, and the end margin 9 is folded
20 over the flap end. This margin 9 is gummed, as indicated at 10 and is pasted along the flap end as shown in Figure 1. Thus it will be seen that the main body of the protecting strip extends abreast of and in slight lateral
25 projection to the entire rear face 5 of the envelope. Thus the rear face 11, of said strip constitutes a pasting surface. Paste may either be applied directly to this surface, or to the package, and when the united
30 parts are applied to this pasted surface the envelope will be firmly attached to the package without the use of tacks or nails. Because of the fact that the protecting strip is coextensive with the envelope, the latter is
35 fully protected from the paste and is not directly secured to the package. Therefore, when the envelope is removed or torn away from the protecting strip, at the place of destination, it is wholly intact, likewise its
40 contents. Furthermore, it is not necessary to seal the flap 3, in sending the package, because the protecting strip holds this flap closed and prevents accidental discharge of the contents. Thus the usual reinforced
45 openings 12 and 13, may be dispensed with. In order to facilitate removal of the envelope, the protecting strip may have a line of perforations 14 on one or both ends. This is not essential however because the protect-
50 ing strip is preferably formed of a paper which is much more fragile than the paper of which the envelope is composed. It will also be noted that by reason of the fact that the flap 3 need not necessarily be secured or sealed initially by the sender, that this renders the envelope far more available for re-
55 mailing.

Next referring to the form shown in Figures 5, 6 and 7, it will be seen that the flap
60 15, secured to the envelope at 16 is the same in every respect regarding structure and function as in the preferred form, excepting that this protector has an extension 17 which extends completely across the address face
65 2 and has a gummed margin 18 which may

be applied in superimposed relation to the margin 16. The extension 17 has an opening 19 through which the address is disclosable and this extension 18 may be printed with C. O. D. and corner card instructions. 70 The extension 17 may have lines of perforations 20 and 21 to facilitate detachment.

In shipping packages where the same are closely disposed, rubbing and jostling in shipment frequently injure the envelope and 75 some times render the address illegible. Therefore, in this form of the invention I not only provide a pasting surface but I also protect the exposed face of the envelope.

In Figures 8 to 10 I have carried out this 80 protecting idea in a subsidiary form but within the generic scope of the invention, the idea being to render an envelope available for remailing irrespective as to whether or not it was originally attached to another 85 object.

In this form of the invention the envelope 22 has a flap 23 on one end thereof. An addressing protector strip or flap 24 has one edge 25 initially secured to the envelope and 90 is provided with a perforated line 26. The envelope is initially addressed or has printed on the face to be protected the sender's address 27. The envelope may be placed in a typewriter and the receiver's address 28 95 may be typed on the flap 24. The lower edge 28 of said flap is provided with a gummed strip and may be attached as shown in Figure 10. A tear-off line 29 is advisedly provided. 100

Thus when the receiver gets this envelope, he will tear off the strip 24 and this will free the flap 23 to permit the envelope to be opened and the contents removed. In return use, it is merely necessary to replace 105 or insert the proper contents, seal and stamp the envelope which is already addressed and deposit the same in the mails. Thus in this form of the invention the strip or flap 24 functions as a protector in the sense that 110 it not only protects the addressed side of the envelope but it additionally prevents confusing disclosure thereof.

It is believed that my invention will be clearly understood from the foregoing description and while I have shown different 115 specific forms of my invention, I do not wish to be limited thereto except for such limitations as the claims may import.

I claim:— 120

1. An envelope adapted to be attached to a package and later returned after the package has reached its destination, and a protector strip having its ends pasted to the ends of said envelope and the remainder of 125 said strip extending abreast of the back of said envelope, whereby paste applied to either the package or the back of said strip will secure the envelope to said package when pressed thereagainst and protect said 130

envelope from the paste, and whereby manual pulling stress applied to detach the envelope will tear the strip leaving the envelope intact for re-mailing.

2. In combination, an envelope, and a protector strip having its edges secured to the edges of said envelope and extending abreast of the back of said envelope to form a package pasting surface and maintain the envelope free from paste, and whereby stress applied to detach the envelope will tear the strip free from the envelope thereby leaving the latter intact for re-mailing.

3. In combination, an envelope, and a protecting strip extending along the address side and also along the back of the envelope, the address side portion of said strip having an opening to disclose the address on the envelope, and the rear portion of said strip forming a pasting surface whereby the envelope may be pasted to a package without contacting with said envelope.

4. In combination, an envelope having a flap, a strip extending along the front and back of said envelope and having both of its ends secured to one end of the envelope and said strip having an opening abreast of one face of the envelope.

5. An envelope adapted to be attached to a package and later returned after the package has reached its destination, said envelope having on one face thereof the consignee's name and address and on the other face thereof the consignor's name and address, and a protector strip at least coextensive with and covering that face of the envelope bearing the consignor's name and address and being secured to the envelope and forming a pasting surface whereby paste applied to said strip or to the package will secure the envelope to the latter when pressed thereagainst and protect the envelope from paste and disclose only the consignee's name and address, and whereby stress applied to the envelope will tear the strip loose from said envelope with the latter intact and leaving the consignor's name and

address readable for re-mailing the envelope after the consignee's name and address have been crossed out.

6. An envelope adapted to be attached to a package and later re-mailed after the package has reached its destination and said envelope having a consignor face and a consignee face, and end flap for said envelope overlapping the consignor's face thereof, and a protector strip coextensive with the consignor's face of said envelope and initially pasted to that end remote from the flap end of the envelope and extending along the consignor's face but leaving both faces accessible for application of the consignor's and consignee's addresses on the said respective faces of the envelope and leaving the flap free for filling the envelope, the free end of said strip being later pasted or secured to the flap end of said envelope to close the flap, said strip when thus secured forming a pasting surface whereby paste applied thereto will secure the envelope to the package when pressed thereagainst and protect the envelope from the paste, and whereby stress applied to the envelope after reaching its destination will tear the strip and free the envelope intact for removal of the contents and insertion of returns and sealing of the flap for re-mailing.

7. A strip having a perforated line adjacent each end, adhesive between said lines on one side of the strip and at the ends on the other side.

8. In combination, an envelope initially provided with a protector strip attached thereto and extending abreast of one side of the envelope to form a package pasting surface and maintain the envelope free from paste, whereby stress applied to detach the envelope will tear the strip free from the envelope thereby leading the latter intact for re-mailing.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I hereby affix my signature.

ALLEN B. ASHBY.